

West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church

November 2021

Scottish Charity No SC003938



Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley

From our Minister ...

What is the greatest gift?

Well, it finally happened. Last night at St Andrews in West Linton I was inducted as the minister of the 6 parishes of West Tweeddale. I cannot tell you all how happy I am to be here. My journey away from and back to this area has been a convoluted one but sometimes the journey tells you a lot about your destination. We are all born without choosing to be, to parents we didn't choose, into bodies and within borders we didn't choose but the choices we do decide upon all work to shape the life we make. I am happy to say that I choose to be the minister of West Tweeddale and happily for me you the people and churches of West Tweeddale choose me to be your minister. I don't for one minute imagine that you will all be filling the pews of our churches every Sunday simply because I am now your minister or even that you might believe everything that I believe in or indeed the way that I believe it. But I do want you to know that in as much as I can be of help to you and yours, I will try my best to be here (and there) for each and all of you. I leave you with a poem by Mary Oliver that I think captures what I am trying to say.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

What is the greatest gift?

*Could it be the world itself - the oceans, the meadow lark,
the patience of trees in the wind?*

Could it be love, with its sweet clamour of passion?

*Something else - something else entirely -
holds me in thrall.*

*That you have a life that I wonder about
more than I wonder about my own.*

*That you have a life – courteous, intelligent –
that I wonder about more than I do my own.*

*That you have a soul – your own, no one else's
that I wonder about more than I do
my own.*

*So I find my soul clapping its hands for yours
more than my own,*

Peace,

Tony

Message from Session Clerk ...

The West Tweeddale service of Induction for Rev Dr Tony Foley was held at St Andrew's on Monday 25th October. The service was led by the Moderator of Presbytery Rev Victoria Linford and the Preacher was Rev Fraser Edwards, the recently appointed minister at Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn. The service was attended by representatives of all six churches of the new linked parishes of West Tweeddale. After the service there was an informal welcome to Tony where he was presented with the gift of a home communion set. There followed presentations and expressions of deep and heartfelt thanks to our Locum Ministers, Rev Nancy Norman and Rev Pamela Strachan for all they have done for us and for their pastoral care. Warm thanks were also expressed to Rev Calum MacDougall for his great work as interim Moderator, in particular for his leadership and assistance in navigating the recent processes which have led to the successful appointment of our new minister. We also thank Tony for choosing to be with us in this new charge and we look forward to his leadership and guidance.

For those who were unable to attend the service, it is available online by clicking on the following link or by pasting it into your browser. Our many thanks for recording the service go to Neil Robinson and Bob Hunter:

http://www.uppertweeddale.org.uk/videos/induction_720_low_i.mp4

Looking forward to November we are planning attended services on 7th, 14th and 28th November at St Andrews. The 14th Service falls on Remembrance Day and will be a joint service with St Mungo's held at the earlier time of 10:50am so that the two minutes silence may be observed. We expect that these services will be streamed over Zoom.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

The service on 21st November will be exclusively held over Zoom in the way we have become accustomed.

Tony Hoskins, Session Clerk

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Email: ajohoskins@btconnect.com

From the former Interim Moderator ...

Janet and I want to express our most grateful thanks to the congregation and Kirk Session for your overwhelming generosity to us both, in the presentations made following Dr Tony Foley's induction service.

It has been a very great privilege to work with the office bearers and members of the six congregations, as we have moved to the creation of the new linking and the appointment of Tony as minister. It has been such a joy, thank you, all of you.

I could scarcely believe my eyes when I got home and opened the envelope and I struggle to find words, adequately to express my gratitude. Please be assured that your gift is most sincerely appreciated and will be used in such a way as to provide a constant reminder of your kindness.

Janet is thrilled with the beautiful bouquet which now occupies a prominent spot in our home in Broughton.

God bless you all as we move forward together.

With love,

Calum.

Induction Recording ...

You will see in the article from our Session Clerk the link to the recording of the Induction of Dr Foley. I am aware that there are a few members who do not have the technology and internet access to allow them to view it.

I have downloaded a copy on to my laptop and if anyone would like me to bring this to you please give me a ring on **01968 661785**. You will encounter my call screening service so be patient, give your name and wait for me to answer. If I am out you can leave a message.

Colin

Printed Copies ...

Now that we are back in church I will put a few copies in church as was the custom prior to lockdown.

Colin

Peebles Youth Trust Christmas Hampers ...

We have been asked by PYT to donate Alcohol Free mince pies for this year's hampers.

Last year 119 hampers were delivered to families with children under 16 nominated by schools, health centres, social work and Citizens Advice Bureau. Given the current difficulties demand is expected to be will be much as it was last year or even greater.

PYT rely heavily on contributions from churches, local businesses and other groups in the area.

Each hamper contains basic food items, toiletries as well as some festive treats to the value of around £50 and any shortfalls in goods are purchased using financial donations.

There will be a car outside the church on the Green on Saturday 20 November from 10 am till 11.30 am for the opportunity to donate mince pies. (Please check the "best before date" to ensure it covers actual Christmas dates).

Pat Graham

Shoe Box Appeal 2021 ...

A big "thank you" to all who filled shoeboxes and bags and donated money for Blythswood 2021 Appeal. 28 boxes and bags are now on their way to bring some cheer to those who are facing great difficulties in Eastern Europe.

A special "thank you" to Gillian and the team in the Post Office who kindly displayed leaflets and posters.

Pat Graham

Services November			
	West Linton 11.30 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
7th	Rev Dr Tony Foley In church / blended	Rev Dr Tony Foley In church / blended	Steven Whalley In church
14th	Rev Dr Tony Foley At 10.50 in church Remembrance	Rev Chris Levison Remembrance In church / blended	Rev Dr Tony Foley At 9.30 in church Remembrance
21st	Kevin Scott Zoom	Sheena Livingstone In church / blended	Kevin Scott In church
28th	Colin Herd In church / blended 1st in Advent	David Howat In church / blended 1st in Advent	Colin Herd In church 1st in Advent
5/12	Rev Dr Tony Foley Zoom	Rev Dr Tony Foley In church / blended	Mary McElroy In church

Readers		Readers	
November	7th Elaine Robinson	December	5th Daryll Green
	14th Elaine Robinson		12th Daryll Green
	21st Kirsty Crick		19th Tony Hoskins
	28th Kirsty Crick		26th Tony Hoskins

Material for the December/January Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Monday 29th November 2021. The December/January issue will be available by 5th December.

Copy to Colin Herd: email: newsletter@standrews-westlinton.org.

Please include 'Newsletter' in the subject of your email.

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