

West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church

September 2021

Scottish Charity No SC003938

Interim Moderator: Rev Calum Macdougall

Locum Minister: Rev Nancy Norman

From our Locum Minister ...

THOUGHTS FROM THE LOCUM

'Dear Readers,' Canadian novelist and poet Margaret Atwood prefaces her most recently published collection of poems, 'there are more birds in these poems than there used to be ... I wish also for more birds in the world. Let us all hope.'

Let us all hope.

The world of nature offers its mysteries to us – however briefly, mostly unbidden – and we are lifted out of ourselves, beyond language, beyond thinking, to the wonder of the unfathomable mystery of existence.

There is no surprise to learn that again and again the nation's favourite piece of classical music – at least amongst listeners of Classic FM who have taken the time to make their preferences known – is Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending*, a glorious celebration of that elusive airborne spirit that stirs our souls, kindles our imaginations, and opens our eyes to far horizons. But scan the bright sky in vain to catch the falling and rising of the little bird whose heart is so full, the source of that song without words that tumbles down to inspire us terrestrial beings.

How can so extraordinarily beautiful a sound emerge from so small and fragile a creature?

And in that question lies the conundrum. The dilemma: the fragility that is so

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easily broken. And each breakage – much of it from human impact – leaves the world the poorer for its loss. Our tread upon the planet has exacted a heavy toll. A word, coined only recently, attempts to express that sense of loss, through environmental change, of familiar things we have loved and valued. Solastalgia: homesickness while we are still at home.

But let us all hope.

As creatures of intellect we rely on words, believing that the right ones at the right moment will trigger the turning point the world so desperately waits for, and needs, to resolve its multiple crises.

But we are also creatures of emotion, of compassion and imagination and instinct, moved not by words alone but by the sudden song of a bird, by seeing in a single shaft of sunlight the whole of nature's splendour, by witnessing the world's anguish at the cry of an infant caught in the crossfire of conflict, by feeling the indelible bond of love that exists between a parent and a child.

Hope for better things does not die, but springs up everywhere, catching us by surprise with its transformative power. Every gathering, however large or small, in every place the world over, can work a work for good – at COP26 or in its fringe meetings, over coffee tables and in cafés, via Zoom and WhatsApp, in eco-groups, in prayer groups and Bible study and Sunday worship, around kitchen tables where often the deepest fears and yearnings of the human heart are entrusted into another's hands, around campfires, on park benches, on walks, in casual conversation, in silent companionship, however and wherever and on whatever scale concerns are shared.

May it be our prayer – and hope – that as we direct and continually re-direct our energies towards everything that fosters – for every form of life on this planet – wholeness and health, kindness and neighbourliness, we may no longer put at risk the fragile sources of inspiration, the song of the universe, but rather steward the mysteries of life in harmony with all things, to their greater good.

Nancy Norman

September 2021

From our Interim Moderator ...

As many of you may know already, the date for the Induction of The Rev Dr Tony Foley as the minister of the Parishes of West Tweeddale has been fixed for Monday 25th October, the service to take place at St Andrew's Church.

The past few years have been unsettling for all of the congregations in our new Linking, but since our six congregations came together to create the charge of West Tweeddale, there have many very heartening signs that augur well for our future together. Not least among these was the way in which our Nominating Committee seemed to gel right from when it began to address its task. That spirit of togetherness prevailed through the different stages in the process of identifying a new minister for our congregations and parishes, enabling an expeditious conclusion to the job in hand.

The Service of Induction at the end of next month will mark the start of a new ministry, not just for Dr Foley but for everyone in the six churches in the Linking. Tony will be coming to us not only as **the** minister of the charge but as **one minister among all the people** of the West Tweeddale churches.

The ability of our new Linking to respond effectively to the challenges and demands that confront the Church in the current circumstances of depleting resources, both material and personnel resources, depends not on the efforts of one ordained individual, however gifted and energetic that individual may be, but on the wholehearted commitment of all the folk of the Church. The wonderful thing is that each and every member has a ministry to exercise and the glorious blend of all of those ministries, under the leadership of Tony, will form the ministry of West Tweeddale as a whole. So, West Tweeddale's future will demand the faithful, prayerful ministry of all who belong to the congregations.

May God's richest blessing be known among you all as you look forward to this exciting new beginning.

With warmest good wishes,

Calum.

The Rev Calum Macdougall

Interim Moderator.

Message from Session Clerk ...

I had occasion to get up really early this morning and after being used to the light mornings that we've all had the chance to enjoy, was surprised to notice how dawn is now so much later; it was pitch black outside and the owls were still making themselves heard! With warm temperatures continuing and sunshine too, we're still hopeful, though, of more temperate days to come. Whilst hours of daylight reduce, we also know from the calendar and countryside around us, that Autumn is here. Or you may say: The Fall or simply Harvest or 'Hærfest' as it used to be known. All have their origins in Old English and whichever way you describe it, it's a wonderful time of year, visually tremendously arresting for the senses and a time to think and reflect... and maybe re-read, as we did today, 'Ode to Autumn' by John Keats.

With summer closing off, we are at another watershed moment here in Church. We have seen this year the establishment of a new Linking of 6 churches now described as West Tweeddale and the establishment of a Nominating Committee tasked with finding a new Minister and bringing a Sole Nominee to the six congregations. With many consultations, processes to follow and voting protocols, we have the news that our sole nominee has the support of all our congregations. And so it was with great pleasure at Zoom Church yesterday that we shared the following intimation:

*"Notice is hereby given that this congregation of West Linton, St Andrews together with the congregations of Broughton Glenholm and Kilbucho, Carllops, Kirkurd and Newlands, Skirling and Tweedsmuir, has elected **The Reverend Dr Thomas Anthony Foley to be our new minister** and a Call to the said Dr Thomas Anthony Foley has been prepared. **This Call will lie in West Linton Post Office from MONDAY the SIXTH day of SEPTEMBER until SATURDAY the EIGHTEENTH day of SEPTEMBER, during opening hours.** During that time any person whose name is on the Electoral Register of the congregation may sign the Call in person or by means of a mandate.*

If a mandate is to be used, the relevant form may be obtained from the Session Clerk.

A Paper of Concurrence will also be available for signature by any person who is connected with the congregation but whose name is not on the Electoral Register of the congregation. Children are also welcome to add their names to this paper."

The Call and the Paper of Concurrence is simply a show of warm support to Dr Foley following his successful election, signed on behalf of those on the electoral register ("The Call") and those in our community who feel in any way attached to our church ("The Paper of Concurrence").

Please feel free to sign the relevant document and if you can't do so, any elder can do so for you providing you give them a mandate (included on page 5 of the Newsletter

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or please ask any elder).

The appointment of Dr Foley is subject to Presbytery approval which is expected to be granted in early September and this will be followed by an induction service to be scheduled sometime in late October.

The St Andrew's Kirk Session met at the end of August and had the opportunity to discuss the possible reopening of attended services. As you know we have taken a cautious approach throughout the period of the pandemic and need to remain very careful as infection numbers are high and still rising. There is a sense that Zoom services need to continue each week at present, however the intention is that two services a month could now be a streamed over Zoom from attended Church itself, as we did when Dr Foley led his service in August. Specific timings will be confirmed over the course of September so please look out for announcements in Linkage News.

I hope you feel certain as I do that as the "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" approaches, we are ready to allow the work of many to come to fruition and sustain us as we move forward as a church community, with its new leadership, and renewed focus on exciting possibilities.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Jimmy Dripps who is no longer an elder or member at St Andrew's. Thank you Jimmy for all you have done for us as an elder, worship leader, choir member, newsletter editor and so much more. Also for your inspiration in all our conversations together.

And to everyone, enjoy the Autumn days to come.

Tony Hoskins, Session Clerk

Tel: 01968 682385

Email: ajohoskins@btconnect.com

CHRISTIAN AID AND COVID-19 ...

Fully vaccinated against Covid-19? Expert NHS GP and hospital treatment – free at the point of contact – if you become ill? We are indeed fortunate. Not so many others.....

At this year's General Assembly, the Moderator, (a local hero Jim Wallace, now a Lord), announced that the Church of Scotland is to back a new campaign to support people in the developing countries who have not been given the opportunity of protective vaccination. This move comes after commissioners backed a Faith Impact Forum deliverance to urge the UK Government to do all it can to ensure COVID-19 vaccines are made available throughout the world to resource-poor countries on the

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basis of clinical need to preserve human life.

As well as advocating a just vaccine roll out, he asked that we support CA's work with vulnerable communities, helping to limit the impact of the virus on health, livelihoods and personal safety. By providing basics like clean water, soap, masks/PPE and hand sanitiser, we can help vulnerable communities stay safer as they wait for their own vaccine roll out. This is a chance to give thanks in a very tangible way. In a quest for global justice, here is a practical opportunity to give real expression in 2021 to loving our global neighbours. Together we can respond generously as a mark of gratitude for what WE have already received.....and take for granted?

So Thank God for his blessings in your prayers.....What price would you put on your "free" vaccination? Can you make a donation to CA this autumn to help fund their campaign? Just what you can afford, every little helps, it all adds up.....

HOW TO DONATE: Ideally please donate on line at www.christianaid.org.uk

This way, your donation goes directly to CA with no hidden deductions reducing its value.

If you do not have access to a computer, you could post a personal cheque direct to CA Scotland head office at 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.

Robert Higgins

MANDATE TO SIGN CALL

I,¹ _____
of,² _____

being a person whose name is on the Electoral Register of the congregation, hereby authorise the Session Clerk, or other member of Session, to add my name to the Call addressed to **The Reverend Dr Thomas Anthony Foley** to be our new minister.

(Signed) _____

¹ Here enter full name in block capitals

² Here enter address in full

Harvest Thanksgiving ...

Foodbank collection for Harvest Thanksgiving

Sat 18 September from 11-1pm

We are having a '**pop-up**' collection of food donations which will benefit the Peebles and Penicuik Foodbanks to celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving. We shall split the contributions between the two foodbanks (as we do at present with the donations left at the Coop).

The foodbanks would welcome any contribution you would like to make but are particularly short of :-

Instant coffee, diluting juice, sugar, lentils, sponge puddings, tinned fruit, tinned custard, sunflower oil, jam, tinned vegetables, instant mashed potato, sweets, crisps and cereal bars and toiletries for both men and ladies.

So look out for Kevin and Susan's red golf car at the usual place **outside the church gate** on the Green - and you can put any donation you would like to make in the boot of their car. This is something which can be supported by the whole community.

If you've any queries on this the please just contact:

Helen Bruce: 01968 661603

Ann McDiarmid 01968 660495

Susan Scott 01968 661744

Thank You to the customers of
West Linton Co-Op
for your generous donations

Items needed are:

Coffee

Jam

Sponge puddings

Tinned vegetables (peas etc)

Instant mash

Lentils

Snacks (crisps/sweets/cereal
bars)

Toiletries



**HELPING LOCAL
PEOPLE IN CRISIS**

Shoe Box Appeal 2021 ...

Last year in spite of all the difficulties, 75,218 boxes and gym bags were distributed in Eastern Europe, including 38 from West Linton, as well as welcome donations of money.

This year deliveries will again be made to countries including Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine.

Drawstring gym bags can be used instead of shoe boxes and leaflets are available in the Post Office and the Church.

Definite dates for uplift are still to be finalized but 24 October will be the last date for the boxes to be brought to church.

Pat Graham

Church Transport ...

At the Kirk Session meeting at the end of August it was reported that some of the drivers are withdrawing from the rota due to their own or a family member's health issues. Others have expressed their concern at the responsibility involved.

After some discussion it was agreed that, with regret, we should discontinue the rota of drivers. It is possible that family or friends might be able to take over this service.

We are actively exploring how we can continue some form of blended service, i.e. the service in church being shared over Zoom.

Colin Herd

Zoom Services September			
	West Linton 11.30 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
5th	David Henderson-Howat	Sheena Livingstone	David Henderson-Howat
12th	Rev Chris Levison	Rev Chris Levison	Rev Nancy Norman
19th	Rev Nancy Norman	Rev Nancy Norman	Steven Whalley
26th	Colin Herd	Colin Herd	Rev Nancy Norman

Services at Newlands are now in church every Sunday at 10.00 am with socially distancing and other mitigation measures in place. They will welcome anyone who wishes to attend in person.

Readers		Readers	
September	5th ———	October	3rd Kevin Scott
	12th Michael Knott		10th Colin Herd
	19th Michael Knott		17th Colin Herd
	26th Kevin Scott		24th Helen Bruce
			31st Helen Bruce

Material for the October Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Monday 20th September 2021. The October issue will be available by 27th September. Due to holiday there will only be a short gap between the September and October Issues.

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

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

To stop receiving the Newsletter by email please send an email to : newsletter@standrews-westlinton.org with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.