

# *West Linton St Andrew's Parish Church*

**September 2023**

Scottish Charity No SC003938

**Minister: Rev Dr Tony Foley**

## ***'A picture is worth a thousand words' - or is it?***

*A picture is worth a thousand words'*, or so I am told. I say that as I think more and more about our compulsively visual culture, which relentlessly reduces everything we see, think, or feel and do to that which can be photographed and self-published on any one of numerous social media platforms. We are it seems a culture in the grip of what one writer called obsessive '*aesthetic consumerism*'.

The thing about pictures of course, is that they have no real context. They are merely an edited version of a given reality. They may enchant us, but they lack that capacity to convey a sense of the ineffable and the transcendent that words, written and spoken, engaging with, and enriched by our imaginations, can convey to us. Such portals to the transcendent can be found in the captivating words of the poetic and are inherent in the eloquence of great writers. Iris Murdoch's novel *The Sea, the Sea* is one such example. There she writes:

*"As I lay there, listening to the soft slap of the sea, and thinking these sad and strange thoughts, more and more and more stars had gathered, obliterating the separateness of the Milky Way, and filling up the whole sky. And far, far away in that ocean of silver, stars were silently shooting and falling and finding their*

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*fates, among these billions and billions of merging silver lights. And as curtain after curtain of gauze was quietly removed, and I saw stars behind stars behind stars... And I saw into the vast soft interior of the universe which seemed to be slowly and gently turning itself inside out. I went to sleep, and in my sleep, I seemed to hear a sound of singing."*

The Irish poet and Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney made the telling observation, *'The biggest change in my lifetime has been the evaporation of the transcendent from all our discourse.'* I agree with Heaney, our public language is almost exclusively devoted to the commercial, the pragmatic; used to sell us something, or persuade us to do something. So engulfed are we by this transactional language that people find it hard to speak publicly about the more mysterious dimensions of the human experience, those liminal moments when we are inexplicably aware of the ineffable. Those who do – the singers and poets - stand out and are even more sought after. King David is one such poet. He manages to capture what it feels like to be caught up in thoughts of God's overshadowing caring presence in his Psalm 139. Emily Dickinson is another who captures a powerful sense of the transcendent in her poem – *'This world is not conclusion'*.

Do yourself a favour this week nurture and nourish your soul by taking the time to reflectively read these poems aloud to yourself and let them revitalise the language and sense of the transcendent in your own life and discourses.

Peace,

**Tony**

## ***Mark Hepworth, Linkage administrative assistant***

I was born in Newcastle Upon Tyne and spent the first few years of my life in South Shields and Somerset. My family came to Scotland when I was eleven years old, and I was educated at Stranraer Academy and Peebles High School. I have had a variety of occupations since leaving school. These include: a year spent in Bordeaux as an English teacher; in London pubs; a tourist guide in France; fuelling aircraft at Edinburgh Airport; working for a stockbrokers; and seven years as a croupier in casinos, including five years spent at sea on various cruise ships.

I am married to Natalija and we lived in Edinburgh before coming to West Linton in 2014. We have two children, aged ten and eight. Our family regularly attend services at St Mungo's in West Linton and delight in living in the beautiful surroundings of the village. Aside from the usual pleasures of life, I am passionate about reading (anything which sparks an interest), eclectic music, the French language, creative writing, and attempting to hone my parenting skills! My greatest ambitions are to see my novel published and to visit the painted monasteries of Bucovina.

I am greatly looking forward to my new role as administrator in West Tweeddale hope to be of service to the linkage.

***Mark Hepworth***

## ***West Tweeddale Guild Autumn Programme***

The West Tweeddale Guild will be having it's first meeting of the new session on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September. This is an outing to Dawyck Botanic Gardens where we will learn a bit more about the garden, its origins and its plans before having afternoon Tea in the café. No walking required (unless you'd like to come early and have a walk round the gardens before we meet) and the charge for the afternoon tea is £8. We'd love to see old and new faces for this outing and if you'd like to come, please let Fiona (Tel 07944196234, email [fiona@glenholm.co.uk](mailto:fiona@glenholm.co.uk)) know for the numbers. Transport from Broughton Village Hall carpark and Newlands/West Linton area can also be organised by contacting Fiona.

The theme for the year is New wine, new wineskins so for our October meeting we're going to have a cheese and wine party with a difference, all will be revealed on the day.

At the November meeting we hope to have a speaker from Home for Good Project which we are supporting. Home for Good are a Christian charity who are passionate about finding a home for every child who needs one. They work to inspire people to think about fostering and adoption. They also equip the Church to welcome these families and help support people on their journeys. The December meeting will have a Christmas Festivities theme.

### **Summary of Autumn Meetings (all meetings start at 2:30pm)**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, Dawyck Botanic gardens Talk and afternoon tea

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, Broughton Village Hall. Cheese and wine 'party'

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, Newlands Church. Talk from Home for Good Project

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, Broughton Village Hall. Christmas Festivities

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We welcome everyone to any or all of our meetings. Men, women, young and old are all welcome to meet friends old and new, have informative discussions and always lubricated with a cup of tea and a biscuit. For more information, please contact Fiona.

## ***Sunday Club***

It is now one year since we restarted children's ministry at St Andrews. We have had a very successful start and would like to thank the worship leaders and everyone in our congregation for welcoming the children and their families; and for supporting us. We are hugely encouraged by the positive feedback from the children and their families. Many of the parents join in at Sunday Club, their help and support is greatly appreciated.

Sunday Club restarts after our summer break on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September when the children will be hearing about Jonah and the Whale and we will be making whales to adorn the walls of the Old Church Hall. In October its going to be all about Noah's Ark.

Sunday Club meets on the first Sunday of every month in the Old Church Hall during school term times. We leave from church during the service and walk the children to the hall and for those who wish to meet us at the hall we suggest 11.45am. This is particularly useful for our children and families who attend earlier services at their churches in Carlops and St Mungo's West Linton. After Sunday Club we bring the children back to the church or they can be collected by parents around 12.15pm.

***Ann Lyon and Kate Whalley***

## ***Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal 2023***



The shoebox appeal started in 1993 and over the last 29 years more than 2.5 million shoeboxes have been distributed.

Sadly, in its thirtieth year the need is as great as ever.

Checklist Leaflets will be available soon and boxes will be delivered to schools, hospitals, orphanages, care homes and low income communities as well as those affected by war in Ukraine.

Last year we contributed 32 boxes and donations of money.

In addition we also gave 3 boxes of fillers ie items from the checklist that were donated that were extra that couldn't fit in the shoebox and these are welcomed as well.

If you have any surplus shoeboxes please leave them in church as we always need boxes.

Collection arrangements are still to be finalised. This is usually in late October.

## ***Guid Blethers***

Guid Blethers will restart for the new session on Wednesday  
13<sup>th</sup> September at 2.00pm in the Old Church Hall.

Thereafter, meetings will be on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Following a talk on an interesting subject or an activity (non strenuous!) we enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and some wonderful tasty nibbles

***Helen Dry***

## **Baby Brunch**

**every Friday during term-time**

**10.00 to 11.30am**

**In the Old Church Hall**

**For parents, grandparents and carers with young children**

## ***Community Cosy Coffee Afternoon***

Our summer hours are 2pm to 4pm on Fridays, at the Old Church Hall. Come along for a chat, cuppa, company and cake! Everyone very welcome, (including dogs on a lead) although under 16s need to be accompanied by an adult. Free of charge although donations welcome but not expected.



More information (and help with lifts if needed) from **Kate Whalley**



# Girlguiding

West Linton area is ....

**FUN  
ADVENTURE  
FRIENDSHIP**



**girls aged 5-7  
meeting on Monday**



**girls aged 7-10  
meeting on Thursday/ Sunday**



**girls aged 10-14  
meeting on Thursday**



**girls aged 14+  
meeting on Monday**

Further information from any unit leader or contact

**Vicky Burnham**  
[victoriaburnham@sky.com](mailto:victoriaburnham@sky.com)



## ***Church Flowers***

Whether you have been away on holiday or holidaying at home this year, the summer flowers in our beautiful countryside and in our gardens have been lovely again this year. Remember to look out for the summer colours giving way to the rich and rustic autumn colours as we move into harvest time and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support of the Church Flower Fund. All contributions are very much appreciated.

If you would like to donate to the Flower Fund you can use the envelopes available in church. Please put your name and 'Flower Fund' on any plain envelope which you put into the offering bag or pass on to your arranger or any Elder. Our Church treasurer, Michael Knott has made arrangements to make it possible to pay direct into the Flower Fund using the details below:

Account Name: St Andrews Kirk Session

Sort Code: 80-09-39

Account number: 00817827

It would be helpful if you could add 'Flower Fund' to your donation and if you are a taxpayer please consider to 'Gift Aid' your donation. If you have any questions, or would like further information, please email [treasurer@standrews-westlinton.org](mailto:treasurer@standrews-westlinton.org) or call 660977 or write to 9 Tarfhaugh Brae, West Linton EH46 7DP.

Our flower arrangers for September, October and November are Helen Bruce, Nancy Porteous and Sheila Forsyth. Thank you all for your time and talents given to ensure that our church always looks so beautiful.

***Ann Lyon***



## ***Christian Aid Cuts Ties With Barclays Over Fossil Fuel Financing***

International development agency Christian Aid has recently approved plans to move banking provider from Barclays to Lloyds. CA had an income of £78.4 million last year. The following press release explained their decision.

“Following a review of banking arrangements last year and a competitive tender process, the Board of Trustees have approved plans to move from Barclays to Lloyds.

With Lloyds, we will continue to be able to transfer funds to high risk countries such as Syria, Myanmar and Afghanistan as we currently do with Barclays. This global banking network is essential for CA to continue to support those people who are the hardest to reach.

Whilst Barclays was able to provide banking services to fragile contexts, their record on fossil fuel finance and their weak commitment to future improvements in this area meant we had to seek a more suitable provider.

CA has ambitious environmental commitments over the next few years, as set out in our recently launched Environmental Policy. The transition to Lloyds will take place over the next few months”.

The move was welcomed by former chairman of CA, Dr. Rowan Williams, as well as other charity leaders, experts and campaigners who called on other charities to follow suit. Tony Burdon, executive director of Make My Money Matter, added “we hope all organisations follow CA’s lead and make sure their money is complimenting their values, not contradicting them”.

Further details can be found on CA’s website.

***Robert Higgins***, CA Chair

## ***Well Prepared***

Starting on Thursday 7th September at 7.30 pm a 6-session course called, 'Well Prepared', (published by the Diocese of Oxford), will be held in the New Church Hall in West Linton. The course will be facilitated by Revd Nick Bowry (Rector of St Mungo's West Linton) and Revd Dr Tony Foley (Minister of the West Tweeddale Churches).

The 'Well Prepared' course will cover the following topics.:

- Making a will and power of attorney document
- Exploring the story of our life
- Planning my funeral
- The last days
- Departing in peace
- What comes next?

The course is primarily to help us have conversations about death and to plan for our own death. The course is not primarily aimed at supporting anyone who is grieving. Of course, talking about death may lead to thoughts of those who we love and whose absence we still feel, in that sense we shall all be sensitive to each other's experiences of bereavement and loss.

If you are interested in attending these sessions, so we can get an idea of numbers likely to attend, please let your Session Clerk know or contact Mark Hepworth at the West Linton Church office. - [cos1560.tweed@outlook.com](mailto:cos1560.tweed@outlook.com). Tel 01968 733112

We will be providing notes for each session.

## Contacts

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**Flowers: Ann Lyon**

Telephone: 07702 984185    email: annlyon@live.co.uk

**Cosy Café: Kate Whalley**    Telephone: 01968 661158

**Guid Blethers:    Helen Dry,**

Telephone: 01968 660506

**Baby Brunch:**

## The Open Gate

This is a free counselling service for anyone, young or old, who would like some help with a problem .

Phone or text 07535 898 244

for a phone appointment to be arranged.

## Services September

	West Linton 11.30 am	Carlops 10.00 am	Newlands 10.00 am
3rd	Murray Campbell	Murray Campbell	Rev Dr Tony Foley
10th	Steven Whalley	Fiona Burnett	Steven Whalley
17th	Rev Dr Tony Foley	Rev Dr Tony Foley	Kevin Scott
24th	Peter Worthington	Peter Worthington	Rev Dr Tony Foley
1/10	Colin Herd	Patsy Campbell	Colin Herd

## Door Duties

### September

Daryll Green	Choir
C Leith £	Main
Marion Moore	Gallery

### October

Tony Hoskins £	Choir
Pat Graham	Main
Helen Bruce	Gallery

### Readers

<b>Sept</b>	3rd	Mary Turnbull
	10th	Michael Knott
	17th	Michael Knott
	24th	Kevin Scott

### Readers

<b>Oct</b>	1st	Kevin Scott
	8th	Steven Whalley
	15th	Steven Whalley
	22nd	Elaine Robinson
	29th	Elaine Robinson

**Material for the October Newsletter should be submitted to the editor by Sunday 24th September 2023. Please include 'Newsletter' in the subject of your email.**

**The October 2023 issue will be available by 1st October 2023.**