

*Parish of Upper Tweeddale*

# KIRK MATTERS



Autumn 2024

# CHURCH'S VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the Church of Scotland is to be a Church which seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and beyond with the good news of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities

## UPPER TWEEDDALE WEBSITE

[www.uppertweeddale.org.uk](http://www.uppertweeddale.org.uk) Charity No. SC004728

Part of the West Tweeddale Parishes linkage ([www.westtweeddale.org.uk](http://www.westtweeddale.org.uk))



@parishofuppertweeddale

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Occasionally we hold joint services for instance for a breakfast church. Advanced notice will be given at church services and on the website and Facebook.

In Broughton Village Hall at 11am  
In Tweedsmuir Church at 9.30am  
In Skirling Church at 11.30am



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Skirling and Tweedsmuir  
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For the Parish of Upper Tweeddale



# A letter from our Minister

## Finding Prophets among the Paperbacks

If you are wanting something to read this autumn you could do worse than read Lionel Shriver's latest novel *Mania*. Shriver sets her story in an alternative 21st century. The main character, Pearson Converse, is wrestling with the 'latest' major political dogma of her time. In doing so, she's in danger of losing her best friend; ends up having tense arguments with her husband; and is summoned to the dean's office at the University where she teaches. She also receives a threatening visit from Child Protection Services. The plot of the story is focused on the last crusade for 'social justice' which isn't racism, or gender equity but "cognitive discrimination."



In the story, The Mental Parity (MP) movement inspired by the best-selling *The Calumny of IQ: Why Discrimination Against "Dumb People" is the Last Great Civil Rights Fight*, has begun its blitzkrieg through educational institutions. It's no longer permissible to speak about, or even to acknowledge, differences of intelligence. "Smart," "stupid," "dumb," and all similar evaluative terms are placed on the MP Index of forbidden words. The Child Protection Services visit Pearson's home because her youngest child, Lucy, reports to a teacher that her mother uses these insulting words at home.

Smart books and smart movies are censored, because they assume cognitive disparities and make some people feel inferior. Dumb movies—*Dumb and Dumber*, for instance—are preceded by a "warning about offensive representations of cognitive inferiority." *The Simpsons* gets cancelled because of the double transgression of portraying an idiot (Homer) and a genius (Lisa).

In a society where intelligence gets flattened, everything else does too. No one can admit there's such a thing as "being good at." Pearson's daughter Zanzibar is too good an actor to be cast in school plays, and the orchestra director stops her when she plays a stunning Bach melody on her flute. Pearson's tree-surgeon husband, Wade, tries to keep his head down, hoping MP will never touch him, until he's forced to hire an incompetent employee and keep him on the payroll for fear of a cognitive discrimination lawsuit, a decision that leads to disaster. With the American food system and auto industry staffed with dumb people who aren't allowed to be trained, American food becomes toxic and American cars explode on the highway.

Sudoku, crosswords, and all other puzzle games are quietly dropped from newspapers because of how they make the 'cognitively different' feel inadequate. Pearson's teaching is hamstrung because telling students something they don't know already comes with the forbidden implication that they were ignorant before they learned it. Schools have given up on testing and grading.

*Mania* is a great piece of satire that pokes fun at a society not unlike our own. It makes for a thought provoking read. In one striking passage Shriver lets her characters reflect on the energies of radicalism:

'Radical movements keep ratcheting up their demands because nothing enervates a cause more than success. Crusaders resent having their purpose stolen out from under them by the fulfilment of their quest; reaching the promised land leaves seekers bereft. There's little to do in a utopian oasis but sip coconut water. So, the journey must never be completed. The goal must remain out of reach. To preserve the perfect impossibility of getting there, the desired end point becomes ever more extreme.'

Shriver, like all good satirist, makes a serious point through the medium of humour. In our contemporary context she may prove to be less of a satirist and more of a prophet.

Peace, Tony

# Wondering about Wandering – Nicola Campbell



I have recently been wondering what makes a journey a pilgrimage. The word pilgrimage can be used to refer to a journey to a significant and special destination, but it can also be used to refer to the action of journeying.

Last year I took a pilgrimage across the parishes of West Tweeddale, stopping at 5 of the churches as I went. I walked 65 kilometres, (the parish covers a large and varied rural area!) The purpose of the walk was to journey across the parish, visit the churches and listen to God's voice as I went. I travelled from Carlops church in the north to Tweedsmuir Kirk in the south, on Roman roads, tarmacked roads, drove roads, ancient footpaths, forestry tracks, across fields and under a fair amount of rain. The parish felt steeped in history both ancient and more recent.



There is something special about being outside in nature that is good for our physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health. John Muir famously said, "I'd rather be in the mountains thinking of God, than in church thinking about the mountains". Many people find 'head space' and a connection with something bigger than themselves more readily in the outdoors.

For the past three years I have led a church youth group in Broughtonknowe woods. I am grateful to the owner and the Friends of Broughtonknowe for their upkeep and our use of the woods. The young people find, in the woods, a space where they can explore faith for themselves and respond in an active and meaningful way. Gathering outdoors around a fire seems to help us connect both with each other, and the physical and spiritual world around us.

Over the next few months, I plan to start a similar gathering for all ages called '**Wanderings**'. This will entail going for led, reflective walks in the woods. These would be gatherings where people can connect life and faith: wondering and wandering together. Working in partnership with the churches of Upper Tweeddale, plans are shaping up to make this happen. To help inform our **Wanderings** we would be very interested to hear what you think about the idea. We would be delighted if you could help us by completing the short survey available on this link or QR code. If you have any other feedback or to discuss further, please contact myself Nicola Campbell [nshawcampbell@hotmail.com](mailto:nshawcampbell@hotmail.com).

<https://forms.gle/7ueEQE29KXnrxDUTA>





# Celebration of Faith in West Tweeddale

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October everyone is welcome to join us in a celebration of faith in West Tweeddale. To be held in Broughton Village Hall, this event will bring together the six churches in our linkage for three hours of fellowship, worship and discussion.

Starting at 10am with registration, cake and coffee, it will include some time of prayer and worship, and a chance to sing and enjoy some modern hymns led by Anne Dawson, one of our organists and leader of Biggar singers. See below panel for information about the praise band that Anne is trying to put together.

Our churches are continually seeking ways of creating hospitable places of worship: social, spiritual spaces where people can swap stories, receive encouragement and experience genuine friendship. As part of the morning we will be hearing possible answers to this challenge from Rev. Peter Wood, Mission Office at Lothian and Borders Presbytery.



There will also be time to discuss among ourselves, and with interested members of our wider community, how we might meet the challenge. We welcome your participation. Lunch will be provided, and the event will end at 1pm.

## Appeal for instrumentalists and singers

Can you help?

I am putting together a praise band to participate in the celebration of faith.

If you play an instrument (ANY instrument) or sing, could you come and join us?

We will be leading 4 hymns for which I can provide the music. If your instrument plays in a different key, parts can be provided in the correct key for you.

The hymns will be:

Gather us in by Marty Haugen

Knowing you by Graham Kendrick

Seek ye first by Karen Lafferty

Shine Jesus shine by Graham Kendrick.

Free lunch for all participants!

Please contact me to let me know that you are interested and I will send you the music.

With thanks

Anne Dawson, [tweedmuir@yahoo.com](mailto:tweedmuir@yahoo.com). 07748638933

# A conversation with Ann Welsh, co-ordinator of the Upper Tweeddale Community Drivers scheme.

## When did the Upper Tweeddale Community drivers start and why?

It's been going for about 25 years now. After having to stop during lockdown, it was relaunched in 2022 and we now have 21 drivers on our books. With very little public transport in the area it was floated as an idea to help out the community. Fiona Hamilton was the initial instigator of the idea, calling on her experience of the Red Cross driving scheme. She had a lot of assistance from Richard Carr, who was Editor and treasurer of the Community News and helped get it started. There are still 3 or 4 of the original drivers still involved.



The aim of the scheme both then and now is to provide transport for anyone in the Upper Tweeddale communities needing to get to anything medical. For insurance reasons we can't cover things that could be considered social, e.g. shopping trips. However, we can provide transport for things like GP visits, hospital appointments and appointments for dentists, chiropodists, chiropractors, physiotherapists i.e. anything that is considered medical. And even if you have a car, the service is available to you as it might be that you cannot drive at the moment or want the extra support to get to and from the appointment.

## And what geographical area do you cover?

Originally it was defined as the Upper Tweed Community Council area which excluded Skirling and Stobo but that is now more than one Community Council area. So we now say we cover the communities of Upper Tweed defined as Broughton, Tweedsmuir, Skirling and Stobo. It may be possible in the future to extend the service to neighbouring areas eg Lyne and Manor, but we don't have the drivers in these area at the moment to support it. We try to be flexible and can respond to people on the edges of the area if there is a need and the drivers are available.

## We seem to be unusual having this service. Why do you think it took off and continues to thrive?

There is a real need everywhere, but like a lot of rural areas it's not easy to get to medical appointments without a car. The people starting the service saw a need and recruited a group of willing drivers, and that has continued. The service could not operate without willing volunteers, and we are very grateful for their commitment to the scheme.

People seem to be keen to volunteer in rural areas and maybe there is more of a sense of community and wanting to support each other. Being a volunteer driver is a really good way of contributing to the community. The drivers are able to do something quite useful in the community and I think get quite a lot out of it. Also, the scheme is very flexible so you don't have to commit to a particular day or time.

The drive can be at any time of day so the driver can choose when to offer and where they are willing to drive to.

### **So how does it all work?**

If someone needs our service they contact me, as the coordinator, by phone, or email. I then send out a message to say when and where a particular driver request has come in and it is up to the drivers to respond. Only when a driver has agreed to the run do they get the name of the service user. I then contact the service user to let them know who will be in touch with them and it is left to the driver to contact them to finalise times etc.

All drivers have a PVG certificate and are fully aware of the need for confidentiality at all times. What is said during the drive and what transpires at the hospital is also treated as strictly confidential. Sometimes people want to offload at what could be a difficult or frightening time so they may need a listening ear but with the assurance that what is discussed goes no-where. This is an important part of the service.

It is up to the service user to disclose as much or as little about why they are going to the appointment and the drivers respect this. If someone is a bit vulnerable, it is sometimes a good idea to know which department they are attending so we can help them find the place and make sure we are there to collect at the end of the appointment. But the level of assistance requested is entirely up to the service user. All we need to know is the time of the appointment and the destination. A rough idea of how long the appointment may take can be useful, but we guarantee that, however long an appointment is, we will get you back home after it.

### **One thing that may put people off using the service is the fear of not being helped from the door of the hospital to the place of the appointment. What can you say to reassure people?**

It is totally up to the service user. Some people are completely independent and are happy to be dropped off and then find their way back to a collection point when they are finished. Others may need help in getting to and from the appointment place. For example, if you have vision issues trying to read a myriad of signs in a strange place can be quite off putting. If they have mobility issues, it is easy for the driver to go and find someone to help them or indeed find a hospital wheelchair and push them to the appointment waiting area. We don't take anyone who is a wheelchair user and can't transfer to a hospital wheelchair on their own. This is because of the potential problem of being able to transport wheelchairs in cars, and also the manual handling of the chair. We prefer people to use the hospital chairs and leave theirs at home but if in doubt give me a phone to discuss.

### **Given the number of drivers you have at the moment, you are maybe not looking for more but if there are people who want to volunteer, what sort of things do you expect from the drivers?**

We are always looking for new drivers. It goes without saying that they need to have a full driving license and insurance for their car. We'll help with the PVG

application, but nobody can offer to drive till this is successfully issued. Periodically we organise training e.g. first aid and dealing with the sorts of things that might happen in the car, and also, use of a defibrillator

### **What about finance? How is it all paid for?**

It's absolutely amazing how equal client donations are to money expended. We pay 45p per mile to drivers and we think our suggested donations are about right. You don't have to give the suggested donation, some give less some give more, but it all seems to balance itself out in the end. Outwith the driver expenses, the main extra is a mobile phone contract and our third-party insurance that covers anything that may happen during the drive. That is why unfortunately we cannot stop off on the way home to do some shopping. We've had microgrants from both the Tweedsmuir and Upper Tweeddale Community Councils for various things at the startup at our relaunch. Last year we also got a most welcome grant from Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) to do the first aid training for the volunteer drivers, and also to purchase grab handles to assist with getting in and out of the cars. We've also had some donations from individuals in the community.

When it comes to collecting donations from our service users, we have special envelopes that we give out at the beginning of the drive, and we can accept either cash or cheques. People can also use BACS transfers if they wish. We suggest certain amounts depending on where the person is going. At the moment to go to Biggar is £5, Peebles or West Linton is £10 and any of the hospitals is £25. But these are suggestions and people can put in what they can afford. No-one will be excluded from the service because they cannot pay. It gets balanced out by people who want and can pay more for the service.

### **And the future, how do you see it developing?**

Mobile phones have been a really useful tool as the coordinator's job can be shared around a lot easier. This also helps service users keep in touch with their drivers. We also have a website which should make it easier in future for the service users, coordinator and drivers to access the system and keep updated on their requests and offers.

For the future, it depends on what the community wants and how many drivers come forward. It might be possible to include more social things that have a mental health well-being purpose, like lunch clubs or support groups. Or maybe shopping trips but that would mean a change to the insurance. However, with the NHS having financial concerns, it is likely that community driver services like ours might become more vital in our community. I don't think we'll be going away any time soon! We need to encourage everyone to think about using the service. It is for everyone in the community not just the frail or elderly. We're there to help everyone who needs a lift to a medical appointment.

Thank you to all the drivers for volunteering to provide this service in our community. [And also a wee thank you to Ann for coordinating it all. It is much appreciated-ed].

*As told to Fiona Burnett*



# A Thank you from Médecins Sans Frontières

Our Christmas services last December had a collection for the work of MSF around the world. We sent £240.10 to them and below is their thank you to all who contributed.

“In 2022 our medical teams conducted 118,100 surgical procedures, admitted 127,400 malnourished children to inpatient feeding programmes and helped 295,300 mothers give birth. Every day MSF provides vital medical care to people caught up in conflict, natural disasters and other emergencies around the world.

This work would not be possible without the support of people like you.

Thank you”

An example of what we do

"I was running a paediatric unit in Mosul, Iraq, when baby Ali was brought in. Born almost three months early, he was dangerously underweight and dehydrated, with an infection and fever. Not sure he would make it, we did everything we could, giving him antibiotics and a blood transfusion. With no incubators, we put him in a cot covered in clingfilm.

For weeks we kept a close eye on him, and his mother learnt to hold him skin-to-skin to help him heal and grow. Finally, 45 days later he was well enough to go home. When they returned for regular check-ups, it was wonderful to see him get bigger and bigger.

As a supporter of MSF, I want to thank you. Your generosity makes such a difference. Our patients are people just like you and me who have found themselves in desperate situations. In Mosul, people like Ali's mother were so grateful to be able to access care in a safe place, regardless of who they were or where they came from. I feel so proud to be part of that and I hope that you do too."

*Dr Rachael MacLeod, MSF Paediatrician*



# Broughton Church Update

For some time now, the future of the Broughton church building has been under review. For some years now there has been a recognition that the Church of Scotland has far too many buildings and many of the buildings it has are not helping in the mission and the work of the church in their community. Difficult, and very often painful decisions are having to be made up and down the country about much loved buildings in almost every community. Our Presbytery (the powers that be! and in our case Lothian and Borders) have been grappling with this problem and under the current Presbytery Plan, both Broughton and Tweedsmuir churches have B status which means they are expected to be closed within the life of the plan, in Broughton's case by the end of 2025 and in Tweedsmuir's case, by the end of 2028. Skirling church has A status which means it is expected to remain open for the duration of the current plan.



At the recent meeting of the Parish of Upper Tweeddale Kirk session, it was agreed that neither Broughton nor Tweedsmuir churches would be able to meet the conditions set out by Presbytery to remain open. Those elders present agreed unanimously but reluctantly that a decision to sell the Broughton Church building was necessary, the deteriorating condition of the building necessitating the need to make this decision at this time. This decision has been conveyed to the Presbytery for their action. In the case of Tweedsmuir church, no decision was made, giving the Kirk Session further time for thought about its future.

Since April, Broughton Church has met in the Village Hall. Coffee is served from 10:45 and the service starts at 11.00, come and join us if you can. Amidst all these decisions, much discussion has been generated around what the Church in Broughton might look like in the future. The following are some thoughts from Peter Worthington, our Church treasurer.

Why do we need a church building? After all, a sanctuary is not just four walls. The physical space plays its part alongside the music, the scripture readings, prayers and the sermon in creating a spiritual experience. In Christianity God became flesh in Jesus, thus the material world, the creation, is valued and sacred as well as the spiritual. This is why our buildings are important to us and worship in a hall for an hour a week sometimes does not work as well as having a permanent location. *Where we worship is not only a place to gather but at its best it can become a place of awe, what the Celts called a 'thin place' where there is less separation between the spiritual and physical presence.*

So, what can we do?

1. Close-down completely and worship at Skirling or Tweedsmuir.
2. Move to the village hall when possible (other bookings might clash).
3. Find a small plot of land in the village and build - but where?
4. Any other idea?



We are hindered in our work by many of our congregation not returning after “lockdown”. Even so, in spite of having a small congregation we manage as part of the Union of Upper Tweeddale to:

- Provide weekly spiritual worship.
- Help run and fund the Breakfast Club for the children of Broughton Primary School – a success story.
- Provide social events such as Harvest Supper (or as in the case in 2023, a Harvest Breakfast!), quizzes, Easter Sunday service followed by bacon rolls and egg rolling!
- Contribute to Broughton Christmas Fayre with a raffle of a Hamper of Goods.
- Contribute to local food banks.

Not bad for a small congregation but how much more could we achieve, both spiritual and materially, with greater support?

*Peter Worthington  
Treasurer to the Parish of Upper Tweeddale, March 2024,  
Updated August 2024. Fiona Burnett*

# What's happening in Upper

## Listening Hour

Rev Dr Tony Foley is available in the Laurel Bank Tearoom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 10:30 – 11:30am if you wish to drop by and have a chat.

## SEPTEMBER

**Skirling Lunch** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September, Skirling Village Hall from 12-1:15  
Soup, roll, traybake and tea/coffee. £2. All welcome

**Films that make you think.** Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September, Broughton Village Hall.  
For more information see pg 16.

**Stobo Community Coffee Morning.** Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September Stobo Village Hall  
10:30-12. Donations welcome for Peeblesshire Food bank

**Guild Outing to Biggar Museum.** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 2:00pm.  
Members new and old are most welcome to join us.  
For more details please see article on pg 17.

**Bridge Afternoon** In aid of Cancer Research UK, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2-5pm,  
St Mary's Hall, Biggar. Biggar Bridge Club invite you to an afternoon of social  
bridge including afternoon tea and prizes. Tickets £10. Contact Isobel Hunter for  
more details (isobel@skirlinghouse.com mob 07955 876179)

**MacMillan Coffee Morning** Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September, Broughton Village Hall,  
10:30 – 1pm.

## OCTOBER

**Newlands Harvest Supper.** Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 6.30pm in Newlands church. It  
will be a potluck supper. Everyone is warmly invited and if you would like a ticket,  
please contact Jean Howat howatjean@gmail.com 01968 660677. Can you also  
indicate if you will be bringing a savoury or a sweet dish.

**Skirling Lunch** Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October, Skirling Village Hall from 12-1:15  
Soup, roll, traybake and tea/coffee. £2. All welcome

**Celebration of faith in West Tweeddale.** Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October Broughton  
Village Hall 10-1pm See pg 5 for details

**Stobo Community Coffee Morning** Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October Stobo Village Hall  
10:30- 12. Donations welcome for Peeblesshire Food bank

**Guild Meeting Wednesday** 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2:30pm in Broughton Village Hall.  
For more details please see article on pg 17.

**Films that make you think.** Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October, Broughton Village Hall.  
For more information see pg 16.

**Upper Tweeddale Harvest Celebration** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October 10:00am in  
Tweedsmuir Church A joint Harvest Thanksgiving and celebration of 150 years



# er Tweeddale this Autumn

of the Tweedsmuir Church building. Watch out for more details nearer the time  
**Presbytery Autumn conference.** Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October St Andrew Blackadder Church, North Berwick. Theme is 'Being the Church'.  
For more information see article on pg 14.

## NOVEMBER

**Stobo Community Coffee Morning** Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November Stobo Village Hall 10:30- 12. Donations welcome for Peeblesshire Food bank

**Remembrance Sunday.** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November Various locations and times.

**Tweedsmuir** 9:30am Service in Tweedsmuir church and act of remembrance led by Dr Peter Worthington

**Broughton** 10:45 at War Memorial. Service and act of remembrance led by Dr Peter Worthington

**Skirling** 11:30am in Skirling Church Service after act of remembrance at 11:00am at the War Memorial led by Rev Bill Buchan

*There will also be a service and act of remembrance in Drumelzier church at a time and date to be advised, please look out for details nearer the time.*

**Skirling Lunch** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November, Skirling Village Hall from 12-1:15pm Soup, roll, traybake and tea/coffee. £2. All welcome

**Films that make you think.** Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, Broughton Village Hall. For more information see pg 16.

**Guild Meeting Wednesday** 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2:00pm in Newlands Church. For more details please see article on pg 17.

Worship Leaders in Upper Tweeddale Sept – Nov 2024

Date	Tweedsmuir 9:30 Broughton 11:00	Skirling 11:30	Notes
15/09	Peter Worthington	David Henderson-Howat	
22/09	No service	Tony Foley	Joint service
29/09	Tony Foley	Steven Whalley	
06/10	David Henderson-Howat	Fiona Burnett	
13/10	Isobel Hunter	Tony Foley	
20/10	Tony Foley 10:30@Tweedsmuir Church		Joint service
27/10	Fiona Burnett	Kevin Scott	
03/11	Tony Foley	Isobel Hunter	
10/11	Peter Worthington	Bill Buchan	Remembrance Day
17/11	Chris Levison	Fiona Burnett	
24/11	Steven Whalley	Tony Foley	

*Please check the website ([westtweeddale.org.uk](http://westtweeddale.org.uk)) for any updates*

## Presbytery Autumn Conference

The annual Presbytery conference is being held on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October in St Andrew Blackadder Church, North Berwick. The theme of the conference is 'Exploring new ways of being the church in your community'. Professor Tom Greig (University of Aberdeen) will introduce the topic and lead the discussion. Phill Mellstrom who has been involved in the new supplement to the Church of Scotland hymnbook is also coming along to teach us some new songs. Come to hear what other churches are doing in the Presbytery to connect with their community, share ideas and make new friends.



Coffee will be served from 9:30. The day will begin with worship at 10:00 and should be finished by 3:30. It's a free event and open to anyone who wants to see the church growing in our community. Please bring your own lunch. For more information or to register your interest, please contact Fiona Burnett (fiona@glenholm.co.uk mob 07944 196234)





# 150th celebration of Tweedsmuir Kirk



Plans are developing fast for a joint Tweeddale service on 20<sup>th</sup> October to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Tweedsmuir Kirk – so far:-

The Kirk will be open from 9am to 4pm when are preparing to share Tweedsmuir Kirk's amazing history both by printed material and guided tours of the Kirk and graveyard.

The Harvest service will start at 10am (usually finished by 10.45am) and will be followed by coffee and birthday cake throughout the day.

The service will be a celebration of harvest and we welcome donations of dried goods for Peebles foodbank – donations

can be dropped off during the day at the Kirk – or please contact Christine. Coffee served from 9:30. It is a free event so bring your friends... and stories and ideas to share.

Look out for further developments..... If you would like to help or have any suggestions – please give me a call

Tweedsmuir is about 15 minutes from Broughton, 35 minutes from West Linton and the scenery at any time of year is spectacular – even on a dreich day! The Kirk is open daily so if you miss our celebratory cake - come another day.....

*Christine Parker*  
07543605507



# Films that make you think

This is a new pilot programme of **FREE** film shows organised by the **Parish of Upper Tweeddale**. The films chosen will be largely mainstream but will be chosen to provoke thought and discussion. Some films may address ethical issues or moral dilemmas. Others may explore problems and issues facing our planet today, and yes, some will inevitably touch on issues of faith and spirituality. Immediately after the film there will be an opportunity, if you choose, to share your thoughts in a facilitated discussion.

Each film show will begin at **7.30 pm**, the film will last no longer than 100 minutes and if you choose to stay on for the discussion, this will last for about 30 minutes after that. Refreshments (drinks and nibbles) will be provided.

The initial programme will be for three films to be shown in **Broughton Village Hall** over a period of three months. If successful then we will continue the programme and would welcome ideas as to which films you would like to see. We would also like to extend the programme into Tweedsmuir and Skirling.



Parish of Upper Tweeddale  
presents a programme of

## Films That Make You Think!

starting in  
**Broughton Village Hall**  
Friday **13<sup>th</sup> September**  
film starts **7:30 PM**

A family friendly film followed by an open discussion of some of the themes and issues raised by the film

Free Admission  
Light Refreshments

for more information scan the QR code or go to  
[www.uppertweeddale.org.uk/films\\_that\\_make\\_you\\_think.asp](http://www.uppertweeddale.org.uk/films_that_make_you_think.asp)

So why is the Church doing this? We think that there are many misconceptions about church, what it is, what it does and its role in our community. And to some degree we have become detached from that community. This is just one small thing we can do to engage and give people the opportunity to enjoy **Films That Make You Think** and to share their thoughts about the sometimes confusing world in which we live.

There are of course costs involved in providing this programme and the Church is willing to meet those costs but if you would like to help out then we welcome donations

## UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY CINEMA

If you enjoy film on the big screen but can't face a trek into Edinburgh or Galashiels the Upper Tweed Community Cinema shows films on a Saturday evening in Broughton Village Hall from the end of September through to the end of April each year.

Please contact [uppertweedfilmclub@gmail.com](mailto:uppertweedfilmclub@gmail.com) for more information.



# Guild Update 2024



The Guild meets every month from September to March on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday afternoon at 2pm. Since we joined with the Newlands and Kirkurd Guild we try to have at least one meeting a year in each of the different parishes in West Tweeddale. The Guild is open to anyone in the area who'd like to meet up with friends for a chat and a cuppa, listen to some interesting talks and have a short time of worship. Come and join us, we'd love to see you.

The new session of the Guild starts on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September with our annual outing, this time to Biggar Museum, followed by afternoon tea at the Gillespie Centre. If you'd like to join us, please let me know beforehand for the numbers. In October we'll meet in Broughton Village Hall where we hope to learn more about BEAT, the UK's eating disorder charity and one of the projects the Guild has been supporting.

In November we will meet in Newlands Church and will have the local Fire service coming along to talk about first aid in the community. A chance, among other things, to see how one of these defibrillators work! In December we are back to Broughton Village Hall for our Christmas party.

A new venture for this year is informal services that we are hosting in the Whim Care Centre for the residents. This will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 2pm. It'll be a short service lasting no more than 30 minutes with plenty of singing, followed by a cup of tea. If you'd like to join us and help out in the singing, please contact Fiona for further details.

*Fiona Burnett (fiona@glenholm.co.uk mob 07944196234)*



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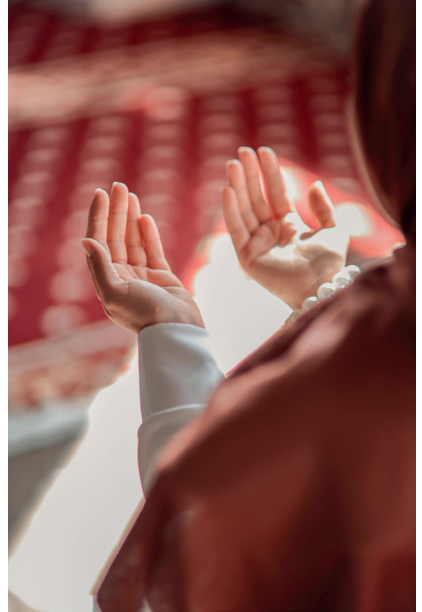
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## Your Will Be Done

A small prayer group has been meeting in Broughton Village Hall since April. We meet on the first Sunday and the third Thursday of the month from 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. We are praying about and for the future of the Kirk in Broughton and asking the Holy Spirit to guide us in the way forward.

We are focusing on a different way of praying each month. In April we focused on contemplative prayer and listening for God's guidance in silent contemplation. We prayed using Ignation meditation in May, which invited us to connect imaginatively with a gospel reading and allow prayer to emerge from this. In June we used art to focus our prayers. In July we explored ways to pray with our bodies using movement and gesture. The focus in August has been on healing prayer.

We will meet on 1<sup>st</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September. Our meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October will be a chance to review and decide whether we want to continue. Anyone is welcome to join us.



*Linda Hill*

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# Shoe Box Appeal 2024



It's that time of year again when we think of Christmas... or at least the Blythwood Shoebox appeal. We are again supporting this very worthwhile cause and encourage everyone who can to get involved. Since it started in 1993 over 2.5 million shoeboxes have been distributed to schools, orphanages, care homes, hospitals and low income families in eastern Europe. Families in Ukraine have also been helped since the war with Russia began.

Leaflets will be available in churches very soon. They are also available on the Blythwood website ([blythwood.org/shoeboxappeal](http://blythwood.org/shoeboxappeal)). If you can,

please fill a shoebox, and attach a label as instructed on the leaflet and then leave it at any of the churches in West Tweeddale. Or contact me to arrange collection. If you have any spare empty shoeboxes, please leave them in the churches and we'll make sure to pass them onto anyone looking for an empty box. Also, If you don't want to fill a shoebox, any



of the requested items will be gratefully received to supplement other boxes. Collection dates have still to be confirmed but will likely be the last week in October. If you have any questions or queries, please get in touch Happy Shoebox Filling.

*Fiona Burnett*

*fiona@glenholm.co.uk, Mob 07944 196234*

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# Pastoral Update

## Baptism

We are delighted to welcome into the Church family of Upper Tweeddale  
Murray Alan Rooney  
Born 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to Naomi and Lucy Rooney  
A brother for Campbell  
Baptised in Skirling Kirk before family and friends  
By Rev Dr Tony Foley on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024.



## Deaths

We offer deepest sympathy to the families assuring them of our prayers

Sandra Findlay nee Noble died age 61years  
Beloved wife of Iain Findlay  
Funeral and internment held at Skirling Church 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

David Galbraith of Skirling died age 61years  
Beloved husband of Arlene, father of Alisha, Adam and Aidan  
Service at Mortonhall Crematorium 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Ian George Storie of Skirling  
Devoted dad to David and Karen, much loved grandad to Eve and Isla,  
died 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024 aged 86 years.  
Funeral and internment held at Skirling Kirk on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024,  
led by Rev Dr Tony Foley.

Captain Sir David Younger, KCVO, Lord Lieutenant of Tweeddale for 20 years from 1994 to 2014, died in June 2024 aged 85 years  
A service of Thanksgiving was held in The Old Parish Church Peebles on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024

It is with sadness that we note the death of Jessie Catherine Rennie, beloved wife of Rev Ian Rennie, Minister of the Parishes of Upper Tweeddale from 1962 to 1996. A service in celebration of her life was held in Stobo Kirk on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024 led by Rev Aftab Gohar and Rev Gary McIntyre who served with Ian as assistant minister in the Parishes of Upper Tweeddale in the 1970s.

# PARISH OF UPPER TWEEDDALE

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## **Contact – Skirling Church**

Mrs Isobel Hunter

## **Contact – Tweedsmuir Church**

Mrs Christine Parker  
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Tel. 07543 605507

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## **BROUGHTON SHOP NEWS**

A reminder that Broughton Village Store's Welfare Fund is still active, and exists to help those in the community who are struggling with grocery bills. With a tough winter ahead, if you could do with a helping hand please contact our manager Jen in confidence, either in person or by email [manager@broughtonvillagestore.co.uk](mailto:manager@broughtonvillagestore.co.uk) . There are no forms or means tests: those who ask will be given a pre-loaded store account card which can be used with complete discretion.