

Parishes of Upper Tweeddale

KIRK MATTERS



Christmas 2022

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 Charity No. SC0014617



@parishesofuppertweeddale

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

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

Each Sunday a service is posted to the Upper Tweeddale Website and to the Parishes of Upper Tweeddale Facebook page



An interview with our minister Rev Dr Tony Foley

Fiona: You've now been a year as our minister in West Tweeddale, how has the year gone?



Tony: A lot has been happening in a lot of places. I'm meeting a lot of people and one day has rolled into the next very quickly, exhausting but thoroughly enjoyable. What surprised me is how well the churches get on with each other, how willing they are to work together and to think of themselves as the church in West Tweeddale. There is a great openness and willingness to work together. Managing my schedule is a challenge but I haven't encountered anything that's discouraged me or disheartened me.

Fiona: It's a very big diverse charge. How do you manage to make sure that you give enough time to each congregation?

Tony: I try to visit people in each of the six parishes and spend time with them, slowly getting to know the people and their concerns. Sometimes those plans have been interrupted by funerals, weddings and other events, but just going to people, and sitting with them, hearing where they are, how they got there and where they want to go now, is important. To a lesser or greater degree, I've been successful in some parts.

Fiona: Are you getting help from others like the Elders?

Tony: Yes there is also an emerging pastoral care team which I think is helpful with people who have a gift with supporting other people. I think the old idea of elders having districts is a world that is sadly behind us but the pastoral care team, I think, has a heart to help with visits. And then we have the teaching elders who help with the preaching ministry and that's invaluable when you have 6 services each week in the charge.

Fiona: A lot of people tend to think that if the minister isn't visiting or is not available that they haven't had a proper visit. What can you say to these people?

Tony: I get where they're coming from. I think though that we have to be realistic in the fact that this is a rural community and I cannot be everywhere. But someone who acknowledges he is not a church goer put it to me this

PTO

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For the Parishes of Upper Tweeddale



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way "I don't think people are expecting you to visit everybody, but your presence in our homes and in our community reminds other people that this is something that we all should be doing".

Fiona: Looking into the future, how do you see things developing in this area in terms of the church?

Tony: We're never going to be a mega church but I do think that we can be a good church. If we continue to model great care for each other, great love for each other and we work on making not just our buildings but our services more accessible, less spartan and more multi- sensory this can help. I have had the privilege in all the parishes to meet people who don't go to church. In all of the parishes nobody has expressed a hostile attitude towards the church. One of the surprising things I've discovered though, in talking to people who used to go to church, is that some are a little bit nervous about coming back into the building. I think we need to become more adept at creating context for conversations, social events and meeting in places where people are, whether that's physical locations or on the web

Fiona: Finally what would your message about Christmas be to the parishes this year?

Tony: Let's celebrate it good and proper, together. Let's not expect people to make Christmas for us but let's try and make Christmas together. And to give what we have, regardless of what it is, towards the making of that Christmas for everyone.

The full video interview with Tony can be found on the Upper Tweeddale website www.uppertweeddale.org.uk

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Presbytery Mission Plan

For the last few months, congregations and Presbyteries all over Scotland have been drafting their Presbytery Mission Plans. This has been a directive from the General Assembly to address the two issues of a retirement of a large number of ministers in the near future and also the realisation that the Kirk has too many buildings.

There is a recognition that the way 'we do church' needs to be updated and become more flexible to meet the demands of the communities we serve. We are constantly reminded that the Church is not a building but a community of believers, worshipping together and trying (but not always succeeding!) to reflect God's love for the world in their local community. We are being strongly encouraged to think very hard about how we reach out to our respective communities and come up with a plan of action in the next few months.

Although the plan is called a Mission Plan and has lots to say about reaching out to the community, the most contentious bit of the plan has been the plans to dispose of churches up and down the country. We in Upper Tweeddale are not immune from this and there are discussions ongoing about the long term viability of both Broughton and Tweedsmuir churches.

Nothing is going to happen in the next few months and congregations will be allowed to vote on any plans to close a building. However. the question we are being asked, like all congregations across the land is, does your building help or hinder in your outreach to your community? The phrase used by the church to describe suitable buildings is "well equipped spaces in the right places" and discussions with this in mind will hopefully direct our thoughts and actions. Whatever is eventually decided, there will continue to be a worshipping community in each of our villages. If you have any comments or suggestions, we'd like to hear from you.

Fiona Burnett





Who are we? We are a group set up by West Tweeddale Parishes in response to the current economic and fuel problems to offer help and support to the whole community

What are we doing? We're signposting 'warm events' across the 6 parishes where a warm welcome, refreshments and a chance to meet friends is offered. We're also organising a few fun and informative events to help everyone save a bit of cash over the winter. Look out for further posters advertising these events with the Winter Warmer logo. A monthly timetable is posted around the villages and can also be viewed on the West Tweeddale website (westtweeddale.org.uk)

Need some emergency help? These organisations are nearby



Peeblesshire Foodbank
1 Silverbirch Studios, Cavalry Park, Peebles EH45 9BU
07413 484174 peeblesshire.foodbank.org.uk



Clydesdale Food Bank,
Highmill, 96 Chapel St, Carluke, ML8 4BA
01555 771700 cfoodbank@yahoo.co.uk

Crisis Assistance from the Minister's Barnabas Fund
07943 509906 emergencyfoodbank@standrewswestlinton.org.uk

For further information about West Tweeddale Winter Warmers please contact the church office on 01968 733112

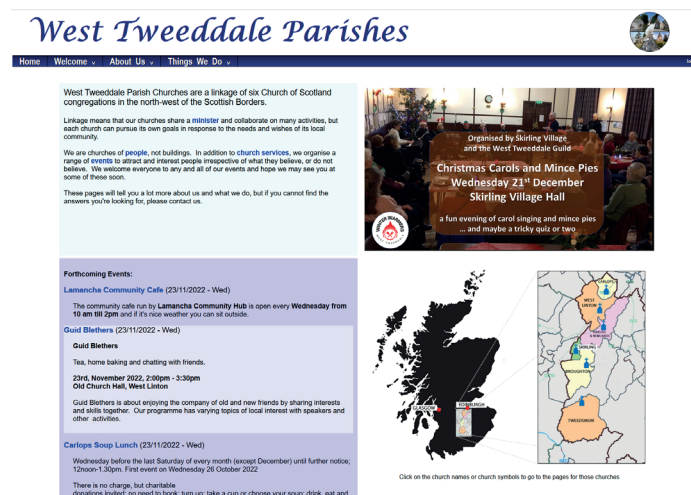
Talking to West Tweeddale

Last year the parishes of Upper Tweeddale linked up with our neighbouring parish churches in Carlops, West Linton and Newlands to form the West Tweeddale. In this new world, Ministry is a team game and in West Tweeddale a number of teams are being created to share the work of ministering to the local community. One of these teams has the remit of dealing with communication and is made up of seven enthusiastic volunteers (I'm assured that no coercion was involved) from all six churches with some experience in web design, newsletter publishing and social media, but most importantly with lots of ideas.

Being conscious that we have six individual churches with their own distinctive characters and their own local communities, our goal is not to change anything that those churches do to talk to their own people. So how do we go about this? Our

initial focus has been on the development of a web site for the West Tweeddale Parishes as a group. This will not duplicate the work of the parish web sites rather it will present an accessible image of the church in West Tweeddale as a whole, a church that we would like to be a seven-day-a-week church, engaging with its communities in a variety of activities.

The web site is available at www.westtweeddale.org.uk. But it won't end there. The team has set up a YouTube channel dedicated to the West Tweeddale Parish Churches. As time passes the role of the communication team is likely to change but you'll be able to find out about its activities on the new web site.



Neil Robinson

Tweedsmuir Church

Tweedsmuir Church have welcomed new friends from The West Tweeddale linkage who have travelled from as far away as Carlisle, from West Linton and Newlands, both leading services and visiting as part of our congregation. The earlier time of our 9.30am service enables Tony to visit us more regularly in his schedule and still leaves time for coffee between our service and the next at Broughton. Remember visitors are welcome at any church to any of our services.

Tweedsmuir visitors book regularly has positive comments from people visiting, delighted to find the doors open and we even had a delivery driver pop in for a quick chat and leave a donation before his local deliveries. Donations and fundraising have enabled external repairs ensuring that Tweedsmuir Kirk will be wind and watertight, hopefully for some time. The internal water damage cannot be repaired until the walls have dried and likely to be next May at the earliest and further funds will need to be sourced. The minister's brass plaque has been updated to include Tony and we await presbytery confirmation of our new parish union before progressing with new external signage.

Under the Presbytery Mission Plan, Tweedsmuir Kirk has been categorised **B** which means the building (Tweedsmuir Kirk) is expected to be disposed of within the 5-year life of the Plan. A category **B** designation describes the usefulness of the building: it does not reflect on the life of the congregation or the continuing worship and activity of the church community. Tweedsmuir Kirk is struggling financially, has a small and aging congregation and while the recent maintenance will protect out Kirk from deterioration, we need to work towards a short-, medium- and long-term solution that meets the needs of our church congregation and community.

Appeals for keyboard skills were made to the community to cover Anne Dawson taking her long covid delayed awaited holidays. Meg Bateman and Anne Davidson practiced hard to get to grips with the Tweedsmuir organ and even added a voluntary but were so very glad to get to coffee time 😊 Thank you ladies – your music is very much appreciated!

Thank you to everyone who helps keep us together in music, bricks and mortar and mostly in spirit – Happy Christmas from Tweedsmuir Kirk

Christine Parker

Donations to the upkeep our Kirk are very welcome – the bank details are:-
Tweedsmuir Parish Church sort code 831611 account 00271030



Small Kindnesses

I've been thinking about the way, when you walk
down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs
to let you by. Or how strangers still say
"bless you"
when someone sneezes, a leftover
from the Bubonic plague. "Don't die," we are saying.
And sometimes, when you spill lemons
from your grocery bag, someone else will help you
pick them up. Mostly, we don't want to harm each other.
We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot,
and to say thank you to the person handing it. To smile
at them and for them to smile back. For the waitress
to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder,
and for the driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass.
We have so little of each other, now. So far
from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange.
What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these
fleeting temples we make together when we say,
"Here, have my seat,
"Go ahead-you first,"
"I like your hat."

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What's happening in Upper Tweeddale this Christmas Season

Bite and Blether

Broughton Village Hall Wed 7th and 21st December 10-12pm

Bacon rolls, traybakes, Tea/Coffee. £3 All welcome

Skirling Christmas Lunch, Skirling Village Hall, Thurs 8th December 12:15pm

Join us for a hot turkey and cranberry roll followed by trifle or Christmas pudding and custard then tea or coffee with chocolates. It is a village lunch so if you are on your own, working from home or looking after a little one, why not take an hour out to join your neighbours. Donations from £3, all money collected to Crisis at Christmas

Broughton Choral Society Christmas Concert

Broughton Village Hall Saturday 10th December 7:30pm

Seasonal music by Handel, Tallis, and Vaughan Williams with audience carols. Mince pies and mulled wine served from 7pm. Tickets still only £10 from choir members or Broughton Village Store. broughtonchoralsociety.co.uk

Gift Services in each of our Churches Sunday 11th December

A chance to gift something to those who have little at Christmas. Gifts for all ages welcome, unwrapped please, separate wrapping paper is a bonus. The parishes of Upper Tweeddale supports two charities with gifts

Warm clothing and gifts for boys aged 10 to 16 yrs are requested and will go to **Edinburgh Old Kirk and Muirhouse** for distribution to those in need in the parish

Gift vouchers are particularly appreciated by young people supported by the **Borders Young Carers Trust** and enables young carers to choose their own gifts

Broughton Primary School Nativity Play

Broughton Church Wed 14th December 6pm

An open invitation to the community to join the school in this Christmas Nativity celebration, 'It's a baby!'

Service of Carols and Readings by Candlelight

Drumelzier Church Sunday 18th December 6:30pm

An atmospheric and traditional service in the candlelit church. Remember to bring a torch to help you find your way to the church door.

An evening of Carol Singing, Mince Pies and Mulled Wine

Skirling Village Hall Wed 21st December 7pm

A family carol singing evening with entertainment and the odd quiz or two. Mince pies, home baking and drinks to keep everyone going.

Christmas Eve Candelit Service of Carols and Readings

Tweedsmuir Church Sat 24th December 6:30pm

The Christmas story read by the young people of Tweedsmuir, A mix of traditional and modern carols, all whilst bathed in candlelight. Don't forget your torch to guide you from the car park to the church.

Christmas Morning Family Service

Skirling Church Sunday 25th December 11am

With coffee and mince pies before the service and carols aplenty, to sing come and celebrate the happy morn, the birth of the Christ child with your church family. The church will be decorated.

Other services in West Tweeddale

Christmas Eve

Carlops Carol Service Sat 24th December 7pm Carlops Church

Newlands Watchnight Service Sat 24th Dec 11:30pm Newlands Church

WestLinton Watchnight Service Sat 24th Dec 11:30pm West Linton Church

Christmas Day Services

Carlops Church 10am

Skirling Church 11am

West Linton Church 11:30

From Thursday 1st December, look out for advent windows lighting up in Skirling Village

Christmas past, an interview with Janet Hunter

Janet has been living in the Broughton area for 75 years and has for most of that time, been an active member of the community. These days she spends most of her time at home but keeps up to date both locally and beyond, thanks to her well used ipad. Born in Corrie Common near Lockerbie in the early 1930's she spent the first 6 years of her life there before moving to Kettleholm, 9 miles away. Her Dad worked on the Castlemilk estate before moving to Corstane, Broughton in 1947.



Growing up in the depression and then the war, money was very tight for the family and Janet can't remember having any toys. Instead she and her sister spent a lot of their childhood playing outside with other local children and fashioning things to play with from the surrounding natural world. "No dolls, no board games but lots of make believe and we had a happy time".

"Christmas wasn't a holiday when I was growing up, Dad went out to work as usual. But my sister and I always got a stocking which had a little bit of money like a penny, an orange, some sugar mice and a book. The book was a hardback with an interesting cover but dull and not very interesting inside" A far cry from Christmas today when the expectation is to receive so much more.

Leaving school at 16, Janet was persuaded by her Headmaster at Peebles High School to go to Moray House to train to be a primary school teacher. At the age of 19, she started her career in Broughton where she remained, with few years off whilst her 2 daughters were very young, until her retirement in 1991.

"I can't remember when Christmas became important within the School timetable but I don't think we did much when I was a pupil. I do remember, when I started to teach, buying little stick on calendars so we could attach them to old pictures or photos to turn them into presents for the children to give to their families. When trees, decorations and festivities that we now associate with Christmas came in, I'm not sure."

Christmas maybe became more celebrated in the school after 1965 when

a landmark book was published advocating a free-er and more informal style of teaching. Away went the wooden chairs and rows of desks and in came desks that could be put into groups and allow more flexibility in the classroom. Most of which Janet was keen to embrace but she did miss her little wooden reading chair that many a child sat on as they were encouraged to learn to read in her class. On retirement, a colleague managed to retrieve the chair, stored in a warehouse in the Borders, so that Janet could take it home where it still has pride of place.

Thank you Janet for the service to young people in our Parishes over the years and for your memories of Christmas past. Maybe also it's a reminder that you don't have to spend lots of money to enjoy Christmas, it's the thought and love that counts in the end.

Fiona Burnett

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Prior to the disruption caused by Covid, and before our linkage with the churches in West Linton, Carlops and Newlands, these new partners regularly held Messy Church in the Old Church Hall in West Linton. On Sunday afternoon of 13th November Messy Church returned but now it is open to young people from Upper Tweeddale too.

So what is "Messy Church"? For a couple of hours from 4 PM until 6 PM youngsters enjoyed listening to stories, participating in all sorts of crafts (including lantern making and making stained glass cookies), and sharing a delicious pasta tea. All of this was ably assisted by a team of volunteers from across the linkage. The subject for this fun-filled afternoon was "Jesus, the Light of the World". Toasted marshmallows outside in the garden were the perfect ending.



The feedback from this first Messy Church has been wonderful. One young person said "Can we go for ever and ever?". The next Messy Church is scheduled for Sunday 11th December, once again at the Old Church Hall in West Linton and from 4PM to 6PM and the theme is "Messy Christmas". All children from babies to P7 are most welcome to come and join in, and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information contact Jean Howat (01968 660677) e-mail: howatjean@gmail.com

Spot the Difference

There are 10 differences to find



Image by studlogstock on Freepik

Guild News – A new name for 2022

For the past year the Upper Tweeddale Guild and Newlands & Kikurd Guild have been meeting together but retaining their separate names. However, during the summer, in recognition of the 6 parishes being linked together as West Tweeddale and the fact that we were all getting on so well together, we decided that we would join together to form West Tweeddale Guild. This occurred at our September meeting. Most of our meetings are still held in Broughton but we are also venturing out to other churches and halls in the parishes.

Meetings so far this year have been firstly a talk in October by Robert Higgins on the Bethany Christian Trust Care Van. The van goes round the centre of Edinburgh and down to Leith every evening to give out soup, rolls and hot drinks to the homeless community. The churches in West Linton man the van once a month one of over 40 churches in the Edinburgh and Lothians area that support this outreach. They are always looking for sleeping bags, blankets and stout boots, all in good condition to also distribute where needed.

In November we heard from Rev Nick Bowry, the Episcopal minister in West Linton about his walks on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, a group of pilgrimage walks ending in the City of Santiago in Northern Spain. There are around 8 different walks and Nick has done a few now, regaling us with stories of his travels.

In December we will be joining the Skirling Community in Skirling Village Hall for our annual Christmas festivities. A chance for everyone to sing carols, eat mince pies, drink mulled wine, and test yourself in a fiendish Christmas quiz. In January we are venturing to Carlops to hear more about their work as an eco congregation and what we can all do to reduce our energy use and carbon footprint. In February we are hoping to hear from one of the projects supported by the Guild and in March, we'll have our AGM and afternoon tea party.

Everyone and anyone is very welcome to join us in any of the meetings. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in Broughton Village Hall unless indicated otherwise and if you'd like more information, just call me on 830408 or send an email to fiona@glenholm.co.uk

Fiona Burnett

Pastoral Update

Wedding

We congratulate the happy couple as they start a new life together

In Skirling Church

8th October 2022

Laura Deans and Joe Harper of South Mains, Skirling.

Married by Rev Tony Foley in front of family and friends

Baptisms

We are delighted to welcome into the Church family of Upper Tweeddale

In Broughton Church

23rd October 2022

Maeva Elsie Turnbull and Rupert John Turnbull

Children of Jennifer and Calum Turnbull

20th November 2022

Andrew Alan Warnock,

son of Emma and Alan Warnock

Funeral

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

Robert Alexander Gardiner of Skirling

14th August 2022 aged 87 years,

Pilot extraordinaire .

Cremation at Mortonhall on the 30th August 2022



broughtonchoralsociety.co.uk

Tickets £10
from choir members or the
Broughton Village Store



Christmas Concert !!

7.30 pm

Broughton Village Hall

Saturday 10th December

Seasonal music by Handel, Tallis
and Vaughan Williams + CAROLS

Mulled wine and mince pies from 7 pm

PARISHES OF UPPER TWEEDDALE

Minister

Rev Tony Foley, Old Joiners Croft, Skirling ML12 6HD
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Secretary to the General Kirk Session

Mrs. Isobel Hunter, Firknowe, Skirling ML126HD
Tel: 01899 860274 Email: isobel@skirlinghouse.com

Treasurer of the funds held jointly:

Mr Peter Worthington, Calzeat House, Broughton ML12 6HQ
Tel: 01899 830489 Email: Peter.worthington@me.com

Church office

Michelle Fraser, Old Church Hall, West Linton EH46 7EW
01968 733112 Email: cos1560.tweed@outlook.com

Broughton, Glenholm and Kilbucho

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Tweedsmuir

Treasurer and Contact:

Mrs Marion Wood, Bamflatt, Kilbucho, Biggar, ML12 6JH
Tel: 01899 220173 Email: kingledores@btconnect.com

Minister's Listening Hour

Laurel Bank Tearoom
Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday in month
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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. 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.

Work continues to develop the shop by expansion into the rear garden. This is a complex project which has taken a lot of background work on agreements with local landowners and local authority permissions, but we hope to be raising some of the funds required through a second share issue in the early part of 2023. There is a form on the shop website where potential share purchasers can register their interest by pledging to buy shares. <http://broughtonvillagestore.co.uk/>.