

*Kirkurd & Newlands
Parish Magazine*



March 2023

All Services back in Church

We are now holding weekly services back in church again and everyone is very welcome to attend. Zoom services are still being held at Carlops at 10am and St Andrews West Linton at 11.30am. For more information contact Jean Howat. howat-jean@gmail.com 01968 660677



West Tweeddale Parishes

<i>Date</i>	<i>Carlops 10 am</i>	<i>Kirkurd & Newlands 10 am</i>	<i>West Linton 11.30 am</i>
05 March 2023	Murray Campbell	Mary McElroy	Murray Campbell
12 March 2023	Rev Tony Foley	Patsy Campbell	Rev Tony Foley
19 March 2023	Steven Whalley	Rev Tony Foley	Steven Whalley
26 March 2023	Fiona Burnett	Murray Campbell	Fiona Burnett
02 April 2023	Rev Tony Foley	Isobel Hunter	Rev Tony Foley

Welcome: Sarah Magee & Ilka Roehé

Church Cleaning: Ilka Roehé



<i>Date</i>	<i>Broughton 11 am</i>	<i>Skirling 11.30 am</i>	<i>Tweedsmuir 9.30 am</i>
05 March 2023	Fiona Burnett	Mary McElroy	Fiona Burnett
12 March 2023	Kevin Scott	Patsy Campbell	Kevin Scott
19 March 2023	David Howat	Rev Tony Foley	David Howat
26 March 2023	Rev Tony Foley	Murray Campbell	Rev Tony Foley
02 April 2023	Peter Worthington	Isobel Hunter	Peter Worthington

Why read a book when a blog post will do?

(In defence of the morality of book reading.)

The Web is changing the way we read. It seems more and more people of all ages, genders and backgrounds have little time for books. It is a striking irony that an era of ubiquitous screens that saturate our lives with words is characterised by an incapacity to engage in the habit of deep reading. Book publishers report that there is a marked decline in the public's appetite for the demanding rigours of book reading as more and more people prefer the frictionless activities of scanning, skimming, scrolling, swiping. We are by all accounts losing our appetite as a species for blocks of text that demand a certain quality of attention, preferring instead bite-size collections of words — usually interspersed with images, pull-quotes, adverts and other distractions all designed to break up the apparent tedium of reading. In other words, we prefer words we simply have to *look* at, rather than *read*. One of the most disturbing characteristics of such a culture is that it sees *utility* as the ultimate end for anything from TV's to human relationships. A world enthralled by *ends* will ultimately become a world emptied of all that makes us human.

“I would never read a book ... I'm very sceptical of books. I don't want to say no book is ever worth reading, but I actually do believe something pretty close to that. I think, if you wrote a book, you messed up. It should have been a six-paragraph blog post.”

That telling comment was made by one of the most successful crypto-currency pioneers of the modern era. One who despite reaching the dizzying financial heights of being a billionaire several times over by the time they were 30 years old is now facing charges of egregious financial fraud. I offer the quote not as judgement call on a particular individual but merely as an observation that begs the question(s).

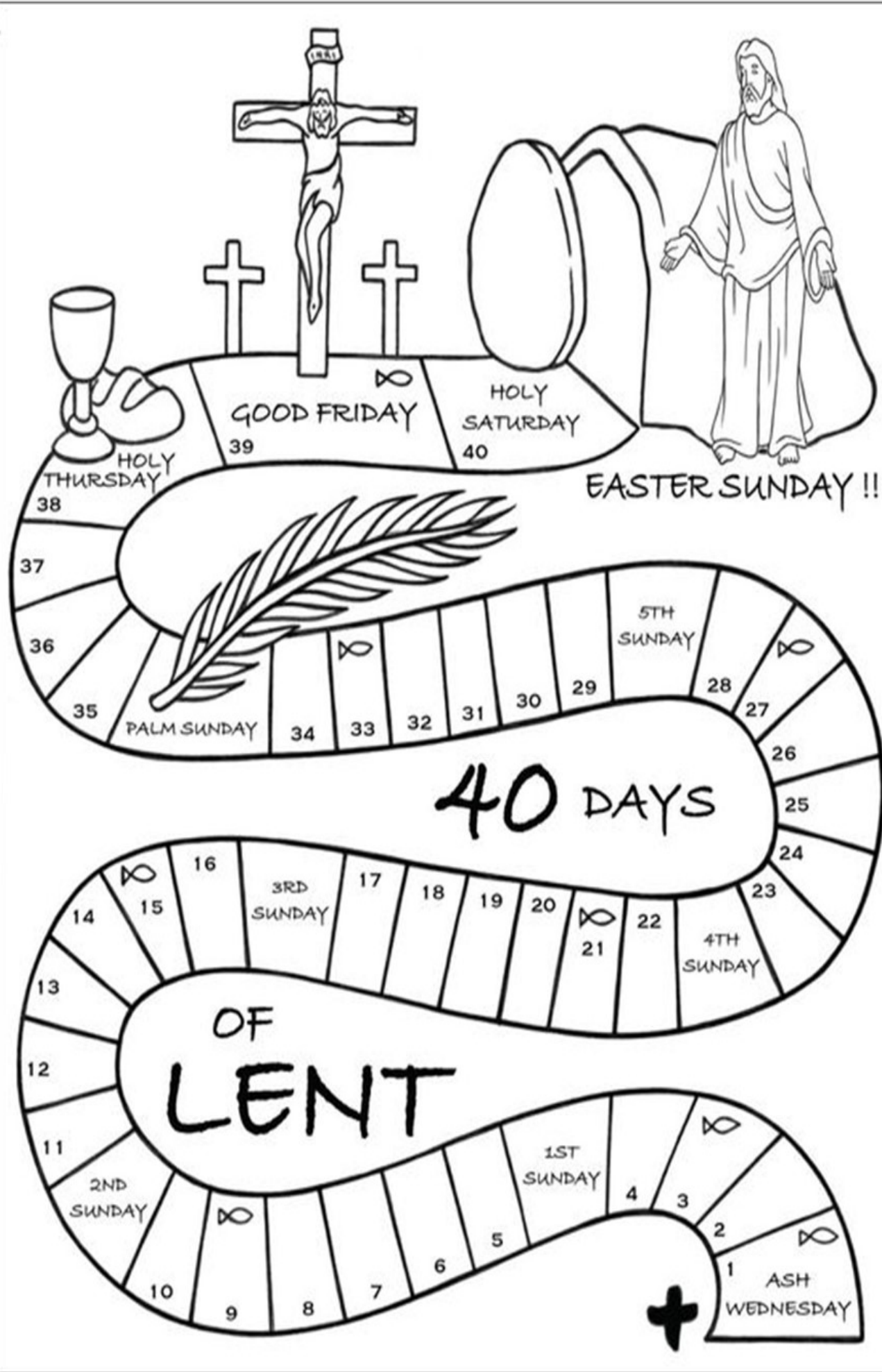
Why read a book when a blog post will do? Why labour through a narrative when other media permit us to skip straight to the point?

While exploring the processes involved in *reading-with-understanding*, the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein, writing long before the Internet, said: “*When I read a poem or narrative with feeling surely something goes on in me which does not go on when I merely skim the lines for information.*” That “*something*” Wittgenstein argues is a moral process which involves ‘opening oneself up’ to difference, to surprise, and even personal transformation. Is this ‘*opening*’ what is being lost in our screen-saturated culture? Because for all of the considerable advantages that we have gained through the use of modern technology, we have yet to truly reckon with what we stand to lose. Are we in danger of losing the moral faculties of imagination, empathy, and insight — faculties that are actively cultivated through the habit of the attentive reading of other people’s stories? *To quote the writer Kevin Kelly: “More and more our society is centred on pictures and images, which is a beautiful thing. But some of the most important parts of life are not visible in pictures.”*

Perhaps the Apostle John in the opening line of his gospel was aiming for something more than a mere metaphor, perhaps he was intimating at something far more vital to our moral well being, when he wrote, “*In the beginning was the Word.*”

Peace,

Tony



GOOD FRIDAY
39

HOLY SATURDAY
40

HOLY THURSDAY
38

EASTER SUNDAY !!

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36

35

PALM SUNDAY

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5TH SUNDAY

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23

4TH SUNDAY

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12

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2ND SUNDAY

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1ST SUNDAY

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ASH WEDNESDAY

OF
LENT

40 DAYS

WEST TWEEDDALE ZOOM LENT STUDY SERIES



The Lent Study evenings scheduled between now and Easter:

Thursday Evenings
7:30pm – 8:30pm

Thursdays study will consider the book
‘The things he carried’
by **Stephen Cottrell**



The narrative of Holy Week is powerful and painful, and because we know how the story ends it's easy to gloss over the difficult details, and stay in the comfort zone of our understanding. Stephen Cottrell brings home, vividly and poignantly, the physical reality of the passion story. This is a book to stimulate thought, provoke discussion and create space for contemplation.



Monday Evenings
7:30pm – 8:30pm

Mondays study will consider the book
‘Lent in plain sight’
by **Jill Duffield**

In this devotional for the season of Lent, Jill J. Duffield draws readers' attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem: dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones. In each object, readers will find meaning in the biblical account of Jesus' final days. Each week, readers encounter a new object to consider through Scripture, prayer, and reflection. From Ash Wednesday to Easter, Lent in Plain Sight reminds Christians to open ourselves to the kingdom of God.

For more information and Zoom link, please contact Michelle Fraser:
Church Administrator, West Tweeddale,
Email: cos1560.tweed@outlook.com
Telephone: 01968 733 112



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



Food
Facts
Friends

Penicuik Foods, Facts & Friends
42 John St Penicuik EH26 8AB
www.foodfactsfriends.org.uk



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



MESSY CHURCH

February 2023



Messy Church goes wild!!



Please come and join us for our next Messy Church session on

Sunday 12th March at 4pm at the New Church Hall.

All children from babies to P7 are welcome to come and join in the fun.

This time we are hoping to spend some of the time outside
(weather permitting!) so please wear warm clothes.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information contact Jean Howat: howatjean@gmail.com

Pastoral Group

We are a small group of people who are there to offer a listening ear in confidence. If you know of anyone who might appreciate a visit please do contact Michelle Fraser on email: cos1560.tweed@outlook.com

Telephone: 01968 733 112

She will pass on your name to one of the Newlands members of the pastoral group. We are not professional counsellors but rather sympathetic listeners.

THE OPEN GATE

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

Phone or text 07535 898 244 for a phone appointment to be arranged.

HELP NEEDED

CHURCH CLEANING IN APRIL

Any help would be very much appreciated.

Contact Fay for more information.



LAMANCHA COMMUNITY HUB

Cafe is open Wednesday mornings from 10 till 2pm where a warm welcome awaits. Meet your friends for hot drinks, home made soups including vegetarian, plus cakes, scones and bacon and egg rolls.

Classes include Yoga and Sewing. We also hire out to groups for first aid courses. Our charges are £10 per hour. Private parties for birthdays and other events also welcome.

Cilla Davidson

Lamancha, Newlands
and Kirkurd Community
Council



**The next meeting will take place at
the Newlands Centre,
Romanno Bridge
on Wednesday 15 March 2023
at 7.30pm**

Community Councils give people a voice on issues concerning where they live. Come along and make sure your voice is heard.

COMING UP SOON - We are looking for volunteers for two projects. The first is to paint and repair the planters at the entrance to Blyth Bridge. The second project is to paint the bus shelter in the village. Paint will be supplied.

Please email lnkccchair@gmail.com if you have any comments for the Community Council or if you want to take part in the painting!

We have a Facebook page which will keep you up to date on meeting dates and local issues

At the February meeting the hall was filled with beautiful aromas of handmade soaps, body lotions and oils. Christine Blundell, who is a clinical aromatherapist gave a very interesting talk on the uses of many essential oils.

Elma Noble proposed the vote of thanks.

Competitions: 2 cherry scones 1st. Lesley Johnstone 2nd. Sheila Voas

Best wrapped tablet of soap 1st. Lesley Johnstone 2nd. Margaret Adamson

Next Meeting: **Tuesday 7th. March Open Night. Open to all.**

‘Our Sporting Life’ with Aileen Neilson & Michael McCreadie, both wheelchair curlers.

Visitors £5 Raffle – proceeds to Wheelchair Curling Association

Members competition: Bowl of home grow bulbs.

Saturday 11th. March Peeblesshire Federation SWI Annual Bulb & Craft Show at Newlands Centre.

1:00 – 4:00pm Admission £5 includes tea / coffee & biscuits.

Reminder: competitors entries to be in place between 8:30 – 9:30am

Tuesday 4th. April AGM

Please bring suggestions for meetings, competitions etc.



Garden Ramblings



February is coming to an end and it hasn't been too bad really although I have noticed the Snowdrops are late but aren't they looking exceptionally lovely this year? That is probably down to a lack of snow compacting them. The Daffodils are all in bud and yesterday I worked for an hour cutting down dead foliage with fingers crossed I hadn't destroyed any wee insects nesting in the hollow stems! I did notice a few perennials such as Polymoniums (Jacob's ladder) and Centaureas were showing face. Looking at the Jacob's ladder I couldn't help noticing how like the small new stems were to ladders.

Coming up to Lent I thought I'd treat myself to a Lenten rose (Hellebore) so paid a visit to the garden centre and bought a beautiful albeit large dusky pink specimen with marbled foliage, a real stunner with a price to match. I then dug a large hole marvelling how hen poo had made the soil so friable. Then, I hit a snag as it refused to come out of the pot! To cut a long story short it took an overnighter to release it, using scissors, a knife, and a warm water soaking and still it wouldn't budge but my secateurs released it in the end. Motto, look underneath the pots before you buy!

Happy Gardening Everyone.

Cilla Davidson

NEWLANDS SWI



Our February meeting was well attended and was all about recycling our household plastics etc. The talk was given by Dr Drummond Begg who is also our local councillor and we all learned a good deal more than we knew already. Teas were provided by Nancy Dow and Lyn Lusk. Many thanks to all.

Our March meeting is our own bulb show for members and there is also a photo competition for anyone to bring an old photo of themselves so others can have a guess as to who they might be.

Cilla Davidson

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Session Clerk

Jean Howat

Stoney Knowe, Romanno Bridge

Tel. 01968 660 677

Church Treasurer

David Howat

Stoney Knowe, Romanno Bridge

Tel. 01968 660677

Adventurers

Mrs Jean Howat and Mrs Ilka Roehe

Please contact your elder or Ilka Roehe by email if you would like a digital copy or large-print copy of the Parish magazine sent to your email address.

Material for the April magazine to ilka.roehe@btinternet.com by

Friday 17th March 2023.



Newlands and Kirkurd Parish Church



<http://www.newlands-kirkurd.org.uk/>