

East Lothian Antiquarian & Field Naturalists' Society

Private visit to Whitekirk Church and grounds on Sunday 11th October 2026, 2.00 for 2.30 PM



St. Mary's Whitekirk

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The Society is pleased to offer Members an opportunity for a private visit to Whitekirk Church and grounds on Sunday 11th October, 2026, 2.00 PM for 2.30 PM.

St. Mary's Whitekirk has stood for over 700 years. It was first constructed as a project of gratitude by the Countess of Dunbar who believed that she had received a miracle of healing at the holy well attributed to St. Baldred. The church and the ground upon which it sits has been both a place of home and refuge and of beauty and restoration. It's long historical past has included connections to popes and kings, pirates and revolutionaries, artists and multitudes of ordinary folk.

But times change, its congregation has dwindled and together with the upheaval in the Church of Scotland it was put up for sale. With enormous thanks to a large number of contributors from the community and beyond, a Trust has been formed: the Whitekirk Church New Life Trust with a *raison d'être* to secure its future for new generations to use and enjoy.

The vision of the Trust is *"to see the church imbued with new and vibrant life; deeply connected to its historic roots but flourishing in our day with new expressions of worship, prayer, pilgrimage, community, history and creativity in numerous forms."*

Visit plan

Our guided tour will be given by Sandra Thompson, Church volunteer, acting on behalf of the Trustees of Whitekirk Church New Life Trust. Starting at the church porch an understanding will be given as to why a church was built at this location. Its history will be described from its earliest inception, through to the various stages of architectural expansion. More recently the work of Robert Lorimer and the work of stained glass window artist Karl Parsons will be described. Subject to weather conditions a tour of the grounds will be included.

The visit will end with refreshments including tea, coffee, soft drinks cakes and biscuits.

Note on parking: availability limited and car sharing strongly encouraged. Any (considerate) parking should be on the road going into the village.

Booking

Places will be limited so to reserve a place please contact Elaine Whewell at info@eastlothianantiquarians.org.uk

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