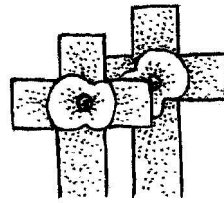


November
2014



Issue 69

The Link



**The magazine for the linked congregations and
communities of the**

West Kirk of Calder and Polbeth Harwood.

www.west-kirk-polbeth-harwood.co.uk

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From our minister

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November 2014

Dear Congregations

The four of us went to the Netherlands for the October break, and we had a lovely time. We ate lots of cheese and caramel wavers, walked for miles alongside the canals, and then, of course, we laughed a lot!

Nehan's favourite thing was the Dutch clogs – he desperately wanted me to buy him a bright orange pair... But after much deliberation he settled for orange clog look-a-like *slippers* (which he put on straight away and never took off until we arrived home)!

Henro was fascinated with the windmills. I've never been inside a windmill before, and it was very interesting to see how it works. If the wind doesn't blow, nothing happens. But as soon as the wind picks up, the machinery inside the windmill starts working and continues to work as long as the wind is blowing.

And standing outside a huge windmill, looking at the big arms turning in the wind, I thought that God works through us in a very similar way. He sent us his Spirit, and through his Spirit we are able to be the people he wants us to be and to do the things he wants us to do.

The Holy Spirit is our “wind”, and interestingly the word used for “Spirit” in the Old Testament can also be translated as “wind”.

We can't see the wind, but looking at the arms of a windmill, we can easily see the *effect* of the wind.

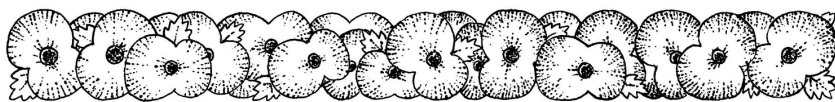
We can't see God's Spirit either, but we can see the effect of his Spirit when we are able to handle things, say things and do things that we thought impossible.

The only difference between the wind and the Spirit is that where we do get days when it's not windy at all, God's Spirit is *always* with us. We don't have to wait for a good day to work hard and make a difference, like a miller who is dependent on the wind; we can accomplish anything we want to, every day, because the Holy Spirit empowers us non-stop (Acts 2:1-13).

So let's not waste any of the energy given to us by God. If the wind can make a windmill change grain into flour, just imagine the change we can bring here on earth if we all work together!

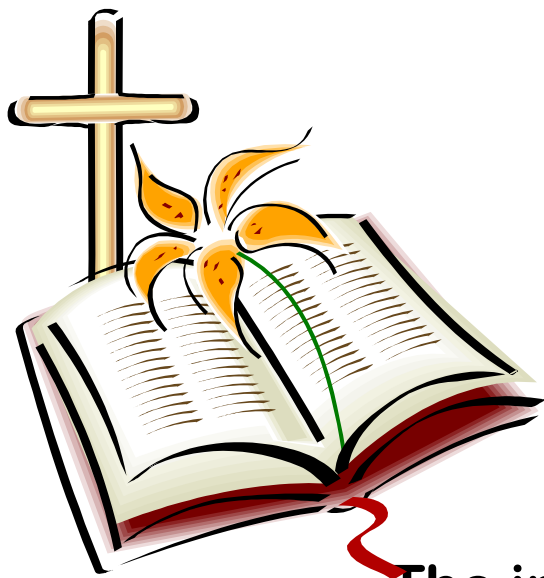
May God bless you all,

Nanda



Parkhead Primary School are attending the war memorial on Remembrance Day, Tuesday 11th November, gathering at about 10.50am. Pupils will lay wreaths before a 2 minute silence followed by readings then prayers and a talk from the minister.

Members of the community are invited to attend.

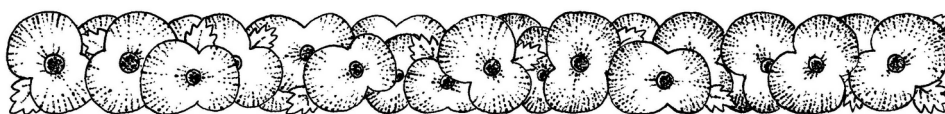


'Beyond the Kirk Walls' Service

**The informal service
of hymns, prayer and meditation
for Remembrance
will be held on**

**Sunday 9th November
at 3pm**

Dickson Court



Anyone is welcome to attend!

**The December service will be
at Stewart Court
on Thursday 11th December
at 10.00am**

West Kirk Guild
Guest Night

Monday 17th November at 7.30pm

at West Kirk

The speaker is
Professor S Monro
on Dynamic Earth



Guild members extend a warm welcome to all, -
male and female; young and old;
from the church, community and beyond;
to join us in fellowship and to hear Professor Monro
talk about OUR planet.

Refreshments will be served in the hall after the talk.

Polbeth Harwood CHRISTMAS FAYRE



Polbeth Harwood are holding their
Christmas Fayre on

Saturday 29th November at 2pm

Stalls include

Home Baking

Toys

Fancy
Goods

Face
Painting

groceries

Bric a
Brac

Raffle
Tombola

Books

Don't forget

Santa's Grotto

Afternoon Tea



Donations can be handed in to the church on
Friday 28th November from 6.00pm—7.30pm and
Saturday 29th November from 11am.

We regret we cannot accept donations of any electrical
goods.

Linda Eardley

West Kirk Fundraising Group News

We would like to thank everyone who helped to make the October Candy Bar, run by the Kirk Session, so successful.

The great total of £719.50 was raised.

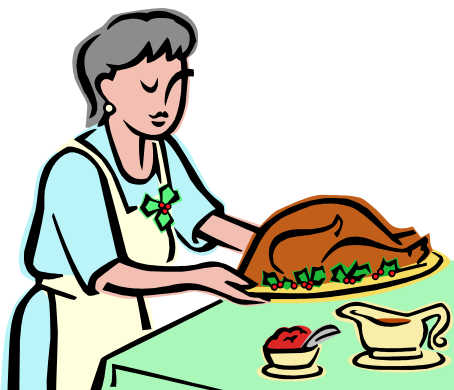
The annual Whist Drive on 27th October was enjoyed by all who came that evening and raised a total of £341.

On **Saturday, 6th December**, our major event takes place with the **Christmas Candy Bar.**



Tickets for lunch are available from Margaret Greenhorn (871139). There are two sittings - at 11.45am and 1pm - and tickets must be obtained well in advance for catering purposes.

The cost is £8 for adults and £4 for 12 years and under.



The Christmas lunch consists of home made soup or grapefruit and orange jelly cocktail, turkey and trimmings, choice of sweets including Christmas pudding, tea or coffee and mints.

There is quiche as a vegetarian option and a cracker to start the festive season off with a bang!

Morning coffee will be served from 10am with toast or biscuits, finishing about 11.15am to allow time to set the tables for the first sitting.



There will be stalls to tempt everyone including the ever popular Cake and Candy and especially one with hand made Christmas gifts. A lot of time has

been spent by ladies who are clever with their hands and by purchasing festive



materials and spending many hours they make attractive, unusual presents. These have to be priced accordingly so please think about the time and work involved and delight someone with a unique gift this Christmas.

Betty Short will be selling tickets to win a hamper.



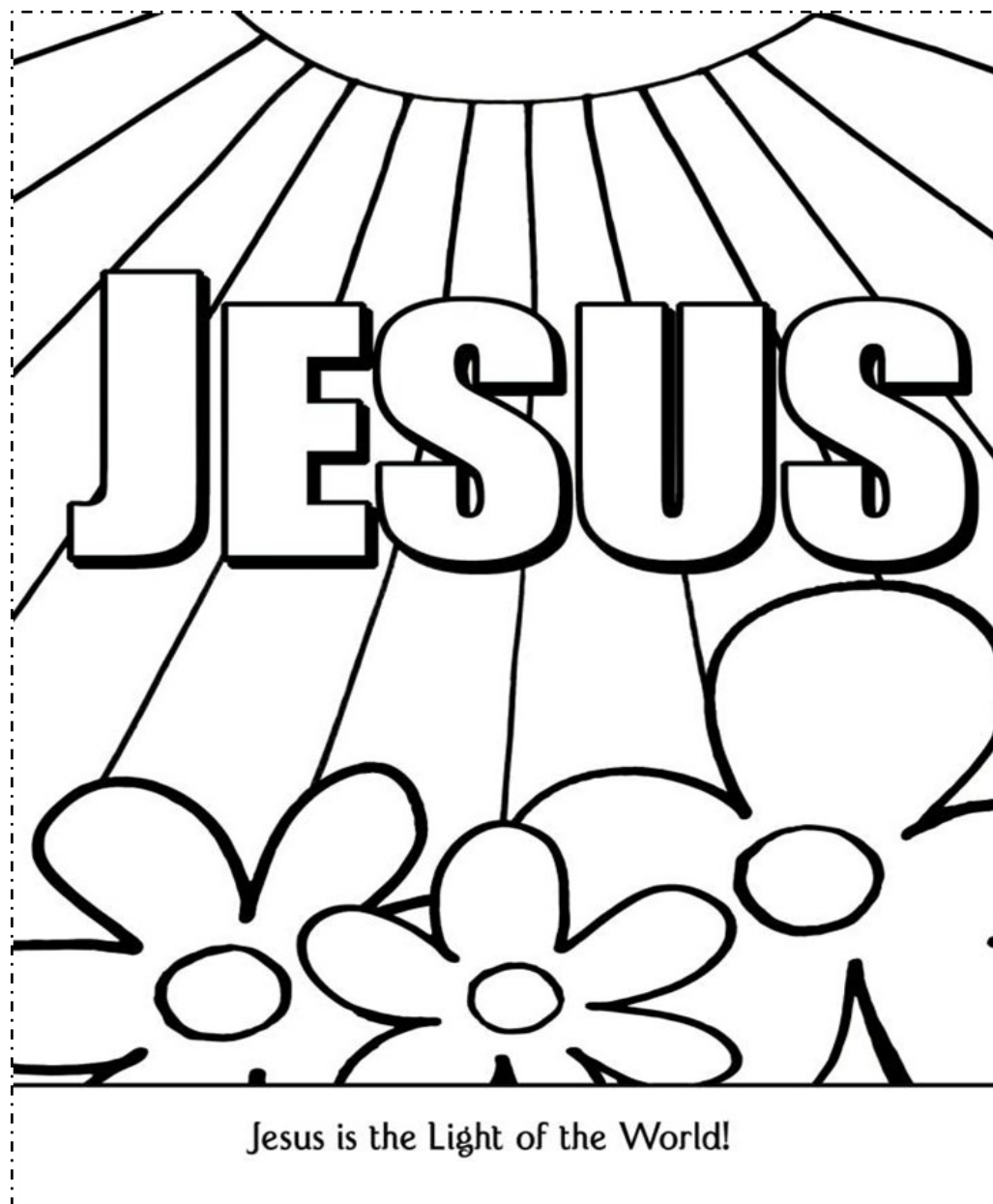
What a great gift for someone - or yourself!

The Sunday Club, Kirk Session and the Guild are all busy too with their ideas.

Christmas themed contributions for the stalls will be appreciated but most of all please come along for an enjoyable start to the festive period.

Jill Murray (Convener)

After a fantastic summer, we now face winter and shorter days. Can you add some colour to this picture to remind us of all the wonderful colour that Jesus continues to send us summer or winter.



Many thanks to all the children for their excellent singing at our recent Harvest Thanksgiving service in the West Kirk. We enjoyed a hale and hearty rendition of Cauliflowers Fluffy! The children all wore t-shirts which they had decorated themselves with some wonderful images of fruit and vegetables.





Calling all children! Christmas is just around the corner and we are busy making plans for our Nativity service which is led by children, a lovely family service. Some of our children also take part in the evening of Christmas music. If you would like to join us and play a part big or small we have plenty of room and all are welcome! Just come along and join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45am in the West Kirk where you will find out more about what we have planned for this very special time of year.

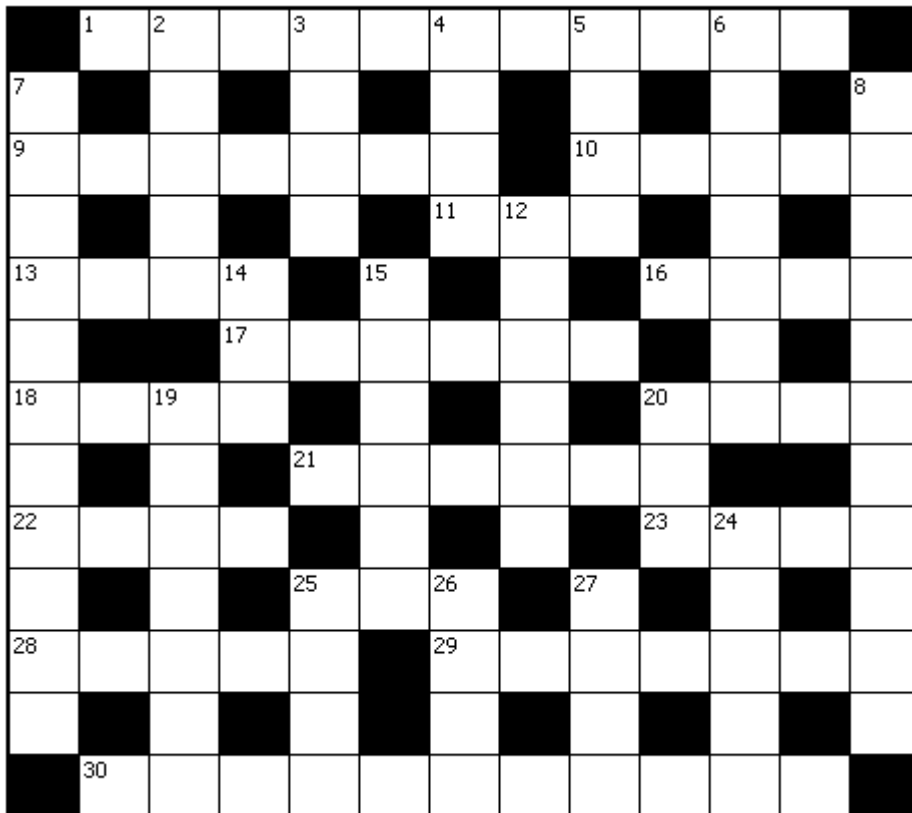


For those of you who have already started your Christmas shopping the "**Gift Service**" will be held on Sunday December 14th at 9:45am in the West Kirk. This year we will be collecting **ONLY** for Bethany Trust, located locally in Bathgate who give shelter to young adults mainly male from 16-21 years. The charity would also greatly appreciate any donations of food (*non-perishable please*) which they distribute to young people in local hostels and to the needy in the local community. Should the children wish to bring a toy please attach a label so it can be passed on to River Kids, West Lothian Toy appeal. A label with clear guidance will ensure all donations can be easily directed to the necessary needs.

We fully appreciate the demands this time of year bring, but anything you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Crossword

November



Across

- 1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all ____, Lord of all ____, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy' (11,3)
- 9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you ____ your fellow Hebrew?' (Exodus 2:13) (7)
- 10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline ____ (2,3)
- 11 'At even __ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay' (3)
- 13 A descendant of Gad (Numbers 26:16) (4)
- 16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but_ for the gift my Father promised (Acts 1:4) (4)
- 17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
- 18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must ____ God rather than men!' (Acts 5:29) (4)
- 20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, __ Eareckson Tada (4)
- 21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)

22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat ____ ____ ' (Matthew 13:2) (2,2)

23 Infectious tropical disease (4)

25 Tree (3)

28 'No fear of me should ____ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you' (Job 33:7) (5)

29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)

30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

2 'O Jerusalem... how ____ I have longed to gather your children together' (Matthew 23:37) (5)

3 Way out (4)

4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)

5 Done (anag.) (4)

6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)

7 Concerning the study of God (11)

8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)

12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)

14 Frozen (3)

15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)

19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)

20 See 1 Across

24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)

25 Time (anag.) (4)

26 Lists choice of meals (4)

27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the ____ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 6:23) (4)

Congregation Matters

New members: If anyone is interested in becoming a member of either church, the minister is available for a chat during her 'office hours'. If this is not suitable, she's happy for you to contact her by email or phone.

New Elders: On Sunday 2nd November, Polbeth Harwood Church ordained Sandra McCabe and Jessie Kelly as elders in the Church of Scotland and West Kirk re-admitted Alan Redmond, who had been ordained an elder at Blackburn & Seafield Church, prior to transferring to the West Kirk.

Long Service: On Sunday 19th October, the minister presented Gordon Erskine with his long service certificate. Gordon was ordained as a deacon in 1964 and, later, an elder in 1966—officially serving in the church for 50 years! And he still takes a very active role as Fabric Convener and Presbytery Elder for Polbeth Harwood Church.

Check the website for photos!

Minister's 'Office Hours'

Our minister extends a very warm welcome to members of the congregations and the communities who wish to meet with her for an informal chat.

Nanda will be available as follows

Polbeth Harwood on Tuesday mornings 10.30am— noon

West Kirk on Wednesday mornings 10.30—12 noon

excepting school holidays or funerals.

This arrangement will be reviewed in December 2014

2nd West Calder Rainbows and Brownie Pack

are collecting the Wish Tokens currently available through the West Lothian Courier. For every 1,000 tokens, they can get £20 for their funds, so why not help them along by popping tokens from your paper into the boxes provided in the foyer at Polbeth Harwood and the vestibule at West Kirk.

Thank you for your kind support!

Reminder!

West Kirk Christmas Choir

There's still time be part of this year's Christmas Choir.



Even though rehearsals started on Wednesday 29th October, everyone is welcome to come along to the church at 7.15pm on Wednesdays leading up to the Evening of Christmas Music on 19th December to enjoy singing when practising Christmas themed music from a wide variety of sources.

Advent

- always a busy time in the church calendar!



"Goodness! is it time for Christmas Fair organising, carol service planning and nativity play rehearsals already?!"

Advent Season—starts 30th November
when we welcome Miss Sadie Elliott
to our pulpits for that day.

Answers: 1. St Peter's 2. Celtic 3. Papal 4. St Andrew's
5. Jerusalem 6. Russian Orthodox 7. St Anthony's 8. Greek Orthodox

ANNUAL BEREAVEMENT SERVICE

will be held for the community

on Sunday 7th December

at West Kirk

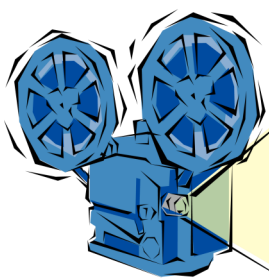
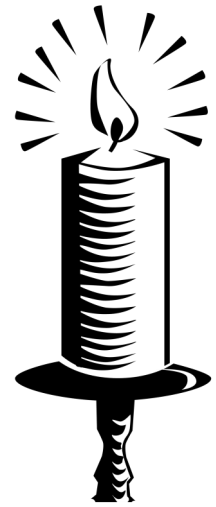
on behalf of both congregations.

The service will be conducted by

Rev Dr Jonanda Groenewald,

and will be followed by afternoon tea in the hall.

Invitation is made to all those who have lost loved ones—relatives and friends—and would like this opportunity to remember their lives.



Movie Night

Friday 21st November

at 7.30pm

West Kirk

when Bill Russell will be providing

film and music on the theme of Route 66

Teas will be provided

Admission £2

A decorative border of red leaves and branches surrounds the text.

Evening of Christmas Music

on Friday 19th December

at 7.00pm West Kirk

The augmented church choir,
conducted by

Carolyn Murray-Hamilton,

sing seasonal songs and carols,

Mince pies, shortie and tea for all!

A warm welcome awaits

Christmas Party

The annual party with food, music, and games
organised by West Kirk Pastoral Care committee

will be held in West Kirk hall on

Monday 15th December

1pm till 4pm

Tickets, £7, available from committee members

Thank You

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended Isobel Young's funeral on Saturday 12 April 2014. Donations at the service at the West Kirk of Calder raised a generous £1343, and this amount has been added to the £813 raised by Isobel earlier in the spring at a coffee morning, also at the West Kirk and realised with the help of many in the congregation.

The funds have now been distributed to three organisations, one of which is investigating the causes and cures of neurological conditions, and the others which help those with impairments remain active and independent: The Anne Rowling Regenerative Neurology Unit, University of Edinburgh University; the West Lothian Disabled Ramblers and Handicabs, West Lothian.

As you know Isobel was an active member of the West Kirk congregation, from participating in the Young Wives group and The Women's Guild, and working as an elder, recognised for Long Service in 2011. These activities generated many important friendships which sustained our mother and our family over many years, and it is with gratitude that we, her daughters, acknowledge this here.

Lesley and Hilary Young

COVENTRY'S CROSS



The people of Coventry will always remember the dreadfully long night of 14th November 1940. It was the longest air raid of the World War II and when the light dawned the next morning, Coventry was in ruins. So many people were dead, injured or homeless; there wasn't a person who had not suffered during that night.

The medieval cathedral was a burnt out shell. Two of the burnt roof beams were tied together to make a cross and this makeshift symbol was set up where the altar had been. A cross was also made from the 14th century iron nails that had held the roof together and this Cross of Nails still remains today as a symbol of sympathy, forgiveness and reconciliation. Copies of the Cross of Nails have been presented to countries round the globe as a reminder that love and understanding bind us together and that we need to remember the horrors that happen when people forget that.

Parish Record

Baptisms

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as them.”

5th Oct—Thomas Robert James Graham, infant son of Robert Graham and Mhairi Walker

Deaths

Jesus said “I am the resurrection and the life.”

29th Sept—James Colquhoun, Northfield Cottages., West Calder

11th Oct—Alexander Sneddon, North View, West Calder

19th Oct—Janet Miller, Harburn Road, West Calder

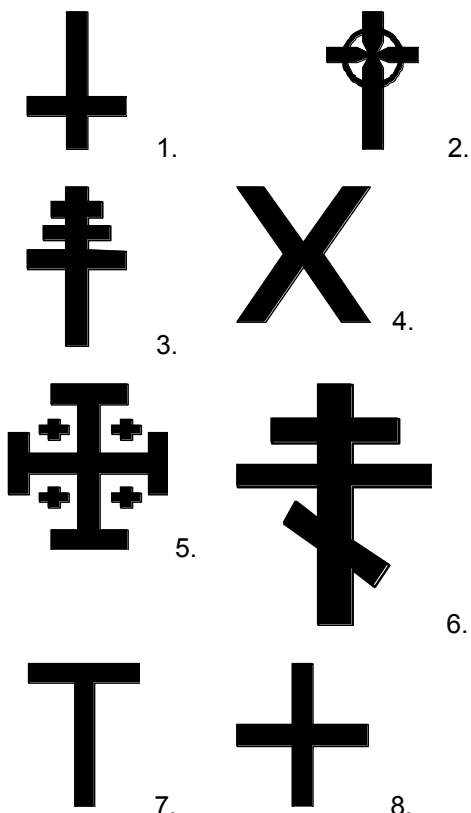
To all who have lost a loved one we extend our sincere sympathies and prayer

*When times are dark,
where wrong parades as right,
where faith grows dim,
Christ, Light of the World,
meet us in our place of darkness.
Journey with us
and bring us to your new dawning.*

Ray Simpson

Events: December

Monday	1st	Guild	West Kirk	7.30pm
Thursday	4th	Board meeting	West Kirk	7.30pm
Saturday	6th	Xmas Candy Bar	West Kirk	10.00am
Sunday	7th	Communion	West Kirk	9.45am
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15am
	7th	Bereavement Service	West Kirk	3.00pm
Monday	8th	Guild Xmas Meal		7.30pm
Thursday	11th	'Beyond the Kirk Walls'	Stewart Court	10.00am
Sunday	14th	Gift Service	West Kirk	9.45am
Monday	15th	Pastoral Care	West Kirk	1.00pm
		Christmas Party		
Friday	19th	Evening of Xmas Music	West Kirk	7.00pm



Cross Purposes

There are many types
of Christian crosses
opposite.

Can you name them?

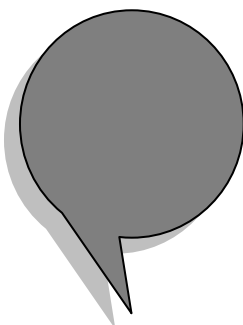
Answers on page 16

Events: November

Saturday	1st	Guild Coffee Day	West Kirk	10.00am
	1st	Children's Light Party	Polbeth Harwood	6.00pm
Monday	3rd	Guild	West Kirk	7.30pm
Thursday	6th	Session Meeting	West Kirk	7.30pm
Friday	7th	'At Home'	Polbeth Harwood	7.00pm
Sunday	9th	Remembrance Sunday	West Kirk	9.45am
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15am
	9th	'Beyond the Kirk Walls'	Dickson Court	3.00pm
Tuesday	11th	Parkhead Primary Memorial Event	West Calder War Memorial	10.50am
Wednesday	12th	Board & Session	Polbeth Harwood	7.00pm
Monday	17th	Guild Guest Night	West Kirk	7.30pm
	17th	Safeguarding Training	Boghall Church	7.00pm
Friday	21st	Film Show	West Kirk	7.30pm
Tuesday	25th	Emmaus Group	19Learmonth Cres	7.30pm
Wednesday	26th	Safeguarding Training	Carmondean	7.00pm
Friday	28th	Xmas Fayre Donations	Polbeth Harwood	6.00pm
Saturday	29th	Christmas Fayre	Polbeth Harwood	2.00pm

Contribution deadline for the next issue.....

All contributions for the **December / January** edition of the magazine should be submitted to the editor, preferably by email, **before 23rd November 2014**



Church Calendar

Weekly Events

Sunday	Morning Worship	West Kirk	9.45am
		Polbeth Harwood	11.15am
	Sunday Club	West Kirk Hall	9.45am
	JAM Club	Polbeth Harwood	11.15am
Monday	Beavers	West Kirk Hall	6.00pm
Tuesday	Craft Club	West Kirk Hall	10.00am
	Babies' Painting Class	Polbeth Harwood	10.00am
	Minister's Office	Polbeth Harwood	10.30am
	Star Harmonies	Polbeth Harwood	5.30pm
	Bridge Club	West Kirk Hall	7.00pm
	WRI Handcrafts	Polbeth Harwood	7.00pm
	Wednesday	Calder Kids	West Kirk Hall
Minister's Office		West Kirk	10.30am
Dance Class		Polbeth Harwood	5.00pm
Cubs		West Kirk Hall	6.00pm
Strategy Games		West Kirk Hall	8.00pm
Thursday	Scouts	West Kirk Hall	7.00pm
	Thrift Shop	Polbeth Harwood	6.30pm
	Slimming World	Polbeth Harwood	7.30pm