

June

Issue 141

# **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](http://www.west-kirk-polbeth-harwood.co.uk)

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# Letter from the minister

June 2022



Dear friends

Last week, Reeta Griffin (from Polbeth Harwood Church), Douglas Horn (from the West Kirk of Calder), and I, were commissioners at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. And what a privilege to be able to represent our congregations there! The theme of this year's assembly was: "See, I make all things new." And God surely reminded me anew what a privilege it is to belong to him and his church here on earth. Being at the assembly reminded me that we are not in this alone – our congregations are part of a bigger church, and together we can make such a difference in the world.

Just like the celebration of the Queen's jubilee reminds me that we are part of a bigger nation, a United Kingdom, a country where we can flourish, where we are blessed to have easy lives in comparison to other people around the globe. And as Christians it's our responsibility to bring change where we can. So...

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of June we will be welcoming Ukrainian families who found a temporary home in West Lothian, to a concert in the West Kirk. A group of amazing professional singers will entertain us. Please buy a ticket and support this special event – all the money raised will go to the Dnipro kids – Ukrainian orphans in foster care in Edinburgh. Raffle prices for the event will be very much appreciated too.

At her golden jubilee the Queen said that the only constant in life is change. Let's embrace the changes planned for the future of the church in faith and see how the seeds of love that God sows through us will grow into a fruitful harvest. The Queen has served this country, and God, faithfully for 70 years. In a time where there is so much to worry about and be sad about, let's feel some joy and celebrate this special event on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June with a lovely picnic in the West Kirk grounds after our joint worship service at 10am.

We are all part of something bigger – of God's plan for the world. Let's never forget that when we feel inconsequential, small or lonely.

May God bless you all,  
Nanda

## **Reflection (Deuteronomy 9:9-14 – NRSVA)**

<sup>9</sup> and the LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, <sup>10</sup> when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. <sup>11</sup> Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. <sup>12</sup> It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' <sup>13</sup> Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' <sup>14</sup> No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

### **Verse 14 ....'the word is very near to you'**

The Israelites' long wanderings in the wilderness are almost over, and the reading above forms part of an extended speech of Moses to the people of Israel on the verge of their entry into the Promised Land. The people's history in the desert has been a chequered one to say the least, their experiences of closeness to

God alternating with times of alienation on account of their turning away and not trusting God.

But here and now, says Moses, is the promise of a bright new future, and the people's current situation is pregnant with possibility. In the past, it was never God who turned away from his people; rather it was the people who abandoned God. Appealing to their hidden reserves of faith, hope and courage, Moses tells them that the God they seek is much closer to them than they ever imagined; God's word is not beyond the sea or up in heaven, but 'in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe'.

There is much in this passage about the choices we make in life, and the Israelites' experience here reminds us that, the decisions we make in our own particular circumstances will carry consequences, for good or ill. We are urged to listen: to listen to the still small voice of God within our hearts. We won't get it right all the time, but if we are truly seeking God's way, we will discover that God is indeed 'very near' and faithful to us.

## **Prayer**

**Gracious God, thank you for having given us, in Christ, a hope that never fades and a purpose that endures for ever; a life of limitless possibilities and constant new beginnings. Open our eyes to that wonderful truth and open our ears to hear the 'still small voice of God' who journeys with us. Amen.**





Join us on **June 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am**  
for a special united celebration  
service for our Queen's  
Platinum Jubilee

Bring along your picnic to the  
service, then join us in the  
grounds for a  
**"Big Jubilee Lunch"** we will  
provide the tea, coffee and  
some light entertainment and  
games for the kids.

**Dress up or dress down, wear a hat or even a crown, or just come as you are!**  
**Please invite all your family & friends to our big community event!**



Nanda has signed up to do the Edinburgh "kiltwalk" in September to raise money for the West Kirk and Polbeth Harwood Church, and she is looking for a great group of people, up for the challenge to join her! *I have....will you??*

Need more information?

There are three walking distances to pick from with the Mighty Stride (24 miles) on average this takes 6hrs, Big Stroll (14.6 miles) on average it takes 4hrs, and the Wee Wander (approx. 3.5- 4.5 miles and is suitable for buggies) takes an average of 2hrs. The exact route locations and distances will be posted on the official website soon. <https://www.thekiltwalk.co.uk/events/edinburgh>

Every single penny raised through your sponsorship for the church will be topped up by a HUGE 50% thanks to the generosity of Sir Tom Hunter and The Hunter Foundation. That means if you raise £100 for the church then our church will receive £150!

Is there a cost? Yes! ....*But!*

The Kirk Sessions have agreed to pay the registration fee for every person who would like to take part in this challenge and through monies you raise we will still make money for our church, whilst taking part in a fantastic huge charity event!

Do you need to get into training?

Well that very much depends on which distance you decide on! And you are experts on your own fitness levels so please at all times, listen to what your body is telling you. It is important to do some training before taking part in the walks to build up your stamina in advance!

Do I need to go buy a kilt?

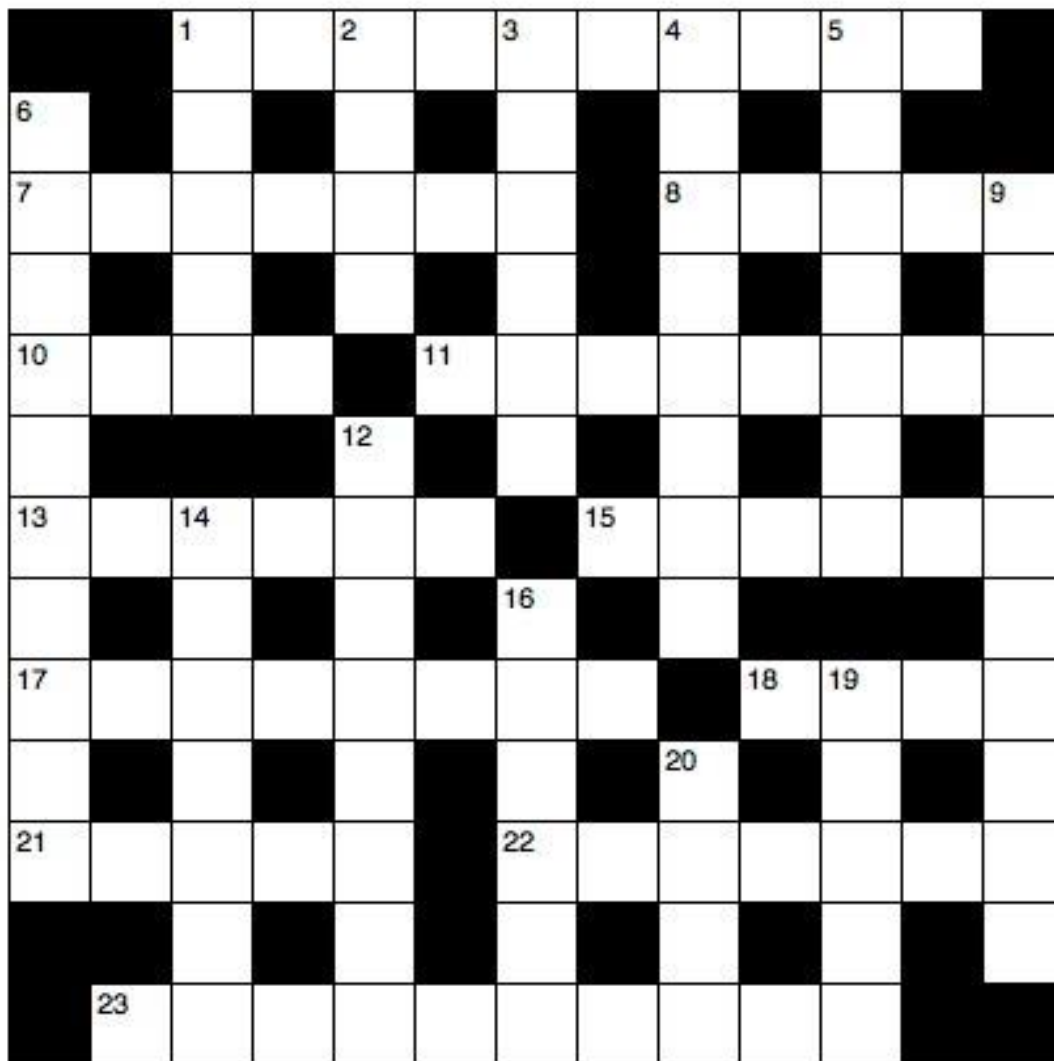
Well! Are you shy? Do you have good legs? Are you bandy? Do you care?

This is all about getting together, wearing a team t-shirt, being part of a great group of people out taking a walk on a Sunday morning and raising money for our church! Wear what you want, be comfortable, dye your hair tartan, let's just let our hair down and have an awesome experience doing something fun and different for the Kirk!

Please do think very seriously and quickly if you would like to join us, as we need to get you registered **now** so you can get into training and collecting sponsorship over the summer months ahead.

You can get inspiration by watching videos and pictures of past events on the kiltwalk website and read all about the companies who sponsor it by providing all the wee freebies you get along the way to keep you going.

Then please speak to Nanda, Sandra, Nik or Lorna now, so we can get you registered for our West Kirk & Polbeth Harwood kiltwalk team...the next challenge is the team name!



## Across

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
- 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
- 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
- 10 'We are hard pressed on every—'(2Corinthians4:8)(4)
- 11 Fraud (2Corinthians6:8)(8)
- 13 'His troops advance in force; they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)



- 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)
- 17 'Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be—' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)
- 18 Nomadic dwelling (Genesis 26:25) (4)
- 21 'As for man, his days are like—, he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)
- 22 Or I live (anag.) (7)
- 23 Those guilty of 1 Across (Romans 13:4) (10)

## Down

- 1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)
- 2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)
- 3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)
- 4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)
- 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)
- 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)
- 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10)
- 12 Put in jail (Acts 22:19) (8)
- 14 A ceturn (anag.) (7)
- 16 Discharge (Acts 21:3) (6)
- 19 'All these—come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)
- 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!' (Revelation 19:7) (4)

## ANSWERS FOR MAY EDITION

**ACROSS:** 1, Overwhelmed. 9, Valleys. 10, Strap. 11, Top. 13, Reel. 16, To do. 17, Incite. 18, Load. 20, West. 21, Notice. 22, Wash. 23, Thin. 25, Ash. 28, Noah's. 29, Ever not. 30, Onesiphorus.

**DOWN:** 2, Value. 3, Reed. 4, Host. 5, Lisp. 6, Ear lobe. 7, Overflowing. 8, Opportunity. 12, Obtain. 14, Lid. 15, A cross. 19, Abstain. 20, Wet. 24, Hindu. 25, Asks. 26, Help. 27, Hero.

## **General Assembly 2022, by Douglas Horn (Elder, West Kirk of Calder)**

When you get the opportunity to go to something that has interested you since childhood you are always aware that your view of the event will be better than the real event. Not in my case – the reality was far better!!!

The gang that I was part of was Nanda, Reeta, from Polbeth Harwood, who I know well from our volunteering with West Lothian Foodbank, and Gary, my friend of many years and who is now a Candidate in Training for the ministry with the Church of Scotland and has just finished his first year at the University of Glasgow. So now that the team has been introduced let the experience begin.

Friday evening (20<sup>th</sup> May) was the first time Commissioners training. I had to concentrate on the training because the ambience and beauty of The Assembly Hall is fantastic. We were taught many things about procedure and practise, but it all stood us in good stead for the time ahead. General Assembly started tomorrow.

Saturday morning, base camp was set up in what became known as either “sweetie,” “jelly baby” or “bad boy” corner, depending on who was speaking about it – with affection, I hope! The opening of the Assembly was so dignified with the procedure of transferring the role of Moderator from Lord Jim Wallace to the Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields and also the message from HM The Queen.

The business of merging Presbyteries and other business item things took all of Saturday with some items delayed to later in the week. For me the harsh reality was having to vote against a friend for greater benefit of the Kirk.

Monday was the main debate that made the news. The vote to allow ministers, if they want, to conduct same sex marriages in a church building. This is not the place to discuss the views on this debate, but I

would only say that when the result of the vote was announced there was a very dignified silence.

Not wanting to create a diary there were many other notable events. An “off the cuff” address to the Assembly from Prof Jason Leitch thanking everyone for their conduct throughout the pandemic, from addresses from Rabbi David Mason and Most Reverend Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrew’s & Edinburgh about the agreements between the Jewish community and the Roman Catholic church respectively. The praise given to the staff and management of Crossreach, the social care department of the church was very heartfelt, and the recognition of work performed by the armed forces chaplains was an emotional moment for everyone who was at the Assembly.

The tingles in the back of my neck went at other times as well. The singing of “Ye Gates” as the table hymn for the communion service., the Moderator’s address at morning devotions and the recognition of people who have devoted their lives to the work of the church.

We are entering a whole new era for the Kirk. Presbytery mission plans and their effect on linkages and unions of congregations; getting over that the mission of spreading the news in our community that Jesus Christ is the saviour for all has to be done by all of us; the Rev Fiona Smith as the new Principal Clerk – and I am sure she will bring her own personality to that role; and the realisation that we have to be a welcoming church to all, so if we all bring a friend to church services with us, we could double the church membership.

It really was a fantastic week that used up a lot of different emotions, but the outstanding memory is of fellowship, care and compassion. It was undoubted an experience where the Holy Spirit was shared.

**The Reverend Wee Davie - D.K. Robertson**

**To the tune of 'If it wasna for yer wellies'**

**Written by Bella Kirk in 1970**

Polbeth has a grand wee church, bang right up tae date

Packed oot on a Sunday, in a queue you've got tae wait

Plenty willing helpers, tae pass aroon the plate

And the minister is the Reverend Wee Davie

**CHORUS**

If it wasna for Wee Davie what would we dae?

Nae Café or wee shop on a Wednesday

Nae Sunday lunches before we go away

If it wasna for the Reverend Wee Davie

It's a plain and humble building for ordinary folks

Everyone's on christian names Betty, Jean and Jock

You don't hae tae dress you can wear jeans or just a petticoat

It makes nae difference tae the Reverend Wee Davie

They've got their ain private army The Polbeth Volunteers

Some deserve a medal - they've been in it for years and years

Their battledress an apron, weapons are wooden spoons tae steer

And the commander is Ann the Reverend's Good Lady

Their regimental duties include washing dishes and scrubbing floors

They've also got a very famous elite Catering Corps

Joe, I think's the Sergeant Major, sells his marmalade at doors

Mair profits for the Reverend Wee Davie

They have yoga and keep fit and a play group for the weans  
At a dry and cosy meeting place oot the weather if it rains  
You can blether wi' your neighbours an' discuss your aches and pains  
And confession if you want wi' the Reverend Wee Davie  
There's the handicapped club on a Tuesday, the older men meet  
every day

Alcoholics Anonymous tae help keep you on the straight and narrow way  
You can ca' the minister at any time, be it night or day  
You can depend on the Reverend Wee Davie

You can get mairrit at any time, even on Sundays it's allowed  
Bring the wean back later in its white shawl wrapped around  
He'll be admired by everyone and you'll be really proud  
As he's christened by the Reverend Wee Davie  
They've got just what you're looking for in their wee Thrift Shop  
If you need a bed or sideboard he'll see if he's got one in stock  
He's getting mair like Harold Steptoe, he's looking for a horse and float  
He's very enterprising is the Reverend Wee Davie

Yes, Polbeth Church is wonderful, it's absolutely grand  
You can even rest a while in peace there before you leave  
This green and pleasant land  
You'll get a fitting send off ,and if you want you'll get the Sally Band  
Just leave it to the Reverend Wee Davie



# THANKS!

A huge thanks to everyone who supported our May Fayre in Polbeth Harwood Church on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May.

Whether you were able to donate, volunteer by setting up the event, helping on the day or coming along to support us we are very grateful for your support.

We raised a fabulous £1060 on the day!

L Eardley

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## Fraud and scam reminder

You may remember that I wrote an article at the beginning of lockdown about the constant scams and frauds experienced by too many people.

I really wish I could say things have improved but, sadly, this isn't the case.

Every day at work I speak to someone who has been scammed in some way. Some are lucky and don't lose anything financially. Sadly, others lose everything they own including the roof over their heads!

The large-scale fraud tends to be 'romance scams'. This is where someone contacts you either through social media, online games or emails and you build up a relationship with that person. This is likely to start as a casual friendship but soon develops into more. Suddenly you are told they desperately need cash for business or life saving

medication. Always consider when you are giving someone cash: have you met them in person? If in doubt, don't part with your cash.

Next we have the message on your mobile 'hi mum/dad it's me. I have broken my phone, and this is my new number.' At least a dozen of my colleagues (and myself) have received this message. Deciding to play along to see how this progressed we discovered it is quite a simple scam. You believe you are talking to your son/daughter and they will tell you they need to pay a bill and can't use their online banking on the temporary phone they have. Can you please pay a couple of bills for them until they can access their banking in a few days? I am glad to report that none of my colleagues fell for this, but it would be too easy to do so if you aren't aware of this scam.

The newest scam is a text message from NHS advising you have been in close contact with someone with Covid and you need to get a covid test. You are advised that the test is free, but you need to pay postage. By entering your bank details, you let the fraudster know who you bank with. Within a day or two you will receive a call from 'your bank' telling you there has been fraudulent activity on your account. These fraudsters are very convincing. Please remember your bank will NEVER ask you to generate an online banking code and read it out to them or send you a text message with a code which they will ask you to read to them. If you are ever sent or generate a code for your banking it is for you alone to input this. Read it out and you are giving someone access to your account.

I don't write this to frighten people. It isn't everyone who will experience this but please just be vigilant. If in doubt regarding giving information or cash to anyone speak to another member of your family or call your bank. They will be more than happy to talk it through with you.



### Why get involved in 70 Acts of Service?

This is an invitation to communities to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by serving others. In honour of the Queen's 70 years of service, **HOPE Together** has listed 70 Acts of Service to start you thinking. There are 70 ways to make a difference – but you might have lots of other ideas.

Serve others and make a difference in your community, right where you are. Choose a handful of acts, or complete one a day for 70 days, it is up to you!

Gather your friends, family, and community together to make a difference in your street, village, town or city. Will you take this up as your summer 2022 challenge? Let them know how you get on by tagging us on social media with the hashtags #70acts #theplatinum jubilee

1. Think of an everyday item that's in good condition. Find a recipient and give it away. Umbrellas, hand cream, etc.
2. Drop a small card to a hidden hero, just to let them know they're noticed.
3. Clean the sink in your school, home, office, or staffroom.
4. How often do you say 'hi' to your neighbours? Take that moment where you meet and spend time getting to know them a little more. Know them well already? Then invite them for coffee or a meal.
5. Find out how you can volunteer for a local cause you love. Too shy? Volunteer with a friend.
6. Clear your schedule for an hour to serve someone. Ask them what they need doing or what would help them most.
7. Contact a homeless shelter and ask what they need. Then meet it.
8. Strike up a conversation with someone you don't know at the bus stop or in a café maybe.
9. Leave something anonymously for someone you know: a coffee on a desk, an encouraging note taped to their car, a box of pastries left in the shared kitchen.

10. Ask others what they think your gifts are, and how you could use them to bring life in and through your community, then act on what they tell you. While you're at it, encourage others to use their gifts too!
11. Become an Age UK Digital Buddy. Half of people over 65 feel out of touch with the pace of modern life. Learn how to inspire older people in your community to make the most of technology. [www.ageuk.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/become-an-age-uk-digital-buddy/](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/become-an-age-uk-digital-buddy/)
12. Allow extra time when you are out and about and look for simple ways to be generous – help someone carry a heavy bag, offer directions, acknowledge passers-by.
13. Take a chunk of time to chat to someone you might not usually 'see': the street vendor, the window cleaner, the station attendant, the homeless person who sits in the doorway.
14. The Do It Trust connects you on the spot with a volunteer opportunity near you. Find a way to instantly bless your community here. [www.do-it.org/about](http://www.do-it.org/about)
15. Set a target to encourage everyone you talk with today. Everyone. This might actually be easier than you think – choose to prioritise encouraging words whenever you speak to others and it will come naturally.
16. Spend time drafting an intentional message telling an old friend or teacher about their impact on you. What might you write on a sincere thank you card? Send that.
17. Make a care package for someone in need – a rough sleeper you often pass, or someone you know in your community who could really do with some essentials.
18. Let someone know you're available to help. Tell them you'd be up for checking in with regular texts. Or even let them know they can call on you for anything, from having you on speed dial to going along with them to an event.
19. Tackle a community clean up that makes an impact – contact your friends and neighbours with some suggested dates and times and see who responds!
20. Gather a few friends to organise a car wash in your neighbourhood.
21. Get cleaning. This will work best if you find somewhere that's important to you like your street or somewhere in your community like a local school playground or a care home garden.
22. Research local clubs, community gatherings or other local initiatives. Can you support any of them – financially, with time, or with resources? This doesn't have to be a life-changing moment. A demonstration of support that turns you outwards is all that's needed.
23. Get rid of graffiti. Check with your local council and chat with your neighbours, the school-run/coffee mums, the guys on the rugby team, and see who you can gather together to help.
24. It's easy to feel powerless in the face of large-scale injustice or to switch off when it

comes to national or international events. Take stock of what you feel passionate about then write a letter, add your name to a campaign, or share something on social media.

25. Make a practical difference today to those seeking refuge. Men, in particular, this is your time for a clear-out (groups supporting refugees often report that they receive low numbers of good quality men's clothes).

26. Donate tinned and dried food to those helping destitute asylum seekers or check out Welcome Boxes [welcomeboxes.org](http://welcomeboxes.org), a group welcoming newly-arrived refugees and asylum seekers with love and friendship, starting with a Welcome Box of gifts to say hello.

27. In a queue? Buy the next person in line a coffee/sandwich/pint along with your order. Or pay for a bus ticket for the person behind you.

28. Could you fundraise for an organisation you feel passionate about? Search on [give.net](http://give.net) today and start fundraising. Get others from your community to help you!

29. Cook for your friends, family or neighbours tonight and try to make sure everyone sits together to eat at the same time. Don't rush the meal – enjoy each other's company.

30. Start simple: gather together a few bags of your belongings to take to your local charity shop. And not just the scraps – let's give some good stuff away too!

31. Grab a stack of Post-it notes and write down some one-line encouragements. Then stick them up around your house, your gym, or your workplace for other people to find.

32. There are plenty of small ways to put others first. Perhaps hold the door open for more people than necessary. Give up your seat on public transport. Let someone else go ahead of you in the queue. Let someone else choose the TV channel.

33. What can you do to help? Clear a table in the café, stack the baskets or trolleys in a shop, put something back on a shelf if it has fallen off. Yes, technically you'll be doing a job that someone else is paid to do, but your helpfulness might be making someone's day a little less stressful.

34. Fix something quick and simple for someone today. Change a light bulb, sew on a button, or teach someone a few shortcuts on the computer.

35. We've probably all got things at home we can share. A spare nearly-new toolkit, two copies of the same book ... you get the idea. What could you share with someone else today? Snap a photo and post it on social media, letting your friends know they can have it for free.

36. Offer to do the tea/coffee run at work or wash up everyone's mugs at the end of the day. Say 'yes' to that difficult task announced at a meeting. You get the idea... run with it!



37. Bring in your neighbours' bins this week – or even for the whole street!
38. Could you support people in your community and the NHS during times of need? Become an Emergency Response Volunteer – find out more from the Royal Voluntary Service  
[www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk](http://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk)
39. Plant a community garden. Who could you work with in your local area on this? Then share what you grow!
40. The next time you get on a bus or go shopping – take something for the person serving you some flowers, a bar of chocolate. Tell them what a great job they are doing.
41. Club together with others and buy crayons and colouring books to donate to the local children's hospital.
42. Bake some cookies or muffins and drop them off at your local fire station.
43. Plant a tree for the Jubilee – [www.queensgreencanopy.org](http://www.queensgreencanopy.org)
44. Make lunch for a family member or friend today and include a nice note in their lunch box too.
45. Leave some coins taped to a car park/ vending machine or on a supermarket trolley for the next person to use.
46. Try wearing the same clothes for a week - Around 2.6 billion people in the world lack basic sanitation. This will give you a taste of what life is like for them.
47. Live Below the Line Challenge - More than 660 million people without sanitation live on less than \$2 a day (about £1) Try living for five days with £1 a day for all food and drink to support people living in hunger. Find out more at [www.thehungerproject.org.uk](http://www.thehungerproject.org.uk)
48. Write to you MP on matters relating to the environment or poverty in your area. [www.parliament.uk/get-involved/contact-an-mp-or-lord/contact-your-mp/](http://www.parliament.uk/get-involved/contact-an-mp-or-lord/contact-your-mp/)
49. Use no hot running water today either from your taps or shower - approximately 15% of the world's population is without running water - let alone heated water.
50. Go without using the internet today - 40% of the world's population has no internet access.
51. Survive the day by using no more than 4 litres of water to wash, eat and drink - People in rich countries use 10 times more water than those in poor countries.
52. Eat plain rice for each of your meals today - rice is the staple diet of over 3 billion people.
53. Do not put the light on when it gets dark tonight - 10% of the world's population have no access to electricity.

54. Write a letter to someone facing persecution – find out how at [www.csw.org.uk/connectencourage](http://www.csw.org.uk/connectencourage) or [www.amnesty.org.uk/write-for-rights](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-for-rights)
55. Sew some reusable sanitary towels for women in the third world [www.sewconfident.co.uk/charity/](http://www.sewconfident.co.uk/charity/)
56. Make a collection for your local foodbank.
57. Spearhead a group activity to make and send 'Get Well' cards for children in the local hospital.
58. Wear second-hand clothes for a weekend after visiting a charity shop.
59. Mow the lawn for your neighbour, parents, or someone you know.
60. Visit your local lunch club and offer to help with the washing up.
61. Depending on the time of year, sweep snow or leaves from the pavement outside your home.
62. Invite someone who normally eats alone to have a meal with you.
63. Are you a member of a club, sports team, church or other community group? Brainstorm ways in which you can serve your community this year – and make an action plan.
64. Take a group into a local old people's home and organise a sing song of favourite hymns and old songs
65. Get a group together to pick up litter in a local park or beauty spot.
66. Organise a second hand clothes swap with your friends and neighbours – everyone brings some clothes, and everyone gives a small donation to a charity of your choice to take away someone else's cast offs!
67. Ask the local supermarket if they could donate their day-old vegetables. Make soup and run a pop-up café collecting money for a charity of your choice.
68. Put together simple gift packs for nurses in your local hospital, teachers in your local school, or your local street sweepers, with a note of thanks.
69. Ask a local care home if there are residents who have no visitors, who'd welcome a visit. Commit to visiting at least once a month.
70. Set up a free shoe-shine stall in your high street or town centre – with the necessary permission from the local authority.

*Thanks to Stewardship for letting us draw on the 40acts archives to compile this list.  
[hopetogether.org.uk](http://hopetogether.org.uk) | [theplatinumjubilee.com](http://theplatinumjubilee.com)*



TeenTime

Primary 7 upwards

The TeenTime group enjoyed a fantastic evening on 15<sup>th</sup> May in Easter Longridge, where the youngsters learned all about the care of horses and went riding. Many thanks to our host Lorraine who looked after us so well.

Bella and Breeze were spoiled with treats (carrots) and all the attention given them by the youngsters. Some pictures are available on the church Facebook page.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported TeenTime this session and to all the adults who have helped at the evening events. Enjoy the summer break and we'll see you again in August for another session.

Alison

# SHOWSTOPPERS!

Our last team meeting is on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> of June at 7:30pm in the West Kirk of Calder. Then registration will open mid-June. We are really looking forward to welcoming the children into our theatre in Polbeth Harwood on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Just a wee reminder that we will share our holiday club “best bits” on the evening of Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm. This only lasts half an hour and you can see all the slides and fun that we got up to during the club over the past week. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us!

Please remember all our team of volunteers in your prayers over the summer months.

**Sunday Club & JAM Club** Resumes on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> of September when we will welcome back all our children and invite them to bring along a friend.

We are delighted to inform you that our Spring Count your Blessings fundraiser for the Christian Aid Ukraine Appeal raised £595.78 at the West Kirk. Between the Blessings fundraiser and the sale of Ukraine badges the sum of £761 was raised at Polbeth Harwood. That gives a fabulous total of £1356.78 sent to help the Ukrainian people. Well done everyone!!

## Reminiscing Part 2

By Margaret Hogg

When I am sitting before the service begins on a Sunday listening to Catriona playing before the service, I often think back (not sure how many years: a lot anyway) to my one and only, never to be repeated, stint as organist at the West Kirk. Some of you will remember the names but others won't. At that time, Tom Dundas was the minister, Frank Vinter was choirmaster and organist and Jim Turner took the junior choir. Anyway, this particular Sunday, Tom was on holiday as was Frank. Jim, who would normally take over as organist, was leading the service. At that time, he was giving piano lessons to my daughters and during conversation discovered I played the piano. I don't know why, but I agreed to be the organist for that particular Sunday. I looked out my old music books for suitable pre-service music which I have to say was limited but quite varied.

Jim advised me to concentrate on the keyboard and forget about the foot pedals and, after requesting that his choice of Hymns didn't have too many sharps or flats, I got myself organised for the service.

On the Sunday, feeling very nervous, I arrived about 10:30 and started playing my background music. Ave Maria, In A Monastery Garden, Largo and Trumpet Voluntary. (I did say it was limited but varied). By about 10:45 I had run out of things to play so had to start from the beginning again. As arranged, the Hymns didn't contain any more than two sharps or flats and I got through them without any mistakes! After the service I had to resort to The Trumpet Voluntary etc for the exiting music but, feeling quite pleased with myself, I finished playing and switched off the organ. One of the choir members (Miss Margaret Greenhorn) approached me. She was laughing and said I had done well but she did wonder when she would be able to breathe normally. Apparently I hadn't given them time to draw breath between verses!

What I did learn afterwards was that, when you play a note, you are onto the next note before the first one comes out of the pipe. Maybe that was the problem. Anyway, all I can say is "well done Catriona, you're doing a grand job" and I do love to listen to your much more varied renditions on a Sunday morning.



# SAFE FAMILIES

**I would love to take a moment to tell you Julie's story.**

When the team first met Julie she had been through multiple traumas. Julie was a teenage Mum whose first child had been removed. When one of our Family Support Team first met Julie sat in her flat in darkness. She was extremely anxious, traumatised and "scared of her shadow".

We introduced Julie to Rosie, a family friend, who would come alongside Julie and help her deal with some of her feelings and find a community group she could become involved in. Not long after meeting Rosie Julie had her second child.

With Rosie's support, she became more confident and started to go out to toddler groups, make friends & become stronger in her role as Mum.

When the support came to a formal end Julie said

**"Safe Families support has given me strength, confidence and resilience. I was shy and not confident doing anything. I kept backing away. Being connected with you and Rosie has given me direction and guidance and helped me to know that things could be positive"**



However, the story doesn't end there Rosie and Julie stayed in touch. We recently heard from Rosie and she said

"Julie is an entirely different person with a new job in a hospital and a positive outlook on life. She has regular and increasing contact with her older child.

I love Safe Families and it has been such a privilege to be part of Julie's transformation."

Julie is just one of the 1,534 families our volunteers supported last year. We are growing quickly and are hoping to support over 2,000 families in the next 12 months. But to do this we need your help.

We are looking for 100 people who will commit to becoming monthly Financial Supporters of Safe Families in May. This will allow us to train, equip and support volunteers to draw alongside the next 100 families we work with.

So far in May, thanks to your generosity we have  
already seen

43

£4,128



You can give as little as £8 per month, you'll receive regular updates from the team as well as receive invitations to local belonging nights where we celebrate all we've made possible together.

Could you support a family by becoming a Safe Families Financial Supporter, and help make sure no one feels alone?



## SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

Our annual picnic is back!! Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June you are all warmly invited to come along to Silver Sands at Aberdour for a day at the beach and enjoy a complimentary picnic.

There will be a joint service in Polbeth Harwood Church at 10am. Thereafter the bus will pick us up outside the church at 11am to make our way to Aberdour.

Our gazebos will be waiting for us filled with picnic food to enjoy.

Bring your sun-cream and glasses along with umbrellas to ensure you are ready for the Scottish weather.

The bus will leave Aberdour at 5pm to return to Polbeth Harwood Church.

Just a wee reminder that although Sunday Club & JAM club stop on June 12<sup>th</sup> for the summer, children are always welcome in the church. There will be someone on hand every Sunday to welcome the children.

# **EVERYTHING you've always wanted to know about your ELDERS...**

**This month we hear from Hazel Tod**

**from the West Kirk of Calder**



**1 Where did you grow up?** I was born in Dumfries and was brought up on a dairy farm. I went to school in Sanquhar and then secondary schooling was at Wallace Hall academy, which was in Closeburn, a good 15/16 miles from home. I got there by service bus and then walked 1/2 mile to the school.

**2 How many siblings to you have?** I had one younger sister, who sadly died in a farm accident in 2010

**3 How long have you been a member of the Church of Scotland?** I became a member of the Church in my late teens and came to the West Kirk in 1984

**4 When and where did you get ordained as an elder?** I was ordained in WK in 1989

**5 What do you like most about being an elder?** I love the chats and the interesting members that I have in my district – I have learned so much about West Calder and all the happenings before I came here...

**6 What is your favourite Bible passage?** John Chapter 14 verse 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

**7 Tell us a little about your family.** David and I married in 1984 in Durisdeer Parish Church – a country Church set amongst the hills and full of

covenanting history. We have three children and two grandchildren. Janice is married and is an accountant, Iain is a chartered surveyor and they live in Breich. Ruth is an occupational therapist and lives in Kendal with her husband.

**8 Where do/did you work?** I started my teaching career in Sanquhar Academy in 1972, was promoted in 1974 and again in 1976 when I moved school and became principal teacher of Home economics in Wallace Hall Academy, Closeburn. Latterly I taught in The James Young High School in Livingston.

**9 What is your favourite colour?** I like blues and greens.

**10 Do you have any hobbies/interests?** As I help David on the farm I don't get much time for hobbies but have enjoyed gardening and dancing when time permits. Also, we spend a lot of time with our grandsons – Lewis and Callum

**11 What is your favourite food?** I love salmon – a bed of leeks, salmon on top and a lovely lemon / butter sauce on top – can't beat it!!

**12 What is your favourite film/TV-series/book?** I like quiz games and wildlife documentaries. I like crime novels – and love to try to work it all out before the end of the book.

**13 Are you a morning person or a night owl?** I am a morning person during lambing time but can also be a night hawk when necessary

**14 Name one thing you have always dreamt of doing.** Having visited Orkney recently I would love to go back – such an interesting place and the people are lovely. Even the crossing was on our side, both there and back!!

**15 Any words of wisdom you would like to share?** If you need help, ask for it. There is always someone who can assist you and make life easier and better.

Reminder.....

***All Welcome!***



## **United Summer Worship**

Once again, both congregations will meet for worship together in single Sunday services during the months of July and August.

**Starting at 10.00am**

**July services will be held in The West Kirk**

**August services in Polbeth Harwood Church**

The minister will be on holiday from 4th July

and pulpit cover will be supplied by

Rev Alison Quilter on 10th,

Rev Julie Foster on 17th and

Rev Suzanne Dunleavy on 24<sup>th</sup> & 31st July.

*Pastoral cover is provided by Rev Alison Quilter*

# Church Calendar

## Events: June 2022

Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Board & Session	West Kirk	19.00
Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup>	United Platinum Jubilee Service & Picnic	West Kirk	10.00
Friday	10 <sup>th</sup>	Ukrainian Refugee Concert	Kirk of Calder	19.30
Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup>	United Worship Annual Summer Outing to Aberdour	Polbeth Harwood Leaving Polbeth	10.00 11.15
Wednesday	15 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday Club meeting	West Kirk	19.30
Friday	17 <sup>th</sup>	Concert for Dnipro Kids	West Kirk 	19.00
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood	09.45 11.15
Friday	24 <sup>th</sup>	Youth Group	West Kirk	19.00
Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood	09.45 11.15
Sundays 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> , 31 <sup>st</sup>	July	United Worship	West Kirk	10.00
Sundays 7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup>	August	United Worship	Polbeth Harwood	10.00

# Parish Record

## Deaths

*Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life."*

***To all who have lost a loved one we extend our sincere sympathies and prayers.***

18<sup>th</sup> April - Annie Grindlay, Calderburn Road, Polbeth

19<sup>th</sup> April – Hildreth Ferrier, Bankton Way, Livingston

27<sup>th</sup> April – James Bennett, Langside Crescent, Polbeth

28<sup>th</sup> April –Elizabeth Cowie, Chapelton Gardens, Polbeth

3<sup>rd</sup> May – Janet Steel, Burngrange Cottages, West Calder

8<sup>th</sup> May – Hazel Bateman, Sheil View, Calderwood, East Calder

*Love is the touch of intangible joy:*

*love is the force that no fear can destroy;*

*love is the goodness we gladly applaud:*

*God is where love is, for love is of God.*

*Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;*

*love is the hope that can make us rejoice;*

*love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:*

*God is where love is, for love is of God.*

*Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;*

*love is the will to be whole once again;*

*love is the trust of a friend on the road:*

*God is where love is, for love is of God.*

CH4 Hymn 115; vv 1,2,3





**Concert for the Dnipro Kids**  
**In The West Kirk of Calder**  
**17<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 7pm**

**AMY HAWTHORN**  
**JESSICA-ROSE SMITH**  
**SOPHIE FINLAYSON AND ALASDAIR ADAMS**  
**Music by Peter Adams and Stuart McLean**

**Get your tickets now and support this great event**

**£10 adults, £5 Children**

**Tickets from: Sandra: 07855 861223 OR Stewart: 07732 857777**