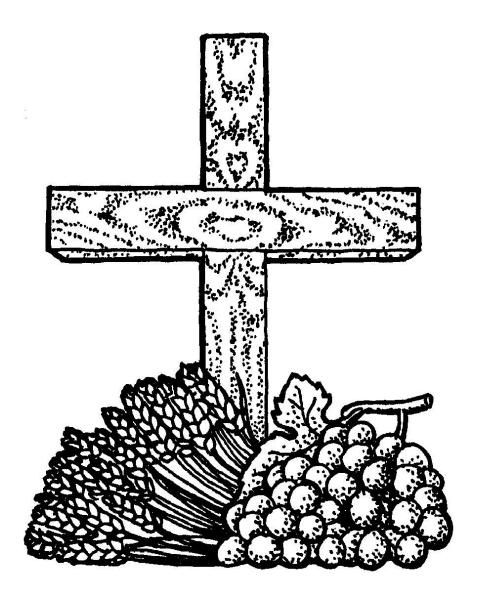
# The Link



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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#### Letter from the minister



I hope that you've all had a lovely summer, and that you enjoyed the heat and the sunshine...

My family and I were very fortunate to be able to attend the Passion Play in Oberammergau in July. It was truly a life-changing experience. In a time where so many people choose not to live a life of faith anymore, I was inspired by the huge number of people from all over the world who attended the Play, and I was almost as touched by the dedication of the people who live in the village, as I was by the Play itself.

When we came back, it was time for the Holiday Club – and what a week it was! A "Showstopper", in more than one way! I would like to give a huge shout-out to every single volunteer who contributed to making it a week to remember – not only for the 75 kids who attended it, and the parents and grandparents who got a little respite during the long school holiday, but for all of us too!

And now that we are back in our normal routine at the church, I have to say that I'm very excited for the new term! Although the pandemic left a mark that we will probably never be able to erase, I feel that we are in a place now where we don't have to hold back anymore. We can boldly be the Church of Christ in West Calder and Polbeth, with no restrictions in place. Let's love, and give, and laugh, and support; let's invite, and forgive, and enjoy, and care; and in this way inspire all those around us to come find out more about our church family and the place there is for them in it too.

May God bless all of you, and our churches, today, and always.

Nanda

Reflection based on Isaiah 49:13-16a (Rev Alison Quilter)

Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains!

For the LORD comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones. But Zion said, 'The LORD has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me.' 'Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;

There is a saying that an elephant never forgets. I have no idea whether that is true or not, but there is one thing I do know and that is that God never forgets us. Maybe there are times it seems otherwise, but we are not alone as there are several places in the Bible, and none more particularly, in the Psalms, where we often encounter the anguished cry of someone who feels totally abandoned by God. Yet, even the most heart-rending of these passages ends up with a realisation that God was present all along. Then spontaneous outburst of praise and thanksgiving.

There are other times, we may feel God has justifiably forgotten us, not because he doesn't care but because we have forgotten him. A sense of guilt can lead us to dismiss the idea he is still interested in us. But God never forgets us. When it comes to people – it can often be out of sight, out of mind – but with God never! No matter how often we fail, frustrate or deny him or how estranged we may feel or undeserving we may consider ourselves, we are always in his thoughts. His love reaching out to us, His hand outstretched to lead us to Him. Even though we may forget Him, he will not forget us.

#### **Prayer**

Loving God, thank you that you are always with us, watching over us, calling us back to you. Even when we forget you, still you care for us, love us and walk beside us. For the awesome generosity of your love that will never fail, receive our grateful praise and thanksgiving. Amen.



## TeenTime

# Primary 7 upwards

Teen Time is back for our new session following the summer break. Our next TeenTime is Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>
September at 6:30pm in West Kirk Hall and we hope to see you all there for an evening of sharing our faith, fun and friendship.

Please come along for an evening of fun, games, challenges, food crafts and much more.

Dates for September to December 2022 are:

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November

Sunday 11th December

We look forward to seeing your there.

Alison, Reeta and Nanda



## The Bridge

'16 to 25 year olds'

We are hoping to start 'The Bridge' for young folk aged 16 to 25 years old every 6 weeks or so. A get together and have a blether, over a cuppa, or meal perhaps, and share and explore our faith and discuss things that matter to you as young folk in 21stC.

We appreciate some of you are studying for exams, at college or university, work and can't always commit to coming along to church on a Sunday morning, and we would like to offer church in a different format and setting to you.

If you are interested please let us know which evening suits best.

The Bridge - let's stay connected!

Nanda and Alison



I am sure many of you will remember the buzz after our very first holiday club back in 2013 which was Showstoppers, and what a huge success

it was first time around. Well when we revisited it this summer, we could not have wished for a better outcome. What an amazing team of actors (children) came along to our theatre. Everyone brought something very different to the club and new friendships were made, with both young and those not so young. That is the great thing about holiday club. Regardless of age, we are all just one great big team!

We also had a superb team of volunteers who ensured we recorded all the children as they arrived on a daily basis, stood guard on the doors, served us refreshments. Coaches supported by their young helpers guided and supported their dressing room groups, games and entertainment were planned, rehearsed and shared providing much fun for all and this was all recorded by our resident photographer. Technical support was executed with professionalism and a smile. There were also people who assisted behind the scenes preparing crafts, scene setting and baking. Thanks also go to all the carers, parents and adults who brought along the children daily to make this week so special. One of the really special moments of the week was during the "Talent Spot" when we played a short clip of someone sharing their talent. The clip was of a girl who had taught her brother sign language then how to talk when they had been told he would never be able to communicate when he was born. They then brought on a choir of young people called sign with us and they sang "This is me" from the Greatest Showman. You could have heard a pin drop in the room and when we turned around and looked at the kids, many

were singing along with the clip and to our surprise quite a few were doing sign language as they sang. It was such a special moment!

We will have a poster in both churches/hall soon with some images showing some of these fun memories made at 2022 Showstoppers!







The Edinburgh Kiltwalk is fast approaching and our walkers are out there getting fit and working hard at getting sponsorship to raise monies for our respective churches!

We have two teams, "Team West Kirk" & "Team Polbeth" we will all walk together in our chosen length of walk but the monies raised under each team heading will go to that church. One big team supporting each other!

To date between both churches we have 27 walkers taking part

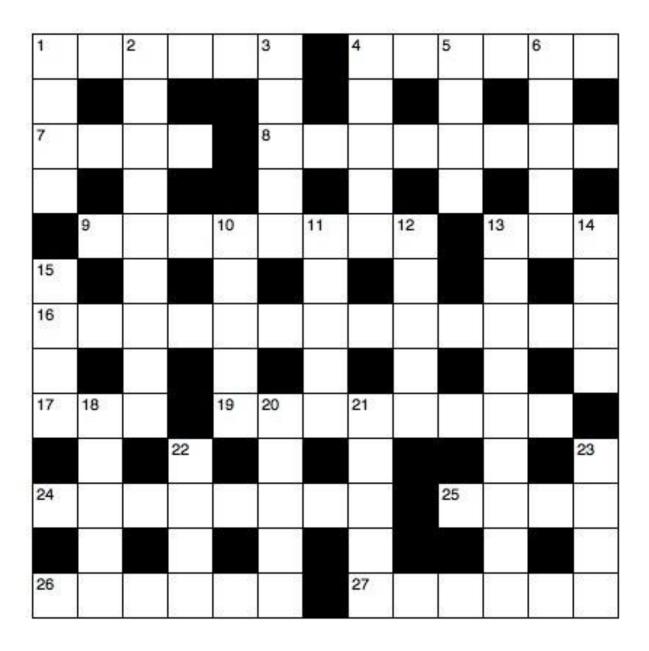
## How can you help!

Instead of putting your offering in the plate on a Sunday why not pop it in an envelope with your choice of church written on the front. Put your monies inside with your name and address and let us know if you are a tax payer too. We will then add this to the chosen church sponsor form and Sir Tom Hunter will increase your donation by a whole 50% thanks to the generosity of Sir Tom Hunter and The Hunter Foundation!

This is just too big an offer to miss out on that extra donation, and our walkers will really appreciate your support.

Did you know we can add your donation right up until 28<sup>th</sup> of September or Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> of September if you are handing your donation into the church.

We will share some of our **\*kiltwalk** comments and pictures in our next edition of the Link, and hopefully there will be loads of smiles and laughs and no blisters



#### **Across**

- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)
- 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)
- 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)
- 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)
- 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
- 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)
- 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)

- 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
- 19 Mock(Luke14:29)(8)
- 24 Disgrace(Psalm44:13)(8)
- 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus13:4)(4)
- 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome(6)
- 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23)(6)

#### **Down**

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
- 2 'My lord the king, let the — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
- 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
- 4 'If two of you on earth about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
- 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
- 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
- 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
- 11 Do ten(anag.)(5)
- 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
- 13 Capable of being used(1Kings7:36)(9)
- 14 'Each one should his own actions' (Galatians 6:4)(4)
- 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
- 18 'But I am afraid that just —— was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
- 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, Watts(5)
- 21 One of the four sons of Asher(Genesis46:17)(5)
- 22 Be distressed(Proverbs24:19)(4)
- 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)

#### **Issue 143 Answers**

ACROSS: 1, Wife. 3, To battle. 8, Obal. 9, Disciple. 11, Bitterness. 14, Niacin. 15, Attain. 17, Passionate. 20, Tertiary. 21, Meet. 22, Weakness. 23, Deer.

**DOWN**: 1, Woodbine. 2, Feast day. 4, Orient. 5, Accusation. 6, Type. 7, Eyes. 10, Dedication. 12, Gadarene. 13, Ancestor. 16, Esdras. 18, Stew. 19, Area.

#### Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who bought prints of my late husband, James' artwork. He would be so pleased to know others are enjoying his works as much as he enjoyed painting them.

I am using the generous funds raised to sponsor the team taking part in the Kiltwalk which means an additional 50% will be added to the total thanks to the Tom Hunter foundation.

Margaret Hampson



# Invitation

From Kirknewton & East Calder Guild

Event: Fundraising Concert in aid of Kazunzu Village of Hope

(A Guild partnership project with Vine Trust)

Date: Saturday 24th September 2022

Time: 7pm start

Place: East Calder Church

Our guest singer for the night will be Rebecca Pennykid

Following the concert, teas will be served in the Church Hall

A donation will be taken on the night for Vine Trust

Please let Elizabeth Pennykid know if you can attend by the 20th 01506 491149/cealpennykid2007@gmail.com



Registered Charity No: Sc017386



Rebecca qualified

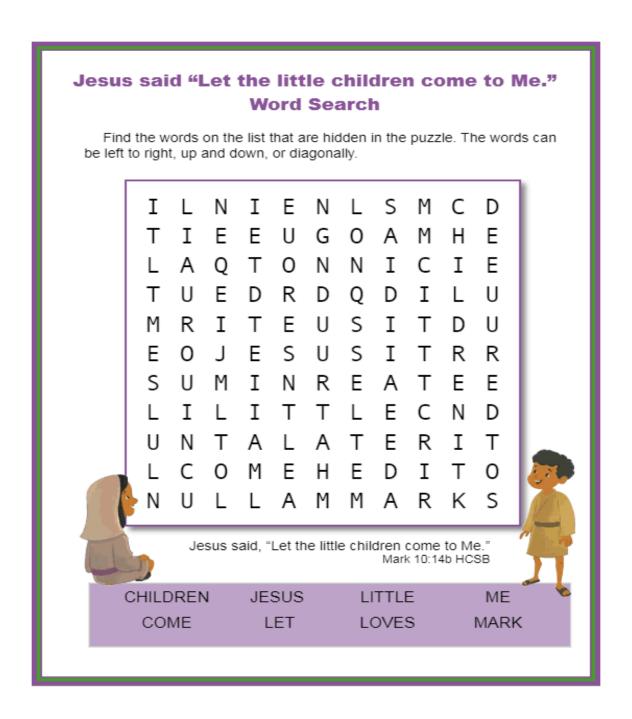
at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

with a Bachelor of Music with Honours of the First Class

Kirknewton & East Calder Parish Church of Scotland, Scottish charity Reg. No. SC006973



Sunday Club & JAM Club resume on Sunday 4th of September at 9:45 & 11:15 am respectively, and we extend a very warm welcome to all children to come and join us at a church with the time that best suits you! We have a great team ready to welcome all children from 3 years up to P7. We have a crèche for wee ones under 3.



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

Each month Nanda is asking an elder from Polbeth Harwood Church and an elder from the West Kirk of Calder to answer a set of questions, and in this way we can get to know each other a little better! This month we will hear from Douglas Horn and Margaret Dempster.

Thank you for sharing a little bit of yourselves with us!

### **Douglas Horn West Kirk of Calder**

Where did you grow up? Perth

How many siblings do you have? I have an older brother, Ally

How long have you been a member of the Church of Scotland? All my life and became a Communicant Member in 1976

When and where did you get ordained as an elder? I was ordained as an Elder at Craigie Church in Perth in October 1988

What do you like most about being an elder? **The fellowship** 

What is your favourite Bible passage? There are Bible passages that comfort, challenge, support

and revive me as life changes but one that is constant is Psalm 121, My help comes from the Lord, the maker of Heaven and Earth......

Tell us a little about your family. I am married to Lorraine and we celebrate 35 years of marriage in September of this year. We have 3 children, Murray, Mhairi and Morna. Murray works in office admin and is a Leading Hand in the Royal Navy Reserve, Mhairi is a

Community Occupational Therapist with NHS Grampian working out of Banchory and Morna is a staff nurse at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh working in the neurosurgical theatre.

Where do/did you work? I am a retired accountant and work in manufacturing businesses in both Edinburgh and Livingston.

What is your favourite colour? Blue and that might have something to do with being a St Johnstone supporter!

Do you have any hobbies/interests? Too many for this article but cooking and gardening are to the fore. I am also very committed to helping West Lothian Foodbank and giving talks across West Lothian on the work done by the Foodbank. Since my stroke in March 2019, I have become very active in making sure that the voice of lived experience is heard. I am joint chair of National Stroke Voices and we are the voice of lived experience and advise on policy to the Scottish Government and its Stroke Pathway - Programme for Government.

What is your favourite food? Steak and chips but the steak has to be blue!!!!

What is your favourite film/TV-series/book? **Michael Palin's travel** documentaries and M.A.S.H.

Are you a morning-person or a night-owl? Before my stroke and also before getting a cockapoo I was a night owl but now I am, very definitely, a lark!!

Name one thing you have always dreamt of doing. Going around the world and that dream will hopefully be a reality in the next few years

Any words of wisdom you would like to share? What would I now say to me as I left school. "Please don't try to be someone you aren't! You can only control 2 things, your thoughts and your actions so be comfortable with those."

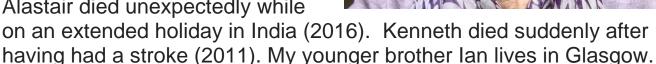
#### **Margaret Dempster, Polbeth Harwood Church**

#### Where did you grow up?

I was born and grew up in Edinburgh. I attended James Gillespies High School for Girls from 5yrs old until I started nursing training.

# How many siblings do you have?

I had three brothers. Sadly, Alastair died unexpectedly while



How long have you been a member of the Church of Scotland.? I became a member of the church when I was 16 yrs old in 1956.

#### When and where were you ordained as an elder?

I was ordained as an elder 40 years ago in Polbeth Harwood Church.

#### What do you like most about being an elder?

I enjoy meeting people in their homes and hearing about their family. Getting to know them and trying to support them in good and not so good times.

#### What is your favourite Bible passage?

John 14: 1-4, 27

#### Tell me a little about your family?

James and I were married in PHC on St Andrew's Day 1980 during the Sunday morning service. It was very special. Our two sons Colin and Gordon are both teachers. Gordon is engaged to Jill. Sadly, James died in 1992 when the boys were very young.

### Where do/did you work?

I did my general nursing training at Glasgow Royal Infirmary and I trained as a midwife in Edinburgh at Elsie Inglis Maternity Hospital.

Later I worked in the south east of Edinburgh as a Community Teaching Midwife joining two other midwives at Niddrie where we were responsible for introducing student midwives to working in the community, furthering their training. This work was very enjoyable. About 1967 change was happening with a drop in the number of home births as hospital delivery was encouraged. It was at this time that I moved to Polbeth and combined general nursing care in Polbeth area and midwifery in both Polbeth and West Calder areas until 1981 when Colin was born.

#### What is your favourite colour?

I like a range of shades of pink / lilac through to purple

#### Have you any hobbies/interests?

I enjoy Cooking, Baking, Gardening

#### What is your favourite food?

Roast chicken with Yorkshire pudding and roasted vegetables

#### What is your favourite film / TV series/book?

I like nature programmes and documentaries, sports and gymnastics.

#### Are you a morning person or a night owl?

I am a morning person waking early without an alarm but I sometimes am a night owl too!

### Name one thing you have always dreamt of doing?

As a child I wanted help a child less fortunate than myself. I have realised this wish through being a Foster Parent to many children over the years many of whom had special needs.

## Any words of wisdom you would like to share?

Do for others as you would like others to do for you. Be Kind and Considerate.

#### **BLYTHSWOOD CARE - SHOEBOX APPEAL 2022**

Leaflets will soon be available at both Churches. Every year the project endeavours to bring a little Hope & Joy to those living in poverty with little prospect of their situation improving. In particular the project is vitally trying to support the Eastern European nations who have taken in Ukrainian refugees as a result of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Boxes will also be delivered to those who remain in war torn Ukraine if safely able to do so.

This year the completed Shoeboxes will be delivered to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia & Ukraine.

We appreciate that many of us will face our own financial pressures in the changing economic situation. However, if anyone feels able to donate an item from the list or wish to make a money donation which will help us to buy items to make up boxes then please place in an envelope & hand to Eleanor Davidson at Polbeth Harwood & Rhoda Lawton at the West Kirk. If we happen not to be at Church that day please place envelope in the collection plate & it will be passed to us. Ready Wrapped boxes will be available to buy for £1.50 every Sunday from early September. Eleanor has been very organised & has some filled boxes made up ready to sell for those who feel unable to complete filling a box.

We plan to spread the information in our local communities to gain further support.

Let's get into the Spirit of the Season of Goodwill & reach out the hand of friendship to those unknown to us.

#### 6 steps to bring happiness

Find: Find an average-size shoebox. Decide who to fill it for; a child, a teenager, a man or a woman.



Wrap: your box and lid separately so that the lid can be removed without tearing the paper.



Pack: Gather the items, remove all plastic and cardboard packaging and pack into the box. Please choose items that will last rather than those with a short life and



For Christmas delivery your shoebox should be at your church, school or other collection point during the last week of October/beginning of November

Check: On the checklist,

tick the items you have put in

Donate: Secure the

sticky tape. Detach the donation

envelope as instructed and

bands. (Custom regulations

require Blythswood Care to

check the contents of

local collection point.

Deliver your box to your

place on top of the items

inside your box.

6

Deliver:

your box)

lid with rubber

ticked checklist to the outside

of the shoebox lid using

your shoebox and note any

that are not on the list.

## Checklist

Please tick items included and firmly secure this list on your shoebox lid.

ESSENTIAL ITEMS (ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW)

Please include the following items highlighted in red opposite.

Toiletries (NO TALCUM POWDER)

- Shampoo/Shower gel Face cloth/ Moist wipes Deodorant
- Moisturising Cream Comb/Brush
- Sanitary Products Shaving foam/Razors

Miscellaneous

- New Make-up Sewing Equipment Household Candles Screwdrivers/Pliers
- Stationery
- Pens/Pencils/Sharpener

Household products

- Notepads/ Colouring books ☐ Rulers/Rubbers
- Clothes and other Items

(T-shirts/Pyjamas/ Jumpers/Shirts) etc

Toothbrush and

Hat, scarf, gloves Soap Underwear/

Socks/Tights Small Toy\* Sweets\*

NOTE\* Small toy for boys and girls such as, cars, dolls, balls. A small gift for teens and adults. Please only include new items

\* (No chocolate or any other food) 'Best before' date no earlier than 31 March next year. No loose sweets, lollies or undated bags of sweets.

Do not include used or damaged items; war related items such as toy guns or knives or military figures; chocolate or any food other than sweets. Chocolate Eclairs and Chocolate Limes are not allowed; books that are mainly words should also not be included.

Please tick the box next to who the box is for and the age of the female or male you have filled this box for:

å.		
7	Female	Ma

Preschool Primary Teenager Adult age.

age...

Elderly

#### Checklist

Please tick items included and firmly secure this list on your shoebox lid.

ESSENTIAL ITEMS Toothbrush and (ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW)

Please include the Hat, scarf, gloves following items highlighted Soap in red opposite. Underwear/ Toiletries (NO TALCUM POWDER)

Shampoo/Shower gel Sweets\*

Face cloth/ Moist wipes Deodorant

Moisturising Cream Comb/Brush ☐ Sanitary Products Shaving foam/Razors

Miscellaneous

New Make-up Sewing Equipment Household Candles Screwdrivers/Pliers Household products

Stationery

Pens/Pencils/Sharpener Notepads/ Colouring books Rulers/Rubbers

Clothes and other Items

(T-shirts/Pyjamas/ Jumpers/Shirts) etc

Socks/Tights Small Toy\*

NOTE\* Small toy for boys and girls such as, cars, dolls, balls. A small gift for teens and adults. Please only include new items

\* (No chocolate or any other food) 'Best before' date no earlier than 31 March next year. No loose sweets, lollies or undated bags of sweets.

Do not include used or damaged items; war related items such as toy guns or knives or military figures; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys; chocolate or any food other than sweets. Chocolate Eclairs and Chocolate Limes are not allowed; books that are mainly words should also not be included.

Please tick the box next to

age of the fem you have filled	ale or male
Female	n 🗆 Mal

Preschool	age
Primary	age
Teenager	age
Adult	808

age...



## Dear Friend,

I don't need you at your best when you come to my home.
I don't care what you're wearing or what car you drove.
I don't care if there is food on your shirt or if your hair has not been brushed.

None of that matters to me.

I care about you.

I care about what's in your heart, how afraid you are. What you worry about in the night.

I care about your deepest fears and your biggest dreams and I am there for it all.

If you mess up, I won't judge.
That's my promise to you

That's my promise to you.

So, don't cancel me because your house is a mess and your cupboards are bare.

I will bring what you need with pleasure and I will listen to your problems without measure.

If you are on the floor, I'm picking you up, or I'm sitting right down beside you.

You need never be alone down there.

And before I leave, I will have made you smile at least once.

That's my promise to you.

So, save your best for someone else my friend because I want you just as you are.

That's what friends are for.

Donna Ashworth

### The Presbytery Way Forward..... continued

As we reported in the early months of this year, the newly formed presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian had, like all other presbyteries within the Church of Scotland, been charged with going through the difficult process of reviewing ministry posts and church buildings within their area.

Before the summer, all the buildings associated with our congregations were inspected and a small group of elders from both churches met with two representatives from the Deployment Group from presbytery.

This group, from whom representatives have visited all congregations within presbytery, is in the process of making recommendations about both the allocation of ministry posts and buildings use within presbytery. Over the next couple of months reports will become available on their findings and decisions.

For all congregations, the coming months undoubtedly will necessarily bring change to a greater or lesser extent.

As our recent successful Holiday Club has shown, our congregations strive to work together to create places to explore faith and to serve our communities. We pray that our congregations can utilise the same energy and enthusiasm to face the future challenges and opportunities presented by any reforms required to reshape our mission and service in our communities and beyond.

#### 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."

3<sup>rd</sup> July – Fergus Booth, infant son of Peter and Lindsay Booth (nee Arnott)

#### **Deaths**

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

5<sup>th</sup> July – Jean Kelly, Woodlands Nursing Home, Livingston

9<sup>th</sup> July – Mary Brown, Langside Gardens, Polbeth

29<sup>th</sup> July – Christopher Gillespie, Langside Crescent Polbeth

4<sup>th</sup> August – Matthew McCormack, Polbeth Crescent, Polbeth

10<sup>th</sup> August – Thomas Gray, Polbeth Road, Polbeth

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

Eternal Father,

To those who are losing heart
give your heavenly encouragement and patience;
To the young and vulnerable give heavenly protection;
To the ill and bereaved give heavenly healing and inner peace,

as you touch our lives with yours.

Amen

Susan Sayers

## **Church Calendar**

## **Events: September 2022**

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	West Kirk	09.45
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15
		Bible Class	West Kirk	09.45
Thursday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Board & Session	West Kirk	19.00
Saturday	10 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday Singers	West Kirk	11.00
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship	West Kirk	09.45
		·	Polbeth Harwood	11.15
		Teen Time	West Kirk	18.30
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship	West Kirk	09.45
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15
		Edinburgh Kilt Walk		
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship	West Kirk	09.45
<b>,</b>			Polbeth Harwood	11.15
Friday	30 <sup>th</sup>	Youth Group	(Outside)	19.00

## **Events: October 2022**

Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Harvest Thanksgiving	West Kirk	09.45
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15
		Teen Time	West Kirk	18.30
Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday Singers	West Kirk	11.00
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship	West Kirk	09.45
ž			Polbeth Harwood	11.15

