

October

Issue 144

The Link



**The magazine for the linked congregations and communities
of the West Kirk of Calder and Polbeth Harwood.**

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Letter from the minister



The end of an era... Queen Elizabeth has been the monarch for many people's whole lives. And with her passing a hush fell over the United Kingdom, which was felt throughout the rest of the world too.

We were given 10 days to mourn the loss to ourselves and our country – and for me that was a time to reflect on what Queen Elizabeth did, who she was, and what she meant to me. Although I've never met Queen Elizabeth (I only saw her once at a Garden Party at Holyrood House Palace), I almost felt as if I lost a close family member. She was a part of my life, especially for the last 15 years I've been living in Scotland, as I'm sure she was a part of all your lives too. I'm so grateful for the opportunity we had to go pay our final respects to her at St Giles Cathedral, which I did at 5am (after only waiting in line for 1.5 hours). And I felt honoured and humbled to participate in the West Lothian Memorial Service held for her in the Kirk of Calder.

Her example of faith and service was second to none. Serving her country and the Commonwealth for more than 70 years, and never hesitating to say that the only way in which she could manage this, was because of her faith in God. She might have been a queen, but she was a humble servant of the King. And that is why she had such a successful reign. In a time where it would have been so easy to never speak about faith, she chose to show the whole world what a life of faithful service means. And now she has exchanged her earthly crown for a more extraordinary one... May she rest in peace, and may our new King follow in the footsteps of his mother, and not look around him for answers, but up. Because with God at the steer, things will never go in the wrong direction.

May God bless you all.

Nanda

Reflection based on Luke 12:13-21 (Rev Alison Quilter)

The Parable of the Rich Fool

¹³ *Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.'* ¹⁴ *But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?'* ¹⁵ *And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.'* ¹⁶ *Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly.'* ¹⁷ *And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?"* ¹⁸ *Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods."* ¹⁹ *And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."* ²⁰ *But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?"* ²¹ *So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'*

It has been said that in the West we spend money we don't have on things we don't want in order to impress people we don't like. Although we laugh at the accuracy, it should make us cry, because this circle of dissatisfaction ends up leaving us with lots to live **with** but with little to live **for**. Jesus knew the spiritual shipwrecks that occur when greed takes over a life. He tells his followers to be on their guard and tells them a parable to bring home the point.

Jesus often taught with parables. They can infuriate because they don't always make easy sense. But this is the point. They

were not intended to make easy sense but to make us, or rather **re-make** us, by way of an often puzzling but resonant story that reconfigures the heart by way of the mind. His parable of the man building more storage for yet more stuff is eerily relevant. It ends by asking us what it means to be 'rich towards God'.

All the things that matter most in this life – love, relationship, trust, wisdom, justice – these increase as you share them. If others win, so do I. Unlike wealth and power, where if you win I lose, the qualities of the kingdom that allows us to relate more deeply to God, ourselves and other people are all so rich that both the giver and receiver benefit in an exchange of sacred significance. To live within this economy, teaches Jesus, is to live as a citizen of God's kingdom and not just as a consumer of the world.

Prayer

Loving God, help me to untangle myself from the snare of self-interest and to put you at the centre of my life. Teach me to put first things first, focussing on the things that really matter, and so may I truly celebrate life in all its fullness. Amen.



WEDNESDAY WARBLERS

Calling all ladies who love to sing for fun, without the pressure of concerts.

My work commitments are changing, so, after many years, the Saturday Singers are changing to the Wednesday Warblers.

We will meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month, in the same venue as before, the West Kirk Church Hall from 11.30 to 1.30pm.

We sing a wide variety of songs and you certainly don't need to be able to read music. The only criteria are do you enjoy a blether over a cuppa and a wee treat during the break?

It costs £5, pay as you come.

The first meeting, on the new day, will be Wednesday 9th November. If you're interested or have any questions can you give me a call or text on 07768 924720 so I can have enough copies of the music for everyone.

Thanks Carolyn Hamilton



In memory of Effie Halliday

Effie was born on the 31st of March 1928, to Charles and Netta Hamilton. She had a younger brother Tom who sadly died of croup, aged 5.

Effie grew up on Holmes Farm, Uphall, and attended school in Broxburn before going on to Nelson's College in Edinburgh.

Growing up on the farm, Effie was often up at 5.30 in the morning to milk the cows by hand. She enjoyed this especially in the winter as it kept her warm.

During the war Effie was working in the fields on the farm after school when the German bombers were targeting the Forth Bridge and she had a grandstand view – she always said it “looked and sounded terrifying”.

After college she worked in a law office in Edinburgh and spent a lot of time in court – *‘not in the dock’* though, as she was always quick to say!

Effie met George Halliday at the Farmers Ball at the Bathgate Co-Op Hall in 1948, and they married on the 20th of September 1950 in North Church, Uphall.

They first set up home in a wee house in West Calder before moving to their home in 33 Main Street in 1953.

George died in August 2007 and Effie nursed him at home in his final illness whilst recovering from cancer surgery herself, which is testament to the strong and determined lady she was.

Effie and George were a devoted couple during their 57 years together.

George had a butcher's shop in West Calder and Effie did the bookkeeping and also worked in the shop.

Effie enjoyed music and was Church organist in Uphall for a short time until she became the organist in Harwood Church in West Calder before the congregation moved to Polbeth. She continued to play at Polbeth Harwood Church well into her 80s.

Effie was very involved in church life. She particularly enjoyed the Church fayres and always helped out on the 'Cake stall'.

She became a Church Elder in 1992 and carried out her duties conscientiously until her poor health intervened. Effie was proud to receive her long service certificate in June 2022 and, even in her last few days, she was still showing it to her many visitors.

She enjoyed preparing and doing the readings in Church – she took this very seriously and was always so well prepared that she could almost recite the reading! She was so happy to be able to join in the service this past Easter.

With her love of music, she was a member of Bathgate Operatic Society for many years, and she loved taking part in their productions – Oklahoma being one of her favourite musicals.

Effie appeared on Bargain Hunt with Patricia Erskine when they won the golden gavel, and consequently they visited lots of local ladies' groups to talk about their experience.

Another highlight for Effie was when she was invited to the Queen's Garden Party at Holyrood House Palace, and she was honoured to meet Her Majesty.

She also took part in the Speakers Club in Bathgate, where she had no trouble to come up with the right words when it was her turn to speak!

Effie also took part in the Church Fashion Show and was a model at the Fashion Show for Breast Cancer Care, Scotland.

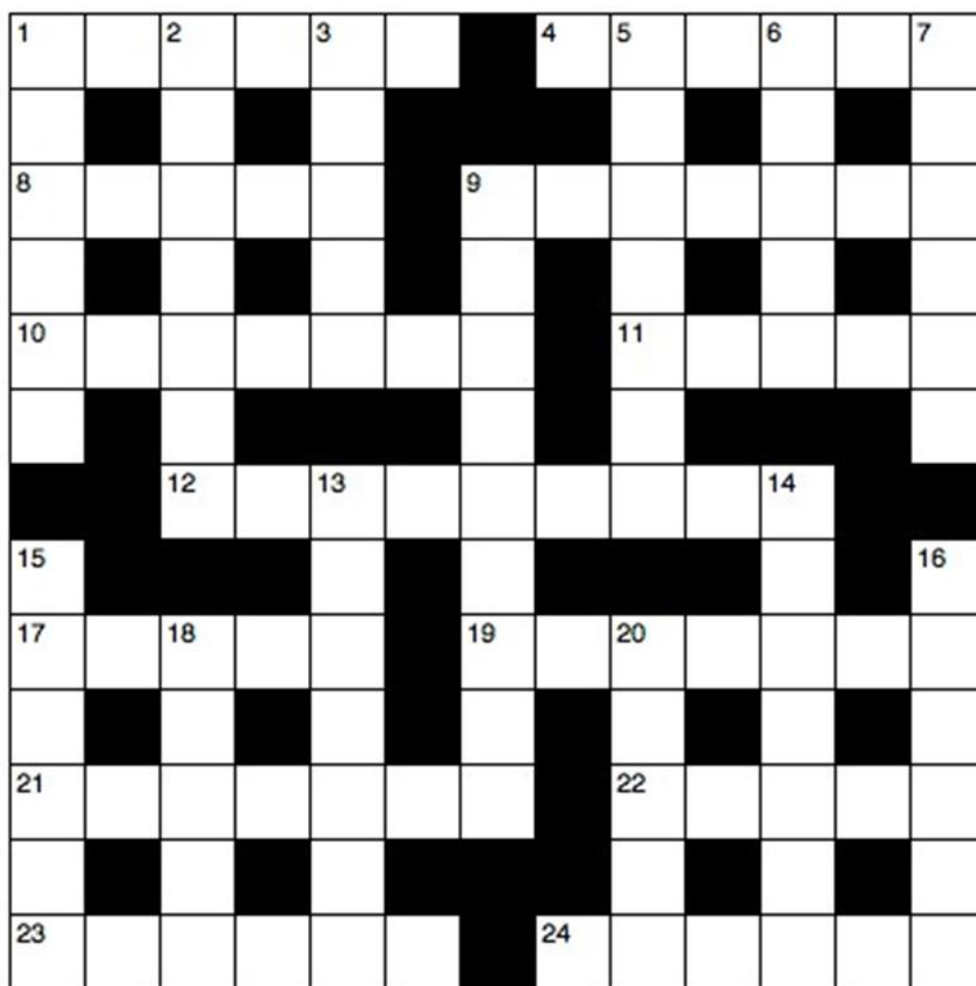
There are lots of funny wee stories we could tell about Effie, but there is one in particular she liked to recall – the time she nearly set the church on fire! The Kirk Sessions and Congregational Board members of our 2 Churches share a meal annually. One year when the meal was held in Polbeth, Effie was so busy talking and making sure everyone was being served (she was always a very attentive and welcoming hostess), she didn't realise that she was holding her paper serviette over the flame of one of the candles, until people started jumping up to put out the flames – thankfully no harm done.

Effie greatly appreciated the visits, love, and support she received from so many people from the church and community.

She passed away on the 5th of September, at home, where she wanted to be.

She will be missed so much, and she will be remembered by us all with great fondness.





Across

1 Tertullus, who presented the high priest's case against Paul in his trial before Felix, was one (Acts 24:1) (6)
 4 As balm (anag.) (6)
 8 Having explored Canaan, he and Joshua urged the Israelites to

take possession of it (Numbers 13:30) (5)

9 On becoming king of Judah, he had all six of his brothers killed (2 Chronicles 21:4) (7)

10 'Even the — has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself' (Psalm 84:3) (7)

11 Banishment (Jeremiah 29:1) (5)

12 'And now I will show you the most — way' (1 Corinthians 12:31) (9)

17 'Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not — — the same spirit and follow the same course?' (2 Corinthians 12:18) (3,2)

19 Mice den (anag.) (7)

21 How Egypt is often described in the Old Testament: 'the land of — ' (Exodus 13:3) (7)

- 22 One of the first Levites to resettle in Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon (1 Chronicles 9:15) (5)
- 23 'As a sheep before her shearers is —,so he did not open his mouth' (Isaiah 53:7) (6)
- 24 Paul's birthplace(Acts22:3)(6)

Down

- 1 Ravenous insect inflicted on Egypt in vast numbers as the eighth plague (Exodus 10:14) (6)
- 2 Well-being (Philippians 2:20) (7)
- 3 Small piece of live coal or wood in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (5)
- 5 Sportsman or woman (2 Timothy 2:5) (7)
- 6 The original name of Abraham's wife (Genesis 17:15) (5)
- 7 'So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each — belongs to all the others' (Romans 12:5) (6)
- 9 According to Peter, a wife's beauty should not come from wearing this (1 Peter 3:3) (9)
- 13 'For God did not send his Son into the world to — the world' (John 3:17) (7)
- 14 'The Lord of heaven and earth...does not live in — built by hands' (Acts 17:24) (7)
- 15 'If your hand — you to sin,cut it off'(Mark9:43)(6)
- 16 Something like these fell from Saul's eyes as soon as Ananias placed his hands on him (Acts 9:18) (6)
- 18 Track(Job41:30)(5)
- 20 Religious doctrine(5)

LINK 143 ANSWERS ACROSS: 1, Labour. 4, Autumn. 7, Stay. 8, Darkness. 9, Reasoned. 13, Act. 16, Presbyterians. 17, Sat. 19, Ridicule. 24, Reproach. 25, Abib. 26, Celtic. 27, Intend. DOWN:1,Lose.2,Blamerest.3,Radio.4,Agree.5,Tend.6,Music. 10, Sober. 11, Noted. 12, Doric. 13, Available. 14, Test. 15, Apes. 18, As Eve. 20, Isaac. 21, Ishvi. 22, Fret. 23, Ebed.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Connecting West Lothian residents to local support

Drop-ins are running across West Lothian to discuss what matters to you.

For more information please visit westlothianhscp.org.uk/community-connections



West Lothian
Health & Social Care Partnership
westlothianhscp.org.uk



West Lothian
Council

Community Connections is open to anyone 16+ to provide quick and easy access to the right information at the right time. If you need support, information or guidance on topics such as benefits, employability, finances, housing, living well at home, social care, social isolation, support for carers or anything else that matters to you, why don't you come along for a cuppa and a chat?



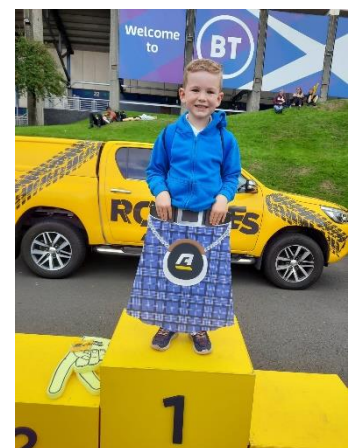
EDINBURGH • 18 SEPT 2022

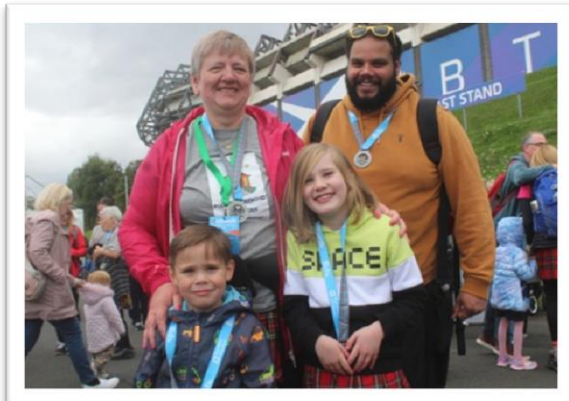
I would like to say a huge thank you to “Team West Kirk” and “Team Polbeth”, for facing the challenge of walking to raise money for our churches! It was a lovely day – the weather couldn’t have been more perfect. It was cool, but it stayed dry and it wasn’t windy. The atmosphere was amazing! Pipe bands playing, people cheering us on from the side-lines, and meeting and chatting to many people. 5000 people participated, raising money for 500 different charities. And I was very proud to say to people that we are raising funds for our churches! Our final sponsorship total for both teams amounted to **£11,776.50**, which is a phenomenal amount!

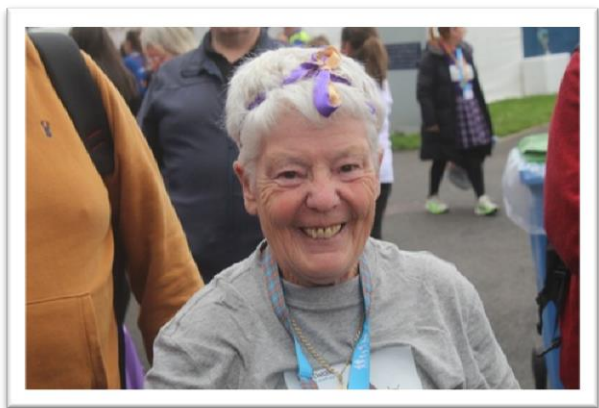
£500 pounds of that was given to us by Arnold Clark, because Noah Smith was the winner of the selfie competition! Well done Noah, and thanks so much! You are a star!

Thanks, Kiltwalkers, for participating and raising so much money, and thanks to everybody else for supporting us financially and through your prayers. I thank God for my 2 inspiring congregations!

Nanda









TeenTime Primary 7 upwards

Our next TeenTime is **Sunday 6th November 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. Bring a friend along.

It's a fun evening of games, mystery challenges and much more.

Dates for October to December 2022 are:

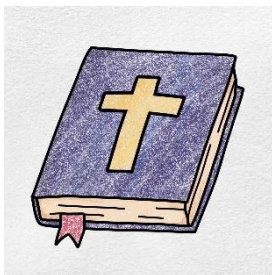
Sunday 2nd October

Sunday 6th November

Sunday 11th December

We look forward to seeing you there.

Alison, Reeta and Nanda



Ecumenical Bible Study

Every last Thursday of the month, we have a Zoom Bible Study at 7pm. That date for October will be the 13th though, as André and Nanda won't be here the last week of October. This is a lovely opportunity to chat to other Christians about what it means to be a child of God in this day and age, and absolutely anybody is welcome to join. Email Nanda if you are interested, so she can send the link on to you.

The Bridge



'16 to 25-year olds'

'The Bridge' for young folk aged 16 to 25 years old will be held 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 the 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.

Our first meeting is Thursday 6th October meeting at Pizza Hut in Livingston Centre (McArthur Glen - Upstairs), see you there!

If you are interested please get in touch with me or Nanda and bring a friend along too.

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The Bridge - let's stay connected!

Nanda and Alison

EVERYTHING



FALLS INTO



PLACE WHEN



WE PUT



GOD FIRST





Make sure you check if you are eligible for the Warm Homes Discount.

BE AWARE OF SCAMS

Unfortunately, scammers have already started using the promised government payment of £400 to households to gain access to peoples bank accounts.

There will be no necessity to apply for this payment. Your energy provider will automatically pay this to you. DO NOT fill out any text or email requests and DO NOT enter into any conversations with anyone calling to discuss this with you.

KAZUNZU – Village of Hope Tanzania

The vision for Kazunzu Village of Hope, is to create a sustainable village on the shores of Lake Victoria, Tanzania where 40 individual family homes will be build, enabling young guardian parents to foster 4 or 5 orphaned children from the islands or lake zone. Family homes will be built in clusters of 4 homes with a shared courtyard.

Kazunzu Village of Hope will provide the children and families access to schooling, training, health provision and a future.



To date, two clusters have been completed, each with 4 homes. The Jerusalem block on the left alongside the Bethlehem block.

Each cluster has a shared courtyard and common land behind it.

Lake Victoria can be seen in the Background.

These 2 clusters are now home to 16 guardian parents and 37 orphaned children. Along with the parent's own children, 60 people now live at Kazunzu.

Some of the parents stand in the background as the children wave to the camera outside the Jerusalem block.



Connecting People to Change Lives

Service of Thanks

With Rev Samuel and Pendo Limbe

Wednesday 12th October at 7.30pm

Falkirk Trinity Church,
Manse Place, Falkirk FK1 1JN



Falkirk Trinity Church

All Welcome



Rev Samuel Limbe (Project Director of Jubilee Medical Programme and Kazunzu Village of Hope) along with his wife, Pendo and son Daniel are visiting Vine Trust in early October.

To acknowledge their work, a Service of Thanks with some praise and worship, some sharing about Vine Trust and Kazunzu and an update from Samuel and Pendo is planned. All supported by Video and pictures.

Tea and coffee will be available after the service to allow more informal chat with Samuel and Pendo.

Church Calendar

Events: October 2022

Sunday	2 nd	Harvest Thanksgiving	West Kirk	09.45
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15
		Teen Time	West Kirk	18.30
Thursday	6 th	The Bridge	Pizza Hut	18.30
			Livingston Centre	
Sunday	9 th	Morning Worship	West Kirk	09.45
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15
Thursday	13 th	Beyond Kirk Walls	Dickson Court	14.00
Sunday	16 th	Morning Worship	West Kirk	09.45
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15
Sunday	23 rd	Morning Worship	West Kirk	09.45
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15
Thursday	27 th	Bible Study	Via Zoom	19.00
Friday	28 th	Youth Club	West Kirk hall	19.00
Sunday	30 th	Morning Worship	West Kirk	09.45
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15

Events: November 2022

Sunday	6 th	Morning Worship	West Kirk	09.45
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15
		Bible Class	West Kirk	09.45
		Teen Time	West Kirk	18.30
Wednesday	9 th	Wednesday Warblers	West Kirk	11.30
Thursday	10 th	Beyond Kirk Walls	Dickson Court	14.00
		Board & Session	West Kirk	19.00
Friday	11 th	Remembrance service	War Memorial	11.00
Sunday	13 th	United Remembrance Service	West Kirk	09.45

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.”

2nd Oct – Jessie-Rae Higgins, infant daughter of Sean Higgins and Paej Melville

Deaths

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

5th September – Effie Halliday, Main Street, West Calder

13th September – John Moffat, Westmuir Road, West Calder

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

Healer of the world,

In our loss, replenish our spirit;

In our pain, restore our health;

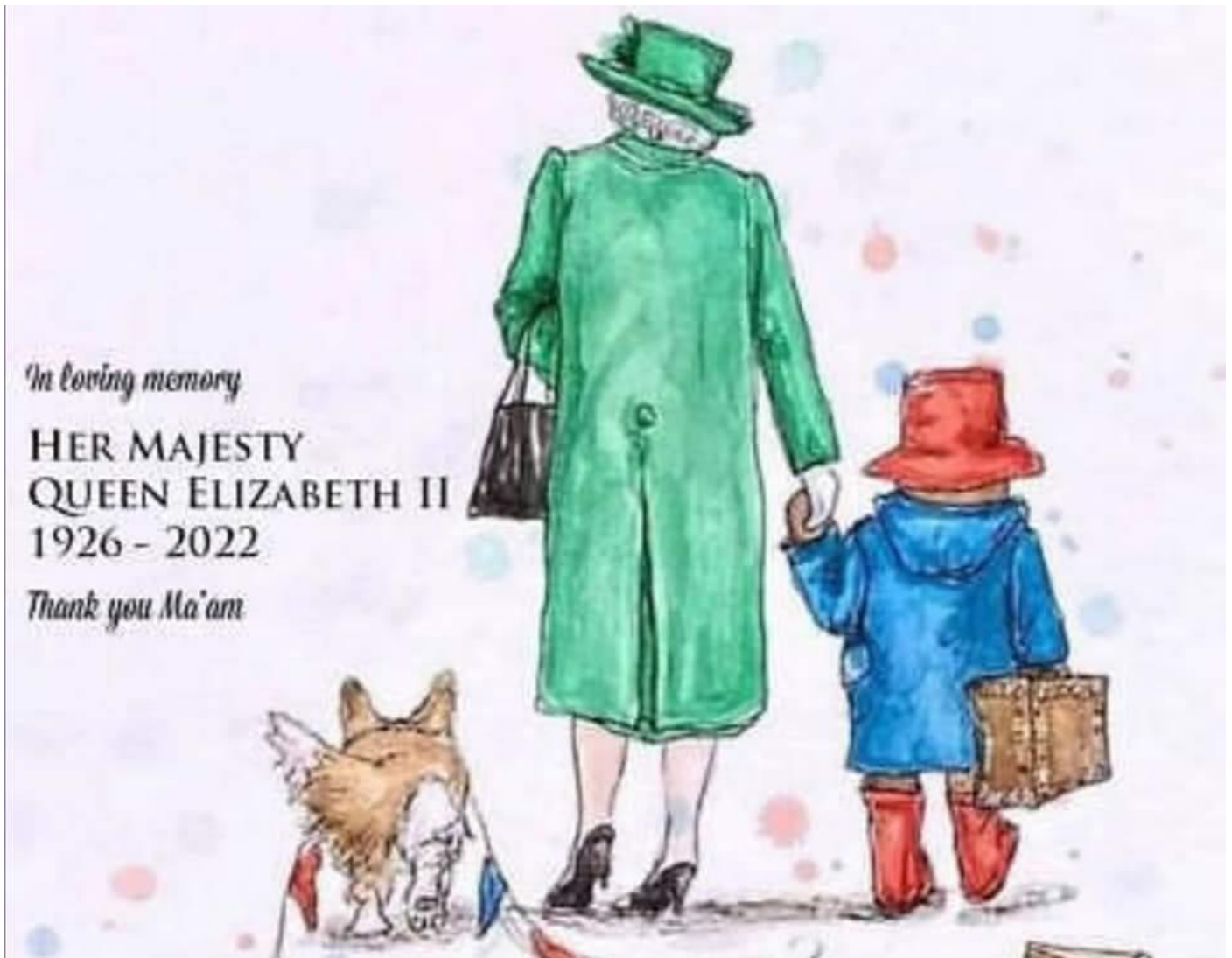
In our fear, remove our uncertainty.

When ages shift, and generations change, and times move on,
we turn once more to You, the source and centre of our existence.

When we are fearful to step forward
because we are unable to let go of the past,
ease us into the future, reassured by the truth that
You have already mapped a way ahead.

Give us the courage and the faith to trust in You.

Very Revd. Dr. Derek Browning



INTIMATION

From the 17th of October to the 7th of November, Nanda (and her family) will be in South Africa to conduct a family wedding.

During this time Alison Quilter and Darren Philip will lead worship. Pastoral cover will be supplied by Alison.

Alison is on annual leave from 24-30 October. During this week, Hanneke Janse van Vuren (the minister at Strathbrock Parish Church), will provide pastoral cover.