

November

Issue 145

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



Dear Congregations

The beauty of autumn is all around us in the changing colours of the leaves and skies and we enter the season of remembering, recalling our memories of places we have known; people we have known we dearly miss and see no longer. We will hold bereavement services in December as part of our season on remembrance.

But first our main remembering will be around Armistice Sunday when we will remember those who gave of their lives in wars for our freedom. We honour them and all those from our parishes who gave their lives for the greater good. Whilst we also recall the horror, and the sacrifice of war. Reading the names of those from the area who lost their lives in the wars of the 20th century is a huge privilege, and here it is a deeply profound experience because the surnames are those still familiar in local life (in a way that is less direct in bigger towns and cities). We have the privilege of living in close knit communities – it is my prayer that we can continue to honour the generations who have shaped our communities by the love we continue to show for each other.

I'd like to share a story with you. It's called Tusk Tusk by David McKee.

Once upon a time long, long ago all the elephants in the world were black or white. They loved all creatures ... But they hated each other, and each kept to their own side of the jungle. One day the black elephants decided to kill all the white elephants. And the white ones decided to kill the black. The peace-loving elephants from each side went to live deep in the darkest jungle. They were never seen again. A battle began. It went on and on and on. Until all the elephants were asleep. For years no elephants were seen. Then one day the grandchildren of the peace-loving elephants came out of the jungle. They were grey. Since then the

elephants have lived in peace. But some of the grey elephants noticed that they had different shaped ears to some of the others. The End.

On Armistice Sunday we share our memories, thoughts and reflections. Words from the Bible will be read, for example the words of Jesus in Matthew 5, 'Blessed are the peacemakers'. Sometimes words from the prophets are read such as Isaiah 2: 2 "they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks..... Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." This expresses the Christian longing and hope for a time when God's love and goodness will transform our world.

We give thanks for the selfless sacrifice of many. Whilst confessing the failings of a sinful human race. We pray for peace on earth and an end to the madness & waste of war. In the bible the prophet Micah predicts terrible times of war for the people of Israel. But then he goes on with this amazing vision – the day when peace will replace warfare and swords will be made into ploughs.

Of course, ultimate peace and justice and joy will come only at the end of time in the Kingdom of God. But that doesn't mean that we just sit and wait – it is never too soon to start cultivating the oasis of peace in the desert of our war mongering world.

In the words of Mahatma Ghandi, "Peace is not something that you wish for. It is something that you make, something that you do, something that you are, something that you give away." If we truly want to honour those who died in war, we can do no better than by building a more peaceful loving world for their children and ours. So, let us be peace to one another.

Peace begins in our families, our communities our nation. It is my hope that our remembering together this year re-invigorates that spirit of service, love and care that represents the best of human nature. Peace is our gift.

Shalom, Alison

Reflection based on Deuteronomy 30:9-14 (Rev Alison Quilter)

‘.....*the word is very near to you*’ v14

⁹ Then the LORD your God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your land. The LORD will again delight in you and make you prosperous, just as he delighted in your ancestors, ¹⁰ if you obey the LORD your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ¹¹ Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. ¹² It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, ‘Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so that we may obey it?’ ¹³ Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, ‘Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so that we may obey it?’ ¹⁴ No, the word is very near you;

The Israelites’ long wilderness wanderings 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, their experiences of closeness to God alternating with times of alienation on account of their disobedience.

But here and now says Moses, is the promise of a bright new future, and the people’s current situation is expectant 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 always get it right, but if we are truly seeking God's way, we will discover that God is indeed 'very near' and faithful to us.

Prayer

Loving God, thank you that instead of compelling me to serve you invite me respond to your love; that rather than dictating the course I should take you give me signposts to follow, leaving it up to me whether or not I take note of them. Help me to use that freedom wisely, trusting you to lead. Give me wisdom and courage to make the right decisions, at the right time and in the right place. Amen.

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 November'22 to February'23 are:

Sunday 6th November

Sunday 11th December

Sunday 15th January

Sunday 19th February

We look forward to seeing you there.

Alison, Reeta and Nanda



The Bridge

'16 to 25 year olds'

'The Bridge' for young folk aged 16 to 25 years old will be held every 7 or 8 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.

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

We plan to meet later in November, early December, location Nandos in Livingston. Look out for the date.

The Bridge - let's stay connected!

Nanda and Alison

In memory of John Moffat

John was born at number 2 Wilson Terrace, Bents to David and Catherine Moffat. He had an older sister, Jean, who is sadly no longer with us and his wee sister Aline. He went to the local school and left at the age of 14 starting to work as an apprentice joiner with the Coal Board. From the age of 19 to 21 John did his National Service. He served with the RAF Regiment in Catterick & Germany. After his National Service he worked as a journeyman joiner with the West



Calder Co-Operative Society. Thereafter he established Moffat & Spence with his brother-in-law, Robert, in 1958 which traded until 1967. He then went on to work on various building sites with companies like George Wimpey and Miller Homes and as a self-employed joiner with Alpine Double Glazing and Swedish Pine Kitchens. He retired in 1995.

John met the lovely Margaret at his sister Jean's wedding. A friendship blossomed into a romance and they got married on the 6th of August 1954. Eight years later Sandra was born. A beautiful daughter he and Margaret doted on. When Sandra met, and later married, David, John welcomed him into their small family like the son he never had and his family was complete when his grandchildren, twins Cameron & Kirsten, were born in 1996. He loved being a grandfather and they were the apple of his eye. He was so proud of everything they achieved, and he was always keen to hear what was happening in their lives.

He was completely devoted to his wife and helped to look after Margaret in the last couple of years, learning to cook and bake – with

instructions from her – although he did come up with some strange concoctions when left to his own devices!

He was a church elder at the West Kirk of Calder, and in this role also made a positive difference in the lives of so many people. As a keen singer, he was a member of the church choir, male voice choir, and he was also part of an amalgamation of choirs that sang for the late Queen Elizabeth II.

When John retired, he became a volunteer driver with the McMillan Nurses.

He took up wood carving and was exceptionally talented at it! A multitude of Christmas reindeer were made! The Millennium Candle Stand and a beautiful picture of the West Kirk in the vestry are some examples of the many things that he did. There will be quite a few folk in the congregation who will be the proud owner of a piece of his work.

He was one of the founder members of the Community Council in West Calder and always took a keen interest in what was, or was not, happening within the village. Local MSPs were on first name terms with him given the frequency of his visits to their office when things were not up to the standards he expected for the village. A well-kent face within the community, he had time for everyone; a true gentleman of the old school.

He had the vision to create the ‘Twa Bob Bench - Mile Awa’, as a tribute to two friends, which has become a local landmark and focal point in West Calder and is now a recognised point of interest on Google Maps.

John was a great family man. He was selfless, sensible, reliable, always there for others and he put others before himself. He had a wonderful outlook on life, and probably never even realised what a great man he was. He was a true role model.



Honour the brave men and women this Remembrance Day

By baking some Lemon Poppy Biscuits

Courtesy of: The endless meal

INGREDIENTS

½ cup butter, *at room temperature*
¾ cup icing sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 ½ tablespoons finely grated lemon zest
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 tablespoon poppy seeds
2 cups plain flour
½ teaspoon salt

Decorating the biscuits

4 cups icing sugar
2 tablespoons lemon juice
Red and black food colouring
Poppy seeds, *for sprinkling*

INSTRUCTIONS

Beat the butter, sugar, vanilla, lemon zest and juice until combined. Beat in flour, salt, and poppy seeds. Form dough into a ball, wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate until firm, at least 2 hours

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and roll out to ¼-inch thickness. Cut out cookies using 2 or three different size cookie cutters. Transfer to a baking sheet and refrigerate for 30 minutes

Bake until the edges just start to brown, 10-12 minutes. Remove from oven and cool completely

Make icing Mix the icing sugar and lemon juice in a medium-sized bowl. Add more lemon juice if too thick or more icing sugar if too thin. Tint a large portion red, a small portion black, and leave the remainder white



With Christmas fast approaching we are well under way with our preparations for our **Nativity Service** which will be on **December 18th in the West Kirk**. The service is led fully by children from JAM and Sunday Club, we are also learning a song to share with you all on the day.

We extend a very warm welcome to any children who would like to play a part in the Nativity service, however large or small a part you would like, we have a space saved especially for you!

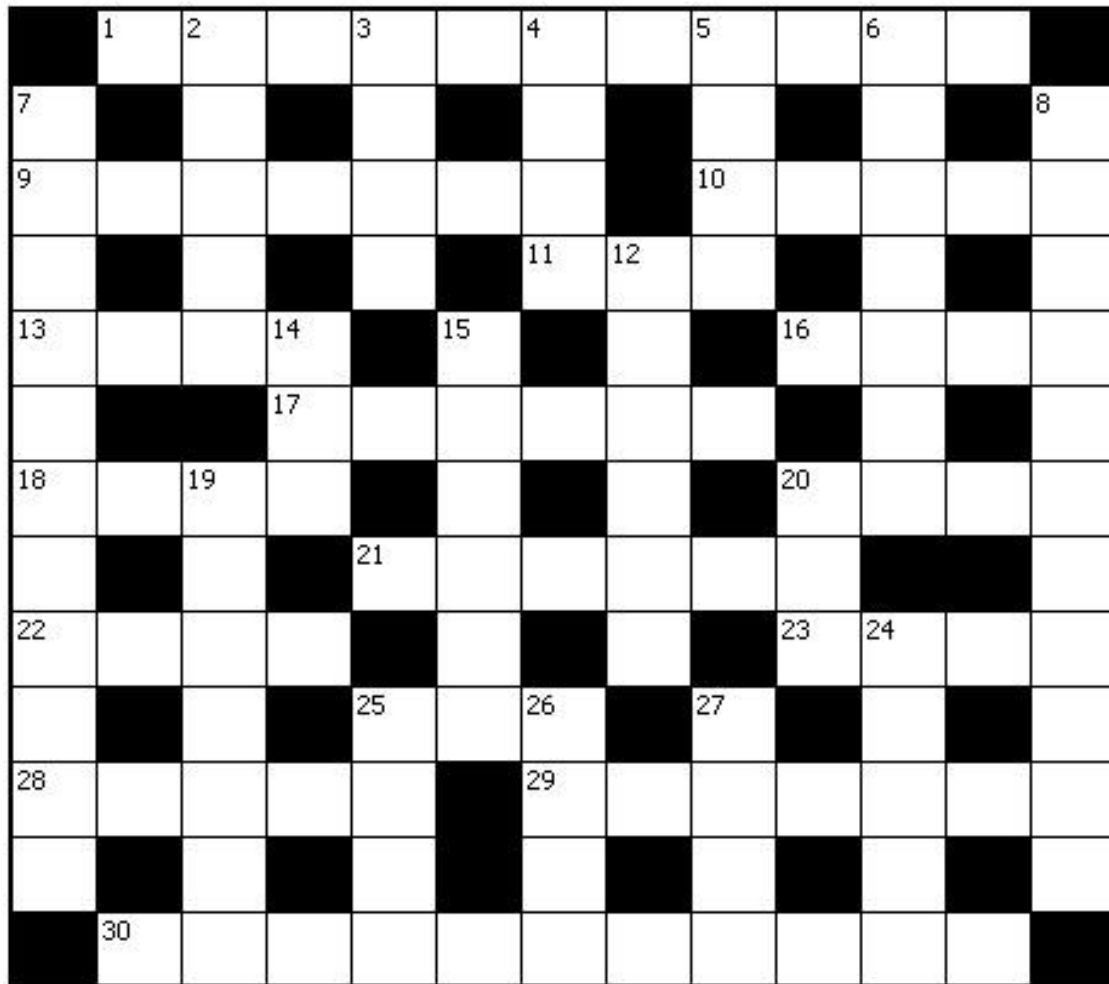
So please help us share this invitation. All kids need do is, join us at Sunday Club at 9:45am in the West Kirk or come along to Polbeth Harwood at 11:15am where you will be made very welcome and we will take it from there.



Our **Gift Service** this year will be on **Sunday 11th of December in both churches**. Our chosen charity is Bethany Trust, at Kharis Court in Bathgate.

We know that everyone faces a challenging time this year when it comes to finances. No matter how small your gift, it will be very greatly appreciated.

Personal hygiene products or basic clothing e.g. Underwear, hats, gloves, scarves etc for both male and female 18 - 20 years. Please attach a label with basic information of what is inside the gift so it can be removed and passed onto the appropriate young person.



Across

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

- 23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
 25 Tree (3)
 28 'No fear of me should _ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you'(Job 33:7) (5)
 29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
 30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

- 2 'O Jerusalem _ how _ I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)
 3 Way out (4)
 4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
 5 Done (anag.) (4)
 6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
 7 Concerning the study of God (11)
 8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
 12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
 14 Frozen (3)
 15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
 19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
 20 See 1 Across
 24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
 25 Time (anag.) (4)
 26 Lists choice of meals (4)
 27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the _ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord'(Romans 6:23) (4)

Issue 144 answers

ACROSS: 1, Lawyer. 4, Balsam. 8, Caleb. 9, Jehoram. 10, Sparrow. 11, Exile. 12, Excellent. 17, Act in. 19, Endemic. 21, Slavery. 22, Galal. 23, Silent. 24, Tarsus.
DOWN: 1, Locust. 2, Welfare. 3, Ember. 5, Athlete. 6, Sarai. 7, Member. 9, Jewellery. 13, Condemn. 14, Temples. 15, Causes. 16, Scales. 18, Trail. 20, Dogma.

West Lothian Foodbank (WLFB)

We have issued our annual Reverse Advent Calendar and I hope that, where possible, that this will either be a personal project or a Church community project to help those in crisis in West Lothian to have a Christmas Dinner.

WLFB will be supporting around 12,000 individuals in crisis this year. This will sadly be the most individuals that we have supported since we started in 2012.

With the ongoing cost of living and energy price rises we appreciate that many people are finding it harder to support themselves as well as make donations to charity. We at WLFB are therefore very grateful for any donations that you can give, and these donations are very much appreciated by the recipients.

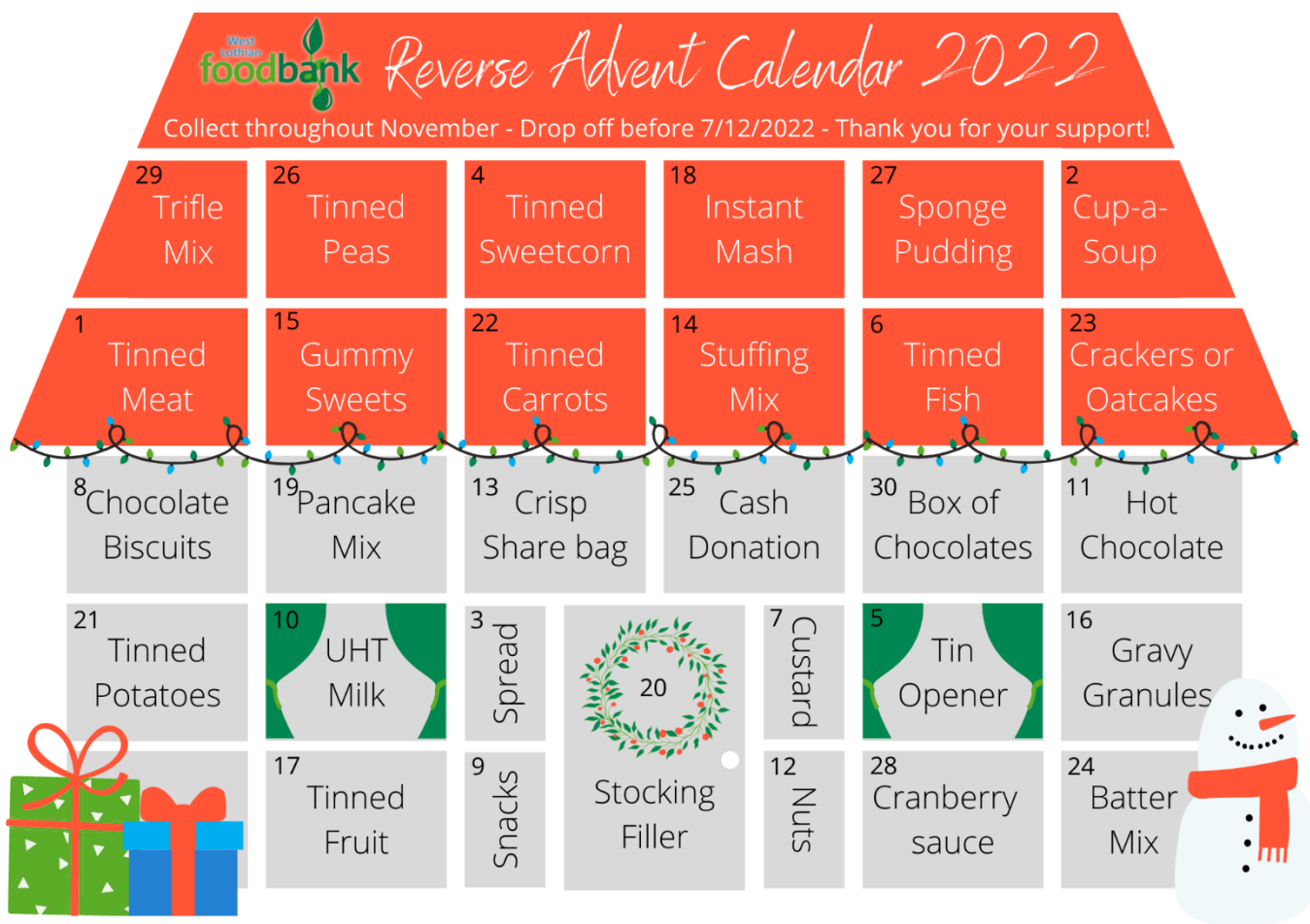
Another way to support WLFB is by giving some of your time. Tesco, who is a valued supporter of all the foodbanks under The Trussell Trust umbrella is giving us the 3 days at the start of December to have a collection at the Tesco stores in Bathgate and Linlithgow.

If you have 2 hours to spare on any of the 1st, 2nd or 3rd December between 9.00am and 5.00pm then please contact WLFB on 01501 229307 option 5.

At WLFB we support those in crisis in many ways other than supplying emergency food. One of the other ways we support individuals and families is with personal hygiene products. Currently we are very low on stocks of soap, toilet roll, shampoo, shower gel and deodorant. Please consider dropping one of these items in our collection points at many supermarkets across West Lothian or bringing them along to either Church and I will make sure that they are delivered to the warehouse.

With grateful thanks for your support.

Douglas Horn



SHOPPING LIST

Tinned Meat
 Gummy Sweets
 Tinned Carrots
 Stuffing Mix
 Tinned Fish
 Chocolate Biscuits
 Pancake Mix
 Custard
 Tinned Sweetcorn
 Cup-a-Soup

Crisps Share Bag
 Tinned Potatoes
 Box of Chocolates
 Hot Chocolate
 UHT Milk
 Spread
 Tin Opener
 Gravy Granules
 Instant Mash
 Crackers/oatcakes

Tinned Fruit
 Snacks
 Stocking Filler
 Nuts
 Cranberry Sauce
 Batter Mix
 Trifle Mix
 Tinned Peas
 Sponge Pudding

MERCY SHIPS

The blessing of the second hospital ship, Global Mercy, took place on 2nd June at Port Automone in Dakar.

This is the world's largest civilian hospital ship and training centre preparing to serve Africa for the first time and will be the site for life transforming surgery.

Spaces have been assigned to host 950 crew and guests with a 682-seat auditorium, school, gym, swimming pool, café, shop and library. Local medical professionals have been trained on board at Senegal while Africa Mercy is docked alongside to provide lifesaving surgeries.

The doubling of the fleet is all thanks to you and many more like you. You have provided double hope and healing to patients in urgent need.

Christmas is coming and I know we are all struggling for cash but if you can afford a donation for Mercy Ships I will collect this on **Sunday 20th November.**

Together we can transform lives.

Thank you
Lilias Fairley



POLBETH HARWOOD CHURCH
CHRISTMAS FAYRE
SATURDAY 26TH NOVEMBER @ 2PM

Come along and grab a bargain from our various stalls.

Visit our clothing thrift shop and don't forget to take the children to visit Santa in his Grotto.



Enjoy afternoon tea and a blether with family and friends.



Donations would be greatly appreciated (unfortunately we cannot accept electrical goods). All donations can be handed into the church on Friday 25th November from 6pm to 7.30pm and on Saturday 26th November from 10.30am to 11.30am.

This event could not take place without our volunteers. If you or anyone you know could help in any way please let Linda Eardley know.

We hope to see you all on the day.

Thanks to everyone for their continued support.

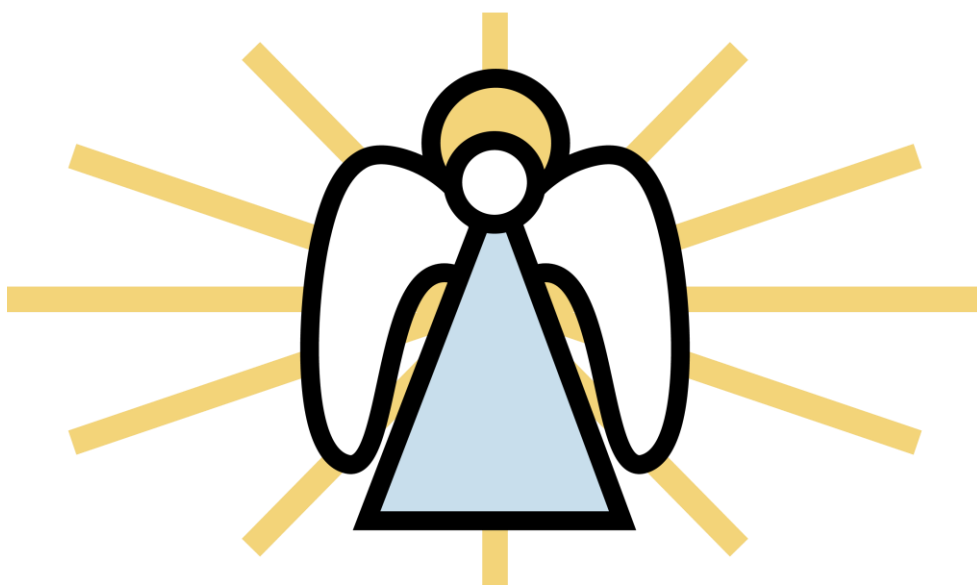
Church Calendar

Events: November 2022

Sunday	6 th	Morning Worship	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood	09.45 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
		Joint Boards & Sessions Meeting	Polbeth Harwood	19.00
Friday	11 th	Remembrance Service	War Memorial	11.00
Sunday	13 th	United Remembrance Service	West Kirk	09.45
Thursday	17 th	Board & Session meeting	West Kirk	19.00
Sunday	20 th	Morning Worship	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood	09.45 11.15
		Board & Session meeting	Polbeth Harwood	12.15
Thursday	24 th	Bible Study	Via Zoom	19.00
Friday	25 th	Youth Club	Outside venue	19.00
Saturday	26 th	Christmas Fayre	Polbeth Harwood	14.00
Sunday	27 th	Morning Worship	West Kirk	09.45
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15

Events: December 2022

Sunday	4 th	Holy Communion	West Kirk	09.45
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15
		Bible Class	West Kirk	09.45
		Annual Bereavement Service	West Kirk	15.00
Thursday	8 th	Beyond Kirk Walls	Dickson Court	14.00
Sunday	11 th	Morning Worship	West Kirk	09.45
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15
		Teen Time	West Kirk	18.30



Parish Record

Deaths

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

20th September – Donna Tweed, Mallard Brae, Livingston

24th September – Henry Ferguson, The Glebe, West Calder

29th September – Susan McCaig, Rashiehill Terrace, Breich

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

God of light and love,

You created us for both joy and suffering.

We are humbled by the breadth, length and depth
of Your love for all mankind.

May those who are living
through stressful and difficult times
find and know the comfort and gentle touch
of that love to bring them hope
in the dark times.

Amen