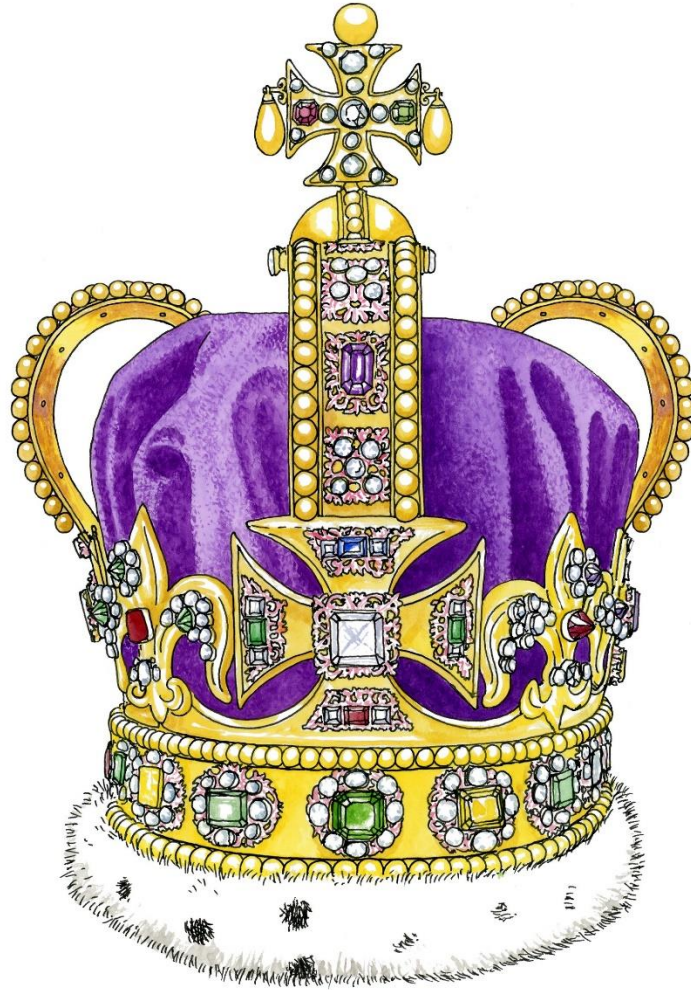


May

Issue 150

# 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 our OLM



Dear Congregations

The coronation ceremony of King Charles III will take place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6 May and conducted by The Archbishop of Canterbury, will be the centrepiece of the coronation weekend (6-8) May. It will be a service rooted in Christian symbolism, reflecting the king's role today whilst looking to the future.

The ceremony will be followed by a day of community celebration (The coronation Big Lunch, Sunday 7 May) and a day of volunteering and service (The Big Help Out 8 May). Building on themes of community, the coronation weekend will be a celebratory moment, a chance for people to come together and for churches to share an invitational message about the Christian faith.

Our churches will come together on Sunday 7 May at 10am for a joint service at the West Kirk followed by a celebration afternoon tea to which all are welcome – bring a friend or two.

As God's people we too continue to celebrate the one true king, the risen Christ, who gives us the great hope, love for us to play our role today and future demonstrating discipleship to others and the wider community. Jesus showed us how to love, show kindness, forgiveness,

compassion, helping others – He gave all this freely to us and to the world. And before he died, for us all, he asked that we demonstrate these same discipleship qualities in our lives and for the lives of others.

I know first hand of your love as I recover from illness which took me out of 'action' for a while. Your kindness, love and compassion shown through the many cards and messages received, the flowers and above all the 'space' afforded me to heal knowing I was upheld in prayer by you was overwhelming. You have no idea how much this meant to me. Thank you!

Let's use this coronation time, to continue to celebrate this Easter season, the Risen Christ, and to focus on our discipleship as people of God to bring people to faith and show people God in action through the qualities demonstrated in Jesus Christ through us.

Shalom

Alison

## REFLECTION

by Rev Dr Nanda Groenewald

*Matthew 11:29-30: Jesus said: 'Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'*



(Image: The New Yorker)

The first weekend in May will be filled with festivities, as King Charles III is officially crowned king. So many wee ones dream of becoming a king or queen one day when they are all grown up, but that dream is about so much more than just wearing a crown... Have you ever thought about the weight of a crown? And although the actual crown that King Charles III will be wearing is very heavy, the responsibilities that go with wearing that crown, makes it so much heavier.

It can't be easy to be THE KING. Everybody's eyes are on you all the time. The decisions you make have an influence on so many people. What you do and say (or don't do and say), can literally change the world.

So, let's pray for King Charles III, so that he can remember the words of Jesus we find in Matthew 11. If we trust in God, no burden we have to carry will ever be too heavy for us. Because Jesus' yoke is easy and his burden is light. Let's pray that he will put his reign in the hands of God, that God will lead him, that God will bless him, and that God, through him, will bless us and this land.

It's not what you wear on your head that makes you a special person – it's what you wear in your heart. May God grant *not only* King Charles III, but *every single one of us*, a gentle and kind heart.

*Prayer: Dear God. Thank you for reminding us that your burden is light. When it feels as if the whole world is pressing down on our shoulders, help us to remember that if we believe in you, we don't have to carry our burdens alone. Please bless us, our church, King Charles III, the United Kingdom, and the world. Amen*



**Games Day**  
**Polbeth Harwood Church**  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May**  
**2pm to 4pm**  
**Free for everyone**

Whether you are 3 or 93 please join us for fun with games.  
There is something for everyone.

Board games, mini basketball, swingball and skittles to  
name a few.

This is open to everyone in our communities so please  
spread the word to make this a success.

There will be a tuck shop available on the day for anyone  
wishing to purchase snacks.





## **Unitary Constitution: an update for our congregations.**

Last month, we explained that both our congregations currently have a Kirk Session and a separate Congregational Board to take care of property and finance matters.

Central Church is keen that all congregations operate under the Unitary Constitution model and at recent Annual Stated Meetings in March our congregations agreed unanimously to move to that model.

At its most recent meeting, Presbytery has agreed with these decisions and is now forwarding our applications for the issue of a Unitary Constitution to the 'Delegation of Assembly'. This effectively means that by the autumn both congregations are likely to be served by a Kirk Session with a supporting committee structure.

You will remember back in February when Café Church was held, volunteering forms were made available and many thanks to all who offered their services in a whole variety of ways. Meantime, if you missed the opportunity to offer, and you would like to volunteer for anything, please contact the minister.

The minister and small teams from each Session are reviewing these replies and working out committee structures and remits that will enable an effective use of the skills offered, spread across topics which will prepare our congregations to deliver on mission commitments into the future.

Hopefully, before the summer break, contact will be made with individuals seeking their involvement in the various opportunities – and then, with their agreement, the various committees can be formed, ready for a fresh start in September.

## **Possible new Social Activity Groups**

From returns in the volunteering forms, suggestions have been made at West Kirk to possibly introduce some new groups where people of all ages can socialise whilst adding to the life of the church. These are Art Group; Craft Group; Drama Group; Support Pop-up Café; DIY Support Group for the less able. On a more purely social level, a Reading Group and Walking Group have also been suggested. **If you would be interested in joining any of these groups, please let an elder or the minister know. All welcome!**



**REGISTRATION OPENS 15th June 2023**

For more information visit:

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



## The Great Glen Green Welly Garden Show



**Polbeth Harwood Church**  
**31 July – 4 August 2023**

**10am-12:30pm** and **Free** for all children from **P1 –P7**  
(incl: age to start school or going into S1 in August)

West Kirk of Calder Church of Scotland: Scottish Charities SC004703  
Polbeth Harwood Parish Church: Scottish Charities SC17373

**The Great Glen Green Welly Garden Show**, wow that sure is a bit of a mouthful! This year promises to be a bit different to what we have done in the past, and the characters all have huge personalities so promises for a great week in August.

Just like in the years gone by, we need volunteers to make this all happen. Each year we lose a few familiar faces due to a whole manner of reasons and this year is no different. So, if you would like to be part of our team you would be made very welcome.

We have two holiday club meetings planned where you can come and hear what it is all about.

The meetings are held in the West Kirk of Calder at 7:30pm on Thursday 11th May and Wednesday June 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **WHOEVER MAKES A GARDEN**

Whoever makes a garden. Has never worked alone;  
The rain has always found it, the sun has always known;  
The wind has blown across it. And helped to scatter seeds;  
Whoever makes a garden. Has all the help he needs.

Whoever makes a garden. Should surely not complain,  
With someone like the sunshine. And someone like the rain  
And someone like the breezes. To aid him in his toil  
And someone like the Father. Who gave the garden soil.

Whoever makes a garden, has, oh, so many friends;  
The glory of the morning, the dew when daylight ends.  
For rain and wind and sunshine, and dew and fertile sod;  
And he who makes a garden, works hand and hand with God.

**Douglas Malloch, 1877-1938**



## THINKING MISSION

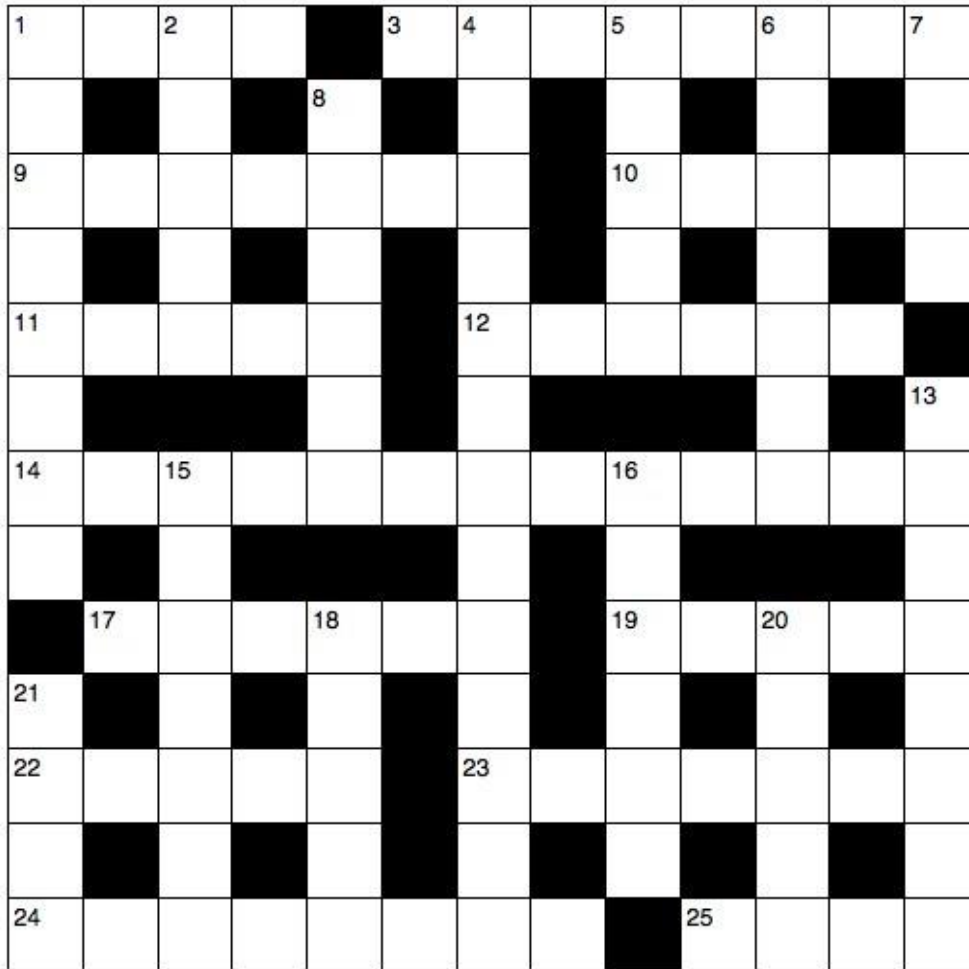
Our first official event in our new  
Parish Grouping:

On Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> of May, at 7:15pm, we are all invited to East Calder Parish Church, where the Rev Ken Brown will talk to us about "Thinking Mission". Please come along and meet our neighbours!



TEEN TIME: Sunday 14 May, 6:15-7:30pm, West Kirk Hall  
YOUTH GROUP: Friday 26 May, 7-9pm, West Kirk Hall

Please come join us to come learn more about faith,  
and have lots of fun!



## Across

1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another'

(Romans 14:13) (4)

3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)

9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)

10 Group of eight (5)

11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)

12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)

14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)

17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)

19 Attend to (3,2)

22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)

23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)

24 Rule of sovereign (8)

25 Test (anag.) (4)

## Down

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
- 2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
- 4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
- 5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
- 6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
- 7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
- 8 Minister of religion (6)
- 13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
- 15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
- 16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
- 18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
- 20 Establish by law (5)
- 21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

## Answers for issue 149

**ACROSS:** 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delaiah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

**DOWN:** 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.



## **POLBETH HARWOOD CHURCH MAY FAYRE**

**SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MAY 2PM**

Come along and grab a bargain from our various stalls. Try your luck at our tombola and raffle. Great prizes to be won.

Once you have covered the stalls, enjoy afternoon tea with friends and family.

Donations greatly appreciated (no electrical goods please). These can be handed into the church on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May from 6.00pm-7.30pm or on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May between 11am and 12 noon.

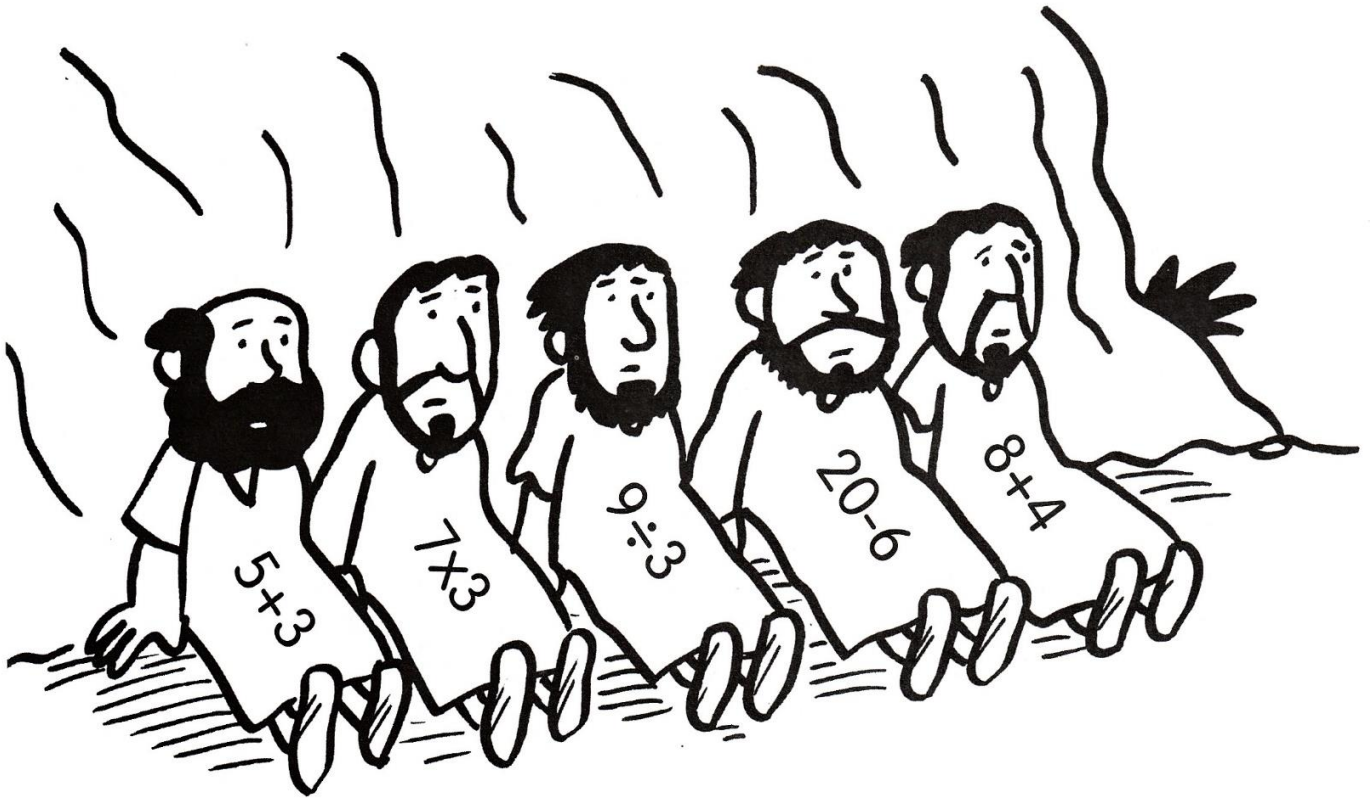
If you are able to help, you would be made most welcome. Please contact Linda Eardley to let her know you are available.



## Samaritan sums

Find out which character is in need of the good Samaritan's help, by completing the sums to find out who has the lowest number.

Draw a line between him and the Samaritan.







## Celebration Service

On: Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 10am  
in West Kirk of Calder

Followed by:

Afternoon tea in the Church Hall to  
which everyone is warmly invited



# BUNTING BISCUITS

FROM THE BBC GOOD FOOD PAGE

## Ingredients

- 350g plain flour, plus a little extra for rolling
- 100g cold butter, diced
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 140g light soft brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 75g golden syrup
- 2 tsp vanilla extract

## To decorate

- 1kg pack ready-to-roll icing
- few food colourings and writing icing pens, in your favourite colours
- icing sugar, for rolling



## Method

### • STEP 1

Put the flour, butter, bicarb and sugar in a food processor, whizz until you can't see any lumps of butter, then tip into a mixing bowl. Whisk the egg, syrup and vanilla together, then stir into the bowl with a wooden spoon. Using your hands, knead together into a smooth dough.

## . **STEP 2**

Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Cut a triangle template from card the size you want the bunting to be. Roll out dough on a lightly floured surface.

Use template to cut out triangles – re-roll trimmings to get as many as you can. Line some baking sheets with baking parchment and lift on the biscuits.

Use a pencil end to make 2 holes in the top of each one – not too close to the edge.

Bake, one tray at a time, for 8-10 mins, remaking each hole when biscuits are just out and still soft. Cool.

Un-iced biscuits can be frozen for up to 3 months or will keep in an airtight container for a week.

## . **STEP 3**

Divide the icing into as many colours as you want and knead in food colourings to get your desired colours.

Roll out thinly on a surface lightly dusted with icing sugar and use your template to cut out icing triangles.

Brush the backs of the icing with a little water and stick onto the biscuits – making holes in the icing to match the biscuits as you go.

Cut out small circles from leftover icing, brush backs with water and stick onto some of the biscuits.

Decorate with icing pens, if you wish, then carefully thread through ribbon or string and hang up your treats.

## May 23



Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup>	Board & Session	West Kirk	19.00
Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup>	United Coronation	West Kirk	10.00
		Morning Worship		
		Bible Class	West Kirk	10.00
		Celebratory	West Kirk hall	11.00
		Afternoon Tea		
Wednesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Warblers	West Kirk	11.30
Thursday	11 <sup>th</sup>	Beyond Kirk Walls	Dickson Court	14.00
		Holiday Club meeting	West Kirk	19.30
Saturday	13 <sup>th</sup>	Games Afternoon	Polbeth Harwood	14.00
Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup>	Christian Aid Sunday	West Kirk	09.45
		Worship	Polbeth Harwood	11.15
		Teen Time	West Kirk	18.30
Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup>	Morning Worship	West Kirk	09.45
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15
Thursday	25 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Study	via Zoom	19.00
Friday	26 <sup>th</sup>	Youth Group		19.00
Sunday	28 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship	West Kirk	09.45
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15
		Board & Session	Polbeth Harwood	12.15
Tuesday	30 <sup>th</sup>	Mission District	East Calder	19.15
		Group Mission Forum	Church	

## June 23

Thursday	1 <sup>st</sup>	Board & Session	West Kirk	19.00
Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	West Kirk	09.45
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15
Thursday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Beyond Kirk Walls	Dickson Court	14.00

## 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.”*

23<sup>rd</sup> April – Maddison Shaw, infant daughter of David Shaw and Sarah Fawcett

### 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.*

Heavenly Father,  
We remember our families,  
and the homes in our parishes,  
with their laughter and crying,  
anger and frustration,  
and ask for your caring love.  
Whether our hearts are light or heavy,  
whether the day goes well or not,  
as you touch our lives,  
we give you praise and proclaim your love. Amen.