

July & August

Issue 152

The Link



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

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Dear Friends

It's summer! At last... True to Scotland, this doesn't mean that we will have wall to wall sunshine and high temperatures every day, although, the weather has



been pretty decent recently. But let's be honest – if Scotland had the weather of a tropical island, everybody in the world would probably want to live and holiday here, as it is such a stunning country, and that will take away some of the quaintness and charm of this amazing island we live on...

God created a beautiful world, and my favourite place in it is Scotland.

But God didn't only create the world, he also takes care of it. I think the words of the children's hymn: *He's got the whole wide world in his hands*, is so comforting. Whether we are relaxing and having fun this summer, or whether we are going through troubled times, He's got us!

And this photo is such a beautiful reminder of that. It was taken by the Brazilian photographer, Leonardo Sens, in

Rio de Janeiro. He patiently waited for the right moment to take this photo, so it looks as if the *Christ the Redeemer Statue* is cradling the moon. And although the statue isn't actually touching the moon – it's just very clever photography – this reminds me of God holding the world in his hands. The world, with all of us in it. And how amazing is that?!

So, let's praise him for that and trust that he will take care of us this summer and always.

Our churches are not on holiday for the summer: We have joint services at 10am every Sunday morning: In July these services are held at the West Kirk of Calder and in August, Polbeth Harwood Church. There will be something fun for the kids to do every Sunday too – so if you are not away, please join us on Sunday mornings and, if you are away, you can always watch the service on the webpage or Facebook.

May you have a blessed summer!

Much love, Nanda

Reflection based on Psalm 8:4-5 (NRSV)

'What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour.'

Have you ever noticed how many different types of TV programmes are screened based around The Antiques Roadshow? I quite like them and sometimes there are really some interesting and highly valued items. I must confess I am not that good at guessing the 3 objects to be put in a ranking order as part of the weekly challenge on the Antiques Roadshow. Perhaps you too wonder what it would be like to find lurking in your attic or garage or basement something that may surprise you to find a nest egg for the future.....

If we can underestimate the value of objects, we can underestimate all the more value of people. If we are pre-occupied by 'self', we can fail to notice their gifts, seeing a faceless crowd rather than the individuals that comprise it, and so much potential is wasted as a result. With God things are different. He sees each of us as precious, special enough to die for. Whoever you are, he has time for you, and considers you of infinite worth. Rejoice in this truth and open your heart in turn to everything that is special in those around you.

Prayer:

Loving God, thank you for seeing the best in me, for looking beyond the ugliness that scars my life and seeing instead something beautiful, unique and of infinite worth. Teach me to value others in turn and to recognise the good in them, the potential waiting to be tapped. Open my eyes to the special in me, the special in others and above all the special in you. Amen.

Rev Alison Quilter

TeenTime Primary 7 upwards

The new session of TeenTime starts on **Sunday 10th September at 6:15pm** 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 the first half of the session are:

Sunday 8 October

Sunday 19 November

Sunday 10 December

We hope to encourage some of the young folk to take a lead with some of the evening's activities.....

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 quarterly. A get together and have a blether, sharing a meal or light snack 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 next meet in Polbeth Harwood Café Area on Wednesday 6th September at 7pm. The Bridge - let's stay connected!

Nanda and Alison



The Quiet Service

A monthly mid-week quiet service in Polbeth Harwood will next be held on Wednesdays 19 July and 9 August at 3:30pm in the 'quiet room'. All are welcome to this short service followed by tea, coffee, biscuits and a 'blether'.

Anyone who would like to come and needs assistance with transport should call Sandra Dixon on 07855 861223

We look forward to seeing you there.

Alison, Thomas and Sandra

Linton Kirk near Morebattle

In July 1989 Peter and I were married in Linton Kirk by the Rev Joe Brown.



Built in the twelfth century, the building was adapted at the Reformation for Presbyterian worship, but in the early twentieth century was returned to something approaching its original form by the minister James Leishman. He returned the Norman font and other sculptured stones to the interior, rebuilt the chancel arch and created a chancel with choir stalls – very ‘high-church’ for a Presbyterian! The result is a homely and attractive worship space, with some fine early-twentieth century stained glass – the east window shows the resurrection, while the four rectangular windows are to a design by the renowned artist Herbert Hendrie. There is also Millennium artwork at the rear of the church. There are interesting old gravestones in the churchyard one of which, a figure reading the Bible (a distinctive grave-motif of the Borders), has been used as a memorial within the church itself. Hand-held boards with information about the features of the church, both old and new, are available for visitors. The church stands proud on a distinctive mound and there are wonderful views across the valley. Local myth has it that the mound was laboriously created by two sisters to save the life of their brother, who had slain a priest. Above the doorway of the church is a very worn stone from the twelfth century showing a

knight slaying a dragon. Although probably intended to represent St George another local myth says it shows Sir William de Somerville slaying the Linton worm, which lived in a cave on Linton Hill. Sir William killed the beast by fastening burning peats to his lance and ramming the blazing bundle down its throat.

Looking across the valley from the kirk door you can also see a slightly lower mound. This was the site of Linton Tower. In July 1522 four thousand English troops invaded the area in one of the periodic disputes which occurred during the reign of Henry VIII. Linton Tower was destroyed although the sixteen defenders were saved from the blaze ‘by reason of a gable of the house that was of stone, and the wind that was their friend’. Linton was again attacked during Henry’s assault on southern Scotland in the 1540s and after that date the tower was never rebuilt.

Like all churches in the parish this peaceful place is open during daylight hours.

Alison McNaught





The evening of Friday 3rd November.

Having attended last years' service of remembrance in Polbeth Harwood Church, I cannot recommend highly enough that you save the date.

Make sure you get a ticket for a return this year as we are delighted to once again host this marvellous event.

Tickets will be available soon from Karen Elliot or me and more details will follow in the next edition of the Link.

Sandra Dixon

West Kirk Car Run

If you are finding it difficult to get to the church service on a Sunday morning, please contact Beryl Henderson, the Pastoral Care Convener and she will happily give you information on how to arrange to be collected by car to attend.

Her contact telephone no. is 871202.

A CHILDHOOD MEMORY

The last two or three times we have had our Communion services I've been thinking back to the Communion services in the church I attended when I was growing up in Glasgow in the fifties & sixties. The Church (Maxwell Parish Church) celebrated its centenary in the late fifties and had been gifted money by the Maxwell family who lived in Pollock House to start a Sunday School to educate the poor children of the district probably in the early eighteen hundreds.

The church building was beautiful, similar in shape to the West Kirk with every stained-glass window having been donated by some rich member of the congregation depicting a biblical scene with inscriptions in remembrance of a family member . Lots of the pews had family names on them and an annual sum was paid by that family to keep it as their own private seat each Sunday. Most of the congregation were rich merchants or Tobacco Lords with ships sailing in & out of the Clyde with their cargo sadly, probably at the expense of slave labour.

Anyway, Communion was held twice a year, April & October, and was quite a ritual, and as members of the senior Sunday school we were allowed upstairs in the balcony to observe the service. The pulpit had a white throw for the bible and of course the communion table had a snowy white beautifully embroidered cloth. As far as I can recall each service followed the same format. The choir sang the same anthem, and after the sermon the minister would announce the Communion Hymn which was always When I Survey The Wondrous Cross and after the first verse the minister would lead the elders out to the session house then before the last verse they would return with the Communion Silver, again a gift from a rich parishioner. It was magnificent; one large platter and 12 smaller plates for the bread, 12 large goblets and 6 large wine/claret jugs. These were ceremoniously carried in and placed on the communion table and then the minister and the elders had communion. After they had all had the bread and the wine, a very carefully orchestrated regime saw the elders take first the bread then the wine to the congregation. These goblets of wine were then passed along the row, topped up occasionally from the big jugs (they did wipe them with a napkin before going to the next row) until everyone in the congregation had been served. My friend and I would be maybe 10 or 11 years old at the time and we used to lean over the balcony fascinated at what was going on below us. I used to pity the person who got the goblet before it was refilled because they had to tip it quite far back to get to the wine, but it made them look like they were having a good old slurp (lol)

I have many memories of these Sundays, one being at the October Service as obviously the weather was getting colder and there was the smell of mothballs as the ladies of the parish arrived in their fur coats. One awful Sunday will stick in my mind for ever. As the elders brought in the communion silver, this very solemn elder's toe caught the bottom step at the table and the contents of the wine goblets he was carrying were spilled all over the pristine cloth !!!! It was running all down the front & spread all over the table. It was like the shower scene from Psycho !!!! Guess who was carrying the bread at the next communion?! My friend and I couldn't contain ourselves. We had a real fit of the giggles. Poor man, he must have been so embarrassed.

What a difference though to our services today, small pieces of bread, individual wine glasses and our congregation being part of the celebration throughout not just observers to a ritual enjoyed by a select few and then allowed to partake of the bread & wine as an afterthought. I prefer our services as they are much more meaningful and it's nice to be part of it from beginning to end.

Margaret Hogg

TRUSTEE TRAINING

It is recommended that all members of the Congregational Board and The Kirk Session renew their Trustee Training in relation to Safeguarding every 3 years.

Polbeth Harwood Church is hosting a Trustee Training course on Saturday 16th September at 10.00 am. It would be great if there was a good representation from all the Trustees.

At present the course application is not open but all Trustees will be informed of the registration process once these have been made known.

Douglas Horn

Safeguarding Coordinator West Kirk

Reflection Exodus 3:7-12a NRSV

⁷ Then the LORD said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' ¹¹ But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' ¹² He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

When did you last face a challenge that seemed completely beyond you but from which there was no escape? If you have been in that situation you will have at least some insight into how Moses must have felt when God turned up in a burning bush ordering him to confront Pharaoh and demand the release of his people. It was a lot to ask of anyone, but for someone like Moses, who by all accounts was nervous and hesitant in speech, it was absolute suffering. This was one

request he could do without! The trouble was, God apparently couldn't do without him.

The verses above are but the start of one of the most astonishing conversations between God and man recorded in scripture. On the one hand, we have the sheer humanity of Moses, coming up with reason after reason why he was the least suitable candidate for the job and on the other, we have God countering every argument with an unanswerable response. It's hard not to feel sorry for Moses as finally he is almost browbeaten into submission, but it's equally impossible not be inspired by the way that, having finally risen to the challenge, God provided him with all the resources he needed, and more besides. A lesson for us all here when the next time we face an apparently impossible challenge, that though it may be beyond you, it's not beyond him!

Prayer

All powerful and loving God, you have promised whatever you ask me to do, whatever obstacles you ask me to face, you will help me to rise to the challenge. Inspire me to respond in faith, confident in your strength, that no challenge is so daunting that I cannot meet it. Teach me that though much is beyond me, nothing is beyond you. Amen.

Rev Alison Quilter

PEACE AT LAST

Every day I wonder were you afraid
did you change your mind
did you immediately regret when you left that day?

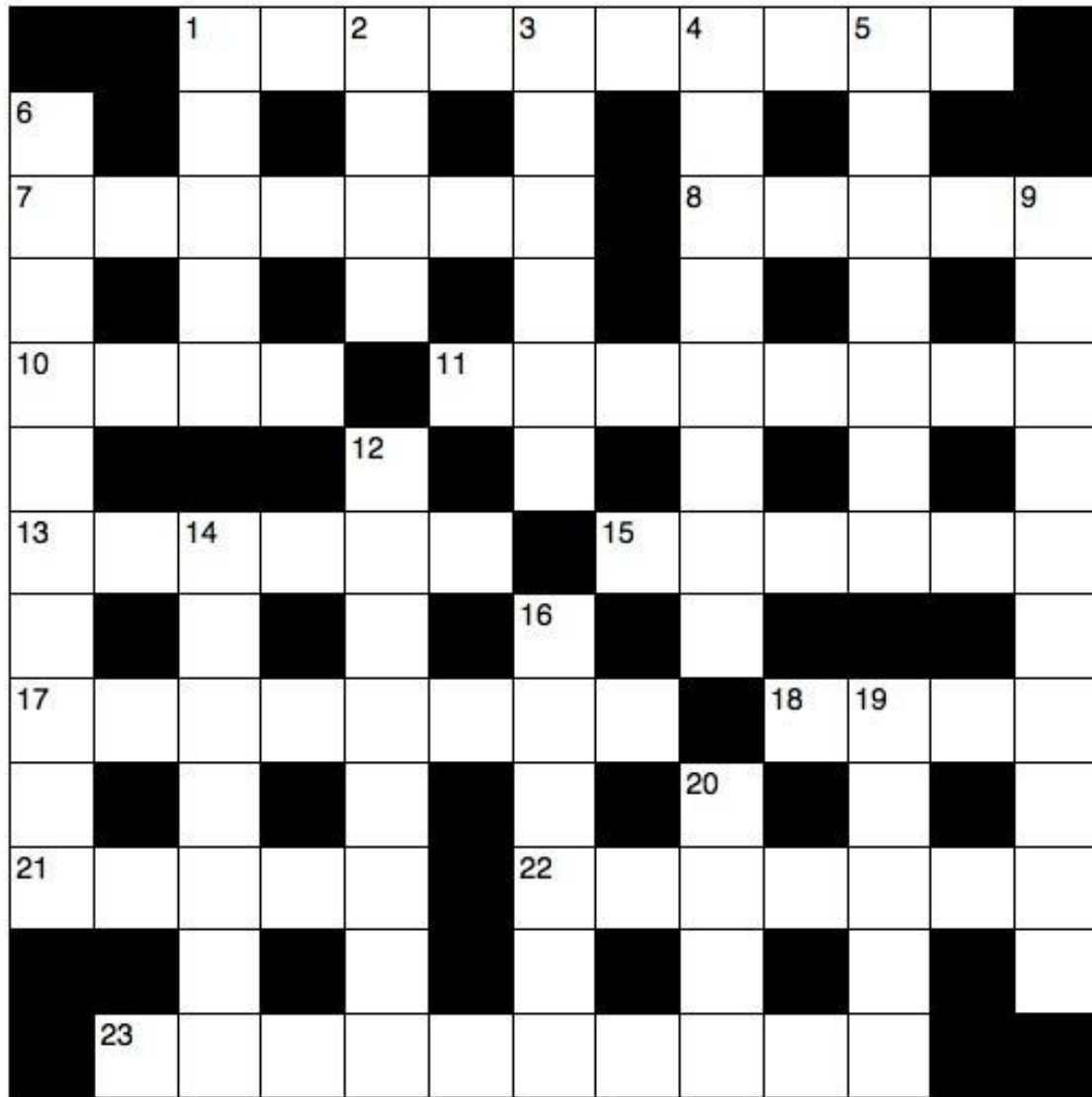
Every day I wonder could I have done more
said something wise to make you see
that there are other ways to stop the pain?

Every day I wonder if you are up there looking down
seeing what you had that you just couldn't clear your vision
to behold when you were here?

If you are, I hope you have found the peace
you so sought here on earth.

The peace that outran you at every turn
The peace that was never within your reach.
Because you deserve that peace my love at long last.
And I will try to take peace from that.
I will try to take peace from that.

Donna Ashworth : Loss



Across

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
- 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
- 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John — (5)
- 10 Girl's name (4)
- 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)
- 13 The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1–6) (6)
- 15 'Now the famine was — in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
- 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)

- 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
- 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
- 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)
- 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

Down

- 1 The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
- 2 'Your vats will — over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
- 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
- 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
- 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
- 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
- 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1–11) (10)
- 12 Abusive outburst (8)
- 14 Are loud (anag.) (7)
- 16 Printing errors (6)
- 19 'Take my yoke upon you and — from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
- 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)

Issue 151 answers

Across

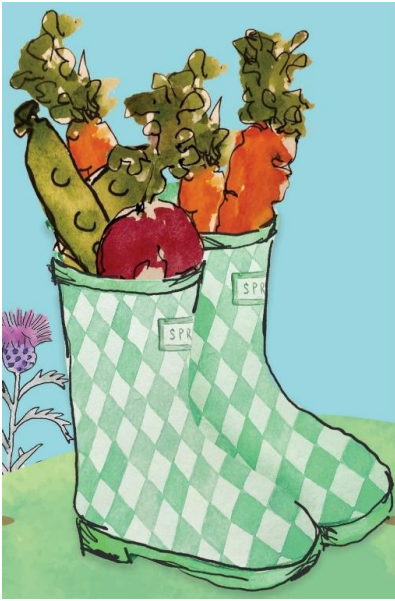
1 care; 3 paradise; 8 null; 9 profaned; 11 legalistic; 14 closed; 15 stores; 17 missionary;
20 covenant; 21 Thai; 22 trade-off; 23 Eden

Down

1 conflict; 2 religion; 4 arrest; 5 affliction; 6 Iona; 7 Eddy; 10 allegiance; 12 preached; 13 Assyrian;
16 a son of; 18 Scot; 19 DVLA

The Great Glen Green Welly Garden Show

Monday July 31st – Friday August 4th



The posters are up, the forms are out, the lists grow longer, and the crafting has begun for what looks like another fantastic week at our church holiday club.

This is our ninth holiday club and we are just delighted to have so many eager volunteers and new young helpers.

We would like to say a big “*THANK YOU*” to Parkhead Primary school for their support in getting the forms out to local school children.

Our post box in the school saw a steady flow of forms. The replies have now been sent out to all the families registered.

We are now almost fully subscribed, with only a few places remaining so, if you know of anyone still wishing to join us, time is of the essence!

Forms and post boxes are in both churches or you can email Lorna for a form to complete electronically. clovenford@yahoo.co.uk

Many thanks to all who have sent in bottles, cartons and milk bottles, we will make very good use of them as we recycle, or perhaps the new term is “upcycle” them at our holiday club!

On the evening of Friday August 4th at 7pm, we have a wee informal “*Best Bits*” evening, which lasts around 30 minutes. Where we share some of our special moments that have taken place throughout the week. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to everyone to come along and see just what we got up to. The evening ends with a cuppa and cake and all baking donations will be very greatly received. These can be handed in at Polbeth Harwood church “café door” from 6:30pm. So put the date in your diary now. We would love for you to join us!



JAM Club & Sunday club are now on Holiday. We wish you a very safe and happy summer but, please remember children are always welcome in church any Sunday during the summer (July & August). We will have games and fun on hand for kids who visit.

Both clubs, resume on Sunday September 3rd (9:45am W. Kirk & 11:15am Polbeth Harwood) when we welcome the children back after the summer break.

Children will be invited to bring along a friend for a fun welcome back after the break.

Holiday club children will also be invited, as they have been in the past, but this year we are giving out a craft on the last day of holiday club which, with their love and care will change.

They will be invited to come along and bring this item with them to share with you all so we can see what changes have taken place.

We now ask for your support in the community. If you know any children in your area who came to holiday club or just might like to join us on Sunday September 3rd, please bring or invite them to come and join us.

We are busy making plans to make this a welcoming and special day for all children, new and familiar faces. They are the future of our church.

Annual outing to Aberdour

What a fabulous day we had at our beach trip. The sun shone (albeit the wind blew fairly strongly too) and the children enjoyed playing on the sand and swimming in the sea.

The races on the grassy area went down well with some very impressive competition.

Everyone enjoyed the food that was supplied and, as usual, there was probably enough to feed the entire population of the beach!

Until next year.....







July 23

Sundays	2 nd 9 th 16 th 23 rd 30 th	United Morning Worship	West Kirk	10.00
Wednesday	19 th	Reflective Service	Polbeth Harwood	15.30
Monday	31 st	Holiday Club	Polbeth Harwood	10.00

August 23

Tuesday - Friday	1 st to 4 th	Holiday Club	Polbeth Harwood	10.00
Friday	4 th	Holiday Club Open Evening	Polbeth Harwood	19.00
Sundays	6 th 13 th 20 th 27 th	United Morning Worship	Polbeth Harwood	10.00
Wednesday	9 th	Reflective Service	Polbeth Harwood	15.30
Thursday	31 st	Bible Study	By Zoom	19.00

September 23

Sunday	3 rd	Holy Communion	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood	09.45 11.15
Wednesday	6 th	The Bridge	Polbeth Harwood	19.00
Thursday	7 th	Board & Session	West Kirk	19.00
Sunday	10 th	Morning Worship Teen Time	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood West Kirk	09.45 11.15 18.15
Wednesday	13 th	Wednesday Warblers	West Kirk	11.30
Saturday	16 th	Trustee Safeguarding Training	Polbeth Harwood	10.00

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.”

28th May – Theodore Thomas Griffin; Isabella Carola Griffin;

India Beatrix Griffin; children of Thomas Griffin

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.

21st May – John Spence, Tippethill Hospital, Bathgate

10th June – Margo McEwan, Northfield Cottages, West Calder

15th June – Hugh Ashwood, Crofthead Home, Fauldhouse

28th June – Catriona Lachlan, Burnside Terrace, Polbeth

Heavenly Father,

In our pain, we need your comfort,

in our anguish, the assurance of your love.

We remember the occasions You have carried us

through difficult times.

In You, our every need is met

so we give thanks for your faithful love.

Amen.

Catriona Lachlan

It is with a heavy heart that we have learned that our organist, Catriona, sadly passed away on 28th June.

She will be missed by both congregations and our thoughts and prayers are with all her family and close friends at this tragic time.

