

October

Issue 154

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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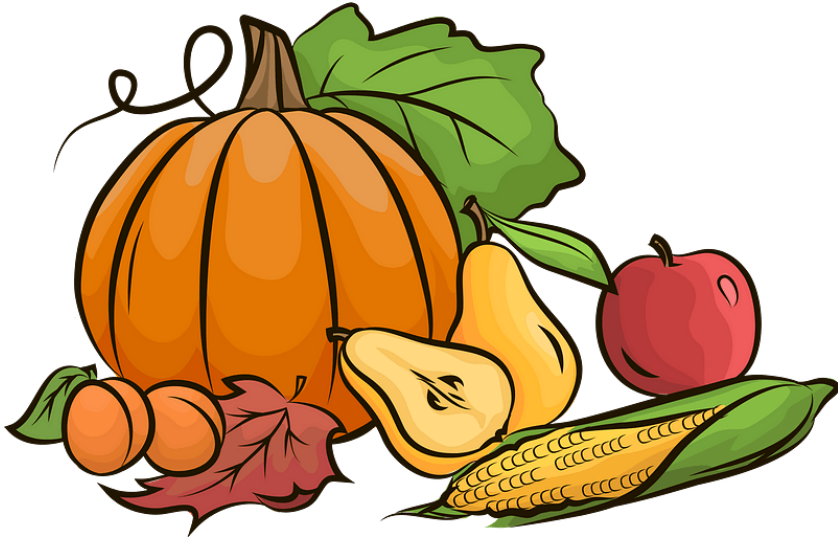
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Letter from our minister



Dear Friends

It's harvest time – time to say thank you to God for everything he gives us. In 2 Corinthians

9:10-11 we read: “Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” This is an explanation of *how* we can thank God: He gives us what we need, and in sharing that with others, we give thanks to him.

Sharing is such a special thing to do. If you share what you have with someone else, you will lose something that was yours, but at the same time, you will gain something else – joy. And joy is something that can fill you in a way food

never can. There is so much more than food that we can share – we can share burdens; we can share love. And in giving these things away, we get so much more in return. So really, by doing what God asks us to do, we are not only doing good to others, but to ourselves too.

So this harvest, I would like to say thank you to all of you: I am deeply grateful that I can share a part of my life with you, and I thank God for every kind gesture, warm smile, outstretched hand, and comforting word that you share with me. I thank God for blessing me through you. May he bless all those we meet, as we share his abundant love with them...

As we see the big trailers full of haybales on the road, let's thank God for giving us so much more than we need.

May God bless you all.

Nanda

Reflection based on Psalm 89:1-2

¹ I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, for ever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all
generations.

² I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Do you ever thumb through your old diaries? It's like looking into a window of time that represented the future but now concerns the past. Birthdays, appointments, events, anniversaries and many other key dates. The diary contains all that you once anticipated but are now memories or even forgotten. 12 months of your life that together comprise another chapter in your life's journey. And the plot that binds all those chapters together, that gives meaning and cohesion to every passing year - well for the writer of the Psalm it is simple: the faithfulness of God. Through all of life's ups and downs, the psalmist declares, one thing that never changes: God's unfailing love, unchanged from the beginning of time, permanent in the heavens.

The hymn by Thomas Chiselm 'Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father' there is no shadow of turning from thee; thou

changest not, thy compassions, they fail not. As thou has been Thou forever wilt be.'

These wonderful words, a wonderful testimony echoed in this hymn, that's the confidence with which we can say farewell to one season and prepare for the next one. No one knows what the next season will bring - laughter, tears, health, sickness, triumph, disappointment. What we do know is that whatever it brings, whatever we face, God will be with us in it, to the end of time and beyond.

Prayer:

Eternal God, thank you for the way you have worked throughout history, calling and leading your people. You have guided, blessed and forgiven and encouraged us in our life's journey. Thank you for your assurance that you will be with us each day. For your great faithfulness, yesterday, today and tomorrow receive our praise. Amen.

Rev Alison Quilter



2023 COVID-19 & FLU VACCINATIONS

Vaccination clinics are available
across West Lothian from September 2023



To find out more
about West Lothian
HSCP's vaccination
programme scan
the QR code or visit
<https://westlothianhscp.org.uk/article/74153/Vaccine-Hub>

WEST LOTHIAN CLINICS

Strathbrock Partnership Centre

Mon to Sun 8.30am – 7pm

Dave King Partnership Centre

Mon and Tue 9.30am – 5pm

Armadale Partnership Centre

Tue 9.30am – 5pm

Fri 9.30am – 3.45pm

Fauldhouse Partnership Centre

Wed 9.30am – 5pm

Whitburn Partnership Centre

Mon and Fri 9.30am – 5pm

Blackburn Partnership Centre

Fri 9.30am – 5pm

Sat 9.30pm – 3pm

Howden Health Centre

Sat and Sun 8.30am – 5.30pm

Bathgate Primary Care Centre

Wed to Sun 8.30am – 5.30pm

Carmondean Health Centre

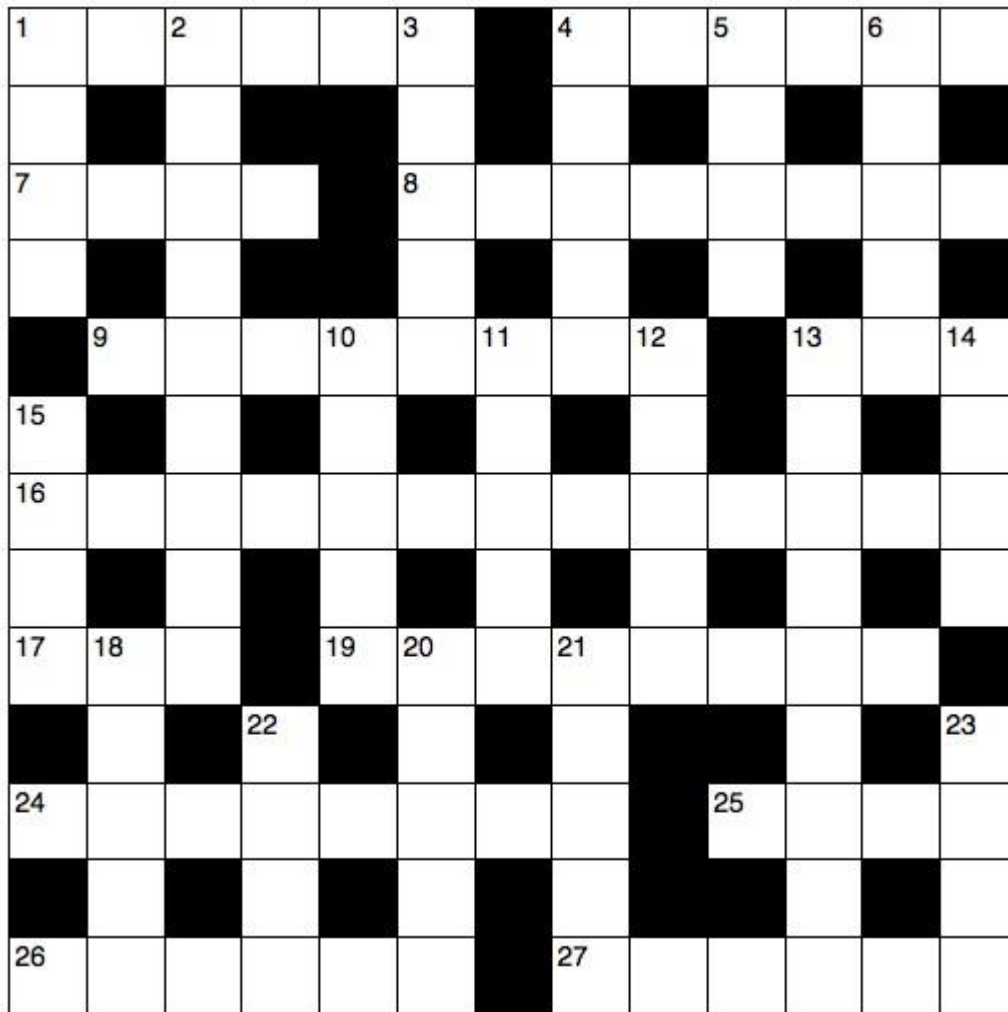
Mon and Tue 8.30am – 5.30pm

West Calder Medical Centre

Wed and Fri 8.30am – 5.30pm

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





Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10)(6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Ps 107:27) (4)

8 See 19 Across

- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest(Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)

- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
- 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — '(John 3:3) (5)
- 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
- 6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
- 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
- 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
- 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
- 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
- 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
- 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
- 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
- 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
- 22 Bats (anag.) (4)
- 23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

Answers to issue 153

ACROSS: 8, Kiriath Jearim. 9, Toe. 10, Ill at ease. 11, Hated. 13, Miletus. 16, Started. 19, Micah. 22, Leviticus. 24, Eli. 25, Mary and Joseph.

DOWN: 1, Sketch. 2, Priest. 3, Samizdat. 4, Shalom. 5, Wept. 6, Breast. 7, Embers. 12, Art. 14, Limassol. 15, UNA. 16, Salome. 17, Adverb. 18, Decade. 20, Clever. 21, Height. 23, Tear.



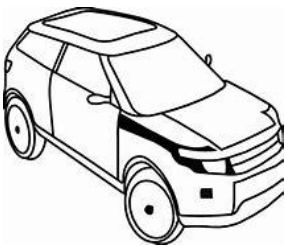
There are more than
elves preparing for
Christmas!

A hard-working team of enthusiastic members at
West Kirk are busy on plans for a

Christmas Kirk's café
on Saturday 2nd December

You too can get started with the knitting and sewing
needles, or the jam and chutney pans.

Keep the date free in your diary
More details to follow next month.



Car Run Update

Anyone wishing to use the car run for West Kirk can
now contact Beryl Henderson on 01506 379230

Polbeth Harwood Church New Style Christmas Fayre

On 25th November Polbeth Church are holding our annual Christmas Fayre BUT you will notice some differences this year.

We are keeping the old favourites like Santa's Grotto, tombola, raffle and delicious sandwiches and cakes to go with your cup of tea or coffee as well as cakes to take home for later.

What is new? The stalls will be different. We are renting out tables to small businesses and individuals who want to sell their own goods. The church members will also be hosting our own stall selling gifts. A lot of these will be handmade by the church members and the children of the JAM Club.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page to see which sellers will be there to help with your Christmas shopping!

If you want to rent a table, please message us on Facebook or send an email to Sandra.dixon71@gmail.com. It is £15 per table.



**Legion
Scotland**

At the heart of Scotland's veterans community

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 in the West Kirk or me in Polbeth Church.

Sandra Dixon



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 a blether, sharing a meal or light snack. 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 December at 7pm. The Bridge. Let's stay connected!

Nanda and Alison



TeenTime

Primary 7 upwards

The next meeting of TeenTime is on **Sunday 8th October 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.

Future Dates for the first half of the session are:

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 Quiet Service

A monthly mid-week quiet service in Polbeth Harwood will next be held on Wednesday 18 October 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 07855861223.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Alison, Thomas and Sandra



LIFE & WORK MAGAZINE

Life & Work magazine is the award-winning magazine of the Church of Scotland

Every month the 52-page full colour magazine is packed with features, news and opinion on Christian Life within Scotland.

The printed edition of the Magazine is £42.00 for a year's subscription.

Digital subscription is also available at a cost of £20.99 for a year.

Contact Evelyn Paterson on 871442 to order or for further information.

You can also have a look on their website www.lifeandwork.org to see for yourself what the magazine has to offer you.

In memory of Kenny MacKay



Kenny was born in Dunoon on the 19th of October 1933, to John and Isabella MacKay. He was the youngest of 11.

After he left school, he worked as a joiner's apprentice; then in 1954 he joined the army to do his national service.

It was during this time, whilst stationed at Redford Barracks in Edinburgh, that he took the opportunity to visit his sister,

Helen, who stayed in Polbeth. And that is where he met Alice, who lived next door.

At that time, they were one of the very few households who had a TV, and Kenny – who had a very good sense of humour – always joked that he got invited over to watch the telly and then never escaped!

He finished his national service in 1956, returned to Dunoon briefly, and then moved back to Polbeth to be with Alice.

They got married on the 7th of September 1957 in Harwood Church in West Calder.

Shona was born in August 1960, and Morag in September 1962. His grandchildren are Christopher, Jill and Karyn. His great grandchildren are Leah, Zoe, Finlay, Oliver and Luca. He loved his family with his whole heart.

Kenny worked as a joiner on various building sites, but he decided he wanted to better himself so, he started day release classes at Bathgate College, resulting in him gaining his 'city and guilds'. He then progressed to being clerk of works for the Rank organisation, then moved on to Gumleys, and after that, to the Livingston Development Corporation.

He then accepted the position of *Master of Works* at the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland. Kenny worked there till he retired almost 20 years later.

It was in his last year before he retired, that he learned he had been awarded an M.B.E. for Services to Agriculture in the 1998 Queens New Year's Honours list. He received this award at a

ceremony in Holyrood House Palace in Edinburgh on the 1st of July 1998.

Kenny played the bagpipes and was a member of the local pipe band Whitrigg & Polkemmet, in Whitburn. He was also a member of the Edinburgh Piping Society. After giving up playing in a band, he loved going back to his hometown of Dunoon every year for the Cowal Games.

Kenny was an elder and friend to all at Polbeth Harwood Church. He attended worship regularly and worked hard for our church, making a difference wherever he went.

He was a keen caravaner and the family had many holidays touring the UK. Once the girls had grown up, Kenny and Alice enjoyed many special holidays in their favourite destination of Stratford upon Avon.

Kenny was an amazing person. He was loved by so many people, and he will be sorely missed. He passed away on the 11th of August at Redmill Nursing Home.

May he rest in peace.



October 23

| | | | | |
|-----------|------------------|--|---|-------------------------|
| Sunday | 1 st | Harvest Thanksgiving Bible Class | West Kirk Polbeth Harwood West Kirk | 09.45 11.15 09.45 |
| Sunday | 8 th | Morning Worship Teen Time | West Kirk Polbeth Harwood West Kirk | 09.45 11.15 18.15 |
| Wednesday | 11 th | Wednesday Warblers | West Kirk | 11.30 |
| Thursday | 12 th | Beyond Kirk Walls Services | Dickson Court Burngrange Home | 14.00 15.30 |
| Sunday | 15 th | Morning Worship | West Kirk Polbeth Harwood | 09.45 11.15 |
| Wednesday | 18 th | Reflective Service | Polbeth Harwood | 15.30 |
| Sunday | 22 nd | Morning Worship | West Kirk Polbeth Harwood | 09.45 11.15 |
| Thursday | 26 th | Bible Study | Via Zoom | 19.00 |
| Friday | 27 th | Youth Group | Outside Venue | 19.00 |



November 23

| | | | | |
|-----------|------------------|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Thursday | 2 nd | Board & Session | West Kirk | 19.00 |
| Friday | 3 rd | Service of Remembrance | Polbeth Harwood | 19.00 |
| Sunday | 5 th | Morning Worship Bible Class | West Kirk Polbeth Harwood West Kirk | 09.45 11.15 09.45 |
| Wednesday | 8 th | Wednesday Warblers | West Kirk | 11.30 |
| Sunday | 12 th | United Service of Remembrance | West Kirk | 09.45 |

Parish Record

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.

22nd August – Mary (Paddy) Reid, Langside Gardens, Polbeth

4th September– Christina Stafford, Mungle Street, West Calder

6th September – Mary (Reta) Reid, Chapelton Drive, Polbeth

Eternal God,

you are unchanging,

"The grass withers, the flowers fade,

but your Word endures for ever."

"The earth may shake;

the mountains may crumble and fall into the sea..."

but you will still be there for us to lean upon.

We need your constant love and care in our lives,

both now and into the future.

Amen.





A lovely addition to our centre garden in Polbeth Church is this planter which was painted by the very talented Caroline Thomson.

Next time you visit be sure to have a look at it. She has planted some beautiful smelling herbs to make a nice sensory area.

If there are any other talented people out there, please send me some photos of your handiwork for future editions.

And Finally....

Why didn't Noah's family play cards on the ark? He was standing on the deck.

How do we know God likes coffee? Because the Bible says, He brews.

Why wasn't Boaz a nice man before he got married? He was Ruth-less.

Who was the world's first comedian? Samson. He brought the house down.