

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



I thought you would like to know that we've settled in well to the manse in West Calder. We still have a few things to sort out, but it feels like home now, and I'm so thankful for that. It's a lovely house and I enjoy seeing people from our churches and community every day when I take Leo for a walk or pop into the shops.

Something else I love about the house, is that we are tucked away in a lovely quiet corner. Which meant that with the beautiful weather we've been experiencing recently, we could just leave the doors open to enjoy the fresh air, and the boys and the dog could go in and out to enjoy the sunshine. Where in the winter, of course, the doors will do the opposite – we will keep them closed to make the house feel cosy and warm, to keep the heat in.

Doors play a very important role in a house – as it's through the doors that people enter and exit. But there is an ever more important door that we read about in the Bible: In John 10:7 we read that Jesus said: "I am the door. If anyone enters through Me, he will be saved."

Every time I walk through the manse doors, I can't believe that I live here now, it's so special. And so much bigger than that, is walking through that door which is Jesus. A door that is always wide open. If we step through, we will find ourselves in a place where it is comfortably warm all the time, where we are sheltered from the storms of life, and where the lifegiving Spirit fills the whole place with a gentle breeze of freedom and peace.

Why don't we all make a point of keeping the doors of our hearts open all the time this summer, so that we can let others in and let them experience the joy of walking through the most special door of all – Jesus Christ himself...

May God bless you with abundance this summer, and always,
Nanda

PS: The manse door is of course open for you to pop in and enjoy a cuppa with me any time! The front door is to the left when you enter the gates.

Rear-View Driving

Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV)

One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal.

I turned the steering wheel a bit to the right, a bit to the left, and then back to the right again. Why am I having trouble backing down this straight driveway? I wondered. It is pouring down rain, and I couldn't lean my head out of the window to reverse down my friend's driveway. I had no other choice but to depend on my rear-view mirror, and I wasn't doing too well. It took several attempts, so I didn't veer off the driveway onto the soggy grass.

Why is this so hard? I moaned to no-one in particular in particular. Then an unexpected stirring answered. You're having trouble because cars aren't meant to be driven backward....and neither are you.

Suddenly I saw more in my rear-view mirror than the steep driveway behind me. I began to see the reason many of us have trouble driving down the road of life----we spend too

much time looking in the rear-view mirror and not enough time looking straight ahead.

In our spiritual journey, it is beneficial to look back to see where we've been, how far God had brought us, and what He has done in our lives. But if we drive through life spending too much time looking in the rear-view mirror at past mistakes and failures with cries of 'if only,' we're in a heap of trouble.

There is a warning etched onto the glass of my side mirrors, and I am sure you have seen this on your car's side view mirrors. It says, *Objects are closer than they appear.* This could be interpreted in life as, 'Focusing on the past leads to a distorted view of reality'. Rear-view mirrors are helpful, but if we chose to drive through life looking back instead of keeping our focus forward, we're in for a rough journey.

The Hands of Jesus

Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

Be kind and compassionate to one another.

Have you ever had someone offer a tissue in response to your tears? A neighbour you've never met bring dinner over when she/he learns someone close to you passed away? A friend offers to look after your children so you can attend a family funeral? They might not all be Christians, but they are Jesus' hands and feet in dark hours.

All too often, we're uncomfortable letting anyone know that all is not right in our world. We don't want to owe anyone, so we hesitate to accept the help that comes in response to tough times.

But Jesus reaches down from heaven through other people's hands. When we refuse their help, we may actually be refusing Him. We cry for God's help, but when it comes in the form of another human, we are loath to accept it. For some reason we suddenly let pride stand in

the way of allowing God to use other people to show us His love and compassion.

If you're in the midst of tough times right now, how can you let others use their hands to be Jesus to you? Can you accept a meal? An offer of transportation? A willingness to run errands? By saying yes, you'll let Jesus comfort you through the people He's placed specifically in your life. Allow Him to serve you.

Prayer

Compassionate Jesus, let us see Your face in the concerned expression of a neighbour who brings us a meal. Let us feel Your arm in the arms of others who give us hugs of reassurance. Let our heart be open in receiving Your love through the people You have put in our lives. Amen.

Following on from the V.E day joint remembrance service in the West Kirk on the 11th May, the Fundraising Group held a celebratory Afternoon Tea in the West Kirk hall the following Saturday.

The hall was decorated with bunting, lots of black & white photographs from 80 years ago and posters of Land Girls and soldiers from WW2.

A selection of delicious sandwiches and cakes was served (much better I'm sure than was available in 1945), and there was baking, soft goods and vegetable plants, (a nod to "Dig For Victory") for sale.

A big thank you from The Fundraising Group to everyone who helped in any way to make the afternoon such a success.

M Hogg



VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR SUNDAY CAR RUN AT WEST KIRK

On Sunday mornings, the volunteer car run provides welcome transport to and from church for those among us who are unable otherwise to attend worship and the opportunity to continue to be part of the congregation is greatly appreciated by those individuals.

If you would like to know more about this service and join the team of drivers, please contact

Beryl Henderson on 01506 379230

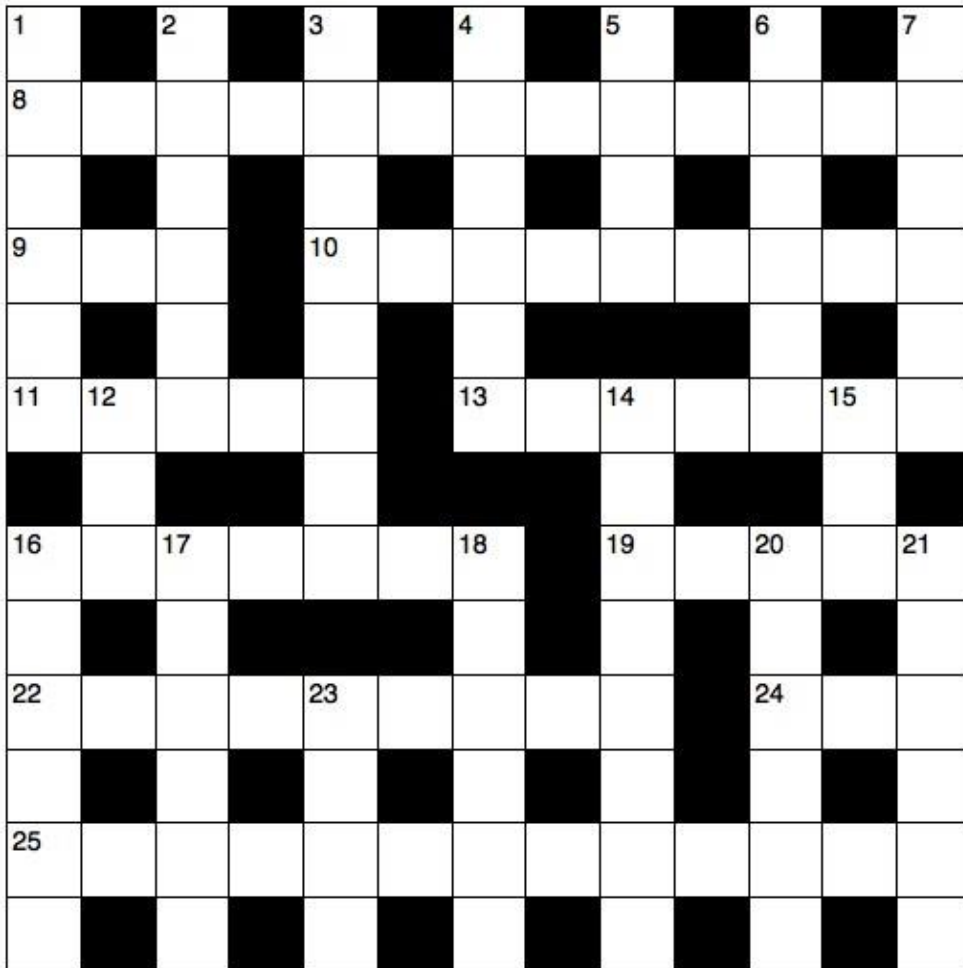


Some Holy Wit! From Rev James Simpson

A minister's wife who, harassed by a sudden influx of visitors, asked the youngest member of the family to say grace in the absence of her husband. 'But Mummy, what shall I say?' asked the perplexed youngster. 'Just say what Mummy says', encouraged his mother. So, the child lifted up his voice, 'O Lord why did all these people have to come to supper on a day like this?'

A minister was given a bottle of cherry brandy by a lady. With a twinkle in her eye, she said it was given on condition that he acknowledge it in the parish magazine. In the next issue, the minister wrote. 'Dr MacDevitt wishes to thank Mrs White for her gift of fruit and the spirit in which it was given.'

A father tells how his son came home from school looking rather nervous. 'Dad, I have a message for you. There is going to be a small meeting of the Parent-Teacher Association at school tomorrow'. What do you mean by 'a small meeting?' asked his father. 'Well, said the lad, 'It's just you, me and the headmaster.'



Across

- 8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)
- 9 In favour of (3)
- 10 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)

11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)

13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)

16 Bay bits (anag.) (7)

19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)

22 Holy Communion (9)

24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3)

25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

Down

1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)

- 2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)
- 3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)
- 4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)
- 5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4)
- 6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)
- 7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — — ' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)
- 12 Ate (anag.) (3)
- 14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)
- 15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)
- 16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)
- 17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)
- 18 'I... asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)
- 20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)
- 21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)
- 23 Diva (anag.) (4)

ANSWERS TO ISSUE 168

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.

The Tartan Pimpernel

Most of us will have seen the film or heard of Oskar Schindler the German industrialist who saved the lives of Jewish people during the Holocaust by employing them in his factories in Poland.

Let me tell you about a man nick-named the TARTAN PIMPERNEL, and how he was instrumental in my father's safe return home from France. That man was the Minister of the Scots Kirk in Paris, the Rev Donald Caskie. He had been called to the Scots Kirk in 1938 prior to the outbreak of the WWII.

When the Germans entered Paris in 1940, Donald Caskie was urged by the Church of Scotland to return home but he initially refused as he wanted to continue to minister to his flock.

Eventually he decided to try and return to Scotland by travelling first to Bayonne and then Bordeaux, but he was unable to get passage.

He eventually arrived in the port of Marseilles and the Seaman's Mission in Rue Forbin.

My father, Robert Rankine, landed in France in January 1940. He was on active service with 51st Division. His regiment was the Seaforth Highlanders (previously known as the 1st Royal Scots Militia.)

He was taken prisoner after the surrender at the battle at St Valery. After 2-3 weeks of marching around 15 miles a day and living in temporary camps towards the Belgium side of Germany, six men, including my father, decided to do a "bunk" (his word from his notes which I'm using to tell his story) into a field of corn. Lying down in the field it took 30 minutes for the sound of tramping feet from the marching POW'S to pass.

Initially they had no firm plan about what to do or where to go, but they had seen a farmhouse in the distance and they decided to head in that direction. Crawling on their hands and knees through the field – happy, excited and full of hope, they made it. Close to the farmhouse they lay down in the scorching sunshine and fell asleep. Six Seaforth's dressed in the Kings uniform - a target for anyone - a price for us if the Germans were tipped off. He was awakened some time later by something falling on him - it was a young lady throwing cherries at him. The rest of the group were already awake.

My father was the only one in the group able to speak French and a little German.

She went off and came back with her father – they were Belgian. He arranged clothing for them - herring bone fabric trousers – French marino pullovers – tammies and different coloured socks, but who cared?

They made a plan to travel to the coast by day as far as possible. During training my father had noticed that in most small café's a small district map was on view inside the premises. This information was invaluable as all the secondary and petite routes were shown - thereby giving evasive routes for their plan. The road to Calais was their objective. They were helped in Bourbourg a la Campagne by a baker and his English wife. Soon they were off again heading for their former Billet but the German Komandant was there.

A hasty exit from the village was taken.

After various escapes they reached a tiny village near St Omer where a farmer employed them to bring in his crops. They were able to get identity cards and contact was made with the Resistance. They were taken to St Omer where he met his everlasting friend whose work for them could never be repaid,

M. Alfred Lanselle. It was time for him to get to the south and Marseilles.

Arrangements were made and they had the company of a man and a woman in black. Arriving in Aberville to catch a train to eventually arrive in the Gard du Nord in Paris. On approaching the station a crowd of people were pounced on for interrogation – the lady and gentleman were caught – the gentleman was freed and the lady was held in custody. They eventually got on the train to Paris. A contact had arranged a stay in Paris before boarding a train south which was full of German troops. The following morning at the border officials of the Gendarme and German officers were on the platform – they were off – they got through no man's land to Vichy France - they were betrayed by a tip off and were jailed in Dijon Barracks - they were then moved a few days later and interred at Fort St Jean, Marseilles where schemes were planned to get out of France – it was here my father heard of the Rev Donald Caskie and soon he met this most energetic man of Christianity - he really thought his strength of purpose and way of securing help were almost unbelievable.

Donald Caskie arranged for telegrams to be sent to the Church of Scotland letting them know the names of escaped Army and RAF service men who were in Marseilles, so that their worried families waiting at home would know that their sons and husbands were safe and well and hopefully be home soon. These men were then sent with guides over the Pyrenees Mountains - on to Spain-Gibraltar and home. My father says this was one of the finest things my folks ever received. He goes on to say: Donald Caskie was in perpetual motion – hurried departures – never ceasing interviews - practically non-stop in his activities and I reckon his unique impartial way of doing things reaped a harvest of success and to all who knew this man's work for human kindness and giving hope to the distressed have in him encountered a most

worthy servant and life-long friend.

Donald Caskie is credited with sending 3,000 service men home – 2,000 of them British.

In 1944 Dad received a letter from the War Office stating that the King has been graciously pleased to approve an award to him of the Military Medal in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the field. Along with my grandfather they went to Buckingham Palace on the 16th February 1945 to receive his medal from the King.

My father got a big surprise when in July of 1959 he was invited by the BBC to appear on a television programme on the life of Rev. Dr Donald Caskie CBE – The programme - This is Your Life with Eamon Andrews. Father of course accepted.

Dad never forgot those courageous French people who put themselves and their families at risk to help him and his comrades. After the war he corresponded with the folks who had helped him and visited France regularly – especially to see Alfred and Marie Lanselle right up until the year before he died in 1978.

Evelyn Paterson



Dr Caskie wears the uniform of officiating Chaplain to the Forces, a post he filled from 1944-5 after the liberation of Paris and his own release from prison.

Calling all Pirates!

Join us on our
Paradise Island
Polbeth Harwood Church



Registration opens on Monday 2nd
June for this summers holiday club.

Forms will be available in both
churches and Parkhead primary
school.

We have an amazing week planned
for children age to start primary
school in August and including
children currently in P7 .

Free for all children,
4-8th August

10am – 12:30pm

All Volunteers

Our final training meeting is on Tuesday 24th of June in the West Kirk at 7pm



We are really looking forward to our holiday club this year, our second time around for Landlubbers! We just want to remind you on Friday 8th of August we have an open evening in Polbeth Harwood at 7pm where we will share our very best bits of our week at holiday club. Why not come along and see what we got up to. Lasts roughly 30 minutes ending with light refreshments.

Why do pirates always take so long to learn the alphabet?

They always get stuck at "C"

TRIP TO SILVER SANDS, ABERDOUR

 **Date:** Sunday 8th June


 **Meeting Point:** Polbeth Harwood Church

 **Morning Worship:** 10:00 AM

 **Bus Departure:** 11:15 AM (from the church)

 **Leave Aberdour:** 5:00 PM

 **Picnic Provided!**

 Come and enjoy a day of fun, fellowship, and fresh sea air at the beautiful Silver Sands beach in Aberdour!

All are welcome – don't miss out!



The Bridge

'16 to 25+ year olds'

'The Bridge' for young folk aged 16 to 25+ years old is held quarterly. A get together and 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 meet in Polbeth Harwood Church Café Area on a

Wednesday at 7pm. Our next scheduled meeting will be in **Wednesday 11th June.**

The Bridge let's stay connected! Look forward to seeing you there!

Nanda, Sandra and Alison



The Quiet Service

The next quiet service in Polbeth Harwood will be held on **Wednesday 11th June at 3:30pm** in the 'quiet room'. All are welcome to this short service followed by tea, coffee, biscuits and a 'blether'. Entry via the Ramp Door.

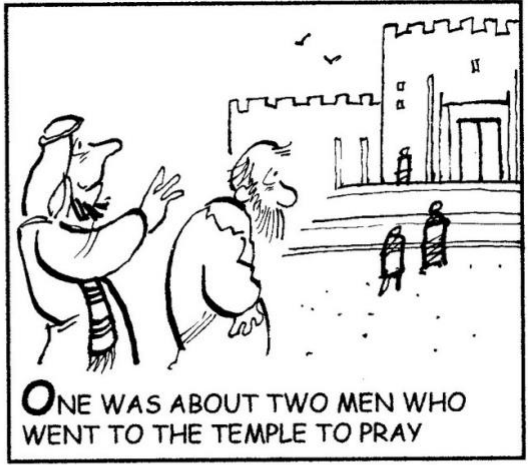
Anyone who would like to come and needs assistance with transport should call Sandra Dixon on 07855861223.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Sandra and Alison

The
Tale of the
**TWO MEN
SAYING
THEIR
PRAYERS**

**JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS**



**ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO
WENT TO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY**



**ONE WAS A PHARISEE
(A MAN A BIT LIKE A PRIEST)**

**THE OTHER WAS A TAX
COLLECTOR. (NOT A POPULAR
MAN IN JESUS' DAY!).**



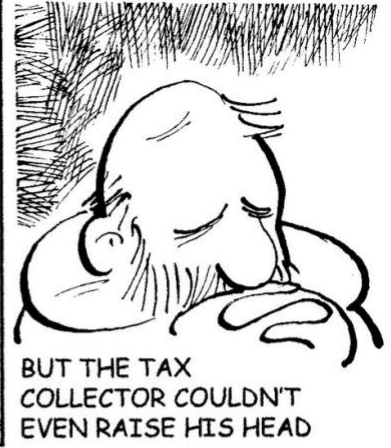
**THE PHARISEE BEGAN
TO PRAY**



**WHAT A GREAT CHAP I
AM! I NEVER DO
ANYTHING WRONG!!**



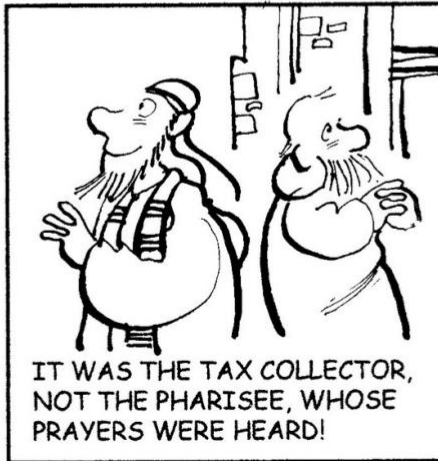
**I AM SO PLEASED WITH MYSELF,
ESPECIALLY AS I AM NOT A SCOUNDREL,
LIKE THIS TAX COLLECTOR!**



**BUT THE TAX
COLLECTOR COULDN'T
EVEN RAISE HIS HEAD**



**DEAR GOD... I AM VERY SORRY!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR
ALL THE WRONG THINGS
I HAVE DONE.**

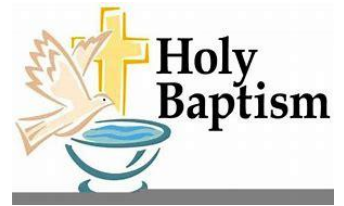


**IT WAS THE TAX COLLECTOR,
NOT THE PHARISEE, WHOSE
PRAYERS WERE HEARD!**



**JESUS EXPLAINED -
'DON'T BE PROUD WHEN YOU
PRAY - INSTEAD BE HUMBLE!'**

Parish Record



Baptism

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as them.”

4th May – Ruaridh Douglas Alexander, son of Kenneth and Kristen Alexander (nee McNay)



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.

24th April– Elizabeth Forgrave, Westmuir Road, West Calder

3rd May - Mary Johnston, Dickson Court, West Calder

7th May – Thomas McAloon, Polbeth Road, Polbeth

Here, there, without, within,

in shadow, in light,

amid storms, in the centre of calm

... there is always a place, God abides beside us.

in the heights, and in the depths -

nothing can separate us from the love of God.



June 25

Sunday	1 st	Holy Communion	West Kirk	09.30
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15 09.30
		Bible Class	West Kirk	
Thursday	5 th	West Kirk Session	West Kirk	19.00
Sunday	8 th	United Worship	Polbeth	10.00
		Annual Outing to Aberdour	Harwood From Polbeth	11.15
Wednesday	11 th	Wednesday Warblers	West Kirk hall	11.30
Thursday	12 th	Beyond Kirk Wall	Dickson Court	13.45
		Services	Burngrange Home	15.00
Sunday	15 th	Morning Worship	West Kirk	09.30
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15
Sunday	22 nd	Morning Worship	West Kirk	09.30
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15

Tuesday	24 th	Holiday Club Training	West Kirk	19.00
Wednesday	25 th	Parkhead School Service	West Kirk	09.30
Friday	27 th	Youth Group		19.00
Sunday	29 th	Morning Worship	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood	09.30 11.15

July 25

Sundays	6 th 13 th 20 th 27 th	United Morning Worship	West Kirk	09.30
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August 25

Sunday	3 rd	United Morning Worship	Polbeth Harwood	11.15
Monday - Friday	4 th – 8 th	Holiday Club	Polbeth Harwood	10.00
Friday	8 th	Holiday Club Open Evening	Polbeth Harwood	19.00

Sundays	10 th 17 th 24 th 31 st	United Morning Worship	Polbeth Harwood	11.15
Friday	29 th	Youth Group		19.00
Saturday	30 th	BBQ + Extras	West Kirk	14.00

September 25

Thursday	4 th	West Kirk Session	West Kirk	19.00
Sunday	7 th	Holy Communion	West Kirk	09.30
		Bible Class	Polbeth Harwood West Kirk	11.15 09.30
Wednesday	10 th	Wednesday Warblers	West Kirk hall	11.30
Thursday	11 th	Beyond Kirk Wall	Dickson Court	13.45
		Services	Burngrange Home	15.00



A picture to colour