

The Link



**The magazine for the linked congregations and community of the
West Kirk of Calder and Polbeth Harwood**

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A Word From Our Minister

The Manse
27 Learmonth Crescent
West Calder
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Monday, 30 September 2008



Dear Friends,

During my holiday in the North West Highlands recently, I was aware of a changing of seasons. The first week was mild, almost too humid for walking. There was little or no wind – bad news as the Midges were still very much with us! The second week, however, brought plenty of wind (breezes would have been quite enough thank you!), and some prolonged spells of rain. There was a different feel in the air – Autumn perhaps, and one of the first things I noticed on my return to West Calder was the fallen leaves; yes, Autumn is here.

We are at a place in the Christian year where transitions are taking place. First, there is a season of thanksgiving and remembrance. We thank God for crops that are harvested and all his good provision in our daily lives. We also remember with thanksgiving those who have served their country and those who have given their lives in wars and conflicts.

Then, almost before we know it, we enter the season of Advent (Sunday 30th November marks the start this year) and have four weeks before Christmas to consider, prepare and reflect on the amazing story of God coming to us in love to be born as a human baby and what this means for our lives.

I wish you God's blessings as you journey through the seasons, with all that our unpredictable climate and God of surprises will bring!

David A Albon

Rev David A Albon
Minister of the Parish Churches of the West Kirk of Calder and Polbeth Harwood

New Elders

At the West Kirk on Sunday 7 September 2008 Lorraine Clarke, Rob Holden and Aileen Milne were ordained and admitted into the eldership.

After the ordination, the Minister and representatives gave the new elders the right hand of fellowship from the Kirk Session and Congregation.

The Parish Record

Baptism

28 September – Anna Rose Keegan, Pitcaple Gardens, Bellsquarry

Weddings

5 July – Laura Whigham and Greg Gallagher

26 July – Kelly Paton and William Taylor

Funerals

30 May – Lorraine MacDonald, Staunton Rise, Dedridge

3 June – Irene Hagan, Calder Road, Bellsquarry

9 June – Millie Cowan, Stewart Court, West Calder

9 July – June Pruett, Black Hill Road, Forth

12 July – William Walker, Langside Crescent, Polbeth

9 August – Alec Brock, Westmuir Road, West Calder

12 August – Mary Whyte, Woodlands Nursing Home, Dedridge

16 August – Cathy Gibson, Langside Gardens, Polbeth

18 August – Lorna Davis, Langside Crescent, Polbeth

25 August – William Storrie, Church of Scotland Nursing Home, Queensferry

28 August – Sarah Kane, Langside Gardens, Polbeth

Sunday Morning Worship takes place in the West Kirk at 9.30 am and in Polbeth Harwood at 11.15 am.

West Kirk – Eco-Congregation

On Sunday 7 September, I took a pitch at the West Lothian Environment Fair 2008 at Almond Valley Heritage Centre (Mill Farm), representing Eco-Congregation.



Despite the awful weather there was a fairly constant stream of children who dropped by to make Eco-Signs, stickers and fridge magnets, using off-cuts donated by a local sign-making company.

Thanks for their help on the afternoon to Natasha, to two ladies from LEPC Knightsridge and another lady from Torphichen, to Jean Pringle who came for the early afternoon, and to the Milnes who came along at the end and helped me pack up.

Rosanna Rabaeijs

Heaven

There once was a rich man who was near death. He was very grieved because he had worked so hard for his money and he wanted to take it with him to heaven. So he began to pray that he might be able to take some of his wealth with him. An angel hears his plea and appears to him. "Sorry, but you can't take your wealth with you."



The man implores the angel to speak to God to see if He might bend the rules. The man continues to pray that his wealth could follow him. The angel reappears and informs the man that God has decided to allow him to take one suitcase with him. Overjoyed, the man gathers his largest suitcase and fills it with pure gold bars and places it beside his bed. Soon afterwards the man dies and shows up at the Gates of Heaven to greet St. Peter. Seeing the suitcase St. Peter says, "Hold on, you can't bring that in here!"

But, the man explains to St. Peter that he has permission and asks him to verify his story with the Lord. Sure enough, St. Peter checks and comes back saying,

"You're right. You are allowed one carry-on bag, but I'm supposed to check its contents before letting it through." St. Peter opens the suitcase to inspect the worldly items that the man found too precious to leave behind and exclaims, "You brought pavement?!!!"

West Kirk Guild Report

The Guild first session was on Monday 6th October 2008 and our speaker was from the Salvation Army.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday – 14 October	Autumn Rally (Broxburn Parish Church)
Monday – 20 October	Yorkhill (Children's Foundation)
Saturday – 1 November	Guild Coffee Morning
Monday – 3 November	Shoe Boxes
Sunday – 16 November	Guest Night (Accordion Music)
Monday – 17 November	Guild Week Service – Miss Catherine Robb

Moira Jack (Secretary)

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Life & Work – October Issue

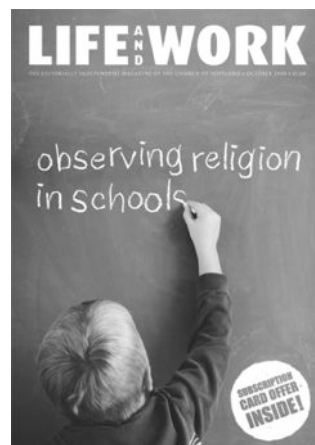
The Editorially Independent Magazine of the Church of Scotland
www.lifeandwork.org

The God Slot

Frank Gerstenberg and Ewan Aitken discuss the importance of religious observance in Scotland's schools.

A Duty to Die?

Profile of Baroness Mary Warnock, in which the chair of the government's human fertilisation and embryology committee reveals some provocative opinions on such hot potatoes as euthanasia, mercy killing and cloning.



A Common Humanity

Ian Galloway reflects on an inter-faith pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Serpents and Doves

Laurence Whitley begins a new series on how the Christian should deal with unpleasantness.



Shoebox Time

How Blythswood Care's appeal brings Christmas joy to children in poorer parts of the world.

Congregational What?

New columnists Ruth Harvey and Pauline Steenbergen, congregational facilitators in Annandale and Eskdale, introduce themselves and explain what they do.

The Reformed Publican

Jock Stein on some of the lesser-known details of the life of John Calvin.

Value Added Church

Bryan Kerr challenges churches to add 'something extra' to their communities.

Plus – Presbytery of Falkirk, Edinburgh's High Kirk, the Isle of Skye, all the regular columnists, news, letters and crosswords – all for just £1.60.

To subscribe, contact your church's Life and Work co-ordinator or see the magazine for postal subscriptions. Look out for a special offer for Christmas – buy a subscription for a friend or treat yourself.

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What Did You Do In Your Holidays? – Keswick

This year the Hulls (David, Aileen and Rachel) went to the Keswick Convention for the first time. We didn't really know what to expect, but we had been invited by good friends and were brave enough to give it at least one try! What we found was a week of challenging Bible study, interesting talks, uplifting worship, (some new songs, some old favourites) and a number of surprise meetings with friends we hadn't seen for years, all in a pretty Lake District town with reasonable weather and within easy reach of some hills!

The broad topic of the 3-week Convention was Creation, Chaos and Christ - the universe, is it meaningless chaos or God's creation? Where do we come from, why are we here and where is it all going? There were seminars in the mornings, a time of Bible study and worship before lunch, then a celebration of worship, prayer and Bible study in the evening held in a very big marquee.

There were excellent facilities for children - Rachel wasn't old enough for the children's club but she loved going to crèche, which was a large tent at the back of the main marquee with lots of toys, lots of space, comfy chairs, a baby changing area and two screens showing the programme from the main tent so the grownups could listen in while they watched their children play. (and the children could sing and dance along to the music as they wished!)

We were there in the last week of the convention. The Bible studies for the week were on the books of Colossians and were led by Charles Price, Senior Pastor of The Peoples Church in Toronto. It is hard to sum up the week of studies as there was so much to take in. There were several points when I wished for a "pause" button I could press, so I could go away and think about what had just been said and then go on to the next point when I was ready (I'm looking forward to the book version of the talks so I can do this!).

One of the phrases Charles kept returning to was "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him"(Colossians 2v6). Charles suggested that when we receive Jesus as Lord we have realised we cannot be saved through our own efforts - I can't do it, Jesus can, if I let Him be Lord of my life. So then this is how we can live as God wants us to, by realising I can't do it, Jesus can, if I let Him be Lord and put Him at the centre of my life. This focus then leads to how we can live godly lives, pick out true and false teaching, live as God's chosen people in our families, our community, our church and our jobs, and our daily lives, as described in the rest of Paul's letter to the Colossians. We could never live up to the standards Paul describes on our own, Jesus living in us will give us the power we need.

The Bible focus for the evening meetings was the book of Revelation - not for the faint hearted! There were different speakers throughout the week, each taking a different piece of the book, with a drama company adding movement, colour and action to the Bible readings. The main message here was that Jesus has the ultimate victory, He is on the throne and He is in control.

We all had a very good time in Keswick and we're hoping to go back next year. The title for next year is "A Faith that Works" and the Convention will take place in the last 3 weeks of July 2009. I'm sure there will be details on the website for next year's convention, and better explanations of what happened this year too, if you'd like to know more.

Try www.keswickministries.org

Aileen Hull

The Vine Trust

Many of you will already know of the good work of the Vine Trust in Peru

- the provision of medical and dental aid to communities along the tributaries of the Amazon via the Amazon Hope boats
- and the building and staffing of homes for abandoned street children. Currently the Trust has been involved in opening and operating 8 centres for such children.

I have signed up as a volunteer in a work party being organised by members from East Calder & Kirknewton church to go out to Peru in July 2009.

We will be involved in labouring duties in the building programmes – quarrying materials, making adobe bricks and helping construction of buildings – and will live among the children and their house parents.

We will be based in 2 sites in Peru, both in the Andes

- **Kusi**, which is in the Corderilla Blanca region, an 8 hour bus journey from Lima. The centre here has a school with 100 children on the roll.
- **Cusco**, the historic centre of the Incan empire and the famous Sacred Valley. The centre here is the latest opened by the trust.

I'm looking forward to helping make a practical contribution to the Trust's work and being able to see their projects at first hand. We pay our own travel costs and undertake fund raising to support the trust's work,

So this is the first of several events.

<p style="text-align: center;">COFFEE MORNING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">with Cream Teas and Bring & Buy Stall</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 15 November 10am – 12 noon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">West Kirk Hall</p>
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Liz Dyer

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Harvest Colouring





West Kirk – Rota Information

West Kirk Crèche Rota

12 Oct	Kathy Black
19 Oct	Shirley MacRae
26 Oct	Mary Calder
2 Nov	Olive Gibson
9 Nov	Aileen Hull
16 Nov	Val Occardi
23 Nov	Margaret Farquhar
30 Nov	Kathy Black
7 Dec	Shirley MacRae
14 Dec	Mary Calder

West Kirk Tea Rota

Contact Olive Gibson 01506 871291
Note: Tea Makers, please bring milk.

12 October	Olive Gibson	Katie Albon
19 October	Irene Grindlay	Margaret Rennie
26 October	Liz Dyer	Janice Cooper
2 November	Olive Gibson	May Young
9 November	Margaret Lamb	Janet Meikle
16 November	Olive Gibson	May Arnott
23 November	Maira McRae	Jill Murray
30 November	Margo McEwan	Hettie McIntyre
7 December	Olive Gibson	Isobel McChesney
14 December	Alison Baxter	Alison McNaught

West Kirk Flower Rota

If you cannot manage your turn to arrange or deliver flowers, please either swap, or contact Margaret Greenhorn (01506 871139) for help in finding someone.

The calendar is on the wall in the Church entrance, but this rota covers a long period so there are still quite a few gaps. If you would like to donate flowers in the coming weeks, please still do so, by speaking to whoever is the arranger for the relevant week.

We also could really do with a few more folk on the rota, both to arrange and to deliver – please consider this and let it be known if you can help.

	Given	Arranged	Delivered
5 October		Rosanna Rabaeijs	Maira McRae
12 October		Rosanna Rabaeijs	Irene Grindlay
19 October	N. Kennedy	Hetty McIntyre	Kathy Black
26 October	Evelyn Paterson	Evelyn Paterson	Ivy Johnstone
2 November	M Graham	Margaret Greenhorn	Maira McRae
9 November		Rosanna Rabaeijs	Irene Grindlay
16 November	Liz Dyer	Margo McEwan	Kathy Black
23 November		Katie Albon	Ivy Johnstone
30 November			Maira McRae
7 December		Rosanna Rabaeijs	Irene Grindlay
14 December	Lorna Graham	Lorna Graham	

West Kirk Duty Rota

	Door Duty			Car Run
12 October	Juanita Allan	May Arnott	Angus Baxter	Robert Hawes
19 October	Richard Bryce	Liz Dyer	Alex Easton	Beryl Henderson
26 October	Jeanette Ferguson	Victor Ferguson	Lorna Graham	Alan Jessiman
2 November	Irene Grindlay	Beryl Henderson	Alan Jessiman	George Stott
9 November	Alison McNaught	Stewart Munro	Jill Murray	Richard Bryce
16 November	Christine Nicholl	George Stott	Hazel Tod	Hugh Clarkson
23 November	May Arnott	Angus Baxter	Juanita Allan	Robert Hawes
30 November	Liz Dyer	Alex Easton	Richard Bryce	Beryl Henderson
7 December	Victor Ferguson	Beryl Henderson	Jeanette Ferguson	Alan Jessiman
14 December	Lorna Graham	Alan Jessiman	Irene Grindlay	George Stott



Polbeth Harwood – Rota Information

Stewart Court Taxi Rota

12 October	Margaret Marr
19 October	Charlie Sturrock
26 October	David Prentice
2 November	Eleanor Davidson
9 November	Margaret Marr
16 November	Charlie Sturrock
23 November	David Prentice
30 November	Eleanor Davidson
7 December	Margaret Marr
14 December	Charlie Sturrock

Polbeth Harwood Cleaning Rota

(for week commencing)

12 October	Mary Mabbutt	Frank Mabbutt
19 October	Laura Carroll	Petrona Carroll
26 October	Reeta Griffin	Tom Griffin
2 November	Mary Gray	Josephine Greer
9 November	Dot Cibbald	Norma Wilson
16 November	Anna Muirhead	Betty Macauley
23 November	Marian Kinsman	Joan Philips
30 November	Ann Watson	William Watson
7 December	Margaret Marr	Jocky Marr
14 December	Esther Hamilton	Pat Erskine

Polbeth Harwood Duty Rota

	Door Duty			
12 October	Betty Macauley	Gordon Erskine	Janet Russell	Alan Mercer
19 October	Anna Muirhead	Tom Walker	Reeta Griffin	Tom Griffin
26 October	Ena Prentice	David Prentice	Wilma Dickson	Lilias Fairley
2 November	Hazel Speirs	Linda Eardley	Margaret Hampson	William McCallum
9 November	Moira Mushet	Marian Kinsman	Jimmy Greer	Charlie Sturrock
16 November	Chrissie McCormack	Esther Hamilton	Betty Upton	Margaret Dempster
23 November	Etta Walker	Eleanor Davidson	Effie Halliday	Frank Mabbutt
30 November	Alice Mackay	Kenneth Mackay	Jenny Doyle	Janice Doyle
7 December	Jessie Kelly	Tom Kelly	Ann Watson	William Watson
14 December	Betty Macauley	Gordon Erskine	Janet Russell	Alan Mercer

Polbeth Harwood Café Rota

15 October	Grace Peace	Frank Mabbutt
22 October	Effie Haliday	Gordon Erskine
29 October	Chrissie McCormack	Esther Hamilton
5 November	Wilma Dickson	Jessie Kelly
12 November	Betty Upton	Janet Walker
19 November	Grace Peace	Frank Mabbutt
26 November	Effie Halliday	Gordon Erskine
3 November	Chrissie McCormack	Esther Hamilton
10 December	Wilma Dickson	Jessie Kelly
17 December	Betty Upton	Janet Walker

Parachutes

A doctor, a lawyer, a little boy and a priest were out for a Sunday afternoon flight on a small private plane. Suddenly, the plane developed engine trouble. In spite of the best efforts of the pilot the plane started to go down. Finally the pilot grabbed a parachute, yelled to the passengers that they had better jump, and bailed out.

Unfortunately there were only three parachutes remaining.

The doctor grabbed one and said "I'm a doctor, I save lives, so I must live," and jumped out.

The lawyer then said, "I'm a lawyer and lawyers are the smartest people in the world, I deserve to live!" He grabbed a parachute and jumped.

The priest looked at the little boy and said, "My son, I've lived a long and full life. You are young and have your whole life ahead of you. Take the last parachute and live in peace".

The little boy handed the parachute back to the priest and said, "Not to worry, Father. The 'smartest man in the world' just took off with my back pack."



Get One Free



Sign in a Chinese Pet Store: "**Buy one dog, get one flea.**"

Contributions for the next edition ...

Contributions for the next edition of *The Link Magazine* can be **submitted at any time** however for Issue 29 (December and January) the latest submission date is Sunday 16 November.



Your contributions are always welcome.

Paws... for thought



Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

St Francis