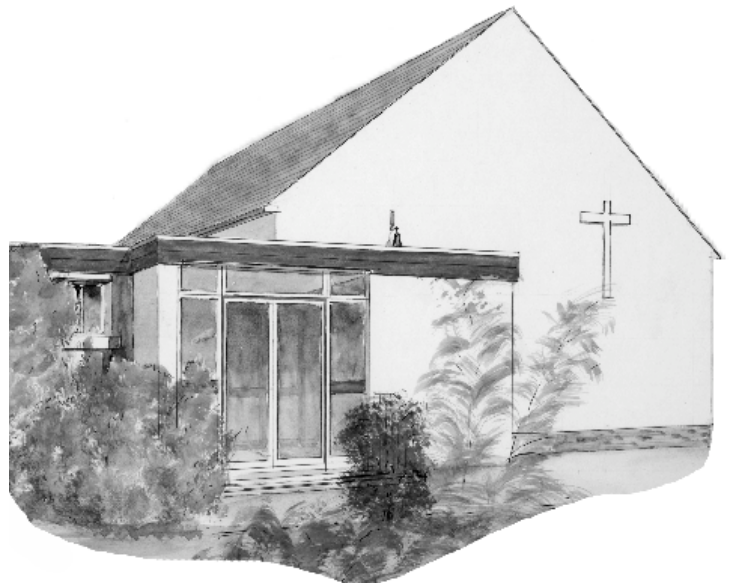


The Link



**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
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Sunday, 16 November 2008

Dear Friends

Though it hasn't arrived as I write this, it will have by the time you read it - Welcome to the Season of Advent!

Again in our Advent services this year we will spend time preparing ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

As well as the Sunday services, there will be Christmas Eve services in both our churches again this year. At the Christmas Eve Family service at Polbeth Harwood, again we would like to invite children aged around eight and under to come dressed as Mary, Joseph, the donkey, the innkeeper, shepherds, angels, wise men, kings and the star and join in the Nativity story with us. And of course, there will be the Christmas Eve Watch-night Service at the West Kirk with candles, carols and readings.

As has become the pattern the few years we will be gathering in each other's churches for united services on the last Sunday of this year and the first Sunday of 2009. Please see the details of services in this issue of *The Link*. You are very welcome to any or all of our services over this festive season!

To help us reflect as we prepare for Christmas, I've included a poem by Frances Ballantyne.

In Due Time

God's due time	God's day of salvation
Not our immediate now	Not our day of self effort
God's perfect timing	God's finale celebrations
Not ours of impatience	Not our man-made festivals
God's timetable	God's delivery date
Not our schedule	Not our probable date
God's will	God's due time
Not our self will	Not ours to disagree about.
God's completion	
Not our imperfect incompleteness	

(in 'Shine on, Star of Bethlehem,' Christian Aid, 2002)

In the meantime, best wishes for Advent, a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year!

David A Albon

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

The Parish Record

Baptism

28 September – Anna Rose Keegan, Pitcaple Gardens, Bellsquarry

Weddings

11 October – Craig Brash and Helen McKenzie

Funerals

27 June – Jonathan Stott, Main Street

30 June – Samuel Totten

2 July – Myra Kirk, Hartwood Road

8 September – Joseph Meikle

11 September – Margaret Macaulay, Stewart Court

with apologies that the above were omitted from the previous issue

6 October – Alice Lumsden, Peacock Nursing Home

13 October – William Stewart, Parkhead Crescent

16 October – Ruby Reid, The Glebe

5 November – Jessie Gaughan, Chapelton Place

10 November – Betty Upton, Nigel Rise

12 November – Ian Barron, Templar Rise

17 November – Thomas Jordan, Craigswood

18 November – James McFarlane, Park Drive

Cubs and Beavers

There are spaces in both sections, which meet in the West Kirk Hall.



Beavers meet on a Monday evening from 6 pm – 7 pm and are for boys and girls age 6 – 8 years old.



Cubs meet on a Wednesday evening from 6.15 pm - 7.30 pm and are for boys and girls age 8 – 10 years.

Both sections offer a varied programme of games, badges and outings and any interested people should go along on the evening.

Jean Walkinshaw

Worship in the Linked Congregations

1st Sunday of Advent – Sunday 30 November

Presbytery Pulpit Exchange
Rev Dr Robert Anderson (Blackburn & Seafield)

2nd Sunday of Advent – Sunday 7 December

Sacrament of Communion:
West Kirk – 9.30 am, Polbeth Harwood – 11.15 am
United Communion at West Kirk – 6.30 pm

3rd Sunday of Advent – Sunday 14 December

Gift Service at West Kirk – 9.30 am
Morning Worship at Polbeth Harwood – 11.15 am

Friday 19 December

Parkhead Primary School Christmas Service at West Kirk – 9.30 am

4th Sunday of Advent – Sunday 21 December

West Kirk Youth Link Christmas Service – 9.30 am
Polbeth Harwood Sunday School Christmas Service – 11.15 am

Christmas Eve – Wednesday 24 December

Family Nativity Service at Polbeth Harwood – 7 pm
Watchnight Service at West Kirk – 11.30 pm

Sunday 28 December – Last Sunday of 2008

United All-Age Service at Polbeth Harwood – 11.15 am
*(Please note: there will **not** be a service at the West Kirk this morning)*

Sunday 4 January 2009 – Epiphany – First Sunday of New Year

United All-Age Service at the West Kirk – 9.30 am
*(Please note: there will **not** be a service at Polbeth Harwood this morning)*

Christmas Delivery Service



The Beavers and Cubs will be delivering Christmas post in West Calder & Polbeth - no outlying areas please.

Only 15p per card! The last date for collection will be Sunday 14 December.

Collection boxes will be in both West Calder (Church Hall) and Polbeth Harwood Church or they can be handed into the Library or Library House.

Worship Across The Pond

Dover, New Hampshire, our holiday venue for the last three years, was first settled in 1623 and is the oldest settlement in New Hampshire and the seventh oldest in the USA. The township, which straddles the Cocheca River, boasts a wide variety of churches but the one we have become attached to is the First Parish Church Congregational of Dover. The first Congregational Gathering took place in 1634 and the first church/meeting house was erected in 1638. The present building, the fifth such one was erected in 1829. In October of this year, the church celebrates its 375th Anniversary and we were privileged to attend morning worship on Sunday 5 October at 10 am – a little later than at home. The building is roughly three times the floor area of the West Kirk. The interior is a lovely warm off-white colour with a large chancel and an organ. The organ has some of the original hand crafted pipes from the original organ, first installed in 1829. Two pastors, Rev David Slater and Rev Nancy Talbot, who normally share morning worship, serve the church. There is a third member of the team – a dromedary! (in actual fact a glove puppet who is called Drama Dearie – get it?). David Slater is quite an accomplished ventriloquist and in many of his opening remarks he and Drama Dearie hold very intelligent conversations.



Worship at First Parish is very relaxed and completely different from the rigid sort of traditional worship, which we are accustomed to in the Church of Scotland. We found that the welcome to us as strangers was very warm and we felt very comfortable sitting in our seats waiting on the service to start. There was a great buzz of conversation from the congregation, which numbered about 200 and was from a wide age range with an unusually high number of men present with their families. A lot of coming and going saw the 36 strong choir, resplendent in their cream robes enter and occupy the front rows of seats. The two Acolytes were positioned at the rear of the chancel, each poised to light the candles. The deacon took his place at the right hand side and finally unobtrusively Rev David Slater and Drama Dearie came in and sat down at the left hand side of the chancel. The Deacon had to ‘clear his throat’ to let everyone know that the service was ready to start!

A lady from the congregation walked over to David Slater and started to have a very informative dialogue with Drama Dearie about the 375th Anniversary celebrations. Next the organist Richard Gremlitz gave a Historical Music Vignette. This morning



the organ had been moved to the centre of the chancel because an organ recital was being held later to herald the start of the celebrations. In the latest edition of their Church News – called ‘The Chimes’ – an article on the organ says “Music has always been at the heart of our church with our pipe organ playing a central role within that music ministry. Our present organ, most recently renewed and enlarged in 1996, has a history that spans nearly two centuries.” Appropriately at the start of the service the organist gave a short history of the organ from

its initial build to the present day situation. Interestingly each upgrade/enlargement always used parts of the previous organ. The organist demonstrated the sounds that the organ would have produced at different times throughout its history from being blown by hand until 1903, then by a water motor and so on until the latest sophisticated computer system was installed in 1996 controlling the 44 ranks of digitally produced sounds. When the swell organ was played, one could feel the pews vibrating. It was an organ that Bill Russell would have loved to play.

The actual order of the service was very similar to that which we have at the West Kirk, but it was couched in different language and headings. There was a good deal more of congregational participation. Choral work was given by the Junior Choir of some 20 voices and also by the Senior Choir, a well-balanced choir of 36 voices. Just as we have our young people go out to Sunday School/Youth Link, Rev Nancy Talbot went out with the young people for most of the service and returned towards the close. Rev David Slater gave a very interesting sermon on 'The Ten Commandments' and how we should interpret them.

A very interesting custom for this church was the single rose vase placed in the chancel. This rose was to celebrate the birth of a son and grandson to one of the families in the congregation

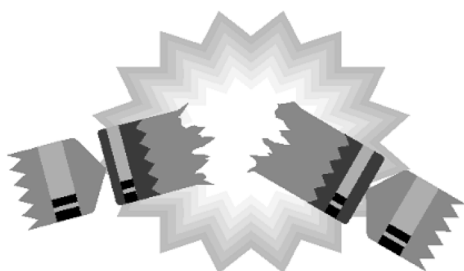
The Sacrament of Communion was dispensed towards the end of the service and their method was quite different from ours. The minister David Slater and a man whom I took to be the equivalent of our Session Clerk took the loaves of bread and broke then and handed portions to all the elders who then distributed the bread to the congregation. Everyone kept the bread until the entire congregation had been served and then on the word of the minister they ate the bread. It was the same with the trays of wine. Everyone kept the glass until the minister invited all to drink.

After the last hymn and before the Benediction an interesting presentation took place. A young girl was going away on some journey and to mark the occasion a small presentation was made to her. A few of her friends from the youth club and two of the leaders accompanied her and stood at the front of the chancel. and from a basket proceeded to present her with a sash with some name inscribed on it, two tee-shirts, one yellow for every day use and a white one for special occasions, a book to read on her travels and lastly 5 stamped addressed envelopes for her to keep in contact with her parents and friends. What a lovely gesture I thought.

This brought to an end a memorable period of worship for both of us.

Bill Calder

Christmas Crackers

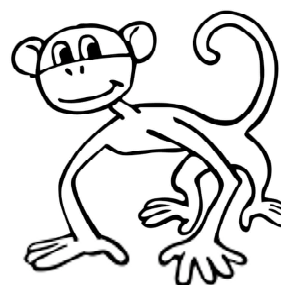


What lies at the bottom of the sea and shivers?	<i>A nervous wreck</i>
What do vampires sing on New Year's Eve?	<i>Auld Fang Syne</i>
What lies in a pram and wobbles?	<i>A jelly baby</i>
What do you call a blind dinosaur?	<i>A doyouthinkhesaurus</i>
Why can't a bike stand up by itself?	<i>Because it's two-tired</i>
What's ET short for?	<i>Because he's only got little legs</i>
Why do birds fly south in winter?	<i>Because it's too far to walk</i>
How does Jack Frost get to work?	<i>By icicle</i>
What do you call a penguin in the Sahara desert?	<i>Lost</i>
Why did the footballer take a piece of rope onto the pitch?	<i>He was the skipper</i>
How did the Vikings send secret messages?	<i>By Norse code</i>
What kind of lighting did Noah use for the ark?	<i>Floodlights</i>
What do you call two robbers?	<i>A pair of knickers</i>

The monkey writes...

One Way UK Puppet Ministry Training Day – 15 November 2008.

Another year, another chance to meet up with other puppets (and puppeteers) from churches and groups across Scotland. This time the venue was Wormit, Fife, somewhere we'd never been to, but we now know is easy to find - it's at this end of the Tay Bridge!



The format this year was much more interactive and practical so I got the chance to strut my funky stuff (and wave my arms - so Aileen's are a bit sore as she's typing this) with puppets from places like Falkirk, Greenock, Leven, Inverness and of course, Wormit. It was hard work, great fun, and I hear the soup was delicious though I didn't get to sample any – I was left to chat to the other performers while our puppeteers went upstairs to lunch!

The training started right at the very basics, with how to go on stage properly, where to look and how to sing, then went on to develop a simple routine in groups with some very bouncy pop music. We even did an aerobics session! Simon Cowell wasn't available to come and see the results but we think we did pretty well.

Who knows, you might see the difference next time I'm in church...

*Cheeky Monkey
(and Aileen Hull)*

The Vine Trust Work Party

Very many thanks to all who supported the Coffee Morning held on Saturday 15 November, particularly with all the donations of tasty baking and soup!

My special thanks to the Guild ladies who helped both my family and I, by manning the stall, serving and preparing in the kitchen.

Without you all I couldn't have raised the magnificent sum of £472 to help support the Vine Trust.

VineTrust

If you'd like to contribute to the Vine Trust and have Internet access, there is a quick, easy and secure means of donating. Just visit my fundraising page at: www.justgiving.com/lizdyer1. It will also let you see how

I'm progressing towards my £1500 target. If you pay income tax, why not Gift Aid your donation and let the taxman give his share!

Sincere thanks for your support and watch out for another event after the New Year. Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and may good health and happiness be with you and yours in 2009.

Liz Dyer

Christmas or Xmas

Christmas is also sometimes called Xmas. Some people don't think it's correct to call Christmas 'Xmas' as that takes the 'Christ' (Jesus) out of Christmas. But that is not quite right! In the Greek language and alphabet, the letter that looks like an X is pronounced 'Christos' and means 'Christ'!

Christians sometimes use the symbol of a fish, this comes from the time when the first Christians had to meet in secret, as the Romans wanted to kill them (before Emperor Constantine became a Christian). Jesus had said that he wanted to make his followers 'Fishers of Men', so people started to use that symbol.



Ι	Jesus
Χ	Christ
Θ	God
Υ	Son
Σ	Saviour

When two Christians met, one person drew half a basic fish shape (often using their foot in the dust on the ground) and the other person drew the other half of the fish. The Greek word for fish is 'Ikthus' or 'Ichthys'. There are five Greek letters in the word. It can also make up a sentence of Christian beliefs 'Ie-sous Christos Theou Huios So-te-r' which in English means "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour". The second letter of these five letters is X or Christos!

So Xmas can also mean Christmas! Whichever way you spell it, have a Happy one!

Pastoral Care Events

Christmas Party

The Christmas Party run by the Pastoral Care Committee is on Monday 22 December at 7 pm in the West Kirk Hall. After a buffet meal, we shall have games, dances and carols. All are welcome to come, but tickets must be purchased in advance from Jill Murray, Victor Ferguson or Bill Russell (01506 871693).

Scots Night

The annual Scots Night is on Friday 30 January 2009.

Bill Russell

West Kirk Choir Events

Evening of Christmas Music

The West Kirk Choir and Mure Memorial Choir (Garrowhill) will present an evening of Christmas music on Friday 19 December at 7pm in the West Kirk. Come along and hear some new carols, sing some old favourites and enjoy tea in the hall afterwards. All are welcome - admission free!

Garrowhill Christmas Party

On Sunday 21 December at 6.30 pm, the West Kirk Choir will join Mure Memorial Choir for the annual Christmas Party in Garrowhill. Anyone who would like to attend, please see Bill Russell (01506 871693).

Bill Russell

West Kirk Guild Report

Monday 20 October

We enjoyed a talk by Sheena MacDougall about the work that the Yorkhill's Children Foundation are involved in. The items and equipment they have been able to help obtain is wonderful and allow the children and families to forget their illness for a time.

Saturday 1 November

The Guild Coffee morning raided the grand sum of £707. Thank you all who donated, helped, and came to the coffee morning.

Sunday 16 November

Catherine Robb, the National Executive of the Church of Scotland Guild, was warmly welcomed to the Guild Week Service. She gave a talk on the work that the Guild is involved in. Other Guild members also contributed.

Monday 17 November

This was our Guest night with Andrew Gibb and his group playing Accordion music. The night was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Dates for your diary:

Monday – 1 December	“Woodfield” massage therapy.
Thursday – 11 December	Christmas Rally, St. John's Bathgate.
Monday – 15 December	Christmas Party
Monday – 5 January	Guild Project (Alison Baxter) and Bring & Buy
Monday – 19 January	Biking in Bengal (Vanda Fraser)

Moira Jack (Secretary)

West Kirk Fundraising Group Report

The Church Hall was full for the Whist Drive in October, which raised the excellent total of £427. Thanks go to Margaret Lamb and friends for organising and supporting this event. Also to the members of the group who got the hall ready, provided and served refreshments at the break in play. All much appreciated to make it an enjoyable evening.



The Christmas Candy Bar will have passed – we hope successfully. The group thanks all our friends and regulars for coming to our events and wishes you a Happy Christmas and a good New Year. May I also thank my committee for their hard work throughout the year – without them there would be no Candy Bars!

He next Candy Bar will be on 7 February 2009 – see you there!

Jill Murray (Convener)

Life & Work – December Issue

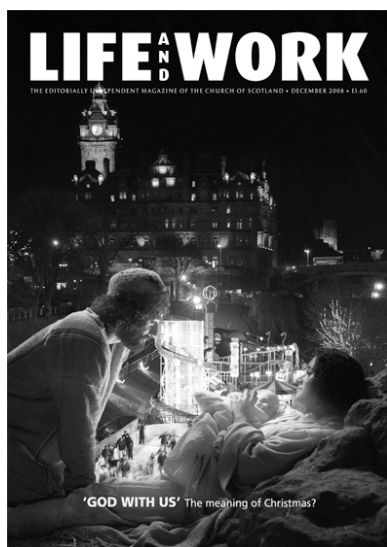
LIFE AND WORK

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

What Christmas Means to Me

...by authors Michele Guinness and Jamie Stewart; Rev Dr Samuel Ayete Nyampong of Ghana; Lynne McNeil, editor of Life and Work; Ian McLarty, Moderator of the Youth Assembly; and Esme Duncan, National Convener of the Guild.

Plus a fresh perspective on Christmas from Maggie Lunan, Christmas prayer and story, a round up of new seasonal books and tips for an ethical Christmas.



Saved to Serve

Profile of Lt-Col Dawn Sewell, Anti-trafficking Response Coordinator for the Salvation Army.

Israel's Inhumanity

Jackie Macadam meets Jeff Halper, a Jewish activist fighting the cause of Palestinians in Gaza.

A Movement of Hope

The Rev Dr Robin Hill, convener of the Church of Scotland HIV/AIDS Project, marks the 21st World AIDS Day.

'Where God is at work'

The Moderator reflects on his recent visit to Nepal.

Reaching for Wholeness

Ruth Harvey and Pauline Steenbergen address the problem of conflict in relationships. Laurence Whitley also continues his series on how Christians should deal with unpleasantness.

Poet and preacher

Ron Ferguson recalls his first Orkney Christmas and pays tribute to the poet George Mackay Brown.

A Sigh of Belief

The Very Rev James Simpson reflects on the mischief of misprint.

Plus – 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.



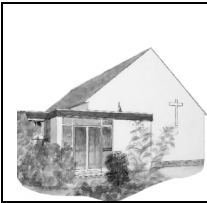
West Kirk – Rota Information

West Kirk Crèche Rota	
14 December	Mary Calder
21 December	NO CRECHE
28 December	NO CRECHE
4 January	Olive Gibson
11 January	Aileen Hull
18 January	Val Occardi
25 January	Margaret Farquhar
1 February	Kathy Black
8 February	Shirley MacRae
15 February	Mary Calder

West Kirk Tea Rota		
Contact Olive Gibson 01506 871291 <i>Note: Tea Makers, please bring milk.</i>		
14 December	Alison Baxter	Alison McNaught
21 December	Olive Gibson	Kate Jessiman
28 December	SERVICE AT POLBETH HARWOOD	
4 January	Olive Gibson	Katie Albon
11 January	George Stott	Morag Stott
18 January	Irene Grindlay	Margaret Rennie
25 January	Olive Gibson	May Young
1 February	Juanita Allan	Jim Allan
8 February	Liz Dyer	Janice Cooper
15 February	Olive Gibson	May Arnott

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 will be on the wall in the Church entrance, and this rota also 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 arranging it with whoever is the flower 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
14 December	Lorna Graham	Lorna Graham	Kathy Black
21 December		Rosanna Rabaeijs	Ivy Johnstone
28 December		Margo McEwan	Moira McRae
4 January		Katie Albon	Irene Grindlay
11 January		Rosanna Rabaeijs	Moira McRae
18 January		Margo McEwan	Irene Grindlay
25 January		Katie Albon	Moira McRae
1 February		Rosanna Rabaeijs	Irene Grindlay
8 February		Margo McEwan	Kathy Black
15 February		TBC	TBC

	Door Duty			Car Run
	14 December	Lorna Graham	Alan Jessiman	Irene Grindlay
21 December	Stewart Munro	Jill Murray	Alison McNaught	Richard Bryce
28 December	SERVICE AT POLBETH HARWOOD			Hugh Clarkson
4 January	Juanita Allan	May Arnott	Angus Baxter	Robert Hawes
11 January	Richard Bryce	Lorraine Clarke	Liz Dyer	Beryl Henderson
18 January	Jeanette Ferguson	Victor Ferguson	Lorna Graham	Alan Jessiman
25 January	Irene Grindlay	Beryl Henderson	Rob Holden	George Stott
1 February	Alan Jessiman	Alison McNaught	Aileen Milne	Richard Bryce
8 February	Stewart Munro	Jill Murray	Christine Nicholl	Hugh Clarkson
15 February	Evelyn Paterson	George Stott	Hazel Tod	Robert Hawes



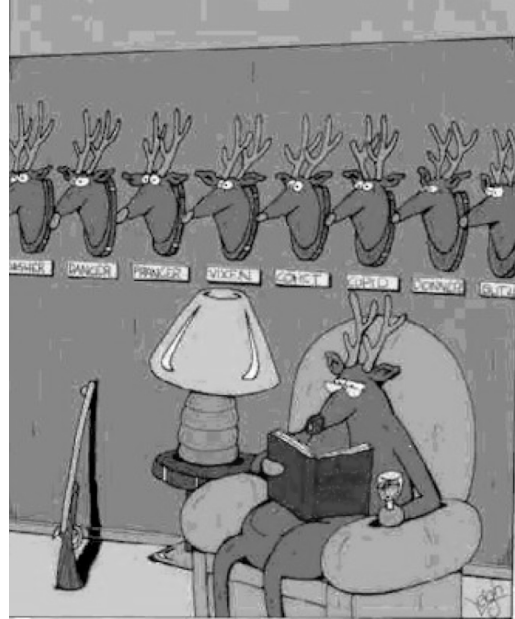
Polbeth Harwood – Rota Information

Stewart Court Taxi Rota	
14 December	Charlie Sturrock
21 December	David Prentice
28 December	Eleanor Davidson <i>(to the West Kirk)</i>
4 January	Margaret Marr
11 January	Charlie Sturrock
18 January	David Prentice
25 January	Eleanor Davidson
1 February	Margaret Marr
8 February	Charlie Sturrock
15 February	Charlie Sturrock

Polbeth Harwood Cleaning Rota		
(for week commencing)		
14 December	Esther Hamilton	Pat Erskine
21 December	Linda Eardley	Hazel Speirs
28 December	Ena Prentice	David Prentice
4 January	Mary Mabbutt	Frank Mabbutt
11 January	Laura Carroll	Petrona Carroll
18 January	Reeta Griffin	Tom Griffin
25 January	Mary Gray	Josephine Greer
1 February	Dot Cibbald	Norma Wilson
8 February	Anna Muirhead	Betty Macauley
15 February	Marian Kinsman	Joan Philips

Polbeth Harwood Duty Rota				
	Door Duty			
14 December	Betty Macauley	Gordon Erskine	Janet Russell	Alan Mercer
21 December	Anna Muirhead	Tom Walker	Reeta Griffin	Tom Griffin
28 December	Ena Prentice	David Prentice	Wilma Dickson	Lilias Fairley
4 January	SERVICE AT THE WEST KIRK			
11 January	Moira Mushet	Marian Kinsman	Jimmy Greer	Charlie Sturrock
18 January	Chrissie McCormack	Esther Hamilton	Margaret Dempster	
25 January	Etta Walker	Eleanor Davidson	Effie Halliday	Frank Mabbutt
1 February	Alice Mackay	Kenneth Mackay	Jenny Doyle	Janice Doyle
8 February	Jessie Kelly	Tom Kelly	Ann Watson	William Watson
15 February	Betty Macauley	Gordon Erskine	Janet Russell	Alan Mercer

Polbeth Harwood Café Rota		
17 December	Janet Walker	TBC
24 December	CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR	
31 December	CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR	
7 January	CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR	
14 January	Wilma Dickson	Jessie Kelly
21 January	Janet Walker	TBC
28 January	Grace Peace	Frank Mabbutt
4 February	Effie Halliday	Gordon Erskine
11 February	Chrissie McCormack	Esther Hamilton
118 February	Wilma Dickson	Jessie Kelly



All of the other reindeer *used* to laugh and call him names.

Contributions for the next edition ...

Contributions for the next edition of *The Link* Magazine can be **submitted at any time** however for Issue 31 (February and March) the latest submission date is Sunday 18 January.

Your contributions are always welcome.



Thank You

We wish Hugh K Clarkson & Sons for their generosity and support in printing *The Link* during 2008.

We wish them all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Paws... for thought



***Glory to God in highest heaven,
and on earth his peace for men on
whom his favour rests.'***

Luke 2:14