

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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16 March 2010

Hello Folks,



I hope this finds you bearing up as Spring starts to take more of a foot-hold in our part of the world after a Winter that took many by surprise, both in its length and severity. It seems quite a while since we all had large icicles adorning the outside of our homes! I'm looking forward to my first night in my tent this year!

With Spring, so Easter approaches and you will find all the services and events for Holy Week and Easter elsewhere in this issue. Easter leaflets will be distributed throughout West Calder, Polbeth and Addiewell again this year and I look forward to joining with Rev Colin McAuley, Rev Fr Chris Heenan and brothers and sisters in Christ from Limefield and Our Lady & St Bridget and St Thomas, Addiewell for our ecumenical service in West Calder Auld Kirk Yard again this Easter Sunday morning. This is followed by breakfast in Limefield Church hall and those who have been before know it is not to be missed! If you've not made it along to this event in previous years, why not make this Easter your first!?



Before that we will have our special gatherings through Holy Week. The West Kirk will be open each evening Monday-Wednesday for an hour. Holy Thursday evening at Polbeth Harwood (and Parkhead Primary will be up to the West Kirk that morning for their Easter service - we hope the weather won't interfere like at Christmas!). Good Friday is at the West Kirk.

You are welcome to all these services and gatherings and I do hope and pray that as Easter draws nearer, that you will know the closeness of Jesus Christ in your lives and homes.

Blessings

David A Albon

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

West Kirk AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the congregation will take place in the church after morning worship on Sunday 11 April 2010.

This will be a brief meeting consisting of short reports from the Session Clerk and Treasurer.

The Parish Record

Funerals

- 12 February** - Susan Laird, Polbeth Crescent
20 February - Aliya Rice, Parkhead Gardens
27 February - Esther Hamilton, Chapelton Terrace
4 March - Robert Stewart, Woodlands Nursing Home
5 March - Alison Hare, Bridgend, Linlithgow
20 March - Lillian Rae, Langside Gardens

Worship in the Linked Congregations

Sunday Morning Worship will take place at The West Kirk at 9.30 am and at Polbeth Harwood at 11.15 am each Sunday. Details of Holy Week and Easter services are below:

Palm Sunday 28 March:

- 9.30 am West Kirk Celebration & Palm Procession
11.15 am Polbeth Harwood Palm Procession & Celebration

Monday 29 March:

- 6.30 - 7.30 pm West Kirk open for prayer and reflection.

Tuesday 30 March:

- 6.30 - 7.30 pm West Kirk open for prayer and reflection

Wednesday 31 March:

- 6.30 - 7.30 pm West Kirk open for prayer and reflection.

Thursday 1 April:

- 9.30 am Parkhead Primary School Easter Service at West Kirk

7.00 pm 'On the night He was betrayed.'
A United 'Potluck meal' and celebration of Communion
at Polbeth Harwood.

Good Friday 2 April:

- 7.00 pm 'Before the Cross:' Good Friday United Service at West Kirk.

Easter Sunday 4 April:

- 7.00 am Ecumenical Celebration of Easter in the Auld Kirk yard, West Calder
followed by breakfast in Limefield Church Hall.

9.30 am West Kirk Easter Sunday All Age Worship & Sacrament of Baptism
11.15am Polbeth Harwood Easter Sunday All Age Worship



West Kirk Guild Report

Monday 18 January 2010

Bargain Hunt, Effie Halliday and Pat Erskine. This had to be cancelled due to the weather, and was rescheduled to Monday 1 March 2010

Monday 18 January 2010

"Vine Trust" this was by Liz Dyer, a talk and slides on her trip to Peru, also information on the Trust and the work they do. Liz told us about some of the boys she met and some of their stories, it made us feel very humble. Liz talked about the work she did, the very cold showers in the morning, keeping your items in bags. There were no wardrobes or cupboards etc. Liz also showed us slides of the beautiful scenery, and of others whom she met and worked with, a most enjoyable evening.

Monday 1 February 2010: Fiona Punton, Information Officer Guild Office.

Fiona gave a talk on the "Guild Projects" for 2009-2012 (they are for 3yrs. this time), she explained how suggestions and items are discussed at meetings, how decisions are made and which projects are finally chosen. This can start a year before they are sent out to the Guilds. Each Guild then chooses the three projects they wish to support. A most interesting evening when we learned a lot about what happens behind the scenes.

Monday 15 February 2010

Our guest for the evening was Evie Johnstone, Regional Fund-raiser for Scotland, for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. Evie explained how dogs are chosen, what brand of dog is used, and how they are trained. We heard some lovely stories about the dogs and their owners. This is a charity, with no funding, so they are dependent on fund-raising and legacies that may be left. This was a very interesting evening, some of our ladies had even met a hearing dog.

Monday 1 March 2010

Allison, Project Co-Ordinator gave a brief update on state of the 6 project funds, as Fiona Punton had previously described the work involved in all the various projects just the month before.

Bargain Hunt: Effie Halliday and Pat Erskine were excellent with their insight behind the scenes as well as the video of their Bargain Hunt experience. They had a ball!!! Obviously just a starter for Effie as she is also due to appear soon in the Antiques Roadshow at Hopetoun House.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 15 March 2010: West Lothian Ranger Service

Monday 22 March 2010: AGM & Pot Luck Supper

Saturday 27 March 2010: Candy Bar

Saturday 22 May 2010: Outing to Crieff Visitors Centre and the Royal George Hotel, Perth

This is the last Guild Evening until October, starting dates will appear in the *The Link*.

Moira Jack
(Guild Secretary)

West Kirk Fundraising Group Report

The Candy Bars have been successful this year and it has been good to see all our regular and new customers.

In February, the group raised £720 and in March the Youth Link made a wonderful £822. All must be congratulated for their hard work cooking, baking, helping serve and manning the stalls.

The Guild event, held on 27th March, instead of the usual April will have passed. Easter prevented the Candy Bar being held on its usual Saturday.

The Choir will hold the Candy Bar on Saturday 1st May followed by the groups Summer Buffet on Saturday 5 June.

There will be the usual stalls and donations are always appreciated.

Our Candy Bars are very much a social highlight of the Village as well as raising much needed funds. We are grateful for all the support shown.



*Jill Murray
(Convener)*

Charity Craft Marathon – Saturday 17 April

Calder Craft Club are holding an all day charity crafting Marathon on 17 April to raise money for the emergency aid charity ShelterBox .

The card makers of the group will be spending the time making cards, and these cards will be available for sale for the next few Sundays after the event.

Our fundraising target is £490 (the cost of one ShelterBox). If we can do that then we will be sent the number of 'our' box and we will be able to track it on line and see where it went and the difference it has made in the world.

To help us reach our goal it would be great if people could pass on any old cards they may have at home for us to recycle into new cards – any event, design or picture is fine – or if you have any crafty bits at home you'd like to de-clutter, it would all be gratefully received. I'll be setting up a box in the church hall as a collection point.

If you would like to get involved, sponsor us, or make a donation please get in touch

*Stephanie Vincent
01506 870162*

What Matters in Life

A philosophy professor stood before his class and had some items in front of him. When class began, wordlessly he picked up a large empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks right to the top, rocks about 2" diameter. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks. The students laughed. He asked his students again if the jar was full. They agreed that yes, it was. The professor then picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else.

"Now," said the professor, "I want you to recognize that this is your life. The rocks are the important things - your family, your partner, your health, your children - anything that is so important to you that if it were lost, you would be nearly destroyed. The pebbles are the other things in life that matter, but on a smaller scale. The pebbles represent things like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else. The small stuff.

"If you put the sand or the pebbles into the jar first, there is no room for the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your energy and time on the small stuff, material things, you will never have room for the things that are truly most important.

"Pay attention to the things that are critical in your life. Play with your children. Take your partner out dancing. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party and fix the disposal.

"Take care of the rocks first - the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just pebbles and sand."



My God Is No Stranger

I've never seen God,
but I know how I feel...
It's people like you
who make Him "so real" ...
My God is no stranger,
He's friendly and gay...
And He doesn't ask me
to weep when I pray...
It seems that I pass Him
so often each day...
In the faces of people
I meet on my way ...
He's the stars in the heaven,
a smile on some face...
A leaf on a tree
or a rose in a vase...
He's winter and Autumn
and summer and spring...
In short, God is Every
Real, Wonderful Thing...
I wish I might meet Him
much more than I do...
I would if there were
more people like you.

Helen Steiner Rice



Chocolate Rabbit

I got a chocolate rabbit
For an Easter treat,
A great big chocolate rabbit
Good enough to eat.

So I ate his ears on Sunday,
His nose I finished Monday.
Tuesday I nibbled on his feet.
I ate his tail on Wednesday
Thursday I kept on,
By Friday he was going,
Saturday he was gone.

Oh, I loved my chocolate rabbit
From the moment that he came,
And if I get another one,
I'll love him just the same.

Upcoming Concert

The annual concert which I organise in memory of my mother, Effie Russell takes place this year on Saturday 8 May in the West Kirk at 7.30 pm. The artistes are the Garrowhill Entertainers (the choir and friends of Mure Memorial Church where I am organist) and my ceilidhs band.

There will be a variety of music to suit all tastes – from light classical to songs from the shows and Scottish music.

Tickets cost £4 (which includes refreshments at the interval) and the proceeds are divided between the West Kirk and charities.

Please telephone 01506 871693 for tickets or you can purchase them from me or from members of the West Kirk Pastoral Care Group.

I hope to see you there.

Bill Russell

Acknowledgement of Thanks from the Lawton Family

Rhoda, Kathryn, Eleanor and Aonghas wish to express grateful thanks to all the many friends in The West Kirk of Calder and Polbeth Harwood congregations for the many cards, phone calls, flowers and expressions of sympathy following the sudden death of Mark on January 13th.

Thank you to all who attended the service of thanksgiving for Mark's life and for giving so generously towards the retiring collection which amounted to £940 which the family are donating to - The British Heart Foundation, Diabetes UK and Blythswood Care. Special thanks to Rev. Albon for his empathetic leading of the service and to Rev Shewan who travelled from Auchterarder to deliver a very moving eulogy.

Contributions for the next edition ...

Contributions for the next edition of The Link Magazine must be submitted by the first Sunday after the 15th of the month. For the Summer issue, this will be Sunday 16 May 2010.



Paws for thought ...

Experience is the name everyone gives to his mistakes.

Woodrow Wilson