

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

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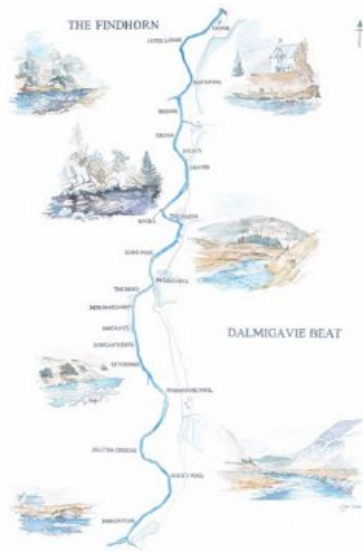
11 June 2010

Hello Folks,



It has been a long time coming but Spring is well and truly here and Summer seems to be gaining a toe-hold, judging by today anyway!

During my time away in May, walking coast to coast through the Highlands, I saw plenty of signs that winter had been long and unwilling to loosen its grip without a struggle: extensive snowfields in the Laraig Ghru, Loch Etchachan (the largest



expanse of water over 3000 feet in Britain) still mostly frozen - the outflow of the loch was very chilly when we forded it - twice! There were quite a number of Deer carcasses in evidence, but plenty of live ones too. It was very impressive seeing Deer descending off the hills one evening camped by the River Findhorn. Eventually they gathered into a herd that must have been two to three-hundred strong!

Before we know it, the school holidays will be here and folks will be going away.

Don't forget to send a postcard to the above address to let us know where you've been. It is always good to hear from folks during the Summer

months. Also, if you visit other churches while you are away, please take the greetings of Polbeth and West Calder with you!



Whatever your plans are this Summer, we look forward to your return.

God bless and Bon Voyage!

David A Albon

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

The Parish Record

Baptisms

4 April - Keegan John Dickinson

Weddings

1 May - Sheila Borthwick and Olugbenga Abraham Babajide

Funerals

28 April - Robert Hawes, Parkhead Crescent

7 May - Jeanie Cunningham, Polbeth Gardens

10 May - John White, Chapelton Avenue

11 May - Thomas Neilands, Polbeth Road

21 May - Betty Davidson, Chapelton Grove

28 May - Agnes Diamond, Limefield Road

2 June - Alexander Watson, Chapelton Gardens

2 June - Alan Phain, Burgrange Nursing Home

10 June - Margaret Forrester, Northfield Cottages

Worship in the Linked Congregations

Sunday Morning Worship takes place at The West Kirk at 9.30 am and at Polbeth Harwood at 11.15 am each Sunday.

Gift Aid

Gift Aid allows individuals who are subject to UK income tax, to complete a simple, short declaration that they are a UK taxpayer. Any cash donations that the taxpayer makes to the charity after making a declaration are treated as being made after deduction of income tax at the basic rate, and the charity can reclaim the basic rate income tax paid on the gift from HMRC. For a basic-rate taxpayer, this adds approximately 28% to the value of any gift made under Gift Aid. Higher-rate taxpayers can claim income tax relief, above and beyond the amount claimed directly by the charities.

For further information please contact Charlie Sturrock.

Without increasing your offering you can substantially increase church funds. Recently over £3000 in Gift Aid has been reclaimed from HMRC.

Make the most of the money your charity receives with Gift Aid



The Church of Scotland

Ministries and Mission Contributions 2010

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for supporting the worship, mission and service of the Church through the money you give in your offering. It is important that you know what happens to this money. This letter tells you about your congregation's Ministries and Mission Contribution - the money your Congregational Treasurer sends to the Church Offices in Edinburgh. How does it enable the worship, mission and service of the Church?

The information below shows how the contributions from your linked congregations are used to support Parish Ministries, Mission and Renewal, and general support and services provided for congregations and the councils of the General Assembly. Please note that the cost of your minister is not what he/she is paid. This cost is the total for stipend and employer's national insurance and pension contributions, and is based on a minister with ten years' service.

Congregations:	Contribution
POLBETH HARWOOD	£18,557
WEST KIRK OF CALDER	£32,833
	<hr/>
	£50,590
Parish Ministries (87%)	£44,013
The cost of ministry in your parishes (Minister and part time Parish Assistant) is:	£54,000
The support you receive from other congregations towards the cost of your ministry is:	£9,987
Mission and Renewal (5.5%)	£2,783

This supports the Church's work in resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach, in caring for the vulnerable in society, in partnership with Churches in some of the poorest parts of the world, and in providing a Christian perspective on the social, political and moral issues of today.

Support and Services for Councils and Congregations (7.5%) **£3,794**
 This provides financial, legal, procedural, safeguarding and other services, and meets the cost of the General Assembly and the Moderator.

Please note that Ministries and Mission Contributions only provide part of the total funding required for the work of the Church listed above. A fuller picture is given in the leaflet *Funding our Faith*, which is available free to all congregations.

I hope that this helps you to understand Ministries and Mission Contributions and shows you are enabling the sharing of the gospel through the money your congregation sends through the Church Offices to all parts of Scotland and beyond.

Yours sincerely

Gordon D Jamieson

Head of Stewardship

20101

LIFE AND WORK

JULY EDITION

The Editorially Independent Magazine of the Church of Scotland

www.lifeandwork.org

Holiday Dilemmas

Making informed choices when booking a break overseas.

A Sense of Purpose

Profile of Professor Sir Kenneth Calman, President of the Boys' Brigade.

General Assembly 2010

Nine pages of reports, news and pictures, including:

- 🔊 **Don't Forget Haiti** – Jackie Macadam hears from Tearfund staff who shared first-hand experience of the Haitian earthquake.
- 🔊 **A Healing Hand** – Thomas Baldwin meets the young woman whose moving speech about suffering from anorexia was one of the moments of the Assembly.

LIFE AND WORK



HOLIDAY DILEMMAS
Making informed choices when booking a break overseas
A SENSE OF PURPOSE
Professor Sir Kenneth Calman's 50-year link with the BB
PLUS
Nine pages of reports, news and pictures from Assembly 2010

“Oh How I Love You Mary”

Colin MacDonald reflects on the unselfish faith legacy of a Scots coal miner.

Democracy: What is it good for?

In the aftermath of the general election, Robin Hill reflects on the perils of placing that little cross on a ballot paper.

A Spiritual Awakening

Geoff Miller explains why he believes the answers to climate change lie in attitudes to God.

East Neuk Treasures

John R Hume visits Crail Parish Church in Fife

Growing Church

The vibrant and active congregation at Cupar Old

Plus Presbytery of Jedburgh, all the regular columnists, news, letters, reviews and crosswords – all for just £1.60



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West Kirk Fundraising Group Report

The Candy Bars continue to be successful with the choir raising the great total of £822 in March followed by the Guild in April with £660. A big thanks to all for helping at these events.

Our Summer Buffet is in June with a delicious assortment of salads and cold dishes. It will probably have passed by the time you read this and I am sure you will have admired the beautifully decorated salmon and we thank George and Morag Stott for this.



There will now be a break until Saturday 4 September when we look forward to welcoming you again.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the members of The Fund Raising Group, especially George who is retiring from his position as secretary. We appreciate all that he has done over the years. We welcome Juanita Allan as our incoming secretary in September.

The next meeting of the Group is on Tuesday 17 August at 2 pm in the church hall. If you would like to join the Group, do come along. You will be most welcome.

Have a good summer whether at home or away.

*Jill Murray
(Convener)*

Malawi "Rice Challenge"

In Malawi, which you may remember used to be called Nyasaland, as little as one in three children are able to attend High School. However, we now have the opportunity to help fund a child for one year of High School and make a big difference to young lives in one of the poorest countries in Africa.

For, as we all know, it is education that lifts us out of poverty and equips any society with the teachers, doctors, nurses and workers. And this is how it can be done. If a farmer in Malawi can sell 90 kg of rice at a fair price, then he would have sufficient income to send one of his children to High School. We have purchased 90 x 1 kg bags of rice which we are offering for sale. The cost of a bag is £2.50.

Over one hundred groups took the rice challenge earlier this year and the first batch of rice of nearly seventeen tonnes completely sold out. The rice is on sale at both the West Kirk and Polbeth Harwood churches. If you cannot come to church but would like a bag delivered to your home please let us know.

Please help to support a child's education in Malawi.

Marian Kinsman (01506 871125)

Stewart MacRae (01506 872486)

Happy Christmas

A belated Christmas Card from the Bethany Trust childrens' home in Umtata.

You may just be able to make out that the children sitting on the wall are holding up cards with the message "Happy Christmas".



Poem

Roses are red, violets are blue
Flowers are pretty and so are you.
The sun in the sky is fiery and bright
And the smile on your face is my delight.
Grey clouds in the sky make me sad and blue
That is at least, until I see you.
A child of your own is a gift of joy
Whether it be a girl or a boy.
Love is a wonder, a gift to behold,
No matter whether, you be young or old.

*Jim Wurr
West Kirk Choir*

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 Late Summer issue, this will be Sunday 22 August 2010.



Paws for thought ...

All major religious traditions carry basically the same message. That is love, compassion and forgiveness. The important thing is they should be part of our daily lives.

Dalai Lama