

**April**

**Issue 149**

# **The Link**



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

**[www.west-kirk-polbeth-harwood.co.uk](http://www.west-kirk-polbeth-harwood.co.uk)**

## **Minister**

Rev Dr Jonanda Groenewald

3 Johnsburn Road Balerno EH14 7DN

Phone: 0131 261 7977 Mobile: 07846 539841

Email: minister@west-kirk-polbeth-harwood.co.uk

## **Ordained Local Minister**

Rev Alison Quilter      Mobile: 07741 985597

Email: AQuilter@churchofscotland.org.uk

<b>West Kirk</b>	<b>Polbeth Harwood</b>
<b>Session Clerk</b>	
TBC	Marian Kinsman
	12 Langside Crescent
	Polbeth
	EH55 8UW
	01506 871125
	Marian.kinsman@polbethharwood.co.uk
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Karen Elliot	Sandra McCabe
01506 418049	01506 872593
	treasurer@westkirkofcalder.co.uk
<b>Safeguarding Coordinator</b>	
Douglas Horn	Eleanor Davidson
01506 419656	01506 873590
West Kirk of Calder (Church of Scotland)	Polbeth Parish Church of Scotland
Charity SC004703 Congregation 020161	Charity SC017373 Congregation 020156
Copyright Licence No. 218743	
<b>Newsletter Editor : Sandra.dixon71@gmail.com</b>	

## Letter from the minister

April 2023

Dear friends

The daffodils are out! And that can only mean one thing – Easter is around the corner! And with Easter the promise of Spring... At last!



one

After what felt like a very long winter, we have something to look forward to now – lighter nights, sunshine, and hopefully some warmer days.

Just like the changes we see in the seasons, Jesus' last week on earth saw some extreme changes too... It went from happy to sad in a matter of days. From light to dark. But then, on Easter Sunday, nothing could compare to the light that shone out of his empty tomb, not even a world covered in darkness 3 days before.

And the changing seasons remind me not only of Jesus, but of our lives too. We sometimes have to face dark times, like when we lose someone we loved. Losing Stewart MacRae, our West Kirk Session Clerk, recently, made the world feel a little darker... Because wherever he went, he was like sunshine – calm, quiet, but always present, warm, and safe... But I know that God will lift the dark clouds of grief for all of us, because where Stewart (and so many others who are no longer with us) is now, it's never dark. To be in the presence of God, means to be surrounded by light all the time. And what more can we ask for?!

That's why God sent Jesus to earth, that's why we celebrate Easter – so we can all have new life in him. So, let's be joyful – whether the sun is shining or not, whether we are happy or sad – because we know: Jesus is alive! And with him – all of us are too, and will be, for all eternity.

Hallelujah!

Nanda



## Reflection By Rev Dr Nanda Groenewald

*Galatians 5:24 (ICB): Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their own sinful selves. They have given up their old selfish feelings and the evil things they wanted to do.*

What does Easter mean in our personal lives?

Jesus gave his life, so that we may live. And anybody who fully understands that, knows that it has to have some impact on our lives. What is our reaction to what God did for us in Jesus?

In Galatians 5 we read that if we belong to Jesus, that means that we should crucify our own sinful selves... In other words, we should leave behind everything that shouldn't be part of a child of God's life. I find the metaphor that we should "crucify" these things, very poignant.

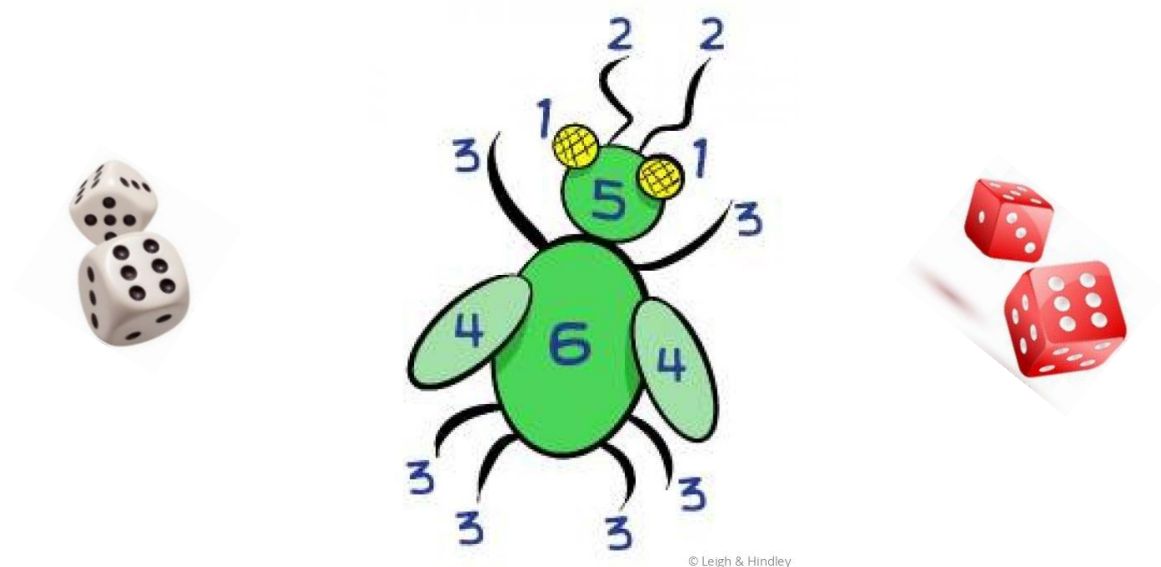
Because crucifixion is hard, and it's final.

But if Jesus could give his *life* on the cross, the least we can do is to get rid of our selfish feelings and do our best to glorify his name in everything we do, think and say...

May God bless us all this Easter with a better understanding of what it means that Jesus died for us, but also what the implication of that is for our personal lives.

***Prayer:*** Dear God. Thank you for loving us so much, that you gave your everything to us. Please help us to realise how special that is, and to live like people who understand what it means to belong to you. Amen

# West Kirk of Calder Fundraising Beetle Drive



Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April

At 7pm in the West Kirk Church Hall

Tickets cost £4 (over 18s) £2 (under 18s)

*Available from Lorna Graham 07974934205*

*Or Karen Elliot*

*Don't delay, get yours today!*

***Never participated in a Beetle Drive before...***

***Don't worry, its very easy to follow and lots of fun.***

***Raffle and buffet – all donations gratefully received***



**The Great Glen Green Welly Garden Show** - Is our Holiday Club theme this summer. We are called to be good stewards of God's creation, caring for our environment which has been beautifully created, not only for people but for all other forms of life that inhabit our planet. This club material helps to remind us all of this very important message whilst having the most amazing fun, at the same time!

If you were involved last year with holiday club, you will be invited automatically to help us again this year. So, watch out for the email or text message.

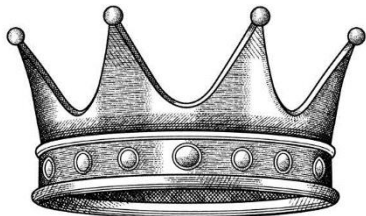
If you have never been able to be part of the team we have a very special place reserved just for you!! You can choose how much or little you feel able to do.

My usual reminder...*age is no barrier*; we are all just one big amazing team.

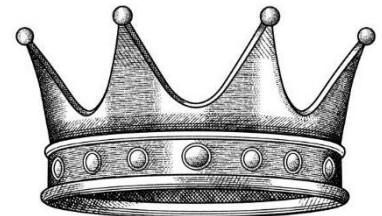
If you are now in first year at high school and about to move up into 2<sup>nd</sup> year or above we would love you to join us!

If you have never helped before, please let Nanda or Lorna know you are interested, we need to know as soon as possible as all our over 18 leaders/helpers are required to complete a very simple safeguarding course, as required by the Church of Scotland, to ensure the best possible care of all our young attendees.

We will be looking for clean dry items to recycle in our junk challenge so watch out for notices in church on Sunday mornings.



## **Coronation of King Charles III**



On Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2023, at 10am, we are going to have a special joint service at the West Kirk of Calder, to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. This will be followed by a social event in the church hall or garden – so please keep the date free!



# Easter

At your church

All are welcome

**2 April – United Palm Sunday service at 10am  
In - West Kirk**

**6 April - Maundy Thursday service at 7pm  
In - Polbeth Harwood (Communion service)  
*followed by hot cross buns & cake***

**7 April - Good Friday service at 7pm  
In - West Kirk**

**9 April - Ecumenical Early Easter Morning  
service in the Auld Kirk Yard at 7am**

**9 April - United Easter Morning service at 10am  
Polbeth Harwood**

**Easter Blessings**

# SUNDAY CLUB AND JAM CLUB

## EARTHQUAKE APPEAL FUNDRAISER

On Mother's day the children from both churches handed out a little gift to the congregations.

This gift was a little bag of sweet treats BUT with an important message contained inside.

They have asked that the bags could be returned with a few coins inside which will go to the Christian Aid Earthquake appeal.

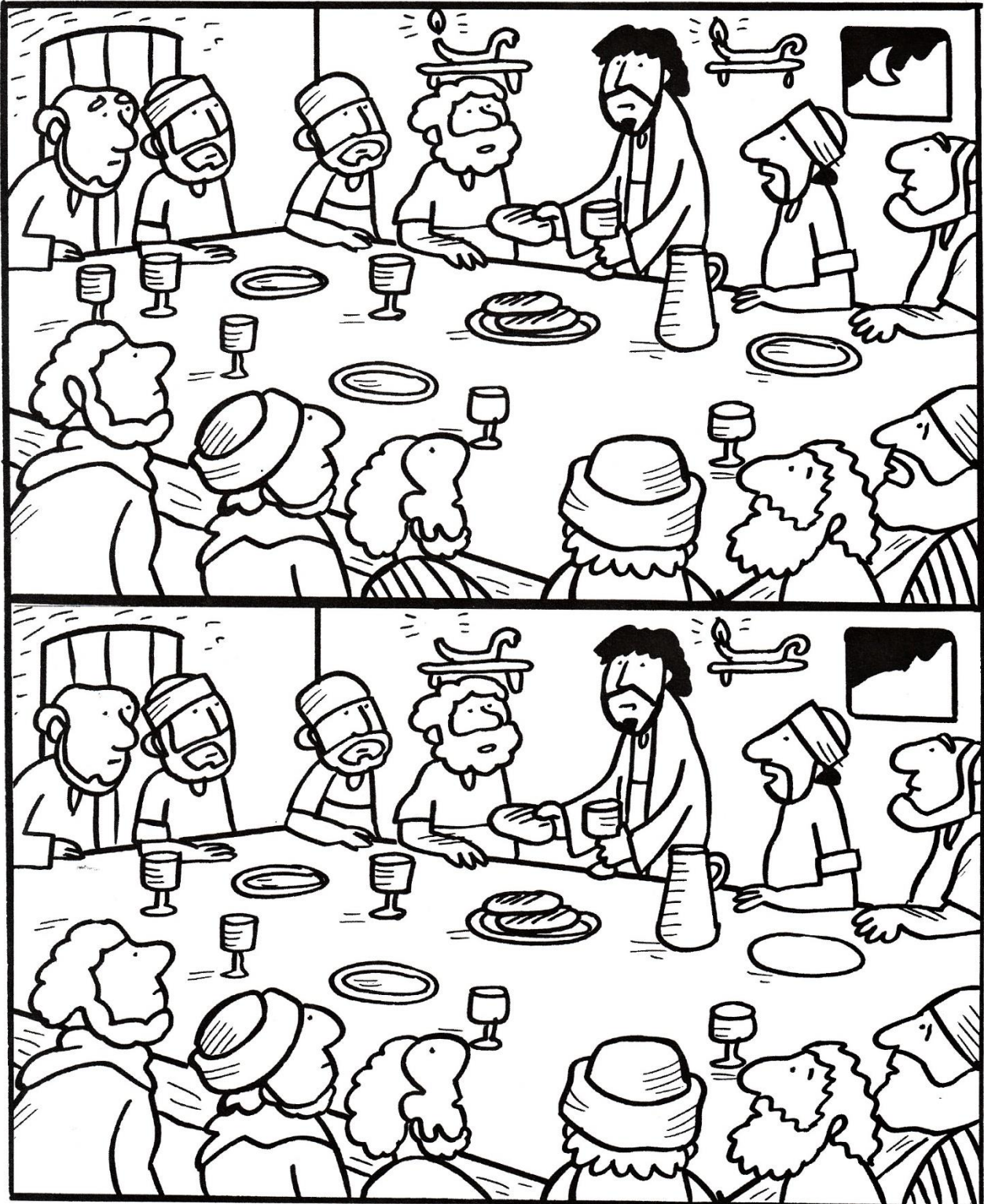
Please remember to return the bags if you were lucky enough to receive one on the day.

Don't worry though! You can still donate your pennies. Just bring them any Sunday in April to the church or contact Lorna or Sandra who can arrange pickup of your donation or speak to your elder.

# THANK YOU!

# The Last Supper

Find nine differences between the two pictures. Draw a circle around each one.



## **In memory of Stewart MacRae**

*On the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2023, our Session Clerk at the West Kirk of Calder, sadly passed away. Stewart was a lovely man who worked very hard for the church, and his presence is missed greatly by his family, friends, church family and the community. We will never forget the man he was and the difference he made...*

Alexander Stewart MacRae was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1946, at Chester Street Private Hospital in Edinburgh, to parents Margaret (whose maiden name was Stewart) and Ivor Menzies MacRae (who was a major in the Royal Indian Army.)

They lived in Edinburgh before moving to Bathgate, where Stewart's little sister Margo, was born.

At a young age, Stewart and Margo embarked on an adventure with their parents – they emigrated to Australia, traveling a long way by boat. Unfortunately, this was not to work out for them, as Stewart's dad took ill and they had to move back to Scotland.

Stewart left school at the end of 6<sup>th</sup> year in 1964. He applied for a job as an apprentice Town Chamberlain in the burgh of Whitburn, and he got the job. He was given the chance to attend Glasgow University to help further his career.

In 1968, computers were the new thing. Bob Marshall, a friend of Stewart's, worked with computers for the National Coal Board. Stewart decided to go for a job interview there.

On Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 1968, Stewart went for his aptitude test at the Computer Centre in Sighthill, Edinburgh; and this is where he met Shirley. Shirley worked at the front desk and

took him up in the lift for his test – and the rest, as they say, is history!

Stewart got the job, and over the years went on to sit many exams in Computing and Software, and eventually he became the manager of the Computer Centre.

Stewart and Shirley started dating, and they were married in the West Kirk on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 1972. They lived in Boghall, Bathgate, where they had their first child, Callum, in 1973.

When Callum was 2 and a half years old, they made the move to West Calder. This is where they extended their family – Isla was born in 1976, followed by Stewart in 1981.

Fast forward to 51 years of marriage – the kids have all grown up, got married, and have families of their own – expanding Stewart's family to include 2 amazing daughters-in-law, a son-in-law, and 7 grandkids.

These new additions to Stewart and Shirley's family made them feel complete, and they were thankful to have a family filled with love and happiness.

\*\*\*

Stewart was very active in the community – both in West Calder as a whole and in Westmuir Road. He helped with the Gala Day float, assisted with arranging post-Gala evening barn dances and BBQs, and helped to stage the annual Guy Fawkes Night fireworks display, to name but a few of the many things he did.

Furthermore, Stewart had an illustrious life of service to the community through Scouting. He became Scout Leader of the Bathgate Boghall Troop in 1966 and when he moved to West

Calder in 1975 he became leader of the West Calder Cub Pack. Later still, in 1992, he was appointed Group Scout Leader.

Stewart loved God and our church, and he was the beating heart of so many things that happened at the West Kirk. He was first ordained as an elder in January 1973 in Bathgate, and then admitted to the West Kirk Session in December 1975. When he was younger, he was the leader of the youth fellowship, and he has been Session Clerk for more than 20 years, doing so much more than what was expected of him. He was proud to receive his long service certificate. Never missing a beat, quietly and unassumingly doing whatever was needed for the church, as if it was no effort at all.

\*\*\*

Stewart's life can be summed up as:  
a man devoted to his family;  
possessed of an enduring Christian faith;  
and an outstanding record of service to his community.  
He was a true and loyal friend to many.

*We were blessed to have Stewart in our lives and in our church, and our heartfelt condolences go out to his wife Shirley and his lovely family.*

*As a church we would also like to thank his family for the retiring collection at his funeral.*

*May he rest in peace.*





**Games Day**  
**Polbeth Harwood Church**  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May**  
**2pm to 4pm**  
**Free for everyone**

Whether you are 3 or 93 please join us for fun with games.  
There is something for everyone.

Board games, mini basketball, swingball and skittles to  
name a few.

This is open to everyone in our communities so please  
spread the word to make this a success.

There will be a tuck shop available on the day for anyone  
wishing to purchase snacks.



# Unitary Constitution – The way forward

*The Kirks with the "Unitary Constitution", known as quoad omnia (for all purposes) parishes, allow the single body of the Kirk Session and its constituent committees to oversee both civil and ecclesiastical issues. These include everything from property to pastoral care and from finance to vision for the future.*

The above quote is taken from the Church of Scotland website but what does it mean for us?

Currently both our churches have a board and separate session who deal with different aspects of the daily governance of our churches. By moving to a unitary constitution, we will, effectively, amalgamate all of this to our elders.

To ensure that everyone can still help in all the essential tasks within the church, there will be smaller sub committees who will meet regularly and report into our session meetings.

This won't happen overnight as there are still some legalities to finalise, but we will keep you up to date as changes happen.

This letter was written by one of our elders, Beryl Henderson, to the Church of Scotland magazine, Life & Work, and has been published in its April edition.

## Who looks after ministers?

**With all the changes that are taking place in the church just now, and in the future, has anyone given any thought as to how our ministers are going to cope?**

Who looks after them? Some ministers look after two or more churches and are on Committees. They can also be Interim Moderator for another church in their area.

They are now being asked to increase their workload further, to help with other churches, which can be several miles away. Many ministers are also very involved in their local parishes, and in schools.

Is it little wonder that we are finding difficulty in recruiting for ministry?

We really must pray, support and help ministers we have, while encouraging others to become more involved, in the life of our churches.

**Beryl Henderson, Elder, West Lothian**

LIFE&WORK, April 2023

## **EVERYTHING you've always wanted to know about your ELDERS...**



Each month Nanda is asking an elder from our churches to answer a set of questions, and in this way we can get to know each other a little better! This month we will hear from...Sandra McCabe

*Thank you for sharing a little bit of yourselves with us!*

### **1. Where did you grow up?**

In the mining/ironworks village of Shotts

### **2. How many siblings do you have?**

I have one younger brother

### **3. How long have you been a member of the Church of Scotland?**

I became a member 54 years ago after I was married and moved to Bellsquarry then Polbeth.

### **4. When and where did you get ordained as an elder?**

Polbeth Harwood 9 years ago.

### **5. What do you like most about being an elder?**

Community and friendship

**6. What is your favourite Bible passage?**

I don't have a favourite. You can learn so much from the Bible.

**7. Tell us a little about your family.**

I have a daughter and son, both who stay in Polbeth. I have two grandsons, one an engineer and the other in the air force. Then there is my great granddaughter, Layla. We are a very close family.

**8. Where do/did you work?**

I have had many jobs over the years, mostly administrative.

**9. What is your favourite colour?**

Lilac

**10. Do you have any hobbies/interests?**

I enjoy knitting, lawn bowls and jigsaws.

**11. What is your favourite food?**

Chinese food.

**12. What is your favourite film/TV-series/book?**

Thrillers.

**13. Are you a morning-person or a night-owl?**

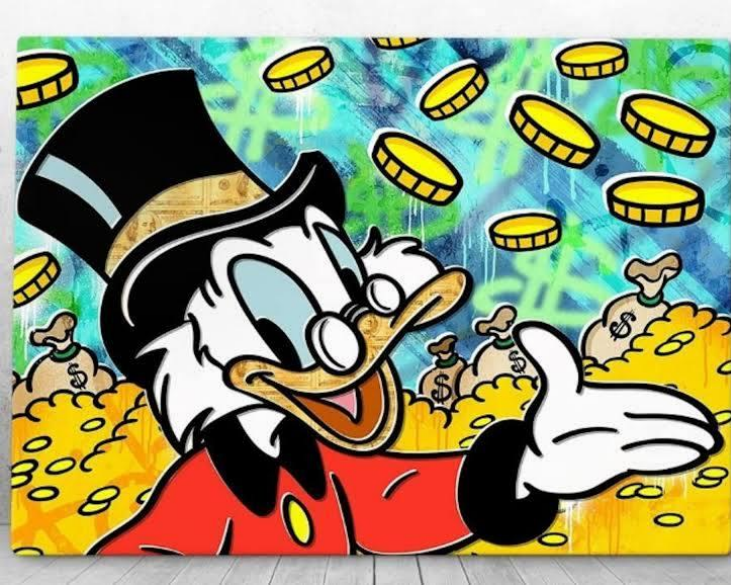
I am sorry to say I am a night owl

**14. Name one thing you have always dreamt of doing.**

Going to Egypt to see the pyramids

**15. Any words of wisdom you would like to share?**

It's not difficult to be kind.



## Treasurer Update

It's that time of year, again, we've completed the 2022 year-end accounts, they've been independently examined, approved by Session & Board and submitted to Presbytery for review. Once approved by Presbytery (👉), they'll be submitted to OSCR, the Charity Regulator in Scotland.

No rest for your Treasurers though as we've started the Annual Accounts for 2023 - it's a continual process 😊

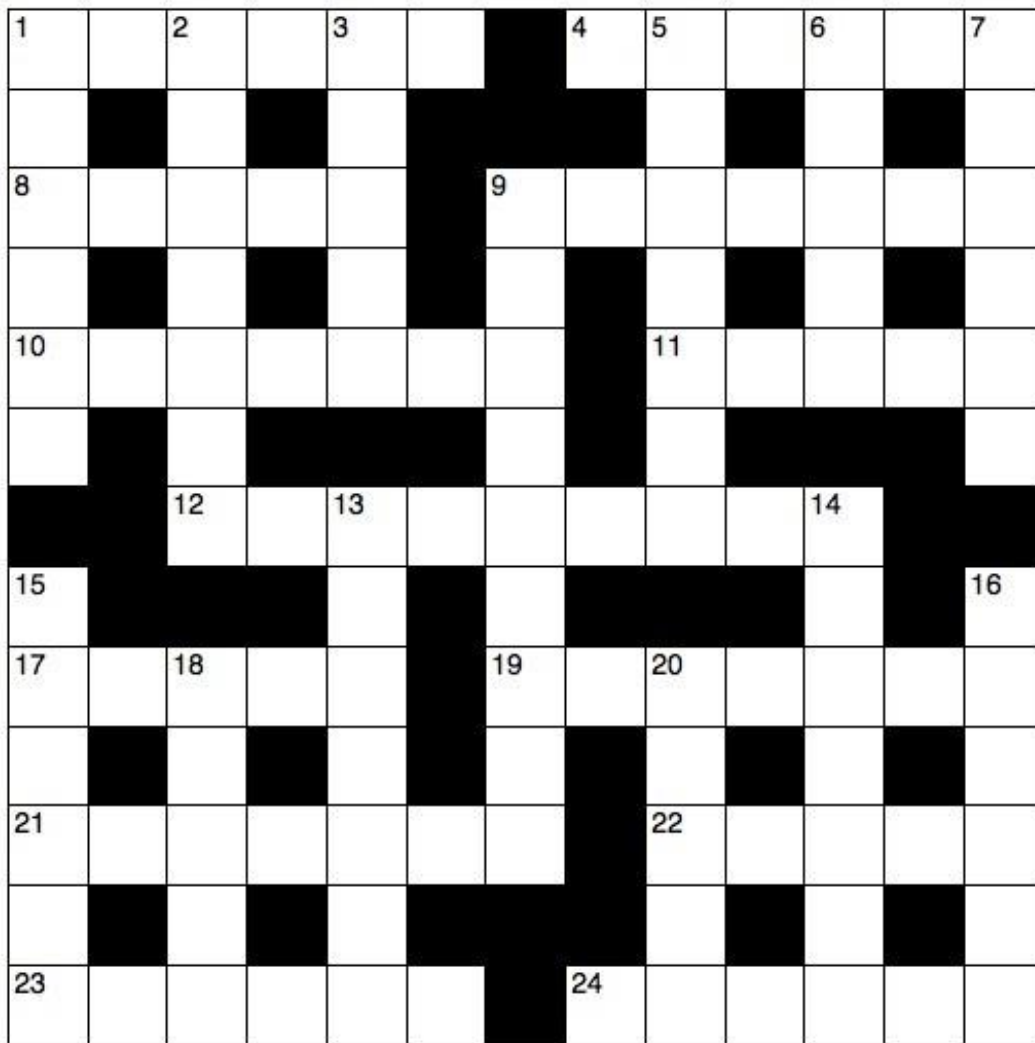
We've been receiving requests from members for bank account details to allow free will offerings to be paid directly via the bank. This is greatly appreciated and saves on a lot of processing and administrative time, as well as cost of donation envelopes. It also helps us budget knowing the amount we receive regularly.

If you require bank account details, please let your Elder / Treasurer know.

Also, please remember to keep your Treasurer updated re gift aid and if your donations are eligible for us to reclaim tax.

Thank-you for your continued support and contributions.

Karen & Sandra



### Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)  
 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)  
 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)  
 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the

scroll containing Jeremiah's message  
 (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)

10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)

11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)

12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)

17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)

19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord'  
 (Exodus 34:29) (7)

21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)

22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)

- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

### Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

### Answers for issue 148

**ACROSS:** 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

**DOWN:** 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.

**April 23**



Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	United Palm Sunday service	West Kirk	10.00
		Bible Class	West Kirk	10.00
Thursday	6 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy Thursday service	Polbeth Harwood	19.00
Friday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday service	West Kirk	19.00
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup>	Ecumenical early morning Service	Auld Kirk Yard	07.00
		United Easter service	Polbeth Harwood	10.00
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Warblers	West Kirk	11.30
Thursday	13 <sup>th</sup>	Beyond Kirk Walls	Dickson Court	14.00
Friday	14 <sup>th</sup>	Beetle Drive	West Kirk	19.00
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship	West Kirk	09.45
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15
Sunday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Morning Worship	West Kirk	09.45
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15
Thursday	27 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Study	Via Zoom	19.00
Friday	28 <sup>th</sup>	Youth Group		19.00
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship	West Kirk	09.45
			Polbeth Harwood	11.15

**May 23**

Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup>	Board & Session	West Kirk	19.00
Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup>	United Coronation	West Kirk	10.00
		Morning Worship		
Wednesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Warblers	West Kirk	11.30
Thursday	11 <sup>th</sup>	Beyond Kirk Walls	Dickson Court	14.00

## Parish Record

### Baptisms

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

19<sup>th</sup> March – Harlow MacKenzie, daughter of Connor MacKenzie and Lauren Cotton

### Deaths

***Jesus said “I am the resurrection and the life.”***

8<sup>th</sup> February – Janette Ferry, Monklands Hospital, Airdrie

24<sup>th</sup> February – Alexander Crookston, Langside Gardens, Polbeth

28<sup>th</sup> February – Kathleen McChesney, Dickson Street, West Calder

14<sup>th</sup> March – Stewart Macrae, Westmuir Road, West Calder

***To all who have lost a loved one we extend our sincere sympathies and prayers.***

Eternal Father,

To your loving care

we commend all those who mourn.

Sustain them in the days to come

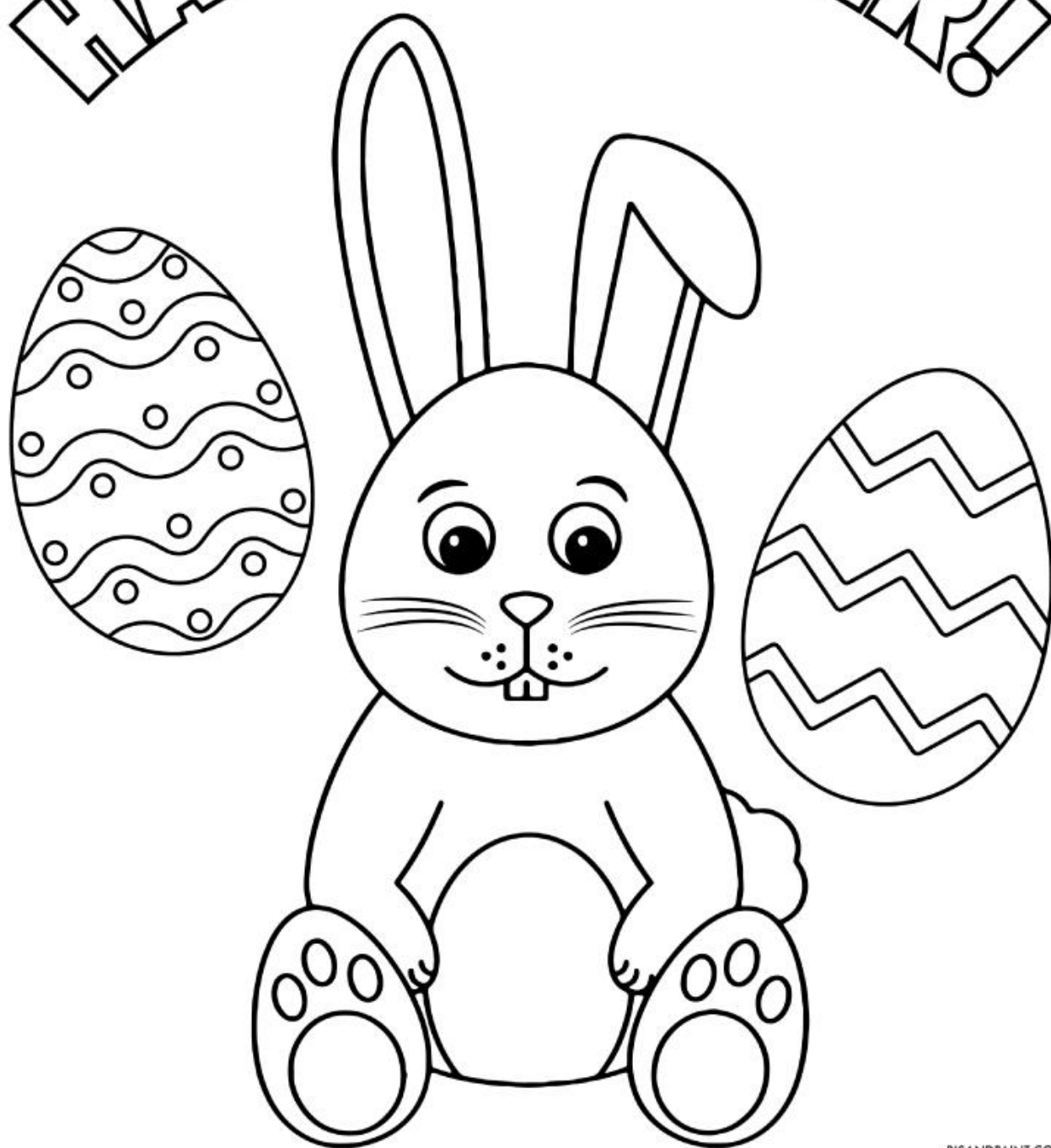
With treasured memories of the past

And radiant hopes for the future...

Until one day we will all be united again

in your glorious kingdom. Amen.

HAPPY EASTER!



PJSANDPAINT.COM