May 2024 **Issue 160**

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

Minister

Rev Dr Jonanda Groenewald

3 Johnsburn Road Balerno EH14 7DN

Phone: 0131 261 7977 Mobile: 07846 539841

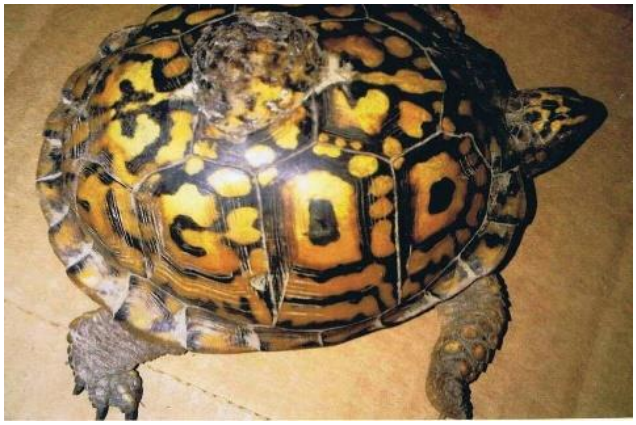
Email: minister@west-kirk-polbeth-harwood.co.uk

Ordained Local Minister

Rev Alison Quilter Mobile: 07741 985597

Email: AQuilter@churchofscotland.org.uk

West Kirk	**Polbeth Harwood**
Session Clerk	
Alison McNaught	Thomas Griffin
01506 871617	
sessionclerk@westkirkofcalder.co.uk	sessionclerk@polbethharwood.co.uk
	Assistant Session Clerk
	Marian Kinsman 07973 305211
Treasurer	
Neil Webster	Sandra McCabe
07732 553027	01506 872593
treasurer@westkirkofcalder.co.uk	
Safeguarding Coordinator	
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	
Newsletter Editor : Sandra.dixon71@gmail.com	



May 2024

Dear Friends

Nature will never cease to amaze me…

You know how when someone created a beautiful piece of art, they sign their name at the bottom? Well, just have a wee look at the turtle in the picture. Turtles have patterns on their shells. But if you look very carefully, you will see that it looks like the patterns on this turtle's shell spells "God". As if the Creator signed his name on his artwork! Isn't that just amazing?

Just like that, God created each one of us too – in his image. In Genesis 1:27 we read: "So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God he created them". This means that if people look at us, they need to see God – not necessarily in the way we look, but in the way we act and in the way we speak.

Our creator signed his name on us when we were baptised. Let's make sure that the whole world sees this and be just as amazed at how special God made us, as I was when I first saw this turtle.

May God bless you all this month, and always.

Kind regards,
Nanda

Reflection 2 Corinthians 3:17
A thought for Pentecost Sunday 19th May 2024

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

When I was on holiday recently in Cape Verde – I watched with fascination the kite surfers riding the waves back and forth across the water, tacking against the breeze, spray tossed up all around them as they raced at astonishing speed across the swell. The colourful kites above and the noise of the rolling and crashing waves – a magnificent sight. It must have been an exhilarating experience, ducking, diving, twisting and turning in harmony with the elements. It must have uplifted the body, it must have also stirred the spirit within their soul, bringing a sense of excitement and above all, unprecedented freedom. No longer is the power of the wind and waves something to be fought against; rather, it is harnessed, identified with, celebrated.

The apostle Paul talks of a different kind of freedom, but in similarly glowing terms. He has in mind the liberty we

experience as Christians through God's Spirit, one with many facets. Its means freedom from guilt and shame, from the need to make amends for our actions, for we are assured of God's grace and mercy. It means freedom from fear, whether of worldly troubles or of death itself, for we know He is with us in whatever we face, nothing is able to separate us from His love. It means freedom from whatever holds us captive, freedom to be ourselves and to live life to the full; for that is what God has promised; abundant and overflowing life for all eternity. The waves of life will still toss us about, but through opening our hearts to the wind of God's Spirit we can ride with and above them, celebrating the glorious liberty He makes possible for all.

Prayer:

Loving God, thank you for the freedom we experience through Your Spirit. You deliver us from whatever denies and diminishes life, filling us instead with love, life, laughter and light. Teach us to celebrate each day the wonderful freedom of loving and joyfully to ride the waves of Your grace on the wind of Your Spirit. Amen.

Rev Alison Quilter

Message from Rhoda…… Shoebox Shopping List For this month's suggestions to consider adding to your shopping list to help fill your Shoebox in the coming months, I am thinking of going down the stationery aisle.

1. Pencils/pens
2. Sharpener
3. Rubber/eraser
4. Ruler
5. Crayons
6. Notebook
7. Small Colouring Book.



Shoeboxes are being wrapped as you read this article! I plan to have them on sale by August, so we are ready for the Collection van by the last week in October.

Thanks as ever for your interest & support of this worthy cause.

Rhoda

AFTERNOON TEA & PLANT SALE.

Our fundraising event held on Saturday 20th April was a huge success and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow fundraising team members for their contribution in organising the plant growing, baking, sandwich making, quiz, treasure trail and tea serving etc.

I would also to like to thank everyone who came along on the day to support us, it was lovely to see so many people, quite a few of whom were catching up & chatting to people they hadn't seen for a while.

Our final total was a magnificent £809.

So once again, a big thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make the day so successful.

Margaret Hogg West Kirk Fundraising Group.

The Bridge



'16 to 25 year olds'

'The Bridge' for young folk aged 16 to 25 years old is held quarterly. A get together to have a blether, sharing a meal or light snack, and explore our faith and discuss things that matter to you as young folk in 21stC.

If you are interested please get in touch with me or Nanda and bring a friend along too!

We next meet in Polbeth Harwood Café Area on **Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7pm**. The Bridge let's stay connected!

Look forward to seeing you there!

Nanda and Alison



The Quiet Service

A monthly mid-week quiet service in Polbeth Harwood will next be held on **Wednesday 29 May at 3:30pm** in the 'quiet room'. All are welcome to this short service followed by tea, coffee, biscuits and a 'blether'.

Anyone who would like to come and needs assistance with transport should call Sandra Dixon on 07855861223.

We look forward to seeing you there.

THANK YOU!



A huge thank you to you all for your very kind birthday wishes and the many cards, flowers, sweets and CAKES for the occasion of my 60th birthday. Your generosity was amazing and overwhelming. I am so very lucky to be attached to two wonderful congregations! There are not enough words to say thanks. THANK YOU!

Alison

Sunday Club partners up with kids in need in South Africa



Did you have a pen pal when you were young? The Sunday Club is doing something similar, only – they are not writing letters, but sending video clips!

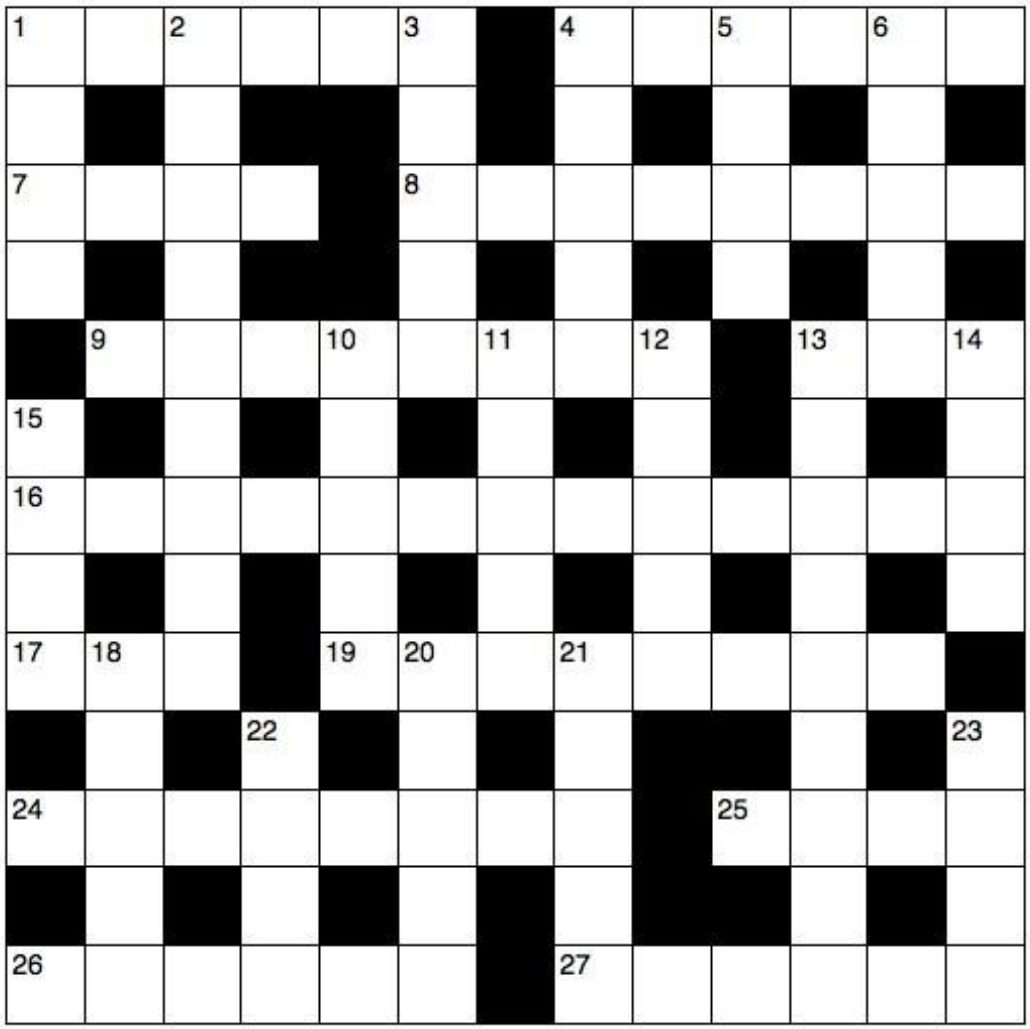
We reached out to a group of children in need in South Africa – and they have now become our official international partners.

To learn more about each other's cultures, one of our kids will send a video clip to them, introducing themselves, telling them something about life here in Scotland, about church, school, etc, and then they will ask a question. This question will be answered by a South African child, who will in turn tell us something about life where they are. In this way we are hoping to become friends with them and learn more about Christians in other parts of the world.

These children are all supported by a charity called Leipie Support Services (they attend Louis Leipoldt Primary School, in Centurion, just outside Pretoria). We made this connection through church, as their local church support them.

Leipie Support Services were founded 18 years ago, to support children whose families are in financial difficulty, to give these kids the same opportunities as the other children they go to school with. (There is no support from the government in South Africa like we have here in Scotland.) Families in need are supported with monthly food packs, stationery, school clothes, tour fees and supplies, and therapy. They are supporting 21 families at the moment.

The money the Sunday Club raised through the sweetie bags handed out on Mother's Day will be sent to them.



Across

1 One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)

4 ‘A good measure, pressed down, — together and running over’ (Luke 6:38) (6)

7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)

8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)

9 ‘But take heart! I have — the world’ (John 16:33) (8)

13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)

16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest’s lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)

17 Rap (anag.) (3)

19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)

24 ‘For where your — is, there your heart will be also’ (Luke 12:34) (8)

25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar’s great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)

26 ‘We all, like sheep, have gone — ’ (Isaiah 53:6) (6)

27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

Down

1 ‘The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the — hear, the dead are raised’ (Luke 7:22) (4)

2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)

3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)

4 ‘Like a — of locusts men pounce on it’ (Isaiah 33:4) (5)

5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)

6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)

10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (John 3:2) (5)

11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)

12 ‘I will — you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever’ (Psalm 145:1) (5)

13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)

14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)

15 ‘Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in — with the Spirit’ (Galatians 5:25) (4)

18 Cares (anag.) (5)

20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)

21 ‘So God said to Noah, “I am going to put — — to all people”’ (Genesis 6:13) (2,3)

22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)

23 ‘The — of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge’ (Proverbs 1:7) (4)

ISSUE 159 ANSWERS

ACROSS: 8, Transgressors. 9, Out. 10, Ephesians. 11, Throb. 13, Ramadan. 16, Nearest. 19, Neath. 22, Childless. 24, Ant. 25, Excommunicate. DOWN: 1, Utmost. 2, Easter. 3, Assemble. 4, Archer. 5, Isis. 6, To hand. 7, As a son. 12,
Hoe. 14, Monastic. 15, Apt. 16, Nuclei. 17, A piece. 18, Tied up. 20, Ararat. 21, Hatred. 23, Dome.

Polbeth Harwood Church Summer Fayre

Saturday 25th May 2pm – 4pm

As well as stall holders selling various goods we will be having our usual baking stall, afternoon teas, raffle & tombola.

Donations for the above would be greatly appreciated.

Come along & join in the fun & meet up with folks you haven't seen in a while for a blether over a cuppa.

We have some fantastic local traders joining us with their handcrafted items so please show them your support.

There are still a few tables available at a cost of £15.

Contact Sandra Dixon on 07855 861223 or Sandra.dixon71@gmail.com to secure a place.



ROCKY'S PLAICE

Monday July 29 -

Friday August 2nd

The big countdown is now on, and you can ketchup on all the latest news and plans for this amazing week, by joining us in the West Kirk on Thursday May 16th at 7pm



Rocky's Plaice holiday club, gives us the opportunity to cast out our nets into the community once again this year. Where we will bring a really important message to the young people who are able to join us, tthrough an amazing group of whacky characters and a whole load of fun along the way.



Make new friends for life!



May 24

Thursday	2nd	Session Meeting	West Kirk	19.00
Sunday	5th	Morning Worship Bible Class	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood West Kirk	09.45 11.15 09.45
Wednesday	8th	Wednesday Warblers The Bridge	West Kirk hall Polbeth Harwood Café area	11.30 19.00
Thursday	9th	Beyond Kirk Wall Services	Dickson Court Burngrange Home	13.45 15.00
Friday	10th	Pastoral Care Outing	West Kirk for Garrion Bridge	11.00
Sunday	12th	Christian Aid Sunday Worship Teen Time	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood West Kirk	09.45 11.15 18.15
Thursday	16th	Holiday Club meeting	West Kirk	19.00
Sunday	19th	Morning Worship	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood	09.45 11.15
Saturday	25th	Summer Fayre	Polbeth Harwood	14.00
Sunday	26th	Morning Worship	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood	09.45 11.15
Wednesday	29th	Reflective Service	Polbeth Harwood	15.30
Friday	31st	Youth Group	Outside Venue	19.00
Saturday to Friday	19th to 23rd	Church of Scotland General Assembly	Edinburgh	



June 24

Sunday	2nd	Holy Communion Bible Class	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood West Kirk	09.45 11.15 09.45
Tuesday	4th	Holiday Club meeting	West Kirk	19.00
Sunday	9th	Morning Worship	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood	09.45 11.15
Wednesday	12th	Wednesday Warblers	West Kirk hall	11.30
Thursday	13th	Beyond Kirk Wall Services	Dickson Court Burngrange Home	13.45 15.00
Sunday	16th	United Worship Annual Outing to Aberdour	Polbeth Harwood From Polbeth	10.00 11.15
Thursday	20th	Session Meeting	West Kirk	19.00
Sunday	23rd	Morning Worship	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood	09.45 11.15
Friday	28th	Youth Group	West Kirk hall	19.00
Sunday	30th	Morning Worship	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood	09.45 11.15

Parish Record



Deaths

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life."

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

7th March – Kelly Girdwood, Newtoft Street, Edinburgh

18th March – Gail Young, Camilty House, Harburn

21st March – Mary McCulloch, Burngrange Care Home,

1st April – Josephine Rigby, Burngrange Cottages, West Calder

I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an after glow
of smiles when life is done.
I'd like to leave an echo
whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times
and bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve,
to dry before the sun
of happy memories
that I leave when life is done. Anonymous