September 2024 **Issue 163**

The Link



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

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Dear Friends

I hope that all of you had a lovely summer! We spent 4 very special weeks in South Africa, catching up with family and friends, after which I came home for the Holiday Club. The Holiday Club was such great fun! It was lovely to spend a week with so many boys and girls from our villages, and our fabulous team of volunteers, under the competent leadership of Lorna, made it a week to be cherished forever…

I thought that I would like to let you know that there are a few exciting changes lying ahead of us as a family. André demitted his charge as the minister of Balerno Parish Church, and he is working for the Presbytery at the moment, while he is prayerfully looking for a new charge. This means that we will be moving into the manse in West Calder once it's been redecorated. I'm looking forward to living in the parish and being closer to everyone. Please pray with me that everything will fall in the right places for André and the boys too, as they will have to adjust to living further away from their school and friends. I have no doubt that as a family we will be happy in West Calder, because we will be living amongst all the loving, kind and caring people of our congregations!

My prayer for this new academic year for all of you is that God will bless you in everything you do. Like Paul, in his letter to the Philippians (4:19), I pray that "God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Jesus Christ."

Much love,

Nanda

Colossians 1:15-20

Spitting Image

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;
16 for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things
visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or
powers—all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He
himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 He
is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the
firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in
everything. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
20 and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of
his cross.

My family has welcomed a gorgeous wee boy into the world – and he has his dad's looks! How many times have you over the years said something like this – 'Oh doesn't he look like his dad!' or 'Doesn't she look like her mum!'. Look at his eyes and nose – spitting image of his dad! Look at her mouth and chin – just like her mum's! Aye he is a [surname of family] alright! The similarities between a parent and child can indeed be remarkable, and that usually extends further than mere physical resemblance.

Like it or not our gestures, mannerisms, temperaments and attitudes all betray our origins, far more than we might realise. Not that two people are ever the same, but there are remarkable likenesses between them. However great these may be though, they are nothing

compared with the likeness Paul speaks of in his letter to the Colossians: that between Jesus and God.

Here there is a parallel unlike any other, closer and more striking than even the perfectly identical twins, for the Son does not just resemble his Father, he fully and completely makes him known. To know Jesus is to know God, to look at his life is to see God at work, to experience his love is to be touched by God's love in turn, and so it goes on. It is a claim at any level, but altogether astonishing when we recall that the God we are talking about here is the same God who, according to the Old Testament, is enthroned in righteousness, mighty in power, greater than the human mind can comprehend and so holy that nothing impure can stand before him.

A gulf had separated him from humankind, any knowledge of him being partial and once removed, but suddenly it is different – God made flesh, sharing our humanity and inviting us to share in his life. That is the truth at the heart of the gospel, the message we celebrate today and every day. We are not limited simply to knowing about God: we are invited to know him for ourselves in a daily relationship with Christ – the spitting image of the Father!

Prayer Lord Jesus, make me one with you, just as you are one with the Father. Conform me to the likeness of your Son, day by day, moment by moment. Remake me in his image, so that something of him may shine from me, to the glory of his name. This is the work you have given me to do. Amen

Birds of the Bible – The Dove

Across history and cultures, the dove is a universal symbol of peace and tranquillity. Its several species belong to the families Columbidae, and Streptopelia which also includes pigeons. In the Bible the dove first appears in the story of the flood (Genesis 8) when one is released by Noah and returns to the Ark with an olive leaf. Noah then knows that dry land has appeared marking a new beginning for humanity.

Considered at the time as ritually clean and so acceptable for sacrifice (Leviticus 1:14), the dove also appears as an emblem of purity (Psalm 68:13) and innocence (Song of Songs 2:14). Early Christians saw the dove as a symbol of the spirit of God and an embodiment of purity and gentleness, which they combined with the Greco-Roman meaning of the olive branch as a symbol of peace. Easily domesticated doves were kept in temples and household throughout the ancient Near East and Mediterranean.

Although we now tend to think of the dove in the bible as a pure white creature it is more likely that they were Turtle Doves. Indeed, references to turtles in the bible refer to the dove and not the reptile! Sadly, the turtle dove is no longer present here in Scotland but in recent years a few breeding pairs have re-established themselves in southern England migrating to northern Africa for the winter. They have been on the Red List in the UK since the mid-1990s but once again their distinctive ‘turr-turr’ call can be heard in a few places.



Here in Scotland the slightly larger collared dove can be seen regularly in gardens. Although quite nervous they will frequent bird feeders, or at least the ground underneath feeders where seed falls. Wood Pigeons, the largest of the family in the region, also inhabit gardens as well as their natural habitat of woods and farmland. We are probably all familiar with their ‘coo-coo-coo, coo-coo’ and their noisy clatter when flushed from cover. The stock dove is very similar to the wood pigeon except they lack the distinctive white patches on the collar and wings.

On our coasts in the north of Scotland we can see the wild rock dove which is similar to the stock dove but with a marked white rump when in flight. The rock dove is the ancestor of most of the feral pigeons we see in our towns and cities. The feral pigeons have a wide range of plumage including black, white, blue-grey and reddish cinnamon.

Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal 2024.

Leaflets explaining all that you need to know about filling a shoebox are available in the West Kirk & Polbeth Harwood Church Vestibules.

Ready wrapped Shoeboxes are on sale for £1.50.

Free mugs are available to put one in your Shoebox - ask Rhoda or Eleanor Davidson if you need one.

If filling a box is too much for you, think about sharing with someone else, or give a monetary donation & we will fill a box on your behalf.

Donations of items to help fill a box are also welcome. Monetary donations can be directed towards the transportation costs of getting the boxes to their final destination - please place money donations in an envelope marked if for filling a box or transportation.

Finally, your prayers for the work of Blythswood Care & in particular the volunteers in this country who wrap boxes, check boxes, pack the travelling boxes efficiently to get as many in as possible. We remember those volunteers who drive the trucks to Eastern Europe, the distributors who hand over the boxes which bring such Hope, Joy & Love to those with little or nothing to call their own. Amongst the basic practical gifts within the box is the message that the Lord is with them walking by their side, holding them up when they feel weary & tired & that in the days ahead the Lord will continue to be with them.

The CLOSING DATE to receive completed boxes or donations is 27th OCT 2024.

West Kirk Flowers

The Oct - Dec Draft Rota is available for all to see in the Church Vestibule. Please add your name to any available weeks that you wish to donate flowers or a monetary donation. Please can all monetary gifts be put in an envelope with which Sunday they are for & address it For the Attention of Rhoda, this can either be placed in the collection plate or handed in person to me.

We would welcome new volunteers for either arranging flowers or delivering flowers after the Church Service (most Sundays).

Please contact me if you want to know more or wish to join the Flower Power Team - email rhodalawton@gmail.com or text 07901 822534 or call 01506 871172 Evening Time ONLY (as I am at work daytime)

If you are aware of someone, male or female, young or mature who has been experiencing illness, bereavement, difficulties in life, celebrating happy occasions in life please make me, Nanda, Alison Q or one of the elders aware so that we can in time send flowers from the Sunday arrangement. The list for each Sunday's deliveries is planned by the Thursday before. Any new names given after that will be added to the pending list for the next week.

In light of Live-streaming the Services you may have noticed an additional Seasonal Floral arrangement on top of the Organ. This is to enhance the background scenery when anyone is speaking at the Lectern. Such additional arrangements involve an additional outlay of funds so any donations towards this part of our Congregations ministry would be gratefully accepted.

The weekly flower arrangements are also posted on the Church Facebook page & have been well received by those who 'like the page', those at home & people who follow the page but don't live locally.

Thanks for your support over recent months as I settle into the role of Flower Co-ordinator.

Rhoda

The Quiet Service



Our monthly mid-week quiet service in Polbeth Harwood will next be held on Wednesday 18th September 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.

The Bridge  '16 to 25 year olds'

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

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

We normally meet once a quarter in Polbeth Harwood Church Café Area on a Wednesday at 7pm, but September 4th will take place off-site. Look out for the WhatsApp details.

The Bridge: let's stay connected! Look forward to seeing you there!

Nanda and Alison

As more and more of us shop online, we wanted to send out a wee reminder to everyone.

If you scan the link below before you shop, you can turn your daily shopping into everyday magic for us with easyfundraising.

You shop, and the brands you shop from will donate to

"West Kirk of Calder Parish Church"

And the best news is…

It won't cost you any extra!

Shop at over 8,100 shops and sites.

Raising free donations when you shop online could not be easier. You'll find big name retailers here like John Lewis, Amazon, Tesco, Currys, Asda, Iceland, ebay and Apple all ready to help you raise more for our cause when you shop with them.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/westkirkofcalderpc

Rocky's Plaice, what a great week, in so many levels.

The weather was kind to us this summer allowing us the luxury of holding all our games outside in the fresh air.

A record number of children attend – 74 in total.

42 volunteers of which 13 were young helpers

(aged between 13 &18 years old)

Many new friendships were bonded, team spirit shone through, the crafty excelled, and the sporty embraced the challenges!

The singing raised the roof, and the message was shared to all through crazy characters and much fun.

Our 10th holiday club. It was such a treat to look back at all the posters which recorded some of our best moments which were on display.

You can see some of our best bits in this years' poster which is now up in the café area in Polbeth Harwood church and the church hall at the West Kirk.

Or why not check out our church website where you can see a selection of photos from the club.



Wednesday Blether

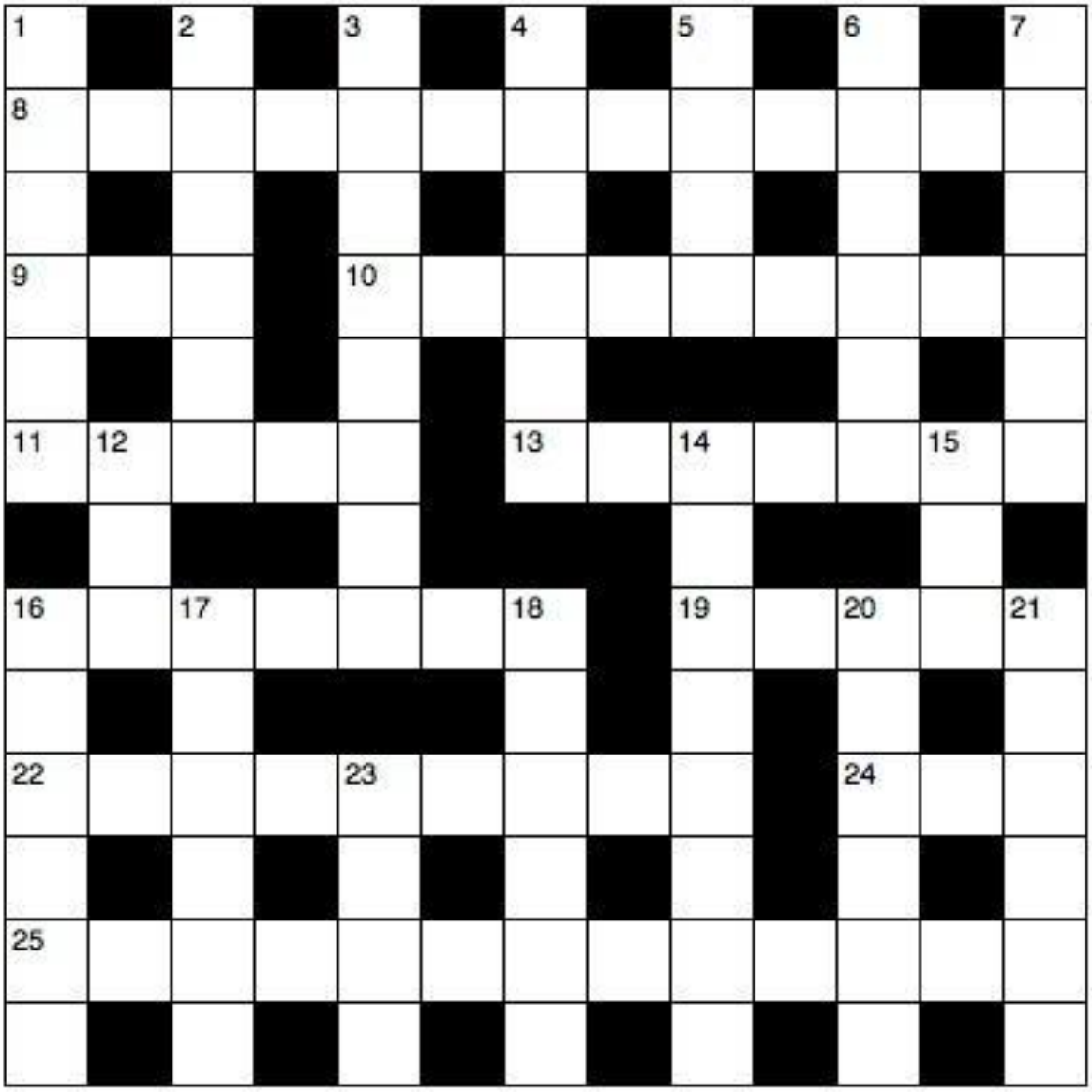
Every Wednesday evening from 6.30pm to 9.00pm our café area in Polbeth Harwood Church becomes a space for a blether and a cuppa.

Some bring their knitting or crocheting along but that is definitely not a requirement!

As the nights get darker, wouldn't it be lovely to be able to meet with others and get some company and laughs.

No need to call ahead. Just turn up between the above hours (entry in the café door at back of church) and you will be made very welcome.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Across

8 Where the ark of the covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4)
11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ' (Malachi 1:3) (5)
13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
16'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)
19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)

24 and 2 Down ‘Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ’ (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

Down
1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
2 See 24 Across
3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
5 The Bible’s shortest verse: ‘Jesus — ’ (John 11:35) (4)
6 ‘Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?’ (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
12 ‘Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem’ (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
17 Braved (anag.) (6)
18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
20 ‘Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight’ (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
21 ‘Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God’ (Romans 8:39) (6)
23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

Answers from issue 162

ACROSS: 1, Sabbatical. 7, Opinion. 8, Laing. 10, Olga. 11, Galilean. 13, Sardis. 15, Severe. 17, Adultery. 18, Flea. 21, Swazi. 22, Acetate. 23, Revelation.

DOWN: 1, Sling. 2, Brim. 3, Annual. 4, Ill-timed. 5, Abilene. 6, Colossians. 9, Gennesaret. 12, Diatribe. 14, Roulade. 16, Errata. 19, Learn. 20, Levi.

Welcome you as



Join us for afternoon Tea with friends



In the West Kirk Hall



Saturday September 7th from 2 -4 pm

A delicious selection of sandwiches, scones, pancakes, cakes, tea and coffee will be served.





There will be the usual stalls of Home Baking and preserves, Tombola, Raffle etc

Our theme is Autumn Produce and we will have a varied selection of preserves, produce and a range of bulbs and green finger cuttings etc, for your garden.

Tickets now on sale £5 per person





CALDER KIDS



A friendly place for parents and carers of babies and toddlers to meet in the village for a chat and a cuppa whilst the kids meet and play!

Wednesday mornings in the West Kirk church hall from 9:30am and finish at 11am,

during school term time.

Tea and coffee £1, children of snack age 50p

We now have spaces available.

Please pop in for more information

A friendly welcome awaits.





JAK’S DEN

At the end of May, I wrote in The Link that I intended to walk at least 5k every day during June, July & August to raise funds for Jak’s Den in memory of Jack Lees my daughter Pamela’s best friend’s son who sadly passed away on 30th November last year aged just thirteen.

He had been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour in April 2022 and during the twenty one months from his diagnosis until he died Alison & her staff at Jak’s Den played a large part in organising respite, days or weekends away, visits to Tynecastle to watch his favourite team, Hearts, and to meet with some of his football heroes. They also provided a fantastic support network for his mum Claire, his sister Emma and other members of his immediate family as well as close friends during and after his illness.

So, as I write this article, I am into the 12th week of my walks, with just one more to go until the 31st August. I have managed to reach my goal every day and most days exceeding it with an average of 6k/7k . When I started on 1st June and for the first two or three weeks, I got soaked several times and, on some days, actually had my winter padded coat on as the weather was so unseasonably cold. However, as the weeks have gone on, I’ve been lucky to get out and walk in some lovely sunshine .

Because of the school holidays I’ve been on several trips with my two young grandsons and have done my walking in Glasgow, Burntisland, Galashiels and Beecraigs. I’ve also had the pleasure of pushing my new Great Grandson, Harris, born at the end of May, while doing my daily walk.

Last week I walked in East Calder and visited Jack's grave in Almondvale Cemetery to leave some flowers a couple of days before what would have been his 14th birthday. Really sad.

During my walks I've met so many people that I haven't seen to talk to for ages and met new acquaintances out walking their dogs etc , and an unexpected and very welcome plus: I've lost weight! Not a lot but enough to make my waistband less tight and easier to fasten so that's a good thing.

My goal for this venture was to walk 5k everyday & hopefully raise £250 for the charity . I've definitely done the distance but thanks to the kind people of West Calder and especially to my friends both at the West Kirk and Polbeth Harwood it looks like I have almost doubled that total. I will let you know the final total next month after I have handed it over to Alison at Jak's Den. So, thank you all once again everyone for your interest and support, it's all been worthwhile.

Margaret Hogg.



CALLING ALL CRAFT PEOPLE!

Dare I say, Christmas is coming!! Polbeth Harwood Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 30th November 2pm to 4pm.

We are renting tables to craft people for £15 per table. If you, or anyone you know would be interested in having a table at our sale, please message us on our Facebook Page or text 07855 861223.

Tables are already filling up so get your details in quickly as spaces are limited.



...I take it our local supermarket has a rather good offer on tinned peas at the moment!

Please don't forget you can hand in any of those supermarket bargains to either church each week for the local Foodbank!!!

PASTORAL CARE

OUTING



An outing, in cars, will take place on

Friday 27th September

to **Craigie farm café and farm shop** for lunch,

then on to South Queensferry for ice cream.

Cost of lunch at Craigie's is around £10 - £20 approximately.

The invitation is open to anyone from both congregations.

Cars will leave West Kirk car park at 11am,

or you may wish to be collected from home prior to that.

If you would like to come along and join us,

please contact either

Beryl Henderson: 01506 379230

07500277201 or

Dr Jean Pringle: 01506 873532

to make arrangements as required.



September 24

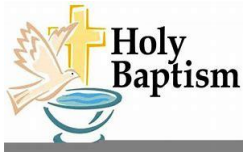
Sunday	1st	Holy Communion Bible Class	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood West Kirk	09.45 11.15 09.45
Wednesday	4th	The Bridge	Off-site Venue	19.00
Thursday	5th	Session Meeting	West Kirk	19.00
Saturday	7th	Afternoon Tea	West Kirk	14.00
Sunday	8th	Morning Worship	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood	09.45 11.15
Wednesday	11th	Wednesday Warblers	West Kirk hall	11.30
Thursday	12th	Beyond Kirk Wall Services	Dickson Court Burngrange Home	13.45 15.00
Sunday	15th	Morning Worship	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood	09.45 11.15
Wednesday	18th	Quiet Service	Polbeth Harwood	15.30
Sunday	22nd	Morning Worship	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood	09.45 11.15
Friday	27th	Pastoral Care Outing	West Kirk car park	11.00
Friday	27th	Youth Group	West Kirk hall	19.00
Sunday	29th	Harvest Thanksgiving	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood	09.45 11.15



October 24

Sunday	6th	Morning Worship Bible Class	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood West Kirk	09.45 11.15 09.45
Wednesday	9th	Wednesday Warblers	West Kirk hall	11.30
Thursday	10th	Beyond Kirk Wall Services	Dickson Court Burngrange Home	13.45 15.00
Sunday	13th	Morning Worship	West Kirk Polbeth Harwood	09.45 11.15

Parish Record



Baptism

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

14th July – Austin Gordon Hennessey, infant son of Marc Hennessey and Ola Biesiadecka



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.

30th June – Margaret Taylor, Cuthill Brae, West Calder

25th July – William McCarthy, Polbeth Terrace, West Calder

8th August – Thomas Thomson, Burngrange Care home, West Calder

Here, there,

without, within,

in shadow, in light,

amid storms, in the centre of calm

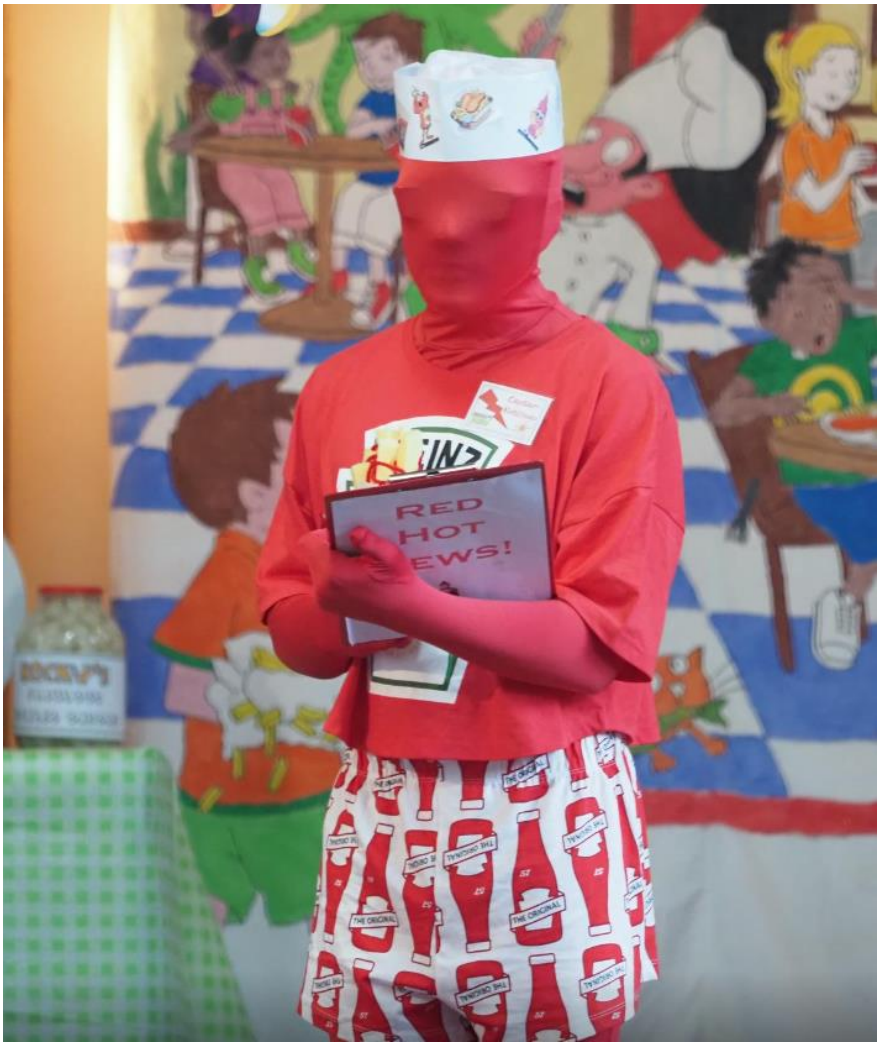
... there is always a place, God abides beside us.

in the heights, and in the depths,

nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Rocky's Plaice Group Photo





Captain Ketchup