

# The Link



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

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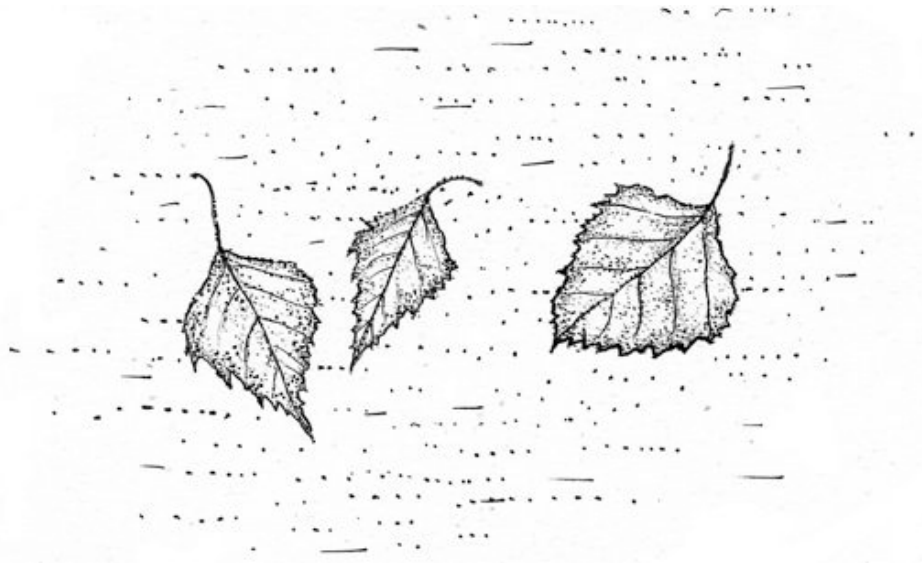
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## My Prayer Corner

Father, rainy days are under-rated. Castigated by all, from the bus-stop to the butcher's. They are unloved, compared to blustery-breezed, late-summered September. By November, this older time of the year has specialised in them, these dreich and dismal offerings of daylight.

But underneath the obvious damp, these rainy days are the hidden comfort days of the calendar, still part of Your creation. They invite us to snuggle down, and not to pretend that all life is to be young and sun-kissed. They are the loving reminders of "Dress up warmly. Keep dry. Don't stay out too long." They mother us indoors towards the fire or the mug of soup or the favourite film.



And we need the slow days, the grey still days. Some of life will flood over us from time to time. It will be too much to keep going in endless activity and, somehow, we need to be given permission that we are allowed to be little again and huddle in the big bath towel and know we are loved, even when we fell and got wet in the puddle. Except at times that puddle will be internal and we carry it in our hearts, Lord.

You are our Father. In the warm promise of spring and the aching grandeur of autumn. You offer us everlasting arms in the saddest corners of our hearts and days. Thank You for the reassurance of these damp days and your soft presence in it all.

*Louise  
Lorraine*

# The Church Family (Parish Record)

## West Kirk

## Polbeth Harwood

### *Baptisms*

#### **30th October**

Jack Alexander McLinden  
(son of Hazel and Nicholas)

### *Funerals*

#### **26th September**

Halina Easton, Northfield Cottages

#### **5th October**

Donald 'John' Urquhart, Harburn Drive

#### **7th October**

Thomas Crawford, Society Place

#### **31st October**

George Thomson, Parkhead Crescent

### *Funerals*

#### **14th October**

Agnes Sargent, Langside Gardens

## Worship in the Linked Congregations

Sunday Morning Worship will take place in the West Kirk at 9.30 am and in Polbeth Harwood at 11.15 am unless stated otherwise.

Special services are as follows:

**6th November      Sacrament of Baptism at the West Kirk**

**13th November    Remembrance Sunday**

**20th November    Morning Worship**

**27th November    The First Sunday of Advent**

**4th December     Sacrament of Holy Communion**

West Kirk of Calder - 9.30 am

Polbeth Harwood - 11.15 am

**United Evening Communion**

West Kirk of Calder - 6.30 pm

## Polbeth Harwood Church Annual Dance

Once again a huge success! Ten years ago Polbeth Harwood Parish Church held a one-off annual dance as part of their bi-centenary celebrations.

On 8th October 2005 the congregation gathered together for the 10th anniversary of what just had to become an annual event.

Parishioners and friends enjoyed dancing to the lively music of the Willie McFarlane Band following an excellent dinner, which was praised by all and sundry.

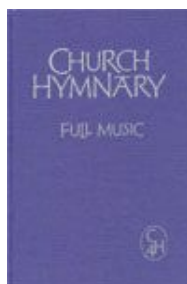


Bill Fairley was never off the floor “that is, during the first and last dance”. He was not alone, as a number of those attending were content to enjoy the music and sing-along with the popular songs played by this band.

However, there were many others who were never off the floor including our popular Session Clerk. Charlie Sturrock never lacked for partners as he raced around the hall from the first to the last dance.

All in all the evening was noted a tremendous success. Roll on next year!

*Finlay Carmyllie*



The family of the late Frank Vinter would like to express its sincere gratitude to everybody who donated to the fund, set up in his memory to purchase the new Church Hymnary.

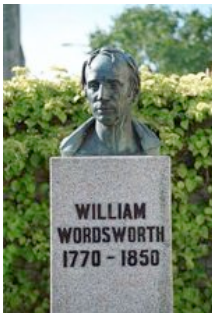
Everybody's kindness is a fitting testimony to his memory and, like Frank, will never be forgotten. Thank you very much.

*Stuart Vinter*

## Church Holiday – St Bees

We departed from Polbeth Harwood Church on a dreich Monday morning in July. Everybody was in good spirits and by the time we reached Hamilton the weather was better.

The first stop was Gretna (not for a wedding although we had the Parson on board) only for lunch. We had just got back on the motorway when low and behold 'The Polis' pulled us in. "Follow me" he said, and like good living people, we did so and arrived at the 'Check Point' where we were off-loaded and the driver and bus taken away to have the bus checked over. One hour later we boarded again and set off for St Bees, arriving in time for dinner. The hotel was right on the shore with plenty of sea breezes and sometimes a paddle.



### Tuesday

We went to Cockermouth a quaint but busy town where Wordsworth was born in 1770. His bust in one corner and on the opposite side of the road his Georgian house, but unfortunately we did not have time to go through it. Then on along the side of Bassenthwaite Lake to Keswick where we had plenty of time to browse, buying all the things you sin with on a diet.

### Wednesday

We joined the narrow gauge railway at Ravenglass and seven miles and forty minutes later arrived at Eskdale, where we had lunch and visited the lovely shop with souvenirs of our train journey. The weather was good so we had a seat in the sun till train time. After the return journey we boarded the bus for Maryport and then on to Whitehaven, which has a nice Marina. Whitehaven we were told was used in the 18th century to export goods from England to America, in exchange for rum, tobacco, coal and slaves.



### Thursday

We travelled to Coniston but again – with limited time – a sail on Coniston Water where Donald Campbell lost his life, was not possible. We did see the Memorial Seat to Donald in the village and visited the Information Centre for more about him.

We then headed for Bowness on lovely Lake Windermere and with glorious weather it was a quick lunch and then down to the lakeside. Ice cream was the order of the day as we sat and watched the Lake Cruises coming and going and the swans and ducks being fed.

### **Friday**

Homeward bound, but guess what – we stopped at Gretna again, but still could not tempt anyone to tie the knot.

Another good holiday over, it's back to guessing where to next year.



This holiday is not just for 'Polbeth folks', anyone is more than welcome to join us.

*Lilias Fairley*

## **God Has A Better Plan**

### **“When I go to Spain I hope to visit you”... Romans 15:24**

There is so much talk in the church these days about self-help that divine providence is seldom mentioned. We do not decide God's plan for our lives; we discover it. Much of the time we do not understand how God leads us. It is only by looking back that we see the big picture. Paul wrote, “When I go to Spain I hope to visit you.” But he never made it. Instead he finished up in one of Europe's worst prisons, but from there he wrote the Epistles. If we really believe that God is directing our steps, why do we complain so much?

One of England's finest preachers determined that his wife's failing health must keep him from ministering at a great conference in America, although he had purchased his ticket. The ship sailed without him. Thus J. Stuart Holden missed a golden opportunity in the prime of his preaching career. A devoted husband, Holden gave himself to caring for his wife and tried not to think about what he was missing on the other side of the Atlantic.



We're too easily disappointed when our plans fall through; too easily discouraged when 'great opportunities' are missed. Our complaining reveals the fact that we do not know God like we say we do. Delays are often just the

protective hand of a loving father. It certainly was for Holden. Until the day he died he resolved never to question God's timing again. The unused ticket he held reserved his passage on a new luxury liner – The RMS Titanic!

**Soul Food Reading – Ezek 46-48; John 9: 35-41; Ps 123.**

The above is an extract from *United Christian Broadcasters, The Word For Today*. This publication is published every quarter and contains daily messages like the one above with suitable bible readings to study. If you are anything like me you may struggle with your bible reading and I find that *The Word For Today* is helpful in making me think and focus on my bible.

This publication is free, although any supporting donations are welcomed to defray production costs. I have a number of copies of the latest publication available and anyone interested need only contact me on 01506 413203.

*Finlay Carmyllie*

West Kirk of Calder presents

## **Encore Concert Series**

**2005/2006**

**Friday 18th November 2005 7.30 pm  
A Musical Double Bill**

Scottish ceilidh music from  
**'Ceilidhoke'**  
&  
a welcome return to the singers  
**'Jinty and Max'**

**Friday 17th February 2006 7.30 pm  
Scottish accordion music at it's best**

**'Willie McFarlane'**

Tickets from Shirley MacRae 01506 872486

**Advance tickets for both concerts: £10      Concessions: £6**

**Single concert pay at the door: £6      Concessions: £4**



## West Kirk Guild Report

The Guild started its new session on Monday 3rd October, when we welcomed our current members and also some new ones. It was good to see so many there. The speaker for the evening was our Minister, Rev David Albon, who spoke to us about this year's Guild theme, "Dare to Care with Commitment", which gave us plenty to think about, especially when we split into small groups and spoke to each other about the various ways we had committed ourselves during our lives.

### Dates for your diary:

7th November	The Gemme's a Bogie – Mary Ferrie
21st November	Guest Night: Sing a new Song – Bill Russell
28th November	Visit to Rosebank Nurseries, Clyde Valley
5th December	Jint's Jools

We look forward to seeing you at these meetings

*Jill Murray (Joint Secretary)*

## West Kirk Fundraising Group Report

The October Candy Bar staffed by the Kirk Session and friends raised the excellent total of £575. Thanks to all who helped in any way. By the time you read this we will have held the Annual Whist Drive, thanks to all the hard work of Margaret Lamb, Jean Graham and friends.

After the Guild Coffee Day in November, we have our major fund raising event of the year with the Christmas Candy Bar from 10 am on Saturday 3rd December. Lunch is by ticket only, priced at £7 (£3 for under 12 years). There are two sittings at 11.45 am and 1 pm when delicious festive fare will be served. Tickets can be purchased from Margaret Greenhorn. The organisations are preparing amusements and stalls and donations of home baking, Christmas gifts, tombola and lucky dip prizes will all be gratefully accepted. Please give to any member of the Fund Raising Group, your elder or come on Friday 2nd December from 6.30 pm to the Church hall. Your support is much appreciated and we look forward to seeing you for morning coffee or lunch or both on 3rd December.



*Jill Murray (Convener)*

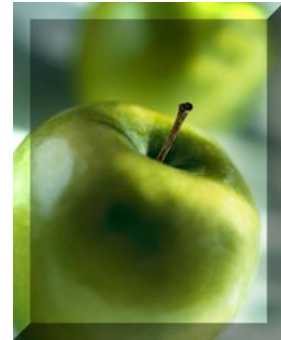
## Reflections

Here we are in the Lot Et Garonne Region of southern France. It is autumn but the thermometer, at 25°C, says it is still summertime: warm, calm, sunny days. This is a working holiday. The 'better half' is working very hard and I am on holiday.



The landscape is a feast for the eyes. Elegant green cypress trees, like tall spires, stretch above the sturdy oaks; deep red virginia creepers carpet the earth and climb high twining through the neighbouring hedges; cultivated plum trees, their fruits gathered in, stand in neat columns, their branches like filigree gold lace; the vines, still heavy with black velvet grapes, bow gracefully to the earth.

The harvested fruit is a feast for the palate. I have plucked and eaten fresh burgundy figs from the tree down the lane; I have gathered grapes and made rich purple grape juice; I have cooked a Delia Smith apple crumble with new-fallen apples; I have attempted a French apple, cider and ginger dessert. I even considered an apple strudel recipe but decided that was slightly over-ambitious for someone with my culinary capabilities. Tempted by so many tasty treats in such abundance, I resort to the excuse that the sin of waste is worse than the sin of gluttony. The 'better half' has been sorely tempted. Every evening he has an aperitif – or two or three – of red or rosé wine, 'for the sake of the stomach and frequent ailments'. [1 Timothy, 5:23]



These have been truly holy days for us. We feel richly blessed and could be forgiven for thinking this lovely place is heaven on earth. But it is not. Farmers work long hours; their children grow up and leave home to work in the cities, with the consequent gradual decline in agriculture; some fruit growing industries are subsidized purely to give employment, and, tragically, their products of tomatoes etc. left to rot. Left to rot when so many people in near and far-off lands are in great need! And so our gratitude and our duties of caring and sharing come sharply into focus once again.

**Genesis 2:9 – 'And out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food.'**

*Ann*



### **West Kirk Crèche Seeks New Volunteers**

Could you help with the crèche? The crèche looks after the children under three years in the church hall, after the children's talk. Volunteers are on duty with another person.

If you could help or would like find out more please contact Freya Lornie 01506 870070 or another crèche volunteer.

### **Car Run – West Kirk**

This facility runs throughout the year for everyone who would like to be transported to and from Church on Sunday mornings. A rota of volunteers is in place where a car is made available each Sunday.

You will be collected from your house and returned home after the service. We would appreciate a few more volunteers with cars to add their names to the rota. Meantime, the rota rotates every 8 weeks.



Please contact Beryl Henderson 01506 871202 by the Friday evening before the Sunday required.

### **Polbeth Harwood Christmas Fayre Saturday 26th November at 2 pm**

All the usual stalls will be there – Home Baking, Bric-A-Brac, Groceries, Toys & Games, Tea & Coffee.



Santa will be here too! ... Visit him in his grotto.

Donations for stalls can be handed in to the church on Wednesdays (at café time, 10 am– 11.30 am) or alternatively on Sunday mornings. If you would like to help in any way or need any donations for the stalls uplifted please contact Bill Fairley 01506 871509.

### **Harthill and Eastfield Flute Orchestra Friday 2nd December at 7 pm**

This concert will be held in Polbeth Harwood Church.

Tickets priced £3 can be obtained from members of the Polbeth Harwood Worship Group in advance or alternatively are available at the door on the night.



## **Life & Work – November 2005**

A short summary of some of the contents from the issue this month:

### **The Missionary Pioneer**

Lorna Hill reports on the 150th anniversary of Dr Livingstone's first sighting of the Victoria Falls and meets his great-grandson, while learning about the importance of the centenary celebrations of the Lubwa Mission in Zambia.

*“Scenes so lovely must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight.”  
Dr David Livingstone – 1855*

### **Katrina's Blessing**

The Rev Will Jones, a minister in Tennessee, describes how congregations in neighbouring states have responded to help those worst affected by the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

The small town of Brownsville, Tennessee, is located 383 miles to the north of New Orleans, yet Hurricane Katrina brought residents of these two places together in ways that no one could anticipate.

### **'Caring For Families'**

The Rev Bill Taylor explains the importance of Prisoners' Week, which runs from 20th to 26th November and highlights the need to support families affected by a prison sentence.

Families come in all shapes and sizes! They are remarkably capable of coping with all kinds of circumstances, from laughter to sadness, good news to bad news, times of close contact to times of separation. Families are the building blocks of our communities, where the family is well supported; all of us are better off.

### **A Philanthropic Politician**

Bill Magee meets Lord Sainsbury on the eve of the Carnegie Medal ceremony in memory of Scotland's most famous philanthropist.

### **'The Warm Heart of Ecumenism'**

Alastair Hulbet outlines the battle to save Scottish Churches House in Dunblane and the experience of those who have benefited from a visit.

The experience of young people is very encouraging. The place – the garden, the chapel, the great trees with their parliament of rooks, the chime of the cathedral clock – touches them with its beauty and peace.

## The Youth Link



In September the children had a special visitor at The Youth Link. We welcomed local farmer, Andrew Graham along, to tell us all about things that he harvests in the fields around the village in which we live. It was a very interesting visit. The children and teachers heard how long it takes to grow grass, barley and wheat etc, before we can harvest them for food. On his farm they have a harvest which happens all year round and we drink it every day ... well what is it? ... yes Milk!

Afterwards the children had fun guessing what type of grain was used to produce the things in different containers and they enjoyed getting to taste biscuits made from oats. We would like to thank Andrew for this most interesting visit.



Our "Base Camp" numbers are very low at the moment, and we would like to ask you if you know of any children who might like to join us in any of our groups. We meet every Sunday morning at 9.30 am till approx 10.30 am. If transport is a problem please contact Lorna Graham 01506 872953.

*Lorna Graham*

### 5th Livingston Boys' Brigade

The Boys' Brigade (BB) is a Christian Youth Organisation, with over half a million members worldwide. The BB offers a wide range of activities including Games, Crafts, Sports, Christian Teaching, Music and Holidays.

The 5th Livingston Boys' Brigade meets in the Lanthorn Community Centre every Thursday.

<b>Anchor Boys</b>	6.30 – 7.30 pm
<b>Junior Section</b>	6.30 – 8.15 pm
<b>Company Section</b>	7.30 – 10 pm



For further details contact Tom Griffin 01506 438038  
tom@griffinhouse.worldonline.co.uk

## Heaven's Art Gallery

Harrison Woodard

One night I dreamed I was standing with Jesus in front of a beautiful museum in heaven. "Let's go inside," said Jesus. "I want to show you something."

Adorning the walls were **paintings**, all masterpieces. Jesus explained that **each one represents one human life**. Every painting in the museum was abounding with love, grace, peace and passion. I was overwhelmed with joy as I gazed at each one. They all moved me deeply and I was aware of everything lacking in my life.



I asked Jesus, "Who could paint such things of beauty? Did you or the angels make these? Surely, no human could create such perfection." Jesus smiled, "**These were all created by God's children.**" "But how?" I asked. "It just isn't possible."



"**With God's help, anything is possible,**" said Jesus. "Ordinary people who submitted their will to me created them. Whenever a heart is truly given to me in every way, that person's life will become a masterpiece. Pride, selfishness, fear, greed, doubt, and unbelief will corrupt their painting. But someone who loves me with all of his or her spirit, mind and body will live a life worthy of display."

We walked around the gallery admiring all the lives portrayed. After a while, Jesus said that was all there was to see here. But I protested, "Surely there is more to see Lord. For you've shown me only a few." Jesus said, "**Yes, there is more.**"

He led me to the back of the museum and out into a massive warehouse. Stacked on pallets and laying in heaps on the floor were millions of paintings. I looked at a few and was disappointed. **They were so poorly done. Some were torn, some were patched, and still others lay unfinished.**

"What is this Lord?" I asked. "Surely these don't belong here?" "Yes my son, they do," said Jesus. "**For each one represents a precious life in progress.**" "But they are such pitiful paintings. Hardly worthy of a museum like this," I argued.

"Yes, you are correct they are not worthy," explained Jesus. "But my Father is very patient. **Each person's life has a chance to become a masterpiece.**



All these people as long as they live, can still see **their life displayed in heaven's art gallery.**"

"How can this be?" I asked. "Surely not through their own efforts." **"No, they will never do it on their own. They need only ask me and I will help,"** said Jesus. I timidly asked, "What will happen if they never ask?"

We walked to the very back of the warehouse and Jesus opened the doors. **Off in the distance I saw stacks and stacks of paintings burning in massive piles.** I turned to Jesus and there were tears on his cheek.



"All these tried it on their own. Actors & athletes, businessmen & butchers, executives & educators, preachers & politicians, mums & dads, rich & poor, foolish & wise – they are all here. **As long as people keep trying under their own strength they will never be good enough.** And their canvas will be thrown into the fire – never to be admired. What a terrible waste," sighed Jesus.

I wept with him. It was such a tragic site. Jesus closed the doors and we walked back into the warehouse. I asked, **"Lord is there hope for me?"**



Jesus smiled, **"Yes! Follow me."** We walked into a small room that was empty except for a blank canvas sitting on an easel. "What is this?" I asked. **"This canvas represents your life after it has been washed cleaned with my blood,"** said Jesus. I marveled at how beautiful it was. There was not one blemish or imperfection anywhere on my canvas. **Jesus handed me a brush and paint.**

**"Make it whatever you wish,"** said Jesus

I stood there for several minutes imagining all the things I could paint. I soon realized that I could do nothing that would ever be good enough for heaven's art gallery.

**"Lord, I want to create a masterpiece, but I just can't."**

Disappointed, I handed the brush back to Jesus, but he stopped me. Wrapping his hand around the brush in my hand and putting his arm around me he said,



**"Let's make it together."**

## Rota Information

### West Kirk Crèche Rota

Contact Freya Lornie 01506 870070

*Note: Please check dates and arrange a substitute if you are unable to be there.*

20th November	Louise Holden	Christine Paterson
27th November	Freya Lornie	TBA
4th December	Rhoda Lawton	Val Occardi
11th December	Olive Gibson	Freya Lornie



### West Kirk Tea Rota

Contact Olive Gibson 01506 871291

*Note: Tea Makers, please bring milk.*

20th November	May Arnott	Olive Gibson
27th November	Margaret Douglas	Margo McEwan
4th December	Isobel McChesney	Olive Gibson
11th December	Liz Dyer	Janice Cooper

### West Kirk Flower List

If you would like to give flowers one week, please add your name to the list in the church vestibule.

	<b>Given</b>	<b>Arranged</b>	<b>Delivered</b>
20th November	Margaret Ann Smith	Margaret Douglas & Margo McEwan	Moira McRae
27th November	Agnes Woods	Rosanna Rabaeijs	Margaret Ann Smith
4th December	Catherine Walker	Katie Albon	Ivy Johnstone
11th December	The Youth Link (Sunday School) Teachers		n/a



### West Kirk Duty Rota

	Door Duty		Car Run	
20th November	Richard Bryce	Liz Dyer	Alex Easton	Derek Burns
27th November	Jeanette Ferguson	Victor Ferguson	Lorna Graham	Hugh Clarkson
4th December	Irene Grindlay	Beryl Henderson	Alan Jessiman	Robert Hawes
	<b>Serving</b> <i>Richard Bryce</i>	<i>Liz Dyer</i>	<i>Jim Milne</i>	
	<b>Communion</b> <i>Stewart Munro</i>	<i>Evelyn Paterson</i>	<i>Hazel Tod</i>	
11th December	Jim Milne	Stewart Munro	Alison McNaught	Alan Jessiman
18th December	Christine Nicholl	Evelyn Paterson	Jill Murray	George Stott

### Polbeth Harwood Duty Rota

	Door Duty			
20th November	Bob Dickson	Wilma Dickson	Jessie Kelly	Tom Kelly
27th November	Anne Watson	William Watson	Marian Kinsman	Betty Macauley
4th December	Chrissie McCormack	Esther Hamilton	Effie Halliday	George Halliday
11th December	Margaret Mercer	Alan Mercer	Hazel Speirs	Linda Eardley
18th December	Alice Mackay	Kenneth Mackay	Anna Muirhead	Tom Walker

### Polbeth Harwood Café Rota

23rd November	Wilma Dickson	Jenny Doyle	Jessie Kelly
30th November	Frank Mabbutt	Betty Upton	Janet Walker
7th December	Jimmy Greer	Maisie Baird	Janet Wilson
14th December	Finlay Carmyllie	Effie Halliday	Grace Peace
21st December	Gordon Erskine	Chrissie McCormack	Esther Hamilton

### Polbeth Harwood Cleaning Rota

20th November	Anne Weston-Lewis	Evelyn Cowie
27th November		Christmas Fayre
4th December	Ena Prentice	David Prentice
11th December	Debbie Millar	Betty Millar
18th December	Esther Hamilton	Patricia Erskine

## God Moves In A Mysterious Way – His Wonders To Perform



Christians in Kobryn (136 miles east of Warsaw), Belarus, had no permanent building for worship since 1925. In late 1992, permission was given to demolish a nearby Soviet missile silo, and use the salvaged materials to build a church.

Sealed within a brick wall, the volunteer workers discovered an empty World War II artillery shell.

Inside it was a 42-year-old letter, which said: “These bricks came from Polish and Russian Orthodox churches. If the missile complex is ever torn down, we ask that the bricks be used to build churches.”

### Contributions for the next edition

The next edition of *The Link* will be a double issue, published at the beginning of December taking both congregations into the New Year. Please could rotas for the next issue cover the period 18th December 2005 – 12th February 2006.

Have you a favourite Christmas recipe to share, or a story about Christmas, or thoughts for what 2006 might bring us as the congregations and community of the West Kirk and Polbeth Harwood?

Contributions for the December/January edition should be submitted by Sunday 20th November. These can be sent via email, or handed in person to either Rev David Albon or Colin Dempster.

### Paws... for thought



**Your expression is the most important thing you can wear.**

***Sid Ascher (New York Author)***