

June 2013

Issue 55

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

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From our Interim Moderator

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30th May 2013

Dear congregations

I cannot believe that we are already well on our way to the summer holidays, which of course is synonymous with the Holiday Club.

The Holiday Club will be the first in the history of the linked charges of Polbeth Harwood and West Kirk. It is a fantastic and smart way of reaching out to the children in the parishes. Hopefully a lot of people will be involved and those who are not involved yet, will soon see the fuller picture and join the team.

What is the fuller picture? I am convinced that the traditional ways of being a church are not relevant and realistic in our current era. No longer is the church the centre of activity in any community. Over the years, the church has lost this position and unless we grab it back, it will have no place at all in any given community. It makes matters even more complicated when the local church building is not in the centre of the village or town.

So we, as the Church of Christ, must take the initiative to get people and children involved in the life of the local church, as in the Holiday Club in August at Polbeth

Harwood Church and the bereavement service in December.

We must take the message of salvation to them, wherever they are.

If we do not make the effort to connect to our local people, there will be no connection, no message and no relationship at all.

We need to start getting more involved. We need to restrain ourselves from saying: “Ah but it will not work”: “I think I’m too old to help”: “I can’t help because I don’t have the skills or the talents”.

To work with children only requires 4 things:

- Common sense;
- Good sense of humour;
- Time;
- Friendliness.

If you have any one of the above, you will do fine. God will support you as will the other volunteers around you.

The prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 43-44) told his people in exile that the Lord would free them from exile, but they did not believe a word he said. It became fact in 539 BC when the Persian empire conquered the Babylonian empire and allowed the exiled Jews to return to their home country.

God will and can perform miracles even despite our unwillingness to be a useful “tool” in His mighty Hand.

God is not finished with you or me.

He is not finished with the linked charge of Polbeth Harwood with West Kirk.

He is not finished doing miraculous things in and around us.

If you think that you are not suitable or unwilling to help with the Holiday Club or any other volunteering within the congregations or reaching out to our communities, please reconsider.

God is greater than all our shortcomings, and failings.

I am convinced that the Holiday Club will be a resounding success and that the communities of West Calder and Polbeth will realise there is a Church of Christ in their midst, telling them of the good news of Jesus Christ.

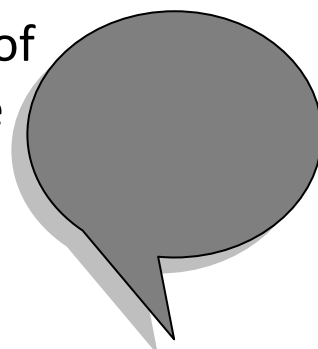
Enjoy the approaching summer.

All my blessings,
André

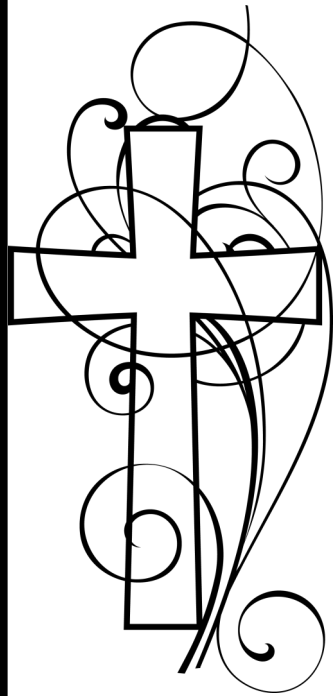
Contribution deadline for the next issue.....

All contributions for the July / August edition of the magazine should be submitted to the editor, preferably by email,

before 23rd June



June Pulpit Supply



2nd June Rev Dr Jonanda Groenewald

9th June Rev Dr Jonanda Groenewald

16th June Rev Dr Jonanda Groenewald

23rd June Rev Richard Houston

Moderator of West Lothian Presbytery

30th June Rev Dr Jonanda Groenewald

(Baptism)

July Joint Summer Services

10.00am start

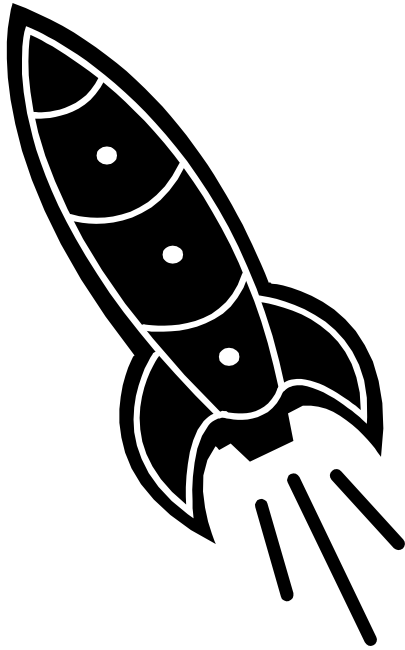
7th July Rev Gordon Jamieson

14th July Rev Gordon Jamieson

21st July Rev David Black

28th July Chas Godon

To be held in West Kirk



WEBSITE LAUNCH DATE!

Get fingers on the button
ready to experience our joint,
new-look website on

1st June

The home page with its top menu bar has easy access to all areas of church life as well as the latest news events posted and a calendar for both churches.

www.west-kirk-polbeth-harwood.co.uk

To keep in touch, you can subscribe to receive news items as they happen direct to your email address as well as connections available to Facebook and Twitter.

We think you'll be impressed!

Sunday Club

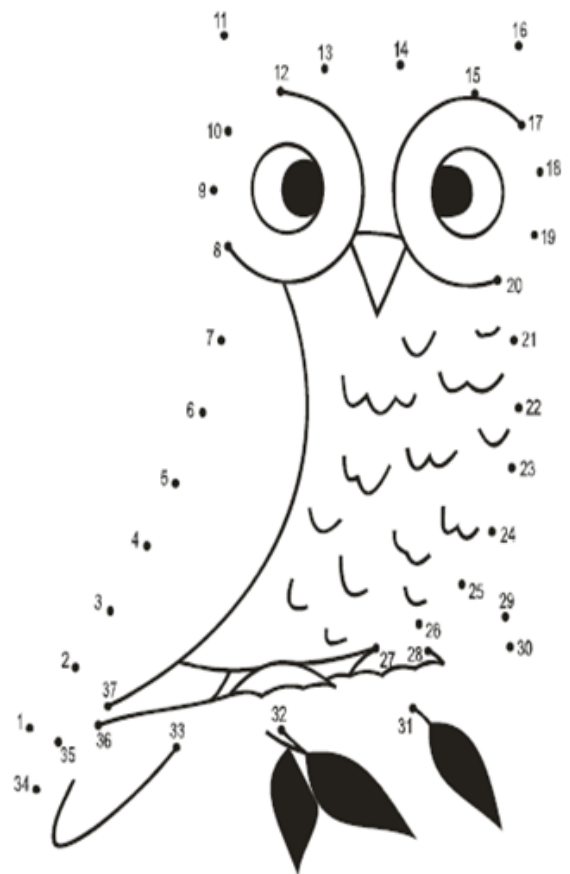
Closing Service

16th June



We extend a very warm welcome to all children young and old to join us at our annual summer picnic in Polkemmet Park on Sunday June 16th. We will meet in the park at noon and enjoy our picnic lunch (Please bring your own picnic) After lunch we will partake in some fun races. There will also be a short treasure hunt to keep you busy, and all registered Sunday club children who are able to join us will enjoy a complimentary visit to the Scottish Owl centre. The park is local and has some lovely walks, a café, and golf facilities to tempt you .

Annual Picnic



Many thanks to all who helped us realise £400 for *Save the Children"

SHOWSTOPPERS!

The big count down is under way to an action packed week for primary school age children this summer in Polbeth Harwood Church!

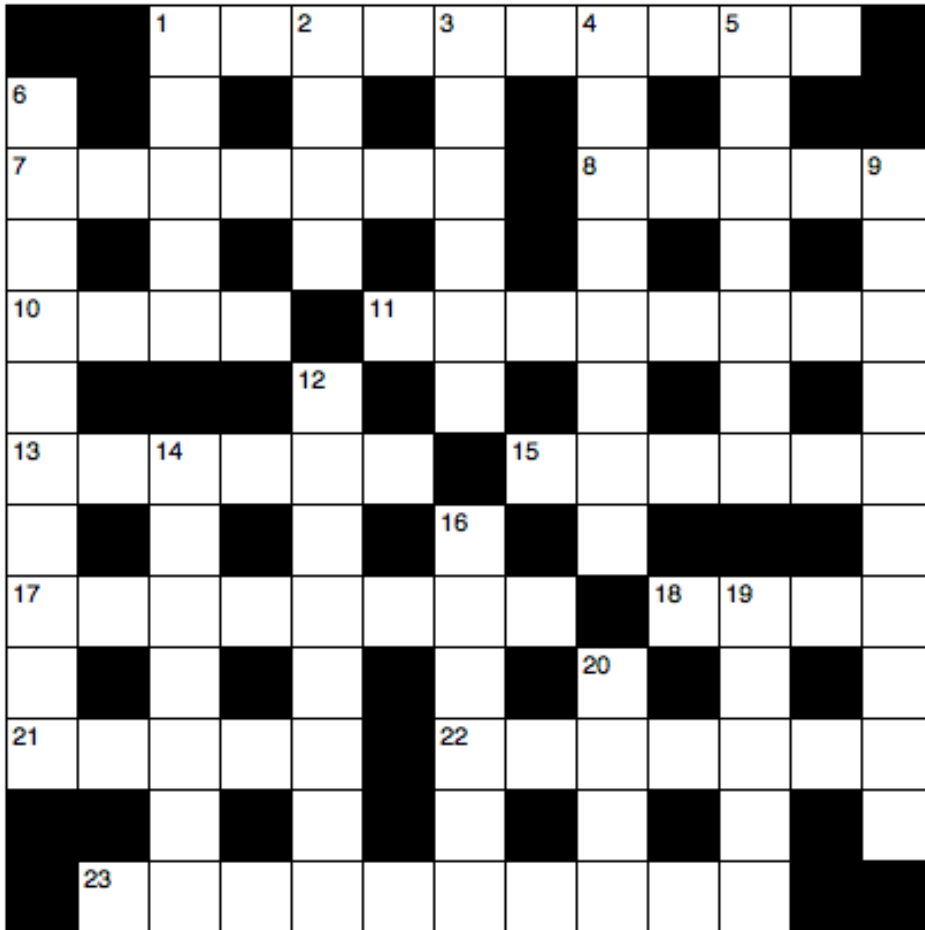
During the week, planned workshops will provide the children with the opportunity to explore bible stories through creative media, messy challenges, whacky games and colourful crafts.

Our daily drama introduces the children to a variety of characters such as; Malcolm Muddle the producer, Petula Plie a feisty French dance teacher and Lisa Lipstick the cosmetic technician!will they manage to save the failing theatre?? A favourite part of the day for the children—our drama—connects to the daily theme, providing comedy and laughs for all.

Numbers are limited so, to avoid disappointment please ensure you register your child now! Registration forms are available now in both Churches or in the Library.

SHOWSTOPPERS - 10am- 12.30pm
Monday August 5th - Friday 9th

June Crossword



Across

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
- 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
- 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
- 10 'We are hard pressed on every—'(2Corinthians4:8)(4)
- 11 Fraud (2Corinthians6:8)(8)
- 13 'His troops advance in force; they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)
- 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)
- 17 'Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be—' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)

18 Nomadic dwelling(Genesis26:25)(4)

21 'As for man,his days are like—,he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)

22 Or I live (anag.)(7)

23 Those guilty of 1 Across(Romans13:4)(10)

Down

1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)

2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)

3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)

4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)

5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)

6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)

9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10)

12 Put in jail(Acts22:19)(8)

14 Aeturn(anag.)(7)

14 Discharge(Acts21:3)(6)

19 'All these—come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)

20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory! (Revelation19:7)(4)

Eleanor's on her way...



to Australia

The day has come when I can say I have reached my fundraising target of £4,500!!! Thank you to everyone who has generously supported my fundraising efforts either in person by attending events, gifting me donations or in prayer. I have been overwhelmed by the support and kindness shown to me.

Now the adventures begin.....currently I am packing, unpacking, and repacking my bag again to meet the strict rules of entry into Australia (have you ever watched "Nothing to Declare"!!) I feel I will recognise the Customs Officers as familiar faces as I have watched a few episodes.

I will be volunteering for eleven months at The Scots School in Albury, Wodonga in New South Wales, between Melbourne and Canberra on the main route to Sydney. It is a Uniting Church School with 700 pupils- over a 100 are boarders. I'll share a flat in the staff accommodation with two German volunteers and share in all matter of school life experiences. The age range of pupils will be from kindergarten through primary to senior school years. From their website it seems there will be no danger of me losing my Scottishness (I may come back more informed about my heritage than in previous education in Scotland!) The uniform has tartan in it; there's a pipe band and

"Bobbie Burns Day" is celebrated enthusiastically. I fly away on the 21st July arriving in their winter season, so better pack a cardigan and a jacket!!

Kind regards

Eleanor

West Kirk Fundraising Group News

As we head towards the summer break, the Group is delighted to report that, thanks to such support and commitment from our friends and helpers, the sum of £3282 has been raised since the beginning of 2013. The February Candy Bar made £612. The Sunday Club must be congratulated on their fantastic £1205 in March. The Guild in April made £655 and The Choir £810 in May. All amazing totals.



Many thanks to everyone who helps in any way to make the Candy Bars so successful both as social events and for raising funds for the upkeep of the West Kirk.

We hope the Summer buffet in June will have been enjoyed by all.

We would like to wish all our customers a happy summer holiday time and look forward to seeing you on Saturday 7th September when monthly Candy Bars will resume.

Jill Murray

VACANCY NEWS



The Parish Profile has now been completed and posted on our re-vamped website. The Profile includes photographs of many of our activities to illustrate the involvement of the congregations in what we do and how we do it. Of course a paper copy will be available to interested ministers should they request one. The most recent two meetings of the committee have concentrated on preparing advertising of our vacancy. This is now underway via the regular ministers' newsletter issued to all ministers and probationers by the Church of Scotland. Also, space has been booked in the July edition of Life and Work. The content is currently completing the final proof stage. The committee are keen to try a different approach to the advert style from the pattern more regularly used. Please continue to pray for the work of the committee as we seek to call a minister to our congregations .

Parish Record

Deaths

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

1st May - Stefan Wozniak, Gloag Place, West Calder

7th May—Annie Cumming, Langside Gardens, Polbeth

14th May—Ellen Walker, Polbeth Terrace, West Calder

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

God of all life

**When all there is in our lives
is the empty space where a loved one was,
give us your strength in our sorrow,
your presence in the absence we feel,
your rest,
that we may rise again to new life,
and your hope,
that in death we are not divided.**

Church Calendar

Weekly Events

Sunday	Morning Worship	West Kirk	9.45am
		Polbeth Harwood	11.15am
	Sunday Club	West Kirk Hall	9.45am
	JAM Club	Polbeth Harwood	11.15am
Monday	Beavers	West Kirk Hall	6.00pm
Tuesday	Craft Club	West Kirk Hall	10.00am
	Bridge Club	West Kirk Hall	7.00pm
	WRI Handcrafts	Polbeth Harwood	7.00pm
Wednesday	Dance Class	Polbeth Harwood	5.00pm
	Cubs	West Kirk Hall	6.00pm
Thursday	Scouts	West Kirk Hall	7.00pm

Events: June

Saturday	1st	Candy Bar	West Kirk	10.00am
Thursday	6th	Session Meeting	West Kirk	7.30pm
Sunday	9th	Beyond the Kirk Walls service	Stewart Court	3.00pm
Sunday	16th	Sunday Club Picnic	West Kirk	12.00
Sunday	23rd	JAM Club Outing	Polbeth Harwood	12.30pm

Events: July

Sundays		Summer Worship	West Kirk	10.00am
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