

LONGNIDDRY CHURCH MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2019

3 rd February	9.45am: All-age worship (Douglas Hamilton) 11am: Traditional service at Gladsmuir (Douglas Hamilton)
7 th February	12 noon: Thursday Thought and midweek Communion (Robin Hill)
10 th February	9.45am: All-age worship (Robin Hill and Douglas Hamilton) 11am: Traditional service at Gladsmuir (Robin Hill and Douglas Hamilton)
17 th February	9.45am: All-age worship (Jim Couper) 11am: Traditional service at Gladsmuir (Jim Couper)
24 th February	9.45am: All-age worship (Robin Hill) 11am: Traditional service at Gladsmuir (Robin Hill)

THROUGH THE YEAR WITH ROBIN

Back in the 19th century, the American writer Henry David Thoreau warned that civilisation risked pushing busy people into more and more work. Instead of increasingly being masters of labour, humans were becoming its servants.

“We have,” Thoreau claimed, “become the tools of our tools.”

More than a century on, we can see what Thoreau meant. On the one hand, so many of us surround ourselves with tyrannical screens, from our family TVs, through to endless computers at work, in the home, even on the train as commuters.

And what about the all-pervasive mobile? Today’s phone culture has radically changed the way we do so many things, including (as it turns out) the writing of this very letter.

Are we now indeed the tools of our tools, with people acting as slaves to the technology we so admire and continue to lust after? If so, maybe we need to do something about it.

In this month of February when we mark St Valentine’s Day, perhaps we need to set the silicon chips to one side as we recall the power of love and the joyful wonder we find in loving people, not things. And as Lent approaches, could those of us who use computers day and night find a way of giving up at least some of our screen time in favour of something perhaps a little more worthwhile?

We might ask: can we afford to spend more time with those who are near and dear to us, and less time in front of a screen? Another question might well be: can we afford not to?

Love is a gift of God that is real, not virtual. Accept that gift and share it near and far.

Robin

SESSION CLERK’S CORNER

Happy new year, everyone. Before we get too far into 2019 I want to look back to last year. Our November Kirk Session was full, as usual. It included several discussions about how we could help other people in our local area as well as further away.

The Session heard about the work of the Cornerstone project at Newbattle Parish Church. This project runs several services to help support their local community (one of the most deprived in the Presbytery of Lothian). They run a community café and a charity shop, for example. But they would like to offer both five days a week rather than just two or three as present. And they would like to add other services like a soft-play area for children. The outreach they provide and the support they offer to their community are very much valued. Whilst their congregation’s activities are already deeply embedded within the life of the community, they need to redevelop their building (a hall-church) to offer the opportunity to deliver a modern, sustainable facility which is fit for purpose and has the potential to make a significant contribution to the well-being of the local community. Newbattle has successfully raised the significant sum

needed to fund the basic essentials of the redevelopment but they do not have the funds to do everything required. For example, their current funding only allows them to replace some of their windows when all need replaced. Longniddry Kirk Session agreed to give Newbattle £8,000 to help complete the redevelopment of their building and so to help support the wonderful work they do there.

We also discussed how we can support those in need further afield. We agreed to give £1,155 to EMMS International. This charity, based in Edinburgh, is a Christian international healthcare charity. They work with partners in India, Malawi and Nepal to transform lives through compassionate, effective and sustainable healthcare and they facilitate respite for people in Scotland with serious illnesses.

We do many wonderful things here in Longniddry, but it is a privilege to support others doing wonderful things in their own communities.

SINGING GROUP

Our popular Singing Group will start again in February, after an absence of some months. We are lucky enough to have found Caitlin McGillivray from the Mansfield School of Music in Musselburgh to take the singing. The group will run on Mondays from 18th February for six weeks until Monday 25th March. There will be a change to timing – we will sing first, starting at 2pm, followed by tea, coffee and chat at 2.45pm. We hope to see old and new friends – please come along.

WELL DONE DOUGLAS!

Since arriving in the autumn at Gladsmuir and Longniddry as a brand-new Church of Scotland ministry candidate, Douglas Hamilton has launched himself into the life of our congregations, offering us so much in a very few months.

Now half way through his placement, Douglas is doing so very well both Sunday by Sunday and in a wide variety of areas of congregational and parish life. We wish him well as he continues his busy placement alongside his M.Div. studies at New College.

ORDINATIONS

On Sunday 10th February at our 9.45am service we will be celebrating the ordination of two members of our congregation as Jennifer Lucietti and Dave Munro become elders.

It is always a joy to welcome new members to our kirk session, so we hope that members will be in church in large numbers that day to congratulate our two new elders as they take their ordination vows and are admitted to the leadership of the church.

THE GUILD

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 20th February at 7.30pm in the church hall. Our speaker will be Marie Dickson from the R.V.S. Anyone wishing to come along will be made most welcome. For further details please contact Maureen Scott on 852070.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

On the first Friday of March each year, people gather all around the globe to celebrate the World Day of Prayer. This year, our local service will take place in Gladsmuir Parish Church at 3pm on Friday 1st March, when a special act of worship will be held using materials prepared by Christian women in Slovenia.

The theme of the service will be “Come – everything is ready”. All will be very welcome to join in this worldwide celebration.

www.weethought.com

One year ago Robin launched a new weekly blog offering subscribers and visitors a short contemplation on life, the universe and everything. These “wee thoughts” were intended to run through the season of Lent and (maybe) into Easter. As it turns out, they kept on going through the year and this month hit their first anniversary.

The wee thoughts go live at 12.01am each Wednesday, featuring a little reading, a short reflection, a tiny prayer and the briefest of ideas on what to do next. Over the course of the year they have received some 900 views. (Out of a global population of 3.5 billion internet users, this may not be hugely impressive, though it means there is certainly a lot of room for expansion in the year to come!)

Normally Robin is the writer, though he is also happy to welcome guest contributors. Take a wee look and see what you make of weethought.com. And if you like it, feel free to subscribe (and to tell your family and friends about it too).

FILM CLUB IN AFGHANISTAN

In recent years there has been a whole lot of excellent adult cinema delivered as animation. This month, Longniddry Film Club will be bringing one of the best of these to the big screen.

The movie (certificate 12) has Angelina Jolie as executive producer and is based on a best-selling Deborah Ellis’ novel. The spellbinding story concerns Parvana, an 11-year-old girl growing up under the Taliban in Afghanistan. When her father is wrongfully arrested, Parvana disguises herself as a boy to become the breadwinner for her family. She draws strength from the stories her father told her, and ultimately risks her life to discover whether or not he is still alive.

Giving the film a five-star rating, The Observer’s film critic Mark Kermode declared this film to be “further proof that we are living through a golden age of animation”.

This thrilling film will be shown in church on **Wednesday 27th February** at 7.30pm. All over-16s will be welcome. Admission free, with refreshments after the screening.

Dates of future screenings will appear in next month’s magazine.

PRESTON LODGE CONCERT

Over the last decade, the senior students of Preston Lodge High School have brought their musical skills to Longniddry just before the season for SQA practical exams. This has given audiences many evenings of great singing and playing, with countless hundreds of musicians gaining live performance experience in advance of meeting their examiners.

This year we plan to have a PL concert with a difference. Instead of bringing senior students, teachers tell us the emphasis in 2019 will be on bringing some of the school’s younger musicians to the church to encourage them as they embark on their musical life.

Watch this space for further details of what promises to be a really good night of songs and instrumentals from the younger generation.

HOME-START THANK YOU

Once again, a heartfelt thank you from the families, volunteer befrienders, staff and trustees to everyone who donated books or money. Due to the overwhelming generosity of the people in Longniddry and Gladsmuir we were able to give two books to each of 100 children at our annual Christmas party and still have some left over for our library. As we are constantly having to raise funds for special events such as the Christmas party it is a tremendous help when we receive such a wonderful donation. You can be assured that the books are much appreciated as we have had some lovely comments from the families of the children who received them.

Thank you so much for thinking of Home-Start in their support of local families. If you would like more information about the organisation or think that you would be interested in becoming a befriender or a trustee, please speak to me or phone the Home-Start office on 616066 to speak to a member of staff.

Sheila Jamieson - Trustee

MORNING THEOLOGY CLUB

The Morning Theology Club will continue to explore Science, Theology and Faith with the DVD course 'Painting the Stars'. We meet in the Gathering Space at 10.30 on Saturday mornings, 2nd, 9th and 16th February.

SECOND SATURDAY COFFEE

Our usual monthly coffee morning will take place on Saturday 9th February, from 10am-12noon, in the Church Hall, Elcho Road. All welcome. Books will also be for sale.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Our Christmas 2018 offerings raised a magnificent £814 for the Grassmarket Community Project which is planning to send 6 of its members and 2 of its staff to Zambia to build a school. The charity has expressed its sincere thanks for the donation.

In addition a further £125 was raised for Bethany Christian Trust at the celebration of the "Posada" during Advent. This money is to go towards the work of the Bethany Care Shelter which operates during the winter months. Bethany have asked that their thanks be conveyed to all those who donated.

A SOUPER DECADE!

Last month saw the eleventh celebration of "Souper Sunday" in Longniddry. After our act of worship, we all went through to our halls and enjoyed a lunch of home-made soup and bread. It was just fabulous, and the lunch raised £XXX including gift aid for the work of The Church of Scotland HIV Programme.

It is also good to report that last month we heard from the Church of Scotland's World Mission Council that since January 2009, the Church of Scotland HIV Programme has raised a whopping £500,000 for its work with people who live with the virus, whether in Scotland or far round the world.

What is particularly special is that Souper Sunday was started a decade ago by our very own Presbytery of Lothian, then taken on as a national initiative the following year. In all that time, Longniddry has never missed a single Souper Sunday, so big thanks go to all who have given so generously, made soup so diligently, or led worship so faithfully from 2009 onwards!

LENT STUDY COURSE

In recent years we have chosen a film and over several weeks, watched sections, followed by discussion. This year we will explore ways in which faith, hope and redemption run through our lives by watching 'The Greatest Showman'. This is a very popular musical about the ups and downs of Barnum, his friends' and his family's life. As in Jesus' ministry outsiders are welcomed in. They are centre stage in God's love, and accepted into Barnum's world.

We will meet on five Tuesday evenings in Lent in the Gathering Space – 12th, 19th and 26th March. 2nd and 9th April. Everyone welcome.

GALA QUIZ NIGHT

After the success of last year's fundraiser, the Gala committee will be hosting another Quiz/ Games night on Saturday 30th March, 7 for 7.30pm, at the Scout Hall. Teams of up to six, and there will be a cash bar. Tickets cost £5 and will be for sale in Nicholson's in March. All proceeds go to Longniddry Gala.

CHURCH DIARY

CHURCH DUTIES

February 3rd – Mrs Munro, J Reilly, M Wood, Ms Moore. February 10th – R Cuthbertson, J P Helmn, Mrs McVey, A Neil. February 17th – D Easton, Mrs Elliott, S Welch, Dr Wood. February 24th – J Couper, Dr Kirkpatrick, Mrs Stewart, Mrs Phin. March 3rd – Communion.

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

All contributions for the March issue of the church magazine should be given to the editor, in writing or by email, by **SUNDAY 10th FEBRUARY** or earlier if possible.

THE PRAYER GROUP meets at 11am on Wednesdays in the Gathering Space. All welcome.

CHURCH FLOWERS

February 3rd – Mrs C Paterson. February 10th – Mrs M Air. February 17th – Church Arrangements. February 24th – Ms B Moore. March 3rd – Mrs H Cuthbertson.

VILLAGE ROUND UP

POPPY THANKS.

The door-to-door poppy collection held in November raised £2624. This is a record total for us. Grateful thanks to everyone who supported us.

CHARITY DANCEATHON

In aid of Marie Curie & Cancer Research UK, there will be a twelve-hour danceathon on Saturday 2nd March at Longniddry Community Centre starting at 12 midday to 12 midnight. Various dancing throughout the day for all ages. Details will be available shortly on posters throughout the village. For further details contact Shona Chater on 853389.

LIBRARY EVENTS

During the winter months, it's not always easy to get to the Library especially if you suffer from mobility issues. The Library has a Home Delivery Service, thanks to volunteers, that delivers books to people's homes once a month. If you would like to take advantage of this service, or know someone who would benefit, please contact the Library 01875 818160.

Should anyone need replacement covers for recycling boxes they can be collected from the Library free of charge.

We will be participating in Fairtrade Fortnight 25th February - 9th March with a display of Fairtrade goods. Tuesday 26th February is 'Tell a Fairytale Day', so to celebrate we will have a special Fairytale Story Time at 3.30pm.

Our Groups and Clubs are mainly all back to normal, if you would like to join in any of them please come along.

Craft Group, Mondays 2-4pm. This is part of the Active Arts programme run by East Lothian Council. The group, led by Linda McCann, try out a variety of crafts over the session. There is a £3 charge per week for this class.

Knit and Natter, Tuesdays 11am-1pm. Knitting, sewing, crochet or just if you would like a natter.

Art Group, Thursdays 2.30-4.30pm. If you would like to try your hand at painting this is a good way to start.

The Book Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is **Wednesday 6th February 5-6pm.**

For children our activities are:-

Bookbug, Friday mornings 10.30pm. Songs, rhymes and stories for babies and toddlers up to 5 years. Don't forget to bring a big person with you!

Lego Club, Friday afternoons 3-4pm. Under 8's need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Chatterbooks Book Group will be held on **Saturday 9th and 23rd February** at 10.30am. If your child loves books this is for them!

Storytime for Tots is the first Tuesday of every month, the next one will be held on **Tuesday 5th February** 10.30am.

The Homework Club for Primary 5 and 6 will resume on **Tuesday 19th February** 3.30-4.30pm.

As you can see there is lots happening in the Library.

The Library will be closed all day for staff training on **Wednesday 27th February**. We apologise for any inconvenience.

SOCIAL DROP-IN

Our **Social Drop In** for all ages is on Tuesdays, 1.30pm – 3pm, in the Community Centre, Seton Road. Whether you are a New mum, Stay at home parent, Carer, Young at Heart, wish you were Young at Heart, or just at a loose end then come along. We would love to see you and you might make some new friends too! Maybe try your hand at Indoor bowls, Board games, Baking, Table tennis, Dominoes, Chess, Bingo, Crafts and loads more or you may just fancy a chat and a cup of tea.

The young ones aren't forgotten either. There is Children's soft play available (parental supervision required) and a Scribble table to keep them amused. All welcome.

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