

LONGNIDDY CHURCH MAGAZINE

MARCH 2019

3 rd March (Transfiguration)	9.45am: All-age Communion service (Robin Hill and Douglas Hamilton) 11am: Contemplative Communion service (Robin Hill and Douglas Hamilton) 6.30pm: Communion service, St Martin's Church of Scotland, Edinburgh (<i>see over for details</i>)
7 th March	12 noon: Thursday Thought and midweek Communion (Robin Hill)
10 th March (Lent 1)	9.45am: All-age worship (Robin Hill and Douglas Hamilton) 11am: Traditional service at Gladsmuir (Robin Hill and Douglas Hamilton) followed by Stated Annual Meeting of Gladsmuir Parish Church
17 th March (Lent 2)	9.45am: All-age worship (Douglas Hamilton) followed by Stated Annual Meeting of Longniddry Parish Church 11am: Traditional service at Gladsmuir (Douglas Hamilton)
24 th March (Lent 3)	9.45am: All-age worship (Robin Hill and Douglas Hamilton) 11am: Traditional service at Gladsmuir (Robin Hill and Douglas Hamilton)
31 st March (Lent 4)	9.45am: All-age worship (Robin Hill and Douglas Hamilton) 11am: Traditional service at Gladsmuir (Robin Hill and Douglas Hamilton)

THROUGH THE YEAR WITH ROBIN

Last year on Ash Wednesday I launched a blog for the season of Lent, offering a Bible reading, a very short reflection, an even shorter prayer and an action point through until Easter. The plan was to get that far and see how what might happen next.

Now, a full year on, www.weethought.com is still with us, offering a mid-week contemplation on your computer screen, tablet or smartphone. Having clocked up more than fifty wee thoughts to date, I am realising two things. First, those people who visit the site or who subscribe to a weekly e-mail alert seem to appreciate this point of contact midway between Sundays. Second, there is a whole lot of scope for developing our pattern of "wee thoughts" in time to come. So far, only four people have written for the site, but all that could so easily change.

Have a look at the format – you will find the current thought up top with a whole range of archived ones beneath it. My very clear sense is that every person of faith has a spiritual story to tell, several will have

many and many will have several. We don't need anything fancy or wordy or theological, just your own take on life: its joys, its sorrows, its surprises, its "wow moments" when we feel heaven near to earth.

Scots tend not to be very good at standing up in church and talking about their experience of the divine. (Maybe that's why we hire ministers to do it for a living!) But writing a short reflection? That's perhaps a good bit easier. What do you think?

Now, as we enter the second year of "wee thoughts", I plan to set up a team of "wee thinkers" drawn from our congregation and beyond: people who would enjoy reflecting on God in their daily living. If you would like to join the party, just drop me an e-mail at rhill@churchofscotland.org.uk and we'll see what develops in the months to come.

Robin Hill

SESSION CLERK'S CORNER

I'm not sure that spring has yet sprung but it's showing signs of life. The days are stretching now and it feels like we are moving out of the darkness of winter towards new beginnings.

Talking of new beginnings, I have been to a couple of events (organised by our Presbytery Development team) focusing on new housing. As you may know the Lothians are undergoing a significant amount of house building. The Scottish Government has asked (told?) East Lothian Council to free up land to build 10,000 new homes by 2024. In Longniddry the plan is to build 450 houses. There will be 1,600 houses in a new development at Blindwells. All this raises opportunities for the Church of Scotland (and other churches too). We need to think about how we reach out to the folk moving in to these new developments to make them feel part of our village, and Christian, community. The events I have attended have involved sharing experiences of other churches, both locally and in other parts of the UK, who have gone through this experience. I have been greatly encouraged by this. Lots of good ideas have been shared. Seeds have been sown and we need to nurture them so they germinate, take root, and grow. There will be more work across the Presbytery and the Tranent Cluster of churches. And I'm sure we will want to have a focus around this in the village. If anyone else is enthused by the opportunities the new houses will bring, I'd love to hear from you.

But long before any of this new build we will have our Stated Annual Meeting at 10.45am (after the service) on Sunday 17th March. Please come along to hear about what Longniddry Church has been up to in 2018.

CHURCH GUILD

The March meeting of the Guild is on Wednesday 20th March at 7.30pm. The topic is Malawi Fruits, one of the Guild projects for this year.

COMMUNION AT ST MARTIN'S

All will be very welcome to come to a joint evening Communion service at St Martin's Parish Church, 1 Magdalene Drive, Edinburgh, EH15 3DE. This will take place on Sunday 3rd March at 6.30pm, when the service will be led by our friend, the Rev Bill Wishart assisted by a small team including Robin.

There will be a very warm welcome to the service from all at St Martin's, and – as you might expect from the congregation's minister – plenty of singing throughout, so come along, see Bill's church for yourself and meet the lovely St Martin's congregation.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

STATED ANNUAL MEETING

This year's congregational Stated Annual Meeting (effectively our church AGM) is set for Sunday 17th March, after the 9.45am service. At the meeting, our yearly financial report will be presented by the Treasurer, along with discussion of various areas of congregational activity.

PL SPRING CONCERT

In previous years, Preston Lodge High School has treated us to a concert by their senior music students in advance of the SQA examining season. This year, the school rings the changes with the arrival of its younger singers and instrumentalists whose experience of public performance is typically more limited.

Come along on Wednesday 27th March at 7pm to join the fun, supporting the 12-15-year-olds as they take to the stage. It is also hoped that the newly formed Preston Lodge Community Soul Band will be on hand to play a couple of numbers. Admission free.

FILM CLUB DATES

Dates for our screenings throughout 2019 are as follows.

Tuesday 26th March

Wednesday 24th April

Tuesday 28th May

Wednesday 26th June

Tuesday 24th September

Wednesday 23rd October

Tuesday 26th November

This month's offering will be of special interest to Queen fans, as it charts the life and career of the band's lead singer Freddie Mercury leading up to their legendary Live Aid performance in the summer of 1985. Rave reviews have followed this film (cert. 12) with many critics impressed by the portrayal of Freddie Mercury by the American actor, Rami Malek.

All over 16s are welcome, with admission free of charge and refreshments served afterwards.

THANKS TO MIKE

With this month's induction of the Rev Dr Leslie Milton as the new minister of Musselburgh St Andrew's High Parish Church, Robin now reaches the end of his time as interim moderator along the road.

Many thanks go to the Rev Mike Watson who every couple of months worked a pulpit-swap arrangement with Robin, allowing him to visit the good people of St Andrew's High on a regular basis. Mike's leadership of worship in Gladsmuir and Longniddry services has been very much appreciated. (As have his jokes!)

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, at 6pm. Everyone welcome.

SECOND SATURDAY COFFEE

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

GUILD COFFEE MORNING.

The annual Guild Coffee Morning is on Saturday 23rd March from 10am till 12 noon in the Church Halls when Coffee/Tea and Home Baking will be served and there will be various stalls including Craft, Home Baking and Tombola.

Entry (including Coffee/Tea) is £2 for adults and 50p for children.

Please come along and support the Guild in their Fundraising for worthwhile charities at home and abroad.

SINGING GROUP

Our popular Singing Group started again in February. We are lucky enough to have found Caitlin McGillivray from the Mansfield School of Music in Musselburgh to take the singing. The group started on Monday 18th February and runs for six weeks until Monday 25th March. There is 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.

FAIRTRADE BREAKFAST

Longniddry Church Fairtrade Breakfast will be held in the Church Hall on Saturday 2nd March from 9.30-11.30am. This year Fairtrade Fortnight is running from 25th February to 9th March and the emphasis is on the women in the cocoa trade who in many cases are underpaid and exploited. Fairtrade chocolate goods make a big difference to these workers but there is still room for improvement in the industry.

At our Breakfast we will be serving bacon rolls using local bacon and rolls. If you're not a bacon lover, you can have toast with Fairtrade marmalade or jam. Or why not try some Fairtrade cereals with local milk? Instead of Fairtrade coffee or tea you might try Fairtrade hot chocolate.

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.

LADY & GENTLEMEN VISITORS

We are now in need of a few more volunteers to help with the delivery of the Church Magazines. The Magazines are distributed throughout the village at the end of each month, with the exception of July and December as a "double" Magazine goes out in June and November.

Apart from Church items the Magazine does contain information from various organisations in the village, so everyone is kept informed as to what events are, or will be, taking place.

Just to clarify our title "Lady & Gentlemen Visitors" – it doesn't mean we knock on every door with the Magazine, we just put it through the letterbox. However, if you do go to a house and you know the person who is at that house then by all means knock on the door if you wish. Distributing the Magazines can be done any day or time suitable to you during the week following their pick-up. We have fifty-two Visitors throughout

the village but it would be good to have a “reserve” list so that should someone be on holiday, or be ill or have to give up as a Visitor, then, hopefully, we can refer to the reserve list for a replacement. Please contact me if you are able to help – Linda Hume (852217).

LONGNIDDY TENNIS CLUB

Our AGM is being held on Tuesday 5th March at 7.30pm in room 2, Longniddry Church hall. Our Open Day is planned for Saturday 30th March from 1pm kicking off with kids’ tennis and moving onto adult tennis from 3pm-ish. All very very welcome. We have been fundraising for a while to upgrade our pavilion and thank you to all the community for supporting our efforts especially our yearly quizzes. We now have planning permission and are looking for builders to quote for the work. If interested in finding out more please email longniddrytennis@gmail.com . Thanks, and hope to see you at the AGM.

CHURCH DIARY

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

All contributions for the April issue of the church magazine should be given to the editor, in writing or by email, by **SUNDAY 17TH MARCH**, or earlier if possible.

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

March 3rd – Mrs H Cuthbertson. March 10th – Mrs J Smillie. March 17th – Mrs K Brogan. March 24th – Mrs L Neil. March 31st – Mrs H Medine. April 7th – Mrs E McRaid.

CHURCH CRECHE

Creche facilities are available in church. Duty elders have a list of creche staff who are delighted to help when required.

CHURCH DUTIES

March 3rd – Communion. March 10th – A Ferguson, Mrs Morrison, Mrs Barron. March 17th – Mrs Cunningham, Mrs Hardy, M Jones, Dr Lucietti. March 24th – Mrs Condie, I Coutts, F Elliott, Mrs Jones. March 31st – D Clarke, Dr George, Miss Hume, Mrs Jamieson. April 7th – Mrs Coutts, J Jamieson, Mrs Peart, Dr Reeks.

VILLAGE ROUND UP

LIBRARY EVENTS

Spring is in the air and our thoughts turn to the garden. We have a range of gardening books, whether you would like to create a colourful display in a container, create a new flower bed or plant a vegetable patch we have the perfect book. We are well into Fairtrade Fortnight, but there is still time to purchase any Fairtrade items from our display which will be in the Library until Saturday 9th March. Our Knit and Natter Group continues to grow. This is a great way to meet people especially if you are on your own. The Group meet on Tuesday mornings 11am-1pm. You don’t have to knit, crochet or sew – just come for a natter and a cuppa. The Craft Group meet on Monday afternoons 2-4pm, part of the Active Arts programme. A tutor is on hand to offer ideas and tips. If you are a budding artist why not join in with The Village Art Group held in the Library on Thursdays 2.30-4.30pm. Longniddry Book Group will meet on Wednesday 6th March 5-6pm. The books being discussed this month are *The Narrow Road to the Deep South* by John Flanagan and *My Name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout. If you are keen on reading join us for a chat and coffee. Our Story time

for Tots is on Tuesday 5th March 10.30am, stories for pre-school children. Bookbug sessions for babies and toddlers are held every Friday at 10.30am – this is a lovely way to spend a morning with your little one, or if you look after a young child. Lego Club is held on Fridays 3-4pm, for ages 8+ unless accompanied by an adult. ChatterBooks Book Group for children age 7+ will be held on Saturdays 9th and 23rd March at 10.30am. This group is great for children who love to read. We talk about books and do book related activities and crafts.

S.W.I.

The March meeting of the WI takes place on Wednesday 13th March at 7.30pm, in the Church Hall. The topic is Gardener's Question Time. The competition is A Plant – any medium.

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 are on posters displayed in the village. For further details contact Shona Chater on 853389.

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 are for sale in Nicholsons. All proceeds go to Longniddry Gala.

LONGNIDDRY SCHOOL has a recycling bin in the car park for bags of your unwanted clothing, shoes, belts and bags. These are then sold for school funds.

LONGNIDDRY BABIES AND TODDLERS GROUP meets in the Community Centre, Seton Road, on Mondays, 10am-12noon, and Wednesdays, 9.30-11.30am. All children, aged from birth to pre-school are welcome, accompanied by their parents or carers.

THANK YOU

Frances Cunningham and family would like to express their gratitude to everyone who was involved with hospital appointments and visits during George's illness. We would like to thank most sincerely, relatives and many friends for their love, prayers, good wishes, cards and flowers. We were overwhelmed by the attendance at the thanksgiving service where the most generous sum of £1,300 was donated for Ward 8, WGH and Lymphoma Action. Special thanks to Robin for his unfailing support to George throughout and to Robin and Bill for the compassionate and caring way they conducted the service.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister	Rev Robin Hill	853195
Session Clerk	Abigail Morrison	853467
Treasurer	Douglas Clarke	853017
Transport	Sheila Jamieson	852068
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