

LONGNIDDRY CHURCH MAGAZINE

APRIL 2019

SERVICES FOR APRIL

Please note: all services are at Longniddry Parish Church unless otherwise stated

- 4th April 12 noon: Thursday Thought and midweek Communion (Robin Hill)
- 7th April 9.45am: All-age service (Douglas Hamilton)
11am: Traditional Communion service at Gladsmuir Parish Church (Douglas Hamilton and Robin Hill)
- 14th April 9.45am: All-age Palm Sunday service (Robin Hill)
11am: Traditional Palm Sunday service at Gladsmuir Parish Church (Robin Hill)
- 18th April 7pm: Maundy Thursday Communion at Gladsmuir Parish Church (Robin Hill and Douglas Hamilton)
- 19th April 11am: Good Friday Reflection at Longniddry Parish Church (Douglas Hamilton)
- 20th April 7pm: Easter Eve Vigil (Robin Hill and Douglas Hamilton)
- 21st April 8am: Outdoor Communion (Robin Hill), followed by breakfast
9.45am: All-age Easter Celebration (Robin Hill and Douglas Hamilton)
11am: Traditional Communion service at Gladsmuir Parish Church (Robin Hill and Douglas Hamilton)
- 28th April 9.45am: All-age service (Robin Hill and Douglas Hamilton)
11am: Traditional service at Gladsmuir Parish Church (Robin Hill and Douglas Hamilton)

THROUGH THE YEAR WITH ROBIN

These are interesting times: as I type this message on 15th March, I am reflecting on the uncertainties facing the UK and Europe right now. Will our nation leave the EU at the end of March with a mutually acceptable deal, or else crash out under the terms of a “hard” Brexit? Alternatively, will there be an extension to the whole sorry process, so allowing this ghastly circus to rumble on for who-knows-how-long?

By April, of course, all this will be – if not settled – at least resolved for the time being. But then there will be many and varied issues to face: our long term relationship with Europe; the question of Scottish independence, to name but two. And what about the global economy? International terrorism? Our planet’s fragile ecology? The plight of millions of refugees? Trump and Putin? A divided Korea? The injustices found across the Middle East?

The list could go on and on and on, though we certainly wish it didn’t. Truly, the sands of our world seem to be shifting all at once, with no-one able to gain a foothold, far less step out in any kind of confident way.

That, I believe, is where Easter comes in, because with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, God says something far bigger than any message of here-today-gone-tomorrow politicians. In the Easter words of the religious writer, Martin Copenhaver: “it became clear that this was not a once-upon-a-time story. Rather, ... this was a once-and-for-all reality with implications that stretch farther than the eye can see and are larger than the mind can grasp fully. Jesus’ resurrection is such a transformative event that it is as if the world now rotates on a different axis.”

How we view our lives will always depend on the foundations upon which we build them. This is not to belittle any of terrible crises which beset our world at present. It simply means that, trusting in the God of

Easter, we can view our world in a different light: the light of God's grace. So may we look for God's divine wisdom and actively seek to deliver his justice and his peace for all his troubled children.

Robin Hill

SESSION CLERK'S CORNER

This time last year I was writing in the midst of the Beast from the East. This year I am writing after the warmest February on record – though March has been more normal. What a difference.

Path of Renewal, the Church of Scotland's approach to renewed discipleship, has also been making a difference over time. I have been privileged to be part of the group of a dozen or so of us, from both Longniddry and Gladsmuir Churches, who have met to consider what discipleship means for us in the 21st Century. Our considerations and deliberations over two and a half years have changed how we think about ourselves, and our role in Christ's Kingdom. We have not emerged from the process with a magic bullet that will "save" the Church and return it to how it looked fifty years ago. That was never a realistic expectation. But I know I have started to think more of myself as a disciple rather than just as someone who does things, albeit hopefully to further God's work on earth. This may not seem earth-shattering to you but it does mean I consider much that I would not have given much thought to before. And out of such changed ways of thinking comes changed ways of being disciples. And we know we need to change if we are to continue to spread the Good News.

The first Path of Renewal group has produced a report looking at how we might think about our Church differently in the light of discipleship. If you would like a copy please ask me and I can give you a paper or soft copy. It will also be added to the Church's website. And you are also invited to join the next Path of Renewal groups – we hope to run them from late spring this year for ten months or so. If you would like to find out more, please contact me, or the Minister.

EASTER COMMUNION AND BREAKFAST

If you feel up to an early start on Easter Day (Sunday 21st April) then set your alarm clock and get up in time for Longniddry Church's 8am outdoor Communion on the church lawn.

This is the perfect way to greet the biggest day of the church year, in the knowledge that once we head inside afterwards there will be a warming breakfast of rolls (bacon or marmalade) and freshly brewed tea or coffee.

Then, at 9.45am we will gather for our Easter Celebration with great singing guaranteed.

As ever, people of all ages will be made very welcome indeed as together we mark Christ's triumph over the grave.

SECOND SATURDAY COFFEE

Our usual monthly coffee morning will take place on Saturday 13th April, from 10am-12noon, in the Church Hall, Elcho Road. All welcome. Books will also be for sale.

ONE SMALL STEP FOR A MAN ...

Wednesday 24th April at 7.30pm sees Longniddry Film Club looking to the skies (metaphorically at least) as we mark the 50th anniversary of Neil Armstrong's moon landing in 1969.

This Damien Chazelle film (certificate 12) stars Ryan Gosling and Claire Foy and brings to life the drama of the US Apollo 11 mission to the moon: a defining moment in the post-war world. Described as a "visceral, intimate account told from Armstrong's perspective and based on the book by James R. Hansen, the film explores the triumphs and the cost on Armstrong, his family, his colleagues, and the nation itself for one of the most dangerous missions in history."

All over-16s are welcome, with admission free of charge and refreshments after the film.

SINGING GROUP

Our popular Singing Group has completed its winter sessions and we now look forward to our spring ones. The group starts again on Monday 29th April and runs for six weeks until Monday 3rd June. We meet at 2pm to sing followed by tea, coffee and chat at 2.45pm. We hope to see old and new friends – please come along. And if anyone has a little spare time and would like to help with the teas and coffees one week, please let Abigail know, (853467 or abimor1808@gmail.com).

THE GUILD

Our next meeting takes place at 7.30pm in the Church Halls on Wednesday 17th April, when we hold the A.G.M. after which there will be a floral demonstration by Val Easton. Further details available from Alison Ferguson on 852442.

LENT STUDY GROUP

The Lent Study Course, looking at the film “The Greatest Showman”, will continue to meet, in the Gathering Space at 6pm, on Tuesdays 2nd and 9th April. Everyone welcome.

JARS OF GRACE

A reminder that Jars of Grace (ideally brimming over with coppers or other coins of your choice) should be brought back to church on Easter Day so that money received from across the congregation can go to Christian Aid Scotland for helping homes in sub-Saharan Africa to buy wonderful high-tech solar lamps. These will benefit families generally but, in particular, will help school students to do their homework after sunset in houses with no electricity. Happy collecting!

SCOUTS JUMBLE SALE SCOUTS LOGO PLEASE

The Scout Group will be holding its annual fundraising Jumble Sale on Saturday 27th April at 1pm in the Community Centre. Door-to-door collection of jumble will start on Tuesday 23rd April in the eastern side of the village and then follow on to the western side. Alternatively, you may hand jumble in at the Scout hall on any evening from Tuesday 23rd April or at the Community Centre on the evening of Friday 26th or morning of Saturday 27th April.

CHURCH DIARY

CHURCH DUTIES

April 7th – Mrs Coutts, J Jamieson, Mrs Peart, Dr Reeks. April 14th – G Smillie, W Hall, Mrs Leakey, Mrs Cowern. April 21st – B Lewis, J D McGregor, Mrs Reilly, T Shearer. April 28th – C Simpson, D Wyllie, I Smith, R Sharp. May 5th – Mrs Munro, J Reilly, M Wood, Ms Moore.

CHURCH FLOWERS

April 7th – Mrs E McRaid. April 14th – Mrs E Ellis. April 21st – Mrs P Hardy. April 28th – Mrs W Miller.

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

All contributions for the May issue of the church magazine should be given to the editor, in writing or by email, by **SUNDAY 14th APRIL**, or earlier if possible.

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

VILLAGE ROUND UP

LONGNIDDRY BOWLING CLUB BOWLING PIC PLEASE

The green opens for the new season on Saturday 13th April, at 1.30 pm.

New members and beginners are all welcome. Bowls are available, but please wear flat shoes. Juniors' sessions will commence on Friday 19th April, at 2pm. Membership is free for under-17s.

LIBRARY EVENTS

Do you know the Library offers a Home Delivery Service? If you or anyone you know finds it difficult to get to the Library, thanks to volunteers we can bring the books to you. Even if it's only temporary, e.g. due to illness or after an operation, books/ listening books are brought to the home then exchanged after a month. To get more information phone the Library, 01875 818160, and speak to Ann or Fiona.

March has brought us strong winds, should you need replacement covers for recycling boxes the Library keeps a supply.

On Monday afternoons to replace our Craft class we will have a Crafty Corner drop-in session from 2-4pm. If you have a craft project that you are working on bring it along to the Library and get some company and a cuppa. We would like to thank Linda McCann from the Active Arts Craft Group for her hard work and wonderful ideas she has given us over the years and wish her well for the future.

Our Knit and Natter group meet on a Tuesday morning, 11am-1pm. This is a great way to meet new people. You don't have to knit, sew or crochet, just come for a natter and a cuppa.

The Village Art Group meet on Thursdays 2.30-4.30pm. For budding artists or complete beginners the group offers help and encouragement.

Book Group will meet on Wednesday 3rd April 5-6pm. They will be discussing *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood, and *The Letter* by Kathryn Hughes.

During the Easter holidays we will have two crafty drop-in sessions for children on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th, 3-4pm. Come and have fun in the Library.

Our Bookbug sessions for babies and children under 5 are held every Friday morning at 10.30am. This is a great way to meet other parents/ carers.

Lego Club, for children aged 8 and over, or for younger accompanied children, meets on Friday afternoons, 3-4pm. We will be taking a break during the Easter holidays so there will be no Lego Club on 12th or 19th April.

World Book Night is Tuesday 23rd April. Pop into the Library and look at some of our book displays.

During April we are having an exhibition of Fused Glass by Jo. Maybe this will inspire you to take up a new hobby.

On Tuesday 7th May at 11am we are having an e-resource Roadshow. There will be someone on hand if you need help with a mobile device to download some of the free resources the Library offers, e.g. eBooks, magazines, films or eLearning.

A reminder that the Library will close for the Easter weekend on Friday 19th April and reopen on Tuesday 23rd April at 10am.

LONGNIDDRY TENNIS CLUB

The 2019 season goes live on 1st April. We are a very welcoming club and would love to see the courts well used. Details of membership, evening club sessions, coaching and play and play options can be found at <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/longniddrytennis>. Our Easter kids coaching runs on 8th and 9th April and Summer term coaching begins at the end of April. We also hold day time sessions on a Friday morning at 9am for adults and will be restarting a day time cardio. If any of these are of interest to you then please email longniddrytennis@gmail.com.

S.W.I.

The April meeting of the S.W.I. is on Wednesday 10th April at 7.30pm in the church hall. It is the AGM with a Beetle Drive and Bring and Buy table.

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.

FRANK'S FOLK NIGHT

The next folk night will take place on Saturday 27th April at 7.30pm, in the Longniddry Inn. Please come along, with or without an instrument.

THANK YOU

Doreen Murray would like to thank everyone who kindly sent cards to her and who visited while she was in RIE. She is pleased to be back home again.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Danceathon that was held in the village in March. You helped to raise a total of £2,800 for Marie Curie and Cancer Research UK, a fantastic achievement. Thank you.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister	Rev Robin Hill	853195
-----------------	-----------------------	---------------

Session Clerk	Abigail Morrison	853467
----------------------	-------------------------	---------------

Treasurer	Douglas Clarke	853017
------------------	-----------------------	---------------

Transport	Sheila Jamieson	852068
------------------	------------------------	---------------

	June Condie	852136
--	--------------------	---------------

Hall Bookings	Robin Cuthbertson	852919
----------------------	--------------------------	---------------

Magazine Editor	Nicola Clarke	853017
------------------------	----------------------	---------------

	52 Douglas Road	(Email Nicolaclarke52@btinternet.com)
--	------------------------	--

www.longniddrychurch.org.uk