

# LONGNIDDRY CHURCH MAGAZINE

## July and August 2019

### *Services for July and August*

7 <sup>th</sup> July	9.45am summer service at Longniddry: Robin Hill 11am summer service at Gladsmuir: Robin Hill
14 <sup>th</sup> July	9.45am summer service at Longniddry: Robin Hill 11am summer service at Gladsmuir: Robin Hill
21 <sup>st</sup> July	9.45am summer service at Longniddry: Robin Hill 11am summer service at Gladsmuir: Robin Hill
28 <sup>th</sup> July	9.45am summer service at Longniddry: William Watt 11am summer service at Gladsmuir: William Watt
4 <sup>th</sup> August	9.45am summer service at Longniddry: William Watt 11am summer service at Gladsmuir: William Watt
11 <sup>th</sup> August	9.45am summer service at Longniddry: Robin Hill 11am summer service at Gladsmuir: Robin Hill
18 <sup>th</sup> August	9.45am summer service at Longniddry: Robin Hill 11am summer service at Gladsmuir: Robin Hill
25 <sup>th</sup> August	9.45am at Longniddry: Robin Hill 11am at Gladsmuir: Robin Hill

### **THROUGH THE YEAR WITH ROBIN**

At 3.56am on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first to walk on the moon. Exactly 50 years on, the world recalls that amazing moment in world history.

Back then, I was a tiny child of five, roused from my slumbers in the early hours to come downstairs and witness for myself this momentous event – it was too big to miss, after all. And so, along with the rest of my family, I sat down in front of the big old television set and watched the grainy black and white images of the Eagle lander drawing ever closer to the lunar surface, until the moment of touchdown finally came. Some hours later, down climbed Armstrong, closely followed by the wonderfully named Buzz Aldrin.

This, we were told, was to be the start of something big. In the three-and-a-half years that followed, another ten American men were to set foot on the moon, with the world's children utterly convinced that they themselves would grow up to be astronauts and cosmonauts, bravely establishing huge colonies.

But the Apollo programme quickly came to an end, with NASA choosing to invest its billions in other ventures such as Skylab and the space shuttles.

As a five-year-old back in 1969, I believed that the prospect of moon bases was an absolute given: our generation was destined to boldly go. Yet, looking back, I'm very glad this dream never became a reality. And I hope it never will. It's impossible to imagine how drab and artificial life away from our beloved home planet would be with no fresh air, no green trees, no wildlife.

Today, our challenge is not to conquer the stars, but to do something far less romantic but far more vital: in the 21<sup>st</sup> century it is our urgent calling to halt and set about reversing humanity's selfish degradation of the great orb we call home. Are we already too late? Who knows?

This is a task so much bigger and bolder than John F. Kennedy's quest for the moon, and it's one which all the world needs to share in if we really and truly value God's good earth: our fresh air ... our green trees ... our wildlife ... our very lives and those of our children.

Robin

## **SESSION CLERK'S CORNER**

Since the last issue of this magazine the Church of Scotland has held its annual General Assembly. This year's Assembly turned out to be quite a radical one. The Church of Scotland is facing several challenges, not the least of which are the decline in people attending Church and expected fall in the number of ordained ministers over the near future. To meet these challenges some radical ideas were proposed – and accepted. I have copied the Life & Work summary of these decisions here.

The 2019 General Assembly accepted three reports that between them have the potential to radically reshape the Church of Scotland, at every level from the local to the national and the General Assembly itself. The overall thrust of the plans is devolution of decision-making and resources from the centre to reorganised and re-energised regional and local structures, with an emphasis on equipping churches for mission in their local context.

- Up to £25m to be spent on projects aimed at church growth, with particular emphasis on church planting
- 100 new worshipping communities to be established
- Focus on engaging with people under 40
- Cost of central administration to be cut by up to 30%: four councils to be merged into two
- Number of Scottish presbyteries to be reduced from 43 to about 12, focused on supporting local congregations in their ministry and mission
- Networks, hubs and other new local church structures to be developed
- Kirk Sessions to be reduced in size and focused on 'leadership and strategic decision-making'
- Decision-making and resources to be devolved from the central administration to regional and local levels
- No congregation to pay more to the centre after next year until new arrangements are agreed
- Land and buildings plan to focus on 'well equipped spaces in the right places'. Money from sale of redundant buildings to be shared between congregations
- Improved training and support for all ministry and leadership roles
- General Assembly to be made smaller
- Encouragement of a season of 'prayer and preparation' across the Church from September to December 2019

An expanded summary (four pages) of the Assembly decisions can be found here:  
<http://www.lifeandwork.org/resources/general-assembly-supplement>

## **JARS OF GRACE**

This year's "Jars of Grace" collection within Longniddry raised an amazing £1,294 including £81 in the jars from Longniddry Primary School. The money will go to Christian Aid 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. Gladsmuir and Tranent Churches were also collecting for this purpose and adding in their jars, plus a collection taken at St Martin's in Edinburgh in March, means that the total going to Christian Aid for the lamps will be £1,939.

With this being the sixteenth year of Jars of Grace collections in Longniddry, it is good to be able to report that over £20,000 has been raised for causes across the world during this time. Many thanks to all who have contributed over the years.

## **SUMMER SERVICES 2019**

A quick reminder that from 7<sup>th</sup> July to 18<sup>th</sup> August inclusive, Longniddry's 9.45am services and Gladsmuir's at 11am will be shorter, all-age acts of worship with bright, lively hymns and a theme running

through the season. This year, we will be reflecting on the topic, “A grand day out”, as we think about the fun things we can do in the summer months and look for insights of faith from the pages of the Bible.

As we do every year, postcards and digital photographs that relate to this theme will be welcomed for projection in church week by week. Please send yours to Jim Jamieson at 40 Glassel Park Road, Longniddry, EH32 0NY.

## **NATURE WALK**

Our good friend, Erica Wishart, parish minister of Tranent, has been working with Robin to organise a “contemplative nature walk” in Butterdean Wood, Gladsmuir, on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July from 9.30-11.30am. This time of reflection on nature is open to all over-16s who would like to spend a couple of hours meditating in silence and occasional quiet conversation on the beauty of creation.

The walk will take us deep into this beautiful area of East Lothian woodland, where we will reflect together on what we see around us and on what it tells us. This spiritual exercise should help participants to appreciate nature and to understand more about our wonderful local treasures of nature.

The morning, which is a no-dog event, is free of charge. Appropriate footwear and reasonable levels of walking fitness are strongly recommended for participants.

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2019**

This year’s collection raised £3,628.90, which will increase by £466.55 after the addition of tax reclaimed under the Gift Aid Scheme. The final result is a tremendous £4,095.45 – an increase of £242 on last year’s figure. The Christian Aid team would like to thank everyone in the village who contributed and to those who gave their time to deliver and collect the envelopes.

## **CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING**

A big thank you to everyone who supported the recent coffee morning. Just over £600 was raised from what proved to be a very enjoyable morning.

## **CHRISTIAN AID AUCTION**

This year’s Auction and Sale will take place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August, starting at 1.15pm in the Longniddry Community Centre. Details of collection dates in late August will follow in a separate flier.

The Christian Aid team is always grateful for the huge contribution and help provided by so many people throughout the village in making this annual event so successful. Nearly seventy people helped at some point last year, either during the collection week or on the day itself, making it a real community event. If you haven’t been involved before but would like to lend a hand, please have a chat with Peter Helms (852850), Abigail Morrison (853467) or any of the Christian Aid team. They would love to hear from you.

## **SECOND SATURDAY COFFEE**

The usual coffee mornings will take place on Saturdays 13<sup>th</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> August, from 10am-12noon, in the Church Hall. All welcome. Books will also be for sale.

## **SINGING GROUP**

Our popular Singing Group has finished for the summer. We are very grateful to Caitlin McGillivray of the Mansefield School of Music for taking the singing. We start again on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and run for six weeks until Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October. We meet in the church hall at 2pm to sing followed by tea, coffee and chat at 2.45pm. We hope to see old and new friends – please come along.

## **OVER 60'S GET TOGETHER**

We invite Senior citizens to come and join us in the church hall and meet our ‘Wednesday Club’ attendees

for a cuppa and blether. Come along and find out all about us. First Wednesday in the month, July, August and September, 2.30-4pm. The rest of the year we meet weekly. If you would like to know more, contact Chris Farnish on 852932.

## **TENNIS CLUB NEWS**

Thank you to everyone who supported the gala tea tent. The home baking contributions were amazing. Also thank you for all the unwanted coins and notes that were handed into the chemist. We are currently sending the money away but with the money from the tea stall, and the unwanted currency, we will have raised approximately £750 for the pavilion refurbishment.

Longniddry Tennis Club is running classes in the Summer holidays as follows:

15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> July – 3pm-4pm. Age 5-8.

15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> July – 4pm-5pm. Age 8+

Weekly classes will begin again on a Friday and Wednesday after school in early August - bookings for all classes can be made on the club website <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/LongniddryTennis/Coaching>

## **LONGNIDDRY PLAYGROUP VACANCIES**

Sadly, after 12 years in post, Emma Govan is leaving the playgroup so we are looking to recruit a responsible, experienced, fun and organised play leader, to manage our small friendly Playgroup. If you're interested, and have two years experience working with children age 2-5yrs, an SVQ 3, PVG cleared and good communication skills please send your CV and a covering letter to Christine Betts at [longniddryplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:longniddryplaygroup@gmail.com) The working hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8.45am-12.30pm, 15 hours per week in term time. Salary dependent on experience.

We are also looking for a new Chairperson. Do you have links with the Playgroup however tenuous?

Christine is stepping down in September and so we are looking for someone to lead our friendly Committee that meets about once a month. Our Committee are all volunteers and absolutely essential to the running of the Playgroup. If you think you could bring your skills to the team then please get in touch with Christine Betts at the above email address. (Scottish Charity No SCO14022 SSPA Member 0049).

## **CHURCH DIARY**

### **CHURCH DUTIES**

July 7<sup>th</sup> – Mrs Coutts, J Jamieson, Mrs Peart, Dr Reeks. July 14<sup>th</sup> – G Smillie, W Hall, Mrs Leakey, Mrs Cowern. July 21<sup>st</sup> – B Lewis, J D McGregor, Mrs Reilly, T Shearer. July 28<sup>th</sup> – C Simpson, D Wyllie, I Smith, R Sharp. August 4<sup>th</sup> – Mrs Munro, J Reilly, M Wood, Ms Moore. August 11<sup>th</sup> – R Cuthbertson, P Helmn, Mrs McVey, A Neil. August 18<sup>th</sup> – D Easton, Mrs Elliott, S Welch, Dr Wood, August 25<sup>th</sup> – J Couper, Dr Kirkpatrick, Mrs Stewart, Mrs Phin. September 1<sup>st</sup> Communion.

### **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**

All contributions for the September issue of the church magazine should be given to the editor, in writing or by email, by **SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**.

### **CHURCH FLOWERS**

July 7<sup>th</sup> – Mrs A Smith. July 14<sup>th</sup> – In memory of Mrs E Lieshman. July 21<sup>st</sup> – Mrs G Simpson. July 28<sup>th</sup> – Miss L Hume. August 4<sup>th</sup> – Mrs V Easton. August 11<sup>th</sup> – Mrs J Balson. August 18<sup>th</sup> – Mrs F Jones. August 25<sup>th</sup> – Mrs E Ellis. September 1<sup>st</sup> – Mrs Ingram.

If you would like to join the rota for arranging flowers or would like to contribute towards the cost of church flowers, please contact Ann Reeks on 852606.

**PRAYER GROUP** – There is no prayer group meeting in July or August.

## **VILLAGE ROUND UP**

## **FRANK'S FOLK NIGHT**

The next folk night will take place at 7.30pm, on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July, in the Longniddry Inn. All are welcome, with or without instruments.

## **LIBRARY EVENTS**

In this technological age computers are wonderful, they can make life easier. But what happens when they don't work or you run out of ink and need to print a boarding pass? The Library has four computers for public use that we can print from. It often happens around holiday time that people come in very fraught because there is an issue with a home computer.

School holidays are nearly here, and it's the start of the Libraries Summer Challenge. This year the format is slightly different. There are three challenges to take part in and for each challenge completed children will receive a certificate and small prize. After the summer, back at school, children will be awarded a bronze, silver or gold medal depending on how many challenges have been completed.

The first challenge, Explorer, is to have fun. Children need to complete ten activities over the whole summer. One of them has to be read a book but that can be any book, although we would prefer it to be a library book. The other nine activities could be anything from a visit to the Bents, playing in the park or baking a cake or doing some crafts at home. To complete the challenge, collect something to show us what's been done – whether it's an entrance ticket or a photo, bring it along to your local library.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> challenge is to read six library books over the summer holidays. There are books for everyone in the library. It can be a comic, a fact book, an audiobook – as long as it's a book, it counts!

The 3<sup>rd</sup> challenge is to watch and record what the grown-ups read. How much reading do they do? What are they reading? Whether it's a book or magazine, a map for directions, the recipe for dinner or messages on their phone – it all counts as reading.

Passports to record the challenges will be distributed at school but can also be collected from the Library.

We have a number of activities over the summer that can count towards the Explorer Challenge.

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**, 10.30am, explore the high seas with our Pirate storytime. Come dressed up as a pirate. For children up to age 7 years.

**8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> July**, we will be having a scavenger hunt within the Library. Explore the Library with a keen eye!

**17<sup>th</sup> July** 2.30pm, space themed crafts for ages 5+.

**24<sup>th</sup> July** 10.30am – Rumble in the Jungle story time for children up to 7 years.

**26<sup>th</sup> July** 3-4pm – Lego Club, children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

**31<sup>st</sup> July** 2.30pm 2.30pm – Rumble in the Jungle craft session for children 5+.

**2<sup>nd</sup> August** 3-4pm – Lego Club.

**6<sup>th</sup> August** 10.30am – Sand & Sea story time.

**14<sup>th</sup> August** 2.30pm – Bug life crafts for all ages.

A reminder that the Knit and Natter group will continue to meet every Tuesday morning 11am-1pm.

We hope you enjoy the summer. Choose your holiday reading from the Library or download e-books/e-audiobooks from the Libraries website.

## **NATIONAL WOMEN'S REGISTER**

We plan to have afternoon tea at Merryhatton on 29<sup>th</sup> July and restart our regular fortnightly meetings on 29<sup>th</sup> August with a planning meeting to arrange our future meetings. All members can contribute ideas.

We meet fortnightly on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm, in each other's houses. We discuss interesting topics, exchange ideas and make new friends. We offer you space to be yourself. We have members throughout East Lothian and share a lot of fun together. For more information contact Noreen on 01875 853404 or [www.nwr.org.uk](http://www.nwr.org.uk).

**LONGNIDDRY COMMUNITY CENTRE** will be closed for maintenance from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August until Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. The Centre will reopen on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August for the Christian Aid Auction.

**BABIES AND TODDLERS** will resume, after the summer break, on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August, at 9.30am, in the Community Centre. All children, aged from birth to pre-school are welcome, together with their parents/carers.

## **THANK YOU**

Tricia Boyd and family would like to thank everyone for the many cards and kind messages of support and the flowers received following the sad loss of Bruce. Thanks also to all who attended Mortonhall Crematorium, and to Rev Robin Hill for a comforting service and continued support.

Longniddry Bowling Club would like to thank all who attended and helped at their recent coffee morning which raised £473.

## **CHURCH CONTACTS**

<b>Minister</b>	<b>Rev Robin Hill</b>	<b>853195</b>
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<b>Session Clerk</b>	<b>Abigail Morrison</b>	<b>853467</b>
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<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Douglas Clarke</b>	<b>853017</b>
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<b>Transport</b>	<b>Sheila Jamieson</b>	<b>852068</b>
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	<b>June Condie</b>	<b>852136</b>
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<b>Hall Bookings</b>	<b>Robin Cuthbertson</b>	<b>852919</b>
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<b>Magazine Editor</b>	<b>Nicola Clarke</b>	<b>853017</b>
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**[www.longniddrychurch.org.uk](http://www.longniddrychurch.org.uk)**