

LONGNIDDRY CHURCH MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2019

Services for October are as follows:

6 th October	9.45am Longniddry all-age service: Robin Hill and Fr Basil Clark 11am Gladsmuir traditional Communion: Robin Hill and Fr Basil Clark
9 th October	12 noon Wednesday Thought and Midweek Communion: Robin Hill
13 th October	9.45am Longniddry Harvest Thanksgiving: Robin Hill 11am Gladsmuir Harvest Thanksgiving: Robin Hill
20 th October	9.45am Longniddry all-age service: Worship Team 11am Gladsmuir traditional service: Worship Team
27 th October	9.45am Longniddry all-age service: Robin Hill 11am Gladsmuir traditional service: Robin Hill

THROUGH THE YEAR WITH ROBIN

A big highpoint in the Longniddry Parish Church calendar is our “One World Night” which takes place in the autumn to coincide with the UK’s national “One World Week”.

This year, on Friday 25th October at 7pm, the event will take as its subject the plight of those ordinary women, men and children from around the world who find themselves refugees, asylum seekers or trafficked people.

A topic such as this is complex, with all sorts of unimagined dimensions, so it is excellent that our keynote speaker for the evening will be Dr Sabir Zazai, Chief Executive of the Scottish Refugee Council and current holder of the Glasgow Lord Provost’s Award for Human Rights. Some 20 years ago, Dr Zazai arrived in the UK as a refugee from the war in Afghanistan, and has since worked tirelessly for the rights of asylum seekers, first in the Midlands of England and now in Scotland.

Other participants include David Bradwell who co-ordinates Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees, and Fr Basil Clark, parish priest of St Martin of Tours Church, Tranent, and Our Lady of Loretto and St Michael’s Church, Musselburgh. We also hope to have input from our friends at Longniddry Primary School and music from the Preston Lodge Community Soul Band.

Add to this some delicious interval refreshments, and you have an evening to remember. So come along (it’s free of charge!) and be part of a very special evening where justice and peace take centre stage.

Robin Hill

SESSION CLERK’S CORNER

Autumn is well and truly upon us. The nights – and daytime shadows – grow longer. The trees are turning colour and soon will be clothed in all their golden, pink, red and purple splendour. The air is cooling. But a funny thing happens. As the light fades Church activities seem to rev up. There must be something about the winding down of the year that makes we humans wind up our energies and enthusiasms again. The Singing Group, Sporting Memories, Wednesday Club, Belleplates and the Guild (and many more I’ve forgotten!) have all restarted after a summer break. Other organisations have taken up their interests after the summer too – Playgroup, Bridge Clubs, the Gospel choir, various fitness classes. So, if you are looking for a new challenge to take up to occupy you, or would like to meet more new people, you may find something within the doors of the Church and its halls. Come and join the renewed busy-ness.

But, as Tom Gordon mentioned in his Wee Thought of the 31st July (go to weethought.com), busyness is best served when balanced by rest. And vice versa. So as well as singing, socialising, exercising and playing complex card games, you can also cross the Church threshold for the Prayer group at 11am on a Wednesday – or Sunday services or monthly communion – to find some space to rest and reflect. Come and join the renewed restfulness.

THOUGHTFUL WEDNESDAYS

Back in 2006 Longniddry Church started its monthly midweek reflection and Communion, and this has been a fixture of our life over these last 13 years. Returning after the summer break, we discovered that several of our regular attenders now have other activities on a Thursday, so the decision has been taken to shift the day back one, to a Wednesday.

If you would like to come along and join us for a quiet twenty-five minutes of reflection, prayer and Communion, then just turn up at 12 noon on the following Wednesdays between now and Christmas: 9th October, 6th November and 4th December. All are welcome!

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Our harvest thanksgiving services will take place on Sunday 13th October at Longniddry (9.45am) and Gladsmuir (11am).

All who come to these acts of worship are invited to bring some harvest produce or tinned goods for distribution. Once again, all items received will go to benefit Bethany Christian Trust in their work with homeless people in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS

We would love to welcome more retired people to our friendly group on a Wednesday afternoon. Entertainment is followed by tea and cake. It is an opportunity to meet new people or old friends and have a nice chat. We meet in Longniddry Church Hall on Wednesdays, 2.30-4pm, starting on 2nd October and ending 1st April, with a short break at Christmas. As well as our usual entertainment programme we have a Christmas lunch at the Longniddry Inn. If you are interested just pop in and try us, or ring Chris Farnish on 852932 for more details. Transport can be arranged for those needing assistance to and from the hall.

WORSHIP TEAM

Both our Gladsmuir and Longniddry congregations now have members who have completed the Edinburgh and Lothian Presbyteries' worship training programme, certified either at level 1 or level 2, with level 3 training soon to follow.

A new joint worship team from across our charge will be having its first outing on Sunday 20th October, presenting their service first at Longniddry then at Gladsmuir. Preparation for this has been based on background materials prepared for the group by Robin and developed with his active supervision and input.

In a changing world of ministry, this way forward should ensure that our Presbytery and its congregations should be well prepared for the challenges which may lie ahead.

Please support your local worship team as it takes its first enthusiastic steps in our two churches.

TRANENT EVENING SERVICE

Our friends at Tranent Parish Church are once again sending out an invitation to anyone who would like to join them for a Harvest Communion Service on Sunday 20th October at 6.30pm, when the Tranent praise band will be leading the singing.

BEST MOTION PICTURE

The Academy Awards ceremony last February brought a few surprises, not least the winner of the Best Motion Picture category.

Set in the USA of the 1960s, the movie tells the story of a white racist chauffeur and an African American pianist who takes him on for a tour of the southern states at the height of racial segregation. The film features Viggo Mortensen and Mahershala Ali in the lead roles, with Ali also winning an Oscar for his performance.

Our screening in Longniddry Church on Wednesday 23rd October will start at 7.30pm. Admission free, with refreshments served.

CHRISTIAN AID AUCTION AND SALE

The Christian Aid team would like to thank everyone who helped with this year's Auction and Sale, whether by donating goods, helping with collections, manning the stalls or supporting the event on the day. Over £2,600 was raised for Christian Aid. We were also pleased to support a number of other local charities and organisations with donations of unsold goods; including Zero Waste, Recycling First and the British Heart Foundation.

CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ

This year's quiz will take place on Friday 1st November (note that we are a week or two later than in the past) at 7.30pm in Longniddry Community Centre. It's BYOB as usual and there will be snacks provided. There will also be a raffle. If anyone has anything they'd like to donate as a raffle prize, please let Abigail know. Teams of up to six adults are warmly invited to enter. It is always a fun evening and helps keep the brain working! Tickets are £6 per person and can be obtained from Abigail Morrison (call 853467 or email abimor1808@gmail.com). All surplus proceeds go to Christian Aid. Come along and join the fun!

THE GUILD

The Guild extends a **warm welcome to all** at their meeting on Wednesday 16th October, at 7.30pm, in the Church Hall. Pauline Robertson will be speaking about a project, 'The Sailors' Society, a chaplain in every port'. Further details from Jane McGregor, telephone 853179.

SECOND SATURDAY COFFEE

The usual monthly coffee morning will take place on Saturday 12th October, from 10am-12noon, in the church hall. All welcome.

SATURDAY MORNING THEOLOGY CLUB

Fancy some coffee and a friendly Saturday morning chat about justice and peace? Feel like you're ready to dip your toe in the waters of progressive theology and biblical studies? Then join us in Longniddry Church every Saturday at 10.30am throughout the month of November as we engage with the Living the Questions DVD on "Countering Pharaoh Today".

The book of Exodus tells of how the king of Egypt used Hebrew slaves to build up a rich and powerful regime based on oppression. The lessons from thousands of years ago remain relevant to our 21st century world where the wealthy so easily impose their will on the poor, whether locally, nationally or globally.

In this five-part series launched in 2006, American Old Testament scholar, Professor Walter Brueggeman, shows how we need to look back to Pharaoh and his unjust ways as we look forward to what our own uncertain futures might hold.

All are welcome at these five meetings which will conclude by 12 noon.

CALLING PL FPs

Our friends at Preston Lodge High School are having a social evening on Friday 4th October aimed at former pupils and friends of the school.

Those attending will be able to chat with current students about life at PL, while reminiscing together about their own experiences in bygone years.

The £5 ticket price includes an arrival drink and canapés made by PL's hospitality students. All funds raised at the event will go towards the Preston Lodge Community Fund.

To find out more, visit eventbrite.co.uk and key in "Friends of Preston Lodge - Back to School Alumni".

BETHANY NIGHT SHELTER

Last winter was the busiest ever for the Bethany Night Shelter with ninety homeless people attending on many nights. The new larger venue was equipped with showers and beds instead of sleeping-bags, and was greatly appreciated by the service users. Sadly, the problem of the homeless is increasing. The winter season has started and will run through until May. Longniddry Church has been allocated four nights to prepare and serve meals. If you would like to make a donation towards the costs, please contact Frances Cunningham on 852958.

THE SILVER LINE

The Silver Line operates the only national confidential, free helpline and friendship service for older people across the U.K. that's open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Silver Line: offer information, friendship and advice, link callers to local groups and services, offer regular friendship calls, protects and supports older people who are suffering abuse or neglect. No need to be alone, no problem too small, no question too big. Call the specially trained helpline team free on 0800 4 70 80 90

JOHN BELLANY DAY CENTRE

Our dedicated staff provide Day Care for the frail, elderly and dementia sufferers of Longniddry, Port Seton and Cockenzie. The Day Centre provides a community setting for older people to take part in activities to help maintain a healthy lifestyle, prevent social isolation and promote independence. We are open five days a week Monday to Friday. Self referrals are welcomed. Please contact Anne Mercer, manager, on 01875 815886.

STEPPING STONES

The next Stepping Stones bereavement support programme will start on Monday 7th October at 2pm in the Port Seton Community Centre and will last for six weeks. Further information is available from steppingstones.mail@gmail.com or by telephoning 07724 916 700.

Bereavement is a journey to be travelled, not an illness to be cured or a problem to be solved.

Some who are bereaved need companionship on that journey. It's good to have people around who understand loss and grief and can offer reassurance as specific issues are faced. The local Stepping Stones programme will offer you that kind of support, as it focuses on particular aspects of the journey of loss, and allows people to feel they are in the company of those who are dealing with common concerns and feelings. The Stepping Stones programme is open to all who are living with loss. Stepping Stones offers you a chance to relax with people in similar circumstances. You might even find time to smile again. Some people bring a friend or family member with them for support. But, of course, you are welcome to attend by yourself. There is no cost for involvement. There is no formal registration for the programme. But we would encourage you to let us know – by phone or email – if you intend to come along. This helps us be aware of numbers.

CHURCH DIARY

CHURCH DUTIES

October 6th – Mrs Coutts, J Jamieson, Mrs Peart, Dr Reeks. October 13th – G Smillie, W Hall, Mrs Leakey, Mrs Cowern. October 20th – B Lewis, J D McGregor, Mrs Reilly, T Shearer. October 27th – C Simpson, D Wyllie, I Smith, R Sharp. November 3rd – Mrs Munro, J Reilly, M Wood, Mrs Moore.

MAGAZINE DEADLINE.

All contributions for the November issue of the church magazine should be given to the editor, in writing or by email, by **SUNDAY 13TH OCTOBER.**

CHURCH FLOWERS

October 6th – Mrs J McCreadie. October 13th – Harvest arrangements. October 20th – Mrs S De St Croix. October 27th – Mrs R Couper. November 3rd – Miss L Hume.

THE PRAYER GROUP will meet at 11am in the Gathering Space, in the church, on Wednesdays until December 11th. All welcome.

VILLAGE ROUND UP

LIBRARY EVENTS

We are looking forward to our next event on **Wednesday 2nd October** 2-4.30pm ‘Memory Box’ - Come along and join the Archive Service for a look through Longniddry’s past. Mark Mulhearn from Edinburgh University will join us at 2.30pm to speak about an oral history project which is recording memories from across the county and share some gems captured so far. Then at 3pm Neil Fraser from SCRAN will be showcasing their resources and presenting some fabulous Longniddry images.

This is also a chance for people to share their images, photos (please bring some along) and stories of Longniddry. The event is free and refreshments will be provided, please join us.

Next year Longniddry Gala will be celebrating its 50th anniversary, so we are going to have an exhibition in the Library of Gala photographs down the years. It would be wonderful if we could copy your photographs for our exhibition, and Gala stories could also be included in Mark’s oral history project. A good reason to join us on 2nd October!

Another 50th celebration, congratulations to the Wednesday Club from all of us at the Library. The Club continues to do wonderful work with the more senior members of our Community. We wish them well for the next fifty years!

The Wild West is coming to the Library on **Saturday 5th October**, 11am-12noon. A morning of cowboy crafts and fun for children 5yrs+.

We are also having Halloween crafts for children on **Wednesday 30th October** from 3.30pm. Bring the children dressed up and join the Longniddry Witches!

The Book Group’s next meeting is on **Wednesday 2nd October** 5pm - it’s a great social group.

Our Craft Café will meet on **Mondays, 7th and 28th October**, 2-4pm.

The Knit and Natter Group get together every **Tuesday morning** at 11am for a natter and a cuppa, sometimes some knitting, crochet and sewing gets done!

Bookbug sessions for babies and toddlers are held each **Friday morning** at 10.30am – songs, rhymes and lots of fun.

Lego Club runs on Friday afternoons, 3-4pm for children 7+. Under 8s must be accompanied by an adult.

Chatterbooks Book Group will be held on **Saturday 19th October** 10.30am – chat and crafts for younger book lovers, age 7+.

FOLK EVENING

Come along and join us for a great folk night and listen to “Pure Malt” on Friday 4th October at 7.30pm in Longniddry Community Centre. Tickets priced £12.50 each which includes a light supper. For details and tickets call Val on 852002 or Helen on 870294. All proceeds in aid of charity, organised by Inner Wheel.

FRANK’S FOLK NIGHTS

Frank Prior's 'Folk Nights' will take place on Friday 11th October, and Friday 8th November, at 7.30pm in the Longniddry Inn. Please come along, with or without your musical instrument.

PROBUS

Probus restarts on Tuesday 8th October, at 10am, with a talk on 'US foreign policy in the Cold War' to be given by Dr Fabian Hilfrich, Head of History at the University of Edinburgh. The club meets every second and fourth Tuesday morning at the Longniddry Inn till the end of April. The club is open to gentlemen who are retired or are preparing to do so. If you would like to see the programme, or wish to find out more about the club, please contact the Honorary Secretary, Jim Jamieson, on 852068.

CONTRIBUTIONS for the church magazine are welcome from all voluntary groups in the village, who may wish to publicise their events. Please send any such contribution to the editor in good time.

S.W.I.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 9th October at 7.30pm in the church hall. The speaker is Geraldine McCullough talking about Me Time Therapies. The competition is Calendula, Marigold or Cosmos in any medium.

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