

LONGNIDDRY CHURCH MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2020

2 nd February	9.45am: All-age worship (Robin Hill) 11am: Traditional service at Gladsmuir (Robin Hill)
5 th February	12 noon: Wednesday Thought and midweek Communion (Robin Hill)
9 th February	9.45am: All-age worship (Robin Hill) 11am: Traditional service at Gladsmuir (Robin Hill)
16 th February	9.45am: All-age worship (Robin Hill) 11am: Traditional service at Gladsmuir (Robin Hill)
23 rd February	9.45am: All-age worship (Worship Team) 11am: Traditional service at Gladsmuir (Worship Team)

THROUGH THE YEAR WITH ROBIN

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (26th February). When we stop to consider the season, we might well think about a period of – roughly – 40 days when we feel some pull towards self-discipline, giving up chocolate, or biscuits, or chocolate biscuits, or whatever. That's what Lent has long been about for most people who take an interest, and if it helps you to lose a few pounds, then that's good.

But Lent's true purpose is actually a whole lot more interesting, and even more challenging. It reminds us of the journey which Christ made to the Cross: a road that was strewn with conflict and challenge and some pretty serious temptation as well. Jesus could easily have decided not to take on the role of rebellious trouble-maker: he could have kept quiet and been meek and mild. He could have avoided all those disputes with Rome and its allies. But he kept going straight ahead on his resolute course, showing what the Kingdom of God is really all about. That course would lead directly to his trial and execution.

People sometimes ask what the purpose of faith is. In Lent, Jesus tells us loud and clear: it is to do with making an impact upon our world (and upon the powers that seek to rule over it) by staying centred on God's will and by walking humbly in the way of Christ, just as he walked before us.

Whether or not chocolate is taken is pretty much up to you.

Robin Hill

SESSION CLERK'S CORNER

Welcome to the new decade – will our Twenties be roaring like the 1920s? Or will they be calm and peaceful? The latter, I hope. But the 1920s followed on after the end of the First World War. Whilst there is much war and violence in the world just now, our own twenties fortunately do not follow hot on the heels of a world war. But it is important to remember the sacrifice made by so many in past conflagrations, if only as a warning to help us avoid such violence in future. To this end the Community Council plans to erect a World War I memorial bench in the centre of the village. And at our November meeting the Kirk Session was very pleased to agree to make a donation towards the cost of this bench.

Over the last couple of years we have enjoyed sharing evening communion services on the first Sundays of March, June, September and December with Gladsmuir, Tranent, and St Martin's Churches. We held our own quiet, contemplative communion service on the evenings of the second Sundays of those months. For a variety of reasons, at our November meeting the Kirk Session agreed that we would return to our pattern of all our communion services being on the first Sunday of the months mentioned, including our evening services. The 6.30pm services held will remain contemplative in nature. So, in March this year we will

have three communion services (9.45am, 11am, 6.30pm) all on Sunday 1st and no service on Sunday 8th. Plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose.

WORSHIP TEAM AND WORSHIP TRAINING

Recent months have seen Gladsmuir and Longniddry Churches' worship team taking on a wide range of roles, especially over Advent and Christmas. This not only helps the minister at busy times of year (which it does!), but also helps the team members and the congregation as a whole to realise that leading services is something which does not always require a dog-collar. And the feedback on our members' input has been excellent, showing what a good team we have.

One reason for the success of our volunteers is that they have been trained in worship-leading through a dedicated course offered jointly by the Presbyteries of Lothian and Edinburgh. The next introductory course is set to take place in St Martin's Parish Church, Edinburgh at 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings, running from 26th February to 25th March.

If anyone would like to find out more this five-part course, what it involves and how it works, please have a word with Robin before 16th February, and he will be pleased to give you all the details.

FILM CLUB: THE TWELVE

In November 2017, twelve spiritual elders from wisdom traditions around the world agreed to come together at the United Nations for a gathering called "The Council of Twelve and Above".

The Twelve is a feature-length documentary giving a voice to these wisdom traditions through the words of the people who joined in a common quest for a better world. Their words of wisdom are shared by indigenous traditions from all over the globe, most of which have never been in contact with one another.

The film is an account of the twelve individuals' time in New York City where they sought to imagine a better future for all. It is also about highlighting how wisdom traditions can be an amazing source both of inspiration and of solutions for ourselves and our modern society as together we face a range of unprecedented problems caused by our modern lifestyles.

This free screening will take place on Wednesday 26th February at 7.30pm, followed by refreshments and chat. All are welcome.

PUDDING NIGHT

The new year is bringing a great opportunity for Longniddry Church, as our recently refurbished Room 3 is now set up and able to be used as a performance space.

With this in mind, the congregation is planning a wonderful evening of fun and food on Friday 28th February at 7.30pm when our old friend Bill Wishart will bring his band "Yo Stooshie!" for a concert of favourite sing-along songs from the '60s and '70s. (And yes, there will be magic!)

In the interval, guests will be encouraged to sample a wide range of desserts, for no better reason than that people love a good pudding.

Come along and join the fun, which – with Bill in charge – will definitely be for all the family. Admission is free, with an opportunity to make a donation on the night to benefit the Grassmarket Community Project's life-changing work in Zambia.

SINGING GROUP

Our popular Singing Group starts again on Monday 17th February and runs for six weeks until Monday 23rd March. 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. Remember, you don't need to be chorister, just someone who enjoys singing. We would also welcome anyone who would be willing to help run a session. This involves setting out chairs, making tea and then clearing up afterwards. Please contact Abigail (853467 abimor1808@gmail.com) if you could help out occasionally.

PARTNERS IN ZAMBIA

You may recall that last spring our annual “Jar of Grace” appeal for coppers managed to raise more than a thousand pounds with the support of our friends in Gladsmuir Church and in Longniddry and Macmerry Primary Schools. The plan for this cash was to help provide solar power to parts of Africa which struggle with electricity supplies.

It is very good to report that Mary Mulligan of Christian Aid has been in touch to tell us that our money has not only gone straight to Zambia for investment in projects there, but that it will be match-funded by the Scottish Government, turning our already impressive £1,294.32 into a magnificent £2,588.64.

Many thanks to everyone who collected their pennies in 2019. We look forward to this year’s “Jars of Grace” and the life-changing power of loose change.

THE GUILD

The next Guild meeting on Wednesday 19th February at 7.30pm in the Church Hall will take the form of a Members’ Evening including a “BEETLE DRIVE”, and an opportunity for members to have a chat over tea and home baking to air their ideas and suggestions for Guild meetings. Please note that this is a change to the topic for February in The Guild Syllabus. Further details from Alison Ferguson on 852442.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Our Christmas 2019 offerings raised a magnificent £810 for CrossReach’s Heart for Art sessions. Set up in 2012, Heart for Art is the name for creative arts groups for people who are living with dementia across Scotland. CrossReach’s grateful appreciation is given to all who contributed.

In addition a further £132 was raised for Bethany Christian Trust at the celebration of the “Posada” during Advent, together with other donations received during the year. 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.

ANOTHER SOUPER EVENT!

Last month saw the twelfth 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 £577 including gift aid for the work of The Church of Scotland HIV Programme.

ADVANCE NOTICE: “CHOCOLAT” LENT COURSE

With Lent starting at the end of February, our minds turn to our annual study course for the season. In recent years we have used blockbuster films as the way of thinking about Jesus’ journey to the cross, and this year the tradition continues as we watch the Juliette Binoche and Johnny Depp classic from 2000, “Chocolat”.

Five Friday morning gatherings will take place throughout Lent, set in the church. A section of the film will be screened with discussion to follow over coffee, using Hilary Brand’s book, *Christ and the Chocolaterie*.

Just turn up at 10.30am on Friday 6th March for part 1 of the journey. All will be welcome.

SECOND SATURDAY COFFEE

The usual coffee morning will take place on Saturday 8th February, from 10am-12noon, in the church hall. All welcome.

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 chat. We meet weekly in the church hall on Wednesdays 2.30-4pm, finishing with a lunch at the Longniddry Inn on Wednesday 1st April. 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.

BLYTHSWOOD THANKS

Thank you to everyone in Longniddry (and Gladsmuir) who filled a shoe box for Blythswood Care. We passed 60 on to them to distribute. They have thanked us in turn. This winter they are delivering their shoe boxes across Eastern Europe and Pakistan. Every gift of a shoe box makes a difference. It can provide practical support but more than this, it lets somebody know that they have been thought about, that they are valuable, that they are loved.

STEPPING STONES - A LOCAL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The next Stepping Stones bereavement support programme will start on Wednesday 26th February at 7pm in the Port Seton Community Centre and will last for six weeks. Further information is available from steppingstones.mail@gmail.com or 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.

SCOUTS NEWS

We had another successful Christmas Post raising over £540 for troop funds, thank you to everyone who used the service.

The Group has had to close the Beaver Colony due to a shortage of leaders so we are looking for help to re-open it. In addition, we need a Committee Chairperson and there are also other opportunities to help the Group.

In conjunction with East Lothian District leaders, we are holding an information event on Sunday 2nd February at 2pm in the Scout Hall. If you are interested in helping with the group in some way, please come along to find out more. We look forward to meeting you.

CHURCH DIARY

CHURCH DUTIES

February 2nd – Mrs Munro, J Reilly, M Wood, Ms Moore. February 9th – R Cuthbertson, JP Helmn, Mrs McVey, A Neil. February 16th – D Easton, Mrs Elliott, S Welch, Dr Wood. February 23rd – J Couper, Dr Kirkpatrick, Mrs RM Stewart, Mrs Phin. March 1st – 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 9th February.

CHURCH FLOWERS

February 2nd – Mrs C Paterson. February 9th – Mrs M Air. February 16th – Church Arrangements. February 23rd – Ms B Moore.

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

VILLAGE ROUND UP

LIBRARY EVENTS

We are delighted to be welcoming David Robertson to the Library on Monday 17th February at 7pm for the launch of his new book 'From Roucan to Riches: the rise of the Glassell family'. The book traces the story

of the Glassells from their obscure beginnings as humble Scots tenant farmers, through two brothers who made a fortune from tobacco in Virginia, and on to their descendants who made their mark in varied and interesting ways. Many of you will know David – he is an authority on the history of Longniddry and now has been researching one of its prominent families. To book a free place for this event please contact Longniddry Library 01875 818160.

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who bought raffle tickets for our wonderful knitted Nativity scenes, advent chains and entered the Christmas quiz. We raised £400!! Thanks mainly to Emily, who did all the knitting, we made contributions to The Wednesday Club, CHAS, and Alzheimer's Research. We really appreciate everyone's generosity.

There will be an exhibition of 'Fused Glass by Jo' this month Please do come along, it may inspire you to join a class!

Tuesday 4th February, at 5pm, is the next meeting of the Book Club who will be discussing 'Four Mums in a boat' and 'Dissolution'.

Our Craft Group will meet on Mondays 3rd, 10th, and 24th February at 2pm. As part of East Lothian Council's Active Arts programme these are drop-in sessions so no need to sign up for a term. Our tutor Georgina brings a variety of fun and interesting projects for the group to make.

The Knit and Natter ladies get together on Tuesday mornings, 11am-1pm. Please bring along knitting, crochet or any needlework and enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

Thursday afternoons, 2.30-4.30pm – The Coastal Art Group meet in the Library, from beginners to accomplished artists. Everyone is welcome.

Our Bookbug sessions for babies and toddlers up to 5 years are held on Friday mornings at 10.30am, Research has shown that the more time spent reading, singing and interacting with little ones the more intelligent they are as they grow up!

There is a Story time for Tots at 10.30am on Tuesday 4th February.

Lego Club is on 7th, 21st and 28th February at 3pm. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

For anyone wishing to speak to a local councillor, Fiona O'Donnell is holding surgeries in the Library on 12th and 26th February between 5-6pm.

S.W.I.

The next meeting is on 12th February, at 7.30pm in the church hall, when Corinne Gordon will be talking about British Divers Marine Life Rescue. The competition is Violet or Iris in any medium.

FUN QUIZ NIGHT on Friday 6th March, in Longniddry Community Centre at 7.15pm. Come in teams of up to six people. Bring your own drinks and snacks. Tickets £6 per person from Ros Stewart (852003). All proceeds to Inner Wheel Charities.

LONGNIDDRY TENNIS CLUB QUIZ

Tickets are now available for this year's quiz being held at the Longniddry Scout Hall at 7pm on Saturday 29th February. Cost £10 including food. Teams of approximately 8, but we can also organise you into a team if do not have full team. It's a great way to catch up with friends and celebrate this leap year. Please contact longniddrytennis@gmail with required number of tickets. Thanks.

THANK YOU

The family of Connie Millar; George, Alan and Hazel, would like to thank everyone for their kind cards and letters following Connie's sad passing in November. They wish to express their deep appreciation to those who attended Connie's Service of Thanksgiving and to Rev Dr Robin Hill for his sensitive and comforting words. They would also like to convey their gratitude to neighbours and friends for their continued support and friendship.

Irene Skinner and family would like to thank all friends and neighbours for all their kind thoughts and condolences, after the loss of Jim. We would also like to thank Robin for his comforting service.

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