

LONGNIDDRY CHURCH MAGAZINE

APRIL 2020

MINISTER: REV ROBIN HILL

A message from Robin, our minister:

On 25th March the Church of Scotland updated its instructions as to a new way of being church during this coronavirus crisis: for the time being all churches are closed for all gatherings for worship.

What does all this mean? First of all:

Sunday services will be suspended until further notice.

Instead, sermons, prayers and other worship materials will be made available Sunday by Sunday using the congregation's website and our weethought.com site. We are also looking at print options which could be introduced in due course.

In addition, Longniddry Parish Church is actively setting up a Longniddry Community Care initiative, in close co-operation with East Lothian Council. This will involve a large team of trusted volunteers who are church members or friends of the congregation, offering a range of different services for people facing voluntary isolation or illness:

- Regular phone calls to those who are alone or in need;
- Shopping delivery;
- Picking up prescriptions; and
- posting letters and parcels.

Of course, no-one can predict the scale of the crisis which we are currently entering, but we in Longniddry Parish Church are committed to working with our neighbours, councils and parliaments to see that human need is met wherever possible.

To find out more, please contact our care team's co-ordinator, Sheila Jamieson on 07927 400437.

We're here to help you!

With blessings and very best wishes at this troubling time,

Robin

Rev Dr Robin Hill

Minister, Gladsmuir linked with Longniddry

THROUGH THE YEAR WITH ROBIN

With Easter, God has the last word. After all the suffering and the sadness, the doubting and the betrayal, the torture and the death, God has the final, definitive word, and that is what makes Easter the Church's most significant festival. This divine decisiveness is summed up neatly in the Bible. A few weeks after the Resurrection, the once failed and failing disciple Peter tells it like it is to the people:

Jesus of Nazareth ... this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.

Many terrible things (deceit, murder and more besides) came together to take the life of Jesus, leaving Good Friday a place of appalling desolation, "but God ...".

The theologian Anthony B. Robinson has written powerfully about this. His words resonate for us at this period of crisis and tragedy in our world of 2020:

When it seems the end has come, "but God." When you see no way forward or out, "but God." When death has done its work and it seems all hope is gone, "but God." Because of these two little words ... everything is different now.

Times are so hard the world over ... but God's Easter love points us to a power that is greater than the power of death.

The Lord is Risen. He is Risen indeed. Alleluiah!

Robin Hill

SESSION CLERK'S CORNER

Recent weeks have seen growing anxiety over the spread of the coronavirus, COVID-19. Outbreaks of respiratory illness, which started in Wuhan, China, have now spread across the world, bringing illness to some and fear to many more.

During March the Church of Scotland issued guidance to congregations over how to respond to the coronavirus. The first clear (and now familiar) message is the need for constant vigilance. Frequent hand-washing with soap, and the use of strong hand sanitising fluid in public places are two of the measures constantly being urged. Tissues used to catch coughs and sneezes should be used and binned immediately (followed by further hand-washing to kill germs).

But as we go to print the Church has urged all congregations to cancel their regular services. Longniddry Church has decided to do this, to help keep our vulnerable members safe and help slow the spread of the virus and hence reduce the pressure on our NHS. The Kirk Session had already decided to cancel several groups in order to protect those most vulnerable to the virus. There is a note later in the magazine about these.

As Robin says elsewhere, we are looking at new ways of delivering elements of a Sunday service and we are also going to deliver, in conjunction with others in the village, a service to help support those who have to self-isolate.

The next few months will be a challenging time for us all. But God gave us brains and ingenuity – in spades. He gave each one of us many other skills and talents. He now calls on us all to use them like never before. And He is by our sides to help us do so. I have absolutely no doubt that the good folk of Longniddry will step up to the challenge and we will emerge stronger and even better than before.

COVID-19 AND LONGNIDDRY CHURCH

The Business Committee of the Kirk Session was tasked by the Session with developing our response to the Covid-19 virus. The Committee has been in constant communication over the last few days and will continue to work together on this over the next few months. We have made some key decisions.

Firstly, our focus is to help anyone who has to self-isolate and to play our part in slowing the spread of the virus. We know that everyone over 70 is being encouraged to reduce their contact with others and, in the case of those with underlying health conditions, self-isolate. To this end we have agreed to cancel the following until further notice:

- All Church services
- 2nd Saturday coffee mornings
- the Monday afternoon Singing Group
- the Wednesday Club
- Sporting Memories group in the Church
- Guild meetings
- Bell Plates/The Clangers
- Midweek Communion and Prayer group
- Film Club
- Path of Renewal groups
- Traidcraft Stall
- Lent study course
- Gospel Choir

For the time being we will continue to:

- deliver Church magazines
- provide hospital transport
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JARS OF GRACE

If you have been collecting coins for our “Mobile Mums” refugee appeal in its goal to provide eighty new mums with bus passes, please deliver your jar to either Douglas Clarke, 52 Douglas Road, or to Peter Helmn, 4 King’s Park, on or after Easter Sunday (12th April). We will extend the deadline for the jars’ return at least to the end of May and potentially beyond – an opportunity to drop even more coins into your jar perhaps! Meanwhile ... happy collecting. (It really will make a BIG difference to the life-changing work of the Glasgow-based Refugee Survival Trust!)

A PRAYER FOR OUR TIMES

God of all Love,

In this time of turbulence, I pray for wisdom for the leaders of our nations as they seek to meet the challenges facing the world.

I bring before you the current coronavirus crisis, recalling those who have died, those who are ill and those who watch anxiously for what is to emerge in days and weeks to come.

May your grace be at work through the decisions and actions of experts on the ground, policy makers, research scientists, health professionals and carers.

Bring courage and faith in the height of this crisis.

Bring love and care as we seek to serve our neighbour in need.

Bring wholeness and hope for a brighter future.

In Jesus' Name I pray. AMEN.

CHURCH DIARY

CHURCH MAGAZINE

The next church magazine will be the SEPTEMBER issue. All contributions for that should be given to the editor, in writing or by email, by SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST.

VILLAGE ROUND UP

THE SCOUT JUMBLE SALE has been postponed until later in the year.

LONGNIDDRY LIBRARY IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

COUNCILLOR SURGERIES Councillor surgeries, which are usually held in the community centre, have now been cancelled until further notice. Councillor Neil Gilbert can be contacted at ngilbert@eastlothian.gov.uk and Fiona O'Donnell on 07834337669 or email fodonnell@eastlothian.gov.uk.

LONGNIDDRY COMMUNITY CENTRE

All activities at Longniddry community centre are suspended until further notice.

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.

THANK YOU

Gillian and Amanda-Jane would like to thank everybody who attend John's Celebration of Life at Longniddry Church in January. The beautiful flowers, cards and kind thoughts were very much appreciated. We would like to thank Robin, Marion and the band for such a special service. £708 was raised from the retiral collection. This will be donated to Drummond Grange Nursing Home and will be used to provide activities for the residents.

CHURCH CONTACTS

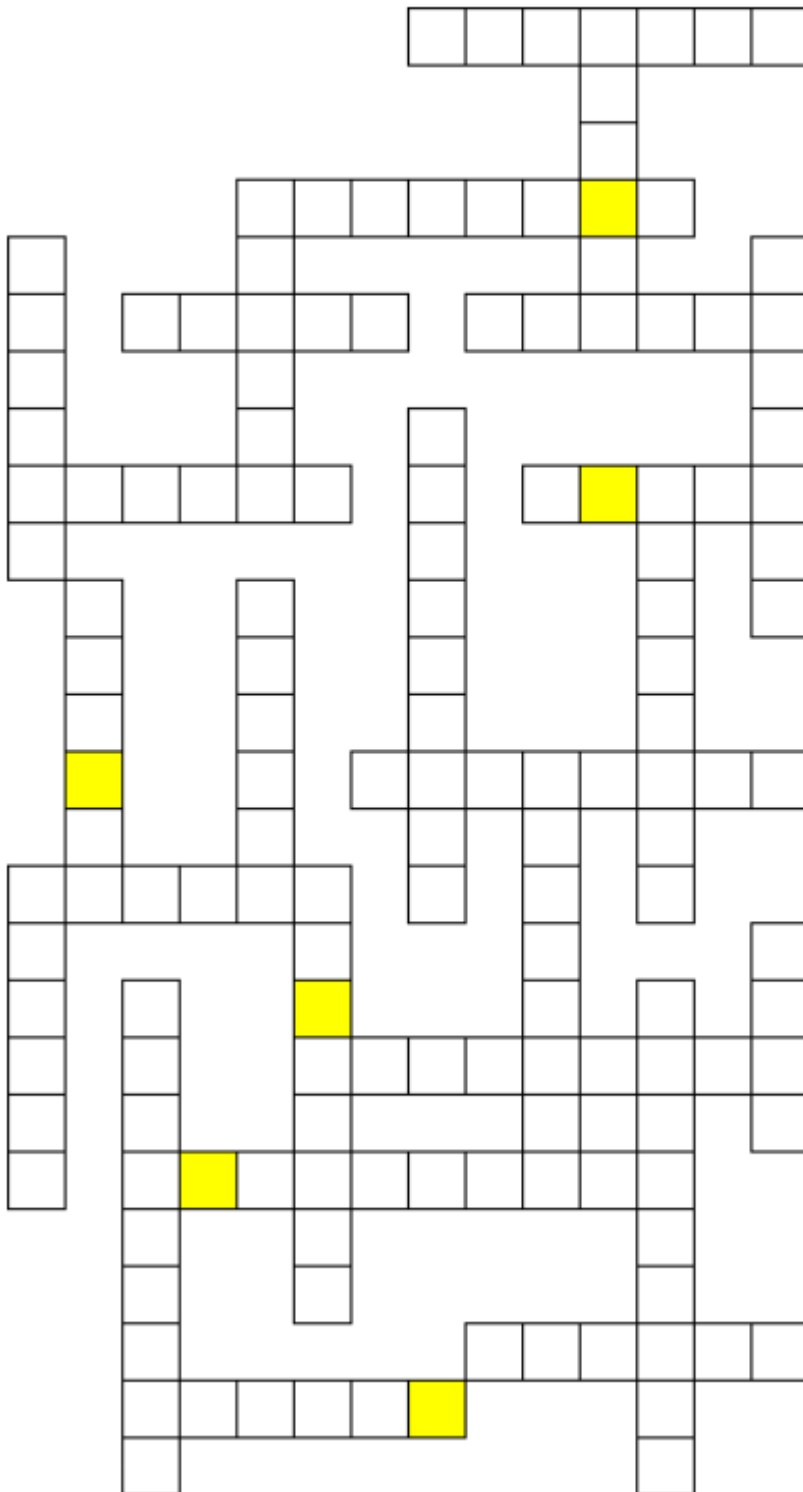
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|------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Minister | Rev Robin Hill | 853195 |
| Session Clerk | Abigail Morrison | 853467 |
| Treasurer | Douglas Clarke | 853017 |
| Transport | Sheila Jamieson | 852068 |
| | June Condie | 852136 |
| Hall Bookings | Robin Cuthbertson | 852919 |
| Magazine Editor | Nicola Clarke | 853017 |
| | 52 Douglas Road | (Email Nicolaclarke52@btinternet.com) |

www.longniddrychurch.org.

AND FINALLY ... here are two puzzles:

CRISS-CROSS 03

Can you fit the words correctly into the grid? The letters in the yellow boxes will spell out another word.



4 letter word

ROME

5 letter words

PARIS

SOFIA

6 letter words

ATHENS

BERLIN

DUBLIN

LISBON

MADRID

PRAGUE

VENICE

VIENNA

WARSAW

ZAGREB

ZURICH

7 letter words

BELFAST

CARDIFF

8 letter words

BRUSSELS

BUDAPEST

FLORENCE

HELSINKI

SALZBERG

9 letter words

AMSTERDAM

BUCHAREST

EDINBURGH

STOCKHOLM

10 letter word

COPENHAGEN

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SEVERN
TAY
EDEN
RIBBLE
HUMBER

THAMES
SPEY
DEE
TYNE

TRENT
CLYDE
WITHAM
AIRE

GREAT OUSE
TWEED
TEME
TEES

WYE
AVON
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MEDWAY

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MERSEY