

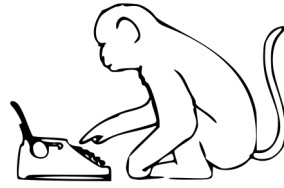
**NEWSLETTER OF HADDINGTON WEST,  
GARVALD AND MORHAM PARISH  
CHURCHES OF SCOTLAND  
AUTUMN EDITION**



# Contents

3	Just a minute....
4	Mission Statements
5	Letter from The Manse
6	Letter from The Manse
7	Weekly Bible Readings (Oct/Nov 2021)
8	Weekly Bible Readings (Nov/Dec 2021)
9	Haddington C A Newsletter
10	Haddington West Church Guild
11	Kirk Session News
12	Kirk Session News
13	Friendship Hour
14	West Church Family
15	Francis M. Ritchie - a dedication
16	Treasurers Update
17	Garvald & Morham news
18	News from Siliguri
19	Foodbank update
20	Church prayer
21	Breaktime - Laughter in Paradise
22	Breaktime - Laughter in Paradise
23	Church contacts

## Just a minute...



Hello!, I hope you have all enjoyed the warm Summer we've had this year. Although all things are still not yet as they once were, there are signs 'green shoots', of recovery. We're back singing in church; we're back to softer seats; we're back to having a chat after the service.

Over the summer, I was handed three books of cartoons by a political cartoonist; these were issued way back in 2002, 2009 & 2011. To go through these books of political cartoons reminds one of the great issues of the day; problems with the train service, looking for Osama bin Laden, the war on terror, the education debacle over schools exams etc. These all were, or at least seemed, important and grave at the time.

Now, as we crawl warily out of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is wise to remember the words of Abraham Lincoln - "This too, shall pass"

**Robert Wright**

**EDITOR**

P.S. IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE, OR PREFER, AN ONLINE COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE LET ME KNOW. ADDITIONALLY, IF ANYONE WOULD PREFER A LARGE PRINT EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER, DO PLEASE LET ME KNOW.



## **West Church Mission Statement**

To bring everyone to Jesus  
To build them up in the Christian faith  
To set them free by God's grace  
To send them out to bring others in.

## **Garvald and Morham Churches Vision**

'Garvald and Morham Parish Churches exist to bring people together in God's love, guiding them to a personal faith in Jesus Christ. To give them a basis on which to live good and caring lives to the benefit of the local and wider community, thereby glorifying God'.

## Letter from the Manse

*Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat – for he grants sleep to those he loves.” (NIV)*

What of the process of the church's restructuring that is now underway and will change the face of the C of S throughout the nation? Not many a local church will remain unaffected by the proposed restructuring, including our own. What will it mean and how will it all turn out?

There is, of course, a wide range of opinions and reactions to the proposed changes. Many look to what is coming with feelings of uncertainty, more with a sense of things ending than a sense of new beginnings, wondering, if not sceptical about it, whether the decisions leading to closures, unions, ministry reductions, the creation of team ministries and the formation of parish groupings etc. are all intending what is right and reflect *spiritual* discernment.

However, all this may be, there is an element of 'needs must' about it which the church has no choice but to recognise. And it is not now the time to look forward by looking backward, to ask, 'How can we secure as little change as possible?', but to seek and discern the will of God in the changes that are coming. We must acknowledge that unless God builds the house our building labours shall be in vain and seek to be the kind of builders through whom God himself shall build.

The question how things will turn out is relevant with regard to the church as the body of those who believe in Jesus Christ, because they are the builders and guards whose labours and diligence shall not be in vain. which is at work by the Spirit through faith in Christ.

Continued on page 6

Is not this then what is called for that we de-emphasise what we are in and of ourselves and seek to grow in Christ? May God give us grace to do so, through repentance and faith. He knows the way for his church and He will guide us.

JOHN VISCHER

Here follows a collection of readings for Sundays through October to December – for personal meditation. ‘The primary qualification demanded in the reader of the Bible is not scholarship but surrender, not expert knowledge but willingness to be led by the Spirit of God.’ (Martin Anstey)

### **Week beginning Sunday Oct 17**

Micah 6 v 8: *“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”*

Mark 10 v 2-9,10-12, 13-16 & 2 Corinthians 3 v 3 -9

### **Week beginning Sunday Oct 24**

Romans 12 v 21. *“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good”*.

Matthew 5 v 38-48 & Ephesians 6 v 10-17

### **Week beginning Sunday Oct 31**

Psalms 130 v 4: *“But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.”*

Matthew 18 v 21-35 & Romans 7 v 14-25

### **Week beginning Sunday Nov 7**

Matthew 5 v 9: *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”*

Luke 17 v 20-30 & Romans 8 v 18-25

### **Week beginning Sunday Nov 14**

2 Corinthians 5 v 10 *“We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.”*

Matthew 25 v 31-46 & Romans 14 v 1-13

Matthew 25 v 1-13 & Revelations 21 v 1-7

### **Week beginning Sunday Nov 21**

Luke 12 v 35: *"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning."*

Matthew 25 v 1-13 / Revelations 21 v 1-7

### **Week beginning Sunday Nov 28**

Zechariah 9 v 9: *"See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious."*

Matthew 21 v 1-11 & Romans 13 v 8-12

### **Week beginning Sunday Dec 5**

Luke 21 v 28: *"Stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."*

Isaiah 63 v 15 to 64 v 3 & Luke 21, v 25-33

### **Week beginning Sunday Dec 12**

Isaiah 40 v 3 -10: *"Prepare the way for the Lord; see, the Sovereign LORD comes with power."*

Isaiah 40 v 1-11 & Luke 1 v 67-79

### **Wb Sunday Dec 19**

Philippians 4 v 4-5: *"Rejoice in the LORD always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all, the Lord is near."*

Isaiah 62 v 1-5 & Lk 1 v 46-55

### **Week beginning Dec 26**

Psalms 116 v 15-17: *"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servants. I will sacrifice a thank-offering to you and call on the name of the LORD."*

Acts 6 v 8-15 & 7 v 55-60 & Luke 2 v 29-32



## Newsletter from Haddington Churches CA Group

**Thank you** to all who supported **Christian Aid Week** this year in any way, either as a volunteer or as a donor.

**The total raised was £5132** which was made up as follows:

£1847 was returned through Norman Craig's shop.

£1233 was handed directly to organising committee members, including some large cheques.

£ 983 was raised through the Haddington Churches JustGiving page.

£ 100 is for an additional cheque which came in just last week.

£ 969 was the value of the KiltWalk.

The Haddington Churches Christian Aid Group **was commended in the Scottish Parliament!**

It was reported in the East Lothian Courier on 15<sup>th</sup> July by our favourite reporter, Cameron Ritchie:

~~~~~  
Haddington's Christian Aid group, which involves Holy Trinity Scottish Episcopal Church, St Mary's Parish Church and the Haddington West Church Parish Church of Scotland, raised more than £5,000 for the good cause.

Paul McLennan, MSP for East Lothian, highlighted the efforts of the volunteers, with more than 50 delivering nearly 4,000 envelopes during Christian Aid Week. Other volunteers took part in the Virtual Kiltwalk to help raise funds.

The motion, which was supported by Musselburgh MSP Colin Beattie, said: "That the Parliament congratulates Haddington's churches and residents on raising £5,000 for the Christian Aid Week Drive; notes what it sees as the importance of the theme for 2021, Climate Justice, which is addressing the impact that climate change is having on both the natural environment and people in the poorest and most vulnerable countries; commends this year's campaign featuring a community in Kenya that helped to build an earth dam to protect it from the adverse effects of unpredictable climate extremes; acknowledges the impact it believes that donations will have on hard-hit communities devastated by drought, and applauds the community in Haddington for their donations and kindness."

## **HADDINGTON WEST CHURCH GUILD**

It is with regret and sadness that the West Church Guild Committee feel it is no longer viable for our Guild to continue.

As most of the committee are now, or about to be, in their eighties, they feel the time has come to retire. Most of them have been involved for 40-50 years, either as a committee member, president, treasurer or secretary – and some have served in all these capacities over the years.

Due to the present Covid 19 situation, we had no meetings in the 2020-2021 session, and due to the present ongoing uncertainties, there will be no 2021-2022 session.

Our membership has dropped and there is no new young blood coming to the fore to carry on. Until 2019 we participated in all the Guild activities, being in the Guild Together (all the guilds in Lothian East Presbytery) and going to their joint meetings and rallies. Nationally we supported the Guild Partner projects which raised money for many different charities and good causes. The six projects for the three years 2018-2021 raised £638,000. In 2019 we managed to give our chosen project £200 and paid our full annual fees to the central Guild office, despite being unable to meet. We felt we had met our Guild commitment.

The West Church Guild was founded in 1932, so in what would have been our eighty-ninth year, we very sadly bring our Guild to a close.

Margaret H Coe

## NEWS FROM THE KIRK SESSION

With COVID-19 vaccines having a positive effect and restrictions being lifted by the Government and the Church of Scotland, this is a time to look forward. In addition to us being allowed to serve refreshments and therefore to have a time of fellowship after each Sunday service, other restrictions are being lifted. At the Kirk Session meeting on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, the following changes were agreed by the Elders:

The Kirk Session may meet in person if that is the wish of those involved. Small groups may restart – e.g. Bible Study and the Prayer group. We may formally transport some of the congregation to church if there is a need. Please note that while fan heaters may be switched on before the sanctuary or hall are used, they must be switched off while people are in those parts of the premises. Between that and the need for good ventilation, you might like to consider wearing warm clothing.

The other restrictions which have been adopted by our church as a result of COVID-19 will remain in place for the moment.

During the summer you may have noticed roofers at work on our church roof and at the manse. This was a costly affair, not because of the size of the job, but because rope access had to be used in order that we complied with the current Health and Safety legislation.

Sadly, but understandably, both the Guild and the Friendship Hour organisers have decided that they will not re-start this autumn as the numbers attending prior to the COVID -19 lockdown were low. Over the years it has supported many causes and provided a time of fellowship to those who have attended its meetings. On behalf of John and the Kirk Session, I would like to thank Mrs. Aileen Bennie, Mrs. Margaret Coe and Mrs. Jacqueline Waugh, who have been running the organisation in recent times.

Continued on

page 12

The Fellowship Hour too, has been in place for many years. It was started by Mrs. Margaret Edmond in order to give people in the town, whether they were church members or not, an opportunity to come together. On behalf of John and the Kirk Session I would like to thank Mrs. Beryl McNeill, Mrs. Charlotte Crawford and Mrs. Janet Cousin for running the Friendship Hour. Our thanks also go to everyone who participated in these organisations.

At Harvest Thanksgiving, a visitor to our church, Tobias Siegenthaler, preached the sermon. Tobias is Swiss and currently training to be a minister at St. Andrew's University. We wish him every success as he continues his studies.

The local churches are going to join together, as has been the pattern in the past, for Armistice Sunday. However, because there will be a restriction on numbers due to physical distancing, there is likely to be a representation from our church rather than the event being open to anyone. Further details will be available later on our website, on our Facebook page and on our notice board.

With God's love and blessings

**Brenda (Session Clerk)**

## **FRIENDSHIP HOUR**

It is with great sadness that the Friendship Hour Committee has decided that the meetings can no longer continue due to age and health problems.

The group was started many years ago by Mrs Barbara Powell, Mrs Margaret Edmond and others. Mrs Betty Scott was the pianist. The meetings were intended for all senior citizens in the Haddington area; with or without church connections. The group met on alternate Thursday afternoons from October to Easter and began with a short time of worship followed by a talk on a specific topic. The topics were many and various, ranging from the work of the Bible Society to talks about special holidays and often included slides or films. Every year there was a Christmas message and an Easter message given by one of the ministers in the area. Each meeting finished with tea, cake and a blether! In November, there was a Christmas shopping trip to the Woollen Mill and each May a summer outing was arranged. These events were eagerly awaited. We are sure that many will have happy memories of the Friendship hour.

**Beryl, Charlotte & Janet**

## WEST CHURCH FAMILY

It is with great sorrow, we note the passing of

### **SHEENA MABBERLEY**

Sheena was a current member of the West Church and will be sadly missed.

### **MARGARET CASSIE**

On Thursday 26 August there was a well-attended memorial service in the West Church for Margaret Cassie, formerly of Caponflat Crescent, who died in Croatia on 5 August at the age of 83, after a short illness, while staying with her older daughter Shirley, where she recently enjoyed a very happy birthday with her whole family - her two daughters, sons in law and her five grandchildren.

She was a long-standing member of the West Church and maintained contact with it through her Elder.

**FRANCES MARGARET RITCHIE**  
**1st February 1924 - 25 September 2021**

"She was known as a people person; kind and loving." These were some of the words used by the minister at Mayfield Salisbury Church in Edinburgh to celebrate the life of Frances Ritchie. Born in Aberdeen, we heard of her earliest years and right on till her sad passing on 25th September, after nine years of Alzheimer's disease. Not only did she care for her family, but she also reached out to strangers, some from overseas, and indeed she had contacts in many parts of the globe.

The tribute given by Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth was preceded and followed by photos on the screen, in beautiful detail, all prepared by Sarah, Madeleine and Duncan, her daughters and son. One showed The Manse on West Road, and her time spent with her husband at this church until 1980 was of course described. Personally my parents and I talked often of how Frances had welcomed us here, as I am sure many people had been.

At the end of the service, Scottish dance music was played accompanying photos on screen of Frances' favourite places in her beloved Aberdeen. It was a lovely celebration conveying details of her character, her fun and love of others through a very long life, a life lived to the full.

**I.N.Pilkington**

## **Treasurer's Update**

The month of September is a very important month in the church's financial calendar. The church is required by the end of September to submit its approved accounts to OSCR the charities regulator, in order that we may submit a Gift Aid claim in December to HMRC. This has been done. You may recall the last claim produced a payment of £6,821.71.

Our Ministry and Mission costs are the most significant monthly payment we have, currently at £3,229.89. The Church of Scotland have asked me to confirm that the West Church will be in a position to pay this monthly amount next year. Whilst next year's payment will be reduced by about £30.00 per month, I am pleased to advise you, that without major financial changes and after looking at the financial projections for next year I have been able to confirm that we will. This will of course depend on the continuing generosity of our members.

It may be some time away. However, I have received Freewill Offering envelopes for 2022. For those currently who have envelopes you will receive the new ones in December. If you don't currently use these envelopes and wish to do so, please speak to your elder or myself. Prior to you receiving new envelopes we would like to know if you pay income tax or not.

Finally, I hope and pray that you and yours keep safe and well in today's challenging environment.

**God Bless**

**Ray Silcox**

**[haddingtonwesttreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:haddingtonwesttreasurer@gmail.com)**



## **GARVALD & MORHAM NEWS**

We had a really wonderful baptism yesterday (10th October ) with a lovely family who has been coming to our church for over a year. The family stayed for coffee with us after and even provided delicious chocolatey biscuit cake, made by Mum and big sister, for us all to share.

The village and the congregation are collecting for the Food Bank again as we did last year.



We are having our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 31st October at Garvald at 9.30 am.

The Christmas Eve services will be at 6 pm in Garvald and 11.30 pm at Morham.

## **News from Siliguri**

. Miku was quite unwell after contracting Covid 19 and was admitted to hospital. He was in hospital for about 2 months, but is now home and recovering well. He feels very blessed and thanks every one for their prayers. The Harvest Thanksgiving collection is being sent out to help with on-going projects within the different churches attached to our partner church Siliguri. We pray and send our blessings to them. We ask you to keep them in your prayers as they continue to do likewise for us.

The West Church recently raised £190.83 for the Siliguri Church and this was gratefully received.

**Thank you all. Jacqueline**





We continue to give to the foodbank in the old library in Tranent. They are extremely grateful for all your contributions. May I please draw your attention to the Jingle bags again. They ask for donations to help the people to have and enjoy a Good Christmas Dinner and maybe even a small gift. There is more information in the Courier. They usually like the bags the first and second weeks in December to give them time to arrange delivery to the recipients. Just bring them to the Church or telephone me on 01620 825007. **JACQUELINE**

### **THE JINGLE BAG SHOPPING LIST**

- Chicken/turkey (tinned)
- Carrots (tinned)
- Gravy (packet)
- Stuffing (packet/box)
- Custard
- Biscuits
- Chocolates/Selection pack
- Potatoes (tinned or packet mash)
- Peas (tinned)
- Bread sauce (packet)
- Christmas pudding
- Mince pies



## **PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCHES**

Heavenly Father, you do not compel us to serve you, but you invite us rather to respond to your love. You do not impose your will upon us or dictate the course we should take.

Instead, you offer your guidance, giving us signposts to walk your way. Ultimately leaving the decisions we must make, in our hands.

We thank you for this wonderful expression of trust, the freedom to choose and discover for ourselves. We would ask that you help us choose wisely, trusting you in return. Seeking, so far as we understand, to honour your will.

Give us wisdom and courage to make the right decisions at the right time and in the right place to the glory of your name.

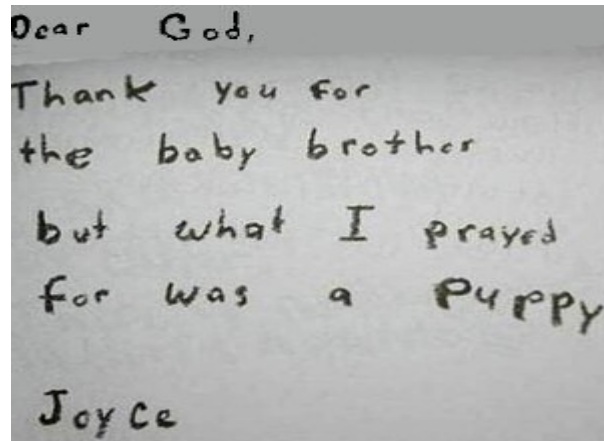
Amen

C. CRAWFORD

## LAUGHTER IN PARADISE?

Going over our church finances I found a receipt from a local paint store signed by someone named Christian. I wasn't aware of anyone buying paint, so I called the store to point out its mistake 'I'm sorry,' I told the manager, 'but there are no Christians here at St Paul's Church.'

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Dear God,  
Thank you for  
the baby brother  
but what I prayed  
for was a puppy  
Joyce

---



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

Darlene was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, 'Grandpa, did God make you?' 'Yes, darling,' he answered, 'God made me a long time ago.' 'Oh,' Darlene paused, 'Grandpa, did God make me too?' 'Yes, indeed, poppet,' he said, 'God made you just a little while ago.' Feeling their respective faces again, Darlene observed, 'God's getting better at it, isn't he?'

A woman named Edna finds herself in dire trouble. Her business has gone bust and she's in serious financial trouble. She's so desperate that she decides to ask God for help. She begins to pray...' God, please help me. I've lost my business and if I don't get some money, I'm going to lose my house as well. Please let me win the lotto.' Lotto night comes and somebody else wins it. Edna again prays.... 'God, please let me win the lotto! I've lost my business, my house and I'm going to lose my car as well.' Lotto night comes and Edna still has no luck. Once again, she prays, 'My God, why have you forsaken me?? I've lost my business, my house, and my car. My children are starving. I don't often ask you for help and I have always been a good servant to you. PLEASE, just let me win the lotto this one time so I can get my life back in order. Suddenly there is a blinding flash of light as the heavens open and Edna is confronted by the voice of God Himself: 'Edna, meet Me halfway on this. Buy a ticket.'

Michael, the local vicar at St Mary's, is talking to one of his parishioners. Michael remarks, 'When you get to my age you spend a lot more time thinking about the hereafter.' 'Why do you say that?' enquires the parishioner. Michael, the pastor replies, 'Well, I often find myself going into a room and thinking what did I come in here after.'

## Contact Details

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### Facebook:

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Articles for the newsletter, clearly marked as such, can be sent in anytime, to: [robertrwright@outlook.com](mailto:robertrwright@outlook.com)

Haddington West Parish Church (Church of Scotland)