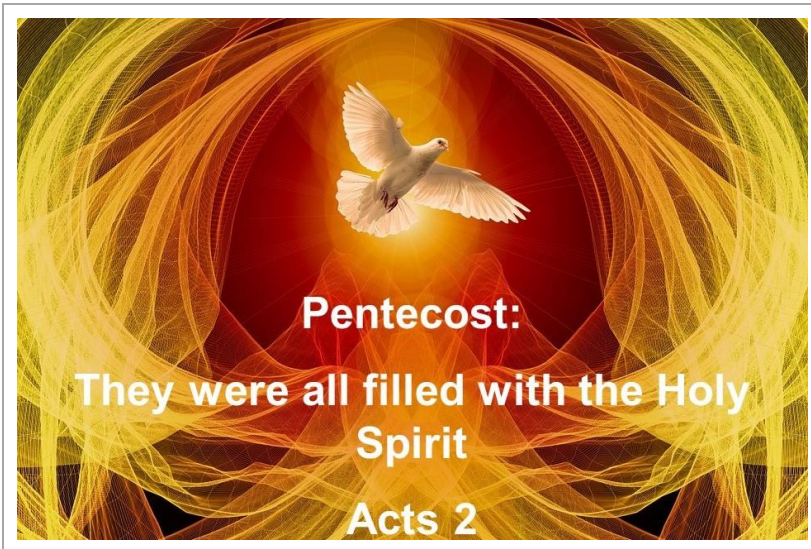




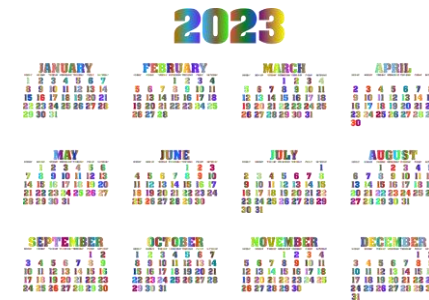
loanhead
parish church

creating a place for everyone

Loanhead Parish Church Magazine May 2023



Dates for Your Diary



14th-20th May – Christian Aid Week

Tue 16th May – Pastoral Care Afternoon Tea with Gary Coupland

Wed 24th May – 2pm Traditional Midweek Service

Sun 28th May – 10.30am Family Service followed by Pentecost Party!

Sun 4th June – 10.30am Formal Communion Service (retiring offering for Christian Aid)

Sun 4th June – 7pm Midlothian Churches Praise Event @Gorebridge Church

Sun 11th June – 10.30am Morning service, Rev. Norman Smith

Sun 18th June – 10.30am Morning Service

Sat 24th June – Loanhead Gala Day – Teas in Main Hall and Takeaway rolls, hot drinks and home baking in small hall

Sunday 25th June – 10.30am Family Service

Wed 28th June – Pastoral Care Car trip to Peebles – more details to follow

Sun 2nd July – 10.30am Morning Service, Informal Communion

Sun 9th, 16th, 23rd July – 10.30am Traditional Morning Services

Sun 30th July, 6th & 13th August – 10.30am Family Services

Sun 20th August – 10.30am Morning Service

Sun 27th August – 10.30am Family Service

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

Earlier in the year I took part in an online group looking at the topic “Go the Distance” through Fuller Seminary. Facilitated by two coaches it was designed to help people take some time to step back from all they were doing. The descriptor for the course said:

“If you’re feeling a bit weary or need a little boost to help you persevere on your path, Go the Distance helps you re-imagine your future and take steps toward it. It will give you a sense of renewal and equip you to enter your next season with more intentionality as you take steps to live in alignment with God’s calling.”

As I read that in January it felt like a perfect fit as I stepped back from some Presbytery responsibilities I had been carrying, whilst taking on the additional responsibilities for Bilston and Roslin. I also though had that sense that many of us carried, that the start of 2023 felt very like the end of 2022; that fresh starts were in short supply.

The time the course gave and the opportunity to stand back and reflect was hugely beneficial and has helped me move to a place where I am beginning to develop a better balance for life. Part of that is sharing responsibilities for different areas of church life with others and I am grateful to those who are stepping into new responsibilities leading areas of ministry in the church (more later in the magazine) – and those continuing in roles they already hold. I think all of this will serve the church well as less relies on me personally.

That action of stepping back and reflecting is, I believe, important for each of us and perhaps you would benefit from taking time to do that. If you would appreciate help or a short course to do that please speak to me and we will see what might be organised or what support we might offer.

Within church life though I continue to be encouraged – particularly in having 11 people join the church by profession of faith. Alongside that, others have moved into the area and joined the church. Working with the

new members has undoubtedly been the highlight for me recently - seeing them grow in faith and being eager to play their part in the life of the church. My prayer recently has been that this will simply be first fruits – that we will see many others drawn into faith and into the family of the church. Please share in that prayer with me.

As we look towards the summer – hoping for warmer weather than we have had recently – our pattern for the summer services will continue as before with 3 weeks of traditional services followed by 3 weeks of family services. I do hope to see you over that period – and in the services in May and June as we share together in different ways. We are trying hard to make sure that we organise a range of different worship events that enable people to engage in meaningful ways in worship, from a contemporary praise night with other churches on Sunday 4th June through to a new traditional midweek service on Wednesday 24th May.

There will also be lots of opportunities to share socially with our Pentecost Party, a midweek car trip to Peebles and an end of term BBQ at the manse (which I haven’t yet organised but will!)

All signs of healthy church life as we share together, which I don’t take for granted. I pray you too will be encouraged in this.

With love in Christ
Graham Duffin

Summer Term

New Midweek service

We are trialing a new midweek service for those who prefer a more traditional style of worship. Led by the minister (who will be wearing his clerical collar!) all of the hymns will be drawn from the hymn book and led by the organ.

The first of these will be on **Wednesday 24th May at 2 p.m.** Tea and coffee will be available after the service.

If you would like to attend and need picked up by car please let the minister, Mary Millan or Alison Chalmers know and we will arrange this.

Pentecost Party

Pentecost marks the beginning of the church as the Holy Spirit was sent and thousands came to faith. Following the success of our church Christmas party, we are marking Pentecost this year with a church party after the morning service on **Sunday 28th May**. Join us for lunch with a party theme and some party games!

If you can help with catering please speak to Audrey McLaren or Louise Ferguson.

Communion Service - Sunday 4th June

Four times a year for our more formal communion services, we have returned to the elements being on the communion table at the front of the church and distributed during the service. We are also re-introducing retiring offerings, with the retiring offering after our June communion for Christian Aid.

Midlothian Churches Praise Event

A praise event is being held on Sunday 4th June in Gorebridge Church at 7p.m. for all of the Church of Scotland congregations in Midlothian. This follows two successful events hosted in Penicuik and Bonnyrigg. The next event in the Autumn will be at Loanhead.

Services over the Summer

All services are at 10.30 a.m.

Sunday 25th June – Family Service

Sunday 2nd July – Morning Service – informal communion

Sundays 9th, 16th, 23rd July – traditional morning services – see note below

Sundays 30th July, 6th & 13th August – Family Services

Sunday 20th August – Morning Service

Sunday 27th August – Family Service

Note: on 9th, 16th & 23rd July there will not be any children's work during the services. Families are invited to meet together in the church hall where toys and WordSearches will be available, with the service being LiveStreamed onto the TV.

Church Groups

The Guild

We have almost reached the end of our year of “Wee Seeds, Big Trees” covering varied topics of interest along the way. In April Dr James Simpson OBE reminded us of the historical significance of Mavisbank House and again there is cautious optimism over the future of this wonderful architectural treasure.



A National Heritage Memorial Fund grant in the region of £5m would enable Landmark Trust to pursue phase one of a fresh plan to give Mavisbank House a vibrant and sustainable future. This vital phase would see the crumbling building and pavilions stabilised before any more historic fabric falls away, enable up-to-date condition surveys and resolve the long-standing ownership and access issues.



Dr Anna Keay OBE, Director of the Landmark Trust said “For 50 years this 18th-century gem, designed by William Adam and a trailblazer of the Scottish Enlightenment, has been in profound jeopardy: its ownership unknown, its condition parlous and its fabric inaccessible. Mavisbank is now at the end of its road: if a solution is not found, absolute loss is all but inevitable.”

At some of our meetings this year we have joined members of Bilston Guild, and vice versa and some of them will join us in June for our “end of term” floral tea.

We look forward to re-starting after the summer break with the new theme “NEW WINE, NEW WINESKINS”.

Why not come along and join us with a new syllabus which includes a presentation on the Land Army in Scotland amongst other topics. A warm welcome awaits.

Contact Mary Millan (07443 509037) for more information.

BBs

The Company section boys had a weekend away to Carronvale, meeting up with other boys from other companies. It was a busy and fun weekend. The Anchor boys enjoyed making King Charles III pencil pots before the Coronation. We have all been busy preparing for our Parents Night/Awards Presentation on 11th May and we are excited to be joined by the Lord Lieutenant of Midlothian who will be presenting the boys with their awards.



Volunteering Opportunities

Junior Church

We are so thankful for the members of the congregation who have volunteered to help support some of the children in Junior Church. This involves helping them with the activities being taught by the Junior Church staff, allowing their parents to stay in church for the sermon. This has had a huge impact, allowing Junior Church to run really smoothly and some parents to be able to enjoy the entire service where before they couldn't. We are doing this on a rota basis with people being on no more than once a month and dates organized to suit. Please contact Catriona canderson.lpc@gmail.com if you would like to join the rota.

Guiding

Always looking for adult volunteers, in particular for Guides and Brownies on a Monday evening. Contact Libby McAdam libby.paton@westendskoda.com

BBs

We are still looking for some volunteer helpers specifically for the Anchor Boys on a Wednesday evening from 6-7pm, but we could also accommodate other leaders for the Juniors on Wednesday evenings 7:15-8:45pm and Thursdays from 7-9pm for the Company section. Please pass this onto anyone who might be interested in helping. Contact Jane Davidson jmhdavidson@gmail.com

MOPS

We are really keen to recruit new volunteers so if you have a heart for mums and would like to help with meetings/discussion, childcare or hospitality, please contact Catriona canderson.lpc@gmail.com



Prayer Group & Prayer Tree

A small group meet each Thursday morning at 9.30 a.m. in the church or small hall to pray for others and for the work of the church. Everyone is welcome. Included in the prayers each week are the requests placed on the "prayer tree" in the church.

If you have a prayer request just pick up a piece of paper, write out your request and place it on the "tree." It will be included in the prayers on Thursday mornings. There is also a form on our website for prayer requests if you are unable to get along to the church.

Community Outreach

Community outreach has had a busy start to the year.

We delivered the Asda shopping cards, (funded by a Lottery grant), to local families and have continued to respond to a number of requests for help with food support. Thanks to those in our church family who have helped with the distribution of the shopping cards and for helping with the emergency food shopping. If you would like to help with this and be on standby to assist with shopping, please speak to Caroline Brownsell or Audrey McLaren.

The very positive contact established with the health visitor team before Christmas has continued to develop. The team is in touch with us on a frequent basis to request assistance for families in Loanhead. They tell us that it makes a big difference for them and the families they are working with, to be able to come to us, usually when they have exhausted all other avenues of support.

We have also been replenishing our stock of toys for Christmas 2023!! Last Christmas we used almost every last item and so need to steadily build our stock for this year, as funds allow and seeking out the bargain buys to make your donations go as far as possible!

Thank you to everyone who gives so generously to the community outreach fund. Your donations mean we can respond positively to the requests for support and reach some of the most vulnerable families and individuals in our community.

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Group continues to meet regularly to discuss ways in

which it can offer care, support and friendship to others. Please let us know if you become aware of anyone with whom it would be good for us to make contact.

On 23rd March we hosted a Soup Lunch followed by an informal Bingo Session. Several varieties of soup went down a treat as did the cake for afters and we all enjoyed a good chat. Then it was 'all eyes down' as the bingo callers, Norah and Theresa, efficiently kept everyone on their toes and the prizes were well earned!



We are now looking forward to an ever-popular afternoon tea with entertainment from Gary Coupland on Tuesday May 16th and we also have plans to organise a road trip for which some transport will be provided but, if you can, please come along in your own car and join us for an ice cream in Peebles. The proposed date for this is Wednesday 28th June but confirmation and further details will follow in due course.

Tea and Chat

Thank you for the continued support for the Tea and Chat Group which will enable us to donate to local charities at the end of the year.

Alastair & Sheena

Junior Church

We have worked hard to develop a programme where the children have been creating things to take home. These have been baking, and arts and crafts, which have tied in with the theme for the day. The children have been enjoying playing games and watching videos on each of the topics and having discussion around this. They also like bringing in what they have made to show the congregation.

Schools Work

We have been doing different topics within the schools and recently Loanhead and Paradykes came to the church to explore Easter Unpacked. During their time we were able to walk them through the last week of Jesus' life. The children were able to share interactively, taking part in waving palm branches as the crowd did when Jesus entered Jerusalem to getting their feet washed as Jesus did for his disciples.

We also have workshops within the schools in May using sports with faith based "water breaks".

Youth Group

We have continued to meet each Friday with a good number attending each week. There has been a group of around 8 who have been exploring different topics using clips from the Simpsons and linking these in with various bible passages and discussing how these relate to our lives.

Then we'll be taking a group of 25 away to Teen Ranch from 8th-10th September. The small group who went last year really enjoyed it and this time we have been able to increase the number who can attend.

Football Camp

The ever popular Football Camp will again run for a week over the summer (dates will be confirmed in June).



Session Clerk's Note

It is May already and still no signs of summer weather! However, in church there are good signs of growth. On Sunday 7 May we will have admitted eleven new members to the Church. These are mostly younger people and it is very encouraging that some have already taken on tasks within the church. We must all be supportive of the group as they join our church family and help them in their faith journeys.

Easter services went well with all three communities holding services during Holy Week and people from all areas attending each service.

As ever I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and hope that at some point you can enjoy some summer weather and relaxation.

Blessings to you all,
Margaret Hurst

Tribute

Wilma Cossar Someone who enjoyed the company of others, Wilma was heavily involved in the church in Kelty where she grew up. On moving to Loanhead when she got married, Wilma got involved in Loanhead Church, where she served as a Sunday school teacher and as an elder – even though she questioned when asked whether she was “good enough” to be an elder. Wilma built strong friendships with others around the church and was also involved in the Drama Group and Guild. Wilma took an interest in the wider work of the church and the Boys' Brigade and was always keen to support what was on the go, particularly financially. We remember her cousin Margaret and her family in our prayers.

Flowers

A huge thank you to Shelagh Jenkins for the stunning floral displays she created for Easter. If you would like to contribute to the Flower Fund please speak to Shelagh.



Crucifixion



Tomb



Resurrection

Church News



In April a new carpet was fitted to the transept (front area) of the church and is looking good. The previous carpet had been fitted at the time of the refurbishment 18 years ago.

A new sign has recently been purchased and fitted outside the church, including the church logo and strapline "creating a place for everyone."



New Members

The following new members joined by Profession of faith on Sunday 7th May: Kyle Anderson, Sam Fleming, Dean Matheson-Bowley, Paul Matheson-Bowley, Glen McDonald, Rylan McGuire, Shannon McGuire, Daniel McHale, Eilidh Phillips, Scott Ralston, Louise Scott.

The following have joined recently, having been members of other churches: Martin & Hoi Blackburn, Jane Davidson, Ian and Caroline Gillespie, Isabel Jackson, Leon So and Jolie Lin, Norman and Pauline Smith, Leslie and Lillias Steele.



New Members Course - Autumn

If you or someone you know is interested in joining a new members course in the Autumn please let the minister know.

Alpha Course

Alpha is a course which gives a good grounding in the Christian faith, with an opportunity to explore a series of questions over a 10 week course. Our latest Alpha Course is running on Tuesday evenings. This may run again in the Autumn if there is interest.

Union with Bilston/Parish Grouping with Roslin

Procedural issues with Presbytery continue to delay the union with Bilston and forming of the Parish Grouping with Roslin. However, we shared together in joint Holy Week Services, with a midweek service in each of the churches. These were well attended with people from all three churches sharing together in those. We will continue to look for ways of working together and supporting one another.

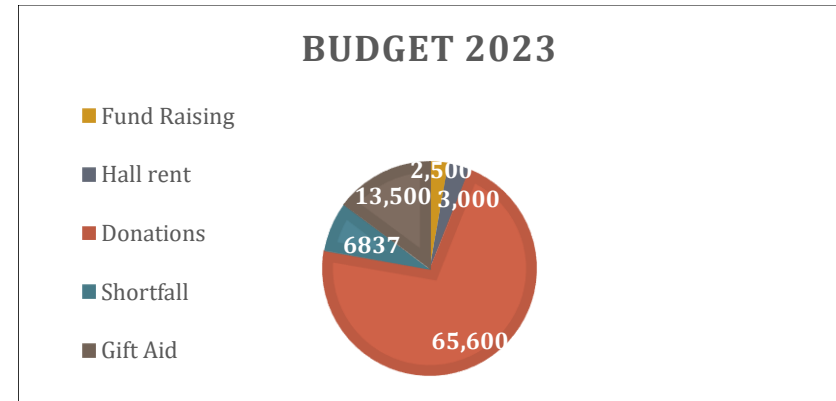
The formal Union and Parish Grouping is likely to take place after the summer.

Roslin have also had a change of Locum, with June Johnstone moving to an appointment in the Borders where she lives, and Rev John Mitchell (formerly minister at Bonnyrigg) taking over from her.

Financial Review

The 2022 accounts showed a surplus of around £4,000 in the main account. This allowed us to splash out and order the new carpet for the church!

Going forward, the financial situation is more challenging than it has been with two major factors. Firstly, the minister is no longer involved to the same extent in Presbytery work, and as a result the yearly reduction of £6,000 to what we pay to the national church has been withdrawn. Secondly, along with everyone else, our heating and lighting costs are increasing. This means that the budget shows a **projected deficit of around £7,000 for 2023.**



To work towards reducing this potential deficit, we will have an increased focus on Fundraising, are reviewing what we charge groups to use the church, and we will be encouraging members to review their giving.

Donation from Lunch club

A donation of almost £2,000 was received from the lunch club in 2022 when the group closed. This was in lieu of hall let fees that had been waived over the years for the lunch club. Our thanks to all of those involved in running this over the years and for their generosity in this.

Bequest from Alison McGlashan

A bequest of £2,000 from the late Alison McGlashan was received earlier this year, which is deeply appreciated. The thoughtfulness of Alison in including the church in her will was typical of her, someone who was quietly supportive, constantly encouraging without ever making a fuss. She worked for many years on the church magazine along with Ruby Haig.

Gift Aid

If you are a UK Taxpayer the church can reclaim the tax on your donations. Please fill out a Gift Aid declaration form if you haven't already. These are available at the church. Also if you no longer pay sufficient tax, please drop Angela an email to let her know. angstewart70@gmail.com

Treasurer

Jackie Easton has been appointed as Treasurer and we are grateful to Jackie for being willing to step into this role. Many thanks to Anne Allard,

Who has been treasurer for the last five years, and is now able to take a step back from this role. We very much appreciate Anne's work as Treasurer over this time.

Board and Session News

Moving forward, the Kirk Session and Congregational Board are going to be meeting less regularly and are delegating responsibilities to workgroups. If you would like to help or be involved in any of these, please speak to the person who will be coordinating the work of that group (see below). We would love to have more people involved, even for specific events/projects. If you have an idea for a fundraising event, can help out with gardening, visiting or whatever else, do make contact.

Pastoral Care – Alison Chalmers

Remit: Providing pastoral care within the church and community. Includes running events, delivering cards and flowers.

Community Outreach – Caroline Brownsell

Remit: Developing and sustaining the work of the church in supporting those in need in the community. Developing partnerships for this work.

Fabric & maintenance – Campbell Chalmers

Remit: Ensuring the buildings and grounds owned by the church are well maintained, with good records kept and all legislation complied with.

Finance – Graham Duffin/Jackie Easton

Remit: Oversee the finances of the church and promote stewardship within the congregation. Ensure appropriate records are kept, budgets produced, regularly reviewed, and reported on regularly to congregation.

Fundraising – Audrey McLaren

Remit: To facilitate the organization of fundraising events.

Children's, Youth & Family - Alan Duffin

Remit: Supporting and developing the work of the church with children, youth and families. Support for youth organisations and school's work.

Overseas support – Mary Millan

Remit: To develop our links with work in Rwanda, support the work of Christian Aid and of Project Stedfast in Kenya.

Administration/Legal & safety – Margaret Hurst

Remit: Date Protection, Safeguarding, Magazine, Orders of Service for Sundays, Rotas for Sunday responsibilities.

Mission & Discipleship – Amy Pickering

Remit: Groups, courses, events and mentoring for all ages and all stages of faith.

Christian Aid Week

This is Christian Aid week 14th-20th May. Please support the wonderful work they do by donating what you can (and completing the Gift Aid form if you are a UK Taxpayer).



Jen Bishop, a hard working mother in Malawi, is doing everything she can to earn the money for her children's education. She's growing a miracle crop – pigeon peas. But food, fuel, fertiliser and school fees have doubled in price in Malawi in the last 12 months. And harvests are failing.

Her hard working boys have earned places for further education in top colleges, but Jen can only afford to pay for one of her sons' college courses. Jen desperately needs to earn more, so that her oldest son Mathews can study as well. His place at a prestigious college is reserved for a year, so Jen remains hopeful that he'll be able to start his course.

Could you help this strong and determined mum provide for her family's future? Pick up an envelope or donate online.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>