



# THE NEW WELLWYNDER

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2025

Visit us at [www.newwellwynd.org.uk](http://www.newwellwynd.org.uk)

## Message from the Vestry:

Dear Friends,

Over the past month you may have been amongst those in our congregation who have enjoyed some planned events, and you may have been challenged by changes in the way we normally worship.

It was a joy to see the smiles and the genuine words of welcome expressed to our invited preachers as we celebrated 30 years of union between the West Parish Church and Wellwynd Church. Both visiting ministers told me that it wasn't the bricks and mortar that they missed, but the people, especially those involved in the activities of the church and those who witnessed to the wider community of Airdrie.

You may have been challenged over the past month during our celebration of Holy Communion, when instead of wine, we used red grapes to represent the blood of Christ. This change came as a surprise to all, except myself and the Session Clerk, and as I watched your faces as you bit into the grapes, I could imagine your minds at work. Perhaps you questioned the change or were troubled by the different sensations that the grape gave - some of you told me that it made Communion difficult, because you were forced to think more about the suffering of Christ than you normally would when you drank a sip of flavoured water.

Part of my job, and the job of any Minister, is to make you think afresh about God. To take God out of any box of understanding that you may have created for yourself, because God cannot be compartmentalised, his ways are often a surprise to us, and those surprises often come just when we think we know it all.

Perhaps the greatest surprise of all will come on the day we finally meet the Lord, as expressed in the following poem by J. Taylor Ludwig:

I was shocked, confused, bewildered, as I entered Heaven's door.  
Not by the beauty of it all, nor the lights or its decor.  
But it was the folks in Heaven, who made me sputter and gasp--  
The thieves, the liars, the sinners, the alcoholics, and the trash.  
There stood the kid from high school, who swiped my lunch money twice.  
Next to him was my old neighbour, who never said anything nice.  
Bob, who I always thought, was rotting away in hell,  
was sitting pretty on cloud nine, looking incredibly well.  
I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal? I would love to hear your take.  
How'd all these sinners get up here? God must've made a mistake.  
'And why is everyone so quiet, so sombre - give me a clue.'  
'Hush, child,' he said, 'they're all in shock.  
No one thought, they'd be seeing you.'

Your servant in Christ

**Les Brunger (Locum Minister)**

*'In a world full of people who couldn't care less, be someone who couldn't care more'*

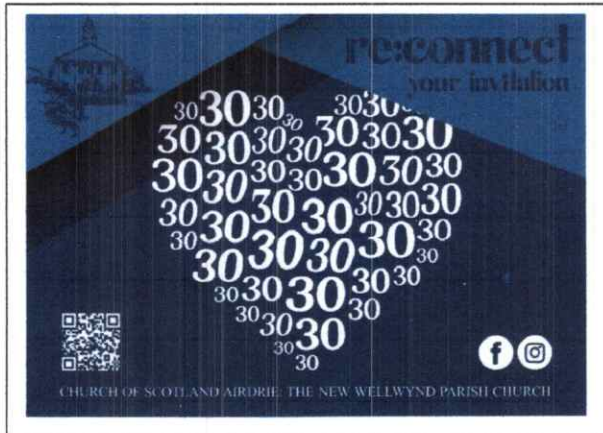
## Harvest Flowers

In preparation for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> October the Flower Conveners and team will be available in the Crush Hall on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> October from 10am to 12 noon to accept donations of flowers which will be used to decorate the Church and then distributed to household members of the congregation. If you are available on Sunday afternoon from 1.30pm to help deliver the flowers this would be greatly appreciated. Please advise Margaret Jack or Avril Cockburn of your availability.

*Avril and Margaret*



## Celebrating The New Wellwynd @ 30



How time flies .... It seems no time since we decided to celebrate the fact that the congregation was 30 years old on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and now it's past and gone.

However, despite this, it was nice to invite both Fraser with Susan and Robbie with Carol back to The New Wellwynd to be part of our celebrations. It was also good to invite Anne Paton, our Interim Moderator to take Delve in @ 12 and be part of this special time as well. On Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> September, as well as the All Age Address Story about the 17 camels to be divided amongst 3 brothers, Fraser reminded us through his choice of readings that God has been with us on our journey.

He has cared and nurtured us as a parent does for a toddler and also, for the need for each one of us to be living stones - no matter how big or small that stone is - we are all part of the congregation and life of the church .....

At Delve in @ 12, Anne reminded us through her choice of reading from Acts, what being a church and associated with a church really means - sharing with one another, meeting the community, meeting together in fellowship, looking out for each other and by doing this, we are supporting our fellowship and the community.....

On Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, Robbie's All Age Address was about a Lucky Bag - back in the days - when you looked forward to opening these and you could be surprised or disappointed by its contents. Through his chosen readings for the day - he reminded us all that over the 22 years of his ministry with us - that it was a partnership, where we walked together hand in hand through good times and times of challenge, and during these times as a congregation, we have nurtured together love for ourselves and others, fellowship and friendship within the congregation and community and showing our service in many different ways .....

It has been 30 years since the congregation was formed following the union in 1995 of the former West Parish and Wellwynd congregations which brought together two diverse congregations with one vision to continue to preach the Good News in Airdrie.

Change is now the new norm as they say - we know that change will come whether we like it or not - and in the not too distant future, there will be further change with our deferred union with St. Columba's. This will be different to the last, but in some ways the same - but with God by our side and if we step forward in faith - he will continue to guide us on our journey of faith. As in the words of Edward Hayes Plumptre:

**Thy hand, O God, has guided thy flock from age to age  
The wondrous tale is written, full clear on every page  
Our fathers owned thy goodness and we their deeds record  
And both of this bear witness, *One Church, one Faith, one Lord.***

*David Walker (Session Clerk)*



### Prayer Points

- Pray for all those struggling at this time with heavy burdens.
- Pray for all those suffering from poor health and illness.
- Pray for all those supporting and caring for others.
- Pray for all leaders striving to achieve stability and peace throughout our world.
- Pray for all who are serving their country at home and abroad in the armed forces.
- Pray for the ongoing work of the Church both at home and abroad.



**Poppyscotland** provide support for current and former members of the Armed Forces as well as their families. This support, in recognition of their sacrifices and service, is holistic and bespoke. They have helped countless men, women and families with issues linked to their time in the Armed Forces or with struggles adjusting from military to civilian life. They also help with needs that have arisen long after someone has left the Armed Forces. Whenever, wherever support is needed, they are there. If you can please help support the work of Poppyscotland through this year's Poppy Appeal.



### **Alex's Story**

For Corporal Alexander "Alex" Watson, it was five decades after he left the Army before he needed help. Despite the passage of time, Poppyscotland were there to support him. Life started out well for the 73 year-old who, driven by a desire to widen his horizons, joined the Army at 18. "I wanted to get some life experience. You've got to break out and see the world and I had a sense of adventure. I was issued with a train ticket and off I went for my training." After seven years of military service, true love prompted Alex to leave it all behind: "I had met the girl who would become my first wife and I wanted us to start our lives together. And, before I knew it, I was demobbed in 1968."

Alex adapted to civilian life easier than many. He found employment and felt that being married helped ease the transition. His jobs were varied but steady with almost two decades as manager of a caravan site, another eight spent chicken farming and finally several years as a security officer. Unfortunately, things started to go sour in 2016. In a short space of time, he suffered eviction, fell out with family, and became the victim of financial fraud. "I had no money, and I was homeless for a while. It was a struggle to afford food, but I just had to keep going. When the penny dropped that I had been conned out of all my life's savings I was devastated. There are times when you wonder how you're going to go on."

Little by little, things improved for Alex. The Chief Housing Officer quickly identified that Alex was an ex-Serviceman and was able to find him a flat. Through the same Housing Officer, Alex was also put in touch with Poppyscotland who awarded him a grant, allowing him to purchase everyday household items which helped make his accommodation into a home. Alex said, "The grant money kept my head above water. For the first time in a long time, I felt I could cope and that things were getting better." Alex has no doubts when asked what advice he'd give to fellow veterans wondering about approaching Poppyscotland for help:

"Definitely go for it, no matter by what method. They will help you and you will be able to get back on your feet. Don't let pride get in the way and do not refuse help."

*Alex Watson*

### **What if.....?**

What if everyone simply woke up and gave thanks?

What if we all saw each other as human beings?

What if we responded to violence with love and forgiveness?

What if we assumed that people are doing their best instead of assuming the worst?

What if fear was replaced by acceptance?

What if we no longer needed to pray for victims and their families because there were none to pray for?

What if our prayers were answered? How would the world look?

I dream of a world where everyone wakes up and simply says thank you!

Thank you for the gifts of another day.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

Thank you for the heart that beats in my chest.

Thank you for unconditional love.

Thank you for acceptance.

Thank you for forgiveness.

Thank you for peace on earth.



*Julie Boyer*

## Calling Doon the Line (The Piper's Call)

Back in 2004, Alan Brydon a gentleman from Hawick visited the war graves in Belgium and France. He had long been fascinated with stories from the First World War, though was never quite sure why that particular war held his attention. His visit was a real eye-opener. He was deeply touched by the stories of soldiers, of all nations. Being there and seeing the graves and memorials, brought it home to him, what they must have went through to preserve our freedom. He was particularly interested in the pipers who played such an important role in different aspects of the war, playing formal marches as part of pipe bands leading route marches and parades, playing on the ramparts to rally the troops into battle and playing laments to the fallen. When he returned home to Scotland he wrote this song, which is often played and sung at Remembrance Services.

(The tune you will be able to find on YouTube)

The boys stood on the platform in 1917  
Waiting for a train to Salisbury Plain  
They were only in their teens.  
A lad to his mother said dinnae fret  
We'll be home by Christmas day  
And the piper played Scotland the Brave  
As they waved the boys away

*Calling doon the line  
Calling doon the line  
And they rallied roond tae the piper's tune  
That was calling doon the line.*

The Sgt Major pushed them hard  
They were trained in only days  
For to bear the brunt of the Western front  
They would soon be on their way  
So off they marched, rifles shoulder high  
And all at once they sang  
For we're no awa, tae bide awa  
Tae the pipers in the band.

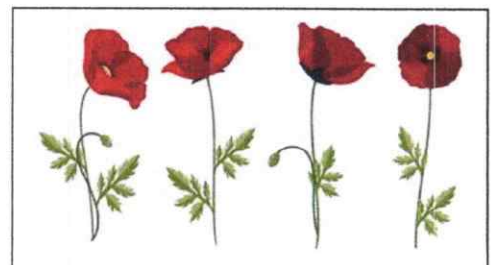
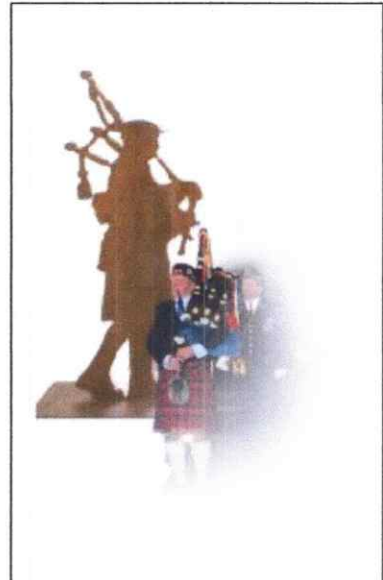
The thunder echoed through the trench  
As the shells abin them rained  
And the Generals lost a thousand men  
For every inch they gained  
And the brave young men faced their battle dawn  
So proud to do their jobs  
And the piper stood in the line of fire  
And played them ower the top.

When no man's land fell silent  
And they counted all the dead  
The victory claimed would disguise the shame  
And nothing more was said  
And the fallen brave on a foreign field  
They gave their very best  
And the piper played a sad lament  
As they laid the boys to rest

*And they rallied roond tae the pipers tune  
That was calling doon the line.*

*Alan Brydon*

**They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them or the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.**





## What the Bible says about Harvest!

### Genesis 8:22

While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

### Exodus 23:16

Also you shall observe the Feast of the Harvest of the first fruits of your labours from what you sow in the field; also the Feast of the ingathering at the end of the year when you gather in the fruit of your labours from the field.

### 2 Corinthians 9:10

Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;

### Leviticus 26:5

Indeed, your threshing will last for you until grape gathering, and grape gathering will last until sowing time. You will thus eat your food to the full and live securely in your land.

### Psalms 67:6

The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us.

### Psalms 85:12

Indeed, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its produce.

### Psalms 107:37

And sow fields and plant vineyards, and gather a fruitful harvest.

### James 3:18

And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

## October

In the amber haze of October's autumnal glow, the harvest ripens in the fields, ready to bestow. Fields adorned with treasures, nature's earthly yield a tapestry of abundance, all ready to be revealed. Solemn hands toil, amidst the setting sun's descent with gratitude for everything, reaping Earth's sacrament. Each and every bountiful gift, to all a solemn reminder, of cycles of life eternal, unyielding and finer.



## Harvest Thank Offering

This year's Harvest Thank Offering will be donated to the charity World Vision UK which is part of the World Vision Partnership, the world's largest international children's charity. They help support children throughout the world in many of its toughest and hardest places, caused by poverty, hunger, conflict and the devastating effects of climate change. As well as bringing hope, safety and a brighter future to millions of young lives they also respond to emergencies quickly and stay to help communities rebuild and thrive. Here in the UK they champion children's rights, raise awareness and mobilise people to act through giving, campaigning and prayer. Inspired by a Christian faith they serve children of all faiths and none.

## Pronunciation Problem!

Robert and Jean, an older couple, were on holiday and were driving through the town of Worcester. Neither of them had been there before and they started arguing about how the name of the town is pronounced. Needless to say, both of them thought they knew best and they kept on bickering until eventually, they decided to stop for lunch.

At the counter, Robert smiled at the young waitress and said, "Before we order, could you help us settle an argument, please?" The young waitress smiled and said, "Sure! How can I help you?" "Could you please pronounce where we are right now, very slowly?" said Robert.

The young waitress leaned over the counter and said, "Yes sir! It's Burr-r-gerr-r Kiing!"

**Jo King**

*Now that's what you call a Whopper!*

## New Wellwynd Senior Circle

The Circle got off to a great start on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September with our speaker **Rev. Les Brunger** telling us about his journey to faith and some of his experiences in ministry both serious and amusing. On Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September we welcomed **Douglas Allsop** from the local charity Diamonds in the Community who gave us a great insight into the work of the charity here in Airdrie.

Our programme continues on:

**7<sup>th</sup> October** - Melanie Menzies (NL Active Age)

**21<sup>st</sup> October** - Bill McMullen (A Working Life)

**4<sup>th</sup> November** - George Randall (A Mystery Tour)

**18<sup>th</sup> November** - 'Up the Dancin' (Summerlee Presentation)

**2<sup>nd</sup> December** - Christmas Celebration

You will be most welcome to join us on any or all of these Tuesdays, be you male or female, coming with a friend or partner or on your own. Doors open by 1.30pm for a wee social gathering and refreshments before the meeting begins at 2pm.

*Liz Riddell*

## Thank You

**Isobel Paterson** would like to thank everyone at New Wellwynd for the lovely flowers she received. They were very much appreciated.

**Margaret Dalziel** would like to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers she received on the passing of her husband Jim.

**Elaine and Jim Bettley** would like to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers received on the passing of their Dad. They were much appreciated.



## Airdrie Library Centenary

On Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> September Airdrie Library celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in its current location. As part of the celebration in conjunction with Victoria and All Saints Primary schools a 'Time Capsule' was buried in the Church grounds under the cherry tree at the entrance, next to the library. The Church was also given an opportunity to participate and were given a small Time Capsule to be buried as well. It gave us a chance to provide information about the congregation and our work with the children and the citizens of Airdrie in the future.

## Church Notices

**Morning worship every Sunday at 11.00am.**

Harvest Thanksgiving – Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> October

Rededication Service – Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> October

Remembrance Sunday – Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> November (10.45am)

First Sunday in Advent – Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> November

Tea and coffee will be served in the Church Hall after morning worship.

**Delve in at Twelve - Wednesday Services at 12 noon**

Our midweek services on a Wednesday at 12 noon will continue during the autumn months.

The service is followed by tea and coffee.



## Useful Contacts

**Locum Minister:** Les Brunger 07427881877

**Session Clerk:** David Walker 01236 747075

**Treasurer:** David Watt 01698 853921

**Roll Keeper:** Moira Gartshore 01236 761001

**Organist:** John Urquhart 07725832088

**Hall Convener:** John Clydesdale 07512912016

**Gift Aid:** David Walker 01236 747075

**Magazine Editor:** George Randall 01236 763102 or 07738089762



### Who Brought the Harvest?

Once upon a time, in the magical land of harvest, lived many special creatures. They were not your usual rabbits, squirrels or birds but different beings representing elements of nature. There were six Raindrop boys, dressed in soft, grey garments; six Sunbeam girls adorned in bright yellow frilly dresses; six Wind Elf girls in light blue outfits with many streamers; six Soil Soldier boys in suits of black with face masks; six Kernels of Corn boys in red suits and yellow caps; and six Workers – three girls in aprons and bonnets and three boys in overalls and straw hats.



Among all these colourful characters stood the most brilliant – the Harvest Spirit, a tall girl in a bright yellow dress, decorated with brown, red, and green streamers and a crown made of vibrant autumn leaves.

One sunny day, the Harvest Spirit, standing proudly in the middle of her realm, remarked, “Once again, the season of harvest has arrived. How fulfilling it is to see the results of our year’s work!”

Suddenly, the Raindrop boys came dancing around her. One of them said, “We help the little seeds grow. Without us, those tiny seeds could never find their way through the soil.” The Harvest Spirit found them intriguing, as they sang a little tune about how they gently fall on the ground, providing the plants with the much-needed moisture.

The Sunbeam girls, hearing their song, came skipping in, holding hands. “We are the Sunbeam children,” said the first Sunbeam girl. “We shine to light the earth, to warm the soil and to bring health to living things.” Then they sang a merry song about how they keep the earth warm and bright all year round.

The Wind Elf girls, seeing all the fun, entered with a whirling motion. They made a “Woo-woo-o-o!” sound, indicating they were the wind elves. Each wind elf told the Harvest Spirit about their unique roles – some carried the warm breath of the south land, while others brought moisture from the ocean far inland, some even brought a heavy blanket of snow to protect the plants and seeds in winter.

Then came rushing in the Soil Soldiers. Despite their dark appearance, they were as vital as any other in the group. They carried life-giving food to the plants and knew exactly what each seedling needed to grow.

As the group marvelled at the Soil Soldiers’ dedication, the Kernels of Corn entered. “We are the little kernels of corn that grow into tall stalks and bright-coloured tassels with the aid of sunshine and showers,” said the first Kernel boy.

Finally, the six Workers entered, displaying their work of keeping the crops free from weeds. They sang a song about their diligent work in the fields from morning till night.

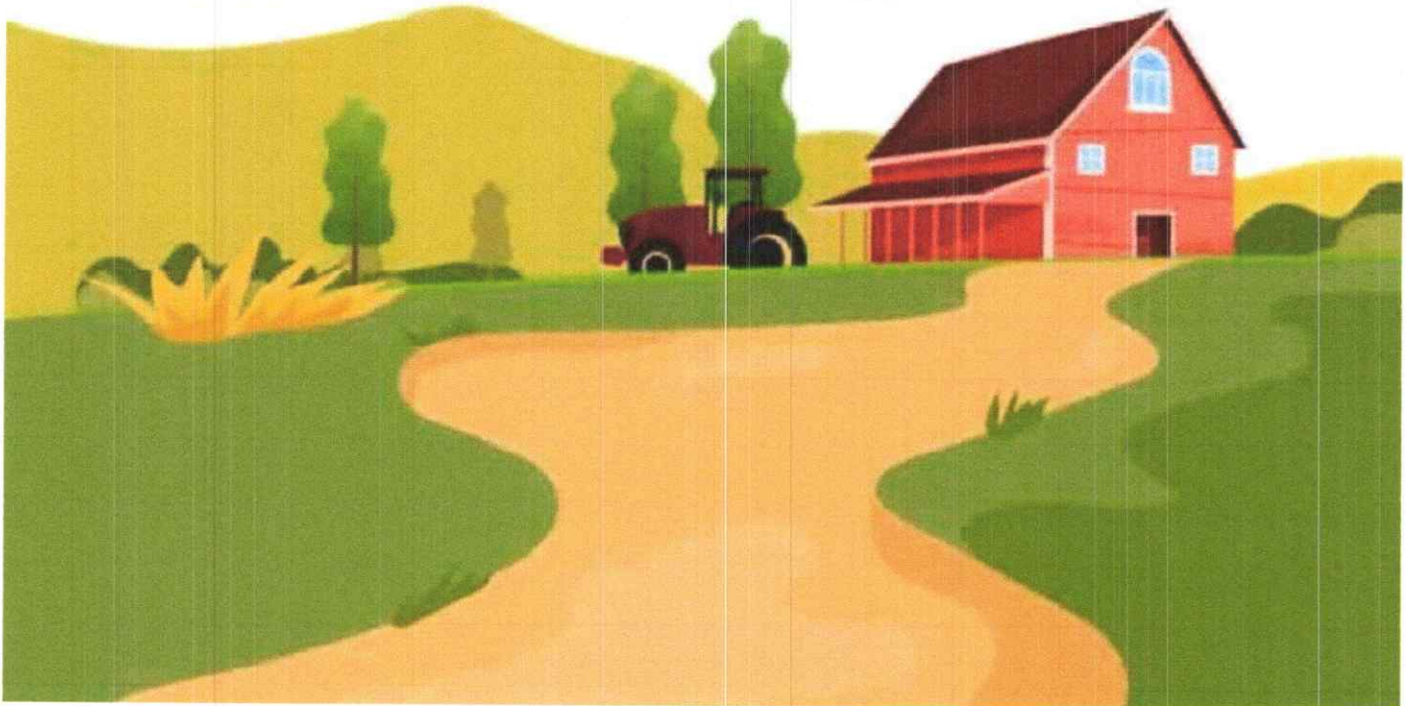
In the end, the Harvest Spirit exclaimed, “I see that it would be impossible for me to select any one group of workers who make the harvest bountiful, so I must give you all credit for making a real Harvest Thanksgiving Day possible.” The air filled with song as they all sang in celebration of their hard work, their unity, and the bountiful harvest they had achieved together. And so, each day, they continued to strive, working together to bring about a plentiful harvest from the soil of their beautiful land.

**Their story serves as a reminder, that everyone plays a vital role in the cycle of life and nature and together, we all help make the world a better place.**

# Word Search

N	W	H	H	B	R	H	P	R	P
E	Q	Z	V	F	R	U	I	T	R
L	M	G	R	W	T	K	C	W	X
B	R	W	K	S	D	E	E	S	H
A	A	R	N	J	N	H	H	T	A
T	F	G	Y	G	D	P	A	Q	R
E	W	Z	R	L	L	E	P	W	V
G	T	D	E	A	H	I	K	J	E
E	K	I	N	W	I	Z	O	K	S
V	F	T	J	M	N	N	C	S	T

FARM  
FIELD  
FRUIT  
GRAIN  
HARVEST  
PLANT  
SEEDS  
SOIL  
VEGETABLE  
WHEAT



*Plough a little further, dig a little deeper, sow a little greater, pray a little harder, and love a little sweeter - It's Harvest Time!*