



# THE NEW WELLWYNDER

APRIL/MAY 2026

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

## A Final Message from the Locum

Dear Friends,

Parting is never easy and I will miss the many friendly faces at New Wellwynd and as I go, I thought I would relate a recent discussion I was privy to about children born in this day and age. I heard many anxious comments from parents and grandparents worried about the world their little ones had been born into. If, like me, you are concerned for the future of our youth, I'd like to share the following message: -

Don't feel sorry for, or fear for your kids because the world they are going to grow up in is not what it used to be. God created them and called them for the exact moment in time that they're in. Their life isn't a coincidence or an accident.

Raise them up to know the power they walk in as children of God. Train them up in the authority of his Word. Teach them to walk in faith knowing that God is in control. Empower them to know they can change the world. Don't teach them to be fearful and disheartened by the state of the world but hopeful that they can do something about it.

Every person in all of history has been placed in the time that they were in because of God's sovereign plan. He knew Daniel could handle the lions' den. He knew Elijah could handle the prophets of Baal. He knew David could handle Goliath. He knew Esther could handle Haman. He knew Peter could handle persecution.

He knows that your child can handle whatever challenge they face in their life. He created them specifically for it. Don't be scared for your children, but be honoured that God chose **YOU** to parent the generation that is facing the biggest challenges of our lifetime.

Rise up to the challenge. Raise Daniels, Elijahs, Davids, Esthers and Peters.

God isn't scratching his head wondering what he's going to do with this mess of a world. He has an army he's raising up to drive back the darkness and make him known all over the earth.

Don't let your fear steal the greatness God placed in them. I know it's hard to imagine them as anything besides sweet little babies, and we just want to protect them from anything that could ever be hard on them, but they were born for such a time as this.

*"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too. We know we love God's children if we love God and obey his commandments. Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. **For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.**"*  
(1 John 5: 1-5)

God bless you in your continuing journey of grace.

**Rev Les Brunger**  
**Locum Minister**

## Nearly New

On Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, we celebrated the end of an era in The New Wellwynd. After almost 20 years, Liz Hannah advised the Kirk Session in October that she had decided it was time to hang up her hat and take a well-deserved retirement. During these 20 years, through Liz and her team of helpers, a sum of £58,175.50 has been raised. This money has been used within the church for various projects over the years. As well as Liz retiring, Margaret Markie, Wilma Davidson and Catherine Aitchison are also hanging up their hats. On behalf of the Kirk Session and Congregation, it is my pleasure to thank them all for their service to the church over the years and to wish them all, a long and happy retirement!

**David Walker**

## **Locum Minister**

It is with regret that on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026, we will say a fond farewell to Rev. Les Brunger who has been our Locum Minister for the past year. Les had initially said he would come for 3 months – but then as things happen, he stayed for another 9 months – so we must have made him feel very welcome!

The contract of a Locum states a Sunday Service and 2 days pastoral duties and Les hit the ground running becoming actively involved in the congregation when he started on 1st April 2025. He brought his own style of worship, introducing more videos and action songs for the children and making us think about things in a different way – always challenging. He had us in the palm of his hand with the stories he told as part of his sermons, where we in our mind went in one direction, but he always got his point home, when there was a subtle twist in the story. He also used the pulpit which had not been used for a few years. Les also was involved with the Delve in @ 12 rota as well as the Holiday Club in July. Les also promoted a Vestry time on a Friday to coincide with the Snack Bar to give the congregation an opportunity to come and meet with him, if they needed to do so. As with any job, there were the ups and downs during the year when Les conducted member's funerals, but also welcomed in new life in the Sacrament of Baptism and in welcoming new communicants to the congregation.

As we enter a new phase, we give thanks to Les for his time with us and wish him all the very best for his next exciting adventure – wherever that may take him.

So where do we go from here – as one door closes then another one opens .....

Our Interim Moderator has been on the case following up leads as to a new Locum and subject to the Approval of the Kirk Session, on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> April, we will welcome our new Locum Minister, the Rev. Maggie McArthur. Maggie retired from full time ministry in 2025 after 30 years in ministry and three parishes, her last one being that of Cardross Parish Church. Following her retirement Maggie now lives in Hamilton. We look forward to welcoming Maggie amongst us, who will no doubt, bring her own style and character to worship, which will be good for us to hear, as we prepare to welcome a new minister into our midst in due course. As they say – variety is the spice of life.

*David Walker Session Clerk*

## **Anne Learmonth and Gilbert Cox**

Sadly, in the last couple of months, another two of our Church Elders, Anne Learmonth and Gilbert Cox have passed away. For many years Anne was involved in and around many organisations within the church. She was active in CAMEO, the Choir and latterly as secretary of the Seniors. Anne had a passion for crafts and crafting and helped with the 'In Stitches' Craft Group, Messy Church, the Holiday Club and more recently with activities around the Easter and Santa Brunches. Anne was ordained to the eldership on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2013 and was a diligent Elder and Newsletter Distributer to her district.

Gibby was active in the life and work of the congregation for many years, being the Session Clerk in the West Parish prior to the union in 1995 and thereafter a great supporter in New Wellwynd. Gibby was also active in the local community and received an MBE in 1996 for his service to the community here in Airdrie. He was appointed Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Lanarkshire in 1989, becoming Lord Lieutenant in 2000, a position he held for 10 years until his retirement in 2010. He played a major role in promoting Lanarkshire and spearheading many fundraising campaigns. He was also instrumental in bringing the 2011 International Children's Games to Lanarkshire. After retiring as Lord Lieutenant, he received a rare personal honour from the Queen, Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO) to mark a decade of Royal Service. His dedication to the local community continued when he became Chairman of the St Andrew's Hospice Capital Appeal, helping to raise substantial funds for the Hospice's major refurbishment in 2018. Gibby was a genuine, kind hearted person who was dedicated to people and he will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him, especially his cronies at the church snack bar and monthly coffee mornings. Gibby was ordained to the Eldership on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 1972.

Both Anne and Gibby had strong faiths and a belief in the Lord Jesus Christ with whom they are now at rest. Our thoughts and prayers are with Anne's brother, family and friends and with Alan, Ian and Jill and the wider Cox family.

'Those we love can never be more than a thought away. For as long as there is a memory, they will live forever!'

*George Randall*

## The Easter Miracle of Hope



In the quiet village of Willowbrook, nestled between rolling hills and serene meadows, there was a tradition that had been passed down for generations. Each Easter Sunday, the village children would search for colourful eggs hidden by a mysterious figure known only as the Easter Bunny. But this year, something was different. Little Emma, a bright-eyed girl of seven, had just lost her mother to a long illness. The whole village had shared in her grief, but Emma was particularly heartbroken. She felt an emptiness in her heart, a sadness that seemed too heavy to carry.

As Easter Sunday approached, Emma's father, who was a simple farmer, tried his best to bring joy back into their home. He told Emma that the Easter Bunny would visit again this year, but Emma wasn't sure if she believed in magic anymore. She thought the world had become too dark to hold any light.

On the morning of Easter, Emma wandered to the garden alone, hoping to find some comfort in nature. The sun peeked through the trees, and the air was filled with the scent of blooming flowers. As she walked along the garden path, something caught her eye—a small, shimmering golden egg hidden beneath a bush. Surprised, she bent down to pick it up.

As soon as her fingers touched the egg, a warm, gentle light enveloped her. To her astonishment, she saw a figure standing before her—an elegant, glowing being with soft white wings. It was the Easter Bunny, but not quite as she had imagined. The Bunny's presence radiated peace and hope. "Emma," the Bunny spoke in a soft, melodic voice, "This egg represents more than just a treasure. It is a symbol of the love that surrounds you, a love that never fades, even when we can no longer see those we cherish."

Emma looked up, her heart aching with longing. "But my mommy is gone. How can I ever feel whole again?"

The Bunny smiled gently. "Your mother's love will always be with you, in your heart and in the world around you. Love doesn't disappear when someone leaves. It transforms, becoming part of the beauty of the world. Just as this egg, once hidden, now shines with light, so too will your heart shine again with the love your mother gave you."

With that, the Bunny handed Emma the golden egg and vanished, leaving behind a lingering warmth. Emma stood there, holding the egg tightly, feeling a sense of peace that she hadn't felt in weeks. She knew in that moment that the love of her mother was with her always, in the whispers of the wind, the warmth of the sun, and in every corner of the world around her.

Emma ran back to her father, the golden egg clutched in her hand, a bright smile lighting up her face for the first time in months. "Daddy," she exclaimed, "Mommy's love is still with me. The Easter Bunny told me." Her father, tears of joy in his eyes, hugged her tightly. "And it always will be, my dear."

From that Easter on, Emma understood that the real magic of the season wasn't in the eggs or the treats, but in the love and hope that renewed every heart, even in the face of loss.

*Anon.*



## Easter Brunch

On Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> March as part of the Church's Outreach Programme, parents and families from Rochsolloch and Victoria Primary schools, enjoyed a time of fellowship within the Church Hall. Food was shared and the children enjoyed making crafts and following an Easter Trail within the Church grounds. A great time was had by all, especially when meeting the Easter Bunny! A very big thank you to the Easter Bunny and all the helpers for making it such a special day for the children and their families.

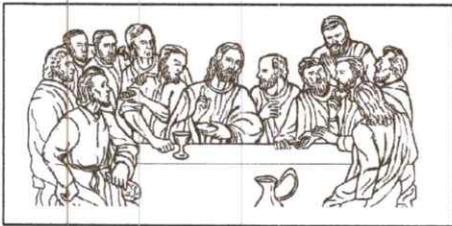
*Roving Reporter*

## The Whinha' Bible – 'Whit a week that wiz!'



Ye know that guy they ca' Jesus? Well, him an' a' his pals, the disciples, came intae Jerusalem last week. He wiz riding oan the back o' a dunkey an' a' the folk went mental, waving and cheering as he rode past. Some o' them threw their jaikets doon oan the grun, ithers cut big branches aff the palm trees and threw them doon tae. They wir shouting 'Housanna!' 'Praise tae the king who comes tae save us!' Jesus an' his pals made their way tae the temple, where they got an awfy shock. It wiz fu' o' money lenders an' folk selling things! Jesus, wiz nane too chuffed, overturning their tables and throwing them a' oot!

Noo the chief priests an' the Pharisees, a' the high heid yins wir watching this. They listened tae Jesus talking tae the people aboot God. They watched as he healed the blind an' folk that could nae walk. Needless tae sae, they felt threatened by his presence an' his teaching. So whit did they dae – they plotted tae kill him. At the same time ain o' the disciples, a guy ca'd Judas wiz secretly planning tae leave the group an' betray Jesus tae his enemies. For thirty silver coins Judas made a deal wae the priests and Pharisees, tae betray Jesus in the dead o' night when he wid be alone wae nae crowds o' people aboot!

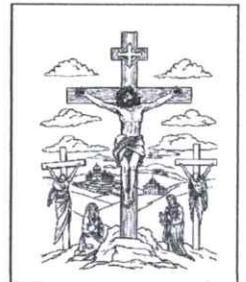


That week also happened tae coincide wae Passover and as wiz the custom, everywan wid sit doon an share a Passover feast the gither. Jesus sat doon wae a' his pals in an upper room o' a house for theirs. Before they ate Jesus preceded tae wash their feet. Despite their objections, Jesus telt them, "A hiv done this tae show ye how ye should treat each ithers. Follow ma example, take care o' each other an' people will know that you are ma followers."

When they sat doon tae eat, Jesus telt them that wan o' them wid betray him an' during the meal Judas slipped oot o' the room tae go tae the chief priests.

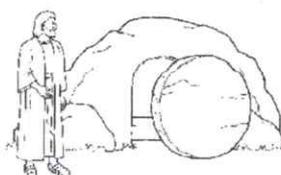
Efter the meal, Jesus went tae pray in an olive grove nearby, ca'd the Garden o' Gethsemane. As Jesus prayed a noisy crowd approached wae clubs an' swords in their hauns, Judas wiz right at the front an' greeted Jesus wae a kiss. It wiz a sign o' friendship, but wae it, Judas betrayed his friend. Jesus wiz marched awa' as if he wir a criminal an' taken tae the hame of Caiaphas, the High Priest.

In the morning, the chief priests took Jesus tae Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor. They wir hoping Pilate wid punish Jesus by sentencing him tae death. But he could nae find oany thing under Roman law that wid justify such punishment. Alangside Jesus wiz Barabbas a murderer. Pilate then asked the crowd that hid gathered outside whit he should dae? He said, "At Passover it's your custom tae release a prisoner – shall a release Barabbas or Jesus?" There wir many strangers in the crowd, people put there by the chief priests' tae mak sure Jesus wiz not set free. Very much a case of rent-a-crowd! Barabbas's name wiz shouted oot loud an' clear alang wae chants o' 'Crucify him' an' Jesus' fate wiz sealed. Jesus wiz marched awa' by the soldiers, they mocked an' beat him an' forced a crown o' sharp thorns doon oan his heid. Exhausted, cut an' bruised the soldiers then forced him tae bear the weight o' a large wooden cross tae be hauled thru' the streets tae the place o' his crucifixion, Golgotha, the Place o' the Skull. Jesus wiz nailed tae the cross an' hoisted up between twa thieves who wir also being crucified. At midday the sky turned black an' by three o' clock in the efternoon Jesus ca'd oot, "It is finished!" an' breathed his last breath.



Wae Pilate's permission Joseph o' Arimathea an' Nicodemus who wir secret followers o' Jesus took Jesus' broken body frae the cross, wrapped it in strips o' linen an' placed it in a newly made tomb. They then rolled a great big stane across the entrance tae seal it. Early oan Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene went tae anoint Jesus' body wae spices. She wiz amazed tae find the big stane hid been rolled awa' an' the tomb wiz empty! She then saw a man in the garden. As soon as he spoke her name, she knew that it wiz Jesus! Yip Jesus wiz alive - he had risen frae the dead! Yip, whit a week that wiz!

*George Randall*



***He is Risen!***

## Christian Aid – Who is Christian Aid?

Christian Aid as you probably are aware is an international charity determined to fight poverty and respond to humanitarian emergencies, no matter how tough it gets. Their work first began in 1945 when churches across the UK came together to respond to the urgent refugee crises following the Second World War. They are rooted in the Christian faith and supported by churches, but their work supports all people in need regardless of belief. United by hope, they work with organisations and people of all faiths and none, and their partners reflect the diversity of the communities they serve. Together, they deliver essential programmes across the world and raise awareness and funds to support lasting change.

**By turning hope into action, they are helping to build a fairer, more peaceful world.**

**This Christian Aid Week (10 - 16<sup>th</sup> May)** your support could help mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children. By funding urban farming projects alongside specialist training from partners like Beacon of Hope, we can all help parents fight food insecurity, grow fresh vegetables in small city spaces and earn an income to support their families.

The total raised for Christian Aid within our local area in 2025, totalled £3324.95. The local team wish to thank all congregations and members for their generous support throughout the past year, but as one year ends another begins and everyone's continued support would be greatly appreciated,

## Life in Dagoretti



Belinda Kasudi lives with her husband, David, and their five children in a one-room rented home in Dagoretti, Nairobi. Space is tight and income is uncertain. Work in the settlement is unreliable. When there is no work, there is no money. And when there is no money, there is no food. Saving for emergencies once felt impossible. 'Everything here has to be paid for. We even buy water... Providing enough food for the children is very difficult.' – **Belinda**

Belinda's very small urban farm produces spinach, beetroot, maize and local vegetables. When she sells what she does not need, she earns money for school costs and household essentials. 'When I sell vegetables, I earn a few coins, she shared. 'I can pay school costs. I don't have to beg for money.'

Her story shows what can happen when women are trusted with the tools and training to lead change themselves.

To find out more about Belinda and the work of Christian Aid within Nairobi and many other places, please visit [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

*The Editor*

## Vacancy Update

As had been previously announced, a Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026 after morning service for the purpose of electing **nine** members of The New Wellwynd to the Nominating Committee – St. Columba's would elect **four** members.

Our Interim Moderator, Rev Anne Paton opened the meeting in prayer and advised those members of the congregation who were present of the process to be undertaken. Nominations were sought from the congregation and 13 names were proposed. Having 13 names, meant that a vote was undertaken. Ballot papers prepared, the congregation were then issued with these, independent tellers were present and the following individuals were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee:

*Mr. John Holden, Mrs. Linda Francis, Mrs. Barbara Watt, Mr. Colin Macpherson, Mr. Andrew Paul, Mr. George Randall, Mr. David Watt, Mr. David Walker and Mrs. Margaret Jarvie.*

The 4 Members from St. Columba's elected were:

*Mrs. Janis Beveridge, Mrs. Marion McElroy, Mrs. Jacqueline Spillane and Mrs. Mary Stocks.*

The first meeting of the Nominating Committee has taken place, so the next stage of the process has started. Our Interim Moderator reminded those on the Nominating Committee that **confidentiality** is the watchword during this time. You should know that the Committee is working on your behalf to select the best candidate for the new congregation going forwards, so please be patient and we ask that you do not ask members for any updates. When the time is right – you will be informed. Thank you.

*David Walker Session Clerk*

## Thank You

**Christine Wylie** would like to thank her church family for the lovely flowers she received after her short stay in hospital. They were very much appreciated.

**May Murchison** would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers she received recently, they were very much appreciated,

**Isabel Mitchell** would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers she received recently. The thoughtfulness and kindness was very much appreciated.

**Tom and Margaret Kane** would like to thank the congregation for the beautiful flowers they received recently. They fairly cheered them up!

**Betty Robertson** would like to thank everyone at The New Wellwynd for the beautiful floral arrangement she received after her short stay in hospital. It was very much appreciated.

## In Stitches

Our session is moving along nicely and will draw to a close towards the end of May. At this moment in time, we are pleased to announce, that along with the help and support of the congregation and friends, we have raised the sum of £600 for Church funds. We have also made sizeable donations to three very deserving charities, namely, Maggie's Lanarkshire, Alzheimer's Scotland and St Andrew's Hospice. In conjunction with Mrs Betty Kennedy we have been knitting trauma teddies! These are given to Scottish Fire and Rescue Lanarkshire to carry on their fire tenders. So far we have knitted and passed on almost 50. Thanks to all the ladies who participated in this project for an excellent cause. If you would like to join us please come along as you will be made most welcome.

*Helen Fettus*

## Church Notices

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

Palm Sunday - Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March

Sacrament of Baptism – Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March

Easter Sunday - Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April

Sacrament of Holy Communion – Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> June

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



## Holy Week

From Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March to Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026 there will be joint Holy Week Services with Jackson Parish Church, St Columba's and The New Wellwynd.

**Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March** - Jackson 7.00pm (Rev. Kay Gilchrist)

**Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> March** – St Columba's 7.30pm (Rev. Margaret Currie)

**Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April** – New Wellwynd 7.30pm (Rev. Les Brunger)

**Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April** - Jackson 7.00pm (Rev. Kay Gilchrist)

**Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April** - St Columba's 7.30pm (Rev. Margaret Currie)

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

Our midweek service on a Wednesday at 12 noon will continue during the spring 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

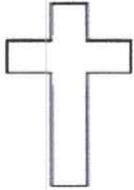
**Organist:** John Urquhart 07725832088

**Hall Convener:** John Clydesdale 07512912016

**Gift Aid:** David Walker 01236 747075

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

# What Happened on Good Friday?

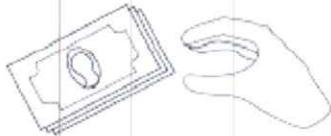


Jesus died on the cross to pay for my sins.

This means that I can pray and ask God to forgive my sins.



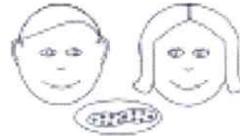
**What are sins?** A sin is anything I do that doesn't please God.  
Circle each picture that shows a sin.



stealing



talking back to my parents



sharing



lying

**Why did God send Jesus to die for our sins?** Because he loves us.  
Complete the verses about God's love for us.



love



Son



world

God \_\_\_\_\_d the \_\_\_\_\_ so much that he gave his only \_\_\_\_\_,



so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. John 3:16

God showed his \_\_\_\_\_ for us by sending his only \_\_\_\_\_ into the \_\_\_\_\_,



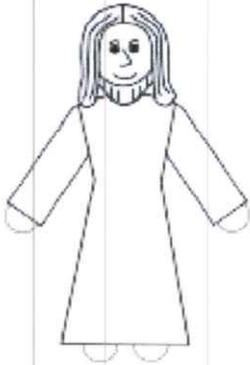
so that we might have life through him. 1 John 4:9

He \_\_\_\_\_d us and sent his \_\_\_\_\_ to be the means by which our sins are



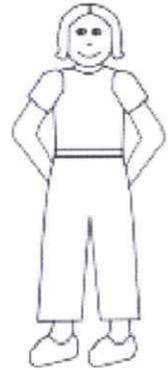
forgiven. 1 John 4:10

# What Happened on Easter?



On Easter morning  
Jesus came back  
to life.

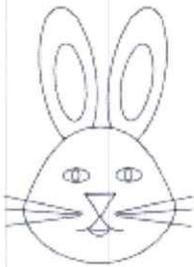
This means that  
Jesus can give  
me new life.



Later he went back  
to live in heaven.

I can be happy now  
and go to heaven  
later.

**Why do we have bunnies and eggs as symbols of Easter?**  
Spring is a time of new life, and this reminds us of our new life in Jesus.  
Find the springtime words in the puzzle.



BUNNY

A	S	T	E	G	G
F	L	O	W	E	R
T	R	E	E	R	A
B	U	N	N	Y	S
C	H	I	C	K	S

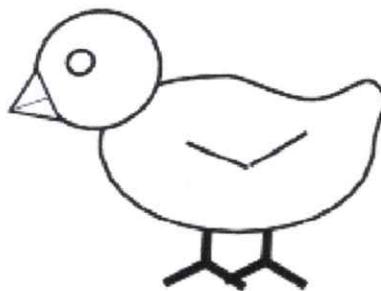


TREE

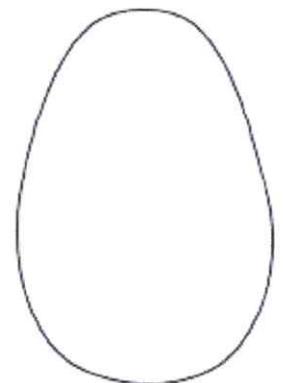


FLOWER

CHICK



GRASS



EGG