

February 2025

No 726



'Our aim is to draw closer to God and to each other, so that, through us, He can make known to all people the joys and challenges of following Jesus'

Vision Statement



"...these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love".

1 Corinthians 13:13



libertonkirk.net

Daily Devotions for February
on pages
pages 17-20

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Prayer for February

Jesus
Teacher
Saviour
Speak to us

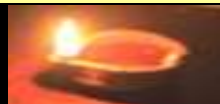
Jesus
Saviour
Lord
Speak with us



Jesus
Lord
Messiah
Help us to listen to You

Guide us
Teach us
Help us
Amen and Amen

**Our Theme for 2025 is “..as for me and my household,
we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24.15b)**



Ever been in love?

If there is one thing that all societies and cultures seem to have in common, it's the 'love song'.

If you were to google the top 100 most popular songs of the last century, you would find that most of them are songs about love. And this is not just the case in Western Culture. My own experience of life in a society where dating was frowned upon and most marriages were arranged between families was the same – the most popular songs in films and on the radio were always love ballads.

Our love of love seems to have been around for a very long time. One of the earliest love songs recorded can be found buried in the heart of the Old Testament. It's called the 'Song of Songs', and it is believed by many to have been sung as part of Hebrew wedding celebrations.

Song of Songs is the source of one or two well-known sayings –

"I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valley."

"Like a lily among thorns is my darling among the maidens"

(Song of Songs 2.1,2)

It is also the inspiration of a well known chorus we used to sing as children –

'He brought me to his banqueting table, and his banner over me is love

I am my beloved's and he is mine, and his banner over me is love'

Why do we make such a fuss about romantic love? This is a question that's

hard to answer if you've never been in love yourself. How do you know if you are in love? You know when it dawns on you that someone else's thoughts and feelings matter to you more than your own. And even more astonishing is the possibility that they might feel the same way about you.

St Valentine's Day is traditionally the time when couples celebrate their love for each other. But, at the very heart of true love is the idea of self-sacrifice – something we can all celebrate every single day of our lives. Not our self-sacrifice, but that of the one who is the source of all love.

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

(1 John 4.7-12)

Much love,

John x



The parable of the Shrewd Manager



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



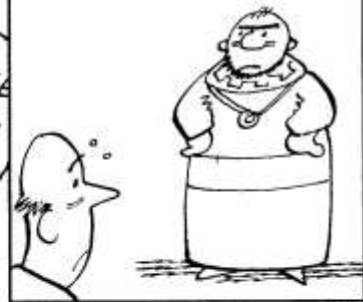
ONCE JESUS TOLD A STORY ABOUT A RICH MAN...

...AND HIS SERVANT, WHO MANAGED THE RICH MAN'S PROPERTY.

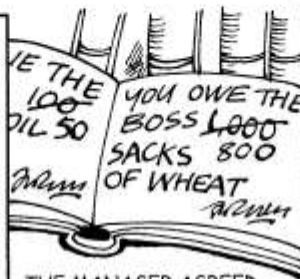


THE RICH MAN HAD HEARD THAT THE MANAGER HAS BEEN WASTING MONEY.

SO HE CALLED THE MANAGER TO ACCOUNT FOR HIMSELF!



OH NO! I AM GOING TO GET THE SACK!!

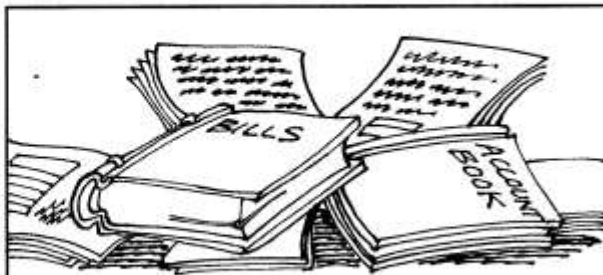
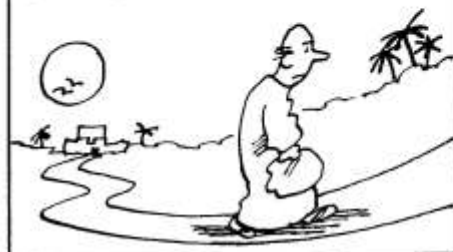


THE MANAGER AGREED TO LET THE RICH MAN'S TRADERS FIDDLE THEIR BOOKS!

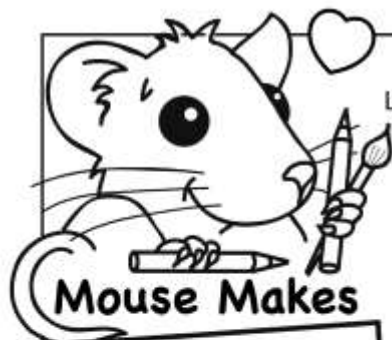


SO THEY ALTERED THEIR DEBTS - AND STAYED FRIENDS WITH THE MANAGER.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN WISE IN MANAGING HIS FUTURE... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEING DISHONEST.



JESUS WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURES TOO. BUT IT'S A HARD PARABLE TO UNDERSTAND!



Mouse Makes

"Love is

love is _____
 It does not, _____
 it does not _____
 it is not _____
 it does not _____

others, it is not self - _____

it is not easily _____
 it keeps no record of _____

Love delights in _____

it always _____

from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never _____;
 His _____
 never come to an end;
 they are new every _____

Lamentations 3:20-23



I pray... you will understand...
 the greatness of Christ's **love**,

how _____
 and how _____
 and how _____
 that **love** is.
 Ephesians 3:18-19

God is **love**.

whoever _____
 in **love** _____
 in God, and God _____
 in them.

1 John 4:16

Give _____
 to the Lord, for He is _____
 his steadfast **love**
 endures _____

Psalms 136:1

HOW DOES
 GOD LOVE ME?

God sent me a saviour:

He sent His one and only
 Son into the world so
 that we might have
 eternal life through Him.

1 John 4:9

God gave me His spirit:

He has given you the
 Holy Spirit to fill our hearts
 with His **love**.

Romans 5:5

God called me His child:

See what great **love** the
 Father has for us that He
 would call us His children.

1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus told us to:
LOVE the Lord your God with
 all your **heart**, all your **soul**
 and with all your **mind**.

Matthew 22:37

LOVE your neighbour the
 same as you **love** yourself.

Matthew 22:39

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

GOD • LOVE
 PATIENT • KIND
 GRACIOUS • PEACE
 JUST • TRUTHFUL
 TRUSTING • LOYAL
 HOPEFUL
 PERSEVERES
 ENDURES
 HUMBLE
 SELFLESS
 PROTECTS • DEFENDS

February 25 Diary

- Sunday 2** 8.00am - Sunday reflection available on Website/
Facebook
9.30am – Shorter service in the Kirk
11am – Service in the Kirk and on zoom (with Creche &
Sunday Club)
Theme: Christian Commitments III – Worship
Preacher: John Young
10.20am – Prayer time in the Elders’ Room
6.30pm – Café Church in Liberton Kirk Centre
- Monday 3** 9.00am-2.00pm – *Kirkgate Café*
7.30pm – the *Guild* meets in the Anderson Hall
- Tuesday 4** 7.30am-7.30pm – Prayer space in the *Upper Room*
9.00am-2.00pm; 5.00pm-8.00pm – *Kirkgate Café*
2.30pm – Service at Liberton Brae Care Home
- Wednesday 5** 9.00am-2.00pm; 6.00pm-8.00pm – *Kirkgate Café*
7.30pm – New Elders Training in the Wilson Hall
- Thursday 6** 9.00am-2.00pm – *Kirkgate Café*
2.00pm – *Senior Citizens Club* in the Anderson Hall
7.30pm – Mission in a Post-Christian Society (SEECOS)
With Jared Hay at Liberton Northfield Church
- Friday 7** 1.00-4.30pm – *Warm Hub & IT Clinic* in the Kirk Centre
- Saturday 8** 7.00pm – WMT Quiz Night in the Anderson Hall
-

- Sunday 9** 8.00am – Sunday reflection available on Website/
Facebook
10.30am – Joint Service in the Kirk and on zoom
Christian Commitments IV – The Church
Preacher: John Cowie
10.20am – Prayer time in the Elders’ Room
6.30pm – Café Church in Liberton Kirk Centre

- Monday 10** 9.00am-2.00pm – *Kirkgate Café*
2pm – History Resource Group (on zoom)
7.30pm – Link Leaders Huddle (on zoom)
- Tuesday 11** 7.30am-7.30pm – Prayer space in the *Upper Room*
9.00am-2.00pm – *Kirkgate Café*
- Wednesday 12** 9.00am-2.00pm – *Kirkgate Café*
7.30pm – *Praise Gathering* in the Wilson Hall
- Thursday 13** 9.00am-2.00pm – *Kirkgate Café*
2.00pm – *Senior Citizens Club* restarts in Anderson Hall
7.30pm – Mission in a Post-Christian Society (SEECOS)
With Jared Hay at Liberton Northfield Church
- Friday 14** 1.00-4.30pm – *Warm Hub & IT Clinic* in the Kirk Centre
-

- Sunday 16** 8.00am - Sunday reflection available on Website/Facebook
9.30am – Shorter service in the Kirk
& 11am – Service in the Kirk and on zoom (with Creche and Sunday Club)
Theme: The disciples' choice (John 6)
Guest Preacher: Gordon Pennykid
10.20am – Prayer time in the Elders' Room
6.30pm – Café Church in Liberton Kirk Centre
- Monday 17** 9.00am-2.00pm – *Kirkgate Café*
7.30pm – the *Guild* meets in the Anderson Hall
- Tuesday 18** 7.30am-7.30pm – Prayer space in the *Upper Room*
9.00am-2.00pm; 5.00pm-8.00pm – *Kirkgate Café*
- Wednesday 19** 9.00am-2.00pm; 6.00pm-8.00pm – *Kirkgate Café*
11am – *Pram Praise* in the Small Hall
- Thursday 20** 9.00am-2.00pm – *Kirkgate Café*
2.00pm – *Senior Citizens Club* in the Anderson Hall
- Friday 21** 1.00-4.30pm – *Warm Hub & IT Clinic* in the Kirk Centre

- Saturday 22 4.00pm – 6.00pm Messy Church in the Kirk Centre**
- Sunday 23** 8.00am – Sunday reflection available on Website/Facebook
9.30am – Shorter service in the Kirk
& 11am – Service in the Kirk and on zoom (with Creche and Sunday Club)
 Theme: Christian Commitments V – Serving Others
 Preacher: John Young
 10.20am – Prayer time in the Elders’ Room
2.30pm – Special Communion in the Anderson Hall
6.30pm – Joint SEECOS Worship at Liberton Northfield
- Monday 24** 9.00am-2.00pm – *Kirkgate Café*
- Tuesday 25** 7.30am-7.30pm – Prayer space available in the *Upper Room*
 9.00am-2.00pm; 5.00pm-8.00pm – *Kirkgate Café*
 7.30pm – Congregational Prayer Gathering (on zoom)
- Wednesday 26** 9.00am-2.00pm; 6.00pm-8.00pm – *Kirkgate Café*
 7.30pm – *Praise Gathering* in the Wilson Hall
- Thursday 27** 9.00am-2.00pm – *Kirkgate Café*
 2.00pm – *Senior Citizens* (Anderson Hall)
- Friday 28** 1.00-4.30pm – *Warm Hub & IT Clinic* in the Kirk Centre
-

March 2025

- Sunday 2 COMMUNION SUNDAY (All Welcome!)**
 8.00am - Sunday reflection available on Website/Facebook
9.30am – Shorter communion service in the Kirk
& 11am – Family communion service in the Kirk and on zoom (with Creche and Sunday Club)
 Theme: Christian Commitments VI – Telling Others
 Preacher: John Young
 10.20am – Prayer time in the Elders’ Room
6.30pm – Café Church in Liberton Kirk Centre

Until it was gone



The last vines cling for life, perhaps defiantly out of man's natural reach, on Remembrance Sunday 2024.

Take one last look, for the ivy is now gone.

Every year, we saw the blanket of leaves turn a beautiful red as the year grew old. How full of light and colour they were in the shorter days. And how happy the photographers were who visited from afar to capture the autumnal splendour.

The visitors will still come, but they will be greeted with the beauty of stone unobscured by vegetation to fully reveal the architectural features of James Gillespie Graham's penmanship.

The doors will remain red in a homage to the lost ivy. Or perhaps they were just always that colour.

The presence of Boston Ivy over the years caused some stones to become a bit crumbly. It spread into nooks and crannies even Gillespie Graham did not design, and the Scottish mist brought moisture in the air that the ivy retained against the wall for longer than is desired. The Kirk Session explored its options, but could only conclude that voluntary maintenance was no longer an option in view of modern working-at-height regulations, and professional maintenance was too costly, especially when faced with the long-term adverse effects the ivy caused to the stone.

Autumn teaches us the beauty of letting go. Our Boston Ivy was allowed to see out its last autumn, but the old things are passed away.

Perhaps we never quite knew what we had until it was gone.

Calum Gubby

(This article and these pictures first appeared online in 2024)



KIRKGATE CAFÉ



**Open Monday to Thursday 9am – 2pm (last serve at 1.30pm)
Evening café Tuesday 5pm – 8pm and Wednesday 6pm – 8pm**

What an eventful month December was for the café and all the volunteers. We had lots of Christmas gatherings to cater for from hall users. Thank you to everyone who booked a Christmas lunch with us, we served 74 customers their lunches over three days which took amazing teamwork from everyone involved.

The evening café has been open a whole term now and it is doing well and much appreciated by the customers using this warm space. It would be helpful to have a few more volunteers on the rota to do one night a month either a Tuesday 5pm-8pm or Wednesday 6pm-8pm. There is always two volunteers on each night so you would never be on your own.

Keep on eye out in the café and on Facebook for the exciting time ahead when Kirkgate Café celebrates its 10th birthday on 2nd February. 10 years is an amazing achievement and that is thanks to all the volunteers and customers over the years.

Follow on us Facebook @ Kirkgate Café
Jenny Thomasi
Kirkgate Café Manager
kirkgatecafe@libertonkirk.net
07894056216



Thy Kingdom Come

Only 17 weeks to Ascension Day!

Where did January go?!

Perhaps you set some 2025 New Year resolutions, and possibly they are already failed or faltering. Or amended on a technicality to keep them live.

Every year as a congregation we are encouraged to participate in *Thy Kingdom Come* (TKC) with an emphasis on the 11 days between Ascension Day and Pentecost. This is an initiative to pray for 5 people who have not (quote) "responded with their 'yes' to God's call"

It's not a 11 day resolution, it's an ongoing resolution to keep on "praying for 5" that is the core message of TKC.

New Year resolutions aside, this is to encourage us all to keep praying for our 5 even when it seems like nothing is happening. Pete Greig of 24/7 Prayer shares a useful image he attributes to Frank Laubach, an American missionary (1884-1970).

"If you see a man chucking rocks into a swamp, it just seems pointless. Every rock just sinks without trace. But if that man keeps throwing rocks for long enough, eventually, instead of a plop, you'll hear a click and the rocks will begin to appear on the surface and he'll be able to walk through. Persevering in prayer is like chucking rocks in a swamp – eventually you see a breakthrough. It may take years of throwing all the words you have at the heavens, years of sighing and thinking of the person you are praying for before you see the miracle. Sometimes it feels like I'm just chucking another rock in the swamp, but I am not going to give up"

Thy Kingdom Come 2025 starts 29th May. But don't wait 'til then, find your list, make a new list, and keep on adding to that pile of rocks.

By a member of the Prayer Team

thanks

Dave Storey



MOVIE QUIZ NIGHT

**HARRY POTTER + THE GODFATHER
+ SPOT THE ACTOR/ACTRESS
+ GENERAL
KNOWLEDGE**

**SATURDAY
08 FEB
2025**



**19.00
- 21.15**



*Snacks and softdrinks included
& a treat at half-time. BYOB*

8 ROUNDS OF 10 QUESTIONS

PRICE

In aid of World
Mission Team
& Comfort
International

Teams of 4

£32 per team
/ £8 per person
(£5 school age)

We will fix
you up with
a team if
you are on
your own

Tickets on sale
from 19 Jan 2025
after Church
services & from
Liberton Cafe

**Anderson Hall, Liberton Kirk Centre
28 Kirkgate, EH16 6RY**

robertsnedden1950@gmail.com for any enquiries

Liberton Kirk is part of SEECOS, Registered Scottish Charity SC 011602

see|cos

South East | Edinburgh
Church of Scotland
with Jesus at our heart

Quiz Night

World Mission Team

Seecos Movie Quiz Night

The World Mission Team is delighted to announce they will be hosting a Movie Quiz night of Saturday 8th February 2025 in the Anderson Hall starting at 19:00 and finishing around 21:15.

The format is very much like last year with Teams of Four (4) competing for the top prize.

The price will be a donation of £8 per person for adults and £5 for persons of school age.

Tickets go on sale at the church after both services on 19 January 2025. Tickets will also be available through the Liberton Kirk café.

Please approach the following people if you have any queries:

robertsnedden1950@gmail.com, lizsnedden@gmail.com or
roslyn.wilson@blueyonder.co.uk

Crisps, and soft drinks will be supplied. BYOB if you want something stronger.

There will be 8 rounds of 10 questions across the following categories:-

General Knowledge 1 & 2

Spot the Actor

The Godfather Films Sci-Fi

Harry Potter Films

Spot the Actress

Westerns

Hope to see you there.





Senior Citizens Club 2024/25

*Celebrating Seniors
Liberton Kirk's Senior Citizens*



SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB FEBRUARY 2025 HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025

Hello! Hello! A bit late but welcome to another year & another session of our club. We kicked off the new year with our friend Alan Weatherhead playing his keyboard & singing lots of our favourite songs.

Opposite are the February birthdays plus some photos from our great Christmas party. Our food at the party was provided by the Bridgend Farmhouse Cafe with plenty of doggy bags to take home for them that wanted. We had a visit from the Carebear children who gave a wonderful performance of Christmas songs. A visit from Olaf from the film Frozen with his pal an animated Christmas present aka Stevie Quinn & Margo Falconer who also entertain us with Christmas songs & a few others. The bloke with the big red suit & white beard visited & handed everyone of us a very special present, a copy of The JABs 1st CD.

We had a visit from our youngest member baby Lewis who was dressed as Santa Claus, he was also going to celebrate his very 1st Christmas (bless him).

Entertainers

February 6—Stevie Cowan

February 13—Honeysuckle Swing Diane & Richard

February 20—The JABs our in-house

February 27—The BAMs plus our 2nd raffle of the year.

Money raised goes to making our Christmas party free for members!

For further details about the Senior Citizens meeting including info about transport contact President—Jenni Ryalls—0131 258 0764 or 0741 533 5889
Pastoral Support Worker—Linda Wright—0785 041 1596
Admin Lou can be contacted by email at seniorslk@gmail.com

HAPPY Birthday

1 Ruth Stuart

23 Frank Pritchard

14 Susan Wolstencroft our
Valentine baby

25 Isa Whitson

15 Cathy Scott

25 Brenda Oldroyd

21 Shirley Munro

27 Dot Lumsden

Christmas Party '24



Dot, Liz, Cathy
& Margaret



Guess the dance!



‘More Than We Could Ever Have Hoped’

Churches offering a regular warm space in the depths of winter

Becoming a Christian at 40

A reader’s reflection

Stories of Ordinary People

John L Bell talks about his latest book

Connection and Purpose

Continuing the series on Priority Areas work, Neill Shaw highlights how churches can provide a welcoming home for people experiencing hardship.

Cultivating Generosity

Stewardship in north-east Scotland

Our Presbyteries

The series finishes with the Presbytery of Jerusalem

‘You Should Be Very Proud’

Christian Aid at 80, and the Church of Scotland minister who started it all.

Regulars

The Moderator reflects on how Christians are called to action

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church

Worship column by the Rev Roddy Hamilton

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

Bible study by the Rev Richard Baxter

My Church: Alan Reddie of Gillespie Memorial Church, Dunfermline

Plus: official updates from the Assembly Trustees and Faith Action

Programme, readers’ pictures, news, letters, reviews and puzzles – all for £3.50. Visit www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe.



Liberton Kirk Devotions

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 8 verses 1 and 2

In 2025 it's all about JESUS!

We will pause at our times of Midday Devotion to pray for others in our church family, our city and our world.

In February we look at some of the things that JESUS said. We are all invited to listen for God's voice and make our response as we journey together daily in our 'rhythm of devotion' in 2025.



These Devotions are but one way to feed on God's Word in the morning, at midday, in the evening to pray with Him continually through the day and even to share with others the treasures or hurdles you discover.

The Church website and Facebook page (even on a handy mobile) provide a fuller daily devotional page. However it all follows the pattern below into which the information provided fits, based on the Kirk's origins of the Celtic and Northumbrian traditions which we started as a church family in 2015.

Morning

Reading and Meditation on the content and prayer of response

Midday

Prayer – mostly for others

Evening

Verse(s) from the morning reading
Reflection and Prayer at the end of the day

Please use this pattern if you are unable to access the internet, or contact Alastair Cameron who can print the daily pattern for you



Liberton Kirk Devotions for February 25

- Sat 1** **Morning–MATTHEW 4:4**–as we pause with God we take time to consider these words as your day starts- And then pray to this God
Midday–pray the words of the Lord’s Prayer as your own prayer today
Evening–read the verse again–reflect—pray in response to what you read
- Sun 2** **Morning–MATTHEW 4:7**–we take time to consider these words this Sunday Morning And then we pray to this God in response
Midday–pray the words of the Prayer for the Month as your own prayer
Evening–read these verses again...reflect...and then pray to God
- Mon 3** **Morning–MATTHEW 4:10**–as we pause with God, take time to consider these particular words today...And then pray in response
Midday–We pray God’s blessing on those on your Pray for 5 list
Evening–read the verse again–reflect and then pray to God in response
- Tues 4** **Morning–MATTHEW 4:17**–as we pause with God today we consider these wordsand then respond in prayer with Him
Midday–take time to listen for God to speak to you–ask, seek, knock–hear!
Evening–read the verse again–reflect—then pray in response to our God
- Wed 5** **Morning–MATTHEW 5:1-12**–Pause with God this new Morning. Consider these words written here...And then turn to pray to God
Midday–We pray God’s blessing on believers in Bangladesh
Evening–read the verses again–reflect–then pray to the LORD our God
- Thurs 6** **Morning–MATTHEW 15:13-16** - consider this particular passage on this new Morning and then respond in prayer to this God
Midday–We pray God’s blessing on believers in the Philippines
Evening–read the set verses again–reflect on what is said here and then pray to this God we believe in
- Frid 7** **Morning–MATTHEW 5:21-26**–As we pause with God, we take the time to consider these few words ... And then pray in response to Father God
Midday–We pray God’s blessing on those on our Church Prayer List
Evening–read the verses again, take time to reflect and pray to Father God
- Sat 8** **Morning–MATTHEW 5:27-32**–as we pause with God today we take the time to consider these verses - And then pray to this God`
Midday–pray the words of the Lord’s Prayer as your own prayer today
Evening–read the verses again–reflect–pray in response to what you read
- Sun 9** **Morning–MATTHEW 5:43-48**–we take time with God to consider these words on this Sunday And then we pray to this God in response
Midday–pray the words of the Prayer for the Month as your own prayer
Evening–read these verses again...reflect.. and then pray to this God of ours as we step into a new week–together–with Him
- Mon 10** **Morning–MATTHEW 6:1-4**–as we pause with God, take time to consider these particular verses today.....And then pray in response
Midday–We pray God’s blessing on believers in Egypt

Liberton Kirk Devotions for February 25

- Tue 11** **Evening**—read the verses again—reflect—pray in response to what you read
Morning—**MATHEW 6:5-15**—as we pause with God today we consider these wordsand then respond in prayer with Him
Midday—take time to listen for God to speak to you—ask, seek, knock—hear!
Evening—read the words again—reflect and then pray in response to God
- Wed 12** **Morning**—**MATTHEW 6:19-24**—Pause with God this Morning. Consider these words written here...And then turn to pray to God
Midday—We pray God’s blessing on believers in Bhutan
Evening—read the verses again—reflect..and then pray to the LORD God
- Thurs 13** **Morning**—**MATTHEW 6:25-34** - consider this particular passage afresh this Morning and then respond in prayer to this Jesus we believe in
Midday—We pray God’s blessing on believers in Pakistan
Evening—read the set verses again—reflect on what is said here and then we pray to this God we believe and trust
- Fri 14** **Morning**—**MATTHEW 7:1-6**—As we pause with God, we consider these words this morning... And then pray in response to God
Midday—We pray God’s blessing on those on our church Prayer List
Evening—read these words again, take time to reflect and pray to this God
- Sat 15** **Morning**—**MATTHEW 7:7-12**—as we pause with God, we take time to consider these words of Jesus - And then pray to Him
Midday—pray the words of the Lord’s Prayer as your own prayer today
Evening—read the passage again—reflect—pray in response to what you read
- Sun 16** **Morning**—**MATTHEW 7:24-29** - we take time to consider these verses on this Sunday morning And then we pray to this Jesus in response
Midday—pray the words of the Prayer for the Month as your own prayer
Evening—read the passage again...reflect.. and then pray to this Jesus as we step into a new week with Him, together
- Mon 17** **Morning**—**MATTHEW 8:18-22**—we pause with God, take the time to consider these particular words today.....And then pray in response
Midday—We pray God’s blessing on your Pray for 5 list
Evening—read the verses again—reflect—pray in response to what you read
- Tues 18** **Morning**—**MATTHEW 9:1-8**—as we pause with God today, we consider these particular words.....and then respond in prayer with Him
Midday—take time to listen for God to speak—ask, seek, knock—hear!
Evening—read the words again—reflect—then pray in response to our God
- Wed 19** **Morning**—**MATTHEW 9:35-38**—Pause with God this morning. Consider these words and images here...And then turn to pray to God
Midday—We pray God’s blessing on believers in Nepal
Evening—read the verses again—reflect..then pray to the LORD our God
- Thurs 20** **Morning**—**MATTHEW Chapter 10** - consider this particular passage this morning and then respond in your prayer to this God

Liberton Kirk Devotions for February 25

Midday–We pray God’s blessing on believers in India

Evening–read the set verses again–reflect on what is said here and then pray to this God we believe and trust

Fri 21 Morning–**MATTHEW 12:1-14**–As we pause with God, take time to consider these words ... And then pray in response to this God

Midday–We pray God’s blessing on those on our Church Prayer List

Evening–read the verses again, take time to reflect and pray to Father God

Sat 22 Morning–**MATTHEW 13:1-23**–as we pause with God today we take the time to consider these verses - And then pray to this Jesus

Midday–pray the words of the Lord’s Prayer as your own prayer today

Evening–read the words again–reflect–pray in response to what you read

Sun 23 Morning–**MATTHEW 19:16-30** - we take time to consider these words on this Sunday morning And then we pray to this Jesus in response

Midday–pray the words of the Prayer for the Month as your own prayer

Evening–read the verses again...reflect.. and then pray to this God of ours as we step into a new week with Him, together

Mon 24 Morning–**MATTHEW 21:33-46**–as we pause with God, we take time to consider these particular words today.....And then pray in response

Midday–We pray God’s blessing on believers in Sri Lanka

Evening–read the verses again–reflect–pray in response to what you read

Tues 25 Morning–**MATTHEW 22:23-32**–as we pause with God today, we consider this particular passage...and then respond in prayer with Him

Midday–take time to listen for God to speak–ask, seek, knock–hear!

Evening–read the verses again–reflect–then pray in response to God

Wed 26 Morning–**MATTHEW 23:13-39**–Pause with God this morning. Consider these words written here...And then turn to pray to this God

Midday–We pray God’s blessing on believers in Nicaragua

Evening–read the verses again–reflect–then pray to the LORD our God

Thurs 27 Morning–**MATTHEW 24:36-51** - consider this particular passage this morning and then respond in your prayer to this God we believe in

Midday–We pray God’s blessing on believers in Mexico

Evening–read the set verses again–reflect on what is said here and then pray to this God we believe and trust

Frid 28 Morning–**MATTHEW 25:31-46**–As we pause with God, take time to consider these words ... And then pray in response to this God

Midday–We pray God’s blessing on those on our Church Prayer List

Evening–read these verses again, take time to reflect and pray to Father God

Flower Rota

Church Flower Dedications in February

February 2025 Monthly Convener Lyn Maxwell 0131 476 6428

In memory of

2	Mary Munro	My beloved husband John Munro
9	Mrs Margaret Thomson	Ivy and William Jameson
16	Vacant	
23	Flower Conveners	of all past Flower Conveners

Flower Convener: Jill Snowdon, 29/3 Greenpark EH17 7TB 07823 335585

Flower Fund Treasurer: Kim Denholm, 58 Gilmerton Dykes Avenue EH17 8ND
0131 258 2312

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat
Matthew 25:35

GILMERTON SINGERS FOOD BANK DONATION

The recent concert by the Gilmerton Singers (who meet in the Kirk Centre each Friday between 10 am and 12 noon) raised the great sum of £820 for the Food Bank.

Our warm appreciation of this has been conveyed to them.

Anyone interested in joining this fabulous group can contact Muriel Connolly

lesliemuriel2@gmail.com
07890 854118



Reflecting Faith: Church Buildings

Calum Gubby's reflection on the changing look of Liberton Kirk (page 9) prompted the inclusion of this little reflection by the Rev Dr Jo White.

What impression do you have when you first see a church building?

Most of us have visited many church buildings, either to worship or as a tourist: to enjoy the splendour, the colours, the style and the architecture, with or without necessarily a time of prayer or worship.

There are some amazingly staggering designs around the world – one only has to think of the complex and intricate stone carving of Gaudi's catholic basilica in Barcelona, Spain (due to be completed next year!) and then compare that to the sleekness of the Lutheran (Church of Iceland) parish church in Reykjavík, Iceland.

How about the grandeur of St Peter's in Rome, full of baroque gold and rich colours? Or what about St Basil's Cathedral in Red Square, Moscow – now a museum but topped with amazingly coloured onion domes?

Just looking at the outside of a building tells you a lot about what it is likely to be like inside, the purpose of the building and the style of worship to expect there. It's not just about the condition of the fabric, or the tidiness of the grounds but rather the architecture itself. When we see a contemporary modern building, we will expect the worship to match it: whether that is Protestant, Catholic or any other denomination.

So, if you were designing a brand-new church building today, what would you put into it and therefore what would the exterior look like? What would you want on the outside, to express your faith? Would you include any specific Christian symbols, or be more all-encompassing?

Elders' Duties for February–April 25

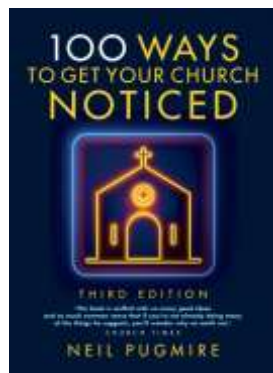
		Feb 25	March 25	April 25
9.30 am	1 West	David Lamb	Eric Brown	Alan Carmichael
	2 East	Christina Young	Tom Baxendale	Christina Young
11am	1 West	Alastair Cameron	Jill Niven	Ruth Davies
	2 East	Marie-Louise Robb	Helen Colley	Christine Johnson
	3 Gallery	Bill Robb	Netta Rough	Kim Denholm
	4 Front gate	Linda Skinner	David Colley	Mary Davidson
	5 Banker	David Lamb	Stewart Heney	Rink van Dijke

February Book Reviews

100 Ways to Get Your Church Noticed (3rd edition)

By Neil Pugmire, CHP, £18.99

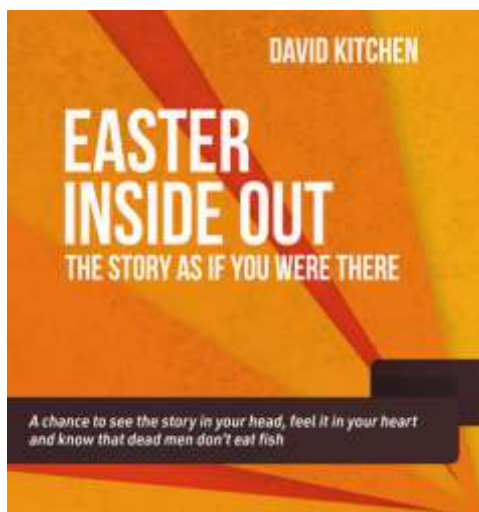
This practical guide by a media professional has helped countless churches to raise their profile in their local communities and more widely. Packed with simple, clear advice and ideas for generating publicity for your church and its mission, this revised third edition engages with the rise in online worship in the wake of the pandemic, and includes many low-cost, effective ideas for churches feeling financial pressures.



Written in clear and jargon-free language, it offers advice on:

- Developing an effective communications strategy
- Deciding the messages you want to convey
- Creating or updating your website
- Making the most of print, social media and online channels of communication
- Putting your building to work, inside and out
- Giving your publications a makeover
- Liaising with the media and more.

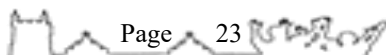
Illustrated throughout with examples that have worked successfully, this makes communication expertise readily accessible for churches in all contexts. Further support is available on the companion website, www.getyourchurchnoticed.com

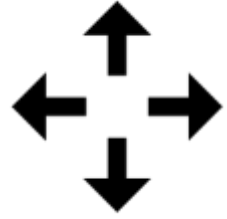


Easter Inside Out – the story as if you were there

By David Kitchen, BRF, £12.99

Step into the Easter story... Acclaimed storyteller David Kitchen reimagines the Easter narrative through a varied cast of characters, from Mary Magdalene to Caiaphas. If you want to understand who might have been where and doing what as the Easter story unfolds, this book gives you answers. It also lets you sense what it could have been like to be one of those involved in the twists and turns of one of the most extraordinary stories in the whole of history.





Mission in Today's World

A four-week course for anyone who wants to reach out to the people of South-East Edinburgh

What we'll do:

Teaching, discussion,
guest interviews, refreshments and
trying out ideas

Where: Liberton Northfield Church

When: January 30,
February 6, 13 and 20, 2025
7:30 – 9pm

Themes: Where mission begins

Incarnational mission
Using our gifts in mission
Mission strategies

THE ROAD TO THE ISLES

Make a date in your diary now for a Scots Night on Saturday 8th March, beginning at 7pm in the Kirk Centre.

We will be looking at the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, with some Scottish music, and some coffee or tea and light refreshments.

This is a World Mission Team event in aid of the Scottish Bible Society and EMMS (Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society) and tickets will be on sale in February – suggested donation £8.



Liberton Kirk Men's Collective

Invite all men to events in 2025!

A Men's Breakfast

Saturday 1st March
9.30-11am Kirk Centre Cafe
£5 on the day

A Men's Italian Evening

Friday 11th April + BYOB
7-9.30pm Kirk Centre
£5 on the evening

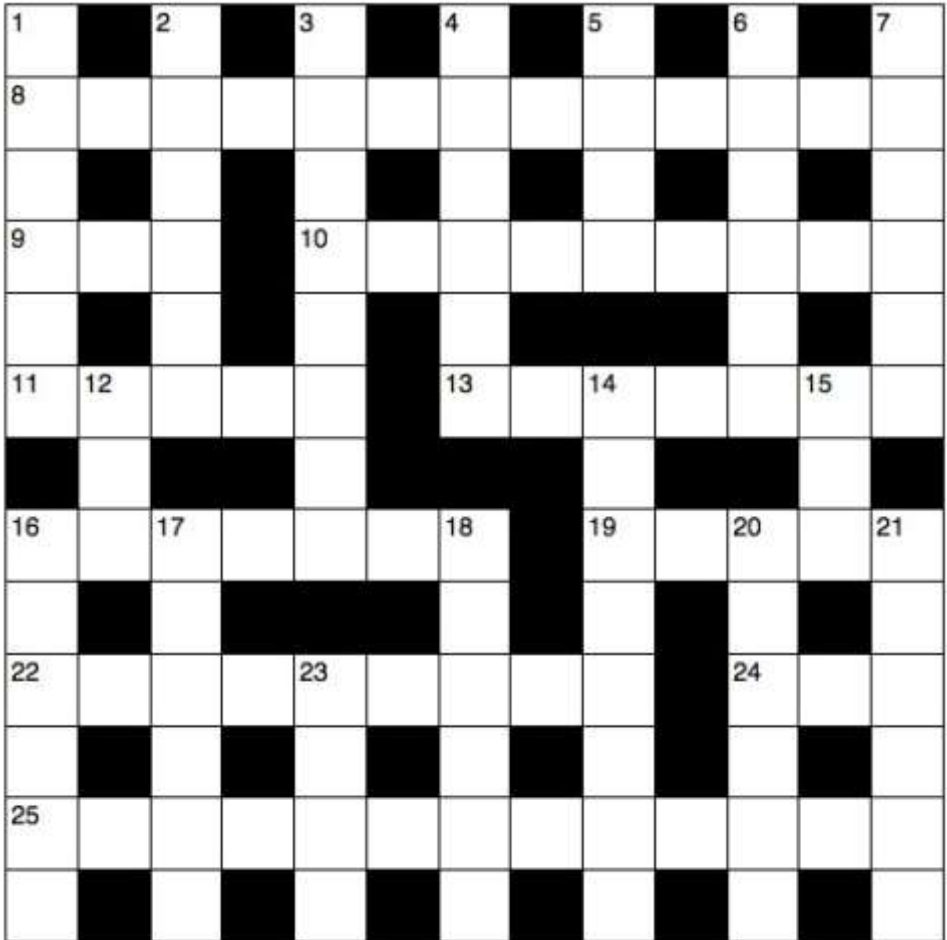
A Men's BBQ

Friday 20th June + BYOB
7-9.30pm Kirk Gardens
£5 on the day

Sign up before
each event!



February Crossword



Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)

9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)

13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)

12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)

15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)

16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)

17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)

20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)

23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

The solution to December's Crossword is on page %

Do you know anyone who might be interested in advertising in Liberton Kirk Magazine? Current rates are £16-50 per half page, except for the parish wide issue in September when the cost is £27-50 per half page..

If you are interested please contact the editor at magazine@libertonkirk.net

The Guild in February

Monday 3 February

A speaker from the Scottish Bible Society will tell us all about “**Bibles for Bairns**” — a National Guild Project. The Scottish Bible Society launched this project in 2023. Each child registered with them will receive a sharing Bible on their first birthday. Over the next three years they will be sent activities/games, and on their fifth birthday they will receive a children’s Bible. There will be a sales table.



Monday 17 February

Roy Johnstone will talk about “Life in Scotland in the Good Old Days.”



Saturday 22 February

GUILD SPRING COFFEE MORNING.

10am to 12 noon in the Kirk Centre in aid of our project “**Bibles for Bairns**”. Admission Adults £4.00 and Children free. See the Notice Board for more details.

PROJECTS 2021 - 2024—LOOK FORWARD IN FAITH

Here are the latest totals for the Guild Projects which finished at the end of December 2024. We reached over £500,000 which is an amazing amount, when you consider that the first year was during Covid. Well done to every Guild. If it wasn’t for the fund-raising efforts in the branches, we would not have been able to contribute to such worthwhile projects. We give thanks for all that was done in 2024 to bring glory to God through the Guild . We look forward to the new projects which started in January 2025.

PROJECT FIGURES From 01-Jun-21 To 08-Nov-24

TOTAL BEAT There is Hope (UK)	£ 83,749.80
PIONEERS Chocolate Heaven (South East Asia)	65,103.31
STARCHILD Finding the Light in Every Child (Uganda)	88,797.56
VINE TRUST Kazuznu Village of Hope (Tanzania)	91,541.58
HOME FOR GOOD A Home for Good (Scotland)	109,314.97
UNIDA Hear our Voice (Brazil)	<u>63,200.51</u>
	£501,707.73

Moira Cocksedge (Secretary), Tel. 662 0692



Liberton Kirk Guild will host the World Day of Prayer Service in Liberton Kirk on Friday 7 March at 2.00 pm. The Service has been prepared by the Women of the Cook Islands and their theme is *"I will praise thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made"*. Psalm 139:14
See the Notice Board for more details.

World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical organization which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast, the service begins with the writing country and theme being chosen a number of years earlier. It passes through international, national, regional and local committees for planning and presenting. Finally, at Liberton Kirk on Friday 7 March 2025, we will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of The Cook Islands. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world — through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later. A worldwide wave of prayer...



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Change of Address

Church Members: If you have moved house, or are about to move, please fill in the address slip below and hand it to your elder, or mail it to the Roll Keeper: Gary Ross, Liberton Kirk Office, 30 Kirkgate, Edinburgh, EH16 6RY. Thank you.

Name (s)

OLD Address

NEW Address

NEW Telephone

Moving date

You can also email your details to rollkeeper@libertonkirk.net



Liberton Kirk is part of the union of Church of Scotland congregations in south east Edinburgh. We are working together as a single parish to serve a wide area. Rather than being united in the 'traditional' sense, with one building and one minister, we act as a

'federation' of individual local congregations, each with their own leader and mission base, sharing their resources and working together in the service of Jesus.

The congregations of SEECOS are Gracemount Church (serving Gracemount, Southhouse and Burdiehouse) Liberton Kirk (serving Liberton), Liberton Northfield Church (serving the Inch), and Tron Kirk (serving Gilmerton and Moredun). We are bound together by a 'Covenant of Trust.'

Neighbourhood Scheme

If you need help with shopping or small jobs, please contact Linda Wright on 07850 411596, who will try to find someone to help.

Useful Websites

SEECOS	www.seecos.org.uk
Liberton Kirk	www.libertonkirk.net
Church of Scotland	www.churchofscotland.org.uk
Bethany	www.bethanychristiantrust.com
Fresh Start	www.freshstartweb.org.uk
Healing Rooms	www.healingrooms-scotland.com
City Council	www.edinburgh.gov.uk
What's on in Edinburgh	eventsedinburgh.org.uk
Edinburgh Leisure	www.edinburghleisure.co.uk
Scottish Executive	www.scotland.gov.uk
Liberton & District Community Council	libertondcc.wordpress.com
Liberton Association	libertonassociation.co.uk
Train times	www.nationalrail.co.uk
Bus times	lothianbuses.com
Airport arrivals	www.edinburghairport.com
Weather information	www.metcheck.com/V40/UK/HOME
Road traffic information	www.trafficscotland.org

The inclusion of an advert in this Magazine does not imply a recommendation.
Contacts made with advertisers are done at your own risk and no liability will be accepted by Liberton Kirk.

Editor's note

Material for the March Issue can be sent at any time; but **no later** than Sunday February 9.
Information should be sent to magazine@libertonkirk.net

**Liberton Kirk is
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www.seecos.org.uk

Useful numbers

BT Faults	0800 800 151
Virgin Media faults	0845 454 1111 (151 from a Virgin landline)
Electricity - power loss	0800 092 9290
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999
Scottish Water	0800 0778 778
Police .non-emergency calls	> > > 101
Police HQ	0131 311 3131
Royal Infirmary (all depts)	0131 536 1000
Sick Children's Hospital	0131 536 0000
NHS24 - free number	> > > 111
Edinburgh City Council	0131 200 2323
Clarence (Road Faults)	0800 23 23 23
Council Special Uplift	0131 529 3030
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First Edinburgh - Buses	08708 72 72 71
Lothian Buses	0131 555 6363
Train Times / Enquiries	08457 48 49 50

Liberton Kirk - names and addresses

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Preschool Children & Families Outreach Support: Laura Skinner,
email: laura@libertonkirk.net

Youth and Children's Worker: Emily Kerrigan,
email: youthandchildrensworker@libertonkirk.net

Facilities: tel 07478 111 407. Booking enquiries: facilities@libertonkirk.net

Session Clerk: Christopher Brandie, 50a Kirk Brae, tel 668 1850
email: sessionclerk@libertonkirk.net

Deputy Session Clerk: Rink Van Dijke, 21 Kirk Park, EH16 6HZ
tel 664 2178, email: rink@talktalk.net

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tel 07952 902 292. email: calumgubby@blueyonder.co.uk

Sunday Club Secretary: Margaret Brandie, 50a Kirk Brae tel 668 1850

Kirkgate Café: Jenni Thomasi tel 07894 056 216, kirkgatecafe@libertonkirk.net

Flower Convenor: Jill Snowdon 29/3 Greenpark EH17 7TB, tel 07823 335585

Convenor of Visitors to the Elderly: Contact Linda Wright, (see above)
for church notices. email: churchsecretary@libertonkirk.net
Please note that there is a letterbox at the Office door,

Normal Hours of Services : 9-30am, 11am & 6-30pm Please see diary pages for details of our services

Services are recorded from time to time for distribution to the housebound.
It may be possible to record a service on a one-off basis please contact John
Young if you have a special request. Contact can be made with the minister,
by telephone, at the above number, but please note that he is **not** available
through the day on Fridays.



Link Groups

Weekly Groups

Friday Fellowship—Friday morning in the Kirk Centre
Ruth Davies, r.davies335@btinternet.com, 664 3608

Young Adults—Thursday evenings in Blackford Avenue
Erik Storey, 07583309531, erik-ze-viking@hotmail.com

Fortnightly Groups

Pathfinders—Tuesday evening in various homes
Veronica Craig, veronicacraig41@gmail.com

Thrive—Wednesday evening in the Kirk Centre
Andrea Wilson, andrea.doeschl@gmail.com,
07910 471174

New Habits—Wednesday evening in various homes
Alastair Cameron, alastairfree@hotmail.com, 440 3090

Cornerstone—Wednesday evening in 176 Alnwickhill Road
Elizabeth (lizsnedden@gmail.com) & Robert Snedden
(robertsnedden1950@gmail.com), 664 1720

Vista Group—Thursday evening, Kirk Park
Rink van Dijke, rink@talktalk.net, 664 2178

Linked to the Lord—Thursday evening in Liberton Grange.
Linda Brown mammab176@gmail.com, 07516 811854, or
Laura Crooke lauraec83@gmail.com, 07566 265816

If you would like to join a group (where we meet to grow upwardly,
inwardly and outwardly), or want more information, contact:

Rink van Dijke (rink@talktalk.net)
or Caroline Barlee (barlee@blueyonder.co.uk)
or the Group you are interested in.



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