

Cockpen & Carrington

The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Christmas 2011



Church of Scotland

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PULPIT SUPPLY ROTA - December 2011/April 2012

DATE	LASSWADE (10.00 am)	COCKPEN & CARRINGTON (11.30 am)	ROSEWELL (please check times below)
18.12.11 4th Sunday in Advent	MINISTER	MINISTER (Nativity Play) 11.30 am Nine Lessons & Carols 7 pm	Rev Melville Schofield 11.30 am
25.12.11 Christmas Day	MINISTER	Joint Service at Lasswade 10 am	Joint Service at Lasswade 10 am
01.01.12	Service at Rosewell	MINISTER	MINISTER 10 am (S.Sch.)
08.01.12	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	Eddie Yeoman 11.30 am
15.01.12	MINISTER	MINISTER	Eddie Yeoman 11.30 am
22.01.12	MINISTER (Communion)	Rev M Schofield	Service at Lasswade 10 am
29.01.12	Rev M Schofield	MINISTER	MINISTER 10 am
05.02.12	Service at Rosewell	MINISTER (Communion)	Rev M Schofield 10 am (with Sunday School)
12.02.12	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev W Armitage 11.30 am
19.02.12	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev W Armitage 11.30 am
26.02.12	Martin McKean	Martin McKean	Service at Lasswade 10 am
04.03.12	Service at Rosewell	MINISTER	MINISTER 10 am (S.Sch.)
11.03.12	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev M Schofield 11.30 am
18.03.12	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev Colin MacPherson 11.30 am
25.03.12	MINISTER	MINISTER	Service at Lasswade 10 am
01.04.12 Palm Sunday	Service at Rosewell (Communion)	Rev M Schofield	MINISTER 10 am Communion (& Su. School)
08.04.12 Easter Day	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev W Armitage 11.30 am
15.04.12	Rev W Armitage	Rev W Armitage	Rev M Schofield 11.30 am
22.04.12	MINISTER	MINISTER	Service at Lasswade 10 am
29.04.12	Rev M Schofield	MINISTER	MINISTER 11.30 am

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES (Saturday 24th December 2011):
ROSEWELL 4.00 pm (time subject to confirmation);
LASSWADE (CHRISTINGLE) 7.00 pm; COCKPEN 11.20 pm

HOLY WEEK SERVICES: 2-6 APRIL 2012
(times and locations to be announced)

FRIDAY 2 MARCH 2012:
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE, CATHOLIC CHURCH, BONNYRIGG AT 7.30 PM

Office: 156 Carnethie Street, ROSEWELL, EH24 9AH

Manse: 2 Links Road, Port Seton, PRESTONPANS, EH32 0HA

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Dear Friends,

As we approach the seasons of Advent and Christmas, I pray that the real meaning of these seasons will touch our hearts. There is enormous commercial pressure to buy presents, consume and to have the “perfect” Christmas. Yet, when we consider the circumstances how Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem, the first Christmas was so very different. A heavily pregnant Mary – engaged to Joseph, but not yet married – having to make a very difficult and uncomfortable journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem through rugged, dusty terrain. The thought of being unable to find accommodation is bad enough for any traveller today, but for Mary and Joseph this must have been deeply upsetting. When the Roman Emperor decided to hold the census, I doubt that he had given much thought to how the lives of ordinary, real people would have been affected. Modern governments can still be prone to make decisions that negatively affect ordinary people. Yet, in the midst of this human drama, came the birth of a baby who was destined to be the Saviour of the World. This birthday party is indeed a cause for ongoing celebration, yet one where the greatest gifts that we can give Jesus Christ are ones of peace, love and reconciliation.

Looking back on 2011, this has been a momentous year – perhaps best seen in the revolutions which have become known as the “Arab Spring”. Libya, Egypt and Tunisia have seen unpopular dictators overthrown, although their replacements are struggling to get to grips with the aftermath. In May, we were blessed with visitors from our twin congregations in India – but in September we learnt of a tragic earthquake. Here, the economic problems have never been far from the headlines. In the midst of so much uncertainty, the words of the prophet Isaiah, in foretelling the coming of Christ, offer hope: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6).

Please do come and enjoy the Christmas services in Church. Kristina and I wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and every blessing for 2012. God bless you,

Rev Matthew Ross, Minister



Church of Scotland announces Moderator Designate for 2012

The founder of an international interdenominational charity that helps street children has been chosen to be the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The Reverend Albert Bogle, minister at St Andrew's Parish Church in Bo'ness, has been nominated Moderator Designate by the Church of Scotland's Committee to Nominate the Moderator of the General Assembly. He was ordained in 1981. He is regarded as an innovator, particularly in using new technology (such as PowerPoint) in worship.

As well as his ministry in Bo'ness, Mr Bogle has served the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in various roles from 1983 sitting on the Panel of Worship to being convener of the Kirk's "Church without Walls" Planning Group from 2004 to 2009. He is currently a member of the World Mission Future Strategy Group.

The importance of the correlation between local, national and international has had a profound effect on him personally and on his ministry and congregation and it was this that led to Mr Bogle establishing the Vine Trust.

Set up in 1985 the Vine Trust helps some of the poorest children and communities around the world. Currently, the charity's Amazon Hope Project provides a health service for around 100,000 patients every year.

Mr Bogle is married to Martha. The couple have a son and daughter.

No change

*This letter was found among some papers belonging to an Aunt of Irene Ramsay.
Does it sound familiar?*

The Manse
Cockpen
Bonnyrigg
Midlothian
16/3/53

Dear Fellow-Member,

I hope that you read this letter very carefully, because it is a personal letter from me, your Minister, to you. Then, when you have read it, I hope you will respond wholeheartedly to its challenge and its appeal.

How much does Cockpen Parish Church mean and matter to you? Have you any real concern about it, and do you really care what happens to it?

In all probability you do at least have a very strong sentimental and emotional attachment to it, for many reasons. Perhaps you or yours were baptized in it: perhaps you were received into the communicant membership of the Church in it: perhaps you or yours were married within its walls: perhaps one or more of your loved one or your friends were laid to rest in the Cemetery around it. In one way or another, you see, it is bound up with all that is most sacred in your home and family life.

Or if you have come into the fellowship of the Congregation by Certificate from some other place, you have perhaps rejoiced in its splendid exterior, its majestic tower, its lovely situation, its worship and its praise.

The Fabric of Cockpen, the Church, the Manse and the Hall, cannot, however, be maintained on sentiment and emotion. The maintenance of that Fabric is costlier than ever, nowadays, and it is not at all likely to become any less so. We really so need your financial support in larger measure than ever before, to enable us to build up to adequate proportions our Fabric Fund which has been completely exhausted by recent heavy and unavoidable expenditure on our buildings.

With this letter there will be delivered to you by your Elder a special envelope into which you are invited to put a special contribution to the Fabric Fund. He will call back for the envelope in about a week. Before you put anything into that envelope consider how much it matters to you whether there will be a Parish Church in Cockpen or not: consider whether or not you want it to remain and to be maintained there in majesty and beauty: and then contribute as largely as you possible can: by doing so you will enable us to keep it, together with the Manse and the Hall, in sound condition, lovely, attractive and worthy. It is not for my sake that this is being asked, but for the sake of Jesus Christ and His Church without whom and without which your life, as you know in your heart of hearts, would be empty and vain.

With kindest regards and every
good wish from your Minister.
Wm. A. McFarlane (Signed)

From the Cockpen & Carrington Clerk.

I write this in late October so that all will be available for the Editors by the 6th November (**the deadline**). It's quite difficult to be writing nearly two months before Christmas but, it is what has to happen with most magazines so as to meet the printer's deadline.

I try each time to encourage others to contribute but, often to no avail. Saying that, the Harvest copy did have news from a few others and, that was very heartening. It does get quite difficult to think what to tell our folks but, I suppose, it's just like writing a letter to someone telling of what you are doing , what's been done or, what has to be done. The one sure way to know the answers to what's been done or, what has to be done could be easier for all to understand if **you** just came along to Church when possible and then, folks might realize what '**the few**' have to do to try and keep our lovely Church to the fore. I don't intend to say any more regarding this at the moment but, I would ask that you consider what you (and we) may be missing.

My 'Link' article will be short this time (thankfully you say!) but, I mention the joy we had as a Kirk Session and Congregation on Sunday 16th October when we welcomed three much needed new Elders namely, John Adamson, Mary Johnston and Elizabeth (Liz.) MacDonald. John was an Elder at Lasswade Church previously and he was Admitted whereas Mary and Liz. were Ordained. The Minister and Kirk Session were so happy when they all agreed to join us as an increase in Session numbers was required for various reasons.

It is, of course, our wish that all three will enjoy the duties of Eldership, something that I, since 1966, have cherished as have 'the other lifers' and, I know that my fellow Elders will be more than happy to guide them for as long as they need. Again, I welcome all three who I know, will carry out the respective duties with love and diligence.

On a sad note, we mourn in the passing of one of our members, Arthur Mills on 31st October. Arthur and Liz came to us in 1993 from Edinburgh and have been faithful members of our Church since that time. Arthur joined our Congregational Board a few years ago and, although not too well for much of that time, he gave of his time freely and willingly and, we all benefited from his wise council on many issues.

Our thoughts, love and prayers are with Liz and the family in this time of sadness.

Finally, I thank the editorial team for all they do in the preparation and distribution of such a fine magazine. I know that many who don't get about love to read of what's happening in the Churches and feel that it's keeping them in touch.

Yours, in friendship,

George.

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH.

BAPTISMS

It was lovely to welcome the following babies along with parents, families and supporters to recent Baptismal Services. We hope that all felt happy being amongst us at such a special time.

- 28th August - Halle Beth Morton, infant daughter of Ian and Lynne.
18th September - Callum Alexander Blair, infant son of Scott and Alana.
23rd October - Ceira Alice Diane Grimley, infant daughter of Peter and Nicola.

All babies were baptized by the Minister.

'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee.'

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couple who were married recently in Church and, we wish them every happiness.

- 10th September - Brian Kinnear to Tanya Smith. (The Minister)

BEREAVEMENT

It is with much sadness that we record the death recently of one of our congregation and, a 'Board' member, Mr. Arthur Mills. We pray for Liz. and other family members at this sad time.

We continue to pray for any from our Congregation(s) (and outwith) who grieve at this time of loss. As a Congregation, we are here for any who feel that we can help in any way.

Jesus said, 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'.

NEW MEMBER

We are delighted to welcome Mr. Bill Taylor, Park Crescent who joins this Congregation (from Bonnyrigg Church). We're sure Bill will be no stranger to most of us here and, we hope he will be happy in our midst.

Gift Day donations

To date, donations received total £1820. A substantial element of this amount is subject to re-claim of tax and therefore around a further £300 will come back eventually from the Tax Office.

The congregation are to be thanked for their generosity and support which will go some way to alleviate our fragile financial position. However if there are still any envelopes out there, it's not too late to hand these in at Church or pass to your District Elder.

Ian Fowler
Treasurer

Cake Stall

Many thanks to all who made our cake stall on 27th October a success once again. We are most grateful to all who provide the goods and, to the customers who enjoy them.

Our next dates at the Pitcairn Centre are as follows -

1st December, 2011
12th January, 2012
23rd February, 2012
22nd March, 2012

Thank you for continuing to support this venture. With all best wishes for the Festive Season.

Helen, Jean and Wilma.

From a book - 'Facing the Storm'

As you know, I have included a few stories from the above book in previous issues of 'The Link' and would like to share one more with you. I have enjoyed these books so much and would commend them to you. **G.S.**

Mark Ch. 10, v. 13 - 16

Christmas is a cross and a woolly hippopotamus or, so it seemed the other Sunday.

My home Church is housed in a modern building - a Church in the round. The pews are set in three-quarters of a circle and, the focal point is the Communion Table. Usually, a cross, a Bible and a small bowl of flowers stand on the Table - nothing else. For Communion Services, of course, there's bread and wine - simple and uncluttered.

This morning was different, the Table was almost covered, the cross nearly obscured. There were two woolly hippos, several dolls, a family of teddy bears, a furry rabbit, boxes, books and crayons. It was a toy Service, and the toys were gifts from the congregation to a local centre helping children with mental handicap.

On the Table, woolly hippos or, bread and wine? It seemed a incongruous contrast at first sight but, below the superficial difference, I felt a deeper similarity. Both were expressions of love, both made the incarnation a reality. Both pointed to the truth that God cares, that he stands with the weak and vulnerable.

Sometimes theology seems so abstract and remote, yet, the reality of love is simple and concrete and, can be expressed as well in a woolly hippo as in anything else.

Lord, sometimes it seems we try to keep you safe in some old echoing museum of theology. We hold you, treasured but remote. We dust the showcase, occasionally renew the label. Show our respect in regular visits, Sunday by Sunday, the only contact with the world outside the flower arrangements, tastefully done.

But you are Lord of life, not some old image of Victorian conformity. You brim with energy, with the urgency of now. Your word calls me to make contact today. Challenges my preconceptions. Faces me with the world that lies outside the double-glazed and insulated walls of my religion. Confronts me with the call to love, not abstract ideas, but people.

Your cross was wood from a living tree, real blood, real pain. And you call me to follow you into that world. To show my love in ordinary ways, to ordinary people. Help me, Lord, never to lose touch with your reality. Help me to see compassion in a teddy bear, an image of your love, in toys freely given.

From Meditations and Prayers by Eddie Askew.

Bric a Brac

There are always bargains to be had at our weekly bric a brac in the Church Hall, Dundas Street on Thursdays between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m.

One request from the 'clothes' department is - if you have any unwanted good quality **children's clothes**, they would be gratefully received.

Also, if you would care to lend a hand at one of the stalls please contact us any Thursday morning.

The Team.

Co-incidence?

Not long after the 9/11 bombings in New York the Scottish Emergency Planning Society arranged its annual conference at Crieff Hydro which has historical connections to the Church of Scotland.

The main speaker was a representative from the office of the Chief Medical Examiner for New York who outlined the particular problems which the bombings had posed for her department. In the course of which she mentioned that it had been possible to identify people from very small remains because of the advances in science.

When she had finished her presentation she invited questions. She was asked how her staff handled those cases where there were no remains, where the victims had been simply been atomised by the extreme heat.

At this point she leaned forward for the first and only time onto the lectern, let her hands fall over the front, and replied to the effect that it depended upon their faith and that those with any faith found it easier to accept.

As she left the stage I stepped forward to thank her and asked her if she was aware of what her fingers had been pointing at when she answered that question. She answered no and I pointed out the front of the lectern - where the burning bush appeared with the Latin *NEC TAMEN CONSUMEBATUR* - and it was not consumed. We shared a knowing look – co-incidence? or one of those very special moments.

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON CHURCH - CHRISTMAS MUSIC 2011

At the time of writing the autumn weather is being relatively kind to us. From last year's experience however I am all too aware that the picture may be very different by the time we reach Christmas! With fingers crossed therefore work is already underway on preparing a programme of music which will bring some Christmas cheer. The choir and I look forward as always to a busy but enjoyable festive season.

The Cockpen & Carrington musical pattern is now well established, and here are the dates for this year's diary:

Monday 12 December

This will be the date for our always popular **Guild Carol Evening**. In time honoured fashion this will take place in the Church Hall in Dundas Street and begin at 7.30 pm. This is very much an occasion for audience participation, so make sure you are in good voice! Our own choir will of course be leading proceedings and this will provide a chance to hear what is on this year's Christmas musical menu. A more consumable menu will be featuring as well of course, and I suspect that aspect alone will ensure the usual excellent attendance.

Sunday 18 December

Our Christmas Family Service will take place at Cockpen Church at the usual time of 11.30 am. Needless to say, pride of place will go to the Sunday School's **Nativity Play**, although as regular attenders will know that title does not begin to describe the sort of production we have become used to experiencing! No doubt there may even be a surprise star guest or two....

Our **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** will take place at 7.00 pm that evening. This will as ever form one of the central parts of our Christmas worship and we look forward to welcoming the many who regularly attend from our own congregation and elsewhere, and hopefully some new faces too. As always, the service will take place entirely by candlelight and the readers will be drawn from across the whole congregation. Many of the traditional hymns and carols will feature as always, but there will also be an opportunity to hear one or two new items from the choir, drawn this year from all around Europe.

Saturday 24 December

As last year, the choir has a busy evening in view as we have two performances to give before we reach the Church, namely at Broomieknowe Golf Club and for the guests at Dalhousie Castle itself. We should be well warmed up therefore for the traditional **Watchnight Service**, which will take place as always at 11.20 pm. A mix of carols and readings will take us up to the coming of Christmas itself when the church bell rings at midnight. Whatever the weather has thrown at us (and I think last year was the coldest we have known!) we have always seen a high attendance and we trust that this year will be no different.

As in the recent years, our own choir will be reinforced for some of these events by one or two friends from the Dalkeith Singers and elsewhere. We are very grateful to them for finding time for us in their own busy Christmas schedules – I just hope that the weather allows all of the choir actually to reach the Church this year!

Graham Burnside
Organist

Jericho House Letter

The following extract is from a letter received from Jericho House.

JERICO BENELECTINE SOCIETY

The Compassion of Jesus.

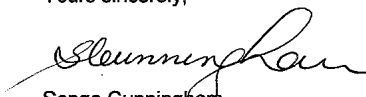
Jericho House
53, Lothian Street
EDINBURGH, EH1 1HB

Dear Ms Dolan,

Brother Peter has asked me to acknowledge your donation of harvest thanksgiving gifts. He along with the other volunteers were delighted to share the donation with the people who attend the Soup Kitchen.

Please convey thanks to everyone concerned.

Yours sincerely,



Senga Cunningham

Asst. Unit Manager

Jericho House is recognised as a Scottish Charity by the Inland Revenue Ref. No. SC 016909.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

1. WELCOME

A warm welcome to two new recruits - our babies: Cameryn Crombie - wee sister to Jacob & Drew and Samuel Phillips - wee brother of Charlotte. Samuel joins Jacob as our only boys! We'd love to see more boys and girls coming along. Don't worry if you can't make it every week. Remember we have Sunday School at Rosewell on the 1st Sunday in the month and in Cockpen Hall most Sundays - contact us for dates or see calendar on church website. <http://www.church.cockpen.co.uk/>

2. WHO ARE WE?

We have now split into 4 groups and the children have named them as follows:



- The **TADPOLES** - Our Teeny wee ones:
Cameryn, Gracie, Levi, Meadow & Samuel.



- The **MERMAIDS** - our 3 to 6 year olds:

Aimee, Brodie, Charlotte & Layla.

The name of this group will be expanded when we have some boys in this age group!



- The **SMURFS** - our 7 to 8 year olds;

Cerys, Drew & Ellie



- The **TREE-HUGGERS** - 9 to 11 year olds;

Amy, Caitlin, Devon, Jacob & Lucy.

- Louise Gillespie is our Monitor and assists all the groups. When Callum's available he helps out too.

At Rosewell, as our numbers are smaller, we just remain in the one group.

3. NEW FORMAT

We mentioned last time that we were changing the format - well we have. We've set up a group for our teenies - the Tadpoles! We have quite a few babies who join us so have tried to provide some activities for them. Levi and Meadow are our older Tadpoles.....but not frogs yet (!), and they often do painting . The annexe is no longer suitable for us to meet in and all groups are in the main hall.

For our 3 other groups, we split their time into 3 sessions: story/craft and music and each group rotates round each of the sessions. This is the plan but sometimes doesn't work out if our numbers are low. We all come together at the start and sing and then go into our groups. At the end, we also come back

together and have our offering, prayer, a wee update, any news and sing what Jim has been teaching us . At Rosewell there is a story and craft which Margaret & Jackie bring to Cockpen too.

4. HARVEST THANKSGIVING - THANKS

What a generous congregation we have! The harvest table and its surroundings were laden with harvest goods. Tinned goods were taken to Jericho House who were overwhelmed with the response. Sadly, their soup kitchen is being used by more and more vulnerable people during these difficult times so our donation was well-received. Please see their acknowledgment.

Our own parishioners were delighted to receive fresh produce and flowers and we've had a few messages thanking us for remembering them.

5. FRIENDS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

We've missed Mrs Winnie Brown at church. Such a supporter of the Sunday School. We hope you may be able to visit us at the hall soon.

6. CHRISTMAS OUTING TO PANTOMIME

91 of us are off to the pantomime at the Kings Theatre on **Saturday 10 December** - oh no you're not.....oh yes we are! It's **Cinderella** and will be lots of fun. It will be the first time at the panto for a few of our little ones - so quite exciting. Tickets have been issued with details of buses & pick-up times.

7. NATIVITY

Our plans for this year are a wee bit different.....partly as we've not made them up yet! Our numbers are down a bit and can vary from week to week which makes rehearsals quite challenging and that's before we see what the weather's like! Our teachers are also busy so are not always able to be there either so we **will have** nativity services at Lasswade on 11 December and Cockpen on 18 December when the services will be an all-inclusive, child-friendly occasions.

8. AND WE'RE BACK.....!

We end the year with our family service at Cockpen on 18 December and do not return until **Sunday 15 January 2012**. There is a service at Lasswade on Christmas Day at 10am when everyone will be made most welcome.

Cockpen and Carrington Flower Rota

January 2012

8th Irene Ramsay
15th Barbara
22nd Jean Sharpe
29th Lynn Hanson

February

5th Ian Fowler
12th Barbara
19th Flower Fund
26th Peats

March

4th M McAlpine
11th C Fisher
18th Stella
25th Jim Dyer



April

Palm Sunday 1st Nancy Richardson

Thanks you as always for all your support.

Hope the dates are suitable for all participants, if not, see me in Church or phone 0131 663 1825 and I'll try to fix things.

God bless,
Irene Ramsay.

11th September Remembered

By Ian Murdoch

During our cruise holiday on board Crown Princess, May and I attended Divine Service on Sunday 11th September, coinciding with the 10th Anniversary of the terrorist attacks in the United States.

The service was taken by an Anglican vicar from USA, a lady minister. We listened to a truly great talk on forgiveness given by a Baptist from Leicestershire. He had been caught up in the terrorist attacks in Madrid and London. He had a most interesting story to tell. He is blind, with a guide dog, and the dog kept pulling him away from the direction of the bus which was blown up on that tragic day.

At 11 a.m. all, irrespective of nationality, observed a minute's silence in memory of those of all faiths who died during the terrible events of 11th September, 10 years ago.

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON GUILD

Liz Mills was to chair the first group of our meetings but as her husband Arthur's health was deteriorating she wanted to stay home and nurse him herself as much as possible . We in the Guild have been thinking of Liz and Arthur during the last few weeks and have prayed for them and their family. Sadly Arthur did not recover but we continue to keep Liz in our thoughts at this difficult time for her and look forward to seeing her back among her friends in the Guild when she feels able to join us.

The Rev Matthew Ross spoke to us at our first meeting on our theme " Called to walk Humbly". We have had speakers from the Simpsons Special Care Babies charity which helps raise funding for extra aids etc for the premature and very ill infants in the ICU of the maternity department, Sue and Glynn Denny telling us of their mission work in the Phillipines, an entertaining history lesson on Newbattle Abbey and local lass Heather Lyall telling us about her spell as a member of the crew on one of the tall ships. All have been very interesting and it was lovely to welcome some new faces as well as some old friends who are now able to come back to our group.

As usual we are looking forward to Graham Burnside and the choir entertaining as well as leading our singing at the annual Guild Carol Party to which all are most welcome . It is in the Church hall on Monday 12th December at 7.30p.m.

In the New year we have more interesting speakers engaged which I shall list below. From the list you can tell how varied and expansive the topics covered are, indeed have to be ,for the modern Guild member is much more travelled and open minded than most think – there are no Nora Batties or Ena Sharples in our group

As always we invite more of you to come along to join us and as men are now eligible for membership it would be nice to have some of them come too. Perhaps you would like to test the water and come see what the meetings are like first? If so you'd be more than welcome – Go on take up our offer!

9th Jan. – Nibbles and Natter Evening

23rd Jan . – Nat Fisher talk on Robert Burns

6th. Feb. – Stanley Bonthron explains "What's in a name "

20th Feb . – Jean Laughlin tells us about Saltergate school of which she is Head Teacher

5th March – We hear of the work carried out by EMMS

19th March Speaker from R.N.L.I. Dunbar

16th. April – Paramedic work within the Scottish Ambulance Service

Shoe Box appeal

Thanks to all who filled a shoe box or donated towards one for the Christmas appeal by Blythswood.Care. The Oasis group joined in this year and the total number of boxes filled was 40.

Thanks again, Helen

NEONATAL UNIT

Simpson Centre for Reproductive Health
51 Little France Crescent
EDINBURGH EH16 4SA
Telephone: 0131 536 1000
Fax: 0131 242 2600

Consultant Neonatologists:

Dr J P Boardman
Dr J-C Becher
Dr C Kissack
Dr I A Laing
Dr G Menon
Dr P Midgley
Dr B Stenson

Helen
Convener
C/o Mrs Nancy Richardson
Secretary
Cockpen and Carrington Parish Ladies Guild
2 Waverley Drive
Bonnyrigg
EH19 3BL

Our Ref: GM
Date: 20 October 2011
Tel No: 0131 242 2567

Dear Helen

Thank you very much to you and Nancy and all the members of Cockpen and Carrington Guild for inviting me to speak on the work of Simpsons Special Care Babies. It was lovely to have an audience which included members of the other Guilds and I greatly appreciated that you all came out on a cold wintery night to hear of the work.

Fantastically Guild members had brought the garments they had completed knitting, for me to take to the staff of the Neonatal Unit. Before taking them to the staff on the Neonatal Unit I could not help but look and enjoy the lovely gifts given to help the babies. You will know that gifts of knitted hats are much valued by all staff within the Simpson as each of the over 7,000 babies born in the Simpson will have a hat put on them within moments of their birth. It is so wonderful to have your support in this respect, knowing that you are helping each and every baby in a way that they and their parents may never really know about, but you will.

My goodness as I delved into each bag I was astounded at the lovely blankets, cardigans and matching cardigans and hats that completely filled the bag I brought to work. I enjoyed the diversity of pattern, colour, texture; all displaying your mastery of the art of knitting.

I want to send grateful thanks on behalf of all the midwives and nursery staff here in the Simpson for your dedication to helping the babies born at the Simpson through your skill, time and hard work. It is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Gill Mitchell
Secretary

Bonnyrigg Ranger Guides

Congratulations to Catsy and Dougie Moffat on the birth of their beautiful baby boy, Rory, on Friday 17th June 2011. Rory has been along to meet the girls and was on his very best behaviour. Catsy is doing brilliantly and hasn't missed a Ranger get together yet!!



We have been back at Rangers since the start of September and we are enjoying a jam packed programme to take us up to the Christmas break.

In early September, we held a Mexican themed evening where the girls cooked nachos, fajitas and burritos and we learned a little bit of Spanish too.

We have been asked by Heather Cubie a leading Clinical Virologist in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh to be involved in a peer education

programme to raise awareness in cervical cancer. We held a most interesting and successful evening in October discussing how we as a Ranger unit could lead this initiative and take it forward. We are now attending the Scottish Parliament in November to hear Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust address MSPs. We are also receiving a full tour of the Parliament building whilst we are there.

We held a Halloween party at the end of October. All the girls came dressed in fancy dress and we dopped for apples and monkey nuts and played some scary Halloween games. We had a fun evening.

In early November, we held a Beauty Pamper evening. Many thanks to Lisa Thompson who came along to give the girls a mini manicure. We had foot spas, hand massages, make overs and hair curling going on. Safe to say we all felt refreshed by the end of the night.

Still to come before Christmas, we are having a Christmas Come Dine with Me and a trip into Edinburgh to the Big Wheel and Winter Wonderland.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone connected to Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church and their families a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Lynsey
Stevenson



Lasswade and Rosewell Choir

This article is being started in September – before the Autumn Issue of The Link is out - as I see the editors are calling for material for the Christmas Issue to be in their hands by 6th November by which time, all going to plan, Moira and I will be in Singapore. So I felt I had better get this done early.

At the time of writing, the Choir do not know what plans I have for Christmas but, if they agree, one of the items which we shall do will be a setting of the well known carol “In the bleak mid-winter” sung to an arrangement by Richard Lloyd. We actually did this a couple of years ago but it merits an airing again.

The words, which appear in many hymnals and carol books, are based on a poem by Christina Rossetti and can be sung to settings by a variety of composers, including Gustav Holst whose well known tune “Cranham”, which is in CH4, is named after the Gloucestershire town. Harold Darke and Richard Lloyd are two other people who have done arrangements for these words and it is the latter’s setting which we hope to do at Christmas. The words can also vary between hymnals and carol books. The author, however, brings out very clearly the physical and climatic conditions as she sees it at the time of the Birth. You can hear the frosty wind moaning and experience the earth hard as iron and the frozen water. She then contrasts His second coming – heaven cannot hold him – with the stable place of His birth. While angels throng the air it is only his mother who can worship Him with a kiss. Finally, while shepherds can bring a lamb and wise men do their part, we can give Him our hearts.

Christina Georgina Rossetti was born in London on 5th December 1830 and died there on 29th December 1894. She was educated at home by her mother and in the 1840s the family faced a period of financial difficulties due to the deteriorating physical and mental health of her father. He was diagnosed with bronchitis, possibly tuberculosis and faced losing his sight. He was forced to give up his teaching post at Kings College and suffered from depression and other problems for his remaining eleven years. Christina’s mother began teaching to help keep the family out of poverty and with her siblings at work or college Christina’s life at home was one of isolation.

Although she, too, suffered from health problems she began writing poems from 1846 and was inspired by her favourite poets and also by narratives from the Bible, folk tales and the lives of the saints.

She undertook voluntary work from 1859-70 at St. Mary Magdalene House and Charity in Highgate, a refuge for former prostitutes. She opposed slavery in the American Deep South, cruelty to animals and the exploitation of girls in under age prostitution.

She died in 1894 from a recurrence of an earlier diagnosis of breast cancer and is buried in Highgate Cemetery in North London.

I have dwelt on only one piece which I hope to do with the Choir but I have several other items in mind. At this moment I do not know which services we shall be invited to sing at but in previous years the "usual suspects" have been the Carol Party at Rosewell and the Christmas Eve service at Lasswade and I assume we shall be at both this year.

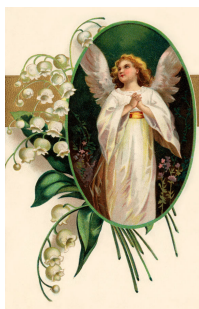
I am very conscious that any choral activity would not be possible without the enthusiasm, support and hard work of the ladies and gentlemen who form our choir. To the regular choir who turn out Sunday by Sunday and to those who have augmented our number for special services I express my thanks once again for all your support over the year.

The Choir join me in wishing all our readers and their families the Compliments of the Season.

HLRD

Lasswade Church Flower Rota January to March

January 8 th	Mary Sharpe
January 15 th	Nita Adams
January 22 nd	Moira Dryden
January 29 th	Betty Burns
February 12 th	Ann Macdonald
February 19 th	Cathie Drysdale
February 26 th	Pat Lawrie
March 11 th	Margaret Waugh
March 18 th	Lynda Williamson
March 25 th	Morag Rennie



I am in the process of making up the rota for the year 2012 and would be very happy to include some new names. If you feel you would like to help with this special service I would be happy to include you.

It is difficult to think about the New Year when there are still many weeks to go but like many things in life plans have to be made and this includes the provision of flowers. I am very grateful to the many people who provide the flowers. The church is enhanced with the beauty of them and the flowers go out into the community to be enjoyed by others.

Moira Dryden

Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Local History Society

In March 2012 the Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Local History Society will celebrate its 30th anniversary and the fact that it has continued for three decades is due in no small way to the support and encouragement it has received from members over that period. Over the years the Society has met in various venues in Bonnyrigg but it now meets in The Pitcairn Centre, Bonnyrigg Church Halls in the High Street on the third Wednesday of each month from October – April with the exception of December.

The usual format is that we have a visiting speaker – in many cases the talk is illustrated – and he/she talks for approximately 40 minutes. We then have a “cuppa” which is a very important aspect of the evening because it provides an opportunity for members and visitors to talk to one another and it allows people to speak to the visiting speaker about any aspect of the talk which might have been of interest to them as individuals.

During the year we have an outing to some place of historical interest and venues in recent years have included Mount Stuart in Rothesay, Durham, Alnwick Castle and Gardens, Beamish, Traquair, Falkland Palace, Drumlanrig Castle and in September 2011 we hope to go to Arniston House.

Our syllabus for the 2012 Session has more or less been finalised and is:-

- 18th January : A 100 Years of Scouting in Bonnyrigg, marking the centenary of
The Local Boy Scout Group.
- 15th February : Surnames of Scotland. Speaker Dr. Ian Fraser
- 21st March : 30th Anniversary Dinner at Broomieknowe Golf Club
- 18th April : AGM

At some point during the Session we hope to commemorate in some way Dr. Mary Noble who was one of our Founding Members in 1982 and who had done a lot of spadework before then to determine if it would be worthwhile to form a local history society.

Like all Organisations we are keen to attract new members of whatever age and if you would like to come along to any, or all, of the meetings in the coming session you will be made most welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

The venue once again is The Pitcairn Centre, Bonnyrigg Church Halls. The time is 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of each month, commencing 19th October 2011.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Herbert Dryden (0131 663 8895)

THE HOLY HIKERS

Take a two mile walk every morning
before breakfast

Harry Truman



As the gap between the Harvest and the Christmas Magazine is so short there is little to tell.

The August evening walk to Penicuik House had to be cancelled due to rain. On Saturday 13th August we were due to go a longer walk in the Pentland Hills. Six people turned up and as we only had one car we had to change our plans and do Polton and the Cast which had been postponed in June due to bad weather. This proved to be most interesting as we even managed a look at Mavisbank House.

In September, Betty Bodman led a walk round Vogrie Country Park and as it was Doors Open Day they also visited Crichton Church. Another wet day in October meant the cancellation of the walk in Dalkeith Country Park.

The 10th Anniversary of the Group is in November and we look forward to Dinner at Broomieknowe Golf Club where 31 past and present members will gather to celebrate the occasion. The following day we will walk round Newhailes Estate in Musselburgh.

Happy Hiking
Jim Scott

Please send your news to the Editors for the Easter Issue of

“The Link” on or before Sunday 11th March 2012.