

Cockpen & Carrington Parish Church

Bicentennial Commemorative
Magazine



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From the Minister...

Had this year been more usual, we would have enjoyed all the carefully made plans for our 200th Anniversary celebrations at Cockpen & Carrington Church. However, with the arrival of Covid-19 these, as with so many other plans, have needed to be postponed in a hopeful manner into 2021.

As we approach Christmas 2020, many of us may be feeling this has been a difficult and challenging year. Many have had to face months of feeling very inactive and isolated. Some have experienced the loss of loved ones and a deepened helplessness and sadness because it wasn't possible to be with them in the way we would have wanted. Some have faced risk, stress and exhaustion

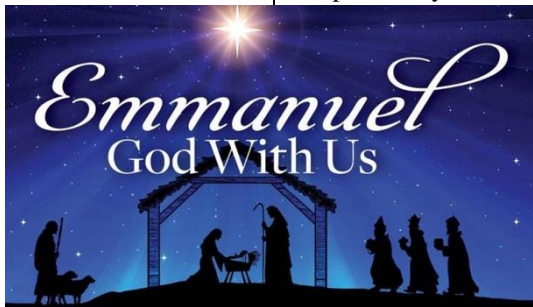
serving as NHS staff and care home staff, as well as in other frontline roles. Parents and children had to cope with home schooling. Some have had a long period on furlough with loss of income and real uncertainty about future jobs and livelihoods. We may now all be anxious that Christmas is going to be very different this year, and without the same opportunities to be together.

It is interesting to look back to Christmas 1918 and see how the nation then faced even more difficult and challenging times. The end of the First World War in November had brought great rejoicing. After all the devastation and hardship during the war, people were very ready to get together on the streets to celebrate. And yet there was still further trauma to come. While the Spanish Influenza pandemic had been waning in 1918, armistice celebrations caused a second wave of infection and many

who had come through the war succumbed to the flu. It eventually claimed the lives of 40 million people worldwide.

In that situation in December 1918 there was a fear that Christmas would need to be cancelled. It just wouldn't be possible to be together if all that did was spread the flu. However, to everyone's relief, the infection rate began to fall in mid-December. Shops and churches were able to open again and Christmas, though different, did still happen.

In Cambridge that Christmas, Eric Milner-White, aged thirty-four, had just been appointed Dean of King's College. He had previously served as an army chaplain.



Reflecting on this, the terrible impact of the war and the ongoing threat of Spanish flu, the new Dean saw a need for more imaginative worship that Christmas. What

could that look like for a nation that had come through so much and for so many who had lost so much? He set upon the idea of a service of Nine Lessons and Carols and this service that has become such a favourite, took place for the first time that Christmas. As Eric Milner-White said, the unfolding readings from the Bible showed the development of the loving purposes of God seen through the windows and words of the Bible.

This year as we are uncertain what Christmas will be like, we can still hold onto those same loving purposes of God at the heart of Christmas. We celebrate the birth of Jesus again and are reminded that he is 'Emmanuel' – God with us. He came to show us God's love; he came to put us right

with God; he came as the Light of the world to bring peace and hope. Always Jesus is the voice and presence of peace to the weary and worn as we may be feeling right now. Always in his selfless love for us, hope springs eternal for we know we are not alone. His love builds us up and brings hope, and whether we can be face-to-face or not this Christmas, the love we share with each other in different and special ways also

brings hope as we press on and look to the new year together in 2021.

With every blessing for a peaceful and hopeful Christmas,

Your minister

Lorna

Dates and services for Christmas and the New Year

Saturday 28th November from 10.30 am to 12.00 pm - Collection of toys and gifts on behalf of The Salvation Army for children and teenagers – Cockpen Church Hall.



Sunday 20th December – Bereavement Service at 4.00 pm at Cockpen Church (further details below in the magazine).



Thursday 24th December, Christmas Eve:

- Christingle Service online
(please have an orange, some red ribbon to go round the orange, four cocktail sticks and sweeties and/or raisins to put on them, and a red or white candle to put into your orange ready for making your Christingle during the service);



At 'Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church' - YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiwgEoiSjvt56YbCL6Sok8w>

- Nine Lessons and Carols online – instead of the Watchnight Service (link as above).



Sunday 27th December – no online service; church service at Rosewell Church at 10.00 am and at Cockpen & Carrington Church at 11.30 am.

Sunday 3rd January no church services – minister on holiday; online service from the Moderator.

Bereavement Service

Sunday 20th December at 4.00 pm

Cockpen & Carrington Church

Many have experienced bereavement through this year or continue to miss loved ones no longer with us. It has been a particularly difficult year of loss through Covid-19 and many have had the added distress of not being able to be with loved ones in the ways they would have wanted.

This service will offer space amidst the Christmas rush and bustle for remembering and giving thanks for those we have lost, with stillness and music and reflective words.

All who would find this helpful are most welcome, but because we have restricted space in the church at present, please give Lorna, the minister, a call on 07889 566418 if you would like to come.



Elizabeth Morton

Lay Pastor in training

Some of you may have heard about the Lay Pastor training that Lothian Presbytery has begun this year. This is in recognition of the falling number of full-time ministers in our Presbytery and the need to think about how all our congregations can continue to be supported in the years ahead as this situation continues. There are five Lay Pastors being trained at present and I have been asked if I would supervise one of them, Elizabeth Morton, while she does a three-to-six-month practical placement with us.

We are delighted to have her with us, and she provides a little introduction here:

‘I am married to Graham, and we have two children and four grandchildren. I retired from work as a Learning Assistant/Classroom Assistant with Edinburgh City Council in 2014 after 24 years.

We have lived in Dalkeith since 1978. A few years after that we made the decision that we should worship locally instead of

travelling into Edinburgh. We decided to attend St John’s and King’s Park in Dalkeith and I served on the Congregational Board there before being ordained as an Elder in 1999. I have been Presbytery Elder for many years and also served on the Parish Resources Committee. In 2015-16, I was privileged to serve as Moderator of Lothian Presbytery. I am now Presbytery Treasurer.

In my spare time I enjoy dancing (Scottish Country), going to concerts and the theatre and for many years I sang with the Royal Bank Choir and in the church Choir. I also enjoy watching rugby and for many years I was a member at Melrose Rugby Club, helping make and serve the meals to the players. I love spending time with my grandchildren and for the past few years the ‘girls’ have all gone to see the ballet at Christmas.

My Lay Pastor training began earlier this year and I am looking forward to my placement with you.’

AT THE END OF THE DAY

At the end of the day just kneel and say,
“Thank you, Lord for my work and play”
I’ve tried to be good, for I know that I should
That’s a prayer for the end of the day.

So when the new dawn begins to break,
Just lift up your eyes let your heart awake,
Be ready to meet what the day may send,
And be ready to greet every man as a friend.

Nobody knows what a power you have found,
So do what you can for the others around,
Carry them high when they seem to be low’
As on your way you go.

At the end of the day just kneel and say,
“Thank you, Lord for my work and play,
I’ve tried to be good, for I know that I should,
That’s my prayer at the end of the day.

Hand-crafted Face Coverings

Hand-crafted face coverings are available for sale from Helen Renton from £2.50 - all proceeds going to the Hall Refurbishment Fund.

Contact Helen on (0131) 663 1489

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Due to the current restrictions, it was not possible to hold our annual Christmas Fair in the hall. It was decided therefore, that in true “Cockpen” fashion, we would all pull together with knitting, sewing, card making, baking, jams and chutney and sell to friends, family and members of our congregation.

Thanks to everyone’s generous contributions, and especially to Moira Scott whose house became a showroom, storeroom, and dispatch centre, we have, at the time of writing this article, raised in excess of £1,000 for church funds.

With the tight restrictions we have been under lately it is truly an amazing sum of money to raise, and thanks must go to everyone involved who have been so generous in their donations and thanks must also go to everyone who kindly purchased goods.

This year has been financially challenging for our church and the money raised will be of immense help to our church at this time.

Liz

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Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

Although we have been under severe restrictions due to Covid-19, many still managed to make up a box for this charity and boxes were dropped off at the collection point.

Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal

We are once again supporting the Salvation Army Toy Appeal when toys, books, sweets and toiletries are being collected from members of the congregation and can be dropped off at the Church hall on Saturday 28th November between 10.30am and 12noon.

Virtual Christmas Sale

Due to current Covid restrictions, we are unable to hold our Christmas Fair this year. There is, however, a small selection of Christmas goods and Chutney, Jam, Marmalade, Lemon Curd, tablet, shortbread and home baking for sale.

Bereavements

It was with sadness that we lost the following people over the last few months.

7 May 2020	Agnes Anderson
2 July 2020	Rev Colin McPherson
5 August 2020	Jessie Dolan

Unfortunately, due to restricted numbers being imposed for attending funerals throughout the pandemic, many people from our Church family were unable to pay their last respect. They are all greatly missed.

CAKE STALL

Like everyone, we have been 'closed down' during COVID but thought you might like to try some festive treats to help pass the time.

Here are two recipes you may like to try.

GINGER FLORENTINES

Ingredients

50g/ 2oz. Butter
115g/ 4oz. Caster sugar
50g/ 2oz. Chopped mixed glacé cherries
25g/ 1oz. Chopped orange peel
50g/ 2oz. Flaked almonds
50g/ 2oz. Chopped walnuts
25g/ 1oz. Chopped glace ginger
30ml/ 2tbsp Plain flour
2.5ml/ Half tsp Ground ginger

To finish

50g/ 2oz. White chocolate
50g/ 2oz. Plain chocolate

Makes approx. 30

1. Preheat oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Whisk together butter and sugar in bowl until light and fluffy. Thoroughly mix in all the remaining ingredients - except for chocolate.
2. Cut non-stick baking paper to fit baking trays. Put small spoonfuls of mixture on to trays spacing well apart allowing to spread.
Gently flatten with palm of hand and bake for 5 minutes
3. Remove from oven and flatten with a wet fork shaping into neat rounds. Return and bake for 3 - 4 minutes until golden brown.
4. Remove and allow to cool in trays for 2 minutes to firm. Carefully remove with palette knife and transfer to wire rack. When cold and firm melt chocolate. Spread half of biscuits with dark chocolate and half with white chocolate on the underside.

Cranberry & White Chocolate Fudge

100g frozen cranberries, defrosted, chopped and drained.

45g unsalted butter, plus extra for greasing.

400g white chocolate, broken into pieces.

300ml condensed milk

100g pistachios, chopped.

Quarter tsp sea salt.

20cm square baking tin.

Baking paper.

Makes 36 sweets

Grease and line the baking tin with baking paper. In a large saucepan, place the butter, white chocolate and condensed milk and place on a low heat for 5 - 6 minutes, stirring continuously.

Off the heat, stir in the cranberries, pistachios and salt.

Transfer the mixture to the baking tin and allow to cool. Leave to chill for 3 hours then cut into squares and serve.

With all our best wishes for the festive season. Stay safe, stay well.

Helen, Isobel and Wilma.

Bicentennial Birthday Cake

Below is a photograph of our bicentennial birthday cake which was cut up and distributed as we were unable to enjoy our planned afternoon tea in April. The cake was made by Mary Logan, who also made the Harvest basket which decorated the communion table.



Lessons we will learn from this Pandemic

I can't recall how many weeks we've been enduring physical distancing unless I actually sit down to think about it. The days seem to blur together, and the time at home seems similar today to what it was yesterday, and to the days before that.

However, if this is what we need to do to rid ourselves of COVID-19, then so be it. We will continue self-isolating and maintaining physical distance from others for as long as it takes. During this time indoors, I've been thinking about how things are now compared to how they used to be. I've also been pondering what life will be like after COVID-19.

I often wonder if things will ever be the same as they were before the pandemic. While I can't be certain, I imagine they won't. One of my hopes is that we as a human race will re-evaluate the life we used to live and prioritise what is important.

I've been thinking a lot – what is it that will come out of all this? Equality! This situation has shown us that we are all the same regardless of our religion, culture, customs, rich or poor. The virus simply does not choose. It connected us in a way, it showed us that we should all stick together. During this chaos, while many of us in a panic, it showed us the weight of humanity. It reminded us who we are.

We humans are fragile by ourselves. Our strength lies in being part of a community. We do not live without relationships and we should never forget that. We have a very caring and shared connection between us and it's amazing to see how we stick together at times. Sharing is caring. Sometimes we need to remember how important kindness is.

We need to remember that we have been given a gift called life and we should appreciate it.

Liz Mills

From the Organist

For a long time now my articles for the Christmas edition of The Link have followed a very settled pattern, as indeed have our seasonal musical events themselves. The choir and I have entertained at innumerable Guild Carol Parties and our candlelit services of Lessons and Carols have filled the Sunday evening before Christmas for well over 20 years. For more than twice that time I have played for the Watchnight Service on Christmas Eve and heard the church bell mark the arrival of Christmas Day.

We were aiming this year to make all these events a particular celebration, to mark of course the 200th anniversary of our present church building. As with so much else however, the virus had other ideas!

While none of these familiar things will be available to us this year; Christmas will not be completely unmarked. In addition to our usual Sunday services (online and - at the time of writing at least - live) on Christmas Eve we will be broadcasting via our YouTube channel both a 'Christingle' service and a service of 'Nine Lessons and Carols'. The musical elements of the carol service will be taken from Cockpen & Carrington's 'back catalogue' of recordings and as usual will form a mix of congregational hymns and choir contributions. We are hugely fortunate, as those of you who regularly join the online services will know, in having these recordings available, thanks entirely to our choir member (amongst many other roles) Andrew Jack. The lessons however will be newly filmed for the service, along with the organ music. Viewing details will be circulated in advance and I do hope that many of you will take the opportunity of sharing in this seasonal celebration - and of course singing along with the familiar Christmas hymns. While I have no doubt that many of us will still much miss the experience of meeting in church at midnight this will hopefully bring us together in spirit at least.

For those who would like a more permanent memento of our festive celebrations we are also about to release a CD featuring a selection of the choir's performances over the last 15 years or so (along with one or two organ pieces) - one marking of our 200th anniversary which has survived the pandemic! All of the choir items have been taken from actual services and so have very much a 'live' atmosphere (along inevitably with a few congregational coughs!). More than half of the tracks on the disc feature Christmas music, so the CD could make a nice seasonal gift - and is very modestly priced! Orders can be placed either with myself or Moira Scott.

This has been a strange year indeed and, in many ways, a challenging one and we have had to find new approaches to worship. We do still have much to be grateful for too however, and I think we can take a degree of justifiable pride in the quality of the online services which have been provided week by week - for this the lion's share of the thanks is undoubtedly due to our 'production team', John and Andrew. While I am sure we all hope that at some point in the coming year we will be able to return to 'normal' worship, for the meantime the weekly broadcasts have gone a long way towards sustaining our church life.

GMB

graham.burnside@blueyonder.co.uk

November 2020

SOME ONE

Walter de la Mare
(1873-1956)

Someone came knocking,
At my wee, small door,
Someone came knocking,
I'm sure-sure-sure,
I listened, I opened,
I looked to left and right,
But nought there was a stirring,
In the still dark night,
Only the busy beetle,
Tap-tapping in the wall,
Only from the forest,
The screech -owls call,
Only the cricket whistling
While the dewdrops fall,
So I know not who came knocking,
At all, at all, at all.

Hopefield Connections



I think I can safely say that I am having to use all my ingenuity to carry on making connections in Hopefield at present! A car treasure hunt in October seemed the ideal activity to keep everyone safe as they zipped about the area from the safety of their cars looking for clues. Some folk had never seen the '*piddling pooch*' up on the wall in Newtongrange!

A Pet Blessing on Zoom was another way to make a connection with people and indeed with a variety of dogs, cats, rats, rabbits, ferrets and even a pet sheep! Daily in November there has been a series of thoughts on the Hopefield Connections Facebook page called *Just Two Wee Minutes* to connect with people and give them the opportunity to stop and think for just a moment about life and living. In the same way a new group for some of the young women in Hopefield has begun where we (*I am not counting myself as one of the young women but rather the facilitator!*) come together to talk in a light-hearted way about life and living but it often uncovers deeper thoughts and ideas amongst all the laughter and stories.

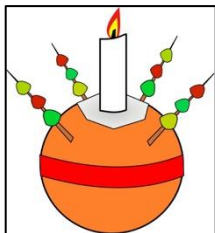
The Coffee Stop continues with all the Covid–19 regulations adhered to as you would find in any commercial take away. This has been a real blessing as people have so welcomed the opportunity to talk with each other and share time if even from a distance. I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart the people who have continued to help with this venture as it is such a service to our community.

Connections made in ways I had not anticipated this time last year, but which have proved so valuable and helped everyone's wellbeing in these difficult times.

And so to Christmas. Looking for ways to connect with people and to connect them with the Christmas story of the Light of the World come into the world. The Advent Windows are making a return. With 25 willing households putting a poster up to guide us through the month until we get to Christmas Day.



The Knit & Natter, as ever, has got busy with the needles, and knitted stars for me that I am going to hang round the area so that people can take one home and add it to their Christmas decorations.



A Christingle on Zoom on the 20th of December will be a way of sharing the Christmas Message.

In these dark, short winter days and in these worrisome days it is even more crucial that we find ways to share not just the Christmas story but the message that the Light of the World is with us showing us how to love God and how to love each other.

*Elisabeth GB Spence,
Pioneer Minster Hopefield*

From the Treasurer

During this pandemic as treasurer of our church I am grateful to all who have contributed to our Church funds. Many have given by Standing Order, which comes regularly through the bank each month. Others have been contributing by Weekly Freewill Offering Envelopes, many of these collected by elders and delivered to me, as well as collections now being made at Church on Sundays.

We have also had donations made to our funds for other specific purposes, which shows that we hope to survive as a Church for the longer term beyond this latest scourge to affect us. Let's hope we can get back to normal in the near future.

Snippets from History

- 1943 A joint service with Bonnyrigg Church was held to commemorate the Centenary of the Disruption.
- 1945 Two praise boards were gifted to the church by Mr and Mrs Liberton.
- 1954 Two chairs were gifted by Mrs MacAdam to go either side of the Minister's chair.
- 1975 A service of Union between the churches of Cockpen and Carrington took place this year.
- 1977 Cockpen & Carrington Church was linked with Lasswade Church.
- 1991 Rosewell church joined the link with Lasswade, and Cockpen & Carrington churches.
- 2008 A new toilet is finally installed at the rear of the church – 97 years after the complaint of 1911!

Time for a wee chuckle

Me: (sobbing my heart out, eyes were swollen, nose red)... I can't see you anymore. I am not going to let you hurt me like this again!

Trainer: It was a sit up. You did one sit up!

Having plans sounds like a good idea until you have to put on clothes and leave the house.

It's weird being the same age as old people.

When I was a kid, I wanted to be older... this is not what I expected.

Life is like a helicopter. I don't know how to operate a helicopter.

Chocolate is God's way of telling us he likes us a little bit chubby.

It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.

Marriage Counsellor: Your wife says you never buy her flowers.

Is that true?

Him: To be honest, I never knew she sold flowers.

THE BEST CHRISTMAS EVER

A little boy and his grandmother came to see Santa at a large shopping Mall. The child climbed up on Santa's lap, holding a picture of a little girl. Who is this, your sister? Yes, and she is very sick he said sadly. Santa looked over at the boy's grandmother who was waiting nearby and saw her wiping her eyes with a tissue. She wanted so much to come with me to see you said the boy, she misses you he added softly. Santa tried to be cheerful and encouraged a smile to the boy's face, asking what he wanted Santa to bring him for Christmas.

When they finished their visit, the grandmother came over for the child and started to say something to Santa but halted. What is it Santa asked warmly? Well, I know it's really too much to ask you, but – the old woman began, shooing her grandson over to one of the elves. The girl in the photograph is my granddaughter, you see... she has leukaemia and isn't expected to make it through the holidays she said through tear filled eyes.

Is there anyway, Santa, any possible way that you could come and see Sarah? That's all she's asked for, for Christmas, is to see Santa. Santa blinked and swallowed hard and told the woman to leave details with the elves as to where Sarah was, and he would see what he could do .and thought of nothing else that afternoon and knew what he had to do.

When Santa finished that evening, he made his way to the local children's hospital. When he arrived, he quietly peeked into the room through the half-closed door and saw little Sarah on the bed.

The room was full of what appeared to be her family, there was the grandmother and the girl's brother he had met earlier that day. A woman whom he guessed was Sarah's mother stood by the bed, gently pushing Sarah's thin hair off her forehead.

Another woman who he discovered later was Sarah's aunt, sat near to the bed with a weary, sad look on her face. They were talking quietly, and Santa could see the warmth and closeness of the family, and their love and concern for Sarah.

Taking a deep breath, and forcing a smile on his face, Santa entered the room, bellowing a hearty ho, ho, ho. “Santa” – shrieked little Sarah weakly, as she tried to escape her bed to run to him. Santa rushed to her side and gave her a warm hug. A child around the age of seven gazed up at him with wonder and excitement.

Her skin was pale, and her short tresses bore bald patches from the effects of chemotherapy. But all he saw when he looked at her was a pair of huge, blue eyes. His heart melted, and he had to force himself to choke back tears.

Though his eyes were riveted on the girl’s face, he could hear the gasps and quiet sobbing of the woman in the room. As he and Sarah began talking, the family crept quietly to the bedside one by one, squeezing Sarah’s shoulder or his hand gratefully, whispering –thank you as they gazed sincerely at him with shining eyes.

Santa and Sarah talked and talked, and she told him excitedly all the toys she wanted for Christmas, assuring him that she had been a good girl all that year.

As their time together dwindled, Santa felt led in his spirit to pray for Sarah, and asked for permission from the girl’s mother, she nodded in agreement and the entire family circled around Sara’s bed, holding hands. Santa looked intensely at Sarah and asked her if she believed in angels, “Oh, yes, Santa, I do - -she exclaimed. Well, I’m going to ask that angels watch over you” – he said.

Laying one hand on the child’s head, Santa closed his eyes and prayed. He asked that God touch little Sarah and heal her body from this disease. He asked that angels minister to her, watch and keep her. And when he finished praying, still with eyes closed, he started singing, softly, “Silent Night, Holy Night, all is calm, all is bright...” The family joined in, still holding hands, smiling at Sarah, and crying tears of hope, tears of joy for this moment, as Sarah beamed at them all.

When the song ended, Santa sat on the side of the bed again and held Sarah’s frail, small hands in his own. Now Sarah, he said, you have a job to do, and that is to concentrate on getting well. I want you to have fun

playing with your friends this summer, and I expect to see you at my house in the Mall this time next year! He knew it was risky proclaiming that to this little girl who had terminal cancer, but he ‘had’ to. He had to give her the greatest gift he could – not dolls or games or toys – but the gift of HOPE. “yes, Santa Sarah exclaimed, her eyes bright. He leaned down and kissed her on the forehead and left the room.

Sarah’s mother and grandmother slipped out of the room quickly and rushed to Santa’s side to thank him. “My only child is the same age as Sarah”, – he explained quietly. This is the least I could do. They nodded with understanding and hugged him.

One year later, Santa Claus was again back at the Mall for his six-week seasonal job which he so loved doing. Several weeks went by and then one day a child came up to sit on his lap. Hi Santa! Remember me?! Of course, I do, Santa proclaimed (as he always did) smiling down at her. After all, the secret of a good Santa is always making each child feel as though they are the only child in the world at that moment. You came to see me in hospital last year.

Santa’s jaw dropped. Tears immediately sprang in his eyes, and he grabbed this little miracle and held her to his chest. Sarah – he exclaimed. He scarcely recognised her, for her hair was long and silky and her cheeks were rosy – much different from the little girl he had visited just a year ago. He looked over and saw Sarah’s mother and grandmother in the side-lines smiling and waving and wiping their eyes.

That was the best Christmas ever for Santa Claus.

He had witnessed and been blessed to be instrumental in bringing about – this miracle of hope. This precious little child was healed. Cancer free. Alive and well. He silently looked up to Heaven and humbly whispered, Thank you, Father ‘tis a very Merry Christmas

This is a true story!

Cockpen and Carrington Garden of Remembrance

Covid-19 had affected all aspects of life including Remembrance. Therefore, Lorna agreed with Midlothian Council that we could set up our own Garden of Remembrance in the New Cemetery. We set it out, together with an Avenue of Remembrance on Sunday 25th October. The wreaths from the church were added following Communion. A number of crosses has been added, presumably by folk who



have spent some quiet time in the garden. It is rewarding to see that the garden has been welcomed as a point whereby people can reflect on the meaning of Remembrance, especially given the current restrictions which have prevented the normal commemorations.



I have visited the National Garden of Remembrance in Princes Street Gardens and took photos, one of which is included here. Once again, the restrictions clearly had negative effects, but volunteers were on hand to take donations and help display both regimental and personal tributes,





The church was lit up on Remembrance Sunday and Remembrance Day itself. This was first accomplished in 2018 to celebrate the centenary of the end of the Great War and has become somewhat of a tradition. On both evenings a considerable number of people came armed with cameras and phones to take pictures to remember this occasion.

Although Remembrance Day is past, you may wish to browse the internet to find the story of Desmond Doss: an American Seventh Day Adventist who refused to carry or use a weapon of any kind, yet he enlisted as a combat medic serving in WWII. During the Battle of Okinawa, he single-handedly rescued seventy-five of his wounded comrades saving lives which otherwise would have been lost. He was the first non-combatant to receive the *Medal of Honor* for service above and beyond the call of duty. The film "Hacksaw Ridge" was based on his life story.



Church Restoration

I think it would be remiss of us as a congregation, when documenting for posterity in this magazine, the history of our church, not to include a chapter from our past which at the time was so traumatic that it appeared that there was a real risk that Cockpen Church might have to close for Christian Worship.

I am talking of course about events during February 1996 when after a storm the windows in the church tower were blown in and structural damage was caused to the tower itself.

The immediate decision, on the grounds of safety, was taken to discontinue services in the church and to conduct Sunday Worship in the church hall so that scaffolding could be erected around the tower to make the building safe.

The financial implications of the damage presented another sort of challenge. Cockpen and Carrington, as far as I am aware, has never been a rich congregation. Others might dispute that description because of course 'richness' doesn't necessarily only relate to one's monetary position, as we were to go on to find out, as the might and spirit of the whole congregation united to 'save our church'.

The fund-raising endeavours of the congregation started almost immediately and went on to produce previously unheard-of sums of money, which even now we can only look back on in wonderment.

I recall, in the spring of that year, when involved in the Spring Fayre held in the grounds of Willie Tulloch's house at The Glebe, the weather in the morning, at best could have been described as inclement and necessitated arrangements being changed from stalls in the open to stalls undercover to suit the mood of the weather.

However, the weather did improve as morning turned to afternoon and as I was standing at the main gate of The Glebe, together with Ian Bee, I recall thinking 'this is a waste of time'.

Oh, ye of little faith.

What transpired was like an epic biblical story, as all at once people started coming over the hill from Bonnyrigg in droves. Cars were parked on both sides of the main road outside the church and even on the road at the other side of the crossroads.

The local Police arrived clearly as a result of a complaint about the traffic congestion on the road outside. But the show went on and one of the officers even stayed throughout the rest of the afternoon. Perhaps she thought she had a captive audience.

In that year alone, 1996, the fund raising was unbelievable when we amassed £15,694 which included generous donations.

In The subsequent six years as the result of various fundraising ventures such as the Bric-a-Brac, Cake Stall, Bedding Plant Sales, Car Boot Sales and Jean Sharpe's Church Dances (which after each dance she was never going to do again) we raised a further £91,278.



Happier times — Rev Wendy Drake had high hopes that repairs to Cockpen Church tower would be followed by major restoration works.

The Restoration Project was not without its problems however, as initially Lothian Presbytery, following on guidelines from a Church of Scotland Assembly Committee on the future of Church Buildings, refused permission

for the project to proceed thus effectively sealing the fate of Cockpen Church as a place of worship.

Overall, it took nearly three years of a concerted campaign led by our then minister. Reverend Wendy Drake, to have this decision overturned and permission granted to restore the church. These were indeed difficult times, with many periods of doubt, but Wendy's mantra ' God will provide' had prevailed.



Years of fund-raising has finally paid off for these hard working members of Cockpen Church who celebrated the restoration of the church tower this year.
Staff Photo: E/97395

Determined congregation saves Cockpen Church

The scaffolding came down, the church tower was restored and there were funds left over sufficient to carry out other improvements to the church and the church hall.

Hallelujah.

To all who assisted in this monumental project, both those still with us as well as those who have sadly departed this earth in the meantime, future generations must have to be eternally grateful.

Christmas with a Difference

No Carol Evening with the Guild –
No Bric-a-Brac Christmas Dinner,
The Choir's now on Furlough
And the congregations 'thinner'.

The Services have gone online,
Great work you can be sure.
It's all because of Covid
Let us pray they find a cure.

And so dear friends, Church Family
Although it will be hard,
I'll just donate to charity
instead of sending cards.

Wishing you all a Peaceful Christmas and
A Happy New Year.

Moir xx

Musical Advent Calendar

This has been prepared and is being offered freely by Revd. Robin Hill at Longniddry Parish Church to all would like to follow it. It is an Advent Calendar for adults, although families could also enjoy it and explore it together.

Here's the link:

<https://tuerchen.com/23a5dbc7>

and this is what it offers:

- A journey of faith through December, culminating in the celebration of Christmas Day;
- A daily Bible quotation (NIV) with a reference to the entire reading for the day if travellers want to take things further;
- A CH4 hymn verse – some old favourites, others less well known – played by one of four musicians;

- A photograph of a usually very snowy scene; and
- excellent opportunities to share the Advent calendar's link over social media.

The aim is to offer both pastoral "inreach" to those people who will be stuck indoors through the darkening and possibly extremely stressful days of December, and outreach to the wider community, near and far, with an invitation to join what will hopefully be a very special Advent journey. It sounds like something very special and different for the coming Advent season and I am looking forward very much to exploring it as I hope many of you will too.

Lorna

THE HOLY HIKERS

"My grandmother started walking five miles
a day when she was sixty. She is now ninety-three
and we don't know where she is"

Ellen DeGeneres



This has indeed been a strange year, but to begin where I left off in the last issue of "The Link". On Saturday 14th March we travelled to Pencaitland and walked along part of the Railway Walk before "doing a loop" going round Glenkinchie by road and meeting the Railway Walk to return to the car park in Pencaitland. Looking back, we did not realise then that it was going to be our last walk together for so long, The UK went into lockdown about 10 days later so there have been no more group walks.

I have tried to keep in touch with most of the Hikers during this period and some of us have met up during the time that the restrictions were eased. Dot & I try to do one decent walk on our own every week (weather permitting).

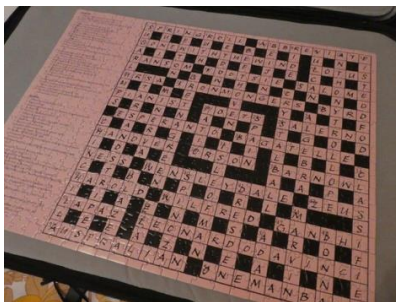
Earlier in the year when I was waiting for tests and scans, I was making up quite a few jigsaw puzzles and I have continued doing these during lockdown. Some members of the group have been doing the same, so we have been "swapping" them around which has also kept us in contact.

I really have no idea when we will be able to meet up again for proper walks but the important thing at the moment is that we all stay safe and stay well.

Happy Hiking,

Jim Scott

Some of the Jigsaws that Jim and Dot have completed during the year



Committee on Artistic Questions

Report on Cockpen Parish Church

On the 10th March 1943 I visited the above church on behalf of the Committee on Artistic Questions and spent a long time therein with Mr. Welsh who explained to me the proposals to erect a font in memory of the late Mr. Montgomery Hardie and to extend the platform in front of the pulpit.

My feeling is that as much of the donations should be expended as would secure a really beautiful and worthy font and that the minimum amount should be devoted to improvements on the platform. No mere extension of the platform would give a satisfactory appearance to the church. A much more drastic alteration is needed. It would be far better to start a church improvement fund and gradually collect enough to make a good reconstruction of the interior even if this could not be done for many years to come.

The ground plan of the church is such that a very beautiful and worthy interior could be made of the building and I would venture to suggest that the congregation keep this object in view.



The appearance is at present spoiled by the position of the organ with its pipes blocking the window, by the pulpit being right up against it and the crowded platform in front.

To make a satisfactory interior I would suggest the following alterations.

1. The two side galleries should be removed.
2. The organ should be removed, and an organ placed on the east wall of the north transept. Whether the present organ could be so modified as to fit in there or not I cannot tell. I would not think so, but the opinion of an organ builder should be obtained. The choir would be seated in the north transept.
3. The present pulpit should be taken away. It is not only unattractive in appearance but is too confined and uncomfortable. The parapet is too low, and the pulpit does not give the best chance to the preacher.
4. Another pulpit should be erected at the right angle of the chancel and the south transept and the communion table placed in the centre of the chancel.

The exterior of Cockpen Church is of attractive appearance. Its tall tower standing so prominently on its quiet hill slope and situate in such beautiful surroundings appeals to every passer-by. I believe that in due time a worthy and beautiful sanctuary could be made of the interior.

The question of seating accommodation may make the session feel that it would not be possible to remove the galleries. If that were so, a small portion of each could be retained but I shall not go into this further in this report.

I have dealt with long term plans because I feel that it is only by keeping these in view that true satisfaction can be obtained. Anything now done in a smaller way should look to the future.

In the meantime, I would suggest that the font should be placed on a platform in the space to the left of the pulpit after the removal of the two pews there. I do not recommend it on the platform as even if the latter were extended all would be too crowded together.

As a temporary improvement in the platform arrangements, I would suggest that the seats attached to the balustrade be removed and the chairs made to face the congregation. I would not suggest any alteration in the actual balustrade which under present conditions does not appear to me to be objectionable.

Regarding the font it will probably be wanted of oak and of hexagonal or octagonal shape.

Care should be taken to have appropriate designs carved on its sides. These should be symbolic of baptism such as the dove and, as the font is a memorial to Mr Hardie of the latter's gifts as a preacher and pastor, such as the Open Bible and the Shepherd's Staff.

J. Arnott Hamilton

Member of the Committee on Artistic Questions

A Mothers Love

I know that it is not yet time for 'Mother's Day' but surely anytime is the right time to express thanks for the love shown by a mother for her children.

As you grow older there is no doubt that increasingly you reminisce about the past.

As I look back, I often recall all the little things, which my mother did for me throughout my life that, at the time, may have appeared insignificant.

I was born a twin, having been given a sister to accompany me into this world. I already had three other sisters and apparently at the time of my birth my father, on hearing of the new arrivals in the family, had said "it would appear that to get a son I had to get another daughter as well".

His joy must have been short lived as apparently, I was described sometime later as a 'steering laddie' always inquisitive, pushing the boundaries and into mischief. Whilst my twin sister was the epitome of serenity she just smiled and adored the attention and affection given by people who admired us as we were pushed along in our 'twin pram'.



Throughout my childhood I can never recall my mother being critical of anything I undertook but always full of praise even for the most modest achievement and always full of encouragement for any of my endeavours.

I could recount as examples, many stories of the love and commitment shown to me by my mother, but one in particular springs to mind.

As a teenager I had a real passion for cars. My parents at that time did not own a car. I had seen a car advertised for sale in a local newspaper for the princely sum of £35.

It seemed an impossible dream as I did not have that kind of money. My mum on the other hand did not see it that way and decide that I should have that car. By chance one of my sisters, two years older than me, was at Edinburgh University and had just received an instalment of her university bursary, so my mother, despite my sister's protestations, decreed that I should get the money to buy the car from these funds and I duly went on to pass my driving test in that car shortly thereafter.

I am sure that all of you could recount similar stories of examples of their mother's commitment and undying love for their children.

It is said that a good mother would rather go hungry than let their children feel the pangs of hunger.

Mothers would happily forgo the luxuries in life so that their children can pursue their dreams.

They are willing to forgo ambition, career, sleep and even life to ensure their child is safe, healthy and has a good chance in life,

Likewise, God sent his only beloved son, Jesus to earth as a sacrifice to redeem us from sin and thereby reuniting mankind to God again.

Have a blessed Christmas.

Jim Young

OLD CHURCHES

(with thanks to Dawn Lawrence)

*I love little old Churches with stories to tell;
with coloured glass windows, a tower and a bell.
There are Churches I know both majestic and tall,
but these smallest Churches I love most of all.
They were much more important to those few, who came,
who walked there for miles through woodland and lane.
And each little Church has surely been blessed
by those simple souls, who once loved them best.*

This reminded me of a story my Mum told me about one of my Grannies who lived in Rosewell but had long connections with Carrington from childhood until she was married. She had joined Carrington Church as a girl but moved to Rosewell in later life. Although staying in Rosewell she still remained a member at Carrington Church where she walked to every Sunday from her home in the village.

She also paid for a pew (*pew duty in many Churches then*) at Rosewell Church so that she could worship there if the weather was inclement. Saying that, a rainy day didn't stop her taking the journey to Carrington; it was only if it had snowed heavily that she would just cross the road to Rosewell Church.

I wonder how many of us - with cars at the door - have decided on a wintry morning just to stay put instead of venturing to Church! No cars for Gran, just a longish walk to the Church she loved.

Although for me, Cockpen has been my place of worship for many years I still have lovely memories of Rosewell, the Church I was baptised in and, became a member.

With every blessing - George.

The Church Bell



The bell is Flemish in origin and regarded as somewhat unique. It was recast in 1901 by the London foundry Mear & Stainbank (where Big Ben and The Liberty Bell were cast) and rehung by the Edinburgh based firm of bellhangers, William Bryden & Son.

The bell is believed to have been cast on the continent in 1680. It was purchased by the Kirk Session from the Parish of Kinkell, Perthshire when their Church had fallen into disrepair and they sold off their assets. This same bell, after being re-cast in 1901, still calls the congregation to worship today.



The Guild

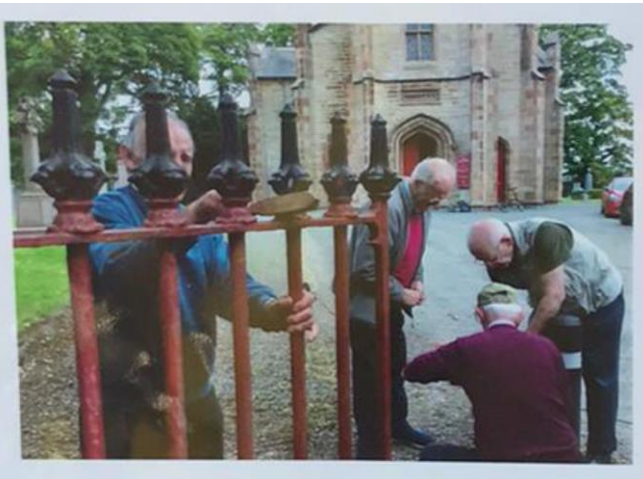
The Guild started in 1930 and celebrated their 90th anniversary in 2020.

In 1934 the ladies of The Guild worked on, and donated to the church, a Communion Cloth. This was dedicated at a special service on 30th April that year.

As part of the Guild's 90th birthday celebrations it was decided to mark the occasion with the donation of a new Communion Cloth. At an all-age service on 23rd February 2020 the Cloth was received and dedicated by the Rev Lorna Souter for use at Communion services.



The church gates get a face lift



A team of volunteers got together to sand down and repaint the church gates in readiness for the celebrations of 2020. Sadly, they didn't take place due to the coronavirus pandemic.