

Cockpen & Carrington

The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Christmas 2008



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WHO'S WHO

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Articles for the Easter Issue of "The Link" should be with the Editors by Sunday 1st March at the very latest.

PULPIT SUPPLY ROTA - DECEMBER 2008 / MARCH 2009

DATE	LASSWADE 10 AM	COCKPEN & CARRINGTON 11.30 AM	ROSEWELL
07.12.08	Service at ROSEWELL	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook (10 AM) Carol Party 7 PM
14.12.08	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	John Beaumont (11.30 AM)
21.12.08	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook NINE LESSONS & CAROLS 7 PM	Rev W Irving (11.30 AM)
24.12.08 CHRISTMAS EVE	Rev J W Cook (7 PM)	Rev M Schofield (11.20 PM)	Rev J W Cook (8.30 PM)
28.12.08	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook	Service at LASSWADE
04.01.09	Service - ROSEWELL (HC)	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook (10 AM) (HC)
11.01.09	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook	Rev M Schofield (11.30 AM)
18.01.09	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook	Rev M Schofield (11.30 AM)
25.01.09	Rev J W Cook (HC)	Rev J W Cook	Service at LASSWADE (10 AM)
01.02.09	Service at ROSEWELL	Rev J W Cook (HC)	Rev J W Cook (10 AM)
08.02.09	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook	Rev M Schofield (11.30 AM)
15.02.09	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook	Rev M Schofield (11.30 AM)
22.02.09	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook	Service at LASSWADE (10 AM)
01.03.09	Service at ROSEWELL	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook (10 AM)
08.03.09	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook	Rev M Schofield (11.30 AM)
15.02.09	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook	Rev M Schofield (11.30 AM)
22.03.09	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook	Service at LASSWADE (10 AM)
29.03.09	Office Bearers	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook (10 AM)

Lasswade & Rosewell

Now that we have reached winter, with long dark nights we have the opportunity to look back on what has happened in the last twelve months.

We certainly are not able to look back on many warm summer days, although for many it is a time when we can get the holiday pictures or DVD out and relive our summer holidays. It is also the time when we can plan what next year has in store for us. As far as the Church is concerned, last year at this time Lasswade and Rosewell were two congregations with an uncertain future. Now and for the last six months we are the one congregation but still using both Churches. The attendances at the services on the first Sunday of the month at Rosewell and fourth Sunday at Lasswade , when only one of the Churches is used , have been more than encouraging and have perhaps exceeded expectations . There is still a great deal of work to be done, but there is a certain amount of optimism for the future.

The one missing link at the moment is not having our own Minister .That is not to say we are unhappy with those who fill our pulpits on a Sunday morning as we are very fortunate to have a group of excellent Preachers,

who I am sure, most people consider to be our Minister in any case. What we require is a leader for the Congregation with new ideas, someone who will encourage us to move forward. For too long now we have been standing still. It has been a case of just keeping things going until we once again have a Minister. Hopefully it will not be too long before someone comes along who decides that this is where they wish to minister. Unfortunately at the time of writing, the signs have not been very encouraging but you never know what is just round the corner. The right person is out there waiting to be pointed in our direction.

I am sure everyone is looking forward to Christmas, a time when a lot is happening in the Church. Everyone is always welcome in the Church and if you haven't attended Church for some time Christmas is the ideal opportunity for you to return. Nobody is a stranger in Church

Andrew Renwick

LASSWADE AND ROSEWELL

BLYTHSWOOD CARE

LETTER TO ROSEWELL CHURCH
FROM JEAN MACSWEEN, AREA
FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR,

Blythswood Care 10K Charity Run

Thank you very much for your donation of £80 in sponsor money for Eric (truck driver) in the Drymen 10K. I am very grateful for your generous support. Eric raised a total of £1262, which is a tremendous effort and in total we have raised over £8500. This will go towards the building costs of the orphanage in India and will enable us to make considerable progress in this work. As all of our costs are covered by sponsorship this means that every penny raised at the event will go towards the orphanage. This will make a vast difference to children like Kalpana who was born with an extensive birth mark all over her body. Her father decided that she was a curse and tried to leave her at the railway station as well as holding her head in a bucket of water. Her mother took her to live with Samuel Babu so that she would be kept in a place of safety. At present ten children sleep in his own house, but once the new orphanage is opened they will have a new home where they are cared for and kept safe, along with many other children from the streets. We are grateful for your help in building this orphanage. Thank you again for your support for this event and for the work of Blythswood in general. Your

donations to the lorry enable us to continue our work distributing aid and running social projects in Eastern Europe

With Christian greetings.

Jean

SHOEBOX APPEAL

This year we have collected 102 boxes (75 boxes via the Church and 27 from the Primary School). Thank you to all who participated once again in this project. These boxes will be greatly appreciated by those who receive them.

Agnes Anderson

Cake & Candy Stall

The cake and candy stall is doing quite well and averaging just over £100 each time it is held. Our next two dates are:

11 December 2008
26 February 2009

I look forward to seeing you then and you can enjoy a nice cup of tea or coffee in the Pitcairn Centre when you come along.

From the Cake and Candy team

Lasswade Flower Rota



I have been arranging the dates for next year's Lasswade Church Flower rota and I am very grateful to the people who offered to carry out this duty during 2008. I have a few dates during the latter part of 2009 and would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to be added to the list. The flowers are distributed to members of the congregation who are experiencing difficulties and are much appreciated. If anyone has a problem with the date which has been allocated to them, please speak to me and I will be happy to help.

Moira Dryden

11 th January	Miss M Sharpe	8 th March	Mrs A Renwick
18 th January	Mrs M Rennie	15 th March	Mrs M Waugh
25 th January	Mrs N Adams	22 nd March	Miss L Williamson
		29 th March	Mrs C Drysdale
8 th February	Mrs B Burns	12 th April	Mrs M Scott
15 th February	Mrs S Turner	19 th April	Mrs L Oliver
22 nd February	Mrs P Lawrie	26 th April	Mrs E Legerwood

Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota

7 th December 2008	Mrs S. McKechnie	1 st February 2009	I. Fowler
14 th December	Sunday School	8 th February	B. McInnes
21 st December	D. Peat	15 th February	L. Hanson
28 th December	Flower Fund	22 nd February	D. Peat
4 th January 2009	I. Ramsay	1 st March 2009	Flower Fund
11 th January	B. McInnes	8 th March	M. McAlpine
18 th January	J. Sharpe	15 th March	C. Fisher
25 th January	M. Miller	22 nd March	S. McLeish
		29 th March	J. Dyer

Thanks go again to all members who donated flowers for the church last year. I hope you will be carrying on for this coming year. Please contact me on 663 1825 if there is any problem or if you want to add your name for any date that perhaps means a lot to you.

Irene Ramsay

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH.

Baptism

We were again, so happy to welcome the following babies who, along with parents, families and supporters were present at recent Baptismal Services. We hope that all felt happy being amongst us at such a special time.

14.9.08 Reece AJ Daly-Dowling.

son of Steven and Marjorie.

(Rev. John Cook).

28.9.08 Brooke Krysty Handy.

daughter of Ryan and Krysty.

(Rev. Bill Armitage).

**'May the Lord Bless Thee and
Keep Thee'**

Weddings.

As a Congregation, we are delighted to congratulate the following couples who have been married in Church recently. We wish them all the very best for a good life together.

30th August Claire Anderson to
Scott Purves.

(Rev. Colin Macpherson).

13th September Gillian Ritch to
Niall Young.

(Rev. Colin Macpherson).

26th September Sandra Conway to
Richard Sinton.

(Rev. John Weir Cook).

11th October Salina Anderson to
Douglas Lees.

(Rev. John Weir Cook).

We are again so grateful to all Ministers, Organists and Church Officers who officiated at these Baptisms and Weddings during this

time of vacancy. No more weddings for this year but - **three** for 2009 and **four** for 2010 in the diary.

Bereavements.

We are sad to report the passing of one of our older members, **Mrs. Helen Mathieson** of Waverley Road. Mrs. Mathieson died in hospital on Sunday 12th October. Although not able to get to Church due to infirmity, Mrs. Mathieson was always keen to support us and hear the news of her Church and its folks.

On Wednesday 15th October we lost another dear friend, Mr. George Wylie, father of Liz MacDonald one of our members of the Congregational Board. Although Mr. Wylie was not a member here (he was a member at Cramond Kirk), he was a frequent visitor to us when able.

We pray for the families of Mrs. Mathieson and Mr. Wylie and, all others, whether members of the Congregation or not, who grieve at this time.

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

‘Twinning information’

I gave you some information with regards to our twinning with **Baradighi** Church which is in the Eastern Himalaya Diocese, Church of North India in the Harvest issue of the magazine. I promised then, that I would try and explain fully the arrangements between them and us more fully in this edition but, regretfully, I can't give you much more information due to the fact that I have not had a lot of response from that area.

Unlike here, computers are not so readily available as they are to us and internet cafes and such like have to be used. I have, however, received one e-mail back but it did not tie in with the messages I had sent giving all the news of our Churches and its people. However, we will continue to keep in touch and, in time, we hope the contact will improve.

Hugh Trevor, the Presbytery Twinning co-ordinator is visiting the area during November and I have met with him to discuss the communications problem. He will, it is hoped, try and find a way to remedy this and advise me (and the other Churches involved) on his return.

I feel that this is an exciting venture and I would hope that the twinning can be a success.

Whilst on the subject of India, we were all delighted to hear the news that Rory McAlpine, son of Ian and Margaret had won a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Youth Games in Pune, India. Rory was taking part in the Boy's 50 metre Rifle Prone event and his score out of 600 was 582,

only **three** points behind the winner. A wonderful achievement for Rory plus a great experience for the family to meet up with so many other young sportsmen and women. It would be nice (if not already done), for Rory to write an article on his experiences in India - I'm sure we would all be very interested. Well done again.

George Sweeney.

Long Service Recognition.

On Communion Sunday, the 2nd November we were privileged to be part of a small ceremony marking the achievement of two of our Elders reaching a 30 plus milestone since Ordination to Eldership.

Ian Fowler, one time Treasurer and present Roll Keeper completed 30 years as an Elder. His ordination was on 23rd April, 1978 by the late Rev. Crichton Robertson.

Andrew Sharpe, also a previous Treasurer and Session Clerk was ordained on 21st April, 1974 by the late Rev. John I. McBurnie serving over 34 years.

Both Andrew and Ian have worked tirelessly for the Church and continue to do so. Many of us have much to be grateful to Andrew and Ian for, they give of their time and talents so freely to so many. On a personal note, I have much to thank both for as they bring some sanity into the life of a Clerk!!

The Long Service Certificates were handed over to Andrew and Ian by our guest preacher that day, the Rev. Melville Schofield.

George Sweeney - on behalf of the Kirk Session.

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON CHURCH - CHRISTMAS MUSIC 2008

While Christmas still seems a long way off as I sit down to write this note I am all too well aware that it will be upon us very soon! As ever, the choir and I have a busy season in view.

Our long term supporters will be pleased to hear that this year's programme will generally be following the familiar pattern, and here are this year's dates to note:-

Sunday 30 November

While this is Advent Sunday and not therefore a Christmas event as such I thought I would nevertheless take the chance to advertise the music at what will be our annual joint service for all of the churches, which takes place in Cockpen this time round. The choir will be singing a splendid seasonal anthem by Mendelssohn, "There shall a star from Jacob come forth", one of the last pieces which he composed.

Monday 15 December

The choir will once again be leading our own Guild in their annual Carol Party. This will as usual take place in the Church Hall in Dundas Street, beginning at 7.30 pm. The evening is open to all, with plenty of opportunity for audience participation – male vocalists are particularly encouraged to come along! – and in addition it will be the choir's first chance to show off this year's repertoire. Top quality seasonal refreshments will I am sure

also be on offer as an additional incentive.

Sunday 21 December

The morning service, at our usual time of 11.30 am, will be our Christmas Family Service. The Sunday School's Nativity Play will be the centrepiece, and those of you who have been lucky enough to attend in past years will know that production standards are high. Whether some "special guest stars" will be adding to the entertainment this year is the question many will be asking!

At 7 pm that evening our **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** will take place. I know that this has become a central part of Christmas worship both for members of our own congregation and friends from further afield, and we hope that as many as possible will join us for what I am sure will once again be a special occasion. The service will as in the past take place entirely by candlelight. As well as many of the traditional hymns and carols the choir will be singing seasonal music from many parts of the globe and ranging over a period from the 16th to the 21st centuries.

Wednesday 24 December

The choir expects to be carol singing at Dalhousie Castle Hotel during the earlier part of the evening, as we have done in many years past, which will warm us up for our traditional **Watchnight Service**.

This will take place in time honoured fashion at 11.20 pm. A traditional mix of carols and readings will take us up to the ringing of the church bell at midnight to mark the coming of Christmas Day. This service has been very well supported in recent years, and we hope that whatever weather we may have to battle with as many as possible will join us once again.

As in the recent past our own choir will be reinforced for these events by one or two friends from the Dalkeith Singers. I am very grateful to them for fitting us into their own busy lives and helping us to bring out the true spirit of Christmas.

Graham Burnside
Organist

To My Church Family

I am sending a belated Thank-you for all your kindness to me over the past 2 years.

Not forgetting the gifts from the Harvest Table, which I was so glad to receive from the children. May God bless you all at Christmas and always.
Love, Betty Wilson.



Bric-a-Brac Appeal



Need to make room in that cupboard ?

We would welcome any Children's clothes (Birth to Teenagers) for our Bric-a-brac stall.

You can find us in the Cockpen, Church Hall every Thursday between 10:30 and 12:30.

Cake Stall.

Many thanks to all who contribute in any way towards the success of the Cake Stall at the Pitcairn Centre. This year, so far, we have raised **£2,013.06** so well done to everyone.

The next dates for the stall at the Pitcairn Centre are -

4th December, 2008
12th February, 2009

Thank you again and best wishes for the Festive Season.

Wilma.

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON SUNDAY SCHOOL

We're Back!

It was nice to welcome everyone back in late August. We would be delighted to have a few more children join us most Sundays – don't worry if you can't come along every week.

If you had your child baptised in one of our churches over the past few years, why not bring them along to Sunday School to join in with all the activities. We meet most Sundays in the Hall, Dundas Street at 10am.

Harvest

What a wonderful Family Service we had to celebrate Harvest. Rev Bill Armitage led our worship and provided us with a good balance of fun and thought-provoking comments.

The Harvest gifts were distributed amongst some of our congregation and are always welcomed with great delight.

Tinned goods were delivered to Jericho House. As always our congregation is so generous. Jericho House was again overwhelmed with your donations. On the day of delivering the goods; they found their cupboards to be completely empty, and worried that they would not be able to give anything to any callers. Then our Harvest gifts arrived and they really did see these as gifts from God. They thank all of you for thinking of them.

What an achievement!



Have you missed Church or Sunday School lately? What's the reason? One of our helpers has had a very good reason for missing Sunday School over the past few weeks! Rory McAlpine has just returned from the Commonwealth Youth Games in India representing Scotland in the 50m Men's Prone .22 Rifle Shooting..... and he won a bronze medal. Many congratulations to Rory – our very own champion.

Christmas Arrangements

We're off to see Aladdin at the Kings Theatre on 13 December for our Christmas outing. We are delighted that a number of our congregation are joining us – Oh no they're not! Oh yes they are!

Our Nativity is on Sunday 21 December 2008 at 11.30am in Church. We look forward to seeing you at this lovely Family Service.

Rosalind Dolan

From a book - 'Facing the Storm' by Eddie Askew.

I was recently given two books of Meditations and Prayers written by Eddie Askew who, for much of his life worked with leprosy sufferers and I thought that we could share in one of his thoughts. (John chapter 1 verses 1 - 9).

The morning service had just begun. It was the third Sunday in Advent, and the two children went forward and lit the Advent candles. From the pew behind me a little boy was keeping up a barrage of questions to granny. Finally, as the children went back to their seats, he asked loudly, 'Who's going to blow the candles out?'

I suppose his only experience of candles was on his birthday cake, when he had been encouraged to blow them out in one big breath. That, he thought, was the only thing to do with candles.

The words in John's gospel came to me; **'The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it'**.

Not for the want of trying. It seems at times as though all the powers of the world are trying to put out the light Jesus brought, and that they would think it was a birthday celebration if they succeeded. But, weak though it seems, the candle flame of love flickers on, dispelling the darkness around it, ready to ignite new lights wherever there is faith and commitment.

Why should it be like that? Why is there such opposition? An alternative translation says '...but the darkness has not understood it'. The light looks like a threat. It frightens, shows up the things we'd rather have hidden, disturbs us.

We don't understand that the truth is different. That light promises life, freedom, and an end to fear. The irony is that we have to find the courage to affirm it before the fear can be dealt with. The courage to make a leap of faith through the darkness towards that candle flame of love. But, is it really such a risk? It burns with all the power of God, and it's been burning for a long time, in spite of all the huffing and puffing of the world.

'Shine in the darkness, Lord. Dispel the doubt and fear that cling so close.

Turn the weak moonlight of my faith to a brighter day in which I see your radiance, know your love.'

*George Sweeney
- with thanks to Eddie Askew.*

If you need a little help, with the puzzle on the back page, here is a list of the words used.

Mary	donkey	Jesus
star	Joseph	Bethlehem
stable	manger	worship
angels	shepherds	gifts
baby	inn	

THE HOLY HIKERS



*It is health which is real wealth
And not pieces of gold and silver
Mahatma Gandhi*

It always seems like no time between the Harvest issue and the Christmas issue of the Link.

In September the weather in the morning was not very promising so we cancelled the trip to Earlston and instead did a short walk from Rosewell down into Roslin Glen and back. The weather did improve and it was a very pleasant afternoon.

Our walking weekend was on 20th/21st September to Moffat. It looked like being a great weekend weather-wise but I am sure Moffat was the only place in the UK to be wet on Saturday 20th September!! It did not stop us and our walk up the Garpol Glen was enjoyed by all despite the rain and mud. Our evening meal in the Moffat House Hotel was excellent and was followed by a quiz, won this year by Lynda

Williamson, then a few songs from Walter Renton and myself. Sunday morning dawned a bit misty but is soon burnt off and we walked to Moffat Well (a well known Victorian Spa) then did a circuit of Gallowhill Wood. Everyone had a great time – here's to next year!

The October walk took us on a ramble round the Meldons, it was a bit blowy but dry (except underfoot) I wonder if Maria Hall has her boots cleaned yet? In November we are doing part of the Fife Coastal trail around the Dalgety Bay area and in December we do a local walk around Fairmilehead.

*Happy Hiking,
Jim Scott*

Bonnyrigg Ranger Guides

We are now back at Rangers following the summer break and I would firstly like to congratulate all the girls who sat their Standard and Higher grades for very successful exam results and also on completing their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze exhibition - well done girls!

Since our return, we have been very busy and also managed to have a little bit of fun!

We had a trip to the Cavaliere restaurant in Dalkeith to celebrate the girls' exam success. It was a great night and an excellent opportunity to catch up properly. The food wasn't too bad either!

We have also taken part in the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal and spent an evening or two collecting all our items together and making up the shoe boxes. The girls enjoy doing this and always take time to reflect on their own good fortunes. The girls chose their own age group and we managed to fill five boxes for teenage girls.

In October, we had a Halloween party. It just goes to show that children never grow tired of Halloween. All the girls came dressed up, we looked for apples, played some spooky Halloween games and enjoyed some Halloween snacks.

No night at Rangers seems to pass without enjoying some kind of food!

November will see a trip into the Edinburgh Playhouse to see *Mary Poppins* and we are very much looking forward to that. We also have a Quiz Night planned and a trip to the local swimming pool.

Our last meeting before Christmas is again back into Edinburgh for our annual trip to Winter Wonderland in Princes Street Gardens. We have a number of girls who plan to make their Promise at the top of the Big Wheel. We usually find time to visit the German Market, enjoy a crepe as well as have a go on the rides.

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.

Rangers still meet every second Tuesday in the Guide Hall on Dobbies Road, so if anyone (between the ages of 14 and 26) is interested in joining us, please feel free to contact me on Tel No 0131 454 9278. It would be lovely to have you join us!

Lynsey Stevenson



Oasis

Due to the terribly wet weather in August our evening ramble in Roslyn had to be cancelled - so it was not a good start to our new Oasis session.

The September meet saw an evening at La Tasca in the Omni Centre and Flashdance at the Edinburgh Playhouse. A few famous names appeared on stage including Bernie Nolan from the Nolan sisters fame, Noel Sullivan from Hear' Say and Bruno Langley from Coronation Street. It was a fantastic performance.

Following the success of our "BLINGO" evening, we invited along Maggies to give the group a talk in the church hall. The evening was well attended too with a few additional guests - thank you for your support. It was very informative evening into the great work that Maggies centres do in Scotland and in the UK. We were also able to hand over a further cheque for £250 to them which was greatly appreciated. This brought our final donation to Maggies to £1,150.

I am now in a position to confirm the date for "BLINGO II". This will take place on March 6th 2009 in Bonnyrigg Masonic Hall. Tickets will soon be available to purchase. This year's event was a huge success and we are confident that next year's will be even better. Watch this space for further details.

We are off to take part in Adam Lyle Deceased's Witchery Tour in November and to see Bonnyrigg's very own Gail Read (nee Watson) in Sunshine on Leith at the Festival Theatre in December. This evening is doubling up as our Christmas night out and the plan is to head for an Italian before the show starts.

Oasis ladies meet the first Thursday of every month. If anyone is interested in joining us, please feel free to contact me on Tel No 0131 454 9278. We would be delighted to see you.

Lynsey Stevenson

Mary Slessor



"Charity begins at home" we often hear said. In the case of Mary Slessor, indefatigable and above all, a courageous-against impossible odds missionary, bravery and conviction began at home when, years before she fought for Christianity and women's rights in Nigeria, she was cornered by a local gang of ne'er-do-wells in Dundee. They threatened her with a metal weight on a piece of string, swinging it nearer and nearer her face and taunting her to flinch. Mary defied them and in her turn taunted them, denying any fear and telling them that if she stood her ground, they should follow her to Sunday school. She did, they followed... and many more were to follow this determined redhead. Mary Slessor was born in Gilcomston, Aberdeen on December 2nd 1848. Her father, Robert, was a shoemaker and her mother a deeply religious soul with a marked interest in missionary work in Calabar, Nigeria. When Mary was eleven, the family moved to Dundee where her father became a mill labourer after having to abandon his trade of cordwainer, due to alcoholism. Note the lessons and influences here for

the formative Mary – the curse of too much of a good thing as opposed to the passion to rid a people of too much of a bad one. But I'm making it sound easy. It certainly was not, for as young as fourteen Mary was working a 12-hour day in a jute mill, rising at 5 am to help with the housework (she was the second of seven children) then busy at the mill from 6 am to 6 pm. Her mother's religious influence took effect and the young Slessor volunteered to become a teacher at the recently instituted mission at Quarry Pend. Hard work, wariness of evil, facing stiff odds and – ironically – a basic fear of the male of the species prepared Mary for her life's work. Africa was calling; she was to become there "The Mother of all Peoples". On August 5th, 1876, after training in Edinburgh and with the approbation of the Foreign Missionary Board of the United Presbyterian Church, she set sail for Calabar arriving a month later, an incongruous figure in West Africa, red haired, blue eyed and – as she described herself – "wee and thin and not very strong". Nigeria was at the time going through one of its turbulent phases – confusion following the abolition of slavery (Lagos was a major trading centre for slaves until 1851); the forceful arrival of British rule in 1861; the mish-mash of tribal autonomies and various chiefs with their varying laws.

Polygamy was rife amongst leaders, severe corporal punishment the norm and superstitions such as it was justified to slay new-born twins who were looked upon as an

abomination. Human sacrifice was also not unknown. How was the young Miss Slessor to deal with all this? Her ploy was simple, but very difficult – she set out to become part of the community whilst remaining her Scots Presbyterian self. She learned the Efik language and so could hear the native's argument without being misled. She lived in the native style, sleeping sometimes in the open, absorbed the local culture and came to terms with local traditions. This whole-hearted and sincere integration led the local governor to invite Mary Slessor to become a member of the Itu court. To illustrate the authority Mary had in tribal litigious matters consider this case. One night, two (probably) frustrated wives of the local chief sneaked off to see a man. The other two wives knew about this 'infidelity' but kept silent. The chief found out and ordered punishment for all four spouses – 100 lashes of the crocodile whip. Mary knew that often, this led to death and that sometimes the guilty party suffered salt in the wounds and had a few fingers and/or toes chopped off for good measure! She intervened pointing out that with the polygamous system young wives were bound to become a little bored. The condemned wives thought they were 'off the hook'. Affronted, the chief asked if Mary's God condoned adultery to which she replied "No, but he is a forgiving God" (the four wives almost smiled with relief) she added, however, that He does not forgive sin and that the crocodile whip was appropriate BUT... 10 lashes, no salt and no amputations! The chief and his elders agreed.

There are many more tales to show the power that this diminutive Aberdonian commanded in Nigeria but space does not allow their telling. Mary Slessor's mission in Nigeria was curtailed by illness and ended by a mortal fever on January 13th 1915. Her sojourn in West Africa was one undertaken before the introduction of the medicines and drugs that were to combat malaria, smallpox and other feverish diseases and one that was too early to benefit from the use of motor vehicles and tarmac roads. She was buried in Nigeria at a full state funeral, her grave marked by a cross of Scottish granite.

Mary Slessor left us with a few points to ponder:

God is never behind time.

If you play with temptation do not expect God to deliver you.

The secret of all failure is disobedience.

Half the world's sorrow comes from the unwisdom of parents.

An arm of flesh never brings power.

There are many more. If you want to see Mary Slessor plus a map of Calabar and scenes from her missionary work it will cost you £10... on the Clydesdale banknote of that denomination!

From Cornerstone Magazine
The Scots Kirk, Lausanne

SOME OF MURPHYS LESSER KNOWN LAWS



1. Light travels faster than sound.
This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak
2. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
3. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
4. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
5. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting some thing right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
6. If you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them, five or six at a time, on a hill, in fog.
7. The things that come to those who wait will be the scraggly junk left by those who got there first.
8. The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.
9. A fine is a tax for doing wrong.
A tax is a fine for doing well.
10. When you go into court, you are putting yourself into the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

How markets work

The chief of a Native American tribe was asked in the autumn if the winter was going to be cold or mild. Being a 21st-century chief he had no idea, but said that it was going to be cold and told the people in his village to collect wood.

A few days later he rang the National Weather Service. "Yes, it is going to be cold." They told him, so he went back to his people and told them to collect more wood.

A week later he called again. "Is it going to be a cold winter?" he asked. "Yes, very cold." So he went back and told his people to collect every bit of wood they could.

Two weeks later he called again. "Yes," he was told, "it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever." "How can you be so sure?" the chief asked. The weatherman replied: "The Native Americans are collecting wood like crazy."

BLOOPERS

Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference will include meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Please place your donation in the

envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM. Prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.

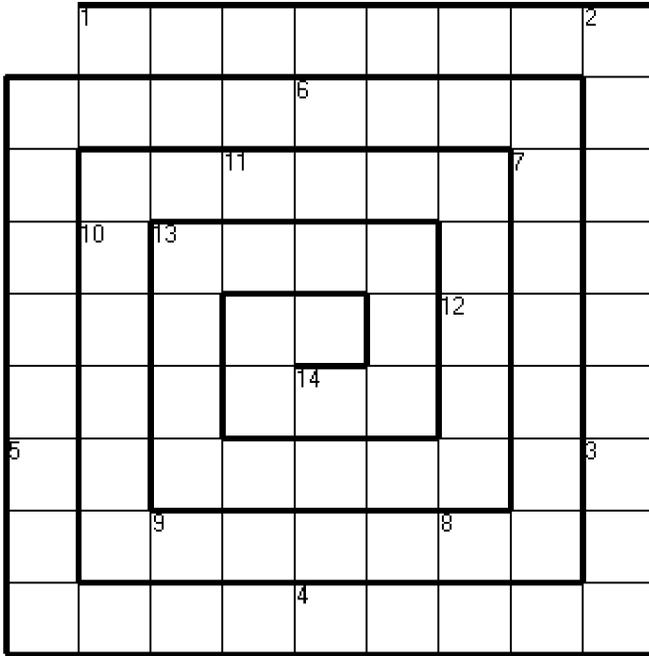
The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

A Christmas Spiral Puzzle



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|---|---|
| 1. The reason the wise men wanted to find Jesus | 8. An infant |
| 2. Animal that Mary rode to Bethlehem | 9. He saves people from their sin |
| 3. Earthly father of Jesus | 10. There was no room there for Jesus |
| 4. Announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds | 11. The wise men brought these to Jesus |
| 5. Watched their flocks | 12. City where Jesus was born |
| 6. It led the wise men to Jesus | 13. A place where animals sleep |
| 7. Where the baby Jesus was laid | 14. The mother of Jesus |

If you need a little help, there is a list of the words used in this puzzle on a previous page.