

Cockpen & Carrington

The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Christmas 2010



Church of Scotland

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PULPIT SUPPLY ROTA – JANUARY-APRIL 2011

DATE	LASSWADE 10 AM	COCKPEN and CARRINGTON 11.30 AM	ROSEWELL (Service times below)
02.01.11	Service at ROSEWELL	MINISTER	MINISTER (10AM)
09.01.11	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	
16.01.11	MINISTER	MINISTER	REV K ROSS (11.30 AM)
23.01.11	MINISTER (HC)	REV K ROSS	Service at LASSWADE (10 AM)
30.01.11		MINISTER	MINISTER (10 AM)
06.02.11	Service at ROSEWELL	MINISTER (HC)	REV K ROSS (10 AM)
13.02.11	MINISTER	MINISTER	REV K ROSS (11.30 AM)
20.02.11	MINISTER	MINISTER	REV K ROSS (11.30 AM)
27.02.11	REV K ROSS	REV K ROSS	Service at LASSWADE (10 AM)
06.03.11	Service at ROSEWELL	MINISTER	MINISTER (10 AM)
13.03.11 First Sunday in Lent	MINISTER	MINISTER	REV K ROSS (11.30 AM)
20.03.11	MINISTER	MINISTER	REV K ROSS (11.30 AM)
27.03.11	MINISTER	MINISTER	Service at LASSWADE (10 AM)
03.04.11	Service at ROSEWELL	MINISTER	MINISTER

HC = HOLY COMMUNION

Pre-Christmas events:

12 DECEMBER: CAROL PARTY AT ROSEWELL AT 7 PM;

19 DECEMBER: LESSONS AND CAROLS AT COCKPEN AT 7PM

Friday 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

LASSWADE (CHRISTINGLE) 7 PM; ROSEWELL 8.30 PM; COCKPEN 11.20 PM

OOOOOOOOOOOO

HOLY WEEK SERVICES – 16-22 APRIL 2011 (SERVICE DETAILS WILL BE GIVEN LATER)

Dear Friends,

As we approach the season of Advent, then Christmas, it is good to consider the real meaning of Christmas. The story of the incarnation of Christ – God entering into the fullness of the human experience through the birth of Jesus – never fails to move and inspire. As usual, there are Christmas services at Cockpen & Carrington, Lasswade and Rosewell churches – please do come, you are welcome.

I was delighted to learn that the Reverend David Arnott has been nominated to be the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland (more inside the magazine). Just before Christmas in 2002, Mr Arnott and I travelled to Israel and Palestine (West Bank) to carry out a review of the work of the Church of Scotland in the Holy Land. To walk in the actual places where Jesus walked was a great privilege. As well as St Andrew's Church and Guesthouse in Jerusalem, the Church of Scotland also runs a church, hotel and visitor centre in Tiberias (on the shore of the Sea of Galilee) and Tabeetha School in Jaffa. Tabeetha School ought to be better known: it brings together children from Christian, Jewish and Muslim backgrounds and offers them a good education. It is perhaps the most tangible Scottish contribution to building peace and reconciliation in this bitterly divided region. See www.tabeethaschool.com

Do you feel called to ministry in the Church of Scotland? The Church of Scotland is holding an "Enquirers' Conference" for anyone interested in becoming a minister (or other full-time or part-time church worker). It will be held on 4th-5th February 2011 at the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan (14th January is the closing date for registration). If you are interested in attending, please contact Suzanne Brown or Carol-Anne Frame, Ministries Council, Church of Scotland offices, 121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN, telephone 0131 225 5722 or email vocation@cofscotland.org.uk

Kristina joins with me in wishing you and your family a very happy Christmas and every blessing for 2011.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Matthew Ross
Minister

Lasswade and Rosewell Choir

It is that time of year again when the Editors are calling for material for the last issue of "The Link" for the calendar year.

It is the time of year when once again I must express my grateful thanks to the members of the regular choir who turn out Sunday by Sunday to enhance our worship with their praise. My appreciation goes to the regular choir and to friends who augment the choir for special services for all their work in getting music together for these events. Without the enthusiasm of you all the music which we have produced, and which I hope we shall continue to produce, would not have been possible. Your contribution to the recent Songs of Praise and the way you coped with a particularly difficult anthem was much appreciated. My thanks to everyone of you.

The choir is now working on music for the Advent and Christmas Seasons and we hope to participate in the Carol Party at Rosewell on 12th December and the Christmas Eve Service at Lasswade on 24th December.

During December I know traditionally we get caught up in the excitement, and the push and shove, of Christmas. But what if Christmas never was? Is it possible it might never have been celebrated? I think we owe it to a group of men and to another individual that we have a birth to celebrate. The group of men were the Shepherds of Bethlehem who were watching their sheep, as was their custom, when suddenly they saw a vision telling them about a birth this day in the City of David. The shepherds were told of how they would know the Babe because he would be wrapped in swaddling clothes and would be lying in a manger. Now the shepherds could have decided to stay put and go nowhere but they said to each other "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass". They went and, afterwards, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning the child.

The individual is Andrew, the quiet fisherman, the person who was always content to be second fiddle, particularly where his brother was concerned. But it was Andrew who became the first person to follow Jesus and it was Andrew who led his brother to Jesus as well as leading others to Jesus down through the years. Andrew, the apostle we share with other countries as our Patron Saint and whose Saltire on its blue background forms our National Flag.

If the shepherds had stayed put and told no one about what they had seen and heard and/or if Andrew had decided not to follow Jesus and had not lead others to Him would the Carpenter of Nazareth, who today commands the allegiance in one form or another of millions of people the whole world over, just have remained a wandering Jewish journeyman joiner? It is food for thought.

The Choir joins me in wishing all our readers the Compliments of the Season.

HLRD

Songs of Praise

Can I just express my thanks to all who in any way assisted with the Songs of Praise evening in Lasswade on 10th October. The Choirs were tremendous with, to quote the Minister's words, their "wall of sound" and the anthem by John Ireland came over very well. I must thank the Minister for the way he linked everything up and also the ladies who catered for our needs by laying on refreshments at the end. Finally can I thank Graham and Kenny, who shared the playing with me, for all their work.

It is hoped to have another Songs of Praise during 2011, possibly in a slightly different format, so watch this space!

HLRD

Lasswade Church Flower Rota



January

9th Mary Sharpe
16th Betty Burns
23rd Morag Rennie
30th Moira Dryden

February

13th Anne Macdonald
20th Cathie Drysdale
27th Pat Lawrie

March

13th Margaret Waugh
20th Lynda Williamson
27th Nita Adams

April

10th Moira Scott
17th Mrs Ledgerwood
24th Lorna Oliver

I am in the process of making up the rota for 2011 and would be very happy to include new names. The flowers go from the church to be enjoyed by members of the congregation and are greatly appreciated. Thank you to all the people who help with the flower rota.

Moira Dryden

Lasswade & Rosewell Baking Stall



Now that Lasswade has joined up with Rosewell Church for our monthly Cake & Candy Stall I would like to say a very big thanks to all the ladies of Lasswade Church who have supplied us with home baking and supported the stall with donations and also buying our cakes etc. over the years. I reckon we must have been on the go for at least 11 years now but I could be wrong. It could be longer. We have lost a few good friends during these years and I remember especially Margaret Hamilton who was in at the beginning of the stall and always enthusiastic even during her final illness.

The stall was also a good place to catch up with local news and meet with the regulars at the Pitcairn Centre.

We are also very grateful to Bonnyrigg Church for giving us the opportunity to sell our baking. They make us very welcome and keep us supplied with tea or coffee on Thursday mornings. They do a great job and the hall is always very attractive and well looked after.

We at Lasswade are looking forward to working with Rosewell ladies and hope we can have another 11 years raising funds for the churches.

Many thanks to all.

Cathie Drysdale

NB Our next dates are 9 December, 27 January and 3 March.

On the second Saturday of each month there is a Coffee Morning in Rosewell Church Hall from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon. We hope you will come along with your friends and enjoy coffee, home baking and lots of chat.

The Guild

We have had a very successful start to our session with rev Melville Schofield conducting our dedication service within the church service with his usual good humour and sincerity. At our meeting on the Monday once again we were pleased to see a good turn out for the first meeting when the Rev Matthew Ross spoke on our theme – Mercy – but also took the opportunity to explain to us his duties within the parish. We all appreciated the time he took to circulate with the members and have a chat with them over a cuppa.

Our speakers so far have included Maggie Brodie on 100 years of dolls. The collection she brought along for us to see was truly amazing in all designs and sizes and the history behind them, indeed most interesting.

We had a speaker, David Bond, from the charity Mary's Meals. Their aim is to encourage children in third world countries to attend school and be educated, and in doing so, receive a meal, which for most will be the only meal that day. If they continue to attend school then they are given a backpack with items such as pencils, notebooks, toothbrush and a t-shirt etc. Our members have been collecting such items over the last few weeks and I am pleased to say that we were able to present 4 large boxes of goods to David Bond for the project.

Mr Andrew Brash from the 'Mark Wright project' talks at our next meeting. Glynn and Sue Denny, who spoke at our last meeting in November, talk about the Philippines and music. All are welcome to come along and join us.

Our ever popular carol party will take place this year on 13th December. This is always very popular with a good attendance and open to all. Yet again Jessie Hume has kindly offered to do all the baking for this event, which is greatly appreciated. This is a huge bake to supply Christmas cake, mincemeat pies, apple pies, shortbread and Turkish delight for 100 people and we are truly grateful for her time and talent. Well done Jessie. We hope to see many of you there and you can be assured of a first class evening of song and entertainment.

The New Year starts with 'Nibbles and Natter' and 'Bring and Buy' evening and speakers on the subject of Henry Widnell and Stewart Carpets, Edinburgh cinemas and Leprosy Mission. A varied and interesting mix, we hope.

The Guild meeting are held fortnightly in the Church hall at 7.30 pm.
The first meeting of the New Year will be on 10th January 2011.
All will be made very welcome.

From all at the Guild, may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Liz

Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland for 2011

The Reverend David Arnott has been nominated to be the next Moderator of the General Assembly. He retired from parish ministry in 2010; his most recent charge was Hope Park Church in St Andrews linked with Strathkinness, Fife. He has a Midlothian connection – he was minister at Gorebridge from 1971 until 1977.



A regular presenter on BBC Radio Scotland's *Thought for the Day* for more than 35 years, he has also contributed to Radio 4's *Prayer for the Day*, Scottish Television and Grampian Television.

David Arnott was born in Dunfermline, Fife, and attended Burntisland Primary School and Lochgelly West Primary School before going to George Watson's College in Edinburgh. After a scholarship year at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, he studied at the University of St Andrews and the University of Edinburgh, graduating Master of Arts in French and Spanish and Bachelor of Divinity (with Honours in New Testament studies).

Mr Arnott and his wife Rosemary now live in Peebles. They have three grown-up children and six grandchildren. He enjoys cooking, golf and photography and is passionate supporter of Peebles Rugby Club.

Following a probationary placement at St Ninian's Parish Church in Greenock in 1971, Mr Arnott was ordained and inducted to Stobhill Church in Gorebridge (united into a single Gorebridge Parish Church in 1975). In 1977 he was called to Netherlee Parish Church in Glasgow, where he also spent two years as a part-time chaplain at Barlinnie Prison. He was Convener of the Business Committee of the Presbytery of Glasgow.

In 1996 he moved from Glasgow to St Andrews. There he served as a local hospital chaplain and chaplain to two primary schools. He also served as an honorary Church of Scotland chaplain at the University of St Andrews. He was Moderator of the Presbytery of St Andrews in 2007.

Mr Arnott has served on several national Boards and Committees of the Church of Scotland, including as Convener of the Board of Ministry, Senior Director of the Assessment Conferences (for applicants for the Ministry), Convener of the Business Committee of the General Assembly. Whilst on the former Board of Practice & Procedure he was invited to convene a Commission for the General Assembly examining the future of the Presbyteries of Europe and Jerusalem; he travelled to Israel in December 2002 with our minister Rev Matthew Ross (who was Secretary of the Commission) to conduct a review of the Church of Scotland's work there.

From the Cockpen & Carrington Clerk.

*I couldn't believe it, an e-mail from our Editorial team on 22nd October to say that they required articles for the **Christmas** magazine by the 7th November which was only a little over two weeks away!*

*The ink on the Harvest magazine had hardly dried and here we were, rapidly approaching another deadline. What have I said before about - "**one getting older!!!**".*

I am happy to try and write something for our magazine but sometimes have great difficulty thinking of what to say. I often wonder how Ministers can work out sermons Sunday by Sunday when we only have to think about writing a few lines three times a year!

*One of the passages in the New Testament I had 'earmarked' in case I was required to take a Service (which has happened to Andrew, Agnes and I a few times) is from St. Mark's gospel, Chapter 16 at verse 8 where we hear the words - "**trembling and bewildered the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid**". Of course, I know that this is from the Easter readings and not the Christmas but, to be fearful can happen at any time. Something, I'm sure, we have all experienced at some time in our lives.*

*Linking the above passage with "**can you remember what you did yesterday or last week or, even a few hours ago?**" I think more than me would have to shake their heads and say "**really, I don't know**". And yet, many of us can remember quite vividly matters of long ago - important and not so important.*

For me, one of my clearest memories is that of Friday 4th September, 1964 when, as a 22 year old working as a Road Patrol (an A.A. man) with the Automobile Association. I can remember just about everything from opening my eyes that morning until going to bed that night. Of course, by now, some of you will perhaps have guessed the date - the opening, by Her Majesty of the Forth Road Bridge.

My 'beat' at that time was from North Queensferry to Kinross and of course, because H.M was going to be coming on to the jetty at North Queensferry to board the ferry 'Queen Margaret' after officially opening, and crossing the bridge, I was to be 'a main man' that day with quite a lot of responsibility (at least, that's what I thought of myself).

My day started when I woke up in my 'digs' at 8.10 a.m. - when I should have signed on at 7 a.m. I looked out of my bedroom window and couldn't see 20 yards (as it was at that time) for thick fog. I was late, my A.A. van was in a lock-up under the old bridge which was quite a walk away and, I was 100% sure that the ferries would be suspended due to fog and, that if that was the case I should have had a 'Ferry Suspended' sign out at Ferry Toll near Inverkeithing and I should have been in touch with another colleague further up the old A90 to advise him, and motorists of the problems. This had started out very badly on what was probably

*the most exciting day of my, and many others lives! Clothes on over pyjamas, jumping into my own car and hastily driving to the jetty and confirming that the ferries were indeed suspended (**fearful and trembling** by this time - where was my Inspector?) and then on to Ferry Toll only to see 'the local Polis' had saved my bacon by putting the sign out and, had contacted my colleague. Back to 'digs', hasty change into uniform and down for van (with no breakfast) and then, look as if I was in full control of everything. That was the start of the day!!*

*Later in the morning with ferries running again we all listened to our radios and in time heard that H.M. had opened the Bridge officially and was crossing it. She would then be driven down to the pier and board the ferry 'Queen Margaret' which would take her to South Queensferry and, that's where my next 'big moment' was to take place - an important radio message to my A.H.Q to advise them that she was on her way etc. etc. As the Royal car turned to come down to the pier Patrol Sweeney ready with radio mike in hand pressed the send button and what happens - **radio dead**. No, this was not turning into the best day in my short (and likely to get shorter) A.A. career. However, the Fife 'Constabulary' again came to my rescue and broadcast to their H.Q who in turn notified mine.*

*The day is not over yet - after H.M. was off our patch my Inspector, some of my fellow patrols and I had time for a quick bite of lunch before the next part of the day. (Incidentally, I don't think my Inspector ever found out about the 'sleep in'.) After our break, he took me aside and told me that his boss had told him that he, the Inspector was to cross the Bridge in the first convoy from the Fife side, the line up being two Fife Police cars, A.A. and R.A.C. following and then, the hundreds of vehicles behind us. Inspector Nelson, not a man to mince words told me that there was no way he was going to cross that monstrosity of a Bridge because he, at 63, was due to retire in the next couple of years and wanted to ensure he would actually see his retirement. Guess what - I, with the nice new shiny van (that had a duff radio) was detailed to take his place. Instructed to go home and tidy up !! and be back up on the north approach roads ready to roll whenever we got the green light. The '**bewildered**' bit kicked in now - why had I, a young 22 year old with my whole life in front of me, to go across a Bridge that really not many people had been across. Was I, in the eyes of my Inspector, dispensable? Eventually, we got the go - hundreds of vehicles behind us and, cautiously approaching the start of the Bridge proper and looking towards these enormous towers - were they really moving from side to side! **I think I can safely say that this is where the real 'trembling' began (again)** but, unlike the two Marys in the Easter story I didn't have **anywhere to run**. Onwards, like a true trouper until we met the northbound traffic (obviously on the opposite carriageways) with blowing of horns, flashing lights and - were the other towers moving even more!! I was quite sure that the movement was increasing and, was all the horn blowing and lights flashing really of joy that we had a quicker way over than ferries now or - was it everybody telling each other to get off the Bridge because they thought like me? Thankfully, we all made the journey, paid the half crown toll fee turned round and got back over to Fife - safely. Our next task was to man the various slip roads (not so many then as now) in case of any problems*

and, problems there were. Drivers were crossing south to north, coming down the slip roads (I was at Ferry Toll - the first one), going right round the roundabout and trying to drive up the road they had come off which meant they were going to be on the wrong carriageway. Many drivers did that and had to be redirected to the correct approach road but, of course, in 1964 we didn't have many roads like this and people were totally confused.

About 8 p.m. (nearly finished this saga) we got the 'stand down' and it was a hasty return to garage my van, get changed and into my own car for home as I was now on two days off. By the time I got back on to the Bridge (**still just as much fearful and trembling**) it was very busy and we crossed at a snail's pace. What happened then - my red ignition light came on about quarter way over. This could mean a few things - a fault in the car dynamo or a broken fan belt being the most common. If the belt was broken it could mean that the engine would overheat if not broken it would indicate a fault in the dynamo which could discharge the battery. Whatever way, it looked as if I, **the A.A. man** could be the first person to be towed off this brand new Bridge. Thankfully, I made it all the way home and later discovered that the dynamo brushes were the problem and, easy to rectify.

Yes, the 4th September was indeed a day to remember but, even although I wasn't sure if I could trust this new fangled lump of concrete and metal why did I have the doubts and fears like the two Marys had when I, along with the thousands of other motorists had someone watching over as he has done continually in good times and bad - for us all.

Yours, in friendship.
George.

p.s. I got a repeat performance some time later when the Tay Road Bridge opened - with a passenger, my 'old' Inspector, carrying out his last public duty before retiring - and he still wasn't too happy!

USED STAMPS



The stamps now go to the Scottish Bible Society as the Church of Scotland no longer accepts them. They were grateful for the recent gift of stamps from Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church in support of their project to share the Good News of Jesus with individuals and families around the globe. Foreign and British stamps are gratefully accepted.

Dorothy Bennett

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH.

BAPTISMS

It was so nice 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.

- 29th August. *Cambelle Alex Shand*, infant daughter of Calvin and Cassandra.
12th September. *Ellie May Dixon Anderson*, infant daughter of Marc and Ilona.
12th September. *Erin Rose Cunningham*, infant daughter of Martin and Claire.
10th October. *Ollie Purves*, infant son of Scott and Claire.
24th October. *Alfie Gaetano Leck Hood*, infant son of Allan and Christina.

All the babies were baptized by our Minister, Matthew.

'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee.'

WEDDINGS

All 2010 weddings have taken place with a fairly large number booked in for 2011, the first in February and, even quite a few for 2012.

It was our joy to welcome all the wedding parties during this past year and we hope that Cockpen and Carrington Church will be very much part of the memories of their special day.

BEREAVEMENT

We continue to think of, and pray for, any who mourn the passing of a loved one. We have probably all experienced the sadness of loss but, be assured that we all, along with our other Churches, are here for any who feel that we can help or support them now or in the future.

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

Christening Font

We are so fortunate in being able to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism fairly frequently in our Church and, it is always a joy to welcome families and friends to such special Services.

As from now (October 2010), couples who are asked to bring their babies up to the Chancel will see that the bowl in the Christening Font is looking particularly nice. The bowl had, for some time, looked a bit tarnished but, has now been re-silvered by a company in Edinburgh who have made a very good job of bringing the bowl 'back to life'.

This came about due to the generosity of a dear friend of our Church, Mrs. Janet Staig who passed away some time ago. Mrs. Staig had left money to the Church - some for Choir funds and some to the Church for whatever purpose we decided.

I'm sure Mrs. Staig, with her love of children, would be very happy that the money was used in this way and, what better way to remember such a lovely lady. It was so nice to have Mrs. Staig's daughter Dorothy and son in law Colin with us on the 24th October when baby Alfie Hood was baptized.

G.S.

The Difference

I got up early one morning
and rushed right into the day:
I had so much to accomplish
that I didn't have time to pray,

Problems just tumbled about me,
and heavier came each task:
Why doesn't God help me? I wondered,
He answered, "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty,
but the day toiled on, grey and bleak:
I wondered why God didn't show me:
He said, "but you didn't seek".

I tried to come into God's presence.
I used all the keys at the lock,
God gently and lovingly chided
"My child, you didn't knock,"

I woke up early this morning
and paused before entering the day:
I had so much to accomplish
that I had to take time to pray.

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON SUNDAY SCHOOL

NEW STARTS

We're delighted to welcome a few more children to Sunday School: Evangeline & Lara Perrie along with parents Carol & Alan and Charlotte Phillips along with baby brother Samuel and mum Jennifer. We also had a very special visit from baby Cameryn Crombie, baby sister of Drew & Jacob. Cameryn was one week old when she came to Sunday School! Welcome to you all.

FAMILY SERVICES

We've had busy family services in church recently and lots of baptisms - it's lovely to see so many people in church and the whole atmosphere is family oriented. There is no family service in November and the next one is 19 December.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

We are blessed to have such a generous congregation. There were more goods this year than ever before for Jericho House. Our own parishioners who received gifts from the harvest table were delighted to be remembered and we've had a number of messages from you. Jericho House and their soup kitchen were quite overwhelmed and have acknowledged this separately in the magazine. Thank you all.

FRIENDS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Delighted to report that Mrs Doreen Gray is making good progress and hopes to be joining us in church soon.

Lovely to hear from Mrs Betty Wilson at Archview Lodge who is doing well, despite a really bad cold, and thinks of us often.

Another new friend is Marjory Greig who took time out from her recent visit home to remember the Sunday School - thank you Marjory for your kindness.

Unfortunately, Mrs Winnie Brown took a nasty tumble and is in hospital having fractured her pelvis. The Sunday School sends our love to you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you recover.

THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2007

Those of you who follow these articles will be aware that for the past few years all adults connected with the Sunday School have been vetted through the Enhanced Disclosure process. From 30 November 2010, the Scottish Government will implement the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 - the PVG Scheme. It is still not clear what we will require to do other than any new adult working with the children in Sunday School will apply under the new scheme, the rest of us will transfer to the new scheme some time over the next year. The legislation is to help employers to better identify those who are unsuitable to work with vulnerable people. Under the previous Disclosure, Scotland scheme, applicants had to make a number of applications for each activity they were involved with either for work or in a voluntary setting. This new scheme offers a far better co-ordinated approach and one application only.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS TRAINING

On a blustery Saturday morning in November, Rosalind joined Sunday School leaders across East & Midlothian for a training session. The session was run by Scripture Union and The Church Of Scotland's outreach worker for East Lothian. Held at Abbey Church, North Berwick - what resources they have.....wait til the Kirk Sessions see the Sunday School wish list!

The session was how to make more of the Bible and they had loads of ideas. Training for Sunday School teachers is really poor so Rosalind's put in a request to have more training and even to get a session for ourselves. Watch this space.

SCRIPTURE UNION WEEKEND - 20 TO 22 MAY 2011

Scripture Union hold holiday clubs and weekends away. They are holding a weekend next May at Lendrick Muir, Scripture Union's activity centre near Kinross. It's aimed at primary 5-7 and costs £64. The weekend includes fun ways to explore the bible and activities such as archery/trail biking/crafts/disc golf/orienteering etc. For more information contact Rosalind.

NATIVITY SERVICE

It's top secret but our play this year will be Joining Joseph the Joiner's Family. We hope to share this wonderful musical extravaganza with you on 19 December at Cockpen.....if we're very good, we're also going to try it out at Lasswade on 12 December!

We're on the look out for any budding thespians to join us!

CHRISTMAS OUTING

We have no more tickets! All 95 of us are going to see Jack in the Beanstalk on 11 December - should be great fun.

Letter from Jericho House

JERICHO BENEDICTINE SOCIETY

The Compassion of Jesus.

Jericho House
53, Lothian Street
EDINBURGH, EH1 1HB

☎ 0131 225 8230

5th November 2010

X

Dear Ms Dolan

The Soup Kitchen were very pleased to receive your donation of harvest thanksgiving gifts. They asked for me to convey their thanks for your continued support.

I hope this acknowledgement reaches you in time for insertion in your church magazine.
Yours sincerely



June Balloch
Unit Manager

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON CHURCH - CHRISTMAS MUSIC 2010

The clocks have turned back once again and it is accordingly the season to set out our Christmas programme – it will be upon us all too soon. As ever, the choir has a busy season in view.

Our regular supporters will not be surprised to hear that this year's programme will be following the familiar pattern, and here are this year's dates for the diary:-

Monday 13 December

The choir will once again be leading the Guild in their annual Carol Party. This will as usual take place in the Church Hall in Dundas Street, starting at 7.30 pm. The evening is open to all, with plenty of opportunity for audience participation – male vocalists will be made particularly welcome! For some variety this year we are hoping to have a few of the items led from the guitar. The usual high quality seasonal refreshments will I am sure also be on offer (and indeed are quite possibly the main attraction!).

Sunday 19 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 – though that title should be interpreted fairly broadly! Those of you who are regular attenders will know that production values are high, and may well be showing in 3D. Whether some "special guest stars" will be featuring this year is a question I will leave you to find out the answer to on the day.

At 7 pm that evening our **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** will take place. I know that this has become an essential part of Christmas worship both for members of our own congregation and friends from further afield, and we hope that a large number will join us for what I am sure will once again be a special and memorable 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 a variety of times and places, including as ever one or two items new to our repertoire.

Friday 24 December

The choir will have a particularly busy Christmas Eve this year, as we are performing carols not only at the Dalhousie Castle Hotel, as we have done for many years past, but also at Broomieknowe Golf Club. This should get us fully fit for our traditional **Watchnight Service**, which will follow in time honoured fashion

at 11.20 pm. A traditional mix of carols and readings will take us up to midnight and the ringing of the church bell which marks the coming of Christmas Day. This service has been very well attended in recent years, and we hope that whatever the weather throws at us (hopefully not as much snow as last year) 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 and elsewhere. We are very grateful to them for making time in their own busy schedules to join us and help us spread the true spirit of Christmas.

Graham Burnside
Organist

Cockpen and Carrington Flower Rota

December 2010

12th Nancy Richardson
19th D. Peat & Sunday School
26th Liz Laidlaw

January 2011

2nd Flower Fund
9th B. McInnes
16th J. Sharpe
23rd M. Miller
30th Ian Fowler

February

6th Lyn Hanson
13th B. McInnes
20th Peat Family – Thinking Day
27th Free

March

6th M. McAlpine
13th C. Fisher
20th Stella
27th J. Dyer



As always I would like to thank all of you who continue to help with the flowers in church and very big thank you to all who give donations to the flower fund so we can enhance the church week to week.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE

Irene Ramsay.

THE IONA PRAYER CIRCLE

The Iona Prayer Circle is part of the Iona Community, founded in 1938 by the late George McLeod. The Circle was established from the practice and inspiration of the Service of Prayers for Healing in Iona Abbey held every Tuesday at 9 pm. Its aim is to help those in need of prayer and support through a critical experience in life or chronic illness or persisting difficult situations or continuing distress and disability of whatever origin.

It operates through sponsors and intercessors.

Sponsors are those who have asked for prayers, either for themselves or for others. Some intercessors are also sponsors. Intercessors pray for those on their prayer list. At regular intervals they receive a list of names and the specific needs and difficulties of those people. There are so many people asking for prayer that the list is divided into seven groups. Intercessors decide how many of these groups they wish to commit to. The intercessors try to pray for the people on their list every Tuesday evening at 9p.m. In this way they join in the prayers for healing at the Abbey and create a chain of prayer round the world. Of course they can and do pray at other times as well as or instead of the Abbey time.

The co-ordinator of the Prayer Circle is Polly Burns based in Telford, Shropshire. She sends out the newsletter with updates as mentioned and can be reached at prayercircle@paton-brown.co.uk or 01952/4333230.

The practice of members of the Prayer Circle involves the traditional prayer themes and techniques of Relaxation and Quietude, Attention Training, Imagery and Visualization, Intentionality and Strong Positive Emotions as used by mystics for centuries

Bill MacDonald

Cake Stall.

Once again, we had a very successful cake stall on 28th October. Many thanks to all concerned for all the goods provided and to the customers who buy them.

Our next dates at the Pitcairn Centre are as follows -

2nd December, 2010
13th January, 2011
24th February, 2011
24th March, 2011

Thank you for your continued support. With all best wishes for the Festive Season.

Jean, Helen, Wilma and Isobel (the Apprentice).

Bonnyrigg Ranger Guides

Unfortunately, before the summer holidays we said goodbye to a number of girls who left the unit to start university in Aberdeen. We wish them all well!

Three of our girls took part in the Ultimate Tall Ship Adventure around the UK in June and had an absolutely fabulous time. Claire, Heather and Katy have been delivering a presentation to a number of Guide and Brownie Units since their return - sharing the tales of their adventures. It is clear that the girls have benefited from this experience in many ways.

We have been back at Rangers since the middle of August and our first meeting was a BBQ to catch up on all the summer gossip and to plan our programme. We now have a jam packed programme to take us up to Christmas.

In early September, we headed to the cinema to see the film "Going the Distance" starring Drew Barrymore. It was a really funny film and the girls enjoyed it.

After the September break, we had a Ready Steady Cook evening in the Guide hall. The girls were provided with a bag of provisions and given an hour to produce a three course meal using all that had been provided. We had a number of starters, main courses and desserts to choose from

and it was clear that all our girls are very able in the kitchen.

At the start of October, we held a card evening. Everyone had to be prepared to teach their favourite card game to the others. It was a fun night and I think everyone learned a new game to add to their collection.

For Halloween, we organised a "Twilight Scene It" evening. The girls are all huge fans of the film(s) and were very keen to show their knowledge and compete against each other.

Our plans in the lead up to Christmas include a Zumba evening, a Christmas Truffle evening and a Christmas Party. We are also going along to help out at Hawthornden Primary School's annual Christmas Fair. The girls will be face painting.

The Rangers meet every second Tuesday in the Guide Hall on Dobbies Road and we are currently looking for new members, so if you know any young lady (between 14 and 26 years) who may be interested in joining us, please feel free to contact me on Tel No 0131 454 9278.

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.

Lydney Stevenson



'The Legend of the Robin'

A small, brown bird was perched on a beam in a stable in Bethlehem, watching the people from many lands who had come with gifts to worship the new-born Christ Child. The little bird could see the great adoration of the people as they knelt before the Babe and was able to sense that something wonderful had taken place.

After a time, the visitors departed and the Holy Family settled down to sleep, and, the little bird prepared to sleep too. But, just as he was dozing off he noticed that the fire, built to keep the Child warm, was dying out. Quickly, he flew down and began fanning the coals with his wings. The fire became brighter and brighter until the feathers on the little bird's breast radiated the glow and shone a beautiful red.

Although he grew very tired, the little bird stayed by the fire all night, fanning it to keep the blaze bright and the Christ Child warm.

Since that night, the robin's breast has been red, a symbol of his love for a Babe in a manger ---- Our Saviour.

G.S.

Duck Race

The 9th annual Duck Race run by members of the congregation is planned for a Sunday in January, either the 9th, 16th, or 23rd. It will depend on the availability of the mystery guest Scottish Sports Personality we are hoping can be persuaded to come and start the race and give out the prizes.

These include;

Family Ticket for four to The Scottish Wildlife Park at Kincaig, Kingussie.

Autobiography of Sir Ranulph Fiennes "Mad, Bad, and Dangerous to Know" (with his autograph).

Golf Outing for 4 to Broomieknowe Golf Club.

Genuine South African Vuvuzelas (2).

Signed cycling cap and copy autobiography.

from triple Olympic Gold Medallist Bradley Wiggins

"Inspired" by five times Olympic Gold Medallist Sir Steve Redgrave,
also autographed by him.

and others.

All proceeds from sale of duck racing numbers are equally shared between Children1st. and the Scottish Huntingtons' Association (Duck numbers are £2.00 each.)

We would be grateful if anyone willing to take a duck numbers sheet to sell ducks for this event would contact either Bill MacDonald (0131/654/1838) or Mary Johnston(0131/660/5906)

THE HOLY HIKERS

The best remedy for a short temper
Is a long walk.
Jacqueline Schiff



Sorry I missed the deadline for the Harvest issue of the Link.

In March we at last managed to complete the walk in Culross Fife which we had planned several times.

Our new programme began in April with a visit to Muiravonside County Park. An easy stroll round the river Avon and the Union Canal. The following month we visited South Queensferry and Dalmeny Estate. June saw the start of our Wednesday Evening walks. I missed this one because I was on holiday but four people walked down the railway walkway to Ironmills.

The July walk was cancelled due to the weather but some of us set off for a quick stroll on the railway walk to Rosewell but wished we had not bothered because we all were well and truly drenched.

August's Wednesday night walk again was cancelled because of miserable weather. Funny how it can be lovely during the day then the night of the walk it just pours!!

In September Denise led us on a wonderful walk from Abercorn to Bo-ness.

We then moved on to our winter programme and had an excellent turn out for a return (after 4 years) to the River Almond and Cammo Estate. This was led by Hilary and Glen.

We also did two longer walks this summer. In July five of us did a round of St Mary's Loch and on a beautiful day in August, as most of the seasoned walkers were on holiday it was just Dot and I who went to the Lomond Hills in Fife for an eight mile walk. The views were fantastic from the top of West Lomond.

In November we will be in the Pentlands at Castlelaw Hill Fort and December a local walk, Lasswade and Polton.

New members are always welcome. If you would like to join us why not phone me, Jim Scott 0131 660 1147.

Happy Hiking,
Jim Scott

Oasis

Oasis ladies meet the first Thursday of every month and we are always open to new members who wish to come along and join us. So if you are over 25 and interested in meeting like minded women, please feel free to contact me on Tel No 0131 454 9278. We would love you to see you.

I am delighted to say that Blingo III held at the Ex-Serviceman's Club in March was another huge success. We raised over £3,000 for a number of worthy charities including the Mark Wright Project, the Romanian Challenge Appeal, Breast Cancer Research and Oasis also made a donation to the Sunday School. I am sure that Blingo IV is in the pipeline for 2011 and I will keep you posted to give you the chance to buy your tickets early.



We did not meet over the summer months and resumed again at the start of September to catch up with one and other and to plan our programme up to next summer.

Zumba classes have been on the increase in Midlothian over recent months and we were keen to try it out so we held a Zumba evening in the church hall at the start of October. It was a fun and energetic evening and a few members have been convinced that Zumba is the way to keep fit and have been attending other local Zumba classes since.

Jayne Ross has arranged for Bertha Walker, a vintage clothing, handbags and shoes enthusiast, to come along to speak to us in November about vintage clothing. This also promises to be a very different and interesting evening.

Our Christmas Party Night is booked for Friday 3rd December at the County Hotel in Dalkeith. There are about 18 of us going along so hopefully it will be a good evening.

In the meantime, from all at Oasis, may I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Lynsey Stevenson

Lasswade Old Parish Church

Extracts from Minute Book of Kirk Session covering 14 November 1944 – 11 July 1949

At the start of this Minute Book the Moderator is the Rev. D. Graham Lyle and the Session Clerk is Mr. J.B.Skinner.

The first meeting minuted is that held on 14th November 1944 and obviously follows on from earlier discussions.

14 November 1944; Kirk Session expressed preference to unite under their present minister but concluded that both churches should remain in use and during the colder months Strathesk might be warmer. Over and above that decision it was stated that an all out scarcity of ministers was a good reason to unite.

14 January 1945: Condolences expressed to Mr. and Mrs. J.B.Cairns on the loss of their son on active service. (Mr. Cairns was one of the elders and, incidentally, the author of "Bright and Early").

1 July 1945: Mr. J.B.Cairns appointed to serve as Presbytery Elder for the Presbytery of Dalkeith and Synod of Lothian for the year ending 30th June 1946. Miss Lyle appointed Free Will Offering Treasurer.

15 July 1945: Kirk Session accepted resignation of Mr. James Henderson as Church Officer and agreed to advertise the vacancy in the Edinburgh Evening News and Dalkeith Advertiser at the salary of £30 per annum.

29 July 1945: Session accepted the offer from Mr. Thomas Marin of Union Park, Bonnyrigg to become Church Officer.

12 November 1945: On the instruction of the Presbytery of Dalkeith, Session discussed the eligibility of women for the eldership, but voting showed a majority against. However, it was decided to ask the congregation to discuss this on 2nd December but the congregation also voted against.

12 June 1946: Mr.J.B.Carins appointed Presbytery Elder for the year to 30th June 1947.

1 August 1946: Session accepted Mr. A. Gladstone's resignation as organist due to him having accepted the position of organist at Newtongrange Church. The Session Clerk was instructed to write to Mr. Gladstone thanking him for his services and wishing him well in his new surroundings. As a result of discussions involving the Moderator, Miss McDonald the temporary organist and a Mrs. Rose E. Penwell?, Mrs. Penwell was appointed organist at a salary of £50 per annum. The Session agreed to a gift being made to Miss McDonald in appreciation of her services as temporary organist.

7 November 1946: Session considered drawings for the proposed War Memorial to the fallen members of the congregation and that of the late Hon. R.M.Dundas which his widow wishes placed in the church.

20 April 1947: Messrs. Thomas Blackhall and David Thomson ordained as elders and Mr. Robert Moncrieff (Father of "our" Robert) admitted to the eldership.

29 May 1947: Session approved earlier plans, which involved discussions with Midlothian County Council Education Committee, for structural alterations to be made to the hall so it could be used as a dining room for the school children, as well as converting the caretaker's house adjoining the hall into a scullery.

22 June 1947: Mr. J.B.Cairns appointed Presbytery Elder for the year to 30 June 1948. Miss Lyle retires as FWO Treasurer on account of her marriage and her leaving the district.

4 September 1947: Miss Margaret Pugh appointed Convenor of the monthly FWO Scheme.

Mrs. David More gifts £50 in memory of her husband with the idea that this sum be invested and money used each year for the awarding of two prizes, one for boys and one for girls, these to be known as the David More Prizes.

Times of morning worship to be changed to 11.15am (from 11.30am) as from the third Sunday in October 1947. However a decision was made on 16th November to revert to 11.30 as the proposed new time was not successful.

24 June 1948: Mr. J.B.Cairns appointed Presbytery Elder for the year to 30 June 1949. Mr. A.M. Bremner intimates his desire to resign as Treasurer at the end of August due to his imminent retiral from business and leaving Edinburgh. The Session accepts Mr. Bremner's resignation with regret.

28 September 1948: Messrs J.D.Smith, 86 Eldindean Terrace; J.D.Smith, Pendreich Terrace; Robert Gullen of Douglas Crescent; Robert Cleghorn of Union Park; J.T.Lees of Eldindean; Mr. R.Moncrieff and Mr. James Allan appointed to the Fabric Committee

Church Fabric to be inspected on 24th October at 2.30pm. Session Clerk to call on Mr. James Gordon, an architect who resides in the district, and ask him if he would be good enough to give his services that day and provide a report to the Session on the state of the Fabric.

31 October 1948: Mr. John Love, Clerk to the Lasswade District Council, appointed Treasurer.

25 January 1949: Session Clerk read, to members present, a report prepared by Mr. Gordon, the architect, on the Church Fabric. After discussion it was agreed to distribute copies of this report to Session Members and to the Members of the Fabric Committee.

Kirk Session accepted, with regret, the resignation of Mrs. Rose Penwell as organist and paid tribute to the service she had given in building up the choir and leading the praise.

20 March 1949: Session agrees to appoint Mr. Donald McLeod, A.R.C.O. of Edinburgh as organist, provided Mr. McLeod accepts the position.

Satisfactory Quinquennial Visitation Report read out. The compilers of the report shared the concern of the Office Bearers about the state of the church roof and instructed the Session “to keep this matter continually under its careful consideration”.

The Report also states that the Session had agreed to place its records prior to 1800 in the strongroom at the Tolbooth, Edinburgh.

24 April 1949: Session discussed the report by Mr. Gordon, the architect, and agreed to call a combined meeting of the Session and the Fabric Committee to ascertain from the inspecting tradesmen (who are members of the latter) their views on the church roof.

22 May 1949: Messrs. James Brown, James D. Smith, Francis Crozier, Douglas Renwick (Father of our Andrew, Stewart and Jim) and Walter Young ordained as elders and Mr. John Love admitted to the eldership.

26 June 1949: Mr. J.B.Cairns appointed Presbytery Elder for the year to 30 June 1950.(This position was renewed annually for several more years)

11 July 1949: Letter read out from Strathesk Church expressing their regret at learning that the congregation of Lasswade Old have had to resort to holding services in the Hall due to the state of the roof. Strathesk would like to share their sympathy in a practical way and offered their church for afternoon services and for any weddings that may take place.

If only the roof of Lasswade Old had been properly inspected in 1926 then this splendid building might have been in use today. These words, “If only..”

To be continued in a future edition

HLRD

The Cockpen Pulpit Bible (MDCLXXII)

Following my article in the Harvest 2010 edition of ' The Link' I am pleased to inform readers that the Cockpen Pulpit Bible, in regular use in the 'old' Cockpen Church from 1672 to 1820, has now been sympathetically restored.

We are now trying to secure a suitable form of glass cover and when complete the Bible will be permanently placed on view within the church.

Finally I would like to record grateful thanks to Mr Norrie Linton from Dalkeith who carried out the wonderful restoration work on the Bible.

Bill Brown

Some Crafty Ideas for Christmas



Everyone Loves a Candle at Christmas

You will need: Pre-soaked Oasis, three terracotta pots, three quite thick candles, greenery, berries and ribbon.

Place a piece of Oasis in the bottom of each pot. Sit a candle on top of the Oasis so it is about 3in. above the rim of the pot. Trim greenery and berry stems and push into the Oasis until there are no gaps. Finish by taking two lengths of ribbon and tie round the pots with a bow.

Make Your Own Wreath

You will need: green faux-fir wreath, wooden "Welcome" sign, red spray paint, 6 wooden stars, gold metallic spray paint, 2 pine cone and berry sprays, mini gold baubles, large red berries, red ribbon and strong glue.

Spray the "Welcome" sign with red paint and paint the stars with gold metallic spray paint. Leave to dry.

To decorate the wreath, bind the stems of the pine cones and berry sprays around the top and bottom, twisting the branches to secure them in place. Then glue the "Welcome" sign across the centre, followed by three gold stars above the "W" and below the "e".

Add mini baubles and red berries to complete and finish off with a red ribbon tied in a bow at the top, making a hanging loop.

Leftover Tips

For a very naughty late breakfast or brunch over the festive time, fry leftover vegetables, stir in some mustard, then serve topped with a fried egg.

Fry leftover sprouts in a little olive oil with chilli flakes & a squeeze of lemon juice. Leftover vegetables can be pureed, frozen and used to thicken soups and stews.

Best Wishes for the Festive Season.

Keep sending us your news, views & ideas to share with others.

Articles for the Easter Issue of The Link should be with the Editors by Sunday 27th March 2011.