

Cockpen & Carrington

The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Christmas 2013



Church of Scotland

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PULPIT SUPPLY ROTA - DECEMBER 2013 / APRIL 2014

DATE	LASSWADE (10.00 am)	COCKPEN & CARRINGTON (11.30 am)	ROSEWELL (please check times below)
15.12.13 (3 rd Sunday in Advent)	MINISTER	MINISTER with Nativity Play.	Janet McKenzie (11.30 am). Christmas Musical Evening at 7 pm.
22.12.13 (4 th Sunday in Advent)	MINISTER with Nativity Play	11.30am MINISTER 7 pm: Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight	Service at Lasswade (10.00 am)
Tues. 24.12.13 CHRISTMAS EVE	MINISTER (Christingle Carol Service) 7 pm	MINISTER (Watchnight Carol Service) 11.20 pm	MINISTER (Afternoon Carol Service) 4 pm
29.12.13	Worship Group	MINISTER	MINISTER (10.00 am)
05.01.14	Service at Rosewell	Janet McKenzie	Janet McKenzie (10.00 am) with Sunday School
12.01.14	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev M Schofield (11.30 am)
19.01.14	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev M Schofield (11.30 am)
26.01.14	MINISTER (Communion)	Rev M Schofield	Communion Service at Lasswade (10 am)
02.02.14	Service at Rosewell	MINISTER (Communion)	Rev M Schofield (10.00 am) with Sunday School
09.02.14	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev M Schofield (11.30 am)
16.02.14	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev M Schofield (11.30 am)
23.02.14	Rev Wm Armitage	Rev Wm Armitage	Service at Lasswade 10 am
02.03.14	Service and A.S.M. at Rosewell	MINISTER (Church Hall, Dundas St) with Annual Stated Meeting	MINISTER (10 am with Sunday School) followed by Annual Stated Meeting
09.03.14 (First Sunday in Lent)	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev M Schofield (11.30 am)
16.03.14	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev M Schofield (11.30 am)
23.03.14	MINISTER	MINISTER	Service at Lasswade 10 am
30.03.14	Worship Group	MINISTER	MINISTER (10.00 am)
06.04.14	Service at Rosewell	Rev M Schofield	MINISTER (10.00 am) (Communion)
13.04.14 (Palm Sunday)	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev M Schofield (11.30 am)
20.04.14 EASTER	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev Wm Armitage (11.30 am)
27.04.14	MINISTER	MINISTER	Service at Lasswade 10 am

**FRIDAY 2 MARCH 2014 – WORLD DAY OF PRAYER AT ROSEWELL AT 7.30 PM
HOLY WEEK SERVICES 14-18 APRIL 2014 (to be advised later)**

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Dear Friends,

As we enter Advent, we look forward once more to reflecting on the account of the birth of Jesus Christ. Advent is often overlooked, but it is an important time of preparation for the season of Christmas. In the birth of Christ we see God entering into human time, history and geography – identifying with our strengths and weaknesses. The prophetic words of Isaiah 9:6 continue to ring true: *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”*. I hope this season of Christmas will be a joyful one for you and your family; may you truly know Christ’s peace.

Is God calling you to the Ministry – either full or part time? Do you want to serve God but not sure in what way? Come and explore possibilities: Elders, members and adherents of the Church of Scotland are invited to a vocations conference on 7-8 February 2014 at the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan, Fife. To register (no later than 17th January) please contact the Church of Scotland’s Ministries Council on 0131 225 5722 (ext 2233) or email vocation@cofscotland.org.uk

The Christmas service times were published in the Harvest edition of “The Link” magazine, but please note some changes and additions. There will be a musical evening at Rosewell Church on Sunday 15th December at 7pm. The Service of Nine Lessons & Carols by candlelight at Cockpen Church on Sunday 22nd December at 7pm. The Nativity Play services will be at 11.30 am at Cockpen on Sunday 15th December and 10 am at Lasswade on Sunday 22nd December. The Christmas Eve Carol services will be at 4pm at Rosewell, 7pm at Lasswade and 11.20pm at Cockpen.

Kristina joins me in wishing you and your family a very Happy Christmas and prayerful good wishes for 2014.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Matthew Ross, Minister

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH.

BAPTISMS

We were delighted to welcome the following named baby who, along with parents, families and supporters joined us at a recent Baptismal Service. We hope that all felt happy being amongst us at such a special time.

13th October - *Lewis Alexander Miller*, infant son of Gillian and Graham and little brother to Struan.

Lewis was baptized by the Minister.

'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee.'

WEDDINGS

We should have had some wedding information for the magazine but, quite a number for 2013 were cancelled. The list for 2014 is already quite lengthy. (see Church website at www.church.cockpen.co.uk for information and advice on weddings for all three of the Churches).

BEREAVEMENTS

It is with much sadness that we record the death of an old member of our Congregation - ***Mrs. C. Kidley***, Nazareth House Nursing Home. Mrs. Kidley hadn't been able to attend Church in a long time but, she was kept very much up to date by her District Elder and latterly by the Hospital/Nursing Home ladies from the Congregation.

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

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

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome ***Mrs. Muriel Calder*** who has recently joined us from Bonnyrigg Church and, ***Mr. and Mrs. R. Murdoch*** who have recently returned to the area from Aberlour and had been members at Aberlour Parish Church.

We warmly welcome them all and hope that they will be happy amongst us.

CHANGES

Mrs. Alison Harding, one of our Elders has decided to leave her home in Newton Grange and is now resident in the Erskine Nursing Home at Gilmerton. Alison, I'm sure, would be happy to receive visits from any in the congregation and get all the news about the Church and its folks.

We wish Alison all the best in her new home.

LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES

I had mentioned in the Harvest magazine about ***Betty Miller, Bill Brown, Ian McAlpine and Jim Scott*** having completed 30 years as Ordained Elders. Our Minister presented each one with a certificate signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Right Rev. Lorna Hood on Communion Sunday, the 3rd November.

I thank them all for the support to me personally over these sometimes troublesome but, exciting and, rewarding times and wish them well for the future.

From the Clerk.

First of all, can I remind you of my article in the Harvest edition of 'The Link' when I spoke about our four Elders who had reached their 30 years since Ordination. I mentioned the word 'trailblazer' when I spoke about Betty, our first lady Elder but, soon after, at a Joint meeting in Rosewell I was reminded that Lasswade Church had two lady Elders long before us so, really, they '**were well ahead of the game**'. Of course, the reminder was done in a humorous manner by our friends at Lasswade. Saying that, we were very proud 30 years ago to welcome Betty as the first of a number of ladies who have become Elders here.

As previously mentioned, Betty, Bill, Ian and Jim were presented their certificates during the Communion Service which was held on Sunday 3rd November. I thank them all for the contributions made over these 30 years and pray that they will be able to fulfil the duties of Eldership for many years to come.

A big thanks also to the small but dedicated team who, after meetings and discussions with Margot Robertson from 121 Stewardship and Finance Department worked so hard to bring together what the committee thought, an appropriate way to proceed - a 'Back to Church' Sunday which was held on 20th October. Many of us think that Stewardship means money but, in this case they kept away from that and concentrated on people which is equally important.

On the 20th, we held not only the 'Back to Church' but also, the Harvest Thanksgiving Service when we were able to welcome not only a good size congregation but also our children and teachers from the Sunday School.

The Harvest Table was laden as is usual in this Church and we thank all who donated gifts. Rosalind, as usual, took on board to deliver the vast amount of food tins (*her small car looked like an Eddie Stobart truck*) to Jericho House and I know that they were overwhelmed by the kindness shown from all of you. We forget when we see the poverty and plight of people throughout the world and, feel so sorry for them, that the same is happening on our own doorstep. Long may we be able to support Jericho House and, other needy and worthy causes here and abroad.

On Sunday 27th October a Songs of Praise Service was held in Bonnyrigg Church for all denominations in the town. It was a great evening with wonderful Hymns (each Church had chosen its own favourites).

To me, and many others, the highlight was the Anthem (which I'm sure will be mentioned somewhere in the magazine) and, was something to truly behold. The Choirs from most of the Churches had practiced this - **in Latin** led by our own Organist and Choirmaster Graham. On the night it was superb and, although proud of all the Choirs I was particularly moved by the performance of our own Choir. Many in the Church were trying to work out how many feet and hands

Graham had to deliver such a complicated piece of music and, conduct at the same time. Well done to all involved.

Some sadness since the last 'Link' that Jim Dyer is no longer our Church Officer. Jim and Cath. have moved permanently to Eyemouth and he felt that the journey twice a week a bit much which is quite understandable. We thank Jim for his service over the past 11 years and wish them both the very best in a new home in a beautiful part of the Borders.

The good news is that we didn't have to wait long to fill the Church Officer vacancy as Mr. David Robinson has kindly agreed to fill the post. David was a suggestion by the Minister and I was asked to follow it up which, of course, was a pleasure to do. We are delighted that David accepted the challenge and, we very much look forward to working with him.

Finally, I wish you all the very best for Christmas and, the coming year.

George.

Top Ten Hymns.

Chosen by Viewers of Songs of Praise 27th October

- 10th Place: The Day Thou Gavest
- 9th Place: Make me a Channel of your Peace
- 8th Place: Guide me O thou Great Redeemer
- 7th Place: Abide with Me
- 6th Place: And Can it Be
- 5th Place: Here I am Lord
- 4th Place: Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
- 3rd Place: Be Still for the Presence of the Lord
- 2nd Place: In Christ Alone
- 1st Place: HOW GREAT THOU ART

Bric A Brac

Like the cake stall, it's been a pleasure to welcome so many of you during 2013 and, hopefully you'll be back to see us in 2014. We're so fortunate in having a good team Thursday by Thursday and we thank them all for the time they give to this venture.

Our last day for 2013 is **28th November** when we have a short break over the Christmas and New Year period and, will resume again in January.

Best wishes for the Festive Season.

The Thursday Team.

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON CHURCH - CHRISTMAS MUSIC 2013

The choir's "busy season" had an earlier than usual start this year with the "Songs of Praise" service which took place at Bonnyrigg Church on 27 October. Despite the discouraging weather this saw a good attendance from the district's churches and an even better one from the joint choir. It was a pleasure to lead around 50 singers in the anthem and hymn singing, some of which really was in the "raise the roof" category.

We now have to focus on Christmas however and here are the dates for this year's diary:

Monday 16 December

This will be the date for the ever- popular **Guild Carol Evening**. As in years past this will take place in the Church Hall in Dundas Street and begin at 7.30 pm. The evening is very much focused on audience participation, and all are very welcome (male voices will be particularly appreciated!). Our own choir will of course be leading the singing and there will also be a first chance to hear what is on this year's Christmas musical menu. Sustenance of a more consumable sort will be featuring as well of course, and I suspect that alone will ensure the usual excellent attendance.

Sunday 22 December

Our Christmas Family Service will take place at Cockpen Church at the usual time of 11.30 am. Needless to say, pride of place will go to the Sunday School's **Nativity Play**, although as regular attenders will know that is a very modest description of the sort of production we have become used to experiencing! Perhaps there may even be a surprise star guest or two....

Our **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** will take place at 7.00 pm that evening. This will as always form a central part of our Christmas worship and we look forward to welcoming the many who regularly attend from our own congregation and beyond and hopefully some new faces too. As in past years, the service will take place entirely by candlelight and the readers will be drawn from across the whole congregation. There will be plenty of opportunity to join in the traditional hymns and carols, and there will also be an opportunity to hear one or two new items from the choir, this year originating from as far away as New Zealand.

Tuesday 24 December

As many of you will know, the choir has for many years now been performing on Christmas Eve for the guests at Dalhousie Castle. Last year in fact saw one of our largest audiences ever and we will be returning there once again. We should be well warmed up therefore for our traditional **Watchnight Service**, which will take place as always at 11.20 pm. A mix of carols and readings will take us up to the coming of Christmas itself when the church bell rings at midnight. Whatever the weather has thrown at us (and we have had just about every possible variety over the last few years!) we have always seen a high attendance and I am sure that this year will be no different.

As in recent years, our regular choir members will be strengthened by a number of "reserves" who I think have been joining us on these occasions for long enough now to be regarded as members themselves! In any event we remain very grateful to them for finding time for us in their own busy Christmas schedules.

The choir and I will look forward to welcoming you to any and all of these events to mark this special time in the Church's year.

**Graham Burnside
Organist**

CHURCH DANCE

The dance was held in the Masonic Hall, Bonnyrigg on Friday 4th October and was once again a great night with many old and, new friends present. The Masonic Hall is an ideal central venue now and, we are grateful to the Lodge for this facility. These functions were never intended to be 'profit making' but, over the years quite a lot of money has been raised and, has helped the Church (and others) in many ways.

Our 'cheer leader' Jean, along with a good, small team, have ensured the continued success each time and, we are delighted that Jean is once more at the helm - keeping us all in order - *well, some of us!!*

Date of next dance will be confirmed soon.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The above (committee would like to say a very big Thank You to all who turned out to the 'Harvest/Back to Church Sunday'

A special thanks to the Organizations of the Church for providing a display and to the youngsters of the Sunday School for the wonderful Rainbow they made to welcome us as we came into Church.



The event was fairly well attended (approx. 130) and the tea afterwards gave us the opportunity of 'A Guid Natter' and the chance to see the displays.

So thank you all once again, your support is appreciated.

If you have not already done so, please take the time to complete and return the suggestion slip overleaf / page 12.

Yours in Friendship
Stewardship Committee



If you did not make it to the 'Back to Church Sunday' and you think you've missed the chance to have your say, **THINK AGAIN!!!!**

SUGGESTIONS:

What would you like to see being done in your Church?

- A) To encourage you to come to Church
- B) To take an active Part in the Church
 - E.g. A particular Hymn
 - A Service to suit your Group's Needs (not necessarily a Sunday)
 - Once a month, twice a year.

We need your feedback and your expertise to help the people already having an Active part in the Church, to reach out to others in the Congregation and the Community.

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON CHURCH

NAME.

SUGGESTION.

.....
.....
.....

Send to: M. Scott, 18 Dundas Park, Bonnyrigg, EH19 3AX.
or Email to: suggestions@church.cockpen.co.uk

Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota

December

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 st | Flower Fund |
| 8 th | Susan McKechnie |
| 15 th | Nancy Richardson |
| 22 nd | Dorothy & Helen |
| 29 th | Liz Laidlaw |

January 2014

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 5 th | Irene Ramsay |
| 12 th | Barbara McInnes |
| 19 th | Jean Sharpe |
| 26 th | Lynn Hanson |

February

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 nd | Ian Fowler |
| 9 th | Barbara McInnes
& Liz Mills |
| 16 th | Peats for Thinking
Day |
| 23 rd | Maria Hall |



March

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 9 th | Liz Mills |
| 16 th | Cathie Fisher |
| 23 rd | Stella McLeish |
| 30 th | Nancy Richardson |

April

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 6 th | Liz Mills |
| 13 th | Marnie Crawford |
| 20 th | Flower Fund |

Thanks again to you all who contributed in anyway to the decoration of our Church.

Please contact me on 663 1825 if you wish to help us in anyway, I can assure you it is very rewarding and such a pleasant task.

All the best for 2014.

Irene

CAKE STALL

Another good year at the stall when we've been able to meet many old and new friends. The last date for 2013 was 28th November (no stall in December) but, we will be back again on **23rd January, 27th February and, 27th March, 2014**.

We thank you all for your continued support and, wish you all our best wishes for the Festive Season.

Helen, Isobel, Wilma.

How Old !?

In the Last issue of the 'Link', our Session Clerk, George, queried the number of years the choir members had between them.

In response to this question we had a bit of a fun 'Competition ' at the Back to Church Sunday ' To try and guess:

- A). The total number of years OF the Choir Members.
- B). The Total number of years members have been IN the choir.

The Answer to these Questions are as Follows, although it has to be said that this is Approximate.

Total No. of Years OF the Choir.	976.
Total No. of years IN the Choir.	451.

The winners were:

- A). B. McInnes closest with 950.
- B). S Tulloch closest with 420.
(phew! they underestimated – Ed)

Thank you for participating in the venture and thank you to the Choir for so willingly providing the information.

Christmas Sweet Quiz Answers

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Jelly Baby | 10. Skittles |
| 2. All Gold | 11. Black Magic. |
| 3. Smarties. | 12. Mars Bar. |
| 4. Rolo. | 13. Whispa |
| 5. Milky way | 14. Pear Drops |
| 6. Milk Tray | 15. Wine Gums |
| 7. Roses | 16. Mints. |
| 8. Walnut Whip | 17. Crunchie |
| 9. Bounty | 18. Milky Bar. |

THE HOLY HIKERS

Once again the time has flown since the last issue of the Link. The clocks have now changed and we are heading into winter after a lovely summer and a brief autumn. The leaves on the trees have changed colour and are now being blown off by the wind.



Back in August we changed our longer walk from the Pentlands to a walk near Melrose on the Southern Upland Way. Only four walkers were present but it was a lovely ramble.

On the following Wednesday we had the last of our evening walks. Led by myself, we walked from The Retreat to Dalhousie Castle via Anna's Park then continued on a path up to the old Cockpen Church returning by road to the start.

In September we drove to Clovenfords and did part of the Meigle Circular walk this was a good walk for picking brambles.

Our October walk was led by Hilary and Glen who took us on a delightful ramble in Cardenden Glen in Fife. I had often thought about doing this walk myself and was pleased when it was suggested.

We only have two more walks this year, in November we plan to go to Duns and in December Limekilns.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all "Link" readers.
I leave you with these lines from Iris Hesselden.

THE CHALLENGE OF LIFE

Some people love a challenge,
They travel far and wide,
And some will climb the highest peaks
Or sail out on the tide.
But there's a challenge I have found,
Discovered through the years.
It's living life with ups and downs,
Through happiness and tears.

A challenge when we're children,
So much to see and learn,
Then sometimes as we're growing up

A bridge or two to burn.
Then growing older, we still find,
A few more tests to take,
To search for courage and for strength
And learn from each mistake.

So let them climb their mountains
Or seek the rainbow's end,
This life is an adventure
And a challenge too, my friend.

Happy Hiking

Jim Scott

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Copper-Angus

Those of us who keep pets, particularly dogs, know it can be a traumatic experience when they leave us. Copper-Angus was well known to many church members because on Sunday mornings when May said it was church time he would run to the door and down the stairs ready to go. He would also sit patiently at the entrance to Rosewell church hall on the coffee mornings. During his fairly long doggie life of twelve years he took part in various charity walks, some of which were half marathons.

He was a registered therapist and visited the sick and the elderly, and also went to Springbank care home bringing doggie comfort to those who stayed there. When we went on holiday he would stay with Ian and Nancy Richardson who eagerly looked forward to his coming and we are grateful to them for looking after him.

We thank those both within and out with the church for their much appreciated acts of kindness on the loss of our beloved animal who had a good doggie life and brought us so much joy and happiness.

Ian Murdoch.

USED STAMPS

Thank you to everyone who have donated used stamps. They are trimmed and sorted into British and Foreign stamps. They are then taken to the Scottish Bible Society in Edinburgh for their Operation Family Appeal which is designed to help provide Bible and new Testaments for needy Christian families in China and Ghana. Through the One Million Bibles project, the Bible Society of Ghana is distributing free Bibles to junior high school pupils, with materials to help them engage with Gods Word. Here in Scotland our very own Bibleworld Mobile continues to visit schools, introducing children to the Bible and Christian faith in an exciting interactive way. We can only continue valuable work such as this due to support like yours.

Dorothy Bennett

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

1. SINCE WE LAST MET...

We returned to Sunday School at the end of August after a wonderful summer. As is now the custom, we returned with a Family Service at Lasswade Church. Our theme was Wimbledon and Andy's Murray's win. We all came dressed for a tennis theme! Our music, set by Herbert Dryden, was wonderful. We were warmly welcomed back by all our friends at Lasswade and thank you all for your generous retiring offering.

2. WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

We've been a bit thin on the ground with teachers' absences and lots going on so not our usual gathering; however we still have the best singers in Bonnyrigg, the best listeners, the best at joining in and the best at craft! We were delighted to put our craft skills to good use to help Moira Scott with her rainbow which invited everyone into church on 20 October.

3. NEW MEMBERS

We would be delighted to welcome more children to Sunday School. Please come along when you can.

4. BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY & HARVEST

What a wonderful Family Service we had on 20 October. This had been designated as Back to Church Sunday inviting everyone who had a church connection to join us. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and the sound of all those voices singing was quite breathtaking. A great deal of work had been undertaken by the Stewardship Committee and well done to all involved.

This special Sunday coincided with our Harvest Thanksgiving service and everyone brought the most amazing number of goods for the harvest table. In fact we had boxes and boxes of tins for Jericho House - your response is simply overwhelming and sincere thanks to

everyone. We also had lots of flowers and fresh produce to be shared with some of our congregation.

The welcome at Jericho House is always heart-warming and they were thrilled with your kindness - a separate acknowledgment from them is contained within this magazine.

5. CHRISTMAS OUTING

90 of us are off to see Peter Pan at the Kings Theatre on Sunday 1 December. We are all really excited about this...especially Ryan Scott as it's his favourite story.

6. NATIVITY SERVICES

We are starting to plan for our services in Cockpen & Carrington on 15 December and Lasswade on 22 December - we hope you can join us.

7. GOOD BYE & GOOD LUCK

A fond farewell to Jim Dyer, Church Officer at Cockpen who has moved down to Eyemouth. Jim has been a huge support to the Sunday School over the years and we wish him every happiness in his new home. Thank you Jim for being such a dear friend to us.

We look forward to working with Jim's successor, David Robinson.

8. HAPPY HOLIDAYS.....

The Sunday School wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year. We return on Sunday 12 January 2014 after our Christmas break.

Jericho House Letter

JERICHO BENEDICTINE SOCIETY

The Compassion of Jesus.

Jericho House
53, Lothian Street
EDINBURGH, EH1 1HB

 0131 225 8230

27 October 2013

Ms R Dolan
24 Rowan Gardens
Bonnyrigg
Midlothian EH19 3DX

Dear Ms Dolan

Thank you all for your kind thoughts and generous donation from your Harvest Table.
We appreciate all donations and the cook always makes good use of them.

Yours sincerely



June Balloch
Unit Manager

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

Guild Report

We have had a very successful start to our session with the minister Rev Mathew Ross conducting our dedication service within the church service. On the following Monday at our first meeting the minister spoke on our theme 'A Fellowship to Build' and was well attended by our members. At our next meeting Mr Richard Park from Crossreach gave us a most interesting talk on the Heart for Art project which runs art classes for people with dementia and showed us some wonderful work produced by them. Dr. Jo Vallis and Janet Knox spoke at our next meeting when the theme was 'Friends of Chitambo' and was again a most interesting evening. On Monday 2nd December we are having an open evening when Mary Corby of Alticane Apothecary will be presenting a 'Fragrant Christmas' everyone will be made most welcome and you may even find some wonderful Christmas ideas.

As usual we are looking forward to Graham Burnside and the choir entertaining us as well as leading our singing at the annual Guild Carol Party where once again everyone will be made most welcome. It will be held in the hall on Monday 16th December at 7-3Opm.

In the New year we have more interesting speakers engaged which are listed below. From this list you can see how varied the topics are, and we would love to see some new members come along and join us. You will be made most welcome and be assured of a good night out.

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

Liz and Helen

6th January Nibbles and Natter

20th January Tom Ferguson - Fraud

3rd February Asda Stores

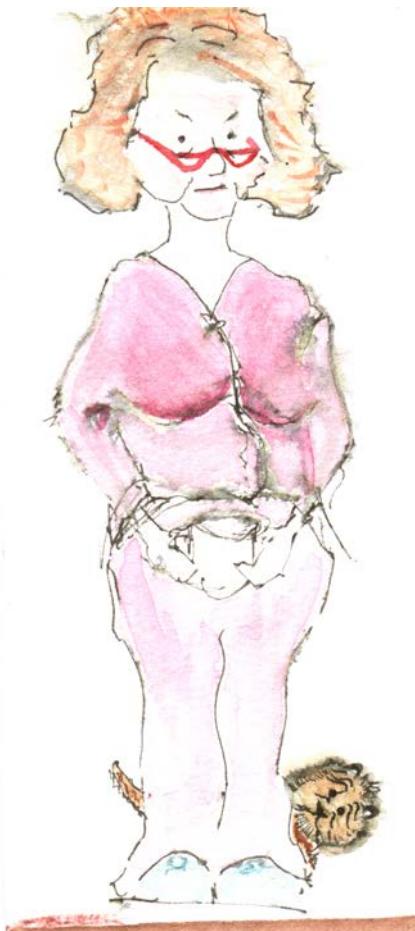
17th February Simon Fairnie - The Fisherwoman

3rd March Rev. Sarah Kilby - Sounds of Silence on Coping with Deafness

17th March Bring and Buy

7th April Carol Smith -The Tiny Hat Company

Thanks for the Flowers



We wish to express our thanks to friends of Cockpen and Carrington Church for the flowers which Irene (Ramsey) delivered to us. We had been living in the Highlands for the past ten years and have recently returned to our roots and rejoined the church. What a sight Irene must have received when I answered the door, there I stood still in my "jammies" hair unbrushed, had just ran a bath, one of those mornings one gets trying to sum up energy! We have seen extremely busy getting our house in order, not so young as we used to be, and for want of a better word are both feeling quite "knackered"!! Flowers are always beautiful to receive and certainly raises the spirits whereby off I skipped to have my bath before my husband returned from his daily walk.

Thanks again. Anne & Ronnie Murdoch,

Lasswade and Rosewell Choir

It is that time of year again and I am preparing this article towards the end of October because I see the Editors are calling for material by 3rd November.

First of all, can I say a very warm thank you to Graham and to the ladies and gentlemen from the congregations in our linked charges and beyond for all their hard work and preparation in connection with the Songs of Praise which was held on 27th October. Your willingness to participate and your enthusiasm is greatly appreciated and I think you can be very pleased with yourselves that you mastered what, to a non-singing layman, looked a very difficult anthem. Thank you all so much.

It is the time of year when the opportunity arises, once again, for me to say a very warm word of thank you to my regular choir for all their help and support over the year and for enabling our introit programme to proceed most Sundays. My thanks are also extended to those who augment the choir from time to time for special services. You may not realise it but the present incumbent at the organ could not, and would not, carry on if he did not have your support. So, thank you all once again.

What are we doing as a choir for Christmas? Quite frankly, at the moment I have no idea. As a congregation we are welcoming the Sunday School on 22nd December and there is a Christingle on 24th December but I have not really had inspiration about music – my ideas, I think, are drying up!

I shall, however, share some thoughts with you. I do have a lot of time for The Shepherds of Bethlehem and the pastoral themes of the scriptures. Words reflecting the shepherds and the pastoral elements are also conveyed in the psalms and hymns which we sing and in some of the great pieces of music, eg “Sheep may safely graze” by J.S.Bach , Beethoven’s “Pastoral Symphony” and in the “Pastoral Symphony” and “He shall feed his flock” in The Messiah by George Frederick Handel. In addition we have Katherine Tynan’s “All in the April Evening” made famous by Hugh S. Robertson and The Glasgow Orpheus Choir. And there are many more pastoral reflections.

One of the carols which I learnt in my very early days at school – no doubt taught by Miss Ann Stewart whom some of you may remember and who worshipped at Lasswade – was “In the fields with their flocks abiding” which appears in the Revised Church Hymnary of 1927 . The words are by Frederick William Farrar and the tune “In the field” is by John Farmer. The words are worth reproducing, and you can picture the fields, the shepherds, the silence, the stars and the vision. Look at the last two lines of each verse. Have we let down that message? The Choir and I wish all readers the Compliments of the Season.

In the fields with their flocks abiding,
They lay on the dewy ground,
And glimm'ring under the starlight
The sheep lay white around,
When the light of the Lord streamed o'er them,
And lo! from the heaven above,
An angel leaned from the glory,
And sang his song of love:
He sang, that very first Christmas,
The song that shall never cease,
“Glory to God in the highest,
On earth goodwill and peace!”

“To you in the city of David
A Saviour is born today”.
And sudden a host of the heavenly ones
Flashed forth to join the lay.
O never hath sweeter message
Thrilled home to the souls of men;
And the heavens themselves had never heard
A gladder choir till then;
For they sang that Christmas carol
That never on earth shall cease,
“Glory to God.....

And the shepherds came to the manger,
And gazed on the Holy Child;
And calmly o'er that rude cradle
The virgin mother smiled;
And the sky, in the starlit silence,
Seemed full of the angel lay,
“To you in the city of David
A Saviour is born today.”
O they sang-and I wean that never
The carol on earth shall cease,
“Glory to God.....

Lasswade Flower Rota



January	12 th 19 th 26 th	Mary Sharpe Nita Adams Maureen McGeachy
February	9 th 16 th 23 rd	Liz Wilden Janette Barnes Betty Burns
March	9 th 16 th 23 rd 30 th	Norma Sangster Margaret Waugh Cathie Drysdale Ann Macdonald
April	13 th 20 th 27 th	Sheila Turner Lorna Oliver Elizabeth Hay

At this time of year, when people are beginning to think about Christmas and the New Year ahead, I start to think about the Flower Rota.

Sometimes it seems a daunting prospect but this time it has been a pleasure because so many kind folk have offered to 'do' a Sunday. There are still a few spaces so if you feel you are able to help in this way, I would be very pleased to welcome you to the 'Flower Rota'.

Thank you to all the people who have provided flowers during the year. The flowers always add to the beauty of the church and in turn go on to delight the recipients.

Moira Dryden

Lasswade and Rosewell News

At the service at Lasswade on Sunday 8 September the Rev. Matthew Ross presented Long Service Certificates to Charlie Adams, Cameron Dalgleish and May Murdoch who have all served over 30 years as Ordained Elders.

Midlothian Foodbank

At a recent Kirk Session meeting it was agreed that both Lasswade and Rosewell Churches would support the Midlothian Foodbank which is based at Gorebridge Parish Church. In Midlothian there are families struggling to put food on the table. For people on low incomes, a sudden crisis – redundancy, benefit delay or even an unexpected bill – can mean going hungry. Since the Foodbank opened on 9 July 2013, they have fed 481 people, 304 adults and 177 children.

Added to that, for the month of October 136 people were fed, 86 adults and 50 children. According to media reports and information from relevant agencies the Foodbank is only going to get busier.

Collection boxes are in both Churches. Please feel free to donate the following long-life items:-

- tinned meat or pies
- tinned vegetables
- tinned spaghetti
- pasta sauces
- tinned sponge puddings
- cartons of UHT milk
- cartons of fruit juice
- packets of biscuits
- toiletries of any kind

Many thanks for your support.

Lasswade and Rosewell Baking Days

A huge thank you to everyone who contributes to the success of our baking stall at the Pitcairn Centre. Our next dates are 12 December, 9 January, 13 February and 13 March.

Coffee Mornings

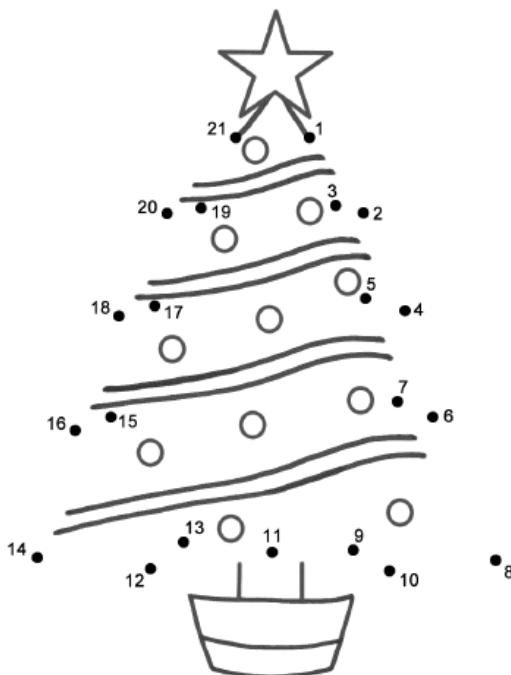
On the second Saturday of each month there is a Coffee Morning in Rosewell Church Hall from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon. We hope you will come along with your friends and enjoy coffee, home baking and lots of chat.

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.

Joint the Dots and add some colour to the tree.



Lasswade & Rosewell Parish Church

Christmas Fair

In: ROSEWELL PARISH CHURCH HALL

On: Saturday 14 December 2013

From 10:00am to 12 noon

Teas/Coffees, Home Baking,
Tombola, Raffle, Bric-Brac,
Plants, Visit from Santa,
Performance by Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Brass Band



Everyone Welcome

CHRISTMAS SWEETS QUIZ.

Guess what sweets the following clues represent.

1. Wobbly Infant?
2. 24 Carat?
3. Clever Sweet?
4. Do you love someone enough to give them this?
5. It's in the Stars?
6. Would the Cow Carry this?
7. Every English Garden should have these?
8. Nutty Punishment?
9. Pirates.Plunder?
10. Try to Knock them Over?
11. Never Get involved in This Evil?
12. Sounds like Mother's Local?
13. SHHHH !?
14. In an Orchard they fall down?
15. A Sad Cat and No teeth?
16. Rhymes with Skint?
17. Honeycomb Centre?
18. The Sheriff Kid loves these?

The answers (for the confectionery challenged) can be found on Page 14.

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

“*The Link*” on or before Sunday 9th March 2014.