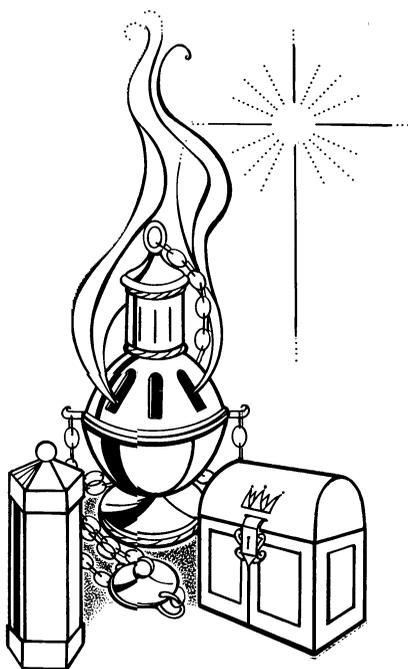


Cockpen & Carrington

The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Christmas 2017



Church of Scotland

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WHO'S WHO

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Cockpen & Carrington Parish Church (Church of Scotland) - Scottish Registered Charity SC013139
Lasswade & Rosewell Parish Church (Church of Scotland) - Scottish Registered Charity SC015878

SERVICES DECEMBER 2017 TO EASTER 2018

Date	Lasswade & Rosewell at 10.00 am	Cockpen & Carrington at 11.30 am
3 December 2 nd Advent	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
10 December 3 rd Advent	Minister – Lasswade Nativity	Minister & Service of Remembering – 3.00 pm
17 December 4 th Advent	Minister – Rosewell Christmas Celebration Service for all the family – 4.00 pm – Church Hall	Minister – Nativity & Nine Lessons and Carols – 7.00 pm
Saturday 23 December	Christingle Service – Lasswade – 6.00 pm	
24 December Christmas Eve	Minister – Lasswade Christingle Service – Rosewell – 6.00 pm	Minister & Watchnight Service – 11.20 pm
31 December	Joint Service Cockpen & Carrington Church - 11.30 am	
7 January	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
14 January	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
21 January	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
28 January	Minister – Lasswade Communion Service	Minister – all-age service with Sunday School
4 February	Minister – Rosewell	Minister Communion Service
11 February	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
18 February	tbc - Rosewell	tbc
25 February	Minister – Lasswade	Minister – all-age service with Sunday School
4 March	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
11 March	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
18 March	Minister – Rosewell	Minister- ‘Back to Church Sunday’
25 March	Minister – Lasswade	Minister – all-age service with Sunday School
1 April Easter Sunday	Minister – Rosewell Communion Service	tbc

Holy Week Services Monday 26 March to Friday 30 March 2018 tbc

From the Minister ...

I recently read this wonderful story in one of the books I am reading just now:

“In 2005, a sixteen-year-old girl called Katie Davis left her comfortable middle-class life in Tennessee to go to an orphanage in Uganda. Three years later she set up her own orphanage and adopted fourteen children. Her life in the USA was comfortable and clean. Although she grew up in a Christian family, she only prayed for her own comfort. Her dad went to visit her in Uganda to persuade her to come home, to leave behind the filth, stench, and sickness. But Katie knew God had called her to live and breathe and minister in that dirt. She left America as a princess but was soon washing off thick layers of dirt and filth from the poorest and most helpless in society.

Katie soon realised that she couldn't tell the street children in her orphanage that God loved them, because most were completely unaware of the concept of love. Instead she had to clean and hug and cradle and caress her filthy and smelly children so that they gradually learned that she loved them. Then she told them about their heavenly Father.”¹



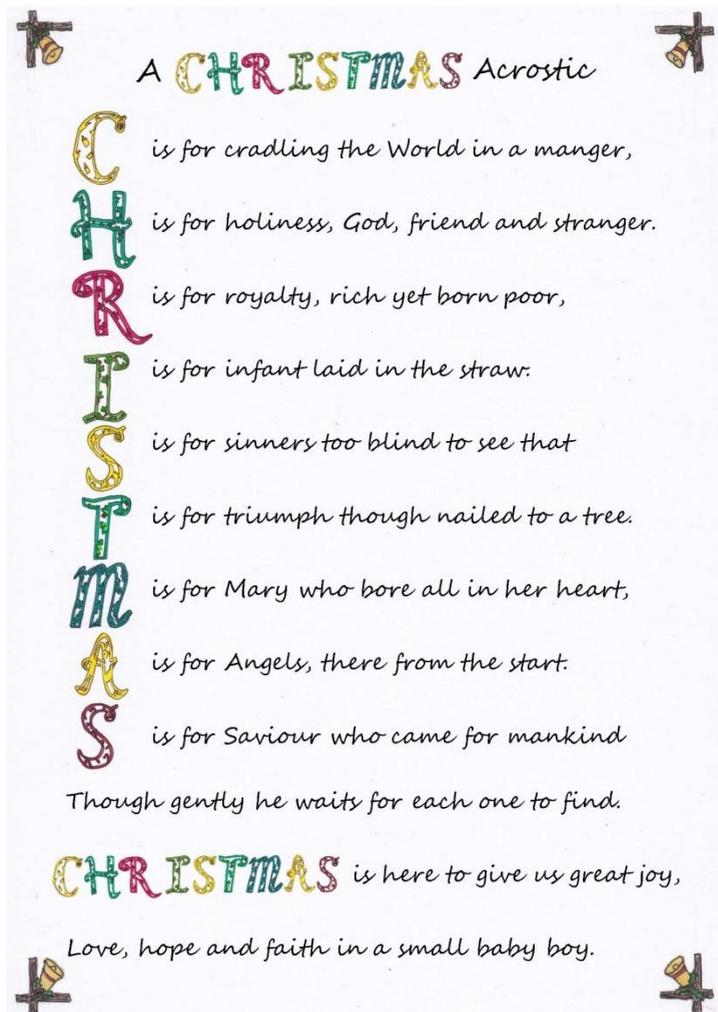
Katie's story is an inspiring one of enormous bravery and determination and selfless love. She was determined, come what may, to show those young orphans her love and God's love for them.

As we approach Christmas again, we are reminded that Jesus took such a path for us.

He left behind the glory of being with God, the Father, and gave up everything to be 'God with us', showing us in the most powerful way possible the full extent of God's love for us. The wood of the crib becomes the wood of the cross, in the full expression of God's abundant love for us – Jesus coming amongst us and risking all to be one with us, so that in the end he could give up his very life to take away all our wrongdoing and make us at one with God again.

¹ Simon Guillebaud, *Choose Life*, 18 October (Oxford: Monarch Books, 2014)

Let me share with you 'A Christmas Acrostic' poem² that reflects this beautifully:



With all good wishes for a blessed Christmas when it comes.

Your minister

Lorna Souter

² From "Reflections of the Heart". Text copyright © Rev Caroline M. Chichester 2017
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Please contact Lorna Souter, the Minister, if you would like a copy:

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Christmas Celebration

Rosewell Church Hall
Sunday 17th December at 4.00 pm

An informal telling of the Christmas story for all the family,
with songs and carols.

Cockpen Church
Sunday 17th December at 7pm
Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols (Candlelight service)

Christingle Services



at Lasswade Church on
Saturday 23rd December at 6.00 pm
and
at Rosewell Church on
Sunday 24th December at 6.00 pm



A Christmas service for all the family
with carols and candles

Everyone will be made most welcome and
there will be a retiring offering for Richmond's Hope. This is a dedicated
organisation offering support to bereaved children and young people from
Edinburgh and Midlothian.



Watchnight Service

at Cockpen Church
Sunday 24th December at 11.20 pm

May peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through.

Hopefield Connections

Sunday 10 December at 4pm Christingle Service at Burnbrae Primary School

Tuesday 19 December at 6.30pm Carol singing at Burnbrae Primary School
Garden

Lasswade and Rosewell Parish Church News:

Harvest Thanksgiving:

The Church was beautifully decorated at Harvest - a huge thank you to all those who helped or contributed flowers and produce. Non-perishable food items and a retiring offering were collected during the service for Christians Against Poverty (CAP). Your generosity was much appreciated by the organisers of CAP based at Penicuik South Church.

MacMillan Biggest Coffee Morning:

This was held on 29 September 2017 at 44 Carnethie Street, Rosewell and the sum of £941 was raised. Sincere thanks to all who contributed in any way to this event.

Agnes Anderson

Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal 2017:

106 shoeboxes were uplifted from Rosewell Parish Church – this included 29 from Rosewell Primary School, 37 from the Midlothian Scouts and 40 from Lasswade/Rosewell Church. Sincere thanks to everyone who filled a shoebox and to Moira/Jim Campbell and Morag McFarlane who helped prepare the bags for the uplift.

Agnes Anderson

<p>You are warmly invited to join us in the Sacrament of Holy Communion Sunday 28 January 2018 at 10.00 a.m. Lasswade Parish Church All Welcome</p>
--

World Day of Prayer – Friday 2 March 2018

The service this year is prepared by the Women of Suriname and the theme is 'Caring for God's Very Good Creation' (more details to follow).

Coffee Mornings:

On the second Saturday of each month a Coffee Morning is held 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.

Cake Stall:

A big thank you to everyone who supports our Thursday Cake Stall at the Pitcairn Centre. If you are able to help on the stall please speak to Cathy Drysdale or Norma Sangster.

Forthcoming dates are:

14 December, 11 January, 8 February, 8 March and 12 April.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support and best wishes for the Festive Season.

Christmas Coffee Morning: Saturday 9 December:

Our Christmas Coffee Morning is planned for Saturday 9 December from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon in Rosewell Church Hall. We hope to have a number of stalls including home baking, lucky dip, guess the weight of the cake, tombola and raffle as well as teas/coffees served with Christmas mince pies and shortbread. Visit from Santa and entertainment by the Brass Band. Please put this date in you diary. Donations for the stalls can be handed into the hall on the Friday evening (7.00 p.m.to 8.30 p.m.) Volunteers are also required on the Friday evening to set up. Many thanks and we hope to see you there.

Can you re-arrange the letters to give the ingredients of a Christmas Pudding?

TUGMEN	ROLUF	KLIM	DRABNY
TEUS	SGEG	GAURS	NISSAIR
TRANSCUR	LEPE	EPICS	SLAMNOD

Supporting the Food Bank:

Your contributions to the Food Bank box in the church vestibules are enormously appreciated by the recipients. The food parcels are distributed via knowledge of Social Work, Doctors' Surgeries, or the local Citizens Advice Bureau, who recommend names for food parcels. Contributions of non-perishable foods are very welcome. It is hard for us to imagine, but there are many in this surrounding area who have little or no means of cooking because they cannot afford the power. Many are in this situation having been made redundant and no work available, or those who earn so little they cannot feed their families in what we would consider a satisfactory manner. Please do continue to contribute – it is much appreciated.

Thank you

Next Year's Moderator:

The Rev. Susan Brown, Minister of Dornoch Cathedral, who grew up in Penicuik, will step into the role in May 2018, succeeding the Right Rev. Dr Derek Browning. Mrs Brown brings 32 years of experience as a Highland Minister. Until now she was probably best known as the Minister who married Madonna and Guy Ritchie and baptised their son, Rocco.

Christmas Thought:

Our thoughts are turning towards Christmas. The shops are full of attractive things to buy; the television programmes are advertising 'specials' and kitchens are filled with smells, spices and baking. What about our preparations? ADVENT means "COMING". The Bible reminds us that God promised to send someone special into our world with the power to save us from sin.

May the spirit of **Christmas** bring you peace
The gladness of Christmas give you **Hope**
AND
The warmth of Christmas grant u love
Happy Christmas

Rosewell and Lasswade Sunday school

Rosewell and Lasswade Sunday school meets the first Sunday of the month at Rosewell all are welcome to come along and join us.

Back to Sunday school service on 3rd September at Rosewell was an all age service. The theme for the service was "Be Wise" and the story of Solomon's request to be king. The children heard the story from our minister and continued learning more about Solomon when we went over to the hall.



At the October Sunday school the lesson was Daniel and the Lion's den. Fiona was very creative and the children made towers out of toilet rolls and eggs while the younger children used building blocks.

In the Lessons for the rest of this year we will learn about Jonah and the whale, plus the story of the birth of baby Jesus. Next year we will be learning about the life of Jesus as he is growing up and parables before Easter.

Christmas pantomime is on Sunday 3rd December at the Kings Theatre. This year it's Cinderella. Some of our Sunday school children are going along and they will have a fun time.



We will be meeting for Sunday school on the 3rd and 17th December.

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Countryfile Ramble for Children in Need at Rosewell



On Friday 6th October quite a few people gathered in the afternoon at the Rosewell Church Hall to set off on a couple of local rambles of 2-3 miles in aid of Children in Need. It was a lovely afternoon and the walks were very much enjoyed, as were the wonderful refreshments with home baking provided at the Hall on our return. Thank you to all who took part and the sum of £130 was raised.



Apples from the Manse garden shared by Lorna

Lasswade & Rosewell Parish Church

Christmas Coffee Morning

In: ROSEWELL PARISH CHURCH HALL

On: Saturday 9 December

From 10:00am to 12 noon

Home Baking, Tombola,
Raffle, Lucky Dip, Plants,
Visit from Santa, Entertainment
by Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Brass Band and lots more



Everyone Welcome

Rosewell Flower Rota 2018

January	7th	Xmas flower arrangement retained
	21st	Betty Thomson
February	4th	Eleanor Marshall
	18th	Sandra Carey
March	4th	Alex Ferguson
	18th	Moir Campbell
April	1st	Laura Stewart
	15th	Julie Brown

Thanks again to all our flower donors and helpers and wishing everyone a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Jean Lindsay



Christmas Crossword Solution

1.CANDLE, 2.SANTACLAUS, 3.STOCKING, 4.CANDYCANE, 5.WREATH,
6.HOLLY, 7.REINDEER, 8.BELLS, 9.BAUBLE, 10.GINGERBREAD,
11.TREE, 12.MISTLETOE

Lasswade and Rosewell Choir

I had prepared an article for inclusion in the Harvest Edition of The Link but for various reasons that article was not published so what follows contains abridged versions of certain items which did not appear in the last issue.

First of all can I start by thanking the Choir, both the regular members and those who augment it from time to time, for their continued support and for all their work to enrich the musical contributions to our worship. I very much appreciate your help, without which our worship would be all the poorer.

We were all shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Mervyn Wilden in April and our thoughts over these last few months have been with Liz, Gillian and Fiona. Over the years that they have been associated with us Mervyn and Liz immersed themselves in the life of the Congregation and this included Mervyn auditing the Church accounts for many years. Mervyn was one of those stalwarts who augmented the Choir from time to time. As most people will know, Mervyn came from New Zealand. When we introduced Common Ground – before CH4 came on the scene- the first hymn we sang from that hymnal was “Brother, Sister, let me serve you” and Mervyn was very interested to know it had originated in New Zealand. As far as CH4 is concerned Mervyn was very impressed with the words written by Shirley Erena Murray, another New Zealander, who has made a prolific contribution to CH4. Mervyn was a gentleman’s gentleman and we shall miss him. Mervyn, thank you for all your work and support to the Choir and Congregation.

Mary Robertson died in May. Some of you may not have known Mary but she joined the Choir in the 1990s. We had bigger numbers then and we tried to do anthems on a more regular basis. We planned to do Mozart’s “Ave Verum” but felt we needed more voices. Mary was known to some in the Choir and she agreed to join us. Mary was an organist and covered for me a number of times and participated in choir concerts. She stayed in Newtongrange and worshipped with us regularly for some years before poor health made it difficult for her to get about. Mary, I thank you for all your work with the Choir.

Moira and I enjoyed a holiday in Canada in June and I would like to share some things with you. When we were travelling from Toronto to Ottawa I happened to notice a signpost for the Joseph Scriven Memorial near Port

Hope in Ontario. Joseph Scriven was born in Dublin in 1819 and emigrated to Canada. He was a poet but is best known for writing the words of the hymn “What a friend we have in Jesus”. He died in 1886.

Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, was founded in 1818 by George Ramsay, ninth Earl of Dalhousie, and he modelled the University on the University of Edinburgh. At that time the ninth Earl was Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia but later went on to become Governor General of Canada and there are various references to Dalhousie in street names, not just around Halifax, but in other parts of Eastern Canada, particularly in Montreal. Halifax, as well as having a strong seafaring tradition, is also home to one of the leading Universities in Canada and the Dalhousie Complex now houses, I think, the Architecture and Engineering Faculties.

We also visited Hopewell Rocks on the Bay of Fundy on New Brunswick’s southern shore. The tremendous tides here are a feature of everyday life when twice a day over 100 billion tons of water swirl into and out of the Bay, causing a tidal shift of up to 40 feet. The rock formations, created 350million years ago, are huge. Legend has it that the rocks would claim they were the first peoples, followed by the fish, trees and birds. When one looks at various rock formations, and I include those in our own country, and realises they have been there for millions of years, it is worth asking “what is man ?” who is hardly here at all.

And finally a story about a Christmas Carol. Sir Walter Scott was very much involved in overseeing preparations for the visit of George 1V to Edinburgh in 1822 and this included arranging a function to be held in the Assembly Rooms in George Street. Sir Walter enlisted the help of an Edinburgh merchant called Ebenezer Scroggie who was a meal man, ie a corn dealer. In the early 1840s Charles Dickens came across Mr. Scroggie’s Memorial in Canongate Kirkyard but misread the reference to a meal man as a mean man, and thus Ebenezer Scrooge was born.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;

HLRD

The Editors sincerely apologise for the omission of Herbert’s article in the last issue.

Lasswade Flower Rota

Thank you to all the “Flower” people who so kindly provide the flowers for Lasswade Church.

I am in the middle or should I say muddle of trying to arrange the rota for 2018! We now have fewer services for which the services of flower “folk” are required and this is causing some problems.

For some members there are special dates which they like to honour with the provision of flowers which then go on to give pleasure to others. I am mindful of this when I am trying to sort out dates but sometimes it is challenging. Who would have thought that the arranging of dates for flowers would be so exciting!

We have just experienced two long car journeys in constant rain but the Autumn colours still managed to shine through the gloom. It is always a special time of year.

January 14th Mary Sharpe
January 28th Maureen McGeachy
February 11th Janette Barnes
February 25th Ann Macdonald
March 11th Norma Sangster
March 25th Cathie Drysdale
April 8th Marlyn Davidson
April 22nd Lorna Oliver

Moira Dryden

ACTS OF FORGIVENESS

At this time of remembrance no one should ever forget the atrocities committed by the Nazis in the name of racial purity, when many people, mainly Jews and Russians, died in the horrific death camps. Yet in the chaotic aftermath of World War 2 a story is told of a survivor of a Nazi concentration camp who went to the aid of a German soldier who was being badly beaten up, presumably by people who had witnessed the horror of the gas chambers and the conditions of these Nazi extermination camps.

Some more mature football fans may remember Bert Trautman, the Manchester City goalkeeper who was a former stormtrooper taken prisoner by the British. When he was signed on to play for Manchester City many supporters, mainly Jews, publicly burned their season tickets but the Chief Rabbi of Manchester intervened stating that Bert Trautman had no alternative but to serve in the German Army, otherwise his family too, could have been sent to one of the notorious concentration camps.

Ian Murdoch

FROM THE CLERK – COCKPEN AND CARRINGTON

I would like to say a little on the subject of change.

Over a number of years, our Church has experienced some time in vacancy situations being overseen by an Interim Moderator and having worship conducted by locum Ministers. This all changed some 20 months ago when Lorna Souter was appointed to become our Minister.

At this time we, as members of the congregation agreed that we would experience changes to how our Church would move forward, which is the norm when a new Minister takes over. Understandably, many members, having been connected to Cockpen and their “It’s Aye been done this way”, were concerned about what was about to change.

Life is change!

Change is necessary or we would never move forward. Stagnancy or inflexibility are not virtues in a Christian. They are signs of spiritual lock jaw from which we should pray to be delivered.

But what is true of us as individuals is also true of the Church as the Bride of Christ. Can you imagine the kind of relationship a husband and wife would have if, fifty years after their wedding, she was still wearing a veil and carrying the same bouquet as on her wedding day; or if she was still saying I love your curly hair and sparkling white teeth, even although he had become as bald as a coot and wore dentures!

The Church as the Bride of Christ has to change. We are the body of Christ not its corpse and if there are no signs of growth, change and development, we should then call the undertaker rather than the evangelist.

Here is a wee story about two elderly sisters who decided to go on an expedition to London. They stayed in a five star hotel and despite all their expectations to the contrary, thoroughly enjoyed themselves. When they arrived home they couldn't stop talking about the great time they'd had. One day, their cousin Agnes came to visit. Effie, the older sister, started on the wonders of London and “you should have seen the hotel where we were staying”, she said. We had a lovely room with a lovely view and best of all a beautiful bathroom. “Do you know Agnes it was tiled from ceiling to floor, it had gold taps and the biggest bath you have ever seen. It's such a pity we couldn't use it. We only stayed until Wednesday and Thursday is our bath night!”

Of course we laugh at that kind of inflexibility, but it's a pattern of behaviour into which the Church is ever in danger of falling. If anyone should breathe the word change, the grumbling and rumour goes round about "change for changes sake." If the Doctor told us "I am changing your prescription, I feel these tablets would be better for you", or if the car mechanic said "I want to change your brake blocks as these new ones are better suited to your car", would we still say "change for changes sake"? No? Then should we say it to God? Especially when with God it is never change for changes sake. It is always change for Loves Sake. Our only security is our ability to change.

So here at Cockpen and Carrington, let us embrace change and look forward to the changes that lie ahead. Let us continue on our journey of faith, secure in the knowledge that God goes before us as our confidence and our strength.

Liz Mills Session Clerk

Want a word with the Minister

If you would like to speak to the Minister in private, rather than trying to catch her at the door while leaving church, please inform Liz Mills or another Elder if she is not available, and they can inform the Minister so she can see you in the Vestry after worship.

SUNDAY TEA ROTA

December	Mary Logan Marjorie Commins Andrew Jack	March	Nancy Richardson Marjorie Commins Liz MacDonald
January	Wilma Sweeney Dorothy Scott Isobel Watson	April	John Adamson Vi Gibson Mary Logan
February	Moira Scott Betty Findlay Muriel Calder		

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON CHURCH – CHRISTMAS MUSIC

I am writing this just as the clocks are about to change once again and as we all know once we pass that point we are on the fast train to Christmas! Appropriately this is also the week of the choir's first rehearsal for the programme we will be offering for this year's Christmas services. Here are the dates for this year's diary:

Sunday 17 December

Christmas falls on a Monday this year, as you will no doubt be aware, and as it's unlikely that many would feel inclined to attend two carol services on Christmas Eve this has the consequence that our annual **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** will fall on its earliest possible date, namely 17 December. A good way to mark the real beginning of the Christmas season therefore! As always, the service will take place by candlelight and in addition to the well-loved congregational items the choir will as usual be offering a selection of carols old and new, drawn from around the world. We look forward to welcoming many friends old and new to this special service, which begins at 7 pm.

Monday 18 December

The choir has been performing our Nine Lessons services for more than 20 years now and has led our always popular **Guild Carol Party** for a good deal longer than that. For the first time ever though the Carol Party will this year fall after the Nine Lessons, on Monday 18 December. I normally open the proceedings by saying that the Carol Party is our "dress rehearsal" for the service, but this year it will be the other way round! The evening, which is of course open to all, will as ever take place in the church hall in Dundas Street and the usual high quality refreshments will be on offer to reward your vocal efforts, so do join us for what is always an evening of real fellowship.

Sunday 24 December

In what is becoming something of a new tradition, the choir's first engagement on Christmas Eve will be to sing carols at Broomieknowe Golf Club. Our traditional **Watchnight Service** will then take place in the church at its long-established time of 11.20 pm. A traditional mixture of choir and congregational carols and readings will take us up to midnight and the ringing of the church bell to mark the coming of Christmas Day. While we never know what challenges the weather may bring we will be ready to face them and hope to see the usual large attendance for this joyful Christmas occasion.

We are very fortunate in still having at Cockpen & Carrington a choir which allows us to offer these musical services which I know are a central part of Christmas to many. I am very grateful to them for continuing to give up the time this requires, often on cold winter evenings!

Graham Burnside
Organist

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

3rd December :

Gift Service when a toy for a child between 3 and 12 years of age is brought to Church and will then be donated to the Salvation Army "Christmas Toy Appeal."

Service of Remembering Sunday 10th December at 3.00 pm Cockpen & Carrington Church

Christmas can be a difficult time of year. Many have experienced bereavement through the year or continue to miss loved ones no longer with us.

In addition, some may be facing Christmas in the midst of difficult situations: the break-up of a relationship, the loss of a job, ill health or a time of anxiety.



This service will offer space amidst the Christmas rush and bustle for remembering and for quiet reflection, with stillness and music and reflective words.

All who would find this helpful are most welcome.

17th December :

An all age Service and Nativity will be held in Church at 11.30 a.m.

At 4 p.m. a Family Christmas Celebration will take place, this year in Rosewell Church hall, when the children can enjoy the Christmas Story with Carols and songs.

Our traditional service of Lessons and Carols led by the Choir, commences at 7 p.m. in the Church.

24th December :

Morning Worship at 11.30 a.m. when the Minister will perform a Baptism.

Watchnight Service at 11.20 p.m.

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GUILD REPORT

We were delighted to welcome some new faces amongst the established (better not write old) when our Guild started back after the summer and hope that they will find friendship, fellowship and fun in equal measure from their membership.

Our thanks to the many members of the congregation for the kind words of praise and encouragement to those of us who were “persuaded” and guided again this year by our minister to plan and help her lead the Sunday Worship in church for the annual dedication of the Guild. It is a rather daunting experience so your support was very much appreciated as was the help given to us by Lorna herself who also kindly gave up her “Evening Off “to address the guild on this year’s theme which is Be Bold, Be Strong, Go in Love during which she reflected on the Boldness in duty, Strength of character, and Loving compassion shown through the biblical story of Ruth. It is indeed a lovely story and we all received a lot of encouragement from listening to Lorna’s reflections on it.

At our next meeting we enjoyed listening to the author Jess Smith who is a wonderful story teller who shared with us an insight to her childhood upbringing within the travelling community and how with little formal education she came to write her biographical trilogy and other books based on these experiences. She finished with a mesmerizing telling of the story of the Nativity in the manner and words of her illiterate grandmother. At the time of writing we are looking forward to hearing about Denise Spence’s challenging climb of Kilimanjaro in aid of MND as well as a talk on the setting up of the new Dalkeith Museum. We will be holding an extra meeting 20th November to mark National Guild week and are hoping that many friends from the congregation and families will join us then.

However, hopefully, you will have received this magazine in time to accept our invitation to our annual Carol Party on Monday 18th December at 7.30pm which is always popular and for which the Guild are very grateful to Graham Burnside and the choir for entertaining us with their musical talent and leading us in a selection of carols which Graham always manages to find anecdotal information about to pass on to us.

Helen and Liz.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Yet again thanks to all who filled shoeboxes with goodies to go to the Blythwood Christmas Appeal. It is amazing that in a period when our £'s are not stretching so far you still manage to show such generosity. All the recipients have so little and are so happy to get what many of us take for granted such as toothpaste, soap, gloves etc. and the wee toys, sweets, candles, sewing kits etc are luxuries they certainly do not expect but treasure.

Remember if you are wanting to fill a box next year get off to a good start by purchasing any hats, gloves and scarves in January not just because of the sales savings but because by the end of October when the boxes have to be sent off there are not many of these goods in the shops yet. With thanks and best wishes to you all for a peaceful and happy Christmas xx

A recipe for you to try for Christmas Mincemeat Shortbread

Bake in preheated oven 170 cent/ 340 f or, gas mark 3 for 25 - 30 minutes.

115g/4oz. Margarine or butter
60g/2oz. Caster sugar
170g/6oz. Plain flour, sifted
60ml/4 tbspc Mincemeat

Method

1. Cream the fat and sugar then gradually work in the sifted flour and mincemeat. Knead the mixture until well blended.
2. Roll out on a lightly floured surface then press evenly into a round 21.5 cm tin (greased). Mark around the edge with a fork.
3. Press with a spoon to form pattern. Cut into 8 sections then prick all over and bake. After baking, cut again, sprinkle with caster sugar then leave until cold.

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH

We welcome the following members to our Church and hope that they will feel comfortable worshipping with us.

Mrs Patricia Barnes from Dunfermline Abbey.
Rev. Elisabeth Spence from Ibrox Parish Church.
Mrs Denise Spence from Ibrox Parish Church
Mr. Alan McLean from Kilbirnie St. Columba's Parish Church.
Mrs Janette McLean from Kilbirnie St. Columba's Parish Church.

BLESSINGS

15th October 2017 - Ellie Marcus Infant daughter of Addie and Stuart
(Blessing by The Minister)

'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee'

WEDDINGS

(See Church website at www.church.cockpen.co.uk) for information and advice on weddings for all three of the churches.

BEREAVEMENTS

27th September 2017 - Christine Schofield, at the Marie Curie, Fairmilehead.

1st October 2017 - Bert Robertson at home.

We continue to pray for those in our Congregations (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'



Congratulations to John & Andrew



The wedding of John Adamson and Andrew Jack took place on Saturday 23rd September 2017 at Eyemouth Congregational Church, Eyemouth.

The service was beautifully conducted by the Rev. Ruairidh MacRae.

Our best wishes go to John and Andrew for a long, happy and healthy life together.

CAKE STALL

Our next cake stall will be on Thursday 23rd November and this will be the last stall for 2017

The new dates are as follows -

- 25th January, 2018
- 22nd February, 2018
- 22nd March, 2018
- 26th April, 2018
- 24th May, 2018
- 28th June, 2018

All goods for the stall should be handed in to the Pitcairn Centre between 9 - 9.30 a.m. on these dates

Many thanks once again for all your support and, all good wishes for the Festive Season.

Helen, Isabel and Wilma.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL.

We begin our Christmas article by saying how sad we all are that Rosalind has left us. Rosalind led the Sunday School for many years and, although we miss her very much, we hope she will have a happy "retirement".

We were a bit late in starting up this session as we have not found a replacement leader. However Helen Renton, Wilma Sweeney and myself are going to try and hold it together until someone can be found.



Our first meeting on 1st October was led by me and we talked about Noah and the flood. This is one of the children's favourite stories and they enjoyed telling me the story. The following week Helen led us with the theme "God is Love" when the children drew round their hands, cut them out and glued them to a heart shape

on a poster. (see photo)

As it was mid-term we had no meeting on 15th and 22nd October and we will be attending the All Age Service in Lasswade on the 29th.

We will be starting our rehearsals for this year's nativity on our return to the Hall. We are planning a rather less lavish production this year but I am sure it will still be enjoyable for all.

"Oh yes we are". The Sunday School with parents and friends will be attending the Pantomime in the Kings Theatre on 5th December and we are all looking forward to this.

We wish all our friends and supporters a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year

KNIT AND NATTER

A year down the line since starting the Knit and Natter group it remains extremely popular with everyone involved.



Many have learnt to crochet, read patterns, learnt new stitches to name but a few achievements.

We have made chickens for Easter, snowmen for Christmas, twiddle muffs for Springfield Bank and Octopussies for Premature babies.

Our biggest challenge by far has been to create a large Poppy Fall for Cockpen and Carrington Church, a smaller version for Lasswade Church and a table Fall for use at Springfield Bank.

Anyone interested in joining in the fun will be made most welcome any Thursday between 1.30pm and 3.30pm in the Church hall.



Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota

2017

December	3	Nancy Richardson
	10	Betty Finlay
	17	Dorothy, Helen & Catherine
	24	Liz Laidlaw
	31	Muriel Calder

2018

January	7	Irene Ramsay
	14	Mary Logan
	21	Lynn Hansen
	28	Ian Fowler



Heart of Leaves by the Sunday School children

February	4	Barbara McInnes	March	4	Maria Hall
	11	Irene Ramsay		11	Stella McLeish
	18	Dorothy Peat		18	Cathie Fisher
	25	Liz Mills		25	Nancy Richardson

Thank you for all the donations received.

Thanks also to all who supply and arrange the flowers in the Church. If I have any dates wrong please let me know and I will try and accommodate.

Please also let me know of anyone who has not had flowers from the Church recently so that we can arrange this.

With best wishes for the Festive Season.

Nancy

QUIZ NIGHT

A Quiz night will be held in the Cockpen and Carrington Church Hall on Saturday 13th. January, 2018 at 7pm, when it is hoped that members of Cockpen & Carrington and Lasswade & Rosewell, along with family and friends, will come along and enjoy a fun evening together.

A different view of Cockpen Kirk

Just before my daughter Fiona and my grandsons left to fly home to Sydney in October, I asked Jack (15yrs) if he would fly his drone and take some photos of the church where his Mum and Dad were married and where he and his elder brother Connor, were christened. He was a bit concerned about being respectful in flying his drone around a graveyard, but I assured him that Granny Dick, would have loved to have a go herself at piloting the drone and would be cheering us on! He took some photos for me and also a few minutes of video footage, which is fascinating to look at...and I would like to share this super view of our tower with you....not a chance you will often get to see it from this angle. Catherine Devlin





Editor's comment: For those that like this view, there are some pictures from an earlier drone flight on the church web site in the photo gallery at <http://www.church.cockpen.co.uk/photogallery/> my favourite being <http://www.church.cockpen.co.uk/photogallery/images/CockpenJune2015.jpg>



GRAND MIDWINTER



RACE

Rev. Elisabeth Spence, under the banner of Hopefield Connections, is promoting a charity Duck Race, fundraising for Children 1st down a 200metre stretch of the Saw Mill Path Burn, in Hopefield on Sunday 21st January next at 2pm.

TICKETS FOR ENTRY ARE NOW ON SALE AT £2.00 EACH and can be bought at the Christmas Fair at the Church Hall on Saturday December 2nd or at Tesco, Hardengreen on December 16th or from Church member Bill MacDonald, professional Duck Race Consultant. This follows on the series of 16 Duck Races run by members of the congregation down the Pittendreich Burn 2000-16. Prizes include an outsize tennis ball signed by Judy MURRAY specially for the event and a DVD “Eddie the Eagle” and action photograph, both also signed by Eddie specially for the event, of Eddie EDWARDS, Olympic ski-jumper

Children 1st was founded as The Scottish National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children in 1889 and was granted a Royal Charter for its work in 1921. More recently it adopted the current operating title to reflect its changing priorities of helping and advising parents and supporting children through such services as Parentline, National Kinship Care, Safeguarding in Sport, counselling Young Carer group support and Recovery Centres

THE HOLY HIKERS



"Don't walk in front of me: I may not follow.
Don't walk behind me: I may not lead
Just walk beside me and be my friend"
Albert Camus

This is always a difficult article to write as contributions for the Harvest and Christmas magazines are required so close together that we have only had two walks since the last issue.

We had a good turnout for the September walk when ten of us ventured into "mountain bike territory". Yes, we went to Glentress near Peebles although it has to be said we were at the Peebles end which is less busy with bikes. We climbed up from the Hydro by Janet's Brae and using the forest roads came round in a circle returning to Peebles by the same route.

A family birthday let me off the hook for November so I passed the leader's baton to Lynda Williamson who did a splendid job around Dalkeith Country Park, leaving with seven and shepherding them all safely back. Well done Lynda! You even managed a coffee stop. We have booked to go to Longniddry Inn for our Xmas meal in December and, weather permitting will cover a bit of the Longniddry to Haddington Railway Walk before sitting down to our meal.

I have still to organize our Walking Weekend in March. I am a bit late this year, it's usually done by now but I'm sure I'll get it sorted out soon.

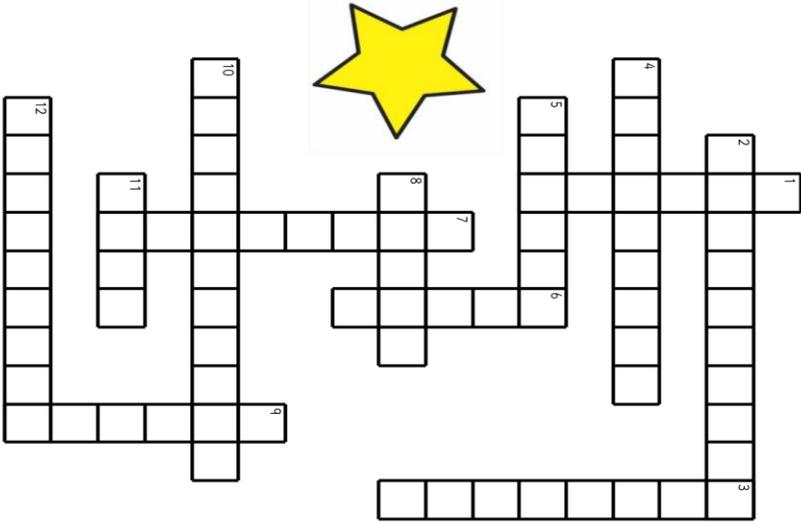
As usual we have no walk in January and in February we are going to Lochore Meadows in Fife.

We welcome new members. Contact me on 0131 660 1147

Happy Hiking

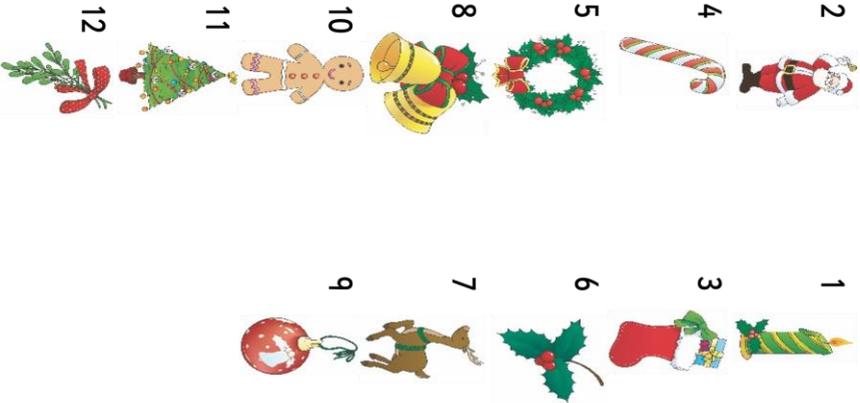
Jim Scott

Christmas Picture Crossword



Across

Down



(Solution on page 13)

Share your news, views or ideas in the Easter Issue of "The Link" send them to Magazine@church.cockpen.co.uk by Sunday, 25th February 2018