

Cockpen & Carrington

# The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Christmas 2021



Church of Scotland

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## From the Minister ...

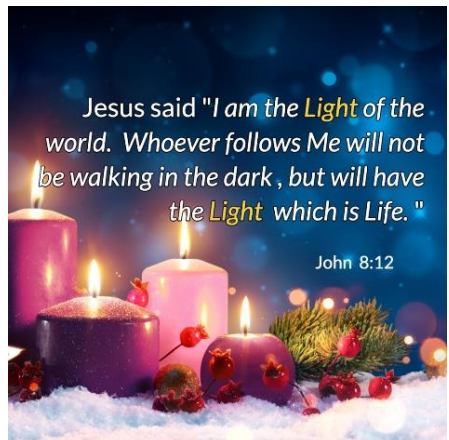
In recent weeks, it has been delightful to have a 'Hopefield Connections does ...' and a Messy Church session on the theme of 'Light'. Getting together with families, we made simple lanterns together from recycled milk bottles and a ribbon handle. We coloured them with assorted acrylic pens, tissue paper and stickers and popped an LED tealight inside. The children's creativity was wonderful!

At Hopefield we didn't manage a little walk together with our lanterns, but there was time for this at Messy Church in Rosewell and so we went out into the falling darkness and enjoyed the glowing light of our lanterns on our circular stroll.

Part of this adventure was to look at the trees in the park and think about how important light is for them. During the summer, each tree wants to catch as much light in its leaves as it can and turn it into energy to help it to grow. In our little group, as Jesus's friends, we thought about how we can also try to catch as much of the light of Jesus's love for us and turn it into energy to help us grow in doing good and kind things in the world around us.

At this time of year as Advent and Christmas approach, we look forward to giving thanks and celebrating Jesus's birth once again and his coming to us as God's Son, Light of the World, showing us God's love and calling us to turn back to him so we can find lasting peace and hope through our trust in him.

We may be faced with difficult and dark days because of what we are coping with just now in many different ways in our lives. It is easy to become overwhelmed and discouraged. But in Jesus's coming, we are truly reminded of how much God loved the world,



how much God loves each one of us. Jesus is God with us and he gave up everything and risked everything to come amongst us and invite us back to trust in God. He knew that's where we find deepest peace and wellbeing in our lives, walking in the light of God's love. He knew that's where we can find deepest meaning and purpose in our lives, catching the light of God's love and doing all we can to meet the needs of others around us. He knew that's where we find deepest hope, finding a new beginning and being assured of God's endless love for us.

As Jesus spared nothing to remind us of God's love, may we be encouraged, may we be in a hurry, to receive more and more of his love because it's abundantly given that we can each find true life and hope.

With every blessing for a peaceful and hopeful Christmas,

Your minister, *Lorna*

## **Invitation to an Alpha Course in the new year – an opportunity to explore life, faith and meaning**

Revd. Louise Purden and I are excited about running an Alpha Course from mid-January for those who are interested. Alpha Courses have been running for many years now all round the world and are a series of 11 sessions exploring the Christian faith. They are designed to create a space where people come and discuss life's big questions. Each week hospitality is shared, there is a talk looking at a different question around faith and this then leads to time for good conversation. Everyone is welcome, whether you belong to a church or not.

More details will follow about time and venue, but if you are interested, please do let me know.

*Lorna, the Minister*

# SERVICES END of NOVEMBER 2021 TO APRIL 2022

Date	Lasswade & Rosewell at 10.00 am	Cockpen & Carrington at 11.30 am
<b>28 NOVEMBER</b> <b>1ST ADVENT</b>	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
<b>5 DECEMBER</b> <b>2ND ADVENT</b>	Minister – Rosewell – All-age Toy Gift Service and Nativity	Minister – All-age Toy Gift Service, Nativity and Baptism Service
<b>12 DECEMBER</b> <b>3RD ADVENT</b>	Minister – Lasswade	Minister Service of Remembering 3pm
<b>19 DECEMBER</b> <b>4TH ADVENT</b>	Minister – Rosewell	Minister – All-age Service with Baptism Nine Lessons and Carols 7pm
<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>24 DECEMBER</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	Christingle Service – Rosewell – 5.30 pm	Watchnight Service – 11.20 pm
<b>26 DECEMBER</b>	Minister – Lasswade	Minister - Cockpen
<b>2 JANUARY</b>	Elders – Rosewell	Elders – Cockpen
<b>9 JANUARY</b>	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
<b>16 JANUARY</b>	Minister – Rosewell Safe Families for Children	Minister Safe Families for Children
<b>23 JANUARY</b>	Minister – Lasswade Communion Service	Minister – all-age service
<b>30 JANUARY</b>	<b>Joint Service – Lasswade Church at 10.00 am</b>	
<b>6 FEBRUARY</b>	Minister – Rosewell	Minister Communion Service
<b>13 FEBRUARY</b>	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
<b>20 FEBRUARY</b>	Minister - Rosewell	Minister
<b>27 FEBRUARY</b>	Minister – Lasswade -all-age service	Minister – all-age service
<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>4 MARCH</b>	World Day of Prayer Service at 7.00 pm at Cockpen & Carrington Church	
<b>6 MARCH</b>	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
<b>13 MARCH</b>	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
<b>20 MARCH</b>	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
<b>27 MARCH</b>	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
<b>3 APRIL</b>	<b>Joint Service Cockpen &amp; Carrington Church – 11.30 am – 200th Anniversary Celebration Service – All-age service with The Very Revd. Dr Susan Brown</b>	
<b>10 APRIL</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
<b>17 APRIL</b> <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
<b>24 APRIL</b>	tbc – Lasswade	tbc

Holy Week Services Monday 11 April to Friday 15 April 2020 - tbc

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# WHO'S WHO

## MINISTER

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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

*To comply with Data Protection and Safeguarding, postal addresses have been removed. If you require a postal address for any named above, please contact the relevant session clerk.*

# Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church

## From the Church Registers

### Baptism



On 12th September we held our first baptism in church since the beginning of 2020 due to church closures during the recent pandemic. It was a very exciting and memorable day for Shaun and Adele Keating when their daughter Hope Elena was baptised with family and friends witnessing the occasion.

### Bereavements

#### Obituary Correction

Mrs Margaret Robson's death was given as 5th July but she died on 28th June. Apologies for this mistake in the printed edition of the last magazine.

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'*

### Weddings

(See Church website at [www.church.cockpen.co.uk](http://www.church.cockpen.co.uk)) for information and advice on weddings.





## Christmas Quiz Questions

- 1 Where in the Bible do we read about the Birth of Jesus?
- 2 Who gave birth to Jesus?
- 3 Which city did Mary and Joseph travel to for the census?
- 4 What city was Jesus born in?
- 5 Who appeared to tell Mary that she was with child?
- 6 How many miles did Mary and Joseph have to travel to get to Bethlehem?
- 7 How did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?
- 8 How many angels spoke to the shepherds?
- 9 What sign were the shepherds supposed to look for when searching for Jesus?
- 10 Who followed a star to find baby Jesus?
- 11 Where was Jesus laid after he was born?
- 12 What is a manger?
- 13 How many wise men were there?
- 14 What gifts did the wise men bring to baby Jesus?
- 15 Where was Joseph originally from?
- 16 Who was the one trying to kill Baby Jesus?
- 17 Who was the prophet that foretold a virgin shall give birth to a son called Immanuel?
- 18 What are the five names of Jesus found in the Bible?
- 19 Which direction did the wise men travel to, going to Jerusalem?
- 20 Where did Jesus' family flee to from Bethlehem?

**[Answers on Page 28]**

# Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota


Hello Everyone,

Thank you for all the donations received and to all who supply and arrange the flowers in the Church. I and the other members of the Congregation who deliver the flowers on Sundays after Church enjoy the pleasure of brightening up someone's day.

Please contact me on 663 8517 or see me in Church if you have any queries.

Best wishes for the Festive Season.

*Nancy*

<b>2021</b> <b>December</b> 5 12 19 26	Betty Finlay Pat Mitchell Dorothy, Helen & Catherine Liz Laidlaw	<b>2022</b> <b>January</b> 2 9 16 23 30	Irene Ramsay Mary Logan Lynn Hansen Ian Fowler Service at Lasswade
<b>February</b> 6 13 20 27	Irene Ramsay Dorothy Peat Liz Mills	<b>March</b> 6 13 20 27	Maria Hall John Adamson Cathie Fisher
<b>April</b> 3 10 17 24	Liz Mills Nancy Richardson Liz MacDonald Mary Logan		

## The Guild

Oh, isn't it great to be getting back to at least a semblance of normal? Meeting up with friends old and new to share a sense of purpose and yet have fun and laughter with as well.

Due to the restrictions the committee were unable to plan a syllabus of speakers over the summer but as our new three-year strategy is titled "Look Forward in Faith" with the first year asking us to consider "Lights and Bushels" we have relied on our home-grown talent to fill the speaker's position for the first half of this session's meetings.

After the dedication service and opening meeting as usual now being led by our committee and minister the second meeting had Catherine Devlin shining her light through her video presentations of "Cockpen Old and New" which she, being a keen Guide whose motto is Be Prepared, had a video presentation ready for the bi-centennial of our Church at Cockpen and two others reflecting "Locked Down Bonnyrigg and Lasswade". The lovely photographs included views of the church from a drone and showed the beauty of our hometown and area which we probably did not appreciate in the hustle and bustle of our usual daily lives but now viewed as so peaceful and quiet during lockdown.

Like last year Moira Scott has used her crafting and organisational skills to create a Sale of Work within the current covid safety guidelines. So at our next meeting the members got a chance to preview and purchase some of this year's Christmas Sale. Catherine also ran a Scottish Quiz for us that evening.

By the time of this magazine being distributed Rev. Elisabeth Spence will have shared some of her Spence's Sensational Snippets with us and one of our two new members Elaine Christie and her daughter will have shared their experiences from the volunteer work they have done for the Vine Trust. Just in the door and shining her light.

Graham and the Choir will once again be leading us in our Carol Party on 6 December, but this year we will have to keep a check on numbers attending so please ask for a ticket if you want to attend.

We are indeed blessed to have so many talented folk willing to do what they can to help.

There are a few of the guild members no longer able to attend the evening meetings so we are going to try having an afternoon meeting once a month for anyone who would like to come along and enjoy a couple of hours together. The first of these meetings will be held at 2 pm on Monday 13th of December. I am sure if anyone would like to come but needed transport something could be arranged. Just let us know.

*Helen and Liz*

## **Historical Booklets**

The booklet “*Across the Years at Cockpen*” is still available for sale priced at £2.

Available from Liz Mills, Helen or at the Church.

## **90th Birthday**

It was a very exciting day for Joyce Stocks when in September she celebrated her 90th birthday at home with her daughter Audrey.

Joyce has battled ill health for a long time but always has a cheerful story to tell you and is never without a huge smile on her face.

Huge congratulations from everyone.

## **Blythwood Shoebox Appeal**

Sincere thanks to everyone who again took the time to prepare and fill a shoebox for the Blythwood Appeal. It is pleasing that everyone, year after year takes the time to remember those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

EFM

## Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal

### Sunday 5th December

We will again be supporting the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal when children's toys, books, games, and sweets are being collected from members of the congregation. Also required are toiletries or gifts for teenagers. These presents should be brought to the Church on 5th December **unwrapped** and will be delivered to the Salvation Army the following day.  
EFM

### Thanks

A big thank you to the kind person who left bundles of vegetables at the Church door for anyone to take. They were much appreciated.  
We enjoyed some great soup with home grown veg!!

Thanks also to Lorna for the apples from the Manse garden. They were used in various ways and enjoyed by all who got them.

*Wilma.*

### Life and Work magazine

If you would like to place an order for this magazine or, cancel your current order, please contact me as soon as possible on 0131 663 6546.

The cost is £36 per annum.

*Wilma.*

### Chapterhouse Singers

A concert by

**~~The Chapterhouse Singers~~**

accompanied by our

**~~organist~~ GRAXAM BURNSIDE**

will be held in the church

**on Sunday 12th December at 7pm.**

Tickets £6 – All welcome.

**Please note tickets must be bought prior to the event  
to avoid handling money on the night.**

## KNIT AND NATTER

The Knit and Natter group are happy to be meeting up again in the hall each Thursday from 1.30- 3.30pm. It has been such a joy to be back meeting with everyone and I am delighted to say that we have had six new ladies come along and join us which now gives us a very good cross section of talent.

For our latest project we plan to ‘Yarn Bomb’ the area around the hall with a Christmas theme. Look out for this happening in early December and let us know what you think. For those unable to come and see it in person, we hope to show photographs in the next magazine.

EFM





We were sorry to say farewell to Elisabeth Spence, Pioneer Minister at Hopefield, as she began a new post as Congregational Support Worker at Newbattle Parish Church at the start of October. Despite this we are very much hoping to keep the work of Hopefield Connections going after all Elisabeth's invaluable input in the last five years.

We look forward to this being a shared ministry with Revd Louise Purden and members of Bonnyrigg Parish Church.

During the half-term break, eight assorted Fresh Air Challenges were put out beside Burnbrae PS and the nearby park for families to have a go at and enjoy at a time that suited them.

Sadly, the Coffee Stop was cancelled on Friday 29th October due to the heavy rain that morning, but we look forward to its continuing – weather permitting! – on a fortnightly basis on a Friday morning from 8.00 am till 12.30 pm in the car park opposite Burnbrae PS under the gazebo. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with parents and children from the primary school and other residents of Hopefield as they pass by often walking their dogs. If you would like to help with serving the tea and coffee, baking and treats during a Coffee Stop session, please do let me know. We will be very grateful to build up on the volunteers taking part.

As mentioned earlier, we had a lovely 'Hopefield Connections does Light' session on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October in the afternoon and after all the rain in the morning, the sun came out and bathed those taking part at the entrance to Burnbrae PS in wonderful autumn sunshine. There was even a bright rainbow to enjoy over the school as we finished. The next session will take place on Sunday 19th December at 3.00 pm and this will be an open air Christingle celebration for Christmas, again at the primary school entrance.

We will also look forward to distributing Advent Window posters at the start of December again this year. Clues will be posted on the Hopefield Connections Facebook page to help families have fun in finding each poster through all the days of Advent.

Further details will be posted in due course for more events happening in the new year!

Lorna, the Minister



## Blooming Lovely

A special thanks to Liz and Bill McDonald for creating and tending to the garden area at the side of the Church Hall. So nice to watch it grow over the months when passing the Hall. Thank you from the Congregation.





# THE SHADES OF NIGHT WERE FALLING FAST

The shades of night were falling fast  
And the rain was falling faster  
When through an Alpine village passed  
An Alpine village pastor,  
A youth who bore mid snow and ice  
A bird that wouldn't chirrup,  
And a banner, with the strange device –  
“Mrs Winslow's soothing syrup.”

“Beware the pass” the old man said,  
“My bold and desperate fellah;  
Dark lowers the tempest overhead,  
And you'll want your umbrella;  
And the roaring torrent is deep and wide –  
You may hear how it washes”  
But still the clarion voice replied:  
“I've got my old galoshes.”

“Oh stay,” the maiden said, “and rest  
(For the wind blows from the nor'ward)  
Thy weary head upon my breast –  
And please don't think me forward.”  
A tear stood in his bright blue eye  
And gladly he would have tarried;  
But still he answered with a sigh;  
“Unhappily I'm married.”

*By A E Housman (1859-1936)*

## Christmas Table

Although the Church is not having a Christmas Fair as such, some of us have made items in anticipation it might have gone ahead. It was decided to put them out at the Guild and again on a Thursday at *Knit and Natter* for anyone to pop in and purchase things. There are various other items for sale.

## O HOLY NIGHT

“So where do you think we will be going to church next month?” That became a common enquiry from my husband. We had moved to a new part of the country and found ourselves in search of a new church. This mission was compounded by the fact that we knew no one. Weekly, we checked out a different church to find the perfect place to worship.

After months, we found the perfect place (or so we thought). It was close to home, had a great children’s programme, and seemed to have an appropriate amount of young, growing families. I spoke with someone and found out who to call. The next day, Monday, I did just that.

“Hello, may I speak with Reverend Coleman? ...Oh, well is there a better time to reach him? My family and I have relocated to this area, and would like to formally join your church.”

The receptionist, who had been taking the calls, told me that we could not join the church as too many families were attending. A new congregation was forming, however. “Perhaps you could speak with someone there,” she said. I was to call a man whom I did not know, at a place that did not exist, for a congregation that was only being formed.... somewhere.

I called a lady whom I was told could give details of this new congregation, her name was Mary Lou. “Oh yes, yes!” she said. “We would love to have you join our congregation. May I stop over and introduce myself and meet you and your family? We are still looking for a permanent place to have our weekly church gatherings, but we are delighted that you will be joining us” Mary Lou chattered on for a while longer, and I knew we were going in the right direction, although I was not sure where.

“Mummy, I thought we were going to church”, Jay questioned the following Sunday as we pulled into the car park of a small cinema. “We are,” I answered, as the car was being parked. Jason’s eyes lit up, and he was not about to let this drop, thinking one or both of his parents had lost their minds. “Why are we here if we are supposed to be at church?”

“The church is not a church yet, and we do not have anywhere else to go, so we are going to the cinema,” I explained. None of us cared where we went after a few weeks as it was not the building but what happened inside it that mattered.

As the summer wore into autumn, and the leaves began to drop from the trees, the congregation continued to grow and the accommodation in the small cinema became too small. It was time to move again, and the new location was, again, due to the generosity of a community member. This time we were shuffled to an old, grey barn. It was not much to look at, but it served the purpose—and our active, hardworking, and still growing community gathered at this rustic spot, now filled with folding chairs.

It took a long time to get wiring into this dimly lit structure to supply us with light, heat, and a microphone. The vicar fortunately had a sense of humour and a booming voice. However, as October transitioned into November, and we headed towards Advent, our necessity for heavy coats during church became more apparent.

“Jim, make sure the kids have their gloves this morning,” I said. “It is really cold. I know we should expect this in December, but the wind seems brutal today.”

“Check. We have gloves and hats, and I grabbed a blanket, just in case we need it. We can wrap these little monkeys up: they’ll stay warm for the hour.”

The cold weather brought preparation but still no permanent church. December wore on and Christmas Eve appeared in a flash. Again, we had the checklist before church. “Let’s keep the kids extra warm dear. It may snow tonight. Can you help me get Katie’s boots on?”

Robby our second child, mumbled, “Mummy, do we have to go? It’s too cold”

“Yes we do. It’s Christmas Eve, and if we have time for Santa, we have time to go to church and remember Jesus’ birthday.”

So we packed the children up and drove to the barn. “This is an exceptionally blustery night,” I remarked. “It is a good thing that daddy remembered the blanket, isn’t it?”

“Yes” the three children yelled in unison. Dusk slipped into darkness as we parked along the old country road and trudged along to the barn, children in tow, wrapped up so much that they could barely walk. We entered our familiar “church.”

The old, grey barn was no longer just an old, grey barn. It had been transformed into a nativity scene—a real one, with a real manger and real sheep and cow and a donkey. Hay was everywhere. The eyes of the children were filled with sheer wonder. Amid the animals were people. The woman wore a blue robe, and the man was in old, brown sackcloth tied with a rope. He held a staff, and she held an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes. They were not just people: they were the Holy Family. They were surrounded by shepherds tending the flock. I don’t remember what the music was, if there was any. Nor do I remember what the sermon was, if one was given. I don’t even know if we stayed warm enough. I do remember being in the presence of the true spirit of Christmas. It was magnificent.

The Christmas Eve celebration could have lasted forever. We finally left the barn to find that snow was gently falling and the stars were announcing the birth of Jesus. We felt a silent joy at the miraculous event we had been witness to. Eventually, we did find a church to call our own. But nothing came close to that Christmas Eve of wonder, with Jesus in the old, grey barn.

*Written by Elizabeth Toole.*

# The Joy of Jigsaws

I don't really know when my love of Jigsaw Puzzles started, it must have been a part of my mis-spent youth which probably kicked in again when my own children started doing them. Many famous people do them so I'm in good company. Patrick Stewart, Hugh Jackman, Ronnie Wood, Bill Gates and even the Queen enjoys poring over a puzzle on a winter evening at Sandringham.

I used to do jigsaws regularly but in January 2020 when I was not well, I began to increase my output of puzzles and when I was diagnosed with cancer and went into lock-down I immersed myself in them. Since January 2020 I have completed 87 jigsaws, most are 1000 pieces, but some were smaller. (I could never do a 1500 or bigger.)

The first ever Jigsaw was created in the 1760's by a London map-maker called John Spilsbury. He mounted a map on to wood, cut round the countries, and gave it to the local school. The idea soon caught on and other "dissected puzzles" were created. A jigsaw fan like myself is known as a "dissectologist".

Around the 1880's the invention of the jigsaw cutting tool lent its name to the increasingly popular puzzles. Designs became more sophisticated with the invention of the treadle jigsaw which enabled puzzle makers to create a wide variety of shapes at a much faster rate, also, new printing techniques produced high quality pictures in bright colours. Victorian designers were particularly fond of "whimsies", pieces cut into recognisable shapes often cut on "a whim". These are still produced today by Wentworth Puzzles who also produce brainteasers with no straight edges.

By the 1930's train companies and cruise lines were using jigsaws to promote travel and it was also about this time that pictures started appearing on box lids.

Before that, puzzlers had to tip out all the pieces on to the table to make sense of them. With plywood in short supply at the outbreak of World War 2, cardboard became the norm for jigsaws and this made them more affordable to the masses. Today we have virtual jigsaws on our tablets, and digital photos can be made into puzzles but we can still buy traditional puzzles in the shops or at car boot sales and charity shops.

The one thing that hasn't changed for dissectologists is the satisfaction of putting that final piece into place.

**Jim Scott**

# COCKPEN & CARRINGTON CHURCH - CHRISTMAS MUSIC 2021

Will it really happen this year? After all the uncertainties and last-minute disappointments of Christmas 2020 this is surely the question at the back of all our minds as we approach the festive season once again. We are hoping - and planning - for the best however, so let us look forward in a positive spirit to a full return to our Christmas celebrations of so many years past.

With fingers crossed therefore our Christmas dates for your diary this year are:

## **Monday 6 December**

The season will get off to an early start with our well-loved **Guild Carol Party**, which for me usually marks the beginning of the Christmas season (and certainly will this year!). As ever it will take place at 7.30 in the church hall. While this is principally an evening for all to enjoy joining in a mix of the familiar Christmas carols it will also be the first chance to hear the choir's own repertoire for this year. I have no doubt that the refreshments on offer – always a major attraction at this event! – will be up to the high standard of previous years.

## **Sunday 12 December**

This year we have an addition to our normal Christmas programme, in the form of a **Christmas Concert** by the Edinburgh-based **Chapterhouse Singers**, led by their conductor Leslie Shankland and with myself at the organ. The choir will be offering a mix of old and new Christmas music, interspersed with seasonal readings. I'm sure this will be a most enjoyable occasion and an excellent way of getting into the Christmas spirit. The concert will take place at 7 pm in the church and tickets cost £6 – these can be bought in advance from Liz Mills or myself.

## **Sunday 19 December**

After a year without any live Christmas services, I'm sure many will be looking forward especially to this year's **Service of 9 Lessons and Carols**, our always enjoyable candle-lit celebration of the season. The choir's contribution this year will have a particularly international flavour as the four items in our programme originate from Derbyshire, France, Italy and New Zealand. The last of these, 'O Little Star', is an arrangement

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of my own of a melody I came across by a local New Zealand composer, Colin Gibson. In addition to these I will be concluding the service with a recent 'Festive Toccata' by the French-Canadian organist and composer, Denis Bédard. I do hope as many as possible will come to share the music and fellowship at what is always a very special occasion. Please note that the service will start at **7 pm**.

### **Friday 24 December**

For many years past (but not of course last year) the choir has sung carols on Christmas Eve at Dalhousie Castle and other venues. At the time of writing, it remains to be seen whether any of these events will take place this time round. What we certainly hope and expect however is that our traditional **Watchnight Service** will take place, commencing as always at **11.20 pm**. As usual there will be a programme of favourite carols for all to sing and in addition the choir will be performing a recent and rather unusual setting of 'O little town of Bethlehem', before we hear the ringing of the church bell marking the arrival of Christmas Day. Let's hope the weather will not be too challenging and that many will be able to join us for this favourite celebration of Christmas.

If I may I will conclude with a reminder that the **Cockpen & Carrington Choir CD**, 'Sing, Church of God!', remains available and as it contains a large proportion of Christmas music it makes an excellent seasonal gift, not least at its modest price of £7! If you would like a copy, please just contact myself or any member of the choir.

GMB

## **Articles submitted for publication**

We are very grateful for all the articles submitted for publication in every edition of "*The Link*" Magazine.

If your article hasn't appeared in this edition, it is because we have a very full edition, and your contribution has been held over until the next issue. We try our best to get all 'time critical' articles included therefore, those articles not constrained thus, can be held over until another issue. They are no less important. Thank you. *Ed*.

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## Two Little Boys

Two little boys, Tom and Danny, are excessively mischievous.

They are always getting into trouble and their Mom knows if any mischief occurs in their town, the two boys are probably involved.

The boys' mother heard that a preacher in town had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak with her boys.

The preacher agreed, but he asked to see them individually.

The mother sent Danny in the morning, with the older boy sent to see the preacher in the afternoon.

The preacher, a huge man with a deep booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, "Do you know where God is, son?"

The boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response, sitting there wide-eyed with his mouth hanging open.

So the preacher repeated the question in an even sterner tone, "Where is God?!"

Again, the boy made no attempt to answer.

The preacher raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, "WHERE IS GOD?!"

The boy screamed and bolted from the room, ran directly home and dove into his closet, slamming the door behind him.

When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, "What happened?"

The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time!"

"GOD is missing, and they think WE did it!"



## Joy to the World

‘It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere you go’. So says the opening lines of that famous Michael Bublé song.

It usually began in our household with ‘can we get our Christmas tree up, the neighbours have got their Christmas tree up.’

So the onslaught begins. Tree out of the attic, check the fairy lights are all working and put up the decorations.

Then the ordeal of writing the Christmas cards, which seemed like to everyone in the world. I would say to my wife, you write the ones to your family, I will write the ones to mine. Merry Christmas Auntie, hope you are well and that Joey the budgie is still chirpy.

Now for all the Christmas presents. The kids must get what all the other kids are getting. What will we get your mother I say. She is very difficult to choose a present for.

Oh no, that’s a last minute Christmas Card from my cousin in Canada, have we got time to send her one back.

Remember to order the turkey for Christmas day and get extra bread and milk in because the shops will be closed over Christmas. Yes it’s true. Do you remember those days.

As the great day approaches it’s off with the neighbours to Cockpen Church for the Christmas Eve service. Lucky we got here early, there is hardly a seat left.

Then the Christmas Eve service begins. A moment of calm and peace with the world and that after all the turmoil leading up to this, the realisation that it is really here, Christmas has arrived. Our favourite Christmas Carols inspire us. The Minister is in the pulpit resplendent with Christmas hat with flashing lights giving the Christmas message. A few minutes later a pause, then the minister says, ‘Merry Christmas to you all’. Hugs all round and then off home for a well-earned sleep.

Now, after what seems only a few minutes, you are awakened by joyful children screaming, ‘He’s been. Santa has been here’. Toys are thrust into your sleepy face and you put on your biggest smile and say, ‘That’s lovely, Santa has been good to you, you must have been a very good boy’.

Joy to the world, the Saviour comes, The Saviour promised long.  
Merry Christmas to you all.

*Jim Young*

## LASSWADE AND ROSEWELL PARISH CHURCH NEWS ....

**Vision Statement: 'All journeying together in faith and trust to share God's love'**

Advent, the period leading up to Christmas, starts on the Sunday nearest to 30th November - this year 28th November - and ends on the fourth Sunday before 25th December - this year 19th December. Advent is a season in which the waiting and anticipation for Christmas and the birth of Jesus can be strangely satisfying in itself; it is a season which looks back through history at the people who waited in darkness for the light of Jesus to come, and which also looks forward to a time when there will be a far fuller light and our darkness will be illuminated.

### **The Story of Four Burning Candles**

In a room there were four candles burning. The ambiance was so soft you could hear them talking. The first one said, "I am **PEACE**, however, nobody can keep me lit. I believe I will go out." Its flame rapidly diminishes and goes out completely.

The second one says, "I am **FAITH**. Most of all I am no longer indispensable, so it does not make any sense that I stay lit any longer." When it finished talking a breeze softly blew on it putting it out.

Sadly, the third candle spoke in its turn. "I am **LOVE**. I have not gotten the strength to stay lit. People put me aside and don't understand my importance. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them." And waiting no longer it goes out.

Suddenly a child entered the room and saw three candles not burning. "Why are you not burning? You are supposed to stay lit till the end." Saying this, the child began to cry.

Then the fourth candle said, "Don't be afraid! While I am still burning, we can re-light the other candles. I am **HOPE**." With shining eyes, the child took the candle of Hope and lit the other candles.

The flame of Hope should never go out from our life and each of us can maintain that.

## **HOPE, FAITH, PEACE and LOVE**



## **CHURCH REGISTER**

### **Bereavements**

We would ask that you remember and pray for the families and friends of:

Mrs Myra McLean	-	7th October 2021
Mrs Joan Watson	-	11th October 2021
Mr William Clark	-	16th October 2021

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

### **Harvest Donations:**

Very grateful thanks to all who contributed so generously in making Harvest donations of food items, toiletries, cleaning materials and monetary donations which were handed into the Midlothian Food Bank and your generosity was much appreciated by the Manager and the team.

## Presentation

During morning worship at Lasswade Church on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October, the Minister presented Mr Herbert Dryden with a John Lewis Gift Voucher, two framed photographs of the interior of the Church showing the pulpit and stained-glass windows as well as the organ console, which was in recognition for thirty years loyal service as Church organist.



## Christmas Coffee Morning: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December:

Our Christmas Coffee Morning is planned for Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon in Rosewell Church Hall. We hope to have a number of stalls including Christmas plants, home baking, tombola and raffle as well as teas/coffees served with bacon rolls. 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 8.00 p.m.). Volunteers are also required on the Friday evening to set up. Many thanks and we hope to see you there.



Congratulations to:  
**Ian and May Murdoch**  
who celebrate their  
**Diamond Wedding Anniversary**  
on  
1st December 2021

## BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL 2021

A big thank you to everyone who donated to this year's appeal. We sent off 59 filled and decorated shoe boxes and bags.

Despite the difficulties that they face every day through poverty, illness, disability or other disadvantages, receiving a shoebox brings such joy to children and adults in Eastern Europe that their faces light up with huge smiles.



### Messy Church



Messy Church, held in Rosewell Church Hall, begins with a warm welcome so if you have not been to Messy Church for a while, or never been before – please check us out. Mums, dads, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends, carers accompanied by babies, toddlers, and primary school children – you are all most welcome. Children are NOT dropped off – come and join the fun with them. Messy Church creatively explores Christian and moral themes through getting messy; with crafts, games, a story, prayer and songs and then it finishes with a special Messy meal together without you having to clear up or cook!

Do come and join us on Saturday **4th December, 5th February, 5th March and 2nd April** from 4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. It is very informal, full of fun and very friendly. You can find us on Facebook at '**Rosewell Messy Church**'.

## Answers to Christmas Quiz

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Luke 2.  | 11. In a manger.   |
| 2. Mary.  | 12. A feeding trough.  |
| 3. Bethlehem.   | 13. It is not specified, but it is believed to be three, as three gifts were brought to Jesus. |
| 4. Bethlehem.   | 14. Gold, incense, and myrrh.  |
| 5. The angel Gabriel.   | 15. Bethlehem.   |
| 6. 80 miles.  | 16. King Herod.  |
| 7. The bible doesn't specify, but it's been depicted with Mary on a donkey and Joseph walking beside her. | 17. Prophet Isaiah.  |
| 8. One.   | 18. Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Mighty God, the Prince of Peace                               |
| 9. A baby lying in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes.   | 19. Westward.  |
| 10. The wise men.   | 20. Egypt.   |

## Eating in the 50s

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Pasta was not eaten .  | 13. Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi.   |
| 2. Curry was a surname.   | 14. None of us had ever heard of yoghurt.  |
| 3. A takeaway was a mathematical problem.   | 15. Healthy food consisted of anything edible.   |
| 4. A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.  | 16. People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy.   |
| 5. All potato chips were plain; the only choice we had was whether to put the salt on or not.                         | 17. Indian restaurants were only found in India.   |
| 6. Rice was only eaten as a milk pudding.   | 18. Cooking outside was called camping.  |
| 7. A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.  | 19. Seaweed was not a recognised food.   |
| 8. Brown bread was something only poor people ate.  | 20. "Kebab" was not even a word, never mind a food.  |
| 9. Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.  | 21. Prunes were medicinal.   |
| 10. Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.  | 22. Surprisingly, muesli was readily available, it was called cattle feed.   |
| 11. Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold. Cubed sugar was regarded as posh. | 23. Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock! |
| 12. Fish didn't have fingers in those days.   | 24. And the things that we never ever had on our table in the 50s and 60s: elbows or phones!   |

## Flower Rota Lasswade Church

Covid has long tentacles and seems to appear when we are least expecting it!

One young family member developed it and as a result the family became caught up in 'tests' and a period of waiting. We were so lucky to discover that only one family member was involved. All was resolved quickly, and life returned to a relative 'normal'.

I am so grateful to the flower folk who provide flowers for Lasswade Church. If there is anyone who would like to offer their services, I would be very grateful.

I think Covid has affected the congregation and I am aware of some folk not being able to provide flowers now. In some cases, it was a service given over many years. I am very much aware of the great service given. Thank you for all your help.

<b>January</b>	9th	Mary Sharpe
	23rd	Clair Cherry
	30th	Anne Weymss
<b>February</b>	13th	Moira Dryden
	27th	Sheena Blair
<b>March</b>	13th	Pat Lawrie
	27th	Margaret Gordon
<b>April</b>	10th	Norma Sangster
	27th	Moira Dryden

If anyone has a problem with their proposed date, please speak to me to resolve the problem.

*Moira Dryden*

(0131) 663 8895

# THE HOLY HIKERS

"My father considered a walk in the hills  
As the equivalent of churchgoing"

Aldous Huxley.



Twelve hikers, all happy to be back out with the group, turned up for our first outing in August. We walked from the park in Bonnyrigg down to Cockpen, round by Dalhousie Castle and through the woods to join the Carrington road, continuing through Upper Dalhousie Farm and into Burnbrae, walking through the estate and back to Bonnyrigg. We were accompanied by Fern and Lily our four- legged members who seemed to enjoy the walk as much as we did.

In September eleven of us did another circular ramble through Newbattle Woods and the Red Woods returning via Baird's Way and Gladstone's Gait. Lily was there of course and Maisie (Helen's collie) who did a wonderful job of rounding us all up and herding us on our way. She would have received full marks from "One Man and His Dog".

It was a very wet day in October when nine of us walked from the park, down to Lasswade, along to Polton and back up to Bonnyrigg. A visit to Mavisbank for our lunch stop had been in my mind but because it was so wet we decided just to continue home. I have still to decide on walks for November and December but they will be local. No walk in January and, all being well, we can begin car sharing again in February.

Happy Hiking,

*Jim Scott*

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## **The Church in Lasswade**

Earlier this year the minister received an email in the following terms:

In cleaning out our mother's house in Virginia, we came across something that might be of interest to you and would be pleased to pass it on to the church if your congregation would care to have it.

It is a large communion cup, dated 1830, and on it printed United Assote. Congn. Lasswade 1830. This cup was given to our great aunt, Evelyn Ray Sickels, by her dear friend Isabel Russell, whose family (Campbells) resided in Loanhead. It was passed to our mother Shirley Sickels Ryder and thence to us.

Elizabet Napier, Barbara Ryder and Mary Ryder.

Also attached to the email was a handwritten note explaining how the family had come to have the cup. In the note it says this pewter communion cup is one of several used in the church of the Covenanters at Lasswade. During the late 1800's and early 1900's the congregation was replacing the large communion cups with the conventional individual ones. Our grandparents and their children were members of the Lasswade church as early as the 1850's. At the time of the changeover to individual cups, these larger ones were presented to the descendants of earlier members.

In the church at Lasswade we have 4 of the same cups and 2 plates. The cup from America has now also been returned.

On reading this it made me curious to find out more about the church and congregation. Originally it was Lasswade Associate Secession Church and then Lasswade United Presbyterian.

A praying society in the parish acceded to the Associate Presbytery in 1739 and the members joined in forming the first Secession Congregation of Dalkeith. About 1825, Seceders resident in the villages of Lasswade, Bonnyrigg, Loanhead, and places adjoining made an attempt to form a congregation in their locality, but it failed due to lack of funds. The attempt was made again in 1829 and was successful with the help of 63 members of the Dalkeith congregation, residing in the Lasswade district, who wished to be disjoined from that church. The Lasswade congregation was formed in December and a church was built the next year.

One of the memorial windows in the church is to the Umpherston family, Old Pentland who had close covenanter links. This window was dedicated in 1898 by Lady Aitchison, widow of Sir Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab, and was positioned at her request nearest the pew in which the family worshipped. The Umpherstons and Aitchisons are all connected to the family of Charles Umpherston and Elizabeth Oliphant who connected themselves to Lasswade UP Church after its formation, having been previously connected to Loanhead RP church. The Umpherston family could trace their associations back to covenanting times when they endured hardships on account of them supporting Covenanting ministers such as James Renwick, Richard Cameron and Robert Hamilton.

The former Lasswade United Presbyterian Church of Scotland (later United Free Church of Scotland) building, which became known as Lasswade Strathesk Church in 1929, following the union of the Church of Scotland and the United Free Church is the same building being used now.

This church was not the first in Lasswade as a church had already existed there for 600 years. The old Parish Church of St Edwin was consecrated by David De Bernham, Bishop of St Andrews, in 1240 AD. Between the years 1240 and 1276 some seventy Scottish churches including St Giles, were consecrated by the Bishop, and Lasswade had the distinction of being among the earliest (Cockpen was consecrated in 1242); from Lasswade sprang the daughter churches of Rosewell, Roslin and Loanhead. The Bishop was of Norman extraction, a Bishop under the Roman Order, there being no other Christian organisation; we are indebted to Roman Catholic scholars for the precise date of dedication which comes from records held in Paris.

The first dedication was on the 5th of May 1240 in the reign of Alexander II, before the coming of Wallace and of Bruce; St Edwin's is now a ruin in Lasswade churchyard and in a small arched Aisle lies Drummond (1585 – 1649) poet and Laird of Hawthornden to whom the memorial was erected in 1893 with his own epitaph:

*Here Damon lies whose songs did sometimes grace...  
The murmuring Esk. May roses shade the place.*

Nicolas, vicar of Lasswade (1296) swore fealty to Edward I of England; Lasswade in these days had the second best giving in Midlothian, after

St Cuthberts, Edinburgh, which was the richest. So far as we know the last three Catholic incumbents of Lasswade Old Parish Church, before the reformation, were Walter Lindsay, vicar 1460, then John Crawford (1501) and William Niddrie vicar (1529). The most famous incumbent was Robert Blacader who in 1471 was James III's ambassador to the Pope with whom he was a great favourite; he was made Bishop of Aberdeen in 1481 and later Archbishop of Glasgow by a Papal Bull in 1491.

In 1565 James VI appointed William Barbour as Lasswade's first Protestant Minister; from then until 1793, a period of 228 years St Edwin's Catholic Church continued to be used as a Protestant place of worship; there were 18 ministers at Lasswade between 1565 and 1952, a period of 387 years. Lasswade Church was in early time a dependency of Bishopric of St Andrews and was transferred by Pope Innocent VIII in 1487 to the Collegiate Church of Restalrig.

Lasswade is one of the most ancient Parishes in Scotland; local burial grounds provide evidence that the church was active in Lasswade as early as the ninth century. Over the centuries the Parish has witnessed many changes – it has seen the valley a hive of industry, with paper mills and shops employing many people; seen many landowners, authors and poets, some held in high esteem throughout the world for contributions to art, literature and other achievements.

By 1793 the population of the parish had greatly increased and a new church to seat 1000 was built by the heritors from plans by John Clerk of Eldin. The Kirk Session records date from 1615. Following the discovery of a serious structural fault with the Old Parish Church building in the late 1940s the Old Parish Church (subsequently demolished) and Strathesk Church united to become Lasswade Parish Church in 1956.

*Andrew Renwick*

# Miss Eleanor Pairman

## **Born in Lasswade, a brilliant Mathematician who showed concern for the Blind**

The Baptismal Font in Lasswade Church was donated a number of years ago by Miss Adeline Pairman in memory of her parents, John and Helen Pairman. Miss Pairman lived at Roselea in Broomieknowe. Her father, John, was a solicitor at the Supreme Courts in Scotland and some years ago if Lasswade Church had reason to transact any legal business it was the firm of Pairman, Miller and Murray who acted for us. Miss Pairman had two older sisters, Maxwell (Maxie) and Margaret (Madge) and a younger sister, Eleanor, who was known as Nora.

Eleanor was born in Lasswade on 8th June 1896 but sadly her father died when she was five. Eleanor began her schooling at what was then called Lasswade Higher Grade School in 1903 before continuing her education at George Watson's Ladies College which she attended from 1908 - 1914. She was an outstanding student, excelling in mathematics, and won several prizes and bursaries before becoming Dux of the School in July 1914.

Miss Pairman continued her studies at Edinburgh University where mathematics was her main subject.

After her time in Edinburgh Eleanor went to University College, London, working as a computer – in the days when computers were people and not machines – before going to the USA in 1919 to undertake research at Radcliffe College, a ladies college associated with Harvard University where, after completing her thesis, she was awarded a Ph.D. in Mathematics in 1922.

While a graduate student Eleanor met a fellow graduate student, Bancroft Huntington Brown (who had also been awarded a Ph.D. in Mathematics in 1922). Eleanor and Bancroft were married at Roselea on 10th August 1922. After the wedding Bancroft and Eleanor, now Mrs. Eleanor Pairman Brown, returned to the United States where Bancroft took up a position at Dartmouth College, an institution founded in 1769 as a men's college and as this was still the case in 1922 Eleanor could not teach there. Mr. and Mrs. Brown had four children - John Pairman Brown, Barbara, Joanna who died as an infant, and Margaret.

Over the years Eleanor produced a number of mathematical papers but then she felt she wanted to help

students who were blind. She began to learn Braille around 1950. She made transcriptions for mathematical codes using household items such as pinking shears and pastry wheels and her sewing machine to create geometrical diagrams and mathematical symbols so that people who were blind could feel these diagrams with their fingers. No one had done this before. Eleanor eventually became a part time instructor in mathematics at

Dartmouth for four years from 1955. She died on 14th September 1973 at White River Junction, Vermont, after a long battle with breast cancer. Her husband died the following year. Although she was a brilliant Mathematician Eleanor was also a pioneer, sharing her enthusiasm for her subject with those who had sight problems and developing techniques to make it easier for them to study.

HLRD

## Thank You

On Sunday 10th October I was quite overcome when I was presented with photographs and a token plus a card in recognition of my period as organist. I would like to thank members of the congregation for their contributions to this and to say how much I have appreciated the support given to me over the years. Before I received this presentation the Choir gave me a gift and, once again, I would like to thank them for their kindness. In many ways I feel it should have been me giving the Choir a gift because, as I have said before, they have supported me in so many ways and without their support I could not have managed. So, thank you again to everyone and best wishes to you all for the future.

HLRD

## Christmas Crumble Recipe

### Ingredients:

2 large cooking apples  
175g mincemeat (approx)  
115g plain flour  
50g wholemeal flour  
80g butter  
81g caster sugar.

### Method:

Sift flours and rub in the butter, then add sugar. Peel core and slice apples and mix with the mincemeat, adding a little sugar if apples are very tart. Place apple mixture into an ovenproof dish and immediately cover with crumble mix, pressing down lightly. Cook at Gas Mark 5, Electric 190° C for approximately 45 minutes until lightly browned.



## Christingle Service at Rosewell Church



**On Christmas Eve at 5.30 p.m.  
A Christmas Service for all the Family  
Everyone Welcome**



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

**Share your news, views or ideas in the Easter Issue of “The Link” send them to [Magazine@church.cockpen.co.uk](mailto:Magazine@church.cockpen.co.uk) by Sunday, 6th March 2022.**