

Cockpen & Carrington

The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell
Parish Churches



Christmas 2025

The Church of Scotland

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SERVICES for DECEMBER 2025 to APRIL 2026

DATE	LASSWADE & ROSEWELL (10.00 am)	COCKPEN & CARRINGTON (11.30 am)
23 November Christ the King Sunday	The Minister – Lasswade	The Minister
30 November First in Advent	Three Churches Joint Service at 11.00 am at Bonnyrigg Parish Church	
7 December Second in Advent	The Minister – Rosewell Toy Gift Service	The Minister Toy Gift Service
14 December Third in Advent	The Minister – Lasswade	The Minister – 11:30am SERVICE OF REMEMBERING – 3.00 pm
21 December Fourth in Advent	The Minister – Rosewell All-age Service	The Minister – 11:30am NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS – 7.00 pm
28 December First after Christmas	The Minister – Lasswade	The Minister
4 January 2026 Second after Christmas	The Minister – Rosewell	The Minister
11 January First after Epiphany	The Minister – Lasswade Communion Service	Worship Team
18 January Second after Epiphany	The Minister – Rosewell All-age Service	The Minister All-age Service
25 January Third after Epiphany	Worship Team – Lasswade	The Minister
1 February Fourth after Epiphany	Worship Team – Rosewell	The Minister Communion Service
8 February Fifth after Epiphany	The Minister – Lasswade	The Minister
15 February Last after Epiphany	The Minister – Rosewell	The Minister All-age Service
22 February First in Lent	The Minister – Lasswade	The Minister Baptismal Service
1 March Second in Lent	The Minister – Rosewell	The Minister
Friday 6 March	World Day of Prayer 7.00 pm at Rosewell Church	
8 March Third in Lent	The Minister – Lasswade	The Minister
15 March Fourth in Lent	The Minister – Rosewell All-age Service	The Minister All-age Service
22 March Fifth in Lent	The Minister – Lasswade	The Minister
29 March Passion/ Palm Sunday	Three Churches Joint Service at 11.00 am at the Lasswade Leisure Centre	

5 April Easter Sunday	The Minister – Rosewell Communion Service	The Minister
12 April Easter 2	The Minister – Lasswade	The Minister
19 April Easter 3	Worship Team – Rosewell All-age Service	Worship Team All-age Service
26 April Easter 4	The Minister – Lasswade	The Minister

Additional Christmas Services

Wed 24 December Christmas Eve	CHRISTINGLE SERVICE – Rosewell – 6.00 pm	WATCHNIGHT SERVICE – Cockpen – 11.20 pm
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Holy Week Services: Monday 30 March to Friday 3 April 2026 - tbc

You might like to fill in the information when the services have been confirmed.

DAY	CHURCH	TIME
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		

From the Minister ...

As I write we are approaching Remembrance Sunday and an awareness once again of taking time to give grateful thanks for all those who gave their lives in the two World Wars and conflicts since, in order to secure peace.

It is a tragedy that humanity has been so beset by conflicts across the years and cannot seem to bring war to an end. One of the Bible passages we will be reflecting on this year in this Remembrance season is Micah 4:1-5 and there we read these verses:

*“Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more;
but they shall all sit under their own vines
and under their own fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid;
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.*

Micah 4:3-4

It was sometime between 750 and 686 BC, around 2,750 years ago, that Micah prophesied and described this beautiful picture for a future time when all nations of the world would turn back to God and share together peaceful harmony and security. If only his vision could have been lastingly realised, and so much loss and devastation through war would have been avoided. If only it was possible even now for so many people and families in so many different countries to be able to dwell safely in their own homes, in their own communities, ‘and no one shall make them afraid.’ And yet for so many thousands of people today, their homes are piles of rubble or, in the face of menacing aggression, they have had to abandon their homes and become wandering refugees.

Do we have a glimmer of hope? Well, yes. As we approach Christmas and think about Jesus’ birth once again, another Bible passage that will be read a few times at different services will be Isaiah 9:6:

*“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
... and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

Jesus came to be ‘God with us’, ‘Prince of Peace’, in order to secure the way for us to be restored to oneness with God through his death and resurrection. God’s heart is for reconciliation and peace, so that we may be one with him, and one with each other. As we know and treasure God’s love in our lives, so we are minded to love and respect one another, to seek each other’s good and be prayerful that all may dwell in safety and wellbeing.

Jesus came to show us the way of peace and to bring us the gift of peace. Through him, God’s kingdom of love and peace are begun; begun and spreading in every heart around the world that believes and trusts in him. We are a long way off as yet from experiencing the all-embracing peace God has intended, yet this one thing is sure: God’s purpose for peace and unity has begun with Jesus’ coming and it will continue to unfold bit by bit in all God’s sovereign timing and purpose. The Lord has spoken and it shall come to pass.

With every blessing for a peace-filled Christmas
and hopeful journey into 2026 when it comes,

Your minister, *Lorna*



The Sacrament of Baptism

Theo Liddle

Service of Blessing

Tia Dallas

Weddings

Deaths

Mrs Helen (Elinor) KING

Mrs Patricia Margaret MITCHELL

Mr James Newlands SCOTT

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



Sunday Tea Rota Cockpen & Carrington



11th January	Liz MacD and John
15th February	Vi and Andrew
15th March	Dot and Moira
12th April	Helen and Wilma

If you would be willing to join the tea rota, please speak to Liz Mills.

Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota 2025

December 7 14 21 28	Betty Finlay Ian Richardson Christmas Flowers Christmas Flowers	March 1 8 15 22 29	Free John Adamson Free (Mothering Sunday) Sandra Crawford Joint Service (Palm Sunday)
2026 January 4 11 18 25	Mary Logan Free Ian Fowler John Adamson	April 5 12 19 26	Liz Mills Ian Bee Liz MacDonald Mary Logan Ian Fowler
February 1 8 15 22	Lynn Hanson Free Joyce Black Helen and Catherine		



From the Flower Convenor

Hello once again to all the Church Family and Friends.

Christmas will soon be here again so that means the end of the year once more. I've enjoyed doing the Church Flowers each Sunday. I get a lot of pleasure arranging them on your behalf. Sadly to say we have lost some of the people who have been loyal supporters of the flower fund so that means we have quite a few spaces available on the rota. So, I thought it would be a good time to appeal for some new people to give to the flower fund. It was decided along with Liz Mills to start a completely new rota.

Please let me know as soon as possible which date/ dates you would prefer. I shall try my best to accommodate your request, either on the nearest Sunday or as near as possible. Can I ask if anybody has someone who is ill or has had a bereavement to please let me or Liz Mills (Session Clerk) or Lorna, the Minister know as soon as possible so we can send them the 'Church Flowers' after the Sunday morning service, as that's what they are for.

I would like to say at this point if anyone would like me to arrange flowers for you for any occasion (all occasions covered) please get in touch with me to arrange this separately as this has nothing to do with the money given for the Flower Rota. My phone number is at the bottom of the letter, and I shall be delighted to discuss your enquiry.

May I thank everyone who has already given to the flower fund for your generosity as without this we could not provide the flowers, week by week.

In closing may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas Season.

I send you all my love, and may God bless you and your family and friends.

Anne Clark
Flower Convenor Cockpen and Carrington Church
Tel: 01875 821717
or Mob. 07929 446 662

Bereavement Service
Sunday 14th December at 3.00 pm
Cockpen & Carrington Church

Many have experienced bereavement through this year or continue to miss loved ones no longer with us.

This service will offer space amidst the Christmas rush and bustle for remembering and giving thanks for those we have lost, with stillness and music and reflective words.

All who would find this service helpful are most welcome.

Lorna, the Minister



Walking in the Footsteps of my Great Great Grandfather

I've been wanting to visit Dalhousie Castle and the church at Cockpen and Carrington for over 20 years, ever since I discovered that my 2x Great Grandfather had arrived here in 1853. And so it was that on the 30 August 2025 that I too walked in his footsteps.

So who was my 2x Great Grandfather, when had he arrived here and why? His name was John Groser. He was born in Paris in 1795 and became a steward on the sailing ships between London and Calcutta in the 1830s. Each one-way voyage would take approximately five months, and he would spend another month, either in London or Calcutta, before undertaking the return voyage. By 1840 he'd had enough of sailing and had set himself up as a hairdresser and perfumier at 12 Government Place, Calcutta, right opposite Government House, Calcutta.

In 1848 the occupants of Government House were the 9th Earl of Dalhousie, James Andrew Broun-Ramsay and his wife Lady Susan; the Governor-General and 'first lady' of India. Somehow John Groser became known to Lord and Lady Dalhousie, perhaps as his customers or as a result of being invited to the many dinners, durbars and dances held at Government House.

Lady Dalhousie struggled with the extreme heat in India and in 1853 it was decided that she should return home to Dalhousie Castle. John Groser accompanied her back to Britain as her personal steward on the five-month sailing aboard the *Monarch*. On Sunday 1st May 1853 the ship encountered a very strong southerly gale. Two days later, on the 3rd May, Lady Dalhousie died from exhaustion, brought on from debilitating sea sickness, on board ship just off Land's End. Lady Dalhousie's body, staff and possessions were off-loaded at Falmouth. They made their way by stagecoach to Plymouth and thence to London by train, where they obtained a state coffin from Messrs Dowbiggin and Holland, cabinet makers, upholsterers and undertakers of 23 Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London.

The coffin was taken to Kings Cross Station and loaded on to the Great Northern Railway train to Edinburgh. After a train journey of about 12 hours the coffin was conveyed to Dalhousie Castle on Monday night, 9 May 1853.

At 12.30pm on the following Friday, 13 May 1853, members of the Dalhousie family attended the Church of England burial service, conducted by the Very Reverend Dean Ramsay, which took place in the apartment at Dalhousie Castle where the coffin lay. Afterwards the family were joined by a large number of invited guests and other relatives, including Capt. Bowie, Dr Howard and no doubt, John Groser. Prayers were read by the Rev. John S. Muir, minister of the new Cockpen Church, after which refreshments were served. Prayers were again read before the mourners processed to the old church yard of nearby Cockpen. In front of the cortege were drawn up a number of the Dalhousie tenants; the hearse was drawn by six white horses and there were eight mourning coaches, each having four horses, and four private carriages. The procession took half an hour to reach the old churchyard.

The funeral arrangements made and conducted by Messrs Potts, Cairnie and Ray, cabinet makers, upholsterers and undertakers of 9 Princes Street, Edinburgh.

The church itself was then a ruin, except for the Dalhousie Aisle (family vault) which remained intact and continued to be used by the Dalhousie family. The sides of the old church yard were lined with villagers. The coffin – made of lead and finest mahogany, covered with rich crimson velvet, studded with silver-gilt nails, ornaments and a plate inscribed with the Marchioness' titles, surmounted by a coronet – was interned in the family vault. The whole proceedings were over in about an hour and a half. Reports of the funeral appeared in The Scotsman and the Edinburgh Courant the next day and in other newspapers the following week.

And so it was this story that eventually brought me to Dalhousie Castle and the church at Cockpen and Carrington. A quick email to Lorna Souter, Minister of the church, put me in touch with Helen Renton, Church member and a keen historian. Helen provided me

with a vast amount of information, at which point I discovered there were two churches, the old church (built in the 13th Century) and the new church (built 1820)! The situation was further complicated by the fact that the Dalhousie Aisle (family vault) at the Old Church was still in use in the 1850s and it was here that Lady Dalhousie was buried in 1853.

John Groser had returned to Calcutta by March 1854, so perhaps he stayed on, after the funeral, at Dalhousie Castle working as a steward. He may have even worshipped at the New Church as one of the Dalhousie estate staff.

Seeing the ruins of the old church and the Dalhousie Aisle, along with the monuments erected by their daughter, Lady Susan Georgiana Ramsay, has brought the research I had undertaken to life. And thanks to Helen, my forthcoming book on the life of John Groser, has now got the right people in the right church at the right time. Some months after his return to Calcutta, John Groser was appointed by Lord Dalhousie to “look after the furniture” at Government House and later became Chief Steward to Dalhousie and his successor, Lord Canning, Governor-General and later the first Viceroy of India.

John Gelder
Dalhousie Castle guest
30 August 2025.

Introducing Jenny Fepuleai – Children & Family Worker



Hi! My name is Jenny Fepuleai and I am delighted to be the new Children & Family Worker for the Harbour Project. I will be working seven hours each week serving the Bonnyrigg church community incorporating the three parishes of: Bonnyrigg; Cockpen & Carrington I/w Lasswade & Rosewell.

Since the age of 14 I've helped with Sunday school and have had a passion to work with children. This has taken me from Edinburgh, all

around the world and back to Midlothian! I have been attending Bonnyrigg Parish church since 2020 and lead the DJ Club as well as helping at Bonnie Buds baby and toddler group and the annual Bonnyrigg holiday clubs every February.

I am married to Aiesi who is from Samoa and a regular helper at Toastie Tuesday. We have four boys and in June this year I became a Nanna!

My role as Children & Family Worker will help develop our children and families work across the three parishes, building on existing relationships in the community as well as enabling families and children within the community who may have no current church connection to engage with the church and encounter God through groups such as Bonnie Buds and Messy Church which is easier for them to access.

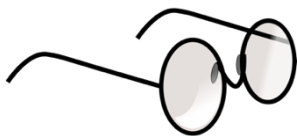
I will also be sharing with the congregation ways to get involved with volunteering and supporting children and families in Bonnyrigg.

BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL

Sincere thanks to everyone who again took time to prepare and fill a shoebox for the Blythswood Christmas Appeal. It is a delight to see the continuing support for this special appeal which remembers those, year after year, who are disadvantaged.



Old Spectacles



If you have any old spectacles you want to dispose of, we have a box at the Church where you can deposit them.

They are taken to the Opticians who in turn will get them sent abroad to be used to make glasses for people less fortunate than us.

We've been handing them in to Specsavers over many years and they are always delighted to receive the glasses and so grateful to our Church for the regular contributions.

Many thanks.

Wilma

Used Stamps

Thank you to everyone for their donations of used stamps. They have been prepared and sent to the Church of Scotland to support the Al Ahli Arab Hospital Northern Gaza appeal.

Please ensure you save your Christmas stamps which can be deposited in the boxes situated in the church vestibule or the Church Hall.

Dorothy Bennett

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER



On Sunday 7th December we will once again support the Salvation Army Toy Appeal when children's toys, books, games and sweets are collected from members of our Church Family. Also required are toiletries or gifts suitable for teenagers.

The gifts should be brought along **unwrapped** and will be delivered to the Salvation Army in Edinburgh.

HARVEST DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously at our Harvest Thanksgiving Service in church on Sunday 14th September. The many donations were gathered and delivered to the Midlothian Food Bank

A letter of thanks was received from the Food Bank in appreciation of the generosity shown by so many people.

CONCERT BY THE EDINBURGH POLICE CHOIR



EDINBURGH POLICE CHOIR

A wonderful afternoon was spent in the church on the afternoon of Saturday 27th September, when over a hundred people gathered together to enjoy a wonderful afternoon of music and song.

The choir sang a wonderful selection of songs, and we were also treated to an organ recital given by our very own organist Graham Burnside.

Valerie and Sheilagh Fuller played a couple of pieces on the cello and Pamela Renton gave a beautiful solo of *Panis Angelicus* accompanied on piano and 'cello.

The sum of one thousand pounds was raised from the event, and this was divided between the church and the Alzheimer's Society

Sweet tubs

Greene King's 'Tub2Pub', a recycling campaign to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and recycle plastics, will be back in 2026. Many of us indulge in chocolates, sweets and crackers over the festive period, and across the UK we buy tens of millions of these plastic tubs. Confectionery, biscuit and cracker tubs can all be collected.

Please deliver to Cockpen Church or hall, by 10 February 2026, or contact Liz MacDonald on 07950 016071, who will be happy to collect. No questions will be asked about your consumption!

GUILD NEWS

The Guild has had a good start to the 2025-26 session with interesting speakers and is looking forward to another Christmas season with Graham Burnside and the choir leading us at our annual Carol Party to which everyone is most welcome on Monday 15th December at 7pm. There will be no meetings in January so our first afternoon Meeting is February 9th when we hear about Agnes Renton and Rhona Maclaren's experience as foster parents over the past 20 years.



Our theme this year asks us to explore the challenge of being the 'Living Stones' for God's House and when I read a poem recently, I felt it fitted perfectly into our theme.

The poem, on the following page, was written by Mrs Elizabeth Blaikie many years ago for Currie Kirk, of which she was a member, and her family have kindly given us permission to use it.

Kalpana



I buy my tea direct from an estate in India. It does not follow the same route as tea you buy from supermarkets.

When the most recent order arrived, this doll was included together with an article explaining the significance of Kalpana (the doll).

You may have seen programmes about tea production, with lots of pickers plucking the very top leaves and putting them into baskets on their backs, ready to be taken for weighing.

The Indian tea industry is the second largest employer with more than three and a half million people working in over fifteen hundred estates. Of these employees, two thirds are women. The idea of the doll is to keep us aware of the people who are often overshadowed given the size of the companies who buy the tea, in a massively over-convoluted and old industry. The doll represents all the women who work tirelessly so we can enjoy our “cuppa”.

The dolls were made in collaboration with an NGO in Darjeeling which dedicates its efforts in helping women become self-reliant. Dolls have always been part of the story-telling tradition since time immemorial: a perfect symbol!

I AM

I am the fresh morning dew

I am the morning cuckoo's koo-coo

I am the flowing mountain stream

I am the lake

I am the sprouting bud

I am the giggles

I am the whistling toy train

I am the Toda

I am the Jhapi

I am the voice of three and a half million Indian tea pluckers

I am Kalpana the essence of all Indian Teas.

[Toda - people from a rural community in southern India

Jhapi - a bundle of tokou leaves from the Assam Fan tree]

IB



KIRK

Nestled in the valley, sheltered from all harm,
Step within my portals, feel the peace and calm.
Listen to the "Quiet" here within my walls,
Everyone who listens, hears the Saviour's calls.
Out there in the wide world, all is gloom and strife,
If you listen to Him, He will change your life.
Jesus bids you listen, harken to His voice,
He will soothe your sorrow and help you to rejoice.
Maybe you feel lonely, burdened down with care,
He will keep you company and your trouble share.
If you ever need Him- He will be your friend
And His love is with you to the very end.
I am just a building, but my door does open wide.
If you turn the handle, you can step inside.
You must make the effort, stop a while and pray.
It can help you face up to the pressures of the today.
Life is full of worry — life is full of care,
We're always in a hurry, with little time to share
So if today you're happy, show the world you're glad,
Share your smile with someone who maybe still is sad.
Sometimes it costs a lot to smile and yet it does you good,
And if you share your smile around, another person could
Be glad today they met you and smile right back at you.
Because you are so happy – you made them happy too.

E Bláikie

KNIT AND NATTER



Our Knit and Natter group continues to flourish with a further two ladies coming along to join us. These two hours on a Thursday afternoon is so much looked forward to and appreciated by many of the ladies who cherish the opportunity to join in the company and catch up with all the news of what's going on.

Since returning from the summer recess we have not yet started on a new project, but we continue knitting squares, hats and scarves for those in need and hats and cardigans for premature babies in the Neonatal Unit at the Simpsons and these are very much appreciated.

If you feel you would like to spend an afternoon in company but don't knit, don't worry, just come along for a cuppa and a chat. I can assure you that plenty chatting goes on.

REMEMBRANCE CROSSES



Once again we are grateful to the Brownies for supporting us with crosses to be laid at Remembrance on the War Graves in Cockpen cemetery.

Lighting the church red for Armistice Day

Once again Cockpen and Carrington Church was lit up in red to commemorate Armistice Day on Tuesday 11th November 2025.

Although the weather was pretty dreich the usual team of helpers were there to assist. I think you'll agree that the building is still looking good after 205 years.



COCKPEN & CARRINGTON CHURCH

CHRISTMAS MUSIC 2025

It is doubtless a sign of my age, but every time it comes round the last part of the year seems to run away just that bit faster. So, now that the clocks have changed and the dark nights are upon us once again, it's time for the choir and me to get fully up to speed with preparations for the Christmas season and rehearsals are already under way. We look forward to welcoming you once again to the various events and services and here are this year's dates for your diary:

Monday 15 December

In time-honoured fashion, the opening event of our season will be the ever-popular **Guild Carol Party** which will as always be held at 7.30 in the church hall. The main purpose of the evening is to give everyone their first chance to enjoy singing many of the favourite Christmas hymns and carols, but it is also the choir's opportunity to let you hear their repertoire for this year. Needless to say the refreshments on offer will be another main attraction of the evening! The event is of course open to everyone and all will be made very welcome.

Sunday 21 December

What is in many ways the centrepiece of our music celebrations, our annual candle-lit **Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**, this year falls just a few days before Christmas and will start at **7 pm**. The pieces the choir will be performing this year include two traditional carols from Spain, one from the Basque Country in the northwest and one (in an arrangement of my own) from the Catalan region around Barcelona. The remaining two choir items both come from Germany, one a traditional carol and the other a celebrated Christmas composition, 'Three Kings from Persian lands afar' by Peter Cornelius, in which he cleverly accompanies the soloist's vocal line with the choir singing an old German Christmas hymn on the coming of the Wise Men, 'How brightly shines the morning star'. I will be concluding the service with the Finale from the Second Organ Symphony by the famous French organist and composer Widor.

For many this special time in the year really embodies the spirit of Christmas and we do hope as many as possible will come to share in the singing and the fellowship.

Wednesday 24 December

Our traditional **Watchnight Service** will take place as always at **11.20 pm**. The choir should be well warmed up, as we are singing carols beforehand at Dalhousie Castle - we sung there last Christmas Eve for the first time in a number of years and it must have been well received as they have asked us back! The service will conclude with the first airing at Cockpen of a lively and joyful piece by the contemporary French-Canadian composer Denis Bédard, *Postlude sur un Noël*, based on an old French carol. All will be welcome at this celebratory occasion, taking us up to the ringing of the church bell and the coming of Christmas Day.

Finally, as many of you will know, we have for some time now made our archive of hymn recordings from our weekly services available to other churches who may be struggling to find an organist. We've been quite surprised at the level of uptake and the geographical spread, which has extended to various churches in England and Wales as well as Scotland. We recently received a thank you note from the Guild of the Auld Kirk of Ayr, which I thought I'd share with you:

'I would like to thank you most sincerely for allowing us access to your list of hymns and accompanying music. We held the inaugural meeting of our Guild yesterday afternoon and it all worked great... It was the first time we had been able to sing since our pianist passed away a few years ago and sadly no-one else could play. We are a relatively small group and the backing of your congregation really helped us. We look forward to singing with you at future meetings.'

It's good to know our outreach efforts are helping others, as well as ourselves when I'm on holiday!

GMB

LASSWADE AND ROSEWELL PARISH CHURCH NEWS

www.lasswadechurch.co.uk

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

Waiting is hard, but Christmas is worth waiting for – it's a special time and at its heart is a gift of love from God to the World.



The Snowdrop



The snowdrop silently announces that Spring is on its way. No bright colour like the daffodil. It has pushed its way through the soil and withstood the cold winter. There is hope and joy in the air. The wind blows but it stands erect, confident in itself, unlike the daffodil which is knocked around by the wind.

The snowdrop hangs its head down in humility. It appears fragile and vulnerable. It is small. The beautiful white flowers remind us of God's purity.

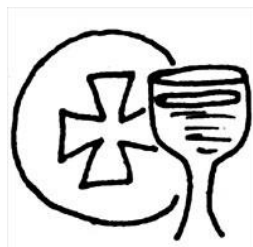
INVITATION

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated

in Lasswade Parish Church

on Sunday 11th January 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

You are warmly invited to share in this important part of the life of the Church.



Harvest Donations:



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

Manager and the Team. The Food Bank provides three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to them at a time of crisis.

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. Everyone is most welcome for a chance to meet new people, catch up with friends and enjoy some delicious home baking. Please note that there is not a Coffee Morning in January but will start again in February.



BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL 2025

A big thank you to everyone who donated to this year's appeal. We sent off 40 filled and decorated shoe boxes.

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, 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!

Please do consider joining us on Saturday **6th December, 7th February, 7th March and 4th 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**'.

Christingle Service at Rosewell Parish Church

On Christmas Eve at 6.00 p.m.

A Christmas Service for all the Family

Everyone Welcome

**There will be a Retiring Offering in aid of
Kinship Care (Midlothian)**



World Day of Prayer

Rosewell Church is hosting this year's World Day of Prayer Service.

This will take place on:

Friday, 6th March (2026) at 7 p.m. in the Church

The Service this year has been written by the Christian Women of Nigeria and is entitled "I will give you rest; - Come" and based on Matthew 11:28.

Everyone is welcome to the service which will be followed by refreshments.

Chocolate Orange Trifle

Ingredients:

1 Terry's Dark Chocolate Orange
400g tin custard
1 chocolate sponge roll (350g) cut into slices
3 oranges segmented for use or tinned fruit
200ml double cream
1 tablespoon icing sugar
Medium trifle dish



Method:

Reserve 6 segments of the chocolate orange, break the remainder into a saucepan and add the custard. Warm over a low heat, stirring until the chocolate has melted.

Halve the chocolate cake slices and arrange some around the edge of the trifle dish. Put the rest of the cake slices in the middle of the dish.

Layer in half the custard followed by the orange segments or tinned fruit, then the remaining custard. Chill for 2-3 hours or overnight.

To serve, whip the cream and icing sugar to soft peaks. Dollop the mixture on top of the chilled custard, then top the trifle with the remaining pieces of chocolate orange.

Lasswade & Rosewell Parish Church

Christmas Coffee Morning

In:

ROSEWELL PARISH CHURCH HALL

On: Saturday 13th December

From 10:00am to 12 noon

Home Baking, Tombola, Raffle,
Guess the Weight of the Cake,
Gifts, Christmas Music and Plants.
Tea/Coffee served with Bacon Rolls



In aid of Church Funds

Everyone Welcome



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

Lasswade Church Flower Rota

January 11th	Andrew Renwick
January 25th	Shona Howden
February 8th	Gordon Wemyss
February 22nd	Sheena Blair
March 8th	Moira Dryden
March 22nd	Nita Adams
April 12th	Eleanor Marshall
April 26th	Anne Pryde

Thank you to all the kind “flower folk” who have provided flowers for Lasswade Church over the years.

Moira Dryden

Rosewell Church Flower Rota

December 7th	Morag Rennie
December 21st	Sandra Ross

There are still some vacant dates if anyone would like to put their name on the rota.

Thank you,

Sandra Ross

No dates were submitted for 2026. Please see Sandra Ross. (*Ed.*)

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

Musical Instruments in the Bible

Words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal, forwards or backwards, and may overlap.

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BAGPIPE
CASTANETS
CHOIRS
CYMBALS
FLUTE
GONG

HARP
HORN
LYRE
PSALTERY
STRINGS
TAMBOURINE

TIMBREL
TRIGON
TRUMPET
VOICES

Share your news, views, or ideas in the Easter Issue of “*The Link*”. Send them to Magazine@church.cockpen.co.uk by Sunday, 8th March 2026.



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