

Cockpen & Carrington

The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Easter 2009



JESUS IS ALIVE!

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WHO'S WHO

INTERIM MODERATOR Rev. Sandy Horsburgh 663 3036

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HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

MONDAY	: Our Lady	ALL SERVICES COMMENCE AT
*TUESDAY	: Rosewell	7.30 PM
*WEDNESDAY	: Lasswade	
THURSDAY	: St Leonards	*SERVICES CONDUCTED
*FRIDAY	: Cockpen	BY REV J W COOK

PULPIT SUPPLY ROTA - APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2009

DATE	LASSWADE 10 AM	COCKPEN & CARRINGTON 11.30 AM	ROSEWELL
05.04.09	Service at ROSEWELL (HC)	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook (10 AM) (HC)
12.04.09	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook	Rev W Armitage (11.30 AM)
19.04.09	Rev T Gordon	Rev T Gordon	Rev C Macpherson (11.30 AM)
26.04.09	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook	Service at LASSWADE (10 AM)
03.05.09	Service at ROSEWELL	Rev J W Cook (HC)	Rev J W Cook (10 AM)
10.05.09	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook	Rev C Macpherson (11.30 AM)
17.05.09	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook	Martin McKean (11.30 AM)
24.05.09	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	Service at LASSWADE (10 AM)
31.05.09	Office Bearers	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook (10 AM)
07.06.09	Service at ROSEWELL	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield (10 AM)
14.06.09	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook	Rev W Armitage (11.30 AM)
21.06.09	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook	Rev T Gordon (11.30 AM)
28.06.09	Rev J W Cook (HC)	Rev J W Cook	Service at (10 AM) LASSWADE (HC)
05.07.09	Service at ROSEWELL	Rev T Gordon	Rev T Gordon (10 AM)
12.07.09	John Beaumont	John Beaumont	Eddy Yeoman (11.30 AM)
19.07.09	Eddy Yeoman	Eddy Yeoman	Rev C Macpherson (11.30 AM)
26.07.09	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	Service at LASSWADE (10 AM)
02.08.09	Service at ROSEWELL	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield (10 AM)
09.08.09	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	Rev T Gordon (11.30 AM)
16.08.09	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook	Martin McKean (11.30 AM)
23.08.09	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook	Service at LASSWADE (10 AM)
30.08.09	Office Bearers	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook (10 AM)
06.09.09	Service at ROSEWELL	Rev J W Cook	Rev J W Cook (10 AM)

From the Interim Moderator

It is easy to forget, at this distance, and with all the thinking that has taken place since, that the first Easter was a time of great confusion. The disciples didn't have a clue what was happening. Their world was torn apart by the execution of their friend and leader, Jesus. They had heard him talk about resurrection, but they had no previous experience so when it happened it was a complete shock. Even then they didn't know what to do. Forty days of occasional meetings with Jesus followed, as they began to come to terms with the new reality. Then Pentecost, the mighty rushing wind and Peter finally finding his tongue and beginning to preach fearlessly. But even then, things were not as they expected, for they thought Jesus would be back before any of them had died. So the successors of the first disciples had to struggle to reinterpret and to understand, had to learn to wait.

In some ways, the story of the church ever since has been one of confusion and waiting. Often we don't know why certain things happen or don't happen. The mind of God is awfully hard to get into sometimes. But in time, things do become clear. Only it can sometimes take a long time.

Naturally, we are impatient to begin a new chapter in our congregations' lives with a new minister. As you will read elsewhere in this issue, the work of the Nominating Committee continues, somewhat haltingly but, none-the-less, with determination. It is hard to explain why things are moving so slowly. It is certainly not a sign of neglect of duty by the committee. In the meantime, we are blessed by the ministry of John Cook and I have also been very grateful for and encouraged by the good humour, determination and positive outlook of the Nominating Committee and the elders of the congregations. I am sure that, just as everything eventually became clear for the disciples after the resurrection, everything will work out for our congregations and that God will lead a minister to us.

Sandy Horsburgh

A Day in the life of a Locum

The alarm clock radio starts with the 7am news and somewhere shortly after 8, I become aware of it. I hold a long chat with myself about the advisability of getting up., and is this a shave and/or shower day. I then take a brisk walk to the farm shop across the road and acquire the Times and any other necessities. Over a modest breakfast 2 corn flakes with milk but no sugar I settle to the news paper. First the Su Doku, then the cross word and the anagram of the letters in the wheel. Then the sports pages and avoiding the financial pages a glance at some of the more lurid pictures and eye popping headlines.

Then it is either lunch time or elevenses depending whether the su doku is mild or super fiendish.

I enjoy being retired but still being a minister and I am very happy to be sharing worship with you. I am particularly grateful for your generosity in putting up with my modern teaching and adult approach to sacred scriptures and their meaning for the 21st century. It is well within the bounds of credibility that not everyone agrees but the message is: most are listening. What more can a preacher want and some even admit we are learning. Joy to my heart.!

There is a strange bond between pastor and people and I experienced it in my previous three congregations: in Calutt sorry Kolkata, Kilmarnock and Joppa but surprising I also encountered it in the various locum jobs I undertook: St Anne's Corstorphine, St Martins, St Ninians and St Clements to say nothing of two stints in Lisbon and one in Trinidad. This bond is better when it is of equals sharing a faith and doing different things: carrying a gospel but each according to our own, its sharing a vision but each through our own eyes. I perceive my task be to keep you focused on being the body of Christ the family of God the congregation of the faithful. These are trying times. I recently preached referring to the things we do not speak of: the c word meaning of course cancer. My friend in the back pew said John the new c word is Christian: that's the one folks are scared to mention. Wow we have a task and a mission. I rejoice to be sharing it with you for with or without a minister we are the people of God bearing the good news and caring for the folks Jesus died to save.

See you next Sunday I hope. Anyone with any issues please take the trouble to speak with me and share. We both might grow in the process.

John Weir Cook

Nominating Committee.

The search goes on.....

Just before he departed for a well earned break in Paris, the Rev. John W Cook included in his sermon some excellent examples of the many different forms of 'waiting'. During the past year, fellow members of our congregation have experienced their own form of 'waiting', as they eagerly awaited the outcome of the Nominating Committee's search for a new Minister. The purpose of this article is to provide everyone with an update on progress to date and our next steps.

It is now almost a year since members of the Nominating Committee first met to take forward the appointment of a new Minister. Sandy Horsburgh, Interim Moderator was appointed as advisor to the Committee and throughout our discussions has been a valuable source of guidance and assistance.

One of the first important steps before we could start the process of filling our vacancy was an early meeting with the Presbytery Advisory Committee. At that meeting we explained in detail our ideas on the type of ministry that we thought would best meet the needs of our recently united and linked congregation. This meeting was quickly followed by the development of a Parish Profile, to be made available to those interested in the vacancy, a person specification and job advert.

The preparation of this supporting documentation sparked considerable discussion and debate among members of the Committee. For example, what previous experience, if any, would it be reasonable to expect of candidates? Would we wish to appoint a person-centred individual possessing the ability to boost the size of existing congregations through the development of the Sunday School and regular contacts with local primary schools and Lasswade High School? How important was high visibility in the local community? The Committee's views on these questions, and many others, demonstrated a remarkable degree of unanimity on the type of minister we all wanted to attract to our parish.

Every vacancy is advertised as a matter of routine on the Church of Scotland list and website. But members of the Nominating Committee decided to go a stage further and placed the advert in *Life and Work*, *Ministers' Forum*, an in-house publication which goes to all Church of Scotland ministers, and *Reform*, the United Reformed Church equivalent of *Life and Work*.

The response to our adverts in June and July 2008 was initially promising. We received five requests for copies of the Parish Profile, and followed up on these by asking respondents whether they intended to take their interest further and submit an application. Alas, they decided against pursuing their interest in us, though, unflinchingly, wished us well with our continuing search.

A second round of advertising in the autumn resulted in another two expressions of interest. One prospective candidate visited our churches while a second submitted a formal application. This was considered and agreed by the Nominating Committee. Arrangements were quickly put in place to hear and meet the candidate, and this was followed by an invitation to visit our parish and each of the churches. Sadly for us, the candidate decided not to accept our offer of sole nominee.

What's the next step? Our inability to identify a candidate within twelve months means we have to apply to Presbytery for a three month extension. If we are successful with our application, you will be pleased to know that we intend to keep on searching until we find the person that is right for us.

Jim Donaldson
Clerk to the Nominating Committee

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH.

Baptism

We were so happy to welcome the following babies, along with parents, families and supporters at recent Baptismal Services. We hope that all felt happy being amongst us at such a special time.

Neo James MacPherson, son of Ian and Sarah (and little brother to the family).

Finn Andrew Couillart, son of Andrew and Maria.

Matthew Thomas Grabham, son of Michael and Rosa.

Erin Allison Lovatt, son of Ross and Kerry.

Ryan James Scott, son of Graeme and Gillian (and little brother to Aimee).

All were Baptized by our Locum Minister, the Rev. John Weir Cook.

'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee'

Weddings.

This seems to be a very 'light' year for Weddings at Cockpen and Carrington but, we look forward to welcoming **three** young couples who are to be married later in the year, two in May and one in July.

Bereavements.

It was, with much sadness that we heard of the passing, on 19th February of Mr. Harry Reid, Cockpen Road. Harry was a faithful member of our Church and rarely missed a Sunday. Indeed, he put quite a lot of us to shame when we, perhaps because the weather was bad or, some other suchlike excuse, would 'have a Sunday off'. Harry was always there, rain or shine. Harry came to join us quite late in his life but, when I had a wee chat with him each Sunday prior to the Service starting, he always said how happy he was since he had come amongst us. Harry was, to us all, a true and lovely person who will be much missed as was shown by the attendance at his funeral Service in Church on 26th February. Our thoughts are with his wife and family at this sad time.

Hugh Wallace Mann,
Carrington Barns Farm, Gorebridge.

Sadly Hugh died on 26th Feb 2009 following an accident with his bicycle near to Upper Dalhousie Farm. Hugh spent all his life at Carrington Barns being well known and respected in the Carrington area as well as the wider agricultural scene. During his earlier life he served as a local councillor in Bonnyrigg & Lasswade and possibly would have been attracted into politics if his love of the land had not been so strong. He served as an elder and at one period was session clerk of Carrington Church before the union with Cockpen.

Hugh underwent serious surgery some years ago but had fully recovered, now being very fit cycling every day to collect the newspapers. A real character, a very courteous gentleman, easily approachable with any problems, he will be greatly missed, especially in the Carrington area.

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

CONGRATULATIONS (again).

How wonderful it was to hear the news of '**the Gold**' won by Rory McAlpine in Australia recently. You may remember that Rosalind and I mentioned in the Christmas edition of 'The Link' that Rory had won a **Bronze** medal at the recent Commonwealth Youth Games in Pune, India.

However, he had not finished his 'globetrotting' because, along with many other young people from Team G.B. he took part at the Australian Youth Olympic Festival in January and, after competing with a very strong field, took the **Gold** in the men's 50m. prone rifle event. After some problems (not his), Rory went on to produce an impressive **591.5** points from a possible **600**. The medal contributed to an outstanding Team G.B. haul of **68** - 26 gold, 16 silver and 26 bronze medals.

We are all very proud of Rory but, none more so than doting parents and brother, Margaret, Ian and

Calum of course, not forgetting the two proud Grannies.

A modest Rory felt that London 2012 would be 'incredible' but, 2016 may be a 'more realistic' ambition. We all wish him well for the future.

From a book - 'Facing the Storm'

You will remember that I included an article by Eddie Askew in the Christmas edition of 'The Link' titled '**The light shines in the darkness**'. I would like to 'steal' another one of Eddie's thoughts and this time it is taken from **John at chapter 19 verses 38 - 42 - 'The burial of Jesus'**.

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus are interesting characters. They were the twilight disciples - we are told that Nicodemus '**first came to Jesus by night**'. They **believed**, but stayed in the background during Jesus' lifetime.

Yet, when all the others had run away, Joseph and Nicodemus came out **into the open**. They went to Pilate, and committed themselves openly by asking for Jesus' body. What intrigues me is the moment they chose to reveal themselves. It seems to be the worst possible time. It was after Jesus had died, and, it was before the resurrection. Somehow, the crisis of the crucifixion gave them the courage to declare '**where they stood**'. There was no buoyant hope to carry them along, Jesus was dead, and that seemed to be the end of it. We know

that the resurrection lay ahead, but they didn't.

And this was the point at which they went to Pilate. We don't know what went on in their minds, but it suggests to me that the time when faith and action are most important is when things are at their worst. It's not the time to hide and tremble, but the time to do something.

The other thing that strikes me is that at this time of disappointment and danger, the '**secret**' disciples were the **only** ones who did show up. All the others were in hiding. And, realising that, I wonder if maybe it's time we stopped judging the soundness of our fellow Christians, and, the worthiness of their actions, and left that to God. Because, **we** just don't have enough information to do it.

*Lord, I wonder where I'd be? Out in the open, committing myself publicly, or cowering in an upper room somewhere? **I think I know!***

From Meditations and Prayers by Eddie Askew.

Reflections at Easter.

How often do we hear the words 'where does the time go?' We are told in plenty of time by our Editors that all articles should be with them by a certain date but, why are we always having to be chased for such items? Surely, as a senior citizen I have plenty of time on my hands and, should have no bother seeing to such things as magazine articles! Not so, I can assure you. I am so lucky in having people like Willie and

John who 'encourage' me in such a nice way to get things done but, for all the encouraging **I do**, why can't some others take a wee while to 'put pen to paper' and let us know of stories and interests rather than 'the few' who have to try and think of articles. Of course, I'm not complaining (that will be a first says Wilma!) because, I enjoy contributing but, we would love to read news from **you**. We **all** have stories to tell!

We have so many different thoughts at Easter time, firstly the triumphant approach to Jerusalem, the plot to betray Jesus, the Last Supper, the death of our Lord on the cross and then, the joy of the resurrection - so much to take in and to try and understand.

But, for me, sad as the crucifixion is, the saddest story in the Bible is Peter's denial of Jesus - not only once but, three times. This is recorded in all four of the Gospels. Can you imagine the grief and heartache that Peter felt having told Jesus that he was ready to die for him and then, when he heard the cock crow realised that he had forsaken his Lord. Peter, Jesus' right hand man had denied him and deserted him and went back to Galilee a guilty and defeated man. (**I can't describe the sadness I feel each time I read this passage**). But there, the risen Christ met Peter and forgave him, and gave him the power to become the leader of the Church. How many times have we heard a cock crow in our lives and, like Peter, been given a second chance?

The other people in this story are the women, Mary Magdalene and the

other Mary. They were afraid until the angel challenged them to go to Galilee to find Jesus. They were to get out of the graveyard - to leave the familiar scene behind - and to follow Jesus into a new situation. Jesus says the same to us - '**you don't have to stay stuck at the same old place in your life, fighting the same old battles, and getting defeated time after time. You can follow me into a new and victorious kind of living**'.

We tend to play safe with the power of the resurrection by keeping it at arm's length. We do at Easter what these women would have preferred to do - we try to tame it. We add a few chickens and Easter bunnies to it and turn it into a story with a happy ending but, what Christ wants us to do is to let the power of the resurrection come into our lives to change us. Yes, something big did happen on the first Easter Sunday - and it can happen again to us all if we will only let it!!

Living Lord Jesus, reveal in us your glory.

Stir in us your power, renew us in your kingdom.

Develop in us your faith, show in us your way.

Open in us your love, strengthen in us your hope.

Work in us your miracles, revive in us your resurrection,

Abide in us yourself.

And finally, it has given me great pleasure to sit down and make these (**I'm sure, too many!!**) contributions to 'The Link'. We are most fortunate in having the editorial team that we have, prepared to give up quite a bit of private time so that those who

can't get to Church, for one reason or another, can 'catch up' on the various happenings in our Church and Church family. We thank them all for the efforts they make on our behalf.

Kindest regards,

George Sweeney.
Session Clerk.



Our first meeting of 2009 was a catch up evening in the Church Hall to plan our programme to the summer and to make arrangements for the Blingo evening in March.

February saw some of us take to the ice at Murrayfield ice rink. Not quite Dancing on Ice but not as bad as Todd Carty either! A few also went along to observe and support those brave enough to venture onto the ice.

The "BLINGO" evening will take place on Friday 6th March and ticket sales have been excellent. We are expecting a sell out at the Masonic Hall and hopefully we will raise a great deal of money for the Maggie's Centre once again. It

is also our intention to make a donation to the Church as we have done in previous fund raisers.

There will be a few games of bingo and a disco and I hope that most will be dressed with all their finest bling! Fingers crossed the evening goes with a bang!

Other plans for the coming months include head and shoulder massage, the evening ramble up the Pentlands which was cancelled previously due to bad weather will be rescheduled and perhaps an evening dancing. No doubt arrangements will be made for a visit to the Edinburgh Fringe at some point too.

There are currently about 15 ladies who attend regularly and we meet the first Thursday of every month. If anyone is interested in joining us, please feel free to contact me on Tel No 0131 454 9278. We would be delighted to see you. It is always very informal and there is no requirement to attend every month.

Lynsey Stevenson

Trainee Treasurer Required

Our current treasurer, Walter Renton, has intimated that he plans to give up this post at the 2010 AGM. We are therefore looking out for someone to replace him and ideally we would like there to be a period before that (and after if required) for his replacement to be eased into the job.

The level of commitment is in the order of 2/3 hours per week with a couple of extra hours each month when the bank statements come in. There is also a requirement in January to prepare the Annual Report and complete returns to Church of Scotland HQ.

The weekly tasks involve banking offerings, donations and fund-raising income and paying accounts from utilities, etc. and recording in ledgers (currently on PC not paper).

Monthly tasks are the typing-up of transactions made direct to and from our accounts and reconciling the ledgers with the bank accounts.

The job does not need any previous experience of bookkeeping as the layouts of the ledgers and accounts are established and the production of the Treasurer's Annual Report is also now largely compiled directly from the ledgers.

The incumbent should be organised, numerate and ideally IT Literate to take advantage of the on-line facilities enjoyed by the current treasurer BUT if preferred the work could be done without the use of IT.

Applications or enquiries should be made to:

Or

James Scott (Chairperson)
Tel: (660 1147)
email: jim@clanscott.fsnet.co.uk

Walter Renton (Treasurer)
Tel: (663 1489)
email: w-hrenton@tiscali.co.uk

James Scott
Chairperson to the Church Board

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON SUNDAY SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS OUTING

We start this Easter edition of the Link by looking back at our Christmas events. We had a wonderful outing to the Kings Theatre to see Aladdin in December – all 80 of us! It was wonderful to welcome some new and old friends from Church who came along too. We're going back again this year so here is a very early intimation – keep Sat 12 December free for our pantomime trip to Robinson Crusoe (front stalls seats this time!)

NATIVITY PLAY

Our Nativity play was "The Most Disgruntled Snowman". A change for us and you may well say that there was no snowman in the Bible...and you'd be right. The story unfolds however and the traditional Nativity takes place around a moany snowman who gets more and more annoyed at being disturbed by all the commotion in a stable...and finally the snowman realises just how silly he's been when he sees the new Baby Jesus. As always our very own stars shone. Hannah Darling played the part of the Disgruntled Snowman to a teal! Our snowflakes & angels were the best you've ever seen. Mary & Joseph, Innkeeper, donkey, Wise Men, stars, shepherds & sheep were all wonderful. Our narrators were magnificent. The children really work hard at this and we also had a first

this year, by using our backing soundtrack for the music....very cool! Well done to all the boys & girls and thank you for all your hard work.

Thank you also to our other performers. As always, they didn't stick to script or rehearse but that's a sign of real actors! George & Bill are also our stars who muck in every year and take on whatever we ask of them – thank you dear friends of the Sunday School.

We also managed to coax our Church Officer into joining in with the proceedings – thanks Jim, for playing your part! Our aim is still to get the organist in an appropriate role...and we'll get there!

Our Nativity service was led by Rev John Cook who continues to support and encourage us and enjoys a lot of fun too.

You seemed to enjoy our production by giving us a retiring offering of £160 – THANK YOU.

YET ANOTHER ACHIEVEMENT!

Rory McAlpine visited us recently – a break from all his world travels and winning more medals – a Gold this time in Australia. What a talent. Rory allowed the children to see his medals and we even had our own medal ceremony – Bethany Morrison got Gold for cake making! Well done, Rory and lots of luck for the future.

OUR NEW ADDITION(S)!

Rory also brought along Chloe, their 4 month old Wheaten Terrier – a lovely ball of fluff! She seemed to enjoy our singing and we sang a special version of Matilda the Gorilla just for her – think Rory's taught her that one!

Our other very special new addition is the arrival of new baby Levi Lily, baby sister to Devon & Brodie and daughter to Nadia & Chris. We suspect that Levi may become one of our youngest members! Welcome to our world, Levi.

COMIC RELIEF

We'll be supporting Comic Relief and raising some money by doing something funny.....we're all going to wear our pyjamas to Sunday School on Sunday 15 March!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Family Service – Sunday 22 March
Picnic – Sunday 17 May
Prizegiving – Sunday 24 May

Rosalind Dolan

Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota

April

5 N. Richardson
12 R. Dolan
19 Flower Fund
26 Flower Fund

May

3 A. Harding
10 Flower Fund
17 M. Scott
24 D. Scott

June

7 W. Sweeney
14 I. Ramsay
21 H. Renton
28 E. Laidlaw

July

5 F. Wilkie
12 E. Mills
19 E. Sinclair
26 J. Dolan

August

2 I. Fowler
9 E. Brown
16 L. Hanson
23 M. Porter
30 J. Dyer



Thank you for your continued support of the flower fund.

Please contact me on 663 1825 if there is any problem or if you want to add your name to any of the free dates.

Irene Ramsay

FROM THE ORGANIST

It seems to have been a very long, cold winter this year, and I am sure I am not alone in looking forward to the Spring season. After last year's unusually early Easter we have a little longer to get ourselves ready this time round, as it falls exactly in the middle of April.

For the second year in succession Cockpen will be the setting for the Good Friday service, forming the final evening in the long-established sequence of joint services in each of the local churches. Ours, like the others, will take place at 7.00 pm and will as you would expect include a contribution from our choir. This year we will be adding a new item to our repertoire, "*Tenebrae Factae Sunt*" ("There was darkness over the land") by Michael Haydn, the text of which, very appropriately, is drawn from the final part of the crucifixion story from St Matthew's gospel.

Michael Haydn was the younger brother of "the" Haydn, and like Mozart he was for a number of years employed as a musician by the Archbishop of Salzburg. The present anthem was written as a "motet" (i.e. an anthem to be sung by the choir during the distribution of communion) for Good Friday.

As you might expect, the piece has a very sombre mood. The contrast could hardly be greater therefore with what we are intending to offer as our anthem for Easter Day, namely the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "*Messiah*". This is of course a magnificent musical celebration at any time, but it is particularly appropriate this year, as it marks the 250th anniversary of Handel's death. We will do our best to offer a fitting tribute!

As in recent years, we are hoping that our own choir will be receiving the support of one or two additional voices from the Dalkeith Singers. We are extremely grateful to them for giving up their time to support our efforts.

As always, I hope that as many as possible will be able to attend at least some of the joint services during Holy Week, as I do think they have something special to offer. I am of course confident that our Easter Day service with a celebration well worth experiencing!

GMB

February 2009

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON GUILD

Our Christmas Carol Evening was again well attended and we are most grateful to Graham and the Choir for making this such a successful evening.

Our meetings are very well attended and we have had a variety of speakers in January and February which included:-

- A talk and slide show by Ian Richardson on 75 years of Bonnyrigg Rose Athletic 'A' 21s FC - the members were able to pick out a few 'well kent' local faces.
- On 19th January we had our Burns Supper - an excellent meal was provided by Mrs Dorothy Peat and Midas Catering and our thanks go to Bert Robertson, Nat Fisher, Graham Burnside, Jim Young, Bill Brown, Walter Renton and members of the Guild who took part. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Graham Hogg piped in the Haggis - Graham has recently won the Macdonald Shield for Junior Piping and is a member of Penicuik and District Pipe Band.
- Patsy Pitkeathly came along to give us an insight into the work the Lydia Project do such as preventing child exploitation and trafficking among other things in Eastern Europe.

We have a few meetings left this session including Angela Monteith from Children Inclusive which is a voluntary project which provides inclusive activities for children living in North West Edinburgh who have additional support needs and Professor Palmer giving a talk on the Midlothian Connection with the Slave Trade.

Our Closing Social is on Monday 20th April when we will be entertained by Gillian Haycock and Friends and ending up with our Guild Drive on Saturday 25th April.

Please come along and join us at any of our meetings - you will be made most welcome.

Cake Stall

It's now **10 years** since we started having a stall at the Pitcairn Centre and have raised **£25,381** in that time - that's some cakes, jams, chutney etc! This sum has greatly helped the various Church projects. Many thanks again to all who have helped in any way.

The next date for the Centre is **26th March**. I will be on holiday then but, my willing assistants will be there to serve you with a smile!!

Thanks again,

Wilma.

Bonnyrigg Ranger Guides

Happy New Year!! We are now back at Rangers following the Christmas break and are looking forward to a busy and exciting 2009.

Since our return, we have had an evening to catch up on all our Christmas gossip and planned our programme to April. We also have some welcome new recruits which is fabulous.

Here is what we have been up to so far and what we plan to do before Easter.

At the end of January we had a Scots Evening in the Guide Hall with a Scottish Quiz, Scottish music (pop) and Irn Bru and shortbread. We had three teams who battled it out to be the Scots Quiz champions.

On the 10th of February we held a very successful Pampered Chef party to raise funds for our own unit. We had over 30 guests and managed to raise approx. £250 for our unit funds. It was an excellent evening and our thanks to Lesley Darling who hosted the evening and everyone who came along to support us.

Our Thinking Day celebrations will take the form of an International food supper with food from Canada, Italy, Mexico, Sri Lanka and France to name but a few. The girls are also planning to make their promise together on this evening.

Lindsay Houghton, the Duke of Edinburgh Advisor is also planning to visit the unit to enlist a few more in the D of E scheme and to keep all the others motivated.

One of our members is very keen on jewellery making and has offered to hold an evening where we can make our own jewellery. She has taken requests for styles and will show us how to do this in early March.

We plan to go skiing towards the end of March at Hillend although I think Catsy and I might watch from the café.

On the 28th March, 10 of us are taking the train through to Stirling for the evening. Our plans are to do a bit of sight seeing and a bit of shopping. We are staying at the Youth Hostel next to the Castle. This is our first overnight stay for a while so the girls are very excited about the prospect.

Rangers still meet every second Tuesday in the Guide Hall on Dobbies Road, so if anyone (between the ages of 14 and 26) is interested in joining us, please feel free to contact me on Tel No 0131 454 9278. It would be lovely to have you join us!

Lynsey Stevenson



Bonnyrigg Duck Race



As previously announced by George Sweeney at Morning Service, the seventh

Bonnyrigg Duck Race organised by members of the congregation took place on Sunday 1st February. It raised, despite the current economic gloom, a record total of £1,420.00. This has been allocated equally to Children 1st (formerly known as the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children) and Scottish Huntington's Association, Edinburgh and Lothians Branch.

Children 1st, apart from many local services and projects, runs Parentline on a national scale and Childline in Scotland on an agency basis. Scottish Huntington's Association promotes awareness and understanding of the condition, group activities and services for those with the condition, with a view to breaking down the sense of isolation and fear that may come with it, as well as pressing for a fair share of research and statutory service provision.

We were lucky with the weather once again as Sunday 1st February was the last day before the fortnight of heavy snowfalls and below zero temperatures. Many more parents and children than expected turned up on the day, so the start had to be delayed for 30 minutes due to last minutes sales of ducks. Thanks to all prize donors and also to Grange Estates (Newbattle) Ltd who again

funded the helium balloons, also much in demand.

More than 600 little yellow ducks fought out the race down a 300 metre stretch of the "Red Burn". Due to low water levels following the amazing lack of rain in January, they had to be assisted on their way by lots of excited children armed with "prod poles" or bamboo canes. None fell in, I'm glad to say.

We didn't threaten the world record for numbers of participating ducks, although we were pleased with sales. The current world record stands at 175,000 ducks in the event on the Thames at Molesey Lock, near Hampton Court Palace. The organisers are aiming to beat that figure on Sunday 6th September this year, if anyone fancies a weekend in London in the Autumn.

<http://www.thegreatbritishduckrace.co.uk>
They only offer a mundane first prize of £10,000.00, whereas our event was honoured to have a first prize of a copy of Sir Ranulph Fiennes autobiography, "Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know", described by the Guinness Book of Records as Britain's greatest living explorer. The book was personally autographed and dedicated by him for the race and the charities' benefit.

Thanks very much to all from the congregation who sponsored a duck and to George for the announcements in Church.

Bill MacDonald

A wee note from America.

More than twenty years have passed since leaving home and family in Bonnyrigg to begin a new life in America, as a Scot married to a Tennessean.

Following in the footsteps of so many Scots, who have made this journey over the years, turned the mind to the many differences in both travel and communication since the early voyagers left home and country. Some had chosen to make this move, but many had been forced out of their home, their way of life destroyed. It showed determination, resilience and a hardy, survivor instinct to start again in a completely new part of the world. This is why so much of the early history of this country was forged by Scots - just look at the names in the history books!

Our wee corner of the world, where Virginia and North Carolina meet Tennessee, is very beautiful. The Blue Ridge Mountains, The Southern Appalachians and many smaller ranges ensure there is no shortage of hills. The Appalachian Trail passes close by on its way from Georgia to Maine, allowing walkers a more close-up view of the diversity of flora and fauna found in the area. Vast numbers of trees ensure spectacular colours in Autumn when the whole countryside is a blaze of wonderful bronzes, yellows and oranges.

The Native Americans of this area were mainly Cherokee and, despite their forced removal in the early 19th Century, still have a presence here,

adding much to the culture of the area. These, joined by the immigrant peoples have made this a fascinating place. The Scots and Scots/Irish - a term used here to describe those Scots, who spent some time in Ulster before moving over here, are the dominant 'in-comers' with a few German and English also. A wonderful local story relates that the English came and built houses, the Germans built barns and the Scots built whisky-stills. Isn't it heart-warming to hear that priorities were not lost on the long voyage over the water?

It is easy to understand why so many Scots chose to remain in this area. The scenery is much like parts of Scotland only with a better climate! These early settlers must have been amazed to find what could be grown outside - tomatoes, grapes and, in more recent times, cucumbers, peppers, okra and melons etc. A challenge to gardening here, as distinct from Scotland, is water. There can be long, dry spells in Summer especially and it remains an irony that a Scot can be out searching the sky hoping to see a few rain clouds!

As well as the diversity of both wild and cultivated plants is the variety of fauna. Racoons, possums, ground-hogs are only too happy to share the bounty of the crops, as are the many squirrels and birds. It is comforting to see many of the same birds as we do in Scotland - sparrows, starlings, finches and wild geese. However, missing is our lovely blackbird and the American robin is a big bird compared to our wee one. Apart from that, there is a wide variety of

feathered friends - wood-peckers, chickadees, tree-creepers, nut hatches, Blue Jays, which are wonderful in their blues and white, but they can't sing for toffee. Seasonally there are the humming birds - so amazingly tiny, so active and so pretty with their iridescent colours. Perhaps the most famous bird is the Cardinal, the male of which appears on many Christmas cards, his bright red feathers startling in the Winter landscape.

With its on-going Scottish heritage - Celtic festivals, Highland Games, Clan Gatherings - Scottish names and friendly people, who are very proud of their Scottish back-ground, it is easy to understand why so many Scots call this area 'home from home'.

Helen (Walker) Thatcher

Heaven's Surprise

I dreamt death came the other night
And heaven's gate swung wide.
With kindly grace an angel came
And ushered me inside.

And there to my astonishment
Stood folk I'd known on earth,
Some I had judged as quite unfit
Or but of little worth.

Indignant words rose to my lips
But never were set free,
For every face showed stunned
surprise
— NO ONE EXPECTED ME!

Anonymous

Lasswade Garden Club

With snowdrops and crocuses making their most welcome appearance, it is time for my annual appeal for volunteers to help tend the fairly extensive gardens around Lasswade Church.

The Monday night get together last year completed another enjoyable and fairly successful season. In addition to the routine grass cutting, border trimming and hedge cutting we took on some maintenance painting work to external doors and the wrought iron fencing and entrance to the church. Incredibly we were only rained off once during that awful summer

The garden was perhaps at its best for the coffee morning in late May when Bonnyrigg Brass Band played 'al fresco' and were kind enough to comment favourably on its condition.

If anyone would like to help out for a few hours on a Monday evening or indeed at any time if that night is not suitable they can contact me at the number listed below. You will be made most welcome.

Charlie Adams
663 4596

Answers to Quiz on Page 27

1: b, 2: a, 3: c, 4: c, 5: a, 6: b,
7: c, 8: b, 9: d, 10: b, 11: d,
12: d, 13: c, 14: b, 15: b, 16: c,
17: a, 18: a, 19: c, 20: c.

Lasswade and Rosewell Church News

Social Event : Daffodil Tea : Tuesday 21 April 2009

A daffodil tea will be held in Rosewell Church Hall on Tuesday 21 April at 7.30 p.m. If you would like to "host" a table for four people please add your name to the list which is on the notice boards in Lasswade and Rosewell Churches. The cost is £5 per person and there will be entertainment and a raffle. This is the first of many social events which we hope to hold throughout the year.

Gift Day – Sunday 3 May 2009

You will receive an envelope for your donation during the month of April and you can bring it along with you on Gift Day Sunday (Service at 10.00 a.m. in Rosewell Church) or hand it in at the Coffee Morning. If you would like to give, but are unable to attend on either of these days, please return your sealed envelope to your District Elder.

Gift Day Coffee Morning – Saturday, 9 May 2009

A Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday, 9 May from 10.00 am. to 12 noon in Rosewell Church Hall. Donations of books, home-baking, tablet, jam, marmalade, soft good, sweets and items for the tombola would be very much appreciated. If

you are able to help at all, please speak to Agnes Anderson, Pat Lawrie or Dorothy Spence. Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Brass Band will be coming along to play some music for us and we hope that you will come along with your friends and support this event.

Congregational Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Congregational Board will be held on Tuesday, 14 April at 7.30 p.m. in Rosewell Church Hall and it is hoped that as many members as possible will be able to attend.

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. If you have not been before please do come along and bring your friends. There is always lots of lovely home baking, jams, vegetables, soft goods, books and lots more.

If you would like to help at any of the Coffee Mornings please speak to Agnes Anderson.

Holy Week Services : 6 – 11 April

Monday: Our Lady;
Tuesday: Rosewell;
Wednesday: Lasswade;
Thursday: St Leonards;
Friday: Cockpen & Carrington.

All Services commence at 7.30 p.m.

Lasswade and Rosewell Choir

The untimely passing of Mrs Agnes Renwick was a shock to all who knew her. Over the last few months a lot of people who knew Mrs Renwick in many different ways have paid tribute to her. As far as the choir is concerned Mrs Renwick was an active member of the Church Choir in Lasswade for seventy years, first as a member of the choir in Lasswade Old Parish Church and then, following the union of that congregation with the congregation of Strathesk in the 1950s, with the choir of what became known as Lasswade Parish Church and latterly Lasswade and Rosewell Parish Church. During all these years Mrs Renwick showed great enthusiasm for all the choir's activities, whether it was the singing of the sacred music or concerts and the practices which were involved or the social aspects of the choir's life – the Lasswade Old Choir had periodic outings and Mrs Renwick may well have gone on these. Mrs Renwick supported the choir strongly and she loved to share her love of music with others. I can only thank her again for all her support and loyalty to the choir over so many decades and, in a personal capacity, thank her for her continued support to me in more recent year.

The passing of Mrs Renwick prompted me to think, as I often do, of those choir members who have gone to the Choir Triumphant during my time as organist – Mrs Jean Williamson, Mrs Janice Renwick, Mrs May Ansell and Mrs Margaret Hamilton – and once again I thank

these ladies for all their work and support.

Margaret Andrews and Douglas Paton have both left the area and both feel the time is right to look elsewhere for a place of worship and I can only thank them both for all their support and enthusiasm for choral activities, both sacred and secular, over the years. I wish them both well for the future.

Despite losing members all is not doom and gloom. As many will know the choir was augmented in May by two members from Rosewell and by a few volunteers from Lasswade when we sang two items at the service of Union and these volunteers supported the choir again in December when we performed at the Rosewell Carol Service and the Christingle at Lasswade on Christmas Eve. At both these events we were joined by several members from Cockpen who enjoy singing and volunteered their services.

Once again can I express my thanks to the members of the choir, and to those who have joined us for special events during 2008, for all their work and support and I look forward to working with them in 2009.

Having started 2009, on Feb 15th we were joined by Chloe and Abigail Young who are students at a Music School and who plan to make a career in music. One is a violinist and one is a harpist and those of you who were at the Rosewell Carol Party in December will have heard them there too. Chloe and Abigail

have a lot of musical commitments and we were fortunate to have had them play for us on 15th February. Everyone enjoyed hearing them and having them lead the praise with a hymn of their own choice – Will you come and follow me - was a lovely experience. Later this year Chloe will commence studying for a B.Mus in the harp at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and we wish her well for the future

The Choir of Hawthornden Primary School will be joining us for the service on March 15th. The choir sang very well when they were at Lasswade Church at Christmas and I am sure the congregation will enjoy hearing them when they come in March.

We did try to get both sets of visitors for the fourth Sundays in February and March when the two congregations would be having a united service but Chloe and Abigail had other commitments that day and the fourth Sunday in March is Mothering Sunday. Hopefully we can arrange other times when both Chloe and Abigail and Hawthornden Primary School can join us.

HLRD

For Sophie

Some time ago Alex and I had a letter printed in the Church Magazine announcing the arrival of our first great grandchild, Sophie. Sophie was born with Down's Syndrome. God placed her with a family who loved her and her growing up years have been that of a very happy, funny and adorable girl. She loves attending Salters Gate Dalkeith and especially the taking part in all their shows and pantos.

Come July the Special Olympics takes place in Leicester. All the family and friends are in the process of fund raising to send the team from Midlothian to the games. Sophie will be swimming for Midlothian and I am sure that all our friends from Lasswade Church wish her and her team mates the best of luck in this venture.

Sophie will be 18 this year, putting schooldays behind her and taking her place in the adult world.

Best of luck in Leicester, Sophie.

Go for it !!

We all love you and God bless you.

Papa Connor and Granny Kate

xxxx

Lasswade Flower Rota



March

8	The Renwick Family
15	Mrs M Waugh
22	Miss L Williamson
29	Mrs C Drysdale

April

12	Mrs M Scott
19	Mrs L Oliver
26	Mrs E Legerwood

May

10	Mrs M Gordon
17	Mrs N Adams
24	Mrs E Thomson
31	Mrs M Laing

June

14	Mr S Renwick
21	Mrs S Cowe
28	Mrs A Branch

July

12	Mrs M Hay
19	Mrs D Stewart
26	Mrs B Blakebell

August

9	Mrs M Dalglish
16	Mrs R Gardner
23	Mrs S Howden
30	Mrs M Dryden

September

13	Mrs G Renwick
20	Mr W Culton
27	Mrs M Campbell

I am very grateful to the people who supply and arrange the flowers in Lasswade Church every week. I have tried to arrange the rota to comply with the wishes of the people concerned but if there are any problems please speak to me and I will try and help. I know the flowers are much appreciated by the recipients.

Moira Dryden

Please send your news to the Editors for the Autumn Issue of "The Link" on or before Sunday, 16 August.

South Africa

When asked to write something for the next newsletter I wondered what on earth can I write? Then decided to tell you a little about our time in South Africa.

We arrived in Johannesburg in August 1970, still part of their winter, where the grass was brown and everything so dried-up looking. We were sent to a power station called Grootvlei 60 miles south of Johannesburg. Then most of the roads were dirt roads and when it rained they turned to mud. When the rains came you couldn't believe the change; everything just came to life, the grass became green and all the flowers started sprouting, it was an amazing sight. Our sons had to go to boarding school 60 miles away as there was no high school nearer, and from a family of 5 we were suddenly only 2. On the station there must have been at least 200 houses and just 4 miles away was a colliery which supplied the power station, and they had just over a 100 houses. We were lucky enough to be taken underground there on a guided tour; the lift you go down in leaves your stomach up top while you are at the bottom. You then claim a bicycle, a hard hat with a lamp attached and then you cycle along the roads which are wide and high. To brake you had to back pedal and going down an incline my back pedal did not work and I flew over the handle bars and have a piece of coal dust still on one of my eyebrows. It was quite an experience. I was fortunate to work for De Beers and was given a guided tour of a diamond mine just outside Pretoria and just before we visited a huge diamond had been found in that mine called the Premier Rose Diamond.

Again you go down in a very fast lift, the walls are all painted white where you are walking along the roads. We watched while they blasted and when the rock came down in funnel shaped equipment, I actually spotted a diamond in some of the rock. What was most interesting was how the small pieces of rocks are sent tumbling over a wide area of a thick type of grease and only precious stones remain on it to be collected, the rest are just washed off. We were later taken up to the sorting office where the previous day's takings were displayed in a tin pail. Talk about being green with envy!! I was given a piece of dolomite as a souvenir!!

We then moved to Cape Town which is a beautiful city; it had everything, beautiful scenery with mountains all around and of course Table Mountain. You have the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the Indian on the other. In Cape Town you have at least an hour longer daylight in the summer than the Transvaal and the winters are cold and wet whereas the Transvaal ones are dry and can be most pleasant during the day but very cold at night and first thing in the morning. In August they have what is known as the Spring time which is a sight to behold; at first there is only earth then after the first rains there are miles and miles of spring flowers, all colours popping up in the fields and at the side of the roads.

I did not mean to write an epistle but hope you find it interesting.

Jenny Brown

The Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

1: At Christ's crucifixion what did the soldiers place on his head?

- (a) Crown of Nettles
- (b) Crown of Thorns
- (c) Crown of Jewels
- (d) Crown of Thistles

2: For what of Christ's did the soldiers cast lots?

- (a) Clothes
- (b) Jewels
- (c) Donkey
- (d) Cross

3: For how many pieces of silver did Judas betray Christ?

- (a) 10
- (b) 20
- (c) 30
- (d) 40

4: How did Judas betray Christ?

- (a) By pointing at him
- (b) Described him to the authorities
- (c) With a kiss
- (d) Shook his hand

5: Christ was led away to which high priest first?

- (a) Annas
- (b) Vitellius,
- (c) Caiaphas
- (d) Josephus

6: What was inscribed above the cross?

- (a) Prince of the Jews
- (b) King of the Jews
- (c) Saviour of the Jews
- (d) Captain of the Jews

7: When Jesus died, for how long was there darkness over the land?

- (a) 3 days
- (b) 3 minutes
- (c) 3 hours
- (d) 3 weeks

8: What was the name of the man who requested Jesus' body for burial?

- (a) Nicodemus
- (b) Joseph
- (c) Philip
- (d) Jonathan

9: Who of these was first on the scene after resurrection of Christ?

- (a) Simon Peter
- (b) Cleopas
- (c) Judas Iscariot
- (d) Mary Magdalene

10: Pilate offered to release one prisoner – which prisoner did the Jews request to be released?

- (a) Jesus
- (b) Barabbas
- (c) Paul
- (d) Barnabas

11: What was the colour of the robe placed on Jesus?

- (a) Blue
- (b) Red
- (c) White
- (d) Purple

12: After Pilate found no guilt in Christ, for what reason did the Jews say that Jesus should die?

- (a) He claimed to be of heaven
- (b) He said he would destroy the temple of God
- (c) He claimed to be their King
- (d) He had made himself the Son of God

13: With what was Jesus' side pierced?

- (a) Sword
- (b) Knife
- (c) Spear
- (d) Axe

14: In what was Jesus wrapped before he was buried?

- (a) Goat skins
- (b) Linen clothes
- (c) Sheep skins
- (d) Golden robes

15: Which disciple wanted to see the imprint of the nails before he would believe?

- (a) Andrew
- (b) Thomas
- (c) James
- (d) Bartholomew

16: Jesus appeared to his disciples after the resurrection beside which sea?

- (a) Red Sea
- (b) Sea of Joppa
- (c) Sea of Tiberias
- (d) Dead Sea

17: Who did Pilate send Jesus to after he had interrogated him?

- (a) Herod
- (b) Annas
- (c) Caiaphas
- (d) Caesar

18: Who carried the cross for Christ?

- (a) Simon of Cyrene
- (b) Simon Peter
- (c) Simon the Zealot
- (d) Simeon

19: Who rolled away the tomb stone?

- (a) Jesus
- (b) God
- (c) An Angel
- (d) A Roman Centurion

20: For how long did Jesus remain after his resurrection before he ascended into heaven?

- (a) 7 days
- (b) 14 days
- (c) 40 days
- (d) 49 days

The answers can be found On Page 21.

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Help the Easter Bunny find his way through the maze to find a new basket for delivering the Easter eggs.

