

Cockpen & Carrington

The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Easter 2011



Church of Scotland

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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

PULPIT SUPPLY ROTA - APRIL/SEPTEMBER 2011

DATE	LASSWADE (10.00 am)	COCKPEN & CARRINGTON (11.30 am)	ROSEWELL (please check times below)
03.04.11	Service at Rosewell	MINISTER (Baptism)	MINISTER 10 am (Holy Communion)
10.04.11	MINISTER (Baptism)	MINISTER	Rev Kristina Ross 11.30 am
17.04.11 (Palm Su.)	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	Rev C Macpherson 11.30 am
24.04.11 (Easter)	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev Kristina Ross 11.30 am
01.05.11	Service at Rosewell	MINISTER (Holy Communion)	MINISTER 10 am
08.05.11	MINISTER	MINISTER (Sunday School Prizegiving)	Special evening service at 6.00 pm. No morning service. See below***.
15.05.11	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	Rev C Macpherson
22.05.11	MINISTER (Gift Day Service)	MINISTER	Service at Lasswade 10 am
29.05.11	Worship Group	MINISTER	MINISTER 10 am
05.06.11	Service at Rosewell	MINISTER	MINISTER 10 am
12.06.11	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev M Schofield 11.30 am
19.06.11	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev W Armitage 11.30 am
26.06.11	MINISTER (Holy Communion)	Martin McKean	Service at Lasswade 10 am
03.07.11	Service at Rosewell	MINISTER	MINISTER 10 am
10.07.11	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev M Schofield 11.30 am
17.07.11	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	John Beaumont 11.30 am
24.07.11	MINISTER	MINISTER	Service at Lasswade 10 am
31.07.11	Worship Group	MINISTER	MINISTER 10 am
07.08.11	Service at Rosewell	MINISTER	MINISTER 10 am
14.08.11	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev W Armitage 11.30 am
21.08.11	MINISTER	MINISTER	Martin McKean 11.30 am
28.08.11	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev W Armitage 11.30 am
04.09.11	Service at Rosewell	MINISTER	MINISTER 10 am

***On Sunday 8th May there will be a special service at Rosewell Church at 6.00 pm marking the Presbytery of Lothian's twinning link with the Diocese of the Eastern Himalaya in India. Guest preacher: The Very Reverend Dr Andrew McLellan, former Moderator.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES IN 2011 (all at 7.30 pm except where stated):

Monday 18th April, 7.30 pm: Our Lady's (Roman Catholic) Church, Bonnyrigg

Tuesday 19th April, 7.30 pm: Cockpen & Carrington Parish Church

Wednesday 20th April, 7.30 pm: St Leonard's (Episcopal) Church, Lasswade

Maudy Thursday 21st April, 7.30 pm: Bonnyrigg Parish Church

Good Friday 22nd April, 2.30 pm: Bonnyrigg Parish Church

Good Friday 22nd April, 7.30pm: Rosewell Parish Church

Dear Friends,

The season of Easter is fast approaching. Easter is the most significant date in the Christian year – the remembrance of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ following his crucifixion on Good Friday is an essential part of the Christian faith. For many, the question of how the Resurrection could have happened is a barrier to belief. There is much which is literally inexplicable, but – for me – the essential aspect of the Resurrection of Christ is not how, but why. Just as the crucifixion marks the most appalling miscarriage of justice in human history, the Resurrection is the ultimate triumph of life over death and good over evil. It is good that we celebrate Christmas with such fervour, but I wish that Easter would be given its proper place in our imaginations and society.

Here in our linked parishes, there will be a full programme of joint evening services during Holy Week. These will include a service in Cockpen & Carrington Church on Tuesday 19th April and in Rosewell Church on Good Friday. Please do come to any or all of the Holy Week services.

Since 2000, the Church of Scotland's Presbytery of Lothian has been twinned with the Diocese of the Eastern Himalaya of the Church of North India. Last year, the Rev Sandy Horsburgh (formerly Interim Moderator here before I came) and the Rev Alison Macdonald visited India. To return the hospitality, in May of this year, Lothian Presbytery will welcome two visitors from India. To celebrate this twinning, it is planned that there will be a special Presbytery-wide service in Rosewell Church at 6 pm on Sunday 8th May (this is still subject to final confirmation, so watch for further publicity) – former Moderator the Very Rev Dr Andrew McLellan will be the guest preacher. All are welcome.

I'm delighted that Rosewell Church now has a Sunday School again. It meets on the first Sunday of each month only; children come into the first part of the service (starting at 10 am). If you know of any children interested in coming to Sunday School (either at Cockpen Church Hall or at Rosewell), please do contact Rosalind Dolan.

Thursday 5th May marks elections to the Scottish Parliament. When we see people suffering under undemocratic regimes such as in Libya, our democracy and rule of law should be cherished, nurtured and never taken for granted. Please pray for politicians of all parties: for wisdom in exercising power.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Matthew Ross, Minister

A special event for the whole of the Church of Scotland
in Princes Street Gardens on Sunday 22nd May 2011, 1pm - 6pm

“Roll Away The Stone”

Celebrating the life of the Church

Easter Play Scenes – Storytelling – Massed Choirs – Church Stories
Fischy Music – 5-a-side football – Interviews – Youth and Kids
Picnic – Comedy – Puppets – Discussion – Bands – Orchestra

Celebration – Inspiration – Discovery

www.rollawaythestone.org.uk

For more information contact: Principal Clerk's Office, 0131 225 5722

Simply come along - it's free! Come yourself, or better still bring others from your congregation, friends and family. Make it a church outing in the beautiful setting of Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh.

If you're thinking of coming along then why not register your interest on our website? You'll get updates as we get nearer the event and we'll have the encouragement of knowing you're coming!

Other ways to take part:

MUSIC

Does your church have a choir, or singing group? We're organising a massed choir to sing as the culmination of our day and you can take part. Simply register on our website, and in the weeks to come you'll be sent some music to practice, and there will be a short rehearsal on the day with all the participating churches before you lead us in worship around 5.00pm. It's going to sound terrific!

5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

Join us in a national football tournament. We'd like to invite junior and senior 5-a-side teams from your church to take part in regional heats around the country finishing up with the finals being played in the park, at this special church event. We've got special permission to play football in the park, so this is an opportunity not to be missed! If you're interested then register at our website and we'll send out some more information soon.

www.rollawaythestone.org.uk

Organised by the Church of Scotland
www.churchofscotland.org.uk
Scottish Charity Number SC011353

From the Cockpen & Carrington Clerk.

Just thought that this time I would very much restrict my usual 'ramblings' - I think by the length of my last saga, some of you may still be reading it - **or not!!**

I write this in preparation for the deadline of 27th March set by our Editors and, although really intending to enter just the usual, Baptisms, Weddings etc. I felt that it was worthy of mention the lovely Family Service of today (the 20th March) when we had the joy of seeing the children, teachers, parents and other family members from our Sunday School in Church all dressed up for Comic Relief. I have said so often how fortunate we are in having a Sunday School and, indeed the other organizations within our Church when so many Churches do not have that pleasure now. *(and so good to hear the news of a Sunday School at Rosewell again).*

We recently held our Annual Stated Meeting (starting with the customary soup and rolls - thanks Dorothy and Wilma) when the various reports were given. After each report Matthew thanked the person and the organization for all that had been done in the previous year. He had likened it to an 'Oscar' ceremony but, added that he knew that no person was up there to look for thanks or, glittery awards, they were there because of the love they have for our Church(es) and what was being done was in God's name.

Listening to all these good friends giving their reports made me so much more aware of the good work that's being done in our three buildings, work that many will never even know about. Yes, we are fortunate in what we have, even with the uncertainties whether it be in Churches or other places.

I know that you will be reading somewhere in this edition of our finances and, I say no more on that subject. Finances are so important - nothing can carry on without finances (and I really think that our two newish Treasurers do have a magic wand - I don't know how they do it) but, as well as supporting your Church financially just as important an issue is - **you**. We have **242** members on the Electoral Roll but many are never seen for one reason or another - why, I wonder!!

My plea to you would be to try and make the effort on **any** Sunday morning to sit in your rightful seat at Cockpen and Carrington (or, of course, Lasswade/Rosewell) - I think we all have much to offer you if, you would just give us the chance.

As I said at the start of this letter, I would like to say on behalf of the Kirk Session a huge thanks to so many who help to keep the wheels of our Church turning year by year. I liken it, (as an old mechanic!) to a four cylinder engine - running reasonably well but, by more people showing willing, we would perform more like a six cylinder. Think about it - please.

All the very best to you all.

George.

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH.

BAPTISMS

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

21st November *Freddy John Murray*, infant son of Calum and Karyn.

23rd January *Samuel George Phillips*, infant son of Barry and Jennifer.

23rd January *Amelia Elizabeth Armstrong*, infant daughter of Andrew and Claire.

Freddy was baptized by Melville and Samuel and Amelia by Matthew.

'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee.'

WEDDINGS

We are delighted to congratulate the following couple who were married recently in Church and wish them both a happy life together. This was the first wedding of 2011 with quite a number to follow.

26th February *Craig Andrew Philip to Susan Beveridge.*

BEREAVEMENT

We continue to think of, and pray for, any who mourn the passing of a loved one. We have probably all experienced the sadness of loss but, be assured that we all, along with our other Churches, are here for any who feel that we can help or support them now or in the future.

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

FROM THE ORGANIST

Easter is famously "a moveable feast", and it seems to have been particularly so in recent years. In 2008 it fell on almost the earliest possible date, while in the present year it has moved to very nearly the opposite end of the spectrum. At least this has given us a little more of a breather than we normally receive after the Christmas season!

For several years past Cockpen has hosted the Good Friday service. This year however the changes have been rung in the timetable for Holy Week and we will be holding the service on the Tuesday evening (19 April). On that occasion the choir will be performing "God so loved the world" from Stainer's famous work "The Crucifixion".

For many years Stainer was very much out of fashion as composer, as with many other aspects of the Victorian era. As we move further away in time however judgements are revalued and a greater appreciation has emerged of the fine musical craftsmanship of the period. This year sees the 110th anniversary of Stainer's death, which seems as good a reason as any to give him some prominence. We will accordingly be performing another anthem by him on Easter Day itself, "They have taken away my Lord". This begins with a short but dramatic retelling of the events of the first Easter, followed by a chorus of rejoicing – "O Death, where is they sting?" – whose uninhibited tone may surprise some who know Stainer only through his more famous pieces for Passiontide.

On a visit to Paris last month I had the great privilege of being allowed into the organ loft high up on the west wall of the famous church of St. Sulpice, to meet the current organist and watch him play the famous and very substantial instrument in that church – while the Cockpen organ has two manuals (i.e. keyboards) this has five! Inspired (I hope) by this experience I will be playing a ceremonial item from the French repertoire, Gigout's "Grand Choeur Dialogué", at the close of the Easter service.

The Holy Week and Easter services are always a musical highlight of our year and I hope as many as possible will be able to join us then.

GMB, March 2011

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

1. EASTER

After what seems a very long winter, we're looking forward to Easter and starting to see signs of Spring. Holidays are looming for us too. Easter day (**24 April**) will see those of us who can manage at Rosewell Church for a special Easter family service led by Rev Kristina Herbold Ross. We plan to have some Easter fun and some eats afterwards. Come along and join us.

2. CHRISTMAS 2010!

Christmas last year seems so far away, but 95 of us went to the pantomime for our Christmas outing. We all had great fun at Jack and the Beanstalk. We're booked again for this year on **10 December**. If you want to bring your family along this year and haven't been with us before, have a chat with Rosalind to book your place.

No Easter magazine contribution would be complete without reminiscing about our Nativity Play. Last year, we performed: "Joining Joseph the Joiner's Family". It was quite special to hear the story through Joseph's eyes and how anxious he was at the prospect of being a Father. We realised early on that we'd possibly 'bitten off more than we could chew' when we said we'd have a performance at Lasswade and Cockpen! We agreed this before the winter snow set in! How difficult was that! We struggled to get to Sunday School/got thrown out of the hall as the Church had to meet there and it just snowed and snowed. When we finally got to Cockpen having had a successful performance at Lasswade, we'd lost some of our cast and congregation. Conditions on 19 December were appalling and we almost had to dig our way back home!

Our performers were all stars. Jacob Crombie was an excellent Joseph with Louise Gillespie as his Mary. We have the best children who practised tirelessly and sang their hearts out. Our Dads and Granddads were shepherds - you were wonderful Alan, Ian & Jim and Alan, no you didn't have to worry about lack of acting experience! Two of our thespians were promoted to the role of Wise Men - this had taken a lot of negotiation with Presbytery to allow them to take on this role!!! George and Bill were very excited in their promotion. We also invited Andrew Renwick to join us too - full marks to Andrew for taking this seriously and actually turning up for rehearsals - a first for us!

As the weather took its toll, we lost Bill for our service at Cockpen. Panic set in until Jim McCabe, Dad of Ian and Granddad to Meadow stepped in - thanks

Jim. A first for us to have 3 generations in our Nativity.

3. OUTREACH AT ROSEWELL

In order to try to encourage some new folk into church, we've started to hold Sunday School at Rosewell on the 1st Sunday of the month at 10am as well as in Cockpen hall. Margaret Anderson & Jackie Pritchard are leading this. At Rosewell we are in church for the first part of the service and then move into the hall. Please speak to Rosalind if you want more information.

4. VISIT BY THE MINISTER

Another first for us was when our Minister visited the Sunday School at the end of February. Matthew had arranged for pulpit cover so he could come to Sunday School and we had a teachers meeting with him after his visit. The children were delighted to welcome him and he was pleased with what we're doing. He's going to make it an annual event.

We took the opportunity to interview or interrogate him! The interview is included in this magazine. Just a wee word of advice, if you invite him for dinner, **don't** feed him brussel sprouts! Thanks for coming Matthew, your support means a lot to us.

5. COMIC RELIEF AT THE FAMILY SERVICE!

In the past, the Sunday School has supported a variety of ventures including Comic Relief - last time we all came to Sunday School dressed in our pyjamas! This time, we were at church so had to think if we could incorporate this.....and ofcourse we did! We all came to church in fancy dress. The adults were dressed as Cowboys and Indians and we even had our own Sheriff incase things got out of hand! Special mention to Jessie, who at 82, was still

a delightful squaw! The Sunday School had also secretly challenged Matthew to say the word **Supercalifragilistic-expialidocious** 5 times in the service and we would sponsor him! He succeeded. We raised a whopping £110 - thank you all. You have changed lives for the better.



Enjoy our photos of us in fancy dress!



6. TEACHERS TRAINING

A few of us are off to training at St Nicholas Buccleuch church and will be sharing ideas on "Worship: Helping Children be in Awe of God" - we're looking forward to it.

7. PICNIC

We're off again to Blair Drummond Safari Park on **Saturday 7 May 2011**.
Prices: Adults £15/children £12/Sunday School children and under 2's free. Contact Rosalind if you want to come along too.

8. PRIZEGIVING

Our annual prizegiving will be held in Cockpen & Carrington Church on **Sunday 8 May 2011 at 11.30am**. Matthew has designed a new certificate which we'll be using for the first time. We're no longer going to issue certificates for perfect or regular attendance. When a child leaves Sunday School, they will be awarded a Bible but with no length of attendance annotated.

We finish on 8 May and don't return till Sunday 28 August!
Happy holidays

Cockpen and Carrington Flower Rota

April 2011

17th Marnie Crawford
24th Flower Fund

May

1st Alison Harding
8th Flower Fund
15th Moira Scott
22nd Dot Scott
29th Rosalind Dolan

June

5th Wilma Sweeney
12th Irene Ramsay
19th Helen Renton
26th Frances Wilkie

July

3rd Liz Mills
10th Liz Laidlaw



17th Jessie Dolan
24th Ian Fowler
31st Elspeth Brown

August

7th Marnie Crawford
14th Margaret Porter
21st Lynn Hanson
28th Jim Dyer

Thank you to all who contribute to the flower Rota.
Enjoy a good summer.

Irene Ramsay.

Bric a Brac.

Do you have any items of unwanted bric a brac or jewellery which we could sell at our weekly Thursday sale?

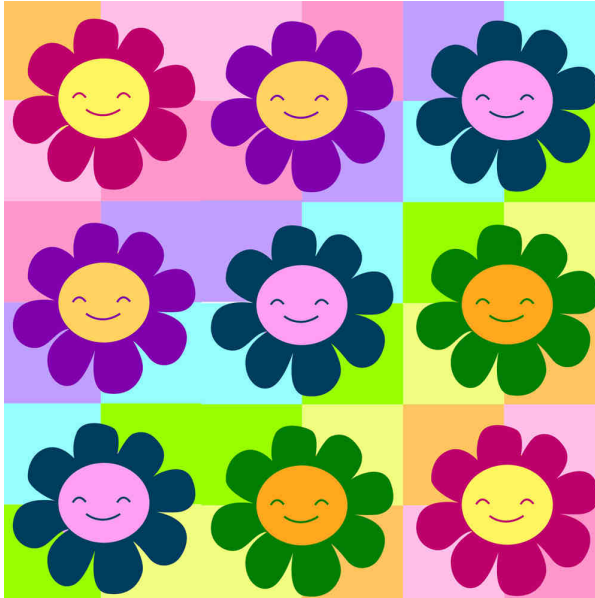
The sale is in the Church Hall between 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Any items would be gratefully received any Thursday morning

Why not come along for a browse - maybe you'll pick up a bargain or two!

Thank you for your support.

Wilma.

Lasswade Church Flower Rota



May 8th Margaret Gordon
 15th Sheila Turner
 22nd Elaine Thomson
 29th Meg Laing

July 10th Mrs D Stewart
 17th Jenny Brown
 24th Mary Hay
 31st Betty Blakebell

June 12th Stewart Renwick
 19th Sadie Cowe
 26th Alison Branch

Aug 14th Margaret Dalgleish
 21st Ruby Gardner
 28th Moira Dryden

Herbert and I have recently returned from a special trip to Singapore to see Andrew, René and Hamish and while we were there we were able to admire the lush spectacular plants and trees. On our return to the UK we are in time to witness the wonder of Spring. It has made us realise what a wonderful world we live in! The church flowers reflect the wonderful colours of the seasons. I would like to thank all the people who help by providing the flowers for the Church.

Moira Dryden

World Day of Prayer.

The World Day of Prayer service was held in the evening of Friday 4th March in Lasswade Church. The service had been composed by the Women of Chile who had woven a tapestry on sackcloth depicting the theme of W.D.P.2011-----

How many loaves have you? In the tapestry are images from Mark's Gospel presented in the context of rural Chilean life in a way that honours Christ's presence in our daily lives everywhere. The order of service was enhanced by a colourful picture of this tapestry showing the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus teaching the multitude, the bread and fish, fields of wheat and a corral of horses.

Fifteen readers from the six churches in our area led the service. Those present then formed groups and made a list of talents they could share. When gathered and read aloud we discovered we had a wealth of gifts and skills to share.

The Rev. Matthew Ross gave a most apt and interesting talk on the theme.

Tea and a selection of different breads were shared and enjoyed.

Ann Macdonald.

The 9th Bonnyrigg Duck race

The 9th Bonnyrigg Duck race down the Pittendreich Burn was held on Sunday 23rd January to raise funds for Edinburgh and Lothians Family Support Group of the Scottish Huntington's Association and Children 1st (formerly known as the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.) It was run by members of the congregation with help from friends and neighbours. We are happy to report an outstanding success with the total raised being £1,298.34, an astonishing increase of £91.98 on last year's amount. The sum has been divided equally between the two named charities.

Charline Joiner, silver medal winner for Scotland in the track cycling ladies team sprint in the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games came to start the race. Resplendent in her Scotland tracksuit, she added a touch of glamour to the occasion. She was accompanied by her boyfriend, Lee Jones, rugby internationalist winger in the Scotland A team (who have won all three of their games this season).

A list of prize-winners can be obtained from the editors or Bill MacDonald.

Thanks to all congregation members who bought or sold ducks!

Bill MacDonald

Bonnyrigg Ranger Guides

Bonnyrigg Ranger Guides have got off to a very busy start in 2011 and are looking forward to a wide variety of activities leading into the summer months.

Our first night back in January was a planning evening and the opportunity to catch up on all the latest gossip and to finish off any remaining selection boxes.

At the end of January, we held a Burns Night Quiz to which we invited a number of older Guides from local Guide units. We were joined by 6 Guides from different units and I am pleased to say that these girls are now coming along to Rangers on a regular basis. The quiz had a number of rounds and we stopped for a half time break to enjoy Irn Bru and shortbread.

We held a salsa night in February where we took part in a Salsacise exercise class and then enjoyed salsa dips with a number of healthy snacks.

We also read Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen and held a book club with tea and scones to discuss the book in detail. The girls chose to read a classic novel rather than a modern novel and enjoyed the book very much.

In March, we made pancakes and enjoyed these whilst Lindsay Houghton (Duke of Edinburgh Advisor) came along to discuss the progress some of

our girls have made towards their Duke of Edinburgh and to encourage our new girls to join the scheme. The pancakes were delicious!! Thanks to Lindsay Houghton for all the support she gives to the girls which keeps them motivated and on track.

We also attended the ACM at Loanhead Miners in March to hear all about the Centenary Year in Guiding in Midlothian. Well done to Heather and Claire who spoke to a filled hall all about their Tall Ships Adventure from last summer.

Our plans for the coming weeks include a Chick Drive fund raiser, a scavenger hunt, a return visit to Edinburgh University's climbing wall, a trip to Lucas, a photography night, a baby shower (Catsy, one of the leaders, is expecting her baby in June) and a BBQ with a hula theme.

The Rangers meet every second Tuesday in the Guide Hall on Dobbies Road and we are always looking for new members, so if you know any young lady (between 14 and 26 years) who may be interested in joining us, please feel free to contact me on Tel No 0131 454 9278.

Lynsey Stevenson



What's a Pound

That's a rather open question. Paul Daniels, the TV Magician, would probably say 'not a lot'. Certainly the pound sterling you gave in your church offering 10 - 15 years ago does not have the same value as the pound you give today.

We are all aware and sympathise with the suffering and financial struggle some people are suffering in the present economic climate.

Your church at Cockpen and Carrington is also experiencing financial difficulty.

In 2011 we have to find an extra £2,497 in Ministry and Mission contributions. Our church buildings insurance premiums are due to increase by £1747 to £4565. Not to mention increases in heating, lighting and other costs.

We as members of Cockpen and Carrington Church have a legacy to maintain this church as a place of worship for future generations. To do this we, that is every member, also has to continue to support the church financially.

We would encourage everyone, provided you can afford to do so, to reassess your level of giving.

To those of you who read this magazine and for whatever the reason, rarely manage to come to church, we would implore you to support your church in its financial struggle.

When we look at the Congregational Roll, we are able to calculate that this church is being supported financially by less than 50% of the congregation.

This is a shocking and thought provoking statistic and while we have no in depth knowledge of who contributes to the church and who doesn't, each and everyone of us know whether we do or not.

We personally do not know of any other organisation where you can be a member and not financially support that organisation.

We would ask all members of the congregation, who do not presently give to the church, to seriously consider setting up a Standing Order through their bank and, if you are a taxpayer to make your offering subject to Gift Aid, which would result in an additional 25 pence in the pound being recovered from the Inland Revenue.

If every member of the congregation who presently does not give to the Church were to set up a Standing Order for as little as £5 per month this would make a tremendous difference. Standing Order and Gift Aid forms can be obtained from the Treasurer.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article. As they used to say in the BBC TV Crime Watch programme please don't have Nightmares, We have Nightmares for all of us.

Jim Young and Ian Fowler, Joint Treasurers

Lasswade and Rosewell Choir

In the Christmas edition of "The Link" I mentioned that the Choir would be participating in the Rosewell Carol Party and in the Christingle Service at Lasswade on Christmas Eve. Despite the weather both of these events took place and, once again, I express my thanks to the members of the choir who sang at these venues. I cannot say this often enough, but I appreciate very much the support given by both the regular choir members, who turn out Sunday by Sunday to lead our worship, and by those ladies and gentlemen who augment the choir for special services. Thank you one and all - without your enthusiasm and commitment our worship would be all the poorer.

In my choir report for the Annual Stated Meeting I mentioned something which is worth repeating here. People might not realise this but the choir, through their music, are carrying out their own ministry. As they link the words of the hymns to the various tunes they are helping to lead the congregation to an understanding of the message which the different authors are striving to convey.

We recently sang, at Lasswade, one of the great hymns of the Church, namely, "The God of Abraham praise" to the tune "Leoni". This hymn was written by Thomas Olivers (1725-99) and is based on the Jewish Yigdal (or Hebrew Confession of Faith). As you know, the roots of early Christian worship grew up from the 1st century Jewish synagogue service where, in scripture and psalm, sermon and prayer, those gathered celebrated what God had done and anticipated His Mighty Acts to come.

"The God of Abraham praise" was written around 1770 immediately after Mr. Olivers had heard a chorister, Meyer Lyon, singing the Yigdal in the Great Synagogue, Duke's Place, London. The Yigdal is read at the opening of the morning Service but is sung to traditional tunes on the eve of the Sabbath and on the evenings of the Jewish Festivals. Thomas Olivers rendered this hymn from the Hebrew and it may be that Meyer Lyon gave him the tune.

Incidentally, Thomas Olivers was born in Tregynon, Montgomeryshire and was left an orphan at a very early age. He grew up uncared for and had very little education. He was apprenticed to a shoemaker but had a restless life for a time, roaming around the country and earning a livelihood as a cobbler. He became a decided Christian after hearing George Whitefield preach in Bristol and his first inclination was to follow Whitefield but he became a Methodist. After meeting John Wesley he became one of Wesley's itinerant preachers, travelling through England, Scotland and Ireland for the next two decades or so before Wesley appointed him supervisor of the Methodist press.

However, John Wesley removed Thomas Olivers from this position in 1789 and Mr. Olivers spent the rest of his life in retirement in London. He wrote several hymns and one famous tune which was originally known as "Olivers" but later known as "Helmsley", which accompanies the hymn "Lo He comes with clouds descending". Meyer Lyon also had to resign his position as chorister after singing in Handel's "Messiah" but he became a reader with the synagogue in Kingston, Jamaica.

GUILD REPORT 2010/2011

Yet again we are fortunate to have a membership of 44; slightly down on last year but nevertheless still healthy when you see so many other Guilds in decline we are very fortunate. Unfortunately due to the extreme weather conditions many of our elderly members were unable to make a few of the meetings. However we did only have to cancel one meeting completely due to the weather.

Our session started with our usual Service of Dedication within the Church Service and this was conducted by The Reverend Melville Schofield.

Our first meeting was on the day after when our Minister Matthew spoke on our theme 'Called to Love Mercy' but also enlightened us on how he fills in the other six days of the week.

We have had once again a very full and interesting programme this session with speakers from 'The Mark Wright Project' Hendry Widnell & Stewart Carpets, Mary's Meals, The Leprosy Mission, and 100 years of Dolls.

Our Christmas Carol Evening was a great success with special thanks to Mrs Moira Dryden for playing the piano for us at this event, and to Mrs Jessie Hume for all her delicious baking which we all enjoyed so much.

After the Christmas break we enjoyed a Nibbles and Natter Evening along with a Quiz and a small Bring and Buy sale The latter part of the session includes speakers from Tear Fund, My Antique Clothes, International Justice, as well as our Closing Social which will

take place on Monday 11th April Our entertainment will be provided by the Castaways when all will be made most welcome, as indeed you are to any event. So please come and join with us if you can We have now finalised this years Guild Outing which will take place on Saturday 7th May where our destination will be Moffat. I am sure we will all have a most enjoyable day, with good weather. To those of our Guild members that have been house bound or unwell we wish you all a speedy recovery back to good health and look forward to seeing you again real soon

Finally can I just say that we have had a very interesting and informative programme and I feel for this we should thank our Secretary Nancy Richardson for all the work she does in arranging these speakers and seeing to our correspondence it is a huge commitment and for that we are truly grateful. Wilma Sweeney our Treasurer also does a first class job in keeping us in a good financial position- both ladies are invaluable to the Guild.

May our Guild with God's help continue to flourish and as we draw close to the end of this session may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a most enjoyable recess and hopefully we shall all have a good summer break and come back fully refreshed.

Rae Roe, Convener

THE HOLY HIKERS

"The longest journey begins with a single step."

Lao Tsu



I shall start where I left off in the Christmas Issue with our November walk which was in the Pentlands at Castlelow Hillfort.

The weather was quite pleasant although the ground was very wet. On the way down from Castlelow the six walkers met with a few cows on a narrow path with a burn on one side and a barbed wire fence on the other. Betty Bodman realised quickly that she couldn't jump the fence so was preparing to plunge into the swift flowing burn should the need arise. Both Betty and Freda don't like cows. Fortunately after a bit of hand waving and general signalling, the cows ran off down the path. We managed to squeeze past them further down. So our walks are exciting at times!

In December it was very snowy and four walkers braved the elements to go into Dalkeith Country Park for a slide, oops.... I mean walk round the perimeter of the park. This proved to be an enjoyable day despite the snow and ice underfoot.

January's walk was cancelled due to bad weather. We had planned to do Polton and the Cast which we had swapped from December.

On 12th February 16 of us had a lovely walk round West Water Reservoir followed by our Christmas meal at the Old Bakehouse in West Linton. Two other members who could not come to the walk joined us for a tasty High Tea.

Our March walk was cancelled due to bad snow again and now we are looking forward to starting our new programme on the 9th April with a walk in West Lothian from Bo'ness to Blackness.

We have organised a walking weekend at the end of April when we will be travelling to the Lake District for three days of walking. Fingers crossed that the weather is kind to us.

If anyone is interested in joining our group they will be most welcome. Please contact me on 0131 660 1147.

Happy Hiking,
Jim Scott

Oasis

On behalf of Oasis ladies, I would like to thank all those church members who supported our Blingo IV event at the start of March in Bonnyrigg Ex-Serviceman's Club.

A number of church members either attended the event, bought raffle tickets or donated raffle prizes and we were exceptionally grateful for all your support.

The event was a huge success raising £3,000 for a number of charities including:

- *Maggies Centres*
- *The Mark Wright Project*
- *Breast Cancer Care*
- *Scottish Adoption and*
- *Cockpen and Carrington Sunday School*

Thank you once again for all your support.



Oasis ladies meet the first Thursday of every month in Cockpen and Carrington Church Hall and we are always looking for new members to come along and join us. There are currently over 20 women who attend regularly and it is a great way of meeting new people. A few new friendships have been established as a result of coming along.

If you are interested or would like to find out more, please feel free to contact me on Tel No 0131 454 9278. We would love you to see you.

Lynsey Stevenson

Lasswade and Rosewell Church News

Sunday School

Sunday School at Rosewell Church will be held on the first Sunday of each month. Come to Rosewell Church at 10.00 a.m. for the first part of the service then the children go to the Church Hall. Sunday School will finish at 11.00 a.m. All children will be made most welcome.

Cake Stall

Baking dates at the Pitcairn Centre are below. Thanks for your continued support.

7 April, 5 May, 2 June, 7 July, 4 August and 1 September.

Mothers and Toddlers Group

Mothers & Toddlers Group are holding an Easter Coffee Morning on Saturday 23 April from 10.00 am to 12 noon in Rosewell Church Hall. All welcome.

Gift Day Coffee Morning : Saturday 14 May 2011

A Coffee Morning will held on Saturday 14 May from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon in Rosewell Church Hall. Donations of books, home-baking, tablet, jam, marmalade, soft goods, toys, bric-a-brac and items for the tombola would be very much appreciated. You can hand your donations into the Church Hall on the Friday evening or on the Saturday morning. We hope you will come along with your friends and support this event.

Gift Day – Sunday 22 May 2011

You will receive an envelope for your donation during the month of April and you can bring it along with you to the service at 10.00 a.m. in Lasswade Church or hand it in at the Coffee Morning. If you would like to give, but are unable to attend Church, please return your sealed envelope to your District Elder.

Midlothian Doors Open Day

Saturday 10 September 2011 – Lasswade and Rosewell Churches will be open. Times will be confirmed later.

AN INTERVIEW WITH OUR MINISTER.....

Question 1: What's your favourite kind of music and favourite band?

Answer: I love all types of music from classical to pop. I'm a bit out of touch with the current new bands. Should it be JLS or Justin Bieber!? In my teens, I was a Dire Straits fan (and still am).

Question 2: What's your favourite colour?

Answer: Blue

Question 3: What's your favourite food and do you cook?

Answer: Yes I like to cook (sometimes) and I like most foods. I suppose my favourite might be fish and I love prawns and sushi. I am spoiled at home as my wife is a great cook. I don't like Brussels Sprouts, much to both my mother's & mother-in-law's disappointment!

Question 4: What car do you drive and what car would you like to drive?

Answer: I drive a Skoda Octavia estate. It's big, reliable and reasonably cheap to run! I've owned 9 cars and my favourite was a bright red, Volvo 440. My friends used to say, "Here's Matthew's fire engine"! when I drove it.

Question: What about a Smart car? Or a Bugatti Veyron?

Answer: My wife needs a new car, hers is 18 years old and we thought about a Smart car but think she needs something with more seats - she was thinking about a Vauxhall Corsa, but has finally decided to get a one year old VW Polo. I don't think a Bugatti Veyron would be practical (or even remotely affordable) for us!

Question 5: Where did you meet your wife, Kristina?

Answer: We were both delegates at an international Church conference in Sibiu, Romania.

Question 6: What's your favourite Bible story and hymn?

Answer: Story: I've lots of favourites, but I'm very moved by the story of Ruth - she goes to live in a strange country and shows real courage in supporting her mother-in-law in a strange land.

My favourite Bible verse is John 10:10: "Jesus said, 'I have come that you may have life - life in all its fullness'".

I like too many hymns to be able to choose a favourite.

Question 7: What made you decide to go into the ministry?

Answer: Good question! I was a law student and was questioning myself; "Do I really want to become a lawyer?" I've always believed in God and believed Jesus was the Son of God. I got more and more involved in church things at University and used to like visiting St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh. One day, when I was there, I sat down to prayer. I think God was listening and he wanted me to become a Minister, after that I knew this was what I wanted to do.

Question 8: What are the best bits and the worst bits of being a Minister?

Answer: Best - things like this, coming to Sunday School. It's a great privilege to conduct worship. I conducted a wedding the other day - that was lovely. I like meeting new people, even when it's at sad times like funerals. It's good to feel I can help. I enjoy working for the church internationally as I did before coming here in Brussels.
Worst: Too much paperwork! Also, it's easy to worry about some of the responsibilities and problems that can arise.

Question 9: What's your favourite football team and why?

Answer: Dundee United - I was born in Dundee but there's fierce rivalry in the city between the two teams Dundee & Dundee Utd.

Question 10: How many children would you like?

Answer: (*mmm thinking hard*) - 1 or 2, hopefully

Question 11: What's your middle name and are you named after anyone?

Answer: Zachary. I'm named after my Great Uncle who was a surgeon in Sunderland. The name is quite common in Shetland where my ancestors are from.

Question 12: For charity, would you wear girls' clothes for a day?

Answer: NO! I'd prefer to do other things for charity.

Question 13: Are you a vegetarian?

Answer: No, I like meat, but Kristina and I try to give up meat for Lent.

Question 14: Do you have any brothers and sisters?

Answer: I have a younger brother James who is 4 years younger. He's a musician and plays piano and violin. He's currently a conductor of an orchestra; he is getting married this year.

Question 15: What's your favourite chocolate?

Answer: ALL chocolate! But if pressed for a favourite, probably Dairy Milk.

Question 16: Would you dye your hair pink?

Answer: NO! Like question 12, I don't think it's what people expect of a Minister. I need to be serious at times and would never want to offend anyone.

Question 17: How many times have you read the Bible?

Answer: Lots and lots but it's not the kind of book you read from start to finish you pick it up and look at different things at different times.

Cake Stall.

Once again, we had a very successful cake stall during 2010. Many thanks to all who supported us during that time and, who I'm sure will continue that great support during this year.

Our next dates at the Pitcairn Centre are as follows -

28th April.
12th May.
23rd June.
28th July.
25th August.
22nd September.

As is the custom, items for the stall can be handed into the Pitcairn Centre between 9 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. on the day.

Jean, Helen, Wilma (also, Isobel and Vi. the 1st year Apprentices - I think we'll keep them on!!).

Foster a child

In Midlothian today there are an increasing number of children in need of a foster family.

We urgently need more families, couples and individuals to care for children of all ages from babies to teenagers who are unable to live with their birth families.

Applications are welcomed from people from all backgrounds; it does not matter whether you are single, married, a couple, gay or straight, or have children.

What you will need is the ability to work with others, a sense of humour, and a spare room.

We need people to care for children on a full time basis or for short periods of time. Some children are unable to return to live with their birth family so we also need foster families who can care for a child on a permanent basis as well as adoptive parents.

Foster Carers receive a weekly payment in addition to an allowance to cover the cost of caring for a child.

Make a difference

To find out more information please call

0131 271 3860

or email

family.placement@midlothian.gov.uk

or visit

www.midlothian.gov.uk

From a book - 'Facing the Storm'

Psalm 23 is reassuring. The image of the shepherd guiding, guarding and feeding his flock is comforting. Reading it for the umpteenth time the other day, something struck me that I'd never noticed before.

The psalmist writes confidently that God guides him in the paths of righteousness, but, follows this immediately with "*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...*"

Leading me in paths of righteousness sounds great, particularly after the green pastures and still waters bit. But then, comes the valley of the shadow...

The writer, I assume, saw no contradiction between the two. He's saying that paths of righteousness don't always lead to still waters. And, having the right religious passport doesn't guarantee trouble-free travel.

It's echoed in verse five. "*You prepared a table for me...*" but, I'm warned that it may be in the presence of my enemies. That "*table*" isn't a quiet picnic by the lake, when the only discordant note is the ants on the cake. God provides my needs, but it may well be in preparation for the next part of the struggle. My enemies, says the psalmist, are nearby.

But, so is the Shepherd: not to make life easy, but to surround me with love, and to give me strength for the next step forward.

The Shepherd takes me high to pasture, over rocky paths.

Calling me to effort, I climb, struggling through thorn thickets,

The way marked by scraps of wool torn from the fleece of my self-satisfaction.

It makes me breathless. But you are there, counting the sheep, knowing when I stray. Giving your life to rescue me taking me each day, nearer the fold.

From Meditations and Prayers by Eddie Askew. (with many thanks - G.S.).

Church Dance

Another successful dance was held in March where over £400 was raised for church funds.

We are all very grateful for the support we get from the afternoon "tea dancers", the ex-servicemen's club and the Pitcairn Centre; and of course, our own members and friends.

Jean, Wilma, Dorothy and Jack.

In Those Old Days

We met; we married a long time ago,
We worked for long hours when wages were low.
No TV, no radio, no bath, times were hard –
Just a cold water tap and a “walk down the yard”.

No holidays abroad, few carpets on floors;
We burned coal on the fire and didn't lock doors.
Our children arrived – no pill in those days –
And we brought them up without any State aid.

They were safe in our lanes, and could play in the park,
And old folks could go for a walk in the dark.
No valium, no drugs, and no LSD –
We cured most of our ills with a good cup of tea.

No vandals, no muggings – there was little to rob –
We felt we were rich with a couple of bob.
Folks were happier in those far-off days,
Kinder and caring in so many ways.
Milkman and farmer would whistle and sing,
A night at the pictures – that was one big mad fling!

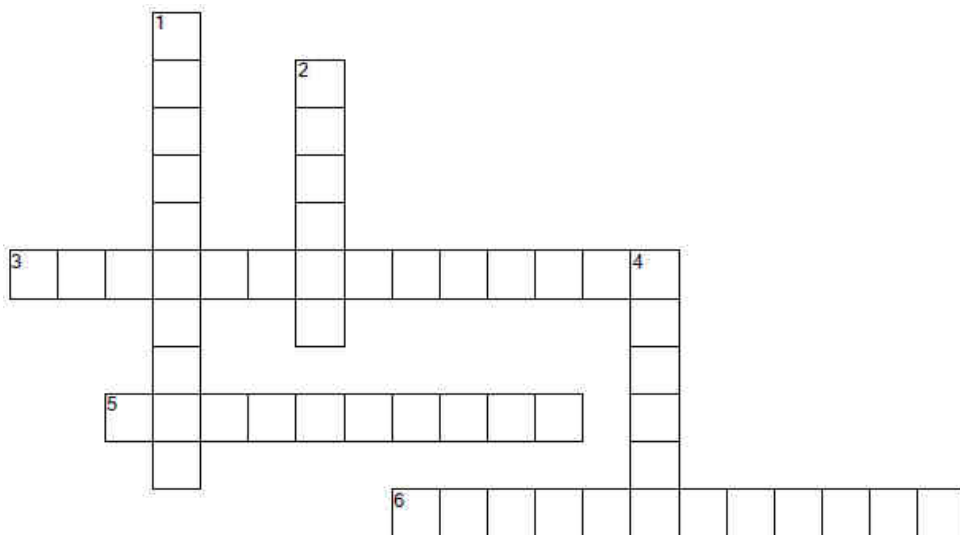
We all get our share of troubles and strife;
We just have to face 'em – that's the pattern of life.
Now we're alone and look back through the years,
We didn't think of the bad times – the troubles – the tears –

But remember the blessings, our home, and our love,
And that we shared them; we thank god above.

Clues for the Crossword on the next page:

Easter, Dinner, Resurrection, Sunrise Service, Palm Sunday, Good Friday.

Easter Crossword



ACROSS

3. A religious gathering at dawn
5. Representing Jesus's entry into Jerusalem
6. The Cause or exemplar of a rising from the dead.

DOWN

1. The day that Jesus died
2. The principal meal of the day
4. The day that Jesus was resurrected

Some clues are on the previous page.

Please send your news to the Editors for the Autumn Issue of "The Link" on or before Sunday 14 August 2011.