

Cockpen & Carrington

The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Easter 2012



Church of Scotland

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PULPIT SUPPLY ROTA - APRIL / SEPTEMBER 2012

DATE	LASSWADE (10.00 am)	COCKPEN & CARRINGTON (11.30 am)	ROSEWELL (please check times below)
01.04.12 Palm Sunday	Service at Rosewell (Communion)	Rev M Schofield	MINISTER 10 am Communion (& Su School)
08.04.12 Easter Day	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev W Armitage 11.30 am
15.04.12	John Beaumont	John Beaumont	Rev M Schofield 11.30 am
22.04.12	MINISTER	MINISTER	Service at Lasswade 10am
29.04.12	Rev M Schofield	MINISTER	MINISTER 10 am
06.05.12	Service at Rosewell	MINISTER (Communion)	Rev M Schofield 10 am (with Sunday School)
13.05.12	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev M Schofield 11.30 am
20.05.12	Rev W Armitage	Rev W Armitage	To be arranged 11.30 am
27.05.12 Pentecost	MINISTER	MINISTER	Service at Lasswade 10 am
03.06.12 Trinity Sunday	Service at Rosewell	MINISTER	MINISTER 10 am (with Sunday School)
10.06.12	MINISTER	MINISTER	John Beaumont 11.30 am
17.06.12	MINISTER	MINISTER	Eddie Yeoman 11.30 am
24.06.12	MINISTER (Communion)	Rev M Schofield	Service at Lasswade 10 am
01.07.12	Service at Rosewell	MINISTER	MINISTER 10 am (with Sunday School)
08.07.12	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev M Schofield 11.30 am
15.07.12	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	EddieYeoman 11.30 am
22.07.12	John Beaumont	John Beaumont	Service at Lasswade 10 am
29.07.12	Worship Group	MINISTER	MINISTER 10 am
05.08.12	MINISTER	MINISTER	MINISTER 10 am
12.08.12	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev W Armitage 11.30 am
19.08.12	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev W Armitage 11.30 am
26.08.12	MINISTER	MINISTER	Service at Lasswade 10 am
02.09.12	Service at Rosewell	Rev M Schofield	MINISTER (Communion)
09.09.12	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev M Schofield 11.30 am
16.09.12	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev M Schofield 11.30 am
23.09.12	MINISTER	MINISTER	Service at Lasswade 10 am
30.09.12	Worship Group	MINISTER	MINISTER 10 am

HOLY WEEK SERVICES IN 2012 – ALL SERVICES COMMENCE AT 7.30 PM:

Monday, 2 April – CATHOLIC CHURCH, BONNYRIGG

Tuesday, 3 April – ROSEWELL PARISH CHURCH

Wednesday, 4 April – EPISCOPAL CHURCH, LASSWADE

Maundy Thursday, 5 April – COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH

Good Friday, 6 April – LASSWADE PARISH CHURCH

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Dear Friends,

As I write, we are in the season of Lent. The word Lent simply comes from an older form of the word lengthen – i.e. the days are getting longer at this time of the year. But Lent commemorates Jesus' 40 days and nights spent alone in the wilderness. This period of solitude was a major test for Jesus; we read that he was tempted by the devil yet did not succumb to temptation. For Christians, Lent has traditionally been a time of preparation for Easter, as Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas. Some people find giving something up for Lent a useful spiritual discipline, but if this becomes no more than a ritual or even a superstition then such actions are pointless. It is right that, as a Church, we should take Easter seriously. The Easter resurrection of Jesus Christ is at the very heart of our faith: hope overcoming despair and Godly love defeating cruel hate.

I was delighted that two young adults recently joined Cockpen & Carrington Parish Church on profession of faith. This is the first time that this has taken place for some years. If you are not yet a member, why not consider joining? I intend to hold a new Communicants class in May/June, but I can also tailor the times to individual needs. Please let me know. Likewise, please let me know if you or someone you know would like a visit at home or in hospital.

This year, Mr Graham Burnside will have been organist at Cockpen & Carrington Parish Church for 40 years; I congratulate and thank Graham for his magnificent contribution to the worship life of the church. We will celebrate with a special "Songs of Praise" service on Sunday 13th May at Cockpen (and the Sunday School prizegiving will be at Lasswade). We are extremely fortunate to have such excellent organists at the churches.

During February and March I have been serving as Acting Clerk to the Presbytery of Lothian. The Presbytery covers Midlothian and East Lothian. Later this year, I will also serve as Interim Moderator at St John's & King's Park Church in Dalkeith whilst the Rev Keith Mack undertakes an exchange in the USA. Mr Bill Brown and I will be Commissioners to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 19-25 May.

Please do come to the Holy Week and Easter services in Church. Kristina and I wish you and your family a very happy Easter.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Matthew Ross, Minister

Lasswade and Rosewell Church News

Baptism

On Sunday 18 December 2011 Eilidh Margaret Ann Zipporah Dalglish, daughter of Stuart and Catherine was baptised in Lasswade Parish Church.

'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee'

A huge thank you is extended to everyone who helped make our Christmas Coffee Morning / Sale a great success. The sum of £485 was raised.

Christmas Services: All the services held over the Christmas period were well attended and our Retiral Collections in aid of our Partners in India raised the sum of £266. Over the past year we have raised the sum of £585 for this project.

Christian Aid Week: 13 to 19 May 2012

Gift Day – Sunday 27 May 2012

You will receive an envelope for your donation at the beginning May and you can bring it along with you on Gift Day Sunday (Service at 10.00 a.m. in Lasswade Church) or return your sealed envelope to your District Elder.

Coffee Morning / Summer Sale - Saturday 9 June

To be held in Rosewell Parish Church Hall from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon. Donations of home baking, jams, marmalade, plants and items for tombola would be very much appreciated.

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 are always lots of lovely home baking, jams, vegetables, books and much more.

Congregational Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Congregational Board will be held on Tuesday, 10 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.

Mr. David D. Stewart

We were all saddened to learn of Mr. Stewart's death on 22nd February.

Mr. Stewart grew up in Polton and pursued sporting and outdoor activities which were to become a feature of his professional life. He served his country in the RAF in the Second World War, seeing service in Africa and other parts of the Middle East.

A number of us in the congregations which make up this Linkage were pupils of Mr. Stewart when he was PE Teacher at Lasswade, both in the Primary and Secondary Schools, and his many friends and acquaintances will remember him for so many reasons across such a wide spectrum of life.

As far as the church is concerned he was ordained as an elder on 27th March 1960. He cared deeply for the people in his various elders districts. I inherited part of one of these where the parishioners speak very warmly of his pastoral care.

He was a superb organiser and this was apparent when he was Convenor of the Summer Fair during its formative years. He also organised socials in the Eskside Hall in the early 1960s. He was also one of the instigators in the introduction of the Lasswade Church Magazine, called the Messenger if I remember correctly.

The present incumbent at the organ in Lasswade served as organist for a short spell between 1971/72. Here again Mr. Stewart exercised his organisational skills by helping to commandeer people from the congregation to augment the choir for special music at Christmas and Easter etc and one of the pieces of music which he enjoyed singing was "All in the April Evening".

In more recent years he gifted some roses for the church garden and he also wrote a series of articles about Polton for several editions of The Link.

Together with Mrs. Stewart he was in his usual pew a few short weeks ago.

We shall miss him from among us but we give thanks that he touched our lives in so many different ways. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mrs. Stewart and with Sandy, Margaret and their families at this time.

Lasswade and Rosewell Choir

Some of you may have noticed that, at Lasswade, we have reintroduced our Introit Programme. This was started in January on an experimental basis and is very much dependant on the numbers in the choir each Sunday. The Introits were very successful a number of years ago but at that time we had a bigger choir so that if anyone was absent on a Sunday then we had a cushion of people still around to allow the Introit to be sung. Our present core choir, while extremely capable musically, is smaller in numbers and if a few are off then the voices who are left are a bit exposed which might mean we might have to rethink the Introit at the last moment. However, we are going forward on a trial basis and we shall see.

Like we did last time, the Introits for each Sunday will follow the Liturgical Calendar, deviating for local events such as communion, the Queen's Accession etc. As well as the Introits, the choir are working on some music to be sung over the Lent and Easter seasons and we are also working on "The Mountain of God", words by Richard Bewes to the tune "Chariots of Fire", Vangelis, which we hope to do on 17th June which is the Sunday after the Olympic Torch has passed through Lasswade.

I cannot express my thanks often enough, not only to the core choir who turn out Sunday by Sunday, but also to those who augment the choir from time to time, for all their hard work and support. Your time and enthusiasm is much appreciated.

HLRD

Extracts from the Session Minute Book of Lasswade Old Parish Church covering the period 29th September 1891 – 14th November 1944

A few weeks ago I searched the Minute Book referred to above for information on a subject completely unrelated to the life of the present Congregation. In so doing I came across one or two snippets which might be of interest.

On 29th September 1891 Rev. James A. Burdon was the Minister, David Bret Tod, a Solicitor in Bonnyrigg was an elder as was Robert Marshall, Schoolmaster in Lasswade after whom the Marshall Medal which is awarded to the Dux of Lasswade High School is named.

At a meeting of the Session on 29th September 1891 it was reported that certain records had been examined to conform to an Inventory. Some of these records were 11 volumes (Minute Books) dating from 22nd May 1615 -28th July 1891. Just think of it. These records spanned the period when James VI (and 1st) was on the throne, through the 17th century with Charles 1 and 11, Oliver

Cromwell, James V11 (and 11) the Massacre of Glencoe, William and Mary, the Darien Scheme, the founding of the Bank of Scotland in 1695 into the 18th Century with Union of the Parliaments in 1707, the '15 and '45 , the Clearances, the American Declaration of Independence and into the 19th century with Trafalgar, Waterloo and Queen Victoria. These volumes are followed by the Minute Book from which I am extracting certain items of interest and which covers World War 1 and partially the 1939-45 conflict.

Also at the 29th September 1891 meeting the communion roll was examined and "serious consideration would have to be given to the circumstances of those who were careless in their attendance".

It was also resolved to call a meeting of the congregation to consider an offer by Mr. James Grieve of the Waterloo Hotel in Edinburgh to present an American Organ. The congregational meeting was called to consider the question of introducing instrumental music.

17th November 1891; Session advised that Lady Deas of Pittendreich had gifted £100 which will be invested and used for the Poor of the Parish Church of Lasswade in accordance with Lady Deas' continued interest in the welfare of the poorer members.

30th October 1898: The East Window, completed in stained glass as a memorial to Henry Moffat of Eldin, was inaugurated. Throughout the three divisions is a large representation of Our Lord's Supper. In the wide central light are St. John, St. Peter and four of the Apostles grouped on either side of the Figure of Christ while the adjoining compartments on the right and left contain the other Apostles. Underneath are inscribed the words "In loving memory of Henry Moffat of Eldin who died 8th May 1897. Erected by His Widow". The artists are Messrs Ballantine and Gardiner of Edinburgh.

It is also interesting to note that some of the early applicants who applied for the post of organist either had to play in front of the congregation on successive Sundays or be examined by such worthies as the organist of St. Mary's Cathedral when they were awarded marks out of a possible 70.

15th February 1904: Mr. James Gall, Schoolmaster in Lasswade, appointed Session Clerk.

8th May 1904: Discussions begin over the request from the School Board in Lasswade for the use of a room in the Church Hall during the 1904-05 Session.

Sometime between 25th December 1904 and 17th February 1905 Rev. J.A.Burdon dies following an illness.

11th July 1905: Polling Day to elect a new minister and the Rev. Robert H. Pryde from Stromness is duly chosen, subject to various procedural clearances.

9th August 1905: Lawyers acting for the Trustees and Executors of the late Mr. John Noble Milne of Kevock Tower intimate a bequest of £100 for the upkeep and maintenance of his burial ground and tombstone, with any balance going to the Poor of the Parish.

26th September 1905: Mr. Pryde is welcomed to his first Session Meeting at Lasswade.

15th July 1906: Stained glass window to Mr. Burdon in southern façade of the Church inaugurated.

Then, just as now, queries and concerns over the Bequests arise, eg:

3rd March 1908: (1) The Session are advised of concerns expressed by Mr. Milne's Trustees who feel dissatisfied with the manner in which the grave of Mr. Milne has been kept and asking that the maintenance should be put in the hands of a florist.

(2): The Ross Bequest, instigated in 1631, comes under fire. Reference is made to subsequent events including, in the 1650s, a gift by King Charles 11 just three weeks before the defeat of the Royalist forces at Dunbar by Cromwell.

(3): Next it is the Brown Bequest which originated in 1758 when John Brown left 6000 Merks Scots (or £333.6.8) for the poor of the Parish. This sum was granted to Mr. Brown by Sir John Clerk of Pennycook (the spelling of the time) to be given to the Session as soon as possible for the purposes intended. Excerpts are extracted from various minutes dating from 1758 showing how these funds have been used.

All these matters seem to have been discussed on 3rd March 1908. I do not know at what time the meeting commenced or when it ended but I have sympathy with Mr. Gall, the Session Clerk, for religiously recording the various extracts and discussions in such detail, covering as he does 24 pages of the Minute Book. I do not know how long it took him but I hope he spread it out over several days - otherwise when did he have time to work! And the Brown Bequest queries spread into future meetings.

During 1914 – 1918 and again from 1939 a lot of reference is made to the Minister and other Office Bearers demitting office - some for temporary periods, others for longer – to go on active service for King and Country. The Church still keeps going, with its problems. New elders are ordained and new communicants are admitted as required.

2nd September 1915: Mr. Pryde intimated that he had been called out as Chaplain to HM Forces.

10th January 1916: Bequest from Mrs. Moffat of Eldin of £200 towards permanent augmentation of stipend.

10th February 1918: Mr. George Irving appointed Session Clerk. An appreciation was paid to Mr. Gall for the efficient way in which he had discharged his duties.

6th January 1930: Mr. Pryde dies.

30th June 1930: Voting Day to elect a new minister and the Rev. J.G. Grant Fleming is duly chosen.

12th September 1930: Decision taken to close the church for the evening service on 19th October 1930 and to join with the congregation of Strathesk to celebrate their centenary.

6th October 1930: Session resolved to earmark £25 as a wedding present for Mr. Fleming.

21st September 1930: Mr. Richard Baird Smith of Hilton Cottage, Lasswade, an elder, dies.

11th February 1391: Session advised of the terms of a letter from Messrs. Duncan and Hartley, WS., Edinburgh, intimating a legacy of £100 from the Estate of the late Mr. Richard Baird Smith, the annual income of one half to be applied to the poor of the village and neighbourhood of Lasswade and the other half for the benefit of the Church Choir Musical Services but not as part of any salary of the organist or any member of the choir.

19th June 1931: At this meeting the Session were advised of a further letter from Duncan and Hartley asking for what capital sum the Kirk Session would be prepared to undertake the permanent upkeep and maintenance of the Baird Smith Memorial adjoining the Manse. After discussion the figure reached was £150 in addition to an annuity of £3.3.- payable by the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company.

Also, it was agreed to allow a Petition to the League of Nations in Geneva to be on the tables of the vestibule for signature.

15th December 1932: In view of the extension of the Burgh of Lasswade and Bonnyrigg it was agreed to ask the Town Council to provide two lamps on School Brae.

During the first half of 1933 a Memorial to Rev, Robert H. Pryde was unveiled by Right Rev. Professor Mackintosh DD.D.Litt.

4th October 1934: Session is informed of the loss through death of Mr. George Irving, Session Clerk and records their appreciation of his services. Mr. James Skinner is appointed Session Clerk.

4th November 1934: Mr. Fleming announces that he has accepted a call to East Parish Church of St. Nicholas, Aberdeen. While the Session expresses feelings of regret it offers Mr. Fleming every success in his new charge.

6th June 1935: Rev Alexander L. Bennett is appointed minister.

20th April 1937: Agreement reached to hold a service on 12th May 1937 to mark the Coronation on that of HM King George V1 and Queen Elizabeth.

19th February 1940; Mr. Bennett dies suddenly.

19th August 1940: Rev. D. Graham Lyle MA appointed as new minister.

30th April 1944: Discussion of a memorial to Mr. Bennett.

Lasswade Flower Rota



May

13th Marion Haggarty
20th Sadie Cowe
27th Elaine Thomson

June

10th Stewart Renwick
17th Meg Laing
24th Alison Branch

July

8th Mrs D Stewart
15th Jenny Brown
22nd Betty Blakebell
29th Mary Hay

August

12th Margaret Dalglish
19th Ruby Gardner
26th Moira Dryden

I have been making up the flower rota and am presuming that all the participants are willing to help for another year! If there is a problem with your dates or if you need someone to arrange flowers for you, I am always willing to help. Thank you for your help.

Moira Dryden

From the Cockpen & Carrington Clerk.

Just after the Christmas edition of the magazine had gone to press we heard the sad news of the passing, on 13th November, 2011, of a dear friend to many, Kenneth Gray. Ken was known to many here at Church but, was also well known in many other circles as was so evident at his funeral Service which was held in Church on the 18th November.

I had known Ken for a very long time and like me, he had worked in the motor trade before he decided to study for teaching, a decision which benefited so many young people who attended Esk Valley College over many years. I never saw Kenneth in any kind of flap and, I'm sure his students, some who might be a handful would never experience harsh words from him. It would be a quiet but authoritative discussion that, I'm sure, would usually do the trick.

Kenneth was invited to become an Elder in 1961 by the then Minister, the Rev. Leslie Watt and Kirk Session and, for just over 50 years he worked tirelessly for his Church and it's people. As well as being an Elder, Ken was greatly involved in our Sunday School, a teacher for many years and then Superintendent for about 20 years. How many children have been influenced by him and the other teachers I wonder!!

As Session Clerk, Ken was always a great support to me especially in my early days in a role that I was learning. Nothing was too much bother to Ken, his time was given willingly and freely. In more recent times Ken became Senior Elder and it was always a joy to sit with him, especially on Communion Sundays and other special Services.

Kenneth had not been well for quite some time but, when I visited him (not often enough I sometimes think) he was always cheerful, ready for a chat about all sorts of subjects. We often laughed about his wine making days and the gifts of a bottle or two that he would give me, and others. I don't know what the ingredients would be but, I can tell you, it was always powerful.

Kenneth had sadness and latterly ill health in his life but, that was made all the easier to bear knowing that he had a loving family around him - support received and given by them all and, it is to them that we now offer our support in the days and months ahead. They have lost a good Dad and we, a good and loyal friend.

For me, I was indeed honoured when the family asked me to say a few words during Kenneth's Service on the 18th November and, like many of us, have thought at sad times - did we say enough! Hopefully the family did draw strength from the Service ably conducted by Sandy Horsburgh in the absence of Matthew.

Yours, in friendship,
George.

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH.

BAPTISMS

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

- 1st January - Andrew Arthur Ehly-Mills, infant son of Gary and Amanda.
15th January - Rosanna Violet Skirving, infant daughter of Steven and Kimberley
29th January - Leah Megan Barr, infant daughter of Andrew and Nicola.
16th February - Darren Clark Gracie, son of William and Irene.
4th March - Ava Lovatt, infant daughter of Ross and Kerry.
4th March - Noah William Brandwood, infant son of Paul and Kate.

All were baptized by the Minister.

'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee.'

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couple who were married recently in Church and, we wish them every happiness.

14th January, 2012 - *Paul Whyte to Suzanne McNulty (The Minister).*

BEREAVEMENTS

It is with much sadness that we record the following deaths of members of our Congregation -

Mr. George Finlay,
Mrs. Isabella Robertson.

We continue to pray for these families and, any others from our Congregation(s) (and outwith) who grieve at this time of loss. As a Church, we are here for any who feel that we can help in any way.

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

NEW MEMBERS

We were delighted on Sunday 19th February to welcome Miss. Hayley Tedford and Mr. Darren Gracie who joined the Church, by Profession of Faith. Hayley and Darren were joined by family and friends at this special Service.

FROM THE ORGANIST

In recent years the timing of Easter has moved from one extreme to the other, falling in 2008 on almost the earliest possible date and last year on one of the latest ones. This year however we have reverted to something more like the norm, with Holy Week occupying the first week of April.

For the first time in a few years Cockpen will be hosting the communion service on Maundy Thursday (5th April). The choir will of course be taking part and we will be performing an anthem by Michael Haydn (brother of the more famous Joseph), "Sad is my spirit", which has a text relating to the arrest of Jesus in Gethsemane, and so is of course appropriate to that evening. Michael Haydn wrote quite a large amount of church music, as he was in charge of the court chapel at Salzburg for no less than 43 years. This year is also the 275th anniversary of his birth so that is another good reason for giving him an airing.

On Easter Day itself we will be performing an anthem new to us, "Christus Resurrexit" by the 19th century French composer Theodore Dubois. Dubois is better known as a composer of organ music (indeed his pieces feature fairly regularly among my own voluntaries) and the anthem is in fact an adaptation by him of an instrumental work by the 18th century Venetian composer Benedetto Marcello. It has a suitably triumphant tone in any event. After the service I will be playing a toccata based on the tune of "Now thank we all our God" by the contemporary Norwegian composer Egil Hovland.

Looking a little further ahead, the Diamond Jubilee celebrations will of course be upon us at the beginning of June, and while plans have yet to be finalised I think you can rest assured that we will be including some appropriate recognition of the event in the music at Cockpen. Watch this space!

GMB March 2012

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON GUILD

Our Annual Christmas Party took place on 12 December and was well attended as always. It was led in true style by Graham and the Choir and everyone made a concerted effort to sing in tune with the Choir of whom we are so proud of in Cockpen and Carrington. The home-baking was once again baked by Mrs Jessie Hume and enjoyed immensely by all our sweet -tooths especially the Turkish Delight. Well done Jessie we thank you once again.

Our first meeting of the New Year was a Nibbles and Natter evening with a general knowledge quiz inexpertly done by everyone but nevertheless great fun.

Our Burns evening was a great success with our speaker on the subject being our very own Nat Fisher. What a fountain of knowledge this man is when it comes to Robert Burns, truly phenomenal. We enjoyed Shortbread, oatcakes and cheese with our tea and coffee to celebrate the occasion.

Our other speakers have been - Stanley Bonthron -'What's In a Name?', Jean Lauglan, Head Teacher from Saltersgate Special School, Mike Millar from EMMS International - all very interesting topics.

The remainder of the session consists of speakers from R.N.L.I. Dunbar and Scottish Ambulance - Paramedics and our annual Business Meeting.

On Saturday 28th April our Guild Drive will take us to the East Neuk of Fife when we will stop for Coffee en route and have High Tea before we head home. This is always a very pleasant day out and nice to sit back and enjoy our countryside letting someone else do the driving.

Our Closing Social will be held on Monday 30th April and this year the entertainment will be Grace McLeod and friends. Once again you will be most welcome and I am sure the usual copious supply of goodies will be served with our tea and coffee. Anyone interested please Wilma or Nancy for tickets.

As Helen expressed in the last report each year we seem to have an even more interesting variety of topics and this certainly has been true of this year so please do consider coming along to join us - we have fun, entertainment and we gain a great deal of knowledge from our speakers.

As we draw close to the end of our session may I wish everyone on behalf of the Guild a good summer and may we all with God's help feel fully refreshed for the days ahead.

Liz Mills
Convener

KEN GRAY – A GIANT OF A MAN

It was with such sadness that I learned of the death of Ken Gray on 13 November. Only being involved with the Sunday School means that I am not always aware of what's going on in the wider church and I sincerely regret the fact that I did not know Ken was in hospital.

You see, I have known Ken Gray for most of my life, in fact my earliest memories have Ken in them. I started Sunday School aged 2 and Ken would have been a teacher by then. He was ordained as an Elder at Cockpen in 1961 and was Sunday School Superintendent for 25 years until his retirement in 2000.

This tribute to him is from the eyes of a child to adulthood and in both he was a giant of a man. Ken and his family lived near us in the 1960's and Doranne was a school friend of my sister Lynne. I remember walking down to Sunday School with Mr Gray (it would be many years before I would call him Ken!), Doranne, Gavin, Malcolm, Lynne and me. Mr Gray was always very smart and carried a little case – I was fascinated with what was in it.....later years uncovered it was his Sunday School stuff and offering bag! When I got a bit older, I was sometimes allowed to push Malcolm's wheelchair and we had lots of fun walking up and down the road. **Mr Gray was so tall that I had to look up to him.** I remember thinking Mr Gray was a really trendy teacher; he always had a young outlook and was not too strict. It was so obvious that he really liked children and not surprising as his working life was involved in supporting older children at college.

Even I was old enough to know the tragedy when Anna, Ken's first wife died but it's only as an adult when you appreciate how hard this must have been for him to bring up a young family on his own. Happiness did strike in years to come when Ken met and married Margaret and Lorna and then Andrew joined the family. Margaret also did a great amount of work for the Sunday School. Ken was a devoted family man.

When at the age of 16, I became a Sunday School teacher, it seemed really odd to call Mr Gray, Ken, but he treated me as an adult and from that day until he died, he encouraged me in this role.

Ken remembered everyone who came through Sunday School and many of us in our 20's/30's/40's/50's and older remember him fondly. He still spoke to everyone when he passed them in Bonnyrigg.

Sunday School was fun with Ken. He was always happy to try out new ideas. He encouraged all of the teachers who worked with him. When we were down, perhaps when numbers were low or when the child protection rules came in, he would raise our spirits. I had the pleasure of seeing him in Sunday School with two of his grandchildren: Sandie & Matthew and he just adored them...and them him. The thing about Ken was that I think I saw him like Peter Pan, never getting any older but then sadly he decided to retire from Sunday School – he had

earned his retirement. It is no mistake that Ken was the last Sunday School Superintendent as his shoes were too big to fill.

When he retired, he still took an interest in the Sunday School. Along with his mother-in-law, Mrs Jessie Hume, he became a 'Friend of the Sunday School' – supporting us financially. And he was always there as an 'ear to bend'. When the politics of the church would get me down, it was Ken I turned to. He had such patience.

Latterly Ken had some ill health and this prevented him from attending his beloved church. His second wife, Margaret died and he was bereft. His children were a great support to him and looked after him until he died.

I adored Ken Gray and thank God for such a special man. **'Til the day he died, I looked up to him, as to me.....he simply was a GIANT of a man.**

Rosalind Dolan

Cake Stall

Once again, many thanks to all who provided goods for the stall and also to our regular customers. For the January and February cake stalls we raised £524:80 - well done to everyone involved. Our next dates are as follows.
Keep up the good work!

Our next dates at the Pitcairn Centre are as follows -

22nd March, 2012
26th April, 2012
24th May, 2012
28th June, 2012
26th July, 2012
23rd August, 2012 and,
27th September, 2012

Helen, Jean and Wilma.

From a book - 'Facing the Storm'

As you know, I have included a few stories from the above book in previous issues of 'The Link' and would like to share one more with you. I have enjoyed these books so much and would commend them to you. **G.S.**

Luke Ch. 12, v. 6 - 7

And the kingdom of heaven is like this: we asked a local carpenter to put in two new wooden gateposts. He said he would buy them, soak them in creosote to preserve them, and then come and do the job.

We waited. Nothing happened. Then he 'phoned, "Sorry for the delay," he said. "I soaked the posts and put them in the back of my workshop to dry. When I went to get them I found a pair of blackbirds had made a nest on them, and now there's a brood of fledgelings there. I haven't the heart to disturb them. I'll come when they've flown."

We agreed, happily.

It's a little thing, and the blackbirds are one of the most common of British birds. But how reassuring to find a man with values like that. Our culture is so profit-orientated, so geared to money, that nothing else seems to matter.

Here, in some small way, is someone saying that life matters, however small the dividend seems. There are other values beside gain, values which bring richness to life, richness beyond richness.

Incidentally, when the birds had flown and he came to do the work, he brought the nest to show us. The marks of the posts were clear to see. Just a family of small, common birds, but, I think Jesus would have made a parable out of the story.

All it needed, Lord, was a little time.

A bit of patience, a few more days.

But it would have been so easy to disturb the nest.

"I need the wood for a gate," he could have said.

"What's all the fuss about?" And trampled on the future.

It's so easy to ignore the little things,

Things with no voice, no influence, no strings to pull.

The small and insignificant, and yet Lord, saying that is judgement I've no right to make.

Small and insignificant to whom?

No sparrow falls, you said, without God knowing.

You, like the carpenter, concerned for little things.

*You, as a carpenter, caring that the least should find a place of value
In your kingdom, a kingdom for the poor and weak.*

From Meditations and Prayers by Eddie Askew.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

1. EASTER

After some discussion, it's been agreed that we will have our Family Service in Rosewell on Easter Sunday 8 April. The Minister and Kirk sessions there have agreed that there will be an annual Easter service at Rosewell and we will join them. This allows us to be in the 3 churches during the year. The service will be led by Rev Bill Armitage and we expect some Easter fun afterwards.

2. CHRISTMAS 2011!

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 Cinderella. We're booked again for this year on **Sunday 2 December**. The King's Theatre has been undergoing refurbishment and prices have risen steeply, hence us trying the 'cheap seats' this year - cheaper in price but still in stalls & circle! 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. Full payment is needed by end September so book early!

Hope you saw our Nativity plays in Lasswade and Cockpen & Carrington. As always, all our performers were excellent. Morag MacFadyen & Herbert Dryden gave lots of support in the preceding weeks with our music. Charlie Adams joined us as our Innkeeper and very good he was too. George Sweeney who has been compared to Olivier (by whom - asks Wilma?!) adapted his style again to that of a camel! All our other adults were just great too.

Our sound system makes such a difference and this is provided by Ged Hanley with Callum Anderson assisting in setting it up. Sincere thanks to both of you.

Thank you all for your support and very generous retiring offerings.

3. CRADLE ROLL SERVICE

By the time you read this article we'll have had our Cradle Roll service on 18 March. All of the babies baptised in the past few years are being invited together with some of the Sunday School. This will be a really family-friendly occasion and we hope to attract some recruits for Sunday School.

4. CORRECTION TO LAST MAGAZINE ARTICLE

Hope you spotted the *deliberate mistake* in the last magazine.....Brodie Boyle is of course a Smurf and not a Mermaid. Sorry Brodie - the author's been spoken to!

One of our little ones, Meadow, has been poorly and now attending hospital weekly to see her Consultant and get physiotherapy. We pray for a full recovery for Meadow.

5. VISIT BY THE MINISTER

We were delighted to welcome Matthew back to Sunday School at the end of February... and isn't he good at action songs! Thanks for coming and for meeting with the teachers afterwards.

6. SUNDAY SCHOOL TRIP

Our trip will be on Saturday 12 May to Blair Drummond Safari Park.

7. PRIZEGIVING

For a change this year, our prizegiving will be held at Lasswade Church at 10am on Sunday 13 May when all of our children from all our Sunday Schools will receive a prize. If any of our older children is thinking of leaving Sunday School, please let Rosalind know.

8. AND FINALLY....SOME SAD NEWS

We were very sad to hear of the death of our former Superintendent and great friend, Ken Gray, in November. Ken was a teacher at this Sunday School for as long as we can remember; an Elder for 50 years and Sunday School Superintendent for 25 years. He retired from this role in 2000. It is no mistake that he was our last Sunday School Superintendent as we could never hope to fill those shoes. He continued to be interested in the Sunday School and also supported us financially. He provided us with encouragement and support and we all miss him terribly. He was to us a giant of a man and will be fondly remembered. (See separate tribute on page 16).

It was also with regret that we heard of the death of Mr Arthur Mills again along with wife, Liz, 'Friends of the Sunday School'.

Cockpen and Carrington Flower Rota

April 2012

1st Nancy Richardson
8th Free
15th M. Crawford
22nd Free
29th Alison Harding

May

6th Free
12th Moira Scott
20th Dot Scott / M. Peden
27th Free

June

3rd Wilma Sweeney
10th I. Ramsay
17th H. Renton
24th Frances Wilkie

August

5th Marnie Crawford
12th M. Peden
19th M. Porter / Lynn Hanson
26th J. Dyer

July

1st Liz Laidlaw
8th Liz Mills
15th Free
22nd Elspeth Brown
29th Ian Fowler



I must thank you all again for your support.

I would also thank Liz Mill for her help & her expertise.

We have a good team now and I hope we will be able to enhance the church with flowers for some time to come

Irene Ramsay.

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer Service was held on the evening of Friday 2nd March in Our Lady of Consolation Church, Bonnyrigg.

The Service was written by the women of Malaysia, a nation of diverse cultures, races and religions.

The theme for the service was 'Let Justice Prevail' and the service was led by members of Our Lady with a further eight readers from churches in Bonnyrigg and Lasswade. Liz Mills read for Cockpen and Sheila Turner for Lasswade, although Sheila is also a member of Cockpen Guild. Nine ladies from Cockpen attended

the service which was pleasing as the overall numbers were rather poor considering the number of churches represented. I always feel it is a pity that this service is never well attended and that is quite sad as a lot of preparation and work goes into the services and it is always very informative and satisfying .

After the service everyone was invited to a lovely spread of Tea, Coffee and Home-baking served by the ladies of Our Lady and this gave everyone a chance to catch up with each other.

Next year's service will be written by the ladies of France.

Liz Mills, Convener

HOW TO GRIN AND BEAR IT

There's nothing the matter with me,
I'm as healthy as I can be;
I've got arthritis in both my knees;
And when I talk I talk with a wheeze;
My pulse is weak and my blood is thin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape that I'm in.

Arch supports I have for my feet,
Or I wouldn't be able to walk down the street;
Sleep is denied me night after night,
Yet every morning I find I'm alright.
My memory is failing, my head's in a spin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape that I'm in,

The moral is this, as my tale I unfold,
That for you and for me, who are now growing
old,
It's better to say "I'm fine", with a grin,
Than to let people know the shape we are in.

How do I know that my youth has been spent,
Well, my 'Get up and go has 'Got up and
went',
But I really don't mind, when I think with a
grin
Of all the grand places my 'get up' has been.

Old age is golden; I've heard it said,
But sometimes I wonder, as I get into bed

With my 'ears' in the drawer, my teeth in a
cup,
My 'eyes' on the table, until I wake up.

"Ere sleep overtakes me, I say to myself
"Is there anything else I can put on the
shelf?"

When I was young, my slippers - were red,
I could kick my heels well over my head;
When I grew older, my slippers were blue,
But still I could dance the whole night
through;
Now I am old, my slippers are black,
I walk to the shops, and puff my way back.

I get up each morning and dust up my wits,
And pick up the paper and read the 'obits'.
If my name is still missing, I know I'm not
dead,
So I have a good breakfast and go back to
bed,

The above was read at the conclusion of a
meeting of the Women's Guild by the Very
Rev Dr R Leonard Small.

NUNS IN A BAR

Sisters Mary Catherine, Maria Theresa, Katherine Marie, Rose Frances, & Mary Kathleen left the Convent on a trip to St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City and were sight-seeing on a Tuesday in July. It was hot and humid in town and their traditional garb was making them so uncomfortable, they decided to stop in at Patty McGuire's Pub for a cold soft drink.

Patty had recently added special legs to his barstools, which were the talk of the fashionable eastside neighbourhood. All 5 Nuns sat up at the bar and were enjoying their Cokes when Monsignor Riley and Father McGinty entered the bar through the front door.

They, too, came for a cold drink when they were shocked and almost fainted at what they saw:



**GIVE US A SENSE OF HUMOR, LORD,
GIVE US THE GRACE TO SEE A JOKE,
TO GET SOME HUMOR OUT OF LIFE,
AND PASS IT ON TO OTHER FOLK**

THE HOLY HIKERS

*All truly great thoughts are
conceived while walking
Friedrich Nietzsche*



At the end of my last article I mentioned that we were looking forward to our 10th Anniversary Dinner, now it is well behind us. What a great evening! It was held at Broomieknowe Golf Club and 31 past and present members attended. It was great to see everyone, especially the past members who walked with us in the early years. We had a super meal after which I made a short (and not too boring, I hope) speech about how many walks we had done and how many miles we covered in the 10 years. We then had a few songs sung by Walter, Moira and myself. The only thing to mar the night was that Herbert and Moira were unable to be there. Herbert had led our very first walk in Edinburgh and had set the tone for all subsequent excursions. They did send us a lovely card however and it was nice to know that although they were in Singapore at the time, they were thinking about us.

Our walk the next day was to Newhailes Estate near Newcraighall. 11 members were there and we had a lovely wander round the estate and along into Musselburgh. December's walk had to be cancelled due to inclement weather but in January we travelled into Craiglockhart to walk Happy Valley and both Craiglockhart hills. The panoramic views were excellent on all sides, from the Pentlands round over the city and then looking over towards Fife. In February we had our "Xmas Lunch" (everyone is so busy at Xmas we could not fit it in). We did a circular walk of Penicuik Estate followed by high tea at the Craigiebiel Hotel. Our scheduled walk for March is a local walk using the old railway line and then we begin our new programme in April.

At the end of March, 14 of us are going on our annual Walking Weekend based at New Lanark this will be reported in the next issue of The Link.

Programme of Walks

<i>Sat. 14th April</i>	<i>Carlops & North Esk Res</i>
<i>Sat 12th May</i>	<i>Arniston Circular Walk</i>
<i>Sat 9th June</i>	<i>Tweed Forest (longer walk)</i>
<i>Wed 13th June</i>	<i>Dalkeith Country Park (evening walk)</i>
<i>Wed 11th July</i>	<i>Cousland Circular Walk (evening walk)</i>
<i>Sat 14th July</i>	<i>Lammermuir Hills (longer walk)</i>
<i>Wed 8th Aug</i>	<i>Hermitage of Braid (evening walk)</i>
<i>Sat 11th Aug</i>	<i>Pentland Hills (longer walk)</i>
<i>Sat 8th Sept</i>	<i>Gilmerton Cove & Drum Estate</i>

If anyone would care to join us on any or all of the walks please contact me on 0131 660 1147

Happy Hiking
Jim Scott

Bric a Brac

There are always bargains to be had at our weekly bric a brac in the Church Hall, Dundas Street on Thursdays between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m.

Also, if you would care to lend a hand at one of the stalls please contact us any Thursday morning.

The Team.

COCKPEN PULPIT BIBLE: MDCLXXII (1672)

Following on from previous articles in the Link it gives me great pleasure to inform readers that the restored Cockpen Pulpit Bible is now on permanent display within the Church, held securely within a custom made cabinet thanks to a legacy from the late Miss Margaret Hardie.

Miss Hardie (1920-2010) was the granddaughter of the Rev. Robert Montgomerie Hardie who was Minister at Cockpen Church from 1902 to 1942 and his portrait hangs in the Church entrance vestibule.

((Some years ago at a Church fete held in the grounds of Willie Tulloch's house (the Manse in the Rev Montgomerie Hardie's time) Miss Hardie reminisced with me when, as a child, she could remember playing and running about the Manse and gardens - a delightful period of her life looked back upon with great affection.))

The Kirk Session and Board unanimously agreed that Miss Hardie's legacy should be used for acquiring a custom made cabinet to hold and display the Bible and Michaela Huber of Newbattle Cabinets was commissioned to carry out this work.

The 'old' Cockpen Pulpit Bible was used on a weekly basis at the 'old' Cockpen Church up to 1820 when the present Church opened for public worship and a 'new' Pulpit Bible was acquired.

So after 340 years this old Cockpen Pulpit Bible now sits in a prominent position in the Church for all to see and enjoy.

WA Brown



STAMPS

The Scottish Bible Society thanks the congregation of Cockpen and Carrington Church, Bonnyrigg, for the donation of used British and foreign stamps which you recently brought to Bible House in support of our “Operation Family” project. This donation will help make a difference in someone’s life when they receive the Scriptures in their own language. In many countries, particularly in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe there is a real hunger for God’s Word.

Did you know that for every £4.00 received from the sale of items including stamp collections, coins, jewellery, silverware, cameras and clocks that someone or a family will receive a Bible, New Testament, Children’s Bible or Scripture colouring book to share with their own family or friends?

We really appreciate your Church’s contribution to this area of our work. Thank you once again for this support.

Dorothy Bennett

A Baby’s Baptism

A Baby’s baptism is a special occasion in a baby’s life and none more so than for Andrew Arthur Ehly-Mills (grandson of Liz Mills) who travelled half way round the world from Sanjosa in the county of Santa Clara USA to be baptised in the Church of Scotland like his father.

The Minister baptised him at morning service on 1st January 2012 in Cockpen and Carrington Church and many friends and family attended the service.

This was Andrew’s second visit to Scotland as he made a special brief visit of four days last year when he was four months old to be introduced to his Grandfather who was ill, and it was decided at that time that he would be baptised at Cockpen and Carrington Church. Unfortunately, Arthur did not survive long enough to witness the occasion but we all know he would have been the proudest person in the Church that day, had he done so.

Both parents, Gary and Amanda were overwhelmed by the warmth and friendship shown to them by Matthew and the congregation and promise to visit our Church when they next make the trip back to Scotland.

Liz Mills

JESUS IS RISEN - JOHN 20

FIRST DAY
SEPULCHRE
STONE
LORD
PETER
LINEN
BELIEVED

RISE AGAIN
DISCIPLES
MANY
WEEPING
ANGELS
SAW JESUS
SEEKEST

MASTER
TOUCH ME NOT
ASCEND
FATHER
BRETHREN
MY GOD YOUR GOD

G A I D E V E I L E B E L D V P E D E L
R I S E A G A I N E E T O W E E E R I O
I S A W P D E R S A W O O T S T H N B R
R I A E L I N D I N W U D S O E T R E D
R R M W L S D I G E E C I U I R U I N R
E C Y A J C A G A R N H H E N D V L E B
L L G O N E G N A H Y M Y A M T O H E S
I U O S I D S T O T Y E K E E S T O H F
N P D E M H C U O E D N A M C A O Y I I
E N Y Y A O C E S R R O A E F M A R Y R
N G O N E H T R E B Y T N D I S T O U S
O N U M M A S T E R N A M N J T W R A S
T I R I S G A N K I N G I E O E T E P E
E P G I N T O S E G C S A C P R S T I L
S E O L I N E L S E S O S S A S L S F P
T E D M E E W E T K S M S A S N A A L I
K W E N E B E G I E P S S G S A N M L C
E O O T H N N N A V F I R S T D A Y A S
E T O S I G G A A N G S D O S E P I I I
S E P U L C H R E H A N M A N Y L C S D