

Cockpen & Carrington

The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Easter 2014

Easter



Church of Scotland

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
PULPIT SUPPLY ROTA - APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2014	3
<i>Dear Friends,</i>	4
Lasswade and Rosewell Church News.....	5
Lasswade and Rosewell Choir	8
Lasswade Flower Rota	9
A Time For Reflection – 120 Years On	10
COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH.....	13
BAPTISMS.....	13
WEDDINGS	13
BEREAVEMENTS	13
NEW MEMBERS	14
Bric A Brac.....	14
CHURCH DANCE	14
CAKE STALL.....	14
FROM THE ORGANIST	15
From the Clerk.....	16
MIDLOTHIAN FOODBANK.....	18
Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota	19
EXPLAIN GOD	20
THE HOLY HIKERS	21
THE SUNDAY SCHOOL	22
Guild Report	25
From a book - ‘Facing the Storm’	26
Easter Sudoku.....	27
SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2014	28

PULPIT SUPPLY ROTA - APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2014

DATE	LASSWADE (10.00 am)	COCKPEN & CARRINGTON (11.30 am)	ROSEWELL (please check times below)
6.4.14	Service at Rosewell	Rev M Schofield	Rev Bill Armitage Communion (10am)
13.4.14	Rev Bill Armitage	Ref Bill Armitage	Rev M Schofield (11.30am)
20.4.14	Janet McKenzie	Janet McKenzie	Rev Bill Armitage (11.30am)
27.4.14	Janet McKenzie	Janet McKenzie	Service at Lasswade (10am)
4.5.14	Service at Rosewell	Rev Ian Dick COMMUNION	Rev Ian Dick (10 am)
11.5.14	Janet McKenzie	Janet McKenzie	John Beaumont (11.30 am)
18.5.14	TBA	TBA	Eddie Yeoman (11.30 am)
25.4.14	Rev Melville Schofield	Rev Melville Schofield	Service at Lasswade 10 am
1.6.14	Service at Rosewell	TBA	TBA (10 am)
8.6.14	Rev Melville Schofield	Rev Melville Schofield	Eddie Yeoman (11.30am)
15.6.13	Rev Bill Armitage	Rev Bill Armitage	Rev Melville Schofield (11.30)
22.6.14	Rev Melville Schofield COMMUNION	Rev Melville Schofield	Service at Lasswade (10 am)
29.6.14	Worship Group	Rev Ian Dick	Rev Ian Dick (10 am)
6.7.14	Service at Rosewell	John Beaumont	John Beaumont (10 am)
13.7.14	Rev Melville Schofield	Rev Melville Schofield	Eddie Yeoman (11.30 am)
20.7.14	TBA	TBA	Janet McKenzie (11.30 AM)
27.7.14	Rev Ian Dick	Rev Ian Dick	Service at Lasswade (10am)
3.8.14	Service at Rosewell	Rev Bill Armitage	Rev Bill Armitage (10 am)
10.8.14	TBA	TBA	TBA (11.30 am)
17.8.14	Rev Bill Armitage	Rev Bill Armitage	Janet McKenzie (11.30 am)
24.8.14	(Family Service - Harvest Gift Service) Rev Melville Schofield	Rev Melville Schofield	Service at Lasswade (10am)(Harvest Gift Sunday)
31.8.14	Worship Group	John Beaumont	John Beaumont (10 am)
7.9.14	Service at Rosewell	Rev Melville Schofield	Rev Melville Schofield COMMUNION(10 am)
14.9.14	Rev Bill Armitage	Rev Bill Armitage	Eddie Yeoman (11.30 am)
21.9.14	Rev Melville Schofield	Re Melville Schofield	Janet McKenzie 11.30 am)
28.9.14	Rev Bill Armitage	Rev Bill Armitage	Service at Lasswade (10am)

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 14 – 18 APRIL:

MONDAY – OUR LADY; TUESDAY – ROSEWELL; WEDNESDAY – COCKPEN;
THURSDAY – ST LEONARDS; FRIDAY – LASSWADE.

ALL HOLY WEEK SERVICES START AT 7 PM

Office: 156 Carnethie Street, ROSEWELL, EH24 9AH

Manse: 2 Links Road, Port Seton, PRESTONPANS, EH32 0HA

Telephone: 01875 819544 **Email:** mzross@btinternet.com

Dear Friends,

This is my final letter in the Link magazine as your minister. After nearly 5 years, I will leave the parishes at the end of March. I have accepted the post of General Secretary of Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS), Scotland's national ecumenical organisation for promoting better inter-church relations (based in Alloa). You can find out more about the work of ACTS on their website: www.acts-scotland.org

My final service will be a joint service in Rosewell Church on Sunday 30th March, to be held at 11.00 am. There will be no service in Cockpen or Lasswade on this day. During the vacancy, the Interim Moderator will be the Rev Ian Cathcart (minister at Howgate linked with Penicuik: South), 15 Stevenson Road, PENICUIK, EH26 0LU, telephone 01968 674692. The Presbytery of Lothian has already given the congregations permission to call a new minister without restriction of tenure – a sign of confidence that these parish churches have a long term future.

The decision to move has not been an easy one, but my new post is one that I feel strongly called to. Parish ministry is not always easy; these increasingly secular times can be very challenging. I have experienced some wonderful times as well as challenges – but my abiding memories of the parishes will be very good, above all of being alongside local people in times of both joy and sorrow. Greetings from Kristina too; to everyone who has been so supportive I give my grateful and heartfelt thanks.

As I write, we are in the quiet and thoughtful season of Lent, but we look ahead to the joyous message of the resurrection of Christ at Easter. On Good Friday Jesus Christ endured the travesty of a sham trial followed by crucifixion. Easter is, rightly, the most important day in the Christian year – the triumph of hope over despair. Happy Easter to you and your family.

Please continue to support your parish church – particularly in regularly coming to worship. A Nominating Committee will soon be formed to find a new minister whom God has already chosen; please give the new minister your support and encouragement. Thank you very much for the privilege of being your minister; you will remain in my prayers and thoughts.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Matthew Ross, Minister

Lasswade and Rosewell Church News.....

A huge thank you is extended to everyone who helped make our Christmas Coffee Morning / Fair a great success. The sum of £845 was raised.

Support Christian Aid Week: 11 – 17 May 2014

There is more than enough food in the world for everyone but one in eight people will go to bed hungry tonight.

Gift Day – Sunday 25 May 2014

You will receive an envelope for your donation at the beginning of 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 or bring along to Church on 25th May.

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, sweets, books and lots more.

Cake Stall

A big thank you to everyone who supports our Thursday Cake Stall at the Pitcairn Centre.

Forthcoming dates are: 10 April, 8 May, 12 June, 10 July and 14 August.

Doors Open Day -

Doors Open Day gives you free access to hundreds of fascinating buildings across Scotland. Every weekend in September you can explore places that are normally closed to the public.

Doors Open Day in Midlothian is Saturday 13 September.

Rosewell Parish Church will be open from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon.

Lasswade Parish Church will be open from 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Transport to Church

Over the last few months we have experienced an increase in the number of members who were very regular in attending worship but who, for various reasons such as giving up their car or because of other physical challenges, feel they cannot come to church. We miss these people being among us every week but we can appreciate their problems.

While we know that some more active members offer lifts to people - and these offers are much appreciated – we have been making enquiries as to whether a bus service such as that run by Lothian Community Transport Services or a similar organisation might be possible. There is a lot of exploratory work still to be

done on this matter, e.g. times and points of pickups to fit in with the different times of the services etc. We envisage this bus could cover Lasswade, Rosewell and Cockpen.

What we would like to know at this stage is the number of people who would be interested in taking advantage of this service. Even if you are still managing to attend worship but you feel it is an effort to do so, a bus service might make it easier for you. **Would anyone interested please contact any of the undernoted people:**

From Cockpen: George Sweeney (663 6546)

From Lasswade: Dorothy Spence (663 0943) or Herbert Dryden (663 8895)

From Rosewell: Agnes Anderson (440 0282)

Once we have an idea of the numbers who are interested we shall have further negotiation with the bus company and we shall get back to you.

If we do opt for a bus we have to provide our own volunteer drivers. Entitlement to drive minibuses in the LCTS fleet is partly determined by the date when a driver passed his/her UK manual car driving test. If anyone is interested in being a volunteer driver, Dorothy Spence has a copy of the Vehicle Hire Policy.

Lasswade Garden Club

Yes we are still active. Can I apologise for not contributing to the magazine for several years. We still meet on Monday evenings from Easter through to September from around 6.00pm. It is a very social get together with as much or as little manual work as you feel like doing.

We are grateful for the help we have received this year from Moira and Brian Scott who have kept the front garden area tidy over the Winter and planted Spring bulbs and plants which will soon be bursting into bloom.

Anyone wishing any more information about the Club, can spare an hour or so on a Monday night or have any plants which are surplus to requirements can contact me at the number given below.

Charlie Adams
663 4596

Baptism

Jonathan James Morrison McAvoy, son of Ian and Linda was baptised in Lasswade Parish Church on Sunday, 9 March 2014.

'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee.'

Farewell to Rev. Matthew Ross

The Rev Matthew Ross' last service is on Sunday 30 March 2014 at **11.00 a.m.** in Rosewell Parish Church. This will be a joint family service with Cockpen & Carrington and Lasswade, followed by a farewell brunch in the Hall.

Matthew is taking up the post of General Secretary of Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) – Scotland's National Ecumenical Organisation which is based in Alloa and we wish Matthew well in his new role.

Garden Party

A Garden Party is being held in the grounds of Rosewell Parish Church on Saturday, 23 August starting at 2.00 p.m.

Finger buffet, teas, coffees, soft drinks, Tombola, Chocolate Fountain, Games for the children, Fancy Hat Competition and lots more.

Tickets will be on sale nearer the time and if you can help in any way at all to make this a fun day for everyone, **please contact May Murdoch on 663 8454.**

Midlothian Food Bank

Thank you to everyone who is donating to the Foodbank appeal. To the end of March 1,211 adults and children have received food parcels. Your help and support to this cause is very much appreciated.

More information on the Midlothian Foodbank is on page 18

Please visit our new Website:

<http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/stewartrenwick/index.html>

Lasswade and Rosewell Choir

First of all, the Choir and I wish Matthew every success in his new venture and thank him not just for his ministry among us but also for his support for any of our choral plans. Our best wishes are extended to himself and Kristina for the future.

The choir sang two items at the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve – “In the field with their flocks abiding” and “All my heart this night rejoices”. We shall have to see who is around before we decide if we are doing anything at Easter. Once again I would like to thank the choir, both the regulars and those who augment it from time to time, for all their help, support and enthusiasm which is much appreciated.

“Father, father, pity take
and I will no more verses make”

so pleaded the young Isaac Watts one time when his father was at the end of his tether with his son composing verses, possibly in inappropriate circumstances.

Isaac Watts was born on 16th July 1674 in Southampton and brought up in the house of a committed non conformist. Because he was a non conformist he could not attend Oxford or Cambridge which were restricted to Anglicans as were a lot of the government positions at the time. Isaac went to the Dissenting Academy at Stoke Newington in 1690 and much of his life was spent around that village, which is now part of Inner London. Once he had completed his education he was called as pastor to a large independent chapel in London where he helped to train preachers, despite his poor health. He had a greater interest in promoting education and scholarship than he had in preaching.

He enjoyed the local Abney Park which is where he received inspiration for a lot of his hymns. Despite his promise to his father he left a legacy of 750 hymns before he died on 25th November 1748 in Stoke Newington and he is buried at Bunhill Cemetery.

His best known hymn is possibly “When I survey the wondrous cross”, which is usually sung to the tune “Rockingham”. “Rockingham” was composed by Edward Miller and named thus after the Marquis of Rockingham who was a kind and zealous patron of Mr. Miller. Other hymns by Isaac Watts include “From all that dwell below the skies”, “ O God, our help in ages past”, “Joy to the world, the Lord is come”, “Join all the glorious names” and “Jesus shall reign where'er the sun”

The Choir join me in wishing all readers and their families the blessings of Easter.

HLRD

Lasswade Flower Rota

As I write, the house is being battered by high winds and I have just watched our lightweight greenhouse travelling round the garden! In spite of the dramatic weather there are many signs of spring to be seen. We live in a wonderful world and I think Spring is the start of a great spectacle of colour.

I have been greatly cheered by the offers of help with the flower rota and for the first time I have been able to fill each Sunday slot without asking anyone to 'do' more than one. This has to be a record!

Thank you to all the flower 'people' and remember if you need any help please ask and I will be happy to assist.

Moira Dryden

May 11th Margaret Gordon
May 18th Elaine Thomson
May 25th Gillian Renwick

June 8th Stewart Renwick
June 15th Sadie Cowe
June 22nd Alison Branch
June 29th Margaret Michael

July 13th Mary Hay
July 20th Moira Scott
July 27th Betty Blakebell

August 10th Ruby Gardner
August 17th Margaret Dagleish
August 24th Meg Laing
August 31st Moira Dryden



A Time For Reflection – 120 Years On

On Thursday 28th June 1894 a dedication service was held in the United Presbyterian Church, Lasswade, to celebrate the various alterations which had recently taken place. Although the church was built in 1830 decisions were taken in 1893 and 1894 to proceed with certain alterations. In this calendar year of 2014, when we are facing a period of change, it is maybe an appropriate time to reflect on the 1894 events. I should mention that I am mainly concentrating on the 1894 renovations in this article. We have splendid furnishings from, or associated with, Lasswade Old and other benefactors and/or talented people but they are worthy of an article on their own.

It could be argued that the first of the changes took place in March 1893 when it was decided to accept a generous offer from a friend of the then minister, Rev. W.P. Rodgerson, who undertook to “plant with shrubs and layout the ground at the back of the church” provided the unnecessary walls were taken away. I shall return to the garden later. In November 1893 a Committee was formed to look at various improvements suggested by the Edinburgh Architects Messrs. Hardy and Wight. The following month this Committee recommended to the Board of Managers that the Architects proposals be accepted with certain modifications. The remit was that the Architects be asked to instruct contractors to execute the work as speedily as possible. Messrs. Hardy and Wight appointed local contractors, Messrs. Steven and Stoddart, together with Messrs. Ketchen, Porter and Anderson, to carry out the work and my grandfather, Robert Dryden, a journeyman joiner, was one of the tradesmen employed on this project.

The main alterations which were put in place included:-

The construction of the splendid pulpit in pitch pine, with its wide preaching area, raised reading desk and double stairs. The wide preaching area and double stairs conformed to the thinking of the United Presbyterian Church at that time and was a move away from the narrow pulpits of earlier periods. The pulpit was the gift of Mr. Stair Dickson, who lived at Myrtle Villa, later renamed The Hill, in Broomieknowe. Mr. Dickson served the church well on the Session and Board. It is worth pointing out that wherever you are in the church you can see the preacher in the pulpit, whereas you may not see everything which is happening on the platform. It used to be the custom for the baptismal basin to be held in an iron bracket at the side of the pulpit. A close look at the side of our pulpit will reveal a hinge bar where the baptismal basin was fitted before the present font came into use. Above the pulpit is the IHS symbol. IHS, sometimes displayed as IHC, are the first three letters of IHSUS or IHCUC which is the name for Jesus in Greek.

The insertion of the Memorial Windows on the west wall and the Dove Window on the east wall at the front of the church. I shall return to the windows in a minute.

Altering the pews to more or less the layout that one sees today.

The erection of the porch, belfry and bell. The belfry was the gift of friends of the congregation. The bell was the gift of Mr. William Robson, a son of the first minister Rev. John Robson M.A., D.D., whose portrait hangs half way up the right hand stairs. I understand that the bell is inscribed with the words "I call, come ye to the house of the Lord". Mr. William Robson rang the first peal of the bell. The porch was the gift of Mr. Henry Robson. In passing can I mention that the third son of the Rev. John Robson, the Rev. Dr. John Robson, officiated at the dedication service. Another descendant, Rev. Alan Boyd Robson, M.A., preached at the Anniversary Service in November 1955, celebrating 125 years of worship in the building.

Hearing tubes for the deaf were presented by Mr. Robert Baxter on behalf of the children of the Buccleuch Street Band of Hope, Dalkeith.

To improve the entrance to the pulpit area from the vestry a couple of pews were inserted on the left hand side of the aisle which led from the vestry door to the platform and for some years one of these served as the Manse pew. Corresponding pews were constructed on the other side. There was a step at the end of this short aisle up on to the platform. It was only in the early 1960s that the area from the vestry door to the platform was levelled. Benches, with a backing rail, were erected on either side of the platform and these would be used by the elders at communion, and by the choir on other Sundays.

The congregation paid for a lot of the costs themselves and certain benefactors generously gifted certain items. A bazaar was held over two days to raise additional funds to help meet the costs. In the garden a plot of trees and shrubs were planted by representatives of other Christian denominations, and a missionary from overseas was present. There is maybe a parable here because the thought was expressed that as the branches of the trees extend towards one another so might the various Christian denominations do likewise. On the evening of 28th June a concert was held in Bonnyrigg Town Hall.

The Dove Window at the front of the church on the east wall was presented by Mr. Alexander Ballantyne of the stained glass firm of Ballantyne and Gardiner. I cannot find anything to say if this window was donated. The Dove, the bird of peace, was the symbol of the United Presbyterian Church. This window was incorporated into a window which was inserted to let more light

into the gallery and which replaced a blind window that was originally above the front door.

The Memorial Windows on either side of the pulpit catch your eye when you enter the church. As you face the pulpit the left hand window is divided into two lights. The left hand one portrays an Old Testament scene “Look unto me and be ye saved” while the right hand light portrays the giving of the Law. In the circle above these lights there is the Burning Bush, which attracted the attention of Moses and led him to accept the task of leading Israel out of Egypt. The Burning Bush is the symbol of the Church of Scotland and also of the Free Church. On either side of the Burning Bush are the words “Nec Tamen Consumebatur” (however, it was not consumed), which is the Church’s motto. The window is in memory of William Tod of Glenesk, Polton.

The other window on the right of the pulpit has also two lights. The left hand light shows the baptism of Jesus by John and above this John preaching “Repent ye, for the Kingdom of God is at hand”. The lower right light shows Dorcas and above this are Martha and Mary at Jesus’ feet. In the circle above these lights are portrayed the Seven Golden Candlesticks, representing the early churches. This window was erected by Mr. John Porteous. I am grateful for some notes made by the late Mr. George Campbell to assist me in commenting about the windows.

The Umpherston Aitchison Window on the north wall was dedicated and presented in 1898, a few years after the 1894 alterations. It was presented by Lady Aitchison, widow of Sir Charles Umpherston Aitchison, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab in India and is placed, at Lady Aitchison’s request, nearest the pew in which the family worshipped.

As I said at the beginning we have other furnishings which are worthy of an article to themselves. These include the communion table, with its symbols of letters, monograms, IHS and the fish, and the wooden lectern with its symbols of the apostles, i.e. the man or angel for Matthew, the lion for Mark, the winged bull for Luke and the eagle for John. We have also various pulpit falls, a hanging done by the children to mark the Millennium and other items.

We are very fortunate that we can reflect on the skills of those very talented craftsmen of 1894. However, I sometimes wonder if people will still be worshipping here in 120 days time or even 120 months time, let alone 120 years time – but let us look forward in faith.

HLRD

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH

BAPTISMS

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

*Samantha Helen Reynolds, Mum of Jace.
Jace Curtis Reynolds, infant son of Ryan and Samantha.
Lily Grace Tennant, infant daughter of Richard and Heather.
Erin Leah Morrison, infant daughter of Peter and Ann.
Devon Bryan Cunningham, infant son of Martin and Claire.*

'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee.'

WEDDINGS

At the time of printing, we have only three weddings 'booked in' for this year (plus one for 2015). Of course, in recent times we've seen so many venues advertising to conduct weddings and this may be the reason for the lower than usual numbers held in Churches. (See Church website at www.church.cockpen.co.uk for information and advice on weddings for all three of the Churches).

BEREAVEMENTS

It is, with much sadness that we record the deaths of three of our Congregation -

*Mrs. E. Scott, Spittal. (resided at one time in Carrington).
Mrs. A. Harding, Newtongrange.
Mrs. C. Dodds, Rosewell.*

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

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

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to introduce two new members to our Congregation. New is not entirely correct as both have had fairly lengthy connections with Cockpen although, not on the Church Roll. We are happy to remedy that now.

Mr. Malcolm Gray and Mrs. Catherine Court.

We warmly welcome them both into full membership and hope that they will be happy amongst us.

Bric A Brac

Like the cake stall, it's been a pleasure to welcome so many of you during 2013 and now, in 2014 we continue the 'fund raising' with your continued and generous help. We're so fortunate in having a good team Thursday by Thursday and we thank them all for the time they give to this venture.

The Thursday Team.

CHURCH DANCE

The Church dances continue to be held in the Masonic Hall, Bonnyrigg and, we are grateful to Lodge Dalhousie for the use of such a wonderful venue. Another successful dance was held on 21st March with the next one 'pencilled in' for the 17th October.

CAKE STALL

2013 was another good year at the stall when we met many old and new friends. We look forward to continuing our time at the Pitcairn Centre in 2014 and, are so grateful to Bonnyrigg Church for the use of the Centre. Cockpen and Carrington's turn for the cake stall is the **4th Thursday each month.**

We thank you all for your continued support.

Helen, Isobel, Wilma.

FROM THE ORGANIST

Not so long ago, in 2008, Easter fell on 23 March, which is just about the earliest it can be. In the present year we have gone to the opposite end of the scale, with Easter Day itself taking place on 20 April. Almost a full month later - at least it gives us a little more time for rehearsal!

In recent years Cockpen & Carrington has most often hosted the Good Friday service in Holy Week. This year however we have been appointed the Wednesday evening (16 April). This is of course one of the evenings less tied to specific events in the Passion story and the choir will be performing my own arrangement of an old spiritual, "There is balm in Gilead". We look forward to welcoming visitors from all of our local churches.

After the quiet and reflective services of Holy Week we will move to the main celebration of Easter Day itself. As many may recall, last year we tackled one of the summits of the repertoire, Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus". This year we are making a complete contrast by performing a recent anthem by a composer who is very much alive, and who is also from the opposite end of the world – Richard Madden, who is the choirmaster of St Paul's Cathedral, Dunedin in New Zealand. I came across this by chance, through a recording given to me by a New Zealand friend of my parents, and thanks to wonders of the internet I was able to track down his local publisher. This is not of course our first antipodean venture, as the "Maori Carol" has been a favourite in our Christmas repertoire for some time, so I hope this meets with equal approval.

After the Easter service I will be playing the "Final" from Vierne's Organ Symphony No. 1. Vierne, though totally blind from an early age, was the organist of Notre Dame in Paris for many years in the earlier part of the last century and much of his music was inspired by the magnificent instrument there. This is one of his most celebrated compositions and I hope it will provide a suitably festive conclusion to the most important date in the Church's calendar.

GMB, March 2014

From the Clerk.

Little did I know when I was preparing my article for the Christmas edition of 'The Link' that we would be mentioning that, by the time you read this, we would again be in a Vacancy situation. As most will know by now, Matthew is leaving his Charges of Cockpen and Carrington with Lasswade/Rosewell on 31st March with his final Service being held at **11 o'clock (please note time) on Sunday 30th March at Rosewell Church**. The joint Service on that day was requested by Matthew and, that suggestion didn't raise any objections. It will be nice to meet all together with the added bonus of having the children from the Sunday School in Church. Matthew has always been happy to be with the children both in the Churches and, having a 'day out' from the pulpit and spending it with the children at the Church Hall.

When Matthew called to say he had accepted the post of General Secretary of Action of Churches Together in Scotland (A.C.T.S.) I was, as one would expect, taken slightly aback but, not entirely surprised. Many had thought that, with the many important committees that Matthew had been involved with his time here with us all may be fairly short and that, as predicted has sadly come true.

We as a congregation could be selfish and think only of our ourselves and, the long and drawn out procedures involved in a vacancy which we will be embarking on but, the main concern is that Matthew is happy and therefore, so should we too. Saying that, I think our Presbytery has been able to deal with matters much quicker than others - we'll see if that's the case!!

I was, on behalf of all our Churches, privileged to say a few words of hopefully, support to Matthew at a recent Presbytery meeting (where you get a maximum of about 4-5 minutes) and, on your behalf thanked him for his time with us all and, wished him well in this exciting calling. Matthew will still be a member of the Presbytery of Lothian so, we won't lose all contact with him or Kristina.

I mentioned the Service on the 30th March and, it's hoped as many of possible will be able to attend. After the Service you'll be able to cross to the Hall where, I'm sure, you'll find some 'treats' to eat and, a chance to catch up on a natter. Unfortunately, Wilma and I had already made arrangements to travel to Dorset and will be unable to be at such a special Service.

Our Interim Moderator is the Rev. Ian Cathcart who is Minister of Penicuik South with Howgate. I've been introduced to Mr. Cathcart but, to date haven't met up. He has been a Minister for 20 years so, I'm sure he'll be well versed in the business of the 'vacancy procedure' and will be able to keep us right.

Our numbers Sunday by Sunday are not good and, I would urge you to think about **our**, and **your** position in this vacancy. We have been told we have an 'unrestricted tenure' which really means any Minister can come for an unlimited

period unlike some congregations where it may be a 'five or seven year tenure'. Saying that, we have a part to play - what would you think if you arrived to preach for our Churches with the 'handful' which, I have to add, we're so grateful to, when in actual fact we have **233** on the Roll!! I don't mean to preach as I know many are unable to be in Church for various reasons but, something has to be done about attendances and, dare I mention, finances. Many organizations have folded due to lack of interest or, problems with finances so, how do we survive, - have a word with Ian our Treasurer who, like most Treasurers works wonders - without a magic wand!!

The Kirk Session and, indeed all of us who are fairly regular in Church urge you to think about this important time in the life of your Church. Any candidate for our Churches will want to ask a Nominating committee certain questions of us and wouldn't it be good to be able to say honestly that we are a healthy Congregation!

Let our new Minister, whoever he or she may be, see that our Churches are worthy of him or her!!

We, as a Church were sad to say goodbye to one of our Elders, Mrs. Alison Harding who passed away in December. Alison became an Elder in 1999 and was regular in her attendance at Church and, at Session meetings until ill health prevented her from being so active. Alison wasn't afraid to speak her mind on many subjects and was respected for that - 'a spade was a spade' with Alison, all the time!

It was particularly sad that Alison had just become a resident at a Retirement home at Gilmerton after giving up her house in Newtongrange when her health deteriorated and she was in and out of Hospital a few times and really hadn't the chance to enjoy being cared for as we had all hoped.

A Thanksgiving Service was held in the Church and, I made sure that the beautiful Pulpit Fall that Alison donated some years ago was in place. The Fall, which is usually used at Communion and Easter Services was given by Alison when she too could enjoy it's beauty and, admired much since we received it.

We extend our grateful thanks to Mary and Mick Johnston for all they did for Alison for so long.

George.

MIDLOTHIAN FOODBANK

This article I hope will remind members of the congregation about the Foodbank Box which is now situated in the porch in Cockpen Church, (and is also in operation at Lasswade & Rosewell - Ed). The food donated will be collected every couple of weeks by myself or, in my absence, Jim Scott or George Sweeney, and taken to the foodbank store which is run in conjunction with the Trussell Trust and is situated at Gorebridge Parish Church. The Trussell Trust foodbank network works in partnership with local churches and organisations to bring foodbanks to communities across the UK. There are now over 300 foodbanks in the network. If you are not aware of exactly what a foodbank is, then here is a brief outline of how it works.

At the warehouse, volunteers weigh and sort the donated food according to type and **'best before'** date. They also check it is undamaged and suitable for use before packing it into boxes for storage. Professionals from statutory and voluntary organisations such as doctors, health visitors, social workers, Citizens Advice Bureau staff, welfare officers, the police and probation officers, identify people in crisis and issue them with a foodbank voucher.

Clients bring their voucher to a foodbank centre where it can be exchanged for 3 days supply of emergency food. The list of foods in each parcel has been designed by dieticians to provide recipients with nutritionally balanced food. Whilst their food is being packed, foodbank volunteers will sit and chat with clients over a cup of tea or hot meal. This enables them to hear their stories and direct them to agencies who can offer additional help and begin to resolve any underlying problems.

On the next page you will find a list of items which you can donate to the foodbank. I do realise that most of us need to watch our budget these days but I am also confident that you will try to find a way of adding an extra tin of beans or packet of tea bags to your weekly shop to help the people in our community who are struggling to feed themselves and/or their families.

If you would like to find out more about the Midlothian Foodbank or are interested in volunteering with them, go to their website at:

www.midlothian.foodbank.org.uk

Remember - your support helps stop local people going hungry

Denise Thomson

Powdered or UHT milk
Sugar
Cartons of fruit juice
Tins of soup
Pasta sauces
Tinned sponge pudding
Tinned tomatoes
Cereals
Tinned rice pudding
Tea bags
Instant coffee

Instant mashed potato
Long grain rice
Pasta
Tinned meat
Tinned fish, eg tuna, salmon
Tinned vegetables
Tinned fruit
Biscuits
Jam
Snack bars

Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota

April 2014

27th Free

May

4th Free

11th Moira Scott

18th Maureen Peden

25th Dot Scott

June

1st Wilma Sweeney

8th Irene Ramsay

15th Helen Renton

22nd Francis Wilkie

29th Liz Laidlaw

July

6th Liz Mills

13th Free



20th Free

27th Elspeth Brown

August

3rd Ian Fowler

10th Marnie Crawford

17th Lynn Hanson

24th M. Porter

31st Jim Dyer

Thanks as always to the loyal band of "florists" who enhance our church week after week. A few of our number has recently left us for various reasons, so we are seeking some new donations to the flower rota. If you are able to help us in any way, please have a chat with me, either phone 663 1825 or see me in church

Irene

This was written by an 8 year-old, from Chula Vista, California, USA for his third grade homework assignment. The assignment was to explain God. Could any of us do as well?

EXPLAIN GOD

"One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because He hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless He has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him. But he was good and kind, like His Father and He told His Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said OK.

His Dad (God) appreciated everything that He had done and all His ward work on earth so He told Him He didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So He did. And now He helps His Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides, the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But ... you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases. And ... that's why I believe in God."

THE HOLY HIKERS



"The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy, is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the Heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy amidst the simple beauty of nature"

Anne Frank

In the Christmas issue of the "Link" I reached October's Walk so I begin now with November when in a change of plan we went into Dalkeith Country Park. Ian Thomson devised a circular walk reaching areas of the Park that I had never seen before. What a great walking place to have right on your doorstep.

Due to bad weather we had to cancel our stroll around Limekilns, but it will be saved for another day.

On Saturday 11th January we all took the bus into Edinburgh and did a short but very pleasant walk round Calton Hill to London Road. This was followed by coffee at the Omni Centre in a place called "The Slug and Lettuce" (How do they think up these names).

In February we had arranged to have High Tea at The Mercat in Whitecraig. This was preceded by walking from the village via Dalkeith Country Park to Dalkeith Campus and back to Whitecraig on the old railway. The tea proved to be excellent.

A meeting has been arranged for Sunday 23rd February when we will plan our new programme from April to September, 2014.

Our Annual Walking weekend will take place on 5/6th April 2014 when 16 members will be going to Pitlochry.

The walk on the first day will be to The Hermitage near Dunkeld, on Sunday we will walk from the hotel to Loch Faskally and possibly on to Killiecrankie. Then on Monday we will walk part of Glen Tilt at Blair Athol. Hope the weather is kind to us.

Happy Hiking

Jim Scott

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Let's start our Easter article as usual by looking back over the past few months at what's been going on:

1. CHRISTMAS 2013

90 of us had our Christmas outing to the pantomime to see Peter Pan and it was fabulous. We are booked again for this year to see Aladdin on Sunday 30 November at the 5pm performance so hope to see many of you coming along too.

We had 2 wonderful Nativity plays at Cockpen & Carrington and Lasswade in December. Our children and parents are simply amazing and these 'Oscar' winning performances are much appreciated by everyone. We auditioned extensively and were delighted to welcome David Robinson & Raymond Branch to join all our budding thespians! Our Minister had practised and he was in what we understood to be his first Nativity play with us... little did we know at that stage that it was also going to be his last!

Not many people realise just what it takes to be in our plays. Two of our regular shepherds (Ian McCabe & Craig Adam) had suffered from the complaint 'shepherd's knee' and had to have surgery. Craig still managed to hobble through the pain barrier for both performances, but Ian's surgery was too close to our Lasswade performance so much to his disappointment, he missed that one. However, with the benefit of the internet, a quick email to LASTMINUTESHEPHERDS.com brought us Craig Gordon. From his performance on the day, looked like Craig had rehearsed more than the rest of us put together! Thank you Craig. Ian may have missed out but ever reliable Jim McCabe was a very fierce ox! Charlie Adams has said I can share some top secret information with you. Many of you will know that Charlie is a very distinguished actor (!), however his agent knows that our play always takes priority so that is the reason you did not see Charlie in the film Gravity. Yes he was offered the part, but said he was not free so suggested that it be offered to one of his pals - George Clooney. Thanks again Charlie. (!)

You all seemed to enjoy our performances so thank you for your very generous retiring offerings.

2. FAMILY SERVICES

We've had family services in January, 9 March and look forward to Easter at Rosewell. We are also going to join the rest of the congregations at Rosewell on 30 March at 11am for our Minister's last service.

Matthew conducted his last Baptisms on 9 March at Lasswade and C&C - always such a special occasion for the families involved and extra special for Jessie at Cockpen as her Great Grandson, Devon, was baptised. Matthew had baptised big sister Erin a few years ago. Another Devon, Devon Boyle, did the reading and was excellent.

3. VISIT BY THE MINISTER

Matthew joined us at Sunday School in February; his annual visit and as always he joined in with all our activities. We were sorry to hear of his departure so had a lovely tea party to celebrate which gave the children and parents an opportunity to question Matthew on his new role. Rachel McCabe, our own resident photographer, took some wonderful photos to mark the occasion. Matthew is the first Minister to take time out of the pulpit and we look forward to his successor continuing this. Bill Brown, Sunday School Elder, is visiting in March and we look forward to welcoming him.



4. FORTHCOMING DATES

A couple of dates for your diary over the next few months: our trip is to the Five Sisters Zoo on Saturday 17 May, exact details will be intimated in our churches.

Our prizegiving will be held at Cockpen & Carrington on Sunday 11 May at 11.30am. All of our children are presented with a certificate & book and our friends from our outreach Sunday School at Rosewell join us for both of these events. This is often the occasion when we say goodbye to some of our older children and we are truly sorry to see Louise Gillespie & Amy Watters leave us.

5. AND FINALLY

We too, were surprised to hear the news that Matthew is leaving us. Matthew is much admired and adored by all at Sunday School: children, parents and teachers alike. He has baptised a number of our children (the 60+ he's conducted since joining us); he joins us at Sunday School; embraces our Family Services; has been persuaded to add phrases to services from Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious to chocolate when we have our comic relief services; has acted in our Nativity Plays; sings most things we ask and is Minister to our local schools attended by many of our children. He has given unstinting support to us as a Sunday School and we would have liked him to have been around for longer, BUT, we understand this is a marvellous opportunity. Thank you Matthew for being our dear friend. We will all miss you but wish you great happiness in your new position.

With Matthew becoming our Minister, we benefited in getting Kristina too! It has been a joy to get to know both of them and one wonderful memory will be of the most amazing Easter service conducted by Kristina at Rosewell; it was a pleasure to work with you, too Kristina.

Matthew and Kristina also joined us when they could at our pantomime trip; Rosalind recalls their very first year when she was worried that some of the jokes on stage would perhaps not be appropriate for not one but two Ministers to hear! Little did she think, that we were nearly banned from future productions as Matthew & Kristina giggled throughout the performance!

Much love to you both.

See the Sunday School Calendar 2014 on Page 28

Guild Report

Our topics this year have been extremely varied but also amazingly interesting. From the clever work carried out by the dogs from Canine Partners to painting classes held for people with dementia and the work done in raising funds for the upkeep and teaching at the Livingston Hospital in Chitambo Zambia.

As always we held our Annual Carol Evening, which was led by Graham and the Choir taking us through our favourite carols and new pieces sung by the choir. The 'Goodies' were once again baked by Jessie Hume and appreciated by us all.

We started the year off with our Nibbles and Natter evening of which the highlight was playing The Generation Game - great fun. Following on from there we have had speakers talking to us on Fraud Prevention, Asda Stores and Coping With Deafness. We have been extremely fortunate this year with the weather and therefore have not had to cancel any meetings.

The World Day of prayer was held on 6th. March and was hosted by Rosewell Church. The service was written by the ladies of Egypt and entitled Streams in the Dessert. It was attended by readers from the six churches in the area. Rosewell ladies served refreshments after the service.

The Annual Guild Drive this year is on 26th. April and we will be going to Stirling. We stop enroute for coffee and enjoy High Tea before returning home. Anyone wishing to join us will be made most welcome to what is always a very pleasant outing. Following on from this on Monday 28th April we hold our closing social and again all will be made most welcome. Tickets will be available from Guild members.

As we draw close to the end of our session may we 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 and Helen

From a book - 'Facing the Storm'

As you're now aware, I've 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 very much and would commend them to you. **G.S.**

1ST Corinthians Ch. 13. *A story that can be told anytime. How many times have we heard this beautiful passage at weddings and other Services?*

When we moved house recently, we had to find a new plumber. It wasn't easy getting one, but, when Jim turned up he was very helpful. He's a competent, conscientious and cheerful worker, and, a conversationalist.

He told us about his family. There's a teenage son, tragically hit by multiple sclerosis, and a wife Jim obviously adores.' *She's a great woman, my wife,'* he said, *'and, we've got a good marriage. In 30 years she's never run out of coffee or toilet paper.'* We laughed.

There are many ways of showing love. The glossy magazines say diamonds are best. The slightly more modest weeklies advise us to say it with flowers. A hug, a kiss, a held hand all help.

And there's the coffee and toilet paper way. The faithful, quiet work that keeps homes going, keeps relationships good. The attention to detail, making sure that the everyday things are cared for. It may be earthy, but it's no less valuable for that.

The cup of coffee, and the rest, speak for themselves. Speak of looking ahead, anticipating needs, meeting them with loving ordinariness.

'Love is patient; love is kind' writes Paul to Christians at Corinth, **'Love will never come to an end'**. And whether we write books about it, or express it simply through the weekly shopping list, it all has meaning. Love expressed in an infinity of ways, mostly quiet.

Love is still at the centre of the universe. Still available. And God, who is love, is still trying to pour it into our lives.

*And that reminds me Lord, that what I do
For any traveller on the road, I do for you.
That any love I share I share with you, and you with me.
Please help me keep that
In the forefront of my mind, today.*

From Meditations and prayers by Eddie Askew.



Easter Sudoku

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters
B A S K E T

Don't guess - use logic

		A	T		
	K			S	
B					K
A					B
	T			A	
		S	K		

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2014

Sunday 30 March 2014

Family Service & Farewell to the Minister - Rosewell Parish Church 11am followed by brunch in hall.

Sunday 6 April 2014

HOLIDAY

Sunday 13 April 2014

HOLIDAY

Sunday 20 April 2014

Easter Sunday: Family Service & Easter Fun: Rosewell Parish Church 11.30am with Rev Bill Armitage

Sunday 27 April 2014

Sunday School in Cockpen hall 10am

Sunday 4 May 2014

Communion at Cockpen & Carrington - no Sunday School; all children welcome at Rosewell Parish Church at 10am

Sunday 11 May 2014

Family Service & Sunday School prizegiving Cockpen & Carrington Parish Church 11.30am

Saturday 17 May 2014

Sunday School Trip -Five sisters Zoo

Sunday School returns 24 August 2014 with a Family Service at Lasswade Parish Church at 10am