

Cockpen & Carrington

The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Easter 2015



Church of Scotland

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Cockpen & Carrington Parish Church (Church of Scotland) - Scottish Registered Charity SC013139
Lasswade & Rosewell Parish Church (Church of Scotland) - Scottish Registered Charity SC015878

PULPIT SUPPLY ROTA - APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2015

DATE	LASSWADE (10.00 am)	COCKPEN & CARRINGTON (11.30 am)	ROSEWELL (please check times below)
05.04.15	Service at 8am Worship Group 10am at Rosewell	Rev Bill Armitage	Rev Bill Armitage family service followed by HOLY COMMUNION 10 am
12.04.15	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	Eddie Yeoman 11.30 am
19.04.15	Rev Bill Armitage	Rev Bill Armitage	Rev M Schofield 11.30 am
26.04.15	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	Service at Lasswade 10 am
03.05.15	Service at Rosewell	Rev Ian Dick HOLY COMMUNION	Rev Ian Dick 10 am
10.05.15	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	Eddie Yeoman 11.30 am
17.05.15	Rev Bill Armitage	Rev Bill Armitage	Rev M Schofield 11.30 am
24.05.15	Rev John Fraser GIFT DAY	Rev John Fraser	Service at Lasswade 10 am
31.05.15	Worship Group	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield 10 am
07.06.15	Service at Rosewell	Rev Bill Armitage	Rev Bill Armitage 10 am
14.06.15	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	Rev Bill Armitage 11.30 am
21.06.15	Rev Bill Armitage	Rev Bill Armitage	Rev M Schofield 11.30 am
28.06.15	Rev M Schofield HOLY COMMUNION	Rev M Schofield	Service at Lasswade 10 am
05.07.15	Service at Rosewell	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield 10 am
12.07.15	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	Eddie Yeoman 11.30 am
19.07.15	Prof H Kerrigan QC	Prof H Kerrigan QC	Eddie Yeoman 11.30 am
26.07.15	Prof H Kerrigan QC	Prof H Kerrigan QC	Service at Lasswade 10 am
02.08.15	Service at Rosewell	Rev Ian Dick	Rev Ian Dick 10 am
09.08.15	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	Rev Bill Armitage 11.30 am
16.08.15	Rev Bill Armitage	Rev Bill Armitage	Rev M Schofield 11.30 am
23.08.15	Rev M Schofield FAMILY SERVICE	Rev M Schofield	Service at Lasswade 10 am
30.08.15	Worship Group	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield 10 am
06.09.15	Service at Rosewell	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield 10 am HOLY COMMUNION
13.09.15	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	Eddie Yeoman 11.30 am
20.09.15	Rev Bill Armitage	Rev Bill Armitage	Rev M Schofield 11.30 am
27.09.15	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	Service at Lasswade 10am

HOLY WEEK SERVICES (30 MARCH – 3 APRIL) – ALL SERVICES STARTING 7 PM

Mon – Our Lady Bonnyrigg –

Thurs – Lasswade (Rev M Schofield)

Tues – Rosewell (Rev B Armitage)

Friday – Cockpen (Rev M Schofield)

Wed – St Leonards (Rev Peter Harrison)

Contacts:

Lasswade (SC) Mrs Dorothy Spence (0131 663 0943) (Organist - Herbert Dryden (0131 663 8895)

Cockpen (SC) Elizabeth [Liz] Mills (0131 663 3162) Organist – Graham Burnside (0131 556 1751)

Rosewell – Agnes Anderson (0131 440 0282) Organist Kenny Wight (0131 663 2777)

How time flies when we are having a good time

It was back in the summer I was asked if I could give time to your congregations as your locum. Unlike the time I give to God at Howgate and Penicuik which is unpaid, my time as Locum is paid albeit that there was some difficulty setting payment up but this is all sorted out now and given how much I am enjoying being a part of our ministry team here I am so glad I agreed.

My commitment is for 7.5 hours per week of pastoral cover as well as occasional services because your regular Sunday services are covered each week and if I am honest by more experienced people than me. I am here however should you need my services. Please let the Session Clerks know of the need, or call me direct, either way my only regret would be the need for some form of pastoral support on your part.

I am looking forward to the schools chaplaincy work having made contact towards the end of the year and have enjoyed being a part of their Christmas celebrations and was back in recently to hear all about the Egyptians. With more assemblies planned and a trip with some of the children they will keep me young.

I continue to carry the families of those who have passed away in my prayers and to celebrate with the couples I have met on their road into married life together.

What a privilege it is to serve our God. The variety of the work, the incredible people I meet and the honour of serving Him in this place – who would have thought?

God is good. Here's to the next part of our journey together.

Regards Fred

Vacancy update

The Nominating committee have been working hard on our behalf and there is a new advert that should appear in the April edition of Life and Work.

Should you come across a minister looking for a new charge do point them towards our vacancy – All details are available on the web site at <http://www.church.cockpen.co.uk/vacancy.php> from where they can download the parish profile.

Willie Tulloch (co-editor)

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH

BAPTISMS

We were delighted to welcome the following babies 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.

22nd February - Farrah Piper McKay, infant daughter of Louise and David.
Harris Gray Hogg, infant son of Sandie and Neil.
William Thomas Brown, infant son of Lynne and Gerald.
(All by the Rev. Bill Armitage)

'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee.'

WEDDINGS

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

29th November - Yvonne Burnett to Alan White *(the Rev. Fred Harrison)*

(see Church website at www.church.cockpen.co.uk for information on weddings)

BEREAVEMENTS

On 4th December, 2014 *Mrs. Winnie Brown*, 13 Waverley Crescent.
(see tribute on page 10)

We continue to pray for the respective family 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'.

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer service was held in the evening of 6th March in Cockpen and Carrington Church. The service was written by the Women of The Bahamas.

The main Biblical text for the 2015 service was based upon the Gospel of John Chapter 13, verses 1-17.

After washing the feet of his community of disciples, a gesture described in detail in the Gospel, Jesus asked this question, "Do you know what I have done for you?" The women of the Bahamas immersed themselves deeply in the reading of the text to find answers in Jesus' gesture of love – a radical love.

Radical love was the theme that wove together all the components of the worship.

The service was led by readers from the six churches in our area and the Reverend Bill Armitage gave a very interesting talk on the theme.

Tea and Bahamas recipe cake was served after the service.

Liz



George Sweeney's Retirement

As you all know he has been "threatening" to go for a few years but on 31st December 2014 George finally retired after 25 years as our Session Clerk.

I am sure you will all agree what a great Session Clerk he has been and he has gone beyond the "call of duty" over the years. George said he wanted to go quietly without a fuss but as said before we could not let him go without something to mark his achievement. His ambition was to take a Service in his beloved Church so it was organised that he would share the service with Melville Schofield on 25th January 2015. This went very well and he was supported with a good attendance at Church. During the Service he was presented with a Certificate and vouchers from the Board, Session and the Congregation for all his hard work. Wilma also received a floral arrangement for her years of support to George. Tea, coffee, shortbread and biscuits were provided afterwards and many of the Congregation stayed for a time of fellowship. Later that week on Thursday 29th January, most of the Office Bearers and their partners enjoyed a super meal at the "Laird & Dog". It was a lovely evening with good food, wine and friendship.

George is at present covering the essential duties as Session Clerk pro tem but hopefully a successor will be found soon and George can finally have a well-deserved rest.

The Office Bearers and Congregation give him their sincere thanks for all he has done and wish him all the best for the future.

Jim Scott

FROM THE ORGANIST

It is well known that Easter is a “moveable feast”. After an unusually late date last year (and a very early one not long before that) 2015 lands around the middle of the possibilities, with Easter Day itself falling on 5 April.

As has often been the case over recent years, Cockpen & Carrington will be hosting the Holy Week service for Good Friday. The choir will be performing two very different items, though both are specific to the day. Firstly we will be singing the opening part of what are known as “The Reproaches”, an ancient text for Good Friday stretching back well over 1,000 years drawing on the Old Testament and the words of Christ on the cross, the music being a mixture of the original plainsong and a setting of the refrain by the Spanish renaissance composer Victoria. In a complete contrast the second item will be the simple but moving spiritual “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?”.

Easter Day will of course be very different from the sombre music of Good Friday. The main choir item this year will be “Let all the world in every corner sing”, the final movement from Vaughan Williams’ “Five Mystical Songs”. While very much a general chorus of praise the set as a whole relates to this season of the year (and indeed the first movement is entitled “Easter”). The text, by George Herbert, is of course familiar to us as a hymn but Vaughan Williams transforms it into a large scale movement for organ and choir.

As often on these occasions the organ music concluding the service will be drawn from the French tradition, in this case Gigout’s “Grand Choeur Dialogué”, which as the name suggests makes its effect by contrasting passages between different registers of the organ. While this was as you might guess written for one of the mighty instruments of the churches of Paris it can I think still make a strong impact using our more modest resources!

We will as in many years past be welcoming some of our regular additional supporters to the choir for these services and we are very grateful to them for continuing to contribute to our worship for this highlight of the church’s year, as of course we are to all of our regular choir members.

GMB, March 2015

Choristers' Confession

Almighty and most merciful Choirmaster,
We have erred and strayed from thy beat like lost
sheep.

We have followed too much the intonation and tempi of
our own hearts.

We have offended against thy dynamic markings,
We have left unsung the notes we ought to have sung,
And have sung the notes we ought not to have sung,
And there is no breath in us.

But thou, O Choirmaster, have mercy upon us, miserable
singers,

Succour the chorally challenged,
Restore them that need extra note bashing,
Spare thou them without pencils.

Pardon our mistakes,
And have faith that we will follow thy directions,
And sing together in perfect harmony.

Amen.

[From the choir vestry in Lichfield Cathedral]

Kirk Session Clerk

As we go to press I am very pleased to be able to let you know that the Kirk Session formally (unanimously) approved Liz Mills as our new Session Clerk. I am sure you will all join me in welcoming her to this role. Liz has been on the Church Board since 2012 and an active member of the congregation for many years.

It was somehow fitting that George was acting session clerk *pro tempore* at the meeting, having stood down from the role himself at the turn of the year. He will now be able to hand the baton over in an orderly fashion and take a different perspective on church life.

Willie Tulloch (co-editor)

Mrs. Winnie Brown

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing on 4th December, 2014 of Mrs. Winnie Brown a much loved and faithful member of our Church. Winnie died peacefully at Highbank Care Home where she had been resident for a short time.

Winnie celebrated her 100th birthday on 19th June 2014 a day that many of us had the pleasure in sharing such a wonderful event. Fortunately, Winnie had been able to stay in the family home until a short time before her passing and for that we are all so grateful.

I had the great honour of being asked by the family to officiate at Winnie's Service which was held at Mortonhall. The small Chapel had been chosen for the Service but it was 'standing room only' for a great lady. For us all, it was a day of sadness but also of thanksgiving for the life of someone who gave her all to family, friends and, her beloved Church and Sunday School here at Cockpen.

I mentioned at the Service that when anything special was happening in Church, for instance, a presentation, I could always go to Winnie as one of the oldest members and, after making sure she wasn't 'standing on any toes' she would always be happy to oblige. At these functions it was very much her quiet little speech to the recipient, just like a mother talking to her children, when good advice was given whether it was a retirement or just moving on that made the event special.

Winnie had, during her long life, many interests as well as her Church. She was a long time Guide followed up later in life as a member of the Trefoil Guild, a member of the Church Guild (and tea convener for many years), a member of the Rural and an 'all round' wonder woman who went to keep fit groups and was very much involved in the Lagganlia Outdoor Centre where she took part in canoeing and white water rafting plus having a go at abseiling - and all that in her late 70's early 80's!!

Winnie was very much a family person, always happy when her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren were round about her. From her time as a youngster until her passing she always loved an involvement with children and was an avid supporter of our Sunday School and always liked to hear what was happening there.

Winnie will be missed by many of us but we are all privileged to have known and been part of the life of such a truly lovely lady. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.

George.

Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota

March

15th Cathie Fisher
22nd Stella McLeish
29th Nancy Richardson

April

5th Liz Mills
12th Free
19th Liz MacDonald
26th Mary Johnston

May

3rd Liz MacDonald
10th Moira Scott
17th Maureen Peden
24th Dot Scott
31st Wilma Sweeney

June

7th Irene Ramsay
14th Helen Renton
21st F. Wilkie
28th Liz Laidlaw

July

5th Liz Mills
12th Free
19th Liz MacDonald
26th Elspeth Brown



Once again thank you to all who supply and arrange the flowers in church week after week. I am sure you all join me in thanking them.

Irene

Arranging Flowers in Church

For those on the Flower Rota who do their own flower arranging there is now an area within the church that can be used for this purpose. David Robinson has cleared and fitted out the cupboard on the right hand side of the south aisle. He has supplied us with a sturdy worktop for arranging the flowers, shelves to store vases etc. and hooks for hanging up bits and pieces – A florist's dream! It has always been a difficult task finding somewhere suitable to arrange the flowers in church without making a mess and this will make things so much easier for everyone.

We are so grateful to him for his time and the work put into providing this facility for us and indeed for the work he does week after week keeping our church looking so nice.

Liz and Irene.

CAKE STALL

We thank you once more for the continued support you give us at our monthly cake stall at the Pitcairn Centre. The following are the dates for your diary.

26th March, 2015.
23rd April, 2015.
28th May, 2015
25th June, 2015

Helen, Isobel, Wilma.

BRIC A BRAC

We are back (fully refreshed!!) after our Christmas break and look forward to welcoming old and new friends each Thursday. The Hall is open from 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Like the cake stall, we appreciate your continued support.

The Thursday Team.

Used Stamps

Letter from the Scottish Bible Society

Thank you to all at Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church for the stamps kindly donated to our Operation Family project. Your 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 Easter Europe there is a real hunger for God's Word.

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

Used stamps are collected at the Church by Dorothy Bennett.

Thank you

As you will know by now, I have finally been able to ‘stand down’ as Session Clerk after 25 long years. It’s been a wonderful journey but not always a smooth one with all that has happened in that time (as with most Churches).

Little did I think 25 years ago that my tenure would be so long but, for me, it has been a great learning curve and something that I wouldn’t have missed for anything. Like all Churches, we have had difficult times but I firmly believe it was because of the difficult times that we, as a Church, remained strong. Yes, I know that numbers are not good, but the faithful few are truly faithful and have been a continual support to me.

Over the years, I’ve had four attempts to stand down but something always seemed to come in the way. However, this time it had to be done. Albeit perhaps an odd time to ‘walk away’ but when would the right time be? I leave, knowing that a diligent Nominating Committee are in place and, that hopefully soon, we will have a *worthy successor as Clerk to the Kirk Session of Cockpen and Carrington. (*** and now we do - see the item on page 9**).

My thanks to so many over these many years but, particularly in recent times with lovely cards received, the presentation from the Sunday School at the Nativity Service and then, on the 25th January being able to share a Service with the Rev. Melville Schofield followed by more far too generous gifts being presented to me. The day ended with a welcome cuppa and the opportunity to have a good old blether. Saying all that, my only request had been the chance to take part in a Service but, does anyone listen to an old Clerk?

Again, it has been a joy to serve such a wonderful Church and its people and I thank you all for making it such.

Yours in friendship,

George.

GUILD NEWS

Our New Year commenced with a Natter and Nibbles Evening when Helen became BINGO CALLER, QUIZ MASTER AND CATERING ORGANIZER! Well done Helen.

Liz took over for the second half of the year at the next meeting and welcomed our speaker Janice Burns, from The Midlothian Food Bank. This proved to be a very interesting and informative topic with many questions being asked.

Our other speakers have been Tweed Valley Osprey Project, Guide Dogs for the Blind and The Sick Kids Hospital again, all extremely interesting. Speakers from Poppy Scotland and Thera Scotland will be with us later in March.

On the afternoon of Sunday 22nd February we celebrated the 85th birthday of the Guild with a meal at Broomieknowe Golf Club when everyone was able to reminisce of years gone by. Our birthday cakes [one fruit and one plain] were made by Moira Scott and were cut by Jean Sharpe and Mary McMorrان.

The service for World Day of Prayer was held this year in Cockpen and Carrington on Friday 6th March when ladies from the five other churches in the area joined us in leading the service. The Reverend Bill Armitage gave an excellent Address and Graham very kindly provided the music.

Our Closing Social this year will take place on 27th April at 7-30 pm. The entertainment this year will be THE SECOND ROW SINGERS and all will be made welcome [gentlemen included]. Tickets are available from Wilma or Nancy.

On the afternoon of 29th April we have a visit to The Mining Museum at Newtongrange planned. This outing has very kindly been organized for us by Bill Taylor and we are most grateful to him for his kindness. After our tour we will enjoy afternoon tea. This outing is restricted to Guild members only.

As we draw near 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



Cakes being cut by Mary McMorran and Jean Sharpe for our Guild's 85th birthday celebration.

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 2014

76 of us had our Christmas outing to the pantomime to see Aladdin and it was fabulous. It was lovely to welcome some new friends along with us.

Our Nativity play was The Right Shepherds...as opposed to the wrong ones! We had 2 wonderful performances at Lasswade and Cockpen & Carrington in December. The performances were wonderful and the cast was really challenged with entirely new musical numbers. We

used our backing track but in general, the view was that the standard was exceptionally high. All of our children are amazing and the adults who take part are such good sports. We have no prima donna's and everyone simply mucks in which makes it very easy for the Director! This year, our actors were of such a high calibre that Mary was actually with child! The lengths our cast goes to! Thank you to all of you. Our performance at C&C was dedicated to the late Winnie Brown - a dear friend of the Sunday School. Winnie's presence was with us that day and her cheeky smile and laughter is fondly remembered.

We also had a very special production of The cat and mouse carol. This was new to us and was taught to us by our dear friend, Herbert Dryden, from Lasswade. Jim accompanied us on the guitar which made a beautiful melody. We dedicated our performances to Herbert at Lasswade and to George Sweeney at C&C.

2. PANTO 2015!

Yes if it's the Easter magazine, then we must be thinking about Christmas outings! We are booked again for **Sunday 29 November at 5pm** for the panto at the Kings Theatre which is Snow White & the 7 Dwarfs! Please book early. Final numbers and payment required by **6 September**.

3. SAD NEWS AND GOOD NEWS

Along with everyone else from C&C, we were sad to hear of the death of Winnie Brown. Winnie was a great supporter and friend to this Sunday School. She enjoyed all our performances in Church and always joined in with action songs. She supported us financially and we were so blessed to call her our friend. Winnie continued to take an interest in everything we did even when she was no longer able to come to Church. Our lives were all enriched by her and she is a big loss to us. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Betty and the family. It was only fitting that our Nativity play at C&C was dedicated in her memory.

Baby Molly Rose Adam arrived at the beginning of February, a 3rd daughter for Sara & Craig and baby sister to Layla & Gracie. Molly was the real baby of Mary in our Nativity plays! Molly joined us at our February family service at less than 1 week old.

4. WHAT IS A SESSION CLERK?

Well the clerk will work tirelessly for the church and congregation. Will support all the organisations connected with the church. Will be on call 24/7. Will stand in for the Minister. Will be at everyone's beck and call. Will be a confidante *and* friend to all. If this job description sounds quite daunting, it is! But this is exactly what George Sweeney has been for the past 25 years. Thank you George - we will miss you in this role.

5. FAMILY SERVICES

Our family services continue monthly at C&C and we have indeed been blessed with wonderful preachers: Rev Melville Schofield/ Mrs Janet Mackenzie & Rev Bill Armitage.

6. EASTER

We will again be at Rosewell Church on Easter Day. Unusually this year, Communion will be celebrated at Rosewell Church; however, our Easter fun will continue and the children will come out of Church while the sacrament takes place. This will allow parents who want to participate in Communion to remain in Church or come out with the children. We also look forward to our traditional Easter feast after the service.

7. TRIP

Our trip is still to be finalised but will be in May and details will be announced in Church.

8. PRIZEGIVING

Again dates still to be finalised but likely to be 10 or 17 May.

Lasswade and Rosewell News ...

Lasswade Garden Club

In the year since my last report there are significant changes to report about the make-up of the garden. As you will all be aware the Church Hall has been sold and is at present being completely renovated to form one house. The new owners Jennifer and Chris Cummings and their young son Oliver hope to move in around August. They are a lovely family and would welcome any interest shown by members of the congregation. They have taken ownership of that part of the garden to the south of the holly hedge immediately behind the Hall.

The major early season work will involve having the Cypress conifers and Portuguese cedar which encroach on our new neighbour's property pruned by a qualified tree surgeon. As the Church is in the Lasswade Conservation Area permission to carry out the work has been obtained from Midlothian Council.

We will then be able to concentrate on the garden areas in front and rear of the Church. The rear garden is in need of some landscaping having been neglected in recent years whilst we concentrated on other areas.

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 any help from members and friends who are not able to manage on Mondays but would like to carry out some work when they are free.

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

Christmas Fair

A huge thank you is extended to everyone who helped make our Christmas Coffee Morning / Fair a great success. The sum of £512 was raised.

Support Christian Aid Week: 10 – 16 May 2015

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 24 May 2015

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.

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: 9 April, 14 May, 11 June, 9 July and 13 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 on 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.

Lasswade and Rosewell Kirk Session Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 28 May 2015 at 7.00 p.m. in Rosewell Church Hall.

Easter Apple Cake

Ingredients:

2 eggs

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups sugar

2 heaped teaspoons cinnamon

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup oil

6 medium gala or honey crisp apples

2 cups flour

2 teaspoons baking powder.

Method:

Preheat oven to 180 degrees or Gas Mark 4. In a large bowl mix eggs, sugar, cinnamon and oil.

Peel and slice apples and add to mixture in bowl, coating as you go to keep apples from turning brown.

Mix together the baking powder and

flour and add to ingredients in the bowl. Mix well with a fork until all the flour mix is absorbed by wet ingredients.

Pour mixture into a greased 9" x 13" tin or 2 round 9" tins.

Bake for 55 minutes.

Easter Eggs

The custom of giving eggs at Easter celebrates new life. Christians remember that Jesus, after dying on the cross, rose from the dead. This miracle showed that life could win over death.



For Christians the egg is a symbol of Jesus' resurrection, as when they are cracked open they stand for the empty tomb. No-one actually knows when eggs were first used as symbols at festival times but it was long before Jesus' time. Eggs were always thought to be special because although they do not seem alive, they have life within them especially at springtime when chicks hatch out.

Long ago people gave gifts of eggs carved from wood or precious stones. The first sweet eggs that were eaten were made in the last 100 years from sugar or marzipan. Since then chocolate eggs have become popular and these are given on Easter Sunday.



Lasswade and Rosewell Choir

We have missed having Mrs. May Murdoch among us these last few months. May has been having health problems and has been going through a rough time. Our thoughts are continually with her, and with Ian as well because these last months have not been easy for him either. We hope that the progress which May has experienced lately will continue and we look forward to seeing her among us once more.

As a choir we contributed to the worship at Rosewell on the first Sunday in December and at the Christingle service at Lasswade on Christmas Eve and once again I extend my thanks to those who sang at these services and also to the regular choir for their support Sunday by Sunday.

At the time of preparing this article I am not sure what we shall do at the Lent or Easter period. As I have said before we are small in numbers and although the quality and enthusiasm is there we could do with a few extra people to act as a cushion and that would enable us to extend our repertoire a bit. Having said all that is this the time to consider alternative ways of making music in worship? Other places do it and some have a range of musicians and a variety of instruments they can call on. If someone wishes to take this on board then I shall not stand in their way.

HLRD

Concert by the Police Choir will be held in Rosewell Parish Church on Friday 24 April at 7.00 p.m. Tickets £8.

All proceeds going to Thornton Rose "Riding for the Disabled" based in Rosewell.

Rosewell Flower Rota

Writing this in late February, it's great to see springtime bulbs appearing again with the promise they bring of longer days and hopefully warmer weather ahead.

Thank you to the ladies who help with the flower rota and to those who kindly donate the lovely flowers we appreciate brightening our church on Sundays.

April 5th Laura Stewart
12th Julie Brown
19th Isabel Henderson

May 3rd Cecile Gillespie
10th Myra McLean
17th Elizabeth France

June 7th Betty Hogg
14th Agnes Anderson
21st Wendy Farrow

Jean Lindsay



Lasswade Church Flower Rota

The first signs of spring have been celebrated in the written word and songs through the ages. It is a season which encourages us to look forward to longer days and sunshine. The first flowers always cheer us by their perseverance to appear through the hard ground and snow.

There is something very special about spring flowers. Our family in Singapore, whilst enjoying many aspects of the life, miss the ever changing seasons. There is something to be said for our climate!

Thank you to all the people who kindly donate flowers for the church. These are much appreciated by the worshippers and recipients.

If anybody would like to offer to provide flowers for a later date in the year, I would be very happy to hear from you.

Moira Dryden

May 10th Margaret Gordon
 17th Margaret Michael
 24th Norma Horsburgh
 31st Elaine Thomson

June 14th Stewart Renwick
 21st Sadie Cowe
 28th Alison Branch

July 12th Morag Rennie
 19th Mary Hay
 26th Moira Scott

August 9th Margaret Dalglish
 16th Ruby Gardner
 23rd Shona Howden
 30th Moira Dryden



Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Born on 4th February 1906 Dietrich Bonhoeffer was the son of a Professor of Psychiatry. He grew up in academic surroundings before becoming a German Lutheran Pastor, a Theologian and a Nazi dissident.

He wrote several books, spent some time in England after which he was forbidden to teach and banned from Berlin by Nazi authorities. Against the advice of friends he gave up a lecture tour in the USA at the outbreak of war and returned to Germany to work for the Confessing Church and the political opposition to Hitler. He was arrested in April 1943 and spent the next couple of years in Buchenwald where he wrote his "Letters and Papers from Prison". Part of this book contains letters to his parents and part contains some of his prayers, poems and reflections which he sent to some of his friends. Included among the poems in the section addressed to "Christians and Unbelievers" are the verses which have been turned into CH4 hymn 393 "We turn to God when we are sorely pressed". Sometimes themes can be lost in the course of translation but you may be interested to read the wording of the verses as they are contained in "Letters and Papers from Prison"

Men go to God when they are sore bestead,
Pray to him for succour, for his peace, for bread,
For mercy for them sick, sinning or dead:
All men do so, Christian and unbelieving.

Men go to God when he is sore bestead,
Find him poor and scorned, without shelter or bread,
Whelmed under the weight of the wicked, the weak, the dead:
Christians stand by God in his hour of grieving.

God goeth to every man when sore bestead,
Feedeth body and spirit with his bread,
For Christians, heathens alike he hangeth dead:
And both alike forgiving.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was hanged at Flossenbug on 9th April 1945

HLRD

THE HOLY HIKERS

"My Father considered a walk among the mountains
as the equivalent of churchgoing"

Aldous Huxley



In December sixteen of us did a circular walk around Fairmilehead and the Caiystane. Starting at Braidburn Park and walked along the burn, turning up Cockmylane, a footpath going up towards the Hunter's Tryst. We then turned along the Grey Lady walk to reach the Caiystane which marks the site of a Pictish battle. Afterwards three others joined us at the Toby Carvery for a lovely Christmas Meal. Unfortunately Santa was rather busy that day but I managed to take his place and give everyone a small gift from Santa's Sack in return for a peck on the cheek from the ladies. A good laugh was had by all.

We had no walk in January but in February we enjoyed a circular walk led by Denise and Ian round Gore Glen. On this occasion we were accompanied by "Maisie" the dog who had fun in the water and probably covered 3 times the distance we did with all her running about chasing sticks etc.

We are looking forward to our March walk at Loch Leven near Kinross and also our Walking Weekend at Pitlochry the following week. We are using the same hotel as last year and the walks will include: "Birnam Wood" (we are taking the witches with us), a few miles of the "Rob Roy Way" and a visit to the Ospreys at the "Loch of the Lowes". We are all praying for good weather.

Happy Hiking
Jim Scott

From a book - 'Breaking the Rules'

As you know, I've included a few stories from 'Facing the Storm' by Eddie Askew in many previous issues of 'The Link' but would now like to share one from another book of his, 'Breaking the Rules'. I have enjoyed these books very much and would commend them to you. G.S.

Matthew Ch. 25, verses 34 - 40.

Walking around Peterborough Cathedral, I saw the notice-board covered with slips of paper. Each was a request for prayer. Some asked for prayers for soldiers and airmen in the Persian Gulf others spoke of family problems. Some were signed, some were anonymous.

One in particular moved me, it was written by a teenage girl. It said - *'Please pray for my friend. She's fourteen years old and is H.I.V. positive. Most people don't want to know her anymore, but, she needs my love'*.

I'm sure both of them needed love, and still do.

When AIDS was first recognized, people looked for causes, not just the virus, but for why it was happening. It was easy, then, to pick out particular lifestyles, and blame sufferers for creating their own problems by the way they lived. That's not so easy any more, and wasn't a very compassionate way of looking at it anyway.

It seems to me that with any sort of suffering we should look beyond the causes and reasons, beyond the 'blame', and ask what love can do to help.

A new problem always creates fear at the beginning, and we all feel the need to find something, someone, to hold responsible. But we need to get behind that to the heart of the suffering. Each generation has to learn its own compassion, find its own response to people in crisis.

The challenge to me lies in the familiar words in Matthew 25. Whether it's the hungry and thirsty, the naked or sick, or those in prison, Jesus doesn't talk about blame. He simply asks whether we helped or not.

Presumably most people in prison could be said to have done something to have got themselves there, although that's probably too simplistic an approach, both in Jesus' day and our own. However we look at it, it doesn't seem to be the main point for him. Jesus asks, *'Did you love them? Did you do anything to help?'*

That unknown teenager in Peterborough can teach me a thing or two.

From Meditations and prayers by Eddie Askew. (again, with grateful thanks).

HOLY HUMOUR

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for '**Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.**'"

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "*Good morning, Lord.*" and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "*Good Lord, it's morning.*"

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter.

Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program.

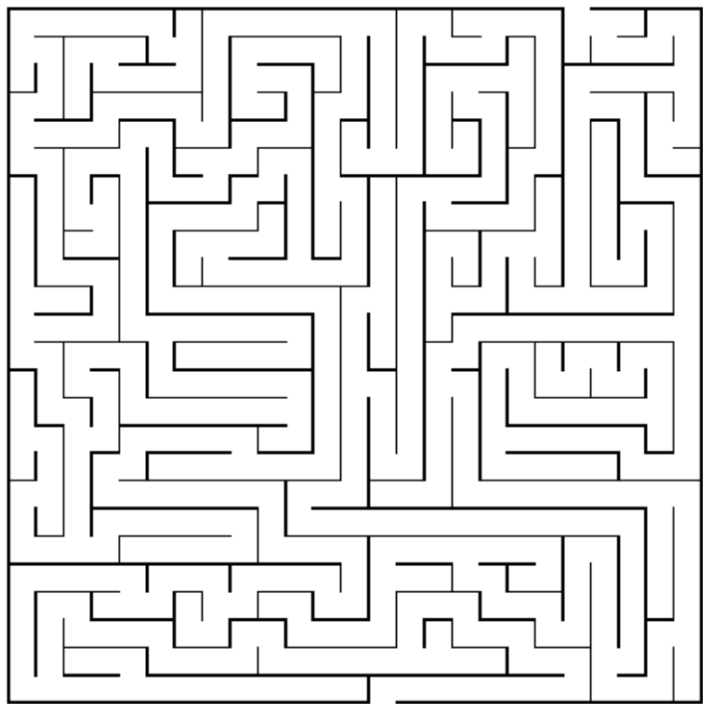
The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humour, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven... "

REMEMBER, GROWING OLDER IS MANDATORY.
GROWING UP IS OPTIONAL.

Can you help the chick find his friend?



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Please send your news to the Editors for the Autumn Issue of "The Link" magazine@church.cockpen.co.uk by Sunday 16 August 2015.