

Cockpen & Carrington

The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Easter 2018



Church of Scotland

Table of Contents

WHO'S WHO	2
SERVICES – MARCH - SEPTEMBER 2018	3
From the Minister	4
FROM THE COCKPEN AND CARRINGTON CLERK	6
COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH	7
SUNDAY SCHOOL	8
SUNDAY TEA ROTA	9
Diamond Wedding Anniversary	9
Eightieth Birthdays	10
GUILD REPORT	10
FROM THE ORGANIST	11
From a book - 'Breaking the Rules'	13
KNIT AND NATTER	14
CAKE STALL	14
Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota	15
Safe Families for Children	16
Mother God	17
LASSWADE AND ROSEWELL NEWS	18
Church Register	19
A Greek Odyssey	22
Lasswade and Rosewell Choir	23
Lasswade Church Flower Rota	24
Rosewell Flower Rota 2018	25
THE HOLY HIKERS	26
Children's Page	28

WHO'S WHO

MINISTER

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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

SERVICES – MARCH - SEPTEMBER 2018

DATE	LASSWADE & ROSEWELL (10.00 am)	COCKPEN & CARRINGTON (11.30 am)
18.03.18	tbc - Rosewell	Minister 'Back to Church Sunday'
25.03.18 Palm Sunday	Minister - Lasswade Annual Stated Meeting	Minister – All-Age Service
01.04.18 Easter Sunday	Minister - Rosewell Communion and Easter Celebration	tbc
08.04.18	Revd Melville Schofield - Lasswade	Revd Melville Schofield
15.04.18	Minister – Rosewell	Minister Baptismal Service
22.04.18	Minister – Lasswade	Minister – All-Age Service
29.04.18	Joint All-Age Service at 10.00 am at Lasswade Church	
06.05.18	Minister - Rosewell	Minister Communion
13.05.18 Christian Aid Week	Minister – Lasswade Big Breakfast after service	Minister
20.05.18	Minister - Rosewell All-Age Cradle Roll Service	Minister All Age Cradle Roll Service
27.05.18	Minister – Lasswade	Minister – All Age
03.06.18	Minister - Rosewell	Minister
10.06.18	Minister - Rosewell	Minister
17.06.18	Joint All-Age Service at 11.30 am at Cockpen & Carrington Church – Sunday School Prizegiving and Church Family Picnic	
24.06.18	Minister - Lasswade Communion	tbc
01.07.18	Minister - Rosewell	Minister
08.07.18	tbc - Lasswade	tbc
15.07.18	Revd Elisabeth Spence - Rosewell	Revd Elisabeth Spence
22.07.18	Revd Elisabeth Spence - Lasswade	Revd Elisabeth Spence
29.07.18	Joint All-Age Service at 10.00 am at Rosewell Church	
05.08.18	Minister - Rosewell	Minister
12.08.18	Minister - Lasswade	Minister
19.08.18	Minister - Rosewell	Minister
26.08.18	Minister – Lasswade	Minister Back to School Sunday
02.09.18	Minister – Rosewell Communion	Minister
09.09.18	Minister - Lasswade	Minister
16.09.18	Minister - Rosewell	Minister
23.09.18	Minister - Lasswade Harvest Service	Minister - Harvest Service
30.09.18	Joint All-Age Service at 11.30 am at Lasswade Church	

World Day of Prayer

Friday 2nd March in Our Lady of Consolation RC Church at 7:30 pm

Holy Week Services Monday 26 March to Friday 30 March 2018

Palm Sunday – Songs of Praise at **5.00 pm** at Cockpen Church

The following services are at **7.30 pm (Thursday is 7pm)**

- Monday 26** – Our Lady of Consolation
– The Right Rev Monsignor Allan Chambers
- Tuesday 27** – Rosewell – Rev Elisabeth Spence
- Wednesday 28** – Bonnyrigg – Rev John Mitchell
- Thursday 29** – Passover Meal - Cockpen Church Hall
note: **7.00pm** – Rev Peter Harris & Rev Lorna Souter
- Good Friday 30**– St Leonard's – Rev Peter Harris

From the Minister ...

It has been a great delight recently to celebrate the Year of Young People 2018 at both our churches. As part of this the Church of Scotland has encouraged as many churches as possible to make this year a particular time of embracing, encouraging and celebrating our young people at the heart of our church families: seeking to involve them more in the life and worship of our churches; to encourage their growth in faith and to celebrate all the gifts and fresh thinking they bring, as together we are church in our community. We will look forward to doing this through our continuing Sunday School time, our all-age services, as well as in new ventures we are planning to begin, for example, with Messy Church and Breakfast Church

With this and the also recent visits from our Forward Planning and Co-ordinating Group to look at options for overcoming the challenges of reduced numbers of ministers available today, we see the need to think 'outside the box' in being church today in our changing society. The Church is not its buildings or its set and traditional ways of worshipping and doing things. The Church is its living, growing, praying, caring and serving people of all ages and as such always has the ability to be creative and inventive, to change and evolve, so as to remain vibrant in our fellowship and worship together, and relevant in our community.

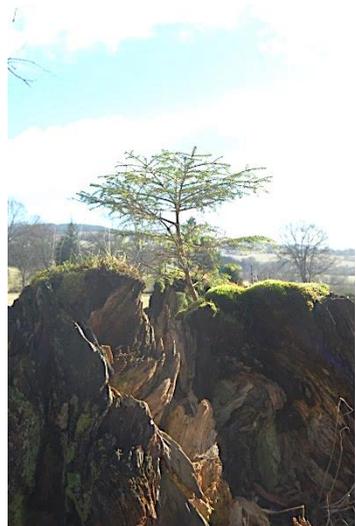
It's not an easy task, for there must be balance here in holding onto what should not change or be lost. We need to treasure our legacy from the past and ensuring that longer term members still feel very much a part of church and enjoy familiar worship week by week.

The little picture here of a new tree growing out of an old trunk is in many ways a symbol for our church today – the life and potential of the young tree is entirely dependent on the trunk, yet developing in a fresh way.

As we approach Easter once again, we are each reminded of our new life and hope made possible through faith in Jesus Christ.

As we read from 1 Peter 1:3: *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”*

May we be encouraged by the theme of rebirth at the heart of Easter faith as we look forward together to the next stages in the life, worship and witness of our Church.



Your minister
Lorna Souter

FROM THE COCKPEN AND CARRINGTON CLERK

After a very cold winter, with many suffering from colds and, in some cases flu, it is refreshing to see the first signs of Spring flowers, and experience the longer days as we head towards Easter.

Earlier this month, in conversation with some ladies we reminisced of times back in our childhood when you were taken to purchase sandals and a hat in preparation for the Easter Sunday Service in Church. This memory led us to thinking of the time when ladies would not attend Church without a hat. Now formal hats are only worn at special occasions such as weddings and by the Royal family. We at Cockpen are happy for people to wear what they feel comfortable with when worshipping with us and hope they also feel relaxed in our company.

As many of you will be aware we have been updating our Congregational Roll as our records have not been updated in a long time. People die and people move from the area and we are never informed of this. As a result, in time, figures we pass to our Presbytery Clerk annually become extremely out dated. I thank those who returned this information to us enabling the records to be updated and also advising us the extent of contact you wish to have with the Church.

We have a Back to Church service on 18th March when you are warmly invited to come along and join in worship and catch up with everyone over a cup of tea or coffee and cake after the service.

On 25th May, a **Cradle Roll service** will be held where children who have been baptised over the last few years, and their parents are invited to come together in an all-age service in Church at 11.30a.m. It is hoped that all will stay behind after the service and enjoy a cup of tea, coffee or juice and have the opportunity to join together in fellowship.

We as a church continue to hold various fund-raising events for local charities as well as supporting our own church. The next venture is a **Coffee Morning** which will be held on Saturday, 21st April at 10 am in the Church Hall.

The **Knit and Natter group** continues to meet on Thursdays and is proving to be very successful in bringing people together to share their gift of crafting as well as giving others the opportunity to learn new things.

As I write we are continuing through Lent, the traditional time of preparing for Easter.

The **World Day of Prayer** this year will be held on Friday 2nd March in Our Lady of Consolation RC Church.

We have our **Holy Week Services** as follows: Palm Sunday (25 March) at 5pm in Church for a Songs of Praise; Wednesday in Rosewell Church at 7pm, and Thursday, we have a Passover Meal in the Church Hall at 7pm.

May the Easter message of Resurrection and joyous hope inspire us all.

Liz

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH

BLESSINGS

'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee'

WEDDINGS

(See Church website at www.church.cockpen.co.uk) for information and advice on weddings for all three of the churches.

BEREAVEMENTS

13th November 2017	James (Jim) LANGLEY (Bonnyrigg)
9th January 2018	David STOCKS (Rosewell / Bonnyrigg)
20th January 2018	James (Jim) McFADYEN (Dalkeith)
17th February 2018	Edward (Eddie) Kitchener REEVES (Newtongrange / Leith)

We continue to pray for those in 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'



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pantomime: It seems a long time ago, but we had a super visit to the Pantomime to see Cinderella. It was great fun!!

Nativity: Using as a template a short nativity play that Lorna had used before, we changed a few bits here and there and altered some of the music. The Carols were suggested by the children and the parents and the whole thing came together very well "on the day" (10th December at Lasswade and 17th December at Cockpen). I had quite a few comments, from both churches, saying how much it had been enjoyed.

Assistance: In January we were joined by Agnes Renton, who with Stephanie and Libby came from Gorebridge Church to help lead us on a temporary basis. The children are enjoying it but numbers are few and we have not had many weeks together. We do appreciate their help and support.

Leader: We are still looking for someone from our own Churches to come forward and take over as the Sunday School Leader so if you are interested why not speak to Lorna our Minister.

If any children would like to join the Sunday School please contact Jim Scott on 0131 660 1147. We usually meet at 10am in Cockpen Church Hall.

Jim Scott

SUNDAY TEA ROTA

May 13th	Wilma Sweeney Helen Renton Andrew Jack	August	Vi Gibson Liz MacDonald Wilma Sweeney
June	Dorothy Scott Betty Finlay Muriel Calder	September	Andrew Jack Marjorie Commins Nancy Richardson
July	Moira Scott Isobel Watson Mary Logan		



Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Nat and Cathie Fisher who celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary on 5th December 2017. They were presented in Church with a card and basket of flowers by the Minister on behalf of the congregation.

Eightieth Birthdays

Two ladies recently celebrated their eightieth birthdays.

Betty Finlay in December and Betty Miller in January.

Congratulations to them both.

They were presented with a basket of flowers by the minister from the congregation.

GUILD REPORT

Yet again our Guild has had a very successful year with good attendances and everyone gaining a broad knowledge of the world we live in, through the wide variety of people who have kindly accepted our invitation to come along and address our group.

The speakers we heard in the early part of the year have included Lynn Mann speaking on her production of rapeseed oils, Herbert Dryden spoke on Polton House and the Jewish children. Our forthcoming topics, from speakers include The Yard, Richmond's Hope, and Community Champion from Co-op Foods.

World Day of Prayer this year has been written by Christian woman of Suriname and our local service this year will be hosted by the ladies of Our Lady of Consolation R.C. Church at 7:30 pm on Friday 2nd March.

Please keep in mind our closing Social on Monday 30th April at 7 - 30pm and we are holding another Charity Afternoon Tea on May 23rd at 2 -30pm

To those members who have found it difficult to join us recently through health issues we wish you all a speedy recovery and hope that you will perhaps be able to join us either at the Closing Social or the Afternoon Tea.

Finally, I would like to thank Nancy for putting together another wonderful list of speakers for this year. Putting together a programme of this quality is no easy job, and we thank Nancy for her time, experience and dedication.

May our Guild with God's help continue to flourish and I take this opportunity to wish everyone a most enjoyable recess and hopefully a good summer, and come back feeling refreshed.

Liz and Helen

FROM THE ORGANIST

Easter as you all know well is a moveable feast and this year it has moved a bit closer to Christmas! As all of Holy Week other than Easter Day itself falls in March the choir and I have had to put our plans in place at an early date in the year in order to be ready - I am optimistic though that we will get there in time!

This year the pattern of Holy Week joint services has changed in a number of ways from what we have grown used to over recent years. Foremost in this is the addition of a "Songs of Praise" service in Cockpen Church on Palm Sunday (25 March) at 5 pm, marking the start of the week's worship. While Cockpen & Carrington will also be hosting the service on Maundy Thursday this year, this will take the form of a "Passover Meal" in our church hall, so the main musical focus will be on the Palm Sunday service. That will of course provide plenty of opportunity for congregational singing but the choir will also be performing part of "Procession of Palms", a cantata for Palm Sunday by Malcolm Williamson. Though born in Australia Williamson spent most of his life in the UK and for the last 20 years of his life held the post of "Master of the Queen's Music". His compositions have an unusual mixture of "modern classical" and lighter styles - he once said the two biggest musical influences on him were Schoenberg and Richard Rodgers! The piece which we will be performing, is his setting of "Ride on, ride on in majesty" and "All glory, laud and honour", is definitely in his lighter vein - I will be interested to hear reactions!

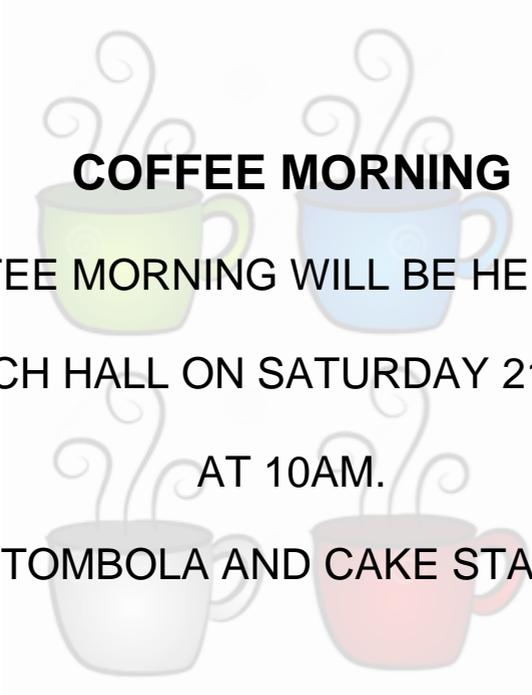
Easter Day will as always be an occasion for celebratory music. The anthem the choir will be singing has a rather complicated history, in that the music was originally written by the 18th century Italian composer Benedetto Marcello as a setting of Psalm 19. The 19th century French composer Théodore Dubois, whose organ music I regularly play, then rearranged it as an Easter anthem, *Christus resurrexit a mortuis* ("Christ is risen from the dead"), and it is his version we will be performing. The service will of course also include many of the well-loved Easter hymns, including "Thine be the glory", based on Handel's famous chorus, "See, the conquering hero comes".

The organ music I play for the major festivals in the church year is most often drawn from the great tradition of French organ composers - Widor, Vierne and many others. This year however I will be concluding the Easter service with a piece by the German composer Max Reger. Although he died at the comparatively young age of 43 he was extremely prolific and his output includes a large amount of organ music (nearly all of it very demanding I may add!). The work in question was written at the very end of his life and is entitled "Siegesfeier" (a difficult word to translate, but roughly "Victory celebration"). In effect it is a fantasia on two well-known hymn tunes, known to us as "Now thank we all our God" and "Glorious things of thee are spoken". Reger's complex and highly chromatic style may make the themes hard

to spot initially but by the end you will certainly hear the second theme loud and clear!

The choir and I look forward to joining with you once again for this most significant part of the church's year.

GMB, March 2018



COFFEE MORNING

A COFFEE MORNING WILL BE HELD IN THE
CHURCH HALL ON SATURDAY 21st APRIL
AT 10AM.

TOMBOLA AND CAKE STALL

From a book - 'Breaking the Rules'

Again, a story by Eddie Askew which I share with you from his book '*Breaking the Rules*'. I have enjoyed these books very much and would commend them to you. G.S.

John Ch. 4 verses 4 - 10

When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, he was shattering convention. Creating a storm in a water cup. Jews and Samaritans didn't mix - Jewish men never talked to women in public, and this particular woman wasn't likely to be received in the best circles, not with her reputation.

But Jesus was never inhibited by convention. Not when he saw human need. Somehow, he recognized a human being whose relationships were in a mess. Someone going about the routine of ordinary life, but, whose life below the surface was dislocated.

To reach her, he broke the rules, opened doors locked by centuries of tradition.

Even she found it hard to accept at first. She hid behind the common prejudice - she misunderstood. She prevaricated by changing the subject, trying to divert Jesus' attention. She didn't want to face herself as she really was - as Jesus saw her. Eventually, she did and, in facing herself, found the Christ.

It's easy to leave it there, simply to see Jesus as the one who breaks the barriers. But, there was a message here, a challenge, for the disciples. It was their business too, to break barriers. And, beyond them, he's speaking to the orthodox. "Your life isn't in rules and regulations, it's in relationships. *Not in law, but, in loving*".

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

KNIT AND NATTER

The Knit and Natter group had a break over the Christmas period but is now up and running again. Since resuming in January, we have increased our numbers and have around thirty people in total, with an average weekly attendance of twenty-four.

At the time of writing this article, we have just been approached by the Head Teacher at Rosewell school to knit and crochet cushion covers, dolls blankets, flowers, fruits, leaves, dolls clothes and pom-poms. These articles are to help enhance the spaces in their Nursery and also be knitted or crocheted in muted colours e.g., heather/ tweed and natural colours helping to create a calming and nurturing environment for children, family and staff. By using a palate of natural colours, you create a natural, warmer and more homely environment.

If any ladies not attending the Knit and Natter group on a Thursday would like to contribute to the project, we will be happy to supply you with full details of their requirements.

Liz

CAKE STALL

Once again, many thanks to all our bakers for supplying all the various goodies for the stall and also, to all our faithful customers.

Again, we thank Bonnyrigg Church for the use of the Pitcairn Centre for this venture

The following are the future dates for the cake stall.

22nd March, 2018
26th April, 2018
24th May, 2018
28th June, 2018

All goods for the stall should be handed in to the Pitcairn Centre between 9 - 9.30 a.m. on these dates

Helen, Isabel and Wilma.

Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota

2018

April	
1st	Liz Mills
8th	John Adamson
15th	Liz MacDonald
22nd	Mary Logan
29th	Joint Service - Lasswade
May	
6th	Liz Macdonald
13th	Moira Scott
20th	Maureen Peden
27th	Dorothy Scott
June	
3rd	Wilma Sweeney
10th	Irene Ramsey
17th	Helen Renton
24th	Frances Wilkie
July	
1st	Liz Laidlaw
8th	Liz Mills
15th	Jim Dyer
22nd	Liz MacDonald
29th	Joint Service – Rosewell
August	
5th	Lynn Hansen/ Ian Fowler
12th	Margaret Porter
19th	Elsbeth Brown
26th	Jim Dyer



Thank you for all the donations received and to all who supply and arrange the flowers in the Church. I and the other members in the Congregation who deliver the flowers on Sundays after Church enjoy the pleasure of brightening up someone's day.

Please contact me on 663 8517 or see me in Church if you have any queries.

At Easter, may hope and peace spring up, bright as flowers blessing you with all good things.

Nancy

Safe Families for Children

At Safe Families for Children we take referrals from Health Visitors, Social Workers, Primary Schools and other agencies who are looking for support for families on the edge of crisis.

Jenny has 4 children, Nathan, 14, Connor, 11, Sienna, eight and Jordan six.

Jenny has lived apart from the children's father for a good few years but the children see him regularly. Dad, James, lives in another village. Jenny has chronic depression and always seems to be the victim of situations, fall-outs with neighbours etc. She is anxious as well. The children are presenting with signs of anxiety too at times and they can sometimes be late for school.

Safe Families became involved as another agency were ending their support. We offered day hosting, which involves our volunteers taking a child out during the day, for the two younger children and a family friend for Jenny. Two separate volunteers providing host homes, which can involve an overnight stay, were used. The Greens took Sienna every other weekend for one day. They have children of their own and Sienna came with them on outings or for time at their own home. Debbie Green was very creative as was Sienna and they made lots of craft items. Sienna became more confident and settled at school. Ann Murray took Jordan most Wednesday nights for tea at her home. She picked him up from school and gave him some one-to-one time. Jordan became much more confident at expressing himself and again became more settled at school.

Emma became a family friend, a be-friending role, to Jenny and met with her most weeks. They planned Christmas for the family and helped Jenny move house and talked through things concerning the children.

Jenny will always have her depression and anxiety but the support has helped her manage more and become more confident in asking for the support she needs.

This is just one story where volunteers from *Safe Families for Children* have been able to provide short-term help to a family in crisis to help them get back on their feet.

We would like to help more families so if you would like to find out more about what is involved please phone us on 0131 603 8430.

Web site: <https://www.safefamiliesforchildren.com/regions/scotland/>



Mother God

In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery?" The other replied, "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later."

"Nonsense" said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?"

The second said, "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now."

The first replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded."

The second insisted, "Well I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore."

The first replied, "Nonsense. And moreover, if there is life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere."

"Well, I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet Mother and she will take care of us."

The first replied "Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists then where is She now?"

The second said, "She is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her this world would not and could not exist."

Said the first: "Well I don't see Her, so it is only logical that She doesn't exist."

To which the second replied, "Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and you really listen, you can perceive Her presence, and you can hear Her loving voice, calling down from above."

From "Your Sacred Self" by Dr. Wayne Dyer

LASSWADE AND ROSEWELL NEWS

New Kirk Session Member:

At a recent meeting of the Kirk Session it was agreed to appoint **Margaret Gordon** to the Session.

Her service of Ordination took place at Lasswade Parish Church on Sunday 26 November 2017.

This was a wonderful occasion for Margaret and we are sure that she will become a very active member of the Session.

Impressive Turnout:

A huge thank you to all who supported the Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 9 December. The sum of £665 was raised for Church funds. This was a result of efforts put in by many people – those who baked, donated items, manned the various stalls, served the tea and coffee, worked in the kitchen and others who worked behind the scenes. To all those who came along and supported in any way – a big thank you to them all.

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. Everyone is most welcome for a chance to meet new people, catch up with friends and enjoy some delicious home baking.

Cake Stall:

A big thank you to everyone who supports our Thursday Cake Stall at the Pitcairn Centre. If you are able to help on the stall please speak to Cathy Drysdale or Norma Sangster. Forthcoming dates are: 12 April, 10 May, 14 June, 12 July and 9 August. We would like to thank you all for your continued support.

Food Bank:

A huge thank you to all who kindly contribute to our Food Bank boxes. Your contributions are extremely welcomed by the recipients – many who have never experienced hardship before, but do so now, due to redundancies, ill health, unemployment and seeking work but nothing available. Please keep your donations coming as the need is ever present just now.

Many thanks

Annual Stated Meeting:

The Annual Stated Meeting of the congregation is to take place immediately after worship on Sunday 25 March at Lasswade and as many members and friends of the congregation as possible are asked to attend. This meeting gives you the chance to hear how we have done financially in the previous year and of our plans for the future. With that in mind, your attendance is greatly appreciated.

Thank you:

Many thanks for all the beautiful flowers, cards and get well messages which I received during my recent illness. They were very much appreciated. I am now on the road to recovery.

Raymond Branch

On Sunday 11 February 2018 **Long Service Certificates** were presented to **Ian Murdoch** and **Andrew Renwick** in recognition of 50 years as Ordained Elders in Lasswade Church.

We are all extremely grateful to Andrew and Ian for devoting so much time to further the work of our Church in the community.



Church Register

We welcome the following members to our Church and hope that they will feel comfortable worshipping with us:

Dr S Kofi and Mrs Julia Sedowofia from Edinburgh Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church.

Blessing

On Sunday 3 December 2017 a Blessing was held for Ruaridh Long, son of Jennifer and Russell Long.

'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee'

Bereavements

Mr Donald McDonald - 30 December 2017;

Mr John Thomson – 3 January 2018;

Mrs May Faughnan – 10 February 2018.

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



Christian Aid Week 13 - 19 May 2018

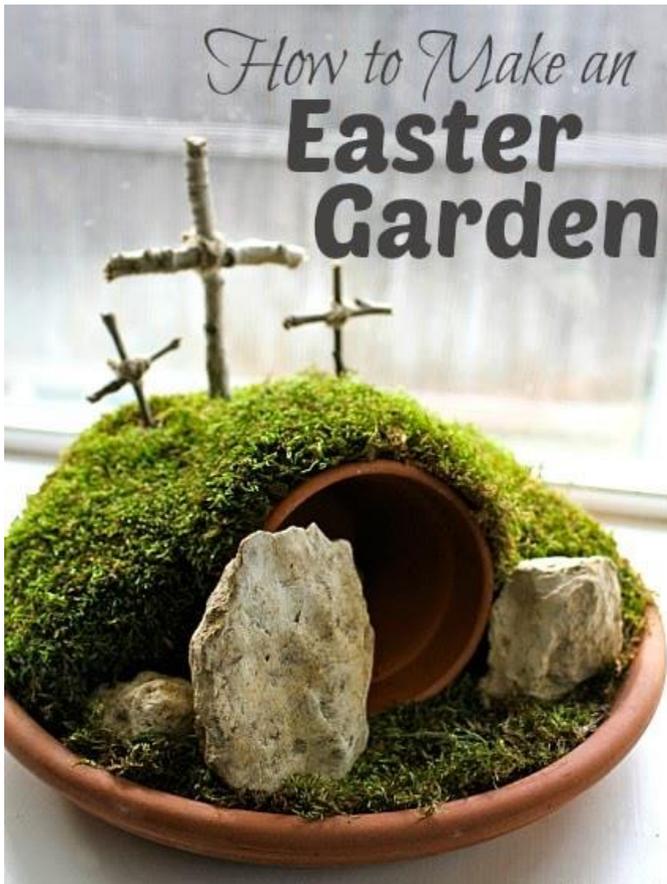
During Christian Aid Week, people come together from all walks of life to step out in support of the world's poorest communities.

Please come along to our Coffee Morning on Saturday 12 May when we will be supporting Christian Aid in Rosewell Church Hall from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon.

Following morning worship at Lasswade Parish Church on Sunday 13 May we will be hosting our very own **Big Brekkie** and following in the footsteps of thousands of Christians who have made a huge impact over many years.



It is proposed to hold a "Teddy Bears' Picnic" on Saturday 2 June in Rosewell Church Hall and garden. Cost will be adults £3 and children £1. More details soon. *May Murdoch.*



You will need a large terra cotta saucer or tin plate, small terra cotta pot, 1 large stone and selection of smaller stones, newspaper or tissue, moss, sticks and twine to make crosses, blue tac to secure.

Set the pot on its side near centre of the saucer. Place stones or newspaper around to hold in place. Use newspaper to make a 'hill' behind the 'tomb'. Lay some moss in front of 'tomb' and lean large stone at 'entrance'. Cover 'tomb' and 'hill' with moss. Using sticks and twine, make 3 crosses – poke them through moss and secure on to pot with blue tac. You could put a white stone inside the 'tomb'. This signifies the empty tomb and the hope we all have because Jesus is risen.

A Greek Odyssey

I am sure many from our three churches have visited Greece and the Greek islands. A few years ago, May and I arrived at the port for Athens to find our tour guide dressed in a long overcoat, woollen hat and gloves as the temperature had plummeted from above 80°F to just above freezing. As we all shivered beneath the Acropolis, some were phoning home to Britain in disbelief as to how cold and wet it was. We were then taken indoors to one of Athens' top hotels prior to re-boarding our cruise ship.

By contrast, a few years later, May and I arrived in Corinth following the footsteps of St Paul. We walked in blazing sunshine and searing heat to a wine tasting tent where we sampled the firewater – bitter-tasting red wine used for communion by the Greek Orthodox Church.

We also had the pleasure of visiting the famous windmills of Mykonos and enjoyed sitting in the shade of Santorini which is often depicted on cruise television shows.

Some go to this fascinating country to bathe and swim in the azure waters of the Aegean while others to study the traces of ancient Greek civilisation which helped create the democracy we all enjoy today.

Ian Murdoch

Lasswade and Rosewell Choir

As usual I wish to thank all members of the Choir for their continued support on Sunday mornings. There was one Sunday recently when we were short of people and one or two of the “augmentation team” stepped in to assist and for that I was very grateful. So, thank you one and all.

I am not making a commercial about St. Giles’ Cathedral but as our thoughts turn towards the events leading to Easter the following snippets might be of interest.

The Great East Window in St. Giles’ Cathedral is in three sections, with the Crucifixion portrayed in the lower lights, the Ascension in the upper lights and the Heavenly Host in the tracery. The main characters of the Crucifixion are shown – Jesus, the two criminals who were crucified with Him, the ladies, the dejected disciples, the soldiers, the darkening sky and the setting sun etc. But there is a lady and a child in the bottom right hand light and if one looks closely one notices that their hands are stretching beyond the borders of the window as if to draw those who are looking at the window into the scene which is being depicted.

Can I share two other points about St. Giles’ with you? One of the bosses in the Thistle Chapel is of a pelican which, as some people might know, was a medieval symbol of Christ’s suffering on the Cross. The reason for that is that when a pelican is feeding the young an element of blood is shed and the blood of the pelican was likened to the blood of Christ on the Cross. If you look at this boss you will see a pelican with her young and you will also notice tinges of red round the edge to symbolise the blood.

Quite a number of visitors to the Cathedral whose religious persuasions are different from ours ask where the cross is. They are looking for a cross with a man hanging on it. We mention that we believe that the Cross is empty and we explain why. A lot of emphasis in the Easter Story centres on the Empty Tomb and this, together with the Empty Cross, can help us move on to focus on the Resurrection.

HLRD

Lasswade Church Flower Rota

When I was preparing the rota for the next few months I was faced with an unusual situation. I knew that Spring was coming but the weather was unaware of the time of the year! It is always amazing to see the first signs of Spring in the garden in spite of the weather. The sight of snowdrops valiantly pushing through a blanket of snow gives great hope for optimism.

I suppose Spring could be described as an optimistic season. We can imagine the garden developing into a riot of colour over the next few months. I will let you know if I was too optimistic! Thank you to all the great “flower” folk who provide flowers for the church. It is through your thoughtfulness that the flowers go from the church to a home where they are greatly appreciated. Your kindness spreads its rays.

May 13th Margaret Gordon
May 27th Elaine Thomson

June 10th Stewart Renwick
June 24th Alison Branch

July 8th Shona Howden
July 22nd Morag Rennie

August 12th Margaret Dalglish
August 26th Moira Dryden

Moira Dryden

Rosewell Flower Rota 2018

2018

May 6th 20th	Cecile Gillespie Myra McLean
June 3rd 17th	Betty Hogg Wendy Farrow
July 1st 15th	Morag McFarlane Adrian & Linda Fisher
August 5th 19th	Sandra Ross Muriel Keith

Jean Lindsay



THE HOLY HIKERS

"An early morning walk is a blessing
For the whole day."

Henry David Thoreau



Well I did make a mistake in the last copy of "The Link". I did it in a bit of a rush and sent it off before having it looked over by my "proof reader" who of course spotted my error right away.

I mentioned I was off the hook for November, but it should have been October and this was when Lynda Williamson led the group round Dalkeith Country Park. An old haunt for us but it has been a while since our last visit and they all enjoyed it.



In November our walk was in North Berwick but on the way, we stopped to admire Aberlady Church's Poppy display which had

been featured on STV the week before. It was worth stopping for and photographs were taken (see sample). The walk in North Berwick was very interesting. We parked at the Law and walked down "The Glen", along the beach then back via the High Street to the car park.

Our Xmas Lunch in December was booked for Longniddry Inn and before it we walked up the old railway line almost reaching Haddington before turning back. It was quite a distance for us, a bit more than usual, but it made us enjoy our beautiful lunch even more.

We woke up on Saturday 10th February to a rather dreich morning although the forecast said it was to improve. As we approached Elphinstone, the start of the walk, a rather cool but pleasant winter sun came out and the clouds cleared. Seven of us braved the cold wind with a muddy circular walk beginning in Elphinstone and walking down to Carberry Woods with its connections to Mary Queen of Scots. We emerged from the Carberry Estate at Crossgatehall and from there took the route of the old Ormiston and Pencaitland Railway for about a mile, before following a footpath to Elphinstone. We arrived back at the cars just as it began to rain. A splendid 6.5 mile walk.

Our Walking Weekend is on the 10th/11th/12th March and this year we are staying in Dunfermline. Our planned walks will be to Lochore Meadows Countryside Park near Lochgelly, Pittencrieff Park and Devilla Forest near Kincardine Bridge.

As always we are hoping for good weather.

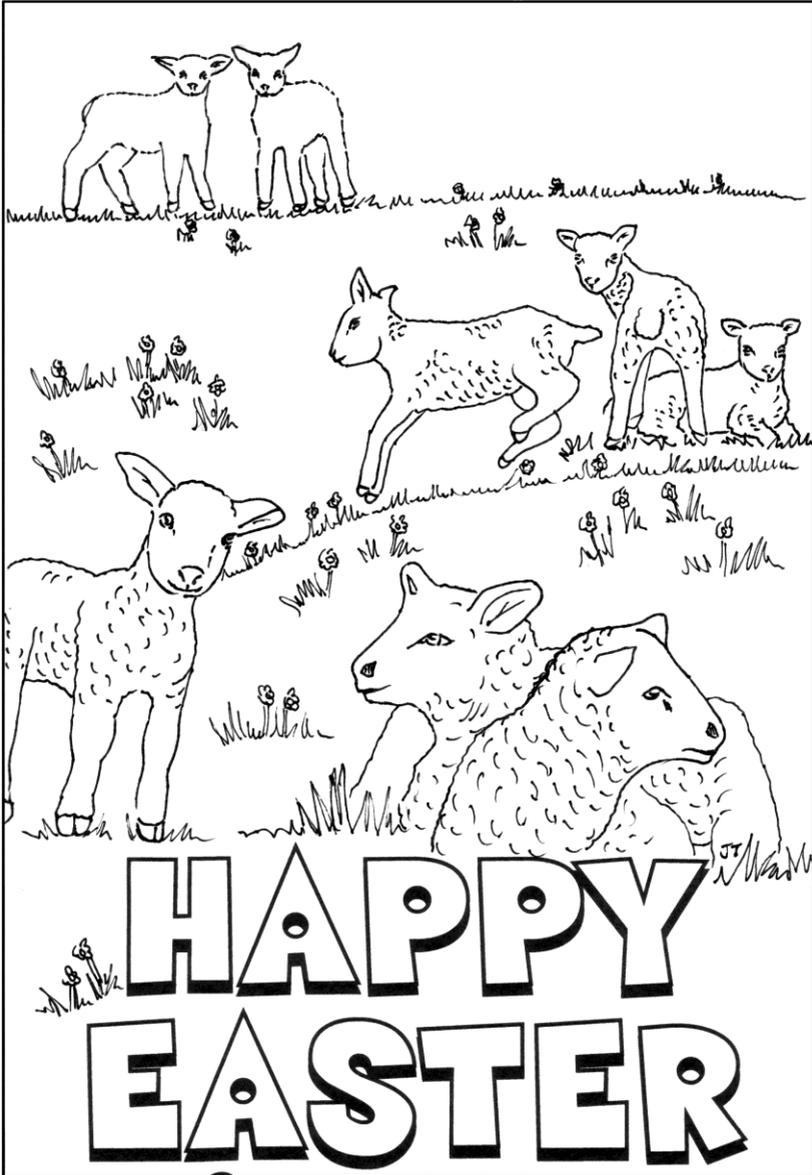
The current Walking Programme ends with our April Walk and we are meeting in Cockpen Church Hall on Sunday 25th February to plan our summer syllabus.

If you would like to join our group, contact me on 0131 660 1147

Happy Hiking

Jim Scott

Children's Page



Colour in this picture of Spring Lambs.

Share your news, views or ideas in the Harvest Issue of "The Link" send them to Magazine@church.cockpen.co.uk by Sunday, 12th August 2018