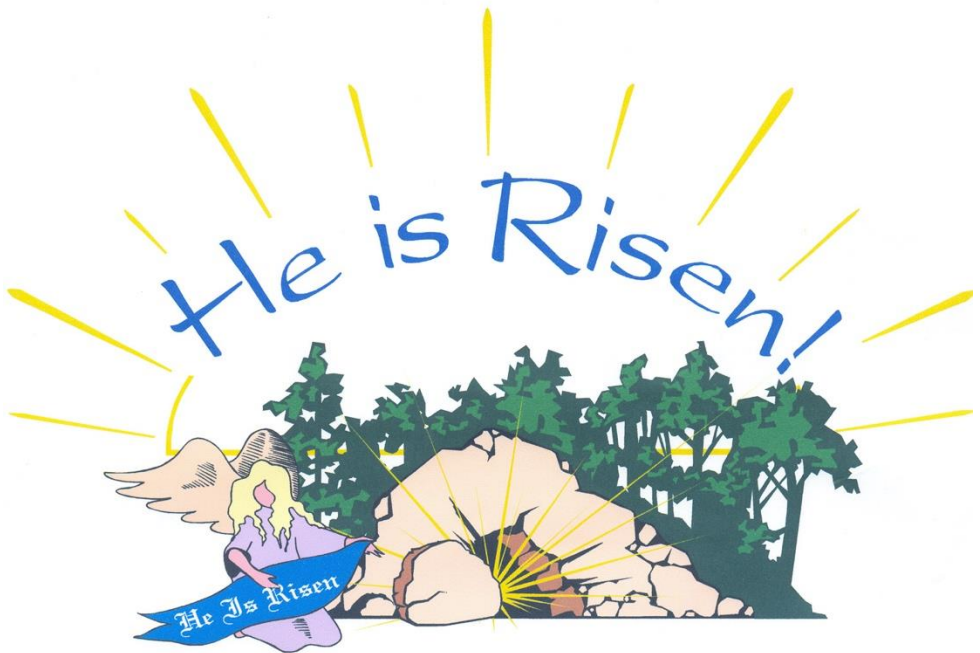


Cockpen & Carrington

The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Easter 2022



Church of Scotland

Table of Contents

From the Minister	2
SERVICES APRIL – AUGUST 2022	4
WHO’S WHO	5
Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church	6
Bereavements	6
Weddings	6
Out of the Mouths of Babes	7
The Big Bethany Sleep Out	8
FROM THE ORGANIST	9
KNIT AND NATTER	10
Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota 2022	12
The Guild	13
<i>Spectacles</i>	13
THE VOLUNTEER ORGANIST	14
Annual Duck Race 2022	15
Adventures of Narnia	16
LASSWADE AND ROSEWELL PARISH CHURCH NEWS	17
Bereavements	18
The Ballantine Connection	21
Eco-Congregation	23
Days of the Soviet Union	25
Flower Rota Lasswade Church	26
THE HOLY HIKERS	27
Rosewell Church Pre 1932	28

From the Minister ...

As I write, we have just begun the season of Lent once again in the run up to Easter. Eastern Orthodox Christians describe Lent as a season of 'bright sadness'. It is a time for reflection and repentance, stripping things back to the simple, in order to have more time for God and seeking to be drawn closer to God in preparation for the joyous celebration of Easter.

At the recent Bonnyrigg Churches' Holiday Club during the February half term break attended by 40 local children, we had a journey from sadness to brightness, from winter into spring, as we had adventures in Narnia with the story of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. Accompanying the children in the story, Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy, we discovered how the White Witch had put a spell on the land of Narnia so that it was always winter but never Christmas. However, with the arrival of the lion, Aslan, who came to the rescue to help defeat the White Witch and her forces, there was the promise of new life and spring and wellbeing was restored.



That story reflects the story of Easter, where Jesus came to our rescue. From the winter of being lost in going our own way, Jesus came in his love for us to give up his life on the cross so that we could freely receive God's forgiveness and be restored to a close relationship with God as our Heavenly Father. And in Jesus's resurrection, we are blessed with a springtime of new, lasting life, a bright new beginning in finding peace and purpose, freedom and fulfilment through a daily delight and commitment to trust in and follow Jesus.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

At this time of year, we emerge gratefully from the dark, cold days of winter into the longer, warmer days of spring once again. For many of us, we may feel, too, that we are moving from the winter of the Covid pandemic, into a more hopeful springtime of restrictions being fully lifted at last.

Very sadly at present, there is the tragic, unjust warfare in the Ukraine bringing a winter of concern and hardship again for so many and, as I write, the hoped-for spring of peace and restored freedom are some way off as yet. It is a horrendous situation and affects us all as our hearts go out to the Ukrainian people and all the trauma and sadness they are facing. In that struggle, and others that we may personally face, we may feel stuck in winter with the uncertainty ahead.

And yet, we can and must still hold onto hope because of Easter. Easter reminds us that Jesus is always with us and it reminds us that his purpose of love, peace and justice will prevail. We live in a time of bright sadness, sharing pain and fear in the present, and yet trusting wholeheartedly in the hope and assurance Jesus brings that peace and wellbeing will one day be restored.

With every blessing for Easter
when it comes.

Your Minister,
Lorna Souter



SERVICES APRIL – AUGUST 2022

DATE	LASSWADE & ROSEWELL (10.00 am)	COCKPEN & CARRINGTON (11.30 am)
3 April	Joint Service at 11.30 am at Cockpen & Carrington Church 200th Anniversary Celebration Service All-age service with The Very Rev'd Dr Susan Brown	
10 April Palm Sunday	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
15 April Good Friday		Service at 7.00 pm
17 April Easter Sunday	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
24 April	Minister – Lasswade	Minister – 200th Anniversary Songs of Praise Service
1 May	Minister – Rosewell Communion Service	Minister Communion Service
8 May	Worship Team – Lasswade	Worship Team
15 May Christian Aid Week	Minister – Rosewell Sermon – Liz Mills	Minister Sermon – Liz Mills
22 May	Minister – Lasswade All-age Service	Minister All-Age Service
29 May	Joint Service at 10.00 am at Rosewell Church – Minister Eco-congregation Service	
5 June	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
12 June	Minister – Lasswade Communion Service	Minister
19 June Father's Day	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
26 June	Minister – Lasswade All-age service	Minister All-age service
3 July	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
10 July	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
17 July	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
24 July	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
31 July	Joint Service at 10.00 am at Lasswade Church Worship Team	
7 August	Worship Team – Rosewell	Worship Team
14 August	Worship Team – Lasswade	Worship Team
21 August	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
28 August	Minister – Lasswade Back to School Sunday All-age Service	Minister Back to School Sunday All-Age Service

JOINT HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday 14 April at 7 pm – St Leonard's Episcopal Church

Good Friday 15 April at 3 pm – Short outdoor service at the Toll

Good Friday 15 April at 7 pm – Cockpen & Carrington Church

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

WHO'S WHO

MINISTER

The Revd Lorna M Souter MA BD MSc
Email: LSouter@churchofscotland.org.uk

Tel: 0131 663 6392
Mob: 07889 566418

Office	Cockpen & Carrington	Lasswade & Rosewell
SESSION CLERK:	Elizabeth [Liz] Mills 07875 485973	Dorothy Spence (0131) 663 0943
CHURCH OFFICER / LOCAL CONTACT:	Ian Bee 07760 176471	Andrew Renwick (L) (0131) 663 7678 Eleanor Marshall (R) (0131) 660 1029
TREASURER:	Malcolm Logan (0131) 561 9509	Pat Lawrie (0131) 663 7597
ORGANIST (& CHOIR MASTER):	Graham Burnside (0131) 556 1751	Lasswade - Vacant Kenneth Wight (Rosewell) (0131) 663 2777
HALL CARETAKER:	Bill MacDonald (0131) 654 1838 E: bikila.macdonald@btinternet.com	Eleanor Marshall (0131) 660 1029
GIFT AID:	William Brown 01875 830354	Eleanor Marshall (0131) 660 1029
FREEWILL OFFERINGS:		
ROLL-KEEPER:	Nancy Richardson (0131) 663 8517	Ross Lyall 07981 854829
SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR:	John Adamson 07960 716015	Dorothy Spence (0131) 663 0943
MAGAZINE EDITORS:	John Adamson 07960 716015 Willie Tulloch (0131) 660 3617	
	Send any correspondence to: magazine@church.cockpen.co.uk	
HEALTH & SAFETY CONTACT:	James Young 07753 376036	
LIFE AND WORK:	Wilma Sweeney (0131) 663 6546	May Murdoch (0131) 663 8454

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

To comply with Data Protection and Safeguarding, postal addresses have been removed. If you require a postal address for any named above, please contact the relevant session clerk.

Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church

From the Church Registers

Bereavements

18 December 2021 **Ellen** (Eleanor) **SINCLAIR** (Née Magee)
Widow of the late Angus Sinclair

We hold Sheona and all the family in our prayers.

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'

Weddings

(See Church website at www.church.cockpen.co.uk) for information and advice on weddings.



Out of the Mouths of Babes.

There is little doubt that for Christians throughout the world, especially children, the celebration of Easter comes second only to the celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Sadly nowadays for some children, Easter only means chocolate Easter eggs.

For those of us of a certain age, born or living during the Second World War, food rationing, in place until circa 1952, excluded such delights. For us there was usually only the once a week sweet treat purchased from the local shop with a 3d coin and a 'D' coupon. For us the excitement of Easter time was rolling your hard-boiled egg down a favourite grassy slope. Invariably the boiled egg had to be decorated, firstly by immersing it in a mug of strong tea to dye it brown and then to decorate it by painting on a funny face. There was a definite thrill in rolling your egg down the hill, often repeatedly, until it eventually smashed on striking a hidden stone on the ground.

It is encouraging to know that the Easter Story still reaches out to children in Sunday Schools throughout the world and stimulates their young minds.

The commonly used expression, 'Out of the mouths of Babes' actually originates from the Bible, where in Psalms 8: 2 (KJV) it is written, 'God ordaining strength out of the mouths of babes'. I read recently of a Sunday School Teacher recalling comments made by children, whilst in discussion about events of the Easter Day.

One child had asked the teacher if Jesus' hands were still bleeding when he went to heaven, where upon another child suggested that Jesus must have healed himself as he was quite good at healing people.

Another child had asked what happened when Mary visited the tomb where Jesus was laid. This provoked much comment and one child responded by saying that when Mary rolled the stone away she squashed Jesus flat and yet another child came up with the rejoinder that when Jesus went to Heaven he told his dad about this.

Out of the mouths of babes indeed.

I hope you all have a truly enjoyable Easter Time.

Jim Young

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

The Big Bethany Sleep Out



Once again this year, the minister has joined in *The Big Bethany Sleep Out* to help raise funds for Bethany Christian Trust's work with the homeless. This year's event took place on Friday 11th March.

If you would like to support her in sleeping under the stars and join in raising funds for Bethany's vital work, please follow the link above to give on the Just Giving page. It will remain open until June. So, there is plenty time to donate.

Thank you very much indeed!

FROM THE ORGANIST

I'm writing at that point in the year when, while we can still expect some stormy days and frosty nights, there are encouraging signs that the evenings are finally getting a little longer and spring might not be too far away. I'm even happier to say that the green shoots are beginning to appear in our musical life too, as for the first time in exactly two years the choir was able to sing an anthem (without masks!) at our Communion service at the beginning of February.

This leads us all to hope that our postponed service marking the 200th anniversary of the present Cockpen Church can at last take place on Sunday 3 April (at our usual time of 11.30 am). It will be led by the former Moderator, the Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, and will give the choir our next opportunity to perform. We will be singing my own arrangement (one of my lockdown activities!) of an old African-American spiritual, 'My Lord, what a morning', and as I haven't played it for a while in a live service at least I will be concluding with Widor's famous 'Toccata' - it seems the obvious choice for marking this significant milestone in our church's history (even if it is two years late).

A second event linked to the anniversary celebrations will be a 'Songs of Praise' service, which will take the place of our normal morning service on Sunday 24 April. The selection of hymns will aim to give a conspectus of what would have been sung in the church over its many years, from metrical psalms (which would of course have been the only music on offer in 1820) via all of the Church of Scotland's hymn books up to our present CH4. I will be concluding with a new piece to my repertoire, a stirring march by Percy Whitlock, a noted English organist-composer of the inter-war period, with the rather striking title of 'Dignity and Impudence' (inspired I gather by a painting by Landseer of two dogs).

Between these two celebratory events we have Holy Week, so April is going to be a busy month!

Cockpen & Carrington will again be hosting the Good Friday service this year, which falls on 15 April. This is always a special service and all the more so this year I feel after two years without live Holy Week services. Along with other Good Friday music, including the ancient plainsong 'Reproaches', the choir will be singing an anthem new to our repertoire, 'Dearest Lord Jesus, suffering

Saviour' by Lajos Bárdos, a leading Hungarian composer of the first half of the last century. The service starts at 7 pm.

Easter Day itself will be particularly welcome as it will of course be the first time in two years that we will have been able to celebrate this most festive day in the church calendar. The choir will be performing the anthem 'He is risen', a setting by the contemporary New Zealand composer Richard Madden of an Easter hymn by Mrs C F Alexander (best known of course as the author of 'All things bright and beautiful' and 'Once in royal David's city'). To conclude I will be playing a sparkling Toccata by one of the lesser known 20th century organ composers, Marcel Lanquetuit. He was born in Rouen in 1894 and after studying in Paris with several of the leading organists of the day he returned to his home town and spent the rest of his life as cathedral organist there.

I do hope as many as possible will join us to celebrate this special time of the church's year and our return to something like musical normality!

GMB
March 2022

KNIT AND NATTER

It has been a very turbulent time recently at the Knit and Natter having to close to comply with Covid regulations. That said, the ladies continued to be busy knitting various bunting etc., allowing us to Yarn Bomb the outside of the church hall over Christmas. The display was well received by the community and was well shared on social media.

Although not meeting in January the ladies were busy knitting garments for SIMBA and their baby memory boxes. It is hoped to hand over the work from the ladies to a SIMBA representative who is coming along to the Guild to speak on the work the charity does.

Our group of around 25 continues to meet in the hall on a Thursday at 1.30pm and there is always room for more to come along and join us, whether joining in with different projects or just enjoying a chat over a cup of tea .



Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota 2022

April 3 10 17 24	Liz Mills Nancy Richardson Liz MacDonald Mary Logan	July 3 10 17 24 31	Liz Laidlaw Liz Mills Jim Dyer Liz MacDonald Joint Service at Lasswade
May 1 8 15 22- 29	Liz MacDonald Moiria Scott Graham Osborne Dorothy Scott Joint Service at Rosewell	August 4 11 18 25	Lynn Hansen/ Ian Fowler Elspeth Brown Margaret Porter Jim Dyer
June 5 12 19 26	Jim Young Wilma Sweeney Helen Renton Frances Wilkie		

Thank you for all the donations received and to all who supply and arrange the flowers in the Church. The 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 Liz Mills 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

The Guild

Due to further Covid restrictions we have been severely restricted with our planned meetings. By having our Carol Party a week earlier than normal we managed to avoid the restrictions when, as always, a wonderful evening's entertainment was given by Graham and the choir and enjoyed immensely.

We have held two afternoon meetings which allows those who don't feel able to venture out in the evening to continue to be included. These meetings have proved very popular and extremely well attended.

It has been very challenging to arrange speakers this year with so many restrictions, but it is hoped that we can look forward to rescheduling those that had to be cancelled, along with others for our new syllabus.

The Guild is open to everyone, and if anyone feels they might like to join us then you will be made most welcome.

Helen and Liz

Spectacles

Are there any old spectacles taking up space in your cupboards? There is a box provided at Church in which they can be donated.

They'll be taken to the Optician who will send them to *Vision Aid Overseas* where parts will be recycled to make glasses for people in need.

Please help if you can for this worthy cause.

Thanks,
Wilma

THE VOLUNTEER ORGANIST

W B Glenroy (1893)

The preacher in the village church one Sunday morning said
our organist is ill today will someone play instead?
An anxious look crept o'er the face of every person there,
as eagerly they watched to see who'd fill the vacant chair.
A man then staggered down the aisle whose clothes were old and torn.
How strange a drunkard seemed to me, in church on Sunday morn.
But as he touched the organ keys without a single word,
the melody that followed was the sweetest ever heard.
Each eye shed tears within that church, the strongest man grew pale,
the organist in melody had told his own life's tale,
the sermon of the preacher was no lesson to compare
with that of life's example who sat in the organ chair;
and when the service ended not a soul had left a seat,
except the poor old organist, who started toward the street,
along the aisle and out the door, he slowly walked away;
the preacher rose, and softly said, "Good brethren, let us pray".
The scene was one I'll ne'er forget as long as I may live,
and just to see it o'er again, all earthly wealth I'd give;
the congregation all amazed, the preacher old and grey.
The organ and the organist who volunteered to play.

Annual Duck Race 2022

This year's Duck Race was held on Sunday 30th January and it was lovely to see so many gathered together again to join in. This was the 21st running of the race. We were honoured to have Jamie Andrew, quadruple amputee, mountaineer and motivational speaker lending his support to start the race. In the end the wonderful sum of £1,580.00 was raised for the work of Children 1st. Grateful thanks are extended to those who gave their time in the weeks before the race to help clear the course down the burn, to all those who assisted on the day, to all who attended and all who gave so generously to support such an important cause.

On behalf of Bill and Liz Macdonald



Adventures of Narnia

Some highlights from the Bonnyrigg Churches Together Holiday Club on 14th – 16th February. Much fun was had in the adventures of Narnia with 40 children attending and enjoying the Narnia story and related crafts and games over three mornings. Very grateful thanks go to all the volunteers and helpers who made it all possible!



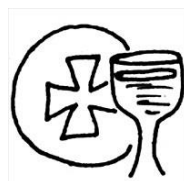
[Back to Table of Contents](#)

**LASSWADE AND ROSEWELL
PARISH CHURCH NEWS ...**
**Vision Statement: 'All journeying together
in faith and trust to share God's love'**

For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
(John 3:16)



An Invitation to
a Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Sunday 1st May at 10.00 a.m.
Rosewell Church
Sunday 12th June at 10.00 a.m.
Lasswade Church
Sunday 4th September at 10.00 a.m.
Rosewell Church
All Welcome



Impressive Turnout:

A huge thank you to all who supported the Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 11th December. The sum of £619 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 (cooking bacon rolls) 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.



LENT is a wonderful time for us to have a clear out, both physically and spiritually. We wonder if God is challenging us to put some of our attitudes and opinions in the bin. Maybe God is challenging us to get rid of something we have been storing for too long. We will feel better and lighter if we do.

Stated Annual Meeting:

This year's Stated Annual Meeting of the congregation will take place immediately after worship on Sunday 27th March at Lasswade Church. An update will be given on the Church accounts and other Church activities. All are welcome to attend.

Church Register

Bereavements

Mrs Mary Hay – 4th December 2021

Mr Peter Sinclair – 24th January 2022

Mrs Margaret Thomson – 28th January 2022

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



Christian Aid Week 15th – 21st May 2022

This year Christian Aid will focus on the plight of drought which numerous countries around the world face. It recognises that droughts have become more intense and more common because of the changing climate. Will you donate this Christian Aid Week?

Do come along and support Christian Aid at our Coffee Morning on Saturday 14th May from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon in Rosewell Church Hall.

We will also have retiring offerings after the services on 15th and 22nd May.



Messy Church, held in Rosewell Church Hall, begins with a warm welcome so if you have never been to Messy Church before, do come along. Mums, dads, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends, carers accompanied by babies, toddlers, and primary school children – you are all most welcome.

Children are NOT dropped off – come and join the fun with them. Messy Church creatively explores Christian and moral themes through getting messy; with crafts, games, a story, prayer and songs and then it finishes with a special Messy meal together without you having to clear up or cook!

Do come and join us on Saturday 2nd April, 7th May and 4th June from 4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. You can find us on Facebook at **'Rosewell Messy Church'**.

Lasswade and Rosewell Messy Church Team

Lemon Pots

600ml double cream, 135g caster sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla paste, zest and juice of 2 lemons, raspberries to serve.

Method: Put cream, sugar and vanilla in a pan and bring to the boil. Whisk in the lemon zest and juice and bring back to the boil for 30 seconds, stirring constantly. Remove from the heat and allow to cool slightly. Pour into small glasses, cool then chill in fridge for at least 2 hours or overnight.

Serve topped with raspberries.



Fund Raising Event: Saturday, 30th April from 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Come and join us at Rosewell Church Hall for a fun fund raising event:
Table Top Sale.



The Kirk Session will be hosting the home baking table and raffle.

Tables are £10 if you want to sell your wares or just come along and grab a bargain.

Please contact Margaret Gordon 07824883202 if you wish to book a table – first come, first served.

Looking forward to seeing you folks there.



Ian and May would like to extend their sincere thanks to all of the Church family for the beautiful cards, flowers and gifts on the occasion of their diamond wedding anniversary.

The Ballantine Connection

We are very fortunate to have four stained glass windows in Lasswade. The beautiful Memorial Windows on either side of the pulpit provide plenty of food for thought as one contemplates the features and these windows really come alive when the sun streams through them, showing up the radiant colours. The Dove Window in the gallery at the front of the church is also striking as is the Umpherston Aitchison Window on the North Wall.

While the Umpherston Aitchison Window, which was executed by Mr. Holiday of London and presented to the Congregation in 1898 by Lady Aitchison, the widow of Sir Charles Umpherston Aitchison, the Memorial Windows and the Dove Window were installed in 1894 in which year numerous other alterations took place. The Dove, the bird of peace, was the symbol of the United Presbyterian Church. The Burning Bush, the symbol of both the Free Church of Scotland and the Church of Scotland, is portrayed in the tracery of the Memorial Window to the left of the pulpit. The Memorial and Dove Windows were executed by the Ballantine family, a well-known stained glass firm in Edinburgh, and a brief synopsis of this firm might be of interest.

The Reformation of the 16th century changed many aspects of Scottish life, not only in worship but in other areas as well. While the reformers had some good qualities their practices of destroying or removing anything which smacked of idolatry in churches, including stained glass windows, is questionable. For 250 years or so following the Reformation no stained glass was produced in Scotland. In the 1820s a young Edinburgh house painter, James Ballantine, decided to redress this.

James was born in Edinburgh's West Port in 1806. His father was a brewer who died when James was 10. James received very little education and what he did receive was largely as a result of being self-taught by his mother. James became apprenticed to an Edinburgh house painter and at the age of 20 he went to the University of Edinburgh. After graduating he turned his attention to the art of painting on glass. He quickly attained eminence in this

field through his firm Ballantine and Allan which he founded with his colleague George Allan. This firm started making stained glass around 1830 and in 1843 they won a competition to design the windows for the new Houses of Parliament in London but in the event they only provided some of the windows in the House of Lords.

James' son, Alexander (born in 1841) joined the firm which became known as Ballantine and Son from 1860-1892 and then it became known as Ballantine and Gardiner when Herbert Gardiner joined as a partner in 1905. In 1905 Alexander was joined by his son, James, by which time the firm was known as A. Ballantine & Son. Some of their work is signed with the alternative spelling of Ballantyne.

When the 1894 renovations were taking place in Lasswade it was Mr. Alexander Ballantyne who suggested a window be inserted in the opened up gallery and he subsequently presented the Dove Window to the congregation. What I have been unable to discover is whether Mr. Ballantine donated this window or whether he merely suggested it and left the congregation to pick up the tab!

James senior died in 1877 and Alexander died in 1906. The Ballantine Family were well respected as manufacturers of stained glass. Some of their windows can be seen in St. Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh but evidence of their talent extend beyond that City.

HLRD

Eco-Congregation



The places that we call home are also home to many other Creatures. In spring we have the opportunity to discover and celebrate the nature that lives alongside us. Celebrate God's care for creation and most important of all – get outside, as a family or as a church, and see what we can find!

The root of the word 'ecology' is the Greek word 'oikos', meaning home – so thinking about our shared home is the very essence of ecology. We are all responsible for making sure that animals and plants of all kinds can flourish, in our local areas and on our planetary home.

'Home' is one of the most evocative words in the English language. It represents security, belonging and acceptance. It's the place we can kick off our shoes and relax. It's a safe place, a refuge from the world, and the place we are most ourselves.

Churches offer people a spiritual home, and many of the same connotations are true from that spiritual perspective too. We should feel safe and supported by our church, and feel a sense of belonging and acceptance. It's why we put so much emphasis on welcome and hospitality. We make sure that visitors feel welcomed. A lot of effort goes into bringing newcomers into the life of the church and helping them to feel involved and part of the community.

This is all familiar territory for most of us – hospitality is something churches are good at.

But what about our church's wilder visitors? A variety of other creatures have their homes (or habitat, to use the proper word for the natural environment of a plant or animal) in and around our church and home . With a few exceptions – wasps and woodworm perhaps – we can make them feel welcome too. After all, God knows the whereabouts of every sparrow, as Jesus says in Matthew 10:29.

RSPB Scotland talks about 'giving nature a home', creating more room in our shared spaces for birds and wildlife. We should look around our church and its grounds, and see what else calls church home. What lives in our gardens at home. How can we roll out the church's generous welcome to all God's creatures?

As we think about hospitality and the nature that shares our home, we may want to bring some wildlife-friendly techniques to our gardening.

- Keep bird feeders topped up. Birds have come through the winter, but food may be getting scarce and the last few weeks before the warmer weather arrives can be a risky time for wildlife.
- Plant summer flowering bulbs to add colour to our garden, and to attract butterflies, bees and other pollinating insects.
- The early spring months are a good time to plan activities for later in the year. Think about areas of our garden that we might want to enhance for wildlife – perhaps adding a wildflower patch, a compost heap, a pond, or a rock or log pile.

Young or not so young, we all have a responsibility to look after nature and I am sure many are already looking forward getting back to working in their garden in what hopefully will be a nice spring and summer.

Andrew Renwick

Days of the Soviet Union

In the late 80's there was a firm called *Sovscot Tours* which ran visits to the then Soviet Union: perhaps other members of our churches went on one of these visits. May and I flew from Glasgow to Leningrad, now St Petersburg, and stayed opposite Victory Square, where our guide constantly reminded us of the great patriotic war from 1941-45.

We visited two of Peter the Great and Catherine's palaces with their magnificent fountains and opulent gardens. It is said that when Peter and Catherine drove past in their carriage, their subjects had to prostrate themselves as they passed.

We went on to Yalta, now Ukraine, and the local post office sorters came out to greet us as we were among the first foreigners to visit this part of the Crimea.

We then flew on to Moscow and visited the Composers' Cemetery and we wonder how Herbert, Graham and Kenny would simulate the cannon fire in the famous 1812 overture.

We did not visit Georgia, Stalin's home state, and where the story of Santa Claus originated, and where a white Christmas was guaranteed. Although Stalin was an atheist, it is said he turned to prayer when the nazis invaded his country. He also allowed the Jews to practice their religion as they swore their allegiance to their faith as well as to defend the Soviet Union. Many gave their lives during the Great Patriotic War.

With the breakup of the Soviet Union church services are being held by the Orthodox Church with its waving of incenses and elaborate rituals.

We hope and pray that the people of the former Soviet Union countries will live in peace and harmony with one another.

Ian Murdoch

(Held over from last edition, but more pertinent for this edition.)

Flower Rota Lasswade Church

As I try to plan the flower rota for the next few months for Lasswade Church the world is facing a great threat. I discovered that sunflowers are the national flower of Ukraine and we are being encouraged to grow these spectacular flowers to show our support for a nation in trouble.

Twenty five years ago guests arriving for the wedding of our daughter, Heather, and Mark were greeted by a display of bright sunflowers.

Sunflowers have an amazing ability to follow the sun.

Hopefully these flowers will shine out in the world as a symbol of warmth and love.

I am very grateful to all the volunteers who provide flowers which in turn give out a positive message of hope and love.

Please speak to me if you would like to provide flowers for the church. If anyone has a problem regarding their proposed date, I am happy to help.

May	8th	Gillian Renwick
	22nd	Elaine Thomson

June	12th	Stewart Renwick
	26th	Alison Branch

July	10th	Nita Adams
	24th	Marlyn Davidson
	31st	May Murdoch

August	14th	Shona Howden
	28th	Moir Dryden

Thank you,

Moir Dryden
(0131) 663 8895

THE HOLY HIKERS

"Happy is the person who has acquired
The love of walking for its own sake!"

W. J. Holland.



On a lovely November day twelve of us set out from the park in Bonnyrigg. We walked up the Dalkeith to Penicuik Walkway towards Rosewell. We had our lunch in the sunshine sitting in Rosewell Park where I reminded everyone that this was the 20th Anniversary of our first walk as the Holy Hikers. We continued past Gortonlee and Midfield and back to the park. Unfortunately our December ramble was cancelled due to bad weather.

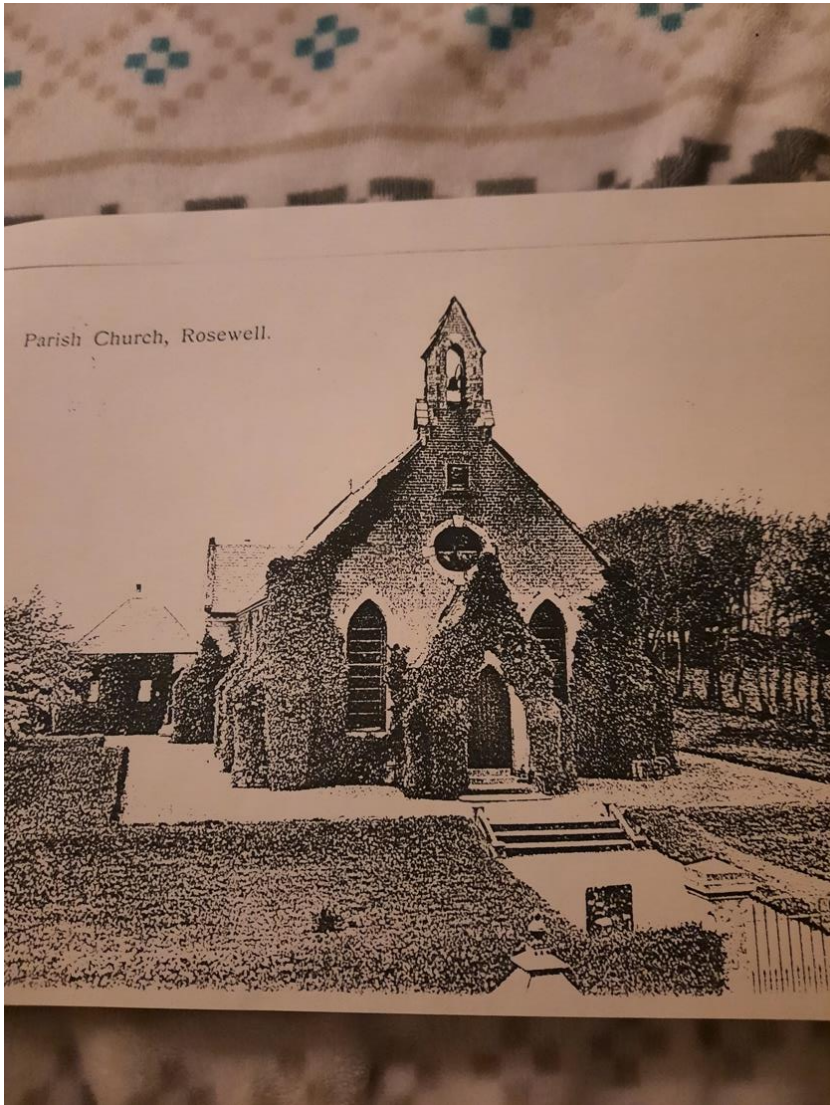
We had no walk in January, but I had organised a "Bowling Night" at Bonnyrigg Bowling Club. The plan was to have a brief meeting and make up a Walking Programme, before playing a fun game of Carpet Bowls. However, the omicron variant had come on the scene and in line with the government's advice about household gatherings, I felt it prudent to cancel or should I say postpone. This has now been arranged for Sunday 6th March.

Our February walk was again local. Thirteen of us and three dogs (Maisie, Lily and Rocky) left the park and headed past the Health Centre on to the Walkway to the Community Hospital. Up through the golf course and down into Lasswade Park for our lunch stop. We then continued up Polton Road and back to the park.

I have organised a Programme of Walks myself and this can be found in the news section of the [Church Website](#).

Happy Hiking,
Jim Scott.

Rosewell Church Pre 1932



This picture must have been taken before 1932 as there's no hall to the right hand side.

Kenneth Wight.

Share your news, views or ideas in the Harvest Issue of "The Link" send them to Magazine@church.cockpen.co.uk by Sunday, 7th August 2022.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)