

Cockpen & Carrington

# The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Harvest 2013



Church of Scotland

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**PULPIT SUPPLY ROTA - OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2013**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LASSWADE (10.00 am)</b>	<b>COCKPEN &amp; CARRINGTON (11.30 am)</b>	<b>ROSEWELL (please check times below)</b>
06.10.13	Service at Rosewell	MINISTER Guild Dedication Service	MINISTER (10 am) with Sunday School
13.10.13	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev W Armitage (11.30 am)
20.10.13	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev W Armitage (11.30 am)
27.10.13	MINISTER	MINISTER	Service at Lasswade (10 am)
03.11.13	Service at Rosewell	MINISTER (Communion)	John Beaumont (10 am) with Sunday School
10.11.13 Remembrance	MINISTER 9.30am War Memorial; Church 10 am	MINISTER	Rev W Armitage (10.50am)
17.11.13	To be arranged	To be arranged	Rev W Armitage (11.30am)
24.11.13	MINISTER (Annual Joint Service, 10 am)	Joint Service at Lasswade (10 am)	Joint Service at Lasswade (10 am)
01.12.13 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent	MINISTER Service at Rosewell	MINISTER	MINISTER (10 am) with Sunday School
08.12.13 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent	MINISTER	MINISTER	Rev M Schofield (11.30 am)
15.12.13 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent	MINISTER (Nativity Play)	MINISTER	Janet McKenzie (11.30 am)
22.12.13 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent	MINISTER (Nativity Play)	MINISTER (Nativity Play, 11.30 am); Nine Lessons & Carols, 7 pm	Janet McKenzie (11.30 am)
31.12.13	WORSHIP GROUP	MINISTER	MINISTER (10 am)

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES (Tuesday 24 December 2013):**  
ROSEWELL 4 pm; LASSWADE (Christingle) 7 pm; COCKPEN 11.20 pm

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*Dear Friends,*

I hope that you have had a good summer. As I write, Kristina and I are about to head off to Portugal – spending a few days in Lisbon followed by a week in the historic, northern city of Guimarães. It is extraordinary to think that the first aircraft flew only 110 years ago; the opportunity to travel has become steadily more affordable and accessible to millions of people.

I believe that travel and exposure to other cultures broadens the mind and should make humanity more tolerant of diversity. It is thus tragic and perverse that there should still be so much conflict in the world. The appalling murder of Lee Rigby, a serving soldier, on the streets of London on 22<sup>nd</sup> May was particularly shameful. When such atrocities are carried out in the name of religion, we must remember that this is utterly false. Jesus said *“I have come that you may have life – life in all its fullness”* (John 10:10), therefore such ways of murder, hatred and intolerance are not of God.

The importance of “life in all its fullness” has a particular and very personal meaning to me at present. The stress of the past year, particularly the aftermath of my wife’s miscarriages, has been very upsetting and I was signed off sick for three weeks in July. The opportunity for rest and reflection, followed by holiday, has done me a great deal of good. Pastoral care, particularly of the bereaved and the sick, is an important part of ministry. This can be emotionally demanding and I must be fit for the task. Your prayers, support and good wishes have been a great help. As ever, if you know of someone who would like a visit from the minister (whether at home or in hospital), please do let me know – hospitals do not pass on details to ministers any longer.

A Local Church Review is currently being undertaken by Presbytery. All congregations are undergoing this. It will assess our strengths and weakness; already this has inspired fresh and critical thinking. I stress that this is not about considering closing church buildings, but making us more effective in our Christian witness. I will take a short period of study leave in November in connection with this, taking a course on dealing with change in the Church.

The autumn activities in the Church are starting up again. Much will happen, including the Sunday School, the Guild, the Thursday morning Bric-a-Brac in the Dundas Street Hall and more. Please give them your support – and, above all, please do come to Church and worship God in Sunday services.

Yours in Christ,

*Rev Matthew Ross, Minister*

## **Lasswade and Rosewell Church News.....**

After 21 years, Andrew Renwick has retired as Session Clerk and in recognition of his service the Rev. Matthew Ross presented him with a Certificate on Sunday 25 March 2013. Also to mark the occasion on 21 April, Andrew and Gillian attended a dinner in Broomieknowe Golf Club along with Elders and friends. Andrew received a golfing voucher and Gillian was presented with flowers.

Dorothy Spence has been appointed as Session Clerk.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and helped at the Concert held in Rosewell Church on 16 May. Entertainment was provided by the Police Choir, Cathie Brown – Monologues and Kenny Wight / David Dalgleish – Organ and Violin. The sum of £825 was raised for Church funds.

### **Gift Day**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Gift Day to date the sum of £1,662 has been raised.

A cake stall at a Car Boots Sale in Rosewell in June raised £100. Thanks to all who helped at this event.

### **Summer Fair and Coffee Morning**

Thank you to all who helped raise the sum of £338.15 on Saturday 10 August. The Fair is always a great place for the finest in home-baking and stalls, and it offered a really good morning of fun and fellowship.

### **Sunday 1 September**

Rosewell Parish Church 10.00 a.m. Sacrament of Holy Communion and Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Harvest Brunch will be served in the Hall after the service. Everyone welcome.

### **Doors Open Day in Midlothian – Saturday 14 September 2013**

Rosewell Parish Church will be open from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon and Lasswade Parish Church from 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

### **Fayre – Saturday 26 October 2013**

The local Alzheimer Scotland Group is holding a Fayre in Rosewell Church Hall from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon. Please come along and join us.

The Annual Joint Service with our friends from Cockpen and Carrington will be held in Lasswade Church at 10.00 a.m. on Sunday 24 November 2013. Tea and Coffee will be available after the service.

### **Christmas Fair / Coffee Morning – Saturday 14 December 2013**

This will be held in Rosewell Church Hall from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon. Donations of home-baking, soft goods, bric-a-brac, gifts for the tombola and raffle would all be very much appreciated. If anyone is able to help please speak to Agnes, Dorothy or Pat.

### **Cake Stall**

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

### **Dates of Kirk Session Meetings:**

Tuesday 3 September 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in Rosewell Church

Tuesday 5 November 2013 and 25 February 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in Rosewell Church Hall

Annual Stated Meeting : Sunday 23 March 2014 at 10.00 a.m. in Lasswade Church

Tuesday 1 April and Tuesday 3 June 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in Rosewell Church Hall

## **Letter to the Editors**

Dear Editors,

A few years ago May and I visited the imposing Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca, Morocco. Perhaps other members of our linked churches have also done this. Afterwards, when I spoke to our guide we both agreed how good it would be for all if Christians, Jews and Muslims could concentrate on the similarities of our three faiths rather than fight with each other over differences. This is particularly true in the aftermath of the recent events with the tragic death of a soldier on a street in London at the hands of bigoted fanatics who are not true believers of any faith.

Ian Murdoch  
48 Polton Street, Bonnyrigg

# Lasswade and Rosewell Choir

I am starting this with my seasonal appeal.

I can never thank often enough the service which the regular choir and those who come in from time to time to augment the choir give to the musical ministry – for that is what it is – of the congregation because, without the commitment of these ladies and gentlemen our worship would be all the poorer. From a personal point of view I very much appreciate the support and encouragement given. So, thank you all once again.

Although our regular choir is small in numbers the quality is there. However, we are all volunteers and, because of our different commitments, not everyone is there every week. Each Sunday we try to have an Introit at Lasswade but, because of our small numbers, I tend to wait until the last minute to see if we have sufficient in the choir for this to go ahead. Most Sundays we manage it but we have stuttered once or twice in the summer. There is always safety in numbers and if we had one or two more “regulars” we would have a bit of a cushion. So if anyone feels they would like to join us either on a regular basis or for special services please have a word with me.

One of the hymns which we sing from time to time at National Services is “I vow to thee, my country” and some of you may have seen the article by Bernard Simon about this hymn which appeared recently in The Telegraph. The words had originally been composed as a poem by Sir Cecil Spring-Rice who was one of Britain’s most senior diplomats before and during World War 1. He was on a posting to Stockholm when he penned the words in 1912. Later that year he was appointed Ambassador to the United States where he used his influence with the American administration to influence the government of Woodrow Wilson to join Britain in the war against Germany. Sir Cecil was recalled to London in 1918 before the War ended and it was on this journey home that he became ill with Graves’ Disease which ultimately took his life. He died in Ottawa at the age of 58 at Rideau Hall the official residence of Canada’s Governor General. His poem was subsequently set to the music of Gustav Holst’s Jupiter from his suite The Planets and the tune to which we sing it is called “Thaxted”, named after the village in which Holst lived for many years.

**United Songs of Praise:** At the moment I have put feelers out to the local clergy and to the High School about participating in a Songs of Praise, possibly on the evening of 27<sup>th</sup> October. At the time of writing St. Matthew’s and Our Lady and Bonnyrigg Parish Church have responded positively about participating( as well as the Congregations under Matthew’s ministry!!) but I am waiting to see if anyone else responds before deciding on a venue. More information will be given nearer the time.

HLRD

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## WE'RE BACK!!

80 Scouts, helpers and leaders left for Holland and 80 returned after a very successful expedition to the Netherlands. The few months prior to camp were very busy – finalising plans, sorting transport, finishing fundraising, completing home visits and getting all our gear ready to send off in advance. By the time we were ready to go we had raised enough money, had a trained team of excellent volunteer helpers and leaders and the excitement levels were at a high with everybody going to camp. The first week was spent camping in Zeeland and incorporated a trip to the beach, swimming, the essential visit to a windmill and plenty of Scout skills and games that you would see on any Scout camp. After week one we packed up and left for our second campsite in Baarn, with a stop on the way at De Efteling theme park. This was a highlight for many on the trip and was one of the many “firsts” on the trip for a fair few of the Scouts. The second week we had use of a building on the campsite for sleeping and cooking, however the camp feel was retained by eating outside and doing all our activities outside in the glorious sunshine. This week included expeditions to Amsterdam, including a boat trip (and an overnight stay for our oldest Scouts), more swimming and a party before leaving for the ferry home – another highlight and another “first” for many.

These “firsts” made it a very special trip for the leaders seeing the smiles on the faces of the Scouts as they went on a ferry for the first time, had used their passport for the first time, visited a beach, went on a train/tram/cruise or swim in an outdoor pool. These memories made the hard work all worthwhile and I know that everybody had a brilliant time.

Thank you to everybody who helped us with this trip in whatever way it really is much appreciated and a special mention to the 2 helpers from the 51<sup>st</sup> BBs – Scott Farquhar and Blair Wright – who both helped for the first time at this camp and were a credit to their company and themselves.

I hope to be able to share the photos and stories with you at some point but meantime if you have access to the internet you can see some of the photos at our website [www.glasgowdisabledscouts.org](http://www.glasgowdisabledscouts.org).

Thanks again,

Ross Lyall

77<sup>th</sup> Glasgow (Disabled) Scout Group



# Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Local History Society

As many of you will know, Dr. Mary Noble and Mr. George Campbell founded the Local History Society in 1982 as a result of much exploratory research. Due to their efforts, and the support of members since, the Society still flourishes. The Society meets on the third Wednesday of every month from October – April, with the exception of December, in The Pitcairn Centre, Bonnyrigg Church Halls, High Street, Bonnyrigg at 7.30pm and new members, of all ages, will be very warmly welcomed. If anyone has any questions please feel free to contact me on 0131 663 8895.

Attendances during the 2012/13 session averaged around 50. We have a speaker each month and we try as much as possible to have subjects on local history. At the end of the talk we have a “cuppa” and this provides an opportunity for people to talk to one another and/or to talk to the speaker informally. We try to have an outing during the session to someplace of historical interest and in recent years we have visited Burns Cottage and the new Burns Museum in Ayr, Durham and Mount Stuart in Rothesay.

The 2013/14 syllabus has been finalised and the programme is as follows:-

- October 16 2013 : A Family Visit to Dunkirk and the D Day Landings by Andrew, Stewart and Jim Renwick
- November 20 : A presentation on the Borders Railway, given by Douglas Muir of Midlothian Council and colleagues from Network Rail and/or BAM Nuttall
- January 15 : History of Dalkeith, by Alan Mason
- February 19 : Brief sketches of Local Worthies of the past, given by Jim Murray and Herbert Dryden
- March 19 : Presentation to the winners of the 2013/14 Schools Project for the Dr. Mary Noble Memorial Award
- April 16 : AGM followed by a presentation on Henry Dryerre, Chemist, given by Neil Stewart

Publicity about each meeting will be made nearer the time

Of the two founding members, George Campbell will be remembered by many as he was an elder in Lasswade for many years.

Dr. Noble was an expert in the mycological aspects of seed pathology and her interests in this and related fields were to continue after her retirement from the

post of Principal Scientific Officer in charge of seed pathology and mycology at what had become the Agricultural Scientific Services of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland. In recognition of her services in her chosen fields she was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and was appointed a Companion of the Imperial Service Order. She was an authority on Beatrix Potter and a member of Broomieknowe Golf Club for many years, serving for a time as Captain of the Ladies Section, eventually becoming a life Member. She died in 2002, aged 91.

On her death her Estate was wound up in accordance with her wishes but there must have been a condition that when one of the original beneficiaries was no longer around any residue was to be distributed among three named charities of which the Local History Society was one. The Committee thought carefully how we could best remember Dr. Noble and all she did for the Society and we decided that we would invite the Primary Schools in the area – in the Primary 5 age range -to compete each year for the Dr. Mary Noble Memorial Award Trophy by doing a project, the theme of which would be set by the Society. The first year's challenge was an Olympic Theme, with every school profiling Eric Liddell. In addition each school had to profile five local sporting heroes of their choice. Lasswade Primary won the first year's competition but all the entries were of a very high standard. The challenge for 2013/14 is on Local Industries of the Past.

The other interesting thing about Dr. Noble as far as Lasswade Church is concerned is that the piano, which is located to the right of the door leading to the vestry stairs, was originally Dr. Noble's and she offered it to the Church when she felt she could no longer use it. The piano is used regularly for school services and is a back up if the organ is out of use.

Herbert Dryden

## **STOP PRESS:-**

A United Songs of Praise involving the local churches will be held on the evening of Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October. Pulpit intimations nearer the time will confirm the venue and time.

## Lasswade Flower Rota

It seems very strange to be enjoying glorious sunshine and thinking about Christmas! We have been having a real summer this year and the flowers in the garden have excelled themselves. Flowers have always played a part in the decoration of the church and have then gone on to be enjoyed by others. I am about to make up the rota for 2014 and hope that I will be able to persuade some more volunteers to help fill the dates. If you feel you can help please speak to me.



13 <sup>th</sup> October	Mary Campbell
20 <sup>th</sup> October	Dorothy Spence
27 <sup>th</sup> October	Morag Rennie

10 <sup>th</sup> November	Joan Campbell
17 <sup>th</sup> November	Walter Culton
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Marian Haggerty

8 <sup>th</sup> December	Gillian Renwick
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Cathie Connar
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Pat Lawrie
29 <sup>th</sup> December	Shona Howden

Thank you very much for all those who have helped during the year. Your help is very much appreciated.

Moira Dryden

# THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

## 1. SINCE WE LAST MET...

It seems such a long time since we last saw everyone. As always, we had a wonderful Easter Family Service at Rosewell. Matthew led a celebration for Easter day followed by the most delicious eats! It was a feast and much appreciated by everyone. We still had our egg hunt, but as it was quite a cool day, we did lots of painting and craft in the hall. This is now an annual event for the entire Sunday School and a day we all look forward to.

## 2. PICNIC

After one of the best summer's on record, you will be forgiven for forgetting what the weather was like on 18 May when we all ventured to Blair Drummond Safari Park. Suffice it to say that the shorts & tea shirts for the day should have been replaced by wet suits and snorkels. WET! The bus driver was called Noah - that's how wet it was! Anyway, never a group that doesn't cope with whatever is thrown at us; we still had a great trip. As always, the children coped with a little rain far better than the adults. On the plus side, the animals liked the wet weather and we saw far more of them than ever before. Well done to everyone for staying with us!



### 3. PRIZEGIVING

Apart from being 'dookit' and suffering with a hint of rust, we all appeared for our wonderful prizegiving service the day after the trip. This is always a special day. We were delighted to welcome Mrs Dorothy Scott to present our prizes. Dorothy has been a member for 40 years and an extremely valued Elder for many years. She has also been a great supporter of the Sunday School.



The prizegiving allows us to bring together the entire Sunday School (along with Christmas & trip) and it's lovely to see our friends from Rosewell. Each child is presented with a certificate and book. Sometimes, it's a sad occasion too when we say good bye to some of our older children.



This year saw Caitlin Denton & Lucy Spratt leave us. It has been an absolute delight to teach them in Sunday School over the years and

wonderful to see them grow from little tots to confident, young ladies. They have embraced everything about Sunday School and entertained us over the years with all their antics. Their enthusiasm is infectious and smiles so wide, they'd swallow you up.

We'll miss you Caitlin & Lucy and you will always be welcome back at Sunday School.

#### **4. SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAYS**

Many congratulations to Margaret Gordon, one of our teachers, on her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in August and to Jessie Dolan, our helper, on her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday in September.

#### **5. NEW APPOINTMENTS**

The Sunday School looks forward to working with the new Session Clerk at Lasswade & Rosewell, Mrs Dorothy Spence. Dorothy is a great supporter of the Sunday School and was a former Sunday School teacher.

We are of course sorry to see the retirement from this role of Mr Andrew Renwick. Andrew has been a delight to work with; always very welcoming to us and supportive. Thank you, Andrew.

#### **6. OUR RETURN**

The new session returns on Sunday 25 August with a Family Service in Lasswade Church at 10am. The theme is Wimbledon and a celebration of Andy Murray! Please come along and join us dressed up as anything to do with tennis, Wimbledon or Andy!

Appropriate music will be provided by our own Bjorn Borg aka Herbert Dryden!

#### **7. FUTURE DATES**

At the time of writing this article, our calendar has not been finalised. Copies can be obtained from Rosalind; it is posted on the notice board at Cockpen Hall and on the Church website.

However, we expect to have a Family Service at Cockpen on 22 September; Harvest at Cockpen on 20 October - which is also 'Back to Church Sunday'. Our Nativity will be at Lasswade on 22 December with a possibility of a service at Cockpen on 15 December - if we have enough time to rehearse!

## **8. HARVEST THANKSGIVING**

As usual we welcome tinned goods - which can be eaten hot or cold, for our Harvest table for Jericho House. Blankets are always welcome there too, so if you have any spare, bring them along on **20 October**.

Fresh produce and flowers are distributed amongst our congregation. Elders are asked to identify members who should receive gifts. If anyone knows of a person who they think should receive a gift from the harvest table, please let Rosalind know.

## **9. CHRISTMAS OUTING**

We have again booked the pantomime at the Kings Theatre. We're off to see Peter Pan on **Sunday 1 December at 1pm**.

The seats are in the stalls (Rows K to S) and are priced:

Sunday School children - free/Adults £26/non-Sunday School children £15/Babies under 2 - £5. The price includes ticket, transport to and from theatre and icecream.

Extra tickets are currently available for our congregations, but please let Rosalind know as soon as possible if you would like to join us.

**Payment must be received by 20 September.**

## **10. ALL WELCOME**

We are always delighted to welcome all children at Sunday School.

We meet most Sundays in the hall in Dundas Street, Bonnyrigg - parents are encouraged to stay with younger children and join in.

Sunday School also meets at Rosewell Church on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, joining the main worship before moving to the hall.

# COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH.

## BAPTISMS

We were delighted to welcome the following named 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.

- 10<sup>th</sup> March - Boyd William David Gracie, infant son of Darren and Hayley.  
Olivia Alice Martha Kay, infant daughter of Peter and Catriona.
- 24<sup>th</sup> March - Jack George Crawford, infant son of Steven and Emma.
- 7<sup>th</sup> April - Roan Andrew Barker, infant son of Robert and Trisha.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> June - Lily Anna Jane Hood, infant daughter of Allan and Christina.
- 30<sup>th</sup> June - Euan Andrew Gibson, infant son of Stewart and Nicola.

All were baptized by the Minister except Roan who was baptized by the Rev. Melville Schofield.

**'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee.'**

## WEDDINGS

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

- 27<sup>th</sup> April - *Stuart Buchanan Cloy to Stephanie Louise Roberts. (the Minister)*
- 25<sup>th</sup> May - *Mark John Cowan to Louise Christina Barbour. (the Minister)*
- 29<sup>th</sup> June - *Jamie Carmichael to Gillian Kay. ( the Rev. W. Armitage).*
- 27<sup>th</sup> July - *Neil Hay to Emma Louise Howie. (the Minister).*
- 10<sup>th</sup> August - *Jamie Scalon to Chantelle Sutherland. (the Rev. Bill Armitage).*

(see Church website at [www.church.cockpen.co.uk](http://www.church.cockpen.co.uk) for information and advice on weddings).

## BEREAVEMENTS

It is, with much sadness that we record the death, in June, of one of our faithful members of our Congregation, **Miss Margaret (Madge) Proudfoot**, Willow Avenue. Madge was regular in her attendance at Church for most of her life until ill health prevented her from coming.

Madge (and the Proudfoot family) always sat in the south gallery and, although no longer with us, we know she is with us in spirit Sunday by Sunday in the Church that was so loved by her and the family.

We pray for Madge's 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'.**

## The Neonatal unit at the Simpsons

Dorothy Bennett received a letter from the Neonatal unit at the Simpsons Centre of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh recording their grateful thanks for knitted clothes for the babies.

It is copied here.

Dear Mrs Bennett

Thank you so much for knitting such wonderful gifts for the newborn babies.

I have taken each of them out to admire them. Thank you for knitting the hat and cardigan sets - I know the parents and nurses will be delighted to dress the babies in such lovely matching outfits. The first thing however about your knitting I noticed was how textured and warm it was. A wonderful gift to the babies whilst they acclimatise to life.

You have not stopped at knitting such beautiful garments (I love a raglan sleeve which I see you do too), but added delightful extras in the matching buttons. How kind and thoughtful you have been. Extra hats are also included in your gift and they will always be very welcome.

I do hope you experience delight and achievement on completion of each set or item. Certainly I feel as though I am looking at the work of a person for whom knitting has been a part of life and the enjoyment of every day, for most of their life. It is a lovely art, a craft that is imbedded in our culture and a creative outlet for many of us.

I shall take these to the ward and know to expect a very grateful smile of thanks. I send you this letter with an equally warm smile of thanks - in words.

Sent with delight and appreciation.

Yours sincerely



Gill Mitchell  
Secretary to Dr Ben Stenson  
Consultant Neonatologist

Many thanks to Dorothy for all the work she has done for these babies.

## **Guild News**

The Guild finished the session with a flourish by hosting a closing social with entertainment provided by Gillian Haycock and Friends accompanied to his usual high standard by Graham Burnside. The music was great and all enjoyed themselves tremendously. Our drive this year saw us making our way to the Falkirk Wheel and taking an informative trip on the canal before travelling on to Perth to have a lovely high tea (the meringues were huge!) prior to making our way home. Over the summer break we held an Afternoon Tea Party to raise funds for The Tea Pot Trust whose founder had come along to speak at one of our meetings. We had a full hall and we were fortunate to have Jim and Moira Scott, as well as Walter Renton, come along to provide some musical entertainment. Such was the success of this venture that we raised more than £400. The Guild is still going strong but always more than happy to welcome new members as our evenings do provide a wide range of very informative speakers as well as being a good way to get to know better the members of the congregation over the tea and biscuits. The committee is in the process of finalising the new programme for 2013-2014 which starts with the dedication of the Guild on Sunday 6th October in the Church and our first meeting in the Church Hall on Monday 7th at the usual time of 7.30 p.m.

Hope to see you then.

## **Back to Church Sunday 20th October 2013**

We have tried to contact as many people as possible that were Married in the Church or have had their child Baptised in Church but, who have moved away from the last known address or perhaps been members and have moved on and therefore, have missed receiving information about this Special Service, however, we extend a warm invitation to you now to come along and join us on that day. Similarly if you know of someone who hasn't been to Church for a while, please encourage them to join us on that day.

We would also like to thank everyone for their support with this venture to support the life of the church – whatever the connection. The life of the church will only continue if we all support it in our own way. Please come along and see what the church can do for you – and what you can do for the church.

The Stewardship Team

## From the Clerk.

Firstly, I'd like to say congratulations to Dorothy Spence who has recently been appointed Session Clerk at Lasswade/Rosewell Churches. Dorothy succeeds Andrew Renwick who, after 20 something years decided it was time for a change. **I really must have a 'heart to heart' with Andrew and find out how he did it !!**

Andrew, Agnes at Roswell and I have worked very well together for many years and between the three of us, we have 'shouldered' quite a few problems during our respective terms of office. Problems or not (and it usually was), it was always a great 'learning curve' and I think we have all benefited greatly from these experiences. It may have been that we didn't always agree on matters but, it never affected our friendships.

I thank Andrew for his support and friendship over the years and wish him a peaceful 'retirement'. As for Dorothy, we have been in touch on various matters already and, I know that we will have the same relationship. I have no doubt, with her time as Clerk to the then Congregational Board at Lasswade she will slip effortlessly into the Session Clerk role. Dorothy, we wish you well.

Another congratulation is to Canon Hugh White - Our Lady/St. Matthew's/St. Margaret's who has just completed 50 years as a Priest. Canon Hugh is a very much respected Priest, not only in the Roman Catholic Church but, with other denominations. I think of his welcome speech at Matthew's Induction social and just wished he had spoken longer - a real after dinner (social) speaker! We wish the Canon all the very best for the future.

To our own folks, congratulations to four of our Elders who have reached a 30 year mark as Ordained Elders, they are - Betty Miller, Bill Brown, Jim Scott and Ian McAlpine. More will be mentioned when they receive Long Service certificates signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly but, I should mention Betty as our very first lady Elder at Cockpen and Carrington. I think, back in 1983 we may have been classed as 'trailblazers'. Of course, since then, we have gladly welcomed quite a number of ladies as Elders. To all of you, congratulations and thank you for your continued support to me - it has been much appreciated.

Although we are honouring the four Elders I'm conscious that many of you do so much work for our Church - without a certificate and, I thank you all for the support you've given and, continue to give. I think of our Choir and Sunday School staff and feel that certificates certainly should be presented to many but, you try and get the information - **'how many years have you been in the Choir?'** - I've never been able to get the answer yet but, we'll keep trying! A little test for you for the next issue of 'The Link' - **try and work out the total years of our Choir members - if you dare!!**

As you've probably read in this issue, all the organizations are now 'up and running' and we wish them well for a successful session.

Yours, in friendship,

*George.*

**50 years ago.**



Many thanks to all at Cockpen and Carrington Church for the beautiful arrangement of flowers that Irene Ramsay brought to us to celebrate our Golden Wedding anniversary. It was very thoughtful as we were married in Cockpen church 50 years ago and thank you also for all your good wishes.

Dorothy and Jack Peat

# Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota

## September

1 <sup>st</sup>	M. Peden
8 <sup>th</sup>	Dorothy Bennet
15 <sup>th</sup>	Dorothy Scott
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Nancy Richardson
29 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Dyer

## October

6 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Sharpe
13 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Robson
20 <sup>th</sup>	Wilma
27 <sup>th</sup>	Liz Mills

## November

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Agnes Dalgleish
10 <sup>th</sup>	Lindsay Stevenson
17 <sup>th</sup>	Cathie Robertson
24 <sup>th</sup>	Flower Fund

## December

1 <sup>st</sup>	Flower Fund
8 <sup>th</sup>	Susan McKechnie
15 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy Richardson



Thanks again to you all for participating in the flower fund, and also those who give donations. It is all very much appreciated and it does make a difference.

*Irene*

## Cake Stall

We continue to be grateful to all who support the cake stall throughout the year. Like the bric a brac, it's lovely to meet old and new friends. The next date for the stall is -

26<sup>th</sup> September, 2013

Further information on future dates will be available soon.

*Helen, Isobel, Wilma and Jean* (who is 'on leave' at the moment).

# THE HOLY HIKERS



*"The man who goes alone can start today;  
but he who travels with another must wait until that other is ready,  
and it may be a long time before they get off."*

*Henry David Thoreau*

*At the end of my last article we were eagerly anticipating our approaching Walking Weekend to New Lanark. We left Bonnyrigg on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March and drove very cautiously through the snow towards Lanark. Snow had fallen in the East of Scotland the previous evening and petered out as we got closer to our destination. We parked in Crossford and after a coffee stop began our walk in rain.*

*As we walked on the rain turned to snow and eventually into a blizzard. In no time we were like 10 snowmen but as the walk was low level we were able to complete it without too much difficulty. In fact we all agreed it was very picturesque. Just wish we had had a camera with us, it was so beautiful.*

*For the second year we stayed at the New Lanark Hotel and luckily the snow turned back to rain for the Sunday when we walked around the town of Lanark to Lanark Loch. Monday's walk was near Hamilton. Once again we all had a super time with great food and lots of laughs. Roll on next year!*

*On a nice April Saturday we walked in Linlithgow taking in the canal and the loch as part of a circular route.*

*On 11<sup>th</sup> May Denise and Ian led us on a short but fascinating walk around Edinburgh. The "Britain from the Air" exhibition was in the city and we followed the route which had massive photographs of the U.K. at strategic points along the way. Very interesting but we did not hang about as it was perishing! A nice warm drink helped thaw us out at the Mercure Hotel.*

*The longer walk planned for June was altered at the last minute and instead of a hill walk near Lauder we went to Peebles and did a low level seven and a half mile walk along the Tweed Valley.*

*The evening walk in June was led by Hilary & Glen and was a short walk around Roslin and Kilburn Wood. The weather that evening was lovely and it was still lovely for our July evening walk at Gladhouse. The longer walk in July took us from Walkerburn up on to the Minch Moor on the Southern Upland Way. 10 miles in very sunny weather and had a welcome ice cream in Innerleithen at the end.*



D Scott, J Hume, D Thomson, I Thomson, F Harkes, M Dubickas, B Finlay, D Crichton, E Crichton.

*Happy Hiking*

*Jim Scott*

## Bric A Brac

The Bric a Brac team have had a well-earned break from 20<sup>th</sup> June and we resumed again for business on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August**. We continue to look forward to meeting old and new friends at the Hall from 10.30 - 12.30 on any Thursday morning.

The bric a brac has been part of the life of our Church for many years now and, is very much '*our Church without walls*'; a chance for folks to meet, have a chat, find out what's been happening and, hopefully, find something to buy!

Thank you all for your continued support of our Church at Cockpen and Carrington.

*The Thursday Team.*

## Church Dance

Our first dance of 2013 was held in the Masonic Hall, Bonnyrigg on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May and, was once again a great night with many old and, new friends present. The 'highlight' of the night was that Jean, after a traumatic year health-wise was 'back at the helm' and it was so good to see her (and Andrew of course). The next dance will be held again, in the Masonic Hall on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 at 7.30 p.m. when we hope to see many of you. As I've often said, where can you get a night out for £6 and, enjoy a wonderful buffet!

**Please note change of date - was 11<sup>th</sup> October but now 4<sup>th</sup> October.**

G.S.

## Host UK

Many international students come to Scotland to study at our universities. Will they make contact with people and life beyond the academic environment? What will they do for a homely break if home is too far away? For 26 years, national charity HOST has been linking students with volunteer hosts, who invite a student to spend a day, a weekend, Christmas or New Year in their home. Chatting; eating together; playing games; seeing the area; joining in with the local community; making friends – a HOST visit lays down wonderful memories to be re-lived in China, India, the USA and many other parts of the world. And hosts learn from their guests too. If you could make a student welcome, please contact HOST through [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org) or call HOST's voluntary regional organiser in Scotland, Anne-Marie Ringler, on 01738 621633. Thank you.

## From a book - 'Facing the Storm'

Again, I include a story from the above book as in previous issues of 'The Link'. I have enjoyed these books very much and would commend them to you. **G.S.**

### **From John - Ch. 15, verses 1 - 10. (and quite apt at this time of gardening)**

Pruning always worries me. I was doing a bit this morning. It seems such a violent, traumatic process. Take a living shoot in one hand, pruning shears in the other, and cut. It's an amputation. It often has to be done drastically, cutting out a whole shoot from one plant, or reducing the whole plant to a fraction of its height. And when you've finished, the plant looks injured.

But wait a bit. Sun, rain, and time bring their reward. Where a single, scarred stem remained, two are shooting out. Or the whole plant is a better shape, gives more blossom, or makes a thicker hedge.

Nature is forgiving. It has the energy, the inner compulsion and ability, to heal the cut. Moving to another area of the living world, the poet William Blake suggests that 'the cut worm forgives the plough'. What seems an end is a beginning. New life springs from the wounds. Fruit is more plentiful after the pruning.

It would be easy to be glib, and say that suffering is a pruning, and that the pain is worthwhile because of its fruits. I can't go that far, suffering is a mystery to me. And if it isn't to you then maybe you don't understand that you don't understand. Suffering **can** work wonders, strengthen character, bring fruit; but it doesn't always. It can damage and break too. It can cripple emotionally as well as physically.

Perhaps the clue is in our being branches of the vine, which is Christ. Secure in him, the pruning is positive. It still hurts, we still feel like screaming, but we know he's there, and that he's gone through the same process himself. **Maybe we need to remember that the cross began as a tree!**

*From Meditations and Prayers by Eddie Askew.*

# Harvest Wordsearch

Can you find the Harvest themed words hidden in the grid?

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

HARVEST FESTIVAL WHEATSHEAF CORNDOLLY  
 LAMMASTIDE MICHAELMAS COMBINE HARVESTER  
 FARMER HOME MOON CROP MOW TRACTOR

Please send your news to the Editors for the Christmas Issue of

*"The Link"* on or before Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2013.