

Cockpen & Carrington

The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Harvest 2019



Church of Scotland

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From the Minister ...

Many of us will hopefully have managed some time off this summer to get space to relax and be refreshed. During most of the rest of the year we're on the go, busy with work and school, family life and the many activities and routines that fill our days and weeks. So it's wonderful to have just a bit of time in the summer to have a break and find peace and quiet away from the normal rush of life.

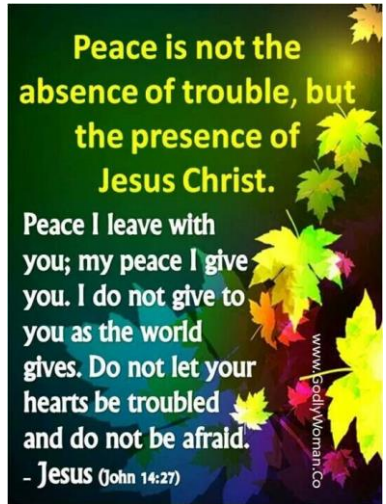
We may have found that in different places this summer: perhaps relaxing beside a swimming pool or on the beach in the sun; having a lovely picnic in the countryside or by the sea; taking a walk in the great outdoors; having time to relax and read a book or listen to music; being able to sit out in the garden for afternoon tea or for an evening drink in the long light nights.

I spent quite a bit of my holiday based in Pitlochry this year and there were several highlights of peace and quiet. I enjoyed several excursions out cycling. There were beautiful sunny days to climb several more Munros with marvellous views in all directions and iridescent dragonflies and damselflies and loads of Painted Lady butterflies this year to enchant along the way. I also had a lovely swim in and picnic beside a Highland river, and a stroll through the quiet grandeur of the giant conifer trees in the grounds of Blair Castle.

On another walk, my route took me to Tenandry Kirk, a lovely little church perched on the hillside amongst the woodland above the River Garry and Killiecrankie. The church is always open and it was wonderful to step inside and enjoy the tranquillity there. It's a traditional old church with a central pulpit on one long side of the building and pews and galleries on the other three sides.

Sitting in the central pews, I noticed the words on the simple stained-glass window to the left of the pulpit – Jesus's encouraging words to his disciples: "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28:20)

These words are an encouraging reminder that wherever we are, whatever we are doing, whatever is happening, we can have the comforting assurance of Jesus's risen presence with us. When it comes time to be back into the busyness of



everyday life, when we face struggles and uncertainties, there is still an enduring peace to be found through Jesus's sustaining presence. That's a choice we may need to make as this old saying reminds: "No Jesus; No Peace. Know Jesus; Know Peace." When we wholeheartedly believe and trust in Jesus Christ, the peace he offers us through his constant presence is profound. In our busy, changeable, uncertain times, I pray we may each know that peace in our everyday lives and so find strength and encouragement for each moment and situation.

With all good wishes.

Your Minister,
Lorna Souter

MIDWEEK SERVICE OF WORSHIP

The Minister will conduct a short Service of Worship in the Cockpen church hall for those who find it difficult to attend worship on a Sunday.

The first service will be on Wednesday 25th September at 2pm when the theme will be Harvest,

A further service will be held at the same time on Wednesday 13th November when the theme will be Remembrance.

A cup of tea and cake can be enjoyed after the service.

Anyone wishing to come along and requiring transport, please contact Session Clerk Liz Mills 663 3162.

MEN'S SHED

What is a Men's Shed?

There are currently 514 Men's Sheds throughout the UK. They are community spaces for men to connect, converse and create. The activities are often similar to those of garden sheds, but for groups of men to enjoy together. They help reduce loneliness and isolation, but most importantly, they're fun.

If this sounds like something you would like, then contact Liz Mills or The Minister.



WHO'S WHO

MINISTER

The Revd Lorna M Souter MA BD MSc
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Tel: 0131 663 6392
Mob: 07889 566418

Office	Cockpen & Carrington	Lasswade & Rosewell
<i>Session Clerk:</i>	Elizabeth [Liz] Mills (07875 485973)	Dorothy Spence (L) (0131 663 0943)
<i>Church Officer / Local Contact:</i>	Ian Bee 07760 176471	Andrew Renwick (L) (0131 663 7678) Agnes Anderson(R) (0131 440 0282)
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Malcolm Logan (0131 561 9509)	Pat Lawrie (0131 663 7597)
<i>Organist (& Choir Master):</i>	Graham Burnside (01310556 1751)	Herbert Dryden (L) (0131 663 8895) Kenneth Wight (R) (0131 663 2777)
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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

*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.*

SERVICES :: SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2019

Date	Lasswade & Rosewell at 10.00 am	Cockpen & Carrington at 11.30 am
1 Sept	Minister – Rosewell Communion Service	Mary Millan, Reader, from Loanhead Church
8 Sept	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
15 Sept Climate Change	Minister and Andrew Renwick- Rosewell	Minister and Liz Mills
22 Sept Harvest	Minister – All-age, Lasswade	Minister – and Cradle Roll Service
Wednesday 25th Sept	Short half hour Harvest Service at 2.00 pm in Cockpen Church Hall followed by tea/coffee	
29 Sept	Minister – Joint All-Age Service Lasswade Church 10.00 am	
6 Oct	Minister – Rosewell	Minister and Guild for Guild Dedication Service
13 Oct	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
20 Oct	Minister – Rosewell Gift Day	Minister
27 Oct	Minister – All-age, Lasswade	Minister – All-age
3 Nov	Minister – Rosewell	Minister Communion Service
10 Nov Remembrance Sunday	Minister – Lasswade * Eddie Yeoman – Rosewell, + 10.50 am ⁺	Minister
Wednesday 13th Nov	Short half hour Remembrance Service at 2.00 pm in Cockpen Church Hall followed by tea/coffee	
17 Nov	Minister – Rosewell	Minister – All-age Service with Baptism
24 Nov	Minister – All-age, Lasswade	Minister – All-age
1 Dec 1 st Advent	Minister – Rosewell Toy Gift Service	Minister Toy Gift Service
8 Dec 2 nd Advent	Minister – Lasswade - Nativity	Minister Service of Remembering – 3.00 pm
15 Dec 3 rd Advent	Minister – Rosewell	Minister – Nativity

* Lasswade War Memorial at 9.30 am;

+ Rosewell War Memorial at 12.00 pm; also Polton War Memorial at 3.00 pm

22 Dec 4 th Advent	Minister – Lasswade	Minister Nine Lessons and Carols - 7.00 pm
29 Dec	tbc - Joint Service Rosewell Church - 10.00 am	

Additional Christmas Services

Tuesday 24 Dec Christmas Eve	Christingle Service – venue tbc – 6.00 pm	Watchnight Service 11.20 pm
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FROM THE COCKPEN AND CARRINGTON CLERK

As nature decorates the hillside with the beautiful autumn leaves, our thoughts turn to harvest. No mere artist can model the natural hillside of trees in arrangement and colour, nor the bounty that feeds all creatures.

As we behold this autumn, let us stop and give thanks, not only for the beauty we see in nature, but also for the harvest of crops – wheat, barley, rapeseed - each of which has a colour, form, and purpose.

It has always caused me to raise my often-preoccupied heart in real gratitude for all that has been given to us - the Fruits of the Earth in all their colour and splendour.

It is now autumn, a moment of the year for gathering the fruits of nature and human toil in the harvest. We look forward to giving thanks for the harvest, in Church, on Sunday 22nd September at our All Age and Cradle Roll service when once again our church will be adorned with colour, and our table laden with the abundance of rich foods. These donations will then be donated to those in need in the community.

As is customary at this time of the year, all the various groups resume after the summer break. If anyone would like to join in at any of the meetings or activities, Guild, Knit and Natter, Prayer Meeting etc they would be made extremely welcome.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Willie Tulloch and John Adamson, our editors of “*The Link*” magazine, for producing such a wonderful magazine. The magazine is distributed three times a year to members of our churches, and many in the wider community. I am sure most would agree, that the quality and content of the magazine produced today, has much improved over the years

Keep up the good work boys.

*Liz
Session Clerk*

“Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later.”

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH

NEW MEMBER

We welcome Karen Brown as a member of our Church. and hope that she feels welcome among us.

WEDDINGS

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

20th April 2019 James O'Hara to Nicola Smith

19th May 2019 Andrew Wilkie to Abigail Bresnan

Both married by the Minister

BEREAVEMENTS

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'



GUILD REPORT

The Guild ended in April with our usual popular social and an Afternoon Tea held in May. Both events were again very well attended with everyone enjoying entertainment, home baking, and catching up with many friends.

Our three-year strategy commenced last year with ONE JOURNEY, MANY ROADS when the theme for that year was SEEKING THE WAY. This year our theme is **COMPANIONS ON THE WAY**.

The Guild will commence with the dedication of the Guild on Sunday 6th October in the Church. At the first meeting in the hall at 7.30pm the following evening Monday 7th October the Minister will speak on our theme of *Companions on the Road*.

Our Guild will celebrate its 90th birthday in February 2020 and we are extremely fortunate to still have such a vibrant, well-attended Guild when so many Guilds throughout Scotland have folded due to lack of members.

We have again lined up a varied selection of speakers for our new term, some of which I list below. You don't have to be a member of the Guild to come and listen to any of the speakers that may be of interest to you. However, if you would like to come along and become a member of the Guild, then you will certainly be made most welcome.

British Heart Foundation
Sailors Society
Second World War
The Swinging Sixties
Radio Lollipop
Crappit Heids and Barley Bannocks

Dates for each speaker will be announced in church prior to the event.

Liz and Helen

KNIT AND NATTER

If you fancy an afternoon out with good company, a chat and a cup of tea, then come along and feel free to bring a friend. Our doors are open to all in the community.

Liz

SUNDAY TEA ROTA

Cockpen and Carrington

2019

September 1st	Muriel Calder Isobel Watson Helen Renton
October 6th	Wilma Sweeney Vi Gibson Betty Findlay
November 10th Second Sunday	John Adamson Mary Logan Liz MacDonald
December 1st	Muriel Calder Nancy Richardson Madge Commins

First Sunday of the month unless otherwise stated.

BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL

We once again come to the time of thinking about preparing our shoebox for the *Blythswood Christmas Shoebox Appeal* ready for collection in October to ensure safe arrival at their various destinations in time for Christmas.

We, as a Church, have supported this project for a number of years with the number of shoeboxes increasing year by year. Last year 107,073 were distributed by Blythswood Care in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

If you are intending to pack a box for this wonderful cause and require a shoebox, there are boxes available in church and the hall along with copies of the checklists that require to be attached to each box for the purpose of customs.

The closing date for handing in the boxes is Sunday 27th October as they will be collected during that week.

Amazing what you find...

...when you “declutter”!

If, like me, you have ever decluttered, you occasionally come across a little gem.

Mine was a wee book entitled,

”1001 things everyone ought to know”

There is no date; the only indication is found on the page listing monarchs from Willie the Conqueror. The last entry is George V including the dates of the First World War, therefore after 1918, but before 1936. It is priced at 3d.

I thought I’d share a few of the things you ought to know!

Everyday Law:

A married man, living with his wife or supporting her, pays no tax if his income is under £225 per annum

A master is only liable for his servant’s acts when they are done with his authority!

Wages cannot be stopped when a servant is ill!

An innkeeper is bound to shelter and provide food for a traveller, no matter what time of day or night he arrives, as long as there is room in the inn! (providing the traveller is in a “fit” condition).

Churches and other places of worship are not rated!

On writing accurately:

If you abbreviate the word road, street, etc, put a full stop after; but not if you write the word in full!

After dear sir (or madam, etc) put a comma!

Do not use an adjective when an adverb is wanted. “She spoke nice” should be “she spoke nicely”!

When writing of two things, be careful not to use the superlative degree. Not smallest, biggest, quickest, etc., but smaller, bigger, quicker.

It is not wrong to begin a sentence with the word and: but it is very rarely correct!

On spelling properly:

Words of one syllable ending with the sound of K, take CK after a single vowel, as TRACK!

But they take K after a consonant or diphthong; as TALK and BOOK!

Words of more than one syllable, ending with the sound of K, terminate with the letter C; as TRAFFIC!

But when ING is added to such words the C is followed by K, as TRAFFICKING!

On etiquette:

It is bad form to arrive at any function late!

Do not outstay your welcome!

When in the street, a man walking with a lady should take the side nearer the kerb!

If the lady should meet another lady known to her, the man must raise his hat!

Similarly, if another man raises his hat to her, the man friend must raise his!

Laundry hints:

Ink will often come out of a tablecloth if immediately rubbed with a juicy tomato!

When hanging up a blanket to dry, place the striped lines vertically. If put horizontally and the colours run, the blanket will be streaked!

Test the heat of an iron by bringing the flat surface close to the side of the face (and hope the phone doesn’t ring at the same time)!!!!!!

Maybe more next issue...

IB

Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota

2019

September	
1	Liz MacDonald
8	Maureen Peden
15	Dorothy Bennett
23	Muriel Calder
29	Joint Service – Lasswade
October	
6	Jim Dyer/ Guild
13	Mrs M Robson
20	Wilma Sweeney
27	John Adamson
November	
3	Liz Mills
10	Lynsey Stevenson
17	Bill Taylor
24	Liz MacDonald
December	
1	Betty Finlay
8	Pat Mitchell
15	Dorothy, Helen &
22	Catherine
29	Liz Laidlaw
	Joint Service – Rosewell



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 0131 663 8517 or see me in Church if you know

of anyone who is ill or housebound so that they can receive the flowers or if you have any queries. Thank you

Nancy

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FROM THE ORGANIST

I don't normally contribute an article to the Harvest edition of The Link as the summer is of course "off season" for the choir. As we are now in sight of the 200th anniversary of the present Cockpen Church however I thought I might take advantage of the researches which Helen Renton in our congregation has recently been carrying out to say something about the history of our organ. I am much indebted to Helen for her hard work in the Church archives.

As is well known, from the Reformation onwards only unaccompanied singing (and only of the Psalms) was permitted by the Church of Scotland. One or two isolated attempts to introduce organ accompaniment were made in the early 19th century but these were quickly stamped out by the authorities. The breakthrough finally came in 1863 when at the instance of the then Minister of Greyfriars in Edinburgh the General Assembly permitted individual Presbyteries to make up their own minds. While an organ was duly installed in Greyfriars in 1865 they were in fact pipped at the post by two other congregations who got in first, namely Anderston in Glasgow (an organ still functioning today, though in a different church) and Dundonald in Ayrshire. After that the flood gates opened and over the remainder of the 19th century huge numbers of organs were built and installed across Scotland.

Twenty years after these pioneering ventures the question reached Cockpen. On 17 February 1887 a meeting of the congregation was convened in the Durham School "regarding the acquisition of a piped organ for the Church at Cockpen" at which it was resolved "by a large majority" to proceed with the installation. There were however some objections, led by one Robert Bird. The Kirk Session then met on 22 February to hear the objections and resolve the matter. While Mr Bird presented "a paper signed by himself and 24 other members" he was the only one to appear at the meeting and the Session gave him short shrift, pronouncing that "a considerable majority of the members of the congregation are strongly in favour of the introduction of an organ and had guaranteed the necessary funds and ... the very few who signed a minuted motion against an organ had been moved to do so by an envious character ...".

The proposal was accordingly approved and, as ever in the Church of Scotland, a committee was formed to take matters forward. They clearly proceeded with their task without delay as on 30 July 1888 Mr Robert

Alexander Duncan took up his post as first organist and choirmaster of Cockpen at a salary of £20 per annum (I note in passing that this is roughly equivalent to £2,500 today). His title would suggest the Church either already had the benefit of a choir or was about to recruit one! The committee appear also to have been charged with the associated fundraising and were equally diligent on that front - a letter from them of January 1890 records the making over of the organ to the Church in perpetuity "free of debt".

One interesting footnote is that the minutes indicate that at the same time as the appointment of the organist "the incumbent Precentor, Mr John Dickson" resigned. While the resignation was accepted the minutes also state that arrangements would be made for "carrying on the Psalmody in the meantime". Subsequent minutes confirm that a new Precentor was appointed in addition to the organist. It may be therefore that for some time at least the Psalms themselves continued to be sung unaccompanied.

When I next have an opportunity in these pages, I hope to say something about the organ itself and its builder.

GMB
August 2019

CONCERT

A concert will be held in Cockpen Church Hall on

Friday 25th October at 7.30pm.

when the entertainment will be by

The Telephone Choir

Tickets £6 including refreshments

SHA TURNS 30

This year, 2019, the *Scottish Huntington's Association* marks 30 years since its foundation. It was founded to support those who suffer from the crippling condition of Huntington's Disease and to support their families, promote research into finding a cure and increase awareness and understanding of it in society generally. Unlike Motor Neurone Disease, a comparable condition, its cause is known. This at least helps to focus research.

In 1993 members of the Huntington's Disease Collaborative Research Group in the USA identified the exact nature and location of the defect in the gene on chromosome 4 that results in the toxic Huntington protein which leads to the progressive death of neurones in the brain. By measuring the number of repeats of a set of three specific bases within this gene-cytosine, adenine, guanine, existing in that order, clinicians and researchers can identify whether someone will suffer from HD. If there are forty or more in one of the two copies of the HD gene that person will suffer from the condition. A child born to a sufferer has a 50% risk of also becoming a sufferer.

In its thirty years of existence, the SHA has become an effective

advocate for the interests of HD sufferers and support for them and their families. It has seen many positive developments in services such as the setting up of the European Huntington's Disease Network and in Scotland the National Care Framework (with the Lothian Specific Care Framework being launched earlier this year) and increased commitment by major pharmaceutical companies to research and development of drugs to treat HD and its symptoms.

However in the view of the SHA Chief Executive Officer, John Eden, people in Scotland tend to have heard of Huntington's but not to know what it is, whereas everyone has heard of Motor Neurone Disease, comparable in terms of its devastating impact, though very different in its speed of that effect. He puts the turnover of the two charities in Scotland for the conditions at £1.6 million and £2million respectively. This is one reason for the disadvantage he feels HD sufferers are under given that the prevalence of MND in Scotland with around 450 known sufferers, is about half that of HD. Other factors include that:

* (in his view) there is no stigma around MND, whereas there still is for HD.

* HD families live with decades of the illness, often experiencing loss of income and assets and needing all their energy to look after the sufferer. With MND the course of the illness is usually short and brutal (18 months to three or four years) and tends to leave behind bereaved but highly motivated (and crucially unaffected) families with the passion and energy to fight for resources by fundraising and campaigning.

* No-one famous has ever publicly declared that they are stricken by Huntington's Disease. Stephen Hawking, Gordon Aikman and Doddie Weir are prominent examples of people battling or who have battled Motor Neurone Disease in the public eye.

The only comparable figures I know of to have suffered from Huntington's are Sarah Winckless and Woody Guthrie. Sarah, patron of SHA, was an Olympic rowing medallist, and Chair of the Athletes' Commission of the British Olympic Association for the London Olympics 2012. Woody was an

iconic U.S. folksinger, political activist and author and major influence on Bob Dylan. His wife Marjorie set up, in 1967, the year he died, a pioneering forerunner of the SHA, the Committee to Combat Huntington's Disease.

The SHA was therefore pleased and grateful to receive funds recently for an ambassador project "You, Me and HD" with the aim of raising awareness and understanding across Scotland of the condition. This is part of the 30th anniversary celebrations.

Having been asked to be an ambassador for the project is one reason why the 19th annual Bonnyrigg Midwinter Duck Race is planned (for 26th January 2020) to revert to being a fundraiser for Edinburgh and Lothians' Family Support Group of the Scottish Huntington's Association, as well as for Children 1st. For several years it supported both, but after Mick and Mary Johnston left us for Kilkeel it has been solely a Children 1st fundraiser for the past two years.

Bill MacDonald

CAKE STALL

(Cockpen and Carrington)

Thank you for your continued support at the monthly cake stall at the Pitcairn Centre.

The following are the dates for your diary.

26th September 2019

24th October 2019

28th November 2019

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

Hope you have enjoyed a good summer and we look forward to welcoming you to the stall.

Best wishes,
Helen, Isobel and Wilma.

CHRISTMAS VICTORIAN Fayre

Our Victorian Fayre will be held on

Saturday

23rd November in

Cockpen Church Hall

from 10am – 1pm

LASSWADE AND ROSEWELL PARISH CHURCH NEWS

You are warmly invited to join us in the
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sunday 1st September 2019 at 10.00am
Rosewell Parish Church
All Welcome



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:

12th September,
10th October,
14th November and
12th December.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support.

Doors Open Day:

Doors Open Day gives you free access to hundreds of fascinating buildings across Scotland. Every weekend in September you can explore places that are normally closed to the public. Doors Open Day in Midlothian is on Saturday 14th September. Rosewell Parish Church will be open from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon and Lasswade Parish Church will be open from 1.00 pm. to 3.00 p.m.

Church Register

Wedding

Eric Brock to Lisa Mackenzie on 14th June 2019 in Lasswade Church

Bereavements

Mr Walter Culton – 9th April 2019

Mrs Ann Watson – 31st May 2019

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



Many thanks to everyone who helped raise £379.37 for this year's Christian Aid appeal; this generous amount was raised from a Coffee Morning, 'Big Brekkie' and donations.

Reading in Church:

Would anyone like to join the rota to do readings in Church? Please speak to Dorothy about this if you are interested. We would very much like to have some new voices involved.

**Harvest Thanksgiving
will be celebrated on
Sunday 22nd September at Lasswade**

All gifts of non-perishable food, donated by the congregation, will be distributed to the Midlothian Food Bank.



Vintage Strawberry Fair:

A massive thank you to all who supported our Vintage Strawberry Fair on Saturday 18th May. The sum of £500 was raised for Church funds. This was the result of efforts put in by many people – those who baked, donated goods, prizes and served the teas and coffees. It was a most enjoyable afternoon.



Tea in the Park:

Again, the Church hosted the baking stall at the Tea in the Park event in Rosewell on Saturday 20th July. A big thank you to all who served on the stall, bakers, donators and to all the customers. The sum of £210 was raised for Church funds.

Gift Day – Sunday 20th October 2019

You will receive an envelope for your donation at the beginning of October and you can bring it along with you on Gift Day Sunday (Service at 10.00 a.m. in Rosewell Church) or return your sealed envelope to your District Elder.



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 7th September 5th October and 2nd November 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

THE SEED

A successful businessman was growing old and knew it was time to choose a successor to take over the business. Instead of choosing one of his directors, he called all the young executives in his company together. "It is time for me to step down and choose the next CEO." He said "I have decided to choose one of you"

The young executives were shocked, but the boss continued, "I am going to give each one of you a seed today – a very special seed. I want you to plant this and bring what you have grown from the seed I have given you. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next CEO."

One man named Jim was there that day and he, like the others, received the seed.

He went home and excitedly, told his wife the story, and together they planted the seed. Every day, he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other executives began to talk about their seeds and his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by, still nothing. By now others were talking about their plants, but Jim didn't have a plant.

Six months went by – still nothing in Jim's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Jim decided to feed the soil –he so wanted the seed to grow. A year finally went by and all the young executives of the company brought their plants to the CEO for inspection. Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take his, but his wife said he must, and just be honest. Jim felt sick in his stomach, it was going to be the most embarrassing moment of his life, but he knew his wife was right.

He took his empty pot into the board room. When Jim arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful - and many of his colleagues laughed. A few felt sorry for him. When the CEO surveyed the room and greeted the young executives, Jim tried to hide at the back.

"What great plants, trees and flowers you have grown", said the CEO. Today one of you will be appointed to the new CEO. All of a sudden, the CEO spotted Jim at the back of the room with his empty pot. He instructed him to join him at the front. Jim was terrified and thought he may even be out of his present job, classed as a failure.

At the front the CEO asked Jim what had happened to his seed. Jim explained his story. The CEO asked everyone to sit down except Jim. He looked at Jim and then announced to the young executives, "Here is your new chief executive." Jim couldn't believe it, he could not even grow a seed. The CEO said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds, they were dead - it was not possible for them to grow into plants. All of you, except Jim, have brought me plants, flowers and trees. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one you were given. Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to stand up to the truth.

Moral

If you plant honesty, you will reap trust.

If you plant goodness, you will reap friends.

If you plant humility, you will reap greatness.

If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment.

If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective.

If you plant hard work, you will reap success.

If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation.

So be careful what you plant now; it will determine what you will reap later.

Welcome to StoryCraft – Bible stories for all the family

If you would like something fun and interactive for all the family, why not come along to StoryCraft which will begin again on **Sunday 15th September**.

StoryCraft runs from 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm at Cockpen Church Hall in Bonnyrigg each Sunday afternoon. There are a range of craft stations – clay, painting, drawing, song-writing and video creation – and you can choose which one you would like to go to.

Each group at each station receives a different Bible story in a secret golden envelope. Once opened the story is read by the group and they then have just 45 minutes to re-create the story and be ready to tell it to the other groups using the clay models, paintings, drawings, video clip or rewritten pop song they have prepared. The session is rounded off with a short time of reflection thinking about what lessons we have learned from the stories. It is a lot of fun with something for all ages as we create and share stories together. It's a free activity and everyone will be made most welcome. Why not come along and try it out!

A Message to the Gentlemen of the Linked Charges

One of the regular features of The Link is the Guild Report written by Liz Mills and Helen Renton and their articles recount the meetings and other activities which have taken place in recent months. The authors of this article always extend an invitation to people to join them and that invitation reaches out to gentlemen as well.

From time to time over the last few years I have attended some of the meetings of The Guild. Sometimes, but not always, I have been the only man present. In the 2018/19 session I listened to speakers talking about the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, The Strange World of the Amish and Shakers and the Sepsis Trust and I also attended a talk by Ivy Blair who spoke about Prospects, a Charity working with people with disabilities. Ivy mentioned the challenges facing such people in attending church, but she also touched on the challenges which regular “church folk” experience when welcoming such people to places of worship. There was plenty of food for thought in Ivy’s presentation.

At every meeting I have been impressed not only by the quality of the speakers but also by the way Helen or Liz conduct the worship side of the evening and by the fellowship which the members have with one another, living out the theme of the hymn

*“The Church is wherever God’s people are praising,
knowing they’re wanted and loved by their Lord”.*

Another feature of a Guild evening is the serving of refreshments and this provides an opportunity for people to talk to one another.

A lot of people still think of The Guild as The Women’s Guild but, while ladies are perhaps in the majority of those who attend, the Organisation has been known as The Guild for many years and welcomes both ladies and gentlemen. If any gentleman feels he would like to come along to a Guild Meeting I can assure him he will be made very welcome and he will enjoy the talk and perhaps see things in a different light. The Guild usually starts up around the beginning of October but watch this space and listen to the intimations and I hope to see you there.

HLRD

Lasswade and Rosewell Choir

As usual, I start with thanking the choir for their continued support which I greatly appreciate. In addition, I would like to thank those who participated in the anthem which we sung at the Holy Week *Songs of Praise* on Palm Sunday.

One tends to think of the summer months as the time of year when things are less busy because people are away but the diets of worship and their related matters, coffee mornings, the baking stall etc., etc., keep going.

In recent months we have been reminded that things church wise are about to change. I have no doubt that these changes will affect the music side of the church's life and witness but that should not be the only area that is

subject to scrutiny. It may be that the time has been reached to think of different ways of presenting the praise and to review the role of the organ in public worship. There is plenty of good material and food for thought in a lot of the contemporary hymns and songs. However, I only hope that the heritage of the thoughts of different people from centuries past up to the present day, reflecting their diverse feelings and catering for various circumstances, which these authors have shared with us through the different hymnals we have used and are still using, will not be forgotten.

We shall see how things develop.

HLRD

Wind of change in Ko Samui

Some years ago, May and I tendered into a beachside hotel in Ko Samui in Thailand.

Some people enjoyed the pool and leisure facilities while others had a traditional Thai massage.

As the afternoon approached there was a distinct change in the weather as it became wet and windy, and a local sightseeing boat was pressed into service to get everyone onboard A.S.A.P. One unfortunate young lady was literally thrown into the ship, knocking over an elderly passenger who was also trying to gain his footing as the ship rocked about, and it was a relieved captain who sailed us away to calmer waters.

Some years later we again came to Ko Samui this time, walking inland to see the great Buddha, for which the island is famous. This time we were on a Princess Cruise Ship.

Perhaps others from our congregations have visited this island and have been on the golden sands and in the crystal-clear waters, which must be the most inviting on a glorious sunny day.

Our lives can often be filled with glorious sunshine and clear blue waters, but there are other times when the storm clouds gather, and we need our Christian faith to guide us through.

Ian Murdoch

Lasswade Church Flower Rota

It is interesting to see the adverts for the beautiful flowers which in turn create the stunning gardens. It does not always turn out as planned. There are many contributing factors which influence the displays. It could be too much sun, or too much rain combined with a number of insects which like to feast on the prize blooms!

Each season has a special place in the calendar.

Spring heralds the new beginning of growth and colour in the garden.

Summer encourages energetic growth stimulated by the long hours of daylight and sunshine.

Autumn can be described as a golden extension of summer which brings a dazzling display of colour to plants and foliage.

Winter is a time of rest for the garden... a time to plan for the following year.

Each season is part of the rhythm of God's wonderful creation.

Thank you to all the great folk who kindly donate flowers to enhance our beautiful church.

Moira Dryden

September 8th Margaret Stewart
September 22nd Harvest Service
Yvonne Hillyard,
Margaret Michael,
Dorothy Spence
September 29th Moira Scott

October 13th Morag Rennie
October 27th May Murdoch

November 10th Joan Campbell
November 24th Norma Horsburgh

December 8th Gillian Renwick
December 22nd Pat Lawrie

Rosewell Church Flower Rota 2019

September 1st 15th 29th	Ella Thomson Ellen Livingstone Joint Service at Lasswade
October 6th 20th	Kenny Wight Billy Grant
November 3rd 10th 17th	Una Warden Remembrance Sunday Agnes Anderson
December 1st 15th 29th	Jean Lindsay Xmas Flowers Joint Service at Rosewell

Many thanks to Sheila, May and Morag for offering their help with the flowers on a Sunday at Rosewell.

Jean Lindsay.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

After twelve years assisting with the Sunday School Jim Scott has decided to step down from his role of providing music for the children, as well as organising the pantomime visits, picnics, and Nativity Plays.

Steven Skirving presented Jim with a gift on behalf of the Sunday School at the annual Prizegiving service on the 2nd June, and the Minister presented him with a gift on behalf of the congregation, at our *Back to School* Service, on Sunday 25th. August, when she thanked him for his loyal service to the Sunday School over the years.

We hope that Jim will find his Sunday mornings a bit less hectic now.

Bonnyrigg & Lasswade Local History Society

The new session of the History Society commences on 16th October and once again a varied and interesting programme has been arranged.

16th October	History of the Usher Hall – Ruth Boreham
20th November	Rosewell Memorial Hall and Village at War 2014/18 Jim Renwick
11th December	Christmas Lunch – Broomieknowe Golf Club
15th January	The Life and Work of Dr Douglas Strachan – Herbert Dryden & Neil Stewart
19th February	Burke and Hare ; “The Real Story” – Professor Gordon Findlater
18th March	Dr Mary Noble Award – Climate Change Past and Present in Our Area
15th April	AGM

The Dr Mary Noble Award is presented annually, and the local primary schools submit entries for this which are always of a very high standard. With climate change being a very important topic, even with school children, it was decided this would be the subject this year.

If you are interested in becoming a member, or if you just want to come to one talk, you will be made most welcome. Meetings start at 7-30 pm and are held in the Pitcairn Centre.

Andrew Renwick
Chairman



As I come to the half way part of this project in Hopefield it's time to reflect and review where things are and where they might head. We have had some very successful ventures in the last few months. The Coffee Stop for a week in June was great fun and brought people together to share a coffee and a scone. A big thank you to church people who helped make it happen. But of course, it was much more than drinking coffee as

many new contacts were made, and relationships built. I am trying to plan how this might become a more regular feature of Hopefield life as it was so well received.

We are hoping to set up a community choir in the early autumn. This is not only for Hopefield people but for anyone in the Bonnyrigg area. You don't need to be able to read music or be familiar with a top C. Just have a love of singing. More details will come soon.

Thinking towards Christmas. I am working towards having a '*Nativity in Hopefield*' where we walk to the various scenes of the story in and around the estate. I need children to help with this so this is an invite to you to encourage primary school aged children you know or grandchildren who might be interested in being our actors.

There are many other ideas and plans that might well come to fruition over these next months as I follow up on ideas. I have come to see my job not as Pioneer Ministry but as *Let's Follow That Lead And See Where It Goes Ministry* – a longer title but describes well what I have been doing this last 2 ½ years!

The Path of Renewal programme that the churches are engaged in brings a new understanding of what it means to be church in our time and the work I am doing is one way to do church in a different way. But we all have to be engaged in that new way one way or another. Making scones for a Coffee Stop, coming along to a Hopefield Connections Does afternoon, inviting a friend to join the Community Choir, bringing someone along to the Colouring & Chat – all of these and others things yet unplanned are a way of being church in our area and keeping to Jesus' command to '*love one another*' I look forward to working alongside you all for another 2 ½ years to see what adventures we can have and what places God will lead us.

Elisabeth GB Spence
Pioneer Minister
Hopefield

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THE HOLY HIKERS

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

Henry David Thoreau



It has been a very tricky walking summer this year! Although we have had some beautiful spells of weather, it always seemed to be awful on the 2nd week of the month, with a few exceptions.

Our April walk led by Hilary & Glen was around Colinton. Seven of us (plus Fern the dog of course) had a nice, sunny but a little chilly, walk around Torphin, Spylaw Park & Colinton.

In May we travelled to Peebles. 14 walkers including a prospective new member had a superb walk round Cademuir Forest. Lovely day, amazing views, just what walking is about.

As you will have gathered, we are a fair-weather group. If we are out and get caught in bad weather it's OK, but if it's wet we don't even start. It is all downhill from here! The longer walk in June was cancelled due to rain, the Wednesday Evening walk was cancelled due to rain and the longer walk in August was also cancelled due to thunder storms around Selkirk.

I was on holiday in July and it was dry for the evening walk. (Is the weather trying to tell me something??)

Denise & Ian took a total of six walkers round Portobello. I say six walkers, but it was five plus a wheelchair.

I was delighted to hear that Helen and Walter had been able to go on this "wheelchair friendly" walk. Sorry I missed it!!

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

Happy Hiking

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

At the General Assembly held in May this year a great deal of discussion took place on a report submitted by a Special Commission which had been established to consider the effectiveness of the Council of Assembly, and an independent review of current governance structures. What was produced was a radical plan, not just any plan but a radical plan. This was discussed at great length over two days and some of the most radical decisions made at a General Assembly were made. At the end of proceedings, the Lord High Commissioner said that it was probably the most significant assembly since 1929.

So, what changes can we expect to see over the next couple of years?

An executive officer and twelve trustees will be appointed to oversee the governance of the Church, replacing the existing governance structure. The following are just some of the other changes we can expect:

A reduction in administrative costs within central organisation of the church by 20-30%;

Preparation to reduce the number of Councils from 6 into 2 groups;

Report to General Assembly 2020 on ways in which the composition and format of the General Assembly can more effectively and efficiently serve the work of the church;

The establishment of 12 regional presbytery structures by 2024 replacing the existing 43;

Prepare draft legislation for the General Assembly of 2020 to enable the establishment of networks, hubs and other forms of local church;

Review the size and responsibilities of Kirk Sessions;

Co-operation with other denominations in the provision of territorial ministry;

A reconfiguration of Ministries and Mission contributions.

In 2021 and subsequent years there shall be no increase in congregation's Ministries and Mission allocation over that which was asked in 2020 until such time as alternative arrangements have been approved by the General Assembly.

Many other changes will happen and the days of "its aye been" will now have to be changed to "it's going to be". We do not like change, but these radical changes are going to have to happen because in the past we have been reluctant to change, and the church has become an irrelevance to the majority of people here in Scotland.

The saying "if you always do what you have always done, you always get what you always got" has relevance to us here in our churches, so we will have to do things differently to give us a chance to have a future.

Andrew Renwick

DOUBLE CELEBRATION

It was a time of celebration for Margaret and Jim Aird who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 18th July. They then celebrated the milestone by renewing the wedding vows they took fifty years previously when they married in Cockpen Church.

During Morning Worship, the congregation along with many family and friends joined Jim and Margaret in a beautiful service conducted by the Minister, to mark their special occasion. After worship everyone was invited to join them for tea or coffee and cake.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

On Sunday the 17th of March Lorna visited the Sunday School. Due to taking two Services each week it was impossible for her to come to our normal meetings, but she was able to have someone take the Service at Rosewell & Lasswade and this meant she could join us on that day. Lorna introduced the children to Communion. Why we do it, How we do it, What it means to Christians. The following Sunday we had an All Age Communion Service at Cockpen & Carrington Church.

When we returned after the Easter Holidays, Agnes Renton told us about the resurrection of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit and how it affects all of us.

The Sunday school closed the Session with the Prize Giving at a Joint service at Rosewell Church on Sunday 2nd June. The children were presented with their prizes for Sunday School Attendance and two of the girls, Brodie Boyle and Layla Adam, were also presented with a Bible for Regular attendance as they were leaving Sunday School. We wish them all the best for the future.

After the Service we had our joint Church Picnic which was enjoyed by everyone.

Sunday School resumes on Sunday 25th August with a "Back to School All Age Service", at Cockpen & Carrington Church.

This will be my last article as I have decided to retire from Sunday School. I have enjoyed playing the music for the children for the last 12 years and I thank the Minister and Agnes for their help and support.

Thank you also to the children and the parents, I will miss you all.

Jim Scott



Share your news, views or ideas in the Christmas Issue of "The Link" send them to Magazine@church.cockpen.co.uk by Sunday, 3rd November 2019