

Cockpen & Carrington

# The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Harvest 2021



Church of Scotland

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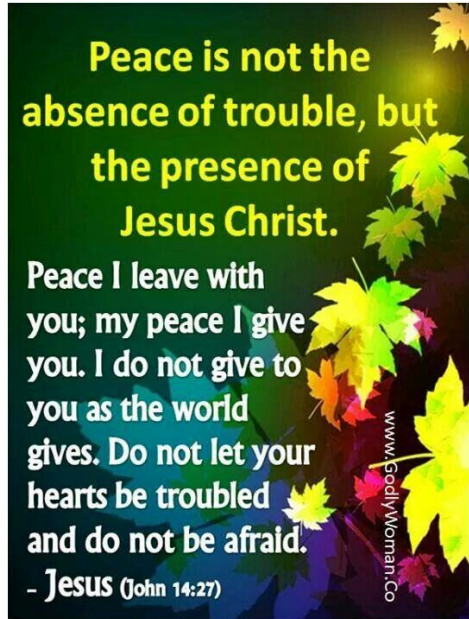
## From the Minister ...

It's been a long season of uncertainty, change and loss over the last 18 months and for many of us that's been a real struggle to face. And where does it end? How many of us would have been thinking this time last summer that we would still be coping with the pandemic at this point this year? In many ways as we press on to try and emerge from the impact of Covid-19 with lessening restrictions, a sense of greater insecurity returns amidst rising infection rates once more and uncertainty over where that will all lead. Can we learn to live with Covid-19 and get used to going about our lives more freely again?

Into the midst of this have come the unsettling proposals from the Presbytery Mission Plan. These bring further uncertainty and the suggestion of radical changes in order to steer a rescuing course through the critical challenges facing the Church of Scotland nationwide today, with a need for mission focus at their heart. It is distressing for many to be presented with the possibility that some of our beloved church buildings might close.

How do we respond? In thinking about that, my thoughts went to the story of Jesus calming the storm in Mark 4:35-41. In that story, the disciples in the boat with Jesus on the Sea of Galilee are overwhelmed with fear as the waves crash in and they think their end is coming. Jesus, on the other hand, is calm and fast asleep in the stern of the boat, entrusting himself entirely to his Father's purpose and care.

Our response to all the uncertainty surrounding us can flow in similar directions. On the one hand we may respond with fear and distress, feeling so buffeted by the waves of change coming in at us that we cannot



see a way forward. On the other, we may respond with Christ-centred calm, entrusting ourselves to Jesus's living presence and purpose and be assured that all will be well as we wait on him and abide in him. He can carry us through the storm if our hearts are firmly set on him as our Rock and Refuge. We can find hope in him whatever the future when our deepest desire is to serve him and honour him and give our all so that others can receive the assurance of his love and presence in their lives as well.

I used this reflection in the Harvest magazine back in August 2019 before our lives were so impacted by the pandemic. As I read it again now, it seems as true as ever... probably even more so to hold onto.

With all good wishes.

Your Minister,  
*Lorna Souter*

## **Cockpen & Carrington Church Covid-19 precautions**

From Sunday 15th August pre booking to attend a service is no longer required however we will still be recording details for Test & Protect. This can be done simply by giving your contact details to the member at the door, or (for those who want to tackle the electronic system) using the QR code displayed at the church which will take you to the Check In Scotland website or app.

I won't go into the details of using the QR code as the human at the door will be happy to use a pen, though you are of course welcome to try the alternative.

We will continue to operate at 1 metre social distancing at least for a while, and masks will still be required to be worn in the building.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

## SERVICES SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2021

Date	Lasswade & Rosewell at 10.00 am	Cockpen & Carrington at 11.30 am
5 Sept	Minister – Rosewell <b>Communion Service</b>	Minister
12 Sept	Minister - Lasswade	Minister
19 Sept Harvest	Minister – Rosewell All-age service	Minister – National Giving Day – All-age service
26 Sept	Minister and Elisabeth Spence - Lasswade	Minister and Elisabeth Spence
3 Oct	Minister – Rosewell	Minister and Members of Guild – Guild Dedication Service
10 Oct	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
17 Oct	Minister – Rosewell Climate Change: COP26 Service	Minister Climate Change: COP26 Service
24 Oct	Minister – All-age, Lasswade	Minister – All-age
31 Oct	Joint Service Rosewell Church - 10.00 am	
7 Nov	Minister – Rosewell	Minister <b>Communion Service</b>
14 Nov Remembrance Sunday	tbc – Lasswade* Minister – Rosewell at 10.50 am†	tbc
21 Nov	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
28 Nov 1st Advent	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
5 Dec 2nd Advent	Minister – Rosewell Toy Gift Service – All-age, Nativity	Minister Toy Gift Service – All-age, Nativity
12 Dec 3rd Advent	Minister – Lasswade	Minister Service of Remembering – 3pm
19 Dec 4th Advent	Minister – Rosewell	Minister Nine Lessons and Carols - 7pm

\* Lasswade War Memorial at 9.30 am;

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

Date	Lasswade & Rosewell at 10.00 am	Cockpen & Carrington at 11.30 am
26 Dec	tbc – Lasswade	tbc

### Additional Christmas Services

Friday 24 Dec Christmas Eve	Christingle Service – venue tbc – 6.00 pm	Watchnight Service – Cockpen & Carrington – 11.20 pm
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# WHO'S WHO

## MINISTER

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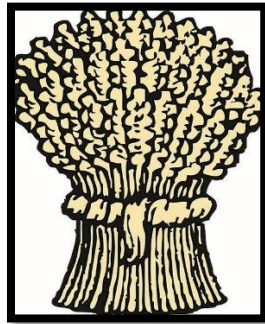
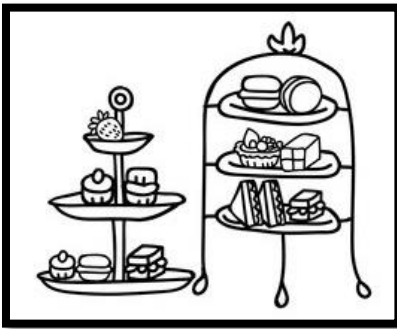
Cockpen & Carrington Parish Church (Church of Scotland) - Scottish Registered Charity SC013139  
Lasswade & Rosewell Parish Church (Church of Scotland) - Scottish Registered Charity SC015878

*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.*

# Hopefield Connections

As you will remember the Pioneer Minster post working in Hopefield is a five-year appointment which is due to come to an end in December 2021. As I have accepted a part time appointment as Congregational Support Worker at Newbattle Parish Church the post will now finish a little earlier at the beginning of October. September will be a time of endings and saying goodbye to the work, to the people and to the church. But we'll be around as we will still be living in Hopefield!

There will be a Celebration Afternoon Tea on Sunday 19th September where people who have been involved with Hopefield Connections, both from the church and the estate, will be invited along to spend time together over tea and scones.



On the week of 20th – 26th September there will be 12 Harvest Windows in the estate to discover with a Hopefield Connections Does Harvest event on Sunday 26th at 3pm. Also, on Sunday 26th I will be at morning service at Rosewell and Cockpen & Carrington to share all that we have done over the near five years – and leave you all with a wee suggestion of what might come next!

It has been my privilege to have been working in this post for the last five years and finding ways to *Make Connections*, *Build Community* and *Share Faith* with those who I live alongside in Hopefield and Bonnyrigg at large. I will say more at the service on 26th September, but we always need to remember there is work to be done for all of us who say we are followers of Jesus to go into the world in which we live to show his love.

Blessings to you and yours,

*Elisabeth*



# Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church

## From the Church Registers

### Bereavements

It is with sadness that we have lost the following people over the last few weeks. They are greatly missed.

Stella McLeish	17th March 2021
Alex Peden	29th March 2021
Margaret Robson	5th July 2021

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

21st August 2021	Kevin Donald to Olive Scott Bonnyrigg
28th August 2021	Callum Mackenzie to Rachael Bradshaw Dalkeith

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





## From the Treasurer

I would like to thank everyone who throughout the pandemic has continued to give their Freewill Offerings, Standing Orders, and many donations. Like many others, the church has suffered a huge drop in its income over the last 18 months. With our hall being closed and strong isolating rules in place we have been unable to allow outside groups to hire the hall, which brings in much needed income for us. Our regular coffee mornings and various fundraising events were also unable to take place.

The generosity of our members has allowed us to keep our 'head above water' for which we are extremely grateful to everyone.

*M. Logan*

Treasurer, Cockpen & Carrington Church

## Sunday Tea Rota

At the time of going to print it is not clear when we will be able to resume enjoying a cup of tea together after worship. However, in anticipation of us being able to resume this practice, a rota has been made up in readiness.

September 26th	Helen Renton Wilma Sweeney
October 3rd	Dot Scott Moiria Scott
November 14th	Nancy Richardson Mary Logan
December 12th	Madge Commins Liz MacDonald

## 90th Birthday Congratulations

The 19th June was a very special day for Janet Laidlaw when she celebrated her ninetieth birthday. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions she was unable to have a large celebration. Janet did not lose out, however, as she celebrated with various members of her family at different times throughout the week.



Unfortunately, due to travel restrictions her daughter, Margaret, was unable to come from her home in Spain, where she lives, to join her mum. Her son Kenneth and his wife did, however, manage to travel up from their home in Devon to celebrate with Janet. Janet is never happier than when she is in the company of her children, Grandchildren, and Great Grandchildren.

## **Golden Wedding Celebrations**

Two couples from our church enjoyed a wonderful occasion this summer when they celebrated their Golden Wedding. Jim and Dot Scott celebrated their day on the 11th June, and Walter and Helen Renton on the 3rd July. Congratulations to both couples.

### **Golden Wedding 11 June 1971 – 11 June 2021**

We would like to thank all our friends for the lovely flowers, gifts, cards and good wishes on our recent Golden Wedding Anniversary. Due to Covid restrictions we could not have the kind of celebration we hoped for, but we did enjoy time with our close family. Thank you once again, it really is most appreciated.

*Dot & Jim Scott*

**Harvest Thanksgiving**  
will be celebrated on  
Sunday 19th September  
in  
Cockpen & Carrington Church

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

## **The Guild**

After many months of being unable to meet together we hope to commence our meetings again on Monday 4th October in the hall at 7:30pm. The session 2021-2022 is the first of our new strategy “Look Forward in Faith”.

The theme for 2021-22 is “Lights and bushels”, which will lead on to the themes “Wee Seeds Big Trees” and “New Wine, New Wineskins”.

A service of dedication will be held in the church on Sunday 3rd October with members of the Guild participating. Our guest speaker on 4th October will be the Minister.

## **BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL**

We are once again at the time of thinking about preparing our shoeboxes for the Blythswood Christmas Shoebox Appeal ready for collection in October to ensure safe arrival at their 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 75,218 boxes were distributed by Blythswood Care, despite the restrictions of the pandemic.

If you intend packing a box this year for this wonderful cause, copies of the checklists, which are required to be attached to the boxes for customs purposes will be available from Mrs Liz Mills. Contact details as above on Who's Who.

The closing date for handing these boxes in is Sunday 17th October.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

It was an extremely proud day in the Spence household back in June, when Denise was awarded a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Denise was awarded her very deserved CBE for Services to Girl Guiding and we eagerly await to see photographs of her big day at the palace.

Congratulations Denise.

## Hopefield Coffee Stop



Two new little furry friends were welcomed to the Coffee Stop team. Chester (*pictured left*) is the addition to the family of Elisabeth and Denise Spence. Chester is a lovely three-year-old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel.

Sophie (*pictured right*) is the new addition for May and Ian Murdoch. Sophie is a lovely one year old Cocker Spaniel.

These two little dogs have brought a huge amount of pleasure into the lives of both families, and all their aunts at the Coffee Stop.

(See article on page 34)



## FROM THE ORGANIST

Two years ago at this time, as it was the choir's 'off season', I contributed an article explaining how Cockpen Church came to acquire its present organ in 1888. I said then I would aim to follow this up with an article saying a bit more about the instrument itself - rather belatedly I have now got round to doing so!

The organ was built and installed by the Manchester-based firm of Wadsworth. The firm had fairly recently established a Scottish branch in Aberdeen, and indeed many of its instruments are still to be found across the north-east of Scotland. Their appearance in the central belt was much less frequent however and to the best of my knowledge there is only one other Wadsworth organ in the Lothians area, in North Leith Parish Church (which I had the pleasure of playing a couple of years ago at the wedding of Wendy Drake's daughter!). How the Cockpen Session came to appoint Wadsworth and whether they looked at any of its competitors are I'm afraid matters lost in the mists of time, but the end result was a well-built instrument which has stood the test of time.

The organ has a fairly typical layout for a middle-sized instrument of its era. It has three keyboards in all, the two 'manuals' played by your hands plus the pedal-board played by your feet. Each of these has a number of 'stops', i.e. the different sounds playable on it, the two manuals having seven stops each and the pedal-board three. Each of the stops can be put on or off by way of the levers on either side of the manuals, which have to be manipulated as you go along. To assist the process the organ also has a number of foot pedals allowing combinations of stops to be added or removed simultaneously. Finally, all of the upper manuals stops are contained within a large wooden box with shutters on the front and sides which can be open and closed by another foot pedal, thereby giving an increase or reduction in the overall sound. You will gather therefore that there is quite a bit to be handled in addition to playing the actual notes!

I suspect that some people assume that the pipes you see on the front of the instrument produce all of the sound, but this is very far from the case! Each of the individual stops has a pipe for each note on the keyboard to which it relates, except for three stops which have two pipes for each note. By my calculation the grand total of pipes within the organ is 1,042. Some are made of metal and some of wood and they vary in length from 8 feet to a couple of inches but I think this will give you some idea of why new pipe organs are very expensive. Incidentally, if anyone would

like to see a full list of the individual stops this can be found at the end of Helen Renton's excellent booklet "Across the Years in Cockpen Church".

The church's records disclose that the price paid for the construction of the organ in 1888 was £350. The wonders of modern technology tell me that the equivalent in today's money would be around £47,000. This though gives a stark demonstration of how costs of both materials and labour have increased in real terms over the years as that sum would not get near to covering the cost of producing an equivalent instrument today, of which I think a conservative estimate would be £200,000.

We are indeed fortunate that our predecessors had the foresight to bequeath us an instrument equipped to lead the worship of successive generations - £350 may not sound much to us now but it must have represented a major commitment on the part of the congregation of 1888, when the average annual income was around £40. It sounds as well today as when it was installed over 130 years ago and with little more than regular maintenance it should continue to do so more or less indefinitely. Let us hope it has that opportunity!

GMB

August 2021

## Thanksgiving

The year has turned its circle,  
The seasons come and go,  
The harvest all is gathered in  
And chilly north winds blow.  
Orchards have shared their treasures,  
The fields their yellow grain,  
So open wide the doorway-  
Thanksgiving comes again!



## News from the Knit and Natter Group

Despite lockdowns, social distancing, and restrictions in meeting up with each other, many of the Knit & Natter ladies have been “Working from Home”, where perhaps more knitting than nattering was done. Very favourable comments were received on our Easter projects: the Daffodil Cross at the Church and the yarn bombing at the Church Hall.

Approached by local schools, we were asked to participate in the Mid-Mouse Project 2021, which is a Midlothian transition project to support children moving from nursery class to school. Each child would be given a mouse before the end of term and would take part in various transition activities at nursery and at home. When the child starts school, they will take their mouse with them and it is hoped it will help them settle in.

Some of us knitted Butterflies for a ‘Solving Kids Cancer Project’. Helen completed 17 Syringe Driver Bags after a request from the Midlothian Community Hospital. Well done Helen and thank you to all the other ladies who are always willing to take part in these projects.





We hope to resume our weekly meetings of the Knit and Natter group commencing, on Thursday 9th September in the hall at 1.30pm. Anyone is welcome to come along and join in with the chat, and also share ideas and suggestions, with knitting, sewing, and crochet ideas. Look forward to catching up with everyone again.

## Cockpen Church drawing



This is a drawing of our beautiful church at Cockpen, which my granddaughter decided to do to cheer up her old grandfather to help him to cope with all the difficulties with the pandemic etc that we are all experiencing. It is even more remarkable because she herself had even greater problems as a university student coping with lock down in a student flat with limited contact with the outside world and having to study remotely. She actually apologised and said in her letter ‘I know that the church is very precious to you and that it is symbolic in our family, I am sorry if the drawing looks a bit patchy. I am not very good with landscape/building drawings, but I felt that it was important to at least give it my best despite my limited ability’.

For me it helps restore my faith in human nature, all is not lost, there are young people out there who are able to ‘fly the flag’ and carry on for a brighter future for all of us.

*Jim Young*

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## Flower Rota Lasswade Church

We are looking forward to having services in Lasswade Church in the Autumn.

It will be great to celebrate the spectacular season with the glorious colours of the Harvest. It has been described as the season of mellow fruitfulness and, in some ways, it is a sign of the earth slowing down before the seasonal cycle begins again.

Over the years I have been helped with many faithful 'flower folk' who have produced beautiful flowers which have gone on to bring joy to others.

12th September.	Dorothy Spence
26th September.	Moira Dryden
10th. October.	Nita Adams
24th October.	Margaret Gordon
14th November.	Joan Campbell
28th November.	Gillian Renwick
12th December.	Pat Lawrie
26th December.	Dorothy Spence

If you would like to be part of the Lasswade Flower Rota please let me know.

Thank you.

*Moira Dryden*

# New Horizons

In the Chambers English Dictionary one of the definitions of “horizon” is “the limit of one’s experience or apprehension”. Over the last fifteen months or so the computer and technical experts have moved our experiences of worship away from the weekly coming together in our local churches to the reality of zoom and other outlets and they must be thanked for all they have done and achieved. However, are our horizons about to be broadened further?

We are all aware that over the last few years the Church of Scotland has been facing financial and manpower challenges and these are now being addressed on a national level and proposals on a possible course of action have been sent out to Presbyteries and Sessions for consideration. If these proposals, and at the moment they are only proposals, are accepted and implemented then the building which we know as Lasswade Church may face a different future. In this article I am only talking about Lasswade and any thoughts or views expressed are mine on a personal basis.

The “Church” is the people. The church building is a convenient place for people to come together to meet and worship with one another, but people can become attached to a building for different reasons. While I can accept in principle the reasoning behind the proposals that have been circulated nationally, I do have concerns about the furnishings with Lasswade. My understanding is that, when we celebrate the Lord’s Supper in the Church of Scotland, we do so in the form of a communion service, a communion not just with those around us but with those who have gone before us whether they be family members or friends who worshipped with us in this place. In Lasswade we are constantly reminded of the craftsmen and craft ladies who gave so much of their skills and talents to enrich our building.

Many of you will know that my paternal Grandfather was one of the craftsmen who were involved in installing the woodwork when the building was renovated in 1894 and included in my Grandfather’s work was the splendid pulpit in pitch pine with its wide preaching area and stairways on either side. The pulpit is an excellent example of the United Presbyterians getting away from the narrow pulpits of earlier times. A member of the congregation paid for the cost of the pulpit. We are also blessed in having

three stained glass Memorial Windows plus the Dove Window at the front of the church. In addition, we are fortunate to have a number of pulpit falls, most of them crafted by Mrs. Inga Blair. The Baptismal Font, Communion Table and Lectern are all dedicated to former members. The bell, belfry, porch and some of the larger trees in the garden were all gifted around 1894. We must not forget the numerous memorials and plaques we have to those who made the Supreme Sacrifice. I have only touched the surface.

If the building undergoes a change of use in the next few years then I hope that the items which I have mentioned in the preceding paragraph will be preserved, if not in the present building then resited and, if necessary, rebuilt in a new location. I do not want to see the pulpit and windows scrapped - and I shall be very sad if that happens. Has the time come to consider establishing an Ecclesiastical Museum to house all these furnishings and more?

And here is another thought to consider. If the aforementioned furnishings are to be resited should the surviving family members of those remembered or who donated the items be contacted to give their approval for the resiting or given the opportunity to take them back?

As I said these are only my own views and in no way do I commit anyone to agreeing with them. We have to accept that, hard though it is, things may have to change bringing with it fresh challenges. I feel, however, that we have to be careful with certain of our furnishings.

*Through all the changing scenes of life,  
In trouble and in joy,  
The praises of my God shall still  
My heart and tongue employ.*

Nahum Tate 1652-1715 and  
Nicholas Brady 1659-1726

HLRD



## Just as I am

I don't know if there are any others like me, who on the odd occasion on waking up in the morning, have something going through their mind and have the urge to get up and commit these thoughts to print before they are gone from your thoughts.

One morning recently I woke up with the words of the first verse of the Hymn 'Just as I am' in my head and I thought what is that all about.

Just as I am, Thine own to be  
Friend of the young, who lovest me  
To consecrate myself to thee  
Oh Jesus Christ I come

It got me thinking about parenthood and how as a parent you are called upon to advise and guide your children through the sometimes-difficult paths of life. To direct them on which course to take that's best suited for their abilities. At this time, you are usually quite busy yourself, working full time, trying to forge ahead in your own career and you don't always have the time to give your full attention to your kids.

Fast forward that to when you become a grandparent. What a joy. A time in your life when you are well established in your job or maybe even having taken early retirement, with the consequential increase of time on your hands. You have these eager young minds seeking you out. The font of knowledge to them. These grandchildren, whom you have grown to love and for whom you are determined should get the best life has to offer. More importantly you have learned more along life's journey particularly the need to listen and not be judgemental. Just like you were told in 'counselling' lectures during career training.

This role, of listening and counselling, I believe we also have as Christians, of whatever denomination, in our community. We have been taught the lessons from the bible and now we pass these lessons on. We must spread the word, become a beacon of light in the world so that others can see the true face of Christianity, that they might also know of God's love and of his son Jesus Christ who gave his life that our sins might be forgiven.

If our church is to survive, we must meet this challenge head on and take this role more seriously.

ANON



## Sunsets and Sunrises

No matter what is going on in the world, we are assured that every day the sun will set and rise, each bringing forth a new day full of hope.

(SEE ECCLESIASTES 1: 5)



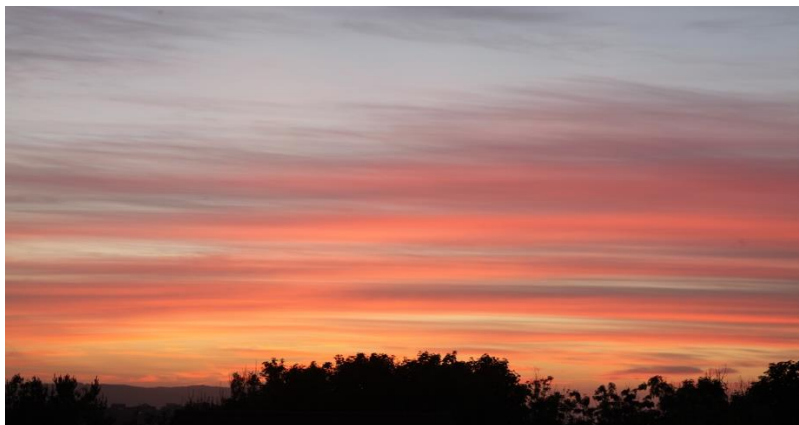
### **SUNRISE LATE JUNE**

If you look carefully in the left-hand side, you'll see the three towers of the Queensferry Crossing.



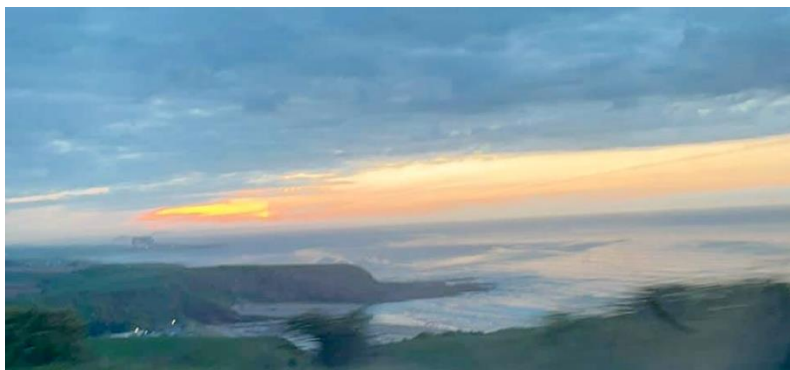
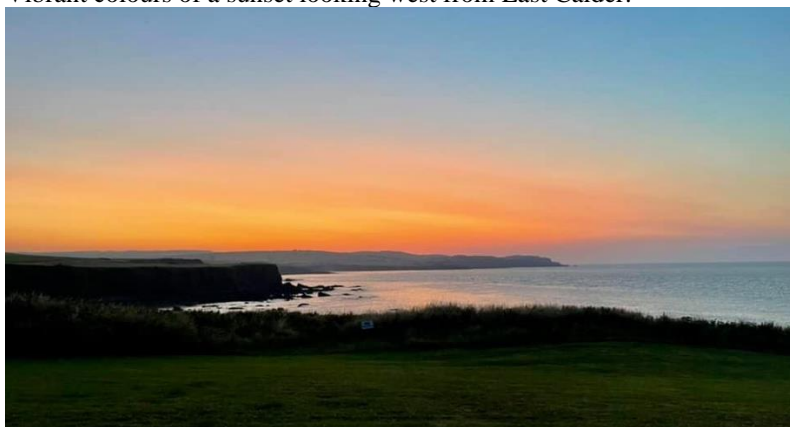
### **SUNRISE LATE JUNE – East Calder**

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### **SUNSET LATE JUNE**

Vibrant colours of a sunset looking west from East Calder.



**TWO PHOTOS ABOVE** – Sunsets from Eyemouth looking towards Coldingham Bay.

*John Adamson*

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# THE HOLY HIKERS

“All walking is discovery. On foot we take  
the time to see things whole”

*Hal Borland.*



It certainly has been a long time since our last walk in March 2020, but we have tried to keep in touch with most of the members of the group during the pandemic.

With the further release of restrictions on 9th August, I plan to re-start the group cautiously and try to avoid car sharing for a further few months, so we all feel comfortable. With that in mind I have made our first 3 walks local.

Walk 1 Dalhousie/Burnbrae on Saturday 14th August.

Walk 2 Newbattle/Red Woods on Saturday 11th September.

Walk 3 Lasswade/Mavisbank/Polton on Saturday 9th October.

All these walks are approximately 5 miles in length and will be weather permitting. We will meet at 11am in the car park in George V Park. It will be great to be back walking together.

I realise that the “Link” will not be issued until after the first walk but hopefully I will be able to report on it in the next issue.

Happy Hiking,

*Jim Scott*

*Photograph on page 25.*



# Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota

Hello Everyone,

Hope you are all keeping safe and well.

It's been a long time since we had a Flower List in our Church Magazine.

Here is the list for the remainder of the year. If I have given you a date that is not suitable please let me know and hopefully, we can come to some arrangement. You can contact me on 0131 663 8517 or in Church.

*Nancy*

## 2021

<b>September</b> 5 12 19 26	Liz MacDonald Nancy Richardson Dorothy Bennett	<b>October</b> 3 10 17 24 31	Jim Dyer / Guild Liz MacDonald Wilma Sweeney John Adamson Liz Mills
<b>November</b> 7 14 21 28	Lynsey Stevenson Bill Taylor	<b>December</b> 5 12 19 26	Betty Finlay Pat Mitchell Dorothy, Helen & Catherine Liz Laidlaw



# To the tune W...’s gaun tae Melville Castle

(he’s gaun tae wash his hauns)

- 1        ‘Av washed ma haunds ten times a day  
not doing it any more  
the soap is sliver-like again  
like umpteen times afore  
it gets sae wee it slips awa’  
a find a cannae cope  
it’s time tae play that game again  
          “Chasin’ the soap”

## chorus

**Oh wash your hands ten times a day  
and stay 6 feet apart  
wear a mask tae hide the smile  
that’s how to play your part  
you’ll see how you can get along  
now folk can’t see your face  
an’ yir no’ allowed tae sing the song  
          except in open space—**

- 2        Ma fingertips are not aw there  
          ‘n the soap kens that fu’ weel  
it scooshes out between ma stumps  
you’ll guess just how a feel  
aroon the water in the sink  
a touch and grab and grope  
am back tae playin’ that game again  
          “Chasin’ the soap”

- 3        But once I’ll get a fresh new bar  
of soap tae wash ma mitts  
if Covid lasts another year  
it’s gonnæ be the pits  
new bar or sliver’s just the same  
I’ll join the Band of Hope  
an’ we’ll aw’ pray to give me strength  
          so I can “find the soap”.

*Walter Renton*



## LASSWADE AND ROSEWELL PARISH CHURCH NEWS...

### **Vision Statement:**

**‘All journeying together in faith and  
trust to share God’s love’**

As the restrictions ease and we head into Autumn let’s take the time to cherish the people we have missed, nurturing our friendships, renewing our relationships, spending time with our families – we have a lot of catching up to do. Let’s never forget how extraordinary it is to be in each other’s company again.

### **Lasswade Church is opening again for Sunday Worship:**

We look forward to welcoming you back to Lasswade Church for worship on Sunday 12th September at 10.00 a.m. (please see the service rota page for more details).

### **Joint Service:**

A warm welcome is extended to everyone to our next joint service on Sunday 31st October at **Rosewell** at 10.00 a.m. There will be no services at Cockpen & Carrington or Lasswade.

We extend a warm invitation to join us at our  
**Harvest Service**  
on Sunday 19th September at 10.00 a.m.  
at Rosewell Church



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



## **Coffee Mornings:**

We are delighted to announce that our monthly Coffee Mornings will be starting again on Saturday 9th October 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.



## **BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL 2021**



It is time once again to start thinking about filling a shoebox – the articles do not need to be expensive but are appreciated whatever the gift. Please do not feel you have to fill a box - loose donations will be welcome and will be incorporated. Leaflets are available at both Lasswade and

Rosewell churches giving details of suitable items. Once filled please bring them along to church on Saturday, 9th October to Rosewell Church Hall between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon.

Please contact Dorothy Spence (07445139138) if any further details are required.

Blythswood have been on the go for many years, work all the year round, have a base in many of the Eastern European Countries, so please be assured; these donations will go directly to the right destinations!!

Thank you for your support.

# CHURCH REGISTER

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

Mr Gordon and Mrs Anne Wemyss from Edinburgh, St Cuthbert's

## Bereavements

We would ask that you remember and pray for the families and friends of:

Mrs Julie Sedowofia	3rd January 2021
Mrs Betty Hogg	10th February 2021
Mrs Janet McFarlane	2nd May 2021
Mrs Martha Black	22nd June 2021

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

## Did you know shopping at Amazon you can help raise funds for Lasswade & Rosewell Church?

The church has a Charitable status with Amazon UK.

To enable Amazon to donate to us you should use [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) on your web browser, where you will be prompted to select a charitable organisation. From the list choose Lasswade & Rosewell Church. Amazon will give 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT & postage) of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to our account.

Should you have any queries or need any help, please contact Pat Lawrie on [pjflawrie@gmail.com](mailto:pjflawrie@gmail.com)

## **A Good Friend:**

- Laughs with you
- Sticks around when things get tough
- Makes you smile
- Is there to listen
- Comforts you when you cry
- Is there for you no matter what
- Doesn't judge you
- Is someone whose company you enjoy
- Is loyal
- Is trustworthy and willing to tell you the truth, even when it's hard for you to hear.

## **Smarties Cookies**

100g butter softened  
100g light muscovado sugar  
1 tablespoon syrup  
150g S.R. flour  
85g smarties (approx 3 tubes)

### **Method:**

Oven 180C Grease baking trays.

Cream together butter, sugar and syrup. Work in flour and smarties. Roll into balls and place well apart on baking trays.

Bake 12 –15 mins until pale golden at the edges. Enjoy.

Note: your empty smartie tubes can be filled with coins and handed into church.



# Desmond Doss: an unlikely hero

In 1962, on the one hundredth anniversary of the creation of the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest military award of the United States, it was Desmond Doss, 7 February 1919 – 23 March 2006, who was selected by his fellow medal winners, to represent them at the White House to meet President Kennedy. Yet Desmond never carried a rifle or fired a shot. He was a conscientious objector, or as he preferred to call it, a non-combatant.

Religion was to Desmond Doss a direct and personal thing. Raised in a Seventh Day Adventist home, he received his entire formal education in a one-room Adventist School and was active in a Seventh Day Adventist Church. On the wall of the living room of his family home in Lynchburg, Virginia, there hung a framed scroll depicting the Ten Commandments. Desmond was fascinated by this. Each commandment was illustrated by a drawing. He was particularly gripped by the sixth commandment, “Thou shalt not kill”, depicting Cain and Abel. Standing often on a chair to get closer to the scroll, he took that commandment to heart. Towards the end of his life, in the preface to a book by his second wife, Frances, he wrote about his God-given experiences:

“God wrote the Ten Commandments on tablets of stone with His own finger.” <sup>1</sup>.

How then did Desmond Doss come to be awarded not only the Congressional Medal of Honor, but also a Bronze Star for Valor, several campaign medals and the Presidential Unit Citation, given to the 1st Battalion 307th Infantry Regiment, 77th Infantry Division, for securing the Maeda Escarpment on Okinawa, an island in the Pacific?

Desmond was a wartime company aid man, one of three medical soldiers, or medics, assigned to an infantry company. He treated his first casualties on patrol on Guam, followed by Leyte in the Philippines, where his best friend and fellow medic, Clarence Glenn, was killed, despite the desperate efforts of Desmond and others to treat him and carry him to safety. Experience had shown that Japanese soldiers were instructed to seek out and kill medical soldiers in the correct assumption that it would affect morale. Desmond continued to refuse to carry a weapon. Then came the ferocious battle for Okinawa, where he, between 29 April and 21 May 1945, was involved in the struggle to control the Maeda Escarpment, a 400-foot-high cliff and its hinterland. Years later a monument with a marble plaque was placed there. It reads:

“This Seventh Day Adventist medical aid man, of the 77th Infantry Division received the Congressional Medal of Honor for Valor during the Battle for the Maeda Escarpment. Pfc Doss remained on top of the escarpment after his unit was driven off, searched for the wounded men, carried 75 of them to the edge of the cliff and lowered them over the side in a rope litter”. <sup>2</sup>. \*

This does not fully explain that Desmond had been there during the Japanese counterattack, running from one fallen man to the next, doing what he could, secure in his conviction that when he was aiding his fellow men, God was looking after him.

The 2016 feature film, “Hacksaw Ridge”, criticised by some for being too violent, gives a convincing picture of this. The Desmond T Doss Council, which had previously made a documentary of his life, had been authorised by Desmond to sanction such a film if it glorified God and would teach people to trust in the Lord. That remains an open question, but it does reflect Desmond’s conviction, dedication and the calming influence his example had on his comrades. Before the initial assault, Lieutenant Gornito asked him to lead the men in prayer, an incident portrayed in the film.

“Our heavenly Father, please give our Lieutenant wisdom and understanding so that he can give us the right orders, because our lives will be in his charge. Please give each and every one of us the wisdom and understanding concerning how to take all the safety measures necessary in order that, if it be Thy will, Oh Lord, we may all come back alive. And further we ask that if there be any here, who are not prepared to meet their Maker, they prepare themselves now through prayer, before they climb the cliff. We ask all this in Jesus’ name.”<sup>3</sup>.

In subsequent action he was badly wounded by grenade and sniper fire in arm and leg and eventually evacuated to Guam by hospital ship, flown to Hawaii and then to Fort Lewis, Washington State. He reached there two months later. During his initial rescue by litter bearer, he again showed his faith and fortitude, by insisting that they replace him on the litter with a soldier whose head wound Desmond noticed and saw to be more serious than his own.

Post war he did not have the healthy, restful life he needed, with TB in both lungs and the eventual removal of one. In 1975 he became totally deaf, relieved to a degree by cochlear implant, in 1988. In 1991 his wife, Dorothy, died in a car accident, when he was driving. Her gift of a Bible he had kept with him throughout his war service, had been read by him for comfort and encouragement on a daily basis. His health gradually deteriorated until his death on 23 March 2006, at 87 years of age. According to Les Speer, his pastor for several years leading up to his death, “this humble, selfless man of great faith credited God with his courage, bravery, valor under fire and his survival”.

## References

1. Doss, Frances M. *Desmond Doss: conscientious objector: the story of an unlikely hero*. Nampa, Idaho : Pacific Press, 2005. Page 8.
2. Herndon, Booton. *Redemption at Hacksaw Ridge*. Coldwater, MI : Remnant Publications, 2016. Page 176.
3. Ibid. Page 100.

*Bill MacDonald*

\* A rope litter is a type of rescue basket used in the field.

## THE STORY OF SOPHIE



On the 25th April our beloved dog of six years, Muffin, died very suddenly. Our house was empty, and our hearts broken at his passing over the Rainbow Bridge. However, some weeks later May learned from a lady visiting Hopefield Coffee Stop about a spaniel rescue centre in Fife. After contact with them we were so very blessed to become owners of a beautiful little Cocker Spaniel called Sophie.

Unfortunately, Sophie had been badly treated by her previous owners, but I am pleased to say that she has gained in confidence since coming to stay with us. She has filled a huge gap in our lives and has made a pleasant change to the

atmosphere of our house. We hope that she will now experience a long and happy safe doggie life.

*May & Ian Murdoch*



## Life throughout the pandemic

Over the past year and a half most of us have experienced a lifestyle change. Finding things difficult for many, this was a time for ourselves and our church to help others. This was brought home to me in the month of February when we experienced a few days of very heavy snow and freezing conditions. One Tuesday morning our phone rang early and a voice at the other end said, “Hi May, this is Norma”. The thinking cap went on to try and think who Norma was. This was soon solved with more detail and turned out to be a past Sunday School pupil some 30 years previously, who had moved away some time ago but had now returned to the area. Due to the harsh weather, she was calling to ask if we needed any shopping or errands done. What a lovely thought after all this time and she told me it was her intention to contact others.

In this day and age there are few Sunday Schools remaining, but most things are built around our lovely young people, and they grow. I trust and pray that they will remember those of our churches working hard to build the future and remind them that church is for all to work together.

I know there will be a formal tribute to Herbert Dryden for the years of faithfully playing the organ in Lasswade Church. However, as a member of his choir over many years it is such a great loss to see him retire. He is a great loss. There are many fond memories to be had, not just singing in church, but with the many times we would gather together in fellowship. A big thank you also to Moira for all the lovely cooking and food that she always so generously provided.

Your choir greatly loved and respected you Herbert, a true gentleman who will be very much missed by all. We do hope you enjoy your retirement.

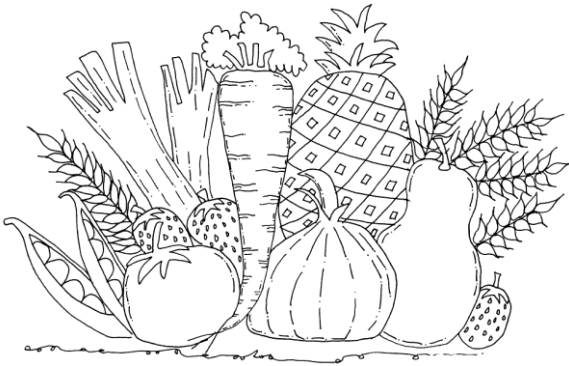
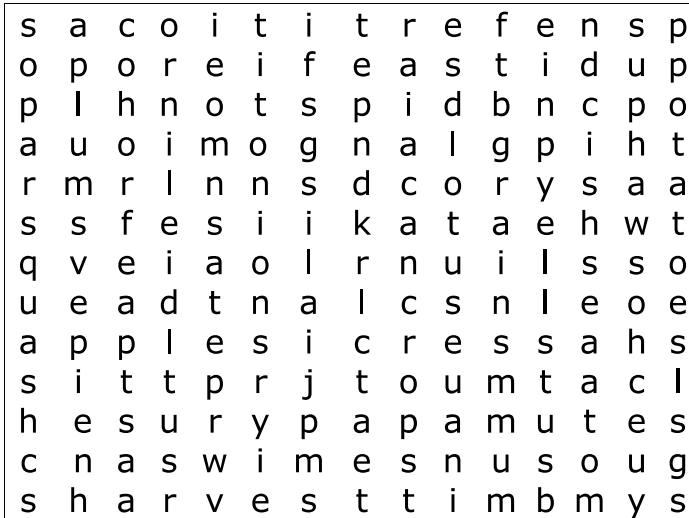
*May Murdoch*



# Harvest Word Search

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harvest  
crops  
feast  
grains  
wheat  
apples  
plums  
potatoes  
onions  
squash

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Share your news, views or ideas in the Christmas Issue of “The Link” send them to [Magazine@church.cockpen.co.uk](mailto:Magazine@church.cockpen.co.uk) by Sunday, 7th November 2021.