

Cockpen & Carrington

The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Harvest 2022



Church of Scotland

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From the Minister ...



In the last little while in the garden at the manse there has been the joy of the beautiful fragrances from a number of the roses in bloom and also the colourful sweet peas. Whether walking by and catching the fragrance on the breeze or stopping to enjoy the scent of a flower, it is wonderful. Research now shows that such scents can trigger a response of relaxation in the brain, so it's very well worth doing whenever we have the opportunity!

More recently, too, with my Lectio 365 Prayer App, I was reading about another wonderful fragrance. It came in the story of Jesus's visit to the home of Martha and Mary and their brother, Lazarus, in John chapter 12 verses 1-3. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the grave and the family throw a dinner in Jesus's honour. During the meal, Mary takes a pound of costly perfume and anoints Jesus's feet with it. It was her way of expressing welcome and gratitude to Jesus, doing so in the most extraordinary, extravagant way she possibly could. And we read that the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume – a fragrance that represented love, thankfulness and generosity.

The Prayer App set the thought of wondering what fragrance fills our own homes. Is it the fragrance of gratitude, generosity and hospitality, or something quite different? As we love and serve Jesus in and through our lives, what fragrance would we like to fill our homes and be evident to those who visit in order to bless them?

We can also wonder about what fragrance fills our lives. The Apostle Paul speaks about this in 2 Corinthians chapter 2 and verses 14-15. He says there that God can use us to spread the knowledge of Jesus everywhere, like a sweet fragrance, as we seek to live our lives for him. That's quite a responsibility! But we can pray that the fragrance that fills our lives and is evident to others will be of love, kindness and generosity in following the example of Jesus. And in these times that have been so tough and changeable for so many, it is a wonderful thing to be able to offer to others the fragrance of comfort, peace, joy and hope in Jesus's name from the comfort and hope we receive through our trust in him. Quite a few of the articles in this magazine are examples of that happening which is a joy to read about!

With all good wishes.

Your Minister,

Lorna Souter

Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church

From the Church Registers

Bereavements

10 March 2022	William McFADDEN
7 May 2022	Jim CRAWFORD
16 June 2022	Andrew SHARPE
20 June 2022	Maureen PEDEN

We remember all the families in our prayers.

We continue to pray for those in our Congregations (and outwith) who grieve at this time of loss. As a Church, we are here for any who feel that we can help in any way.

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

Weddings

21 May 2022	Kenneth HOGG to Lisa JARDINE
2 July 2022	William McOWEN to Susan McNEISH

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



SERVICES SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2022

DATE	LASSWADE & ROSEWELL (10.00 am)	COCKPEN & CARRINGTON (11.30 am)
4 September	Minister – Rosewell Communion Service	Minister
11 September	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
18 September	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
25 September Harvest	Minister – Lasswade All-age Service	Minister All-age Service
2 October	Minister – Rosewell	Minister and Guild for Guild Dedication Service
9 October	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
16 October	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
23 October	Minister – Lasswade All-age Service	Minister All-Age Service
30 October	Joint Service at Cockpen & Carrington 11:30 am The Minister	
6 November	Minister – Rosewell	Minister Communion Service
13 November Remembrance Sunday	Worship Team – Lasswade* Minister – Rosewell at 10am †	Minister
20 November Christ the King Sunday	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
27 November Advent 1	Minister – Lasswade All-age service	Minister All-age service
4 December Advent 2	Minister – Rosewell Toy Gift Service	Minister Toy Gift Service
11 December Advent 3	Minister – Lasswade	Minister 3pm – Service of Remembering
18 December Advent 4	Minister – Rosewell	Minister 7pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
25 December Christmas Day	Minister – Lasswade	Minister

Additional Christmas Services

Saturday 24 December Christmas Eve	Christingle Service Rosewell – 6pm	Watchnight Service Cockpen & Carrington 11:20pm
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* Lasswade War Memorial at 9:30am

† Rosewell War Memorial at 10:50am; also Polton War Memorial at 3pm

WHO'S WHO

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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.

Organist for 50 years

On Sunday 24th April a Songs of Praise service was held in church when hymns old and new were sung to celebrate our bicentenary. At the service we also celebrated the occasion of Graham Burnside's 50 years' service as Organist and Choirmaster at Cockpen and Carrington.

Graham was presented with gifts from the congregation, and everyone joined together in fellowship after the service for a light lunch.



Christian Aid

The sum of £640 was raised this year for Christian Aid by an envelope collection, Tea and Toast morning, and church teas. Christian Aid acknowledged this donation with a letter of thanks.

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KNIT AND NATTER



The group continues to be very popular with several new ladies coming along and joining us. Prior to closing for the summer months, we knitted teddy bears to welcome Ukrainian families to the town along with a sunflower mat which has hung outside the church hall. Bonnyrigg Primary School also requested 72 little knitted mice for their nursery children and throughout this time the ladies continued to knit for SIMBA and Simpsons premature babies. In early May we all enjoyed a lovely Afternoon Tea at Angelina's Coffee Snug in Rosewell.

Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota 2022

September 4 11 18 25	Liz MacDonald Dot Scott Dorothy Bennett Ian Bee	November 6 13 20 27	Lynsey Stevenson Bill Taylor Liz MacDonald
October 2 9 16 23 30	Jim Dyer The Guild Wilma Sweeney John Adamson Liz Mills	December 4 11 18 25	Betty Finlay Pat Mitchell Dorothy, Helen & Katherine Liz Laidlaw

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

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

Nancy



New Members

We were happy to welcome two new members to our church in April from Sherwood Greenlaw Parish Church in Paisley, Tom and Jean Somerville. We hope that they have felt welcome among us and look forward to the time when they get to know us all better. Jean has already become a member of the Guild.

Spectacles

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

They'll be taken to the Optician who will send them to *Vision Aid Overseas* where parts will be recycled to make glasses for people in need. Please help if you can for this worthy cause.

Thanks,
Wilma

90th Birthday

It was a very special day on the 22nd of March for Jenny Anderson when she celebrated her 90th birthday. Jenny had a very busy day with a constant stream of visitors and enjoyed a special lunch with her family and friends to celebrate the occasion.

Doors Open Day 2022

As part of our 200th Anniversary, Cockpen and Carrington Church are taking part in Midlothian's Doors Open Day (postponed from 2020). This will take place on **Saturday 10th September 2022 from 12pm till 4pm.**

There will be many interesting and historic items on display.

There will also be an Organ Recital from 2pm to 3pm given by our church organist, Graham Burnside.

200-year Anniversary of Cockpen and Carrington Church

After a two-year delay due to the pandemic our anniversary was celebrated with Afternoon Tea held in the church hall on Saturday 2nd April. Mary Logan made the beautiful cake and Finn Hope entertained us throughout the afternoon with some wonderful music played on the accordion. A wonderful musician for his 14 years.

Finn is the Great Grandson of the Rev Leslie Watt who was Minister of Cockpen Church from 1961 to 1966.

A service of worship was also held in church the following day when we welcomed our guest preacher and former Moderator, The Very Rev Dr Susan Brown.





Andrew Sharpe

I feel very honoured to have been asked to write something about a man we all loved.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing on Thursday 16th June, 2022 of Andrew, a dear friend to many in our Church family and much further afield.

Andrew's funeral service was held in Church on Tuesday 28th June and was conducted by Lorna, our Minister. It was lovely to see such a large number in attendance, a fitting tribute to Andrew and a great joy I'm sure to Iain and the other members of the close family.

As Lorna said, it was certainly a sad occasion but also a celebration of the life of Andrew; a man loved by many for his kindness and thoughtfulness to all, with the further joy of reliving the happier times we all had with Andrew, and not forgetting his beloved Jean. Lorna thanked Iain for the loving preparation of the tribute about his Dad, a tribute we could all relate to.

Jean would always chaff about Andrew really being a Lasswade member whereas Jean was Cockpen through and through. Andrew was indeed a Lasswade person, born and bred, but he soon became very much part of our beautiful Church here at Cockpen after his marriage to Jean. The loss of Lasswade was very much our gain.

I assume that Andrew and his family would be members of the 'old' Lasswade Church until it closed (*and now demolished*) therefore worshipping at what was known as Strathesk Church later taking the same name of the Old Church – Lasswade.

As far as his Church life at Cockpen, Andrew had two of the most important positions, that as Treasurer and later as Session Clerk. He had been a member of the Congregational Board firstly and later was Ordained as an Elder. I, and many others, sadly with many not now with us, had the pleasure of being part of a busy Kirk Session helped much by Andrew's input. Although then a fairly 'new boy' as Elder he had, as previously mentioned, been Treasurer and that in itself probably made Andrew more knowledgeable than many of us.

Due to the untimely death of Bill Dalgleish, who was Session Clerk it was important that the Clerk's position should be filled as soon as possible. If I remember correctly, a few names were suggested but, as the Minute of that meeting recorded – *'Andrew Sharpe was more willing than*

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others' and he was duly appointed Session Clerk. Andrew's time in that important office was, as it has been since, filled with 'ups and downs' but, always dealt with by Andrew in a businesslike manner. His term of office was a happy one for us all and we all have much to be grateful to Andrew for keeping us on an even keel.

Sadly, about 1990 due to a decision made by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Andrew was very hurt, as many were at the time, and he felt he could no longer be Clerk or, a serving Elder. Much was done to change his mind but, it was known to us all that the hurt caused was deep. We lost a wonderful Clerk and Elder at that time but, saying that, Andrew still did much for his beloved Church at Cockpen and indeed, went back to the place where the hurt was caused, the General Assembly and for years looked forward to being a Steward where he met many of his old friends from the various Churches.

The 'standing down' of Andrew meant that a Clerk was again required and, to my surprise my father-in-law, Willie Brown came home from a meeting with the words – *'you better keep your head down, the Minister's (Rev Jim Brown) coming to ask you to be the new Session Clerk'*, and for 25 years I followed an old friend in a most wonderful – and often traumatic experience in the Church.

I will always have much to thank Andrew for, a wonderful friend and colleague who I could always approach if I wasn't sure about something and, in my early days as Clerk that was often. I sincerely hope that the help freely given by Andrew has been passed on by me to Liz., our present hard-working Clerk. I know she doesn't need it but, I'm here for Liz, just like Andrew was for me.

In closing this tribute, I always have a laugh when I think of Andrew who, like many, enjoyed a wee whisky – whatever was offered, it was always the best one he'd tried. Also, in his last few years I would pick Andrew up for Church and when he was getting in the car, I would tell him that his two 'girlfriends' were in the back – Wilma and Helen – and that's when his aches and pains were forgotten. Sometimes he had a bonus when he had three to contend with – Wilma, Helen, and Wilma's cousin Betty. The banter on the short journey to and from Church was always good.

If we're to believe we are going to a better place what better can it get than to sit with Andrew and Jean and the many others who have gone before us – what stories to be told!

God bless you dear friend.

George Sweeney

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The Future of Cockpen & Carrington Church

As many of you will be aware the current Presbytery Plan is reducing the number of Church buildings. The initial plan indicated selling Lasswade Church and that they had still to confirm the designations for Cockpen & Carrington Church & Hall, however by the time the Strategic Planning & Mission Committee put their plan to Presbytery they suggested there is not a need for the two buildings and suggested selling the Church and retaining the Hall.

The Kirk Session disagreed with that conclusion and considered that if only one building is to be retained it should be the Church rather than the Hall. As a result, there were various amendments proposed but the end result was we failed to get acceptance to keep the Church unconditionally though we did manage to keep it under discussion.

The current status is that we need to adapt the current Church building to be suitable for multipurpose use in order to retain it. This will not be an easy process as the building was designed for one main purpose and is currently a Listed building, but we do hope to seek professional advice and assistance to see if we can come up with alterations that would allow the building to be used better yet retain the feeling of the Church we all appreciate.

If you have any views or feel you, or anyone you know, could assist us in achieving this, please do get in touch with anyone involved with the Church (See the Who's Who page) or by emailing contact@church.cockpen.co.uk

Willie Tulloch.

Save the Date!

A concert will be held in Cockpen and Carrington Church by the choir "In Chorus and Friends" on Friday, 28th October. Further details of tickets and price will be available soon.

We look forward to seeing you there.

After Church Tea Rota

We will be having teas and coffees after the morning service on the following dates:

18th September
2nd October
30th October
13th November
4th December

From a book - 'Breaking the Rules'

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

John Ch. 4 verses 4 - 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE GUILD

At the start of the 2021-22 session, we were restricted to wearing masks and rather nervous about booking speakers who we, or they, may have had to cancel due to the unstable covid situation. However, we were able to meet together and what a lot of fun we have had. Thanks to the talents and generosity of our Guild and church members Catherine Devlin; Moira Scott; Elaine Christy and her daughter Adele; Elisabeth and Denise Spence we had a great selection of video presentations, quizzes, games, and informative talks. One of the talks was about the charity SIMBA that provides memory boxes for parent, whose babies are still born or only live for a short time. Their representative Jean's presentation was very interesting, and it turned out that Jean was interested enough in us at Cockpen to transfer to our church from the church in Paisley where she and her husband were active members before they moved to this area.

Our Afternoon Guild has proved to be successful, and we are now hopeful that some of the Oasis group will come along to help swell the numbers on the 3rd Monday each month to show that we at Cockpen are still alive and well.

Our new session begins with a Service of Dedication in the church on 2nd October with the first afternoon meeting being held the following day on Monday 3rd at 2pm.

The first meeting of the Evening Guild will be Monday 17th October at 7.30 pm.

All are most welcome.

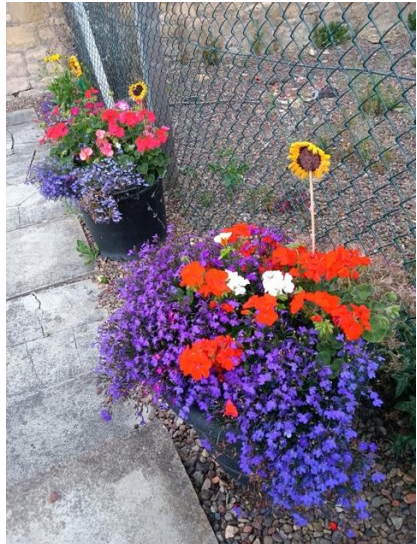
Liz and Helen.

Advance Notice:

The Guild Carol Party will be held on Monday 12th December 2022, 7pm.

The Church Hall Garden

We are very fortunate to have the garden areas around the Church Hall tended faithfully by Liz and Bill MacDonald. It provides a splash of colour and puts a smile on a lot of faces as they pass by or wait for a bus. We share them here for you to enjoy too.



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Harvest Thanksgiving
will be celebrated on
Sunday 25th September
in
Cockpen & Carrington Church

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

50th Celebrations...

As part of our celebrations for Graham being at the organ in Cockpen and Carrington Church for 50 years, he and the choir enjoyed afternoon tea at Carberry Towers. We had a great afternoon reminiscing and enjoying one another's company. It's a lovely venue with superb food. It also helped that the sun shone on one of the hottest days in Summer. Scotland's not always dreich!





Afternoon Tea at Carberry Towers

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GUILD JUBILEE EVENT

As we were still not clear of covid it was decided not to have a Closing Social this year but instead our last meeting was themed on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Moira and Helen went up on the Sunday to decorate the hall with bunting and table decorations. An extra wee surprise for us was a tub of Celebration chocolates covered by Moira with crocheted icing and on top a knitted "facsimile" of Queen Elizabeth with her pearls and Union Flag under an arch of bunting.

All the members who could, came dressed in red, white and blue, many wore their pearls and some even wore hats.

Liz chose two lovely hymns, an appropriate reading and led us in a moving prayer of recognition of the many years' service her Majesty has given to this country and the Commonwealth.

Just like the Coronation Day itself the service was followed by celebration. After a couple of games and a Royal Quiz the winners were awarded with awards such as the DMC (Dairy Milk Chocolate) medal given out by the Hon. Helen Dick-Renton, a lady in waiting. The winners even showed off their curtsying skills as the medals were slipped over their heads! Morag had donated some non-alcoholic fizz for the Royal Toast and then we all enjoyed a lovely cream tea to finish a very enjoyable afternoon.

Many thanks to all the members who entered the spirit of fun and laughter.



LASSWADE AND ROSEWELL PARISH CHURCH NEWS ...

**Vision Statement: 'All journeying together in faith and
trust to share God's love'**

This Harvest please look at your giving – the reward for your Harvest (whatever line of work you are in [or were in if retired!]) and look at saying thank you to God for all that he has given you. Such thinking is somewhat different to paying to keep the Church going. If we recognise God's generosity to us our giving becomes 'giving back' and that is an easier message to take on board.

**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
will be celebrated at
Rosewell Parish Church
at 10.00 a.m. on Sunday 4th September.
You are warmly invited to share in this
important part of the life of the Church.**



Church Register

Bereavements

Mrs Jessie Ramsay -1st May 2022
Mr Raymond Branch - 7th June 2022
Mr Jim Hamilton - 8th July 2022

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

BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL 2022

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. It will take the usual form of shoeboxes for all ages male/female – toiletries, toothpaste/ brush,



comb/brush, socks/tights, cosy hat/scarf/gloves, underwear, pjs t-shirt, pens/pencils, notepads/colouring books, etc. small toy (new) sweets (no choc. or loose sweets) etc. It is sometimes nice to include a Christmas/Greeting card from 'a friend in Scotland'. 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 on Saturday, 8th 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.

Coffee Mornings

The popular Coffee Mornings in **Rosewell Church Hall**, every second Saturday from 10.00a.m. to 12 noon, offer an opportunity to catch up with friends over a coffee or tea and scones and cakes.

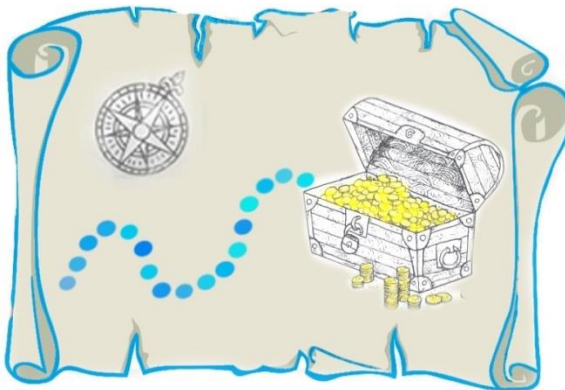


Fund Raising Walking Treasure Hunt Sunday 11th September at 3.00 p.m. at Rosewell Church



£3 per entry - family or small group. Bring your 'phone and be ready to take a wander around the Rosewell area. Meeting back at the Church for a chocolate treat.

All Welcome. Looking forward to seeing you folks there.



Harvest Service Invitation



We extend a warm invitation to join with us at our Harvest Service on **Sunday 25th September at 10.00 a.m.** in Lasswade Parish Church.

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



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!

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. Do come and join us on Saturday 3rd September 1st October, 5th November and 3rd December 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

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Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Lasswade and Rosewell Church



Lasswade and Rosewell Church celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with celebration cakes after the Church Service.



Lasswade Flower Rota

By the time *The Link* is published, the Commonwealth Games will be a distant memory. It appears to be living up to its reputation of 'The Friendly Games'.

We watched the Opening Ceremony and I had hoped to recognise some of the area because I was born in Birmingham and lived there until I was fifteen. I was aware of the many literary connections in the region. My headteacher was a Mr. Shakespeare and one of my early friends was a member of the Hathaway family.

Everything goes so fast these days... including time.

It seems amazing to be arranging a rota which takes us up until the end of the year.

Thank you to the great flower folk who provide the flowers to enhance our beautiful church. I am very grateful to you all.

If you would like to be included in the rota, please speak to me.

Thank you.

Moir

0131 663 8895

September 11th	Anne Pryde
September 25th	Harvest
October 9th	Lorna Oliver
October 23rd	Norma Horsburgh
November 13th	Joan Campbell
November 27th	Nita Adams
December 11th	Moir Dryden
December 25th	Pat Lawrie

From Doubt to Trust - A Journey?

In recent months I have looked carefully at the words of two hymns. One is a hymn which we have got to know through CH4 – "How often we, like Thomas, need proof before we trust" - and the other is the old favourite "Just as I am, without one plea". The author of the first hymn was Edith Sinclair Downing (1922-2016) while the writer of the older hymn was Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871).

The reflections in both hymns in many ways mirror my own feelings. Earlier this year I was part of a course which ran for several weeks, and I was privileged to hear the experiences and thoughts of a few people who have obviously a deep faith and who have absolute trust in, and know, the Master as a result of their experiences. The contact with those people made me aware that while I believe in the Christian truths, I do not have the personal awareness of the Master that perhaps I should have. And why is that? I think the main reason is, "like Thomas, I need proof before I trust, to feel His presence, to gain new faith, and to find without my seeing, the blessing Thomas knew" and to be able to say, with conviction, "My Lord, my God".

The various sentiments expressed in "Just as I am" are written for someone like myself who has doubts and conflicts. The author, Charlotte Elliott, was born in March 1789 in Brighton, and although she was brought up in a Christian home, she often reflected on her own doubts and conflicts. However, she penned her assurances of Jesus loving her "just as she was" and the hymn we sing today is the result. I take comfort in the words of this hymn as it covers a number of situations and speaks to people who "are tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt" before culminating in the statement that His love has broken every barrier down. Charlotte wrote about 150 hymns and died in September 1871. The words of "Just as I am" can be sung to a number of tunes but my favourite is "Saffron Walden", named after the town in Essex near Brentwood where the composer, Arthur Henry Brown (1830-1926), grew up and lived.

Mr. Brown was a self-taught musician and started playing the organ at the age of 10. He was organist at Brentwood Parish Church for many years, as well as spells playing at nearby churches.

Just a few words now about Edith Sinclair Downing, who wrote “How often we, like Thomas”. She was born in Aromas, California, on 7th May 1922 but did not begin her ministry of writing hymns until she was in her late 60s when she was volunteering for work with older people. Earlier in her life she had received a scholarship for cello from the University of Wichita. She attended Baker University before continuing her studies at Chicago Theological Seminary and receiving an MA degree in religious education from Chicago University in 1946. In 1980 she received a Master of Theological Studies with a major in Worship from Trinity Lutheran Seminary and she was a Lutheran church musician, mainly in Ohio. She died in 2016. The tune which is printed in CH4 for this hymn is “Reres Hill” which is a Scottish Folk Melody arranged by John L. Bell. “Reres Hill” was a broadside ballad, one outlet for which were poets’ boxes found in Scottish cities from the mid 19th century and this one was found by Eck Harley of Cupar in the Dundee poet’s box. The song apparently describes the courtship of two Dundonians and I understand Reres Hill is a suburb of Broughty Ferry and may mean “where the rye grows”.

HLRD

Mr. Raymond Branch

An Accomplished Musician

His many friends within the congregation and beyond were saddened to hear of Raymond's passing in early June and our thoughts and sympathy go out to Alison, Jenny, Annabel and all the family.

Raymond was a very talented gentleman, with a cheerful, quiet, and kindly disposition who contributed greatly to life in the community in so many different ways. When he retired from the Fire Service he took on the duty of Lollipop Man at Lasswade Primary School, where he assumed the role of Santa Claus. I have many memories of seeing Raymond, when there was a lull in the school traffic, sitting on someone's wall and quietly reading a book.

Raymond was a very accomplished musician. He was a very good singer, but he also played the tuba and, I understand, he played the piano. He shared his musical talents with the Brass Band and Kevoch Choir to mention only two of his interests but there are other activities with which he was involved. So many people will have many memories of Raymond under different umbrellas, and he will be missed from among us. A lot of children who attended Lasswade Primary will remember the friendly Lollipop Man with much affection.

Raymond was an Elder in Lasswade and Rosewell Church, but it was through his involvement with the Choir that I knew him best. Raymond and Alison used to sit in the same pew as Mrs. Sked or fairly near her and it was Mrs. Sked who suggested to me that Raymond might be interested in joining the choir. He was a very good singer, having been trained as a chorister while at school, and he was excellent at reading musical scores. He sang in the tenor voice. There was one occasion - and this is a story against me - when we were going over the tune "Quem Pastores". The setting of this tune can vary depending on the words which it is accompanying. One evening at choir practice the choir were singing the words and tune set before them but I was playing a different rhythm from the one that was before the singers. Raymond said, "that is not what the music says" and he was absolutely right.

Raymond, thank you for your immense contribution to enrich the life of this Congregation, both from the musical point of view and in other ways, and for all your help and support to me in a personal capacity which was greatly appreciated.

HLRD

THE HOLY HIKERS

"It is solved by walking!"

A Latin Proverb.



Our "Carpet Bowls Night" on 6th March was a great success. We had a few members who still did not feel safe and a few others who cancelled for other reasons but there were enough of us left to make it a good night. After a little bit of a tutorial, we picked teams and had great fun, bending the rules at times I fear, but everyone enjoyed the evening.

Dot and I did not make the March walk as we contracted covid, quite mild as it turned out, although it did not seem like it at the time. Hilary & Glen led twelve hikers around the Bush Estate.

In April, on a lovely sunny day, we walked along the River Esk to Newbattle, then up to Hardengreen and in May six of us walked Colinton Tunnel to see the Murals which have been painted on the walls of the old railway tunnel. Well worth a visit!

In June, Ian led us on a lovely walk from Edgehead round by D'Arcy. Unfortunately, it began to rain and quickly turned into a real downpour. We were almost at a point where we could return to the cars by a short cut, so after a unanimous vote, we headed back to the village as quickly as we could, "drookit" but happy.

Our final walk of the current programme was led by Denise & Ian. In a change to the advertised walk, they took the group around Gore Glen.

It is with great sadness that this will be my final article for the "Link" as I have recently undergone a course of radiotherapy to try and reduce the size of the tumour in my mouth, this will not cure my cancer, but it should slow it down a bit.

At the time of writing, I am still suffering from its effects, and I have resigned as the Holy Hikers organiser although I do hope to be able to go with them. The group have decided that there will be no walk in August because of holidays etc and they will resume in September.

I have to say that I have really enjoyed my time "at the helm".

It really has been the best job ever and I shall miss it. Things like Organizing the Walking Programmes, the Walking Weekends, Christmas Meals and of course writing these articles for the "Link" have been a real pleasure for the last 17 years. Many friendships have been made, lots of miles covered with plenty laughs along the way!

Happy Hiking

Jim Scott.

Spot 7 differences between the two pictures.



Share your news, views, or ideas in the Christmas Issue of “The Link” send them to Magazine@church.cockpen.co.uk by Sunday, 6th November 2022.

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