

Cockpen & Carrington

# The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell  
Parish Churches

Harvest 2023



Church of Scotland

## Table of Contents

From the Minister . . . . .	2
Invitation to the Alpha Course – an opportunity to explore life and faith ...	3
SERVICES – AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2023 . . . . .	4
WHO’S WHO . . . . .	5
Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church . . . . .	6
Baptisms . . . . .	6
Weddings . . . . .	6
Deaths . . . . .	6
Used Stamps . . . . .	6
Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota 2023 . . . . .	7
DOORS OPEN DAY . . . . .	8
HARVEST THANKSGIVING . . . . .	8
BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL . . . . .	8
ST ANDREW’S DAY SOCIAL . . . . .	8
THE GUILD . . . . .	9
Toy Gift Service . . . . .	12
Knit and Natter . . . . .	12
Thanksgiving . . . . .	12
Cockpen & Carrington – Calling all Members . . . . .	13
God Moves in a Mysterious Way . . . . .	14
Presbytery Mission Plan Updates . . . . .	15
DIAMOND WEDDING . . . . .	16
PADDINGTON TEA AND TOAST MORNING . . . . .	16
Cockpen and Carrington Garden of Remembrance . . . . .	17
Lighting the Church for Remembrance Day . . . . .	17
Cockpen & Carrington Church Hall Garden . . . . .	18
What Iona means to me . . . . .	19

Forest Church at Hopefield .....21

Growing Young .....22

Toastie Tuesday.....23

Forest Church .....23

LASSWADE AND ROSEWELL PARISH CHURCH NEWS ... .....24

Church Register .....24

Stewart Renwick An Appreciation .....25

BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL 2023 .....27

Roast Pumpkin & Tomato Soup.....27

Harvest Service Invitation .....28

Lasswade and Rosewell Church celebrated King Charles III’s Coronation  
with cakes after the Church Service. ....29

Goodbye, Lasswade, and Thank You.....30

Lasswade Flower Rota .....33

THE HOLY HIKERS .....34

Facts about Harvest .....36

## From the Minister ...

I hope the summer has given you time to get away for rest and enjoyment in one way or another. As we look ahead to the autumn term and another school year beginning, it's good to feel refreshed before getting underway again.

How quickly that rest and refreshment can disappear, though! When we return to school, to work and the weekly round of activities we can quickly feel drained once again.

I was reminded again recently of some beautiful verses from Matthew's Gospel, where Jesus fully understands how tired we can get and speaks these comforting words:

*"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.*

*Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*



(Matthew 11:28-30).

In that invitation to be yoked up beside Jesus, I have a picture of two Clydesdale horses harnessed together and stepping out side by side as they march up a field pulling a plough. One of the horses is older and more experienced; the other is younger and learning what to do as it walks beside the older horse. And so it can be for us, walking with Jesus and learning from him how to lead a more measured life and not become constantly overburdened. The same verses from *The Message* translation of the Bible, put it wonderfully like this:

*"Are you tired? Worn out? ... Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."*

I was interested to notice in these verses that it is not just about getting away from it all with Jesus to a quiet retreat. It's also about walking with him and **working** with him, learning '*the unforced rhythms of grace*.' It's very easy for us to become absorbed in the rush and busyness of life, but when we observe Jesus and how he went about things, we see that he was never in a hurry. Japanese author, Kosuke Koyama writes: "[God] walks 'slowly' because he is love. If he is

*not love he would have gone much faster. Love has its speed. It is an inner speed. It is a spiritual speed. It is a different kind of speed from the technological speed to which we are accustomed. ... It is the speed we walk and therefore it is the speed the love of God walks.” \**

By walking and working with Jesus, we learn to slow down to three miles an hour and approach the tasks, the events and the encounters of each day more aware of his presence with us and avoiding rushing and doing things in our own strength.

May we indeed learn to live life more freely and lightly, keeping in step with Jesus and learning to walk more slowly and steadily with him, our three-mile-an-hour God.

With all good wishes. *Lorna*

\* Kosuke Koyama, *Three Mile an Hour God* (London, SCM Press Ltd, 1979), p.7; used in 'Pilgrimage – Lectio 365, Day 11'.

## Invitation to the Alpha Course – an opportunity to explore life and faith

# Alpha



Revd. Louise Purden and I are excited about running another **Alpha Course from the start of September** for those who are interested. Alpha Courses have been running for many years now all round the world and are a series of 11 sessions exploring the Christian faith. They are designed to create a space where people come and discuss faith and life's big questions. Each week we start with tea/coffee and a snack, there is then a talk looking at a different aspect of the Christian faith and this is followed by time for open questions and discussion. Everyone is welcome, whether you belong to a church or not.

The first session will take place on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00 pm in the Pitcairn Centre** on the High Street in Bonnyrigg. If you are interested in taking part, please do let me know.

*Lorna, the Minister*

## SERVICES – AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2023

DATE	LASSWADE & ROSEWELL (10.00 am)	COCKPEN & CARRINGTON (11.30 am)
<b>13 August</b>	Worship Team – Lasswade	Worship Team
<b>20 August</b>	Worship Team – Rosewell <i>All-age service</i>	Worship Team <i>All-age service</i>
<b>27 August</b>	The Minister – Lasswade	The Minister
<b>3 September</b>	The Minister – Rosewell <b>Communion Service</b>	The Minister
<b>10 September</b>	The Minister – Lasswade	The Minister
<b>17 September</b> Harvest	The Minister – Rosewell <i>All-age service</i>	The Minister <i>All-age service</i>
<b>24 September</b>	The Minister – Lasswade	The Minister
<b>1 October</b>	The Minister – Rosewell	The Minister and Guild for Guild Dedication Service
<b>8 October</b>	The Minister – Lasswade	The Minister
<b>15 October</b>	The Minister – Rosewell <i>All-age Service</i>	The Minister <i>All-age Service</i>
<b>22 October</b>	The Minister – Lasswade	The Minister
<b>29 October</b>	<b>Joint Service Rosewell Church - 10.00 am</b>	
<b>5 November</b>	The Minister – Rosewell	The Minister <b>Communion Service</b>
<b>12 November</b> Remembrance Sunday	Lay Pastor – Lasswade* The Minister – Rosewell at 10am+	The Minister
<b>19 November</b>	Worship team – Rosewell <i>All-age Service</i>	Worship team <i>All-age Service</i>
<b>26 November</b>	The Minister – Lasswade	The Minister
<b>3 December</b> <b>1st in Advent</b>	The Minister – Rosewell Toy Gift Service	The Minister Toy Gift Service
<b>10 December</b> <b>2nd in Advent</b>	The Minister – Lasswade	The Minister Service of Remembering – 3pm
<b>17 December</b> <b>3rd in Advent</b>	The Minister – Rosewell	The Minister <i>Nine Lessons and Carols - 7pm</i>
<b>24 December</b> <b>4th in Advent</b> Christ the King Sunday	The Minister – Lasswade	The Minister
<b>24th December</b> Christmas Eve	Rosewell at 6pm Christingle Service	Watchnight Service 11.20 pm

\* Lasswade War Memorial at 9.30 am.

+ Rosewell War Memorial at 10.50 am  
Also Polton War Memorial at 3pm

# WHO'S WHO

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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 person.*

# Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church

## From the Church Registers

### Baptisms

### Weddings

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

### Deaths

28 March 2023 Frances Evelyn **WILKIE** (Neé Hutson)  
30 April 2023 Elizabeth (Beth/Betty) **MILLER** (Neé Glassford)  
7 May 2023 George **MILLER**

We remember 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'*



### Used Stamps

Please leave any British or foreign stamps you have collected in the box in the vestibule at church, or in the box in the Church Hall.  
Thank you.

*Dorothy Bennett*

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

## Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota 2023

<b>August</b> 6 13 20 27	Lynn Hanson Elspeth Brown Margaret Porter Jim Dyer	<b>November</b> 5 12 19 26	Liz Mills Lynsey Stevenson Bill Taylor Liz MacDonald
<b>September</b> 3 10 17 24	Liz MacDonald Dot Scott Dorothy Bennett Ian Bee	<b>December</b> 3 10 17 24	Betty Finlay Pat Mitchell and the Richardson Family Helen, Catherine and Dorothy Flower Fund
<b>October</b> 1 8 15 22	Jim Dyer Irene McGhee Wilma Sweeney John Adamson		

Thanks to everyone that contributes to our flower fund allowing our church to be beautifully decorated each Sunday and being able to distribute the flowers afterwards to people unable to attend church in person.

Thank you also to all those that kindly help to arrange and deliver the flowers.

If anyone wishes to join or withdraw from the 2024 Flower Rota, could you please advise me by 12th November.  
Many thanks,

*Liz Mills*

07875 485 973



## DOORS OPEN DAY

After a very successful Doors Open Day last year it has been decided to take part again this year and we will open our church to the public on Saturday 9th September from 12noon – 4pm.

## HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Our Harvest Service of Thanksgiving will be held in church on Sunday 17th September. As has been the practice over the last few years we will support our local foodbank by gathering in donations of tinned and packaged foods to assist the foodbank to support the ever-increasing number of families requiring to use this facility to feed their families.

## BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL

If you are planning to support once again the Shoebox Appeal this year then your boxes should be handed in at church, the Guild or Knit and Natter **by 15th October** to ensure that they make the deadline for shipping Leaflets to be included with the boxes are available from Liz Mills.



## ST ANDREW'S DAY SOCIAL

The Guild are holding a St. Andrew's Day Social in the hall on Wednesday 29th November at 2pm. The entertainment will be by Stuart Anderson an accordionist and singer who has played at Scottish events for us previously and proved to be extremely popular. Tickets will be available from Liz Mills and Helen Renton.

# THE GUILD

**H**AVING THE LATE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE as the focus for our closing of the 2021-22 session it was fitting perhaps to close our 2022-23 session with celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles III. We did so with Liz Mills choosing appropriate hymns, Reading and Prayer to begin our afternoon and then we had great fun and laughter as we played "Coronation Beetle", a Coronation quiz and Royalty Bingo before tucking into a delicious Afternoon Tea and finishing up with a sparkly toast and the National Anthem.

Sadly, over the intervening weeks, we lost two of our longer serving members, Betty Miller and Frances Wilkie, who had been close friends since they joined the then Cockpen Young Mothers' group in the 1960's. Both, especially Frances, had suffered ill health over the past few years but had been a fine example of patience and resilience and were appreciative of much love and care from their families.

As many of you are aware Nancy, our much-loved secretary of over 25 years had been very ill and passed away last December, however, we are very fortunate that Vi Gibson and Elaine Christie have offered to work together to fill the post of secretary. They are both new to such a position but as we are in the process of planning and finalising the syllabus for 2023-24. they are proving more than capable and will, I am sure, be a great asset to the guild.

Our list of speakers for the 2023-24 session promise a varied, interesting and entertaining mix of subjects.

Our Service of Dedication will be held in the church at Cockpen on October 1st when members of the Guild participate in planning and conducting the service.

The Afternoon Guild will continue to meet on the first Monday of each month except January, and so our first afternoon Guild meeting will be held on 2nd October from 2-4 pm. This year the agenda for that meeting is being decided by Jim Scott who has kindly offered to do so (with grateful appreciation from Liz and myself!)

The evening Guild meetings will be held on the third Monday of each month with the exception of January. Our first evening meeting will fall on 16th October from 7.30 to 9.30pm. when Lorna, our minister, has been asked to present her thoughts on this year's theme "*New Wine, New Wineskins.*"

We are giving consideration to adapting our meetings to hold the entire service portion of the agenda before the tea/coffee. This would allow more flexibility for those who need to leave early due to childcare responsibilities or transport timetables but allow others to enjoy the companionship they may nowadays find so much needed.

We have a great easy-going atmosphere in the group but are aware that a few of the members may now find walking to and from the meetings difficult. So we

would urge younger members of the church or families to offer help with this and join us for a few meetings to discover the friendship offered as well as the wide range of interesting, insightful presentations we enjoy for MEN as well as women. Hope to see as many as possible in October

*Helen Renton and Liz Mills.*





**A SELECTION OF PHOTOS OF THE CELEBRATIONS FOR THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III.**

## **Toy Gift Service**

Once again, we will support the Salvation Army Toy Gift Appeal by bringing along a suitable toy or book for a child from two years to 12 years. Books or other suitable gifts are also required for teenagers. Gifts should be brought along to the service on Sunday 3rd December, and they will then be delivered to the Salvation Army.

## **Knit and Natter**

The Knit and Natter group continues to be really popular with around thirty regular attenders.

Recently the group supported three local schools by knitting small mice which are given to the children leaving nursery and going on to school. These little mice are extremely popular with the children and have been used by schools in Midlothian over the last three years.

We have continued to knit for SIMBA a charity that supports bereaved parents who have lost babies at or shortly after birth. As we have done for quite a number of years, we continue to knit hats, blankets and cardigans for premature babies in the Simpsons Special Care Baby Unit.

Before closing for the summer, the group enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea at Angelina's Tea Room in Rosewell.

The group will resume in the hall at 1.30pm on 14th September. It would be really nice to see some new faces. You will be made most welcome.

## **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 treasure,  
the fields, their yellow grain,  
so open wide the doorway—  
thanksgiving comes again!

*Anonymous*

# Cockpen & Carrington – Calling all Members

At our ASM in July the congregation was given an abbreviated version of the congregation's accounts (copies available) covering the year ended 31 December 2022. There was Good News and there was Bad News.

The Good News was that nine out of our 10 congregation's funds were in a healthy state. The Bad News was that the General Fund (the fund that keeps the congregation afloat) recorded a deficit in 2022, and, to make matters worse the 2023 budget threw up an even larger deficit. It was noted that if this trend were to continue the future of our congregation would hang in the balance.

The Kirk Session is continually looking at ways to get things on an even keel, but given the realities of the present day, options to secure this are very limited.

There is no easy way to say this, but the fundamental issue that concerns the Kirk Session is that two thirds of our members take little interest in the life of the congregation. There are of course many genuine reasons for this but nevertheless this is something that should be given a great deal of thought.

If this situation could somehow be reversed, say with half of our membership supporting the congregation, what a tremendous difference that would make.

So the problem that the Kirk Session faces at the moment is that it is just not fair, time and time again, expecting the same one third of our membership to keep contributing more and more, and this is not just about offerings and donations, it's about the giving of time and talents too.

So, having said all that, where do we go from here?

Here are a few ideas, nothing really new I'm afraid, but if any member could add to this list it would be really appreciated. All ideas or comments are certainly worth consideration: -

- a) Gift Aid – encourage 'tax paying' members to join the Gift Aid scheme. Every £1 given generates 25p additional income, and at no extra cost to the member.
- b) Fund Raising – thinking 'out of the box', any ideas?
- c) Gift Day – always a winner, but yet again, the issue here is that it is the same folks participating!  
Is there any way round this? Thinking caps on please!
- d) Special Service – this is to encourage members to come back to Church, trying to create lasting effect. Is there a different way of doing this? (eg. in the mid 1990s during the vacancy period, the Kirk Session decided to have a 'Fill the Church Day' and, against all the odds, that is exactly what happened).

Finally, we the congregation, are the present day custodians of Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church, a Church that over its many years has had more than its

share of ups and downs, and up to now, has survived. So, let us, as best we are able, ensure that the baton can be handed on intact to future generations.

*W A Brown*

## **God Moves in a Mysterious Way**

William Cowper (1731-1899) wrote:

*God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform,  
He plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.*

Right up to the early 1970s, commercial radio within the UK was illegal, but, to the enjoyment of many, broadcasts were beamed over the North Sea and English Channel from a transmitter located in Luxembourg. Many of our older members (if they were fortunate enough to have a wireless (a radio)) will remember the upmarket, popular broadcasts coming from Radio Luxembourg, known as ‘The Station of the Stars’.

Following on from the success of Radio Luxembourg there was a media driven demand for home based commercial radio and to overcome legal obstacles an ingenious plan was devised. The solution was that if commercial radio waves were to be broadcast from a transmitter, located on a ship sailing on the sea, then, hey presto, problem solved.

So on Easter Sunday 1964 ‘Radio Caroline’, the first UK’s commercial radio station, located on a ship that sailed in and around the south-east corner of England, came into being with host teenage DJs, Tony Blackburn, Dave Lee Travis and Simon Dee.

We Scots were not to be outdone and in the following year (Hogmanay 23:50 hours to be precise) Radio Scotland kicked into life with signals coming from a ship sailing up and down the Firth of Forth.

Radio Scotland, with its emphasis on local news and gossip, alongside the latest hit record releases, was a huge success. The young host DJs, Stuart Henry, Paul Young and Jimmy Mack captivated listeners, and, as an added bonus, much to the delight of the younger listeners, they played records that were currently banned by ‘stuffy’ old Auntie Beeb.

At 7pm, each evening Radio Scotland transmitted a 15-minute religious slot called ‘The Plain Truth – Tomorrow’s World’, narrated by 92-year-old Rev. Ted Armstrong and his son Rev. Garner Ted Armstrong. Their contemporary Americanised style proved very popular, especially with the younger listeners. (Some of these broadcasts can be located on YouTube).

I suppose readers might find all this somewhat bizarre – religious broadcasts coming from a ‘pirate’ radio station sailing up and down the Firth of Forth!

However, giving this matter some further thought, brought to mind one of Oscar Wilde's well-known quotes, 'every saint has a past and every sinner a future'.

What would William Cowper have made of this? Somehow I think that he might have approved.

Yes indeed, the Lord does work in mysterious ways.

*W A Brown*

## **Presbytery Mission Plan Updates**

Regarding both Cockpen & Carrington and Lasswade & Rosewell, there are a couple of matters to report relating to the unfolding Presbytery Mission Plan.

Further to the proposal that Cockpen & Carrington Church should not keep both its church and hall buildings and with the hall now categorised as 'B' to be sold, the outcome of the congregational vote taken after the service on Sunday 7th May 2023 in connection with the sale of Cockpen Church Hall was 28 votes in favour of the sale and four votes against. We will now seek the approval of Presbytery and the General Trustees Board regarding this decision by the congregation. Consideration of plans to refurbish the church building continue.

With regard to the proposal that Lasswade Church would close and be sold, a second congregational meeting and vote was held at Lasswade Church after the service on Sunday 14th May 2023. This further vote took place because it was felt that insufficient communication and time had been given to the congregation prior to the first vote that took place in October 2022, to allow them fully to consider the bigger picture facing the church at present.

In response to the wording on the voting slip - "*I accept the decision of the Lasswade & Rosewell Kirk Session that Lasswade Church be sold by 31st December 2023*" – the outcome of the vote was 17 votes in favour of the sale and 13 votes against. Approval by Presbytery of the sale of Lasswade Church was given on Saturday 17th June 2023. We now wait to see if the General Trustees will also approve the sale.

*The Minister*

## DIAMOND WEDDING

**T**HE 30TH OF JULY 2023 was a memorable day for Malcolm and Mary Logan when, along with family, they celebrated their diamond wedding. Huge congratulations to them both on this great achievement.



**M**alcolm and I would like to thank the Church Family for the beautiful flowers together with the lovely cards sent to us on the occasion of our Diamond Wedding. We are extremely fortunate and blessed to have reached this great milestone and we appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness.

*Mary Logan*

## PADDINGTON TEA AND TOAST MORNING

In May we held another of our very popular Tea and Toast mornings. This year we themed it with Paddington which proved extremely popular and raised the sum of £750. There was a raffle with a large and a small Paddington bear knitted by Moira Scott, and he also had a supply of homemade marmalade alongside him.

# Cockpen and Carrington Garden of Remembrance

COVID 19 HAD AFFECTED all aspects of life including Remembrance. Therefore, Lorna agreed with Midlothian Council that we set up our own Garden of Remembrance in the New Cemetery. We set it out, together with an Avenue of Remembrance on Sunday 25th October 2020. The wreaths from the church were added following Communion on 1st November.

A number of crosses had been added, presumably by folk who had spent some quiet time at the garden. It was rewarding to see that the garden had been welcomed as a point whereby people could reflect on the meaning of Remembrance, especially given the restrictions which had prevented the normal commemorations.

On a recent visit to the National Garden of Remembrance in Princes Street Gardens the restrictions clearly had a negative effect, but volunteers were on hand to take donations and help display both regimental and personal tributes.

The church was floodlit in red on the evening of Remembrance Sunday and Remembrance Day itself. This was first accomplished in 2018 to celebrate the centenary of the end of the Great War and has become somewhat of a tradition. On both evenings a considerable number of people came armed with cameras and phones to take pictures to remember this occasion.



Although Remembrance Day is still to come, you may wish to browse the internet to find the story of *Desmond Doss: an American Seventh-day Adventist* who refused to carry or use a weapon of any kind, yet he enlisted as a combat medic serving in WWII. During the Battle of Okinawa, he single-handedly rescued seventy-five of his

wounded comrades saving lives which otherwise would have been lost. He was the first non-combatant to receive the 'Medal of Honor' for service above and beyond the call of duty. The film "*Hacksaw Ridge*" was based on his life story. *IB*

## Lighting the Church for Remembrance Day

Once again, Cockpen and Carrington Church will be lit up red for Remembrance Day from Friday 10th to Sunday 12th November, between 7pm and 9pm, depending on the weather. As most folk will know, it's not just a case of 'flicking a switch' like a lot of buildings who will be taking part in this event as part of Poppy Scotland.

## Cockpen & Carrington Church Hall Garden

It is amazing the transformation that has taken place at the garden at the side of the Church Hall in Dundas Street. From a piece of land overgrown with weeds and a lot of hard work, this area is now a beautiful place full of wildflowers. A place where passers-by can admire, and the bees can have a feast. As there is a bus stop right outside the hall, folks on the bus can also enjoy it as they wait to continue on their journey. All in all, it's now a place that brings joy to many people who might not even know it existed. Thank you to Liz and Bill MacDonald.



## What Iona means to me

Iona is a small island, one of the smallest of the Inner Hebrides. Lying a kilometre off the south west tip of Mull, it rises to 100 metres above sea level at the highest point and is 5.5 km long by 2 km wide. The only road runs from Baile Mor, the Great Bay, in the west to the north east corner. From there on a clear day, you can see Staffa, the Treshnish Isles, Little Colonsay, Coll and Tiree as well as Mull. Yet because of St Columba, the Very Rev George MacLeod and the Iona Community he founded there in 1938, it has had an impact on many people, including myself, well out of proportion to its size. To these I would add the 11 weeks I spent there in the summer of 1969 working for John McFarlane on his croft.

In 1970 the Commonwealth Games were due to be held in Edinburgh. In 1969 a brand-new athletics stadium was built at Meadowbank. The marathon was planned as out to the turning point a mile beyond Longniddry and back to the stadium. Having finished fifth the previous year, I had high hopes of being in the first three and a serious contender for a place in the three-man Scottish marathon team for the Games. It was not to be. I finished fourth, less than a minute behind the third man home. I knew there were two or three others with faster times who had not competed that day. I needed to be 20 minutes faster, unrealistic in only a year. It was a severe blow to my spirits and morale.

I was due to get to Iona by the following evening, to take up that summer job working at the croft, so there was no time to feel sorry for myself.

In 1802 as part of the 5<sup>th</sup> Duke of Argyll's agricultural reforms, Iona's land had been divided into individual crofts, replacing the previous runrig system of strip working the soil. John McFarlane had one of the largest of the crofts, straddling the road on the northern half of the island, with cattle, sheep, hens and some arable ground.

I got an initial boost by a lift from my sister's boyfriend and later husband, Ian, in his Triumph Herald, as far as Callander. By a succession of drivers, I made it the remaining 70 miles to Oban. In those days hitchhiking was much more common and accepted than now. Having slept out on Pulpit Hill, overlooking Oban Bay, I took the ferry to Craignure and hitched to Fionnphort. From there it was a short sea crossing over the Sound of Iona to the island. That summer's work on the croft and leisure time was a tremendous restorative experience.

Columba had landed with twelve companions in 563 AD. I visited both supposed landing sites, in the very south of the island and the more likely Baile Mor in the west with its long sandy beach. There is a painting by William McTaggart (1835-1910) "*The Coming of St Columba*" in the National Gallery of Scotland, showing a boat in the distance approaching a

sandy shore, which looks like Baile Mor. It is said, however, to be of his previous landing at the Mull of Kintyre, near present day Southend. There is a traditional story that he landed there but continued northwards to Iona, as he was still able to see Ulster, from where he had been banished. A footprint on a rocky outcrop near Southend is claimed by some to be his. For many years there was a pilgrimage from Cambelltown to the spot, followed by an open-air service.

Whatever the truth, Columba eventually got to Iona and founded a monastery there. According to his biographer, Aidan, the buildings consisted of a church, a cell for the abbot, huts for the brethren, a refectory and a guest house, all enclosed by a rampart for protection against Viking raids. Over the centuries a nunnery was added and the church extended from an abbey to become the Cathedral for the Bishopric of the Isles from 1507 until the Reformation. In 1899 the ruins of these buildings were presented by the 8<sup>th</sup> Duke of Argyll to the Church of Scotland for their restoration as a place of worship. The first service was in June 1910.

In 1938 the Iona Cathedral Trust handed over the remaining restoration work to the Iona Community, newly founded by The Very Reverend George McLeod. The Community operates there as a centre of pilgrimage, study, retreat and worship for visitors from all over the world and also from its Glasgow base as a source of Christian publications and since the 1940s the running of the

Iona Prayer Circle. In 1773 Boswell and Johnson visited Iona in the course of their travels through Scotland. Johnson commented, "*The man is little to be envied whose patriotism would not gain force upon the plain of Marathon or whose piety would not grow warmer among the ruins of Iona.*" George McLeod himself has been reported as saying that on Iona he felt the boundary between earth and heaven to be very thin.

Working on the croft involved collecting, moving and feeding the cows and sheep, scything and setting up mini hayricks, driving the tractor, checking and repairing fences etc. By the beginning of August and after some tuition I had graduated to hand milking and shearing the sheep. It was a marvellous, positive experience, capped by Mr and Mrs McFarlane feeling able to get away on holiday for a few days, for the first time in several years. In my spare time, apart from exploring the island and doing some running, I visited the Abbey, joined in activities and attended services.

I have only visited Iona once since then, on holiday with my wife, Liz, in 2003, when we stayed in a B&B in the village. We had the same positive experience. By then I had joined the Iona Prayer Circle as a sponsor for my sister, Ailsa, who died from MS four years later. With the consent of the individual, the sponsor requests that members of the Circle pray regularly for healing of those sponsored. It is not necessary to have been a sponsor to join. Sponsors are requested to send updates to the Circle Secretary, who then sends out

a monthly newsletter and updates to members.

Having had such positive experiences and despite the difficulty

of getting there by road, the train to Oban is perhaps preferable, I would recommend a visit to Iona to anyone.

*Bill MacDonald*

## Forest Church at Hopefield

We have enjoyed a few outings for Forest Church in the Little Wood at Hopefield on the first Sundays of May, June and July.

In May, we celebrated the wonder of trees, exploring how much shelter they give to so many different creatures and thinking about how they remind us of the spread and shelter of God's love that we are welcomed into.



In June, we walked ending up in the Little Wood when we discovered as many different wildflowers as we could along the way. Thinking about how flowers make our world so beautiful and how bees spread their pollen so they keep on flowering each year, we were reminded how we are also called to make our world more beautiful as we follow the example of Jesus and spread his love so others can grow and blossom in his care, too.



In July, we explored the preciousness of water and its life-giving properties which led to reflecting on the new life that Jesus offers us when we trust in him. Jesus likened this to being like a life-giving stream bubbling up within us to renew and restore us always (John's Gospel, Chapter 4 and verses 13-14).

Forest Church is continuing through the autumn, again meeting on the first Sunday afternoons of each month starting in September and meeting up at 3.00 pm at Burnbrae Primary School car park. People of all ages are welcome, on your own, as a couple, a group of friends or as a family, so if you would enjoy more informal, interactive, outdoor church where we appreciate God's wonderful creation around us and allow it to remind us of how amazing God is and of his amazing love to us, do come along and join in!



# Growing Young

IN FEBRUARY 2023 Lorna, the Minister, Elizabeth Morton, Lay Pastor, Liz MacDonald, Cockpen & Carrington, Annabel Cameron and Gordon Wemyss, Lasswade & Rosewell embarked on the Growing Young Programme, with eleven other churches from the Presbytery of Lothian and Borders. Our aim is to make connections and build relationships with the under 50s. We meet regularly to consider ways to achieve this, participate in webinars and conferences. In our larger meetings with the other churches engaged in the Growing Young Programme, it has been interesting to note we are not the only congregations with few young people.

During June and early July Lorna did a series of sermons on the core commitments of a Growing Young Programme:

- Empathizing with today's young people by listening to them and stepping into their shoes
- Taking Jesus' message seriously by welcoming young people into a Jesus centred way of life
- Prioritising young people (and families) everywhere by supporting, resourcing and involving them in all areas of our congregations
- Warm relationships, not "cool worship", but fuelling a warm community with intergenerational friendships
- Being the best neighbours, not condemning the world outside our walls, but enabling young people to neighbour well locally and globally.

All the services are available on YouTube.

Over the past few months, we have been doing a listening exercise with various individuals and groups on the fringes of the congregations. We started with general questions about their friends and interests and what it was like being a young person today, went on to ask specific questions relating to faith and what they like most about (our) church. We wanted to find out how we as a church could support young people. This will continue in the coming months.

Based on what we have learnt through the listening exercise and our meetings, we developed a Church Transformation Plan, which will be discussed at Kirk Sessions. If we have a desire to see younger people engaging with the church, we need to be willing to understand and change how we do things. Recently Lasswade & Rosewell held a beetle drive, which drew a wide variety of ages and the fellowship was thoroughly enjoyed by all. This is just one way we can reach out in the community, sharing faith in action. Toastie Tuesday is another great example of reaching out to young people with a warm welcome.

Growing Young is NOT about changing everything, everywhere to focus only on younger people and families, NOR is it about stopping caring for older people, BUT there is a cost – it will involve change. Without this, churches grow old and die.

As a church we are seeking to be prayerfully led and guided by God in creating new ways of welcoming and encouraging all ages to faith, so they know they are valued and truly involved as part of a Christian church family.

*Liz MacDonald and Elizabeth Morton*

## **Toastie Tuesday**



Toastie Tuesday in Bonnyrigg & Lasswade is off to an absolutely amazing start! On our first week we were praying to have 50 young people come along, and we had exactly 50, which was just a complete testament to how much God's hand is in the work we are doing. On our second week, all we were then hoping for was any sort of increase in numbers, I even said that I'd be happy with just 51 because growth is growth. And, well, God decided to throw us a curveball and we

had 165 young people come along! Which is just amazing and far more than any of the team could have guessed. We were then even more surprised on our final week of our pre-summer trial run when we had 286 young people come through the church to be served a toastie and have a chat! Such amazing growth already has really encouraged the whole team and made us all very excited for starting up full time after the summer holiday, we can't wait to see where God goes from here!

## **Forest Church**

One of the other new things that was started this year was Forest church. This has been running once a month over the last few months and it has been a really amazing and different way to connect with God. We have been meeting by Burnbrae Primary school and then going out together and discovering God in nature and connecting with him. Although it is still early days in starting Forest Church it has been wonderful to see a growth in interest for this in the short time that we have had, and we are very excited to see more and more families start to discover God in his creation.

*Josh Keay, Community Youth Worker*

# **LASSWADE AND ROSEWELL PARISH CHURCH NEWS ...**

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

Harvest is a time for celebrating abundance, giving thanks for all the good gifts we have received. Yet we know that many people do not have enough. In the Bible, God frequently reminds His people of the importance of taking care of those who are in need.

**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper  
will be celebrated at  
Rosewell Church  
at 10.00 a.m. on Sunday 3rd September.  
You are warmly invited to share in this  
important part of the life of the Church.**



## **Church Register**

### **Baptism and New Members**

Mr James Cameron - 2nd April 2023  
By Transfer of Certificate – Mrs Joan Cameron

### **Bereavement**

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

Mr Stewart Renwick – 1st June 2023

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

# Stewart Renwick

## An Appreciation

**S**TEWART'S MANY FRIENDS were saddened by the announcement of his death on 1st June 2023 after a short illness. Our thoughts in recent months have been with Wendy and Lucy and their families and with the other members of Stewart's family.

Stewart was a very versatile person. He was involved with a lot of organisations with whom he shared his experience and there will be many people who will have memories of him in different walks of life and no one can take these memories away. For the purposes of this article, it is his commitment to the life and work of the Church that we recall.

From an early age he was introduced to church life. He attended Sunday School, moving to Bible Class and on to Youth Fellowship of which organisation he was President from 1964-1967. He was ordained as an elder on 29th June 1969 and involved himself in many areas of church life. People will remember him as being the Convener of the Summer Fair Committee for many years and his extremely capable organising abilities together with his careful planning and the calm way with which he dealt with problems ensured the success of this event and led to it becoming one of the highlights of the local social calendar. Pat recalls that she and Stewart travelled far and wide to collect some ridiculous costumes and one visit resulted in Pat and her husband Jim being invited to a cricket match. Pat also remembers that

Stewart and Alistair Melrose were the main chefs for a Christmas Dinner in the Eskside Hall where the congregation enjoyed a typical meal followed by dancing and games.

Although he relinquished his duties with the Kirk Session in 2014 that did not diminish Stewart's willingness to work for the Church and to offer his help and expertise in different areas.

Stewart was a valued member of Lasswade and Rosewell Parish Church Property Committee with his technical knowledge and attention to detail. He was able to discuss, at length, complex issues with contractors, particularly where the building electricians were involved. His refusal to admit defeat on funding issues, when all avenues seemed to be closed, was notably highlighted by his securing a large contribution towards the costs for the replacement of Rosewell Hall roof. Following on annual inspections carried out by the Property Committee Stewart accepted responsibility for the submission of timeous and detailed reports included in the annual return to Presbytery and the quality and promptness of these reports were often commented on by the Presbytery Clerk.

Stewart was the Church's Health and Safety Administrator, Web Master for the congregation's website and he added the recorded services to YouTube. With his strong technical qualities, he

maintained the recording equipment and was always very willing to sort out any technical issues which occurred.

Some years ago, it was noticed that the meters in Lasswade Church were recording double information and Stewart collated all the relevant facts and arranged for an engineer to come and correct the fault. It transpired that the off-peak meter was running through the standard one and the church was being charged twice. A lengthy process followed but at the end of the day a nice refund was received along with the removal of the off-peak meter and a healthy compensation.

Stewart was a true gentleman in every sense of the word. I have personal experience of this. When I visited him, he always took care to ensure I did not trip over the raised small ridge on his door when I entered or left the house.

I have already referred to Stewart's expertise in property and technical matters and his willingness to sort out any problems arising with these issues, but the Minister has summed it all up by saying that if such problems arose Stewart would be on the case

immediately whether the problems were at the manse or with the sound and/or recording system at Rosewell and would spend many hours getting to the bottom of the concerns. Lorna confirmed what others said when she referred to Stewart's thoroughness in looking after the church buildings and his commitment to assist in completing reports, questionnaires, funding applications and practical tasks. Every Sunday he would post the recorded services at Rosewell online as well as sorting out, if necessary, issues with poor sound quality on the video or editing out sections as needed. The Minister repeated again what she said at Stewart's funeral, namely, that he was a gem of a person to have around with his knowledge and skills and his willingness to help and go the extra mile.

Stewart, we shall miss you, but we thank you for all the work you have done over the years for the benefit of the Church in Lasswade and Rosewell.

*HLRD*

Note: I wish to thank Charlie Adams, Dorothy Spence, Pat Lawrie, Andrew Renwick and the Minister for sending me their reminiscences of Stewart.

## **Coffee Mornings:**

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



# BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL 2023

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 or 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 14<sup>th</sup> October to Rosewell Church Hall between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon.**

Please contact Dorothy Spence (07445 139138) 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!!

Let's make it as big a total of boxes as we can and thank you for your support.



## Roast Pumpkin & Tomato Soup



### Ingredients:

Approx. 1½ lbs pumpkin or winter squash

1lb ripe tomatoes

6 garlic cloves – unpeeled

1 red onion peeled and cut into wedges

1 sprig rosemary and 2 sprigs thyme

2 pints chicken or vegetable stock

4 tablespoons olive oil

### Method:

Oven 200 – 220° C Put all ingredients for soup, except the stock, in a plastic bag and toss to coat with oil.

Tip into roasting tin and roast, uncovered, for approx. 35 – 40 mins, turning occasionally until everything is tender.

Discard herb stalks and garlic skins and liquidise with the stock.

Pour into large pan, reheat, adjust seasoning and consistency.

Serve with croutons. Enjoy!!!!

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

## Harvest Service Invitation



We extend a warm invitation to join us at our  
Harvest Service on  
**Sunday 17th September at 10.00 a.m.**  
at Rosewell Church.

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

Your support is very much appreciated.



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 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup> October, 4<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*

## Lasswade and Rosewell Church celebrated King Charles III's Coronation with cakes after the Church Service.



## Goodbye, Lasswade, and Thank You

**T**HE BUILDING WHICH IS KNOWN TODAY AS LASSWADE PARISH CHURCH has been a place of worship in the community for 193 years but that is about to change as it faces an uncertain future. Many people will have their own memories of the church. I have had a connection with the place for around eight decades. I must have been about 5 or 6 when my Mum and Dad first took me in to look at the pictures in the windows and my parents later explained to me the part my paternal grandfather played in the furnishings of the building during the 1894 renovations. The windows have never failed to impress me over the years, not just with their artistry and craftsmanship but also through the messages which they preach. Like all stained-glass windows, they really come alive when the sun streams through them – and do not forget the Dove Window at the front of the church in the gallery.

As my association with the congregation grew so did my interest in hymnology, and church music in general, and that interest was due in no small way to Mrs. Kirk, who was the organist when I first attended, and who led the praise on a harmonium, and to her successor, Mrs. (Meg) Kirkwood. Around the late 1950s a John Compton electronic organ was purchased and when this instrument reached its sell-by date the present organ was installed around the mid 1980s. Following Mrs. Kirkwood as organist were Irene Rae, yours truly for a year, Lynn Ramage, Jim Vandeppear, Mrs. Kirkwood for a second spell, William Hendry, and yours truly again, each one bringing to the position his or her different talents and ideas. Mrs. Kirk and Mrs. Kirkwood were fortunate to lead a large choir, with the sopranos and tenors on the north side (the right-hand side as one faces the pulpit) of the platform and the contraltos and basses on the south side and this enabled the various voice parts to speak to each other across the platform.

I remember Mrs. Kirkwood was instrumental in organising choir concerts – Mrs. Kirk may well have done but I was too young to remember! In more recent years congregational concerts were held which involved not just the choir but members of the congregation who were willing to share their various talents with the audience. Over the years choir numbers

dropped but, up until covid, we still had a very supportive and enthusiastic group of singers which enabled us to maintain an introit programme and sing anthems and other music on special occasions. To all who over the last 193 years have committed themselves to the music of the congregation, whether as choir member or organist, I express my grateful thanks for their ministry and for enriching the worship.

Two other people who, unknown to them, fuelled my enthusiasm were Rev. James Hutchison, who was minister of Strathesk Church in my early days and his successor in the pulpit, Rev. Ronald Kennedy. At the time of their ministries, it was the custom to open the service with a metrical psalm or paraphrase and tunes like Harrington and Glasgow, accompanying the 84th Psalm, *“How lovely is Thy dwelling place”* and Paraphrase 18, *“Behold the mountain of the Lord”*, respectively, both of which I think were favourites of Mr. Hutchison, made quite an impression on me. In fact, even nowadays I tend to think of the psalms in their metrical version rather than in the prose version - *“I to the hills will lift mine eyes”* seems to me to be easier to remember than the biblical setting. In Mr. Hutchison’s time the *Revised Church Hymnary* was the hymn book used and one hymn which he enjoyed was the cheery *“The morning bright, with rosy light, has waked me up from sleep”*. Another hymn which we sang regularly during Mr. Hutchison’s ministry was *“Great God and wilt Thou condescend to be my Father and my Friend”*.

The Rev. Kennedy succeeded Mr. Hutchison, by which time the Union of Lasswade Old and Strathesk had been accomplished. One of Mr. Kennedy’s favourite hymns was *“Jesu, Thou joy of loving hearts”* sung to the tune *“Maryton”* and he often included that hymn in a communion service. During the ministry of both Mr. Hutchison and Mr. Kennedy the local population by and large was still *“church going”* and the pews were well filled on a communion Sunday when it was great to sing the latter words of the 24th Psalm, *“Ye gates, lift up your heads on high”*, to *“St. George’s Edinburgh”* - surely one of the finest metrical psalm tunes ever written - and hearing the men’s voices in full flow. Very often the words of the 43rd Psalm, *“O send Thy light forth and Thy truth”*, would also be included in the praise diet for communion, sung to *“Invocation”*.

When Mr. Kennedy retired in the late 1970s Lasswade Parish Church was linked with Cockpen and Carrington and we enjoyed having as our minister Rev. Mr Crichton Robertson who was the Cockpen and Carrington minister but who was himself about to retire. By this time CH3 had been introduced and in fact in the latter years of his ministry Mr. Kennedy very much believed the words of “*Thine be the glory*” which appeared in this hymnal. Mr. Robertson was succeeded by Rev. Myra Smith who was our minister for a very short time before she was followed by Rev. James Brown. In the early years of Mr. Brown’s ministry there was a feeling among Lasswade members that CH3 did not include some old favourites from the *Revised Church Hymnary* so a small band of people got together to address this problem and this led to our own, cloth covered, *Supplement* being introduced.

In the early 1990s Rev. Wendy Drake was appointed our minister and during her time with us a number of new hymnaries were introduced. In the 1990s we still had children among us so *Junior Praise* was adopted. A few years later *Common Ground* was introduced because the hymns and songs in this publication reflected modern thinking and towards the end of Mrs. Drake’s ministry with us we adopted CH4 as the principal hymnbook. This hymnal, while it incorporates a lot of the “traditional” hymns, continues our reflection with modern thinking and new hymns and writers and composers, both national and international. CH4 was the principal hymnary under Rev. Matthew Ross’ ministry and has remained so under Rev. Lorna Souter who has enriched our worship with additional music materials from time to time. Rosewell entered the linkage just before Mrs. Drake started her ministry with us and Rosewell and Lasswade united as Matthew Ross came among us.

Thank you, Lasswade, for everything and for nurturing my love of church music. I do not know where I shall worship in the future but thank you to the people who have been my fellow worshippers over the years and to those who have supported me at different times. I shall miss you, but I wish you all the best for the future and I hope we do not lose touch.

HLRD

## Lasswade Flower Rota

I am writing my last 'flower' message with very mixed feelings. I took over the 'post' of organiser when one Sunday no flowers appeared.

The lady who organised the rota had been taken ill and no one knew what had happened.

I have enjoyed being able to help in a small way and have received some lovely letters from appreciative recipients and know that this small gesture shows that the Church has not forgotten them.

Thank you to all the people who have provided flowers some for many years.

I have been privileged to be part of the team.

*Thank you*  
*Moir*

September 10th	Dorothy Spence
September 24th	Cathie Drysdale
October 8th	Sheena Blair
October 22nd	Margaret Gordon
November. 12th	Joan Campbell
November 26th	Anne Pryde
December 10th	Nita Adams
December 24th	Pat Lawrie

# THE HOLY HIKERS

" The longest journey begins with a single step."  
Lao Tsu.



This is always the most difficult article to write as there is quite a big gap between the publication of the Easter and the Harvest editions of the Link, but I'll try not to bore you too much.

In March we did a local walk taking in Lothian Bridge and Dalhousie Castle, there were 11 of us plus 2 dogs.

April, Ann, our new leader, took us down to Dunbar to the John Muir Country Park where we did a lovely walk by the sea. We also had a surprise meeting on the trail with some Alpacas, the highlight of our day!

Loanhead was our starting point in May when 9 of us with two dogs again, walked down into the Esk valley and up through a glorious display of bluebells into Roslin. We returned to Loanhead via the old Railway line.

It was my turn to guide the June walk, which was Penicuik House & estate. As with the other walks the weather was kind and as a bonus the ruined house was open for us to walk in and use our imaginations to picture what it would have been like before





the fire in 1899. We had a good turnout that day with 14 walkers and 1 dog.

In July we had booked a meal at The Laird and Dog and were to meet as usual in the park and walk from there.

Unfortunately, the weather had other ideas, and, after quite a pleasant day, around 6pm, the heavens opened and forgot to close.

Ann hastily arranged for all to be ferried down to Lasswade, although a few did get rather wet. It was a super night even though the rain was battering on the conservatory roof, good food, great company and our thanks go to Denise for organising the evening.

On Sunday 23rd July we had a brief meeting in the Church Hall to plan the next six months of walks. Once this has been finalised, I will put it on to the Church website, but here are a couple of "tasters".

On Wednesday 9th August we will be doing an evening walk meeting at 6.30 in the park and walking from there.

East Lothian is our destination on Saturday 9th September with Ann leading us round Gosford Estate.

We always welcome new walkers so, if anyone would like to join us, please contact Ann on 0131 660 0200.

Happy Hiking  
*Jim Scott.*

# Facts about Harvest

Every year we have a Harvest Festival in our schools and churches.

Do you know why?

This is the time of year when all the crops have been harvested.

## What is a Harvest Festival?

Harvest Festival is a celebration of the food grown on the land.

Thanksgiving ceremonies and celebrations for a successful harvest are both worldwide and very ancient. In Britain, we have given thanks for successful harvests since pagan times. We celebrate this day by singing, praying and decorating our churches with baskets of fruit and food in a festival known as 'Harvest Festival', usually during the month of September.

Harvest Festival reminds Christians of all the good things God gives them. This makes them want to share with others who are not so fortunate. In schools and in Churches, people bring food from home to a Harvest Festival Service. After the service, the food that has been put on display is usually made into parcels and given to people in need.

## When is Harvest Festival?

Harvest festivals are traditionally held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon. This is the full Moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox. In two years out of three, the Harvest Moon comes in September, but in some years, it occurs in October.

Unlike the USA and Canada, the UK does not have a national holiday for Harvest Festival.

The harvest festival of the Jewish religion is called Sukkot or 'Feast of Ingathering' or 'the 'Feast of Tabernacles'. It is celebrated at the end of the year, after Rosh Hoshanah, the third of the great Annual Festivals.

**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, 5th November 2023.**



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