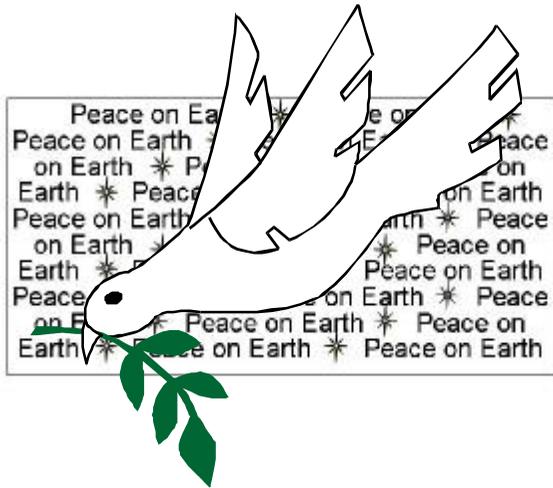
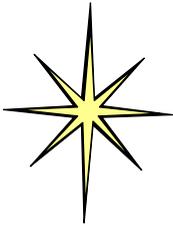


Cockpen & Carrington

The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Christmas 2009



Church of Scotland

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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

PULPIT SUPPLY ROTA - DECEMBER 2009 / APRIL 2010

DATE	LASSWADE 10 AM	COCKPEN & CARRINGTON 11.30 AM	ROSEWELL
06.12.09	Service at ROSEWELL	The Minister	The Minister (10 AM)
13.12.09	The Minister	The Minister	Rev J W Cook (11.30 AM) CAROL PARTY 7 PM
20.12.09	The Minister	The Minister 9 LESSONS & CAROLS 7 PM	Rev M Schofield (11.30 AM)
24.12.09	The Minister CHRISTINGLE 7 PM	The Minister SERVICE 11.20 PM	The Minister SERVICE 8.30 PM
27.12.09	The Minister	The Minister	Service at LASSWADE (10 AM)
03.01.10	Service at ROSEWELL	The Minister	The Minister (10 AM)
10.01.10	The Minister	The Minister	Rev M Schofield (11.30 AM)
17.01.10	The Minister	The Minister	Rev M Schofield (11.30 AM)
24.01.10	The Minister (HC)	Rev C McPherson	Service at LASSWADE (10 AM)
31.01.10	OFFICEBEARERS	The Minister	The Minister (10 AM)
07.02.10	Service at ROSEWELL	The Minister (HC)	Rev M Schofield (10 AM)
14.02.10	The Minister	The Minister	Rev J W Cook (11.30 AM)
21.02.10	The Minister	The Minister	Rev M Schofield (11.30 AM)
28.02.10	The Minister	The Minister	Service at LASSWADE (10 AM)
07.03.10	Service at ROSEWELL	The Minister	The Minister (10 AM)
14.03.10	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	Rev W Armitage (11.30 AM)
21.03.10	The Minister	The Minister	Rev M Schofield (11.30 AM)
28.03.10	The Minister	The Minister	Service at LASSWADE (10 AM)
04.04.10	Service at ROSEWELL	Rev J W Cook	The Minister (10 AM) (HC)

HC - Holy Communion

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 5 MARCH 2010 – ST LEONARDS CHURCH

HOLY WEEK SERVICES - 29 MARCH - 2 APRIL 2010 - Services to be confirmed later.

Dear Friends,

Christmas is one of my favourite times of the year. The sense of joy, wonder and expectation is palpable (even if some shops put up decorations annoyingly early). It is right that Christmas should be a time of celebration – it is, after all, a birthday party.

The message of the incarnation of Christ – the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem – reveals God's unbreakable link with humanity. But the appalling circumstances of his birth – in a stable in Bethlehem – were largely due to a census being carried out throughout the Roman Empire. Then, as well as now, the effect of unwieldy, uncaring and inefficient bureaucracies on the ordinary lives of people can be seen.

I am often being asked for my impressions of what it is like to be back home in Scotland after living abroad for several years. On a positive note, the friendship and kindness of so many people is greatly appreciated. On 1st November my wife and I finally moved into the Manse; we are enjoying living here in Midlothian. But our dealings with some appallingly rude staff in government offices and numerous inefficient businesses have been very disappointing. Such impressions can give a poor image of this country.

Over 2000 miles from here, Joseph and the heavily-pregnant Mary were inconvenienced by Roman authorities in having to travel south from Nazareth to Bethlehem for a census. Over 2000 years on, it sometimes seems to me that bureaucracies are still failing to learn that they are there to serve and help the people rather than the other way round! In such chaotic circumstances Jesus came into the world. Powerless and vulnerable in worldly economic terms, the baby was to grow into a man whose teachings and examples of love and grace would transform the world. He is God's Son: the Emmanuel, meaning "God is with us". He loves us for who we are – despite our failings and faults. In Jesus Christ we find forgiveness and the chance to make a fresh start. We must listen to his message – and allow his love to transform us.

Faith is our response to God's grace; may the real meaning of Christmas be with us throughout this festive season and the New Year. I wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and every blessing for 2010.

Yours sincerely,

Rev Matthew Ross
Minister

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH.

Baptisms

It was lovely to welcome the following baby along with parents, families and supporters to a recent Baptismal Service. We hope that all felt happy being amongst us at such a special time.

Adam Cameron Douglas Young, infant son of Kevin and Katrina (and grandson to Jim). Adam was baptized by our Minister, the Rev. Matthew Ross

'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee.'

Weddings

As a Congregation, we are delighted to congratulate the following couple who have been married in Church recently. We wish them both the very best for a happy life together.

26th September. Rachel Scougall to Darren Williamson.
(The Minister).

Quite a number of weddings booked for 2010 with interest already for 2011.

Bereavement

It is, with much sadness, that we record the death on 25th October of the following much respected member of our Congregation - Mrs. Ann Reeves, 3 Victoria Gardens, Newtongrange.

We pray for Eddie and the family and, any others whether members of the Congregation or not, who grieve at this time.

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

Cake Stall.

Many thanks once again to all who help in any way to make this event such a success. Without the efforts of the jam and chutney makers, bakers and tablet makers we could not play our part.

This year, so far, we have raised
£1,933.25

The next dates for the stall at the Pitcaim Centre are -

26th November, 2009

14th January, 2010 and,

4th March, 2010

Thank you again and, best wishes for the Festive season.

Wilma.

From the Clerk.

It doesn't seem that long since the editorial team were telling me (and others) to get a move on with articles for the Harvest 'Link' and, here we are, reading the Christmas one.

This article is a second attempt and, of course, this is the great advantage of a computer - you can just delete what you are not happy with and start again. Big difference to the old days of carbon paper in the typewriter and, the handy *tipex* to correct the many mistakes!

Delete I did, because, I took fright at what I had written - it was, I felt, just a bit critical and likely to cause offence to some. Of course, we are not in the business of wanting to upset people, we have all experienced the 'slip of the tongue' that has sometimes caused upset to folks who didn't deserve to be treated in such a manner.

What I had originally written was, **my own personal** disappointment that so many stay away from our lovely Church which, I can assure you, is welcoming to all. We have entered into another exciting time in the life of our Church with the arrival of Matthew and Kristina and I had felt that more folks would have wanted to be part of this new chapter. I would have thought that even curiosity about 'the new Minister' would have been enough to bring some back on a Sunday morning but, alas, it has not happened!

We have a fine man in Matthew as our Minister (and friend) and, let's not forget, it was a long hard road to reach this stage and I think we should think ourselves very fortunate indeed to have such a person. Matthew has already started his visits to the sick, elderly and bereaved as well as visiting the many schools. We commend him for carrying out these important duties but feel that **we** should really help him in this task by at least coming to him at Church. I'm sure you would not be disappointed in what you find at any of our Churches.

Of course, as always, we are so grateful to the faithful band who come Sunday by Sunday no matter what the weather is like. I realise, as I have said before, that many have other commitments which makes it difficult every week but, surely not all of you. I also realise that many, although not 'in the body of the Kirk' are supporting us in other ways and their thoughts are with us but, as I have said, it would be so good to see you in Church - **at any time.**

This is as good a time to 'give us a try' as any, the build up to Christmas and the birth of our Lord. Come along - we really would like you to be with us when perhaps we could share ideas and suggestions - we are always open to such ideas, suggestions and, indeed, criticism. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours, in friendship,
George.

From a book - 'Facing the Storm'

As you know, I have included a few stories from the above book in previous issues of 'The Link' and want to share one more with you. I have enjoyed these books so much and would commend them to you.

Some peasant women in Nicaragua were discussing the Nativity scene set up in Church. One said, 'Mary wouldn't have been wearing those beautiful blue and white clothes. She'd have been dressed like the poor, like us.' Another said, 'And she had rough hands like ours ...'

The birth of my new granddaughter reminded me of the softness of a baby's skin. I imagined Mary's hands, the skin roughened by work in a peasant home, holding Jesus. I thought of Joseph's hands, the hands of a carpenter, skin thickened by his trade, teaching Jesus to walk. Rough but caring hands, comforting, clothing, feeding the baby. Hard hands, but softened by love.

As the baby grew, the hand of God was rough in Jesus' life. From wilderness experience to the life of a wandering teacher, it wasn't easy being God's son. He had to face the doubt, the questions, the growing hatred, and the rejection of the establishment. And, finally, the cross. And there the soldiers' hands were rough, calloused and callous, and so was the wood. No softness there.

But through the roughness, love was let loose into the world. A love alternately gentle and abrasive, comforting and challenging, pruning and healing.

And because of the roughness, the suffering and the pain in Jesus' life, the poor of Nicaragua can recognise God-with-us and identify with him. If the hand of God had been only gentle he would have been less relevant, easier to ignore.

At times, forgive me, Lord,
in arrogance,
I think I have a God to share with them,
something to teach.
But then I realize
you're nearer them than me.
And learning has to be the other way.
Their God, rough handed,
sometimes hungry,
without a place to put his head,
is calling me to face reality.

From Meditations and Prayers by Eddie Askew.

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON CHURCH - CHRISTMAS MUSIC 2009

I am writing this note on an unusually mild and sunny autumn day. I'm all too well aware however that "the bleak mid-winter" will be upon us all too soon, so we are cooking up a programme of warming Christmas music. As ever, the choir and I look forward to a busy festive season.

This year's events largely follow the familiar pattern, and here are the dates to note:-

Sunday 13 December

In accordance with the now long established tradition the first event of the Christmas season will take place in Rosewell Church. This will as usual take the form of a **Carol Party**, starting at 7 pm. A wide variety of music and readings will no doubt be on the programme, with lots of opportunity for joining in as well as listening.

Monday 14 December

This is the date of our popular **Guild Carol Evening**. This will as always take place in the Church Hall in Dundas Street, beginning at 7.30 pm. The event is open to everyone, and offers lots of audience participation – male voices are particularly encouraged! The choir will of course be performing and this will be a first chance to hear our new Christmas offerings this year. The usual high quality refreshments will I am sure also be on offer – I suspect they are as much a draw as the music!.

Sunday 20 December

The morning service, at our usual time of 11.30 am, will be our Christmas Family Service. The Sunday School's **Nativity Play** (or something in that area!) will take pride of place, and those of you who have been lucky enough to attend over the last year or two will know that costume and production standards are high – and may even contain a surprise or two!

That evening our **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** will take place at 7 pm. I know that this has become a central part of Christmas worship both for many of our own congregation and friends from further afield, and we hope that as many as possible will join us for what I am sure will be a special occasion. The service will as in years past take place entirely by candlelight, and the readers will be drawn from all ages across the congregation. As well as many of the traditional hymns and carols the choir will be singing seasonal music from around the world – this year I have found a new item from the Catalan region of Spain to add to our repertoire.

Thursday 24 December

In the earlier part of the evening the choir will be performing for the guests at Dalhousie Castle Hotel. Our traditional **Watchnight Service** will then take place in time honoured fashion at 11.20 pm. A mix of carols and readings will take us up to the ringing of the church bell at midnight to mark the coming of Christmas Day itself. This service has been very well supported in recent years, and we hope that whatever the weather may throw at us as many as possible will join us once again.

As has been the case for the last few years our own choir will be reinforced for some of the Christmas events by one or two friends from the Dalkeith Singers. I am extremely grateful to them for fitting us into their own busy Christmas schedules.

Graham Burnside, Organist

A wee boy's grace

A mother took her children to a restaurant. Her 6 year old son asked if he could say grace. As they bowed their heads he said "God is good, God is great. Thank you for the food, I would even thank you more if mom gets us ice cream for dessert. Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, the boys mother heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with society. Kids don't even know how to pray, asking God for ice cream! Why, I never!"

Hearing this, the boy burst into tears and asked his mother, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?" As the mother assured her son that he had done a terrific job and that God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table.

He winked his eye at the boy and said, "I know that God thought that was a great prayer" Then he whispered in the boy's ear, "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally the boy had ice cream for dessert. The boy stared at his ice cream sundae and without a word, walked over and placed it in front of the woman; With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes, and my soul is good already".

Philippians 4 reminds us "Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking Him with a thankful heart. God's peace which is far beyond human understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON SUNDAY SCHOOL

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

We had a wonderful Harvest Thanksgiving service led by our Minister. The children had been busy making posters about harvest and decorated the church with home-made leaves - all very colourful. The harvest table was over-flowing and the congregation was even more generous than in previous years. We were able to take a huge quantity of tins to Jericho House who were overwhelmed with your thoughtfulness - please see their letter of appreciation (on page 13). The Bric - a - Brac also gave blankets and crockery. Jessie and Rosalind received such a warm welcome when they delivered these as the Autumn weather had hit hard and the visitors to the soup kitchen were desperately searching for blankets to hand out. If you have blankets you no longer need, give Rosalind a call and she'll take them to Jericho House.

Our own members of the congregation are not forgotten and many received gifts of fruit and fresh produce. We've had a number of lovely messages from those receiving gifts - please be assured you are in our thoughts and prayers.

FAMILY SERVICES

Another advantage of having our own Minister is that we're back to having regular monthly Family Services. Matthew is becoming a firm favourite with the children and really puts a great deal of thought into his Family Services. We look forward to getting to know him better. Many of the children have been seeing him at school so good to hear that Matthew is getting involved with the local community.

CHRISTMAS OUTING

100 of us are heading to the pantomime on 12 December for the matinee performance of that famous pantomime: Robinson Crusoe and the Caribbean Pirates! It should be a wonderful day out and we're not in the cheap seats this year but down in the front stalls! From those numbers you can guess that a lot of other friends are coming along with us and we look forward to spending time together.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY

It's top secret at this stage but preparations have started for our Christmas Nativity Play which will be held at our Christmas Family Service on Sunday 20 December. As usual, auditions will be held for some of our more senior actors. They won't turn up nor will they come to rehearsals but nevertheless we look forward to full participation in our Play! Come along and join in what is a lovely Christmas service.

20 GLORIOUS YEARS!

Many of you won't have been born 20 years ago, but for those of us who were around, what were some of the key events? The fall of the Berlin Wall, massacre at Tiananmen Square in China, death of Bette Davis - American actress and of course our very own headline: George Sweeney became Session Clerk! George had been an Elder for 23 years prior to that. George is a huge supporter of this Sunday School and has offered us all lots of encouragement throughout his tenure as Session Clerk. He is coerced into playing a variety of parts in our Nativity and is always enthusiastic and happy to muck in. He always has a cheery message for the children and works tirelessly for this Church. He is the first to offer praise and thanks to others. Congratulations and thank you, George, for the past 20 years.

Rosalind Dolan

Numbers Quiz – Answers

- | | | | | | | | |
|----|------|-----|--------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1. | 1000 | 10. | 4 | 19. | 112 | 28. | 5 |
| 2. | 40 | 11. | 6 | 20. | 12 | 29. | 16 |
| 3. | 88 | 12. | 12 | 21. | 144 | 30. | 24 |
| 4. | 13 | 13. | 60 | 22. | 8 | 31. | 1,000 |
| 5. | 10 | 14. | 5 | 23. | 8 | 32. | 125 |
| 6. | 1 | 15. | 10 | 24. | 5 | 33. | 7 |
| 7. | 206 | 16. | 3 | 25. | 2 | 34. | 12 |
| 8. | 10 | 17. | 10,000 | 26. | 22 | 35. | 1961 |
| 9. | 3 | 18. | 12 | 27. | 147 | 36. | 68 |

Letter from Jericho House

JERICO BENEDICTINE SOCIETY

The Compassion of Jesus.

Jericho House
53, Lothian Street
EDINBURGH, EH1 1HB

☎ 0131 225 8230

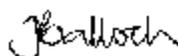
12 October 2009
.....

Dear Ms Dolan

I would be grateful if you could convey to the children (and parents) at Sunday School, the thanks of everyone at Jericho House for the generous donation of food which was delivered to us at the weekend.

We are happy to know that people are thinking about us. Donations always help us to offer our residents variety at mealtimes.

Yours sincerely



June Balloch
Unit Manager

Jericho House is recognised as a Scottish Charity by the Inland Revenue Ref. No. SC 016909.

THE HOLY HIKERS

Thoughts come clearly while one walks
Thomas Mann



I love walking in the autumn, it's lovely to see the browns, oranges and golds of the leaves on the trees.

In September we enjoyed a walk near Peebles, the one we originally planned was deemed to be a bit steep in parts so Jenny and John Anderson led us on an easier path out of Peebles and over to the Manor Valley with lots of extensive views over the Tweed and Manor Valleys, which has to be a favourite for viewpoints.

Later in September we had our now famous "Walking Weekend". On Saturday 26th September we explored Glenkiln with its outdoor sculptures. Six sets in the valley. The first was a naked sculpture of John the Baptist by August Rodin (1840-1917) and we had quite a job to drag Maria Hall away from him. The other five were more abstract but beautifully sited on the hillside round the little reservoir. The walk was approximately 5 - 5 ½ miles. (Watch this space for more information on Glenkiln Sculptures in the Easter Link.)

Our evening was spent in the Cairndale Hotel and Leisure Club where we enjoyed a lovely meal followed by a quiz over a few drinks. On the Sunday morning we walked through the town following a trail of Burns related sites, beginning with his grave in St Michaels Churchyard and continuing by the house where he died in 1796, the Globe where he used to drink, We only saw the outside! Then we went on to Burns Statue and the 'Sanghoose of Scotland' his first house in Dumfries where he wrote many of his famous pieces such as Ae Fond Kiss. We continued up the Banks of the River Nith passing under the Bypass three times and eventually arriving back at the Hotel for coffee before setting off for home. The weather again was very kind to us and helped to make the weekend most enjoyable. Our October walk was cancelled due to inclement weather. The new programme of walks is on its way and will take us up to March 2010.

Happy Hiking,

Jim Scott

Bonnyrigg Ranger Guides

We are back at Rangers following the school holidays and we have had a very lively start to the new year!

Our first meeting back saw a pamper evening where we had our nails painted and foot spas to catch up on all that had happened over the summer holidays and discuss how the exam results had gone. I am delighted to report that all the girls did exceptionally well - congratulations all!

In early September, we headed to the climbing wall at Edinburgh University Sports Campus for an evening of rock climbing and games. The girls were really enthusiastic and showed great team building skills and trust as they set about climbing walls which steadily grew more and more difficult. It was a good night and what's more the girls loved it.

After the September break, we had an evening in the Guide hall with pop corn and the chick flick Wimbledon - an oldie but a goody. We also finished planning our term up to Christmas.

We have decided this year, as our main fundraising project, to make tablet and macaroon bars to sell. We had an evening practising our skills and now each girl has been given £20 to enterprise on behalf of the unit. It will be interesting to see how they get on but I am sure they will make a profit for the unit.

For Halloween, we organised a trip into Edinburgh to visit Mary King's Close. None of us had ever been before and we were not disappointed. It was a very successful scary night out!

Three of our girls have been selected to take part in the Tall Ships next year and as a unit we are holding a Beetle Drive at the Guide Hall in November to raise funds for their trip. We are hoping that the event will be well supported by family and friends and will be a huge success.

Our plans in the lead up to Christmas include a Scots Night at the end of November, a trip to the Cavalier restaurant in Dalkeith for a Christmas Pizza and of course our annual trip into Winter Wonderland in Edinburgh. Christmas would never be complete without a scary ride on the Big Wheel and a chocolate waffle!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone connected to Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church and their families a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

The Rangers meet every second Tuesday in the Guide Hall on Dobbies Road and we are currently looking for new members, so if you know any young lady (between 14 and 26 years) who may be interested in joining us, please feel free to contact me on Tel No 0131 454 9278.

Lynsey
Stevenson



Oasis

Since the last edition we have only had one meeting to organise our yearly programme so unfortunately I have very little to share with you.

Oasis ladies meet the first Thursday of every month and we are always looking for new members to come along and join us - as they say "the more the merrier!". If you are interested, please feel free to contact me on Tel No 0131 454 9278. We would love you to see you.

Our programme for the next 12 months is busy and varied and is as follows:

5th November - Ready Steady Cook at Lasswade High School Centre. Just like the TV programme we will work in teams to produce the best food possible.

3rd December - For our Christmas outing we are going to The Corstorphine Road Nativity Show at the Festival Theatre which stars Gail Watson. We also plan to go for something to eat at Ciao Roma beforehand.

7th January - Pot Luck Supper and Wii Night at the Church Hall in a bid to get rid of the last of the Christmas nibbles and have a bit of fun.

4th February - Thai Night - Tai Chi & Thai Cooking Demonstration in the Church Hall.

12th March - Due to the success of our previous two Blingo nights and in response to popular demand, BLINGO III will take place at the Ex Serviceman's Club in Bonnyrigg. We have gone for a bigger venue this time and hopefully it will be just as successful as the first two.

1st April - Chocolate Challenge Night in the Church Hall.

6th May - Belly Dancing (tbc).

3rd June - Pilates (tbc).

I promise to let you know how these events went in the next edition.

In the meantime, from all at Oasis, may I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

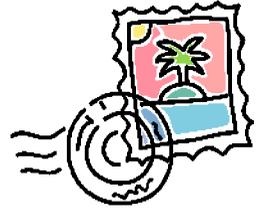


Lynsey Stevenso



Used Stamps

Mrs Dorothy Bennett received a letter from the Church of Scotland World Mission Council thanking her for the contribution of used stamps from the congregation of Cockpen & Carrington Church.



I am writing to thank you for the collection of used stamps which the congregation of Cockpen & Carrington Church have sent us. Please thank everybody involved in collecting these stamps and for their continued support and hard work. It is through such efforts that a total of £1,487.11 was raised in 2008 to help girls in Kalimpong, India get back into mainstream education.

During 2009, we are raising money for Roma people in Czech Republic. So far we have raised £812.00

WHAT ARE THE SENIORS WORTH?

Remember old folks are worth a fortune with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet, and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a little older since I saw you last and a few changes have come into my life, frankly I have become a frivolous old gal.

I am seeing six gentlemen every day. As soon as I wake up Will Power helps me out of bed. Then I go to see Johnny Loo. Next Charlie Cramps comes along and when he's here he takes up a lot of attention. When he leaves Arthur Ritus shows up and stays around all day. He doesn't like to stay in one place very long so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day I'm really tired and glad to go to bed with Johnny Walker. What a life! Oh yes! I'm also fighting with Al Zymer.

P.S. The minister came to call the other day. He said that I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him: Oh I do! All the time on my way home, in the parlour, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement. I say to myself "Now, What am I here after?"

submitted by C Cockburn.

GUILD NEWS

We have had a very successful start to our session with Rev Colin Mc Pherson conducting our dedication within the church service with his usual insight and anecdotal humour. On the Monday at our first meeting we were pleased to welcome five new members who we hope will feel relaxed and welcome within the group. (There is plenty room for some more!) Our speaker on this first night was Rev. Matthew Ross who spoke on our theme-Justice – but also took the opportunity to introduce himself and enjoy a cuppa and chat. Hopefully we made a good impression.

Our speakers so far have included one who showed us some of the antique music boxes he has collected and we were enchanted by them.

We also have been informed on the work of the Parole Board, Autism and Edinburgh cinemas. A representative from Blythswood Care to whom we send Christmas shoeboxes is coming to outline the work of this charity on Monday 30th. November and all are welcome to join us.

Yet again Graham Burnside and the choir are coming to entertain and lead us in singing at our ever popular Carol Party on December 14th which is always well attended and open to all. Mrs Jessie Hume has kindly undertaken once more to do all the baking and has already baked the cake and shortbread. It's great to have talented friends who are so generous of their time and talents. Hope to see a lot of you then!

The new year starts with a cheese and wine evening which gives us a chance to plan for our 80th birthday which falls in February when we plan to give thanks at Church on the 20th and enjoy a meal somewhere on the Monday evening. Also in the new year we will hear about the Fire Brigade, Local Studies, and Crossreach which is one of the guild projects that helps families of prisoners cope with the hardship many have to cope with when making visits to correction centres etc.

The Guild meetings are held fortnightly in the Church Hall, Dundas Street at 7.30pm. The first meeting in the New Year will be on January 11th.

All are most welcome.

Blythswood care shoeboxes appeal - “make someone smile”

Many thanks again for all those who filled a shoebox for the Blythswood appeal. There were 50+ boxes delivered from Cockpen & Carrington including 15 from Ann's Rainbow Guide unit so it was certainly a worthwhile effort especially in the present financial climate. The Guild has a speaker from the charity coming to speak to them and hope anyone interested will join them on that evening.

From Lasswade & Rosewell 109 boxes were filled and taken over to Straiton on Wednesday 4 November - this included 37 from Rosewell primary school. Thank you to all who supported this project.

Agnes

Cockpen and Carrington Flower Rota

December 2009

6th S. McKechnie
13th N. Richardson
20th D. Peat & Sunday School
27th Liz Laidlaw

January 2010

3rd Irene Ramsay
10th B. McInnes
17th J. Sharpe
24th M. Miller
31st Ian Fowler

February

7th L. Hanson
14th B. McInnes
21st Thinking Day – Peat Family
28th Flower Fund

March

7th M. McAlpine
14th C. Fisher
21st Stella McLeish
28th Jim Dyer



I have just finished the flower rota for 2010 and I am very grateful to all the people who have given me dates they would like, perhaps in memory of a loved one, or an anniversary, birthday or wedding, not forgetting those of you who frequently give donations so the church is always decorated with flowers. After Sunday Service the flowers go out to our members who are perhaps feeling ill or have lost a loved one; I know they are very much appreciated by those who receive them. It is always a pleasure to see their faces light up when they are handed out.

I know there are a few spaces left but do not forget we do not have plenty of vases and tables for flowers in Church. You can easily share dates, so, if you would like to join us phone me on (0131) 663 1825 and I'll be happy to help.

Irene Ramsay.

Happiness



Lasswade Church - Some Old Minutes

A month or two ago I glanced through one of the old Minute Books covering meetings of the Board of Managers for the period 14th November 1867 – 8th November 1932. These years included the time when the building in which we currently worship was known as Lasswade United Presbyterian Church, then as Lasswade United Free Church following the union of the United Presbyterian Church with the United Free Church in 1900, and finally as Strathesk Church of Scotland following the union of the United Free and the Church of Scotland in 1929.

The records of the meetings which are detailed in this Minute Book show that the same problems with money and property were as true then as they are today. Minutes of the discussions leading to the 1894 renovations, the outcome of which -with minor alterations since – is the appearance of the building as we know it today are also recorded in this book. One reason why I looked closely at these meetings was to see if there was anything mentioned in great detail about the Memorial Windows but possibly they are documented elsewhere. I did however come across information about the Aitchison/Umpherston Window on the north side of the Church and the Dove Window at the east end in the gallery.

The other interest is personal. My paternal grandfather, Robert Dryden, was a journeyman joiner and he was one of the craftsmen employed by the architects, Hardy and Wight, to carry out the 1894 renovations including the construction of the pulpit. There are some carvings on the pulpit which interest me and I would love to find out the reason behind them. Again, these may be documented elsewhere.

I have extracted just a few of the minutes of matters discussed. Of the external issues involved some of the “sites” can be clearly identified because they exist today but others have disappeared. I hope you find these interesting.

Herbert L.R. Dryden

Excerpt Minutes of some Meetings of the Board of Managers of Lasswade United Presbyterian Church from 14th November 1867, continuing as Lasswade United Free Church from 26th November 1900 and continuing as Strathesk Church of Scotland from 12th November 1929

(The 1900 and 1929 dates referred to above are the dates of the first meetings of the Board of Managers following the Unions and not the dates of the Unions themselves)

A lot of the early Minutes recorded in the Minute Book covering the period from 14th November 1867 – 8th November 1932 refer to the collection of seat rents, e.g.

14 th November 1867: Letting of seats in Church for the first time for the Martinmas half year, and collected arrears for the previous half year	Lower Part	£ 8.3.3	
	Gallery	£ 3.5.- £11. 8.3	
	Current half year	Lower	£15.4.3
		Gallery	£ 3.9.- £18.13.3
			£30.1.6

28th May 1868: Collected letting at Whitsunday for the first time.

10th December 1868: Resolved to erect a gas lamp at south east corner of Church.

28th September 1871: Property adjoining Church belonging to the late Mr. William Slater for sale. Committee formed to inquire into its value and the desirability of it being acquired by the congregation.

16th February 1872: Bargain concluded with Executor for £200. Repairs instructed to put property into a habitable condition.

Messrs Charles Umpherston, John Porteous, John Tod, Stair Dickson and other gentlemen are on the Board of Managers in various capacities and at various times during these years. These gentlemen, and others, gifted some of the furnishings such as the memorial windows and pulpit during the 1894 renovations.

31st May 1886: Repairs on the dwelling houses at Session House sanctioned and the erection of two coal houses.

13th December 1886: Resolved that each Manager should stand at the plate for all Sabbaths in a month in the following order (and a duty rota was detailed) and in the event of an absence a substitute shall be found and that on the last Sabbath of each month the standing manager shall advise his successor on the list for next Sabbath.

14th March 1891: The wall of property between Church and cottage having fallen down the Building Committee instructed Mr. Robert Ketchen, Builder, Bonnyrigg, to clear the public road of the obstruction thereby caused and to erect the wall substantially – also to cut to near the ground the hedge – vacancy to be planted with young thorn in the autumn.

14th March 1893: Various matters were discussed at this Meeting. These included the reading of a letter from the Rev. W.P. Rodgerson concerning repairs and alterations to the Church with particulars of subscriptions provided. The Meeting also considered that part of Mr. Rodgerson's letter in which he stated that a friend was willing to plant with shrubs and lay out the ground at the back of the Church provided the unnecessary walls were taken away. The kind offer was accepted. Also, at this Meeting, considerations was given to the following Excerpt from a Minute of a Meeting of the Congregation held on 8th March 1893 contained in a letter from Mr. Pairman (to which reference had been made earlier in the Meeting):-

“Before the meeting separated an informal conversation took place in regard to the proposed internal and external improvement of the Church and in regard to several offers of financial help which certain friends had made for that purpose. After a number of those present had expressed their views it was ultimately agreed to remit the whole matter to the managers with instructions to ascertain what funds could be raised from the Congregation and to report to a meeting of the Congregation to be held as soon as possible”.

After examining and considering a Report and plans of the proposed alterations which had been prepared by Mr. Henry Hardy, Architect, Edinburgh, a committee was formed, with powers to add to their number, to arrange to visit the members of the congregation with a view to ascertaining what funds could be raised for the improvement of the Church referred to in the foregoing Excerpt.

11th April 1893:...In order to improve the appearance of the ground behind the Church it was agreed to slope the high bank at the part where some interments had taken place, to mark the place of interment by four corner stones connected by an iron chain, and to insert the tombstones in the wall of the vestry – the work to be executed to the satisfaction of the Works Committee and in such a way as not to interfere with the graves.

Also at this Meeting, Mr. Pairman, the chairman of the Committee appointed to visit the Congregation to see what money was likely to be raised for the Church improvements, reported that the Committee had been paid or received promises of contributions (including those already intimated) of about £300. After discussion it was resolved to ask the Architect to give an estimate of the total cost.

3rd May 1893: Meeting advised that the lowest offer to carry out the proposals amounted to £676 or thereabouts. It was resolved to put the matter before the Congregation, the sum required to be augmented by a Sale of Work. Congregation meeting called for May 16th.

30th May 1893: Managers heard that the remit from the Congregational meeting on May 16th was "That we get the money from a Sale of Work or otherwise before we go on".....It was agreed that intimation be made from the Pulpit for a meeting of ladies interested in a Sale of Work be called for Tuesday June 6th.

4th October 1893:Chairman of the Sale of Work Committee reported that Bonnyrigg Hall could be had on July 6th and 7th 1894 for thirty shillings.

The meeting of 4th October 1893 and subsequent meetings referred to the pending alterations as well as to other matters.

On 25th November 1893 inter alia a reference is made to ..funds presently in the Bank being added to the £105 promised by Mr. Tod of Glenesk.... (I have no way of knowing if this amount is the value of Mr. Tod's gift of the Memorial Window for his family.) This meeting resolved that the alterations go on as soon as possible to the extent of the money on hand together with £125 or thereby, as part of the amount to be realised by the Sale of Work in July 1894. A discussion on the titles took place at this meeting. The Committee appointed to oversee the alterations were instructed, after they had contacted the architect or any other practical men as they think fit, to give a written report to the Managers.

A fairly extensive written report is contained in the Minute Book. This basically gives two options and it would have been interesting to see what the Church looked like at that time before the alterations were carried out. The question of the Pulpit was a major issue but in the second option a suggestion is made for "the pulpit in this case being a roomy platform with raised reading desk forming its centre piece". The report covers matters like the floor level, heating, accommodation on the platform for elders and that "the existing windows be altered in form, that the blind window in the front be cut open to admit light to the end gallery and that the projecting portion of the front wall be finished with a pediment". After mature consideration the Committee put forward their recommendations to the Managers and these were adopted on 26th December 1893.

I think the window in the gallery at the east end of the Church which incorporates the Dove is where the blind window was, i.e. the window which was recommended to be opened up to admit light to the end gallery.

16th January 1894: It was agreed to erect a belfry instead of a cross.

A lot of the discussions at Meetings in the early part of 1894 centred on the alterations including the sanctioning for a porch to be erected in front of the church (3rd June 1894), fitting up the old vestry with a wash hand basin, closet etc for a Ladies Room (4th September 1894) and putting a lamp outside the ladies room (3rd December 1894).

At the Meeting held on 3rd December 1894 it was reported that £930.18.1 had been raised from a number of sources including £426.6.1 from the Sale of Work (or bazaar as it is sometimes called). Agreement was also reached to present a gift to the Free Church Congregation (i.e. Cockpen United Free or as it is now known Bonnyrigg Parish Church) of 8 cups and two flagons as a token of appreciation for them granting the use of their church during the 4 and one half months our church was undergoing the alterations. Apparently this was a reciprocal gift which they gave us some years previously when their church was undergoing alterations.

23rd April 1895: Decided to use, as an experiment, the set of collection bags presented to the Congregation some time ago by Mrs. William Tod.

23rd February 1897: Decided to make a big effort to clear off the debt of the Church (about £86) during this year of the Queen's Jubilee.

16th November 1898: Offer from Lady Aitchison of a Memorial Window discussed and accepted.

28th January 1902: Mr. James Stoddart, Session Clerk, formally intimated the death of Rev. W.P. Rodgerson. It was agreed that the pulpit and elders seats be draped in black and that public intimation of the funeral arrangements be inserted in The Scotsman and Evening News. (Incidentally at a later meeting – on 15th April 1902 – an account was rendered for the draping and this amounted to £7.8.3).

13th January 1903: Question of ordination of Mr. Nivison considered. Committee formed to make necessary arrangements including a Presbytery dinner.

18th March 1907: Managers were advised that the session had granted the use of the Church hall to Lasswade School Board from the April vacation to the summer holidays.

7th February 1910: Managers agreed that Mr. Young, the new Church Officer, have both houses below the Hall at the usual rent.

7th November 1916: It was agreed to apply to the Porteous Bequest for a grant towards providing parcels for soldiers of the congregation.

11th November 1924: Request from Miss Royal? For use of the Church Hall for Wolf Cubs and asking for assistance from the Managers.. It was decided that the Treasurer, W.Scott, take charge of the cash and Mr. Storie agreed to see in what way he could help Miss Royal with the work.

23rd February 1925: Church Officer reported that the lawn mower was no longer fit. Mr. Scott undertook to see what a new one would cost. The new one cost £2.2.9 as reported to the meeting on 10th March 1925.

8th September 1925: Hall requested for use by Scouts.

25th January 1928: Chairman informed the meeting that all arrangements in connection with the induction of Rev. David Gray were complete. (Earlier meetings had made arrangements for Mr. Gray's removal expenses from Biggar).

22nd January 1929: Offer of the services of a Choral Society from Biggar for a concert in aid of The Centenary Fund accepted. Stewards for this Concert were appointed at the meeting on 6th March 1929.

These are only a few excerpts from the minutes of the meetings covered in the Minute Book for the years in question. It is interesting to note that a lot of their discussions centred on finance, property problems at the Church, Manse, Hall, Church Officer's House and the Cottage on Polton Road, the Garden Grounds, the Windows and interior problems in the various buildings, heating (or the lack of it), lighting, level of the floors or platforms, use of the hall for certain purposes, etc. – all strangely familiar to what meetings today have to discuss. However they soldiered on through war times and depressions and the building we know today survived these trials.

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Lasswade and Rosewell Choir

In an unseasonably mild October it is hard to believe that Advent and Christmas are only weeks away and that thereafter we shall enter the second decade of the twenty first century.

The Choir have been working hard on several items which we hope to sing during December. Our plan is to sing “The Pilgrim Carol”, “As Joseph Was A Walking”, “O little Love who comes again” and “The Sans Day Carol” at the Rosewell Carol Party on Sunday 13th December. The words of The Pilgrim Carol were written by Mark Woodruff and the music is The Song of the Shaker Sect. The tune is, basically, the one we sing to Lord of the Dance. The Shaker Sect is the popular nickname for The United Society of Believers in Christ’s Second Coming, founded in England around 1747 by James and Jane Wardley and taken to North America in 1774 by Ann Lee. They shook ecstatically in their worship and anticipated modern beliefs but their doctrine of celibacy led to their extinction. “As Joseph” is a traditional English Carol. “O little Love” is written by the prolific New Zealand hymnwriter Shirley Erena Murray who has a number of hymns in CH4 and the “Sans Day Carol” is so named because the melody and first three verses were taken down at St. Day in Cornwall. St. Day or St. They was a Breton saint whose cult was widely spread in Cornwall.

As Moira and I are away for Christmas we shall not be here on Christmas Eve. However, on Sunday 20th December the Choir will sing “See, To Us A Child Is Born”, based on Isaiah 9vv6-7 and a lovely lullaby, “Suo Gan”. This was originally written in the Welsh by Robert Bryan and tells of a mother’s tender love towards her child. The chances are that we shall sing this one again in January.

Once again I must express my grateful thanks to the regular Choir for all their support each Sunday and also to the ladies and gentlemen who have augmented our numbers for special services. Without the enthusiasm of these people the musical side of the congregation’s life and worship would be all the poorer.

The Choir join me in extending the Compliments of the Season to you all.

HLRD

Lasswade Church



January	
10 th	Miss M Sharpe
17 th	Mrs M Dryden
24 th	Mrs M Rennie
31 st	Mrs N Adams
February	
14 th	Mrs S Turner
21 st	Mrs P Lawrie
28 th	Mrs G Renwick
March	
14 th	Mrs M Waugh
21 st	Miss L Williamson
28 th	Mrs C Drysdale

I am putting the finishing touches to the rota for 2010 and would be happy to include new names on the list. If you would like to be included please speak to me. There are spaces still to be filled and it would be great to see new names on the list. The flowers are always appreciated by the recipients and it shows the concern of the church family.

Moira Dryden

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

1 December in Rosewell church hall – MUSICAL EVENING and supper – Margo Dunn (member of the southern light) providing the entertainment - tickets available from Lasswade / Rosewell office bearers

12 December – COFFEE MORNING/SALE - 10-12 Noon in Rosewell church hall

13 December - CAROL PARTY in Rosewell church at 7 pm - please note change of date

NUMBERS QUIZ

1. Millenium
2. Ruby Wedding
3. Two fat ladies
4. Baker's Dozen
5. Lepers healed by Jesus
6. Number who returned
7. Bones in a human body
8. Shrimp's legs
9. Coconut dimples
10. Gospels
11. Sextette
12. Pieces of wood on a cricket field
13. Howald M Thatcher on 13.10.84
14. Car tyres
15. Landing wheels on Concorde
16. Strikes in conkers
17. Duke of York's men
18. Face cards in a pack
19. Lbs in Cwt
20. Penalty spot from goal (yds)
21. Gross
22. Octopus
23. People saved in Ark
24. Loaves
25. Fishes
26. Snooker balls
27. Highest possible break
28. Enid Blyton's Secret Group
29. 40% of 40
30. Hours from Tulsa
31. Kilo
32. British Rail high speed train
33. Sides of a heptagon
34. Pennies in an old shilling
35. Last year you can read inverted
36. Recommended room temperature

When you get stuck the answers can be found on page 12.

Articles for the Easter Issue of "The Link" should be with the Editors by Sunday 28th February 2010.