

Cockpen & Carrington

The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Christmas 2015



Church of Scotland

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PULPIT SUPPLY ROTA – December 2015 – April 2016

DATE	LASSWADE (10.00 am)	COCKPEN & CARRINGTON (11.30 am)	ROSEWELL (please check times below)
20.12.15 4 th Sunday in Advent	Rev M Schofield Nativity	Rev M Schofield NINE LESSON AND CAROLS 7 PM	Janet McKenzie 11.30 am
Thurs 24.12.15 CHRISTMAS EVE	Prof Kerrigan 7.30pm	Prof Kerrigan Watchnight Carol Service 11.20 pm	Eddie Yeoman 6 pm
27.12.15	Janet McKenzie	Janet McKenzie	Service at Lasswade 10 am
03.01.16	Service at Rosewell	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield 10 am
10.01.16	TBA	TBA	Eddie Yeoman 11.30 am
17.01.16	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	Janet McKenzie 11.30 am TBC
24.01.16	Rev Ian Dick COMMUNION	Rev Ian Dick	Communion at Lasswade 10 am
31.01.16	Worship Group	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield 10 am
07.02.16	Service at Rosewell	Rev Ian Dick COMMUNION	Rev Ian Dick 10am
14.02.16	Janet McKenzie	Janet McKenzie	Eddie Yeoman 11.30am
21.02.16	Prof Kerrigan	Prof Kerrigan	Rev M Schofield 11.30 am
28.02.16	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	Service at Lasswade 10 am
06.03.16	TBC Service at Rosewell ASM	TBC Janet McKenzie	TBC Janet McKenzie 10 am
13.03.16	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield ASM	Janet McKenzie TBC 11.30am
20.03.16	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	TBA 11.30am
27.03.16	TBA	TBA	Rev Bill Armitage 11.30 am
03.04.16	Service at Rosewell	Rev M Schofield	COMMUNION Rev M Schofield 10am
10.04.16	Prof Kerrigan	Prof Kerrigan	Eddie Yeoman 11.30 am
17.04.16	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	TBA 11.30 am
24.04.16	Rev I Dick TBC	Rev I Dick TBC	Janet McKenzie 11.30 am TBC

FRIDAY 4 MARCH 2016 – WORLD DAY OF PRAYER AT ST LEONARD CHURCH 7.30 PM

HOLY WEEK SERVICES: 21 to 25 MARCH – ALL SERVICES START AT 7PM

MON – OUR LADY
TUES – ROSEWELL
WED – TBA

THURS – TBA
FRIDAY – COCKPEN

Lasswade and Rosewell News ...

Christmas Eve Services: Everyone will be made most welcome
6.00 p.m. Service at Rosewell Parish Church.
7.30 p.m. Christingle Service at Lasswade Parish Church.
(Retiring Offering : CLIC Sargent Cancer Care for Children).

An invitation to the Sacrament of Holy Communion: Sunday 24 January 2016 in
Lasswade Parish Church at 10.00 a.m. All Welcome.

If you would like to come to a Church Service but you need transport or a friend to go with, please contact the Session Clerk or your District Elder and we will do our best to help.

The MacMillan Coffee Event on Friday 25 September at 44 Carnethie Street, Rosewell raised the sum of £861. Sincere thanks to all who supported this event. Agnes Anderson.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held on Sunday 4 October in Rosewell Church and thank you to the children who brought along gifts for the Food Bank and also our retiring offering was for "Feed the Hungry". The Rev. Melville Schofield was the preacher and he was also celebrating his 80th Birthday. He received a gift from the congregation and after the service everyone enjoyed tea and birthday cake provided by May Murdoch.

Cake Stall

A big thank you to everyone who supports our monthly Thursday Cake Stall at the Pitcairn Centre. If you are able to help on the stall please speak to Cathy Drysdale or Norma Sangster.

Forthcoming dates are: 14 January, 11 February, 10 March and 14 April.

Food Bank Appeal

Members of our Church have generously contributed to the local Food Bank over a considerable time – thank you very much for doing so and please pray for all the people it serves. However, sadly the situation for those short of finance, food, clothing etc continues to increase and so we would encourage you to keep going with your food donations which are extremely welcome to those in need.

Create a Festive Centrepiece

You will need:

- Plant pot
- Bin liner
- Pre-soaked Oasis
- Candle
- Holly
- Ivy
- Hypericum berries
- White and red roses



1. Line pot with bin liner to make waterproof, and wedge pre-soaked Oasis into pot so it sits about 1 inch above the lip of pot. Push the candle into the Oasis.
2. Trim holly stems and push into the Oasis and fill any gaps with ivy, making sure the Oasis is well covered.
3. Add trimmed hypericum berries around the edge of the pot. Group red roses and push three stems at a time into the Oasis.
4. Trim white roses and push into the Oasis between the red roses.

Keep Oasis well watered.

Our homes and churches will be putting up the traditional Advent Wreath and Christmas decorations soon. However we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, may we enjoy the company of family or friends and let us skip into 2016 with hopeful hearts wishing everyone a good new year.

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair is planned for Saturday 12 December from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon in Rosewell Church Hall. We hope to have a number of stalls including home baking, bric-a-brac, crafts, books, tombola and raffle as well as teas/coffees. Please put this date in your diary and if you would like to help on the day or by serving teas/coffees or helping in the kitchen please speak to Agnes, Dorothy or Pat. Donations for the stalls can be handed into the hall on the Friday evening (7.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.) Helpers are also required on the Friday evening to set up. Many thanks and we hope to see you there.

A Prayer for Refugees (from the Christian Aid Website):

God of all, where are your people?

Let us see the people, far from home,
Adrift in an open, overcrowded boat, with no compass, no crew, no safety,
Or crammed into buses, or trudging miles on foot to an unknown land
With no guarantee of welcome if or when they arrive.

God of all, why is there crying?

Let us hear the cries of refugees and respond with love
To those whose escape from danger leads only to a journey into danger.

God of all, who is praying?

Let us pray for the lives being lost, for the families who are broken apart,
Asking for comfort and for justice.

God of all our journeys

We ask for your protection on all who have fled their homes.
May they find places of compassion at which to rest.
Ease their fear as they throw in their lot with strangers
And keep alive their vision of finding a secure and welcoming home.

Amen.

Ancient Egypt

Many people have a strange fascination of Ancient Egypt – The Land of the Pharaohs. In the mid Nineteen Nineties, May and I visited Aswan, Cairo and Luxor. In Cairo we visited the famous Cairo Museum, seeing the Mummies and the star attraction, the Golden Mask of the Boy King Tutankhamen. There was something eerie and haunting about it and others of our Congregation, who have seen this, may have felt this also.

While in Cairo, a local guide showed us the Fish Garden for the price of about £2. Not many Western people have seen this and we stood out like sore thumbs among the locals. We also shared a picnic with a local Muslim family and showed respect for each other's beliefs.

We then travelled on a train, called the Pharaohs Express, to Luxor and were greeted at the station by cries of 'Baksheesh' as porters vied for tips for carrying the suitcases of our group.

In Luxor, we walked along the famous Avenue of the Rams, often used in film locations. We also descended by a narrow staircase into the Tombs, where above our heads was depicted the Cobra, symbol of Fear and Power to the Ancient Egyptians.

Since our visit, this country has experienced chaos and turmoil and we can only hope and pray that once more peace and stability will return to this troubled part of the world. *Ian Murdoch.*

**Lasswade & Rosewell Parish Church
Christmas Fair and
Coffee Morning**

**In: ROSEWELL PARISH
CHURCH HALL**

**On: Saturday 12 December
From 10:00am to 12 noon**

**Home Baking, Tombola, Raffle,
Crafts, Bric-a-Brac. Visit from Santa,
Entertainment by Bonnyrigg and
Lasswade Brass Band and lots more**



Everyone Welcome

Lasswade and Rosewell Choir

First of all, could I please thank everyone who sent me get well cards and who made inquiries over recent weeks. Your kindness is much appreciated, so thank you once again. I also wish to thank Moira, Graham and Andrew who covered for me when necessary.

This has been a strange year for us as illness and other health problems have hit quite a few of our numbers. I hope those affected are improving and feeling more like themselves and no doubt we are all hoping that the New Year will be a better one healthwise. As I have said before the Choir is a team and when two or three are absent they are missed, not just by the other choir members but by the congregation as a whole. Due to our various health problems and uncertainties surrounding these factors we have not at the moment been able to plan anything for the Christmas period. However, I must express my thanks and appreciation to the Choir, and to those who augment it from time to time, for all their work and support over the year

As we head towards 2016 I would like to quote words which I have used before but which I think are worth repeating. They come from a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins entitled "God Knows" which was published in 1908 as part of a collection called "The Desert". The words which follow caught the attention of the public when they were used by King George VI, who had been given a copy of the poem by the then Princess Elizabeth, in his Christmas Day broadcast in 1939. The words are:-

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown!" And he replied "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way". These were the words quoted by the King but the poem continues :-

"So I went forth, and finding the hand of God, trod safely into the night. And He led me toward the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East".

The Choir joins me in wishing everyone the Compliments of the Season.

HLRD

Rosewell Flower Rota

Giving and receiving flowers on happy occasions and at sad times in our lives brings pleasure and comfort to us all and seeing lovely flowers in church on a Sunday and passing them on to others is a small but valuable part of our church life and shows others we are thinking of them and wishing them well.
Thanks to all who contribute and help with our flower rota.

Jean Lindsay

2016

January	3 rd	Xmas flowers retained
	10 th	Isabel Henderson
	17 th	Betty Thomson
	31 st	Flower fund
February	7 th	Eleanor Marshall
	14 th	Morag McFarlane
	21 st	Sandra Carey
March	6 th	Celia Kinmont
	13 th	Alex Ferguson
	20 th	Moira Campbell
April	3 rd	Laura Stewart
	10 th	Julie Brown
	17 th	Isabel Henderson



Lasswade Church Flower Rota

January 10th	Mary Sharpe
January 17th	Nita Adams
January 24th	Maureen McGeachy
January 31st	Liz Wilden
February 14th	Janette Barnes
February 21st	Norma Sangster
February 28th	Ann Macdonald
March 13th	Cathie Drysdale
March 20th	Betty Burns
March 27th	Sheila Turner

It is strange trying to focus on names for the flower rota for next year when we are preparing the garden for winter!

I know shopkeepers have to plan in advance but I am only the "Flower Rota" organiser who is still enjoying the Autumn flowers.

We have been privileged to enjoy this Autumn through the eyes of grandchildren who have never seen this season before. Singapore has an amazing climate but no seasons. The next excitement will be to experience the cold and "hopefully" snow!

Our oldest grand-daughter has always said that Autumn is her favourite season and this one has been amazing with the riot of colour.

It makes us all realise that we live in a beautiful country and that each season has its beauty.

As always, if there is anyone who would like to add their name to the Flower Rota, I would be very happy to have your name.

Thank you to all the "flower" people who have helped during 2015.

Moira Dryden



MOUNT RUSHMORE

THE MAKING OF A MOUNTAIN

After two weeks of 10 hour days, the last of the grain was in the giant storage bins that stand out in every direction you look in Canada's bread basket Saskatchewan Province.

Thanks to very kind, but hot weather, this year's crop of green lentils, mustard and durum wheat had been successfully harvested.

My cousins decided we were in need of a break so we headed for the US Border 30 miles away, then travelled through the dinosaur state of Montana and into South Dakota and their Black Hills. A seven hour drive before an overnight stop, that turned into two, in the famous gold mining town of Deadwood... we had reached the Wild West. Wild Bill Hickcock and Calamity Jane are still to the fore... But that's another story for another day maybe.

A picturesque two hour drive brings you to one of the world's wonders, the Rushmore Mountain National Memorial in Keystone, South Dakota.

Many of us have seen photos of the four Presidents heads carved out of the mountain, but to be there is another experience altogether.

When sculptor John Gutzon Borglum looked upon the knobby cracked face of Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills, he saw a vision of four United States presidents carved into the mountain. Between 1927 and 1941, with the help of over 400 workmen and several influential politicians, Borglum began carving a memorial to the history of America through the faces of presidents who helped write their history... George Washington...

Theodore Roosevelt... Thomas Jefferson... Abe Lincoln.

The work on the project started very slowly due to lack of funds. The work was also seasonal; a season was from 1st April to the end of October.

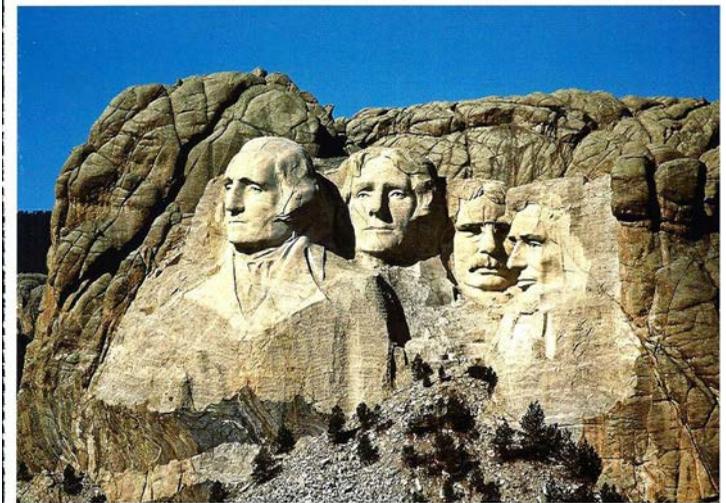
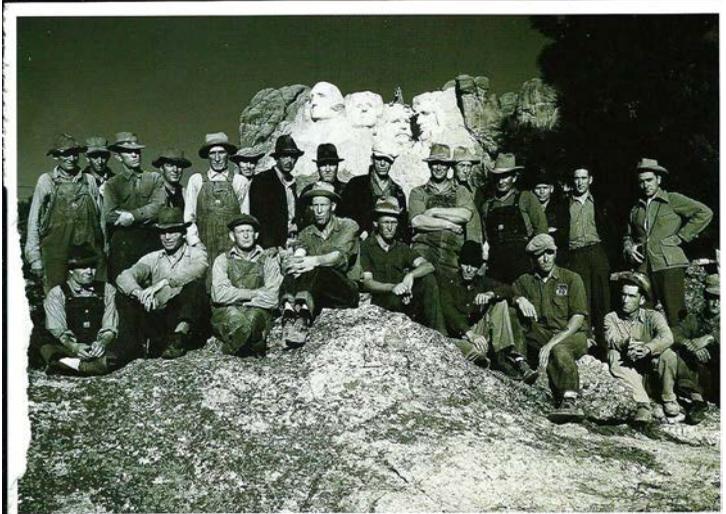
Many seasons were much shorter because of the weather, or funds were not available to pay the men.

Since the work was seasonal, many men did not return because they had found more permanent jobs that gave them and their families some security... One has to remember this was the Great Depression of the 30,s with millions unemployed world-wide.

Borglum blasted the solid granite by transposing readings from scale models in his workshop to the carvings on the mountain. Carved to the scale of men 465 ft tall, the faces are 60ft from chin to forehead. The sparkle in Lincoln's eye is a block of granite 12 ft long.

When told the mountain was 40 million years old, Borglum added a foot to Washington's nose. He said, "It will give it a million more years and 12 ft makes no difference to an eye or a nose on a face 60 ft long" Borglum died in 1941, never seeing the completion of his work. His son Lincoln carried on until completion under the US National Parks Service.

In spite of the physical hardships endured by the workers, most of them eventually learned to appreciate the work they were creating for posterity. The highlight of this memorable visit was to meet at 92, the last survivor of this monumental dream of one man. His name was Nick Clifford and he signed his book for me... Still as sharp as a razor in thought and movement. This was a journey never to be forgotten... Now back to Deadwood and Wild Bill Hickock.



Bill Taylor

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH

BAPTISMS

We were delighted to welcome the following little girl who, along with parents, families and supporters joined us at a recent Baptismal Service. It was our joy as a Congregation to be with the families at such a special time.

11th October - *Molly Rose Adam*, infant daughter of Craig and Sara.
(Baptised by the Rev. Ian Dick)

BLESSING

20th September - *Hugo Skinner* and *Harris Skinner* sons of Alison and Brian
(Rev Fred Harrison)

'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee.'

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couple who were married in Church and wish them every happiness.

11th September - *Gerald Brown to Lynne Simpson*. (Rev. Fred Harrison)

(see Church website at www.church.cockpen.co.uk for information on weddings)

BEREAVEMENTS

6th September - *Mrs. Eleanor Noble*, Moorfoot Court, Bonnyrigg.
(Rev Bill Armitage)

15th October - *Mr William (Billy) Howell*
(Rev Ian Cathcart)

We pray for Eleanor and her family at this sad time and give thanks for the opportunity we all had in knowing such a lovely lady. We also pray for the family of Billy as we do for all others from the Congregation(s) and, out-with who grieve at this time. 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'.

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON CHURCH – CHRISTMAS MUSIC 2015

Although at the time of writing the clocks have just changed our Christmas plans are already advanced. The choir will once again be presenting a variety of events over the Christmas period, always the most musical season of the year.

Here are the dates to note for forthcoming events:

Monday 7 December

The always well attended **Guild Carol Party** will take place at 7.30 pm in the church hall in Dundas Street. Like last year, competing events in diaries have led to a fairly early date being fixed so make sure you don't miss it! The evening is as always open to all and as usual there will be plenty scope for audience participation. The choir will be offering a mix of old and new, including a first hearing for a new setting of "O little town of Bethlehem" from New Zealand (perhaps an appropriate choice this year?). No doubt the usual excellent refreshments will be on offer too!

Sunday 20 December

This will be the date for our **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**, which will take place at 7.00 pm that evening. In accordance with our now well established tradition the service will take place entirely by candlelight, giving it its unique atmosphere which I know is much appreciated by many. Along with the many congregational items the choir will be presenting its own selection of Christmas music from around the world.

Thursday 24 December

In a break from long years of tradition, the first part of Christmas Eve last year saw the choir performing at Broomieknowe Golf Club rather than Dalhousie Castle – at the time of writing we have yet to hear which if either will invite us this year! In any event, our traditional **Watchnight Service** will take place in the church at its usual time of 11.20 pm. As always, the musical element will take the lead, bringing us to midnight and the sound of the church bell marking the coming of Christmas Day. Last year's service was very well attended and we hope that (whatever the weather) as many as possible will join us once again this year.

We are fortunate at Cockpen & Carrington in maintaining an active four-part choir Sunday by Sunday, as well as for the special occasions of the year such as the events above. Some new members would be welcome however and you will see our recruitment advert elsewhere in this magazine. Our strong musical tradition is something we value highly and there is also a lot of enjoyment to be had by those participating, so please spread the word!

Graham Burnside
Organist

Cockpen & Carrington Church

CHOIR

is looking for new members!

Along with leading the Sunday services our active choir performs a wide programme of anthems, carols and songs for Christmas, Easter and other special occasions.

Singers in all voice parts and with all levels of musical skills are welcome. The level of commitment involved is not demanding and can be tailored to suit availability.

If you are interested please contact our Choirmaster, Graham Burnside, on 0131 556 1751 or at graham.burnside@blueyonder.co.uk

Used Stamps

The Scottish Bible Society still require used British and Foreign stamps.

There is a box at the Church door for their collection and also one in the Church Hall, from where I will pick them up.

Thank you

Dorothy Bennett

CAKE STALL

We thank you (*and Bonnyrigg Church*) once more for the continued support you give us at our monthly cake stall at the Pitcairn Centre. The following are the dates for your diary.

28th January, 2016

25th February, 2016

24th March, 2016

28th April, 2016

26th May, 2016

23rd June, 2016

Helen, Isobel, Wilma.

BRIC A BRAC

Again, we thank all our patrons (and, more importantly, friends) who continue to support us week by week.

We are open each Thursday from 10.30 a.m. until 12.30 p.m. However, our last date in 2015 will be the 26th November when we close for the Christmas break but, will resume in January 2016.(date yet to be confirmed).

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a good New Year.

The Thursday Team.

Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota

2015

December	6	Susan McKechnie
	13	Betty Finlay
	20	Dorothy, Helen & Catherine
	27	Liz Laidlaw



2016

January	3	Irene Ramsay
	10	Mary Logan
	17	Jean Sharpe
	24	Lynn Hansen
	31	Ian Fowler
February	7	Irene Ramsay
	14	Barbara McInnes
	21	Dorothy Peat
	28	Liz Mills
March	6	Maria Hall
	13	Cathie Fisher
	20	Stella McLeish
	27	Nancy Richardson

Thank you for all the donations received. Thanks also to all who supply and arrange the flowers in the Church. With best wishes for the Festive Season.
Nancy

When anyone is putting **flowers in church** please do not use water from the container on the shelf in the porch. This is drinking water and brought by members of the congregation to ensure the preachers, or anyone else requiring a drink, are able to receive drinking water.

Water for flowers can be obtained from the tap in the new cemetery.

Clerk's Report

No sooner is Harvest over and here we are writing for the Christmas issue. That said, I feel I must acknowledge the wonderful donations given to the Harvest table by members of the congregation. It was a wonderful amount of produce that could be gifted to the Midlothian Food Bank and our sick and housebound members.

By the time most of you read this, we will be approaching the season of Advent. On the first Sunday in advent 29th November, we meet with the people of Lasswade and Rosewell, in Rosewell Church for our annual joint service at 10am. I know this is much earlier than we here at Cockpen are used to, however, I ask everyone to support this service, in friendship with our joint churches. Please remember that we have a group of volunteers willing to collect anyone.

Here at Cockpen and Carrington we are extremely fortunate to have such a talented organist and choirmaster, who leads an equally talented choir. We thank them all for their time and dedication to provide the music in church. Christmas in and around the church would not be the same without them.

Our children from the Sunday School and, I daresay some parents too, will bring their Nativity play to church on Sunday 13th December and this is always a popular service.

With the children in mind I share with you these figures from a recent survey. There is fear the Christmas story is fading. When a group of 5 – 7 year-olds were asked whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas 36% did not know and 72% didn't know Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Among adults less than 12% know the full Nativity story and say that the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas. This is the tipping point.

We will celebrate our service of Lessons and Carols on 20th December when I am sure, like myself, the message of Christmas comes alive and we begin to celebrate this wonderful birthday.

I know that as we approach the season of Christmas it will be a difficult time for many. Let us remember those less fortunate than ourselves and may the true meaning of Christmas be with us during the Festive Season.

May God bless you all and may you have a wonderful Christmas and a most peaceful and Joyous New Year.

Liz

Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church

At a meeting of the Kirk Session it was agreed that communion would now be served downstairs only.

Anyone sitting upstairs would be invited, prior to communion being served, to come and be seated downstairs.

Guild Report

The Guild held their service of dedication within the church service on 4th October. Rev Melville Schofield led this with his usual humour and sincerity. At our meeting the following evening, we welcomed three new members and experienced an extremely good turn out by our existing members. The Rev Fred Harrison spoke on our three-year theme: BE BOLD; BE STRONG. We all appreciated the time Fred took to circulate with the members, and just have a chat with them over a cup of tea.

Our speakers to date have spoken on the following topics – Roslin Gun Powder Mills, Street Pastors, and Fun with an Accordion; all very different, but all most interesting.

Our ever popular carol party will be held this year on the 7th December, and as always, the usual Christmas supper will be served.

The New Year commences with our ‘Nibbles and Natter’ evening followed by the following speakers.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 18th January | <u>Dr Sheonagh Martin</u> | The Georgian House |
| 1st February
Open Night | <u>Simon Fairnie</u> | Sayings, Superstitions and Traditions
(Fisherwoman) |
| 15th February | <u>Arran Johnston</u> | Battle of Prestonpans Tapestry |
| 29th February | <u>Professor Alan Murray</u> | Why should a Professor care about a
chap called Rupert Bear |

The Guild meets fortnightly on a Monday in the Church Hall at 7.30pm. All will be made most welcome.

From all the Guild, may You be your gift at Christmas and, may Faith, Hope and Love be your treasures in the New Year.

+++++

EVERYTIME I PASS A CHURCH
I ALWAYS PAY A VISIT
THEN, WHEN I'M CARRIED IN FEET FIRST
GOD WON'T SAY, "WHO IS IT"?

NEW TREASURER

At a meeting of the Congregational Board, Mr Malcolm Logan was appointed as our new treasurer. We thank Malcolm for taking on this role and wish him every success in his new position.

Ian Fowler, who was in the position previously, is stepping down after many years of looking after our finances. We thank Ian for the many hours spent producing balance sheets, paying bills etc., and also thank Wilma Sweeney for counting and banking endless amounts of cash to assist Ian. We wish them both more leisurely lifestyles.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



It was a great privilege for all of us in church on Sunday 4th October to be able to celebrate with the Rev Melville Schofield, his 80th Birthday.

Melville arrived before the service, telling us that he felt somewhat emotional after he had celebrated his birthday with everyone after the service at Rosewell church. Here at Cockpen and Carrington, we also enjoyed marking this occasion with him. Liz presented him with gifts from the congregation during the service, and afterwards he joined us for tea and birthday cake, when George said a few words.

Mother Theresa said these words, and I think they say everything about Melville and all he does for us.

***“In this life we cannot do great things,
We can only do small things, but with great love.”***

Vacancy Update

The Nomination Committee continues to meet regularly in their efforts to secure a Minister. We have made significant progress when, at the last Presbytery meeting we were granted a further six-month extension to allow us to continue our search for a Minister.

Please continue to keep the committee in your prayers as they seek God's guidance and discernment.

Any further progress will be made by intimation in church.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee.

From a book – ‘Breaking the Rules’

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

John Ch. 4 verses 4 - 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

+++++

Another day is dawning
Dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.
Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving,
Thy presence all the days.

THE HOLY HIKERS

"Of all exercises walking is the best"

Thomas Jefferson



Trust me to say in the last issue of "The Link" that we had not had to cancel any walks this year. I must have put a jinx on us because the September walk had to be put off because of wet weather. We will save that one until December.

We held a meeting on Sunday 4th October to set out our new programme and I have printed it later in this article.

The first of these walks was led by Hilary and Glen who took us down to the John Muir Country Park near East Linton. It was strange walking along an ever diminishing beach until they realised that when they did the walk as a trial the tide had been fully out, so we had a race against time along the beach to get round the headland before the tide cut us off. We made it with only wet boots and a few wet trouser bottoms. I have never lost anyone on a walk yet but I think this was about the closest I've come !!

Details of our new programme are as follows:

Saturday 14 th November	The Kelpies
Saturday 12 th December	Rosewell (Xmas Meal)
Saturday 9 th January	No Walk
Saturday 13 th February	TBA
Saturday 12 th March	Stobo & Harrowhope
Saturday 9 th - Mon 11 th April	Walking Weekend

If anyone is interested in joining our little group please contact me on 0131 660 1147.

Happy Hiking

Jim Scott

Long Service Certificates

At our service in church on September 13th, our Session Clerk, Liz Mills, presented a certificate marking fifty years as an Elder to Malcolm Logan for his dedicated and loyal service to Cockpen and Carrington Church.

Another certificate was given for 56 years loyal and dedicated service to Alex Mitchell. Unfortunately, Alex was unable to be in church that day due to ill health and had his taken to him at home by Liz.

We at Cockpen and Carrington have a lot to thank these two Elders for and hope that they both appreciate just how much they are thought of at Cockpen and Carrington.

Congratulations to both of them on a wonderful achievement.

+++++

Thankyou

24 Rowan Gardens
BONNYRIGG
August 2015

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much to all of you at Cockpen & Carrington/Lasswade & Rosewell for all the kindness and good wishes, cards and flowers shown to me following my heart surgery in April.

It was a bit of an ordeal for me and more than I expected (!); never mind the worry to the family, but I am making good progress and have been delighted to see a number of you in Church.

Special thanks to my beloved Sunday School. I have missed you all so much but look forward to seeing you again soon. Your cards, flowers and support have kept me going.

With love

Jessie Dolan

Apologies for omitting Jessie's letter from the Harvest edition. *Ed.*

Tea Rota

2nd January Helen Renton Vi Gibson Andrew Gibson	2nd February Wilma Sweeney Isobel Watson Betty Finlay	6th March Dot Scott Moiria Scott Mary Logan
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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

1. SINCE WE LAST MET...

We returned to Sunday School at the end of August after a wonderful summer. As is now the custom, we returned with a Family Service at Lasswade Church. Our theme was A Right Royal Occasion and as always we were dressed accordingly! Rev Melville Schofield, our own Prince Charming, led the worship. As always, our dear friend Herbert Dryden, supported us in our music. We were warmly welcomed back by all our friends at Lasswade and thank you all for your generous retiring offering. Another dear friend, May Murdoch, joined us - great to see you back, May.

2. NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome Rosie & Blair Skirving to Sunday School along with Mum, Kim. We hope you enjoy your time with us.

Rosewell Sunday School has welcomed a few new additions and we'll focus on them and make some introductions next time.

Children are welcome in all our churches as are their parents and please join us when you can.

3. WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

We've been learning about God's wonderful world and everything He has created. We've also enjoyed some new musical treats, which we'll share with you at future services.

4. FAMILY SERVICES

As well as our Family Service to welcome us back, we've had 2 other services in Cockpen & Carrington - we try to have these monthly. Rev Fred Harrison led our Harvest Thanksgiving service and a very special Blessing of two little ones. This would be Fred's last service with us.

Our harvest again this year went to the Midlothian Food Bank and Denise Thompson kindly took the huge amount of goods you donated. Thank you all so much for your exceptionally generous donations. The

amount was staggering and so appropriate. Thank you all. Fred's sermon linked the giving from the congregation and sharing our Harvest beautifully.

There are boxes in the foyers of all our churches where you can leave Food Bank donations.

Our next Family Service in October was the baptism of our very own, Molly Rose Adam - our youngest member of Sunday School. We were all very excited about Molly's christening and had been invited to the tea afterwards. The weekend had been very busy and special for the family: Molly's Granny Margaret Bain celebrated her 60th birthday; and with Iain her husband, their Ruby Wedding Anniversary as well as Molly's christening. Family and friends came from all over and the church was full. What a wonderful service led by Rev Ian Dick. This was the first baptism we'd been at with Ian and he had planned it meticulously and it was extremely special. Liz Mills, Session Clerk, then took Molly around the church so as everyone could see her. She is a perfect baby and really enjoyed her day.

Devon & Brodie Boyle read from scripture perfectly.

Thank you all for a very generous retiring offering for Sunday School funds.



In our photo, you can see Molly accompanied by Mummy & Daddy (Sara & Craig), big sisters: Layla & Gracie and God parents Justine & Keith (Craig's siblings).

5. SUNDAY SCHOOL ELDER

It is with real regret that we heard from Bill Brown that he is standing down as Sunday School Elder, although he has really served a long period in this role (20 years+). Bill has been a huge support to the Sunday School and a joy to work with. He has thrown himself into this role - who can forget him dressed as a Wise Man looking more like a terrorist driving from Temple for one of our Nativity plays!

Thank you Bill.

6. CHURCH TREASURER

Ian Fowler has also stood down now as treasurer. Ian has been fabulous in this role and again guided the Sunday School (and Rosalind) with all our accounts/donations as well as uplifting emails. Thank you Ian. God Bless you and Bill.

We look forward to working with Malcolm Logan who has taken over.

7. CHRISTMAS OUTING

We're off to see Snow White & the 7 Dwarfs at the Kings Theatre on Sunday 29 November. We're sure to have a great time. Oh yes we will!

8. NATIVITY SERVICES

Auditions are being held, judging is taking place and we've still to get started with our Nativity plans! We plan to be at Cockpen & Carrington on 13 December and Lasswade on 20 December. We hope to have a cast of thousands...! Please come along and support us.

9. FRIENDS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are so fortunate as a Sunday School to have some generous supporters - you know who you are but thank you. Your kindness enables us to have wonderful trips and enjoy lots of craft and fun.

10. HAPPY HOLIDAYS...

The Sunday School wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year. We return on Sunday 10 January 2016 after our Christmas break.

Vocations Champion

Dear all,

I write as a follow up to my talk to Presbytery on 24th September on my role as Vocations Champion.

Just to reiterate, the role is one of support to those who may be considering a call to ministry (whatever that may look like for them) in the Church of Scotland. If you know of anyone who would like to meet for a tea / coffee and talk, then direct them my way.

I will also consider running a short 4 - 6 week course on call and vocation if there is sufficient interest from folk considering a call.

Finally, along with the Presbytery of Edinburgh we will run a Local Vocations Conference next year, and I seek a couple of volunteers to help me with this process. I do not envisage this being an onerous task; so if you are interested please get in touch.

Any questions at all, also do not hesitate to call or email.

Yours in Christ Jesus

Mike Weaver

T: 01368 45 90 82

M: 07980 49 22 99

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### Answers to Children's Quiz

- 1 a) A star, b) an angel
- 2 b) Santa
- 3 c) St Stephen's Day
- 4 a) Rudolph
- 5 b) A sleigh
- 6 b) Carrot
- 7 c) Joseph
- 8 c) A silk hat
- 9 b) Ebenezer
- 10 c) Mince pie
- 11 b) A partridge in a pear tree
- 12 a) Bethlehem

## Children's Christmas Quiz

- 1 What two items do people usually place on top of their Christmas tree:  
a) A flower, b) A star, c) A present, d) An angel?
- 2 Which man delivers presents across the world on Christmas Eve:  
a) Jesus, b) Santa, c) Scrooge?
- 3 What is Boxing day also known as:  
a) St Martin's Day, b) St Joseph's Day, c) St Stephen's Day?
- 4 Which reindeer had a very shiny red nose:  
a) Rudolph, b) Dasher, c) Prancer
- 5 In the song 'Jingle Bells', what was it fun to ride in:  
a) A car, b) A sleigh, c) A van
- 6 Which vegetable do people leave by the fireplace on Christmas Eve for Santa's Reindeer:  
a) Carrot, b) Beetroot, c) Onion?
- 7 What was the name of Jesus' father:  
a) James, b) Peter, c) Joseph?
- 8 What brought Frosty the Snowman back to life:  
a) A hug, b) A scarf, c) A silk hat?
- 9 In the story of 'A Christmas Carol', what is Scrooge's first name:  
a) Charles, b) Ebenezer, c) John?
- 10 What type of pie do people traditionally eat at Christmas time:  
a) Cherry pie, b) Apple pie, c) Mince pie?
- 11 In the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' song, what did the true love send on the first day:  
a) A turtle dove, b) A partridge in a pear tree, c) A French hen?
- 12 Where was Jesus born:  
a) Bethlehem, b) Lourdes, c) Washington?

**Share your news, views or ideas in the Spring Issue of "The Link" send them to [Magazine@church.ockpen.co.uk](mailto:Magazine@church.ockpen.co.uk) by Sunday, 21 February 2016**

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers**