

Cockpen & Carrington

The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Christmas 2016



Church of Scotland

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WHO'S WHO

MINISTER

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

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

SERVICES DECEMBER 2016 TO APRIL 2017

Date	Lasswade & Rosewell at 10.00 am	Cockpen & Carrington at 11.30 am
4 Dec 2nd in Advent	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
11 Dec 3rd in Advent	Minister – Lasswade - Nativity	Minister
18 Dec 4th in Advent	Minister – Rosewell	Minister – Nativity Nine Lessons and Carols 7.00 pm
25 Dec Christmas Day	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
1 Jan	Eddie Yeoman – Rosewell	Eddie Yeoman
8 Jan	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
15 Jan	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
22 Jan	Communion Service Minister – Lasswade	Minister
29 Jan	Joint All-Age Service Rosewell Church at 10.00 am	
5 Feb	Minister - Rosewell	Communion Service Minister
12 Feb	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
19 Feb	Eddie Yeoman – Rosewell	Eddie Yeoman
26 Feb	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
5 Mar	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
12 Mar	Minister - Lasswade	Minister
19 Mar	Minister - Rosewell	Minister
26 Mar	Minister – Lasswade Annual Stated Meeting	Minister Annual Stated Meeting

Additional Christmas services:

Sun 11 Dec – Service of Remembering – Cockpen Church at 3.00 pm

Sun 18 Dec – Family Christmas Celebration – Cockpen Church Hall at 4.00 pm

Fri 23 Dec – Minister – Christingle Service – Lasswade – 6.00 pm

Sat 24 Dec – Minister – Christingle Service – Rosewell – 6.00 pm

Watchnight Service – Cockpen – 11.20 pm

From the Minister

One of the very beautiful sounds in the garden or park at this time of year is the beautiful autumn song of the robin. It's a more plaintive song than its more cheerful song earlier in the year. In the notes we might imagine the bird looking longingly back at the warm, rosy days of summer and facing the long winter days ahead. And yet it is still a song, most often filling the air in the twilight of dusk at the end of the day. The robin's song therefore also brings a sense of hope, looking ahead to the days of spring that will return again before too long.

The novelist and poet, Thomas Hardy, also noticed the call of a song thrush singing in the dead of winter in the countryside of his native Dorset. Describing the cold, barren landscape, he wrote in his poem, entitled 'Song Thrush':

*At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead,
In a full-hearted evensong
Of joy illimited.
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt and small,
With blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
Upon the growing gloom.*



It seemed to Hardy as he listened, that there “*trembled*” through the thrush’s “*happy good-night air, some blessed Hope*”, of which the bird knew, but he was unaware.

This time of year is one in which we both look back, but also forward. We look back in remembrance and with great thanksgiving for all those who were willing to lay down their lives for the sake of peace and freedom during the two World Wars and during more recent conflicts overseas. We can have a sense of looking forward in hope, from all they secured for us and from the inspiration of their enormous courage and determination and comradeship in the face of so much adversity.

As we enter the season of Advent and prepare again to celebrate Christmas, we have the joy and hope brought to us in the coming of Jesus, of a child in a manger who is wonderfully ‘God with us’. Jesus’s coming reminds us that there are no lengths to which God will not go in order to be with us and remind us of his constant love. As we look back with

thanksgiving that Jesus lived and died and rose again for us, we can look forward, even through all the ups and downs of life, with hope. “*Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever*” (Hebrews 13:8), and he brings us endless love and light and life.

May you know the true joy and peace and hope at the heart of Christmas.

Your minister,
Lorna Souter

Service of Remembering – Sunday 11 December at 3.00 pm in Cockpen & Carrington Church

Christmas can be a difficult time of year. Many have experienced bereavement through the year or continue to miss loved ones no longer with us. In addition, some may be facing Christmas in the midst of difficult situations: the break-up of a relationship, the loss of a job, ill health or a time of anxiety.

This service will offer space amidst the Christmas rush and bustle for remembering and quiet reflection, with stillness and music and reflective words. All are most welcome.

Lorna Souter

Family Christmas Celebration – Sunday 18 December at 4.00 pm in Cockpen Church Hall

This will be an informal celebration for all the family, a telling of the Christmas story with favourite carols and Christmas songs. Do spread the word and bring family and friends.

Lorna Souter

Future Focus

Both the Kirk Sessions of Cockpen & Carrington and Lasswade & Rosewell recently agreed that they would like to participate in the Future Focus programme early next year.

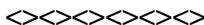
This programme is offered by the Church of Scotland and allows congregations to explore the on-going journey of their church: where we have come from, where we are now and what dreams we have for the future.

There will be three sessions run by an external facilitator, Mr Rob Rawson. Two of these will be evening sessions taking place over two to three weeks, and then the final session, exploring our vision for the way ahead, will take place morning and afternoon one Saturday.

It is hoped that as many as possible from the congregations will feel encouraged to take part in this process, so that all that comes out of it will very much be from hands-on, shared responses and vision. Everyone's voice, experience and prayerful insight are invaluable and it will be a time of fun and fellowship and creativity together.

Dates will be forthcoming for when Future Focus will take place, but your participation is very much hoped for and your prayers requested as we prepare for this exciting venture.

Lorna Souter



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is about preventing harm and abuse, and making a timely and appropriate response if it occurs.

Harm or abuse of children and adults at risk can happen anywhere – even in church communities. We have a duty to *Ensure a Safe Church for All*. This means protecting children and 'adults at risk'.

The Church aims to minimise the risk of harm occurring. If harm or abuse does occur, with appropriate support and training, it will be recognised and reported. If it occurs we will work with the Police and Social Work services if appropriate.

It is therefore vital that all involved in working with these groups of people in church attend the training provided by the Church of Scotland. Your Session Clerk and Safeguarding co-ordinators will organise this on your behalf. Please play your part and attend these sessions – they are there to ensure everyone's safety.

Your Co-ordinators are **Dorothy Spence** (RL) and **John Adamson** (CC) and can provide information on safeguarding in our churches.

Lasswade and Rosewell Choir

As we approach Advent, Christmas and the New Year can I once again express my thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who make up the regular choir for all their support during the past year and for the very able way they have led the singing Sunday by Sunday. My thanks are also extended to those who have augmented the choir from time to time for help with special music – and who hopefully will do so on Friday 23rd December when, all being well, we shall sing something during the Christingle service. The choir, regular and augmented, bring their own offering in music to enhance our worship. Thank you one and all.

While we are on the subject of Christmas some people associate Isaac Watts' well-known hymn "Joy to the world" with the season surrounding Our Saviour's birth. Look at the words – they can be sung at any time because they are relevant all year round. And here is another thing. I have always believed that the tune, "Antioch" was composed by George Frederick Handel, despite what CH4 and some modern commentators say, because it has Handel's style of musicianship ringing right through it.

The pattern of services at Lasswade and Rosewell has changed, and perhaps the change was needed. Having been made redundant professionally in the mid 1990s I feel I am in this situation again! When I took up the position I currently hold I had 52 services a year, give or take. This was reduced to 40 or so when the decision was taken that there would be no service at Lasswade on the first Sunday of the month. Now I play at only 24 a year! Like many people it takes time to get used to the new arrangement but, personally, I find it difficult because there is no sense of continuity if one is planning anything musically, and possibly my sentiments are shared by my friends in the choir. However, no doubt I shall adjust like everyone else.

I have mentioned this before but I wonder if the time has come when we have to think about doing things differently as far as the music is concerned? Hymn 169, "Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet" offers a few ideas. We often bemoan the fact that there are very few young people in our midst. Should we contact Lasswade High School or even the local Primaries to see if any musical students would like to get involved leading the praise on certain Sundays?

The Choir joins me in wishing all our readers the Compliments of the Season and for people who have had troubling times this year may you experience a Peace at this time.

HLRD

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Lasswade Flower Rota

In another life I had to plan ahead and I am beginning to feel that this applies to the Flower Rota! I am enjoying the glorious colours of Autumn but having to think about Spring too.

Thanks to all the lovely flower rota volunteers our church is enhanced by the wonderful colours of blooms.

If you would like to help please speak to me and I will be happy to include you.

Moira Dryden

January 8th Mary Sharpe
January 22nd Maureen McGeachy

February 12th Janette Barnes
February 26th Nita Adams



March 12th Norma Sangster
March 26th Betty Burns

April 9th Marlyn Davidson
April 23rd Lorna Oliver

ROSEWELL CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

Agnes, Moira and I are grateful to Sandra Ross for volunteering to join our group of helpers after the sad loss of Isabel Henderson.

Thank you to everyone who provides flowers for Sunday worship and to those who have been willing to alter dates because of our new pattern of service.

Jean Lindsay



2017

January	1st	Christmas flower arrangement retained
	15th	Betty Thomson
	29th	Agnes Anderson - Joint Service

February	5th	Eleanor Marshall
	19th	Sandra Carey

March	5th	Alex Ferguson
	19th	Moira Campbell

April	2nd	Laura Stewart
	16th	Julie Brown

The High Kirk of Edinburgh also known as St. Giles' Cathedral

Bill Brown's excellent articles about The National Library of Scotland and Newhailes House inspired me to write a few notes about one of Edinburgh's best known buildings. Many of you will probably know more about St. Giles' Cathedral than me but, hopefully, what I say might be of interest and I shall endeavour to introduce some local connections into my article.

Although there may have been a church on the site earlier, the present building dates back to 1120. King Alexander 1 passed the responsibility for looking after the building to the Lazarites who cared for people with leprosy and the Lazarites dedicated the church to St. Giles who is the patron saint of lepers (as well as being the patron saint of cripples, nursing mothers, and I think animals which is why if an animal comes into the church it is entitled to a dish of water). Incidentally the church was built right in the centre of, the then, town - and on the only level bit of ground between the Castle and the Netherbow, which was up until 1856 the eastern boundary of the Old Town. The early church was built in the Norman tradition but was altered and extended in the 14th century in the Gothic tradition. The four central columns were erected to support the immense weight of the tower. The church was partially destroyed in 1385 but was rebuilt and again extended and reached it's present level at the east end about 1450. The prominent crown steeple was erected in 1495.

Following the Reformation in 1560 the Church was divided into sections because several protestant churches were using the building as their place of worship. The divisions came down in the late 19th century when most of the churches had found other venues to worship and the only one remaining was what was then called the High Kirk of Edinburgh, hence the name of the church today. Sir William Chambers, head of the printing firm which gave it's name to the Dictionary, and who was Lord Provost at the time, was responsible for opening up the church. Around the 1630s, Charles the First tried to introduce the liturgy and bishops, and granted the building, then known as St. Giles' Kirk or St. Giles' Church, cathedral status. As far as I understand the Cathedral Act has never been repealed which is why the church is still known as St. Giles' Cathedral.

Visitors come into the Cathedral for a variety of reasons, whether it is to learn about the history of the place, to experience a time of quiet contemplation or enjoy the splendours of the windows or the stone and wood carvings. One thing is paramount, however. There has been a continuous act of worship in this place according to different traditions for nearly 900 years.

Some of the windows were executed by the well-known Scottish stained glass artist Dr. Douglas Strachan who stayed for some years at Pittendreich House in

Lasswade and who was visited there by the late Queen Mary and her daughter in law, the late Queen Mother. Dr. Strachan's foreman was Mr. James Scullion, whose daughter, Anne, was well known in Bonnyrigg, particularly in Girl Guiding circles and our own Eleanor Marshall is Mr. Scullion's granddaughter. Betty Finlay's father, Mr. Brown, also worked under Dr. Strachan.

One of Dr. Strachan's windows in the Cathedral is the Great North Window. Captain Charles Taylor, a commander in Her Majesty's Contract Passage Service, wished to erect a window in memory of his parents and sister. The window depicts Christ stilling the tempest and walking on the water and while Captain Taylor probably indicated what subjects he wished portrayed Dr. Strachan executed the artwork around 1922. It is a magnificent window, especially when the sun is shining through it. The East Window in the Thistle Chapel depicting Saint Andrew is also by Dr. Strachan as are a few of the clerestory windows.

A number of the windows in the church are by various members of the Ballantine family including the Great East Window, which depicts the Crucifixion, the Ascension and the Heavenly Host. While the figures on the crosses are obvious, in the bottom right hand light of the Crucifixion scene there is a mother and a child and if one looks carefully at them one will see that their hands stretch beyond the borders of the window thus drawing you and me into the scene which is being portrayed.

Lasswade Church has a connection with the Ballantine dynasty of stained glass artists in that the main windows on either side of the pulpit are by Ballantine and Gardiner. Mr. Ballantine suggested that a dove window be placed at the front of the church, but I am not clear whether he gifted this or just made the suggestion, leaving the congregation to pick up the bill!

Another prominent window is the Great West Window by the Icelandic artist Leifur Breidfjord. This window, which was done in 1985, is a memorial window to the Scottish poet Robert Burns, and symbolises the world of nature, the brotherhood of man and the aspects of love with the rays of the sun, a symbol of love, round a red rose.

The present Reiger organ was built in 1992 with funds made available by a member of the Salvesen family. Because of the associations which Christian Salvesen has with shipping and transport it has been argued that the organ has been built in the shape of a ship, but equally it might be said it is in the shape of a cross. You have to look at it carefully to appreciate both of these possibilities.

Some of our readers may know Mrs. Rosemary Garrod. Rosemary is descended from the Mylne (sometimes spelt as Milne) family who have been master masons for centuries and some of their stonework is within the Cathedral.

The Chapel of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle attracts a lot of visitors. The current Order dates back to 1687 when James V11 of Scotland (James 11 of Great Britain) revived the order. James altered the abbey attached to his palace at Holyrood to be a place where his Knights could come together to worship periodically. James quietly planned to bring back Roman Catholicism and planned to appoint up to twelve of his catholic supporters and confer on them the title Knight of the Thistle. When the alterations to the abbey were completed it was promptly destroyed, as people did not wish Catholicism reintroduced and James fled the country in 1689 when the Prince of Orange came over to start the protestant succession to the throne of the UK. Although the Order continued there was no permanent place of worship for the Knights until funds became available to them in the first decade of the 20th century to rebuild their chapel. While the donor – the Earl of Leven and Melville- wished the abbey at Holyrood rebuilt there was an architectural problem and so the Knights were given permission to build their chapel on to St. Giles’ Cathedral. The Chapel, and the Ante Chapel, were built between 1909 and 1911 under the guidance of the architect Sir Robert Lorimer. The stall plates at the back of the stalls, showing the armorial bearings of the Knights who have sat there from 1911 to the present day, have for many years been crafted by Alexander Kirkwood and Sons. I have already referred to Dr. Strachan being the artist of the East Window in the Chapel.

The maximum number of ordinary Knights at any one time is 16 and when one dies the survivors choose a successor within six weeks of death, and make their recommendation to the Queen. The Queen will then issue an invitation to the Knight nominate inviting him or her to become a Knight or Lady of the Thistle. The honour of becoming a Knight or Lady of the Thistle is the personal gift of the monarch given to people who have given service to Scotland during their lifetime and who must be Scottish or have strong Scottish connections. Over and above the sixteen knights there are four Royal Appointments at present in addition to the Monarch.

I have mentioned very few of the numerous items of interest. Personally I find I am always learning something about this historic building, particularly from the questions people ask. St. Giles’ Cathedral or, more accurately, the High Kirk of Edinburgh, has played a large part in the history of Edinburgh and Scotland for nearly 900 years, during which time people have been drawn to it through quests of faith and other purposes. Long may this Sentinel of Faith continue to serve Edinburgh, whose motto from Psalm 127 is “Except the Lord build the city they labour in vain that build it”.

Herbert L.R. Dryden

How a humble bird solved a problem!

In September, Herbert and I enjoyed a short break in Bavaria in southern Germany.

We ventured into Ulm and spent some time marvelling at the Minster and enjoying the challenge of trying to negotiate our way round a new area. The Minster has the tallest spire on a church building in the world

We noticed that everywhere we looked we saw models, large and small, of a small bird. As it was prominent in the Minster we decided that it must be a dove but it did not seem to be carrying an olive branch in its beak.

Curiosity got the better of us and we made enquiries at the Tourist Office.

The lady laughed and explained that the following story did not say much for the intelligence of the citizens of Ulm.

When the Minster was being built, the citizens of Ulm tried to work out how to bring a large pole, the size of a mast, through the gates of the walled city. The pole was put across the wagon which caused a great problem as there was no way that the pole could get through.

One idea was to cut it up or another, more drastic, suggestion was to widen the city gate of this walled city!

One of the workman spotted a sparrow which had a straw lengthwise in his beak and realised that if the pole was put lengthwise on the wagon, it would go through the gate.

The sparrow saved the day and is a symbol of the city of Ulm.

Moiria Dryden



Answers to quiz on page 32

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Three – Dasher, Dancer, Donner | 7. Tinsel |
| 2. Eleven | 8. Six days |
| 3. b) Carpenter | 9. Jingle Bells |
| 4. a) Turkey | 10. c) The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe |
| 5. c) Merrily | 11. a) A Cracker |
| 6. Three | 12. Kevin |

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

1. WE'RE BACK

Sunday School returned after a long Summer break at Cockpen and a shorter break at Rosewell. We are now joining the combined church services, where we can, for all age services. The Minister is demonstrating her creative skills with some amazing pictures and graphics for her sermons. We've been learning some new musical items as well as doing some new craft activities.

2. SAFEGUARDING

Rosalind attended some safeguarding training at Gorebridge Parish Church and other teachers will be attending future sessions. All of us working with children in our churches have been through complete disclosure checks. Dorothy Spence, Safeguarding Co-ordinator is providing some training to Kirk Session members.

3. POPPY SCOTLAND

Sara Adam, one of our Mum's, has produced knitted poppies which the Sunday School is supporting with proceeds going directly to Poppy Scotland.

4. CHRISTMAS FAIR

By the time the magazine is out, we hope to have had a highly successful Church Fair on 19 November. The Sunday School is doing face painting/selling Christmas accessories & children's books.

5. CHRISTMAS OUTING

82 of us are off to see Jack & the Beanstalk at the Kings Theatre on 27 November for our Christmas treat. "Oh no you're not!" As always, it's lovely to join friends from all our churches at this fun event.

6. NATIVITY

We hope to perform our Nativity Play at Lasswade on 11 December & Cockpen & Carrington on 18 December. Our play this year is: The very hopeless camel!

The Sunday School wish all our friends & supporters a very Merry Christmas & peaceful New Year.

CLERK'S REPORT

In September, we celebrated the Festival of Harvest with an all age service in the beautifully decorated Church. We received a phenomenal amount of produce, which we were able to deliver to the *Fresh Start* Charity. On 6th November at our service of communion we had, as a Kirk Session and Congregation, the great joy of welcoming four new Elders, namely; Andrew Gibson, Helen Renton, Walter Renton and Bill Taylor who were ordained by the Minister. The Minister and Kirk Session were all extremely happy when they all agreed to join us to increase Session numbers for various reasons.

It is our wish that all four will enjoy the duties of Eldership and I am sure that my fellow Elders will be happy to guide them for as long as necessary. I welcome all four who I know will carry out the respective duties with great diligence.

Our Christmas Fair will be held in the Church Hall on Saturday 19th November when all sections of the congregation are each organising a stall. We hope it will prove popular... with Santa in attendance! We hope to raise a large amount of cash on the day, which will help with the cost of maintenance work required at the Church. It has been some time since any work was carried out at the Church and we now find many parts that require attention.

The season of advent is nearly upon us and we can look forward to our Christmas Services. On 27th November, we will hold a Gift service when a small toy, book or puzzle suitable for a child between the ages of 3 and 12 years is brought to the Service. These will be donated to the *Salvation Army Christmas Appeal* and distributed by them to children who would otherwise receive very little at Christmas.

Our Sunday School will perform their Nativity play in Church on 18th December at the morning service. In the afternoon, an all age Carol service will be held for our three Churches in Cockpen Church hall at 4p.m. Our lessons and Carols Service will be in the Church that evening at 7p.m. The Watchnight Service will be held as usual at 11.20p.m. on Christmas Eve and a short Service on Christmas morning at 11.30a.m.

I trust you all have a lovely Christmas and may Peace and Joy that Christmas brings always be with you and your family.

Merry Christmas

Liz

Session Clerk, Cockpen and Carrington Church

Thank you from Dot & Jim Scott

Jim and Dot would like to say a Huge **“Thank You”** to Lorna our Minister, Liz Mills, Session Clerk and the Congregations of Cockpen & Carrington, Lasswade, Rosewell and Bonnyrigg who supported our 3 “Fund Raising Events” for Solving Kids Cancer/Kira Noble Appeal.

The **“Afternoon Tea”** on 24th August was a great success and raised the sum of



£1823. It was a beautiful afternoon and the fellowship and food were lovely. Ever since the event people have been saying how much they enjoyed the entertainment by Walter, Jim and Moira as well as the “incredible eats”.

The Big Breakfast/Silent Sports Auction 24th September was another fantastic morning and our thanks go out to everyone who assisted either by donating, helping on the day or buying at the Auction. Grateful thanks to Bill & Liz MacDonald for all their organisation of the Auction. The breakfast buffet was ‘to die for’. Just wish I could have sat there and tucked in to the food instead of having to pour out tea etc!!



The final figure for that morning was £1595.

Bucket Collection at IKEA 8th/9th October. This raised the sum of £785 and our



thanks go to Isabel Burton, Rosalind & Jessie Dolan, and the members of the family, Jim, Moira, Aimee, Kirsty & Graeme who helped over the two days. It was an experience, and we all say we will never pass anyone with a bucket again!!

The total for these 3 Events was £4203 which is FANTASTIC!!

Kira is at present doing well; clear of Cancer but still being monitored closely by the Sick Children's Hospital. She has Ultrasound and MRI Scans regularly.



My sister Aud and her family are **overwhelmed** by the generosity of EVERYONE who helped, donated and supported these events.

Also our grateful thanks go to the ladies who made and sold tablet, ran marathons and made and sold at Craft Fayres. Your support has been just wonderful, as an amount in excess of £1500 has been raised.

Thanks again.

Dot Scott.

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON CHURCH – CHRISTMAS MUSIC

It's a familiar complaint that time accelerates as one gets older. I have to admit that I am very much feeling that these days, not least when putting together annual articles such as these - it seems a very short time since I was writing last year's!

It won't be long now therefore before the choir and I are offering our annual programme of Christmas music. Here are the dates for this year's diary:

Monday 12 December

After a couple of years at a slightly earlier date the always popular **Guild Carol Party** will revert to its usual timing, taking place this year at 7.30 pm on 12 December in the church hall in Dundas Street. As ever, this will be an evening open to all and as usual there will be plenty of scope for audience participation. The choir's musical programme will this time round be focusing on carols from around Britain (no political message intended!), including the premiere of a new arrangement I've put together of "The holly and the ivy". As usual excellent refreshments will be on offer to reward your vocal efforts!

Sunday 18 December

Because of the way the dates fall this year our **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**, will take place a full week ahead of Christmas, beginning at 7.00 pm. The service will as always take place entirely by candlelight and I know there are many for whom this special evening marks the real start of the Christmas celebrations. There will as always be plenty of opportunity for congregational singing of the well-loved carols and hymns, as well as for hearing the choir.

Saturday 24 December

At the time of writing the choir has yet to hear how many engagements it will have on Christmas Eve. We have already been invited to sing carols at Broomieknowe Golf Club and there may yet be more, before we appear at our traditional **Watchnight Service**. This will take place in the church at its long-established time of 11.20 pm. A traditional mixture of carols and readings will take us up to midnight and the ringing of the church bell marking the coming of Christmas Day (itself of course a Sunday this year). This service is usually well attended (despite the unpredictability of the weather) and we look forward to welcoming many of you then.

The Christmas season marks the peak of activity in the choir's year and I am very grateful both to those who are with us Sunday by Sunday and our more occasional part time members for their continued support alongside their own busy Christmas schedules.

Graham Burnside
Organist

COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH

BAPTISMS

Nathaniel Colin MACK – infant son of Alistair and Claire on 28th August by the Minister.

'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee'

WEDDINGS

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

Jamie and Adelle STEVEN – on 3rd September by Revd Keith Mack

(See Church website at www.church.cockpen.co.uk) for information and advice on weddings for all three of the churches.

BEREAVEMENTS

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'

LIFE AND WORK

Wilma Sweeney is taking over the distribution of the *Life and Work* magazine at Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church. Anyone who would like to subscribe to this very informative magazine should contact Wilma on 0131 663 6545.

Life and Work keeps us informed about the work of the church locally, nationally and internationally.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a very big "Thank You" to Jean Sharpe for her many years of dedicated service to the distribution of *Life and Work*.

GUILD REPORT

The Rev. Lorna Souter spoke to us at our first meeting on our theme 'Go in Joy'. We have had speakers on Care for the Family, Simon Fairnie – 'Up the Creek', and Gas Masks and Lipstick, – Dr. Margaret Collingwood; all of which were very interesting subjects.

As usual we are looking forward to Graham Burnside and the choir entertaining as well as leading our singing at the annual Guild Carol Party to which all are most welcome. It will be held in the Church hall on Monday 12th December at 7-30 p.m. In the New Year we have more interesting speakers engaged which I list below. From the list you can tell how varied and expansive the topics covered are, indeed have to be, for the modern Guild member is much more open minded than most imagine.

As always we invite more of you to come along and join us –that said we have five new members join us this session, which is really encouraging and we feel very fortunate to have such a healthy membership in a time when many Guilds are closing due to lack of numbers.

9th January	Nibbles and Natters
23rd January	Ian McPhail
6th February	Ian Gilchrist – Community Garden
20th February	Steve Parratt – Street Children
6th March	Vivian Wallace – Armchair Keep Fit
20th March	Lothian Autistic Society

From all at the Guild may we wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a most peaceful and joyous New Year.

Liz and Helen

CAKE STALL

Our thanks again for all the support we receive for the cake stall. Please note, we will **not** be having the cake stall on 22nd December at the Pitcairn Centre.

The following are the new dates –

26th January 2017
23rd February 2017
23rd March 2017
27th April 2017
25th May 2017
22nd June 2017

As usual, any goods for the stall can be handed in to the Pitcairn Centre between 9 am and 9.30 am on these dates.

With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Helen, Isobel and Wilma.

'Thought for the Day'

A simple lesson to be learned (by us all I would image)
THE WINDOW FROM WHICH WE LOOK.

A young couple moved into a new neighbourhood. The next morning while they are eating breakfast the young woman sees her neighbour outside hanging out a washing.

“That laundry isn’t very clean,” she said. “She doesn’t know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry powder.”

Her husband looked on, but remained silent. Every time her neighbour would hang out her washing to dry the young woman would make the same comments.

About one month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband: “Look, she’s learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this.”

The husband said, ***“I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows”.***

And so it is with life. What we see when watching others depends on the purity of the window through which **we** look.

G.S.

SPRINGFIELD BANK

At Springfield Bank on the 5th October the minister led a beautiful service celebrating harvest thanksgiving. It was greatly appreciated by the residents who had made bread for the harvest table, along with produce donated by the residents, relatives and staff. The produce was taken after the service to the Midlothian Food Bank who were overjoyed to receive it.



Lasswade and Rosewell News

NEW PATTERN OF WORSHIP

1st and 3rd Sundays at Rosewell Church at 10.00 a.m.
2nd and 4th Sundays at Lasswade Church at 10.00 a.m.
5th Sunday Joint Service with Cockpen and Carrington at 10.00 a.m. – rotating venue

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.

Christmas Family Services:

Friday 23 December Christingle Service at 6.00 p.m. in Lasswade Parish Church

Saturday 24 December Christingle Service at 6.00 p.m. in Rosewell Parish Church

Everyone will be made most welcome and there will be a retiring offering for the Salvation Army.



The meaning of Christingle: the *orange* represents the world God created and the *sweets* all the good things in God's creation. The *candle* represents Jesus, the light of the world and the *red ribbon* the love of Christ for his world.

May peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through.

Wedding:

We congratulate and wish every happiness to the following couple who were married in Rosewell Parish Church by the Minister on Saturday 17 September 2016: Jennifer Alves to Brian Massey.

Baptism:

We were delighted to welcome the following named baby who, along with parents, family and friends joined us at a recent Baptismal Service at Rosewell : 2 October 2016 – Isla Grace Goodall, daughter of Kevin and Louise was baptised by the Minister.

'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee'

New Kirk Session Members:

At a recent meeting of the Kirk Session it was agreed to appoint **Ross Lyall** and **Jim Pryde** as members of the Session.

Their service of Ordination took place at Rosewell Parish Church on Sunday 6 November 2016.

This was a wonderful occasion for Ross and Jim and we are sure that they will both become very active members of the Session.

Garden Party:

It is with a great deal of pleasure we thank all who gave of their time and donations to make the Garden Party a success and the sun shone!! A huge thank you to the musicians for giving their time and talent. Thank you to the judges and a very special thanks to the children for their lovely costumes and to Lorna and John for their fancy hats. It was nice to see the three Churches working together. Thanks also to Jimmy Ross, our Beadle, for all his help before and after the event – you are a star.

My thanks once again for all your support.

May Murdoch

Harvest Thanksgiving:

A huge thank you to everyone who very kindly donated the vast amount of food items for Fresh Start, your generosity was much appreciated. Thank you also to our Minister who very kindly delivered all the food to the charity's headquarters.

Coffee Mornings

On the second Saturday of each month a Coffee Morning is held in Rosewell Church Hall from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon. We hope you will come along with your friends and enjoy coffee, home baking and lots of chat.

Cake Stall

A big thank you to everyone who supports our 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:

8 December, 12 January, 9 February, 9 March and 13 April.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support and best wishes for the Festive Season.

A Shoppers Christmas Prayer:

Our Christmas in overdraft,

Hollow be your name.

Your *Cartier* watch,

Your *Prada* bag,

In *Harvey Nicholls*

As it is in *Selfridges*.

Give us this day our

Platinum Visa.

And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive those

Who stop our *Mastercard*.

Lead us not into the *Apple Store*

And deliver us from *Joules*.

For yours is the *Cartier*,

The *Dior* and the *Armani*,

For *Burberry* and *Eternity*

Amex.

Diary Dates:

Sunday 27 November BB Enrolment Service 10.00 a.m. at Lasswade Parish Church
Sunday 22 January 10.00 a.m. Sacrament of Holy Communion at Lasswade Parish Church
Friday 3 March World Day of Prayer 7.30 p.m. at Lasswade Parish Church. The service this year comes from The Philippines and the theme is "Am I being unfair to you".

Pastoral Care:

If you have any prayer requests or you would like a visit from the Minister, please let your Elder know.

We will keep these confidential.

Please remember to let the Minister or your Elder know if you are going into hospital and would appreciate a visit.

Volunteers:

We always need volunteers – the Church runs because of the generous service of volunteers. If you have time and enthusiasm to spare but you are not sure where your talents can be used – please just volunteer your services – it will be very much appreciated.

MacMillan Biggest Coffee Morning:

This was held on 30 September 2016 at 44 Carnethie Street, Rosewell and the sum of £825 was raised. Sincere thanks go to all who contributed in any way to this event.

Agnes Anderson

Blythwood Care Shoebox Appeal 2016:

118 shoeboxes were uplifted from Rosewell Parish Church – this included 37 from Rosewell Primary School and 28 from the Midlothian Scouts.

Thank you to everyone who supported this Appeal.

Agnes Anderson

Christmas Fair:

Our Christmas Fair is planned for Saturday 10 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 a stall 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.) Volunteers are also required on the Friday evening to set up. Many thanks and we hope to see you there.

Next Year's Moderator:

The Rev Dr Derek Browning, Minister at Morningside Parish Church will be appointed Moderator from May 2017. He hopes to use his position to highlight the Kirk's support for people on the margins of society. Some people find themselves excluded for many reasons and the Church must play a role in bridging the gaps. Dr Browning played a key role in establishing the Heart and Soul festival which draws over 5,000 people to the event, which is held in Princes Street Gardens each May.

Days of the Soviet Union

In the late nineteen eighties there was a firm called Sovscot Tours which specialised in holidays to the Soviet Union. May and I went on one of these visiting Leningrad, now St. Petersburg, Yalta in Ukraine and Moscow.

Our Hotel in Leningrad was next to Victory Square commemorating the siege of Leningrad and our guides continually reminded us of the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945 when thousands of soviet troops and citizens died in defence of their homeland.

We visited the elaborate places of Peter the Great and his German wife Catherine and at one of these were drenched by the fountains in the elaborate gardens. We also learned that Peter and Catherine had rooms designed by a Scot. The sumptuous lifestyle of Peter and Catherine contrasted greatly with most of their subjects who lived in abject poverty.

The postal sorting office was nearby and workers came out to meet and greet us.

On our way to Yalta the oxygen masks came down during our flight, which could be quite alarming.

However, we did not see any of the famous Faberge Eggs as these were not on display in either Leningrad or Moscow.

During our time in Moscow we visited the Kremlin seeing the largest cannon, which was never fired, and the largest bell, which was never rung.

We visited the Moscow Olympic Games Stadium and at the Moscow space centre viewing The Sputnik which some of our more mature members can remember and the memorial to Laika the space dog and I was permitted to climb up the Saturn space rocket.

We also visited the Russian Composers Cemetery and I wondered how three organists would simulate the cannon fire of the 1812 overture.

For approximately £2 we had a trip on the Moscow Underground and marvelled at the Cathedral like stations, again being reminded of the dedication of the workers who built it. With the break up of the Soviet Union many cruise ships called at what is now St. Petersburg and also offered fly trips to Moscow and no doubt there are members of the three congregations who may have done this.

Ian Murdoch

Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota

2016

December	4	Susan McKechnie
	11	Betty Finlay
	28	Dorothy, Helen & Catherine
	25	Liz Laidlaw

2017

January	1	Irene Ramsay
	8	Mary Logan
	15	Jean Sharpe
	22	Lynn Hansen
	29	Ian Fowler

February	5	Irene Ramsay
	12	Barbara McInnes
	19	Dorothy Peat
	26	Liz Mills

March	5	Maria Hall
	12	Cathie Fisher
	19	Stella McLeish
	26	Nancy Richardson



Thank you for all the donations received.

Thanks also to all who supply and arrange the flowers in the Church. If I have any dates wrong please let me know and I will try and accommodate.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Please contact me on (0131) 663 8517 or see me in Church if you have any queries.

Nancy

NEW MEMBER

We welcome Mrs Marjorie Commins who recently joined us from St Mungos Church in Penicuik.

We hope that Marjorie will feel comfortable with us and look forward to welcoming her to the Guild.

KNIT AND NATTER

Our Knit and Natter afternoons have got off to a good start with everyone enjoying the 'chatter and clatter' of needles.

Some ladies are learning how to crochet for the first time and others gaining new ideas for crafts from each other. Many just enjoy the company and that for many, is something to look forward to. It runs from 1-30pm -3 -30pm every Thursday in the church hall. We have a cup of tea or coffee mid way through and it appears to be becoming popular with many.

Do come along and join in.

HOPEFIELD PROJECT

A new minister, the **Rev Elisabeth Spence** has been appointed as Pioneering Minister for the Hopefield Project and, a service of introduction will take place in Cockpen and Carrington Church at 7pm on the 1st December 2016.

The Presbytery Moderator, Rev Neil Dougall, assisted by Lorna, will lead the service. It is hoped that as many as possible will attend the service to welcome Elisabeth to the community.

CHURCH DANCE

Many thanks to all who came to the Dance and enjoyed a great night.

Our grateful thanks must go to both dancing groups who support us faithfully and also to the ticket sellers.

The sum of £483 was raised by this event, yet another great achievement.

Jean

A STORY WORTH TELLING!

As you are aware, I've been including stories from the books written by the late Eddie Askew for many years now, but, for this issue of 'The Link' I thought I would relate something I came across recently.

This lovely story (*at least, I think it's lovely*), gave me much joy to read, particularly in this **P.C.** world we now live in. I hope it gives us all much to think about!

They walked in tandem, each of the 92 students filing into the already crowded auditorium. With their rich maroon gowns flowing and, the traditional hats, they looked almost as grown up as they felt.

Dads swallowed hard behind broad smiles and Mums freely brushed away tears.

*However, this class **would not pray** during the commencements, not by choice, but because of a recent Court ruling prohibiting it.*

The Principal and several students were careful to stay within the guidelines allowed by the ruling. They gave inspirational and challenging speeches but no one mentioned divine guidance and no one asked for blessings on the graduates or their families.

The speeches were nice but they were routine until the final speech received a standing ovation.

*A solitary student walked proudly to the microphone, he stood still and silent for a moment and then **it happened!***

*All 92 students, every single one of them, suddenly, - **SNEEZED.***

The student on stage simply looked at the audience and said -

GOD BLESS YOU

and he walked off the stage.

The audience exploded into applause. This graduating class had found a unique way to invoke God's blessing on their future with or without the Court's approval.

This is a true story: it happened in a High School in Nova Scotia and I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I have and, perhaps, a lesson could be learned by many!!

George.

THE HOLY HIKERS

*"Everywhere is walking distance
If you have the time"*

Steven Wright



In my last "epistle" we were about to go on our August evening walk. Unfortunately it was a very wet day and we had to cancel it. We have re-scheduled it for February 2017. On Saturday 13th August four of us took to the hills above Innerleithen on a 7½ mile hike, and were rewarded after the long climb by the wonderful views up and down the Tweed valley. Although it was a nice day, it had been wet and we were rather sodden by the time we arrived back at the car. Thanks to my error in navigation on the hilltop we ended up somewhat "off piste" and it was a bit rougher and wetter trying to get back on to the right track.

Our walk in September was changed as, when I checked it out, it was a bit harder than expected so instead we did a walk from Vogrie up to Crichton. This proved to be most interesting as it was "Doors Open Day" and the Church was open to the public. We removed our boots and had a very interesting look around.

In October we did a linear walk from Portmore Loch (near Gladhouse Reservoir) to Eddleston. The weather was kind and we had beautiful views across the valley to the Meldons and the Cloich Hills.

We had a meeting on 23rd October and set out our Walking Programme for the next 6 months as follows.

November - Roslin & the Esk led by Hilary & Glen

December - Bush Estate led by Hilary & Glen followed by Xmas Lunch at Cibo's Restaurant, Gowkley Moss

January - No walk

February - Smeaton Estate led by Denise & Ian

March - The Meldons led by Elizabeth & David

April - Edinburgh Canal & River led by Dot & Jim (by bus)

These walks take place on the second Saturday of the month usually meeting at the old leisure centre car park at 11.00am.

And finally our 2017 Walking Weekend will be on 25-27th March to Seahouses in Northumberland.

We welcome new members. Contact me on 0131 660 1147.

*Happy Hiking
Jim Scott*

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

**In: ROSEWELL PARISH
CHURCH HALL**

**On: Saturday 10 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

Children's Page

- 1 How many of Santa's Reindeer have names beginning with the letter 'D'?
- 2 In the 12 Days of Christmas song, how many pipers were piping?
- 3 What job did Jesus' father Joseph do:
a) Carpet Fitter, b) Carpenter, c) Caterer
- 4 What meat is traditionally eaten on Christmas Day:
a) Turkey, b) Gammon, c) Chicken?
- 5 What is the missing word from this famous Christmas song –
Ding Dong _____ on High: a) Happily, b) Joyfully, c) Merrily?
- 6 How many wise men visited the baby Jesus?
- 7 Can you unscramble the following word to create to reveal a Christmas decoration:
LESNIT?
- 8 How many days are there between Christmas Day and New Year's Day (not counting Christmas Day or New Year's Day)?
- 9 Which Christmas Carol includes the lyrics: 'Dashing through the snow, in a one horse open sleigh'?
- 10 In what film is it always winter but never Christmas:
a) Home Alone, b) The Snowman, c) The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe
- 11 What do you pull on Christmas Day:
a) A balloon, c) A cracker, d) A muscle?
- 12 What was the name of the boy who was left at home alone in the famous Christmas movie 'Home Alone'?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 13

Share your news, views or ideas in the Spring Issue of "The Link" send them to Magazine@church.cockpen.co.uk by Sunday, 5th March 2017

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers