

Cockpen & Carrington

The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell
Parish Churches



Harvest 2026

Church of Scotland

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SERVICES SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER 2026

DATE	LASSWADE & ROSEWELL (10.00 am)	COCKPEN & CARRINGTON (11.30 am)
6 September 15th after Pentecost	The Minister - Rosewell Communion Service	Worship Team
13 September 16th after Pentecost	The Minister - Lasswade	The Minister
20 September HARVEST 17th after Pentecost	The Minister - Rosewell All Age Service	The Minister All Age Service
27 September 18th after Pentecost	The Minister - Lasswade	The Minister
4 October 19th after Pentecost	The Minister - Rosewell	The Minister & Guild for Guild Dedication Service
11 October 20th after Pentecost	The Minister - Lasswade	The Minister
18 October 21st after Pentecost	Worship Team- Rosewell All Age Service	Worship Team All Age Service
25 October 21st after Pentecost	The Minister - Lasswade	The Minister
1 November All Saints Day	Worship Team- Rosewell	The Minister Communion Service
8 November Remembrance Sunday	The Minister - Rosewell *10:00 am	The Minister
15 November 24th after Pentecost	The Minister - Rosewell All Age Service	The Minister All Age Service
22 November 25th after Pentecost	The Minister - Lasswade	The Minister
29 November First in Advent	Three Churches Joint Service 11.00 am at Cockpen & Carrington Church	
6 December Second in Advent	The Minister - Rosewell Toy Gift Service	The Minister Toy Gift Service
13 December Third in Advent	The Minister - Lasswade	The Minister <i>and</i> Service of Remembering 3pm
20 December Fourth in Advent	The Minister - Rosewell All Age Service	The Minister All Age Service Nine Lessons & Carols 7pm
27 December First after Christmas	The Minister - Lasswade	The Minister

Additional Christmas Services

Thursday 24 December Christmas Eve	Christingle Service Rosewell - 6:00 pm	Watchnight Service Cockpen - 11:20 pm
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* Lasswade War Memorial at 9.30 am before Rosewell Church service at 10.00 am;

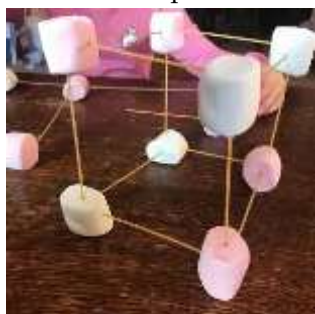
+ Rosewell War Memorial at 10.50 am; also Polton War Memorial at 3.00 pm

From the Minister ...

In May this last summer term, Josh, our Community Youth Worker, and I led two Transition Workshops once again for the Primary 7 classes at Bonnyrigg Primary School to help them feel more confident about their move up to High School this August. The material we used is prepared by Scripture Union and entitled 'It's Your Move!', with a focus on some of the choices, changes and challenges the young people can meet as they come to the end of their time at Primary School and move on up to High School.



Each workshop is a mixture of activities with a quiz; some short videos; some questions and time to reflect; the story of Joseph and his coat of many colours or the story of Ruth from the Bible, both of whom faced and coped with lots of change in their lives; some reflective craft ideas; and a team challenge to see who can build the tallest free-standing tower. This year, the tower challenge was to build the tallest tower possible out of marshmallows and spaghetti. Many teams started strongly with all kinds of great designs, but the challenge came when their tower gained more and more height – how could they keep it upright without toppling over when they let go of the uppermost point?! It was a challenge indeed and only a few teams succeeded in the end.



One of the secrets of building a tall tower that won't fall over is to create a firm foundation for it. Getting that part right first of all is so important. And whether building a tower out of marshmallows and spaghetti or any other activity in life, a good solid foundation is vital. That was true very much when I worked as a ski instructor with Carrbridge School and then with the Abernethy Trust at Nethybridge up in the Spey Valley for a few years. I loved taking beginner groups out who had never skied before and helping them build a firm foundation for their skiing experience. With step-by-step introductory exercises that helped them learn to move about on



skis, get on and off lifts, slow down and stop and begin to make simple turns on the snow, it was great to see the class all grow in ability and confidence and acquire skills that would stand them in good stead for progressing in skiing.

As the Primary 7 learners all prepared to move up to High School, Josh and I encouraged them, too, that they had a good foundation to build on for all that lay ahead. They had been encouraged and supported by their teachers all through primary school to develop knowledge and skills to shape their future, majoring on kindness, fun and respect and giving them confidence to grow and achieve. They could look forward to build on all of that and do well in the adventure of High School that lay before them.



All of us will have skills and training that we built upon to enjoy hobbies and interests or to progress in a career. And in our lives of faith, we can do no better than to build firmly on the firm foundation that is trust in Jesus. Jesus of course taught about that in his vivid parable of the wise and foolish builder (Matthew 7: 24 -27). He challenged his listeners to hear and act upon his words and so be like the wise builder who built on a secure foundation of rock. Psalm 18: 2 reminds us also of

God as our Rock, as David wrote:

*The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my saviour;
my God is my rock, in whom I find protection.
He is my shield, the power that saves me,
and my place of safety. (NLT)*

We do well in life to have our whole trust and confidence in the Lord our Rock and Refuge and know his leading and guiding always with us, just as we are encouraged in Proverbs 3: 5-6:

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
6 In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths. (NRSV)*

With all good wishes as we trust in the Lord and know his leading through the autumn term ahead. Blessings, Lorna.

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Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church

From the Church Registers

Baptisms

If you wish to discuss the sacrament of Baptism, please contact the Minister.

Weddings

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

Deaths

12th April 2026

Mr Jim **RAMSAY**

24th April 2026

Mrs Mary **MCMORRAN**

2nd June 2026

Mrs Cathie **FISHER**

We remember the families of Jim, Mary and Cathie in our prayers and give thanks to those who cared for them.

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'



Brownies

The Brownies were ever so excited about Scotland taking part in the football World Cup and were anxious to decorate the Church Hall in honour of this occasion. The flags and bunting were put up, and the girls made many posters. It was very interesting reading some of the things written on the posters and showed just how excited they were at Scotland being part of this great occasion.



Happy Birthday

It was a wonderful day back in June when a member of our congregation celebrated her 95th birthday. Janet spent the day celebrating with all her family, young and old.



Sunday Tea Rota Cockpen & Carrington

13th September	Andrew Jack and Vi Gibson
4th October	The Guild
29th November	Volunteers please for joint service.



If you would be willing to join the tea rota, please speak to Liz Mills.

From the Flower Convenor

Hello, once again to my wee update on the Church Flowers. It seems no time since the last issue of the Link Magazine. Over the summer it's been just the weekly flowers as there have been no extra special occasions but looking forward we shall have the Harvest Thanksgiving which is a very busy time for all the farmers. There will be the usual two or three Harvest themed flower displays for the Harvest Thanksgiving service. I hope you all approve of them.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who supports the Flower Fund, as without your generous donations we would struggle to survive giving fresh flowers out weekly. The floral arrangements benefit those of our church family who need a bit of cheer for various reasons. Please always let us know if you would specially like someone to receive the flowers.

I'll close for now and before we know it, it'll be the Christmas edition once again.

Thanks for all your support to me and don't hesitate to contact me if you need any information on flowers.

Love to all of you,

Anne Clark xx

Flower Convenor

Tel: 07929 446 662



Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota 2026

September 6 13 20 27	Liz MacDonald Dot Scott Dorothy Bennett Ian Bee	November 1 8 15 22 29	Liz Mills Lynsey Stevenson Marjory Greig Liz MacDonald Joint Service
October 4 11 18 25	The Guild Irene McGhee Wilma Sweeney John Adamson	December 6 13 20 27	Betty Finlay Ian Richardson Christmas Flowers Christmas Flowers



Invitation

The **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

will be celebrated

in **Cockpen and Carrington Church**

on Sunday 1st November 2026

at **11.30 am.**

All are invited to join in this celebration.



Flowers in our midst

We've had a very good summer this year with almost four weeks of glorious sunshine. Many of us took this opportunity to do a bit of gardening and enjoy the floral displays. We asked you to send us photos of your gardens, so we've included some in this magazine. We hope you enjoy them too.



An outing to Dumfries House







News from Josh, Community Youth Worker

SnS

We were back at our annual mission week, Stage-N-Slam, this summer. It was another great chance to connect with the young people we've been building relationships with over the year and bring the Gospel message to them. This year it was not only great to get that chance, but also to see our young people bring along friends who they wanted to introduce to Jesus, sharing their faith with them passionately throughout the week. We're all excited to see the work God does with these new young people over the coming year.



Magnitude

This summer we went to SU Scotland's Magnitude festival for the first time! With 15 young people all coming along with us, we got to watch as all of them connected with Jesus through worship, seminars and Bible studies over the week. It was a fantastic week, and every one of the young people have come back with amazing stories and experiences, closer in their relationship with God and ready to take all they have experienced and learned into their everyday life!

Thanks, and God Bless,
Josh

The Miracle of Alain Mimoun

THE FIRST LONDON MARATHON was held on Sunday 29 March 1981 with 7,055 starters from Blackheath and 6,255 finishers on Constitution Hill. The winning time was 2 hrs, 11 mins, 48 secs. This year the time was 2 hrs, 2 mins, 27 secs with 56,640 finishers, a huge increase in public participation, but not nearly such an impressive time difference.

Looking at the Olympic marathon times gives a similarly unflattering picture of today's top performances with the three hour 'barrier' having been 'broken' by the winner of the first Olympic marathon, fittingly Spyridon Louis of Greece in Athens in 1896, though admittedly that was probably a kilometre or two short of the now standard distance of 42.195 kilometres set by the IAAF in 1921. The two hour 'barrier' has yet to be broken other than in a highly contrived time trial event. That is despite all the benefits and advantages of modern professionalism in training time, methods, nutrition and equipment research.

It seems to me that the three Olympic marathon victors who deserve the title 'great' come from the 1952, 1956 and 1960 Olympics in Helsinki, Melbourne and Rome

respectively and apart from timewise they will never be surpassed. There was and remains a special aura about each of these men and their gold medal achievements.

Emile Zatopek, a 26-year-old Czech army officer, frequently at odds with the Communist regime, had already won gold medals in the 10k at the 1948 London Olympics, where he won by 300 metres and lapped all but two of the field and in the 5k and 10k at Helsinki. He was running his first marathon. He knew that Jim Peters of GB was the world best performer at the time and came up alongside him at 15k, when Peters was leading, and asked him if the pace was fast enough. Peters was taken aback and rashly said it wasn't, whereupon Emile surged ahead to win in 2 hrs, 23 mins, 03, secs while Peters dropped out suffering from cramp. This was the only distance event treble in Olympic history.

Abebe Bikila, a 28 year old captain in the 5th Infantry Regiment of the Ethiopian Imperial Guard, was the first and only to date, winner of the Olympic marathon to have run barefoot, when he won at Rome in 1960 in a new world best time of 2 hrs, 15 mins, 16.2 secs, eight minutes faster than Zatopek's

triumph, but amazingly only 0.8 seconds faster than the time set by the pre-race favourite among the 69 runners, Sergei Popov of Russia, set at Stockholm in winning the European title two years previously. Abebe won again at Tokyo four years later wearing shoes this time. He finished in the dark running down the Via Appia and through the Arch of Constantine in one of the rare Olympic marathons not to finish in the Olympic stadium. When given his standard immediate post-race medical examination his pulse rate was only an astonishing 88 bpm.

Rhadi Ben Abdesslem of Morocco was only 26 seconds behind and was to recount in an athletics magazine his meeting with Bikila on the morning of the race. They had been called in by an Italian doctor for medical checks:

“I was amazed by his feet... The soles of his feet were as thick and black as coal... the hard skin... resembled, by its consistency, the tyres of big military trucks”.

When Alain Mimoun won at Melbourne four years before the Rome epic though it was in a time nearly 10 minutes slower, it was arguably the most impressive achievement of the three, given all the relevant circumstances.

When he stood at the start line of the marathon in 35°C heat in Melbourne Cricket Ground's Olympic stadium with 45 other aspirants in front of nearly 120,000 spectators at 3pm on 1st December 1956, there was no logical reason for him or anyone else to think he could win. True, he had a distinguished international athletics career behind him. Silver medals behind his great friend and rival Emile Zatopek in the 10k at both London and Helsinki and another in the 5k at Helsinki. He had four International Cross-Country titles including at Hamilton Racecourse on March 22, 1952 and at the Royal Ulster Show Grounds, Belfast on 17th March earlier in the year, 85 French vests and 32 French championship wins. But he was the oldest man in the race field, a month away from his 36th birthday, a field which included Zatopek, reigning champion and a year younger and two outstanding Russians, as well as many other experienced marathon men. He had never run a marathon in competition.

As against that, there were many signs and experiences to give him hope and belief. For the first and only time in Olympic marathon history there was a false start, perhaps an indication that something unexpected was about to happen. He

had been given number 13 to wear, and he was a great admirer of General de Gaulle, who had graduated 13th from officer training school at St Cyr pre-war. He had a telegram the night before giving him the news that his wife, Germaine, was safely delivered of a baby daughter and both were doing well. In purely physical terms he had been quietly training ferociously hard in the previous weeks sometimes getting up at 5.30am for a two-hour run followed by breakfast, a rest and another two-hour run between 11am and 1pm. In the 35C heat the genes of his ancestry as an Oranais Berber were with him.

Above all he had his religious faith. He often spoke of how he had been influenced as a child by the “White Fathers” Catholic missionaries in his home area of El Telagh, halfway between the Atlas Mountains and the Mediterranean in Algeria. He had the iron in his soul that came from his distinguished six-year war service for France as an N.C.O., trained sapper and front-line experience, including severe injury from an 88mm shell explosion at Monte Cassino. He had been awarded a Croix de Guerre.

Postwar, a friend had taken him to the Basilica of Sainte Therese at Lisieux in 1950, the second most visited shrine in France behind

Lourdes, where he had an intense feeling of empathy and connection. In the winter before Melbourne, he had been suffering from severe sciatica and been unable to train. He returned there and felt healed by the visit and the experience he had of the blessing of Sainte Therese. He said that his recovery was a second miracle, after his survival of the hell of Cassino.

He won by 1 min, 32 secs from Franjo Mihiaalic of Yugoslavia in 2 hrs 25 mins flat with his great friend Emile 6th at 4 mins 34 secs, saddening Alain that he could not join him on the podium. In the course of the race his commitment and concentration were such that he did not drink at all and lost four kilos in weight.



Afterwards he made an annual pilgrimage to the Basilica to give thanks and pray to God and Sainte Therese. In conversation with the author* of his biography, he said

“Thanks to God, I have miraculously returned alive from the war and the apocalypse in 1945. Each day I give thanks to God.”

*With acknowledgement to Alain Billouin: “*Alain Mimoun: Toute une Vie a Courir*” (Paris: Editions Solar, 2016).

Addendum

The world best time for the marathon distance was at last brought below 2 hours on 26th April 2026, by two professional athletes at the annual London Marathon. Kenya’s Sebastian Sawe recorded a time of 1 hour 59 minutes 30 seconds followed closely by Yomif Kekeicha of Ethiopia 11 seconds behind.

Sadly, the Glasgow stand-in organisers of the Commonwealth Games this year saw fit to exclude the marathon from the calendar of events despite Scotland’s outstanding history in the event with past winners in Dunky Wright, Joe McGhee and Jim Alder.

The popularity of marathon running (or is it the chance to appear on TV?) being such that the London Marathon organisers have extended it to two days next year to cater for the huge request for entry places.

Bill MacDonald



Harvest

Our Harvest Thanksgiving service will be held in the church on Sunday 20th September. Donations of packet or tinned food, pasta and long-life milk can be brought for the Harvest Table and will be donated to Food Banks.

Toy Gift Service

Again we will be supporting the Salvation Army’s Toy gift Appeal in church on Sunday 6th December. If you are able, please bring along gifts unwrapped suitable for children and teenagers.

Spinalonga



About a month ago, two things happened coincidentally: a good friend suggested I might like to read books by Victoria Hislop, wife of Ian Hislop of *Private Eye*, the other was that I had recently watched an episode of “Abandoned Engineering”.

The book which I chose (at random) was “The Island”, a historical novel set in Crete. The TV episode contained a section on an abandoned village on the island of Spinalonga just off the coast of Crete.

Hislop's novel's main character, Alexis, returns to Crete to find out about her family's history. She discovers that her mother's mother contracted leprosy and along with other lepers was sent (maybe banished) to the leper colony on Spinalonga.

Although “The Island” is fiction, the historical background is based on true events; from 1903 till 1957

the island became a leper colony for Greece.

The “Abandoned Engineering” documentary visited the village to which the lepers were sent. Although dilapidated, the village consisted of houses, a church, shops, even a cinema and, of course, a cemetery.

Spurred on by this astonishing coincidence, I decided to find out more for myself. I shall share some details, but some of you may want to find out much more for yourselves.

Briefly;

In the Venetian era a massive defensive fortress was built in 1579 to protect the coast from enemies and pirates.

In the Ottoman era, the Ottoman Empire took the island in 1715 and the village became a Turkish one over the following centuries.

Since 1903 until 1957 the Greek government used Spinalonga as a leper colony, and it became known as the “Island of Tears” until the discovery of antibiotics and a cure for leprosy made it no longer necessary to isolate people who contracted the disease.

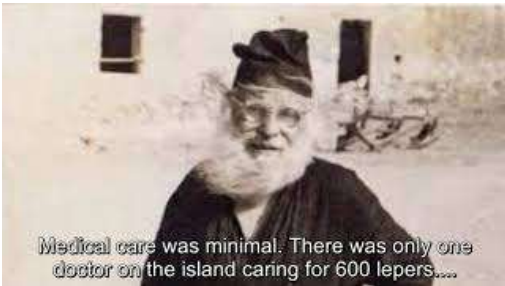
I am only about a third of the way through the novel, but Victoria's description of day-to-day

life is based on historical fact. The villagers of Spinalonga restored the houses and the church and adapted one of the larger buildings into a rudimentary hospital. Some opened shops, others used their skills and talents and, to all intents and purposes, led normal village lives, including marriages and having families. The villagers were quite strong and vocal and persuaded the Greek government to fund such projects as improving the water supply and providing generators capable of ensuring electricity could

be maintained throughout the whole village.

One interesting and notable fact is that a Greek Orthodox priest came to the island and conducted services. At the end of each service the priest himself took communion from the common cup which the congregation had used before him. He never contracted the disease, and after the island was abandoned, and all the lepers had left, he remained until 1962 to offer memorial services for the lepers until 5 years after their death.

IB



His name was **Hrysanthos Katsoulogiannakis**.

Answer Key to Quiz on back page:

HARVEST - Row 2 (left to right)	OATS - Row 8 (left to right)
WHEAT - Row 10 (left to right)	CROP - Row 8 (left to right)
BARLEY - Row 4 (left to right)	AUTUMN - Row 9 (left to right)
TRACTOR - Row 3 (left to right)	PUMPKIN - Row 1 (left to right)
FIELD - Row 5 (left to right)	GRAIN - Rows 1 and 15 (left to right)
COMBINE - Row 5 (left to right)	HAY - Rows 6 and 15 (left to right)
APPLES - Row 6 (left to right)	FARM - Row 15 (left to right)
SCARECROW - Row 7 (left to right)	

Muddy Church – Saturday 6th June

The final Messy Church before the summer holidays on Saturday 6th June became an outdoor Muddy Church session as we trusted in having good weather! It was indeed a dry afternoon, and the group had a very enjoyable time up at the Rosewell outdoor classroom led by Michelle Stewart who assists in running the Rosewell Scout Group.

With an overall theme of 'New Life', Michelle set up a whole range of wonderful art, craft and exploring activities for creating and discovering bugs and beasts of all kinds. There was also time to relax, though, on hammocks and to finish by melting marshmallows on a campfire to enjoy smores together. We linked our time out with giving thanks for the true wonders of God's creation and how he delighted to make 'creeping things' and 'saw that it was good' (Genesis 1: 24 and 25). Thank you to Michelle for such a creative and enjoyable time in the woods and to all our families who joined in.



Large worm about 15 cm long found under a log



500 years since the publication of William Tyndale's New Testament

In the Spring 2026 Cockpen and Carrington Guild members enjoyed an afternoon session from Kath Hay, who gave an interesting presentation entitled "The Renegade Monk and the Runaway Nun". This was about Martin Luther and his wife, Katharina von Bora. Martin Luther (1483-1546) was a German priest and former Augustinian friar. He rejected various teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church, especially belief in indulgences and papal authority. He wrote the "Ninety-five Theses" in 1517, which were famously hammered onto the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg. Pope Leo X demanded that Luther renounce all his writing and when he refused, excommunicated him in 1521. Luther translated the Bible into German, making it much more accessible to the people and had a huge impact on the German Church. He also influenced the writing of an English translation. His marriage to Katharina, a former nun, set in place the practice of clerical marriage, allowing Protestant clergy to marry.

William Tyndale (1494-1535) was born in Gloucestershire and educated at Oxford and then Cambridge University. He was inspired by the academic atmosphere to challenge the thinking of the Roman Catholic Church and explored the Protestant ideas of Martin Luther and others. He was a leading figure in the Protestant Reformation. He became frustrated by the teaching of theology at university. He left in 1521 to become chaplain to Sir John Walsh and tutor to his children. He devoted his time to studying the Bible and preaching. His views won him friends among ordinary people, but provoked opposition from the clergy. In 1523 he moved to London where he continued to study, lecture and preach.

He passionately believed that people should be able to read the Bible for themselves and in their own language, rather than relying on a priest to interpret it for them. He felt that the Bible alone should set the doctrine and practices of the Church. He asked the Bishop of London for permission and funds to

translate the Bible into English. This was refused and he was condemned by the religious authorities, who saw his work and views on faith as heresy and treason. He realised his project was not welcome in England, so he travelled to Germany, where Johannes Gutenberg had produced the first Bible in Latin, printed with moveable metal type, around 1455. Before this, texts were handwritten or produced from carved wooden blocks. Gutenberg's printing press was more fully mechanised than others of the time. Texts could be printed more quickly, at less expense and with greater accuracy than before.

Tyndale received financial support from wealthy London merchants. He was the first person to translate and print a version of the New Testament in English, drawing directly from Hebrew and Greek texts. It was printed initially in Cologne and then at Worms in 1525. It was the first English translation that was mass produced, as a result of new advances in printing. The Bibles were smuggled across the Channel to England, the first copies arriving in 1526, making this year the 500th anniversary. Strangely, there hasn't been a great

deal of publicity about this significant anniversary.

Tyndale's work played a key role in spreading Reformation ideas across the English-speaking world. His translation was condemned, banned and burnt in England by the Catholic authorities. Of the thousands of copies smuggled into England during Tyndale's lifetime, only three have survived. They are held by St Paul's Cathedral, London, the British Library and the Wurttembergische Landesbibliothek in Stuttgart, Germany.

There was a furious reaction from Henry VIII, Sir Thomas More and Cardinal Wolsey, who condemned Tyndale as a heretic. As a result, Tyndale went into hiding. He continued to work, revising his version of the New Testament and started translating parts of the Old Testament. In 1530 Tyndale wrote "The Practice of Prelates", opposing Henry VIII's plan to seek the annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, on the grounds that it went against Bible teaching. In 1535 he was betrayed, arrested and jailed outside Brussels. The following year he was convicted of heresy, executed by

strangulation and then burnt at the stake. His final prayer was “Lord, open the King of England’s eyes”.

When Tyndale died there were 18,000 copies of his New Testament in English in circulation. His translations changed the history of the Church in England. His prayer was answered, when within a year of his death, Henry VIII authorised what became known as the Matthew Bible, based on Tyndale’s work. This was followed by The Great Bible of 1539, authorised by the King to be read aloud in the services of the Church of England.

Tyndale’s Bible is not as well-known as the King James VI version, produced in 1611, after 7 years of work, but the 47 scholars working on the latter edition drew extensively from Tyndale’s original work. In 2002 Tyndale was placed 26th in the BBC’s poll of the 100 Greatest Britons.

In conclusion, the National Library of Scotland holds one of only 21 complete surviving copies of the 180 Gutenberg Bibles, printed around 1455 in Mainz, Germany. It

is currently on free display in the Treasures Gallery of the National Library, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EW, until the end of December 2026. Due to its value and rarity, it is not often on display, so please, if you can, take advantage of this chance to see it.



The beginning of the Gospel of John, from Tyndale's translation of the New Testament. British Library Board.

Liz MacDonald

FROM THE ORGANIST

I don't normally contribute an article to the Harvest edition of The Link, as this is the choir's musical 'off season'. I thought it was time to let you know however that, sadly, we have a significant problem with the organ.

To explain the background, the organ was installed in 1888 and has mechanical operation throughout. In 1977 (in my early days here!) the mechanics of the 'manuals' (i.e. the two keyboards) were fully renovated, and while that is nearly 50 years ago now they are still very much going strong. The pedal section (i.e. the notes I play with my feet and effectively the final third of the organ's mechanics) was not touched at that time, however, so has never been overhauled or updated since the original installation. It has done us pretty well at coming up to 140 years with next to no attention, but perhaps not surprisingly it has now reached the end of its life.



Very briefly, the links between the pedals I play and the pipes that produce the notes are made up of a combination of wooden and leather connections. The leather elements are now perishing and need to be replaced. That in itself is not a major undertaking, but the problem is that all of the mechanism is (as you might guess) at the very foot of the organ and to access it would require virtually the whole instrument to be dismantled. This would be a very expensive undertaking indeed, but fortunately there is an alternative. Because we installed a new pedal stop with electrical action in 1996 this gives us the option of replacing the existing action for the other pedal stops with electrical action for them too.

It is still a significant operation but much less so than replacing the original mechanism.

In case anyone is wondering I should just make it clear that what we are talking about here purely concerns the mechanics (and electrics) of the organ and will not affect its sound at all - it is certainly not making it an 'electric organ'! Indeed, since as part of the operation the pedal pipes and wind chests will be cleaned (which has not happened since 1888!) it is likely that the sound of the pedal department will be improved to a degree.

Our organ builders have quoted a total cost for the electrical route of just over £25,000 (including VAT). I appreciate that this will still seem a very large sum, when you probably think the organ is currently working as normal! The real issue however is that while at present only one of the organ pedals has failed completely it is very likely that the same failure will occur with many of the others in the near future, in which event the organ would be severely affected and indeed effectively unplayable.

We are fortunate in that the Kirk Session has for many years kept a separate 'organ fund' to cover major maintenance issues arising, which as it stands will meet roughly half of the cost involved.

Given that matters are fairly urgent it is hoped we can, temporarily at least, cover the remainder from other existing church funds but we will also be exploring the possibility of obtaining some grant support from charitable trusts which focus on the church music area as well as carrying out specific fundraising. Any and all support will be very much appreciated however!

Needless to say, I am personally very much committed to seeing this work proceed, but I hope most will agree that having a fine pipe organ is a privilege and an important part of our heritage as a church, and indeed a central part of our worship. Installing the organ originally must have been quite a financial stretch for our predecessors and I suggest that after 140 years of service some significant expenditure on our part to keep it going is not unreasonable.

GMB

August 2026

GUILD NEWS



OUR GUILD closed on a high in May with a very successful Charity Afternoon Tea and this year's charity was the Midlothian Hedgehog Rescue and Rehabilitation which was started up last autumn to address the need for somewhere in the Lothian and Borders area where sick, injured and orphaned hedgehogs can be cared for. The Knit and Natter group had knitted lots of hedgehogs to help raise the total realised to £1000.

The committee quickly held a meeting to determine next the syllabus for the 2026-27 session and Vi Gibson, our secretary has

done a fantastic job contacting speakers and confirming their availability, so all looks well for a very interesting, enlightening and enjoyable year ahead of us. Our new session starts as usual with our rededication service in the church on Sunday 4th October and the first meeting is the following afternoon October 5th in the church hall at 2pm with our minister giving us her take on this year's theme "Beyond the Walls" which will be the last of the three year "Let us Build a House"

Lastly, quite a few of our members found the long summer break too long as they felt rather isolated and so we decided this year to open the hall on a Monday in July for a meet up and chat over a cuppa and cake. Catherine Devlin shared with us two slide shows she had compiled from photographs she'd taken during the months of lockdown and had chosen lovely background music.

We weren't sure how many would come but were delighted that 32 joined us and enjoyed the event so much that another is planned for August.

Please consider trying out being a member of our group (1st year is free). A very warm welcome and friendship is guaranteed to gents and ladies.

Liz and Helen

Charity Afternoon Tea

A charity afternoon was hosted by The Guild in May (2026) in aid of the local charity *Midlothian Hedgehog Rescue and Rehabilitation* founded by Ann Morrison.

We enjoyed an afternoon of entertainment by accordionist and singer, Stuart Anderson. Afternoon Tea was provided by members of The Guild and this proved to be a very successful event. There was plenty of food and sweets on offer and if anyone went home hungry - it was their own fault! Hearty thanks were extended to all who made this event possible. I think you'll agree by the photos that it certainly was a very popular afternoon.



KNIT AND NATTER

The Knit and Natter group has again been busy with the needles over the past few months. Many cosy hats were knitted to distribute to the homeless to help them keep warm in the winter. Hats and cardigans for premature babies have continued to



be knitted for the hospital Special Care Baby Unit (nRIE). Hedgehogs were also made to decorate the tables at the Guild Charity Afternoon Tea. Colourful small Twiddle Blankets were also made for people with dementia and donated to Newbyres and Springfield Bank nursing homes.

Before closing for the summer break everyone enjoyed a lovely lunch at Broomieknowe Golf Club.

After hopefully having enjoyed a lovely summer we will resume on 10th September.



TEA AND TOAST MORNING



A *Tea and Toast Morning* will be held in the hall on Saturday 14th November at 10am when there will be a Tombola, Raffles, Baking stall and Christmas goods. This is always a very popular event, and we hope to see you all there.

Any prizes for the Tombola or Raffle would be much appreciated as would donations to the Baking Stall.

LASSWADE AND ROSEWELL PARISH CHURCH NEWS

www.lasswadechurch.co.uk

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

As the leaves turn and the air grows crisp may the Autumn season inspire us to reflect, give thanks and renew our commitment to faith and community.

Sacrament of Holy Communion



**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
will be celebrated at
Rosewell Parish Church
at 10.00 am on Sunday 6th September.
You are warmly invited to share in this
important part of the life of the Church.**

Toy Gift Service

Again, we will be supporting the Salvation Army's Toy Gift Appeal at our service at Rosewell on Sunday 6th December. Please, if you can, bring along unwrapped gifts suitable for children and teenagers. Your support is much appreciated.

Coffee Mornings

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



BLYTHSWOOD CARE (60th ANNIVERSARY) SHOEBOX APPEAL 2026



It is time once again to start thinking about filling a shoebox – the articles do not need to be expensive but are appreciated whatever the gift. It will take the usual form of shoeboxes for all ages male/female – toiletries, toothpaste/ brush, comb/brush, socks/tights, cosy hat/scarf/gloves, underwear, pjs, t-shirt, pens/pencils, notepads/colouring books, small toys

(new), sweets (no chocolate or loose sweets), etc. It is nice to include a Christmas/Greeting card from 'a friend in Scotland'.

Please do not feel you have to fill a box - loose donations will be welcome and will be incorporated.

Leaflets are available at both Lasswade and Rosewell churches giving details of suitable items. **Once filled please bring them along on Saturday 10th October to Rosewell Church Hall between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon.**

Blythswood is marking its 60th Anniversary in 2026, building on decades of distributing gift-filled shoe boxes to vulnerable individuals across Eastern Europe, so please be assured that your donations will go directly to the right destinations.

Despite the difficulties that they face every day – through poverty, illness, disability or other disadvantages – receiving a shoebox brings such joy to children and adults in Eastern Europe, that their faces light up with huge smiles.

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

Please contact Dorothy Spence (07445139138) if any further details are required.

From the Lasswade Flower Convenor

In view of the fact that Lasswade Church faces closure, I feel that I am unable to prepare a Flower Rota for the future.

The present rota finishes on 23rd August when Herbert and I will provide flowers to mark our 56th wedding anniversary.

If anybody is able to help to provide flowers for any future Lasswade services, which may be held, please let me know.

Thank you for all your help over the years.

With grateful thanks

Moir

DID YOU KNOW SHOPPING WITH EASYFUNDING YOU CAN HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR LASSWADE & ROSEWELL CHURCH, HARBOUR PROJECT?

This is one way of raising funds for the Harbour Project at no cost to yourself.

One of the easiest ways to support Lasswade and Rosewell Church, Midlothian is to sign up to easyfundraising.

Shop with 8,000+ online retailers and brands will donate to us for free. Plus, for a limited time, when 10 new supporters sign up, we'll get a bonus £10:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/lasswade-and-rosewell-church/JFE2J2/c2s/j0GibRE4/CE085/textcopy/>

So far this year we have received of over £20 from my online shopping.

Pat Lawrie

Harvest Service Invitation



We extend a warm invitation to join us at our
Harvest Service on **Sunday 20th September**
at 10.00 a.m.
at Rosewell Parish Church.

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

Your support is very much appreciated.



Messy Church, held in Rosewell Church Hall, begins with a warm welcome so if you have never been to Messy Church before, do come along. Mums, dads, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends, carers accompanied by babies, toddlers, and primary school children –

you are all most welcome.

Children are NOT dropped off – come and join the fun with them. Messy Church creatively explores Christian and moral themes through getting messy; with crafts, games, a story, prayer and songs and then it finishes with a special Messy meal together without you having to clear up or cook!

Do come and join us on Saturday 5th September, 3rd October, 7th November and, 5th December from 4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. You can find us on Facebook at **'Rosewell Messy Church'**.

Lasswade and Rosewell Messy Church Team

Golden Vegetable Soup

Ingredients: 1 small butternut squash cut in small chunks, 4 medium carrots sliced, 2 medium parsnips sliced, 1 medium onion chopped, 2 garlic cloves chopped, 2tsp sunflower oil, 1 litre just-boiled water, 1 vegetable stock cube, black pepper, natural yoghurt and freshly snipped chives, to serve (optional).



Method: Heat oil in deep pan, add vegetables and allow to soften without colouring. Add stock, bring to the boil, and allow to simmer for 20 –30 mins until all veg are soft. Allow to cool slightly and then liquidise. Return to pan, adjust seasoning and re- heat. Ladle it into warm bowls. Top with a swirl of yoghurt and a few snipped chives if you want to make it look a bit fancier.

There is nothing like a bowl of home-made soup on a cold day – it feels properly comforting and sustaining - Enjoy!!!!

THE HOLY HIKERS

"Walking is man's best medicine." Hippocrates



In February of this year we held our belated Christmas lunch at the Stobsmill Inn at Gorebridge. There was a full turnout of members and we enjoyed getting together, sharing stories of our festive seasons and making plans for future walks. As we are now all "of a certain age" We have decided to walk only from March to October with the July and August walks being on a Wednesday evening. The remaining months we will still meet but just for a coffee and a catch up at Broomieknowe Golf Course and for our Christmas lunch.

Here is a summary of where we have walked so far this year:

March	Vogrie Country Park
April	Dalkeith Country Park
May	around Rosewell
June	Railway walk
July	The Bush (evening walk)
August	The Red Woods and Newbattle Estate (evening walk)

The walks for September and October will be decided nearer the time and members notified by email.

If anyone is interested in joining our small, friendly group please get in touch with Denise Thomson on 07804982310 or speak to Dot Scott. We meet on the second Saturday of the month in the car park at King George V Park in Bonnyrigg at 11 am. We take a packed lunch and walking boots are recommended. We try to choose local walks as far as possible but sometimes we do venture further afield by car and on these occasions we ask members to contribute £2 each towards the cost of petrol.

We all miss Jim Scott - for his humour, his kindness, his patience and his amazing knowledge of walks, both local and national. And his organisational skills were second to none. We have enjoyed many a weekend away with the group at various locations and everyone has been filled with laughter and fun.

We intend to keep this group going in Jim's memory as long as we can put one foot in front of the other. Happy hiking!

WHO'S WHO

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Cockpen & Carrington Parish Church (Church of Scotland) - Scottish Registered Charity SC013139
Lasswade & Rosewell Parish Church (Church of Scotland) - Scottish Registered Charity SC015878

To comply with Data Protection and Safeguarding, postal addresses have been removed. If you require a postal address for any named above, please contact the Session Clerk.

Harvest Quiz

Find these 15 words:

HARVEST, WHEAT, BARLEY, OATS, TRACTOR, FARM, HAY, APPLES,
PUMPKIN, COMBINE, FIELD, GRAIN, AUTUMN, SCARECROW, CROP

(Answers on page 19)

P	U	M	P	K	I	N	G	R	A	I	N
A	H	A	R	V	E	S	T	M	X	O	Q
R	T	R	A	C	T	O	R	W	H	E	A
B	A	R	L	E	Y	N	O	P	L	T	T
F	I	E	L	D	C	O	M	B	I	N	E
A	P	P	L	E	S	Y	U	H	A	Y	S
R	Q	S	C	A	R	E	C	R	O	W	X
M	O	A	T	S	Z	C	R	O	P	N	Y
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Z	X	C	V	B	N	M	A	S	D	F	G
P	O	I	U	Y	T	R	E	W	Q	L	K
H	A	Y	G	R	A	I	N	F	A	R	M

Share your news, views, or ideas in the Christmas Issue of “The Link”. Send them to Magazine@church.cockpen.co.uk by Sunday, 8th November 2026.



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