

Cockpen & Carrington

# The Link

Lasswade & Rosewell

Christmas 2019



Church of Scotland

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# KNIT AND NATTER

The Knit and Natter group have again been busy with various projects.

Two Nativity sets have been knitted, one for Rosewell Primary School, and a bigger one for our Pioneering Minister Elisabeth Spence, to use at Burnbrae primary school and also at a campfire for the Rainbows.

On Thursday 19th September we had the pleasure of a visit from Dr Miku Foning and the Rev Nirwan Subba from the Twinning Project in India.

Both gentlemen were extremely impressed with the various items that were on show for them to see, with many photographs being taken to show back home.

Everyone enjoyed tea and cake before Miku and Nirwan headed off for a visit to the Church.



**Rev Lorna Souter with Dr Miku Foning and the Rev Nirwan Subba**



**Knitted Campfire**



**Nativity Set**

## From the Minister ...

We tend to overlook small things in our world today, but very often small can be amazing and wonderful.

This summer I had beautiful Himalayan poppies growing in the garden and when their seed heads appeared, I decided to gather as many seeds as possible to over-winter them and see if it will be possible to develop new plants next spring. Each seed is tiny, and it is amazing to think what a wonderful mature plant can grow from it with their delicate, tissue paper-like blue flowers. Each seed is a tiny parcel of life just waiting to burst open and grow and grow.

Sometimes our new ideas for developing at church can seem rather small at first. The Knit and Natter group started small, for example. Now, however, there is a large group of ladies who meet each week to knit, crochet, do tapestry or art of other kinds and enjoy each other's company with tea/coffee and home baking provided as well. The different causes they have benefitted in particular with knitted and crocheted items is wonderful - little bonnets and octopedes for premature babies, trauma teddies for children caught in upsetting situations, different items to help with local primary school projects and wonderful items for sale at Christmas and Easter at church events. As the American politician Matt Bevin (b. 1967) once said: *"While it may seem small, the ripple effect of small things is extraordinary."*

Other activities newly begun may seem small at times with those coming to Messy Church at Rosewell; to StoryCraft at Cockpen Hall; to Elisabeth Spence's 'Hopefield Connections' fortnightly Friday morning pop up café at



the Burnbrae PS car park and the community sing-along group meeting at Bonnyrigg PS on a Thursday evening. And yet the ripple effect of these activities happening is wonderful with new people hearing about them and coming along and special connections and conversations happening in ones and twos that have a lasting impact.

At the heart of Christmas, there is also something small – the infant Jesus lying in a manger. He was born amidst the stillness of the night in an insignificant stable in the little town of Bethlehem, largely unnoticed by the wider world. And yet with the birth of this tiny child, the ripple effect is

extraordinary. Jesus, as God's Son, is 'Immanuel' – 'God with us'. His coming reveals how he is willing to give up everything, to risk everything to come into our midst and to show us God's love and concern for us in as deep and as intimate a way as is possible. Jesus's whole life was lived for this - to show and make clear in his teaching, actions and example the love that God has for each one of us and his longing that we will love him back with all our heart.

This Christmas will we see that love shining out from the manger? Will we receive it and let it change us within? When we do, we have the opportunity to join in the ripple effect, receiving God's love for us and in our thankfulness, passing it on with small actions and words of kindness that make a difference in the lives of those around us. Small really can be amazing and wonderful.

With every blessing for a peaceful Christmas,

Your minister

*Lorna Souter*

## Harvest and Cradle Roll Service

At our Harvest and Cradle Roll service on September 22nd there was the added joy of witnessing the Baptism of Amelia Catherine Skirving, the infant daughter of Steven and Kim. Sister of Rosie and Blair.

Once again, we had our wonderful Harvest Cross to decorate the church. It represents new beginnings and a time for renewal.



# WHO'S WHO

## MINISTER

The Revd Lorna M Souter MA BD MSc  
 Email: LSouter@churchofscotland.org.uk

Tel: 0131 663 6392  
 Mob: 07889 566418

Office	Cockpen & Carrington	Lasswade & Rosewell
<i>Session Clerk:</i>	Elizabeth [Liz] Mills 07875 485973	Dorothy Spence (L) (0131) 663 0943
<i>Church Officer / Local Contact:</i>	Ian Bee 07760 176471	Andrew Renwick (L) (0131) 663 7678 Agnes Anderson(R) (0131) 440 0282
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Malcolm Logan (0131) 561 9509	Pat Lawrie (0131) 663 7597
<i>Organist (&amp; Choir Master):</i>	Graham Burnside (0131) 556 1751	Herbert Dryden (L) (0131) 663 8895 Kenneth Wight (R) (0131) 663 2777
<i>Hall Convener:</i>	Bill MacDonald (0131) 654 1838 E: bikila.macdonald@btinternet.com	Agnes Anderson (0131) 440 0282
<i>Gift Aid:</i>	William Brown 01875 830354	Eleanor Marshall (0131) 660 1029
<i>Freewill Offerings:</i>		
<i>Roll-Keeper:</i>	Nancy Richardson (0131) 663 8517	
<i>Safeguarding Coordinator:</i>	John Adamson 07960 716 015	Dorothy Spence (0131) 663 0943
<i>Magazine Editors:</i>	John Adamson 07960 716 015	
	Willie Tulloch (0131) 660 3617 magazine@church.cockpen.co.uk	
<i>Health &amp; Safety Contact:</i>	John Adamson 07960 716 015	
<i>Life and Work:</i>	Wilma Sweeney (0131) 663 6546	May Murdoch (0131) 663 8454
<i>Sunday School:</i>		

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 relevant session clerk.*

## SERVICES DECEMBER 2019 TO APRIL 2020

Date	Lasswade & Rosewell at 10.00 am	Cockpen & Carrington at 11.30 am
1 December 1st Advent	Minister – Rosewell Toy Gift Service	Minister Toy Gift Service and Boys' Brigade Dedication Service
8 December 2 <sup>nd</sup> Advent	Minister – Lasswade	Minister Service of Remembering – 3 pm
15 December 3 <sup>rd</sup> Advent	Minister – Rosewell	No service at the church – Walkabout Nativity in Hopefield led by Revd. Elisabeth Spence
22 December 4 <sup>th</sup> Advent	Minister – Lasswade	Minister Nine Lessons and Carols 7 pm
Tuesday 24 December Christmas Eve	Christingle Service – Rosewell – 5.30 pm Family Carol Service – Lasswade - 7.00 pm	Watchnight Service – 11.20 pm
29 December	<b>Joint Service Rosewell Church - 10.00 am – conducted by Fiona Devoy</b>	
5 January	Minister – Rosewell Baptism Service	Minister – Baptism Service
12 January	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
19 January	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
26 January	Minister – Lasswade Communion Service	Minister – all-age service
2 February	Minister – Rosewell	Minister – Communion Service
9 February	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
16 February	Minister - Rosewell	Minister
23 February	Minister – Lasswade - all-age service	Minister – all-age service
1 March	Minister – Rosewell	Minister
8 March	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
15 March	tbc – Rosewell	tbc
22 March	Minister – Lasswade – all-age service	Minister – all-age service
29 March	<b>Joint Service Cockpen &amp; Carrington Church - 11.30 am 200th Anniversary Celebration Service – All-age service with The Very Revd. Dr Susan Brown</b>	
5 April Palm Sunday	Minister – Rosewell Communion Service	Fiona Devoy
12 April Easter Sunday	Minister – Lasswade	Minister
19 April	tbc – Rosewell	tbc
26 April	Minister – Lasswade – all-age service	Minister – all-age service

Holy Week Services Monday 6 April to Friday 10 April 2020 - tbc



# FROM THE COCKPEN AND CARRINGTON CLERK

It is fitting that at this time of year the church reminds us that there is more to Christmas than shopping and partying and feasting. The biblical narratives that describe the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem are full of hardship, doused in poverty and suffused with longing. They are populated by people on the margins and by an ordinary couple faced with a difficult journey.

With this in mind the church encourages us at this time of year to look away from ourselves and to consider those who are in need.

We have a collection box situated in church for donations to our local Food Bank however, as Christmas approaches non-perishable goods are in greater demand than ever, ensuring that children can be fed, not only on Christmas day, but throughout the holidays while not receiving a meal at school.

As we look forward to sharing our Christmas meal with family and friends, let us remember a little something — perhaps something special, to make Christmas a happy time and not a hungry time for the many who have little to celebrate in their lives at present.

We prepare to celebrate our bi-centenary in 2020 and I have listed for your information the various events being held throughout the year and hope that many of you will come along and make it a year to remember.

To all those who have given diligently of their time week by week throughout the year to help with the various needs of the church a huge thank you; it needs to be said that you are all appreciated.

Finally, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the coming year.

**Liz**

## 2020 Events

### **JANUARY**

Scotch Night Friday 17th at 7.30pm

### **FEBRUARY**

Tea and Toast Morning Saturday 22nd at 10am

### **MARCH**

2020 Birthday Party Saturday 28th at 2.30pm

Dedication Service (Church) Sunday 29th at 11.30am

### **APRIL**

Songs of Praise (Church) Thursday 2nd at 7pm

Stainer's Crucifixion St. Andrew Camerata Saturday 4th at 7.30pm

### **MAY**

Coffee Morning Saturday 16th at 10am

### **AUGUST**

Kevock Choir Concert Friday 21st at 7.30pm

### **SEPTEMBER**

Doors Open Exhibition and Celebration of Harvest Saturday 12th

### **NOVEMBER**

Christmas Fair Saturday 28th - 10am-1pm

### **DECEMBER**

Christmas Tree Festival (Church) Saturday/Sunday 12th & 13th

# COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH

## BAPTISMS

22nd September 2018      Amelia Catherine SKIRVING  
daughter of Steven and Kim

*baptised by The Minister*

**'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee'**

## WEDDINGS

(See Church website at [www.church.cockpen.co.uk](http://www.church.cockpen.co.uk)) for information and advice on weddings for both congregations.

31 August 2019              John TODD to Kim LISTER

*Married by The Minister*

## 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'**



## THE GUILD

We were delighted to welcome everyone back to the guild after the summer recess and also appreciated the Minister giving her address on this year's theme *One Journey Many Roads: Companions on the Road*, at our first meeting.

At our next meeting we enjoyed hearing an insight into the work of The British Heart Foundation. at our first meeting in November our speaker was our very own Bill MacDonald who gave us a very interesting talk on *The Scottish Huntington's Association*. At the time of writing we are looking forward to hearing speakers from, *Free To Live Trust* and *Radio Lollipop* prior to Christmas.

Hopefully you will have received this magazine in time to accept our invitation to our annual Carol Party on Monday 16th December at 7.30pm which is always very popular and for which the Guild are grateful to Graham Burnside and the choir for entertaining us with some wonderful singing and leading us in a great selection of carols.

From everyone at the Guild may we wish you all a Very Merry Christmas.

***Liz and Helen***

## TOY GIFT SERVICE

Once again, we will be holding a Toy Gift Service on 1st December, when we ask that a toy be donated to the Salvation Army Toy Appeal.

These donations should be suitable for children between the ages of 3 and 16 years of age.

# SUNDAY TEA ROTA

Cockpen and Carrington

<b>2019 December 1st</b>	Andrew Jack Mary Logan Vi Gibson	<b>2020 January 5th</b>	Dot Scott Muriel Calder Wilma Sweeney
<b>February 9th  Second Sunday</b>	Moira Scott Betty Finlay Liz MacDonald	<b>March 1st</b>	Madge Commins Muriel Calder Nancy Richardson
<b>March 9th  2020 Service of Dedication</b>	All available to serve		

**First Sunday of the month unless otherwise stated.**

## **Service of Remembering Sunday 8th December at 3.00 pm 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.



This service will offer space amidst the Christmas rush and bustle for remembering and giving thanks, with stillness and music and reflective words.

All who would find this helpful are most welcome.

*Lorna Souter*

## **Letter from Simpson Neonatal Unit**

To Dorothy Bennett and Friends

I am writing on behalf of the babies, staff and patients of the Neonatal Unit just to say a big thank you for all the lovely knitting that you took the time to knit and make for us. Many of the parents and visitors comment on the lovely things provided for the babies and are touched by the kindness of people who take the time to donate these items.

Kind regards,

*V McIntyre, Ward Clerkers.*

### **Used Stamps**

Thank you to everyone who has donated used stamps. As Christmas is coming please remember to collect the used stamps which I will trim and divide into British and Foreign and then hand them to the Scottish Bible Society. If anyone has any other ideas please let me know.

*Dorothy Bennett*

## **SCOTCH NIGHT**

**On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm**

**in Cockpen Church Hall**

**With the fabulous Stuart Anderson**

**Light Supper**

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### **TEA AND TOAST MORNING**

**Saturday February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**in Church Hall 10 -12noon**

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## LIFE AND WORK

If you wish to place an order for this magazine or cancel your current order, please contact me as soon as possible on 0131 663 6546. The cost is £30.60 per annum.

*Wilma Sweeney.*

## CAKE STALL

Many thanks again to all who contribute in any way to make this event such a success. The cakes, jams, tablet, chutney etc. are much appreciated by our customers at the Pitcairn Centre.

Again, we thank Bonnyrigg Church for our Thursday 'slot'. This year, so far, we've raised £1,322.30.

The next dates for the stall at the Centre are:

23rd January 2020  
27th February 2020  
26th March 2020  
23rd April 2020  
28th May 2020

Thank you again. With all our best wishes for the Festive Season.

*Helen, Isobel and Wilma.*

## A few more things "everyone ought to know"...

If, like me you have ever decluttered, you occasionally come across a little gem.

Mine was a wee book entitled,  
"1001 things everyone ought to know"  
There is no date; the only indication is found on the page listing monarchs from Willie the Conqueror. The last entry is George V including the dates of the First World War, therefore after 1918, but before 1936. It is priced at 3d.

This is the second part that I said I'd share with you.

On everyday law:

*Income Tax is not payable by a single person who receives less than £135.00 per annum.*

*Marriages must take place between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.*

*Jewish people are an exception; they may marry at any hour.*

On writing accurately:

*Do not end a sentence with a preposition. A preposition is a wrong word to end a sentence with!*

*Do not split an infinitive, Say, “to eat quickly” not “to quickly eat”.*

*If you use a collective noun in the singular, see that the verb is singular, thus:*

*“the committee was” not “the committee were”.*

**On spelling properly:**

*Verbs ending in an unsounded E lose the E when followed by a suffix:*

*“embrace” becomes “embracing”*

*Words ending in Y, preceded by a vowel add s when taking a suffix: pay, pays.*

*In most other cases words ending in Y change the Y to I when adding a suffix: carry, carries.*

*Words ending in F or FE change the F or FE into VES: wife, wives, but there are exceptions such as hoofs, roofs, dwarfs.*

**On etiquette:**

*Men should keep their hands out of their pockets unless it is a very cold day.*

*In a train, bus, etc do not read the next passenger’s newspaper.*

*Do not talk out aloud to a friend who may be with you.*

**Housewives’ Hints:**

*If a tumbler becomes wedged in another, fill the inner one with cold and stand the outer in warm water. They will easily separate.*

*It is difficult to avoid smears if a window is washed in bright sunshine.*

*A ladder in a stocking may be prevented, temporarily, by touching the spot with a sticky piece of soap.*

**Cookery tips:**

*Never buy oysters when there is not an R in the month.*

*After peeling onions, smear the hands with dry mustard powder and wash in a little water.*

*Half an hour is required to boil Brussels sprouts, cabbages, cauliflowers and large potatoes.*

*You can pluck the feathers out of a chicken much more readily if the bird is put in very hot water. I assume the bird is dead!*

**On health hints:**

*Do not keep wet boots on a minute longer than necessary.*

*Do not stand with the back to the fire or radiator.*

*Do not sit facing the engine in a train with the window down when you have had to run for the train,*

**On motoring matters;**

*Children do not always cross roads intelligently. It is a pity, however, to run them over if they do make an error of judgment.*

**And finally:**

*LOOK UPON ALL CYCLISTS AS DANGEROUS. They have as much right to the road as anybody, but they ought not to ride two or three abreast.*

**IB**



# FROM THE ORGANIST

## COCKPEN & CARRINGTON CHURCH - CHRISTMAS MUSIC 2019

Around the beginning of September every year I sit down before a forbiddingly blank piece of paper to start sketching out the musical menu for Christmas. Ever since we began holding our evening Lessons and Carols service (over 20 years now) I have aimed to introduce at least two new choir pieces each year and each year the pattern is the same - I start off thinking I have finally run out of fresh ideas and sources for new material but something always turns up! This year has been no different and as mentioned below this year's carol service will feature two "premières".

Our Christmas dates for your diary this year are:

### **Monday 16 December**

This is the evening of our annual Guild Carol Party, which for me always marks the beginning of the Christmas season. As usual it will take place at 7.30 in the church hall. While this is principally an evening for all to enjoy singing a selection of the familiar Christmas carols it will also be the first airing of the choir's repertoire for this year. I think I can confidently say that the refreshments on offer - always a major part of this event! - will be up to their usual high standard.

### **Sunday 22 December**

As last year, our **Service of 9 Lessons and Carols** falls very close to Christmas itself, so our always enjoyable candle-lit celebration will usher in the week of festivities ahead. The choir's contribution will feature two international carols, one from Poland and another from as far away as New Zealand, a setting of the mediaeval Christmas poem "I sing of a maiden" by Richard Madden, who is the former organist of the Anglican cathedral in Dunedin which I had the privilege of visiting earlier this year. The two items new to our repertoire both originate from the UK however, the first, "Twas in the winter cold", is by the Victorian composer Joseph Barnby while the second by contrast is a very recent setting of the old carol "I saw three ships" by the Edinburgh-based composer and musician Stuart Hope. I hope you will enjoy these new discoveries, as well of course as the congregational singing and we look forward to welcoming you then.

One important thing to note - this year the service will revert to its normal starting time of **7 pm**.

## **Tuesday 24 December**

For many years the choir's Christmas Eve was marked by carol singing for the guests at Dalhousie Castle. That came to an end a year or two ago, but I am pleased to say that this time the invitation has been re-extended so this will provide us with a "warm up" in every sense! The evening will as always reach its conclusion with our **Watchnight Service**, commencing at **11.20 pm**. A programme of favourite carols for all to sing and the ringing of the church bell will take us into Christmas Day. In addition, the choir will be singing my own arrangement of a traditional English carol, "Past 3 O'Clock" (also known as "The Nightwatchman's Carol") - though rest assured the service won't last quite as long as that! We hope that whatever challenges the weather throws at us you will join us for this always special event.

My programme of organ music for the services will this year include a recent composition by the leading English organist David Briggs, his "Marche Episcopale". This is very much written in the grand French tradition and will I hope provide a stirring conclusion.

GMB

## A'BODY'S PRAYER

Here I am, aye this is me,  
I bear my soul for all to see.  
Give me my yoke to gladly bear  
the burden which I'll take from here.

How glad I am here in this place,  
I seek your help, I ask your grace.  
What lies ahead I cannot know,  
but with your help I onward go.

All through my life, I've leaned on you.  
You held me up, you helped me through.  
No greater friend kin a'body hae,  
than you whae help in sic a way.

Oh, take my hand, and hold me tight,  
as I walk through both day and night.  
How long the journey, a dae ken,  
but please, please help me once again.

All through my life I've done my best;  
I seek no thanks nor look for rest  
save that I have you by my side.  
Oh dearest friend with me abide.

Aye this is me – it's what I am,  
a simple, faithful, decent man.  
I ask for nowt but pray a while  
for the strength I'll need to walk this mile.

*Written by Walter Renton*

## Cockpen & Carrington Flower Rota

**2019**

<b>December</b>	
1	Betty Finlay
8	Pat Mitchell
15	Dorothy, Helen & Catherine
22	Liz Laidlaw
29	Joint Service – Rosewell



**2020**

<b>January</b>	
5	Irene Ramsay
12	Mary Logan
19	Lynn Hansen
26	Ian Fowler
<b>February</b>	
2	Barbara McInnes
9	Irene Ramsay
16	Dorothy Peat
23	Liz Mills

<b>March</b>		<b>April</b>	
1	Maria Hall	5	Liz Mills
8	John Adamson	12	Nancy Richardson
15	Cathie Fisher	19	Liz MacDonald
22	Stella McLeish	26	Mary Logan
29	200th Anniversary Service		

Thank you for all the generous donations received and to all who supply and arrange the flowers in the Church. I and the other members of the Congregation who deliver the flowers on Sundays after Church enjoy the pleasure of brightening up someone's day.

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

Best wishes for the Festive Season.

*Nancy*

## In Flanders Now

On his return from holiday in Canada, Bill Taylor kindly gave me some magazines published by The Royal Canadian Legion. In the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition I found the following poem, written by a lady called Edna Jaques (1891 – 1978). It was written in response to John McCrea’s “In Flanders Field”. It is called “In Flanders Now”:

We have kept faith, ye Flanders dead,  
Sleep well beneath those poppies red,  
That mark your place.  
The torch your dying hands did throw.  
We’ve held it high before the foe,  
And answered bitter blow for blow  
In Flanders’ fields.

And where your heroes’ blood was spilled,  
The guns are now forever stilled,  
And silent grown.  
There is no moaning of the slain,  
There is no cry of tortured pain,  
And blood will never flow again  
In Flanders’ fields.

Forever holy in our sight  
Shall be those crosses gleaming white,  
That guard your sleep.  
Rest you in peace: the task is done.  
The fight you left us we have won,  
And “Peace on Earth” has just begun  
In Flanders now.

The poem was also printed in pamphlet form and raised over \$1 000 000 dollars in the USA to restore a library in Brussels that had been bombed. It was also used at the first “*Ceremony of the Unknown Soldier*” in Arlington Cemetery and is inscribed on a scroll inside the chapel there.

# CHRISTMAS VICTORIAN FAYRE

*SATURDAY*

*23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER*

*Cockpen Church Hall*

*From 10am – 1pm*

*Mulled Wine MincePies Tea Coffee*

*Tombola Raffle*

*Seasonal stalls Homebaking Much more.*

## LAST MINUTE SHOPPING

I hurried into the department store to grab some last-minute Christmas gifts. I looked at all the people and grumbled to myself. I would be in here forever and I just had so much to do. Christmas was beginning to become such a drag. I kind of wished that I could just sleep through Christmas, but I hurried the best I could through all the people to the toy department. Once again, I mumbled to myself at the prices of all these toys and wondered if the grandchildren would even play with them.

I found myself in the doll aisle. Out of the corner of my eye I saw a little boy about 5 holding a lovely doll. He kept touching her hair and held her so gently. I could not seem to help myself. I just kept looking over at the little boy and wondered who the doll was for. I watched him turn to a woman and called his aunt by name and said, 'Are you sure, I don't have enough money?' She replied a bit impatiently, 'You know that you don't have enough money for it.' The aunt told the little boy not to go anywhere that she had to get some other things and would be back in a few minutes and then she left the aisle. The boy continued to hold the doll.

After a bit, I asked the boy who the doll was for. He said, 'It is the doll my sister wanted so badly for Christmas. She just knew that Santa would bring it.' I told him that perhaps Santa was going to bring it. He said, 'No, Santa can't go where my sister is... I have to give the doll to my mummy to take to her.' I asked him where his sister was.

He looked at me with the saddest eye and said, 'She has gone to be with Jesus. My daddy says that mummy is going to have to go to be with her.' My heart nearly stopped beating. Then the boy looked at me again and said, 'I told my daddy to tell my mummy not to go yet. I told him to tell her to wait until I got back from the shop.' Then he asked me if I wanted to see his picture. I told him I would love to. He pulled out some pictures he had taken at the front of the shop. He said, 'I want my mummy to take this so that she won't ever forget me, I love my mummy so very much and I wished she did not have to leave me. But daddy says she will need to be with my sister.'

I saw that the little boy had lowered his head and had grown so very quiet. While he was not looking, I reached into my purse and pulled out some cash. I asked the little boy, 'Shall we count that money one more time?' He grew excited and said, 'Yes, I know it has to be enough.' So, I slipped my money in with his and we began to count it.

Of course, it was plenty for the doll. He softly said, 'Thank you Jesus for giving me enough money'. Then the boy said, 'I just asked Jesus to give me enough money to buy this doll so mummy can take it with her to give to my sister, and he heard my prayer.' 'I wanted to ask him for enough to buy my mummy a white rose, but I didn't ask him, but he gave me enough to buy the doll and a rose for my mummy. She loves white roses so very, very much.'

In a few minutes the aunt came back and I wheeled my trolley away. I could not keep from thinking about the little boy as I finished my shopping in a totally different spirit than when I had started. And I kept remembering a story I had seen in the newspaper several days earlier about a drunk driver hitting a car and killing a little girl and the mother was in a serious condition. The family were preparing to remove the life support from the mother. Now surely this little boy did not belong with that story.

Two days later I read in the paper where the family had disconnected the life support and the young woman had died. I could not forget the little boy and I just kept wondering if the two were somehow connected. Later that day, I could not help myself and I went out and bought some white roses and took them to the funeral parlour where the young woman was. And there she was holding a lovely white rose, the beautiful doll and the picture of the little boy in the shop.

I left there in tears, my life changed forever. The love that little boy had for his sister and his mother was overwhelming. And in a split second a drunk driver had ripped the life of that little boy to pieces.

**We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.**



## LASSWADE AND ROSEWELL PARISH CHURCH NEWS

**You are warmly invited to join us in the  
Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Sunday 26th January 2020 at 10.00 am  
Lasswade Parish Church**



### **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. Everyone is most welcome for a chance to meet new people, catch up with friends and enjoy some delicious home baking.



### **Calling all Singers:**

Rosewell Parish Church is hosting carol singing in the village on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December between 4 pm-6pm. We will be accompanied by the Lasswade and Bonnyrigg Brass Band. The plan is to meet at the hall at about 3.45pm and then walk round the village stopping at several locations enroute before retiring to the hall again for some soup, tea and coffee with mince pies.

So if you are feeling in good voice and would like to join us we would love to have you. Children encouraged but please bring your parents or responsible adult! Please contact Fionna Mackinnon on 07825578651 for more information or just turn up on the day. Song sheets will be provided.

### **Christmas Eve Family Services:**

Christingle Service at 5.30 p.m. at Rosewell Parish Church  
Family Carol Service at 7.00 p.m. at Lasswade Parish Church  
Everyone will be made most welcome and  
there will be a retiring offering in aid of  
'Bethany Christian Trust'

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

## **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 12th December; 9th January; 13th February; 12th March and 9th April. We would like to thank you all for your continued support. Best wishes for the festive season from all the team.

## **Harvest Thanksgiving:**

The Church was beautifully decorated at Harvest - a huge thank you to all those who helped or contributed flowers and produce. Non-perishable food items were donated to the local Food Bank and your generosity was much appreciated by the Manager and the team.

## **Church Register**

### **Wedding**

Robert Wight to Zoe Flatley on 6th September 2019  
in Rosewell Church

### **Baptism**

Ethan James Robertson, son of Scott and Louise  
at Lasswade on 13th October 2019

**'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee'**

## **World Day of Prayer – 6th March 2020:**

The World Day of Prayer Service will be held in Rosewell Church on 6th March 2020 and is prepared by the WDP Committee of Zimbabwe and the theme is 'Rise, Take Your Mat and Walk'.

## **The choice is yours:**

Good morning. What will I eat today? Breakfast: Cereal, toast and marmalade and of course my tea to set me up for the day. Morning coffee: cup of coffee and a scone and butter. Lunch: cheese sandwich and a glass of milk. Afternoon Tea: a cuppa and a cake as a treat. Dinner: fish, chips and peas, apple pie and cream. Supper: tea and crackers and cheese.

Oh: What a wonderful day's menu.

Wake up Bill. It was all a dream. I got a food bag from the Food Bank yesterday. Let's see what I got to eat. What have I got? Twenty-one items for the week. Three items per day. A bottle of milk, tea bags, sugar, 2 tins of soup, pasta, 2 tins of meat, tin of fruit, tin of custard, cornflakes, tin of tomatoes, tin of peas, tin of macaroni, tin of carrots, tuna, jar of jam, 2 sauce mixes, beans, small packet of biscuits. I will not starve. I will survive. Thanks to everyone who has donated this food.

A huge thank you to all who kindly contribute to our Food Bank boxes which are located in the Church vestibules.

### **Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal 2019:**

68 shoeboxes were uplifted from Rosewell Parish Church – this included 24 from the 14<sup>th</sup> Midlothian Scouts Group and 44 from Lasswade/Rosewell Church. Sincere thanks to everyone who filled a shoebox.

*Agnes Anderson*

### **Christmas Thought:**

Our thoughts are turning towards Christmas. The shops are full of attractive things to buy; the television programmes are advertising 'specials' and kitchens are filled with smells, spices and baking. What about our preparations? ADVENT means "COMING". The Bible reminds us that God promised to send someone special into our world with the power to save us from sin.

May the spirit of **Christmas** bring you peace  
**The gladness** of Christmas give you **Hope**  
**AND**  
The warmth of Christmas **grant you love**  
**Happy Christmas**

## **WELCOME TO STORYCRAFT**

### **Bible stories for all the family**

If you would like something fun and interactive for all the family, why not come along to StoryCraft on a Sunday afternoon from 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm at Cockpen Church Hall in Bonnyrigg.

At StoryCraft there are a range of craft stations to enjoy – clay modelling, painting, drawing, song-writing and making videos – and you can choose which one you would like to go to. Each group at each station receives a different Bible story in a secret golden envelope. Once opened the story is read by the group and they then have just 45 minutes to re-create the story and be ready to tell it to the other groups using the clay models, paintings, drawings, video clip or rewritten pop song they have prepared. The session is rounded off with a short time of reflection together to think about what lessons we have learned from the stories.

It is a lot of fun and free, with something for all ages as we create and share stories together. Why not come along and try it out!

## **MESSY CHURCH AT ROSEWELL**

On Saturday 7th December, Messy Church will have 'Christmas' as its theme at Rosewell Church Hall from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm.

There will be a break while people are on holiday at the start of January and the next session of Messy Church will be on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020.

Messy Church is for all the family and combines a Bible story or theme with related fun craft activities, a short time of worship in the church and then finishes with a tasty buffet meal together.

If you would like to come along to Messy Church as a family, we would love to have you join us. You can find us on Facebook at 'Rosewell Messy Church'.



*Lasswade & Rosewell Messy Church Team*

## Lasswade and Rosewell Choir

As usual I begin by expressing my thanks to the members of the choir, both the people who sing Sunday by Sunday and those who augment the choir from time to time, for their continued work and support which is very much appreciated. On the whole we have managed introits most Sundays and we are hoping to do some music appropriate to Christmas.

I do not need to remind you of the uncertainty that has, and is, prevailing over our lives at the moment in political, economic and other areas. We cannot see the way ahead clearly or what the end result will be. In these circumstances it may be worthwhile to reflect on two pieces of writing. One is a hymn written by John Henry Newman and the first verse is:-

*Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,  
Lead Thou me on;  
The night is dark, and I am far from home;  
Lead Thou me on.  
Keep Thou my feet ; I do not ask to see  
The distant scene, - one step enough for me.*

The other piece which comes to my mind are words written by Minnie Louise Haskins but made famous by King George VI in a Christmas Day broadcast in 1939 in the early months of the Second World War.

*I said to the Man who stood at the gate of the Year,  
“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown”.  
And he replied,  
“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known  
way!”.*

The choir joins me in hoping that all our readers and their families experience some of the Peace which this Season brings.

HLRD

# AN ACT OF FORGIVENESS

As Remembrance approaches, we must never forget the atrocities committed by the Nazis in the name of racial superiority.

I know that members of our two congregations have visited the places where they occurred.

In the aftermath of the Second World War we are told of a survivor of the holocaust who came across a German soldier who was being beaten up, by what we assume to be holocaust survivors, and went to his aid to prevent further beatings. This was truly an act of extreme forgiveness.

One of the hardest things to do is to forgive those whom we feel have done us wrong, yet Jesus as he was dying on the cross forgave those who had put him to such a cruel death.

*Ian Murdoch*



## Christingle Service

at **Rosewell Church** on  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 5.30 pm  
- this is a Christmas service for all the  
family with carols and candles



## Family Carol Service

at **Lasswade Church** on  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 pm



All are most welcome!

## Lasswade Flower Rota

When I was making my way home from Edinburgh recently, I was aware of the preparations for the Garden of Remembrance. I knew the area would soon be filled with beautiful poignant red poppies.

Earlier this year I learned of another flower which became another symbol of conflict.

Sixty years before the First World War, British troops fought in the Crimean War. The failure to provide the troops with enough food and warm clothing during the first freezing winter of the conflict left them bitter and demoralised.

In early 1855 the bare earth became covered with snowdrops, a cherished sign of Spring and optimism.

Specimens were brought back from Eastern Europe and the 'flower of consolation' or 'star of hope' became a treasured reminder of the triumph of Spring.

I am always amazed just how strong the snowdrops are, forcing their way through snow and ice. They always look so delicate.

I am always very grateful to the volunteers who provide flowers to enhance Lasswade Church. Thank you.

January 12th Mary Sharpe

January 26th Clair Cherry

February 9th Janette Barnes

February 23rd Norma Sangster. Liz Walden

March 8th Ann Macdonald

March 22nd Cathie Drysdale

April 12th Marlyn Davidson

April 26th Lorna Oliver

*Moira Dryden*

## Rosewell Church Flower Rota 2020

<b>January</b> 5th 19th	Christmas Flowers Retained Betty Thomson
<b>February</b> 2nd 26th	Eleanor Marshall Sandra Carey
<b>March</b> 1st 15th	Alex Ferguson Moira Campbell
<b>April</b> 5th 19th	Laura Stewart Julie Brown

Thanks for everyone's help

*Jean Lindsay.*





# THE HOLY HIKERS

*“Singing the same song at a different tone,  
In thoughts, destined to die, unknown.  
Born unto a world not of our own,  
We walked together, walking alone.”*  
Michael R. Anderson



At last the weather has been kinder to us and we have managed to complete our walks in each of the last three months.

In August 9 of the group did a most interesting “daunder” around Musselburgh. This walk came from the town centre to Inveresk and on to Pinkie Cleugh, the site of the Battle of Pinkie in 1547. This battle was one of the biggest and bloodiest ever fought in Scotland and was the last pitched battle between Scotland and England. ere England won with 6000 Scottish casualties to 500 English. The walk returned to the centre of Musselburgh via the lovely Lewisvale Park.

In September we were at the site of a Scottish victory at Athelstaneford or “Elsinford” as it is often pronounced. Here, in 832AD an army of Scots and Picts defeated a Northumbrian army led by King Athelstan after seeing a St Andrews cross in the sky, and after the victory declared it as Scotland’s National Flag,” The Saltire”. There were only 4 of us but our walk into the Garleton hills was stunning with superb views on one side over Haddington and the Lammermuirs, and on the other side down to the Forth and over to Fife.

Eleven members were on the final walk of our programme. This was led by one our fairly new members, Ann, who took us over to Kingseat near Dunfermline. From the village we walked up to Loch Fitty and on to an old open cast site now a walking area. From the top of the hill you had a view Eastwards along the valley towards Lochgelly, Westwards to Saline and Knock Hill and to the south the M90 curved away towards the Forth Bridge. Everyone really enjoyed it.

We met on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October to plan our next 6 months of walks. These are as follows:

- 9<sup>th</sup> November: Gorebridge/Borthwick 5 Miles
- 14<sup>th</sup> December: No Walk – Christmas Meal
- 11<sup>th</sup> January 2020: Peebles/Lyne 5 miles
- 8<sup>th</sup> February: TBA
- 14<sup>th</sup> March: Walking Weekend TBA
- 11<sup>th</sup> April: Around Temple. Approx 5 miles

If you would like to join our group, contact me on 0131 660 1147.

Happy Hiking

*Jim Scott*

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# Climate Change

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September the Church Services at both Cockpen and Rosewell were about climate change. Creation Time / Season of Creation is a worldwide celebration of prayer and action from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October. At both services the Hymns, Readings, Prayers and Sermon followed the theme of how we as Christians are expected to look after God's creation and set against the background of the extreme urgency of the climate crisis and the challenges that confront every one of us : to change our own lives and to support and encourage others in the just transition to a world where all will be better able to weather the turmoil that undoubtedly lies ahead. The first thing we need to do is to recognise that climate change is not just other people's problem: it is our problem. Our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world are affected right now by climate change; if they suffer, we should be concerned. Loving our neighbour as ourselves is not an optional extra in the Christian life.

I'm sure you have already heard about some of the consequences of global warming continuing unchecked:

- Polar ice caps will melt, causing rises in sea levels that will flood many inhabited parts of the world.
- The water in the oceans will become more acidic, causing severe damage to marine ecosystems.
- There will be more forest fires, destroying trees which absorb carbon and putting more CO<sub>2</sub> from combustion into the air.
- The permafrost in arctic regions will melt, releasing masses of the greenhouse gas methane into the atmosphere.
- Increased levels of drought will hit food production in warmer parts of the globe, causing starvation and mass migration to cooler places.

I have no doubt all of us are doing something towards helping the crisis already. We are putting things in our recycling bins if doing nothing else.

Perhaps, just perhaps we should be asking ourselves questions such as :

- Is it foolish to take the car when I could walk?
- Is it foolish to take the car when a bus is available?
- Is it foolish to heat our homes excessively or leave lights on in empty rooms?
- If you have already made changes to your lifestyle to respond to the crisis of climate change, that's good, but we are challenged to do more. What's the next step for you, and will you be brave enough to take it?

Since the service on 15<sup>th</sup> September Lasswade and Rosewell Church have registered as an Eco-congregation and are now looking at practical ways in which we can get involved in the environmental mission of the church.

*Andrew Renwick*



We all know the proverb 'great oaks from little acorns grow' and it feels very like that at Hopefield Connections as we have been planting many little acorns over these last few months. There are a number of new projects happening which is exciting news.

After the success of the Pop-Up Cafe in June there is now a **Friday Coffee Stop** every fortnight. The winter weather will test us out as we stand in the blue gazebo, stamping our feet to keep warm, but there are already real connections being made with people as they come over for a hot drink and a scone. I am very thankful to the people who have committed themselves to volunteering for this project and who regularly give of their time and gifting in providing scones and other baking. If you are passing on a Friday come over to join us – *and encourage us!*



**The Come & Sing Community Choir** has been formed with about 20 people who have come along – there's always room for more! This is a very new acorn and it may have a short life but it is a great way to bring some people from the whole community together to have an hour of singing. The choir is having its first public performance at the Carol Singing in December so if you can

show your support and come along.

Speaking of which – **Christmas!**

There are a number of events happening over December.

### **Carol Singing on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**

at the Community Garden.

Carols and hot chocolate should make it a lovely hour of singing!

### **Walking Nativity on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> at 11am**

Each scene of the story will be in a different area of Hopefield – it won't be a big walk, but we will sing a carol or two as we move from one area to the next. The church is going to join in this very new venture, and it will be a fantastic piece of outreach to the people of Hopefield.

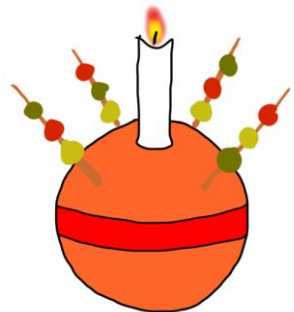


### **Christingle on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 3pm**

at the Community Garden. A time for us all to gather to make a Christingle and take a moment to set aside the hurly burly of Christmas preparation to remind ourselves of the coming of

Messiah into the world for each one of us.

If we think of those acorns as mustard seeds then with each connection we make with the people of Hopefield will help feed and grow the mustard seed of faith within us all. God's love will be there in the midst of every connection we make and we share out faith.



*Elisabeth GB Spence, Pioneer Minister, Hopefield*

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Lasswade & Rosewell Parish Church

# Christmas Coffee Morning

In

ROSEWELL CHURCH HALL

On: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December

From 10:00 am to 12 noon

Guess Weight of Cake, Home  
Baking, Tombola, Raffle,  
Lucky Dip, Plants,  
Christmas music, carols and  
lots more



Everyone Welcome

## Remembrance Commemorations

Once again, many buildings were lit up red as part of Poppy Scotland Week.

Many churches repeated their displays of poppy installations and put out their *Tommy Silhouettes* and *There but Not There* silhouettes.

Cockpen had displays of poppies in various forms. A big thank you to all those who took part in making them spectacular for all to enjoy and to remember why they were there. Many churches rang their bells at 7pm on Monday 11th November.



Share your news, views or ideas in the Easter Issue of “The Link” send them to [Magazine@church.cockpen.co.uk](mailto:Magazine@church.cockpen.co.uk) by Sunday, 8th March 2020