

News from Lasswade

On Sunday 23rd September the Minister conducted her final service in Lasswade Church before retiring on health grounds. The following tribute was paid to her at the end of that service.

On Thursday 13th February 1992 Wendy was Inducted to be our Minister here at Lasswade along with the other charges in the link At that time she said she expected to be here for ten years. By my reckoning you should have gone five years ago. I am delighted though that I am able to be here today to say farewell to you. And I mean that in the nicest possible way because two years ago you were struck down by a very serious illness and at that time there was the very real possibility that the circumstances could have been different and we would not have the opportunity to be in the position we are here and now. I know it is a difficult decision you have made but it is indeed the right one for no matter what, your health must be the most important consideration.

I believe the Church here in Lasswade is the better for your ministry, during which time we have seen changes but these have been carried out by evolution not revolution. With your help we have learnt to stand on our own two feet as a congregation and as individuals and many members of the congregation now confidently and happily participate in services on a Sunday Morning.

I personally would like to thank you for the assistance you have given me as Session Clerk as I was also new into the job when you arrived. I believe that the session and yourself have worked well together and session meetings on the whole have been very amicable although I don't know if you would agree with that. I think that while there has been seriousness when required there has also been light heartedness which has helped us through what could have been difficult times.

I would like to thank you on behalf of the congregation for the work you have carried out here in what is not the easiest situation. I hope you will take away happy memories of your time here in Lasswade. I would also like to thank Steve for everything he has done and also for everything he has obviously had to put up with in the last 15 years. I would finally like to wish you well and hope that your health allows you to do what you want to do for many more years to come and of course you will both be made very welcome back here in Lasswade Church.

Andrew Renwick
Session Clerk

Christmas Eve Service

A very warm welcome is extended to everyone to join us on Monday 24 December at 7.00 p.m. at Lasswade Church. This service will be conducted by the Rev. W Irving.

Keep everyone up-to-date with your news. Either pass it to your Elder, hand to us at the Church or E-mail us dorothyspence@wishartave93.freeserve.co.uk or lyndawilliamson@btinternet.com

Lasswade Cake and Candy Stall

Dear Friends,

We are very grateful for all your donations to the Cake and Candy Stall at the Pitcairn Centre and give below a list of the dates we will be there. We on the stall miss Margaret Hamilton very much. She was there from the beginning and a great contributor as well as a very cheery personality who knew just about everyone who visited us. The rest of us have only been in Lasswade for 35 years so we're still quite new here. (just joking). I'm sure Margaret is keeping an eye on us from above and checking out our prices.

The dates are as follows: Thursday 6 December 2007
 Thursday 31 January 2008
 Thursday 13 March 2008

Look forward to seeing you all and your marvellous baking etc.

Cathie Drysdale

Lasswade Choir

Following my appeal in the last Issue of "The Link" for anyone who is interested in augmenting our Choir over the Christmas period I have had two offers of help, in both cases from each of our sister Congregations in the Linked Charges. To these people I express my grateful thanks for their offer and I hope that they enjoy singing with us. I plan to do a couple of pieces to sing at the Rosewell Carol Evening and another two items to be sung on Christmas Eve and possibly an item to be sung when Lasswade plays host at the joint service at the end of November.

At the time of writing I have absolutely no idea of the timing of events which must occur as a result of the vacancy and in particular I do not know when we shall formally say farewell to Mrs. Drake. However on behalf of the Choir, and on my own behalf, can I thank Mrs. Drake for all her help and support over the years and to wish her, Steve, Judith and John all the best for the future. It is always sad when a ministry comes to an end, particularly one in which the relationship between Minister, Office Bearers and Congregations has been harmonious. While, as a Choir, we are sorry to see our Minister go we are glad that she has put her health first. We only hope and pray that in the years which lie ahead Wendy can benefit from a life style without the stress and strain of looking after three parishes.

The Choir and I wish you all the Compliments of the Season.

HLRD

Share your news, views or ideas in the Spring Issue of "The Link" send them to the Editors on or before Sunday, 17 February 2008

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers
Dorothy, Lynda, Jean and Muriel*

Polton in the 20s and 30s - No. 4

When one reached the age of five years it was necessary to determine which school one attended and since there was no village school one had to travel quite a distance to begin one's education. Loanhead Infant School was to be my educational establishment. The school was situated in a large playground area behind the East Church. On one side was the long walk up to the cemetery behind the school. Apart from a small area in front of the school, which was paved, the rest of the playground was just soil and stones, this was pleasant enough during good weather. We were able to run about and play games, but in the winter months it became very icy. The headmistress was Miss Williamson, a rather large lady with an equally large voice. She had the habit of banging the main door shut and locking us in until the morning interval when she locked us out. During the winter this was not a happy experience. We sometimes would gather beneath the window of the staff room and chant:

‘Teacher, Teacher let us in
Our feet’s cauld our shins din
If you dinnae let us in
We’ll bash the windaes outsidein’

This, of course, made not the slightest difference!!!

My first day was quite memorable in that I decided that school was not for me and I absconded during the interval. The older boys during the first week stood guard at the gate to prevent this from happening. My good friend, Archie Renwick, was one of those but nothing could stop me from escaping which Archie found to **his** cost. I did not do this because I disliked school but because it was the first time I was away from home. My mother made sure it did not happen again to **my** cost.

When we grow older we tend to look back on the old days and remember the good times we had. The sun always shone – it never rained and life was much better but there is usually something in the past that brings back memories of a very sad occasion. This happened to the village in 1928. It was agreed that we should celebrate the coming Victoria Day by preparing a bonfire for that occasion. On the day, the bonfire was lit in the early afternoon and since it was only small fire it burned itself out by 3.30 p.m. The evening papers arrived in the village on the 4 o'clock train and invariably the children collected the parent's paper. Five year old Famie Alexander was too early to collect her paper and spent her time around the spent out fire. I did not see what happened next but I understand that she poked the fire with a stick which broke and she fell into the embers. She became a ball of flames immediately and in terror ran screaming. Men ran after her trying to catch her to eliminate the flames but when they did she was burned so severely that she died soon afterwards. I understand the penny for the paper was imbedded into the palm of her hand.

I found it very difficult to relate this very sad episode but make no apology for doing so as it is part of the history of Polton. This was the first and the last bonfire ever to be built in the village.

DDS