

Cockpen & Carrington lw Lasswade lw Rosewell

Minister: Rev Wendy F Drake, BD, 11 Pendreich Terrace, Bonnyrigg EH19 2DT
Tel 0131 663 6884

Easter 2007

Dear Friends,

Easter is gospel. Good News for anyone who cares to listen to the message. The newness of life of spring we accept, often without thought. The story of Easter and the resurrection we know - not always remembering that our lives would have been very different without it.

Christ died for me and lives within me now is very important for our sense of self worth and our self confidence. That He died for all people means that everyone matters. It encourages us to treat others and ourselves with respect and lovingkindness.

The Church is the means through which people are reminded and supported in Christian behaviour. Mercifully gone are the days when we were harangued, bullied and blackmailed into compulsory church attendance. However, for love of God and for love of our dear ones we should be seeking the best we can do and be. Being engaged in Christlike activity makes such a difference to our attitudes and activity. And worship helps us to be human at our very best. Seeking the loving thing in everything we do for each other runs well contrary to the tenor of our society, and so be it!

Jesus worshipped in the synagogue and went to the Temple. He withdrew regularly to be alone with God in prayer. Doing as Jesus did and making time for God on an everyday basis means that we are lifted into his loving strength and enabled to live as we never thought possible. Let us share this with those who matter to us most.

Easter is Good News. Easter is new beginnings. Easter is a chance to look clearly at the past and choose to live in the present coloured by the depth of God's love. 'Christ died for me' is the mercy of Good Friday. Jesus is alive for us now is the joy that makes every day Easter.

Living as if we believe this makes it more real for us all. I challenge you to try it.

Yours in Christ

Wendy Drake.

Cockpen & Carrington lw Lasswade lw Rosewell AGM 2007 Minister's Remarks

I have conducted more Stated Annual Meetings since coming to this charge than many ministers do in a lifetime, so I am grateful to those who took the half dozen which have taken place since I took ill.

Today I want to talk about my return to work and the year ahead. In March 2006 a colleague kindly permitted me to conduct an evening service in a Kirk Care Complex. This allowed me to sit down and concentrate on the preaching. It also gave me someone well accustomed to supervising students to tell me if I could still preach. Mercifully the comment at the end was, 'Well, you haven't lost the knack.' This encouraged me to persevere in my return to work and gradually from then until the end of November I started conducting funerals and services. Having had unexpected problems with sciatica subsequent to a visit to the WGH, I officially returned on 1st December 2006, just over two years after my brain haemorrhage.

In preparation for this, I took the BSL level 2 course at Drummond High School in order to see if I could learn anything new. If this had proved to be impossible, there could have been no return. I am very aware of how fortunate I have been in my treatment and recovery from such a life threatening and potentially damaging illness. This year, by way of personal and professional development, I am studying BSL level 3 at Donaldson's. Before I came here I did a Quinquennial Visitation at the Albany Church for the Deaf, and have a continuing interest in Deaf Studies.

The final thing to encourage me in my return was the Sunday it happened that no preacher turned up Lasswade, and I managed to do so from some notes written on the back of a doctor's letter. Every minister would expect to do this at least once in a lifetime, and I found it ironic that this should happen when it did. The Almighty always did have a sense of humour!

I am very grateful to all who carried things in my absence. All the preachers whom you have got to know and love so well, Grace Macleod and Sidney Booth in the conduct of funerals, The Session Clerks and Clerks to the Congregational Boards – and also those who chaired the Boards, the elders and office bearers who have done so much, and Keith Mack the Interim Moderator. I also appreciate all the prayers, kindness and support of so many of you for myself and my family.

In 2005 the Presbytery was obliged by the General Assembly to action a Presbytery Plan. As far as I understand it, insofar as it concerns us, there is to be a union between Lasswade and Rosewell instead of the present linkage. With new houses being built in Poltonhall, this seems a good time to begin to look at things ourselves, though according to the plan there is no obligation to join together until there is a Vacancy! It would seem sensible to work the two congregations together more closely and keep the worship in both buildings. We could then begin to think and find out if there are new and imaginative ways to be the Church in our community.

In Cockpen & Carrington's Parish you will already be aware of the new roads and sales point down towards Cockpen. I understand there is to be a new school in this development. All of this is yet another great opportunity to work out how we can be a Christian witness in this situation.

The last few years have been difficult for us all, but we need to take heart that we are still here, that God is with us, and he will work his purposes out through us if we will let him. I look forward to our worship and work together in the years ahead.

My grateful thanks to all those mentioned above, to all those within the congregations who have been so supportive, and as always to our beadles and organists.

Yours in Christ,

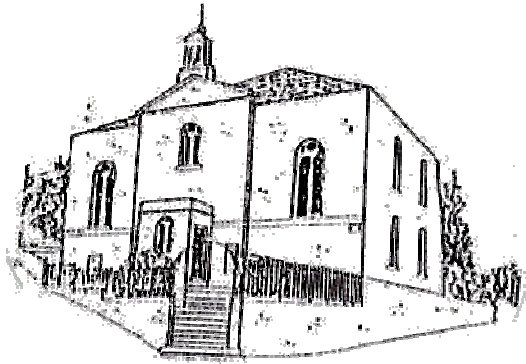
Wendy Drake.

PREACHING LIST APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2007

DATE	LASSWADE 10 am	COCKPEN & CARRINGTON 11.30 am	ROSEWELL 11.30 am except 1st of the month
01.04.07 Palm Sunday	Rev Tom Gordon	The Minister	The Minister (10am)
08.04.07 Easter Day	The Minister	The Minister	Rev W Armitage
15.04.07	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	The Minister (H/C)
22.04.07	Rev W Armitage	Rev W Armitage	Rev C Macpherson
29.04.07	The Minister (H/C)	Rev Jane Blackley	
06.05.07	Rev M Schofield	The Minister (H/C)	Rev J Blackley (10am)
13.05.07	The Minister	The Minister	Rev M Schofield
20.05.07	The Minister		The Minister
27.05.07	Rev Jane Blackley	Rev W Armitage	Rev Jane Blackley
03.06.07	Rev M Schofield	The Minister Sunday School Prizegiving	The Minister(10am)
10.06.07	The Minister	The Minister	Rev Jane Blackley
17.06.07	The Minister	Rev M Schofield	The Minister (H/C)
24.06.07	The Minister	The Minister	Rev Tom Gordon
01.07.07	Rev Tom Gordon	Rev Tom Gordon	Rev W Armitage (10am)
08.07.07	Rev M Schofield	Rev M Schofield	Rev W Armitage
15.07.07	Rev M Schofield	Rev W Armitage	Rev M Schofield
22.07.07	The Minister	The Minister	Rev W Armitage
29.07.07	Rev Tom Gordon		Rev Tom Gordon
05.08.07	Rev M Schofield	The Minister	The Minister (10am)
12.08.07	The Minister	The Minister	Rev W Armitage
19.08.07	The Minister	Rev M Schofield	The Minister
26.08.07	The Minister	The Minister	Rev M Schofield
02.09.07	Rev W Armitage	The Minister	The Minister (10am)
09.09.07	The Minister	The Minister	Rev M Schofield

16.09.07	The Minister	Rev M Schofield	The Minister
23.09.07	The Minister	The Minister	Rev W Armitage
30.09.07	The Minister	Rev M Schofield	The Minister

News from Lasswade:



Baptism

We were so happy to welcome the following baby, along with parents and friends at a Baptismal Service on Sunday, 18 February 2007

Alix Linton Renwick, daughter of Graeme and Lynsay

'May the Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee'

Coffee Morning – Saturday, 2 June 2007

A Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday, 2 June from 10.00 am. to 12 noon in the Wee Brae Hall (upstairs).

The monies raised from the Coffee Morning will be given to Mary Hay, one of our members, who is going on a Pilgrimage to India to research the eye problem Macular Degeneration. (see separate article). We hope that you will come along with your friends to support this cause and, weather permitting, you can go outside and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the Church garden.

Donations of home-baking, tablet, jam, marmalade, sweets and items for the tombola would be very much appreciated. If you are able to help at all, please speak to either Pat or Dorothy.

Gift Day – Sunday 3 June 2007

You will receive an envelope for your donation during the month of May and you can bring it along with you on Gift Day Sunday or hand it in at the Coffee Morning. If you would like to give, but are unable to attend on either of these days, please return your sealed envelope to your District Elder.

Used Stamps

Please pass any used stamps to Margaret Hamilton for the British Diabetic Association.

Please visit our Website www.lasswadechurch.co.uk

If you are interested in joining one of the Churches please meet with the Rev. Wendy Drake on Sunday, 15 April at 7.00 p.m. in Cockpen Church Hall, Dundas Street, Bonnyrigg. Future times will be arranged with those concerned.

Cake and Candy

Many thanks for your tremendous support over the past few years during which we have raised a tidy sum for Lasswade Church. The dates for our Cake & Candy Stall over the next few months are as follows:-

8 March 2007

3 May 2007

14 June 2007

26 July 2007

6 September 2007

Hope you will continue with delicious contributions and also buying from our stall.
Cathie Drysdale

Flower Rota April to September 2007

April

1st Mrs M Rennie

8th Mrs C Adams

15th Mrs M Gordon

22nd Mrs E Ledgerwood

29th Mrs M Waugh

June

3rd Mr S Renwick

10th Mr D Paton

17th Mrs Laing

24th Mrs B Beatty

August

5th

12th Mrs C Dalglish

19th Mrs D Oliver

26th Mrs M Dryden

May

6th Mrs S Howden

14th Mrs S Cowe

20th Mrs J Sowerby

27th Mrs E Thomson

July

1st Mrs R Branch

8th Mrs B Blakebell

15th Mr C Sinclair

22nd Mrs M May

29th Mrs M Murdoch

September

2nd Mrs P Reid

9th Mrs G Renwick

16th Miss LWilliamson

23rd Mrs P Lawrie

30th Mrs M Culton

There are currently 3 vacant spaces on our flower rota, so if anyone would like fill one of these spaces please speak to either Andrew Renwick or Margaret Hamilton.

Just a quick note to thank everyone who provide flowers for the Church every week. The flowers are delivered to the sick and bereaved. Your contributions are greatly appreciated by everyone.

Easter Wishes, love and God bless
Margaret Hamilton

News for the Autumn Issue of "The Link" should be with the Editors by
Sunday, 19 August at the very latest

Polton in the 20s and 30s - No 2

The heart of Polton consisted of some 30 families housed in three blocks. Two of these blocks were at the upper end of the village with a communal drying green behind them and a stretch of twenty plus coal cellars behind that. The Station Master's house was also within the upper end. The third block, which still exists, lay a little distance away at what was known as the bottom end and had their separate facilities. Behind this block was and still is the Bowling Green. There was also, at the bottom end, a large attractive cottage sitting in its own grounds. The only other building was a purpose built stable which of course housed not families but a large beautiful Clydesdale horse. Springfield housed much the same number of families and had, on its own doorstep, so to speak, the railway station which was the terminus for the Polton – Edinburgh line. I will make reference to all of these facilities from time to time.

Mondays, of course, were wash days when the wooden tubs and scrubbing boards were brought out, we children were warned to get out and stay out until called in for meals. We played all the main games like football, kick the can, hopscotch, marbles, hide and seek and run with our girds to say just a few. But during the summer months we would dust off the bogeys which had been in the coal cellars all winter and take to the Bonnyrigg brae. This might be considered a dangerous activity but no one owned a car and the only vehicles to enter the village, on a regular basis, was Morgy Berry's fruit van and Abe Young's coal lorry. In winter we exchanged the bogeys for sledges and used the same brae, since no vehicles could enter or leave the village because of the snow. We felt very safe and were encouraged to venture further and further up the brae, thereby having to negotiate all the bends and try to finish on the bridge over the Esk at Springfield.

The drying green was too small to accommodate everyone's washing causing a few minor skirmishes between mothers with shouts of: 'get your sheets off that line, it's mine, I've had that stretch for years'.

This happened very often but still everyone carried on washing on a Monday – it was a ritual. When the green was filled and at different stages of drying, we took advantage of not being seen and would run from one end to the other through all the sheets, having our faces washed and dried two or three times with each run.

The cottage at the bottom end was occupied by a Mama and Papa Allan, she I think was of Italian extraction and was not often seen outside the perimeter of her own house and grounds. In the Summer months she could be seen sitting in her garden reading her paper with her pet parrot in its cage on a table beside her. Occasionally she would talk to the bird and it was rumoured that it repeated what she said. Was it a rumour or not? We the children of the village were determined to find out. We used to hide behind the garden wall and shout rude words in the hope that it would repeat them, we never found out if we were successful – we were off before she could recognise us.

DDS

- Next issue:
1. Why was a Clydesdale horse needed in Polton.
 2. What were the strange goings on in the Bowling Green
 3. What was the nothop.



Lasswade Church Garden

Yes friends it is that time of year again and we are looking forward to the start of another Church garden season. The garden withstood the 'Hogmanay' gales apart from the loss of one of our tall Leylandii which luckily fell into our lawn area and not into adjoining property. We are grateful to Martin, one of the church neighbour, for tidying up the debris with his trusty chain saw.

As usual this is our annual appeal for help. We meet around 6.30pm every Monday throughout the summer and we would always welcome extra hands and fresh ideas. Any donation of unwanted plants would also be most welcome.

The tasks undertaken need not be strenuous. The occasional visit would also be perfectly acceptable- every little helps.

The garden is at its best in the spring months and if you have a spare moment or two please feel free to walk round and make use of the garden seat.

**Charlie Adams
6634596**

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7 Days of Inspiration

Day 1
The only part of you that needs a
make-over is your confidence!

Day 2
A wish you've made will come true

Day 3
Expect success

Day 4
Heal your heart. Forgive someone.

Day 5
Give yourself some credit!

Day 6
There's no such thing as dreaming too
big!

Day 7
Relax! It's good for you.

