



## ‘What a Welcome’

What a welcome to Orkney. The highest tides and roughest seas in years – so folk keep reassuring me – its not usually as bad as this!

In Scalloway I thought I had the best view ever from a manse, looking out over the harbour beyond the castle ruins to Green Holm. The sunsets there were exquisite. Then I came to East Mainland a different land and sea scape but what a fantastic view from the manse, beautiful sunsets over Lamb Holm, Scapa and the hills of Hoy. And the seas have been spectacular, maybe a little too dramatic at times, with crashing waves closing the Graemeshall road more often than not since we got here - but wow!

In the last edition of the Kirk News there was

Tommy reporting that I’d preached for the Congregation. Well I can tell you that seems like a lifetime ago already.



Moving house is exhausting not only lugging boxes and moving furniture it’s the emotional stuff as well leaving behind a place you’ve been happy, all the memories and most of all the people. But then unpacking again and I found photos and paintings of churches which were parting gifts from parishes I’ve been attached to over the years and instantly those places and the people come to mind. Goodbyes are always

difficult but then comes the new parish and new friends.

What a welcome to Orkney. The good wishes and the warm welcome we’ve received from the congregation and beyond. I am glad to be here. We feel at home already. And now I’m looking forward to getting to know the folk of East Mainland.

Blessings,

*Wilma.*

More photographs of Wilma’s Induction, Marion’s presentation as well as the interior of the refurbished church can be seen on the website [www.eastmainlandchurch.co.uk](http://www.eastmainlandchurch.co.uk)



### **Interim Moderator**

The advent of a new ministry is always an exciting time in the life of a congregation and community. For the East Mainland this will be no exception. By now Wilma will be getting to know how things tick and with the building works complete I am sure there is a real sense of a new chapter beginning.

I have enjoyed being your Interim Moderator during the vacancy and that is principally down to two things. First the sterling work done by our locums, Jimmy and Marion, who have both immersed themselves in the life of the congregation well beyond what would be expected of a locum. To have two such level headed, committed and well liked people with their finger on the pulse has made my role that much easier. I know the ministry of both has been much appreciated and I would heartily add my personal thanks to them for that.

Second is that way in which the congregation has pulled together and forged ahead with the work of ministry in all its guises during the vacancy. It is very easy for a congregation to sit back and stagnate during a vacancy, waiting for the saviour to eventually appear on their white charger at their induction. It has been apparent to all that this has not been the case in the East Mainland. This has been particularly exemplified by the way in which you have got on with the necessary and forward thinking building works at the church, been willing to club together and help fundraising and shrugged off the knocks and arrows that such a project always throws at you. I also have to say that when I had a look round the manse prior to Wilma's arrival, I have rarely seen a manse in such good condition during a vacancy, and that too is a credit to the congregation.

I would also like to add my personal thanks to Tommy, and Marlene, the Clerks who have kept me up to speed with congregational developments and vacancy business. Both do so much unseen, hidden work for the life of this congregation and they are truly the glue that holds it all together. Thanks too, to Gareth who day in, day out keeps

the congregational finances on a sound footing while still juggling and adjusting the bills and accounts relating to the refurbishment and not least, helping us through the minefield that is the Church of Scotland accounting and finance procedures.

I know that Wilma will be made welcome in the East Mainland and that you have called a very able and caring minister to your midst. I trust your relationship will deepen and enable you all to keep the rumour of God alive in your part of the vineyard.

Every blessing

*Fraser.*

### **Session Clerk's Report**

In the space of four days our vacancy ended and our Kirk refurbishment was complete. The vacancy lasted three years with any efforts to renovate even longer, but in both cases they have had a successful outcome.

Our contractors J & D Firth have done a good job for us with first class workmanship.

Thanks go to Bashir for his innovative touches to the design and his management of the work which we had neither the expertise nor time to devote to.

Although it was not in our original plans, the Board has decided that to add secondary glazing to the seven large windows and the two high ones on each end would be an advantage. It will improve insulation and stop the constant need to paint them.

The temporary sound system in the Church is now permanent and extended to the meeting rooms.

We have John Muir to thank for the hearing loop system which he donated in memory of Sheena and the speakers which Bryan Rendall gave and installed, joining up the two systems.

The work that has been done to the Church has delivered our aim of having a warmer more comfortable building.

*Tommy Delday*



It was with a mixture of both sadness and delight that on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January I took my last service with you as your Locum Minister. Sad because it was my last service and delighted that you have a Minister and that you are back in the beautifully refurbished Kirk.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with you and value the friendships that have been made. Thank you for making my job of Locum a most pleasurable and memorable experience.



Thank you also for the Book Token that was presented to me at my last service. It will be well spent!

I wish you all well for the future.

My best wishes to you all and every blessing.

*Marion*

### **A reflection on the opening of the refurbished East Mainland Kirk**

On a day when the wind and rain was trying its best to keep everyone at home and indoors, the carpark for the East Mainland Kirk was full and overflowing. Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> January saw the reopening of the Kirk at the end of some six months of building and refurbishment and the atmosphere as you walked into the new entrance hall was one of wonder, excitement and anticipation. As Marion led the service, the prayers, hymns and sermon all reflected our expectations.

*‘..that we may find our home in you...’*

For many in the service that morning there must have been thoughts of times past, remembering a life time of connection to the Kirk from childhood onwards and perhaps recalling the person they had been then, as they glanced at their former pew. For some there were moments of looking ahead to what lies in store for the Kirk, as Marion read the

Edict as part of the calling of the Rev. Wilma Johnston to become our minister.

*“ ..we seek to be your disciples...expressing devotion in words and actions...”*

The children’s’ talk drew our attention to the young of the Kirk beginning their journey towards God and of the help they will need and get, as they embark upon it. Working with each other and with Marion’s help, they put a jigsaw together and then went through for their own activities and fun. They must have been so pleased to see their new room, cheerful and warm.

*‘...come and see...’*

As Marion began her sermon, she reminded us of her first sermon as locum describing her journey through life and of coming to Orkney and taking up the locum role. She spoke of the joy she had had in getting to know the folk of East Mainland Kirk and we were reminded of the way in which



friendship slowly evolves to the point where we can build each other up. The sermon described the ripples of energy reaching out from Jesus in his Baptism, lifting Him up, pulling in the witnesses to that act and extending the invitation to others to come and see.

*"...glimpses of your grace..."*

The offering was brought forward and many must have thought on the great fund raising needed to create this new place of worship, of sales and teas and sponsorship, of sacrifice of time and effort as well as giving, celebrating involvement and being part of the church that is East Mainland Kirk.

*'...the world in which we live, healing and wholeness...'*

Then the intercessions reminded us that East Mainland is just a small part of God's creation but the ripples that spread from here in prayer and in service may be far reaching.

*'...my great Redeemer's praise...'*

And did the roof really lift off during the final hymn of O for a thousand tongues? It always seems to me that it should as we sang that great hymn of praise!

Tommy's words of thanks speaking of the expertise that has gone into the building to create this new place, the generosity of donations to achieve it's best possible use, not only time and effort, but in caring that it should be right. He spoke of our gratitude to Marion in supporting us through the vacancy and continuing the good work begun by Jimmy Wishart. We will miss Marion and wish her well in her next challenge.

Then finally as the congregation moved through the building stopping to look, explore, exclaim and enjoy tea and fellowship for the first time in this pristine place, we began to take it all in. The soft fresh cream of the sanctuary walls, the warmth of the new carpet, the bright shine on the

pews, the yellow sunshine glow of the coloured glass around the windows. The old sanctuary made new, keeping the traditional alive. From the sanctuary looking back to the remodeled entrance, shelter as we come in from whatever Orkney weather (and occasionally life) can throw at us. The spacious hallway, airy and bright, enticing people in under the sign of the cross, a reminder to every passerby of what we stand for and also a welcoming. The refurbished rooms, anticipating new possibilities within the traditions of the church. The new build practical, useful, working spaces to carry the Kirk forward. We see that it is good and that the ripples have been set in motion....

*Julia Archibald*

**Out of the Life of our  
East Mainland Congregation**

Roy Russell                      4/12/13

Alice Hepburn                    1/1/14

Dorothy Clark                    25/1/14

**Also Remembered**

Rick Fleet                         26/12/13

Stuart McLeod                    1/1/14

**East Mainland Church Web Site  
[www.eastmainlandchurch.co.uk](http://www.eastmainlandchurch.co.uk)**

A new web site for the East Mainland Church has been set up. It can be found on [www.eastmainlandchurch.co.uk](http://www.eastmainlandchurch.co.uk). The newsletters will be included and the photos look much better as they are in colour. Every attempt will be made to keep the "What's On" up to date. At this time there is not a lot of detail on the site but that will hopefully change. Our wiki web site no longer exists.



### Service of Induction:

The evening of Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January was an auspicious occasion when Rev Wilma Johnston was inducted and welcomed as minister of the East Mainland Church. Rev Iain MacDonald, Moderator of Orkney Presbytery, conducted the service and he was supported by fellow ministers and elders from neighbouring parishes and the recently appointed Clerk to the Presbytery, Mr David Baker, was present in his official capacity.

The service commenced with the singing of Hymn 157 – Sing to the Lord’s goodness, Father of all wisdom – and it was grand to hear some really powerful singing and gave Ruth, the organist, an opportunity to open all the stops and really give the music lalldy.

The Old Testament Reading – Job 42: 4-6 was read by Gareth Williams and the New Testament Reading was John 20: 19-31 and this was read by David Baker. The Reflection following the readings was delivered by Rev Julia Lewandowska and she spoke of the difference between the doubter and the believer. Thomas, the doubter, would only believe that Jesus had risen from the dead after he could place his hands on the wounds of Jesus whereas Mary, the mother of Jesus, accepted seeing Jesus after his resurrection and could state categorically, “I have seen the Lord”. Julia also reminded the congregation that Rev Wilma Johnston, as well as being expected to preach the word of God and to perform baptisms, weddings and funerals, she is also expected to be a community minister and to be part of the wider community and it is essential that everyone plays their part to ensure that she is kept well informed and becomes involved in the life of the community in the East Mainland.

The formal induction was performed by Rev Iain MacDonald and Rev Wilma Johnston answered each and every question put to her in a clear and positive voice and likewise the congregation responded in the affirmative when asked if they would welcome Wilma and promise her encouragement and support; to share with Wilma the responsibilities for Christian witness and service and to give their time, talents and money for the work of the Church in the world. It was particularly gratifying to see that, following the members of Presbytery extending the hand of friendship to Wilma, virtually all members of the congregation were also anxious to shake her hand by way of expressing the warmth of their welcome.



The service concluded with a social event when everyone was invited to share in a time of fellowship with tea and a delicious finger buffet.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January** – Rev Wilma Johnston’s first Service.

Despite the fact that we had a morning of severe storms and torrential rain there was a good congregation to welcome our new minister to preach her first service in the newly refurbished East Mainland Church.

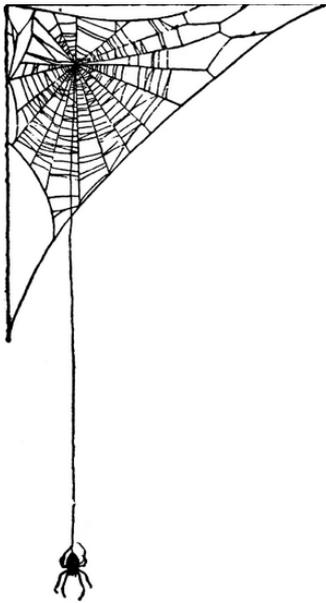
Wilma in her opening remarks thanked everyone who came to the Service of Induction and to everyone involved in the preparation of the service and in providing hospitality for the evening. She specially mentioned the volunteers who had spent, in total, over 50 hours scrubbing, cleaning and polishing the interior to make it ready for worship. She also appealed to everyone to let her know if they knew of anyone who would appreciate a visit at home or in hospital. You must not assume someone else will pass on the information – always better that she is told twice rather than someone being missed out.

Many well known hymns were sung during the service and she certainly had the Sunday School children in the palm of her hand when she had them ‘fishing for people’. Wilma’s sermon had quotations from Robbie Burns (delivered I may say in true Burns dialect) and her theme was based on Matthew’s Gospel chapter 4: 12 -23 when she invited the congregation to ‘tell the Gospel – live the Gospel’.

*John Muir*



**“Cleanliness is Next to Godliness”**



When John Wesley used this saying in his sermon, he was referring to matters more spiritual than the cleaning of the East Mainland Kirk, but it makes a good title, since those of us who took part in the post refurbishment clean up were probably feeling a glow of satisfaction to see the rooms shining clean after our labours.

The scene which had greeted us on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> of January was a bit daunting. The main body of the Kirk, which pre- refurbishment had been the most attractive area, was now full of displaced furniture and boxes, and the previously shining wood was covered in a layer of grime. Despite the protective dust sheets, demolition dust had permeated everything.

However, many hands make light work, and by the third day, everything was restored to its rightful place and surfaces were shining once more. One remaining challenge was to remove a spider web high above our heads, well out of reach

of the longest brushes, and ladders. The winner of this task was Laurence Tait, who was not be outwitted by a spider, and devised an elongated web remover which successfully completed the task.



*Laurence- web exterminator!*

There were different teams over the three days and thanks are due to all of you who gave your time and hard work to clean and tidy the rooms.

Now we that have a building to be proud of we want to look after it well. It is proposed that we will return to a voluntary system of weekly cleaning on a rota basis. In pairs, there will be three turns over the year, and as the building is now much easier to keep, this should not be an arduous task. Our rota is almost complete, but if you

want to be on the reserve list, please let us know.

Our thanks are due to Helen Hume and her daughter Karen who turned out regularly to clean the old premises, often in adverse conditions. I’m sure they will be glad to take their turn now and be able to move through the building without having to keep their hoods up to keep warm!

*Marlene Mainland*



*All hands on deck -Julia, Gracie and George*





### Rock Around the Flock

Pupils at St Andrews Primary School brought Christmas to the community in the usual fashion - through a retelling of the nativity story in music and drama.

This year, the story was told from the viewpoint of the shepherds, who began the story by reflecting on how dull and boring their lives were – nothing exciting ever happened to them . . . and SUDDENLY a host of angels altered their lives forever. In true style the ‘shepherds’ entertained the audience with their enthusiastic singing and dancing (encouraging each other to come on stage at the right time and getting annoyed with each other when they fell short of expectations!) followed by a trip to Bethlehem where they met other characters in the story we know so well. With Emma and Daniel as Mary and Joseph; P1 boys pretending to be sheep; P1 girls stars; and children from P2 and P3 angels, wise men and various animals in the stable, we ended with a lovely tableau. The children sang the songs with great style and musicality, amazing us all with their confidence, volume and stage-presence.

Our older children gave the show an added richness by their confident playing in the orchestra, and helping with lighting.

Our children amaze us all each year – and even big brothers can be wowed – one said to me this year, “did my little sister just sing that all by herself?”

*Thelma Holt*

### Sunday School

The children’s Christmas service was held on 22 December. Through the service Marion told a story about Santa who was being told to remind the children about the real meaning of Christmas, as various items were added to the Christmas tree their story was told.

Kaitlyn, Marcus and Lauren told the Christmas story. The rest of the Sunday School joined in with two songs, Let’s Go and Away in a Manger.

*Katrina Tait*



### Boys Brigade

As stated in our last report, we entered into the North Scottish Christmas card competition. Although some prizes did come to Orkney, there were no Holm winners this year. The boys all gave it their best shot and we were proud of their entries.

We went to the Eunson Kloss Very Sheltered Housing in November and gave the residents a short display of figure marching. Judging by the applause received, I think the residents enjoyed it. After the display, the boys mingled with the old folk, giving out sweeties.

January started off with Donnie and myself attending a First Aid Course at Orkney College. We all have to keep up with training to a certain standard for Health and Safety reasons.

With a lot of help from John Muir, the boys entered the Bible reading competition held by the Orkney Battalion on Thursday 29th January in the BB Hall in Kirkwall. As before, the boys tried really hard, but were not placed in the winning three. The same four boys took part in the BB Quiz and came runners up, beaten by Kirkwall Wednesday Company. Thanks go to the parents for taking their boys into town for the competition and to John Muir for his help.

Something for us all to look forward to is the Annual Church Parade of the Orkney Battalion of the Boys Brigade. This will be held at the East Mainland Church in April. As always we will be led in our march, from the Manse to the Church, by the Kirkwall City Pipe Band.

*Jack McIntosh (Captain)*



## **Guild News**

### **November Meeting**

President Maureen Tait opened the meeting, in the Deerness Hall, and with Joyce playing the piano we sang "Make me a channel of your peace."

Julia Archibald read from Colossians chapter 3 v 12-17 and prayer followed.

Business included arrangements for the Carol Service on 1<sup>st</sup> December, the annual allocation of funds and the "Festive evening."

The secretary reported sourcing cups from St Andrews Hall for the use of the church.

Maureen handed over to Dave Gray who gave a presentation about Radio Orkney.

Local MP's have supported the need for local radio to Orkney & Shetland to continue its "life line service." For example facebook gives information when the Churchill barriers are closed or shipping disrupted etc. Other reports include live football, Children in Need, to name but a few. Over a cup of tea further events were discussed and stories from the past enjoyed.

Isobel Clouston gave a comprehensive vote of thanks. Hymn 200 "Christ is made the sure Foundation" was followed with prayer.

*Nancy Omand*

### **December Meeting**

Maureen Tait welcomed members and Marion Dicken, on a very windy, cold night.

With Isobel playing we sang hymn 290, 'The race that long in darkness pined.' Mabel read from Luke chapter 2 v1-7, Joyce read verses 8-14 and Julia read verses 15-20.

A Christmas prayer was led by Marion.

Entertainment included quotes from an autograph book, photos and a poem about gardening, a wooden tree decoration for each member, crackers

to pull, short stories about children and Christmas. Ghostly happenings - or not? Also a Quiz and quotes about Christmas, a poem from Canada, making of Christingles, and a duet, singing carols.

Supper was enjoyed with a large selection of savouries and fancies and home made sweets too!

Maureen thanked everyone for bringing food and entertainment of such a variety. Isobel was thanked for playing and Marion for coming along and taking part.

We sang Hymn 296 'While humble shepherds' and closed with prayer.

*Nancy Omand*

### **Carol Service**

A capacity crowd filled the Deerness Hall once again for the Guilds annual Carol Service on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. President Maureen Tait welcomed everyone, then Marion Dicken told the Christmas story using the names of sweets. The community singing of carols started with "Love came down at Christmas" with Ruth Harvey playing.

St Andrews head teacher Thelma Holt introduced classes 2 and 3 who sang, using songs from their forthcoming Christmas concert "Rock around the Flock." Music teacher Jenny Keldie played and encouraged them too.

The fiddle group performed some lovely tunes and the children received well deserved applause. Maureen gave a comprehensive vote of thanks and Marion closed with prayer.

*Nancy Omand*



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Thora Craigie	861201
Colin Delday	741253
Tommy Delday	861311
Mabel Eunson	741325
Sheila Eunson	861483
Alastair Foubister	781288
Eric Foubister	741213
Kathleen Gaudie	781231
Laurence Irvine	741304
Annabell Laird	861375
Nancy Omand	861286
Kenneth Rendall	877976
Maisie Rendall	861325
Bryan Scott	861205
Joy Tait	781267
Laurence Tait	876743
Grace Wylie	741342
James Wylie	741221

**Board Members**

Brian Archibald	781483
Joyce Baillie	861343
Vera Butler	861237
Isobel Clouston	741297
Alfie Flett	781272
Helen Hume	781279
Marlene Mainland	781395
Jan Moar	741350
Jack McIntosh	781352
Brian Moss	861333
Gareth Williams	741395

**Guild President**

Maureen Tait 876743

**Vice President**

Joyce Johnston 874611

**Secretary**

Nancy Omand 861286

**Treasurer**

Morag Shearer 873579

**Organists**

Isobel Clouston 741297

Ruth Harvey 872261

Joy Tait 781267

**Session Hoose Singers**

Athole Thomson 781376

**EMC Band**

Peter Cairns 781799

Joy Tait 781267

**Sunday School**

Marina Cairns 781799

Rachael Moar 781762

Katrina Tait 861233

**Boy's Brigade**

Jack McIntosh 781352

Donnie Campbell

**St. Andrews Primary School** 861256



Month	Date	Time	Event
March	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11:00am	Worship and Sunday School + Tea in East Mainland Church
	5 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Guild AGM in East Mainland Church Session Room
	7 <sup>th</sup>	2:00pm	World Day of Prayer in East Mainland Church
	9 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship and Sunday School in East Mainland Church
	16 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship and Sunday School in East Mainland Church
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	11:00am	Worship and Sunday School in East Mainland Church
	30 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship in East Mainland Church followed by Church AGM
April	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7:30pm	Guild in East Mainland Church Session Room
	6 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship and Official Grand Opening of the Refurbished East Mainland Church + Tea
	13 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship and Sunday School in East Mainland Church
	18 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Good Friday Service in East Mainland Church
	20 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School in East Mainland Church
	27 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship including Annual Church Parade of the Orkney Battalion of Boys Brigade and Sunday School in the East Mainland Church.
May	4 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship and Sunday School + Tea in East Mainland Church
	7 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Guild in East Mainland Church Session Room
	11 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship and Sunday School in East Mainland Church
	11 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup>		Christian Aid Week East Mainland Door to Door Collection
	18 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School in East Mainland Church
	25 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship and Sunday School in East Mainland Church

**Upcoming Event**—Savoury Teas in Deerness Community Centre on 8th June from 3 – 6pm

For more News and Photos etc. see our website on

[www.eastmainlandchurch.co.uk](http://www.eastmainlandchurch.co.uk)

**Editorial Team:**

Sheila Eunson, Kathleen Gaudie, Laurence Tait and layout compiled by Russell Manson

Please email articles, preferably using **Times New Roman size 12**, for the next newsletter to

[eastmainlandchurch@gmail.com](mailto:eastmainlandchurch@gmail.com) by 8th May

Church of Scotland

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