

**From East Mainland Manse**

It was the Sunday before Christmas and the Sunday School children were excitedly waiting for the Nativity Play to begin. There was a part for everyone from angels, shepherds and Inn-keeper to crocodile (I know!) lamb and donkey – the excitement was palpable... the lights dimmed, the star shone above as a Roman centurion read the decree... (Luke 2:1) *In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.* Into the hush came the clip clopping sound of an approaching donkey and Mary and Joseph and the donkey entered stage right... The choir and congregation sang a verse of *Little Donkey* while Mary stood patiently as Joseph knocked at the first inn door. “No, no room at the Inn,” shouted the first Innkeeper... Clip clop went the donkey and a knock at the next inn door brought the reply “No, no room at the inn...” Clip, clop, knock! knock! and the third Innkeeper appeared in a blue striped tunic. Joseph stepped up, “Please, we need a place to rest”... Stage left the recorder group were preparing to come on and play *O little town of Bethlehem* while the stage was reset for the stable scene... There was a long silence as the Innkeeper and Joseph looked at each other. The Sunday School teacher looked up from her clipboard. In a stage whisper someone prompted, “No there’s no room at the inn.” The Innkeeper looked at Mary and at Joseph and said “Come away in!”

Don’t you just love that Innkeeper? I think he’s wonderful and I’m sure Jesus would approve of him throwing the inn door open and welcoming Mary & Joseph in. OK it wrecked the telling of the Christmas story because we need Christ to be born in a stable. Jesus born in a stable and placed in a manger is how He showed His solidarity with the poor, the lowly, the homeless and the outsider, with the person who is stressed or lonely or needing strength to face an illness. By throwing the door open – that Innkeeper did a wonderful thing. He actively showed Christ’s love – lived the gospel. All churches should be doing just that throwing their doors open and welcoming folk in, in to a place of light, warmth, welcome and peace. Sometimes the world is a dark and difficult place and sometimes people stumble. Stresses can exhaust folk at work, in their families and even in their communities. And switching on the TV there’s political stress at home as the dialogues begin to thrash out what these devolved powers will look like, and meanwhile across the world our armed forces are deployed again in the Middle East, and in West Africa.

John’s Gospel begins: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:1-5)

The light of Christ shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. As we look forward to Christmas, to returning in childlike wonder to meet the Christ child born in a Bethlehem stable, may you find that joy and wonder touches your life and may the hope born in the gift of the Christ child, bring you peace. Happy Christmas and every blessing be yours in the Year to come.

Rev. Wilma Johnston





Thank you to Elders.

We are fortunate in East Mainland that we have hard working elders to rely on and we greatly appreciate the work they all do. However, 2014 has seen significant changes to the Kirk Session. Early in the year John Muir retired from active duty on Session so that he could concentrate on his work at the Italian Chapel – and that has certainly been busy this summer. Over his years of service on Session, John has fulfilled a number of roles and received his 30 years long service certificate as a thank you from the Church and in recognition of his work for the Parish.

Eric & Hazel Foubister have retired from Deerness to their new home in Kirkwall and we will miss them both in the community and of course we regret that Eric has resigned from East Mainland Kirk Session. It is always a pleasure to see them return for a visit and we wish them a very happy retirement and attachment to their new Kirk and possibly for Eric a new Session in the town.

It was with sadness we learned of the death of James Wylie, Jimmie o’ Seatter. Ordained as an elder in the Deerness Parish and then serving the united Parish of East Mainland, Jimmie won his long service certificate which recognised his service to his community and his devotion to district eldership.

Out of the Life of our East Mainland Congregation	
John McInnes	4/9/14
James Wylie	8/9/14
Also Remembered	
Gladys Minshull	24/8/14
Alexander McGregor	3/9/14
Janet Seatter	18/10/14

BB News

Session 2014 - 15 began on Monday 22nd September in the Holm Hall as usual at 7 pm, with a good turnout of boys.

On Sunday 5th October the boys were on parade in Kirkwall with the Orkney Battalion and delegates from the North Scottish District, who were in Orkney for the Annual Conference.

We resumed after the October Break on 27th October with 18 boys on the roll.

This is a large number of boys for two officers, so any help would be greatly appreciated.

It would mean helping out on Monday nights from 7 - 8.30pm.

All the preparation work will be done so it is really only extra eyes and hands we need.

Please give this some consideration and contact myself on 781352, or Donnie on 781755 if you can help out at all.

Jack McIntosh (Captain) 1st Holm BB

Presbytery Mission Partners in Malawi

Thank you to everyone who took part in the special collection for our Mission Partners in Malawi. The latest Presbytery transfer amounted to £2200.74 which has been allocated to the several projects including clean water provision in Kasembereka, building work in Namipingo and Thyolo new Church, to fund 4 children at a Church run school at Nsuka and the £85.63 from the East Mainland congregation has been given to the Thyolo Presbytery office to maintain equipment, provide essential stationary and hopefully go some way towards re-establishing the e-mail link. Iain MacDonald will keep us posted, and in the meantime, we will try to find out more about the Presbytery Partnership Projects.

Many thanks, Wilma.



Ordination of Elders

On 16th November the congregation witnessed the ordination of three elders who will carry on the traditional pastoral role in our community. Jan Moar of Deerness will join Session and will continue a family connection (she is of course John Muir's niece so she has a fine role model in her uncle.) We look forward to Jack MacIntosh bringing his experience to Session. He has been greatly involved with the Holm BB over the years. Brian Archibald originally from the Borders but settled here in Orkney – next door to the Kirk – will bring new perspectives to Session. We look forward to welcoming each new elder with the talents, experience and God given gifts they will bring to the Session.

Rev. Wilma Johnston

This time last year we were vacant as we had been for the previous three years, our renovation was well in hand but we had no firm date when we would be back in the kirk.

Within two months of this year we welcomed Wilma as our minister and our refurbishment was complete. The one item not in the original plans was the fitting of secondary glazing to the outside of the windows of the main building. We have accepted a quote so this will now be done.

The extra meeting space and comfort of the upgraded facilities means we can have activities that would not have been possible before. This is most obvious with Wilma's initiative of forming the "Messy Church".

The 9th of November this year was the tenth anniversary of the Union of the East Mainland congregations. One of the stated aims was to have a building that catered for the needs of the congregation.

For half of the last decade we have been a vacant charge so we are especially fortunate to have Wilma as our minister.

Tommy Delday - Session Clerk





St Andrews School News: Mr Taylor

I am very pleased to be bringing you the news from St Andrews school and I am delighted that the school has such strong links with the East Mainland Kirk. I would like to thank all the staff, children and parents for making me feel so welcome and I look forward to the year ahead. Thank you to Mrs Holt and we wish her well in her retirement.

There have been a quite a few changes here at the school this term, mine is not the only new face! The school roll is growing, bucking the local trend! There are 18 new pupils this term. They have settled in well and we would like to offer a warm welcome to them and their families. It is exciting to be part of a thriving community.

This term we said goodbye to two members of staff. Mrs Thora Moar, the school secretary, who has worked at the school for many years and also to Mrs Amanda Ruddick, one of our Support for Learning assistants. On behalf of the school community I would like to thank them for all their hard work and wish them every success in the future.

Highlights for term one were a visit from a group of drummers from Ghana and also our Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

As part of the Orkney Science Festival, an African drum group called Kakatsitsi visited the school to perform and lead workshops. The visit was funded by the Youth Music Initiative. I will let **Jennifer Fuller** in P5 tell you more about their visit.

On Tuesday the 9th of September the whole school watched an amazing performance of African drumming. The drummers were from Ghana, a small country in Africa. In Ghana there are 50 languages spoken. The group was called Kakatsitsi. There was six people in the band and their manager was called Steve.

The first thing we did was go to the concert. They played African drums. Their starter was excellent. One of the Africans was a master drummer. They moved their hands so fast. All I could see was a blur! I found

out that most African drums have animal skins on them. After that they played another song but then two of the dancers came out and asked the whole school to join in. It was incredible and fun. All of my friends loved it!!!

After break we had a drumming workshop. The first thing I did was the drumming. The drumming was so fun. After the fantastic drumming it was time for the dancing. We learned a lot. We also met an African dancer called Koffie. Then sadly the workshop came to an end.

By Jennifer Fuller P5



Harvest Thanksgiving

We were pleased to welcome Rev. Wilma Johnston to our Harvest Thanksgiving Service which took place on the 1st October. We gave thanks for the fantastic harvest we had this year and each class came forward and put an item on our Thanksgiving table which they were most thankful for. I am sure you will agree this is a worthy list!



continued over



P1 gave thanks for flowers, P2 school, P3B family, P3L homes, P4 nature, P5 water, P6 food and P7 gave thanks for friendship!

The children then give consideration to those less fortunate with a collection of £133 which they give to Mary’s Meals, a wonderful charity that provides children with one good meal a day and enables them to attend school.

Lucy from P5 finished our service with a lovely prayer:

Dear Lord thank you for this year’s Harvest here in Orkney. Thank you for the food and all the good things we have that help us stay safe and healthy. Today we hope and pray that our donations can help Mary’s meals feed many hungry children and enable them to go to school.

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

Joseph Bethlehem Mary Jesus	Manger Nativity Inn Rejoice	Shepherd Wise men
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Can you rearrange the letters in the Letter Tile Puzzles below to make some festive phrases?

Letter Tile Puzzle Number 1

R	I	S	S	T	T	W	A	H	T	N	I	G	S	T	M	A	C	H	O	R	E	B	E	F	H	E
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Write your solution!

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Letter Tile Puzzle Number 2

H	T	A	L	L	N	I	G	B	R	I	E	N	T	G	H	T	L	L	I	S	G	H	T	S	I	L	N	I
C	A	L	H	O	M	A	I	S	L	Y																		

Write your solution!

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



Bringing Traidcraft to East Mainland Kirk

“The righteous care about justice for the poor”
Proverbs 29:7

“Millions still live in absolute poverty and urgently need the sort of practical help that Traidcraft can offer. Selling Fairtrade food in church is a practical way of answering God’s call for justice for the poor.” Dr John Sentamu Archbishop of York

Every time we switch on the television to watch the news, we can be overwhelmed by the poverty, disease, suffering and inequality that exists across the world. Perhaps you give thanks that you live in a warm house, have food to put on the table and know that peace is much more likely to surround you than war. But what to do about all those for whom daily bread is something to dream about rather than reality?

Traidcraft was established as a Christian response to poverty. To try and bring fairness into the world of trading systems through practical support, technical guidance and education so that people in poverty can trade their own way to success. They have been doing this for 35 years.

For the past few months we have had a Traidcraft stall in East Mainland Kirk. Every few weeks I order things that look good from the Traidcraft web site. Tea, coffee, biscuits, honey, things to bake with, things we all use around the home. Not forgetting chocolate! Hopefully these things also look good to you and you will buy them thereby supporting the work of Traidcraft. The stall does not run to produce any profit; the price I pay for things is the price I charge for them on the stall. Occasionally the price does change and that is ei-

ther because Traidcraft have altered it or because I have bought ‘in bulk’ bring down the cost per item. Traidcraft is not about selling things cheaply but about ensuring that the people who make the goods get a fair price for them. And that fair price reflects the quality of the goods themselves. We are not used to doing our shopping on a Sunday morning and some may feel that no one should be shopping on a Sunday anyway. But it can be seen as an opportunity to give to charity which has always been part of Sunday worship in the form of the collection. Plus you get biscuits (or teabags or kitchen roll or peanut butter) in return. What’s not to like?

However, many of you have got into the habit of carrying a little extra cash and visiting the stall to buy something. If there are specific goods that you would like to see there, then have a word and I would be happy to order them. Many of you also operate a ‘keep the change policy’ and this has been building up a modest surplus, which means that an order has been placed to send chickens to Africa (Yes really! Well I think the chickens are already in Africa but they are given to families to help feed themselves as well as providing income from selling the eggs.)

So where else in the world are your purchases of dates, muesli and rice helping? Coffee - Guatemala and Malawi, Tea – Africa, Sultanas - India or Uzbekistan, Raisins – Chile, Rice - India. Honey-Chile, Peanut Butter-Malawi, Mozambique and Nicaragua.

I could go on but this list is already beginning to stretch my knowledge of Geography!

And if you are still not convinced just try a bar of Divine Milk chocolate with Toffee and Sea Salt. Mmmmm- bet you can’t eat just one square!

In buying these goods, somewhere in the world you have just made someone smile.....

Julia Archibald



GUILD NEWS July - October

The 'Linties' were welcomed to July's meeting, and together we sang 'God is Love,' with Isobel playing the keyboard. Mabel read from the Bible and Maureen led in prayer, followed by a meditation read by Hazel, Morag, Maureen and Mabel. Nancy read the minutes and the report on the Summer Rally. After items of business, Maureen handed over to the 'Linties,' who produced most beautiful harmonies, singing a varied programme of songs. They gave a humorous piece and a poem about 'The Cross in my pocket,' giving instructions on how to make the cross, using wool. Hazel gave a vote of thanks to these talented ladies and to the Guild ladies who had helped during the meeting. The hymn 'Christ is our Light' was sung followed by the Lord's Prayer.

The annual outing was held in August, with members meeting at the Fire station in Kirkwall, where we received an informative and interesting talk about their work and commitment. Afterwards we moved on to the Kirkwall Hotel where we enjoyed an excellent meal.

On the last Sunday in August, during the morning service, Rev Wilma Johnston, re-dedicated the Guild. Members took part in a mini drama and readings.

It is always good to have a visiting branch of the Guild to share an evening of fellowship with and so Orphir Guild came to visit in September. The Bible reading taken from Luke 10, was read by Hazel, and Maureen read a meditation called 'I am Mary and I Martha,' followed by prayer. A varied programme followed, including drama, rope tricks, poetry perfectly recited, a magical Bible story book, and a quiz. After the singing of 'One more step,' Joyce thanked each person for sharing their talents and to our own ladies for providing supper. In turn Janet Grainger thanked us for the invitation and hospitality. The evening closed with the Lord's Prayer.

One of our own members provided the programme for the October meeting. The opening hymn, 'Moved by the gospel, let us move,' was sung, accompanied

by Joyce playing keyboard. The bible reading, 1 Corinthians ch.13, was read by Julia and prayer followed. Maureen handed over to Isobel who unpacked a suitcase of handicrafts, many of them prizewinning items from within Orkney and further afield. She had a wide variety of stitchery, canvas work, bookmarks, Florentine work, and knitting to mention a few. She then provided the material for us all to make a small pocket to hold the 'cross' from the previous meeting. Margaret gave a comprehensive vote of thanks saying she was full of admiration for the variety of handiwork Isobel does and shares with others. Supper was served and we ended our evening with the Lord's Prayer.

The Winter Rally took place in the Milestone Church on the 23rd of October. Guilds from all over Orkney received a warm welcome from the Convener, Mrs E. McVicar and from Mrs M Walls, Birsay, Harray & Sandwick Guild, and from Miss M Sutherland, on behalf of Presbytery. A reflection and prayer was led by Mrs McVicar while the bible readings were read by Mrs E Herdman. The address given by Captain Alison Hutchings from the Salvation Army was supported by a beautiful presentation of her recent trip to Peru. We all enjoyed fellowship over a cup of tea and a chance to meet up with friends from other guilds. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs Myrtle Drever.

Maureen Tait

World Geography Quiz

Nobody achieved full marks, but 3 returned papers had 29 out of 30. "I gaed tae boil me kettle in PO-POCATEPETEL"(a volcano in Mexico), a chant often heard in the Deerness School playground in the late 1940's. Others missed out by not putting a Scottish mountain over 3000 feet.

Prizes have been sent to Brian and Julia Archibald (Holm), Jean Gaudie (Birsay) and Sheena Halcrow (Shetland). Thanks to all who sold and bought quizzes. £389 could be added to Church Funds.

Isobel Clouston



Shoe Box Appeal 2014 – Change a life

2014 marks twenty one years of the Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal. Since the start of the appeal over 1.7 million boxes have been donated and distributed to people living in desperate poverty. The boxes will go to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania and Serbia this year

The shoe boxes were gathered over the past few weeks, and displayed at the front of the kirk during the service on Sunday 2nd November. A total of 55 boxes were gathered, along with a few which have been delivered individually. The boxes were passed on to McAdie & Reeve to begin their onward journey.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated items and boxes, this year has been the most successful yet.



‘Messy Kirk’

We had our first Messy Kirk on Friday 3rd October. Don't panic we weren't too messy and we did tidy up!



The theme for our first session was Fishers of Men. We started with a snack and a story of Stone Soup read by Hillary Mackintosh and then had several crafts and play areas that the bairns could go around as they pleased. We asked each child to come along with a responsible adult so that they could help do the crafts. We finished in the church with a few songs with Joy Tait and Ruth Harvey and finished with a story and blessing by the Rev Wilma Johnston. There was lots of excitement going into the

church for the first time for some and lots of exploring to be done.

Our second Messy Kirk was on Friday 7th November, our theme this time was Autumn and Circles. Maureen Tait helped us learn a new song about a circle which represented God's love being everlasting. We made a blessing tree with the bairns hand prints, dream catchers, leaf pictures, scarecrows and decorated biscuits to look like Catherine wheels.

So far we have had 16 bairns at each session and it has been a great success with a very homely relaxed feeling.

Our team of helpers have a mixture of talents and have worked well together to get this new venture up and running, along with Wilma to guide us with her words of wisdom.

Thank you for all our donations we have received so far for our craft supply. Please do keep all your loo roll tubes as we can do so many things with them.

We are looking forward to our Christmas party which will be the start of advent on the 28th November.

Rachael Moar



Harvest Thankgiving 2014

On the 12th of October there was a good attendance for the annual Harvest Thankgiving Service, in preparation for which the church had been decorated with fruit, vegetables and flowers representing the abundance of produce and beauty in our community.

'The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.'

Wilma's theme was on sharing. We can all play a part in sharing our abundance with those who live in parts of the world where the harvests are not guaranteed, and where there is much hunger. In recognising this, the congregation's offering in thanks for this year's harvest was again in support of Mary's Meals, the Scottish based charity which feeds children in a place of education in many deprived countries.

We were entertained by the Linties singing in beautiful harmony as always, *Yellow on the Broom*, so evocative of nature and the changing seasons, and also the timeless 23rd psalm.



A newly written Orcadian dialect poem was given its first airing, reminiscing on harvest, then and now, and is included in this newsletter for those who can interpret the dialect!

As we go to press it is very gratifying to learn from our treasurer, Gareth, that the rounded up total of donations for Mary's Meals comes to £500, our highest figure yet.

This is a wonderful example of the generosity of our congregation and community, and the money will be wisely spent, as some of the key facts below illustrate.

Facts at a glance

Total number of children receiving a daily meal in school	=	923,572
Average global cost of Mary's Meals per child, per year	=	£12.20
Worldwide average cost per meal	=	6 pence
Number of children receiving a daily meal in their place of education:		

Benin – 1,453 | Bosnia – 25 | Burma – 397 | Ecuador – 278 | Haiti – 26,714 | India – 16,716 | Kenya – 26,829 | Liberia – 128,910 | Malawi – 698,455 | South Sudan – 10,673 | Thailand – 530 | Uganda – 12,592

Marlene Mainland





Hervest

The combine chows the ripened crop

And poots the barley oot

It loks chist like a dinosaur

Wi a great long roaran snoot.

The strae is wipped in plastic

In big roond heavy bales

Hid's been a good dry hervest-

Noo get ready fur the gales!



In me youth were no roond bales

Bit shaves, than stooks, than stacks

There were thraves and disses, coles fur hey

Bit that's a long time back.

The wark wis din bae minny hands

-Machines instead the day-

Is fermeen aesier? Mibbe so-

Bit a piece more lonely tae.

Wa've a wirld o plenty, shared bae too few

So many hungry mooths tae feed

Whit can wae dae tae aese their pain

As wae enjoy wir daily breed?

Be thankful fur aal that we get fae the land

And fur aal that comes fae abroad

Share wi them that's waar off than is

And gae wir thanks tae God.



Marlene Mainland

Glossary:

Shaves- Sheaves

Stooks: Usually six sheaves, stood up to dry

Thrave- 24 sheaves, unitary measure for selling crop

Diss: small stack of 48 sheaves.

Cole: hay forked into small piles as part of drying process



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EMC Band

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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
December	3 rd	7:30pm	Guild - Festive Evening in The Session Room
	7 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	7 th	7:00pm	Guild Carol Service in St Andrews Community Centre with Guests Artistes - Pupils of St Andrews School
	14 th	11:00am	Worship and Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	19 th	9:45am	St Andrews School End of Term Service in the East Mainland Church
	21 st	11:00am	Worship including items from the Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	24 th	7:00pm	Christingle Service in the East Mainland Church
	28 th	11:00am	Service of Lessons & Carols and Remembering in the East Mainland Church
January	4 th	11:00am	Worship + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	11 th	11:00am	Worship and Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	18 th	11:00am	Worship and Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	25 th	11:00am	Worship and Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
February	1 st	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	8 th	11:00am	Worship and Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	15 th	11:00am	Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion and Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	22 nd	11:00am	Worship with Thinking Day and Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	23 rd		Start of Fair Trade Fortnight (Until 8 th March)

The Answer!
Twas the night before Christmas

The Answer!
Silent night
Holy night
All is calm
All is bright

For more News and Photos etc. see our website on

www.eastmainlandchurch.co.uk

Editorial Team:

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

eastmainlandchurch@gmail.com by 8th February

Church of Scotland

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