



News from East Mainland Manse

May has dawned but I'm not sure Spring has. Everywhere folk are busy with lambing, calving and sowing and waiting less than patiently for the sun to bring some warmth and turn the grass from blue to green and the potential of some decent fodder. It is a late Spring and we are all impatiently waiting... and wondering what we'll have ready in time for the East Mainland Show.

The tourists are back. We've had several liners already carrying hordes of folk, come to see our islands, enjoy our history and a special treat for them, and us, during May & June the poppy display at the Cathedral. Now that is breath-taking and I'm so glad that Orkney was given the opportunity to have the display in their peoples' Cathedral.

It's just about time for the Church of Scotland's General Assembly and as usual there is a lot in the Blue Book to take in and for the Commissioners representing us a lot to make up their minds about and more changes for all of us are in the offing.

I think perhaps its time East Mainland had a Future Focus event in the congregation. Future Focus is for all the congregation to come along to, it gives everyone a chance to have a say about the future. On an afternoon or evening there would be a light-hearted get together where we'd acknowledge how we got to where we are and think about what we would like for the future – what is really important to us – and decide how we could go about achieving our aim. Look out for the intimation and come along if you can.

Last year we had a Back to Church Sunday and were delighted to welcome folk in. The whole of Presbytery are involved in Back to Church Sunday this year so it should be an even bigger and more exciting event. And talking of big events we have the Presbytery Picnic on the 11th June at Scapa Beach and everyone is welcome to go along to that.

We are slowly gathering all the Data Protection permission forms and don't worry if you haven't got yours yet it will come.

On a personal note I will be glad when the new Presbytery Clerk is appointed and I can get my study back... patience they tell me.

And meanwhile a gentle reminder from Romans 12:12...

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Rev. Wilma Johnston

Miriam and Herbert Gross on holiday in Orkney with Herbert's parents. See how the children have grown - Amos, Raphaela, Samuel and peedie Orcadian Seraphina born in our Manse in 2008





Sunday School News

A huge thank you to everyone who bought the Easter cards the Sunday School made. £33.60 was raised towards Sunday School funds.

East Mainland Church Guild

The Annual General Meeting on 2nd March had to be postponed due to weather conditions and took place on Monday 7th March.

Hymn 124 Praise to the Lord was sung and 2 Chronicles 30:23-27 was read followed by Prayer by Joyce Johnston, Vice President. Rev. Wilma Johnston then took the Chair to conduct the business meeting.

The Secretary's report was given listing the year's activities.

The Treasurer reported a favourable balance of £613:05 and in the absence of the President, Joyce gave the report and thanks were extended to all members for their valued input to the Guild.

Voting took place and results were Joyce Johnston President, Maureen Tait Vice President, Julia Archibald Secretary, Morag Shearer Treasurer, Margaret Sparkes Project Partner.

After a short introduction on the new Theme- Go in Joy –given by Joyce, the Guild News magazine was distributed and Morag was winner of the competition completing the sentence- I like being part of the Guild because “I am among friends and feel needed, wanted and loved” which received applause.

After a welcome cup of tea, served by Nancy and Morag, the Meeting closed with Hymn 153 Great is thy faithfulness followed by the Benediction.

Joyce Johnston

A Joyful Evening with the East Mainland Guild

On the 6th April, the convener of the East Mainland Guild, Joyce Johnston, opened the monthly meeting, entitled JOY: Jesus, Others, Yourself. Following that order of priority in our lives, she said, we have JOY.

This was an evening of celebration, marking seventy years to the exact date 6th April 1946, when the first Guild meeting was held in Holm. Mrs Mary Moss, Mrs Winnie Brown, Mrs Jessie Harcus and Mrs Ida Spence formed the inaugural committee, and remarkably, three daughters of those original founders are active members today- Margy Firth (Moss), Netta Brown and Joyce Johnston (Harcus). Joyce read some extracts from the past minutes, including an entry which detailed the Guild's 'adoption' of an orphan girl in Duddingston in the 1950s, and listed the gifts sent to the child from the Guild 'aunties'. Where is she today, we wonder?

Another reason for celebration was the recent 90th birthday of Margy Firth. Members of her family were there to see Margy being presented with a bouquet from the Guild members and a certificate from The Church of Scotland for her 45 years as a dedicated Guild member.

The entertainment was a preview of items which would form the programme for the forthcoming visit to the Stromness Guild, and was an enjoyable mixture of songs, quizzes and readings. The evening was rounded off with tea and celebratory cake, which had been baked by Joyce.

Margaret Sparkes gave a vote of thanks to all who had contributed to such a happy evening, and Elspeth Linklater echoed this, adding thanks to the members for their friendship shared with her mother in the Guild over the years.

Marlene Mainland



The World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer on 4th March enabled us to hear the voices of Christian Women from Cuba, choosing the Theme for the service from the Gospel of St Mark Chapter 10 v13-16 where Jesus said to the people who were bringing children to Him, in order that he might touch them; “Receive children, receive me.” The message for us is that we are called to accept every human being as unique and equally worthy of God - young and old, rich and poor, just and unjust- whoever they are.

Rev. Wilma Johnston led the service assisted by readers. Hymns included “All over the world the Spirit is moving” and a new hymn to us “Say Jesus, come and gather round, I want to teach my friends, some truths about the love I bring, the love that never ends. Look to the child here in your midst, who knows so much to say of what it means to follow me, to come and walk my way.”

A PowerPoint presentation by Gareth Williams, showed Cuba, the largest Caribbean island, as a beautiful green archipelago in the shape of a crocodile. The capital city, Havana was founded in 1519, has approximately 2 million inhabitants and the official language is Spanish.

The service concluded with “The day you gave us, Lord is ended” accompanied by Isobel Clouston followed by the Benediction.

Afternoon Tea was served in the Session Room on a bright sunny March day.

Joyce Johnston



1st Holm Brownies

We held our annual Girlguiding Thinking Day Service on Sunday 28th February. The 1st Holm Brownies joined in the service led by Josephine Jones. Sadly the St Andrews Brownies were unable to attend this time, and, as there are no Rainbows in the area at the moment due to a shortage of leaders, the numbers were down on previous years.

The Brownies walked in with the unit flag to the congregation singing the National Anthem. The service started with a hymn and prayers. We then sang another hymn called “Who put the colours in the rainbow”, followed by a reading from Genesis.

An all age address about Fairtrade was discussed, in particular the price of bananas, and how the grower/farmer, the farm worker, the distributor/hauler and the supermarket get paid. The girls got some money that they had to divide up between the different people and guess how much each of them received. She then spoke about the prices and not being fair for the farmers and it showed just how little they did get.

Afterwards more songs and prayers were read then there was a sermon about A Rainbow of Promises.

The Brownies then sang their songs called “This Little Light of Mine” and their favourite one a “Circle of Friends”. The girls and leaders then renewed their promise and the service closed with singing I, the Lord of sea and sky.

Again we would like to thank the East Mainland Church for inviting us to take part in the World Thinking Day Service.

Karen Hume

Assistant Leader 1st Holm Brownies





BB Report May 2016

I must thank Marilyn and Hilary for helping with the pancake night which was enjoyed by the boys.

In March we decorated hard boiled eggs and then rolled them to the centre of the hall where a chocolate egg was waiting to be claimed. Louis Hancock rolled his egg nearest to the target, so he won the prize egg.

We entered the Bible Reading Competition and Quiz which was held in Kirkwall.

The boys, Marcus Firth, George Ewing and Jamie Sutherland came first in the Bible Reading. Thanks to John Muir for his tuition. The boys were not placed in the Quiz.

In April we entered the Figure Marching competition in Finstown. The boys did a very good job but were not placed.

Our last event for the Robertson Trophy was the Annual Battalion Church Parade, when we marched to St Magnus Cathedral, led by the Kirkwall City Pipe Band. It was a fantastic sight as we marched on Broad Street with the poppies streaming down from the window at St Magnus. During the service the Robertson Trophy was presented to the winning company, Kirkwall Tuesday. 1st Holm came equal second along with Kirkwall Wednesday. Again, "Well done!" to all the boys.

We will have our Annual Awards presented in the East Mainland Church on Sunday 15th May.

Our final event for this session will be the Groundwater Shield for football. This will be held on Wednesday 18th May on the 3G pitch at KGS.

Jack McIntosh (Captain)





St Andrews School News

As I write, I am glad to announce the return of summer, although I am not sure some of our P6s would agree! More of that later! At last the children are getting out onto our playing fields, it is a great sight indeed. It is a pleasure for me to update you all on a short selection of our learning experiences and sporting achievements during the last two terms.

St Andrews has Talent!

Between our rugby, football, netball and badminton players there is virtually no room in our trophy cabinet! Our pupils have shown a real spirit of sportsmanship and represented the school and the East Mainland very well. The highlights this year must be the Hurricanes winning the indoor primary football league and the consistent and outstanding performance of the rugby teams, the Wasps and the Young Bulls, this season. Without the commitment and dedication of our parent coaches none of this would have been possible. Well done everybody.

Bear Grylls Step Back!

Myself and Mrs Miller, our P6 teacher, recently spent the week in Hoy with two groups of our P6s. We enjoyed a range of outdoor learning experiences including archery, canoeing, bush craft and gorge walking, designed to develop resilience, team working and problem solving skills. We are very proud of our pupils, they really were fantastic. Group 1 showed Great Spirit on day two when they battled up Rackwick Burn against sleet showers and NE winds gusting 35-40 mph with not one complaint! I also witnessed Group 2 showing real independence as they navigated their way around an orienteering course on the North side of Hoy. Real leaders in the making!



Global Citizens in the Making!

Our P5s teamed up with P1 recently along with a merry gang of parent helpers to join in with the 'Bag the Bruck' campaign at Dingieshowe Beach. Our P5s then followed up their visit by flexing their persuasive writing skills. Below is a letter written By Emma Robertson P5

I am writing to encourage people to STOP DROPPING LITTER and being so careless about polluting the ocean and harming wildlife.

Recently I have been to a beach that is usually a lovely beach but it was incredible how cluttered it was that day. Normally it is a beautiful beach but litter is ruining not just the beach but the whole environment.

Sea pollution is any rubbish that ends up in the water that affects anything that lives there. So do you want to save wildlife? Well why not STOP DROPPING LITTER. Did you know the seas around Britain are home to more than 8,000 different species of plants and animals, also in 2013 more than 17,000 cotton buds were washed up on UK beaches.

What can we do to help? Believe it or not there is a way to make the beaches golden sands look more golden than ever. So why not try doing bag the bruck? Or you could pick up 3 pieces of litter every time you go to the beach? Whatever you do just make sure you try to make our beaches cleaner.

Next time you are about to drop a piece of litter think, I shouldn't drop that litter I am harming wildlife and polluting the area.



I am sure you will agree from this example from P5 we already have in the making the Global Citizens and politicians of the future right here in the East Mainland!

Mark Taylor



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Maisie Rendall	861325	Isobel Clouston	741297
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Joy Tait	781267	Joy Tait	781267
Laurence Tait	876743	Sunday School	
Grace Wylie	741342	Marina Cairns	781799
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Julia Archibald	781483	Katrina Tait	861233
Joyce Baillie	861259	Messy Church	
Vera Butler	861237	Rachael Moar	781762
Isobel Clouston	741297	Boy's Brigade	
Linda Cromarty	781385	Jack McIntosh	781352
Helen Hume	781279		
Iris Kemp	741352		
Gracie Laughton	781387		



Month	Date	Time	Event
June	1 st	7:30pm	Guild in the Session Room
	5 th	2:00pm	Worship & Sunday School + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	5 th	3 – 6pm	Savoury Buffet Teas in the Deerness Community Centre
	12 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	19 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School Prize Giving in the East Mainland Church
	26 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	26 th	7:30pm	Songs of Praise in the East Mainland Church
July	3 rd	11:00am	Worship + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	6 th	7:30am	Guild in the Session Room
	10 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	17 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	24 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	31 st	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
August	6 th		East Mainland Show Catering
	7 th	11:00am	Worship + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	14 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	21 st	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	27 th	2:00pm	Sponsored Walk from the East Mainland Church
	28 th	11:00am	Worship with the Guild Rededication Service and Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	TBA		Guild Outing in August
September	4 th	11:00am	Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion and Sunday School + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	7 th	7:30pm	Guild in the Session Room

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 by 8th August

Church of Scotland

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