



From the Manse

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.
Isaac Watts (1664-1748)

Our journey continues. The winter has been blowy and the waves wild, crashing across Lamb Holm and the Barriers... there have been breathtakingly beautiful - clear blue sky and sea days - and there have been days to remind us why Rover named a colour Orkney grey... but already the sun is stronger, the days are lengthening, when there's a stillness the birds are singing and first flowers have appeared. Spring is on its way.

And so are we. Its time to begin our journey with Jesus to Jerusalem. With Him as he teaches, preaches and heals along the way... knowing, what is waiting for Him.

It's a hard journey to make. But waiting for us just beyond the darkness that falls beneath the Cross is the most precious gift from God. Hope. God has given us hope. Hope of new beginnings - new life. Hope of grace and of forgiveness. Hope of mercy and love. Hope of peace. God gave God's own self for us, so now we continue on the journey to do what we can for God's Kingdom Come.

Waiting for us is the joy of Easter that fills us up and flows through us. We are called to follow in His footsteps until we too, can give as freely and lovingly of God's gifts to this world, our world that longs for hope... for grace... for mercy... and for peace.

May this journey with Christ be for each one of us, a time of blessing and a season of hope.

Wilma

Rev. Wilma A. Johnston

News from the Kirk Session

Tommy Delday has retired as Session Clerk

Laurence Irvine has retired from active eldership

Christian Aid

This year the Christian Aid Week Door to Door Collection will take place 14th - 20th May. Thanks to you, Christian Aid have been there for refugees since 1945. Your support is more vital than ever.

Giving

A 50p piece met a £5 note and said, 'Hey! Where have you been? I haven't seen you around here much.'

The £5 note replied, 'I've been hanging out at the Bingo, done the Lottery a few times, had a Chinese takeaway, gone to a couple of football matches, a bit of shopping, holidays abroad, that kind of stuff. How about you?'

The 50p piece sighed and said, 'Oh, you know. Same old stuff - church, church, church.'

Please give generously this Christian Aid Week



St Andrews School News: Mr Taylor

Now in our sixth week of this term, we are enjoying the lighter evenings when the children can get on the school bus in the daylight. Our new car park is now open and staff and pupils are getting used to the new routine. Our school roll continues to grow, and this week a decision will be made by Orkney Islands Council about our Capital project. As ever, there is a lot happening here at the school. Our primary 5, 6 and 7 classes are travel-



ling to Picky for swimming lessons once a week during this term, and our handwork sessions continue every Thursday afternoon with help from volunteers from our community. The chess club is up and running at lunch time on a Monday and some of our younger pupils have been given a chance to give it a go.

Our hardy rugby players have been training and playing all through the winter and our 'Young Bulls' team were absolutely delighted to achieve 'Young Team of the Year' at the Orkney Sports Awards. It was a well deserved award for a hard-working team who won all 22 of their games in 2016 – quite an achievement! The team turned themselves out very smartly to collect their award at a ceremony in the Kirkwall Grammar School where Travis Davies gave a speech on behalf of the team – a very proud moment for the team coaches and for all of us here at the School. The 'Young Bulls' showed off their trophy to the whole school at the achievement assembly the following week. Well done the 'Young Bulls



We were treated to a Burn's supper lunch here at the School on 25th January, complete with our very own piper! Bill Robertson came in to pipe in the haggis while all the children clapped. Mrs Aitken led the Selkirk grace. Our dinner ladies made a delicious lunch of haggis, mince and clapshot – just what was needed on a winter's day.

Our children were in fine voice this week when we welcomed two Viking Jarls to the school - fresh from the Up Helly Aa festival! The whole school sang 'The Up Helly Aa Song' as nursery



pupil, Alfie Henry, and his Dad, James Henry came in to show us their Viking outfits. Alfie's classmates in the Nursery have been watching some of the festival on-line and have had the chance to try on some of Alfie's outfit.

Primary 2 will lead our Red Nose Day fund-raising on 24th March 2017. They are hoping to arrange some fun and games for the day. Red noses will be available for the children to buy nearer the time.

Primary 2 have been learning about birds in connection with their flight topic. This week, they have been busy making food for the birds that will be put out in the playground to attract more birds to visit our school. Primary 2 will also be holding an RSPB Birdwatch next week in the playground to monitor what birds and how many visit.

Mark Taylor

The Carol Service

The Carol service for 2016 was held at the Deerness Hall on a fine, though cold evening on 4th December. Guild members were there early to organise the teas and as the children, parents, relatives and friends began arriving, it soon became clear that more chairs would have to be set out as the hall rapidly filled!

St Andrews staff had done an excellent job of preparing the children for this event and the atmosphere of anticipation, excitement and joy brought a sparkle to the hall as much as the tinsel and Christmas hats that many were wearing.

Joyce Johnston as Guild Convenor welcomed all to this event and reminded everyone where the fire exits were, which always makes everyone smile at this necessary notice and signals the point in time when the audience can relax in their seats ready to enjoy the evening, Joyce reminded all of the significance of Advent as a time of preparation for Christmas and the hope, peace, joy and love that Jesus the Light of the World brings at this time of year. The audience

participation part of the evening then got off to a rousing start with the singing of Mary's Boy Child.

In the absence of Rev. Wilma Johnstone (due to illness) Joyce opened the evening with a prayer – Love dwell within us this Christmas and the second carol of the evening- O Little Town was sung, before handing over to the Headmaster of St Andrews School, Mark Taylor, who introduced each of the performances of the evening. Primaries 1-3 were the first to perform with two songs from their Christmas show and featuring two excellent soloists (Wise Men) as well as the combined classes choir. It was then the turn of the audience to sing Hark the Herald Angels before another selection of songs from P1-3, again with soloists in Star Song and some very enthusiastic sheep in Baa to Bethlehem!

Joyce then read a Christmas poem followed by two fiddlers who performed a lovely rendition of Silent Night. Joyce then told the audience a little about this carol which has been translated into over three hundred languages and was sung by soldiers on both sides in the trenches during the first World War. After another audience carol- Away in a manger, Primaries 4,5,6,7 took the stage. With a soloist starting off Walking in a Winter Wonderland before the rest of the classes joined in. A similar treatment was given to O Holy Night as the soloist was gradually joined by the other voices. This beautiful carol was then reprised with the audience singing the chorus – a very special part of the whole concert.

A further carol- See Him Lying on a bed of Straw was followed by the poem- If only every day carried the spirit of Christmas. Then Joy to the World was sung. Maureen Tait gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the Guild before the singing of O Come all ye Faithful.

Tea, biscuits and juice were served and an opportunity to reflect, wonder and enjoy the hard work of the staff of St Andrews School in bringing out the talent and enthusiasm of the young people in the East Mainland of Orkney. And the depth of the Christmas message surely impacted on all.

Julia Archibald



Food Preparation

There has been some discussion recently about catering in churches and a seminar on Food Preparation is to be arranged and will be open to everyone in the congregation, especially but not only for those involved in food preparation. The seminar will be led by staff from the OIC Environmental Health Department. Both the Kirk Session & Board encourage attendance so ensuring that everyone understands what is asked of us, by whom and why. This is not a hands on seminar rather for information and advice.

It was last July that two forms arrived with me one was from OIC Environmental Health, and the second from the Church of Scotland General Trustees both concerning food preparation in and for church purposes – with regard to Food Safety Act 1990, Food Standard Acts 1999 & Church Law. Annually this Congregation provide a Food Tent at East Mainland Show which puts us in the category of **Food Producer** and requires us to register and adhere to the legal standards set down.

The good news is we have already begun the process. In 2013 when East Mainland Congregation catered for the County Show a **Risk Assessment Checklist for Food Handlers** was produced and my thanks to Marlene who made that document available to us.

The Law has not changed but the law is being more rigorously enforced and this will affect all churches - a number of whom have already met with an OIC representative. The responsibility for management of all church events is in the hands of the Trustees. Together members of the Board and Session are the Trustees of East Mainland Parish Church and they are held individually liable for the good governance of Congregational activities. Trustee Liabilities Insurance is there to protect us from unwitting mistakes, however, should we ignore regulations the insurance is nullified.

We know the Food Safety Act 1990 & Food Standard Acts 1999 are being more strictly enforced but until we hear from the Environmental Health speaker we can only guess at what this will mean to us. I am assured by OIC that they do not want to stop our activities. Please come along to the seminar and hear what the OIC speaker has to say. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and take advice from our visitors.

Sunday School

Our Christmas play for the service on Sunday 18th December was called *The Great Manger Mystery*. The animals find a baby lying among the hay; the sheep, camel, donkey, ox and chicken discuss what he's doing there. We also sang *Hush, there's a baby*.

Katrina Tait



Out of the Life

Jean Pirie 7/2/2017

Also Remembered –

Jackie Foulis 10/1/2017

Baptism

Elin Anita Scott 27/11/16



East Mainland Guild

2nd November

President, Joyce Johnston welcomed all and intimated the opening Hymn 185 - Come children, join and sing accompanied by Isobel Clouston. Maureen Tait led in Prayer.

After business was conducted the evening took the form of discussion on the theme 'Joy and Fulfilment'. Netta Brown read from Luke 1 v57-66 telling of the birth of John the Baptist, bringing great joy to his mother, Elizabeth and father, Zechariah.

Joyce then told members about the recent Guild publications (1) On starting up, (2) Planning ahead, (3) Building the Guild and (4) One journey, many roads. There is so much potential for every Guild to grow and develop as it approaches its 130th year, with new members always welcome.

Further discussion included family, friends, hobbies and many other subjects all giving 'Joy and Fulfilment'. To conclude, the Spanish proverb taken from the Theme Pack – 'Unshared Joy is like an unlit candle'.

The welcome cup of tea was served by Mabel and Morag. Hymn 166 - Lord of all hopefulness and the Lord's Prayer brought the evening to a close.

7th December

A welcome to all was extended by Joyce Johnston who chose the opening Hymn 316 – Love came down at Christmas – accompanied by Isobel Clouston. Minutes were read and approved and business items were





dealt with. Margaret Sparkes read a Meditation – 'Send us an Angel that will encourage us to seek a new way of life'. After Hymn 305 – In the bleak midwinter - a favourite Hymn, members, in turn, contributed entertainment for the evening – Readings, Poems, Photographs, a duet 'Mary's Boy Child', a Quiz and Sweets. Festive supper, arranged by Mabel, Margaret and Morag, and kindly gifted by members was greatly enjoyed.

Joyce thanked everyone for the memorable occasion and called on Morag Shearer to lead in Prayer and the meeting ended with the closing Hymn 320 – Joy to the World and Blessing.

Joyce Johnston, President.

BB Report

This year so far, we have entered one competition in Dounby, the indoor 5 a side, which we won. The next competition for this year's Robertson Trophy is the Bible reading and Quiz in February. Each Monday night we are working towards our annual awards. The boys are working hard to gain their badges. Before the end of this session we will have a visit from a member of the Scottish Water Board, who will help the boys understand how we have water and boys and girls in other countries have to travel miles to collect it. The boys will undertake an exercise to show the amount of water we waste compared to children in Africa, who are very careful with the amount they use.

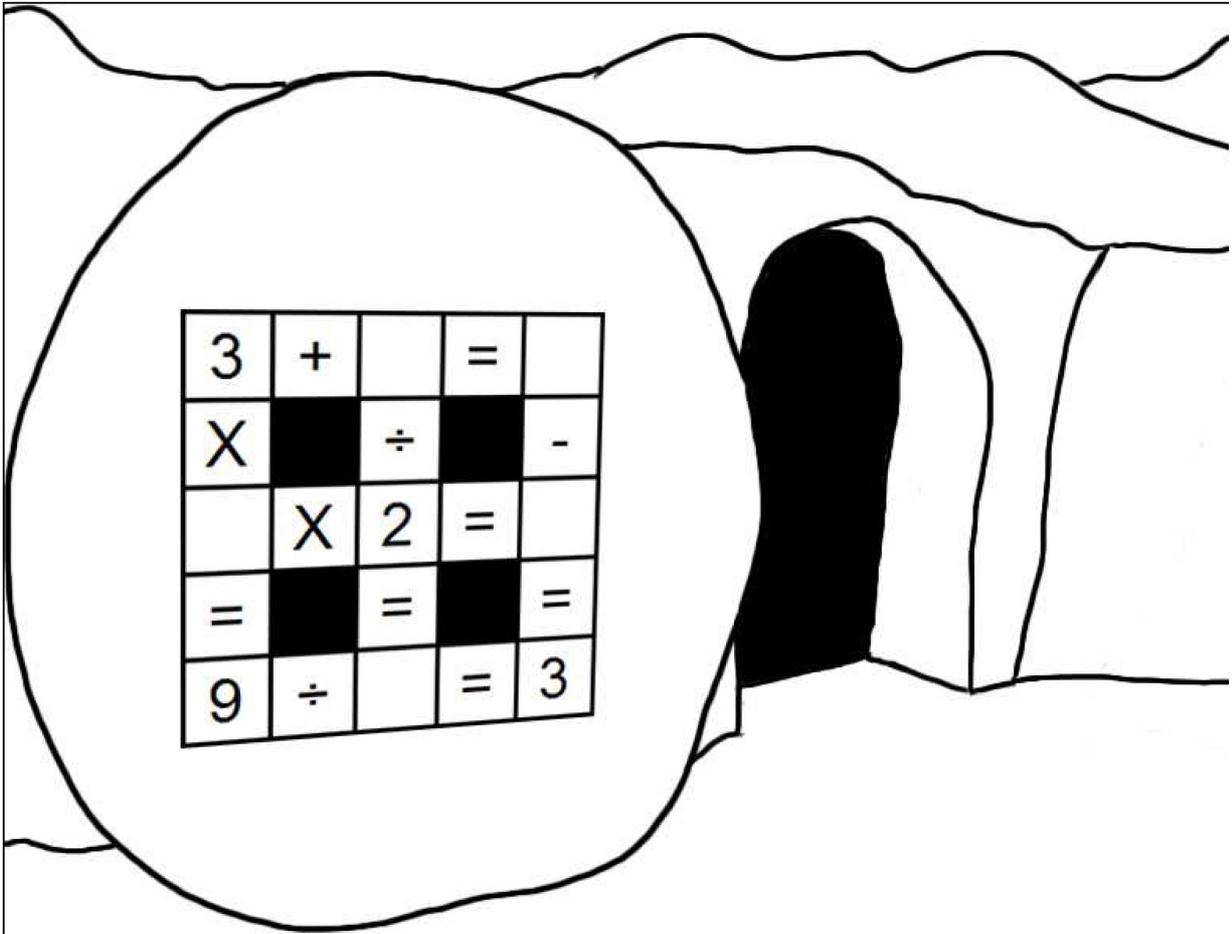
Jack Macintosh





Jesus is Risen!

Complete the sums on the tomb stone...



... then find the hidden message from Luke 24 v 6



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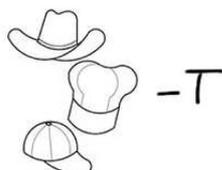
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Month	Date	Time	Event
March	1 st	7:30pm	Guild in the Session Room
	3 rd	7:30pm	World day of Prayer in the East Mainland Church
	5 th	11:00am	Worship with the Sacrament of Baptism and Sunday School + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	12 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	19 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	26 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School followed by the Annual Stated Meeting in the East Mainland Church
April	2 nd	11:00am	Worship + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	5 th	7:30pm	Guild in the Session Room
	9 th	11.00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	13 th	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service in the East Mainland Church
	15 th	TBA	East Mainland Church Fund Raising Event
	16 th	11:00am	Family Easter Service in the East Mainland Church
	23 rd	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	30 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
May	3rd	7:30pm	Guild in the Session Room
	7 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	14 th	11:00am	Worship with the Boys Brigade Prize Giving & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	14 th – 20 th		Christian Aid Door to Door Collection in the East Mainland
	21 st	11:00am	Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	28 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church

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 10th May

Church of Scotland

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