

Church of Scotland

East Mainland Church News

www.eastmainlandchurch.co.uk



December 2019 - February 2020 Issue 50

Ding dong merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing!

The crisp clear voices singing on radio can't help but lift tired spirits in this busy season. Can you believe 2019 is drawing to a close with Christmas just around the corner...and I am so looking forward to Christmas after another demanding year – looking forward to capturing that sense of wonder and peace that only the Christmas Story can bring...

I know the Holiday Season is all so commercialised with TV channels running Christmas films since mid-October and it's easy to feel jaded by the hype but just think for a moment of the joy of Christ's birth, for that joy transcends the bells and whistles of every secular celebration, when on Christmas Eve the world will hush and listen for the angels song...

Our world in all its uncertainty, longs for the certainty of hope that only the Christ Child can bring to earth... Hope for a better, fairer, more caring, peaceful future for our children and grandchildren's generations, especially when there are signs of war and aggression on the TV screen most every night... don't we all long for peace, joy and most of all hope? The gifts only Christ can offer the world...

So, as the Christmas Season unfolds make time for the Christ Child, breath in his gift of peace, let joy flood your heart so that we can look to a New Year full of hope. And our gift to Christ this Christmas Season – to share his message of love with everyone who touches our lives...

Glory to God in heaven

And peace on earth!

Happy Christmas

Wilma



St Andrews School News: Mr Taylor

It seems a while ago since the last newsletter. The summer is in the distance and we are now entering the darker nights. The children have started wearing their reflective jackets and are looking forward to the exciting build towards Christmas.

Scapa 100

As part of the Scapa 100 commemorations in July, the school held a Vintage Tea Party for senior citizens in our community. Wonderful home bakes were donated and excellent entertainment was provided by our children. It was lovely seeing everyone at the school and fantastic total of £703.13 was raised for the RNLI. Thank you to everyone who made this day a great success!

Harvest Assembly

Our Harvest Assembly was held at the end of last term. We held a *Clash for Clan* day here at the school where pupils came dressed in bright or clashing clothes and made a donation. Elspeth Linklater and Karen Scott represented CLAN at the assembly and told us all about the excellent work done by the charity here in Orkney and in Aberdeen. We were delighted to give them £369.22. Well done everyone!

Chess

We have been running a lunch-time chess club at the school for many years. This usually runs from January until the Easter holidays and has been very popular and enjoyed by the pupils. Our volunteers, Ray Knox and Pat Gullion have been running the club at the school for many years, but have now decided to retire. We wish them both all the best for the future!

Handwork

On a Thursday afternoon after October break up until Christmas our pupils take part in Handwork. We are very lucky to have helpers from our local community join us in the school and help our children to learn sewing, knitting, crochet and other crafts. The children really enjoy this time and the chance to learn a variety of basic handwork skills from different people. If you are able to spare two hours on a Thursday afternoon and would like to come and join us, please contact the school office on 861256.

Looking Ahead

Still to come this term, we have the Christmas show, which is always well attended and enjoyed by all, the East Mainland Church Guild Carol Service on 1st December and our Christmas Service at the end of term.



Clash for Clan



Vintage Tea



The Church Sponsored Walk took place on Sunday 25th August with 14 taking part on a circular route in Toab from Melbourne Cottage (several walkers took part at another time). After a misty start the sky cleared and the sun shone. On return a welcome cuppa and eats were provided by Katrina and enjoyed in the garden. The splendid total of £1091 was raised and thanks goes to Katrina for the refreshments, to Gareth for the admin and to all who supported the event.



August meetings

The Sands Hotel was the venue for the annual outing on August 14th. It was a beautiful day for the run over the Barriers and in a relaxed atmosphere we enjoyed a delicious lunch.

On Sunday 25th August members took part in the Re-dedication of the Guild which was held during the morning service. The Guild gave general prayers, the offering prayer and the bible reading taken from Luke.

A report of the activities so far this year was given, expressing thanks for the excellent speakers who come to our meetings and also inviting new members or visitors.

Leadership team member – Maureen Tait

September 4th Meeting

The meeting began at the usual time of 7.30pm with Nancy leading this time. Isobel played for the opening hymn *One more step along the world I go*. Morag gave the reading and Margaret the opening prayer.

A report on the Guild Projects including the Crossreach campaign to tackle loneliness and social exclusion in Scotland was read by Maureen. There followed some items of business and forthcoming events.

Nancy then welcomed Lyn Bartlett, our speaker for the evening, whose work is with Young Carers. She gave an eye opening insight into the world of Carers, their needs and the challenges they face. Included in her busy schedule are visits to schools, to try to help prevent bullying and helping organise trips away, eg, to Hoy and Rousay.

(Guild continued)

The activities tried include bowling, climbing the wall at Picky, a boat trip and attendance at the Young Carers Festival in Edinburgh.

Using a power point presentation Lyn brought out some more points. She also spoke of the Youth Café and how valuable this is for the young people.

This was a most thought provoking talk, followed by considerable questions and discussion.

Joyce gave a very appreciative Vote of Thanks. Nancy thanked the tea ladies and the meeting closed with the singing of hymn 547 *What a friend we have in Jesus*.

October meeting

Morag leading, welcomed everyone, and the opening hymn *Lord we have come to the seashore* was sung and was accompanied by Joyce. Maureen read from Mark 4 v35-41 and Morag followed with prayer.

The annual allocation of funds were discussed and agreed. It was noted that the *Big Sing* was on Sunday evening in the East Church at 7pm.

Our speaker Laurence Tait was welcomed and went on to tell of his 10 years in the Charter Boat business. After seamanship training he was ready to go to sea with *Dawn Star* and later with a bigger boat *Dawn Star II*. Every trip was different and some more unusual than others. However, a request by David Hayman wanting 2 boats to hire for a BBC series found Laurence with a film crew on board and brother Ronald with Mr Hayman in the *Welcome Home*.

The Royal Oak was the main attraction, with families wanting to pay respects, scatter ashes or lay wreaths.

There were sightings of dolphins, seals, and even a sail fish and in the air Peregrine Falcons.

A comprehensive vote of thanks was given by Mabel and tea provided by Mabel and Netta.

The closing hymn *Will your anchor hold* was sung followed by prayer and the Lords Prayer.

Leadership team member – Nancy Omand

Birth of Christ

DOWN

- 1 Who were tending their flocks by night
- 2 Who announced the birth of Christ to the shepherds
- 3 The wise men bowed down to Jesus to _____ him
- 4 Jesus was born in this town
- 6 "The _____ of peace" - one of the titles of Jesus
- 8 mother of Jesus
- 9 Jesus was born in a _____
- 10 The shepherds were in the _____ when they saw an angel

ACROSS

- 1 The wise men followed a _____ that led them to Jesus
- 5 human father of Jesus
- 7 There was no _____ at the inn for Jesus
- 9 one of the gifts of the three wise men
- 11 Jesus could not stay at the _____ because it was full
- 12 and on earth _____, goodwill toward men (Luke 2:14)

Copyright 2001 - Bill Walters Publications - All rights reserved

More puzzles at: <http://biblewordgames.com>



Thank you to all who prepared and donated the 48 Shoeboxes for the 2019 Blytheswood Shoebox Appeal.

Fundraising

The committee met in September to discuss fund raising ideas. There were a few suggestions taken to the Board meeting in October for approval.

It was decided to go ahead with the production of a calendar for 2021. There are a few details yet to be finalised but there will be posters with details displayed shortly. In the meantime everyone is welcome to take and submit photographs of the East Mainland. Before the final pictures are chosen Rev Johnston has suggested that we could have a coffee morning to display all the photos.

Other plans for next year include an evening's entertainment in the Church in the springtime, a basket whist in September and, later on in the year, a quiz.

Out of the Life – John Laughton	20/9/2019
Daisy Aitken	12/10/19

Newsletter Team

Russell Manson has stepped down from compiling the layout of the newsletter, a commitment he has provided since 2010.

We wish to thank Russell for the skill, hard work and advice during that period.

Month	Date	Time	Event
December	1 st	11:00am	Worship + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	1 st	7:00pm	Guild Carol Service with Pupils and Staff from St Andrews School as Guests in the Deerness Community Centre
	4 th	7:30am	Guild Festive Evening in the Session Room
	8 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	15 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	19 th	10:00am	St Andrews School End of Term Christmas Service in the East Mainland Church
	22 nd	11:00am	Worship with Carols for Christmas in the East Mainland Church
	24 th	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Service with Christingles and Carols
	29 th	11:00am	Worship (Remembering Service) in the East Mainland Church
January	5 th	11:00am	Worship + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	12 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	19 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	26 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
February	2 nd	11:00am	Worship + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	9 th	11:00pm	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	16 th	11:00am	Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion in the East Mainland Church
	23 rd	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church

Editorial Team:

Sheila Eunson, Joy Tait and Laurence Tait

Please email articles, using **Times New Roman size 12**, for the next newsletter to laurence.j.tait@btinternet.com by 5th February.

Church of Scotland Congregation no.452360, Scottish Charity No. SCO019770