

East Mainland Manse

Have you heard it said that the Church of Scotland is the only club where non-members get the same benefits as members... I guess that's true enough because as the 'national church' there isn't a square foot of Scotland that can't call on the services of a parish minister if need be. And that's where the confusion can come because some folk imagine the Church of Scotland is government funded – alas no. Parish churches are funded, maintained and cared for by their congregations and just like every other charity it is the generosity of our members and visitors which keep the buildings open and the services of a minister available to everyone, members or not, living within the parish bounds.

You'll hear ministers say, and it is true, that being involved in parish ministry is an immense privilege. A Parish Minister is taken into the heart of a congregation and community when we share in the saddest moments and the most exciting times in folks lives and in the ordinary everyday stuff too.

And from my point of view, sadly, now as the number of ministers decrease and the administrative workload for each minister increases then each minister spends more time on paperwork than in their pastoral ministry and mission. The flip side of this means that the way is opened for the wider participation of all church folk in mission and worship leadership.

The Church of Scotland's Vision Statement says

The vision of The Church of Scotland is to be a church which seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities.

Fortunately, across Orkney, there are folk in each congregation with a calling and talent for reading the lesson, and writing prayers, witnessing their faith and sharing their faith with members and non-members alike.

I remember reading Luke 12:8 in The Message for the first time and being struck by the simplicity of language where Jesus says (I paraphrase further) something like - stand up for me and I'll stand up for you.

We stand up for Jesus when we tell his story and live our lives loving as Jesus loved by reaching out as he did, witnessing our faith and meeting folk where they are and are comfortable, and welcoming folk to our church and into our Christian family when they pass by which means opening our hearts to members and non-members alike as we serve and nurture the communities where we live.

The Lord be with you.

Wilma



St Andrews School News: Mr Taylor

As we begin week four of our last (and maybe busiest) term of the year, writing this newsletter gives me a welcome chance to reflect on some of the things that have been achieved by our pupils and staff here at the school over the last two terms and how lucky we are to be part of this community who are so willing to help out at the school.

We had a fantastic evening at our Spring Musical Variety Show, 'Island Connections' in March. Our children performed alongside ex-pupils and other members of our community – The Chair, some of Kirkwall City Pipe Band, Parents and friends' choir, James Henry and Graham Low. It was a real treat for our children to sing and play with these talented musicians and for us all to hear them together.



The 'B.A.S.H' Orchestra, with musicians from the Hope, Burray and our own school met in the middle, in Burray, to rehearse together weekly for a trial period of 6 weeks. It was a great chance for our children to experience orchestral playing and to build friendships with children from the Hope and Burray. Parents were invited to listen to the Orchestra following their last rehearsal. We hope that, as the children loved it so much, it will become a regular event. Some of our children are attending the instrumental course this week so they will get to meet their friends from across the barriers again.

St Margaret's Hope Golf club members came to the school in March to give our P5 – 7 pupils golf taster sessions and this term, members of the Kirkwall Bowling Club have been helping P6 pupils to try bowling ahead of a bowls festival at the Club next week.

Our Easter service before the holidays was led by Reverend Wilma with a number of parents joining us. We enjoyed singing and poems from the children and Reverend Wilma dressed Jack up in lots of clothes!

We held a competition in the school to design a new school banner. Dorothy Bremner in P4 won with the fabulous drawing above. Dorothy was presented with a framed print of her drawing at our Easter service. The banner is on display in our foyer and on our website.



Primaries 1 and 5 went to Dingieshowe beach during the first week back on a bright and breezy day to ‘bag the bruck’. The pupils, staff and parent helpers gathered 21 bags of rubbish – well done to them!

As part of Magnus 900, over the next few weeks each class will learn about St Magnus’ life, looking particularly at forgiveness. Each class will use this topic for 3 – 4 weeks beginning on the 5th week of term with lots of really valuable learning opportunities.

We’re looking forward to some excellent weather for our sports day on 22nd May – let’s hope that’s not wishful thinking!

Out of the Life

Jack Rendall	21/3/2017
Freddy Johnston	4/4/2017
Cyril Parkes	27/4/2017
David Moss	29/4/2017
Also Remembered – Stewart Peace	19/3/2017
Baptism	Ashton Sinclair Moar 5/3/2017

Fundraising

Church Funds

Sheena’s Easter Chicks	£85
Spring Bazaar	£458.26

African Famine Appeal	£380
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“A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising by buying, donating, making and helping – all your work has been very successful”.

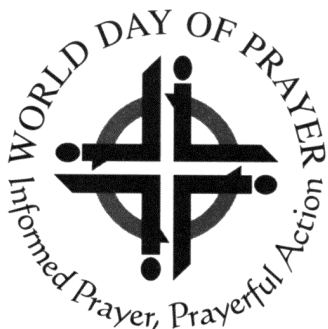
Sunday School

On 26 March the Sunday School held a sale of handmade Easter cards. We raised £49, half of this has been donated to the East Africa Famine Appeal through Christian Aid.

Katrina Tait



World Day of Prayer



The World Day of Prayer on Friday, 3rd March, was written by Christian women of The Philippines on the Theme "Am I being unfair to you" taken from the Gospel according to Matthew Chap 20 v1-16. Jesus told of the landowner giving equal pay to all his hired workers, no matter how many hours work they had done.

Joyce Johnston, Guild President, welcomed everyone and, with the assistance of many readers, led the Service.

A Power-Point presentation by Brian Archibald showed much beautiful scenery and a commentary by Joyce explained the geographical, historical, cultural and religions of the Islands.

A Hymn 'We shall go out with hope of resurrection' (Londonderry Air) accompanied by Ruth Harvey encouraged us to 'go out and tell our stories boldly; tales of love that will not let us go'.

'The day you gave us, Lord, has ended' and Benediction by Rev Wilma Johnston brought the worship to a close.

Donations uplifted were given to Christian Societies and used in Projects in The Philippines.

A welcome cup of tea was served in the Session Room with time to enjoy fellowship.

Joyce Johnston

Guild News



The Guild meeting on 1st March, the AGM, was convened by Joyce Johnston, who welcomed everyone and the opening hymn was sung. After prayer, reports were heard from the Secretary and Treasurer with thanks to all for support, from Joyce. Rev. Wilma Johnston then led the discussion as to how the Guild will operate this year and it was decided to have four volunteers taking turns at leading the meetings. Some Guilds adopt this system now and we will review it shortly. After discussion Wilma agreed to be the contact person.

Final arrangements were made for the World day of Prayer service on the 3rd March and dates of future events were given out.

Margaret, Mabel, Morag and Jean then read a dramatised version of Matthew 20: 1-16

followed by a short account of life in the Philippines by Joyce, both items featuring in the World Day of Prayer service.

As Joyce was standing down as Convener, Maureen on behalf of the Guild, thanked her for all her hard work during the year.

The closing hymn 685 "For everyone born a place at the table" was followed by Joyce closing the meeting in prayer.



The Guild meeting on 5th April began with Hymn 336 “Christ is our Light” and was led by Maureen Tait. The accompanying music was from Isobel, followed by the bible reading at 1John 4 v 7-12. Prayer followed, read by Morag and a Helen Steiner Rice poem “Love one another” was read by Linda.

The project update revealed that some folk in Bolivia had received their solar ovens and were delighted with them. Also the Heart for Art project supporting those with dementia now have their 8th location for meetings.

The guest speakers Rosie Wallace and Helen Cunningham were introduced for their talk on how Church of Scotland ministers are selected. They are part of the National Assessors team who assess candidates for ordained ministry and for readership.

The process starts with candidates attending a Vocations Conference followed by a placement with a Minister and parish in order to gain experience. After that an Assessment Conference consists of extended interviews, practical activities, written work, discussion and a psychological interview. It may be 15 months full time placement before the new minister can be called to their own parish. The process is very detailed and requires a lot of work on the part of the assessors. Both Rosie and Helen agreed that it is a privilege to be involved.

After some questions, Isobel gave the vote of thanks. The meeting closed with “Thine be the Glory” and prayer.

Maureen Tait

Spring Bazaar

On Saturday 29th April, The East Mainland Church held a Spring Bazaar in the King Street Halls in Kirkwall. There were tables filled with a great variety of items for sale, including bric-a-brac, good as new children’s clothes, paintings and pieces of art work, books, jigsaws, toys, CDs, home produce, home bakes and many more. All we needed was a room filled with buyers, and although there was a steady flow of people, the turnout was rather disappointing. We had quite a lot of items to bring back to the East Mainland Church, where it will be stored until we have another sale. Watch this space!!

We have to thank all of you who donated items to sell, as well as the fantastic baking for the baking stall and the home produce. Thanks also go to all those of you who came to support the Church on the day of the sale. We were indebted to the folk who helped to transfer the goods to and fro from the East Mainland to Kirkwall and to those who held the fort at the various stalls.

We raised the fantastic sum of £458.26. Not bad for two hours selling time.



BB Report

As I write this report, we have had our last night for this session, when we ended with a nature walk out to the back of the Ness to see if we could find oystercatchers' or sanderlings' nests with eggs. This year we found only scrapings of new nests.

The boys have competed in all the Robertson Trophy events this year as well as taking part in the Battalion Parade which was in Finstown this year. In all the years I have paraded with the boys, this year was the worst weather. It blew a gale and the rain pelted down, hitting us all in the face as we marched to the Church. I thanked the boys for such a good turnout on such a horrible day.

We had a visit from Mr Alan Taylor, who works for Scottish Water, to give us an idea of some of his experiences working with our water. He showed the boys how the water we drink and use in the home, comes from Kirbister Loch, how it is filtered and cleaned before we use it. We ended that night with a little exercise on comparing how much water we use, to the water used by children in Africa who have to walk miles to get water that we would consider unfit to use.

We will have our Awards Ceremony in the East Mainland Church on Sunday 14th May and on 25th May we will be trying to retain the Groundwater Shield for outdoor 7-a-side football, which we won last year. This event will end session 2016-2017.

Jack McIntosh (Captain)

Clues are on facing page

Solve the puzzle by writing in the name of the fathers of the sons and daughters given in the clues.

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WHO IS JOHN THE BAPTIST?

We are all familiar with the name John the Baptist. However, did you know the Bible gives John the Baptist many other names and descriptions. Look up the verses shown and unscramble the words under the lines to discover other names for John the Baptist. (NIV)

A _____ of one calling in the wilderness. (Luke 3:4)
I C O V E



A horn of _____ (Luke 1:69)
A L A S O T V N I

The prophet _____ (Malachi 4:5)
J E L H A I



A _____ of the Most High. (Luke 1:76)
H T P O P E R



A _____ to the light. (John 1:8)
S N E I S T W

Great in the _____ of the Lord. (Luke 1:15)
I T S G H



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Across

4. Ephraim and Manasseh
5. Rehoboam
7. Hezekiah
9. Moab
11. Nimrod
12. Obed
15. Joshua
16. Esau and Jacob
17. Jesus
18. Isaac and Ishmael
19. Samson
21. Joseph and Benjamin
23. James and John, The sons of thunder

Down

1. David
2. Jonathan, Merab, and Michal
3. Cain and Abel
4. Simeon Peter
6. Samuel
8. John the Baptist
10. Absalom and Solomon
13. Rachel and Leah
14. Shem, Ham, and Japeth
20. Jehoshaphat
22. Jesse



Month	Date	Time	Event
June	4 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	4 th	3 – 6pm	Savoury Buffet Teas in the Deerness Community Centre
	7 th	7:30pm	Guild in the Session Room with guest Kenny Meason (Beachcoming)
	11 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	18 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	25 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
July	2 nd	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School Prize Giving + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	5 th	7:30pm	Guild in the Session Room with guest Linda Lennie (Marie Curie Nursing)
	9 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	9 th	2 – 4pm	Sunday Teas in the East Mainland Church
	15 th		Last day for the return of Isobel's Quiz entries
	16 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	16 th	2 – 4:30pm	Treasure Hunt
	23 rd	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	30 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
August		TBA	Guild Outing
	6 th	11:00am	Worship + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	13 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	20 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	27 th	11:00am	Worship with the Guild Rededication & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	27 th	2:30 for 3pm	Sponsored Walk and Barbecue at the East Mainland Church
September	3 rd	11:00am	Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion & Sunday School + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	6 th	7:30pm	Guild in the Session Room with guest Julie Gibson (Archaeologist for Orkney)

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 August

Church of Scotland

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