



## From the Manse

It is wild and stormy weather but the nights will soon draw out, they always seem to get lighter quickly after Up-Helly-Aa. Our Viking ancestors certainly understood the seasons, sun and moon, the sea, the growing time and the resting time.

We are so fortunate living here to be surrounded by evidence of traditions and ages past – we have on our doorstep what countless visitors from cruise ship and ferry come to see. Those standing stones and ancient mounds that literally leave visitors awestruck. These are ours to see and enjoy whenever... except perhaps in the enthusiastic crush at the height of the season.

And it seems to me that both history and tradition are important to Orkney folk.

I was looking on the KGS website and listened to the music they took to Celtic Connections and I was awestruck at just how brilliant our young musicians are – all the musicians. Of course I know they are good, a highlight of every school assembly at St Andrews Primary is to hear the singers, poets and young musicians.

Musical talent is a gift from God but the young musicians nurtured by teachers and experienced musicians take their God-given gift and with practice grow their talent to make wonderful music for us to enjoy and share in.

Orcadians, Scots generally – it is the Calvinist in us - are very often reticent about coming forward to share those God-given talents. It's certainly not because we are mean-spirited; it is because we are shy about saying there is something we are good at. We hide away until someone else notices us and then the word gets around.

In Orkney there is a wonderful tradition of music which we should all celebrate and encourage and appreciate. ...but all talents whether you play, sing, write, bake biscuits, make marmalade, drive diggers, cut grass, make folk feel welcome or have a bonny smile – your gift, whatever it is, is for sharing for whatever you do is for God's glory. Don't be shy about sharing God's gifts.

blessings

Wilma

### Out of the Life

Also Remembered

May Allan

5/1/19

### Prior Notice

June 3<sup>rd</sup> 3:00 – 6:00pm Savoury Teas and  
Sales Table in the Deerness Community

Centre

May 12<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> Christian Aid Week

Door to Door Collection in the East Mainland



### St Andrews School News: Mr Taylor

We're enjoying the slightly longer days that February brings here at the school, with children now getting on the buses in the daylight again. The cold snap has not brought too much disruption and the children have certainly enjoyed it!

### Blush the Bunny

Before Christmas the Nursery were kindly gifted a rabbit from Glenhaven Mini Lops which the children decided to name "Blush". The Care Inspectorate says "For many of us, animals enhance our quality of life and bring us great joy. They help us connect in different ways and can bring comfort and nurture as well as real, tangible benefits. We feel better physically and emotionally when we spend time with pets and care for animals."

The children in the Nursery would definitely agree!



### Children in Need



Our P3 and P6 classes made a great job of organising fund-raising activities for Children in Need day in November. They raised an amazing £1,077 for this worthwhile cause. As ever, we had excellent support from parents who provided baking and prizes, and our staff here at the school.

### Paired Reading

As part of our literacy programme at St Andrews we have been running a Paired Reading programme designed to develop our children's reading skills. The key aim of this programme is to develop our pupils' confidence and enthusiasm for reading, gain a greater understanding of the text and develop their pace, fluency and expression. We have been assisted in this by parents and members of the local community who have kindly given their time to read with our children.

### Christmas Events

Christmas is always a hectic, but happy time at St Andrews and 2018 was no exception! Our children and staff worked really hard preparing for a variety of the festive events: Members of the school choir and band performed with members of our community at both the tree lighting at Sheila Fleet's Gallery and the East Mainland Church Guild Carol Service.

One of the highlights of our year is always the Christmas show. This year, our P1-3 children, joined by band members





from further up the school, made a brilliant job of 'Mary's Knitting'. We hope that our handwork helpers in particular enjoyed this!

Our primary 7 pupils spread some festive cheer when they went to St Colm's and St Rognvald's house to sing for the residents.

Reverend Wilma led our Christmas Service in the East Mainland Church on the last day of term. We always welcome the chance to get together as a school with parents, friends and other family members to celebrate the Christmas story ahead of the holidays.

### Ba Winners

There was more than the usual excitement about the Ba here when the new school term started back in January, as 3 of the 4 Ba's were won by relatives of our pupils! Steven Spence and Neil Robertson very kindly came in to talk to our children and to answer their questions about the Ba.

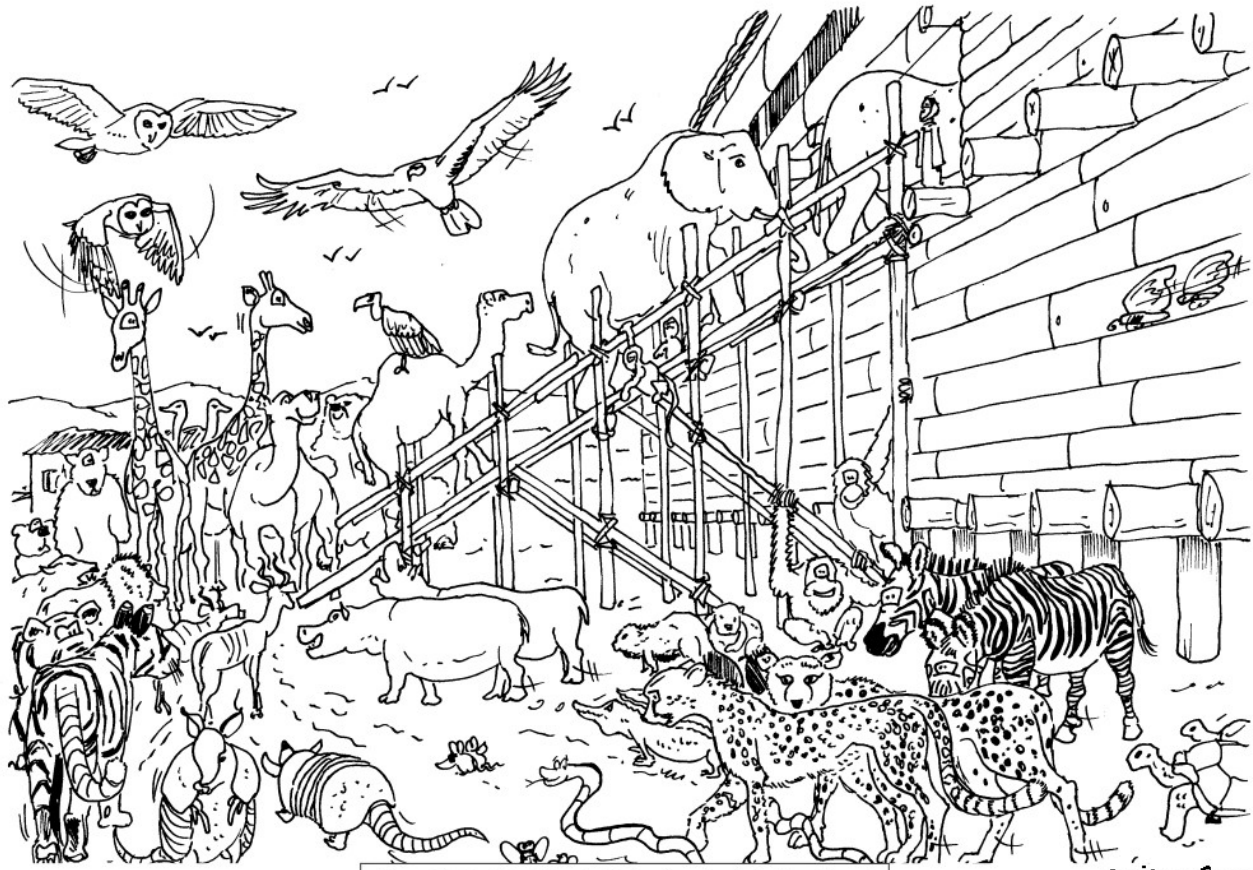
Looking ahead, the whole school will be learning and taking part in events around the 'Scapa 100' project marking the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI and the scuttling of the German Fleet.



### Sunday School

Our play this Christmas was 'The Symbols of Christmas'. A mum tells her kids about the meanings behind the different aspects of Christmas from baubles signifying the blessings we have in our lives, to the ribbons round the parcels signifying the love of God surrounding everyone. We all sang 'This little light of mine' accompanied by Ruth on the guitar and Kaitlyn on the fiddle. Many thanks to the readers who joined us.





Genesis 07 - The Flood - Animals going into Noah's ark



## Guild News

### Carol Service

Holm Community Centre was the venue for the Guild's Carol Service on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and was well attended. Rev. Wilma Johnston began with a game for the children. The teachers and children from St. Andrews Primary School had come to entertain by way of music and song. The beautiful Christmas arrangements on fiddles and the singing of items from the school's Christmas Show, was most enjoyable.

The audience joined in singing some favourite carols e.g. O little town of Bethlehem, Joy to the World and Away in a Manger with Joy Tait on the keyboard.

On behalf of the Guild, Maureen Tait gave a vote of thanks and invited all to stay for refreshments.

Rev. Wilma Johnston closed with prayer leading us in to the beginning of the Advent season.

*Maureen Tait*

### Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018

This evening started with a greatly shortened business meeting, covering items held over from the November meeting, which had been cancelled following the sudden death of Brian Aim, who had been due to take part in the 'Matter of Opinion' programme.

We then enjoyed our annual Festive Evening.

Only eight members were able to come, but we had a wonderfully entertaining and interesting series of items of readings, a game, items from a collection of owls, experiences etc.

We then shared a great spread of foods, brought by members, and tea and finished a most convivial time with devotions.

*Margaret Sparkes*



Jesus prayed for His friends.

Use the code to find some of His words.

○=A	◐=E	◑=I	◒=M	▢=Q	◻=U	◻=Y
●=B	◌=F	◓=J	▣=N	◻=R	◻=V	◼=Z
◕=C	◔=G	◒=K	◻=O	◻=S	◻=W	
◌=D	⊗=H	◌=L	◻=P	◻=T	◻=X	

He said, "

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Month	Date	Time	Event
March	1 <sup>st</sup>	7:30pm	Word Day of Prayer in the East Mainland Church
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	6 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Guild AGM in the Session Room
	10 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	17 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	24 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	31 <sup>st</sup>	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
April	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7:30pm	Guild in the Session Room
	7 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	14 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	18 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service in the East Mainland Church
	21 <sup>st</sup>	11:00am	Family Easter Service in the East Mainland Church
	28 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
May	1 <sup>st</sup>	7:30pm	Guild in the Session Room
	5 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion & Sunday School + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	12 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	12 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup>		Christian Aid Week Door to Door Collection in the East Mainland
	19 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	26 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
June	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3:00pm	Savoury Buffet Teas in Deerness Community Centre 3:00pm - 6:00pm

**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 May

Church of Scotland

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