

Church of Scotland

East Mainland Church News

www.eastmainlandchurch.co.uk



March - May 2020 Issue 51

All You Need is Love....as the song goes

While writing this, I am conscious that the New Year is well underway and, before we know it, we shall be in the month of February.

The shops are reminding us that it will soon be Valentine's Day – when thoughts turn to hearts, flowers and LOVE!

As the shops and supermarkets start to overflow with chocolates, cards, heart-shaped gifts and the inevitable oceans of flowers, I wonder where is the love in all this?

Some years ago, it made me very sad to hear that folk in a certain African country were desperately short of water. Was it because of drought caused by global warming or some sort of other natural disaster, you ask. No! ...it was because most of the water resources of that country were being used for irrigation. The water was being taken to produce cut flowers – roses – to satisfy the demands of the European markets. These same roses were exported and sold in this country, for many times the cost paid to the African growers, and to the cost of the African folk in precious water. And this ... all in the name of LOVEred roses for Valentine's Day?

Is **this** what Jesus meant by putting love first?

Perhaps children have got it right. They tell it how it is, especially when it comes to such important things as love.

No wonder Jesus said that we must become like children –to see things as they really are – clearly and without complication. As six-year-old Amy confided to her daddy when he was kissing her goodnight, "I've been thinking. If people minded their own business and **loved** each other, there wouldn't be all this fighting in the world."

As we move towards Easter, this great theme of love echoes through Lent, Mothering Sunday and Holy Week until Easter Day itself.....and beyond.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.... he put love first, whatever the cost.

Through us, God's love can reach beyond our community and these islands.

Let us try to share this love, in words and acts of compassion and kindness, to bring greater happiness and peace to our world.....today, this Easter and always.

The best of love.....

Val Kitchen.



St Andrews School News: Mr Taylor

Now we are into February it's nice to see that the days are getting longer and that the warmer weather isn't too far away. The children though still enjoy playing outside in the changeable weather.

Children in Need

On Friday 15th November lots of exciting activities took place at the school in aid of BBC's annual 'Children in Need' appeal. As in previous years, the children and staff took part in as many activities as possible and, in doing so, supported this worthwhile cause, as well as having lots of fun!

Children and staff came to school dressed in their pyjamas and for this privilege made a small donation to the appeal. Throughout the day classes had the opportunity to take part in fun games and activities which were organised. Homebakes were also on sale at break time and again after lunch. Thank you to everyone who kindly donated baking.

An amazing total of £1079.09 was raised for this worthwhile cause. Well done everyone!

Christmas Events



The month of December is always packed full of Christmas activities here at the school. The children thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas Disco organised by our Parent Council. The Christmas show is always a highlight of the year and P1-3's performance of 'Baubles' was excellent. Thank you to the school band and all of the staff who worked so hard to make the show happen.

The staff and pupils at the school dressed up for Christmas Jumper Day to raise money for both Save the Children and the Orkney Charitable Trust. A total of £166.38 was split between the two causes. All staff and pupils took part and did a fantastic job of winning an Afternoon Tea at the Sheila Fleet Kirk Gallery & Café. The school has donated this prize to the handwork ladies who generously give up their time on a Thursday afternoon to help the pupils with handwork.

Burns' Day

On Friday, 24th January we were joined by piper, Bill Robertson for our Burns' lunch. P7's Sam and Murray read the Selkirk Grace and the address tae the haggis and the children enjoyed their lunch of haggis, neeps and tatties.



By Eilidh Cook

Australia Day

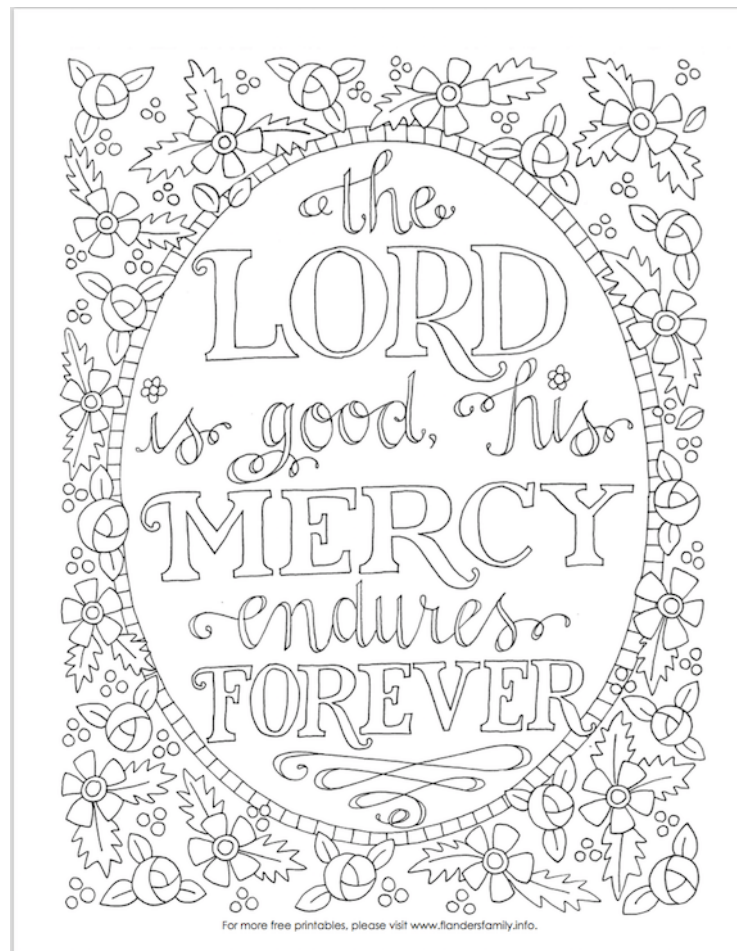
The children learned about the devastating bush fires in Australia on Australia Day on 27th January. Later, they worked in their houses visiting stations to learn about Australian maps, landmarks, animals and art. Donations of £300 were collected which will go to help the Australian people affected.





The Harvest Thanksgiving was held on Sunday 17th November.

Retiral Offerings and Donations for the fruit and vegetables, which had been used for the displays and sold after, raised the sum of £232.50 for the Malawi Appeal. Thanks is due to all who provided the flowers, fruit and vegetables, decorated the Church, organised the goods for sale and gave donations.



East Mainland Church responded to the **Cyclone Idai Appeal** and £272 was raised.



November Meeting

The November meeting saw 7 members of the East Mainland Young Farmers visit, to entertain us.

Margaret opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and then we sang the opening Hymn 229, 'We plough the fields and scatter' followed by a Prayer, Reflection and Minutes of the October meeting.

After several items of Business, the Young Farmers took the floor.

They gave us insights into their Group and then entertained us with a very lively and interesting 'Matter of Opinion' session, showcasing great thoughtfulness and insights with a good deal of humour.

We were also entertained with quizzes and games and a truly superb rendition of the 'Auctioneer's Song' from Graeme Low.

After their programme, Nancy gave an inclusive Vote of Thanks.

We then had a superb and extended supper, during which conversation was very lively. Everyone had a most enjoyable evening.

The meeting closed with the singing of Hymn 231, 'For the fruits of all creation, thanks be to God,' followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Margaret Sparkes

December meeting

The Annual Carol Service was cancelled in 2019, due to unforeseen circumstances.

The Festive evening on the 4th December was a time for readings, singing, and entertainment. This was an early chance to try some carols, not normally sung since last year, accompanied by Isobel. The carols and reading, chosen by Nancy, refreshed our memories of the details of that special time in Bethlehem.

Members brought savoury and sweet food for the lovely Festive tea which was enjoyed by all.

The Guild meets again for the AGM on the 4th March.

Maureen Tait

World Day of Prayer – Friday 6th March at 7:30pm in the East Mainland Church



In Wir Own Wirds

Val Kitchen wis wir visiting preacher on Sunday 22 Dec, and efter welcoman everbody she wis able tae hae a peedie rest, when members o the congregation tellt the Christmas story fae a script prepared by Marlene Mainland

“Aye. He said no tae be faird and this wis a special night fur the whole wirl. A bairn haes been born in the toon o David, and he’s shurly gey important”

Marlene, Hilary and Kathleen read the narrative, and character perts were read by Jack, Laurence, Kenny, Jody and Sam. As the story unfolded, there were a few o the familiar carols, sung by the Linties, choir and congregation. We also heard perts o the story through the eyes o animals- donkey, sheep, coo and camel, which were read by Sam and Jody, wae their realistic animal masks. This all cam taegither in a tableau about the crib and wis rounded off wae the RL Stevenson Christmas prayer.

Twinkl lights, joyous music and confident voices had gaen us all an upliftin Christmas treat, and in happy mood wae geed through fur more treats, hot seasonal drinks wae shortbread and mince pies.

*Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.*



The Animals Speak

“**I**,” said the donkey, all fuzzy and brown
“I carried his mother up hill and down
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town.”

“**I**,” said the sheep with the curly horn
“I gave him my wool for his blanket warm
He wore my coat on Christmas morn.”

“**I**,” said the cow, all white and red
“I gave him my manger for a bed
I gave him my hay to cushion his head.”

“**I** carried a King- but not the child
Through desert storms and winds so wild.”

Photo: Kay Groundwater



*4 generations of one family taking part in our Christmas family service.
Kay, Margy, Elspeth
With Sam and Jody in front.*

M.M

Fundraising

WANTED!

YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

..... of East Mainland to feature in a calendar produced by East Mainland Church to raise funds for the church and for St. Andrew's Primary School.

*Photographs of the East Mainland (5x7ins) can be sent to [Linda Cromarty, Lauriston, Holm](mailto:Linda.Cromarty@AOL.com)
Please enclose SAE if you would like your photo returned).*

OR by email to lmcromarty@aol.com

Please state where the photograph was taken and include your name and address and contact details.

*WE ARE LOOKING FOR **SPONSORS** FOR EACH MONTH FOR A CHARGE OF £40.*



Closing date 30th June 2020

East Mainland Church of Scotland Scottish CharityNo. SCO19770

Savoury Buffet Teas in Deerness Community Centre 3:00pm – 6:00pm Sunday 7th June

Month	Date	Time	Event
March	1 st	11:00am	Worship + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	4 th	7:30pm	Guild AGM in the Session Room
	6 th	7:30pm	World day of Prayer in the East Mainland Church
	8 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	15 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	22 nd	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	29 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
April	1 st	07:30pm	Guild in the Session Room
	5 th	11:00am	Worship + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	9 th	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service in the East Mainland Church
	12 th	11:00am	Family Easter Service 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
May	3 rd	11:00am	Worship + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	6 th	07:30pm	Guild in the Session Room
	10 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	10 th		Christian Aid Week door to door collection in the East Mainland (10 th – 16 th May)
	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
June	7 th	3:00pm	Savoury Buffet Teas in the Deerness Community Centre 3:00pm – 6:00pm

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 May.

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