

Church of Scotland

East Mainland Church News

www.eastmainlandchurch.co.uk

September 2021

Issue 52

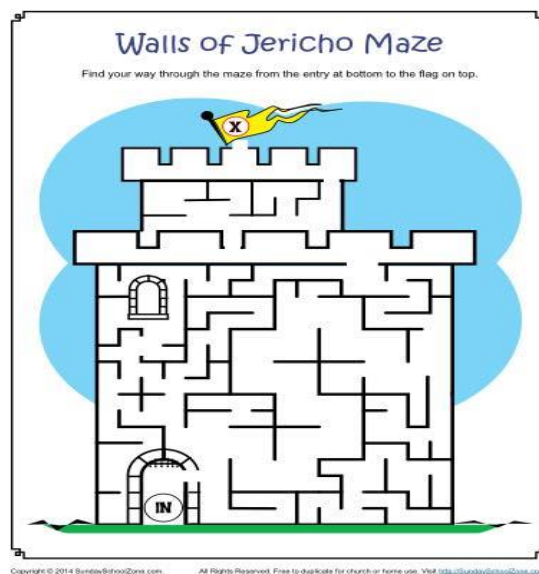


From the Milestone Manse – Looking out of my window this glorious September morning, I can see the neighbouring farmer just finishing combining the barley field opposite the manse. Now, there are just rows of golden stubble, waiting to be baled and stored for winter bedding for the animals. And I am reminded of the bible verse where Jesus says 'there's a large harvest but few workers to gather it in. Pray to the owner that He will send out workers to gather in His harvest' (Luke 10v2) That is exactly what God is wanting from us, his workers, today and of course you know that the 'harvest' is those dear people who don't yet know that Jesus loves them and they haven't experienced the delightful fellowship of being part of a Church community. So here in East Mainland, now that we are all able to be back in the kirk of a Sunday morning, our task is to encourage others to come and join us. We all need to be out there talking about our faith in the community and 'gossiping the gospel.' Did you know that the original, and I think the best, meaning of the word 'gossip' is not talking behind folks' backs and saying unkind things but rather it means to share the very best of news with all and sundry. Queen Elizabeth 1st was the family 'gossip' when her cousin Mary (soon to be Queen of the Scots) had a baby boy. Elizabeth knew that one day her throne and that of Scotland would be joined under her distant cousin, young James, and she broadcast the news far and wide, preparing the people for what was to come. You have had the pleasure this past three months of having Rev Elinor Gordon as your locum minister, and I know Elinor has loved being with you all and has felt very well supported. Sadly she has duties back in her own Church and needs to return south. In the meantime from October onwards, I hope that a team of people will lead worship for you each Sunday. There are Readers in the islands, and your own worship team will be up and running again, and with all of you supporting from the pews, Sunday worship will continue to be a 'good and pleasant experience' for you all. We are hoping to keep the manse furnished in the meantime, so that a future locum minister will have somewhere to stay – that's just in case we don't find your new minister quickly!! And on that note, there has been some interest in the parish of East Mainland, but no firm applicants yet, however if you know of anyone who might like to come and have a look at Orkney and all that it offers with the view to thinking about ministering here, then feel free to invite him/her. We all have a responsibility to be out there looking and asking, don't we? In the meantime, your Nominating Team are doing a grand job and working hard on your behalf. We shall find whoever . . . in the fulness of time and let's just keep on praying for God's choice to appear. Blessings to you all.

Rev Linda Broadley(Interim Moderator)

2.

Rev. Wilma Johnston with gifts which she had been presented with at the Church service on 23rd May following her retiral.



3.

Dear Friends, By the time you read this, I will be very near the end of my time among you and so I want to thank you.

I have turned up at new places so often in my life that the Lord has taken to sending me angels to fulfil his promise that he will watch over my coming and going. And sure enough, I was met at the manse when I arrived and all queries were attended to. Other members of the congregation had cleaned this huge house and had given me a welcome pack to see me through the first few days until I had the chance to shop. The pack included home baking and the first real eggs I had tasted in years. The yolks were a golden yellow. Imagine that. Your preparations showed the Christian care that I so much appreciate.

It has been great to share worship with you and thanks to your organists, scripture readers and choir for their participation and support. Holy Communion, which I have not received since January 2020, was particularly special.

I have been struck by the beauty and peace of this parish and the affect that it has on ministry. I was asked to conduct an interment of ashes at St Ninian's so it took place to the sound and smell of the sea with a herd of cows looking over the wall to see what we were doing. Altogether gentle and lovely.

I undertook my first Covid restricted funeral. The Corse's kindly showed me round their premises and I was able to ask questions. Then I did a recce to find the graveyard so I thought I knew what would happen. However, as we all set off for the burial we didn't turn off where I expected to. We then drove round the streets of Kirkwall and then round the East Mainland. People were gathered in groups all along the route. When I asked later if this was a tradition, I was told 'covid'. You will know about this but I didn't. It is done to give people the opportunity to pay their respects when they couldn't all attend the funeral and I thought it was very imaginative and caring.

I have also conducted my first baptism under Covid regulations. They mean that I am not allowed to hold the baby which is sad for me. However, the father held his daughter over the font and the mother carried her round the church while we sang 'The Lord Bless You And Keep You.' It was beautiful and we all felt blessed.

I have also been reminded of the importance of local radio. A few days after I arrived here, I received a phone call from an old friend. She was holidaying in Kirkwall and heard my name on Radio Orkney and phoned me up. She came to church and commented afterwards that she had been unable to make her offering because she had not seen the offering plate at the door. Concerned, as any minister would be, at the church missing out on an offering, I suggested to the busy office bearers, who have even more responsibilities during a vacancy, that they put the plate in a more obvious position because everybody didn't know where it was. They kindly did so but warned me that if we did that on a windy day our offering would be whipped through the church, out the exiting door and into Scapa Flow in seconds!

My thanks too to those of you who welcomed me into your homes. You and I knew that I am only here for a short time so why should you have me visit you and share your time and space and anything of your lives with me? However, I love the hymn 'Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You, Let Me Be As Christ To You.'

The second verse goes;
*We are pilgrims on a journey
 And companions on the road;
 We are here to help each other
 Walk the mile and bear the load.*

So, although we have only been companions on the road for a short time, I believe that Christians meeting, however briefly, is of significance and I am grateful for the life's experiences we shared.

That's how Orkney has been to me; great people in a beautiful landscape. May God continue to bless you and may you find a new minister soon.

Yours, Elinor Gordon

An Interview With The Lord.

I said "Lord, I would like to interview you, if you have some time". God smiled.

"My time is eternity. What questions do you have in mind for me?"

"What surprises you most about humankind?"

"That they get bored with childhood. They rush to grow up and then long to be children again.

That they lose their health to make money and then lose their money to restore their health. That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live in neither the present nor the future.

That they live as if they will never die and die as if they had never lived."

God's hand took mine and we were silent for a while.

And then I asked: "As a parent, what are some of life's lessons you want your children to learn?"

"To learn they cannot make anyone love them. What they can do is let themselves be loved.

To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others.

To learn that a rich person is not one who has the most, but is one who needs the least.

To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in people we love, and it takes many years to heal them.

To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness.

To learn that there are persons who love them dearly, but simply do not know how to express or show their feelings.

To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it differently.

To learn that it is not always enough that they be forgiven by others. But that they must forgive themselves.

And to learn that I am here always.

We Remember	George Skea	2/4/20	Allison Tait	6/4/20
	Maisie Rendall	18/5/20	Kathleen Guthrie	28/6/20
	Iris McLennan	25/8/20	Ian Pottinger	24/9/20
	Mervin Lennie	28/11/20	Mima Bews	25/2/21
	Billy Gorn	22/7/21		

Church Services The following Church services took place with Coronavirus requirements of distancing, sanitising, face coverings and limited singing in place. We are very grateful to Rev. Linda Broadley and Mrs Val Kitchen for conducting them.

Christmas Eve 2020
Easter Sunday 2021
Pentecost May 2021

Since Sunday 4th July we have been delighted to have Rev. Elinor Gordon as our locum minister and the return to regular Sunday worship. The final service of her time with us will be on 26th September when she will conduct our Harvest Thanksgiving. Her presence and ministry in our church parish has been much appreciated.

Harvest Thanksgiving will be held on Sunday 26th September at 11:00am. A collection for Christian Aid will take place with envelopes being distributed with our Newsletter. If desired these can be returned to the Church on each of the Sundays from 26th September until 30th October. Also envelopes can be returned to your church elder or put through the letterbox in the East Mainland Church side door. Produce used in the Church display will be sold off after the service.

Services are due to continue each Sunday at 11:00am with pulpit supply being arranged.

Further details will be posted on the Church website on www.eastmainlandchurch.co.uk (What's On)

Info Update

The new telephone number for the **Manse** is **01856781437**.

Gracie Laughton and Kathleen Gaudie are the new **Church Treasurers**. They have a new email address for contact - treasurertoemc@gmx.com .

Fundraising for Church Funds

A well supported **sponsored walk** took place on Sunday 15th August and, despite some earlier rain on the day, all got around dry. There is still a chance to support this, up until the end of October, by giving a donation to any participant.

Isobel Clouston has once again challenged us with a **quiz**. You will have to be quick as entries must be back to her before 25th September. Copies are available at the church (£1).

East Mainland Church is in the **Blue Door** starting on 12th September 2022. Please start collecting goods for this and storage space is available at the church if required.



BOOKS OF THE BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Reveal the hidden books among the letters below

R	O	M	A	N	S	D	P	Q	L	P	E	P	H	E	S	I	A	N	S	X	F	X
Z	E	P	H	A	N	I	A	H	G	S	Z	X	J	T	S	E	H	J	O	N	A	H
U	S	P	P	V	S	K	W	Z	I	A	G	A	D	G	U	F	Z	C	W	N	H	Z
D	A	N	I	E	L	R	M	J	D	L	Q	N	A	J	T	R	G	R	J	O	O	S
R	Q	Q	A	G	Y	A	E	S	X	M	I	L	I	Z	I	V	X	U	A	M	B	W
U	M	A	K	I	L	M	B	B	Y	V	A	P	R	K	T	Q	D	D	M	O	A	E
I	A	G	G	A	H	S	O	N	M	T	Y	H	P	W	C	E	E	I	G	L	D	R
O	Y	D	C	S	A	T	I	B	I	U	U	A	M	I	Q	W	A	Z	M	O	I	B
P	E	H	G	M	E	T	N	A	O	B	N	I	Y	L	A	S	E	X	B	S	A	E
X	I	U	U	X	M	L	N	I	X	R	C	M	H	A	D	N	T	S	S	F	H	H
K	V	E	T	G	N	S	C	I	R	A	C	E	T	M	O	U	S	C	N	O	C	M
F	L	J	A	E	B	O	S	I	H	O	K	H	O	E	G	S	U	A	A	G	I	Z
P	E	T	E	R	R	A	M	E	N	Y	C	E	M	N	M	H	U	U	I	N	O	S
Y	S	Z	Z	R	I	O	A	E	S	O	H	N	I	T	J	O	U	D	N	O	F	U
U	N	E	I	A	E	I	N	N	L	T	R	T	A	J	O	E	L	O	S	N	C	
J	A	C	H	B	J	M	R	O	J	I	H	H	M	T	F	Z	F	B	L	X	M	I
L	I	H	M	C	Q	O	I	U	M	S	H	E	C	I	E	L	O	N	A	W	E	T
E	S	A	W	U	V	L	S	A	X	Y	S	P	R	O	N	J	J	Y	S	J	J	I
I	S	R	C	L	H	W	A	H	H	S	I	S	E	N	E	G	S	B	S	O	U	V
K	O	I	H	A	B	A	K	K	U	K	B	N	L	S	L	T	O	G	E	H	D	E
E	L	A	J	T	U	W	N	B	I	A	M	X	J	U	A	O	M	K	H	N	G	L
Z	O	H	R	E	V	E	L	A	T	I	O	N	A	W	K	M	A	T	T	H	E	W
E	C	C	L	E	S	I	A	S	T	E	S	W	S	B	R	E	V	O	R	P	S	J

Words Up Puzzles © 2017 WordsUp.co.uk

ACTS	EXODUS	JAMES	LUKE	PROVERBS
AMOS	EZEKIEL	JEREMIAH	MALACHI	PSALM
CHRONICLES	ESTHER	JOB	MARK	REVELATION
COLOSSIANS	GALATIANS	JOEL	MATTHEW	ROMANS
CORINTHIANS	GENESIS	JOHN	MICAH	RUTH
DANIEL	HABAKUK	JONAH	NABIAH	SAMUEL
DEUTERONOMY	HAGGAI	JOSHUA	NACHSHAN	SONG OF SOLOMON
ECCLESIASTES	HEBREWS	JUDITH	NUMBERS	TWISSALOMON
EPHESIANS	HOSEA	JUDGES	OBADIAH	TIMOTHY
ESTHER	ISAIAH	ISAACS	PETER	TITUS
		LAMENTATIONS	PHILEMON	ZACHARIAH
		LEVITICUS	PHILIPPIANS	ZEPHANIAH

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