

**Cockpen & Carrington
w Lasswade & Rosewell Parish Church**

Newsletter August 2020

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; ... The Lord is the stronghold of my life; ..." – Psalm 27:1

Dear Everyone, Welcome to our August Newsletter and as mentioned last month our focus this time is on some of the activities church members and those linked with the church have been involved in over recent months offering care and encouragement in our communities while life has been feeling pretty challenging for most of us.



I'd love for you to find a message of hope in this newsletter through hearing about the many things that have been happening. The underlying sense of care that has been and is being expressed in these different ways is wonderful. They each offer a sense that little things can make such a difference and bring real encouragement to ourselves and others. They bring hope as we journey through this ongoing season of change and uncertainty we are in. These little pictures of the flowers newly planted so kindly by Liz and Bill MacDonald along the side of Cockpen Church Hall capture this beautifully. It's been a lot of work to do but this little area of flowers offer such joy and hope in the brightness of their colours to all who pass by, and they're a delight also to the bees and butterflies that are now feeding there!. The phrases above from Psalm 27 are short and simple, too, and yet as we say them and repeat them and hold onto them they bring us such hope. In amongst times of struggle and uncertainty, we are reassured that our trust in Jesus remains forever sure and certain.



Rosewell Cares Food Share – Kristen Hunter

The Rosewell Cares Food Share closed its doors at the end of July. We would like to extend our greatest gratitude and thanks for the use of the church hall to help carry out our mission of ensuring no family went without during the uncertain times at the peak of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

It was great to see the community spring to action when we needed it in March and help one another through the many acts of kindness that were shown throughout Rosewell. It has been heart-warming to see such great community spirit and resilience.

Rosewell Cares managed to provide food parcels for 26 Rosewell families throughout the course of the food share and we also put together 12 end of term 'Food and Summer essentials Boxes' to families within the school hub which is fantastic!

Although we have closed our doors, we will keep the funds until the furlough scheme ends as families may then require assistance again and we want to be here to help at this time. We have donated any remaining food from the hall to the Trussel Trust in Gorebridge for them to continue to feed our community with. The food share has closed but Rosewell Cares is firmly embedded into this fabulous community and we will continue to help where we can. We can decide as a community where the leftover funds should go later in the year.

A huge thank you everyone for all the donations we received and for all the help from the volunteers!

Ezekiel 1:28: *"Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord."*



Well ... to corrupt the words of Dickens *'it has been the strangest of times'*. I was furloughed from my post at the beginning of the lockdown and returned to work at

the beginning of August. It was a hard time because I could see things that I wanted to do but have had to be patient.

However, I needed an outlet for my creative juices and so I started a Youtube Channel and decided to say something that might encourage and support or just raise a smile. The content was my usual brand of humour but with a serious point to be made and a prayer at the end of each Snippet. I'm glad people found them helpful in the days of lockdown.



I think we have all found new ways to communicate with each other over these last few months. I have found a new medium that I can use to encourage and support people but also begin to express more of what being a Christian means for me and what the life, death and resurrection of Jesus means for the world. So I am happy to be back at work alongside people suggesting they wear swimming noodles on their heads to help with social distancing!

We had a very successful *Coffee Stop* for the first three days back at school. It was lovely to see some of our regulars return and also to get to know some new folks whose children were just beginning Primary 1.

I have created a *Stay a While Bench* with a box of postcards - some just pictures, some with quotes and words to think about. People are encouraged to take a postcard away but also to sit a while and think about the words on the card or to take in the scenery around about them.

So keeping all the constraints, rules and regulations I am moving forward looking for new ways to make connections, build community and share faith.

As I would finish each Snippet – ***Stay Well, Stay safe, Stay Connected***

Blessings to you and yours, *Elisabeth*

Scrubs and Facemasks

Helen Renton who has been shielding, stepped up to the mark and seeing the requests for people to make scrubs and masks for the frontline workers, got to work with her sewing machine. Helen put a call out to her many friends for donations of duvet covers, sheets and curtains to make the scrubs and her friends did not let her down. After receiving the donations she produced a great variety of scrubs which were donated to staff at our local Health Centre. With the scraps left over Helen has made countless masks for the community and members of our congregation. Many of us will now no doubt be wearing a face mask that used to be part of our duvet cover! Well done Helen.

Pop up Play

Amy Milligan who organises and runs the Pop up Play group in Cockpen Church Hall has been helping to support the young families in the community throughout the epidemic. Clothes, shoes, baby items, bedding and toys to name but a few, have been delivered to many families in crisis over this time and donations to this cause have been received by a great number of people. Without this service supported by Amy and the help of social media many families would have greatly suffered during this period.

Knitted Hearts

A number of ladies knitted pairs of small pocket-sized hearts. These were originally used by the ICU units in hospitals, when a patient who was separated from their loved ones was given one heart and their loved one given the other, to let them feel closer and know that they were in each other's thoughts while separated. As time went on this practice was adopted by many care homes when residents were unable to receive visitors.

I hope you find these stories really uplifting. Until next time, every blessing - *Lorna, your minister.*