



Lasswade & Rosewell Parish Church

Harvest Newsletter 2020



“Be still, and know that I am God!” – Psalm 46:10a

While I was away in the summer, I had a wonderful re-visit to Inverewe Gardens, the National Trust property near Poolewe in the north west. It was a beautiful morning when I went with sun and blue sky and just a gentle breeze blowing, sufficient to keep the midgies away! There were restrictions in place at the garden this year in order to maintain a safe one-way system, and we all went round in a very large anti-clockwise loop. Thankfully it wasn't too busy and so there was plenty of space to enjoy the different sections of the trail. Quite quickly you are taken up into the beautiful area at the top of the garden where the tall pine, larch and eucalyptus trees grow, furnished with an understory of rhododendrons and other exotic shrubs from around the world, as well as carpets of heather, bilberry and luscious green moss beneath.

The tranquillity in these upper reaches of the garden, standing below the high majestic canopy of the trees was tangible and enveloping. The only sound was the quiet whisper of the breeze blowing through the branches. It was a moment to be still and just be. Into the moment came the verse above: “Be still, and know that I am God!” It is such an affirming verse for this ongoing season of Covid-19 with all its ups and downs, its advances and retreats. What remains shiningly constant throughout is the assurance of God's abiding faithfulness and presence, his sovereign purpose, and in these we can find eternal peace and hope.

Church Opening

All being well, we will look forward to opening Rosewell Church for worship again on Sunday 18th October at 10.00 am.

If you would like to attend the service and future services, it will be necessary to book. Booking is required now because we are restricted to 25 people in the church, which includes those leading worship and the welcome team.

During the service itself, there will be no singing and those attending are required to wear face coverings. Hand sanitiser will be set out for use as you arrive and you will also be guided to observe 2m social distancing while entering and leaving the church and in being seated for the service. This may feel a bit strange at first but it is hoped that people will quickly feel at home and will enjoy sharing an uplifting time of worship together.



In order to help people settle in again, all services for the time being will be held each Sunday at Rosewell Church.

How to book

Bookings will open from 12 noon on the Thursday until 12 noon on the Saturday before a service and you can book by calling or texting — 07445 139138. **Please indicate your name, your telephone number and the number of people** you would like to book from your household.

If you hear nothing back please assume that you have a place booked as **we will only contact you if a place is not available**. If we contact you to advise there isn't a place available, we will offer you a place for the following Sunday.

In order to support the NHS “Test and Protect” contact tracing system, information about your attendance will be held for a period of 21 days and then destroyed.

Online Services

The online services on YouTube will continue and can be viewed at a time that suits you here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiwgEoiSjvt56YbCL6Sok8w>.

Recordings of the Reflection for each Sunday will also continue to be available on this number: 0131 357 6001.



Elisabeth Spence also has wonderful little thoughts and encouragements to enjoy regularly on the 'Hopefield Connections' Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Hopefield-Connections-355988204778262/>.

Here also is advance notice of a service coming up that Elisabeth is arranging on Zoom:

Pet & Animal Blessing - Sunday 25th October at 2pm on Zoom
Animals bring us many blessings so let's give thanks for them!

Come along with your pet for a time to share what we love about our animals. Meet lots of different pets from ferrets to rats to dogs to horses to who knows what! Meet Cullen the Beagle who is a Therapet helping people. **Zoom Details: 830 6980 3172; Password – 831087.**

Fund Raising

Along with this Newsletter you will also receive a tube of Smarties this time. "What excitement!", I hear you cry. This is part of a fund raising venture for our church. You get to eat the Smarties and then the hope will be that each person will gradually fill up their Smartie tube with either 20p or £1 coins when you have them. Once the tube is full, your elder will arrange a time to be back to pick it up. Thank you very much indeed in advance for supporting the church in this way.

Harvest Donations

Even though we are not all able to gather at church just now, it would still be super if we can gather Harvest donations as usual. This year we will support the local foodbank in Bonnyrigg which has been helping families since the end of March. They will be very happy to receive any non-perishable food items and toiletries, such as deodorants, toothpaste, mouthwash and shower and shaving gels.

Donations of items can be made at Rosewell Hall on Saturday 17th October from 10.30 am to 12.00 pm, either just outside the hall, weather permitting, or just inside the hall. Thank you in advance again for supporting this.

Macmillan Cancer Support Afternoon Teas

Very grateful thanks are expressed to everyone who made these amazing afternoon teas possible. Tremendous organisation and baking went into the event, together with those making deliveries, and so many who put in their requests and gave generous donations. An amazing £865 was raised altogether, which is absolutely wonderful! Having so sadly lost Agnes Anderson earlier this year, who annually put such effort into supporting Macmillan with her coffee morning at home, it is truly marvellous to have raised such a sum in her memory this year. Thank you again!



Mid-Week Prayer Time and Bible Study Group

The Mid-Week Prayer Time began again on Wednesday 23rd September from 11.30 am – 12.30 pm at Cockpen & Carrington Church. It will take place each week and will alternate in being held at either Cockpen & Carrington Church or Lasswade Church. If you haven't been before but would like to attend, please give the minister a call on 0131 663 6392.

The monthly Bible Study also began again on Tuesday 29th September from 8.00 pm – 9.00 pm on Zoom. We began a series exploring the apostle Paul's 'Letter to the Ephesians' which has some wonderful passages in it to look at together. Again if you would like to join this group, please contact the minister who will send you a Zoom invite.

Until next time, do stay safe and well and every blessing - *Lorna, your minister.*