



LIFE AT LOUDOUN

**The Spring 2017 newsletter of Loudoun
Church of Scotland Newmilns**

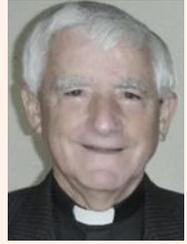


Easter eggs at Christmas



Dear Friends at Loudoun,

Was I seeing things? A second look confirmed that I wasn't. A few days after Christmas I did a double-take when I saw Easter Eggs on a shop shelf. After I got over the shock I began to think that perhaps the Easter Eggs weren't so out of place after all. The Christmas tree lights had barely cooled down and we were beginning to think about the approach to Holy Week and Easter.



The Christmas message was given by the angel to the Shepherds

‘a Saviour has been born to you, He is Christ the Lord.’ (Luke 2:11)

The message of Easter is given to us by Paul when he tells us that Jesus was

‘made in human likeness... in appearance as a man... and became obedient to death— even death on a Cross.’ (Philippians 2:7, 8)

As He was born in a stable in Bethlehem so 33 years later He was crucified at Calvary. So from that perspective the Easter Eggs just after Christmas are not so premature after all but are reminding us of the reason for which Christ came to earth.

At the start of March this year we will begin what is referred to as the Christian season of Lent. In this season we follow Jesus on the road to Jerusalem - a hard road - a painful road but a journey that He has to make and was willing to take for us. For Jesus on this road there are no "U" turns, it is One Way as He enters the city on Palm Sunday on that donkey in all humility, and faces the inevitability of the events of what we call Holy Week, culminating in the sacrifice of Good Friday to be followed by the victory of the Easter Day.

I'd like to invite you to follow Jesus on that journey as we join in Worship each Sunday, and in the Services in Holy Week and at Easter. You will find the times in this Newsletter. In that way you will be able to make the link between Christmas and Easter realising the Love of God that came down at Christmas and the Love that God has for us in giving of His One and only Son for our Salvation.

May God be with you as you follow on that journey,

Your Friend and Locum Minister, Andrew

Tel: 01292 676008

During Andrew's leave of absence in March all services will continue as

The Flower Class has become part of our life in Loudoun over the last two years. We meet on the first Monday of the month at 7.30 in the upper hall. Initially the idea of class was to teach flower arranging in order to share in the weekly flower ministry for worship on Sundays.



The 13 ladies who attend regularly have learned a lot and have provided some very impressive displays in the sanctuary for events such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

Friendship and Christian Fellowship are a most important aspect of the class and we have become a very close group of friends.

The Flower Ministry, now supported by these ladies, continues to flourish and I am truly grateful for the support of the congregation in the form of financial support and their willingness to visit the re-



Mission In January we had the very great pleasure of hosting our presbytery prayer partner Joel Githinji for a day. During his whistle stop tour of Scotland Joel spoke at our mid-week fellowship meeting, Coffee Pot and to the Primary 7 pupils at Newmilns Primary School.

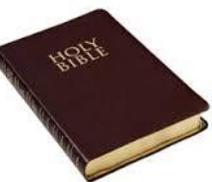
Joel spoke eloquently about his work in Nepal with HIV/AIDS patients, their families and churches, working to increase education, reduce stigma and develop a Christian approach to this devastating illness. Pray for Joel and his family as they move into a new



Journeys with God Around 12 people meet weekly for lunch followed by Bible study,

prayer and discussion, on a Monday at midday, in the church hall. The group have been enjoying and learning from their studies in the life of the Old Testament King David. One member said 'the best thing about this group is

that you can ask any question without feeling silly, we all want to



Members

On February 19th we were delighted to share with the friends and families of Ailsa and Alan Smith in witnessing the baptism of their daughter Anna Elizabeth. Pray for this young family.

Sadly one member, Thomas Stewart of Riverbank Street, has passed away and we send our thoughts and prayers

Did You Know?

TEAR FUND
*are providing
a series of*



*reflections
for Lent .*

You can sign up at

TEARFUND.ORG/LENT

Easter Services at

Loudoun Church

Palm Sunday April 9th

Palm Sunday services at 11am
and 6.30pm

Maundy Thursday April 13th

Maundy Thursday Service

Good Friday April 14th

7.30pm

Meditation 12.30 followed by
lunch

Holy Communion 7.30pm

Easter Sunday April 16th

Family service 11am,

Everyone is most welcome to all meetings

Information can also be found in the Kilmarnock Standard, on our church Face book page Loudoun Church, on Twitter @loudounpromises and on the website: www.loudounchurch.org