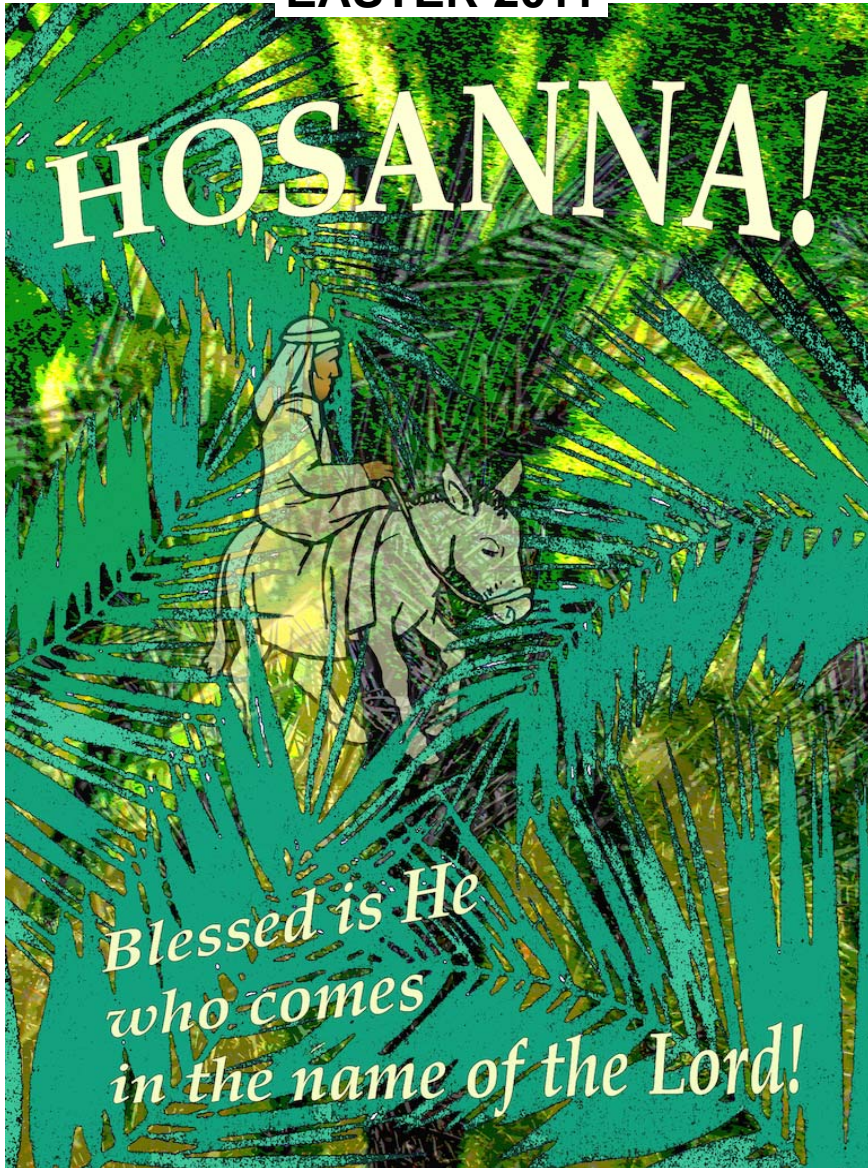


*Schaw Kirk*  
DRONGAN & RANKINSTON



EASTER 2011

HOSANNA!



*Blessed is He  
who comes  
in the name of the Lord!*



I was extremely upset recently, to read the story of a lady who had been banned from wearing her cross at work in case it offended people of other faiths. This just seems to me to be yet

another example of Political correctness gone mad.

For many the cross has become a mere trinket, a thing of gold or silver to hang around the neck. But in reality, the cross was a truly terrible thing, it was a ghastly and degrading form of execution .

But the pain of the cross would have been bad enough had Jesus been guilty of a crime. Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent and he set Barabbas free with the words “I wash my hands of this.”

I remember watching a short film called Barabbas, It was a film producer’s idea of what may have happened to Barabbas after he was freed. In the film Barabbas returned to his men, his gang, and when he saw the gang of thieves and cut throats he realised that he could not return to his old ways again,

After being confronted with Jesus he could never again take up the life of violence, robbery and murder and so Barabbas left his gang and on the evening of good Friday he returned to a deserted hillside with three empty crosses, he stood and looked at the crosses and the film finished with these words

*“He took my place, he died instead of me, he died for me”*

The advertisement features a green silhouette of a squirrel on the left. To its right, the text 'Hope Homes Scotland' is displayed in a green, sans-serif font. Below this, the phone number 'Tel: 01292 590442' and the website 'www.hopehomes.co.uk' are written in a white, bold, sans-serif font. The background of the advertisement is a photograph of a grassy field under a blue sky.

This film may be a work of Fiction, but the story of the cross is the story of the divine stand in, an exchange of roles, one man nailed to another persons cross .

The truth of Easter is that we are all called Barabbas.

This Easter time we all need to return to the cross alone in the dusk, to the place where he was crucified and we all need to look up again at the empty cross and whisper those words ourselves.

He died in my place, instead of me, he died for me.

Have a Lovely Easter time.

*Rer Dave Whiteman*



The Choir we are looking forward to the Easter

Services, details can be found on the back page of this issue, and are busy putting in a little extra practice. We hope everybody enjoys the services and we wish everyone a Happy Easter.

*Christabel Poole*



The Six O'Clock group recently held a Fashion Show in the Church and raised £60 to help towards our Summer Trip.

At the end of last year we had asked for donations for "The Back Pack Appeal" in conjunction with Mary's Meals - I am pleased to report that we managed to fill 35 back-packs and they will shortly be going to Mary's Meals who will distribute them - a huge thank you to all who donated and give monetary donations towards this appeal. We have now finished for the summer but our trip will be on Sat 6th June to Mabie Farm Park in Dumfries - lets hope we get a sunny day!

We look forward to seeing old and new Girls or boys aged 10-14 once the schools, and our new session, start in August. *Eleanor & Donna*



## Thinking Day Service 20th February 2011

The 1st Dronan Company of the Scouts gathered at Church on Sunday 20th February to commemorate the birthday of the founder of the Scouts, Robert Baden-Powell

The service was part of the Scouts World Thinking Day in which they are encouraged to think and act on a particular issue.

*The Colour Party comprised :-  
Ross Marr, Scott Rowan,  
Graeme Rankine and Steven Rowan*



## Happy Hens

The Happy Hens held their A.G.M. recently and, due to decreasing numbers within the group, a change should be made on the operational days/times of meeting. It was agreed they would cancel the Monday morning meetings and would therefore only operate on a Wednesday - 9.45am - 11.15am. (as before)

Price changes from £1.00 per session per family to £1.50, and Membership Fee from £2.00 to £2.50. were also agreed.

They earnestly wish to attract new members and have posters circulating around the village with that in mind.



## Maundy Thursday – time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before his death: the washing of his own disciples' feet.

(see John 13) Jesus washed his disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis' The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion. Jesus and his close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as he, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world.

John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.



## Daring to dream the impossible

Christian Aid partner Soppexcca (pronounced so-pecks-ka) is an organisation with a vision. It is passionately committed to helping poor Nicaraguan coffee farmers to beat poverty.

Ten years ago, when Soppexcca was established, this seemed impossible. But now Soppexcca is a thriving collective of small cooperatives which helps farmers produce good-quality coffee, market it and put funds back into their own communities. It works with communities to understand their needs and empowers them to make their own visions a reality. Gustavo Adolfo Talavera, an illiterate coffee farmer, had few prospects until Soppexcca gave him a loan, allowing him to expand his farm and build a small and environmentally sound processing plant. He had a dream of his children being able to read and write, and be educated.

His dream became a reality when Soppexcca helped members of the community get enough resources together, and a group of parents built a school themselves.

Ten years ago, education would have seemed an impossible dream for Gustavo. But Soppexcca is enabling his community to dream dreams – and then to do what

seems to be impossible. The Christian life sets us within a story that speaks of transformation where it seems impossible; where life is brought to the world. And the gospel stories are clear that life is about more than just survival.

The life that Jesus speaks of is abundant life, rich with possibility and hope and promise. For people in Gustavo's community, it's about education and prospects. Cooperative living is about this abundant life. It's about seeing something achievable beyond oneself and working together to make life better for everyone. Fátima Ismael, Soppexcca's director, says: 'We're not just about bread for today, but also for tomorrow. But we don't just want bread, we want bread and honey and milk.' People like Fátima and Gustavo are seeing the bigger picture – going beyond what seems initially achievable and working together to make it a reality.

The good news is that we can be a part of this bigger picture too. When we give our time, money

and energy in Christian Aid Week, we are looking beyond ourselves and enabling others to do what seems impossible. This bigger picture is the world as it could look if we allowed the kingdom of God to be a reality, if we really believed in abundant life for all. It's the world that Jesus showed us in his life and ministry: a world where we stop living for ourselves and start living for others, a world where we don't put limits on love and justice, a world where the concept of our neighbour is startlingly redefined.

It's a bigger world and it's an unsettling world. But it's a world that allows for transformation in ways that we may never have imagined, to dream those dreams and to do what people tell us is impossible. for people like Gustavo. But it's also a world that offers huge transformation to ourselves and to our churches, as we place ourselves in the frame of a bigger picture where the power of love has no limits.



**Thanks to funds from Christian Aid partner Soppexcca, Gustavo's community has been able to build a school, which he proudly shows here**

Christian Aid Week is a time to celebrate transformation, and an opportunity to put ourselves in the frame of God's kingdom. Join us, and we'll give you the resources to make the impossible transformation



**Christian Aid Week  
15th—21st May 2011**

**Help people in poverty out of poverty**  
**To give to Christian Aid Week, visit [www.caweek.org](http://www.caweek.org)**

UK registered charity number 1105851 Company number 5171525 Scotland charity number SC039150  
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## Super Soup Lunch

This year Christian Aid again promoted a nationwide forerunner to Christian Aid Week with encouragement to gather in groups of friends and participate in a Super Soup Lunch to raise money for the world's poorest communities.





Jean & Collin Burns were the first in Schaw Kirk to take up the challenge when they hosted a Super Soup Lunch on 23rd March,

Due to the efforts of the team, and the generosity of the friends who attended, the princely sum of £126 was raised. A worthy result for a worthy charity.







## ***APRIL EDITION***

### **An Easter Gift**

The Very Rev Gilleasbuig Macmillan offers a special meditation on the meaning of the Resurrection. The Rev James Martin considers the arguments against the Resurrection.

Martin Fair considers how to refresh the familiar story. Easter Prayer by the Moderator and poem by Kenneth Steven.

### **Back in Fashion?**

Thomas Baldwin considers whether this month's royal wedding could bring Christian marriage back into fashion.

### **An Uncertain Future**

Michael Gunn explores the challenges for Coptic Christians in the aftermath of the uprising in Egypt.

### **Changing Lives**

In the third of the Biblefresh series, Peter Chirnside highlights the importance of translation.

### **The Blind Side**

The Rev John Purves considers the value of trust.

### **Journey's End**

The Moderator bids farewell.

### **A Love Which Endures**

The Rev Fiona Mathieson reflects on this month's royal wedding.

### **Bible 'Oddbits'**

The Rev Laurence Whitley shows how misreading letters led to variations in the same New Testament story.

### **The Black Depths of the Human Heart**

The Very Rev Dr James A Simpson reflects on the sin of envy.

**A Month in a Life** Sandy Sneddon, Asia Secretary of the Church's World Mission Council – all for just £1.80



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**Sun 17th April - Palm Sunday All Age Service**  
11.30am in Schaw Kirk

**Mon 18th April - Joint Ecumenical Service**  
7.30pm in Schaw Kirk

with St Clare's Schaw Kirk and Coylton

**Wed 20th April - Rankinston Easter Service**  
2.00pm in Rankinston Community Hall

**Thur 21st April - Maundy Thursday Communion**  
7.30pm in Schaw Kirk

**Fri 22nd April - Good Friday Service**  
7.30pm—Coylton Church

**Sun 24th April - Dawn Service**  
7.30am at Low Green

*return to St Columba Church for breakfast*

*Names to Irene Graham for Bus and Breakfast*

**Easter Communion** in Schaw Kirk at 11.30am

*You are invited to join us at any/all of these services*

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