

MESS JOHN'S WELL

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1840

There are mineral springs in almost every corner of the parish, but there is one more frequented than the rest, called Mess Johns Well.

This water comes from a rock, about 200 yards west of where the Dour Burn enters the sea. It was famed for its medicinal qualities. A small basin, in the shape of a cup, for collecting the water, which trickles down the rock, is said to have been cut by a John Whyte, Laird of Ardlawhill, at a time when there was no regular worship at the parish church.

Even when there was no minister John attended every Sunday he prayed, sang, and read a chapter from the Bible, then prayed again, and ended the service by singing another psalm.

1840

When he had finished in the church he made his way to the beach. He found the spring in a crevice. He washed his hands and face, ate his lunch and had a drink. The story goes on to say, that using a flint, he chipped away a bit each Sunday, until he made the shape of a basin to hold the water.

By Lyndy Sandison.