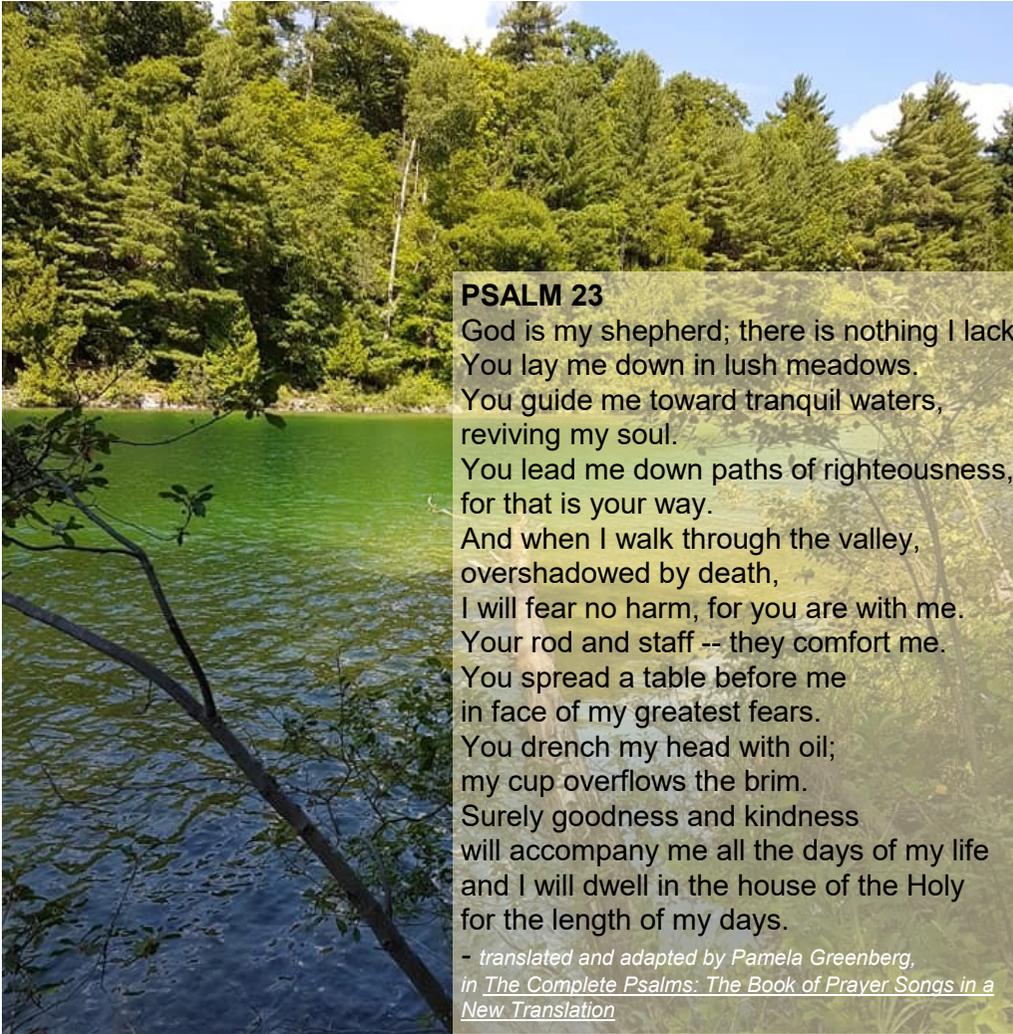


Power in the Spirit

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.
(Psalm 56:3)

FOCUS

Autumn 2018



PSALM 23

God is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.
You lay me down in lush meadows.
You guide me toward tranquil waters,
reviving my soul.
You lead me down paths of righteousness,
for that is your way.
And when I walk through the valley,
overshadowed by death,
I will fear no harm, for you are with me.
Your rod and staff -- they comfort me.
You spread a table before me
in face of my greatest fears.
You drench my head with oil;
my cup overflows the brim.
Surely goodness and kindness
will accompany me all the days of my life
and I will dwell in the house of the Holy
for the length of my days.

- translated and adapted by Pamela Greenberg,
in *The Complete Psalms: The Book of Prayer Songs in a
New Translation*

Most of the year the waters in **PINK LAKE, Gatineau, Quebec**, are the sort of blue you might expect. But because of the nature of the algae in the area, from July to September the surface of the lake becomes a deep green. You can see that already starting in this picture. The Lake is named after Samuel Pink and his family., who originally settled from Ireland and farmed around there in the 1930's.



Prayer Promoters

Symington Parish Church –	Heather Davidson	Tel 01899 309126
Cairngryffe Parish Church –	Liz Hiddleston	Tel 01899 221664
Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church -	Lilias Nicholls	Tel 01555 840572

Kirk and Community News
For the Churches in Tinto Parishes

THE TINTO PARISHES



Cairngryffe Parish Church
 Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church
 Symington Parish Church



TINTO PARISHES: A welcoming inviting community of faith

Minister: Rev George C. Shand MA BD (01899 309400) george.shand@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerks:

Cairngryffe Parish Church - Charity Number SC 017001

Mrs Mary McLellan, Ledaig, Haghohm Road, Cleghorn, ML11 7SG (01555 871114)

Symington Parish Church: - SC 009095

Mr Ross Russell, Spindrift, Main Street, Symington, ML12 6LL (01899 308240)

Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church - SC 016304

Mrs Liliias Nicholls, The Larches, Biggar Road, Libberton, ML11 8LX (01555 840572)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

JOINT TINTO PARISHES	11.00am Sunday 7th OCTOBER At CAIRNGRYFFE CHURCH
CAIRNGRYFFE	11.00am Sunday 4 th NOVEMBER
SYMINGTON	11.00am—Sunday 21st OCTOBER
LIBBERTON & QUOTHQUAN	09.30am Sunday 18 th NOVEMBER



Remember, if you would like Home Communion, please let your elder know,
 or contact Rev. George directly on 01899 309400

COVER PHOTOS. Rev. Shaun Seaman of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Kanata, Ontario, Canada who participated in a pulpit exchange with Rev. George over July. We discovered that Shaun has a penchant for horses,. His wife Heather, and daughter Hannah also discovered the joys of Scottish Country Dancing.

THE TINTO PARISHES: The church in our community

The Church of Scotland serving the South Lanarkshire communities of Carmichael, Covington, Libberton, Pettinain, Quothquan, Symington, Thankerton and an extensive rural hinterland.

Visit our websites:

www.symingtonkirk.com

www.cairngryffekirk.org.uk

www.libbertonquothquan.org.uk

Webmaster: Robert Carson

Webmaster: Jim Watt

Webmaster: Paul Dobie

And find us on



Facebook

'The Tinto Parishes'

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

2018	Symington	Cairngryffe	Libberton & Quothquan
SEPTEMBER 9 th	1100 M	0930 M	1100 OA
Sept 16 th	1100 WG	0930 M	1100 M
Sept 23 rd	1100 M	0930 M	1100 OA
Sept 30 th	1100 WG	0930 M	1100 M
OCTOBER 7 th	Joint Tinto Parishes Communion at Cairngryffe at 1100 COM		
Oct 14 th	1100 M	1100 WG HRV	0930 .
Oct 21 st	1100 WG	1100 M	0930 .
Oct 28 th	1100 M HRV COM	1100 WG	0930 M HRV
NOVEMBER 4 th	1100 WG	1100 M COM	0930 M
Nov 11 th	1100 M REM	1100 WG REM	0930 M REM
Nov 18 th	1100 WG	1100 M	0930 M COM
Nov 25 th	1100 M	1100 WG	0930 M
DECEMBER 2 nd	1100 WG	1100 M	0930 M

M=Minister: WG=Worship Group, OA=Own arrangements:
COM= Communion Sunday **HRV**—Harvest **REM**—Remembrance

WORSHIP IN BIGGAR CARE HOMES.

Rev. George will lead worship in October and December.

October

Greenhills—Wednesday 10th at 2.30pm

Bield—Wednesday 31st at 2.00pm

December

Greenhills—Wednesday 12th at 2.30pm

Bield—Wednesday 19th at 2.00pm

Also at Gillespie Lunch Club on Tuesdays 16th October and 18th December



*SPEAR THISTLE flowerhead, offering safe haven for a tiny spider underneath.
 The leaf rosette can survive up to 4 years before flowering*

WORSHIP CALENDAR—Autumn of 2018.

We have moved from the Narrative Lectionary, which we have followed for the last three years, and will return next year to the Lectionary used by the majority of churches (called the Revised Common Lectionary). In the interim we have a year where we follow some less well known Bible passages. The Scottish organization ‘Spill the Beans’ surveyed a number of churches asking for not often used scripture readings that church members would like to explore further, and then devised a number of themes for this coming year. We will focus on

- People—eg. Important births; Joseph; Paul’s Journeys
- Books of the Bible—eg. Numbers; Revelation; Genesis (beginnings)
- Themes—eg. 4 forms of Love; Parables; etc.

BEGINNINGS		
Sept 9 th	Genesis 3: 1-24 Ezekiel 28: 13-18	Fall, and Paradise Lost
Sept 16 th	Genesis 4:1-16 (17-24) Leviticus 19: 15-18	Cain and Abel
Sept 23 rd	Genesis 9: 1-17, 18-29 2 Corinthians 5: 1-5	Rainbow, Noah and sons
Sept 30 th	Genesis 11: 1-9 (10-32) Psalm 49: 1-12, 16-20	Tower of Babel

HARVEST		
Different dates	Psalm 104 Mark 4: 26-29	Thanksgiving for creation & harvest

October 7 th	To be confirmed	JOINT COMMUNION SERVICE Wprld Communion Sunday
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JOSEPH		
October 14th	Genesis 41: 37-57 Psalm 34: 1-10	Joseph in Egypt gaining authority <i>(Cairngryffe—harvest theme)</i>
October 21st	Genesis 43:1-5, and 45:1-18 Luke 15: 11-32	Relationships—collusion & reconciling <i>(Cairngryffe—October 14th Theme)</i>
October 28th	Cairngryffe October 21st theme	Symington and Libberton—Harvest Theme

NUMBERS		For four Sundays
4th Nov	Numbers 14:1-12, 16:1-5, 23-25 Leviticus 21:6-8	All Saints/ the faithful
11th Nov	Numbers 1:1-16, 44-54 Gospel of John 15:9-17	Who made us who we are?
18th Nov	Numbers 11:16-35 Gospel of Luke 10:1-17	Sending out elders/disciples
25th Nov	Numbers 17:1-13, 21:1-15 Gospel of John 3:10-14	Aaron’s staff/Moses’ servant

MINISTER’S LETTER: Hospitality



In 2016 I undertook a Manse exchange of four weeks, which included a two-week Pulpit Exchange with Rev. Andy Ward from Nashville, Tennessee. Andy’s wife and daughter joined him, and for the middle two weeks, a couple of friends—Bryan and Sharon—also lived in the Tinto Parishes Manse.

Bryan and Sharon loved Biggar, and resolved to return—which they did this July, staying in the Kirkstyle Hotel. One day they headed over to the Crown Hotel for their evening meal and started to chat with another couple dining there: Rev. Shaun Seaman and his wife Heather. Shaun is, of course, the exchange minister from Canada who at that time was living with his family in the Tinto Parishes Manse.

What an interesting conversation it must have been, finding an unexpected common connection through Tinto Parishes hospitality.

The theme of Hospitality runs through many of the articles in this issue of FOCUS:

- Tinto Parishes hospitality to Shaun and his family.
- The hospitality of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Kanata, outside Ottawa, to Rev. George and his family.
- The hospitality of a small town called Ajax, in Ontario, to Alec Taylor and his family.

Alec articulates it best. In the midst of all the new and fascinating things to see, what lingers longest, and makes the heart warmest, is the hospitality that we are offered by other people.

There is also a Hospitality theme coming later, which we will focus on in the Christmas season, remembering the journey of Mary and Joseph and their search for a safe place, or “inn,” to stay before the birth of Jesus. We will be working with schools on a South American tradition—Las Posadas (which is Spanish for ‘the Inns’)

In small, but important ways, hospitality makes the world smaller, and also better.

“Hospitality...incorporates a number of spiritual values, tightly woven together. Its overarching essence is Love – a love for all of Life”, and it provides consideration, protection and tenderness, and a safe haven.

Linn Moffett, a prison Chaplain in the Bahamas.

May hospitality and welcome continue to be hallmarks of all our spiritual journeys here at Tinto Parishes.

Your friend and minister,

George

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

—WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CAIRNGRYFFE—

Over the all too brief summer months it was with some sadness that we announced the deaths of:

Mrs Margaret Struthers of Intockhouse

Mrs Margaret Buchanan of Sandilands, mother of John Buchanan, after a stay in The Kello Hospital

Mr Tam McCulloch, the long-time close friend of John and the rest of the Buchanan family.

Major William (Bill) Rodger, of Lanark (previously of Harperfield)

Their families and friends remain in our prayers.

We also had the pleasure of providing the setting for the marriage of Jennifer Elizabeth Brown to John Struthers, and we wish the couple a long and happy future together.

Now that he has returned from his pulpit exchange in July we are now beginning to hear about some of George's experiences in Canada – and we look forward to more of that in the coming weeks and, dare I say, months, as I am sure there are lots of stories to share.

Our month of July was, as is normal, a shared weekly Sunday Service with our two sister churches – Libberton & Quothquan and Symington.

And then there was Shaun, the visiting minister from Canada! He and his wife Heather seemed to slot in effortlessly during our times of worship and there were only 'good things' to feed back from the congregation at Cairngryffe who attended worship during his time at Tinto Parishes.

Now, as we move towards the Autumn and winter months we enjoy having Rev. George back each week until the end of September at which time we will move back to 11.00am worship and will alternate between Rev George and the members of our excellent worship team.

Our joint Communion is on October 7th at 11am in Cairngryffe when Normal Liddle from the Scottish Bible Society will participate in our worship.

Prayer and Praise dates for the rest of the year are published elsewhere in this magazine, and we warmly invite you along to these short meditational services.

Mary McLellan. Session Clerk at Cairngryffe



CAIRNGRYFFE SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We meet in the church and take part in the first part of the service.

After 'Time Together' we go to our Sunday School Room for our own activities. We will mainly follow the same themes as the church service. Children, Beginnings, Joseph.

Dates and times

Sundays 19th, 26th August. 2nd, 9th, 16th and 30th September at **9.30am**

On 7th October we change to an **11am** service up to Christmas.

Holidays : September weekend 23rd September.

October School Holiday 21st October.

Our Bible based teaching is for children of nursery school and primary school age, we are a small group and new children are always welcome.

For further information contact Rosmairi Galloway

tel: 01555 880779

—WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIBBERTON & QUOTHQUAN—

As the light evenings begin to shorten it is pleasant to think back and remember the wonderful warm sunny weather we enjoyed over May, June and July and how relaxing it was to come to church without a jacket or umbrella and feel warm!

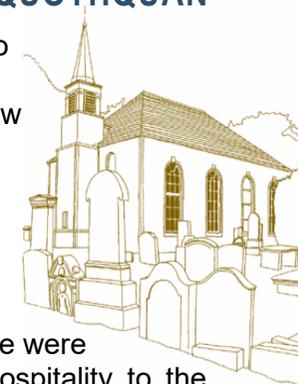
Our worship Group led services in June and August and we continue to be grateful for the chance to do this, learning more each time.

Joint worship in July was extra special this year as we were all able to share our beautiful country and offer hospitality to the Seaman family. The ladies of L&Q continue to meet for coffee and catch-up every second Friday.

Children in church on a Sunday is sporadic. Sometimes none – sometimes 5! When there are children at church, Grace continues to do a great job in Sunday School.

As we move relentlessly towards Autumn we start to think about our Harvest Supper in late October but before that, on Sunday 7th October, L&Q will be welcoming back an old friend from Hungary whom we have not seen for a good few years – Tibor. Tibor, his wife and a church friend are spending a long weekend with us, hoping to visit Edinburgh, Stirling and Glasgow and looking forward to sharing worship with us.

Lilias Nicholls, Session Clerk at Libberton & Quothquan



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SYMINGTON

In July we were delighted to welcome Rev. Shaun Seaman from Canada to our Churches. Shaun brought a new approach to our worship while keeping us amused with some anecdotes. In Shaun's words *"I hope YOU appreciate your beautiful country as much as we now do, but I wish your roads were wider."*



It was good to have the fellowship of our sister Churches in July with well attended joint services.

Canada seems the go-to destination this year, as the Taylor family (Alec & Moira) visited Ajax near Lake Ontario. You can read their powerful story opposite.

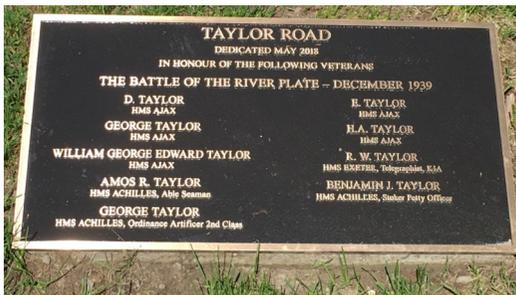
Many people have been on holiday or visiting family and it is nice to see them drifting back after a gorgeous spell of weather.

Of course the rain is back but we must remember the people of Kerala and the flooding there. Our own Susan Mathew's mother was affected by these floods in her house there and although not living in the house our thoughts are with her and the family at this traumatic time.

We also remember Colin Horsefield latterly of Beechgrove Care Home who died after a prolonged illness. Colin was part of the Church Welcoming group and member of the Everyyoung for a time. He was a quiet man with a ready smile. Our thoughts and prayers go to Val and her family.

On a happier note best wishes go to Graham Leadbitter , son of Margot and Wallace, on the occasion of his Marriage to Louise Davidson. We wish them well for the future.

We will soon be welcoming Ross and Gaynor home after a well-earned break in France. **The Choir will meet again on Wednesday 19th September at 7.30 in Church.** We are always looking for new members. If you can make a joyful noise , please come along.



Jessie Duff *depute Session Clerk*

TAYLOR ROAD., AJAX, ONTARIO

This plaque was placed beside a new planted tree.



Alec Taylor, Symington elder and Clerk to the Congregational Board reports here on a very special family event that involved him and his sisters travelling 3,300 miles to a town in Canada.

In mid-May my three sisters and I flew to Ajax Ontario, about 25 miles east of Toronto, for a very special occasion. Ajax Town Council had arranged a dedication ceremony for Taylor Rd, named after my father and other veterans named Taylor, of HMS Ajax and the Battle of the River Plate.

The honour of being received so royally simply on the basis that our dad was on the crew of HMS Ajax is something that will live long in the memory of my three sisters and I. Simply put, it was humbling.

The respect shown by the town for the memory of those that served is wonderful and for Mayor Steve Parish and the council to distil and focus that respect down to one man, our Dad, for just a little while was beyond words. His tribute was highly emotional for all of us.

We had too, the additional pleasure of being welcomed by several residents of Taylor Rd who turned out for the ceremony. It was simply one of life's joyous moments.

The day was topped off by the hospitality of Steve Parish and his wife Rosemary at their home where we also had the honour of chatting with his wonderful father Bill Parish who instigated the idea of using crew names for the local roads. Sadly we heard that Bill died just a month later.

Despite everything we saw, we are agreed (an unusual thing for four siblings). Our overwhelming memory will not be of our time in Toronto or at the wonderful Niagara Falls. Rather, it will be the warmth and friendship shown to us by absolutely everybody we met, from the team Councillors and staff at Ajax to the young guys running the buses and trains. Every single one of them added value to our experience. If they are representatives of Canada more generally, then Canada can be proud. This country and the singular honour paid to our father will stay in our thoughts and memories for a very long time.



Alec, Rosemarie, Dawn and Christine each receive a replica road sign with a profile of the ship indicating the road is named after crew members.

Alec Taylor

LANARK PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

The early part of the June meeting of Presbytery took the form of a conference to which each congregation had been invited to send two members, other than members of Presbytery, following the circulation of a series of questions regarding how congregations saw the future and what plans they had going forward. These questions were discussed in groups, each group having no more than two members from any one congregation. The groups reported back and these will be collated to inform the future direction of Presbytery.

One of the strengths of our Presbyterian system of church governance is that, although congregations are essentially self-governing, when they find themselves in a difficult situation, Presbyteries can provide support and encouragement. Upper Clyde Parish have recently lost a number of key office bearers, for whom they have found difficulty in finding replacements. After discussion with the minister, Nikki MacDonald, it was felt that it would be helpful to appoint four Assessor elders to assist them in fulfilling their administrative obligations. These are to be appointed over the summer recess.

Mr Bill Love has stood down as Convenor (pro tem) of the Presbytery Support Committee from 20 June 2018 as Mr Scott Paget is now able to resume as Convenor following his illness.

A National Day of Prayer is to be held on 3 November 2018 with a particular focus on the life and missional work of the Church of Scotland. The hope is that through Together We Pray, people will join together in bringing all of life before God in prayer.

Presbytery has been divided into groups, with each group, Clydesdale East, West, North and South to be a member of that group.

Members and congregations are encouraged to engage with the World Mission Council: Special Report on Lessons for Scotland from Christian Faith in Africa.

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/50200/World_Mission_Council-Special_Report_on_Lessons_for_Scotland_from_Christian_Faith_in_Africa.pdf

A World Mission Conference is to be held in the Autumn (date to be decided) and all congregations are encouraged to participate.

Jim Watt (Presbytery Elder for Cairngryffe)

“The gift of Christ, receive, revere
United round the table “ *HYMN 659 Verse 4*



Jim and Rev. George shared the communion liturgy

The Installation of Jim Watt as Moderator 2018-19 of the Presbytery of Lanark.

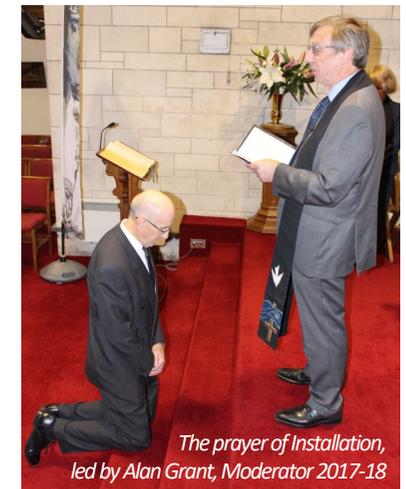
On the evening of Tuesday 4th September, Jim Watt, Presbytery Elder of Cairngryffe Parish Church was installed as Moderator of the Presbytery of Lanark. It was a lovely evening of worship and celebration at Cairngryffe Church.



Grateful thanks to the Cairngryffe congregation for their hospitality, their excellent tea and cakes, and also to Liliias and Jessie, distributing the elements during communion, representing the other Tinto Parishes Churches.



Presbytery and Congregation members, Tinto Parishes and other guests



The prayer of Installation, led by Alan Grant, Moderator 2017-18

A GOOD TINTO PARISHES WELCOME.

Rev. Shaun Seaman and his wife Heather, made an immediate impact with their friendly approach and real interest in our community life. Shaun led worship throughout July—four joint services, and the final Sunday a two-church Sunday. On that Sunday Libberton & Quothquan joined together with Symington Church, so that, as Shaun said, “we can all be together for one last time”.



Rev. Shaun makes another new friend.

One church spoke of how meaningful his “relaxed and easy delivery of his message was, with a hint of good humour as he found his way through our order of service.” Shaun has since been in touch with George to follow up on worship. He says “there were some lovely hymns which were new to me”, and he wants to get more details.

Symington residents will have noticed how energetic they both were – long walks every day. Heather herself found ways to the top of Tinto Hill while Shaun prepared for worship. And thanks to Manse neighbours, Jean and Jim Elliot, for helping Shaun technically – he had not brought a computer with him and needed to copy and print out his sermon and prayers every week. (In Canada, Shaun has a well equipped office at the Church – which George was able to use – and a Church secretary).

The pictures on our front cover show Shaun and Heather and daughter Hannah enjoying themselves, thanks to your help. “We were able,“ says Mary McLellan, “to help them enjoy a few social engagements. Shaun also enjoyed getting up close and personal to some Clydesdale Horses, thanks to Agnes and Alan Jackson, and attending a Scottish Music Concert followed by a Ceilidh with Charlie Todd. I hear they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.”

Many members of our congregations made connections with them – inviting them for a visit and meal - a sign of just how hospitable we are in these parts. There was a ‘Larches Lunch’ for the Seaman’s at Lili’s and Roger’s, after Joint worship at Libberton, attended by around 30 members of the congregation for soup and pudding - and After Eight mints (a new favourite discovery for Shaun).

George and Shaun made a connection on Facebook, so they could see what each other was up to. Shaun and Heather seemed to appear all over Scotland—with Shaun ensuring that each picture either had a sheep or a seagull in it.

And of course, the Biggar Show. Shaun took more pictures there than anywhere else. He greatly appreciated our rural life and lifestyle.

Exchanges are both learning experiences and pleasure experiences. Shaun and his family made the most of their time at Tinto Parishes, engaging not just with the sights but with our people, the animals, the smells.... They will be affectionally remembered, and, hopefully, they will both return to Scotland some time.

A CANADIAN WELCOME.

Rev. George’s exchange in July.

Trinity Presbyterian Church used to worship in a lovely building in the centre of Kanata. Ten years ago they were approached by the Hospice Association and had agreed to sell the building to them, but it took six years for the Hospice to find the funds. In that time a lot of thought and discussion had gone into how a new building should look.

The building I worked in for the five Sundays, was built four year ago, on the outskirts of Kanata (still surrounded in the summer months by corn-fields), and very spacious.



Visitors entered into a large vestibule/milling about area; with a glass divide that led into a modern worship centre with lots of technology; a sound-proofed room that looked in on the worship centre – if small children are restless and noisy, parents can take them there, and still hear (through loudspeakers) and participate in worship. And also Offices – for the Minister, Youth Worker, and Secretary; a well fitted out kitchen (the envy, I am sure, of every other congregation in the country!); a well resourced nursery room; and meeting rooms at the back.

Hospitality. On my first Sunday a long queue of people started to develop in the vestibule, people waiting to wish me welcome, and for most of them, to tell me their connection with Scotland—either through parents or grandparents. And the following week, wow, I met all these people again, and others. After almost five years of working with three churches, I had forgotten how quickly you get to know people if you only have one church!

The Hospitality of the members of the Church was amazing. I discovered a group—called the Prayer and Praise Group—that had been meeting every Friday evening in each other’s homes for the last 30 years or so.



Some of the Prayer and Praise group

“We no longer have the puff or the voice for a praise evening,” said one of them, “But we still have hearty appetites for food and prayer. And we love a new guest to tell our stories to—everyone else has heard them before.”

Over the next six months, Rev. George has a number of speaking engagements at Guilds, etc.

A CANADIAN WELCOME—Part Two

Two years ago I had spent four weeks in Nashville, including two weeks of exchange. That was at the time of the Democratic and Republican conventions. They were fascinating to watch, but little did I realise at the time that I was watching the beginnings of a profound change in the United States.

This year, as I travelled and visited, and viewed the sights, and spent hours in the Canadian History Museum in Gatineau, I became aware of a significant cultural difference in History. Two years ago, in Tennessee, I was visiting places of Conflict – the war of Independence, the Civil War, the ‘Trail of Tears’ (the indigenous population being moved into reservations a thousand miles away), and, of course, the Civil Rights struggle up to the present day. I was immersed, then, in a country’s struggle to evolve and change—the future ‘won’ through conflict.

Yet in Canada, every move forward seemed to come about through a Treaty, or an agreement – with the indigenous populations, with Britain, etc. And Canada is a country quite comfortable and positive about its current multi-ethnic identity and diversity.

For me, the difference was further highlighted when the Mayor of Toronto spoke following a very sad incident. After a disturbed young man with a gun shot and killed two people (one of whom was a ten year old girl) eating out with their family at a restaurant, and injured many others, the Mayor said that the Council was considering a stringent ban of hand-guns —“I see no reason why anyone in Toronto would need to carry a gun.”



These pictures were taken on my last Sunday at Trinity Church—which was a special service led by the Summer Club—taking over the whole building for a week. The chancel usually hosts a grand piano, communion table and instruments for the praise group—now it is a desert island for the ‘shipwrecked’ theme.

A team of 20 or so enthusiastic part-time volunteers from the church organised crafts and games for 40 local children. However, one person said -“We are very careful, but some folks are still quite worried. We might get paint on the walls of our new church.”



Coffee in the vestibule after worship for some, while others start the process of removing the desert island.

THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY.

The church where the people are .

FAITH BEHIND BARS.

You may have caught the programme ‘Faith Behind Bars’ when it first aired on BBC Scotland on 14th August at 10.45pm. The programme highlights the work of the Chaplains at HMP Edinburgh.

Rev Sheena Orr, who is a full time Church of Scotland chaplain, and Rev Keith Graham (not in the picture) a Parish minister, shared insights gained from their experience as part of the five-person chaplaincy team. The team also includes an Armenian Catholic priest, a Muslim Imam and a Free Church of Scotland minister.



Pictured at their workplace are prison chaplains: Rev Bob Akroyd, (Free Church of Scotland); Imam Ishfaq Mohammed, (Muslim); Rev Sheena Orr; and Father Vasyl Kren (Catholic Church).

Sheena, who went into full-time prison chaplaincy soon after becoming a minister, said the programme shed light on a little understood role.

“The documentary focused on the religious side of our work where we are helping people practice their religion, rather than the pastoral side where we support people of all faiths and none,” she said. “Viewers heard people say how encountering faith and religion in prison has changed them. It’s a unique insight into the lives of prison chaplains and the people we support.”

Keith, who is the parish minister at Murrayfield as well as a part-time prison chaplain, says he joined the team when he was the minister for Stenhouse and the prison fell within his parish.

“From earlier in my career I had a background in supporting people struggling with drug addiction and homelessness and many of them were in and out of prison.” he says. “So I felt it was a good opportunity to use those skills. I find that my chaplaincy work gives me a rounded experience and it centres me quite well.

“In the prison you are working with a team of people and with lots of staff, and no two days are the same. I only go into the prison on one day a week but I like the variety it brings.”

(‘Faith behind Bars’ is available on I Player until 13th September).

Local Organisations

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD (The Guild)

CAIRNGRYFFE GUILD

Cairngryffe Guild will resume for the new session on Wednesday 12th September, 2018 and meetings are held in Thankerton Village Hall at 2.00pm. We look forward to seeing some familiar faces and a warm invitation is extended to any new member who would like to come along a join us.

12th September Rev. Jane Fucella - Tales from Life in Thailand

25th October (Thursday) - Joint Meeting with Symington at Symington at 7.30pm - Mary Gilbert - Tigers in India

14th November - Dorothy Wiseman - New Guild Strategy - One Journey Many Roads

12th December - Christmas Celebration

Further information from **Elizabeth Forbes on 01555 880353**

SYMINGTON GUILD

The first meeting of the new session is on Thursday, 27th September at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. The speaker will be Liz Hiddleston and the subject "Three go to India".

On 25th October the speaker will be Mary Gilbert.

All welcome. For more information please contact **Helen Anderson 308598** or **Martha Cowan 308657**.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S RURAL INSTITUTE (WRI)

CARMICHAEL INSTITUTE—meets the second Monday of the month in Carmichael Hall at 7.30pm. **Janette Elliot , 01555 880614**

THANKERTON INSTITUTE meets in Thankerton Village Hall on Station Road at 7.30pm, on the first Thursday of the month September to April. We have all age ranges and would love for you to join us. Our talks and demonstrations are always interesting. Cost is £5 per night but if you join it is £25 per year.

6th Sept - Hearing Dogs for the Deaf

4th Oct - Forensic Science by Tony Busittel

1st Nov - Old Toys by Stuart Houston

6th Dec - Christmas Wreath Making by The Committee

Further details from **Michelle Robison on 01899 308059**

QUOTHQUAN INSTITUTE—meets in Quothquan Rural Hall at 7.30pm

Further information from **Mrs L. Grieve on 01555 841264**

Local Organisations

CAIRNGRYFFE EVERYOUNG CLUB

This club meets fortnightly on **Thursdays in Thankerton Village Hall at 2.00pm**. The programme for this autumn is as follows: -

October 2018

11th – Alastair McNeill (Thankerton) - "Decision Making – a Behavioural Safety Perspective"

26th – Frank Morrison (Law Village) – Tales and Tunes from an Auld Accordionist

November 2018

8th – Ted Bowen (Biggar) – Surviving Inner City Birmingham (1940, the Blitz)

22nd – Eric Ward (Broughton) – The Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team – The Red Arrows

December

6th – Christmas Lunch at Carnwath golf Club (12.30 for 1pm)

For more information please contact the Secretary, **Charlie Todd, on 01899 308327**



Heart-stones of Iona

Freda Stobo 2018

BIGGAR PROBUS CLUB

The opening meeting of Biggar Probus Club for the 2018/9 season will be on 2nd October 2018 when the speaker will be Anne Walker talking on 'Tales from the Classroom'.

The club is open to all retired gentlemen and new members will be made very welcome.

Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month in Biggar Municipal Hall.

Tea and coffee are served from 9:45 to 10:15, with the meeting starting at 10:30. www.biggarprobusclub.org.

FROM OUR KIRK TREASURERS

CAIRNGRYFFE CHURCH. A summary of income & expenditure Jan – July 2018

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Ordinary	1,384	Ministry & Mission	8,220
Freewill	1,348	Travel Expenses	182
Gift Aid	7,706	Joint Cong Expenses	711
Tax Back (accrued)	1,541	Salaries	2,014
Tea Committee	354	Printing & stationary	175
Donations	100	Presbytery Dues	277
		Miscellaneous	465
SUB TOTAL INCOME	12,433	SUB TOTAL EXPENDITURE	12,044
		Fabric Repairs	468
121 Fabric Fund		Insurance	2,024
General Trustees	3,986	Scottish Power	1,494
TOTAL INCOME	16,419	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	16,030
		Surplus to Date	389

This statement has been prepared on an 'Income and Expenditure' basis to give a realistic picture based on the Probable Outturn by 31st December 2018.

Linzi Struthers (Treasurer)

SYMINGTON CHURCH—Jan – July 2018

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Plate Offerings	1,411	Ministry & Mission	13,548
Weekly Envelopes	1,929	Minister's Travel	405
Standing Orders	11,397	Other Staff Costs	4,980
Other Income	742	Joint Cong Expenses	710
Gift aid Tax Refund 2017	6,094	Fabric Maintenance	4,732
Donation to Kids Club from Biggar Little Cinema	350	Heat & Light	1,950
		Other Costs	1780
TOTAL INCOME	21,923	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	26,503
Deficit Year-to-Date	4,580		

J. Eric Carlyle (Treasurer)

FLOWER LISTS

SUNDAY	CAIRNGRYFFE	SYMINGTON
02 nd Sept 2018	IMO Flora Ireland	Nan Warwick
09 th Sept 2018	Barbara Miller	Betty Morton
16 th Sept 2018	Rosmairi Galloway	Val Horsefield
23 rd Sept 2018	Carole Gardiner	May Sneddon
30 th Sept 2018	Liz Hiddleston	Anne Blacklaw
07 th Oct 2018	Annie Callan	No service
14 th Oct 2018	Susan McDougall	Moira Taylor
21 st Oct 2018	Sheana Rodger	Ella Hodge
28 th Oct 2018	Kris Todd	Lynn Carson
04 th Nov 2018	Maureen Bannatyne	Hazel Aitcheson
11 th Nov 2018	Elizabeth Warnock	Margot Leadbitter
18 th Nov 2018	Margaret Clarkson	Susan Mathew
25 th Nov 2018	Elizabeth Forbes	Olive Hunter
02 nd Dec 2018	Lily Borthwick	Linda MacKay
09 th Dec 2018	Sandra Stewart	Jill Allan
16 th Dec 2018	Elsie Pahnke	Christmas Flowers
23 rd Dec 2018	Christmas Flowers	Janette Hope
30 th Dec 2018	Christmas Flowers	Joint Service

Editor's Note

Thank you to all contributors who provided the information contained in this edition of Focus.

The Christmas **FOCUS** will be issued early in December 2018.

Contributions from church groups and organisations, covering the period from December to the end of February 2019, should be sent to **the Editor by**

Sunday November 25th 2018—at the latest.

I can be reached at: Charlie Todd, 63, Station Road, Thankerton, ML12 6NZ, Tel 01899 308327, or by email on kandctodd@gmail.com

ANNUAL OUTDOOR SERVICE AT QUOTHQUAN CHURCH

Sunday 16th September at 11.00am.

We worship in an open area which is close to the still standing West gable of Quothquan Church. If the weather is inclement, the service will be held inside the adjacent Quothquan Village Hall. Our annual service is a way of celebrating the continuing connection between the villages.



ALL WELCOME

The parishes united in 1660, and Quothquan Church had fallen into ruins by 1780, the West gable still standing with the 'very fine toned' bell atop of it, which dates back to 1641. When the current church in Libberton was built in 1812, the intention was to transfer this bell to the new church. But tradition has it that this didn't sit well with the Quothquan villagers, who removed the bell and hid it in the Clyde where it remained for some years before being returned to its original place.

TINTO PARISHES JOINT COMMUNION SERVICE

Sunday 7th October at 11am

in CAIRNGRYFFE Church

'WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY'

Our guest speaker will be Norman Liddle from the Scottish Bible Society, speaking about their projects in Malawi



IN SERVICE DAY

Monday 19th November 2018

Tinto Parishes will again run an In Service Day Club on Monday 19th November **from 9.00am until 3.00pm.**

This is always an energetic and rewarding day. If you have not volunteered before, but are interested, please speak to Rev. George, or your Session Clerk or elder, for further information.



SNIPPETS

Prayer & Praise

Our Monday evening Prayer and Praise

For 2018 will be

Monday 17th September at 7pm at SYMINGTON CHURCH

Monday 22nd October at 7pm at LIBBERTON CHURCH:

OTHER WORSHIP EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 30th November, 7.00pm in CAIRNGRYFFE CHURCH.

Reflective worship for St. Andrew's Day

Sunday 9th December—7.30pm in CAIRNGRYFFE CHURCH

SONGS OF PRAISE—Advent and Christmas Songs—

TOGETHER WE PRAY

A national day of prayer
for the Church of Scotland

The Tinto Parishes will participate in the 2nd National Day of Prayer of the Church of Scotland, **Between 9.00am and 12 noon** on

Saturday 3rd November at Libberton Kirk.

The church will be open for you to drop in at any time. There will be a number of flower arrangements adorning the church on specific themes, with a prayer on the theme attached to each. There will be time for quiet, personal prayer and reflection.

At 10.30am there will be a short, reflective, act of worship on the themes.

More details will be available soon.



PLACES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

V	K	E	J	S	A	C	T	Y	A	Y	O	V	Z	Y	O	C	L	I	Z
Z	B	Z	T	E	R	Y	Y	I	Z	G	B	R	H	G	P	N	V	V	A
A	Q	U	O	S	R	F	Y	A	J	N	A	K	D	D	Q	W	C	A	L
I	U	J	G	N	I	U	O	T	N	I	B	V	L	H	N	B	I	B	B
R	V	I	L	U	Z	Y	S	M	N	B	E	Y	I	B	Y	M	B	Q	O
Y	E	H	X	W	R	E	Y	A	E	Z	L	M	J	B	U	M	D	P	G
S	O	U	A	L	S	U	V	T	L	N	F	N	Z	Q	M	C	A	U	H
S	B	H	H	T	Z	K	H	Y	J	E	J	I	G	I	O	D	E	P	Z
A	W	A	E	S	P	E	K	I	Q	T	M	T	Y	J	W	C	L	W	S
R	D	Q	V	L	L	Y	L	E	A	R	S	I	U	V	L	U	I	B	J
C	P	M	E	Z	V	E	X	B	U	B	F	D	E	D	O	M	G	V	C
K	N	Z	N	S	H	E	B	R	Q	G	A	B	M	S	S	K	W	Y	T
O	Q	M	I	W	G	V	U	C	R	H	H	V	R	H	O	R	E	B	V
C	C	E	N	Y	Q	F	T	N	L	J	V	J	S	F	H	P	U	X	N
O	B	R	P	C	T	Y	T	V	E	D	E	N	A	N	P	I	S	P	A
K	O	T	B	R	N	S	S	I	N	A	I	I	K	U	D	J	J	X	A
X	M	X	K	E	Z	J	E	R	I	C	H	O	S	N	N	E	Z	C	N
B	Q	A	B	J	Q	I	T	J	N	Y	A	F	A	R	G	O	A	S	A
S	M	P	Z	G	K	J	D	X	V	M	F	S	A	M	A	R	I	A	C
H	Y	L	K	G	L	B	A	B	Y	L	O	N	S	H	E	C	H	E	M

Assyria	Edom	Jerusalem
Babel	Egypt	Judah
Babylon	Gilead	Nineveh
Bethel	Horeb	Samaria
Canaan	Israel	Shechem
Eden	Jericho	Sinai
		Ur

HYMN FOCUS : HYMN 549



'HOW GREAT THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US'

Stuart Townend's name is very familiar to those who enjoy contemporary Christian songs.

The roots of his surname might also be familiar to those of us who live in villages with a 'Townhead' and 'Townend'.

This hymn first came to my attention in March 2006 when representatives of churches in Leith were preparing for an ecumenical Holy Week service. A lovely lady from the Salvation Army, said it was her favourite hymn. So we sang it, and were much the better for it.

Stuart Townend was born in 1963, the son of a Church of England vicar serving in Yorkshire. He studied English at the University of Sussex and, at the age of 22 started his career as a Christian songwriter.



He seeks depth in his song writing. *"The danger nowadays."* he said in an interview about new hymn writing, *"is that we are so focused on the experience. When all our songs are about how we feel and what we need, we're missing the point. There is a wonderful God who deserves our highest praise, and how we feel about it is in many ways irrelevant! I want to encourage the expression of joy, passion and adoration, but I want those things to be the by-product of focusing on God – I don't want them to become the subject matter. I'm trying to write songs that refer to us as little as possible, and to Him as much as possible!"*

There is controversy about some of his hymns. 'IN CHRIST ALONE', which often tops popular hymn lists, a very strong 'penal-substitution theory of atonement' is expressed. But there's a wide spread of understanding nowadays about the meaning of the Cross, and many worshippers find a few of the words difficult to sing, because it is opposite to their understanding. In 'HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US', the last verse calls us into mystery – which allows for a wide spectrum of understanding – but still it includes *'the Father turns his face away'* which many people find difficult.

Our hymn book has to serve a wide constituency. Compilers sometimes ask to change some words so a particular hymn can be more inclusive. Stuart has never allowed this, which is why some Church Hymns books actually exclude the popular 'IN CHRIST ALONE' hymn.