

CAIRNGRYFFE PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Autumn -Winter 2021



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Members of the congregation are warmly invited to
our Communion Service
at 9.30am on Sunday 7th November 2021

Cairngryffe Parish Church: one of the Tinto Parishes

Charity Number – SC 017001

From our Interim Moderator

Dear members and friends in Cairngryffe Church,

God's rich grace and abundant peace be with you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The past eighteen months have been challenging for everyone, and yet even in the midst of the strange and unexpected circumstances we have faced, God's grace has shown through in so many ways. I am so grateful to all of you for your faith, patience, and resilience throughout these past months as COVID-19 has brought necessary reconsideration and restructuring of our church and community lives. My grateful thanks to all of you who are continuing to serve our congregation and wider communities with such selflessness and creativity during what have been very perplexing circumstances.

As we journey into the future, we are invited to continue holding one another in friendship, love and prayer, and to know that we are held by God. Listen to the words of Jesus as he sent out the disciples from what they knew into a different way of being, "...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). Jesus does not promise that our life's journey would be without obstacles or hardship. He reminds us that we are not alone, for he is always with us, through the Holy Spirit in a new and different way! Let us remain the church in this unsettling time, confident that Jesus journeys with us through it.

Please be assured of my prayer and care for you and don't hesitate to be in touch with any pastoral concerns, or if you simply want a chat.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr Elijah Obinna

Interim Moderator

News from the Kirk Session

We look forward to welcoming you to our Communion Service at 9.30am On Sunday 7th November 2021 when our Interim Moderator Rev Dr Elijah Obinna will celebrate the sacrament of Communion with us.

Since reopening for Sunday worship, everything that we do has to be Risk Assessed and comply with Church of Scotland and Scottish Government Covid Guidelines. Communion will be a bit different from how we have traditionally celebrated it. As we cannot use the Communal Cup, or serve and pass the elements from one person to another. Your individual filled communion glass will be in the cup holder in your pew, and a small bag with your bread will be on the pew shelf when you arrive. These elements will be blessed by the minister during the service so that you can then take Communion.

We have returned to using hymn books, these are quarantined after the service. We have to wear facemasks when we are in church and this includes when we are singing.

Our Sunday services from now until the end of the year are at 9.30am, an early start. Worship is being conducted by Alan Grant, a Church of Scotland lay Reader, Jane Fucella a well experience worship leader and former missionary and Rev Elizabeth Clelland the resident chaplain at Braehead House Christian Healing and Retreat Centre at Crossford. We look forward to their services and warmly welcome them to our church.

Since the Rev George Shand retired at the end of July, we are now what the Church of Scotland terms a Charge without a Minister; this is a situation which is likely to continue for considerable time.

The Church of Scotland is going through a period of massive change and readjustment, at a national level, at presbytery level and at local levels. Jim Watt has outlined what is happening with Lanark Presbytery as it joins with Hamilton and parts of Falkirk Presbyteries.

The Church of Scotland as a whole is facing about a 40% reduction in the number of ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament. The Lanark Presbytery area is to reduce from 15.2 whole time equivalent ministers to 9.5. The current presbytery have to produce a presbytery plan to accommodate this change. We do not know how this will affect our church here at Cairngryffe.

More information about the changes happening can be found on the Church of Scotland website (churchofscotland.org.uk) and Lanark Presbytery has produced video called Planning for Mission in the Presbytery of Lanark, available through the link <https://youtu.be/ZOyZmnfZRN8>

In the future we are likely to see an ordained minister less often face to face. We have a strong Congregational Worship Team of Denham McDougall, Liz Hiddleston, Suzanne Campbell, Rodger Lindsay and Rosmairi Galloway who take services on a regular basis and we may have to rely on them more often. Please support and encourage them, there is a considerable amount of preparation that needs to take place before a service is conducted on a Sunday morning.

Angela Brydson the Community Outreach Worker for Tinto Parishes, Upper Clyde and Douglas Valley has updated us on her work. We raised £180 for Angela's Anna Chaplaincy Project on National Giving Day. A huge Thank You goes to everybody who contributed to this.

Our organisations; Guild, Ever Young and Sunday School have not yet restarted face to face meetings.

It is more than ever important that you continue to support your local church at this difficult time when we readjust and recover from the impact of the Covid Crisis, and face our time as a Charge without a Minister, the readjustments within the Church of Scotland and continue our Christian Witness in our local area.

Rosmairi J Galloway

Session Clerk

Presbytery Report

In the last 'Focus' it was noted that Presbytery had not yet appointed an Interim Moderator for The Tinto Parishes. Shortly after that was published we were told that Rev Elijah Obinna, minister in Carluke: St Johns had been appointed.

It had been intended that Presbytery would return to 'in person' meetings at the September meeting, however due to the rising number of Covid cases in Lanarkshire at the time this was postponed. The 'top table' (Moderator, Clerk and Support Committee Convenor) were in Greyfriars, with the rest of Presbytery on Zoom. The October meeting did take place in person.

The merger of Lanark Presbytery with Hamilton continues to be the main business at the moment. Short term working groups are being set up to look into various aspects of this. A short video has been produced giving a vision of how mission can be enhanced in the new arrangements. This can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/ZOyZmnfZRN8> and I would urge all of you to view it if you are able.

Following on from the agreement that a major part of Falkirk Presbytery should join with The Lanarkshire Presbytery the latter name will no longer be appropriate. It has therefore been agreed that it be changed to 'Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale Church of Scotland', known as 'Forth Valley and Clydesdale Presbytery' or 'Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale' from 1 January 2022. The General Assembly of 2022 will be petitioned to agree to the inclusion of the part of Falkirk Presbytery and the change of name. Representatives of Falkirk Presbytery will be on all the working groups.

The Joint Mission Plan Committee have been asked to work to a timescale of Presbytery receiving the draft Mission Plan at the first Presbytery meeting following the General Assembly of 2022, with regular updates on progress being given at each Presbytery meeting. It will therefore be next June before we will have a clearer idea as to what the future shape of Ministry in The Tinto Parishes will be.

Work is also ongoing to manage the transition to the new Presbytery in regards to finance, staffing etc. and talks are ongoing with 121 on this.

The December meeting of Lanark Presbytery will be its last, after several centuries of existence. This final meeting will include a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion and a reception at which the Moderator of the General Assembly and the Principal Clerk shall be in attendance.

Jim Watt

Presbytery Elder

Community Outreach Worker Update

As restrictions are lifting slightly it has been lovely being able to attend services on a Sunday and get to know you all a little better. Living (and working) in Lanarkshire makes you realise how fortunate we have been throughout these months, as we can look out on to a beautiful landscape and see our Creator at work every day. Here are some of the things I have been doing with the Tinto parishes in mind:-

Potato Project - There have been very few recipes handed in as part of the potato project and am still waiting on some weights to announce how many kilos of potatoes we have grown as a cluster.



Health Walks – I have completed a day course to be a Health Walk leader through Get Walking Lanarkshire. Health Walks can last for up to an hour, are NOT overly strenuous as they are designed for people who do not walk a lot but who would like to. They are sociable, fun and can end up with hot drinks and cake! There are routes being planned for the Tinto Parish communities. The plan will be that as many of my communities as possible will have their own Health Walk in due course. Eventually I will be allowed to train to lead Dementia Friendly Walks which will tie in with the Anna Chaplaincy project.

Watch this space for more details.

Anna Chaplaincy – We have been progressing with the groundwork for starting this project and we are hoping in the coming weeks to have a Commissioning Service – provisionally Saturday 27th November- which will then launch the project properly. It was very kind of you to ask me to speak at the recent Thanksgiving service about the Anna Chaplaincy. Thank you

Schools – we are still living under restrictions where schools are concerned and just have to “bide our time!”

Love and blessings,

Angela

Angela Brydson

Community Outreach Worker

Prayer Page

One of the better known methods for praying is called ACTS. It is a memory aid that uses the name of the book of Acts in the New Testament as a way to pray. The acronym stands for the following:

A-Adoration

C-Confession

T-Thanksgiving

S-Supplication

Rabbi Marc Gellman puts it like this,
“Really when you come to it there are only four basic prayers....WOW...THANKS..OOPS and GIMME

WOW prayers of praise and wonder
THANKS expressions of gratitude
OOPS asking for forgiveness
GIMME request or petition

The prayer begins with **Adoration**. Here we express our adoration of what God has created. We only have to look around at the world. This is the God who placed the stars in the sky and formed the mighty oceans and we express our awe and admiration for the One who created all this.

The prayer then turns to **Confession**. We confess because we are aware of our failings and that we have fallen short of what we should be. We bring to mind things we should have done and left undone, things we should have said and left unsaid, help we should have given, and kindnesses we should have shown. This is the God who knows all our shortcomings and we pray for forgiveness for our failures.

Then we come to **Thanksgiving** to God. Here we think of all the wonderful things in our lives and give thanks for them. We can take a moment to express our gratitude for all that God has given us.

Finally, we come to **Supplication**. This gives us the opportunity to ask God for what we need. We are reminded of the suffering, poverty and persecution of God’s people in parts of the world. We ask for God’s blessing and healing on the sick. This is where we can ask with a humble heart for God to meet our needs for ourselves and others.

“When we pray God hears more than we say, answers more than we ask, gives more than we imagine in his own time and in his own way.”
(Father Brian Darcy)

Lord God
We come into your presence with thanksgiving and joy .
We thank you for the wonderful blessings you have freely given us.
That we are able to love one another, parents and children, husbands and wives friends and neighbours.
That we are free to meet to worship you.
For health and happiness and the beauty of your creation.
That you forgive our sins when we confess our failures to you.
Help us to use our talents for the benefit of all.
For you are the God who loves us all. Amen.

Liz Hiddleston,
Cairngryffe’s Prayer Promoter

The Kentigern Way



The resurgence of interest in pilgrimage in Scotland has seen the development of a growing number of medium to long-distance pilgrim trails. The Kentigern Way is the most recent addition to these routes. It starts at Hoddam near Annan and using a number of long-distance walking routes provides a mainly off-road pilgrimage trail leading to Glasgow and St Kentigern's crypt in Glasgow Cathedral.

Kentigern also known as St Mungo, is the patron saint of Glasgow. His life story is based a collection of myths and miracles, commemorated in the Glasgow coat of arms- the bird, the bell, the tree and the ring.

Kentigern lived in the later half of the 6th century, he was a contemporary of St Columba. Kentigern brought Christianity to much of South West Scotland. He established his monastic cell near the Molendinar Burn, where Glasgow Cathedral now stands. He established an episcopal (bishop's) seat at Hoddam near Annan. We know he had connections with Stobo.

Annan, Tweed and Clyde

A' rise oot 'ae hillside

It is assumed that to carry out his missionary activities he travelled widely throughout Annandale, Tweeddale and Clydesdale. It is not known the exact paths and roads he travelled, but the pilgrimage route tries to travel widely through the areas Kentigern would have known and travelled in.

The Pilgrimage route starts at Hoddam, travels the Annandale Way to Moffat, follows the Southern Upland Way to Traquair. Takes the Cross Scotland Drove Road to Peebles, then follows the John Buchan Way to Broughton, then on to Biggar. The section from Biggar to Lanark, takes back roads, Biggar to WolfClyde, to Cormiston, Boat Bridge Thankerton, crosses the A73 at Tinto Tearoom, comes round the foot of Tinto following the Cycle path route to Carmichael, continues out to the A70 towards Hicklebirnie, crosses the A70 following the Kirkfieldbank Road, takes the path down to cross the Clyde at the power station weir to New Lanark.

After New Lanark the route follows the Clyde Walkway to Glasgow.

As the route comes through Carmichael village, Cairngryffe Kirk is one of the churches listed on the Pilgrim's route; on the 15th October Bill and Christine Jack of the steering committee visited our church when they took part in the inaugural walk.

For more detailed information visit the Kentigern Way website, Kentigern.com

INFORMATION

Interim Moderator: Rev Dr Elijah Obinna, Minister of St John's Church, Carluke

Tel: 01555752389

Session Clerk: Dr Rosmairi Galloway, Pepperknowes, Carmichael, Biggar ML12 6PH

Mobile: 07733446567

Prayer Promoter: Liz Hiddleston Tel; 018999 221664

Visit Our Website: www.cairngryffekirk.org.uk **Webmaster:** Jim Watt

WORSHIP SCHEDULE November and December 2021

We have a schedule of worship from now until the end of December.

Our own Sunday services are at 9.30am until the end of this year.

2021 Sunday	CAIRNGRYFFE	LIBBERTON& QUOTHQUAN	SYMINGTON
7 TH NOVEMBER COMMUNION	9.30 Rev Elijah Obinna	11.00 Rev Bill Buchan	11.00 Rev Elijah Obinna
14 TH	9.30 Alan Grant	11.00 Alan Grant	11.00 WG
21 ST	9.30 Jane Fucella	11.00 OA	11.00 Jane Fucella
28 TH	9.30 Rev Elizabeth Clelland	11.00 Rev Elizabeth Clelland	11.00 WG
5 TH DECEMBER	9.30 Jane Fucella	11.00 Rev Bill Buchan	11.00 Jane Fucella
12 TH	9.30 Alan Grant	11.00 Alan Grant	11.00 WG
19 TH	9.30 Alan Grant	11.00 WG	11.00 Alan Grant
26 TH	9.30 Rev Elizabeth Clelland	11.00 Rev Elizabeth Clelland	11.00 WG

OA - Own Arrangements

WG - Worship Group

At the New Year we return to Sunday Worship at 11.00am.