

# CAIRNGRYFFE PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025

(Covers April -June 2025)



Gift from the Moderator

Photo: Guy Whitefield

*The tile has the Moderator's Coat of Arms. The shield depicts the burning bush emblem of the Church of Scotland. Behind the shield is the Quigrich -the crozier of St Fillan, a pastor is a shepherd to his congregation. The Geneva Bonnet pays tribute to John Knox, and with the twenty tassels representing the leadership role of the Moderator.*

**Cairngryffe Parish Church: one of the Tinto Parishes**

*Charity Number – SC 017001*

## **INFORMATION**

**Interim Moderator:** *Rev Louise Mackay, Minister of Lanark, St Nicholas'*

*Tel: 01555 661936*

**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](http://www.cairngryffekirk.org.uk)      **Webmaster:** *Jim Watt*

*A digital copy of the Newsletter is available on our website.*

## **ORGANISATIONS**

**GUILD:** last meeting for this Session is Lunch at Cornhill Castle Hotel, 1pm, Wednesday April 9<sup>th</sup> 2025.

For further information about the Guild please contact Secretary Elizabeth Forbes on 01555 640018/078892649

## **EVERYOUNG**

The Everyoung Group meets in Thankerton Bowling Club at 2pm on Thursdays with a speaker, tea and a blether. Dates for the last 2 meetings of this session.

10<sup>th</sup> April – David Henry (Blackhouse) – To the Ends of the earth.

24<sup>th</sup> April - Bill Buchan (Biggar) Herring Fishing

Contact Charlie Todd for further details on 01899 308327

## **CAIRNGRYFFE CUPPA, CRAFT & CHAT**

Next meeting Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025 1-3pm in the church.

Bring along a craft project you are working on and enjoy a couple of hours crafting and chatting.

Contact Rosmairi Galloway for further details on 07733446567

## **From our Interim Moderator**

*Dear members and friends in Cairngryffe Church,*

Easter, for me, isn't just about chocolate eggs and bunny rabbits. Don't get me wrong, I do love a chocolate Easter egg, but it is also a time that holds a deeper meaning—one of renewal, hope, and reflection.

It's a reminder that even in our darkest moments there's always a glimmer of hope, a chance for a fresh start. The disciples, as they watched Jesus on the cross, would have felt that all was lost, that it was all over.

Yet the reality of Easter is the truth that from that dark moment came the most powerful new beginning for us all! Hope invaded earth, in the middle of darkness.

One of the things I love most about Easter is the idea of renewal. The timing of Easter coincides with Spring, we can see the daffodils, and the plants that were sleeping over winter coming back to life!

Just as the flowers start to bloom and the days get longer.

Easter reminds us that we too can shed our old habits and embrace new beginnings. It's a time to let go of past mistakes and move forward with a renewed sense of purpose and direction. The old order of things passed away and the new has come – the resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate victory!

Easter is also a time of introspection. It's a chance to take a step back and think about what truly matters in life. In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, it's easy to lose sight of the things that are most important.

This Easter, take some time in the presence of Jesus, and allow Him to refresh you and be reminded of all that He has done in your life.

But perhaps the most powerful aspect of Easter is the message of hope it brings.

In a world that often feels chaotic and uncertain, when we turn on the news and see darkness and fear across our world, Easter reminds us that there's always light at the end of the tunnel. It's a reminder that even in our darkest moments, there's still reason to believe that things will get better.

It's a message of resilience, strength and an unbreakable love that I find incredibly comforting, especially during challenging times.

As I sit here reflecting on Easter, I feel a sense of gratitude wash over me. Gratitude for the incredible reality of the victory Jesus accomplished on the cross and through His resurrection for us, for the beauty of nature, for the love and support of my family and friends, and for the opportunity to experience life in all its ups and downs.

Easter is a time of renewal, reflection, and hope. It's a time to be reminded of the truth of Easter, embrace new beginnings, to reconnect with what truly matters, and to find comfort in the knowledge that brighter days lie ahead.

### **Rev. Louise Mackay**

*Interim Moderator*

Although we do not have our own minister our church is always available for family life events: baptisms, weddings and funerals; as Interim Moderator Rev Louise Mackay ensures that a minister is available when we need one.

### **News from the Session**

Good News stories were a feature of the Presbytery of Lanark's meetings. We have some Good News stories to tell. Particularly about two very special services that have been held in Cairngryffe Church recently; the Moderator's visit and the World Day of Prayer Service.

We are also making progress with our discussions with our neighbours in Douglas Valley and Upper Clyde as we work towards implementation of the Presbytery Mission Plan.

### **Moderator's Visit**

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Right Reverend Dr Shaw Paterson and his wife Christine visited Cairngryffe Church on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025. He led worship and also presented three of the elders with Elder's Long Service Certificates. Mrs Lily Borthwick has been an elder for 31 years, and Mr Denham Macdougall and Mrs Elizabeth Hiddleston for 32 years. Mrs Borthwick has also been church officer for 40 years, and Mr Macdougall and Mrs Hiddleston have been Congregational Worship Leaders for over 20 years. All have shown great dedication to their church.



During the service the Moderator presented us with a tile which depicts the Moderator's Coat of Arms. He told us how he was brought up in Lanarkshire. His father was a bricklayer who lost the feeling in his fingers because of his work. His father enabled him to learn the skill of tiling which helped him support himself as a student at the University of Glasgow. He studied for a degree in biology first, then for his theology degree. During his year as Moderator, he has used his skills in tiling and DIY to support church and community projects. He told us about the Coat of Arms of the Moderator and what the emblems represent.

The Old Testament Reading was Jeremiah 1:4-10 and the New Testament Reading was Luke 4:21-30, Jim Watt was the reader. Jim and Shaw had been co-Moderators of the new Presbytery when the legacy Presbyteries of Lanark and Hamilton merged together and then subsequently merged with part of Falkirk Presbytery.

The service was followed by a buffet lunch. Both the service and the lunch were well attended by members and friends of the church.

A big thank you to all who helped make the day the success it was.



Pictured Left to right, Mrs L Borthwick, Right Reverend Dr Shaw Paterson, Mr D Macdougall and Mrs E Hiddleston. Photograph taken by Guy Whitefield.

## **World Day of Prayer**

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2025, Cairngryffe Guild hosted the World Day of Prayer Service. Members of our Guild and others from Carnwath, Carstairs and Forth lead the service. Guests from other neighbouring Guilds also attended. The service was written by Christian Women of the Cook Islands. A summary about the service is in our reflection.

Tea and home baking was provided afterwards and gave those attending an opportunity to catch up with each other.

## **Presbytery Mission Plan**

We are also making progress in our discussions with our neighbouring congregations of Douglas Valley and Upper Clyde as we work towards a Union with them. So far, a draft of a Basis of Union has been written. The proposed name of the new congregation is Clydesdale Trinity which reflects where we are located, that three congregations are coming together and is also based in the belief of the Holy Trinity of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The cluster discussion team made up of members of the three congregations are now at a stage of setting up committees to look at various aspects of congregation life, as they are now in our three congregations, and how we can develop this as we become a united congregation.

Later in this process the congregation will have a chance to vote on the establishment of the Union. Only members on the Communicant Roll of the Church and adherents can be on our electoral roll. Please ask your elder or the Session Clerk to check that you are on our electoral roll. It is also important to let us know of any changes of name or address so that we can keep your entry in our records up to date.

Our current linkage as part of the Tinto Parishes will dissolve. Libberton and Quothquan will close and merge with Biggar. Symington are asking permission to dissolve their congregation.

At this time of change and transition within the church both locally and nationally, we greatly value your ongoing support of your local church.

We all have something to contribute to our church by our attendance, our donations, our fellowship and support for our organization and each other.

*Rosmairi J Galloway*

**Session Clerk.**

## **Funeral:**

Mrs Margaret Bulloch passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> of February, her funeral was held in the church on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of March and was well attended by family and many friends. We extend our sympathy to her husband Jim.

## **PRESBYTERY REPORT**

*Meeting of Presbytery held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025*

### **Roll of Presbytery**

Very Rev Sally Foster-Fulton and Rev R Stuart M Fulton were added to the roll along with elders from recently united churches. Also added as a corresponding member was Caroline Whittit, who is Youth Development Worker with Upper Braes Parish Church (Falkirk).

There were also some elders removed from congregations who are now in a union or which have been dissolved.

### **Report of the Business Committee**

There have been further changes in Interim Moderators.

The Committee encouraged members and wider congregations to learn more about the Narrative of Generosity and Legacy of Slavery initiatives within the Church of Scotland.

Rev Dr Nikki Macdonald has been nominated to serve on the General Assembly Committee to Nominate the Moderator.

Commissioners to the General Assembly 2025 were agreed, including Rev Elijah Obinna and Rev Louise Mackay.

### **Presbytery Clerk Appointed**

Rev Fiona Crawford, presently Assistant Minister at Barlanark Greyfriars Church in Glasgow and Change Facilitator for the Presbytery of Glasgow, has been appointed as our new Presbytery Clerk, starting in early March.

### **Report of the Complaints Committee**

The Committee's range of options when dealing with complaints were acknowledged and their reporting procedures affirmed, noting the need for accountability and confidentiality.

## **Report of the Congregational Support Committee**

The attestation of Congregational Records (excluding finance and property) will take place starting on 17<sup>th</sup> of March.

## **Report of the Planning and Implementation Committee**

The Basis of Dissolution of Larkhall: Trinity Church of Scotland was approved.

As an Interim Step in the Presbytery Mission Plan for Cluster S4 (Kirkmuirhill, Coalburn and Lesmahagow) following the decision of the Rev Morag Garrett to decline to allow her name to go forward as Minister of Cluster S4, a call was granted to Kirkmuirhill in 7 Year Reviewable Tenure or on the occasion of a vacancy in Coalburn and Lesmahagow.

A change to the Presbytery Mission Plan in relation to Cluster W6 (Bellshill: Central, Bellshill: West and Bothwell) was approved, also in relation to Cluster W5 (East Kilbride Claremont, East Kilbride Mossneuk and East Kilbride South). These as a result of congregations being unable to come to agreements.

Basis of Unions were agreed for congregations in Grangemouth, Motherwell and Hamilton.

As an interim step the congregations of Crossford and Kirkfieldbank are to be united.

## **Report of the Resourcing Mission Committee**

A number of building works were approved including the installation of lifts at Kirkmuirhill and The Gillespie Centre in Biggar.

A number of manses and church buildings were also agreed to be put up for sale.

## **Report of the Training Committee**

A number of worship leaders were authorised following their training and also a number re-authorised. There were also a number removed from the list.

Congregations with Local Worship Leaders were reminded to refrain from deploying them to lead worship beyond the intended scope of the scheme and all Local Worship Leaders were reminded that they are required to participate in ongoing training and development.

The next meeting is on 26<sup>th</sup> April in Kirkton Church Carluke.

*Jim Watt, Presbytery Elder*



## REFLECTION

### World Day of Prayer

#### “I Made You Wonderful”

##### *Psalm 139: 14*



*Communion Table ready for World Day of Prayer; blue cloth, shells, picture and coconut's representing the Cook Islands in the South Pacific. Candle ready to be lit and handed on to next year's host, Carstairs.*

World Day of Prayer has its origins away back in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century when churches would have a day when they prayed to support their missionaries. In 1910 it became an international, ecumenical Christian Lay Women's initiative involving over 100 countries. Each year a country is picked to write the service, and the same service is used throughout the world on the last Friday of March. Bringing millions throughout the world together to pray, worship and learn each year.

World Day of Prayers' moto is: Informed prayer and Prayerful Action.

This years' service was written by the women of the Cook Islands. The theme: "I made you wonderful" based on Psalm 139:1-18.

The scripture reading from Psalm 139 was woven together with the stories from three women from the Cook Islands and with prayers.

Kia orana!

Is a Maori greeting used in the Cook Islands and it means more than just hello. It means: May you live long and may you live well. May you shine in the sun. May you dance with the waves.

Psalm 139 can be looked at in three sections, each with a different focus: verses 1-6 God knows us, verses 7-12 God is with us, and verses 13-18 God made us wonderful.

The testimony of each of the three women told of their life's journey.

Mii is a 15-year-old girl who told of her fears and hopes during the COVID pandemic.

Vainiu is a lady in her sixties, who grew up at the time when the use of her native Maori language was discouraged, and the use of English encouraged at school. Now she sees that we should honour and respect our unique languages.

Dr Dawn was the first female Cook Islands doctor at the Paediatric Department of the Cook Islands. She told her story of the difficulties facing the health services of the remote Cook Islands but also of improvements in healthcare over the years.

The stories they shared have connected us to their lives.

Their message was God knows us, is always with us, and made us unique and special.

When you greet someone, you may say Hello, but how much more meaning does thinking Kia orana ! give to that greeting.



You are invited to *Spring into Easter*

An all age, family, interactive celebration of spring and Easter.

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in the church.

The Easter Story told through arts & crafts, storytelling and singing from 1pm.

Afternoon Tea from 2pm.

Come along for all or part of the afternoon.

## CHRISTIAN AID



Christian Aid Week is 11<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

Tea, coffee and Cake after our Sunday services on 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2025. Please donate to help raise funds for Christian Aid to fund vital tools and training so farmers can support their community to escape hunger.

For more information about Christian Aid visit [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

### **DATES For your DIARY**

**Communion:** Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025 at 9.30am

**Stated Annual Meeting** to discuss our accounts for 2024 will take place after the service.

**Session Meeting** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 7.30pm in the Church.

### **Sunday Worship in our neighbouring cluster churches**

**Douglas Valley:** Douglas St Brides Church Sundays at 10am

Rigside Community Hall Sundays at 11.30am

**Upper Clyde** in the church at Abington at 10.30am.

## **Tinto Parishes Worship**

### **Sunday Services**

April -June 2025

**Cairngryffe** services at 11.00am until the end of April, services at 9.30am May and June. No service on 13<sup>th</sup> April see Palm Sunday or 4<sup>th</sup> of May.

**Libberton and Quothquan** service at 11.00am Second Sunday of each month.

**Symington** services at 9.30am until the end of April, services at 11.00am May and June. No service on 13<sup>th</sup> April see Palm Sunday

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025** Joint Tinto Parishes Service at Symington at 11am

## **HOLY WEEK**

**PALM SUNDAY** 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2025 at 11.00am at Libberton and Quothquan. This is a joint Tinto Parishes Service.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Cairngryffe: 7.00pm, Communion for Holy Week celebrated by Revs Louise Mackay and Nikki Macdonald.

Douglas Valley: 7.00pm, Maundy Thursday Worship in Rigside Community Hall. Bill Love will lead worship.

**GOOD FRIDAY** 18<sup>th</sup> April

Douglas Valley: 7.00pm, Worship for Good Friday at St Brides Church Douglas. Bill Love will lead worship.

## **COMMUNION**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2025 at 9.30am Our Interim Moderator Rev Louise Mackay will celebrate Communion

Stated Annual Meeting will take place immediately after the service.

*Details correct at time of publication, but may change depending on circumstances. Please check our website for any changes.*