

FOCUS

Winter 2017

**Kirk and Community News
for the Churches in Tinto Parishes**



In-Service Day Club, 20th November, Symington Church Hall

**THE CHRISTMAS SEASON at TINTO PARISHES
WORSHIP FOR ALL THE FAMILY**

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
24th December**

**Make the choice that suits your needs—
wherever you go, you will be very welcome**

ALL-AGE WORSHIP at Symington—7.00pm

Merry mince pies, coffee, and a chat with friends after the service

FAMILY WORSHIP at Libberton—9.00pm.

Merry mince pies and coffee after the service

WATCHNIGHT WORSHIP at Cairngryffe—11.15pm.

Merry mince pies and coffee before the service

ALL WELCOME

At each of our services we arrange a retiral collection in aid of the charities we support this year. Across the three churches this will be The Haven, Forth; New Beginnings Clydesdale; and Embrace the Middle East

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

FAMILY WORSHIP at Libberton Church—10.30am

*Shortbread and sherry/ginger beer after the service
Joint Tinto Parishes Worship*

ALL WELCOME

JOINT SERVICES

UNITED END OF YEAR WORSHIP

Sunday 31st Dec 2017 -

Start Hogmanay at Symington at 11.00am

UNITED FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR WORSHIP

Sunday 7th January 2018 -

Start the year's worship at Cairngryffe at 11.00am

BLUE CHRISTMAS—Catching the Light

Advent and Christmas is a time of great festivity and joy for the majority of people, and often there is pressure on to always be enjoying everything. But Christmas can also be a particularly difficult time for people who may be grieving a loss, for those who are living alone, or those who have painful associations with this time of year.



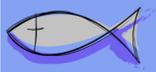
In recognition of this our Church offers a worship service, which gives space for acknowledging these feelings. It is open both to people who feel loss at this time of year, and those who would like in the midst of celebration to express solidarity with everyone suffering this Christmastime.

**At Libberton & Quothquan Church
on Monday 18th December at 7.30pm.
ALL WELCOME**



*creating decorations for the tree, other crafts,
snacks, songs, and lots of fun
for the young, the very young, and the ever young*

THE TINTO PARISHES



Cairngryffe Parish Church
Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church



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, Haghalm Road, Cleghorn, ML11 7SG (01555 871114)

Symington Parish Church: - SC 009095

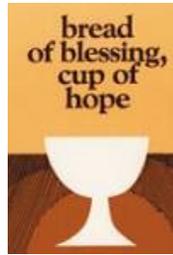
Mr Ross Russell, Spindrift, Main Street, Symington, ML12 6LL (01899 308240)

Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church - SC 016304

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

Sacrament of Holy Communion

CAIRNGRYFFE	Sunday 4 th March at 11.00am
SYMINGTON	Sunday 11 th March at 11.00am
LIBBERTON & QUOTHQUAN	Sunday 18 th March at 09.30am



PRAYER AND PRAISE—Spring 2018

Reflective and meditational worship



Tuesday 27th March in Libberton Kirk. This is during Holy Week, and the guest speaker will be Rev. Elizabeth Clelland. **At 7.00pm**
Monday 16th April in Symington Church **at 7.30pm**

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
January 7 th	Joint First Service of the Year in Cairngryffe – 1100 -- Minister		
January 14 th	1100 M	1100 WG	0930 M
January 21 st	1100 WG	1100 M	0930 M
January 28 th	1100 M	1100 WG	0930 M
February 4 th	1100 WG	1100 M	0930 M
February 11 th	1100 M	1100 WG	0930 M
February 18 th	1100 WG	1100 M	0930 M
February 25 th	1100 M	1100 WG	0930 M
March 4 th	1100 WG	1100 M COM	0930 M
March 11 th	1100 M COM	1100 WG	0930 M
March 18 th	1100 WG	1100 M	0930 M COM
March 25 th	Joint Palm & Passion Service in Cairngryffe – 1100 - Minister		
April 1 st	Joint Easter Day Service in Libberton 11.00 - Minister		
April 8 th	0930 M	1100 M	1100 O
April 15 th	0930 M	1100 WG	1100 M

M=Minister: WG=Worship Group, O=Own arrangements:
COM= Communion Sunday

CARE HOME WORSHIP—2018.

Rev. George will lead worship in the following Biggar Care Homes:

JANUARY

Greenhills - Wednesday 10th January at 2.30pm

The Bield - Wednesday 31st January at 2.00pm

MARCH

Greenhills - Wednesday 14th March at 2.30pm

The Bield - Wednesday 28th March at 2.00pm (Communion)



The image is Zinnia Elegans—popularly called 'youth-and-age'.

WORSHIP CALENDAR.

This year we follow through John's Gospel, under the general theme of 'WORD OF LIFE'. The Gospel of John is very different from the other three Gospels. Matthew, Mark and Luke are often called 'the Synoptic Gospels' because when we read them we see the same stories in a similar sequence and with similar words—they use similar sources. But much of John's Gospel stands apart. Many stories appear only in this Gospel. Right from the beginning John's Gospel expressed its purpose as to 'show that Jesus of Nazareth was Christ, the Son of God, and that believers in him might have eternal life.' There are also many long discourses.

January 7 th	John 1:35-51	Baptism of Jesus
January 14 th	John 2:1-11	Wedding at Cana
January 21 st	John 2:13-25	Jesus cleanses the Temple
January 28 th	John 3:1-21	Nicodemus
February 4 th	John 4:1-42	The woman at the well
February 11 th	John 9:1-41	The man born blind (Transfiguration Sunday)
February 18 th	John 11:1-44 (LENT 1)	Jesus raises Lazarus
February 25 th	John 13:1-17 (LENT 2)	Jesus washes the disciples feet
March 4 th	John 18:12-27 (LENT 3)	Peter's Denial
March 11 th	John 18: 28-40 (LENT 4)	Jesus and Pilate
March 18 th	John 19:1-16a (LENT 5)	Jesus Condemned
March 25 th	John 12: 12-27	Palm and Passion Sunday
April 1 st	John 20:1-18	Easter Sunday
April 8 th	John 20: 19-31	Thomas
April 15 th	Acts 9:1-19	Paul's conversion

What will also be different in the way we follow through John's Gospel is that from the 2nd week of LENT we enter into the Passion narrative. These events—the final meal with his followers, Peter's denial, Jesus before Pilate and condemned—we usually explore only during our Holy Week.

Many Christians view John's Gospel as their favourite Gospel, right from the powerful opening poetry of "In the beginning was the WORD and the WORD was with God and the WORD was God" to the final instructions of the risen Christ to Simon Peter—"Feed my Sheep" and "Follow me."

MINISTER'S LETTER



The young minister thought it was a great idea, and he shared it online with other ministers. On the Sunday after Christmas during worship he would begin the act of taking down and packing up the Christmas decorations on the chancel. As he did so, he would talk about the meaning of each item.

As I read this, I remembered the clearing out in Jerusalem – taking apart the artificial Christmas Tree – no matter how carefully we put away the different lengths of branches, the following year I still had to spend an hour sorting them out before setting the tree up again. And also, why was it that the three long strings of Christmas lights always ended up almost irretrievably tangled up together – even when we had taken such care.

But the minister had more to say about this 'ceremony' of taking down. "The last thing to be cleared away," he said, "will be the Christ Candle. And what I will do is secretly switch the wick with one of those birthday candles that re-light after you extinguish it."

I thought about that. If it happened once we would all be surprised, and amused. Then if it happened again...and again. And we would be quite perplexed that the flame will not go out. The minister said, "I could then speak again about the light shining in the darkness and the darkness not overcoming it. I could speak about Christ and undying hope, resurrection and hope."

Don't worry. There will be no candle tricks in Tinto Parishes this year. But when our beautiful decorations are removed, hopefully we will remember the light of God's love still shines, and also remember the words we sang each Sunday of Advent – "*Christ is our light, shine on, shine on we pray, into our hearts, into our world today.*"

In this issue of *FOCUS* we highlight our Christmas activities, and also we take the opportunity to look around at some ways other churches are reaching out into their community. In 2018 we will be led by Presbytery through our first 'Local Church Review'. This is designed to happen every five years. It will help us in our forward planning, and in broader consultation both within the congregation and into the community.

2018 will be a busy year. Let's pray also for joy and peace to prevail.

Your friend and minister,

George

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

—WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CAIRNGRYFFE—

Deaths : Mrs Sadie Campbell – October 28

Weddings :

Adam Bailie and Fiona Struthers – September 9

Ryan Meikle and Lyndsay Gilmour – November 25



The Cairngryffe congregation was deeply saddened by the passing of Sadie. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with both those closest to Sadie and her wider family. As most people who knew her will already know, she was a tireless supporter of not just “all things Cairngryffe” but events across The Tinto Parishes. She was a member and then office bearer of the Guild and of the Everyyoung Group for some years and relished her involvement in these groups. It is fair to say that whenever there was an event in Cairngryffe, whether a special celebration which required donations of flowers, something for the New Beginning donation box – whether food or household, items she was the first to ask “what do you need most” and was always first to fill her shoe box for their appeals over many years. We will miss her presence, her enthusiasm and her cheery smile.

We were delighted to provide the setting for two weddings recently officiated by Rev George and we already have one in the pipeline for 2018.

After our recent appeal we are pleased that another volunteer has joined the Sunday School Teachers Team - so welcome Emma Jane, we hope you enjoy your time with the young people in the Sunday School.

Now that the autumn months have passed and we head into the winter months we are very much looking forward to the Joy of Christmas time and all it encompasses. By the time you read this edition of FOCUS Cairngryffe Kirk will be decorated and we will be in the middle of Advent season. You will note, either on a Sunday from your Order of Service or by reading FOCUS, that a new pattern of Christmas Eve worship is being trialed, so please come along and join us either on a Sunday or at any of the other joint events advertised in this issue. If you need assistance with transport please call me on 01555 871114 we will be happy to help.

On behalf of Session I would like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous and Healthy 2018.

Mary McLellan, Session Clerk at Cairngryffe

CAIRNGRYFFE SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

New Year –Easter 2018

We meet in the church for 11.00am and take part in the first part of the service. After ‘Time Together’ we go to our Sunday School Room to do our own Bible based activities.

At the moment we are preparing for Christmas, looking at the Nativity Story anew. From January to Easter we will be looking at the Bible Stories of St John’s Gospel.

Dates and times

We will be on Holiday from 24th December 2017 until our new term starts at 11am on Sunday 14th of January 2018.

Sunday 11am from Sunday 14th of January until Palm Sunday 25th of March 2018. There will be no Sunday School on 11th of February 2018, the mid-term holiday.

For further information contact Rosmairi Galloway tel: 01555 880779

—WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIBBERTON & QUOTHQUAN—

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service was quite late this year and this was a blessing. Any earlier and we would have been giving thanks for something that hadn’t quite happened! Heavy incessant rain meant that our harvest was very late and our farmers must have been concerned that they would never finish this year’s harvest. They did and we celebrated with George in a beautifully decorated church on 22nd October, with Maisie’s farm scene taking pride of place as usual on the Communion Table.

The following day we held our traditional Harvest Supper in Quothquan Hall with some old friends from Blackmount and some now, not so new friends from Cairngryffe. A good evening was had by all with tasty food and Christian fellowship.

Jim Cutler led us in our Remembrance Day Service. This year it was even more poignant, being the first since we lost Bryce Mc Cosh who always played such an important part in the service. It was different this year but it was a fine service and I think Bryce would be pleased.

Looking to Advent., one family a week will read the Liturgy and light a candle. It’s always a lovely way to lead into Christmas and the final touches to services for this wonderful season are being put in place.

Lilias Nicholls, Session Clerk at L&Q



—WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SYMINGTON —

Deaths

Ian Lindsay. His many friends in and around Symington were saddened to learn of the death on 19 October of Ian Lindsay. Ian and his wife May moved some time ago to The Bield in Biggar but Ian's declining health caused him eventually to have to move into the Care Home at Greenhills.

We extend our deepest sympathy to May and hope that the continuing support of her many friends in Symington Kirk will help her through the days ahead.

Mary Gray. We learned of the sudden death this week of Mary Gray, Eastfield Farm, Symington. We extend our deepest sympathy to her husband, Peter and to Moira, Charlie, Jim and Fiona.

Around the Church.

Some developments of Note. Work has been undertaken on the path from the Church to Manse Road. And modern roof insulation has been introduced into the roof of the Church Hall. We are grateful to the Symington Community Council for their partnership support with this.

Now that summer has departed, we are upgrading the lighting all around the church to assist with access and leaving the church in the dark evenings.

And work has been undertaken outside of the Church Hall to upgrade the parking. We are very grateful to Jim Duncan and Mackenzie Construction for this gift.

Ross Russell, Session Clerk at Symington

THE CHURCH in the WORLD.

At the December meeting of Presbytery it was agreed to welcome Rev. John McCulloch and family as Mission Partners linked to the Presbytery, and to encourage congregations to establish correspondence links with John. He is to be the new minister at St. Andrew's Scots Memorial Church in Jerusalem.

John has family links with Lesmahagow. He will be in our area for a few days in February 2018 before the family travels out to live in Bethlehem. We will know more information soon, and will hold them in our prayers.



THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY.

Featuring another example of how a local church is finding new ways to engage with the community.

WARNING—this article may contain Coffee in Coffee Cups!

Kirkton Church in Carlisle says the Café Church meetings in the town's Bakehouse Café are proving very popular, particularly with people unable to attend worship on Sundays.

Around 35 people of all ages gather there once a month on Wednesdays for an evening of music, singing, film clips, discussion and a host of other fun activities.

Lesley Ewing, the church's congregational youth worker said:

"We wanted to look at a different way to worship, an alternative to a Sunday morning for those who might not be able to come along. We make time to chat with each other prior to the evening starting and also during. It has helped new members in our congregation get to know other people and friendships have grown."

The project was started in October 2016 by Lesley and a former probationer minister at the church. Each meeting revolves around a different theme. Over the last year these have included

- cake baking,
- Poetry in the Bible,
- Remembrance,
- Conversations in Worship,
- spirituality and the importance of music.



Rev. Ian Cunningham plays the guitar at Café Church.

The Bakehouse Café does not charge for use of its premises as the owner is a member of the Kirkton congregation. Lesley said: "I would really recommend to other congregations that they should consider running Café Church if they have access to suitable locations and people to run it. It really is a fantastic way to take church into the wider community.

"People from other churches are more than welcome to come along if they would like to see what happens and learn more."

Adapted from an article that appeared on the Church of Scotland Website in early November

FROM OUR KIRK TREASURERS

Cairngryffe Church – Treasurer’s Report

Income to October 2017	Expenditure to October 2017		
Ordinary	£2,403	Church of Scotland	£11,246
Freewill	1,616	Travel Expenses	753
Gift Aid	11,133	Joint Cong Account	3,218
Tax Back (accrued)	2,227	Salaries	2,145
Donations	374	Presbytery Dues	387
Weddings	400	Printing & Stat	167
Tea Committee	493	Pulpit Supply	190
		Miscellaneous	780
Total Income	£18,646	Total Expenditure	£18,886
Deficit y-t-d	£240		

The above statement is prepared on an ‘Income and Expenditure’ basis.

Linzi Struthers, Treasurer

Symington Church Jan – Oct 2017

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Plate Offerings	2,412	Ministry & Mission	18,873
Weekly Envelopes	2,793	Minister’s Travel	753
Standing Orders	16,413	Other Staff Costs	5,267
Other Income	1,460	Joint Cong Expenses	1,257
Gift Aid Tax Refund ‘16	6,077	Fabric Maintenance	1,642
Clyde Windfarm – Church Path Grant	1,589	Church Path Improve- ments	1,589
		Heat & Light	1,388
		Church & Manse Insc	1,488
		Other Costs	532
TOTAL INCOME	30,744	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	32,789
Deficit Year-to-Date	2,045		

J. Eric Carlyle (Treasurer)

Libberton Church – Treasurer’s Report

The one significant feature of this years accounts has been the absence of ongoing expenditure on fabric repairs, which led to deficits in 2015 and 2016, totalling £9000. The problem was water seepage in the church steeple and hopefully, this has now been sealed.

I anticipate a surplus for 2017, the first since 2014. Income during the year has risen slightly which has helped to offset the ever increasing costs of electricity and regular maintenance within the church. The financial position of the church is stable due to the regular, generous giving of members.

MG Stobo, Treasurer..

PRESBYTERY OF LANARK ELDER’S REPORT

Presbytery meetings are now being held in Lanark: Greyfriars church, however, as is the custom, the September meeting was held in Carluke: St Johns, this being the church of Mr Alan Grant who was installed Moderator of Presbytery for the 2017/18 session.

During October Presbyters were saddened to hear of the death of Mrs Anna Lumsden. Anna had not only been a prominent member of Presbytery for a number of years, including being Business Convenor and Moderator for the 2015/16 session, but also very prominent in the town of Lanark and was recently created a Burgess. Rev Bryan Kerr gave a fitting tribute to her life and her contribution to the Church and the community at the November meeting.

Ann Lyall left Kirkmuirhill on 18th September following her appointment as Interim Deacon to Avonbridge and Torphichan. An appreciation of her ministry at Kirkmuirhill was given at the September meeting. Rev Harry Findlay has been appointed Interim Moderator.

The Basis of Union between Coalburn and Lesmahagow Old was agreed and a service of union was held on Thursday 28 September 2017 in Lesmahagow Old Parish Church, with Mr Alan Grant being appointed as Interim Moderator as of 18 September 2017.

The Kirk Session of Biggar Kirk have taken over the running of the Gillespie Centre from the Gillespie Centre Association, however some repair work is to be carried out before the building itself is handed over.

The Presbytery of Lanark is one of 9 pilot Presbyteries undertaking a Presbytery Review Process. We will be reviewed by the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles, while members of Lanark Presbytery will review the Presbytery of Lochaber.

As part of the review process some time was spent at the November meeting discussing, in groups, what we do well, what we could do better and our vision for the future of the Presbytery and the congregations within the bounds. In addition a meeting has been held between the Business Committee and Committee Convenors to discuss the future shape of our Presbytery.

An invitation from Clyde Scouts has been received, and accepted, asking that the Moderator of Lanark presbytery become one of their Honorary Vice Presidents.

Two new documents have been produced in connection with the Local Church Review (LCRV) process. These divide and define the roles and responsibilities of the presbytery representatives and the consultants. The Tinto Parishes are due to undergo a LCRV in early 2018.

During the summer period there was a very high number of funerals within the presbytery and it has been proposed that having more people trained in both conducting funerals and to help with follow up bereavement care would be useful. It was thought that this could be aimed at both those who had completed the leading worship course and other elders who felt this would be something they could do

Jim Watt (Presbytery Elder for Cairngryffe)

BUBBLEGUM 'N FLUFF

At the time of writing we have completed our Bubblegum 'n Fluff event at Carmichael Primary School, and are looking forward to repeating it at Tinto and at Libberton Primaries.

This is our first year. We gathered together all the resources thanks to a grant from the Presbytery of Lanark, and the creative abilities of members of our congregation (especially Jessie). Each of the three events will be led by Rev. George and Alec Kelly of Clydesdale Christian Youth Trust, and ably assisted by a talented team of six—Christina, Edna, Jessie, Margaret, Mike, & Sheena. Next year we will do it on our own!

Crafts, drama and dressing up, bible stories, a reflective time, a puppet show, and a Nutty Professor with a degree in Parcelology and Wrappification—all to tell the real story that lies behind Christmas—the reason for the season.

Incredibly good teamwork!



For the 'reflection', each child decorated a candle and wrote a message about their hopes for the world in 2018. They were all gathered together on a tray. What a genuine and caring group of young people they were.

More photos further on.

FLOWER LISTS

SUNDAY	CAIRNGRYFFE	SYMINGTON
10 th December 2017	Sandra Stewart	Jill Allen
17 th December 2017	Elsie Pahnke	Christmas Decor
24 th December 2017	Christmas Flowers	Janette Hope
31 st December 2017	Christmas Flowers	Jessie Duff
7 th January 2018	Christmas Flowers	Joint Cairngryffe
14 th January 2018	Christmas Flowers	Liz Short
21 st January 2018	Warnock Girls	Flower Fund
28 th January 2018	IMO Flora Ireland	Hazel Howat
4 th February 2018	Margaret Edge	Flower Fund
11 th February 2018	Nancy Nicholl	Olive Hunter
18 th February 2018	Kris Todd	Sheena Carlyle
25 th February 2018	Rosemary Whitefield	Etta Prentice
4 th March 2018	Maureen Bannatyne (C)	Flower Fund
11 th March 2018	Margaret Bulloch	Ella Hodge
18 th March 2018	Annie Callan	Marlyn Masterton
25 th March 2018	Margaret Smith	Joint Cairngryffe

Editor's Note

A grateful thanks to everyone who contributed material for this Christmas issue of Focus.

The next issue will be available in late February 2018.

Contributions from both community and church groups and organisations, covering the period from March to May 2018 should be sent to Charlie Todd by

Sunday 11th February 2018—at the latest.

The Editor, Charlie Todd, can be reached at 63, Station Road, Thankerton, ML12

6NZ, Tel 01899 308327, or by email on kandctodd@gmail.com

RURAL CHURCHES ROADSHOW.

On Saturday 18th November, Rev. George attended a Church of Scotland Roadshow in Melrose to hear about new resources available to the rural church. The meeting was coordinated by Heather Sanderson on behalf of the Rural Churches Working Group. Heather is the Congregational Learning Development Worker for the Mission and Discipleship Council.

As the meeting progressed we learnt some basic things - 43% of the Churches in Scotland are rural, but the only representation of rural in central structures is through a 'Rural Churches Working Group', which has access to 20% of Heather's time and an annual budget for projects of only £3,000. Of course, all churches benefit from all the resources that 'church central' makes available, but everyone agreed that rural churches should have a stronger voice within the structures.



The highlight of the day was the afternoon information sharing session. One case study was of Oxnam Church. (oxnamkirk.co.uk). Oxnam is a small village – a cluster of perhaps 20 houses - near Jedburgh. The church is one of five in a linkage called Kelso County Churches. A few years ago the church decided to undertake a community survey. They approached the Church of Scotland 'Go FOR IT' fund for financial assistance to make it a comprehensive survey, and as a result

of the feedback a number of new things developed.

A CAFÉ in the hall, at the same time as the mobile library arrives every three weeks, – giving people who might otherwise be isolated an opportunity to meet.

A COMMUNITY CHOIR—'Oxnam Valley Voices' was started by the church

A WALKING GROUP was established

MONTHLY FILM NIGHTS started in the village hall after funding was found for projector.

This seemed a very good example of a church working in partnership with its community, and building links and communication possibilities.



The Church of Scotland

CHURCH IN A COMMUNITY NEAR YOU

Many other ideas were shared by Hannah and others which showed just how creative the church in rural areas is. These are some of the initiative we heard about:



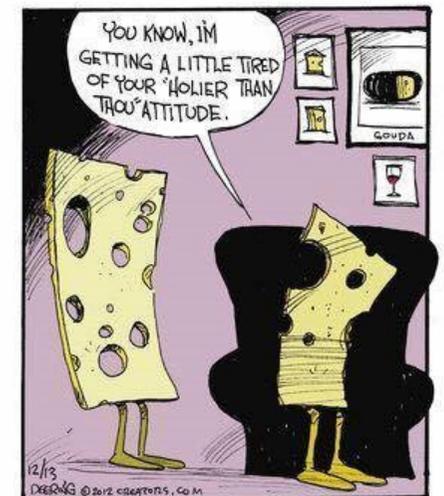
Weeknight church, shed church, movie and popcorn afternoon, pop up shop, café church, pilgrimage routes pet services (outside) a pudding safari (which seemed to be a walking group with a high calorie intake) a lambing shed nativity 5th Sunday church (joint worship in a different style) day of fellowship, parent and toddler group for the summer holidays, steeplechase round the area, the spirituality of the churchyard.

These were only some of the initiatives mentioned about churches engaging with their own communities. There's more information about each of them available if anyone is interested.

CARTOON CORNER



After 39½ years of wandering in the desert, Mrs. Moses secretly asks for directions.



12/13
DIERING © 2012 cartoonists.com

THE CHURCH in the WORLD

How did a Church of Scotland minister end up working as a the Lead Chaplain in the high-security psychiatric Hospital at Broadmoor? The same reason a Church of Scotland minister ends up anywhere! A Call was heard and responded to with no one being any more surprised than **Rev. John McMahon** himself.

John has worked in healthcare chaplaincy for almost 15 years, first with NHS Lothian at St John's Hospital, Livingston and the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. He moved south to work with the West London Mental Health Trust just over 5 years ago, and he is now Head of Spiritual and Pastoral Care in one the country's largest specialised mental health organisations. John's main base is Broadmoor Hospital, but he also has a Trust-wide remit, including local psychiatric services in Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, and Hounslow. He manages a team of chaplains from many backgrounds. As well as Muslim and Roman Catholic staff on the team, the Trust also regularly facilitates religious visits from Buddhist, Jehovah's Witnesses, Jewish, Hindu, Pagan, Quaker and Sikh traditions (and others as required). It's not unknown for John to attend the Muslim Jum'ah prayer on a Friday afternoon, having escorted the Rabbi to visit a patient on a Friday morning.

Broadmoor Hospital is one of only four high secure hospitals in the UK,. It specialises in providing assessment, treatment and care in conditions of high security for men from the south of England. It is internationally recognised, both for its work with people with mental illness and personality disorders who represent a high degree of risk to themselves or to others, and for its extensive research activities. Currently, Broadmoor Hospital looks after around 210 patients, with the average length of stay being approximately five years, although many patients' stay is considerably shorter.

As well as seeing individuals on a needs-led basis, John always works collaboratively with the clinical teams. In particular, he helps to co-facilitate a psychological therapy group every Monday afternoon, with the Head of Psychology and a Clinical Nurse Specialist, which looks at 'Challenging Stigma and Promoting Recovery'.

John has always enjoyed the interface between church and society, valuing people for who they are and enabling others, including himself, to be the best that we can be. "We are all a work in progress," says John.

This is an edited version of an article which appeared in the October 2017 'Chaplaincies newsletter'. The full version is available from Rev. George.



HYMN FOCUS

STILL THE NIGHT, HOLY THE NIGHT (HYMN 309)



Rosmairi Galloway shared these thoughts with us at our Christmas Carols Big Sing: on Sunday 10th December.

Still the night, holy the night always features high on a list of favourite carols. It has peaceful gentle lyrics accompanied by gentle music.

It has been a favourite of mine since childhood, one of the first carols if not hymns that I learned about its origins.

On Christmas Eve 1818 when Europe was just starting to recovery from the destruction of the Napoleonic Wars the story is told.

In the Austrian village of Oberndorf, at the tiny church of St. Nikola, the church mice had eaten the bellows of the organ, so no organ music for the watch-night service!

Father Joseph Mohr wrote the lyrics of a new song, and the local schoolmaster Franz Xaver Gruber composed a tune he played on his guitar. And thus was born a classic Christmas Carol.

The illustrations in my Blue Peter Annual of the late 1960's conjure up for me a heavily snow clad village in the mountains of Austria.

The imagination is taken to that absolute stillness and silence that follows a heavy snowfall. The snow insulates the noise, and all are in stunned awe until we have to start to clear the snow and get on with our busy lives.

We are transported back to the first Christmas, The Shepherds up on the hills above Bethlehem sit in that absolute silence and stillness of the hills (we do not know if it was snowing then) and then they hear the news that will transform their lives.

They have to leave their quiet hillside to travel into Bethlehem at its busiest, a Roman occupied city were an enforced census is taking place.

The carol conjures up an image of perfect peace and the serenity of the Holy Family. The carol is about the peace and tranquillity of Christmas but we all know that that will contrast with the busyness of Christmas.



THE STAPLER WAS WORKED SO HARD IT STARTED TO SMOKE



Given how cold it was on the day of collating almost 400 copies of the Christmas magazine, and that the Church Hall heating hadn't yet begun to take effect—a special medal is being pressed for our dedicated team of Collators—Jack, Ross, Mary, Cathryn, Adam and Charlie.

THE GUILD

Symington Guild

Symington Guild Meetings held on a Thursday evening in the church hall at 7.30pm. **Contact Helen Anderson 308598 or Martha Cowan 308657.**

Cairngryffe Guild

We hold our Christmas Celebration on Wednesday 13th December, 2017 in Thankerton Village Hall at 7.30pm and a warm invitation is extended to anyone who would like to come along and join us.

Further information is available from Elizabeth Forbes on 01555 880353

CAIRNGRYFFE EVERYOUNG CLUB

On **December 7th** members will enjoy a hearty **Christmas Lunch and entertainment at the Carmichael Visitors Centre Bistro** (12.30pm for 1.00pm).

The fun doesn't end there as the fortnightly meetings in Thankerton Village Hall at 2.00pm resume on :-

- 11th Jan 18** - Gavin Catto (Covington Mill) – Restoration Man
- 25th Jan** - Burns Afternoon - with entertainers and guest speaker Archie Gilbert (Carluke)
- 8th Feb** – Angus Lyon (Quothquan) – Accordion International
- 22nd Feb** – Angus Milner-Brown (Covington) – On the road in Scotland - The life of an Art and Antiques Valuer.
- 8th Mar** – Steve Martin (Chef at Carmichael Bistro – n.b. we meet there) – Of Cabbages and Kings
- 22nd Mar** – Liz Hiddleston (Biggar) – Three go to India

For more information contact **Secretary, Charlie Todd on 308327**

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S RURAL INSTITUTE

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

PETTINAIN INSTITUTE—meets in Pettinain Village Hall at 7.30pm on a Wednesday. Further details from Paula Thomson, Secretary.

THANKERTON INSTITUTE meets monthly in Thankerton Village Hall at 7.30pm, normally first Thursday. Michelle Robison on 01899 308059

SYMINGTON INSTITUTE—, Jane Murdoch, 01899 308636

QUOTHQUAN INSTITUTE—meets in Quothquan Rural Hall at 7.30pm
Further information from Mrs L. Grieve on 01555 841264

Tinto Churches Kids Club - Monday 20th November 2017

IN-SERVICE DAY CLUB

Again we have to thank all our volunteers for making the November In-Service Day Club an excellent adventure for our local young children. We had 13 youngsters—less than previously, but perhaps it is easier for families when the In-Service Day is a Monday and parents can take a long weekend.

Two of our volunteers were former participants who came back—Kai McAlroy on technology, and Cameron Bruce as one of the two Team Leaders.

The theme was 'Time Travellers Tales', and for the Bible story we focussed on Joseph in Canaan and then in Egypt. To round off the morning's activities, our construction competition, using your cardboard and tubes, was to make a 'Time Machine' that could seat two travellers. All the volunteers—in the hall and from the kitchen—judged which was the best. It was not an easy decision. A lot of creativity goes into the constructions—helmets for the travellers were created out of shoe boxes and egg boxes, and dials for steering the machines were made out of Pringles tubes.

By the end of the day there was only one disappointment—a little boy in the afternoon repeatedly asking, "Well, when are we going to do the time travelling?"



A Gingerbread Joseph with his coat of many colours. See also the front cover for a picture of the event. Also go to Facebook.com/Tinto Parishes where you will see more pictures—and of the Time Machines. They are still in Symington Church Hall. If you use them, please return them!



Guidance system for a Time machine



One of the Bubblegum 'n Fluff participants in the dressing up drama, reading from the scroll which says, "Someone will come to help you." Other characters included a Roman soldier with tabard and sword, and an old lady with a sweeping brush.

CHRISTMAS Games Page

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

EASY WORDSEARCH.

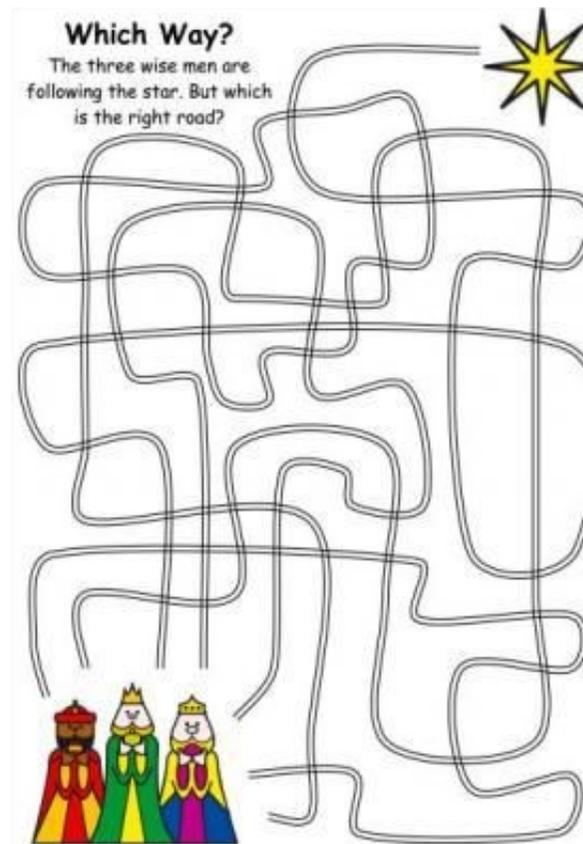
Can you find these words?

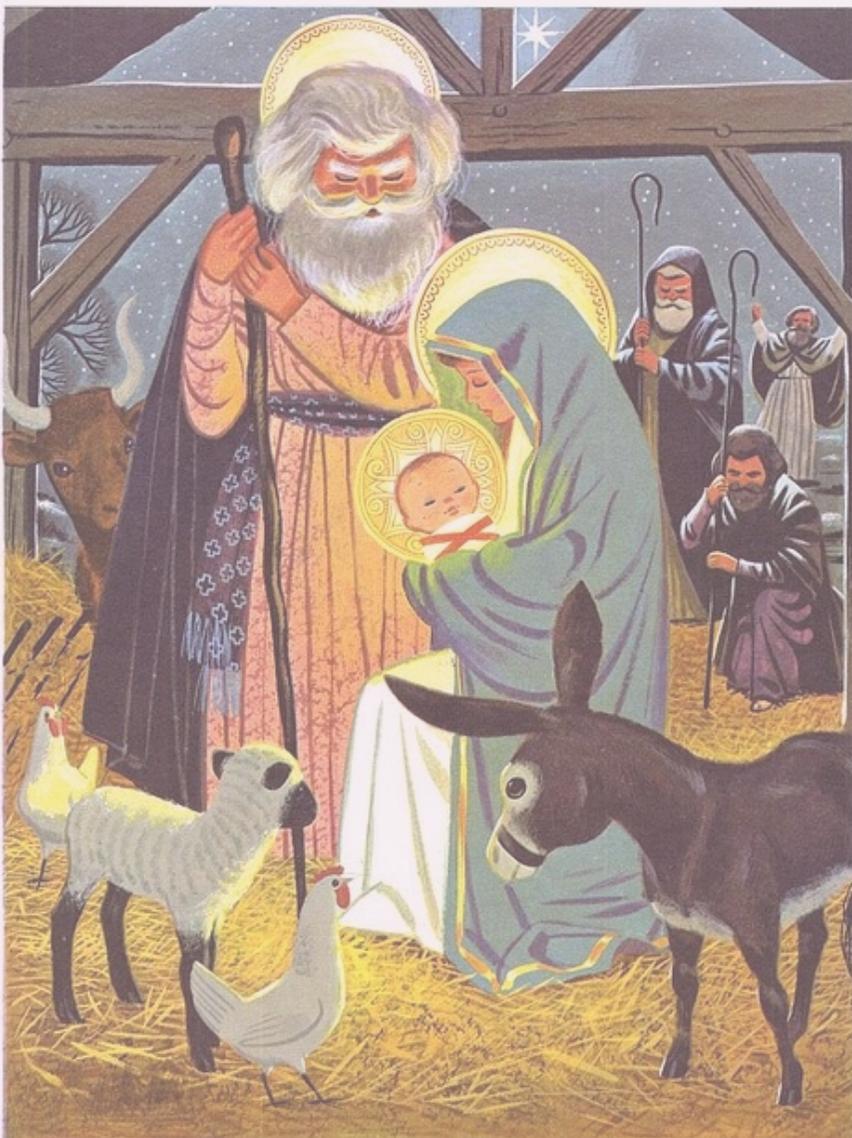
- FAMILY FEAST LOVE
ORNAMENT PRESENT
SANTA STOCKING
TREE WRAP

Nativity Word Scramble

All these words come from the Christmas Story. Can you unscramble them?

1. ASTR _____
2. HSERHSEDP _____
3. YKENDO _____
4. MARY _____
5. GLEAN _____
6. SGKIN _____
7. SJUES _____
8. ERANMG _____
9. HJSEPO _____
10. TEBLAS _____





CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO YOU,
AND ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
OF OUR TINTO PARISHES

from the Minister, Sessions Clerks, and Kirk Sessions

Prayer Page

written by Lucinda Hynett, and published in *Alive Now*. 2004

WORD OF LIFE

HUSH

Sssh.
Can you hear it?
An expectant silence,
a hushed anticipation,
as if the very galaxy is holding its breath.

There are some truths
even the stars know,
like darkness,
like loneliness
and how the night can be a living thing.

And how once, long ago,
the night waited in wonder
along with the darkness
and the loneliness,
for the sound of a baby's cry -
waited,
for the miraculous to come down to the earth mundane.

Prayer Promoters

Symington Parish Church –

Cairngryffe Parish Church –

Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church -

Heather Davidson

Liz Hiddleston

Lilias Nicholls

Tel 01899 309126

Tel 01899 221664

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