

# FOCUS

Autumn 2017

## Kirk and Community News

For the Churches in Tinto Parishes



Sunday 13th August 2017. Annual Outdoor Worship at Quothquan Church

# 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](mailto:george.shand@churchofscotland.org.uk)

## Session Clerks:

*Cairngryffe Parish Church - Charity Number SC 017001*

**Mrs Mary McLellan**, Ledaig, Haghholm 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)



## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION:

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October: Joint Tinto Parishes Communion** Service in Symington Church. World Communion Sunday.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November** at 9.30am: Cairngryffe Parish Church

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November** at 11am: Symington Parish Church

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November** at 11am: Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church

*All members are warmly invited to share together in the Sacrament. If you are unable to get out, and would like communion at home, please just tell, or ask a friend or relative to tell, your elder or Session Clerk or the minister.*

## HARVEST THANKSGIVING season

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October** at 9.30am—Cairngryffe Church

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October** at 11am—Symington Church

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** at 11am—Libberton & Quothquan Church

(L&Q Harvest Supper—Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October—evening—in Quothquan Hall)



## 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](http://www.symingtonkirk.com)

[www.cairngryffekirk.org.uk](http://www.cairngryffekirk.org.uk)

[www.libbertonquothquan.org.uk](http://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

2017	Symington	Cairngryffe	Libberton
September 03	0930 M	1100 M	1100 O
September 10	0930 M	1100 O	1100 M
September 17	0930 M	1100 M	1100 O
September 24	0930 M	1100 O	1100 M
October 01	<b>Joint Communion Service—Symington Church—11.00am</b>		
October 08	1100 O	0930 M <b>HRV</b>	1100 M
October 15	1100 M <b>HRV</b>	0930 M	1100 O
October 22	1100 O	0930 M	1100 M <b>HRV</b>
October 29	1100 M	0930 M	1100 O
November 05	1100 O <b>COM</b>	0930 M <b>COM</b>	1100 M
<b>November 12</b>	1100 M <b>REM</b>	0930 M <b>REM</b>	1100 O <b>REM</b>
November 19	1100 O	0930 M	1100 M <b>COM</b>
November 26	1100 M	0930 M	1100 O
December 03	1100 O	0930 M	1100 M
December 10	1100 M	0930 M	1100 O
December 17	1100 O	0930 M	1100 M
December 24	1100 M	0930 M	1100 O
December 25	<b>Joint Christmas Day Service—Libberton Church—10.30am</b>		
<b>2018</b>			
January 07	<b>Joint New Year Service—Cairngryffe Church—1100am</b>		
January 14	1100 M	1100 O	0930 M
January 21	1100 O	1100 M	0930 M
January 28	1100 M	1100 O	0930 M

**M**=Minister:      **O**=Own arrangements:      **COM**= Communion Sunday  
**HRV**= Harvest      **REM**= Remembrance

## CARE HOME WORSHIP—remainder of 2017.

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

**The Bield.** Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> **September** at 2.00pm

**Greenhills.** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> **November** at 2.30pm (Communion)

**The Bield.** Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> **November** at 2.00pm (Communion)



The image is an orange Lotus flower—a Fairtrade Felt Flower that helps provide employment for women in Nepal.

## MINISTER'S LETTER

I don't know if you will have seen this picture before. Heather Dobson, the Session Clerk at St. Andrew's church in Jerusalem, spotted this little doll in a Jewish shop in an Orthodox area of the city and bought it for me. She said not only did it look like me (well, I don't see it !!), but the one she had picked up had a mark on the brow—just like me! The week before I had bashed my head, and had a visible graze mark. The doll was only one and a half inches high, and unfortunately was lost in transit—but friends had taken photographs of it, so I still, sort of, have it.



For the past year, after each issue of FOCUS, a small group comes together to look at the content and discuss how it could be improved. This sort of thing is called a 'Focus Group' - so ours is called the 'FOCUS Focus Group.' The meeting we held after the Summer issue suggested that now we are photocopying the magazine, we could include more photographs—especially of contributors. Many of us don't like to have our photo taken—and here, above, is my way of dodging it!

But, seriously, the group has an important function—to ensure our church magazine focusses on what is interesting and relevant for all its readers. So, if you have any feedback, and suggestions, or any criticisms, please do feel free to let me know. Especially if you are not able to get out and about as much as you used to, is there any information about the church that you'd like to see us include? It is your magazine.

In this issue there are many interesting and challenging things. Denham's article contemplates the challenges facing the church at this present time, as it seeks to 'focus on new ways to touch the hearts of all'. And Liliias takes us on a fascinating journey by road to Hungary and back, reminding us of the importance place in the church of our focus on hospitality. And the Hymn Page choice reminds us, too, that our focus for living is not on fear, but on the 'the abiding love of God'.

We hope you enjoy the focus of this issue of FOCUS. When you no longer need it, recycle it—by passing it on to someone else.

Your friend and minister,

*George*

**PRAYER and PRAISE**

**PRAYER AND PRAISE—at 7.30pm**  
*Reflective and meditational worship*

**Monday 16th OCTOBER in Cairngryffe Church**

## “And it's goodbye from me.”

After 10 interesting weeks my placement with you at the Tinto Parishes is over, and around the time you read this I will be returning to Glasgow University for my final year of my Divinity degree studies. I have had a full summer programme and have participated in many activities, both accompanying Rev George, and on my own. There have been 2 opportunities to contribute to worship each Sunday, and I thank you for your supportive comments when I have led all or part of the worship service. I have been privileged to share in Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals, in Communion and in the Outdoor service at Quothquan.



I have been welcomed into your homes, and you have shared hospitality with me, telling your life stories to me, and listening to mine. We have prayed together, about health problems, and remembering grandchildren and family issues, and given thanks for the beautiful part of the country in which we live. I have visited you in hospitals, as far apart as the Beatson and the Kello, and into Beechgrove and McClymont House in Lanark, and to Greenhills in Biggar. I have joined in with the worship service in the Bield, and with school assemblies at Tinto Primary, and enjoyed watching P7 leaver events at Tinto and Libberton schools.

I have sat in many meetings – the three Kirk Sessions, the Worship group, the Joint Session Clerks, the 'Focus' Focus Group, the prayer promoters, and with Path of Renewal. I have been to Presbytery meetings – the full Lanark Presbytery, the Business Committee Meetings, and about Local Church Review, and to a School Chaplain's training event. I accompanied George to meetings and funeral services in Douglas Valley where he is Interim Moderator during their vacancy. And finally, as the unseen part of a minister's work, I have spent lots of hours planning and preparing worship.

So whilst the summer may be a quieter time for some, it has been an enjoyably busy time for me, and if you wonder how your minister spends his time - he does all of the above with more besides!

Thank you for all you have contributed to my training, it has been a privilege to spend this summer with you, and I will think back fondly to my time at the Tinto Parishes, and hopefully a little over 2 years from now will be extending you an invitation to my ordination!

Live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

**Sonia Blakesley**

## WORSHIP CALENDAR.

Our new lectionary cycle for 2017-2018 begins on 10<sup>th</sup> September., under the general theme of 'WORD OF LIFE'. We begin amongst the ancient stories of creation and meaning, through the dramatic Old Testament stories of God's dealings with Israel, culminating in Advent with the Prophets' longing and hope for the coming Messiah.

September 10th	Genesis 1:1—2:4a	Creation by the Word
September 17th	Genesis 21:1-3, 22:1-14	Binding of Isaac
September 24th	Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23, 28:10-17	Jacob's Dream
October 1st JOINT	Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17	God's Name is Revealed
October 8th	Exodus 16:1-18	God provides Manna
October 15th	1 Samuel 3@11-21	God calls Samuel
October 22nd	1 Samuel 16:1-13	God calls David
October 29th	1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13	Solomon's Temple
November 5th	1 Kings 19:1-18	God speaks to Elijah
November 12th	Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24	Amos: Justice Rolls Down
November 19th	Isaiah 9:1-7	Isaiah: A Child is Born
November 26th	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14	Jeremiah's letter to Exiles
December 3rd	Daniel 3:1-30	Daniel: the Fiery Furnace
December 10th	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Ezekiel: Valley of Dry Bones
December 17th	Isaiah 55:1-13	The Word in God's purposes

The first words we read in the first verse of Genesis in the Old Testament—"In the beginning, when God....", are mirrored in the opening words of the Gospel of John in the New Testament, "In the beginning was the Word".

This year we will focus on the Gospel of John from the end of Advent through to after Easter. The Gospel has no birth narrative, so we will have to borrow from the other Gospels when Christmas comes. An interesting and challenging journey is ahead of us this year.

**PRAYER AND PRAISE—at 7.30pm**

*Reflective and meditational worship*

**Monday 18th SEPTEMBER in Symington Church**

**PRAYER  
and  
PRAISE**

## FLOWER LISTS

SUNDAY	CAIRNGRYFFE	SYMINGTON
4 <sup>n</sup> Sept 2017	IMO Flora Ireland	Nan Warwick
11 <sup>n</sup> Sept 2017	Barbara Miller	Christina MacKenzie
18 Sept 2017	Rosmairi Galloway	Betty Morton
24 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2017	Carole Cardiner	Val Horsefield
01 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2017	Liz Hiddleston	May Sneddon
08 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2017	Annie Callan	Anne Blacklaw
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2017	Susan McDougall	Moira Taylor
22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 2017	Sheana Rodger	Ella Hodge
29 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2017	Kris Todd	Lynn Carson
05 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2017	Maureen Bannatyne	Hazel Aitcheson
12th Nov 2017	Elizabeth Warnock	Margot Leadbitter
19 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2017	Margaret Clarkson	Susan Mathew
26 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2017	Elizabeth Forbes	Olive Hunter
03 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2017	Lily Borthwick	Linda MacKay
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2017	Sandra Stewart	Flower fund
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2017	Elsie Pahnke	Christmas Flowers
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2017	Christmas Flowers	Janette Hope
31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2017	Christmas Flowers	Jessie Duff



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

The Christmas issue of FOCUS will be issued early in December. Contributions from both community and church groups and organisations, covering the period from December 2017 up to the end of February 2018 should be sent to Charlie Todd by

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017—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](mailto:kandctodd@gmail.com)*

## FROM OUR KIRK TREASURERS

### CAIRNGRYFFE CHURCH Treasurer's Report

This is a summary of income & expenditure Jan – July 2017

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Ordinary	1,595	Ministry & Mission	7,982
Freewill	1,073	Travel Expenses	467
Gift Aid	7,391	Joint Cong Expenses	1,019
Tax Back (accrued)	1,478	Salaries	1,305
Tea Committee	328	Printing & stationary	167
Donations	0	Insurance	406
Weddings	400	Presbytery Dues	270
		Fabric Repairs	540
		Miscellaneous	141
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>12,265</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>12,29</b>
Deficit to Date	32		

This statement has been prepared on an 'Income and Expenditure' basis to give a realistic picture based on the Probable Outturn by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

**Linzi Struthers (Treasurer)**

### SYMINGTON CHURCH Treasurer's Report

Jan – July 2017

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Plate Offerings	1,780	Ministry & Mission	12,582
Weekly Envelopes	1,830	Minister's Travel	467
Standing Orders	11,642	Other Staff Costs	2,359
Other Income	811	Joint Cong Expenses	240
		Fabric Maintenance	498
Gift aid Tax Refund	6,077	Heat & Light	1,162
		Other Costs	310
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>22,140</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>17,618</b>
		Surplus Year-to Date	4,522

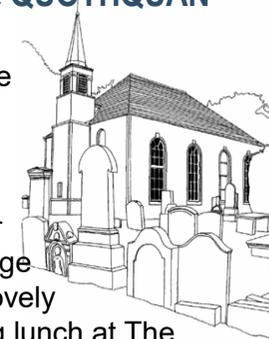
**J. Eric Carlyle (Treasurer)**

## NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

### —WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIBBERTON & QUOTHQUAN—

Great praise and worship again this summer in our joint services with the leadership of Jim Cutler while Rev. George was on Annual Leave.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> June we held a special service for our organist, Ruth, who has given up her seat at the organ for a seat on a pew. Ruth chose some of her favourite hymns for worship that Sunday with George telling us why they were special to Ruth. It was a lovely service and afterwards we had a soup and pudding lunch at The Larches. It was a time of happy fellowship, and thanks to the ladies of L&Q who made the delicious soup and puddings.



I've taken over the organ and will try to lead the praise for the present. In July we had 2 Christenings—twins. And 2 weddings—on the same Saturday! The flowers were spectacular and the car park very busy as we dispatched one set of guests and ushered in another.

Summer worship has been made even more special in having Sonia Blakesley join us, as part of her placement. She did pulpit supply for us on 27<sup>th</sup>. August and will be back for 10<sup>th</sup> Sept. and we look forward to that. We wish her God's blessing as she continues on her journey to becoming a minister.

Our small Worship Group continues to lead worship every few months and John Turnbull remains a regular as our guest minister.

On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August we held a 'Pizza evening' with our young adults—four of the five will be heading away soon—either back to University, or just about to begin. They have held a special place in the congregation's heart over all the years—and we wish them every blessing in their new adventures, and look forward to catching up with them during the holidays.

The evenings are closing in, dawn is breaking later and we are beginning to think of autumn, Harvest and beyond. However, God is good and last Sunday he gave us a dry and sunny morning for our open air service at the old church at Quothquan. (See the picture on the front cover). We had a good turnout and everyone appreciated the special atmosphere which surrounds that hallowed place.

**Lilias Nicholls (Session Clerk)**

## —WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SYMINGTON —

### Deaths: Jean Attwood.

Her many friends in the congregation were saddened to learn of the death at the beginning of July, of Jean Attwood. Jean and her husband, Jim lived for many years in Symington but latterly both were resident in McClymont House in Lanark. We extend our deepest sympathy to Jim and Jean's daughter Trudi. Jean's funeral took place in Symington Kirk on 12 July.

**Returning.** We were very happy on 6 August to see Gaynor back in place at the organ in Symington. During Gaynor's long convalescence since her operations at the beginning of March, Nancy Overend and Margaret Patience took over the responsibility of keeping the congregation well in tune each Sunday. Gaynor wishes to express her gratitude for their invaluable support over the period.

We wish Margaret every happiness in her new post as Cairngryffe.

**Farewell.** We bid farewell too to Karl and Beryl Pipes of 71 Main Street who have very recently moved to live in Bonchester Bridge.

We thank them for the contribution to the life of the congregation while they were with us and wish them every happiness in their new home.

**Ross Russell, Session Clerk at Symington**



## —WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CAIRNGRYFFE—

### Deaths: Mrs Flora Ireland. May 15, 2017

We were all saddened by Flora's passing, after a fairly long illness. Not only was she a member of our congregation, often seen with a cup of tea in her hand, but Flora was also a Trustee of New Beginnings and she worked tirelessly for this cause over the years, especially during their Christmas Appeal. You could always tell when Flora was inspecting the toys, if it could make a noise – then it did. And with some of the toys, it was difficult to find how to stop them playing. More recently Flora had been redirected from toys to food and was "in charge" of the Christmas food packs. Over the years she made up hundreds of these to be given to those in need – then she would jump into her car and make some deliveries with another volunteer. Flora is sadly missed.

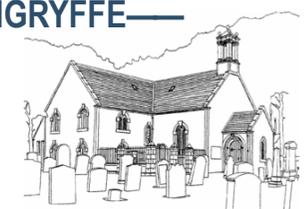
It is difficult to believe that we are now approaching the Autumn Season but after the hustle and bustle of the Summer holiday period we look forward to everything getting back to normal, groups starting up after the break, and the joy of the beautiful Autumn colours which will all too soon surround us.

Looking back, briefly, the three new members of Cairngryffe Worship Group delivered an excellent accreditation service for our congregation and Lanark Presbytery. And again it is important to say that we are blessed to have such willing and competent members of Cairngryffe both in our Worship Group and in our congregation who are willing to contribute in this way to our worship.

We are also delighted that we now have Mrs Margaret Patience as our permanent Organist and it has been a pleasure to welcome her as part of our regular Sunday worship.

Things have also been busy around our Church building with refurbishment works being carried out and of particular note is the resurfacing of the pathways leading into the church, the painting/varnishing of rones, downpipes and doors. The one outstanding item is the refurbishment of the ramp which is in hand and Charlie assures me, will be completed shortly.

Our long-serving team of Sunday School Teachers is looking to add one or two new Teachers to their ranks. Are you interested – can you help?. If so, please contact the Sunday School Leader, Rosmairi Galloway who will be delighted to hear from you.



### SYMINGTON KIRK CHOIR

It is planned to re-start the choir on **Wednesday 13 September** at 7.30pm in the church as usual.

We would very much like to recruit new members. All present members will be contacted but an open invitation is extended to all members of Tinto Parishes and their friends to come along and join in the singing and the fellowship. You will be made very welcome. You do not have to be able to read music- just enjoy singing!

**Gaynor** will be happy to answer any questions. Please phone her on **01899 308240**. You don't have to have any questions however .... just **come along!**

### SUNDAYZONE @ SYMINGTON

At the end of last Session we had a little presentation for those going off to High School.

We look forward to seeing them in Church and the possibility of new members in Sunday Zone. There are always worksheets etc. in Church for any children not wishing to go out to Sunday Zone.

We look forward to welcoming anyone of Primary School Age— or younger.

Hope you had a good summer and are ready for the year ahead.

**For more information, contact  
Jessie Duff on 01899 308365**

Looking forward, we celebrate World Communion Day in October and also our Harvest Thanksgiving service takes place, followed in November by our Remembrance Service and our Big Sing—Carols in December during Advent and we warmly invite you to attend not only any or all of these special days, but to come along and join us in our regular worship Sunday by Sunday. Worship times are as shown on page 3 – and if you need help getting here, call Mary on 01555 871114 and we will help.

**Mary McLellan, Session Clerk at Cairngryffe**

——Cairngryffe Church Sunday School AUTUMN 2017 ——

We meet in the church at the start of morning worship. We stay in the church for the first part of the service, and then go out to our Sunday School Room for our own activities. This term we will be exploring a number of stories and themes from the Old Testament and preparing for Christmas.

**Dates and times.** New term after Summer Holidays will start

**11.00am** on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Then September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, also at 11am.

**9.30am** for October 8<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>; November 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>

**There is no Sunday School on Holidays. ie,**

September weekend Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September; October School Holiday, Sundays 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

**There is no Sunday School on 1<sup>st</sup> October as it is a Joint Communion Service at Symington**

Further Details from Rosmairi Galloway 01555 880779

**COMING HOME.**

**Bunty Watt nee Williamson (1940 - 2017)**

On 11<sup>th</sup> May, George officiated at an unusual and touching 'homecoming' funeral service and interment at Cairngryffe Kirk, the circumstances of which are worthy of mention. Ann Watt, known to everyone as Bunty, had lived for many years in Heathhall, Dumfries. Bunty was born in 1940, the only daughter of Adam 'Tootsie' Williamson of Roadman's Cottage, Carmichael and Jane Collins from Ravenstruther. Tootsie was born in Thankerton in 1915, then brought up by his grandmother at Blackbog, Warrenhill and after her sudden death by Tammy and Annie Johnston at Roadman's Cottage.

Tootsie' grew up to be a likeable, energetic teenager, who like many young men of his generation particularly enjoyed his motor bike. In the late 30s he married Jane and settled in Rigside where he worked as a Council Roadman.



But by the time Bunty was born Adam had already answered the call and enlisted in the Cameronians.

After training he was posted initially to the Faroe Islands but by 1943 he was fighting with the British 8<sup>th</sup> Army in the Italian Campaign where he was killed on 22<sup>nd</sup> December at the Battle of Moro River where he was laid to rest among fellow Scots, Canadian and Indian troops who had also taken part in the battle. With the loss of their breadwinner Jane moved first to Ayr and then Dumfries where she was matron of children's homes. In time Bunty was to marry Anthony Watt, son of a Dumfries Provost.

Bunty barely knew her father yet she never forgot him and chose, instead of being buried in her adopted town of Dumfries, to come home to Carmichael to lie within sight of the War Memorial where he is remembered. Our thoughts are with her son and daughter, Tony and Mandy, and grand-children Courtney and Morgan.

**Charlie Todd**

**The Gathering of the Clan.**

On Monday 21 August, Denham Macdougall led the worship as Cairngryffe Church hosted the opening service of this year's Clan Carmichael Gathering.

Denham says, *"Some fifty visitors attended and what surprised and impressed was the range of ages present, from fairly senior to young families with children. The presence of wee ones caught me, as I had not prepared a children's address."*



*However, prior to commencement I had been talking to a senior Carmichael who had attended seminary aged 68 and now, in his mid-seventies taught Sunday School at his Church in Arkansas. He asked me if I knew what the Bible tasted of. I didn't. He then showed me the passage in Ezekiel Chapter 3 where the prophet eats the scroll and it tastes of honey. Instant children's address!*

*A retiring collection raised £342.63 plus \$45.00 for Church funds. Our thanks to Clan Carmichael visitors for their generosity."*

## WORSHIP GROUPS

Tinto Parishes is acknowledged throughout Lanark Presbytery as a linkage which works very hard to maintain the presence of 'the church in the community'. One way we did this during the vacancy, was by establishing a group of 'Worship Leaders' from within the congregation. And after the vacancy we began to see the partnership of Minister and local worship leaders as a real blessing for our churches, and of significance for our 'sustainability'.

Over the spring of this year two groups of 3 people from two of our congregations – Cairngryffe and Symington – undertook a training course in 'Worship Leadership' which was delivered by the Presbytery of Hamilton through Lanark Presbytery. It was a comprehensive course, with quite a lot of 'homework'! The end of the process was for the groups to lead a service of worship in their own church, with Presbytery Assessors attending, writing notes, and then later giving feedback.

All the feedback has been given, everyone knows the Assessors were impressed, and some time in the future each member of the group will receive a 'certificate' from Presbytery. Now they join our existing worship leaders, to make a diverse team.

We congratulate all six new 'worship leaders', and thank those who are already engaged this way. We are very blessed with the commitment of members of our congregations to leadership in our worship, and we give thanks for them, and commend them all to your prayers.



**Ruth Harvey.** A photograph of Ruth with Session Clerk Lillas Nicholls and Rev. George, taken after Ruth's retiral as organist on 11th June, when we sang six hymns of her choice—traditional and modern—and then held a Soup and Pudding lunch afterwards.

## FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS CAROLS

On the evening of **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December** at 7.30pm in Symington Parish Church, we will have a 'Big Sing' of favourite Christmas Carols – not the minister's favourites, or the nation's favourites - but your favourites.

We will ask round all our churches in the lead up to December to get your choice, and we will particularly also want to know if you have a story to tell about your favourites. (You won't have to stand and tell it!)

What we cannot cram into the one service we will use throughout the season.

Why not get in quick, and tell George your stories and your favourites!

## HYMN PAGE

*A hymn is both words and music. At its best 'the two form a harmonious union', with the music helping to bring out the meaning of the words.*



One of the best examples of 'harmonious union' is '**IN HEAVENLY LOVE ABIDING**', **HYMN 551 to the tune PENLAN**. The tune makes use of some of the softer sounds of the organ, and also sometimes the 'crescendo pedal' in the middle of the verse, so that a shimmer runs through you as you sing, *"the storm may roar without me, my heart may low be laid, but God is round about me, and can I be dismayed."*

The hymn was originally entitled 'Safety in God' in **Anna L. Waring's** first published collection of hymns, when she was only 27 years old. She was born in 1823 at Plas-y-Velin near Neath in South Wales, and was brought up in the Quaker tradition. However, after moving to Bristol, where she spent most of her life, she became a member of the Church of England in 1842. She taught herself Hebrew to be able to read the Old Testament scriptures in their original tongue.

She was drawn into philanthropic work in the Bristol area where she visited jails and helped the "Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society." Her letters show a quite Victorian approach to charity, searching for the 'jewels in the dirt' - the deserving poor.



Because of her remarkably retiring personality, very little else is known about her. She died in Bristol in May 1910, aged 90, leaving behind a blessing for others through her hymns and poems.

One writer spoke personally about this hymn as one that *"figured in our family's life events over the years and my Dad's Thanksgiving Service began with it."*

*"What awful circumstances had led her to write this way? What hurts and harms had given her such depth of consciousness about God's providential love? None actually. Or at least as far as we can know from her story. She learned what she learned*

*not by the University of Experience but by the glory of Scripture.*

*"My Dad, who spent only four weeks in hospital (his last four) - has not been visited by the unending tragedies that afflict some. To get depth we must get it from our knowledge of God. So, my Dad, although unfamiliar with the hospital environment, was very familiar with the abiding love of God. And he found that where-ever he was."*

# PATH of RENEWAL

Denham Macdougall reflects on our involvement in the Church of Scotland's 'Path of Renewal' project.



*In January last year the Church of Scotland launched a pilot scheme involving some forty congregations, including our own in Tinto Parishes.*

It is called Path of Renewal. The objectives of the initiative may be defined as a wholesale redesign of how we see ourselves as Christians both on an individual and collective basis. The key concept is that we move from thinking of the church, hitherto seen as a self contained institution run by presbyteries and sessions, as engaging in missionary work to bring people to faith and fill pews. Instead, in view of the decline in church membership and church attendance, we reposition ourselves as disciples engaged in mission in our own communities by unselfconsciously promoting our own faith in Christ with family, friends and neighbours for whom the rewards of faith are either unknown or unattractive.

Ask yourself - when was the last time you openly declared your faith to someone in a positive and persuasive fashion? I think we have all become rather cowed by the fake sophistication of secularism. Be clear, we are not talking about some glazed-eyed born-again-style hysterical approximation of Christianity associated with evangelical cults. No, what is demanded on an individual basis is simply the capacity to articulate to others the role faith has in our lives and the effect on our lives that it has.

On a collective basis congregations need to have a presence at and engage with other community activities and events.

All rather abstract - to begin with. Try this specific: climate change and the environment. Surely there is huge potential for the Christian voice to be heard in the efforts to stop the greed and rapacity that is currently threatening our very existence by destroying the God given balance regulating our beautiful earth. The vast majority of environmental campaigners are of a singularly Christian disposition. They just will not admit it! Path of Renewal offers us a clear opportunity to help them to admit it.

Here's a bit of a toolkit to be going on with:

INSTEAD OF...	WE NEED TO...
- focussing on the needs of members	- Focus on the needs of all
- being determined to get people in	- send people out
- minister is expected to do everything	- minister enables others
- personal faith is 'private'	- personal faith is openly spoken about
- church members are consumers	- members are released to serve Christ
- Christian service equals church work	- Christian service can be work, church, community, family...

Denham Macdougall, Cairngryffe Church



We are now almost at the end of the two year Pilot of the 'Path of Renewal' Project. The Church of Scotland is now advertising for 40 more churches to take part in the next two year tranche, but they have also asked our group if we would like to continue, and we have said yes.

*If reflecting on the issues that Denham has raised here is of interest to you, please speak to Denham, or your Session Clerk, or to Rev. George.*

## INFORMATION FOR OFFICE BEARERS

### How does it all fit together?

The Church of Scotland has developed a new online resource for existing and new office bearers. It brings together information that can be difficult to find elsewhere. It will be updated regularly.

The website currently provides information on 'the Formation of The Church', and 'Governance and Good Practice in the Church'.



**Well worth a look.**

[www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/) and click on the 'Office bearers' link.

## THE CHURCH in the WORLD

*A Sunday morning in church can sometimes be the starting place for a new friendship—and this can often be more than local. **Lilias and Roger Nicholls** from Libberton & Quothquan Church tell us about an international friendship they developed, and of their “Road Trip to Hungary” this summer.*

Some years ago an ex-Hungarian soldier began joining us at L&Q for morning worship. Tibor spoke no English and we spoke no Hungarian but so great was his need to be in a church on a Sunday, his only day off work, that the language barrier was not so great a problem. We all gave him our special L&Q welcome but as Session Clerk I felt the need to extend that welcome further and so began a long and mutually beneficial friendship which also involved letters between our Sunday Schools for a short time, Roger and me visiting Tibor twice for long weekends and worshipping with him in his Presbyterian church in Koszeg.



This is 'Old Koszeg', with the Kalvaria (Calgary) Church above

Our third trip in May of this year was a little different – it was longer (10 days) and we were going all the way by car! Apparently this is something my mad husband has always wanted to do. Furthermore he wanted to do it in his old BMW which is as eccentric as Roger. Sometimes it starts, sometimes it doesn't, the passenger door sometimes shuts, sometimes doesn't, and sometimes the brakes seize up! When I suggested my Subaru might be more reliable Roger's reply was that spares for a BMW would be more accessible in Germany than spares for a Subaru! Fair enough. Give him his due, Roger worked hard on that car over the next few months, meticulously worked out our route through Holland, Germany, Austria and into Hungary and pre-booked us into Inns along the way, taking into account our need for comfort at the end of each day's driving.

We set off for Hull mid-day on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, arriving at the ferry port in good time and we were allowed to board almost straight away. We enjoyed a delicious dinner, a good night's sleep and set off next morning in glorious sunshine, driving past wind farms which seemed practically on the motorway. Motorway Service Stations are so much nicer in Holland and Germany. The loos are immaculate and all of the Services at which we stopped had grassy, flowery areas with brollies, tables and chairs with great coffee and pastries!

Our first night stop was a small tavern outside the town of Arzbach, a pretty little town with a river running through. None of the staff spoke English and shamefully neither of us speak German. Sign language is pretty universal though and using sign and lots of nods of head we ate a hearty dinner of weinersnitzel and armed with boiled eggs, rolls and butter and yogurt which we didn't finish at breakfast we set off for day 2 making for Ortenburg. We reached our hotel called Zum Koch, in time to explore the local beautiful countryside before enjoying dinner al fresco. Next morning we set off for the final push to Austria and into Hungary. Koseg, our destination is only a few miles over the Austrian border and we arrived mid Friday afternoon.

On Saturday we went on the church outing to Budapest, visiting the Bible Museum and then the National Museum, both of which were most interesting. Sunday we went to church with Tibor and Katalin, with whom we were staying. Katalin is an English teacher so we had an on-site translator throughout the service. It was lovely to renew old friendships and we issued an invitation to visit Scotland within the next few years.

Our journey home was equally pleasant with our first night stop in the charming little town of Reisbach which had a delightful café with outside tables under a large leafy tree where we spent a lazy hour in warm sunshine, drinking lattés and watching the world go by. Our last night was spent in the hamlet of Rettert which like all our night stops had a splendid Beer Garden which we sampled before dinner.

The BMW never gave any cause for alarm and our road trip to Hungary was completed with an uneventful drive back to Lanarkshire.

It was a great privilege to share worship again with Tibor and be part of his church life even for a few days. The hospitality we received was immense. I do hope and pray we can return this hospitality in the not too distant future.

**Lilias and Roger Nicholls**

The **Reformed Church in Hungary** is the largest Protestant Church in Hungary. Today, it is made up of 1,249 congregations and has a membership of over 1.6 million, making it second only to the Roman Catholic Church with 3.8 Million members.



Koseg town square with the Town Hall and St. Imre Church

## LANARK PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

**Business Committee.** Rev George Shand has been appointed as Deputy Presbytery Clerk, as a result of which Rev Elizabeth Cleland will become convenor of the Complaints Committee.

Other appointments are Mr Scott Paget as Convenor of the Congregational Support Committee and Rev Louise Mackay as Convenor of Congregational Development Committee, both from 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Presbytery meetings will now be held in Greyfriars Parish Church Lanark with the exception of the September meeting in the Church of the incoming Moderator. Committee meetings will continue in St Nicholas Church Hall.

Early in the new session there is to be a meeting of all committee convenors to discuss the future shape of Lanark Presbytery with a report being brought to Presbytery for discussion as soon as possible after this meeting.

So far there has been no expression of interest in the post of Presbytery Treasurer. We are urged to give serious consideration to who might be able to fill this vital post—it need not be an Elder or a member of Presbytery.

**Ministries Committee.** In connection with the Registration of Ministries Act a draft register of Ministers in the Presbytery has been drawn up in order that ministers may ensure that they have been placed in the correct category.

The Draft Basis of Union between Coalburn and Lesmahagow Old has been unanimously approved by the two Kirk Sessions and by Presbytery and has been passed to the Presbytery Planning Task Group.

Kaye Gardner has been accepted as a candidate for training to be a full time Minister of Word and Sacrament.

**Congregational Support Committee.** Local Church Review Visits will be carried out to Upper Clyde and Carluke: Kirkton during the Autumn Session. It is intended that the Tinto Parishes will be visited early in 2018. The visits will be led by the Consultants 'Catch the Light' along with Presbytery Reps.

The two Assessor Elders being withdrawn from Kirkmuirhill Parish Church on 30<sup>th</sup> June will be Mr Denham McDougall and Mr Jim Sinclair who were thanked for their valuable contribution to the life and witness of the church.

**Property Committee.** The Gillespie Centre Association in Biggar is in the process of being disbanded and the responsibility for the Gillespie Centre will revert to the Kirk Session of Biggar Kirk. Whilst permission for urgent repairs has been given, future funding in the region of £46,000.00 will be required.

**Finance Committee.** A reduction of £1145 has been agreed in the 2017 Ministries and Mission Allocations for the Tinto Parishes in respect of the 'Bubblegum n Fluff' project.

**Jim Watt (Presbytery Elder for Cairngryffe)**

## Harvest Fruit & Vegetables Search

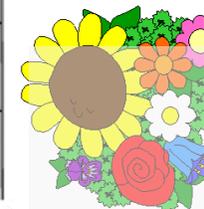
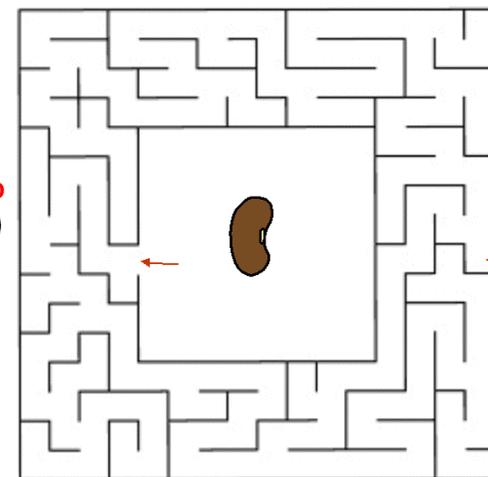
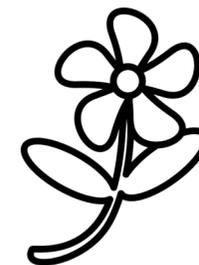
SEARCH THE PUZZLE TO FIND AND CIRCLE THE WORDS IN THE WORD LIST. WORDS IN THIS PUZZLE ARE HIDDEN ACROSS AND DOWN.



APPLE	CELERY	PEARS
BEANS	CORN	PEPPERS
BEETS	EGGPLANT	POTATO
BROCCOLI	FIGS	PUMPKIN
CABBAGE	GRAPES	SQUASH
CARROTS	ONIONS	TURNIP
CAULIFLOWER	PARSNIPS	YAMS



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



"All good gifts around us, are sent from heaven above; then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love."

## Local Organisations

### THE GUILD

#### CAIRNGRYFFE GUILD

Cairngryffe Guild will resume for the new session on Wednesday 13th September, 2017 and meetings are held in Thankerton Village Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 2.00pm.

We look forward to seeing some familiar faces and a warm invitation is extended to anyone who would like to come along and join us.

**13<sup>th</sup> Sept 17 – Go in Love—Rev George Shand**

**11<sup>th</sup> Oct 17 – Joint Meeting St Andrew's Hospice—Lorna McCafferty**

**8<sup>th</sup> Nov 17 – My Path to the Ministry—by Rev Elspeth McLean**

**13<sup>th</sup> Dec 17 – Christmas Celebration**

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

#### SYMINGTON GUILD

We meet monthly on a Thursday evening in the Church Hall at 7.30pm. We would be delighted to welcome any new members.

Our opening dates are as follows :-

**28<sup>th</sup> Sept 17 – WomenKIND—Jan Currie**

**11<sup>th</sup> Oct 17 – Joint Meeting (Cairngryffe)—Lorna McCafferty, St Andrew's Hospice**

**23<sup>rd</sup> November—Garvald School, West Linton. Member of Team**

Contact **Helen Anderson 308598** or **Martha Cowan 308657**.

### EVERYOUNG

#### 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 2017

**12<sup>th</sup> – Jim Ness (Biggar) – Mills of the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire**

**26<sup>th</sup> – Roger Lindsay (Sandilands) – Amazing Grace – The Lives of John Newton & William Wilberforce**

#### November 2017

**9<sup>th</sup> – Mary Gilbert (Pettinain) – Holiday in Kenya**

**23<sup>rd</sup> – Judith Linton (Muirkirk) – Tales and Tunes from a Border Fiddler**

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

### SCOTTISH WOMEN'S RURAL INSTITUTE

#### CARMICHAEL INSTITUTE

Carmichael W.R.I. meet on the second Monday of each month in Carmichael Hall at 7.30pm.

Membership is £25 per season and new members are always welcome particularly as we approach our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**11<sup>th</sup> Sept 17 – Duncan Arthur – Clyde Valley Orchard Group**

**9<sup>th</sup> Oct 17- tba**

**13<sup>th</sup> Nov 17 – tba**

**11<sup>th</sup> Dec 17 – Hands On Night**

Further information contact the secretary **Janette Elliot on 01555 880614**

#### PETTINAIN INSTITUTE

Pettinain WRI meets in **Pettinain Village Hall at 7.30pm on a Wednesday**. Why not join us?

For further details contact **Paula Thomson, Secretary**.

#### THANKERTON INSTITUTE

The Rural meet in Thankerton village hall at 7.30pm, normally the first Thursday of the month,

**7<sup>th</sup> Sept 17 – Traybakes by Helen Storrar**

**5<sup>th</sup> Oct 17 – Cuba by Mary Gilbert**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 17 – Christmas Crafts by Margaret Leiper**

**Dec 17 – No meeting**

New members are always welcome and if you're interested in joining please contact **Secretary Michelle Robison on 01899 308059**

#### SYMINGTON INSTITUTE

Contact **Jane Murdoch at 01899 308636 for more information**.

#### QUOTHQUAN INSTITUTE

Meetings are held in Quothquan Rural Hall at 7.30pm

**13<sup>th</sup> Sept 17 – Baking by Victoria Montgomery**

**11<sup>th</sup> Oct 17 – Criminology by Prof. Nancy Loucks**

**8<sup>th</sup> Nov 17 – Ditsy Teacups by Pauline Rogers**

**13<sup>th</sup> Dec 17 – Christmas Night Out**

For further information contact Secretary, **Mrs L. Grieve on 01555 841264**

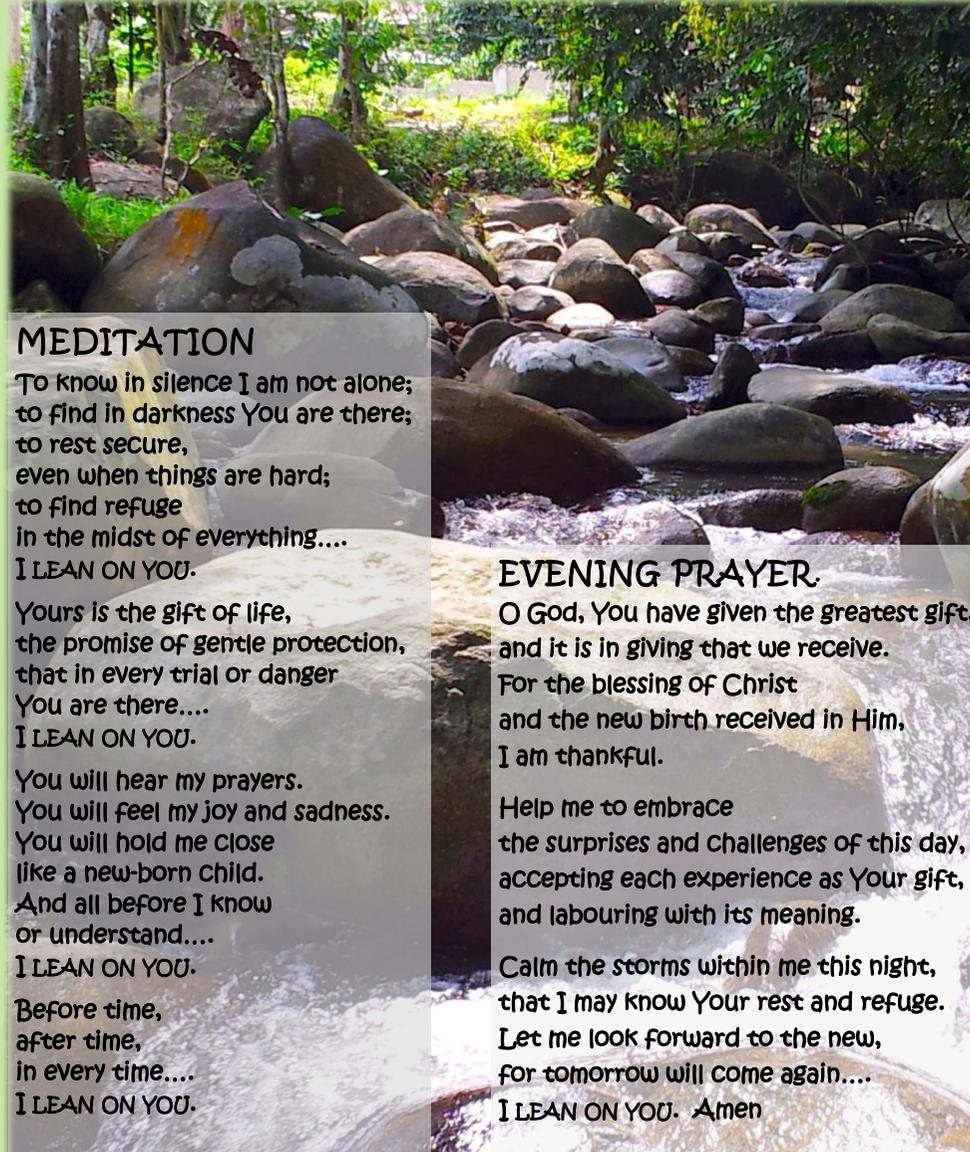
## Prayer Page



## WORD OF LIFE

*Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was You who took me from my mother's womb." Psalm 71:6*

*From 'Word of Life' PRAY NOW 2017*



### MEDITATION

To know in silence I am not alone;  
to find in darkness You are there;  
to rest secure,  
even when things are hard;  
to find refuge  
in the midst of everything....

**I LEAN ON YOU.**

Yours is the gift of life,  
the promise of gentle protection,  
that in every trial or danger  
You are there....

**I LEAN ON YOU.**

You will hear my prayers.  
You will feel my joy and sadness.  
You will hold me close  
like a new-born child.  
And all before I know  
or understand....

**I LEAN ON YOU.**

Before time,  
after time,  
in every time....

**I LEAN ON YOU.**

### EVENING PRAYER.

O God, You have given the greatest gift,  
and it is in giving that we receive.

For the blessing of Christ  
and the new birth received in Him,  
I am thankful.

Help me to embrace  
the surprises and challenges of this day,  
accepting each experience as Your gift,  
and labouring with its meaning.

Calm the storms within me this night,  
that I may know Your rest and refuge.

Let me look forward to the new,  
for tomorrow will come again....

**I LEAN ON YOU. Amen**

### Prayer Promoters

Symington Parish Church –

Cairngryffe Parish Church –

Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church -

Heather Davidson

Liz Hiddleston

Lilias Nicholls

Tel 01899 309126

Tel 01899 221664

Tel 01555 840572