

CAIRNGRYFFE PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Winter 2024



Members of the congregation are warmly invited to our

Celebration of Communion

On Sunday 3rd November at 9.30 am.

Cairngryffe Parish Church: one of the Tinto Parishes

Charity Number – SC 017001

From our Interim Moderator

Dear members and friends in Cairngryffe Church,

Greetings from Lanark. I am Louise Mackay; minister of St Nicholas Parish church and I now have the privilege and perhaps you have the misfortune of me being your new Interim Moderator during your vacancy and this uncertainty with all things concerning Presbytery planning. I have been minister at St Nicholas for almost 8 years now and very much enjoy life in my parish. Along with my husband Jason whom I married in 2019 Lanark has very much become home. That being said I am very excited to get to know you all better and share this time with you.

I realise that right now we live in uncertain times, not just in regards within the Church of Scotland and the impact that will have on our local churches but also across the world there is much uncertainty, conflict and division. We only need to look at Ukraine and the Middle East to see that all too clearly.

As we move away from the season of harvest and thanksgiving and into a period of reflecting and remembering we are brought face to face with what is going on in our world right now. The month of November has become a time to remember. Following All Hallows Eve or Halloween as we all know it, the church recognises All Saints Day, to honour and remember the great Saints and Martyrs of the Christian faith. Straight after that on November the 2nd we have All Souls, a day to remember and reflect on all who have gone before us in faith, and then finally onto 11th November, Remembrance Day, remembering all who aid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and for those who still risk their lives for the sake of peace in our turbulent world.

After the 2 great wars, the slogan “Never Again” was at the front over everyone’s minds. Never again would we allow such pain, loss and conflict. How well have we done with sticking to that?

So, what do we do with all that is going on in the world, in our country, in our churches perhaps even within ourselves? We turn to God, God who is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Our God who does not shy away from pain and suffering. A God who, out of love for this fragile and at

times broken world gave us his only son to be our eternal sacrifice so that we may have life in abundance. Life is a gift, life is precious.

So, what does this mean for us here? Well, we may never be able to solve the world conflicts, but we can start by how we treat one another. By being instruments of grace, peace and love, and by leaning on the strength of our God who stands shoulder to shoulder with us through the bad and the good we can help bit by bit make this world a better place

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.

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 **Webmaster:** Jim Watt

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

News from the Session

Autumn is the time of year where we not only progress through the seasons but also through the festivals of the church. We have celebrated Harvest and the bounty of the earth; we travel through the season of Remembrance towards Christmas. Our cover picture is of the stained-glass window of Hope and Peace. The window was designed by William Aikman and produced by Powell's Whitefriars Glass in the early 1900's. Aikman was noted for his use of vibrant reds, blues and greens this links in well with Suzanne Campbell's reflection on Autumn and the meaning of the season's associated colours. The Christian Virtues of Hope and Peace are also relevant at this time, see our message from our new Interim Moderator; Louise Mackay. We look forward to working with Louise.

The Rev Dr Elijah Obinna has now demitted his role as our Interim Moderator, as he now takes on the role of Minister of the deferred Union of St Andrews and St Johns Church in Carluke as Carluke Forest Kirk.

The Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Group has now started to work on the Mission Plan. As clusters we are being encouraged to work within our clusters. As a congregation and Session we will face some big changes. Our linkage with Libberton & Quothquan, and Symington will dissolve. We will then join in union with Douglas Valley and Upper Clyde. As a cluster we are being encouraged to start the process of discussing our union and how we will work as a parish together. For example; we will have to decide on a name for our parish, how we organize Sunday worship in the different churches. Jim Watt and I have already attended a roadshow about how to draw up the very formally worded Basis of Union. However, there will be a lot of hard work ahead to work out how we organize ourselves and our work as a charge as we go forward into the future.

The emphasis of the Mission Plan is on Mission; in order to ensure the survival of our church building, we will have to demonstrate that we are using the building not just for Sunday worship but to reach out to the community and use the building for mission activities.

Sometimes these are one off activities some are more regular activities.

During the summer we took part in Doors Open Day, over the 2 days we had a steady stream of visitors. They came for different reasons, some are regular visitors to family graves but had not had the opportunity to visit the church, some came just to see the building and learn a bit more about it. One lady visited because Cear McCartney had been her art teacher but she also had a

family association with William Aikman who created our earlier stained-glass windows.

Our Cairngryffe, Cuppa, Craft and Chat group is a very informal group, probably more chat than crafting takes place. We have also restarted our All-Age worship events on Saturdays; again it's informal with Bible story, arts and crafts and a snack.

It is always a privilege when families share their family life events with us in the church. On the 18th of July 2024, Gillian and Derek Mutch celebrated their 30th Wedding Anniversary by renewing their marriage vows in front of their family and friends. Elijah conducted a very personal service.

On Sunday 2nd of February 2025, we will welcome the Right Reverend Dr Shaw Paterson, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to our service. We look forward to Dr Paterson's visit. The last visit by a serving Moderator to the church at Carmichael was 18th April 1920 when Dr William P Paterson dedicated and unveiled the War Memorials.

It is vital to the ongoing survival of our church that we support and develop these events and use the church. As a Session we value the support that you give us, by your attendance at worship and other events we hold, but also your contributions of time, skills and money.

Rosmairi J Galloway

Session Clerk.

Miss Cathryn Forrest; An appreciation.

Miss Cathryn Forrest, a dedicated member and Elder of our church passed away on Sunday 13th of October 2024, in her 89th year.

Cathryn's family had long association with the Carmichael, Thankerton and Covington areas. Cathryn was born in Glasgow, but came to live with her paternal grandparents in Thankerton during the Second World War, she started school at Covington Primary School. Throughout Cathryn's life she spent time between Glasgow and Thankerton.

She undertook her professional training at the Glasgow and West of Scotland College of Domestic Science; known as "the Dough School". "It is said that its regime was exacting. It has left the alumni with an enviable eye for organisation and an expectation of high standards in themselves and others." How very true

of Cathryn both in her professional life as Senior Catering Manager at the Royal Ordnance Factory at Bishopton and her personal life.

Cathryn's also lost her elder sister Elsie very recently.

We extend our sympathies to Cathryn's nephews Iain and Douglas and their families.

Cathryn's funeral service will take place at 1pm on Tuesday 12th November 2024, at Cairngryffe Church, Carmichael; followed by internment at Covington Cemetery.



Christian Aid

A fantastic sum of £300 was raised in Christian Aid week, as £100 was signed up to Gift Aid another £25 will be added to the sum.

Christian Aid supports families throughout the world to help them transform their own lives.

In Makamba Province, Burundi; Aline escaped from an early marriage which became abusive and violent. She was separated from her 6 children. With the support of Christian Aid Aline was able to undertake training, nurture a small income, buy and grow nutritious food, build her own home so that she could take care of her own children. She now looks forward to the future for herself and her family.

To find out more about the work of Christian Aid www.christianaid.org.uk

CAIRNGRYFFE CUPPA, CRAFT and CHAT

Bring along any craft project you are working on and enjoy a couple of hours crafting in our lovely church

1-3pm third Saturday of the Month

Dates: 16th November and 14th December 2024, restart for 2025 on 18th January.

EVERYOUNG

The Everyoung Group meets in Thankerton Bowling Club on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 2pm with a speaker, tea and a blether.

A variety of talks have been arranged for this session.

Proposed Timetable

2024

14th November – Sylvia Russell (Lanark) – The Story of the Clydesdale Horse

28th November – Fiona Foley (Leadhills) - Stained Glass

5th December – Christmas Lunch (CaddyShak, Carnwath Golf Club)

2025

9th January - Ian Henderson (Biggar) - The Coastal Canter

23rd January – Burns afternoon – with Stewart Houston and Alan& Emma Gardiner

13th February – Michael Shannon – (Thankerton Camp)

27th February – Dee Yates (Crawfordjohn) – Whitecleuch School

13th March – Paul Archibald (Lanark) – Lanark High Street (Continued)

27th March – Clare Yuille- Brawclan Theatre.

10th April – David Henry (Blackhouse) – To the Ends of the earth.

24th April - Bill Buchan (Biggar) Herring Fishing

Contact Charlie Todd for further details on 01899 308327

Guild News



The Guild has now started for our 2024/2025 session and we meet in Thankerton Bowling Club on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 2.00pm from September to April.

Our first meeting on 11th September was a tea, chat and fellowship meeting and on 9th October we heard about the Clydesdale Foodbank based in Carluke from Liz Barthram.

We have a variety of speakers and activities arranged as follows:

Thursday 21st Nov 2024 Symington Church	Joint meeting with Symington Guild in
Wednesday 11th Dec 2024 guests	A Celebration of Christmas with invited
Wednesday 12th Feb 2025	Angela Wilson, Deacon and Outreach worker
Friday 7th March 2025 Cairngryffe Church at 2.00pm	We will host the World Day of Prayer in written by Christian women of the Cook Islands with the theme “I made you wonderful”
Wednesday 12th Mar 2025	Bill Jack – St Kentigern Way
Wednesday 9th April 2025	Lunch in Cornhill House Hotel at 1.00pm

Anyone who would like to come along and join us will be made most welcome and for further information please contact Secretary Elizabeth Forbes on 01555 640018/078892649

Cancer Research UK



Shine Local Biggar

Light up your streets and walk together to beat cancer.

Sign up Today.

Event Details:

Saturday 9th November

Meet at 7pm, Biggar Public Park ML12 6HA

Walk starts 7.45pm.

Adults £15 entry fee, Under 16s free.

For more information:

Contact holly.frazer@cancer.org.uk

Or Facebook at Biggar Local Committee for CRUK

Presbytery Report



At the meeting on 1st June a report was received from the Presbytery Guilds Together, outlining the activities which had taken place in 2023-24 and those planned for 2024-25.

The Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 were received and approved.

Various building works required on health and safety grounds or to maintain building in a wind and watertight condition were approved, however two congregations were referred to the Congregational Support Committee as they had not obtained the proper permissions before going ahead with works. The financial limits above which permission will be required before work can proceed are to be reviewed.

Intimation was made that the Presbytery Mission Plan had been approved by the Faith Action Programme Leadership Forum and the Mission Plan Action Group were thanked and discharged.

The Governance Group presented a new set of standing orders, some of which were amended, with the business committee asked to review others. The Business committee were also asked to present dates and venues for Presbytery meetings for 2024-25 to the next ordinary meeting, those proposed by the Governance Group having been rejected. The group was thanked and discharged.

The Planning and Implementation Committee urged clusters to continue discussions while they developed the process of implementation.

I was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting on 31st August, so these notes are derived from the minutes of that meeting.

The Rev Derek Gunn, retired minister, latterly of Bo'ness: St Andrews, was installed as moderator for the 2024-25 session.

Following the retiral of Rev Helen Jamieson on 31st August it was noted that the Deferred Union between Carluke: St Andrews and Carluke: St Johns would come into being on 1st September to form Carluke: Forrest Kirk, the service of union being held on the evening of 15th September.

The Rev George Whyte stood down as Interim Clerk and was thanked for his services. Rev Robert Allan was appointed as Clerk on a one day per week basis, with Mr David Watt appointed as Assistant to the Clerk, on the same basis. These appointments until such time as a new Presbytery Clerk is appointed.

The program of meeting dates and venues for the rest of the session was approved. These will be a mixture of in-person and on-line and only on-line, with the former being at locations across Presbytery.

A yearbook is to be published in the Autumn and new email addresses have been set up for each committee, messages to which will be automatically forwarded to the relevant convenor.

In light of the resignation of a significant number of the charity trustees at both Carriden Parish Church and Libberton and Quothquan Church, assessor elders were appointed to these churches with full voting rights as Charity Trustees.

Congregations were encouraged to advertise and for individuals to sign up to attend the online Assisted Dying conversation on 27 November.

A basis of Union has been agreed in the Falkirk area, to create Falkirk: Upper Braes parish and also a basis of incorporation to join Falkirk: Grahamston United Local Ecumenical Partnership and Falkirk: Bainsford.

A Funding Panel has been set up to approve applications under the Presbytery Small Grants Fund and approve and sign off on applications to Seeds for Growth Fund.

Presbytery agreed to the disposal of Libberton & Quothquan Church, noting the agreement of the Kirk Session, and remitted to the General Trustees for determination. The same decision being taken for several other buildings across Presbytery.

Presbytery approved the Financial Limit for Kirk Sessions to spend on Ecclesiastical Buildings as £20,000 inc VAT on a building in a financial year for a building categorised 'A' in the Presbytery Mission Plan and £10,000 inc VAT on a building in a financial year for a building categorised 'B' without application to Presbytery. Again, various building works required on health and safety grounds or to maintain building in a wind and watertight condition were approved, while some applications were rejected as the building was listed for closure in the Presbytery Mission Plan.

Safeguarding trustee training is to be rolled out across Presbytery in conjunction with implementation of the Presbytery Mission Plan.

The next Presbytery Meeting is on Tuesday 29th October 2024 7pm in Falkirk.

Jim Watt,

Presbytery Elder

A reflection on Autumn
Time for a little faith hygge

*Be glad, people of Zion,
rejoice in the Lord your God,
for he has given you the autumn rains
because he is faithful.*

Joel 2:23



Autumn is often a time when we feel the need to add a little warmth and comfort into our lives. We prepare our homes for the coming inclement seasons by setting the fire, bring out the throws and lighting warmly scented candles. We often interject our homes with warm autumnal colours, we prepare to hunker down for the months ahead, indeed we hygge our homes. Hygge is all about embracing feelings of warmth and togetherness. Learning how to appreciate the ordinary and make the most of it. Like going out for a walk in the wind and rain and coming back inside and getting cosy. It is a big part of the Danish way of living that brings greater positivity and a better mindset for dealing with the difficult moments in life. In fact, Danes report on feeling hygge the most when something negative is happening around them, for example being cosy inside when there is a storm raging outside. To really feel and appreciate hygge we need to get used to living in the present. This is a good template for living as a Christian.

Autumn provides us with many opportunities to appreciate the small pleasures of life, comfortable sweaters, a warm fire, the beautiful colours on the trees and the sound of leaves crunching beneath our feet as we walk. All those things provide a feeling of hygge. This vibrancy and depth of richness can also help us reflect on our relationship with God: warm, rich, vibrant, full of energy and above all colourful

By stopping and taking a moment to consider the colours of autumn we can use these to reflect on our personal relationship with God.

Red brings up the thought of passion. We can all agree that Jesus brought great passion to his teaching. Red also reminds us that God sent his own son to spill his blood for our salvation. Therefore, when we look at the red leaves, we should ask ourselves are we reflecting Christ's passion in our own Christianity?

'In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven' Matthew 5:16

Orange reflects warmth and symbolises thoughtfulness and sincerity. As Christians we should seek to be warm and inviting in our care for others.

'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ God forgave you.' Ephesians 4:32

Yellow conjures up joy and cheerfulness. As Christians our spirit has the joy of knowing that we are walking with Christ. We are charged with sharing this joy with others and reflecting the spirit of Christ in all our personal interactions.

'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law' Galatians 5:22-23

Purple is the colour of royalty. Christ is our King, as members of his royalty we should dignified and thoughtful in our care for others.

'The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.' Romans 8:16-17

Brown is the colour of the earth; this represents stability and anchors all the other colours of autumn. In Christ, we have our anchor.

'So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.' Colossians 2:6-7

As we appreciate the colours of nature around us this autumn let us ask ourselves are we prepared to fully display our Christian colours in the way we interact with those around us, do we reflect Christ's warmth and vibrancy and in doing so help other to follow him. Take time this autumn to hygge your faith. Stop, reflect, be present and appreciate the warmth and care that faith provides and consider how best we can share God's love with others.

Suzanne Campbell, Congregational Worship Leader.

From Community Outreach Worker



Hello folks,

There is a song from Runrig called Smalltown which I think sums up the last few months:

“Tell me where oh where has summer gone
It hasn't come this year
You always cry when swallows fly
With doubts in search of dreams”

I think many of us have dreamt of something resembling a summer this year. This seems especially the case with the farming community. The weather seems to have caused many of the farmers I come into contact with headaches this season. From lambs not always getting the weight on that the farmer was hoping for, to just not being able to cut silage in time because of wet fields, it just seems to have been a slog this year for them.

It has been a busy show season this year and I have managed to attend quite a few local shows including Lesmahagow and Abington. It was a great experience to attend the International Sheep Dog trials at Syde Farm. There is something special about watching the dogs doing what they are bred for.

I continue to be in the market on a Monday and keeping in touch with as many people as I can possibly see in my time there. It is lovely when I get told good news, like a newly married farming couple who are now expecting their first child or the tale (or should that be tail) of the lost dog who returned home after nine days as though nothing had happened. The look of sheer joy on the farmer's face was still evident days later when he told me his news.

The Cairngryffe, Cuppa, Craft and Chat has started up again in the meeting room. We hope to meet the 3rd Saturday of every month during the winter. Everyone is welcome to come along, even if it only for the cuppa and chat!

Remember When? will be coming back to Douglas Victoria Bowling Club during the winter months too. Look out for more details in due course.

Also look out for an Advent Church @ Home sheet in the coming weeks.

Love and blessings,

Angela Wilson

God Alone has the Power

The horrors of conflict in the media
seep into the deepest recesses of our souls,
like destructive tsunami waves,
till our hearts are fit to burst.

Images of dying babes and children
fill our eyes with smarting tears
of helplessness and hopelessness,
till we begin to feed the wolf of anger.

But anger cannot ease broken hearts
because what we really crave
is a deafening silence to erase
the annihilation of a future generation.

What we have need of is quiet retreat
to pray in the silence with our weeping God
for the perpetrators *and* those who grieve,
till we find the peace that passes all understanding.

For God walks beside us, always aware
of our innermost thoughts, always calming
our unquiet hearts, leading us towards compassion,
forgiveness and his everlasting Love.

By Frieda Stobo

CAIRNGRYFFE PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

TINTO PARISHES SUNDAY WORSHIP

DATE	CAIRNGRYFFE	LIBBERTON & QUOTHQUAN	SYMINGTON
NOVEMBER	9.30am	11.00am	11.00am
03 11 24	Communion		Atim Utuk
10 11 24	Alan Grant	Alan Grant	Worship Group
17 11 24	Alan Grant		Alan Grant
24 11 24	Jessie Fubara-Manuel		Jessie Fubara-Manuel
DECEMBER	9.30am	11.00am	11.00am
01 12 24	Alan Grant		Alan Grant
08 12 24	Alan Grant	Alan Grant	Worship Group
15 12 24	Jessie Fubara-Manuel		Jessie Fubara-Manuel
22 12 24	Robert Alan		Robert Alan
29 12 24	Alan Grant Joint Service at Symington at 11.00am		
05 01 25	Atim Utuk Joint Service at Cairngryffe at 11.00am		

SATURDAY ALL-AGE FAMILY ADVENT WORSHIP EVENT

All generations are welcome, its informal. We will have a Christmas Bible Story and activities based on the story, followed by refreshments.

Saturday 7th December 2024, 1-3pm.

CHRISTMAS EVE – WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

Gather in the church from 11.00pm on Tuesday 24th of December 2024 for an informal get together before the service. Service starts at 11.30pm, and will be taken by members of the church.