

# CAIRNGRYFFE PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023



Members of the congregation are warmly invited to our  
Celebration of Communion  
On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023 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 to you and your family in this season of Pentecost. I am writing this pastoral letter with the joy and hope of Pentecost and the doors of the Upper Room now wide open. Then, the doors were closed by the fear of those who had seen the Lord die but had not seen him rise from the dead. Now – as for the early disciples, so for us – Jesus stands in our midst, breaking through all closed doors. He breathes the Holy Spirit into us and speaks: “Peace be with you.” These are the words of Jesus, who went to the bedrock of our destitution, which is the work of sin. But he rises from there and speaks Easter words: “Peace be with you”. He means I have entered the depths and seen the worst, and you have nothing to fear. Hearing his words, we can name our fears about ourselves, our families and friends, our congregation, the nation, and the world. Then we can look to Jesus, who leads us beyond them to the peace which the world cannot give.

When all seems lost, the apostles find fresh energy and new life. They grow young again and find unimagined hope in meeting the Risen Lord. So against all the odds, Kirk at the national level and our congregation can be renewed and empowered to spread the gospel message of love, hope and peace within and beyond our communities, but only by the power of the Holy Spirit, who specialises in doing what seems impossible.

I am holding you all in my thoughts and prayers. I pray that the Risen Christ may open every closed door so that the Good News of Easter may go out to every corner of our community and throughout the whole earth from a Kirk renewed and empowered by the Lord who breathes upon us and says to the world through us, “Peace be with you”.

Every blessing,

**Rev. Dr. Elijah Obinna**

*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 Dr Obinna ensures that a minister is available when we need one.

## INFORMATION

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

Tel: 01555752389

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

Mobile: 07733446567

**Prayer Promoter:** Liz Hiddleston Tel; 018999 221664

**Visit Our Website:** [www.cairngryffekirk.org.uk](http://www.cairngryffekirk.org.uk)      **Webmaster:** Jim Watt

### News from the Session

Since our last Newsletter:

Members of Session have been involved in cluster group meetings with Douglas Valley and Upper Clyde, we prepared and submitted our ideas to the Presbytery Mission Planning Action Group (MPAG) at the end of March. The MPAG are now in the process of reading all the submissions from the whole Presbytery area. They have indicated that there is still a lot of work to be done; on the local plans submitted by clusters and also preparation of a draft Presbytery Plan to be submitted to Presbytery. After Presbytery agrees a Presbytery Mission Plan it then goes to a committee of the Faith Nurture Forum in Edinburgh to be approved. At the moment there is no timescale available for this process. For us it is business as usual until any decisions are made.

Presbytery's next meeting is due to take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> of June.

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March we held another all-age worship event, Spring into Easter; telling the Easter Story in an interactive way, with sensory story-telling, activities and arts and crafts. The event was enjoyed by all who attended.

We provided Angela with Crème eggs for the Farming Chaplaincy. We also supplied Easter Eggs for Carmichael Toddlers Easter Egg Hunt and had craft tables for the children in the Hall. The church was open during the morning, Liz was on hand to answer questions and show people around the church, we had a number of visitors who were interested in seeing our church and commented on its beauty. (See news from Community Outreach Worker.)

After church service on 21<sup>st</sup> May we had a Coffee Morning in support of Christian Aid helping to raise funds for their "Help peas fulfil potential" project.

We are planning a Sunday Evening Songs of Praise Service on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm.

Carmichael Community Council are planning to hold a Village Day on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Angela has booked our table at the event. We are looking for volunteers to make and donate small craft items we could sell, also people to help with a craft table for children. We are planning to have the church open during the day, we are looking for volunteers to be in the church to show visitors around the church and answer any questions.

The Rev Atim Utuk who has regularly provided Pulpit Supply will be taking part in the Global Institute of Theology a course organized by the World Communion of Reformed Churches in Suva, Fiji from 15<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> June. We wish Atim well for her attendance at this prestigious event.

Rogation Sunday is not a date we celebrate much in the Church of Scotland. Rogation comes from the Latin rogation asking. It falls on the Sunday before Ascension Day, this year it was on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May. Rogation Sunday and the days of rogation on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday leading up to Ascension Day were established in 5<sup>th</sup> Century France to ward off disaster during the summer growing season.

In the Anglican tradition this continues as a blessing of the fields to ensure good crops for Harvest.

In a rural community this is an important time of year; this year's lambs are growing and thriving. Newly sown and planted crops emerge from the earth, grass grows and greens, around us we see a daily change in the colours of the fields. (See Reflection Now the green blade riseth.)

This edition of the Newsletter is being prepared just after Rogation Sunday, by the time the next edition is prepared it will be Harvest Time. Harvest Thanksgiving will be celebrated in mid- October, date of the service to be confirmed. Any articles for the next edition of the Newsletter should be sent to me by Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

As a local rural church, we rely on your ongoing support in terms of your attendance at church, your gifts of time, talents and money which help us run our church. The church is part of the community and as such we must reach out to the community and encourage the community to be part of the church.

Sometimes it is easy to mis-spell or mis-type a word, this has happened recently with Cairngryffe becoming Caringryffe, it reminds us that as a church and as individuals we should be caring for one another.

*Rosmairi J Galloway*

Session Clerk

## Deaths

Sadly, since our last Newsletter there have been a number of deaths of members and former members of our church, as well as people with strong connections to our church.

**Mrs Ann Murray**, Ann was an Elder at Pettinain Church and for a short time at Cairngryffe before her health deteriorated. Ann enjoyed travelling to Australia to see her family. Ann moved to Lanark a few years ago and latterly was a resident of Beechgrove Care Home where she died on 11<sup>th</sup> April. Her funeral took place at St Nicholas Parish Church, Lanark followed by burial at Pettinain Cemetery. The Rev Norman McKee conducted Ann's funeral. Norman's wife Anne and Ann had been lifelong friends from the time when they did their nursing training at Law Hospital and worked together there and at the William Smellie Memorial Hospital in Lanark.

Ann leaves her three daughters Susan, Allison, Linsey and their families.

**Mrs Flora Brown**, Mrs Brown passed away on 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2023; shortly before her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Flora lived for many years with her late husband Abie at Twin Cottage on the Carmichael Estate. She was known to many as the school dinner lady. After leaving Carmichael she lived in Lanark and latterly in Larkhall. She was a much-loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Her funeral took place on 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 at the church, followed by burial at Carmichael Cemetery. The Rev Dr Elijah Obinna officiated.

**Mr Robert Smith** died aged 92 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. He was an art teacher in Lanark, Biggar and Forth and artist in residence at New Lanark. He leaves behind his daughters Lesley and Wendy and their families.

His funeral took place on 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 at the church, followed by burial in Carmichael Cemetery. The Rev Dr Elijah Obinna officiated.

**Mr Allan Campbell**, Allan was a well-known local, he lived and worked for most of his long life in the Carmichael area. He was born at Blackhouse Farm, he worked there and on the Carmichael Estate for all of his working life which extended well into what would have been retirement for many. Allan was ordained as an elder at Carmichael Church in 1975 and served the church

faithfully for many years. He lived latterly in Lanark and was resident at Greenhills Care Home, Biggar for the last few months, he died there on 28<sup>th</sup> April. He leaves his daughters Hazel and Sandra and their families.

His funeral took place on 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 at the church, followed by burial in Carmichael Cemetery. The Rev Brian Ramsay officiated. Mr Ramsay was Minister of Carmichael linked with Pettinain linked with Covington from 1980-1984, before moving to Aberlemno linked with Guthrie and Rescobie in Angus; a charge he has recently retired from.

### **Grandchildren of the Rev Thomas McAndrew**

The Rev Tom McAndrew was the last Minister of Carmichael Parish before the Parish was linked to Pettinain in the early 1950's.

His grandchildren, Tom McAndrew and Isabel MacCallum (nee McAndrew) died within a month of each other.

Tom and Isabel were the children of Peter Douglas McAndrew and his wife Margaret Jane Clarkson of Prettsmill. They were brought up at Murrayfield, Biggar.

Tom was an officer in the Royal Navy, specializing in Oceanography, the mapping of the seas. When Tom retired from the Royal Navy he was actively involved in the life of Peebles Old Parish Church, Royal British Legion in Peebles and Tweed Valley Osprey watch. He was a great source of knowledge about his family and their connections to this area.

Isabel trained as a nurse. She married Marshall MacCallum, a surveyor who had worked with her father, they moved to Dunblane. Isabel was, mum to Andrew, Carolyn, Jill and Alistair and granny to Eloise, Callum, Kirsty and Anna.

Isabel died on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April; her funeral took place at Stirling on 26<sup>th</sup> of April.

She leaves her husband Marshall and her family.

Mr Tom McAndrew, died on 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, his funeral was a family, graveside service took place on 18<sup>th</sup> of May in Carmichael Cemetery. The service was conducted by the Rev Aftab Gohar of Peebles Old Parish Church where Tom had been an Elder and Office Bearer for many years.

Tom leaves behind his wife Anne, daughters Fiona, Morag and Heather and their families.

### **Symington Kirk**

Mr Ross Russell, Ross passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> of May. Ross was well known in the area; he had been Session Clerk at Symington for 44 years, when he retired from his post of Session Clerk he continued as Roll Keeper. Ross was an active member of the Congregational Worship team for many years. He was also an active member of the choir which his wife Gaynor leads. Ross was immersed in the life of Symington and wrote a book “Symington An account of the parish and its people” in 2014.

Ross was Headteacher at Robert Owen Memorial Primary School and latterly as an education adviser to Borders Regional Council.

He leaves his wife Gaynor, children Julie and Keith and their families.

Ross’ funeral took place on 26<sup>th</sup> of May at Symington.

As a congregation and Kirk Session we extend our sympathy to the families of Ann Murray, Flora Brown, Robert Smith, Allan Campbell, Isabel MacCallum, Tom McAndrew and Ross Russell. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time.



## Everyoung

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

The group is now on its summer break.

Meetings start again on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

Contact Charlie Todd for further details on 01899 308327

## Session Meetings

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November. Meetings held in the church at 7.30pm

## Church Flowers

Gifts of flowers to decorate the church, or of money for the flower fund are always welcome.



## Guild

The Guild is now on their Summer break and will restart on Wednesday 13th September, 2023 at 2.00pm in Thankerton Bowling Club. We would be delighted to welcome any new members and information can be had from the Secretary Elizabeth Forbes on 01555 640018.

## Donations

Since the pandemic we have encouraged giving by direct debit, or sending a cheque to our treasurer. An open plate is available at the church entrance for free will offering.

Gift Aid enables us to claim back Tax, this boosts our income considerably.

However, as a charity, we should have Gift Aid Declarations which have been signed in the last 2 years. If you have not signed a declaration form recently; Gift Aid Declaration Forms are available from your Elder, the Session Clerk or Treasurer. Completed forms should be returned to them.



## Reflection

### Now the Green Blade riseth

Springtime, and once again the countryside awakens from its winter slumber, the fields have been sown with crops and the lambs adorn the fresh green pastures, it is a time of renewal, an annual reset that in its own way brings forward a time of renewed hope, hope that it will be a good year ahead, hope that the weather will be good, hope in many different ways that things and people will prosper.

John Crum wrote in his hymn “Now the green blade riseth” a comparison between the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the grain seeds sown and laid in the dark ground...laid with the dead....and from there had once again risen and grown.

The Easter story of the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus are powerful emblem of God’s world and its ability to renew, to overcome the frailty of humanity and the consequences of self-interest, greed, hypocrisy and the exploitation by the strong over the weak, while the seasons flow with certain continuity every 12 months, God’s truth has to deal with a constant attack by secular actions of humanity, relying on their own laws or their interpretations of Scripture, but in the many centuries since Jesus’ ministry among us without fail our own mortal empires always crumble and fail, and then the renewal; sometimes these entities last a decade, some for a hundred years but they ultimately fade and die, but the story of the resurrection tells us of God’s truth and the renewal, that no matter how many times humanity fails, the scriptures prevail and shine the light in the darkness, the tide ebbs and flows, faith is at its strongest when we are at our most complacent and corrupted with comfort and stability...which are the seed bed of tyranny in whatever format it comes.

As John Crum wrote in his final verse of his hymn,

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
thy touch can call us back to life again, fields of  
our hearts that dead and bare have been.**

*Rodger Lindsay (Congregational Worship Group)*



## From Our Community Outreach Worker

**Agricultural Chaplaincy** is doing well and farmers- working and retired - are always happy to see me for a chat and a bit of banter. Underlying that there have been some very personal concerns shared with me, now they realise I am a trusted person.

As part of the chaplaincy, in March I was able to attend the RHET schools' day at the Museum of Rural Life. It was an enjoyable day and the weather was perfect and everyone left with a smile on their face.



I was also interviewed for Avondale Radio about the chaplaincy as part of their mental health awareness. This was broadcast on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

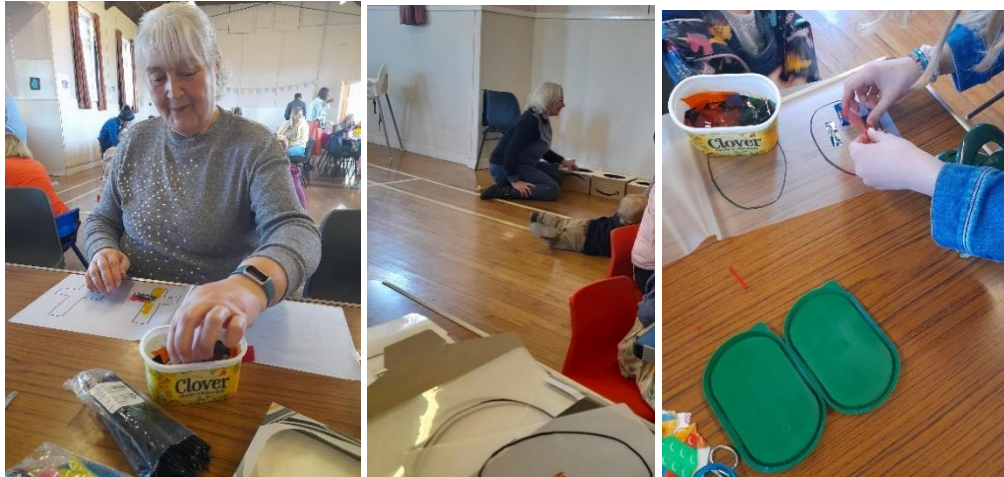
On the Monday before Easter I was able to hand out crème eggs to visitors to the market, both big and small. They didn't last long!

**Anna Chaplaincy** is moving along in the background. The Field Names project which has linked into the Farming Chaplaincy project is slowly gathering information and providing farmers the opportunity to share stories. I am also looking at a reminiscence group for this end of the cluster. One venue has pulled out and am just waiting to hear from another venue, but sounds positive. Will eventually look to develop some form of Positive Aging/ Dementia Friendly Hub.

Church @ Home resources were given out at Easter and hopefully a new one will be available during the summer. *(Please contact your elder or the Session Clerk if you would like to receive a Church @ Home pack.)*

## **Easter Community Day**

We were invited along to a families' event at Carmichael Hall to offer craft activities. Rosmairi, Rosemary, Sandra, Suzanne and myself were not left sitting alone! The children had a great time as you can see from the photos.



## **Carmichael School**

I was able to go into the school on the last day of term and do an Easter assembly and spend the rest of the afternoon getting to know some of the pupils. I am hoping to be allowed back before the holidays.

*Angela Wilson*

***Community Outreach Worker.***

**TINTO PARISHES WORSHIP****SUNDAYS JUNE – NOVEMBER 2023**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>CAIRNGRYFFE</b>	<b>LIBBERTON&amp; QUOTHQUAN</b>	<b>SYMINGTON</b>
	<b>9.30AM</b>	<b>11.00AM</b>	<b>11.00AM</b>
04 06 23	Atim Utuk	Atim Utuk	Douglas MacKenzie
11 06 23	George Shand	WG	George Shand
18 06 23	Denham MacDougall	Rodger Lindsay	Robert Carson
25 06 23	Suzanne Campbell	OA	Suzanne Campbell
<b>SUMMER JOINT SERVICES – 11.00AM</b>			
02 07 23			Atim Utuk
09 07 23		Alan Grant	
16 07 23	Worship Group		
23 07 23		Bill Buchan	
30 07 23			Atim Utuk
<b>DATE</b>	<b>CAIRNGRYFFE</b>	<b>LIBBERTON&amp; QUOTHQUAN</b>	<b>SYMINGTON</b>
	<b>11.00AM</b>	<b>9.30AM</b>	<b>11.00AM</b>
06 08 23	Atim Utuk	Atim Utuk	WG
13 08 23	WG	Alan Grant	
20 08 23	Atim Utuk	Atim Utuk	WG
27 08 23	WG	George Shand	George Shand
03 09 23	Atim Utuk	Alan Grant	Alan Grant
10 09 23	WG	Robert Allan	Robert Allan
17 09 23	Alan Grant	Alan Grant	WG
24 09 23	WG	Atim Utuk	Atim Utuk
<b>01 10 23</b>	<b>JOINT World Communion Day</b>		
	<b>11.00AM Symington</b>		
	<b>Elijah Obinna</b>		
	11.00AM	11.00AM	9.30AM
08 10 23	Atim Utuk	WG	Atim Utuk
15 10 23	WG	Robert Allan	Robert Allan
22 10 23	Alan Grant	Paul Grant	Alan Grant
29 10 23	WG	Atim Utuk	Atim Utuk
05 11 23	George Shand	WG	George Shand

**COMMUNION SERVICES**11<sup>th</sup> June: Cairngryffe and Symington27<sup>th</sup> August: Libberton & Quothquan1<sup>st</sup> October: Joint World Communion Day Service at Symington5<sup>th</sup> November: Cairngryffe and Symington**Summer Songs of Praise Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7.30pm.**

A celebration of Scottish Hymn Writers: Exploring our faith through the hymns of Scottish Hymn Writers through the ages.