

CAIRNGRYFFE PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024



**YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO OUR
CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION
ON SUNDAY 23rd June 2024 AT 11.00AM.**

Cairngryffe Parish Church: one of the Tinto Parishes

Charity Number – SC 017001

From our Interim Moderator

Dear Members and Friends of Cairngryffe Parish Church,

As the warmth of summer embraces us, I find my heart overflowing with gratitude as I reflect on our vibrant and united faith community and the love and compassion that flows through Cairngryffe Parish Church. The sunshine brings new life and energy, and I am reminded of the beauty and strength in each of you. With its longer days and softer nights, this season invites us to pause, reflect, and reconnect—with nature, each other, and our God. This summer, I encourage us all to embody the spirit of our faith by looking out for one another in meaningful and heartfelt ways. We all face challenges; sometimes, a little support and encouragement can make all the difference. Whether through prayer, a kind word, or a helping hand, let us ensure that no one in our community feels alone or unsupported.

The approval of the Presbytery Mission Plan marks a significant milestone in our journey. It calls us all to embrace change with faith and courage. This plan is not just a blueprint for the future but a vision rooted in our collective prayers, hopes, and dreams. It seeks to ensure that our ministry remains vibrant and relevant, meeting the needs of our congregation and the wider community. As we navigate the changes ahead, remember that our mission, which has always been and will always be, remains constant: to love and serve God and our neighbours. We will have the opportunity to join our sisters and brothers from Libberton & Quothquan, as well as Symington, in our joint summer services throughout the month of July. These joint services are not just a means to meet people but a way to live out our calling as a community united in Christ's love, where each one of us is valued and loved.

May the warmth of God's love shine brightly in your hearts and extend to all those we encounter.

With love and blessings,

Rev. Dr Elijah Obinna
Interim Moderator
Cairngryffe Parish Church

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: 01555 752389

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

Mobile: 07733 446567

Prayer Promoter: Liz Hiddleston Tel: 01899 221664

Visit Our Website: www.cairngryffekirk.org.uk **Webmaster:** Jim Watt

News from the Session

As Summer approaches, we all look forward hopefully to some warm weather and for some holidays. Holidays take their origin from Holy Days where religious festivals were celebrated; a rest from daily work, festivities, meeting others, celebrations of music and food took place. A change from the day-to-day routine. Even if you do not go away on holiday, remember that the different activities of Holy Days are activities that we enjoy and benefit from.

Over the past 2 years the Presbytery has been working on the Presbytery Mission Plan; it has been a long process with many ups and downs for us as a congregation. On the 27th of April the Mission Plan was presented to Presbytery. Andy Robinson, Session Clerk at Douglas Valley and I made a presentation to Presbytery about our cluster, what we do as individual churches, what we do together and about the work of our Community Outreach Worker; Angela Wilson.

The classification of buildings under the mission planning process is A to remain open or B to close. Unfortunately, the draft plan recommended closure of our church building. Jim Watt our Presbytery Elder proposed a countermotion to this. As a result, our building has been reclassified to B*which means that we remain open but the situation will be reviewed in 2027.

The Presbytery Mission Plan has now been passed by the Mission Planning Implementation Group in Edinburgh, and was passed by Presbytery on 1st of June. There is now a 14-day period for procedural appeals to be lodged with the Principal Clerk's office in Edinburgh.

The timetable for our own Presbytery's Mission Plan Implementation Groups work has not yet been announced to us.

This means some big changes for us as a congregation. Our linkage with Libberton & Quothquan, and Symington will dissolve. We will then join with Douglas Valley and Upper Clyde.

The emphasis of the Mission Plan is on Mission and 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.

As we journey through summer towards autumn it is a time of transition for us.

In July we will have our joint Summer Services with our partner congregations in the Tinto Parishes.

A number of our activities will resume in late summer, early autumn; Guild, Everyoung, Cuppa, Craft and Chat. We are planning three All-Age Family Worship Events to celebrate summer, harvest and Christmas.

Our worship leaders are already working together with Douglas Valley and Upper Clyde leading worship and will continue to do so.

This is a time of great change and transition for us, it is very important that we all support our church, our church family and each other throughout this time.

It is vital for the survival of our church building that we do use it and support the church. As a Session we value the support that you give us, in your attendance at worship and other events, your contributions of time, skills and money.

There is a lot of news in this Newsletter and although dates and times are correct at time of printing they may change.

I would also like to thank all of our contributors for their contributions.

Many, many thanks.

Rosmairi J Galloway

Session Clerk.

Funerals

Mrs Carole Gardiner

The funeral of Mrs Carole Gardiner took place on the 22nd of May. Carole was born in Edinburgh, but lived in the Thankerton area for many years, farming at Muirhouse Farm for 26years with her late husband John. Carole was an active member of the church, the Guild and Everyyoung for many years. Her health declined in recent years and she passed away on the 2nd of May.

Her funeral service was led by the Rev Kaye Gardiner; her niece and was a very personal service. We extend our sympathies to her daughters Claire and Lee and their families.

Mr William Pollock Thomson

Mr William Pollock Thomson of Lanark was laid to rest beside family members at Carmichael Cemetery on 30th May after a service in the church conducted by Rev Dr Elijah Obinna. William and his family had lived at Sandilands. After National Service in Germany, he worked with the railways for 45years. He was a keen fisherman and gardener. We extend our sympathies to William's family.



Everyoung

The next meeting of the Everyoung takes place on Thursday 10th October 2024.

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.

Contact Charlie Todd for further details on 01899 308327

Guild 2024-2025 Session



The first meeting of the new session of the Guild is being held on Wednesday 11th September.

Meetings are held at 2pm in Thankerton Bowling Club.

For any further information please contact Elizabeth Forbes on 01555 640018.

Cards and Bookmarks are still available

Cards £1, Bookmarks 20p



Presbytery Report

The 2nd March meeting of Presbytery was attended by the Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt. Rev Sally Foster-Fulton who gave an address.

The names of those commissioned to attend the General Assembly were reported and a committee was set up to nominate the Moderator of Presbytery for 2024/25.

The Governance Group presented a Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Policy and Job Description for the Presbytery Clerk, which were adopted, along with a new Committee structure which was approved along with the remits for the committees. There will be 8 Committees and each committee is to have a dedicated email address which will automatically forward e-mails to the convenor, thus avoiding the need to go through the Presbytery Office. These committees will assume responsibility from 1st June. The Business Committee is tasked to undertake a review of the new structure in 3 years' time. With these changes they hope that trust, transparency and engagement can be restored.

A further task given to the Business Committee is that of improving communications, in particular the Presbytery website so that it will be of greater use to both Presbyters and congregations.

The Governance Group also undertook to bring the names of Convenors and Vice Convenors to a special meeting later in the month.

They further proposed the appointment of an Interim Clerk to oversee the establishment of the new structure, which was agreed, and have been able to secure the services of the Rev George Whyte OBE KSG to carry out this role. George is the immediate past Principal Clerk of the General Assembly. The Business committee were charged with forming an *ad hoc* committee to take forward the appointment of a new Presbytery Clerk.

The Resourcing Mission Team have set up a funding Panel for the Small Grants scheme which is now open for applications.

The Mission Plan Action Group proposed that consideration of the Draft Presbytery Mission Plan take place at a whole day meeting on 27th April

The Mission and Care team reported that 35 people had come forward for worship leader training, resulting in a second course being set up and 11 people being placed on a waiting list. Adjustments have been made to the course to allow more of it to be completed, and for assessment to be carried out, on line.

Means by which the Session Clerk's forum can be continued are being explored.

At an on-line meeting on 20th March the names of those who had agreed to serve as Convenors and Vice convenors of the various committees were presented and

appointed, along with the remainder of the Business and Planning and Implementation Committees. This will enable the former to start work immediately and the latter to prepare to start as soon as the Presbytery Mission Plan is approved.

At the meeting on 27th April the draft plan was approved following a number of amendments being approved. Among those was one changing the status of Cairngryffe Kirk from category B, to close, to category B*, as is Upper Clyde Church in Abington, with both their status to be reviewed in 3 years' time. This amendment was on the basis of the need to retain it for mission in the area, especially given the geographical area to be covered by the proposed parish, some 300 sq. miles = around 1/3rd of the Presbytery, and in light of the closure of village halls. My thanks must go to Rosmairi, Andy Robinson (Session Clerk at Douglas) and Nikki MacDonald (Minister at Upper Clyde) for their help in getting this through. It is now up to all of us to engage with the community and further our mission within it, so that we can demonstrate that there is a need to retain the building in the long term as a Church presence.

The plan has been submitted to the Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Group in Edinburgh for their approval prior to its final adoption.

The next ordinary meeting of Presbytery will be on 1st June.

Jim Watt (Presbytery Elder)

Community Cinema Project

We are hoping to show the classic film Whisky Galore (1949 version) as our next film on 10th August. The film is suitable for a wide audience.

For more details contact Angela Wilson: 07543 796820.

Reflection

The following is from the Saint Aidan readings in the Celtic Daily Prayer book:

‘The tide of life recedes. The house, with its bulging porches and sheds, begins little by little to empty. The children go away to school and then to marriage and lives of their own. Most people by middle age have attained, or ceased to attain, their place in the world. That terrific tenacity to life, to place, to people, to material surroundings and accumulations: is it as necessary as it was when one was struggling for security or the security of one’s children? Many of the physical struggles have ceased, due to either success or failure. Does the shell need to be so welded to its rock? Married couples are apt to find themselves in middle age high and dry in an outmoded shell, in a fortress that which has outlived its function.

Perhaps middle age is, or should be, a period of shedding shells: the shell of ambition, the shell of material accumulations and possessions, the shell of the ego. Perhaps one can shed, at this stage of life one’s pride, one’s false ambitions, one’s mask, one’s armour. Was that armour not put on to protect one from the competitive world? If one ceases to compete, does one need it? Perhaps one can at last in middle age, if not earlier, be completely oneself; and what a liberation that would be!

So beautiful is the hour of the sea’s withdrawal, as beautiful as the sea’s return when encroaching waves pound up the beach, pressing to reach those dark rumpled chains of seaweed which mark the last high tide.

We have so little faith in the ebb and flow of life of relationships. We leap at the flow of the tide and resist in terror its ebb. We are afraid it will never return. We insist on permanence, on duration, on continuity; when the only continuity possible, in life as in love, is in growth, in fluidity - in the sense that dancers are free, barely touching as they pass, but partners in the same pattern. The only real security is in not owning or possessing, not in demanding or expecting, not in hoping even. Security in a relationship lies in neither looking back to what it was in nostalgia, nor forward to what it might be in dread or anticipation, but living in the present relationship and accepting it as it is now.’

Denham Macdougall. Congregational Worship Group

From Our Community Outreach Worker

At our recent church Stated Annual Meeting Angela Wilson our Community Outreach Worker talked about her work over the last year.

We have had a Harvest and a Christmas “Messy Church” style event where families were encouraged to take part in a range of crafty activities and then hear a Bible story which related to the theme.

We were asked once again to take part in the local community events at Easter and summer by providing craft activities for everyone to join in with.

During the winter months we have developed a monthly (other drinks are available but I do love a bit of alliteration) Coffee or Cuppa, Craft and Chat group on a Saturday afternoon. This has turned into a nice group where there are a lot of different topics chatted about, advice shared but mostly laughter and camaraderie. You don’t even need to craft, just come and chat.

We are continuing to develop our community cinema project and will hopefully be in a position to announce the next two films to be shown.

In regards to the Anna Chaplaincy here – and everywhere else – we are still continuing with the Church @ Home sheets which are available to give out to those in our church family who don’t get to church as often as they would like. There has been a series of Remember When?... sessions held at Douglas Victoria Bowling Club over the winter months. There were a lot of memories shared and stories told.

Our Anna Chaplaincy work, being the first recognised in Scotland, was highlighted at the national Faith In Older People conference earlier this year. Participants were introduced to Jimmy Clarkson from Douglas and a few have asked after him since.

Finally, the farming chaplaincy is continuing to go from strength to strength at Lanark Mart. I hear stories ranging from yesteryear, to prices of beasts going through the market, problems with the wet winter and sadly deaths and suicides. Farming is one of the most isolated careers, where farmers, especially single farmers, may not speak to another person all week so their day at market is extremely important. The show season is now here, so please pray for a few dry Saturdays this summer!

Angela Wilson

Church@Home devotional leaflets prepared by Angela, for those who cannot attend the church as often as they would like are available from the church, please let your elder or Session Clerk know if you would like to receive one.

POEM for PENTECOST

The Earth Reflects God's Glory

Your hand, O Lord, around the earth,
Reflects your glorious power;
The beauty of the countryside,
Is seen in wayside flowers.
You touch our hearts in countless ways,
We join in adoration;
Enchanting larksong in the air,
Praise from your own Creation.

From mountaintop, through hill and vale,
Your footprints touch the land,
Across the vast, blue oceans;
In every grain of sand.
The beauty takes our breath away,
And lifts our spirits heavenward;
You give us such enlightenment
Grace tugs a heartstring chord.

This paradise in which we live,
The art of your Creation;
In which you weave your Master plan,
Life in perpetual motion.
The seeds of life fall to the ground,
They germinate and thrive;
Are watered by your gracious Hand,
To keep all things alive.

Such grandeur and such majesty,
Leaves us in awe and wonder;
Your gentle kiss upon the earth,
Within our hearts we ponder.
You challenge us to understand,
All life on earth is precious;
You gave your Life to save us all,
That we might learn to cherish.

By Freda Stobo

Next Newsletter

Autumn Newsletter will be ready in October-November. Any articles should be sent to the Session Clerk by 15th September 2024.

A digital copy of the Newsletter is available on our website

www.cairngryffekirk.org.uk

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.

Gift Aid Declaration Forms are available from your Elder, the Session Clerk or Treasurer. Completed forms should be returned to them.

Church Flowers

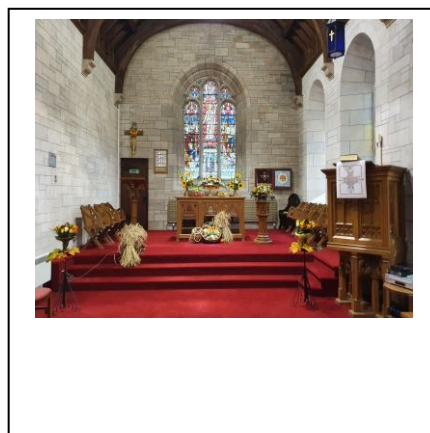
Gifts of flowers to decorate the church, or of money for the flower fund are always welcome.

DOORS OPEN DAY 2024

The church will be open for visitors on Doors Open Day.

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th September 2024 1-4pm.

Come along and see our beautiful, historic church.



IMPORTANT DATES

SESSION MEETINGS

Monday 5th August 2024 and Monday 4th November 2024.

CAIRNGRYFFE CUPPA, CRAFT and CHAT

Come and join us, a friendly informal group where we chat, and craft for a couple of hours. Even if you do not have a craft or hobby to bring along come and join us for the chat and a cup of tea or coffee.

We will have a short break in July and August and re-start meeting on 21st September 2024.

Meetings on third Saturday of the month 1-3pm in the church, meeting room.

Contact Angela Wilson: 07543 796820.

SATURDAY ALL-AGE FAMILY WORSHIP EVENTS

In other words, Messy Church.

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

Our October meeting will have a Harvest theme and December a Christmas theme.

Dates for August to December.

Dates: Saturdays 31st August, 26th October and 7th December 2024

1-3pm.

**JOINT SUNDAY WORSHIP JULY 2024 TINTO PARISHES WORSHIP
SUNDAY WORSHIP JUNE 2024**

DATE	CAIRNGRYFFE	LIBBERTON"HQUAN	SYMINGTON
JUNE	11.00am	9.30am	11.00am
16 0624	Worship Group		Atim Utuk
23 06 24	Paul Grant Communion		Robert Allan
30 06 24	Robert Allan		Jessie Fubara- Manuel

JOINT TINTO PARISHES WORSHIP – JULY 2024

ALL SERVICES at 11.00am

DATE	WORSHIP LEADER	CHURCH
07 07 24	Alan Grant	Symington
14 07 24	Alan Grant	Libberton&Quothquan
21 07 24	Robert Alan	Cairngryffe
28 07 24	Jessie Fubara-Manuel	Symington

SUNDAY WORSHIP

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

9.30am CAIRNGRYFFE, 11.00am SYMINGTON

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

9.30am SYMINGTON, 11.00am CAIRNGRYFFE

LIBBERTON & QUOTHQUAN: Monthly Service second Sunday of the month at 11.00am August- December 2024.

Dates and times correct at time of publication. Please check our website for any changes.