



The breath of the Spirit.
A prayer by Susan Sayers 1997 (adapted)

Gracious God, into every situation of doubt and despondency among your followers,

breathe your faithfulness

A moment of silence for thought and for prayer

Prepare us, O Lord, to walk in your ways

God the Father, into our strongholds of ambition and defensiveness,

breathe your humility

A moment of silence for thought and for prayer

Prepare us, O Lord, to walk in your ways

God the Son, into the prisons of guilt and revenge,

breathe the grace of forgiveness

A moment of silence for thought and for prayer

Prepare us, O Lord, to walk in your ways

God the Spirit, into the darkness of pain and fear,

breathe your reassurance.

A moment of silence for thought and for prayer

Prepare us, O Lord, to walk in your ways

Creator, into the flabbiness of complacency,

breathe your zeal.

A moment of silence for thought and for prayer

Prepare us, O Lord, to walk in your ways

Redeemer, into our homes and places of work,

breathe your fellowship and love

A moment of silence for thought and for prayer

Prepare us, O Lord, to walk in your ways

Encourager, into the whole of your creation,

breathe your joy and peace

and may your spirit guide us as we walk in your ways with Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Prayer Promoters

Symington Parish Church –	Heather Davidson	Tel 01899 309126
Cairngryffe Parish Church –	Liz Hiddleston	Tel 01899 221664
Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church -	Lilias Nicholls	Tel 01555 840572

FOCUS

Summer 2018



Kirk and Community News

For the Churches in Tinto Parishes

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

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

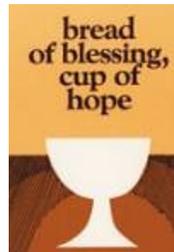
Mr Ross Russell, Spindrift, Main Street, Symington, ML12 6LL (01899 308240)

Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church - SC 016304

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

Sacrament of Holy Communion

CAIRNGRYFFE	11.00am Sunday 3 rd June
SYMINGTON	9.30am Sunday 3 rd June
LIBBERTON & QUOTHQUAN	11.00am Sunday 10 th June



Remember, if you would like Home Communion, please let your elder know,
 or contact Rev. George directly on 01899 309400

COVER PHOTO of Catherine Foster and Dawn Hakim
 —for more information see
 Libberton & Quothquan's 'What's Happening' section.



THE TINTO PARISHES: The church in, of, and with our community
The Church of Scotland serving the South Lanarkshire communities of
 Carmichael, Covington, Libberton, Pettinain, Quothquan, Symington, Thankerton
 and an extensive rural hinterland.

Visit our websites:

www.symingtonkirk.com

www.cairngryffekirk.org.uk

www.libbertonquothquan.org.uk

Webmaster: Robert Carson

Webmaster: Jim Watt

Webmaster: Paul Dobie

And find us on



Facebook

'The Tinto Parishes'

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

2018	Symington	Cairngryffe	Libberton & Quothquan
May 27 th	0930	1100 WG	1100 M
JUNE 3rd	0930 COM	1100 M COM	1100 OA
June 10 th	0930	1100 WG	1100 M COM
June 17 th	0930	1100 M	1100 OA
June 24 th	0930	1100 WG	1100 M
J LY 1st	at Symington	Joint Tinto Parishes Worship	11am
July 8 th	Joint Tinto Parishes Worship	at Cairngryffe	11am
July 15 th	Joint Tinto Parishes Worship	11am	at Libberton & Quothquan
July 22 nd	at Symington	Joint Tinto Parishes Worship	11am
July 29 th	1100 M	0930 M	1100 OA
AUGUST 5th	1100 WG	0930 M	1100 M
August 12 th	1100 M	0930 M	1100 OA
August 19 th	1100 WG	0930 M	1100 M
August 26 th	1100 M	0930 M	1100 OA
September 2 nd	1100 WG	0930 M	1100 M

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

WORSHIP IN BIGGAR CARE HOMES.

Services begin again in July, led by
 Biggar Kirk.

Rev. George will lead worship at
 Greenhills and the Bield, in August.



*This ZINNIA is the first plant to be grown in space—on the International Space Station
 —the blue background is our world. Photo: NASA*

WORSHIP CALENDAR—Summer of 2018.

On Pentecost Sunday we came to the end of our 2017-2018 Lectionary Cycle centred on the Gospel of John. Our Worship Groups are meeting with Rev. George in late May to firm up our choices for 2018-9. Over the summer we will focus on the Ten Commandments, and on the First Letter of John. In July we will have five Sundays with Rev. Shaun Seaman from Canada.

May 27 th	Exodus 19:1-16 and 20:1-2	Ten Commandments Series(1)
JUNE 3rd	Exodus 20:3-11	Ten Commandments Series(2)
June 10 th	Exodus 20: 12-16	Ten Commandments Series(3)
June 17 th	Exodus 20:17	Ten Commandments Series(4)
June 24 th	1 John 1:1-4	1 John Series(1)

Our guest speaker on June 24th at Symington Church (0930) and Libberton & Quothquan Church (1100) will be Rev. Colin Johnston, a Mission Partner based in Cairo. Colin is already known to us through his work (Focus Magazine—Winter 2016) with StARS—St Andrew's Church Refugee Services, Cairo.

July 1st to July 29th—During the five Sundays of July our guest preacher will be Rev. Shaun Seaman, from Trinity Presbyterian Church on the outskirts of Ottawa. The theme he will speak to is **'Spiritual Pathways'**:

'How do we connect with God?'

'How can we see and hear God in the midst of daily living and the busyness of our lives?'

'What can we do, to help us to appreciate that we live in the presence of God?'

JULY 1st	Psalm 118:1-4; 24-27(a); Matthew 28:16-20; Colossians 3:12-15	Living in the Light
July 8 th	Matthew 22:36-40; 1 Timothy 4:1-16	Training Days
July 15 th	1 Samuel 3:1-19; Mark 6:30-33	Leadings and Nudges
July 22 nd	Matthew 11:28-30; Psalm 46:1-11	Hurry Up!
July 29 th	2 Thessalonians 2:13-16; Psalm 122	From Ordinary to Extraordinary (0930 at Cairngryffe, 1100 at Symington)
	1John 1:5-2:2	1 John Series (2) (1100 Libberton and Quothquan only)
AUGUST 5th	1 John 4:1-6	1 John Series (3)
August 12 th	1 John 4:7-21	1 John Series (4)
August 19 th	<i>New Lectionary Cycle— Details in the Autumn 'Focus'</i>	

MINISTER'S LETTER: The X factor of Church

I am sure most of you will know about "the ABC of Church" – about the popular ways of judging the health of a congregation. It takes account of these important things - A is for Attendance, B is for Buildings, and C is for Cash. If your attendance is keeping up, if your buildings are well maintained and there is a positive cash balance – then you are doing alright.

All these things are indeed important. Not just for the church but for any organisation. However, we are reminded on Pentecost Sunday – just in case we might have forgotten – that there is another element that energises our life together if we will allow it, and that is S for Spirit.

ABC

As we read the story of the 'birth' of the church in the Book of Acts, we are reminded that what gives the church its energy and vitality is a gift from God - the coming of the Holy Spirit amongst the assembled group, an event that breaks down boundaries and barriers, and empowers once

dispirited disciples to begin carrying the Good News message to all corners of the world. The 'birth' of the church is unlike the birth of any other organisation. It is God-empowered.

And as we ourselves worship together on a Pentecost Sunday, or any Sunday, we remember that we are able to share together because of the dedication of generations of empowered and faithful people who have gone before us.

S

The ABC of church is visible, can be analysed, can be counted. The S of church, just as important, can't really be analysed or comprehended. It works within us, it works between us, its impact is not something we can easily count or control – who knows when or where what we give out might take root.

Recent research (by the 'Talking Jesus initiative') asked people to give the two or three main factors that influenced them in becoming a Christian. They said:

40% said it was to do with growing up in a Christian Family

36% of adults (15% of youth) said it was as a result of conversations with a Christian

28% of adults (18% of youth) said it was by attending a regular church service

27% of adults (22% of youth) said it was by reading the Bible and seeking to know more

24% of adults (13% of youth) said it was as a result of an experience of the love of Jesus Christ.

Less and less of today's children are growing up in 'a Christian family', less and less children have any 'natural' connection with church.



And more and more we are reliant on connections being made 'out there', where there is no guarantee that the fruit of these connections, if any, will bring a result that has an ABC impact on the church as we presently understand it.

Good governance in the ABC of church life is important so that we can sustain what we have, for ourselves, and into the future. But the S of church is what creates the future. If God chose to enliven the church with God's Spirit, then we can be assured that whatever the future brings it too will be enlivened by God's Spirit.

God's Spirit works within us, a factor we can never give up on - even if the ABC looks great, difficult, or impossible, God's Spirit is always at work, creating and recreating.

May you know God's love and God's peace with you at all times.
Your friend and minister,

George

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

—WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CAIRNGRYFFE—

Since the last issue of FOCUS we have continued our worship pattern in Cairngryffe as set, we are fortunate indeed that our Worship Team was ready willing and able to cover for Rev George during a recent short illness, from which we hope he has now fully recovered. We also, but were not quite sure!, welcomed Spring and the beautiful display of Spring flowers all around us, cawing rooks as they build in the trees around our church building, lambs gamboling in the fields with the occasional glimpse of sunshine! And our Christian Aid Co-Ordinator organised "A little light lunch" fundraiser for this worthwhile cause early in May.

Pentecost, Sunday was a great opportunity for us to celebrate the 'birthday' of the Church by thinking about the **past**—that actual day in Jerusalem, and the power it unleashed amongst the disciples to go out and serve and enlarge the small church communities around the known world. We gave thanks for all who had built the church we have inherited, and we thought of the **present** time, as we celebrated and gave thanks for the commitment of a number of elders and office bearers over many years, presenting long-service certificates to:



Service of Thirty years and over

CATHRYN FORREST (38 years)

Service of Forty years and over

JIM WATT (41 years), **ALLAN CAMPBELL** (43 years), and
JIM WARNOCK (43 years)

Service of Fifty years and over

HENRY MCMAHON (50 years)

And we also had the opportunity to celebrate the **future** as we welcomed

RODGER LINDSAY into membership of the Church.

Mary McLellan, Session Clerk at Cairngryffe

CAIRNGRYFFE SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We meet in the church for 11.00am and take part in the first part of the service. After 'Time Together' we go to our Sunday School Room for our own Bible based activities. We have been looking at the story of Paul and the early church.

Dates and times

Sundays 11am from now until Sunday 17th June 2018.

Prize Giving will be on Sunday 17th of June 2018.

New Term starts Sunday 19th of August at 9.30am.

Our Bible based teaching is for children of nursery school and primary school age, we are a small group and new children are always welcome.

For further information contact Rosmairi Galloway

tel: 01555 880779

The Donkey by Gilbert Keith Chesterton

*When fishes flew and forests walked and figs grew upon the thorn,
some moment when the moon was blood then surely I was born;
with monstrous head and sickening cry and ears like errant wings,
the devil's walking parody of all four-footed things.*

*The tattered outlaw of the earth, of ancient crooked will;
starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb, I keep my secret still.
Fools! For I also had my hour, one far fierce hour and sweet:
there was a shout about my ears, and palms before my feet.*

—WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIBBERTON & QUOTHQUAN—

Some Highlights:

Scripture Union.



The front cover picture on this issue of FOCUS is of Dawn Hakim and Catherine Foster, two of the team of three from L&Q Church who run the lunchtime Scripture Union Club at Libberton Primary School.



The other member of the team is Grace Parton, who has been involved in the Club since its inception.

Unfortunately, because of other commitments and people on the move, the team are no longer able to run the Club. Catherine and Dawn were available to come into the School a few weeks before Easter to receive a special 'Thank You' and gift from the school and the youngsters.

David Shannon has had a lifelong interest in and support of Scripture Union, and he was the driving force, ten years ago, in setting up the Club, along with Grace, and Deacon Ann Lyall.

We give thanks for ten years of active commitment to our local community, and thank everyone involved in the SU Club.

Daffodil Tea:

The profits from our annual Daffodil Tea are always donated to local or wider projects that are relevant to the work of the Church. This year's Tea was held on the Saturday before Holy Week, and we donated £226.50 to the Clydesdale Food Bank.

Pentecost Sunday:

Our three Tinto Parishes have been making an extra effort to acknowledge and celebrate the joy of Pentecost Sunday. Many members of the congregations wore the colour red.

At our church, beautiful red and orange flowers, were arranged on a pedestal and a table-top by Elizabeth Lyon to resemble flames of fire—so symbolising the arrival of the Holy Spirit to comfort and support the disciples after the risen Jesus had left them.



The meaning of Pentecost was explained to the children through the use of bubbles. Blowing into the liquid was like God 'blowing' love and faith into Christians and when the bubbles burst, that love and faith is spread to others. The service ended with the joyful sound of children laughing as they blew bubbles all around the church including from the gallery after the service as the adults enjoyed tea, biscuits and chat.

We had 7 children and at Sunday School with Grace they made this Pentecost tree which they brought into church during the last hymn.

Lilias Nicholls, Session Clerk at L&Q



—WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SYMINGTON

On Sunday 20 May, during the worship to mark Pentecost, Kai McAlroy was admitted to membership of the Church by Confession of Faith. We welcome Kai and hope that he will find his membership rewarding and fulfilling.



Our newest member, Kai Mcalroy standing before our creatively decorated Pentecost table, with the doves hanging above

The congregation is delighted with the redecoration of the church. Worship had to be conducted in the hall for one week but we were able to return to the church the following week, so disruption was kept to a minimum. Following extensive repair to the plasterwork on the ceiling last year, the roof timbers had become badly marked. They have been cleaned and greatly complement the refreshed paintwork. It is planned to organise a 'deep clean' at ground level in the near future.

It is good to hear the sound of children in the village again as Tinto Primary returns to the new school after their extended evacuation to Ridgepark in Lanark. We wish Alex Stark, her staff and the children, every happiness in their beautiful new home.

Our Worship Group is now up and running and we look forward to their continued involvement in the regular worship in Symington. We are grateful for the time, commitment and dedication which each member devotes to the preparation and delivery of their contribution.

The community was devastated to hear of the sudden death last month of David Dunbar. His great popularity and the affection in which he was held was reflected in the turnout of around 300 people at his funeral at the Sports' Club on 13 April. We extend our love and sympathy to Linda and Alec and their families in their sorrow

Ross Russell, Session Clerk

SYMINGTON CHOIR

The choir has now finished up for the session. It will resume in late September. A warm invitation is extended to anyone who enjoys singing to join us. You will be made very welcome.

Gaynor Russell

————PRESBYTERY REPORT ————

At the March meeting of Presbytery Mr George Sneddon, Candidate in Training for the Full time Ministry of Word and Sacrament was welcomed to the meeting and a prayer of blessing on him and his studies offered.

A number of awards were made from the Ministry and Mission Variance Allowance, including one to each of our three parishes to cover the costs of pulpit supply for the third service on Sundays. Coalburn and Lesmahagow Old also received one to cover pulpit supply. Other awards went to Carluke: St John's for the cost of equipment for their Praise Band, 'Grace Notes', and Lanark: Greyfriars towards the cost of their 2018 holiday club.

New committee arrangements in Lanark Presbytery, outlined in Robert's report in the last issue of Focus, are settling into place with initiatives starting to come forward. As part of the 'Year of Young People' (YOYP) a Youth Praise event will take place on Saturday 15th September in St John's Church Carluke. A number of Praise Bands will take part in this and it promises to be an exciting evening, so put the date in you diaries now.

The Worship and Discipleship Committee are liaising with Hamilton Presbytery to organise a course to train elders to conduct funerals and to carry out funeral related visiting. A Prayer sub-group has been set up, led by Rev Elizabeth Clelland, and those congregations who have not yet appointed a Prayer Promoter are being encouraged to do so. Information will be given at the General Assembly for a National Prayer Day to be held on 2nd November. The committee are also exploring ways of developing the music and praise experiences within the Presbytery.

The Relationship and Context Committee are exploring the use of a Facebook page to support communication and have encouraged the Presbytery Support Committee to reconsider setting up a functional website for the Presbytery as a means of outreach and communication.

While encouraging congregations and individuals to continue their support of international aid agencies they also ask that they should scrutinise agencies they support in the light of recent events as to whether they have introduced policies and procedures to safeguard the most vulnerable. They are also encouraging congregations to continue to support 'Souper Sunday' which supports HIV AIDS projects.

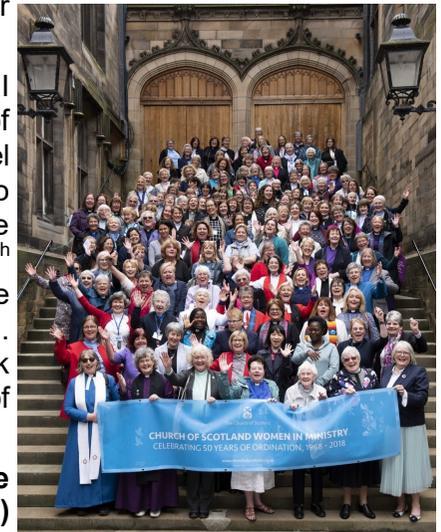
The Attestation of Records took place on Tuesday 17th April, organised by the Presbytery Support Committee and I'm pleased to report that all three of our congregations' records were found to be in order.

Among the 'Good News Stories' at the May meeting it was intimated that the Lord High Commissioner to this year's General Assembly, The Duke of Buccleuch and Queensbury, will be visiting Carluke: St Andrew's Church on 21st May to see their 'Playlist for Life' initiative. It was also intimated that Rev Ian Cunningham had been present at the induction of Dr John McCulloch, our Mission Partner, to St Andrews Church Jerusalem.

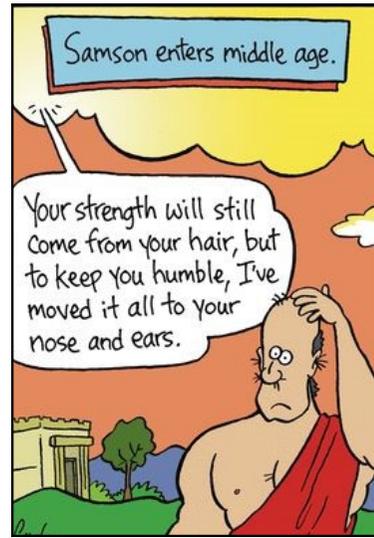
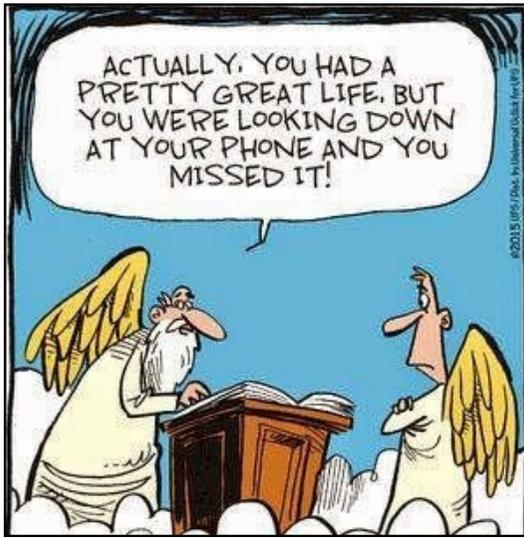
As part of future planning, the Presbytery Support Committee have circulated congregations with a document containing topics to be discussed by Kirk Sessions and they have been asked to send representatives to the June meeting of Presbytery which will take a conference format. This will enable Presbytery to set their priorities for the coming session.

I was somewhat surprised to be asked if I would be Moderator of The Presbytery of Lanark for the 2018-9 session but I feel privileged to be given the opportunity to serve Presbytery in this way. I will be installed at the meeting at 7:00pm on 4th September which will be held in Cairngryffe Kirk and will be preceded by Communion. All are welcome to this service and I look forward to warmly welcoming members of Presbytery to our church.

Jim Watt (Presbytery Elder Cairngryffe Kirk)



On the steps of the General Assembly—Celebrating 50 years to the week since the ordination of women ministers was approved. Five Parish Ministers from Lanark Presbytery are cunningly hidden in this photo.



IN SERVICE DAY –Tuesday 8th May.

As usual, we are very grateful for the efforts of all the members of our In-Service Day Team to provide a very good day for Primary School youngsters at Symington Church Hall. The scriptural theme was the story of Daniel, told in story, crafts and in construction.

The construction using your donations was a representation of Nebuchadnezzar's statue in his dream, of gold and iron and clay . The photograph doesn't do justice to the creativity of the youngsters.



MINISTRY EXCHANGE—JULY 2018.

You will remember July 2016, when Rev. Andrew Ward led some of our Joint Services in July, as part of an exchange. Rev. George went to Tennessee and led worship in Cumberland Presbyterian Churches in Springfield and in Madison. George has since spoken about this visit to a number of local Guilds and clubs.

It had been our intention to repeat the exchange in Summer 2018, but two of Andrew's daughters chose 2017 as the year to get married – which, as we all know, clears out the 'treasury'! And so we agreed to postpone. In the meantime, through a colleague in Canada, Rev. George and Rev. Shaun Seaman made contact, and have agreed a five week exchange over July 2018.

Rev. Shaun's Church is Trinity Presbyterian Church in a rural community called Carp, about 20 miles from the centre of Ottawa – about the same distance as Symington to Wishaw – except that Ottawa Municipality has a population of 1.3 million. Carp (population around 2,000) is situated on the Carp River (guess what fish used to be plentiful in that river) and is close to a fast growing suburb town of Ottawa called Kanata (perhaps that is the indigenous word from which we get 'Canada').

This is what the Trinity Presbyterian Church Website says about Shaun



"Shaun has been Pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church since 1993. He was raised in the United Church of Canada in Elgin, Ontario and was ordained into the Presbyterian Church in Canada in 1986. He has B.A., B.P.E. from Mc Master University, an M.A. in Physical Education from the University of Western Ontario, and an M. Div. from Knox College, the University of Toronto.

Shaun has ministered in Stouffville, Ontario, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Windsor, Noel Road, Nova Scotia, and participated in two ministerial exchanges to New Zealand.

Shaun and his wife Heather have three adult children, Eben, Logan and Hannah.

Shaun has held several exhibits of his artwork, done in various mediums, has a passion for gardening, plays a number of musical instruments and has an impressive singing voice."

In discussion with Shaun, Rev. George has discovered that he has a passion for horses and horse-riding, they enjoy playing tennis, swimming and hiking, and Shaun also said he would be interested in golf.

If you can offer Shaun and Heather any insight into where they could find

these things locally (and who could give them an insight into the history of the Clydesdale Horse, for example), please do feel free to approach them.

They are very keen to get to know the people of the Tinto Parishes, and have never been in Scotland before.

There will be five Sundays to get to know Shaun and Heather better. Shaun and family will live in the Tinto Parishes Manse (01899 309400) from 28th June to 31st July.

Rev. Nikki Macdonald of Upper Clyde Church will provide pastoral cover, for funerals, etc. 01864 502139 NMacdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk.

But Shaun will also be available to you at any time.

THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY.

More examples of the church finding new ways to engage.

We have previously mentioned the Pioneer Minister, Rev. Chris Blackshaw, who works in Ayr Presbyters as Minister for the Agricultural Community—the ‘Farming Chaplain.’

A group from Lanark Presbytery visited in April and produced a report (a copy is available—ask Rev. George)

This is how the project operates:

It has office accommodation at the Ayr Mart, supported by the owners, Craig Wilson Ltd. The Chaplain is at the Mart whenever there are major sales taking place. At other time he is be out and about, responding to needs, making connections – the project works in partnership with the broader community, such as SSPCA, RSABI charity, Farming Community Network, etc – mailouts, eg to vets and others with copies of the leaflet; cold calling at farms (as he is out and about), etc.

The chaplaincy organises and promotes events at the Mart in association with partner agencies – health checks (eg Blood pressure), dental hygiene, mental health, dementia nurse, etc. Bringing services and advice to the farmer’s meeting place.

Making connections within the Church community – individual parishes and ministers, speaking at Guilds, Annual Rural Churches Conferences with invited relevant and informed speakers.

Organising Harvest Festival events and well attended Christmas Carol service at the Mart. Trying to establish, eg, Farm Walks, trying out a Lambing service (where farmers with orphaned lambs are connected with others who have ewes with milk to spare).

These are some of the things we learnt:

The modern agricultural community is under many pressures –and the project leaflet highlights the following:

“AYR FARMING SUPPORT – Bereavement, addictions, personal issues, illness, depression, stress, suicide, isolation – WE ARE HERE FOR YOU...”

Suicide – farmers are three times more likely to take their own life than the average person

Isolation – modern farming methods lead to working in isolation

Farming is a 24/7 occupation, and very often farmers put their own needs – especially their own health – behind the demands of the farm and their families.

Mental health - farming is an area of occupation where people are at higher risk of encountering depression.

Brexit and the next decade in farming life. Chris did not speak directly about Brexit, but about all the issues of uncertainty the farming community currently faces.

Chaplaincy is an appropriate response in rural communities. “60 years ago there might have been 9 ministers serving 9 communities, and a close relationship with busy farming communities. Now there’s one minister covering these 9 communities, and farming too has changed dramatically – farmers are more isolated and their meeting points are no longer in local communities, but at Marts and shows.”

The report is now with Presbytery committees and will be thought about and discussed over the next few months.

Rev. George would be very interested in any feedback you might have. Please do speak to him.

Local Organisations

CAIRNGRYFFE EVERYOUNG CLUB

The annual coach outing will be held on Thursday 12th July leaving Thankerton Bowling Club at 10am prompt. We will be visiting the Scottish Museum of Flight at East Fortune, Rosslyn Chapel and finishing with high tea at the Greentree Hotel in Peebles. £30 per head.

For more information contact **Secretary, Charlie Todd, on 01899 308327**

LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW.

Initial responses to the Survey.

On Monday 23rd April, Ian McDonald and Tila Morris, the people appointed by Presbytery to work with churches through the **Local Church Review** process, gave a presentation to our Join Office Bearers meeting.

They had received and collated just over 50 survey returns. The majority had been returned via the boxes in church, with six arriving at the manse via the Postie.

It perhaps feels unusual for members of the Church to be consulted in this way, so we are very grateful to all the people who took time to think through the questions and to respond. People who filled the survey in at church generally took themselves away on their own to complete the survey. However, one group of seven people from one church met and discussed the questions and the issues, and then gave their individual responses.

The future direction of our church is obviously important to us all, and we all have a perspective to offer.

Here are some general things for Tinto Parishes from the survey:

- From statistical surveys of our parishes, we have a higher percentage of people from rest of UK than in other parts of Lanark Presbytery, or Scotland. Yet only one church. And there's a higher percentage of people who identify themselves as carers at home (providing over 19 hours a week).
- Most people find Tinto Parishes to be effective, especially in relation to worship and relationships within the congregation.
- Out of the small numbers for each of our churches, 'many of the few are active'.
- Although people recognise the benefits of work being done across the three churches, it is still an ongoing challenge persuading people to attend other churches for joint events.
- Responses identify there is a need to be more active and visible in the wider community, including more work in Christian education and with schools.
- Everyone recognises the need to attract more young people and families, and to help overcome the geographical challenges.
- There is a tension between traditional and modern approaches with a need to serve both extremes.

During June there will be discussion meetings at each of our Kirk Sessions, and from that we hope to arrive at four or five priority areas or actions that we can explore further after the summer break. All this should help lay the foundation for a forward plan of action on our priorities for the years ahead.

The Day of Pentecost

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.
Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Based on Acts 2:1-21



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

PENTECOST	FILLED	HEAR	HOUSE	WIND
HEAVEN	FIRE	TONGUES	LANGUAGE	OTHER
DAY	HOLY	SOUND	SPIRIT	SPEAK



Family Matters

FLOWER LISTS

SUNDAY	CAIRNGRYFFE	SYMINGTON
20 May 2018	Margaret Clarkson	Ann Hill
27 May 2018	Carole Gardiner	Jean McCurrach
03 June 2018	Rosemary Whitefield	Nan Warwick
10 June 2018	Ena Meikle	Peggy Prentice
17 June 2018	Carole Gardiner	Margaret Prentice
24 June 2018	Ann Murray	Susan Craig
01 July 2018	Sheena Baillie	Frances Sandilands
08 July 2018	Margaret Watt	Joint
15 July 2018	Marion Clarkson	Joint
22 July 2018	Cathryn Forrest	Jessie Duff
29 July 2018	Rosmairi Galloway	Joint
05 Aug 2018	Allan Campbell	Gaynor Russell
12 Aug 2018	Margaret Lawson	Martha Cowan
19 Aug 2018	Ena Meikle	Annie Gilchrist
26 Aug 2018	Mamie Gilmour	Christina McKenzie

YOUR FOCUS MAGAZINE BY EMAIL.

Printed copies of FOCUS magazine are distributed to members of Tinto congregations, to some shops, and community organisations.

If you don't receive it regularly, or missed getting a copy, you can subscribe at no cost to FOCUS by email. Similarly, if you receive a paper copy but would prefer an electronic copy, simply contact Rev. George Shand on: George.Shand@churchofscotland.org.uk.

Editor's Note

I would like to express grateful thanks to everyone who contributed material for this edition of Focus.

The Autumn Edition of **FOCUS** will be issued early in September 2018. Contributions from church groups and organisations, covering the period from September to the end of November 2018, should be sent to **the Editor by**

Sunday August 19th 2018—at the latest.

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HYMN PAGE THE HYMN OF SILENCE



Bryan Helm is the director of 'The Center for Congregational Song' in the USA. In a recent 'blog' he talked about an experience many years ago in a church where he was Music Minister.

"I was always very aware that 'if there was a moment of silence, it was by mistake', and "in a world defined by continuous sound we are increasingly deprived of silence, and questions are arising about the spiritual implications this has on Christians today."

So he decided to introduce the congregation to John Cage's composition—'4 minutes 33 seconds'. If you look at any sheet music you will see both notes and rests—the rests being as important a part of music as the notes. John Cage composed 4 minutes 33 seconds of rests alone. Which of course effectively means – silence.

Bryan decided to place it in the written order of service where there was usually a prayer of confession. This prayer would be followed by a choir anthem, and then the scripture readings. So he wrote out 'Hymn of Silence' in place of the prayer and followed it with Shirley Erena Murray's beautiful "Come and find the Quiet Centre", and then the scripture.

*"In the Spirit let us travel
open to each other's pain;
let our lives and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for hearts to care;
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!*

CH4 HYMN 716, verse 3

Some people were confused at the start. The projector screen showed the title and the actual sheet 'music'—blank of any notes. Bryan says the first minute was a bit restless, but eventually everyone entered into the silence.

And then words were projected and the choir began to sing, and for the third and final verse he invited the congregation to also sing.

How did people respond? Some did not like it, saying it was 'weird', or 'I don't understand why we would waste 4 minutes just sitting'. A few people were tearful 'for reasons that I will never know'. One person was uncomfortable with 'a managed silence—there are children here', but loved it as 'a listening time'. And one first-time visitor to the church said after the service that 'although I did not know it, the Hymn of Silence was exactly what I needed.'

'Silence,' says Shirley Murray's hymn 'is a friend who claims us.' What do you think?