



*"What a friend we have in Jesus"  
One of the arrangements on display at Libberton Kirk during  
National Day of Prayer, on the theme of 'Family and Friends'.  
'Let the children come to me' is the window theme.*



**A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH**

*from the Right Rev Susan Brown, Moderator*

You who led your people  
through the wilderness  
to the promised land,  
who carried the faithful  
through the throes  
of Good Friday  
to the joy of Easter Day:  
Hear us as we pray  
for your people today,  
in this land and at this time...  
When we fear what lies ahead,  
when we feel overwhelmed  
by the task of pointing people  
to your love and mercy:  
Remind us that you  
are a living God, still at work,  
still planning and promising...  
When our heads go down  
and our shoulders droop:  
Lift our eyes  
that they may look into yours  
and see there a love  
that will not ever  
let us go. 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



Laurel branches from Carmichael Cemetery  
combined with Yew from Covington Cemetery  
and Yew and Ivy from Pettinain Cemetery,  
and mixed with poppies,  
were placed  
at the Memorial outside Cairngryffe Church  
as a reminder on the centenary of Armistice Day,  
of how, as local congregations,  
we hold our communities together  
in our prayers and in our hearts.

**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: An open and welcoming community of faith*

**Minister:** Rev George C. Shand MA BD (01899 309400) [george.shand@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:george.shand@churchofscotland.org.uk)

## Session Clerks:

*Cairngryffe Parish Church - Charity Number SC 017001*

**Mrs Mary McLellan**, Ledaig, Haghalm 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 to be confirmed
LIBBERTON & QUOTHQUAN	11.00am—Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
SYMINGTON	09.30am—Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2019

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

We try, where possible, to hold the Home Communion on the same day as the Congregational Communion.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all readers of FOCUS from the Minister and Kirk Sessions of Cairngryffe, Symington and Libberton & Quothquan Parish Churches.**

**THE TINTO PARISHES: The church in our community**

*The Church of Scotland serving the South Lanarkshire communities of Carmichael, Covington, Libberton, Pettinain, Quothquan, Symington, Thankerton and an extensive rural hinterland.*

## Visit our websites:

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

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

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

*Webmaster:* Robert Carson

*Webmaster:* Jim Watt

*Webmaster:* Paul Dobie

And find us on



Facebook

'The Tinto Parishes'

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

2018/9	Cairngryffe	Libberton & Quothquan	Symington
DECEMBER 9 <sup>th</sup>	1100 WG	0930 M	1100 M
DEC 16 <sup>th</sup>	1100 M	0930 M	1100 WG
DEC 23 <sup>rd</sup>	1100 WG	0930 M	1100 M
DEC 30 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Joint Tinto Service at Libberton Kirk</i>		at 1100
<b>2019</b>	<i>Joint Tinto Service at Symington</i>		at 1100
<b>JANUARY 6<sup>th</sup></b>			
JAN 13 <sup>th</sup>	1100 M	1100 OA	0930 .
JAN 20 <sup>th</sup>	1100 WG	1100 M	0930 .
JAN 27 <sup>th</sup>	1100 M	1100 OA	0930 M
<b>FEBRUARY 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	1100 WG	1100 M	0930 M
FEB 10 <sup>th</sup>	1100 M	1100 OA	0930 M
FEB 17 <sup>th</sup>	1100 WG	1100 M	0930 M
FEB 24 <sup>th</sup>	1100 M	1100 OA	0930 M
<b>MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	1100 WG	1100 M	0930 M <b>COM</b>
MAR 10 <sup>th</sup>	1100 M	1100 OA	0930 M
MAR 17 <sup>th</sup>	1100 WG	1100 M <b>COM</b>	0930 M
MAR 24 <sup>th</sup>	1100 M	1100 OA	0930 M
MAR 31 <sup>st</sup>	1100 WG	1100 M	0930 M

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

## WORSHIP IN BIGGAR CARE HOMES.

*Rev. George will lead worship:*

**December 2018 at**

Greenhills—Wednesday 12th at 2.30pm

Bield—Wednesday 19th at 2.30pm

**And in February 2019 at**

Greenhills Wednesday 13th at 2.30pm

The Bield—Wednesday 27th February at 2.30pm

And at the Gillespie Centre Lunch Club on 19th February at 12.30pm



**Lesser Celandine**—beautifully yellow star-like flowers that bloom late February into May—with glossy green heart-shaped leaves. As one of the first flowers to appear after winter, they provide an important nectar source for queen bumblebees emerging from hibernation.

## WORSHIP CALENDAR—

We work our way through Advent on the theme of 'Important Births', having started with Moses in Advent 1. These stories are full of hope and promise, stories of God's astonishing answer to prayers, fulfilment of ancient prophecies and dreams come true. Not very far below the surface, however, are reminders of all that is broken in the world and why salvation is so desperately needed.

Then after our Christmas celebrations, we follow Matthew's story with the Magi and the flight to Egypt, before exploring the adult ministry of Christ through to the end of the LENT season. On the five Sundays of LENT we will look at Christ's commandment to LOVE, and then at four different forms of love.

9 <sup>th</sup> December	Judges 13:2-14, 24 Numbers 6:2-5	ADVENT 2: Samson's Birth
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Luke 1:5-7, 11-25, 57-66 Malachi 4:5-6	ADVENT 3: John the Baptist's birth (echoes of Elijah)
23 <sup>rd</sup> December	Luke 1:26-42 Matthew 1:18-23	ADVENT 4: Mary and Joseph—two perspectives
24 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Eve Services	7.00pm—Symington 9.00pm—Libberton & Quothquan 11.15pm—Cairngryffe
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Luke 2: 1-20; Isaiah 40: 9-11	Christmas Day Service—10.30am
30 <sup>th</sup> December	Matthew 2:11-23 Micah 5:2-5a	The Magi, to Egypt and home
6 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	John 8: 12-20 John 1:1-9	<i>Epiphany.</i> Light of the world, Light in the darkness
13 <sup>th</sup> January	John 3: 22-36 Hebrews 1:1-4	<i>Baptism of our Lord.</i> John's Testimony
20 <sup>th</sup> January	Matthew 21:33-46; Psalm 118:15-29	<i>Epiphany 2—Parables.</i> Wicked tenants
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Luke 6:46-49; Psalm 18:1-5,16-19, 30-32	<i>Epiphany 3—Parables.</i> Building houses
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Luke 5:33-39 Galatians 4:8-9	<i>Epiphany 4—Parables.</i> Patch on cloak, Wineskins
10 <sup>th</sup> February	Luke 11: 5-13 Isaiah 62:6-9	<i>Epiphany 5—Parables.</i> House at midnight, persistence
17 <sup>th</sup> February	John 6:26-71 Hebrews 8:8-12	<i>Epiphany 6—Bread of Life</i>
24 <sup>th</sup> February	John 7:1-31 John 2:1-4	<i>Epiphany 7—Calm before the storm</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	John 7: 32-52 Isaiah 55:1-5	<i>Transfiguration—Jesus' proclamation.</i>

## MINISTERS LETTER "Ready or not, here I come!"

Do you remember? It is 'Hide and Seek', and you are 'It'. Eyes closed, counting backwards down to zero and then turning to shout out 'Ready or not, here I come!' to a seemingly deserted world, before you begin your careful search for the others.



ADVENT is a version of the Latin word meaning 'coming'.

And during this season of waiting and preparing, we count the days to Christmas and the coming of the Christ child. It is a very structured time – each Sunday we have a candle theme – Hope, Peace, Joy, Love – and many of us open another door in our Advent candle as we count the days towards Christmas Day. It is also a gradual build up, involving Carols, and shopping, and giving and sharing.

ADVENT is the beginning of a new year in the Christian calendar. So as part of our Advent preparation we could 'count back' the days to this time last year. How did the year feel for you – *spiritually*? What have we learnt? What did we miss? What have we gained? Is there some kind of development or movement in our own spiritual journey? And if not, what more could your Church do for you for the year ahead, to help your journey?

How did the year feel for you—*otherwise*? Life so often comes at us whether we are 'ready or not'. There is also an 'Advent' for which we didn't ask, and perhaps couldn't prepare for. Life events come up and are right there in our face quite before we are ready for them too. 'Suddenly' we are grandparents or great-grandparents. Or 'suddenly' mobility is an issue when we really didn't think it would be. Or 'suddenly' a loved one develops that illness which is more serious than we ever wanted to hear.

In our 'winter festival' culture we are encouraged to take things more lightly, to relax, to enjoy, to 'have fun'. And while there's nothing wrong with fun, there's no depth to this fun. It is a lame substitute for a season that is deep in spiritual purpose; a season that meets us at the very deepest levels of meaning in life; a season that gives life to Hope, Peace, Joy and Love—; and reminds us that in all our daily joys and struggles, our successes and our wounds, we are loved beyond the commonplace.

Deep Peace of the Prince of Peace to you.

Your friend and minister,

*George*

## NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

### —WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CAIRNGRYFFE—

It was with great sadness that we said a sudden farewell to Mrs Margaret Edge, previously from Thankerton and latterly Biggar, after a short illness. Margaret, who passed on September 13, was a long-time member at Cairngryffe and we will miss her conversation, her laughter and her enthusiastic involvement in all of our events.



She especially loved to see the children in the Sunday School and was a strong supporter of all things New Beginnings, loved to sing her hymns - especially the good old rousing ones! She loved all of our special celebrations and at the end of Harvest Thanksgiving she looked forward to filling her "wee bag" with fresh vegetables so that she could make her soup for the following few days.

We continue to remember her and her daughter Margaret in our Prayers.

**New Beginnings** - As previously reported, the charity changed direction a year or so ago and we are now operating a successful White Goods project. So far this year we have responded to 33 requests for support. These referrals have come through the usual sources i.e. Social Work, Housing, Citizens Advice, and other professional organisations.

We recently appealed for some help with the Christmas Food Box contents and, although at the time of writing the appeal is still live, we would like to thank all those who have so generously contributed the success of this appeal. We have received donations of food items and I am delighted that we have almost reached our goal of raising £300.00 in order to provide a fresh Steak Pie for each Family referred. I would also like to thank those who continue to support New Beginnings financially throughout the year - this is very much appreciated and helps us to carry on with this community support project.

As the Advent Season begins, we will have decorated the church for Christmas and look forward to singing those well loved Christmas Carols and also to the 'Songs of Praise' event planned for December 9 in Cairngryffe when some of the Carols have been chosen by our Worship Teams.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Joyous Christmas and Good Health in 2019.

**Mary McLellan. Session Clerk at Cairngryffe**

### CAIRNGRYFFE SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We meet in the church and take part in the first part of the service. After 'Time Together' we go to our Sunday School Room to do our own Bible based activities. We are currently preparing for Christmas, looking at important births in the Bible. In the New Year we will be looking at stories about Jesus, including some of the Parables..

#### Dates and times

Sunday 11am from now until Sunday 16th December.

**New Term** starts Sunday 13th of January 2019 at 11am.

**Mid Term Holidays**—Sunday 10th February 2019.

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**

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

L & Q held their Harvest Supper in Quothquan Hall on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup>. October. Around forty of us enjoyed a delicious meal and wonderful fellowship. One of the lovely aspects of the Harvest Supper is that it brings together not just the Tinto Parish churches but we renew old friendships from past linkages such as Blackmount and Coulter.



Although our little church wasn't bursting at the seams with prayerful worshippers on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> of November, National Prayer Day, there was a constant flow of people over the three hours, who relished the peace and beauty of our Sanctuary adorned with beautiful flowers and accompanying prayers.



We created a tiny "café" on the balcony which went down well with those visitors who wished to remain for the service at 10.30.

"Pray it with Flowers" was a lovely expression of faith and would stand repeating.

Earlier this month we said an all-too-quick farewell to Dawn Hakim and her lovely girls—Ariah and Charlie. Over the last four years, the girls were often accompanied at worship and Sunday School by friends—great emissaries for our Church—we will miss both their energy, and Dawn’s gentle presence. We wish Dawn, her husband and the girls every blessing in their new home.

Once again this Advent we will have a different family each Sunday leading us in our Advent Liturgy and lighting the Advent candles. Long may we continue to have the families to take part in this act of worship. It is such a meaningful way to prepare for Christmas. On Friday 14<sup>th</sup>. December we will host a small “Messy Church” for children who would like to be involved in dressing the church tree. We will make all the decorations ourselves and if it is anything like last year’s effort it will be splendid!

**Lilias Nicholls, Session Clerk at Libberton & Quothquan**

## WHAT’S HAPPENING IN SYMINGTON

We had a very meaningful and well attended Remembrance Day Service at Symington this year. We welcomed the Guides as in previous years and this year they were joined by the Cubs and the Beavers. After a very moving Act of Remembrance in the church, the organisations marched to the War Memorial where wreaths and commemorative roses were laid.

The young people were joined in the church by a large number of parents and friends. They helped to make this very special Remembrance Service even more so.

We learned on 3 December of the death of May Lindsay of Langvout Court in Biggar. May and her late husband, Ian who died in October 2017, were active supporters of the life and work of Symington Kirk. Both founder members of the choir, they served in it for over twenty years. They continued at Symington after they moved to Langvout in Biggar until Ian’s failing health prevented his getting out and about. May continued until she too found it too difficult although she managed until a few weeks ago. They will be greatly missed by all their friends in the church and the village and we extend our condolences to their family.



As we draw to the close of a busy year, I would like to thank everyone who has worked to keep Symington Kirk running smoothly during the time. We’ve done a lot this year and while it looks as if it just all happens, it only does so because a lot of people do a lot of work – a very big thank you to you all.

It has been good to see new faces this year and we hope that they are finding a welcome among us. We also bade farewell to a few of our members and those who have left us, we remember with affection and gratitude for their contribution to the life and work of our church.

For those we will not see again, we give especial thanks and we remember at this time, their families and close friends who will feel their loss most keenly.

As we look forward to the excitement and activity of Christmas I wish you on behalf of the Kirk Session, a very happy Christmas and the prospect of a contented and healthy 2019.

**Ross Russell, Session Clerk at Symington**

Members of the Symington congregation will now know that, following the advice of the person servicing our Church organ, we can no longer use it. In the coming weeks we will be looking for an appropriate replacement, and with many churches now closing, it appears that a suitable reconditioned organ should be available.

See later in the magazine for further information.

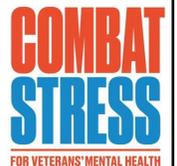
## Generosity

Each of our three congregation held a retiral collection after its Remembrance Service, and the combined total raised for the Combat Stress UK charity, was **£453.80**.

Combat Stress UK, which has been active for over 100 years, offers a range of therapies and treatment programmes to assist veterans experiencing mental health issues. Combat Stress UK says:

*“When you are having a tough time, we’re there to help you tackle the past and help you to take on the future. All our services are free of charge to veterans.”*

A recent study by Kings College London suggested that the numbers of former servicemen and women seeking clinical mental health treatment will increase by a third over the next ten years.



## SYMINGTON ORGAN—APPEAL and 'REFLECTIONS'.

The search has begun for a new organ at Symington Church. The Kirk Session agreed to this and also decided that their Christmas Eve retreat offering would go towards establishing an Organ Fund. Current thinking is that an equivalent reconditioned organ might cost in the region of £2,500.

**Gaynor Russell** reflects: "When I started as organist some 40 years ago, the instrument I played was a small harmonium which suited my limited experience in organ playing. In 1982 the new organ arrived from Coatbridge and I had to learn new techniques. Over the years, the organ and I have worked together in a wide range of circumstances – Sunday worship, choir, special services, weddings and funerals. We became a team! How I will miss my old friend and I regret its passing. Now to meet the challenge of a new organ.....!"

**Lynn Carson** remembers that the organ has an even longer heritage.

"When Symington Church sought to upgrade from harmonium to organ, I knew that in my home town of Whifflet in Coatbridge the two Churches there had united. One of those Churches, Whifflet Parish, fondly known locally as Gibson's Church, had a perfectly good organ and the Church building was being demolished to allow the new town plan to come to fruition. Contact was made, a donation of £100 paid and Symington became the proud owners of the organ.

"Just how old it was when we purchased it I don't know, but I can say it was in situ in Whifflet Parish all the time I was growing up in the 1950's, as our Primary School would attend alternatively the two Churches prior to the Union, at the end of term."

"Bill Cleland formerly of Kirkdale and husband of Margaret Cleland of Langvout Court attended to the "electronics" required and built a new speaker which at the time was quite state of the art."

In this Festive season, we give thanks for all who take on additional 'protection' responsibilities in our Churches. Below is a message from our Data Protection Officers



## HYMN FOCUS :HYMN 303—

'It came Upon the Midnight Clear'



*This issue of FOCUS takes us through Christmas into the new year, so we asked one of the members of our Worship Teams to speak here about a favourite hymn for Christmas. **Jessie Duff** from Symington Church not only tells us about a favourite of hers, but also the tune she likes best to sing it to.*

"This is a poem and Carol written by Edmund Hamilton Sears in 1849.

It is most commonly, as in our Hymnbook, set to the tune 'Noel' adapted by Arthur Sullivan (of Gilbert & Sullivan fame) in 1872 from an English melody.

The other tune (my favourite) was written in 1850 by Richard Storrs Willis, an American who was a student of Felix Mendelssohn.

The hymn was written at a time of personal melancholy when Sears was focusing on the world as a dark and sinful place with Revolution in Europe and the United States at war with Mexico.

He felt the world was not hearing the Christian message.

As with many well-loved hymns it rose out of a place of darkness but brings us into the light and the wonder of a choir of Angels, singing of Peace on earth.

According to one critic the song is remarkable in that the focus is not on Bethlehem but on the writer's own time.

Yet for me it still evokes the scene of the Nativity and gives us Hope for the Peace of the world



**Jessie Duff**



**It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold;  
'Peace be on earth, good will to you  
from heaven's all-gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.**

## LANARK PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

Presbytery has agreed, in respect of Covington Glebe, to grant authorisation for the sale of the Glebe subject to a suitable price being agreed.

They have also agreed in respect of Douglas Glebe to grant authorisation to extend the rental of the part of the Douglas Glebe currently provided to South Lanarkshire Council for the provision of a play park for the community for a further period of 20 years.

In addition they have agreed in respect of Lesmahagow: Old Church to approve the plans submitted by Coalburn and Lesmahagow: Old to alter the interior of Lesmahagow: Old Parish Church to make space available which is designed for a mobility scooter.

Presbytery has agreed in respect of Upper Clyde to appoint Mrs Anne Cochrane (Carnwath), Mrs Caroline Deerin (Biggar), Mr Tom McCallum (Lanark: St. Nicholas) and Mr Denham MacDougall (Cairngryffe) as Assessor Elders in Upper Clyde

Carluke: St. Johns has celebrated its 175th anniversary. The anniversary service was led by Rt Rev Susan Brown, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland who presented 15 long service certificates to 15 elders who between them have contributed over 600 years of service to the Church of Scotland and congregations

Presbytery has awarded a grant of £1,000 to Lanark: Greyfriars towards the costs for a Christmas Activity Day in two local primary schools

In this the Year of Young Person, Presbytery commends all congregations undertaking imaginative mission amongst children and young people. They have awarded £500 each to the congregations of Biggar, Crossford, Carstairs, Carluke: Kirkton, Carluke: St. John's, Carluke: St. Andrew's, Forth: St. Paul's, Kirkmuirhill, Lanark: Greyfriars, Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen, Symington & Tinto Parishes (via Symington) to go towards said mission activities.

Presbytery have granted permission to Biggar to carry out repairs in the Gillespie Centre namely, urgent and essential roof repairs at a cost of £13,000, internal works identified in the inspection report at a cost of £19,990 and to improve the heating and lighting in the upper hall at a cost of £10,500.

Presbytery have agreed to appoint Rev Louise MacKay (Convener) and Mr Robert Mitchell and Rev Mike Fucella (Convener) & Mr David Waters as team members, along with Catch the Light to the charges of the Tinto Parishes and Carnwath linked with Carstairs respectively to complete the Local Church Reviews.

Presbytery have organised a Presbytery Mission conference which is to be held on Saturday, 2 February 2019 in Greyfriars Church from 10:30 till 4:00pm.

The annual Presbytery Retreat Day will be held on 2nd March 2019..

Presbytery have appointed, for an initial period of six months, the Reverend George Lind as locum tenens to the charge of Kirkmuirhill.

Mr Alan Grant intimated that on Thursday 11th October at 7pm in Coalburn Parish Church a service was held to mark the 125th anniversary of Coalburn Parish Church.

**Robert Carson (Presbytery Elder, Symington).**

## *Local Organisations*

### **CAIRNGRYFFE EVERYOUNG CLUB**

On **December 6th**, members will enjoy a hearty **Christmas Lunch at Carnwath Golf Club** (12.30pm for 1.00pm) with entertainment provided.

The fun doesn't end there as the fortnightly meetings in Thankerton Village Hall at 2.00pm resume on :-

- 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019**– Dr Peter Hughes - Inspiring the Young into STEM Science Technology Engineering and Maths
- 24<sup>th</sup> Jan** - Burns Afternoon - with entertainers and guest speaker Jimmy Jamieson (Larkhall)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Stewart Houston (Biggar) - Toys of Yesteryear
- 28<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Mary Gilbert (Pettinain) – Jewel in the Crown (Jaipur, Agra and Amritsar)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Eric Carlyle (Symington) – Wind Turbines – Love or Hate
- 28<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Rev George Shand (Symington) – A Canadian Welcome
- 11<sup>th</sup> Apr** - Ross Russell (Symington) – Old Symington
- 25<sup>th</sup> Apr** – Emma Gardiner (Elsrickle) – Fiddling with Friends

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

# FROM OUR KIRK TREASURERS

## Cairngryffe Church – Treasurer’s Report

Income to November 2018

Expenditure to November 2018

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Ordinary	2,328	Ministry & Mission	13,460
Freewill	1,964	Travel Expenses	404
Gift Aid	12,725	Joint Cong Expenses	1,549
2018 Taxback (accrued)	2,545	Salaries	2,881
Tea Committee	543	Printing & stationary	175
Donations	100	Presbytery Dues	436
Calendars (2017)	55	Miscellaneous	489
SUB TOTAL INCOME	20,260	SUB TOTAL EXPEND	19,394
Drawn from Reserves		Fabric Repairs	436
121 Fabric Fund		Insurance	2,024
General Trustees	4,740	Scottish Power	2,280
TOTAL INCOME	25,000	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	24,134
		Surplus to Date	866

The above statement is prepared on an ‘Income and Expenditure’ basis.

**Linzi Struthers, Treasurer**

## Libberton Church – Treasurer’s Report

The Session acknowledges and thanks all members for their continuing financial support. Such commitment and generosity ensures that the church maintains its presence and high profile in the community.

Our maxim has always been "Prevention is better than cure" with regard to the fabric of the church building and we thought our good-and expensive stewardship in 2015 and 2016 would have given us some respite. It did in 2017 when we reported a surplus but in 2018 a stonemasons bill for £3,600 will push us into deficit.

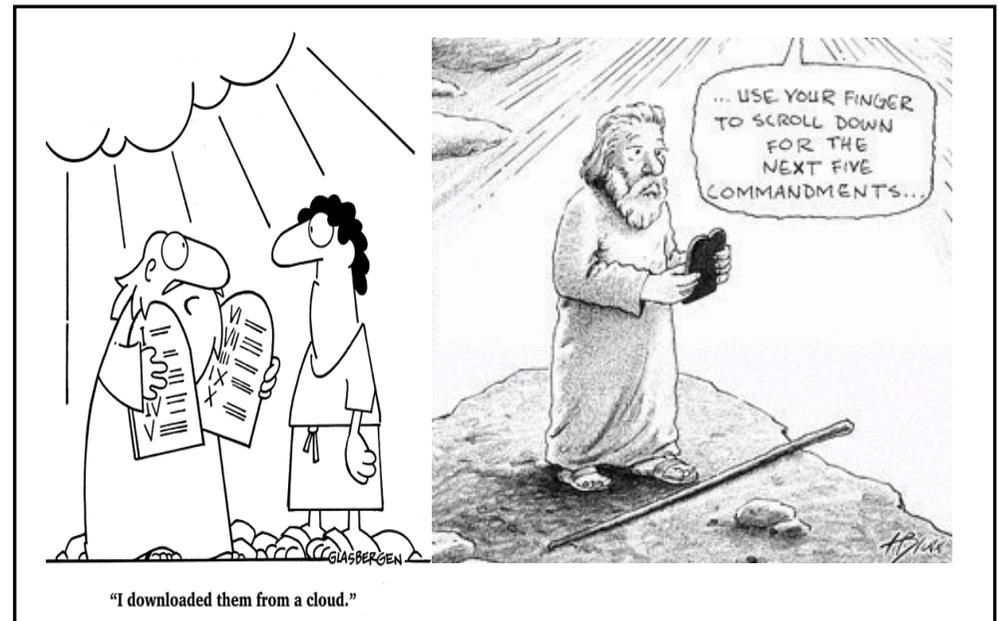
We had hoped that was to be the only substantial financial cost but new directives included in our church insurance renewal led to another £2000 spend. To comply with a full disclosure clause and be able to produce proof of compliance, we had to spend on glazing, electrical testing of appliances and all aspects of health and safety legislation.

Total fabric expenditure is therefore £5,600, which has been financed out of reserves. Everyday running costs have been met by income and all our financial obligations (Ministry and Mission, Presbytery and joint running costs) have been met in full. However, it is a vital- but most unpleasant -role of treasurer to remind members that costs continue to rise and in 2019 there will be rises in Ministry and Mission and Presbytery contributions.

Obviously this is not an ideal situation to be in but to break even on the revenue account confirms the commitment to the church of the members. And it would be remiss of me not to mention our generous giving to charity over the year. In 2018, over £700 was shared among Embrace the Middle East, StARS which educates refugee women and children in Cairo, Haven in Forth, the local food bank, and Combat Stress.

**MG Stobo, Treasurer.**

## MOSES—and his TABLET



## FLOWER LISTS

SUNDAY	CAIRNGRYFFE	SYMINGTON
9 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Lily Borthwick	Jill Allen
16 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Sandra Stewart	Christmas Decor
23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2018	Christmas Flowers	Janette Hope
30 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Christmas Flowers	Joint Service
6 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Christmas Flowers	tbc
13 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Christmas Flowers	Liz Short
20 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Warnock Girls	Olive Hunter
27 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	IMO Flora Ireland	Muriel Black
3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2019	IMO Margaret Edge	Hazel Howat
10 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Nancy Nicholl	Flower Fund
17 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Kris Todd	Sheena Carlyle
24 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Rosemary Whitefield	Etta Prentice
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2019	Maureen Bannatyne (C)	Jill Allan
10 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Margaret Bulloch	Ella Hodge
17 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Annie Callan	Marlyn Masterton
24 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Margaret Smith	Flower Fund
31 <sup>st</sup> March 2019	Rosmairi Galloway	Flower Fund

## Editor's Note

Thank you to all contributors who provided the information contained in this edition of Focus.

The Spring edition of **FOCUS** will be issued late in February 2019.

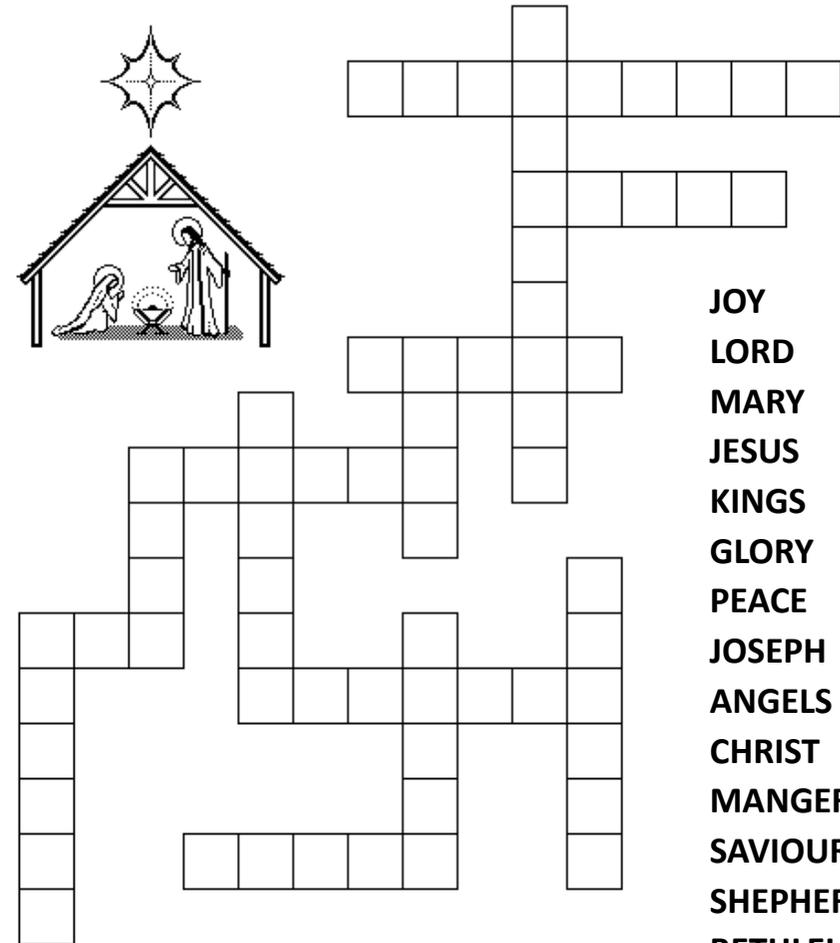
Contributions from both village and church organisations and groups covering the period from March 2019 to the end of May 2019, should be sent to **the Editor by**

**Sunday February 10<sup>th</sup> 2019—at the latest.**

I can be reached at: *Charlie Todd, 63, Station Road, Thankerton, ML12 6NZ, Tel 01899 308327, or by email on [kandctodd@gmail.com](mailto:kandctodd@gmail.com)*

## PUZZLE PAGE - Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.  
Each word is used only once.



JOY  
LORD  
MARY  
JESUS  
KINGS  
GLORY  
PEACE  
JOSEPH  
ANGELS  
CHRIST  
MANGER  
SAVIOUR  
SHEPHERDS  
BETHLEHEM

### SEASONAL JOKES:

*What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck up the chimney?* Claustrophobia

*What do they sing at a snowman's birthday?* Freeze a jolly good fellow

*Why did Santa's helper go to see the doctor?* Because he had low 'elf' esteem

*Why does Santa have three gardens?* So he can 'hoe, hoe, hoe'



Our **In-Service Day Club** in November was as successful and enjoyable as always, with youngsters from all three of our local Primary Schools. A smaller number attended than usual—there appear to have been other events on—but this meant we got to know the group a bit better, and our reflection at the end included our pleasure at the wide range of personalities we met.

The construction project fitted in with our ‘friends and enemies’ forgiveness theme, and we constructed ‘lawnmowers’. A big thank you again to members of congregations for their small boxes and tubes. George says, “It was particular pleasing to be presented with donations of Pringles tubes with the Pringles inside still to be eaten!”

Did you know that this was our 13th In-Service Day Club.

### COVER

Copies of the cover pages with the Christmas information of this issue are available separately.

if you would like to pass on our worship details to other people—friends, guests, visitors, Please just ask for copies



### CHRISTMAS EVE RETIRAL OFFERINGS.

This year the retiral offerings at our Christmas Eve services will be:

**Cairngryffe** for the New Beginnings Christmas Box appeal.

**Symington** for the Church’s Organ Fund  
(more details are in this magazine)

**Libberton** for StARS—the refugee project based at St. Andrew’s Church in Cairo.

### KNITTER SOUGHT.

NEXT CHRISTMAS we hope to organise a ‘Posadas’ event around homes and schools. We won’t explain it all now—it is great fun, and deeply meaningful— but it does require a hand-knitted holy family and donkey.



We have a knitting pattern for a 10” Holy Family—as you see in the picture— and if anyone out there is keen and interested in a knitting project like this, please do contact Rev. George.

### Harvest Challenge

Our ‘Harvest Challenge’ was to buy up 90 Kilos of Kilombero Rice from Malawi producers. This had been imported at a Fair Trade price, including a premium that meant more income to the farmers—and in fact it means a 90Kg sale of rice would enable one farmer to send a child to Secondary School for a year.



Not only did we meet our challenge, but many in our generous congregations wouldn’t take their change, and so we were also able to donate **£57.05** to ‘Just Trading Scotland’, a project of the Balmore Trust, which works to support the Malawian farmers and create development opportunities for them.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT next year is 25th February to 10th March, and we will bring the rice back for then. Already we are hearing reports of this being a very high quality rice. At some churches we will also have a broader FairTrade stall.

The theme of FairTrade Fortnight next year will focus on cocoa. Farmers of this iconic Fairtrade product have seen prices crash to crisis levels in the last few years, particularly in West Africa where most cocoa is grown. The situation highlights in stark terms the scandal of unfair trade and how it impacts on subsistence farmers.

LENT begins 9th March—so perhaps we may be able to offer good reasons for eating MORE chocolate during LENT !!

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### —ADVENT—Preparing for Christmas—



#### Third Sunday of Advent:

**DAY 16<sup>th</sup> December** Birth of John the Baptist

9.30am—Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church—Rev. George

11.00am—Cairngryffe Parish Church—Rev George

*Sunday School event*

11.00am—Symington Parish Church—Congregational Worship Group

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent

**SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> December** Mary & Joseph—two perspectives

9.30am—Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church—Rev. George

*Christingle and 'A journey to Bethlehem'*

11.00am—Symington Parish Church—Rev George

11.00am—Cairngryffe Parish Church—Congregational Worship Group

### —CHRISTMAS 2018—

#### CHRISTMAS EVE—MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

7.00pm—Symington Parish Church

*Family worship*

9.00pm—Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church

*Family worship*

11.15pm—Cairngryffe Parish Church

*Watchnight service*



#### CHRISTMAS DAY—TUESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

10.30am—JOINT TINTO PARISHES WORSHIP

*Family worship* at Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church

### —AFTER CHRISTMAS 2018/9—

**SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> December** The Magi

at Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church

**SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019** Light in the Darkness

11.00am—JOINT TINTO PARISHES WORSHIP

at Symington Parish Church



*During Advent we remember the characters of the Story of God and hang them on our Jesse Tree—as we prepare for the birth of Christ.*

May you have  
The gift of Faith  
The blessing of Hope,  
And the peace of His Love  
At Christmas and always.

creating decorations for the tree, other crafts, snacks,  
songs, and lots of fun  
for the young,  
the very young,  
and the ever young



**at Libberton Kirk**  
**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm**

Merry Christmas  
*for unto us a child is born*

## **CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY WORSHIP**

Come join with regular worshippers, family members,  
friends and visitors, for

Joint Tinto Parishes Worship in  
**Libberton & Quothquan Church**

On 25th December 2018 at 10.30am.

Our **Christmas Day service is for all the family.** It lasts 45  
minutes and is focussed on story.

Afterwards there will be mince pies and shortbread,  
refreshments and sherry or ginger wine.

## **TINTO PARISHES**

### **YOUR LOCAL PARTNERSHIP OF CHURCHES**



CAIRNGRYFFE PARISH CHURCH  
LIBBERTON & QUOTHQUAN PARISH CHURCH  
SYMINGTON PARISH CHURCH



We are THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND serving the  
communities of Carmichael, Covington, Libberton, Pettinain,  
Quothquan, Symington, Thankerton, and an extensive rural hinterland.

*We are your local churches.  
in our FOCUS Magazine you will see all our activities  
both individually and together.*

*Here especially, is what is happening in our Churches  
during our Christmas Season:*

**YOU ARE VERY WELCOME TO JOIN WITH US**



Your **CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY WORSHIP** choice

**7.00pm—Symington Parish Church**

*Kirk Bauk, Symington*

*Followed by refreshments and mince pies*

**9.00pm—Libberton & Quothquan Church**

*Biggar Road, Libberton*

*followed by refreshments, sherry, and merry mince pies,*

**11.15pm—Cairngryffe Parish Church**

*Carmichael (across from the Primary School)*

*Coffee and mince pies available from 11.00pm*