

# FOCUS

A photograph of a winter sunrise over Libberton. The sky is a mix of deep purple, magenta, and bright orange, with wispy clouds catching the low light. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of bare trees and rooftops are visible against the bright horizon. A street lamp and utility poles are also silhouetted against the sky.

**Kirk and Community News**

**For the Churches in Tinto Parishes**

**Spring 2019**

*Winter Sunrise over Libberton by Freda Stobo January 2019*

# 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, 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)

*We apologise for the delay in completing this issue of Focus, due to illness*

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**Sun April 14<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday (Joint) Cairngryffe 11am**

Mon April 15<sup>th</sup> Cairngryffe—7pm

Tue April 16<sup>th</sup> Libberton & Quothquan—7pm

Wed April 17<sup>th</sup> Libberton & Quothquan—7pm

Thur April 18<sup>th</sup> Symington—7pm—Communion

Fri April 19<sup>th</sup> Symington—7pm—Tenebrae

**Sun April 21st Easter Sunday—9.30am and 11am services**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 Cairngryffe—at 7pm

**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
<b>MARCH 17<sup>th</sup></b>	1100 WG	1100 M <b>COM</b>	0930 M
MAR 24 <sup>th</sup>	1100 M <b>SAM</b>	1100 OA	0930 M
MAR 31 <sup>st</sup>	1100 WG	1100 M	0930 M <b>SAM</b>
<b>APRIL 7<sup>th</sup></b>	1100 M	1100 OA <b>SAM</b>	0930 M
APRIL 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Joint Palm Sunday Service at Cairngryffe</b>		at 1100
APRIL 21 <sup>st</sup> <i>Easter</i>	0930 M	1100 OA	1100 M
APRIL 28 <sup>th</sup>	0930 M	1100 M	1100 WG
<b>MAY 05<sup>th</sup></b>	0930 M	1100 OA	1100 M
MAY 12 <sup>th</sup>	0930 M	1100 M	1100 WG
MAY 19 <sup>th</sup>	0930 M	1100 OA	1100 M
MAY 26 <sup>th</sup>	0930 M	1100 M	1100 WG
<b>JUNE 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	0930 M <b>COM</b>	1100 OA	1100 M <b>COM</b>
JUNE 9 <sup>th</sup> <i>Pentecost</i>	0930 M	1100 M	1100 WG
JUNE 16 <sup>th</sup>	0930 M	1100 OA	1100 M
JUNE 23 <sup>rd</sup>	0930 M	1100 M	1100 WG
JUNE 30 <sup>th</sup>	0930 M	1100 OA	1100 M
<b>JULY 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Joint Tinto summer	Service in <b>Libberton</b>	at 11am

M=Minister: **WG**=Worship Group, **OA**=Own arrangements: **COM**=Communion  
**SAM**= Stated Annual congregational Meeting

## WORSHIP IN BIGGAR CARE HOMES.

*Rev. George will lead worship:*

**April 2019 at**

**Greenhills—Wednesday 10th at 2.30pm—Communion**

**The Bield—Wednesday 17th at 2.30pm—Communion**

And Gillespie Centre Lunch Club on 16th April at 12.30

**And in June 2019 at**

**Greenhills Wednesday 12th at 2.30pm**

**The Bield—Wednesday 26th at 2.30pm**

And Gillespie Centre Lunch Club on 18th June at 12.30pm



"LAMB'S TAILS". At this time of year we often see trees such as birch and hazel producing these pendulous catkins. These ones were photographed in Celzean Castle Country Park in Ayrshire, a National Trust For Scotland property ( from [rampantscotland.com](http://rampantscotland.com))

## WORSHIP CALENDAR—

As we approach Easter, our worship will focus on themes related to LOVE.

Then we will have our joint Palm and Passion Sunday all generations event, and then celebrate Easter Sunday in our own churches.

After Easter we follow a 'LOVE WINS' theme, and, leading up to Pentecost, an interesting look at the theme of buildings.

And to lead us up to our summer joint services we will, for three weeks, follow the three Missionary journeys of Paul.

Something there for everybody.

17th MARCH	Selections from 'Song of Songs' 1 Corinthians 13	LENT 2: LOVE—EROS (erotic, 'in love')
24th MARCH	Luke 5:17-26 1 Peter 3:8-17	LENT 3: LOVE—PHILIA (friendship)
31st MARCH	Romans 12:9-21 John 4:46-54	LENT 4: LOVE—STORGE (familial empathy)
7th APRIL	John 3:16-17 1 John 4:7-21	LENT 5: LOVE—AGAPE (unconditional)
14th APRIL	John 10:22-39 John 12: 12-16	PALM SUNDAY
21st APRIL	Luke 23:55-56 24:1-12 1 Corinthians 15:45-55	EASTER SUNDAY LOVE WINS: Resurrection
28th APRIL	John 21:1-14 Ephesians 3:14-21	Easter 2 LOVE WINS: Jesus on the beach
5th MAY	John 21: 15-25 John 18:25-27	Easter 3 LOVE WINS: Peter's denial, forgiveness
12th MAY	John 14:1-27 Matthew 7:7-8	Easter 4 (Christian Aid Sunday) LOVE WINS: Jesus is the Way
19th MAY	Matthew 17:24-27 Exodus 30:11-16	BUILDINGS—Easter 5 Temple taxes and fish
26th MAY	Ezra 3:1-13 Psalm 136:1-16, 26	BUILDINGS—Easter 6 Worship restarted, rebuilding
2nd JUNE	Matthew 23:13-36 Proverbs 4:5-7	BUILDINGS—Easter 7 Right use of buildings, woes
9th JUNE	Acts 2:1-11 Numbers 11:16-30	PENTECOST Pentecost Renewal
16th JUNE	Selections from the Book of Acts, and Ephesians 3:1-13	1st Missionary Journey of Paul— Mission to Gentiles
23rd JUNE	Selections from Book of Acts, Romans and 1 Corinthians	2nd Missionary Journey of Paul— Paul proclaims Christ
30th JUNE	Selections from Book of Acts, Romans and 2 Corinthians	3rd Missionary Journey of Paul— Baptised into Christ

## MINISTERS LETTER

On a cool, windy day in 2013, before I returned the following week to Jerusalem, I made my first visit to view the Tinto Parishes churches. I was shown round by an enthusiastic Bill Love, and we ended the visit with coffee and cake at Ross and Gaynor Russell's home—and the warmth of their welcome stayed with me as, 3 1/2 thousand miles away, I thought and prayed about my future calling.

Just how many people have known that warm Spindrift welcome in the last 40 odd years, and through it learnt more about the character of the church? On 31st March an era ends when Ross Russell retires from his post as Session Clerk at Symington Church. The congregation, and all of us will celebrate, and I am sure many people, including myself, will also remember and celebrate a hospitality that created new beginning for them.

### HOME COMMUNION.

In our churches we have three 'Communion Seasons'. These come in March and November when all of our Tinto congregations celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on one of the Sundays, and also in early June, when two of our Churches do so.

So, during the year there are these three opportunities for people at home who are no longer able to come regularly to church, to have Communion brought to them by the Minister and an elder from their congregation.

In our tradition we have never seen Home Communion as part of 'last rites', but as an extension of what the congregation is doing on a Sunday, and when a member of the church takes up the offer of Home Communion and it can happen on the Sunday afternoon, we are using the same wine and bread as was consecrated at the morning service.

Of course Home Communion can be arranged at any other time that suits you – not just a Sunday afternoon.

It may be that Home Communion is not something you have ever though was available to you. But it is something we are keen to extend to all who are unable to attend church regularly, or cannot attend at all.

If you would like this, please just speak to your elder, contact me on the manse phone number,, or speak to any member of the Church.

Deep Peace of the Prince of Peace to you.

Your friend and minister,

*George*



## NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

### —WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CAIRNGRYFFE—

#### Deaths

Annie Taylor – 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2018

Sheana Rodgers – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Mary Frame – 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Andrew Gilbert – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019

We are saddened by the loss of our friends, and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with their families.

**Communion** – Our year planning, with three churches and services in each one, is often quite complex, especially if we want to ensure we have our Minister at important services such as Communion and Harvest.

The way the rotas fall this year, Rev. George is at both Symington and L&Q on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and November 3<sup>rd</sup> - we have our Congregational Worship Team leading our worship on those days. Therefore, in March, the Communion Service will be held the following week on March 10<sup>th</sup> and since November 10<sup>th</sup> is Remembrance Day the November Communion date this year will be November 24<sup>th</sup>.

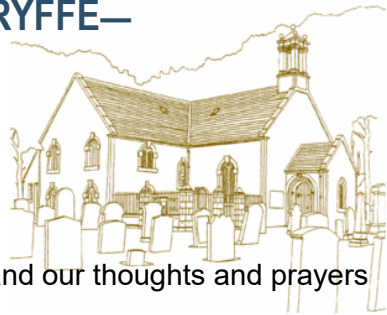
**Stated Annual Meeting** – will take place prior to the end of Worship on March 24<sup>th</sup> this year.

A “Resourcing Mission” Conference was hosted by Lanark Presbytery on February 2<sup>nd</sup> – as announced during the run up to that date - and was attended by 4 delegates from Cairngryffe. The Conference provided statistical information on the level of historical growth or shrinkage overall for Church of Scotland and for Lanark Presbytery in particular. There were speakers from the World Mission Council and from 3 of our “local to Lanark Presbytery” groups, all of which was extremely interesting and was formally discussed at our last Session Meeting.

A selection of literature was brought back and is available in the vestibule for anyone wishing to take a look at some of the Mission Opportunities available to us in Cairngryffe.

**Has Spring already sprung?** - well, time will tell, so as well as enjoying an early show of crocus and daffodils and some brilliant sunshine, keep a weather eye out and don't pack away those winter woollies just yet!

**Mary McLellan. Session Clerk at Cairngryffe**



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

With the help of some lovely mums from Libberton School we managed to attract 12 children and their parents to our Christmas Messy Church where we made the decorations for the church tree and then decorated it with them. We sang songs with gusto, told bad jokes, read poems and enjoyed a festive snack. The same families returned to church the following Sunday for our Christingle Service. 12 lighted Christingles made a very pretty sight on the Communion Table and remain a wonderful visual way to explain our Lord to young children.

L&Q is a beautiful little church but it does not lend itself to children's events like these. The Rev. George and the Kirk Session have begun thinking about ways of slightly modifying the Sanctuary to provide us with enough space to comfortably afford children the space to play games and do crafts.

The **Ladies Coffee Morning** is going strong, meeting every second Friday. The venue is now the Gillespie Centre.

Since we moved onto the 11am slot, in January, Rev. John Turnbull has been leading us in worship on the Sundays we don't have Rev. George. The Worship Group will lead worship twice in March.

We will be holding another **Daffodil Tea** at Quothquan Hall on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, from 10.30 to noon. **All are very welcome.**

We look forward to Holy Week and Easter.

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

### —WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SYMINGTON—

#### Deaths

In the FOCUS winter edition of 2017, the death of Mrs. Mary Gray of Eastfield Farm, Symington was recorded. Very sadly, we learned of the death in June 2018 of Mary's husband, Peter. Regrettably this was not recorded at the time and we apologise to the family for this omission. A long chapter of farming at Eastfield by Peter and Mary thus comes to an end and we mourn the passing of this dedicated yet unassuming couple. The operation of Eastfield Farm continues in the hands of their younger son Jim. Peter and Mary are survived by their children Moira, Charlie, Jim and Fiona.



## Jim Johnstone

The funeral of one of our senior elders, Jim Johnstone, who died on 23 January 2019 took place at Sydes Brae Crematorium, Blantyre on Monday 4 February 2019.

Jim had been in failing health for some time and although he struggled determinedly to carry on with his interests and activities, inevitably Parkinson's disease overcame him.

At the memorial service George described Jim's very active life in sport over many years and the not inconsiderable success he gained through this. He spoke of Jim's life with Connie and their shared love of their home, their dogs and their many interests. He paid tribute to the dedication and loving care that Connie exercised through Jim's illness and the constant cheerfulness and positive encouragement which she displayed.

The large turn-out of friends and associates at Jim's funeral testified to the respect and affection in which he was held.

We will miss his commitment to Symington Church- particularly in his eldership and the choir where he maintained a firm conviction that we *would* master 'Bella Bimba' (and we may still).

We think particularly of Connie and the void that Jim's passing will leave in her life but we look forward to maintaining our association with her.

Thank you Jim.

## The Church Organ

A few weeks ago, the organ in Symington Church passed away.

When our previous organ gave out in 1982, we were fortunate through the kind offices of Lynn Carson to acquire the redundant organ from Whifflet Church in Coatbridge which was being closed following a merger with a neighbouring church.

The late Bill Cleland (Kirkdale) relished the challenge of moving the organ to Symington and he successfully installed it in the church. We reckon that at this point the organ was around 30 old years old but notwithstanding, it soldiered on for another 36 years so we really can't grudge it a dignified retiral.



We have now purchased a brand new organ and it went into service on Sunday 24 February. If it lasts the same time as its predecessor, it will, as they say, see most of us away. In the meantime, we look forward to enjoying the contribution which it will undoubtedly make to our worship and we wish Gaynor every success in playing it.

## And Finally

As most of the Symington congregation will know by now, I have decided to demit the post of Session Clerk at the Stated Annual Meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

I have been Session Clerk for some 42 years and my original aim was to serve longer than Mr. McCormick who was Session Clerk when we came here in 1966. This was achieved some time ago.

As is the way of Kirk Sessions, responsibility creeps up on you very gradually. I started by taking the Board Minutes when the Clerk was absent and was rewarded by being made the Clerk after a couple of years. As Clerk to the Board, I occasionally took the Session Minutes in the absence of the Session Clerk and as we had a few Session Clerks over succeeding years it eventually became a permanent appointment and I entered the cut and thrust of the Session and the Presbytery (and indeed every other aspect of local church 'management').

Ministers came and went and the character of the congregation changed as people moved on and were replaced by others. Happily the 'core group' stayed constant and for many years we have benefited from a dedicated and committed group of elders, board members and willing members of the congregation who rise to the occasion whenever required.

We have done much over the years and the church building has been maintained and improved in many ways. We have survived adjustments, linkages, re-linkages and changes in the delivery of worship. Despite a long period of vacancy and unavoidable illness, with the help of many dedicated friends, we have managed to keep the flag flying. We face the future, whatever it holds, in good heart.

Robert Carson will take over as Session Clerk, supported by Jessie Duff as Deputy Session Clerk. I wish them both every success and satisfaction in their work. Naturally, I can't quite keep my finger totally out of the pie and I hope to continue as Roll Keeper.

**Ross Russell, Session Clerk, Symington Parish Church**

## FROM OUR KIRK TREASURERS

*These are provisional figures for Annual Accounts for 2018.*

Our Kirk Sessions, as Trustees of our Charities, will be asked to approve the completed accounts, and they are then presented for congregations to note at our Stated Annual congregational Meetings.

Copies of our accounts are also sent to Presbytery for 'attestation', and to the central Church of Scotland Finance department. Following 'attestation' and any amendments that might need to be made, a report is then completed for OSCR (the Charities regulator for Scotland).

These processes are very complex, and time-consuming and we are very grateful indeed for the dedicated work of our Treasurers—Linzi Struthers at Cairngryffe, Melvyn Stobo at Libberton & Quothquan, and Eric Carlyle (with Sheena Carlyle) at Symington.

### CAIRNGRYFFE

Income 2018		Expenditure 2018	
Offerings	£19,430	Ministry & Mission	£13,460
Tax Back	£4,421	Minister's Travel	£647
Tea Committee	£630	Salaries	£3,459
Donations	£400	Joint Cong Costs	£2,717
Interest & Invest Income	£209	Presbytery Dues	£429
Calendars (net)	£55	Fabric Repairs	£436
Life & Work	£27	Insurance	£2,141
		Scottish Power	£2,850
		Printing & Stat	£175
		Flower Fund	£200
		Miscellaneous	£703
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£25,172</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£27,217</b>
General Trustees (CFF)	£4,380		
<b>TOT INCOME</b>	<b>£29,552</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPEND</b>	<b>£27,217</b>
		<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>£2,335</b>

Linzi Struthers, Treasurer

### SYMINGTON

Income 2018		Expenditure 2018	
Standing Orders	£19,331	Ministry & Mission	£21,101
Plate Offerings	£2,362	Presbytery Dues & Minister's Travel	£1,085
Weekly envelopes	£3,206	Other Staff Costs	£6,071
Gift Aid Tax Back 2017	£6,094	Joint Cong Exps	£1,752
Other Offerings	£1,208	Heat & Light	£2,931
Holiday Club	£350	Fabric Maintenance	£5,567
Charity Collections	£241	Charity payments	£241
Organ Fund	£507	Insurance Church & Manse	£1,471
		Outreach Project	£327
		Other Costs	£262
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£33,299</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£40,808</b>
General Trustees (CFF)	£3,950		
<b>TOT INCOME</b>	<b>£37,249</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPEND</b>	<b>£40,808</b>
<b>Net Deficit</b>	<b>£3,559</b>		

J Eric Carlyle, Treasurer

### A TRAFFIC WARNING!

This morning a lorry carrying 25 tons of Vicks Vapour Rub overturned on the M73 near Abington, spilling its load onto the carriage way. The Police have said that despite the volume of traffic there will be no congestion for at least 12hrs.

## LANARK PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

At its November meeting Presbytery unanimously approved the Overture on a new Disciplinary Act which had been sent down under the Barrier Act from the 2018 General Assembly. This brings together several acts covering disciplinary procedures for Ministers, Deacons, Readers and office bearers and lays down shorter timescales for the various stages.

Permission has been given to Kirkmuirhill Parish Church to sell their manse, which is no longer considered suitable, and glebe and to purchase a new manse. The sale of the glebe and the purchase of the new manse have now gone ahead. Further to that they have called a new minister and the Ordination and Induction of Rev Andrew Rooney will take place on March 12<sup>th</sup>. For those of us who have been involved with the congregation over the past 6-7 years this is indeed Good News and we wish the congregation well as they embark on the next stage of their journey in Christ.

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland for 2019-2020, Rev Colin Sinclair, will be paying a ten day visit to the Presbytery of Lanark in October of this year. Plans for this are being drawn up and congregations are being invited to suggest projects which he can visit.

The General Assembly approved 'advisory numbers' for planning given the sharp reduction in the number of ministers of Word and Sacrament within the next five years. The numbers will reduce our current number of 12 (planned number of 15.7 in Presbytery Plan) ministers of Word and Sacrament to 8.2. There are a number of caveats to place on this figure, not least this does not include any additional Ministry Development Staff that would be available (youth workers, community workers etc) to the Presbytery within the national plan. The Presbytery Support Committee recommended that Presbytery encourages the Ministries Council to continue to see these figures as advisory in order that local conversations can take place as to the right way to support and staff congregations. The committee feel it would be wrong to close more congregations which would not only affect the spirit within the church members and communities they serve, but would also have a potential drop in congregational income which would have the resultant negative effect on already creaking national funds.

Presbytery is currently looking into the possibility of establishing a farming Chaplaincy- one such already exists in Ayrshire, based at Ayr Mart – and anyone interested is being part of a working group on this is asked to contact Rev George for more details. They need not be an elder or office bearer.

The Mission Conference intimated in the last Focus took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and was very successful. Speakers from both The World Mission Council and from local projects gave a number of presentations providing much food for thought as to how we can fulfil Christ's mission to '*Go then to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples*' (Matthew ch28 v 19).

At the February meeting the Local Church Review reports from the congregations of Upper Clyde and Carluke: Kirkton were received and representatives of each congregation presented their plans for the next five years which had resulted from the process. Further reports are expected later in the year, including those from The Tinto Parishes.

Also at the February meeting Presbytery had their farewells to Rev Maudeen MacDougal who is leaving Carnwath I/w The United Parish of Carstairs in answer to a call from the Parish of Scone and St Martins in the Presbytery of Perth. Her Induction is scheduled to take place on 27<sup>th</sup> February. Carnwath I/w The United Parish of Carstairs have been given permission to call a new minister on an unrestricted basis

**Jim Watt (Presbytery Elder Cairngryffe Kirk)**

### *Local Organisations*

#### **CAIRNGRYFFE EVERYOUNG CLUB**

Meetings are held fortnightly on **Thursdays**

**in Thankerton Village Hall at 2.00pm.**

and all who are young at heart are welcome!

The programme for the rest of the spring meetings is: -

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 14 <sup>th</sup> Mar 19   | Eric Carlyle – Wind Turbines – Love or Hate                                    |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> Mar 19   | Rev George Shand – A Canadian Welcome  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> April 19 | Ross Russell – Old Symington   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> April 19 | Emma Gardiner – Fiddling with Friends  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> July 19  | Day Trip – Dobbies (Dalkeith), Scottish Parliament & Greentree Hotel (Peebles) |

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

**MAGIC SQUARE**

**THEME: People**

*In the later days of January I received a 'Christmas letter' from Rev. Shaun Seaman of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Kanata, Canada. Ministers are often so snowed under at what can be our busiest time, that we are still 'catching up' in January. His letter is to all of us, and I thought you might like to read it. George.*

**Dear Friends in Scotland- Christmas 2018**

We are continuing to ride the wave from our wonderful time with you!! We are still so smitten with the beauty of your country and the hospitality of your people!! We welcome opportunities to share stories from our time with you with anyone who asks....our cups runneth over with such thankfulness and appreciation for having had the chance to be with you and to catch at least a bit of the culture and much of the magnificence of your country! I am still working on my 'bits and bobs' expressions and accent!! With very little success I assure you. Folks here never guess that it is a Scottish accent I am entertaining them with! They don't have an ear for a good accent I suspect!

We are in the midst of Advent (or we were when I first wrote this greeting)....my favourite time of year in the church with wonderful contributions from our Drama Team, Bell choirs, Praise Team and Choir!

This Sunday we are celebrating a special service entitled Christmas in the Stable. We have found a donkey, sheep, and llama willing to come for the festivities! Two of the three Wisemen (Wisewomen in fact) will be here to let us know what that night was like for them, likewise the Innkeeper, the Shepherds, and of course Mary and Joseph with the baby! We do this as a community outreach event and hope to have at least 300 people here! Very exciting!

Again, thank you for your kindness, warm welcome, and gracious hospitality

You and your country have become wonderful parts of our life journey!

Our door is always open and there is always room in the Inn for you!



Blessings to you—Heather and Shaun

*Match each name (A-P) with the correct Bible reference (1-16), complete the magic square by writing the number that corresponds with each letter.*

*When the square is completed correctly, all columns, rows and diagonals will add up to the same number.*

- |   |            |    |              |
|---|------------|----|--------------|
| A | ANDREW     | 1  | John 11:1    |
| B | JESSE      | 2  | Luke 4:27    |
| C | BARTIMAEUS | 3  | Mark 14:43   |
| D | ELIZABETH  | 4  | Mark 10:46   |
| E | NICODEMUS  | 5  | Matthew 1:5  |
| F | JUDAS      | 6  | Luke 3:1     |
| G | PILATE     | 7  | John 18:24   |
| H | AUGUSTUS   | 8  | Luke 3: 23   |
| I | MARTHA     | 9  | Mark 16:1    |
| J | HEROD      | 10 | Matthew 2:1  |
| K | RUFUS      | 11 | Luke 1:36    |
| L | HELI       | 12 | John 3:1     |
| M | ANNAS      | 13 | Luke 2: 1    |
| N | PHILIP     | 14 | John 1:44    |
| O | SALOME     | 15 | Mark 15:21   |
| P | NAAMAN     | 16 | Matthew 14:3 |

M=	I=	E=	A=
N=	J=	F=	B=
O=	K=	G=	C=
P=	L=	H=	D=



## FLOWER LISTS

SUNDAY	CAIRNGRYFFE	SYMINGTON
3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar 2019	Maureen Bannatyne (Communion)	Jill Allan
10 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2019	Margaret Bulloch	Ella Hodge
17 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2019	Annie Callan	Marlyn Masterton
24 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2019	Margaret Smith	Helen Duthie
31 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2019	Rosmairi Galloway	Nancy Overend
7 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Rena Borthwick	Isobel Grierson
14 <sup>th</sup> April 19	Cathryn Forrest	Nancy Overend
21 <sup>st</sup> April 19	Elizabeth Warnock	Joint Service
28 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Liz Hiddleston	Margaret McGregor
5 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	Sheena Somerville	Mary Hodge
12 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	Isobel McClymont	Isobel Grierson
19 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	Margaret Clarkston	Anne Hill
26 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	Carole Gardiner	Jean McCurrach
2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2019	Rosemary Whitefield (Communion)	Nan Warwick

### Editor's Note

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

The summer edition of **FOCUS** will be issued mid May 2019.

Contributions from church groups and organisations, covering the period from June 2019 to the end of August 2019, should be sent to **the Editor by Sunday May 5th at the latest.**

I can be reached at: - **Charlie Todd, 63 Station Rd, Thankerton, Biggar ML12 6NZ Tel: 01899 308327**

or by email at [kandctodd@gmail.com](mailto:kandctodd@gmail.com)

## HYMN FOCUS :— HYMN 552

### 'O for a closer walk with God



*The hymns of William Cowper (1731-1800) are very distinctive—powerfully poetic and deeply emotional.*

William was born into a family of influence. His father was a rector, and also chaplain to King George II. He had mixed experiences when growing up – enjoying one school, being bullied in another. His early working life seemed satisfactory as he trained in law, and after being called to the bar he was offered a clerkship at the House of Lords. The dread of exposure as part of an examination tipped him into depression, something he already had a tendency towards, and then beyond into a full nervous breakdown.

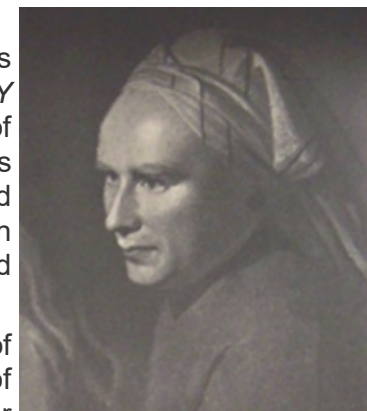
Following treatment he retired to the village of Olney, near Bedford, where he met the evangelist and former slave trader John Newton, who was curate, and Cowper threw himself into parish and evangelistic work. He was encouraged by Newton to write more of the hymns that he had been producing and together they collaborated on what became known as Olney Hymns, published in 1779. These volumes included all the hymns by which Cowper is known, and many more by Newton, including **AMAZING GRACE**.

Another of his hymns in our hymnbook is **GOD MOVES IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY** (HYMN 158) One commentator speaks of the honesty of his reflections and “his anxious desire to hold on to his love of God, matched by a poignant obsession with his human failings and the dark depression that dogged him for much of his life.”

John Julian, writer of The 1907 Dictionary of Hymnology, said that the despondency of John Newton must have been very difficult for Cowper – “a shy, sensitive spirit, who needed most of all the joyous sunlight of Christianity.”

Unfortunately, following the death of his brother, William entered a period of deep depression during which he became convinced that he was eternally damned, and the final years of his life were dominated by severe depression.

His hymns show deep commitment, powerful challenge, and a scrupulous honesty.



## SYMINGTON CHURCH—DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March is both the congregation's Stated Annual Meeting, which will be held at the end of our morning worship—service starts at 9.30am—and the day that Ross Russell officially retires as Session Clerk after 42 years of distinguished service.

Instead of our usual tea and coffee and biscuits in Church after the service we will be holding a reception for Ross in the Church Hall, and all members and friends of the congregation are invited to attend. This will likely start about 10.30am.

## CAIRNGRYFFE SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We meet in the church at the start of the service 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.

In the New Year we will be looking at stories about Jesus including some of the Parables, he taught.

**Dates and Times will be the same as Cairngryffe Church Services from now until Easter.**

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, call Rosmairi Galloway 01555 880779**

## SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019—'Palm and Passion'

**11.00am—CAIRNGRYFFE CHURCH:**

### Tinto Parishes Joint Palm Sunday Worship

Share in our Palm Sunday children's procession, and participate in an intergenerational event that tells the Holy Week story

For all the Tinto Parishes congregations

***As usual, an Easter Egg Hunt follows the service.***



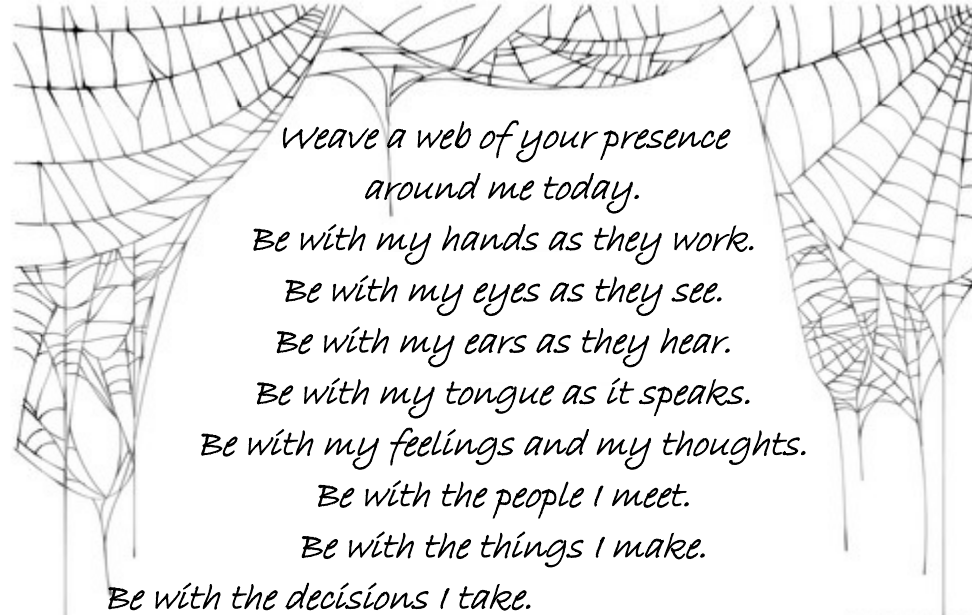
## Evening worship during Holy Week

*Evening worship services are 40—45 minutes long,  
informal and reflective*

- MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL.** 7.00pm—CAIRNGRYFFE CHURCH  
John 12: 20-36; Ephesians 5:1-9 **WALKING IN THE LIGHT**
- TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL.** 7.00pm—LIBBERTON CHURCH  
John 15: 1-7; Isaiah 5:1-7 **THE TRUE VINE**
- WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> APRIL.** 7.00pm LIBBERTON CHURCH  
John 16: 1-28; Hebrews 10:19-23 **THE HOUR IS COMING**
- THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL.** 7.00pm—SYMINGTON CHURCH  
**HOLY THURSDAY—** Sacrament of Holy Communion  
John 17: 1-26, 18:1-12; Hebrews 4:1-13 **ARRESTING PRAYER**
- FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL.** 7.00pm—SYMINGTON CHURCH  
**GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP—**A Tenebrae.  
Luke 23: 1-25, 32-47; Hebrews 7:26-28 **AN INNOCENT MAN**



*'WEAVE A WEB  
OF YOUR PRESENCE'*



*Weave a web of your presence  
around me today.*

*Be with my hands as they work.*

*Be with my eyes as they see.*

*Be with my ears as they hear.*

*Be with my tongue as it speaks.*

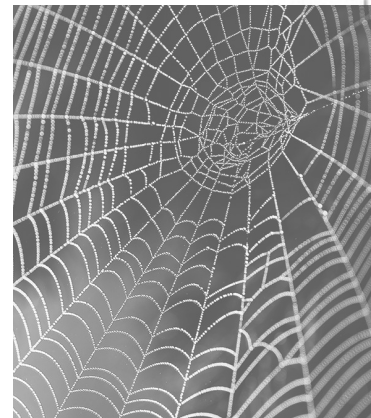
*Be with my feelings and my thoughts.*

*Be with the people I meet.*

*Be with the things I make.*

*Be with the decisions I take.*

*Be in and through,  
over and under all,  
that doing, hearing and seeing,  
speaking, making and being,  
I may glimpse your glory,  
hear your voice and joyfully  
work with you to create  
a new heaven and a new earth.*



**By Kate McIlhagga – Green Heart of the Snowdrop—2004)**

The green heart on the underside of the tiny snowdrop flower, which so captured Kate's imagination, symbolised for her an aspect of God's purpose for our lives, as did so much else in her surroundings.

**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