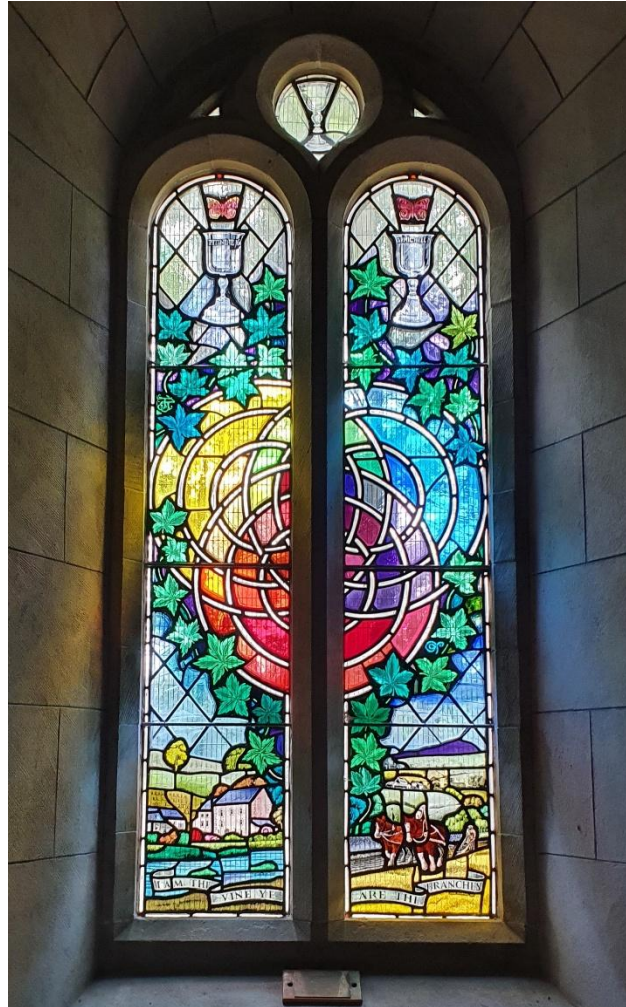


**CAIRNGRYFFE PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER**  
**SPRING 2026**



**YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO OUR  
CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION  
ON SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2026 at 11.00am.**

**Cairngryffe Parish Church: *Charity Number – SC 017001***

## From our Interim Moderator

Dear members and friends in Cairngryffe Church,

**“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God... And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus... Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right... think about such things.”**

**Philippians 4:6-8**

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### **When Life changes**

Change often arrives unannounced. A new job. A move. A loss. A new responsibility. Even good change can unsettle the heart. We long for stability, yet life continually reminds us that seasons shift.

The apostle Paul wrote these words not from comfort, but from confinement. Yet instead of anxiety, he speaks of peace.

### ***The Invitation***

Paul does not shame us for feeling anxious. Instead, he redirects us:

- Pray about everything. Nothing is too small or too overwhelming to bring before God.
- Give thanks. Gratitude reminds us that the God who carried us before will carry us again.
- Guard your thoughts. Focus on what is true and good, not on imagined fears.

Prayer becomes the bridge between anxiety and peace.

### ***The Promise***

God’s peace does not always change our circumstances, but it changes us within them. It “guards” our hearts and minds — like a watchful protector standing at the door of our inner life.

When everything around us feels uncertain, Christ remains steady. The same Lord who was present yesterday is present today — and will be present in whatever

tomorrow brings. As we enter this new chapter in the life of our congregation know that we do not go into it alone but with God by our side.

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### **Prayer**

Lord, when change unsettles my heart, teach me to bring everything to You. Replace my anxiety with Your peace. Help me to focus on what is true and good, and to trust that You are guarding my heart and mind. In every new season, anchor me in Christ.

Amen.

### **Rev. Louise Mackay**

*Interim Moderator*

Although we do not have our own minister our church is always available for family life events: baptisms, weddings and funerals; as Interim Moderator Rev Louise Mackay ensures that a minister is available when we need one.

## **INFORMATION**

**Interim Moderator:** Rev Louise Mackay, Minister of Lanark, St Nicholas'

Tel: 01555 661936

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

Mobile: 07733446567

**Prayer Promoter:** Liz Hiddleston Tel; 01899 221664

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

A digital copy of the Newsletter is available on our website.

## **News from the Session**

Many changes are taking place just now. Our annual seasonal transition from winter to spring, from darkness to light, from cold to warmth. Our church life moves from the joy of Christmas to Lent and Advent.

Our congregation voted unanimously for our Basis of Union with Douglas Valley to form Clydesdale Trinity. This will be a great change for us as our Congregations and Sessions unite. Although both our church at Carmichael and the church at Douglas remain as places of worship; we can continue to have regular Sunday worship in our own church but we will also have joint services as we move forward as one congregation.

The Cairngryffe building will be under review in 2028, there is an expectation that we make more non-Sunday use of our building and make the building of more use to our community. We have already started events such as our All-Age Worship Events, Cairngryffe, Cuppa, Craft and Chat Group. We have also hosted the Carmichael Community Cinema Project and Carmichael Community Council has used the building for some of their activities on Community Days.

We are looking at innovative ways of using our building, I recently met with Martin Travers and Clare Yuille from Brawclan and showed them around our church. Martin is writing a play called Smoke and Mirror, a family drama set in 1917 at a fictional farm in the Carmichael area. The play will be premiered at various village halls in the Clydesdale Area in the Autumn. But we have been asked if we can host Clydesdale's War; an event that gives the background to the play. Proposed date is the 20<sup>th</sup> August at 2.30pm. More information is available in a video on Brawclan's website.

When Martin and Clare visited, they were interested in history both of the church and of the Clydesdale Horses' connection to Carmichael, the Warnock Window displays farming history of our area in the lower parts of the panels.

The last few months has also been a time of illness, and of loss for many of our members. As we remember their families; we offer them our sympathy and also our gratitude and thanksgiving for those we have lost.

Our church family will miss James Warnock for his boundless energy, his enthusiasm, we valued his encouragement, his support and his cajoling.

The Warnock Window which his parents gifted to the church in 1998 really sums up Jim's life of faith and farming.

As we move forward over the next few months and years as a church and as a congregation, we both need and appreciate the support that you all give to your church. *Rosmairi J Galloway, Session Clerk*

### **Presbytery Mission Planning Process Update (How it affects us)**

In December Presbytery approved an Interim Step to the Presbytery Mission Plan to unite Cairngryffe Parish Church and The Douglas Valley Church along with a Deferred Union between Cairngryffe Parish Church /The Douglas Valley Church and The Upper Clyde Church, with permission to Call a minister on a Basis of Reviewable Charge. (From 1st January 2026 all calls will be on a basis of Reviewable Charge following a decision by the 2025 General Assembly.)

The vote on this Union, to form Clydesdale Trinity Church, the deferred Union with Upper Clyde Church and the Basis of Reviewable Charge took place in both Cairngryffe and Douglas Valley Churches on 1st February. However, the vote at Upper Clyde did not take place on that date and is rescheduled to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> of February. The results of the votes held at Cairngryffe and at Douglas Valley cannot therefore be made public until after that date. At the time of writing no date for the Union has been set, however a preliminary date of 26th April has been set for our Service of Union.

### **Presbytery Report**

Congregational unions continue to take place across the Presbytery as the Planning and Implementation Committee continue their work, around 70% of the Plan now having been implemented either as originally intended or in modified form as has been agreed. Among these locally were the union of Carluke: Forest Kirk, Carluke: Kirkton and Law to form Carluke and Law Parish Church on 1st January with the Service of Union on 8th January, when Rev Elijah Obinna was introduced as one of the team ministers. Permission to call a second team minister has been granted. On the same date the union of Biggar, Blackmount and Libberton & Quothquan to form Biggar District Church took place with that Service of Union on 14th January when Rev Mike Fucella was introduced as minister.

At the December meeting the part of the plan for our congregation was approved, see **Presbytery Mission Planning Process Update**

Due to the number of Services of Union taking place making it an extremely busy time for the Moderator, who leads these services, past Moderators have been

drafted in to ease the burden. Our own service will be led by Rt. Rev Shaw Paterson.

Elsewhere, Churches, Halls and Manses continue to be agreed for sale.

A new one-year post of change/transition facilitator has been created and is currently advertised. The purpose of this post is ‘To support Presbytery in enabling congregations to maintain a missional focus while moving towards the Implementation of the Presbytery Mission plan and/or obtaining permission to call.’

Commissions to the General Assembly have been approved, including our own Dr Rosmairi Galloway. The GA this year will take place over 4 days from Friday 15th – Monday 18th May and will be live-streamed on the Church of Scotland website.

Lanark: St Nicholas has been given approval for internal upgrading works and external re-rendering of the existing lime render. Other upgrading and maintenance work elsewhere have also been approved.

The attestation of Records will take place across four dates between the 16th and 24th March 2026 inclusive and across 4 locations, including Lanark: St Nicholas halls.

Nominations are being sought for the Moderator of Presbytery for the 2026/7 session.

*Jim Watt, Presbytery Elder.*

## **REMEMBERING THOSE WHOM WE HAVE LOST**

**Willie Stewart**, Willie’s funeral took place on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025. His service was led by his wife Sandra’s Salvation Army colleagues. Sandra gave a very moving tribute to Willie. Willie was brought up in Shotts, he trained as engineer with Cummins, he was well respected by his work colleagues. Willie and Sandra moved to Carmichael in the late 1980’s, because of their love of nature and the countryside. They renovated their cottage, established their garden, became established members of the community. We extend our sympathy to his wife Sandra.

**Helen Lindsay**, Mrs Lindsay’s funeral service took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 was led by Rev Louise Mackay, with tributes and musical contributions from family members. Mrs Lindsay was born and brought upon her family’s farm near Newton Stewart. She developed her great interest for Ayrshire Cattle there,

this was a lifelong passion. She leaves her husband Rodger, and sons Rodger, William and Kerr to whom we extend our sympathy.

**Rev Bill Buchan**, Mr Buchan's Memorial service took place on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at Biggar Kirk. The service was led by Rev Dr Tony Foley, with members of the family taking part. Bill was born into a fishing family in Peterhead. He trained initially as a Methodist minister. He worked in Human Resources and business for a time before returning to ministry in the Church of Scotland; he was minister at Kilwinning Abbey Church for many years. In his long retirement he continued to serve the church firstly in Perthshire, and then after he moved to Biggar, he filled many Sundays as Pulpit Supply in local churches. He led our Harvest Thanksgiving worship on 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2025. Leaves his family of three daughters and a son.

**James F Warnock**, Jimmy's life was celebrated on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2026, both here at Cairngryffe and at Lanark Agricultural centre. Alan Grant led worship at both services. Tributes were paid at Lanark by his friend Ian Fleming and by his daughters Jayne, Carol Anne and Helen.

**Appreciation of Mr James F. Warnock:- recorded in the Session Minute of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

“Members of Session shared their many memories of James. James had been active supporter of the church throughout his life. He had been a Sunday School Pupil and Leader, becoming a member of Carmichael Parish Church as a teenager. James became an Elder of Carmichael Parish Church, becoming Cairngryffe's Senior Elder. His service as an elder spanned six decades from the 1970's. He demonstrated a deep faith; devoting much time to the pastoral care of others. As well as using his practical skills to help maintain our building. Jimmy was often found up a ladder. He was also our bell ringer; calling us to worship on a Sunday and ringing in Christmas Day at our annual Watchnight Service.

Jimmy was our enthusiastic cheerleader both for the church, but also encouraging others to take part. Each member of our Worship Team is grateful for the support and encouragement that he gave them over the years.

We appreciate all that he did over the years for Carmichael and Cairngryffe Parish Churches, especially when he also fitted so much into his life.

As a congregation we will all miss Jimmy; we wish to extend our sympathy and appreciation of Jimmy to his wife Elizabeth, daughters Jayne, Carol Anne and Helen and their families.”

*(there is a comprehensive obituary in The Scottish Farmer on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026)*

**Valerie I'Anson**, Mrs I'Anson's funeral was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026, Rev Louise Mackay conducted the service. Mrs I'Anson was born in London, brought up in Yorkshire. She studied art at college in Scarborough, while there she met her husband, Steven. Mrs I'Anson worked as an artist throughout her life. The family lived in Sweden, the South of England, returned to Yorkshire and in retirement built their own house at Blackhouse. She leaves her husband, two daughters a son and their families, to whom we extend our sympathy.

**Elizabeth Buchanan**, Elizabeth's funeral took place on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026, Rev Louise Mackay conducted the service. Elizabeth was brought up at Climpy and then at Braehead, she returned each year to Forth's gala day. Elizabeth worked for many years at the DWP, in Lanark, Wishaw and Glasgow. She helped her husband John around the farm after she retired. Elizabeth took an interest in crafts. Her faith helped her throughout her life. She leaves her husband John, to whom we extend our sympathy.

**Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.**

Matthew chapter 5: verse 4.

## **ORGANISATIONS**

### **GUILD:**



#### **The next Guild Meetings are:**

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March  
Carstairs Church at 2.00pm

World Day of Prayer in

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March  
house at 2.00pm

Quiz afternoon at Elizabeth's

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April      Lunch at the Hideaway at Carmichael at 12 noon

For further information about the Guild please contact Secretary Elizabeth Forbes on 01555 640018/078892649

## **EVERYOUNG**

The Everyoung Group meets in Thankerton Bowling Club at 2pm on Thursdays with a speaker, tea and a blether.

### March 2026

12<sup>th</sup> – Rosmairi, Jessie & Charlie read Linmill Stories (in Scots)

26<sup>th</sup> – Laura Barclay (Carluke) – The History of R&W Scott, Carluke

### April 2026

9<sup>th</sup> – Fiona Marshall Smith (Carmichael) – Wing Commander ‘Hiram’ Marshall Smith DFC

23<sup>rd</sup> – Liz Clelland (Carluke) - The Camino de Santiago Trail

Contact Charlie Todd for further details on 01899 308327

## **CAIRNGRYFFE CUPPA, CRAFT & CHAT**

Bring along a craft project you are working on and enjoy a couple of hours crafting and chatting. Future dates are to be confirmed.

Contact Rosmairi Galloway for further details on 07733 446567

## **CHRISTIAN AID**

Christian Aid Week is 10<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> May 2026



For more information about Christian Aid visit [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

Christian Aid also run an annual book sale in Edinburgh, if you have any books that you would like to donate, please box them up and we will gather them up February – March 2026.

## **Reflection for Spring**

### **Time to Spring Clean our faith.**

It is a joy to see the days getting longer and the signs of spring burst forth around us. For most of us it is a time to get busy, to spring clean the house and start work in the garden.

Spring is also an excellent time to take stock of our faith and give it a bit of an overhaul too.

It can be deeply satisfying to set about a spring clean, after months of closed windows and settled dust, we throw everything open. Light streams in. Closets are emptied. What no longer serves a purpose is cleared away, and what remains feels lighter, fresher, and more intentional. Our spiritual lives can benefit some of the same attention. Sometimes our faith can begin to stagnate to develop ‘dust bunnies’ due to our lack of attention and intention. We go through the motions. We say the prayers we’ve always said, attend the services we’ve always attended, and yet something feels less vibrant, less meaningful than it once did.

Spring is a gentle invitation to pause and take inventory, to identify where our faith has become routine rather than intentional. Spiritual “spring cleaning” 2the Holy Spirit to search us—not to condemn, but to restore. Psalm 51:10 gives us a simple, courageous prayer: *“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”* Renewal is not something we manufacture; it is something God lovingly accomplishes in us when we are willing. Clearing out the clutter may mean reordering priorities, or stepping back from habits that consume more of our attention than they should. It may mean rediscovering practices that once nourished our souls—lingering in Scripture or praying with intention.

But spring cleaning isn’t only about what we remove; it’s also about what we plant. Just as gardens are prepared for new growth, our hearts can be prepared for deeper trust, greater compassion, and renewed purpose. When we make space, God fills it—with peace, with direction, with fresh vision. As this season unfolds and creation around us bursts into life, may we allow God to do the same within us. Spring reminds us: renewal is possible. God walks with us through ordinary days. When we open our hearts, even the smallest moments become sacred.

***Suzanne Campbell, Congregational Worship Leader***

Isaiah 45: verse 1  
God said: Do not be afraid  
for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by your name;  
you are mine.

A daily invitation from God  
to each and every one of us  
in this new year, 2026

### **The Invitation**

**Come!**  
**Open your heart**  
**to the God of Hope**  
**who offers strength**  
**in his faithfulness.**

**Come!**  
**Open your heart**  
**to the Prince of Peace**  
**who offers harmony**  
**in all his Creation.**

**Come!**  
**Open your heart**  
**to the Bringer of Joy**  
**who offers balm**  
**for your soul.**

**Come!**  
**Open your heart**  
**to the King of Love**  
**who offers power**  
**to transform your life.**

**Come!**  
**Open your heart**  
**to the Creator of All**  
**who offers Life**  
**in all its fullness.**

## **CHARITIES**

### **CHURCH of SCOTLAND STAMP APPEAL**

Thank you for collecting and donating stamps.

For more information visit [www.churhofscotland.org.uk/stamps](http://www.churhofscotland.org.uk/stamps)

### **CLYDESDALE FOODBANK**

Thank you for your donations of food and money for this local charity was collected at the church during November, the cash donation was £232.

For more information about the foodbank visit [www.clydesdalefoodbank.org.uk](http://www.clydesdalefoodbank.org.uk)

## **WORSHIP at CAIRNGRYFFE**

### **SUNDAYS AT 11.00AM until further notice**

1<sup>st</sup> March 2026 Communion celebrated by Rev Louise Mackay

8<sup>th</sup> March 2026 Worship led by Mrs Elizabeth Hiddleston

15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> (PALM SUNDAY) March 2026 Mr Alan Grant will lead worship.

April 5<sup>th</sup> (EASTER DAY), 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> at 11am, Worship Leaders to be confirmed.

### **ALL-AGE EASTER EVENT:**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026 1-3pm in the church.

Songs, stories, arts and crafts for Spring and Easter. Easter Egg Hunt and Refreshments.

**HOLY WEEK;** Weekday services; arrangements to be confirmed. Please check our website nearer the time.

**SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> April 2026 3pm Service of Union** of Cairngryffe and Douglas Valley to become Clydesdale Trinity, at St Brides Church Douglas.

*Details correct at time of publication, but may change depending on circumstances. Please check our website for any changes.*