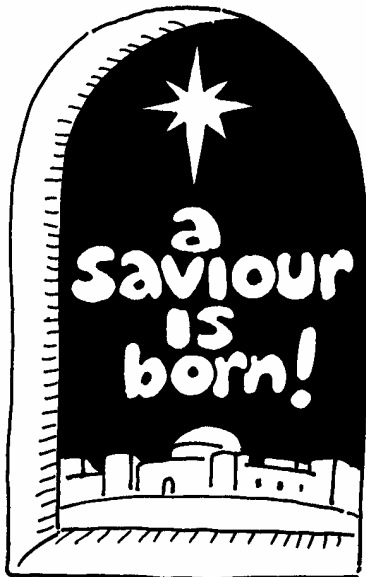


FOCUS

Christmas 2009



Kirk and Community News
For the Parishes of Cairngryffe and Symington

Church of Scotland Cairngryffe with Symington Parish Churches

Minister: Rev Dr Graham Houston
16 Abington Road, Symington (01899 308838)

Session Clerks:
Cairngryffe - Mr Jack Meikle
Glenbow Cottage, Thankerton (01899 308397)
Symington - Mr Ross Russell
Spindrift, Main Street, Symington (01899 308240)



SUNDAY SERVICES

December 2009

9.30am Symington 11.00am Cairngryffe
January, February, March, April 2010
9.30am Cairngryffe 11.00am Symington

Christmas and New Year Services – Everybody Welcome!

CHRISTMAS FAMILY SERVICES

Sunday December 20th 9.30am (Symington) and 11am (Cairngryffe)

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICES

Thursday December 24th 7pm Family Carol Service at Symington and
11.15pm Watchnight Service at Cairngryffe

UNITED YEAR'S END SERVICE

Sunday 27th December 2009 11.00am Joint Service at Cairngryffe (no Symington Service that day)

Sunday 3rd January 2010 11.00am Joint Service at Symington (no Cairngryffe Service that day)

Board and Session Meetings

Monday February 22nd 2010 7.30pm Symington Board & Kirk Session
Monday March 1st 2010 7.30pm Cairngryffe Kirk Session

Communion Services

Sunday March 7th 2010 9.30am (Cairngryffe) 11am (Symington)

MERRY MINCE PIES

Remember to pop into Symington Church Hall after the evening service on Christmas Eve for mince pies, coffee and a chat with your friends. Mince pies will also be served at Cairngryffe from 11.00pm, prior to their late evening service.

Visit our websites at

www.symingtonkirk.com Webmaster Robert Carson
www.cairngryffekirk.org.uk Webmaster Jim Watt



From the Manse

Christmas 2009

Dear Friends

Thanks very much for all your prayers, cards and good wishes. I hope that it won't be too long before I am back amongst you all and in the meantime I wish you a very happy Christmas and a good New Year. This comes with seasonal greetings from Irene and the family.

Kind regards

Graham.

Rev Dr Graham Houston Manse of Cairngryffe with Symington

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

Wedding

Tim Carmichael married Bonnie McLeod both from America in Cairngryffe Church on 25th September 2009.

Funerals

Cairngryffe

Margaret Cooper, Thornyhills Cottages died on 5th September 2009 and not 5th August as shown in the last Focus (our apologies for this error).

Brian Alexander Campbell, 90 Covington Road, Covington died 15th September 2009

Margaret Struthers, Lannside Thornyhills died on 2nd November 2009

Symington

September 2009, Elizabeth MacKinnon, Kirk Bauk, Symington

November 2009, Brenda Holt, Castlehill Court, Symington

November 2009, Tricia Prentice, Main Street, Symington

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CAIRNGRYFFE

This is to keep all our members up to date with what is happening in the Kirk Session at Cairngryffe.

*As I write this our Minister Graham is continuing to improve and hoping to return to doing some work with us in the not too distant future. We all hope that God will continue to answer our prayers by looking after him and his family during this very difficult time for them all.

* We are very fortunate to have The Rev Harry Findlay leading our worship on as many Sundays as he can. Harry has been a minister to us, not just our preacher on a Sunday, conducting our funerals and comforting our bereaved. Thank you Harry, we are very grateful.

* Are you stuck for a Christmas present? The answer could be our calendar for 2010 using old local photos showing what life was like in our parishes last century.

* Our beautiful stained glass window is at last under repair, the missing face is being made by the experts. We have also given the firm the go ahead to fit grills to all of our windows to give added protection. It is disappointing to note that this has not been a problem during the last hundred years but we feel it is our duty now to do everything we can to look after these windows for future generations to enjoy.

*You will notice the football pitch at the front of the Church has now been dug up to make a new road into the hall, this is all part of the building of the new Carmichael Primary School and once the drains are all in place the pitch will all be put back to what it was before. During this period there will be some disruption to our parking at the church and parking at the Hall. Hall users may need to share our car park please bear with us and it should all be back to normal in due course.

Jack Meikle. Session Clerk at Cairngryffe

THE GUILD

Cairngryffe Guild

Season's Greetings from Cairngryffe Guild So far this session we have enjoyed discussion on the Theme for 2009/10 in September; our joint meeting with Symington Guild in October when Mary and Peter Corbey presented their company, Alticane Apothecary; a visit from Mr J Dudds from Guide Dogs for the Blind – all of which were thoroughly enjoyed by both members and visitors alike.



December 13 at 7.30 pm is our Christmas Presentation and a warm invitation is extended to all to come along and enjoy what promises to be a good evening. As well as presenting the Christmas Message with readings and carols, our guest performers Alan, Eleanor and Jessie, we have one or two fun surprises. We meet, as always in Thankerton Village Hall. There will be a collection in aid of Guild Funds.

Our first meeting in 2010 takes place on February 10th at 7.30 when Mr David Fanshaw will be talking on "Acting Justly".

Scottish Churches Housing Initiative Programme (CHIP)

You may remember reading an article in FOCUS some months ago regarding the above. As you will recall this worthwhile cause was taken on board by Cairngryffe members and I am happy to report some progress.

- So far we have set up a committee with the new name of “**New Beginnings**” comprising Convenor, Secretary, Treasurer and a small group of volunteers, applied for Charitable Status and opened our bank account.
- In liaison with South Lanarkshire Council we have identified accommodation in Kilmory Road, Carluke which we can use as a distribution centre and we hope to occupy these premises shortly.
- A mail shot has been sent out to churches of all denominations in the Clydesdale area and to all Church of Scotland Guilds seeking their support for a Christmas Appeal for new toys for homeless children, as well as their support in general for the wider goals of the Charity.
- Last week there was an article in the Lanark Gazette promoting the new charity and launching the above Christmas Appeal

We have begun to receive donations as a result of the newspaper article principally bed linen and a few other household items, but are still hoping for Toys to be donated. Cairngryffe Session agreed a financial donation for 3 years commencing 2009 and just this week we have received a donation from a local person of £200.00.

If you would like to know how you can support this charity, or would like to organise a fundraiser please call **Mary McLellan on 07554 736015**.

Symington Guild

Our first meeting in September was chaired by Margaret McGregor. She introduced Ruth Aird, a practise nurse from Edinburgh, who told of her experiences and showed a film about her working visit to Peru and the Amazon. We were quite humbled to hear about and see the deprivation that exists there.

In October we were invited to Cairngryffe Guild at Thankerton there was a talk and film show on fragrances for Christmas.

Our November meeting was chaired by Noreen Johnston.

Due to our speaker cancelling we were very grateful to Susan Craig [Prentice] for coming along at short notice to give us an insight into her work

as a Dietician. Her talk was very interesting and informative, giving us much food for thought.

Our meeting on December 10th will be Christmas Carols and readings followed by a Christmas Supper. Please note each member to bring food for one.

The first meetings in the New Year are,

28th January A trip across the Heavens with Lynn Smith.
25th February. Work in Malawi by Karen Gillon. M.S.P.
Do come along and join us. New members always welcome.

Contact Helen Anderson 308598 or Martha Cowan 308657.

FLOWER LISTS

SUNDAY	CAIRNGRYFFE	SYMINGTON
6th December 2009	Sandra Stewart	Ollie Hunter
13th December 2009	Christmas Flowers	Muriel Knight
20th December 2009	Christmas Flowers	Janette Hope
27th December 2009	Christmas Flowers	Christmas Flowers
3rd January 2010	Christmas Flowers	Rena McKenzie
10th January 2010	Christmas Flowers	Jessie Duff
17th January 2010	Christmas Flowers	Jessie Rodger
24th January 2010	Warnock Girls	Isobel Grierson
31st January 2010	Nancy Galloway	Noreen Johnston
7th February 2010	Margaret Edge	Hazel Howat
14th February 2010	Dorothy Scott	Rena Mitchell
21st February 2010	Nancy Nicholl	Margaret Cleland
28th February 2010	Maureen Bannatyne	Sheena Carlyle



FROM OUR KIRK TREASURERS

CAIRNGRYFFE SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are busy preparing our Christmas Presentation for the Christmas Family Service on the 20th December.

The children and leaders will then have a well deserved break.

The first meeting of the new term will be on the 10th of January 2010, please remember that we will meet at 9.30am, at the start of the service in the church from January till April.

Mid-term holiday will be 14th of February.

We all look forward to looking at both Old and New Testament Stories next term.

For further information please contact **Rosmairi J Galloway 01555 880779**.

SundayZone @ Symington

The children are practicing hard and looking forward to presenting their nativity play in Church on 20 December.

We start back on 10 January at 11am where we will be discussing how the church grows and continuing our story of Moses.

Wishing all the children a happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

Donna, Hazel & Susan

SYMINGTON CHURCH CHOIR

The choir has had a busy spell lately in preparing for special events. First of all we were invited to contribute to the Cairngryffe Musical Evening on 13 November and we filled two slots here. We then travelled to Blantyre on 20 November where we gave a concert at the David Livingstone Memorial Centre in aid of its funds. Both events were received with enthusiasm so our hard work was not in vain. Once again we are grateful to our 'reserve team' of friends who come along to augment the choir on these occasions.

The choir is enjoying the comfort and convenience of the new chairs which have now been installed in the east end of the church. Our thanks to all who were involved in bringing this about.

Symington Church

Treasurer's Report

Now that the tax rebate, resulting from the "Gift Aid" scheme, has been paid the Church finances are looking much healthier. We should end the year with a small deficit.

Income to date 2009

Expenditure to date 2009

Offerings	£22,925	Ministry & Mission	£19,610
Other Income	£100	Staff Costs	£4,171
Gift Aid	£6,408	Building Costs	£5,415
		Joint Cong Costs	£1,750
		Other Costs	£63
TOTAL INCOME	£29,433	TOTAL EXP	£31,009

Proposed Ministries and Mission Allocation – 2010

The proposed Ministries and Mission allocation for Symington for 2010 was £21,021. However following an appeal to Presbytery this has now been reduced to £20,390

Robert Carson, Treasurer

Cairngryffe Church

The financial year ends on 31st December so I would just remind anyone who has money to go into the church funds before that to get it to treasurer as soon as possible in order to finalise this years accounts.



Cairngryffe Financial Report from Jan 2009 to Nov 2009

Income

Expenditure

Offering	£17,234	Church of Scotland	£12,224
Tax Back	3,875	Travel Expenses	740
Calendars	156	Joint Cong Account	3,000
Social Comm	651	Salaries	2,632
Donations	963	Printing & stationery	200
Weddings	800	Insurance	700
		Misc	1,890
Total Income	£23,679	Total Expenditure	£21,386

Surplus to date £2,293

Presbytery dues are still to be paid and they will be approx £500. This should leave us with a surplus at the end of the year of approx £2000.

Linzi Struthers, Treasurer.

CAIRNGRYFFE EVERYOUNG CLUB

On **December 10th** members will enjoy a hearty **Christmas Lunch at Cornhill House Hotel** (12.30pm for 1.00pm).

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

- 14th Jan 2010 Pictorial History of the Locality (Messrs Todd & Meikle)
- 28th Jan 2010 A Taste of Burns (Jessie Duff and friends)
- 11th Feb 2010 A Trip to India (Dr J Hill)
- 25th Feb 2010 Life in the Arctic (Mr Jardine)
- 11th Mar 2010 Stewardess on Concorde (Gill Pratte)
- 25th Mar 2010 Dream Flights (Jennifer Stuart)

For more information contact **Sadie Campbell at 01899 308328**

LANARK PRESBYTERY REPORT

Mr. Campbell Fisher addressed Presbytery at its November meeting concerning the Clydesdale Youth Trust. This Trust has been formed by local churches of different denominations with the vision to provide all school age children in Clydesdale with the opportunity to explore the meaning, value and purpose of life from a Christian perspective. The Trust has teamed up with Scripture Union Scotland to raise funds to appoint an Associate Worker. The Associate Worker could be involved with groups in schools and churches and could organise and assist with holiday clubs and residential holidays. I am sure we shall be hearing more about this charity which is active in our area.

The General Assembly of the Church is also promoting fund raising for the Church of Scotland HIV/AIDS Project and suggesting that local churches take part.

The Presbytery is encouraging all churches in the area to take part in 'Back to Church Sunday' on 21st February. **All members** are invited to attend on that day and to bring a friend with them. It does not matter if the members attend regularly or have not attended for a long time. **Everyone** is invited to come along. Could our churches support this?

At the December meeting of Presbytery, a report from the Ministries Council of the Church of Scotland was circulated. Called '2020 Vision – Building for the future through Presbytery Planning'. This notes that as the Church is using up its reserves at around £5.5M per year, by 2018 these reserves will be exhausted. The present pattern of the church will have to change.

Everyone in the church will have to be involved in the discussions to make sure that the church of the future becomes much more effective. This will be discussed in Kirk Sessions and in Presbytery and hopefully will produce a dynamic organization in the future.

Lambert Allan (Elder to the Presbytery)



CAIRNGRYFFE KIRK SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Thanks to all the participants in our Musical Evening on the 13th November, particularly organizers (as well as participants) Alan and Eleanor Potts. As well as a thoroughly enjoyable evening, over £200 was contributed to kirk funds. Our next event is a Ceilidh in Carmichael Hall provisionally set for Friday 19th February at 7.30pm. Please watch the Gazette for further details.

THE UPPERWARD PARISHES HISTORY PROJECT

The Editor and Jack Meikle have now collected and scanned over 1,100 photographs and postcards of the three parishes with a few more still in the pipeline. The intention now is to make them available in book form to compliment William Fleming's (tele 01555 661386) 3 excellent books. In time there should be 2 books for each Parish – one of Group School photographs and one of general photos. Hopefully the Carmichael General book containing 428 local photos should be ready for Christmas. We have also been joined by Ross Russell (Session Clerk at Symington), who is working on a Symington volume and Tom Brown who is working on Libberton/Quothquan. Volunteers to work on other parishes would be most welcome as would a loan of further photographs and postcards.

Editor's Note

Thank you to all contributors who provided the information contained in this newsletter.

The Spring edition of FOCUS will be issued late in February 2010.

Contributions from both village and church organizations and groups, covering the period from March 2010 to the end of May 2010 should be sent to me by **Sunday 14th February 2010 at the latest.**

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

or by email at charles.todd@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Prayer Page

Prayer and Praise Services

Cairngryffe and Symington churches look forward to welcoming everyone for this next session of Prayer & Praise.

Christmas is, for most of us, a time for rejoicing but for many it can be the loneliest time of year if you know of anyone who is on their own and might enjoy a bit of company and fellowship please bring them along to the Christmas Services over the coming weeks or to the next Payer and Praise on the **4th February 2010 at Symington Church.**

If you find coming difficult because of transport issues please contact either Sandra Stewart or George Mathew and we will try to arrange a lift.

In both Symington and Cairngryffe Church vestibule you will find a box for prayer requests.

The date and time of the next Prayer and Praise Service is as follows:

Symington Church Thursday 4th February at 7.30pm

Cairngryffe Church Thursday 4th March at 7.30pm

Symington Church Thursday 1st April at 7.30pm

Keep the following in your thoughts and Prayers:

- All who are recovering from major surgery or illness. For those who are still sick, at home and in hospital, and for the bereaved.
- The continuing conflict in Afghanistan and our Armed Forces working there.
- Vine Hope Trust and the work they are doing for the Street Children in Peru.
- Our minister Graham, his wife Irene and their family.
- The agencies who work with people who have drug and alcohol abuse problems.
- Remember all who are homeless, especially at this time of year.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend on us, we pray

Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today

We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell

O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel

Prayer Promoters

Symington – George Mathew Tel: 01899 308648

Cairngryffe – Sandra Stewart Tel: 01555 880655