

# FOCUS

Autumn 2011



**Kirk and Community News**  
For the Parishes of Cairngryffe and Symington

## Church of Scotland Cairngryffe with Symington Parish Churches

Minister: Vacant

Session Clerks: *Cairngryffe* - Mr Jack Meikle  
Glenbow Cottage, Thankerton (01899 308397)

*Symington* - Mr Ross Russell  
Spindrift, Main Street, Symington (01899 308240)



### SUNDAY SERVICES

September, October, November, December 2011

09.30am Symington 11.00am Cairngryffe

### Prayer and Praise Services

n.b. now on the third Monday of each month at 7.30pm:  
October 17<sup>th</sup> (Cairngryffe), November 14<sup>th</sup> (Symington) December  
19<sup>th</sup> (Cairngryffe)

### COMMUNION SERVICES

The sacrament will be celebrated on **Sunday November 6th**,  
All members are warmly invited to share in worship then.  
**9.30am Symington 11.00am Cairngryffe**

### HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Cairngryffe Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 11.00am

### MEETINGS OF SESSIONS AND BOARD

Joint Office-Bearers' Meeting

The twice-yearly gathering of all Board and Session members is at  
Cairngryffe on Monday September 19<sup>h</sup> at 7.30pm.

Cairngryffe Kirk Session  
meets on Monday November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm

Visit our websites at :-

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

Webmaster Jim Watt

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

Webmaster Robert Carson

## A Message from our Interim Moderator

Shortly after I first gave my heart to Christ a question was put to me that I would like to ask you - "What are you? Are you a thermometer or a thermostat?"

In case I confuse you, let me explain - a thermometer reflects its environment, it shows what the temperature is. If it's hot outside - it says it's hot; if it's cold, it says it's cold; it exerts no influence on what's around it - rather it is influenced by it.

A thermostat. A thermostat has power, it sets the temperature, it changes things.

So - what are you? A thermometer, or a thermostat?

What a great question! It is one that Jesus puts to his disciples:

*"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."*

Think about it for a minute - Jesus tells us - "You are the salt of the earth..." And again, "You are the light of the world".

Somehow - because of our decision to follow Jesus we are made into salt - into light - for the world.

Over the next few months, the Session/Board of your church and I will be working together to try and plot the route ahead. It's not an easy course to plot as the seas are white capped and overwhelming. The storm we find ourselves in is scary – the

Presbytery Plan was rejected, we are in a vacancy, and we do not know where God will take us.

Ultimately however, as a congregation we have to be salt and light in our communities. Failure to inspire those around us with our faith and to affect the spiritual diet of others means we are not **being** church. With or without a Minister; with or without a Presbytery Plan – we can still **be the church**.

The divine is a light within us, And faith is the match that sets it glowing.

19th century philosopher and sceptic Frederick Nietzsche. Nietzsche said this about the churches of his day:

"They must sing better songs, ere I learn belief in their saviour. They must act like they are redeemed before I will believe in their redeemer."

The time has come to sing those songs wherever we go.

May Christ be with you.

Alan Gibson

### Introduction to Interim Moderator

It is a great privilege to be asked to be your Interim Moderator, and I look forward to working alongside you in the months ahead.

As many of you know, I am the Minister at Carstairs and Carstairs Junction. I have been there for 3 years, and prior to that I was the Minister at Avendale Church in Strathaven for 8 years.

I was not always a Minister. After a marketing degree I worked in the leisure/entertainment sector for a few years - I worked with Anchor International who owned nightclubs, sports centres, bars and gymnasias across the UK.

I have a family – my wife Karen, and our sons Benjamin (9) and George (6). I am originally from Lanark, so I know the area pretty well.

Away from ministry I enjoy football, golf, tennis, music, theatre and spending time with my boys.

It is my prayer that during this vacancy we can keep our focus on Christ; that Presbytery will quickly adopt a Plan that enables us to move forwards; and that we then swiftly begin the real vacancy business which involves searching for a good Minister.

During this whole process, I hope I can assist you and I shall endeavour to get to know you all as quickly as possible.

Alan Gibson  
Interim Moderator

### **From Ann Lyall, our new Deacon**

#### **WHAT IS A DEACON?**

Just over 120 years ago Dr Charteris introduced to the Church of Scotland (along with the Women's Guild) the Order of Deaconesses as a way of enabling women to serve within the Church at a time when it was not possible for women to be ordained to eldership or ministry.

Over the past 120 years Deaconesses have served the Church the length and breadth of Britain from as far north as Orkney and Shetland to as far south as Corby and London. In the 1980s it became possible for men to join the Office and became Deacons and latterly for the sake of neatness we have all become known as Deacons both male and female.

The training to be a Deacon is to Degree level and most do a 4 year training as well as serving a Probationary Year. Many Deacons have a qualification in areas like social work, youth work, teaching, community service as well as their theology/biblical training. The role of Deacon is a serving ministry rather than a teaching/preaching ministry although many

Deacons also preach. Deacons are employed full or part-time by the various Councils of the Church and sometimes by individual congregations.

For many years Deacons worked in the most deprived areas of our cities and in the large urban parishes where there was too much work for just one person. They often worked within the communities as a link between church and community. Deacons have always gone and served where they were most needed and so the place and type of service has changed over the years. More and more Deacons are now serving in place of a minister where there are shortages of ministers.

Deacons have also served as Hospital, Prison, Industrial and Forces Chaplains. Some have been involved in running 'Retreat Centres' and Holiday Homes for families.

The following statement was passed by an Act of the General Assembly in 1998;

"A Deacon is a man or woman who, under a call from God, has pledged himself or herself to the service of Jesus Christ and His Church, and has been selected, trained and ordained according to the doctrine and discipline of the Church of Scotland. The office of Deacon is recognised by the Church to be a distinctive, life-long Office within the ministry of the Church, and to be agreeable to the Word of God."

Dear Friends,

I was asked if I would write a little about myself by way of introduction. It seemed a simple enough request but 2 weeks on and I'm still trying to decide what would be of interest!

I was brought up in a Manse family, the oldest of 4 children and the only girl. My brothers and I fought constantly as children but now that we are all away from each other get on remarkably well! I have 7 nieces and nephews and one great niece who keep me up to speed with the modern world. My mother is still alive and lives a rural idyll in Inverness-shire.

I enjoy all sorts of pastimes – eating out (all meals gratefully received!) walking, reading and travelling in particular – I have just returned from a trip to Tanzania and in 1993/94 I took a year out to work as a volunteer in Guatemala.

As a child I lived in Kirkmuirhill, a mining village surrounded by farms and enjoyed being allowed to look after sheep and cows with their offspring. When I left school I worked for 2 years in an Insurance Office. But 2 years was more than enough and I found myself at college for 4 years training to be a Deaconess. I was then sent by the Home Board to Castlemilk in Glasgow where I worked very happily for over 23 years with a team of colleagues. For the next 7 years I worked as the Chaplain to the Homeless Community in Glasgow. Most recently I have worked in a newly formed 3-way linkage in Lochaber experiencing for the first time rural Church life. There weren't very many people but lots of sheep, deer and goats!

I suppose it would be true to say that I have two guiding principles in my faith life. The first is that I believe passionately in the priesthood of all believers, that we are all part of the body of Christ and have a calling to serve him in the world. Much of my work has involved me in encouraging and enabling others to recognise their gifts and calling. Secondly I would quote the words of Jesus from John 10:10 'I have come that you might have life – life in all its fullness.' I believe that only in Jesus can we know life in all its wonderful, joy, peace, love and fullness. I want to share that good news with others – especially those who are struggling or in pain, or vulnerable and marginalized for any reason.

So I look forward to being with you, getting to know you all and sharing with you in the Kingdom work over the coming two years.

With every blessing

Ann Lyall

### **LANARK PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT**

As most of you will know by now, the 'In Hunc Effectum' Presbytery meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> June rejected the Presbytery Plan which was presented and the manner of that rejection resulted in the resignation of the entire Presbytery Plan Review Group. As a member of the PPRG I feel that I am not in the best position to give an objective report on that meeting, so I have asked Lambert if he would be kind enough to do that.

The rejection of the Plan means that the Presbytery Planning process is back to square one and as a result, our current vacancy is likely to be

much prolonged. On behalf of the PPRG, I would like to apologise to the members of both congregations for this state of affairs. It was our hope that those congregations which are vacant would be able to move forward in the autumn, but that is not to be.

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

### **Presbytery Report (Part 2)**

As you should know by now, the Presbytery meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June rejected the Plan presented by the Review Group. The Review Group had put a great deal of effort in drawing up the Plan which was imaginative, forward looking and radical and was based on the report 2020 Vision which had been drawn up by the Church of Scotland Ministries Council in 2009. The meeting in June saw a lot of disagreement at times with some members of Presbytery determined to have the plan rejected.

I believe the plan was rejected for several reasons. First, members of Presbytery had not realised that they were expected to vote finally on the Plan at that meeting. It was almost as if the Review Group was presenting it as a fait accompli. Presbytery was not being given time to discuss all the aspects of the plan and to find the Review Groups reasons for the various groupings of parishes and the timescale proposed and to discuss alternative proposals. To present the plan, discuss it and vote to accept it all at one meeting was too ambitious. Although the meeting did discuss aspects of the Plan there was not enough time to do this fully. I think too that the Plan was too radical for Presbytery and gave the impression of something coming from the administrative centre of the Church of Scotland and not a plan based on local conditions. The main problems were not with the proposals for our area which were fairly straightforward and could have been accepted. However, Presbytery knows that a Plan has to be presented to a Committee of the Church in Edinburgh as soon as possible. None of the vacancies for ministers in presbytery can be filled until this is done. The longer the vacancies last the greater the problem for the individual churches.

The Presbytery meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> June was much more subdued, letters were read out from a number of individuals and kirk sessions expressing their dismay at the conduct at the meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> June and an apology was made for some of the statements at that meeting.

This Presbytery meeting was quite a full one and other items included

- Bill Love and Rev Una Stewart reporting on the General Assembly
- Rev Alan Gibson being appointed our interim moderator to replace Rev Jim Cutler

- the General Assembly has agreed to proceed with a National stewardship programme and it is proposed to hold a stewardship conference for our area on 5<sup>th</sup> October to which our congregation will be required to send 4 representatives.

- an arrangement to deal with the expenses of Miss Anne Lyall who is at present a deacon for our area.

- a report on the visit of representative from Seoul East Presbytery between 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June.

**Lambert Allan (Elder to the Presbytery)**

## NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

### Baptisms

On 19<sup>th</sup> June 2011 in Cairngryffe Kirk Hamish Robert Plenderleith, son of Stuart and Mahairi, 21 Cairngryffe Street, Pettinain.

### Weddings

Rosemary Smith Married Guy Whitefield in Cairngryffe Kirk on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2011

### Funerals

Miss Hilda Jeffries c/o Crosslaw House died 3rd June 2011 (Cairngryffe)

David Sinclair, formerly of Schoolhouse Road, Symington died in July.

### New Member

Mrs Helen Reid of 55 Millands Road Thankerton transferred from Peebles Old Parish Church to Cairngryffe on 30/4/2011

### Leaving Us

Drew Lynn of Kirk Place, Symington has gone to live in Airth

## SYMINGTON CHOIR

The choir resumes on Wednesday 7 September. If you enjoy singing and can hold a tune, think about coming to join us. You will be made very welcome.

**Choir Director Gaynor Russell on 01899 308240**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CAIRNGRYFFE

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

\* Presbytery Plan Review Group. You will remember I told you the proposals in the last Focus and things appeared to be promising for us but as I said they were only proposals. Well these proposals were rejected by Lanark Presbytery at their meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June leaving us back at square one and without a Minister.

\* Every cloud has a silver lining they say and we were given a gift from God in the form of a Deacon her name is Ann Lyall. She has already taken one of our services and visited several older people in our parish and will be contacting the local schools. She introduces herself in this edition of Focus.

\* Since the last Focus we have also been very fortunate in being given Rev Alan Gibson from Carstairs linked with Carstairs Junction as our new Interim Moderator. Alan also introduces himself in this Focus

\* The Elders will continue to lead worship in our church about once a month and our new interim moderator is in favour of this. We can see challenging times ahead and must continue to pray for God to help us find a new minister when we eventually get to the stage of being given permission to look for one.

**Jack Meikle. Session Clerk at Cairngryffe**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SYMINGTON

### *Pulpit supply*

Following upon the Presbytery Plan debacle, we are still in a state of suspense in regard to the future. As always, things have to be kept going however and we are grateful that we have Rev, Alan Gibson of the United Parish of Carstairs and Carstairs Junction as our new Interim Moderator. It was a bit of a shock to recall that his previous appearance in the pulpit in Symington was as a student fifteen years ago! Alan heads up a team of supply preachers who keep our Sunday worship on track- we are grateful to all of them.

### **Deacon**

A very welcome newcomer to our church family is Ann Lyall, a Church of Scotland Deacon who has been appointed to work in the Biggar area churches for two years. Ann was introduced at a special service in Biggar Kirk on 25 August. Ann has already settled in to her new home in Biggar and has begun her ministry. We wish her every success in this and assure her of our continued prayers and support.

### **Jim Cutler**

Jim Cutler, our previous Interim Moderator is leaving the area on his retiral and will be living in Peebles. Jim and Annis go with our warmest wishes and our prayers. We will miss them.

### **Ross Russell, Session Clerk at Symington**

#### **SUNDAYZONE @ SYMINGTON**

SundayZone restarts on 11th September. We hope to see the return of the friendly old faces and it would be lovely to make acquaintances with some new ones. Meet us in the church hall before the service and we will go over to Church together. After the children's address, we will go back to the hall for fun, singing, games and crafts as well as learning more stories from the bible. This term our topics will cover Jesus the Friend, Elisha the Prophet and Good and Faithful God. SundayZone will be on every Sunday at 9.30am (except for school holidays) until our nativity performance at Christmas. We are always looking for additional helpers so....if you are interested - please speak to one of the leaders for more information. Hope to see you there!

**Donna, Hazel & Susan**

#### **CAIRNGRYFFE SUNDAY SCHOOL 2011**

Sundays 21st August until 18th December 2011

Times AUGUST 9.30AM SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 11AM

We meet in the church for the first part of the service and then go to our own room for our Bible based activities.

This term we will be looking at some stories and teaching from the Old and New Testament and also study the lives of some Christian Heroes.

Holidays: September weekend; 25/9/11, October Break; 16/10/11, 23/10/11.  
**Rosmairi Galloway on 01555 880779.**

#### **FROM OUR KIRK TREASURERS**

##### **Cairngryffe Church Treasurer's Report**

This is a summary of income & expenditure Jan – July 2011

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Offerings	9,143	Ministry & Mission	6,039
Tax Back	4,279	Travel Expenses	83
Weddings	400	Joint Cong Exps	1,500
Social Committee	350	Salaries	1,513
Calendars	28	Printing & stationary	232
Tea Committee	161	Insurance	1,020
		Fabric	1,400
		Miscellaneous	85
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>10,431</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>11,772</b>
Deficit to date	1,440		

**Linzi Struthers, Treasurer**

##### **Symington Church Treasurer's Report**

Our expenditure continues to exceed income as outlined below. However the tax rebate, resulting from the "Gift Aid" scheme, should go some way to offsetting the balance when it is paid later in the year.

INCOME to date	£	EXPENDITURE to date	£
Offerings	15,224	Ministry & Mission	12,611
Other Income	1,079	Staff Costs	4,220
Special Income	334	Joint Cong Exps	1,500
		Building Costs	2,543
		Other Costs	1,313
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>16,637</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>22,807</b>
Deficit to date	6,160		

**Robert Carson, Treasurer**

## THE GUILD

### Cairngryffe Guild

The Guild meet in Thankerton Village Hall on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm.

Sept. 14th Visiting and Working in Peru Miss Anita Mathews

Oct. 12th Joint meeting with Symington Guild Recycling in South Lanarkshire Ms. Carol Anne Hannah/Ms. Linda Wylie

Nov. 9th South American Railway Journey - Part 2 Mr. Brian Curle

Nov. 23rd (Wednesday) World Mission Rally St. Nicholas Church Hall Lanark 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 21st – 28th Guild Week

Dec. 14th Christmas Celebrations Invited Guests

Feb. 8th One More Step..... Miss Anne Lyall

March 2nd (Friday) World Day of Prayer Cairngryffe 7:30 p.m.

March 14th Accordion Music and Chat Mr. Charlie Todd

March 14th (Wednesday) Spring Rally – AGM Greyfriars Church Hall Lanark 7:30 pm

April 11th Guild Dinner and AGM Tinto Hotel 6:30 p.m.

June 1st (Friday) Summer Rally Kirkmuirhill Church 7:30p.m New members are always welcome.

**Further information from President :- Mary McLelland – 01555 871114 Secretary :- Margaret Watt – 01555 663394**

### Symington Guild

Meetings are normally held in the Church Hall at 7.30 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. Please note that there are two changes this session.

22<sup>nd</sup> September – talk on Hearing Dogs for the Deaf by Eva Johnston.

12<sup>th</sup> October – Invitation to Cairngryffe Guild in Thankerton Hall (N.B. Wednesday)

24<sup>th</sup> November – talk on “The Royal Mile” by Bob Dalzeil.

15<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Carols / readings + Quiz (N.B. earlier date)

A warm invitation is extended to anyone who would like to come along and join with present members

**Contact Helen Anderson 308598 or Martha Cowan 308657.**

## SCOTTISH WOMEN'S RURAL INSTITUTE

### CARMICHAEL INSTITUTE

The first meeting of the new season will be on **Monday 12th September** in the hall at 7.30 pm when the speaker is Jamie talking about his visit to Zambia .

The **October 10th** meeting will be Doctor. Kane telling us about walking in Africa.

**November 14th** will see us all at the Robertson Arms Carnwath for a meal. This one is 7.00 for 7.30 pm.

**December 3rd** will be the annual carpet bowling tournament in the hall.

**12th December** will be “hands on” night for wire and bead jewelry.

Our meetings are normally on the second Monday of each month and start at 7.30 pm, all old and new members will be very welcome. For more information phone Janette on 01555 880614

### PETTINAIN INSTITUTE

Pettinain WRI meets in **Pettinain Village Hall at 7.30pm on a Wednesday**, annual subscription £15 Why not join us?

Wed 7th Sept 2011 – Crymbles Confectionery

Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2011 – Mary's Meals

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 2011 – Theatre Outing

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2011 – Hands on with Isobel

Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 2011 – Christmas Party

For further details contact **Ann Murray, Secretary on 01555 870379**

### THANKERTON INSTITUTE

Thankerton SWRI holds its meetings on the first Thursday of each month between September and April at 7.30pm in Thankerton Village Hall.

The meeting schedule for the first half of the September 2011 - April 2012 session is as follows

September 1<sup>st</sup> – Thai Cookery with Mrs Cuthill

October 6<sup>th</sup> - Flower arranging with Margaret Adamson

November 3<sup>rd</sup> - Antiques Roadshow with Angus Milner Brown

December 1<sup>st</sup> - Meal out for Christmas @ New Lanark (final date to be confirmed)

Any lady interested in coming along to any evening will be made most welcome as a guest. If you are interested in joining please contact

**Secretary Irene Ross on 308738, or Press Secretary Connie Johnstone on 308764**



## SYMINGTON INSTITUTE

Symington Rural will start the 2011/2012 session meetings on Thursday 01 September 2011 – in Symington Village Hall @ 7.30pm 1st Thursday of every month (September to April).

All friends old and new will be given a warm welcome as we enjoy a mixed syllabus over the coming months as follows:-

01 September 11 – Talk on Edinburgh Crystal by Daniel Fair

06 October 11 – Story Teller – Alison Galbraith

03 November 11 – 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration Dinner (venue t.b.c.)

01 December 11 – t.b.a.

Contact **Janet Hope, President at 01899 308716.**

## FLOWER LISTS

SUNDAY	CAIRNGRYFFE	SYMINGTON
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2011	Rosmairi Galloway	Val Horsefield
25 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2011	Carol Gardiner	Irene Madox
02 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 2011	Mary McLellan	Shirley Pratt
09 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2011	Annie Callan	Anne Blacklaw
16 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2011	Susan McDougall	Moira Taylor
23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct 2011	Sheana Rodger	Ella Hodge
30 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2011	Mary McLellan	
06 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2011	Kris Todd	Nan Raeburn
13 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2011	Maureen Bannatyne	Margot Leadbitter
20 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2011	Elizabeth Warnock	Lynn Carson
27 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2011	Margaret Clarkson	Susan Mathew
04 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011	Lily Borthwick	Linda McKay
11 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011	Sandra Stewart	Muriel Knight
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011	Christmas Flowers	Janette Hope
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011	Christmas Flowers	Christmas Flowers

## ORGANISATIONS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

### Carmichael Playgroup & Toddlers Group

This group for little ones from 0 to 5 years meets in Carmichael Village Hall on **Mondays** and **Thursdays from 9.15 to 11.15am**. The children enjoy a good variety of activities and all will be made very welcome. More details can be had from the playleader

**Catherine Hamilton, on 01555 665239.**

## Symington Playgroup

We meet twice weekly in Symington Village Hall, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 9.30am until 11.20am. Come and join us for singing, stories, games, arts, crafts and lots of fun! Children from age 2 are very welcome. We still have places available. For further information please call **Donna Allison on 01899 309049.**

## Tinto Toddlers

Tinto Toddlers, for parents and carers with children from newborn to nursery age, meet every Monday and Friday in Symington Village Hall from 9.45 to 11.15am. All will be warmly welcomed. Older school age children can join in during school holidays as we now operate throughout the year. We charge £1 per session for Toddlers and 50p for babies, including a healthy snack, with tea or coffee for mum/dad. For more information please call

**Chairperson Kate Melanby on 01899 308997**

## TINTO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

The After School Club are very pleased to announce that we received a £2,000 grant from the Lottery 2014 Grant. This will allow us to run some 4 weekly events where we have to pay for coaches outwith the parent circle to come in and teach the children some new activities. We are also able to buy some new equipment for the club to enable us to do some new activities. We are hoping to start up a new club - Hockey to run along with our current clubs :- Football, Badminton & Chanter. We have also got the current 4 weekly activities on at the moment:- Sewing, Gardening, Dance & Football for the wee one's. These clubs and one off activities let the children get a wee taste of the sports which they can then go on and join the local clubs if they wish.

We will also be running some one off Christmas activities for all age groups along with the yearly Christmas choir. This year Fiona Mathers will be putting on a show for all parents & locals to come along and see what great talent Tinto Primary has over 2 nights. Tickets will be sold nearer the time and a good turnout would be much appreciated so if interested please contact myself Aileen on 07801 854 763 and any Raffle prizes could be donated by handing them into the school.

We are also working along with the School to gain their second Eco Flag by building an Eco Greenhouse from 2 Ltr Plastic Bottles. This will

allow the Garden Club to use the greenhouse to grow some plants from seeds and also try some Tomato Plants.

We would also like to be able to offer the kids some chess again. Over the past years the children have been very successful in the chess competitions and we had 22 children take part in the Chess Challenge this year. It would just be great if we could provide these children with a coach who could take them on that bit further. So if you can help us out with this or know someone who can please contact myself.

**Aileen Simpson 07801 854763**

### **SYMINGTON GUIDES**

Junior Section - girls aged 10-14 meet on Monday evenings in Symington Village Hall from 7.15 to 9.15pm.

**Senior Section:** - girls aged 14 - 25 yrs now meet in Symington Village Hall on alternate Tuesday evenings from 5.15 to 7.15pm and there are spaces available. Help is always appreciated as our girls work towards various awards, so if any adult with a particular skill and an hour to spare on a Tuesday would like to help out we'd be delighted to hear from you.

**Call Anne Galloway (District Commissioner) on 01555 870865 for more information**

### **BROWNIES**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Tinto Brownies (Thankerton)**

The pack meets every Monday evening in Thankerton and all 7 to 10 year olds are welcome. The brownies learn lots of new and different things, games, crafts, badge work and even baking on a good night. If you would like further information about the Brownie Pack please contact

**Mandy Reilly on 01555 840010**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> SYMINGTON BROWNIES**

Alysoun, Claire and Rebecca look forward to welcoming the Brownies back to the Church Hall after our summer break. We are now looking forward to lots of activities, crafts, fun and games over the next few months. Brownies are open to all girls aged 7 – 10 years old. We meet from 6.15 – 7.15pm on Mondays. Anyone wishing to join please contact

**Alysoun Wilson on 01899 220609 / 07831 455404 for further info.**

### **RAINBOWS**

Rainbows are for girls aged 5-7 years and meet in **Symington** on a Monday during school term time. Each week we will be having fun working towards badges. More information can be had from one of our leaders, or from our sister organizations.

### **BEAVERS CUBS AND SCOUTS**

1st Biggar/Tinto Scout Group offers Scouting for boys and girls from the ages of 6 to 14 years of age.

Currently all sections are full, and we have a very long waiting list, however we are working on this problem and have recruited a number of adults willing to take the roles of leaders, which will allow us to open new sections at the end of this year or early next year. A few more adults would be most welcome to help with this.

Warranted leaders children take priority on our waiting list, and will be offered first places in the new sections.

If you would like to join the fun please contact Group Scout Leader Moira Struthers on 07917005464 or [gsl.biggar@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gsl.biggar@yahoo.co.uk).

### **BIGGAR PROBUS CLUB**

The Probus Club of Biggar, for retired Professional and Business men, meets in Biggar Municipal Hall on the first and third Tuesdays of the winter months, for fellowship and a speaker. The hall is open from 09:45 and tea and coffee are served until 10:15, the meetings themselves starting at 10:30. The first meeting of the new session will be on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October, when the speaker will be Mr Joe Ferguson on 'Microgeneration'. This will be followed on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October by Ruth Bryden talking on a 'Visit to the Holy Land'. New members are always welcome and further details, including the full programme of speakers for the session, may be found at [www.biggarprobusclub.org.uk](http://www.biggarprobusclub.org.uk) or from Jim Watt, tel: 01555 663394.

### **CARMICHAEL CARPET BOWLING CLUB**

The club meets every Tuesday night in Carmichael Hall at 7.30 pm and we all enjoy a game of bowls and a cup of tea.

This is a game of fun for all ages and all will be very welcome.

Why not leave the telly some night and give it a try.

For more information phone Jack on 01899 308397

## **CAIRNGRYFFE EVERYOUNG CLUB**

This club meets fortnightly on **Thursdays in Thankerton Village Hall at 2.00pm**. The programme for this autumn is as follows: -  
Oct 13th - Visit to China by Dr Nigel Lowrie.  
Oct 27th – Life in Barra by Peter Worthington  
Nov 10th – Bin Recycling by Nicola Mather  
Nov 24th - Talk on Gilbert & Sullivan's Music by Bill Love  
December 15th - Christmas Lunch, Cornhill House Hotel, 12.30pm for 1pm



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

## **THE UPPERWARD PARISHES HISTORY PROJECT**

The latest additions to our local history series are :-  
Carmichael Primary School Photo Book 1900-2000 £7.50  
Pettinain Primary School Photo Book 1890-1990 £7.50  
A history of Ponfeigh/Douglas Water in 2 volumes £15  
Available from the Editor on 01899 308327  
Previous publications which are still available from William Fleming on 01555 661386:-  
Carmichael – a Parish and its Peoples – 2 Vols - £15  
Covington & Thankerton – a Parish etc – 2 Vols £15  
Pettinain – a Parish etc – 1 Vol £8  
Libberton and Quothquan – 1 Vol - £8  
A Life in the Landscape – 1 Vol – covering Abington, Crawford, Crawfordjohn, Elvanfoot & Leadhills - £13  
+ many time-saving transcriptions of various census records since 1841 (including Strathaven)

### **Editor's Note**

Thank you to all contributors who provided the information contained in this newsletter  
The Christmas edition of **FOCUS** will be issued early in December. Contributions from **church** groups and organisations, covering the period from December 2011 up to the end of February 2012 should be sent to me by

### **Thursday 1st December 2011 at the latest.**

I can be reached at: - **Charlie Todd, 63 Station Road, Thankerton, Biggar ML12 6NZ Tel: 01899 308327 or by email at [mtb345@aol.com](mailto:mtb345@aol.com)**  
**(n.b. please do not send to former work e-mail address)**

## **Prayer Page**

### **Prayer and Praise Services**

Prayer is the key that unlocks all the resources of God's infinite grace and power. It releases the power of God to transform community, as those in our neighbourhood are touched by an awesome God of love and blessing through the power of answered prayer.

Prayer is speaking and listening to a trusted friend. It is not a formula, it is primarily a love relationship expressed between you and your loving heavenly Father. When believers pray together for their neighbours, they are asking God to shine the light of His grace and blessing into lives, homes, workplaces and throughout their community.

The joint Cairngryffe and Symington Churches Prayer and Praise Services re-commence after the summer break and continue to be held on the third Monday of every month and we invite everyone to come along and be a part of it. We look forward to welcoming new members joining us for prayer, praise and fellowship during the coming months.

The next service is in **Cairngryffe Church Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October '11 at 7.30pm**  
Then at **Symington Church Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November '11 at 7.30pm**  
Then at **Cairngryffe Church Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December '11 at 7.30pm**

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.

**Lord we ask that you hear our voices  
As we lift them up to you  
Help us to draw closer to you  
As we join together after the summer break  
Help us to grow in Faith, in Fellowship and in numbers  
Lord hear our prayer  
Amen**

### **Prayer Promoters**

Symington – George Mathew Tel: 01899 308648  
Cairngryffe – Sandra Stewart Tel: 01555 880655