

CAIRNGRYFFE PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Autumn - Winter 2023



Members of the congregation are warmly invited to our
Celebration of Communion
On Sunday 5th November 2023 at 11.00 am.

Cairngryffe Parish Church: one of the Tinto Parishes

Charity Number – SC 017001

From our Interim Moderator

Dear members and friends in Cairngryffe Church,

Greetings to you and your families in Christ's name. Amen. As the winter season approaches, I want to share some thoughts and words of encouragement with you. Winter is often a season of contrasts. It can be a time of great beauty, with glistening snow covering the landscape, turning our world into a serene wonderland. However, it can also be a season of challenges, with cold temperatures, shorter days, and the isolation that can come from staying indoors.

Just as nature goes through cycles, so do our lives. The cold of winter can sometimes feel like it is seeping into our hearts, causing us to shiver from the weather and the challenges and difficulties that life can bring. However, it is essential to remember that even in the coldest times, there is warmth in our faith community's love and Creator's love. This winter, I encourage you to find ways to share warmth and God's love with friends and family, including our members, especially those who may feel lonely or struggling. A phone call, a handwritten note, or an invitation to share a warm cup of tea can make a difference in someone's life.

As we approach the season of Advent and Christmas, let us reflect on the love and forgiveness shown to us through the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Lastly, let us be mindful of those in need within our communities. As the weather turns harsh, many may need a warm place to call home or enough food to eat. Consider contributing to local charities, shelters, or initiatives that support the less fortunate.

In closing, remember that winter, with all its challenges, is also a season of hope. Just as spring always follows winter, brighter days are ahead. Let us hold onto the warmth of our faith, the love of our church family, and the hope that sustains us through all seasons of life.

May your winter and Advent be blessed with love, joy, and peace.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr Elijah Obinna

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 Dr Obinna ensures that a minister is available when we need one.

INFORMATION

Interim Moderator: Rev Dr Elijah Obinna, Minister of St John's Church, Carluke

Tel: 01555752389

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

Mobile: 07733446567

Prayer Promoter: Liz Hiddleston Tel; 018999 221664

Visit Our Website: www.cairngryffekirk.org.uk **Webmaster:** Jim Watt

News from the Session

Since our last Newsletter in June a lot has happened.

When Carmichael Community Council held their Village Day on July, Angela and a team of volunteers provided art and craft activities in the village hall. We also had the church open for visitors on the day. We had a number of visitors both from the local area and further afield on the day.

As part of the preparation for the Open Day a number of illustrated cards with information about features of the church building and its history were researched, written, and are now available for future open days. A leaflet giving a brief guide to the church building is also available.

During the preparations for the open day, it was very interesting finding out a bit more about our church. The stained-glass window in the eastern gable wall of the church is pictured on the front of this Newsletter. It was installed when the church was reordered in 1904-1905. The window was designed by William Aikman and manufactured by the Whitefriars Glass company of London. It is a Te Deum window, based on an ancient prayer of the Christian Church; Te Deum "Thee O' God we praise". The window is incredibly detailed, it depicts figures from the Bible; Noah, St Peter ad Vincula, St Andrew, Mary, also those who were early evangelists of Southern Scotland; St Ninian, St Kentigern, Bishop Turnbull; a pre-reformation Bishop of Glasgow and founder of Glasgow University. There is a knight kneeling in prayer, dressed ready to go on the Crusades. Jesus is represented as the Risen Lord with the nail marks on his hands and holding the Banner of the Cross, he wears the crown as Christ the King and stands on water.

The Church at Carmichael was originally dedicated to St Michael and we see St Michael, the Archangel slaying the dragon representing Satan.

There are hosts of cherubins and seraphins and angels praising God.

Every stained-glass window tells a story; faith is represented through generations and millennia, the faith that has sustained our ancestors and us. Every time you look at the window you see more and more.

As a Session we were very disappointed that the Presbytery Mission Plan Action Group (MPAG) did not take on board what we as a cluster had recommended for our area. (*See Presbytery Report for what has happened with that report*), we seek further meetings to put forward our case for this area.

As a local rural church, we rely on your ongoing support in terms of your attendance at church, your gifts of time, talents and money which help us run our church. The church is part of the community and as such we must reach out to the community and encourage the community to be part of the church and continue the presence of the Christian Church in this rural area of Scotland.

On Saturday the 7th of October we held an all-age worship event for Autumn and Harvest, the theme was food and Harvest and was based around the Bible Story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand. We all had great fun taking part in art and craft activities (*see Community Outreach Worker Report*). Also, big thank you to all who took part, especially the volunteers who helped on the day.

We will hold a similar all-age worship event for Advent and Christmas on Saturday 9th December 2023. With art and craft activities, carols and refreshments.

After Harvest Thanksgiving we held a lunch; a sum of £75 was raised and donations of food gifted for the Clydesdale Foodbank.

The church will also be open on Armistice Day for anyone who wants a quiet time for prayer and reflection for Remembrance.

We now have available greetings cards and bookmarks, with Evelyn McEwan's watercolour painting of the church. Cards are £1 and Bookmarks 20p, available from your elder or the Session Clerk.

Church@Home sheets are also available for those who can no longer attend church as often as they wish, ask your elder or Session Clerk if you or someone you know would like one.

Cairngryffe also raised £318 in donations for Christian Aid in May.

A big Thank You to all who have supported all of our events.

Rosmairi J Galloway

Session Clerk

NEXT SESSION MEETING Monday 6th November 2023 7.30pm in the church.

Funeral

The funeral of Mr Meikle Tennant took place in the church on Tuesday 13th June. Meikle was brought up at Nethererton Farm, Hyndford Bridge. Meikle was a keen vintage lorry enthusiast, he had spent many years restoring his own Atkinson Truck which he regularly took to rallies. Meikle's coffin was brought to his funeral on a vintage Albion lorry which had toured parts of Lanarkshire associated with Meikle. He was a member of the church for many years until he moved to Stonehouse. Meikle was predeceased by his wife Grace and daughter Jillian, who he was buried beside. His funeral was led by Jillian Storrie, who is currently completing her ministry probation period at St John's Hamilton; Jillian was a neighbour of Meikle's for many years. We extend our sympathy to Meikle's family.

Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale.



Badge of Office for the Moderator of Forth Valley and Clydesdale Presbytery which was designed and made by Karen Walls a member of Larbert West Parish Church. It depicts the Burning Bush (symbol of the Church of Scotland) sitting in front of the Saltire. The Badge was worn by Jim Watt during his Co-Moderatorship of the new Presbytery.

Presbytery Report

At the Presbytery Gathering on 2nd September my fellow co-moderator, Rev Shaw Paterson, and I should have installed our successor, Rev Lorna Fyffe. Covid, however had other ideas. I tested positive the Monday before the meeting and, although I was negative by the Friday, decided that it would be more prudent

to join the meeting on-line. Lorna also tested positive during that week so Shaw was left on his own to install Lorna 'virtually'! How did we ever manage without the internet and ZOOM? Due to Lorna's Covid status Shaw and I also had to step in, as the 'reserves', to carry out an ordination in Falkirk the following Tuesday!

At that September meeting it was agreed that three congregations be dissolved, Carriden and Cleland, at their own request, and Larkhall: Trinity.

The dates for the three meetings to discuss the Presbytery Mission Action Plan were confirmed, two at the end of September and one on the 2nd October for our (South) area. At the first of these meetings on 26th September a counter motion was proposed deferring consideration of the Mission Plan to allow the Mission Plan Action Group (MPAG) '*to communicate to Kirk Sessions the precise rationale behind its decisions for each local situation where it has departed from the proposals made within clusters*'. This was passed by 89 votes to 80 and so no further discussion could take place and the other two meetings were cancelled.

In many cases the proposals were considerably different from those put forward by the cluster, as was the case with us. The three Kirk Sessions of Cairngryffe, Douglas and Upper Clyde were unanimous in the need to retain all three buildings due to the distances involved in travelling, however the MPAG proposed the closure of Cairngryffe and the possible closure of Upper Clyde, with Douglas Church being the main place of worship. Needless to say, we had prepared an amendment to overturn this with a robust case ready to support it.

The parish which would result from the union of these three congregations will cover an area of some 250 sq. miles, over 1/3rd of Presbytery, but was to have only one minister as the sole member of staff. This too was unacceptable to us and again we were prepared to challenge that.

It is now our intention to seek a meeting with the MPAG to put forward our case for retention of the three buildings and an additional member of staff.

A number of concerns have been raised with the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly recently about various aspects of the life of the new Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale. As a result, a Task Group has been established by the Legal Questions Committee to review the governance strategy of the Presbytery. They have met with a number of people and have made some interim recommendations, but were not proposing to produce a final report until the Presbytery Mission Plan had been agreed.

On 17th August I was privileged to co-lead, with Shaw, a service in Bothwell Church to recognise 5 candidates for the ministry moving on to their probationary period. The preacher at this service was the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Reverend Sally Foster-Fulton.

The Mission and Care Team of Presbytery has produced Hospital Visiting Cards. The purpose of these being that those who are going into hospital can have their local minister's contact details to hand, or to allow the hospital to phone the minister on their behalf. It also serves as a reminder of the Spiritual Care Team at the hospital if they wish/prefer to speak to them. If anyone would like some of these, Rosmairi has a supply.

To end this report, I would like to say that it has been an honour and a privilege to serve as co-moderator for the first 20 months of the life of the new Presbytery.

The next Presbytery gathering will be on 25th November.

Jim Watt (Presbytery elder)

Everyoung

The Everyoung Group meet in Thankerton Bowling Club on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 2pm with a speaker, tea and a blether.

Meetings started again on Thursday 12th October 2023 with a talk by Jim Ness about Biggar High Street through the ages.

26th October Rosmairi Galloway: Carluke's Furniture Industry

9th November Let's Uke (various local musicians): A session of popular music on ukulele.

23rd November Angela Wilson: Farming Chaplaincy and Field Names Project

7th December Christmas Lunch 12.30 for 1pm Shieldhill Hotel

2024

11th January Squeeze and Tease (John Morgan on accordion and Muriel on vocals) & afternoon tea provided by Biggar Branch of Cancer Research UK (ticket event)

25th January Burns Afternoon, with entertainers and speakers.

8th February Wendy Monk: Life as an Air Stewardess

22nd February Paul Archibald: Lanark Illustrated

14th March Ed Archer: What have the Romans Ever Done for Us?

28th Donald Harley: A Submariner's Life

11th April Anne Forrest: Great Rail Journeys of the World

25th April Claire Yuille: Braw Clan Clydesdale's Scots Language Drama Group

Contact Charlie Todd for further details on 01899 308327

Guild 2023-2024 Session

The Guild started their meetings for this session with a talk by Rae Lind, the Guild National Convener on 11th October.

Wednesday 8th November, the speaker will be Claire Scott who will speak about the work carried out by CrossReach, the Social Care Council of the Church of Scotland, who provide care and support services across Scotland.

Wednesday 13th December will be the Guild's Christmas Celebration.

Anyone who would like to join any of the meetings will be made most welcome.

Meetings are held at 2pm in Thankerton Bowling Club.

For any further information please contact Elizabeth Forbes on 01555 640018.



CARDS & BOOK MARKS

Greetings Card and Bookmarks are available for sale. Based on the watercolour painting of the church by Evelyn McEwan *see picture below*.



Cards are 14 x10.5cm (5 ½ X 4 ¼ inches) blank for your own message. Cost £1 per card.

A bookmark, with part of the picture printed on both sides are available at 20p each.

Order from your elder or Session Clerk.

Reflection

A time to Remember.

As we head into November, we enter the season of remembrance. As bairns most of us would have been familiar with the rhyme 'Remember, remember the 5th of November, Gunpowder, treason and plot', we probably gave the words of the poem little thought and gave even less attention to the politics behind the event it recalls. Our thoughts were filled with colourful fireworks and toasted marshmallows by the bonfire. Yet this rhyme seems appropriate to the season of remembrance when you reflect that it recalls a time of unrest and a call to arms for some. However, I imagine for most adults the real time of remembrance is November the 11th and Remembrance Sunday.

I greatly doubt whether those who signed the Armistice in 1918, in a railway carriage, in a French forest, could possibly have imagined ongoing significance of this annual and global act of remembrance. The First World War left nine million dead, nearly 21 million wounded and a further 5 million civilians dead from disease, starvation or exposure. At the time it was thought that this colossal loss of life would mark the end of all further wars. Unfortunately history has proven this great hope so tragically incorrect. As a direct result of the Treaty of Versailles there was to be another great war just some twenty years later and armed conflicts continue to be very much a feature of our modern world. Therefore, during our Remembrance Day activities we tend to remember not just those who died in both World Wars but in all other conflicts since.



For many folks the act of remembrance goes well beyond reflecting on the sacrifices of those enlisted to serve and protect us. This time gives us cause to think about all those that we have loved and lost. So, the two-minute silence is about more than the horrors of war and the ultimate price for freedom. This pause in a hectic world is a symbol of our spiritual need to be still; the formal silence, a prompt to the memory which helps us mourn our losses; and the poppy we wear, among other things, an acknowledgement of the limitations of human existence.

However, there is more to us than remembrancers. As we reflect on our own personal lives and on wider humanity, we bring with us hope for a better future and understanding that the world needs to change. The world is still not free of

tyrants and despots, our communities and families still face hardships. As Christians we pray for the day when God's new day will dawn.

So, we reach out beyond our finite horizons to connect with the God whose everlasting Kingdom of justice and peace will come. We, whose days are like the momentary splendour of a flower, are invited to know the God who is the eternal home of all those who trust Him.

In Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, there's a gravestone with a simple inscription on it. "I want to stand where you are standing."

Underneath is the story of an incident that occurred in the American Civil War. A Yankee soldier, only 19 years of age, was part of a firing squad, assigned to execute a man for treason. As he closed one eye and took aim down the barrel of his gun, he was horrified to see that he knew the man he was about to shoot. He lowered his gun, walked over to his captain and said "I can't do it. That man has a wife and children at home. If I shoot him, I not only end his life, but I end theirs too. I will make his wife a widow and I'll be robbing the children of a father. I can't do it."

So, after a discussion they came up with a plan. The young soldier could take the condemned man's place. The 19-year-old Yankee marched up to the Confederate captive and said simply, "I want to stand where you are standing." The captive took off his blindfold and walked away, back to his wife, his family, his life. But his freedom came at great cost to another: the young man who had willingly chosen to die in his place.

That's how through the death of His Son on the cross, God deals with our sin. Jesus takes our place. He is our substitute.

So, as we remember the fallen and with them our own mortality, we remember that in Christ, the self-giving God has remembered us but not our sin.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

Suzanne Campbell, Congregational Worship Group.

From Our Community Outreach Worker

On Saturday 15th July a team from Cairngryffe attended the Carmichael community fun day in the village hall. We provided adults and children with the opportunity to come and play and several took us up on the offer as you can see from the photos.



We also had the church open that day, and many people came in to see the building, both locals and people passing through.

Anna Chaplaincy

As many of the longer term wishes for our cluster are being realised in one way or another it has been decided that my primary focus over the next year or so is to develop the Anna Chaplaincy and projects around it.

At present we have our Harvest *Church@Home* sheets which have been given a revamp and are ready to be given out to anyone who doesn't get a chance to come to church as much as they would like. These are now being shared out gradually amongst all the churches in our cluster.

The *Field Names Project* is continuing and if you have any field names you would like to include, please let me know.

Remember When?... is being run from Douglas Victoria Bowling Club between now and Christmas, as a pilot project, on Thursday 2nd November and Thursday 30th November from 1-3pm, where we are reminiscing about times gone past. The first session in September was about growing up and the second session was about films, TV programmes and their stars. Someone also brought along a book on Lanarkshire picture houses which sparked lots of good memories. Being able to share memories and have others brought to mind help us to reconnect with the person we may have forgotten we are. This project is

dementia friendly but not solely for people living with Dementia/ Alzheimer's. We all have stories which we can share.

Farming Chaplaincy

The chaplaincy is continuing to go well, and I am making contact with increasingly more people who come along to Lanark. I have spent the summer Saturdays at as many of the local Agricultural shows as I can, from Lesmahagow to Moffat. Thankfully I have been blessed with reasonable weather for all, except one- Abington. Unlike some other unfortunate attendees, I managed to get out of the field under my own steam!!

As well as the farming community that uses Lanark, please remember the traders who are in the back hall in your thoughts and prayers. There have been lots of comings and goings this year and folks are concerned about how things are going to go in the future.

All Age Harvest Event

The all-age harvest event took place on Saturday 7th of October we had a number of children and adults attend. The theme was food and harvest; a number of craft activities were available including making a tote bag with drawings of favourite foods, making a picnic cushion, and a decorated tub. Our Bible Story was The Feeding of the Five Thousand, we all had great fun using potato stamps to make a frieze depicting the 5000.

CAIRNGRYFFE CUPPA, CRAFT & CHAT

Bring along any craft project you are working on and enjoy a couple of hours crafting in our lovely church.

Everyone welcome.

Starting monthly from Saturday 28th October 1-3pm.

For more details contact Angela Wilson 07543 796820.

Church Flowers

Gifts of flowers to decorate the church, or of money for the flower fund are always welcome.

Donations

Since the pandemic we have encouraged giving by direct debit, or sending a cheque to our treasurer. An open plate is available at the church entrance for free will offering.

Gift Aid enables us to claim back Tax, this boosts our income considerably.

However, as a charity, we should have Gift Aid Declarations which have been signed in the last 2 years. If you have not signed a declaration form recently; Gift Aid Declaration Forms are available from your Elder, the Session Clerk or Treasurer. Completed forms should be returned to them.



The church decorated for Christmas 2022.

TINTO PARISHES WORSHIP

SUNDAYS NOVEMBER 2023- NewYear 2024

DATE	CAIRNGRYFFE	LIBBERTON& QUOTHQUAN	SYMINGTON
	11.00 AM	11.00 AM	9.30 AM
05 11 23	Rev George Shand Communion	WG	Rev George Shand Communion
12 11 23	WG	Robert Allan	Robert Allan
19 11 23	Alan Grant	OA	Alan Grant
26 11 23	WG	Atim Utuk	Atim Utuk
03 12 23	Alan Grant	WG	Alan Grant
10 12 23	WG	Alan Grant	Alan Grant
17 12 23	Atim Utuk	OA	Atim Utuk
24 12 23	WG	Robert Allan	Robert Allan
31 12 23	Atim Utuk	Joint End of year Service Symington at 11.00am	
07 01 24	Robert Alan	Joint New Year Service Cairngryffe at 11.00am	

Church Services are correct at time of printing but may change..

Remembrance

Armistice Day Saturday 11th November 2023 the church will be open from 10am-1pm for private prayer and reflection.

Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2023, Service at 11 am including Act of Remembrance.

Advent and Christmas Events

Saturday 9th December 2023 2-4pm, FAMILY/ALL-AGE Christmas Event, Carols, crafts, a celebration for Advent and Christmas. Refreshments.

Sunday 24th 11.15 for 11.30pm Watchnight Service Cairngryffe, led by Congregational Worship Team.

Joint Services

Are at 11.00am

End of year 31st December 2023 at Symington.

New Year 7th January 2024 at Cairngryffe.