

CAIRNGRYFFE PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023



Members of the congregation are warmly invited to our
Celebration of Communion
On Sunday 12th March 2023 at 11 am.

Cairngryffe Parish Church: one of the Tinto Parishes

Charity Number – SC 017001

From our Interim Moderator

Dear members and friends in Cairngryffe

Lent begins, on Wednesday, 22 February, with Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of the forty days of Lent, and the start of our journey towards the celebration of the Lord's passion, death and resurrection. The Season of Lent this year takes place in a profoundly troubled world. We are pained as we witness the brutal war in Ukraine; stories and images coming out of Turkey and Syria in the aftermath of a 7.8 magnitude earthquake are devastating. The rising cost of living and energy is a concern for all, leading to personal anxiety and depression. While we despair of the bleak landscape that engulfs us, let us prayerfully hold to the hope we have in Christ Jesus. We also need to look within; we need an honest recognition of our own sins and recommit ourselves to honouring God in words and actions.

So our particular focus in Lent must be first of all on God, not ourselves. Secondly, it must be on our neighbours who are in need, because in those neighbours we are called to look with compassion on the face of the suffering Christ and seek to alleviate their pains. As we all embark on our Lenten journey, I commend to you the joint Holy Week services beginning from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. In the 40 days of lent, let us walk with Christ through his suffering and death and then rise to new life, the peaceful and hopeful life, of Easter Day!

With a promise of my prayers for you all, and a request for your prayers for me, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr Elijah Obinna

Interim Moderator

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

DATES FOR DIARIES

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14th -20th May 2023

CHURCH of SCOTLAND General Assembly 20th -25th May 2023

News from the Session

As I write this, Winter is turning into Spring. The days are getting brighter and longer. Snowdrops and aconites have pushed through the surface of the ground and are slowly coming into flower. Spring always follows the darkest depths of winter and brings hope of the new life of spring and summer.

Since our last Newsletter was published a lot has happened in our own church and in the Church of Scotland generally.

In November, we welcomed the pupils and teachers of Carmichael Primary School, who came over to the church on Armistice Day for their act of Remembrance. They were very interested in the church and asked lots of questions about our church.

In December they returned for their Christmas assembly; Children of the World and told the story of how Christmas is celebrated in different countries around the world. It was nice to see the church packed with their families attending the event.

During advent we also held a Carols and Christingles Service on a Saturday afternoon, this was an interactive, all age, family worship. Children helped tell the story of Christmas by finding the pictures of the important characters in the Christmas story hidden in the church and then helping to build a Christmas picture with them. We made Christingles and sang carols. Afterwards we had fellowship over refreshments. Everyone who attended enjoyed the event.

On Saturday 25th March we are going to hold a similar interactive, all age event, Spring into Easter to tell the Easter Story and the message of hope that Spring and Easter brings. It would be great to see families at this event.

In the middle of lent, Mother's Day, Sunday 19th March our Worship Team will lead a Big Sing Sunday morning worship for Lent and Easter. Rejoice and make a loud noise singing praise. We encourage you to come along, be joyful and meet each other.

Our Everyyoung group have had some very interesting meetings and an enjoyable Christmas Lunch at Shieldhill Castle. They have a full programme planned for the next couple of months and a summer outing is being arranged.

Sadly, Mr Yuel McMurray passed away on the 2nd of January, his funeral took place in the church on the 24th of January. We will miss his cheery presence in the church on a Sunday Morning.

We also welcome the Rev Atim Utuk, Atim is a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Nigeria, while she is studying at New College, Edinburgh Atim will be leading our worship on a regular basis.

Our Stated Annual Meeting takes place after Worship on Sunday 26th Of March, this is the business side of the church where our accounts for 2022 will be presented to the congregation.

As you are all aware the Church of Scotland drew up a Radical Action Plan several years ago. This is a national plan and affects every congregation of the Church. The plan is to slim down the administration of the church generally.

Already the numbers of Presbyteries have been reduced; our own Lanark Presbytery which had existed since 1581, was merged with Hamilton Presbytery and the majority of Falkirk Presbytery to form the Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale. Jim Watt is the first Co-Moderator of the new Presbytery.

Last year we completed questionnaires about our church's congregational life and work, our building was appraised. Lots of information was gathered by the Presbytery Mission Planning Team. However, they resigned en masse and the process stalled for a short while. A new Planning Team has been appointed. Congregations have been encouraged to group together locally with neighbouring congregations and discuss how the Church of Scotland can move forward in their own area. Cairngryffe has formed a cluster with Douglas Valley and Upper Clyde. Our first cluster meeting took place online on 16th of February, we had a fruitful meeting getting to know each other and what we do as individual congregations, as well as where we share our mission and resources.

Our next meeting will take place again online on the 16th of March. As a group we have to submit a proposal for our vision of how we as can work together in the future.

As a Session we will endeavour to keep Cairngryffe as a place of regular Sunday worship.

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.

A big thank you to all who contributed to Clydesdale Foodbank and Womankind Clydesdale Christmas appeals; our gifts of goods and money were greatly appreciated.

Our **next Newsletter** will be due for distribution late May- early June, any contributions, announcements etc. should be sent to me by Sunday 14th May 2023 at the latest.

Rosmairi J Galloway

Session Clerk

CARMICHAEL COMMUNITY QUIZ and PIZZA EVENING

Saturday 4th March 2023 5pm-8pm

In the Village Hall

Bring Your Own Drinks (No Alcohol)

A Free night of quizzing and free pizza for dinner

Supported by
Community Council

Carmichael



Everyyoung

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

23rd February Jim Watt (Biggar) The Mid Lanark Lines of the Caledonian Railway

9th March David Early (Thankerton) The Dulcimer

23rd March Mary Gilbert (Pettinain) African Safari

13th April Venessa Rogers Easter Island

27th April Alan Gardiner (Elsrickle) & the Everyyoung Ceilidh Dance Class Dem Team- Scottish Country Dance Music

13th July Trip details to be confirmed.

Contact Charlie Todd for further details on 01899 308327



Guild

The next Guild Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 2.00pm in Thankerton Bowling Club.

For further information about the Guild contact Elizabeth Forbes on 01698 640018

Session Meetings

Monday 6th March 2023, Monday 5th June 2023
Meetings held in the Church at 7.30pm.

Church Flowers

Gifts of flowers to decorate the church, or of money for the flower fund is 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.

Reflection: The Wrong End of the Stick.

Growing up I remember much consternation being expressed by parents and teachers over 'getting the wrong end of the stick'. The meaning of this was you knew when you had done it. It seemed to entail understanding something in an almost diametrically opposite meaning to what was actually meant.

There was a recent account of someone who found a magic lantern in their attic which had belonged to a great grandparent. This device pre-dated the slide projector. The person fixed it all up and got it operating. One of the slides showed a father and young son standing in front of a cage at the zoo. A notice on the cage read: Man Eating Tiger. The son is asking his father: 'When is the man going to eat the tiger?'

In the Gospels it seems to be dear Saint Peter who is always getting the wrong end of the stick. Take Luke's account of the Transfiguration in Luke 9:28-36. Jesus is joined by Moses and Elijah and God announces at verse 35 'This is my son whom I have chosen - listen to him'. The disciples present are, not surprisingly, astounded and overcome. Peter suggests that they build three tents one for Moses, Elijah and Jesus. His suggestion is so wide of the mark that Luke dismisses it witheringly in brackets: '(He did not really know what he was saying).'

However, we cannot be hard on Peter. He is trying his best to take in what exactly Christ was about. Hence it would be fair to say at this stage in Christ's Ministry that no-one, Peter included, knew what the stick looked like. Consequently, getting hold of the right end of was impossible.

Can we now be sure that we have now got the right end of the Gospel stick? I think it might be somewhat arrogant to say: yes, definitely. Faith ebbs and flows. Doubt besets us on occasions. Moments of insight lift us to an awareness of God's love for us. Absolute certainties, the right end of the stick, are perhaps best avoided.

By Denham MacDougall



Presbytery report for Spring 2023

Following the resignation of the Presbytery Mission Planning team a special meeting of Presbytery was held on 27th October at which the new Mission Planning Team (MPT) was appointed with Rev Ian Galloway, a retired minister from Glasgow Presbytery, appointed as convenor.

At the November meeting the updated Schemes for the Selection, Training and Authorisation of Worship Leaders and for Funeral Celebrants were adopted. Presbytery Dues for 2023 will be based on congregations' assessable incomes, that being the same as the basis for Giving to Grow (formerly Ministry and Mission) contributions. This year the dues will be 1.75%.

A further special meeting was held on 10th January at which the MPT presented the way forward for the process. Where a congregation were not happy with the grouping, or 'cluster' in which they had been placed they are free to join in a different cluster, the original cluster then ceasing to exist, leaving the remaining congregations free to reform as they saw appropriate. Any new clusters so formed have to meet and discuss their proposals, these to be reported to the MPT by 31st March. Your Kirk session has already begun this process and Rosmairi will give more details in her report. A special meeting is to be held in April to approve the Presbytery Mission Plan

Several more ordinations have taken place. That of Rev George Sneddon on 8th November at Viewpark and he will be serving as a Parish Assistant in East Kilbride. Rev Ekhart Bosch was ordained on 24th November at Airdrie: New Wellwynd and will serve as Parish assistant at Forth: St Pauls. Rev Mhairi Gilchrist was ordained on 26th January at Bonnybridge: St Helens and she will serve as Parish Assistant in Larbert.

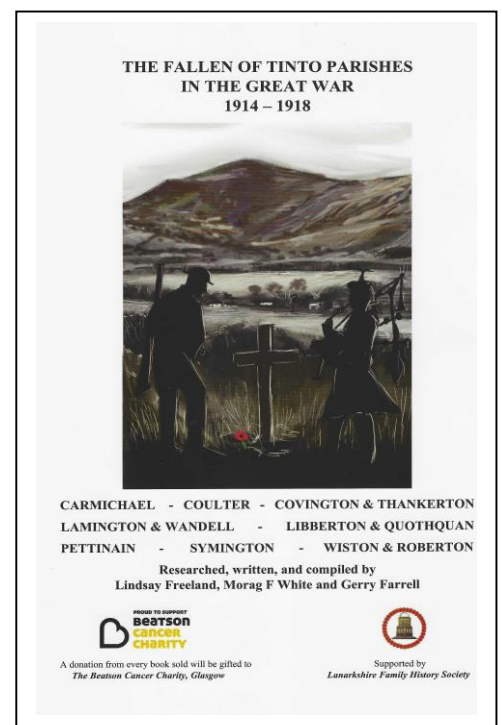
On 5th February a service of Introduction was held at Law Parish Church to introduce Rev Kwame Ahaligah as Parish assistant there.

The next Presbytery gathering will be on 4th March.

Jim Watt (Presbytery elder)

The Fallen of Tinto Parishes in the Great War 1914-1918

By Lindsay Freeland, Morag F White and Gerry Farrell. We still have a few copies available for sale at £5 per copy. If you would like to purchase a copy please get in touch with Charlie Todd (01899 308327) or Rosmairi Galloway (07733446567)



From Our Community Outreach Worker

We are plodding our way through winter and it is so nice to see faint signs of spring appear on my travels through Lanarkshire. It is hard to believe we are mid-way through February already!

Carmichael Primary

Since I last wrote an update to you, I had the pleasure of going into Carmichael Primary School to do a short Christmas assembly with the pupils about why the candy cane reminds us of the Christmas story. Little did I realise that part of their Christmas service had a piece about the candy cane – no wonder they knew most of the answers! Their Christmas service was lovely and well attended. It was so nice to see the church full and hear the sound of children enjoying themselves. The cup of tea, chat and carols in the school afterwards was really enjoyable too. The school put so much hard work into the event.

I plan to be back in the school for Easter.

Farming Chaplaincy

This is continuing at Lanark Mart on a Monday. As relationships are deepening with some of the regular attendees, there are deeper conversations starting to occur and in a couple of cases I have had folks suggesting I speak to other individuals. I ask that you keep our farming community in your prayers – as you probably do anyways!

I have also agreed to, but not quite tied down a date yet, be interviewed for Avondale Radio about farming chaplaincy!

Anna Chaplaincy

Locally, I have finally been able to start working on the **field names project** which is being run as a joint Farming Chaplaincy / Anna Chaplaincy project. It has opened up some really good conversations with people. If you would like to contribute to this project please get in touch.

I am also in the middle of creating a Valentines themed “**Church in a Bag**” for folks who can’t attend on a Sunday.

I am gradually researching other ways we can reach out to older people in our community and hope to be able to share ideas with you soon.

Angela Wilson



TINTO PARISHES WORSHIP

SUNDAY WORSHIP MARCH TO JUNE 2023

DATE	Cairngryffe	Libberton & Quothquan	Symington
	11.00am	11.00am	9.30am
05 03 2023	Worship Team	Atim Utuk	Atim Utuk
12 03 2023	George Shand Communion	Bill Buchan Communion	George Shand
19 03 2023	Worship Team	Atim Utuk	Atim Utuk
26 03 2023	Elijah Obinna Stated Annual Meeting	Bill Buchan	Elijah Obinna Communion
02 04 2023	Atim Utuk Palm Sunday Joint Service in Cairngryffe @11.00am		
	9.30am	11.00am	11.00am
09 04 2023 Easter Sunday	Atim Utuk	Bill Buchan	Atim Utuk
16 04 2023	Alan Grant	Worship Team	Alan Grant Stated Annual Meeting
23 04 2023	Atim Utuk	Atim Utuk	Robert Carson
30 04 2023	George Shand	Bill Buchan	George Shand
07 05 2023	Atim Utuk	Atim Utuk	Nancy Overend
14 05 2023	Alan Grant	Bill Buchan	Alan Grant
21 05 2023	Atim Utuk	Atim Utuk	Ross Russell
28 05 2023 Pentecost	Alan Grant	Bill Buchan	Alan Grant
04 06 2023	Atim Utuk	Atim Utuk	Douglas MacKenzie
11 06 2023	George Shand Communion	Worship Team	George Shand Communion
18 06 2023	Atim Utuk	Atim Utuk Stated Annual Meeting	Robert Carson
25 06 2023	Atim Utuk	Bill Buchan	Atim Utuk

SERVICE TIMES for 2023

January – March: Cairngryffe 11am, Libberton & Quothquan 11am, Symington 9.30am

April – June: Cairngryffe 9.30am, Libberton & Quothquan 11am, Symington 11am

July Joint services, at 11am, Rota around the three churches.

August – September: Cairngryffe 11am, Libberton & Quothquan 9.30am, Symington 11am

October- December: Cairngryffe 11am, Libberton & Quothquan 11am, Symington 9.30am

LENT and EASTER EVENTS

Rejoice!

Easter Praise, a congregational BIG SING EVENT.

Come along, invite relatives, friends and neighbours, and celebrate Lent and Easter. Sing some favourite hymns.

Cairngryffe Church Sunday 19th March at 11.00am.

Spring into Easter

An interactive, all age family worship event.

We celebrate the Easter Story through storytelling, singing and activities. Easter eggs and refreshments afterwards.

2-3pm Saturday 25th March in Cairngryffe Church.

HOLY WEEK 2023

PALM SUNDAY 2nd April 2023 Joint Service at Cairngryffe 11am Rev Atim Utuk

EVENING SERVICES during Holy Week

Date	Day	Time	Worship Leader	Location
03 04 2023	Monday	7.00pm	Alan Grant	Symington
04 04 2023	Tuesday	7.00pm	Bill Buchan	Libberton& Quothquan
05 04 2023	Wednesday	7.00pm	Atim Utuk	Cairngryffe
06 04 2023	Maundy Thursday	7.00pm	Elijah Obinna	Libberton& Quothquan
07 04 2023	Good Friday	7.00pm	George Shand	Symington

EASTER SUNDAY 9th April 9.30am Cairngryffe Rev Atim Utuk,

11.00am Libberton & Quothquan Rev Bill Buchan

11.00am Symington Rev Atim Utuk