

FOCUS

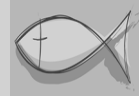
Spring 2017



Kirk and Community News

For the Churches in Tinto Parishes

THE TINTO PARISHES



Cairngryffe Parish Church
Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church
Symington Parish Church



Minister: Rev George C. Shand MA BD (01899 309400) george.shand@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerks:

Cairngryffe Parish Church - Charity Number SC 017001

Mrs Mary McLellan, Ledaig, Haghalm Road, Cleghorn, ML11 7SG (01555 871114)

Symington Parish Church: - SC 009095

Mr Ross Russell, Spindrifft, Main Street, Symington, ML12 6LL (01899 308240)

Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church - SC 016304

Mrs Liliias Nicholls, The Larches, Biggar Road, Libberton, ML11 8LX (01555 840572)

EVENING WORSHIP DURING HOLY WEEK

services are 40—45 minutes long, informal and reflective

MONDAY 10th April. 7.00pm—CAIRNGRYFFE CHURCH

Luke 20:9-19 Parable of the Tenants

TUESDAY 11th April. 7.00pm—LIBBERTON CHURCH

Luke 19: 45-48 A House of Prayer—Led by Rev. Elizabeth Clelland

WEDNESDAY 12th April. 7.00pm—LIBBERTON CHURCH

Luke 20:41-21:4 David's Son and the Widow's mite

THURSDAY 13th April. 7.00pm—SYMINGTON CHURCH

HOLY THURSDAY— Sacrament of Holy Communion

Luke 22:1-27 Last Supper

FRIDAY 14th April. 7.00pm—SYMINGTON CHURCH

GOOD FRIDAY—A Tenebrae.

Luke 23:32-47 Crucifixion



THE TINTO PARISHES:

The Church of Scotland serving the South Lanarkshire communities of Carmichael, Covington, Libberton, Pettinain, Quothquan, Symington, Thankerton and an extensive rural hinterland.

Visit our websites:

www.symingtonkirk.com

www.cairngryffekirk.org.uk

www.libbertonquothquan.org.uk

Webmaster: Robert Carson

Webmaster: Jim Watt

Webmaster: Paul Dobie

And find us on



Facebook

'The Tinto Parishes'

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

2017	Symington	Cairngryffe	Libberton
March 05	1100 O	0930 M COM	1100 M
March 12	1100 M COM	0930 M	1100 O
March 19	1100 O	0930 M	1100 M COM
March 26	1100 M SAM	0930 M	1100 O
April 02	1100 O	0930 M	1100 M
April 09	Joint PALM & PASSION SUNDAY Service in Cairngryffe Church at 11.00am		
April 16 Easter	1100 M	1100 O	0930 M
April 23	1100 O	1100 M SAM	0930 M
April 30	1100 M	1100 O	0930 M
May 07	1100 O	1100 M	0930 M
May 14	1100 M	1100 O	0930 M
May 21	1100 O	1100 M	0930 M
May 28	1100 M	1100 O	0930 M
June 04	1100 O	1100 M COM	0930 M
June 11	1100 M COM	1100 O	0930 M
June 18	1100 O	1100 M	0930 M
June 25	1100 M	1100 O	0930 M
July 02	Joint Service in Libberton Church at 1100 am		

M=Minister; **O**=Own arrangements; **COM**= Communion Sunday;
SAM= Stated Annual Meeting of Congregation

PRAYER & PRAISE

Monthly at 7.30pm

Our monthly Monday evening worship events, hosted in turn around the Tinto Parishes, are a lovely complement to our regular Sunday morning worship. The services are relaxed, creative, built around a theme, and often with a more meditational feel to them. They run throughout the year from September to May.

**Monday 20th March 2017 at Symington Church
(Tuesday) 12th April at Libberton Church**

(note, this service is part of our Holy Week services,
and is also advertised elsewhere)

Monday 15th May at Cairngryffe Church

MINISTER'S LETTER

The BBC is currently celebrating the 75th year of 'Desert Island Discs' on the Radio. The format is for a celebrity guest to be offered a prolonged stay, alone, on a desert island. They can take eight records with them, and are interviewed about why they chose these records – and each one sparks memories. Over two thousand people have been guests of this programme, and through it shared some fascinating insights into their lives - sometimes very poignant, sometimes funny, always emotional. This is the 'soundtrack of our lives', as someone once said. Most of us, even if we are not enthusiastic music fans, could create such a 'soundtrack', and if we shared it with others, many memories would come alive in the sharing.



In this issue of our magazine we profile a project, 'Playlist for Life' working with people with dementia, which uses that idea of 'connecting music, people and memories' to open up new possibilities for families to continue sharing together. Using technology to benefit others.

There are many significant ways that we can use modern technology in our efforts to 'be church.' The broader church is constantly exploring this. Of course, technology has many down sides – it can be used in many bad ways, as we mention in the article about 'Data Protection'. But it is really refreshing when we put our minds to using scientific understanding and technology in ways that benefit us all.

We walk a bit of a tightrope in this present age – on the one hand, we have created a nightmare of weapons whose ability to destroy is beyond our comprehension – on the other, we have had remarkable advances in medical science that extend both the length and the quality of so many lives.

The ways we explore and develop technology are simply an extension of who we are – so, if we live in fear, we orient scientific and technological discovery towards a fearful end. If we live for peace and harmony, we seek technology that can benefit all of humanity.

It does feel that the Playlist for Life motto: "connecting music, people, and memories" is expressing something much broader than its specific tasks. It is about using our technology to 'connect', to open up new ways of valuing each other. It is, in fact, another small but important model of how we can use our imagination, and what we have around us, in Gospel ways.

*Gracious God, we are awesomely and wonderfully made—in your image.
May we show our thanksgiving, love and respect of you by respecting at
the deepest level the life, and the inner life, of other people.*

Your friend and minister,

George

WORSHIP CALENDAR.

We continue to follow Luke's Gospel as we enter the season of LENT. At the end of Chapter 9 we read: "When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him." (Luke 9:51) So everything we read and share through LENT is given to us in the context of Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem, and the events of Holy Week.

LENT 1 March 5 th	The Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-42
LENT 2 March 12 th	Lament over Jerusalem	Luke 13:1-9, 31-35
LENT 3 March 19 th	Lost sheep, lost coin, lost Son	Luke 15:1-32
LENT 4 March 26 th	The Rich Man and Lazarus	Luke 16:19-31
LENT 5 April 2 nd	Zacchaeus	Luke 18: 31 - 19:10
April 9 th	PALM AND PASSION SUNDAY	Luke 19: 29-44
April 16 th	EASTER SUNDAY	Luke 24:13-35

April 23rd is our final Sunday in Luke's Gospel, and then we explore a little in the Book of Acts - written by the same author, so we can expect some continuing themes.—and then two weeks on themes in Paul's letter to the Galatians, before we connect Acts and Galatians together on Pentecost Sunday.

April 23 rd	The Emmaus Road	Luke 24: 13-35
April 30 th	Stephen's Witness	Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60
May 7 th	Ethiopian Eunuch is baptised	Acts 8:26-39
May 14 th	The Council at Jerusalem	Acts 15:1-18
May 21 st	Living by Faith	Galatians 1:13-17, 2:11-21
May 28 th	One in Christ	Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29
June 4 th	PENTECOST SUNDAY	Acts 2:1-4, Galatians 4:1-7

The summer schedule will appear in the next issue of Focus.

CARE HOME WORSHIP—April 2017.

Rev. George will lead worship in the following Care Homes in Biggar:

Greenhills Wednesday 12th April at 2.30pm

The Bield Wednesday 26th April at 2.00pm.

And also at the Gillespie Centre Lunch Club on 18th April at 1pm

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

—WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CAIRNGRYFFE—

Baptisms : Andrew Struthers, Lesmahagow on January 22 2017

Looking back, thanks are in order to the ladies who decorated the Church for the Christmas Season as well as to James Warnock who provided us with a beautiful, fresh tree after we learned that the Carmichael Estate was unable to provide us with one in 2016.

Thanks also to the new members of the Worship Group who participated in the preparation and delivery of the Watchnight Service which was very well attended – and of course the Church Bell joyously rang out at midnight, to the delight of some young local residents in Carmichael.

We have had two babies baptised in recent months, with another coming up shortly and also two weddings booked for future months. We now look forward to the Easter Celebrations which are almost upon us and, in particular, to our Joint 'Palm and Passion' Sunday Service in Cairngryffe Church on Sunday April 9th, which heralds the beginning of our services throughout Holy Week.

Sadly, I have to report that after 10 years of operating in the Clydesdale area, and due to the retirement of the Convenor, New Beginnings Clydesdale will be changing course somewhat in the second quarter of 2017. They will no longer be providing Home Starter Packs to new tenants. However the urgent need for white goods has been identified as a very necessary project and this will be their new direction commencing at the beginning of April. The premises in Carluke will be closed and the project will be administered by one of the Trustees from a home office base.

We would like to thank everyone in Tinto Parishes and beyond who has supported them in the past – without that practical support the group could not have helped the thousands of clients over the ten years. NBC is still open to financial donations however to support their new project.

Mary McLellan. Session Clerk at Cairngryffe

—CAIRNGRYFFE SUNDAY SCHOOL—

We meet in the church at the start of morning worship, and stay in the church for the first part of the service. We then go out to our Sunday School Room for our own activities.

This term we will be looking at stories of Jesus from Luke's Gospel. In Lent we will study the Easter Story and prepare for our joint Palm Sunday Service.

Dates and Times:

From now until Sunday 2nd April we will meet in the Church at 9.30am on Sundays.

For Palm Sunday see arrangements for joint Service at 11am.

Easter Sunday, no formal Sunday School but Easter related activities will be available.

From 23rd April until 18th June, Sunday School will be at 11am on Sundays.

For further information, call Rosmairi Galloway 01555 880779
(pepperknowes@btinternet.com)

—WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SYMINGTON—

The funeral of one of our oldest members, Margaret Gilbert who died on 18 January 2017, took place at Holytown Crematorium on Friday 27 January. Margaret had been ill for some time and had moved from Thankerton to live with her daughter, Mary, at Pettinain. Despite increasing difficulty, she persisted in her attendance at church as long as she was able. She found the friendship and support that she received in Symington a great comfort and consolation as her illness progressed. We will miss her enthusiasm and her great faithfulness and we extend our sincere sympathy to her, Mary, to Margaret's son, Robert and her grandchildren.

George contacted me last week to say that he had had a message from the minister at Cumbernauld Old Parish about a funeral she conducted recently for Elizabeth Gatheral, who was in a Lennoxton Care Home. Many of you will remember Betty and Alec Gatheral who lived for many years in Scauthill and who worshipped with us at Symington. Alec played the organ for a period at Coulter and although latterly, they moved to St Giles in Edinburgh to worship, they both remained strong friends of Symington Kirk before they moved from the village.

Ross Russell, Session Clerk at Symington

—SYMINGTON SUNDAY ZONE—

As previously reported, Sunday Zone is not meeting on Sundays at present. There are not enough young people attending Church on a regular basis. There are worksheets etc., for children who do attend. We love to welcome the young ones any time in Church and look forward to more.

There is a special Palm & Passion Sunday Service planned at Cairngryffe Church on 9th April involving as many of the young people from our 3 Churches as possible.

It was an excellent Service last year and we hope we can repeat it.

Contact:- Jessie Duff on 01899 308365 for more information

—WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIBBERTON & QUOTHQUAN—

Christmas was lovely at L & Q. The church was beautifully decorated as usual and thanks to the ladies who make this possible year after year.

Our Christmas programme of services was well attended especially the Sunday before Christmas when our young people did us proud in 'Straw and Order', and on Christmas Day when we had a number of visitors celebrating this special morning with us. Perhaps the sherry and shortbread had something to do with it!

We have been pleased to have had John Turnbull lead us in worship on the Sundays we have not had George, and our small Worship Group were on duty on 12th February.

The Prayer Group continues to meet each month and the coffee club are going strong, meeting once a fortnight in each other's home.

We host 'Prayer and Praise' on the Tuesday of Holy Week and are delighted to welcome Elizabeth Clelland, from Braehead House, on that evening, to tell us about her Pilgrimage at the end of last year.

As we hurl toward Lent we look forward to Spring and Easter.

Lilias Nicholls, Session Clerk at L & Q

—OTHER CHURCH NEWS—

PLEASE LET OTHER PEOPLE KNOW	Cairngryffe Parish Church
	has a Vacancy for an ORGANIST
Sunday worship and special services, occasional weddings and funerals.	
For more information, please contact our Session Clerk, Mary McLellan on 01555 871114	

—OTHER COMMUNITY NEWS—

CAIRNGRYFFE EVERYOUNG CLUB

Meetings are held fortnightly on **Thursdays in Thankerton Village Hall at 2.00pm.** and all who are young at heart are welcome!

23 rd February	Charlie Kirkpatrick (Giffnock)
9 th March	Beith Forrest (Biggar)
23 rd March	Joyce Osprey (Covington)
13 th April	Denham Macdougall & Stuart Nelson
27 th April	Rev George Shand

For more information contact Secretary, Charlie Todd, on 01899 308327

PRESBYTERY REPORT

Following the appointment of Rev Bryan Kerr as Presbytery Clerk, a formal contract has been drawn up and agreed.

As a result of two of its members having retired from Presbytery Rev George Shand has been appointed as convenor of the Complaints Committee and Rev Maudeen MacDougall and Mrs Anne Cochrane will join with the existing members.

As a result of the Local Church Review visit to Coalburn linked with Lesmahagow Old, discussions are taking place between the Kirk Sessions and the Ministries Committee over the future shape of ministry in the area.

At the December meeting a presentation was given on 'Grasping the Nettle with the God Question'. This gave an outline of a set of DVD's and supporting literature for those who wish to explore further the relationship between God and science, the overarching theme being that there is no conflict between scientific knowledge and belief in God.

The Overture on the Registration of Ministers, which was sent down to Presbyteries at the 2016 General Assembly, was approved. This seeks to establish a central registry of all ministers and their field of ministry and will go before the General Assembly in May for final approval.

The vacancy at Douglas Valley has been sisted temporarily while they undergo a local Church Review. Under the Act governing vacancies, Presbytery is required to review the situation after two years. The congregation are facing a number of challenges and have themselves asked for support. The review will seek to establish what the best nature of that support will be.

The 'Big Question' rally which was held in November was well received and the World and Community issues Committee are looking at possible future topics. These include :- The issues surrounding the present day situation in Israel/Palestine, Mental Health needs - theological and pastoral responses, and including people with learning disabilities in our life and worship

Presbytery are seeking to employ the services of a consultant over the next 5 years to assist in the training of people to carry out Local Church Review Visits with the aim of establishing a group from whom teams can be drawn to carry these out. The 5 year period will allow every congregation to be visited and it is hoped that, as a result of their experience of undergoing such a visit, one or two members of each congregation might be willing to join the group. Those congregations which have already undergone a Review have found it positive and helpful in developing their Christian witness.

Jim Watt (Presbytery Elder Cairngryffe Kirk)

FLOWER LISTS

SUNDAY	CAIRNGRYFFE	SYMINGTON
19 th Feb 2017	Sadie Campbell	Margaret Cleland
26 th Feb 2017	Rosemary Whitefield	Sheena Carlisle
5 th Mar 2017	Maureen Bannatyne (Communion)	Etta Prentice
12 th Mar 2017	Margaret Bulloch	Ella Hodge
19 th Mar 2017	Annie Callan	Marlyn Masterton
26 th Mar 2017	Margaret Smith	Mary Hodge
2 nd April 2017	Rena Borthwick	Isobel Grierson
9 th April 2017	Barbara Miller	Joint Service
16 th April 2017	Cathryn Forrest	Easter Flowers
23 rd April 2017	Elizabeth Warnock	Margaret McGregor
30 th April 2017	Liz Hiddleston	Nancy Overend
7 th May 2017	Sheena Somerville	Judith Stubbs
14 th May 2017	Isobel McClymont	May Lindsay
21 st May 2017	Margaret Clarkston	Anne Hill
28 th May 2017	Carole Gardiner	Jean McCurrach
4 th June 2017	Rosemary Whitefield (Communion)	Nan Warwick

Editor's Note

I would like to express grateful thanks to everyone who contributed material for this edition of Focus

The summer edition of **FOCUS** will be issued mid May 2017. Contributions from church groups and organisations, covering the period from June 2017 to the end of August 2017, should be sent to **the Editor by Sunday May 5th at the latest.**

I can be reached at: -

Charlie Todd, 63 Station Rd, Thankerton, Biggar ML12 6NZ
Tel: 01899 308327 or by email at kandctodd@gmail.com

BEING CHURCH - in the local community

There are many interesting examples of how local congregations have initiated projects that 'bring life' to needs they have identified within their communities. Here is one example from South Lanarkshire.



'Playlist for Life' is a Scottish and UK charitable organisation, which originated in Glasgow, as the idea of the broadcaster Sally Magnusson after her experience of her mother's dementia.

"Being able to respond to music is the one thing dementia cannot destroy," says Playlist for Life, "We encourage and help families and caregivers to create a playlist of personally meaningful music on an iPod for people with dementia."

There is growing evidence that if people with dementia are offered frequent access to the music in which their past experience and memories are embedded, it can improve their present mood; improve their awareness; improve their ability to understand and think; and help their sense of identity and independence.

St. Andrew's Church in Carluke has recently been awarded a grant from the Aviva Community Fund to introduce Playlist for Life into their 'Drop-In support for people with memory difficulties and their carers'.

The 'Drop-In Support' began in November 2012 with the support of Alzheimer Scotland and the Local Community Psychiatric Nursing Team. It meets on the last Friday of the month, (1pm to 3pm) and there is also now an activity session on the second Friday of each month which encompasses the development of a Playlist for Life 'hub'.

The Aviva funds will be used to provide ten kits made up of an iPod shuffle, two sets of headphones per iPod, a splitter cable and a Playlist Memory Book. The individual and a carer can listen to the tracks at the same time, and share the memories that arise.



"The 'Drop in' is a safe and comfortable place where people can receive friendship and support as well as build relationships with other people" says Rev. Helen Jamieson. "Currently, we have around 75 regular users, with about 50 attending the Drop in Support each month. It clearly meets a need not only in Carluke but in the surrounding area and we are constantly developing the project and hope it will become intergenerational, with younger people from BBs and High School bringing their technical skills to assist with Playlist for Life."

**Drop-in for Playlist for Life (2nd Friday of each month 1-3pm)
at St. Andrew's Church, Carluke.**

You could create your own playlist or one for a relative—you can get hold of a 'Playlist for Life' leaflet or visit www.playlistforlife.org.uk

HYMN PAGE.

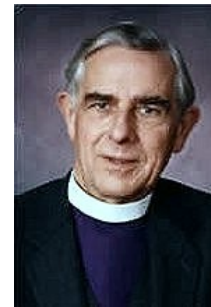
TELL OUT MY SOUL HYMN 286

Timothy Dudley-Smith's beautiful version of Mary's Song, the Magnificat, in Luke's Gospel (1:46-56), was first published in 1962, and is still a world-wide favourite for new hymn books. Timothy was born in Manchester in 1926, ordained a priest in the Church of England in 1951 and was Bishop of Thetford when he retired in 1992. He has received many awards for his hymn writing, including in 2003, an OBE.

Timothy has written and published over 400 hymn texts. He does not write music – all his texts are to well-known tunes.

Timothy loved to write poetry. He was in his middle 30's when some friends, producing a book of new hymns, asked him if he had ever written hymns. Timothy laughed. 'I love to celebrate my faith in words,' he said, 'but I have absolutely no ear for music.' But they persisted – 'perhaps you have a poem on a Christian theme that is written in meter,' they said. It just so happened he had recently written one, and he sent it to them. They found a good tune to go with it – 'Woodlands' - and published it in their hymn-book in 1962.

That was 'Tell Out My Soul' – his first hymn ever published. And it began Timothy's hymn-writing career – his style is mainly 'new words to old tunes'. He began writing at a time when there was a new demand in the church for contemporary hymns, and because he chose established tunes, and wrote his verse in a traditional way (but without any archaisms), his hymns often acted as a bridge between the old and the more modern hymns. And they are very suited for Sunday worship.



In a recent interview on Radio 2, he was asked to comment on how good hymns nowadays no longer stay restricted to one particular tradition or denomination – they cross boundaries.

This was partly due, he said, to programmes like 'Songs of Praise', that open out the songs of different traditions to a wider public. But also, quoting the poet TS Eliot, he said that as human beings we are born with a sense of rhythm. It begins in the womb, as we develop close to our mother's heart-beat; it continues in the rhythm of the stories we

enjoy as children; there's a rhythm in the changing of the seasons. The whole of life has a natural beat – rhythm resonates through everything.

So we could say of well-known hymns, like many written by Timothy Dudley-Smith, that they are popular because they touch a rhythm deep inside us.



FROM OUR KIRK TREASURERS

Final accounts will be presented to members at the Stated Annual Meeting of the congregation. These figures, January to December 2016, are provisional.

CAIRNGRYFFE

Income 2016		Expenditure 2016	
Offerings	£17,848	Ministry & Mission	£13,743
Tax Back	£4,872	Minister's Travel	£753
Tea Committee	£643	Salaries	£3,044
Donations	£435	Joint Cong Costs	£1,191
Weddings / Funerals	£600	Presbytery Dues	£465
Calendars (net)	£160	Fabric Repairs	£55
Guild Donation	£200	Insurance	£689
Investment Inc	£134	Pulpit Supply	£260
Interest	£84	Printing & Station	£486
		Misc Expenditure	£929
TOTAL INCOME	£24,976	TOTAL EXPEND	£21,615
		Net Surplus	£3,361

Linzi Struthers, Treasurer

SYMINGTON

Income 2016		Expenditure 2016	
Standing Orders	£22,126	Ministry & Mission	£20,560
Plate Offerings	£3,853	Presbytery Dues & Minister's Travel	£1,308
Weekly envelopes	£3,971	Other Staff Costs	£5,461
Gift Aid Tax Back 2015	£7,361	Joint Cong Exps	£1,062
Other Offerings	£2,042	Heat & Light	£2,030
General Trustees (CFF)	£2,454	Fabric Maintenance	£10,689
Charity Collection	£90	Charity Payovers	£279
		Insurance Church/Manse	£1,464
		Other Costs	£447
TOTAL INCOME	£41,897	TOTAL EXPEND	£43,300
		Net Deficit	£1,403

J Eric Carlyle, Treasurer

THE WORLD CHURCH

The Church of Scotland has a global vision, which is well reflected at our General Assembly when delegates from churches all over the world stand and speak. Last May at Tinto Parishes we met Rev. Andrew Chulu from the United Church of Zambia. He spoke powerfully to us about the impact of Climate Change on his country.

The Church of Scotland has had long-term ecumenical contacts with Zambia, and today, many individual congregations have Twinning Partnerships with Zambian congregations. Our World Mission Council, in partnership with the Methodist Church, also supports **KEITH AND IDA WADDELL** as Mission Partners. Since 2004 they have been based at the Mwandu Mission of the United Church of Zambia (which includes a church, a Hospital, a group of schools, a centre for orphans and vulnerable children, and a retirement home). They have two children—Mubita and Catriona.

Here is an extract from one of their letters to Partner Churches in Scotland.



"Zambia hosts 54,000 refugees, of whom approximately 20,000 are from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Amongst this number are a family of six whom we've come to know simply as "our family".

"We met our family when a district social work officer asked Ida for help with four boys who were living in prison with their mother. They had fled from the DRC, where their home had been attacked and insurgents killed their grandparents. Children's passports in the DRC cost \$300 each, plus a 'facilitation fee'. The parents could not afford this, so they walked into Zambia without these passports – and were subsequently jailed for 15 months each.

"There are no orphanages in Western Province, so the children would have to be split up and sent to children's homes in different parts of Zambia. We were the only officially registered foster parents in Western Province, and the Court handed the children over to us for the duration of the parents' imprisonment. They lived with us and we became close to the parents too. Once a month, we would take the boys to visit their parents, bringing food parcels to supplement the rather spartan prison fare.

"The next problem was that the boys' parents were classed as 'prohibited immigrants' and the family would be expelled back to where they had fled from—where their lives were in danger. We could not permit this, so we lobbied behind the scenes to have their status changed to refugees. On the parents' release, they were allocated places at Mayukwayukwa Refugee Centre. We keep in touch via Facebook Messenger and try to send them some money from time to time. We are the grandparents now!"

You can find out more about Keith and Ida's ministry at:
<https://keithandidainzambia.wordpress.com/>



TINTO PARISHES FACEBOOK PAGE



If you are not 'social media' minded you may want to skip this. But please don't.

We started a Pilot Facebook page last year to update intermittently with Church News and pictures – for example some of our lovely Christmas displays - and also with news that is more community oriented, like pictures of our In-Service Day Club, or school events in the Church.

And we are finding that while we don't have many people who want to see everything – called 'Friends' or 'followers' and they 'Like' the page – there are a lot of other people who come to our page after these events to have a look - this is called our 'Reach'.

Simply put, we have less than 20 'followers', but our 'reach' can sometimes be over 100 people. It is beginning to look like Facebook is actually connecting with our broader community in new ways.

This is a resource we are still learning how to use to good effect. What we now aim to do is connect it to our Websites, and start updating it more regularly with news.



How you can help, especially if you are interested in photography.

Facebook is a very Visual medium, and we know that there are people connected to our Page who are interested in all things Tinto and Lanarkshire – including the countryside and the sights. If you are, or know, a photographer who would like to see some of their photos up on the Facebook page please just get in touch with Rev. George.



JANE HAINING (1897-1944) A Church of Scotland missionary and Matron to the Jewish Girls Home in Budapest. Jane is especially remembered for keeping the children safe during four years German occupation of Hungary during the Second World War. She was finally sent to Auschwitz where she died.

MARY SLESSOR (1848-1915).

Mary is the most celebrated Scottish missionary to Africa since David Livingstone, who inspired her to a life of service. She worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life of the native people in Calabar, Nigeria.

We know where you live!

THE CHURCH AND DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION.

In this digital age, we are becoming increasingly aware of the risk of 'scams' that rob us of our money, by giving someone access to our bank accounts, or to our computers. It is easy to become a victim because some of these scams sound so plausible. We must be constantly on our guard.



Organisations must be careful too. We give personal information to banks, government departments, and shops, etc—and we expect it will be kept securely, and be used for the right purposes.

However, that can't be guaranteed, which is why Data Protection legislation has developed – to ensure all organisations handle information about us in a way we are happy with, and also that they store it securely.

The Church is an organisation, with information about its members, and it too must have the highest of standards. The Church of Scotland has produced Data Protection Policies for each congregation to adopt and to work to. And every congregation must appoint a Data Protection Officer - who monitors our use of data, and is named, so individual members can make contact.

Most of the information the church holds is basic – names and addresses of members, so elders can visit; so information, like this newsletter, can reach you. You will have given these details willingly as part of your membership.

But it can be more detailed - some office bearers may have your telephone number or email address; our Treasurer may have financial information you have shared with us. The Minister may have personal information gleaned for weddings, or baptisms or funerals. And at every level the church has a responsibility to store that information securely, and only keep what we have a real reason for keeping. And you must be confident that we do that.

If you have any concerns about any information that might be held about you by your parish church, please just get in touch with the Data Protection Officer.

To get that information simply contact Rev. George (01899 309400).

WOMEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE STORY OF SCOTLAND

Later this year the National Wallace Monument introduces its first female figurehead into 'The Hall of Heroes'. We are urged to vote for our favourite.



"Through their intelligence, their talent and their selfless service, women have enriched society in Scotland – and in countries all around the world. They have surprised, delighted and inspired generation after generation with their determination, their fortitude and their spirit - the very values which William Wallace stood for." NWM.

From hundreds of names a Selection Panel has drawn up a shortlist of 14. Included in this shortlist are Jane Haining and Mary Slessor, missionaries of the Church of Scotland.

If you visit www.nationalwallacemonument.com and look for 'Scotland's heroines' you can cast your own

Prayer Page



MEDITATION:

(the story work best if read slowly, thoughtfully, and at least a couple of times)

A parable from Hong Kong

So, the Master of the garden took Bamboo and cut him down and hacked off his branches and stripped off his leaves and cleaved him in two and cut out his heart.

And lifting him gently, carried him to where there was a spring of fresh, sparkling water in the midst of the dry fields.

Then putting one end of broken Bamboo in the spring and the other end into the water channel in his field, the Master laid down gently his beloved Bamboo.

And the spring sang welcome and the clear sparkling waters raced joyously down the channel of Bamboo's torn body into the waiting fields.

The rice was planted, and the days went by, and the shoots grew, and the harvest came.

In that day was Bamboo, once so glorious in stately beauty, yet more glorious in his brokenness and humility.

For in his beauty was life abundant, but in his brokenness he became a channel of abundant life to his Master's world.

Take one moment of my life, Lord, on to your cross.

Draw it into the dark forge of your love; so that, broken, healed, transfigured, cleansed, reborn, it may be lived, even yet, in praise.

Prayer Promoters

Symington Parish Church –	(vacant)	Tel 01899 308240
Cairngryffe Parish Church –	Liz Hiddleston	Tel 01899 221664
Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church -	Lilias Nicholls	Tel 01555 840572

PUZZLE PAGE. An Easter Wordsearch

Y	R	E	N	A	W	A	E	L	S
A	R	K	J	E	S	O	J	G	E
M	O	A	U	S	S	T	N	O	M
N	B	U	M	U	S	I	O	S	A
I	E	Q	U	S	T	Y	R	N	M
T	N	H	O	E	O	U	G	A	E
E	L	T	E	J	Q	E	R	I	R
E	E	R	H	C	L	U	P	E	S
R	G	A	E	G	N	A	W	K	E
G	A	E	A	R	T	A	Q	U	A

Words to find:

MARY ANGEL SNOW AWE JOY JESUS STONE
SEPULCHRE EARTHQUAKE ROBE RISEN GREETINGS

EASTER ANAGRAMS. Ten words of Easter are hidden in these anagrams?

AEEEGHNMNST DEKNOY EINRS AEILV
ACCEFIIRS EOORRST CCFIRUY
EFGINORV HNORST AAHNNOS

If you really really really can't work the anagrams out:

gofhonnme dnayng wren afive scarples worder onwifly fngwvner thronw thronw thronw



OUR HOLY WEEK JOURNEY

Starting on 'Palm and Passion' Sunday and continuing through the week until Easter is the 'Holy Week Journey'.

It is the powerful, deeply meaningful Journey of Jesus and his disciples from his entry to Jerusalem to his crucifixion, and on to Easter resurrection.

It is our journey too, as every evening at 7pm, many of us take the opportunity to gather together in worship to remember and experience again the events of the week as Luke relates them in his Gospel. We are together as the Tinto Parishes community for evening worship from Monday 10th April to Good Friday 14th April, spiritually journeying as we share powerful moments, thoughts and prayers –and physically too as we move during the week between our three churches.

This year there we have been an additional journey to explore. On Tuesday 11th April the speaker at our worship in Libberton & Quothquan Church will be **Rev. Elizabeth Clelland**.

Last summer Elizabeth set off on a walking pilgrimage – following the 'Camino de Santiago', the 'Santiago Way'. For centuries, pilgrims have walked through Spain following the paths to Santiago de Compostela, and the Tomb of St. James (the brother of John).



Elizabeth describes it as both a spiritual and a prayerful walk, and she will use her experience as the basis for her exploration of verses from Luke's Gospel. As this is also our April 'Prayer & Praise' service, the themes of 'prayer', 'praise', and 'journey' will all come alive together on **Tuesday 11th April at 7pm in Libberton & Quothquan Church**.

Elizabeth is the chaplain at Braehead House (Divine Healing Fellowship) at Crossford, and is a gentle and inspiring speaker.

**The next JOINT OFFICE BEARERS CONFERENCE
(FOR ELDERS AND MEMBERS OF CONGREGATIONAL BOARD)
will be on Monday 13th March 2017 at Symington Church at 7.30pm**

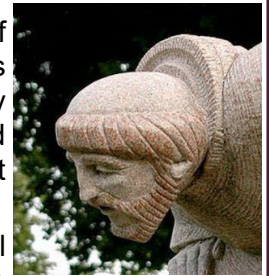
'PALM AND PASSION' SUNDAY

OUR JOINT TINTO PARISHES WORSHIP, at 11am on Sunday 9th April, in Cairngryffe Church, will follow a similar approach to the very successful service we held last year. As many of our youngsters as we can muster will be involved in the Palm Sunday procession, and our worship teams will lead us through Luke's telling of Christ's Passion. As we did last year, we will use lots of symbols with which to tell our story.



And for the youngsters, afterwards, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt.

OUR COVER PICTURE appeared on one of our 'orders of service' from last year. The statue is found in St Peter's and St Paul's cemetery in Naperville, Illinois, a beautifully carved interpretation of St. Francis of Assisi, often called the patron saint of animals. It is a charming picture that works on many levels.



The statue with St. Francis bending to notice the small carved bird conveys the sense of humility that is always associated with Francis - that he notices and can come close to something so small is important spiritually. But then there is also a real bird there, which adds to the charm of the picture. And it feels deeply meaningful.



However, we have discovered that it is a bit of a cheat. The original photographer complained on her website that someone had 'photoshopped in' the real bird and then circulated it. So, it only exists in the computer world. But if we see it as a vision of something that indeed could have happened when no one was looking, then it still retains its charm.

Bubblegum 'n Fluff.

If you get rid of the fluff around Christmas, you can find the substance. 'Bubblegum 'n Fluff' is a programme devised to help Primary 6 age children get closer to the 'substance'. In December last year, Alex Kelly of Clydesdale Christian Youth Trust, led Rev. George and four members of our congregations in delivering the two hour programme to Tinto Primary, class 6. This was a trial run for us doing it ourselves next year.



Everyone agreed it was a great success—and you will hear more about it in the Autumn.