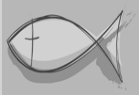


FOCUS

Summer 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, Haghholm Road, Cleghorn, ML11 7SG (01555 871114)

Symington Parish Church: - SC 009095

Mr Ross Russell, Spindrift, 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)



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION:

Sunday 4th June: Cairngryffe Parish Church

Sunday 11th June: Symington Parish Church

PENTECOST FIRE—Pentecost Sunday 4th June

There are important celebration days in the life of the Church: Christmas Day – Incarnation; Easter Sunday – Resurrection; Pentecost – the Spirit in the Church. We do well with Christmas and Easter—helped, of course, by holidays, family gatherings, Christmas Gifts, Easter eggs and chocolate.

But Pentecost? 'The birthday of the church'. Just another Sunday? Perhaps we could start to look at ways to make this day special. And here's a small starting point. Some of our people already do this. **On PENTECOST SUNDAY Let's all wear something RED—RED** because it symbolises the tongues of flame that appeared on that original Pentecost, representing the Holy Spirit energising the Christian community. And, of course, it is also fun.



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'

Prayer Page



CROSSROADS: A Meditation and a Prayer

From 'People of the Way' PRAY NOW 2016

MEDITATION: The Crossroads:

A place where roads meet and pilgrims gather,
where cultures become entwined and lines are blurred
A place of decisions—this way or that, now or later,
with company or in solitude?

A place of possibility
that summons potential.

A place of promise
that seeks fulfilment.

A place of dread or expectations
where choices are made
affecting the rest of the journey for good or ill.

A place where the Spirit of God meets us
And beckons us on
in the journey.

PRAYER:

At every crossroads we encounter today, O God, may we know
You directing our path, calling out to us the road we should take.
In every decision that confronts us, may we know Your Spirit at
large, guiding our discernment, affirming our choices, nudging us
to be confident in Your illuminating presence.
And may we be assured that the paths You call us to travel lead to
life in all its fulness. Amen

Prayer Promoters

Symington Parish Church –

Heather Davidson

Tel 01899 308240

Cairngryffe Parish Church –

Liz Hiddleston

Tel 01899 221664

Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church -

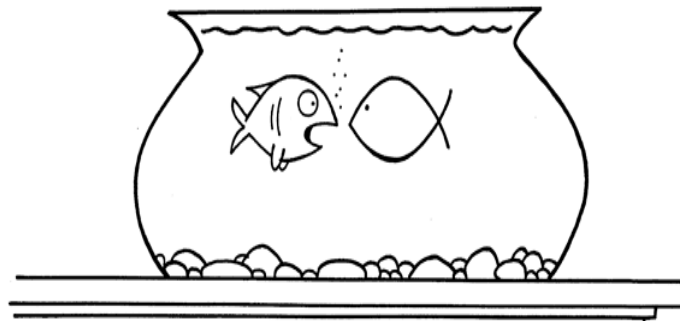
Liliias Nicholls

Tel 01555 840572

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

2017	Symington	Cairngryffe	Libberton
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 (B)
June 11	1100 M COM	1100 O	0930 M
June 18	1100 O	1100 M	0930 M
June 25	1100 M (SS)	1100 O	0930 M
July 02	Joint Service in Libberton Church at 1100 am		
July 09	Joint Service in Cairngryffe Church at 1100am		
July 16	Joint Service in Symington Church at 1100am		
July 23	Joint Service in Libberton Church at 1100am		
July 30	0930 M	1100 O	1100 M
August 06	0930 M	1100 M	1100 O
August 13	0930 M	1100 O	1100 M (Qq)
August 20	0930 M	1100 M	1100 O
August 27	0930 M	1100 O	1100 M
September 03	0930 M	1100 M	1100 O
September 10	0930 M	1100 O	1100 M

M=Minister: O=Own arrangements: COM= Communion Sunday
 B= Baptism (congregational family) SS= Sunday School Presentation
 Qq—Open Air Service at Quothquan Church (Quothquan Hall, if poor weather)



“Can’t we talk about something besides religion for a change?”

WORSHIP CALENDAR.

Our lectionary cycle for 2016-2017 finishes on Pentecost Sunday.

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

Over the summer months we will follow different themes, including an exploration of the letter to the Ephesians, and a focus on the Sacraments.

June 11 th	Joy	Psalms 100
June 18 th	How long?	Psalms 13
June 25 th	One with Christ	Ephesians 1:1-14
July 2 nd JOINT	Diversity in Unity	Ephesians 2:11-22
July 9 th JOINT	Rev. Jim Cutler – Theme to be advised	
July 16 th JOINT	Rev. Jim Cutler – Theme to be advised	
July 23 rd JOINT	Rev. Jim Cutler – Theme to be advised	
July 30 th	One Body	Ephesians 4:1-16
August 6 th	Prepared and Ready	Ephesians 6:10-20
	The Sacraments	
August 13 th	Baptism 1: Be Still	Psalms 46: Acts 2:37-42
August 20 th	Baptism 2: Renewal	Psalms 84; Romans 6:1-11
August 27 th	Preparation for the Lord’s Supper	Psalms 65: 1 Corinthians 11:17-34
September 3 rd	The Lord’s Supper	1 Samuel 23:1-9; Mark 14:12-25

CARE HOME WORSHIP—remainder of 2017.

After the summer break, Rev. George will lead worship in the following Care Homes in Biggar:

	<u>September</u>	<u>November</u>
Greenhills: at 2.30pm - Wednesday	13 th	8 th (communion)
The Bield: at 2.00pm - Wednesday	27 th	29 th (communion)

MINISTER'S LETTER

One of the highlights of my summer holidays as a young boy was the week I'd spend on my own at my Grandma's in Banff. Such a paradise of experience - fresh bread just out of the oven; taking my uncle's collie dog for long beach walks; and the farm where my grandad's bee hives were. The farm belonged to a lovely couple, friends of my grandad, where I'd sometimes spend a day - roaming through extensive fruit gardens, but afraid of, yet fascinated by, the cantankerous goat tethered up outside the house. Paradise— until one year I was stung by one of my grandad's honey bees!

I had a big lump on my head - it felt enormous and sore to touch. And there was much consternation. The farmer's wife was so concerned: "I hope his mum won't be upset. I've just cut a patch out of his hair to remove the sting." My Grandma—of course—blamed my Grandad. Such concern really soothed my pain.

Years later, my grandad gave up his bees, and sold them to a policeman who had a fancy for bee-keeping. But six months later the man returned, demanding his money back. All the bees were dead. So my grandad asked him to explain how he'd been keeping them. "And how much of the honey did you then take?" he asked. The man was perplexed - "All of it, of course". "So, you think the bees exist just to make honey for you?" The man was quiet. "The bees make honey for their own needs, for their future generations. We work in partnership with them. If you take everything, you just starve them to death."

We have daily reminders of the balance we need to live by in life, so that there is life. In the last fifty years, human beings have had more negative impact on the diversity of life on this planet than at any other time in history. And while we might talk about pesticides, or greenhouse gases - really, it all comes down to our attitudes and our priorities. Somewhere we have lost a respect for the interdependence of all life.

The Word of Life. On the front cover, folks from Symington Church are promoting the Church of Scotland 'theme' for 2017-8. It will first be used at this year's General Assembly in May, and is very appropriate to next year's lectionary when we follow the Gospel of John, which begins, "*In the beginning was the word...what has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of the world.*" Give thanks for life—in our praise, in our attitudes, in our priorities. In Jesus' name.

Your friend and minister,

George

AN INTRODUCTION—SONIA BLAKESLEY

Sonia Blakesley will be with us for 10 weeks, beginning 23rd May until 20th August (and on holiday in July). Here she introduces herself to us all.

"I would like to introduce myself to you through the pages of Focus. My name is Sonia Blakesley and I am a Ministry student (or a Candidate in Training for Ministry with the Church of Scotland— to use the full title!) coming on summer placement to the Tinto parishes. I have just completed the third year of a Bachelor of Divinity (Ministry) programme at Glasgow University, although I have only done one year of full-time study. (I previously studied through a distance-learning programme for Christian Studies run by Aberdeen University.)

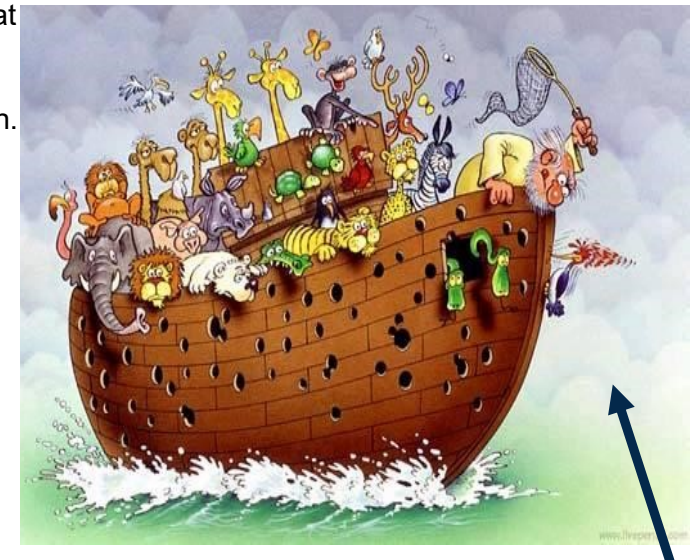
My home is in Moffat. I previously worked for the NHS in Dumfries and Galloway, and my home church is St Andrew's Church of Scotland in Moffat. I have been involved there for the last 24 years, and have served as an elder for 14 years, and as Session Clerk for 5 years. I have 2 daughters aged 20 and 21 years, and my hobbies are knitting, cross-stitch, reading and walking our dog, Pebbles. I've also recently started Geo-caching.

I am looking forward to joining you and am hoping to see as much as I can of the life of the Tinto Parishes. I will be participating in services, in schools and care homes and other pastoral visits. I am interested in rural ministry and keen to see how it works in your communities. I have two simple requests - please say hello and introduce yourself to me. I may not remember everyone's name but telling me something interesting or unusual about you will help lodge you into my memory bank and secondly, please let me know what is going on and let me join you.

I hope to meet you soon.

God's blessings,

Sonia Blakesley



NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

—WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CAIRNGRYFFE—

Deaths : Mrs Jean McMahon - 15 February, 2017

Baptisms : Logan Gray Plenderleith - 26 February, 2017

After a quiet and fairly routine beginning to 2017 we had the Joint Palm & Passion Service which was well attended and much enjoyed by all who participated. We are also excited about recent developments in Cairngryffe.

If you are a regular attender on a Sunday you will have heard, through the intimations, the promotion of an exploratory meeting, which Presbytery planned to hold and which Cairngryffe hosted, to encourage the expansion of our local Worship Groups. There was an excellent response from Lanark Presbytery Churches and the requisite training of candidates was carried out towards the end of 2016. Here in Cairngryffe we are blessed to have had an excellent worship group supporting Rev George for some time but now we are doubly blessed as we have a further three members of our congregation who have taken the training and will shortly be moving towards accreditation.

On June 11, 2017 our three candidates – Rosmairi Galloway, Rodger Lindsay and Suzanne Campbell – will be assessed by visiting representatives of Presbytery. Moving toward this exciting event, on May 14 and 28 they will, as a team, be leading worship and we are very much looking forward to this.

As you will be acutely aware, we have been using our Hymnal most Sundays since the departure of Alan Potts. Well, they say patience is a virtue and after a fairly long wait and a lot of prayer, we are delighted to announce that we now have a full-time, dedicated Organist in Margaret Patience who hails from Thankerton. Margaret has also been supporting Symington Kirk during Gaynor's absence and will continue to do so, as required, until the end of June at which time she will be at Cairngryffe.

Welcome Margaret – we look forward to you officially taking up your post and to getting to know you.

Just a reminder ! We do have a small, but enthusiastic team willing to visit if you are ill / housebound or to offer transport if you require it, so don't hesitate to call Mary on 01555 871114 to let us know.

Mary McLellan. Session Clerk at Cairngryffe

—CAIRNGRYFFE SUNDAY SCHOOL—

Spring- Summer 2017

We meet in the church at the start of morning worship, we 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 the development of the early church through New Testament stories.

Dates and Times

Sundays 23rd April until 18th June at 11 am.

New Term after Summer Holidays will start on Sunday 27th August 2017 at 11am. In the Autumn we will be looking at the lives of people from the Old Testament such as Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David and many others.

Further Details from Rosmairi Galloway 01555 880779

—WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIBBERTON & QUOTHQUAN—

It was once again lovely to join with Symington at Cairngryffe for our Joint Palm Sunday Service. Our combined Sunday Schools told that special story so well, under the expert direction of the Cairngryffe Sunday School staff.

The Holy Week services prepared us well for the wonder of Easter Sunday. On Holy Tuesday at Libberton & Quothquan Rev, Elizabeth Clelland from Braehead House told us about her fascinating and often painful journey on her 700Km pilgrimage across Spain to Santiago de Compostela, the traditional burial site of the Apostle, St. James.

On Easter Sunday a young man, Alex, accompanied the organ on his guitar, and that brought an extra dimension to our celebrations.

Thursday 24th April saw Bryce McCosh's Memorial Service. The church was completely full and it was a wonderful service with strong praise, laughter and memories to celebrate the life of a wonderful gentleman. We continue to miss him, and his spirit will always be in the back pew of our church.

We look forward to more 9.30am worship over the summer weeks with the baptism of Melissa's twin boys in June, and Emily and Ryan's wedding in July.

Lilias Nicholls, Session Clerk at L & Q

—WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SYMINGTON—

We welcome.

Bill and Gill Allan from Biggar have joined the congregation. Welcome visitors over many months, they have decided to become members at Symington. We are delighted by this decision and look forward to their further involvement in the life of the congregation.

Leaving us

Noreen Johnstone. We bade farewell to one of our most committed members with the departure from Symington of Noreen Johnstone. Noreen had been supported over recent months by her daughter Susan and her husband Tom who despite now residing in Massachusetts USA sustained a long period of care and attention. Noreen and the family came to the decision to seek residential care for Noreen and a place was secured at The Erskine Home, close to members of Noreen's extended family. She is now settled happily there and enjoying her new life.

We will miss Noreen and thank her sincerely for the contribution she made to the life and work of our Kirk – particularly in her involvement in the Choir over many years. We wish her a long and contented retirement.

Campbell Armour. With the successful sale of his home, Broadfield Farmhouse, Campbell Armour has now left Symington to live in north-east Fife. Although with us for only a few years, Campbell quickly entered into the life and activity of the congregation and proved a popular and enthusiastic member. His willingness to take part, inevitably ensured that he became a member of the Congregational Board a role that he filled with energy and enthusiasm. We will miss him very much and wish him every happiness in his new home.

Ross Russell, Session Clerk at Symington

~ SYMINGTON SUNDAY ZONE ~

It's nice to see some of the younger people attending Church on some Sunday's. Resources continue to be available each week on the front pew in Church. These are in conjunction with the narrative lessons and are suitable for all ages - please help yourself.

A presentation will take place in the next few weeks for our young people who 'move on' to High School this year - look out for the invitation !

We welcome all children from Nursery to Primary 7 and beyond - they are the future of our Church. We need all ages, young and not-so-young working together. If you're interested in becoming involved, please speak with one of the team or make contact for more information. Have a lovely summer!

Contact:- Jessie Duff on 01899 308365

Thank you

I wish to thank my family and all my many friends in and around Symington for the support they gave me (and are still giving me), during my recuperation from surgery. The cards, flowers, goodies and the many visitors have been quite overwhelming and very much appreciated. Sincere thanks too to the support team of professionals from Biggar Health Centre who maintained constant contact and care.

Happily things seem to be on mend and my surgeon is well pleased with my progress. I am looking forward to gaining greater mobility over the coming weeks and hope it won't be long until I am back among you.

Thank you, Gaynor

MINISTRIES and MISSION

The Church of Scotland maintains a network of congregations in every community in Scotland, and has a combined membership of over 350,000 people. Congregations contribute to a centralised 'Ministries and Mission Fund', their contribution based on their annual income. Ministers are all paid out of this fund, and all ministers are paid a similar amount in stipend.

Therefore some churches pay in more than they take out in Minister's stipend, and others take out more from the fund than they contribute. The latter used to be called 'aid receiving' – the idea being that the whole of the wider church was supporting their individual congregation through a short-term crisis, or in an impoverished city housing estate, for example, the wider church was showing a long-term commitment to ensure everyone has access to 'church' in their local community.

Our allocation for 2017 is **£53,221** across all three churches. **£8,515** goes to 'Mission' (16%) - providing resources for education and outreach, social care services in Christ's name, work with our partner churches worldwide, contributing the Church's opinion on issues affecting Scotland and the World, and support on admin, financial and legal matters; and planning the General Assembly.

The '**Ministry**' element – 84% of our contribution – goes towards the costs of providing over 1,000 ministers, chaplains, and other parish workers. Taking all that into account, plus stipend, insurance, pension contributions, recruitment and training, that is, in 2017, calculated as **£41,866** per minister. The Tinto Parishes contribution is above that, so together we contribute **£2,840** towards wider ministry costs in the church.

—FRIENDS DEPARTED—

DONALD MACKENZIE 1923-2016

(Symington Kirk)

With the passing in November 2016 of Don MacKenzie of Symington Maynes, our Kirk lost one of its most faithful and dedicated members.

Don had been incapacitated for many years following the loss of his left leg but with dedicated care, he was able to continue to live at home and pursue many of his interests. He maintained a high degree of freedom of movement by use of his electric mobility scooter and was able to continue to tend his greenhouse and garden. His great regret was that 'they' would not let him drive although he soon developed great skill in getting in and out of the car and directing his driver to where he wished to go.

He was for many years, the Fabric Convenor in Symington. Originally a member of St. John's Kirk, his family joined the parish church at the Union of 1946. Don, like many of the former Free Kirk members kept a watchful eye on the ongoings of the new united congregation and ensured that old traditions continued after the union. He worked tirelessly to maintain and care for the church and went far beyond his remit by ensuring that if anything needed done in respect of the fabric and structure of the building, it was done – often discretely or anonymously. He was generous in supporting the internal furnishings in the church and in maintaining its comfort and appearance.

In earlier life, Don was an enthusiastic skier and sailor and until he could no longer do so, an avid curler. He and his wife, Rena, who died in July 2010, were frequent visitors to France over many years. They had a house in the village of Plaissan in Herault on the south coast. They enjoyed journeying through France and the complete relaxation and peace which their house afforded. In Symington, they enjoyed a wide circle of friends and the Maynes' hospitality was legendary.

Don's commitment and dedication to Symington Kirk will ensure that the property will remain sound for years to come. Equally, his contribution to the life and work of the congregation will be his lasting memorial.

FRANK MITCHELL 1939—2017

(Symington Kirk)

His many friends in the Symington congregation were saddened to learn of the death on 18 March of Frank Mitchell.

Frank was a member at Symington for many years and became an elder in 2004. As such, he worked tirelessly for the church in Upper Clydesdale both as a congregational elder and as Presbytery Elder for several years.

He was meticulous in his commitment to both these posts and worked hard to ensure that his fellow elders knew what was going on!

Despite indifferent health over the last few years, Frank continued to give of himself and was always willing to take on that extra task when asked. He was an enthusiastic member of the choir and the anchor man for the bass section. A man of great kindness and concern for others, he always had an impressive battery of jokes to hand and invariably shared them!

His other great joy was the lodge that he and Rena owned at Resipol on Loch Sunart. They thought nothing of the 160-mile journey from Symington, so much pleasure did they get from being there and enjoying their rural retreat and all the area had to offer.

We will very much miss his presence in the village, the church, the choir, the Session and in our lives. His contribution over years was invaluable.

We continue to remember Rena and family in our thoughts and prayers.

Ross Russell –Session Clerk

BRYCE MCCOSH. 1920—2017

(Libberton & Quothquan Kirk)

An extract from the 'Memories Book' the congregation produced for Bryce's family,.

"When we moved here, Alice was about 3. Paul took her to church on Sunday and I stayed at home with the boys who were still toddlers. Later on that week, I was walking down Biggar High Street with Alice and, just outside Brownlie's, this gentleman walked up to us and said "Well, hello Alice, and how are you today?" I had no idea who he was but it was clear Alice did – even if she couldn't tell me where she had met him. It was so touching that not only did he know her name but that he took the time to speak to her that day – none of us would have known, if he had just walked past.

Bryce was always very positive about young people – one year on Remembrance Sunday he told the story of three brave young sailors who played a major role in breaking the Enigma code by seizing code books from an enemy submarine as she sank. Only one of them survived.

Bryce then said that he often wondered, when he saw the "young lads from the High School" out and about in Biggar at lunchtime, if they would do the same. I thought it was the opening to a fairly stereotypical negative comment about "the youth of today" but no, he ended with "I think they would".

Remembrance Sunday will not be the same without Bryce – his reading of the names of the fallen in his deeply sonorous voice was the key moment in the service and enabled the congregation to reflect on these young men as individuals who walked the same paths, worked in the same fields, saw the same view of Tinto as today's parishioners.

Elizabeth and Paul Dobie

PRESBYTERY REPORT

The Congregation of Symington had raised the question of the fact that since they are part of a triple linkage, each congregation is liable to provide pulpit supply, provide local leadership for worship or join with another congregation for worship every third Sunday. The Finance Committee considered this question and agreed that this would be an appropriate use for the variance allowance, and that there would be a reduction of the liability for Ministries and Missions in the case of all three congregations, amounting to a reduction of £955 for each congregation.

A meeting of all Safeguarding Co-ordinators was held on Thursday 08 December from 7.30pm to 9.00pm at Kirkmuirhill Parish Church. A safeguarding training course primarily for Elders in the grouping Tinto Parishes and Biggar and Blackmount, took place on Thursday evening, 2nd February at Symington Church. A meeting for all Safeguarding Co-ordinators has been arranged for Thursday 01 June at 7.30pm at Upper Clyde Church, Abington.

In light of property damage in Douglas Valley Manse, Presbytery agreed to the Kirk Session proceeding with urgent works to replace the boiler, oil tank, and bathrooms; and repair any leaks from the heating system and shower, at a cost of approximately £8,100 –drawn from the consolidated fabric fund.

Presbytery have been offered 4 places at this year's Holyrood Garden Party and agreed these places be filled as follows; Rev Helen and Mr Robert Jamieson, Rev Elspeth Mclean and Rev Louise Mackay.

A contract for the Presbytery Clerk has been drawn up, following the outline given by the Church of Scotland. The salary for the Clerk is set at 1/7th of the maximum stipend scale (2017: £4677.57) and to be reviewed annually.

The Clerk has written to all Funeral Directors in the area giving details of ministers, Interim Moderators and Locums for the various charges in Presbytery. It was felt that it would be helpful for them to have details of Session Clerks and Church officers.

Commissioners for this year's General Assembly are : Mr Ian Conn (Forth: St Paul's), Mr Ross Hyslop (Lanark: St. Nicholas), Rev Bryan Kerr (Lanark: Greyfriars), Rev Dr Nikki Macdonald (Upper Clyde), Rev Maudeen MacDougall (Carnwath lw Carstairs), Rev Louise MacKay (Lanark: St. Nicholas), Mr Ken Mackie (Carluke: St. Johns), Mr Scott Paget (Lanark: Greyfriars), Rev Steven Reid (Crossford lw Kirkfieldbank), Sandy Russell (Kirkfieldbank). It has been agreed that Rev Dr Nikki Macdonald (Upper Clyde) and Mr Scott Paget (Lanark: Greyfriars) serve as representatives to the Commission of Assembly for the year 2017-2018

The Business Committee have asked the Ministries Committee to review the current Presbytery Chaplain provision.

As from 1st of February 2017 Mr Bill Love has been appointed at Locum at Law Parish Church.

Mrs Mary McGillivray has tendered her resignation as Presbytery Treasurer. Personal commitments make it difficult for her to continue in this post. She will remain in post until a replacement is found.

Presbytery have agreed that there is no reason why the sist on the Presbytery Plan with regard to Kirkmuirhill should not be lifted and the congregation of Kirkmuirhill Parish Church (Church of Scotland) given permission to call a minister without restriction as envisaged in the Presbytery Plan.

Presbytery has agreed to the expenditure of £13,000 to undertake the urgent roofing repairs at the Gilliespie Centre. And asked for an indicative timescale for the remainder of the work to repair the fabric to the sum of £31,490.

Culter Church and a small portion of the glebe, agree to the sale of the Glebe at full agricultural value with an uplift should the site be developed in years to come.

The Business Committee are pleased to recommend that Mr Alan Grant should be Presbytery Moderator for session 2017/18.

The sist on the vacancy at Douglas Valley Church is lifted and Presbytery make the strongest possible representations to the Ministries Council to be allowed to appoint a Rural Development Worker as an additional member of staff in the Douglas Valley Church for a period of 5 years.

Under Presbytery's programme of Local Church Review visits the Tinto Parishes are due to be visited during 2018.

Lanark: Greyfriars has been given approval to undertake the following work:- Replacing the church heating system with a modern radiation system and replacing the pews with seats. Upgrading the electrics in the sanctuary and moving the AV control point to the balcony. Ply sheeting the sanctuary floor and providing carpet to match the existing chancel. The work is proposed to be undertaken between 18th June and 2nd September 2017. The Committee note that funding for the works has been secured thanks to an anonymous benefactor.

Robert Carson (Presbytery Elder, Symington)

FLOWER LISTS

SUNDAY	CAIRNGRYFFE	SYMINGTON
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
11 th June 2017	Ena Meikle	Peggy Prentice (Communion)
18 th June 2017	Carole Gardiner	Margaret Prentice.
25 th June 2017	Ann Murray	Susan Craig.
2 nd July 2017	Sheena Baillie (no service in Cairngryffe)	(no service in Symington)
9 th July 2017	Margaret Watt (JOINT service)	(no service in Symington)
16 th July 2017	Marion Clarkson (no service in Cairngryffe)	Flower Fund
23 rd July 2017	Cathryn Forrest (no service in Cairngryffe)	(no service in Symington)
30 th July 2017	Rosmairi Galloway	Flower Fund
6 th August 2017	Sadie Campbell	Gaynor Russell
13 th August 2017	Ena Meikle	Jessie Duff
20 th August 2017	Margaret Lawson	Martha Cowan
27 th August 2017	Mamie Gilmour	Annie Gilchrist
3 rd Sept 2017	Flora Ireland	Nan Warwick
10 th Sept 2017	Barbara Miller	Christina McKenzie.

Editor's Note

A grateful thanks to everyone who contributed material for this issue of Focus. The Autumn issue of FOCUS will be issued early in September. Contributions from both community and church groups and organisations, covering the period from September to November 2017 should be sent to Charlie Todd by

Sunday 20th August 2017

For those organisations with an annual syllabus, it would be very helpful if I could receive a copy prior to the August deadline.

The Editor, Charlie Todd, can be reached at 63, Station Road, Thankerton, ML12 6NZ, Tel 01899 308327, or by email on kandctodd@gmail.com

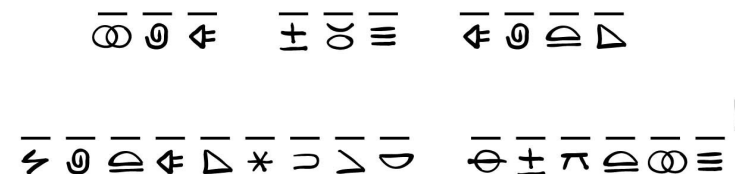
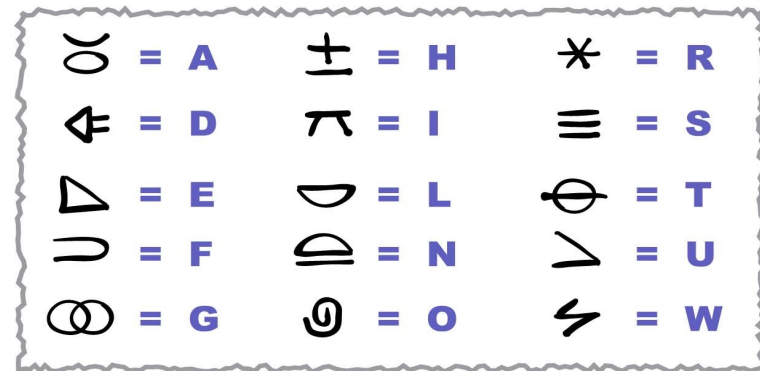
PUZZLE PAGE. A Pentecost Wordsearch

Search for words that describe the Pentecost from Acts 2.

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

CHRISTIANITY
 PENTECOST
 HOLY SPIRIT
 DISCIPLE
 LOVE
 CHURCH
 PRAYER
 HEAVEN
 WIND
 GOD
 REJOICE
 ONE ACCORD

Each person was able to hear the message of the Gospel in their own language. See if you can decipher the language below to read the special message.



Our 10th In-Service Day Club held in the Symington Church Halls.



Who would believe that it is five years since Ann Lyall, Interim Deacon, working with Alec Kelly of the Clydesdale Christian Youth Project, and an enthusiastic group from our local churches, held the first In-Service Day Club—an opportunity for us to give support to local parents and youngsters on a day when it can be difficult for working parents to get childcare cover?

The title for our Tenth Club was 'MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU', so you will know the visual theme 'Star Wars'—appearing in the video we played, in many of the crafts (Darth Vader and Princess Leia bookmarks) and delicious creations (Chewbacca crunchies, Princess Leia biscuits), as well as in the games (Light-saber balloons), and in the construction project where your donated tubes and boxes made Monsters from Star Wars (see above).

We also managed to have other games and crafts, tell two of the Parables of Jesus, and have a Reflection time—all about building good foundations for life. —and have fun!

On behalf of our congregations we would like to thank everyone involved in the kitchen, working with the youngsters, leading the games, telling the stories and coming up with exciting craft ideas. And thank you to our new and returning volunteers who quickly became an important part of the club. And, of course, all the 19 youngsters, and everyone else involved in any other way.

Now we can restem.... begin planning for the November club.

For more photos, see Facebook—Tinto Parishes

HYMN PAGE. PENTECOST.

For Pentecost Sunday (4th June) we chose the following two hymns on the Holy Spirit, from a selection of over 40 hymns in CH4.



HYMN 588 – 'PRAISE THE SPIRIT IN CREATION'. Our hymnal book tells us that the words are by David Hurd, but in other hymn books Michael Hewett is noted as the writer.

But there's no dispute about the tune—'Julion', definitely written by David Hurd. It is not a tune we know very well in our churches, but it is becoming increasingly popular in many hymn book throughout the world.

David was born in Brooklyn and after studying music and then theology, he became a lecturer in Church Music at the Episcopal Church's General Theological Seminary in New York. After a career spanning 39 years he retired as Professor of Church Music in 2013. When he retired it was said that 'the influence he has wielded on church music in the United States has been enormous'.



David teaches, composes tunes, writes hymns, and regularly performs recitals and concerts. He has over 70 hymn tunes listed as appearing in Hymn books, and 19 hymns. But very few in British hymnals.

For many years he has been Director of Music in one of the biggest churches in New York.

He is also one of the world's most visible and successful classical organists who is Afro-american.

HYMN 582 – O DAY OF JOY AND WONDER. In CH4 we sing this hymn to a 16th Century German Melody. The Hymn was written in 1957 by Violet Nita Buchanan. Violet was born in Marlybone London in 1896, and died in 1975. Her father was Sir Anderson Critchett, a celebrated ophthalmic surgeon at St. Mary's Hospital in London.

Seven of her hymns are in Hymnbooks, although it was reported in 1966 when one of her hymns first appeared in an American Hymnbook 'this is a new name in American hymnody, but not in British circles.'

So, two hymnwriters, well respected in their own country, but little known outside. And on our Pentecost Sunday coming together in the same service. This is just a small example of the many different backgrounds that have come together to enrich our Church Hymnary – and our worship.

FAITH JOURNEYS - 4

'Faith Journeys' is an intermittent series of personal interviews with some members of the Tinto Parishes who have an interesting story to tell us about their own distinctive faith journey, and how their faith impacts on their daily lives.

Today we speak to **DAVID SHANNON**, an elder at Libberton and Quothquan Church.



Q. David, would you say you have always been a spiritual person - a 'seeker'?

A. I was blessed with being raised in a comfortable, stable and happy home by my father and mother. I had two older sisters. I remember my mother being with me for bedtime prayers. The local church in Kilmacolm was just along the road, and we went to the Sunday School.

Scripture Union was important in my early spiritual development. I remember my first tented SU Camp at Turnberry when I was 13. The SU leader talked to us in a gentle and understanding way about God and Jesus. At that camp, I made a decision to follow Jesus and from that date I was aware of a different direction in my life.

After my National Service, I trained to be a Veterinary Surgeon, graduating from the Dick Vet in Edinburgh in 1954. I had joined the Christian Union while I was there, and I remember after one of the evening meetings I wandered off by myself and had a profound spiritual experience when I felt I was being touched by the Holy Spirit. It was amazing and life changing.

I have always been active in my local church, wherever I have been. Here at Libberton & Quothquan we have a lovely family church that can still call out all generations. I love the organic nature of our care for each other, and how we galvanise in action for our community or for issues in the world.

But alongside regular worshipping at my home church, I am indeed, in your words, George, a 'seeker'. Looking for where the Holy Spirit touches life – in renewal, and in healing.

Q. If we had time and space in our magazine, there's lots of questions I'd love to ask you. But I need to focus, if that's alright, around these two words 'renewal' and 'healing'.

A. Yes, I think I know where you are going with this. You want to talk about revival in Africa, and about the 'Christian Fellowship of Healing' in Edinburgh.

Q. Indeed. After graduation, you went to work in Kenya and Uganda with the Colonial Service. It was the beginning of your 'love affair' with the continent. You returned to Scotland for a while, but later went back to Uganda with Dorothy—she knew Uganda well, - and then to Nigeria. These were very turbulent and changing times in Africa – the Mau Mau in Kenya for example, or Idi Amin in Uganda. And times of renewal?

A. Yes. I had signed up with the Colonial Veterinary Service. I was working at a very broad level throughout the country – on epidemic diseases like foot and mouth - and I had very little clinical work.

I became an Elder in the English-speaking Presbyterian Church of Kenya, at St. Andrew's Church, Nairobi, but I was also fascinated by the way local Christians lived, and that took me out of the confines of the colonial network to learn and experience more about the African search for a 'deeper holiness'.

What has been called the 'East African Revival' movement was a powerful influence, fostering an 'exuberant expression of faith' that seemed to be revitalising the local churches, and changing lifestyles, and there was a development of new Pentecostal worship places. 'Revival' still influences the African church, I think. Perhaps it was the flourishing of an authentic African Christian spirituality as the colonial influence was coming to an end.

Whatever, it was very exciting to feel this sense of the Holy Spirit at work. People worried about me stepping outside the expatriate circles, but I think I was completely safe.

Q. And healing? After you retired in 1988, you became involved with the Christian Fellowship of Healing in Edinburgh.

A. Dorothy and I were worshipping at Greenbank Church, and not far from where we lived, at Holy Corner, the Christian Fellowship of Healing was developing. The CFH employed a chaplain and a secretary, and teams of volunteers. The drop-in centre was open five days and two evenings a week, and there was always someone there to welcome visitors. Volunteers worked in groups. We were trained, and some of us became quite gifted in dealing with people in trouble, and discovered real healing talents.

This was not about physical healing (of the body, the machine), but spiritual healing, mental healing, freeing people from all sorts of damage. It was about offering a place of safety and love where people could look at the wounds and pains in their life, or those carried by other people, and 'give birth to new life'. A lot of people were helped by the Fellowship of Healing.

Prayer is what held it all together. Some people were trained in 'counselling with prayer', and could then bring 'an experience of love to the memories of woundedness'. I met a lot of people who struggled with painful or distressing episodes which recur throughout their lives – and they just can't seem to find a reason for their distress.

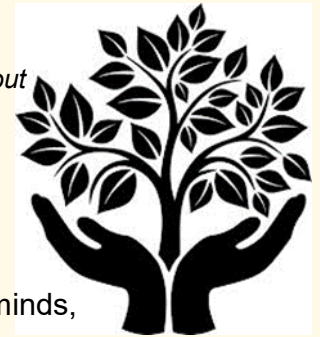
Offering love and time, and laughter and coffee, was such an important part of the healing.

We give each other so little time in our modern world, so little space, or safety. So it was a wonderful experience to be part of such a healing space, and it certainly had a powerful impact.

Thank you, David. These have been such fascinating insights into your personal spiritual journey – your connection with the Holy Spirit. On behalf of our FOCUS readers, bless you for sharing this journey with us.

PAUSE FOR PRAYER

After reading David's interview, you may wish to pray about renewal or healing. The Community on Iona has been running weekly Healing Services for many years. This is one of the prayers they currently use, adapted from a prayer of Dorothy McRae McMahan, a retired minister of the Uniting Church of Australia who is internationally recognised as a creator and writer of religious rituals.



May the mind of God, ever wiser than our minds, search us deeply and open us to the truths that make for our healing.

May the ears of God, even open to our prayers, listen for us deeply and hear, beneath our words, our honest yearnings.

May the heart of God, ever filled with costly love, cherish us deeply, mending our brokenness and affirming our worth.

May God keep us company now and through this night and bring us joy in the morning. Amen

"...if we walk in the light, as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin". 1 John 1:7 (NRSV)

BRAEHEAD HOUSE, CROSSFORD. Not far away from Tinto Parishes, and within the Presbytery of Lanark, is Braehead House. It is part of the 'Divine Healing Fellowship', is open every day, and operates on similar lines to the Centre that David spoke about. The Braehead Chaplain is Rev Elizabeth Clelland. For more information - 01555 860716, and their website is www.divinehealingfellowshipbraeheadhousescotland.co.uk

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF HEALING. If you would like more information about CFH there are articles about healing written by Rev. Jenny Williams, Rev. Ian Cowie, and Rev. Ian Davidson – all chaplains of the CFH – on the St. Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh website. <http://www.st-cuthberts.net/healing5.php> and go to page 5.

THE CHURCH in the WORLD

CHRISTIAN AID is the churches' Charity. Every year over 20,000 congregations throughout the UK participate in different ways in activities to support its work.



Christian Aid Week began in 1957, when the focus of the organisation's work was broadening out from 'Displaced People' in Europe, to poverty throughout the world. Sally Foster-Fulton, the Head of Christian Aid Scotland, says "Christian Aid works in partnership with churches and all people of good will who believe poverty is an avoidable scandal that diminishes us all. "

Christian Aid and Malawi.

In July 2016, Christian Aid Scotland launched an emergency appeal to help support communities in Malawi through a devastating drought that left 6.5 million people without access to enough food. Malawi faced its worst food crisis for a decade, following prolonged dry spells, erratic rainfall and devastating floods. Food reserves, farmland and crops were destroyed.

Partner organisations had very recently, with Scottish Government funding, provided solar irrigation systems enabling families to sow two harvests a year. The winter harvest was planted when the devastation hit, and there was a real need to support families until the harvest—otherwise they might have to leave the crops, to focus on their urgent day-to-day food needs.'

The response from churches and Christian Aid groups was incredible, raising over £130,000, doubled by match-funded from the Scottish Government . This support has helped people like Fatima (pictured) and her family, who were on the verge of starvation.

Fatima Baela, aged 43, is married, with five children. She lives in Nsanje where Christian



Aid's partner, Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD), began supporting some 1,000 households with small cash grants in August. Severe drought stunted Fatima's maize crops. She and her husband took odd jobs, but the family was surviving on one meal a day, made from lily tubers.

As odd jobs grew scarce, Fatima didn't know how the family would survive. She thought her family would die of hunger.

"I received a monthly allowance to buy a bag of

maize, cooking oil and three packets of sugar. My family now eats three meals per day, and our lives are transformed."