

Cairnlea Parish Church

'COMMITTED to CHRIST – CARING for OUR COMMUNITY'

MARCH 2025

Airdrie Cairnlea Parish Church of Scotland is a registered charity, ref no: SC014555

www.cairleaparishchurch.co.uk





FROM THE MINISTER

Dear friends,

We're newly back from an exotic holiday in Morocco. It was a tour around a large part of the country, with a lot of the time in a bus, but it meant we saw Casablanca, Rabat, Tangier, Fes, Ouarzazate and Marrakech. Now I hadn't heard of the fifth in that list either (though it turned out to be a very popular place for making films nowadays), but it was there also because it fitted in with heading out to a (luxury) tent on the edge of the Sahara, to see glorious sand dunes at sunset and at sunrise...

Anyway, aside from holiday memories, Morocco is a largely Islamic country, so one hears the daily calls to prayer, since Muslims are expected to pray five times daily. And there are various other rules – on food, on charitable giving and on other matters – which equally regularly are observed.

It set me thinking again on how we regularly discipline ourselves as Christians. What are our daily routines for prayer? How do we measure out what we will share of riches or blessings we enjoy? And remembering how Jesus taught on the subject of food and it mattering above all perhaps not so much what we take in as what we put out – how to love in action therefore matters very much – do we keep a strong line on that?

At the beginning of February a storm blew up around the comments of the new Vice President of the USA, who had said that love of those nearest us (in family) was more important than any other love, such as love for the rest of the world; and that this was the Christian way. Many have rushed to the parable of the Good Samaritan or the Old Testament teachings about the foreigner in their protest that J.D.Vance was wrong. As I understand it, he could be wrong but not altogether wrong. How so? Well, Jesus of course famously taught that our neighbour, the one closest to us, may well be someone we ordinarily would have no common course with; that neighbour might even have treated you as an enemy. That is the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus also taught that attachment to family may not always be the most important issue – “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” (Matthew 12:46). Jesus' leading point, however, was that our first love, our first love, should be for God, and once we are in love with God, God's love will lead us. God's love, as someone has written wisely, is not like a cake needing to be divided up. A cake has limited

portions! Rather think of love being a fire which will warm anything with which it comes into contact. And so love goes out even towards the enemy, goes out towards even the one who does not reciprocate. And it also of course, and rightly, goes out towards those we are closest to, our best friends, and our family. (With them indeed, most of us learn how beautiful love is!)

I hope this is helpful. The fact of course is that love is frequently challenging – whether within a family *or* amongst strangers! We all need to practise it, to become better at it. And that takes me back to this discipline of being a Christian. A discipline is something you apply yourself to, that you give energy and time to. Prayer five times a day? Carefully thought out ways of giving to others, rather than just now and again and when we feel like it? And a spirit of love? As I explored the internet debates all around J.D. Vance, I found this interesting quotation by the Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard: “The task is not to find something loveable, but to find whatever has been given to you or chosen by you, loveable, and to be able to continue finding them loveable, no matter how they change.”

So there’s the thought. Politicians wage their battles, but we in the church, we are to learn how more to love God, and how more to love one another. To practice that.

Yours,

Peter

MARCH WORSHIP

Always wanting to be clear in communicating...!

Every Sunday worship at 11 am

Our monthly Communion service is on the third Wednesday, 19th, at 7.30 pm

Our monthly time for a prayer “powerhouse” is on the last Wednesday, 26th, at 7.30 pm

Our monthly Evening service is on the last Sunday, 30th March, at 7 pm

CHURCHES TOGETHER



During February we hoped to make progress on thinking about how our churches together, in the cluster of four, might look to the future of worship. A separate publication spells out where those thoughts are going.

In the meantime, we shall regularly be creating opportunities for people from the four congregations to be doing something together, so that we can get to know one another – and practise loving one another.

So in March, on Tuesday 4th, there is an event more especially aimed at those not so young. Vintage Messy Church happens in Clarkston between 10 and 11.30 am. It's Shrove Tuesday, so you can possibly guess at what might be on offer there! The flyer says, Pancakes and Refreshments; Reflection and Celebration; Crafts and Fun. What about going – especially if you've never been before? If you need more information, ring 07775 763585.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Deaths:-

Mr Robin Young, Inglefield Court, on Friday 14th February

Mrs Brenda Walker, Wellwynd (and Strathaven), on Sunday 16th February

Get Involved: Drop-In Café for High School Pupils!

Are you passionate about supporting young people? Do you have a heart for creating a welcoming space where high school pupils can relax, chat, and feel at home? If so, we'd love for you to join us on Friday 28th February at 3 PM to find out more about the new GYC Drop-In Café!

This café will run every Friday during term time, offering a safe and friendly environment for local high school students to unwind after the school week. More than just a place to hang out, this is an incredible opportunity to share the love of Jesus in a natural and relational way. By offering a listening ear, friendly conversations, and practical care, we can help young people see the hope and truth of the gospel in action.

We're looking for volunteers to help with everything from making hot drinks to chatting with the young people who come along. Whether you can commit weekly or just now and then, there's a role for you!

Come along to hear the vision, ask questions, and see if this is something you'd like to be part of. The meeting will be informal, with tea, coffee, and cake provided.

Where? John Meeting Room, Cairnlea House

When? Friday, 28th February at 3-4 PM

We'd love to see you there! If you have any questions in advance, feel free to get in touch with Jacob, youth.gyc@hotmail.com or Jacob will be at Sunday 23rd service.

Cairnlea 2020

Maybe I spoke too soon last month, it is certainly continuing to be very cold, but as ever it gets lighter each day there is evidence of snowdrops, crocus and daffodils in our gardens. Members of our team have started the work by tackling some of the outdoor jobs as the weather permits.

1. Electricity Supply.

The Electricity meters saga continues without resolution. We have recently changed energy suppliers to E-ON, we shall have discussions with them to find out if they have a solution.

We shall keep you informed.

2. Cash Flow.

Bank Balance as at 17.02.2025 is £ 95,629.93

No outstanding Invoices.

3. Fund Raising.

Following discussions with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) we are applying to the small grants scheme for the roofing project. This process is expected to take up to three months till HES give us a decision.

4. 2020 Phase 4 Future Plans.

NLC inform us that our project for funding has been submitted to the National Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) and a decision is possible

within the next three months. We would ask you to continue in prayer for a successful outcome for this funding.

The updated details of Phase 4 have been shared with the General Trustees and the Presbytery Property Group during our meeting with them this month.

Please ask any member of the group should you have a question or idea relating to Phase 4.

5. Roof Project.

All the necessary approvals are in place and the work is being scheduled to align with the receipt of funding grants. NO CHANGE

6. Marketing.

Helpfully we are receiving many bookings for the use of our premises with an increasing number coming from NLC and other local charity groups. Please spread the word to those you meet or groups you may visit, that there is a growing range of groups, meetings and caring events going on within our buildings throughout the week. Encourage people to come for fellowship, friendship and to share their faith with others who may come along.

7. Alarms – Security & Fire

DMI our Alarm Supplier is arranging a date for Alarm Fob training.

8. Tower Storm Damage

We have submitted our costs to the COS Insurance company to handle the claim, and we expect a full recovery of the funds already spent.

As we await a decision about the next major step for our building development, we give grateful thanks to our Lord for His insight, support and leading of our congregation and our 2020 group. We continue to give thanks to God for your sacrificial giving and your prayers of encouragement to us all.

**“And whatever you ask in prayer,
you will receive,
if you have faith.”**

Matthew 21 :22 NIV

From Finance Committee

Hopefully by the time you read this article the first signs of Spring are beginning to appear.

The Finance Group had its first meeting of the year on 3rd February. We had a very full agenda. Among the items discussed were:-

The provisional end of the year Income & Expenditure figures, The budget for this year, Utilities (Gas and Electricity –trying to negotiate agreements with service providers), Property –Church & Manse and discussions on our ongoing insurance claims for storm damage etc., Cairnlea -2020 -a report on projects and their financial position.

In an effort to agree a timetable for the completion of our Audit and production of our Final Accounts, the Treasurer & Drew Reekie met with our auditors –Messrs Benson Woods. A report on this meeting was given and the feeling was that both parties felt that it had been very worthwhile.

The other thing I want to mention is that the audit of our Organisations Accounts is scheduled to take place on 20th February.

As promised in my last article I want to give you some figures from the provisional year end Income & Expenditure Accounts. Can I stress that these are subject to change from such things as accruals, & bills due to be paid for work carried out during 2024. It will at least give you some insight of how the Church did financially during last year.

| INCOME | 2024 (£) | 2023 (£) |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Freewill Offerings | 24,081 | 22,499 |
| Gift Aid Offerings | 62,005 | 63,455 |
| Open Plate | 5,137 | 6,260 |
| TOTAL | 91,223 | 92,214 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|
| Use of Premises | 15,456 | 12,833 |
| Legacies | 8,020 | 1,000 |
| Telephone Mast Rental | 21,520 | 16,119 |
| Summer Fayre | 1,900 | 1,600 |

Just a brief comment:- Collections were down approx. £1,000 while the charge for the Use of our Premises continues to show good growth.

| EXPENDITURE | 2024 (£) | 2023 (£) |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Repairs & Maintenance | 53,749 | 14,588 |
| Heating & Lighting | 22,508 | 18,320 |
| Giving to Grow | 79,744 | 73,642 |
| Church Insurance | 6,467 | 6,169 |
| Presbytery Dues | 2,638 | 2,410 |
| Salaries | 9,887 | 9,228 |

Just a couple of comments on our expenditure: With regard to Repairs etc there is an Insurance Claim lodged for the damage to the Church Tower. This will reduce the figure. With regard to the salaries figure I have ignored the salary paid for our Building Supervisor as we are very fortunate indeed to receive donations which offsets his salary.

Let me stress again that these are provisional figures only. Once the Church accounts are finalised then they will be made available, as usual, for members of the congregation to examine and ask questions. A date for the Stated Annual Meeting has still to be set and this will be advised in due course. I would urge all members of the congregation to attend this, if at all possible, in order that you get a full insight into Church Finances and have an opportunity to ask questions.

Anyone requiring any assistance, or further information please do not hesitate to contact myself, our Treasurer, Lynn or Margaret.

We will always try our best to help you.

Kind regards,

George Martin On behalf of the Finance Committee

Myself:- 01236 767206 email georgemarelle@btopenworld.com

Treasurer:- Gordon Calvert – email gordon.calvert@virginmoney.com

Free Will Offering:- Lynn Turnbull - 07960 344375

Gift Aid:- Margaret Mcombe - 01236 763977

For your Diaries

| Flower Calendar | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| March 2025 | |
| 2 | Marjorie Scobbie |
| 9 | Christine Duncan & Irene Cameron |
| 16 | Theresa Clark |
| 23 | Lesley Aitken |
| 30 | Angela Wagstaff |

| Duty Teams | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Dates | Team Leader |
| 2 March | Calum MacInnes |
| 9 & 16 March | Malcolm Ross |
| 23 & 30 March | John Elliott |

N.B. If you are unable to do your duty, please arrange a substitute.

Snoring

A minister consulted his doctor about his wife's snoring. "It has to STOP," he insisted.

The doctor was intrigued: "Does it really bother you that much?"

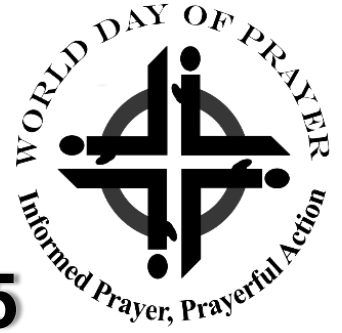
"Well, it's not just me," confided the minister. "She is bothering the whole congregation."

I'm giving up eating chocolate for a month. Oh, wait, sorry, bad punctuation. I meant, I'm giving up. Eating chocolate for a month.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 7th March 2025



SALVATION ARMY HALLCRAIG STREET AIRDRIE ML6 6AH 2.30pm

“I Made You Wonderful”

**Written by Christian Women
of the
Cook Islands**

Time for the Great Daffodil Appeal

Throughout the month of March, the end-of-life charity Marie Curie will once again be holding their annual flagship fundraiser, the Great Daffodil Appeal.



There's only one chance to give someone the best possible end of life.

And one chance for you to help fund care that makes that possible. Care that protects someone's dignity – instead of leaving them to die alone or in avoidable pain. This Great Daffodil Appeal is that chance.

Every five minutes, someone dies without the support they need. But by donating and wearing your daffodil this March, you can change that – and help Marie Curie Nurses bring expert end of life care when there's no cure, whatever the illness.

Money raised also funds the charity's free support line and webchat which is available to anyone with an illness they're likely to die from and those close to them. It offers practical and emotional support on everything from managing symptoms and navigating care to financial information, including how to get help with energy bills and bereavement support.

Whether it's taking part in a fundraising challenge, organising an event including bake sales, charity walks or concerts or volunteering your time to collect donations, every penny will help Marie Curie deliver quality care to those who need it most.

The Great Daffodil Appeal only happens once a year. This is your chance to make it count. For information and to donate visit: [Mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil](https://mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil)

Beware of these contagious diseases in church 😊

Frontophobia: A morbid fear of the front seats in church. The sufferer is struck by an attack just inside the church door, and so collapses in the nearest back seat.

Sermonic Throat: A dreaded choking caused by the start of the sermon. The sufferer unwraps a sweet very slowly and noisily, which seems to effect a complete cure.

Double Auricular Clearance: A condition due to the simultaneous opening of both ear ducts, which allows sound to enter one ear and leave the other without any absorption thereof. Condition is acute during Bible reading and sermon.

Accelerated Vocal Response: A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing faster than the organ.

Retarded Vocal Response: A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing slower than the organ.

Theexits: A condition where the sufferer rushes for the exit before the minister gets there.

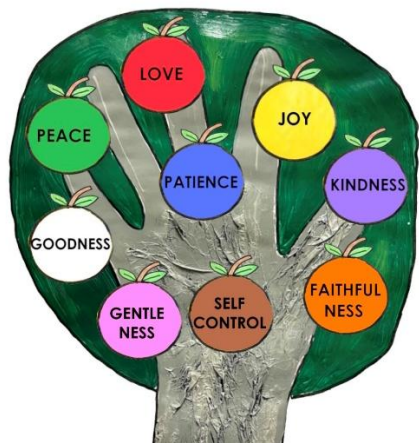
Church Meeting Paralysis: This can strike suddenly, when a post in the church needs filling. A good dose of enthusiasm works wonders with this sad affliction.

Why you love your mother

Gratitude is a large part of Mothering Sunday. So, this month why not spend a few moments thinking back, and ask yourself this:

What quality or wisdom did your mother bestow on you in childhood, for which you are most grateful now?

Bearing fruit takes time



THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22,23

The nine fruits of the Spirit are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. We don't strive for the fruits of the Spirit, rather we plant ourselves in good soil, allow ourselves to be fed by the Holy Spirit, keep taking in nourishment, turn to face the light of Christ and these fruits will develop and grow in our lives.

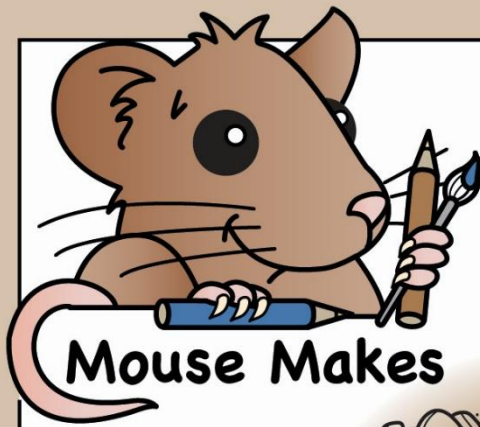
Can you tell whether a tree is an apple tree or a pear tree? Not easily when they are in blossom, but very easily when they bear fruit. Bearing fruit takes time and a lot of planting, preparation, nurture and growth.

March is the time of year when gardeners begin to plant seeds ready for summer, but patience is needed – the seeds will take a while to germinate, and the gardener needs to write the names of seeds on labels and not forget which are fruit, flowers and vegetables. The seeds need to be in the dark, or the light, or the warmth or the cool, depending at what stage of life they are at.

So too, is God with us. God writes our names on His heart; God knows what fruit we can bring forth. God nurtures us and gives us light to grow. But first, we need to be planted and that can be scary.

Maybe you are feeling in a cold dark place this March, maybe it feels as if you've been buried, maybe you've got a weight above you and you can't see the way out. Just think that maybe you've been buried because you've been planted.

With patience there will be warmth and light, be like a seed, trust God, and begin to grow out of the darkness towards God's marvellous light. We won't see fruit immediately; we have to be nourished and mature and ripen. Patience will be given to us, fruit of the seed of the Holy Spirit.



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised who led him into the wilderness?



Luke 4:1

For how many days was Jesus tempted by the devil?

Luke 4:2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

Luke 4:3

What happened after the temptation of Jesus?
 see *Luke 4:14-15*

Who did Jesus say you should ONLY worship and serve?

Luke 4:8



READ
 the story in
Luke 4:1-13



Jesus said not to put the Lord your God to the...

Luke 4:12



JESUS • LED
 WILDERNESS
 DESERT
 TEMPTATIONS
 DAYS • DEVIL
 HUNGRY • SON
 STONE • ROCK
 KINGDOMS
 WORLD • GLORY
 WRITTEN
 SCRIPTURE
 WORSHIP • ONLY
 SERVE • LORD
 JERUSALEM
 HIGH • TEMPLE
 THROW • DOWN
 JUMP • ANGELS
 HANDS • HOLD
 LIFT • FOOT

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| L | I | F | T | W | P | A | H | D | J | U | M | P | A |
| E | L | O | R | D | K | I | O | E | D | O | S | E | Y |
| D | D | O | A | N | G | E | L | S | E | K | T | M | S |
| F | E | H | U | N | G | R | Y | E | B | R | O | C | K |
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Find the words from the questions too!

CHURCH DIRECTORY

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Minister | Rev. Dr Peter Donald | 01236 753159 07453 359531 |
| Session Clerk | David Calvert | 01236 752692 |
| Roll Keeper | Margaret Cupples | 01236 767552 |
| Presbytery Elder | Aileen Barrie | 01236 760655 |
| Church Treasurer | Gordon Calvert | 07970 100174 |
| Finance Convener | George Martin | 01236 767206 |
| Freewill Offering | Lynn Turnbull | 07960 344375 |
| Gift Aid | Margaret McCombe | 01236 763977 |
| Property Convener | Angela Wagstaff | 07718 432581 |
| Community Convener | Esther Watson | 01236 755960 |
| Pastoral Care Convener | - | - |
| Communications Convener | Les Turnbull | 07854 164380 |
| Cairnlea 2020 Convener | Malcolm Ross | 07734 684667 |
| Spiritual Growth | Rev. Dr Peter Donald | 01236 753159 |
| Church Cleaner | Rachel Black | 01236 609919 |
| Church Flowers | Elizabeth Reekie | 01236 762948 |
| Music Director | Marjory MacDonald | 01236 762669 |
| The Guild | Anne Gray | 01236 765047 |
| Funday Club | Pamela Spence | 01236 769146 |
| Girls' Brigade Captain | Lesley Curran | 01236 628625 |
| Boys' Brigade Captain | Andrew Cupples | 01236 600129 |
| Life & Work Magazine | Alex Clark | 01236 768760 |
| Saturday Tea & Coffee Morning | Shanly Watson | 01236 755960 |
| Toy Library | Margaret McCombe | 01236 763977 |
| Parents & Toddlers | Katey Brolly | 07747 122527 |
| Senior Citizen's Club | Morag Stewart | 01236 766439 |
| Probus Club | Bill White | 01236 769044 |
| Safeguarding | Irvine Wright | 01236 595351 |
| DVD Recording of Services | Robert Cunningham | 01236 761337 |
| Health & Safety Co-ordinator | - | - |
| Cairnlea 2020 Treasurer | Gordon Barrie Calum MacInnes | 01236 760655 01698 860588 |
| Sunday Car Rota | Shanly Watson | 01236 755960 |

Contributions for the April magazine to be in the hands of the editor by Monday 24 March, 2025.

MINISTER

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