

# Cairnlea Parish Church

'COMMITTED to CHRIST – CARING for OUR COMMUNITY'

**April 2026**

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

[www.cairleaparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.cairleaparishchurch.co.uk)

**Hosanna!**

**Crucify him!**

**Finished!**

**He is risen!**

**Alleluia!**





## FROM THE MINISTER

*Dear friends,*

I'm writing before we deliver it, but we're looking forward to taking something of the Easter story into the Primary Schools. We have a team of volunteers who will lead the children through five points – the washing of feet, the Last Supper, the prayer in Gethsemane, the scene in the public square before Pontius Pilate and the crucifixion.

It's Scripture Union material and the thought is both to give children a sense of a story with which many sadly are unfamiliar, but also to put it into a wider framework. Think not least of how surprising it all is. It is surprising, when we think about it, that God has an interest in humanity at all, given humanity's patent failures and shortcomings. The story of Israel in history shows that in full technicolour (even now!), and yet even out of Israel God could work, presenting Jesus of Nazareth as His Son – the Christ promised in the Bible.

This aspect of surprise runs through all of Jesus' story. See in those five moments we offer to the children, how surprising it was that a leader figure was so ready to humble himself. How surprising it was that a familiar tradition of religion (Passover) could be reinterpreted and brought alive by Jesus. How surprising it was that the Son of God was so wrought with anguish and pained as he prayed in Gethsemane. How surprising it was that people who had days earlier feted Jesus were so easily turned by bad leaders, and so before Pilate they called out for Jesus to be crucified. And how surprising it was that, despite the prayers in Gethsemane, and despite Jesus' innocence, and despite him having so much to give as long as he lived, that God allowed him to suffer and die.

How surprising, and yet so cosmically wonderful, that the One whom God raised from death bore his wounds and died for us. He is therefore the wounded-and-risen Jesus, he is the killed-and-risen Jesus. We all of us need to think about our fears of getting hurt and whether they are well placed. I mean in particular, if we need to clear about what is right and true and good in God's sight, what is it that we are ready to fight for, and to be wounded even in the fight?

I write that, even though I hesitate greatly to use the word "fight": since at present in the world very wrong voices are advocating war in God's name. Let me be clear that I don't see any violence or aggression in Jesus' story, other than that which came from his enemies. But I do take from

Jesus courage. I do take from Jesus faith, I do take from Jesus strength to help me through my weakness, and forgiveness to set me on a better path. This is where resurrection should lead us. Read I Timothy chapter 6, verses 11-16.

Yours,  
*Peter*

## **WORSHIP IN APRIL**

We joyfully welcome anyone to come to worship on a Sunday morning at 11 am. While the streaming service is very important and a high priority for us, it is even better to be there in person! And of course this month also the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on the last Sunday this month, 26<sup>th</sup> April, either at 11 am or 3 pm.

A word of thanks also for your support in the special services before and around Easter. Marjory has been gathering a group of people to sing for that; we shall I know be appreciating special hospitality as well as the regular after service teas and coffees. It is a blessing. Thank you.

## CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS  
YOU'VE EVER HEARD?



We began on Tuesday evenings in March to follow a course developed and used widely elsewhere called Christianity Explored. It follows readings in the Gospel of Mark, inviting people to think and discuss together, following a short video presentation. As we have found before, there is interest around to do that, and we encourage anyone who wants to taste and see to feel free to come along. Even if you are joining mid-course, it might whet your appetite for more?



We gladly share that we are advertising again for someone to fill the post of Children's and Youth Worker. Unfortunately, it seems that we are not the only place where we have discovered the shortage of people available and qualified, but we continue to pray on and hope, for the sake of reaching out effectively to have an impact on today's young people. Your support is greatly appreciated. If you can put anyone even just on the path

of asking for more information, do contact either Pamela Spence or Peter Donald.

### **From Finance Committee**

By the time you read this article Easter will nearly be with us.

The Finance Group have not met recently as we were waiting the production of our Annual Accounts from our auditors. Shanly, our Treasurer, has had discussions and meetings with them to get them finalised. In the last couple of days we have been advised that they will be issued this coming week (w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> March). In connection with this the Finance Group will meet and go over them. A meeting of the Church Trustees has been scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> March to hopefully approve and sign them off. If things go to plan the process of finalising them will be completed before Easter!

Hopefully I will be able to give you further details in the May magazine. Happy now to give you some key figures for the period 1/1/26-28/2/26:-

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2026 (£)</b>	<b>2025 (£)</b>
Freewill Offerings	3,413	3,593
Gift Aid Offerings	9,520	9,934
Open Plate	767	621
Use of Premises	3,289	3,743

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2026 (£)</b>	<b>2025 (£)</b>
Fabric Repairs etc.	1,372	11,168
Heating & Lighting	7,402	2,357
Giving to Grow	14,820	7,307

The Annual Audit of our Church organisations accounts has been undertaken and I am happy to record that they have all been found to be

in good order. My thanks go to the Treasurers and Leaders for all there help and assistance in getting this task completed.

Would just take this opportunity to remind members of the congregation that we will be more than happy to assist anyone who wishes to change over to giving by Standing Order. Just ask any member of the Finance Group or the contacts below.

On behalf of the Finance Group can I wish you all a very Happy Easter!

*George Martin* On behalf of the Finance Committee

Myself:- 01236 767206 email georgemarelle@btopenworld.com

Treasurer:- Shanly Watson – email jsbwatson5@yahoo.com

Free Will Offering:- Lynn Turnbull - 07960 344375

Gift Aid:- Margaret McCombe - 01236 763977

**For your Diaries**

<b>Flower Calendar</b>	
<b>April 2026</b>	
5	Marjory MacDonald
12	G Hood
19	Sandra Reid
26	Sally Elliott

<b>Duty Teams</b>	
<b>Dates</b>	<b>Team Leader</b>
5 & 12 April	Jim Lewis
19 & 26 April	Calum MacInnes

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

**Summer Fayre Saturday 13 June  
10 a.m. - 12 noon**

The usual stalls will be available:- Home Baking, Bric-a-Brac, Jewellery, Plants, Bottle Stall etc. and donations will be much appreciated.

Please note change of date. Tea Tickets will be available soon. Put the date in your diary now and come along and enjoy the fun and fellowship.

## **CAIRNLEA 2020 REPORT**

**The 2020 Group continues with its work to keep the buildings in good order whilst preparing for our continuing refurbishment of the remaining elements of our buildings and grounds. We are keeping you informed of the items we are currently working on and share our latest update with you.**

### **1. THE CAIRNLEA CENTRE – A WELLBEING HUB FOR AIRDRIE.**

The Stage 2 Application for the 2026/2027 RCGF funding decision is pending. We do not have any further news since last month, so we are patiently waiting the outcome of our bid for funding. The design and planning continue to be revised and updated for an immediate start when the funding arrives. The Architect has included the cost of installation of Solar Panels and Electricity Battery storage within the scope of the new building.

### **2. Electricity Supply.**

The Electricity meter complaint is still unresolved by Scottish Power (SPEN), we are going through the complaint's procedure, and it has now been passed to the next level.

### **3. Cash Flow**

**Bank Balance as at 24.03.2026 is £127,358.01**

There are no unpaid Invoices.

### **4. Funding Raising**

Our discussions with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) continue. We are applying to the small grants scheme for the roof project and the external lighting scheme. This work will not commence until the funding is available.

We have contacted CARES to arrange a meeting with them for the Wellbeing Hub funding. They will assist with the design for the Carbon Net Zero elements of the new air source heating plant and the main insulation of the new Building.

### **5. Roof Project.**

All approvals are in place and the work is awaiting the outcome of our funding grants. £8,000 in grants has been pledged by external funders. Revised tenders are being prepared. It was agreed that we should ring fence £65,000 of the 2020 Fund to provide the elements of Roof refurbishment and renewal and extension of the External Lighting.

## **6. Marketing.**

The rental bookings for halls and rooms are very stable, the control and administration of the booking system is excellent. These bookings make such a major contribution to our income streams.

We would ask you to promote our facilities to your Family and friends encouraging them to use our buildings for their celebrations, birthday parties, musical events, etc. We have many social needs groups and community events using our premises.

Our buildings give us great potential to have people share opportunities to grow their faith, friendships, and fellowship. We offer an exciting number of biblical teaching and learning events sharing the Good News of Jesus.

## **7. Alarms**

The Alarm Fobs have been issued to all key holders. The Fob operation is working satisfactorily.

## **8. Building Signage & Direction Boards**

We have obtained costing for improved signing / direction boards which is circa £1975 +VAT. The Cairnlea House entrance hallway noticeboard price is still awaited. New maps and updated directions are being posted on the Church web site.

Our group pray and give grateful thanks to the Lord, for His great Faithfulness and Grace to our church. We thank you for your prayers, financial generosity, patience and for your encouragement to our group. Any questions? please ask a 2020 team member.

Lord is good

**'For the Lord is good .... His faithfulness continues  
through all generations.'**

**Psalm 100: 5 NIV**

*Malcolm*

**24 March 2026**

## **From our Session Clerk**

**Welcome:** Easter will be upon us in April, and it is such a pleasure to be coming out of Winter and see the daffodils and primrose in flower. The Spring Equinox when the sun rises in the East and sets in the West is past, however not yet a time to discard the heavier Winter clothing. I hope you are not experiencing heavy fuel and petrol bills as a result of the war between USA, Israel and Iran. Let us pray for peace in that unstable part

of the World. May Easter serve to reinforce our faith and remind us that the Resurrection shows the way to everlasting life in Jesus Christ. To each of you, may you enjoy a blessed and happy Easter.

### **Worship in March**

During March, our Minister led worship on Matthew 5 which starts with the Beatitudes and ends with the theme of 'Love your enemies'. We also studied Hosea, a prophet who was concerned over the idolatry of the people of Israel and their faithlessness (*'My God will reject them because they have not obeyed Him; they will be wanderers among the nations.'*). There are some challenging extracts in Matthew 5 and 6, however it rewards reading. We also welcomed our Girls' Brigade to a service of thanksgiving and learned of their activities. Thank you to the officers and brigade for attending and well done to those who participated in readings and prayers.

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7:30pm and on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 11am and 3pm, we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Please note that Home Communion is also available to those who are unable to attend. Please contact either the Minister or David Calvert should Home Communion be requested. Please see the section in this magazine for the Easter services.

Live streaming of services on 'YouTube' at 11:00am each Sunday morning continues, and previous services can be accessed at any time. For those who cannot attend, we hope you continue to enjoy our services. Thanks are due to the audio/ visual team, especially Robert and Mary Cunningham who serve us so well.

### **Kirk Session and Business Committee meetings**

The latest meeting of the Business Committee was held on 4<sup>th</sup> March and Kirk Session met on 18<sup>th</sup> March. A brief summary follows.

**Presbytery Mission Plan:** Following the meetings at each of the 4C Cluster churches, Ministers, Session Clerks and a representative met to review progress and consider the way ahead. Our consideration of direction was however changed as Presbytery Planning and Implementation called many of the Airdrie churches to a meeting where amendments to our Mission Plan and to that of New Wellwynd / Jackson were proposed. Our Kirk Session discussed the proposal at its 18<sup>th</sup> March meeting and will revert to Presbytery P&I as will all other affected churches. Further updates will be given in the magazine following Presbytery meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

## **Team Reports:**

**Cairnlea 2020:** See separate report in the magazine.

**Finance:** See separate report in the magazine. We await the draft Annual Report 2025 from our independent examiner and a Trustee meeting has been called for 28<sup>th</sup> March to consider the report and if in order approve.

**Pastoral Care:** Rev. Rob Jones is now pastoral Care Convener, and we wish Rob well in this essential role. Communion will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 11:00am and at 3:00pm, the latter service including a tea and refreshments. Our Summer Fayre will now be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June to avoid a date clash with Calderbank.

**Property:** Plans are being drawn up to expedite repairs to the Manse wall on Victoria Place.

**Attestation:** Cairnlea records were successfully examined and attested by Presbytery 19<sup>th</sup> March. Our finance and property schedules will be attested when Presbytery advise a date. Thank you to those who maintain Cairnlea records to such a high standard.

**Calderbank Parish Church:** Calderbank will celebrate 170 years of its building with a service on Sunday **7<sup>th</sup> June at 9:30am** to be conducted by the Moderator Designate. Cairnlea are invited to join with Calderbank at this special time. Calderbank are also planning a Garden Party on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June from 1pm to 3pm and anyone is welcome to come along. We send our best wishes to Calderbank on this memorable occasion.

## **Poets' Corner:**

### **"Easter Hymn" by A.E. Housman**

Housman was a Victorian scholar specializing in Latin but had a vibrant side career as a poet. "Easter Hymn" is unusual because Housman wasn't religious, yet it captures why Christ rising from the tomb is such a shocking idea better than many poems by religious writers do. It also combines a meditation on Christ's resurrection with a plea: may he bring aid now if Christ is alive today.

"If in that Syrian garden, ages slain,  
You sleep, and know not you are dead in vain,  
Nor even in dreams behold how dark and bright  
Ascends in smoke and fire by day and night  
The hate you died to quench and could but fan,  
Sleep well and see no morning, son of man.  
But if, the grave rent and the stone rolled by,  
At the right hand of majesty on high  
You sit, and sitting so remember yet

Your tears, your agony and bloody sweat,  
Your cross and passion and the life you gave,  
Bow hither out of heaven and see and save."

### **"Easter Morning" by Christina Rossetti**

Christina Rossetti wrote many poems, at least two of which ("Easter Carol" and "Easter Morning") mention the Easter season. "Easter Morning" reflects how all nature seems to be rejoicing with us as we celebrate Christ's resurrection.

"The sun arises from the sea, And all around his rays is flinging,  
The flowers are opening on the lea, The merry birds are singing.

The summer breeze is rustling past, Sweet scents are gathering around  
it,  
The rivulet is flowing fast, Beside the banks that bound it.

All nature seemeth to rejoice, In the returning summer weather;  
Let us with nature raise our voice, And harmonize together.

But not alone for summer skies Shall praise unto our God be given:  
This day our Saviour did arise, And oped the gate of heaven.

To sinful man, if only he His errings will confess with sorrow,  
Then, after earth's night-misery, Shall dawn a glorious morrow:

A blissful bright eternity Bought by the rising of the Giver,  
To Whom all praise, all honor be, For ever and for ever."

### **Caring for us:**

Our prayers are as always for those who are ill or alone, those who still provide emergency services, those in schools and care homes. Please also remember those who feel threatened by several concerns of health, family, loss of income and other matters, and the most vulnerable in our society who may be suffering from a variety of ailments. Please also remember those in our world who are subjected to wars, famine, persecution. Please keep in touch with family and friends, especially those who are alone or vulnerable, and remember them in your prayers. Should you know of any members who are in hospital or ill at home, please speak with the Minister or David. Our Pastoral Care team are also available to any of our Community.

*David*



Isabel, Ian Jr and Carol thank you for the many cards, messages and lovely flowers received on Ian's passing, these were all very much appreciated. A donation of £500 was sent to British Heart Foundation in Ian's memory.

*The Galloway Family*

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Thank you very much for the birthday greetings I received on my 98th birthday. These were very much appreciated.

*Mary Main*

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Thank you very much for the lovely bouquet of flowers received from Cairnlea - it was unexpected and very much appreciated.

*Isabella O'Neil*



## **Evacuation Chair Training**

**16<sup>th</sup> May Auditorium Cairnlea Church**

**10am one hour session for max of 4 people**

**11am one hour session for max of 4 people**

**12midday one hour session for max of 4 people**

The above training slots have been booked for evacuation chair training in case of emergencies . If you are fit and able, please do consider one of these training sessions and give your name to Angela Wagstaff or call her on 07718 432581.

## **Biblical Truth**

Scientists working on the United States space programme were astonished recently when reference to the Bible solved a problem that had baffled the computers. The scientists were checking the position in space of the sun, moon and planets 100 years from now – a precaution necessary for planning satellite flights. The computer measurement was being run over past centuries when it stopped because apparently there was a day missing in space in elapsed time. No one could account for the missing day until one member of the team recalled the story in Joshua Chapter 10, where Joshua asked the Lord to make the sun stand still for “about a whole day”. This, however, was not accurate enough for the computer which was still short of forty minutes. Even this discrepancy was cleared up however when the team member knowledgeable on Scripture recalled a passage in Second Kings, Chapter 20, in which Isaiah called on the Lord to make the sun go backwards ten degrees as a sign for Hezekiah. Ten degrees in this kind of calculation is exactly forty minutes.....

## Quotes for April

### April brings us Good Friday and Easter....

There is no tribunal so magnificent, no throne so stately, no show of triumph so distinguished, no chariot so elevated, as is the gibbet on which Christ hath subjected death and the devil. - *John Calvin*.

The precious Lamb of God gave up His precious fleece for us. - *Christopher Nesse*

When Jesus bowed His head, And dying took our place,  
The veil was rent, a way was found to that pure home of grace. - *John Elias*

Christ is now creation's scepter-bearer, as He was once creation's burden-bearer. - *A J Gordon*

Christ is either both Saviour and Lord, or He is neither Saviour nor Lord. - *John R De Witt*

Tomorrow's history has already been written... at the name of Jesus every knee must bow. - *Paul E Kauffman*

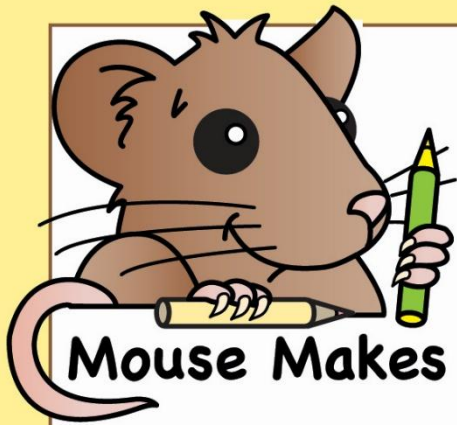
### Your Easter chocolate can be good for you



It all began in ancient Peru over 5,000 years ago. They liked to sip cacao, the purest form of chocolate. It took many centuries to find its way to Europe, but when it did arrive, it was a big hit. Now, with sugar added, chocolate is one of the most popular treats we know. In the UK we munch our way through about 4.5kg

of it, per person, per year.

Dark chocolate is soaring in popularity. If it is of good quality, it will have less sugar and more beneficial plant compounds such as polyphenols and flavanols, which can help protect your brain, your heart and your gut from inflammation, among other things.



**Mouse Makes**

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

JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS  
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS  
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS  
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY  
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY  
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN  
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD  
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST  
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY



**EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE**

I carried Jesus into Jerusalem

**Read Matthew 21:1-11**

I handed Jesus over to be crucified

**Read Matthew 27:11-26**

I nailed Jesus to the cross

**Read Mark 15:16-32**

We watched Jesus die

**Read Mark 15:33-41**

I laid his body in my tomb

**Read Mark 15:42-47**

I guarded the tomb

**Read Matthew 27:62-66**

We saw the empty tomb

**Read Matthew 28:1-10**

and spoke to the angel

**Jesus is alive!**  
He ate a meal with me!

**Read Luke 24:13-35**

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

Minister	Rev. Dr Peter Donald	01236 753159 07453 359531
Session Clerk	David Calvert	01236 752692
Roll Keeper	-	-
Presbytery Elder	Aileen Barrie	01236 760655
Church Treasurer	Shanly Watson	01236 372571
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 372571
Pastoral Care Convener	Rob Jones	07761 782714
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
Saturday Tea & Coffee Morning	Shanly Watson	01236 372571
Toy Library	Margaret McCombe	01236 763977
Parents & Toddlers	Katey Brolly	07747 122527
Senior Citizen's Club	Morag Stewart	01236 766439
Probus Club	George Lindsay	07709 078028
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 372571

**Contributions for the May magazine to be in the hands of the editor by Monday 20 April, 2026.**

**MINISTER**

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**GIRLS' BRIGADE DISPLAY**  
**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April @ 6:45p.m.**

**Please come along and support the Officers  
and the girls.**

**Everyone is welcome!**