

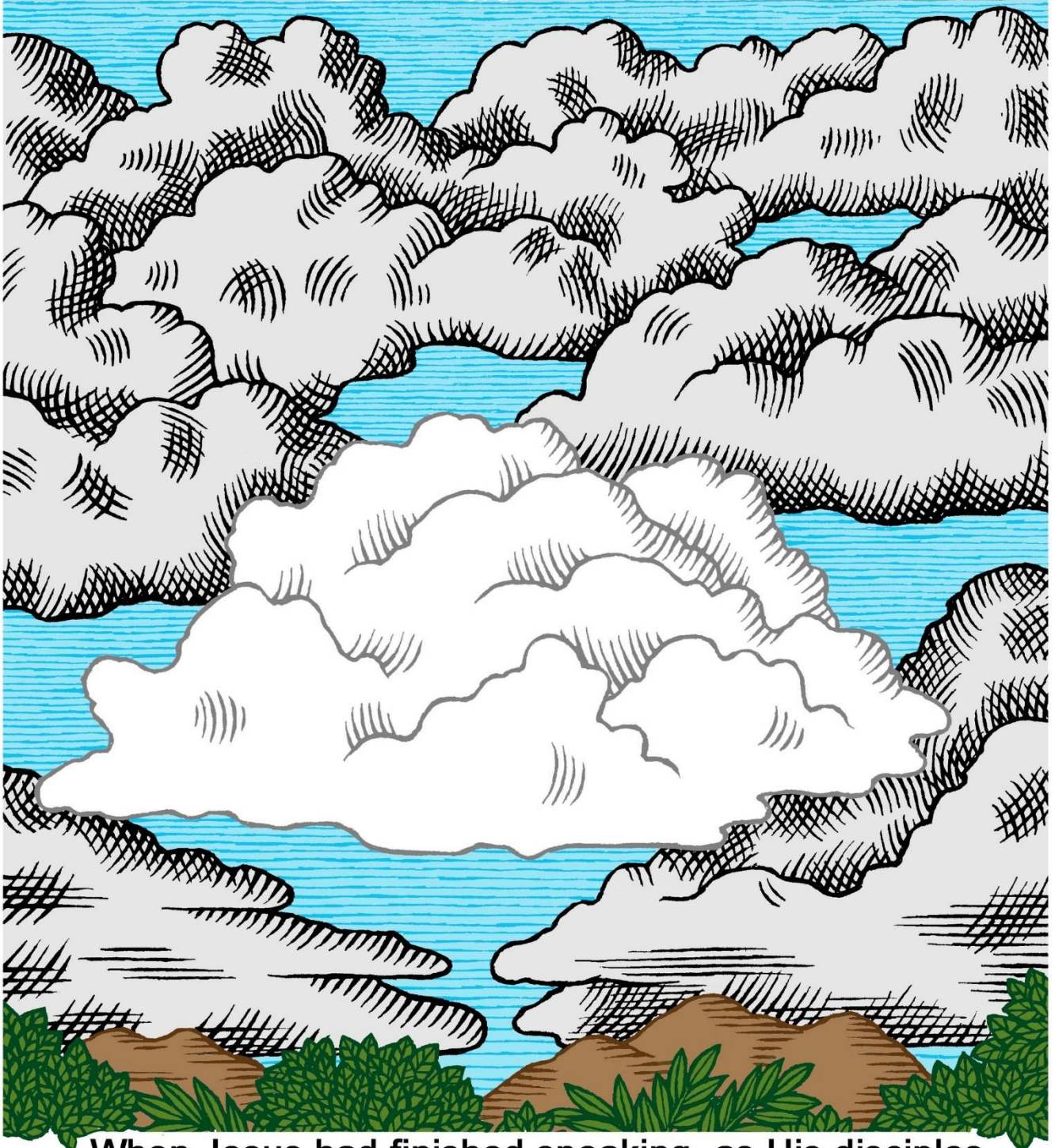
Cairnlea Parish Church

'COMMITTED to CHRIST – CARING for OUR COMMUNITY'

May 2026

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

www.cairnleaparishchurch.co.uk



... When Jesus had finished speaking, as His disciples watched intently, He was taken up into heaven and a cloud hid Him from their sight. Acts 1:7-9



FROM THE MINISTER

Dear friends,

I'm rather conscious since we have a number of our young people heading into the exam period how demanding this coming time will be for them. We're having our Girls' Brigade display quite early in order to keep clear of exams; and our CYC group whether at school or university have a lot on their plate. Do remember them in your prayers!

It sets me thinking more widely about testing times. I daresay we think we're living through these (even if we're not the Prime Minister!). Whether it's at that high level of policy making and negotiating constant challenges both at home and abroad, or within our own immediate contexts, we look for strength and wisdom. And I am so very struck how Jesus, with his first group of friends and by extension for our sake, encourages us to find that strength and wisdom not simply by relying on our own resources. It matters of course to strive after inner resilience and to learn along the way (not least from our mistakes), but there truly is the possibility of being guided and supported by God. Ask ... seek ... knock at the door, and we shall not be turned away.

So what's so difficult? Perhaps sometimes our pride gets in the way, or our thinking that we should not be seen to be needy. I would share the thought, which I believe is totally in line with what Jesus was saying, that to be dependent, and to need to trust God, is something extremely positive. Many might own this only as a last resort; for Jesus it was the first thing to think about. As a loving parent will keep a care for the wellbeing of even their grown-up children, so the Father has a loving care for us which we should not underestimate. Loving support from God, help for carrying our burdens, understanding when we feel up against it, all of this is very real if we would but open ourselves to it.

In the Lord's Prayer, the phrase, "Lead us not into temptation", carries the sense that our confidence is in a God who will not abandon us to the worst that life can bring but rather, as Jesus' prayer says it, He will deliver us from evil. To pray is to trust – and to say out loud that we trust; and to live in that way of trust. It may be that we have been our own worst enemies, bringing trouble on ourselves, or it may be that forces and events quite outside our control are pushing us and straining us. But still (as for Jesus, for example, in the boat through the storm), active faith is the way to go.

Yours, *Peter*

TIMES OF HOPE, TIMES OF OPPORTUNITY

My monthly letter this month dwelt on the thought of “testing times”. The flipside to that – for let’s be clear, nothing comes without testing/ decisions / a need for discernment – is that it can be exciting (!) for things not to be standing still or, worse, withering away. So there’s quite a lot potentially on the cards

- Will Cairnlea 2020 be able to lead us towards further developing our buildings and can we in related vein continue strengthen our service to and connections with the wider community?
- Will Growing Young Cairnlea be able to make an appointment for someone to work with children and youth?
- Will the churches in our cluster be able to move plans significantly forward for some sort of new formation of working together?
- Will we be able to draw more new faces into a fellowship which is built around conversations about and teachings on Christian faith?

All of this is live, and meanwhile I myself have responsibilities elsewhere also – in Calderbank Church; helping the Newhouse Cluster as an Interim Moderator; preparing in the summer to take on a Probationer Minister here in Cairnlea and Calderbank. And that’s aside from all the regular tasks and challenges. How much I appreciate your gifts and prayers!

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Death

Mrs Jean McKinlay, Credon Drive, on 31 March.

Seize the day

Today is the oldest you’ve ever been, yet the youngest you’ll ever be, so enjoy this day while it lasts.

From Finance Committee

I sincerely hope that everyone had an enjoyable Easter. It certainly was a busy period in the life of our Church.

In the run up to Easter the Treasurer and Finance Group were busy getting the Annual Accounts completed in time to meet the Church of Scotland deadline of 31st March. I, myself, feel that this deadline date needs to change as our congregation along with many others require to have our accounts audited and produced by recognised firms of Accountants. The first quarter of a New Year is the busiest time and we are, to a certain degree, at their mercy to get these accounts produced. All credit to our Treasurer, Shanly who frequently chased them up to enable this task to be completed on time. A draft of the accounts was received on 25th March and the Finance Group met to discuss them that evening. We requested a few amendments, although, subject to these being made, we were happy to recommend that they be accepted. The final accounts came in late on the 27th and the Trustees met the following day to discuss and give their approval. After signature, by our Office Bearers and Auditors they were duly submitted to Presbytery and a copy sent to OSCR (the Charities regulator). All done and dusted before Holy Week commenced.

It is the responsibility of the Kirk Session to set a date for the Stated Annual General Meeting to be held. At this meeting our custom is for the Treasurer to give a slide presentation of these accounts. He will also be more than happy to answer any questions that the congregation may have during the presentation.

I would urge all members to try and attend this Meeting. It is **your** church and it is important that everyone feels part of it and knows just what your monetary gifts are being used for.

Once the Stated meeting has taken place I will try and put some of the slides which were used during it, into an article for the magazine.

Next meeting of the Finance Group is scheduled for 4th May, when we will have a full agenda to get through.

Meanwhile I would like to share with you some key figures from the Income & Expenditure Accounts for the period 1/1/26-31/3/26:-

INCOME	2026 (£)
Freewill Offerings	5,603
Gift Aid Offerings	14,974
Open Plate	1,177
Use of Premises	6,092
Telephone Mast	2,356

EXPENDITURE	2026 (£)
Fabric Repairs etc.	4,190
Heating & Lighting	11,210
Giving to Grow	22,230

We 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.

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



Flower Calendar	
May 2026	
3	J Hall
10	Alison Gillespie
17	J & B Elliott
24	Nancy McLeod
31	Heather Lowrie

Duty Teams	
Dates	Team Leader
3 & 10 May	Malcolm Ross
17 & 24 May	Alison Chambers
31 May & 7 June	Gordon Barrie

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

CAIRNLEA 2020 REPORT

Here is the 2020 Group's report for this month, we are working to keep everything moving forward relating to our building improvements. Sometimes things are a bit slow or delayed but we keep on updating our action plan so we are ready to take advantage should anything change quickly. Please ask if you have any questions.

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

The Stage 2 Application for the 2026/2027 RCGF funding decision is imminent.

The design and planning concept is being revised in preparation for discussion of the final design with the Architect.

2. Electricity Supply.

The Electricity meter complaint is still unresolved with Scottish Power (SPEN), we are going through the complaint's procedure, and it has now been passed to the next level. **NO UPDATE THIS MONTH.**

3. Cash Flow

Bank Balance as at 21.04.2026 is £137.007.94

There are no unpaid Invoices.

4. Funding Raising

Our application to Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is in process to the small grants scheme for the roof project and the external lighting scheme. We shall apply to CARES / Local Energy Scotland for funding to cover the Carbon Net Zero elements of the new air source heating plant and the main insulation of the new Building.

There are several funding applications to be submitted but only upon receipt of the main funding grant.

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. Current tenders are being re-priced. 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 continue to be regular and new clients are slowly coming to use our premises. The control and

administration of the booking system is excellent. This is a major part element of our Income Growth Plan.

We would ask you all to spread the word of our excellent facilities through 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 our community users enjoy a super space for their activities for caring and sharing with others in need of love and attention. We offer exciting opportunities for bible teaching events allowing us to share the Good News of Jesus.

7. Alarms

The Alarm Fob system is operating 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.

As ever we pray and give grateful thanks to the Lord, for His Love and Grace to our church. We also thank you our members for your prayers, financial generosity, patience and for your encouragement to our group. Any questions? Please ask a 2020 team member.

'So that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of the Lord.'
Colossians 1: 10 NIV

Malcolm

21 April 2026

Geraniums

A man burst into a flower shop and urgently demanded two pink potted geraniums. The assistant explained that they did not have any, but could offer him African violets instead. "No," said the man sadly. "It was geraniums that my wife told me to water while she was gone."



**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
MAY 10 - 16**

Theme: 'WHERE HARDSHIP MEANS HUNGER ... Urban farmers can grow hope.'

Hi Folks, you will find a donation envelope inside this magazine should you like to donate to Christian Aid.

Again, we are challenged to help and support various projects around the world, projects which highlight the very difficult task faced by the teams of workers sent out by Christian Aid to help others in hunger, need and distress.

Can you please help? If so, please return your donation envelope to church before the end of May, that would be much appreciated. Thanks in advance for your kind donations.

Airdrie Christian Aid Committee



**Celebrity Organ Recital in
Cairnlea
May 16th 2026 at 2pm.**

The Lanarkshire Society of Organists has approached us at Cairnlea to ask if we would be willing to host its final event of the 2025-2026 season – a celebrity organ recital given by Dr. John Kitchen, who is a highly renowned organist, and an honorary member of LSO.

We are delighted to do so, and look forward very much to his recital. Although organised by LSO, the recital is open to the public and all are most welcome to attend. There is no entrance charge or ticket required. Do please come and support this event in our church, which I'm sure will be memorable and most enjoyable.

Marjory



Jim and Alison Hay would like to thank everyone for the Church Flowers which were very much appreciated. They send their good wishes to everyone at Cairnlea.

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers sent recently to me these were very much appreciated.

My best wishes to all the congregation.

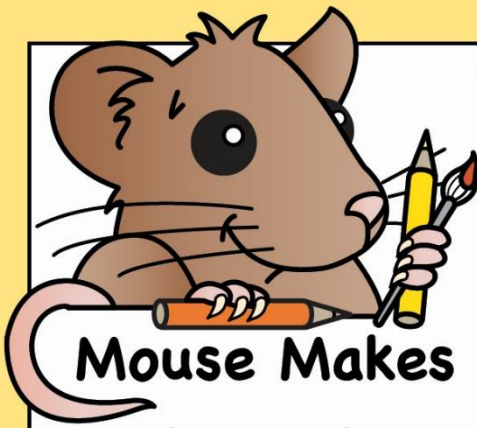
Kelly Watson

TEAM BUILDERS

Cairnlea Church Children's Holiday Club for all primary school age children P1 - P7 **27th July - 1st Aug**
10:30am to 12:30pm.

Come and join us for a fun-filled week. There will be games, crafts, Bible stories and singing!

More details on how to register will be in next month's magazine.



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of

_____ Genesis 1:2

The

_____ of the Father.
Acts 1:4

The Spirit of

A _____
Romans 8:15

H _____
John 14:26

The Spirit of

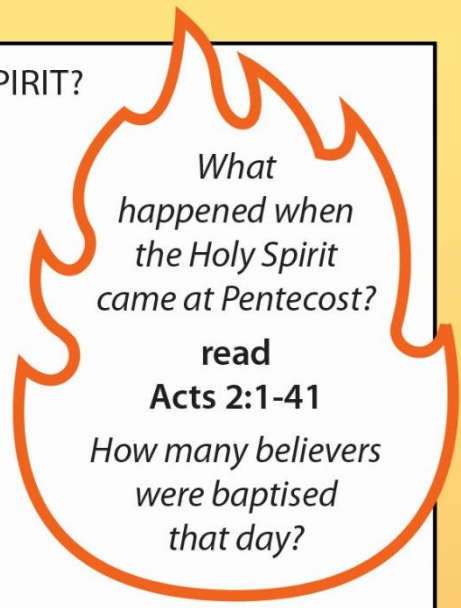
_____ John 16:13

The Spirit of

_____ Acts 16:7

The Fruit of the Spirit
Galatians 5:22-23

___ O ___
___ Y ___
___ C ___
___ T ___
___ I ___
___ N ___
___ S ___
___ N ___



What happened when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost?

read Acts 2:1-41

How many believers were baptised that day?

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

Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

- HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER
- ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE
- GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND

From our Session Clerk

Welcome: Our Easter services were well-attended and there were some new faces who were welcomed. Thank you to Marjory, our organist, and the choir who provided Easter hymns over the three days of services. Thank you also to those who assisted with catering on Thursday and Easter Sunday.

Worship in April

During April, we continued to follow Matthew 7, *'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and the door will be opened to you.'* This is indeed a relevant and memorable passage. Indeed, we celebrate 500 years since William Tyndale translated the Bible from the original Greek into English, an act which has served us so well over the years, but which ultimately cost Tyndale his life as such translations into English were forbidden, as they were considered heresy. Tyndale stands alongside Gutenberg, Erasmus, Martin Luther and John Wycliffe as great reformers, proponents of the Written Word and champions of Christianity.

On Sunday 26th April at 11am and 3pm, we celebrated the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Please note that Home Communion is also available to those who were unable to attend. Please contact either the Minister or David Calvert should Home Communion be requested.

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 4th March and Kirk Session met on 18th March. A further meeting of the Kirk Session was held on Wednesday 15th April for a single item. A brief summary was provided in the April edition of the magazine.

Poets' Corner:

God's Grandeur By Gerard Manley Hopkins

"God's Grandeur" celebrates the omnipresent majesty of God in nature while lamenting humanity's destructive impact, ultimately affirming divine renewal and hope.

"God's Grandeur" is a 14 line sonnet written by the Victorian poet and Jesuit priest Gerard Manley Hopkins in 1877, though it was published posthumously in 1918. The poem opens with the striking line, "The world is charged with the grandeur of God," immediately establishing the central theme: the pervasive presence of divine power in the natural world. Hopkins contrasts this divine energy with the damage caused by human activity, particularly industrialization, which leaves the earth "seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil".

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil

Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?

Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;

And though the last lights off the black West went

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —

Because the Holy Ghost over the bent

World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

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



Evacuation Chair Training

16th 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.

National Smile Month - 11th May – 11th June



National Smile Month is 50 years old this year. It is the UK's largest and longest-running campaign to promote good oral health, aiming to encourage people to brush twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, to cut down on sugar, and to visit the dentist regularly. Organised by the British Dental Health Foundation, the website offers the

following snippets:

Some fun facts about your teeth:

- It takes 43 muscles to frown, but only 17 to smile.
- Some people pick their teeth with keys, earrings, bank notes and even screwdrivers!
- The going rate given by the tooth fairy these days is £2 to £5
- 61% of us have been attracted to someone by their smile alone
- 24% of us would share our toothbrush with our partner, but only 6% of us would share our toothbrush with a celebrity (?!)

Happy 70th Birthday, Eurovision Song Contest

This year's Eurovision Song Contest, to be held 12th to 16th May in Vienna, will look a bit different as it marks its 70th birthday.

That is because Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Spain have opted out, as a protest to the inclusion of Israel in the contest, following the war in Gaza. That is the largest number of boycotting countries in the contest's history since 1970. On the other hand, at least Bulgaria, Moldova and Romania are set to return this year.

Eurovision is a long-established annual international celebration of music. This year's programme will consist of two semi-finals, on 12th and 14th May, and then a final on the 16th. It will be held at Wiener Stadthalle in Vienna, and presented by Victoria Swarovski and Michael Ostrowski. Broadcasters from 35 countries will also participate.

Britain has won the Eurovision five times in 70 years:

1967	Puppet on a String
1969	Boom Bang-a-Bang
1976	Save Your Kisses for Me
1981	Making Your Mind Up
1997	Love Shine a Light

What the Bible really means....

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means, Daddy."

His father smiled "Okay. What does the Bible mean?"

"It's easy, Daddy." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

Golf

Golfer to caddy: "Why didn't you watch where my ball went?"

Caddy to golfer: "I'm so sorry. Your ball doesn't usually go anywhere, so this took me completely by surprise."

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 June magazine to be in the hands of the editor by Monday 25 May, 2026.

MINISTER

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**Summer Fayre Saturday 13 June
10 am - 12 noon**

All donations for our Summer Fayre will be greatly received. Bottles, unused gifts, jewellery, home baking etc.

Tea Tickets priced £4 for adults and £2 for children will be available soon. Put the date in your diary now and come along and enjoy the fun and fellowship.