

# *New Cumnock Parish Church*

Newsletter May 2021

**All may change**



**But Jesus, never**



**Glory to His Name**

# Mission Statement

Together: with **God**,  
To encourage fellowship  
By showing love and care for everyone;  
In **Jesus** name,  
To be good witness in our community;  
Led by the **Holy Spirit**,  
To seek **God** in prayer, bible study and  
worship.

Pictures on Front Page:

Rev Helen Cuthbert, Rev Ken Yorke

Rev Luneta Ng'ambi and family

The Arthur Memorial Cross, newly built Cairn containing a time capsule –  
'Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13.8)

Dear Friends,

Neil Diamond is a favourite singer of mine and one of his songs was 'Hello again, Hello'. For the 'Manse family' (Minister and 'the Minister's cat!') it's now a case of 'Goodbye again, Goodbye' with my retirement date set for Monday, July 12, 2021 and my final service on Sunday, July 11.

In some ways it was easy for me to say 'Hello again' after my first retirement date was postponed and I believed it was right for me to stay on as Minister through the 'COVID' days. Who would have thought that these COVID days would stretch to months and now over a year?

They were for all of us difficult times and we still share the sadness of those who lost loved ones to COVID and those whose lives were hit hard by loneliness, unemployment, missed celebrations and landmarks in life, having to stay 'beyond touching distance' with many of our nearest and dearest, worry about the future and, of course, the absence of Church life as we have always known it.

There is a sense, now, that the worst has passed and there is more freedom to live our lives as we would choose. As we know, COVID can be very unpredictable and care is still needed, but I feel it is now the right time to say 'Goodbye again'.

It has been a great privilege to be able to remain here this past year and share in the love, friendship and support of Church and community. It has also been a year when, even more than ever God's promises have been shown to be true and that – 'All I have needed, His hand has provided.'

I am delighted that Rev Ken Yorke will be saying 'Hello' on July 12 and beginning his journey with you as Interim Moderator (moderating Kirk Session meetings and looking after the

'administrative / leadership' part of the Church and also being Locum (conducting worship and doing some pastoral duties).

Mr Yorke, as we said previously, is Minister Emeritus of Dalmellington linked with Patna which means that was the Church he retired from. We have kept in touch over this past year, and he has been very supportive to me and I'm sure will be so for the Congregation.

We also say 'Hello' to the new Manse family in Kavusi, Malawi, the Ng'ambi family as you'll see elsewhere in the Magazine and I hope and pray the partnership will continue to be a blessing to both congregations.

I would like to thank all of those who have gave me gifts, cards, good wishes, prayers, love and support as I reached retirement date 1 and beyond. I thank God for the amazing experience the past eleven and a half years has been.

Special thanks to our Session Clerk, Morag Ferrans for her support, sensitivity and wisdom, to our elders and organisation and group leaders, to the congregation and community of New Cumnock. The 'ties that bind' have truly been a blessing for myself and I know were, too for my mother in her time here with us. (Not forgetting the affection and esteem given to Suki, the Minister's Cat!)

May God go before you and richly bless you in all you do.

'The Lord is near' (Psalm 145.18a)

Much love,  
God Bless,  
Helen



*The Ladies of the Manse*

## Church Update

As we know, there has recently been an easing of lockdown restrictions. This meant that on Palm Sunday, we had our first service in the Church building with mainly stewards with some elders taking part so that we could 'run through' the COVID safety procedure we had put in place. On Easter Sunday, the service was open for all who wished to worship with us. When we say 'all' that means, of course, in accordance with COVID regulations. With social distancing and not being able to use the balcony / gallery, **we only have 32 spaces** (though some spaces can be used for more than one person if they are in the same household or extended household (bubble)). **It is for this reason people need to phone each week to make sure they have a space.**

It has been good to see people come back to worship in the Church despite the restrictions that COVID still places on us. (see below)

We are very aware that, over the past year we also have had a good number of people worshipping with us online and on the phone. We continue to have a short service at 11 am for online / on-the-phone people. This is called 'Come Gather In'. Later in the day – 3 pm online and 7 pm on the phone, the service recorded in the Church is available.

We thank God that the COVID situation seems to be improving and no doubt there will be further easing of restrictions. However, at the moment, even in Level 0 of the restrictions, social distancing is still in place. This may mean that the numbers able to worship in Church will be limited for some time to come.

Many thanks to the Kirk Session, the ad hoc Church Re-opening group, Property Committee, stewards, cleaners, organist and MultiMedia for the vast amount of help given in making worship safe and possible.

We trust God for the way forward and in the meantime, we worship him in whatever way with all our heart.

Below is information regarding worship in Church and how you can make sure you have a place on a Sunday if you wish.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP IN THE CHURCH

Please note the following regulations in place due to COVID-19

1. The number of spaces available is limited to 32 – to make sure you have a place if you wish to worship in the Church, please phone Mary McCormack on 01290332744 on the Thursday before the Sunday service between 10 and 11 am and 6 to 7 p.m.. You must phone every week to book a space.
2. If you are self-isolating, have COVID or show symptoms, please stay at home.
3. Please do not bring a bible, hymn book or any paper with you from home.
4. Masks must be worn, hand sanitiser used on entering and leaving the building, social distancing of 2m is in place at all times.
5. A steward will greet you outside the building. (You may need to wait a little while before going in.)
6. After registering and hand sanitising, any offerings can be put in the collection plate at the front door on entry, a steward will take you to your seat. You are asked to sit in the allocated seat.
7. There is no singing allowed, but you may say the Lord's Prayer into yourself.
8. At the end of the service, you are invited to wait in your seat until a steward comes to help you safely leave the building.
9. You are asked not to gather outside the Church or in the grounds either before or after the service.

HC

Different Times, Different Ways:  
Online and On-the-phone worship and meetings

Worship on the phone is still available at the moment on Sundays at 11 am and 7 pm and Wednesdays at 7 pm. You simply have to dial 01290595049 to listen to the services. The cost is the same as any other local call.

There are various services and opportunities for worship and thinking about the faith online. On YouTube on Sundays at 11 am there is a short service called Come Gather In, then at 3 pm the Sunday morning service from the Church.

At the moment there is a Morning by Morning Midweek service on Wednesdays at 9 am. On Wednesday evenings on Facebook there is a Wednesday evening prayer time with readings, thoughts, prayers and a song. This is the work of our Prayer Group team – Helen Glendinning and Fiona McGurk.

Thanks also to the great 'band' of helpers and musicians (especially Christine Wilson) who contributed to our Tea in the Hall times, Hymn of the Week and other services giving not only their talents in music or poetry or song but taking the time (and patience!) to master the technology.

Technology is changing and adapting to help us in these days all the time and we pray for our MultiMedia team (Carol Ann McEwan, Alex McEwan, Fiona Ferrans, Andy Gillies, Caroline Gillies) in all the work they do, all the skills, diligence and devotion they faithfully and freely give – always behind the scenes but enabling and enhancing our worship experience.

HC

Pastoral Care

For pastoral care (a prayer or a listening ear), please phone the Minister on 01290338296)

## Our School Children

Obviously there have been no school assemblies and no school services in the Church. At the end of each term, there were school services on YouTube which with the link kindly placed by the school on their own Glow website.

At Christmas and Easter 'gift' bags were given to each child in New Cumnock Primary and New Cumnock Early Childhood Centre with some arts and crafts and a Christmas Gospel and Easter story.

COVID is difficult for all of us, but must be especially difficult for our young people, their families and our school communities. We continue to keep all of them in our prayers.

HC

## Zoom Bible Time

'Zoom' is a company that make it possible to have meetings with different people online. Each person is in their own home, they can see and hear each other on the screen. It is the 'next best thing' to meeting face to face. In April we began a Zoom Bible Time on Wednesday evenings. Everything was exactly the same as our Bible Study time in the Session Room – opening worship, prayer, reading, lots of questions and discussion, thoughts, learning – and laughter. A few have joined us each evening and it has been a valuable part of our Church life for these few weeks during our COVID times. We looked at the parable of the sower and thought about the 'seeds' sown during COVID using the internet and the phone and TV. We are now looking at Ecclesiastes chapter 3 – There is a time for everything and thinking about the 'time' of COVID and what we can learn from it.

HC

## Holy Week and Easter

Our services during Holy Week were conducted very ably and meaningfully by our worship team members – Carol Ann and Alex McEwan on Monday, Christine Wilson and Morag Ferrans on Wednesday. Also by our Guild on Tuesday and elders on Friday afternoon and evening. The Minister conducted the Thursday Communion. Many thanks to everyone for the thought, effort and care they put into leading God's people in worship.

HC

## The uncut grass (The Church in COVID and beyond)

I remember during the first 'lockdown' going to the shops at the Castle. I turned the corner to be met with a sea of the most beautiful purple flowers that I'd never seen before. (I wondered who had planted them!)

I soon realised that they had always been there but, of course, the dutiful East Ayrshire Council gardeners had always regularly cut the grass and, at the same time, these beautiful flowers.

It's a familiar story on stretches of land left to grow because people have moved away or traffic has been diverted. (There were stories, too, during early lockdown of goats, deer and other wild animals wandering around towns as everyone was inside!)

We can see, I believe this story told and re-told in our experience with COVID. Things which were no longer possible stopped – but other things took their place. And many flowers grew. We couldn't meet face to face, so we phoned / Skyped / went online / Zoomed. We couldn't go to our normal meetings and activities, so people started walking a lot more – on their own or with folk in their household.

Some were ‘furloughed’ from work, so they manicured their garden, cooked, baked more, took up new hobbies (cleaned out old cupboards).

We couldn’t worship in Church, so we ‘met’ online or on the phone. The busy, vibrant fellowship we had wasn’t possible either, but many have discovered over this past year the great gifts of silence, reflection, meditating on God’s word, listening for him, longer times of personal prayer and praise.

Will all of these things simply cease to be when COVID days are done? I pray that the ‘flowers’ that have grown up in all parts of our life and especially in the Church will continue – making the most of technology, continuing to value stillness and meditation. I pray, too, that as the COVID landscape changes and as the local and national Church landscapes change with ‘old’ (!) people departing and new arriving, with a different ‘shape’ to Church at Presbytery level – there will be many opportunities ‘new flowers’ to be grown and appreciated.

God has made everything beautiful in its time (Ecclesiastes 3.11)

That is absolutely true. We praise Him for it and we commit ourselves to the letting the flowers grow under our feet!

HC

### Dates to Remember.

Sunday May 23 - Pentecost Sunday

Sunday July 11 – Minister’s last service

Monday July 12 – Rev Ken Yorke begins as Locum and

Interim Moderator

## Finance

We have all been missing our church for over a year, but hopefully we are getting back to although not normal times our church is open on Sundays, with limited numbers and special measures. Rev. Helen has been so good in online services, on daily thoughts online.

Our expenses have still to be paid, and our church upkeep. Thank you to all members who pay by standing orders and handing in offerings to me. Offerings can be put in the collection plate at the front door on entering church. These are very much appreciated. Tax on Gift Aid giving is over £7,000, anyone thinking on this way of giving please contact Mrs J Brown.

Our Accounts for 2020 have been submitted to OSCR.

We ask God's Blessing on all we do with the finances of our church.

A wee poem to think about

Wait before you wonder what tomorrow may unfold,  
Live in hope and confidence,  
By nothing be depressed,  
Then you'll draw unto yourself the good things and the best,

You never know what's waiting at the turning of the road,  
Or what the bend is going to bring into view,  
When you're least expecting it  
A blessing will be bestowed on you.

Isabel McDicken  
Treasurer



# Word search

ANGER

CITY

CLOAKS

CRY

GLORY

HEAVEN

HOLY SPIRIT

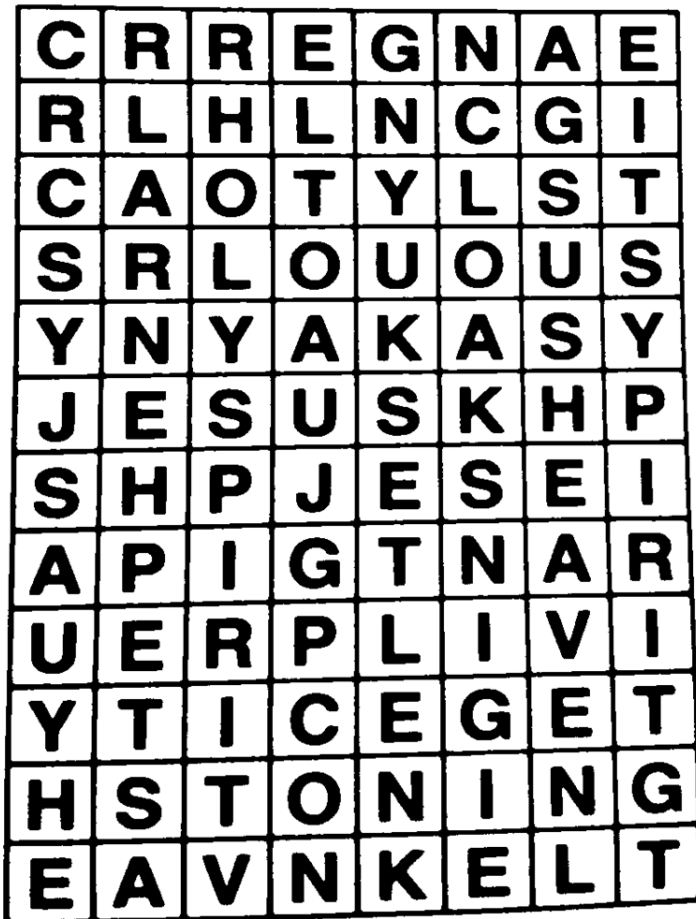
JESUS

KNELT

SAUL

STEPHEN

STONING





Read this story in Acts 7:54-60

## One year on!

They say time flies when you are having fun!!

One year ago, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020, was the day, our minister, Helen should have retired, but didn't.

When Helen told the Kirk Session of her decision to retire, in October 2019, I said these words from the great Prophet Jeremiah: 'For I know the plans I have for YOU, declares the Lord'! Wow! Nobody knew, at that time, there was a global Pandemic about to hit. When it did, all our plans were thrown into the air, and plans for Helen to retire, well she still could have if she really wanted too! The Kirk Session, Congregation & the Community here in New Cumnock are very grateful for the decision Helen made to stay here during this difficult time and continue to minister to the people who would need spiritual comfort and support the most.

As there is now light at the end of the tunnel and plans to retire are now in place for July, we once again thank you, Helen, for ALL you have done here in New Cumnock.

As a Congregation and church family, it is now more important than ever to work together when we become Vacant. Remember these words I said earlier: 'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord'. We don't know what the future will hold for us here in New Cumnock, but we can be sure that God has a plan for us.

Rev Ken Yorke will be our Interim Moderator and Locum during the vacancy so that means he will be helping to 'look after' us.

Please pray for Helen as she prepares to move on to another chapter.

Please pray for Rev Ken Yorke as he prepares to do his work in New Cumnock.

Please pray for the church here in New Cumnock as we continue to work together to worship and serve our Lord, during the vacancy.

With every blessing,  
Morag Ferrans  
Session Clerk

## Flower Guild

*In the bud there is a flower,  
In the seed an apple tree.*

Hello to all of you, greetings from the ladies of the Flower Guild, this has been a really difficult year for all of us in our Church. Although our Church is open, we are still unable to have flowers displayed because of the pandemic, we are ever hopeful for things to return to as near normal as possible in the not-so-distant future. Stay safe, take care, love and prayers.

### *My Garden of Prayer*

*My garden beautifies my yard and adds fragrance to the air  
But it is also my cathedral and my quiet place of prayer  
So little do we realise that the glory and the power  
Of he who made the universe lies hidden in a flower.*

Lottie Hill

Flower Guild Convener



## Boys Brigade

As the pandemic struck our world in 2020, the Boys Brigade along with our other church organisations came to a halt which was rather unfortunate, as that particular weekend we should have been going our weekend camp to the Outward Bound Centre at Dumfries House, however our health and well-being were more important. We are being guided by our Church and BB Headquarters and as soon as we get the green light we will hopefully get back to a “new” normal.

During our time there has been plenty of activities for the boys online with BB at Home. We also enjoyed a BB Special with Our Minister Helen with Tea In The Hall where a number of boys and Officers from the company took part. During the Summer of 2020 we had an award ceremony outside in the square at the Swimming Pool when Trophies Certificates and Medals were given out by our Rev Helen.

We thank you all for your continued support and prayers at this difficult time for all of us. Take care, stay safe.

Captain Crawford Sloan  
Sure and Steadfast



***Wait for the lord;***

***Be strong and take heart and wait for the lord. Psalm 27v14***

Yes, there's been a lot of waiting!!

Not half I hear you say.

Waiting for the next news broadcast.

Waiting on the results of a covid test.

Waiting for news of a loved one who is ill.

Waiting to get back to work, school, college. (would you have believed it!)

But how many of us can testify to having experienced the power of prayer in a new way as we have WAITED, WAITED, and still WAITED on the Lord.

As we've daily poured our hearts out before him, pleaded with him for healing for so many. Haven't we known HIS sustaining, gently comforting and supporting hand as our hearts have been strengthened and our spirits lifted.

We go forward into an unknown future continuing to be faithful in prayer. Believing that as we are faithful and continue to WAIT on HIM. He will continue to work in us and through us to reach many in New Cumnock who need to know the Lord Jesus.

Yours in faithful service as we wait on the Lord.

Helen Glendinning



Helen Glendinning would like to thank the Church family for their immediate prayer support and continued practical kindnesses received during her time of illness with Covid and subsequent hospital stays.



## Coffee Bean



Dear Friends,

I write this letter in anticipation that we may be able to reopen later on this year.

Firstly, I would like to thank you most sincerely for your support and service over the years, and hope that you are all well.

I know that the last year during the Covid 19 Pandemic has been very difficult in many different ways, and circumstances have probably changed for lots of us. We must all hope and pray that better days are coming.

No plans have been made as yet but when circumstances allow us, we will certainly let you know when and if we will be able to open our doors again.

Please take care and keep safe.

Mary McCormack

## Meet Life's Trials with Smiles

There are times when life overwhelms us,  
and our trials seem too many to bear,  
It is then we should stop to remember,  
God is standing by ready to share.

The uncertain hours that confront us  
and fill us with fear and despair,  
For God in His goodness has promised  
that the cross that He gives us to wear  
Will never exceed our endurance  
or be more that our strength can bear.  
And secure in that blessed assurance,  
we can smile as we face tomorrow,  
For God holds the key to the future  
and no sorrow or care we need borrow.

H. S. Rice

## Malawi

The new Manse family have now arrived in our partner Church in Kavusi Malawi (see picture on front cover). The new Minister is Rev Luneta Ng'ambi with his wife, Mary, his elder daughter, Deborah and younger daughter, Neema. We pray God will help and guide and bless them as they settle into life and work in Kavusi.

HC

### Our new Malawi family

*Rev Luneta very kindly introduced us to himself and his family. He wrote:*

My name is Luneta Brice Chimango Ng'ambi and I am 41 years old from the Chitipa district (about 200 miles north of Kavusi, near the borders with Zambia and Tanzania.)

After gaining my Malawi School Certificate of Education, I became a teacher for two years then studied at the University of Livingstonia, graduating with a Licentiate Certificate of Theology and returning there for my Bachelor's Degree in Theology in 2018.

In 2019 I was enrolled in Islamic lessons for 6 months organized by Mthenga Wabwino (this means 'Good Messenger' and is an organisation set up by the Missionary Group SIM, formerly Sudan Interior Mission but now serving more widely. Mthenga Wabwino's aim is to help Malawian Christians 'reach the unreached'.) Currently, I am motivated to study my Masters degree in Islam and Comparative Religions.

I was ordained in 2006 and served in four congregations before coming to Kavusi New Cumnock.

Mary and I were married in 2005 and we have two daughters – Deborah who is 15 years old and in form one at Bandawe Girls Secondary School and Neema who is nine years old and in Std 5 at Kavusi Primary.

My lovely wife Mary's story is full of God's grace. She was the sixth of seven children. Her father died when she was seven years old, and her mother was sickly for many years. Mary managed to get to form 2 and failed.

After getting married I sent her to school again where she passed with flying colours. She was admitted to Ekwendeni College of

Health Sciences and gained a Diploma in Nursing and Midwifery, coming out as Best Nurse.

She plays a very important role amongst the Women's Ministry. Always during Fridays and Saturdays she leads our women into Bible study, teaching them to take care of their families.

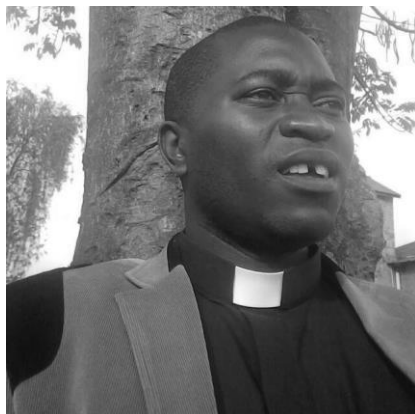
Wishing you God's blessings,  
Rev Luneta Ng'ambi

Our partner church in Malawi, Kavuzi congregation are experiencing the same issues we are having here due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Although churches have not been closed, the numbers of people attending have gone down and therefore the offerings are also reduced. The minister will be supporting those most in need as well as his family from his salary, the monetary support given from our church last year at the height of the pandemic was most welcomed.

Rev Alex Mwafulirwa moved from Kavuzi to another congregation at the beginning of this year and his replacement is Rev Luneta Ng'ambi who seems to be settling in well to the congregation. The photo shows Rev Luneta.

There will be a Liphasa Presbytery meeting held at Kavuzi from 14 until 16 May. We pray that the discussions and plans made will be beneficial for all concerned.

Fiona Ferrans





Nessie Mackie and family would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards, flowers, and messages they received on the passing of Jim. They are all very much appreciated.

### Open Door

It has been a long time since we have met, but hopefully it won't be long now. Looking forward to us all getting together again. If you are reading this and would like to join us, you will be more than welcome to come along on a Monday from 2 till 4 pm, once we confirm an opening date. I hope you are all well. Till we meet again, may God be with everyone who reads this.

Margaret Houston

### Magazine

If you would like anything published in our next magazine, please email to [nancy241@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nancy241@hotmail.co.uk). It can also be handed in at church or posted to Nancy Young, Lochhill Farm, New Cumnock KA18 4PN.

## Parish Register

### 2020 Funerals

November Marion Reid

December George Ballantyne

### 2021

January Jim Richard  
Tom Hanlon

February Jim Mackie  
Jim Murray  
Gary Ferguson

March Helen Wilson  
Willie Trotter  
Jim Harris  
Mary McKenna  
Jean Murray  
Davy Barr

April Anne Ferguson  
Slim Davis

*'Don't be afraid, for I am with you, .... I am your God ...I will strengthen you, help you, uphold you with my hand. (Isaiah 41.10)*

Lord, in all the questioning, worrying, grieving that death brings, may we hear these words – I am with you ...I am your Go, knowing that your presence is enough and more than enough.

May all who mourn, especially the families and friends of those named above, find help, find strength, know you are the God who upholds them. May they trust, too, through Christ our Lord in your eternal presence in heaven above. We pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

## CONTACTS

Minister	Rev H Cuthbert	338296
Kirk Session	Miss M Ferrans	700285
Property	Mr A McEwan	332218
Finance & Stewardship	Mrs I McDicken	338769
Multi Media	Mrs CA McEwan	332218
Events	Mrs C Wilson	420172
Mission & Discipleship	Miss F McGurk	332977
Babies & Toddlers	Mrs M Houston	332082
Bible Study	Rev H Cuthbert	338296
Boys Brigade	Mrs C Sloan	332112
Choir	Mrs C Wilson	420172
Christian Action	Mrs N Paterson	332404
Coffee Bean	Mrs M McCormack	332744
Flower Guild	Mrs L Hill	332644
Gift Aid	Mrs J Brown	332661
Guild	Mrs H Lamont	338508
Hall Letting	Mr A McEwan	332218
Open Door	Mrs M Houston	332082
Prayer Group	Mrs H Glendinning	332977
Safeguarding	Mrs J Brown	332661
Sunday School	Mrs M McCrindle	424553
Publications & Communications	Mrs N Young	338312
	nancy241@hotmail.co.uk	
Facebook	New Cumnock Parish Church	

## Willie Trotter



*"I thank all who sent cards, presents, good wishes and prayers on 21st November for my 100th birthday. May I wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and New Year."*

*May God bless us all."  
Willie Trotter*

Willie Trotter's family would like to say how much we appreciate the many messages of sympathy and shared memories the folk of New Cumnock sent. We are also very grateful to those who cared for our uncle in his latter years in his own home and at Bute House in Cumnock. We would particularly like to mention Lavinia, Helen, Margo and Campbell for their friendship and help over many years. John, Janie and Vida Trotter.