



# Dalsersf Parish Church Newsletter



November 2017



## November Church Calendar

- Thursday 2nd** Focus
- Sunday 5th** Communion Rorison 11.30 (Shoe Box Appeal)
- Wednesday 8th** Guild
- Sunday 12th** Remembrance Service Rorison 11.30
- Monday 13th** Possible Restoration Church Contents
- Wednesday 22nd** Guild
- Friday 24th** Nursing Home Visits
- Saturday 25th** Guild Christmas Fayre

### Mission Statement

**"Dalsersf Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ through the preaching of the word and witness of every member"**

### All Welcome

Worship at Dalsersf Church is at 11.30am Sundays, all year through

Worship at Rorison Church is on 1st Sunday of each month at 2.30pm

Sunday Pathfinders (Sunday school) is at 11.30am (term time)

### Mondays

Bible Study is at 11.00am, Hamilton Hall

Girls Brigade is from 6.15pm, Rorison

House Group is on 1st Monday of each month at 1.30pm

### Thursdays

Boys Brigade from 5.45pm, Rorison

### Announcements

#### Deaths

Jim Hughes on Wed 11th October 17

#### Baptisms

Catherine Robertson Rennie Anderson (Adult)

Kayleigh Yuille Anderson (Adult)

Ava Catherine Elizabeth Scobbie

Alfie Christopher James Scobbie

On Sun 1st October 17

#### Weddings

John Charles Radnor & Carol Ann Radnor on Sat 21st October 17

#### Special Birthdays

Love and congratulations to Bette Gillespie who celebrates her 80th Birthday on 21st November 2017

Love and congratulations to John Grove who celebrated his 90th Birthday on 26th October 2017

### **Bible Verse of the Month**



*All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.*

*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.*

**2 Corinthians 4: 15-16**

### **Nursing Home Visits**

On the last Friday of each month. Please come along and support our visits to the homes.

1.45pm Clinton House

2.15pm Ballantine Court (1)

2.45pm Ballantine Court (2)



### **Prayer for Others**

*May the light of God surround you,*

*May the love of God enfold you,*

*May the power of God protect you,*

*May God place his healing hands upon you and heal you quickly,*

*May the presence of God watch over you,*

*Wherever your God is, Amen*



[www.facebook.com/dalsersfchurch](http://www.facebook.com/dalsersfchurch)



[www.dalsersf.org.uk](http://www.dalsersf.org.uk)



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**Dalserf Guild**



**GUILD REPORT**

Our Church Guild has got off to a great start. We were given food for thought on our opening night when the Rev. John Stevenson spoke to us on the Guild theme, "Go In Love". We have also had the opportunity to view a powerpoint presentation with the theme "Where St.Petersburg Started".

At our next meeting our mouths watered as we listened to tales from Glikman's sweets and then had the opportunity to purchase some samples. We were delighted to welcome some visitors from St. Machan's and Kirkfieldbank to this meeting.

We meet again on the 8th and 22nd November. This will be an open night with a Scots theme, entertainment and supper. Please join us that evening.

A copy of the Guild Syllabus can be found on the notice boards at both Dalserf and Rorison and we would be delighted to have visitors or better still, new members join us.

Kay Blair

Dear friends,

It's now just 40 years since I was inducted to my first charge as a parish minister, a role which has been greatly demanding and immensely rewarding. If I hadn't valued it so much I should not be still involved in it in retirement!

Indeed, I have to say, I'm enjoying my time in Dalserf, supported so effectively by a stalwart and dedicated set of office bearers for whom as a congregation you should be deeply grateful, especially in a time of vacancy and uncertainty.

It was during my first session in ministry that membership of the Church of Scotland fell below a million! For this statistic, I hope, I cannot be held entirely or personally responsible!

The heady days of the 1950s had gone; that 60s mixture of radicalism and dreamy optimism had drifted into the cynical 70s and the church was facing new challenges. Since then, the assumptions that religion was good for you, that worship was valuable, that the Christian way was a good way, have come under constant scrutiny and downright opposition. We can no longer pretend that the church is in a position of strength or influence in our society; we can no longer look to the future with easy optimism.

And yet.....the story of the Christian Church has been one of ups and downs across the centuries.

The prospects for small Jewish sect in 1st century Palestine, followers of an executed idealistic preacher, were not promising, yet in a few decades "followers of the way" were found at the very heart of the Empire; when Roman soldiers marched across the Clyde, in the name of Caesar, another power was growing in the known world, recognised when Constantine, acclaimed Emperor in Britain, painted the cross on the shields of his soldiers.

The next 1,000 years saw dark ages, grim events and enterprises for which the church should be truly penitent, but the tradition of faith was kept alive, often falteringly, often against the odds, by committed leaders and faithful souls.....until, in 16th century Europe, the Reformation broke: exactly 500 years ago, on the eve of All Saints' Day, Martin Luther ignited the flame that would renew the church, in Europe and in Scotland.

The last 500 years have seen continuing ups and downs, in the life of the Kirk ,some times of remarkable advance, some utterly inglorious periods; there has been blood and thunder, brawl and battle, division and schism as Jacobites and Hanoverians, Covenanters and Puritans and Episcopalians, Auld Kirkers and Free Kirkers have marched across the pages of history; we could go on through all the highs and lows. Certainly, it has to be said, as a national church, we are not in a good place at the moment, but let me make two points in conclusion:

First, on Easter Sunday in the year 1800, in Saint Paul's Cathedral, it is said, amazingly, only six (6!) people shared in the sacrament of communion! Yet, within a few years, the Wesleyan revival would begin to have its effect, and the nineteenth century would see the greatest expansion of the church since the first century, as the gospel was carried to every corner of the globe.

Second, this is All Saints' tide when we recall that we are part of a great multitude of Christian believers who have kept the fire of faith burning, sometimes blazingly, sometimes gutteringly, but its light and warmth remain. In our time, pray God it may flare up again.

**VACANCY MATTERS.**

You will be aware, I'm sure, that another stage in the unduly extended saga of the Dalserf vacancy has been reached: an independent review group has visited the Kirk Sessions of Larkhall and Dalserf with the task of finding a way forward for the churches in the area. Their proposals will now be presented to the Presbytery's Implementation Committee.

It has to be said that that these proposals did not commend themselves to the Dalserf Kirk Session: they are not in the interests of Dalserf, nor of Larkhall, nor indeed of the Presbytery or the national church.

It has to be said too that Hamilton Presbytery is not, in any way, bound by the review group's plan and, in the present ecclesiastical climate, it would be most surprising if it were accepted.

We shall be making our feelings very clear to the review group and to Presbytery! We look forward to the next stage of the saga!

May we all know God's blessing in challenging times.

Yours aye,

David W. Doyle.





Poppy Appeal

With the approach of Remembrance Sunday, members are advised that they will have the opportunity to donate to the Poppy Scotland and the RAF Benevolent Fund via a retiring collection at either of the church services on Sunday 5th and Sunday 12th November 2017.

Kids Alive

Regretfully Brian Lowrie, our MAD Ministry organiser remains in poor health. At the time of writing, there appears to be little chance of reconvening the Kids Alive clubs at Netherburn and Dalserf Primaries before Christmas.

However the visit to Dalserf Church by both schools, in the lead up to Christmas, is still well on track.

Bruce Archibald.

Uddingston Parish Church Concert

The Farmers and Farmers Wives Choir are holding a concert in Uddingston Parish Church on the evening of Sunday 26th November 2017.

All proceeds will go to charity. The choirs have given over £20,000 to good causes, since their formation 4 years ago. The choir members are from mainly rural backgrounds and come from all over Scotland, with the majority from southern Scotland.

Tickets are available from Isabel Baillie (01698 881561) or Janet Storry (07977 904 711).

Birthday Wishes

Love and congratulations go to Emma Gilchrist who celebrates her 12th Birthday on 6th November 2017. XX

Harvest



Harvest Service

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October we had our Harvest service in the Church. Our Sunday Pathfinders took part in this service. God's Word was carried by Lewis Scotland. Karyn Scotland, Lewis Scotland and Emma Gilchrist brought us their Harvest message. Abby Gilchrist, Karyn Scotland and Emma Gilchrist did the readings and the Pathfinders uplifted the offering. The Harvest Gifts that were brought to the Church were distributed to the Larkhall Foodbank and the local Nursing homes. Many thanks to all who brought gifts for the Harvest table and to those people who turned up on the Monday morning to help distribute the produce.

Joan Pollok



Harvest Lunch

As you can see from the above pictures we had a wonderful turnout for our Harvest Lunch in Hamilton Hall on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October. The food was excellent and there was great Christian fellowship. The money raised from this was £868.00 and will go to St Andrew's Hospice.

We extend our grateful thanks to all who worked hard to raise this money.

Joan Pollok

Visit from Bethany Widows

This afternoon (18<sup>th</sup> October) a group of ladies from the Bethany Widows Group in Strathaven visited Dalserf Church. The ladies arrived by car and two mini busses and were given a talk by Andrew Gilmour on the history and characteristics of the Church.

After their most informative talk all 35 visitors and their drivers sat down to tea and cake in Hamilton Hall. The ladies thoroughly enjoyed their visit, none less than the usual high standard tea and cake we have come to expect at Dalserf. They were able to tell us we are famous for our cake.

After a most enjoyable outing and a warm thanks they returned to their transport for the journey back to Strathaven.

It was good to open our doors to this group of ladies and we trust not only was the talk and tea enjoyed but also the warm Christian welcome we try to present with all visitors to our Church.

Kay Blair & Joan Pollok



**Prayer of the Month**

Our thanks can lift our hearts each day

Our thanks can build your church

Our thanks can wave a flag to say,

On this day it was done.

Our thanks can change each circumstance

Our thanks can shift and grow

Our thanks is more than afterthought

It's kingdom work begun.

And so my heart will stretch out wide

Despite my circumstance

For on the road to thankfulness

I return to your Son

I stand beside the empty cross

And understand again.

That I've so much to thank you for,

My Saviour and my friend.



## Contacts



<b>Minister</b> Vacant Locum Rev. John Stevenson 01698 817582	<b>Session Clerk</b> Mrs. Joan Pollok 01555 860642 joan.pollok@btinternet.com	<b>Depute Session Clerk</b> Mrs. Kay Blair 01698 882499	<b>Presbytery Elder</b> Mrs. Elizabeth Lawson 01555 771096
<b>Treasurer</b> Bruce Archibald BDS 01555 666007 henry.archibald2512@btinternet.com	<b>Organist</b> Mrs. Fox foxattheden@musician.org	<b>Flowers</b> Mrs. Kay Blair 01698 882499 Mrs. RM Clarkson 01698 792628	<b>Church Officer (Rorison)</b> Mrs. Anne McHolm 01698 886658
<b>Church Officer (Dalsersh)</b> Mrs. Norah McGuckin 4 Kirk Road, Dalsersh 01698 886089	<b>F.W.O. Convenor</b> Mrs. A Brown 01698 632010	<b>Newsletter Editor</b> David Gilchrist dalsershnews@gmail.com	<b>House Group Leader</b> Mrs. Lorna Brodie 07906416564
<b>Fabric Convener</b> Andrew Gilmour B.Ed., HNC, C&G 01555 662238	<b>Child Protection Co-ordinator</b> Joanna Gilchrist dalsershnews@gmail.com	<b>Bible Study Group Leader</b> Rita Fairley 01698 881160	<b>Roll Keeper</b> Mrs. Ann Price
<b>Hamilton Hall Bookings</b> Bookings Secretary : Lorna Brodie 07906416564 lorna@brodie.myzen.co.uk		<b>Rorison Hall Bookings</b> Bookings Secretary : Ann Price 07535134971 ann@cbbi.co.uk	

## Rotas



	Coffee	Crèche	Flowers
<b>5th Nov</b>	Mrs. K Blair	as required	Mrs. C Prentice
<b>12th Nov</b>	Mr. Johnstone & Mrs. Kelly	as required	Mrs. A Price
<b>19th Nov</b>	Mrs. Clarkson & Mrs. Gilmour	as required	Mrs. J Pollok
<b>26th Nov</b>	Mr. & Mrs. McPhee	as required	TBC
<b>3rd Dec</b>	Mr. & Mrs. Harvey	as required	Mrs. L Budgell

### Items for next Newsletter

If you have any news or information that you wish to submit for the newsletter for December 2017, the deadline will be Sunday 12th of November 2017. Please contact the editor with your content by this date.

**" Praise the LORD. Blessed are those who fear the LORD,  
who find great delight in his commands " (Psalm 112:1)**

