



Dalserf Parish Church Newsletter



November 2018



November Church Calendar

Thursday 1st	Focus
Sunday 4th	Communion (Dalserf 11:30am Rorison 2:30pm)
Wednesday 7th	Kirk Session Meeting
Sunday 11th	Remembrance Sunday
Wednesday 14th	Guild
Saturday 24th	Guild Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 28th	Guild
Friday 30th	Nursing Home visits

Mission Statement

“Dalserf Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ through the preaching of the word and witness of every member”

All Welcome

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

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

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

Bible Verse of the Month



“my GOD is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my saviour - from violent people you save me. I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and have been saved from my enemies.”

Samuel 22 : 3 – 4

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



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www.dalserf.org.uk



CHARITY SC016156





Dear friends,

Harvest is over; the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness is passing. We're looking ahead to November - and a dreich month it can be. There's not much to be looked forward to in November as winter bears down upon us. Maybe that is why November has been a time for looking back - a time of remembrance, of thoughtful, serious, solemn, regretful, penitent, grateful, hopeful recollection of the past.

All Saints' Day

The first day of the month is All Saints' Day, when the church has remembered and honoured the saints, the great ones, and the ordinary ones whose names are rather forgotten. All were included (saints means God's dedicated people), all whose names are, in that remarkable phrase of the writer of Revelation, written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Guy Fawkes

Then there comes that annual instruction to "Remember, remember the fifth of November, and curiously to "celebrate" a failed plot, an unsuccessful act of treason, for ever associated with the name of Guy Fawkes. Only British, dare I say, English eccentricity would maintain this "memorial" as a national event and elevate the name of Guy Fawkes to that of comic hero.

Thanksgiving Day

In November Americans celebrate "Thanksgiving", offering gratitude to God for the founding and the on-going story of their nation. I'm told that especially on that day many citizens give voice to the often dubious claim that they are personally descended from, and carry the names of those who sailed on the Mayflower!

Remembrance Day

This year, 2018, the focus of memory, of personal and family, of national memory, will inevitably and rightly be placed on events 100 years ago, particularly on the day of the armistice which brought to an end the destructively costly conflict which was called the Great War. Sadly, that description was changed to the First World War when just 20 years later; the lesson had not been learned! Sadly, in the face of narrow nationalism and isolationism and exclusivism across today's world, arguably the lesson still needs to be learned. So, at war memorials, in churches, on old battlefields, in public places over the country people will gather to remember, to express sadness and sorrow and regret, yes, and gratitude for sacrifices made, and, yes, hope and the prayer that such scale of sacrifice will never again be necessary. Especially, this centenary year, we will remember the millions who gave their lives in World War I, whose names are recorded on memorials in Britain, in Europe and across the world.

Remember the Names

Maybe you've read Sebastian Faulks' powerful novel, "Birdsong". It tells in one episode of Elizabeth's encounter with a huge great arch, on the site of a World War I battlefield. As she approaches, she sees there are names written on it, every grain of its vast surface carved with British names. "Who are these?" she asks the attendant. "These?" he replies with some surprise: "The lost!" "Men who died in this battle?" asks Elizabeth. "No," comes the response, "the lost, the ones they never found." Elizabeth went and sat on the steps of the monument. "Nobody told me," she said. "My God, nobody told me!" It was the names that did it; she knew the figures, but suddenly she realised that they represented real people. At Remembrance Time, we count the war-dead as so many poppies falling to the floor of the Albert Hall; we might want to shout out that these are all individuals with real names.

They didn't die so that society might dehumanise them (or us), for increasingly we are treated as statistics on a chart, data on a screen, known by our postcodes and national insurance numbers.

It's one of the great affirmations of the Christian faith that we are, under God, individuals, with unique personalities, because our God has written his name on humankind, because God knows his people by name and loves them, each one, as if there were only one to be loved.

The Christian message is clear: we will, we must remember as individuals, by name as it were, and if we do, under God, the Elizabeths of the next generation will not be able to say, "Nobody told me; my God, nobody told me!"

New Elders

In a quite different context, I ask you to remember, in your thoughts and prayers, the names of those who, at this time, have been called to the office of the eldership in Dalserf. They are all people well known to you, I'm sure, who have already shown their commitment to Christ's Church and to the service of his Kingdom. Joanna Gilchrist, Joan Harvey, Anne McHolm and Claire Walker will be ordained, and Philip Fox admitted to the Kirk Session of this congregation.

In the service of ordination, the congregation is called to promise to support and encourage those who serve as elders; I am certain you will fulfil that pledge in the days to come.

To add these five members to the Kirk Session is an act of faith and of hope for the future, a confident affirmation of the on-going work and witness of this congregation; to sharing that purpose, in a variety and range of ways, as office bearers and members, we should consider ourselves called by Almighty God himself.

May he truly bless us in his service.

Yours aye

David W. Doyle.

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends"

(John 15:13)



Notice Board



Over the last five years, since its inception, Sheena and I have had the privilege of representing Dalsersf Church at the Larkhall Foodbank, usually on a Friday from 10:30am to 2:30pm. This enterprise is organised by the members of all the churches in Larkhall and is non-denominational.

Over the period I have heard much criticism, many snide remarks and open hostility, often made by persons who live a financially comfortable existence, and have no first-hand knowledge of poverty or being penniless. Had we felt at any time that the bank was regularly being exploited, and that there was no need for such an institution, we would have given up long ago.

I cannot emphasise enough that the bank largely exists to deal with crisis situations that are unforeseen and unexpected. No one can walk into the bank and demand food. All clients have been referred by the social services with appropriate documentation. To avoid fraud, the referral papers are printed in such a way that they cannot be duplicated. Clients can only use the bank three times in six months unless by agreement of the management.

The reality is, that, in modern times, the population has become more financially dependent on the "State" and less reliant on savings put by for a "rainy day". Regretfully the ponderous bureaucratic establishment has become more anonymous and distant and cannot cope with the immediacy of many peoples' personal problems. The main reason for referrals is caused by the delay in processing claimant's benefits and keeping pace with sudden changes in peoples' financial state. The government boasted last month of reducing the processing of "Universal Credit" from 6 weeks to 5 weeks. The delay of 5 weeks cannot cope with zero hours employment contracts, sudden redundancy, the death of a breadwinner, medical emergencies, severe physical domestic abuse etc.... A delay of 1 week can bring families to their knees.

Applicants are treated with the utmost respect, in a non-judgemental manner and with great civility. They often come as a last resort, in much embarrassment and trepidation, but often leave with a sense of relief, support and encouragement. All are by no means strangers to this parish. This very month help was offered to a young lady from Ashgill, who had at one time attended Dalsersf Church, and had been for some years a member of Dalsersf Girls Brigade.

When the "Good Samaritan" went to the aid of the man who was attacked near Jericho, he did not try to evaluate whether the man was worthy of his attention, but merely saw him as a fellow human being in need, and willingly stretched out a helping hand.

Over the years we have been staggered at the generosity of people in the whole geographical area including far out villages such as Lesmahagow, Strathaven and Stonehouse. Not content to buy "value" products, many donate gifts of quality produce and often in some quantity.

The bank's next major collection of food and money will take place in November over a period of 3 days in Tesco, Lesmahagow. Tesco itself will add a third to the total we collect. However, I would encourage all those who shop in Larkhall throughout the year to regularly donate via the collection trolleys in most of the large stores. A regular supply is always required. Please do not forget such things as toilet rolls, soap, washing up liquid, shampoo, detergents etc. Even pet food is acceptable!

Bruce Archibald

LIFT UP YOUR EYES

"Lift up your eyes
And look on the fields"
Smell the fragrance that,
The wild flower yields.

For all the bounty
And food there grows.
The beauty and wonder,
Of the precious rose.

May our thanks be given,
With a moment of thought.
For those whose lives,
Have struggle and fraught.

So let us be thankful,
What the Lord has provided.
Praise be his wonder.
And his love undivided.



BY LOUISE HADDOW

Harvest Collection



Pictured above is the Harvest Collection, donated on Sunday 7th October 2018 at Dalsersf Church.

Many thanks to all who contributed

" Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. " (Matthew 20:28)





Birthday Wishes

Love and congratulations to Emma Gilchrist who celebrates her 13th birthday on Tuesday 6th November 2018.

Happy Birthday Emma



Happy Retirement

Congratulations to Elizabeth Walker for 43 years service in the NHS. Wishing you a happy retirement.

Love, Claire

Guild Report

The Guild has got off to a great start with 23 Members registered.

We had a very interesting talk from Iain Whyte, Guild Secretary who spoke on the 131 years History of the Guild and how it has rung the changes as the years have rolled on.

We have a full syllabus for the year and invite visitors to any of our meetings. A copy of this has been pinned to the notice boards at both Dalsersf and Rorison.

Our next meeting will be 14th November when we will have a practical evening with Anne Galloway. This has been greatly enjoyed by the ladies in previous years. On 28th November we have a speaker from Cal Mac. Our Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 24th November in Hamilton Hall. This is our main fund raiser and we appreciate the support of the Congregation so please put the date in your diary.

If anyone wishes to join us for our Christmas dinner in the Bowling club on 5th December please give your name to any of the Guild Ladies.

Kay Blair, President

Contacts



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Rotas



4th Nov	Mr & Mrs Harvey	Mrs C Prentice (Larkhall)
11th Nov	Mr & Mrs Manson	Mrs A Price (Larkhall)
18th Nov	Mrs Budgetell & Mrs Blair	Mrs J Pollok (Crossford)
25th Nov	Mr Johnstone & Mrs Kelly	Mrs S Donegan (Ashgill)

Items for next Newsletter

If you have any news or information that you wish to submit for the newsletter for December 2018, the deadline will be Sunday 11th of November 2018. Please contact the editor with your content by this date.

" You, LORD, are my lamp; the LORD turns my darkness into light."

(2 Samuel 22:29)

