# Dalserf Parish Church Newsletter

**March 2018**

***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

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

Valerie Holmes Tue 23rd January 2018
Sam Allen Wed 24th January 2018
Gavin Wilson Fri 2nd February 2018
Bob Clark Sat 3rd February 2018
Gary Love Wed 7th February 2018

Wedding Anniversary

Our love and congratulations go to Arthur & Joan Harvey who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on Thu 8th Feb 2018

## March Church Calendar

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Thursday 1st*** | Focus |
| ***Friday 2nd*** | World Day of Prayer (Dalserf) |
| ***Sunday 4th*** | Communion Dalserf (11:30) Rorison (2:30) |
| ***Friday 9th*** | Wedding |
| ***Wednesday 14th*** | Guild |
| ***Friday 23rd*** | Nursing Homes |
| ***Wednesday 28th*** | Guild |
| ***Friday 30th*** | Wedding |

***Bible Verse of the Month***

*"Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents in sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing— grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God.*

***Joel 2: 12-14***

### *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*

## Pastoral Letter

***A French priest says this actually happened to him.***

An armed robber accosted him on a dark back street in Paris and demanded his wallet. As the priest opened his coat to reach for the wallet, the thief caught sight of the clerical collar for the first time and immediately apologized: *"Never mind, Father, I didn't realize you were a priest - I'll be on my way."* The priest was relieved, of course, and good naturedly offered the man a cigar. *"No, thank you, Father,"* said the robber; *"I'm giving up smoking for Lent."*

Obviously, that man hadn't got the whole message on what the Christian faith was about. But then again, this story reflects a truth about modern society; it's amazing how people can rationalize some pretty hefty sins while holding on to a social etiquette.

**Lent**, which begins for us this week, has historically been a time for Christians to exercise their spiritual muscles. Sometimes, the spiritual exercise is little more than making a temporary sacrifice of something that is not crucial to one's life. Sometimes, one really intends to get serious about one's spiritual development, only to discover that while strengthening one characteristic of Christian life, another has got out of hand.

In Matthew 6: 1-18 Jesus focuses on several desirable spiritual activities, but he also issues a warning. May I invite you, through the medium of this letter, to look at one of those activities so that your own spiritual growth may be guided by what Jesus had to say.

One of the activities Jesus mentions is **PRAYER**. I expect most of us have a high estimate of prayer. Even if we seldom pray, or feel we do a poor job when we do pray, most of us would probably like to improve this part of our spiritual life

But even while encouraging prayer, Jesus offers a warning about how we go about it. Don't make a spectacle out of it, he says. Not much likelihood of that among us, is there? Many Christians are scared to death of being called upon to pray publicly.

Glen Campbell, the American Country singer sang a song that speaks about prayer:

***Prayer is a song we all can sing***
***A light that the blind can see***
***Prayer is a gift the poor can bring***
***However poor they'd be.***

***Prayer is a star that lights the way***
***For those who are in despair***
***And when your heart kneels down to pray***
***God will hear your prayer.***

If we do nothing else this Lenten, let us look again at our PRAYER life

**John Stevenson (Locum)**

## Guild Report

The Guild has resumed after a very busy Festive period. On 10th January we had our Business Meeting when we look at our finances and fund raising for the year. Monies were donated to the Church, our Uniformed Organisations and several other charities including St Andrew's Hospice, Erskine Hospital and McMillan Nurses. A full report will show on the Annual Balance Sheet at the AGM in March.

On 24th January we held our annual Burns Supper. Though down in numbers this was the usual Annual success. Thanks must go to our speakers especially Tom Carson who stood in at the very last minute with an "interesting" Toast to the Lasses and Jane Fairlie who delivered a thought provoking Immortal Memory seen through Robert Burns wife, Jean Armour. However without the support of our Girls Brigade we could not hold the supper and we thank Ann, Sandra and their team for cooking, serving and cleaning up the food. Congratulations to Karyn Scotland who, attending her first Burns Supper, Addressed the Haggis. Well done Karyn!

***Kay Blair***
President

***" Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time" ( 1 Peter 5:6 )***

# Notice Board

**From the Presbytery of Hamilton**

**Thursday 15 February 7.30pm - Hamilton: Cadzow**
Organ recital by Matthew Lazenby of St Martin's church, Leeds.

**Thursday 8 March 2018 from 10.15am – 4pm - Lanark: Greyfriars** are hosting a **Techno-Doxology** event, to help congregations get the most out of technology and the internet in worship. This is a rescheduled event from 18 January.

**Passion Play** Lanarkshire are presenting a **Passion Play** on **Saturday 31 March 2018** in Hamilton town centre, with an intention to have several plays in 2019. Congregations are invited to encourage interest in this event and perhaps send representatives to support/visit rehearsals every Tuesday evening at 7pm in Hamilton: Cadzow Parish Church.

**Photo competition**. Eligible for anyone over the age of 12.
**Closing date 31 March 2018**.
Ten categories from Climate Change to Wildlife. For more information and entry form follow the link:
http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/get-involved/competition/

"**Praise in the Park**" will be held in **Strathclyde Park on Saturday 14 April**. Congregations are encouraged to contact Rev Kevin de Beer to register interest in showcasing the work of the church. Attendance is open to all.

Bookings are still open for the **Cheeky Wee Youth Event**, now postponed to **Saturday 28 April 2018** at Motherwell South Parish Church, via a search on Eventbrite, or the following link:https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-cheeky-wee-youth-event-tickets-39440820556 aff=es2

***Girls Brigade Pancake Night***

*You are invited to the Girls Brigade Pancake Night being held on Monday 19th March from 7:00pm to 8:00pm in Rorison.*

*Come along and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with a delicious freshly made pancake with your choice of toppings.*

*Entry is £2.00 and we look forward to seeing you on the night.*

***Ann Price***
***Captain***

***"Hip hip hooray" Joan***

*My grateful thanks to everyone who visited, sent me flowers, cards, gifts, telephone calls and text messages following my hip replacement on January 25th. Special thanks to Kay Blair for her excellent coverage of the Session Clerk duties, also to Ann Carson and Joanna Gilchrist for the distribution of my newsletters.*

*I am sure that the love and kindness that we receive from friends when we are ill goes a long way to helping with a speedy recovery.*

*With Love and Gratitude*
*God Bless*
***Joan** xx*

## Prayer of the Month

Your Word reveals to us a simple truth,
that sin entered this world
through human folly
in believing we could be like you,
and permeated history
through envy, selfishness and greed.
Yet sin, which holds us tight
within its grasp
cannot resist a heart that is touched
by your grace through Jesus Christ,
cannot contend with Living Water
pouring into hearts and souls.
Your Word reveals to us a simple truth,
that sin is defeated
and we can become
the people we were always meant to be,
By your grace through Jesus Christ

| | Club | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Dalserf Thistle | 9 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 35 | 16 | 19 | 24 |
| 2 | Re:Hope | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 43 | 25 | 18 | 20 |
| 3 | Gourock St. John's | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 33 | 7 | 26 | 19 |
| 4 | Fullarton Irvine | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 19 | 10 | 9 | 13 |
| 5 | Croftfoot Parish | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 30 | 32 | -2 | 13 |
| 6 | Glasgow Elim | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 25 | 31 | -6 | 11 |
| 7 | Chalmers | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 15 | 35 | -20 | 10 |
| 8 | Woodhill | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 22 | 23 | -1 | 7 |
| 9 | Mearns Churches | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 15 | 30 | -15 | 7 |
| 10 | Greenbank Church of Scotland | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 17 | 45 | -28 | 0 |

**Strathclyde Evangelical Churches Football League**

A few months ago, I was approached by a young man, on behalf of his football team. His request was that Dalserf Church would grant them permission to use the name of our church as they wished to join the above league.

The Kirk Session, after discussion, agreed to this request and since that decision the team, **Dalserf Thistle** were admitted to the league in Division 2.

In that time the team have played 10 games, won 9 and lost 1.
As you will see in the table above they stand top of their division. (the table is yet to be updated)

Dalserf Thistle will play the second leg of the semi-final of the Athol Cup on Saturday Feb 10th. They go into that game with a 2-goal lead from the first leg.

I am assured that if they win the cup, they will bring it to church for us to see.

Other teams supported by local churches include: Machan United, St. Ninian's, Avendale and Law Parish. You can follow the team's progress on the Internet by searching the title above.

Isn't it a joy that we can give support to young men in this way?

**John Stevenson**

***" The time has come, he said. The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" ( Mark 1:15 )***

## Contacts

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

## Rotas

| | Coffee | Crèche | Flowers |
|---|---|---|---|
| **4th Mar** | Mrs K Blair | as required | Mr B Gold (Larkhall) |
| **11th Mar** | Mr & Mrs Harvey | as required | Mrs J Pollok (Crossford) |
| **18th Mar** | Mr & Mrs Manson | as required | Mrs A Baillie (Over Dalserf) |
| **25th Mar** | Mrs Budgell & Mrs Blair | as required | |
| **1st Apr** | Mr & Mrs Archibald | as required | Ms M Watt (Rowan Bank) |

*Items for next Newsletter*

*If you have any news or information that you wish to submit for the newsletter for April 2018,*

*the deadline will be Sunday 11th of March 2018. Please contact the editor with your content by this date.*

***" But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." ( Matthew 6 :17-18 )***