



# Dalsersf Parish Church Newsletter



February 2020



## February Church Calendar

- Thursday 6th** Focus (Speaker Philip Fox, Rorison 1.45pm)
- Tuesday 11th** The Gathering (Hamilton Hall 12.30pm)
- Wednesday 12th** Guild (Subject: Boys Brigade)
- Tuesday 25th** The Gathering (Hamilton Hall 12.30pm)
- Wednesday 26th** Louise Lawrie (Life through my camera lens)
- Friday 28th** Nursing Home Visits

### 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

### 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

### Announcements

#### Deaths

Moira Scotland  
on Wed 11th December 2019

#### Special Birthdays

Our Love and Congratulations go to Sadie Newlands who celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020

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



*“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”*

**Ephesians 3 : 16 – 19**

### **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)



CHARITY SC016156





Dear Friends

Seasons greetings to you all.

I hope that the Christmas celebrations have lifted your spirits, deepened your faith and given you an opportunity to meet with family, renew old acquaintances and make new friends. Also giving time to pause, reflect and prepare for the year ahead.

After all the bright festive lights January can seem to be a long dreary month with its short days with winter weather. However, the Church remembers the story of the wise men who used the bright star shining in the darkness to guide them as they travelled many miles through dangerous territory journeying mainly at night.

They were not sure what lay ahead except that they would find a new king. They found that they were led not to the grandeur of a king's palace, but to an ordinary family in the midst of an ordinary community. In their hearts they knew that they had found a very special baby: the son of God dwelling among us.

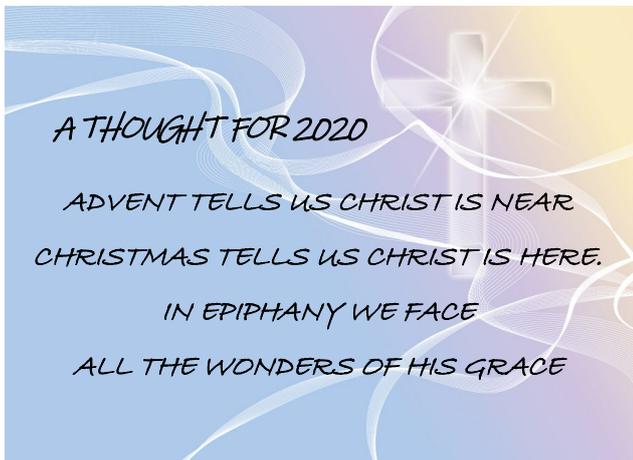
We need to keep this truth, that God is with us as this new year begins and we continue our journey through life with its many joys and challenges.

This coming year our focus will be drawn to making changes to lifestyle as our young people rightly demand that we face up to global warming and take urgent action now to give them a future. We also need to counter the deepening divisions in society by continuing to foster a deep community spirit where everyone feels included, valued and cared for.

We are of course continuing to look forward with hope and expectancy to the 'call' of a minister to this congregation and charge of Dalserf, and in the meantime draw closer to one another as we witness to the love of God in our hearts, homes and villages.

May you know Christ's love giving you every blessing for the new year,

**John**



**CHRISTMAS GIVING**

*During November and December 2019, the Congregation and friends of Dalserf Church gave most generously to others, not so well off as ourselves. 42 shoeboxes were donated to the Blythewood appeal, 52 gifts to Social Work appeal, numerous items for G1 and the collections from the Christmas Appeal and Watchnight Offering, raising £349.00.*

**Thank you to all who helped in any way.**





**Guild Report**

The Guild returned on Wednesday 8th January with a business meeting when funds raised since this time last year were distributed as follows: £100.00 each to Erskine Hospital, McMillan Services, Crossreach, Street Pastors, Mad Ministries, Clyde & Nathan Food Bank and 1st Dalserf Girls Brigade. £150.00 was sent to Church of Scotland Guild Projects and £1000.00 to Dalserf Church, making a total of £1850.00.

The Guild ladies have also helped with the work of the Church in many other ways throughout the year and must be congratulated on their continuous efforts to help other agencies, appeals and Dalserf Church.

Please join us at our Wednesday night meetings and enjoy the fellowship we share. Our syllabus hangs on the notice board at both Dalserf and Rorison.

**Kay Blair**

Many of Dalserf's older members (most of us) will remember the boxer Muhammad Ali or Cassius Clay as he was called before his conversion to Islam. Despite his fighting nature he was a religious man within. He claimed to have written the following poem:

*Friendship is a priceless gift  
that cannot be bought or sold,  
But its value is far greater  
than a mountain made of gold.  
For gold is cold and lifeless,  
it can neither see nor hear,  
and in time of trouble  
it is powerless to cheer.  
Gold has no ears to listen,  
no heart to understand.  
It cannot bring you comfort  
or reach out a helping hand.  
So when you ask God for a gift,  
be thankful if he sends  
not diamonds, pearls or riches,  
but the love of real true friends.*

**A word from the Treasurer**

On the evening of Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December, members of the church thoroughly enjoyed the festive Christmas Concert in Dalserf. Our sincere thanks goes to Philip Fox for organising this event once again. A special attraction was the contribution from the choirs from both of the Primary Schools in our parish. We are blessed that the pupils and the teachers were willing to give of their time and energy for our enjoyment. The schools had already been busy with their own Nativity plays. The play at Netherburn was a sell-out and there was only standing room left for late comers.

Of course, the children that sang at Dalserf were merely representative of the wider pupil rolls (200) that fall within our border. These children are our church's responsibility for spiritual education and for spreading "The Word". Without our monthly Christian Assemblies, and the visit by both schools to Dalserf at Easter, these children may never hear the name "Jesus", or be aware of the real meaning of Christmas and the "reason for the season". The visit to Dalserf at Easter may be the only time in their lives that they sit in a pew or visit a religious building.

The church's responsibilities are not only to and for those starting out in life, but also for those whose lives are fast disappearing -- those who cannot look after themselves -- those in our three care homes in Ashgill. Our Christmas visit to them was especially heart rending. It was quite emotional to share the Christmas story with men and women who physically can no longer come to church, as well as their respective carers. It was obvious from their faces that the "Message" was still familiar in their memories. The scripture that were read, and the carols that we sang, obviously rang a bell from yesteryear. It is indeed a privilege to bring peace and spiritual comfort to such as those.

All of this of course comes at a cost. The way the Church of Scotland administers and levies their finances, there is rarely enough left in individual churches to meet these needs. Monies raised for such projects, outwith the General Fund, are largely exempt, and that is why our charity giving, such as shoe boxes, Hamilton Drop In Centre, Foodbank, Hospices, RAF, Poppy Scotland etc. etc. are financed by personal donations and gifts, and not directly out of the General Fund. The Youth Fund, which covers the MAD Ministry, care home expenses and other outreach, also falls into this category, but sadly is woefully short of support (8/9 contributors). When one considers the "Almighty" looking down at the Parish of Dalserf and seeing that little quaint white church, where, at most, 100 contributors spend £92,000 on themselves, wealth He has supplied, one may wonder if He thinks He is getting good value. The Bible repeatedly exhorts us to "Spread the Word", look after the poor, feed the hungry, comfort the sad, the lonely, the sick and the weary. The church does not exist purely for a one hour service of praise.

Of course in these modern, secular times, much of this is the responsibility of the government, but only churches can provide the Spiritual message of Salvation and Eternal Life.

Envelopes for the Youth Fund for 2020 are now available. A pound or two would greatly facilitate this important work and greatly encourage those who partake in these worthwhile events.

**Bruce Archibald**





**Sincere Thanks**

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rev. Stevenson and the congregation of Dalserf for the visits, gifts, cards, phone calls, church flowers and good wishes received following my recent surgery.*

*Your kind support has been greatly appreciated at this time.*

**Hilton Brady**

**Grateful Thanks**

*My grateful thanks to everyone for the cards, flowers and good wishes during my recovery from surgery.*

*I have been overwhelmed with everyone's kindness.*

**God Bless,**

**Sadie**

*Happy New Year*

To the Congregation, Friends and Family  
of Dalserf Church

**Contacts**



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<p><b>Organist</b> Mrs Fox foxattheden@musician.org</p>	<p><b>Flowers</b> Mrs Kay Blair <b>01698 882499</b> Mrs RM Clarkson <b>01698 792628</b></p>	<p><b>Church Officer (Rorison)</b> Mrs Anne McHolm <b>01698 886658</b></p>	<p><b>Church Officer (Dalserf)</b> Mrs Norah McGuckin 4 Kirk Road, Dalserf <b>01698 886089</b></p>	<p><b>F.W.O. Convenor</b> Mrs A Brown <b>01698 632010</b></p>
<p><b>Newsletter Editor</b> David Gilchrist dalserfnews@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>House Group Leader</b> Mrs Lorna Brodie <b>07906416564</b></p>	<p><b>Fabric Convener</b> Andrew Gilmour B.Ed., HNC, C&amp;G <b>01555 662238</b></p>	<p><b>Child Protection Co-ordinator</b> Joanna Gilchrist dalserfnews@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Bible Study Group Leader</b> Rita Fairley <b>01698 881160</b></p>
<p><b>Roll Keeper</b> Wendy Manson wendymanson@aol.com <b>07775600931</b></p>	<p><b>Hamilton Hall Bookings</b> Booking Secretary: Lorna Brodie lorna@brodie.myzen.co.uk <b>07906416564</b></p>		<p><b>Rorison Hall Bookings</b> Booking Secretary: Anne McHolm mcholmanne3@gmail.com <b>01698 886658</b></p>	

**Rotas**



**2nd Feb**

Mr & Mrs Archibald

Mrs K Love (Larkhall)

**9th Feb**

Mr Johnstone & Mrs Kelly

Mrs Anderson (Wishaw)

**16th Feb**

Mrs Clarkson & Mrs Gilmour

Mrs J Gilchrist (Ashgill)

**23rd Feb**

Mrs Hunter & Mrs Lawrie

Mrs Paterson (Ashgill)

**1st Mar**

Mr & Mrs Harvey

Mr B Gold (Larkhall)

**Items for next Newsletter**

*If you have any news or information that you wish to submit for the newsletter for March 2020,*

*the deadline will be Sunday 9th of February 2020. Please contact the editor with your content by this date.*

**" Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."**

**( Ephesians 4:2 )**

