



Dalserf Parish Church Newsletter



November 2020



Church Calendar

***In light of the current Government Guidance,
all Church gatherings have been suspended
until further notice.***

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
Has been suspended until further notice.

Worship at Rorison Church
Has been suspended until further notice.

Announcements

Deaths

David Marshall
on Thursday 26th November 2020

Congratulations

Our Love and Congratulations to
Cathy Gallacher who celebrated her
90th Birthday

Bible Verse of the Month



***But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news
that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of
David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.
This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and
lying in a manger."***

***Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the
angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."***

Luke 2: 10-14



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

Nursing Home Visits

***Have been suspended
until further notice***



www.facebook.com/dalserfchurch



www.dalserf.org.uk



CHARITY SC016156





It is now the season of ADVENT! Where has the time gone?

I have many voices expressing feelings that put this year 2020 as the worst of times, and yet I have been amazed at the resourcefulness of people living through a period of restrictions, isolation and lack of contact with family and friends. There has also been the worry about the severity of the virus we know as Covid19. The strain that has been imposed on our health care professionals has never been greater in our living memory.

So, what is the point in Advent amid all this negativity around us?

Advent is a season in the Christian calendar when Christians take stock and look back, look at the present and look forward to what is to come.

Now the secular world would have Advent as a time to build up the great expectation of Christmas. A time for Advent Calendars, and there are very many of them. Advent Calendars with their 25 doors concealing a surprise for each day of Advent, right up to Christmas. Every door reveals a gift, perhaps a sweet or chocolate or some other trinket. I noticed that there are Calendars offering an item of jewellery in every compartment! You can have compartments filled with beauty treatments or even cheeses!!! Very few on sale have a spiritual theme.

Is this really what Advent is all about?

Advent, for the Christian, is a time for preparation! A time anticipation and expectation.

Charles Dickens titled his thirteenth novel, 'Great Expectations'. For many, who have read the book, will be aware that the moral theme of *Great Expectations* is quite simple: affection, loyalty, and conscience are more important than social advancement, wealth, and class. Dickens establishes the theme and shows Pip learning this lesson, largely by exploring ideas of ambition and self-improvement, because he believes in the possibility of advancement in life, he has "great expectations" about his future.

What are your expectations in life?

Is it for financial security? Being more popular with your social circle? Better health for yourself or a loved one? Freedom from the threat of deadly viruses? Or are your expectations similar to those of Pip in *Great Expectations*?

For me, the season of Advent is a time for preparation! A time anticipation and expectation. It is a time to look back and be thankful to God for His faithfulness in seeing us through good times and the 'not-so-good' times. I also use the time in Advent to remember what He has accomplished for me in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of His only Son Christ Jesus. Further, in every Advent, I look forward with *Great Expectation* to the day when Jesus will fulfil His promise and return to claim His own.

During Advent I consider; I meditate, and I prepare myself for that GLORIOUS day when Jesus will return and gather His own to Himself.

Whilst I long for less severe restrictions that will me to celebrate Christ's birth with my family, this is not the main drive in Advent for me. Yes I look forward to giving thanks for Christ's birth but even more I look forward to His return.

Maranatha: even so come, Lord Jesus.

Blessings to each and every one, and Isobel and I send our fondest Christmas wishes to you and yours,

From your Locum

John





Ashgill Cenotaph



Netherburn Cenotaph



Hand Painted Stones

Wreaths were laid at both Cenotaphs by The Lord Lieutenantcy, and the Orange Order.
Hand painted commemorative stones were placed by representatives of the Church.

Stones were painted by Lewis Scotland, Larkhall Academy and Joan Harvey, a Dalsersf Church Elder.
The Act of Remembrance also took place during the Service recorded at Dalsersf and screened on Sunday.
The Service was led by Rev. John Stevenson and a Lament played by Piper Ross Forrest.

The Rev Stevenson's Services can be viewed each week on the church website.

www.dalserf.org



"But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you ." (1 Samuel 12:24)





Memories of George Stewart

Although it is many years since I last met George Stewart, I remember him now with a deep sense of pleasure and nostalgia.

George regularly attended Dalserf Church along with his wife Shirley, son "Young George" and Kimberley. They sat in the front pew of the West gallery, so from where I sat in the Mauldslee gallery, the family were in constant view. George and I would often exchange "knowing glances" at any controversial remarks from the pulpit, and frown together at some displeasure.

Our meetings, in the first instance, were mainly at the church where he carried out the task of "Beadle" with great efficiency, respect and decorum. Each Sunday, ringing the bell, carrying the large church bible into the pulpit, returning to the vestry to escort the minister into position. He liked to do things "properly", and I remember well how exact he was with his wrist watch at the midnight service, synchronising it with the minister's, so that the sermon finished exactly on cue as the sound of the bell announced Christmas Day.

Living for many years in Dalserf Village made him "part of the community", and the church benefited greatly from his local knowledge, presence and expertise. He was well respected among the members of his "district" and was extremely diligent in visitations. In the early years he and his wife Shirley were deeply and enthusiastically involved with the Boys Brigade. George was also the visiting elder to the Girls Brigade and regularly reported to the Kirk Session on his visits there.

George never pushed himself forward, but invariably responded when requested to do something --- even outwith his comfort zone. I well remember him and the late Session Clerk, Tom Hunter, performing a duo act at the church's AGM "social"!! That performance was the talk of the church for many months. I also have some recollection of George performing as Santa at some children's event. On retiral from official church duties George's presence at the church gate each Sunday was sadly missed.

Sheena and I also knew George and Shirley socially, as often, along with other couples met at each others homes for dinner and repartee. George could always be relied upon for a few tales. His employment in the newspaper industry brought him into contact with many male acquaintances who seemed to have a never ending source of "stories" always above board of course!! Sheena and I enjoyed their hospitality on several occasions and we reflect on them with pleasure.

The third way of meeting George regularly was at Sandyholm where he took a position after his official retirement. His gleeful smile at meeting you there made the visit doubly rewarding. Again, his mixing with so many of the public and fellow employees kept his repertoire of stories brimming over.

On George's move to Hamilton we sadly lost touch, but I look back with much affection and bonhomie. My life was enhanced and enriched by knowing him.

Bruce Archibald





Seasonal Song Quiz

Get into the Christmas spirit with our seasonal song quiz.

Listed below you will find the initials to the words in the first lines of 12 popular Christmas Songs

Can you work out the first line and the song title it relates to?

The answers will be posted on the Website early in the New Year, Good Luck !

1. IDOAWC
2. OLTOB
3. AROHFITS
4. OTFDOC
5. TSTBSAC
6. OCAYF
7. YBWO
8. WWITA
9. TMIR
10. TTIAHTNAH
11. LTAIB
12. WTSBTS



Christmas Word Search

S T N E M A N R O B B M C H R I S T I A N D K L
 U S U A L C A T N A S V N B E T H L E H E M F I
 G P Y B H W S E I K O O C S A M T S I R H C R T
 A H Q H P E S O J H M T L R E G N A M V M N S T
 R R E K C A R C T U N O I A K Y P J N U O D A L
 P S M E Z S X R O I V A S M T N L V C S O B M E
 L N U K J I N G L E B E L L S N L L A H T M T D
 U O Y V F K I S E N A C Y D N A C E O P W I S R
 M W J S N O I T A R O C E D D M S P C H I N I U
 S A I N T N I C H O L A S Q W W E L E G N A R M
 E C A N D L E S R E B M E C E D T N P I K K H M
 M S J B G T I D Z Q H E S S G W D A D P L X C E
 F Y N G L X H K N R I G U L T Y L T R A I T S R
 I A F E O Q F G R E N B S L S T C I D W N M N B
 C H Y T C R G Y I I R U T E L Q A V O V G H O O
 M P I Q V N M N M N S C U B E H R I T O Y S W Y
 E L V E S J I M I E T Y X R I T O T M G J X M G
 K E D T C B I K J P W N T E G I L Y R A I N A W
 H E O N H R F Y N C P E E V H A E A T G R C N O
 T R N N T T B K N A F O U L R F R C R I F Y M W
 A T K I O A K P C H R P H I I O S A P O N V N R
 E I E J B Y C Z T U N F D S D S R N E M E S I W
 R G Y K Y U G I N G E R B R E A D Q A O K F E K
 W K L H O L Y N I G H T D I V A D F O R A T S L

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|-------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|
| angel | Baby Jesus | Bethlehem | candles |
| candy canes | carolers | Christian | Christmas |
| Christmas cookies | December | decorations | donkey |
| elves | faith | frankincense | gingerbread |
| hay | holly | Holy night | hope |
| inn | jingle bells | Joseph | Little Drummer Boy |
| manger | Mary | myrrh | nativity |
| nutcracker | ornaments | Saint Nicholas | Santa Claus |
| Savior | Season | shopping | silent night |
| silver bells | sleigh ride | snow | snowman |
| Star of David | sugar plums | tinsel | toys |
| tree | trimmings | twinkling | Wise men |
| wreath | | | |





Thank You

Thank you to everyone who gifted flowers during 2020 to enhance the Chancel in Dalserf Church.

It has been wonderful that the flowers have continued to be there Sunday by Sunday during the Pandemic. Everyone receiving the flowers has been heartened by the continuing work of Dalserf even though the building is closed.

I would also like to thank Lily and Eric Budgell who, most weeks purchase the flowers on behalf of those donating them, and arranging them in the Church. This has kept the footfall into the building to a minimum.

Thanks to everyone who has helped in any way to maintain the outreach from Dalserf Church during such difficult times.

May each and everyone have a blessed Christmas whatever it brings. After all it is Christ's birthday we are celebrating not a "Happy Holiday" and we can do that without all the trimmings and parties.

We will miss family and friends but our Lord will always be with us. I personally will miss my Church Family and the Church Fellowship. Let's pray we will be back together soon in the New Year.

Kay Blair

Guild

A Guild News sheet was posted on the web site at beginning of November

The next one will go on the web site around the third week in December. If anyone has anything they wish to add to it please contact me. Without your news it is difficult to make up the content.

Meantime we wish everyone a Blessed Christmas from the Dalserf Church Guild Members.

Kay Blair

Birthday Wishes

Our love and congratulations to Emma Gilchrist who celebrated her 15th Birthday on 6th November 2020.

Happy Birthday Emma!

May God bless you and yours with a joyous Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

We pray that you find peace and love during this special time of the year.

And may your family be blessed with all the joy that life can bring.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

from

Dalserf Kirk Session

We on the Kirk Session ask for God's Blessing on all of you in these troublesome times.





Contacts

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Organist Mrs Fox foxattheden@musician.org	Flowers Mrs Kay Blair 01698 882499 Mrs RM Clarkson 01698 792628	Church Officer (Rorison) Mrs Anne McHolm 01698 886658	Church Officer (Dalsersh) Mrs Norah McGuckin 4 Kirk Road, Dalsersh 01698 886089	F.W.O. Convenor Mrs A Brown 01698 632010
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Rotas	
6th Dec	Mrs L Budgell (Netherburn)
13th Dec	Mrs A Price (Larkhall)
20th Dec	Mrs R Hunter (Dalsersh)
27th Dec	Mrs K Blair (Ashgill)
3rd Jan	Anne McHolm (Ashgill)
10th Jan	Mrs L Lawson (Lanark)
17th Jan	Mrs S Archibald (Lanark)
24th Jan	Mrs A Carson (Law)
31st Jan	Mrs Anderson (Wishaw)

Items for next Newsletter

If you have any news or information that you wish to submit for the newsletter for February 2021, Please contact the editor.