



Dalsersf Parish Church Newsletter



May 2021



Church Calendar

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
Has been suspended until further notice.

Worship at Rorison Church
Has been suspended until further notice.

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

Bible Verse of the Month



“This is what comes to mind, and therefore I have hope. Because of the Lord’s gracious love we are not consumed, since his compassions never end. They are new every morning - great is your faithfulness! The Lord is all I have, says my soul, therefore I will trust in him. The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the person who searches for him. It is good to hope and wait patiently for the Lord’s salvation.

Lamentations 3 : 21 – 26

Announcements

Deaths

Elizabeth (sister of Norah McGuckin)
Early March 2021

Margaret Miller
on Wednesday 17th March 2021

Alexander Renfrew
on Friday 23rd April 2021

Nursing Home Visits

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



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



www.dalsersf.org.uk



CHARITY SC016156





Dear Friends,

Dalsersf is a little Presbyterian church where many of you were baptized, where the Gospel has been preached for several centuries by many Ministers. Here, children have read bits of the Nativity story during Christmas services and adults have read parts of the lectionary during Sunday services. Many have helped baked cakes and scones for the Saturday Teas in Hamilton Hall. We rejoiced at weddings and mourned at funerals here as well. Prayer Groups have met to remember a whole host of work being carried out in the name of Christ Jesus and people have been held up in prayer.

This is all to say that our country church was never just a building but a space where we shared joys and sorrows, where our family grew, and where, every week, we felt our congregation joined with others across time and around the world.

Worship has always been a time when I felt myself turned outward to others. There are many definitions of sin and as many preachers willing to expound on them, but I've always liked the one that Martin Luther borrowed from St. Augustine: "If to sin is to be turned in on one's self, then worship is one obvious antidote." I've certainly experienced it that way. Church is where I go to be reminded that the world is full of other people, and that their needs and desires are every bit as urgent and real as mine, and not just of those gathered in the sanctuary but of those around the world.

It's no wonder, then, that so many Christian denominations over all the centuries have emphasized what happens when followers of Christ gather together in person, and why they worry when we don't. Worship is more than a mere social gathering, when we move beyond the individual, atomistic experience of the holy that we might have alone in our morning meditation or evening prayers. It is the ritual enactment of what Christ taught us in the Gospel of Matthew: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." And so, as often as I can, at home or while travelling, I try to find my way into services or morning prayers. I have felt, over and over again, how restorative those gatherings can be, drawing me out of any thought of being alone in this universe, turning my heart toward those in need, not just in tithes of money but of presence and witness, too.

But there will be no gathering like that for some time, which is as it should be. The Pope even cancelled Easter—not the resurrection, of course, only the public Mass commemorating it. It was, as far as I know, the largest of all the church services called off so far because of the coronavirus epidemic, since tens of thousands of people typically fill St. Peter's Square for papal audiences like the one that would have taken place on Easter Sunday. Instead, both the square and the church were all but empty, thanks to social distancing, which is keeping us all six feet apart and at home as much as we can. Such is the gospel in the age of covid-19.

Our own church, here in Dalsersf, has cancelled its services, too. Soon after we embarked on the production of recorded services available online. Since then we have reached all who have access to the internet, not only in our local area, but throughout Scotland, England, Wales and further afield to Canada, Australia and New Zealand!

Of course, many churches were online before the coronavirus outbreak, with so-called Internet campuses and live streams and prayer Web forums, and there were already apps for everything from confession to meditation. In the beginning might have been the Word, but ever since then the message of Jesus Christ has been adapted to whatever medium was available, from the scroll to the codex and eventually the podcast.

I admire those pastors, and religious leaders of all denominations, who, for the sake of their congregations, have been cautious, and clear about why we must find new ways to worship. I worry some about how much more easily ignored the Zoom alarm is or how effortlessly I can be distracted from one YouTube video by another, the sound of an incoming e-mail, or even just how strangely wired my brain has become to the sight of the laptop and its associations with writing and work, but I have been reassured by the example of how Christians across the centuries and across the globe who could not worship together, either because of illness or distress or suppression by the state, have found ways to be the Church without being physically together.

But apparently not everyone feels this way. Some pastors have continued to hold worship services, and other Christians have been arguing somewhat diabolically that public safety is a kind of false idol. Some have insisted that the churches be open, in time for Easter. Though I understand that, in times of trial and fear Christians want to be together, and I cannot imagine the heartbreak of families who cannot gather to mourn those they have already lost to the virus or any other cause, I do not understand how easily some leaders of the faith disregard what Jesus said about his desire for us to "have life and have it in abundance," or how they misrepresent our faith's history during plague times. It is certainly true that from the Plague of Cyprian, during the third century, to the bubonic plague, during the decades it ravaged Europe, Christianity grew as a religion in part because so many saw followers of Jesus ministering to the sick, and endangering their own lives to be with the dying. The difference, of course, is that those Christians were providing medical care and companionship, not insisting on their right to carry on with life as usual.

From your Locum, John

" Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

(Romans 12:12)





1st Dalsersf Girls Brigade

Like all organisations, it is now over a year since our GB company last met. Our camp weekend rescheduled (twice) from last year was supposed to take place on the weekend of 15th May however that has been put on hold again.

Duke of Edinburgh Award work has still been going on in the background.

As service for the silver award, Morven McLean has, since the first lockdown been, on a rota with her church to phone some of the older members to keep in touch each week – an excellent demonstration of service! I am sure the members will have been eagerly waiting Morven's call and chat. Morven is just waiting on assessor's reports being received and her award will be completed. I am looking forward to being able to deliver this to Morven in the near future.

Ellie Rodger and Karyn Scotland were both working on their physical section of the bronze award in March last year but with one month to go they were confined to the house! Thankfully guidance changed and they were able to develop and complete a keep fit and training regime with a family member. This was then recorded and sent to our Commissioner for assessment. Thank you to Allison and Heather for being very co-operative mums. As the expedition section was unable to be completed, D of E award developed a certificate of completion when the physical, service and volunteering sections were completed. Below are Ellie and Karyn with their certificates in April. Plans are in place for modified expeditions to take place during the summer following which the girls will receive their award.

Well done to Ellie, Karyn and Morven for their perseverance.



Ellie Rodger



Karyn Scotland





With the sad news of the passing of Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh I asked Kay if she could give us her Memories of Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme Gold Presentation over the years.

Kay says....

I have been fortunate enough to attend the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme Presentation at The Palace of Holyrood on two occasions. First time was when Heather Scotland (Budgell) and Andrea Wilson (Baxter) received their Gold Awards. We had a very pleasant day and the Duke of Edinburgh spoke to all the Award recipients and many of their parents and guests.

On the second occasion it was Leigh Law (McKenzie) receiving the Gold Award and I accompanied her and her mum Isobel to Holyrood. Again it was a lovely day and we excitedly awaited the arrival of the Duke.

As he entered our circle he stopped at me looked my Girls Brigade uniform up and down and asked me "Where is your Duke of Edinburgh Award". Well I didn't know whether to courtesy, salute or just shout "Beam me up Scotty". Rather nervously I answered "I think I'm a bit long in the tooth to have participated, SIR" "Mmmmm" says he and moved on. As he went around the circle he again stopped. This time directing his remarks to Leigh resplendent in her new style GB Uniform said, "I don't like your new uniform. I don't know which company you are from as you are not wearing Company titles.

(We no longer had a blazer with the Company title on the pocket) Leigh very politely turned her arm band towards him saying "It's on our Arm Band Sir". "And no hats" he retorted as he moved on.

Just so like the picture we are being given of him and I'm sure if I had a photo of the incident there would have been a wicked twinkle in his eye.

He has done so much for young people through the D of E Award Scheme and I'm so proud of the achievements that have been gained in Dalsarf Company and wish the girls participating at present and in the future well.

To quote Heather, "It's character building"

Girls Brigade Scotland in their tribute to Prince Philip added some photographs from D of E award work over the years, one of which had familiar faces.

Below is from left to right – Gail Herbertson, Sarah Manson and Eilidh Hume on an expedition weekend. Sandra Hoey said "Oh I remember that weekend well as I was there and it rained the whole two days. Happy times".



I am ever hopeful GB will be able to meet later in the year though the likelihood of a third wave hangs on the horizon. Hopefully though we will be back in the building before the end of 2021 with our girls enjoying some good old GB fun!

Ann Price (Captain)

" Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."

(Hebrews 10:23)





Guild

Under normal circumstance Guild would have held its AGM, Closing social and now be in recess looking forward to our Annual Outing in May. We have all tried to keep in touch by telephone and our News sheet which can be accessed on the Church Web Site.

We look forward to the restrictions of the last 14 months being eased and a time when we can meet again as a Guild enjoying fellowship together. I have missed meeting with the Guild members and I know that is how we all feel.

So with God's Blessing we pray we can have a 2021-22 Session.

Kay Blair

*I'm just a little angel
Who's come to stay with you.
So pop me in your pocket
To stay the whole day through.
And when your stressed or worried
And life becomes too much,
Just feel me in your pocket
And know I feel your touch*



"God bless"

Angels

Rae and Nancy have been busy knitting smaller versions of the Christmas angels while Anne McHolm has been crocheting away at angels. These along with a poem specially written to accompany have been given out to midwives, district nurses, hospital staff and others in the caring profession along with the little Angel Prayer of encouragement.

If you know anyone who you can pass an angel on to please let me (Kay Blair) know.



Dalserf on Palm Sunday



Easter Day

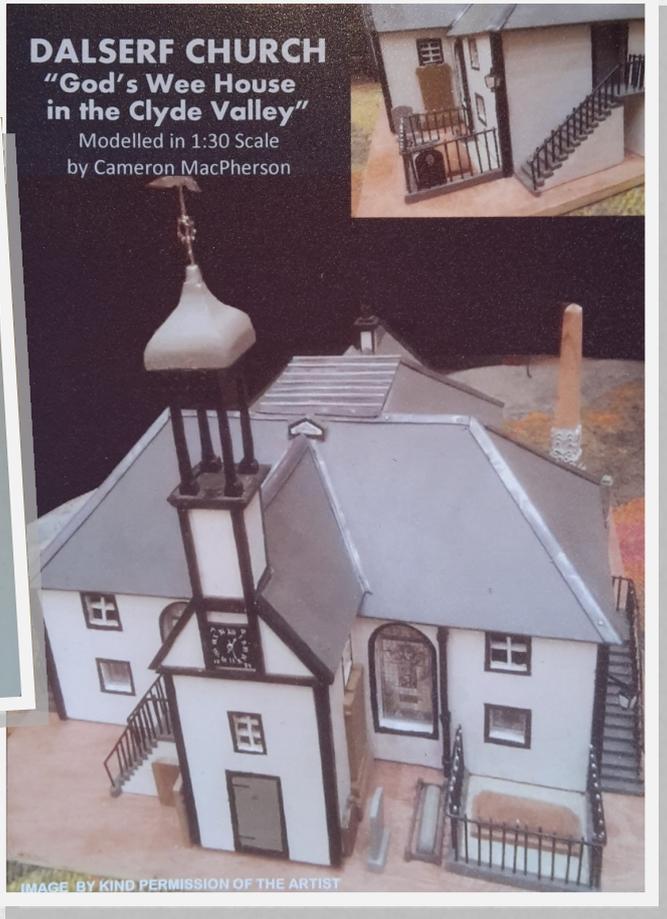


Norah and Anne put the Lenten Crosses up in Dalserf and Rorison and though we cannot see them it is good to know Lent and Easter are being celebrated in our Church. The Easter symbols remain in the Church until Pentecostal Sunday on 23rd May.

Thanks to Norah who is looks after it all for us in Dalserf

"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)





Thank you

George and Ann Price would like to say a big thank you for the church flowers received on the first anniversary of Georges dear mum Janette passing. The flowers were beautiful and we are very grateful for your kindness.

George & Ann



Fake emails

It has recently come to light, that some church contacts have received bogus emails purporting to be from "Revd. John Stevenson". The email enquiry begins, "Hi, are you accessible here?" presumably hoping for a response to initiate some sort of further communication relating to scamming the recipient in some way.

Please exercise caution and disregard any suspicious emails until you are certain they originated from the person they claim to be from. (Please check the sender's email address is a known contact and don't rely on the name being used in the email title to be true).

The Editor

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)



Contacts



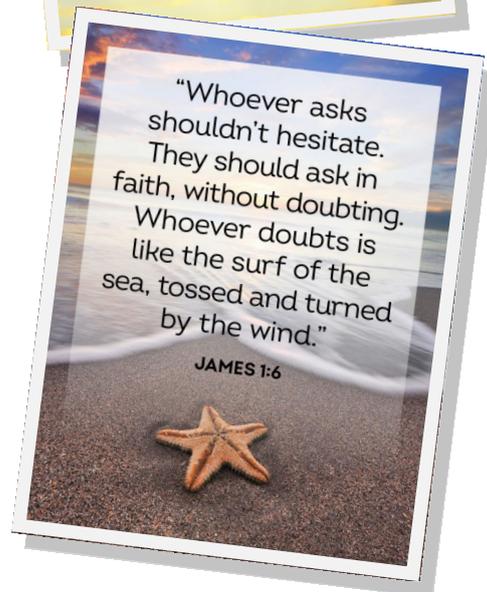
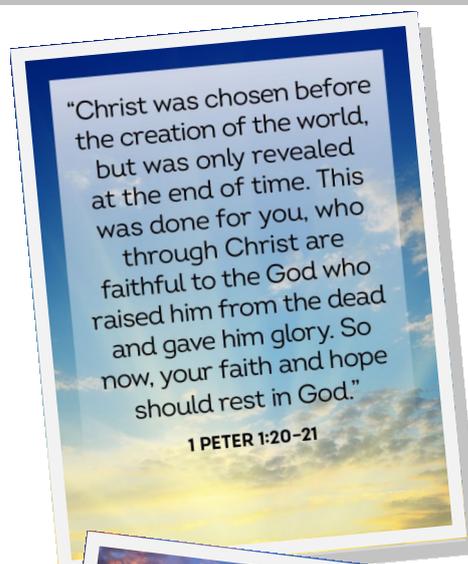
Minister Vacant Locum Rev John Stevenson 01698 817582	Session Clerk Mrs Joan Pollok joan.pollok@btinternet.com 01555 860642	Depute Session Clerk Mrs Kay Blair 01698 882499	Presbytery Elder Mrs Elizabeth Lawson 01555 771096	Treasurer Bruce Archibald BDS 01555 666007
Organist Mrs Fox foxattheden@musician.org	Flowers Mrs Kay Blair 01698 882499 Mrs RM Clarkson 01698 792628	Church Officer (Rorison) Mrs Anne McHolm 01698 886658	Church Officer (Dalserf) Mrs Norah McGuckin 4 Kirk Road, Dalserf 01698 886089	F.W.O. Convenor Mrs A Brown 01698 632010
Newsletter Editor David Gilchrist dalserfnews@gmail.com	House Group Leader Mrs Lorna Brodie 07906416564	Fabric Convener Mr John McPhee janettemphee@gmail.com	Child Protection Co-ordinator Joanna Gilchrist dalserfnews@gmail.com	Bible Study Group Leader Rita Fairley 01698 881160
Roll Keeper Wendy Manson wendymanson@aol.com 07775600931	Hamilton Hall Bookings Booking Secretary: Lorna Brodie lorna@brodie.myzen.co.uk 07906416564		Rorison Hall Bookings Booking Secretary: Anne McHolm mcholmanne3@gmail.com 01698 886658	

Flower Rota

Please note there is a free Sunday on 20th June. Anyone wishing to take up this date please contact Kay Blair. It would be good if it was not someone already of the flower list.

Thanks to all who have continued to sponsor the flowers each Sunday during the closure of the Church for communal worship. Thanks to Lily and Eric Budgell who have shopped each week for the flowers and displayed them in the Church. Lily puts a lot of thought into the colours according to the Church Calendar.

All who have received the flowers have been overwhelmed by the kindness and ask their thanks and appreciation be passed on to the congregation.



Rotas		
		
2nd May		Mrs I Baillie (Over Dalserf)
9th May		Mrs D Noble (Crossford)
16th May		Mr W Miller (Bellshill)
23rd May		Mrs S Newlands (Dalserf)
30th May		Mrs D Noble (Carluke)
6th June		Mrs L Lawrie (Dalserf)
13th June		Mrs R Hunter (Dalserf)
20th June		Vacant (Contact K Blair)
27th June		Mr A Gillespie (Ashgill)

Items for next Newsletter

If you have any news or information that you wish to submit for future newsletters,

Please contact the editor.

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope." (Romans 15:4)

