



Dalserf Parish Church Newsletter



September 2021



Church Calendar

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

Mima Brown
on Monday 21 June 2021

Roberta Meikle
on Thursday 26th August 2021

Weddings

Melanie McMillan to Gary Brown
on Saturday 22nd May 2021

Fiona Tennant to Stuart Fowler
on Thursday 29th July 2021

Jodie Wallace to William Fawcett
on Friday 27th August 2021

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

Bible Verse of the Month



"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us . And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we ask of him.

1 John 5: 13 – 15

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*



Pastoral Letter



Dear Friends,

Writing this, my last Pastoral Letter, is extremely difficult.

What can I say? Do I list everything I have done in the past five years? Or do I give thanks for the privilege that has been given to me to form part of a ministry of preaching the Gospel and caring for this congregation and parish that is Dalserf Parish Church?

Since I entered the doors of Dalserf Church I have always been conscious of the Holy Spirit's presence in the Sanctuary. Each time I enter I look to my left and thank God that He has given me the opportunity to be part of a long Ministry going back to The Reformation! As St. Paul puts it, I am conscious of the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before. That, and an awareness of God's promise that He would never leave me nor forsake me, has sustained me throughout my time as Locum and latterly as Locum / Interim Moderator of this congregation.

However, my awareness of God's power and presence throughout my Ministry is not solely an ethereal experience. I recognise God's help coming through individuals he sends to me. I could name most, if not all of the Kirk Session. I certainly have been encouraged by their dedication and drive to ensure that a Christian witness is to the fore in and around the Parish.

I have valued the work of Shenna and Philip as they have provided music to assist the worship week by week. Philip, in particular, has been a huge spiritual encourager to me in my preaching.

What can one say of the work of Nora? I wonder how many, who worship Sunday by Sunday, appreciate her dedication and service to her God through the work she does making sure the Sanctuary is clean. During the coronavirus pandemic her work is increased substantially. The same can be said of the work that Anne McHolm does at Rorison Church. Although not used in the same way during the pandemic Anne makes sure the place is looked after when it is needed. I certainly have appreciated their work! Perhaps we should say to Nora and Anne, now and again, a word of thanks, recognising all that they do for the congregation.

I could spend the whole of this letter thanking individuals, and perhaps I should for I have been greatly supported by the Kirk Session and indeed by individual Elders who have given assurance that I have not been alone in my Ministry at Dalserf. Thank you my brother and sister Elders, you have made real to me the promise of God that I would never feel alone and His care has been evident in your support.

A special mention must go to Joan who, as Session Clerk has put up with so much, trying to keep me in order! To Joan, I thank you for your unstinting support despite my late, if ever, replies to emails and messages. And thanks also to Andy for the coffees and hospitality he has provided.

To Kay, as Deputy Session Clerk, again I express my sorrow for the number of times I have forgotten to respond to emails and messages. Yet you, like Joan, have been an excellent support to me throughout my ministry at Dalserf. A final word to Kay, will you **PLEASE** slow down and don't feel that you have to do **EVERYTHING!**

To Bruce, as Treasurer, thank you Bruce for not only making sure that my expenses were paid on time enabling me to keep my car on the road, but also for the Christian fellowship, shared with you and Sheena.

Now, I want to thank everyone in the congregation who have shown the same love to Isobel as has been shown to me. Throughout my ministry, since my Ordination, and before, Isobel has been a strength and support that has enabled me to fulfil my role as a Minister of the Gospel. She, perhaps, does not recognise what she has done for me as a ministry, but I do, and I thank God for giving her the strength to work with me throughout all my charges. People have often spoken to me in terms that they appreciate my sacrifice in giving up my secular life for full-time Ministry. I have never considered my life as a Minister as a sacrifice. Anything that I have handed over to God, He has rewarded 'Ten Thousand-Fold'! Isobel, on the other hand has made many sacrifices to enable me to serve our God.

Writing this letter, as I said at the beginning, is extremely difficult. How can I sum up five years ministry at Dalserf? How can I say thank you to some and not to others? If I could manage such a feat, David, who publishes the Newsletter would be tearing his hair out trying to fit in a letter that was 50+ pages long!!

There may be difficult times ahead, but I charge each and every one of you to stand strong and remain faithful to the Gospel of Christ Jesus. As I shared with the Kirk Session, I share with you:

"The task ahead is never as great as the power behind."

That power comes only from our crucified and risen Lord Jesus.

I leave Dalserf with a degree of sadness but also joy. Joy, that I leave a congregation full of hope and an eagerness to make sure that the Parish, you serve, knows of God's love through your witness to the saving Grace of Christ Jesus, and that it will continue for many years to come. Even till He comes again. MARANATHA! (**Even so, come Lord Jesus**)

From your Locum and Interim Moderator (Now retired), **John**

"We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 1:3)





GUILD NEWS

At time of writing this, and as we come out of the restrictions of the past 17months, we are waiting on the Kirk Session decision and advice on future meetings. I look forward, prayerfully, that we will soon meet again, enjoying the support and fellowship we share one with the other.

I can report that Ann is already looking at ways and means of inviting speakers to our meetings. I am very grateful to Ann and ask you to join me in supporting and helping her with suggestions and prayer.

In the meantime the National Guild continues to work on our behalf.

The National Guild strategy for 2021 – 2024 “**Look Forward in Faith**” focusing on **the following themes**

- **2021-22 “Lights and Bushels”**
- **2022-23 “Wee Seeds, Big trees”**
- **2023-24 “New Wine, New Wine Skins”**

Each 3 years the Guild also supports, financially and prayerfully, 6 National and International Projects which we as a Guild subscribe to. The Projects for the next 3 years are:

1. The Vine Trust – the Kazunzu Village of Hope in Tanzania

Giving support to the development of a sustainable village.

2. Beat – ‘Blether with Beat’, Scotland

Developing a network of young ambassadors to raise awareness of the impact eating disorders have on young folk and their families.

3. Home for Good, Scotland

Christian charity dedicated to finding a home for every child who needs one through fostering and adoption and supporting these families within our churches.

4. Pioneers – Chocolate heaven, South East Asia

Help to build and develop sustainable chocolate production in South East Asia

5. UNIDA – ‘Hear our voice!', Brazil

Higher Education Project in Brazil empowering young women, through theological education, transform their lives in a violently unjust Brazilian society.

6. Starchild, Uganda

With the support of the Guild this project aims to build a centre where children with learning disabilities can learn alongside their peers, tackling the stigma that surrounds these children and their families.

Looking to the autumn of 2021 we will be undertaking the **Shoe Box Appeal** again, so now is the time to start collecting.

So! As we enter into the days and times of uncertainty ahead I urge you to pray for Dalserf, and the wider world, in the work of the Guild and Church as we “**Look Forward in Faith**.”





Recording of Live Service

The Kirk Session have agreed to the installation of a recording system so that services can be seen on the Website by those unable to attend Church.

We are looking for 4 people to undergo training in the operation of said system. The training will be given by George Price.

If you are interested, please contact the Session Clerk, Joan Pollok or Deputy Session Clerk, Kay Blair.

Recognition of Recent Achievements

For the last year and a half we have been struggling to cope with the Covid-19 Pandemic. During this struggle, the Lord has been ever present in our lives and he has continued to shower his blessings upon us. The following are an example of some of his many blessings:

Robbie Blair graduated from Napier University with a Bdes honours Degree in Graphic Design

Sophie Blair Gained 5 A's in her higher Exam results at Dalziel High School Motherwell

Lewis Scotland achieved 2 higher A's and 2 higher C's. Lewis is now on his way to Motherwell College.

Emma Gilchrist achieved 7 A's in her Nat 5 exams. Good Luck in the Highers next year

Karyn Scotland achieved 6 A's and a B in her Nat 5 exams. Good Luck in the Highers next year.

Lana Nimmo Graduated as a Primary School Teacher. Her first post is Primary 2/3 Tinto Primary

Congratulations to all these young people who have each been very successful in their academic achievements.

Rae Hunter became a Great Aunt for the first time – warm welcome to her Great Niece, baby Heidi.

Liz Lawson has been blessed with another Grandson - warm welcome to baby Hugh.

Kay Blair is looking forward to November when she will become a Great Grandmother for the first time.

WELL DONE KATIE

On August 14th 2021 a group of Avondale Young Farmers, including Katie Watt, Margaret's granddaughter, successfully undertook the National Three Peaks Challenge.

They began AT 6.30am climbing, Ben Nevis, motored to Scafell Pike then on to Snowdon which they climbed in darkness.

A climb totalling 23m miles, ,3064 metres of ascent, in 23 hours finishing at 5.30am Sunday morning. No mean feat.

The girls have raised over £4000.00 going to RSABI and The Give a Duck Foundation. Congratulations to all but especially to Katie.

The Just Giving Page is still open at www.justgiving.com/annie-bryson





SAYFC members smash Three Peaks Challenge, raising over £4000 for charity.

The five team mates were Annie Bryson, Katie Watt, Rachael Ferguson and Fabienne Giraud from Avondale Young Farmers, along with Sally Mair from Turriff and District JAC.

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 janettemcphee@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 | | |

Rotas



5th Sep

Mrs J McPhee (Larkhall)

12th Sep

Mrs P Gilmour (Lanark)

19th Sep

Mrs E King (Wishaw)

26th Sep

Mrs M Weir (Wishaw)

3rd Oct

Mrs H Blair (Larkhall)

Items for next Newsletter

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

Please contact the editor.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8)

