



# Dalserf Parish Church Newsletter



December 2021

## 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 Has been suspended until further notice.

## Announcements

### Deaths

Margaret McIntosh  
on Sunday 12th September 2021

Mary Grove  
on Saturday 20th November 2021

### Baptisms

Claire Park, son - Logan & daughter - Molly  
on Sunday 12th September 2021

Ezra Blake Cairney  
on Sunday 28th November 2021

Hugh Hamilton  
on Sunday 5th December 2021

### Weddings

John Ross Douglas to Jennifer Christine Ferguson on Mon 6th December 2021

### Special Birthdays

Our Love and Congratulations to Lewis Scotland who celebrated his 18th Birthday on 23rd September 2021

Emma Gilchrist who celebrated her 16th Birthday on 6th November 2021

Thomas Scotland who celebrated his 60th Birthday on 9th November 2021



## **Bible Verse of the Month**

*Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time that the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

**Matthew 2: 7-11**



## **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





**Dear Friends,**

Thank you for this opportunity to share a seasonal pastoral message with you. As I write, it is the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. I am reminded of the words of the song that begins; 'at my door the leaves are falling, a cold wind has begun, sweethearts walk together, but I still miss someone'. At this season we share many treasured memories of the lives and loved ones on whose service and sacrifice we build up our lives today... ..Lest we forget... ..

Now as our world is moving on to cold winter days and long dark winter nights, I was drawn again to the majestic words of Psalm 8 telling us of the wonder of God's creation, reminding us of our place and time in this vast universe. Verse 3 says; - I look up at the heavens, made by your fingers, at the moon and stars you set in place ah, what is man that you should spare a thought for him, the son of man that you should care for him'? (Ps 8, vs. 3, Jerusalem Bible).

Looking up at the heavens... .. do you remember the day, over 50 years ago, when Neil Armstrong was the first man to set foot on the moon? It was a small step for one man, but a giant leap for mankind. He quoted the words of Psalm 8, the first text of the Word of God, left for all mankind on the surface of the moon (July 1969). I remember, together with my family, we stayed up late watching it all happen on television. Neil Armstrong had among his ancestral family roots, the border town of Langholm. He was proud to return to be made a Freeman of that town.

In Advent we remember another man, long time ago, who returned to his ancestral home to register for taxation purposes. Joseph, accompanied by his pregnant wife Mary. Like millions of people all over the world today, there was 'no room for them'. Then in a stable, our ETERNAL HOPE was born. When I look up at the heavens I remember... ..Luke, (Ch. 2, vs. 8ff), records what happened - 'In the countryside close by, there were shepherds who lived in the fields... .., the angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, to be shared by the whole people... ..in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord... '.

Joy to the world... ..There is HOPE for ALL to find PEACE... ..Share the good news... ..

**With Seasons Greetings to you all,**

**Bev and Fiona Gauld**





*An Act of Remembrance took place on Sunday 14th November at Netherburn Cenotaph at 10.30am then at Rorison Church Cenotaph at 11am followed by a service at Dalsersf Church at 11.30am*

*The Deputy Lord Lieutenant attended and laid wreaths at all three.*



### Guild News

*The Guild resumed, after almost two years, on Wednesday 13th October. Twenty members were present and everyone was delighted to be back sharing fellowship.*

*This took the form of an AGM which we had not been able to hold in March of 2021,*

*President Kay Blair read out a report of the activities Guild had managed to support during the present Covid restrictions thanking all for their contributions to appeals, telephone support and newsletter items.*

*Lily Budgell, our Treasurer presented her balance sheet. It was agreed that as fundraising was impossible at moment no monies would be given out with the exception of National Guild Projects and £120 had been sent to same. Membership to Church of Scotland for 2022 will be £13.00 per member.*

*The Office Bearers were re-elected.*

*A summary was given of the National Guild Projects and for next three years. The Theme is "Look Forward in Faith" with 2021-22 looking at "Lights and Bushels"*

*Discussion followed on when and how often the Guild will meet. It was agreed to meet on the second Wednesday's in November and December and review the situation in January.*

*Following November meeting we have arranged to hold a Christmas themed evening on Wednesday 8th December and Afternoon Tea has been arranged in The Bridges Garden Centre on 16th December. Anyone who wishes to join us at this should speak to Ann or Kay.*

*We were delighted the Revd. John Stevenson was able to rededicate our Guild at the Communion Service on Dalsersf on Sunday 7th of November when 15 Guild members were in attendance.*

*At our November meeting we had a representative from Scottish Fire and Rescue who updated us on the new home fire safety regulations to come into force in February 2022. Anyone wishing a leaflet on same can get it at Dalsersf Church or speak to a Guild member.*

*Thanks to the ladies who made the poppies which were on display at the Remembrance Service.*

*Finally it is a blessing to be back in fellowship with each other enjoying a chat and a cuppa and we look forward to our future meetings remembering "Whose we are and Whom we serve."*

**"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6)**





**Weekly Offering Envelopes**

Earlier this year members who regularly made their offerings by FWO envelopes were invited to change to Bankers Orders. Because very many members have done so, come 2022, the FWO system will be reorganised so that many fewer envelopes will be required to be purchased.

All members will be allocated new FWO numbers and the new envelopes will hopefully be distributed in the normal way at the end of 2021.

If any member does not receive their envelopes as normal please contact the treasurer on 01555666007 or at the church. Do not worry if you have already filled up a Bankers Order and still receive envelopes ---- just throw them away or use them for special occasions.

The treasurer thanks all members for their continued financial support over the last 20 months. This has allowed us to meet all our obligations without getting into a financial deficit.

**Bruce**



**Church Services in December**

**Sunday 5th Dec - Revd. John Stevenson (Baptism)**

**Sunday 12th Dec - Revd. Alastair Lusk**

**Sunday 19th Dec - Hazel Brooks**

**Friday 24th Dec - Watch night Service, taken by Elders**



**Sunday 26th Dec - No service**

**Birthday Wishes**

Our love and congratulations to John Grove who celebrated his 94th Birthday on 26th October 2021.

**Happy Birthday John!**

**Congratulations Kay**

Our love and congratulations to Kay Blair who became a Great Grandmother on 2nd November 2021, welcome to the world baby Sophia!

**Blessings to you Both!**

**Appeals**

As usual Dalsersf Church and congregation has risen to the task when donations are asked for.

Harvest was well attended and as it was difficult to guarantee safe handling of produce it was agreed to ask for monetary donations. £245.00 was sent to the Clyde, Avon and Nethan Food Bank. Thank you to all who contributed.

Our Church Treasurer sent £145.00 to Christian Aid on behalf of Dalsersf Church as once again collections were difficult. We ask God's blessing on the work of Christian Aid especially in these times of Pandemic and Conflict.

Again we asked for Shoe Boxes for the Blytheswood Christmas Appeal. 28 boxes were received and a considerable monetary donation was also passed on. Once again thanks to all who gave support.

The Guild sent a donation of £100.00 to Erskine Hospital as it has always been a recipient of Guild Support and needs it at present probably more than ever.

The retiral offerings for Poppy Scotland raised £280.00

Our usual December appeals will be made for Social work and The Joint Churches Drop in Centre in Hamilton.

It is good to see the work of Dalsersf continues during these extremely difficult times.

**Kay Blair**





**Christmas Eve 1914: Rifleman Graham Williams of the London Rifle Brigade was on sentry duty in the trenches on the Western Front ...**

*I was standing on the fire-step, gazing towards the German lines and thinking what a different sort of Christmas Eve this was from any I had experienced in the past.*

*In the ordinary way of things, my father would be making Rum Punch from an old family recipe, which had been written out by his grandfather – and was kept, of all places, in the Family Bible!*

*Earlier, after the evening meal, we would have decorated the living rooms and hall with the traditional greenery and would now be looking forward to wishing one another a ‘Happy Christmas’ and toasting the occasion in the result of my father’s labours.*

*Instead of this, here was I, standing in a waterlogged trench in a muddy Flemish field and staring out over the flat, empty and desolate countryside with no signs of life. There had been no shooting by either side since the sniper’s shot that morning, which had killed young Bassingham. But this was not at all unusual.*

*Then, suddenly, lights began to appear along the German parapet, which were evidently some makeshift Christmas trees, adorned with lighted candles which burnt steadily in the still, frosty air!*



*Other sentries, of course, had seen the same thing and quickly awoke those on duty, asleep in the shelters, to ‘come and see this thing, which had come to pass’. Then our opponents started to sing *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht*. This was actually the first time I heard this carol, which was not then so popular in this country as it has since become.*

*They finished their carol and we thought that we ought to retaliate in some way, so we sang *The First Nowell*, and when we finished they all began clapping; and then they struck up with another favourite of theirs, *O Tanenbaum*.*

*And so it went on. First the Germans would sing one of their carols and then we would sing one of ours, until when we started to sing *O Come All Ye Faithful* the Germans immediately joined in, singing the same hymn to the Latin words *Adeste Fideles*. And I thought, well, this was really a most extraordinary thing – two nations both singing the same carol in the middle of a war!*

**“ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ” ( Luke 2:7 )**





## Contacts



|   |  |  |   |   |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Minister (vacant)</b><br>Interim Moderator<br>Laura Jean Fleming<br>lbjbfleming@talktalk.net | <b>Session Clerk</b><br>Mrs Joan Pollok<br>joan.pollok@btinternet.com                        | <b>Depute Session Clerk</b><br>Mrs Kay Blair<br>01698 882499       | <b>Presbytery Elder</b><br>Mrs Elizabeth Lawson<br>01555 771096                         | <b>Treasurer</b><br>Bruce Archibald BDS<br>01555 666007         |
| <b>Organist</b><br>Phillip Fox<br>pfnotes@aol.com   | <b>Flowers</b><br>Mrs Kay Blair 01698 882499<br>Mrs RM Clarkson                              | <b>Church Officer (Rorison)</b><br>Mrs Anne McHolm<br>01698 886658 | <b>Church Officer (Dalserf)</b><br>Mrs Norah McGuckin<br>4 Kirk Road, Dalserf           | <b>F.W.O. Convenor</b><br><i>(vacant)</i>                       |
| <b>Newsletter Editor</b><br>David Gilchrist<br>dalserfnews@gmail.com                            | <b>House Group Leader</b><br>Mrs Lorna Brodie<br>07906416564                                 | <b>Fabric Convener</b><br>Mr John McPhee<br>janettemphee@gmail.com | <b>Child Protection</b><br><b>Co-ordinator</b><br>Joanna Gilchrist                      | <b>Bible Study Group Leader</b><br>Rita Fairley<br>01698 881160 |
| <b>Roll Keeper</b><br>Wendy Manson<br>wendymanson@aol.com                                       | <b>Hamilton Hall Bookings</b><br>Booking Secretary: Lorna Brodie<br>lorna@brodie.myzen.co.uk |  | <b>Rorison Hall Bookings</b><br>Booking Secretary: Anne McHolm<br>mcholmanne3@gmail.com |   |

## Rotas



|          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| 5th Dec  | Mrs L Budgell (Netherburn) |
| 12th Dec | Mrs K Blair (Ashgill)      |
| 19th Dec | Mrs R Hunter (Dalserf)     |
| 24th Dec | Mrs K Blair (Ashgill)      |
| 2nd Jan  | Anne McHolm (Ashgill)      |
| 9th Jan  | Mrs L Lawson (Lanark)      |
| 16th Jan | Mrs S Archibald (Lanark)   |
| 23rd Jan | Mrs A Carson (Law)         |
| 30th 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 2022,*

*Please contact the editor.*



*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)*

