



Dalsersf Parish Church Newsletter



December 2022

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 Has been suspended until further notice.

Announcements

Deaths

Esther Armstrong
on Friday 21st October 2022

Walter Simpson
on Sunday 13th November 2022

Weddings

Suzanne Miller to Conner Fairley
on Friday 28th October 2022

Baptisms

Suzanne Miller and Conner Fairley
on Sunday 23rd October 2022

Special Birthdays

Love and Congratulations to Joan Pollok who celebrated her 75th Birthday
on Tuesday 22nd November 2022

Church Calendar

- Thu 1st** **Focus Lunch** (Rorison 1:30pm)
- Wed 7th** **Carol Service** (St John's Church Hamilton 2:00pm)
- Fri 9th** **Clinton House Nursing Home** (11:30am)
- Sun 11th** **Baptism** (Dalsersf Church 11:30am)
- Wed 14th** **Guild Lunch** (Garrion Bridges)
- Mon 19th** **Girls Brigade Awards** (Rorison 7:00pm)
- Sat 24th** **Watchnight Service** (Dalsersf Church 11:30pm)
(Refreshments will be served prior to this, in Hamilton Hall, from 10:00pm)
- Sun 25th** **Christmas Service** (Dalsersf, by Elders 11:30am)
- Sun 1st Jan** **New Year Service** (Dalsersf, by Elders 11:30am)



Rita and Somerville Fairley
Willie Miller
Colin and Marion McAllister
John Grove
Mary Grove
Forbes Gillespie
George Gillespie
David Wells
Anne Brown
Norval Toryusen
Jean McMillan
Chanti Raju Karini
Nicholas Gauld

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





Hello everyone,

When I was first asked to write the Pastoral letter my initial reaction was I can't do that and so I said no. After some gentle persuasion I relented, so here goes.

This Christmas for the first time in 70 years we will have a King on the throne. I have only ever known a Queen monarch and having a King will take some getting used to.

I have however, always known the King of Kings and as I have grown up I have come to know him differently to how I did as a child.

When we think of the Christmas story there are a few Kings, King Herod and the 3 Kings although they both behaved very differently towards the news of Jesus's birth, one being very jealous and scared and the rest being very excited and amazed, worshipping at his side.

As a child I was taught the story of the birth of Jesus by my parents and through Sunday school lessons and I always enjoyed it the most, out of all the bible stories that I learned. I used to enjoy the nativity plays that were on in church and looked forward every year to seeing the story unfold. Once I was older, as a Sunday school teacher myself, I used to love helping to relay the Christmas story in many different ways (one of my favourites being the Christmas present) the children had lots of fun retelling the story all dressed up in costumes and I remember how important it was to the girls that they played the part of Mary.

As an adult and now having two children of my own, the Christmas story has taken on a very different meaning to me. Whilst still my favourite bible reading, I now feel a sense of hope and peace when I read it or watch a Christmas nativity being acted out in Church, and that for me is what Christmas is all about. Hope, that having listened to the Christmas story as I did, my girls will come to know Jesus better and will lean on him and be guided by him throughout their lives. Hope, that we can make the world a better place and leave only good things for our children, and peace in this world for them and all our children's children.

“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace” (Luke 2 vs. 14)

So this Christmas as we busy ourselves wrapping gifts and having fun with our friends and families, let us never forget that special gift we all received from God all those years ago. Let us take time from our busy lives to thank him for his precious son and remember that because of him, we all have been given the greatest gift of all.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Joanna Gilchrist





GUILD REPORT

The Guild met on Wednesday 10th of November. The time of worship was a reflection on Remembrance Day and its implications to us today as Christians. This was followed by a most informative talk by a lovely young man called Craig on the important work of Crossreach.

The Guild Fayre took place on Saturday 26th November. No report was available at time of going to print. Thanks to all who came along and helped on the day.

The next meeting of the Guild will be a joint Christmas lunch with Focus in Garrion Bridges on 14th December at 12.45 for 1.00pm.

The Guild take this opportunity to wish everyone a blessed Christmas and look forward to our future meetings in 2023.

Kay Blair

FOCUS

Focus met on Thursday 3rd November with 15 members attending. The meeting was led by Ian White who gave his testimony into his call to ministry. A most enjoyable afternoon and time of fellowship was enjoyed by all present.

The next meeting of Focus will be on Thursday 1st December. This will be an afternoon of carols and reflection with a soup and sandwich lunch. It is hoped the carols will be accompanied by Philip and Rev. John Stevenson reflecting on Christmas. Please advise Ann Carson, Kay or Joan of your intention to attend.

Date of the January Focus meeting will be announced before the end of the year in the Church Intimations.

SHOE BOX APPEAL

Thanks to everyone who donated shoeboxes to this most deserving appeal. 36 boxes were taken from Dalserf for collection at Falkirk. It was heart-warming not only to witness 100's of boxes being unloaded from numerous cars into 2 well packed lorries but camaraderie of all present helping each other, especially older folks unload from car to van.

Shoeboxes will be delivered to vulnerable people in Ukraine, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania and Serbia. Just to know someone who might not receive a Christmas will do thanks to the work and effort of the Blytheswood charity is a symbol of our Christian commitment to help the stranger amongst us and love one another as ourselves.

Joan & Kay



"When they saw the star they were overjoyed"

(Matthew 2:10)





1st Dalserf Girls Brigade

When we started to plan our return to Girls Brigade for September this year, we really didn't know what to expect. Would we have enough girls to be able to run the company, would we get any new girls, would we have enough leaders?

When the leaders met at the end of August we had a long discussion about this and all agreed that we would leave it in God's hands, he knew the plan he had for us. If we didn't get the minimum number set by GB HQ of 10 then, it would be with heavy hearts, but we would just need to close the company and were trying not to be too despondent about this!

Well, what a delight it was on registration evening to welcome 29 girls back to the company. We have quite a few new girls but it was lovely to some of the girls who were with us before Covid return – all be it nearly 3 years older and several inches taller.

After registration night we had our first proper GB night since the 9th of March 2020 – a full 2 years and 6 months since we last met. Although we are back, there have been several Monday nights off due to the funeral of the Queen, school holidays, Halloween and school in service days. Over the years we have tried meeting when it is an in-service day but usually end up with nobody turning up and Halloween after a 2 year break of not being out guising the girls had told me they were all going to be "trick or treating". Hopefully after the in-service day on 14th November we are actually able to meet every Monday up to Christmas.

Our GB leaders are Gail Herbertson and myself taking Explorers, Sarah-Jane Rodger and Heather Scotland taking Juniors and Morag Watt taking Brigaders. This leaves us really tight for cover should anybody be off and we also have to plan for the future. I had appealed to some of the Brigaders who had been with us in the past to consider coming back to give us a hand and initially hoped to have 5 new leaders. Unfortunately due to work and university commitments this has reduced to only 1.

Ellie Murphy has joined us as a trainee leader and is working her way through the training modules. Ellie Rodger and Karyn Scotland are just about to start their leadership journey so hopefully by next September we will have 3 new GB leaders – and I can maybe think about retiring!

As I mentioned in my last newsletter article, while we were off some of the Brigaders were still carrying out their Duke of Edinburgh Award work and I am pleased to say that Ellie Watt and Olivia Gillies have completed their bronze award and both have now started working towards their silver. Karyn Scotland and Ellie Rodger have completed silver and both are well underway with their Gold award.

I am also delighted to say we also have Ellie W, Ellie R and Karyn registered for the Queens Award, the highest award you can achieve in Girls Brigade. Internationally in GB discussion is underway as to whether the award name will change – how amazing would it be if three 1st Dalserf girls were some of the first recipients of the Kings Award. Name change or not, we are very proud of our young ladies registering for Queens Award and assure them of our support and prayers.

A warm invitation is extended to you our church family to come to an event on Monday 19th December at 7pm in Rorison. We are holding a Coffee and Carols event, where we will serve refreshments and cake, sing a few Carols and present Ellie, Olivia, Ellie and Karyn with their Duke of Edinburgh awards. The evening will finish by 8pm at the very latest.

In closing I, on behalf of the company, would like to thank the Kirk session very much for the most generous donation of £400 they gave us. This will help pay our capitation fees which this year are £28 per person.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Ann Price

Girls Brigade Captain

"When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife." (Matthew 1:24)





1st Dalsersf Girls' Brigade



Merry Christmas

2022
please join us for

CAROLS, COFFEE
AND AWARD PRESENTATION

Monday
DEC 19TH

RORISON CHURCH,
ASHGILL

From
7PM - 8PM

ENTRANCE IS FREE BUT WE WOULD LOVE IF, ON THE NIGHT, YOU COULD BRING A DONATION FOR OUR LOCAL FOODBANK. A BASKET WILL BE AT THE DOOR FOR DONATIONS.



Can you spot the mitten without a partner ?

May
Lovely,
Happy Times
Decorate Your
Holiday Season,
May Warm, Special
Memories Brighten
Your New Year, May
The Wonder of Christmas
Be With You Forever.



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





As many years had passed since Sheena and I attended a Christian Church Wedding, we cheekily took the opportunity to "gate-crash" the wedding of Rita's grandson Connor to Suzanne Miller. Our interest was mainly sparked by the couples baptism the week before in Dalsersf.

We both were emotionally affected by the whole proceedings (almost as much as the groom). As usual the Rev. John Stevenson supervised a splendid occasion and typically for John, a stranger would have thought he was marrying members of his own family. His affection, sincerity and "love" was openly apparent. He really made the day very special for the couple, and one they will long remember. Our caretaker Norah should also be mentioned for how she decorated the church and organised the proceedings. There is nothing quite like a woman's touch to finish things off!

For older couples like Sheena and I it was very touching to re-hear the age old vows that we ourselves had taken 53 years previously. The Bible quotations were of course very apt to us as they were also used at our own wedding: "a three cord strand is not easily broken," i.e. husband, wife and God. Perhaps those of us who have been married for many years need to be reminded of " Love is patient, love is kind; it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

It certainly would do no harm for all couples to "gate-crash" a Christian Wedding just to re-affirm their vows and to listen to those biblical sayings that still have every relevance today.

Bruce Archibald





REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Acts of Remembrance took place at both Netherburn and Ashgill Cenotaphs. Wreaths were laid by the Church, Council and Lord Lieutenant. The Act of Remembrance at both cenotaphs was led by Revd. John Stevenson and the lament played by Piper Ross Forrest.

The Remembrance Day Service at Dalserf was conducted by Rev. David Doyle when the Act of Remembrance was observed by Rev. David Doyle and Congregation with the Lament by Ross Forrest and a solo "We Will Remember Them" written and performed by the Church Organist Philip Fox.

1st Dalserf Girls Brigade was present at all ceremonies and we thank the Captain Ann Price and her officers and girls for attending. It was good to see the Brigade back after the missing years during the pandemic.

Kay Blair



Bible Verse of the Month

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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.'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2 : 1-20

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35)





Collection News

As a result of the "retiral" collections at Communion and Remembrance Sunday £372 was collected for the benefit of Poppyscotland and the RAF Benevolent Fund.

The excellent result was £100 greater than for 2021. Many thanks go to all who contributed.

Bruce



Rotas	
4th Dec	Mrs L Budgell (Netherburn)
12th Dec	Georgie Wells (Auchlochen)
18th Dec	Mrs R Hunter (Dalserf)
25th Dec	Mrs K Blair (Ashgill)
1st Jan	Anne McHolm (Ashgill)
8th Jan	Mrs L Lawson (Lanark)
15th Jan	Mrs S Archibald (Lanark)
22nd Jan	Mrs A Carson (Law)
29th Jan	Mrs Anderson (Wishaw)

Church Services

Sunday 4th December - Rev. Fiona Anderson
 Sunday 11th December - Rev. John Stevenson (Baptism)
 Sunday 18th December - Hazel Brooks
 Saturday 24th December - Rev. David Doyle (Watchnight Service)
 Sunday 25th December - Elders
 Sunday 1st January - Elders

Items for next Newsletter

If you have any news or information that you wish to submit for the newsletter for February 2023,

Please contact the editor by Sunday 15th January 2023.

Contacts



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Organist Phillip Fox pfnotes@aol.com	Flowers Mrs Kay Blair 01698 882499 Mrs RM Clarkson	Church Officer (Rorison) Mrs Anne McHolm 01698 886658	Church Officer (Dalserf) Mrs Norah McGuckin 4 Kirk Road, Dalserf	F.W.O. Convenor <i>(vacant)</i>
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" Thanks be to GOD for his indescribable gift! "
(2 Corinthians 9:15)

