



Dalsersf Parish Church Newsletter



May 2023

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

Mrs Patricia McPhee
on Tue 11th April 2023.

Bible Verse of the Month

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort. We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favour granted us in answer to the prayers of many.



2 Corinthians 1 : 3 - 11

**Rita Fairley and Family
John Grove
Mary Grove
Forbes Gillespie
George Gillespie
Anne Brown
Willie Miller
Colin and Marion McAllister
Jean McMillan
John and Isobel Stevenson
Tom Barrowman
Grace Murdoch
Hazel Brooks
Liz Lawson
Joan Harvey**

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**





Greetings!

As you will no doubt be aware I have recently been appointed as the new locum minister to Dalsersf Parish, so it gives me immense pleasure to say 'Hello' to you and send my good wishes. I am really excited and very much looking forward to getting to know everyone, and to continue worshipping God with the gathered congregation as others have done before me. In my 'official' capacity I will be with Dalsersf one day per week plus a Sunday from Easter Sunday.

Accordingly, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have been married to Tom for almost 30 years and we have one son, David, who lives in Larkhall with his partner Beth. Tom is a Maths and Physics teacher, teaching locally, and when I am not ministering, I work as an Accountant; I am finance director for two sister companies – one based in Blantyre and the other in The Netherlands.

I was ordained by the Church of Scotland as an Ordained Local Minister of Word and Sacrament in October 2020 during lockdown, after a training journey of almost six years starting from enquiry through to ordination and graduation. I did my training alongside my full-time job as well as undertaking my theology degree, also part-time, with Highland Theological College which is part of the University of the Highlands & Islands. That said, I believe my training for the ministry has been a life-time journey and not just one of six years, as there has never been a time in my life where church has never played a part.

I was Baptised at six weeks old and the rest they say is history. I went through Sunday School, Bible Class and onto becoming a Sunday School teacher. I went through Brownies, Guides, became a young leader and continued through the ranks to Guide Captain. I was a member of the Deacon Court for many years, and before my ordination, an Elder of the Kirk for 25 years, serving on various committees. I was church treasurer; I sang in the church choir, and with my friend Anne, was one of the founder members of the community choir, St John's Singers; Tom and I started a Saturday night youth club which ran successfully for many years; and additionally, I trained and volunteered as a bereavement counsellor with Cruse, a role I 'enjoyed' for many years.

I felt 'called' to ministry for quite a few years, but like many ministers will tell you, you put it off and say 'not me'... but God had other ideas and persisted in calling. It was only when I had to put down on paper what my involvement in church had been over the years, that I realised that God had presented many opportunities and experiences, and had led me to places for a reason... to taste, to see, and to experience, so that I would have the necessary tools in my kit-bag to feel confident enough to fulfil the role He was calling me to do.

My home church is St John's in Hamilton, where Rev Bob Kent was my minister, and a huge influence, for 30 years. The first placement in my training, known as Discernment, was at Bellshill West with Rev Calum Stark; followed by Strathaven Rankin l/w Chapelton with Rev Dr Shaw Paterson; then it was on to St Mary's in Motherwell with Rev Bryce Calder; and my probationary period was with Rev Anne Paton at East Kilbride Old. During my first placement in Strathaven, the linked charge was going through a four-way union, following the retirement of Rev Bill Stewart from Strathaven East. This meant that at the end of my placement, Strathaven Trinity was 'born', culminating in the closure of Strathaven East, with the formation of a union between Strathaven East, Strathaven Rankin, as well as the parishes of Glassford and Chapelton, resulting in a 'new' charge comprising three places of worship: Strathaven, Glassford and Chapelton with one minister serving all three. As such, following the end of my placement I was asked to stay on and help out... which I did... and what an experience it was for a first-year student... getting the opportunity to lead worship every week, sometimes taking two and sometimes even three services back-to-back. It was a fantastic opportunity, and I am so grateful to Shaw for trusting me and giving me the autonomy to get on with it.





After ordination it came time for me to be placed as an assistant minister and I was asked if I would like to go back to Strathaven Trinity, which I was, and I have been fortunate to have been there for the last three years. It was great being back amongst people I knew, and again being given the trust and autonomy to get on with it.

Since my ordination, I've conducted weddings, funerals, and Baptisms; I've had a short spell of acting as interim moderator in Carluke; and last year I led worship at a Conventicle, braving the elements of the weather in an open field in Douglas Village – a first for me – but I must have done ok, as I've been asked back to conduct this year's service too, again in Douglas on 14th May...all welcome! I've also preached in prison, where I previously worked for five years; I led a Christmas Eve service in Dungavel House Removal Centre, as I hold Home Office clearance, and I had the privilege of leading worship in William Pouchie Memorial Presbyterian Church in Grand Cayman, The Caribbean, a couple of years ago. Grand Cayman is our 'go to' holiday destination, and we love to worship in that wee whitewashed church overlooking the ocean each week when we visit the island.

- Hobbies – I like walking, reading, eating out, and when I visit the Caribbean, scuba-diving.
- My favourite tippie is black coffee.
- My favourite food is probably chicken... but I do love Tom's Spaghetti Bolognese.
- My favourite colour is blue.
- Sandwiches – I'm one of these awkward people who doesn't take butter, marg, or mayo... and I don't like cream cakes either.
- I love hymn singing.
- I enjoy meeting new people.

As a minister it's a real privilege to be beside people in their grief, as well as in happier times too and at this moment in time as I pen this pastoral letter, I have two weddings to look forward to – one at the end of April at a venue in Glasgow, but the other, here in Dalsersf Church in September. I am also looking forward to the Coronation Afternoon Tea as well as the Saturday afternoon teas & coffees.

At the end of March, I was invited along to the annual Girls Brigade closing award and presentation evening, to give a wee talk to the girls and their families. It was a great night, and let's just say we had a great evening, a good laugh, and a lovely cup of tea with home-baking. It was also a real surprise and an honour for me being presented with a GB chaplain's badge, and an invite to be their chaplain – a role I very much look forward to fulfilling when the company resume after the summer break.

Please be assured I will try to get to know you as quickly as I can, but if I don't recognise you, please, please stop me and introduce yourself. If you haven't been back to church in a while, then the Spring/Summer months are a great time to come back, especially as the better weather 'should be' on its way. However, the weekly service is recorded, and we aim to get it onto the church website within a few days, so please do join us that way too... feedback and favourite hymn suggestions are always welcomed.

I'll sign off just now with every blessing to you and yours and I hope to get to meet you soon.

Fiona





Thoughts from Fiona

1. Lectionary

I follow the prescribed Lectionary Scripture passages each week and will be using one or two of them as the basis for my sermon; I often use the prescribed Psalm as a call to worship. For those who may wish to read the passages in advance of the service, here is the list for month:

May 7th – Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5 & 15-16; Psalm 119:9-32; 1 Peter 2:2-10; St John 14:1-14

May 14th – Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; Ezekiel 43:1-7a; Psalm 115; 1 Peter 3:13-22; St John 14:15-21

May 21st – Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10 & 32-35; Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 1:1-7; 1 Peter 4:12-14 & 5:6-11; St John 17:1-11

May 28th – Acts 2:1-21; Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34 & 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; St John 20:19-23; St John 7:37-3

2. Church Choir

In a conversation with Phillip our organist, I understand that there used to be a church choir. Phillip is open to re-igniting this for anyone who would like to form a choir. The purpose of this would be to rehearse the praise songs for each week and be able to lead the singing, particularly where one of the hymns is perhaps less known, and also to, on occasion, perhaps sing an introit. The choir would meet in Hamilton Hall each Sunday before the service at a time to be agreed. If this is something that is of interest to you, then please either speak to me or Phillip.

3. Updated Mission Praise

We are grateful to Laura Fleming and East Kilbride West Kirk for kindly donating to us 50 copies of the most recent edition of Mission Praise. This will open up to us a wealth of new hymns and choruses to sing and learn.

4. Favourite hymns?

If anyone has a favourite hymn or chorus that they would like us to sing on a Sunday, then please let me know and I will try to incorporate it in a forthcoming service.

5. Conventicle

As I mentioned in my letter, I am conducting openair worship in Douglas on 14th May at 2pm...all welcome. The venue is in a field in front of the Cameronian's Regimental Memorial. Last year there were circa 100+ people who gathered to worship.

6. Bible Study

I'm hoping to start a Bible Study and am 'open' to when that should take place i.e. morning; evening; or perhaps even both, thus allowing folks who either work or having 'caring duties' during the day to attend; I guess it all depends on numbers. I see it taking the format of looking at a passage; having a chat about it; then having a blether over a cup of tea...and taking the opportunity to get to know each other a wee bit better. This is something I would like to kick-off pretty quickly, so if you are interested, please let me know your preference for day/evening.

One of my hopes, perhaps starting after the summer, is to run a 6-week course based on the film/musical/book 'Les Misérables'. The idea would be for us to watch the movie on week-1, thereafter meet over the next six weeks to discuss things that include: love, poverty, injustice, grace, hope etc referring to Biblical passages. Then, after we've studied the various topics, meet to watch the movie again, to see if we view it differently. The course was written by Rev Matt Rawle from the USA; I'm almost finished reading the leader's book and it looks pretty good...as well as being a wee bit different...and I'll happily bring the popcorn for the movie night!

7. Good news to share?

If anyone has good news to share e.g. a birthday, anniversary, special event, wedding/baby family news, then please let me know before a Sunday so that I can share it with the congregation. It's always great to be able to share happy news!

8. Church day

My mid-week day off is most likely to be a Wednesday. There is 'some degree' of flexibility around this but as I said in my letter, as well as ministry, I also work full-time. I am grateful that my company allow me to work condensed hours, thus allowing me a day off mid-week. The day can be flexible to a point, but my department is more fully staffed on a Wednesday hence it's easier to take that day off, so the Bible Study class is likely to be on a Wednesday. However, for pastoral work (funerals etc) this will be worked around to suit families' needs etc.

Contact Details

Email: fanderson@churchofscotland.org.uk

Phone: 07913 153 608

*"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power,
love and self - discipline ." (2 Timothy 1 : 7)*





Prayer of the Month

*I do not walk in darkness
But in your light and love
You carry me when my feet fail
And hold me high above*

*And I do not drift in every tide
But stand upon your truth
You are my map, my friend,
my guide*

I put my trust in you

*So as I walk, a shield of faith
Surrounds my every move
You are my quiet fortress
I know I'm safe in you*

God Has Promised

*God has not promised skies always blue,
flower-strewn pathways all our lives through.*

*God has not promised sun without rain,
joy without sorrow, peace without pain.*

*But God has promised strength for the day,
rest for the labour, light on the way,
grace for the trial, help from above,
unfailing sympathy, undying love.*





GUILD News

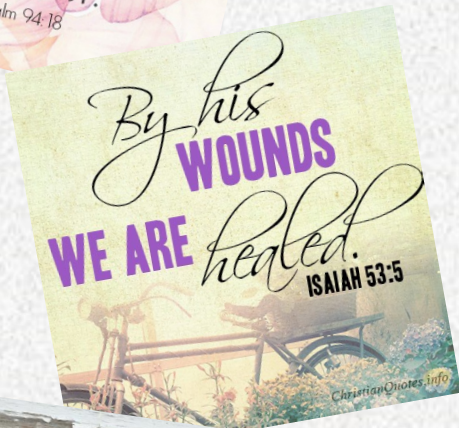
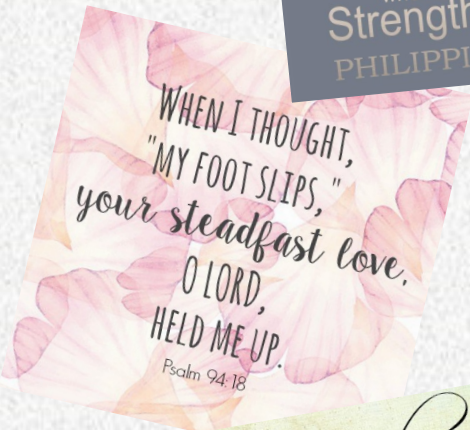
Guild is currently in recess but our members are looking forward to the outing on Saturday 29th April to Gretna. Hopefully we will have a dry day as sunshine would be a bonus, but we do live in Scotland after all.



Lily and I are busy making up the syllabus which we hope will be interesting. A big thank you must go to Ann Carson for all the work she has done, giving Lily and I a framework to follow.

Thank you Ann !

Anne McHolm



The Depth of GOD's Love

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources
he will empower you with inner strength
through his Spirit

Then Christ will make his home in your hearts
as you trust in him

Your roots will grow down into God's love
And keep you strong

And may you have the power to understand,
as all God's people should,
How wide, how long, how high,
and how deep his love is

May you experience the love of Christ,
though it is too great to understand fully

Then you will be made complete,
with all the fullness of life and power
that comes from God

Now all glory to God, who is able,
through his mighty power at work within us,
to accomplish infinitely more
than we might ask or think

Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus,
through all generations,
forever and ever!

Amen





Dalserf Saturday Teas

Hamilton Hall, Dalserf

Please come along and enjoy our
delicious home baking, served with
lots of Christian Fellowship

12 noon - 4.00pm



**From Saturday 3rd June to
Saturday 26th August 2023**

Dalserf Parish Church

Communion Invitation

All Members and Adherents are invited to share in the
sacrament of the LORD'S Supper on

Sunday 4th June 2023

" Do this in remembrance of me "





Thank You

*I would like to thank our church family for all their kindness.
 First, for their prayers over such a long time, they are much appreciated, and for the beautiful flowers and exceptional cards.
 Your prayers were answered, his legs were completely healed.
 The consultant gave him four days, the Lord gave him over a year.
 Praise the Lord and thank you all so much.*

Rita and Family.

Focus

*Focus met on Thursday 13th April 2023, our speaker was Mr Alex Brown. We all had a very enjoyable afternoon.
 We will meet again on Thursday 4th May 2023 at 1:45pm in Rorison and would invite you to come along and join us.*

Joan

Contacts



Minister (Locum)
 Interim Moderator
 Rev. Fiona Anderson
 FAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk
 Mrs Joan Pollok
 Joan.pollok@btinternet.com

Presbytery Elder
 Mrs Elizabeth Lawson
 01555 771096

Treasurer
 Bruce Archibald BDS
 01555 666007

Organist
 Phillip Fox
 pfnotes@aol.com

Flowers
 Mrs Joan Pollok
 Mrs RM Clarkson

Church Officer (Rorison)
 Mrs Anne McHolm
 01698 886658

Church Officer (Dalsersf)
 Mrs Norah McGuckin
 4 Kirk Road, Dalsersf

F.W.O. Convener
 (Vacant)

Newsletter Editor
 David Gilchrist
 dalsersfnews@gmail.com

House Group Leader
 Mrs Lorna Brodie
 07906416564

Fabric Convener
 Mr John McPhee
 janettemcphree@gmail.com

Bible Study Group Leader
 Rev. Fiona Anderson
 FAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk

Rotas



7th May

Mrs D Noble

14th May

Mr Willie Miller

21st May

Mrs Sadie Newlands

28th May

Mrs D Noble

**Items for next
 Newsletter**

If you have any news or information that you wish to submit for the newsletter for June 2023, please contact the editor by Sunday 14th May 2023.

Rorison Hall Bookings

Booking Secretary: Anne McHolm
 mcholmanne3@gmail.com

Hamilton Hall Bookings

Booking Secretary: Lorna Brodie
 lorna@brodie.myzen.co.uk

Roll Keeper

Wendy Manson
 wendymanson@aol.com

**Child Protection
 Co-ordinator**

Joanna Gilchrist

