



# Dalsersf Parish Church Newsletter



October 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

Elizabeth Templeman  
September 2023

#### Weddings

Julie Gilfillan to Stuart McAllister  
on Saturday 9th September 2023

### *Bible Verse of the Month*

*He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.*

*I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.*

*Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.*

*He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.*

*Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;*

*Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.*

*A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.*

*Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.*

*Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;*

*There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.*

*For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.*

*They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.*

*Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.*

*Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.*

*He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.*

*With long life will I satisfy him,  
and shew him my salvation.*

Psalm 91



### Prayer for Others

**Rita Fairley**

**John Grove**

**Mary Grove**

**Forbes Gillespie**

**George Gillespie**

**Anne Brown**

**Willie Miller**

**Colin and Marion McAllister**

**John and Isobel Stevenson**

**Hazel Brooks**

**Phillip Fox**

**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.dalsersf.org.uk](http://www.dalsersf.org.uk)



[www.facebook.com/dalsersfchurch](https://www.facebook.com/dalsersfchurch)



CHARITY SC016156





### Ephesians 2:19-22



<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of His household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the Chief Cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling, in which God lives by His Spirit.

#### October Greetings

How good is your memory? We all suffer from various moments of puzzlement, and as we get older, these become more regular and annoying...and indeed a bit worrying. Our memory is a huge part of how we perceive ourselves and integral to our sense of self. We can remember for own pleasure or as a shared experience with others. Your history, shared history, and our history is important.

So, it was great to be part of a little bit of history when the current Moderator of the General Assembly of The Church of Scotland, the Right Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, joined us at the end of August to lead worship. As a church family it is a day that we will remember for a long time. In a church that has a history going back 368 years, it is great to be part of an event that will be considered historical in the future, as Sally is the first Moderator (that we know of) to preach in Dalserf.

Bearing in mind our historical link to the Covenantors, it was wonderful to have members of the Cameronian Regiment worshipping with us, and it was clear that Moderator enjoyed learning a little bit about Church history too.

Sally, I think she would want us to call her Sally, introduced her message through the story of when she was young being told to **'Remember who you are.'** That was the message she was given to make her consider her actions when she was going out anywhere. The message came with great responsibility. However, she was not being told to take note of her ancestors or her family history, but it was a reminder of the life that she had chosen, the standards she should meet, and who she represented in her actions.

Sally's challenge to us was to **'Remember who you are!'** It was not, 'Remember who you were!'

Dalserf Parish church is a historical church, but it is not a museum. It is a living and breathing and vibrant church, relevant for 2023 and beyond. Yes, we are the custodians of a beautiful building, and we need to take that responsibility seriously. However, we are members of a living church which has a mission 'to make disciples of Jesus Christ, through the preaching of the word and the witness of every member.'

As we are challenged to **'Remember who you are'** we must do so in our actions. Our actions are how people see us, but also how others see Jesus through us. Many people we have contact with may not have any regular church contact, so we may be their link to Jesus Christ. How will they perceive Him if our actions are those of anger, mistrust, selfishness, lack of forgiveness and so on. **'Remember who you are'** - you are an individual who represents Jesus to others. In all that you do **'Remember who you are.'**

Who are you?

As a church **'Remember who you are'**, you are the church that goes out to serve others. In a world in need, you are part of a church that needs to continue to reach out to help others. We do this as individuals and as a group, through hard work and the gift of donations. The summer 'Tea Afternoons' have been exceptionally busy this year. The success is not only down to the people who bake, donate and help, but also the warmth of the welcome people receive when they come along. The contact this gives us with others is a fantastic opportunity, but furthermore, we were able to donate over £6,000 to local charities.

As a church, **'Remember who you are'**, you are disciples sent out to pass on the 'Good News' of God's love and forgiveness and hope. We do not need to be preachers, but as I often say, all we need to do is plant a seed and allow God to nurture it. It is also great that we have a regular following on YouTube, Facebook and even Jigidi for the weekly Jigsaws. Some people we know, but many we do not know, but we ask God to bless them through their contact with us.

**" We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect."**

**( James 3:2 )**





As a church **'Remember who you are'** - you are part of a growing church with more people attending Dalsersf each week, more people joining through the transference of lines, and hopefully, in the near future, through Profession of Faith. It was lovely to officially become a member of Dalsersf Church myself in September along with family members and friends Sandra and Liz. If you are interested in membership, please do speak to me, it would be great to have you join us. If you watch us from afar – and I know we have followers in various parts of Canada, the US and the Caribbean, and you would like to have some affiliation with Dalsersf Parish Church please contact us, as it would be great to be able to acknowledge your involvement with us. However, I can't guarantee an elders visit though! It has also been lovely to have members and former attendees return to worship with us. No matter how long you have been away or for whatever reason you left, it is fantastic to have you back with us. Please speak to me after the church and introduce yourself to me if we have not spoken before.

As a church, **'Remember who you are'**, you are commissioned to serve, and it was with great pride that we were able to honour elders who have long served this church. I am sure that they appreciated the presentation from the Moderator, it was just a pity that many more elders could not have had their service acknowledged as formally; the minimum service for formal recognition is 30 years. However, we do recognise the work that they do and thank them all for it.

As a church, **'Remember who you are'**, because you are custodians of a planet that also needs our care and attention. We need to be aware of how we live and the impact it has on others and our future. As a congregation we have been looking at this through our worship during September and in our Harvest Service on October 1. This has been done using the theme 'Season of Creation'. The church is also making its first official environmental steps through the Eco-congregation group.

As a church, **'Remember who you are'**, you are people responsible for our young people. It is great that our Girls Brigade has started back again, and we look forward to having them at Dalsersf at the start of October for their 'Rededication Service'. I really enjoy visiting the girls, they are just full of fun and chat, as I'm sure you will find out in October!

As well as having responsibility for the young folks, we also have responsibility for those who reside in the two care homes within our parish. Again, after a short summer break we have resumed our short monthly service in each home. The folks clearly enjoy the singing, often we dish-out musical instruments and genuinely we have a great time. I am grateful to the wee band of church folks who accompany me during these visits.

It was an honour to conduct the wedding of Julie Gilfillan and Stuart McAllister at the beginning of September. Stuart and Julie have been worshipping in Dalsersf longer than I have, so it was just lovely to conduct a wedding in church where the bride and groom are known and loved by the congregation. So, we wish them well in their married life together, and look forward to welcoming them back into our fold as the new Mr & Mrs McAllister.

Finally, and most importantly **'Remember who you are'**, you are someone who only through grace, is known and loved by God...and that's really Good News indeed.

*Fiona*





**Eco Congregation**

The “Eco -congregation” group had our first meeting this month and we have carried out the “Self-Check” that is recommended as the way of starting the process. We found several actions where we could be making positive changes that help our environment. Some of these we can do quickly, others may take more time.

Firstly, it is important that the church and the church session are on board so it encouraging to get a group of people willing to get involved. Also, it was good to be able to present the “Self-check” to the Kirk Session and we will update the session at their monthly meetings.

In her services Fiona has been incorporating the Spiritual Living aspect of “eco-congregation” into her services during September using the “Seasons of Creation” theme. You will probably be enjoying some new hymns that she has introduced to help link our Christian Faith and environmental concerns. The Harvest Service on the October 1 ties in with the Girls’ Brigade “Rededication Service” and this will let our young people get involved.

One practical example is to set up a recycle centre in Hamilton Hall. At present we are collecting batteries, stamps, and spectacles. If you have any to recycle, please bring them along. We will be looking at other options soon too. If you have any other ideas, please let us know.

You will soon see some other developments so keep your eyes open. And if this is something you would like to get involved with, please speak to me.

**Tom Anderson**



As I write this, the guild still has not resumed although by the time the newsletter is issued, the Guild will have had 2 meetings and the rededication. I pray that all will be well with the meetings and thank Margaret Watt and Lily Budgell who will carry out the necessary task during my absence.

You will see the notice that we have been making plans for our Christmas Fayre

God bless you all,

**Anne McHolm**





*Let justice flow freely,  
not drip in desperate, sporadic splats;  
through blocked-up, constricted channels  
controlled by the status quo.*

*Let justice roll down like waters,  
fast and flourishing,  
bringing respite and reparation  
to people and planet.*

*Climate chaos, driven by an addiction to  
consumption,  
has choked us all, God.*

*The elite rich suffocate  
under stuff that cannot satisfy,  
while so many more struggle to survive at all.*

*Wake us up to the world  
- may we hear the song of sustainability  
over the constant rumble  
of 'what we want.'*

*May peace fall like rain and justice  
spread like morning sun.*

AMEN

*(Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton)*



At Dalserf Parish Church we have five Elders who have achieved 50+ and 30+ years in dedicated service.

Bruce Archibald	51 years
John Grove	51years
Eric Budgell	34 years
Hilton Brady	34 years
Rita Fairley	32 years

On Sunday 27th August we had a visit from the Moderator, Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton who presented the above mentioned certificates.

We also have six new members who have joined us by certificate transfer. At an uncertain time for our churches these are all wonderful achievements.





*The Saturday Teas started away rather quietly, but as each week progressed the number of customers coming each Saturday rose dramatically. We quickly realised that there was a shortage of crockery with the result that the turn round in the dish washing section became somewhat frantic. This issue will be addressed over the winter. Already we have taken delivery of many more china teapots.*

*The takings rose in a similar fashion, from £265 to £830. It is obvious that the amount of food provided had to increase correspondingly. The team rose to the challenge and we never ran out, although one week it was a close call. In total £7810 was taken, minus a few expenses such as the teapots and napkins, etc. The ladies have dispersed much of the money to local charities: both primary schools, Marie Curie, Larkhall Volunteer group, Girls Brigade, the Guild, the Larkhall foodbank, Focus, the Kilbryde Hospice. The fabric fund also benefited by £2,000 and some was kept for future use.*

*Unfortunately, with regards to the fabric fund, most of the money has already been spent. We were forced by the authorities to upgrade the locks on the toilet doors as well as fit "pull cord" alarms. These totalled £1,000. The sole plates of both front and back doors in Hamilton Hall require replacing, blocked church downpipes have been cleared, plus replacement slates.£720, and so the list goes on!*

*Such were the numbers attending the normal Saturday Teas it became obvious that, for the Open Day, Hamilton Hall and the marquee did not have enough accommodation for both the teas and six large stalls. The decision was made to transfer the stalls into the church, and in the event this proved very beneficial. The takings of £1,787 indicates that the teas and the stalls were very successful: Cake and Candy: £397, Teas : £797, Mystery Gifts: £200, Books: £128, Crafts: £120 and the Bric a Brac : £145.*

*As treasurer I am naturally exceptionally pleased about the sums of money raised over the last few weeks, and delighted that the fabric fund is benefitting. May I personally thank "all" those who participated in any way.*

*However I am equally delighted at the personal relationships that have developed over the last few weeks. Initially we started out as acquaintances with little knowledge of our "fellow workers' " personal lives. As the weeks progressed it was heartening to witness companions "opening up", and personal details being shared. We were privileged to hear of others' earlier lives, their joys, their sorrows, their disappointments, their hopes, their dreams and their future plans. It gave each of us a deeper understanding of our fellow church member and how the years have treated them and how their respective lives have played out. That privilege allowed us to glimpse the burdens, and share the joys of their personal lives. I hope that as fellow church members they have become friends rather than passing acquaintances. That personal interchange and closeness accentuates the fact that we are all joint members of a fellowship of God's children, and that we "care" for each other in a deeply meaningful way.*

**Bruce Archibald**





# Dalserf Kids' Zone

This month's Bible Hero is a man that God knew was good and a man that trusted God. As we look at a world where creatures are endangered, we are going to be looking at an environmental hero from the Bible. Yes, you have guessed, we are looking at the story of Noah.

This story can be found in the first book of the Old Testament of the Bible in Genesis chapters 6 to 9.

Now you can read this in your Bible, or have if you can access YouTube, you can watch me read it. You can find it at

<https://youtu.be/VptqrCtaALO?feature=shared>

After you have watched the story make up the image of Noah using the jigsaw on the link below.

<https://www.jigidi.com/solve/ao9wnyvu/noah-s-ark/>

The link to the story being read will be on Facebook, as will the link to the "jigidi" jigsaw. Last month I tried to give you a Blooket, but the link would not work so here is a wordsearch for you to try.

If you want to draw me a picture of Noah, then I would love to see it. Hope you enjoy it.

Rev Fiona



**Noah**

The story of Noah and the Flood from Genesis Chapters 6 to 9

Q S  
O Y A P  
K B R H J H  
Q M A M V E D T  
W B R R S B F J I F  
H Q A A Q I E W O N J Q  
A F T I Z Z C T R X R T S O  
O L P N E B C R S J L K T L M B  
N O F B N K H E T S L O W T Y E B M  
C O Y O Z Q B V P I Q R A V Q O H D B N  
D T W W W H I I T A I T I M T V S O E J  
Q H P Y L H Z O C J N R A I T A V Y  
E K O F O L A C X A Z G P N A E  
L V O S T D C A N Y Z N R A  
G H V F Q K J E K A S M  
R X D J J M V V R G  
E V K U A O V B  
Y M A H C U  
C V G A  
K Z

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ANIMALS	ARARAT	COVENANT
DOVE	FLOOD	FORTY
HAM	JAPHETH	NOAH
OLIVE	PAIRS	RAINBOW
RAVEN	SHEM	

**"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 7:21)**





**Prayer List**

If someone from church is sick or in hospital and requires a visit or their name added to our prayer list, please remember to let your Elder know, who will pass on the information to me.

**Fiona**

**Focus Sept 2023**

The first meeting of session 2023/24 was held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September in Rorison Church at 1.40 pm.

The speaker was Jan Goodall who gave an interesting and informative talk about Christian Mission Charitable Trust.

The Trusts motto, "Where there is no vision the people will perish."

It started as the vision of Colleen Redit in 1967.

One area is Haven of Hope Handicraft Centre, which gives training and secure employment to women and young girls from very poor back grounds. Jan brought some examples of their work which we were able to purchase.

The meeting was opened in prayer and closed by everyone saying The Grace together.

The date of the next meeting: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 1.40 pm.

The speaker will be Jessie Shaw.



Interested in becoming a Dalsersf Member?  
Please let me know.  
It would be great to have you with us!

*Fiona*

**Rotas**



1st Oct	Hazel Blair
8th Oct	Ann Carson
15th Oct	Isobel McLean
22nd Oct	Janet Tennant
29th Oct	Rosemay Clarkson

**Items for next Newsletter**

If you have any news or information that you wish to submit for the newsletter for November 2023, please contact the editor by Sunday 15th October 2023.



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**" But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit."**

**( 1 Corinthians 6:17 )**

