



Dalserf Parish Church Newsletter



November 2023

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

John Grove
Saturday 21st October 2023

Special Birthdays

Congratulations to Emma Gilchrist
who celebrates her 18th Birthday
on Monday 6th November 2023

Congratulations

Congratulations to Karyn Scotland
who passed her driving test
on 12 October 2023

Bible Verse of the Month

When Solomon had finished all these prayers and supplications to the LORD, he rose from before the altar of the LORD, where he had been kneeling with his hands spread out toward heaven.

He stood and blessed the whole assembly of Israel in a loud voice, saying:

"Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses.

May the LORD our God be with us as he was with our ancestors; may he never leave us nor forsake us.

May he turn our hearts to him, to walk in obedience to him and keep the commands, decrees and laws he gave our ancestors.

And may these words of mine, which I have prayed before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, that he may uphold the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel according to each day's need,

so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God and that there is no other.

And may your hearts be fully committed to the LORD our God, to live by his decrees and obey his commands, as at this time."



1 Kings 8 : 54 - 61

At this time of change and
uncertainty within our
Church, we would ask that
we bring our Locum
Minister, Kirk Session,
Congregation and all
members before God
asking him to Bless us in
his infinite mercy.

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



www.dalserf.org.uk



www.facebook.com/dalserfchurch



CHARITY SC016156





My husband Tom loves to watch Rugby on TV so has been enjoying the Rugby World Cup, and I'm sure many of you were too. Anyway, the South Africa v Ireland Rugby World Cup match was on the box, and there standing in the mouth of the tunnel was Siya Kolisi, the South African captain, singing at the top of his voice with his team in line behind him. (Don't get too impressed, as without Tom telling me his name, I wouldn't have been able to tell you who he was.) However, his passion for singing looked inspirational, so much better than those who were standing chewing gum.

Kolisi's chant does seem to lose a bit in translation, but for Kolisi, singing is really important. He says: "for the days we are cold...for the days we are hungry...for the days we are sad, singing brings us connection."

At the Rugby World Cup, each national anthem had been recorded by a French youth choir - a lovely way of including 7,000 young people in the competition. However, after a few complaints, each one had to be remixed, adding instrumental music to boost the effect. Sadly, the youth choir did not have the impact that players and supporters wanted as motivation...because they wanted a good sing!

In church when we sing, we are praising God, but not only that, because at the same time we too are singing for connection with each other. Some of us may not see ourselves as 'singers', but in a congregation, as in a choir, the sound we make is much more inspirational than some people singing individually. That is why music is such an important part of the church service.

As such, this would be a good point to say 'thank you' to Phillip Fox as he retires from being our church organist. We really appreciate the time and enthusiasm that he brought to our services over recent years. It is also great to see that his health has improved, and our best wishes go to Phillip as he moves on from Dalsersf to join the congregation of St. Johns in Carluke.

It also great to be able to thank and welcome Kieran Hunter who is willing to be our new organist, and we appreciate all that he is bringing to the role each week and the work he is doing with the 'pop-up' choir. It would also be remiss of me not to thank our team of stand in musicians, Shannon, Janet, and Michael all of whom have contributed to our services over the last few weeks...so thank you to them too.

I know that we have been singing some new hymns recently, but it's good to have a bit of a challenge and learn something new, but we really have no excuse not to make a beautiful sound...so sing up as we praise God.

Going back to the rugby, one of the South African players, Manie Libbok, wears a wristband and on it is embroidered 'Fill 4.13'...yes 'Fill' with an 'F'. However, if you were to look up Paul's letter to the Philippians chapter 4 verse 13, the NIV translation says this: 'I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.'

This verse may be seen as words of confidence and self-motivation, but if you were to look at the verse just before this one, Paul talks about being content in situations when you have little or have plenty. What he means is this: it's about knowing that you are not in control, but that you know you have God's strength to be able to do His will.

You may be in a position of being well fed or of hunger, of illness or good health, or of plenty or want. Paul is telling us that through it all, God will be our strength. So, it's not about being in control, but realising that even in difficult times God is our strength.

We have been concerned much about our place in the Presbytery Mission Plan and have been wondering about our future as a church. The recent hiatus put on it does not really bring much more comfort. Congregations around the Presbytery are in the same position, and indeed some worse than we are. However, we need to remember 'Fill 4.13', that 'I can do all things through Him who gives me strength'. Look to the future and be sure that God has a plan for us.





Another team who can also help keep us motivated is the Girls' Brigade, who we were delighted have visit us for their rededication service. It was just fantastic to have the girls in church. I am very proud to be their Chaplain and will continue to forge a good relationship with them. Their motto is: 'Seek, serve and follow Jesus.' So, as well as Him offering and giving us strength, it is our responsibility to be willing to follow Him.

This takes us back to Philippians, this time Chapter 3 verses 13 and 14 and a rare mention of sport in the Bible. Paul says, 'Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.'

So again, as individuals but also as a church, it is not about the past, it is not even about where we are at present, it is about following Christ, pressing on toward the goal, and remembering that as we do, even when things seem difficult, we have His strength to rely on.

October was a month of giving...firstly Harvest, closely followed by shoeboxes, then our gift day. So, a big thank you to everyone who was able to contribute to any one of those, if not all.

I would also like to thank Norah our caretaker for beautifully decorating the church on Harvest Sunday. It was commented on by many...including one of our live streamers from the US. Talking of live streaming, a huge thanks must go out to George Price who worked all sorts of hours in getting our live streaming and wi-fi up and running to enable it all to happen.

November will present itself as a month of special services. Firstly, 5th November will be Baptism Sunday; 12th November, Remembrance Sunday; 19th November, Communion Sunday, and then on 26th November we will host our special guest, Rev David Coleman, who is the Church of Scotland's Eco-Congregation Chaplain, who will lead worship that day. So, lots to look forward to.

Please do join us, as we would love to have you with us. However, if you are unable to join us in person, remember we are now 'live' so you can watch us at home or on holiday, and if that doesn't work, then you can catch our recording via the Church website, Dalserf.org or via YouTube.

Wishing you every blessing.

Fiona





Eco Congregation

We have just submitted our Application for a Bronze Award to Eco-congregation Scotland for their scrutiny. Many of our existing practises, plus our recent work, and our future plans made us feel ready to submit this application.

Throughout September Fiona integrated the Creation Time theme into her services through prayers, hymns, and sermons. You may have noticed some new hymns that she introduced.

We also had Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday and Fiona distributed Hyacinth bulbs to all attending. Please remember to plant yours up and watch out for it blooming in the spring!

We have started the process of making a "Garden for Reflection" at the rear of Hamilton Hall. November should bring some exciting developments there, but you may already have noticed the benches.

Two existing benches that had metal stands had the wooden slats replaced and were then oiled. They look like new. A big thank you to Colin and David Stark for doing this. John Wilson also repainted one of the wooden benches and it looks so much better. William Kent has also donated a bench so there are plenty of places to have a seat when you come to Dalsersf.

Inside we now have a small recycling centre so please try to use it to recycle batteries, glasses, stamps, and printer cartridges.

I also went along to a "Just Transition in Transport" event in Glasgow as Eco-congregation Scotland were asked to make comments on the Scottish Government proposals.

Soon we will be able to welcome Rev David Coleman of Eco-congregation Scotland who is coming to lead our service on Sunday 26th of November. We are sure that we will all be challenged by his thoughts.

If you are interested in reducing waste at church, at home or at work here is a website you should have a look at <https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk>

Remember that we would like to see everyone involved in some way whether it is at home, at church or in a church group. Please let me know if you want more involved or we can help you.

Tom Anderson

On behalf of
The Eco-congregation Group



Leaf mould project



Refurbished Benches, Before and After

The Guild



The guild session is now in its second month with the Reverend Fiona taking the meeting, sharing her likes and dislikes, how she came to study ministry and a few stories of places she has visited.

Blythswood Care was our next meeting when we were told of the work they do and the places they deliver shoeboxes to and of the other important work they do.

We enjoyed our craft evening prepared by Janet Calander who had cut out candles for us to sew and we were able to put a tube of pastilles in it to hang on our Christmas trees.

We are looking forward to our future meetings and preparation work for the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 11th November.

God bless you all,

Anne McHolm

**" But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners,
Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)**





1st Dalserf Girls Brigade

Our new session began in September and we are delighted to have 27 girls on our register. We have 4 leaders, Morag, Heather, Sarah-Jane and myself and were sorry to say goodbye to Gail Herbertson who has had to step back from GB due to pressure of work. Thank you Gail for all your hard work and dedication over the years. Thankfully we have 3 trainee leaders in Karyn Scotland, Ellie Rodger and Ellie Watt who will be an asset to the company.

As it is 40 years since the company was formed, the leaders have developed a programme of badge work which will focus on Celebrations. GB badge work is divided into 4 sections, Spiritual, Physical, Education and Service.

Spiritual will look at the biblical celebrations such as Christmas, Easter, Gods love at Valentine's Day, Lent and Shrove Tuesday etc.

Physical we are heading back to 1983 to re learn the games we played then, peever, skipping and elastics to name a few. We will also move to modern day learning how to play cricket!

Education we are going to learn how and when Girls' Brigade was formed, explore our badge and look at GB at home and over seas. Fiona has contacts with Girls Brigade in the Caymen Islands and we hope to set up a link between us.

Service, the end goal is to have a party in February or March with the girls learning how to do all the planning and preparation. They will learn what events are celebrated and how we celebrate. They will plan decorations, food, table setting, entertainment etc. and then enjoy the party!

Our re-dedication service was held in Dalserf in October and it was good to have girls and their families attend. The girls sang a couple of actions songs and helped Fiona deliver the service!

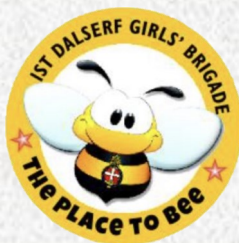
On Monday nights we have enjoyed a few visits from Fiona as well as our elders Lorna and Joanna. Fiona visited after re-dedication to help the girls plant the bulbs given out at church. The girls were excited about the competition set to Fiona to grow the tallest Hyacinth, photos will follow when the bulbs grow! One explorer excitedly asked her mum the day after it was planted if it had grown yet and checked again after school - its going to be a long few months in that house.

We are holding our Coffee and Carols on Monday 18th December in Rorison and Pancake night on 5th February - a week before Shrove Tuesday due to School mid term break.

We also have camp scheduled for May - our first since 2019 and we are all looking forward to this. As we celebrate 40 years of 1st Dalserf Girls Brigade we hope that, given the turmoil with the Presbytery Plan, we are able to celebrate our 45th birthday in 2028!

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Ann Price
Captain



Fiona and the girls singing "Our God is a Great big God" mid action!

"And may your hearts be fully committed to the LORD our God, to live by his decrees and obey his commands, as at this time." (1 Kings 8:61)





On Sunday 1st October I spelt out to the congregation Dalserf's financial position regarding our survival as a financially independent church within the Church of Scotland Mission Plan.

As our overall income is borderline in this respect Dalserf has to show a marked increase in income for the year 2023 so that when our situation is reviewed at the end of 2024 our accounts show a healthy situation. As our financial year ends on the 31st December we are running out of time. Normally I would have asked for increases in offerings over the full year, but this year due to the Mission Plan Proposals we only have a few weeks left.

Because of this the church is inviting members to make an extra monetary gift to the church finances. This can be dropped into the offering plate at any time over the next few weeks in the special envelopes provided. To help coordinate the appeal a "Gift Day" is being held on the 28th October in Hamilton Hall between 12 -- 2pm, when soup, sandwiches, biscuits and a period of fellowship will be provided.

The future of Dalserf Church is in the balance. We have been promised at least five years with Hamilton Hall. One final push should see the old church over the "financial hurdle" and secure our continuity for the foreseeable future.

On behalf of the Minister and Kirk Session I offer you our heartfelt thanks in anticipation of a positive response.

The Treasurer

Focus Oct. 2023

Focus met on 5th October 2023 at 1-45pm. The speaker was Jessie Shaw who gave a most interesting talk about Selima Hastings, Countess of Huntington. She was born on 24th August 1707 in Leicestershire and died on 17th June 1791 in London.

She was an English religious leader who played an important part in the 18 century religious revival and the Methodist Movement.

During her lifetime she spent all her money in expanding the Methodist movement in England and Wales plus mission work in colonial America.

She was truly an amazing lady of great faith and achieved so much.

The next meeting will be on November 1st, 2023.

Ann Carson

Remember Who You Are

On her visit to Dalserf back in August, Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland 2023/24 presented us with a jigsaw entitled 'Remember Who You Are'. She also preached on that topic, reminding us that we were all children of God, as she encouraged us all to 'show' we were Christians by our actions rather than by our words. We've had it framed and it will be hung in the sanctuary as a piece of our history. We were delighted to accept this jigsaw, and for those who follow the weekly release on the Dalserf Facebook page of our own jigsaw...you'll know we like our jigsaws! In fact we are really delighted how many people are doing our jigsaws each week... from all corners of the world. Each jigsaw we release has a message and this has become a remarkable form of outreach. If you have not yet tried our jigsaws, you will find them all on our website.



" Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."

(1 Peter 4:8)





Dalserf Kids' Zone

This month's Bible Hero is a man who stood up for God when he was living and working in a foreign country. Other people were jealous of him and plotted against him and despite things going very badly for him, like David and Noah who we have looked at in the last two magazines, he put his trust in God. This month we are looking at the story of Daniel.

This story can be found in the Old Testament of the Bible in Daniel chapter 6.

There once was a young man named Daniel who faithfully prayed to God — morning, noon, and night. Daniel found favour in the eyes of Darius who was ruler over the kingdom of Babylon. Because of Daniel's great ability, the king made plans to put him in charge of the entire empire.

The other high officers that the king appointed were jealous of Daniel and began to try to find fault with the way that he was handling the government affairs. Unfortunately, they could never find any fault with Daniel because he was faithful, responsible, and trustworthy in performing his duties. They finally decided that their only chance of accusing Daniel of any wrongdoing was because of his faith in God.

The other officials went to the king and said, "Long live King Darius! We all agree that you should make a law that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone except to you will be thrown into a den of lions." So, Darius did as they asked, he wrote the law and signed it.

The other officials knew that Daniel faithfully prayed to God. Daniel heard about the new law, but he continued to pray three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God. The jealous officials went to Daniel's house and there they found him praying and asking for God's help. They immediately went to the king and reminded him of the law he had signed. The king was very sad because he was very fond of Daniel. He tried to find a way to spare Daniel, but the law could not be changed so the king gave orders for Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the den of lions. As the king put Daniel in the den, he said to him, "May your God rescue you." Then a stone was brought and placed over the entrance to the lion's den.

It was very dark in the lion's den. Daniel knelt and began to pray for God to protect him. The next morning, the king got up and hurried to the lion's den. When he got there, he called out, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Was your God, whom you serve so faithfully, able to rescue you from the lions?"

Daniel answered, "My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me."

The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be released from the den. There was not a scratch on him because he had trusted in his God to protect him.

Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: "I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For he is the living God, and he will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never end. He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

If you think you are in a dangerous position, like Daniel, pray and remember that God is looking after us.

There is a Daniel Jigidi for you to do at

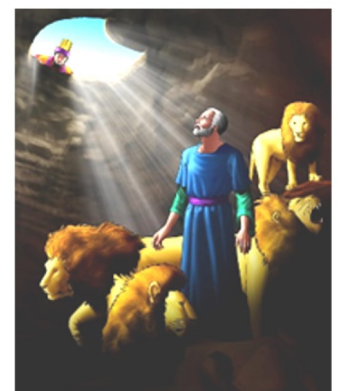
<https://www.jigidi.com/solve/ujhedwdt/daniel/>

There is also a Kahoot quiz for you to try.

The QR Code is opposite and the PIN is 02225590

I will post links on Facebook and Dalserf Website.

God Bless, Rev Fiona



Notice Board



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

Live Streaming



Our Services are being recorded and streamed live on YouTube.

We have two cameras recording. Both are mounted on the front balcony. If you do not wish to be shown on the recording, then please sit underneath the main balcony.

If you want to watch the services just go to the website and look for the link. If you click subscribe, then you will be sent the link automatically.

Please let us know what you think about the new streaming service. Message us at dalserf@dalserf.org

Fundraising

Our Harvest service took place on Sunday 1st October and we raised the sum of £317. This will be given to Larkhall Foodbank. Grateful thanks to everyone who donated to this.

Thank you, **Joan**



Interested in becoming a Dalserf Member?

Please let me know.

It would be great to have you with us!

Fiona

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 12th November
Cenotaph Netherburn 10.30am
Cenotaph Ashgill 11am
Dalserf Church 11.30am

Everyone Welcome

Thank you

Joan

Rotas



5th Nov

Senga Donegan

12th Nov

Linda Marshall

19th Nov

Joan Pollok

26th Nov

Carol Prentice

Items for next

Newsletter

If you have any news or information that you wish to submit for the newsletter for December 2023, please contact the editor by Sunday 12th November 2023.

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"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."

(Proverbs 17:17)

