



Dalserf Parish Church



February 2024

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

Grandson of Nancy Rundell
Thursday 7th December 2023

John Graham
Thursday 14th December 2023

Mother of Liz Reynolds
Friday 5th January 2024

Margaret Clark
Saturday 20th January 2024

Bible Verse of the Month

"Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him."



1 John 5: 10 – 15

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



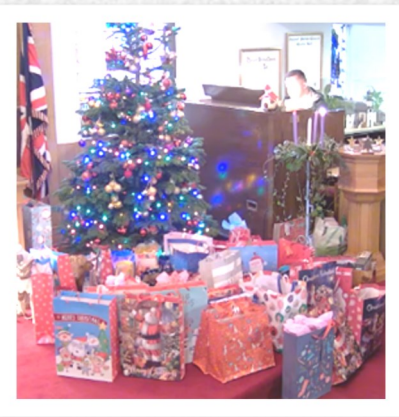


"We were so lucky to be here today!" These are not words I often get told at the end of a church service... so it was lovely to hear, and it was especially poignant, to be told these words from a young boy as he left the Dalserf Primary School Christmas Service, held here in our church. Another pupil told me on the way out that she had enjoyed the service because "Church is fun." Hopefully, these are sentiments that you agree with.

Sadly, most of you missed it, but amongst the many highlights of the Christmas season here at Dalserf, one of my favourite services was undoubtedly the School Service. It was fantastic to have over 70+ pupils from Dalserf Primary with us the week leading up to Christmas and obviously enjoying the experience. They were involved, engaged, and loving their time here in Church...but especially afterwards in Hamilton Hall where they made short work of the pancakes that were on offer – thanks to Anne & Lily! A big thank you to Mrs Gardner, Dalserf Primary Head Teacher, and her staff for bringing the pupils here. It was such a thrill to have them with us. I did not feel lucky though, I felt blessed, because luck had nothing to do with it.... God gives us these opportunities and it is up to us to grasp them and do our best in His name.

Hopefully, you all felt blessed over Christmas because we had a lot to be thankful for. I am so grateful for all the support in what is a particularly busy time for everyone. Thanks to everyone who came along or who watched online. A huge thank you to everyone who decorated, participated, organised, and supported the running of these events.

Some of my highlights were:



The Christmas gifts you donated that were able to be given to local families through Social Work Department. There were over 65 gifts donated.



The switching on of the Christmas Tree at Ashgill where I led the Dalserf Primary School choir in a couple of Christmas carols while the local community watched on.

A Christmas Carol Concert that included singing and playing performances by pupils from Lesmahagow High School, The Girls Brigade Nativity, our own Church Choir, not to mention the virtuoso organ playing from our very own Kieran...I'm sure he played notes that have never before been played.



**"I can do all this through him who gives me strength."
(Philippians 4:13)**





The Watchnight Service that followed Sheena & Bruce's fantastic spread at the fellowship evening was very well attended and it turned out to be a beautiful night with the Church bell ringing to welcome Christmas Day.

I was also delighted by the number attending the Christmas Morning service, which included members from other local churches, given their respective churches had no Christmas Day service, so it was a pleasure to be able to welcome them to Dalserf and celebrate our time together.

And who will ever forget the Adult Nativity Service, or as they would refer to it in the Vicar of Dibley, 'The Great Nativity of '23'.... Gregory Peck, Charlton Heston, Christian Bale, Joseph Fiennes, great actors in biblical epics, please stand aside and welcome our very own Tom Carson. What a performance, as the usually marginalised Joseph. He brought comedy, tragedy, and drama to the role...and what a supporting cast! A huge thank you to Robert Wilson who wrote the script but was gracious enough to see it being used sparingly by Tom...and what about our apprentice angel, Maisie; cuteness personified.

Much as we appreciated the 'Adult Nativity' and the willingness of members to get involved, our target for 2024 must be to have children from our Sunday School performing again. So, the plan is to try to have a regular Sunday school up and running again soon. "Never work with children or animals" they say, but it would be great to have a nativity full of children. As for animals... well apparently in the past we have had a real donkey, so watch this space!

December was quite a month, between all the regular Sunday services, the extra services, plus Dungavel, Kilbryde Hospice, the two care homes, etc, the vibrancy and community of Dalserf Parish Church came into its own. It was such a privilege to be part of it all. And now that we are well into 2024, the work continues for us to spread Good News to our local community, our friends, our family and through our worldwide online community. We have the opportunity to touch other peoples lives so we need to continue to make a difference and extend the hand of friendship and fellowship whenever we can.

As you know, during 2023 there have been some 'gradual' changes at Dalserf, and some less so. That said, please don't think that they are over and that we are done, because we cannot afford to sit back and think we are doing ok...there is so much more to do to convince the decision-makers that we are a vibrant, worshipping, outreaching community of faith, worthy of continuing to do God's work in the future as our forefathers have done for the last 368 years.

Our Dalserf Mission Statement is printed on the front of this magazine, as well as detailed on our website, and on our Notice Board: 'Dalserf Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ through the preaching of the Word and the witness of every member.' The preaching is usually down to me...but the witness, well that's down to you, as well as me...so let's continue to do what we are good at.

Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.



When I look back on 2023, it was definitely a good year...we achieved so much together. God has definitely been at work with us and for us, and I pray that His blessing continues in 2024.

Wishing you every blessing for 2024, *Fiona*

Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." (Isaiah 35:4)





Eco Congregation

At the end of November, we had Rev David Coleman, the Eco Congregation Chaplain visit us and lead the worship, and who will forget his collection of puppets that he used to remind us of the danger that our animal species face due to our actions. He also used part of the worship in his Prayer for COP which he published on the Eco congregation website.

As the days grow slightly longer and the sun rises a bit more above the horizon it is great to see the first signs of spring around the church. However, you will still probably struggle to see the native bushes we received from the Woodland Trust. We have planted nearly 60 of them beside the road at the rear of Hamilton Hall. It may take a few years for them to grow but eventually we should get a lovely hedge that will help sustain local wildlife and enclose the garden.

We are still awaiting a visitation from the Eco congregation assessors to see whether we have achieved our Bronze Award.

Whether it is in the church or at home, what we buy is linked to climate change because there's a carbon cost to every purchase. So, by buying less –reusing, repairing, and refurbishing more – you'll not only save money, but you'll also help to reduce emissions too.

If you want to learn more here is a link you might find useful.

<https://www.netzeronation.scot/take-action/reduce-re-use-recycle>

Remember if you have ideas that we could incorporate then please speak to us.

Tom Anderson

Eco-congregation Group



Dalserf Sunday School

Every Sunday 11.30am – 12.30pm
Come along for
breakfast, stories, craft and games.
And bring your parents.
We will look after them in Church where
they can have fun too!

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)



Happy New Year from all at the guild



We had a busy time before Christmas. Our carols and quiz night, which our minister Fiona took charge, with Carols and a quiz which Lily, Louise and I won.

Our next meeting was Christmas Lunch at Carrigan's, Hamilton where we were joined with folks from the focus group which was very enjoyable. A quiz was played again, a different one, the winners this time were Linda Marshall, Margaret Kerr and friends.

Our first meeting of 2024 was our business meeting and bring and buy table.

We distributed our funds as noted below,

Guild Membership	£280
Guild Charities	£300
Church	£500
Girls Brigade	£100
Adult Critical Care Unit towards chair	£200
Erskine	£100
Marie Curie	£100
Larkhall and District Volunteer Group	£100
Ronald McDonald House	£100
Kilbride Hospice	£100
Street Pastors	£100
Action for Children	£100
	<u>£2080</u>

Blessings,

Anne



Dalserf Parish Church Guild
Rorison Church
Ashgill
ML9 9AY

**What is on this February
at Dalserf Guild**

Wednesday 14th February

Louise Lawrie
Birds through the lens of my camera.

Wednesday 28th February

A.G.M. & Quiz
Starts at 7.15pm





Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had a happy and relaxing Christmas and wish you all a happy and healthy 2024.

Thank you to all who came along to our Coffee and Carols event in December.

It was a lovely evening of fun, fellowship and wonderful singing.

Thanks also for the donations for the food bank made on the evening. My car boot was full and these along with £48 were delivered the following day. Thanks as always to Lily and Anne for their baking and Eric for the mulled wine. I had several messages from parents saying how much they had enjoyed the evening and one saying their son LOVED the mince pies!

A small number of our girls were able to take part in the Christmas Concert on the 23rd and although low in numbers, they did a great job.

Our three trainee leaders are continuing to work through their training modules as well as sections of their Queens Award.

For her company initiative task Karyn Scotland led a craft session with the juniors and created the beautiful scene on display at our Coffee and Carols.

Well done Karyn.



"But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you ." (1 Samuel 12:24)





I am delighted to say one of our junior parents, Staceyanne, has now signed up to be a trainee leader as well, so look forward to welcoming Staceyanne to company once her training is complete.

Fiona continues to pop in most Monday nights and is quickly building a rapport with the girls and parents which is a blessing to our company.

Our elders Lorna and Joanna have also visited and I hope gave a good report to session ☺

Lorna also came along to help out one evening when we were short on leaders which was very much appreciated.

We have 18 girls and 4 leaders attending camp at Dalguise in May. This has cost £150 each so the girls have been saving hard and are getting excited for this adventure!

I also have some dates for your diary -

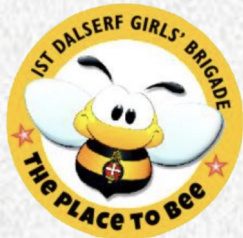
Our Pancake night is Monday 5th February from 7-8pm, entry is £2. This is a week early this year due to a school Inservice day on 12th Feb when we will have no GB.

The girls are organising 1st Dalserf GB 40th birthday party which will be held on Monday 18th March.

Our final evening of the session is our Presentation of Awards on Monday 25th March, all are welcome to join us from 7-8pm in Rorison.

Thank you for your continued support

Ann Price





"What is your favourite biscuit?"

It is now February and those of you who gained a few pounds around Christmas have probably given up on the diet and so I think that it is safe to open the biscuit tin again.

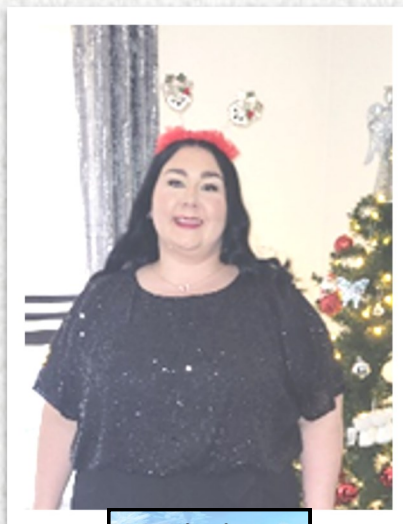
This month features a new member who has spent a long time at Dalserf, Tom Carson. A new member who recently joined us, Janet Callander. Claire Walker one of our Elders and Bruce Archibald our beloved Treasurer. (It is always good to keep the treasure sweet!) So, lets find out a bit more about them,

The Keeper of the Biscuit Tin

Bruce



Claire



Tom



Janet



**1 What is your favourite biscuit?**

- Tom KitKat
- Janet Homemade Empire biscuit
- Claire Chocolate digestive
- Bruce Hobnobs

2 What is the best show or concert you have ever attended?

- Tom "39 STEPS", Criterion Theatre London
- Janet Andre Rieu
- Claire The Lion King
- Bruce Marlene Dietrich, Alhambra Theatre, Glasgow

3 What was your first car?

- Tom Ford Zephyr 6
- Janet Mini (very, very old Mini)
- Claire Vauxhall Corsa
- Bruce Austin A40

4 What is your favourite hymn?

- Tom CH4 476 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the Lord.
- Janet CH4 528 Make me a channel of your peace.
- Claire MP 1039 Colours of day dawn into the mind
- Bruce CH4 97 Oh, God, you search me, and you know me

5 What is one thing that you think is special about Dalserf?

- Tom We are a family!
- Janet The feeling of belonging and the peace that this brings.
- Claire The lovely surroundings
- Bruce I have known nowhere else, born there, to me the centre of the world.





Hi there!

In the December Dalserf Kids' Zone we looked at the story of Mary. When Gabriel told Mary she was expecting God's son, Jesus, she went and stayed with her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth was also expecting a child and it is that child, John, who we are going to learn about this month.

Zechariah and Elizabeth were a couple who lived in Judea and served God. They were very old but had never been able to have children. This made them sad.

Zechariah was a priest of God. He would go to the temple and serve there. The priest would cast lots to see who would go inside to burn incense. Zechariah was chosen. People gathered outside the temple to pray as he went inside. As he was working, an angel of the Lord appeared.

Zechariah was frightened.

"Don't be afraid," the angel said. "God heard your prayer. Your wife will have a son and you will call him John. He will be great in the sight of the Lord and filled with the holy spirit even before he is born. He will be a joy to you and many people will turn to the Lord because of him. He will prepare the way for the Lord's arrival!"

The time arrived for Elizabeth to give birth. She bore a son. Her friends and neighbours were filled with joy at the baby's arrival. Many people talked about John's birth and were filled with awe at the things that had happened. What will this child become?" They asked each other.

The Lord's hand was on John. Zechariah and Elizabeth were good parents and taught John what it meant to obey God.

They thought, when he was old enough, John would also become a priest. But God had a special mission for John.

Instead of working at the temple as a priest, he moved to the desert. He wore clothes made from camel's hair and he ate locusts and wild honey!

He began to preach an important message. John taught people they needed to repent.

Many people came to listen to him.

Some people thought that he was crazy. Some religious people disliked his message. But others believed his message and repented of their sins. They said sorry for the bad things they had done and began to obey God.

John baptised them in the river Jordan. It was a way to show that they really meant what they said. It was like washing the bad things away.

Many people repented of their sins and were baptised by John.

John was preparing the way for Jesus. He told everyone that "There is one coming after me who is greater than me."

"I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit!"

The story of John the Baptist can be found in the New Testament of the Bible in the books of Mark, John, and Matthew.

This is why we are baptised in the Church to symbolise a new life in Jesus. When we baptise children or adults, we bring them into church membership and place them firmly within the family of God.

I do hope to see you soon.

Rev Fiona

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

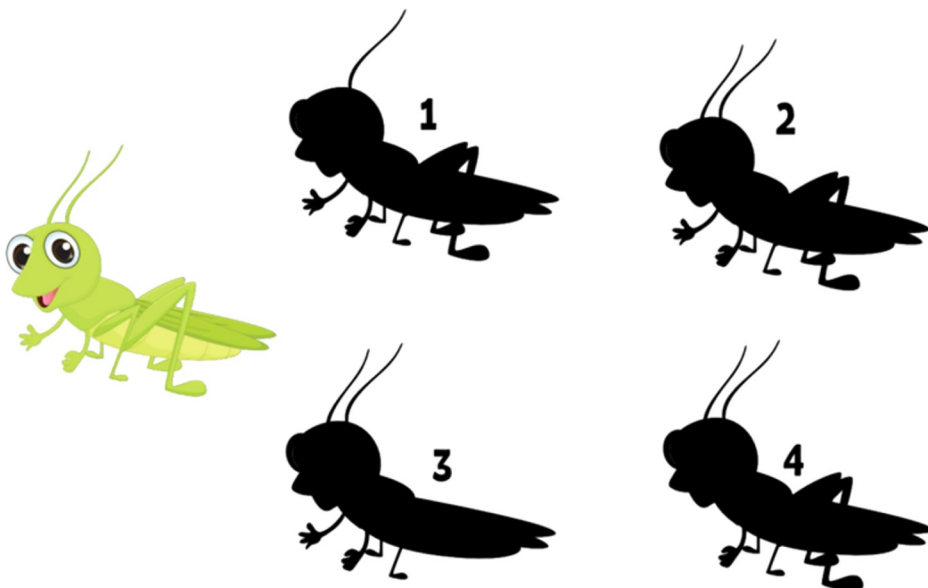




John the Baptist Word Search

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

John
Zachariah
Elizabeth
Desert
Camel
Locusts
Honey
Preach
Repent
Baptist
Jordan
River





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



Interested in becoming a Dalserf Member?

Please let me know.

It would be great to have you with us!

Fiona

Our Thanks

My Family and I would like to thank you for the Spiritual comfort and cards received at the sad time we had recently.

It was much appreciated.

Nancy

Quilt

The winner of the Quilt, announced at the Carol concert on the 16th December, was Iain McHolm. (The date was 28th June)

Ann

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



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

Kieran J Hunter

Flowers

Mrs Lily Budgell

Church Officer (Rorison)

Mrs Anne McHolm

01698 886658

Church Officer (Dalserf)

Mrs Norah McGuckin

4 Kirk Road, Dalserf

Child Protection

Co-ordinator

Joanna Gilchrist

Newsletter Editor

David Gilchrist

dalserfnews@gmail.com

Deputy Session Clerk

Mrs Joanna Gilchrist

Fabric Convener

Mr John McPhee

janettemcphee@gmail.com

Bible Study Group Leader

Rev. Fiona Anderson

FAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk

Roll Keeper

Wendy Manson

wendymanson@aol.com

Rotas



4th Feb

K. Love

11th Feb

Joanna Gilchrist

18th Feb

Mrs. Paterson

25th Feb

Bert Gold

Items for next

Newsletter

If you have any news or information that you wish to submit for the newsletter for March 2024,

please contact the editor by Sunday 11th February 2024.

Rorison Hall Bookings

Booking Secretary: Anne McHolm
mcholmanne3@gmail.com

Hamilton Hall Bookings

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

" You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you." (Isaiah 26:3)

