



# Dalsersf Parish Church



May 2024

### 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

Jean McMillan  
on Monday 15th April 2024

Anne Brown  
on Wednesday 24th April 2024

#### Congratulations

Congratulations to Ellie Rodger and Karyn Scotland on gaining their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Good Luck on 4th July when you will be presented with your badges and certificates at Holyrood by the Duke of Edinburgh



### **Bible Verse of the Month**

*“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ”*



Colossians 3:12-16

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**







Greeting from my desk, now that Tom and I are back after a wonderful time in Venice. Some of you might consider it a bit of a busman's holiday, but while we were there, we visited quite a few churches. I love looking around old churches taking in the sounds, the smells, and the history, and while some were very ornate and splendid, particularly the San Marco Basilica, none of them matched up to Dalserf...but perhaps I am biased?

Like most churches, the Venetian churches and cathedrals were obviously treasured by their members, and the state took great care of them, although I'm sure the entry fee somewhat helped. The decoration was elaborate and indeed often extravagant, with many of the murals designed to tell the stories of the Bible to a people unable to read. We did witness services taking place and areas sectioned off for private prayer and the solemnity was clear.

However, there was no real sense of joy and fellowship in the way we have in here in Dalserf. We too may worship in an ancient church, a historical church, but it's not a museum...it's a place of faith and community. I'm sure when people visit Dalserf and see inside the church when it's empty might see it as a beautiful historical monument... but if they were to walk in on a Sunday morning with the choir practising and the church filling up with our members, they would experience a completely different feeling about the place. Suddenly, it's a meeting place of believers, a family, and the Church is no longer a building. Then as we worship, we are brought together by God as His children. No matter our age, our infirmities, our worries, or our joys we are God's children coming together to honour Him.

As our numbers have increased over this last year the sense of community is stronger... but it's not something that we should take for granted. It's still just as easy to be alone in a large group, so please make sure that everyone is included. Go out of your way to get to know people in the church. Talk to people you don't know. Move out of your comfort zone and sit in a different seat...sit on a different side of the church and see how it looks from there.

I recognise that the magazine article: 'What's Your Favourite Biscuit?' is seen as being a bit of fun, but it equally has an important function, as it helps us to get to know people a little bit better.

If you think someone is new, please say hello to them and engage with them. Remember first impressions are exceptionally important. Recently, we have raised our church profile in the media - we have a new posting on the website 'Find a Church,' and we are also now on 'Visit Scotland.' As churches close, fellow Christians will be looking for other places to worship, so make sure they see Dalserf as a place they are welcomed and can feel at home.

It is difficult to change church, what you are familiar with is lost, where you were part of community, you are now alone. So, it's important that people are made to feel welcomed and integrated as part of our community.







In Paul's letter to the church in Rome, he reminds the people that it is only through grace that we are part of Christ's church, so therefore we must be willing to accept others.

Romans 15:7 - "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

I am sorry that I missed the afternoon of our American visitors, but I am sure they felt the warmth of our welcome.

I hope like me you felt blessed over the Easter period. It was such a busy time, but a special time. Having Dalserf Primary School back in the Church for their Easter service was such a blessing, and I was grateful for the assistance of twelve older pupils who were willing to read Scripture, as we shared the Easter story from Palm Sunday to the empty tomb. All four classes also participated singing an Easter or Springtime song.

The Maundy Thursday communion service outside in the Reflection Garden for the first time was really special, and despite the Biblical rain we had experienced earlier in the day, it turned out to be a lovely evening.

Whilst the Good Friday service was emotional and poignant, our Easter Sunday service with the Sunday School children enacting the story was a little bit different!

We also welcomed Vicky McIntosh into membership at Dalserf on Easter Day when she professed her faith. It was especially emotional as it was done in the presence of her daughter, Annette, who had travelled up from England.

Congratulations to Karyn and Ellie for each gaining their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award...what an achievement, and I'm sure the girls will be excited to meet HRH the Duke himself at Holyrood Palace.

Thanks to Rose McGregor and the other members of the Arietta Ladies' Choir, led by Janet Young, for entertaining us on Saturday 6th April. The songs from the musicals were loved by the audience and I particularly enjoyed the Elvis number to finish. The Dalserf hospitality and baking completed a great afternoon, so a big thanks to all who helped.

This month sees the return of the General Assembly meeting in Edinburgh. I am pleased to be attending this year, especially to witness the Rev Dr Shaw Paterson installed as overall Moderator. When I was training for ministry, I was with Shaw for my first placement, but as his linked charge entered a 4-way union while I was there, resulting in three places of worship, I stayed on a further six months to help out. Then after placements in Motherwell, East Kilbride, and ordination, I returned to Strathaven, Glassford and Chapelton as Shaw's Assistant Minister, for three years, before coming to Dalserf.

HRH Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, is the King's commissioner to the Assembly this year...so if I get the opportunity to speak to him, I'll extend an invitation for him and Duchess Sophie to come and pay us a visit at Dalserf...so bakers...get baking!

*Fiona*







## Eco Congregation

We were delighted to discover that we achieved our Eco-Congregation Scotland Silver Award.

We obviously impressed the assessors with the work and dedication of the congregation.

*“It was clear to them that you had easily achieved a Bronze award and they felt that you had achieved a Silver level, with the work you have undertaken in the six months since your application was submitted.”*

In particular the assessors highlighted the following:

- ◇ *The commitment of your locum minister, Fiona Anderson to environmental matters and linking it regularly with the spiritual life of the church and raises issues of environmental justice. There is strong pastoral support from locum minister and Kirk Session. Aspects of eco work are incorporated into services regularly and natural materials are used as part of worship both inside and outside the church and its buildings.*
- ◇ *We appreciated the use of AV and FB to reach a wider congregation and were particularly impressed with the weekly jigida puzzle with a spiritual message on completion. Their Facebook page is looked at by many people within and out with the congregation and from across the world. This is updated each day so is kept relevant and vibrant.*
- ◇ *Your inclusion of so many volunteers (for a small congregation) within your projects and reaching out to the wider community. The clear communication of eco-matters in your magazine and displayed in halls with recycling table.*
- ◇ *The work of your garden team. Great use has been made of church grounds to encourage wildlife and also to use for teaching about wildlife. The reflection garden and graveyard lookout provide a peaceful space for contemplation and being at one with nature.*

Achieving the Silver Award is something that few churches in Forth Valley and Clydesdale Presbytery have accomplished so we have had positive publicity in the press and through the Church of Scotland Facebook page.

It would be good to encourage other churches to do this so we will try and organise an event to promote Eco -congregation awards.

It was lovely to be able to have communion in the garden in front of the cross. Our Reflection Garden is starting to come together.

The work will continue though and that means we would like your involvement. We as a congregation can make a difference but we as individuals can make a difference too. If you would like to share what you do for the environment out with the church, then please let us know.

## Eco-Congregation Group



**“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” (1 John 5:12)**







Sheena and I spend much time walking in the countryside, and we marvel at "nature" as the days, weeks and months pass by. Now that we are fully into Spring and early Summer we have enjoyed the newly emerging wild flowers as well as the spring bulbs. We remain fascinated each year with the amazing number of new lambs born in South Lanarkshire. We love to stop in some quiet backwater and watch them gambolling in the spring sunshine (or rain this year!!) We are fascinated as the days progress how quickly they become independent and stray from their mothers. It is not long till they gather in groups, interacting with each other, skipping and jumping and vying with each other to gain the highest spot. At times we compare them to the "Charge of the Light Brigade" as they take flight in unison down a hillside or embankment.

In a wider context I am amazed how humans "drool" over anything "newborn". Be it a puppy, a kitten, a pony, a rabbit, a duckling, a signet swan or even a baby elephant. I have often noticed, how, even the "toughest" of men will stop for a second and look into a pram at the side of the pavement. His countenance often softens and he invariably nods, winks or waves to the child inside. I put this phenomenon down to humans being aware, in the very depths of their souls, that at that very moment in time they are in the presence of a "miracle". I am reminded of the biblical verse of God breathing into the nostrils of Adam and giving him life.

New life is part of the foundation of my faith. I regard new life as a "miracle". We, including the very young, are so bombarded with the notion of "evolution" that the idea of "creation" has lost much of its meaning to the general public. The word "evolution" indicates that something has developed step by step from something else. "Something" does not "evolve" out of "nothing". There is a common idea that when the Earth was a solid rock with only rainwater present, that somehow chemicals leached from the rocks into some crevice and perhaps with a flash of lightening suddenly there was "life". It is interesting to note that no scientist, or laboratory has ever produced one living "cell" from its chemical components, despite all the computers, AI and the combined intellectual ability of the human race. No one can explain how "life" began. Scientists can alter, adjust, manipulate and change cells --- they cannot be manufactured.

The logic of a "creating intelligence" seems to me to be overwhelming. In my view "evolution" was God's greatest gift to the Earth. Through it God was able to make sure that all living creatures could adjust and change to their own particular environment. Mankind has long boasted about what it has "invented". Mankind has invented "nothing". It was all there waiting to be "discovered". We are all dependent on what God "gave" us ---- from our first gasp of air to our last dying breath.

The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. (Genesis 2:7)

Best wishes to you and yours,

**Bruce**



*"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him." (James 1:12)*







## What is your favourite biscuit?



I noticed that April's Life and Work had a puzzle page that was being sponsored by "Tunnocks Caramel Wafers". The Keeper of the biscuit tin would just like to reassure our loyal readers that if Sir Archibald Boyd Tunnock would like to sponsor this article in the Dalserf Newsletter, we would insist on complete editorial independence.

The 29<sup>th</sup> of May is National Biscuit Day in the UK, (14<sup>th</sup> May in the USA). So please make the most of it and celebrate it in style, whatever your biscuit preference, it is the only day it is officially biscuit day.

So who do we have this month? Firstly we have Sheena Archibald, the voice of reason in the Archibald household some would say. Sheena is known for putting on a fine purvey in the church.

Eric Budgell is a director of Larkhall District Volunteer Group and in the church you will see him either at the front organising communion or at the back organising the live streaming of the service.

Sandy Mackenzie is a recent regular attender at Dalserf. Sandy is a keen golfer and his Cadillac would fill most church car parks on its own!

### *The Keeper of the Biscuit Tin*



**Sheena Archibald**



**Eric Budgell**



**Sandy Mackenzie**







1 What is your favourite biscuit?

- Sheena Ginger nut. Great for dipping.
- Eric Ginger nut
- Sandy Tunnock's Caramel Wafer

2 What is your favourite place to go on holiday?

- Sheena France. Particularly moseying along in a "petit bateau" on one of the canals.
- Eric Saint-Pierre-la-Mer, Southern France
- Sandy Anywhere I can play golf!

3 What is your book or genre of book?

- Sheena One with a lot of social history written by Katie Flynn, Catherine Cookson, Nadine Dorries and others.
- Eric Dan Brown
- Sandy JT Edson Cowboy Books

4 What is your favourite home-made dinner?

- Sheena Fish pie made with a really strong cheese.
- Eric Sirloin Steak
- Sandy Tatties and Mince







## ***A visit from "Across the Pond"***

On Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of April we were visited by Pastor Drew McHolm and his wife Jesse who brought with them a party of twenty-nine. What a privilege it was to meet with such friends in Christ, from a small historic country church within the state of Iowa. 'The Little Brown Church' as it's called lies in the vale in Nashua. A song has also been written by Dr William S. Pitts, about the church, back in 1857. It has been sung and recorded by famous American singers such as Dolly Parton. The song is called 'The Church in the Wildwood'

So, from one church in the wood to another, our 'little White Church' Dalserf united 'hands across the sea' in true friendship and love in Christ our lord, on such a wonderful momentous occasion.

First Our dear Bruce Archibald gave an informative talk on the history of Dalserf Church and surrounding parish. This was followed by a service conducted by Pastor Drew, beginning with us all singing 'Amazing Grace'. Then the Pastor gave unmeasurable thanks to David Stark, on behalf of his party also, for the great unexpected Scottish welcome they received of the playing of the bagpipes, as they stepped off the bus and entered our church.

Pastor McHolm shared his story of how his family were from Glasgow and within our parish, and how delighted he was to be back among them.

We were also witnesses to such a privileged moment when two members of the party, Pat and Kelly renewed their wedding vows after thirty years of marriage. Such a loving heartfelt moment. The love of Christ was certainly among us at Dalserf as we bore witness and wished the couple happy more years together.



We proceeded to Hamilton Hall where the tea ladies of Dalserf gave such a wonderful Afternoon tea. Grateful thanks were also lovingly expressed by the people of the 'Little Brown Church' for such a wonderful feast of delights.

They were absolutely overwhelmed at the generosity and the love in Christ we shared with them and may I say it was abundantly reciprocated by all at Dalserf.

The days visit concluded with Bruce Archibald and John McPhee giving a tour of our 'Little White Church' in the wood and surrounding area.

Until we meet again in Christ, God Bless our American friends of 'The Little Brown Church'

Rose Macgregor







Ministers meet at such a lovely occasion, our previous minister now retired Rev Cameron McPherson and his wife at tea with Pastor Drew McHolm and his wife.



Hamish and Heather from 'across the pond' such beautiful Scottish names for a lovely couple.



**"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" (John 8:12)**







## Dalsarf Kids' Zone

Sometimes when we are young, we think that we are not important, and that God is not interested in us. To be honest a lot of adults feel this way too. This month we are going to hear the story of a boy for whom God had an important job. You will find this story in the Old Testament of the Bible in the First Book of Samuel Chapter 3.



There was a boy named Samuel. He lived in a special place called the temple, where people went to worship God. Samuel's mother, Hannah, had prayed for a son, and God answered her prayer by giving her Samuel.

One night, as Samuel lay down to sleep, he heard a voice calling his name. He thought it was the old priest, Eli, who took care of the temple. So, Samuel jumped out of bed and ran to Eli, saying, "Here I am; you called me!"

But Eli said, "I didn't call you, my boy. Go back to bed."

Samuel went back to bed, but the voice called again, "Samuel!" Once more, he ran to Eli. Again, Eli told him, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed."

A third time, God called Samuel. This time, Eli realised that it was God who was speaking to the young boy. So, he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down. If He calls you again, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'"

Samuel did as Eli instructed. When God called again, Samuel replied, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."

And God did speak to Samuel. He had an important message for him. God often chooses unexpected people, like young Samuel, to deliver His messages. Samuel listened carefully and obeyed God's call.

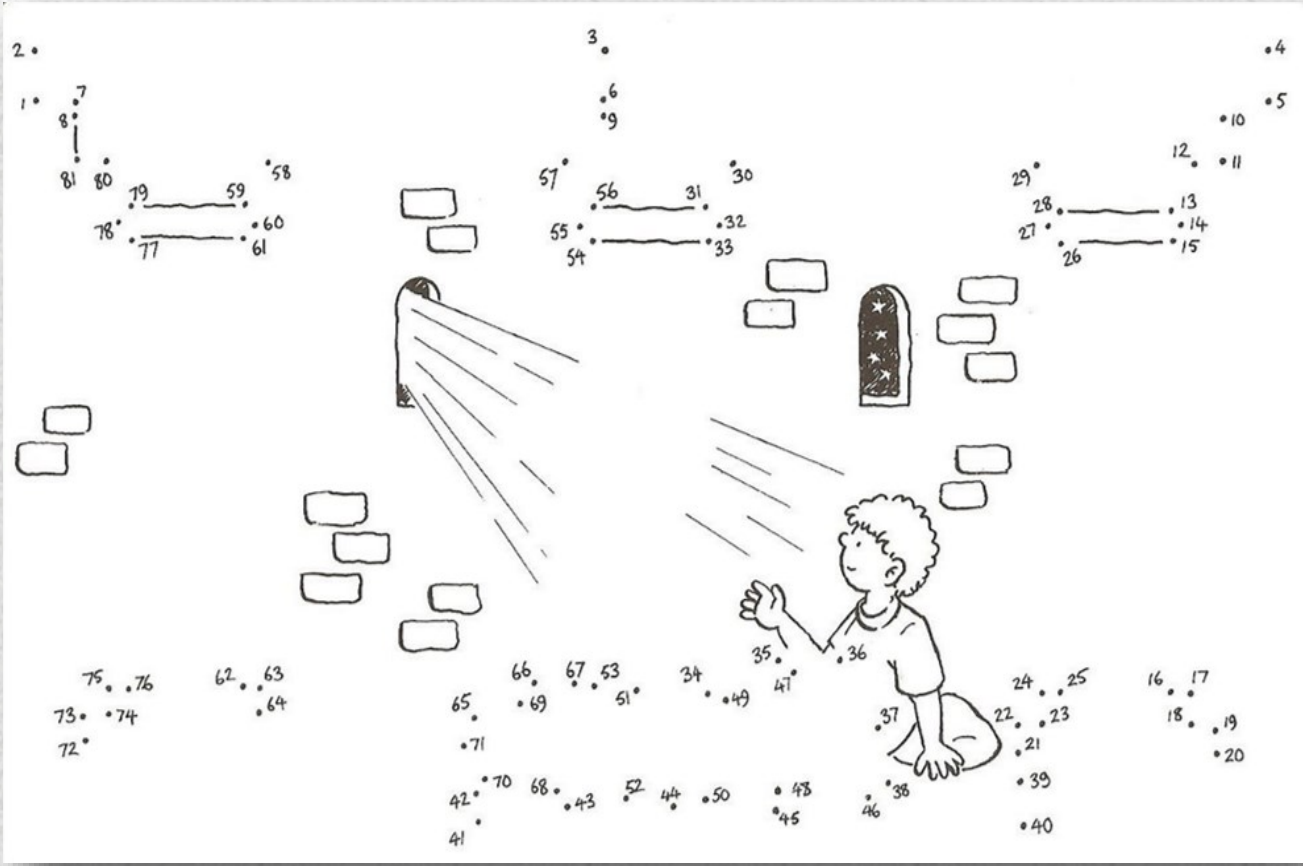




Remember: Just like Samuel, God knows your name, and He still calls boys and girls (and adults) today, saying, "Come, follow me." So, listen for God's voice, and when you hear it, answer like Samuel did: "Here I am!"

Rev Fiona

Join the dots to complete the picture of Samuel in the Temple.







**Saturday Teas**

Our Saturday Teas will take place every Saturday from 8 June to 31 August, inclusive (11.30am – 3.30pm). On Saturday 1st June we will be having our Church Open Day.

**The Editor**



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

*Fiona*

**Dalsersf Parish Church  
Annual Business Meeting  
Sunday 12th May  
In church after morning  
worship  
Lunch in Hamilton Hall to follow!**

**The Guild**



We had a very enjoyable social when we were entertained by Luckenbooth.  
Our outing on Wednesday the 29th of May to Dumfries House costs £10, plus meal, we still have 4 seats available on the bus for anyone wishing to join us.  
We may be in recess but work is still ongoing to fill the syllabus for our next session.  
Blessings,  
Anne

Rotas	
5th May	Dorothy Noble
12th May	William Miller
19th May	Sadie Newlands
26th May	Dorothy Noble

**Items for June Newsletter**  
If you have any news or information that you wish to submit for the newsletter for June 2024, please contact the editor by Sunday 12th May 2024



- Minister (Locum)**  
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- Session Clerk**  
Mrs Joan Pollok  
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- Presbytery Elder**  
Mrs Elizabeth Lawson  
01555 771096
- Treasurer**  
Bruce Archibald BDS  
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- Organist**  
Kieran J Hunter
- Flowers**  
Mrs Lily Budgell
- Church Officer (Rorison)**  
Mrs Anne McHolm  
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- Church Officer (Dalsersf)**  
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