



Dalserf Parish Church



October 2025

Upcoming Events

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.

Dalserf Dove Cafe

kilbryde
hospice

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN DALSERF PARISH CHURCH
AND SOUTH LANARKSHIRE'S HOSPICE

Care for each individual – Compassion for all

Visit Dalserf Dove Café, a safe, welcoming space to enjoy
Tea or coffee with a friendly volunteer.

The Café fosters kindness & connection, especially for those
dealing with loss, bereavement, frailty, or a life-limiting illnesses.

Dalserf Parish Church – Hamilton Hall

Wednesdays 8th October, 12th November & 10th December
1pm to 2.30pm

A PIE, A PINT AND A PARABLE
With Rev Fiona Anderson
(The Pie and the Parable are on her!)

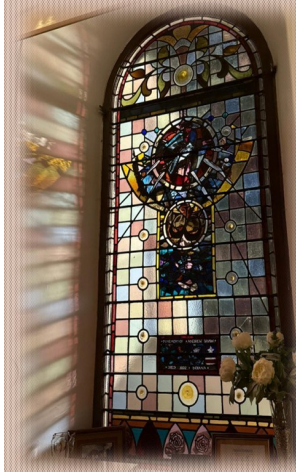
Dalserf Bowling Club
Ashgill
Wednesday October 29
7.30 -9.00pm

Dalserf Church
Hamilton Hall
"House Group"
Bible Study
Friday 3 October
at 2pm
All welcome!



Dalserf Parish Church
370th Anniversary Family Ceilidh
Friday 24th October 7.00pm
Rorison Church Hall
Ceilidh Band and Buffet Supper
Ticket Price £10

Songs of Praise
in the Valley
at
Dalserf Parish Church
with
Coalburn Brass Band
Sunday 26th October
at 7.00pm.



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,



Dear Friends

What a joy it was to gather together for our 370th Anniversary Service. It certainly was a day filled with thanksgiving, worship, and fellowship. We were especially blessed to welcome the Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt Rev Rosie Frew, as our guest preacher, and it was wonderful to see the sanctuary so alive with music, prayer, and praise. A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who helped make the day so memorable – from those who prepared the church and organised hospitality and the commemorative cakes; to the musicians; carpark attendants; office-bearers...and all who joined us in worship, including a large delegation from the Cameronian Regiment, reminding us of our Covenanting history. A special thanks must also go to our Actors on the day too, who brought our history alive. It truly was a day to give thanks to God for His faithfulness across the generations.

I must say that the publicity has been really positive too – hitting the headlines on The Church of Scotland Website, as well as appearing in The Scotsman, The Herald, and The Hamilton Advertiser.

As we look to the future, we are delighted to welcome our new Session Clerk, Mrs Janet Callendar, and our new Presbytery Elder, Tom Anderson. We assure them of our prayers and support as they take up these important responsibilities. At the same time, we give thanks for those who have faithfully served in these roles and who are now stepping down – Joan Pollok as Session Clerk and Elizabeth Lawson as Presbytery. Your commitment and dedication have been a gift to the life of this congregation, and we are deeply grateful.

We are also pleased to welcome new members who have recently joined our church family or transferred their lines from elsewhere. We are glad to have you with us and pray that you will quickly feel at home among us, as together we grow in faith and serve Christ in our community.

In recent weeks, we have also celebrated moments of great joy. Firstly, we wish every blessing to the new Mr & Mrs Scott & Kim Fraser who were recently married in our church, and we assure them of our prayers as they begin their new life together. We also rejoice in the Baptism of baby Peter Hughes, praying that God's love will surround him always, and that his family will be upheld in grace as they nurture him in faith.

"You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word."

(Psalms 119:114)





As our organisations begin their new sessions, we wish God's blessing upon the Guild, the Girls' Brigade, and the Boys' Brigade. Each organisation is an important part of our church's witness, and we pray for leaders and members alike that they may know joy in fellowship, strength in service, and growth in faith.

September saw the launch of The Dove Café, run in association with Kilbryde Hospice, where we offer on a monthly basis a safe space to come and have a coffee, a biscuit, a chat, a wander in our garden or just to sit and listen to the birds. We are especially welcoming if you have recently been bereaved or are facing a difficult time...so why not drop in to see us.

As Autumn begins to unfold, we re-establish our monthly Songs of Praise evenings, together with the re-launch of our Pie, Pint and Parable sessions, held in Ashgill Bowling Club. We pray that we may each be encouraged by God's Spirit to continue building together as a worshipping, welcoming, and witnessing people.

With every blessing,

Fiona



Guild



Dalserf Parish Church Guild
Rorison Church
Ashgill
ML9 3AF

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

**Wednesday 8th October
7.15pm**
Guide Dogs for the Blind

**Wednesday 22nd September
7.15pm**
Bear Necessities

We had our first meeting on Wednesday when Fiona spoke on the first 5 books of the bible, which is called the Pentateuch.

Ellie Rodger also spoke about her Queens award journey.

Both gave a very interesting and entertaining presentation.

Looking forward to the rest of our syllabus

Regards,

Anne





The company started in our new church and new venue on Thursday 4th September. We had 12 boys attending in the anchor boy and junior section age range. 6 were boys who have been with us from at least last year and it was very pleasing to see them attend at Rorison. We have 2 boys in company section, one of whom is currently going through the process of being accepted as an officer, which will leave his younger brother working through his badge work as well as being a help to the younger boys.

The boys all had a fun night to start and enjoyed themselves. A structured program of activities will now take place each Thursday evening.

While we are happy with the numbers and don't want to be overwhelmed by youngsters, we would like a few more boys from the Ashgill/Netherburn area in order that we can make our presence known for future years.



Janet's Story - Faith, Family and Friendship

Until recently, I was Janet, the Church Elder and Sunday School Coordinator. Since 20th August, I've come to be known as Janet, the Session Clerk and since then I have realised that many in the congregation don't know much about my background—so here's a little bit about me and who I am.

My connection with the Church of Scotland began in my earliest years and continued into my late twenties, in a small rural church much like Dalserf — rich in covenanter history and community. When that church sadly closed, I transferred my membership to a nearby village Church. A while later, life then took a turn and, for a time, I stepped back from church altogether.

In 2016, my late husband and I downsized and moved to Law Village. I'll admit, I hadn't even heard of Dalserf Church at that point. But after settling into village life—joining the Guild and occasionally visiting Dalserf Church—the encouragement of kind friends nudged me back into regular worship. The warm welcome at Dalserf added to the support of my own family; it truly felt like being 'home from home'.

I first trained in hotel catering and institutional management, then moved into the NHS, working in various non-clinical management roles. Those years gave me a wide range of practical life and vocational skills—the sort you carry into every space you serve, including church life.

Outside of our church family, I have a daughter, a son and three stepsons (my eldest stepson lives Australia, so I'm fortunate to make regular trips to see him. I'm also closely involved in caring for my sister, Margaret, who now lives at Ashlea Court Care Home.

And then much to the disgust and amusement of Sarah and Christopher (my children who I love dearly), I have two miniature schnauzers called Muffin and Mabel, who are my real pride and joy.

If anyone would like to know more—or just have a chat—I'm always up for a coffee and a blether. Please do reach out.

Warmly, **Janet**

"Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble."
(Psalms 119:165)





“Voices Through the Centuries: The Story of Dalserf Parish Church”

Excerpts of the 370th Anniversary Service Monologues

Dalserf Parish Church has stood at the heart of the Clyde Valley for 370 years. To step through its doors today is to enter a living story, one told not only in stone and timber but in the voices of those who have worshipped here through the centuries.

The Covenanting soldier, portrayed by John Blackwood, looked back on his life and on the life of the kirk in the late 17th century:

“Aye, sit ye doon and listen, and I’ll tell ye o’ Dalserf Kirk...the wee sanctuary o’ faith an’ fire in the Clyde Valley. I kent it well...for I bled for what she stood for... and I watched wi’ my ain een as the tide of kirk and crown turned and twisted like the river that winds past her doors.”

“The kirk, built in 1655, rose from the earth as a place where Christ alone would be head o’ the Kirk...no’ some high-handed king in London.”

“Our ministers were men of courage, nae hirelings. They preached Christ crucified, even when the dragoons watched from the shadows.”

“Fifty-two o’ our six hundred parishioners suffered sorely during this time...and there were martyrs among us.... young lads and grey-haired elders taken from their homes... marched to the tolbooth...then shot or hanged at the Mercat Cross.”

“I’m an auld man now, and my sword hangs rusted. But Dalserf Kirk still stands...and wi’ each bell that rings on the Sabbath morn, I ken the Covenant was no’ in vain.”



A century later, another voice rises — that of a poor weaver woman, a widow, remembering her long life in Dalserf. Her monologue, brought to life by Jacqui Forrest, was filled with longing and loss, pride and humour:

“My hands may be rough wi’ work, but my heart has long been bound to the kirk, where the Lord’s Word rings as clear as the bell on a frosty morn.”

“Dalserf was a busy wee place wi’ travellers crossing the Clyde on the ferry down that we track behind the kirk.

“ I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. ” (Ezekiel 11:19)





Folk heading tae Auld Reekie had to cross here and would stop tae rest or get the horses reshod. Ma man said Rabbie Burn's passed through, but I missed him, mairs the pity!"

"The kirk was the heart o' the parish.

An' it was no' just for worship, but for weddings, baptisms, and burials too. I remember carrying our firstborn, wee Mary, up to the kirk for her christening, the minister's hand cold but kind upon her brow.

And when my man was laid in the kirkyard, the hills were gold wi' bracken, and the kirk bell tolled as if the whole valley grieved."

"I'm no scholar, but I ken this: Dalserf Kirk has been the soul of our community. Through wars, harvests, births, and deaths, it has stood fast...and as I stand here, I give thanks that my weans and their bairns still hear the same Word preached that I heard as a lass. Thanks, be tae God for that."

Our last historic character was the gravedigger, John Ritchie, portrayed by Robert Wilson, who told of a refurbished church, ancient relics, and important visitors:

"Baron Newlands fae Mauldslie Castle donated £1,000 to renovate and extend the Kirk. Can you imagine £1,000? And the minister and his wife donated twa stained-glass windows.

And that is how we have this lovely sanctuary. The work was done carefully... nae grand show...just respect for the past and faith in the future."

"It was during those renovations that something rare was uncovered in the kirkyard... a hogback stone, old and mossy, half-buried under the turf near the east wall. ... I sometimes wonder who lied beneath it. A raider? A settler? Either way, he rests now among Scots, Covenanters, and coal miners all alike."

"But we've had other famous visitors, Sir Winston Churchill was my favourite... He even said "good morning, Jock" tae me one Sunday. Just imagine, Winston Churchill knowing my name!... Mind you he had a dug called Jock tae"

"I'm near done myself. The spade feels heavier, and the stones are harder to read, but I still walk the kirkyard and listen for the bell. Dalserf Kirk has stood for centuries, its pulpit lifted high and its people faithful. And in that sacred ground where the hogback lies, I see the proof that this place has always been hallowed...aye, Dalserf is a sacred place alright!"

These three voices, covenanter, weaver woman, and gravedigger, speak across the centuries, yet together they tell one story: of a church that has endured hardship and persecution but also rejoiced in God's goodness in every season. Their voices echo the continuity of faith, the way Dalserf has held generations together in worship and work, joy and sorrow, in a valley shaped by toil and beauty.

Dalserf is not a museum but a living church. Its walls hold memory, yet its doors remain open, welcoming new generations to add their voices. For 370 years, the people of this parish have gathered here and by God's grace, they will continue to do so.





And our work begins now. We, the present members of Dalserf, are called to carry on the story, to go out and share the Good News that has been preached here for centuries. We look back with some pride, with thanksgiving but we look forward in hope and service.



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





Hymn & Bible Study:

We Plough the Fields and Scatter & Psalm 65:9-13

"You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly." Psalm 65:9 (NIV)

The psalmist looks out over the land and sees God's hand everywhere. Rain falling, fields softening, crops growing, valleys clothed with grain. Nature itself seems to be singing.

"the meadows are covered with flocks, and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing."

It's a picture of abundance. But even more, it's a picture of God's generosity. The people of Israel knew that their hard work of ploughing, sowing, and harvesting could only go so far. Without the rain, the sunshine, and the growth that only God could give, there would be no harvest at all.

The hymn "We Plough the Fields and Scatter", picks up that same truth. Yes, we play our part but at the heart of it all lies God's provision.

We Plough the Fields and Scatter

"We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand."

Like the psalm, the hymn reminds us that the seasons, the harvest, and the beauty of autumn are not accidents. They are gifts. Each apple on the tree, each sheaf of grain, each crisp morning is a reminder of God's faithfulness and care.

Harvest hymns like this one are more than songs of gratitude, they are calls to humility. For many of us we are separated from food growing and production. So, these hymns remind us that we depend on God not only for food and rain but for life itself.

What Does This Mean for Us?

Autumn is a season of gathering in. Barns and cupboards fill up, and we give thanks for another year's provision. But it's also a season of reflection.



What kind of "harvest" are we gathering in as a church here in Dalserf and indeed in our own lives?

Are our days bearing fruit that shows kindness, generosity to those in need, patience, and love? Just as farmers depend on God for the growth of crops, we depend on Him for the growth of spiritual fruit in us.

The hymn continues:

"All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,
for all His love."

Gratitude should lead to generosity. When we see every gift as coming from God's love, we are freed to share, with neighbours, with strangers, with those who go without. As a church relieving poverty must be a key part of our work in the community.

Reflect & Respond

- What are you most thankful for this autumn?
- How can this harvest season inspire you to share what you have with others?
- How can we as a church help reduce poverty within our community?
- What kind of "spiritual fruit" do you sense God growing in your life right now?

Prayer

Generous God,
You clothe the fields with grain and paint the trees with colour.
Every good gift comes from You.

Teach me to live with gratitude, to see Your hand in every season,
and to share Your gifts generously with others.
May my life bear fruit that honours You and blesses those around me.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.





"Me v Goliath, No contest!"

By David (as told to you!)

Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 17



Hello again! It's me, David. You might remember that I was chosen by God when I was only a shepherd boy, the youngest in my family. I thought I would spend all my days looking after sheep, playing my harp, and watching the stars at night. But God had other plans for me.

One day, my father Jesse called me in from the fields. "David," he said, "your brothers are with King Saul's army. Take this food to them and see how they are getting on." I was excited, I had never been near a battle before. So off I went, carrying bread and cheese for my brothers.

When I reached the camp, I couldn't believe what I heard. A giant named Goliath stood on the other side of the valley. He was huge...over nine feet tall, wearing heavy armour, and carrying a spear so big it looked like a tree! Every morning and evening he shouted across at God's people, daring someone to fight him. But no one moved. The soldiers were terrified, and even King Saul looked worried.

I asked my brothers, "Why isn't anyone fighting him?" They snapped at me. "Go back to your sheep, David. This is no place for you!" But I couldn't stay silent. Goliath wasn't just mocking us; he was mocking God. That made me angry. I remembered how God had helped me before, when lions and bears tried to steal my sheep. If God had saved me then, why wouldn't He help me now?

I went to King Saul. "Don't be afraid," I said. "I will fight the giant." He stared at me in disbelief. "But you're only a boy!" he cried. Still, I insisted. At last, Saul agreed, and he tried to give me his heavy armour. But it was far too big. I could hardly move! I took it off and picked up only my sling and five smooth stones from the stream.



When Goliath saw me coming, he burst out laughing. "Am I a dog that you come at me with sticks?" he shouted. I didn't let his words scare me. Instead, I shouted back, "You come with sword and spear, but I come in the name of the Lord Almighty!"

I put a stone in my sling, swung it round, and let it fly. Whoosh...bang! The stone hit Goliath right on the forehead. Down he went, with a crash that shook the ground. The Philistines ran away, and God's people cheered.

I wasn't the tallest, or the strongest. But I had something far better. I trusted God, and that was enough.

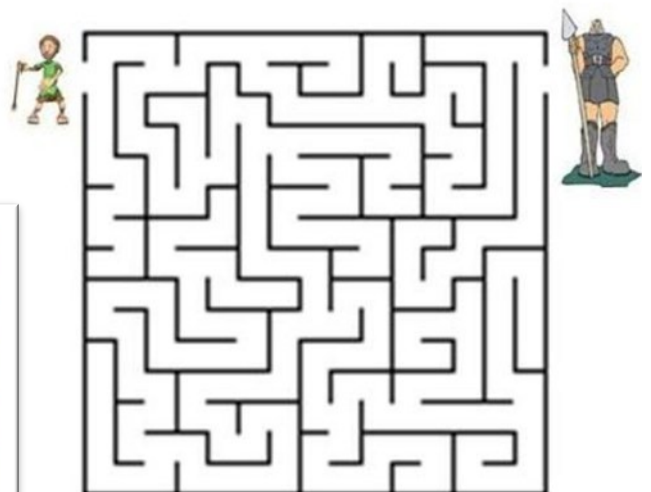
1 Samuel Chapter 17 verse 45

David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty,

Even grown-ups get scared sometimes when they are faced with big problems. But David knew that God was on his side and would take care of him. So, if you are faced with a big problem don't be scared to ask God for help.

I wonder what David will be telling us about next month.

Rev Fiona





A Big Thank You

Well done, to Sheena, Bruce and all the other members who organised, produced such lovely food and tidied up after the Annual Gift Day Luncheon.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Many Thanks,

Janet



Interested in becoming a Dalsersf Member?

Please let me know.

It would be great to have you with us!

Fiona

Saturday Teas

A huge big thank you to each and every one of you who helped in any way to make the teas such a success.

To the bakers, those who gave money donations or donations of baking ingredients. To the servers, the dishwashers, those who served, cleared the tables, took in the money, swept floors etc. If I have missed anyone, I apologise.

Thanks to all who helped make this huge amount £9,900.

Again, thank you,

Anne

Rotas



5th Oct

Mrs A Carson

12th Oct

Mrs I McLean

19th Oct

Mrs J Tennant

26th Oct

Mrs R Clarkson

Items for November Newsletter

If you have any news or information that you wish to submit for the newsletter for November 2025,

please contact the editor by Sun 12th October 2025



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**"The name of the LORD is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe."
(Proverbs 18:10)**

