



Dalserf Parish Church



November 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

kilbride
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

BEATSON
CANCER
CHARITY

LESMAHAGOW
HIGH SCHOOL
CHARITY
CONCERT



DALSERF PARISH CHURCH

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER AT 2PM
FOLLOWED BY TEA & BISCUITS
DONATIONS TO BEATSON CANCER
CHARITY WELCOME

Dalserf Church
Hamilton Hall "House Group"
Friday 7th November at 2pm.
We would love you to join us.

Bible Study
and friendship.



Saturday
15th November
11.30am-3.30pm
Afternoon Tea
& Stalls
Entry £6
Dalserf Parish Church Guild
Christmas Fair

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,

www.dalserf.org.uk

www.facebook.com/dalserfchurch

CHARITY SC016156





November Blessings

Psalm 27:1

"The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?"

Encouraging words from the Psalmist as the days shorten, the nights get longer, and we begin to prepare to turn hearts toward the coming of Christ, and the Light of the World.

I hear lots of folks comment about how quickly this year has gone – Spring seems such a long time ago; Summer seemed to whizz past; Autumn arrived early this year, helped by the storm winds and rains causing the trees to cast their leaves; and low and behold Winter will be upon us soon...scraping the ice off the car early in October was a reminder of that, and since September, the shops and garden centres have been displaying all their Christmas wares, reminding us Christmas is not too far away.

Friendship & Fellowship:

Since our last edition, we've now had our second Dove Café, and whilst we've not had any one attend from outside the church, those who have gathered each session have enjoyed each other's company. Each time we've held it, I've received 'good wish' messages from Kilbryde Hospice, wishing us well, and encouraging us to keep going.

Music to Lift The Spirit:

We also held our first evening service of the new season at the end of September with The Stonehouse Male Voice Choir entertaining us; at our October service we had the Coalburn Brass Band accompanying all our hymns; and at our forthcoming November one, we will welcome the return of the Salvation Army affiliated band, Summer Brass.

On the afternoon of Saturday 29th November at 2pm, we will be hosting a charity concert event in aid of The Beatson Cancer Charity with around 25 pupils (and teachers) from Lesmahagow High School all taking part to entertain us. Entry is free of charge, but a retiring offering will be taken and passed on to the charity. Refreshments will be available after the concert in the hall.

We also have other events coming up both this month and next, covered elsewhere in the magazine...especially The Guild Fair on 15th November.





Love Lives On:

A Service of Remembrance Our annual Service of Remembrance will be held on 9th November at the usual time here in church. Shorter Acts of Remembrance will take place in both Netherburn at 10am and Rorison at 10.30am beside the War Memorials.

On 27th November in association with Co-Op Funeral Care Larkhall and Lesmahagow, Father Wyllie and I will be hosting an ecumenical evening service in the Co-Op Parlour: 'Love Lives On: A Service of Remembrance.' This is being held to celebrate and remember the lives of those lost perhaps in the last year, a challenging time, especially for some whom this may be the first Christmas without their loved one sitting at the Christmas dinner table. This is a really exciting venture as nothing has been done like this before in Larkhall, and I'm grateful to the Co-Op for agreeing to host this and provide refreshments; to Shannon for volunteering her services to play for the hymns; to Hazel who will sing a reflective piece; and to Thomson who has donated forget-me-not seeds to gift as people leave.

Remembering Dalserf's Past:

We recently had the privilege of spending time with the daughter of one of our former ministers. Mrs Gunn, who is now in her late 80's and lives in Gourrock, is the daughter of Rev Louis Watson who ministered at Dalserf from 1937 to 1945. Mrs Gunn, although just a wee girl when the family moved on to Edinburgh, fondly remembered Dalserf and she and Bruce Archibald had a great time exchanging stories and reminiscing about the good 'old' days.

Giving Thanks in Every Season:

I started with a Psalm, and I'd like to end with another:

Psalm 100:4-5

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations."

As we thank God for the Harvest...as we reflect on the Season of Remembrance...and as we prepare and look forward to the joyous Advent and Christmas Season...may we always be grateful and enter His courts with thanksgiving, and this we can do every Sunday when we gather together at 11.30am. So, why not invite a friend and bring them along with you, so they too can give thanks and learn a wee bit more about God's love for them and the world...everyone is welcome at Dalserf!

Fiona





Hymn & Bible Study:

Let the Weak Say I Am Strong & 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

Paul writes these words after admitting that he struggled with weakness, something he called his "thorn in the flesh." It is not clear if this is a physical, emotional or spiritual problem for Paul. However, instead of removing it, God reminded Paul that His grace was enough and that His power shines brightest when we feel weak.

The hymn "Let the Weak Say I Am Strong" takes this truth and puts it on our lips as a declaration of faith:

"Let the weak say I am strong
Let the poor say I am rich
Let the blind say I can see
It's what the Lord has done in me."

Like Paul, the hymn doesn't deny weakness, poverty, or blindness. Instead, it looks beyond them. It invites us to trust that God can transform our lives, giving strength, spiritual riches, and vision where we lack them.

The hymn begins:

"Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son."

Thanksgiving is at the heart of Christian life. The poor, the weak, and the blind are not told to despair but to give thanks, not because of what they have done, but because of what God has done in Christ. Gratitude shifts our perspective from what we lack to what God provides.

What Does This Mean for Us?

In our own lives, weakness is something we often want to hide. Poverty, whether financial, emotional, or spiritual, can make us feel ashamed. And there are times when we struggle to see clearly what God is doing.





This hymn teaches us to turn those very moments into prayers of faith. When we are weak, we can trust that God is strong. When we feel poor, we can remember the spiritual riches we have in Christ (Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3). When we feel blind or uncertain, we can trust Jesus to open our eyes.

Declaring these truths together as a church strengthens our faith. It helps us to live not by sight, but by trust in the God who raises the broken and makes all things new.

Reflect & Respond

- Where have you experienced God's strength in a moment of weakness?
- What "riches" in Christ give you hope and confidence, even if you don't have much by the world's standards?
- How can thanksgiving shape the way you face challenges this week?
- Declaring God's promises in worship will help you live them out day by day?

Prayer

Gracious God,
Thank You for Your Son, Jesus Christ.
When I am weak, You are strong.
When I feel poor, You remind me that in Christ I am rich.
When I cannot see, You open my eyes to Your truth.
Teach me to give thanks with a grateful heart,
and to trust that Your grace is always enough.
Through Jesus Christ my Lord,
Amen





1st Dalserf Girls' Brigade

The GB leaders had a planning day in Rorison in July where we decided on the Theme of Food for this year. We have a lot of things planned but it will also be interesting to see how the topic unfolds.

Karrie Wright completed her practice expedition for her silver Duke of Edinburgh walking for 3 days and camping 2 nights in and around the Douglas area. Following a last minute hitch with the camp site, the girls were very grateful to be allowed to camp in the garden at Hamilton Hall with access to a toilet rather than a farmers field at Douglas! A month later Karrie completed her silver qualifying expedition from Lendalfoot to Fisherton on the Ayrshire coast. Well done Karrie. Karrie is progressing with the other sections of the award and hopefully it will be completed in early 2026.



Tents going up at the end of day one with 30,000 steps completed!



Karrie happy to have completed her expedition



Our new session started on the 1st of September and we were delighted to welcome several new girls to our company. We now have 29 girls attending each week which is fabulous! We have 4 Explorers, 18 Juniors and 7 Brigaders.

To kick off our "Food" theme the Explorers have made fruit kebabs with oodles of chocolate and mini pizzas. As there are quite a few new Juniors they have spent a few weeks getting to know each other and learning about the different food groups. To help Karrie with her DofE skill, the Brigaders are baking for 3 months. So far they have made fake snickers bars, rocky road, brownies and custard creams which have all tasted really nice. They love creating but are less enthusiastic about washing dishes and clearing up!

***"Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity, and honour."
(Proverbs 21:21)***



We joined with the BBs for our rededication service on Sunday 5th October where we were delighted to witness Sarah-Jane Rodger being Commissioned as Girls' Brigade Captain by Hazel Brynes, Commissioner for Hamilton Lanark Division. We wish Sarah-Jane every blessing in her new role and assure her of our love and support.



Karrie Wright was also presented with her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award



Sarah-Jane and Morag Watt were then presented with their 20 year service award and I received my 40 year service award.

Monday 6th October we had our bat walk and although the ranger was unable to join us, the council had kindly given us the detectors to use. Thankfully there were lots of bats detected and after much excitement, we all returned to Hamilton Hall, muddy shoes removed and enjoyed hot chocolate and pancakes which were, as always, delicious. We finished the night with a few camp songs before parents picked the girls up.

Thanks to Anne, Lily, Fiona and Janet for looking after us.

Ann Price



"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)"





As we begin a new chapter at 1st Dalserf Girls' Brigade, I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude to Ann Price for her outstanding dedication and service over the years.

Ann has been a part of our company from the very beginning, joining at its founding in 1983. Her commitment and enthusiasm have been a guiding light to generations of girls. Twenty years ago, Ann stepped into the role of Captain, following in the footsteps of Kay Blair — and under her leadership, the company has gone from strength to strength.

Through her faith, compassion, and tireless effort, Ann has shaped 1st Dalserf Girls' Brigade into the thriving, supportive, and joyful community it is today. Her influence will be felt for many years to come.

As I now take on the role of Captain, I know I have huge shoes to fill, however I want to say a huge thanks to Ann, my mum, for her unwavering support, mentorship, and trust. It is both an honour and a privilege to continue the work she has so passionately led.

Finally, a sincere thank you to Fiona and the congregation for your continued encouragement and support — we couldn't do what we do without you.

With gratitude and faith,

Sarah-Jane Rodger

Captain, 1st Dalserf Girls' Brigade



 Dalserf Parish Church Guild Rorison Church Ashgill ML9 3AF	What is on this November at Dalserf Guild
	Wednesday 12th November 7.15pm Crossreach Sunflower and Daisy Chain Service
	Saturday 15th November 11.30am – 3.30pm Christmas Fair at Hamilton Hall
	Wednesday 26th November 7.15pm John Stevenson, Larkhall Men's Shed

Guild news

We have had some really interesting meetings this September. The Lords Prayer, a liturgy with candles and we also had a visit from Guide dogs for the blind, with Arthur and Brambles the dogs.

In November we are having Crossreach & Daisy Chain service. Our Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 15th November from 11:30am till 3:30pm.

John Stevenson from Larkhall Men's Shed will be joining us to talk about some of the work they do.

Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Blessings,

Anne



**Pie, pint and a parable
17th September 2025**



**Harvest Service
5th October 2025**



"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)





Dalserf Kids' Zone

"My BFF, Jonathon!"

By David (as told to you!)

Bible Passages 1 Samuel 16:14-23;

1 Samuel 18:1-9; and

1 Samuel 20:12-17, 42.



Hi, it's me again, David. Let me tell you, life in King Saul's palace was very different from looking after sheep! Instead of the bleating of lambs and the whisper of the wind, there were trumpets sounding, servants hurrying about, and soldiers clanking in armour. Everything felt so grand and busy compared to the quiet hills of Bethlehem.

The king often called me when he was troubled. His heart was restless, and he could not find peace. But as soon as I began to play my harp, the music filled the room like a gentle breeze across the fields. I could see the worry and fear fade from Saul's face. Sometimes he even smiled. It made me glad that God had given me this gift, not just for myself but to bring comfort to others.

After I defeated Goliath, Saul trusted me with new tasks. He sent me on missions with his soldiers, and I learned how to lead men into battle. At first, I was nervous, but I soon discovered that God was with me, not only in the quiet of the fields but also in the noise of war. The soldiers respected me, and the people sang songs about the victories God gave us.

One of the best things about palace life was meeting Jonathan, Saul's son. From the very first moment we spoke, it felt as though God had tied our hearts together in friendship. Even though he was a prince and I was just a shepherd boy, he treated me as his equal.

Jonathan showed his love for me in an amazing way. He gave me his own robe, his belt, his bow, and even his sword. These were the gifts of a prince, yet he placed them in my hands. It wasn't really about the weapons or the robe; it was about trust. It showed that Jonathan cared for me deeply, and I knew that I could trust him completely too.

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

(Psalm 24:1)





We spent many hours together. We laughed, we talked about the battles we had fought, and we spoke about our hopes for the future of Israel. Sometimes, we prayed together and gave thanks for all the Lord had done. Jonathan was loyal, brave, and kind. He was more than a friend... he was like a brother.

Together, we made a promise before the Lord. We agreed that no matter what happened, we would always be faithful friends, and that our families would care for one another in years to come.

Even in the grand halls of the palace, I carried my harp with me, and I carried Jonathan's friendship in my heart. Both were gifts from God, and both reminded me that He was always with me.

David's story tells us today about how important his friendship was with Jonathan. God gives us friends, and we should make sure that we take care of them and appreciate them.

Hopefully David will tell us more of his story in next month's Newsletter.

Rev Fiona



To find the message go round the path twice. First use every letter in a circle and then on the second turn use every letter in square box



Social work Children's Toy Appeal

Its that time of year again when we ask members where possible to donate a toy to the Social Work Children's toy Appeal, These gifts should be placed unwrapped in a gift bag and labelled Boy / Girl and age the toy is suitable for.

The date of uplift of these gifts will be announced in due course,

Many thanks in advance for your donations,

regards,

Janet.

Harvest Thanksgiving Food Bank Donation

We received a heartfelt thanks from Kitty, the Larkhall Food Bank manager, for the generous donations. Your kind offerings will help meet essential needs across the local community. Thank you again for all your donations and a special note of appreciation to those who helped with the handling of 176kg of food.

regards,

Janet.

New Member

A warm welcome is extended Mrs Joyce Larson who became a church member on the 21st September 2025.



Interested in becoming a Dalsersf Member?

Please let me know.

It would be great to have you with us!

Fiona

Rotas



2nd Nov

Mrs S Donegan

9th Nov

Mrs L Marshall

16th Nov

Mrs J Pollok

23rd Nov

Mrs C Prentice

30th Nov

Mrs L Budgell

Items for December Newsletter

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

please contact the editor by Sun 16th November 2025



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Mrs Janet Callander

Presbytery Elder

Tom Anderson

Treasurer

Mrs Margaret Baillie

Organist

Kieran J Hunter

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Mrs Lily Budgell

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" However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace." (Acts 20:24)

