



Dalserf Parish Church



December 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.

Your invitation to Christmas 2025 at Dalserf Parish Church

Day	Date	Event	Time
Saturday	29 November	Lesmahagow High School Concert	2.00pm
Sunday	30 November	Songs of Praise with "Summer Brass"	7.00pm
Wednesday	3 December	Pie, Pepsi & Nativity at Rorison Hall	7.30pm
Sunday	14 December	Carols in the Valley with Il Coro	7.00pm
Thursday	18 December	Dalserf Primary School Service	10.00am
Sunday	21 December	Nativity Service	11.30am
Wednesday	24 December	Christmas Eve Fellowship	10.00pm
Wednesday	24 December	Watchnight Service	11.30pm
Thursday	25 December	Christmas Morning Service	10.30am
Sunday	28 December	Lessons in Carols	11.30am

BIBLE Study Dalserf Church
Hamilton Hall
"House Group"

Friday 12th December 2pm

Note change of date!

A warm welcome awaits you!

**Carols in the Valley
at Dalserf Church
with Il-Coro**

Sunday 14th December 7.00pm

Tea, coffee and
Fellowship to follow.

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
10th December & 14th January
1pm to 2.30pm



1st Larkhall Boys' Brigade

Every Thursday

Anchor Boys P1-3. 6.30pm to 7.30pm
Junior Section P4-6. 6.30pm to 8.00pm

at Rorison Hall, Ashgill

**It is great to have the
Boys' Brigade back at Dalserf**

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,





"Prepared... or Surprised?"

As we rapidly approach Christmas once again, I find myself thinking about the different ways people prepare for this season. Some have their cards written in November, their tree up on the first of December, and their presents all wrapped neatly with ribbons and tags. Others...well let's just say they're still hunting for Sellotape on Christmas Eve! I used to be in the first camp, always organised well in advance... but I am not sure if it's been Tom's influence or the 'busyness' of Dalserf that has moved me strongly into the second camp now, but it's not a complaint.

But long before any of us were preparing for Christmas, there were two very different groups on the road to Bethlehem.

The Wise Men were the planners. They studied the skies, packed their supplies, and started off on a long journey following a star. They were as ready as anyone could be. And yet, for all their preparation, they were surely surprised by what they found: not a royal palace, but a humble home; not a prince clothed in gold, but a child held in his mother's arms.

Then there were the shepherds. They were not prepared at all. They were simply doing the night shift on the hillside when heavens broke into angelic song. No packing, no planning, but wow, angels singing and a message too wonderful to ignore! And with no hesitation, they left their flocks and hurried to Bethlehem. What they found surprised them too: God had come close, not to the mighty, but to the ordinary.

This Christmas, our community will have both kinds of people.

Some will be ready for Christmas weeks in advance, while others will tumble into it at the last minute. Some will be expecting joy, while others may be expecting loneliness, struggle, or stress.

But perhaps, like the wise men and the shepherds, they too might be surprised by what they find if someone invites them to church, if you invite them.

As a church, we have the privilege of holding out the same message the angels proclaimed: "Good news of great joy for all people." We have a place where people can encounter something unexpected to them, a welcome, a warmth, a hope, and the gentle presence of Christ.





So, this Christmas, let me encourage us all to extend an invitation.

To a neighbour.

To a friend.

To someone who hasn't been to church in a long while, or perhaps ever.

They may be prepared or unprepared. They may be seeking like the Wise Men or startled like the shepherds. But just like them, they may discover something far greater than they imagined: the God who comes close, the God who surprises, the God who still brings joy.

Let's be a church that opens its doors wide and welcomes people in to meet the Christ who welcomes us all.

And this Christmas we have so much going on, surely there is something for everybody, so don't be shy or be a stranger...come and join us. From our Pie, Pint and a Nativity at Dalserf Bowling Club on 3rd, to our school services on 18th, our Nativity on 21st and our Lessons in Carols service on 28th.

We also look forward to the choir "Il Coro" coming to lead our Carols in the Valley on 14th Dec.

Our watchnight Service on Christmas Eve is a service where many people attend who may only come once a year, so let's make sure that they feel welcome.

Remember we also have a Christmas morning Service at the earlier than usual time of 10.30am. If you can, please come along and enjoy the celebration.

And let's not forget a special day between Christmas and New Year when Claire and Joe will be married here at Dalserf on the 27th. How excited is Maisie going to be!

Since our last magazine we have welcomed new members by transfer into church, Graeme and Kim McCulloch together with Joyce Larson. Welcome to all three of them.

If you are interested in becoming a member too, then do please speak to me about it.

Wishing you and yours a very merry Christmas and a blessed New Year when the time comes.

Fiona





Bible & Carol Study:

Christmas Carol; Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Bible Passage: Luke 2:8-14

Theme: God's good news of peace and the coming of the King



The Bible Reading: Luke 2:8-14

"Now there were shepherds in the same country, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.""

The shepherds were ordinary people, alert with the simple attentiveness of those who watch the flocks at night. Into that ordinary scene heaven broke with an extraordinary proclamation. The announcement was not aimed at rulers or teachers, but at those living close to the ground. This is a great reminder that God's "Good News" comes to all people, especially to the humble and overlooked.

The proclamation is both public and personal. It was announced publicly to shepherds, but its promise is for each person who hears and receives it.

The shepherds' response was immediate: they went to Bethlehem and then told others. Worship and witness belong together.

The Hymn: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley and others shaped the words that join praise with proclamation. The carol calls us to listen ("Hark!") and to join the angels in their song of praise. Its central claims are bold: a Saviour is born; God's glory breaks into our world; and the result is peace between God and humanity.

"Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."

This line brings out the depth of the angels' message. This is not a temporary calm or cease fire, but full reconciliation: God reaching across the breach to restore relationship. The hymn moves us from astonishment at the heavenly choir to a personal response of worship and welcome.



The carol blends the joy of celebration (the angels' song) and the message (Christ is Saviour and King).

Reflection

This passage and hymn together remind us that:

God's arrival in Christ is good news for ordinary people in ordinary places.

The peace promised at Christmas is rooted in reconciliation, so that we can have a relationship with God.

Christmas is not only a sentimental memory; but part of God's plan for us.

Reflect & Respond

How might you, share the angels' message of "Good News" with your family, friends and neighbours, this Christmas?

Prayer

Gracious God,

You sent your angels to bring good news to the lowly and to proclaim peace.

Open our ears so that we too hear the Good News.

Fill our hearts with wonder as we welcome our Saviour and give us courage to tell others of the joy we have received.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



Dalserf Parish Church Guild

Rorison Church

Ashgill

ML9 3AF

What is on at Dalserf Guild

Wednesday 10th December

7.15pm

Christmas Singing

Kenny Maison & Friends

Wednesday 14th January

7.15pm

Business Meeting and Bring & Buy

Wednesday 28th January

7.15pm

Scots Night, Simple Men

Guild Christmas Fayre

A huge big thank you to everyone who helped in any way as this doesn't happen in one day, in some cases it's months, weeks and days of work !

We were fortunate God answered our prayers as we had a dry day.

Lots of people supported us and we made the wonderful sum of £2733.28p

Again thank you all,

Anne

"The angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favour with GOD."
(Luke 1:30)





A tribute to Lieutenant Sadie Newlands

It was with great sadness that at the end of May, we learned of the passing of our dear friend and Girls' Brigade colleague Sadie Newlands. Some of you may not know the Sadie of old, so as a tribute, with Lee's permission, I am sharing my memories of "wee Sadie".

In September 1983 Sadie, Kay Blair and I were commissioned as officers in Girls' Brigade Scotland and so, 1st Dalserf Girls Brigade was born.



For the next, roughly 25 years, Sadie took the explorers section for primaries 1-3 so very much in the formative years where she nurtured and developed the girls in her section.

One of Sadie's favourite topics was road safety with a song -

At the kerb we stand and wait....

Then we look from right to left

Then we listen for cars and vans.....

If all is clear we march across.....

For road safety.

And if the girls didn't march smartly across the imaginary road in the hall the whistle was blown and they were returned to the kerb to do it again.

I think it was probably inevitable that Sadie went on to become a traffic warden and she often told stories of the "discussion" she had with people parking on double yellows or one football manager who didn't have his car park pass with him.

Picture the scene – Sadie, who really didn't like doing the football traffic, standing at the end of the road to Douglas Park,

Sadie – "pass please"

Manager – "I'm Joe Bloggs"

Sadie – "Pass please"

Manager – "Do you not know who I am, I am Joe Bloggs the team manager"

Sadie – "And I'm Sadie Newlands the traffic warden – pass please"

" And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him JESUS." (Luke 1:31)





Sadie was also a stickler for good manners, in fact any of Sadie's Explorers will know - "It's very rude to cough or sneeze and not to say - excuse me please".



At the time the company started, Grace Allan from 1st Stonehouse was the Divisional Commissioner and Sadie and Grace became firm friends. Sadie went on to do her camp training to be able to help Grace take the Stonehouse girls away to their annual camp at Pittenweem. Each Thursday at camp they played a game of rounders where they invited the local children to join in with Sadie and Grace having a team each. Grace was batting and Sadie fielding, each time Grace batted Sadie managed to get the ball onto the base as Grace approached and she was out. Time and again, this happened until Grace realised the bold Sadie had an extra ball in her pocket and was using that to ensure Grace was out and Sadie's team won.

Another time she was on cook duty and when one wee lass was struggling to peel potatoes and thinking she would get out the task was met with - "Darling, you don't know how to peel potatoes, Auntie Sadie will show you".

One of the girls who attended camp and is now leader in another company said "I was probably 14 or 15. Both Sadie and Grace were great fun, We loved our camp days. It's the memories of Girls Brigade that will always live on"

As we all know, Sadie's baking being legendary

One guild evening was a taste and try where the members had to bring their home baking which was eaten with their tea. Sadie not wanting to admit she wasn't a baker asked Tam McLean, who had the local bakers van, to make her an apple tart on her pyrex plate and burn it a wee bit at the edge to make it look homemade.

Tam obliged and Sadie presented her home made apple pie on the night, only to be asked by the Guild President for the recipe. Without pausing for breath, Sadie promised she would bring it next time. Sadie's plan was to see Tam through the week, get his recipe and present it at the next meeting. That was scuppered though as Tam the baker was admitted to hospital that week and so Sadie had to confess that actually baking wasn't her forte.

In her defence Sadie actually did a fabulous truffle so we really did underestimate her baking skill.

"He will be great and will be called the son of the most high; and the LORD GOD will give him the throne of his father David." (Luke 1:32)





Sadie was always up for a laugh, for a few years Dalserf church held a “Good Old Days” show taking on the same format at the television show. One year we did a small sketch based on a pantomime rehearsal.

My opening line was “I am Cinderella, I am young and beautiful” (use your imagination), to be followed by Sadie’s line “And I am an old crone” you can just imagine the look the audience got from Sadie when they dared to laugh!

As the sketch progressed Sadie had to grant me 3 wishes and, saving it until the night of the performance, her magic wand turned out to be a toilet brush which she had dipped in water so with each wish I was soaked. I am sure it was a new loo brush she used though!

Sadie Newlands was full of character and there are many Sadie isms – from the poor dogs Kelly kitchen and Callie Corner to if mum and Sadie were out and they wanted home it was “Helen, we need to get home to let the dog out” Whether she had a dog at that time or not.

When Lana, Sadie’s granddaughter joined Explorers she was well warned (by Sadie) that at Girls’ Brigade she was to be called Mrs Newlands and not Nana which of course Lana strictly adhered to! Fast forward 13 years and Lana undertook training to become a Commissioned leader in 1st Dalserf – still referring to Nana as Mrs Newlands. Sadie was one very, very proud Nana on the day Lana was Commissioned, and even more special that I was Commissioner at the time so got to carry this out in front of a beaming Sadie.



Sadie Newlands had a huge impact on the lives of so many girls who came through Girls’ Brigade and we are so thankful for her service, friendship and example.

Ann Price

“ And he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end.”
(Luke 1:33)





Welcome to the Christmas Edition of
"What is your favourite biscuit?"

This month we have, Margaret Grove, and a couple who have been at Dalserf for a "few years" now, Jeanette and John McPhee.

Have a lovely Christmas.

1 What is your favourite biscuit?

Jeanette Tunnock's Caramel Wafers

John Tunnock's Caramel Wafers

Margaret McVitie's Gold

2 What is your favourite Christmas movie?

Jeanette White Christmas

John White Christmas

Margaret It's a Wonderful Life

3 Which famous person would you like to invite to your Christmas dinner?

Jeanette Bradley Walsh, because I know him, and he is a lovely guy.

John Santa, he can still get down my chimney.

Margaret Elvis

4 What is your favourite Christmas song or carol?

Jeanette Silent night

John I'm dreaming of a White Christmas"

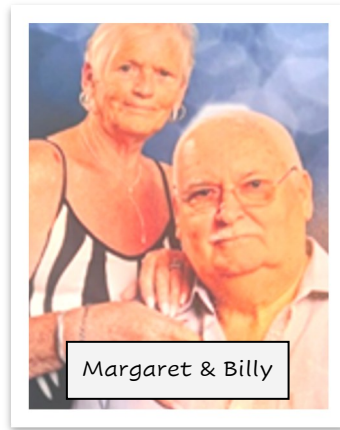
Margaret Silent night

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

Jeanette Everything, the minister, the people, the history and I have been coming since I was a wee girl.

John The love of the congregation and the overwhelming feeling of being in a special holy place and being aware of centuries of worship in this place.

Margaret It is so friendly and welcoming.



Margaret & Billy



Jeanette & John



Dalserf Kids' Zone

"King Saul is after me!"

By David (as told to you!)

Bible Passages 1 Samuel 19:8-10;

1 Samuel 20:35-42; and Psalm 27:1.



Hi, it's me again, last time I was telling you about how good life was in King Saul's palace and about my friendship with his son, Jonathon. Well, life in King Saul's palace began to change, and not in a good way. I could sense it in the how the king looked at me. At first, he had been glad of my music and proud of my victories, but now he just looked angry with me all the time.

What did not help was the songs that people sang, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands". You can imagine that these songs made him jealous and afraid because I was more popular than him.

One day, while I was playing my harp for him as I always did, Saul suddenly threw his spear across the room! I jumped out of the way just in time. The spear stuck in the wall where I had been sitting only a moment before. My heart pounded. I knew I had to get out of there... and soon.

I ran from the palace that night, confused and frightened. Why was the king trying to hurt me when I had done nothing wrong? I only wanted to serve him and serve God.

But God did not leave me alone. Jonathan, my best friend, came to warn me. We met secretly in a field outside the city. I could see how bad he felt, because he knew what his father was planning on doing to me.



He said to me, "Go in peace, for we have promised to be friends with each other in the name of the Lord." We hugged, and I am not embarrassed to say that we both cried, because we didn't know if we would ever meet again. Then Jonathan turned back toward the palace, and I walked away into the hills.

For many days I travelled from place to place, hiding from Saul's men. I had to sleep in caves and among rocks, and I wondered what would happen to me. Yet even in those lonely places, I felt the Lord's presence close beside me. I sang to Him under the stars:


"The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?"

Even though my heart was sad, God gave me courage. He reminded me that His promises never fail. I don't know how my story will end, but I know that God is with me, and that was enough.

David's story tells us today about how even when things seem to be going badly, God is still there with us.

Hopefully David will tell us more about what is happening between him and King Saul in next month's Newsletter.

Rev Fiona




**1st Dalserf
Girls' Brigade
Every Monday**

**P1-3 6.30pm - 7.30pm
P4-S6 7.00pm - 8.30pm.**

at Rorison Hall, Ashgill

It's the place to bee!



Notice Board



Annual Shoe Box Appeal

A total of 67 shoe boxes were donated to the appeal this year. Thank you to everyone for their kindness and generosity.

Janet.

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to Graeme and Kim McCulloch on becoming members on the 21st October 2025.

Janet.

Saturday Teas

We had a very successful summer of Saturday Teas. Our monies were distributed to the following:

Church, Kilbride Hospice, School Bus, Marie Curie, Foodbank
Larkhall and District Volunteer Group, Girls Brigade, Boys Brigade
Sunday School, Larkhall Men's Shed, Mad Ministries,
Guide dogs for the Blind and to the Street Pastors.

Thanks to all who worked and supported us,

Anne McHolm



Interested in becoming a Dalsersf Member?

Please let me know.

It would be great to have you with us!

Fiona

Rotas



7th Dec

Lee Nimmo

14th Dec

Rae Hunter

21st Dec

Rev F Anderson

28th Dec

Janet Callander

4th Jan

Liz Lawson

11th Jan

Sheena Archibald

18th Jan

Ann Carson

25th Jan

Helen Forrest

Items for February Newsletter

If you have any news or information that you wish to submit for the newsletter for February 2026,

please contact the editor by Sun 11th January 2026

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Tom Anderson

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Bruce Archibald

Deputy Treasurer

Mrs Margaret Baillie

Presbytery Elder

Tom Anderson

Organist

Kieran J Hunter

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" Thanks be to GOD for his indescribable gift! "

(2 Corinthians 9:15)

