



# Dalserf Parish Church



February 2026

## Upcoming Events

### The Alpha Course

Alpha

#### 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 Parish Church  
"Songs of Praise in the Valley"



Come along and join the worship!

Sunday  
22<sup>nd</sup>  
February  
at 7pm.

Followed  
by tea and  
a chat.

#### GET THE MAX!

- PIE
- PEPSI
- PARABLE



OTHER SOFT DRINKS AVAILABLE!

#### A PIE, A PEPSI AND A PARABLE

Rorison Hall, Ashgill  
Wednesday  
February 18  
7.30 - 9.00pm



An Alpha course returns to Larkhall New Parish church and **ALL ARE WELCOME** to attend. We will meet on Thursday evenings from 7.00 till 8.30pm. The 10 week course will start on 5th of February 2026 and will be held in our St Machans Church building, Church Street Larkhall.

The sessions cover the basics of the Christian Faith in a simple and straight forward way. If you are searching to understand or find answers, I would encourage you to consider being part of the next course and if you would like more information, please contact Graham Duncan..... **Telephone: 07889 007427 .... Email: [grahamdunder85@gmail.com](mailto:grahamdunder85@gmail.com) .... or just come along.**

Don't worry if you cannot attend some of the weeks as you can catch up online..... It does not matter if you attend church or not and you can also bring your friend if they would like to come along ..... **It would be great to see you there.**

#### Everyone has questions.

Exploring is good. We're built for it. Explore more about life, faith and meaning with Alpha.

Alpha



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,

Each year, congregations across the Church of Scotland are asked to provide attendance figures for national statistics. These numbers matter. They help the wider Church understand patterns of worship, plan for the future, and reflect on where God's people are gathering. I am pleased to say that, at Dalserf, our numbers are increasing, and that is something for which we can give thanks.

However, as important as these figures are, they never tell the whole story.

Attendance is a helpful tool, but it can also become a trap if we allow numbers alone to define faithfulness or success. The Church has never been only about counting "bums on seats". From the very beginning, it has been about people being formed as disciples of Jesus Christ, growing in faith, love, service, and community.

Numbers can show momentum, but they do not measure prayer offered quietly, kindness shown faithfully, or relationships built patiently over time. They cannot capture the depth of conversations over coffee, the care shown to a neighbour, or the steady commitment of those who worship week by week and serve behind the scenes.

What truly strengthens a congregation is not occasional large gatherings, but consistent presence, people choosing, Sunday by Sunday, to worship God together, to encourage one another, and to live out their faith in daily life. Regular rhythms of worship and service shape us far more deeply than any single "big" occasion ever could.



As we record our statistics, let us do so honestly and responsibly, but without losing sight of what matters most. Our calling is not to chase growth for its own sake, but to cultivate spiritual health: to be a church where people feel welcomed, known, and nurtured in faith; where invitations are offered naturally; where care and follow-up happen thoughtfully; and where worship leads us into lives of love and service.

Let us give thanks for the signs of growth we see, while continuing to prioritise people over performance, presence over numbers, and faithfulness over flash. If we do that, we can trust that God will continue to work among us in ways that no spreadsheet could ever fully record.

With gratitude for each one of you, and for all that God is doing in and through Dalserf.

Love

Fiona





Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
A reflection on 1 Corinthians 13:4-13



As February begins and Valentine's Day approaches, we are surrounded by words and images about love. For some it is joyful and warm; for others it can feel painful or exclusionary. Charles Wesley's hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* invites us to pause and consider a deeper, stronger love, the love that comes from God.

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul reminds the church that love is not primarily a feeling, but a way of being shaped by God. Love, he writes, is patient and kind. It does not insist on its own way. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. This is not a sentimental description; it is a demanding one. It describes a love that looks remarkably like Jesus.

Wesley begins the hymn by pointing us to the source of such love:  
"Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down."

God's love does not begin with us striving harder or feeling more deeply. It begins with God giving Himself. The love Paul describes is possible only because it is first received.

Later in the hymn we pray,

"Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast."

Paul's words remind us that love is lived out in the ordinary struggles of life, in patience when relationships are strained, in kindness when it would be easier to withdraw, in hope when circumstances feel uncertain. For those who find Valentine's Day difficult, this passage reassures us that God's love is not dependent on romance or success but is present and active in every season of life.

Paul also tells us that love outlasts everything else. Prophecies will cease; knowledge will pass away but love never ends. Wesley echoes this eternal perspective when he looks forward to God completing His "new creation." The love we glimpse now is only the beginning of what God is bringing to fulfilment.

As we move through February, *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* and 1 Corinthians 13 together call us to root our understanding of love not in fleeting feelings, but in God's enduring grace. We are invited to receive that love, to be shaped by it, and to let it flow through our lives — patient, kind, hopeful, and faithful.



### Reflection:

Which aspect of love described in 1 Corinthians 13 is God inviting you to grow in this month?

### Prayer

Loving God,

We thank You for Your love, poured out for us in Jesus Christ.

Shape our hearts by that love,

that we may be patient and kind,

generous in hope,

and faithful in all we do.

Help us to live out Your love in our homes, our church, and our community,  
now and always.

Amen.



### **Happy New Year**

Looking forward to our meetings in the new year, hopefully they are as varied as last session.

We begin with our business meeting and "Bring and Buy stall". The 28th of January 2026 is our Scots night, entertained by Simply Men.

On the 11th of February 2026 we have Alex Stuart on his life's journey and the 25th February we have Eileen Logan, Older peoples champion.

Looking forward to seeing everyone

Regards,

**Anne**



We finished our session in December with our Annual Coffee and Carol Evening. Thank you to everyone who attended, and brought donating along for Loaves and Fishes foodbank. Our collection filled 3 trolleys when dropped off the following day. Special thanks to the ladies who baked the tasty treats for everyone to enjoy.

We were asked to attend the Ashgill Christmas Light Switch on to sing carols for the community to join in with. It was a very cold night, but we still had a good number of girls attending.



We started back on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January, with new girls joining our Junior section, which was a lovely start to the year.

We are looking forward to our Pancake night on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February, from 7pm. All welcome for some delicious homemade pancakes. Our Lucky dip stall will be at this, and any donation for this would be greatly appreciated.

We are in the process of planning Camp in May 2026. We are returning to PGL Dalgүise, which is an activity centre with a wide range of activities.

Since taking over as Captain, I have received great support from my fellow leaders, parents and the church, which I am truly grateful for.

**Sarah-Jane**

**Captain**



*Maisie, Sophie and David at our Christmas Nativity in Dalserf*



*"I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand,  
I shall not be shaken ." ( Psalm 16:8 )*



This month we have two long time members of Dalserf.

I am delighted to have Robert & Rosemary Clarkson in the WIYFB article this month. Robert and Rose-May have been keen to get involved for quite a while.

*The Keeper of the Biscuit Tin*



What is your favourite biscuit?

Rose-May      My favourite is a Tunnock's Caramel Wafer

Robert      Homemade Empire Biscuit

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

Rose-May      Merry Widow

Robert      Les Misérables

What was your first car?

Rose-May      Mini Clubman

Robert      Mini Clubman Estate

What is your favourite hymn?

Rose-May      CH4 528 Make me a channel of your peace

Robert      CH4 737 Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?

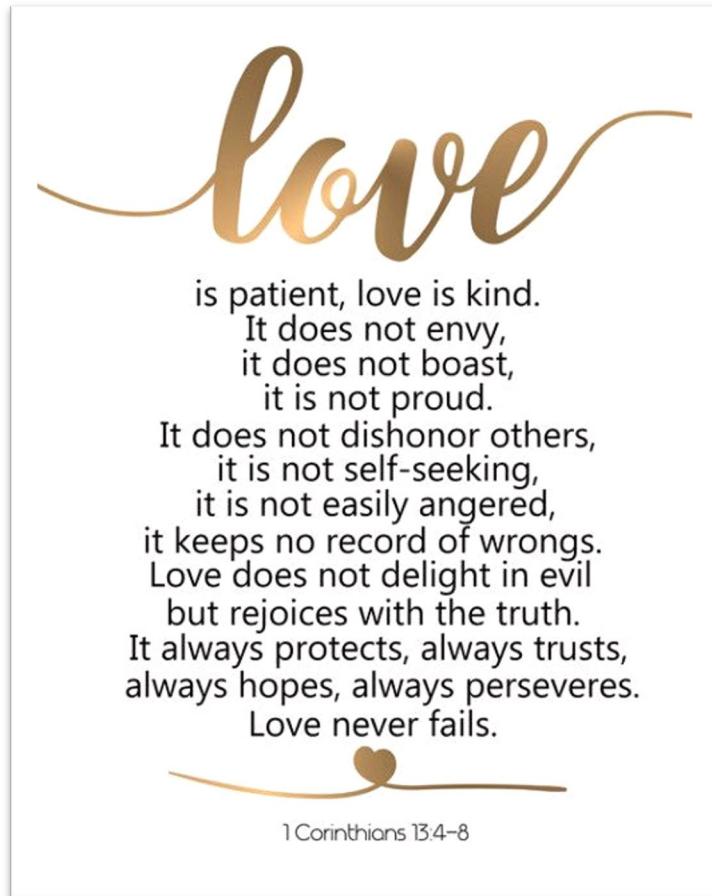
What do you think is special about Dalserf?

Rose-May      The warmth, love and friendliness that enfolds you and the joy of welcome as you go through the door into this very special place

Robert      The friendliness, love and fellowship that radiates brings great peace and comfort; the music is fantastic and Fiona's sermons are truly inspirational.



**Congratulations to Claire and Joe, pictured here with Maisie, on the occasion of their marriage in Dalserf Church on Saturday 27th December 2025**





**"When I became King!"**

**By David (as told to you!)**

**Bible Passages 2 Samuel 2:1-4**

**and 2 Samuel 5:1-5.**



You might remember that many years earlier, when I was still a boy looking after my father's sheep, the prophet Samuel anointed me with oil and said that God had chosen me to be king one day. I didn't really understand it then. I was just a shepherd who liked playing my harp!

But God never forgot His promise.

For a long time, I served King Saul. I played music for him, I fought battles for him, and I tried my best to honour him. Even when Saul grew jealous of me and I had to hide in caves, I still wouldn't hurt him. I knew he was the king, and I trusted God to put me on the throne when the time was right.

Then one sad day, news came that King Saul had died in battle. I felt a deep mixture of sorrow and uncertainty. I didn't rejoice. Saul had once been like a father to me, and Jonathan, my best friend, had fallen too.

I asked God, "What should I do now?"

And God told me to go to the land of Judah, my home region.

When I arrived, the leaders of Judah gathered around me. They said, "David, we want you to be our king."

So they anointed me with oil, and for the first time I became a king, king of Judah. But only one part of Israel.

For seven long years the rest of the country followed one of Saul's sons. It wasn't an easy time. There were arguments and battles, and the people were divided. But I kept praying, "Lord, guide me. Make me the kind of king You want me to be."



At last, something wonderful happened. The leaders from all the tribes of Israel came to see me in Hebron. They said:

"David, we know you are the one who led our armies. God told you that you would shepherd His people. Will you be our king?"

I felt a weight lift from my shoulders. God's promise was coming true.

The elders took oil and anointed me again, right there in Hebron. And that day, at thirty years old, I became king over the whole nation of Israel.

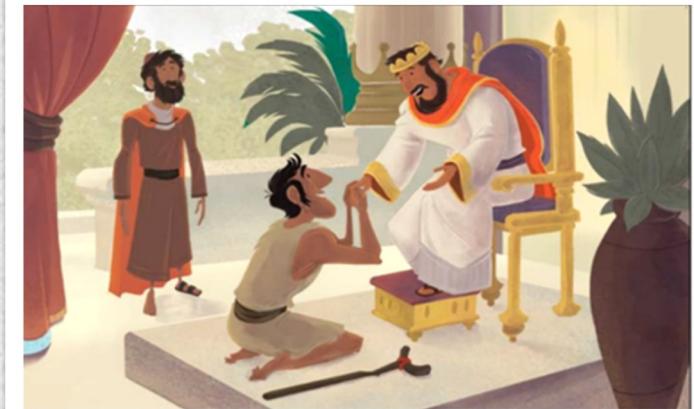
I didn't become king because I was the biggest or the strongest. I became king because God chose me and helped me every step of the way, even through the hard times.

And I learned something important:

**When God has a plan for your life, no one can stop it. All you need to do is trust Him and follow where He leads.**

Next month we will hear from another Bible hero and see what their life was like.

*Rev Fiona*



Can you spot ten differences between the images of King David?

# Notice Board



## Baby News

Congratulations to the proud parents Louise and Ross Boyle on the birth of Vera Poppy Anne on the 14th December 2025. A wee mention also for the proud grandparents, Graeme and Kim McCulloch.

**Janet.**

## New Member

A warm welcome is extended to Mrs Hazel Blair on becoming a member of the church on the 21st December 2025

**Janet.**

## Wedding Bells

A special mention for Claire and Joe Montgomery whose wedding was held in Dalserf church on the 27th December 2025. Love and congratulations to both of them and wee Maisie from all at Dalserf.

**Janet.**

## Laugh and Craft at Rorison

We are looking at the possibility of starting a craft group in the near future within Rorison. If anyone is interested in joining in with some fun craft time, please contact Janet Callander.

**Janet.**

## Rotas



**1st Feb**

**Beattie Anderson**

**8th Feb**

**Joanna Gilchrist**

**15th Feb**

**Margaret Paterson**

**22nd Feb**

**Bert Gold**

**1st Mar**

**John Wilson**

## ***Items for March Newsletter***

*If you have any news or information that you wish to submit for the newsletter for March 2026, please contact the editor by Sun 15th February 2026*

## Contacts

### **Minister (Locum)**

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### **Session Clerk**

Mrs Janet Callander

### **Deputy Session Clerk**

Tom Anderson

### **Presbytery Elder**

Tom Anderson

### **Treasurer**

Bruce Archibald

### **Deputy Treasurer**

Mrs Margaret Baillie

### **Organist**

Kieran J Hunter

### **Flowers**

Mrs Lily Budgell

### **Church Officer (Rorison)**

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### **Church Officer (Dalserf)**

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Elizabeth Reynolds

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## **Hamilton Hall Bookings**

Booking Secretary: Norah McGuckin  
**0795 5856326**

*“ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” ( Romans 15:13 )*

