



# Dalserf Parish Church



**March 2026**

**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



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

11<sup>th</sup> March

1pm to 2.30pm



**BIGGAR HIGH SCHOOL**



**LESMAHAGOW HIGH SCHOOL**



**SCHOOL CHARITY CONCERT**

## DALSERF PARISH CHURCH

## FOR KILBRYDE HOSPICE

LARKHALL ACADEMY

CARLUKE HIGH SCHOOL



**SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**AT 2PM**

**FOLLOWED BY TEA & BISCUITS**



Dalserf Parish Church  
“Songs of Praise in the Valley”

Sunday  
22 March  
at 7.00pm

With tea and fellowship to follow.

Come along and bring a friend

**Dalserf Sunday School**  
Every Sunday  
11.30am - 12.30pm  
Find out what all the buzz is about!

**Prayer for Others**

We ask the congregation of Dalserf to keep the following in their thoughts and prayers,

**Georgie Wells**  
**David Wells**

Both are suffering from poor hearing and eyesight

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,

## Why a Simple Invitation Matters

One of the quiet truths about church life is this: most people who come through our doors do so because someone they know invited them. It's rarely because of our website, or even one of our Facebook posts. It's because a familiar face said, "Would you like to come with me?"

That personal invitation makes all the difference.

Many people feel unsure about coming to church. They wonder what it will be like, whether they'll fit in, or if they'll feel awkward walking in on their own. A warm invitation from someone they trust can gently remove those worries.

Church events, online information, and notices all have their place. They help people know what's happening and remind us of what's on. But on their own, they rarely bring someone new into worship. What really opens the door is relationship.

The most effective invitations are the ones that feel safe and personal. A quick conversation at the school gate, a chat over coffee, a friendly word to a neighbour, or an invitation to sit together on a Sunday morning. When someone knows they won't be alone, they are far more likely to say yes.

Sometimes the invitation is to worship itself. Other times it might be to something smaller and more relaxed, a coffee morning, a group, a special service, or a church event. These moments give people a chance to experience church life gently and naturally, without pressure.

Often, the strongest invitations grow out of everyday life. Shared meals, walks, conversations, and friendships create trust over time.





Faith doesn't need to be forced into those moments. When the time is right, an invitation to church feels like a natural next step rather than a big ask.

As a church family, we don't need to become salespeople or feel awkward about inviting others. We simply need to be ourselves, welcoming, kind, and open. When we love people well, invitations flow naturally.

So perhaps the question for us is not, "How do we get more people to church?" but rather, "Who has God already placed in my life?" A neighbour. A friend. A family member. Someone who might appreciate an invitation, especially if it comes with a smile and the offer to walk in together.

Let's keep creating spaces where relationships can grow. Let's keep being a church where people feel they belong. And let's trust that God works through simple, faithful invitations, offered one person at a time.

After all, every new face in church usually begins with a simple sentence:

"Would you like to come with me?"

So, as I always say, "Plant the seed!"

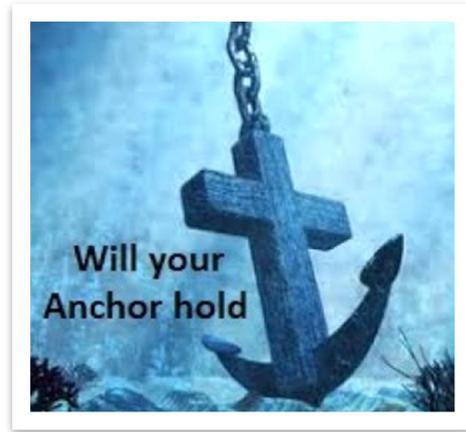
Love

Fiona





Bible & Hymn Study:  
Will Your Anchor Hold?  
A Reflection on Hebrews 6:19:



The hymn “Will Your Anchor Hold?” asks a searching question. It does not pretend that life is calm or predictable. Instead, it speaks honestly about storms, strong tides and fierce winds, while pointing us towards a hope that holds firm when everything else feels uncertain.

A New Testament passage that connects beautifully with this hymn is Hebrews 6:19: “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”

The letter to the Hebrews was written to Christians who were tired, discouraged and tempted to give up. They had faced hardship and opposition, and the journey of faith felt heavier than they had expected. Into that reality comes this simple but powerful image. Hope in Christ is like an anchor for the soul. It does not remove the storm, but it keeps the ship from drifting and breaking apart.

The hymn echoes this truth as it asks whether our anchor holds in the storms of life. Illness, grief, uncertainty about the future, worries about family or finances can all feel like powerful waves pulling us off course. The question is not whether storms will come, but what we are holding on to when they do.

Hebrews reminds us that our hope is not based on our strength or faithfulness, but on God’s promises, fulfilled in Jesus. Earlier in the chapter, we are told that God is trustworthy and unchanging. Because of that, our hope is secure. Christ has gone ahead of us, even into suffering and death, and has come through to new life. That is why the anchor holds.

This hymn also gently challenges us. If our hope is truly anchored in Christ, then we are called to trust him not only in calm seas but also when the waves rise. Faith is not about pretending everything is fine. It is about choosing to cling to God’s promises when we feel afraid or unsure.





## Reflection

As we sing or reflect on these words, we are invited to ask ourselves where we place our hope. Again and again, Christ invites us to trust him, to rest in his faithfulness, and to believe that even in the storm, we are not abandoned.

### A short prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,  
when the storms of life feel strong and unsettling,  
help us to anchor our hope in you.  
Give us trust when we feel afraid,  
peace when we feel overwhelmed,  
and confidence in your unchanging love.  
Hold us firm, now and always.  
**Amen.**



**Guild**

### Guild news

*We have had a lovely meeting with Alex Stuart who talked to us on "His life's journey".*

*We have had to make a change to the schedule with Mike Taylor now doing "Art at Easter" on Wednesday 25th February 2026.*

*On the 11th March 2026 we will be holding our AGM and "Build a house".*

*Eileen Logan will be speaking on Older Peoples Service on 25th March 2026*

*Looking forward to seeing everyone.*

*Regards,*

**Anne**





On Monday 9th Feb we held our annual pancake night. We raised a wonderful £494 for company funds.

There were lots of fresh pancakes, and toppings galore. The Lucky dip stall was a great success again, and thanks to everyone who donated items for this.

A huge thank you to Lily and Anne for making such delicious pancakes, and a special shout-out to Iain for saving the night when we had some electrical issues



Two of our trainee leaders, Karyn Scotland and Ellie Rodger, are currently working on the last stages of their Queens Award, which is the highest award you can achieve in Girls Brigade. They have one final module to complete, which is due to take place in March. Queens Award is a journey, and we are so please Karyn and Ellie decided to take on the challenge.

**Sarah-Jane**

*“ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” ( Romans 5:8 )*





## Dove Café Craft Workshop

In partnership with *Kilbryde Hospice*, fourteen people recently took part in a craft workshop at Dove Café, facilitated by *Annie Poutney*. The group thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, creating beautiful paper poppies and taking real pride in their finished flowers.

The atmosphere was light, relaxed, and encouraging, allowing everyone to be creative and, in many cases, to exceed their own expectations. It was a joy to see confidence grow as the afternoon went on, and Annie certainly managed to bring out the inner artist in more than a few of us!

Our thanks go to *Kilbryde Hospice* for suggesting such an enjoyable activity, and a huge thank you to Annie for her patience, creativity, and enthusiasm.

The next *Dove Café* at *Dalsersf* will take place on **Wednesday 11 March at 1.00pm**. If you are looking for a safe, welcoming place to come along for a chat, we would love to see you.

We will also be supporting *Kilbryde Hospice* on **Saturday 28 March at 2.00pm**, when *Dalsersf Church* will host a concert featuring pupils from four South Lanarkshire schools: *Biggar High School*, *Carluk High School*, *Larkhall Academy*, and *Lesmahagow High School*. Entry is free, with a retiring collection in support of *Kilbryde Hospice*. Please do come along and support this special event if you can.



**"And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love." (2 John 1:6)**





This month we are delighted to feature two of our newest members of Dalserf Church, Graeme and Kim McCulloch. Since joining us, they have also celebrated a very special milestone with the arrival of their first granddaughter, Vera, just before Christmas.



The Keeper of the Biscuit Tin

What is your favourite biscuit?

Kim My favourite is a Blue Riband

Graeme Chunky Kit-Kat

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

Kim Tina the musical

Graeme The Who at Wembley

What was your first car?

Kim Rover 213

Graeme Mk1 VW Golf

What is your favourite hymn?

Kim CH4 Great is Thy Faithfulness

Graeme CH4 Thine be the Glory

What do you think is special about Dalserf?

Kim The Gospel

Graeme Being with God's people





If you've been in church leadership longer than a few months, you've learned an important skill: **translation**.

Not Greek or Hebrew, But the language of the "Committee".

On the surface, the words sound spiritual, thoughtful, and collaborative. Underneath, there is often a second language being spoken, one shaped by caution, history, personalities, and the deep desire to avoid change.

With a smile (and a little truth), here is a short translation guide for phrases many of us have heard more times than we can count.

**"Let's put this on the agenda for next month."**

Translation: *"We hope you forget about this before next month arrives."*

**"We need to form a subcommittee."**

Translation: *"This idea makes us nervous, so let's slow it down until it quietly expires."*

**"Let's proceed with caution."**

Translation: *"This idea is going to create too much work for us."*

**"We need to think about the long-term."**

Translation: *"This is another crazy idea by the minister, and we can outlast her."*

**"We don't want to rush the Spirit."**

Translation: *"We are uncomfortable, and this sounds more spiritual than saying so."*

**"This could create division."**

Translation: *"Someone influential has already expressed concern."*

**"We've never done it that way before."**

Translation: *"And we would prefer to keep it that way until at least the Second Coming."*

**"Let's pray about it."**

Translation: *"We are not ready to decide, and prayer feels like a safe parking place."*

**"This is a great idea, for another church."**

Translation: *"We hope you stop talking now."*

**"We need to be good stewards."**

Translation: *"We've got plenty of money, but we are tight as a drum."*

None of these statements are inherently bad. In fact, many of them are spoken with good intentions and sincere hearts. The trouble comes when translation replaces clarity, and spiritual language becomes a shield instead of a guide.

Healthy churches learn to say what they mean, with kindness, humility, and courage. They pray *and* decide. They steward resources *and* take faithful risks. They honour the past *without being trapped by it*.

And occasionally, they laugh at themselves in the process.

Sometimes, a little translation helps everyone move forward together.



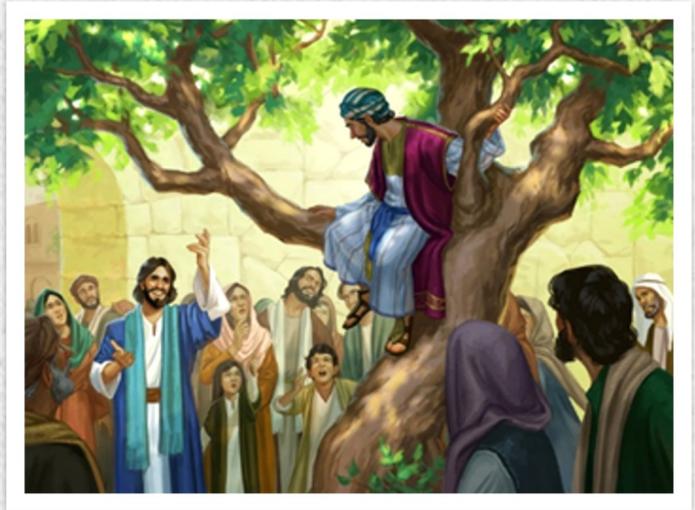


## Dalsarf Kids' Zone

"Why I climbed that tree!"

By Zacchaeus (as told to you!)

Bible Passage Luke, chapter 19,  
verses 1 to 10.



Hello. My name is Zacchaeus. You might already know one thing about me. I was very small. So small that when Jesus came to my town, I could not see him over the crowd. But there is much more to my story than my height, and I want to tell it to you.

I lived in the city of Jericho, and I was a tax collector. That meant I collected money for the Romans. People did not like that. In fact, most people really disliked me. They thought I was greedy and unkind, and sometimes they were right. I often took more money than I should have. It made me rich, but it also made me lonely.

When I heard that Jesus was coming to Jericho, I really wanted to see him. I did not know why. Maybe I hoped he would notice me, or maybe I just wanted to see if he was as special as people said. But when I reached the road, the crowd was too big, and no one made space for me.

So I did something a bit silly. I ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree. From up there, I could finally see.

Then something amazing happened.

Jesus stopped right underneath my tree. He looked up, straight at me, and called me by name. "Zacchaeus," he said, "come down at once. I must stay at your house today."

Can you imagine how that felt? Jesus knew my name. He chose me. Everyone else muttered and complained. They said Jesus should not spend time with someone like me. But Jesus did not listen to them. He came to my house and sat with me.





While Jesus was there, something changed inside me. I saw myself clearly for the first time. I realised how much harm I had done. I stood up and made a promise. I said I would give half of what I owned to the poor, and if I had cheated anyone, I would pay them back four times over.

Jesus smiled and said that salvation had come to my house that day. He said he had come to seek and save the lost.

So why am I telling you this?

Because you might feel left out sometimes. You might feel as if people have already decided what you are like. You might even feel as if you have done things that cannot be put right.

I learned that day that Jesus sees you, just as he saw me. He knows your name. He is not put off by your mistakes. When Jesus comes into your life, he helps you change, and he helps you make things right.

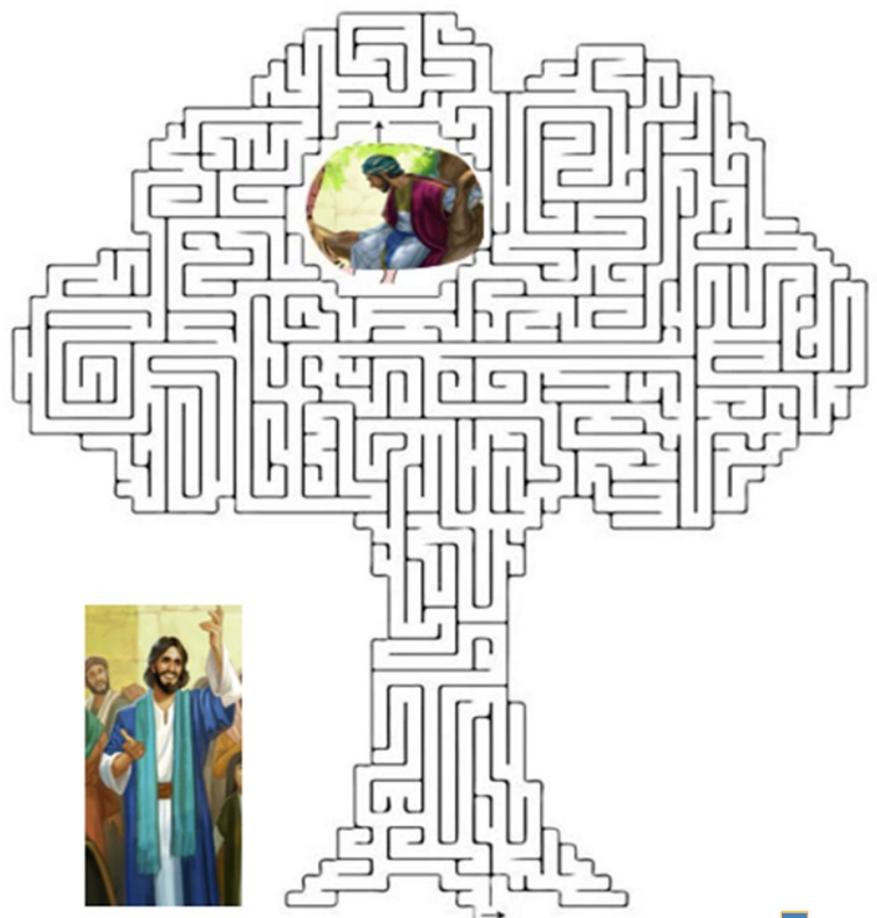
You do not need to climb a tree to be noticed. Jesus is already looking for you.

That is my story, and I hope you remember it whenever you feel small, forgotten, or unsure.

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

Rev Fiona

*Help Zacchaeus climb down from the tree so he can meet Jesus!*



## Notice Board



### **Baby News**

Congratulations to the proud Parents Amy and Lewis, Grandparents Heather and Thomas and Great Grandparents Lily and Eric on the birth of Aria Ann Scotland on the 26th January 2026.

**Janet.**

### **Welcome**

We are delighted to be blessed with so many newcomers who have joined us in worship over the last few weeks.

A warm welcome is extended to all both at church and later for tea and coffee in Hamilton Hall.

**Janet.**

### **Thank You**

Just to say "Thank You" for the warm wishes received from the church family, would be greatly insufficient.

I have been overwhelmed and feel totally spoiled.

Many many thanks,

**Sheena Archibald**

## Contacts

### **Minister (Locum)**

Rev. Fiona Anderson  
FAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk

### **Interim Moderator**

Morag Garrett  
mgarrett@churchofscotland.org.uk

### **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)**

Mrs Anne McHolm  
01698 886658

### **Church Officer (Dalsersh)**

Mrs Norah McGuckin  
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Co-ordinator  
Hugh McGregor

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### **Fabric Convener**

Robert Wilson  
littlegill413@gmail.com

### **Roll Keeper**

Elizabeth Reynolds

### **Rotas**



**1st Mar**

**John Wilson**

**8th Mar**

**Margaret Baillie**

**15th Mar**

**Joan Pollok**

**22nd Mar**

**Jeanette Goldie**

**29th Mar**

**Margaret Watt**

### **Items for April Newsletter**

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

*please contact the editor by  
Sun 15th March 2026*

### **Rorison Hall Bookings**

Booking Secretary: Anne McHolm  
mcholmanne3@gmail.com

### **Hamilton Hall Bookings**

Booking Secretary: Norah McGuckin  
0795 5856326

**"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind  
toward each other that Christ Jesus had." (Romans 15 : 5)**

