



# Dalsersf Parish Church



May 2026

Upcoming Events

**Mission Statement**

*“Dalsersf Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ through the preaching of the word and witness of every member”*

**All Welcome**

Worship at Dalsersf Church is at 11.30am Sundays, all year through.

**WHAT? DALSERF CHURCH QUIZ NIGHT**  
**FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY @ 7PM** *WHEN?*  
**WHERE? RORISON HALL, ASHGILL**  
*HOW?*  
 ENTER AS A TEAM OF 5 OR COME ALONG AND JOIN A TEAM.  
 £10 ENTRY PER TEAM. TEA AND BISCUITS INCLUDED  
 CONTACT ROBERT WILSON ON 07746 694164 *WHO?*

**Songs of Praise in the Valley**  
**Dalsersf Parish Church**

**With "Summer Brass"**  
**Sunday 31st May at 7.00pm.**  
 Worship with fellowship to follow.

**Douglas Conventicle**  
**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026**  
**at 2.30pm**

The Conventicle takes place by the Regimental Cairn in the Grounds of the Douglas and Angus Estates and is led by the Rev Fiona Anderson of Dalsersf Parish Church.

**Laughs and Crafts**  
**Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup> 10am**  
**Rorison Hall, Ashgill**

**Prayer for Others**

We ask the congregation of Dalsersf 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,

### A Future Full of Grace

"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.", Philippians 1:6

One of the great joys of ministry is the privilege of walking alongside one another through life. As a church family, we share in moments of deep sorrow and great celebration, and in all of it, we see glimpses of God's faithfulness at work among us.



It is now three years since I first started as Locum Minister here at Dalserf and I have loved them all. And in this time, I have been encouraged by what is happening here. There is a quiet but unmistakable sense that God is at work in our midst. Even in the last few weeks, we have welcomed new faces into our congregation, people who are beginning to find a place within our church family. We have celebrated the joy of baby baptism, reminding us of God's covenant promises and the new life He brings.

On the 5th of April we welcomed baby Vera Boyle, on the 19th of April baby Sunny Little and on the 26th of April Ellie Jardine all to be baptised. It was lovely to welcome their families and friends to witness and celebrate the sacrament.

On Sunday 30th of March we welcomed Shannon Kilday into membership as she proclaimed her faith.

We have also seen new elders step forward, willing to serve, shepherd, and care for others with faithfulness and humility.

Also, on Sunday 30th of March we welcomed Hazel Blair, Graeme McCulloch and Robert Wilson into the office of Elders in our church.

We also celebrated the wedding of Ruth Rastall and Tom Wilson on 15th of April.

It is also great to hear of the engagement of two of our members, Margaret Grove and Billy Kent.

These are not trivial things. They are signs of life, growth, and hope.



**"My grace is all you need, for my power is the greatest when you are weak."  
( 2 Corinthians 12:9 )**





And yet, as we give thanks for all of this, we remind ourselves of something even more important. The strength of our church is not found simply in numbers, activities, or even in the good relationships we enjoy. These are gifts, but they are not the centre. Jesus Christ is the centre.

It is so easy, even in the life of the church, to lose sight of that. We can become focused on what we are building, what we are achieving, or how things appear to be going. But Scripture gently calls us back: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." 1 Corinthians 3:6. We play our part, but it is God who brings life.

That truth is not a burden; it is a great freedom.

It frees us to welcome others without pressure, to serve without striving, and to lead without feeling that everything depends on us. It allows us to rejoice in what God is doing without needing to claim it as our own work. We are simply called to be faithful, to love, to serve, and to point one another to Jesus.

As we look ahead, there is much to be excited about. New people are coming. New leaders are emerging. New opportunities for ministry are opening up before us. But the heart of our calling remains the same: to be a people who reflect the love of Christ and gently guide others towards Him.

So let us continue to invest in one another. Let us take time to speak, to listen, to pray, and to care. Let us welcome those who are new and support those who are struggling. And in everything, let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the one who is building His church.

The future of Dalserf Parish Church is not something we need to fear or control. It is something we can step into with confidence and joy, knowing that God is already at work ahead of us.

We are not called to carry the weight of transformation. We are simply called to be faithful in pointing to the One who transforms.

*Fiona*

### May Diary

On Sunday 5th of May at 2pm I will be leading the annual Douglas Conventicle.

Between Friday 15th of May and Monday 18th of May I will be attending the Church of Scotland Assembly in Edinburgh.

Decisions there will affect the church within Scotland and no doubt here in Dalserf so remember to pray for all the commissioners who have this responsibility.

On the 31st of May I would also encourage you to attend our "Songs of Praise in the Valley" evening service which will feature "Summer Brass". These evenings are always special, and it would be great to have you come along.

**"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."**

**(Philippians 4:13)**





# AND CAN IT BE, THAT I SHOULD GAIN

## Bible & Hymn Study:

A Reflection on Romans 5:6–11. and CHA 396  
"And Can I Be"

The hymn "And Can It Be That I Should Gain" by Charles Wesley is one many of us know well. It is full of energy and joy, yet it begins with a question that feels deeply personal: "And can it be...?" It is the question of someone who is almost overwhelmed by what they have discovered.

Have you ever received something so generous that it left you wondering why it was given to you? Perhaps a kindness you did not expect, or forgiveness you did not feel you deserved. That sense of surprise and gratitude lies at the heart of this hymn.

The words of the hymn connect closely with the message found in **Romans 5:6–11**. In that passage, we are told something remarkable about God's love. It says that "while we were still weak," and "while we were still sinners," Christ died for us. God did not wait until we had sorted ourselves out or proved ourselves worthy. His love came first.

The hymn expresses this in one of its most memorable lines:

"Amazing love! how can it be,  
that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?"

These are not just words of belief, but words of wonder. They invite us to pause and reflect on the depth of what Christ has done.

As the hymn continues, it tells the story of Jesus leaving heaven and entering our world. It speaks of Him laying aside His glory and coming to bring mercy to those who could not save themselves. This echoes the picture we find elsewhere in the Bible, of Christ humbling Himself and giving His life for us.

Then the hymn moves to a powerful image of change:

"My chains fell off, my heart was free."

It is a simple picture, but one that speaks clearly. Many people know what it feels like to be weighed down, by guilt, by regret, or by things they cannot seem to change. The message of the gospel is that, through Christ, those burdens do not have the final word. There is forgiveness, and there is freedom.





The hymn goes on to say:

**"No condemnation now I dread."**

These words reflect the assurance that comes from being reconciled to God. The distance between us and Him has been removed. What once caused fear is replaced with peace. We are welcomed, not because of what we have done, but because of what Christ has done for us.

### **A personal reflection**

As you read these words, you might like to pause and think about your own response.

For many of us, the message of the cross is something we have heard many times. Because it is so familiar, we can sometimes lose the sense of wonder that it once held. The hymn gently invites us to ask the question again: "Can it really be?"

Perhaps you are someone who struggles to believe that God's love could truly be for you. Or perhaps you have known this truth for many years but need to be reminded of its depth and meaning.

The good news of the gospel is that Christ died not for the deserving, but for the undeserving. His love reaches out to each of us, just as we are. And when we receive that love, it begins to change us, from the inside out.

Maybe today is an opportunity to pause and rediscover that sense of amazement. To reflect again on the love of Christ, and to let that truth bring both comfort and joy.

**"Amazing love! how can it be..."**

It is a question we may never fully answer, but one we can continue to live in.

A short prayer

Loving Father,  
thank you for your amazing and generous love shown to us in Jesus.  
Thank you that he died for us, even when we were far from you.  
Help us never to lose the wonder of your grace,  
and to live each day in the freedom and peace you give.

In Jesus name,  
Amen

**Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.**

**( Ephesians 6:10 )**





We have had a very busy year at 1st Dalsersf this year, looking at the topic of food. Our Chosen Charity for this year was Loaves And Fishes Foodbank, and we are so grateful to everyone who donated items to our Coffee and Carol Evening to support them.

Our badgework this year was very varied. Explorers created lots of lovely artwork, made some tasty fruit kebabs, with lots of chocolate sauce, made their own pizzas as well as tasting lots of new foods.

The Juniors learned about the diversity and equality around food, by learning about Fairtrade, and why it is important to the farmers who grow the produce. They also learned how to play Volleyball, from basic passing and throwing to playing a match against each other.

Our Brigaders spent the first half of the year baking, from Victoria Sponge, to Custard Creams, to Chocolate Brownies. They also looked at the importance of safety around social media, and discussed the changes being brought into other countries to safeguard children and young people. Got a bit embarrassing when they had to explain some of the platform to the older generation!

Choosing a theme for badgework allows much more flexibility around planning and delivering sessions, however it very much limits display items. The Officers spent weeks trying to come up with ideas, but to no avail. We then remembered a company in the Division hosted an awards night, rather than a traditional Display, so we thought we'd give it a try.

Our Awards night was held on Monday 30th March, and the theme was 'Princess, Pyjamas or Anything goes' The girls played some party games, created some Easter Themed crafts, and enjoyed Ice Cream with a variety of sauces before being presented with their awards. All the girls worked so hard this year to achieve there awards, however, it gave me great pleasure to present Karrie Wright with her Brigaders Brooch, the second highest award you can achieve in Girls Brigade, as well as her Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The girls had a great evening at Awards Night, and we have received feedback from both girls and parents which has been very positive.

Thank you to everyone who has come along on a Monday to share your talents with us. From the crafters, showing us a new craft, the bakers, helping us for our events and those who pop in to see how we are, and even join in some games!

Thank you for your continued support.

***Sarah-Jane***

Leader in Charge





Easter Crosses



Girls Brigade



Girls Brigade



Baptism of Vera Boyle

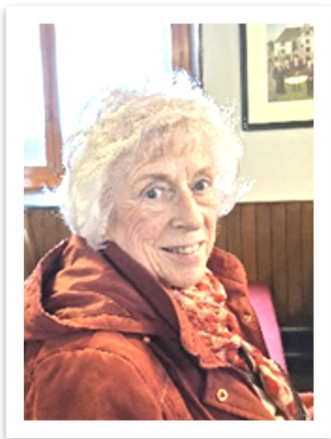
The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. ( Exodus 15:2 )





## “What is your favourite biscuit?”

This month we have selected our newest member of the church and one of our organists, Shannon Kilday. Shannon has been with us for about two and a half years. Our other two biscuiteers, Anne Carson and Janet Tennant have been at Dalserf a wee bit longer and Ann is an Elder.



### 1 What is your favourite biscuit?

Shannon Jammie Dodger

Ann Rich Tea but they must be McVitie's as they are the best for dunking and Kit-Kat as a treat.

Janet Kit-Kat

### 2 Which area of Scotland is your favourite place to visit and why?

Shannon Aberfoyle, lots of peaceful walks and stunning views.

Ann Royal Deeside as the seasons are defined although the west coast is a very close second for the same reason.

Janet Ayr because my daughter and her family live there.

### 3 What is the movie you would watch anytime it came on TV?

Shannon Home Alone and Home Alone 2, but not Home Alone 3

Ann I'm not a movie fan but 4.40 from Paddington, with Joan Hickson as Miss Marple is one I enjoy. (it is actually the 4.50 Ann but it is best to be early!- KotBT))

Janet The Great Escape

### 4 What is your favourite hymn?

Shannon CH4 549 How Deep the Father's Love for Me

Ann CH4 485 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Janet CH4 251 I the Lord of Sea and Sky

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

Shannon It's such a welcoming atmosphere at Dalserf and there are so many kind people.

Ann It is family and welcoming to one and all.

Janet History, friendship and love. It feels special when you enter.



## Union Update

We would like to keep the congregation informed of progress regarding the proposed union with Larkhall New Parish Church.

The five elders appointed to represent Dalsersf have now met together to begin preparing for the discussions ahead. This initial meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on the information received from Presbytery and to consider how best to represent the views and priorities of Dalsersf.

As yet, no joint meeting has taken place with representatives from Larkhall New Parish Church. At the time of writing, a date for the first meeting between the two groups has not yet been agreed but is likely to be sometime in May.

Please continue to keep this process in your prayers and especially remember the members of the working group as they prepare for these important conversations.

## Notice Board

### **AGM and Congregational lunch**

*The congregational lunch and AGM of Dalsersf Parish Church will be held in Hamilton Hall on Sunday the 3rd of May, immediately after the morning worship.*

*This is always a very popular event and seating can become somewhat limited. If you wish to attend this function it is important, for catering purposes, that you give your name to Sheena Archibald as soon as possible.*

**Bruce**

### **Many Thanks**

*Margaret and I wish to thank everyone for their good wishes, cards and gifts received by us on the occasion of our engagement.*

*Everything is very much appreciated.*

**Billy Kent**

### **The Baptism of Vera Poppy Anne Boyle**

*Easter Sunday was made especially memorable when the sacrament of baptism for Vera Poppy Anne Boyle took place in the presence of her parents, Louise and Ross, along with their family and friends.*

**Janet**

### **The Guild**

*Our last meeting took place on the 15th April which was our closing social when we were entertained by Summer Brass*

*Even though guild is finished for the summer Lily and I will be busy making up what we hope will be a varied and entertaining syllabus for 2026 /2027*

**Regards Anne**

***Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. ( Isaiah 41:10 )***





## Dalsurf Kids' Zone

### "My eventful trip to Damascus"

By Saul (as told to you!)



My name is Saul, and I want to tell you about the day my life changed forever.

I thought I was doing the right thing. I really did. I loved God, and I wanted to serve Him. But I did not believe that Jesus was God's Son. In fact, I didn't like the people who followed Jesus at all. I tried to stop them, and I was not kind to them.

Looking back now, I can see I was wrong, but at the time, I was so sure I was right.

One day, I was travelling to a city called Damascus. I had letters that gave me permission to find followers of Jesus and bring them back as prisoners. I was determined to stop them.

But something happened on that road that I will never forget.

Suddenly, a bright light from heaven flashed all around me. It was so powerful that I fell to the ground. I covered my eyes, but it was no use.

Then I heard a voice calling my name.

"Saul, Saul, why are you against me?"

I was shaking. I didn't understand. "Who are you, Lord?" I asked.

The voice answered, "I am Jesus, whom you are against."

Jesus! The very one I had been fighting against.





In that moment, everything I thought I knew was turned upside down.

When I stood up, I opened my eyes, but I couldn't see. The light had blinded me. My friends had to take my hand and lead me into Damascus. For three days, I was blind. I didn't eat or drink. I just sat quietly, thinking and praying.

Then a man named Ananias came to see me. He was one of Jesus' followers, the kind of person I had wanted to arrest. But instead of being afraid or angry, he came because Jesus told him to.

He placed his hands on me and said, "Brother Saul, Jesus has sent me so that you may see again."

Right away, something like scales fell from my eyes, and I could see!

But the biggest change was not in my eyes, it was in my heart.

I believed in Jesus. I was baptised, and I began telling others about Him. The one I had been against became the one I loved and followed.

I learned that no one is too far away from Jesus. If He could forgive and change me, He can do the same for anyone.

#### A Little Note from Me (Saul!)

Hello again! It's me, Saul... although many people now call me Paul!

You see, I actually had two names. Saul was my Jewish name, and Paul was my Roman name. As I began travelling to different places and telling lots of new people about Jesus, I started using the name Paul more often.

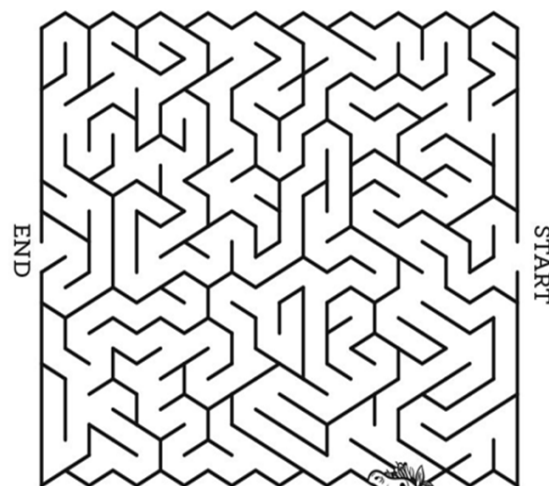
If you would like to read my story in the Bible, you can find it in Acts chapter 9.

Next month we will hear from Paul again and see what else happened to him.

*Rev Fiona*

### THE CONVERSION OF PAUL

Help Paul on his journey to accepting Jesus.



## Notice Board



### Treasurer

Would members please note that at the Kirk Session meeting on the 7th April 2026, Bruce Archibald indicated his retiral from the post of treasurer of Dalsersf Church, as of 1st May 2026.

Bruce was delighted to propose that Margaret Baillie take up the post from that date, and she has readily agreed to do so. The Session approved the proposal with much pleasure and confidence.

Margaret has acted as deputy treasurer for some months and is fully acquainted with much of the work. With her IT and computer skills the finances of the Church will advance into the modern era.

The Session wish her well in this new position and responsibility.

**Bruce**

### With Deepest Sympathy

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Miss Margaret Paterson on 10 March 2026. A faithful member of Dalsersf Parish Church for many years, Margaret will be greatly missed. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her long-time partner, family, and friends.

**Janet**

### New Elders

We are very happy to welcome three new Elders to the Kirk Session of Dalsersf Parish Church. Hazel Blair, Graeme McCullough, and Robert Wilson were ordained on 29th March 2026.

### New Member

We warmly welcome Shannon Kilday, who became a member of Dalsersf Parish Church by Profession of Faith on 29 March 2026.

**Janet**

### **Rotas**



**3rd May**

**Dorothy Noble**

**10th May**

**Margaret Grove**

**17th May**

**Nancy Rundell**

**24th May**

**Dorothy Noble**

**31st May**

**Betty Collins**

### **Items for June Newsletter**

*If you have any news or  
information that you wish to  
submit for the newsletter for  
June 2026,  
please contact the editor by  
Sun 17th May 2026*

## Contacts

### **Minister (Locum)**

Rev. Fiona Anderson  
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### **Interim Moderator**

Morag Garrett  
mgarrett@churchofscotland.org.uk

### **Session Clerk**

Mrs Janet Callander

### **Deputy Session Clerk**

Tom Anderson

### **Presbytery Elder**

Tom Anderson

### **Treasurer**

Mrs Margaret Baillie

### **Deputy Treasurer**

Vacant TBA

### **Organist**

Kieran J Hunter

### **Flowers**

Mrs Lily Budgell

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

Mrs Anne McHolm  
01698 886658

### **Church Officer (Dalsersf)**

Mrs Norah McGuckin  
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### **Child Protection**

Co-ordinator  
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Booking Secretary: Anne McHolm  
mcholmanne3@gmail.com

### **Hamilton Hall Bookings**

Booking Secretary: Norah McGuckin  
0795 5856326

**Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)**

