

Sowing the seed

The Magazine of Dalserf Parish Church
Autumn 2026



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Welcome to Dalserf Parish Church

Sunday Worship • 11.30am

Welcome to Dalserf Parish Church, a historic little church built in 1655 in the heart of the Clyde Valley, but still a vibrant, worshipping community.

Whether you are a regular member, a friend of the church, or simply picking up our magazine for the first time, we hope you enjoy discovering more about who we are at Dalserf.

Inside "Sowing the Seed" you will find news, stories, events, worship, activities for all ages and plenty of opportunities to get involved,

We'd love to welcome you to Dalserf. Come along, meet us and be part of our church family.

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"Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness."

Welcome to a New Chapter

Rev Fiona Anderson

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another."

Hebrews 10:24-25

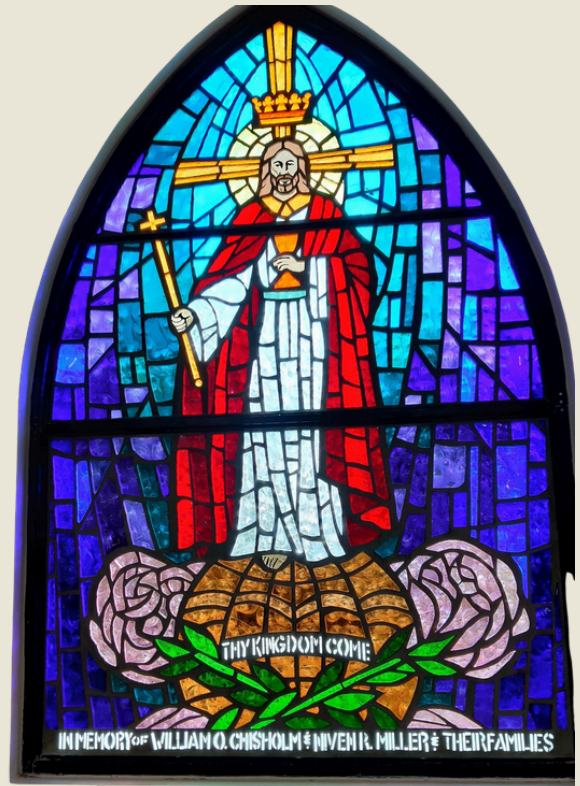
Tom and I have continued our tradition of spending our summer holiday in Grand Cayman, where we worship with our friends at William Pouchie Memorial Church, part of the United Presbyterian Churches of Jamaica and Grand Cayman.

There is something wonderfully reassuring about gathering with fellow Christians who share the same faith and the same desire to worship God. One of the real pleasures for me is simply sitting beside Tom in the pew and enjoying the service.

Their style of worship is not so very different from our own. We are always made to feel incredibly welcome, and over the years I have also had the privilege of preaching there several times, which has been a real honour.

You will have noticed that we've begun singing "Happy Birthday" here at Dalserf and this is a tradition that I have borrowed from Cayman, such a simple way of letting people know that they belong.

Of course, we can only celebrate your birthday if we know when it is, so please do let us know when your special day is approaching.



The main stained glass window at the front of William Pouchie Memorial Church in Grand Cayman

I am extremely grateful to Bob Baillie, Rev Dr David Doyle and Rev Eleanor McMahon for kindly leading worship while I was away. Their willingness to serve enabled me to enjoy a proper break, and I thank them sincerely for their friendship and support.

I trust that you have enjoyed the summer months. I hope it has been a season of rest and refreshment.

If you were away on holiday this summer, did you visit another church? If you did, I'd genuinely love to hear about your experience. worshiping in different places, while sharing the same faith in Jesus Christ. So, please do share your stories with me.

A New Magazine for a New Season

As you will see we have changed to a new quarterly Dalserf Church Magazine. I hope you enjoy this new-style bumper edition and keep it close by over the coming months, referring back to it for the many events, activities and dates that lie ahead.

As we look forward, it is also right that we look back with gratitude. On behalf of the Kirk Session, I would like to thank David Gilchrist, who has faithfully edited and organised our previous church magazines over the last few years. Producing a church magazine is one of those ministries that often happens quietly behind the scenes, yet it requires many hours of dedication and commitment. We are deeply grateful for all that David has done.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you once again to all involved in the Saturday Teas right through the summer.

This is an extremely important outreach and requires dedication throughout the summer by such a committed team. Thank you!

As we begin another season together, let's remember that Dalserf Church is far more than a building or a programme of events. It's a family of God's people, growing together in faith, encouraging one another, laughing together, praying together, and serving Christ together, and as I often say, there is more room at the table for anyone wishing to join us or become a member.



As Summer gradually gives way to Autumn, something rather wonderful begins to happen in the life of the Church. While the days become shorter and the leaves slowly begin to change colour, our church family begins to burst into life once again. September is almost like the beginning of a new year for church life, as all our organisations return after their Summer break and church life fills once more with activity, fellowship and laughter.

Finally, my prayer is that everyone, whether you've worshipped at Dalserf for decades or have only recently joined us, will find a warm welcome, a place to belong, and opportunities to grow in your faith during the months ahead.

May God richly bless every organisation this new session. May He bless each leader with wisdom, patience and joy; every volunteer with willing hands and generous hearts; and every member with friendship, encouragement and a deeper knowledge of His love.

With every blessing

Fiona

What's Your Favourite Biscuit?

We've decided to continue our "What's Your Favourite Biscuit?" feature in the new magazine because it's a simple but lovely way for our church family to get to know one another a little better.

So, when you see someone featured in the magazine, why not use their biscuit choice as a conversation starter? You might discover something you didn't know about them, share your own favourite, and perhaps even make a new friend.

After all, everyone has a favourite biscuit... so why not use it to start a conversation with someone you don't know... yet!

This month we have Natasha and Elliot. Natasha became a member of the church this year and Elliot was baptised on the same day. Elliot is the youngest member of the church choir and brings a smile to everyone in the church.

What is your favourite biscuit?

Elliot Chocolate (from Sunday School Tunnock's Tea Cakes seem to be going down well!)

Natasha I'm allergic to gluten so can't eat proper biscuits but if I could it would be shortbread The gluten free ones are not as good.

What is your favourite film?

Elliot The Grinch because Christmas is my favourite time of the year. My family call me Mr Christmas because I love it so much.

Natasha Love Actually. It's a family tradition to watch it at least once every Christmas and I love a happy ending

What is your favourite homemade meal?

Elliot Mummy's spaghetti Bolognese because it is super yummy

Natasha Roast dinner with all the trimmings (to make and to eat)

What is your favourite place to visit.

Elliot London, because of all the things you can do.

Natasha New York, before Elliot came along I used to go to New York as often as I could. I love everything about it, Broadway, Central Park and of course the shopping.

What do you think is special about Dalsersf?

Elliot Fiona, because I love her.

Natasha The congregation. Everyone is so friendly and have made Elliot and I so welcomed.



If you are new to this article the biscuit, cake argument needs no further correspondence!

Tackling life

From Dalserf to the Southern Hemisphere. What sport can teach us about living our faith.

"Rev James Logan Cotter"

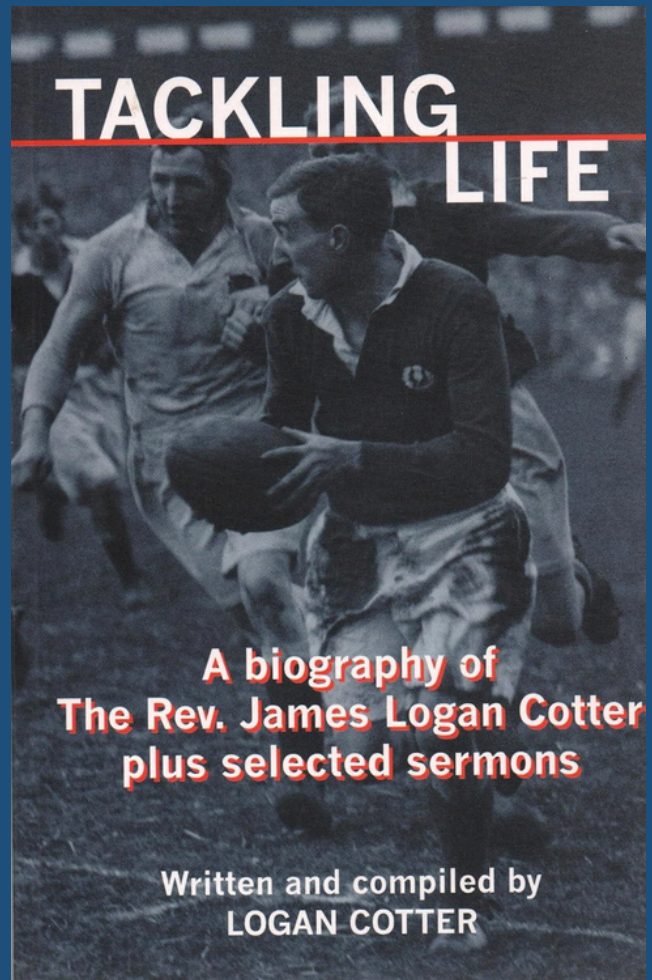
Many people don't realise that Dalserf has its own remarkable place in Scottish sporting history.

One of our former ministers, the Rev. Dr James Logan Cotter, wasn't just a faithful parish minister, he was also an international rugby player who represented Scotland in 1934 before answering God's call.

He remains one of only a select band of Church of Scotland ministers ever to have won international honours for Scotland on the rugby field.

"together in prayer..."

Today, however, something else about rugby catches the eye. Watch an international match involving New Zealand, South Africa, Fiji, Samoa or Tonga and, after the final whistle, you will often see players from both teams kneel together in prayer. There is no embarrassment, no awkwardness and no concern about what others might think. Win or lose, they publicly acknowledge that there is someone greater than the game itself.



"the exceptions."

Compare that with Scottish sport and the contrast is striking.

That isn't to say that Scotland lacks Christian sportspeople. Former Rangers defender Marvin Andrews has always spoken openly about his faith, describing football as the mission field God had given him.

More recently, Scotland footballer Ben Gannon-Doak spoke on the BBC programme A View from the Terrace about the role his Christian faith plays in helping him deal with pressure, setbacks and the demands of professional football. They are encouraging examples, but they are also exceptions.

"Scottish sportsman prays shocker!"

When Scotland International Rugby player Pierre Schoeman prayed with New Zealand players after the game it even got on to TNT Sports Facebook page! Although he has represented Scotland since 2020 Pierre was born in South Africa and Pierre has a strong Christian faith.

In countries such as Fiji, Samoa and Tonga, Christianity is woven into the fabric of everyday life. Church is central to family and community. Thanking God publicly is considered completely natural, not controversial.

Even in rugby powerhouses such as South Africa and New Zealand, many players have grown up in environments where faith is spoken about freely and prayer is an accepted part of team life.

Rugby itself also seems to encourage a spirit of mutual respect. After eighty minutes of fierce competition, players who have tackled each other relentlessly will often link arms and pray together. It is a visible reminder that, before they are opponents, they are fellow human beings made in the image of God.

Why the difference?

Part of the answer lies in our culture. Scotland has become a much more secular country than it was a generation ago. Sadly, faith is often viewed as private, something that should remain behind the doors of a church rather than becoming part of everyday conversation.

Football in Scotland also carries historical baggage. For decades, religion has often been associated with division rather than discipleship. Many players understandably avoid speaking about faith because they do not want to become caught up in old sectarian assumptions that have nothing to do with a living relationship with Christ.



"what about us"

Instead of asking why Scottish athletes don't speak more openly about their faith, perhaps we should ask whether we do.

Most of us will never play for Scotland. We will never lift a trophy before thousands of supporters or appear on television after a big match. But every one of us has a family, neighbours, colleagues and friends who watch how we live. Our witness may not take place in a stadium, but it takes place every day.

Jesus never asked His followers to be famous. He asked them to be faithful.

Perhaps the challenge for all of us is not whether we pray on the pitch after the final whistle, but whether the people around us can see Christ in the way we live long before the game even begins.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:16

How I Choose the Hymns

By Rev Fiona Anderson



"How do you choose the hymns each Sunday?"

One of the questions I'm often asked is: "How do you choose the hymns each Sunday?"

The simple answer is...very carefully!

In fact, choosing the hymns can sometimes take as long as preparing the sermon itself. That may surprise you, but the hymns are much more than songs chosen to just fill the gaps between the readings and prayers, as each one plays an important part of our worship, and in many ways, they help to preach the message of the day.

"The hymns aren't there to fill the gaps..."

Within our Reformed tradition, worship has always been seen as one complete act of praise. The readings, prayers, hymns and sermon are not separate pieces placed alongside one another, they are all woven together to proclaim the Gospel. One writer put it this way:

"The hymns aren't there to fill the gaps between prayers and readings. They are all part of the preaching."

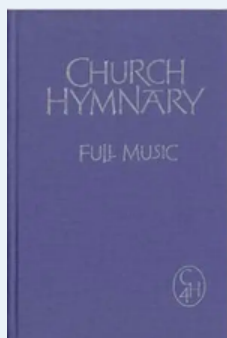
"it can take a whole night just choosing six hymns"

So, when I begin preparing for a Sunday, I don't first ask: "What hymns shall we sing this week?" Instead, I chose the readings from the Lectionary and ask: "What is God saying through these passages of Scripture, and what message do I hope folks will carry home?"

Once that theme becomes clear, I begin searching for hymns that reinforce it, and believe me, sometimes it can take a whole night just choosing six hymns.

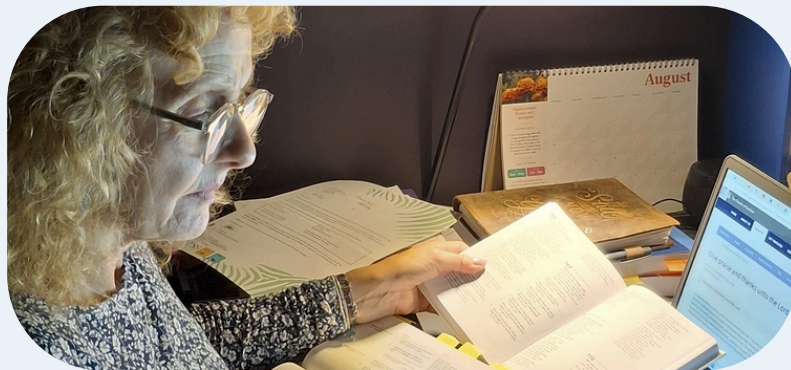
"the hymn that matches that Psalm..."

As our Call to Worship, I usually always choose an excerpt from one of the 150 Psalms and then choose the corresponding CH4 hymn that matches that Psalm.



The Church Hymnary Full Music edition includes the music but also the meter. This allows me to see what alternative tunes you can sing a hymn to!

& Why I Choose the Hymns



"the old Sunday School songs are the best anyway"

Next comes the children's hymn, and if I'm honest, this can often be the hardest hymn to choose. CH4 doesn't have a great selection of children's hymns... and often the old Sunday School songs are the best anyway.

"I try to have an uplifting hymn of hope to end"

Then come the next four...

Sometimes you'll notice that each hymn I choose explores the same message but from a different angle. One hymn may praise God for His faithfulness, another may express our trust, another may become our prayer, and the final hymn more often than not, sends us out responding to God's Word. I always try to have an uplifting hymn of hope to end with...and my hope is that, by the end of the service, the hymns and the sermon have together told one Gospel story.

You may also have noticed that, from time to time, I choose a different tune for familiar words. That's quite deliberate! Sometimes, hearing familiar words in a fresh way allows us to discover a truth we perhaps had overlooked for years.

"hymns are miniature sermons in themselves"

I love the fact that many hymns are miniature sermons in themselves. They teach us about God's character, His grace, His faithfulness and His promises, and my idea is that long after the sermon may be forgotten, a hymn verse will return in a moment of need.

A sermon may last twenty minutes but a hymn can accompany someone for a lifetime.

Before every service, my prayer is a very simple one:

"Lord, This is Your Word. These are Your hymns. Speak to us today."

Ye gates, lift up your heads on high

Author: The Scottish Psalter, 1529
Metre: DCM (see note)

Ye gates, lift up your heads on high

The tune is by the Revd Andrew Thomson, minister of one of Edinburgh's central and most fashionable churches, after which the tune is called. The church also had as its presenter the leading church musician of the day in R.A. Smith, who 'borrowed' with that other famous tune 'Veneration' (see 20). St George's Edinburgh has become entitled to this psalm, used when the Communion elements are brought in procession to the Table. It has an unusual structure in that the voices divide in the middle to set to music the dialogue between the imaginary worshippers and the Temple gatekeepers. The difficulty is that it depends on the tenors being strong enough to be heard with the quodians: Who is he that is the King? In these days, the organist has to make sure the tune is heard by playing the lower parts in the right hand at table pitch.

Tunes

St George's (Edinburgh)

19

CHURCH HYMNARY

Themes

[Psalms](#) [Advent](#) [Ascension](#)
[Easter](#) [Holy Communion](#)

References

In Playlists

30 April 2023
Communion
14 July 2024

The Church of Scotland Website has a useful feature that allows you to listen to the tunes that hymns in CH4 are sung to.

"I'll help... but don't expect me every week!"

Shannon Kilday, our new Musical Director, reflects on how one Sunday became a new church family, and why she's excited about the future of music at Dalserf.

One Sunday became a new church family

When first asked if I could play the organ at Dalserf, my answer came with a condition.

"I'll happily cover a service," I said, "but I don't want to do this every week!"

It's funny how God sometimes smiles at our carefully made plans.

One service became two. Two became several. Before I knew it, I wasn't simply playing the organ, I was becoming part of the Dalserf family. What began as doing Fiona a favour became somewhere I genuinely belonged.

Looking back now, I can see that God was quietly leading me all along.

One of the first things I noticed about Dalserf was its love of singing. Here, music isn't just something that fills part of a Sunday service; it's part of the heartbeat of the church.



Shannon Kilday
Musical Director.

More than just music

As I became organist and later joined the congregation as a member, I realised that music does something wonderful. It brings people together. It lifts weary hearts, deepens worship and creates friendships.

Some of my happiest moments at Dalserf have come, not just from playing the organ, but from making music alongside so many wonderful people.



Growing together

It has been a real privilege to work with our choir and talented musicians, including John Blackwood, Hazel Blair, Frank Morrison and Mike Taylor. Their enthusiasm and willingness to serve have been a constant encouragement.

Before the summer we also launched our Community Choir, which meets every Tuesday evening from 7.30–9.00pm. It has been wonderful to watch people of all ages and backgrounds come together, grow in confidence and build friendships through music. You don't need to read music or have sung in a choir before, just come along and enjoy it.



An unexpected blessing

If someone had told me a couple of years ago that the church I planned to help "just once" would become my church family, I probably wouldn't have believed them.

But that's often how God works.

Thank you for the kindness and encouragement you've shown me since I first sat at the organ. I feel privileged to play a small part in the worship and life of Dalserf, and I'm excited to see what God has in store as we continue to make music together.

Shannon

The next generation starts here

The part I'm most excited about is what's coming next.

After the October School Holiday week we'll be launching a brand-new Children's Choir for boys and girls in Primary 4 to Primary 7 at Rorison Hall.

This isn't about producing perfect performances, it's about helping children discover the joy of singing, grow in confidence, make new friends and become part of the life of Dalserf Church. Whether they've sung for years or only in the shower, they'll receive a warm welcome!

If you know a child who enjoys singing, loves music or would simply like to try something new, we'd love to see them. Please help us spread the word to family, friends and neighbours.



Vera is starting young!

Summer at Dalsarf



Elliot getting baptised in May.



Sharon and Annette were baptised and became members in June.



Sheena, Anne and Kim model the new pinnies!
Dalsarf Saturday Teas took place every Saturday in June, July and August



Sophie juggling in Church



In conjunction with "Mad Ministries" we ran our first Summer Club at Rorison in many years. The circus themed event was a great success.



Giving at Dalserf

Dalserf Parish Church Harvest Service

4 October 2026

We would welcome donations of non-perishable goods that will be passed on to our local foodbank in Larkhall.



Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal

Please bring them to the church by Sunday 25th October.

Thank you.

Here are some of the ways you may wish to contribute to the work of Dalserf Church

Social Work Christmas Gifts for Children.

Unwrapped gifts should be put in gift bags and marked boy or girl and age they are suitable for. They should be in church no later than the 6th December. Many thanks in advance for your support.

Support Dalserf Kirk's Ministry

If you would like to support the worship, ministry and outreach of Dalserf Parish Church, you can make a donation by bank transfer. Every gift, large or small, helps us continue our work in this community.

Bank details: Dalserf Parish Church
Sort Code: 82-68-28
Account No: 00110500

Bible & Hymn Study:

Why is "Be Thou My Vision" a timeless favourite?

"Be Thou My Vision" is one of the best-loved hymns in the Christian Church. Although its words come from an ancient Irish prayer, its message is timeless. It is more than a hymn asking God for guidance, it is a prayer that Christ would shape every thought, every decision and every part of our lives.

"Be Thou my vision..."

Vision is about more than eyesight. It is about perspective. It is the way we see the world and the things we value most.

The writer is asking God, "Help me to see life through Your eyes."

That echoes the words of Proverbs:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Proverbs 3:5 and 6

Our own understanding is limited. We often see only today's problems or tomorrow's worries, while God sees the bigger picture. When Christ becomes our vision, our priorities begin to change. We become less concerned with our own ambitions and more focused on God's purposes.

Indeed Proverbs 3:5 and 6 was our memory verse for our Children's Summer Club this year.

"Thou my best thought, by day or by night..."

Our minds are constantly occupied with work, family, health, finances and countless other concerns. None of these are wrong, but the hymn gently asks us



"What most occupies our thoughts?"

Paul writes:

"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

Colossians 3:2

This does not mean ignoring everyday responsibilities. Rather, it means allowing Christ to shape how we approach every part of our lives.

Imagine beginning each day with the simple prayer:

"Lord, be my first thought today."

What difference might that make to our conversations, our decisions and our attitudes?

"Be Thou my wisdom..."

We live in an age overflowing with information but often lacking wisdom.

Wisdom is more than knowledge; it is knowing how to live well.

James reminds us:

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault."

James 1:5

Every decision, whether large or small, becomes an opportunity to pray, "Lord, what would You have me do?" God's wisdom helps us navigate life's complexities with confidence and grace.

"Riches I heed not..."

Perhaps these words are the most challenging in today's world.

Our society often measures success by wealth, possessions or status. Jesus pointed us in a different direction:

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Matthew 6:33

The hymn does not say that money or possessions are wrong. Instead, it reminds us that they should never become our greatest treasure. True riches are found in knowing Christ.

No bank account can provide peace with God.

No possession can replace His love.

No earthly success can compare with the hope of eternal life.

"High King of heaven..."

The final verse lifts our eyes beyond today's concerns. Hebrews encourages us:

"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus."

Hebrews 12:1-2

Whatever lies ahead, whether joy or sorrow, success or disappointment, we keep looking to Christ. He is our hope, our strength and our faithful guide.

If He truly is our vision, our worship will become more heartfelt, our welcome warmer, our witness more natural and our service more joyful.

The greatest vision any church can have is not a larger congregation or a busier programme. Our greatest vision is Jesus Christ Himself. When He is at the centre, everything else finds its proper place.

Questions for Reflection

- What shapes my outlook on life most strongly?
- What is usually the first thing I think about each morning?
- In what areas of my life am I asking God for wisdom?
- How can I help ensure that Christ remains the vision of Dalsersf Parish Church?

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Be the vision of my heart.

Help me to see my family, my neighbours and my community through Your eyes.

Give me wisdom when I face decisions, courage when I face challenges and faith when I cannot see the way ahead.

Keep my heart from being distracted by the things that fade away.

Teach me to treasure the riches that are found in You alone.

Amen.



Ask Craig

Craig Forrest of Rosebank Garden Centre in the Clyde Valley



Autumn in the Garden

Preparing for Spring Colour

One of the most rewarding autumn jobs is planting spring-flowering bulbs. There is something rather special about putting a small, seemingly unremarkable bulb into the ground in autumn and knowing that, in a few months' time, it will bring colour and life back to the garden. Daffodils, crocuses, snowdrops and alliums can all be planted during autumn, while tulips are best left until a little later, usually around November. Plant bulbs in groups through borders, beneath deciduous trees or in pots for a wonderful splash of colour when spring eventually arrives.

Lawn Care

Autumn is also a good time to give the lawn some attention. Rake out dead grass and thatch, aerate compacted areas with a garden fork and repair any bare patches while the soil is still workable. Try to keep fallen leaves from building up on the grass, as a thick layer can prevent light and air reaching the lawn. If you are planning to feed it, choose an autumn lawn fertiliser rather than the high-nitrogen feeds used during the summer. A little attention now can help the grass withstand the wet and cold months ahead.

Autumn Value

Our cooler temperatures and generally damper Scottish weather also make autumn an excellent time for planting trees, shrubs, roses and hedges. The soil can still hold some of the warmth of summer, giving new plants the opportunity to establish their roots before winter arrives. Later in the season, bare-root roses, fruit bushes and hedging plants become available and can be an excellent-value way to add structure, colour or tasty produce for the garden next year.

...but get ready for winter

Finally, it is worth spending a little time preparing for the inevitable Scottish winter weather. Check tree stakes, fences, sheds and greenhouse panels, secure anything that might blow away and move tender pots somewhere sheltered. Clear gutters and check that drains and water butts are ready for the wetter months ahead.



Autumn may feel like the garden is winding down, but there is still plenty to do. A little work now will protect the garden through winter, provide valuable help for wildlife and, most importantly, give everything a great start when spring comes around again.

Happy gardening! Craig



Ranger Karen

Karen Smith – South Lanarkshire Council Ranger



Look Out for Dalserf's Pink Ballerina

There is something rather special growing quietly in Dalserf graveyard, and you might easily walk past it without noticing.

As the summer comes to an end and autumn approaches, keep your eyes open for one of our most beautiful and unusual fungi, the Pink Ballerina Waxcap.

Porpolomopsis calyptriformis

With its delicate pink, almost ballerina-like cap, this little mushroom really does look as though it is wearing a tiny tutu! Its scientific name is *Porpolomopsis calyptriformis*, although Pink Waxcap and Pink Ballerina are much easier names to remember. As the mushroom matures, its cap can split and curl upwards, making it look even more like a dancer.

Dalserf's Rare Fungi Found

What makes finding one at Dalserf particularly exciting is that Pink Ballerinas are classed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. They are found mainly in old, unimproved grasslands, the kind of grassland that has not been heavily fertilised, ploughed or disturbed. Old graveyards, like ours, can provide exactly the right conditions, which means that places such as Dalserf can be surprisingly important havens for these fungi.

Dalserf's graveyard is therefore something worth looking after. Waxcaps don't like rich, heavily fertilised soil. They thrive where the grass is relatively short, the ground is undisturbed and no lawn feeds, fertilisers or moss killers are used. Removing grass cuttings can also help to maintain the conditions they need.

So, when you are visiting Dalserf Church or walking through the graveyard in the autumn, take a few moments to look down among the grass. You may be lucky enough to spot our very own Pink Ballerina! And if you do find one, please leave it where it is. Take a photograph, admire it, and let others enjoy it too. These beautiful little fungi are more than just attractive mushrooms; they are signs of an old and valuable grassland habitat.

Perhaps one of Dalserf's little treasures has been dancing beneath our feet all along!

As September arrives, it's an exciting time in the natural world. A few butterflies may still be enjoying the late-summer flowers, while we say goodbye to summer visitors such as the unmistakable, screaming swifts. The leaves begin to change, and the trees take centre stage as nature puts on another spectacular show.

Look out for: bats swooping at dusk, hedgehogs, sweet chestnuts, and the wonderful variety of fungi emerging.



Social Dalsarf

Family Quiz Night



Dalsarf Church's First Annual Quiz Night a Great Success

There was plenty of laughter, friendly rivalry and more than a few head-scratching moments when Dalsarf Church held its very first Annual Quiz Night at Rorison Hall in May.

An impressive 16 teams, each made up of five quizzers with imaginative team names, gathered for an evening of fun and fellowship. From the very first question, the atmosphere was buzzing as teams put their knowledge to the test, determined to outscore their rivals.

"It wasn't just about winning. It was a wonderful evening of friendship, laughter and community."



The quiz was expertly prepared and hosted by Susan Forrest, who not only devised a wide-ranging and challenging set of questions but also kept everyone entertained with her quick wit and good humour. .

The winners, Quizzard of Oz won narrowly with Jane, Fiona, Shannon and Tom proudly receiving the newly engraved Dalsarf Church Quiz Trophy, which will now become an annual prize.

The real success of the evening was the wonderful spirit of fellowship, fun and encouragement that filled the hall. Roll on next year's Quiz Night. The challenge has been set!

Kirk Ceilidh 9th October 2026

After the success of last year's event, our Dalsarf Church Ceilidh returns on Friday 9th October 2026.

Frank Morrison's Ceilidh Band, will definitely get everyone on the dance floor.

Don't worry if you haven't danced for years. These are the familiar Scottish country dances you learned at school, and there's no judging for artistic impression, just plenty of laughter, music and good company!

A buffet is included in the ticket price, with soft drinks available to purchase during the evening.

Come along for a relaxed night of fun, friendship and dancing. Tickets go on sale at the beginning of September, so watch out for details and be sure to book early.

Why not bring a friend!

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

Wednesday	2nd	7.30pm	A Burger, a Blether and a Bible Buddy at Hamilton Hall
Thursday	3rd	10.00am	Laughs & Crafts at Rorison Hall re-starts.
Thursday	3rd	6.30pm	Boys Brigade at Rorison Hall
Saturday	5th	10.00am	Session Planning Meeting Hamilton Hall
Sunday	6th	11.30am	Communion at Dalserf Church
Monday	7th	6.30pm	Girls Brigade at Rorison Hall
Wednesday	9th	7.15pm	Guild at Rorison Hall
Saturday	12th	10.00am	Ladies' Guild from Hamilton Mosque Visit to Dalserf
Sunday	20th	11.30am	Guild Rededication Service at Dalserf Church
Sunday	20th	7.00pm	Songs of Praise in the Valley at Dalserf Church
Wednesday	23rd	7.15pm	Guild at Rorison Hall
Tuesday	29th	7.00pm	Session Meeting at Hamilton Hall

A BURGER, A BLETHER AND A BIBLE BUDDY

"People who ate with Jesus –
A wee man called Zaccheaus"

A BBQ at Hamilton Hall this month.
Wednesday September 2nd
7.30 - 9.00pm



Dalserf Parish Church Guild
Rorison Church
Ashgill
ML9 3AF

What is on this September at Dalserf Guild

Wednesday 9th September
7.15pm

Opening Meeting,
"Summer Brass"

Sunday 20th September
Rededication Service

Wednesday 23rd September
7.15pm

Tom Anderson
"The Minister's Wife"



Songs of Praise
in the Valley
at
Dalserf Parish Church
Dalserf Community
Choir

Sunday
20th September
at 7.00pm.

Advertisement



DIARY FOR OCTOBER

Sunday 4th 11.30am Harvest Service and BB Rededication Service
 Friday 9th 7.00pm Kirk Ceilidh at Rorison Hall
 Wednesday 14th 7.15pm Guild at Rorison Hall
 Tuesday 20th 4.30pm New Youth Choir at Rorison Hall
 Wednesday 21st 7.30pm A Pie, a Blether and a Buddy from the Bible at Rorison
 Sunday 25th 11.30am BB Battalion Parade at Dalserf Church
 Sunday 25th 7.00pm Songs of Praise in the Valley at Dalserf Church
 Wednesday 28th 7.15pm Guild at Rorison Hall
 Check dates for Boys Brigade, Girls' Brigade, Community Choir and Laughs and Crafts during October due to school holidays!

A PIE, A BLETHER AND
 A BIBLE BUDDY
 People who ate with Jesus
 Mary and Martha - Stress in the Kitchen
 The Pies are back!
 Rorison Hall this month.
 Wednesday October 21st
 7.30 -9.00pm

**Dalserf Parish Church
 Annual Ceilidh
 Friday 9th October 7.00pm
 Rorison Church Hall
 Frank's Ceilidh Band
 and Buffet Supper
 Ticket Price £10**



Dalserf Parish Church Guild
 Rorison Church
 Ashgill
 ML9 3AF

**What is on this October
 at Dalserf Guild**

**Wednesday 14th October
 7.15pm
 Operation Hope**

**Wednesday 28th September
 7.15pm
 Craft Evening, Janet Callander**



**Songs of Praise
 in the Valley
 at
 Dalserf Parish Church
 with
 Frank's Accordion Band
 Sunday 26th October
 at 7.00pm.**

Advertisement



ROSEBANK
 GARDEN CENTRE

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

Wednesday	4th	7.30pm	A Burger, a Blether & a Bible Buddy at Hamilton Hall
Sunday	8th	11.30am	Remembrance Service at Dalserf Church Hall
Wednesday	11th	7.15pm	Guild at Rorison Hall
Saturday	14th	11.30am	Guild Christmas Fair at Hamilton Hall
Wednesday	25th	7.15pm	Guild at Rorison Hall
Saturday	28th	2.00pm	School Charity Concert
Sunday	29th	11.30am	Communion at Dalserf Church
Sunday	29th	7.00pm	Songs of Praise in the Valley at Dalserf with "Summer Brass"

Boys Brigade, Girls' Brigade, Community Choir, Youth Choir and Laughs and Crafts at usual times

A PIE, A BLETHER AND
A BIBLE BUDDY
People who ate with Jesus
Breakfast on the Beach -
Peter Gets Another Chance
Rorison Hall this month.
Wednesday November 4th
7.30 -9.00pm



Dalserf Parish Church Guild
Rorison Church
Ashgill
ML9 3AF

**What is on this November
at Dalserf Guild**

Wednesday 11th November
7.15pm
Martin Cassidy, Mental Health
Saturday 14th November
11.30am – 3.30pm
Christmas Fair at Hamilton Hall
Wednesday 25th November
7.15pm
Scotts Jam

We Will Remember Them.

Sunday 8th November
Netherburn
War Memorial
at 10.00am

Sunday 8th November
Ashgill
War Memorial
at 10.30 am



Sunday 8th November
Remembrance Service
Dalserf Parish Church
at 11.30 am



Puzzle Page

Cipher Help

D	A	L	S	E	R	F
L	E	T	T	E	R	S
A	P	O	S	T	L	E

CLUE - All four!

The Dalserf Cipher

Use the key below to solve the Dalserf Cipher message.
The message is a verse from Romans Chapter 15.

G	D	O	V	H	U	I
D	A	L	S	E	R	F

P	D	B		W	K	H		J	R	G		R	I		K	R	S	H
I	L	O	O		B	R	X		Z	L	W	K		D	O	O		
M	R	B		D	Q	G		S	H	D	F	H		D	V			
B	R	X		W	U	X	V	W		L	Q		K	L	P			

All the right letters in the wrong places!
Fill the spaces above with the letters directly
below to get a verse from Jeremiah Chapter 29.

F	L	A	E	I	A	A	D	H	A	T	E	H	E	I	R	E		
H	O	P	N	P	L	I	N	O	A	V	F	U	F	O	R	E		
P	O	R		S		N	N	S	W		O		G	U	V			
Y	O	U				K					T		T					

A	
B	
C	
D	
E	
F	
G	
H	
I	
J	
K	
L	
M	
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U	
V	
W	
X	
Y	
Z	

Youth Work

Boys' Brigade

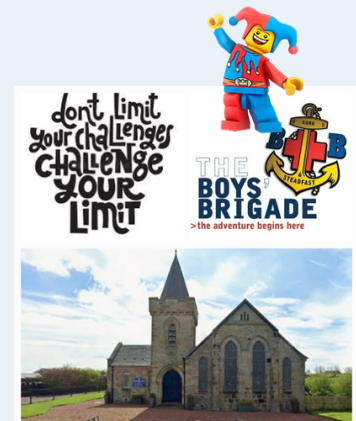
Ready, Steady, Go! The Boys' Brigade Is Back!

The Boys' Brigade is getting ready for another action-packed session, and we can't wait to get started! We return on Thursday 3rd September at 6.30pm in Rorison Hall.

We're looking forward to seeing all our boys from last year and giving a big Boys' Brigade welcome to new boys from Primary 1 to Primary 6.

Anchor Boys (Primary 1–3) meet from 6.30pm until 7.30pm, while the Junior Section (Primary 4–6) continues until 8.00pm. What can you expect? Games, crafts, challenges, laughter, new friends and plenty of fun! Every week brings something different, with opportunities to try new things, learn new skills and, most importantly, enjoy being part of the Boys' Brigade family.

We've got a packed programme of activities planned for the new session, so get ready for a great year at Rorison Hall. Come along, bring a friend and join the fun!



1st Dalserf Girls' Brigade

Enrolment: Monday 24th August

6.30pm–7.30pm in Rorison Hall

**Girls Brigade resumes:
Monday 7th September.**

**Rededication Service:
Monday 5th October Rorison Hall**

**We are back and
can't wait to see you!**



Girls' Brigade

1st Dalserf Girls' Brigade resumes on Monday 7th of September at 6.30pm in Rorison Hall, Ashgill. We would love to have you come along!

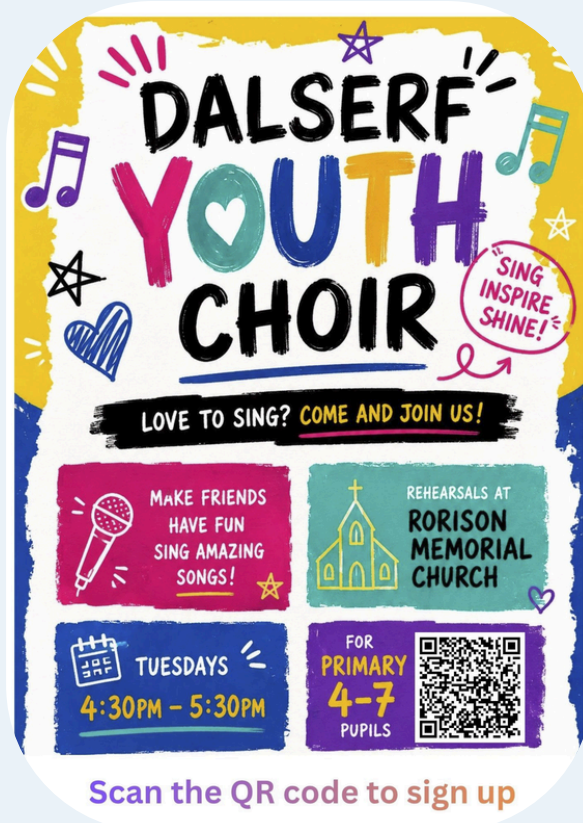
Youth Choir

Sing, Laugh and Make Some Music!

Do you love singing? Then come and join our new Youth Choir at Rorison Hall! Open to all Primary 4–7 pupils, the choir will be led by our Musical Director, Shannon Kilday.

It's a chance to sing, have fun, make new friends and maybe even perform together! We meet every Tuesday from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. Parents can sign up through Eventbrite using the QR code. Come along and find your voice!

STARTS 20th OCTOBER



Scan the QR code to sign up

Dalserf Kids' Zone



DALSERF CHURCH LEGO

Imagine if we could build a LEGO model of Dalserf Church! That would be fantastic!

But here's something even more amazing. We already have our own Dalserf Church family. And just like a LEGO model, every single piece is important. You might be young or old, loud or quiet, good at singing, helping, welcoming or simply being there. You are an important piece of our church family.

Take one piece away from a LEGO model and something is missing. It's the same with our church. If you're not there, the church family isn't quite complete. Something is missing... and that something is you!

Challenge



These 6 Lego mini-figures have gone missing.
Can you find them hidden in this magazine?

Competition

Build a Lego Dalserf Church

I would like you to build a Dalserf Church Building using Lego or other building blocks.

When it is complete send me a photograph (dalserf@dalserf.org) or bring it to church on a Sunday.

There may be prizes, even for adults!



Gideon's Story

My name is Gideon, and if you had met me the day God called me, you would probably have laughed.

I certainly wasn't acting like a brave hero!

Our country was being bullied by the Midianites. Every year they would steal our crops and animals, leaving us with hardly anything to eat. Everyone was afraid, including me.

One day I was hiding in a winepress, secretly threshing wheat so the Midianites wouldn't find it. I thought I was being very clever.

Then a stranger appeared. He was the angel of the Lord, although I didn't know that at first. He looked at me and said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!" I looked around to see who he was talking to. Surely he couldn't mean me!

I said, "If God is really with us, why has all this happened? And why choose me? My family isn't important, and I'm the least important person in my family." But God wasn't looking at how strong I was. He was looking at what He could do through me. God promised He would be with me.

Even then I wasn't sure. I asked God for a sign. I placed a woolly fleece on the ground. First I asked for the fleece to be wet with dew while the ground stayed dry. God did exactly that.

The next morning I asked for the opposite. I know that wasn't very brave of me, but God was patient. This time the fleece was dry while the ground was covered with dew. Now I knew God really had spoken.

Soon thousands of men joined my army, ready to fight the Midianites. But then God said something surprising.

"You have too many soldiers." Too many? We were already badly outnumbered! God sent most of them home until only 300 men remained.

With just 300 soldiers carrying trumpets, torches and empty jars, we surrounded the enemy camp during the night. At the signal, we smashed the jars, lifted our torches high, blew our trumpets and shouted, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!"

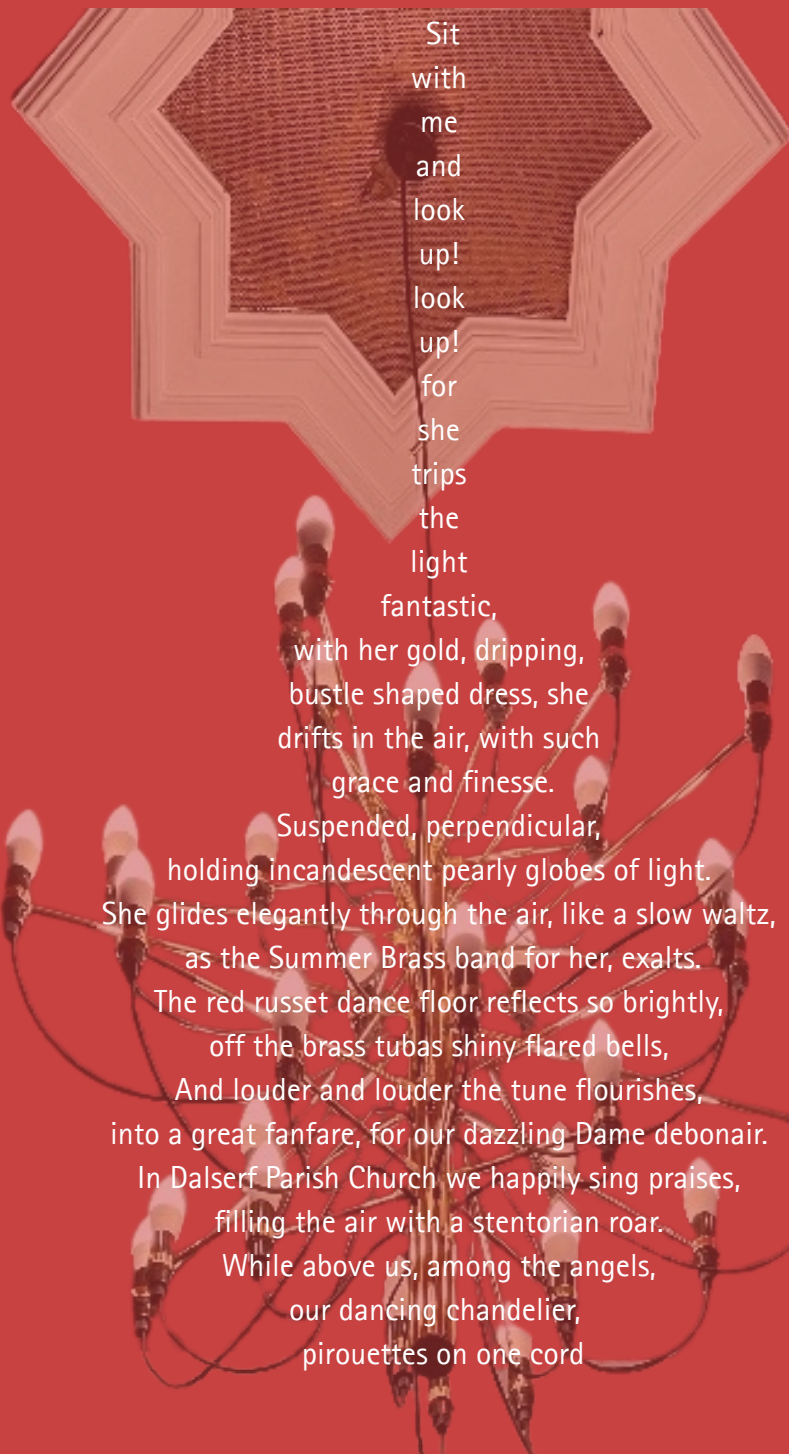
The Midianites were so confused that they ran away.

That day I learned something very important. God doesn't need the strongest, the fastest or the bravest people. He simply asks us to trust Him.

If God could use a frightened farmer hiding in a winepress, then He can use you too.

Rev Fiona

The Dancing Chandelier by Rose Macgregor



Sit
with
me
and
look
up!
look
up!
for
she
trips
the
light

fantastic,
with her gold, dripping,
bustle shaped dress, she
drifts in the air, with such
grace and finesse.

Suspended, perpendicular,
holding incandescent pearly globes of light.
She glides elegantly through the air, like a slow waltz,
as the Summer Brass band for her, exalts.
The red russet dance floor reflects so brightly,
off the brass tubas shiny flared bells,
And louder and louder the tune flourishes,
into a great fanfare, for our dazzling Dame debonair.
In Dalserf Parish Church we happily sing praises,
filling the air with a stentorian roar.
While above us, among the angels,
our dancing chandelier,
pirouettes on one cord

During the Songs of Praise Service in April, Rose Macgregor read her poem The Dancing Chandelier.

She was delighted to have the opportunity to present a framed copy of her poem to band master Ian Dickie.

Rose gave thanks to Ian and Summer Brass for their musical inspiration during an earlier Songs of Praise in November 2025 that encouraged her to write the poem.



Dalserf Church



Locum Minister
Rev Fiona Anderson
fanderson@churchof
scotland.org



Session Clerk
Janet Callander
sessionclerk@dalserf.org



Treasurer
Margaret Bailie
dalserf@mail.com



Property Convenor
Robert Wilson
littlegill413@gmail.com



**Safeguarding
Coordinator**
Hugh McGregor
safeguarding@dalserf.org



Presbytery Elder
Tom Anderson
presbyteryelder@dalserf.org

Dalserf Church Notice Board

We regretfully announce the sad death of Forbes Gillespie, please keep her brother George and the rest of the family in your prayers.

We also remember the family of Lesley MacDonald who died earlier this year. In particular we remember her husband Tom.

We welcomed Natasha into membership. We also welcomed Sharon and Annette into membership through baptism and profession of faith.

We were also delighted to see Elliot baptised.

Dalserf Parish Church Flower Rota		
Date	Name	Event
06 September 2026	Prim Gilmour	
13 September 2026	Liz Walker	Guild Rededication
20 September 2026	Margaret Fleming	
27 September 2026	Ann Carson	
04 October 2026	Hazel Blair	Harvest BB Rededication
11 October 2026	Isobel McLean	
18 October 2026	Janet Tennant	
25 October 2025	Rosemay Clarkson	BB Battalion Service
01 November 2026	Senga Donegan	
08 November 2026	Linda Marshall	Remembrance
15 November 2026	Joan Pollok	
22 November 2026	Carol Prentice	
29 November 2026	Lily Budgell	Communion
06 December 2026	Lee Nimmo	
13 December 2026	Rae Hunter	
20 December 2026	Rev Fiona Anderson	Nativity
27 December 2026	Janet Callander	

**Dalserf Church &
Hamilton Hall**
Dalserf Church Officer
& Hamilton Hall Bookings
Norah McGuikin
0795 5856326

Rorison Hall
Church Officer
& Rorison Hall Bookings
Anne McHolm
mcholmanne3@gmail.com
01698 886658

Church Musical Director
Shannon Kilday

Roll Keeper
Hazel Blair

Flowers
Lily Budgell

Digital Dalserf

As well as our web-site www.dalserf.org you will find us at...

YouTube

Dalserf Church's YouTube channel shares live and recorded weekly worship, services, helping people stay connected with our church wherever they are.



Facebook

Dalserf Church's Facebook page shares worship, news, events and encouragement, connecting our church family and community throughout the week.

Instagram

Dalserf Church's New Instagram Site will allow you to keep up to date with what is happening at Dalserf and also get regular messages of Christian joy and love.

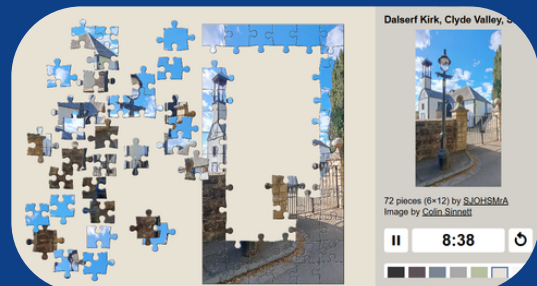


TikTok

Dalserf Church's new TikTok page shares short, engaging glimpses of church life, faith, events and community, bringing Dalserf's message to a new audience

Jigidi

Dalserf Church's Jigidi puzzles offer a fun way to connect with the church, with puzzles linked through our Facebook page and website



...but you can't beat coming along to church and sharing in worship and fellowship!