

**DUNIPACE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
NEWSLETTER**

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2011

Charity No: SC 002943

www.dunipacechurch.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends

THANK YOU FOR MINISTERING TO ME

You have always been a tower of strength to me throughout my ministry with you in Dunipace, more so these past few weeks, during which time the prayers, care, ongoing compassion and unending gestures of support, offered by yourselves helped me cope with the death of my dear mum.

I have in fact been overwhelmed by the kindness bestowed upon me and extend my deepest thanks to all concerned.

The members and friends of Dunipace Parish Church, the local community, and clergy, were all outstanding and managed to get the balance right between showering me with their care and yet giving me the space I needed to come to terms with such a major change in my life.

From the day and hour mum and myself arrived in Dunipace you made us feel very much at home. Throughout mum's illness members and friends of the congregation continued to ask after her and were always willing to help in whatever way they could. This meant a great deal to mum and me. For embracing us both in such a loving manner, I thank you.

Mum lived a full life. She was a woman of great faith and we were able to reflect that in the Service of Thanksgiving which was reverent, respectful and personal.

I shared an incredible rapport with my mum and have many memories to treasure. Mum was the first to say that she was “tired and done.” She helped us as a family accept that her time had come and so we have let her go in peace, knowing that a new chapter begins in our life, but knowing too, that she may be gone from sight but will be kept in our hearts forever.

The support we received from the congregation – especially on the day of the funeral – helped us as a family to do what needed to be done with dignity and with peace of heart and mind. For this I again thank you on behalf of Mrs Jeanie Wardlaw Gallacher’s Clan!

As I reflect upon the whole experience of “letting go” what I have learnt to treasure most is the reaffirmation that when “push comes to shove” or when the “chips are down” as a congregation we pull together all the more strongly and work hand in hand to help each other through the difficult times.

I have seen this same strength of congregational support surface in the midst of the proposed Presbytery Plan Consultation process we are going through.

As we look at where we have come from, what we are doing, and what shape the church of the future will have, we will need to let go of that which is “tired and done” but this we shall do always acknowledging the rich contribution it made to the life and work of the church.

We must then be prepared to embrace the new chapter that is unfolding in our church life too, with courage and with confidence, knowing that God who has brought us to where we are, will safely lead us to where we should be.

With love and thanks from your minister and friend
Yours in Christ,

Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher.

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

August

25 th	7.30pm	Local Planning Group in Dunipace
27 th	1pm – 3pm	Community GARDEN PARTY
28 th	11.00am	Morning Worship
31 st	2.00pm	REMINISCENCE GROUP RESUMES
31 st	7.30pm	Friends of Dunipace (Reading Room)
31 st	7.30pm	CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES

September

4 th	11.00am	COMMUNION in the Church
	3.00pm	COMMUNION in the Complex
5 th	7.00pm	Area Planning Group in Denny Old
6 th	10.00am	Community CAFÉ RESUMES
6 th	7.00pm	MEN'S CLUB RESUMES
8 th	2.00pm	LADIES AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP RESUMES
11 th	11.00am	Morning Worship
16 th	7.30pm	COMMUNITY QUIZ NIGHT
18 th	11.00am	Morning Worship
19 th	7.30pm	CONGREGATIONAL BOARD
25 th	11.00am	Morning Worship
26 th	7.15pm	GUILD OPENING NIGHT

Stewardship Month

October

2 nd	11.00am	Blythswood SHOE BOX APPEAL and BAPTISMAL SERVICE
9 th	11.00am	DEDICATION SERVICE
	3.00pm	MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE BEREAVED
10 th	7.30pm	KIRK SESSION
16 th	11.00am	Morning Worship
23 rd	11.00am	Morning Worship
30 th	11.00am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	EVENING SERVICES RESUME

November

12 th	7.30pm	DANCE in the MASONIC HALLS
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COMMUNITY GARDEN PARTY

In Dunipace Church Community Garden

Saturday 27th August
1pm – 3pm

Admission FREE

Teas £2.00

STALLS GALORE

FUN GALORE

Home Baking Stall

Jams & Chutney

Raffle Prizes

Sweet Stall

Donut Stall

Bouncy Castle

Hook a Duck

Throw a Wet Sponge

Games Stall

Tombola Stall

Miniature Garden Competition

And so Much More

All are Welcome

Donations for the various stalls should be brought down to the halls on the Friday night (about 6.30pm) or early on the Saturday morning. If you have an idea for a new stall or can assist in any way whatsoever, please, let us know. Your support is very much appreciated.

CHURCH GROUPS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As the new session gets underway, church and community members are invited to be part of the various groups and organisations that meet in the halls. A warm welcome is extended to the “regulars” and a special welcome to new members. There’s something for everyone – if not let us know what you would like to see happening in the halls and we will do our best to oblige.

GROUPS RESUMING IN AUGUST

Creche & Kid’s Club	Sunday 28th at 11am
Youth Fellowship	Sunday 28th at 7.30pm
Reminiscence Group	Wednesday 31st at 2pm
Rainbows	Wednesday 31st at 6pm
Choir Practice	Wednesday 31st at 7.30pm
Friends of Dunipace	Wednesday 31st at 7.30pm

GROUPS RESUMING IN SEPTEMBER

Ladies Afternoon Group	Thursday 1st Sept at 2pm
Brownies	Thursday 1st Sept at 6pm
Badminton Club	Thursday 1st Sept at 7.30pm
Children’s Story Club	Friday 2nd Sept at 6.30pm
Community CAFÉ	Tuesday 6th Sept at 10am
Men’s Club	Tuesday 6th Sept at 7pm
Women’s Guild	Monday 26th Sept at 7.15pm

The groups and organisations that meet in the church halls are open to all interested parties. As a church we recognise that there are people we are failing to connect with, such as those aged 18- 25 years and 35-55years. If you know how we can reach the GAP YEARS please come forward and share your suggestions with us

MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP

The LORD'S SUPPER

will be celebrated at

11am in the Church

and at 3pm in the local Complex

on

Sunday 4th September 2011

A place at the Table has been reserved for YOU

IN MEMORY AND IN LOVE

The death of a church member always has an impact on the life and work of the church. Down through the years we have bid “farewell” to many faithful members who have served the church in countless ways – giving of their time and talents in unbelievable ways. Without such dedicated and loyal service the Church would struggle to be the Church.

The whole community was saddened by the death of Mrs Margaret Hunter (Rita) as we knew and loved her. Rita died at the grand age of 95 and had lived every one of those years to the fullest, serving the church and wider community faithfully. She had been a Sunday School teacher in Larbert, an Elder and Clerk to the Board in Dunipace, along with our World Mission Rep who diligently corresponded with our Mission Partners overseas. This of course, is only the tip of the iceberg with regard to the many ways in which Rita gave of herself in service to the church and community.

As we mourn Rita's death and acknowledge the richness of her service, we pray for Robert and his family. Indeed, we hold all church members who mourn the death of a loved one very much in our prayers.

STEWARDSHIP

SEPTEMBER is our STEWARDSHIP MONTH

It's never easy to talk about money, more so in the church because folks often say, "All the church talks about IS money" For this reason people tend to get turned off rather than switched on when we dare to mention money. But surely the Church talks about more than money – we talk about MISSION – OUTREACH – DISCIPLESHIP – VISION - The Church, however, needs money to do all these things so we cannot avoid mentioning the "M" word. What makes it so much harder just now is the fact that all of us are struggling as a result of the economic climate. People have limited funds and greater demands are being placed on those limited funds. So we do not mention the "M" word lightly or in an attempt to rile people or make it even more difficult. We mention it because we must – good stewardship is at the heart of the gospel message

Thankfully in the Church – we rely upon peoples' TIME and TALENTS in order to undertake much of our work and witness BUT and here it is again – we need MONEY too!

All the church asks is that its members give a "fitting proportion" of their time, talents and money and review their giving on a regular basis. We leave the decision as to "how much you give" entirely to you.

What we can tell you is that here in Dunipace Church we need to raise over £60,000 each year just for the General Fund not to mention Property costs!

What we can also tell you is that with numbers declining and outreach increasing, the costs have to be met by fewer and fewer people

We can also tell you that the Church nationally is reducing the number of full time ministers by over 200 because it

cannot afford to keep them. In our own area we have to go down from five full time ministers to four!

We can also tell you that 65% of congregations do not meet the full costs of having a minister. Most pay what Edinburgh asks of them but these 65% of congregations are still being subsidised.

And finally we can tell you that the clergy themselves (who are often amongst the highest givers in a congregation) have not had a stipend increase for over two years, in a bid to help reduce the deficit in Ministry funds and ease some of the pressure on local congregations

In these DIFFICULT and DEMANDING times what can members do to help?

MEMBERS CAN....

1. Give a fitting proportion of their money on a regular basis to help the local congregation manage their budget
2. Make up for lost Sunday's – if you miss a week please remember the work of the church goes on
3. Think about what you give and consider if you can give that little bit more
4. Be realistic in your giving – today we hardly even get a loaf of bread for a pound – let alone heat the church.
5. Support your local churches STEWARDSHIP MONTH by putting an extra DONATION in the envelope provided
6. Consider GIFT AID – it's the easy way for people paying tax to increase what they give to the church
7. Pray for the work and witness of the local congregation and ask God to help them meet their financial obligations
8. Give willingly, cheerfully and gladly
9. Make a positive response and not be offended at the mention of the "M" word – "M" being MONEY!

PRAISE

“Oh the times they are a changing” The words from the old familiar song, ring true. These are difficult days, and “There’s no’ two doubts about it.” Economically, socially, politically, morally, culturally, ecclesiastically, in every way life is changing. This will either fill us with fear or give us the incentive we need to meet the challenges before us.

Within the life of the Church, much is changing, declining numbers, increasing financial demands and constant change in rules and regulations. Surely, though, we should not lose sight of the incredible ways in which we are continually serving the local community and beyond. Our numbers maybe declining but there is greater commitment and ongoing development in our outreach. If we could only put a value on the time and talents that people offer, we would discover just how rich we are in a unique sense.

I take this opportunity to thank the members and friends of Dunipace Parish Church who “go the extra mile” and do indeed “give without counting the cost” I pray that in the midst of these difficult and ever changing times, the assurance of God’s unchanging love for the Church will give us the courage we need to face the challenges that are before us.

PRAYER

Gracious God, our times are in your hand
Help us to put our trust in the promises of your Word
and so believe that things beyond our seeing and things
beyond our imagining have been prepared for us.

Gracious God, as we give thanks for the past,
contemplate the present and look with hope toward the
future, grant us the serenity to accept the things we
cannot change, courage to change the things we can
and wisdom to know the difference.

Amen.



COMMUNICATIONS

In this edition of the church magazine we promote **LIFE & WORK.**

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Freshers' Faith

Jackie Macadam explores the challenges faced by Christians starting university

Out for the Summer

Thomas Baldwin samples two major Christian festivals: Solas and the CLAN Gathering

A Remarkable Life

The Rev David Levison tells the story of his father, Leon, a Palestinian rabbi's son who was banished from his homeland after embracing Christianity.

Into Injury Time-

Former Life and Work editor R D Kernohan reflects on the church of today.

Divine Right

Lawrence Sum highlights a major new exhibition in Glasgow celebrating the King James Bible

The Big Question

Who was the most influential person on your faith as a teenager?

Out of Hours

The Rev Scott Burton introduces a new form of worship.

With Psaltery and Banjo

The Rev Dr Robin Hill conclude his series on the Psalms, with half an eye to his own church band.

View from the Pew

Jim Cunningham reflects on sectarianism in Scottish football.

Creation Time

The Moderator highlights the importance of connecting to our land.

Theology of Fragility

The Rev Martin Johnstone focuses on the inspiration of three individuals encountered in fragile places.

Plus all the regular columnists, letters, reviews and crosswords - all for just £1.80

Life and Work Needs You Please send submissions and suggestions for parish news, Growing Church, View from the Pew and The Big Picture to Life and Work, 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN or magazine@lifeandwork.org

If you would like to subscribe to LIFE & WORK please contact Mrs Maureen Pleace.

PARISH REGISTER

Bereaved

We hold in prayer those who mourn the death of their loved one:

Mrs Barbara Henderson	Bonnybridge Hospital (Formely Milton Row)
Mrs Isabella Campbell	52 Avon Street, Dunipace
Mrs Elma Faiella	31 Wheatlands Avenue
Mrs Jeanie Gallacher	Bankview Care Home (Formerly the Manse)
Mr Harry Ashurst	5 Heatherdale Gardens
Mrs Margaret Hunter	6 Allan Crescent, Dunipace
Mr Robert McCormack	Bankview Care Home (Formely 258 Stirling Street)

Wedding

We extend our congratulations to those recently married:

22nd July Brian Johnston & Melissa Hoehle
105 Godfrey Avenue, Denny

Certificate of Transference

We are delighted to welcome the following members through certificate of transference:

Mr Alexander & Mrs Margaret Brown

11 Albany Court, Denny (D8: Elder: Mr Harry Busby)

Keeping Us Updated

Please help us keep our records up to date by informing the Roll Keeper (Mr David Turnbull) of changes

Hospital Visits

Please also remember that hospital records are CONFIDENTIAL.

If you go into hospital and would like a visit from the Minister and/or Elder, please, ask your family to let the Minister/Elder know which hospital (and ward) you are in.

OUR WHO'S WHO

Minister	Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher
Session Clerk	Mr Lachlan McGowan
Associate Clerk	Mr Gregor Wilson
Clerk to Board	Mrs Tish Graham
Treasurer	Mrs Fiona Bruce
Freewill Offering	Mrs Jean Gray
Gift Aid	Mrs Sandra Thomson
Mission Bags	Mrs Aileen Sneddon
Roll Keeper	Mr David Turnbull
Presbytery Elder	Mr Jim Winning
Organists	Mr Bill Strang
	Mrs Zoe Cox
	Rev Ronald Maxton
Choir Leader	Mr David Faulds
Children's Ministry	Mrs Barbara Fulford
Youth Fellowship	Miss Laura Peattie
Child Protection	Mrs Tish Graham
Guild	Mrs Betty McDonald
Men's Club	Mr Angus Cameron
Badminton Group	Mr George Mills
Flowers	Mrs Jane Mills
Communion Linen	Mrs Chrissie Busby
Kirk Café	Mrs June Davies
Transport	Mr Jim Winning
Property	Mr Jim Perry
Finance	Mrs Anne Marchant
Social Projects	Mrs Gwen McGowan
Hospitality	Mrs Maureen Pleace
Communications	Mrs Helen Lax
Magazine Distribution	Mr Bill Paterson
Posters	Mr David Reynolds
Website Editor	Mr James Smith
Health & Safety	Mr Bill Ferguson
Life & Work	Mrs Maureen Pleace

VESTRY NIGHT

At the Manse on a **Wednesday** from 6.30pm

For an appointment please call the Minister

Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher - 824540