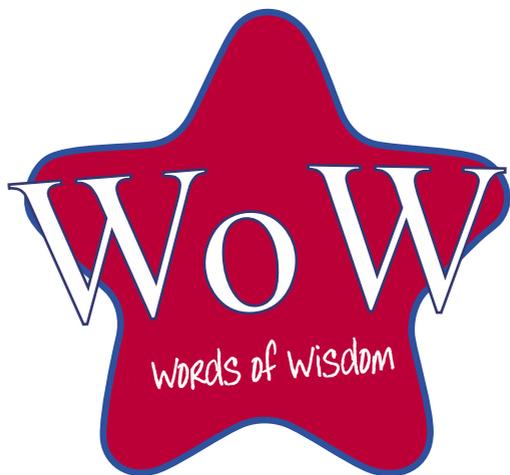


Dalgety Parish Church Magazine

Winter 2018



Church Family

Deceased:-

Mrs Lavinia Mills
Mr William Weir
Mrs Gertie Rew

New Members:-

Mr Bill & Mrs Doreen Blanche
Mrs Ellen Philp
Elizabeth Roy



Who To Contact

Minister

Rev Christine Sime, 01383 822316, CSime@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk

Isobel Macfarlane, 01383 822990, isobel@dalgety-church.co.uk

Church Office, 01383 824092, office@dalgety-church.co.uk
Church web site: www.dalgety-church.org.uk

Dalgety Parish Church, Regents Way, Dalgety Bay, KY11 9UY



Dalgety Parish Church of Scotland

Minister's Musings

Advent! 'A lovely time of year.' Looking towards preparing for Christmas. Christmas! A lovely time of year? For so many it certainly is, while for others, not so much. The hype, the shopping, the family gatherings, the news from afar, the giving and receiving. For some it is ALL good, while for others, it ALL grates and for most there is a mix.

Yet the original reason for marking Christmas brings something of worth to everyone, no matter their view of the secular season or their ability to 'buy into' it.

We hope you will join us for one, some, or indeed all our Advent and Christmas services (you might need a huge amount of energy and stamina for ALL) and within them discover a deep peace in the midst of activity and a way forward in the midst of fear and the desire to hide away.

We start on 2nd December (10.30 am) with the Sacrament of Holy Communion, to which everyone is invited and welcome. This sacrament, above all that we do in church, represents the actual presence of God with us, which is what advent is all about. Preparing for the remarkable anniversary celebration of God coming to earth, to our world and our lives, to sit with us at the table and walk with us through life. We share bread and wine, believing that this symbolises God in our hands. As Mary held Jesus, as Joseph carried his son so God entrusts himself into our hands. What will we do with him? How will we treat him? Will we set him down first chance? Give him back as soon as possible? The Incarnation, Christmas, tell us God is with us. Worthy of remembering and celebrating: and not just at Christmas.

We have an outdoor (we hope) travelling nativity (9th December 4.00 pm). The promises made thousands of years before Jesus' birth and the narrative of his birth, will be read side by side as we take a short walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem, to meet the shepherds; before moving to our third location where Magi arrive, before heading to the church to chat (and warm up). A journey! Because Jesus comes to us as we travel through life, he asks us to travel with him. With carol singing in the midst of community we remember Jesus did not hide away in a building but made himself available to everyone.

We also have a quiet reflective thanksgiving service (2nd December 3.00 pm), a service of thanks, of remembering the past year – the good and the bad – in the peace of an afternoon. A time to stop and wonder. Plus our more 'riotous' evening (23rd December).

A mix of services. For families, for individuals; for celebration and reflection. All planned to help us realise that we mark Christmas because it reminds us that God loves us so much that no matter how we feel, he wants to be with us - in the depths of despair, in the lighter moments of fun. He came to be with you and me. And this is a time to say thank you, to show him our love. Without him there is little hope or consolation in this season for those who are struggling.

Different ways of remembering, and reflecting on the reason that Christ remains in Christmas.

May you experience the blessing of Christmas - God with you. However you spend it I pray you will know his peace.

Christine

Sunday Club



While the schools are on holiday, the Junior Church takes a holiday too and "Sunday Club" meets instead. The numbers attending have varied from two to ten. Their offering of £90 has been sent to the Indonesia Appeal.

Pictured are four of our Sunday Clubbers!

Badminton Club



Wednesdays 7.15 pm - 9.00 pm in the Main Hall at Dalgety Parish Church. New members welcome.

Youth Zone

It was so nice to see familiar faces returning to Youth Zone and it was a pleasure to welcome new faces. It's a great environment to have fun and make new friends.

Nancy and I were introduced to several new games at the last session, although we are still trying to understand Chaos Tig. Everyone had a good laugh at us trying to learn how to Floss as, sadly, we were not very co-ordinated.

Cup Stacking turned out to be a very popular activity, especially as we had a champion cup stacker showing us the knack. Team games became very competitive, but no team really emerged as outright winners and it was agreed by all it was the taking part that mattered.

Why come to Youth Zone? If you are in P4 to P7, then come along, Friday 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm. It is run by the church, meets in the church hall and is a time to relax after school, meet with friends and make new friends.

We start with a snack, a chat, then discover what the days club activities will be. A team game involving running and jumping around or maybe solving a puzzle? A surprise visit from someone special? We will have to wait and see.

We then take time to sit and discuss our faith; what God and Jesus means to us as Christians; what God, Jesus or faith means to you. Questions are always encouraged.

Boy or Girl this club's for you. Come one week or even two or even better come every week. If you miss a week that's okay, the club will be on the next Friday. We hope you can manage to come along, we would love to see you.

Youth Zone is on from Friday 26th October to 14th Dec inclusive and after the Christmas break, we resume on Friday Jan 11th to February 22nd, 2019.

Natasha



Dalgety Parish Church Guild



It was with deep regret that we heard that one of the Guild's longest serving members, Gertie Rew, had passed away on Monday 22nd October. Gertie would have been presented with her badge celebrating 50 years of service to The Guild, towards the end of this year: an amazing achievement. When I became Guild convener, Gertie offered me her support, and encouraged me to become involved in the Guild Presbytery meetings (now called Guilds Together) and also to go along to the Presbyterial Council Convener's Conference in May this year. Attending these events helped me gain a greater knowledge of The Guild, which has helped me tremendously in my new role. Thank you Gertie.

To date we have had 3 meetings and each one was very much enjoyed by those who attended. One of the charities The Guild is supporting over the next 3 years, is The Sailors Society and Pauline Robertson, who is the chaplain for Port of Leith, Rosyth, and Inverkeithing came along and told us about how The Sailors' Society undertake to not only offer spiritual guidance, a listening ear and a kind word to the sailors who dock at these ports, but also practical help, when and where there is a need. Help is offered regardless of where the sailors have come from or what religion they subscribe to. Many of the crew members she meets have been away from home for months and are missing their family and feeling lonely and a bit lost and so one of her constant tasks is helping them to top up their mobile phones so they can speak to loved ones. Some need warm clothing because they are not prepared for our weather and some just want help to get their pay paid to them.

We have also had a visit from Karen Gillon, Guild Associate Secretary at 121, George St.(Church of Scotland office). She gave us an insight into the changes that have taken place within The Guild over many years and the challenges it faces in the these changing times. Karen also gave us an insight into how the charities The Guild supports are chosen and talked about the charities we will be supporting between 2018-2021. Karen spoke with enthusiasm and with humour making what could have been quite a "dry" subject very interesting and informative.

Both of the above speakers took the time to answer many and varied questions and stayed to chat over tea/coffee, which was much appreciated.

That covers 2 meetings, so what about meetings I haven't covered. Do you remember Storm Ali on 19 September? Caused a bit of a problem as our speaker for that night lives in North Berwick and by 2pm it became apparent there was no way he could join us. This saw our convener scurrying to a garden centre near you to try and get something to entertain the members who would be brave enough to venture out. Quiz, for the age of 8 yrs and over was the only solution I could put my hands on: that'll do thought I. What can go wrong?? All I can say is the questions were so obscure, we just has to laugh as we couldn't understand some of the questions never mind answer them. Ah well.

By the time this reaches you, we will have hosted a Mamma Mia Sing a Long cheese and wine in the Church hall and the funds raised will go towards The Guild charities. Our last meeting for 2018 will be our carol service on 6th December and is open to all, not just Guild members. Please come and join us. In January we're going to attempt to make a Guild banner for the Church, with the help of Veronica Simpson and that will be a new challenge for us. We are also arranging a ceilidh which will be held on 18th January in the sailing club, so put that date in your diary.

In the Hall of Fellowship, The Guild have a display on the wall beside the kitchen: please take the time to look at the information about The Guild and the charities we are currently supporting, take a copy of our syllabus and consider coming along to support us.

Thank you.

Elma Doig

Discoverers

This group meets during the second half of the Sunday morning service and is open to anyone currently in Primary 6 up to S4. They are given the opportunity to discuss Bible passages and how this relates to their life or look at moral issues which affect young people and chat about how a Christian would deal with these things. The group might watch a video on a topic, create a craft or create a poster too.

It is a relaxed and informal time, with a non-judgemental sounding board of church members leading the group on a rota. Anyone seeking to know more is very welcome to come along and see what we do.

Reminiscences of a Reader in Retirement!

'You know, I think that, when they retire, anyone with an ounce of ability should seriously think about becoming a Reader. We need more people like that.'

My friend walked on a couple of paces and, as though realising exactly what it was that she had just said, she stopped and said to me:

*'Oh! I didn't mean **you!**'*

She may not have meant **me** but, if one is a Christian, there are times in one's life when it is impossible to deny that God **may** be speaking directly to **you**, and this was one of them!

I had been thinking about retirement anyway, so I felt compelled to follow the example of Gideon by 'casting a fleece'! [See Judges 6:36-40]. Mine would be a simple one. The first step towards the Readership is attendance at a Vocations Conference, run yearly by the Church of Scotland, so I decided to check when and where the next one would take place. My thinking was that, if the date had passed, then I might have misunderstood my friend's remarks. However, enquiries revealed that not only was the Conference imminent but that, for the first time, it would be held in Dunfermline - at the Carnegie Conference Centre!

God seemed to be twisting my arm! so I said to Him:

'OK, God. You are in charge but, if at any time on this journey, I hit a serious obstacle then I may well take that as a sign that I can pull out!'

I have been casting fleeces left, right and centre ever since, but have yet to hit the anticipated 'brick wall'!

After receiving my application, the first thing that the Church did was to check my background and carry out health and psychological evaluations. These must have proved satisfactory as I was deemed suitable to enter into a PoD! Nothing to do with peas! It is a Period of Discernment during which a perceived call to ministry is assessed as real or imagined!

By July 2016 a 'leap of faith' was required! I retired from the law, entered into discernment at Kincardine and Tuliullan and, even more scarily, enrolled upon a two-year course in Theological Studies at the University of Highland and Islands!

Adjudged to have a true 'calling', I then underwent two six-month training placements at local churches - the first, at St Margaret's and the second, here at Dalgety Bay both of which have given me practical experience in all aspects of ministry.

During the summer I graduated from UHI, and very soon I will be 'Set Apart' - effectively 'set loose' upon the general public!

When handing me my graduation scroll in July, the University chancellor, Princess Anne, remarked, somewhat cheekily:

'You were a lawyer, were you? Could one say then that you have now seen the light?!'

Who was I to argue with royalty?! Oh, and the sheep don't have to worry! I won't be needing their fleeces anymore!

Sandy Muirhead

Dalgety Parish Church
Christmas Concert

Sunday 23 December 7:30pm



Carols
Praise
Poetry
Comedy
Mince Pies

with
The Elastic Band
and Special Guests

"Thinking Aloud"

- Why don't all Christians hold the same opinions?
- Who or what influences your opinions?
- Do you take time to listen to the opinions of others to check if you're still happy with your own?

Thinking Aloud is an opportunity to explore a range of topics affecting our everyday lives where the Bible is silent or ambiguous or where its message is seen as irrelevant in modern times.

Thinking Aloud is aimed at all those whose faith journey includes doubts and unanswered questions and those who are willing to share the answers they have found.

Thinking Aloud started again on the second Tuesday in September after a gap of almost 5 years. We've had a healthy start with 6 or 7 people at each meeting which has kept the conversation flowing for almost 3 hours each time! But there's still room for **you** if you want to come along. In September we looked at how people dip in and out of the Bible believing some parts and ignoring others in Pic 'n' Mix Bible and then in October we looked at Faith and what difference having faith makes in our lives. The November topic is Christmas and whether it is still a Christian festival and in December I'll be asking people what's on their bucket list. Do come and join us at 6 Forth Reach on 11 December and the second Tuesday of the months of next year!

Lesley Shaw - 01383 821628
curves@bruce-shaw.co.uk

Future of the Church in Scotland

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has instructed all Presbyteries and Congregations to consider the future of the church. There are a number of reasons for this decision including, many churches have very small congregations, many church buildings are not fit for purpose and the number of ministers is set to decrease.

Dunfermline Presbytery, along with every other Presbytery in Scotland, will have to reconsider their Presbytery map and determine which churches

will close and the best places for the churches of the Presbytery to be situated. Consideration is also being given to combining the Presbyteries of Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and St Andrews into the Presbytery of Fife.

Dunfermline Presbytery arranged a conference to begin this discussion and 10 people from Dalgety Church attended, along with 8/10 people from each church in the Presbytery.

It was felt by those who attended from Dalgety

that there was a long difficult road ahead with big issues to be addressed, but it is an opportunity which must not be ignored. The Kirk Session will be discussing this and it will also be discussed with the congregation and with our neighbouring congregations.

Challenging times – without doubt. The opportunity to make our church in Scotland better and stronger – YES.

Isobel Macfarlane
Session Clerk

Congregational Development Group

The Congregational Development Group had the opportunity earlier in the year to put on a Celebration of Talents event. This was a fantastic privilege to showcase the amazing and diverse abilities of the congregation at DPC ranging from knitting, crochet, paintings, beadwork, mosaics, books written by members as well as flower arranging and dressmaking! All in all, a very talented bunch! It was well attended and we also had the opportunity to support the Coffee Morning held by the RNLI (Lifeboats charity); a great chance to be involved in the community too.

All the events run by the church are open to everyone in the community, please come along and enjoy our Tuesday morning Café Connect, monthly Bereavement Support Group, weekly or fortnightly Bible Studies and many others.

Pick up an Order of Service from the Hall of Fellowship to see what's going on or check out the Calendar on our Website to see what's happening.



Christian Aid in Indonesia

During October we held retiring collections for Christian Aid's Indonesia appeal to help the victims of the earthquake and Tsunami. We have seen images of the disaster on the television, but it is hard to appreciate the scale of the problem.

Most of us have heard of Borneo, Papua, and Sumatra, the three biggest islands in Indonesia: but most of us won't have heard of Sulawesi, the fourth biggest island. Although it is only the fourth biggest island in Indonesia, it is the eleventh biggest island in the world with an area of over 60,000 square miles. This is where the disaster struck.

The work of the relief agencies is hampered by the scale of the problem and by the remoteness of the location. Over 1.5 million people are affected, with over 2,000 killed and over 70,000 displaced. The cities of Palu and Mamuju and the Douggalu district, which are the worst hit areas, are over a thousand miles from Jakarta, the Indonesian capital. The airport at Palu is a small one and one the disaster struck, flights were immediately fully booked and the airport is finding it difficult to cope with the demand.

Aid-workers struggled to reach some of the remote areas. Christian Aid's local partners were amongst the first there and found devastation and tragedy everywhere. For instance, Petobo, a village only a few kilometres from the city of Palu, was completely destroyed. Families had lost everything and many had been killed.

Another village, Balaroo, the one with possibly the single highest death toll in Sulawesi, may well have become a mass grave because of the difficulty of digging out bodies. The village virtually disappeared into a sinkhole after the earthquake struck and residents fear that about 70 per cent of the population has been killed. This rural village — like Petobo, is only a few kilometres outside Palu and was home to about 2,000 people until the disaster. Search and rescue workers using earth-moving equipment toiled for days to find survivors, but with more than 1,000 people missing, it was a near-impossible task.

An example of the personal tragedies is seen in an interview with Nurhayati. Aged 46, she reported that she was visiting neighbours with her husband, Denrate, when the earthquake struck: she yelled at her husband to get out but lost him in the ensuing chaos. "Suddenly the wall cracked," she said. "I ran away first. I thought my husband was behind me.

Then the earth jolted and by the time I reached a safer place I looked back and he wasn't there." She has looked for her husband for days but can't find him. She still hasn't told her son that his father is probably dead. "Only when I find my husband will I tell him," she said. "He still doesn't know what happened to his father."

Meanwhile Christian Aid workers and local partners are supporting search and rescue efforts and delivering life-saving water, food, and medical supplies. The true extent of this disaster will be uncovered in the coming months, but Christian Aid will continue to be there.

Fund-Raising for Indonesia is just a small part of the work of the the Christian Aid group. But the group needs volunteers. If you want to join a team that is making a real difference, contact Malcolm (820158)

Helping survivors rebuild their lives.

The Nicola Murray Foundation

My late wife Olivia, who died on 20th June this year of ovarian cancer, requested that any donations taken at her funeral on 27th June at Dunfermline Crematorium be given to the above foundation. I am delighted to let you know that the sum of £750 was raised and I am very grateful for the generosity of everyone who attended Olivia's funeral.

The Foundation was established in 2010 in memory of Nicola Murray, a Fife lady who died, aged 34, of ovarian cancer. All funds raised go towards research into better ways of diagnosis and treatment of the disease. The research centre was established at the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh and has been named "The Nicola Murray Ovarian Cancer Research Centre", in her honour.

Thank you again for this wonderful amount of money raised. Olivia would have been pleased to think that the donations have gone to this worthy cause.

John Scott

Café Church

The most recent Café Church event was held during October and was an opportunity to meet in the Church to learn more on the theme of Faith whilst eating cake and drinking coffee! We were delighted to have two church members speaking of their experiences.

Richard Lloyd shared his journey to believing Jesus Christ is his - and anyone else who asks for forgiveness - Saviour. He held us enthralled as he explained how this had happened to him.

Margaret Fraser told us how Christ has always walked beside her in her life. She has experienced His loving arms supporting and guiding during the challenges she has faced, but not necessarily in the ways expected! She spoke with confidence of her faith and inspired us all to keep talking to Jesus and listening for His responses. The opportunity to chat with others about the speakers and share something of our own experiences, made the evening very personal.

Music is always a big part of Café Church, when we use more contemporary songs with videos and this time was no different with Rend Collective's, Build Your Kingdom Here and Reckless Love, by Cory Asbury. Look out for the banner outside the church announcing when the next Café Church will take place and come to join us.

REFRESH

Refresh meets on the last Friday of the month at 10am in Room 1. Basically, we are a coffee morning, but with a difference in that we don't only share coffee, cake and chat, but also focus on a topic which refreshes us. In October we looked at "hands" which are an important part of communicating our emotions. We shake hands to show welcome and friendship, we clap hands to show appreciation and we hold hands when we fall in love! It's not surprising that people in Bible days connected God's hands with His love and care. We finished our meeting with making our hands into a flower (as the picture shows), thus reminding us of God's caring hands and that we too can use our hands to care for others. Do come and join us for an hour of fellowship, fun and food plus a Christian thought to take away for encouragement.



Over this past year we have continued to grow as a Messy Church in numbers, as well as growing in faith and supporting one another.



We are made up of a mixture of people from all different backgrounds, ages and interests. The beauty of Messy Church is that it is a very relaxed atmosphere, there are opportunities for lots of different types of activities and people can choose what they join in with and how involved they get. People often think it's called Messy Church because we do messy activities (which of course we sometimes do!) but we like to think it's messy because it doesn't fit into a formal structure. Each time we get together it is a little bit different. Any group that's made up of a mixture of people is going to be a bit messy. After all, God created us all as individuals, unique and wonderfully made!

We always have room for more people in our Messy family and we would love to welcome you along to our next Messy Church on:

Sunday 27th January 2019

3 – 5pm

Dalgety Parish Church

For more information check out our Facebook page – Messy Church at DPC



Environmental concerns

Caring for the earth and its resources is not specifically a Christian prerogative. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the Swiss-born philosopher, writing in the mid-18th century, said, "...you are lost, if you forget that the Fruits of the Earth belong equally to us all and the Earth itself to nobody".

In the Book of Genesis, the Bible tells us of God and creation and his covenant with the world; in Deuteronomy it talks of protecting the environment and the book of Exodus exhorts us to have days of rest. In 1st Kings we read about God working through nature and we see that people are part of nature, with a responsibility for this world.

We all have a responsibility – it does not matter where we come from, what gender we are or how young or old we are. If we want to have a world fit for us and for our children and their children then none of us can stand idly by and do nothing. There is little doubt that climate change is going to adversely affect the world unless we all change our behaviour – and this applies equally to governments, local authorities, manufacturing and retail companies as well as individuals, in whichever part of the world we live. It applies to Europe as well as to America and China and other polluting nations.

While there is a degree of confusion about exactly what can be recycled, particularly when it comes to the different types of plastic, there should be no confusion about reducing our consumption of non-biodegradable products or re-using what we can or being mindful about our use of fossil fuels. As individuals, there are many things we can do at home: we can insulate our house and loft, install an energy efficient boiler, cut down on paper and receive bills and statements online, reduce the amount of meat we eat; we can plant a tree, build a compost heap, grow our own vegetables; we can recycle food, garden waste and glass, we can turn yoghurt pots and toilet rolls into seed pots... the list goes on.



Discarded garbage in India, courtesy Hindustan Times

We can also put pressure on supermarkets and retailers to offer loose fruit and veg and reduce their packaging. We can think twice before jumping into the car.

Can we live with ourselves when our grandchildren ask us what we did to prevent the world from over-heating, being flooded and ravaged with hurricanes, typhoons and tsunamis? Or what we did to prevent the destruction of coral reefs or rainforests? John Donne, the metaphysical poet of the 16th century summed it up well in his 'No man is an island' when he wrote that we are all part of the continent of Europe and that "if a clod be washed away by the sea Europe would be the less", as would we if we lost our friends. "Any man's death diminishes me because I am involved with mankind", he wrote. As citizens of the world all our lives are inextricably linked where one person's selfishness or greed can diminish others – in which case, we all lose.

Have a care for creation, for climate change and for stewardship of our shared resources, before it is too late. As Donne reminded us: "And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

Fairtrade and the Mamie Martin Fund

Many, many thanks to those who attended the talk by Mercy Sibande, the speaker from the Mamie Martin Fund. She told us stories of the girls in Malawi who have been able to receive secondary school education with the help of this fund to pay their school fees.

Many thanks also to those who contributed so generously to the fund, thus continuing this valuable work. Over £400 was given, so as well as paying the fees for one girl for a year, there will be some left over for discretionary payments. Mercy told us of one girl who could not attend school as she had no hold-all to carry her belongings, but after the provision of such a minor item, her whole future will be changed for the better.

The monthly profit from the Fair Trade stall goes to the Mamie Martin Fund, so we have a regular commitment to this work over and above the Fair Trade Premium which has already gone to improve the lives of the producers of the goods.

Alas Traidcraft, the main supplier, has hit financial trouble and it seems that it will cease trading at the end of the year. I don't know in what form the stall will continue. There are many lines, such as the Kilombero rice, Divine chocolate and the Café Direct coffee which will be unaffected, but at the moment, it seems that there will be no muesli or sugar. However, there are more and more Fair Trade lines appearing on the shelves of our supermarkets, so please keep an eye open for them. Remember that the few pence extra which you pay for them can make an enormous difference to the health and education of the producers.

Of course, the One World Shop in Edinburgh will also be affected, but again, they use several other suppliers so there will still be a wonderful range of crafts and toys for you to browse when you are doing your Christmas shopping. The shop is back in its old location, under St John's church at the west end of Princes St so convenient for the X58 bus! The Cornerstone café is now open there too, so you can have a well earned rest while admiring your purchases.



Church Services:

Sunday 2nd December @ 10.30 am - Communion Service.
All welcome.

Sunday 2nd December @ 3.00 pm - Quiet Service of
thanksgiving, remembering, reflection.

Sunday 9th December @ 10.30 am - Service with the
Sacrament of Baptism

Sunday 9th December @ 4.00 pm - Travelling Nativity
(meet at the Peace Garden)

Sunday 16th December @ 10.30 am - Family service
including our all age Nativity

Sunday 23rd December @ 10.30 am - Advent Service

Sunday 23rd December @ 7.30 pm - Christmas Concert

Monday 24th December @ 6.30 pm - Christingle Service

Monday 24th December - Watchnight Service: Carols from
11.00 pm, service starts at 11.30 pm

Tuesday 25th December : 10.30 am - Christmas Morning
Family Service

Dalgety Has Talent? We certainly do!!!!

A great evening was enjoyed by all at our Talent Show on 28th September. We listened to poems, written and read by Alison and Ros; chuckled at the comic songs performed by Matthew and Veronica and laughed at Pam's humorous poems.

There were songs and harmonies from 'Hues of Blues' (Veronica, Lesley, Christine, Irene, George, Winifred and Elma) accompanied by Rob, Malcolm, Matthew and Jack and were also treated to a jazz instrumental by Matthew, Malcolm and Jack.

Winifred, Amy and Margarets' woodwind trio performed a classical piece and the 'Pilgrims Progressed' ie Winifred, Amy, Margaret and Rob plus new Pilgrims Rosemary, Lucy and Richard, played Dixieland Blues.

The audience joined in with enthusiasm for an unusual version of Three Crows, ably acted out by Sue, Margaret, Winifred and Veronica and also in the African song finale.

Special thanks go to Isabel and Laura for the refreshments, to musicians Malcolm, Rob and Jack, to Tara for technical assistance, and to Eleanor who made the jolly backdrops.

Margaret Haynes

Dalgety Parish Church Christmas Fair

Saturday 1st December 2018

10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Lots of stalls to choose a Christmas gift from.

Our Cafe will be serving tea, coffee, home baking and offering a great selection of home made soup, served with crusty bread.

Dalgety Bay Primary School Choir will be singing at 10.10 am



Engcongolweni

Our twinning with Engcongolweni, a rural village area in northern Malawi, goes back over ten years. The relationship has been beneficial to both congregations with each having a deeper understanding of the other's situation and how that impacts on people's lives and faith. The constancy of the Christian faith is the bedrock under-pinning the relationship and overcomes the economic imbalance that is evident between our two communities.

Nurturing economic progress is not specifically the role of a church twinning but Dalgety Parish Church recognises that social justice is a prime concern in helping a community rise out of poverty. With its links to the Dalgety Bay Friends of Engcongolweni (a separate charity with its own trustees) the Church is helping with schemes which are bringing health and educational benefits to the community, as well as engendering community sustainability and resilience. The Church is supporting the Friends in its campaign to increase its membership. With more members the Friends will be able to expand their activities and this will allow greater stability to be brought to a community often not far from the brink of poverty. We would encourage you to read YEWOW!, and sign up as a Friend of Engcongolweni.

With some funds provided by the Church, the Friends have been busy building and stocking a pig farm. A successful breeding programme started earlier in the year and this resulted in several piglets being sold, some passed on to other families and some retained for breeding. Funds from the sale of pigs has, this year, resulted in the secondary school fees being paid for eight vulnerable children and food being bought for widows and orphans. Once a second pig farm is fully operational (it is scheduled to open at the end of this year) it is projected that within three years eighty pupils will benefit from secondary school education and seven hundred families will have pigs. The general health of the community has improved, one benefit of which has been increased school attendance. As a by-product, the manure is being spread on the fields for the maize crop resulting in a reduction of fertiliser usage. The pig farms are just one step towards poverty reduction in a country that ranks, on the Human Development Index, 173 out of 182 in the world.



There will be an opportunity to hear more about Engcongolweni at 7.30pm on Wednesday 28 November when the Friends of Engcongolweni will be holding an open meeting in the Church, as part of their AGM. A warm invitation is extended to all.

Community progress in Engcongolweni has been over-shadowed by the tragic accident which led to the death of Rev Henry Nkosi's daughter earlier in the year. Understandably, Rev Henry requested a move away from the area and he relocated at the end of October. Our prayers and blessings go with him and his wife, Tilly, and their family. Engcongolweni look forward to welcoming their new minister, Rev Allan Mwale, of whom we will learn more shortly.

10 facts about poverty in Malawi, which has a population approaching 20 million:

1. The economy is mainly agricultural, constituting of 80 % of the population living in rural areas.
2. Per capita income is £190 per annum
3. 51% of Malawians live below the poverty line
4. Over 1,000,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS
5. About 30 percent of children in Malawi do not start primary school (which is free) and only better-off families can afford secondary school fees.
6. Only 65.8% of Malawi's population can read and write by age 15
7. The median age for Malawians is 16.4 years old and due to poverty, poor access to health care, disease and food shortage, the average life expectancy is 63 years.
8. There is only one doctor for every 50,000 individuals
9. 10% of the population have no access to clean water (most of which comes from boreholes) and 60% lack improved sanitation
10. In an effort to reduce poverty the International Fund for Agricultural Development is working with Malawi's government to promote agricultural growth in rural areas.

The Church and the Friends have received a mention in the Scottish Parliament from Annabelle Ewing MSP in the debate on International Development.

Men's Breakfast – The noise of fellowship continues....

The Men's Breakfast team have had another busy, interesting and enjoyable year, hopefully so have those who have attended our various events! It was great to welcome some new faces to help with the cooking and washing up and Tom, Iain and Paul quickly learned the most important task at Men's Breakfast is.....make coffee first thing, as we all work better with a mug of coffee to encourage us!

Last year we changed the set up in rooms 1 and 2, making better use of the tables and chairs to give us more of a 'café' feel. We did another café style breakfast where, rather than having filled rolls, we offered a full breakfast, allowing everyone to choose what they wanted, including their choice of eggs. Rather than having a speaker we spent the time chatting and sharing fellowship.

In March we welcomed Ian Rankin, not the famous crime writer, but an engineer who works with Christian Engineers in Development, who told us about some of the projects CED are involved in around the world. Also, along with the Ladies' Afternoon Tea group, we arranged a Baked Potato evening to raise funds for Hannah and Tara's trip to Nepal where the girls spoke with anticipation of their hopes for the trip and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening.

At our August breakfast Anne and Michael Yarney came to speak to us about their trip to Rwanda. They went as part of a group from their previous church in Bishopbriggs, to work with the Comfort Rwanda charity. Rwanda has often been in the news for all the wrong reasons and to hear about the way Rwandans have moved on from the horrors of the Genocide and to reconciliation and forgiveness was humbling. Anne and Michael were involved in lots of practical jobs: from working in pineapple fields to digging pits for recycling food and vegetable waste, to painting houses for some of the mums. Apparently that was Mike's favourite job! Listening to their moving testimony, what stood out was the importance of making contact with the people in Rwanda and building relationships with them.

September was when we held our congregational breakfast in support of our Harvest appeal charity and, in another departure from the usual formula, we arranged a supply of breakfast pastries from a local supplier which proved to be very popular with those who attended. I'm sure we will do something similar next year. We held our third World Porridge Day breakfast to support Mary's Meals: as you can see Graham thoroughly enjoyed making and eating the porridge.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our final breakfast of this year and welcoming Brian Shaw, who will be sharing some of his thoughts about his year as President of the local Rotary Club.

We are now turning our thoughts to next year. If you have any suggestions for topics or speakers for future breakfasts, please speak to one of the team.



Do You Need a Pilot in Your Life?

My childhood summer holidays were spent in a caravan set on the seawall at St Helens, Isle of Wight where we looked across the bay to Bembridge beach & harbour. We could see a navigation channel, marked by red and green buoys and a pair of leading lights on the shore, not far from our caravan. The need for these markers became very obvious at low water (especially during spring tides) when the hazardous sand bars were revealed. At that time (during the 1950's) a pilot boat ferried the pilots - via the channel - from Bembridge to the incoming liners arriving in the Solent so they could be safely guided to Southampton docks. I spent many a happy hour at the end of a telescope observing these activities and also when 2 maroons were fired summoning "Jesse Lumb," the Bembridge slipway-launched Watson Class lifeboat.

I was reared in a loving Christian home with my 3 siblings and knew about the Love of Jesus from a very young age. My secondary education took place in a boarding school for the sons of missionaries (by then, that only applied to about 20% of boarders) and we had a wonderful school chaplain, who was also the assistant scout master of the school troop. Amongst other activities, he led discussion groups about comparative religions and provided training classes for church membership. Progressing through school involved a series of decisions about the subjects to study and those to give up and to what career(s) were you aspiring? I was needing help!

Each Sunday in our own School Chapel we attended an evening service. A milestone in my life occurred at this time when I was aged about 14-15. Imagine hearing a "sermon"/ "talk" about the Bembridge Pilots. My attention was instantly captivated! The talk ended with a question and solution: Do you need a Pilot in your life? Jesus can be your Pilot if you ask Him. What incredible timing. I needed a Pilot, I could see its relevance and that night, in prayer, I asked Jesus to use me and be my guide for the rest of my life. A few weeks later I had an experience that I can only describe as an awareness of Him standing at the foot of my bed reassuring me that He would be with me always. That conviction has never left me. Looking back over my life it is wonderful to see how He has helped and guided me, opening some doors, closing others and reassuring me during those occasions when I couldn't understand why the answers weren't forthcoming when I wanted or expected them! I'm sure these were opportunities to test and strengthen my faith for He has always answered in His own time. I'm now age 75, still happily married with 2 married sons and 4 grandchildren, I retired from a wonderful career combining being a GP & anaesthetist. I recently looked back at my last school report card "He will need to work hard as he has not much in reserve." Our Lord kept His promise and has used me to help others.

David Cooper

Church Flowers

Thank you to the Minister and Session for my surprise presentation on 50 years as Flower Convener - a lovely vase and card. I consider this to be an honour and privilege to be able to serve the church in

this way.

Thank you to all the ladies who gave up of their time on Posy Saturday. The posies are very much appreciated by the recipients. To the congregation who donate to the flower rota week by week during the year.

After the Sunday Service these flowers go to the sick, housebound, and on the 1st anniversary of a bereavement. A box is in the Hall of Fellowship for donations. Thanks you all. May Freeman



You are invited to join with us to celebrate the
Sacrament of
Holy Communion

Sunday 2nd December
10.30 am

All are welcome at the Lord's Table