

Dalgety Parish Church Magazine

Spring 2019



Church Family

Deceased:-

Mrs Val Davidson
Mrs Nana Brown
Mr Alex Cruickshank
Mrs Myrtle McLeod
Mrs Elizabeth Barry

Restored:-

Mrs Valerie Ball

New Members:-

Dr Stuart & Mrs Alice Buchan

Baptisms:-

Harris Hansen Gordon son of Graeme and Pamela
Ryker Hetherington Barclay son of Ross and Lisa
Angus Neil Wilson Gyles and Cameron Martin Liddell Gyles
sons of Scott and Laura



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

Since the last edition of WOW we have celebrated Advent and Christmas. We have stopped for a little quietness with reflective services, and sung out loud at our Travelling Nativity, Flash mob, Christingle, Watchnight and Christmas morning. It all seems such a long time ago! All absorbing at the time, it is gone in a flash and here we are looking forward to Easter, the 'next' church festival: to be marked and then left behind, as we rush on again to summer, and more busyness.

And perhaps that is where the season of Lent can really make its mark. As the last pancake disappears can we set aside a little time to stop? Think? Reflect? Consider what place, if any, God has in our life? To work out what, if anything, Jesus brought and brings to our life?

Maybe we could do this meeting with others at a set time each week. Such meetings are on offer, arranged by the church, or simply arrange to meet with folk at a time that suits you all.

Maybe set aside 10 (or more) minutes every day to go and be in a particular place in the house or garden, beach or church, and think about your own faith journey - what has been/what is important; or to pray for others AND for yourself. Come and sit in the peace garden with the peace pole as a focus; come and sit in the quiet room, open during the day, where different reflections will be available throughout Lent. Drop in when you can, stay as long as you are able.

We are all SO busy. But the busier we are the more we need to let God in.
Christine

Holy Week Services - All at 7.00 pm

Monday 15th April - St Fillan's, Aberdour
Tuesday 16th April - Inverkeithing Parish Church
Wednesday 17th April - Dalgety Parish Church
Thursday 17th April - Dalgety Parish Church
Friday 18th April - Dalgety Parish Church

Easter Sunday

Early morning service at the Peace Garden - 8.00 am
Family Service - 10.30 am
Evening Service - 7.00 pm (Quiet, reflective Service with Communion)

A reflection space will be open from 10.00 am - 4.00 pm and 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm
Wednesday 17th April - Friday 18th April and on Saturday 19th April
10.00 am - 12 noon.

The times they are a-changing!

Who hasn't heard that the church is in decline? Or that we are very short of Parish Ministers?

We are all doomed! Doomed!

Well – partly true!

The numbers of members and ministers **are** falling.

Membership is perhaps not the best measure in 21st century Scotland for we have a large number of folk who worship with us week by week who are not members. However there is definitely a challenge. But before we look at that challenge remember our faith is in God, our faith is secure. God is not diminished, the gospel is the same as it ever was, the power of The Spirit remains.

SO. The challenge!

How are we to be 'church' in our culture?

What does being a church mean? What are we to be, to be doing?

How can that be worked out across the whole of Scotland?

That is exactly what we are trying to work out nationally, regionally AND locally which means you also need to be thinking about it, helping the solution to come to the fore.

In 5 years time it is very likely that the number of parish ministers in this Presbytery will be reduced to maybe 60% (from 21 to 12). In order that everyone in Presbytery and indeed Scotland has the same access, resources what would YOU be willing to change/have changed here?

Nothing in our culture stays the same. Can we help make the changes and transitions less painful and indeed helpful for all? Whilst at the same time improving our witness and service to God.

Presbytery have set up a Special Commission to work on this. The first thing they have decided to do is to come and listen to every congregation and hear their thoughts, fears, ideas for the future. I hope you will come and talk to them. We need to discover God's vision for His church, we can only do that together.

Christine

NEW VENTURE – THE LIGHTHOUSE

This will provide a meeting place for those of all ages who are either new to the church, new to the area, or feel alone or isolated and would like somewhere to go for an hour or so to meet with others.

The Lighthouse will be open in Rooms 1 and 2 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month (starting date to be arranged) from 2-4 pm providing light refreshments. If you would like to be involved, either by coming along for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat, or helping to set up and clear, away we would love to hear from you.

All are invited and would be most welcome. Should you wish further information please contact Margaret Fraser Tel. 01383 820449.



Dalgety Bay Friends of Engcongolweni

The Friends of Engcongolweni have sent a letter of appreciation to the Kirk Session for the Church's help in distributing copies of its newsletter, 'Yewo!', along with the Christmas edition of 'WOW'. The Friends offer a big THANK YOU to those who helped in this way. As a result, the Friends were happy to record that a good number of new members had signed up.



If you wish to become a Friend, please ask Robin or Nan Arnott (robin.arnott@nibor.org.uk; 01383 822293;) for a membership form. Currently, the Friends is involved in funding the building and stocking of two pig farms in Engcongolweni.



Once again, the Christmas activities at Dalgety Parish Church delivered strong support for Frontline Fife and we were able to send a cheque for £1,078.36 – this included funds from retiring offerings, the Christmas post and the Travelling Nativity. Caryn Nicolson, CEO, said, “I write to express my sincere thanks... your generous support enables us to continue to work towards eradicating homelessness across Fife.”

Frontline Fife has also written expressing its thanks for the continued donations of food and toiletries for their emergency accommodation “... without your contribution we would not be able to help the less fortunate members of our community.” Please keep your donations coming – they are desperately needed.

Like many other charities, FLF is having to cope with the changing social scene and keep up-to-date with legislation and current charity regulations. Consequently, the organisation recently changed its governing document to ally the directors of the company to the members of the company and, as such, has dissolved its external membership scheme. In its place Frontline Fife will be establishing a Friends of Frontline Fife scheme and encouraging people to continue to support it but in a slightly different way.

Becoming a Friend will allow you to keep in touch with Frontline Fife developments and see how it is responding to the changing needs of society. Amongst other things, it plans to introduce a newsletter, run fundraising events and activities in support of its vital services – services on which many people rely. For instance, in its last financial year, FLF assisted 1,882 people and averted immediate homelessness for 824 of them; 6,900 young people underwent its ‘Leaving Home’ educational programme, to equip them for life after school or college, 90 families were prevented from losing their home and illegal evictions were prevented for 75 families. 273 individuals were assisted with tenancy issues and 232 families were provided with safe and secure temporary accommodation. Your donations have helped these individuals and families.

Without Frontline Fife, the issue of homelessness would be a much greater problem in Fife, which has the third-largest homelessness population among local authorities in Scotland. FLF provides a lifeline and safety net for those in need. If you wish to become a Friend, then contact Frontline Fife, 57-59 Viewforth Street, Kirkcaldy KY1 3DJ (01592 800430; Natasha.Johnstone@frontlinefife.co.uk).

Engcongolweni, Rev Alan Mwale

Rev Alan Mwale arrived in Engcongolweni in November last year, with his wife, Kissa, and their two daughters. Their elder daughter, Joy, is 21 and in her 2nd year of university education, while their younger daughter Patience is 16 years old and in form 4 at Bandawe Girls Secondary School.

Rev Alan was born on 7 September 1968, one of a family of five (4 boys and a girl). He and his sister are now the only siblings remaining. His father died in November 2005 but his mother is still alive at the age of 87.

He undertook secondary education up to form 4 and then decided he wanted to join the Malawi army. His mother was totally against that as she wanted him to become a teacher, a profession Alan did not wish to follow; the result was that he left school but did not undertake

any study or work at all. At that time, he was an active member of his local church and his spare time made him reflect on his life and he felt “there was a burning desire to work for God in his vineyard as a Pastor. This was how my calling started”.

In 1993, he applied for holy ministry but was not accepted, on the basis that he was too young. The following year he was invited for interviews by the Synod and while these were successful, he was placed on a waiting list because of his youth. In September 1995, the Synod accepted him as a candidate and for the next three years he studied at Zomba Theological College. In 1998, he was ordained to the ministry and inducted to the congregation at Ifumbo and has subsequently served several congregations since. He arrived in Engcongolweni from St Matthews in Nkhotakota where he had served for 3 years.

He is a Diploma holder with the University of Malawi and is now studying for a Bachelor of Divinity degree with Zomba Theological College which he plans to finish this year and “if God willing, I want to do a Master’s Degree”.



Youth Zone

It's a great environment to relax, to chat, to have fun and to make new friends.

It's a good way to start the weekend after a busy school week. If you are in P4 to P7, the club is on a Friday between 4pm to 5.30pm: it is the cool place to be!

Held in and run by the church, our God slot is a good opportunity to discuss bible stories from both the old and new testament and what the stories mean to us in the world today, whether you are a child or an adult. It never fails to amaze us how interested the young ones are and the discussions are very rewarding, where everyone is given the opportunity to have an opinion on the story or share what it means to them.

We have a beautiful prayer book, in which the all prayers are written by children from around the world and was a gift given to us for Youth Zone. Each week one child can choose a prayer which is discussed with great enthusiasm.

Cup Stacking is still one of the popular games, with Chaos Tig another firm favourite, which, I must confess Nancy and I still can't fathom out fully. We are sure the kids change the rules every time it is played, just to confuse us. Team games are a great opportunity to work together and to encourage one another: competitive at times, but fun. We still agree it's the taking part that matters.

Christmas period is especially rewarding. We discuss what Christmas really means and the importance of Jesus's birth, not just to Christians, but to all. It is great to be part of the overall excitement shown by the kids, telling us about the part they have been chosen to play in the Christmas play, or what they hope to get from Santa and why the present they wish for means so much to them. Each week I can't help but feel privileged to be part of Youth Zone.

The Christmas craft activity of making a Christmas reef with stars and a Santa Sleigh with sweets, was the highlight of the last club activity for 2018.

When we resumed in January, we heard of all the presents our members received for Christmas, followed by the highs the lows of being back at school. However, it was so nice to be told how happy they are the club is back on.

Our current session runs till Friday 22nd February, then we have a couple of weeks break. We will be back on 15th March for the next session, with favourite snacks, new and old games to play, new stories from the bible to tell. This session will run till 12th April, leading us into Easter.
Natasha





At our January Messy Church we heard the story of Gideon. Gideon doubted that he was any use and couldn't see how he could be of service to God. He was worried and scared, but an angel came from God and told Gideon not to be afraid, that God was with him and would give him the strength to do what was needed. So Gideon trusted God: he was strong and brave and he knew that God was with him. Through our worship, our mealtime and our activities and crafts, we learnt that we can also trust God to be with us when we are afraid, that we can pray to him when we are worried and that we can do anything with his strength.



Messy Church Dates:
Saturday 30th March 3 pm - 5pm
Sunday 26th May 3 pm - 5pm



Mens' Breakfast – The Noise of Fellowship 2019!

Mens' Breakfast has been running since 2012, so what does 2019 hold for us? Well, we will continue to have the usual format of a good healthy (?) breakfast, a guest speaker and time for fellowship. However we also are looking to put some evening events on, so watch out for these in due course.

Our February speaker was Callum Henderson from Comfort International, who was able to give an update of the work of the charity in Rwanda, Congo & Burundi. He did not just talk about the work itself, but also why, as Christians, we are called to look after others. We would like to thank all the men present who kindly donated the sum of £143, which has been forwarded to Comfort International to be used for the Transformation Centre project and will make a real difference for the Street Kids and the Mum's & Babies projects in Rwanda.

Our guest speaker in May is our very own Charlie Munn and we look forward to hearing what he has to say to us!

The dates for the Men's Breakfast for this year are:

18th May

17th August

16th November

To help you remember these dates we have printed some small cards to jog your memory and use it as invite to bring a friend. It would be good to see some new faces! Ask one of the team for a supply!



Christian Aid

We are familiar with Christian Aid's work in responding to disasters, and their strategy of helping communities work their way out of poverty. But they also have other campaigns. Two examples are the Women in Sierra Leone project, and the global warming campaign.

This year Christian Aid has a project on women in Sierra Leone. Women like Jebbeh, pictured here. Jebbeh looks healthy and happy and is heavily pregnant,



but Jebbeh's sister recently died giving birth and now she fears the same will happen to her. She has reason to worry: in Sierra Leone the mortality rate in childbirth is high : about the same as it was in Britain in the 1700s. Sierra Leone is thought to have the highest rate of maternal deaths in the world. Women there have an estimated one in 17 chance of dying from pregnancy or child birth-related causes. Christian Aid, working alongside local communities, has started a programme with their partner RADA to build bigger, better health clinics and are working on a programme of education to improve hygiene practices. The overall aim is simple: "to help mums and babies to survive and thrive."

Another aspect of Christian Aid activity is political campaigning. Their current campaign is on global warming. Christian Aid's campaign team are convinced that global warming is a reality and are convinced that it is the poorest people in the world who will suffer the most. They believe that global warming, if allowed to continue, will lead to increasing extremes of drought and flooding that will destroy harvests and produce mass starvation.

Our Christian Aid year starts with the Sponsored Bridge Walk (11 May) and Christian Aid Week (12-16 May). The money we raise helps Christian Aid to transform the lives of some of the very poorest people in the world. But we need new team-members: join us and help us make a difference. (Contact Malcolm or team members, Anne Marshall, Malcolm Reid, Gillian Hunter, Alastair Inglis, May Freeman, for details).

Thinking Aloud

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.

The November topic was Christmas and whether it is still a Christian festival. We decided that we could still make Jesus the central focus of our Christmas festivities while also enjoying the tinsel and trimmings that add sparkle and fun to our celebrations of God's love for us. In December we looked at bucket lists. None of us had an actual written list but we concluded that the kind of items that would be on peoples' lists would tend to reflect the motivators of their lives. In January we looked at Mystery. There's still room for doubt and lack of understanding in our lives but we quite like knowing that someone knows what's going on! In February we will look at whether we need to find someone to blame/someone to pay for everything that goes wrong. Look out for future topics and dates in the order of service and come and join us at 6 Forth Reach Dalgety Bay on the second Tuesday of the month.

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

“Daffodils”

Having gone out in all weathers to pick daffodils along the Avenue to sell in our local shops, raising money for Cancer Research, and to give daffodils in Church on Mothering Sunday, Sybil Cobban, who has picked the daffodils for 12 years has retired.

Daffodil pickers are needed for Dalgety Bay. Anyone who may be interested in helping please contact Alistair on 820264.



Your Guild has been busy in the past few months. We raised funds for our nominated projects, stretched our brain matter, hosted our Christmas carol service and enjoyed a social night out, all before Christmas. January started off very productively as we worked on creating a Guild banner with help from Veronica Simpson and at our last meeting we learned about the history of The Boys' Brigade and how they see their future, along with an update on what our own Boys' Brigade has been doing recently.



What can we say about our Mamma Mia Sing Along in November? The event was a sell out and 95 folk rocked the church hall, singing along with ABBA . Costumes and dancing were in evidence and it was suggested we host a similar event in the not too distant future. Happily, we also raised £550.00 which will go to The Guild projects funds.

We have to thank our Guild member, Hilde ten Hacken and her partner Ken Reid for organising a quiz evening for us and I am happy to report it was a lot more entertaining than the one I organised in September. (Don't think I will live that down). These type of evenings are an ideal chance for us to relax, mix and engage with each other on a personal basis and are always enjoyable. December saw 14 of us at the pantomime at The Alhambra in Dunfermline and I am happy to say we all reverted to childhood mode, shouting out at the appropriate moments and trying to catch the sweets thrown from the stage. One of our members, Irene Stevenson, had her own shout out from the "Pantomime" as she was celebrating her birthday that day. We also held our annual Christmas carol service in December and were joined by a few members of the Cowdenbeath Trinity Church Guild. They joined in the carol singing and read a couple of the Bible passages that were included in the service. Thank you to all who took part.

We were busy bees at our January meeting, with scissors, needles and thread at the ready, as we started making our Guild banner under the eagle eye of Veronica. We got through an amazing amount of work and are eagerly awaiting the finished article. Hopefully we will have a picture of it for the next edition of WOW.

Do you want to know what your Guild is going to be up to over the next few months? Well help yourself to syllabus, which you will find on The Guild display next to the kitchen door, or look at The Guild section of our church website, which is being regularly updated with upcoming meetings and events. You will also find us on the church Facebook page and if you want more information you will find contact details on the syllabus or you can Message us through the Facebook page.

Heads up though for our next fundraising event. On April 6th, we are holding a ceilidh in The Sailing club and again the funds raised will go to The Guild projects. We will update you when our arrangements have been finalised.

Adventurers

The Adventurers, our youngest Junior Church group, are a delight to teach! Our numbers are growing with eleven on the register, though we average six or seven on any given Sunday. We welcome visitors to join us in singing, praying, listening to a Bible story, being creative, acting, playing games, enjoying a snack time. Yes, we can fit all these into half an hour and, of course, we continue to sponsor a girl in Haiti.

In the autumn session we were learning about Old Testament characters. Can you guess which character the children in the photo are portraying? Answers in writing can be handed into the office!

Alison



Christian Book Club

It is said that, "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body!" On the first Tuesday of the month, at 10am, seven young women meet to discuss a Christian book. Over several years we have read a wide range of books which have encouraged, challenged, enlightened, provoked, amused and stimulated us. We enjoy a lighthearted, but meaningful discussion, followed by a cuppa, cake and chat. The books we read are displayed on the bookcase in the Hall of Fellowship and are available to anyone who wishes to borrow them, so, please help yourself!

Discoverers

Discoverers has been doing well this session. We have a core group of five children, but are always pleased to see new faces. Being a history teacher I always like getting some church history into my classes and am always impressed by how much the young folk know already. It was our class that made the Happy St Andrew's Day poster that is up in Hall 5. I hope you all saw it as our good wishes were meant for everyone in the church including you! We have also made a short video, which we sent to Open Doors UK wishing persecuted Christians in the Middle East a Merry 'Orthodox' Christmas on 7 January and a Happy New Year. Open Doors will translate it into Arabic for us and distribute it via their app onto the phones of Christians in the Middle East. We did this the week that Christine suggested in her Children's talk that we text everyone we knew on our phones telling them we were at church and asking them along. Seriously Christine texting – that's so last decade!

Please pray for our regular attenders and for all the young tween- and teen- agers in the church. Let them know through our love for them how much God loves and cares for us all.

Rosemary Freeman

Relay for Life

Hi Everyone

It is time to start thinking about putting a team together for the 24 hr Relay for Life event, which takes place in Dalgety Bay on 22nd June 2019. The event runs from 10am on the Saturday through to 10am on the Sunday. It is a great fun weekend for everyone that participates, so come along and join in the celebration and fun times and also take the opportunity to remember and reflect on loved ones who have been lost to cancer and those that are currently going through Cancer treatment. You don't have to be there for the full 24 hrs: you can join us for 1 hour or however long you can give to this inspiring event.

We are looking for new people and for families to come and join our team.. If you are interested in joining our team which is "DALGETY BAY CHURCH", I would love to hear from you and give you further details on how to register for the team.

Team Captain

Isabel Stanners

MOB No: 07708336121

Home: 01592874729

Fair Trade



UPDATE ON TRAIDCRAFT

The gloomy news came in before Christmas that Traidcraft, the name which to most people is synonymous with Fair Trade, was going out of business, so it is with joy that I can now report that this will not happen. There has been a restructuring and yes, a big reduction in the scope of the company, but it will continue to trade with most of the food lines unaffected.

Alas, almost all of the craft items will have to be discontinued, with serious effects for the many producers in some of the poorest parts of the world, but the only cheering thought is that, over the years, Traidcraft has worked with them to develop their trade with other countries, so many of them have other outlets for their work.

Our monthly stall in the church will be able to continue almost unchanged and I must thank you all for your support over the years. Fair Trade Fortnight, with its emphasis on cocoa farmers and chocolate production may be over for this year, but our work continues to support the producers every day of the year. Please keep buying the wonderful coffee, tea, chocolate, jam, marmalade, honey, chutney, rice etc and enjoy them while knowing that you are bringing healthcare, education and dignity to other lives.

Winnie Wood

Christmas Fair

In a moment of madness I agreed to take on the organisation of last year's Christmas Fair. The response for help this time around was great and a big thanks goes to Gill Bell who came on board to share with the overall organisation. She brought new ideas and both Gill and I were more than happy with the amount raised (£4600) for our first time at the helm. A great effort by all, there were people who put in hours of work helping with both the preparation leading up to the fair and on the day and I am indebted to them for this.

Gill and I have agreed again to organise the 2019 Christmas Fair but remember that it is an event we can all get involved with so if you have any new ideas or suggestions it's never too early to plan for this year so get in touch with myself or Gill. A huge thank you again to all who helped and came on the day.

Jude Dunlop

“How do you eat yours?” That was the question in a certain egg-shaped confectionery advert. The implication being that there is no right way to do it, but rather it’s about how you best experience the egg.

How do you pray?

Perhaps you haven’t really thought about it too much. Perhaps it’s now hard to concentrate because you’re thinking about chocolate, but regardless of appetite, past experiences, how we wrap it up or try to explain it, prayer can be rather confusing. It can often be a mystery. It can at times seem like a chore. It can even be a blessed relief.

So then, how *do* you pray?

Are you a morning person? Do you greet the sunrise with thanks and praise to our God? Do you utter hopeful words and try and live them throughout the day to come? Are you more spontaneous? Do you respond to life with a ‘breath prayer’, off the cuff, as life makes you dance to its tune and in each moment you seek the steadying hand of our Creator and Sustainer?

Perhaps you find yourself needing space. Like a free-diver coming up for air after plumbing the depths. Maybe you carve out some time in your day to be still and know the presence of God. You may prefer to reflect on your day in the presence of God, as was the practice of Ignatius of Loyola, who gave us the daily examen – a way of praying that helps us recognise God’s presence in the midst of the day just lived.

The practice of prayer is part of the lifeblood of our faith. We may find ourselves in the darkest of circumstances, when prayer is the only thing that we can turn to for comfort. We might see prayer as that thing we do together on a Sunday, or as the words said on our behalf by a minister or worship leader. Maybe it is the one thing that keeps us going, those times when we can just let God know how we are feeling. It might even be that thing that happens by accident or that we’re unaware of until, looking back on a time of quiet, perhaps with a cup of tea or watching the world go by from our living room window, we realise that in the stillness, God was there the whole time.

Whatever your habit or preference may not really matter. What is important is that we are having the conversation, that we are opening ourselves up to God in whatever moment we can manage, that in some way prayer is part of our life. Prayer may be a constant companion on the journey, or a friend that visits once in a while, to bring comfort and solace. It may be something deeper, more mysterious that is largely left unspoken, something felt, yearned for, grieved over or something long-forgotten brought to mind.

How we pray then, is not the most important thing, but rather that the experience of prayer and the encounter with God is recognised. That our faith is tended and our relationship with God is nurtured, in precious moments. No fancy wrapping is needed and it may not always taste sweet but, in the midst of life, listening for and opening our hearts to God is indeed food for the soul.



Refugees still need our support!

Dalgety Parish Church still welcomes donations for refugees. We then arrange for them to be passed on to Re-Act Scotland for distribution to refugee camps in Europe, Lebanon and Syria, as well as to those refugees who have arrived in Scotland.

Donations welcomed include –

- warm winter clothing for adults and children – small/medium sizes for adults
- coats, jackets, waterproofs, trainers, sturdy boots
- blankets and sleeping bags, thermal under layers
- tents
- practical toiletries
- kitchenware, small toys, first aid supplies
- school supplies and stationery.

While some difficulties with the distribution from Scotland are foreseen in the short term, they are being addressed and we are still collecting your donations – so please remember the refugees!



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

Sunday 10th March
10.30 am

All are welcome at the Lord's Table