



Words of Wisdom

# Newsletter

of Dalgety Parish Church

## Minister's Musings

Pentecost is upon us – the giving of The Spirit, in new ways, to a church about to flourish. Through the challenges we face as a national church, we should remember that the world-wide church is indeed still flourishing and, in that knowledge, we should feel confident and be courageous in how we move forward and the changes we make.

Changes made not in a vacuum, but in God's hands.

We are a national church so we need to work together and be part of whatever changes are required, all the while continuing to develop what we do in Dalgety Parish Church and Community; trying new things – not all of which will be roaring successes!! And the key to being able to try, and experiment is having as many of you involved as possible in whatever part of church you can. We depend on volunteers, on members and friends giving their time. The church also grows as others are invited and encouraged to meet God for themselves and are

told they matter, no matter who they are or how they feel.

Also in June is the Presbytery Songs of Praise on 23<sup>rd</sup> June at St Margaret's Touch, 6.30 pm. Their theme is "weekend of invitation" so please go along and join them. We at DPC are joining in their theme and are inviting you to not only come and join us at our 10.30 am service, but also to invite someone to come with you: a simple, 'I'm going along, why not come with me'. The person you invite might not come, but the success is that you invited them. No dragging them through the streets, just a sincere invitation. This service happens to fall on 23<sup>rd</sup> June – our last Sunday of Junior Church, so it will be a family Service; also the end of Relay for Life, so we need to try and keep the pace and volume up to keep the 24 hour walkers awake for just a little while longer. The Holy Spirit is alive and well – here and now. Time to throw open the windows and doors, enjoy and be refreshed by God's Spirit.

## Special Commission

On 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019, at 7pm, we have a meeting with representatives from Presbytery's Special Commission! The Commission was set up to look at new ways of organising the resources we have, mainly considering the decreasing number of Ministers in The Church of Scotland. How can we 'do' church making the most of what we have, to increase God's Kingdom where we are?

This is a congregational meeting – for us to tell the Special Commission what Dalgety Parish Church thinks/hopes/fears. By the end of June ALL congregations will have been visited. Not a small piece of work, nor a simple piece of work, yet we all surely know that change and radical change is essential.

## WOW Magazine

WOW Magazine is going through a bit of a transformation. It is still the intention to have the full magazines in the original format however we are looking to produce an in-house Newsletter when requirements dictate, as in this edition.



## Church Family

### Deceased:-

Mrs Margot Grewar  
Mrs Liliias Lamont  
Miss Gina Wallace  
Mrs Jane Taylor  
Mr Paul Gammack

## Forthcoming Services

Presbytery Songs of Praise  
June 23<sup>rd</sup> - 6.30 pm

Evening services  
June 9<sup>th</sup> and August 11<sup>th</sup> - 7.00 pm

Peace Services  
June 30<sup>th</sup> and August 25<sup>th</sup> - 4.00 pm

Evening Communion  
June 26<sup>th</sup>, July 31<sup>st</sup>, August 28<sup>th</sup> - 7.00 pm

### Bereavement Support Group Dates

June 27<sup>th</sup>, July 25<sup>th</sup>, August 29<sup>th</sup>  
10.00 am - 11.30 am

## Cyclone Idai

In Mozambique, after a week of heavy rains and flooding, Cyclone Idai arrived carrying more heavy rains and winds of over 100 mph. It made land at the port of Beira, Mozambique's fourth largest city, on Thursday 14 March. It left the 500,000 residents without power and with all communication lines down and then progressed across Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, causing further devastation.

We now realise that over 3 million people have been affected. At least 750 people were killed and some 400,000 lost their homes. Thousands of people, driven out by the cyclone, set off to seek safety.



In a programme on Africa Radio, the BBC interviewed Mandla Mataure, the manager of a hotel in the town of Chimanimani. He explained what he and his team were doing to help: "From the first night we have been sheltering about 400 people. It's families - men, women, children who were just stranded and had nowhere to go after their homes were destroyed. So we've opened up our doors: we've got a big enough conference room and lounge for people to sleep - camping style, at least until we can get something more semi-permanent. We're cooking pretty much on open fires - last night [Monday] we fed 390 people." He continued: "People are still searching for those that are missing in Chimanimani. People stay here at night, going back during the day to the areas where their homes were to try and salvage whatever they can find."

To respond to disasters on this scale, Christian Aid and other major charities have set up the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). It brings together 14 UK charities including Christian Aid, Oxfam, Save the Children, and the Red Cross. They work together to organise national fund-raising appeals, to co-ordinate the provision of aid and to avoid duplication of effort.

In a letter thanking the Church for our recent donation (we raised £864.60 in retiring collections), Katie Mathers, our Regional Support Officer in Edinburgh, tells me that the cyclone destroyed not only people's homes but also all the communication and sanitation infrastructure. Christian Aid is working in Malawi and Zimbabwe. With their partner organisations, they are providing food, shelter, clothing, clean water and sanitation and are now starting to look at the special needs of vulnerable groups, such as orphaned children and the disabled.

## Refresh

On the last Friday of the month, about twelve ladies gather together to be refreshed! After a quiz, cuppa and cake, we explore different "topics" and we find their variety refreshing for the soul. Last month Mike Gourlay refreshed us with his talk on the coastal path, after which many of the group expressed a desire to try out the walk, which had been so well illustrated.

Picture of the beautiful cake, with edible flowers, baked and decorated by Isabel Stanners and enjoyed by all!!!



Do come and join us one Friday and I'm sure you would go away refreshed by the topic, fun and fellowship, not to mention the delicacies served. We take a break over the summer months, but our notice is always in the weekly order of service.

You are invited to join  
with us to celebrate the  
Sacrament of  
Holy Communion  
Sunday 9th June  
10.30 am  
All are welcome at the  
Lord's Table

## Adventurers

Since Christmas the Adventurers have been looking at the parables. The children made crowns as a follow up to the parable of "The King's Invitation"

( Matthew 22:1-14) and through this they learnt that, like the King, God sends His invitation to everyone to come and enjoy His banquet. Sadly some of the King's guests didn't want to come to the celebration, but we, in the Adventurers, want to accept God's invitation.

Some of the Adventurers wearing their crowns!



## The Lighthouse

The Lighthouse got off to a very successful start on 8th May with around 25 people attending throughout the afternoon, with plenty of chat going on. The Lighthouse meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, from 2pm to 4pm. If you would like the opportunity to meet with others do come along. Light refreshments are provided.



## The Guild

For our first meeting in April, we settled down to watch a classic movie, Easter Parade and we thoroughly enjoyed the touch of nostalgia. Members brought chocolate eggs where were passed onto the Foodbank to be given to children at Easter. Our ceilidh raised about £300 for our projects taking our total fundraising for this Guild year to £1080.00. We are very pleased with that sum and would like to thank those of you who have supported us in this area. Our AGM was held on 1<sup>st</sup> May and we followed the meeting with cheese and wine and a games night which is always good fun. A number of our members are going to the Big Sing during General Assembly week and are looking forward to taking part in this popular event. Our next Guild year starts in

September and we are currently working on our new syllabus. On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May, Dalgety Parish Church was the venue for the Dunfermline and District Guilds Together Gathering, which was led by two members of the Guild staff at 121 George St and the current and previous National Conveners. It was a busy day for all who attended starting with worship led by Marian Macintyre, National Vice Convenir. We then had a discussion on the challenges today's Guilds face and it was good to hear a lot of positivity about the work the Guild has done/currently does and the continuing need for our work to continue. For the rest of the morning members attended workshops on Roles within the Guild, Guild week, Resources available to help

us run effective Guild meetings and perhaps in a different way and ended with a talk from Steve Younger on the role of School Chaplains and the challenges they face. Discussion on another resource, "Conversations in worship", which was very challenging. This resource depends on participants opening up about their Faith, which so many of us find a difficult thing to do. Very thought provoking. The last discussion of the day was on our current theme "One Journey, many roads" and the progress the Guild has made so far in raising funds for the projects we are currently supporting. We look forward to hearing the latest update at The Big Sing during General Assembly week.

## Who To Contact

### Minister

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### Session Clerk

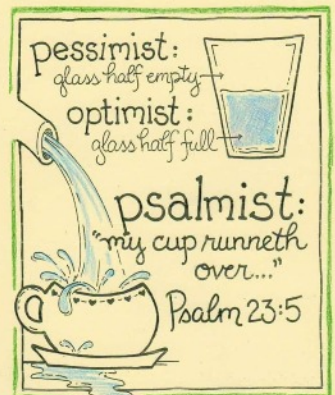
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## Thinking Aloud

**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.

With over 100 years having passed since the end of the First World War I suggested that it might be time to let go of Remembrance Day. The general feeling of those at the March evening was that it was important to remember, respect and support our armed forces and that the 11 Nov date that had been used since the end of the First World War was as good a date as any for this purpose. We were unsure how peace on earth might be affected by remembering past war. In April we were exploring how to love our neighbour when we really didn't like them. Criminals, drug addicts and dictators were harder to love than people like ourselves or the sick and poor who deserved love. The May topic is Dishonesty. I could tell you what a fascinating discussion we had but as it's tomorrow (at time of writing) that might be dishonest. The plan for June is to discuss Old Age. Details in the order of service nearer the time. Do come and join us at 6 Forth Reach on the second Tuesday of the month.

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"Follow me", look like in your everyday life?" and secondly, "Share a story about a time when you were taught or discovered something that changed the way you see God." It is fascinating hearing about other people's experiences and deepens our understanding of God and how He speaks to all of us in different ways.

It also allows us to get to know people we may only have met briefly and to develop other friendships.

Two members of our own congregation at Dalgety Parish Church spoke briefly to all those gathered, about how these conversation starters were relevant in their lives; one member told us that following Christ meant love and obedience to him and the other explained how she had come to the realisation that God doesn't need us to be perfect all of the time, but we should keep trying!

Their insights were really appreciated by those present.

The worship songs we chose this time were a mix of well known; Come People of the Risen King and lesser known, Forever by Kari Jobe and Chain Breaker by Zach Williams. Even if you didn't make it to Café Church why not YouTube these artists and sing along at home! In addition to music we also had prayers and a bible reading so not so very different from a Sunday morning service but perhaps in an unfamiliar order. We always have refreshments available and this time we chose to provide crisps, crudities and dips along with the cold juice on offer. With the relaxed and informal atmosphere people could help themselves to these at any point throughout the evening at their tables. It really is a great way to spend a Sunday evening.

## Café Church

Conversation plays a big part in Café Church and at our recent event, on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May we had two topics to discuss. Firstly, "What does your response to Jesus' invitation,

**Messy Church began** in 2004 in one rural village church in the south of England. Since then, it has grown into an international phenomenon as a popular, practical model for local parishes engaging in mission. But what effect is it actually having? How are Messy Churches growing disciples and how are Messy Churches maturing as church?

A report was recently compiled following a two-year research project conducted by Church Army's Research Unit. Their findings were hugely encouraging and cause for much celebration although, understandably, there are also many lessons to be learnt too. Through our experience of Messy Church in Dalgety, we can relate to many of the findings, but by no means all of them. Very briefly, the following information comes from the report.

The main points for celebration:

Messy Church is reaching families who are new to church. It is not just attracting existing churchgoing families.

Statistics showed that 40% are non-churched families (those who have had little or no meaningful contact with church in the past). 21% are de-churched families (those who have had previous contact with

church but have stopped coming until now).

Messy Church is growing disciples. Messy Churches are helping people to follow Jesus. 21% have held baptisms in their Messy Church community. 81% felt they had seen evidence of lives changed in some way by being part of Messy Church. 29% have run adult or family small groups. 31% do 1:1 discipleship.

Messy Church is modelling new patterns of leadership.

Messy Churches are predominantly led by women, laypeople and volunteers. Within the teams there are many people giving their time, skills and energy as well as finances, regularly subsidising the cost of crafts or food out of their own pockets.

Messy Churches are developing and maturing as church. Research tracked development not only in numerical attendance but also in their level of engagement. Not all Messy Churches intended to be fresh expressions of church.

Half saw themselves as outreach initiatives which they hope will provide families with a "bridge back" into worshipping with the existing Sunday morning congregation, while the other half saw themselves as new church congregations within their

parishes, designed to reach new people i.e. fresh expressions of church. Many identified this kind of approach is needed for the "future vision" of the church but they also reported that progress has been achieved with little outside help or support.

The challenges:

Messy Church leaders are overstretched and under-supported. Stress and burnout were widely cited in focus groups as being the result of neglect by their parish or sending churches.

One leader said, "you don't get any kind of pastoral or spiritual support for the work you're doing". Another said, "my church won't give me a budget because they don't want me to spend money".

Messy Churches are often vulnerable and under-resourced. The transience of attendees makes forward planning difficult. Many leaders expressed that prayerful trust in God was essential, as leading Messy Church was often "like taking steps into the unknown." This sense of vulnerability is worsened when sending churches do not share the leaders' vision or passion for Messy Church, which happens with discouraging frequency. One says, "it sometimes feels as though we're children's church as far as most of the congregation are concerned", really, they just let it happen".

In summary, I think we have a huge amount to give thanks to God for.

Our own Messy Church here in Dalgety has been running for a number of years now (I'm guessing around 6 or 7 years) and we have made meaningful connections with a great number of families within our community and the wider area. Many families, time and time again, bringing friends with them. We have seen families supported in practical ways as well as through invaluable prayer support. Messy Church has become a

safe place for many families, where everyone is accepted for who they are; a place where they can be themselves. However Messy Church doesn't just happen and requires a large amount of planning and commitment from all those involved. As a congregation we must continue to recognise this and support our own "phenomenon" if we want to see the continued fruits of this mission. A massive "thank you" to all who help support Messy Church in any way.

## Outdoor Messy Church

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July  
More details nearer the time!



## **Fairtrade**

### **For the shoeless**

For the overlooked and under-resourced.

For the innovators, the grafters and the perseverers.

For those who take an unfair price - because it's better than no price at all.

For the people who never give up.

For the parents who eat less... so their children can eat more.

For those who have all they need to be successful, except the opportunity.

For the brave.

For the people who refuse to let poverty steal their joy.

For the climate change survivors, the equality drivers, the lead-the-way inspirers.

## **Why do we do what we do?**



## Refugees still need our support!

Dalgety Parish Church still welcomes donations for refugees. Donated items of clothing etc. are 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. We take the goods each month to Edinburgh where it is loaded on to the lorry for transport to Europe.



Donations are welcomed at the church and include:

- clothing for adults and children – small and medium sizes only for adults,
- coats, jackets, waterproofs, trainers, sturdy boots,
- new underwear & socks
- blankets and sleeping bags, thermal underlayers,
- practical toiletries, baby wipes & nappies
- kitchenware, first aid supplies,
- school supplies and stationery
- tents, bikes



**White ribbons in support of Sri Lanka**