



## Words of Wisdom

**Newsletter**  
of Dalgety Parish Church

### Minister's Musings

Mary and Joseph went to Joseph's home town for that first Christmas. Mary was not with her ain folk, not with her own family. Even though her baby was due she was far from their help, presence, love. It was not a comfortable journey – physically or emotionally; but we certainly know she was ready to go where God directed and do his will and so spiritually she knew His peace, which gives strength for the challenges of this world.

In Bethlehem Mary and Joseph were alone when Jesus was born – that sweet moment of new parents lost in wonder and a new experience of love that is beyond words. And there first were not the doting grannies and grandads, aunts and uncles – but the forgotten country sheep-herders from the hills: strong, hands rough with work, these men hurried to see this baby and found him just as the angels had said. More used to doing, their hearts were touched and changed by a tenderness and reality of love that is beyond words. Later a group who knew well everything that money could buy, material goods and comfort. Yet, when they met this child, they knelt in humility, their lives forever changed by a love that is beyond words.

Are we so grounded in the grim realities of life that we can't know this love?  
Are we so well off that we fail to recognise the value of this love?  
Are we so different today that this love is not so much beyond words but is a love that doesn't even merit our words?

I hope not. I pray not.

You are not so different that you are outwith God's love. Whoever you are, God came for you, to be with you.

Maybe that love for you is beyond words – but at least try, and thank him.

God incarnate, Jesus Christ born for all.

Christine



## Church Family

### **Deceased:**

Mrs Sheena McEachern  
Mr John Edmond  
Mrs Sandra Rimmer  
Mrs Helen Menzies

### **Members Left:**

Mrs Fiona Kerr,  
Mrs Margaret Fraser  
Mrs Connie Dobson

### **Baptism:**

Ollie Greig Fraser, son of Ian and Manuela.

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## 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](http://www.dalgety-church.org.uk)

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



Dalgety Parish Church of Scotland

Dalgety Parish Church of Scotland  
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# Messy Church



Messy Church 'happens' every two months: the last Sunday of the odd numbered months, except July! It is for any and all – with crafts, worship, activities and, of course, food. Each Messy is themed so the planning can take some time, but it's all worthwhile as we see children and adults join in, finding time in there somewhere to chat with others. And so we discover together that 'church' can be different, but the message is the same. Our final Messy for 2019 was on 24<sup>th</sup> November with us trying to work out how we can make Advent and Christmas eco (ecological and economical). Writing this I have no idea if we will have succeeded, but I am fairly sure we will have had fun and learned a little more about God's love for us.

Come and join us at the next one – January 26<sup>th</sup> 2020.  
Families of every age, people of every age – come and see.

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## Fair Trade

This time last year we were just hearing the news of the financial problems affecting Traidcraft, the main Fair Trade company in Britain. It is with great relief that we now find that the company is surviving although with a reduced number of products. Many thanks to all those who have loyally supported the Fair Trade stall during this time. Yes, there were times when your favourite biscuits were not on sale and your preferred shape of pasta may have disappeared but on the whole, you seem to have coped with these disappointments and as a result we are still able to do our bit to help the producers of these foods to achieve the things we take for granted - healthcare, education and a basic standard of living.

Of course we are still making a monthly contribution to the Mamie Martin Fund for the education of girls in northern Malawi.

Do try the Christmas tree biscuits, either the ginger ones or the chocolate coated ones (or, better still, both) and if you are filling a Christmas stocking, I am sure that there will be room for a chocolate mouse.

Have a very happy Fair Trade Christmas

## 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.

Would Jesus be happy that people are judged by what they look like or what they have achieved or how much they earn? Is Democracy broken and would God have picked that as the best way for us to govern ourselves anyway? Does the Bible have anything in it to help us work out what University Education is for? These things have kept us thinking in August, September and October this year.

Once a month a few of us meet at 6 Forth Reach and talk about something that needs talking about. Sometimes people join us for a particular topic as a one off, some busy people come when other commitments allow and some come every month. A number of us have known one another for years, others are new to the area or just new to Thinking Aloud. Sometimes we know what we're going to say before we start and sometimes our thoughts change, develop and grow as we listen to the contributions of others. We're not trying to solve anything; we're allowing our thoughts and opinions to be altered or strengthened by listening to others and sharing what comes to mind. So really just a chance for a blether over a glass of something! No-one is ever under pressure to speak, but everyone who wants to say something is included and listened to.

We hope you would find it friendly and relaxed.

Details of the upcoming discussion topic are usually in the order of service on the two Sundays prior to each meeting. Do come and join us at 6 Forth Reach on the third Tuesday of the month.

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

You are invited to join with us to celebrate the  
Sacrament of  
Holy Communion  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December  
10.30 am  
All are welcome at the Lord's Table

# The Guild



Early September was a busy time for Guild members. Our first meeting was on 4<sup>th</sup> September and a number of members travelled to Dundee for The Guild Annual Gathering on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>. This was followed by The Guild church service on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> and we then hosted Cafe Connect on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Phew!!!!.

Since then, we have settled into our usual meetings on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Our meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> was entitled Millionaires Manor and was great fun. One of our members and her family, took part in one of the old National Lottery quiz programmes that were aired around the Lottery draw, called Millionaire Manor and has a DVD of their night of "fame". We played the DVD at the meeting and we all "took part" in the quiz, pitting our wits in an attempt to win a week in Millionaires Manor. June and her family did actually win a week in Millionaires Manor, but we could only stretch to Millionaires shortbread. Ah well.

The Guild does go in for variety and our next meeting was a talk on the charity, Smalls for All, which is based in Livingston. Their aim is to send bras and pants to women in Africa who do not have access to these items, which we consider basic and essential items of clothing. They now also collect pants for men and boys as they too don't have ready access to these essentials. The Guild collected and donated an impressive variety of items and we would like to say thank you very much to members of the congregation who responded to our request for donations. Your support is very much appreciated.

Our last meeting was a presentation from Fife Council on road safety for the mature driver. Not put off by the subject matter, our members found the evening informative, thought provoking and very helpful. We even found humour when discussing our experience of "other drivers" who shouldn't be on the road, while being "really good" drivers ourselves. Of course.

To see what else we have on our syllabus this year, please take a copy from the plastic wallet on The Guild notice board. If you decide to come along you will be made very welcome.

Elma Doig

Refugees still need our support as conditions in the camps become less safe and they are forced to live in tents without hot water and electricity during winter. Re-Act send regular aid to the camps from Scotland and we can help with our donations.



Donations of the following are welcomed at the church:

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

In addition, we can help by donating money towards the costs of transport to get the aid to the refugees. Our 'Smartie Box appeal' has already sent a donation of £1364.92 to ReACT. Here's their response -

***"Please convey our grateful thanks to your congregation from all of us here at Re-Act for your very generous donation of £1364.92p.***

***We are currently in the process of preparing a container load of humanitarian aid to send to the Syrian camps we support in Erbil, Iraq. Several refugee families arriving here (Scotland) came from the camps and still have relatives there.***

***We will also be taking the truck down to France before the end of the month. Sadly, the complexities of Brexit are beyond our financial means to continue taking the truck into Europe.***

***The camp at Samos is under a huge amount of pressure to meet the needs of the refugees. They are in urgent need of medical and winter aid, also tents, ground mats and sleeping bags.***

***We are currently collecting this aid and hope to send a container out as soon as we can. Your monetary donation has made this plan even more possible.***

***With very many thanks again for your continued support."***

**Find details of Re-Act, Refugee Action Scotland online on Facebook**

# The Christian Aid Group



After the summer, the new season for our Christian Aid Group started off with the annual Christian Aid Concert featuring Inverkeithing Community Big Band. It took place this year on Friday 22 November in the Church hall.

Normally our next event would be the house-to-house collection, but this year will see a change of plan for a number of reasons. The amount collected has been declining year by year as there has been an increasing number of 'very poor yield' streets, an increasing number of collectors declining to continue due to a poor response and people reporting increasing resistance on the door steps. The general enthusiasm for the project as a whole has declined. In recent years we have lost a number of members from the group and the difficulty of recruiting Team Leaders has led to a big increase in the amount of work for the dwindling number of aged members. However, there is still real enthusiasm for the cause and we don't want to lose that. For this reason we are exploring other ways of distributing and collecting envelopes without the door-to-door collection.

The Group has also, each year, recruited the Stewards for the sponsored Bridge-Walk organised by Christian Aid Scotland. The Bridge walk, with about 300 participants, raises around twenty thousand pounds which is a heartening result for the many stewards who brave the elements when standing on the Bridge for their shift: even when it is warm and sunny in Dalgety Bay, it is cold and windy way up high on the Road Bridge!

The coming year presents a challenge, but the work is extremely important. The money raised helps the victims of disasters, famine, and war: it also funds the Christian Aid projects that help some of the poorest communities in the world to work their own way out of poverty. This emphasis on projects that will carry on long after the funding has stopped is at the heart of Christian Aid's strategy to attack world poverty.

Malcolm Lappin



# Refresh

Enjoy a cuppa and cake  
Perhaps new friends to make.  
A time to relax and rest  
Try a craft and do your best!  
A quiz on which to puzzle away  
And a Christian thought for the day  
On the last Friday of the month we meet

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## **Book Review: “Before You Open Your Bible” by Matt Smethurst**

This tremendous little book (only 79 pages) is packed with many insights of the things that deter us from taking our Bibles seriously and how we can overcome them. Written in a chatty way and interspersed with humour, it deals with 9 different aspects of how to approach our reading of the Bible. One of these is “Obediently” and, as the author points out, Obedience is not one of our favourite words: he then goes on to illustrate that the Bible is not a list of prohibitions but is an epic story of a Creator more committed to our joy than we could imagine. All the aspects bring out God’s love for us and how He longs for us to come close to Him.

This is a very enlightening and helpful book which is now available in the Church library. I thoroughly recommend it.  
June Wright

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## **A few words from new member of our congregation, Sylvia Fradley.**

I just want to take this opportunity to say a sincere 'Thank you' for the warm welcome and generous hands of friendship extended to me over the last five months. I thought when I moved to Dalgety Bay I might spend my last years on life's journey, a lonely old lady. Not a bit of it! However long or short that journey might be I now know that I shall enjoy travelling it with friends and, of course, God, made real to me through our amazing minister. Thank you all so much.

Blessings for a Happy Christmas.

Sylvia.

# St Andrew's Scots Kirk in Colombo, Sri Lanka - Easter 2019

The congregation of St Andrew's Church in Colombo, Sri Lanka saw their lives literally shaken last Easter: please read their website newsletter for a full account of neighbourly love and practical help given. In solidarity, we in Dalgety Bay journeyed together with the people of Sri Lanka, tying white fabric to our outdoor banner.



Gillian Mailler mentioned in the St Andrew's Scots Kirk newsletter, "Our first task was to see how we could help and where that help was most needed." "The Zion Evangelical church in Batticala was in greatest need as they were not part of a major diocese that could give them support. A total of 28 people had died at this Church including 13 children, the youngest being just 18 months old. 58 people were injured. The bomb had exploded just outside the Church as the children were leaving Sunday School class. Apparently, the greatest need to help themselves in this very rural community was to replace their transport that had been damaged so they could return to work, to school, collect provisions and attend to relatives still in the hospital." "St Andrew's Scots Kirk would like to sincerely thank all those who contributed to the fund raising for this church."

In May, Tara and Hannah, youth representatives at The General Assembly met Buwanika Weerasinha, who is a member of St Andrew's Scots Kirk. In Buwanika's words "I felt touched to know that even though we are so far away from Scotland our C of S family cares and prays for us all." "I am so proud to be part of the Church of Scotland family, a family full of love, prayer and caring."

Rev Ian Gilmour who attended a service in Dalgety Bay in 2019 and is the locum at St Andrew's Scots Kirk till Easter 2020, said to his parish and congregation "My prayer is that our work together will be a time of blessing for all."

How wonderful when people journey together with love. People who care deeply, sincerely, gently and revealing such tender kindness. May the Lord bless you all and may 2020 be a year of such love and peace in Jesus name.

Amen.

Alison Hay

# The Lighthouse

On the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, we hold "The Lighthouse" in Dalgety Parish Church Hall. You can be assured of a warm welcome and chance to chat while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits. Whether you are new to the area, or have lived here for many years, this is a good opportunity to meet new people in a relaxed atmosphere. Please come and join us.

Rhona Morris & team



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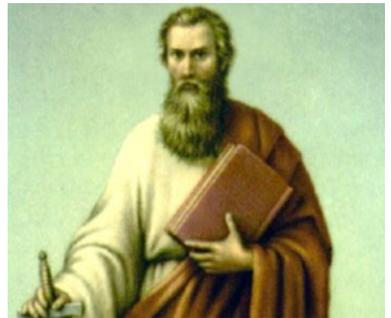
## Impressions from a talk at the Edinburgh Book Festival

This annual festival is a veritable treasure trove. It caters for all tastes, be they fiction, history, music, science fiction and yes, religious topics too. When I spotted a talk entitled "How Christianity shaped the West" I felt this was a must.

The speaker was the historian and writer Tom Holland, whom I have watched on television, dealing mostly with classical times. In this talk he maintained that Christianity, often considered staid and conservative, was instead revolutionary, able to exert an influence, purely because its basic tenet was subversive, **that all people are created equal**. These are values that secular thinkers today take for granted, yet they are part of the ethics of the Western world precisely because of the Christian message.

Holland at this point brought in an example of Christianity's influence on popular music, "All you need is love". This well known Beatle song is built on that other Christian tenet, **love**. Christianity then had set a standard that did not exist in the non-Christian world.

Holland asked "How was Christianity able to spread?" The key figure is St. Paul, who changed Christianity from a sect to a universal faith. This is familiar territory to me, since we are studying the writings of St. Paul in my bible class.



As we know Christianity has had its highs and lows over the centuries: the worst lows being the Inquisition and the opposition to scientific research, as Galileo and Giordano Bruno discovered to their cost.

The conclusion being, what we value as Westerners in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has Christianity as its bedrock and it continues to underpin our world.  
Eva Tyson

# Congregational Development Group

This Group encourages the congregation to meet on occasions other than at worship on a Sunday morning and to involve the community in the life of our church.

Recently a new enterprise called The Lighthouse started. It takes place every second Wednesday afternoon, in the church hall so that folks, from the whole community, can meet new people and make friends. Hot drinks, biscuits, conversation and a warm welcome are assured. Please do come along.

You will maybe see the friendly faces of the congregation out and about this Advent season too as, once again, we are having a Flashmob in Tesco and Asda on the afternoon of Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Listen out for our voices singing Christmas Carols and please join in: we'll have sheets available for everyone.

In addition to these regular and annual events we also encourage members to take part in conferences and discussions, to develop their faith and to identify ways to support others in theirs. on a one-off basis. In November, Dalgety Parish Church is hosting a Conference, run by the Mission and Discipleship arm of the Church of Scotland, entitled "Creating and Deepening Discipleship." At the time of writing this has not yet happened, but it is great that The Church of Scotland are taking issues like these out to parishes to reach more people with the information they have, helping us all to look after each other.

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## Discoverers

We are delighted to have a good number of young people at Discoverers: our group on a Sunday morning for those in P6 to S3. Recently we looked at Discipleship and this started with the story of Jesus asking some fishermen to cast their nets on the other side of the boat and there they would catch fish. The amazing thing was, after spending the morning catching not a single fish, all of sudden their nets were full! Of course, these men were astounded, but they did not hesitate when Jesus asked them to drop all they were doing and to follow him. These men became Christ's Disciples. We learnt through this and further discussion, that Disciples are followers of Christ who desire to not only grow more in their faith, but also to be used more by God. As usual, the group were quick learners and we had time to do some crosswords, word searches and chat together getting to know each other better.

Discoverers is an informal way to learn more about faith and how to live this faith in your everyday life. Come along and learn with us, seriously, the adults learn too!

# Eco-Congregation

Dalgety Parish Church currently has two eco-congregation awards. To achieve the much harder third award will require the whole congregation and individuals within our community, to reduce, re-use and re-cycle their resources. Yes, resources. Let us stop calling it waste. Have you completed an audit on your own bins? Look on everything you 'throw' out as £££'s. You have bought it; it is your property until you either use it or give it away, even to the Local Authority.

We are constantly hearing on the media these days about the amount of plastic that is choking the planet's rivers and seas: both micro-plastics and the plastics we can see. The larger items break down into smaller and smaller pieces, until they also become those micro size pieces being absorbed into our food chain. The church has already started reducing single use plastics – what can you do to safeguard the planet and the environment for future generations!

Do we need to buy bottled water? Scotland has this wonderful resource in abundance, so buy a re-fillable bottle. There are several insulated ones on the market that will keep the water cold and many outlets will refill them for you: if not, ask why! If you regularly buy coffee in disposable cups, even paper ones are lined with plastic, buy a reusable cup. Many outlets give a reduction on your own cup and please avoid plastic stirrers.

With Christmas around the corner, how about looking at a range of gifts to give to family and friends to reduce the plastic in our life. Stop using plastic plates, plastic wrap and buy reusable items. There are alternatives to plastic, even crackers, but we only have one World. We need to look after it, so it can look after us.

Have you heard of Plastic Free Dunfermline? They have a website and a Facebook page.

Have you heard of the following:  
Plastic Free Champion Café. Café Wynd, 10 Cross Wynd, Dunfermline offering:  
Coffee bean refills, bread, cakes.

Happy Earth Place, 47 James Street, Dunfermline:  
Scoop-your-own dried foods, whole-foods, washing and cleaning refills, Eco-friendly body care.

There are also many tips and help on the following web sites:

[http://publications.fifedirect.org.uk/c64\\_A5FifeRecyclingGuideFeb2019.pdf](http://publications.fifedirect.org.uk/c64_A5FifeRecyclingGuideFeb2019.pdf)

<http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org/nationalgreenweeksub/waste-reduction-tips/tips-to-use-less-plastic.html>

# Youth Zone

Youth Zone is a meeting place for youngsters in P4 to P7 and is run by Dalgety Parish Church. We meet on a Friday from 4pm until 5.30pm in the main hall of the church, which gives us plenty of space for all the club activities.

Youth Zone is a time to have fun after a busy week at school, enjoy the snacks on offer, chat with existing friends, or make new friends and most of all, have fun. The games we play are usually different each week, although sometimes one game is so popular, we find it asked for more often: we are only too happy to repeat a game or games. It is great to be shown a new game being played at school and we can add these to our repertoire. Team games have proved to be very popular, especially those that involve sweets as a reward.

After a lot of running about we take time to cool down with a story, allowing us to discuss our faith, what God and Jesus means to us as Christians and also what God, Jesus or faith means to our youth. Questions are always encouraged and though we don't always have the answers, we are more than happy to try and find an answer.

The lead up to Christmas is an exciting time for everyone and it is no different at Youth Zone. Making sweetie sleighs, chocolate orange covered with sweets, is a big hit and a few other surprises await in the month of December.

Youth Zone reminds us of how wonderful it is to share, even for a little while, the fun that comes with spending time with children. It's a privilege to see those who have attended since P4 and are now in P6 or P7, grow in confidence, develop new skills, assist, encourage and show patience to the younger ones. Some of our youth did not return after the summer holidays as they moved up to High school: they are missed and we hope they are enjoying the challenge of High School.

We are always pleased to welcome new youth to the club to join in with all that we do, be it games, crafts, charades, hide n seek, stories, plays and so much more.

Come one week or even two: if you can manage every week that's even better. If you miss a week or more it does not matter, you are always welcome on any Friday at 4pm.

Look forward to seeing you at Youth Zone.

Natasha and Nancy



# Adventurers

The Adventurers have been very busy.

They have been looking at the parables and made crowns as a follow up to the parable of "The King's Invitation" ( Matthew 22:1-14). Through this parable the children 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.



They have also been looking at the story of Daniel in the lion's den and here we can see four Junior Church lions who didn't eat Daniel when he was in their den!!!!



When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the shepherds are back with the flocks,  
then the work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost, to heal those broken in spirit, to feed the hungry,  
to release the oppressed, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace  
among all peoples, to make a little music with the heart. And to  
radiate the Light of Christ, every day, in every way, in all that we do  
and in all that we say. Then the work of Christmas begins.

*Howard Thurman*

# Church Services

## 1st December

- 10.30 am** - Service includes Communion to which all are invited and welcome.
- 3.00 pm** - We have our reflective service - a quieter service in which we give thanks and remember. Refreshments after the service.
- 7.00 pm** - We are invited to join with St Fillan's Aberdour for an evening service.

## 8th December

Our travelling Nativity is making another appearance (time to be confirmed)

## 15th December

- 10.30 am** - Our Church Nativity family service - whatever else it holds, our Junior Church will come together in true nativity tradition.
- 7.00 pm** - We are invited to join with Inverkeithing for an evening service.

## 22nd December

- 10.30 am** - Our usual service and then our Christmas Concert in the evening at 7.00 pm

## 24th December

- 6.30 pm** - Christingle Service and our Watchnight service starts at
- 11.30 pm** - Watchnight Services with carol singing from about 11.00 pm.

## 25th December

- 10.30 am** - Family Services - bring one of your gifts/toys.

## 29th December

10.30 am Service

## 5th January 2020

- 10.30 am** - Our annual Covenant Service; preparing for the new year ahead.

## Café Church

In September we were fortunate to have Kate McDonald, our Mission Partner from Tiberius, leading our Service. Her insight into her life in Tiberius was enlightening and so very interesting. Kate has links to many groups in her area and is Chaplain to a school as well.

Our challenge was to discuss two questions, "Who is power forgetting?" and "Who is religion oppressing?". As there were six tables with at least five people at each, you can appreciate there were a good number of very different answers given to each question and all of these are very relevant in today's society. You will have your own ideas I'm sure, which are equally appropriate. Sometimes we do overlook who is forgotten or oppressed in our world and, unless we think about these questions, they will go on being so. As Christians it is important to look out, as well as in, at what is happening and to help all who are in need if we possibly can. Kate certainly got our brains thinking and, hopefully, we can put into action ways of helping those who are forgotten or oppressed.

Café Church is held approximately three times a year and is a fabulous opportunity to worship God in new and traditional ways, as well as to discuss a chosen topic. The service is open to everyone in the community and we will be delighted to see anyone who is interested, at future services. Please look out for the announcement in The Diary in Dalgety Parish Church's article or in the Order of Service on a Sunday morning.

### **Dalgety Parish Church Christmas Fair Saturday 7th December 2019**

**10.00 am - 1.00 pm**



Lots of stalls to choose a Christmas gift from.

Our Cafe will be serving tea, coffee and home baking

Dalgety Bay Primary School Choir will be singing at 10.10 am