



Newsletter
of Dalgety Parish Church

March/April 2023

Minister's Musings

When, how, why do we do what we do?

Okay! Quite a big, wide ranging and woolly question. So let me explain the reason for asking.

On my recent holiday there was an excursion our whole group joined. It was a short jeep ride out of the town. We were dropped off quite high up a hillside, we climbed a bit more and had a glorious view over the countryside. Some viewed it from the edge of HUGE precipices; some walked much further across rough ground on narrow paths with nothing either side but a huge drop into the valley; and others of us remained far from the sides, unwilling to move unless essential.

But that wasn't the experience we had signed up for. We were there with a few hundred others, gathered that evening as hundreds gathered every evening to see - the sunset!

And it did! The sun set.

And it was very - well - very much as every evening.

As I stood watching the sun go down - as it does every day - I thought - how strange! How strange that sunsets and sunrises get so much attention yet the times between are spent either sleeping, or working, with the occasional glance up to remark on the sun, the sky, the clouds, the rain, the stars. Don't get me wrong. I love to see a glorious sunrise or sunset. And yet. The greater number of daylight, or indeed night time hours, surely deserve the same attention. So. Should we make less of sunrises and sunsets to make all the times of day the same? Or should we make more of the in between hours and appreciate THEM more?

In our lives the highs and indeed the lows get more attention than the more routine intervals. And yet! In those routine days, hours and years we grow, we learn, we become who we are. We build, we guide, we try, we fail, we love, we communicate, we create.

Then, when the lows come we have community around us, we have a greater strength and support. And in the highs we have others with whom to share - the photos, the experiences, our joy.

Learning to find joy in the routine (which for most of us is most of our time) encourages deeper understanding, and stronger foundations. In the next few weeks we will remember Holy Week, Jesus' death and resurrection, and we need to engage with that part of Jesus' story just as we engage with the start of his earthly life. We need to hold these together along with his teaching, his WHOLE life. We can learn to see God in every moment, making every moment special.

When we fragment HIS story, we are more likely to fragment our own story. Compartmentalising our faith from other aspects of our lives, impoverishes every part of who we are. When we learn to keep these together, then we live our lives with deeper peace and to greater effect.

Every day is a gift for God. And our God is our every day God - but also our 'every part of every day' God! Enjoy.

Christine

PS

As most will have heard by now I have decided to retire at the end of May 2023. The call away from Parish Ministry is, I believe, just as much a call as the one TO Parish Ministry and I have thought long and hard, prayed, and know that this is the right time. The future for Dalgety Parish Church is bright, and new. There are challenges as the cluster group is formed along with many more opportunities to enjoy your faith and find God every day.

These past 11 years have flown in. An incredible welcome from day one, strong friendships made, the occasional laugh - not always at the right times, tears shared and - so much more.

The decision was not arrived at lightly and it is and will be hard for me to leave. But if I leave you having helped you live a faith that is open and inclusive; helped give a few thoughts on how to relate to God in a positive, loving, way; helped you realise that God does not condemn, nor punish, but that God simply loves; well - keep that knowledge of God centre, enjoy your faith, and grow it. God centre stage - always.

Thank you to so many for your commitment to God and Church; and for your encouragement, support, and patience.

Christine

If we just talk of thoughts and prayers
And don't live out a faith that Dares,
And don't take on the ways of death,
Our thoughts and prayers are fleeting breath.

If we just dream of what could be
And do not build community,
And do not seek to change our ways,
Our dreams of change are false displays.

If we just sing of doing good
And don't walk through our neighbourhood
To learn it's hope, to ease its pain,
Our talk of good is simply vain.

God, May our prayers and dreams and songs
Lead to a faith that takes on wrongs -
That works for peace and justice, too.
Then will our prayers bring joy to You.

Carolyn Gillette 2018

The story of the soap manufacturer and the Minister.

They went for a walk together, and the soap maker asked "what's the good of religion? Look at the trouble and misery in the world after hundreds of years of Christianity? What's the earthly good of it?"

The minister didn't rise to the bait and said nothing. They continued walking until they came to a child, filthy with mud and grime, playing in the gutter. "Look at that child" said the minister. "You say soap makes you clean. We've had soap for hundreds of years, yet look how dirty that child is. So what's the good of soap?"

The soap manufacturer was indignant, "but soap can't do any good unless it is used," he protested. "Exactly," said the minister.

By the time you read this, we will be more than halfway through Lent, the season in our Church calendar where we count down towards Easter. A season where we perhaps find time to take a breath and time to think about our faith. A season where we can also draw a little nearer to God. Lent isn't about giving anything up or depriving ourselves of anything but is an intentional turning towards God and to fully enjoy God's promises. As we journey towards Easter, my hope for you all, is that you find encouragement in each other, that you keep sharing your faith, loving God with all your hearts and serving as God asks and knowing that you are loved unconditionally by God.

Many of you will know, that I am at the very end of my probationary period, and at the time of writing ordination is only a few weeks away and my time with you as Probationer, will be near to an end. I would like to thank each and every one of you, for your support over the last 19 months. I could not have asked for a more welcoming, friendly, inclusive and full of energy probationary placement. As a congregation you welcomed me in and shared your faith, you trusted me with your stories and moments in your life in which I am honoured and privileged to have been a part of. And although my family have not been here often when they have been they have received a warm welcome – so thank you for that.

I would also like to thank everyone who took part in "Stories behind your mask" project, from those who shared their covid experience with me, to those who wrote down some stories, to those who donated a mask, and to the wonderful banner team, who very patiently listened to my ideas and help to create a banner. My hope is that in the banner you can recognise a piece of your mask, and perhaps a word or two. The banner is a collective piece of a time in which I pray we will never experience again, and that central to all that is experienced God is there, was there and will be there in the future.

Thanks again to all who took part.

"The winds of change are blowing wild and free" – as the Bob Dylan song says and I am excited to be a part of the next part of your story within the cluster. Many of you know that due to presbytery planning processes, vacancies are still not open as they should be, which means I have agreed a contract for up to 18 months. My post is to be Associate Minister with a Sunday plus 2 days, at North Queensferry and Inverkeithing and two days here in Dalgety. So, I am not quite away yet – I really do look forward to seeing where and what the future holds.

My last Sunday with you will be Sunday 26th March and I thank you all so very much for everything you have shared with me. I hope to see some of you around throughout the week.

I am the minister that I am, because of your openness, encouragement and love of God that you have shared – so thank you for that.

Every Blessing to you all.

Andrea

Holy Week and Easter Services

Sunday 2nd April - Palm Sunday Service at 10.30 am

Monday 3rd April - Wed 5th April our evening services begin at 7.00 pm

Thursday 6th April: Maundy Thursday Service with Communion at 7.00 pm

Good Friday: a full service starts at 7.00 pm (around 1 hour)

Easter Sunday:

8.00 am a short Service at the Sailing Club;

10.30 am is an all age Service and in the evening at

7.00 pm a quiet reflective service with Communion

Everyone is invited to and welcome at any and all our Services.

During Holy Week we have our reflection area which is open every day 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, and will be available before and after our evening services.

New Church Banner (mentioned in Andrea's Article)



Wanted!

We need a few volunteers to help with our children's ministry by recording a story for a Sunday. These are added to the 'tablets' and sent out to our families. You can see what these are like on our website. Go to Junior Church members' page, password is youthdalgety22.

There are different ways to do these. And perhaps you may have another option. It would be good to hear from you if you are interested/able to help.

Storytelling

We have recently launched a Story telling session for 0 – 5-year-olds, a warm and safe place to enjoy a story and a song or two. We meet from 10.30 am till 11.00 am with an option of tea or coffee afterwards too. All are very welcome.



Story Time

Tuesday mornings
between 10.30 - 11am
0- 5 years

Dalgety Parish Church

A place to hear a story, enjoy a song
and an option of tea/coffee afterwards in
Cafe Connect.



Youth Nights

A youth group for all teens (S1 and above) meet on Friday nights at 6.30 pm till 8.00 pm. A safe space to chat, catch up with friends, play table tennis or badminton, board games, crafts. It is a place and space for all teens, and all are welcome. For further information contact Christine or Andrea.

IONA PRAYER

You go before us, God of the prophets,
in the green places and in the
hard places.

You go before us with a vision which
unsettles us,
with words which transform us.

You look into the heart of life
and turn us away from the shallow
towards the truth.

You go before us. You bring us the
promise of your kingdom -
with food for the hungry, healing of the
sick, with freedom from harm, and
Peace.

You go before us. Sometimes we see
you, Sometimes we just miss you.
We want to follow you but we are afraid.
Afraid of the cost to ourselves.

But then, deep within us, your word
comes to us.

We hear your voice: *'Follow me.'*

For where we are, you are.

When we are lost, you are there.

When we are in pieces, you make us
whole.

Susan Miller (adapted)

We are looking for a new Treasurer

Natasha has indicated she will step back from this post, and we NEED someone to step in. Maybe you can help - find out more from Natasha, who has offered help, support to whomever takes this on.



With the Presbytery Plan Cluster Group coming together this role will be changing. Exactly how we don't yet know. However it is possible there will be one treasurer across the area, with a team of local treasurers working together.

Into the unknown we all go, and if you can help us navigate that we would be very grateful to hear from you.

Diary

We are also looking for someone to take over from Malcolm Adamson to bring together each month the church news for the Dalgety Bay Diary. Please speak to Malcolm if you think you could take this on.



Twinning Update

The new minister has arrived at Engcongolweni and Rev Brown Mwafulirwa has been in touch, keen to re-energise our partnership. We have been sharing themes and topics we are covering in our churches and we are looking forward to getting to know the new Manse family.

A farewell (of sorts!) to Andrea

I would like to take this opportunity, on our behalf, to thank Andrea for her ministry here in Dalgety....church and community. Over these past 19 months, Andrea has joined in with everything; the highs and the lows; sharing ideas, challenging perspectives. There have been more highs than lows (I hope) and many memorable events! One of these, of course, being her Ordination to The Ministry of Word and Sacrament; a service in Dalgety Parish Church.

"Congratulations, Andrea.

We pray God's blessing on you as you develop your ministry.

Although continuing for the moment with Dalgety two days a week, Andrea, we will miss your presence on Sunday mornings. However we know other congregations will benefit from you leading worship."

Presbytery Plans: Forth Churches Cluster Group

The Presbytery Plan has been approved and we are moving now to work out what our new church will be like. With an allocation of 3 Ministers a framework of how that will work is being prepared - to be approved; alongside a Basis of Union of the congregations - to be approved. To be approved means: the Basis of Union and Team Ministry will be presented to each Kirk Session; and every Kirk Session needs to agree. These will then be presented to each congregation and every congregation also has to agree.

NOTHING happens unless there is agreement. This doesn't mean necessarily unanimous agreement. There will be votes at every stage, with every group. If you are on our Communion/Members Roll YOU will be invited to the meeting of the congregation, and you will have a vote. It is therefore essential that we ensure our Roll is up to date. You can check if you are on it very easily if you are unsure.

If you have your WOW magazine delivered to you then at least one of your household is on the Roll! Whoever delivers your WOW will let you know if you are NOT on the roll, but also feel free to ask them, or to email the roll keeper roll@dalgety-church.co.uk

There will also be a chance on Sundays to check this out (after the Service). Don't miss out: better to make sure than not have a vote.

Visit by Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, The Moderator of the General Assembly of The Church of Scotland, to Dalgety Parish Church.

We are very privileged to host our Moderator at a Friday evening youth night. He has expressed a desire to meet with our Ukrainian friends to chat about their lives, journey, the welcome they received here; and since it was our young folk who welcomed in the first families we have arranged that they too will meet with The Moderator.

If you have hosted, if you have been to any of our gatherings on Sunday afternoons, if you can come along, you too will be very welcome. You might even get a game of badminton, hockey, table tennis, Articulate or Dobble!

Friday 28th April 2023, 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm

CAN FAIRTRADE SURVIVE THE DEMISE OF TRAIDCRAFT?

As I am sure most of you have heard by now, the Traidcraft company went into administration in January, so what will happen to the Fair Trade stall?

Well, in fact, while Traidcraft pioneered Fair Trade in this country when it started 40 years ago, there are now many other companies which are bringing fairly traded goods to our shores. For some years now we have had products from Equal Exchange, Just Trading Scotland, Eswatini Kitchen, Tropical Wholefoods and Zaytoun. Some of these came through Traidcraft but can now be bought from other sources, so there will still be a variety of items on sale.

Alas, there are at present no replacements for the muesli and biscuits which were firm favourites of so many loyal customers, but honey, dried fruits, coffee, tea, cereal bars marmalade, curry sauce and of course, chocolate are still available.

However, the supermarkets have now taken on Fair Trade in a much bigger way and every week there seems to be more products bearing the famous label. Tesco has coffee, tea, cocoa and bananas, Sainsbury's has even more, and the Co-op has

an excellent range of Fair Trade wine. Please take the time to scan the shelves for the Fair Trade label. The variety and low prices might surprise you. It is certainly good to feel that your square of chocolate, your glass of wine or your cup of tea is helping to educate or clothe a child in some far off country.

So even in these tough economic times, please keep in mind the producers of the products who depend so heavily on the Fair Trade premium, and if you can patronise the monthly Fair Trade stall, remember that each month it makes a contribution to the education of girls in northern Malawi. If that doesn't give you the excuse to buy another bar of chocolate, nothing will.

Winnie Wood

Family Services

Our next Family Service is on Sunday May 14th from 4.00 pm. We hope to be outdoors, and we will include a pet blessing. If you want to only come for the pet blessing that will be around 4.45 pm; but please do come along for the whole event if you can.

Building the Kingdom

"You are invited!"

An invite was extended for anyone who wanted to partake in "Restoration Celebration", a celebratory event with lunch which was held in Touch, Dunfermline, at St Margaret's Church on the 28th of February.

The moderator of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, warmly greeted those arriving. There was a relaxed, joyous atmosphere, an inner peace and love shown in conversations. The kindness and support towards everyone palpable through words and actions being one.

"Restoration Fife", celebrated ten years involvement in the Kingdom with the Fruit of the Spirit in evidence. The "fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control" Galatians 5:22.

The Moderator has called on people to support "Restoration Fife", the details are on the picture below sourced courtesy of the Moderator's Facebook page.



If you are able, please consider this request by the Moderator. Thank you.
May the love and peace of Christ be with you all now and for ever more.

Alison Hay

thank
you!

June Wright would like to thank everyone for the support shown to her during Ken's recent illness and for all the offers of transport to and from the hospital. It has been very much appreciated.



**Church Family
New Members**

Sue Barber
Barrie Barber

Deceased

Elizabeth Smith
Irene Stevenson
May Freeman
Catherine Hill
Ken Wright

Who To Contact

Minister

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

Session Clerk

Elma Doig, 07912445219, elma@dalgety-church.co.uk

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Dalgety Parish Church of Scotland