

DUNIPACE PARISH CHURCH
NEWSLETTER
JANUARY – MARCH
A Faith Driven Vision For 2007
Charity No: SC 00 2943
www.dunipacechurch.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

Recently I saw, forgive the pun, the tail end of an old film about blue-eyed huskies. The film was called IRON WILL and it focused on the journey undertaken by a young lad and his dog sled team. The young lad was challenged to the point of exhaustion as he endeavoured to tackle the obstacles on his way. It quickly became evident that he was encouraged not only by the memory of his father but by the power and drive of his dog sled team. The lead dog refused to give up and was driven forward by instinct. IRON WILL ultimately won the race and he and his dogs received the recognition due.

The story of IRON WILL reminded me of the fact that we can be driven by many things, power, ambition, greed, selfishness, to name but a few.

Here in Dunipace Parish Church, as we prepare to tackle the challenges our work and witness will bring to us, as we run the race God has set before us, let us be driven by FAITH, “The substance of all things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen.” (Heb 1:1) as we seek to fulfil God’s vision in this place.

As to our reward, it must surely be, hearing Jesus say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Yours in Christ,
Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JANUARY 2007

29th 7.15 Guild – RSPB
30th 10-12 Kirk Cafe

FEBRUARY

4th 11.00am Morning Worship
5th 7.30pm **SCOT'S NIGHT** in the hall
6th 10-12 Kirk Café
10th 2.30pm **WEDDING** in the church
11th 11.00am Morning Worship
12th 7.30pm **KIRK SESSION**
13th 10-12 Kirk Café
18th 11.00am Pulpit Supply – Mr Arthur Stewart
20th 10-12 Kirk Cafe
25th 11.00am Pulpit Supply – Rev Ronald Maxton
12.15pm Soup Lunch
6.30pm Evening Song's of Praise
26th 7.15pm Guild – Lydia Project
27th 10-12 Kirk Café

***Please note that from Saturday 17th Feb – Saturday 3rd March
pastoral cover will be provided by Rev Helen Christie - 813786***

MARCH

4th 11.00am **COMMUNION** in the Church
3.00pm **COMMUNION** in the Complex
5th 7.30pm **FASHION SHOW**
6th 10-12 Kirk Café
8th Guild – Annual Get Together
11th 11.00am Morning Worship
13th 10-12 Kirk Café
14th 7.30pm **ANNUAL STATED MEETING**
16th 7.30pm **QUIZ NIGHT**
18th 11.00am Morning Worship
20th 9.30am **ATTESTATION** of Records in Larbert
10-12 Kirk Cafe
25th 11.00am Morning Worship – **BAPTISM**
12.15pm Soup Lunch
6.30pm Evening Song's of Praise
27th 10-12 Kirk Cafe

WHAT'S ON?

KIRK CAFÉ

TUESDAY 10am-12noon

The Kirk Café continues to take place in the church hall. All are welcome.

It's the ideal place to meet old friends and new.

It's the ideal place to have a chat, enjoy good food and good fellowship.

As we move forward in our FAITH DRIVEN VISION let us pray that the Café goes from strength to strength. In 2006 the Café realised the sum of £2,200 pounds – all of which helps us considerably in our mission. Thanks are extended to everyone who made this possible.

If you can assist with transport, baking or kitchen duties, please speak to Mrs June Davies, Mr Jim Winning or the Minister.

SCOTS NIGHT

Monday 5th February

Tickets (*priced £3 which includes supper*) are available from Guild members. You are, however, asked to bring your own cup.

The Scots night is always extremely popular so book your ticket early to avoid disappointment.

Entertainment, will be provided by the "Far and Near Concert Party"

KIRK SESSION

Monday 12th February

The Kirk Session, which is open to all members of the congregation, meets in the Reading Room at 7.30pm. We will be exploring further our theme of A FAITH DRIVEN VISION FOR 2007 along with the new Guidance Notes for Congregational Office Bearers.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

PRESBYTERY REPORT for DUNIPACE

Following the recent Presbytery Visit to Dunipace Parish Church, the following deliverances, were approved by Falkirk Presbytery:

Presbytery:

1. RECEIVES the Report
2. COMMENDS the minister, Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher, and her team of office bearers for their excellent achievements in all aspects of leadership, Christian education and pastoral work.
3. ENCOURAGES the continuing development of the 'Children's Story Club', the 'Denny for Youth', and the 'Denny and Dunipace Churches Together', projects.
4. SHARES the concerns of the office bearers regarding the provision of toilets for the disabled and encourages them to continue their efforts to find a satisfactory resolution.
5. COMMENDS the congregation for their excellent upkeep of the Church buildings and manse.
6. GIVES THANKS to God that this congregation is fulfilling its purpose.

The Report throughout was positive, acknowledging the wide range of work undertaken by the congregation. We should be heartened by the affirmation we have received and allow this to be a source of encouragement as we prepare for the demands and delights that await us. In the Report the Kirk Session outlined their key priorities for the next five years as follows:

1. STRENGTHEN and DEVELOP further outreach to the youth and young people
2. DEVELOP closer links to the parents who bring their children to many of the groups and organisations
3. PROMOTE working together with the other local churches through new initiatives.
4. AFFIRM the ministries of our members who work tirelessly to serve the Church.
5. BUILD on our pastoral outreach to the sick and housebound
6. STRIVE FURTHER to meet the needs of the parish we serve in new and meaningful ways.

WHAT'S ON?

COMMUNION SUNDAY

The Sacrament of the

LORD'S SUPPER

will be celebrated at

11am in the Church

and at 3pm in the Complex

on

Sunday 4th March 2007

**Come and share in the joyful feast
A place at the Table has been reserved for
YOU**

ANNUAL STATED MEETING

WEDNESDAY 14th MARCH

At 7.30pm

In the Church Hall

Come along and let's celebrate.

Together we REFLECT on the year that has passed and CONTEMPLATE the work before us as together we strive to serve the parish in new and creative ways.

ENTERTAINMENT along with TEA & HOME BAKING
will be provided

FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT

QUIZ NIGHT

**Friday 16th March 2007
7.30pm in the church hall**

This is a night DEFINITELY NOT to be missed. It has grown from strength to strength and attracts all ages. Teams of four (at the cost of £10 a team) are invited to register. Spectators are encouraged to come along and give support to the teams as they endeavour to answer questions on a wide range of topics.

Further information is available from Mrs Erica McKellar, Mrs Dora Johnstone and Mrs Tish Graham.

THANK YOU...

Twas, the night before Christmas and all through God's house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse
EXCEPT our little Elves, creative at play
Decorating the church in their own special way
From the pulpit to stairwell, not a corner was missed
Baby Jesus was clearly top of their list
When the celebrations were over our little Elves
Were still working hard, all by themselves
Cleaning and sweeping, from morning to night
Making sure that everything was left just right.

© *Editor*

FORTHCOMING NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

Proposal for a Stewardship Programme For ALL Congregations in Presbytery

The following is a précis of a proposal (ACCEPTED by Presbytery) received from the Stewardship Committee in Edinburgh. Preparatory work for the Stewardship Programme is to be carried out during 2007 to take effect during 2008.

Proposal for National Stewardship Programme

1. Programme based on "GIFTS FOR GOD"
2. The OBJECTIVE is to increase regular, committed giving of money
3. The recommended EVENT is a series of Gatherings in congregations to share information and develop vision.
4. The CASE FOR SUPPORT is that giving of money enables the sharing of the gospel through the worship, fellowship, mission and service of the Church. A DVD will be produced to portray this case for support.
5. Each congregation (or group of congregations) will receive from STEWARDSHIP STAFF: a presentation of the programme to the Kirk Session and Congregational Board, planning and training meetings with a final meeting to assess the value of the programme.
6. Congregations will be encouraged to produce their own publicity material. To assist with this, the Stewardship Staff will produce a CD with templates.
7. MINISTERS and OFFICE BEARERS have a key role in encouraging the programme and in teaching Christian giving as a response to God's giving as a means to sharing the gospel.

Presbytery accepted the following Deliverances:

- 1. Agrees in principle to participation in the pilot scheme regarding a National Stewardship Programme**

2. Agrees that further meetings take place between Stewardship Staff and all other parties.

AN UP TO DATE ON OUR OWN MONEY MATTERS

During 2006, Dunipace Parish Church had to raise over £61,000 for the General Account. (This sum is purely for the General Account and does not include the £12,000 we had to spend on Property Matters) We managed to balance the accounts, the result of hard work and lots of praying but it gets more difficult each year, as costs increase whilst giving and membership levels decrease. Each year we are encouraged to produce an ANALYSIS of our GIVING and present it to the congregation. Here it is:

Total number of WFO Envelopes distributed in the year	203
Total Amount Given through WFO in the year	£12,562

Number contributing Nothing in the year	83
Number contributing between £1 and £26 in the year	30
Number contributing between £27 and £ 52 in the year	16
Number contributing between £53 and £100 in the year	20
Number contributing between £101 and £150 in the year	27
Number contributing between £151 and £200 in the year	9
Number contributing between £201 and £250 in the year	6
Number contributing over £251 in the year	12

Total number of Gift Aid Envelopes distributed in the year	100
Total Amount Given through Gift Aid in the year	£23,448
Tax Recovered on Gift Aid Donations in the year	£ 6,317

Donations through Open Plate in the year	£ 2,189
Other Donations in the year (including £1,000 legacy)	£ 5,595
Other Ordinary General Income	£11,873

(From: Congregational Organisations, Fund Raising, Weddings, Funerals etc)

Total Income for 2006	£61,984
Total Expenditure (For General) in 2006	£55,173
Transfer to Reserve (For Property)	£ 6,317
Balance carried into 2007	£ 494

Anticipated BUDGET for 2007 £63,500
With YOUR help we WILL make it
“Hearing Dogs”

I wonder if Christ had a little white dog,
Friendly and faithful like mine,
With soft silky coat and a little wet nose
With two eyes that twinkle and shine

I'm afraid that He hadn't because I have read
How he wept in the garden alone;
His friends and disciples had gone on their way
And left Him to grieve on His own

I'm sure that the little white dog
With a heart so tender and warm
Would never have left Him to suffer alone
Would have crept right under His arm

Would have licked the dear fingers in agony
clasped,
And counting all favours but loss,
When they took Him away would have trotted
behind.
And followed Him right to the cross

*This poem was read at a memorial service.
The lady had a “Hearing Dog” for many years. Her
dog was part of their Church Family. Thank you
Una Anderson for passing it on.*

2007 PRAYER DIARY

A is for the AGED

Look with kindness, O God our Father
On those whose increasing years bring them weakness,
Distress or isolation
Provide for them homes of dignity and peace,
Give them understanding helpers,
And the willingness to accept help; and,
As their strength diminishes, increase their faith and assurance of
your love.
This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the same
Yesterday, today and forever
And you have promised to be with us
All our days
We pray for all elderly people
Especially those who are ill or housebound
In their weakness may they find your strength
And in their loneliness know the joy of your presence
Be to them a sure and certain hope
This we pray in the name of Christ our Lord.

Have compassion, O God, on those who are depressed
And cast down in spirit because they are housebound or restricted
in their movement
Let your light shine in their darkness
Rekindling in them the lamp of hope
Give them the assurance of your unchanging love and unfailing
companionship,
And give them the assurance of our prayers
As we remember their contribution to the life and witness of this
congregation and acknowledge with thanks all that they can still be
O God, grant them courage to face life bravely,

In the strength of Jesus Christ our Saviour
In whose name we offer these our prayers
For the elderly and the aged in our community

PARISH REGISTER

BEREAVED May God's strength be with those who are bereaved:

Mrs Elsie	Johnstone	Wheatlands Nursing Home
Miss Robina	Duncan	36 Thistle Avenue, Dunipace
Mr Peter	Watson	17 Northfield Road, Dunipace
Mr Campbell	Murray	59 Barnego Road, Dunipace
Mr William	Anderson	54 Avon Street, Dunipace
Mrs Denise	Perry	7 Jubilee Road, Dunipace

BAPTISM We welcome into God's family the Church:

Alasdair Lawrence Stocks 26 Meadow Court, Dunipace
Second son of Gordon & Lynn Stocks

WEDDING Congratulations and blessings to those joined in marriage

Fiona Anderson
George James Heron 32 Avonside Drive, Dunipace
Saturday 4th November 2006 – Dunipace Parish Church

RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS Thinking of you with joy

The Service celebrating the 50th Wedding Anniversary of
Alex & Margaret Brown 64 Ure Crescent, Bonnybridge
Saturday 30th December 2006 – Dunipace Parish Church

CHANGE OF ADDRESS May God's peace dwell in your home

Mrs May Wyness	Formerly of 31 Gorrie Street, Denny
Now resides at	Overton Crescent
Mr & Mrs James Faulds	Formerly of 19 Jones Ave, Larbert
Now reside at	29 John Davidson Drive, Dunipace

NEW MEMBERS We pray that you will always feel welcome

Details removed at request of members

Please Help us Keep Up To Date

OUR WHO'S WHO 2007

Minister	Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher	824540
Session Clerk	Mr Lachlan McGowan	813605
Clerk to Board	Mrs Tish Graham	823928
Treasurer	Mrs Fiona Bruce	825326
Freewill Offering	Mrs Jean Gray	822491
Gift Aid	Mrs Sandra Thomson	822903
Mission Bags	Mrs Aileen Sneddon	824204
Roll Keeper	Mr David Turnbull	825625
Presbytery Elder	Mr Jim Winning	823426
Organists	Miss Betty Nelson	826167
	Mr Bill Strang	665136
Story Club & Youth Fellowship	Mrs Barbara Fulford	824249
Sunday School	Mr Lachlan McGowan	813605
Guild	Mrs Betty McDonald	826094
Flowers	Mrs Jane Mills	826206
Communion Linen	Mrs Dora Johnstone	822908
Kirk Café	Mrs June Davies	824082
Transport	Mr Jim Winning	823426
Property	Mrs June Davies	824082
Finance	Mrs Ann Marchant	01259-216478
Social Projects	Mrs Dora Johnstone	822908
Hospitality	Mrs Maureen Pleace	822135
Magazine Distribution	Mr Bill Paterson	826302
Posters	Mr David Reynolds	822364
Webmaster	Mr Jim Smith	
Health & Safety	Mr Bill Ferguson	823193

VESTRY NIGHT

At the Manse on a **Wednesday** from 6.30pm.

For an appointment please call the Minister.
Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher – 824540