

**DUNIPACE PARISH CHURCH**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**NOVEMBER - DECEMBER**  
A Faith That Sticks in 2006  
Charity No: SC 00 2943  
[www.dunipacechurch.org.uk](http://www.dunipacechurch.org.uk)

**MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER**

Dear Friends,

Unexpectedly, out of the blue, she said, "I've got a present for you." It wasn't my birthday, there was no special occasion, it was just a generous impulse. "I saw it and thought you would like it." We looked at each other and laughed.

A moment of sheer delight - a realization of mutual respect that had matured through the years of shared experience. The gift itself didn't matter, but the giving said, "I am thinking of you and will do what I can to support you in the church."

There has been so much giving and receiving over the years; not gifts that you can buy - how can you buy laughter or tears, or patience, or caring, or loyalty, or time? They are without price.

Yet, they have all been given - freely, rashly, wildly, because love takes risks, love is always giving and receiving.

As Advent and Christmas approaches let us give thanks for God's gift to us, the gift of Jesus Christ our Lord, and as another year of activity and witness draws to its close let us also give thanks for the many unexpected but gratefully received gifts of support we have received here in Dunipace Parish Church.

To one and all I extend my own personal thanks and those of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board. May the peace of the Season be with you and yours.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **NOVEMBER 2006**

5 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Morning Worship
6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Strathcarron Singers in the church
12 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Cenotaph Service
	11.30am	Remembrance Service in church
	12.15pm	Short Service at the Memorial Cross
13 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	<b>KIRK SESSION &amp; BOARD</b>
		<b>VISIT BY PRESBYTERY</b>
15 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Steering Group in Dunipace
18 <sup>th</sup>	1pm-3pm	<b>CHRISTMAS FAYRE in the halls</b>
19 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Morning Worship – Presbytery Team
20 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	<b>CONGREGATIONAL BOARD</b>
24 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Children’s Story Club in the halls
26 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	<b>GIFT GIVING</b> “Scot’s” Service &
		Guild Dedication & Soup Lunch
	12.15pm	Soup Lunch in the hall
	6.30pm	United “Celtic” Song’s of Praise

### **DECEMBER**

3 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00am	<b>COMMUNION in the Church</b>
	3.00pm	<b>COMMUNION in the Complex</b>
4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Local Area Fraternal Meeting
5 <sup>th</sup>	7.15pm	Presbytery meeting in Falkirk
9 <sup>th</sup>	2pm-4pm	<b>CHRISTMAS LUNCH in the halls</b>
10 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Morning Worship
11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	<b>KIRK SESSION</b>
17 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	<b>CHRISTINGLE SERVICE</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00am	School End of Term Service
24 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	<b>FAMILY NATIVITY SERVICE</b>
24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30pm	Tea & mince pies in the Halls
	11.00pm	Carols in the church
	11.30pm	<b>MIDNIGHT WATCH SERVICE</b>
25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY PRAISE</b>
31 <sup>st</sup>	11.00am	Morning Worship – End of Year

# KEEPING YOU INFORMED

## REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November

Cenotaph	10.45am
Dunipace Church	11.30am
Memorial Cross in the garden	12.15pm

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## PRESBYTERY VISIT

### Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm

Would Elders, members of the Congregational Board and congregation, please note that Dunipace Parish Church is to be visited by the Presbytery (*as part of the normal five yearly Presbytery Visitation Programme*) Please give this date a high priority in your diary.

The following **key questions** are to be answered:

1. What changes are anticipated during the next 5 years in (a) the congregation (b) the parish and community?
  2. What impact could this have on the congregation, and how is the Kirk Session taking account of this?
  3. Can the office bearers outline 3 definite aims within the next 5 years, and set them in order of priority? How do these differ from previous priorities? (if they do)
  4. What are the implications of these priorities for congregation life?
  5. What is the Kirk Session & Board's vision for the congregation?
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## OFFICE BEARERS £20 CAMPAIGN

For the past two years office bearers and indeed others have supported the £20 Campaign. This provides an opportunity to give that little bit extra as the financial year draws to its close. Please note, that this Campaign is purely voluntary. Donations should be marked "£20 Campaign" and either placed in the offering bowl or passed on to the treasurer.

# **DENNY & DUNIPACE CHURCHES TOGETHER**

## **NEW STEERING GROUP**

As part of **Denny & Dunipace Churches Together** the three local churches have formed a Steering Group. This initiative came out of a joint Kirk Session meeting earlier in the year. The Group consists of TWELVE members, the Minister and three others from each congregation. The purpose of the Group is to “Promote and develop greater working together”. This is a PRIORITY we all share. It’s not about working toward any kind of “Union” It is, however, about growing together, sharing resources together and witnessing together. Regular reports will be fed back to each congregation. May God bless us the work we do together.

Would the members of the new Steering Group please note that the next meeting takes place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm in our Reading Room.

## **DENNY FOR YOUTH**

As part of **Denny & Dunipace Churches Together** the three local churches also have representatives serving on a community wide Committee that is endeavouring to “Develop a strategy that will promote outreach to the Youth in our local community.” Several ideas are being explored in connection with this work. Once again we pray that God will bless us in our efforts. If you have a particular interest in this area of work please speak to the Minister. We would be honoured to have you on board.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GIFT GIVING &amp; SCOT'S SERVICE OF PRAISE</b></p>
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**Scot's Service of Praise**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 11am in the Church**

On this Sunday closest to St. Andrew's Day, you are encouraged to join with us for an exciting service of worship and praise as we hear scripture read in the old Scot's tongue and in the beautiful lilt of Gaelic. *(If you would be willing to take part in this please let the minister know)*. We will sing many of our favourite hymns to Scottish tunes. Come along dressed in your kilt or with a bit of tartan and enter into the "Spirit" of the occasion.

**Gift Giving**

You are also encouraged to bring along a **GIFT** (to the value of about £3) clearly marked for a "Lady" or "Gent". The gifts will be distributed at the Christmas Lunch in December.

**Guild Dedication**

During our special Gift Giving & Scot's Service we will recognise the work of the Guild. We look forward to the contribution Guild members will make to the service through reading and song.

**Scottish Soup Lunch 12.15pm in the hall**

Join with us downstairs in the hall, directly after morning worship, for a "Scottish" Lunch of soup, oatcakes, cheese, shortbread and who knows what else!!!

**United "Celtic" Song's of Praise**

**At 6.30pm in Denny Old Parish Church**

We draw the day to a fitting close by joining with our friends from the local churches for an evening of Celtic Song and Praise. Further information will follow.

# **CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

**1pm-3pm**

Please note the change of date. Donations for the various stalls, which can be put into the CARRIER BAG you have received, should be brought down to the hall on Friday night or early on the Saturday morning.

**STALLS GALORE:** Red & Green stall  
Jams, chutneys  
Cake, candy, sweets  
Home Baking  
Bric-a-brac  
Groceries  
Soft Goods  
Christmas Stall,  
Bottles  
Books & children's toys

**GAMES GALORE** Hook a Duck  
Roll a Penny  
Hoopla

**FUN GALORE** Santa's Grotto with "Lucky Dip"

**NEED WE SAY ANYMORE?**

**Come along, bring your family & friends, and have a great afternoon.**

**Admission is FREE      Teas £1.50**

## **Christmas & New Year Services**

### **Christingle Service**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm**

Once again the whole family is invited to join in a wonderful night of music and light in the church. Hear the Christingle story and share in the delight of singing your favourite carols by candlelight. I wonder who will get the Christmas candle this year? The service is followed by tea and mince pies in the hall. All are welcome.

### **Family Nativity Service**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 11am**

We look forward to getting closer to the heart of Christmas as we see and hear the well-loved story of the Nativity as presented by the children of the church. This service is suitable for all ages.

### **Christmas Eve Services**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.30pm            Tea & Mince pies in the church hall**

**11.00pm            Carol singing in the church**

**11.30pm            Midnight Watch Service**

We hope that as many people as possible will join with us on Christmas Eve. During the Midnight Watch Service an offering will be uplifted for the Christmas Appeal.

### **Christmas Day Family Praise**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am**

Join with us for a short family service of praise on this very special day. Children (and the young at heart) are encouraged to bring along, and show to us, a gift they received for Christmas as together we give thanks for the greatest gift of all - the gift of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **LOVE DEFINED**

What is love, but an emotion,  
So strong and so pure,  
That nurtured and shared with another  
All tests it will endure?

What is love, but a force,  
To bring the mighty low,  
With the strength to shame the mountains  
And halt time's ceaseless flow?

What is love, but a triumph,  
A glorious goal attained,  
The union of two souls, two hearts  
A bond the angels have ordained?

What is love, but a champion,  
To cast the tyrant from his throne,  
And raise the flag of truth and peace  
And fear of death o'er throw?

What is love, but a beacon,  
To guide the wayward heart,  
A blazing light upon the shoals  
That dash cherished dreams apart?

And what is love, but forever,  
Eternal and sincere,  
A flame that through wax and wane  
Will outlive life's brief years?

So we'll tell it on the mountaintops,  
In all places high and low,  
That our love for each other is our reason to be,  
And will never break or bow.

*The poem read by Lachlan & Gwen McGowan during the Renewal of Wedding Vows Ceremony on their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.*

## **OUR OWN GOOD NEWS STORIES**

### **FLOWER FESTIVAL – update**

A sincere word of thanks is extended to everyone who helped make this recent event such a HUGE success. We received tremendous sponsorship from many members, a few local businesses and organisations. The willing hands that designed and created the displays were truly blessed. Those who came along were delighted. Those who gave donations for the teas or helped serve the crowds deserve a medal. The unnamed “others” who worked tirelessly in the background or provided beautiful music throughout the whole event should definitely not go unmentioned and the stunning DVD we have to treasure is a masterpiece in itself. The kindness and support we received from local churches touched us deeply. THANK YOU, one and all, for helping us to bring the community into the church and raise over £2350 for property repairs in the process. We pray that we can return the kindness to our neighbouring churches.

### **CHILDREN’S STORY CLUB – well done**

Well done to Barbara & her willing band of workers. It was a joy to share in the activities of the Story Club. This is for children of primary school age and now takes place in the church hall on the last Friday of the month from 6.30pm-8pm.

Over FORTY children came along and here’s what they and their parents had to say as they were going out the door:

**From the kids...** “It was great – fantastic- just like a party, with real party food – we got games, they were great – look I am getting to take my animal mask home, I had great fun making things – it was great I got to put a show on for my mum – why can’t it be on every week?”

**From the parents...** “What you are doing is wonderful, thanks very much – what a lot of work you have all put in, I did not expect anything like this – my child has been so excited about coming and can’t wait to come back.”

Praise that is deserved and encouraging to all.

May God continue to bless our outreach to the children and may God bless the helpers who give their time and offer their talents.

The next Planning meeting is on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the Reading Room and the next STORY CLUB is on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm in the hall.

## **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 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

**Come and share in the joyful feast**

**A place at the Table has been reserved for YOU**

## **CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

**2pm-4pm**

All members aged 60+ are invited to attend the Christmas Lunch.

You should receive a letter of invitation along with a tear off reply slip in this edition of the magazine.

Please complete it as appropriate and return it as outlined in the letter by Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

We hope that many of our senior members will be able to attend what is always a great event.

We think of those unable to join with us.

## PARISH REGISTER

**BEREAVED** May God's peace be with those who mourn the death of a loved one:

Janet "Netta" Ballantyne	Reddingmuirhead
Helen "Nellie" Fitsimmons	Planting Mill, Dunipace
Catherine "Cathie" Cunningham	9 Darrach Drive, Fankerton
Edith Hair	35 Shanks Avenue, Denny
Peter Holiday	Bankview Nursing Home
Margaret Fox	277 Stirling Street, Dunipace
Elizabeth Morrison	Banknock
John Bennet	69 Milton Row, Dunipace
Elizabeth Weir	16 Tygetshaugh Court
David Heeps	Brightons
William Chalmers	17 Tygetshaugh Court
Mary Scobie	Brightons
Josephine "Josie" McInnes	22 Bankside Court, Denny
Joseph "Joe" Connolly	28 Northfield Road, Dunipace
Jeanette "Netta" Kay	2 Margaret Court, Denny
Alexander "Alex" Stewart	15 Tygetshaugh Court,
Mark Fulford	57 Avon Street, Dunipace
Alexandra "Sandra" Spackman	Margaretville, Denny
Alan Thomson	11 Crathie Drive, Dunipace
Elizabeth "Dolly" Bruce	Wheatlands Nursing Home
Robert Kay	2 McLauchlan Ave, Denny
Margaret "Peggy" Crawford	Grahamston House, Falkirk

**BAPTISM** We welcome those who have become part of God's family the Church:

Thomas Ronald Wright                      32 Linden Avenue, Dunipace.  
Son of Thomas & Claire Wright.

**WEDDING** May God bless, with love and joy, the lives of those joined in marriage:

Kathleen Dempsey  
Paul Henry Harris  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2006 – Dunipace Parish Church

## **OUR WHO'S WHO      2006**

Minister	Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher	824540
Session Clerk	Mr Lachlan McGowan	
Clerk to Board	Mrs Tish Graham	
Treasurer	Mrs Fiona Bruce	
Freewill Offering	Mrs Jean Gray	
Gift Aid	Mrs Sandra Thomson	
Mission Bags	Mrs Aileen Sneddon	
Roll Keeper	Mr David Turnbull	
Presbytery Elder	Mr Jim Winning	
Organists	Miss Betty Nelson	
	Mr Bill Strang	
Story Club & Youth Fellowship	Mrs Barbara Fulford	
Sunday School	Mr Lachlan McGowan	
Guild	Mrs Betty McDonald	
Flowers	Mrs Jane Mills	
Communion Linen	Mrs Dora Johnstone	
Kirk Café	Mrs June Davies	
Transport	Mr Jim Winning	
Property	Mrs June Davies	
Finance	Mrs Ann Marchant	
Social Projects	Mrs Dora Johnstone	
Hospitality	Mrs Maureen Pleace	
Magazine Distribution	Mr Bill Paterson	
Posters	Mr David Reynolds	
Webmaster	Mr James Smith	

### **VESTRY NIGHT**

At the Manse on a **Wednesday** from 6.30pm.  
For other appointments please call the Minister.

**Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher – 824540**