

**DUNIPACE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

**125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR**

**AUTUMN 2015 NEWSLETTER**

Charity No: SC 002943  
[www.dunipacechurch.org.uk](http://www.dunipacechurch.org.uk)

**Message from your Minister**

*"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Col. 3:12*

Dear Friends,

**Patience is a Virtue**

At the age of 22, having completed my first degree and early stages of Postgraduate Studies, a Scholarship from Glasgow University took me to the United States of America where I lived and studied at Columbia Theological Seminary, in the state of Georgia, for eighteen months. It was one of the most rewarding times of my life, although, I have to admit, there were times when I wondered just what on earth was happening. It was not all sunshine and no rain.

In fact the mention of rain reminds me of an incredible adventure and wonderful learning opportunity I experienced in America.

Most weekends, as part of what was called the AMIS Programme (Area Ministry to International Students) I was taken "home" by one of the American students on campus.

It was an outstanding project on friendship. In addition it ensured that any form of homesickness, or indeed disappointment with subjects on offer for study (or not on offer as the case might be, due to sabbatical leave) was quickly dispelled.

On this particular occasion Leanne, a senior student, had taken me home with her to Kentucky. Early on the Saturday morning, we headed into "town." There wasn't much to see, so it didn't take long. I was beginning to think to myself, "What a waste of time." Thankfully, I didn't comment out loud.

Adding to the mix of disappointment was the weather. The rain had started to fall, it began to get quite cold and I was wearing a flimsy hoodless jacket. Leanne was upbeat and cheery as we waited for the bus. I did my best to respond in a similar manner, but it was getting harder, especially when the tips of my fingers started to turn white!

Over a period, of about forty-five minutes, three buses stopped. When each one arrived, I got up from the soaking bench, expecting to get on the bus. "No, no," Leanne would say. "It's not this bus" I couldn't understand why we were not getting on the buses that had arrived. Every one of them would have taken us back to where we started our journey. I consoled myself by thinking Leanne knows best.

Having sat for an hour, another bus came into sight, "Come on, Jean," Leanne called, "This is the bus we are looking for." It was a long journey. Most of it I failed to notice because my glasses were steamed up, my hair was dripping wet and I was trying not to let Leanne see me shivering with cold, as she merrily chatted on route.

By the time we got off the bus the sun was shining. I had dried off considerably and was sure I had landed on another planet. The transformation was incredible, not only in relation to the

weather but also with regard to the scenery and my frame of mind.

Leanne had taken me to Mammoth Cave National Park, where we spent a fantastic day exploring the longest cave system in the world. In addition we even managed to squeeze in an hour's canoeing on the Green River. The whole adventure was absolutely wonderful.

As I reflect upon the experience, I am truly humbled. Not only did I learn that patience really is a virtue. I also learned how important it is to trust the people who are working for our good, even though they are perhaps doing this in ways we don't quite understand. Leanne knew where she was taking me. She knew the bus we needed to get. She knew what a fantastic outcome the journey would bring. Now Leanne could have told me right at the beginning where she was taking me but that would have spoiled the ultimate delight.

On that memorable day I learned a valuable lesson in patience and in trust.

Patience is a characteristic of God. It should be a characteristic of followers too. Patience involves perseverance and waiting. During Abraham's twenty-five year wait for a son, "he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God." (Romans 4:20)

Jacob's patience required his waiting seven, then fourteen years for marriage. Afterwards he continued to serve Laban another six years to earn flocks for himself. During this time he endured heat and cold, lack of sleep, and loss from his own flocks to pay for stolen animals (Gen 31: 38-41). Yet, through all this his lack of complaining is notable.

The same could not be said for the Israelites travelling in the wilderness after their deliverance by God's hand from Egypt.

Here we see an example of how God's own people are impatient with the One who shows such long suffering toward them.

"The people became impatient on the way; ... they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?" (Numbers 21: 4-5)

God's patience with his people is an outstanding example of the virtue. Impatience, on the other hand, highlights the fact that self is placed above God's purposes and demands that its desires be met immediately rather than according to God's perfect plan.

Humility, perseverance, patience and trust, all go hand in hand.

### **PRAYER**

Gracious God, may we accept our work and witness  
As a gift to be treasured, a time to be enjoyed,  
A trust to be kept and a hope to be fulfilled  
And all for your glory  
Fill us, O God, with your Holy Spirit  
That we may go forth with eagerness and joy  
To love and serve you in holiness  
And to do your perfect will  
For our Saviour's sake  
Help us to greet these challenging times  
Confidently, courageously,  
Patiently and with trust  
As we wait for the unfolding of your will.  
Amen

With warmest regards and God's richest blessings  
From your minister and friend,  
**Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher**  
**Parish Minister**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### August 2015

23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00am	Morning Worship
26 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Friends of Dunipace meeting
30 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Morning Worship
31 <sup>st</sup>	2.00pm	Afternoon Friendship Group
	7.30pm	CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

### September

6 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	COMMUNION in the Church
	3.00pm	COMMUNION in Tygetshaugh
8 <sup>th</sup>	10-12noon	Café in the Church Halls
13 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Morning Worship
17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Wedding rehearsal in the church
18 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Community QUIZ NIGHT in church hall
19 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	WEDDING in the church <i>(David Ansley &amp; Tracy Jean Stewart)</i>
20 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	BAPTISMAL Service <i>(Poppy Ann Martin)</i>
21 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	KIRK SESSION in the Reading Room
25 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>		National Prayer Weekend

A PRAYER WALK is currently being organised for the national weekend of prayer. It's a bit like the walk of witness and involves walking round the town, stopping at various venues and having a time of prayer. More details will follow soon.

27 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Morning Worship
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### October

4 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	HARVEST THANKSGIVING to be confirmed
5 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Presbytery P&CF Meeting in R/Rm
11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Morning Worship
12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	CONGREGATIONAL BOARD
17 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	WEDDING in the church <i>(Paul Lister &amp; Sharon Limond)</i>
18 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	BAPTISMAL Service <i>(Noel Ian Thomson)</i>
25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Morning Worship

**The Best Gifts of All  
Time - Talents - God's Love**  
*Submitted by Jennifer Esplin*

Sitting over Christmas last year my thoughts took me to back to 2012 when my daughter Emma went to Vietnam and spent 7 months doing voluntary work.

During Emma's time in Vietnam she went to help out in an orphanage in Ba Vi, where there was around 300 children of varying ages and abilities. There was only 30 carers caring and supporting these children, therefore a lot of them were kept in doors in secured rooms with very little outside contact.

Since then the charity Vietnam International Volunteer Placement Service (VIVPS) have been at work and raised awareness of the situation and is now in the process of providing a better environment for the children including wheelchairs, walking aids and outside enclosure.

So I decided that it was the right time in my life to challenge myself and fulfil a lifelong ambition to help children in deprived countries, and booked a flight to Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam.

Since then I have pushed the boundaries further and contacted VIVPS directly and arranged for myself to spend 2 weeks in Ba Vi leaving on the 11 September 2015.

I have raised some money to take over to the children's orphanage to help support and provide much used art work, and have been planning craft activities and collecting materials to enable the children to participate and brighten up their walls.

I have also received other essential donations from family and friends, however one of the crafts I plan to carry out with

children is mini kites, and this requires a lot of narrow ribbons, which I would appreciate any donations of.

As time draws nearer the realisation of completing this journey physically alone (but thankfully aware of God's spiritual presence) is apparent but I know this is a very worthy cause and look forward to meeting the children and nurses of the orphanage in Ba Vi and making a small contribution to their lives.

If this little narrative of my journey soon to commence reaches out to you and you would like to make any donation they would be gratefully received. VIVPS are a non-profit making charity and are continuously looking for support to enable them to carry out their much-needed work. Details of VIVPS can be found at [www.vietnamvolunteer.org/](http://www.vietnamvolunteer.org/) & [www.facebook.com/VIVPS](https://www.facebook.com/VIVPS)

### **OUR RESPONSE TO JENNIFER'S ARTICLE**

I know that as a congregation we would want to support Jennifer in whatever way we can. Some of us saw (on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August) a few of the craft activities Jennifer will be sharing with the children.

In addition to whatever material and financial assistance we can give to Jennifer for the works she will be undertaking, we would also want to ask for God's richest blessings of care, strength and support. For these are the very gifts she will share with the children and staff. What a wonderful way Jennifer is offering her time, her talents and her awareness of God's love for all.

Go, dear friend, with God's blessings, our support and love. Come back to us with the joy of having being enriched in a God given way.

From all your friends here in Dunipace Parish Church

# **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Will be celebrated on

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

*In Dunipace Church at 11am*

*And in Tygetshaugh Court at 3pm*

A place at the Table has been reserved for YOU

## **COMMUNION ROTA**

**For Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 11am**

### **Communion Table**

Alex Cook

Jim Winning

#### **Barnego Road Side**

#### **Organ Side**

**Wine Front:** George Mills

**Wine Front:** Bill Paterson

**Wine Back:** Sandra Cook

**Wine Back:** June Ross

**Bread Front:** Aileen Sneddon

**Bread Front:** Jean Gray

**Bread Back:** Angus Cameron

**Bread Back:** Bill Ferguson

**Reserves:** June Davies, Jane Mills and Sandra Teven

If unable to do your duty, please contact one of the reserves to arrange a replacement or contact: Alex Cook, Session Clerk

# **THE KIRK CAFE**

Will be open on

**TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

*In Dunipace Church Halls*

*From 10am – 12noon*

A warm welcome is there for YOU

If you can help with home baking, serving in the kitchen or with transport, please, have a word with Mrs June Davie.

With your help we can make this an outreach event

# **COMMUNITY QUIZ NIGHT**

In Dunipace Church Halls

**FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

*At 7.30pm*

*Cost: £15 per team of 4-6 people*

This is always a brilliant night, certainly for those who know all the answers, but even for the less knowledgeable, it's a night of fun and of course food. Talking of which, if you can donate a loaf of sandwiches or a tray bake, please, let the minister know.

For more details on this community outreach event, please, have a word with Mr. Jim Perry.

So come on, folks, rally the troops, start your research now, then come along on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September, with family and friends in hand, and enjoy a great night.

## **FINANCIAL REALITY "HEALTH" CHECK**

We all know it's important to keep an eye on our health, our physical and spiritual well being, and of course our finances. A word of advice, encouragement or indeed warning, can help to avoid major problems further down the line. It is a wise person that listens, takes heed, and responds positively to the counsel of those who have our well being at heart.

For this reason, it is imperative that the members of Dunipace Parish Church are made aware of our financial state of affairs. The bottom line is this: We are rapidly starving of funds. Our income is increasingly becoming insufficient for our work and witness. With the Church Flat not being let at the moment, we are already experiencing a drop of over £3,300 per year in our income. This does not take into account the drop in the weekly level of giving. Overall, this is quiet a substantial deficit,

especially at a time when Presbytery is looking afresh at the whole issue of parish readjustment. We surely have to make up this financial loss and get ourselves back on a healthier financial footing.

It's not all doom and gloom. We need to hear the positive aspects of our financial health too. For these are perhaps the areas we can build on or better still learn from.

We have a high number of members who, for whatever reason, are unable to worship with us on a Sunday morning, but they are, very thankfully, contributing financially to the church. Without this support we would be in a much worse situation. How good it would be if we could see these generous givers, return to worship.

On a further positive note we have a good number of members and friends, who give of their time and talents in ways that save us financial outlay, again without this we would be in a worse situation. Again, for such support, we do indeed express our thanks.

Like all others aspects of our health, it is our individual right to respond to the information we are given or not. I pray we take time, to reflect upon our individual level of giving, remembering, of course, that our vows of membership ask us to "Give a fitting proportion of our time, talents and money, to support the work of the church." Individually we have to discern what we ourselves deem to be "a fitting proportion"

There are simple ways in which we can do this.

We can think about how much we spend on others things and consider where our level of giving to church fits in with this.

We can reflect honestly on when we last reviewed our level of giving. It's amazing how we tend not to review our giving annually and therefore forget that what we gave, say five years ago, goes nowhere near as far nowadays.

I ask every member to give this matter prayerful consideration and to make a positive response because the work, the witness and the financial health of this local congregation are at stake.

## A Snippet of History

Submitted by Rev Ronald Maxton

**Question:** What is the oldest piece of living history in Dunipace?

**Answer:** The King Tree at the end of Chestnut Crescent.

It is a sweet chestnut (sometimes also called Spanish Chestnut), *Castanea sativa* to give its proper botanical name. Like the yew tree it is known to live to a huge age and it is conjectured this one in question may be the last survivor of the forest that surrounded the original Herbertshire Castle. If so it must be at least four hundred years old. The sweet chestnut tree grows in abundance in more northerly countries of Europe, and known for its tough, close-grained timber, it has been cultivated in those warmer countries and also in the milder southern parts of Britain. It was brought here by the Romans when they occupied us, and quickly became naturalised. But specimens of the tree are scarce in our cooler northern climate and so the one in Chestnut Crescent is a very special example. Its leaves are among the biggest tree leaves to grow in our climate and its high position in the Crescent gives it the well-drained soil conditions that it likes. Fortunately the specimen in the Crescent does not bear fruit, the climate being a degree too cool, and so, it is spared the annual depredations visited upon fruit bearing specimens by conker players. Its majestic knotted appearance tells its age and commands respect; the last living evidence of the forest that once dotted Scotland and provided food, warmth and shelter for its inhabitants.

Some years ago the Forestry Commission designated our Sweet Chestnut as one of the One Hundred Heritage Trees of Scotland. That is, trees of special note because of their age, height, rarity, history, association with events etc, the King

Tree being one of the very few specimens of Sweet Chestnut that are still growing in Scotland, and possibly the biggest.

Yet there remains an unsolved mystery about the Dunipace sweet chestnut: why is it called the King Tree? Nobody seems to know! It is well known royalty planted trees to mark special events, occasions, visits etc, but that would suggest the name King's Tree rather than King Tree. Can anyone solve the mystery? Perhaps it is better to leave the question a mystery and pay our respects to the tree by seeing no harm comes to it, and that it remains in Chestnut Crescent, as a growing reminder of our long history and our ability to survive.

P.S. There is an intriguing fable in the Old Testament in the book of Judges Chapter 9, beginning at verse 8: "The trees of the forest came to anoint a king from one of their number to rule over them..." Look up the passage. Perhaps our sweet chestnut is the King Tree!

Once again, we extend a hearty word of thanks to Rev Ronald Maxton for doing his homework and submitting an extremely interesting article for our 125 Anniversary magazine. Well done and thank you.

If you have other "Snippets of History" please, pass them on to the minister, who looks forward to including them in a future edition of our local church magazine.

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### PAUSE & PONDER

Many people are currently rejoicing in the lower price of diesel.

But did you know there is an even cheaper fuel available?

It's called **PRAYER** and it's freely available.

Try fuelling your life with **PRAYER**

It's clean, it's efficient, and it can help you do amazing things!

## **PARISH REGISTER**

### **Bereaved** "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life"

Ms Ellen	McMillan	Maryhill, Glasgow
Mrs Sarah	McLuckie	13 Tygetshaugh Court
Mr John	Gardiner	9 Hookney Terrace
Mr Tom	Henderson	19 Tygetshaugh Court
Miss Sarah	Comrie	Newcarron Nursing Home
Mr Frank	Andrew	36 Thistle Avenue
Mrs Jean	Rutherford	65 Milton Row
Mrs Isabella	Jenkins	50 Wheatlands Avenue
Mrs Helen	Ferguson	24 Northfield Road

We keep the families very much in our thoughts and prayers. May God bless them with inner peace as they try to come to terms with the loss of their loved one; may God grant them renewed purpose in life; and may God give them strength as they seek to embrace each day with faith.

### **Baptism** "Let the children come to me"

Charlene & Jamie, of Wallace Crescent, presented their daughter:

Laila Maria Marshall

For Baptism on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

We pray the joys of family life will be increased as they grow together, in faith, hope and love.

### **Keeping You Informed**

Mr John Guy, formerly of 22 Garvald Lane, has now moved to a Nursing Home in Aberdeen. John regularly attended worship here in Dunipace Parish Church. We thank him for his support and pray that he enjoys being closer to his family.

## **DUNIPACE PARISH CHURCH WHO'S WHO**

Minister	Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher
Session Clerk	Mr Alex Cook
Associate Clerk	Mr Gregor Wilson
Clerk to Board	Mr Alex Cook
Treasurer	Mrs Fiona Bruce
Freewill Offering	Mrs Jean Gray
Gift Aid	Mrs Sandra Cook
Mission Bags	Mrs Aileen Sneddon
Roll Keeper	Mrs Ian Stokes
Presbytery Elder	Mr Jim Winning
Additional Elder	Mrs Helen Lax
Organist & Choir	Mr David Faulds
Children's Ministry	Mrs Barbara Fulford
Child Protection	Mrs Helen Lax
Afternoon Friendship	Mrs Betty McDonald
Prayer & Bible Study	Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher
Men's Club	Mr Angus Cameron
Reminiscence Group	Mr Jim Perry
Badminton Group	Mr George Mills
Flowers	Mrs Jane Mills
Communion Linen	Mrs Chrissie Busby
Kirk Café	Mrs June Davies
Property	Mr Jim Perry
Finance	Mrs Anne Marchant
Hospitality	Mrs Maureen Pleace
Communications	Mrs Helen Lax
Magazine Distribution	Mr Bill Paterson
Posters	Mr David Reynolds
Website Editor	Mr James Smith
Health & Safety	Mr Bill Ferguson
Life & Work	Mrs Maureen Pleace

### **VESTRY TIME**

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