

**DUNIPACE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
**AUTUMN 2016 NEWSLETTER**

Scottish Registered Charity No: SC 002943

[www.dunpacechurch.org.uk](http://www.dunpacechurch.org.uk)

**Message from your Minister**  
**Building Community Spirit**

*Dear Friends,*

*As summer advances and we move ever closer to the autumn, I introduce my message by sharing an extract from one of my little whimsical poems with you:*

*Where can you find a colourful coo!  
Green, with yellow and orange splodges too?  
Where can you find a rock like a croc!  
Or a Midgie much bigger than you?*

*Where can you find an electric brael!  
Or village people made out of hay?  
Where can you find a singing kettle!  
Or men dancing round a pole in May?*

*Customs and follies of every kind  
You can readily enjoy and find  
In places throughout the British Isles  
If you gladly keep an open mind*

(Extract from the Poem: "Where can you find" Written by Jean Wardlaw Gallacher © JWG 2012)

*The answers to the questions come in the last verse of the poem. Throughout the British Isles, people of all ages, in small villages, larger towns, and even in great big cities, endeavour to build community spirit through weird customs and intriguing traditions that are quite fascinating.*

*From careering downhill after a rolling cheese, or crowning a goat king, to decorating bales of hay in the shape of community characters, people in creative ways, are drawn closer together in their communities whilst conveying a message of "togetherness" to the observant passers by.*

*The wonderful thing, for me at least, is that you don't have to travel very far to see this community spirit in action. At this time of the year, I love to go through places like Thornhill and Muthill, only a few miles away, because I know, that in passing through them, I will leave with a great big smile on my face, as I catch glimpses of the fun loving ways in which these communities are building stronger ties. Every shop owner, every gardener, every member of the community, engages whole-heartedly in the customs that belong to their community. A bit like the way in which local folks here in Denny used to decorate their gardens for the Gala.*

*When the early church was growing, people thought Christians were doing strange things, such as breaking bread and pouring wine, whilst telling folks it was the body and blood of Christ!*

*In the modern church of today, we light Christingles at Christmas to represent Christ the Light of the World. We decorate crosses with daffodils at Easter and we cover*

*the church windowsills with fruit and vegetables at harvest.*

*Those of us in the church understand the significance of such religious traditions. Perhaps though we need to help those who observe them from a distance, hear about them from neighbours, or pass by our doors, to understand better what we are doing and why we are doing it.*

*It seems to me that there is a place for customs and traditions, not just in the community but more so in the church. We should not underestimate their ability to convey a powerful message of belonging and community spirit. We perhaps just need to make them a bit more creative and relevant to today's society.*

*Throughout the months of July and August many churches embarked on Summer Mission, another old religious tradition of opening church doors to children and families during the summer recess period. The helpers were brilliant, the response from many communities often disappointing! Why?*

*In churches across the land the numbers attending are falling drastically. Does this mean we should stop doing what we are doing? I hope the answer is no. It just means we have to find new ways of being the Church, so that our customs and traditions do not die away but continue to convey a message of welcome, acceptance, belonging and community spirit. A message that lets people know the church is part of the wider community and that the wider community can be part of ours.*

*I stopped the car and spoke to a lady in Muthill who, at 8pm, was out in the street with neighbours, making sure their straw characters were still in good shape. I told her how wonderful it was that the community worked together in this way. I thanked her for the joy it brought to people like me who were passing through. I was a bit surprised when her friend told me, "We do it for ourselves as a community and for people like you who take the time to appreciate it. But we know that the majority of people pass through our village and will not see the straw characters" I rejoiced greatly when she concluded, "If it builds up our community spirit and brings joy to at least a few others we have done well."*

*We need to hear those words of encouragement. If it makes a difference to our life and to the life of at least one other - we have done well. All across this land there are wonderful religious and community customs we can all enjoy, if gladly we keep an open mind!*

*"We will work with each other  
We will work side by side...  
And together we'll spread the news  
That God is in our land  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love"*

*(Extract from the Hymn: "One in the Spirit": Written by P. Scholten: S.G.P: No. 111. Oxford University Press)*

*With warmest regards and God's richest blessings*  
**Jean W Gallacher**

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## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of grace, God of glory

We believe that your nature is love and that your Spirit can transform people for the better.

Let your word in Jesus Christ lead us deeper into a thankfulness that inspires, motivates, and encourages us to build your kingdom on earth

As for all the many changes which we do not choose or instigate, but which nevertheless affect us by challenging our religious traditions, help us not to fear them or try to ward them off, but to work with them in the power of your Holy Spirit, so that we might turn the force of their onset to your advantage.

Help us, Lord, one in unity and love, to make the life of our local churches and communities more pleasing to you. For we know that our individual lives are made complete when we live in community with others and with you. Amen

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **AUGUST**

27 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Kelpies Canter – Christian Aid Walk
28 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Sunday Service
29 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	KIRK SESSION

### **SEPTEMBER**

2 <sup>nd</sup>	6.30pm	STORY CLUB
3 <sup>rd</sup>	1.30pm	WEDDING
4 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	COMMUNION in the church
	3.00pm	COMMUNION in the Complex
4 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	The Osiligi Warriors - Westpark
6 <sup>th</sup>	6.45pm	Presbytery in Falkirk
11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Sunday Service
13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	KIRK CAFÉ
18 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Sunday Service
19 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	CONGREGATIONAL BOARD
25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Sunday Service
26 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	FRIENDSHIP GROUP

### **OCTOBER**

2 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00am	HARVEST THANKSGIVING &
	12.15pm	HARVEST LUNCH in halls
7 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	STORYCLUB
9 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Sunday Service
10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	P&CF Committee in R/Room
16 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Sunday Service
17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	KIRK SESSION
23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00am	Sunday Service
25 <sup>th</sup>	7.15pm	Presbytery in Falkirk
30 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Sunday Service – Pulpit Supply

### **ADVANCE NOTICE – SAFEGUARDING TRAINING**

A Safeguarding Day Conference for volunteers, to be held in Dunipace Church Halls, is being planned for a Saturday in October. For more information please contact Mrs Helen Lax our Safeguarding Co-ordinator

## **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Will be celebrated on  
**Sunday 4th September 2016**  
***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 4<sup>th</sup> September at 11am

### **Communion Table**

Alex Cook

Jim Winning

### **Barnego Road Side**

### **Organ Side**

**Wine Front:** Jean Gray

**Wine Front:** Bill Paterson

**Wine Back:** Sandra Cook

**Wine Back:** Ian Stokes

**Bread Front:** Aileen Sneddon

**Bread Front:** Helen Lax

**Bread Back:** Maureen Pleace

**Bread Back:** Bill Ferguson

**Reserves:** David Reynolds, 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 CAFÉ**

Will be open on  
**TUESDAY 13<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 a successful outreach venture

## **AUTUMN MISSION & OUTREACH EVENTS**

### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

**Sunday at 11am**

Worship in Dunipace Parish Church is relaxed and informal. We look forward to welcoming children and families for the start of a new session. The children leave the church after the first part of the service to participate in activities down in the church halls. For more information on our Sunday Services, please, contact the Minister.

### **STORY CLUB**

**First Friday of the Month**

This is a brilliant activity for children of Primary School age and their families. There's story telling, singing, dancing, games, food, fun and more fun. It's our very own version of "Messy Church". For more information on our Ministry to Children, please, contact Mrs Barbara Fulford.

### **FRIENDSHIP GROUP Last Monday of the Month**

This group is open to men and women, providing an opportunity for fellowship. There usually is a guest speaker or a planned activity to help whittle away the afternoon. For more information, please, contact Mrs June Davies

### **MEN'S CLUB**

**Tuesday at 7.15pm**

With darts, dominoes, indoor - bowling, conversation, competition, not forgetting the tea and cakes, this is a great night for men of all ages. For more information, please, contact Mr Angus Cameron

### **REMINISCENCE GROUP**

**Wednesday at 2pm**

Whether it's delving into the past or keeping up with the ways of the world today, there's plenty to digest at the Reminiscence Group. For more information, please, contact Mr Jim Perry

## **BADMINTON**

**Thursday at 7.30pm**

Mr George Mills looks forward to welcoming the regular players along with new members. What a great way to keep fit and meet new friends. Have a word with George if you feel inspired to join the Badminton Club.

## **KIRK CAFÉ**

**Tuesday 10am**

Our hope is to see the Kirk Café continue in the halls on a Tuesday morning, at least once a month, hopefully more frequently, subject to a positive response not only from helpers but from patrons too. We start the ball rolling on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 10am. Here's hoping it doesn't stop there. For more information or to pledge offers of help etc, please, have a word with Mrs June Davies or Mrs Maureen Pleace.

## **PLEASE HEAR OUR PLEA FOR SUPPORT**

To make what the church offers in mission and outreach a success depends on the response we receive from church members and the people of the parish. We look forward to seeing you, along with family, friends, and neighbours as together we grow in friendship and promote the love of God, through our work and witness. Give the various organisations a try or let us know if there is a new way in which the local church could better serve its members and parish.

## **CLOTHING COLLECTION**

**LATE OCTOBER**

As we think about folding away the summer clothes and digging out the winter woollies, why not fill as many black bin-bags as you can with clean, unwanted clothes, and help the local church raise a few pounds in the process? The actual collection date in OCTOBER has still to be confirmed but it is likely to be towards the end of the month. Further information will be provided soon. In the meantime, start filling those bags with clean, unwanted clothes.

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

## **Bible Study Group**

If you would like to participate in a time of relaxed and informal “Bible Study” in the company of people you know from the congregation who are keen to reflect on how our faith equips us for daily living, please, have a word with the Minister. It could be that we meet weekly or monthly over a set period of time, depending on the response we receive. It is likely to be held on a Wednesday evening in the manse and/or one afternoon in the Reading Room. It could be that House Groups are formed. Let the Minister know your thoughts on how we develop this side of our church and community life.

## **SERVICE OF HARVEST THANKGIVING & HARVEST LUNCH**

**SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER at 11am**

To help build our church community spirit, we are planning to hold a Harvest Lunch, in the halls directly after the Harvest Thanksgiving Service. We will share a simple meal but a significant time of friendship. The event is suitable for all ages. Further details will be intimated soon. In the meantime don't forget to put the above date in your diary.

## **CHURCH FLOWERS**

## **Help requested**

Every Sunday the church is graced with beautiful flowers, donated by members of the congregation and others who support the Flower Fund. This is greatly appreciated and brings hope and comfort to those who receive the flowers in their time of joy or sadness. A great big hearty word of thanks is extended to those who make this outreach possible. We do, however, really need a few more people to help distribute the flowers.

If you would like to donate to the Flower Fund or could help with the delivery of the flowers, after worship, please, have a word with Mrs Jane Mills.

## **PARISH REGISTER**

### **FUNERALS** “I am the Resurrection and the Life”

Mr Dougie Dawson  
Mr David Paterson  
Mrs Gena McDonald  
Mrs Catherine Maciver Buchanan (Rena)  
Mr James Faulds (Jim)  
Mrs Elizabeth Owens (Betty)  
Mrs Mary Sludden  
Mrs Agnes Shanks

We keep the families very much in our prayers.

### **BAPTISM** “Let the children come to me”

31<sup>st</sup> July Josh Kane

### **WEDDINGS** “In Faith, hope and Love

27<sup>th</sup> May Daniel Robert Malloy  
Shanice Hooley

2<sup>nd</sup> July Alastair Buchanan  
Ruth Allan

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### **KEEPING EACH OTHER INFORMED**

If you change address please let either the Roll Keeper or Minister know.

If you require the services of the Minister, again, please let her know. Remember the Minister has no access to hospital or Nursing Home records.

If you do not know who your Elder is, please, have a word with the Minister. Thank you.

## **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	Mrs Tish Graham
Treasurer	Mrs Fiona Bruce
Freewill Offering	Mrs Jean Gray
Gift Aid	Mrs Sandra Cook
Mission Bags	Mrs Aileen Sneddon
Roll Keeper	Mr Ian Stokes
Presbytery Elder	Mr Jim Winning
Additional Elder	Mrs Helen Lax
Organist	Mr David Faulds
Children's Ministry	Mrs Barbara Fulford
Safeguarding	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**

Dunipace Parish Church of Scotland, 175 Stirling Street,  
Dunipace. DENNY FK6 6JR. Scottish Charity Number: SC002943