

**DUNIPACE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
NEWSLETTER**

JUNE - AUGUST 2009

“YEAR OF HOME COMING”

Charity No: SC 00 2943

www.dunipacechurch.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

CH3: 624 opens with these uplifting words:

Summer suns are glowing, over land and sea;
Happy light is flowing, bountiful and free.
Everything rejoices in the mellow rays
All earth's thousand voices
Swell the psalm of praise.

I wonder how many of us are going about our day-to-day duties with these words on our lips?

Every time the sun fleetingly breaks through the overcast skies, our expectation of a glorious summer rises to the surface, only to be dashed (well at this stage anyway) as the dark clouds shed tears for us.

There doesn't seem to be much rejoicing going on in the world with its strife. There doesn't seem to be much rejoicing in our country with the trauma it's facing over politicians expenses and there doesn't seem to be much rejoicing going on in the Church of Scotland as it too gets caught up in areas of doctrinal disagreement.

When it's hard for us to rejoice and be glad, let us remember these words, also found in CH3: 624

Lord, upon our blindness, thy pure radiance pour
For thy loving-kindness, make us love thee more
And, when clouds are drifting dark across our sky
Then, the veil uplifting, Father, be thou nigh

Light of light, shine o'er us on our pilgrim way
Go thou still before us
To the endless day

In John's Gospel (1: 5) we read: "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not understood it."

There is much in life we cannot easily understand, circumstances we get caught up in, events that unfold before us, and things we cannot avoid. There is much in life that clouds our vision and makes us wonder just where God is in the midst of it all. But God IS there. God is always with us. God never lets us go. We might let God go, we might turn from God, but the light of God's Word and the strength of His love and power is ALWAYS there.

Our belief in:

God the Father Almighty,
In Jesus Christ his only son our Lord,
who rose again from the dead and sits on the right
hand of God the Father Almighty,
In the Holy Ghost
In the resurrection of the body, and,
In the life everlasting

Means that on clear days and cloudy days, on good days and on difficult days, we can rejoice and be glad, knowing and believing that the light of God's love is always with us.

Yours in Christ,
Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY 2009

31st 11.00am Morning Worship
3pm-5pm Pentecost Praise - Picnic & Puppets

JUNE

2nd 10-12noon Kirk Café
5th Overnight Brownie Sleepover
7th 11.00am Communion
3.00pm Communion
9th 10-12noon Kirk Cafe
12th 1.30pm Wedding
14th 11.00am Morning Worship
15th 7.30pm Congregational Board Meeting
16th 10-12noon Kirk Café
20th Safari Park Outing
21st 11.00am Prize Giving & Baptismal Service
23rd 10-12noon Kirk Café
24th 7.30pm Induction Meeting for new Elders
25th 1.45pm School Service & Awards Ceremony
27th 3.00pm Renewal of Vows
28th 11.00am Morning Worship

July

5th 11.00am Morning Worship – Baptismal Service
12th 11.00am Pulpit Supply
19th 11.00am Pulpit Supply
26th 11.00am Pulpit Supply

Please note that from July 12th – August 1st the Reverend Helen Christie (813786) will be providing pastoral cover.

August

2nd 11.00am Morning Worship
9th 11.00am Morning Worship
2.00pm Wedding in the Church
29th 1pm – 3pm GARDEN PARTY

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

HERITAGE WALK & SOCIAL GATHERINGS

As we continue to celebrate the Year of Homecoming, we invite local folks, and indeed those from beyond our community, to share their knowledge of Dunipace with us, as we endeavour to create a local Heritage Walk with stops at various places of local interest. If you have a story from the past to tell or a relic to show off, please get in touch with Mr Jim Perry or the Minister.

We hope to have the Heritage Walk ready for the summer and hold the Social Gatherings in late autumn/ early winter. We know Dunipace IS a “braw wee place”
With your help we can celebrate our history, rejoice in our heritage, and let others know it’s a braw wee place too!

The KIRK CAFÉ

In the Church Hall Tuesdays from 10am – 12noon

Please note that the Kirk Café will be CLOSED on Tuesday 26th May.

It will resume on Tuesday 2nd June and finish for the summer on Tuesday 23rd June

Our thanks are extended to everyone who makes the café such a success.

The Makers & Shakers

PLANNING GROUP

Monday 1st June 2009 at 7.30pm

The next meeting takes place in the Annexe and is open to those who desire to shape the work and witness of the church in our community and beyond. Come along and help us build God’s vision in this parish.

Pentecost Celebrations

**Sunday 31st May
3pm – 5pm
in the new Denny High School**

PRAISE

PICNIC

PUPPETS

PUPPETS

PICNIC

Whatever way you look at it – you'll discover we're having songs of praise, a puppet show and a huge family picnic. People from all of the local churches will be there, maybe even their family and friends too! We would love to see YOU.

ALL are WELCOME

CHILDREN have to be accompanied by an adult.

Admission is FREE

Please bring your own PICNIC lunch

Pentecost Praise Celebrations – Sunday 31st May

Opening Praise	3.00pm – 3.30pm
Puppets	3.30pm – 3.50pm
Picnic	3.50pm – 4.20pm
Puppets	4.20pm – 4.40pm
Closing Praise	4.40pm – 5.00pm

ARE YOU CALLED TO SERVE THE CHURCH?

The Church of Scotland is looking for gifted and
committed people to serve the local and national
Church

ENQUIRERS' CONFERENCE

To be held at

**WEST PARK CONFERENCE CENTRE
DUNDEE
JUNE 19-20**

To register please contact:

Ruth Johnston or Carol-Anne Frame
Ministries Council, Church of Scotland
121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN
e-mail:

rjohnston@cofscotland.org.uk

**SPACES ARE LIMITED – BOOKING ESSENTIAL
(CLOSING DATE- FRIDAY 29th MAY 2009)**

The LORD'S SUPPER

will be celebrated at

11am in the Church

and at 3pm in the Complex

on

Sunday 7th June 2009

A place at the Table has been reserved for YOU

The ELDER

Character & Duties

From time to time, congregations all over the country are faced with the problem of finding new elders, and sometimes, for one reason or another, those most fitted for the office hold back. They have doubts. When approached by their minister they may ask, “What does becoming an elder involve?”

The Kirk Session of Dunipace Parish Church of Scotland is presently seeking to increase its eldership and looks forward to admitting and ordaining new elders in August. It would seem appropriate, therefore, for the question to be answered in a way that offers advice and guidance to those giving the matter prayerful consideration.

Duties of the Eldership

It is often said that the duties of the eldership are threefold:

- To attend meetings of the Kirk Session (4 a year)
- To look after an elder's district
- To assist with the distribution of the bread and wine on a Communion Sunday

Above all, in all things affecting the welfare of the congregation, the elder should be an example to others.

The elder's duties are discharged partly in the Kirk Session and partly as an individual outside it. As a member of Session, the elder has certain responsibilities. The Session is responsible for the due and reverent observance of the sacraments – Baptism and the Lord's Supper – and for the regulation of the admission and the general conduct of members of the congregation. It is responsible for the education of the young, and for all youth organisations.

The Session is responsible for the mission work of the congregation at home and overseas. The Session has a commissioned member who serves on Presbytery and the wider Church Councils. The elder should attend Church regularly and foster their spiritual life.

Character of the Elder

The eldership is a spiritual office and only someone who has something of the Spirit of God within can fill it in any worthy way. The Elder should:

- Work for the good of the Office held
- Maintain the peace and harmony of the Church
- Be faithful and diligent in their duties
- Attend worship regularly
- Respect confidentiality
- Be part of a team

Quartus the Brother (Romans 16: 23) was NOT a distinguished man but he was a friendly man. He was NOT a man of great wealth or social position but he was willing to use the gift God had given to him and became one of the most beloved, useful members of the Church of Corinth. When difficulties arose he tried to pour oil on the troubled waters. When he died he wanted to be remembered as one who tried to be a brother.

We can ALL become like Quartus the brother. That is something within the reach of us all. Our biography may never be written. Our name may never appear in any honours list; but our life will not have been in vain if, when God calls us to come, we respond in faith and seek to serve the Church joyfully and willingly, trusting in Him who calls us and will equip us for the work we are to do.

The eldership is an office held by men and women whose desire is to love the Lord and serve him day by day.

PROPERTY APPEAL – THANK YOU

The Lord loves a cheerful giver.

There are many cheerful givers here in Dunipace Parish Church of Scotland and we love them too!

A sincere word of thanks is extended to everyone who supported our recent Property Appeal.

To date we have raised just over **£8,000**

This has come in through:

the donation envelopes

the VAT returned on property expenditure

and an allowance given by Falkirk Presbytery.

Property work is ongoing but so too is the support we receive from our members and adherents. Thank you for your generous response.

May God bless the work we do, with the money you have given to us, in such a way that it brings restored vigour and new life to our properties. This we pray, so that we, as good Christian stewards of our resources, might continue to serve the parish in a faithful and creative way.

CHRISTIAN AID APPEAL

The sum of £275 was collected in the envelopes
for this year's Christian Aid Appeal

Your support will help bring much needed aid to the vulnerable. Once again we thank you for your generosity.

PARISH REGISTER

Bereaved We hold in prayer those who mourn the death of their loved one:

Mr David Lindsay Kinnaird House, Falkirk
Mrs Margaret McArthur 11 Avon Street, Dunipace
Mrs Helen (Ella) Couper 12 Tygetshaugh Court, Dunipace
Mr David Forsyth Manchester (formerly Barnego Rd)
Mrs Catherine (Cathy) Rae 16 Telford Square, Camelon

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

April 12th Thomas Iain Campbell
Son of Kevin & Karen
7 Dunavon Gardens, Dunipace

May 3rd Taylor Christina Howarth
Daughter of Brian & Kirsty
45 Godfrey Avenue, Denny

May 24th Emily Jessica Green
Daniel John Green
Amy Sharpe Green
The family of Stephen & Donna
3 Meadow's Court, Dunipace

**The Lord bless you, and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
And give you peace**

OUR WHO'S WHO	2009
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Minister	Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher
Session Clerk	Mr Lachlan McGowan
Associate Clerk	Mr Gregor Wilson
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
	Mrs Zoe Cox
	Mr David Faulds
Choir	Rev Ronald Maxton
Story Club & Youth Fellowship	Mrs Barbara Fulford
Sunday School	Mr Lachlan McGowan
Child Protection	Mrs Tish Graham
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 Anne Marchant
Social Projects	Mrs Dora Johnstone
Hospitality	Mrs Maureen Pleace
Magazine Distribution	Mr Bill Paterson
Posters	Mr David Reynolds
Website	Mr James Smith
Health & Safety	Mr Bill Ferguson
Life & Work	Mrs Maureen Pleace

VESTRY NIGHT

At the Manse on a **Wednesday** from 6.30pm
 For an appointment please call the Minister
Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher - 824540