

**DUNIPACE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
NEWSLETTER**

WINTER 2012

Charity No: SC 002943

www.dunipacechurch.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends

“God loves a cheerful giver”

The first of the Christmas goodies are already in the shops. Selection boxes, tree decorations, catalogues crammed full of toys and gadgets, cards, wrapping paper, expensive gifts, silly gifts, sitting alongside nativity scenes and tear jerking Christmas appeals from an ever-increasing number of charities. Yes, Christmas is coming. I have even heard myself, going about the manse, singing (thankfully, quietly to myself) “Tis the season to be jolly, fah, lah, lah, lah, lah, lah, lah, lah...”

Now there’s an interesting word, “JOLLY” That’s what we are supposed to be at Christmastime. JOLLY!

I looked up the dictionary and this is what it said:

Jolly: cheerful and good-humoured; festive, jovial; slightly drunk; very pleasant, delightful, in a friendly way...

Is that how you are?

Is that how society is?

Is that how we as a church are?

Mmmm, I think I know what the answers are going to be.

Times are difficult and getting increasingly worse. Money is tight. Patience is running at an all time low. Frustration is high. Discontent rife. Anxiety levels going through the roof and being pleasant a thing of the past!

“Jolly” is not a word, used much in the Bible, but “cheerful” is. Again, I looked up the dictionary and found it said:

Cheerful: in good spirits, noticeably happy, bright, pleasant, willing not reluctant...

Are you in good spirit? Christmas is a time for giving. In scripture we read: “God loves a **cheerful** giver” The implication here being, that our giving – whether presents to family and friends, or gifts to support the work of the church - should be undertaken willingly and not reluctantly, despite the hardships we are enduring.

As I look at all that is going on in the church and community, and hear increasingly people’s frustration with it all, my greatest fear is that people are becoming so discontented that their willingness to engage in the true meaning of Christmas – expressing gratitude for the gift of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord – is in danger of being lost completely. Their willingness to give cheerfully and not reluctantly is being pushed to the limit.

May God help us and restore in all of us, such gratitude for God’s goodness and love, that, even in the face of increasing adversity, we cling to that which is constant and sure, namely, God’s everlasting love which was cradled in a manger and yet strong enough to bear the weight of the cross.

God gave to us “cheerfully”, willingly, and not reluctantly. God’s gift of love, in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, was not appreciated

then and is still shunned by many today. But God's love for His people was such that God refused to hold back, despite the resilience and negativity of the time. So, in the face of increasing adversity and ever increasing demands, I will continue to find a place in my heart and home to sing, "Tis the season to be jolly, fah, lah, lah, lah, lah," and pray that you can do so too.

At this time of year, I do indeed give thanks to God, for the people, who continue to give willingly and not reluctantly, even when their heart is breaking and their hope seems dashed. For, I know that in their giving, to others and to the church, they are doing something that is jolly difficult. They are looking beyond themselves and remembering the needs of others. They are looking beyond themselves and remembering the goodness of God. They are looking beyond themselves and shining like stars in the gloominess of these difficult times. They are overcoming doubt with faith and displaying an attitude of graciousness, and good spiritedness, that God will richly bless.

"What is the best gift you ever received?
Better still, what is the best gift you ever gave?
Perhaps you will recall that in each instance, the best gift
was one that was tied with the heartstrings of the giver,
one that included a part of self." Wanda Fulton

"What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give him – Give my heart."
From the hymn: In the bleak mid-winter CH3 :178

With kindest regards and blessings to you, and yours, at
Christmastime,
From your Minister and friend,

Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher.

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November

11 th	10.45am	Remembrance Service – Denny town
11 th	10.50am	Kid’s Sunday Club in the halls
11 th	11.30am	Remembrance Service in the Church
11 th	12.10pm	Remembrance Service in the Garden
13 th	10am-12noon	Community Café in the halls
14 th	7.30pm	Friends of Dunipace meeting in halls
18 th	11.00am	Morning Worship
18 th	3.00pm	Memorial Service for the Bereaved
19 th	7.30pm	Congregational Board Meeting
24 th	1pm-3pm	Christmas Fete in the halls
25 th	11.00am	Christmas Gift Giving Service
25 th	6.30pm	Evening Praise Service
26 th	2.00pm	Afternoon Friendship Group in halls

December

2 nd	11.00am	COMMUNION in the church
	3.00pm	COMMUNION in Tygetshaugh
3 rd	7.30pm	Kirk Session Meeting in the halls
4 th	10am-12noon	Community Café in the halls
5 th	6pm-7pm	Rainbows Coffee Evening in halls
8 th	2pm-4pm	Christmas Lunch in the halls
9 th	11.00am	Morning Worship - Baptismal Service
9 th		Big Sing for Christian Aid in Westpark
11 th	10am-12noon	Last Café until the New Year
16 th	11.00am	Morning Worship – Lessons & Carols
16 th	12.10pm	Children’s Christmas Party in halls
16 th	6.30pm	Christingle Service in the halls
20 th	1.30pm	School Service in the church
23 rd	11.00am	Family Nativity Service
23 rd	6.30pm	Carols in the Community Garden
24 th	10.45pm	Tea & mince pies in the halls
24 th	11.30pm	Midnight Watch Service in the church
25 th	10.30am	Christmas Day Family Praise
30 th	11.00am	Family “Show & Tell” Service

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

COMMUNITY CAFÉ Tuesday's 10am – 12noon

Please note, the café will be open on the following dates:

6th November and 13th November

4th December and 11th December

Clothing Collection - Thank You

The latest collection of clothing for Rag Bag brought in 675kg of textiles for recycling. This was a marvellous effort raising £337.50 for our general funds. Just shows you that we can all reduce – reuse – recycle and raise money for the church. Well done and thank you. The next collection will take place in the springtime when you are ready to cast off your winter woollies!

Annual Memorial Service for the Bereaved Sunday 18th November at 3pm In Dunipace Parish Church

During this short service of remembrance, as we honour the lives of those we have loved and lost through death, there is an opportunity to lay a flower of remembrance on the communion table (*either bring along your own flower of collect one as you enter the church*) and write a short message in the memorial book. All are welcome
Tea and biscuits are served in the hall after the service.

LIFE & WORK

If you would like to receive LIFE & WORK (*the Church of Scotland national magazine*) in 2013, please, have a word with Mrs Maureen Pleace: 822135. A few copies for perusal can be found on the vestibule table

CHRISTMAS FETE

Saturday 24th November

1pm – 3pm

Stalls galore, fun galore and so much more.
Just a few ideas to get the ball rolling...

TEAS	HOME BAKING	TOILETRIES
UNDER WRAPS	CHRISTMAS GOODS	HAMPERS
SOFT GOODS	GROCERIES	TOMBOLA
BRIC-A-BRAC	BOOKS/TOYS	BOTTLES

We request donations for the various stalls and helpers to look after the stalls. We also hope that many people will come along and join in the fun.

There is a list of stalls lying on the vestibule table, if you can help at any of them, please, add your name to the stall. Donations are welcome from everyone.

CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING SERVICE

Sunday 25th November

11am

You are invited to bring along a Christmas gift or gifts (to the value of about £3.50 each) wrapped and marked for a "Lady", "Gent" or "Either". The gifts will be distributed to our senior members at the Christmas lunch or in time for Christmas. Thank you.

**LOOKING INTO DECEMBER
DON'T FORGET THIS SPECIAL OCCASION**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Will be celebrated at
11am in Dunipace Church
And at 3pm in Tygetshaugh Court on
Sunday 2nd December 2012

A place at the Table has been reserved for YOU

RAINBOWS COFFEE EVENING

Tickets priced £2.00

In Dunipace Church halls on
WEDNESDAY 5th DECEMBER
6pm – 7pm

A special invitation comes from the Rainbows to YOU. The newly formed Rainbow Pack is desperately trying to raise some funds. You can help by going along to their coffee evening. Donations of home baking would be appreciated along with items for a few stalls. For more information contact Mrs Barbara Fulford.

FLOWER LIST 2013

To have your name added to the list of those who donate flowers, or are willing to deliver the flowers after worship, please contact Mrs Jane Mills. The flowers are greatly appreciated by those who receive them.

Thank you to those who serve God through our card and flower ministry and decorate the church so beautifully.

Dunipace Parish Church Winter Magazine

In addition to updates on the life and work of the local congregation, you will also receive with this edition of the church magazine:

1. Your communion card
2. Christmas Lunch invitation
3. Donation envelope

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

Special Appeal

Donation Envelope

Oh no, not money again! Yes, folks, I'm afraid it is.

We didn't have our usual Stewardship Appeal in September because so many other things were going on, but we cannot ignore the need to regularly review our level of giving.

The treasurer has had more than her fair share of sleepless nights, this year. New banking procedures meant an ongoing battle with forms. The boiler in the church going on the blink, caused great panic (thanks to Dillon it's running again but for how long?) The long awaited cheque with regard to reclaimed Gift Aid tax has not been forthcoming and we are draining reserves keeping our head above water, waiting for the cheque to come from the Inland Revenue. Membership is declining, the level of giving falling and costs ever rising. Thankfully our faith is unfaltering and our trust in the membership rock solid.

Please, give Stewardship Matters your prayerful consideration, especially as our financial year draws to its close, and if you are able, please, put an extra donation in the enclosed donation envelope to help us meet all our commitments and keep the books well balanced.

With your help and support the treasurer can relax and have a nice Christmas too. Thank you

WELCOME ON BOARD AND WELL DONE

On Sunday 16th September, two new elders were admitted to the Kirk Session of Dunipace Parish Church and three new elders Ordained and Admitted to the Session. In addition, two Long Service Certificates were presented. We are absolutely delighted to welcome all of them and rejoice with them.

Mr Alex Cook	Admitted to Kirk Session
Mr Ian Stokes	Admitted to Kirk Session
Mrs June Ross	Ordained and Admitted
Mrs Jane Mills	Ordained and Admitted
Mr Ian McVicar	Ordained and Admitted

Each of them has remarkable skills and will, in their own unique way, enrich our work and witness. Please, welcome them into your home and heart, as they undertake their duties.

Mr David Turnbull and Mr William Ferguson each received a Long Service Certificate. David has been an elder for 30 years and Bill for 37 years. We thank them for all their work over these years and look forward to that which they still have to offer.

NEW SESSION CLERK APPOINTED

Mr Alex Cook, former Session Clerk at Alva Parish Church, was unanimously appointed Session Clerk, here in Dunipace by the Kirk Session. Alex, who recently married Sandra our Gift Aid Convener, is already becoming well known by many in the congregation.

We thank Alex for his willingness to undertake the duties of Session Clerk and promise him our support.

Advent and Christmas Services
Suitable for the whole family
All are Welcome

Sunday 2nd December

11am Communion in the church
3pm Communion in Tygetshaugh

Sunday 9th December

11am Baptismal Service
Evening Big Sing for Christian Aid in Westpark

Sunday 16th December

11am Lessons & Carols in the church
12.15pm Children's Christmas Party in the halls
6.30pm Christingle Service for the whole family

Sunday 23rd December

11am Family Nativity Service
6.30pm Carols in the Community Garden

Monday 24th December

10.45pm Tea & mince pies in the halls
11.30pm Midnight Watch Service in the church

Tuesday 25th December

10.30am Family Christmas Day Praise Service

Sunday 30th December

11am Family "Show & Tell" Service

Don't forget the Christmas Lunch
Saturday 8th December from 2pm – 4pm
Your invitation should be inside this magazine

PARISH REGISTER

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

Mrs Gladys Craib Newcarron Nursing Home
Mrs Margaret Wands 4 Tygetshaugh Court, Dunipace
Mrs Barbara Skinner 63 Anderson Drive, Denny

All were good members of the church, here in Dunipace Parish. All were well known and loved in the community. All will be sorely missed but lovingly remembered by their family and by the folks here in the church. May God comfort and strengthen those whose grief is raw.

Baptism We welcomed into God's family:

30th September Fletcher Kane
 Son of Brian & Pamela
 7 Gill Park, Denny
(Grandson of June Ross and great grandson of May Wyness)

Re-Affirmation of Wedding Vows

We shared in the joy of John & Avril Faulds, as they re-affirmed their wedding vows in the church on Friday 19th October, in celebration of 35 years together. Well done and congratulations to both of you.

And last but not least... a word on Prayer

PRAY IT FORWARD

Mr David Faulds, our organist and new prayer correspondent, gave an excellent talk on the place of prayer in our lives, during morning worship on Sunday 25th October. David introduced the congregation to the PRAY IT FORWARD CARDS, which everyone present received. Extra cards can be collected from the vestibule table and distributed appropriately by any member of the congregation.

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 David Turnbull
Presbytery Elder	Mr Jim Winning
Organist & Choir	Mr David Faulds
Deputising Organists	Mrs Zoe Cox
	Rev Ronald Maxton
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 NIGHT

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