

**DUNIPACE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
NEWSLETTER**

WINTER 2013

Charity No: SC 002943

www.dunipacechurch.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

One of my favourite hymns is CH4: 631: *A little child the Saviour came*. In the new CH4 hymnbook it is listed first in the alphabetical listing of hymns, whereas in the old CH3 hymnbook it was sixth on the alphabetical listing. I like the fact that it has first place in the new hymnbook's alphabetical index even though it is number 631. It sits in the subsection entitled, "The Church Celebrates Baptism." The words of the first verse are as follows:

*"A little child the Saviour came,
the mighty God was still his name,
and angels worshipped as he lay
the seeming infant of a day."*

Christmas is all about the birth of a baby, a baby boy who was human and divine, and a mother's son yet also the King of Kings. Jesus entered the world, not with a silver spoon in his mouth, or with a mighty army by his side. He entered the world in poverty and thereby engages with us in our vulnerability. He was part of a family. He learned a trade. He had friends (and enemies) He cared for those closest to him and for those he had only just met. He laughed and he wept. He lived, he died and he rose again triumphant o'er the grave. It was indeed as a

little child the Saviour came but the mighty God was still his name.

I particularly like this Baptismal hymn because it reminds me that God breaks into our world, into our lives, into our hearts and into our homes, in simple down to earth ways. God embraces us in the ordinary and mundane.

Christmas is a time when extravagance reigns. It's a time when the razzmatazz of the festive season grabs our attention and potentially deafens us to the cries of the little child.

At this very moment, in the Philippines, the cries of confused children and disillusioned adults must not be ignored. There is no tinsel on the trees that are left standing (following the terrible typhoon) There is no sparkle in the eyes of those who can only see devastation all around them. Instead there is a tremendous need for them to know that they are not forgotten, unloved, or unimportant. It was for them too that the Saviour came.

For this reason, in this season of all season's, our Christmas Eve offering will support the work of Christian Aid and other agencies working to bring help to the villages and towns that have been torn apart.

It was as a little child the Saviour came. God's Word was made flesh in Jesus Christ, the baby born in a byre. In the Gospels, Jesus blesses little children. Jesus stands a child before him and tells those listening to him that unless they become like children, they will not enter into the God's kingdom.

Much has been destroyed in the Philippines - but thankfully not the faith of those who are finding refuge in church buildings. 2013 is a year the people of the Philippines will never forget because it is a year that has changed their lives forever.

Closer to home, 2013, has been a difficult year for many people. It has been a challenging year for the church at the local and national level. It has been a year of frenzy (with all the ongoing activities) and a year of frustration (as we have tried to come to terms with ongoing property and financial concerns) but we have persevered and done our best.

As I reflect upon 2013, and the beautiful words of the well loved Baptismal hymn, I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all of you. I pray that God will continue to bless our ministry in this parish and beyond. As 2013 draws to its close may we not only ponder over all that has happened, may we tell out the good news of the gospel and so go forward in faith, trusting in the Saviour who came as a little child, knowing and believing that the mighty God is still his name.

God's gift to you is peace. Peace such as the world cannot give or understand - even in them midst of so much turmoil and despair.

My gift to you this Christmas is the gift of a new poem I have written, called, "*A Little Child*". © *Jean Wardlaw Gallacher 2013*. The poem is from a new collection I am completing. I hope it can speak to you in the way it speaks to me of God's love for the whole world.

With kindest regards and blessings to you, and yours, at Christmastime,
Your Minister and Friend,

Jean W Gallacher

Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher
Parish Minister
Dunipace Parish Church of Scotland

SC002943

A Little Child

It was as a little child the Saviour came
Sadly, today, many do not know His name
For them the mighty God is silver or gold
Whose riches they desperately long to behold

In our world that is full of sadness and shame
People have no patience and always complain
I don't like that! I need this! I want it now!
No wonder there is wrinkles upon their brow

The message of God's love has not passed them by
To be honest, it's staring them in the eye
But their ears are deaf and they refuse to see
The majesty of God that could set them free

The story of a baby born in a byre
Speaks of faith and trust that can truly inspire
For God sent His Son that all might come to know
The breadth of love, God was endeavouring to show

Open hearts that are willing to receive
God's priceless gift of love, will not be deceived
It's not a basement bargain, or half price deal
It's the treasure that only God could reveal

Let the star of wonder fill you with delight
Let the peace of God bring hope to you this night
Let the song of the angels herald good news
And let the gift of God's love be what you choose

It was as a little child the Saviour came
Today, the mighty God can still be His name
If we let God's word find a place in our heart
And treasure forever, love that will not part

Written by Jean Wardlaw Gallacher © JWG 2013

For A New Collection of Poems & Reflections

WINTER WONDERLAND OF SERVICES & EVENTS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November 2013

21 st	7.30pm	Joint Kirk Session in Denny Old
24 th	11.00am	Gift Giving Service
24 th	6.30pm	Evening Praise
27 th	6pm-7pm	Rainbows Fundraising Event
30 th	1pm-3pm	CHRISTMAS FETE

December 2013

1 st	11.00am	Communion in the church
	3.00pm	Communion in Tygetshaugh
2 nd	7.30pm	KIRK SESSION Meeting in the halls
3 rd	10 – 12	Community Café in the halls
6 th	6.30pm	Story Club
7 th	2pm-4pm	CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2pm-4pm
8 th	11.00am	Home Alone Service
10 th	10 – 12	Last Café until the New Year
12 th	1.30pm-4pm	Consultation Event in Stirling
15 th	11.00am	Lessons & Carols Service
15 th	1pm-3pm	Children's Christmas Party
15 th	6.30pm	Carols by Lamplight & Supper
19 th	2.00pm	School Service in the church
22 nd	11.00am	Family Nativity Service
22 nd	6.30pm	Christingle Service
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
29 th	11.00am	Family "Show & Tell" Service

All of these Services and outreach events are open to everyone in the community. Why not tell your family and friends about them and invite them to come along and enjoy the best of Christmas!

CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING SERVICE

Sunday 24th 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.

RAINBOWS FUNDRAISING EVENT

Wednesday 27th November

6pm – 7pm

Teas, Coffee, Home Baking, Stalls etc

CHRISTMAS FETE

Saturday 30th 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 make a plea for helpers to look after the stalls. We hope that lots and lots of people will come along and support us.

There is a list of stalls lying on the vestibule table, if you can help, please, add your name to the list.

All are Welcome

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Will be celebrated on
Sunday 1st December 2013
In Dunipace Church at 11am
And in Tygetshaugh Court at 3pm

A place at the Table has been reserved for YOU

LIFE & WORK

If you would like to receive LIFE & WORK (*the Church of Scotland's national magazine*) in 2014, please, have a word with Mrs Maureen Pleace. A few copies for perusal can be found on the vestibule table

FLOWER LIST 2014

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 many in the parish.

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 information on the work and witness of our local congregation, you will also receive with this edition of the church magazine:

1. Your communion card, and,
2. Christmas Lunch invitation

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

Sunday 1st December

11am Communion in the church
3pm Communion in Tygetshaugh

Sunday 8th December

11am Home Alone Service & Retiring Offering

Sunday 15th December

11am Lessons & Carols in the church
1pm-3pm Children's Christmas Party
6.30pm Carols by Lamplight & Stovies Supper

Sunday 22nd December

11am Family Nativity Service
6.30pm Christingle Service

Tuesday 24th December

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

Wednesday 25th December

10.30am Family Christmas Day Praise Service

Sunday 29th December

11am Family "Show & Tell" Service

Don't forget the Christmas Lunch
Saturday 7th December from 2pm – 4pm
Your invitation should be inside this magazine

Carols by Lamplight & Stovies Supper

Sunday 15th December at 6.30pm

In Dunipace Church & Community Garden

Come along and join with us for an outdoor Christmas event. Weather permitting, we gather in the garden to sing our favourite Christmas carols and watch the unfolding of the Nativity story, all by lamplight.

If you have a lamplight, please bring it with you.

If you would like to donate outdoor Christmas lights to help us illuminate the garden in a truly festive manner, please get in touch with the minister. With your help we can make this a spectacular evening.

After the outdoor event (which will take place in the church if weather is inclement) we will then go into the church hall and enjoy a family time, with fun activities, rounded off with a plate of hot Stovies (or vegetarian option) for which we request a donation.

The Carols by Lamplight & Stovies Supper is suitable for the whole family. All ages are welcome. Children, however, must be supervised.

Family Christingle Service

Sunday 22nd December at 6.30pm

How to Make a Christingle

You will need:

- 1 orange
- 1 small candle
- Red ribbon to go round an orange
- 4 cocktail sticks
- Sweets or dried fruit such as raisins or sultanas

What you do:

Carefully cut a hole in the top of the orange to sit the candle in

Put about 3 sweets or dried fruit onto the four cocktail sticks.

Push the cocktail sticks into the orange in four different directions

Tie the ribbon round the orange and fasten with a bow, or just overlap the two ends, and secure with a pin to keep it in place.

If you want to light the candle make sure a grown-up is there to help you, as lighting candles can be dangerous.

The different symbols of the Christingle:

A lighted candle (symbolising Jesus, the Light of the World),

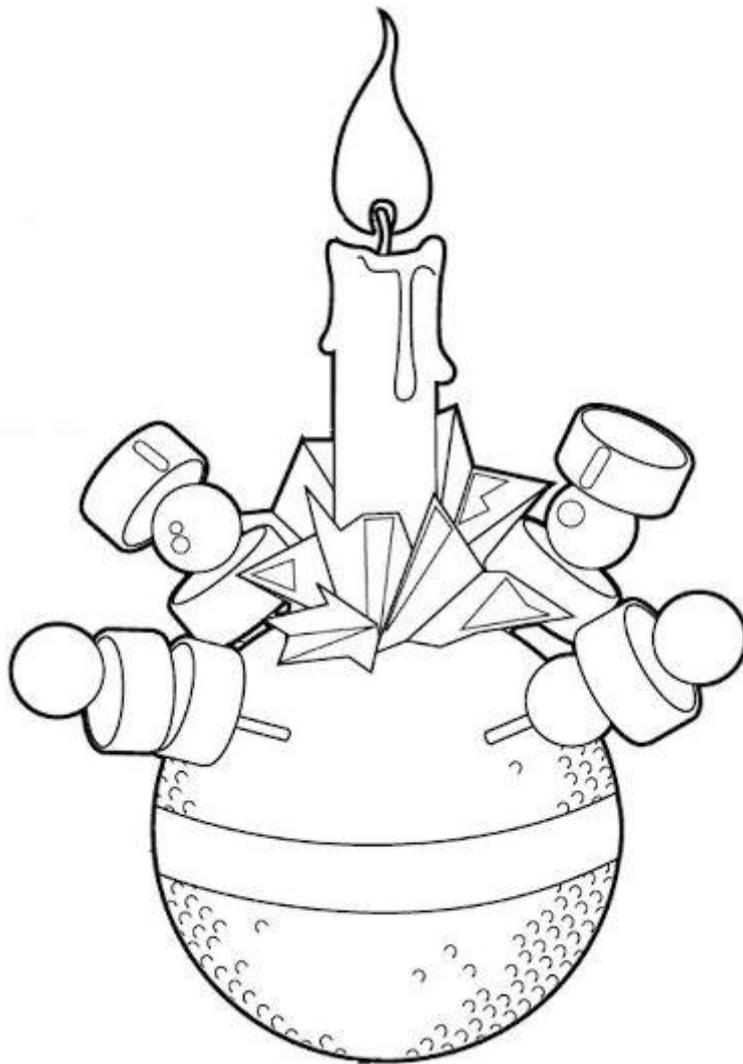
An orange (representing the world),

A red ribbon (indicating the blood of Christ)

Four cocktail sticks bearing fruits or sweets (symbols of God's creation).

Children's Colouring Page

Here is a picture of a Christingle for you to colour in - you could always bring it with you to the Christingle Service on Sunday 22nd December at 6.30pm



URGENT CHRISTMAS APPEALS

PAKISTAN SITUATION

Falkirk Presbytery recently issued a letter informing local churches of the terrible situation that took place in Pakistan, a situation that affected the life of many people, including that of Rev Aftab Gohar - minister at Grangemouth, Abbotsgrange Parish Church.

Several members of his family were killed or injured. Presbytery encourages congregations to raise funds so that one of Aftab's relatives can be brought to Scotland for medical care.

In response to this request, a retiring offering will take place in Dunipace Parish Church, directly after worship on Sunday 8th December (Our Home Alone Sunday)

PHILIPPINES APPEAL

This year's Christmas Eve offering will be donated to Christian Aid in response to the Philippines Disaster. Along with many other agencies, we seek to support the typhoon Haiyan victims and bring much needed hope to the vulnerable communities devastated by such a horrific natural disaster.

**Every little helps
Please give generously to these Appeals**

CONGRATULATIONS to...

Mr & Mrs William Ferguson who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 5th October 2013

Mr & Mrs David Mealls, who celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on 13th November 2013.

Rev Mairisine Stanfield (a former member) inducted to a new charge earlier this year. Jennifer Esplin attended the Service of Installation and writes:

"I was pleased and privileged to attend the Installation service to First Presbyterian Church Bangor of Rev. Mairisine Stanfield B.D (Annie Sutherlands daughter) After 20 year at First Ballynahinch Church in Northern Ireland, the calling to Bangor came for Mairisine. She is a well-loved and respected friend and minister to the congregation of Ballynahinch and will be greatly missed there. She is married to David, who is also a minister and have two sons, Johnathon and Daniel, who are now both studying in Scotland."

We wish them all God's blessings

VISION CONSULTATION EVENT & VENUE

"Shaping the Future of the Church of Scotland"

A series of regional consultation events are being held throughout Scotland during the months of November and December. The consultations are open to ministers, elders, members of congregations and anyone else who is interested in the future of the church. No booking is required. The event and venue for our area is on:

Thursday, 12 December
St. Columba's Church, Stirling
1.30pm - 4pm

PARISH REGISTER

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

Mrs Isabella McCall	33 Highland Dykes Dr Bonnybridge
Mrs Jessie Gibbons	Grahamston House, Falkirk
Mrs Jean Marshall	1 Milton Place, Dunipace
Mrs Betty Ross	New Carron Nursing Home
Mr Alexander Poodle	9 Garvald Lane, Denny
Mrs Mary Peck	45 Barnego Road

Looking Forward in Faith

Venturing into 2014

Promoting the 125 Campaign

This Campaign is designed to raise funds for much needed renovations to the halls, which we long to complete by 2015, the year in which we celebrate our 125th Anniversary.

The hope is that in the year 2014 and in the year 2015, we can get 125 people to donate £125 each.

Others might be able to offer time and resources.

If you would like to support the 125 Campaign, please make your donation payable to Dunipace Parish Church or have a word with Mrs Fiona Bruce the church treasurer.

Fund Raising Ventures - early in 2014

A **SCOT'S NIGHT** is being planned for February

And

An **AUCTION** is being planned for March 22nd or 29th

Further details will follow

PRAYERFUL REFLECTION

In this world of darkness and despair
 Lord, let your Light shine
Guiding the lost
Illuminating the path of the pilgrim
Warming the heart that has turned cold
Bringing hope to the hopeless
Power to the powerless
Strength to the weary
Fanning the flame of faith that is flickering

In this world of fear and confusion
 Lord, let your Peace reign
Stilling the restless heart
Easing the troubled spirit
Changing minds that are almost set in stone
Bringing calm where there is chaos
Insight where there is no clarity
Empowering the weary soul
Reconciling those whose way has parted

In this world of noise and clamour
 Lord, let your Word be heard
Speaking wisdom to the foolish
Whispering your mercy
Engaging with those who are willing to hear
Transforming through grace
Interpreted by love
Broadening horizons
Opening channels of communication

Written by Jean Wardlaw Gallacher © JWG 2013
For A New Collection of Poems & Reflections

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
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

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