

**DUNIPACE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
NEWSLETTER**

**WINTER 2014**

Charity No: SC 002943

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

**MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER**

Dear Friends,

**Christmas Greetings**

*"O, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem" CH4: 306*

Over the past few weeks I have heard an increasing number of people say, "Christmas is getting earlier every year"

The comment stems from the fact that selection boxes, novelty gifts, inflated snowmen and Santa's, along with mince pies and bottles of mulled wine - to name but a few of the commercial signs of Christmas - seem to be appearing in the shops earlier and earlier. Even before Halloween and Bonfire Night had passed, Christmas goods were in the shop aisles (not yet the church aisles)

The comment about, "Christmas getting earlier every year," was followed up in the conversation by the additional comment: "Before long instead of Christmas starting in October, it will begin in June, if not January!"

This made me laugh, for several reasons.

My birthday is in June. I had visions of receiving birthday and Christmas presents at the same time - whaw! Then I remembered my school friend, Alison, whose birthday is on December 19<sup>th</sup>. She often claimed she lost out because family and friends just gave her one present to cover both her

birthday and Christmas. So perhaps celebrating Christmas in June would not be such a good idea.

I also laughed to myself, as I thought about Christmas being celebrated in January. Well, if truth is told, for some people it is. January provides an opportunity for them to do their Christmas shopping, scooping up the left over bargains, putting them away in a cupboard and parcelling them out in December. Sadly, I'm not that well organised and would never remember where I had put them.

I also laughed thinking, that for me, Christmas has always been earlier and earlier because you see, for me Christmas is not just a celebration that takes place on December 25<sup>th</sup>. I celebrate Christmas - the Word made flesh- every day of my life. So come on, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant. Come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem - every day.

Let's not just wrap up the wonderful message of Christmas in coloured tissue paper that quickly gets torn and cast aside. Let's wrap up the wonderful message of Christmas in daily deeds that speak of love which keeps no score of wrong; forgiveness that restores newness of life; peace that builds bridges, hope that turns tears of sadness into tears of thanksgiving, joy that transforms anxiety into opportunities and light that shines in the darkness of poverty, sickness and suffering. Let us find these beautiful Christmas gifts, in our church aisles, in our homes, in our communities and in the world, from January 1<sup>st</sup> all the way through to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

*"Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be glory given.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing  
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord."*

Christmas blessings to you and yours,  
From your Minister and Friend,  
**Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher**

## Thinking of You, O Lord

Written by Jean W Gallacher

As the winter chill bites hard  
Leaving its cold, frosty, mark  
I am thinking of You, O Lord  
For you, alone, give me reason  
To endure the harshness of the season

As the choirs joyfully sing  
Hallelujah choruses  
I am thinking of You, O Lord  
For you, alone, give me reason  
To enjoy the music of the season

As the Christmas lights twinkle  
And the fire softly crackles  
I am thinking of You, O Lord  
For you, alone, give me reason  
To reflect the beauty of the season

As the whole world falls silent  
Filled with wonder and delight  
I am thinking of You, O Lord  
For you, alone, give me reason  
To embrace the silence of the season

As the gifts are gladly shared  
Wrapped colourfully with care  
I am thinking of You, O Lord  
For you, alone, give me reason  
To value the richness of the season

As the Christmas tale is told  
Of God's incredible love  
I am thinking of You, O Lord  
For you, alone, give me reason  
To treasure the meaning of the season

© Jean W Gallacher

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### November 2014

23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Service
24 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Friendship Group – with the Minister
26 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Rainbow Coffee Evening in the halls
29 <sup>th</sup>	10am-6pm	Christmas Extravaganza in Denny
	10-12noon	Christmas Storytelling in the Town
30 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Morning Worship – Gift Giving Sunday
	4- 5pm	Carol Singing Event in Denny Town Centre

### December 2014

1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Kirk Session
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-12noon	Coffee Morning
	7.15pm	Presbytery Meeting in Falkirk
5 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Story Club
7 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	COMMUNION in the Church
	3.00pm	COMMUNION in Tygetshaugh Court
	7.00pm	Big Sing for Christian Aid in Westpark
8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Local Area Fraternal in Bonnybridge
12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	A Christmas Evening in the Crypt
13 <sup>th</sup>	2-4pm	Christmas Lunch in the halls
14 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Carols & Lessons
18 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	School Service in the Church
21 <sup>st</sup>	11.00am	Family Nativity Service
	12.15pm	Children's parties in the hall
	6.30pm	Evening Christingle Service
24 <sup>th</sup>	11.00pm	Tea & Mince Pies in the halls
	11.30pm	Midnight Watch Service
25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Christmas Day Family praise
28 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Last Sunday of the year – family praise

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## DENNY CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

### Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November

The town centre will be buzzing with Christmas festivities galore. Come along and join with us on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> for Christmas Storytelling (10am - 12noon) and on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> (4pm-5pm) for Community Carol Singing. All of the planned events are suitable for the whole family.

# **GIFT GIVING SUNDAY**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

**11am**

Everyone attending worship, on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November, is invited to bring along a wrapped Christmas gift, marked for a Lady or Gentleman, or Either.

The gift should be to the value of about £3.50 - £5.00.

The gifts will be distributed, primarily, to those attending the Christmas Lunch on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December and then to district members - as far as the number of gifts allow us.

You can of course donate as many gifts as you would like.

The Session and Board extend sincere thanks to those who, down through the years, have very generously supported this outreach project. The gifts are always well received and appreciated.

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## **A FEW WEE REMINDERS**

### **KIRK SESSION**

The Kirk Session meets next on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7.30pm in the Reading Room. Session meetings are open to all members of the church. You are cordially invited to attend the meeting and help us shape our celebrations as we look forward to our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2015.

### **COFFEE MORNING**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, from 10am - 12noon, in the church halls. The coffee morning provides an ideal opportunity to enjoy good food and good conversation, all in good company. Teas, coffee, home baking all available. Come along and bring your friends too. There's a warm welcoming waiting for you.

# **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Will be celebrated on  
**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

*In Dunipace Church at 11am  
And in Tygetshaugh Court at 3pm*

A place at the Table has been reserved for YOU

## **COMMUNION ROTA For December 7<sup>th</sup> at 11am**

### **Communion Table**

Alex Cook

Jim Winning

#### **Barnego Road Side**

#### **Organ Side**

**Wine Front:** David Reynolds

**Wine Front:** Ian Stokes

**Wine Back:** George Mills

**Wine Back:** Angus Cameron

**Bread Front:** Maureen Pleace

**Bread Front:** Anne Blair

**Bread Back:** Anne Marchant

**Bread Back:** Fiona Bruce

**Reserves:** Helen Lax, Aileen Sneddon, June Davies, and Sandra Cook

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

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## **LIFE & WORK**

If you would like to subscribe to LIFE & WORK, in 2015, please contact Mrs Maureen Pleace as soon as possible. The cost for the year is £20 - excellent value for 12 editions of a glossy magazine that keeps you up to date with all the news and views, relating to the Church of Scotland, nationally.

## **THE BIG SING FOR CHRISTIAN AID**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

**At 7pm in Denny Westpark Church**

*All are Welcome*

## **A CHRISTMAS EVENING**

With

**Brenda Cochrane**

**In aid of Children in the Punjab**

**FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

**The Crypt, Denny**

**At 7.30pm**

**Tickets £10**

**For more details, telephone: 07879-445-475**

## **CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

**2pm – 4pm**

**In Dunipace Church Halls**

A letter of invitation is enclosed in the magazine.  
A list of donations required can be found on the vestibule  
table. We look forward to your support.

# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2014

*"Joy to the world, the Lord is come"*

We hope you can join with us over Advent and Christmas, as we celebrate, afresh, the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**CAROLS & LESSONS** Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 11am

A time of reflection as we prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas through hymns and readings.

**FAMILY NATIVITY** Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 11am

We guarantee you will not be able to sit still in your pew, with the Wriggly Nativity this year.

**CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY** Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> at 12.15pm

The children from the Kid's Club and the Story Club are joining together for their Christmas party.

**CHRISTINGLE** Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6.30pm

Bring along your own Christingle or collect one in the church, as together we remember Jesus the Light of the World. Tea & mince pies will be served in the hall after the service.

**MIDNIGHT WATCH SERVICE** Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December

The Midnight Watch Service begins at 11.30pm. Tea and mince pies will be served in the halls, from 11pm. We warmly invite the community to join with us on this special night.

**CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY PRAISE** Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December

Our short service of praise, on Christmas Day at 10.30am, is the ideal way to ease into Christmas as we remember, who and what Christmas is really all about.

**LAST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR** Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December 11am

You are invited to bring along a gift you received, as we show and tell what Christmas means to each of us.

All of these services are suitable for the whole family

Visitors are welcome

**A Pair of Shoes**  
(A true story)  
*By Rev Ronald Maxton*

Wright was a tall fellow, open faced, friendly and generous. He worked for a well-known I.T. Company. He was their trouble-shooter, liable to be sent here or there at any time, and so as befitted his task, he was shrewd and very observant. His eldest daughter, a P7 pupil, was called Heather. Wishart was a missionary teacher in Kenya, a man of medium build and with a twinkle in his eye. He was a fluent speaker in the Kikuyu language, dedicated to helping his Kenyan friends and pupils. He taught in a school at Voi, a town 150 klms, inland from Mombassa on the main road to Nairobi, the capital. The fourth player in this story is Burugu, a Kenyan whose job it was to fill in the potholes on a particular stretch of road after the long rains that come in late spring. He was a roadmender, tall and lanky. He had a young son called Gitonga. All these totally diverse persons come together to make an extraordinary story.

On one occasion Wishart was back home in Scotland on furlough, and as is the custom, was assigned to speak at various churches to keep overseas missionary work in the consciousness of the general membership. At one of these meetings Wright was present when Wishart gave a fascinating talk about his work in Kenya, illustrated by coloured slides showing the Kenyan villages with their simple housing and thatched roofs, the lush vegetation, the plantations of tea bushes and coffee beans, the wildlife, the towering Aberdare mountains, people dressed in the bright colours beloved by Kenyans... and there was one slide of Burugu and his roadmender friends, standing with picks and shovels at the ready, about to fill in a pothole. The audience was fascinated to get a glimpse of ordinary people, just like themselves going

about their everyday chores, but in a totally different environment.

Furlough over, Wishart was soon back at his school in Kenya at Voi, teaching his pupils the basics of measuring and communicating, and getting it all down on paper. One day, quite unexpectedly, there arrived on his desk a letter from Wright, thanking Wishart for the slideshow and containing the following sentence, "I noticed one of the roadmenders, the tall lanky one, was not wearing shoes. I would like to send him a pair, but I need to know what size - perhaps he could outline his foot on a piece of paper and send it to me." Wishart thought it over..."Burugu in luck for a pair of shoes?" and replied by letter..." A generous gesture indeed, but you are asking the impossible! Burugu can neither read nor write, and even if you sent shoes he would have to pay import duty, and he simply cannot afford it." It was a shock to Wright while the disparities of the situation sunk in. He thought of his daughter, Heather, aged eleven, already able to write, read and calculate, and here was a father who had never the chance to learn these skills. "The best plan for you," continued Wishart, "is to send me a postal order for £5 which I can cash and give to Burugu to buy shoes himself." Wright gladly sent out the postal order which Wishart cashed and gave to Burugu for the stated purpose.

It was some time before Wishart again met Burugu, but one day he spotted him at work - there he was with pick and shovel, shoeless in Voi. "Have you not yet bought yourself a pair of shoes?" enquired Wishart. Burugu, tall but no longer seeming lanky, replied with a look of confidence and pride. "My son Gitonga is now at school. The gift covered his school fees for a whole year. I have never worn shoes - I doubt I would be comfortable in them..." Wright annually sent out the price of a pair of shoes until Gitonga's education was completed.

You may think this point ends the story, but there are ripples - such as a stone creates when thrown into the middle of a still pond: Wright's daughter, Heather, took the story to her P7 teacher at school, and at the end of term assembly the whole school collected £20 which was sent out to Kenya to educate four children for a whole year. And what became of Gitonga? He is now a grown man, of course, and no doubt with a family of his own, but who knows, he may now be a teacher in some school. Remember the parable of the tiny seed that grew into a tree so that the birds found a place to build a nest. Of such is the kingdom.

**Note:** *At the time of this story, a generation ago, education in Kenya was State organized but not compulsory, and there were fees to be paid by the parents of those fortunate enough to attend school. It meant the poorest children were kept at home and brought up to look after the sheep, goats and hens.*

*Thank you Rev Ronald Maxton for submitting this lovely story.*

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Give, and it shall be given unto you  
is still the truth about life.  
But giving life is not so easy.  
It doesn't mean handing it out to some mean fool, or  
letting the living dead eat you up.  
It means kindling the life-quality where it was not,  
even if it's only in the whiteness of a washed pocket-  
handkerchief.

*From: We are transmitters -  
D.H. Lawrence*

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**Ask** and it shall be given unto you  
**Seek** and you shall find  
**Knock** and the door will be opened (Matthew 7:7) NIV

## **2015 CHURCH CALENDARS**

### **On Sale Now**

For the bargain price of £2, you can purchase a lovely church calendar. It has a nice colour photograph of Dunipace Church, framed on the front, with a little calendar tag below. It would make an ideal gift for hanging on the wall at home and abroad. You can purchase the calendar at the church on a Sunday morning or at the Coffee Morning on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

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## **2014 CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

### **Supporting the MAGGIE CENTRE - FVRH**

The Kirk Session and Board have agreed that this year's Christmas Appeal is to support the work of the new MAGGIE CENTRE planned for Forth Valley Royal Hospital. The Appeal takes place during the Midnight Watch Service, on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 11.30pm. Although, you can of course donate to the Appeal at any time during the month of December. We commend the work of the new Maggie Centre to God, knowing it will bring tremendous support and help to patients and carers. We ask you to keep this project in your prayers, knowing you will respond generously to the Appeal.

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### **What you need to make a Christingle**

1. An orange
2. Length of red ribbon
3. Small white household candle
4. 4 cocktails sticks
5. Dried fruit or sweets

# THANK YOU

The Minister, Kirk Session and Board, extend thanks to everyone who has supported the work of Dunipace Parish Church in the past year.

From those who lead our various organisations, to those who beaver away in the garden, clean the church, undertake property repairs, provide the music, keep the finances in order, offer their time, talents and money in a whole host of ways, serve as office bearers or most importantly, attend worship, to one and all, we do indeed say THANK YOU.

The Church of Scotland is in a time of transition, the way people work is different, family commitments are different, society is different, old ways are in many ways a thing of the past. Yet, I'm not sure we know what the new ways will be. This brings demands and delights, which, as faithful followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, we endeavour to embrace.

2014 has brought new faces into our church and seen us let go of many well-loved faces. Faces that belong to people, we are getting to know and faces that belonged to people we will long cherish, as we recall their dedicated service to the life and work of our local church.

To all our members and friends, we extend our thanks and God's blessings. This we do looking forward to all that 2015 will bring our way.

If you would like to get more involved in the life of the church, let us know. If you have new ideas for community outreach and service, let us know. If we can help you in some way, let us know. We are reminded in hymn CH4: 204:

*The Church is not a building, the Church is not a steeple,  
The Church is not a resting- place, the Church is a people!  
I am the Church! You are the Church!  
We are the Church together!*

**2015**  
**A Year of Celebration**  
**In which we mark our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - commemorating the opening of the church building we presently worship in, takes place in June 2015. We are hoping to mark this special occasion in a whole host of ways. Plans, for our celebration are at any early stage, so we make an appeal to our members and friends, inviting you to come on board and help us flesh out the proposals.

We are hoping to have a whole year of celebration in 2015.

In the month of June we hope to hold a SUMMER FEST.

We hope to have a FLOWER FESTIVAL (theme: Anniversaries)

We hope to have a CRAFT DISPLAY and SALE of WORK

We plan to have a great big SONG'S of PRAISE welcoming folks from the local congregations

We plan to have a COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME

We hope to have the MODERATOR of Falkirk Presbytery conduct worship at some point during the month of June 2015

We plan to have a PALET GARDEN COMPETITION for children. We plan to have a DECORATE a CAKE (theme 125) COMPETITION, perhaps a BAKING COMPETITION and definitely VINTAGE AFTERNOON TEAS etc

We hope to have an ANNIVERSARY CONCERT/ PRODUCTION

We hope to have a great big FAMILY FUN DAY in the garden

We hope to bring forward proposals for further property upgrade work in the church and halls - especially in relation to providing toilet facilities in the church.

We hope and pray that all of our GROUPS & ORGANISATIONS will rise to the challenge of marking our 125 celebration. We hope you will have other suggestions too.

After all, it is only with your help and support that we can turn these hopes and prayers into REALITY.

## **PARISH REGISTER**

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

Janette McClare

Bill & Ciaran Hawkes

Mary (May) Wyness      Overton Crescent, Denny

John Stewart Crumley      Windsor Drive, Dunipace

**New Members** We welcome those who have joined with us in Dunipace Parish Church for worship. Welcome, welcome, welcome, in particular to:

Mr George & Mrs Christina Abel      22 Leith Place, Denny  
District 24: Elders: Mr Gregor Wilson & Mrs Sandra Teven

### **Keeping us Informed**

Hi folks, it's at this time of the year we prepare to update our District Lists. If you have changed your name or address, please let us know, by contacting: Mr David Turnbull (Roll Keeper) or the Minister.

### **Hospital Visits**

Please note: clergy do not have access to Hospital Admission Records. If you go into hospital and would like the Minister to visit you, please let her know. In addition, remember all hospitals have full time and part time Chaplains who are available to offer spiritual support during your stay in hospital.

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### **WFO Envelopes for 2015**

Mrs Jean Gray, our WFO Convener, is presently preparing the Weekly Freewill Offering envelopes for distribution. Elders should be able to collect the envelopes they need for their districts, at the Session Meeting in December, or from the Vestibule Table, during the month of December. Thank you Jean and thank you to all who give through the WFO.

## 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
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 NIGHT

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