

DUNIPACE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
125th ANNIVERSARY YEAR
WINTER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Charity No: SC 002943
www.dunpacechurch.org.uk

Message from your Minister

"He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight." Ephesians 1:4 RSV

Dear Friends,

Saints Alive!

Recently I have been thinking a lot about Saints. First of all because November 1st was All Saints Day, secondly because it's the topic the primary school children wanted me to discuss with them, thirdly because I know that in the month of December Santa Claus (St Nicholas of Myra) will, in the hearts and homes of many, receive far greater prominence than Jesus Christ our Saviour, and fourthly because I heard of a conversation in which two women proudly commented, "The Church is full of hypocrites with not a saint in sight" Whaw!

Now I know, as we all do, we are sinners saved by the love of God. The harsh comment of the women, however, suggests we are way beyond redemption and definitely not "holy and blameless in his sight". The commentators clearly believe there are no saints alive.

Going back to the children, what did they think? Well, for many of the children a saint was simply the picture of a person on a stained glass window - colourful but lifeless!

Would I ever be able to convince them, and indeed the women mentioned above, that there are saintly people, if not Saints, alive?

In a bid to put some flesh on such lifeless saints, I told the children the old story about the stained glass window with the words, "Glory to God in the highest" engraved underneath. I explained how the window was damaged to the extent that one letter was destroyed, namely the letter "e" in the word "highest". The sentence now read, "Glory to God in the High st" This changed everything.

Instead of saints being lifeless, the children began to think of saints as being people who let the light shine through and who gave glory to God in the High Street, in other words in their everyday words and actions.

Saints were becoming alive to the children, more so when they looked at the lives of saintly people whose actions have transformed the lives of many, often in simple but significant ways, such as Mother Teresa, Florence Nightingale, St Paul and St Andrew.

The Bible has a lot to say about saints, more so in the NT. In Ephesians 1:4 we learn that the duty of the saint is holiness. In scripture *saint* refers to the godly person whose spiritual and moral traits and behaviour are what the Bible offers for approval and emulation. The saintly person is fashioned by God's grace. The saintly person does indeed let the light of God's love; goodness, grace, and forgiveness shine through to the extent it is seen in the High Street.

Lawrence Houseman, (1865-1959) wrote, "A saint is one who makes goodness attractive." It seems to me that another word

for goodness is "Godliness" In light of this, we can surely say, "A saint is one who makes godliness attractive"

I pray the children of the local primary schools, and indeed the community as a whole, discover that saints are not lifeless pictures of people on stained glass windows but are in fact living people who sit in the pews on a Sunday but emulate, day by day, in all they think, do and say, the spiritual qualities that were demonstrated in the life of Christ.

Matthew Henry, (1662-1714) wrote, "The saints are God's jewels, highly esteemed by and dear to him; they are a royal diadem in his hand."

What an accolade for someone who lives a good Christian life. How easy it is, however, for such precious jewels - just like the glass in a stained glass window - to be badly damaged by hurled insults that do not miss the mark and by the insensitivities of people whose actions blot out the light of God's love rather than letting it shine through.

None of us are perfect. There is much that needs to be changed in the Church to make it "holy and blameless in his sight" but surely the goodness in us far outweighs the flaws. Surely the saintliness in us far outweighs the sins! I hope so.

In these challenging, trying, times of change and renewal, we need the patience of a saint. When such patience is displayed, by the old towards the young whose ways are so different, and by the long standing member of the church towards the new recruit, then, and only then, will people beyond the walls of the church come to see and believe there are saintly people, if not Saints, alive, people who are doing the best they can to be, "holy and blameless in his sight."

May the light of God's love, goodness, and grace, shine through each of us, this day and always, so that we may indeed be a royal diadem in his hand.

PRAYER

Thank you, Lord God, for saintly people, who let the light of your love shine through their daily work and witness.

For the wonderful ways in which they are inspired by your amazing grace, we praise you.

For in the giving of their time, talents and possessions, your Church is blessed; communities enriched and the world transformed.

Driven not by the need for self-fulfilment but by the promptings of your Holy Spirit, saintly people help us all to see the truth of your word, the richness of your grace and the depth of your love.

Help us to join in their song of praise, that, from generation to generation, young and old may bear witness to your power and peace.

By their example, may we be guided in paths that lead to reconciliation where there is strife and hope where there's despair.

For all the godly virtues displayed in the lives of those who by their life and work make it clear that God lives, we praise you and thank you.

May the light of your love revealed in those who walk humbly in your way, illuminate the dullness of our hearts

Grant to each of us, in our journey of faith, the gift of being partakers of their joy and sharers of your eternity, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christmas Blessings to you and yours,

From your minister & friend,

Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November

29 th	11.00am	Morning Worship
		Start of Gift Giving Stewardship Campaign
30 th	7.00pm	Office Bearers Training Event in hall

December

1 st	7.15pm	Presbytery Meeting in Falkirk
6 th	11.00am	COMMUNION in the Church
	3.00pm	COMMUNION in Tygetshaugh
8 th	10-12noon	Café in the Church Halls
13 th	11.00am	Lessons & Carols Service
	6.30pm	Family Christingle Service
18 th	2.00pm	School Christmas Service in church
20 th	11.00am	Family Nativity
	12.15pm	Children's Christmas Party
24 th	10.45pm	Tea & mince pies in the hall
	11.30pm	Midnight Watch Service
		Christmas Appeal (Nepal Appeal)
25 th	10.30am	Christmas Day Family Praise
27 th	11.00am	Family Service: Show & Tell

January 2016

3 rd	11.00am	New Year Family Praise Service
10 th	11.00am	Morning Worship

Congregational Board:

Monday 25th January 2016 at 7.30pm

Kirk Session:

Monday 1st February 2016 at 7.30pm

WALK 125 Club

Several members of the congregation plan to walk 125 miles in 2016 and each raise £125 for Dunipace Parish Church. The 125 miles will not be completed all at the one time but will be spread over the year. If you would like to take part in this challenge, join "Our Club" or find out more about our goal, have a word with Barbara Fulford. Friends and neighbours are encouraged to come along too. The more the merrier.

GIFT GIVING STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As 2015 draws to its close, the Minister, Kirk Session & Congregational Board wish to thank you most sincerely for supporting the worship, mission and service of the Church through your offering of time, talents and money. It is, however, important that in these challenging times you should know the reality of the situation we are facing, locally and nationally as we look towards 2016

FINANCIAL FACTS & FIGURES TO CONSIDER

Dunipace Parish Church Income

2011	£63,929
2012	£62,866 (<i>Decrease of £1063</i>)
2013	£60,550 (<i>Decrease of £2316</i>)
2014	£61,032 (<i>An increase of only £482</i>)

Dunipace Parish Church is NOT meeting the full cost of having a Minister and is being supported by other congregations to the tune of £4,697. Such a reality cannot be sustained in the current climate.

In Falkirk Presbytery there are 34 congregations. Based on the average income for 2012-14, only 8 congregations have a lower average income than Dunipace Parish, whereas 25 congregations in Falkirk Presbytery have a much higher level of giving. This means that the level of giving in Dunipace Parish Church is very low in comparison to the majority of congregations in Falkirk Presbytery.

It is a well-known fact: We give to causes that engage us.
Is our reduced income a sign that members are no longer engaging with the local church?

This scenario is set against the national picture - at the time of writing there are more than 130 vacant charges seeking a minister. Only 15 probationers for fulltime ministry came through last year according to Ministries Council figures.

In Falkirk Presbytery we will have 13 vacancies by the end of December 2015. The Presbytery Planning Team encourage all congregations within Falkirk Presbytery to take stock of the present position, locally and nationally.

WE NEED A FINANCIAL & SPIRITUAL LIFE LINE

We also need to think MISSION & OUTREACH rather than purely survival.

With this edition of the church magazine you will receive:

- (1) Your Communion card,
- AND
- (2) A Gift-giving envelope

This forms part of our Stewardship Season and Gift Giving Campaign. With your support Dunipace Parish Church will receive the Gift of Life.

If you are in a position to give the GIFT OF LIFE in the form of a financial "bit extra" to support the work of Dunipace Parish Church, please, put your donation in the gift giving envelope and return it to the church.

You can do this EITHER by putting your filled Gift Giving envelope in the offering plate at some point during the month of December OR by returning the filled envelope via your Elder.

Thank you in anticipation of your help with this matter.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Will be celebrated on

Sunday 6th December 2015

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 6th December at 11am

Communion Table

Alex Cook

Jim Winning

Barnego Road Side

Organ Side

Wine Front: David Reynolds

Wine Front: Ian Stokes

Wine Back: Fiona Bruce

Wine Back: June Ross

Bread Front: Sandra Teven

Bread Front: Anne Blair

Bread Back: Ian McVicar

Bread Back: Bill Ferguson

Reserves: Maureen Pleace, Jane Mills and Helen Lax

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 8th DECEMBER

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 venture

ADVENT SERVICES

Advent 1	Sunday 29 th November Morning Worship	11am
Advent 2	Sunday 6 th December COMMUNION COMMUNION	11am 3pm
Advent 3	Sunday 13 th December Lessons & Carol Service Family Christingle Service	11am 6.30pm
Advent 4	Sunday 20 th December Family Nativity Service Children's Parties	11am 12.15pm

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve	Thursday 24 th December Teas in church hall MIDNIGHT WATCH	10.45pm 11.30pm
Christmas Day	Friday 25 th December Family Christmas Praise	10.30am

"SHOW & TELL" SERVICE
Sunday 27th December at 11am

Come and join with us over the Advent & Christmas period. Bring your family and friends too.
A warm welcome awaits you.

The Story of the Christmas Crib

"See him lying on a bed of straw, a draughty stable and an open door. Mary cradling the babe she bore, the Prince of glory is his name." (CH4: 310 verse 1 - Michael Arnold Perry - 1942-1996)

As Christians we recognise that amidst the tinsel and glitter the Christmas crib really ought to take pride of place because it tells the story of Jesus' birth in the byre in Bethlehem. The Christmas crib shows how the shepherds visited him and how the wise men came bearing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

According to tradition, way back in the thirteenth century, when the majority of ordinary people could not yet read, St Francis of Assisi decided he would display the Christmas story in a way anyone could understand. He set up a stable scene in a cave not far from his home, with real people and animals.

As the people gathered outside the cave to see what he was doing, Francis told them how Mary & Joseph had searched for a place to rest and how as a result of their being "no room at the inn" Jesus had been born in a simple stable. Francis told the crowd how angels had appeared to shepherds telling them to go and find for themselves the Messiah (promised one) who had been born.

The idea gradually caught on and now the Christmas crib (also called a crèche or Nativity scene) is the focal point of the Christmas story.

When St Francis set up the first Christmas crib he wanted to convey the wonder and excitement of how God came to us as a tiny baby.

In many churches today we continue to convey the sheer wonder of Christmas by leaving the figure of baby Jesus to be put into the manger first thing on Christmas morning.

2015 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

"Let Us Build a House"

At the joint Kirk Session & Congregational Board meeting it was unanimously agreed the 2015 Christmas Appeal should support the World Mission Council's challenge to "Build a House in Nepal". The aim is for Presbyteries and individual congregations to each raise £500. This will build one house in Nepal and help rebuild communities devastated by the earthquake. The challenge forms part of a three-year plan which is as follows:

Year 1: Build houses, streets, community and the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable

Year 2: Inform Presbyteries and Congregations of the progress of house rebuilding

Year 3: A group of twenty people shall go out and see the effects and share with the local people and partners.

We feel sure the congregation will take up this challenge and raise the £500 required to build a house in Nepal. Imagine we raised more and could build a street full of houses in Nepal. "Dunipace Drive" sounds wonderful!

In addition to supporting the "Build a House" in Nepal Project." It was further agreed the retiring offerings during 2016 should support the following good causes:

Spread the Good News Campaign (Bibles in the school)

Christian Aid

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship)

Property Fund - Dunipace Church

Foodbank - Falkirk

Poppy Scotland

A Snippet of History

Submitted by Rev Ronald Maxton

Choirs in the Kirk

After the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie at Culloden in 1746 and with the House of Hanover firmly on the throne the Westminster Government was taking no chances and stationed thousands of troops at Fort William, Fort Augustus, Fort Rose, Fort George, and also where to deal with any trouble makers. Now such an army without any enemy in sight is in itself a recipe for trouble and so the troops needed something to take up their attention. And so it was that Private Thomas Channon of the 20th Foot Regiment who was stationed in Aberdeen, started a choir, teaching the members to sing in parts. He was a man of both talent and drive and understood both the theory and practice of singing in four-part harmony, something practically unheard in the Kirk at that time. Up till then the singing of the Psalms in the Kirk had been led by the "up-taker o' the Psalms" (the word precentor was not used) who would sing a line at a time which was then repeated by the congregation. It was called lining and was a long and tedious business but was necessary as many could not read. To make matters worse the talents of the up-takers o' the Psalms varied greatly and it came to be that about twelve tunes was the entire repertoire in the Kirk. "Ye were great on "Bangor" the day, Sandy", said a member one Sunday to the up-taker after service, the same tune having been sung for every Psalm, to which the nettled up-taker replied, "Be it Bangor or be it Dangor, ye got a weel sustained tune an' hae nae reason to compleen." It is clear the up-takers o' the psalms jealously guarded their status and place in the Kirk - "Resist a' improvements" was their motto, but their limitations made change almost inevitable, and it came like a thunderclap when one Sunday Thomas Channon, a Methodist, assembled a well rehearsed choir and gave a demonstration performance (after

divine service) in 1755 in St Nicholas' Church, Aberdeen of how the Psalms could be sung in four part harmony. The accuracy of time and pitch, excitement of four-part harmony, flow of melody, and charm of various new tunes were a revelation to a stunned audience. It was immediately dubbed "the new method" of singing the Psalms.

But for some it proved too much to take in all at once. The up-takers for a start saw their status challenged, and took particular offence at Channon for having used a pitch-pipe. Remember there were no pipe organs. "A newfangled profanation o' the Sabbath" they said. The new method was hotly debated at Kirk Session and Presbytery levels and there was even litigation in the civil courts and what was virtually a test case against the new method got as far as the Court of Session, but fortunately for the Kirk it failed. But there were scenes of boisterous disorder in kirks when, for instance, certain were suborned at a given signal to start singing an old tune when it was known the choir would sing a new. The experience of such aural riot boggles the imagination, but the rise of the choir movement to lead the singing in the Kirk could not be stopped. The day of the up-taker's dominance was well and truly over.

Weekday choir rehearsals became popular. Members soon discovered such occasions were times of fellowship and times when social barriers that had previously kept people were broken down. The rise of the choir movement was unstoppable.

The seeds of change germinate in the lost unexpected ways sometimes. Who would have thought the last battle fought on British soil, Culloden, 1746, would have any part in the history of the Kirk or its praise? As we sing our joyful Carols let us remember that sometimes in strange ways, all things can work together for good.

Once again, we extend a hearty word of thanks to Rev Ronald Maxton for doing his homework and submitting an absolutely wonderful article for our 125 Anniversary magazine. Well done and thank you.

If, like Rev Ronald Maxton, you have "Snippets of History" please, pass them on to the minister, who looks forward to including them in a future edition of our local church magazine.

SMALLS FOR ALL APPEAL THANK YOU

To see acknowledgement of our donation to Smalls for All, go to the [smallsforsall](http://smallsforsall.com) website, click on the "talking pants" tab and you will see under "Thank you" a long list of donors arranged in alphabetical order, one of which is Dunipace Parish Church.

CHURCH FLOWERS & HOUSE KEEPING MATTERS

Sunday, by Sunday, the church is graced with beautiful flowers, wonderfully arranged by two or three rather gifted ladies. After worship the flowers are distributed to homes in the parish. A great big hearty word of thanks is extended to everyone who donates flowers or money to the Flower Fund, arranges the flowers or helps to distribute them.

Thanks are also extended to the hard working "secret elves" who keep the church clean and tidy week by week.

LIFE & WORK MAGAZINE

If you would like to subscribe to LIFE & WORK, at an annual cost of £25, please, contact Mrs Maureen Pleace (our Life & Work co-ordinator) before the end of December so that an order can be placed.

PARISH REGISTER

FUNERALS

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life"

Mr Malcolm	McKay	Avonbank Gardens
Mrs Anna	Fulford	Avon Street
Mr John	Reid	Annfield Nursing Home
Mrs Violet	Sinclair	Wheatlands Nursing Home
Mrs Agnes	Sneddon	Anderson Drive
Mrs Elizabeth	Galloway	Allandale Cottages
Mrs Sadie	Smith	Wheatlands Nursing Home
Mrs Margaret	Brown	Albany Court
Mr James	Douglas	Lochhead Avenue
Mr Tom	Esplin	Denovan Road
Miss Catherine	Waddell	Newcarron Nursing Home

We keep the families very much in our thoughts and prayers.

BAPTISMS

"Let the children come to me"

POPPY ANN MARTIN

Daughter of Peter & Mary Ann, was baptised on Sunday 20th September 2015

NOEL IAN THOMSON

First son of Neil & Tracy, was baptised on Sunday 18th October 2015.

WEDDINGS

"Faith, hope and love."

TRACY STEWART & DAVID ANSLEY

Of Maple Place, were married in Dunipace Parish Church on Saturday 19th September 2015.

SHARON LIMOND & PAUL LISTER

Of Beech Crescent, were married in Dunipace Parish Church on Saturday 17th October 2015

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	
Treasurer	Mrs Fiona Bruce
Freewill Offering	Mrs Jean Gray
Gift Aid	Mrs Sandra Cook
Mission Bags	Mrs Aileen Sneddon
Roll Keeper	Mrs Ian Stokes
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 TIME

For an appointment please call the Minister
Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher – 824540

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