

DUNIPACE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Scottish Registered Charity No: SC 002943

www.dunipacechurch.org.uk

A Christmas Message From Your Minister

"God so loved the world he sent his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"
John 3: 16 NIV

The First Sign of Christmas

Dear Friends,

According to a recent television advert the first sign of Christmas is Quality Street wrappers falling to the ground, like colourful snowflakes! For those who love chocolate this image, of empty wrappers floating down round their feet, might well be the first sign of Christmas.

Others, however, might agree with TESCO who want to "Bring it On" For them it is the idea of filling our shopping trolley with every item that captures the spirit of Christmas, from mince pies to colourful ties, that is the first sign of Christmas.

For others, the first sign of Christmas is seen in gardens decorated with a great big Santa, well lit up reindeer and a big bouncy snowman, not forgetting the strings of colourful lights that are long enough to lap the world not once but twice! Certainly lovely to see; time consuming to set up, and a good way of demonstrating use of time, talents and possessions!

From a commercial, consumer, point of view, these are indeed the first signs of Christmas. Signs that draw us in; make us spend more than we probably need to, yet in a big childlike way, fill us with the warmth of giving, a strange inner satisfaction or self gratification and the joy of a Merry Christmas.

Beneath these surface images that we cannot fail to see, there are, however, hidden signs of Christmas. Signs that are, from a pastoral perspective, of greater significance, because they can easily be missed.

For many people, more than we perhaps care to or date to admit, the first sign of Christmas is seen in the growing tension that engulfs their life as they grapple with a costly celebration and an empty purse or wallet.

For others the first sign of Christmas is a deeper sense of sadness, resulting from the painful loss of a loved one, or the resurgence of unresolved grief, as they grapple with the "Ho-Ho-Ho" of society and the "Oh No, I'm on my own!"

The first sign of Christmas might well be different for all of us.

For those of us who take John 3 verse 16 to heart, the first sign of Christmas is God's love being made real to us when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, the Word that was declared in the beginning of time.

In the past, there was a Christmas Eve tradition of Blessing the Crib, recognising the significance of the manger, longing for the arrival of the Christ child, and maybe even giving the animals their place in the Christmas story! I don't know if the Blessing of the Crib still takes place, but I like the idea of

focusing on the manger and declaring the first sign of Christmas to be the Word made flesh.

God's Word begins and ends with love. Love that holds us when we are hurting, laughs with us when our hearts are full of joy, gives us reassurance when the path is rough and guides us when we have decisions to make.

In churches across the land, and indeed across the world, the first sign of Christmas will be seen in the lighting of the first Advent candle, a candle that radiates God's love.

May the Light of Christ shine in our hearts, in our homes, in our churches, in our communities and in our world, for when it shines, we do indeed see the first and last sign of Christmas.

POEM

The First Sign of Christmas

Written by Jean Wardlaw Gallacher © JWG 2016

*The first sign of Christmas might happen to be
A great big colourful Christmas tree
Or it could be carols, or a Christmas song
Encouraging us to Sing-a-long
Perhaps it is the sound of the reindeers' bells
Ringing from rooftops as laughter swells
In the hearts of children who expectantly
Look for their Christmas gifts, wrapped brightly
For those of us who hold to God's Holy Word
Much of the above seems quite absurd
The first sign is surely not a new golf glove
Those who believe know it's God's Word LOVE*

*With warmest regards and God's richest blessings,
To you and yours,*

Jean W Gallacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER

20 th	11.00am	Sunday Service
	4.30pm	A Light for Aleppo
21 st	7.30pm	P&CF Meeting in Reading Room
22 nd	11.30am	Lite-Bite Lunches in church hall
25 th	6.30pm	Hall open to receive donation
26 th	1pm-3pm	CHRISTMAS FAYRE in halls
27 th	11.00am	Sunday Service - BAPTISM
28 th	7.30pm	CONGREGATIONAL BOARD
29 th	11.30am	Lite-Bite Lunches in church hall
30 th	6.00pm	Rainbows COFFEE EVENING

DECEMBER

4 th	11.00am	COMMUNION
	3.00pm	COMMUNION in Tygetshaugh
6 th	7.15pm	Presbytery meeting in Falkirk
9 th	6.30pm	Story Club in halls
11 th	11.00am	Lessons & Carols Service
	12.15pm	CHRISTMAS LUNCH & PARTY
15 th	2.00pm	School Christmas Service
18 th	11.00am	Family NATIVITY Service
	6.30pm	Family CHRISTINGLE Service
24 th	11.00pm	Tea & Mince pies in church halls
	11.30pm	MIDNIGHT WATCH Service
25 th	11.00am	CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY PRAISE

JANUARY 2017

1 st	11.00am	NEW YEAR FAMILY PRAISE
8 th	11.00am	Sunday Service
9 th	7.30pm	P&CF Meeting in Reading Room
15 th	11.00am	Sunday Service
22 nd	11.00am	Sunday Service
23 rd or 30 th	7.30pm	CONGREGATIONAL BOARD
29 th	11.00am	Sunday Service

THE LITE-BITE LUNCH CLUB

TUESDAY 22nd & 29th NOVEMBER

In Dunipace Church Halls

From 11.30am – 1.30pm

All are Welcome

Soup, sandwiches, tray bake, tea/coffee	£4.00
Soup & tea etc	£2.50
Sandwiches, tray bake & tea etc	£2.50

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Will be celebrated on

Sunday 4th December 2016

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 4th December at 11am

Communion Table

Alex Cook
Barnego Road Side

Jim Winning
Organ Side

Wine Front: David Reynolds

Wine Front: Ian Stokes

Wine Back: Fiona Bruce

Wine Back: Sandra Cook

Bread Front: Sandra Teen

Bread Front: June Davies

Bread Back: Ian McVicar

Bread Back: Bill Ferguson

Reserves: Maureen Pleace, Jane Mills and George Mills

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

Christmas Fair

Saturday 26th November

1pm – 3pm

In Dunipace Church Halls

STALLS GALORE...

Home-Baking Teas Groceries
Christmas Crafts Santa's Sack
Toiletries Tombola Bottle Stall
Books Toys Bric-a-Brac Gifts...

Admission FREE

Tea & Cakes £2.50

The hall will be open on Friday 25th November at 6.30pm and on Saturday 26th November at 10am to set up stalls and receive donations for the Christmas Fair.

Please remember the local church is a Charity and has to raise every penny required in order to meet the pastoral and spiritual needs of the parish and keep the buildings in good order.

The Christmas Fair is an important fund raising and outreach event for the local church.

We need YOUR help to make it a success.

Ideas for new stalls, offers of help, and a willingness to assist, are all needed and very much appreciated.

Thank you.

A Tribute to the Late Nigel Turnbull BEM

When we think of Nigel Turnbull the picture many of us have in our mind's eye is that of a tall, slim man, who on a Sunday was always immaculately turned out and down at the church very early to make sure everything was in order.

If you saw Nigel during the week, he was either walking up and down to Denny or he was somewhere in the church building or grounds, perhaps less immaculately dressed (after all it's hard to keep your shirt or trousers clean when you're painting a fence or up a ladder with one tool or another in your hands) but no less precise with regard to how he tackled the task in hand.

Nigel had a great sense of humour, a wee twinkle in his eyes, a word of wise counsel to share when requested, and always a great story to tell about the past.

His family too, knew that Nigel was a man who had high standards, was always keen to hear what was happening in the church, and no happier than when he had the grandchildren at his feet. His family and his faith meant everything to him.

Nigel was extremely humble, yet a very knowledgeable man, especially when it came to poetry. His life experiences equipped him well. He had an uncanny gift of "sizing people up" and knowing where they were coming from. He could discern the Walter Mitty character from the saint! His work and witness was outstanding and his involvement in the church and community an instinctive part of his nature. No wonder he received the British Empire Medal.

Nigel, like all of us, had joys and sorrows in life. Yet in the midst of this, his perseverance was rock solid, his faith resilient, his willingness to uphold his principles unwavering and his loyalty beyond doubt.

Our Nigel

Written by Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher © JWG 2016
In memory of the Late Mr Nigel Craig Robertson Turnbull BEM

As Session Clerk and Beadle
Nigel was truly the best
Standing by us faithfully
When we were put to the test
With kind words of wise counsel
With a steady, guiding hand
He was inspirational
To God's faithful little band

Love for life and family
Shone in all we saw him do
Not only in our wee Kirk
But the community too
In the "braw wee place" we love
He was held in high esteem
And loved so very dearly
By young and old it would seem

And now Abou Ben Adhem
Whose story Nigel could tell
We are glad that he has found
His name's in the book as well
For God has called one we loved
To rest in peace forever
Granting him his just reward
For his faithful endeavour

As we ponder years gone by
It is with a knowing smile
For Nigel's lifelong witness
Was remarkably worthwhile
With discretion, with honour
That went beyond and above
He has left for all of us
A rich legacy of love

There was no rebellion
When he had to cross the line
With the comfort of his faith
He quietly whispered "fine"
In this parting we now know
A true servant has been blessed
With God's everlasting life
And our thanks have been expressed

Now that Nigel rests in peace
May this simple gift of rhyme
Remind everyone of us
Of the special treasured time
That we all spent together
In the service of our Lord
Binding faith and loyalty
With an invisible cord

Poem: Our Nigel

Written by Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher © JWG 2016

In memory of the Late Mr Nigel Craig Robertson Turnbull BEM

GOOD NEWS STORIES

CHRISTENING

On Saturday, 23rd July 2016, at the Lutheran Church in Vassa, Finland, by the Rev Eva Tholix.

Isla Maria, daughter of Kenneth and Sanna Wilson, Reigate, Surrey, Granddaughter of Karl and Raila Hulkki, Sundom, Finland, and Mary and Gregor Wilson, Dennyloanhead.

CONGRATULATIONS

We extend a warm word of congratulations to the pupils of Primary 6 in Dunipace Primary School, and of course to their class teacher Mrs Kathy Rigby and music teacher Miss Suzanne Bell, for their wonderful version of a new song for Remembrance, called, "Remember, Remember" Highlights of which were shown on the Scottish News recently. Well done, absolutely brilliant.



The Greatest Good News Story of All

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 4th December

11.00am Communion in the church
3.00pm Communion in Tygetshaugh

Sunday 11th December

11.00am Lessons & Carols
12.15pm FAMILY CHRISTMAS LUNCH & PARTY

An invitation is extended to all worshipping with us on Sunday 11th December, to join with the children of the church, as together we share in a great big, fun filled, family Christmas Lunch in the halls, directly after worship. The lunch is FREE and all ages are welcome. We do so hope folks will give this a high priority in their diary.

A list of required donations for the CHRISTMAS LUNCH is on the vestibule table. We are looking for pots of soup, loaves of sandwiches, trifles, apple pies, crackers, mints etc to ensure we enjoy a festive feast! For more information have a word with June Davies, Maureen Pleace or the Minister.

Sunday 18th December

11.00am Family NATIVITY Service
6.30pm Family CHRISTINGLE Service
7.15pm Tea & mince pies in the halls

We look forward to hearing the Christmas Story as it is presented by young and old alike. In the evening you are encouraged to bring along your Christingle and share in our Festival of Light. This will be followed by tea & mince pies in the halls. Come along and join the celebration.

Saturday 24th December
MIDNIGHT WATCH SERVICE 11.30pm

11.00pm Tea & mince pies in the halls before worship

11.30pm MIDNIGHT WATCH Service

As we draw closer to Christmas Day, we take time to prepare our hearts and minds. In the singing of well-loved Christmas carols and in the hearing of the Christmas Story, we prepare to greet the Christ Child. All welcome.

Sunday 25th December
CHRISTMAS DAY PRAISE 11am

11.00am Christmas Day Family Praise

What a wonderful day to gather together for worship.

If you have already opened your Christmas presents, bring along something you received and let's see what it says to us about Christmas!

Sunday 1st January 2017
NEW YEAR PRAISE 11am

11.00am New Year Family Praise

A great way to welcome the New Year is to gather together in worship as we acknowledge the year that has ended and look with renewed hope towards the year just beginning.

THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Which is uplifted during the Midnight Watch Service

Will support **HAITI**

In response to Hurricane Matthew

**We hope you can join with us over the
Advent & Christmas period**

COFFEE EVENING

The RAINBOWS are holding a fund raising event
In the church halls

On Wednesday 30th November

From 6pm-7pm

They look forward to your support

LIFE & WORK

The Magazine of The Church of Scotland

If you would like to subscribe to LIFE & WORK and receive 12 copies in 2017 for the bargain price of £25, please, have a word with Mrs Maureen Pleace, before the end of the year.

LIFE & WORK is a good way of keeping up to date with all that's going on in the Church of Scotland nationally.

Our Christmas Prayer

Come, O God, into this dark world that desperately

Hungers for the redeeming Light of Peace

Revealed once in the birth of a baby, but dimmed

Increasing by the horrors of war and strife

Shattering the lives of those besieged in areas

Torn terribly apart in body, mind, and spirit.

Make us channels of your peace, O God

Agents of change, bearers' of the Gospel truths

Servants of Christ our Lord, the Light of Peace

Written by Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher

URGENT PROPERTY APPEAL

Dunipace Parish Church just celebrated its 125th Anniversary. Understandably the building is beginning to age but not always gracefully. There are quite a number of repairs that are being undertaken in an effort to bring the church back to her former glory and prevent further deterioration.

Congregations inherit a rich legacy of faith but also the huge responsibility of keeping the church buildings in good order. Buildings are costly and require ongoing maintenance and repair.

We, therefore, extend a great big thank you: to those who work tirelessly to fulfil this responsibility, those who dig deep into their pockets to provide the money required, and to those who prayerfully keep the needs of the congregation before God.

This said, and these thanks extended, we do need to make an **URGENT PROPERTY APPEAL** to the membership of the congregation, to the wider community and indeed to all who are willing to help us raise no less than £10,000 for property repairs as soon as possible.

Church Balcony: Ceiling cornice work required

Church Halls: Plaster work in hall passageway
Reading room & Annexe
Dry rot in Gents toilet

Church Flat: Dry rot in entrance hall
Plasterwork also required in flat

These are only the **URGENT** property matters. There are additional general repairs that need to be undertaken too.

We ask you to give this your prayerful consideration.

We ask you to open your heart and your purse, and give what you can to help. If you have an idea for a fund raising event, let us know. If you can help in any other way, please let us know.

Please, mark all donations for
“The Property Appeal” Thank you.

PARISH REGISTER

FUNERALS “I am the Resurrection and the Life”

Mrs Charlotte Johnman
Mr William Sinclair
Mrs Yvonne McNeill
Mr Matthew Bowe (Matt)
Mr James Ross (Jimmy)
Mr Nigel Turnbull
Mrs Margaret Hughes Lawrence
Mr David Duncan
Mrs Jacqueline Aitken (Jackie)
Mrs Christina Kaminski

We keep the families very much in our prayers.

WEDDING “In Faith, hope and Love

3rd September David Frazer Baillie
Jenna Irene Hughes
In Dunipace Parish Church

KEEPING US INFORMED

If you change address, please, let either the Roll Keeper or Minister know.

If you require the pastoral services of the Minister, again please, let her know. Remember the Minister has no access to hospital or Nursing Home records and relies on the FAMILY informing the Minister of pastoral needs.

If you do not know who your Elder is, please, have a word with the Minister.

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 Ian Stokes
Presbytery Elder	Mr Jim Winning
Additional Elder	Mrs Helen Lax
Organist	Mr David Faulds
Children's Ministry	Mrs Barbara Fulford
Safeguarding	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

PASTORAL ADVICE & SUPPORT

For an appointment please call the Minister

Rev Dr Jean W Gallacher – 824540

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Scottish Charity Number: SC002943