

Dunbar Parish Calendar May 2014			
Date	Time	Event	Location
1	10:30	Presbytery Prayer Meeting	Haddington
2, 3	13:30	John Muir Trust AGM in the Church and Halls	
4	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Service - Exodus 11:1-10: Final Plague - The First Born	Church
	18:00	Delta	Church hall
6	13:30	Fresh Encounters week 4 - GOD's LOVE is sinned against	Eden Room
	19:15	Choral Final Practice	Church
7	13:10	S.U.	Grammar
	19:30	Wednesday Home Groups	Mannings/Idles
8	19:30	Fresh Encounters week 3 - GOD's LOVE is unreciprocated	Eden Room
10	19:00	Choral Concert	Church
11	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Service - Exodus 12:29-51 Exodus / Passover Restrictions	Church
	12:30	FILM - Frozen (Food provided £3.50 per person)	Eden Room
	18:00	Service - Open Door Gathering - Trees	Church
12	19:30	VISION Meeting	Eden Room
13	19:30	Alpha Meeting	Martyn's
14	13:10	S.U.	Grammar
	19:30	Wednesday Home Group	Mannings
15	19:30	Reflective Act of Worship - "The Power of a Praying Church"	Eden Room
18	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Service - Exodus 13:1-22 : Consecration - The Red Sea	Church
19	19:30	Property Committee Meeting	Eden Room
21	13:10	S.U.	Grammar
	19:30	Wednesday Home Groups	Mannings/Idles
22	19:30	Fresh Encounters week 4 - GOD's LOVE is sinned against	Eden Room
25	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Service - Exodus 14:1 - 31 Lacking Faith leads to fear	Church
	18:00	Service Arise - 1st Sam 27:1-12 David living with the enemy	Church Hall
27	19:30	Alpha Meeting	Martyn's
28	13:10	S.U.	Grammar
	19:30	Accord	Eden Room
29	12 to 2	Ploughman's Lunch	Church Hall
	19:30	DCT meeting	Methodist Church

Dunbar Parish Church

MAGAZINE

Minister

Rev Gordon Stevenson

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www.dunbarparishchurch.org

Dunbar Parish Church (Church of Scotland) is a charity registered in Scotland No: SC000455



May 2014

ENTER IN

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name. — PSALM 100:4 NIV

Sunday & Special SERVICES during May		READERS IN May	PRAYERS IN May
4th 11:00	Exodus 11:1-10 : Final Plague - The First Born	Douglas McClintick	Martyn Cox
11th 11:00 18:00	Exodus 12:29-51 : Exodus / Passover Restrictions Open Door Gathering - Trees	Mike Mylne	Rob Barley
18th 19:30	Exodus 13:1-22 : Consecration - The Red Sea	Michael Veitch	Michael Veitch
25th 11:00 18:00	Exodus 14:1 - 31 Lacking Faith leads to fear Arise - 1 st Sam 27:1-12 David living with the enemy	Elaine O'Brien	Searchtheword Youth

Ministers Letter May 2014 - God always knows best

The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. Romans 8:6

What would you say if I had gone to the doctor but told him that I was not going to take the medicine needed to prolong my life? Do I know better or is my attitude wrong? He is the one who has all the medical training. His track record is good. On my side though, I have some life experience, a few medical hunches and lots of visits to doctors and hospitals in the past. He has all his medical manuals which he has read time and time again, so of course I would not be so foolish as to tell him that I know better!

As we continue in Exodus on Sunday mornings, we will see the same kind of challenge to *God's man* Moses, despite all the miracles and progress, there are a number of folks who grumble, and arrogantly think they know better than God, and think the people, including Moses should do things the way they want.

Are ANY of these people in a closer walk with God? NOT at all. Their behaviour shows that most clearly, but the mutinies and groans do not help God's people one little bit. Perhaps it keeps Moses humble - who knows? (God surely does!)

God calls His leaders to important positions because He has good plans for His people. Yet how often do we read things like "let those who have ears hear" Matthew 11:15 These are statements of where folk are spiritually, good or bad.

When a leader has gone astray, God's blessings are removed. But why did the people get bad leaders? Many Religious leaders in the Bible were known for being bad, producing no fruit or growth and doing harm. In Zechariah 11 after God's people reject **HIS WILL** they are given worthless shepherds instead of following the good shepherd that **they chose** to ignore (v15-17). That is right, they often got what they deserved. Yet God's good plans are soaked in mercy, as He tries time and time again to turn them towards discovering **HIS WILL**.

What does all this mean for us? Firstly be careful if you are a moaner or groaner! That is not to say that we do not want people to speak up or question, but do it with your leaders full involvement, not behind their backs. Secondly, take a look at what is going on among us? We are being blessed like few of us have ever experienced before, so this more than suggests that God is not withholding his blessings or giving us bad leaders at this time. If that is the case, then three things should follow. Firstly our gratitude should be regular and our words and deeds should be to draw us nearer to God; to discover **HIS WILL** for us individually and as a Church, as we give our full support to those we are called to follow and serve with. Secondly, as well as guarding our tongues against straying, we should be exercising them in positive ways which will build Christ's Church here and further afield in our growing ministry. Thirdly, let us make sure it is God's Spirit who governs our minds - that will bring harmony and peace!

(And more blessings) *Your Humble Servant* **Gordon**

Plans : Coming Soon

- **Accord** - meets on 28th May at 7:30pm Cake/drinks & other nourishments! All welcome!
- **The June Jamboree** Saturday 14th June 5:30 pm Our social night for Church folk, friends and neighbours
- **Film show** - May 11th after Church **Frozen** cert. U for ALL. Bring a family or friend of all ages !
- **CHURCH VISION** - Think we can improve? Why not have your say in the strategic direction we head in for the future? Next meeting **12th May at 19:30**



Bible Book Club...

First Thursday in the month.
Next meeting is on **1st May at 7:30 p.m.**
Meetings will be held at various venues.

Reading: *A Lineage*

of Grace: Five stories of unlikely women who changed eternity by Francine Rivers ISBN: 9780842356329, also available on Kindle

This is an amazing book which brings the bible to life. It's not too late to join join...If you are interested please call *Emma Weaver* for details of venue, 01368 459082

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11 But will you turn to me?

Starters for Sunday!

How do you want to start your Sunday morning? Fancy a lovely breakfast prepared for you with coffee or tea in the company of friends? 9:30 is the time to head to the Eden room at Dunbar Parish Church. We chat over breakfast and then have a short time of reflection and prayer to start our day and get us revved up for the worship service at 11:00.

If you are worried about sharing your prayers then don't be - you can just sit back and listen. Feeling more adventurous then why not volunteer to do the breakfast or run the prayers (or both if you are up for it!). We have a great rota of prayer warriors but the more the merrier. Please contact me if you can help in leading or catering on either

01368 459082 / 07980 492299 (M) or email: mike28atdpc@gmail.com for more information.

THANKS...

I would like to thank the Minister and congregation for the lovely 90th birthday cards and the Birthday cake which we all enjoyed with a cup of tea after the service. Also thanks for the beautiful tulips I received from The Guild.

Jan Gullan

Apologies to Jan for not getting this in last month.
The Ed

Spiritual Darkness (our minds)

There is no greater **darkness** than the ignorance of God, coupled with the arrogance of a corrupt human nature. *John Calvin*

It is no advantage to be near the **light** if the eyes are closed.
Augustine

The penalty of living in the **darkness** rather than the light is not merely that one does not see, but that one goes blind. *David Smith*

The human intellect, even in its fallen state, is an awesome work of God, but it lies in **darkness** until it has been illuminated by the Holy Spirit *A. W. Tozer*

Spiritual **darkness** is spiritual bondage. So those who love **darkness** rather than light shall have their gloom and doom accordingly. *Matthew Henry*

If the mouth is bad, the **mind** is not good *Thomas Brooks*

The difference between worldliness and godliness is a renewed **mind**. *Erwin W. Lutzer*

How great has a person advanced who has learned not to be his own, not to be governed by his own human reason, but to surrender his **mind** to God *John Calvin*

JOB VACANCIES - Are we really praying/hearing?

Pray for the Lord to send out more workers into the harvest (we still need):

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Junior Youth Work Director | 9. Readers/ Prayer leaders |
| 2. Little fishes Leaders (2) | 10. Support Leaders |
| 3. Media/Sound Team & Photographer | 11. Film night team |
| 4. Musicians and Vocalists | 12. Various other groups would welcome extra committed personnel. |
| 5. Church lead Artist | 12. Tea/Coffee rota · |
| 6. Mission Director - NEW | PRAY that these roles will be filled |
| 7. Cleaners for the Church (4) | to grow Christ's Church! |
| 8. Prayer warriors | |

Mission Matters – Afghanistan

This month I thought I'd give you some background to a country that's been in the news a lot in the last 10+ years, but we still know so little about. Until recently Sarah Turner was working in Afghanistan and she reminded me to pray for this needy country, where elections have just taken place. Despite the international news bulletins bearing images of brutality and killings, most Afghans simply want peace, a fair election process and the opportunity to build on the development work that has been provided over recent years, in order for them to move forward. Please use the following information (taken from the BBC news, Open Doors and Operation World's websites) to focus your prayers on this country. Helen

Geographic Area: 652,225 km² (UK 243,610 km²) Dry and mountainous but with fertile valleys. A strategic land fought over by rival foreign empires for nearly three thousand years.

Total population: 34,021,000 comprising 78 people groups; Urbanites 24%

Official language: Pashtu and Dari (Afghan Persian) **Total Languages:** 41

Official Religion: Islam; Evangelical Christian: 0.05%; unreached population 33,898,000 (74 unreached "tribes")

Afghanistan is 5th on the 2014 The World Watch List (a ranking of countries where persecution of Christians for religious reasons is most severe). New Christians are extremely vulnerable; their families often force believers to reconvert to Islam. If these efforts are unsuccessful, the Christian may be disowned, banished, abused, kidnapped or even killed. Every year Afghan Christians face death for their faith. These "incidents" are often not reported, and the pain and trauma facing those who are left behind are immense. Pray that God would comfort the families of martyrs. Pray for the safety of Christians and for strength to remain faithful in the midst of persecution.

The Taliban continues to threaten and attack Afghan citizens, and foreigners. Pray that their influence diminishes. Pray that the withdrawal of international forces will not lead to a civil war. Any new government may feel the need to work with extremist groups, or an extremist group could be elected. An increase in the freedom of religion is unlikely without God's intervention. Pray that the transition to a "new Afghanistan" will go smoothly and that local Christians will have increased opportunities to meet each other. Pray for negotiations with the Taliban, that their power would be broken and this war-ravished country would know peace. Join Afghan Christians in praying for terrorists, extremists and others who oppose Christianity. Pray that God would touch their hearts and draw them to Himself through His great love and mercy, and that their zeal would be for the worship and service of Christ.

Afghanistan is grouped with Somalia and North Korea as one of the 3 most corrupt countries in the world (2012 Corruption Perception Index.) It is also one of the biggest exporters of drugs. Corruption and the drug trade threaten development, and bind countless people in dependence on this "shadow economy." Pray that Christ would break the power of corruption and drugs, and that Afghan Christians would be able to live out their faith with integrity, pointing others to the hope of a future without dependency on drugs. Pray that God will raise up many indigenous believers to fight for Christ's kingdom by praying, preaching the Word, and making disciples. The New Testament has been well-received in urban areas, however distribution into the countryside remains difficult and illegal in tribal-controlled areas (about 2/3rds of the country.) Christian radio broadcasts are available in the urban areas, but are constantly at risk of being shut down. Thank God for the many Afghans who are listening to Christian radio stations or downloading Christian materials from the Internet. Some are often isolated believers; others are disappointed with Islam and want to know more about Jesus Christ. Pray that God would change lives as His Word is heard. The elected government in Kabul has agreed to uphold the International Charter of Human Rights and guarantee religious freedom, but many people still cling tightly to tribal leadership and customs that prohibit evangelism, and disown and banish or abuse Christian converts. All of these factors have led to Afghanistan being one of the least reached nations in the world with 84% of Afghans never having heard the life-giving gospel of Christ. Jesus reminds us that "with God all things are possible" (Matt 19:26).

Challenges for Prayer

The status of women especially needs prayer. They were effectively banned from public life by the Taliban. Widows endure particularly harsh plights, depression and suicide are common. An Afghan woman has a life expectancy of only 44 years, with one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world. Female literacy is under 20%, over one-half of Afghan brides are under age 16, only 5% attend secondary school and 1/3rd are subjected to violence. Many still suffer the traumas of years of war and of pressures such times brought upon women in Afghan society. Although employment and social engagement can be very sensitive issues, younger girls are increasingly attending school; 1/3rd of primary students are girls. Special radio programmes minister to women by communicating God's love and their value to Him. Pray for the disenfranchised women of Afghanistan, that they might receive justice, opportunity and freedom from fear and oppression, but especially that they might find Christ amid their suffering.

The need for the Scriptures. After decades of work, the whole Dari Bible is finally available; around 70% can understand this language. The New Testament is available in Pashto. A full Bible translation does not exist in any indigenous minority language; pray for translators to begin this work. Praise God for translation work already in progress in Hazaragi (Gospel of Luke), Kyrgyz (audio NT) and Southern Uzbek (Genesis, Exodus and Matthew). Pray also for access and distribution of God's Word into this closed land; the government, the Taliban, NATO forces and NGO groups oppose it.

The Presidential election process The votes are being counted in the presidential election with results are expected on 14 May. Independent Election Commission chairman Ahmad Yousuf Nouristani has warned that the current statistics are "partial" and "changeable".

Dr Abdullah, a former foreign minister, has 44% of the vote while Ashraf Ghani has 33%, election officials say. About seven million people voted across 34 provinces in the 5 April poll. A runoff will take place in late May if no candidate gets a majority. Pray against violence and fraud in this process.

Father, strengthen us to pray faithfully for believers in Afghanistan, that they would be encouraged and empowered each day by your Holy Spirit. We pray for those who have not yet heard of the love of Jesus, that they might get to know Christ as their Saviour and friend, and turn their hearts to worship and serve Him. We pray for the nation of Afghanistan that it would be freed from all tyranny and injustice, and that the Word of God would be spread across the country. In Jesus name Amen.

Yours in Christ, *Helen*



In many parts of the country donkeys were deployed to take ballot boxes to remote areas



The vote took place amid heavy rain rainfall in many areas

DATE	SUNDAY DUTY TEAMS	FLOWERS in CHURCH	CLEANING ROTA (U) = upstairs (D) = downstairs
May 4	May Barbara Leslie Ian Darling Eric Easton Kath Ellis Jason Kay Alan Low Tom Manson	May Convener: Sarah McKenzie Mrs J Gullan	May 5 Anne Creedican (U) Jason & Jenny Kay (D)
11		Mrs V Collin	12 Gordon & Gail Stevenson (U) Jonathan & Christine Idle (D)
18		Mrs A Creedican	19 Val & Will Collin (U) Margaret & Derek MacDonald (D)
25		Mrs M Cowan	26 Lorna Mcleod & Margaret Croft (U) Margaret & Ian Coltart (D)
June 1	June Will Collin Moira Anthony Val Collin Jenni Conolly Richard Conolly Elsie Johnston Sandy Mitchell Moyra Wright	June Convener: Moyra Wright Mrs D Brunton	June 2 Laura Girvan & Rhona Menzies (U) Fiona Fleming & Barbara Leslie (D)
8		Vacant	9 Ian & Jenny Manning (U) Laura Punler & Jackie Irvine (D)
15		Mrs L Glass	16 Sandy & Ian Darling (U) Liz Thompson & Moyra Wright (D)
22		Vacant	23 Jenny & Jason Kay (U) Anne Creedican & ? (D)
29		Mrs J Murphy	30 Jonathan & Christine Idle (U) Gordon & Gail Stevenson (D)

Please pray for all other Church activities and our community!

There are lots of *Flower Rota Vacancies* in 2014 if you would like to put flowers in the Church please speak with **May Low**.
You can put flowers in the Church for any *anniversary* or *in memory of a loved one*, you don't necessarily need to be added to the rota in order to do this.
Please speak with May Low or the Flower Convener for that month to help you organise this.

Article Series 5 - Part 4 : Anger Management

Jonah the minor Prophet - The Anger of Jonah 4:1-11

LIFE? Good and bad, suffering and joy, pleasure and irritations. For the Prophet Jonah, life was all of these too. He has passion, but is huffy. He flees from God's calling, yet he is a very effective prophet. What does Jonah care about? More importantly what do we care about?

What is the source of Jonah's anger? v1-5 I wonder if we are disturbed or amused at Jonah? He is annoyed at God for being gracious and merciful. It makes me wonder who I might judge as not deserving God's mercy? The story of the unforgiving servant is our warning (A recent sketch in Church) Some take umbrage at things said, done or not said or done, and suddenly they act like Jonah who walks away in a huff. They take themselves outside the regular Church Fellowship, just as Jonah goes outside "the city" to pout. Jonah wants judgment to fall, but it will not, since God has other plans, and knowing those is the more important thing in all of life's huffs and puffs. So Jonah needs a lesson from the divine in v1-6. Why does he care more for the vine than the people of Nineveh? Are you shocked at his preference to die because of the vine withering? Are his values warped? We all need to let God expose our warped values, and we can only do this under God's word of truth, which exposes our fickle and sinful follies. **Our** perspective often leads us astray, so learning God's perspective is vital for true Christians. Would we care more if a prize possession were stolen or if people far away died in a mud-slide? Do we care more for the Church group we like best or those who do not know the saving message of the gospel? So what does the book of Jonah say to us? Do we need to consider those whose lives are displeasing to God now, and how we might share the gospel with them? Are there missionary books we could read or missionaries that we could get to know and learn from? (As well as offer them support) I value chapter 4:2 which says, **"I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger, and abounding in love..."** because that is the God I have met and got to know. It would be just my imagination to share Him if I had not met Him. - How about you? Our choice is either to share Him, to look for Him in order that we come to know Him, or to live without the reality of God in our lives. It is a no brainer for me!

KNOWING the God who makes us more - Gordon

PRAYER CORNER

Put the power of prayer in your hands

With daily inspiration only The Good Book can provide.

The power of a praying church is a formidable force with unlimited possibilities. It is a resource that has yet to be tapped to its fullest. And tap it we must. For the time is upon us when we as believers must draw on that resource and learn to pray in a Holy Spirit-led-and-enabled power. The salvation of our world – in every meaning of the word – depends upon it. May God help us understand the consequences if we don't. Stormie Omartian; *The Power of a Praying Church*

(Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon. 2003) p.124

Easter has passed, with a wonderful week of services in Dunbar and at our Church We praised God; gave thanks for the sacrifice of His Son; listened to Bible readings and reflections; prayed; received communion, heard a potent testimony and shared fellowship. These were all communal activities, shared experiences, in which we came before our Lord and God. Why?

Why do we come together to share in activities around God? Perhaps you feel a duty to do so or were brought up in the Church and have just continued to go. Or perhaps you came to Church later in life and you feel a connection with others who share your faith. Whatever your motivation, God is a welcoming Father.

For me there is a real deep seated desire, almost a compulsion that I need to join with others to share and magnify praise to God – not for my own self-fulfilment, (though I undoubtedly leave worship, praise, prayer and bible study feeling alive and very often the real presence of God), but rather that by sharing in praise and worship I and others together are calling the presence of God, in the power of the Holy Spirit to come among us and defeat the evil in our lives and in the world.

You may think that this is fanciful, and that such evil, in the person of Satan, is not real. But think about our world and lives. What about sickness, pain, poverty, sin, discouragement, strife and failure – these can be assuaged and reversed with praise to God. In praising God there is a resource returned to us – of strength and confidence in the power of God, no matter what else goes on around us. Jesus had such strength and belief. Do we have such belief in our God? If you'll allow me a short story...

One Sunday morning during service, a 2000 strong congregation were surprised to see two men enter, both covered from toe to head in black and carrying machine guns. One of the men proclaimed "Anyone willing to take a bullet for Christ, remain where you are". Immediately the choir fled, the deacons fled, followed by most of the congregation. Out of the 2000 there remained only 20. The man who had spoken took off his hood. He looked at the preacher and said "OK Pastor, I got rid of all the hypocrites ... now you can begin your service. Have a nice Day"

Please don't think I ascribe to the notion anyone not wholly involved and committed to the Church is a hypocrite, but I do believe we can be and probably all have such moments from time to time. Following the Word of God can be at time extremely difficult – just think about the changes in the world since you were born?

Our world has changed and is continuing to do so dramatically with perhaps the biggest changes being technology, enabling advances in communication, transport, medicine and agriculture among other areas of life. Much of this has helped humanity, but have we really improved as human beings? I would argue that we haven't – we continue to seek material improvements while letting the spiritual life deteriorate. Recently David Cameron was lambasted for stating the UK was a Christian one and that Christians should stand up for our traditions. He is absolutely right – our nation's history is Christian and around 60% of the population identify themselves as Christian. But this does not translate into practice. We may be OK at doing charity but not so good at God, Church, worship, praise and prayer.

We need to come together, professing our faith into our community and let people know there is a spiritual side of their lives that needs fulfilment through coming to know the Lord Jesus. We can all start to do that by coming together as a praying Church, calling on the power of God, which is the Holy Spirit, to move in our lives, our families, community and country. If we do so together then our prayers are magnified. I pray we will do so this month and in the months and years ahead – let us make Dunbar Parish Church a PRAYING CHURCH. Beginners welcome

Yours in Christ Mike (mike28atdpc@gmail.com)

Prayer for May

Dear Father. We pray this month for our Christian nation. Lord, we pray that all those who identify as Christians start to make an active choice to find out what this actually means for them. We pray they turn to the Bible and that it speaks powerfully to them, and that they seek to understand its relevance to our world in the 21st Century.

Father, we ask and pray that our Church continues to be a beacon of light, shining out into our community. We pray that Your love and power is manifest in all we do, whether in praise and worship, whether in working with the community or in groups to understand your Word more fully. Father we ask for Your power to help us in prayer, that it becomes and is central to all we do and that we become a praying Church for your Kingdom.

We pray this in Jesus name. Amen

Prayer Breakfast Rota

04 May - Mike
11 May - Ian Coltart
18 May - Ian Manning
25 May - Catherine

Reflective Act of Worship

Thursday 15th May at 7:30 in the
Eden Room
"The Power of a Praying Church"

My 1st Book of questions and answers!

Section 2 - Creation

25. Who was the first woman God made?

Answer: Eve

Adam named his wife Eve,
because she would become the mother of all the living.

Read: Genesis 3:20

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Fancy a Church Group Holiday?

Some suggestions include a Skiing Holiday and a Pilgrimage to Israel, but you might have other ideas?

Say we went Skiing to Italy in Feb 2015 (school holiday week) here are the typical costs for Feb 2014. Hotel, flights, meals and ski pass for 6 days skiing £700 + airport taxes and charges £86.00; equipment hire/carriage helmet £16.00; equipment hire/carriage ski boots only £22.00; equipment hire/carriage skis and poles only £57.00; equipment hire/carriage skis, boots and poles £67.00; equipment hire/carriage snowboard with boots £90.00; equipment hire/carriage wrist guards £6.00; instruction skiing £68.00. The instructors improve all ability levels and we could do some lessons in Edinburgh first. The Christian holiday company also provides entertainment and times for spiritual reflection and worship in the evenings. Ski clothing is also required (suits, thermals, gloves, goggles, and shades) Perhaps we could go to Israel in 2016? What we need you to do is to register interest, to see if there are enough people to justify a group? See Gordon or email him anytime at gstev@btconnect.com

Hall Bookings

Contact

Sonya Young (Hall Clerk) who keeps the master diary and updates the hall one.

email bhraggie@tiscali.co.uk

Telephone:
01368 863285

PLEASE NOTE:

The **June 2014 Magazine** will be available on **25 May**. Any articles, celebrations (births, special birthdays or special anniversaries etc) or any other information regarding organisations etc., to be with

Denise by

Tuesday 20 May

Tel: 862903 or email:
dmbrunton@gmail.com
E-DPC Magazine.....

If you would like to be on the email list to receive the Dunbar Parish Church Magazine each month. Please email to register: dmbrunton@gmail.com this will remove you from the list for the delivered copy.

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WEEKLY INTIMATIONS

Please note if any notices to be included in the 'Dunbar Parish Church Weekly Notices Sheet' please contact Denise Brunton on 862903 or email: dmbrunton@gmail.com

Transport to the Church: If you would like a lift to church we can arrange for someone to bring you to church and take you home each week. Please phone **Jenny Manning** by the Thursday evening, so we can arrange your lift on **01368 840334**.

It is helpful to have reserve drivers. If you could offer someone a lift, even occasionally, please let Jenny know, it would be really appreciated.

Sermon's are available on the Church website. Use the link on the Home page (www.dunbarparishchurch.org) to access them



Pastoral Note

We have recently offered God's loving compassion to the families of those listed below, whom we remember in our prayers.

John Edington, Bellevue
Isabel Campbell, Steadings Crescent
May McKenzie, Meikle Park Rd

Your Elder

All members and adherents should contact their elder if they know of any pastoral needs. If you don't know who to contact, ask Eric Easton on:

01368 869659 or email:
charles.p.easton@googlemail.com

TEEN PAGE FOLLOW THE RIGHT PATH

Some of you will be at the stage where you're starting to drive. Got the provisional, got the insurance, got the terrified looking parents! After some practice, you'll start getting used to the usual routes you take. That busy roundabout, stopping at the junction on a hill, reversing into your tight driveway will all become second nature. But the real test comes when you have to go somewhere you're not familiar with!

One item to assist us is the Sat-nav! Where before a journey to a destination you weren't familiar with would involve studying maps and inevitably asking strangers for directions, now all you need is the postcode and away you go! Sounds easy, right?

Firstly, the sat-nav needs to recognise the address and post code, then it needs to find the satellites. Of course you need to regularly update it to make sure it recognises new roads and diversions, to avoid ending up in a field, all of this before you can actually go anywhere!

Once you're on your way, you need to have faith in what you're being told. If you do, it can tell you where speed cameras are, what the quickest route is and what time you'll get there. I've doubted the directions given often and have even seen people who refuse to do what a "machine" tells them, believing they know better! Eventually, if you follow the directions given, after a few twists and turns, you should "reach your destination"

If we had a "life's journey" sat-nav to direct us to heaven, what sort of journey would it take us on?

In our Christian lives we have the Bible to instruct us and we can consult God through prayer. (Psalm 25:8 The LORD is good and does what is right; he shows the proper path to those who go astray.) What could possibly go wrong?

Our human nature inevitably means we think we know best and only consult God when we think we need to or when we have made mistakes and gone off the straight path. This means that our life journey will take some wrong turnings, some detours that will lead to trouble, stresses, strains and hurts along the way. Instead of following the path God has prepared for us, we choose our own paths. (Proverbs 2:20, Follow the steps of good men instead, and stay on the paths of the righteous.)

One thing we can be certain of, if we want to spend eternity with God in heaven, our journey will have to go via the cross at Calvary. We can fool ourselves into thinking we can make it on our own, through our own strengths or merits and try to take our own route however we simply cannot get there without seeing exactly what Jesus did for us.

As young people planning your futures and which path you'll go down, make sure the route goes via the cross to meet Jesus.

BLESSINGS DEREK

COMPETITION

Give me three other Bible verses (written with your name on it) which refer to following the right path and a small prize shall be yours!

Church Membership

Want to know what being a member in the Church of Scotland is all about?

We are planning 3 classes to explain this. At the end attendees will have the choice whether to formally join the Church with all its benefits.

Please let the minister know if you are interested in order that we can plan times for the classes?



¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to **obey everything I have commanded you**. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20



Homegroups

There are currently 2 homegroups running on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm.

They are relaxed and informal and are a great way to get to know your bible a little better and to build strong friendships. You are welcome to come along any time, it would be great to have you there.

Contact Details:

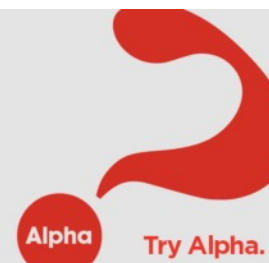
Ian and Jenny Manning
2 Temple Mains Cottages,
Innerwick 01368 840334

Jonathan and Christine Idle
5 Salisbury Walk, Dunbar
01368 860922
See Calendar for dates

Congregational Board Welcome to new trustees

Christine Idle
Jonathan Idle
Liz Thomson
Michael Veitch

**Got questions
about life?**



After 4 good years of running **The Life of Jesus course**, we are planning on running an **Alpha Course** in autumn 2014. It is the best

known and most effective course of it's type. It is something that folk within and outwith our Church can truly benefit from! If you'd like to help out or sign up please contact Martyn Cox. It is also a good time to start praying for this work and for those you may think it would be good to invite to Alpha.

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? Romans 10:14



A BIG thank you to the 26 volunteers who helped distribute 2,900 Easter message leaflets to homes across the entire DPC Parish. It was great to have some new helpers and I hope, if

we are asked to tackle this task again, that you would all be willing and able to contribute – even if it is only one or two streets, it makes a big difference to the work. This was a team effort. If just 10% of these leaflets are read, it means that potentially another 290 people hear about God's great love for them, perhaps for the very first time. There *were* some new faces in church on Easter Day but we may never know the fruits of this labour in our time. Thank you all. Helen

Opt - ins : Serving

There are lots of "rota's" folk can join to serve Christ's Church among us. Add your name in to any area you are **gifted to serve in**, and make sure we have your names on the lists. E.g.:

Coffee/Tea rota
Cleaning rota
Sunday Bible reading rota
Sunday prayer rota
Accord leader rota
Accord catering rota
Film night catering rota
Prayer Breakfast leader rota
Prayer Breakfast catering rota

See other roles that your Church needs filling on the Job Vacancies Page

Basics Bank Update



It has been another rewarding month at the Basics Bank. We have been getting a steady flow of new clients, with 11 clients attending on our busiest day in April. We even had a previous client who popped in for

a bite of lunch and a chat. It was wonderful to know that they felt at home enough just to pop in like this.

During Easter week we were able to give all our clients – adults and children – an Easter egg each, making sure that each household received at least one real Easter egg containing the Easter story.

On the 12th we had our first food drive at Asda, Dunbar and this raised 727kg of food – which amounts to around 4 weeks supply. A huge thanks to Asda and all their staff who were extremely friendly and accommodating on the day, and to all the volunteers who gave of their time to hand out leaflets and chat to those in the community who wanted to know more. Asda have kindly agreed to another food drive and this will happen on the 21st June. If you would like to volunteer please speak to Lorraine Gilchrist or send an email to basicsbankbuddy@gmail.com. Please continue to support the Basics Bank with your prayers, food donations and offerings.

All Items **emboldened** are **low in stock**

- Tinned Mince
- Tinned Haggis
- **Tinned Chicken in white sauce**
- **Tinned Pies**
- Tinned Ham
- **Tinned Mixed Veg**
- Long-life Milk



(L) Food drive at
Asda, Dunbar
with
Mike, Anne &
Steve



Newly filled
shelves

COLOURING PAGES



John Muir's Connections with Dunbar Parish Church.....



JOHN MUIR 1867

Nearly 100 years ago, on Christmas Eve 1914, an elderly gentleman, born in Dunbar in 1838, died in hospital in Los Angeles and the news was carried in all the major newspapers in the United States. He had helped to preserve huge areas of America's wilderness and is regarded as the '*Father of the US National Parks*'. He was also the founding president for 22 years until his death, of America's foremost environmental organisation the *Sierra Club*, and is now considered one of the founders of the World's conservation movement.

He was, of course, John Muir, without doubt Dunbar's most famous son and with a strong claim to being Scotland's most famous emigrant. On his birthday, 21 April, his life is celebrated in both his adopted homeland and here in the country of his birth. In Scotland this year, the focus for the celebrations in Dunbar was a street festival and the opening of Scotland's newest long distance walking/cycling route, the 135 mile John Muir Way which was walked, ran and cycled for the first leg to North Berwick and the first mile completed before returning to continue in the High Street celebrations or those held in Lauderdale Park.

John Muir's connection with our Church is a strong one. His maternal grandfather David Gilrye was ordained an elder here in 1822 and John's mother Ann, like all her adult siblings and local relatives, was a member of Dunbar Parish Church. John's father Daniel on the other hand was constantly seeking a form of Christianity which was as close to the original church as instituted by Christ as was possible. This led to conflict between the two strong-willed men, particularly as Daniel chose to attend the secessionist Erskine UP Church on the High Street (where Old Kirk Close now is).

Daniel ruled his family with a deep conviction that his was the right way, based on his understanding of the Bible's teachings. Family worship took place daily. John, and his brothers and sisters, were also tasked with learning passages of the Bible each day until

John, who had a prodigious memory reckoned by the age of 11 he could recite all of the New Testament and much of the Old *"by heart and sore flesh"*. Nor was it only Bible verse, for in 'The Story of My Boyhood and Youth' (1913) he wrote, *"For learning 'Rock of Ages' [father] gave me a penny, and I thus became suddenly rich. Scotch boys are seldom spoiled with money."* Religion also played a prominent part in the school curriculum and John remembered, *"Just before school skaled, we all arose and sang the fine hymn 'Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing' ... though at that time the most significant part I fear was the first three words."*

Daniel Muir took his young family to the New World in 1849 when John was nearly 11. They settled in the frontier state of Wisconsin, where European civilization had not yet reached.



Most of their neighbours were also Scots and one of the first community buildings they erected was a church, the 'Wee White Kirk'; there the services were of the Protestant form. So the Muir's evening family devotions were augmented by Sunday worship with Daniel frequently leading the worship. While at Wisconsin State University, he was elected president of the YMCA.

John maintained a deep religious faith for the rest of his life, acknowledging God as the Creator of the Universe, and he interpreted the wonders of nature that he encountered as manifestation of God's love. The mountains, he contended, were *"God's sermons in stone"*. He argued that

Creation was not complete, seeing evidence wherever he went of the hand of God in mountain building and erosion. He also held, like Robert Burns, Muir's favourite poet, that all living things were our *"earth-born companions and fellow mortals"* and humans were mere stewards of the World charged with preserving it for future generations.

Muir only came back to Dunbar once, in the summer of 1893 when he stayed with his cousin Maggie Lunam and her unmarried daughter, also Maggie, both loyal members of

our Church, at their home 'Westfield' on Belhaven Road. He visited his family's graves in the kirkyard; dined with the minister Rev Robert Buchanan and the Burgh School headmaster William Dick; spent a day with one of the heritors, G B Anderson, at Pinkerton; met another young cousin and Church member Jane Mather who ran a small private school and taught music at her home in Friarsbank.

Neighbours of the Lunams was Daniel Smith and his family and Muir writes in a letter home of having a suit made. There is no record of him attending Sunday worship in our church but the circumstantial evidence points strongly towards it.

There is one final, although indirect, connection, with Dunbar Parish Church. John Muir met other cousins, James and Hardie Hay in Birkenhead before his journey home to the USA. The Hays were originally from Coldstream and were nephews of his maternal grandmother Margaret whose maiden surname was Hay and who grew up in Coldstream. James and Hardie Hay were architects in Liverpool and were appointed to carry out the alterations to our church building in the 1890s. When 'on site', they also resided with the Lunams.



REV ROBERT BUCHANAN



THE LUNAMS



JANE MATHER



JOHN MUIR 1890