



Dunbar Parish Church

MAGAZINE



Minister

Rev Gordon Stevenson

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January 2019

GROW IN GRACE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

— 2 PETER 3:18 NIV

Have you ever felt cheated?
Have you ever been unfaithful to someone?
Are you faithful to God?
Do YOU want 2019 to be YOUR best year ever?

From Jesus Christ, the FAITHFUL witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood
Revelation 1:5

Sunday & Special SERVICES in January		READERS	PRAYERS
6 th 11:00	The Church Sharing Christ Ephesians 3:1-12	Walter Cowan	Joan Hancock
13 th 11:00	God's Mercies EVERY DAY Lamentations 3:1-25	Fraser Stewart	Rob Barley
20 th 11:00	Unity Ephesians 4:1-16	Alison Mitchell	Jonathan Idle
27 th 11:00	Pastor's Prayerful Heart Philippians 1:1-11	Anne Creedican	Tim Greene

And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called **FAITHFUL** and True, and in righteousness He judges.

Revelation 19:11

Minister's Letter **December** 2019 : A New YOU

Is 2019 going to be a better year for you? We can wait and see without any preparation or special effort, or we can ensure that the answer is yes by being proactive and wise.

This is not about whether you are an optimist or a pessimist. Nor is it whether your career progresses; loved ones have a happier year or less pain. It is only by you seeking God with a willingness to change any wrong perceptions, ideas or misguided behaviours. This however is not essential for any perfect people though!

Have you ever bargained with God? Abraham did in Genesis 18 to save sinful people. Likewise, Moses did for the sake of those who cast a Golden Calf. Mary *persuaded* Jesus to perform a miracle when the wine ran out and Hezekiah bargained with God for an extra 15 years of life.

This week a minister did the same for his congregation. In a dream God said to him that only three people in his church will grow spiritually in 2019. So the minister pleaded with God, "Let it be twenty" and six more who come to faith. Soon after this the bargaining was concluded.

The final outcome is known. Yet the minister as he thinks and prays for the individuals in his church, wonders who will grow? Will it be YOU?

As we end one year and begin another, it is a time for reflection on our own spiritual growth. The worst outcome is going backwards , and sadly some may have, but making no progress is nearly as bad.

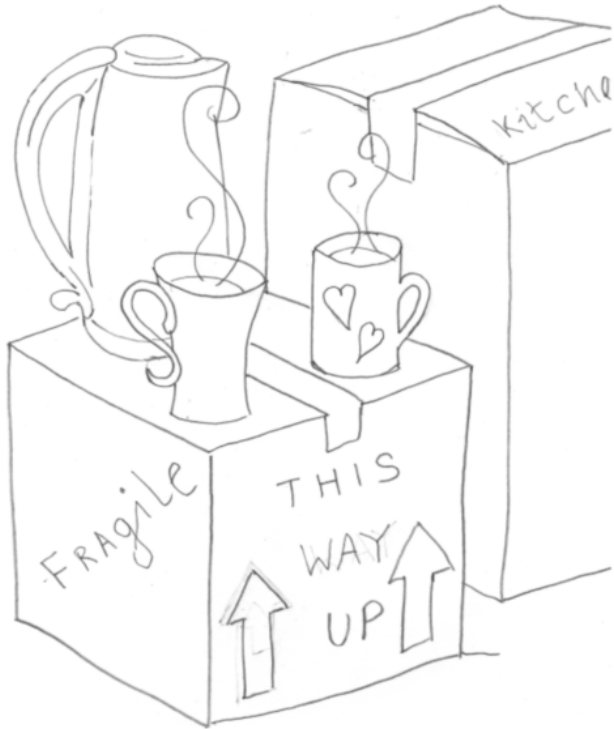
If we are grafted into Christ, we **must** grow. He nourishes and feeds us. We in turn give thanks, worship, learn and serve Him. If we are grafted into to the world, our *work*, our *ways*, not His, prevents this growth.

This all made me wonder whether you might bargain with God in 2019? Will He make a new you; an even better you; a more godly you; a more "obedient to His ways" you; a you that is guided and equipped better for every circumstance you will face in the future; a you whose personal growth attracts others into Christ's kingdom; a you who worships God in in a way that delights Him; a you who is shown deep mysteries and great spiritual blessings etc.?

As a minister there is no less a challenge for me as well. Ministers can fall spiritually or be stuck in their own ruts. The responsibility for peoples' souls is great. So I encourage you to pray for us all, to do what you can for yourself, others and for God in 2019.

Our **faithfulness** will produce a spiritual harvest - here's hoping that it is abundant and honouring to our **faithful** God. **Gordon**

New neighbour?



If someone near you has moved into a new home, anywhere in our parish, please deliver a 'Welcome' leaflet through their door. This leaflet invites people to our church, tells them about it, why we are here and what we do. Ask Helen for leaflets and more details.

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 Alan Low

Bible Book Club

Meeting Friday 11th January at 7:30
at Catherine's house

Book: *What's so Amazing About Grace?*

Any questions please speak to Lorna

Transport to the 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, on **01368 840334**. If you could offer someone a lift, even occasionally, you could be a reserve driver, please let Jenny know, it would be greatly appreciated.

Prayer Breakfast Rota

January 2019

6	Ian M
13	Alison
20	Catherine
27	Tim

New £2-million Bible-and-art website

If you want to enjoy art with your Bible reading, then visit the stunning new £2-million Bible-and-art website, 'The Visual Commentary on the Bible' (<https://thevcs.org/>) which was launched late last year.

'The Visual Commentary on the Bible' matches three works of art with passages of Scripture. Each triptych has been chosen by a theologian or an art historian (so far, there are 44 listed on the site), who also provides a short commentary on the picture, relating it to the Bible verses. The images on the site are high-resolution, and with the powerful zoom facility, users can enjoy the artworks in great detail.

So far, there are 50 completed triptychs, or 'exhibitions', and another 50 await copyright permissions. In the next seven years, it is hoped that the number will grow to 1500.

The site is free to use. It is funded by Roberta and Howard Ahmanson, the US billionaire philanthropists, and draws on the expertise of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at King's College, London.

PASTORAL TEAM

Do you know anyone who could use some pastoral help? Perhaps someone infirm, lonely, or grieving for a loved one? Maybe an illness, operation or another blow has knocked you a bit? Members/adherents who is interested contact Moyra Wright (tel. 863316) directly or via Church members.

The pastoral team are genuinely interested in your well-being.

Hall Bookings

Please Contact: Sonia Young she keeps the master diary and updates the hall one.
email bhraggie@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone: 07874 816326

BASICS BANK BUDDY SCHEME

If you are not already part of the Buddy Scheme please drop an email to basicsbankbuddy@gmail.com and you will be kept up to date with a weekly email and shopping list. Due to increasing demand the Basics Bank would appreciate more folks to 'put a tin in the bin'
Thank you!

Opt - ins : Serving

There are many ways that you can serve with us.

Your service is wanted. Just let us know where you would like to serve? Here are just some of the possibilities:

Coffee/Tea rota

Cleaning rota

Sunday Bible reading rota

Sunday **prayer** rota

Prayer Breakfast leader rota

Prayer Breakfast catering rota

CHURCH PRAYER MEETINGS

2nd & 4th

Wednesday's
at 7:30 pm

In the Eden Room

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

HOME GROUPS

Wednesday at 7.30 p.m.

Contact *Ian /Jenny Manning*
2 Temple Mains Cottages,
Innerwick 01368 840334

Jonathan and Christine Idle
4 Salisbury Walk, Dunbar
01368 860922

[See Calendar for dates](#)

2019 Dunbar Parish Church Magazines

Magazine Month	Articles by Friday	Magazine out Sunday
FEBRUARY	18 Jan	27-Jan
MARCH	15-Feb	24 Feb

Magazine Input:

Please send your items in by **Friday 18th January** for February Magazine - out on 27th January or if you would like a regular E_Magazine

Contact Denise: Tel: 862903 or email:
dmbrunton@gmail.com

Weekly Notices: Contact Denise

Coffee Plus.....

meeting every Friday in the church 10.30-12 noon
Come for a chat and a brew

...growing friendships...



PHOTOS ETC., NEEDED FOR EXHIBITION

With Kirk renovations near done, plans are well underway for a permanent exhibition for the apse, behind the pulpit. This will trace our Church's history.

Would anyone be willing to loan photos for copying or small items for two display cases? Please speak to Moyra Wright, Walter Cowan, Jim Thompson or Will Collin (tel: 863162). There is a surprising shortage of pictures of the church interior before the 1987 fire. Images, particularly with the organ, the pulpit, the memorial aisle, the stained glass windows and of/or from the balcony would be greatly appreciated. (They may form the background of wedding photos, etc.) Thanks in anticipation!

God is **FAITHFUL**,
fiercely loyal and true
and He wants to make
a believer out of you.

He wants to make you,
a branch on His vine
He wants to call you
a dear child of mine.

God is merciful,
tender, loving and kind
He wants your heart
and His to align.


He wants to give you,
peace unimaginable
He wants you to know
hope is obtainable.

God is gracious,
forgiving and yielding
there's much He can do
with a soul that is willing!

**THE GUILD meets on
22nd January speaker
Rev Gordon Stevenson
2:30 pm in the Halls**

PRAYER FOR WISDOM AND LIGHT

Father of all,
You gave Jesus to be the light of the whole world. Help us to receive His light and to reflect it. Help us not to limit the extent of your love by the restrictions of our own understanding. Give us wisdom to look upwards and outwards and to allow your Holy Spirit to transform us day by day as we serve you. Thank you for the gift of wisdom and for those who respond to your prompting to find Jesus. In His name, Amen.

DATE	SUNDAY DUTY TEAMS	FLOWERS in CHURCH	CLEANING ROTA (U) = upstairs (D) = downstairs
Jan 2019 6	JANUARY 2019 Margaret Croft Denise Brunton Margaret Croft Joan Hancock May Low Lena Glass Ian Manning Lorna McLeod 	Convenor: Barbara Leslie Mrs M Wright	7 Vacant (U) Laura Pulner & Laura Girvan (D)
13		Mrs M Low	14 Sandy & Ian Darling (U) Moyra Wright & Anne Creedican (D)
20		Mrs P Rimmer	21 Jenny & Jason Kay (U) Gail & Gordon Stevenson (D)
27		Miss D Davie	28 Christine & Jonathan Idle (U) Val & Will Collin (D)
Feb 2019 3	FEBRUARY 2019 Alan Low Ian Darling Eric Easton Kath Ellis Jason Kay Barbara Leslie Tom Manson	Convenor: Val Collin Mrs A Creedican	4 Margaret & Derek MacDonald (U) VACANT (D)
10		Mrs D Brunton	11 Ian Coltart & Tim Greene (U) Ian Gillian & Alison Mitchell (D)
17		Mr K Duncan for the late Mrs M Duncan	18 Ann & Norman Barr (U) Margaret Croft & Lorna McLeod (D)
24		VACANT	25 Fiona Fleming & Barbara Leslie (U) VACANT (D)

Volunteer Convenor for September needed. Please speak to May Low if you can help, or if you would like to put flowers in the church on Vacant Sundays

*The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. **Zephaniah 3:17***

To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.

Martin Luther King JR

Article Series 9 (pt 8) God's Faithfulness

Please pray before you read Romans 3:1-20 What about ours?

Continuing Paul's discussion from last time, we were challenged to consider our double standards and how we need to be *spiritually circumcised*, i.e. In Jeremiah, 31:31-33 God's Law is to be written on the hearts of His people so that they would know His standards and live within them. Ezekiel 11:19-20 ; 36:26 says that God would change stone-cold hearts to hearts of flesh by His Spirit.

Paul challenges us not to live spiritually pretentious lives. We are called to light not darkness dressed up as light. Our faith is not an outward show, but an inward transformational relationship with God.

Paul informs us that we are all under sin v9. So in v1-4 we are all in the same boat, there are no privileged ones and God is perfectly **faithful** to us all. However, Jew or Gentile, we can all be rejected by God by our determined sinfulness if we do not have it dealt with. Yet the most significant advantage the Jews have is that they "have been entrusted with the very words of God" v2. (These are freely available to us all today, except the few peoples still to be reached and have it in their language). In reality people love to argue to suit themselves. Paul in turn opposes a number of these *logical* assertions in order that we can understand God properly v5-8. God's justice is infallible, He is holy, He detests sin, yet He is **faithful** and offers us the only true solution.

In v9-20 Paul quotes scripture to speak of our universal sinful nature. "As it is written" would be our way of asserting God's ways too v10. Karl Barth asserted that "no serious thinker holds the view that people are good". The point in hearing this is to enable us to face the reality of our predicament and to grab the fix.

We don't understand God, we don't honestly seek Him, we go our own way, we say all kinds of wrong things, we shed blood, cause ruin and chaos, and have a complete lack of understanding of the fear of God v11-18.

Fearing God is the beginning of wisdom Proverbs 1:7. It is not only spiritual wisdom that is lacking, it is the starting point that is missing too - Godly fear.

Fear of God comes from approaching Him, hearing about Him in scripture, and seeing His character in history. We learn that we have no logical argument about God or justice or indeed anything which supercedes God's Laws. This is why we will all be held accountable v19.

That sounds scary, so when v20 says that no one will be declared righteous, it sounds like we are all in big trouble. But we are only in big trouble if we think we can be sinless without opening God's **faithful** gift which cost Him His most precious Son. We cannot be sinless by good works or by being "good" or by trying to earn Gods favour by our own goodness or kindness etc.

Coming under God's word which He has entrusted to all people from Christ's life, death, resurrection and ascension is our route to this solution. The witness of Christians is vital in this too. Let us continue to share our **faithful** God.

Yours in Christ Gordon

FAITHFULNESS

Though men are false, God is **faithful**.
Matthew Henry

YOU can never understand the **faithfulness** of God by taking the short term view. *Paul S. Rees*

The quality of God's **faithfulness** is essential to God's being. *Frank Retief*

Believing prayer takes its stand upon the **faithfulness** of God. *D. Edmond Hiebert*

How can there be great faith when there is little **faithfulness**? *William Gurnall*

Reverent fear of God is the key to **faithfulness** in any given situation. *Alan Redpath*

Divine **faithfulness** is a wonderful comfort to those who are loyal. It is a very earnest warning to those who are inclined to be disloyal. *William Hendricksen*

Trusting God and upon His word means drawing on the inexhaustible resources of our **faithful** God. *Anon*

God's **faithfulness** can break into our sinfulness. Yet we can keep Him out through ignorance, arrogance or selfish self assurance in things which do not hold water, coupled with a distinct lack in the *fear of God* which is the beginning of wisdom. *Gordon Stevenson*

If you do not rightly believe in our **faithful** God you will never understand the things that matter most and your life will prove futile. *Augustine*

Faithfulness is the mother of obedience.
Thomas Manton

Unless our **faith** be real and growing, it will lie prostrate; unless it is warmed up, it will be frozen; unless it be roused, it will grow torpid. *John Calvin*

My 1st Book of questions and answers!

Section 7

The Ten Commandments

66. Who is our Neighbour?

Answer: Every human being

'Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?'

Luke 10:36

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Communion



The next Communion is
11:00 am
Sunday 10th February

DPC Verse for 2019

Lamentations 3:22-23

The steadfast love of the Lord never
ceases; his mercies never come to an
end; they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

JANUARY CROSSWORD

Answers in next month's magazine!

Answers to December's crossword ...

1		2		3			4	5		6		7
8						9						
10								11				
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15												16
17		18				19		20				
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A				N		S				E		S
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Across

- 1 Protective covering recommended to the Ephesians (Ephesians 6:11) (6)
4 The number of apostles (Matthew 10:2) (6)
8 Tenth-century Bishop of Augsburg for 48 years, who became the first saint to be canonized by a pope (5)
9 'Do not — what is evil but what is good' (3 John 11) (7)
10 Reading desk in a church (7)
11 'He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like — walking around"' (Mark 8:24) (5)
12 One of the qualities that Paul exhorted Timothy to pursue (1 Timothy 6:11) (9)
17 One of the meaningless pleasures acquired by the Teacher (Ecclesiastes 2:8) (5)
19 'Like — babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation' (1 Peter 2:2) (7)
21 Jesus said that Moses allowed this only because men's hearts were hard (Matthew 19:8) (7)
22 Girl's name (5)
23 Most sagacious (Judges 5:29) (6)
24 How Stephen, the first Christian martyr, died: after being — (Acts 7:59) (6)

Down

- 1 A Jew whom Paul met in Corinth, whose wife was Priscilla (Acts 18:2) (6)
- 2 For example, turning water into wine, feeding the five thousand, walking on water (John 7:21) (7)
- 3 Abram's relationship to Lot (Genesis 14:12) (5)
- 5 'Jesus answered, "It is —: 'Man does not live by bread alone.'"' (Matthew 4:4) (7)
- 6 'Peace I — with you; my peace I give you' (John 14:27) (5)
- 7 'May the Lord deal with me, be it — — severely, if anything but death separates you and me' (Ruth 1:17) (4,2)
- 9 Lack of knowledge (Acts 17:30) (9)
- 13 This woman 'followed Paul and believed' after his words to the Areopagus in Athens (Acts 17:34) (7)
- 14 Or noise (anag.) (7)
- 15 'Even though I walk through the valley of the — of death, I will fear no evil' (Psalm 23:4) (6)
- 16 ' — Christian soldiers, marching as to war' (6)
- 18 Saver (anag.) (5)
- 20 'Unless a grain of — falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed' (John 12:24) (5)

TEEN PAGE.... HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January is back again! Another year has flown in with the usual political turmoil, natural disasters and terror attacks. Friends and relatives may have come and gone and we're all a year older, if not wiser. I thought I had a good grasp on current affairs however when I googled "major events of 2018" I was surprised to find out that orange snow had fallen across Europe, Katie Perry and Taylor Swift had made up (about time, I've been worried sick!) and a hippo predicted the result of the superbowl!

A new year gives us an excuse to look back on the past and evaluate lots of areas of our lives but also gives an opportunity to look forward. Like my Internet stories, we can choose to ignore major issues that have a deep meaningful impact on our lives and instead concentrate on less important matters. Do you have important issues to sort out? It could be a failing relationship, an addiction getting a hold of you, a particular sin that is driving a wedge between you and God but instead you decide you need to shed a couple of pounds or change your hairstyle? Take time to really prayerfully consider your life and areas you have to change.

Looking ahead, a good way of focusing on the year to come is to write down the main areas of your life (e.g. work - family - friends - church - leisure etc) and then think about what God might want to do in these areas during the next year. Once you've done this you might want to share this with a parent, your partner or a close friend, and give your decisions over to God in prayer.

Thankfully, we don't need to wait for New Year. When we walk with God, the great thing in life is that there is always the opportunity to start anew. God always offers us a new day and a new dawn, no matter what has gone before.

Here are a couple of verses, firstly to help you look back on last year and then to look ahead to the year to come:

"But forget all that, it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland."

Isaiah 43, 18-19

The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease.

Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.

I say to myself, "The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!"

Lamentations 3:22-24

At the start of the New Year, why not take a moment to thank him for last year, ask his forgiveness for where you have failed, and dedicate this new year to Him, to serve Him and love Him afresh.

May God pour out his blessings on you for 2019!

Derek



Christmas Day Community Meal

What a blessing it is to live in this town where people join together to make good things happen. I write this on 20th December, before the event, but on Christmas Day a total of 62 people will benefit from the teamwork of The Ridge, Dunbar Parish Church, Basics Foodbank and Dunbar Rotary. We will work together to make a special meal happen in the church hall. Thanks for financial contributions from Be Green, Rotary,

Community Council, DPC, Dunbar Value Shop and others.

It's the big-hearted volunteers from our town who are to be congratulated in giving up a good chunk of their Christmas Day to serve others in true Christmas Spirit. From the chefs, waiters and musicians to our very own Santa and his elf you can be sure we'll be having fun! Dunbar Rotary are all set to sing carols and deliver meals again to those not able to get out. For me the best thing about this day will be sitting down to eat with people who have become my friends in the course of the past year. Community is not just a word for us now.

I look forward to giving you further updates in the New Year.

Blessings Shiona Liddle, Pioneer Minister

Have you ever wondered where the name 'Jesus' comes from?

The name Jesus is a transliteration of a name that occurs in several languages. It is of Hebrew origin, 'Yehosua', or Joshua. Or there is the Hebrew-Aramaic form, 'Yesua'. In Greek, it became 'Ἰησοῦς' (*īēsoûs*), and in Latin it became 'Iesus'.

The meaning of the name is 'Yahweh delivers' or 'Yahweh rescues', or 'Yahweh is salvation'. No wonder the angel Gabriel in Luke 1:26-33 told Mary to name her baby Jesus: "because **He will save His people from their sins**".

Prayer Meeting Wednesday 23rd January

On January 23rd at our regular Prayer Meeting our guest speaker is the new local SU Scotland worker for East and Mid-Lothian, ML Stone. Please come along and hear what she's currently doing, planning, and the areas of her work where she foresees challenge so that we can support her in prayer. We will continue to focus on praying for churches working locally, nationally, globally, for all the Missionaries we support world-wide and Christian ministries. We meet in the Eden Room from 7:30 pm and finish up no later than 9:00 pm.

All welcome. There might even be cake - who knows?

January 2019 Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
4	10:30-12:00	Coffee Plus	Church
6	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Rm
	11:00	Service - The Church Sharing Christ	Church
8 to 10		Minister at Conference	Crieff
9	19:30	Prayer Meeting	Eden Rm
11	10:30-12:00	Coffee Plus...	Church
13	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Rm
	11:00	Service - God's Mercies EVERY DAY	Church
15		Go For it Training	Edinburgh
16	19:30	Home Group	Idles
17	13:00	Finance Meeting	Eden Room
18	10:30-12:00	Coffee Plus...	Church
20	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Rm
	11:00	DCT Service of Unity	Church
21	19:30	Kirk Session Strategy Meeting	Eden Rm
22	2 to 5	Wooler Elders Conference	Eden Rm
	14:30	Minister speaking at the Guild	Halls
23	19:30	Prayer Meeting (Guest from SU)	Eden Rm
24	10:30	Presbytery Prayer	Haddington
25	10:30-12:00	Coffee Plus...	Church
27	11:00	Service - A Pastor's Prayerful Heart	Church
31	12 noon-2 pm	Ploughmans' Lunch	Halls

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

