

Dunbar Parish Church

MAGAZINE

Minister

Rev Gordon Stevenson

The Manse, 10 Bayswell Road, Dunbar EH42 1AB

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www.dunbarparishchurch.org/

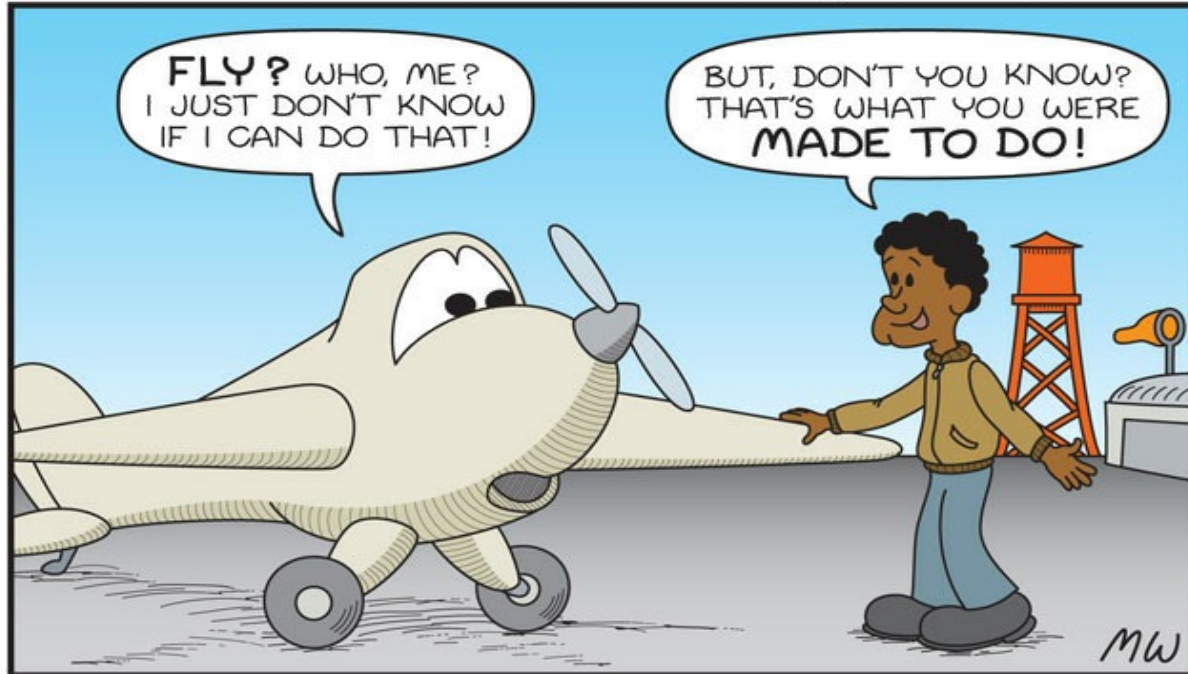


Dunbar Parish Church is a
charity registered in Scotland
No: SC000455

January 2020

MADE TO FLY

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



www.joyfultoons.com © 2010 Michael D. Waters

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

— EPHESIANS 2:10 NIV

God has a purpose and a plan for each of us, and in Christ, He has already given us all that we need to fulfill that plan.

Do you live in the victory Christ has won for YOU?
Are your purposes aligned to God's?
Will 2020 be the year YOUR spiritual vision improves?
Are you living in God's will, honouring Him etc.?

Sunday & Special SERVICES in December			READERS	PRAYERS
05	11:00	Arise and Shine Isaiah 60:1-9	Jonathan Idle	Gordon
12	11:30	DCT Service at Belhaven Parish Church		
19	11:00	When the Cat's Away - Judges 1 and 2	May Low	Ian Coltart
26	11:00	Othniel God's Lion - Judges 3:1-11	Mike Mylne	Tim Greene

Magazine Theme : God gives the ultimate Victory through His GOOD PURPOSES

Minister's Letter January 2020 : **Victory**

In life I have competed in various individual and team contests. I have sometime **came first or won** medals and trophies, but I have far more often lost or come further down the pecking order.

BUT, in Christ I am **on the winning team**. Being a Christian is not plain sailing, but life is not a straight forward journey for anyone, is it?

We fall on the ice or into a ditch; we trip off a pavement or are diagnosed with a medical condition which requires investigation.

We are right at the beginning of a New Year. Some of us have had a fair number of these in our lives, so will 2020 be similar or different to previous years for us and our loved ones? Perhaps it will in some ways, but most likely there will be changes and challenges; pleasures and anxieties too.

Some people get to choose teams, while others stand in line hoping to be picked. In the Christian faith Jesus Christ is choosing you first to **play in His winning team**. Even if He chose you a while ago, He is still choosing you every single day.

Now in sport it is a game, albeit often a very serious and hard contest. However, in this team, you will be a soldier in a **spiritual battle**.

In the past year I have had so many **spiritual battles**, how about you? You see the devil does not need to fight much against those who are not damaging his cause.

In a similar way, God allows us to be in the battle in order that we grow in our spiritual experience, knowledge and faith in His ultimate sovereignty.

We are beginning the year taking a journey through the book of Judges. God sent various "judges", who were military leaders who led God's people into **spiritual victory** from the mess that they had been in.

I am optimistic that since God's word never returns to Him without profit, that some of you will benefit greatly from the learning we can enjoy from this study series. However, God is looking to bless those who truly want to be blessed. Those who come to worship Him. Those who desire to bring their messy lives to Him for reworking, correction and new wisdom.

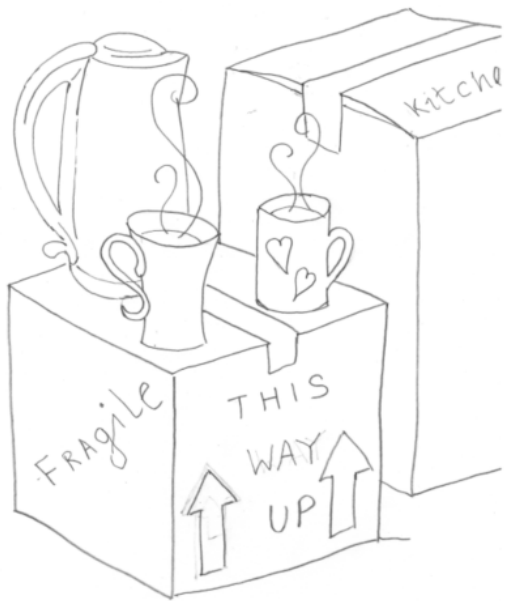
Will you be up for what God will have on offer? Will you remain bound or oblivious? Will you be prepared for the **Spiritual battle** that will come your way if you determine to honour God in your life?

It is my prayer and hope that 2020 will be a much richer year spiritually for each and every one of you who worship God Almighty with us, and I hope that our fellowship will be a place where we help train one another in righteousness in order that we are ready for the **victory** in-Christ to come.

Quick March, following Christ

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.

God's hands

Our times are firmly in His hands,
The hands that fashioned all that's made,
Giving life and breath and purpose,
Touching all He came to save.

The hands that gave themselves to nails,
Has gathered sheep that went astray
And raised them up to heavenly places
Waiting for the Coming Day.

As life and years roll on together,
Our times are set, on this we stand,
Secure and safe in God's own keeping
As none can pluck us from His hand.

By Megan Carter

d	r	u	n	k	o	k	e	f	j	w
n	g	i	y	o	s	d	a	w	u	c
h	t	u	p	e	n	i	n	n	a	h
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n	j	i	r	k	u	r	q	i	p	l
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h	g	s	t	a	y	e	d	n	i	e
w	o	r	s	h	i	p	r	t	a	n
e	d	i	a	n	s	w	e	r	l	h
e	y	c	w	f	e	a	s	t	f	m
p	s	h	w	s	h	i	l	o	h	x

Israel	none	worship
prayer	weep	loved
children	God	silent
Elkanah	travelled	answer
wives	Peninnah	Samuel
year	Shiloh	feast
Eli	stayed	special
rich	Hannah	drunk

The Gate of the Year

by Minnie Louise Haskins from the book
The Swallow, The Owl & the Sandpiper

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year
'Give me a light that I may tread
safely into the unknown.'

And he replied

'Go into the darkness and put your hand into the
hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than
a known way!'

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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.

CHURCH PRAYER MEETINGS

2nd & 4th

**Wednesday's
at 7:30 pm
In the Eden Room**

Hall Bookings

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

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](#)

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!

Pastoral Notes



**We recently offered
God's loving
compassion to the families
listed below, whom we
continue to remember in our
prayers**

Janet (Nettie) Brunton
Elizabeth Cameron

2020 Dunbar Parish Church Magazine

Magazine Month	Articles by Friday	Magazine out Sunday
FEBRUARY	17 Jan	26 Jan

Magazine Input:

Please send your items in by **Friday 17 January** for the **February Magazine** - out on 26 January or if you would like a regular E_Magazine

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

Weekly Notices: Contact Denise

DATE	SUNDAY DUTY TEAMS	FLOWERS in CHURCH	PRAYER BREAKFAST ROTA LEADERS
JAN 2020 5	JANUARY Ian Manning Denise Brunton Margaret Croft Lena Glass Joan Hancock May Low Lorna McLeod	Convenor: Barbara Leslie Mrs M Wright	Tim
12		Mrs M Low	Ian M
19		Mrs P Rimmer	Fraser
26		VACANT	Mike with Alison
FEB 2	FEBRUARY Barbara Leslie Ian Darling Sandy Darling Eric Easton Kath Ellis Jason Kay Alan Low	Convenor: Val Collin Mrs A Creedican	Jim with Catherine
9		Mr K Duncan for the late Mrs M Duncan	Gordon
16		Mrs D Brunton	Alison
23		VACANT	Margaret & Ian with Catherine

We have Flowers in Church vacancies on the following dates for 2020

26 Jan, 23 Feb, 29 March, 26 April, 14 & 21 June

Please speak to May Low if you would like to put flowers in the church on the vacant Sundays or for special anniversaries

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 **013688 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.

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

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

Sunday Bible reading rota

Sunday **prayer** rota

Prayer Breakfast leader rota

Prayer Breakfast catering rota

Article Series 9 (pt 18) LIFE through the SPIRIT part 3

Pray and read Romans 8:28-39 Victory in the Spirit!

If you were not too excited last time about the benefits of suffering, then maybe this will help? Verse 28 is one of the best known in the Bible. It points us to the very **purposes of God**. It is greatly helpful for believers to understand **God's good purposes** both for themselves and for others (past, present or future).

Firstly, we note that if we LOVE God, He is on our side in the **battles of life**; physical, mental, psychological and spiritual. Here the subject has been the Spirit of God working together with believers and interceding for all who yield to God for the best outcome according to **God's good purposes** (also v27). This is not blind hope or chance, but only God's ways and **purposes** are truly good.

Further we are to be conformed to the likeness of His Son v28. This means that by following God's ways we will become more and more like Christ.

Progressing through v29, 30 we see that **God's saving purpose** is for others to respond to the Gospel also. This is why He sent Jesus Christ into the world. We believers, are in a sense "the firstborn among many", as the family of God is vast. The result of believing is glory, on and into eternal glory v30.

Paul then bursts into a song of **triumph** v31-39. From v31-34 believers are assured that they will face no charges before God. Then in v35-39 we are assured that "Nothing will separate us from God and His perfect love".

God IS FOR believers v31, but caution here, He is not for misguided religious fanatics. In addition, God is also FOR sinners. They ought to turn to Him for the only solution to sin v32. We need God FOR us as there are opponents. It is poignant that if God is FOR us, the **victory** is already ours because God did not spare His precious perfect Son who made the ultimate sacrifice for ALL our sin.

This passage includes all believers - even those who are not believers yet, but definitely not those who do not want God's purposes in their lives, whether through unbelief, idolatry or rebellion.

God has freely given us His most precious, through grace, and everything of His blessings, "all [good] things", are available to true believers v32. We are in His safe hands v33. Our Saviour, Jesus Christ is the judge v34 and true believers are free from all condemnation. However, being a non-believer means condemnation (2 Corinthians 5:10).

So who or what can separate or conquer real Christians v35-39 - no one, nothing. Christ's love retains us in-Christ as His secure family for all eternity. Sufferings may come, hardships etc. but in-Christ we are kept for eternity. Christians are however, still mocked for their beliefs, bullied and martyred in this world, yet, the final outcome is **overwhelming victory** in Jesus Christ. **We are conquerors** no matter what life throws at us v37 because of God's love for us.

It becomes a **total victory**. Nothing can prevent it v38, 39. Who then would not want to become a believer and receive fully God's perfect love and purpose for their lives?

May 2020 be a year you come to know God's love more deeply Gordon

VICTORY (IN GOD'S PURPOSES)

There is only one answer to defeat and that is **victory**. *Winston Churchill*

We will be controlled either by Satan, self, a combination of these OR by God. Satan makes us slaves, self makes our lives futile but God brings **purpose** and **victory**.
Anon.

A **victorious** Christian life is not a superior brand of Christianity reserved for the elite of the elect. It is the normal Christian life for every true Christian.
Ronald Dunn

There can be no **victory** where there is no combat. *Richard Stibbes*

The first step on the way to **victory** is to recognize the enemy. *Corrie ten Boom*
God secures our allegiance, establishes our faith, nurtures a desire for holiness and has already won the **victory** for us all.
D. A. Carson

All a believer's present happiness, and all his future happiness springs from the eternal **purposes of God**, and the **victory is secured**. *Thomas Brooks*

The **victorious purposes of God** are His concealed promises.; The promises - His revealed **purposes**! *Philip Henry*

God is working out His eternal **purpose**, not only in spite of human and satanic opposition, but by means of them.
A. W. Pink

God's whole **purpose**, conceived in past eternity, being worked out for us in his people in history, to be completed in the glory to come, may be encapsulated in this single concept: God intends to make us like Christ. *John R. W. Stott*

God wants us to be **victors**, not victims; to grow, not grovel; to soar, not sink; to overcome, not to be overwhelmed.
William A. Ward

My 1st Book of questions and answers!

Section 11 The Fourth Commandment

76 What should we do on the Sabbath?
Answer:

We should worship God with his people and on our own, pray to him, praise him, read or listen to his Word and do good to other people.

'If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the Lord's holy day honourable, and if you honour it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, 14 then you will find your joy in the Lord, and I will cause you to ride in triumph on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.' For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
Isaiah 58:13-14

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Communion

The next Communion is:
11:00 am
Sunday 9th February

DPC Verse for 2020 **1 Corinthians 15:58**

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

Free Will Offering Envelopes and Gift Aid

If you would like to use FWO envelopes for your tithes or offerings, please speak to Denise Brunton on 862903 or email: dmburton@gmail.com
Gift aid forms are also available as well as Standing Order forms

HOLY DAYS...

1 January 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' (*Iēsoûs*), 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".

6 January Epiphany

On 6th January we celebrate Epiphany - the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. But who were these wise men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were called kings - by a church father, Tertullian.

Another church father, Origin, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the 8th century, the magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.

...What about the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6th century they had acquired names: Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine; and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE Jewish religious leader travelled to look for Him in Bethlehem. And it is only six miles down the road!

27 January Angela Merici - helping children in need

With international concern about the welfare of children, Angela is a good saint to remember as the year gets underway. Not only did she herself survive a harsh childhood, but she went on to dedicate her own life to helping children in need.

Angela was born near Lake Garda, in Desenzano, where she was orphaned as a young child. The 1480s were hardly an easy time for orphaned girls, but somehow Angela survived to grow into her teens, when she became a Franciscan tertiary. However miserable her own childhood, Angela chose to let it work for good in her life: she decided to devote her own life to the education of poor girls. Girls! This was a time when most of the *men* were illiterate!

But Angela was an audacious woman, and she had only just begun. She and some close companions set to work in the name of Christ, seeking out the poor families in their community. Angela taught the young girls all that she could, and prayed with them, assuring them that even they were precious in the eyes of their Creator.

All of which left the Roman Catholic Church badly baffled. What should they do with religious sisters who had taken no vows, still wore their lay clothes, and who, instead of walling themselves up in some nunnery to lead an enclosed life, spent their days in a decidedly mobile, highly visible fashion – out and about in community support?

It wasn't until 1565, some 25 years AFTER Angela's death, that the Church decided it approved of such work. By then the Ursuline nuns, as they were by then called, were going from strength to strength. They still flourish today, with some 2400 Ursuline Sisters in 27 provinces on six continents, and have been well described as 'the oldest and most considerable teaching order of women in the RC Church.'

It took nearly 300 years, but in 1807 the Roman Catholic Church decided that Angela, unveiled, unenclosed and unsupervised as she had been, had been a saint after all – and 'made' her one.

Coffee Plus

meeting every Friday in the church 10.30-12 noon

Come for a chat and a brew

...growing friendships...



The Guild

Meets on 21st January with
Rev Gordon Stevenson
2:30 pm in the Halls.
All welcome!

BIBLE BOOK CLUB

Meeting Friday 17 January
7:30 at Catherine's house

Book: *Identity Theft: reclaiming
the truth of who we are in Christ*

Melissa Kruger (ed)

Any questions please speak to
Lorna

Coffee Rota

Many thanks to Anne Creedican for volunteering to look after the coffee rota. Please see Anne if you have any queries about the rota or more importantly if you would like to become part of the team – we really could do with another three or four people. The only change in procedure is that the donations for coffee should be handed to the offering counters for banking – please continue to note the amounts in the note book. Thank you to all concerned for all your help during my stint!

Fiona Fleming

How to have a healthy and legal New Year *By David Pickup, a solicitor*

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities,
for there is no authority except that which God has established....
The authorities that exist have been established by God. *Romans 13:1*

Do you get into a muddle at times? Then here is an important New Year's Resolution for you: this year, have a calendar and record important dates such as when to renew your TV licence, insurances, road tax and MOT test. Yes, I know you get a reminder, but sometimes things can get missed.

Check if you have legal insurance and what it covers. If you have home contents insurance, it may cover any legal expenses. This might save you a lot of money if you need advice.

What would happen to you if you cannot make decisions for yourself or you die? You should also consider making or changing your will.

If you are thinking about having some work done, choose the contractor carefully. Ask neighbours or friends who they would recommend. Ask contractors for references. Check trade or other qualifications. Get estimates in writing with an agreed date for the work to start and when it will be completed.

Confirm important things in writing or email.

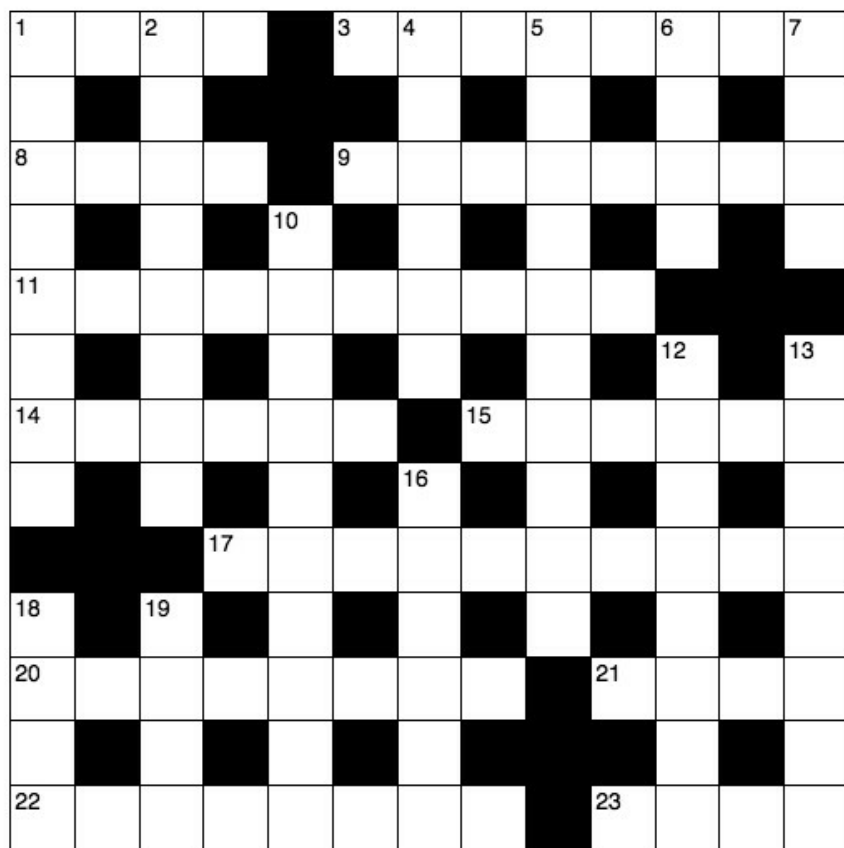
Think about security, not just locks on doors and windows but online security. What information about you is 'out there'? If you publish photos of your family, birthdays and when you go away on holiday, think again. Speak to someone who knows about being safe. Do not give out your personal information to anyone, if in doubt. If something sounds too good to be true... well, you know the rest!

Have a safe place to store stuff such as guarantees and receipts for important purchases. If you lost your wallet, house keys or phone what would you do?

If things are not right about where you live, ask questions and complain if necessary. Do something positive for the community. Consider doing a litter pick once a month, or even organise a mass litter pick. Attend local meetings of your parish or town council. Find out what needs doing. And help to do it!

Happy 2020!





JANUARY CROSSWORD

Answers in the
February magazine!
Answers to the December
Crossword

L	A	M	E		O	B	T	A	I	N	E	D
O		A				R		C		E		A
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K		N		P		A		O		R		E
B	U	R	D	E	N	S	O	M	E			
A		O		S		T		P		B		T
C	R	A	F	T	Y		P	L	E	A	S	E
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A		A		C		O				C		E
S	I	N	G	E	I	N	G			H	A	N

Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
- 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2–4) (8)
- 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
- 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
- 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
- 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
- 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
- 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
- 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
- 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
- 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
- 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
- 19 Pans (anag.) (4)

Parish Christmas leaflet delivery

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered to help in this immense task. Please continue to pray that the message you took out to the people of our town will one day bear fruit, even if we don't see it. It is God's work you are doing.

JANUARY 2020 CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Location
3	10:30-12:00	Coffee Plus...	Church
5	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Morning Service:	Church
7 to 9		Minister at Conference	Crieff
8	19:30	Prayer Meeting	Eden Room
10	12:30	Funeral	Houndwood
	10:30-12:00	Coffee Plus...	Church
12	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Room
	11:30	Morning Service: Churches together at Belhaven	Belhaven Church
14	10:30	Presbytery Prayer	Haddington
15	19:30	Home Group	Idle's
16	12:00	Cairn Leaders Meeting and Team Huddles	Edinburgh
	10:00	Presbytery Prayer	Haddington
17	10:30-12:00	Coffee Plus...	Church
	19:30	Bible Book Club	Catherine's
19	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Morning Service:	Church
21	14:30	Guild: Rev Gordon Stevenson	Halls
22	19:30	Prayer Meeting	Eden Room
24	10:30-12:00	Coffee Plus...	Church
26	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Morning Service:	Church
	18:00	Sunday Fellowship	Church
27	19:30	Kirk Session/Congregational Board Meeting	Eden Room
30	12 to 2	Ploughmans Lunch	Halls
31	10:30-12:00	Coffee Plus...	Church

2020

The Year of
Vision



*Sunday Fellowship:
26 January at 18:00 in the Church*

