

Calendar for March 2017

Date	Time	Event	Location
1	19:30	Music Practice	Church
2	All day	Pilot Conference	Glasgow
	19:00	Bible Book Group	TBC
5	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Communion Service - Luke 4:31-44 Demons and sickness?	Church
6	19:30	Kirk Session Meeting	Eden Room
7	19:00	Presbytery Review Team	Pencaitland
8	19:30	Prayer Meeting	Eden Room
9	09:00	Primary Assembly	Old Campus
	13:10	SU	Grammar sch
	19:00	Pilot Lite Team meeting at Alison's	Tory Wynd
10	10:45	Primary Assembly	New Campus
	19:30	Mike Endicott Public meeting discussing Healing at Ormiston	Parish Ch.
11	9:30 - 16:00	Day Conference (free - donations only - bring your lunch)	As above
12	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Service - Luke 5:1-11 The Team of disciples	Church
	18:30	Service - Angels 3 : Serving God : Hebrews 1:1-14	Church
14	9:30 - 16:00	Mission Leadership Conference	Edinburgh
15	9:30 - 16:00	Mission Leadership Conference	Edinburgh
	19:30	Home Group	Idle's
19	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Service - Luke 5:12-26 Jesus makes people WHOLE	Church
	12:30	Congregational Board meets:discuss / approve our Accounts	Eden Room
21	12:00	Mentor meeting	Manse
22	19:30	Prayer Meeting	Eden Room
23	10:00	Presbytery Business Committee	Musselburgh
24	19:30	Sweet Sorrows concert	Church
25	18:30	Earth Hour Service - Angels 4 Jesus Power : Mark 5:1-20	Halls
26	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Service - Luke 5:27-39 Levi and New Wine (Mother's Day)	Church
	12:30	Annual Stated Meeting	Church
27	19:30	Congregational Board Meeting	Eden Room
28	09:10	Primary School Easter Service 1	Church
29	09:10	Primary School Easter Service 2	Church
	18:00	Pilot Lite Regional Meeting	Loanhead Ch
30	12 to 2	Ploughman's Lunch	Halls

Dunbar Parish Church

Minister

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MAGAZINE



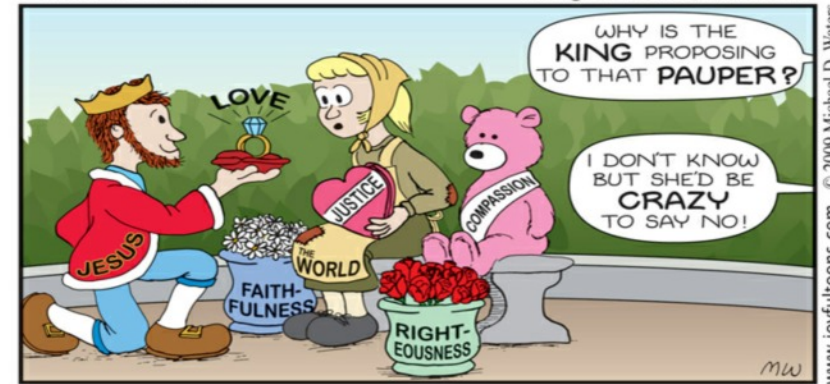
Dunbar Parish Church is a charity registered in Scotland

No: SC000455

March 2017

PROPOSAL

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the LORD.
- HOSEA 2: 19-20 NIV

BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU; AND YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES BOTH IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND EVEN TO THE REMOTEST PART OF THE EARTH. Acts 1:8

Do you spread the gospel? Do you witness positively for Jesus? Have you accepted God's proposal? Are you sharing it with others?

Sunday & Special SERVICES		READERS	PRAYERS
5th 11:00	Luke 4:31-44 Demons and sickness? (Communion)	Joan Hancock	Catherine Hodgson
12th 11:00	Luke 5:1-11 The Team of disciples	May Low	Rachel Mylne
18:30	OD – Angels Series 3 (Jesus superiority over Angels) Serving God : Hebrews 1:1-14		
19th 11:00	Luke 5:12-26 Jesus makes people WHOLE	Margaret MacDonald	Mike Bigden
25th 18:30	Earth Hour OD – Angels Series 4 (Jesus Power) Demons : Mark 5:1-20		
26th 11:00	Luke 5:27-39 Levi and New Wine (Mother's Day)	Alison Mitchell	Youth

Ministers Letter **March** 2017: Life Testimony of our God

Kings and people in government decreeing good things. Wouldn't that be something to celebrate? Sorry if I am building up your hopes, but I am thinking about King Darius' decree. What a powerful witness Daniel was before him. You can read about it in my monthly article.

Someone commented on the powerful video following last weeks preaching. They said "what a challenge to us all - what are we disciples of Jesus or consumers of religion?"

We are studying the Gospel of Luke and the topic of angels at this time. This challenging journey certainly promotes being disciples who testify of our incredible powerful God.

We need to get away from thinking that it was all right for this Bible character, but I am not so important. I don't believe God would show us characters who have no relevance for us. We can learn much from those who are like us as well as those who are not. Other than Jesus, all the other characters were imperfect, just like we are. Sure some of their flaws we won't have, but some we will have.

I love the words in Psalm 139:13-16 : ***For you (God) formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven. You saw my unformed substance; in your book is written, every one of the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.***

Yes we are all uniquely designed, planned and made by God for a reason, warts and all. Yet it is only when we discover the absolute reality of God in our lives that we experience ***life in all its fullness*** John 10:10

We might find some satisfaction from our talents. However, once we set out each day amazed at God's ***new mercies every day*** (Lamentations 3:22, 23), with energy and purpose - only then can we call it living. God enables us to witness and testify of this colour enriched life - it sure beats the shades of black and grey that we used to know.

People start to notice that we are alive, and not living as if we were on a mouse-wheel, going round and round or nowhere.

What God wants of us is altogether much more enterprising. Like those very significant characters in the Bible, we can be people of great **influence** for generations to come. Even if you doubt me - why not make sure you give yourself a real chance - join us as we learn about our Almighty God, the Spirit's power and your Saviour who enlists us to **influence** others for good and real prosperity for ever and ever.

Your Preacher and Teacher of God's Holy Word Gordon

Miss_ion Matters (from Helen, Miss_ionary correspondent)

Continuing to inform your prayers with information from the Open Doors World Watch List and Operation World. Please pray for faithful believers in these challenging situations.

#2 Iraq

Leader: President Fuad Masum

Government: Parliamentary democracy

Population: 38.65 million

(230,000 Christians)

Main Religion: Islam

Source of Persecution: Islamic extremism

Area: 438,317 sq kms



Fertile plains of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers; high mountains to the north and Syrian desert in southwest. Site of the ancient Sumerian, Assyrian and Babylonian Empires.

Iraq was once home to one of the largest Christian communities in the Middle East; today, the church in Iraq is in danger of disappearing completely.

Abraham was from the region we now call Iraq. Mosul is the current name for the city of Nineveh, described in the book of Jonah. In the 1990s, Iraq was home to 1.2 million Christians. The Church in Iraq is now fragmented – denominationally, ethnically and politically, despite the great opposition all Christians face. Many public gatherings are forbidden. Churches have been demolished. Punishment for breaking the strict Sharia laws range from cutting off hands to public executions. Compassionate ministry and witness to Jesus by some Christians *to all in need* - regardless of faith group - sees many Muslims profoundly touched by the peace, love and hope Christ offers.

Please pray:

- that God strengthens Christians who have faced abduction, attacks or sexual assault by militants; ask that God changes the hard hearts of aggressors.
- for Christian workers supporting thousands of displaced families.
- for safety and endurance of secret believers. They are often isolated in their communities.

Jesus said "Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples - when they see the love you have for each other." John 13:33, 34

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.

Bible Book Club

Meeting **2nd March**

Meetings will be held at various venues always check with Emma/Lorna

We are looking at
The Shack with study guidelines

Any questions please call
Emma Weaver 01368 459082

Easter Films

Sunday April 9th - *The Passion of the Christ* (18)

Sunday April 16th - *Risen* (12)

Snacks from 6:45 - Films start at 7 pm prompt.

Cost £2 adults, youth £1



COFFEE MORNING



18 MARCH

In the Halls

10-12

PLEASE PRAY...

For your office bearers and all who lead and teach in Your Church here. Pray for more resources to share the load and for all those we can aid in Christ's work.

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

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

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.
Isaiah 43:19

DATE	SUNDAY DUTY TEAMS	FLOWERS in CHURCH	CLEANING ROTA (U) = upstairs (D) = downstairs
March 5	March Moyra Wright Moira Anthony Lindsey Barley Val Collin Will Collin Christine Idle Jonathan Idle	March Convenor: Anne Creedican Mrs F Martin	6 Vacant (U) Margaret & Ian Coltart (D)
12		Mrs M Affleck	13 Gill Phillip & Alistair Matthews (U) Fiona Fleming & Barbara Leslie (D)
19		Mrs M Low	20 Jenny & Ian Manning (U) Laura Pulner & Laura Girvan (D)
26		Mrs S McKenzie	27 Sandy & Ian Darling (U) Moyra Wright & Anne Creedican (D)
April 2	April Ian Manning Denise Brunton Margaret Croft Ian Hastie Lena Glass May Low Lorna McLeod Derek MacDonald Margaret MacDonald	April Convenor: Kath Ellis Mrs K Ellis	3 Jenny & Jason Kay(U) Gordon & Gail Stevenson (D)
9		Mrs M Ramage	10 Jonathan & Christine Idle (U) Val & Will Collin(D)
16		VACANT	17 Margaret & Derek MacDonald (U) Lorna McLeod & Margaret Croft (D)
23		Mrs M Wirght	24 Margaret & Ian Coltart (U) Vacant (D)
30		Mrs J Gullan	1 Fiona Fleming & Barbara Leslie (U) Gill Phillip & Alistair Matthews (D)

If you would like to put flowers in the Church please speak with **May Low**. You can put flowers into the Church for an **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 8 (pt 10) "Godly Influence and justice"

Please read *Daniel 6:19-28*. Serving the real God.

We were left last time with Darius the King struggling to sleep after being duped into sending his top man Daniel into the lions' den. v19 tells us, "at first light", he got up and rushed down to see if Daniel had survived. It must have been highly unlikely, but Daniel was clearly God's man. Anguish in the king's voice and his words in v20 highlight this as he calls out in hope, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, **whom you serve continually**, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

Can we be described as serving God continually? (Not just on some Sundays) Can we learn something from Darius' little faith in our God?

No doubt relief would well up when Daniel answers the king, "O King live for ever! My God **sent an angel**, and he shut the mouths of the lions." v21, 22. Daniel is not bitter towards the king; quite the opposite. He knows the king was not behind the evil scheme. So he sincerely wishes that the king will prosper. Then he explains how God sent a **guardian angel** to protect him. Back in chapter 3:28 an angel was with Daniel and his friends in the fiery furnace also.

Daniel clearly declares that justice has been done, and "he is innocent". Quickly the king orders that he be brought out, and when examined, had no injuries whatsoever v23. The explanation tells us *because he trusted in God*. That is seriously great faith. What were his chances? The odds are always in the favour of those who honour God.

Darius makes another command. Bring the perpetrators, along with their entire families and throw them into the lions' den v24. The lions are not restrained this time. I suspect we might find it difficult to see children and wives face the same judgment as these men? But bear in mind this was a kingdom ruled by a pagan king and it was a Persian custom to do such a thing. There would be a logic behind this. Probably partly to ensure that no children grew up who would attempt some sort of retribution.

Nevertheless Darius writes a very brilliant decree following this. In v25 it goes out to everyone, and behind it is a very similar desire for their prosperity, just as Daniel had wished on him. He then simply says how this could happen, by fearing and having reverence for the One true God. (Daniel's God) v26. Darius proclaims that Daniel's God is alive, unlike pagan gods, and that He is sovereign and eternal. In v27 he goes on to say that God saves His children and does miracles, on earth as well as in the heavenly realms. The evidence is there before witnesses; Daniel rescued from hungry lions with God's intervention by sending a guardian angel. As an aside, we are looking at the topic of **angels** at our evening services each fortnight - why not join us for that?

Finally v28, Daniel prospers greatly throughout the reigns of Darius and later on Cyrus. One word for me captures an important lesson in this chapter. That word is **influence**.

People can **influence** others for good or for evil. Daniel's life and witness **influence** an entire kingdom for good - He is a forerunner to Jesus Christ, whose **influence** has brought a new eternal kingdom for the world. Serving our God Gordon.

My 1st Book of questions and answers!

Section 5 - Salvation

49. Did Jesus commit any sin?

Answer: No. He obeyed God perfectly always.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.

Hebrews 4:15

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Opt - ins : Serving

There are many rota's you can serve on among us.

Add your name where you are **gifted to serve**.

Coffee/Tea rota

Cleaning rota

Sunday Bible reading rota

Sunday prayer rota

Film night catering rota

Prayer Breakfast leader rota

Prayer Breakfast catering rota

DPC Verse for 2017

The LORD says, I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you Psalm 32:8

Coming Soon

March 1st – beginning of Lent

March 3rd – World Day of prayer

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

CLEANING ROTA



We are still desperately looking for more help with the cleaning of the Church. If you are able to help could you please speak to Sandy Darling.

The more folk on the rota, the less number of times in the year you would take a turn!

Hall Bookings

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

Prayer Breakfast Rota

5 Mar - Margaret & Derek MacDonald
12 Mar - Jim Thompson
19 Mar - Youth
26 Mar - Laura & Michael Veitch
2 April - Rachel & Michael Mylne
9 April - Alison Mitchell
16 April - Ian & Jenny Manning
23 April - Margaret & Ian Coltart
30 April - Catherine Hodgson

HOME GROUPS

Wednesday evenings 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.

CHURCH PRAYER MEETINGS

2nd & 4th Wednesday's at
7:30 pm In the Eden Room

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

Martin Luther King JR

PASTORAL TEAM

Do you know someone who could use
some pastoral help?

Perhaps someone infirm, lonely, or
bereaved of a loved one? Maybe an
illness or operation or other suffering
has knocked you a bit? Any member or
adherent who is interested contact
Moyra Wright (tel. 863316) or Mike
Bigden (tel. 865385) directly or via any
Church member.

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

Magazine Input:

Please send your items in by
Friday 17 March for April
Magazine - out on 26th March, or
if you would like a regular
E_Magazine
Tel: 862903 Denise or email:
dmburton@gmail.com

Weekly Notices: Contact Denise

What is Pilot Lite all about?

Our commission as Christians -
share our faith with others.

*Churches that are not reaching out -
are closing.*

So what are we doing about it?

We believe that the
purpose of our church is to:

Help everyone move on in their faith

*Work with our local community and
the wider world*

*Provide opportunities to worship
in different ways*

'I want to
worship God
with other
christians'.

'I have always
gone to church
on Sunday's.

'I am on duty
so I need to
be there'.

'I want to share
my faith with
others in the
community'.

**Why do
you
come to
church?**

'I am getting
married soon
so feel I should
attend'.

'I want to learn
more about
my faith'.

Pilot Lite hopes to challenge us, as a church, to look at:

- what we are currently doing to share our faith with others;
- how effective it is; and
- how we can improve what we are doing.



What can we do as a church to:

- help meet the needs of the local community;
- worship in ways that are meaningful for everyone; and
- help us all grow in our faith, irrespective of our age?

Some ideas so far :

Contact families in new homes; Take active part in Civic Week; Provide information service for families in our community..

We would like to ask all church groups to complete a questionnaire to help us gather ideas BUT **we also need YOU to share your thoughts**. Talk to a member of the Pilot Lite group OR send an email to pilotlitedpc@gmail.com

Pilot Lite group - Gordon Stevenson, Martyn Cox, Mike Bigden, Catherine Hodgson, Jonathan Idle, Ian Manning, Sarah Turner, John and Catherine Muirhead, Shiona Liddle, Mike Adams, Alison Mitchell

INFLUENCE

Every life is a profession of faith, and exercises an inevitable and silent **influence!** *Henri Amiel*

A crooked stick will have a crooked shadow. *Anon.*

When I think of those who have **influenced** my life the most, I think not of the great, but of the good. *John Knox*

The tiniest post office can bear a letter that may wreck or bless a nation. And the simplest life can relay blessing that may rock a continent towards God. Godly **influence** is required. *Vance Havner*

A holy life will produce the **deepest impression.** Lighthouses blow no horns; they only shine. *D. L. Moody*

One live coal may set a whole stack on fire. *John Trapp*

Your **influence** is negative or positive, never neutral. *Henrietta Mears*

We are called to be salt and light. Flavoursome and uplifting, bright and bearers of real hope. We are movers, shakers and transformers. Our **influence** must bring Jesus to others and others to Jesus. *Gordon Stevenson*

Grace is the beauty of form under the **influence** of freedom. *Friedrich Schiller*

"For God's children, worship is an essential **influence** for spiritual well-being, just as food and water and staying active are to our physical health."
Dr. S. A. Gammon

Starters for Sunday!

Start Sunday morning with a nice breakfast, coffee or tea, in good company. 9:30 in the Eden room. We chat over breakfast, then have a short time of reflection and prayer prior to worship at 11:00.

No need to worry, you can just sit back and listen or join in. If you are able to help in leading or catering speak to Michael Veitch or email: michaelgveitch@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

Communion

In order to maintain accurate records of our Communicants, the Kirk Session is encouraging the congregation to hand in their Communion cards in the tray provided in the narthex. If you do not have one, can you please take one and place in the tray, or fill in the sign-in sheet at the table. The next Communion is

Sunday

5 March 2017

Thank you for your co-operation.

ECO SUGGESTIONS MARCH

Every year for the past 10 years, the WWF have been prevailing upon us to switch off all our lights for Earth Hour. This year on Saturday 25th March at 8.30pm you can join hundreds of millions of people across the world in a momentous show of support to look after the world's resource. Last year 6 million people took part in the UK alone, joining with people from over 175 countries. You can get involved in a variety of ways from simply switching off all your lights while you sit in front of the telly to finding something imaginative to do by candlelight. You can also do it "twice" if you switch off all your lights at home and come to the Earth Hour Evening Service which is slightly earlier to allow the youngsters to attend, and means you can still do Earth Hour at 8.30pm when you get home. The title for Gordon's talk that evening is very apt - Jesus' Power! Whatever you do to mark Earth Hour, be sure and register at

<http://www.wwf.org.uk/earthhour>

so your involvement can be recorded.



ANNUAL STATED MEETING

26th March after the Sunday service

Reports to Christine Idle
by 19th March

The Sweet Sorrows
Sammy and Kylie Horner

Are booked to bring their incredible music
To Dunbar Parish Church
They will share stories
About their ministries -
Music and good works for Christ!
24th March 7:30 pm

Key Amnesty

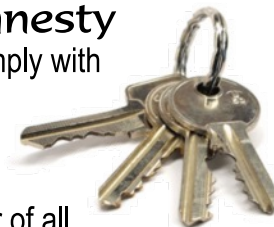
In order to comply with our insurance provision we are required to have a register of all keyholders.

Can anyone with a key to either the Church or Halls advise the minister, or Jason Kay

(jasonkay051975@gmail.com)

in order that you can be added to the list of keyholders. Alternatively, if you have a key which is no longer needed, these can be surrendered in the Prayer Box in the Narthex.

Many thanks
Property Committee





ECO TEAM NEWS

As promised last month, we now have the results of the poll on the printed Sunday Order of Service.

Only one person said they didn't need all the things that were in the weekly sheet. Every other person was very positive and appreciative of it. Some liked some things more than others, but no-one wanted the sheet to stop.

We have also been monitoring the uptake of the weekly sheets. Many weeks they have all gone; some weeks we even had to print more via the photo copier. Many people take them away, but some use them during the service and leave them at the end.

So the printed Sunday Order of Service is here to stay, and well worth the paper and ink used to produce it.

As an Eco-congregation we will be monitoring other areas of potential wastage and taking steps to reduce our carbon footprint where we deem it to be appropriate.

I also promised you details of an interesting website.

<http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org>

There are a lot of common sense suggestions on this website, and also some up to the minute pieces. You can sign up to receive their monthly newsletter which has news about their activities, and interesting stories about environmental issues.

2017 Dunbar Parish Church Magazines		
Magazine month	Articles by Friday	Magazine out on Sunday
APRIL	17-Mar	26-Mar
MAY	21-Apr	30-Apr
JUNE	19-May	28-May
JULY & AUGUST	No magazine	
SEPTEMBER	18-Aug	27-Aug
OCTOBER	15-Sep	24-Sep
NOVEMBER	20-Oct	29-Oct
DECEMBER	17-Nov	26-Nov

Teen Page - Does God know you?

The latest Hollywood offering to hit our screens is "20th Century Women". It's stars are currently doing the usual marketing rounds on TV and radio shows. As I was half-heartedly watching, not paying particular notice, my attention was suddenly grabbed. The basic story line is set in California, 1979. Dorothea Fields is a determined single mother in her mid-50s who is raising her adolescent son, Jamie, at a moment brimming with cultural change and rebellion. Dorothea enlists the help of two younger women in her quest. The story examines the relationship and struggles of family life. I'll confess, it's not my usual viewing, no-one is murdered in the first few minutes and there's not a single car chase. What caught my attention was a line delivered by the mother, played by Annette Benning. She said something similar to (don't quote me): "*You never know your children in the way others do*"

At a time in my life where my children have grown up and left home and as my parents become older and increasingly frail, this struck a chord with me. As young folk, do you really know your parents? You'll know them only as parents. I'll never know my parents as care-free teenagers, I'll never see my Dad, in his physical prime, on the football pitch or running track, I'll never see my Mum with her siblings or friends in nursing college. Similarly, I only know my children just as that. I don't know how they are in front of their friends or with their partners. When you think about it, we really don't know those who are closest to us at all. So what does this mean to us as God's children? When we give our lives to Jesus, we strive to know him more each day. As we grow in our faith, read God's word, worship, pray and have fellowship with other believers, we discover more about our Saviour and his amazing love for us. So, conversely, does God get to know us more each day? As our heavenly father, will he not know whole areas and periods of our lives? God knows us better than we know ourselves.

In Psalm 139, the Psalmist, David, gives us a glimpse of how God knows us.
LORD, you have examined me and know all about me. ² You know when I sit down and when I get up. You know my thoughts before I think them. ³ You know where I go and where I lie down. You know everything I do. ⁴ LORD, even before I say a word, you already know it. ⁵ You are all around me—in front and in back—and have put your hand on me. ⁶ Your knowledge is amazing to me; it is more than I can understand. ⁷ Where can I go to get away from your Spirit? Where can I run from you? ⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there. If I lie down in the grave, you are there. ⁹ If I rise with the sun in the east and settle in the west beyond the sea, ¹⁰ even there you would guide me. With your right hand you would hold me. ¹¹ I could say, "The darkness will hide me. Let the light around me turn into night." ¹² But even the darkness is not dark to you. The night is as light as the day; darkness and light are the same to you. ¹³ You made my whole being; you formed me in my mother's body. ¹⁴ I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way. What you have done is wonderful. I know this very well. ¹⁵ You saw my bones being formed as I took shape in my mother's body. When I was put together there, ¹⁶ you saw my body as it was formed. All the days planned for me were written in your book before I was one day old. ¹⁷ God, your thoughts are precious to me. They are so many! ¹⁸ If I could count them, they would be more than all the grains of ...

..sand. When I wake up, I am still with you.

We may never properly know those around us and probably wouldn't want to, as there are whole areas of our lives and character that we would not be proud of and would not want our loved ones to know. Thankfully, God is different. He does know us. He knows everything about us. He knows our weaknesses, he knows our failures, he sees our temper and hears our words, he sees our pride and vanity and he hears our silence when we should speak out. So, knowing us as he does, what does he do? We read in Hebrews 8:12, "their **sins** and their lawless deeds I will **remember no more**." God chooses to forget our sins, through Jesus they can be pardoned. Despite knowing everything about us, he chooses to love us!!

As some of you are on the verge of leaving home or facing a seemingly uncertain future, spend some time thinking about each verse in Psalm 139 and how you can come to a deeper knowledge of God.

Blessings, Derek

Encounter

A national prayer event for young people P7 -S6



- Aim ? To encounter God in prayer
To motivate and equip towards a lifestyle of prayer
To create opportunities to pray - alone, with others, out loud, creatively
To hear God and increase faith through Bible engagement, worship and testimony of answered prayer
- When ? Sunday March 12th 3pm - 8pm Where ? Grangemouth
- Costs? £5 (including dinner)

Booking is essential and transport can be organised. Speak to Helen if you are interested in going



For 12-18 year olds

What ? An interactive day to ask big questions about God and the Christian faith·
"How can we know God exists?" "Why does God allow suffering?"
"Hasn't science disproved God?"

Saturday 4th March 10am – 5pm in Central Hall, Tollcross £8 (www.rebootglobal.org)

REBOOT is a global event run by the Zacharias Trust. A team of world-class apologists provide the opportunity to ask these types of questions, because their vision is for young people to have confidence in what they believe in, and to be given the chance to be honest about the doubts they may have with their faith.

SU East and Midlothian Weekend

For P7-S6

What? FUN! including Foxlake, beach games, archery, and time to explore the Bible together and meet new friends at Scoughall **17th-19th March** £52

Bookings can be made online at www.suholidays.org.uk



ALPHA COURSE will start Tuesday 21st March 2017 from 7 pm to 9.30 pm until June, with a break over Easter. The venue will be the Eden Room.

Alpha is the best known and most effective course to introduce people to Christianity. **My Greatest Adventure**, 'Bear's Story', is available to watch at <http://alpha.org/>

WHO WILL YOU INVITE? What about that friend who has big questions to answer? Can you accompany them?

Please register in advance. More details from:

church web site www.dunbarparishchurch.org/alpha-course

You can register by e-mail alphadunbar2016@gmail.com or speak to Martyn Cox.

Alpha can truly benefit everyone. Many Atheists, Agnostics and Searchers find answers through it.

"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

Attending the course may change you.....for ever.....

