

Calendar for May 2015			
Date	Time	Event	Location
3	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Church
	11:00	<b>Service: Hebrews 1:1-4</b> Intro Son v Angels	<b>Church</b>
	18:30	Delta	Halls
6	19:30	Home Group	Idle's
7	19:30	Bible Book Club	Hodgson's
8	07:30	YPHG	Veitch's
9	19:30	Dunbar Choral Concert	Church
10	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Church
	11:00	<b>Service: 1st Chronicles 4:9-10</b> Favour	<b>Church</b>
	18:30	Open Door: Drink and Dance: John 2:3-10	Church
11	19:30	Board Meeting	Eden Room
17	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Church
	11:00	<b>Service: Guest Preacher</b>	Church
	18:30	Delta	Halls
18	19:30	<b>Pastoral Group Review</b>	Church
20	19:30	Home Group	Idle's
22	19:00	YPHG	Hodgson's
	19:00	Rwanda Film Night	Eden Room
24	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Church
	11:00	<b>Service: Hebrews 1:5-9</b> Who is HE?	<b>Church</b>
	18:30	Arise Gathering: Habakkuk 1:5-11, Psalm 73:3-12	Church
26	09:00	Primary Assembly - John Muir Campus	
	19:30	Holiday Club Meeting	Methodist ch.
27	19:30	Accord	Eden Room
28	12-2	Ploughmans' Lunch	Halls
29	11:00	Primary Assembly - Lochend Campus	
31	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Church
	11:00	<b>Service: Hebrews 1:10-14</b> He lasts: none compare	<b>Church</b>
	18:30	Delta	Halls

# Dunbar Parish Church

Minister

Rev Gordon Stevenson

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www.dunbarparishchurch.org

## MAGAZINE



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May 2015

### TIGHT GRIP

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.  
— HEBREWS 10:23 NIV

What do we place our confidence in? Will it endure to the end?

Sunday & Special SERVICES during May		READERS IN May	PRAYERS IN May
3rd	11:00 <b>Service - Hebrews 1:1-4</b> Intro. Son v Angels	Barbara Leslie	Catherine Hodgson
10th	11:00 <b>Service</b> : 1st Chronicles 4:9-10 Favour 18:30 Open Door - Drink and Dance :John 2:3-10	Ian Hastie	Rachel Mylne
17th	11:00 <b>Service</b> Guest Preacher	Elaine O'Brien	Rob Barley
24th	11:00 <b>Service</b> - Hebrews 1:5-9 Who is HE? 18:30 Arise Gathering - Habakkuk 1:5-11, Psalm 73:3-12	Jim Thompson	Martyn Cox
31st	11:00 <b>Service</b> Hebrews 1:10-14 He lasts: none compare	Jason Kay	Youth

## Ministers Letter May 2015 : Gospel means the best News!

Words can get reworked to take on a very different meaning from time to time. When we were last in the USA, someone said that 14 was such an *awesome* age, and many other things were described as *awesome*, which to us were simply good or average. A few years back wicked adapted from being very evil to also mean incredibly cool for some folk.

The word **gospel** which signifies the truth and the most incredible news for all people, for many today is seen as religious rubbish, and *false*. Sadly though people form their opinions without examining the evidence, simply by taking on the views of others who have no comprehension of the mysteries contained within the scriptures or by only listening to the propaganda proclaimed from one side of the argument.

In the Bible we learn that the devil is called the Father of lies and that he loves to deceive. A song I listen to often, No One Believes In Me Anymore, speaks of how *he* propagates ideas our sinful human nature loves to hear. His main goal is to draw us away from the one true God and the **gospel** truth, to become followers of his vile way instead.

So what is this **gospel** that the devil wants to keep people from? It is the teaching and revelation of the spiritual mysteries of God. It is the **Good News** revealed for the salvation of lost sinners i.e. all human beings, though we all have a choice. It is of course the Church's mission to preach and teach it to save many from damnation.

In every generation there is a challenge for God's people to discover the deep things of God and to hand them on to subsequent generations for the building up of God's kingdom on earth.

It is an great task, an uphill struggle and a swimming against the tide, but it is the task of every true believer. It is not enough to believe it, we have to live it out. We have to be witnesses to the truth, revealed to us.

Another word which has lost some of its power to many is *promise*. We fallible humans don't always keep our promise or word. The LORD God is not like that. His word is part of His identity. His word is His bond. He always keeps His promises. He has made hundreds of them for us as part of His revelation of who He is, and they reveal what He offers us.

Many sadly trust their eternal future to luck or lies they have bought into, hook, line and sinker. We will continue to be ambassadors of this **gospel** which is actually *awesome*, like the God who made each one of us, and all things with the perfect purpose He designed. Your help is valued  
*Fellow custodian of the life saving truth of the one true gospel Gordon*

## Plans : Coming Soon

- **Board Meeting** 11th May 7:30 Eden Room.
- **Rwanda Film night** - 22<sup>nd</sup> May Eden Room.
- **Accord** on 27<sup>th</sup> May 7:30 pm Eden
- **June Jamboree** 13<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm
- **Kirk Session** meets on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30
- **Spiritual Retreat Service** TBA

Lord, I will follow You, **but**" Luke 9:61

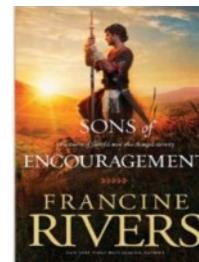
How many of us do just that? Disciples set aside everything and follow, because He is THE WAY! Disciples hear, obey and follow *or fall away*.

### Bible Book Club

Usually on 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in the month

Next meeting is on 7<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30 p.m.

Meetings will be held at various venues.



### CONTINUING A NEW BOOK:

*Sons of Encouragement* by Francine Rivers  
ISBN: 1414348169 also available on Kindle

We are exploring the lives of 5 Biblical men who stood behind faith heroes and quietly changed eternity: Aaron, Caleb, Jonathan, Amos & Silas. They all answered God's call to serve without recognition or fame and gave everything, knowing their reward might not come until the next life.

This is another 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.

## 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 to get us ready for worship at 11:00. No need to worried you can just sit back and listen or join in. If you are able to help in leading or catering on either on 01368 459082 / 07980 492299 (Mike) or email: [mike28atdpc@gmail.com](mailto:mike28atdpc@gmail.com) for more information.

## Homegroups

Relaxed, informal, a great way to get to know the bible a bit better and to build good friendships. You are welcome anytime.

Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

### A Life worth living

Martyn Cox

[martyncox43@googlemail.com](mailto:martyncox43@googlemail.com)

Wednesday evenings at 7.30 p.m.

Contact *Ian /Jenny Manning*

2 Temple Mains Cottages,  
Innerwick 01368 840334

*Jonathan and Christine Idle*

5 Salisbury Walk, Dunbar  
01368 860922

See Calendar for dates

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything, and may provide in abundance for every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

## GOSPEL

The one who does not know the glory in the **gospel** lacks comprehension of the plague of sin within. *J. C. Ryle*

The revelation of the **gospel** is to a world that is already under indictment for its universal rejection of God. *R. C. Sproul*

The heart of the **gospel** is redemption, and the essence of redemption is the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ. *Spurgeon*

There are two things to do with the **gospel** - believe it and live it out. *Susannah Wesley*

The world has many religions; but has only one **gospel**.  
*George Owen*

God and His truth cannot be changed; the **gospel** is not negotiable. *John Marshall*

The **gospel** is not so much a miracle as a marvel, and every line is suffused with wonder. *(The blind can see) Martin Luther*

The success of the **gospel** exasperates its enemies. *M Henry*

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<br>Would welcome extra committed personnel. |
| 5. Church lead Artist              | 13. Tea/Coffee rota  |
| 6. Mission Director - <b>NEW</b>   | PRAY that these roles will be filled to grow Christ's Church         |
| 7. Cleaners for the Church (4)     |  |
| 8. Prayer warriors                 |  |

## Miss \_ ion Matters (Helen Cox, Miss\_ion\_ary Correspondent)

This month I am highlighting **the work of MAF - the Mission Aviation Fellowship**. MAF was founded at the end of WW2 when 3 Christian pilots began to meet to pray, study the Bible and discuss missionary aviation.

The 1<sup>st</sup> plane was purchased in 1946 and the 1<sup>st</sup> mission a remote area of Mexican jungle. MAF delivers help to the suffering, hope to the isolated, relief to those in crisis and Jesus to the lost, in every corner of the world. Flying overcome the barriers of remoteness with a global fleet of over 140 aircraft, currently flying in over 30 countries. They work with many partner organisations, such as Christian Aid, Compassion and Tearfund, who would be unable to reach the people they serve without MAF. Often MAF planes are the only safe and reliable means of transport for overseas Christian workers.

MAF provides lifeline services to suffering peoples around the world, to inaccessible isolated communities, due to natural disaster, war or economic crisis etc. MAF sends pastor-pilots not just delivering essential practical help, but physical healing and spiritual hope too.

- **Practical help** comes in the form of water, food, education supplies, building materials and equipment.
- **Physical healing** involves flying seriously ill and injured people to receive treatment quickly, delivering medical supplies and doctors.
- **Spiritual hope** includes distribution of the Bible, transporting Christian workers safely in and out of the field and showing the love of Jesus through the actions of the organisation and its workers.

Today MAF also provides communication services in the form of HF/VHF radio and VSAT (high speed internet via broadband satellite technology). This enables remote communities and workers to have email, fax and voice communication where it would otherwise be impossible.

**Please pray for the work of MAF.** This week we are asked to pray for 3 new families arriving to work in the Democratic Republic of Congo and medical aid being delivered to flood hit regions of Mozambique. Ask for God to provide protection for MAF staff, and that they will have opportunities for transformational conversations with the people they serve. Check out 'prayer connection' their website [www.maf.org](http://www.maf.org) for more up to date news.

**Jesus said, "Whoever takes a drink of the water that I will give shall not be thirsty anymore. But the water that I will give shall become a spring of water welling up, flowing, bubbling continually for eternal life". John 4 v 13-14**

## Things Aren't Always What They Seem

Two travelling angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude and refused to let the angels stay in the mansion's guest room. Instead, the angels were given a space in the cold basement. As they made their bedroom on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it. When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied.... "Things aren't always what they seem."

The next night the pair came to rest at the house of a very poor, but very hospitable farmer and his wife. After sharing what little food they had, the couple let the angels sleep in their bed where they could have a good nights' rest. When the sun came up the next morning the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears. Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income, lay dead in the field.

The younger angel was infuriated and asked the older angel "How could you have let this happen!? The first man had everything, yet you helped him," she accused. "The second family had so little, but was willing to share everything and you let their cow die."

"Things aren't always what they seem," the older angel replied. "When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall. Since the owner was so obsessed with greed and unwilling to share his good fortune, I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it. Then last night as we slept in the farmers bed, the angel of death came for his wife. I gave her the cow instead. "Things aren't always what they seem."

Sometimes this is exactly what happens when things don't turn out the way you think they should. If you have faith, you just need to trust that every outcome is always to your advantage. You might not know it until some time later. "Things aren't always what they seem."

Read more: <http://www.inspirationalarchive.com/1698/things-arent-always-what-they-seem/#ixzz3YAc3JB00>

DATE	SUNDAY DUTY TEAMS	FLOWERS in CHURCH	CLEANING ROTA (U) = upstairs (D) = downstairs
May 3	<b>May</b> Jason Kay Ian Darling Eric Easton Kath Ellis Barbara Leslie Alan Low Tom Manson	<b>May Convener:</b> Sarah McKenzie Mrs J Gullan	May 4 Sandy & Ian Darling ((U) Anne Creedican (D)
10		Mrs V Collin	11 Jenny & Jason Kay (U) Gordon & Gail Stevenson (D)
17		Mrs A Creedican	18 Jonathan & Christine Idle (U) Val & Will Collin (D)
24		Mrs M Cowan	25 Margaret & Derek MacDonald (U) Lorna McLeod & Margaret Croft (D)
31		Vacant	<b>June 1</b> Margaret & Ian Coltart (U) Ian & Morag Hastie (D)
June 7	<b>June</b> Jonathan Idle Moira Anthony Lindsay Barley Rob Barley Will Collin Christine Idle Elsie Johnston Moyra Wright	<b>June Convener:</b> Moyra Wright Mrs D Brunton	<b>June</b> 8 Fiona Fleming & Barbara Leslie (U) Lorraine & Steve Gilchrist (D)
14		Mrs L Glass	15 Laura Punler & Laura Girvan (D) Ian & Jenny Manning (D)
21		Vacant	22 Liz Thomson & Moyra Wright (U) Sandy & Ian Darling (D)
28		Mrs J Murphy	29 Anne Creedican (U) Jenny & Jason Kay (D)

There are *Flower Rota Vacancies* 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.

Please pray for all other Church activities and for our community!

## Article Series 7 (part 2) - Durable Christians

Please read 2 Timothy 1:8-18 The "well worth it" Gospel

When I think of the Apostle Paul or of individual disciples, one aspect of their life and witness asks a very deep question, namely why are they willing to suffer and die for the cause of the **gospel**? v8. What drives this? There is a supernatural help which provides power and a most compelling grace which drives the lifestyle of true believers. What is the call? v8, 9 Are you amazed to read that this grace was given "before the beginning of time" but is now more clearly revealed v9,10? There is nothing we could do to deserve it, it is a gift to all who truly want it. This **gospel** defeats death and offers eternal life in the perfection of heavenly paradise. So it is vital that people get to hear about it to make their own choice.

Christians are called to be custodians of the **gospel** up until "that day" of judgment. v11-14, 18. We are to keep to the sound teaching found in the **gospel** manual. We are to guard the excellent "deposit" with the help of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. But there is no point in guarding something so valuable, if people do not get to enjoy it. We need to teach it and pass it on to each generation as an inheritance of the greatest value. This is real Christian stewardship. This even makes any suffering for the **gospel** most worthwhile.

v15 When Paul says "everyone has deserted him", he is likely using a literary trick called hyperbole. Effectively he is saying don't be like those who lose sight of the need to pass it on. Don't be like those who fall away, or think they are able to get to heaven without caring for others whose lifestyle and goals are leading them rapidly towards destruction.

In v16-18 Paul delights to use a good example of what it means to have really committed fellow workers, like Onesiphorus. If you find it strange that Paul prays for Onesiphorus to receive God's mercy, since he is obviously such a good example of a Christian, consider how we might reconcile this? Well if others have deserted, perhaps it is possible for even the best to give in or fall away when their life and witness turn from fruitful holy living?

Notice two instructions driven by the same concern in this section v8,13. Proclaim the truth of the **gospel** and accept the suffering that comes with it. It is always easier to find the path of least resistance in life, but those who collect the top medals have worked tremendously hard to attain them. Are we hard working at sharing the gospel or suffering for it?

So what does all this say to us? How bold or ashamed are we of our faith? No doubt it is easier to keep our heads down, but is that what God truly wants? Suffering is something we would all like to avoid, but imagine being considered worthy to suffer for the sake of Christ?

**So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for Christ's name.** Acts 5:41 -

I have no doubt the reward surpasses any medal or honour in this world - How about you?

*Always delighted to share the tremendous Gospel of our LORD* Gordon.

## PRAYER CORNER

Put the power of prayer in your hands  
*With daily inspiration only The Good Book can provide*

### Change, prayer and the Spirit at heart

*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.<sup>27</sup> And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. Romans 8:26-30 (NRSV)*

Sisters and Brothers in Christ. I give thanks for the time I have had in the role of Prayer Coordinator for Dunbar Parish Church. Over the past few years there have been opportunities to discover prayer through reflective acts, through the discovery of 'How to Build a Praying Church', and the growth and evolution of the weekly prayer breakfast before Sunday worship. All this has been to build and lift prayer in the life of our church community, and in doing so, seeking God's will in our lives and His power and grace to build a better, more loving and helpful community of Christians.

Prayer, as I have said and written about before, is a conversation with God, not requiring special language but just a desire and commitment to come before the Lord with our thoughts, whether in joy and gladness or with sadness or worries. In doing so we bring before the Lord our days past, and hope for the future, seeking His will over us and those we care for. As it says in the passage above, the Spirit intercedes on our behalf to God who already knows – knows the mind of the Spirit but also our hearts and minds too.

So, sisters and brothers, I commend to you prayer at all times, and I also commend to you my replacement. As I continue in my journey of training for the ministry, I am happy to step aside and hand over the reins to another values prayer, Michael Veitch. Please support him to increase this crucial work to grow Christ's kingdom boldly.

Michael will no doubt bring new ideas, new challenges to the prayer life of Dunbar Parish Church, and I urge you to become involved in whatever way you can – one area where there is always room for more is at the weekly prayer breakfast, a time of fellowship and prayer every Sunday at 9:30 a.m., though I'm sure there will be other new and exciting opportunities also.

I thank you for your prayers for me as I have been away from DPC during my training, and know you will continue to be in my prayers also. Our God, our great big God is beyond comparison – He is loving, kind and patient, yet is demanding for our good too, seeking us to come to Him. To come to the foot of the cross acknowledging all that is wrong in our lives, and to see beyond that to the empty tomb, where new life begins in Christ Jesus.

Friends – new times, new beginnings lie ahead in the prayer life at DPC – but always at the heart of this remains the same, ever faithful Lord Jesus Christ.

**In His name I remain your servant Mike**

**Prayer**

Lord, let us be your servants; let us make You the centre of our daily life; let us make prayer central in all our days – whether working, resting, playing, or socialising. Lord, we pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to be upon our Church, the people of Christ who come to worship, and all those across our parish and town.

Lord, enable your Spirit to seep into the hearts of those who do not yet truly know you – melt their hearts and guide them to seek You. To seek You through the words of scripture, through the actions of Christians and by bringing them to the doors of Your church to enter in.

Lord, we pray we will be increasingly a welcoming and inclusive church, though we are sinners too. We seek your power in our lives to grow better, being made whole through the sacrifice of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen

*Prayer Breakfast Rota*

- 03 May - Emma Weaver
- 10 May - Ian Coltart
- 17 May - Catherine Hodgson
- 24 May - Rachel Mylne
- 31 May - Ian Manning



**Pastoral Notes**

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

Patricia Harris

**My 1st Book of questions and answers!**

Section 3 - How Man Sinned

33. What is disobeying God's law?

Answer: Doing what God says not to do.

The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the cock crows today, you will disown me three times."

**Read: Luke 22:61**

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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

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 Section

<sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore **go and make disciples** of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and 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**

*Guild*

**5 May** Come to the Hall for Coffee (and pay for the outing)

**3 June - SUMMER OUTING**

*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*

## Magazine Input :

Please send your items in by **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May** or if you would like a regular E\_Magazine  
Tel: 862903 Denise or email: [dmburton@gmail.com](mailto:dmburton@gmail.com)

## Weekly Notices :

Contact Denise as above

### Hall Bookings

Please Contact: Sonya Young she keeps the master diary and updates the hall one.  
email [bhraggie@fiscali.co.uk](mailto:bhraggie@fiscali.co.uk)  
Telephone: 07874 816326

### 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](mailto:charles.p.easton@googlemail.com)

## BASICS BANK BUDDY SCHEME

If you are not already part of the Buddy Scheme please drop an email to [basicsbankbuddy@gmail.com](mailto:basicsbankbuddy@gmail.com) and you will be kept up to date with a weekly email and shopping list.

**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.

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

## 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 carry an identity badge, signed by the minister and they are genuinely interested in your well-being.

### ***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 work.**

## *TEEN PAGE*

## **MEASURING UP**



I've recently heard two stories involving measurement and what can happen if things go wrong.

The 1<sup>st</sup> was a friend (no names to protect the foolish!) who picked up his new car and drove home, sticking to the speed limit. He couldn't figure out why all of the other cars were travelling so fast and he seemed to be getting nowhere. After a while he spotted that his speedo was set to Kilometres per hour, not miles!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> story involves someone who wanted to buy a new washing machine. He measured the space in the kitchen and then looked online. To his dismay, none of the machines would fit and he resigned himself to the fact that he would have to saw away a section of work top. When the machine arrived, it fitted perfectly! On checking, he found the measuring tape he had used, from a Christmas cracker, was all wrong!

This month, many of you will be on study leave, about to start your exams. Some of you might be applying for college, Uni or jobs. This is a time when you will be measured, both in your own performance in exams and against others in applications. Do you ever try to measure your spiritual lives? And if so, what do you measure them against? What standard do you use?

Measuring against others is a natural human thing to do, however that can give us false results. We may become proud and judgemental. In Luke 18:10-12 we see the Pharisee doing this in his prayer "I thank you God that I am not a sinner like everyone else. I don't cheat, I don't sin and I don't commit adultery. I'm certainly not like that tax collector!"

If we measure against our own goals or expectations, we can often fall short and become discouraged. We can simply "move the goalposts" to suit ourselves or try to do everything in our own strength and not for the right motivation, losing sight of God. Psalm 127:1 says "Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted".

So, what do we aspire to? We have to strive each day to become more "Christ like", that is our measuring stick. An impossible task? Well it would be if we did it on our own however, we cling to the promises God has given us. "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)

*Here is a challenge to us all, can we say the following?*

"I have nothing to prove" - That is knowing that the God of the universe has accepted me and guaranteed my future with him. "I have nothing to lose"- recognising that my life is no longer mine but belongs to God. Living in a state of complete surrender to him, taking up my cross daily. "I have nothing to hide" - Walking in God in true integrity, in true repentance, striving to be Holy.

Going back to Luke 18, what was the tax collectors response? A profound prayer from the heart, "God have mercy on me, a sinner". Which of them self-assessed correctly? *In amongst your studies this month remember to set aside time for God through reading and prayer.*

*Blessings Derek*

# Ordinations and Admissions



Left to Right : Eric Moodie, Christine Idle, Michael Veitch, Liz Thomson, Jonathan Idle

On Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> three members of the congregation were ordained.: Christine Idle, Liz Thomson and Michael Veitch. Also admitted were Eric Moodie and Jonathan Idle who have been elders in their previous churches.

The entire Kirk Session are thoroughly delighted to have five gifted new elders on board with us in the next part of our faith journey together. They have all been active in other ways among us and the depth of their faith is a real encouragement to us all. We give thanks to God for them!

Please pray for, and congratulate them for having the courage to give of their service in this way.

### Mike Weaver

We commend and bless Mike for his sterling role in growing the work and focus of prayer among us in recent years. It is a real blessing for us all.

Please remember Mike in prayer as he completes his studies, goes into probation, does further conferences in his training etc.

**FAIR**  
6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
DUNBAR PARISH CHURCH HALLS  
1-4 PM

Flower Display  
Archery for Children  
Junior Bake-off  
BBQ  
Face Painting  
2<sup>nd</sup> hand clothes  
Bookstall  
Silent Auction  
GAMES  
CRAFTS  
CAKE STALL  
Curry Stand  
CUSTARD PIE FLING  
REFRESHMENTS  
50p entrance adults  
Children free

Donations for stalls can be brought to the church or halls. Speak to Emma Weaver (01368 459082 Mob: 07824141884) or Moyra Wright (01368 863316)

Note that only good quality 2<sup>nd</sup> hand clothes can be accepted