

Dunbar Parish Church

MAGAZINE

Minister

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October 2018

HELP FROM ABOVE



A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins."

— JOHN 8:23–24 NIV

Only one person can get us out of the pit of our own sins, and His name is Jesus. He only needs us to put our faith in Him. I can vouch for this....

What makes your blood boil ?
What do you do that other people would condemn ?
What do YOU believe, do and say that God condemns ?
Will you play the game of life by God's rules ?

Sunday & Special SERVICES in October		READERS	PRAYERS
7 th 11:00	Luke 14:12-24 - The Banquet	Margaret Croft	Rachel Mylne
14 th 11:00	Luke 14:25-35 - COST?	Ian Gillian	Martyn Cox
21 st 11:00	Luke 15:1-10 - LOST?	Joan Hancock	Ian Coltart
28 th 11:00	Luke 15:11-24 - Prodigal SON	Catherine Hodgson	Youth

Minister's Letter **October** 2018: Speaking the Truth

In the magazine we are going through the book of Romans. We are currently considering humanity's depraved nature in a section about the **wrath of God**. This helps us to see the need for God's justice e.g. should Hitler or serial killers go to heaven? I suspect most of us would say no.

Agreements on other moral behaviours are not always clearly as black or white as these may be. So the verses this month throw up essentially the most antagonistic topic in the church worldwide today.

The revisionists will shout "all are welcome" and when it comes to church, all people **are** welcome. None of us are sinless or have 'arrived yet'. Our task as a church is not to condemn or pre-judge. It is to love and share the gospel and God's values in order that we become more and more Christ-like as we press onwards in our faith **in** Christ Jesus.

Should we never read or preach on the parts of the Bible that speak about adultery or stealing if we have people in our church who are practicing these? Is it okay to say that these things are morally wrong and damaging to more than just themselves? Or is the risk of alienating them too much?

So we humbly attend church to learn how to rightly worship God, to learn the things we need to change in ourselves, and to help others to be a part of God's family, no matter what their 'baggage' or practices are.

We cannot however be true to God by believing things that are contrary to His teaching or by hiding the truth away from people. If we love, then we cannot deceive, even if we think that the truth will be badly received.

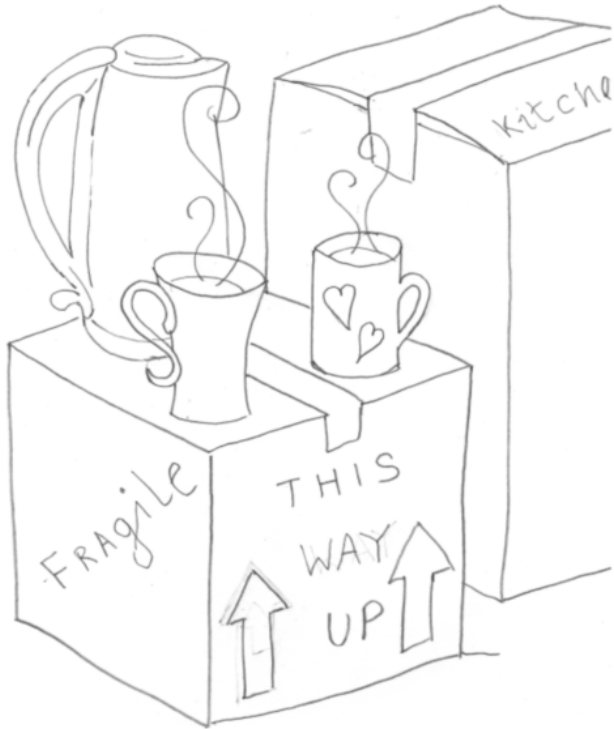
Our country is in a mess in so many ways. People are enslaved by greedy employers, government policies that don't protect adequately or meet the needs of the vulnerable in our society, and the rich get richer living off of ill-gotten gains etc... And don't mention Brexit.

The Church in the western world has an up hill task in sharing the gospel to people who wrongly believe that they can live without any need of God right now, if at all. Many of them will hope to end up with Him in heaven for eternity when their time on earth is over - but is that how it works?

If we love God, then it is our duty to help everyone we can to discover the grace of God - none of us deserve or merit it, but there is nothing else in life that offers so great a prize. His way, His blessings, His help through all of our lives and a guarantee for all eternity. People need this, and need to hear about it. So who are you going to help?

Love and prayers. 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

**The New Session of
THE GUILD starts on
9th October with the
Dedication Service and on
the 23rd October 'Town
Gardeners'
2:30 pm in the Halls**

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

October

- 7 Derek & Margaret
- 14 Douglas
- 21 Alison
- 28 Ian M

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**

Bible **B**ook **C**lub

Meeting Friday 19th October at 7:30

Book: *What's so Amazing About Grace?*
Any questions please speak to Lorna



Pastoral Notes

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

Eric Moodie



Coffee Plus

Have you noticed or perhaps sat at the small black tables at the back of church? We use these new tables for Coffee Plus and after church services. Coffee Plus began meeting in the Eden Room about four months ago but it soon became clear that this was not practical so we now meet **every Friday morning from 10.30 until midday in church.**

Since Coffee Plus began we have seen many people come along for a coffee (or tea) and a chat. It is a good opportunity to meet new people and grow friendships. Watch this space for more information about new 'plus' activities coming soon.

Everyone is welcome, young and old. Hope to see you soon!

Dunbar Parish Church

Rwanda Group

are holding their ever popular Curry and Quiz Night in the Church Hall on Friday 2 November 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

Great food and company will be available for this enjoyable evening along with a Bar to quench your thirst.

Tickets are £10.00.

Further details from a member of the Rwanda Group.

DPC Rwanda Group

are planning on a fundraiser

selling good quality second hand goods including Bric-a-Brac, Clothes, Unwanted Gifts, etc. We will be running this from the Be-Green shop on the High Street and would welcome donations from the congregation.

So let's have a clear out and donate for this worthy cause - items can be left in the church for a Rwanda group member to collect.

Further details to follow.



Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.'

John 8:47



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

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

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!

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](#)

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

2018 Dunbar Parish Church Magazines

Magazine month	Articles by Friday	Magazine out Sunday
NOVEMBER	19-Oct	28-Oct

Magazine Input:

Please send your items in by **Friday 21st**
Spetember for October Magazine - out on 30th
October 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	CLEANING ROTA (U) = upstairs (D) = downstairs
Oct 7	OCTOBER Margaret MacDonald Denise Brunton Margaret Croft Lena Glass May Low Derek MacDonald Lorna McLeod	Convenor: Moirra Anthony Mrs G Grandison	8 Jonathan & Christine Idle (U) Anne Creedican (D)
14		Mrs L Glass	15 Margaret & Derek MacDonald (U) Sandy & Ian Darling (D)
21		Mr K Duncan for the late Mrs M Duncan	22 Ian Coltart & Tim Greene (U) Ian Gillian & Alison Mitchell (D)
28		Mrs M Anthony	29 Ann & Norman Barr (U) Margaret Croft & Lorna McLeod (D)
Nov 4	NOVEMBER Alan Low Ian Darling Eric Easton Kath Ellis Jason Kay Barbara Leslie Ian Manning Tom Manson	Convenor: Lena Glass Mrs F Fleming	5 Fiona Fleming & Barbara Leslie (U) Vacant (D)
11		ROYAL BRITISH LEGION	12 Laura Pulner & Laura Girvan (U) Vacant (D)
18		Mrs A Knox	19 Moyra Wright & Anne Creedican (U) Sandy & Ian Darling (D)
25		Mrs P Rimmer	26 Gordon & Gail Stevenson (U) Jenny & Jason Kay (D)

*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 5) Doing what YOU want has consequences!

Please pray before you read Romans 1:24-32 *Depravity*

Last time we began to look at the **wrath** of God. We will come to see that it is based on *truth* and *righteousness* and is directed without prejudice or favouritism upon those whose spiritually and moral practices fall below His standards. (See chapter 2:3, 6-11) God's wrath is the right judgement upon *those* who reject Him and His ways. It is the **consequence** of *their* own making, especially as God intends His most incredible blessings and His most gracious love for us all.

In v24 we learn about the **consequences** of wilfully going against God's word; godless lives are wicked and eternally wasted. "The sinful desires of *their* hearts" darkens *their* practices leading to "**degrading** sexual impurity". In v25 Paul gives further details; *they* swap God's truth for worldly lies, worship false gods of their own making, and therefore lose the benefits of worshipping the one true God. This is deeply offensive to God and fatally wrong behaviour.

These sinful desires are then discussed further in v26, 27. It is lust and not love nor care for others that drives *them*. The natural relationships which God ordained for *their* benefit are exchanged for unnatural, which will do *them* grave harm. The word **perversion** is strong, but that is clear according to God's word. Today's culture, even in some church circles, pushes equality of things which are not truly equal, and redefines God ordained institutions like marriage to make it something which goes beyond the boundaries that God has set (Genesis 2) and it is catastrophic, divisive and misleading many people.

Some argue that it is not pastorally helpful to tell people that their lifestyles and life-choices are wrong in God's sight. Others say "God has got this wrong", or "this is not God's word", but in reality they are being idolatrous - saying that they know better than God, even though He has given His views clearly in His Word of Truth consistently and with no dubiety. God permits *them* to go the wrong way if *they* are so determined to do so. Despite this His hand of grace is still held out if they repent and see the folly of *their* ways. Divine eternal pleasures or temporary offensive lusts are the choices we all have.

Taking on wrong values and ideas affects our minds too and results in further dubious moral behaviours v28-31, "depraved minds, doing "what ought not to be done", and "filled with every kind of wickedness" are stark warnings. Many other things are listed in these verses as examples to avoid. Sin disconnects people from *truly* worshipping God, keeping the Sabbath Day holy etc?

v32 highlights the fact that "*they*" know what God's ways are, and that opposing *these* earns eternal death. Yet *they* continue to practice and approve of others who practice contrary to God's ways. This is serious and catastrophic.

Now a church that did not care for the lost, no matter their sins, would not be a church of Jesus Christ. So there is a juggle to show love to the lost without telling *them* lies in order to make *them* like us more, hate us less, or decide that we are bigoted and wrong etc. Jesus says that the "truth will set you free"

It would be great to chat things through with anyone who wishes? Gordon

DEPRAVITY

Depraved people will not ask ultimate questions until they are dislodged from their temporal illusion. *Anon*

Corrupt hearts are the devil's factories. *Thomas Brooks*

Human nature's character and behaviour is a continual and **depraved** departure from the law of God. *John Calvin*

The **depravity** of humanity chooses to kill God. *Jonathan Edwards*

The magnitude of man's sinful **depravity** is also the measure of his need of salvation... Man desires freedom without restrictions, but in truth his freedom is slavery to Satan. *Sinclair Ferguson*

In the last analysis, we **sin** not because we have to but because we want to. *Henry Jacobsen*

So great is the **depravity** of unregenerated humanity that although there is nothing that they need more than the gospel, there is nothing that they desire less. *R. B. Kuiper*

Fallen nature has neither grace nor truth in it, but the human nature of Christ is full of grace and truth. *W. E. Best*

One of the clearest proofs of the **depravity** of mankind is his implacable hatred of the only solution to his greatest problem. *John Blanchard*

Depravity is the great hindrance to faith, but grace is God's way of overcoming the hindrance. If **depravity** is not preached, then grace will be ignored, presumed to be okay or simply taken for granted. *Malcolm Watts*

My 1st Book of questions and answers!

Section 7

The Ten Commandments

63. What do the commandments 1-4 tell us?
Answer: How to love God.

Exodus 20:3-11

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Communion

The next Communion is
11:00 am
Sunday 21st October 2018

DPC Verse for 2018

He says,
'Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.'
Psalm 46:10

TEEN PAGE... DOUBTS!

When on holiday, I love visiting Cathedrals. I'm always amazed at the incredible architecture, craftsmanship and ornate design of churches that are often centuries old. The ones I visited this year, in Eastern Europe, have survived wars, ranging from an attack by Napoleon, through revolutions and two world wars. One even had a cannonball still embedded in the



wall. Then there were the changing political situations, taking them through different rulers and alliances, coming under the rule of Nazi Germany, then communism until the fall of the iron curtain in 1989. Throughout all of this, amazingly, these buildings stood strong, dominating the skyline.

In such ostentatious surroundings, it is easy to get caught up in gold leaf and archways and forget the purpose of the building: to worship God in. Sometimes our faith can replicate this. We may put on an impressive façade that can seem very grand on the surface, appearing to stand strong and tall above those around us, surviving everything that life can throw at us. In reality though, we may have lost sight of our purpose and our relationship with God is crumbling away. Our faith is all outward show but lacking genuine depth and substance. Have you ever experienced this? Are you someone who is plagued by doubts? Of course, we have the example of Thomas, one of the twelve disciples, known best as “doubting Thomas”. Read and consider the account in John 20:24-29.

In one cathedral, I found a bowl containing texts. You could dip your hand in and choose one, seemingly at random. The one I got was from Mark 9:24, a father pleading with Jesus to heal his son. He states “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” What a truthful, genuine outpouring from a desperate man. If you are prone to experiencing doubts and questioning your faith, hold this verse close to your hearts and pray it with the same genuine, heartfelt sincerity.

Never forget this verse, cling to it. Doubt can eat away at your faith and drive a wedge between you and your saviour, so ask him for help to overcome it so you can draw closer to Jesus.

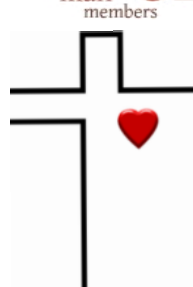
Blessings Derek



TO DO LIST

1-Minute Bible Love Notes

1. Spend time with Jesus
Psalm 27:8.
2. Let Him prioritize my day
Matthew 6:33.
3. Pray instead of worrying
Philippians 4:6.
4. Be honest about my sins-
James 4:10.
5. Think of others
Philippians 2:3-4.
6. Wait patiently for God to act
Psalm 27:14.
7. Be willing to do hard stuff
Matthew 16:24.
8. Read God's Word
Psalm 119:9-16.
9. Do what it says
James 1:22
10. Let Christ lead me
Matthew 11:29.



B I B L E

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

When in sorrow.....	John 14
When men fail you.....	Psalm 27
When you have sinned.....	Psalm 51
When you have worry.....	Matthew 6:19-34
When you are in danger.....	Psalm 91
When God seems far away.....	Psalm 139
When your faith needs stirring.....	Hebrews 11
When you are lonely and fearful.....	Psalm 23
When you grow bitter and critical.....	1 Cor. 13
When you feel down and out.....	Romans 8:31-39
When you want peace and rest.....	Matthew 11:25-30
When the world seems bigger than God	Psalm 90
When you want Christian assurance.....	Romans 8:1-30
When you leave home for labor or travel.....	Psalm 121
When your prayers grow narrow or selfish.....	Psalm 67
When you want courage for a task.....	Joshua 1
When you think of investments/returns.....	Mark 10
How to get along with fellowmen.....	Romans 12
For great invention/opportunity.....	Isaiah 55
For Paul's secret to happiness.....	Col. 3:12-17
If you want to be fruitful.....	John 15
If your pocketbook is empty.....	Psalm 37
If your losing confidence in people.....	1Cor. 13
If people seem unkind.....	John 15
If discouraged about your work.....	Psalm 126
If you find the world growing small, and you great.....	Psalm 19

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**GOD CAUSES
ALL THINGS
TO WORK
TOGETHER**

*for the good
OF THOSE WHO
love Him*

— Creating Community —

On Monday I had the joy of being part of a bus trip to Holy Island with 17 members of our Basics Bank Community and Amanda Doig from The Ridge. I feel I can truly call us community now, as over the months we have been getting to know one another over soup and home baking on Mondays at The Big Q and The Ridge Community meal and on Wednesdays at Basics Bank. On Monday it felt as though we'd taken a big step forward as a group as people chatted together during our stop at St Abb's and on Holy Island.

We were met by my friend Andy Raine, who lives on the island. We ate together and heard a little of what it feels like to live on a tidal island with many visitors during the day who leave the island in the evening to the 160 inhabitants and the singing seals. Andy led a pilgrimage round the cliff walk telling stories of the island and St Aidan who brought Christianity to that part of the world. The good spirits and joy of the group was truly infectious.

And it very nearly didn't happen. We had been given grants from Dunbar Community Council, Dunbar Rotary and the Parish Church but we were still short of funds. Imagine my delight as donations came in through Just Giving on Facebook and we reached our target! Our community's comments about our venture were heart-warming.

For me this is a vital part of creating community for those longing for it and being available to help people come nearer to Jesus if they are open to him. In Galatians Paul says: *'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.'* Pioneering may seem slow at times as we do new things and forge fresh links with people but we have a promise of harvest on its way. Thanks be to God!

P.S. why not join us on Thursday October 4th in the small hall from 12pm-2pm when Lorraine from Belhaven Community Garden will be serving home made soup and showing us how to pot up bulbs for the spring.

Shiona Liddle – Pioneer Minister

– Surfers Against Sewage Beach Clean –

As part of the Autumn Beach and River Clean initiative. We are aiming to mobilise 15,000 volunteers to tackle 400 beaches and 60 rivers across the UK between 20th and 28th October.

There will be a **beach clean** at Belhaven Beach, Dunbar, on Saturday 27th October - meeting at Shore Road car-park from 11am till 1pm. People are encouraged to come along for as long or short as they are able. Please just bring appropriate clothing and footwear. We will provide gloves and bags.

These events provide a platform to open up discussions and raise awareness and often result in a great community spirit and a social occasion.

Please come along if you can help!

October 2018 Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
1	11:30	Big Q	Halls
2	11:00	Funeral	Whitekirk
3	19:30	Home Group	Idles
4	9 to 9	Grammar School Awards	Church
	12:30	Fraternal	EAST LINTON
7	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Rm
	11:00	Service - Luke 14:12-24 - The Banquet	Church
9	14:30	Mentor Meeting	Manse
	18:30	Pilot Conference	
10	19:30	Prayer Meeting	Eden Rm
11	12:30	CAIRN Huddle	Edinburgh
14	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Rm
	11:00	Service - Luke 14:25-35 - COST?	Church
15-22		School Holiday Break	
17	19:30	Home Group	Idles
21	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Rm
	11:00	Communion Service - Luke 15:1-15 - LOST	Church
24	19:30	Prayer Meeting	Eden Rm
25	10:30	Presbytery Prayer	Haddington
	12 to 2	Ploughman's Lunch	Halls
28	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Rm
	11:00	Service - Luke 15:11-24 - The Prodigal	Church
	18:30	Membership Class 1 (exploring church membership)	Eden Rm
29	19:30	Kirk Session 10 year Strategic Planning	Eden Rm
31	19:30	Home Group	Idles

Count your blessings

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;

Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joys instead of your woes;

Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears;

Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full years instead of your lean;

Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth;

Count on God instead of yourself.