

Calendar for September 2015			
Date	Time	Event	Location
2	19:30	Bible Study	Idle's
3	09:15	Leadership Training 1	North Berwick
	13:00	Scripture Union	Grammar
	19:00	Presbytery P R and M, Business Committee	Ormiston
6	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Service Heb. 4:1-11 SABBATH REST for the people of God	Church
9	19:30	Prayer Meeting	Mylne's
10	09:00	Primary Assembly	Lochend
	12:45	Fraternity Lunch	East Linton
	13:00	Scripture Union	Grammar
11	11:00	Primary Assembly	John Muir
	19:00	Young Peoples' Home Group	Hodgson's
13	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Service HEBREWS 4:12-13 Sharp Incisions	Church
	18:30	Arise - Habakkuk 2:4-8, Psalm 11, Romans 3:20-24	Church
	19:30	<b>Delta</b>	Church Hall
14	19:30	Congregational Board Meeting	Eden Room
15	19:00	Alpha Week 1	Eden Room
16		Lammermuir Concert	Church
	19:30	Bible Study	Idle's
17	09:15	Leadership Training 2	North Berwick
	19:30	DCT	Methodist Ch.
18	18:00	Young Peoples' Home Group at Powerpoint	Central Bapt.
20	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Service led by Ian Coltart	Church
20-26		Minister on holiday	
23	19:30	Prayer Meeting	Eden Room
24	12 til 2	Ploughman's Lunch	Church Hall
25	19:00	Young Peoples' Home Group	Weaver's
27	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Service Hebrews 4:14-16 Approaching Jesus in Faith	Church
	18:30	Open Door: Scaffolding Matt 7:24-27, 1 Cor 3:10-17	Church
	19:30	Delta	Church Halls

# Dunbar Parish Church

Minister

Rev Gordon Stevenson

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[www.dunbarparishchurch.org](http://www.dunbarparishchurch.org)

## MAGAZINE



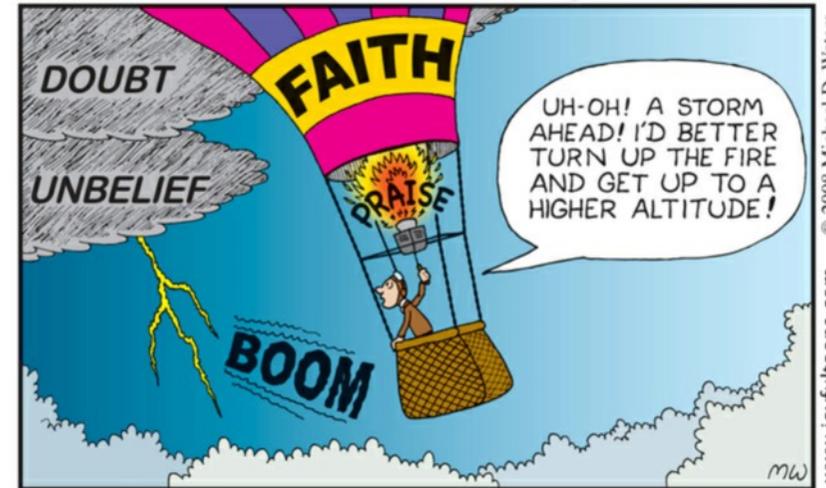
Dunbar Parish Church is a charity registered in Scotland

No: SC000455

September 2015

### HOT AIR BALLOON

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,  
- ROMANS 4:20 NIV

We might doubt, but God believes in us! So it is up to us to aim higher.

**LORD I believe - help my unbelief Mark 9:23-25**

Sunday & Special SERVICES		READERS	PRAYERS
6 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 Heb. 4:1-11 SABBATH REST for the people of GOD	Douglas McClintick	Rachel Mylne
13 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 Hebrews 4:12-13 Sharp Incisions 18:30 Arise - Habakkuk 2:4-8, Psalm 11, Romans 3:20-24	Mike Mylne	Catherine Hodgson
20 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 <b>Service</b> - Led by Ian Coltart	Elaine O'Brien	Mike Bigden
27 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 Hebrews 4:14-16 Approaching Jesus in Faith 18:30 Open Door: Scaffolding Matt. 7:24-27, 1 Cor. 3:10-17	Mike Weaver	Youth

## Ministers Letter September 2015 : Higher, deeper, Aromatic!

We are back a few weeks now from our exchange in New Mexico. There is no doubt that it was a real time of blessing for many people in the Churches involved, and for our family, and for me.

We soared to almost 11,000 ft above sea level. We saw much of God's creation which made us somewhat weightless. Yet over it all were the spiritual heights and depths which God led us into on "His journey itinerary".

I personally have no trouble believing in God - **I KNOW THAT HE IS REAL.** It was not always that way for me or anyone else who explored the Christian faith and discovered it to be "absolutely true, while finding that God can be our friend and saviour right now".

I think about the experiences our children have, not only the possibilities to travel and see all the wonders of the world, far more accessibly than previous generations, but in other ways too. For instance the Internet allows all kinds of details to become available within seconds, topics like saints, Christianity, spiritual battles that were overcome, the amazing diversity of God's creation, the failings of other religions, and many others palatable things too. Previous generations had nothing like this.

As people we might say and do *the right sort of things*, but still not **experience the deep relationship God wants us to have with Him.** We need to **be genuinely connecting with God**, only then can we **go deeper in our relationship with Him.** That is when others get a flavour or aroma of God's intimate dealings with us. So what is holding us back?

**Unbelief** is the most common issue. If we really and truly believe in God our lives will show it and shout it to others. God is not something we control, or like a new gadget we are proud of for a short time. He is AMAZING.

**Unbelief** says, "I think I know better" or "I will live life my way", "I don't need to come to Church", "I don't need to make time to do Bible reading each day or join a home group or go on an alpha course". Etc etc..

**Unbelief** always refuses to let go of something sinful, even though letting go and letting God in are the only cure.

God works with and within anyone who really and truly wants His manifold blessings. Yet letting go is too much for many. Some take longer than others, some grasp it like a little child, faithfully trusting their loving father. God is building His church, and He invites every one of us to be on the building team. He has gifted us all with useful resources and talents, and He offers detailed training along the way. Are YOU enrolled and fragrant?

May you know the real blessings of YOUR God **Gordon**

## Plans : Coming Soon

- **Board Meeting** 14<sup>th</sup> September 7:30 Eden Room.
- **Alpha Begins** - 15<sup>th</sup> September Sign-up, bring a friend, pray!
- **Lammermuir Concert** 16<sup>th</sup> September 7:30 pm Church
- **Rededication Service** 4<sup>th</sup> October 11:00 am in Church
- **Harvest Thanksgiving** 18<sup>th</sup> October 11:00 in Church
- **Darwin verses Intelligent Design** Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 6:30 pm in the Church

### Bible Book Club

Meeting next on  
10<sup>th</sup> September at  
7:30 p.m.

Meetings will be held at various venues.



### CONTINUING ON with

*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 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](mailto:michaelgveitch@yahoo.co.uk) for more information.

## Learning groups

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 7:00 p.m.

### Alpha

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*

4 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

## UNBELIEF (The folly sorted by faith in Jesus Christ)

If YOU are an **unbeliever** when YOU die, Christ did not die for YOU. *Ambrose*

**Unbelievers** believe in a lie. *Horatius Bonar*

**Unbelief** is a matter not only of the head but of the heart. The **unbelievers** trouble is that his heart is not right with God.

*R. B. Kuiper*

**Unbelief** will destroy the best of us. Real living faith will save the worst of us. *C. H. Spurgeon*

**Unbelief** may truly be called the great damning sin, because it leaves us under the guilt of all our other sins; it is sin against the only true remedy. *Matthew Henry*

I do not believe that there is anybody who rejects Jesus Christ on philosophical grounds. Those who continue to reject Christ always have a pet sin - and they are too in love with that iniquity to give it up. *A. W. Tozer*

## 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. Intern - <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 (from Helen, Miss\_ionary correspondent)

There is not much news to pass on from our overseas partner workers.

*Les and Fiona.* Fiona is in a period of chemotherapy, following surgery back in April. As long as she needs treatment they will remain in Orkney where they have a good support network. Contact with friends and co-workers in Spain is still maintained via the internet. Skype is particularly useful. Thank the Lord for all his provision for them.

*Michael and Karen.* The family spent the summer in the UK, escaping the intense heat of the ara\_bian peninsula, and enjoyed valuable time with family in Scotland and Ireland, but endured much travel. All the children are about to change school. Thank God for this opportunity. Pray for these 5 young people - so called third culture kids - as they once again make adjustments to new routines, friendships, customs and traditions. Ask God, through His supernatural power, to go before them to these new situations but also that He walks with them each step of the way. Ask for confidence and boldness, as well as the right words to say to people they do not yet know. Lead them quickly into strong new friendships.

*Dave and Jenny.* They have been busy despite the 大暑 da shu ('big summer') holiday when the college closes. Temperatures reach 40+°C, but their schedule remains hectic. They combined a little sight-seeing trip near the border with Burma (5 hour flight, 1575 miles), with time spent supporting 2 former students now living in Kunming. In Weifang they helped with two summer camps; mornings, afternoons and evenings! Back home in Qingzhou, English lessons and English Evenings continue over the holidays. There is so much pressure on children to succeed academically that the summer holidays are seen as a chance for them to study hard, so that they can get ahead.

Dave and Jenny need English reading books at the right level for their work outside the college. Any beginner reading books for children aged 3–7yrs, and some easy reading books for children aged 8 + (new or second hand). Let me know if you are able to help with this, and I'll find out how to get these resources to them.

Also if you would like to contribute financially to support our overseas workers, the church has a separate fund. Our treasurer would be pleased to accept specific donations, or help you set up a standing order. I have collection boxes, so small amounts can be set aside and added to the fund periodically. Ask me if you would like one. Many thanks to those few who faithfully contribute in any of these ways. Our partners frequently tell me how grateful they are for our interest and support, but particularly for our prayers.

**So then, my dear friends, stand firm and steady. Keep busy always in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord's service is ever useless. (1 Corinthians 15:58)**

Got questions  
about life?



**THE ALPHA COURSE** will start on 15<sup>th</sup> September and run on Tuesday evenings from 7 pm to 9.30 pm until December. There will be a break for half term. If you'd like to come or maybe invite a family member or friend to join you, please let us know in advance.

You can find out more details and use the church website <http://www.dunbarparishchurch.org/alpha-course.html> to register by e-mail. Alternatively speak to Martyn Cox.

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

Alpha is the best known and most effective course to introduce people to Christianity. It is something that folk within and out-with our Church can truly benefit from! Many Atheists, Agnostics and Searchers find answers through it.

Please start praying for this work and for those you may think it would be good to invite to Alpha.

*"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**

**WARNING** Danger from headstones in cemetery's falling on children playing has resulted in deaths and injury's - please make sure our young folk know of this danger and keep away from them.

**Less ABLE access** Let's keep the parking on the left as we enter the main gate free for all those who are less mobile every week please!

**Church Membership**

In October we will once again be running membership classes to help those interested in finding out about the privileges and blessings of committing their lives to Christ and living for His kingdom. We also cover all the basics of membership and give the opportunity of joining Christ's Church after the course to those who believe that it is appropriate for them to do so.

Please think and pray about this for yourselves and for others, and if you know of any interest, please let the minister know ASAP.

DATE	SUNDAY DUTY TEAMS	FLOWERS in CHURCH	CLEANING ROTA (U) = upstairs (D) = downstairs
September 6	<b>September</b> Moyra Wright Moira Anthony Lindsay Barley Rob Barley Val Collin Will Collin Christine Idle Jonathan Idle Elsie Johnston	<b>September Convenor:</b> Gail Stevenson Mrs C M Smith	7 Margaret & Derek MacDonald (U) Lorna McLeod & Margaret Croft (D)
13		VACANT	14 Margaret & Ian Coltart (U) Ian & Morag Hastie (D)
20		Mrs L Veitch	21 Fiona Fleming & Barbara Leslie (U) Lorraine & Steve Gilchrist (D)
27		Mrs I Johnston	28 Laura Pulner & Laura Girvan (U) Ian & Jenny Manning
October 4		<b>October</b> Margaret Croft Denise Brunton Ian Hastie Lena Glass May Low Lorna McLeod Derek MacDonald Margaret MacDonald Ian Manning	<b>October Convenor:</b> Moira Anthony Mrs E Cumming
11	Mrs G Grandison		12 Gordon & Gail Stevenson (U) Jonathan & Christine Idle (D)
18	Mrs L Glass		19 Val & Will Collin (U) Margaret & Derek MacDonald (D)
25	Mrs M Duncan		26 Margaret Croft & Lorna McLeod (U) Margaret & Ian Coltart (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 4) - Christians that mature

Please read *2 Timothy 2:14-26* Unashamed Gospel Workers

The previous call to remain faithful to the full gospel continues with a change in angle. We are to remain faithful by responding rightly to all spiritual errors and heresies. So v14-19 assert that we should avoid the kind of conversation and debate which leads to errors. An illustration to help us to apply this is found in v20, 21. Principles are then presented in v22-26 for attaining and for growing godly inter-personal relationships, including situations that are spiritual conflict zones. Chapter 3, (next time) addresses the right approach to take when the opponents are unconverted and especially dangerous.

v14 begins by reminding Timothy and us "to keep reminding others of *these things*". *These things* in the previous verses were the pattern Jesus set, dying then rising v8. The Christian life follows that example by suffering righteously now and investing in future glory v11-13. The true gospel, the true Jesus who is the only Saviour for mankind, stand in stark contrast to the false teaching which infiltrates the Church in Ephesus v18. In defence against errors, we are not to get caught up in arguments about words v14 - implying that we must follow "the word", God's word - since it is never wrong! Actually a minister I know has someone who desires to distract him and weary him from the vital work by demanding time to "discuss things" all the time. It is a sinister situation but I won't go into it further here.

Worse still these futile discussions just cause grief to others who get caught up in them. So the principle we can follow in v15 is "**handle the word rightly**", with integrity, with honour and honestly. Again that is in contrast of those who are disingenuous and who want to twist the plain meaning into an extraneous one. So "godless chatter" is produced and leads to further spiritual decline v16. Examples follow in v17, 18 where "their" false teaching "is like gangrene", "wandering from the truth" and "destroying the faith of some" others.

Humbly we all need to submit to the word of God rather than think we are smarter or that we like some extraneous angle because it permits something sinful to be tolerated.

When all is said and done - we will each have to present an account of our lives to God. God has revealed the foundations we must follow v19 and He demands we turn away from all sinful behaviour. Rebels are doomed and we are to have nothing to do with them. (A similar message was given in Numbers 16:26)

An illustration follows in v20. A large house with articles and vessels; some valuable and honoured, some just practical and easily replaced. It represents the Church. It is not about "important" people in the Church. Many apparently unimportant people deserve great honour as their life and witness radiates God's grace, but other's contribution is of far less value.

Are we ready and prepared by God for "good work" v21? Are we pursuing righteousness etc. v22? Are we kind and able to teach the truth v24? OR do we "need to come to our senses" and "escape the snares of the devil" v26? Who captivates our will? God or?

*Teacher and preacher of THE Gospel for those who willingly listen and learn* Gordon.

PRAYER CORNER - by Michael Veitch

*Put the power of prayer into your hands*

*With daily inspiration only The Good Book can provide*

Since my last article for this magazine back in June, I am delighted to say that the **Dunbar Parish Church prayer meeting** is now up and running. Sincere thanks to the many of you who have attended one or more of the prayer meetings over the past few months, which I trust you have found to be a blessing.

At our first meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> June we were blessed with a rare episode of sunny weather so seized the chance to move the seats outside and enjoyed our inaugural prayer meeting on the grass at the front of the church. We opened the meeting with a short reflection on the Cross of Christ, thinking of the brutal reality of what Jesus had to endure to secure our forgiveness and justification. Indeed, it is only because of Christ's complete work on the Cross, that we can now enjoy direct access to God's throne through prayer.

Two weeks later (24<sup>th</sup> June), those who gathered were blessed with a short reflection by Rob Barley prior to joining together to pray. This was followed on 8<sup>th</sup> July, with a meeting led by Mr Norman Liddle of the Scottish Bible Society, who presented a harrowing account of his visit to Rwanda. Then on 22<sup>nd</sup> July we welcomed Andy Murray of Bethany Christian Trust who inspired us with the story of Dr Thomas Guthrie, a Christian social reformer active in Edinburgh in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The first meeting of August was led by our own Mike Weaver, who spoke about his recent experiences attending a Christian youth camp in Oregon, and by the time you are reading this article we will also have been led (at 26<sup>th</sup> August meeting) by Nigel Kenny, a former colleague of mine at The Christian Institute.

At each meeting the talk or reflection has been followed by an extended period of open prayer, usually split into two sections. The first is focused on the needs facing our nation and the wider world, including our various missionary partners and Rwanda link. The second part focuses on the ministries within our church here in Dunbar and our witness within the local community. Those who are comfortable praying out loud can do so, while others choose to pray silently from their hearts. What matters is that we are gathering together as God's people here in Dunbar, to worship him and to actively seek His face, His will and His blessings. Please join us if you can.

The prayer meetings in September are on 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month. On the 9<sup>th</sup> we are meeting in the home of **Mike & Rachel Mylne** (10 The Courtyard, Easter Broomhouse Steading) when Mike will lead us. On 23<sup>rd</sup>, we return to the Eden room to hear from **John Shearer**, who was pastor of Musselburgh Baptist Church for 20 years, and is now a regular preacher in churches across the UK (despite officially being retired!).

Our weekly **prayer breakfast** has continued to meet every Sunday morning throughout the summer, and thanks are due to all those who serve God's people

by taking turns to lead this ministry. '10:55 prayer' has now also been re-established immediately before the morning service, where several of us have had the privilege of praying with Rev Doug Hucke during his short time ministering to us in July and early August. Let's continue to remember Doug, Debbie, Ian and Rebecca as they re-adjust to life back in New Mexico, and also to pray for the Stevenson clan as they settle back down to life in Dunbar. How thankful we are to God for both of these families, and for their fruitful ministry amongst us.

On his return from the United States, Gordon has also decided to introduce a time of prayer with all who are participating in the service (musicians, reader, prayers etc.) which will take place at the front of the church at around 10:45 on Sunday mornings. This time is open to anyone who feels burdened to pray for the service.

Remember that a crucial element of all times of prayer in our church is to pray for the many active ministries in our fellowship. We are very blessed in this church that so many folks are actively engaged in a wide range of different works, ranging from the weekly Basics Bank to the monthly Ploughman's Lunch, alongside the various children's and young people's groups, the music ministry and much, much more. However if we are earnest in seeking God's will for the running of these various initiatives, and in seeking his blessing upon them, then it really is crucial that we as a church come together regularly to pray for these works and for our brothers and sisters who lead and organise them.

Here is a brief summary of the various prayer ministries in the church, which may be of particular use to those of you who are new to the fellowship here:

- **Prayer Breakfast:** Meets every Sunday in the upstairs kitchen/Eden room at 9:30 am for a shared breakfast and at 10 am for a short time of open prayer.
- **Prayer Meeting:** Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month in the Eden room at 7:30 pm for a short talk/reflection followed by times of open prayer for our nation, world, church, community and personal needs.
- **10:45 Prayer:** Everyone participating in the service (and anyone who wishes to join them) to meet at the front of the sanctuary for a short time of dedicated prayer for the service.
- **10:55 Prayer:** Meets in the vestry every Sunday morning for a few minutes at around 10:55 am, for a very brief time of prayer with and for the Minster.

I very much hope you will be able to join us at one or more of these meetings in the weeks ahead. You will be made extremely welcome.

Yours in Christ, Michael  
01368 864245

[michaelgveitch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:michaelgveitch@yahoo.co.uk)

## My 1st Book of questions and answers!

### Section 3 - How Man Sinned

34. Did Adam and Eve continue to be good?

Answer: No. They sinned by disobeying God.

Genesis 3:3

but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'

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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



### Pastoral Notes

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

Craig Ferguson  
Alec Shiells  
James Brunton  
Archie Dowling  
Margaret Mitchell  
Mary Smith

<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**

PRAY constantly 1 Thessalonians 5:17  
How many of us do that? How many of us spend more time watching tv or doing other things? Ever wondered why our nation is running from God?

### CHURCH PRAYER MEETING

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at Rachel & Mike Mylne's home & 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 7:30 p.m. in the Eden Room

### *Prayer Breakfast Rota*

06 September - Emma Weaver  
13 September - Ian Coltart  
20 September - Catherine Hodgson  
27 September - Rachel Mylne

### Magazine Input :

Please send your items in by **Tuesday 22<sup>th</sup> September** (for October Magazine) 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's work.

*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*

## TEEN PAGE ... Self-proclamation

The dictionary definition of "self-obsession" is: Excessively preoccupied with one's own life and circumstances; thinking only about oneself:

The modern era, seems to be one completely based in self-obsession. What do I mean by that? Well, we are constantly bombarded with what we are entitled to, what we should expect, what we should achieve, if things go wrong, who to blame and how we can get compensation, if we can't afford something - how to borrow the money. This can lead to creating self-absorbed, selfish individuals who have no consideration of others, which in turn is replicated across society.

Many TV shows and adverts promote this. Celebrities hire managers, stylists, PR agents and marketing companies to manage their image. You can hire companies to manage your on-line image, ensuring that if your name is googled, the best stories and reviews come up, while burying the more negative ones. Inevitably, companies have been accused of writing false reviews to raise their client's profile. Humility is something our celebrities are rarely accused of:

"My mother thinks I am the best. And I was raised to always believe what my mother tells me." Diego Maradona.

*"It's hard to be humble, when you're as great as I am." Mohammed Ali.*

*When quizzed about his academic qualifications, he replied:*

*"I said I was 'The Greatest', I never said I was the smartest!"*

So, where does this leave young people growing up in this society, growing up in the church and growing in your own personal faith?

We can look to John the Baptist for our biblical example. He was a celebrity of his time, had many followers, crowds came to listen to him wherever he went and his bizarre clothing and passionate preaching caused quite a stir.

In John chapter 3, we see John's followers coming to him and expressing their concerns that many people had stopped following him and had instead gone to be baptized by Jesus. What would John do? Employ a PR company, offer gimmicks and incentives; adopt an aggressive marketing strategy to win his followers back?

John knew his purpose was to promote the coming of Jesus, the Messiah. John's reply is this: *"He must become greater and greater and I must become less and less"*

True humility comes from understanding who God is and living your life for him, every day seeking to be more Christ like and less and less interested in self.

I recently saw Bear Grylls latest show, where he takes celebrities into the wild and challenges their survival techniques. This episode starred Deion Sanders, one of the biggest stars of American football. He spoke about having everything the world could offer, fame, money, women, fast cars, status, popularity but they left him feeling empty. His fulfillment came when he gave his life to God and began living for him, not for himself.

If Jesus lives in our hearts, let him become greater and greater, while our old selves become less and less. Blessings Derek



“Guardians of Ancora” is a new free digital game to help children engage with the Bible

A computer game set in the fantasy world of Ancora, where the children can take part in various games and challenges. The citizens of Ancora are sad because they have lost their light, and the children are challenged to venture into the Bible world on a quest to discover the stories that bring light, and to return to Ancora with them. Designed for 8-11 year olds but anyone could play and enjoy it....

This ground-breaking game, developed by SU, could introduce children to the Bible in a way that’s familiar and comfortable for them. A virtual world where Bible stories are brought alive in new and exciting ways and an opportunity for the children *you* know to discover the incredible adventures of the Bible for themselves!

- Parents or grandparents, Aunties or Uncles, could you share “Guardians of Ancora” with the children in your family and get them engaging with the Bible in this new and innovative way?
- If you work with children in churches or schools, use “Guardians of Ancora” with the children in your groups and help to bring the Bible to life for them.

Live the incredible adventures of the Bible [www.guardiansofancora.com](http://www.guardiansofancora.com)



**Go Conference** is Scripture Union Scotland's national youth conference for S4-S6 pupils who want to grow in their relationship with God and understand how the Bible shapes all areas of life. It includes top notch Bible teaching, really helpful seminars on what it means to be a Christian and the chance to hang out with other young Christians.

- Great Bible teaching – from Ali Laing, who works for Alpha in Scotland - looking at what Paul wrote to Timothy.
- Really helpful seminars covering big questions of what it means to be a Christian in Scottish schools today.
- Plenty of time and space to be a community of young people who want to live for Jesus.



**When?** 9th-12th October **Where?** Lendrick Muir, Kinross **Who?** 16+ (S4-6) **Cost?** £88

So young people - get your diaries out (or your phone ...whatever it takes) and get the date in for October. We may be able to provided transport. Ask Helen for more information (including booking forms).