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# Dunbar Parish Church

## MAGAZINE

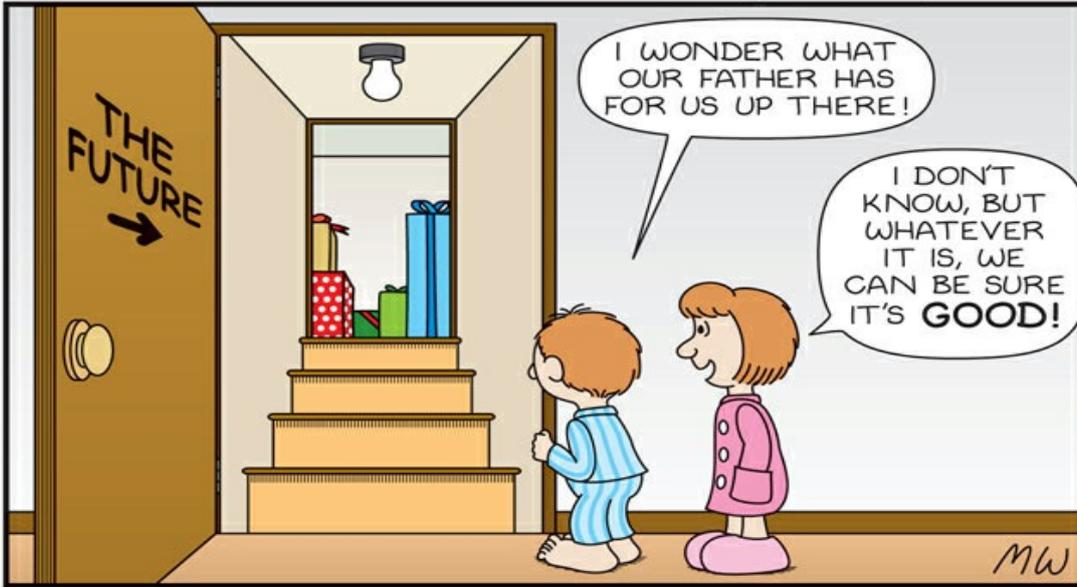


Dunbar Parish Church is a  
charity registered in Scotland  
No: SC000455

May 2017

### GOOD THINGS IN STORE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those who fear you, that you bestow in the sight of all, on those who take refuge in you.  
- PSALM 31:19 NIV

Are you the type who can and does  
make life changing decisions AND keeps  
to them? Who will YOU help into heaven?

HE WILL SWALLOW UP DEATH FOREVER. THE SOVEREIGN LORD WILL WIPE AWAY THE TEARS FROM ALL FACES; HE WILL REMOVE HIS PEOPLE'S DISGRACE FROM ALL THE EARTH. Isaiah 25:8

Sunday & Special SERVICES		READERS	PRAYERS
7th 11:00	Luke 7: 1-17 Authority and Raising the dead	Barbara Leslie	Catherine Hodgson
14th 11:00	Luke 7: 18-35 The one and the least	May Low	Rachel Mylne
21st 11:00	Guest Preacher	Elaine O'Brien	Martyn Cox
28st 11:00	Luke 7: 36-50 A Sinful woman anoints Jesus	Sandy Darling	Youth

## Ministers Letter [May](#) 2017: God's Timing and Eternity

I concluded last time that I believe that God wants some readers to change their focus and their outlook on life.

I read recently that when faced with the 'adapt or die option', 90% of people choose to avoid changing even although the risk they are taking is crazy but...despite this, changing behaviour over the long term is rarely chosen. "You can't teach an old dog new tricks" comes to mind.

I see this in churches where the leader's aim is only to cater for the folk who are attending. Effectively they have no plans for keeping the place open beyond their time and no real energy to adapt to become a growing church that others will join and pass on to future generations.

Further examples are: those who are obese, or have alcohol or drugs addictions or those who smoke. Cigarette packets clearly state, these things are going to kill you, yet most people just keep purchasing more.

Spiritually, the parable of the sower might suggest that at best only one in four (25%) of people who hear the Gospel will embrace it and bear **eternal** fruit from it. 75% cling to unhelpful things and have no roots.

The latest theological thinking on this is that we as God's people need to be **RADICAL**, and *Relate*, *Repeat* and *Reframe* what we think and do as Christians currently and corporately as a Church.

So we need to *Relate* to people not coming to Church by being conscious that where we meet them are communities of opportunity for us to share the gospel. (At the golf-club, keep fit etc.) We can only do this if we can build warm relationships and make good friendships.

We will have to learn and *Repeat* new practices which work. We need to learn how today's culture can receive the Good News rather than doing it the way we *always did it* previously.

As we experiment and have new interactions in our community, we need to *Reframe* what we do and refine things as necessary, in order to be relevant, most appropriate and effective.

Our church is growing. Firstly, because we are truly seeking to honour God and are not 'playing fast and loose' with His holy word. Secondly, we have been taking risks, experimenting, networking with compassion for the spiritual well being of everyone in our community. That is why we began CAP and now run Basics. That is why we offer Alpha, and have the partnership with the Community Bakery etc.

Our focus then requires us to have **eternal** and present concern for all people we can reach and may enable them to have a better life in this world, and the appropriate support for them to adapt to God's values and purpose for their lives; which ultimately means **eternal** glories.

The magic factor though is God. He is the one who can change people even when they are stubborn or seemingly unwilling to believe in Him.

So will you help others to choose **eternal** life or not? *Yours Gordon*

DATE	SUNDAY DUTY TEAMS	FLOWERS in CHURCH	CLEANING ROTA (U) = upstairs (D) = downstairs
May 7	<b>May</b> <i>Jason Kay</i> Eric Easton Ian Darling Kath Ellis Barbara Leslie Alan Low Tom Manson	<b>May Convenor:</b> <b>Sarah McKenzie</b> Mrs V Collin	8 Laura Pulner & Laura Girvan (U) Ian & Jenn Manning (D)
14		Mrs A Creedican	5 Moyra Wright & Anne Creedican (U) Sandy & Ian Darling
21		Mrs M Cown	22 Gordon & Gail Stevenson (U) Jonathan & Christine Idle (D)
28		Mrs M Coltart	29 Val & Will Collin (U) Margaret & Derek MacDonald (D)
June 4	<b>June</b> <i>Will Collin</i> Moira Anthony Lindsey Barley Val Collin Christine Idle Jonathan Idle Moyra Wright	<b>June Convenor:</b> <b>Moyra Wright</b> Mrs D Brunton	5
11		Mrs L Glass	12
18		VACANT	19
25		Mrs J Murphy	26

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.

**Thank You**  
To all who delivered our Easter leaflet Messages. Well Done!

## Article Series 8 (pt 12) "ETERNITY Part 2"

Please read *Daniel 7:16-28*: What does this mean?

So Daniel seeks to understand this vision concerning the five Kingdoms (see last month's article for more details). He approaches an angel and asks, "what is the meaning of this?" v16. The angel gladly obliges - Wow!

The 4 great beasts are 4 kingdoms which will all have their day. The metaphor hidden in the text, but lost in translation is that they "come in waves" to bring devastation, like a tsunami.

BUT all the saints (all true followers of almighty God) of the Most High (who is plural here and in v, 22, 25, 27, - the Trinity comes to mind; Father, Son and Holy Spirit) will receive the 5<sup>th</sup> kingdom. Remember this is the only one which is **eternal** v17, 18 "**yes for ever and ever**".

Next Daniel enquires further about the 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom - the "most terrifying" one v19. We are reminded of its characteristics in v19, 20. Most worryingly it wages war against the saints and seems to be defeating them v21, albeit briefly (We will revisit this in Daniel 8:24) ...until v22 the Ancient of Days steps in with the judgment of God *against the beast and for the saints* - before the saints are brought into the **eternal** kingdom.

The explanation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Kingdom follows v23 - 27 and is written poetically with alliterations. e.g. the three verbs in v23 have the same first two letters. The threefold force of statements builds on the strength of what is being conveyed. One commentator (Baldwin) says "This builds up emphatic assurance of divine control". God is in ultimate control!

The 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom devours the whole earth. This is far more severe than the previous 3 kingdoms which devoured flesh etc. It is wanton destruction of God's creation and creatures.

Ten kingdoms rule simultaneously v24 - the ten horns. Their effect is highly destructive. They will dispense of 3 of the rulers of these kingdoms before the new most evil king brings a new set of abhorrent values; (i) Blasphemy (Speaking lies against God) v25, (ii) Continual and longer-lasting persecution of all saints, (iii) New religious festivals to replace existing Holy festivals (Halloween instead of ALL saints day perhaps and worse to come), and (iv) A new morality, or shall we say an immorality that becomes the standard. (We can see this in recent legislation). The Most High. is in ultimate and **eternal** control. He decisively cuts off the evil one's planned 1, 2, 3 steps with 'the time, 2 times and ½ a time.'

The veil is lifted between heaven and earth in v26, 27. The judgment takes place in God's courts and the evil one's dominion is taken from him. The Saints are now the triumphant jubilant ones. ( 'He who laughs last comes' to mind here). Then every knee shall bow to the 5<sup>th</sup> **eternal** and perfectly good kingdom ruler - God.

v27 is the interpretation from v14. All those who are there in heaven are the ones who worship the Most High God, The Son of man.

Finally, Daniel is still deeply troubled and he keeps the matter to himself - but no doubt reflects upon it, and prays to the Most High for wisdom and courage to serve Him and to work for His purposes.

. Your Kingdom of God servant **Gordon**.

## Pilot Lite offers our Church an opportunity and challenge

*'The number of people who regularly attend church services in Scotland has fallen by more than half over the last 30 years, according to a new survey.'*

This headline, posted by the BBC on Easter Sunday, does not make happy reading, but a key member of the United Reformed Church said,

**'It presents a new opportunity for the church** to portray the love of God and the Good News of Jesus in a new way for a new generation. It's an opportunity and a challenge for us.'

Our Church aims to:

- grow in our faith by being disciples of Jesus;
- worship in ways that are meaningful for everyone; and
- help meet the real local community needs and introduce them to Christ

The Pilot Lite group has been busy over the last few weeks:

- designing a leaflet for the new homes in our parish
- writing questionnaires to help gather information about our church groups and for others.
- meeting and sharing ideas with other Pilot churches
- considering funding options to help gather information about the needs of our community.

Please pray for the Pilot Lite group as it meets each month. We need God's help, blessing and will to be done as we discuss and agree the way ahead.

Please also pray for discernment and resources (people) who will transform ideas into reality.

**It could be you!**

## ETERNITY

Those who fail to have a vision of **eternity** will never get a true hold of time. *T. Carlyle*

Take a look past this world, aim your eyes and head upwards and view **eternity**. *Thomas Goodwin.*

The sum and substance of the preparation needed for the coming **eternity** is that you believe what the Bible tells you and DO what the Bible bids you. *Thomas Chalmers*

I've read the last page of the Bible. It's **going to turn out all right** for all true disciples of Jesus Christ. *Billy Graham*

This world is our passage, not our portion. *Matthew Henry*

**Eternity** depends upon this and every moment. (Use them well) *Thomas Manton*

Life is only spent wisely to the extent that it is spent in preparation for the **eternity** that follows. *Dave Hunt*

Live near to God, and all things will appear little to you in comparison to **eternal** realities. *Robert Murray M'Cheyne*

Christ's resurrection is not only the best **proof of immortality**, but we have no certain evidence of **immortality** without it. *Augustus H Strong.*

Science tells us nothing in nature, not even the tiniest particle, can disappear without a trace. Nature **does not know extinction**, only transformation. If God applies this fundamental principle to the most minute part of the universe, does it not make sense to believe that He applies it also to the soul of mankind?  
*Wernher Von Braun*

## Starters for Sunday!

Start Sunday morning with a nice breakfast, coffee or tea, in good company. 9:30 in the E R. 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](mailto: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**  
**4 June 2017**

# Annual Stated Meeting Reports 2017

**Boys' Brigade:** The Company has 39 boys (20 in the Junior Section and 19 in the Company Section). There are 2 registered officers and 1 registered helper. We operate a parent rota to help manage the boys effectively.

The boys follow the BB national programme, working towards various badges. In addition, they take part in external and Battalion activities.

Activities the boys have done in 2016 included:

- Attending Remembrance Day parade.
- A sponsored abseil down Barns Ness Lighthouse, raising £1400 for Bethany Christian Trust.
- Two Junior Section camps at PGL Dalguise Adventure Centre.
- A two day expedition from Linn of Dee to Coylumbridge over the Lairig Ghru.
- An animal handling session with exotic creatures.
- Go-karting.
- Climbing at Ratho Climbing Centre
- International Rugby at Murrayfield
- Attending Battalion Camps at Craggan, Loch Tay
- Canoeing and Kayaking

Seven of our senior boys achieved the President's Badge (the second highest award in the Brigade) together with the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. We now have 6 boys working towards DofE Silver and 4 working towards DofE Bronze.

We are offering our boys more opportunities than many BB Companies and we do this with fewer leaders. This is not an attempt at boasting - but it shows how much more could be achieved for more boys if adults were willing to come forward to help. My prayer is that some church members may be guided to help us in our work with young people.

**Sandy Mitchell**

**Ploughman's Lunch** raised £2,682.67 during 2016 bringing the total to £58,166 since we started in 1987. We gave £292.57 to Christian Aid in May. We average about 75 lunches. We thank our suppliers and special thanks must always go to our dedicated teams of helpers and of course our regular customers. The lunch is held on the last Thursday of the month and we think it is good value at £4 for homemade soup and pudding. Do come along and sample it for yourself. All are welcome.

Fresh Encouters Dates		
	Sundays	Mondays
	6:30 PM	1:30 PM
Week 1	7th May	8th May
Week 2	14th May	15th May
Week 3	28th May	29th May
Week 4	4th June	5th June
Week 5	11th June	12th June
Week 6	<b>Mon. 19th at 7:30</b>	19th June
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Mon. 26th at 7:30</b>	26th June

**Dunbar Parish Church Guild:** We have had 30 members, showing our move to fortnightly afternoon meetings last year was a wise one. Our Session began on 11 October with our Dedication Meeting and we have had an interesting variety of themes since then, including a video entitled 'The Queen's Hats' provided, along with two actual hats made by the Queen's milliner, by member Rachel Mylne. We also attended open meetings of other local Guilds, Presbyterian meetings and the Annual Meeting in Dundee.

Our theme for the year was 'Go in Joy' and our chosen CofS project was Mission International's work in Haiti. We also raised approximately £1,000 for Dunbar Parish Church funds at our two coffee mornings. Our thanks to those who supported these events. We are now looking forward to our annual outing which this year is to Holy Island on 14 June.  
*Val Collin, 16 March 2017*

**Homegroups:** The past year has again seen growth in those attending home groups. The Innerwick group still meets weekly at the Mannings. The fourth week of each month we support the churches' prayer meeting. This year we looked at 'The Journey to Wisdom' by Kate Hayes. This year has seen a few people move on to pastures new. We are currently studying 'Freedom in Christ'. We have had several new members come along this year and it's been a blessing getting to know and encourage one another as we learn and grow together.

Jonathan and Christine Idle host a group in Dunbar which meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month. This group has seen growth this year – spiritually and numerically, still having room for more. We have followed a study book from the Keswick Convention on leading a Christ-like life and are now studying Ephesians. We have enjoyed learning and growing together in Christ.

A Bible book club is also running monthly in various houses, led by Emma Weaver and Lorna McLeod. The group looked at 'The Shack' and are currently reading and discussing 'War Room'. There have been a couple of new folk attending as well as the regulars. The group is very open and well led.

The Youth House group for young adults (late teens/early twenties) is lead by Shiona, Linda and Douglas McClintick.

Recently we had a post-Alpha group meeting to look at 'The Life of Jesus' series. Some are going to join home groups, others are revisiting Alpha and others taking time out to contemplate where they are at on their journey. We really could do with some more home group venues and potential facilitators for folk from such courses to transition into. Please pray and see if God's asking you to be part of home groups? Either host, leader, member or perhaps all three. (You don't have to have all the answers or any answers to lead. You just need to be able to smile and ask the questions provided. Everyone else will answer them and together you'll grow.

It would be good for more members of the church family to attend such groups to reap the many benefits and also be an encouragement and blessing to others.

## Rwanda Partnership Team Report

This year we said goodbye to one of our valued team members, Liz Thomson who is now heavily involved in her new church in Leith. We wish Liz and her husband Les every blessing for their new life in Edinburgh.

Some of the highlights for our team this last year have been:

July/August saw five members travelling out to visit our brothers and sisters in the Living Church Kibungo. We received a warm welcome and attended the formal dedication ceremony of Sarah's house. The district officials present at the ceremony stated that it had set the benchmark for future builds. The team were asked to lead the worship in the Living Church on the first Sunday of their visit. Worship in Kibungo can last up to 4 hours so it was a bit daunting at first, however all went well and it was very warmly received!

We met with the farmers in Mvumba and distributed the gifts of clothing generously donated by members of DPC and community. For most it was the first time they had new clothes to wear. The community was also eager to thank us for the money for their annual health insurance but also wanted to make it clear that knowing someone cared & prayed for them was the greatest gift. These farmers had had to cease farming due to a rise in the cost of field rental. The Rwanda team through our partners in Kibungo have been able to secure and fund a 3 year fixed rental on the field and the Living Church Kibungo are committed to training the farmers in modern farming techniques in order to increase yield and become more profitable. Back in Kibungo we visited the children's nursery operating from the Living Church. Though officially it was their Summer break. Despite having very little in the way of educational materials and 4 classes under one roof the atmosphere was one of keen interest. The children were eager to demonstrate their knowledge of numbers and English. We were very impressed with the standards of achievement and were told that children from this nursery entering Primary education were far in advance of other pupils.

The Living Church recognises the importance of education in improving life chances and employment opportunities and has diverted much of its limited funds to ensure children are given the best possible pre-school education. Our prime focus now is obtaining sponsorship for 60 nursery places. A formal launch will take this out to our Church, community and interested groups in 2017. We are grateful to those who have already sponsored 7 full-time places. The Rwanda team also plan to raise the £2,000.00 start-up funds required to properly equip the nursery.

All monies sent out to Rwanda have been raised by fundraising events.

Civic week stall	£130.00
Disney Party	£553.00
Quiz & Supper night	£732.00
Christmas Crafts	£527.10
Just Giving	£80.00
Dave Davies'/Natasha	£150.00
Anonymous donation	£200.00
Church Christmas Cards	£115.00

It is impossible to name everyone who has given of their time, money or prayers but it is important to note that we are only able to do all this through the generosity of our Church family and the local community for which we are truly grateful. Every penny has been donated by YOU and raised through the tireless efforts of the entire DPC Rwandan team.

Notes of all our meetings are recorded and posted on the Church website and shared with our partners in Rwanda.

Finally, if this has inspired you to become more involved in the Partnership we would love to welcome you on board. Please speak to any members of the team – it may change your life! We would also like to extend our thanks to Rev. Gordon for his quiet background support and encouragement, Margaret McDonald, Church Treasurer, who patiently answers our queries, oversees any bank transfers and keeps track of all funds and also Alison Mitchell who oversees our webpage.

**Friday Youth Home Group** Around 8-14 young people attend YPHG meetings.

**Spring Term 2016.** Some of the topics covered during the spring term were: 'New Year's Resolutions' and God's View of Sex and Marriage. Other evenings included a Progressive Supper with Desert Island Discs and acting out Bible stories.

**Film making.** We had a couple of fun film making weeks where we discovered some creative ideas, acting talent and a very knowledgeable young director. Shiona also discovered she is not gifted at skateboarding but that Emma is certainly on track to study medicine. Her tips about elevating the wounded limb, taking off the watch and applying a bag of frozen peas were bang on!

**Summer BBQ at the Bigden's.** This was rainy but fun with lots of food and games then indoors for some spiritual nourishment.

**Autumn Light Party.** An alternative to Halloween at the Bigden's with food and games and a message of Jesus the Light of the World.

**Youth Alpha.** This was an initiative started jointly by 3 young people from DPC and Belhaven Parish Church. The young people organised the provision of the meals by members of the two congregations and the course itself with support from several youth workers in town. Alpha Course leadership training was given. The Holy Spirit Day was held at DPC with a visit to PowerPoint afterwards. Many of the friends they invited were not Christians. Feedback forms were positive and several are now continuing with '**Soul**' the youth version of Christianity Explored.

**Autumn Term.** Adult leaders took turns to explore different topics including 'How to share your faith', Paul Harkess was an outside speaker who came to lead one week at the Veitch's and we celebrated Fireworks Evening with the Halhill Fireworks followed by burgers and Ian telling his story.

**Christmas Bouncy Party.** We hired a bouncy castle and a bouncy obstacle course and installed them in the sanctuary. It was encouraging to see around 28 young people attending (many of whom came only because they had heard about the bouncy castle!) We ate pizza and played silly games and helpers stayed on for an after hours bounce! We were left with the challenge of how to further connect with the younger teens who came along.

**Spring & Summer Terms 2017.** We began the '**Freedom in Christ**' course alternating between houses and leaders. This is a course with video clips and practical exercises. It was encouraging to see a couple of new people attending as a result of Youth Alpha. This course seeks to establish and ground the young people in their true identity in Christ and to help them to address habits and hang-ups which might be holding them back. There are declarations and exercises and an away day in the Summer. We plan to visit Wooler church. We had a fun '*lip-synch challenge*' evening at the Veitch's during the February half term holiday. As usual our young people attend PowerPoint in Edinburgh every couple of months. This is a big worship event held at Central or Destiny churches with around 900-1,000 young people attending.

The Young People's Home Group faces some challenges from Summer 2017 on with many of our lovely young people leaving home for university, college, work or gap year. Please pray for those who remain and those yet to come along. Please also pray for someone to step into Laura Veitch's leadership position as she leaves for ministry in Wooler with Michael and the children.

**Junior Church:** This year has been a busy year for Sunday School. We have continued to work through the Scripture Union Light Resources studying different stories from the Bible.

Bubbles lessons have included Jesus Cares, God is Good, God is Awesome, Talking with Jesus and Singing with Jesus. Splash and Xtreme have enjoyed topics including Love in Action, God's Plans, How We Should Pray and God's Call and Promise.

Our numbers have continued to dwindle over the last few years and we only have 13 register children attending Junior Church on a regular basis over the 3 classes.

The Junior Church has 3 dedicated and hardworking leaders for Splash and Xtreme; Kirsten, Gillian and Karen. They meet regularly and work closely to ensure progressions and continuity.

Bubbles crèche is ran on a rota basis with a number of helpers stepping up and enjoying the time with the youngest of members.

We enjoyed planning and performing our annual Christmas Nativity. We loved our Christmas Party and receiving gifts. We enjoyed receiving our books during our annual prize giving followed by a picnic at John Muir with games, races and lots of fun.

We are always looking for extra support and helpers...keep us in your prayers.

**Little Fishes:** We have enjoyed another steady year. Gail Stevenson and Anne Creedican are regularly supported by Tom and Joyce Manson in the kitchen, and we have recently been joined by Ann Barr. Others regularly donate baking: these include May Low, Lena Glass, Laura Punler, Laura Veitch, and Eilidh and Anna Stevenson. We are all committed and there is good cooperation to keep the group running efficiently.

The average attendance is down from last year, and is currently around 14 children plus their carer/parent per week with 51 children registered. We have a good mixture of mums, dads, child-minders, and grandparents etc. that attend. We believe our numbers have decreased due to added competition on Wednesday mornings from a new playgroup and extra "Bookbug" classes in the library.

*Please pray for:*

1. More leaders – especially parents with younger children who are committed Christians
2. For families to become church attendees and ultimately to find living faith.

These things won't happen without real committed faithful prayer and more leaders who are driven to reach all those who attend.

Little Fishes is our church group – may we all work hard to see it bear fruit in the near future.

Thanks for your support and encouragement, Gail Stevenson

**Missionary Correspondent:** I continue to correspond with our 3 overseas partners, in China, UAE and Spain. I pass on appropriate news of their activities to 33 members of our congregation through a monthly prayer bulletin – Mission Matters. I also try to contribute appropriate missional material to the church magazine, although am limited in content by the need to protect co-workers. Although we have not sent any financial support to our partners in the year March 2016-7, the Overseas Christian Workers Fund continues to receive gifts from a number of faithful contributors.

When our partners from China visited in July they were able to participate in our service as well as the prayer breakfast. We had a successful whole church 'bring and share' lunch followed by a presentation from David and Jenny, which gave us greater insight into their work. On this occasion we gave them in excess of £207.25 towards their work and expenses. I was pleased to be able to meet our partners from Spain at Christmas, whilst they visited family in Edinburgh. Fiona and Les really appreciate our interest in their work and are encouraged by our prayers. They would be keen to host visitors.

I continue in the role of SU Ambassador in our church, passing on relevant information on the work of SU mainly through the magazine. This role may best be filled in the future by someone with more contact with the young people.

Thank you for your interest and support. Helen Cox

### **Prayer Report By Michael Veitch**

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)

God has graciously continued to bless and grow the prayer ministry in the church during the past year. Thanks are due to all those who have served God's people in leading at both the prayer breakfast and the prayer meeting. Other prayer initiatives have also taken place over the course of the year.

The prayer breakfast has continued to meet every Sunday morning, with an informal breakfast in the kitchen from 09:30 to 10:00 followed by a time of open prayer until 10:30. The combination of warm fellowship and good food/coffee is a undoubtedly a highlight of the week for many of us, and is a lovely way to begin the Lord's Day.

The prayer meeting has continued to meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 7:30pm for about an hour. This is a critical opportunity to soak the various ministries of the church in prayer, as well as to prayerfully seeks God's blessing upon our church, community and the wider world. Prayer is THE critical tool if we are always to ensure that the activities of our church remain firmly in line with the will of God. It is also a means by which we may stand in active solidarity with our persecuted brethren overseas.

I will be standing down as prayer coordinator as from mid April when we relocate to Wooler, and I would urge anyone who feels led to become involved in these ministries to let myself or Rev Gordon Stevenson know.

**Property Report:** It has been another busy year with several repairs carried out to the various properties. We are investigating upgrading the lighting in the church to more energy saving units and hope to resolve this soon. Similarly some members of the property committee are looking into the scope of works necessary to repoint the external surface of the church stonework and some window repairs as well as other sundry items. We hope to be in a position to put proposals to the Board soon.

Last summer Dunbar Parish Church played host to an Opera as part of the Lammermuir Festival. Feedback from the production team and audience was positive.

Unfortunately over the last year there have been a couple of occasions where windows have been broken and external doors damaged. We are looking at developing an operating plan to enhance the security of the building and this should be completed soon.

**Search.Word** have continued to use Scripture Union-Substance. This is a great resource and takes themes for each study book. Having completed book nine we decided it's time to start over at book one, as there are so many angles and ways to cover the topics. With a combination of 3 beginning/middle/ends to choose for each study and three leaders on a rota this will give a different aspect to each study. We are currently on a third rotation of our series of topics and it's good to see an increase in depth of discussion with some of the older ones to the first time around. We will lose a large number of our older set as they head off to Uni, etc this summer and we pray God's guidance and direction goes with them. We average about 15 teenagers a week out of a larger group 25. Many thanks to fellow leaders. Craig Burgess has stood down after many years leading and we wish him well and ask for God's wisdom and guidance as he gives teenagers insight in North Berwick. Also Laura Veitch will be moving on shortly to pastures new and we thank her for her efforts and love for the teens. 2 new leaders have stepped up, in Linda Grieg and Shiona Liddle and Derek MacDonald has stepped into leadership once again. Any new leaders would be warmly welcomed. You don't need to know it all to lead as the guides give a great overview of each lesson, you just need to be willing to learn alongside some great teens. There is also room to come along as an extra helper to just sit and listen and love the young folk without the responsibility of leading.

**Alpha:** In Autumn 2016 the church ran its third Alpha course in recent years but this time took the bold step to take the course into the community, in the Black Agnes Hotel on the High Street. About 16 guests regularly attended regularly and seemed to enjoy themselves learning more about the Christian faith and experiencing the new Alpha Film Series on the screen normally reserved for satellite television screening of football.

A very poignant 'weekend' was held with Friday night in the Eden Room, possibly the first time some of our guests had entered the church. The Saturday was at the delightful Carriage House premises adjacent to Pencaitland Parish Church where the ambience added to the Holy Spirit experience.

The success of the course was down to a huge effort from a lot of people and God's guiding hand. A big thank you to the staff at the Black Agnes, the volunteers who helped run the course and for those who faithfully upheld the course in prayer for its duration.

We are delighted that a No. of folk have continued with the follow up 'Life of Jesus' course and some now attend Sunday worship. Please pray that those who have attended both courses will grow in their relationship with our Lord and Saviour as they progress their faith journey.

Plans are being made for Alpha again in March and September 2017. Please pray that God will guide these new courses and prompt guests to attend.

**Basics Bank:** 2016 was another very busy year for us. We had 154 referrals over the year, which was exactly double the number of referrals we had in 2015. A much higher proportion of these lived alone, and so the number of people we assisted only rose (from 158 in 2015) to 196. The total weight of food dispensed over the year was 17,407kg, made possible by the 19,461kg of donations we received from our food drop bins in the Church, at Asda, the large Co-op, Hallhill, the Be Green Shop, Our Lady of the Waves, Pencaitland Church, Wight Chiropractic Clinic in Haddington; donations from East Linton Nursery at Harvest and Stenton Primary School at Harvest and Christmas; and from the church hall in response to urgent appeals for stock in December. We ran low because requests for support were not spread out evenly across the year. Many clients came as a result of having no money for up to six weeks due to enforced benefit changes. And the "powers that be", in their wisdom, seemed to have decided to make the switch to Universal Credit for what seemed like the whole of the claiming population of Dunbar in the months running up to Christmas!! During November and December we had at least a dozen clients a week, and food stocks ran thin. Appeals went out on East Coast FM and Facebook, and as a result, generous people helped us provide for the needs of the clients and even a generous hamper of goodies and gifts (beautifully decorated by the children at Stenton Primary School once again) to 18 recipients. This was a considerable cutback on the 35 hampers we had prepared the previous year. Those 18 recipients were the folks we were expecting at the Food Bank on 21st December alone, which shows how run off our feet we were at the tail end of the year.

As a result of those appeals, we have been approached by a number of people who have offered their assistance on the baking and soup rotas. Their involvement is greatly valued and there is now a (strong) team of 12 volunteers - 4 less than last year - with 2 couple others providing invaluable behind the scenes support. The atmosphere on Wednesdays continues to be warm and welcoming, and we are privileged to be able to show the love of Christ in the work we do there. We have a regular group of visitors who enjoy the food and the company; contribute to the relaxed, friendly feel of the place; and are prepared to lend a hand with sorting tins, making teas, and tidying up. Some have come to Alpha and Church, and one has become a Christian and an active volunteer. We have also further developed our links with The Ridge and Zero Waste much to the benefit of our clients, and our witness to the wider community. Storage continues to be a problem for various groups using the Church Hall, but the Property Committee have come up with an ingenious and economic solution which should be implemented in 2017.

Along with anonymous donations, EDF gave us a donation of £1000. These help us to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables, and items like diabetic foodstuffs. The Community Bakery donates unsold produce also. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us and in particular our loyal "buddies" who shop on a weekly basis for the items we need and help us to avoid overstocking on beans, tuna and pasta.

## Teen Page - Our House

I realised recently that the house I currently live in is the longest I've stayed anywhere. 13 years doesn't seem particularly long to be in one place however it made me think about the various homes I've stayed in since birth. I've lived with my parents, in student digs and in my own family home. The actual buildings have included a croft house, a city centre flat, a manse, a terraced house and detached, both rural and urban and a few in-betweens, until finally arriving at the house I'm in now. Each home represents different stages of my life and shared with different people, from my own parents and siblings, via friends, to my wife, with children arriving on the scene and then leaving to their own homes.

Some of you may soon be in the process of moving out of your family homes, whether it's going away to uni or work. This can be both exciting and daunting. So, what is it you are looking for? A typical estate agents spec will list number of rooms, garage, garden, fitted kitchens and bathrooms and so on. It will also list amenities in the surrounding area. Some of you will want to share with friends, while others will want your own space. Halls of residence may be a good option to meet new friends and share with like-minded folk. Have you thought about local amenities, in particular a good church nearby, or are your options based solely on affordability?

Most of you will be familiar with Psalm 23, "The lord is my Shepherd" but do you remember the last verse? In it we see David, the Psalmist, casting his eyes beyond his earthly home, looking toward eternity. Remember this was a man who went from shepherd to king. He slept rough on hillsides, had to hide in caves to avoid his enemies, but he also enjoyed the sumptuous luxury of the royal palace.

*In verse 6 we read:*

**"Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever."**

Anyone who trusts in Jesus has a great hope of that better place, a better country, a prepared place for a prepared people. However good we may think our lives have been, for the believer in Jesus, the best is yet to be.

How would the estate or letting agent advertise this home?

**Architect – designed by the creator of the universe, built of pure gold, many mansions within, 12 gates made of everything precious. There is no night, there are no tears, no need for hospitals in the area. The environment is both perfect and eternal! Cost – No mortgage required, paid in full by Jesus. Thieves, tax collectors and sinners welcome to apply! Free to all with faith in Jesus as advertised in a book full of promises!**

Is your soul ready for that great place? The hymn writer asks.... *"will your soul be ready for the mansions bright?"*. Don't let anyone or anything complicate this for you, just read about it for yourself.

**John 14:2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?**

## Hall Bookings

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

## *Prayer Breakfast Rota*

7 May - MacDonalds  
14 May - Jim Thompson  
21 May - Youth  
28 May - Rachel & Mike Mylne

## 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](mailto:basicsbankbuddy@gmail.com)  
and you will be kept up to date with  
a weekly email and shopping list.

## CHURCH PRAYER MEETINGS

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

## 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 21 May** for May  
Magazine - out on 30 May or if  
you would like a regular  
E\_Magazine

Tel: 862903 Denise or email:  
[dmbrunton@gmail.com](mailto:dmbrunton@gmail.com)

Weekly Notices: Contact Denise

## The Guild

9<sup>th</sup> May in the Halls 10:30-  
11:30 drop in for a coffee  
and pay for the outing to  
Holy Island on 14<sup>th</sup> June

## Kirk Session - Open Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> May 7:30 Eden Room

We have invited Rev. Mark Nicholas and Ross Watters (Youth Minister) to share  
with us from their experience of auditing, experimenting, partnerships and growth.

Please join us whether you are a leader, on the Pilot Team, or purely interested.

# My 1st Book of questions and answers!

## Section 5 - Salvation

51. How did Jesus save his people from their sin?

Answer: Jesus Christ suffered and died in the place of his people to pay the price for all their sins

So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. Hebrews 9:28

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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

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

Martin Luther King JR

### 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

### DPC Rwanda Group Fundraiser

Our ever popular Quiz night is back:  
**Friday 12 May 2017** from 7.00 p.m.  
in the Church Halls.

Country and Western theme this year! Get yourself in a team of 6 and come along and enjoy a good night out, dressing as a cowboy or cowgirl is optional.

**£10 a ticket including 2 course supper, bar available.**

Please let one of the Rwanda team know if you entering a team - Rwanda team includes Moyra Wright, Margaret and Kilvert Croft, Alan and Anne Low, Kirsten Bell, Lena Glass, Kirsty Harper, Moira Anthony.

All proceeds to the DPC LCK partnership. More details to follow

**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 **4<sup>th</sup> May**  
Meetings will be held at various venues always check with Emma/Lorna

We are looking at  
**WAR ROOM**

Any questions please call  
*Emma Weaver* 01368 459082

Film Night coming soon (Not yet released)  
Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Hacksaw Ridge (15)

This War film is about a Pacifist Medic Conscientious objector and is directed by Mel Gibson: It won 6 Oscars  
Cost £2 adults, youth £1

**Collection boxes**  
are available for  
your loose change  
to support our  
**Overseas Workers**  
currently in China,  
UAE and Spain



Ask Helen  
(Missionary correspondent)

**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](http://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

Alpha on Tuesday's  
Will you pray for good things to come out of Alpha each week?

## Miss\_ion Matters from Helen Cox

### HOT NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS IN SPAIN

Les will have his first novel published this month. You are invited to attend the launch in Edinburgh on Tuesday 23rd May in Central Hall, Toll Cross, Edinburgh. Les will be signing books from 18.30 - 20.00.

'Benefit of the Doubt' is the first in a series of four books Les has written. As Fiona puts it, "A fair amount of Scottish humour, romance and a bit of gripping the sides of your seat follows." The plot revolves around David Hidalgo, a church minister living in Edinburgh after most of a life spent in Spain.

David Hidalgo is not a policeman, though his work sometimes brings him into contact with police. He is not a private investigator, though people do come to him with their problems. He is not an amateur sleuth: the idea of solving criminal problems as a spare time hobby would be his last idea of fun.

As a pastor, his main concern is the spiritual welfare and care of his congregation - as he constantly reminds anyone willing to listen. All he wants is a quiet life and a minimum of drama. Primarily, he is a man of faith who believes in right and wrong, good and evil and some divine order overseeing human affairs. Which means that he also believes that life should make sense - that things should add up - that good should triumph and evil should be thwarted. But that's rarely how it looks from ground level.

David Hidalgo novels are in the crime / thriller genre but also have an essential spiritual twist. Things happen around David Hidalgo which pull him in against his better judgement and often impinge on spiritual questions and dilemmas. What happens when the basic principles and assumptions of faith butt up against the hard realities of life? Will evil be defeated and good triumph or is life simply a meaningless jumble that makes no sense at all? Follow David Hidalgo as he tries to get to the bottom of things, come to terms with terrible events and hold those responsible to account.

**\*\* PLAN TO BE THERE -  
LAUNCH EVENT \*\* 23RD MAY -  
CENTRAL HALL FROM 18.30**

**GOD HAS perfect timing  
Never early, never late  
It take a little  
PATIENCE And FAITH  
But it's always worth the wait**

<b>2017 Dunbar Parish Church Magazines</b>		
<b>Magazine month</b>	<b>Articles by Friday</b>	<b>Magazine out Sunday</b>
JUNE	19-May	28 May
JULY/AUG	No magazine	
SEPTEMBER	18-Aug	27-Aug
OCTOBER	15-Sep	24-Sep
NOVEMBER	20-Oct	29-Oct
DECEMBER	17-Nov	26-Nov

### Calendar for May 2017

Date	Time	Event	Location
2	14:30	Mentor Meeting	Manse
3	19:30	Home Group	Idle's
4	11:00	Funeral	Church
7	09:30	Prayer breakfast	E R
	11:00	<b>Service</b> - Luke 7: 1-17 Authority and Raising the dead	Church
	18:30	Fresh Encounters week 1	E R
8	13:30	Fresh Encounters week 1	E R
	19:00	Presbytery Review Conference	Pencaitland
9	15:15	Presbytery Forward Planning Meeting	Longniddrie
10	19:30	DCT AGM	Methodist Ch
	19:30	Prayer Meeting	E R
13	TBC	Church Spring Clean	Church
14	09:30	Prayer breakfast	E R
	11:00	<b>Service</b> - Luke 7: 18-35 The one and the least	Church
	18:30	Fresh Encounters week 2	E R
15	13:30	Fresh Encounters week 2	E R
	19:30	Property Team Meeting	E R
16	14:30	Mentor Meeting	Manse
17	19:30	Home Group	Idle's
18	18:30	Pilot Team Meeting	Catherine's
20	14:00	Wedding	Church
	19:30	Choral Concert	Church
21	09:30	Prayer breakfast	E R
	11:00	<b>Service</b> - Guest Preacher	Church
	All Week	Minister at the General Assembly	Edinburgh
24	19:30	Prayer Meeting	E R
25	12 to 2	Ploughman's Lunch	Halls
28	09:30	Prayer breakfast	E R
29	11:00	<b>Service</b> - Luke 7: 36-50 A Sinful woman anoints Jesus	Church
	18:30	Fresh Encounters week 3	E R
	13:30	Fresh Encounters week 3	E R
	19:30	Kirk Session	E R
30	9 to 3	P3 Visits and talks on Church	Church