

Dunbar Parish Church

MAGAZINE



Minister

Rev Gordon Stevenson

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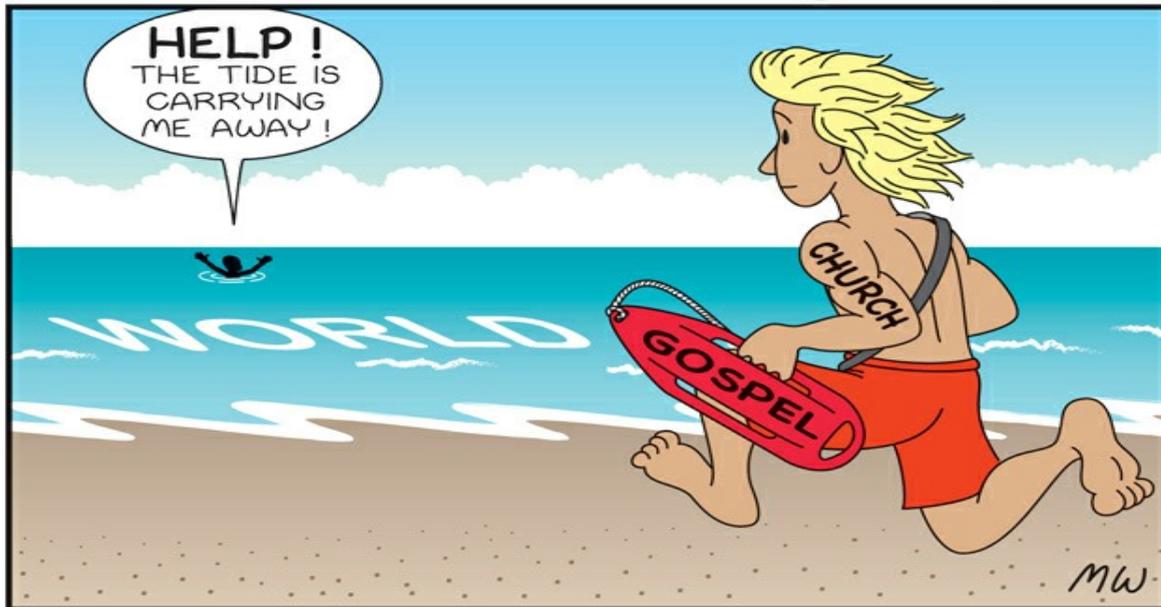
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May 2019

LIFEGUARD

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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www.joyfultoons.com

He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.

— ACTS 11:14 NIV

Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." Genesis 3:13

Are you ever tempted?
Do you see Sin in others and in yourself?
Do you know God's solution and offers to you?
Where will you go when you die?

Sunday & Special SERVICES in May			READERS	PRAYERS
5	11:00	Amos 3 : Privilege brings responsibility	Moyra Wright	Shiona Liddle
12	11:00	Amos 4 : Prepare to meet your maker	Walter Cowan	Joan Hancock
19	11:00	Amos 5 : Hypocrites beware!	Margaret Croft	Rachel Mylne
26	11:00	Amos 6 : At ease in Zion (your Church)	Anne Creedican	Fraser Stewart

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

Minister's Letter May 2019 : **Eternal Life**

After a great Easter Festival week, the **life** and death of the church continues. The Church of course is Christ's, but it is *managed* on earth by humans. Therein lies the issue - even the best of us is imperfect - unlike Jesus.

I was recently engaged in a debate with someone who thinks that Christians are all "fundamentalists and stupid." He was quick to talk about the church dying "as thousands who discovered education could see that the Bible was ludicrous". Right away I knew that engaging with one whose mind was so closed was likely to be unfruitful. Yet I prayed for him.

I felt prompted that if I simply pointed out a few errors in his arguments, then he might go away and ponder. So I did, very graciously indeed, but his response was to brush away his errors. Okay, I could see that he had been shown up, but instead of considering these things or asking for something positive, he simply began to jump to new tangents of propaganda that this world throws out against Jesus the world's Saviour.

His angle that the church was dying out is true in many places. This is not because of science disproving Christianity or creation by God or anything like that. It is primarily because those in dying churches have not truly known Jesus, nor followed God well enough or honoured Him rightly. e.g. often *softening* biblical truth or down right proclaiming untruths (propagated lies), failing to share the Good News or passing it on to the next generations etc.

It is fairly easy for nominal church goers and religious attendees to give up going to church. They have not grasped what Jesus has done for them on the cross and through his rising, ascension and sending the Holy Spirit to all who invite Him to be LORD, master and leader of all they do: which incidentally gives us the most blessed life we could possibly have.

It is sad to see churches close or people walk away. In a friend's church a prominent doctor left 8 years into his ministry after having attended and served in various capacities for over twenty years and I suspect that in all our churches, people do the same kind of thing from time to time.

What can we do? In one sense nothing, for various reasons people will come and go; but in another sense, we can pray for each and every one, and continue to preach the truth and live out the gospel in word and deed.

If it were only for this **life**, this would still be a decent goal. However, it is not only for this **life**, it is for ALL **eternity**. This month we consider how Jesus' offer is vastly amplified for our good, in stark comparison to where we were we were unsaved sinners. So are you nominal, religious or truly a born again Christian? It is a serious and crucial question.

If you are unsure, we can help you to be sure - **life** and **life eternal** freely yours in Christ. Come and explore as a matter of urgency...

Always in your service Gordon

30 May – Ascension Day: 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (*Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.*)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them – to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands – and blessed them."

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him – and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

DUTY DONE

Sitting there, on Sunday morning,
Congregations in their pews
Read their magazines, informing
Them of all the latest news.

Though she earns no princely wages
Though she gladly gives her time
Efficiently she fills those pages
Choosing pictures, prose, and rhyme.

All save one who sits there smiling –
She knows that journal very well
Having spent a month compiling –
She knows what those pages tell!

So she sits, her rest deserving
For this month her duty's done
Maybe she's just strength conserving –
Soon she starts another one!

She it was who, deadlines facing
Got those varied items in
Phoning, asking, pleading, chasing
Each a battle she must win!



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

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](#)

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!

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
Sunday Bible reading rota
Sunday **prayer** rota
Prayer Breakfast leader rota
Prayer Breakfast catering rota

2019 Dunbar Parish Church Magazines

Magazine Month	Articles by Friday	Magazine out Sunday
JUNE	17 May	26 May
SEPTEMBER	18 August	25 August

Magazine Deliverers needed for Newhouse Avenue/Place - 12 mags. Please speak to Denise if you can help.

Magazine Input:

Please send your items in by **Friday 17 May** for **June Magazine** - out on 26 May or if you would like a regular E_Magazine Contact Denise: Tel: 862903 or email:

dmburton@gmail.com

Weekly Notices: Contact Denise

Coffee Plus

meeting every Friday in the church 10.30-12 noon

Come for a chat and a brew

...growing friendships...



Coffee Plus is celebrating....



Starting a new group is never easy. Where would we meet? Would people come? What would we do? Was there a need for the group?

Our first few meetings were held in the Eden Room where we had a cup of tea or coffee and a blether. This was fine for the first few weeks as our numbers were small but it was not sustainable. Although the church was a huge space and we were a small number, we moved downstairs and sat around our newly acquired coffee tables.

People came. We have welcomed young people from four years of age to older folks of 80+. Virtually every week we have welcomed someone who has not been before including the scaffolders, church painters, architects, visitors to Dunbar and cleaners. Some weeks we have five or six people coming along and other weeks we are closer to 20.

Can you believe that we have hosted a MacMillan Coffee Morning and a Fair-Trade Coffee Morning, made Advent wreaths, gone Nordic walking in the church, sung Christmas carols and eaten cake, made Easter cards (some of which went off to France), enjoyed hot cross buns and had a 'Pause for Thought' each week? Yes, we have coffee and tea but we are also keen to do more.

Recently, a visitor to Dunbar came through our doors. They wanted to know what Coffee Plus was about but it became clear that they needed a quiet, safe place to sit for a while and share their concerns with someone they could trust. We were able to listen, give them time and share something of God's love with them. We may never see them again but we can pray that we were able to help them in some small way.

Coffee Plus is celebrating its first birthday in May. We would love to see more people coming along, particularly from outside the church fellowship. Our doors are open every Friday (unless there is a problem!). Come and help us celebrate our first birthday on Friday 10th May.

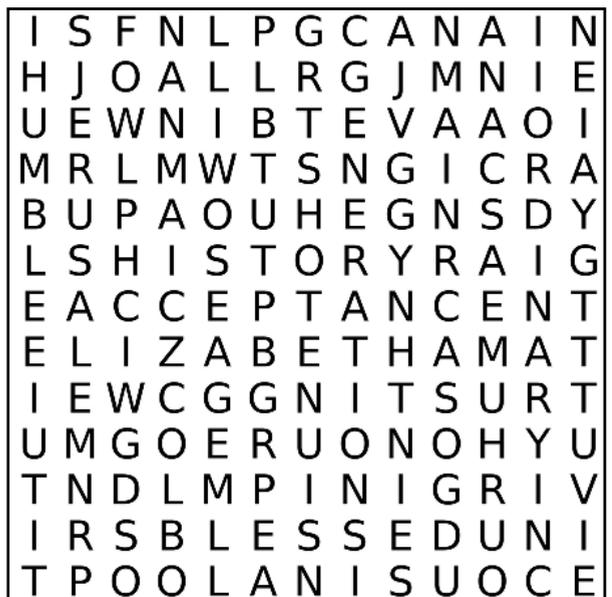
WORDSEARCH...

Visit
Virgin
Mary
Cousin
Elizabeth
Pregnant
Glimpse
Humble
Ordinary
Women

Great
History
Trusting
Faith
God
Acceptance
Will
Jesus
Jerusalem
Cana
Special

Honour
Generations
blessed

Answers in the June magazine!



DATE	SUNDAY DUTY TEAMS	FLOWERS in CHURCH	PRAYER BREAKFAST ROTA LEADERS
May 5	<p>MAY Barbara Leslie Ian Darling Sandy Darling Eric Easton Kath Ellis Jason Kay Alan Low Tom Manson</p> 	<p>Convenor: Sarah McKenzie Mrs V Collin</p>	Shiona with Alison Mitchell
12		Mrs A Creedican	Tim Greene
19		Mrs M Cowan	Alison Mitchell
26		Mrs M Coltart	Ian Manning
JUNE 2		<p>JUNE Christine Idle Moira Anthony Craig Burgess Val Collin Will Collin Jonathan Idle Moyra Wright</p>	<p>Convenor: Moyra Wright Mrs D Brunton</p>
9	Mrs L Glass		Fraser Stewart
16	VACANT		Mike & Rachel with Alison
23	Mrs J Murphy		Ian Manning
30	Mrs E Dudgeon		Ian & Margaret Coltart with Alison

Volunteer Flower Convenor for September needed. Please speak to May Low if you can help, or if you would like to put flowers in the church on Vacant Sundays or for special anniversaries

Article Series 9 (pt 12) LIFE and DEATH

Pray and read Romans 5:12-21 One from Jesus and one from sin
In the earlier chapters Paul has explained why salvation is available for all people through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. However, each person has the need for salvation because of the sin Adam committed and passed on to all of us v12. More importantly, we can unite with Christ crucified, buried and risen if we invite Him to guide our lives in a relational way as we believe the Good News which He came to reveal to us. Then through this one man, Jesus, sin and eternal death is conquered v15, 17-19 and 21.

So this passage addresses the twin human crisis issues, sin and death. Sin is rebellion against God and comes in many forms. Death here is also more than simply biological death, but spiritual too, listed here with eternal life v21, 23. So the sin of Adam we inherit as humans in a fallen world brings both biological and eternal death. In 1 Corinthians 15:26, Paul calls death the “last enemy”.

This crisis caused by Adam in disobedience v19, can be broken by only one, namely Jesus Christ who was obedient to God and without sin. The Law of God highlights our sinfulness as we can see where we break God’s rules.

So Paul continues in v12 having spoken about our moral weakness, godlessness, sin, and the inevitable wrath this brings.

From the moment Adam rejected God’s one rule, the blessings of God’s presence were ungratefully rejected and Adam and Eve were ejected out of Eden. Very soon afterwards the first murder was committed.

Jews wrongly presumed that through keeping the Law, they were sinless. Paul corrects this in v13, 14.

In v15, 16 Paul continues to compare Adam with Christ by referring to Adam as an anti-type of Christ. Instead of the warranted wrath Adam brought, Christ brings the free gift of grace. He then shows an amplified benefit Christ brought with the phrase, “how much more”.

Adam brings condemnation, Christ brings justification v18, 19. Here each verse amplifies the respective actions of the other. Of course Mark 10:45 concurs by saying “the Son of Man came... to serve and give His life as a ransom for *many*” This also fulfilled prophecies in Isaiah 53:11-12 and Daniel 7:13-14.

Finally Paul wants to highlight how extra abundant God’s grace is in v20, 21. The Law did nothing to tackle the issue of death v13, 14. Now grace tackles both sin and death. God’s desire to be gracious overpowers sin because of God’s inherent nature which is love, and conquers eternal death. The image is one of kings reigning over, and ultimately Christ ruling over death for ever. God has made the ultimate remedy to both crises humanity faces.

None of us can deny our sinful nature which usurps having God on the throne of our lives. We cannot keep all God’s Law, nor is it within our grasp to solve these twin crisis issues - yet grace is free, though not ever cheap.

Hoping this is helpful to you all Gordon

DEATH (AND ETERNAL LIFE)

Death may be the king of terrors, but Jesus the King of Kings, offers **life**. *Anon.*

Since Christ has made full atonement for the believer's sins and obtained remission for him, **death** can no more harm him than could a wasp whose venomous sting has been removed.

A. W. Pink

What greater encouragement can a man have to fight against his enemy than when he is sure of the victory before he fights - of **final victory**. *Richard Sibbes*

Until you are free to **die**, you are not free to **live**. *Anon*

There is nothing morbid about getting ready to **die**. For a Christian, it is preparation for **life's** greatest adventure. *Vance Havner*

We may look on **death** with joy when we look on forgiveness with Christian faith. *Thomas Watson*

Death puts us all in OUR place. *John Blanchard*

If the **second birth** hath no place in you, the second **death** shall have power over you. *William Dyer*

Death and what is beyond it will show who is wise and who is a fool. *William S. Plumer*

Just as the tree cut down, that falls To north or southward, there he lies So man departs to heav'n or hell, Fix'd **in the state** wherein he **dies**.

Isaac Watts

Death shortens our way to heaven, but **grace** sweetens our way to heaven *Anon.*

Death for the Christian is not a miserable cul-de-sac, but a glorious open road into the presence of God. *Doug Barnett*

My 1st Book of questions and answers!

Section 9

The Second Commandment
70 What does the second commandment tell us to do?

Answer:

To worship God in the way that he tells us in His word, and not to use man-made idols or statues.

See that you do all I command you; do not add to it or take away from it.

Deuteronomy 12:32

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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 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

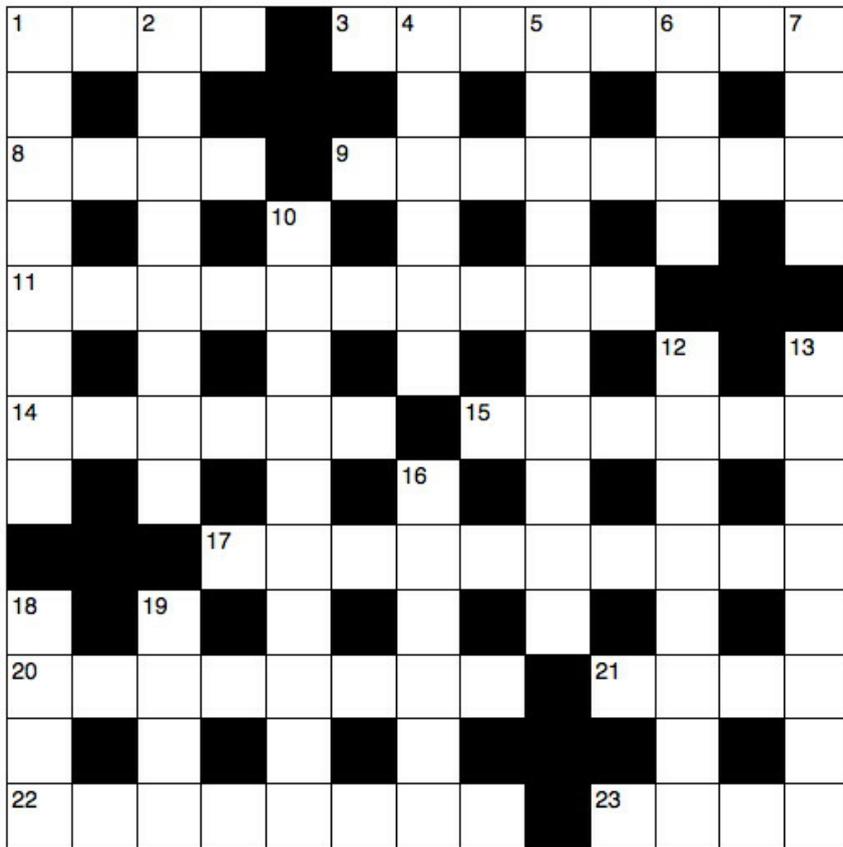


Communion

The next Communion is
7:30 pm
Sunday 2nd June

DPC Verse for 2019

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
Lamentations 3:22-23



MAY CROSSWORD

Answers in next month's magazine!

Answers to April's crossword ...



Across

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
- 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)
- 8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)
- 9 'My God, my God, why have you — me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)
- 11 Anglican form of church government (10)
- 14 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like —' (Isaiah 40:31) (6)
- 15 Ministers of religion (6)
- 17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)
- 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)
- 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)
- 22 Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)
- 23 '[Jesus] said to them, " — here and keep watch"' (Mark 14:34) (4)

Down

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)
- 2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)
- 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)
- 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)
- 6 'I am God, and there is none — me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
- 7 'And how can they preach unless they are —?' (Romans 10:15) (4)
- 10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)
- 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)
- 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)
- 16 'About midnight the sailors — they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)
- 18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30–31) (4)
- 19 'According to your great compassion — out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1) (4)

TEEN PAGE....LOST AND FOUND

Have you ever lost anything? If you're anything like me you "misplace" items all of the time. Usually it's not things of any great value or importance, it's usually trivial items that by their very nature aren't important enough to look after properly. This week, while I was repairing a fence, I dropped a nail. Not a big deal I hear you say, I have plenty of others and they are cheap to buy. The big deal was that I had dropped it onto my driveway. In my head I had visions of driving straight over the nail, embedding it firmly into my tyre, causing me time and money to repair! Although that nail cost less than a penny to buy, it could cost me significantly more!

In Luke Chapter 15, we see Jesus telling 3 parables, all of which involved loss of some form and being found. We have the lost sheep, the lost coin and finally the lost son.

Let's look at the lost coin. (Luke 15:8-10).

"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbours together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!' Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents".

Such a simple story it seems. We don't know much about the woman's circumstances, whether she could afford to lose the coin or not. She may not be rich but she has a house and another nine silver coins, so she's not completely impoverished. So why does she search for it? It is obviously precious to her. We see that from the care she takes. She doesn't have a quick scan about and give up easily, she makes preparations. She lights a lamp to see into the darkest recesses, she gets a brush to reach into the most inaccessible areas and then she sweeps the entire house! This is not a half-hearted effort. This gives the image of a determined woman, who stops at nothing until the coin is found.

So what does this parable represent? In simple terms it shows the love God has for everyone. Although God may have a loving relationship with nine others, the one who doesn't know him is important and valuable, worth preparing the ground and spending time on. All three parables in Luke 15 concern the restoration of lost relationships, ultimately God seeking out human beings who were lost to him and bringing them back into a loving relationship with Him. For Jesus to give this message in three different parables shows that it is a vital message worth emphasising.

If you have read the three parables, you will notice another common occurrence in all three. When the lost item is found, there is great rejoicing! It seems a bit of an over reaction when you dissect the stories closely. Would you really throw a party if you found one sheep out of a hundred, one coin out of ten, one son who'd squandered your wealth and left you worried sick??

Again, this teaches us of God's amazing love for us and how valuable we are in his sight.

Imagine for a moment the amazing splendour of heaven in all its glory. Then imagine the amazing scenes of rejoicing among the choirs of angels. Now imagine that these incredible scenes of rejoicing are for you. Luke 15:10 *"In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents."*

So, no matter what you are going through or what you think of yourself or how worthless you may feel, you are valuable and precious to God and he is reaching out to you.

Facebook as a Tool for Community Engagement

A recent conversation with my old school friend Anne led to us talking about Facebook. She has decided to come off it because she felt it was a little bit 'stalkery'. She found herself looking into other people's lives out of sheer curiosity. People on Facebook do tend to present themselves in the best possible light with fun family photos at the seaside and smiling pictures of great nights out. We don't see the boring, grumpy days when the sky is grey and the dog's been sick again. Looking at other people's Facebook lives can give you FOMO. That's '*fear of missing out*' for those of us born in the last century! Or at its other extreme Facebook is used for cryptic complaints for example: '*Some people are so passive aggressive it makes my blood boil!*' **Who** is passive aggressive? We know you are talking obliquely about a specific someone. Do you hope they'll see your post and repent of their passive aggressive behaviour? Hey, wait a minute aren't YOU now being passive aggressive by posting this comment? The people who are in the know respond with comments like: '*Aw hun I'm here for you. XOXO*' All unhelpful and quite frankly a little annoying.

That's the unhelpful side of Facebook but can it be also used for good? The week before our Community Easter Egg Hunt I posted daily videos of the Chick and the Bun in dialogue about the event. Would it surprise you to know that 760 people watched the videos and 2,741 people were reached through our page? It certainly surprised me and many people who chatted to me on the High Street said they'd seen the videos too! This Facebook engagement contributed to at least 73 children and families discovering the mystery phrase: 'JESUS LIVES' and receiving the Bible Society booklet: 'Three Friends and the Miracle Man' all about Jesus's life, death and resurrection. It led to great conversations with shopkeepers on our High Street and people enjoying hot cross buns and chat in one of our churches on Easter Saturday. I'd say that was worth a wee venture into Facebook territory, wouldn't you?

Shiona Liddle – Pioneer Minister

DPC Rwanda Team

We would love more folk to keep this partnership viable. Preliminary plans are underway for another visit to Rwanda in July 2020 and we are praying that many more people will join us. Please consider this – it will truly inspire you and demonstrate why this is such an important mission for Dunbar Parish Church. If you'd like to know more or reserve your place please speak with Margaret Croft. This trip could change your life! Deposits of £150 must be paid by end of June this year.

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

**Meeting Friday 17th May - 7:30 at
Catherine's house**

*Book: Surprise the World: the five
habits of highly missional people by
Michael Frost*

Any questions please speak to Lorna

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 **013688 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.

MAY 2019 Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
1	7:30	Home Group	Idle's
3	10:30-12:00	Coffee Plus	Church
5	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Morning Service: Amos 3 Privilege brings responsibility	Church
8	19:30	Prayer Meeting	Eden Room
10	10:30-12:00	Coffee Plus... 1 st anniversary celebration!	Church
	19:00	Wedding Rehearsal	Church
11	14:00	Wedding of Raymond and Melissa	Church
12	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Morning Service: Amos 4 Prepare to meet your maker	Church
	2 to 5	Choral Rehearsal	Church
13	19:30	Congregational Board Meeting	Eden Room
15	19:30	Home Group	Idle's
17	10:30-12:00	Coffee Plus...	Church
		Presbytery Prayer	Haddington
	19:30	Bible Book Club	Catherine's
18	12 to 10:30	Choral practice and concert	Church
19	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Morning Service: Amos 5 Hypocrites beware!	Church
	18:00	Sunday Evening Fellowship	Church
22	19:30	Prayer Meeting	Eden Room
	12 noon-2 pm	Ploughmans' Lunch	Halls
	19:00	Presbytery	Musselburgh
24	10:30-12:00	Coffee Plus...	Church
26	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Morning Service: Amos 6 At ease in Zion (your Church)	Church
30	12-2	Ploughmans' Lunch	Halls
31	10:30-12:00	Coffee Plus...	Church



Sunday Fellowship

19th May at

6:00 pm in the Church

