

Dalziel St. Andrew's Parish Church

'The Kirk at The Cross'

"BELIEVING in CHRIST – BELONGING to CHRIST – BECOMING like CHRIST"



"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel— which means, God with us." (Matthew 1: 23)

"Kirk Matters"
Congregational Newsletter
December 2011 – February 2012

The Manse of Dalziel St. Andrew's Parish Church

Dear friends

As I write, we are experiencing unusually mild weather for November. However, there is no way for me to predict whether the prevailing conditions will still be that way by the time you read this newsletter. If nothing else, our past couple of winters have shown just how changeable is the weather in Scotland. Yet, one thing I can say with utter confidence is that the love of God for you and me will be no less this Christmas than it has been for over 2,000 years, indeed, since the creation of the world. Many things lead me to this conclusion. But, one in particular stands head and shoulders above the rest; and that is, the birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The weeks that follow the issue of our quarterly newsletter will, as always, be busy. There never seems enough time to tick all the boxes of things that must be attended to in the run up to Christmas Day. Food, gifts, cards, clothes, family and friends – all of these, and more, demand our attention. But, preparation for Christmas ought to be so much more than just tending to the practical items on our TO DO lists. That is why the season of Advent is so important. We simply must make time, once more, to prepare ourselves spiritually to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, and to welcome Him into our hearts and homes.

This year, Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. Already I hear people saying what an “inconvenience” this is. Of course, I understand that there needs to be time for family and friends. Indeed, that is one of the real joys of the season. But, if we cannot make time to worship our true Father, God in Heaven, on this day of all days, we shall have failed in our preparations for Christmas. The turkey may taste succulent and the trifle divine, even the brussels sprouts may be cooked to a T. But, if we sacrifice time with God in favour of lesser things, we will be the losers.

I challenge you, therefore, to make proper preparations – in body, mind and spirit – to celebrate the coming of Immanuel, God with us.

Every blessing for a Happy CHRISTmas and a healthy New Year

Derek W. Hughes

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 24th December 2011

Family Worship at 6:30pm

followed by refreshments

Watchnight Service at 11:30pm

preceded by coffee and mince pies

Sunday 25th December 2011

Worship at 11:00am to celebrate Christmas Day

This will be a service, which will be suitable for all ages.

We encourage the children (and adults!) to bring along a gift they have received to show the congregation.

In this way, we rejoice in God's special gift of Christ as Saviour.

Sunday 1st January 2012

**Worship at 11:00am to welcome
the Lord's blessings in 2012**

Come along and share with us in a brief act of worship to begin the New Year.

EVENING WORSHIP

There will be no evening services

on Christmas Day or New Year's Day

We pray that you enjoy time with your family,
giving thanks to God for the

REASON for the SEASON – JESUS!

Saturday 7th January 2012

Evening Ceilidh in the Main Hall

ALL funds raised will go to our organ restoration project.

Tickets are available from

Jeanette Boyd, Janette Black, and Alex Baird,
or through calling our church office (01698 264 097).



Many things are considered essential in modern life. In truth, however, the list of items one might not be able to do without varies from person to person. For a Christian, the Word of God in Holy Scripture has been, and always will remain, essential. Yet, truth be told, it is a rare person who finds it easy or entirely straightforward to read the Bible. Of course, while many folk have good intentions, and, some can even quote chapter and verse, most of us, if we are honest, need a bit of help in reading the Bible. That is where E100 (short for Essential 100) comes in handy. This is a booklet (backed by Scripture Union and The Scottish Bible Society), which covers 100 essential passages - 50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament.

Daily readings range from a few verses up to a couple of chapters and cover the major themes of God's revelation to mankind, from Creation through to the Second Coming of Christ. As well as suggested readings, each section contains some helpful background, useful questions and fuel for your prayers. It is a very practical booklet, which will help you understand and apply God's Word more effectively every day. Starting in January 2012, it is our aim to have at least 100 members of our church in Motherwell following through on this programme together. If you would like to join us, please sign-up on one of the sheets at church, or send us an email. Booklets cost £5 each if ordered in bulk through the church. Alternatively, if you are a bit of a techie, you may care to download E100 to your smartphone or E-reader. Either way, let's get reading the Word. It truly is the world's most important book!

You can find out more by logging on to:

www.e100challenge.org.uk

BIBLES for AFRICA



Many thanks to those who have handed in Bibles for Africa. These have all now made their way, through Advent Hope Ministries, to Africa where there is such a hunger for God's Word. We are fortunate in having available our Bibles, but we do take these for granted. There are now so many translations, which all help us to learn from the Bible. In Africa, there is a great shortage of Bibles, with a huge demand for even parts of the Word.

Advent Hope Ministries has a scheme for sending unused Bibles to that part of the world, with container shipments regularly sent from the United Kingdom for free distribution to those thirsting for the Word of God.

In many cases the local people could not afford to buy a Bible, even if one was available. We have a local contact in Motherwell (Ken Hatcher) who devotes a large part of his time to gathering and packing off bibles to a central collection point in England.

Do you have any Bibles which you no longer use? Any edition. Would you be able to help in getting these to others who are so eager to read the Good News? If you have any, and would like to help, that would be excellent.

Alex Baird will gladly take your donated Bibles to Ken Hatcher for forwarding with the others he receives, and so help, in a small way, to bring the wonderful words and guidance of the Holy Scriptures to those who, at the present time, have no Bible of their own.

Hand them in to the church or give Alex a call (262 915) and he will gladly uplift them.

Kirk Session

Notes from September, October & November 2011 meetings

Makeover Project – Forward for Jesus: Douglas Graham (Property Convener) reported that the contractor (Walcker) had dismantled organ and transported it to their factory in Germany. Meetings had been held with the Management Committee, the Architect and Consultants to finalise the specification for the Sanctuary project. Tenders would be sent out during October, with a view to starting work on the Sanctuary project in January 2012, if the funds were available. **Sanctuary:** £9000 has, so far, been donated to the seat appeal. Early in the New Year the congregation will be involved in the selection of seats, as promised. The Architect is concluding the detailed work on the upgrade, and tenders will go out at the end of the month. This would allow a start to be authorised in the New Year providing our funding position is complete. Thanks to all who have supported the makeover project in any way. **Mission Hall:** The Moderator informed the Kirk Session that there had been slow progress with the offer we had received and accepted for the Mission Hall in Jupiter Street. He asked the Session to continue to pray earnestly that this offer would be finalised.

Befriender Project: Funding has now been received for a one year pilot of our befriender project. This will enable us to befriend and help elderly, isolated people in and beyond our parish. There is an enormous need for this service in the Motherwell area. The funding was received from the following; £5,000 from the local Social Work Department, £5,000 from the Church of Scotland Parish Development Fund, £7,000 from Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund (FiSCAF) and £5,000 from Dalziel St. Andrew's Parish Church via the Thomson Bequest, making a total of £22,000. This has enabled a part-time coordinator to be appointed to set up and run the pilot project. The position was widely advertised locally. 70 enquiries of interest and 28 applications for the position were received. After scrutiny by the Management Committee a short list of 6 candidates was drawn up. Interviews were then carried out and Liz Magunnigal was the unanimous recommendation made to the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board. Liz will take up this appointment in November and the project will launch early in 2012. Linda Simpson (Safeguarding Officer) is in the process of assisting a number of people, who have expressed an interest in being volunteer Befrienders, to complete the safeguarding

procedures. The Moderator has identified a number of clients for befriending and is consulting with other church leaders in the town.

Future Focus: The Revd. Keith Ross, Congregational Development Officer in the Presbytery of Hamilton submitted his report on the presentation “Future Focus: Vision for Congregations” made to the Kirk Session at our meeting on 16 June 2011. Copies of his report were distributed to the Elders.

Sunday School Coordinator: Anne Brown has volunteered her services, in an administrative capacity, as Sunday School Coordinator. The Moderator and the Kirk Session were delighted.

New Elders: The Kirk Session discussed the nominations received for new elders and decided that the Moderator and the Session Clerk should approach all of those listed.

Deputy Session Clerk: An approach has still to be made to a suitable candidate to act as Deputy Session Clerk.

CORRESPONDENCE: Willie Harvey: A letter was received from Willie Harvey stating that, due to increasing infirmity, he was no longer able to attend Kirk Session meetings. The Session Clerk is to reply thanking Willie for all his service to the Church and Kirk Session over the years and to make clear that he was welcome to attend our deliberations any time he felt able. **Shona Ferguson:** Due to work commitments Shona Ferguson has requested leave of absence from Kirk Session meetings. The Session Clerk is to reply that, when work commitments allowed, she would be most welcome at Kirk Session deliberations and serving at Holy Communion. **Christians Against Poverty:** The Moderator received a communication from Christians Against Poverty. Anyone interested could obtain details at the end of the meeting. **Protection of Vulnerable People (PVG):** Linda Simpson (Safeguarding Officer) attended a training course on the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007. Points arising from the training were made available to Elders prior to the meeting. A PVG policy statement will now have to be prominently displayed. This is the responsibility of the Kirk Session. **National Stewardship Conference:** A letter was received from the Presbytery of Hamilton advising that congregations are to be represented at a stewardship conference to be held in Motherwell, Dalziel St. Andrew’s on Tuesday, 25 October 2011 at 7.30pm in fulfillment of May’s 2011 General Assembly instruction that the Church of Scotland should embark on a

National Stewardship Programme. Each congregation can send up to four representatives. The Kirk Session nominated Revd. Derek Hughes and Dr. Stephen Day to represent our congregation along with two nominees from the Congregational Board. **Church of Scotland Nominations Committee:** A letter was received from the Church of Scotland Nominations Committee requesting that Kirk Sessions nominate suitable candidates to serve on the committees of the Church of Scotland. It was proposed and accepted by the Kirk Session that Dr. Stephen Day's name be forwarded to the Nominations Committee as a suitable candidate. **Elder Training:** E-mail was received from the Mission Discipleship Council of the Church of Scotland with information about a training course for Elders wishing to Moderate Kirk Sessions. Any Elder interested in this to inform the Session Clerk. **Mary and George Colquhoun:** A letter was received from Mary and George Colquhoun thanking the Kirk Session for the gift of beautiful flowers on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary. **Social Committee:** A letter was received from the Social Committee asking if the Kirk Session would be willing to host a stall at the Annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday 3rd December 2011. The Session Clerk is to reply that the Kirk Session has agreed to host the Fancy Goods Stall. **World Mission Correspondence:** Letters were received from the World Mission Council. These were made available for the Kirk Session to peruse. **Girls Brigade:** A letter was received from Captain Liz Bogle requesting permission to train Norma O'Hara as an officer. The Kirk Session agreed. The Moderator intimated that the Girls Brigade had been crocheting and selling numerous poppies in aid of Erskine Hospital. The final total raised will be announced once available. The Moderator and Kirk Session expressed their grateful thanks to Captain Liz Bogle, the leaders and all the girls of the Brigade for their tremendous efforts.

WORLD MISSION CORRESPONDENT: June Millar is standing down as our World Mission Correspondent. Anyone interested in this post to give their name to the Session Clerk who would be the correspondent pro tem. The Moderator thanked June for her years of dedicated service in this post.

CHOIR: The choir had decided to become pro-active in seeking new members. Firstly, Eric Geddes (Musical Director) will address the congregation on Sunday 11 September 2011. Secondly, a Taste and See Evening will be held, and thirdly Elders will be invited to join the choir.

CHURCH INFORMATION BOOKLET: Has been produced and a copy distributed to all members of the congregation, local Libraries and the Heritage Centre etc. Thanks to all concerned.

YEARBOOK: Updates for the Church yearbook were distributed to Elders prior to the meeting. The Moderator and the Kirk Session expressed their thanks to Helen Lawson for the production of these.

WEB SITE MINUTES: The Session Clerk intimated that it had been requested that Kirk Session Minutes and index from June 2006 – June 2011 be uploaded onto the Church Web Site. Only Elders would have access to these with their domain user ID and password. The Kirk Session Agreed.

PRESBYTERY REPORT: The Moderator stated that at the meeting on the 6 September 2011 the Revd. Robbie Hamilton of New Wellwynd Parish Church Airdrie had been elected to serve as Moderator of Hamilton Presbytery. Presbytery also granted approval for the Congregation of Dalziel St. Andrew's to seek the release of £18,600 from the funds held on their behalf by the General Trustees in the Consolidated Fabric Fund.

SISTERHOOD: Pearl Pettigrew has decided to stand down as secretary of the Sisterhood at the end of the year. Pearl has been a devoted member and secretary to the Sisterhood for a long number of years. She will be sorely missed. The Session Clerk to write acknowledging her long and faithful service to the Sisterhood.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY: The Moderator stated that the decision of the Church of Scotland to depart from what he believes the Bible teaches regarding same sex relationships had greatly disturbed a lot of people. Personally, he had come close to resigning from the church, but, after much prayer and meetings with colleagues and friends on both sides of the argument, he had decided to remain as pastor to the congregation of Dalziel St. Andrew's. God had called him to be minister of this congregation 15 years ago and was not at this time calling him away. The next two years would be crucial, and it is important that people's beliefs are reported to the Theological Commission before it reports to the General Assembly of 2013. A majority of office bearers in the Church of Scotland had voted for the traditional position during the consultations on same sex relationships and the ministry, but this position had been reversed by the General Assembly in May 2011. A number of young people in our congregation particularly disagree

profoundly with the decision taken and it has made them ashamed of the Church of Scotland. In one case, a regular worshipper in our congregation has decided not to come through to membership in the Church of Scotland at this time because of this very issue. Elders and church members can register their dissent from the decision taken by this year's General Assembly on "same sex relationships and the holy ministry" by accessing the web site (www.disent.uk.com). Meanwhile, the Scottish Government has launched a consultation document "The Registration of Civil Partnerships Same Sex Marriage". This can be accessed on our church web site and responses can be made through the appropriate channels.

PRESBYTERY REPORT AND FUTURE FOCUS: Dr. Stephen Day reported that this month's meeting of Presbytery had been a conference on the Health and Natural Growth of the Church, presented by the Revd. Allan Vint, formerly minister at Motherwell: St. Andrew's Parish Church before the union in 1996. We are already doing a lot of what was stated in the presentation. Future Focus also uses similar materials. Three courses of action were open to the Kirk Session: 1) Do nothing, since we are doing all right ourselves. 2) In house scrutiny of our strengths and weaknesses. 3) Invite the Revd. Keith Ross to expand on Future Focus. The Kirk Session unanimously decided to take option two. The Revd. Derek Hughes and Dr. Stephen Day are to source the materials and prepare a presentation to assist the Kirk Session in reflecting on this matter sometime in 2012.

OCTOBER COMMUNION: The Session Clerk stated that at the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday 2 October 2011 there were 245 members + 3 visitors who attended the morning service with 22 members + 5 visitors attending the evening service, making a total of 275. This is 31 down on October last year. The Moderator said that some of the leaders taking the Sunday school would not have been present at communion and also, as our congregation was ageing, a large number of our elderly members were now too infirm to attend or were no longer with us. It was proposed and agreed that a list of members taking communion would be collated as soon as possible after Communion and made available to the district Elders. The Session Clerk thanked all who served, helped with dressing the Sanctuary and preparing the Elements for Communion. Both services had been conducted in a very dignified manner. The Session Clerk also thanked the Revd. Derek Hughes for two very moving and uplifting services, a number of people had commented on the inspirational preaching.

CHURCH MEMBER GROUP: The Moderator stated that four people had now completed the new members class. It was proposed to admit them on Sunday the 6 November 2011. This will make a total of sixteen new members admitted this year. The Kirk Session is delighted. The four new members are: Mr. Stuart Cameron, 12 Lapwing Crescent, Motherwell, Mrs. Zoe Cameron, 12 Lapwing Crescent, Motherwell, Mrs. Mary MacDonald, 62 Breadalbane Crescent, Motherwell, and Mrs. Caroline Robertson, 17 Alexander Gibson Way, Motherwell.

ORGANISATION REPORTS: Nursery/Crèche: A report was received from June Adam and Margaret Day, who visited the Nursery/ Crèche. The Nursery staff has normally 18 children to look after. This is quite a handful and more staff and helpers would be greatly appreciated. The nursery is well organised and the children have lots of fun with all the toys. We are very blessed with the numbers of parents who are making use of the Nursery and also the organising committee and helpers who are doing such a tremendous job running it. It is hoped that we may be able to add to the number of adult volunteers as next year unfolds. **Sunday School:** A report was received from Jean Stevenson and Iain Guthrie, who visited the Sunday school in October. The children all meet in the large hall for games and also song practice prior to classes. The Beginners (aged 3 – 5) were reading the same bible story as the other classes, which was about God punishing Pharaoh and saving the Israelites. The children use worksheets, which can be coloured in to help explain the story. They are also involved in activities to show they are all part of God’s family. They finish with prayer and then have a few minutes of fun until it is time to go into the church. There were 4 leaders and 5 children in class on the day but there can be 6 or 7. The primary have 4 leaders. On the day there were 6 children in class, but this can be up to 14 at any one time. The same bible story about Moses was being studied. The children recapped on the previous week and answered questions about the plagues. They then talked about God’s plan and the fact that the first-born would die if they did not follow God’s instructions. The children then played games and took worksheets home to complete. The Juniors have 2 leaders with 6 children, usually 8. They were again studying the story of God punishing Pharaoh and saving the Israelites. They discussed rescue plans in general and God’s plan that a lamb would save God’s people. The children read the relevant bible verses, answered questions and discussed the bible passage. The children then completed brightly coloured worksheets with word searches and puzzles. The children in all departments are happy and very enthusiastic about learning from the Bible. This is down to good teachers and the materials being used.

Anne Brown, having taken over the administration of the Sunday school, has taken pressure off the teachers so that they too can enjoy the lessons. Their enthusiasm is obviously rubbing off on the children, which is making the Sunday school a very enjoyable place to be.

ALTERATIONS TO THE COMMUNION ROLL:

The Kirk Session is happy to receive by resolution:

Mrs. Agnes Mann, 59 Scotia Street, Motherwell.

The Kirk Session is happy to receive by certificate:

Mrs. Agnes Dykes, 17 Hillhead Crescent, Motherwell from St Mary's Parish Church Motherwell.

Mr. John Miller, 9 Calder Grove, Motherwell from St Mary's Parish Church Motherwell.

Mrs. Rena Robertson, 12 Strathclyde Road, Motherwell from Newarthill Parish Church

Transferred to Supplementary Roll:

Mr. George Adam, 370 Watson Street, Motherwell.

Mrs. Karen Antunes, 18 Alyssum Crescent, Motherwell

Mr. Robert Barnett, 35 Elvan Tower, Motherwell

Crawford Moffat
(Session Clerk)

Social Committee

The Social Committee would like to thank all who have participated in the events that have taken place for the Makeover Project. The last event was the Soup and Sweet Lunch, which raised the sum of £325. The various events, Makeover Table on a Sunday, donations and the proceeds of the Tins given out have exceeded £10,000 since last year. Again thanks to everyone for the tremendous effort.

An invitation is extended to all to come to the Large Hall after morning service on Sunday 18th December for the Annual Christmas Tea.

By the time that you receive your Newsletter the Christmas Fayre will have taken place. Details of the monies raised will be detailed in the Weekly Notices.

Janette Black
(Social Committee Convener)

Befriending Project

Concern for the isolation felt by so many elderly people in the town lies behind the Befriender Pilot Project, which we will start in January 2012. The pilot will run for a year to allow time to assess whether we can make this a permanent part of our outreach work for the Lord in Dalziel St. Andrew's. Derek has highlighted the many members and others he comes across whom we know would benefit from regular visits from volunteer befrienders. Thanks to the Thomson Legacy (which is focussed directly on those who are elderly and living alone) we have been able, with full support from the Kirk Session and Congregational Board, to put together a case for financial support from other organisations to allow us to set up the pilot project. The process for the recruitment of a part-time coordinator has been very successful with around 70 enquiries to our advertisement followed by 28 applications for the post. We hope that our new coordinator will assist us to secure up to 15 "Matches" of volunteers and elderly clients, with the prospect of weekly visits designed to address, in some measure, the isolation experienced. We are most heartened by the number of volunteer Befrienders from our congregation (and one or two from other areas) who have offered to serve in this so important work for the Lord. We have secured helpful advice from Social Work Department, who are very supportive of our efforts. We have also been able to talk to UTHEO, based at Orbiston Parish Church in Bellshill, who have been carrying out a successful scheme, Be Friend Bellshill, for over three years now. Our estimated cost of running the pilot is around £20,000 with the Congregational Board agreeing to contribute £5,000 from the Thomson Bequest. Approaches have been made to several other agencies to attempt to secure the match funding we need and we are so indebted to Social Work Department of North Lanarkshire Council; the Parish Development Fund of the Church of Scotland; and Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund (FiSCAF) who have all kindly agreed to support our project. We now have the funds identified to allow us to plan to implement the pilot in the New Year. We are indebted again to our Treasurer, Willie Brown, who has been dealing with all of the

financial areas and also the most useful support and advice received from Anne Kerr, Ian Mathie, Iain Guthrie and Crawford Moffat. It will now be a busy few weeks in the setting up phase of the project, working with our coordinator, to make sure we are ready for the launch in January. After a rigorous sifting process, interviews took place over two evenings in late October and the panel were most impressed by the calibre of the applicants. Mr Brian Smith, who has filled the coordinator's post at UTHEO, Bellshill for more than three years, guided the panel. This was a most helpful offer and appreciated by all involved. The outcome of the interview process is the appointment for the one year Pilot Project of Liz Magunnigal as our coordinator. We do ask that you make Liz most welcome at the church, and also that you remember Liz and all of our volunteers in your prayers as we commence this important initiative for the Lord in our town. If you would like to know more about the scheme or care to assist in any way please do speak to any of the group who have developed this project.

Derek Hughes; Janette Black; Colin Weir, Alex Baird

Congregational Board

The Congregational Board has held the usual monthly meetings and addressed a wide variety of issues, including focus on our finances, social calendar and property. The Board were thrilled in October when we were able to welcome two new volunteer members, Rae Blagg and Derek Milton. Please do remember we welcome visitors. If you would care to come along please do so. In our main areas of activity we are busier than ever, with our Treasurer, Willie Brown, now managing a lot more Accounts to cover our Befriender Pilot Project and also all of our Makeover activities. At the end of October, our finances showed that we were marginally ahead of our total income at the same stage last year. With the difficult financial times we live in, it is commendable that we have been able to keep to this level. However, the total amount of income is being reduced by the decision of some members to alter their offerings in opposition to the decision of the General Assembly in 2011 regarding same sex relationships and the holy ministry. Offerings are, of course, voluntary and we must adapt to this decision. The Treasurer advises that, together with known additional charges for Insurance and Presbytery dues, plus the reduction in tax reclaim income; this will result in a shortfall next year of around £10,000 in our income. The Board will continue to strive to manage the financial affairs of the congregation within the monies available.

Our Social Convener, Janette Black, and her team have a very full diary of work, with lots of events lined up, as well as hall lets to take care of. Among the Social events planned, is a Christmas Fayre (weather permitting!) scheduled to take place on Saturday 3 December at 11.00a.m. Also, Jeanette Boyd is hoping to repeat the very successful Ceilidh, which took place earlier this year, with a 7 January date planned - more details to follow. The Board are particularly pleased with progress made in the planning phase for the launch in January of our Befriender Pilot Project and pray for a most successful area of work for the Lord in this so important initiative.

Douglas Graham, our Property Convener, and his group will always have so much to do looking after our very large property stock and also leading in the Makeover upgrade work, including the organ restoration. The Task Group, who work away tirelessly, have been busy painting the upper hall, among all of their other tasks, this year. Tidying up the huge mountain of leaves, which fall on our grounds, is the usual autumn chore!

In His Service

Alex Baird & Marion Taylor
(Chairman & Clerk of the Congregational Board)

Church Makeover Project “Forward for Jesus”

Halls: Additional work in the halls area is included within the overall contract for the sanctuary. This relates to fire doors, ramps, electrical upgrade, emergency lighting etc. This is not all essential. When the tenders are returned it will be appropriate to see what we can afford to do. **Sanctuary:** The Seat Appeal, asking those who are able to do so to consider supporting the sizeable cost has begun. So far around £9,000 has been donated, sufficient for about 90 chairs. We have brochures from two recommended seat suppliers and will, in the New Year, take forward a selection process involving the congregation as promised. George Waterston, our Consultant Architect, and his team are concluding detailed work on the upgrade of all areas. Bills of Quantities are being finalised with a view to going to tender at the end of this month. Tenders will be returned by the end of November allowing time for liaison with grant funders and a report to the Kirk Session/Congregational Board on 8 December. This would allow a

January start, provided we are able to authorise work to proceed, which depends, of course, on our funding position being complete. It will be necessary, in order to retain the major grants, to commit to the main elements (heating, electrical etc.) in this timescale. **Organ:** Gerhard Walcker and his team have removed the console plus the internal workings from one half of the organ. These are off to the German workshop for overhaul with a return anticipated next May/June.

Thanks: A huge word of thanks must go to all who are working so hard and supporting the Makeover Project in any way, including all who are donating and purchasing at the weekly Makeover Table. The Country Dance at the end of October (for the Organ Fund) raised a wonderful £400. The Soup and Sweet Lunch on 30 October brought in a further £310. Well done. Since the launch of the project in the spring/early summer last year a wonderful total of over £216,000 has either been collected or pledged towards the various appeals. More events are planned including a visit from Shine Youth Theatre Group next year. A Ceilidh is also planned for January. **Information:** A copy of this report is now being placed on the middle corridor notice board so that all members can keep up-to-date on progress. **Continuity:** Derek and the Kirk Session have agreed to the formation of a small group to prepare for and oversee the continued operation of our congregation during the time of the upgrade work starting in January. **Mission Hall:** To help us close the funding gap and let us proceed with our overall project it would be particularly helpful if the sale of the Mission Hall went ahead. An offer for the sale of the hall has been accepted by the General Trustees. We await details as to whether this offer reaches a satisfactory conclusion. Things are progressing, but very slowly.

Alex Baird (Chairman of the Congregational Board)

Pipe Organ Restoration

Much of our pipe organ is wintering in Germany! In August, Herr Walcker and his team arrived to pack up the pieces for restoration, and shipped these away to their workshop in Germany for the work to be undertaken over the winter months. We have previously reported the very generous contributions of £30,000 from the Environmental Key Fund and £50,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. In addition, our own donations and fund raising has continued throughout the year. With the cost estimate for this phase at around £110,000, we were keen to secure one other grant to take us closer to the target before proceeding. In July we were delighted when the London based Pilgrim Trust accepted our case for support for this very special instrument and

awarded a grant of £15,000. Guided by Mr James MacKenzie, an expert organ consultant from Glasgow, we now await the return of the console and inner workings of part of the organ. We are advised (by both Mr MacKenzie and Herr Walcker) that it would be unwise to re-install and tune the organ other than in better weather, and so the plan is for the organ to be brought back next May/June. It will then take about 4 months to complete the installation and fine-tuning. Payments for the work will be made throughout the year at various stages. We are very grateful to all who continue to contribute to the funds we need to complete this so important work. A Country Dance Evening was organised by Jeanette Boyd and held on 21 October realising a super £400. Jeanette is planning another Ceilidh for January. The first Ceilidh raised over £800! Do come along and enjoy a super evening and support the appeal. Gerhard Walcker of Germany, whose firm are carrying out the restoration, has been in contact with Douglas Graham, our Property Convener, to advise that they are busy working on the bellows and hinged motors. They have captured all detail on a CAD System and “We now have a clear view of what needs to be done.” What is your favourite hymn played on the organ? We will need to have a celebration service when it is working again. Suggestions please. Any memories of special services/occasions when the organ made a difference to your worship experience? It would be good to hear from you. The Heritage Lottery Fund, which is so very interested in our project, has asked if there are any “stories” associated with the use of the organ, which we may care to publicise. The second phase of restoration, which is most desirable but not essential to the resumption of musical duties by the organ, will cost around £60,000. We will be exploring how we might raise this rather daunting sum in the next few months.

Douglas Graham & Alex Baird
(Property Convener & Chairman to Congregational Board)

STEWARDSHIP

All congregations are required, as a result of a General Assembly deliverance, to engage in 2012 in a Stewardship programme focussing on not just finance but also the time and talents available to us in our congregation in our work for the Lord. Our Stewardship Committee, under Douglas Barr’s Chairmanship, will be coming forward, in liaison with Derek, with suggestions as to how we approach this task. There is such a huge amount of devoted work goes on in our congregation

through all of the organisations and groups. We also have witnessed such a wonderful financial support through our many and constant efforts to raise funds. (Gift day; Seat Appeal; collection tins; donations; events; sales etc.) The talent evidenced on a weekly basis at our Makeover Table is another fine example of the work, which we do in God's name at Dalziel St. Andrew's. We will keep all advised of the Board's intentions as regards this challenge, which we are well placed to face. **Many thanks:** Perhaps we do not often enough say thank you for the wonderful support, which continues to be evident for our organ restoration and Makeover Project – Forward for Jesus. In addition to the wonderful response to our appeal for donations last year, plus collecting tins and Seat Appeal, we are advised by Janette Black that an amazing £10,000 plus has been collected from Makeover Table and Events and donations over the past eighteen months. This is so much appreciated. Our main upgrade scheme hopefully will progress now in January and it is entirely appropriate that we also pay tribute to the Grant Funders who have pledged to assist us and without whose support we would be unable to proceed. The Church of Scotland in Edinburgh has promised £30,000, and Hamilton Presbytery has already provided a similar amount in relief from our annual allocation. The Garfield Weston Foundation in London sent a cheque for £5,000. The support from WREN and others is just wonderful, with WREN pledging £50,000 towards the costs of our electrical upgrade work. William Beattie, of WREN, said, "This award will help make the church facilities more comfortable for the many who use it and help in attracting new users." All support so much appreciated as we go ***Forward for Jesus.***

The Girls' Brigade



We have been a busy bunch since we started back after the summer break – and not just crocheting! Many, many thanks for the support we have received via the poppies, and all the proceeds will certainly help at Erskine Hospital. At the time of writing, more than £2400 has been raised in 2011 to add to the £1020 total from 2010 – remarkable and commendable. The company also enjoyed camp in September at one of the BB centres on the shore of Loch Tay. BBQ on the beach on the Saturday night was something different for the girls and the officers alike. Perhaps we'll be back there as it is ideal for us. We are now well into our 'Health and Fitness' syllabus for the girls – and officers! New

things are being tried, the older girls like the pois! All will be revealed at parents and friends' night in May. Later this month we will be back at Blantyre leisure centre to have our second of four planned swims. A friend of one of the Junior officers, who is a pool attendant, visited us and gave the girls an insight into why there are rules for the pool area. Each time we go the girls are set a different target and by the end of the session, both their confidence and ability, we hope, will have taken a step forward. The 2nd of November saw the girls, and some officers, dressed as 'sports personalities' and they had a fun/ games night in return for their hard work already this session. There were a few 'sticky girls' with the syrup pancakes, although most washed off while they tried to catch an apple – dookin! Christmas crafts, parties, panto and film days are all lined up during the next few weeks, and then a rest over the busy season. Officers and girls wish all an enjoyable time and peace throughout the season.

Captain Liz Bogle

Sunday school

In September, I started working as Sunday school co-ordinator and it is my intention through Kirk Matters to keep the congregation up to date about Sunday school lessons and activities. The new session started with a meeting of all teachers in Crèche, Beginners, Primary, Juniors and Bible Class to plan the lessons and timetable with Derek the various special services and all age services. The commitment and enthusiasm of this group of twenty-one teachers was obvious to me as “The Newcomer”. We are fortunate to have their dedication to the Sunday school in Dalziel St Andrew’s Church.

We only see the teachers for an hour every Sunday morning but at home they have to prepare lessons for the children, prepare themselves by reading the bible base of each lesson and of course pray for the young people in their care. All of them are certainly giving of their time and using their talents in the Christian Education of the young people in our church family.

The first section of lessons has been on Moses from the Old Testament and then, leading up to Christmas, six lessons from the New Testament titled Jesus. The Gift Service and preparation of giving and receiving gifts and singing Christmas carols, with the Church Christmas tree and Advent Candle Ring decorating the sanctuary, has made everyone excited about the best gift of all – JESUS.

It is hoped that there will be a HUGE turn out of children with their mums, dads, grandparents, relatives and friends at the ALL-age worship for Christmas Eve at 6.30pm. The Sunday school teachers will serve refreshments after the service. We all know how busy Christmas Eve can be with chores of stuffing the turkey, wrapping the last minute gifts, setting the Christmas table etc., etc. however it will be nice to take some time out of the Christmas hustle and bustle and look forward to the celebration of the NEW BORN KING! We hope to see you there.

I ask all of the readers of Kirk Matters to continue to pray for the teachers and children and the on-going work of the Sunday school.

Anne Brown
(Sunday school Co-ordinator)

Correspondence

24 The Loaning, Motherwell

I would like to thank you, and all at Dalziel St. Andrew's, for the lovely flowers and well wishes I received to mark my Birthday. They are much appreciated, and have pride of place in my hall. Many thanks also to the gentleman who delivered them. I am indeed lucky to be a member of such a loving and caring church family. Yours sincerely.

Noble's Yard, St. Mary's Gate, Wirsborough

Dear Derek, I do not think I have ever thanked you and those concerned for the regular sending of "Kirk Matters", and for the splendid brochure on the various schemes of renovation in the church. You are to be congratulated on your launching out in such a labour of faith and on your progress so far. With prayers and kind regards. Sincerely.

Rev'd Alistair Rennie (formerly minister at Dalziel North Church, Motherwell)

354 Watson Street, Motherwell

To Derek, the parishioners and organisations of Dalziel St. Andrew's Parish Church. Thank you very much for the support, welcome, friendship and flowers on the passing of my wife, Elaine. Robert, Kirstin and Craig Brown.

134A Crawford Street, Motherwell

I would like to sincerely thank my friends in the congregation for prayerful support, encouragement, visits and cards during my aunt's (Annie Bryson) illness, and also at the time of her death. Thanks too for the beautiful flowers I received, and thanks to Derek for his unfailing support throughout. Donna Gardner

17 Atholl Street, Hamilton

My Dad and I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Derek for his visits to my Mum, Annie Bryson, at home and during her stay in Hairmyres Hospital. Also, for his support, help and the lovely service he gave at the crematorium for my Mum. A big thank you too to members of the church in Motherwell who attended the funeral and donated to the collection for Cancer Research UK. The proceeds totalled £200, and will be passed on to the charity. Thank you once again.

Moirra (writing on behalf of Robert Bryson)

17 Fir Grove, New Stevenston,

I would like to thank everyone in the church for the cards, prayers and best wishes I received over the recent months. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Derek for his uplifting visits and also for the church flowers, which I received. Agnes Douglas

45 West Park Drive, Ashdon-on-Ribble, Preston

I am most grateful to you for sending me a copy of your current Newsletter (I had no idea

Dalziel St. Andrew's had such a full calendar), together with the splendid Historical Magazine. The Magazine is truly a "gem." One can only guess at the hours of dedication given in collating such a journal of the life and times of Dalziel St. Andrew's. Excerpts from earlier Minute books show that congregations in those hard and austere times were no less benevolent than the present one. The refurbishment task you have taken on is a monumental one, and now that you are all so "into it," I have no doubt your goal will be achieved. Dalziel St. Andrew's church and congregation are a credit to the town of Motherwell and deserve more widespread note, which would not go amiss on "Songs of Praise" or "Sunday Morning Worship" on Radio 4 – keep me informed! Many thanks. I feel privileged to have been included. Yours sincerely.

Nan Stewart (sister of the late Margaret Hood)

Correspondence

Letters have also been received from the following members of the congregation giving thanks for flowers, and for the people who prepared and delivered them>>>

Bett Dickson, 19 Ellis Way, Motherwell
May Thomson, 7 Shields Tower, Motherwell
Betty Byfield, 135 Merry Street, Motherwell
Jean Black, 31 Barrie Street, Motherwell
Helen Walker, Campsie Road, Wishaw
Emma McKnight, 61 Brandon Court, Motherwell
Dorothy Arthur, 23 Dalzell Drive, Motherwell
Marion and David Currie, 69 Kethers Street, Motherwell
Willie Harvey, 35 Hillhead Crescent, Motherwell
Rachel Miller, 133 Kylemore Crescent, Motherwell
Cathie Meeke, 14 Glassford Tower, Motherwell
Janice Weir, 18 Aster Gardens, Motherwell
Mary Caldwell, 69 Brandon Court, Motherwell
Margaret Kelly, 60 North Lodge Avenue, Motherwell
Stuart Bryden, 21 Burnside Tower, Motherwell
Margaret Walker, 4 Elvan Tower, Motherwell
Sadie McCaig, 3 Millfield Avenue, Motherwell

Congregational Register

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Liam Alexander Ross

son of Julia, 27 Arnott Quadrant, Motherwell
on Sunday 27th November 2011

Lewis Cameron

son of Stuart and Zoe, 12 Lapwing Crescent, Motherwell
on Sunday 4th December 2011

Funerals: left this world, but not forgotten

Thomas (Tommy) Thomson, 77 Coursington Tower, Motherwell
Raymond Ferguson, 27 Ghillies Lane, Motherwell
Nancy Martin, 706 Glasgow Road, Wishaw
Janet Craig, Park Springs Home, Motherwell
James Campbell Dowie, 81 Kinloch Drive, Motherwell
Annie Allan Bryson, 17 Atholl Street, Hamilton.
Ellen McCook, Abbeyfield, Douglas Street, Motherwell.
Elaine Brown, 354 Watson Street, Motherwell
Fay Brown, Netherton Court Home, Wishaw

POEM

If you're feeling sad and lonely, and your face has lost its smile
Just walk into a garden and sit and stare a while
Never mind if the grass needs cutting never mind if the weeds are there
You'll behold a wealth of beauty if you take the time to stare
Ladybirds and butterflies go about their daily toil
Fragrant flowers in abundance are peeping through the soil
Every living creature has a job to do
That was God's intention when He fashioned me and you
Face each day with courage, greet it with a smile
Extend the hand of friendship, then life will be worthwhile.

(Submitted by George Paterson)

WORLD MISSION PARTNER

Antony Short and his family have moved house. They are settled down now, and Darya informs us that the house is slightly smaller, but it has a roof garden, which they are pleased about. They are always keen to receive letters from folk in Hamilton Presbytery and love to hear news of what is going on in local congregations nearer to home. You can write to them c/o Antony Short, Principal of Tabeetha School, Jaffa, Israel.

Although the Short family have been unable to visit the area in 2010, they are expected to be with us next April. Irene Anderson (World Mission Convener for Hamilton Presbytery) is looking for accommodation for the Short family. If you think you could accommodate them, please contact Irene directly by calling 01698 359 079, or through emailing her at rene.anderson@blueyonder.co.uk

The November issue of *Life and Work* magazine contained a substantial article about the Church and education, in which there was no reference to the fact that Tabeetha School was the only school operating through the Church of Scotland. Hamilton Presbytery has expressed its concern over this omission and will be writing to the Editor to make their feelings known. Tabeetha School will be concentrating on the year 2013 as this is the Centenary celebration, and it is hoped that there will be visitors attending this from Scotland.

Jesus said,

“Go into ALL the world and make disciples...”

Flowers in the Chancel

DEC.4th	Susan Duncan, 11 Wellview Drive Margaret Hands, 10 Arran Road
DEC.11th	June Millar, 52 Orchard Street Jean Burgess, 35a Beltonfoot Way, Netherton
DEC.18th	Margaret Kells, 27 Ceres Place & FLOWER FUND
DEC.25th	Linda Simpson, 26 Sharp Street & FLOWER FUND
JAN.1st	FLOWER FUND
JAN.8th	Dave & Mae Currie. In Memoriam Dorothy Johnstone, 18 McIntosh Way
JAN.15th	Elizabeth Bissett, 75 Vulcan Street FLOWER FUND
JAN.22nd	Pearl Grierson, 3 Barr Street Isobel Pollock 347 Airbles Road
JAN.29th	Elizabeth Bissett, 75 Vulcan Street Jean Paterson 23 Viewpark Road
FEB.5th	Mrs Forsyth & Mrs Young, 57 Paterson Street Christine Mathie, 2 Cobbett Road
FEB.12th	Jean Maddock, 137 Manse Road Flo Suttie & the Murray girls. In Memoriam
FEB.19th	Mrs Graham Guides, Brownies and Rainbows

FEB.26th	Willie Harvey, 35 Hillhead Crescent Dawn Steele, 142 Jerviston Street

Flowers in the Vestibule

DEC.4th	Donna Gardner, 134A Crawford Street
DEC.11th	John Richards, 510 Bellshill Road
DEC.18th	FLOWER FUND
DEC.25th	FLOWER FUND
JAN.1st	May Brown, 46 Anderson Tower
JAN.8th	FLOWER FUND
JAN.15th	Greta Torrance, 51 Draffen Tower
JAN 22nd	Betty Graham, 552 Merry Street
JAN.29th	Sybil Miller, 5 Young Wynd, Bellshill
FEB.5th	FLOWER FUND
FEB.12th	Margaret Donaldson, 42 Calder Grove
FEB.19th	Helen Thomas, 13 Fort Street

FEB.26th	Helen Japp, 102 Calder Tower

Thank you to everyone who has kindly agreed to donate flowers to beautify the church during worship.

Organisations and Activities

Sunday	11:00am	Morning Worship in Main Sanctuary
Sunday	11:00am	Crèche, Sunday school & Bible Class
Sunday	12:00 Noon	After service tea/coffee bar
Sunday	3:00pm	Worship at Glenview Court (Monthly)
Sunday	6:30pm	Evening Worship in Large Hall
Monday	9:30 – 11:30am	Crafts Group in Small Hall
Monday	2:00 – 4:00 pm	Carpet Bowls in Large Hall
Monday	5:15pm	19 th Motherwell Rainbows
Monday	6:30pm	19 th Motherwell Brownies
Monday	7:00 pm	19 th Motherwell Girl Guides
Monday	7:30pm	Men's Club in Small Hall
Monday	8:00pm	Prayer Hour in Vestry
Tuesday	6:30pm	Hamilton Presbytery (1 st Tuesday of Month)
Tuesday	6:30pm	Hamilton Presbytery Committees (3 rd Tuesday of Month)
Tuesday	7:00pm	The Church of Scotland Guild

Wednesday	1:00pm	Prayer Hour in the Lower Rooms
Wednesday	2:00pm	Sisterhood in Small Hall
Wednesday	6:30pm	3 rd Motherwell Girls' Brigade
Thursday	2:00 – 4:00pm	Carpet Bowls in Large Hall
Thursday	7:30pm	Choir Practice in Lower Rooms
Thursday	7:30pm	Kirk Session in Small Hall (2 nd Thursday of Month)
Thursday	7:30pm	Congregational Board in Small Hall (3 rd Thursday of Month)
Friday	6:00pm	2 nd /4 th Motherwell B.B. Anchor Boys
Friday	6:30pm	2 nd /4 th Motherwell B.B. Junior Section
Friday	7:00pm	2 nd /4 th Motherwell B.B. Company Section

Church Directory

	Derek Hughes	07984 019 903
Parish Minister		
Session Clerk	Crawford Moffat	01698 355 929
Roll Keeper	Helen Lawson	01698 264 097
Presbytery Elder	Stephen Day	01698 334 207
Chair to Board	Alex Baird	01698 262 915
Clerk to Board	Marion Taylor	01698 266 375
Church Treasurer	Willie Brown	01698 262 743
Stewardship Convener	Douglas Barr	01698 251 224
Freewill Offering	Christine Mathie	01698 251 200
Gift Aid	June Adam	01698 265 298
Property Convener	Douglas Graham	01698 265 453

Social Convener	Janette Black	01698 261 375
Church Caretaker & Beadle	Artie Spence	07951 288 072
Administrative Assistant	Helen Lawson	01698 264 097
Church Flowers	Aileen Hamilton	01698 254 075
Prayer Groups	Helen Gibson	01698 262 685
Musical Director	Eric Geddes	01698 239 244
Befriending coordinator	Liz Magunnigal	07796 012 462
Men's Club	Bill Millar	01698 264 325
Church of Scotland Guild	Mary MacKenzie	01698 301 230
The Sisterhood	Jeanette Moore	01698 251 942
Church Cleaner	Margaret Day	01698 334 207
Sunday school coordinator	Anne Brown	01698 262 743
Youth Fellowship	Fiona Ross	01698 294 543
Young Adults' Group	Liann Weir	01698 309 156
Rainbows		
Brownies	Kirsty McMaster	01698 251 618
Girl Guides	Gail Ure	01698 300 534
Girls' Brigade Captain	Liz Bogle	01698 886 112
Boys' Brigade Captain	Colin Weir	01698 309 156
B.B. Junior Section	Myra Anderson	01698 359 855
B.B. Anchor Boys	Lorna Geddes	01698 300 614
Crafts Group	Janette Black	01698 261 375
Carpet Bowls	John Currie	01698 748 931
ZUMBA dance fitness class	Diahann Hughes	07735 660 106
Life and Work Magazine	Helen Lawson	01698 264 097

Thank You

to the people listed below, who have all contributed in some way to the production and distribution of this edition of *'Kirk Matters.'*

EDITING: Derek Hughes

PRINTING: Helen Lawson

COLLATION: Margaret Anderson, Alex and Doreen Baird, Robert Crowe, Bill Jack, May Johnston, Janie Laird, Betty Morton, Pearl Pettigrew, Margaret Reid, Alex Ross, Bobby Simpson, Marion Smith, Irene Struthers, Margaret Walker and Eleanor Weir.

DISTRIBUTION: Frank Reford and Jeanette Reford, along with the large team of volunteers who deliver our quarterly newsletter.



Items for the next edition of *'Kirk Matters'*
should be submitted **no later than Sunday 12th February 2012**
and ought to be sent directly **to Derek Hughes.**

*Motherwell: Dalziel St. Andrew's Parish Church
is a Registered Scottish Charity - SC 015503*