

Dalziel St Andrew's Parish Church

Kirk Matters



September - November 2021

From the Manse

As I write this, I am still basking in the pleasure of leading worship at regular 11am services these last two Sundays. It is a joy to see people returning, Sunday School restarting, chairs increasing,

and our singing growing in confidence. After eighteen months of no, fairly limited, or divided, gatherings, I can feel again the delight of the Psalmist who wrote "I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Psalm 121)

Of course we are grateful for Zoom, Youtube and DVD distributions that have sustained us these last months (and they will remain available for those who need them), but there is something vital about the people of God gathering together in worship. It's a blessing to be able to sing with one voice (even if masked), and a blessing to see so many faces as I preach. However, I believe that there is more to it than that. Critical to our Christian identity is the deepening of relationships between us as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Christianity is never a solo affair. It is not a private morality. It is not a personal spirituality. It is to belong to a people. Almost always when the New Testament says "you", the Greek is using a plural (better translated with the Scottish "yous" or the American ("y'all")). So, Paul might have said "yous are the body of Christ".

Over these last months, I have been struck how the many deep relationships among the family at Dalziel St Andrews have helped to sustain you, when face to face meetings have been hard. But it has been harder for those of us who are new to the congregation (and there are quite a number of folk who have joined us during lockdown) to get to know people. It will also have been hard for those who may feel on the margins of the congregation. So, now as gatherings begin to happen, and as we hopefully soon enjoy food and drink together, let us all seek to form new friendships as we welcome each other.

Of course, there will be much to do in coming months. We have a mission to serve and witness to our community. We will have plans to make and work to do. We are not called simply to be inward looking. However, the work we do, we do together. The dreams we have, and the plans we make, we discern together. It out of our life together as God's people that we are equipped to grow in the service of our Lord. As Peter said: "Y'all are a chosen people.. that y'all may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:9) So, if I have one appeal to you here, it would be this. Take the time to meet and to mingle, to talk and encourage, to laugh and to cry, to share and to welcome, to listen and to pray, with each other. And I look forward to getting to know y'all more in the days that come.

With every blessing,

Alistair



Hope you are all well and looking forward to our Guild recommencing in October.

As long as there are no further restrictions we will commence on 5th October at 2pm. Our opening meeting will be held in the sanctuary and will be lead by our minister Rev. Alister May who will speak on the guild theme for this year "LOOK FORWARD IN FAITH".

The following Tuesday 12th October we are delighted to welcome back Barbara Graham whose subject will be "ELSIE INGLIS AND THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS". Barbara has spoken to us in past years on "Marie Curie" and " Andrew Carnegie " and I am sure we will once again enjoy her informative talk.

The meetings will then be held fortnightly and we would welcome anyone wishing to join us.

Janette Moffat
Secretary



Since my last Sunday School & Fusion Report the children have been meeting in the church, which I think for all concerned felt like “normal”

As the first Sunday in May was a Bank Holiday, our first meeting in the church halls was Sunday 9th May 2021 and our last was Sunday 20th June 2021.

The Primary class would meet in the crèche hall and Juniors and Fusion groups in the large hall. We decided to use Scripture Union material from the syllabus. The lessons were all the same but were tailored to each age group. However, our minister, Alistair, suggested that we be flexible with the children as the past few months have been hard on them as well as on the leaders. He suggested that we may wish to take the lesson outside if the weather was nice enough or we could even set up the BB marquee if we wanted to. It was then agreed that it would be up to the leader on the day as to whether the lesson was taken outside. This worked very well as the weather was kind to us and I

think most weeks this is what happened.

On the 16th May 2021 the Moderator came to our church to take the service and Alistair was keen for the children to be involved and, due to the wonders of modern technology, they were. Colin Weir set up a camera in the large hall and the children all met in that hall at the beginning of the service. This enabled the Moderator and the children to see each other and also gave him the opportunity to speak to them. We had trialled this the previous week when the children came back and it was lovely for the congregation to see them. We were able to give each other a wave and it helped the children to see that they are very much part of this church.

The final Sunday it was decided, for a wee change, to have a sports day and the weather once again was kind to us. It was a very successful day, the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and each child was awarded a medal.

The attendance in May & June was really good and most of the children who joined us in the Zoom Meetings joined us in church.

During the summer months a Summer Sunday School was held each week and I would like to thank the volunteers who took this.

Once again, I have to thank the leaders of the Sunday School & Fusion. The past 15 months have been very hard going for both children and adults alike. Our leaders, most of whom have school children, are both enthusiastic and thoughtful and kept our Sunday School & Fusion going week after week. I hope that they have had a lovely break over the summer holidays and managed to enjoy the good weather we had. I also hope that they have managed to recharge their batteries for the new session and I would again ask that you keep them in your prayers giving thanks for them.

At present we only have 10 leaders and we could really be doing with another 3 or 4 to give the leaders a chance to enjoy the service some weeks. If you are interested in helping with Sunday School or Fusion or would like to find out more, please contact me either when I am in church, through one of our current leaders or through the church office.

Jean Stevenson
Sunday School & Fusion Coordinator



The Brownies met last year on zoom. We enjoyed various activities online but these are not the same as meeting face to face.

We did manage one meeting face to face in May and it was great to see the girls again. We also met some of the girls for the first time as they joined Brownies during our zoom meetings. We discovered that although some of the girls are in the same year group at school, they are not in the same class and saw one another at Brownies for the first time in several months. Makes you wonder how this pandemic is affecting our young people.

Our face to face meeting was taken by Colin Weir (our BB captain). He showed the girls how to light a fire correctly and safely. The girls enjoyed this tremendously. They made smores and hot chocolate. All the girls enjoyed the smores – even the ones who said they didn't like them.

We are now preparing for starting our new session in September and looking forward to seeing everyone face to face again.

Let's hope there are no further covid outbreaks and we can get back to some sort of normality soon.

Kirsty McMaster
Brownie Guider



This year we were thrilled to be able to host our summer holiday club in person again! We made good use of the church garden space and had a fun filled 3 days of jungle adventures. We are thankful for the support of the congregation, helping collect junk items and twigs which we used to build dens and twig towers. It was lovely to hear the children laughing and having fun, while they learn about Gods love for us, especially after a tough year of restrictions.

The holiday club team.





Girls' Brigade
Scotland

Hi All

Welcome to August 2021, hope you are all keeping safe and well. What another strange year this has been.

We recently had Fun Day which was held at the GLO Centre which included craft with clay and drama and music workshops.



We are set to return to face to face meetings in late august with our enrolment taking place on Wednesday 25th in the church grounds 6:30-7:30 (weather permitting) and we will start back 'normal' session badge work activities the following Wednesday 1st Sep. We are all excited to see the girls and get back together for activities, badge work and fellowship. We are extremely lucky with our building having ample space and all safety measures in place and so hope so see some people soon.

We hope to see lots of the girls back this August/September and look forward to the upcoming year. If the girls have made new friends at school or even the ones they already had that didn't come along before, tell them to feel free to bring a friend as all will be made welcome.

The capitation fees this year have been kept low at £15, to reflect that we would like to encourage as many girls back as possible.

We will give updates via the what's app group, 3rd Motherwell Facebook page and vial email, GB3rdMotherwell@outlook.com. You can message 07917356331 or drop and email if you would like further info or just pop along on Wednesday evenings. 6:30 – 8pm.

Hope to see you all soon.

Sharon McGeachie
Captain



Thank You

Margo and Fred Graham

We would like to thank everyone who sent cards and best wishes for their Golden Wedding Anniversary, we really appreciated every single one.

Welcome

A warm welcome to Elizabeth and Karen Durie of Roman Road who have joined our church family

The Men's Club

The Men's Club session 2021/2022 begins on Monday 4th October at 7.30pm our speaker for the evening is The Reverend Alistair May. This will be an excellent opportunity to meet with our minister in a more casual (cup of tea and biscuit) manner and will launch the session we have waited so long for.

The syllabus promises to be of interest to us all, for example: what really happened to the ships HMS Erebus and HMS Terror and their crews, recently dramatized by the BBC, The Falklands War (front line action), The Isle of Barra and Hearts Football Club.

We encourage men, whether attached to our Church or otherwise, to visit our Men's club and enjoy the fellowship. Don't be sitting in the house on a Monday evening watching "Corrie" and Emmerdale because that's all there is to watch, come along to The Men's Club and enjoy the fellowship. If you would like to learn more phone me, Douglas Graham, on the number listed below. Congratulations are due to Rollo Brant, who recently celebrated a very special birthday, if you multiply the number of candles on the cake by 10 you could be close to which birthday, well done Rollo.

Looking forward to seeing to seeing you all on 4th October.

Douglas Graham
Tel: 01698 265453



For several years now we have been able to reach out with God's Word to those who are deaf and done so by both British Sign Language (BSL) and Captions. We have offered both a live service and a dedicated stream on You Tube with a recording.

To deliver this service has required us to hire, on a sessional basis, skilled professionals who have performed wonderfully well. It was indeed a challenge to get to grips with some of our Biblical words such as names!

To fund the cost of this service has required us to secure grant support which has become increasingly difficult to sustain on an annual basis. We have been very fortunate with securing support from our Presbytery in allowing us to retain an annual sum (usually £3,000) from our Ministry and Mission allocation to help with our costs. It is no longer possible to grant us this support.

Regrettably it is no longer possible to maintain the service with total costs of around £9,000 each year. As two thirds of deaf "viewers" are able to follow captions and as we are the only church providing this (caption) service, we have now stopped the BSL service and will strive for some months to maintain the captions. This will allow us to keep looking for the money we would need to maintain the captions.

Thankfully Claremont Parish Church in East Kilbride are continuing with the BSL service which they provide and our deaf worshippers have been verbally advised of this most helpful option.

We give thanks that we have been able to open up this door of service to the very large deaf community and pray that it will, at some stage, be reintroduced.

Thank you all for your prayerful support over the years.

Alex Baird

Threshold Support Services

Threshold Support Services is a support agency which works under the umbrella of CrossReach, the social care arm of the Church of Scotland. CrossReach believe that with the right support, at the right time, every person can flourish and every life can be fulfilling.

Our support aims to do this and so it ranges from assistance with personal care to support to access community activities, and quite a lot in between! Our client group is individuals who have a learning disability and or autism; and we aim to help them achieve their potential all in the name of the Lord.



From helping one service user go and see the life size cars of the models he collects, having a wee seat on Oor Wullies bucket while following the bucket trail and a walk along London Bridge, our support staff get here there and everywhere! London is just one of the short breaks we supported our service users on, where they can enjoy the sights and sounds of the big city whilst their family have a break and time to recharge. As you can see, the staff love their jobs and enjoy the feeling of supporting people reach for their dreams.

COVID brought challenges to social care that no one could have foreseen, yet our staff have continued to go above and beyond within their roles. Although the holidays could not take place, day trips were reduced and socialising was brought to a standstill. Our staff used social media with our service users to keep them in touch with the service user forum meetings which are usually an occasion for meeting up and chatting. Staff wore PPE and continued to put themselves at risk of the virus in order to ensure no one felt left unsupported or lonely. Even supporting them to maintain contact with family and friends. Staff work shift times had to be extremely flexible due to the restrictions and they all willingly did what was needed to accommodate the people we support, even supporting our service users to get Covid tests or dropping shopping off to people isolating. Now, as we see the virus numbers reduce and people be vaccinated, the staff continue to give 100% each day by providing care you can put your faith in.



If you would like to know more about our support or feel you can help in any way please contact the office staff.

Ian Stangoe

SERVING GOD
BY SERVING OTHERS

Do not stint or measure your obedience or your service. Let your heart and your hand be as free to serve Him, as His heart and hand were to serve you. Let Him have all there is of you, body, soul, mind, spirit, time, talents, voice, everything. Lay your whole life open before Him, so that He may control it. Say to Him each day, "Lord, enable me to regulate this day so as to please you. Give me spiritual insight to discover what is your will in all the relations of my life. Guide me as to my pursuits, my friendships, my reading, my dress, my Christian work." Do not let there be a day nor an hour in which you are not consciously doing His will, and following Him whollyBring Christ into your life and into all its details, and a romance, far grander than the brightest days of youth could ever know, will thrill your soul, and nothing will seem hard or stern again.
(Hannah Pearsall Smith 1832 – 1911)

What's on...

Sunday

10.00am - Morning Worship

10.00am - Sunday School

Monday

6.30pm - Guides

Tuesday

2.00pm - Midweek Service

Wednesday

6.00pm - Girls' Brigade

Friday

6.00pm - Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys

7.00pm - Boys' Brigade Junior Section

8.00pm - Boys' Brigade Company Section

Church Directory

Minister	Alistair May	01698 211 106
Session Clerk	Helen Lawson	01698 374 426
Deputy Session Clerk	Eric Geddes	01698 239 244
Church Treasurer	Kirsty McMaster	01698 251 618
Boys' Brigade	Colin Weir	07736 285 850
Girls' Brigade	Sharon McGeechie	07917 356 331
Guides	Fiona Sharkey	07403 155303
Men's Club	Douglas Graham	01698 265453
Guild	Janette Moffat	01698 355929
Choir	Eric Geddes	01698 239244
Prayer Group	Anne Kerr	01698 267113

Gone But Not Forgotten



Miss Eileen Martin

Avon Street, Motherwell

Mrs Helen Japp

Avondale Care Home

Mrs Margaret Anderson

Manse Road, Motherwell

Mr Ramsey Ellis

Glenburn Avenue, Newarthill

All safe in the arms of Jesus

BIBLE WORD SEARCH!

BASIC WORDS OF THE BIBLE 2



HEAVEN
HELL
PRAISE
GRACE
MERCY
TRINITY
DISCIPLE

ISRAEL
ROMAN
SABBATH
KING
CAESAR
ROME
HEBREW

GREECE
SANHEDRIN
PEACE
JOY
REDEMPTION
HOPE
MARRIAGE

Next Edition...

Please send your contributions for the next edition of Kirk Matters to the church office, either via email office@dlsa.org.uk or by post no later than Sunday ***.

www.dalzielstandrews.org.uk



Believing in Christ - Belonging to Christ - Becoming like Christ

Dalziel St. Andrew's Parish Church Motherwell - Registered Charity No. SC015503

