

The Dunscore Digest

Dunscore Parish Church Magazine
March 2012



Dunscore Church Achieves Third Eco- Congregation Award

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Minister's Musings

Christine Sime

Thank You

Folk ask what the highlights of more than 17 years ministry here have been – suffice to say there have been so many!

Events and services, mad Gala weeks, and ideas that perhaps should never have seen the light of day. I have been privileged to be alongside people in many dark days, as well as celebrations; and consider each experience a blessing which has helped me learn, grow, understand. But the greatest gift to me of these past years has been friendships.

There are many who were here when I arrived and whose funeral services I have conducted – people who played a part in who I am today. There are those who have been here for a while before moving on – leaving their own stamp on church and / or community – and me! Some have joined the church, and some have left - times of celebrating and times of deep sadness. New born babies 17 years ago are now taller than me (by age 9) and are now setting off to make their own way in the world. Rock Solid exploded into existence with a giant banana split; and the eco-group has sprung forth (achieving a third Eco Congregation award last month!). Lubuto is now very much part of our family; and we have a family atmosphere with messy church just starting to make an impact.

Some things have gone right in spite of me and the things that have gone not so right – you have, in the main I think, forgiven me! And I have made mistakes – for which I am sorry but the only way NOT to make mistakes is to do nothing. And that is not an option! God needs us to try, to act, to do, to experiment (once a scientist, always a scientist) and not be put off when it doesn't work. Faith is not going to grow unless we try new things.

God asks us to trust him and one another, to work with him and one another – and so it is not always going to work out in perfect harmony and results.

He needs us to be more like him – sharing responsibilities, looking after one another, making God's love known wherever we are. Faith, church is not about everything being pristine, and everything in perfect order – it is about being a real family and all the chaos and mess and FUN that entails.

You see – if folk only asked for the low-lights, the answer would be so much shorter!

As many of you already know I consider Cairn Valley to be my home – the longest I have stayed in any home; or any job! It is where my friends are – and so I will be back to visit, I will be in touch to see if I can steal any ideas, and I will continue to pray for each and all as I have done these past empty years.

In this final 'musing' I want to thank you. I want to thank all of you for all you have shared with me. There are many to whom I owe a huge debt – you have supported and encouraged me; made me laugh and helped maintain the little sanity I have left. Others I need to thank for reducing that sanity – yes, too much sanity is bad for you. My gratitude is due to the Board throughout the years who have made the church here shine – in her fabric, but also in her faith. Thank you.

My prayer is that the buildings and faith are kept open to all – both in respect of maintenance and improvements. Don't leave it all to one or two and don't try to do it on your own when others are wanting and trying to help. Involvement in small things leads to involvement in greater things. Whether that be material and practical commitments or commitments concerning spiritual life, faith.

Thank you to the Kirk Session, a willing band of folk working to keep the faith relevant, fun, rooted yet exciting. It is not an easy task – but it is one not just worthwhile but essential. Keep putting God at the centre, and keep making the proclamation of the gospel your priority – no matter the occasional challenge of untidiness or noise or mess whether from children or minister.

Thank you to Chairs, Clerks, organists, flower arrangers, fabric and finance gurus, social organisers, garden and building tidier-uppers, pastoral visitors, youth leaders and supervisors, worship leaders, readers and pray-ers, admin support and all willing volunteers in so many different areas. Thank you!

In essence - I have laughed (not always in appropriate places!), I have cried – when I should have been more professional. I have often not done my best and often done my best which was not good enough. You have, I think, forgiven me. And I have learned so much and grown in my own faith. Thank you.

I will miss this place and her people very much. I pray you will continue to grow in faith, to make faith relevant to life today, to enjoy your faith and let that fun in faith be seen. It is a serious business – the serious part is the bit about sharing it; the fun bit is that the more who share it the more fun we have.

Sometimes it seems we are in the business of keeping secrets. But Jesus should not be one of them!

God bless you.

Congregation Comment

Dunscore with Christine

In place of the usual comments on matters relating to the church, this month the Editor asked members of the congregation for any reminiscences, anecdotes or thoughts that related to Christine and her years in Dunscore.

Anthony and I thought we would give the wee Kirk of Dunscore a go. Christine ended her announcements that day by asking if all the men could stay behind to strip...

the central area of the church for a children's activity later in the day. Her timing was priceless as was the look on Anthony's face as everyone held their breath waiting for her to finish the sentence! *Claudia Lang*

Early experience - guiding Christine over the moors to elder daughter's on-farm marriage in thick mist. Christine very close on my car tail. Was she afraid of getting lost or thinking "why is he driving so slowly?" I now know it wasn't the former! *Martyn Wrathall*

When I arrived in 2005 my Christian life was on Auto-Pilot but Christine's preaching and Dunscore church life woke me out of that condition and I've not crashed yet! *Chris Whittle*

Once upon a time, before Christine was our minister, Barney was showing her around the parish and, lo, they came upon the church. Entering by the tower door, they approached the font, full of water (there had been a baptism the day before). With a straight face and a convincing manner Barney told Christine that the font had been placed there to catch water from the leaking roof! Christine looked up, and after a split second they both burst out laughing. And they all lived happily ever after - And then there were the seven ties, but that is another story! *Katy Easton*

Winnie the Pooh, chocolate and animal kingdom services in the gala tent. Wonderful, worshipful and outreach! *Kath Aitken*

Minister in skirt trying out Wiston Low Ropes Course *Aly Robertson*

Singing hymns on the stationary and quiet boat in the middle of the Sea of Galilee *Colin Mitchell*

Above and beyond... Always willing to go the extra mile (or 200). Christine travelled to St. Andrews the Saturday before Christmas Sunday to officiate at my son's wedding, got stuck in snow on return journey, had to detour via Dumfries and still shrugged it off with a smile - and thanks for letting Emily have the bubbles idea. *Kay Keith*

Gala Committee Gearing Up!

Fiona Thompson

We are starting to book acts and organise some fund raising events ready for the Gala.

Acts include a dancing dog display team (who have appeared at Crufts) and Mark Stannage and family stunt display team.

Register

Baptisms:

Rosie Borthwick
Alastair Kennedy-Moffat
Hamish Kennedy-Moffat

Editor's Footnote

I am going to miss you Christine. As Editor, you have been Rupert Murdoch to my Rebekah Brooks (now there is an image to conjure with!). On occasions when I have made errors (and there have been many, some quite significant!), you have been amazingly supportive. Thank you for that!

Your Musings have made for interesting, entertaining and thought-provoking reading and all the other aspects of church and community life that you have encouraged have made the Digest so much easier as it has given us great things to include! I wish you lots of happiness in your new post.

As ever, opinions expressed in the Digest are not necessarily those of the Minister, the Interim Moderator, the Editor or the Church.

Meet the Interim Moderator

Many of you will have met David Bartholomew, our Interim Moderator. But the Editor had a chat with him to find out a little more about him and the role.

What do you see as the role of Interim Moderator? It is really to “hold the fort” while a church is without a minister. It will involve helping to find ministers and others to lead services, leading some myself as well as taking funerals and weddings and making hospital visits. In addition, I aim to support the congregations on their journey to finding a suitable new minister.

How did you get the role? I was asked by Presbytery if I would be willing to be Interim Moderator and was happy to do so.

Where were you brought up? In Edinburgh then I studied Geology at St Andrew’s University. As part of my PhD at the University of Leicester I spent several months in Chile and Patagonia (bringing back two tonnes of rock for further analysis). After my PhD I worked in Zimbabwe for the Zimbabwe Geological Survey for five years and it was there that I met my wife Heidi at Scripture Union Camp. We married in 1992. We now have three children - Fiona (17) Jamie (15) and Stuart (12).

Had you always thought you would become a minister? On the contrary, although I became a Christian in my last year at school, the prospect then of standing up in front of a congregation sent a cold shiver down my spine!

When did you become a minister? I felt the call while in Zimbabwe and in 1989 I began a Divinity course at Aberdeen and was ordained in 1994 (two months after Christine – we met at probationer conferences) to Balmaclellan & Kells linked with Dalry linked with Carsphairn.

How do you find working with a “triple linkage”? It works very well. The charge has a natural geographical unity as the Glenkens. Each church is individual but they also come together well for united events. For example, we have a joint choir from all three congregations that adds greatly to our worship at joint services.

Thank you, David. We look forward to getting to know you better and to your leadership and guidance over the coming weeks and months.



The Bartholomew Family

Dunscore Guild

Judith Campbell

The Guild continues to meet in Dunscore Church on the second Thursday evening of every month. There was a good turnout for the talk by Joy Cherakaoui at our February meeting. Joy spoke about her curtailed visit to Palestine last year.

In March, Rab Thomson from Kirkcudbright will talk to us about the RNLI and in April it will be the turn of Dr Lindsay Martin to speak about Palliative Care. Both these talks promise to be very interesting and anyone who wishes to attend will be made most welcome.

The Guild provides a unique opportunity for people to gather together in fellowship and to consider areas of social concern that may often lead to further involvement.

“Whose we are and who we serve” is the motto of the Church of Scotland Guild and also the title for our new strategy for the years 2012 - 2015. 2012 will be the 125th anniversary of the Guild – surely an event well worth celebrating!

I hope that Dunscore Guild will encourage people to have the confidence to share their faith and to focus on service and on care in the wider context of a world in need.

Spring Fayre

Pam Mitchell

The Spring Fayre is coming around again! On Saturday 5 May the usual stalls and afternoon teas will be available in the church and the Glenriddell Hall. The Fayre is always well supported by the whole village and we look forward to your support again this year So please start gathering goods and put the date into your diary

Letters to the Editor

Muirhall
Dunscore

Dear Mr Aitken,

Through the Dunscore Digest, could I thank everyone who donated to my retirement present and gave their time and expertise during my time at 2nd Cairn Valley Brownies.

Yours sincerely, Catherine Rodan

Houston's Piece
Dunscore

Dear Matthew,

Congratulations to the Eco Congregatoin team who have worked so hard on our behalf to achieve the thirds award for Dunscore Parish of Eco Congregation Status.

They beaver away on all aspects of the award's requirements, acting as a prod to our consciences to try to maintain the standard of Greenness that is expected of an Eco Congregation. The committee has had superb leadership and have worked tirelessly on our behalf and deserve the thanks and applause of us all.

Mary and Chris Whittle.

Dumfries

Dear Matthew,

I thoroughly enjoyed my evening at Flicks in the Sticks in Dunscore tonight. It was good to see so many old friends, have a mince pie and hot Christmas drink, and then see my favourite Christmas film.

The 'star' in the short film prior to tonight's Main Feature was Andrew Charters, who died earlier this year. By coincidence there was an article in this month's Retired Police Officer's Association news magazine. (*copy available from the Digest Editor*)

I did not recognise many locations from the film, most were across in Canonbie, at the top of the Dalveen Pass or the Moffat area. Plainly some of the locations will have changed a great deal after so many years.

Rolf Buwert

Jane Haining Service

Pam Mitchell

A special service is going to be held in the church at 2:00 pm on Sunday 3 June to commemorate the life and work of Jane Haining.

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev David Arnott, members of the Church of Scotland World Mission Council, representatives of HM Government and members of the Jewish Community of Scotland have been invited to join members of Jane's family and local people at this special service to which you are all invited. The service will be followed by tea and chat in the Glenriddell Hall.

Green Fair

Matthew Aitken

Coming to Dunscore Church

You will be aware that we have a Fairtrade stall after services each month but what about a Green Fair stall? We plan to increase the range of products available to include Green products and some Fairtrade crafts. Are there any Green products that you have difficulty finding (printer paper, toilet rolls...)? Let me know and we will see if we can source them for the monthly stalls.

Congregation Carbon Footprint

Matthew Aitken

Carbon Footprint Day - 25 March 2012

Regular Digest readers will be aware that the Church of Scotland has required all churches to measure their "carbon footprint". The same regular readers will also understand that a "carbon footprint" is a measure of how much carbon we use (and through that an indication of how much of an impact we are having on the environment). Further, we are required to reduce the church carbon footprint by 5% every year. In the case of the church, the carbon footprint is directly related to how much oil we use for heating because we buy our electricity from Good Energy who only supply from renewable sources (virtually no carbon footprint there).

So, what is the current situation? "Could do better" about sums it up.

Clearly there are many things that will affect the oil use including how often we use the church (especially in the winter), how cold the winter is, how high the heating is set and insulation. The Board has taken steps to reduce oil use through better controls and only heating needed areas. This should show an improvement in future years and we will keep you informed.

Is there anything that we, as a congregation, can do? Well, yes! We can, for example, keep doors closed in the church and not have heating on unnecessarily. Having said that, we do want a welcoming, warm church so it is important not to take this too far!

But, rather more significantly, we can all reduce our household carbon footprints. If each household reduced their carbon use by 5% year on year, that would make a really big reduction in the impact that we, as a congregation, make on the environment.

The Eco Congregation Group is keen to promote this so will be asking all members of the congregation to measure their household carbon footprint. On 25 March (clock change day) we will be asking all members of the congregation (and anyone else from the village or surrounding area if they wish) to take readings of the electricity meters, car mileage, oil tank etc. We will then do the same on all future clock change days and this will allow us to calculate carbon footprints of all participating households. We will offer help and advice to reduce carbon footprints and will monitor progress in future years.

You do not have to be left out! We offer this to all Digest readers so if you would like to participate (all that will be required is for you to read your meters, car mileage etc. twice a year and send the numbers in) call me on 820448 or email on auchenance@gmail.com.

Flicks in the Sticks

Sue Sterling

A big thank you to everyone who came along to support Flicks In The Sticks showing of the Bond film *Goldeneye*, phew what an adventure and what a relief to know our handsome hero lives to die another day!

For our March showing, we have, as they say, something completely different. Prepare to be transported to an exotic island location and sample the delights of the local brew, but what's this, disaster looms, supplies of the life giving elixir are running out, what's to be done?

Fate however is on hand and intervenes in the shape of the SS Cabinet Minister, can the day be saved? Have you guessed it yet? It is of course the wonderful Ealing comedy WHISKY GALORE and we hope very much you will all come and join us to watch it on the 30 March at 7:00 pm in the Glenriddell Hall.

We will kick off the evening with a dram and this will be included in the price of the ticket

Useful Insults

With thanks to John Drabble

A member of Parliament to Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease." "That depends, Sir," said Disraeli, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."

"He had delusions of adequacy." - Walter Kerr

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." - Winston Churchill

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." Clarence Darrow

Welcome to the West Bank

Matthew Aitken

In last Autumn's edition of the Digest, Joy Cherkaoui wrote about her amazing experiences of being detained whilst trying to visit Palestinians in the West Bank. In December last year, while visiting his son Doug in Israel, your Editor spent a few days in the West Bank. Here is an account of one day.

We were late. We had left our overnight stop in the Jordan Valley early enough to reach the Arabic city of Hebron in the early afternoon. Stops for breakfast in Jericho and a bit of tourism (floating in the Dead Sea) had put us back. This was compounded by a puncture (West Bank roads are not the highest quality) and a lack of road signs – it seems a recognised practice for Israeli settlements to be signposted while Arabic cities are not. So, despite many helpful directions from Palestinians, we were running very late.

We were to meet a Motasem, a friend of a friend. He is a native of Hebron and had agreed to show us round the city that the guide book promised to be “intimidating” but “not to be missed”. At last, having reached the outskirts of Hebron, we found a typical bustling, noisy, vibrant Arabic city. Where was that “intimidating” atmosphere that had been indicated? The answer is right in the city centre.

Hebron is a very unusual city - the way into Hebron city centre is through a checkpoint. Around 30 years ago, an Israeli settlement was created in the city and this now means that virtually all streets leading to the centre are blocked, either with metal grating or concrete walls. The only access is on foot and through one of the few checkpoints. We were, by this time, quite accustomed to checkpoints. Every time you go in or out of the West Bank (and sometimes on roads within the West Bank) you pass through a checkpoint. This checkpoint, however, was unusual. It blocked a city street and was particularly quiet – very few Palestinians now enter the old city. The occasional Palestinians that do, appear to be clinging onto their homes within the Israeli controlled-centre. Most people, and all shops and businesses, have moved out leaving the centre to some 400 settlers and the 2,000 soldiers that protect them.



Leaving the checkpoint meant entering a different city. Gone was the noise and bustle of shops, cars and stalls while, instead, there was deathly quiet and eerily deserted streets. Actually, not quite deserted - there was an occasional Palestinian making their way home and, sitting on a wall, a young and very bored Israeli soldier, clutching his machine gun.



We walked through the streets of apparently empty houses and closed shops until we reached a soldier beside the road. Motasem explained that he was not able to go any further down this road (being Palestinian) but, none the less, asked the soldier if he could take us further into the centre. While the soldier was on his phone asking advice, three young men came jogging down the road – they were dressed for jogging apart from the large machine gun carried by one of them. They took control, demanded Motasem's identity papers then told us that we could continue but Motasem could not. When asked why not, we did not receive an answer. We turned back.

Back through the checkpoint we walked just outside the Israeli-controlled centre. Here, there are just a few shops and stalls but these have to be protected by grating over the streets. The grating is to catch missiles including bricks, stones and concrete blocks where they have been thrown from the Israeli-controlled houses above.

The day was not complete. We also saw a school within the Israeli controlled area (what can it be like going to school in an atmosphere like that?), a mosque that has been divided into part mosque and part synagogue, more streets where we could walk but Palestinians could not and finished the day with a meal with our Palestinian hosts.

When asked by friends for the highlight of our visit, it was not the amazing Jerusalem, nor the fascinating Nazareth nor even the massive hilltop fortress and palace of Masada. Without a doubt, the highlight of our visit was Hebron.

How to Say Grace

A woman invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to her six-year old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the grace?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mummy say," the woman answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Digest Easter Quiz

Test your knowledge of Easter and some of the lesser known Easter customs...

1. What are the English and German names for Easter or Ostern derived from?

- a. The ancient name for the month of April
- b. The Passover ritual of Seder
- c. The German word for Austria, traditionally believed to be where Easter eggs were found.
- d. The Latin for word for eggs

2. Who was the first to speak to Jesus after he had risen from the dead?

- a. Judas Iscariot
- b. Mary, his mother
- c. God
- d. Mary Magdalene

3. The term Maundy, describing the Thursday that commemorates the last supper and celebrated the day before Good Friday, is derived from the Latin word mandatum, meaning what?

- a. Disciple
- b. Commandment
- c. Final
- d. Mandate

4. Why do Christians fast during the 40 days of Lent leading up to Easter?

- a. In remembrance of the 40 days Mary spent preparing food for the last supper
- b. In remembrance of the 40 days Jesus spent in hiding from the Romans
- c. To replicate the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness
- d. It symbolises the 40 days when Jesus was believed to be dead before he rose again

5. Easter Monday is known as Dyngus Day, or Wet Monday, in Poland, referring to what custom?

- a. On the Monday after Easter Jesus was first seen walking across the Dead Sea by two disciples
- b. In the Orthodox church Christians believe Jesus appeared to Mary by a river on the Monday after Easter
- c. Polish boys traditionally throw buckets of water over girls on this day as part of an ancient fertility ritual
- d. The water symbolises Jesus' blood and his resurrection

6. In France how are Easter eggs thought to be delivered to children on Easter Sunday?

- a. By the Easter bunny
- b. By the Easter goose
- c. By the Virgin Mary who delivers them to the children while they sleep
- d. By a church bell that scatters eggs as it rings out on Sunday morning

7. What does the Easter Triduum refer to?

- a. The ascension of Jesus to heaven and the completion of the Holy trinity
- b. The Sunday after Easter Sunday, the conclusion of the Easter week
- c. The meal eaten by the disciples following Jesus' crucifixion
- d. The last three days before Easter Sunday

8. On what street in New York does the city's famous Easter parade take place?

- a. Broadway
- b. Wall Street
- c. 5th Avenue
- d. 42nd Street

Answers to the quiz are on page 11

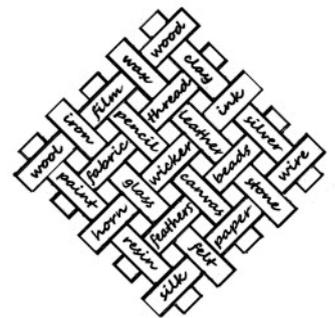
Art and Craft Show

Marilyn Crawford

Dunscore and Area show of art, craft and photography this year is to be on Saturday and Sunday 15 and 16 September in the Glenriddell Hall, Dunscore.

Artists, photographers and makers of the widest variety of objects in the greatest variety of materials are invited to prepare to show what we can do here in our country area. We want to be surprised, delighted, inspired, impressed, amused, informed and proud!

Sheena Howat will once again be providing tea, coffee, home baking and lunch time soup so make dark, indelible notes in your diary and don't miss the exhibition in mid-September.



Digest Adverts

Over the past few years I have had a few requests to place adverts for local businesses and services in the Digest. Where there is a bit of a story to go with it - news from the Flying Pig for example - I have positively encouraged this, but a straight advert for a business or service has not been included (even when there has been an offer of cash!).

The inclusion of adverts is a decision for the church Board and might change the size / layout of the magazine. I would, however, be interested in the views of the readership. What do you think? Would it be helpful (or annoying) to have adverts for suppliers of, for example, coal and logs or a local painter / decorator?

Please write to the editor at the usual addresses. Thanks.

Eco Congregation Update

Diane Callow

On 19 February we were to be assessed for our third ECO Congregation Award. On the day Christine delivered an Eco-theme service after which a hearty lunch was enjoyed and then the final assessment took place. The group are very pleased to report that we have achieved the award. One of the few Congregations in Scotland to do so.

The Eco Group is not stopping there! We have proposed that the church should have an ethical buying policy. The Board has approved the suggestion so the group will draft a proposed policy for consideration by the Board.

Further ideas to reduced the Church Carbon Footprint had been reviewed with Quentin Palmer. The only cost-effective method is zoning the church and improved heating controls. The heating controls have now been fitted as well as trace heating on pipes and an air "curtain" on the front door. These should have a positive impact on the carbon output.

The Graveyard Biodiversity Project has been brought before the Dunscore Community Council who asked that details of the plan be posted on the village notice board outside the Flying Pig. The improvements to provide year round food sources and habitats to encourage more wildlife were well received, as long as suitable species were used so not causing a nuisance nor to create more maintenance requirements.

The proposal suggests planting Buddleia bushes at either end of the Memorial wall together with summer flowering bulbs. Thyme to be planted in the gravel at the foot of the wall. To add a Dog Rose and Quince bush to the existing bush area at the top right of the cemetery and include Primroses and Snowdrops. By the wall between the two gates into the cemetery, to put Ivy and Honeysuckle and add Daffodils under the trees. Crocus bulbs to be planted in the grass verge by the path. Outside the cemetery to plant a Wild Cherry tree at the end of the road with Daffodils underneath.

A meeting with Dumfries Council will be arranged to discuss the plan and to make any alteration they feel necessary to fit in with their maintenance programme. Hopefully then, once funding is obtained, the project can be implemented.

Fuel Efficient Driving There is still an opportunity to learn about fuel efficient driving. If you would like a place on a future course based in Moniaive, call Rab Marchbank on 01848 200245.

Situation Vacant

Minister

Rev Dr David Bartholomew has been appointed Interim Moderator for the vacancy. His phone number is 01644 430380 and his email dhbart@care4free.net.

It is so important for you all to continue to worship and work together throughout the vacancy; to be in good heart when your new minister arrives.

Please pray for the Nomination Committee, the congregations, parishes and the person out there who is being called in here!

Situation (No Longer) Vacant!

Assistant Editor - Dunscore Digest

You may have noticed that the a vacancy in the last edition for an Assistant Editor for the Dunscore Digest has been filled! Welcome, Alison, it is a joy to have someone to do some of the work!

A Few One-Liners

"I needed a password eight characters long so I picked Snow White and the Seven Dwarves."

"Crime in multi-storey car parks. That is wrong on so many different levels."

"Someone asked me recently - what would I rather give up, food or sex. Neither! I'm not falling for that one again, wife."



Congregation members and assessors

Interregnum Procedure

Christine Sime

The Editor asked Christine if she could explain the procedure for selecting a new minister, and she kindly agreed...

Presbytery have given permission for Dunscore linked with Glencairn & Moniaive to call a minister on an unrestricted basis. That is good news!

Rev Dr David Batholomew, minister of Dalry, Carsphairn, Kells and Balmaclellan, is the Interim Moderator. As you will understand he already has a very large parish. He will ensure there is cover each Sunday, and your Kirk Session will be doing all they can to make sure pastoral needs are conveyed to the appropriate person. It is more important than ever that you let someone (Elder, Session Clerk, Interim Moderator) know if someone is in hospital or in need of a special visit.

In the vacancy, the first thing the parishes here have to do is make sure the membership roll is in order - this will require more edicts from Presbytery, and after a few weeks the roll will be sent to Presbytery for them to attest (make sure all is in order). Then there will be a congregational meeting when the Nomination Committee will be elected. All elected members must be on the roll; there will be 7 from Dunscore and 6 from Glencairn & Moniaive. They will meet with a small group from Presbytery and begin their work. Please realise that their work thereafter is confidential - which doesn't mean secret. It simply means that they will not make public any names of those who may apply or are recommended.

A Parish Profile will be brought together and the position advertised. If you know of anyone you think might be worth considering - pass their names to the committee and leave it with them.

When the Nomination Committee believe they have found someone suitable for the post, they will invite him or her to preach as sole nominee. This means they lead worship for both congregations and the congregations vote by ballot for or against. The votes are pulled together before the vote is counted!

If successful and they accept the offer, the planning for a new ministry gets underway.

Tuli Pamo - We Are Together

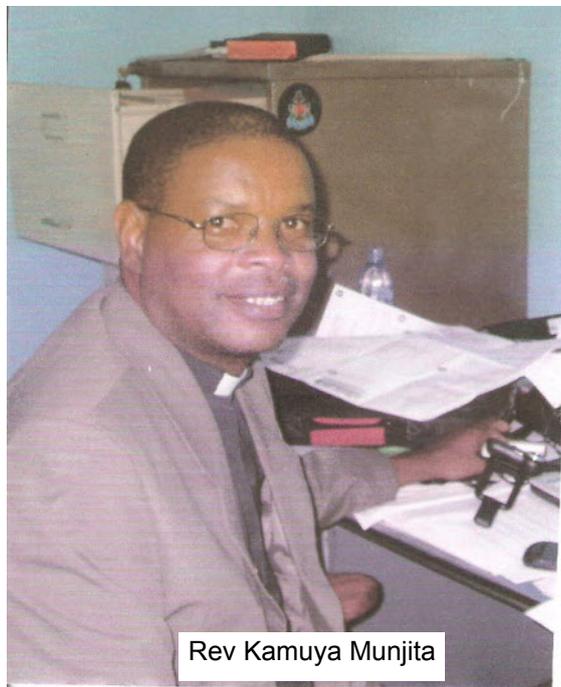
John Drabble

Twinning Partnership Update - Lubuto, Zambia

The big news is that Rev Stephen, such a great supporter of our twinning, is moving on to a new Parish and the new minister in Lubuto is the Reverend Kamuya Munjita. We look forward to building our relationship with him and his recently elected executive and hope that we may be able to arrange for him to visit us next year.

The Christmas Appeal The Christmas Appeal for the school was a great success. Donations came to £2000, way past our target of £720. This enabled us to send £720 for the Headteacher's salary and a further £200 / month for 6 months towards the other teacher's salaries. We pray that this will give the School a good start to the year. James Chirwa, who we remember from his visit in 2010, will keep a watching brief and keep us informed of progress. We have heard that the number of children attending has risen already. The aim is to set a school management system that will be totally self-supporting and sustainable.

Plans for joint worship over the next year We still have not solved the problem of getting internet access in to our church so that we could fulfil our wish to share worship sometimes. BT costs to provide this service are enormous. If anyone has any ideas on how to progress this plan ...please speak to John Drabble or Colin Mitchell.



Restoring the Fresh Water Supply in the Lubuto Church Compound Sadly, the borehole pump in the compound, which provided clean fresh water for the church, the school and the local community, is not fully serviceable at the moment. If we can continue to collect funds through the Mile of Pennies in Dunscore and St. Ninian's, we may be able to support the Lubuto Congregation in restoring the supply. Please keep the pennies coming.

Many of the items on our agenda recur from meeting to meeting, and from year to year. So it is with potholes in the roads. The increase in traffic, and particularly the increased number of timber lorries, has been responsible for much of the recent damage and the weather has also played its part. We have appointed Michael Doyle to co-ordinate complaints in our area, and to forward them to the Roads Department, so when you spot a bad pothole, he is the chap to contact. You will know that he and Allan Todd have voluntarily kept the roads in the village and in the Parish in good order and repair for years. They both deserve our warm thanks and congratulations.

The Carrick Benches have arrived. We have chosen sites for them in and around the village and these have been approved by the Roads Department. We are arranging to have them installed in short order.

You will know that the future of Thornhill Hospital is uncertain. We as a Community Council have so far been supportive of Scott Jardine's and Thornhill Community Council's praiseworthy efforts to keep it as a second-tier hospital for non-urgent cases. They are now minded to commission a report to assess the viability of such a course. The proposed author of such a report is Helen Tucker, who bravely appeared at a Meeting to consider this course. It was evident that she is highly competent and knowledgeable. However, the cost of a report is very high and our contribution would have to be in the region of £2500. This is a very big sum for us. If you have views on this difficult question, please let us know them.

An application has been made to erect a windfarm at Loch Urr and Craigenputtock with up to 50 wind turbines. The Community Council is a statutory consultee in relation to the issue and we have considered the application and voted upon it. The result of the voting was: 8 votes in opposition, and 5 abstentions. We have, as required, made known our opposition to the body which considers and frames the environmental statement and given our reasons for such opposition. These reasons vary from member to member; two members, who are highly supportive of alternative energy sources that do not produce greenhouse gases or highly toxic waste are opposed to this proposal on the ground that Dumfries and Galloway has already its fair share of wind turbines installed or consented. Other members felt that this is a treasured and beautiful part of our parish in which one wind turbine, let alone 50, would be an unwelcome intrusion. Three referred specifically to the detrimental effect upon the landscape of the Clyde Windfarm at Elvanfoot, a development which was opposed by the Regional Council and virtually all the Community Councils concerned but was steamrollered through by the Scottish Government. Other members referred specifically to the threat which wind turbines on the site would pose to the tourist trade and, particularly, to an emerging tourist attraction like Craigenputtock, with its literary associations with Carlyle and Emerson.

On Sunday, 4th March, we say good-bye, with great regret but with warm good wishes for her future, to the Reverend Christine Sime, at a Farewell Lunch to be held in the Glenriddell Hall at 1:00 pm. Please come! And if you haven't contributed to the collection yet, please do so now! See you there!

Dunscore Village Website

Matthew Aitken

www.dunscore.org.uk

Does anyone know what time the Flying Pig is open? What days does the Post Office come to the Glenriddell Hall? When is the next Community Council meeting?

The answers to these and many other questions can be found on the excellent Dunscore Village Website. In addition, there is information on local wildlife (including some wonderful photos), the current Freecycle list, information on village history, contacts and much more.

If you haven't visited the site recently, please have a look. It is interesting, informative, helpful and up to date! Well done to the Webmaster!

A Few More Useful Insults

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one." - George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill. "Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second ... if there is one." - Winston Churchill, in response.

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator." - John Bright

Quiz Answers:

1. The ancient name for the month of April 2. Mary Magdalene 3. Mandate 4. To replicate the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness 5. Polish boys traditionally throw buckets of water over girls on this day as part of an ancient fertility ritual (*yes really!*) 6. By a church bell that scatters eggs as it rings out on Sunday morning (*oddly, not by the Easter Goose*) 7. The last three days before Easter Sunday 8. 5th Avenue

Sight Savers

Sightsavers, as the name suggests, is a charity working to combat blindness - 80% of which is avoidable with early treatment - in developing countries, restoring sight through specialist treatment and eye care.

It was founded in 1950 by Sir John Wilson, a blind lawyer. It was originally named "British Empire Society for the Blind" and is based in the United Kingdom, with branches in Italy, Republic of Ireland, the United Arab Emirates and the USA. In 2009 it had a gross income of £100.17 million, making it among the 50 largest charities in the UK.

Sightsavers does not carry out work directly, but works with local partners in the countries where it operates. It strives to eliminate avoidable blindness and pushes for equal opportunities for blind people.

It recognises that to bring about real and lasting changes for as many people as possible it needs to influence the government of the countries it works in.

In 2010 Sightsavers supported the distribution of antibiotics to prevent Trachoma to 2,000,000 people and protected 23,000,000 against River Blindness. In the same period its partners performed 15,000 eyelid surgeries.

If caught in the early stages, 50p will treat Trachoma and £17 will fund a 20 minute Cataract operation so even small donations go a long way.

I have suffered from 'Dry Eye Syndrome' myself for a good many years, and can therefore appreciate the pain and misery that untreated Trachoma or river blindness sufferers must endure. This has prompted me to support the valuable work that Sightsavers carry out.

See www.sightsavers.org for more information.



Wise Words

These "Instructions for Life" have been circulated recently purporting to be from the Dalai Lama. It appears that this is not so but despite a rather less illustrious source, they are still worth sharing!

Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risk. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
Follow the three Rs: Respect for self; Respect for others and Responsibility for all your actions.
Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.
Learn the rules so you know how to break them properly.
Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
Spend some time alone every day.
Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.
Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
Live a good, honourable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll be able to enjoy it a second time.
In disagreements with loved ones, deal only with the current situation. Don't bring up the past.
Share your knowledge. It's a way to achieve immortality.
Be gentle with the earth.
Once a year, go someplace you've never been before.
Remember that the best relationship is one in which your love for each other exceeds your need for each other.
Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.
Approach love and cooking with reckless abandon.

Articles for the Digest

How does one get an item considered for inclusion in the Digest? It is really very easy - just send it to the Editor (address in the "contacts" section). It is most likely to be included if it is relevant to the church and / or village. It can be in typed form, hand written or even dictated over the phone! The editorial team (does that not sound grand?) will then consider it for inclusion.

As this edition of the Digest goes to press, the busiest two weeks of our calendar will be in full swing – this year, Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 27 February to 11 March. This year's theme is "Take a Step for Fairtrade". There are plenty of local events, both in Dunscore and Dumfries. Please support them.

And now for some really good news... In the past week it has been announced that **Dumfries has become a Fairtrade Town!** This is the result of a lot of hard work over the past five years by a small but dedicated Dumfries Fairtrade Group.

Our own Dunscore Group and Dunscore School have also been working hard. We are producing new recipe pages for our cookbook and a new, updated, directory which will be available soon. We have started on our 3rd 90 kg rice challenge (to raise enough money to send a child to high school in Malawi for a year). We are hoping that during Fairtrade Fortnight, rice farmers from Malawi will visit Dunscore to tell us about the difference that Fairtrade makes to their lives (*sadly, they are not now coming due to visa problems*). Their rice (and other Fairtrade products) are available from me at the monthly Traidcraft stall after church, but also on request so please ask if you need any tea, coffee, sultanas, pasta, chocolate, sugar... I have also ordered some new products this month – olives and couscous from Palestine, and Easter Eggs with the Story of Easter on the box.

The Dunscore Fairtrade Group's AGM will be taking place soon – look for posters in the village. Everyone is welcome to come along. Meanwhile, we hope to see you at the following events:

Saturday 3 March 10:00 am – 3:30 pm There will be a Fairtrade stall at the Environment Fair at DGOne, Dumfries with a visit by Ugandan Coffee farmers.

Friday 9 March 2:00 pm Dunscore School Big Brew. Have a lovely cup of tea and see what the children have been doing to support Fairtrade.

Saturday 10 March 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Big Brew in the Glenriddel Hall. Tea, coffee, home baking, plus lots of local producer and craft stalls and stalls with Fairtrade products.



Reader's Recipe

Leslie McCubbin

This is a recipe that my mother used to make from a very old book. She would wrap 3d bits in paper and mix them into the dumpling so you had to watch when you took a bite. We would have any left-overs fried for breakfast the next day.

I made the dumpling for a Rock Solid fund raiser in the Glenriddell Hall several years ago. Everyone survived so it is probably safe...

Cloutie Dumpling (1889)

Ingredients:

Juice and rind of 1 lemon	½ teaspoon mace
10 oz plain flour	4 oz beef suet
1 teaspoon baking soda	2 teaspoon mixed spice
10 oz breadcrumbs	1½ lbs mixed fruit
8 oz sugar	1 tablespoon treacle
Juice and rind of ½ orange	Milk (to a workable consistency)

Scald a cloth and dust with flour. Mix the ingredients and put into the dusted cloth leaving room for the pudding to swell. Tie with a string.

Place a plate in the bottom of a pan and fill the pan ½ way up the side of the pudding with boiling water. Cook for 3 - 4 hours then remove and dry gently in an oven.

Before serving, when almost cold, wrap in cling film to keep the pudding moist.

You can soak the fruit overnight in the fruit juice with a little water. This will cut the cooking time down a bit then I trust you will be able to get you teeth into it! Good luck!

Dunscore Freecycle

The Dunscore Freecycle List is going from strength to strength. There are now 56 people on the list receiving updates and additions to the list. If you would like to be added to the list, please email auchenage@gmail.com.

Here is a selection of items currently on the list:

WANTED

Item	Who
Rabbit Hutch	Alison Boyes 820263
Computer Keyboard	Harlee Watson 01848 200527

AVAILABLE

Stool - basket weave top	Christine Sime 820245
Pheasant Pens - need repair	Liz Mitchell 0774 389 5351 or 820323

Presbytery World Mission Conference

Presbytery World Mission Conference is on 17 March 2012 in Castle Douglas from 10:00 am to 3:15 pm. Topics include the proposed Presbytery twinning with Debrecen; World Mission Council Asia Committee presentation; updates from travellers and twinnings, and a chance to discover something of the work going on in our name around the world.

Please sign up on sheet in church – numbers required for catering purposes only!

Wood's Good!

Replace Fossil Fuels with Wood

Could you use less fossil fuel (oil, gas and coal) and replace it with wood? Wood is generally considered to be much less damaging to the environment than fossil fuels.

There are several suppliers of good quality logs in Dunscore and a Wood Fuel Co-operative launched in Dumfries last year. If logs are not suitable, how about briquettes, wood pellets (suitable for heating and horse bedding), recycled sawdust "cobs" and eco-friendly firelighters that they supply? Contact the Coop on 731210 or www.woodfuel.coop.

Feeling Sew Sew?

Or a bit of a Knit

Do you sew or knit? Would you like to learn to sew or knit? If you are interested in joining a Sewing / Knitting Bee please contact Liz Williams on 820234.

Safeguarding

Carole McGregor

In order to comply with current Church of Scotland procedures for safe recruitment of volunteers, could everyone who has been involved with any church group working with children / young people (young church, crèche, youth groups, holiday activities), please get in touch with me if they still want to be included in the Dunscore Register of Volunteers.

The Church of Scotland hopes that during the course of 2012 / 2013 everyone involved with any groups will become a member of the PVG (protection of vulnerable groups) scheme. This will involve a 'job' description, references and a disclosure through CRBS (criminal record bureau Scotland). Only people that have been through this process will be allowed to be involved in activities with young people and even if you have already been through disclosure checks, you still need to go through the PVG scheme!

I know this sounds very onerous, but it is just to ensure that all adults involved with children on behalf of the church have been recruited safely.

Please contact me directly if you have any queries and to let me know if you wish to be included on the register by 31 March.

A Chat With... The Church Guild Convenor

The Assistant Editor shared a pot of Rooibos tea with Judith Campbell, Convenor of the Guild, as they chatted about her life and her role in Dunscore Church...

How long have you been Guild Convenor? I took over the job last year from Katie Easton.

Could you tell me some more about the Guild? I like the way that the Guild has a spiritual ethos and that it supports organisations such as Open Doors, Created and CCH. It has a small membership but we enjoy great fellowship and I would recommend it to anyone in the church.

How did you come to worship at Dunscore Church? I joined in 2007, having been attracted by Christine's Christmas message. Then I did an Alpha Course, exploring and deepening my faith.

Tell me something about your earlier life. I was born in Zimbabwe and came to London in 1975, later moving to the Borders where my sister was working. It was here that I met Hector and we married in 1983. I was nursing then, and when we moved to Sanquhar (and then to Auldgirth), I trained as a midwife at Cresswell, commuting by motorbike. I retired from midwifery last year.

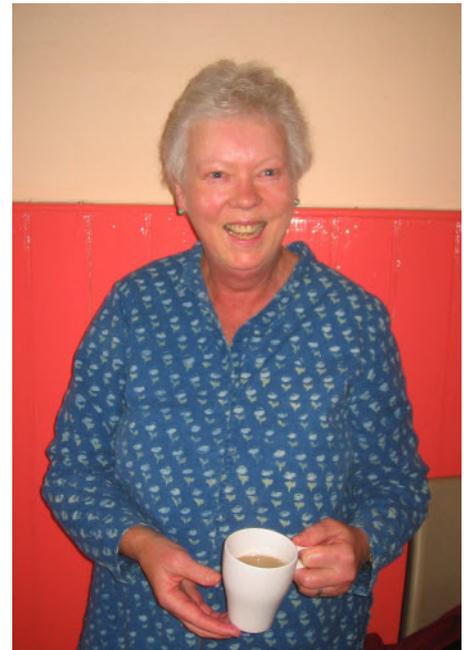
What do you like to do in your spare time? I am taking art classes with Melville Brotherston and have been working mostly in pastels and acrylic. I also like reading and doing crosswords and taking Jenny, our Jack Russell, for walks.

What about holidays? Hector and I always go to Fuerteventura in the winter to enjoy the sunshine. There is also an excellent bookshop! In the summer, I like to do things with family, such as exploring the Angus glens.

What are you reading just now? I like novels. I am reading 'The Map of Love' by Ahdaf Soueff, which is set in Egypt.

And finally...what about your favourite meal? I don't have a favourite meal, but I enjoy good, tasty, healthy food, washed down with some red wine.

Thanks for sharing that, Judith, and for the lovely cup of tea!



Flowers on Sundays

The recently introduced idea of the person providing flowers for Sunday service, taking them afterwards to someone they know of in the Parish who is unwell, housebound, lonely or downhearted is being appreciated!

A reminder to the flower team is that cellophane, ribbon and scissors are provided in the cupboard under the sink in the kitchen. There is also a wee book to note who you are taking the flowers to - just so that we spread them around a bit.

Five-yearly visit

Christine Sime

In June 2011 Presbytery came to see if we were in "good heart". Their report has just been received by Presbytery and again, their findings were very positive. It can be easy to think nothing is happening, or that we are struggling. In truth we are doing well – and this is recognised by Presbytery.

And just to offer you a few numbers (not to get complacent though!):

The two parishes in this rural charge are not very different numerically – and so overall in round figures:

We have roughly 20 – 25% of the parish population on the roll.
And around 10 – 15% of the parish population attend church regularly.

Compare a town or city and crunch the numbers:

In a population of 32,000 (i.e. Dumfries) that would be the equivalent of having 6,400 – 8,000 on the (collective) rolls, and 3,200 – 4,800 people in church regularly!

Truth is – we are "doing better" than many churches. But of course – we can always do better!

Laughter, Lie-Ins and Lift Sharing

Green Girl

Jane was clearing away the breakfast things and thinking about getting ready for church, when the phone rang. Her husband, Jim, had had a lie-in and was busy shaving and listening to the Archers omnibus, so Jane took the call in the kitchen. It was Alice, a young woman who Jane had spoken to a couple of times at church, but didn't know very well. She had seen her out walking sometimes with a dog and a pushchair and had meant to invite her round for coffee, but somehow had never got around to it.

"Mrs Smith?" Alice was asking "I'm sorry to bother you, but I was given your number by my elder. I wondered if you could give me and Jack a lift to church this morning? We're having a problem with our car."

Of course, Jane said yes, and half an hour later, she and Jim were bumping their way up the track to the farm cottage where Alice and her family lived. The door was answered by Alice's husband, Jack, who was holding their baby, Eleanor, in his arms. "I'm so sorry about this," he was saying, "The car won't start and Alice is really keen to get to church. We haven't lived here long and we want to meet new people and get involved in the church and the community." Jane took Eleanor from him as he went to fetch her car seat. "It really is no trouble at all," she reassured him "and Jim loves fixing cars; he'll have a look at yours when we get back, if you like."

At church, Alice's elder explained that he was trying to coordinate a lift-sharing scheme. "It was started by the Eco-Congregation Group but it's common sense, really. With petrol prices as they are and some of our older folk unable to get to church, we need to share resources and help each other. Plus, if it helps save the planet, I'm all for it. That nice Matthew Aitken is always trying to get us to reduce our carbon footprints, and this is an easy way to do it."

Later on, when Jim and Jack were out in the yard with the car, Alice and Jane shared a cup of coffee and some of Alice's delicious chocolate cake. Eleanor had fallen asleep in her car seat on the way back, so all was quiet. "You know, it would make sense if we shared lifts more often", Jane was saying "especially in bad weather, since we have a 4 wheel drive and the farm track must be difficult when it's icy. And when you think about it, it's silly to drive to the same place separately when we live so close to each other."

As they made their way home, Jim told Jane how well he'd got on with Jack. They had discovered a shared love of walking and Jim had invited Jack to join the Dunscore Walking Group. Jane was pleased. Alice had given her the recipe for that lovely cake, and Jane had offered to babysit Eleanor if Jack and Alice ever wanted a night out. "If they hadn't asked for a lift, we might never have got to know them," she said. "Who knows how many other new friendships might be made through this lift-sharing scheme?"

Do you need help with transport to church or to church events? Or could you help with taking someone in your own car? Would you like to share lifts to church to cut fuel costs and your carbon footprint? Elders are trying to find out who needs help and who could offer it, especially in bad weather. Sometimes people find it hard to ask for help, but it would be easier if there was a list of people willing to be phoned and asked for a lift. Please let your elder, or any of the Eco-Congregation Group, know if this is something you feel you could be involved with.

Glad to see that "nice Matthew Aitken" is still around!

Pigs Might Fly...

Liz Williams

The Flying Pig is now serving bar meals on Fridays and Saturdays from 5:00 - 9:00 pm and Sunday Lunches from 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Light snacks on Saturdays 1:00 - 4:00 pm and Sundays 3:00 - 5:00 pm.

Bookings are now being taken for Mother's Day Lunch Special on 18 March (two courses with tea or coffee £8.95). Outwith these times meals can be served by arrangement

Book Exchange is now open with hopes to expand into DVD exchange in the near future. If anyone has any books or DVDs they could donate it would be very much appreciated.

Our e-mail is flyingpigdunscore@live.co.uk and information can also be found on Flying Pig Facebook page.



Digest by Email

If you would like the Digest by email please email your request to dunscoredigest@gmail.com. Currently 85 people receive the Digest this way!

The following appeared in the D&G Standard in the 1920s.

Craig UF Church Children's Outing (1927)....

The annual summer outing of the scholars attending Craig UF Church, Dunscore, took place on Thursday when a company of about 80, including the teachers and accompanied by the Rev William Barrowman, Minister of the Church, and Mr John McNaught*, Superintendent of the Sunday School, spent the day at Glencaple. Leaving Dunscore about 10 o'clock in three motor buses, tea was served on arrival, after which sports and games were indulged in, in a field kindly placed at their disposal by Mr D Crosbie, Glencaple Farm, during which further refreshments were served. Thereafter the children again boarded the conveyances and were taken a short tour round by Caerlaverock Castle. On return, tea prepared by Miss Johnstone, Glencaple, in Mr James Wyllie's shed on the pier, kindly lent for the purpose, awaited them. After cordial votes of thanks were passed to all who had helped to make the excursion so enjoyable, a happy party of children left for home shortly after 7 o'clock.

*Archie and Jimmy's grandfather.

A Harvest Thanksgiving Service...

A harvest thanksgiving service was held in Dunscore Parish Church, last Sunday, when the Rev A Masterton preached an appropriate sermon on 'Harvest Joy', his text being *'the valleys also are covered over with corn. They shout for joy'* (Ps65 v13). There was an exceptionally large congregation. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers, fruit, and vegetables. Large bunches of black grapes were suspended from the pulpit, with a background of sheaves of corn, and the Communion Table was laden with flowers, eggs, butter, tomatoes, and apples. In the vestibule were numerous sacks of potatoes, turnips, carrots, and cabbages. Several fowls were also given, all testifying to the kindly interest taken in the Dumfries Infirmary, for which the contributions were requested. In the afternoon all the gifts were conveyed to Dumfries in a motor car, kindly lent by General Johnston, Stroquhan.

Services and Diary Dates

Sunday Services continue at 11:45 am. Apart from 11:45 am Sunday Services, other services have still to be confirmed. Please check before attending.

Date	Time	Details
Saturday 3 March	10:00 - 3:30 pm	Environment Fair - DG One Dumfries
Friday 9 March	2:00 pm	Dunscore School Big Brew
Saturday 10 March	2:00 - 4:00 pm	Big Brew in the Glenriddell Hall. Fairtrade, local produce and crafts
Saturday 17 March	10:00 - 3:15 pm	Presbytery World Mission Conference, Castle Douglas
Friday 30 March	7:00 pm	Flicks in the Sticks - Whisky Glalore!
Sunday 25 March	12:45 pm	Lunch after the service and launch of the congregation Carbon Footprint
Wednesday 4 April	7:00 pm	Service in Dunscore Church
Thursday 5 April	7:00 pm	Service in Dunscore Church
Friday 6 April	7:00 pm	Joint service in St Ninian's Moniaive
Sunday 8 April	8:00 am	Service at the Mast
Sunday 8 April	11:45 am	Family Service in Dunscore Church
Sunday 8 April	7:00 pm	Quiet Easter Service in Dunscore Church

Christine's new contact details:

9 St Colme Drive, Dalgety Bay, Fife KY11 9LQ.
 Email remains the same revsime@btinternet.com
 Phone number – well, that is still not sorted, but I will let you know!

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