

# The Dunscore Digest

Dunscore Parish Church Magazine  
December 2012



**Shoe Box Appeal:** Boxes filled with presents, wrapped and ready for dispatch - story on page 3

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Shepherds take centre stage in the Christmas story as the first to visit the new-born baby Jesus. They were a group that were looked down on in their society, but God made sure they were honoured by telling them before any others of the event that had just taken place in Bethlehem. Shepherds in Judea at the time of Jesus had a hard and dangerous task. Pasture was scarce and the sheep had to roam widely to get enough to eat. The central plateau wasn't that wide and on the east side it plunged down in wild cliffs towards the desert and the River Jordan. The sheep could easily wander into dangerous places and wild animals were always a threat. Many of the flocks were communal flocks, belonging not to individuals but to villages. There would be two or three shepherds in charge and the shepherd was personally responsible for the sheep under his care. If a sheep was lost the shepherd had at least to bring home the fleece to show how it had died. Shepherds were expert at tracking and could follow the straying sheep's footprints for miles across the hills. They were quite used to risking their lives for their animals.

And so when in Luke 15 Jesus told the parable of the lost sheep and a shepherd still out on the mountain searching for a lost sheep one could imagine the whole village anxiously on the watch. One can imagine the joy and relief on all sides when in the half-light of dusk they saw their shepherd friend striding home with the lost sheep across his shoulders. There would be a deep satisfaction that the lost sheep had not perished but had been restored to the flock. It would be a good excuse for a celebration.

And so, says Jesus, it is the same with God. God and the angels in heaven are as glad when a lost sinner is found as a shepherd is when a strayed sheep is brought home. God loves the folk who never stray away; but in his heart there is a special joy when a lost one comes home, and he is always seeking to reach such ones and bring them home.

He also told the parable of the lost coin. It wouldn't have been difficult to lose a coin in a Palestinian peasant's home. They were very dark, with just one small circular window, and the floor was beaten earth covered with dried reeds. Once a coin slipped in among the reeds it would be hard to find unless one lit a lamp and went over every inch of floor very carefully. You might think one silver coin was hardly worth making a fuss about. But there are two reasons why the woman in the story would have persevered long and hard trying to find it. For a start it was worth a little more than a whole day's wages and could have been very necessary to buy food for the family. But there is another reason which brings even more meaning to the parable. The parable says the woman had ten silver coins. In Palestine the mark of a married woman was a head-dress made of ten silver coins linked together by a silver chain. It was almost the equivalent of her wedding ring. If one of those coins had gone missing you can imagine how glaringly obvious the gap in the evenly-spaced row of coins on her head-dress would have been. It would upset her deeply and she wouldn't be able to rest until it had been restored to where it belonged.

Jesus is saying that is how God feels about anyone who has wandered away from him and lost their way in life. He feels the gap caused by them not being where they can enjoy his light and his love. And what joy it brings him when they turn and come back to him. If you have wandered from God and got lost in the wilderness I urge you to hear his homeward call. And if you are already safe in the family of God's people I call upon you to feel with God his compassion for those who are missing from his family and to do all that you can to help them find their way home.

## Guild News

Judith Campbell

The Guild has had a good year so far with some very interesting speakers.

In September, Robert McQuistan spoke to us about MAF. For 60 years MAF has been opening up isolated communities like Papua NewGuinea, to the Gospel. Robert gave us an excellent insight into the work that MAF does. It helped me realise that we belong to the worldwide family of the church and that we are bound together by God's love.

In November, Major Terri Holdroyd came and spoke to us about the work that the Salvation Army does. It was wonderful to hear Terri share her passion and her vision about the work being done to help homeless people in Dumfries.

In December, Helen Faulds will be talking about an organisation called Poverty Swap. Poverty Swap has a number of projects operating amongst the poorest communities in Ethiopia, Romania, Albania, India and Nepal. Helen's presentation will consist of a mixture of inspirational stories from these projects with testimonies of how lives are changed within these communities through the activities of ordinary people.

There is no Guild meeting in January but in February, Liz Tanner will be coming to talk to us about projects that the Guild are supporting. These include " Mary's Meals. " and "Out of Africa into Malta."

Please come along to the Guild. We'd love to see you at our meetings

### Editor's Footnote:

Not much space this edition! A great problem to have. Many thanks to all contributors making for, what I hope to be, an interesting, informative and fun read. Merry Christmas!

## Services and Diary Dates

Sunday Services are at 10:00 am.

Date	Time	Details
Saturday 1 December	6:30 for 7:00 pm	Pies, Peas and Pud (plus fun quiz) in the Glenriddell Hall
Tuesday 4 December	7:30 pm	Flicks in the Sticks - Touching the Void in the Glenriddell Hall
Wednesday 5 December	10:30 - 12:00 noon	Village coffee and tea in the Glenriddell Hall
Saturday 8 December	1:30 - 3:00 pm	Carol singing at Homebase Dumfries for Christian Aid
Thursday 13 December	7:00	Pre-school Christmas Fayre
Monday 17 December	7:30 pm	School carol service in the church
Wednesday 19 December	10:30 - 12:00 noon	Village coffee and tea in the Glenriddell Hall
	7:30 pm	Pre-school nativity service in the church
Saturday 22 December	6:00 pm	Carols in the Flying Pig
Sunday 23 December	10:00 am	Readings and carols service in the church led by the elders followed by coffee and mince pies in the hall
	4:00 pm	Auldgirth carol service in Auldgirth hall
Monday 24 December	4:00 pm	Christingle Service in Dunscore church
	11:30 pm	Watchnight service - Glencairn church in Kirkland
Tuesday 25 December	10:00 am	Christmas service in Dunscore church
Sunday 13 January 2013	10:00 am	Holy Communion in Dunscore church

## Piles of Shoe Boxes!

### The Samaritan's Purse Team

Operation Christmas Child is an initiative of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief and development organisation that works through local churches to proclaim and demonstrate the love of God to children and families in need across Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Where appropriate our local partners will also distribute a booklet of Bible stories-including the story of Christmas the birth of Jesus.

In 2011 a total of 485,846 boxes was handed out in seven countries: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia, Haiti, Kenya, Kosova and Kyrgyzstan.

It is with great pleasure that I have to tell you that we actually handed over 67 boxes to the Samaritan's Purse, a marvellous effort by everyone involved.

Could I thank the school and the children also the church and congregation for their generosity and kindness.



Stella hard at work

## It's Party Time!

### Toby and Bud

### If you go down to the hall today...

Once again we, Toby and Bud, and the other Church Bears are planning a PARTY! It is such a busy season, we have decided to hold our Christmas Party in January! So, on January 10 2013, a traditional Christmas Party will be held for all Pre-School and primary school children and their families.

We do hope you will come along to the Glenriddell Hall at 3:15 pm (school clothes are fine) and enjoy the party. See

## Adverts - Allegedly Genuine

FREE PUPPIES 1/2 Cocker Spaniel, 1/2 sneaky neighbour's dog. Mother is a Kennel Club registered German Shepherd. Father is a Super Dog, able to leap tall fences in a single bound.

COWS NEVER BRED. Also 1 gay bull for sale.

JOINING NUDIST COLONY! Must sell washer and dryer £100.

WEDDING DRESS FOR SALE. Worn once by mistake. Call Stephanie.

FOR SALE BY OWNER. Complete set of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 45 volumes. Excellent condition, £200 or best offer. No longer needed, got married, wife knows everything.

# Dunscore Walking Group

**Pam and Colin Mitchell**

The walking group have had a good year walking the local and Lake District Hills. In February we walked the mainly coastal route from Palnackie to Almorness Point and back. It was a dry and windy day although a bit wet underfoot in places. A missing bridge over a creek made for one or two muddy people! Good afternoon tea in Palnackie on our return!

On an unseasonably hot March day we enjoyed walking part of the Annandale Way from the top of the Devil's Beef Tub to Moffat. We thought that this was a sign of the summer to come. We were wrong! The sail down Ullswater to the start of our walk in April was painfully cold in a bitter north wind. However the walk back over the hilltops to Glenridding was dry with good views. In May we walked the Upland Way from Wanlockhead to Sanquhar on another very hot day. The views were superb and the paths in good condition underfoot. A day for shirt sleeves and sunhats! The Moffat Mountain Rescue Team Charity Challenge in June gave some members good walks in the Durisdeer Hills on a rather wet day.

Cairnmore of Carsephairn was our challenge for July. The day started damp and overcast and muddy footpaths were encountered. However whilst having lunch on the summit the cloud cleared and we enjoyed good views on our descent. In August we ascended Doddick Fell ridge on Blencathra in the Lake District. This steep climb into the cloud gave us no views from the summit. A compass bearing was required for our descent and a good walk back down by River Glendermackin and Mouthswaite Coombe to our cars.

Our boots tramped the local Scaur valley hills in October. We climbed Cairnkinna and then walked north over the hills and descended a steep and wild valley to Glenwhargen. Our November walk is planned to be in the Grasmere area of the Lake District and December should see us walking from Rockcliffe to Sandyhills by the coastal path with a BBQ lunch (hopefully).

The walking group is open to all who are fit enough to walk the sorts of distances and heights. Pam and Colin are both qualified summer mountain leaders and very experienced walkers both here and abroad. The group is very informal and we try to organise walks of varying distances. New members are most welcome.

## Congregation Comment

For this edition, we asked members of the congregation for a New Year's Resolution for the church.

**Ian Hyslop** - Be more active for the church.

**Maggi Goodwin** - To show, by example, that our church welcomes everyone.

**Cliff Walker** - To adopt an approach that does more to break down barriers.

**Charlie Macallan** - To find a new minister. There can't be anything more important than that!

**Chris Whittle** - To find a better assistant organist!

**Mary Whittle** - For a new minister to appear and for everybody to be supportive and helpful in their "settling in"

**Mark Buchanan** - Be more prepared to express our faith to others through our actions.

## Anyone for... Badminton

Did you know that there is a church (joint Dunscore / Moniaive) badminton group? We play social, fun badminton every Tuesday morning in the Glencairn Institute in Moniaive. It is a great laugh and we are always happy to welcome new players (men or women). If you would like to know more speak to Julie, Pam, Matthew, Kay or Theresa.

## Remembrance Service

**Andy Edgar**

After a good attendance within the church, the congregation proceeded to the war memorial. Our minister for the service was Rev. John Young. Within his address, John mentioned Lance Corporal Harold Ewan's name on the war memorial. He was laid to rest at Millsbeek War Cemetery in the Netherlands.

Since 1948, Tonnie Thijssen has maintained his grave as though Harold was one of her family because she felt grateful for his sacrifice.

## Some News Stories:

Army Vehicle Disappears - An Australian Army vehicle worth \$74,000 disappeared after being painted with camouflage. Caskets found as workers demolish mausoleum - "We had no idea anyone was buried here."

Utah poison control centre reminds people not to take poison

Federal Agents Raid Gun Shop, find weapons

A caller reported at 7:14 pm that someone was on a porch yelling "help" from a residence on Bank Street. Officers responded and learned the person was calling a cat that is named "help".

# Zambia Update

Max MacKenzie

## Tuli Pamo - We are Together

Last month, we heard from our Partners in the Lubuto Congregation who were having some very hot weather, and it must have been extreme, because they don't usually complain about the climate. We have told them about our kind of summer extremes in Scotland by contrast.

The congregation is still managing the school successfully. There are seven teachers, looking after 40 pre-school pupils and 80 primary pupils and there are plans to train two more teachers next year. The financial support from here has ensured that all the staff salaries are paid at the present time. The Zambian government is introducing a minimum wage policy and the ability to meet this has still to be determined.

The school itself has been registered as a business company which gives them a stepping-stone to apply to the Government for registration as an educational institution. This will allow them to compete favourably with other schools.

We are told that the toilet block is to become operational in January and that our partners are looking to start building a second classroom block in the near future.

There was however disappointing news about the Poultry Project which would have supplied eggs and chickens to the community. Despite making the proper submissions to the local authority, permission to put the layout inside the church compound was refused. Our friends continue to try to find a new solution which will allow them to progress with the project.

The Lubuto Congregation are working on a plan for their goals and hopes for the next three years and we hope and pray that our congregations here in the Cairn Valley can share in their expectations as we continue to work together in our Twinning.

## Pig Flying News

The pre-Christmas menu is now available. Please telephone to discuss your requirements on 820795.

The Boxing Day Beetle Drive starts at 2:00 pm. There are prizes to be won! It is a great game for all ages so bring the family and join in the fun.

The Flying Pig will be open every day from Thursday 20 December to Tuesday 1 January. Most days, opening will be from 16:00 until late. On Christmas Day and New Year's Day, it will be open from noon until 16:00 and will be closed on 2 January 2013.



## Carols at the Pig!

Join us in Butcher's Yard (in the pub if wet) for carols on 22 December from 6:00-7:00 pm. Mulled

## Dunscore War Memorial and Parish Memories

Gladys Cuttle has compiled a book about the Dunscore war memorial and the stories of those whose names are on it. This fascinating book is one of her series on Nithsdale war memorials. The research involved is incredible. To purchase a copy, contact Gladys on 01848 600249 (price £12).

**Advent Wreath** The base of the wreath is made with greenery shaped into a circle - reminding us of the circle of God's care, His eternity and endless mercy.

**Four red candles** are set around the circle - one for each of the Sundays during Advent. A special ceremony is held during morning worship when each candle is lit to represent Hope, Peace, Love and Joy as worshippers engage in the journey through the Christian story.

**A central candle** (traditionally white) known as 'the Christ Candle' is lit on Christmas Day so that all candles are alight together.

# Get Your Act Together!

**Alison Boyes**

A sign on the Canongate wall next to the Scottish Parliament reads "Say but little and say it well". This was my intention as I made my way to Holyrood to meet with MSPs on October 25.

I was going as part of a Mass Lobby arranged by Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, a coalition of 60 organisations including EcoCongregation Scotland. The Scottish Climate Change Act was passed in 2009 and sets ambitious targets for reducing carbon emissions. Unfortunately, the first annual target was missed and the Lobby was a way of telling MSPs that this is a matter of public concern. The next few months will see debates on Climate policy, public procurement reform and the budget, which are all opportunities for the Government to strengthen their policies on carbon emissions.

We are all represented by 8 MSPs, one constituency ( Alex Ferguson for Galloway and West Dumfriesshire) and seven regional (South of Scotland) and I had emailed them all. Five had agreed to meet me at the Lobby. Only 60 places were available and 7 of these were allocated for constituents from the South of Scotland. I met with people who had travelled a lot further than I had - one woman who had come by bus from Campbeltown, and several from the Highlands and Islands region.

The MSPs were keen to talk, but also to listen. They were aware of local issues which needed to be addressed, such as better public transportation in rural areas, and energy inefficient housing. Everyone was telling them about those

There is no doubt that the MSPs saw the potential for change that congregations can bring about, and indeed Claudia Beamish ( Shadow Environment and Climate Change) has put the Dunscore Carbon Footprint Day information on her website.

Politics can often seem remote and we feel powerless to influence Government policy. This Lobby showed me that it is important to speak to our representatives and tell them what matters to us. I feel proud to live in a country which has the strongest climate change legislation in the world. I just hope that the politicians Get Their Act Together and work to meet those ambitious targets.



*If you would like to do some "green" and ethical lobbying without having to go to Edinburgh, please email [eco@dunscorechurch.co.uk](mailto:eco@dunscorechurch.co.uk) to be added to our lobbying email list.*

## Reader's Recipe

**Kath Aitken**

### Mulled Wine

This recipe, as is most of my food preparation, is loosely based on a recipe from a book and embellished with whatever is to hand. My home-made wine is used for cooking and mulling being an inexpensive (though not in time and effort!) ingredient when entertaining large numbers.

When we lived near Kirkcudbright we used to invite friends for "Carols in the Kitchen" around Christmas and mulled wine was always a feature.

- Three bottles of (preferably home-made) wine
- A large slosh (about ½ pint) of orange juice - use apple juice if you prefer your mulled wine clear
- One orange studded with about 10 cloves
- Some nutmeg, finely grated
- About six juniper berries (if you have them) ground in a pestle and mortar
- A couple of sticks of cinnamon
- Any other spices that you can find in your cupboards that you think might enhance this winter warmer
- Two to four ounces of sugar to taste

Heat all the above to just below simmering. Heat for 10 minutes or so.

Enjoy with a few carols. Merry Christmas!

**Wise Words...** Lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part.

## School - Children in Need

Poppy, Struan and Calum

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November, Dunscore Primary School celebrated Children In Need Day and the Pupil Council organised a variety of fun activities for everyone to take part in.

It was a non-school uniform day but we had to wear something spotty - there were lots of dotty children about! Mrs Howat kindly baked everyone a special Pudsey bear shaped shortbread biscuit then we had a great time decorating him with coloured icing and sweeties - he tasted delicious. In the afternoon, we held a space hopper obstacle race in the hall. Lots of us had never been on a hopper before so there were a few tumbles but nobody was hurt. It was good fun to do and to watch.

After that, we split into mixed age groups and had a fantastic game of whole school Bingo with all the Bingo Lingo too! We raised a magnificent £155.89 towards the fund.

What a fun day we had, we will look forward to next year's event!

## Session Clerk's End of Year Thoughts

Charlie Macallan

I have been giving a lot of thought to our achievements as we come to the end of our first year without a Minister. I feel, and I hope, that you would agree that things have gone reasonably well considering the challenge that was ahead of us and recognising the stability we have known during the years with Christine as our minister. We are where we are now in no small measure thanks to the way so many people have come forward to ensure that the many tasks and duties required each week are taken care of.

As Session Clerk, I would like say thank you to everyone who have made this possible and also on a personal note say thank you for all the help and encouragement I have been given during the year. It has been a daunting task and presented me with a very big learning curve. We always recognised what a special person Christine was but, believe me, in the past months I have come to find out the many things that she made sure were taken care of unknown to all of us.

As we look forward to the end of the year we have an exciting Christmas season organised which I hope everyone will take part in. I am sorry not to be part of it but I will be spending Christmas with my son and his family in Thatcham in Berkshire and New Year with my daughter and her family in London.

May I wish you all a very happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas. As we look forward to 2013 let us hope and pray that somewhere there is a special person who would like to come and be our minister.

## Search for a New Minister

Colin Mitchell

The 13 strong Nominating Committee continues to enthusiastically work on behalf of both congregations to seek a minister. Although we have not yet completed this process (due to many vacancies and few applicants) we realise that we have to continue to widely advertise our vacancy.

Our adverts have been seen across Scotland and in many other parts of the world. We have had some enquiries from out with Scotland but have discovered that the process to move to the Church of Scotland is complex, expensive and lengthy.

We have invited recently qualified ministers from Scotland to come for a no commitment visit to both parishes. We have had one visitor so far and hope that more take up our offer.

Please support the Nominating Committee with your prayers and visit our website: [www.cairnvalleycalling.co.uk](http://www.cairnvalleycalling.co.uk) for more information.

## From the Archives... Five years ago

**Bioethics Day** Our third seminar giving us the opportunity to find out more about the 'big' issues facing us in the 21st century was attended by 34 people, approximately one third of whom came from outwith our parish.

**Praise Night** The Twynholm Praise Band was reunited for a night when Kath Aitken invited her former band players (John Carson and Tony Conner) to come to Dunscore.

**Rock Solid** Last year we had moments when we thought Rock Solid may have outlived its usefulness when only three and sometimes only two young folk turned up. This year the leaders have had a similar feeling that we may have to wind up Rock Solid because on some evenings we have had 20!

## 90th Anniversary Celebration

What an amazing experience and privilege to be representing the Guild as Church of Scotland members at this Presbyterian Church of Taiwan (PCT) conference.

It had all the hallmarks of the Guild Annual Meeting: Fun, fellowship, faith and huge enthusiasm - except the grey hairs were mainly amongst the international delegates and the language was Mandarin, or maybe Taiwanese!

Faith: The keynote speakers were strong and inspirational in the messages they gave. Some nuances were lost in translation but still what we heard moved us. I brought away with me two really powerful 'points to ponder':

- 'Amen is not the end it is the beginning' and
- When Jesus was brought only five loaves and two fishes to feed the 5,000 he didn't say "Is that all?" No! He took it, blessed it and used it. It was enough.

And there was the worship. The Communion Service was especially moving with so many people from every corner of the earth sharing in a service that was so familiar that it brought us really close to our own church families across the world. No translation needed!

Fellowship: What a generous and gentle people we were amongst. Mary and I found on arrival we were part of a 30 strong delegation of international representatives. Six of us were from UK (Scotland, England and Wales); Canada and USA were represented and all the others were from throughout Australasia. We were a group that really pulled well together with a great sense of fun and excitement at the opportunity that we had been given.

We were treated as honoured guests and were introduced individually to the assembled conference of 800. We joined with gusto, as best we could, in the hymns with familiar tunes but no English words and we made our contribution to the cultural evening. All the 'presbyteries' represented did a 'turn'. Mostly they were really spectacular. The internationals did two presentations. Half of the group gave a presentation on women of faith. For the representation from Scottish culture we chose Jane Haining, which was so significant for someone from Dunscore church. I could feel the touch of my church family! The other half of the group had decided on the Hokey Cokey (or Hokey Pokey on that side of the world!). What could they be thinking of? Such 'froth' amongst such high-calibre presentations! But how wrong I was. It went down a storm led by Marie, a great lady with huge personality from New Zealand. It was so easy to follow and soon there were 800 people all joining in the fun. Language no barrier!

Fun: After the three day conference ended the international group had a programme of visits which took us to the south of the island and back. We were given a flavour of the growth of Christianity from its missionary roots when we visited the Christian Hospital in Changhua. This state-of-the-art hospital had its roots in the early missionary station set up by David Landsborough when he went from Ayrshire on his early missionary journey. The visits we then made to a school for children with special needs in behaviour and the home for children with learning difficulties echoed much of what happens at home! I loved the outreach idea where mixed-age people with learning difficulties were together in a centre where they cooked their meals and generally looked out for each other like a family -only with support. Granny, with dementia, was included.

Down in the south of the country in Tainan we visited the Christian Hospital set up initially as a missionary station by James Maxwell in 1864. We also visited the PCT equivalent of St Andrews Press where all their church publications are printed and distributed. There was also the Seminary initiated by Barclay and still used as the centre for training Christian pastors. This part of the trip was a bit whistle-stop and busy. The highlight for me was Sunday worship. We were split into three groups and my group were royally looked after at our church. I was privileged to be asked to bring the greetings of the international group as part of the service. Later we were treated to a wonderful church lunch where many of the congregation joined us.

Finally, back in Taipei, Mary and I made a special, 'Church of Scotland Guild / World Mission visit to the Garden of Hope. With money from the HIV / AIDS initiative, a successful HIV / AIDS project to provide shelter and aid to sufferers was extended to allow the creation of a shelter for babies of those with HIV / AIDS who may have contracted the disease at birth. Of the babies they have had over the past 18 months since the shelter opened, only one has been found to be a carrier of the virus. The babies, in time, are moved to adoptive homes or to the children's home run by the same organisation.

This was a lovely way for two Guild people to end the visit in seeing project money raised within the guild working to help others in distant corners of the world.

What a privilege and pleasure it was to have enjoyed this experience. Thank you for letting it happen!



## A Chat With... The Editor

*As a Christmas Special, the Assistant Editor decided to turn the spotlight upon the Editor of the Dunscore Digest, Matthew Aitken.*

*How long have you been Editor of the Digest, Matthew?* I took over from Anne Stebbing in 2007, when she moved to France. The format was A4 sheets, but soon changed to its present booklet form when Mary Donaldson started printing it.

*What special qualities does an Editor need?* Tact – sometimes a bit lacking! The ability to say “thanks but no thanks”. Time! Some computer skills.

*Good and bad bits of being Editor?* I like the job but it does take up a lot of time. I have never added it up but think it would be about 30 hours an issue. My aim is for the Digest to be a magazine that most people would want to read – not just reports on church doings but lots of interesting articles and some humour.

*How long have you been coming to Dunscore Church and where were you before?* We came to Dunscore Church as soon as we moved to the area from near Kirkcudbright. Kath had been an elder at Twynholm Church. I was an infrequent attender.

*Do you have any other roles in the church or local community?* I run various email lists from Freecycle to Lobbying – about 80 people receive each list. I belong to the Fairtrade Village group and am on the Audiovisual rota at church. Recently, I have been Clerk to the Nominating Committee, which is looking for a new minister. This role has been quite time-consuming and has involved writing to potential ministers and communicating with the committee.

*Tell us a bit about your day job...* I am a farm hand for quite a bit of the time, helping Kath (but not with anything that involves getting my hands too dirty!). I also run a small hygiene consultancy, helping food businesses to comply with supermarket requirements.

*Any time for leisure? If so, how do you like to spend it?* We love where we live so enjoy spending most of our “leisure” time around the farm. I spend quite a lot of time cutting down tress and chopping logs to feed our hungry Rayburn. Holidays are often in the UK due to an increasing allergy to flying for environmental reasons and also because of the queuing, waiting, security... This year we cycled on the Cowal Peninsula which was lovely, if a bit wet!

*Favourite book and/or film?* The film has got to be “Gregory’s Girl” which is a bit dated now but still good fun. The “Jeeves” books by P G Wodehouse still make me laugh out loud, despite my having read them several times.

*Your dream dinner party – who would you invite and what would be on the menu?* I would invite people with interesting views or who have done amazing things – Jesus would be a good start (and if we ran out of wine...). Ernest Shackleton would have a couple of stories to tell, plus David Attenborough, Kath ( I wouldn’t want her to miss this) and perhaps Joan of Arc. I would have a starter of fried mushrooms ( from our fields), then lasagne made with our own beef, with garlic bread, followed by Scottish cheeses (including some Strathdon Blue). Some tasty red wine and a good port to follow. Wow!

*“If I ruled the world...” ?* I would put the Palestinian and Israeli leaders in a room and not let them out until they had sorted out their differences in an amicable way.

*Thank you Matthew. It’s a good thing you have such a good assistant!*

## Rock Solid Rocks!

Rock Solid continues to be enjoyed by young people aged between the ages of 10 and 14. It is held on Friday evenings from 7:30 - 9:00 pm in the Glenriddell Hall and is run by Dunscore and Moniaive churches.

A few of the young people that go were asked what they thought of Rock Solid ...

In general, rock solid is good. We get food and games. **Camie**

It is a chance to meet new friends, have some fun and learn whilst having fun. **Lorna**

We like playing games and we really enjoy Rock Solid. More people could come along. **Anonymous**

Rock Solid is good. Lots of people like it! **Callum**

Rock Solid rocks! **John**



## Nominating Committee Leak!

*You will be aware that our nominating committee that is looking for a new minister is required to keep its work confidential. The editor received a call from a nom com "mole" and he met the insider in the church car park. Here is what was handed over...*

**Report to the Sessions:** No ideal candidate found yet although there is one promising prospect. We do appreciate all the suggestions from the church members, and we've followed up each one with interviews or calling at least three references. The following is our confidential report on the present candidates.

- **Adam:** Good man but problems with his wife. Also one reference told of how his wife and he enjoy walking nude in the woods.
- **Noah:** Former pastorate of 120 years with no converts. Prone to unrealistic building projects.
- **Abraham:** Though the references reported wife-swapping, the facts seem to show he never slept with another man's wife, but did offer to share his own wife with another man.
- **Joseph:** A big thinker, but a braggart, believes in dream-interpreting, and has a prison record.
- **David:** Was looking good. A great leader but we discovered the affair he had with his neighbour's wife.
- **Solomon:** Great preacher but our manse would never hold all those wives.
- **Jeremiah:** Emotionally unstable, alarmist, negative, always lamenting things.
- **Isaiah:** On the fringe? Claims to have seen angels in church.
- **Jonah:** Refused God's call into ministry until he was forced to obey by getting swallowed up by a great fish. He told us the fish later spat him out on the shore near here. We hung up.
- **John:** Says he is a Baptist, but definitely doesn't dress like one. Has slept in the outdoors for months on end, has a weird diet, and provokes denominational leaders.
- **Peter:** Too blue collar. Has a bad temper—even has been known to curse. Had a big run-in with Paul in Antioch. Aggressive and a loose cannon.
- **Paul:** Powerful CEO type leader and fascinating preacher. However, short on tact, unforgiving with younger ministers, harsh and has been known to preach all night.
- **Jesus:** Has had popular times but once when his church grew to 5000 he managed to offend them all and this church dwindled down to twelve people. Seldom stays in one place very long. And, of course, he's single.
- **Judas:** His references are solid. A steady plodder. Conservative. Good connections. Knows how to handle money. We're inviting him to preach this Sunday. Possibilities here.

## Marriage / Relationship Course

**Kath Aitken**

The marriage / relationship course is a series of seven sessions devised by Sila and Nicky Lee of Holy Trinity Church in Brompton. It is designed to help any couple to explore and enhance their relationship whether they have been married for 50 years or just embarking on life together.

The two hour sessions take the form of each couple sitting together and being served a two course supper. A DVD is shown and each couple use a course book to discuss the issues raised. Group discussion does not form any part of the course. Topics are wide ranging and include communication, resolving conflict, love in action and parents and in-laws. The course will be held in the Glenriddell Hall in Dunscore on Mondays from 7:00 - 9:00 pm starting on 14 January and is open to any couple. The cost will be £7.00 per night per couple which includes supper. There is only space for six couples so please speak to me to book your place by the end of December.

If you would like to find out more, please speak to Kath or Matthew Aitken on 820448 or Carol or Cliff Walker on 820327 who have participated in the course and found it illuminating and fun but also challenging and beneficial.

## Fish & Chip Babies

In the last edition of the Digest we included a simple knitting pattern to make teddies for poor children. This time it is jumpers.

Stella McCubbin and others in the bible study group are knitting jumpers for "fish and chip babies". These babies, mostly born HIV positive, are born into such poverty that traditionally they have left hospital wrapped in newspaper. However now even newspaper is too expensive.

If you like to do a bit of simple knitting, this is your opportunity! Speak to Stella on 820536 if you would like the pattern.

## **How Big is Your Footprint?**    **Matthew Aitken**

A couple of years ago, the Church of Scotland required all congregations to measure the carbon footprint of their church and manse and to reduce this by 5% annually. A carbon footprint is a measure of how much energy we use (through electricity, oil, petrol and so on) and, as a consequence, our impact on the environment.

Our Eco Group felt that, while the church and manse carbon footprints were useful, it would be better still to measure the carbon footprint of the congregation and, if possible, the community. We do like a challenge!

In Spring this year we asked households to take readings of oil, electricity, car mileages and to send them in so that these could be stored. We recently reached the date when we had agreed to take the next readings giving us the first indications of carbon use through this summer.

Fourteen households have taken part so far and submitted readings. The results make interesting reading.

Our average, our households:

- Consists of 1.9 people
- Has one and a half cars
- Burned 1.4 tonnes of carbon as petrol and diesel
- Burned 0.9 tonnes of carbon as heating oil
- Burned 0.9 tonnes of carbon as electricity

The total carbon footprint over the summer period for all 14 households was 51.4 tonnes. The household with the largest footprint burned 6.1 tonnes of carbon and the smallest 1.1. Those that had the smaller footprints were generally those that had low (or zero) electricity use. This was either because they bought genuinely “green” electricity that is made from renewable resources or where the household generated its own “green” electricity.

The footprints are only an estimate and an underestimate at that. No account is taken of the carbon used to grow, store and transport food. Nor is there any account of the carbon needed to make all the other items that we use and buy. In addition, we have assumed that wood fuel is zero carbon (a bit optimistic) and have taken no account of bus and train travel.

But our measures give a good indication and are consistent measures that we can compare year on year and aim to reduce in line with the Church of Scotland target of 5% annually. If you would like to participate and have your carbon footprint measured, please contact me on 820448 or [eco@dunscorechurch.co.uk](mailto:eco@dunscorechurch.co.uk). We would love to have more households involved. The full (anonymous) results are on the EcoCongregation page of the Dunscore church website [www.dunscorechurch.co.uk](http://www.dunscorechurch.co.uk).

## **Dunscore Birdwatching Group**    **Colin Mitchell**

The birdwatching group have enjoyed a busy year and many superb birds have been seen in a variety of habitats (and weather!).

Visits have included the south shore of the Solway, Caerlaverock, Wanlockhead, Mabie Forest, Mershead and Stenhouse Wood (near Tynron).

The highlight of the year was a full day trip to the RSPB reserve at Leighton Moss near Lancaster. The visit was well worth the long drive with the following birds being seen:

avocet, bittern, black headed gull, blackcap, blue tit, crow, Canada goose, chaffinch, chiffchaff, coal tit, coot, cormorant, gadwall, garganey, goldfinch, great black backed gull, great crested grebe, great tit, greenfinch, greylag geese, heron, house martin, lapwing, little egret, magpie, mallard, moorhen, mute swan, marsh harrier, oyster catcher, pheasant, pied wagtail, redshank, sedge warbler, shelduck, shoveler, song thrush, spoonbill, swallow, swift, teal, tufted duck, willow warbler and wren.

An amazing day's birdwatching including some of Britain's rarest birds. The group has now seen 129 species of British birds on our various outings.

New members including beginners are most welcome.

## **What's In a Name?**

Johnny's mother had three children. The eldest was called April, the next May. What was her third child called? Answer on the next page

## Service with Care

Mary Whittle

I was asked by Matthew, to write a piece about the Sunday Services for people who are residing in the two care homes and the hospital, at Thornhill. Two other Homes were included on the rota but one closed and the other decided that, at present, there were insufficient people for the service to be held - what a pity but there we are!

These short services are run by seven teams: three from Dunscore and one each from Thornhill, Durisdeer, Penpont, Moniaive and Glencairn. Wow! Says I, scratching my head to think of a way to tackle this task. I am only one of two or three who form our team, should they be canvassed for their views or do I do as Editor says: "In your own words as you see it?" a tip from the editor: always do as the editor says!  
So here goes:

Christine asked me if I would work with Vari as a group to take the Good News to the folks in their Care Homes as they, for the most part, are unable to get to Church on a regular basis. We work well together and Chris joins in as supernumerary /keyboard carrier and songster when he is able. I must say that Vari is super at organising the services and delivering the thoughts and prayers that have been in her head when she has "a service to do". I meanwhile do my bit on the keyboard and reading the passages of the day together with the prayers, if required. Judith has gamely joined us and is a good support reading the bible and prayers.

The congregation, sometimes three or four and occasionally nine or ten, seem to enjoy the service and join in with singing the hymns, giving voice to a variety of harmonies - many not envisioned by the hymn writer!

Pam and Katie lead the other two groups from Dunscore and the services are held at 3:00 pm on the third Sunday of each month. We are not overly used but we all consider it a privilege to visit these places and bring our own interpretation of God's message for people to ponder on in their own quiet hours.

We do so enjoy this contact time being able to talk to the varied characters and to hear their stories. Some are quite remarkable while others are very humorous. It is good to share the time with them.

I obviously didn't do vast research with the other teams to get their views but I would imagine they would be very similar and the memories are so special.

You would be more than welcome to join us.

## Our Very Own Crannog

You may not be aware that we have a crannog in our parish!

Crannogs are a type of ancient loch-dwelling found throughout Scotland and Ireland. Most are circular structures that seem to have been built as individual homes to accommodate extended families.

A small island in the loch near Friars' Carse was identified as being the remains of a crannog, and in 1878 was measured as being about 80 ft by 70 ft. Some of the timbers were morticed and bore traces of clay flooring and central paving. Medieval pottery was found and additionally a dug-out canoe or logboat with a paddle, carrying an inserted sternboard, was found in the mud near the crannog.

The friars are said to have hidden their treasures on the crannog during times of war and raids from England.

Carse Loch is now much reduced through drainage and is enclosed within a marsh surrounded by a part of the Stottpark woodlands. The original crannog is said to have collapsed under the water surface in 1879 following its archaeological investigation, although one or two islands are still shown on modern OS maps.

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Dunscore Parish Church – Registered Charity Number: SC016060

**What's in a name?** (see previous page) Her third child was called Johnny!



## Letters to the Editor

Dalgonar, Dunscore

Dear Sir,

You refer to the Stepford dispute in your Footnote [September edition of the Digest]. I regret that you have, because it has been largely laid to rest; but since you have, I remind you of what happened. You published an article alleging that the opponents of the scheme were unChristian. There was nothing "political" about it; it was a personal attack, which many of us thought ought not to have been published.

Your response to my article about wind turbines appears to have been drawn from information provided to FoE by the energy companies. Much of it is contentious. (1) Far from carbon emissions created by turbines being paid off in months, a 2-year analysis of windfarms in Australia found no saving of emissions at all over 25 years. (2) Even the energy companies admit that 9%, not 70%, is the maximum output that wind can provide. (3) On Youtube, you can watch a vulture being killed by a wind turbine. (4) The claim that other wildlife is not affected is incorrect. 200,000 bats a year are being killed by wind turbines in Germany; in the U.S.A., 450,000. Many fear the species will be wiped out. (5) Virtually no local employment is provided by wind farms. (6) In Denmark, where 20 years ago, they embraced wind, energy costs are now 16% higher than anywhere else in Europe. The Danish Energy Minister said in 2011, "Wind energy has been an unmitigated disaster for us". He should know. The Germans, who installed thousands of turbines, have given them up, and are returning to coal.

On top of all this is the devastation of our landscape. Drive up the Dalveen, and see what has been done to our lovely hills around Elvanfoot. Greed is the cause of this destruction. The Kirk should be condemning it.

Yours sincerely,

William Crawford

Willowbank  
Dunscore

Dear Matthew,

When reading the Tearfund autumn prayer diary, I was appalled to read that "£3,000 is being lost in Africa every second due to secrecy and corruption - money that should be releasing the world's poorest people from poverty." It goes on: "Entire communities in Sierra Leone cannot afford to send their children to school. These are the same communities that live in rich mining areas - yet they see very little of the wealth extracted from the ground." But how could I help?

Then I read on and discovered that there is a Tearfund campaign, *Unearth the Truth*, that has resulted in in 40,000 actions being taken as people contact their MEPs.

Through the pages of the Dunscore Digest, can I ask the readers to visit [www.tearfund.org/unearth](http://www.tearfund.org/unearth) and send an email to their MEP to ask him / her to back this campaign?

Thank you,

Katie Easton

## Date for your Diary

### Dumfries Presbyterial Council 125 Celebration

28 April 2013 in the Easterbrook Hall. The event is a fundraiser to celebrate The Guild and its achievements over 125 years and to raise funds in support of the community projects of two of our churches in the Council area

The programme will include afternoon tea, a fashion show by Livingstone's of Castle Douglas and a market stall for browsing through the achievements of the Guild. All are welcome! We need lots of people at the party, the more we have the more fun we will have.

Please contact Judith Campbell if you are interested on 01387 740079 or [judith.campbell172@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:judith.campbell172@yahoo.co.uk).

## Facing Africa

There is a disease with many names – the modest one is *Noma*. There are others, which tell us more – *Cancrum Oris*, *Necrotising Stomatitis*. This is a devastating disease of extreme poverty and malnutrition. Starting as an ulcer of the gums, there is rapid necrosis [*cell injury that results in the premature death of cells in living tissue*] of the mouth and jaw. The victims are usually children, and most die. The World Health Organisation estimates that 140,000 die each year in Africa. Some survive, perhaps a fifth, crippled with varying degrees of facial destruction and deformity. These survivors are often shunned by their community, hidden from view, crippled with disfigurement and despair.



*Facing Africa* is a charity devoted to helping these victims. Noma survivors are offered facial reconstruction surgery to help restore facial function, offering each a new start to life. Twice a year, for two weeks, two surgical teams, with anaesthetists, theatre and ward nurses travel to the MCM Korean Christian Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Surgery with anaesthesia is costly and complex, presently unavailable to almost all Africans.

I was asked to join the October 2012 visit as one of the anaesthetic team. Why me? I have a special interest in managing patients with “difficult airways”, those whose anatomy is sufficiently altered by disease to pose a threat to life during anaesthesia and surgery. And patients with Noma are difficult, with distortion by scars, impaired facial development and trismus (limited mouth opening, sometimes none at all). Also, many of our patients are children and all of them are frightened.

The charity has two paid workers in Ethiopia, one co-ordinates our visit, and one tours the country, often to remote provinces telling about the chance of treatment. Patients make their way to Addis, sometimes walking and travelling for weeks. They are taken in by the Leonard Cheshire Home in Menagesha, a village about 20 miles away in the hills surrounding the city. Here they are fed and clothed. After a few weeks, the team arrives to assess patients for surgery.

Arriving after the overnight flight from London, we reviewed about 70 potential cases, deciding that 35 could benefit from surgery on this visit. For the next day, surgery and anaesthesia is planned, a ward is prepared for the patients and the drugs and equipment made ready. All surgical and medical equipment is brought from the UK, a small miracle of planning and organisation

For the next 10 days, two operating theatres are reserved for surgery. Days are long, with cases taking between three and twelve hours, depending on severity. Many cases are treated by scar excision with *sub mental rotation flaps* which cover the facial defect. Some require more extensive *trismus release* freeing up the jaw to allow mouth opening. The big cases are *free flaps*, where a block of tissue, skin, muscle and perhaps bone is taken from the patient’s own body, perhaps from thigh, back or wrist to cover a major facial hole. The blood vessels must be carefully joined with microsurgery so this flap heals and survives. We did three of these big cases. All were successful.

Sometimes we have to change our lists. A young boy was brought by nuns from a Mother Teresa home having fallen from a tree several days before. His nose had been stripped from his face, hanging down. This was cleaned and repaired in a short case and hopefully his future is restored.

Patients recover on a “Facing Africa” ward and then return to Menagesha for a few weeks of rest and recuperation. On our last day, we all visit our patients, perhaps planning further revision surgery for the next time.

*Facing Africa* is led by Chris and Terry Lawrence, who, over years have built the charity step by step, starting surgical visits in 2007. They, like all team volunteers, are unpaid.

Please consider a donation to this worthy cause. The website [www.facingafrica.org](http://www.facingafrica.org) gives lots of further information including links to a visit filmed by the BBC.

## Jesus and the Three Neds

Three neds sitting in a pub, when in walks Jesus. First ned says ” look it’s The Big Man himself, moan we’ll buy um a pint.” So the second one gets up and asks Jesus if he wants a pint and he kindly replies “Yes thank you, I’ll join you if that’s okay.”

Sure enough Jesus sits down with the three neds and they have a little chat. Jesus then says “Well lads thanks for the pint, but I must be going before I leave I’ll give you one miracle each.”

“Ya dancer, can ye fix ma back its pure knackered ?” says the first ned.

“It is done” says Jesus and the ned is jumping about like a nutter again.

The second ned says “Kin ye get rid of this scar on the side of ma face”

It is done says Jesus and the ned was well chuffed.

Third Ned says “Haw Jesus, dinnae come near me. If you start that miracle patter oan me ma disability benefits are oot the windae.”

# Harvest Meal

Joan Walker

“A Harvest Meal with entertainment on 12<sup>th</sup> October” – that’s what the invitation said. “What shall I bring?” I asked. “Bring whatever you like – as long as it’s local” I was told. “How can you organise a meal when you don’t know what will be brought?” I asked. “It’s a Faith Meal! It will all be fine!” was the reply.

So, with puddings in hand, I arrived at the Glenriddle Hall, a little early. An empty hall with chairs and neatly laid tables set up in small groups and a line of long, empty tables along one side greeted me. I put the puds on an empty table, and left the hall with my fellow “Triologers” for a quick practice in the Church before the evening began.

Twenty minutes later after a quick run through and numerous giggles we arrived back to find the hall buzzing with people, the tables filling up quickly and the long tables loaded with all sorts of delicious foods. Such a variety, such a choice, and still people were arriving with more! A true Faith Meal!

We were joined by a number of the ministers who have conducted services for us since we have been in vacancy, Oonagh Dee, Mark Smith, David Bennett and James Clark Maxwell along with members of their families. So good to meet up with them in an informal situation.

The excuse (if there needed to be one) for the event – the presentation of our 3<sup>rd</sup> Eco Award was made to Charlie by Christine (taking time out from her new challenge at Dalgety Bay).

Colin did an excellent job as “Mike Man”. Matthew was a great M.C. and the much appreciated entertainment was provided by Sheila (in the Scots of course). Peter, singing and playing on the organ and also the guitar (we were invited to join in (Eidelweiss will never sound the same again!). The Trialogers – Alison, Nancy and me. Mary played for the sing-alongs and we all did, sing-along.

After the entertainment we were asked to take home the remaining food, or possibly give it to others. Ok, we didn’t feed the five thousand this time, but it certainly felt like we had tried!

A really fun evening, so many thanks to so many people, so good just to be together

That was our Harvest Meal!



## Harvest Meal Trialogue

*You may be familiar with the trialogues that became a feature of family services and have been heard during occasional services recently. Joan has been the writer for some time and they are generally presented by Joan, Alison Boyes and Nancy Hill. At the Harvest Supper, we had a special trialogue treat! Here it is...*

- 1. A.** Hope you enjoyed your Harvest Meal.  
**B.** They said bring local – No big Deal.  
**C.** So eat & drink just what you feel.  
**B.** That’s our Harvest Meal!
- 2. A.** Don’t waste the food, ‘cos that’s a crime.  
**B.** Enjoy, because it’s Harvest time.  
**C.** We’re joined tonight by Christine Sime.  
**B.** That’s our Harvest Meal!
- 3. A.** Harvest time, great time of year.  
**B.** The Harvest’s in, so have no fear.  
**C.** Maybe I should have a beer!  
**B.** That’s our Harvest Meal!
- 4. A.** I’m feeling full, yes, really, very!  
**B.** I had some soup, and ate a berry.  
**C.** I think I’ll have another Sherry!  
**B.** That’s our Harvest Meal!
- 5. A.** I loved the meal, I’m feeling fine.  
**B.** The soup was lovely, it was mine.  
**C.** I think I’ll have a glass of wine!  
**B.** That’s our Harvest Meal!
- 6. A.** I only ate the things I brought.  
**B.** I gave the food a lot of thought.  
**C.** I think I’ll have a glass of port.  
**B.** That’s our Harvest Meal!
- 7. A.** The food was lovely, don’t you think?  
**B.** The washing-up is in the sink!  
**C.** I think I’ll have another drink!  
**B.** That’s our Harvest Meal!
- 8. A.** We’ve had some frost, and lots of rain.  
**B.** The barns are full of hay and grain.  
**C.** The alcohol’s gone to my brain!  
**B.** That’s our Harvest Meal!
- 9. A.** So, all is safely gathered in!  
**B.** The winter storms can now begin!  
**C.** I’m never going to drink again!  
**B.** That’s our Harvest Meal!
- 10. A.** The moral that this story brings,  
**B.** Is moderation in all things,  
**C.** I think I’ve lost my angel’s wings!  
**All Together:** So Ends our Harvest Meal!

## Fairtrade Village News

Alison Boyes

I had envisaged a quiet winter on the Fairtrade front. We had helped out at the Dumfries Fairer World Fair and had written and sent in the renewal bid to preserve our status as a Fairtrade Village for another two years. The Steering Group, however, had different ideas. So...watch this space for an exciting New Year event. We hope it will be along the lines of a Great Dunscore Bake Off and Cookery Demonstration by a local celebrity chef.

Meantime, the Post Office coffee mornings are to continue on alternate Wednesdays in the Glenriddell Hall, from 10.30 -12. Future dates are December 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and these will be raising money for Parent Council projects at the school. Past coffee mornings have raised money for the Gala, the Preschool Centre and the Wednesday Club. If you know of a local charity or organisation which is in need of funds, please let us know. Meanwhile, come along on a Wednesday morning to enjoy tea, coffee, home baking and chat.

In the New Year, our thoughts will be turning to Fairtrade Fortnight. This year, it runs from 25<sup>th</sup> February – 10<sup>th</sup> March and the theme is `Take a Further Step for Fairtrade` with the emphasis on creativity! We have booked the hall for a Big Brew on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 2-5pm and have invited stalls from Oxfam, Traidcraft, Created and the Coop. We would also like to see some local produce on display, so if you are a producer, please let us know if you would like a stall. I am sure that there will, as in past years, be a Big Brew at the school, and perhaps the Preschool as well, so look out for publicity nearer the time.

Our next meeting is on 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7.15pm at Cu Minte (behind the Drs surgery). Anybody is welcome to come along.



## Community Council Column Colin Mitchell

The election in October was uncontested. Your new Community Council is:

Archie Anderson (Vice Chairman)

Joe Cook (Treasurer)

William Crawford

Michael Doyle

Kate Duffin

Hugh Hannay

David Marshall

Alistair McFadzean

Morag McKie

Colin Mitchell (Chairman)

Walter Patterson

Allan Todd

Our secretary is Janet Johnstone

Our thanks to the previous Community Council, ably led by William Crawford, for the work carried out on our Community's behalf including the excellent Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, renovation of the Community clocks on the church tower and erection of benches in Tom Carrick's memory. Thank you also to Patti Lean for her work as secretary, Ian Wilson and David Beveridge. These members stood down at the election.



We are setting up an e mail circulation list to send out information about the Community Council area (events, Community Council information etc) If you wish to be added to this list please email me at [c.mitchell50@btinternet.com](mailto:c.mitchell50@btinternet.com).

## We Want Your Clothes!

If you place your clothes and other textiles in the container in the church car park, you will be benefiting Dunscore primary school. As well as clothes, lots of items are acceptable including towels, sheets, pairs of shoes and belts. Items that are not good enough to be reused, will be made into rags - so nothing is wasted. Please recycle and help the school at the same time.

## A Holy Land Burial

A Scotsman and his ever-nagging wife were on holiday in Jerusalem when the wife died suddenly. The undertaker said it would cost £5,000 to ship her home or £50 to bury her here. The Scotsman said "ship her home."

The undertaker said, "But, sir, why don't you bury her in the Holy Land and save the money?"

The Scotsman said "Listen here pal, a long, long time ago a man called Jesus was buried here and three days later he rose from the dead. She's gawn home."



# **SLYC Slot**

**Dean Goddard**

If you'll pardon the pun, SLYC has had a windfall, in actual fact, two! Successful applications to the Dunscore and Moniaive Wind Farm funds has brought in money to replace our sorry supply of indoor sports and games equipment, buy a portable P.A. sound system and also cover the majority of our normal running costs for the next year. We plan to store the new equipment in a secure unit inside the Moniaive Memorial Institute where it will be available, by prior arrangement, for use by other groups and organisations such as the Brownies and Guides.

Now running as a Youth Club in it's own right with a Bank Account and a Constitution, numbers have been steady at 12 to 15 with the majority still being boys. As at the moment, we only have two regulars from Dunscore, most weeks we run in Moniaive, most evenings will have a mixture of very rowdy games, some team building / development challenges and time to sit and eat together.

In the New Year the members of the club are going to start fund-raising with the hope to join the YMCA party that is going out to Prague for an international festival in August. This is a Christian festival bringing together about 10,000 young people from all over the World and taking over the city for a full week.

So, watch this space for more information. Seasons Greetings a really big thank-you to all the people who continue to support us, we couldn't do it without you.