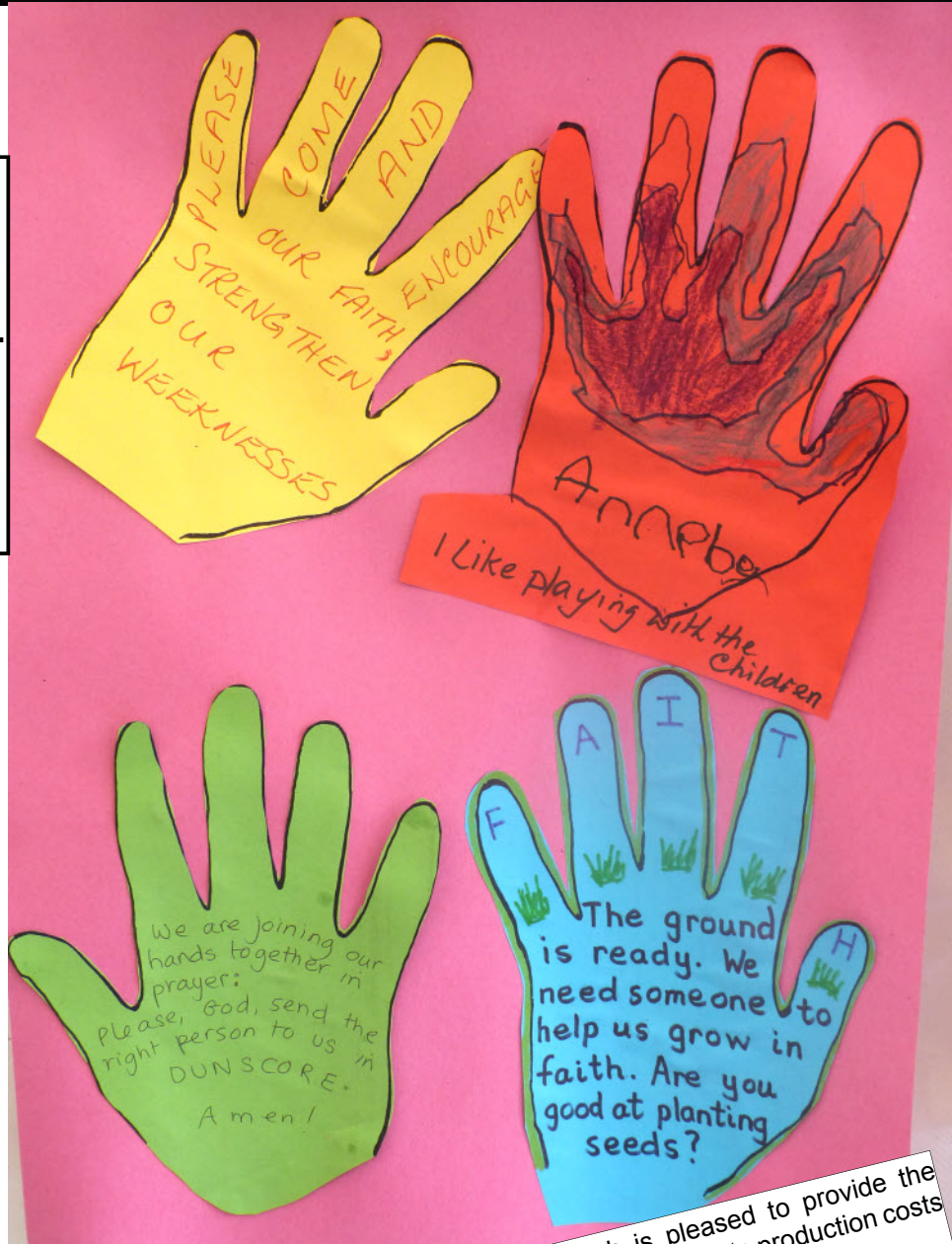


The Dunscore Digest

Dunscore Parish Church Magazine
June 2013

Give Us a Hand to Find a Minister!

From the Dunscore / Mo-
naive Stand at Heart
and Soul
see page 16



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Free! The church is pleased to provide the Digest free but any donations to production costs are welcome.

Minister's Musings

David Bartholomew

Dear Friends,

I think my favourite parable is Jesus' parable of the prodigal son in Luke Chapter 15. It speaks so powerfully to me of the love of God. The younger son had done nothing to deserve love. He'd asked for his share of his father's inheritance while his father was still alive. He'd then sold that land, which was a precious family possession he would have been expected to pass on to the next generation. And finally he had gone on to blow the whole lot in wild living and partying in a far-off land. Then, destitute and struggling to survive in a time of famine, he realised what a fool he has been and that he'd be far better to go back home and admit his folly. But he recognised that he didn't deserve to return as a son and planned to ask to be treated like one of his father's servants. He knew they were far better off than he was, stuck far from home feeding the pigs and longing to eat their food!

And while still at a distance his father saw him coming. You might have expected the father to make his son pay for his shameful behaviour. But no, he gathered up his robes and ran to meet him, a most undignified thing for an elderly Jewish man to do; and filled with compassion he threw his arms about him and kissed him. He was so pleased to have his boy back home! The son didn't manage to get his words out asking that he be treated as a servant before his father was calling for a party to celebrate his return. The father had thought he had lost him for good, and was so happy to have him home. All was forgiven.

And that, says Jesus, is how God the Father feels about us when we lose our way in life and end up messing things up. Whenever we turn back towards him, sorry about the mistakes we have made, he's not waiting there with a big stick to make us suffer for it – but is running to meet us to welcome us home. Such is his love for each one of us, however unworthy we might feel.

The great tragedy of this parable is the behaviour of the older brother. He hadn't messed his life up like his younger brother; but his unwillingness to forgive him for what he'd done, and his resentment at the way his father was welcoming his brother home, meant that he cut himself off from the blessings of his father, the love of his brother and the joy of the servants as they shared the feast together. It was the older brother who ended up outside the father's house, jealous and bitter.

May we guard ourselves against such an older brother attitude that will block the flow of God's blessing in our lives. Unforgiveness will twist us into a dark shadow of the people we should be.

With all good wishes,

David Bartholomew.

New Surgery Given the "Go Ahead"

What follows is a first for the Digest. We were included in the circulation of a Press Release!

Approval has been given to the full business case for a primary care centre in Dunscore and the the Scottish Government confirmed the go-ahead for the new health centre. NHS Dumfries and Galloway is delighted to push ahead with turning plans into reality. The business case was officially approved by the Scottish Government Health Directorate's Capital Investment Group.

Katy Lewis, Project Director for NHS Dumfries and Galloway, said: "This is excellent news for the project team and for the community of Dunscore. "The health centre has been a long time coming and aims to serve the community well into the 21st Century, providing excellent primary care facilities for local people."

You may have noticed that some "enabling work" has been carried out (installing services and utilities) but it is anticipated that the main work will start around July and the new health centre is programmed to be ready for use around May 2015.

Superfast Broadband

Archie Anderson

There is a chance of Superfast Broadband in our area but it depends on the amount of interest expressed. So please register NOW! Follow the link below.

The more that register, the more chance we have of our area being included. Thank you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SOSBroadbandRegistration>

Service and Diary Dates

Services continue at 10:00 am until the end of July when they change to 11:45 am.

Date	Time	Details
9 June	7:00 pm	Evening Service - Dunscore Church
24 June	7:15 pm	SLYC and congregation barbecue and rounders - venue to be decided. See the Church Notices
29 June	2:00 - 6:30 pm	World Peace Festival at Allanton
7 July	11:45 am	Morning Service time changes to 11:45 am
14 July	7:00 pm	Evening Service - Dunscore Church
4 August	11:45 am	Gala Service in the Gala Marquee
15 September	Morning	Service lead by Eco Congregation chaplain
	Afternoon	Eco Congregation South of Scotland Gathering at Allanton

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Dunscore Parish Church – Registered Charity Number: SC016060

A Visitor in Dunscore

Pam Mitchell

Remembering and reflecting on sacrifice and courage

Dr Alidu visited Dunscore in 2008 and wrote a little about it. He undertook the research for his PhD on reconciliation after conflict, at Leeds Metropolitan University. A devout Muslim, he is now a Lecturer at the University of Ghana.

In 2008 I visited the graveyard at Dunscore, a small hamlet in South West Scotland, where a memorial celebrates the selfless sacrifice and courage of a local girl - Jane Mathison Haining. In 1939 Haining travelled to Budapest where she was matron of the girls' home in the Jewish Mission Station. By returning from a visit home, against the advice of the Church of Scotland, she knowingly put her life at risk, at a time when Jews were being severely persecuted across Europe. Her view was that if:

...the children needed her in days of sunshine, they had much more need of her in days of darkness.

In 1944 the Gestapo arrested Haining in Budapest. She was taken to Auschwitz. In a letter to a friend, she wrote, 'Here on the way to Heaven are mountains, but further away than ours.' She died in a gas chamber. Few people nowadays would be willing to put their lives in harm's way trying to save others. Jane Haining did this for the whole of mankind, and though she is no longer alive, her sacrifice is an example of love in action, for everyone - Christian or Jew; Muslim or Buddhist; Atheist or agnostic.

Editor's Footnote

Very limited space this edition - thanks to all contributors for so much material! Also many thanks to those who made donations to the cost of producing the Digest.

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

Professional Hymns...

Dentist - Crown Him with Many Crowns Meteorologist - There Shall Be Showers of Blessings Contractor - The Church's One Foundation Tailor - Holy, Holy, Holy Golfer's - There's a Green Hill Far Away *OK time for you to think up your own!*

Bienvenue en Écosse!

Sarah McConnel

If you can understand the title of this piece, then you are naturally going to want to get involved with our long-standing French Twinning Association. And if you can't – then come along anyway and find out more!

The Association – which has been going for about 15 years - includes Penpont, Tynron, Keir and Dunscore, and four French villages just north of Paris. Taking part in the Twinning activities is open to anyone who lives in and around the villages. This year, we have 35-40 French visitors coming to D&G in August (14-19). It's a really friendly bunch coming across, with some who have been visiting since the start (so we must be doing something right).

Why don't you come on one of the trips we organise while they are here – for instance, we're taking them to explore the Waters of Ken from Carsphairn down to Tongland, stopping at most of the dams (and trying to explain Pooh Sticks in French). Or the Saturday night ceilidh? If you can't wait till then, we're organising a French Wine evening at the end of June (ring me for tickets).

You might even like to put a visitor up for a few days - it's absolutely not necessary to speak French, drink French wine, or like French cheese (though there will be people doing all of that enthusiastically) - our visitors are in love with Scotland, and it's our culture they are interested in.

For more details about any or all of this, please ring me on 01387 820468.

Gala Highlights

Fiona Thompson

There is a slight change to things this year:

Sunday 4 August - Gala Service followed by a fun afternoon with music, crowning of queen, bouncy castles, plate breaking beat the goalie etc.

Monday night is a Bike Challenge, people to bring their bikes and take part in Ross Andersons challenges.

Tuesday - Pet Show

Wednesday - Car Treasure Hunt

Thursday - Adults 5-a-side Football

Friday - Quiz night

Saturday 10 August - Gala Day. Parade at 12:30 pm from the church. Acts for the day this year are Steve Colley's Motorbike Display; H & M dog display team and the usual side stalls and activities including: train, horse rides, laser quest; bouncy castles, Loreburn archers, gyroscope, Buccleuch and Queensberry Pipe Band, Quad Bikes...

Week ending with dancing to the fantastic WATERFRONT SHOW-BAND.

We had a family quiz in March. This was a good night but very poorly supported! We were due to have a joint fund-raiser with Speddoch Hall but due to the fire this has unfortunately not been able to go ahead!

Time to say Thank You

Joan Walker

Doug and I have just returned from a holiday in the Western Isles. The Minister at the Church we attended in South Uist had as his message one Sunday: "The importance of saying Thank You". He made the point that often when we are in trouble we ask God in our prayers to help us. How often, he asked, do we thank God afterwards for the help he has given us? How often do we say Thank You for all the things He gives us every day without us having to ask?

This made me think about the letter that was sent out earlier this year asking for financial help for our Church. A number of people have sent donations and I have sent a thank you note to each one. Thanks to them the Church's financial situation has improved. Having said that, all future donations will also be gratefully received.

But I think it is time to say thank you to all the unsung heroes who keep Dunscore Church going. Those who give regularly, on a weekly, monthly or yearly basis. These are difficult times for everyone as well as for churches. A special thank you to those who have also increased their giving. The other big thank you goes to all the "do-ers" in the church. Those who give in other ways, they give their time, their efforts, their suggestions, their support. Not only those who organise the fund raising events, but also those who organise the weekly running of the church, the services and the meetings, also those who represent Dunscore Church at meetings outside Dunscore. Those who have stepped in and filled the gaps we have discovered, which a resident Minister would usually fill.

Without all of you Dunscore Church would cease to exist, so, to all of you, I would just like to say - "Thank You".

Book Review

Alison Boyes

***Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom**

Mitch Albom is the author of *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, which has been read and loved by several members of my family. Having also liked his books *Tuesdays with Morrie* and *For One More Day*, I felt confident that I would enjoy *Have a Little Faith* which was published in 2009.

Mitch Albom is Jewish, but in an apathetic kind of way. So when his childhood rabbi asks 'Will you do my eulogy?', he wants to make his excuses and run a mile. Instead, for the next eight years, he travels regularly from Detroit back to his boyhood home in Brooklyn to interview the man he calls 'the Reb', not only talking about his faith, but also getting to know and love him as a man. Albom says in the preface to his book '...as is often the case with faith, I thought I was being asked a favour, when in fact I was being given one'.

The story is interwoven with Albom's encounters with another man of faith, the Reverend Henry Covington, a huge African American with a background in prison and drug dealing, who is now pastor of an evangelical Christian church in Detroit with a homeless shelter and a leaking roof. Initially cynical about Henry: 'If this is a Man of God', I thought 'I'm a man in the moon', after getting to know him properly, the author realises that he is 'neither better or smarter [than Henry], only maybe luckier...that night was the last time I questioned how much Henry's past should shadow his future.'

The book is a story about friendship but also an exploration of faith and religion, and how to live with people who have different background and beliefs from our own. The Reb says '...you must be humble enough to say that we don't know everything. And since we don't know everything, we must accept that another person may believe something else....When someone from another faith says "God bless you",.....I say "God bless you, too"'.

You will have to read this book to appreciate the warmth and humour with which it is written. It ends sadly, of course, with the Reb's death and with the eulogy which Albom delivered at his funeral. But it also ends with hope: 'Have you ever known a man of faith? Did you run the other way? If so, stop running...You may find there is something beautiful to learn, and it doesn't bite you and it doesn't weaken you, it only proves a divine spark lies inside each of us, and that spark may one day save the world.'

Flying Pig News

Liz Williams

A Bothy Night was held on 18 May. A great time was had by all with good music and a wee supper. If you missed it this time, we have plans to make it a monthly event, probably the third Saturday of the month. If you have a song, poem, story, joke, play a musical instrument why not come along and share it with us, or just come along and join the fun. All ages welcome

For more information telephone Liz on 01387 820795 or 820234 and watch the Flying Pig window for future dates

We are now serving bar meals on Friday and Saturday 6:30 - 8:30 pm and Sunday Lunch 12:30 - 2:00 pm. Opening hours are Thursday, Friday and Saturday 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm and Sunday Noon - 11:00 pm.



Carbon Footprints - The Results

Matthew Aitken

Just before the last Digest we were approaching our first year of measuring Carbon Footprints. Households in the congregation and community took readings of electricity meters, car mileages, oil tanks etc. These were converted into Carbon Footprints for the past year.

On average, cars accounted for the highest proportion of the household carbon footprints at 2.3 tonnes. Electricity averaged at 1.9 tonnes and oil at 1.0 tonnes. Coal was not used by many households but, where it was, averaged at 1.6 tonnes.

All households received a Carbon Footprint Certificate showing their carbon use for the past year and a summary to show how they compared with others. This will allow participants to understand where they are burning carbon and how they might reduce their impact. If you would like to take part in Carbon Footprinting, please contact me.

Matthew requested that as former editor of SCORE (Dunscore Village Magazine) in the 80s and 90s I select an article from the Dunscore Digest from five years ago and one from SCORE from fifteen years ago. The first is an excellent book review on **forgiveness** from Alison Boyes and the second an article by the late and much-loved local historian, Johnnie Crocket, on the **vindication** of a former Dunscore minister... not a recent one! Johnnie's article is slightly amended and abridged.

Five years ago A Book Review (Alison Boyes)

Father Forgive – The Forgotten ‘F’ Word” by Robin Oake

As a shy teenager in the 1970s, I had a big crush on a boy called Steve at our Baptist church youth group. I was so sad when he and his family moved to Manchester and I never saw him again. In January 2003 I was shocked and sad again when I heard that he had been stabbed on duty as a policeman by a suspected terrorist.

Robin Oake, Steve's father and a policeman himself, astounded everyone by saying publicly on the day after his son's death that he forgave his killer. Furthermore, he told the media, he was praying for him. In this book he explains how this was possible and why forgiveness is so important.

Many people regard forgiveness as a sign of weakness but for Robin Oake it is “a way out of the cycle of violence and despair that comes from not being able to let go”. From the bible he cites Stephen, the first Christian martyr, and Jesus himself as examples of how to forgive and explores the importance of forgiveness in the Lord's Prayer. He makes the point that we cannot expect forgiveness from God unless we first learn to forgive others.

The book is easy to read and quotes are taken from The Message. It is occasionally humorous (“what is a custard Christian? One who gets upset over trifles”). It is humbling to read about a man who has forgiven someone for killing his only son, while we often harbour resentment over minor disagreements. It ends with prayers which might be helpful to those who are finding forgiveness difficult. Above all, it is a reminder of the truth that “revenge imprisons us; forgiveness sets us free”.

Fifteen Years ago The Rev James Gilchrist (by Johnnie Crocket)

This Minister came to Dunscore from New Cumnock in 1701 and appeared to have caused quite a stir in this parish during his ministry. After a few years in his new charge, he came under the influence of a fellow Minister, the Rev John Hepburn, Minister in the Parish of Urr (1680-1723). Hepburn, with five others, deviated somewhat from the Church and was the inspiration of a large number of scattered Hebronite societies who met for prayer and fellowship.

During the 1715 Jacobite Rebellion, 300 men of the Society took up arms, although for what specific purpose is not clear. They eventually disbanded this force before coming into open conflict with the State.

It was at this time that the Presbytery of Dumfries decided to depose Gilchrist for what they deemed 'certain irregularities in the way he conducted the affairs of the church', charging him with various allegations, as being guilty of indiscretions in the discipline of his congregation. He was deposed in 1716 and his stipend withheld by the Presbytery, but was allowed to continue living in the Manse, and carry on his Church duties.

Gilchrist, with the unanimous support of the Heritors*, Elders and parishioners of Dunscore, drew up a document which set out to vindicate him. This was called '**The Vindication of James Gilchrist, Minister of the Gospel at Dunscore**' and nailed to the Kirk door, causing quite a commotion in the Parish. This was a lengthy 48 page document, setting out the charges against him by the Presbytery, and his detailed denials of all such allegations. He died in 1721 aged only 47.

With the sanction of the Lords of the Exchequer in Edinburgh, the stipend money that had accrued after Gilchrist's deposal was used by the Heritors to build the '**Bridge of Cairn**' of stone and wood construction - previous to that there was only a ford. It was rebuilt in 1818 and now known as **Dalgonar Bridge** on the Dunscore to Milton road. The date is carved on the end of the bridge. This bridge is reputed to be the longest single span in Scotland built at that period of stone and sandstone. The original document was discovered many years ago in the Parish Church Manse when renovation of the building was taking place. An intriguing episode in the history of Dunscore!

*Like the gentry in other countries, the heritors ruled the Scottish countryside. They were responsible for justice, law and order in their district and for keeping the roads in good repair. They were responsible for appointing - and paying - the Minister and the Schoolmaster, and for maintaining the church, manse and schoolhouse. They had also to provide for the poor of their Parish. For all this they levied a rate on all the heritors in the parish - and often included non-heritor tenant farmers in the rate.

Hiroshima

Luke Braidwood

You may remember a letter from Japan in the last edition of the Digest by Sarah Ball. Sarah's friend Luke wrote a long piece about a visit to Hiroshima and I have selected some sections from it. If you would like to read the full piece (and I strongly recommend it), you will find it with photos at: <http://gaijinsgrumbings.wordpress.com/2013/05/28/hiroshima-or-how-i-learned-to-loathe-the-bomb/>.

Hiroshima was the most thought provoking and challenging experience of my time in Japan. It is the experience that I would keep above all others, and recommend to anyone in this neck of the woods. But it was not comfortable.

There is a disjointed feeling of apprehension when arriving as a Briton. An echo of responsibility. Hiroshima is spacious, leafy, and *new*, like most Japanese cities. There are marquees up for what looks like a food fair, and hundreds of school kids walking about with bows taller than they are (presumably a kyudo tournament). Lune is waiting in the city centre, we grab pastries and coffee, then go to dump our bags. Hiroshima seems lovely, and I end up thinking "it couldn't have happened to a nicer city", which is sort of perverse but instinctive. People are friendly, the air is relaxed, and school orchestras play by the riverside.

The sign in our path reads "Atomic Bomb Dome". This jars the eyes a little, and I do an unconscious double-take. There is something ridiculous about seeing those famous words, indelibly linked to devastation, in a whirring urban area. It was the nearest structure to the hypocentre to be left standing (just under a kilometre away), apparently because the blast was almost directly above, so the walls were forced down rather than sideways. The dome is a beautifully wretched skeleton of iron, painted in flaking pink and bowed to one side. Nearby is the T-shaped Aioi Bridge, which was the target for the bomb.

Hiroshima Peace Park occupies the former site of a vanished neighbourhood, on an oval island which is reached by the vertical stroke of the "T". There is a peace flame, which I assume to be eternal but find that it will be extinguished once the last nuclear weapon on earth is destroyed. I hope there's a difference. School kids in coloured caps and shorts trot after their teachers, bowing at each memorial, carrying reams of paper cranes. The cranes are for the Children's Memorial, which was inspired by the death of Sadako Sasaki. Sadako was two when the bomb went off, and was healthy until the age of 11 when she, like many children from Hiroshima, developed leukaemia. It was said that if you fold 1000 paper cranes then the gods will grant your wish. Sadako had little paper, so used bandages and the wrapping paper from the get well gifts of others. Accounts differ as to whether she got there or not, but agree on the end of the story. Around the Children's Memorial there are Perspex cuboids absolutely stuffed with these cranes, hanging on strings or arranged into mosaics. I wonder what happens to the cranes after their time is up. Is there a huge warehouse somewhere, filled with boxes upon boxes of them? Do they float them on the river? Throw them in a fire?*

For a few years I have hated nuclear bombs, and felt that there is never a morally justifiable occasion to use them, but here everything is amplified. I begin to feel incoherent anger, and injustice, and sad that children are born into a world such as this one. This all sounds a bit whiney and teenage, but it doesn't *feel* that way, if you know what I mean. In Hiroshima you are not able to imagine what it was like, as such, but you can begin to realise just how far you are from being able to imagine it. You have to start climbing Everest to understand how high the summit is.

The inscription on the memorial cenotaph reads "Let all the souls here rest in peace; for we shall not repeat this evil". Very upset, we left, and Hiroshima was beautiful and the sun was shining and children were playing on the grass. That was something, at least.

**The Deputy Editor discovered that the the cranes are recycled by "The Thousand Crane Project for a Hopeful Future" into various products, such as notebooks, pens and bookmarks that can be shared with people throughout the world*

Coffee Car

Aly Robertson

We smelt strong pong of roasting coffee as we reached the Co-Op in Troqueer. Parked outside was an extraordinary vehicle. Its shell was a Ford pick-up but it's normal workings had been altered and embellished. The Bean Machine, which actually runs on the chaff produced from processing coffee, was powered by a boiler mounted on the back of the truck. This produced the gases carbon monoxide and hydrogen, which was cooled and filtered before the hydrogen was combusted to drive the pick-up (gasification). This process was used to power some vehicles in the Second World War (remember Jones's meat van in Dad's Army?).

The surplus gases were burnt off in a spectacular flare from a pipe at the front of the van. A thermostat in the cab showed when it was at the correct operating temperature.

The point of the car was to celebrate ten years of Fairly Traded Coffee. The vehicle broke the Guinness land speed record for a car of its kind and travelled 1,600 miles promoting Fair Trade.

SLYC Slot

John Drabble

SLYC is in good heart and run extremely well by Dean Goddard and his helpers. He has arranged for five lads and two lassies from Dunscore and Moniaive to visit Prague in August as members of a small YMCA party.

They will be taking part in the **Christian Youth "Love 2 Live Festival"** which will provide a unique opportunity for 10,000 young people from across Europe and the world to come together to celebrate life, culture, diversity and all that is inspiring about being young in Europe and the wider world.

During the course of the week, the Festival will take young people on a journey: exploring their dreams, aspirations & talents; developing their leadership skills; and challenging them to make sense of the world we live in locally, nationally and globally. **This fits so well with our Mission for Youth in both parishes.**

We are keeping costs to a minimum by taking a minibus (quite an adventure on its own) and Colin Mitchell, Peter Robertson and Dean will be driving. Families are also contributing and the young people are raising money in a variety of ways.

How can you help?

- By attending one of **the soup and pate lunches** that they are arranging - 1:00 pm after Church 7 July in the Glenriddell Hall, Dunscore or the following Saturday 13 July 1:00 pm in St. Ninian's, Moniaive
- By attending the SLYC and joint congregation barbecue and rounders on 24 June. Check the Church Notices for more information
- By considering a donation (please ask Rona, Kath, Colin or John).

And finally, we are always looking for volunteer helpers for the Monday night meetings. Not too onerous and a lot of fun.

Church Without Walls

Golf Match

John Drabble

After last year's match was called off, it was great to have a fine day for this occasion at Thornhill. A grand time was had by all and Drabble even succeeded in getting out of a bunker.

This year St. Ninian's organised the event and Rab Marchbank's admin worked like a dream, although some say that his rules favoured the home team. Moniaive thrashed Dunscore for the third time running with a score of 3 to 1; the away team were heard to mutter "It's not the winning but the taking part that matters".

Sandi McIver won both the "Closest to the Pin" and the "Longest Drive" prizes, the latter not being surprising as the ladies tee at the 18th is practically on the green!

Following lunch and the prize giving, Kathleen Marchbank kindly ran a raffle to which all players contributed. This raised a grand total of £93 for church funds.

It was great to have Katie Easton along for the day to celebrate that Barney started the competition back in 2004.

Thanks to all participants and helpers. We look forward to next year when Dunscore will fix, no I mean arrange, the rules!



Katie with the trophy - as close as Dunscore got to it!

World Peace Festival

The 15th World Peace Festival will be held at Allanton World Peace Sanctuary on Saturday 29 June from 2:00 - 6:30 pm including the World Peace Flag Ceremony at 4:00 pm. Activities and events include: Aikido; Forest School; Wildlife Organisations; D&G Countryside Rangers; Large scale Model Railway; Japanese Tea Ceremony; Children's Woodland; Biomass Boiler Tour; Wildlife and Walled Gardens.

Dunscore Fairtrade will be running the teas and coffees. See you there!

Presbytery "Green" Evening

Yvonne Stirling

At the end of April, The Mission and Discipleship Committee of Dumfries and Kirkcudbright Presbytery held a gathering (with an environmental focus) in Dunscore. It commenced at 6:00 pm in Glenriddell Hall with an excellent meal provided by Pam Mitchell and helpers. We headed to the church where we moved round four stations:

Food Miles: A range of foods were presented to us. Carrots, a bottle wine, some rice, a can of tuna... and we tried to agree the order of "Carbon Footprint". How much knowledge did we have? Not enough! Lively discussions ensued before eventually making the decisions. The actual results were surprising. *See the quiz below.*

Enough Food For Everyone IF... Diane Green from Christian Aid outlined the four BIG IFS. Hunger is unjust, unfair and totally preventable. With the G8 world leaders in the UK this summer, the campaign is working to put pressure on them to take action.

Incredible Edibles: Rosie Rutherford and Jill Asher gave a very enthusiastic and interesting introduction to growing edibles for general consumption in unlikely places in Dumfries. This idea started in Todmorden in Yorkshire and involves anyone interested in using spare bits of ground, spare seeds etc and they have found that food is a universal language. It costs little to start and anyone can join in their community. Fascinating! The concept is spreading world wide.

Eco Congregation: This was a discussion led by Trevor Jamison (the newly appointed Environmental Chaplain in Eco Congregation Scotland) about why some congregations were eco minded and others not. Advantages and disadvantages were discussed and it seemed some people thought, incorrectly, that it was expensive to implement Eco Congregation. It was lively and good humoured and followed by lots of chat.

The evening finished with tea and coffee and plenty of conversation.

Digest Quiz **Carbon Food Prints**

Place the following in order of lowest to highest carbon. 1 kg Bananas; 1 bottle of South African Wine; 1 kg of New Zealand Lamb; 250 g of Imported Asparagus; 1 kg of Scottish Carrots; 200 g Bar of Chocolate.

Answers. Lowest to highest: Carrots (250g carbon), Bananas (480 g carbon) (low because they are brought by ship not air); Chocolate (1 kg carbon) (much of the carbon comes from milk); Bottle of wine (1.3 kg carbon) (quite a lot of carbon from transport and the bottle - less if recycled); Imported Asparagus (3.5 kg carbon) (much of the carbon from air transport); New Zealand Lamb (17 kg carbon) (meat is very high carbon coupled with carbon associated with chilling and transportation). Best to eat local (at least British) meat. Organic is likely to be lower carbon too.

Peace Choir Invitation

Please come and sing with the Allanton Festival Peace Choir and learn some peace songs for a performance at the Allanton World Peace Festival on June 29. We will be meeting on Wednesday 13, 20 and 27 June from 7:30 - 9:30 pm at Allanton Sanctuary and will be led by Kate Howard, a fabulous singer and wonderful teacher, with a background in classical, roots and world music. Her workshops will gently get you singing, immerse you in harmonies and leave you on a high!

The cost is £15 for the three sessions. This is a community choir open to all. Please email Caroline on caroline.allanton@gmail.com or text on 07896 410745.

Thursday Bible Study

Dorothy Chadwick

On behalf of everyone who came to the Thursday Bible Study Group over recent months say a HUGE thank-you to Stella and Leslie McCubbin for their kindness and hospitality by letting us have our study and prayers in their home. May God Bless you both. The Thursday bible study will be stopping for the time being.

Dunscore Business up for Award

Low Kirkbride Bed and Breakfast near Glen Midge is celebrating being a finalist in the south west region finals of the Scottish Thistle Awards. The Kirk family who run the business are heading for the award ceremony in the hope of making it through to the national finals. *Update: Sadly, Low Kirkbride did not make it through to the Scottish finals but well done for making it so far and for continuing to be a Fairtrade B&B!*

Charity Choices

Margaret Keene

The Editor met Margaret at New Cample Farm Tea Room and asked if she would tell the Digest about the Kuffin Farm Project.

The Kuffin Farm Project helps a remote agricultural community in The Gambia by providing them with sustainable solutions which address the food security issues which impact so much on the daily lives of these people. This Project is unprecedented in the Central River Region of The Gambia and has, in the past two years, succeeded in making a positive difference to more than 300 people in this community. It is a community project operating in a remote rural area which does not have the benefit of electricity, running water or sanitation.

I set up the project following a holiday to The Gambia in February 2011. The decision to go to Gambia had been a totally random one after a period of 10 years without a holiday abroad. My intention was to spend two weeks beside the pool, drinking gin and tonic, reading books and soaking up the sun. However, two days into the holiday I decided to do some sight-seeing and enlisted the services of one of the hotels tour guides, Kemo Ceesay. It turned out that he and his family owned land about 200 miles away from the hotel, and that he, his wife and children had had to move away from it to find work because they could not grow enough food to feed the family. He invited me to come to his village, meet the rest of his family and give them advice regarding their land.

What I saw changed my life! The people that I met were warm, welcoming, generous, humble, kind, dignified, respectful, patient – and as poor as church mice! They lived a hand-to-mouth existence, the implications of which people in our society cannot really understand or grasp. And yet they seemed to be incredibly happy and rich in so many ways. In terms of the farm, it was obvious that they needed some mechanization and the ability to irrigate the land. They were literally scratching around in the ground with primitive hand tools and could only grow food on a garden scale. The whole farm was covered in small elephant grass and scrubby growth.

I came back to New Cample Farm and began fundraising for a rotary power tiller and a water pump (to pump water from the lake on the farm) for irrigation. The fundraising was so successful that there was enough money to buy two rotary power tillers, a donkey, a cart and the harness to connect the two!

In the two years since the Project began the farm has been transformed from an overgrown area of scrubby growth, to a highly productive, cultivated area of ground. The whole area has been ring-fenced, hundreds of trees have been planted (each one with its own locally made tree guard) and a traditional African Roundhouse has been constructed using local labour and locally-sourced materials. In order to take this Project to the point where food can be grown throughout the year (thereby helping significantly more people) we urgently need to raise £7,000 to install a solar powered borehole.

his borehole will provide unlimited water to enable crops to be irrigated and will mean that the housing on the farm will have clean water on tap, instead of, as at present, having to bring it from the hand-pump in the village of Jarreng. Water in this community, and region, is a huge issue. There are currently three hand-pump boreholes which provide water for more than 3000 people!

If you feel that you would like to know more about the Kuffin Farm Project see the website www.projectgambia.co.uk or speak to me at New Cample Farm, on 01848 332325. If you would like to make a donation of any amount please speak to me. Any money which you donate will all go to enable the people in this remote community to help themselves. The Kuffin Farm Project sees itself as a facilitator which allows these people to improve their own lot, through their own hard work. That is surely better than merely giving short-term handouts!

Rock Solid Report

Derek McGregor

Unfortunately we have had to suspend Rock Solid for this current school term due to a shortage of permanent leaders from the church. We are urgently looking for volunteers who would commit to being on the rota on a regular basis and take part in the organisation and planning for the evenings.

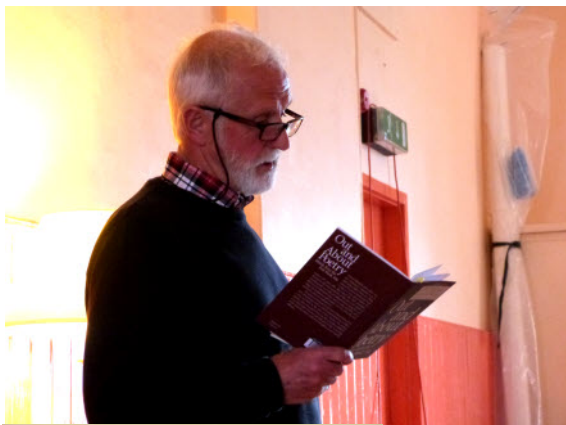
Rock Solid is held in the Glenriddell Hall on Friday evenings (7:15 pm until 9:00pm) during term time. It is always good fun and works to a Christian-based programme with differing themes each week. Most of the evenings are spent playing games linked to the evening's theme. We have food and chat at the end of each session.

If we get a suitable pool of volunteers the frequency of being on the rota should be in the order of 2 to 3 evenings per term (10weeks). New leaders would be paired with experienced leaders. All volunteers would have to go through the Church of Scotland Safeguarding procedure to join the Protection of Voluntary Groups Scheme (for further information on this please speak to Carole McGregor - Safeguarding Coordinator)

Please give this some serious thought as the young people in our area deserve your support. For further information please contact Derek McGregor 01387820462 or scaurbrae@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you.

Recent Events

There have been many church events since the last Digest. Here are a few photos that give a flavour of some of them (lots more to see at www.dunscorchurch.co.uk/recent-events):



Nominating committee News

Matthew Aitken

Have you ever been annoyed by rules or laws? Maybe you have encountered unhelpful or unreasonable planning regulations or someone “gold plating” some health and safety rule. Did you do anything about it?

The Nominating Committee has to work within Church of Scotland laws - in particular Act VIII of the General Assembly. This act was drafted many years ago when the world of ministerial recruitment was very different and congregations expected many ministers to apply (changed days). There are statements suggesting that the committee might request shortened lists of probationers. The list could not currently be much shorter - we understand that this year's list may be just six people. More significantly, the process to appoint a minister from abroad stretches to years and considerable expense - a big disincentive to potential ministers.

So, what to do? We could just accept that “rules is rules” and look forward to appointing a minister so that we can forget how unhelpful, slow and annoying they are. Alternatively, we could try to do something about them. We decided to go for the latter. Trying to change Church of Scotland laws sounds like a significant challenge but, if nobody ever does anything, it is certain that nothing will change.

The committee wrote to the secretary of the Ministries Council in Church of Scotland HQ in Edinburgh. We eventually received a long reply with an invitation to come and discuss our thoughts so Colin Mitchell and I arranged a meeting. We were very well received by both the Secretary of the Ministries Council and the Partnership Development Secretary. They heard the concerns about the laws and guidance and accepted that there were areas that needed attention. Changing the laws is, they explained, anything but an easy process but the guidance is somewhat more straightforward to amend. They undertook to give further consideration to our list of proposals and suggestions.

What was, perhaps, most surprising about our visit was their attitude to sticking to the “letter of the laws”. We mentioned, for example, that we felt that the level of confidentiality required by the law and guidance was inappropriately strict. We feel that the Nominating Committee should be allowed to give some information about progress (while keeping all names confidential). The rules state that everything is completely confidential (I do wonder how can an advert be confidential?). The advice from the two secretaries was to use our common sense when applying the laws!

So, was the visit to Edinburgh worth the time and diesel? I guess, we will have to wait and see when we find out whether the rules are updated to make them more appropriate to the current situation. The Nominating Committee will be keeping a close eye on progress.

All the while, the committee continues in its work to find a really good minister for us. The confidentiality section in Act VIII means that I am unable to say more...!

Lubuto News

John Drabble

On Easter Day our service was held at exactly the same time as the similar celebration in Lubuto. The Rev. James Clark-Maxwell led us in prayer for our Zambian partners and read a message from their Minister, Rev. Munjita.

The £1,500 we sent at Christmas is going towards essential repairs to the Church building and the repair of the borehole and water tank. Both projects are going well and we expect some pictures shortly.

As far as we know the school is in good heart and they are managing to pay the teachers on time. Recently the playground for the School was opened.



The new Play-Ground

Our Mile of Pennies is collecting for some Teacher's Handbooks, requested by the School staff. We are about halfway to a Target of £300.

Both congregations continue to pray for each other regularly.

It would be good to have a target of an exchange visit next year to re-energise our relationship. If anyone would like to visit Lubuto, please let Max or John know and we could start the funding and planning process. Maybe a teacher exchange might be an idea. *Also see the Letter from Lubuto on page 17*

The last meeting of the season had a Fairtrade flavour. Two "volunteers" were roped in to give a demonstration of their skills in the kitchen to see how many Fairtrade ingredients they could use. Peter chose to make pancakes which went down very well and Mary showed us how to make a tasty lemon pudding and some delicious chocolate "melts". As well as having a great deal of fun (laughter is a great tonic), it gave us the chance to remember people in other parts of the world who are a lot worse off than us.

The following prayer comes from the Fairtrade website:

Tilt the scales, O God of the mustard seed; that the poor shall see justice.
Share the feast, O God of Eden's abundant garden; that each crop may fetch a fair price.

Upset the tables, O God of the upside-down Kingdom; that the least can benefit from their trade.

Open our eyes, O God of life in all its fullness; that we may learn to walk the way of Your Son.

Tilting, sharing, upsetting this world. Not satisfied until the products we bring to our table give a better deal, to all who hunger.

In Jesus' name. Amen



Judith enjoying one of the puddings!

Reader's Recipe

Peter Robertson

Following the Guild Fairtrade Feast, it seemed obvious to ask Peter and Mary for their recipes. Here is Peter's. Next edition, one from Mary.

When do I make Pancakes? - Whenever there is nothing exciting left in the fridge, freezer or pantry and I don't feel like walking / driving to the shops! Often they are for me, sometimes for Alison if she does not feel in the mood to cook but most often for the grand children at supper time, breakfast or if they think they have missed a meal, while travelling home to Dumfries. They enjoy trying new contents alongside their old favourites and the opportunity to be full up, ASAP. I'm usually happy to oblige because I enjoy the informality, the speed one can produce something and literally, the satisfaction spread across a three year old's face and sometimes those of his brothers too!

The recipe will make dinner plate sized pancakes. Serves about six, main course and dessert, following the Guild's Fairtrade Feast evening. The recipe is adjustable simply by adding more ingredients and as long as you keep the ratios correct you should be OK.

1) Crack 4 eggs into a large 2 litre plastic jug. It is easier to control the turbulence while beating the contents! A jug is better than a bowl, as you can pour it easily into a frying pan, but you could use a bowl and a ladle. It is better to use free range eggs, not only from the hens point of view, but also because your pancakes will be a lovely yellow. Pour in milk until the eggs almost disappear and then let them come up again to float.

2) Put plenty of effort into whisking in the contents as you add the plain flour. The key to a good pancake is to get plenty of air into the mixture which will be quite mobile and easy to whip up. The important thing is to catch the moment when there is increased resistance to your beating. If you put too much flour in you can still rescue things by diluting the mixture with another egg and / or more milk.

3) You will need a non stick pan, slightly bigger than a side-plate. Get some oil - olive or sunflower according to taste and filling. Heat it up until just before it gets smokey. We bought a bottle of Fairtrade Palestinian olive oil for the demonstration. Make sure the oil is spread all over the pan base. Add the pancake mixture and cook it for a few minutes until it slides off the pan - you may need a spatula. Flip it over and immediately coat the pancake with grated cheese (whatever type you like, we normally use cheddar - an interesting variation is one of the fruity cheeses with apricot or cranberries). Fold up the pancake, sides to middle and press gently down to check the cheese has melted. Feed everybody (this involves salt, pepper, chutney and copious amounts of tomato sauce at our house). Check whether they would like plain pancakes for dessert, accompanied by Fairtrade lemon juice and sugar or Fairtrade chocolate spread. You can experiment with the fillings (butter, Fairtrade muscovado sugar, sliced Fairtrade bananas and rum and melted together, for example) but try them out first - and don't forget your portion! Make a funny shaped pancake with the dregs and have everyone guess what it is.

4) If you would like to make a slightly more elaborate dish, make a pile of pancakes (two per person). Make a white sauce with either a chicken or vegetable stock cube, butter, flour and milk or water which also works, add cooked chicken pieces and / or al-dente vegetables (sweetcorn, broccoli, mushrooms). Grease an oven proof oblong dish, as wide as a pancake, and put in a row of pancakes filled with the mixture (sides to middle again). Cover with grated cheese and cook for about 25 minutes at 180°C.

Enough Food for Everyone IF...

Alison Boyes

The world produces enough food for everyone but not everyone has enough food.

2013 sees the launch of a national campaign that aims to make this the generation that gives everyone, every family, every child enough food. The campaign is being organised by agencies including Christian Aid, Tearfund, Traidcraft and Oxfam. Four important IFs' have been identified.

There is enough food for everybody IF:

- Governments keep their promises on aid
- There is an end to land grabs and land is used for food, not fuel
- Multinational companies pay their taxes so that the governments in poor countries where they operate can use the money to tackle poverty
- Governments of poor countries are more accountable to their people about how money is spent, and multinational food companies are more honest about food stocks and prices.

What can you do to help end global hunger?

You can make your voice heard. In June, world leaders are meeting at the G8 summit in Northern Ireland and we have a chance to let them know how important this issue is to us. There are events in Belfast (on June 15) and London (on June 9). Christian Aid is running a bus to Belfast and many people from the Dumfries area are going. If you are interested, email Diane Green (dgreen@christian-aid.org).

If you cannot go to Belfast to make your voice heard, you can still write to your MP to let him know what you think. You can buy an IF wristband from Oxfam in Dumfries for £1. You can take part in local events (watch this space for what we will be doing in Dunscore!). You can learn more at enoughfoodif.org.

Stories to Tell

Kay Keith

Following some requests to re-start evening services, the Session decided to run them in May, June and July with the possibility of continuing these generally quieter, shorter and less formal services.

Sunday 14 July will be the next evening service, with a difference! Maureen Jack, who recently spent some time with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) is going to come and talk to us as part of a theme on peace and reconciliation, challenging for all of us. There are stories to hear and she tells them from her experiences when she worked with EAPPI recently. She is coming some way to join us and it would be wonderful to have you all - church, community, further afield, in fact anyone with an interest in striving for justice, peace and harmony for all. Watch the Church Family Notices for more details.

Fairtrade Village News

Matthew Aitken

We held the Fairtrade Village AGM recently and perhaps the most significant matter was that, after six years as chair of the group (since it's very beginning), Alison Boyes stood down.

Alison started selling Fairtrade produce after church services many years ago having heard a Fairtrade producer talking about the difference that Fairtrade had made to his life. When there was talk of Dumfries and Galloway becoming a Fairtrade region but seemed to be taking a long time to happen Alison decided that we should go for Fairtrade status locally - in Dunscore.

She gathered a group of like-minded people and Dunscore Fairtrade was underway! There were challenges but, undaunted and with Alison's leadership, the team made steady progress until Dunscore was declared as the first Fairtrade "town" in Dumfries and Galloway.

Without Alison it is improbable that we would have been able to display our Fairtrade Village logo. Thank you Alison! We now have a new chair - one Matthew Aitken!



Memories of Canada

*The interview in this edition is a little different. Aly Robertson asked **Virginia Hanson** about her experiences in North America.*

I believe you worked in Canada for a time. How did that come about? I worked there in the 1950's for 11 months as a nurse. I enjoyed this thoroughly. The 2nd and 3rd generation Canadians were very friendly. Myself and three other nurses travelled to Canada to be nurses.

What form of transport did you use to get there - in which city did you arrive? Myself and three other nurses went out on a freight cum passenger ship and landed in Halifax. We went to the local men's Christian association and found many other young women there. We made many friends and from there went to Windsor in Ontario. A completely different type of hospital.

What were your first impressions? We rented the ground floor of a house with three bedrooms. I made friends with a very nice Canadian couple and we all went to the lakes on Sundays after the church. The girls and I went to a Baptist church one Sunday. As Windsor was on the escape route for Negro slaves lots of their descendants attended and were very vocal with lots Hallelujahs and Amens!

Where were you working and what sorts of responsibilities did you have? All the people I met were very friendly. As a slightly older nurse I found I was given more and more responsibilities both in Halifax and in Windsor.

You have had more recent experiences of North America, where did you go? As regards the US of A I have had two holidays there one in 81 and the most recent in October of 2011 Both were wonderful experiences. The Grand Canyon , Yosemite and the Appalachian mountains on the east coast - amazing. The holiday in 2011 was to see the colours of the eastern seaboard in the fall. Quite magnificent! I enjoyed Boston even though it rained! The people were very kind and helpful. I walked the whole length of Boylestone St., and also all the way to the Massachusetts Museum of Fine Arts (in the rain I may say). The tour went to Plymouth with visits to Cape Cod and other outings to various famous islands.

On the Sunday I walked to church in Plymouth and that was an Experience! Service started at 11:00 a.m. with guitar playing and new hymns written by one of the group Following this there were prayers and more singing the Communion! Even the tiny tots went up to get the wine and bread! After this they went with some of the mothers to Sunday school. We, the rest of the congregation of over a hundred, had the sermon which was very good indeed. This was followed by more hymns . I noticed people leaving and did the same it was now 12.45 pm . Such an enjoyable morning The tour went from Massachusetts to New Hampshire and the white mountains. I had a great holiday one I would not have missed.

Pray, Eat, Grow

Alison Boyes

EcoCongregation celebrates the Year of Natural Scotland

Sunday 15 September is a day to put in your diaries **now!** Every Spring, EcoCongregation Scotland (ECS) holds an Annual gathering to which all churches are invited. This year, we met in Edinburgh, for a conference on the theme of food at the Grassmarket Community Project in Edinburgh. It was a wonderful day with excellent speakers and a good way to meet other EcoCongregations and share ideas. However, folk from the far north and south of Scotland do not always find it easy to travel to the central belt and so we plan to hold 'mini gatherings' in more convenient venues. Last autumn, the venue was Ferryhill in Aberdeen. This September, it will be in our own parish.

On the morning of 15 September there will be a service led by Trevor Jamison, newly appointed as ECS Environmental Chaplain.

The afternoon part of The Gathering will take place at Allanton Sanctuary near Auldgirth. It will start with a delicious lunch featuring produce from Allanton's walled garden. There will be workshops and activities all afternoon, including Forest Schools, Foraging for Wild Food, Spinning and Dyeing, Biodiversity and Green Pilgrimage. There will be opportunities to see the new biomass boiler and to walk the Tree Trail. We hope the the Cairn Chorus will be singing for us as well. The day will be open to anybody and families are welcome. A donation will be asked for to cover the cost of lunch and tea.

There will be a booking form on the EcoCongregation Scotland website www.ecocongregationscotland.org, but places can also be booked by contacting Alison Boyes or Matthew Aitken.

You will see references to many things that our Eco Congregation group continues to work on and promote including Freecycle, Carbon Footprinting and the Presbytery Evening. If you would like to get involved, please speak to Matthew Aitken.

Heart and Soul

Kay Keith

It was a dank and dismal Sunday morning when I arrived at Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh to find Colin, Pam, Scott and Molly already there setting up the Dunscore, Glencairn and Moniaive tent. The “does your face fit” figure was set up with a space for the face and round the walls hung the pictures that fitted the verses of “Let us build a house” - our hopes and dreams and visions of a church, vibrant, growing and developing,,,,,and I do think that our small, Dunscore display reflected exactly the nature of the whole, huge event which was Heart and Soul 2013. The Church of Scotland was certainly presenting as a vibrant and exciting place.

The dampness of the air certainly didn't damp the spirits. The Guild were privileged to lead the praise which marked the beginning of the event. It was exciting if a bit daunting to stand on the stage of the Ross bandstand and feel you were talking to the whole of Princes Street! But from this 1 o'clock start, the park filled with more and more people until the number for the afternoon hit 6,000. I think “family” is the word I would give to the event. It was marked by groups of people with a common bond meeting together. I met people I know from this part of the country and those I have frequent contact with in Guild and Crossreach. But I also met people who have touched my life over many many years - people at different stages on their journey but we were still coming together, however briefly, as part of the family of the church.

We enjoyed this opportunity to meet and to share together just as much as we enjoyed the wonderful events exploding round about us....the music of the praise band, Karen Mathieson of Capercaillie or the African women's choir in the World Mission area or the steel band from the Carribean or the pipe band leading the procession of banners. Who could fail to respond to such joyful and compelling sounds? You could feel the enthusiasm and spirit of all. These were people representing every aspect of the church from the Councils of the church and '121' to individual congregations and organisations, home and abroad. The walkway through the park from the Mound to St Cuthbert's was thronged with those moving from activity to activity, from display to display. It was impossible to do justice to all, but no matter what you did, how you decided to spend your time, it was interesting, it made you laugh or it moved you to tears...and sometimes all three.

The final service of praise included hundreds in and around the Ross bandstand. Both last year's Moderator, Albert Bogle and this year's new Moderator, Lorna Hood took part. The message was about peace and harmony in the Church, in our homes in this country and throughout the world. And as a symbol of this peace, four white doves were released to fly free. That was much more significant, touching and inspiring than words can now relay. A wonderful, vital day of hope and inspiration within the family which is our church.



Releasing a dove
and maybe you can spot the Deputy Editor in
the front row! si

A - Z Trialogue

Joan Walker

At a recent service, we enjoyed one of Joan's Trialogues. It merited repeating a few of the letters:

A is for Apostles, and for Ascension. Also for Attitude which we have, and Angels – which we clearly are not!

B is for Birth, and for Beauty, for Brightness, for our Church Bell that's rung on Sundays. It's also for Blessings, we should count them and thank God every day.

C is for Christ, His Church, for the Cross, for Communion, for the Challenges we face every day.

E is for our Eco congregation, E stands for Eagerness, and also for Easter, when Christ died for our sins.

G is for Goodness, for Grace, and for God, the centre of our lives.

H is for Heroes, Jane Haining is one of ours! H is for Home and also for Happiness, for Heart and for Heat, and Hope for some sunshine this year.

I is for Insects, and also for Instinct. For Ideas, good moneymaking ones are always welcome! For Inspiration, that's what we all need.

K is for..... Keeping the 10 Commandments!

L is for Love and for Longing. L is for Laughter, God loves to hear it.

U is for Uncomplicated, it would be good if life was like that. U for Upset, when you just know that you got it wrong, and for Undo, and Unsay, how often do we wish we could do both?

V is for Victory, when we win, over the devil. V stands for our Vacancy, we have great Ministers and Elders who are filling the gap. V is for Vision, what is yours?

X is for..... (Bit of Artistic Licence Here) Experience, and this has been one!

Y is for Yearning, for the end of the Alphabet.

Z for our Zeal, and our Zambia twinning.

Letter from Lubuto

Just before going to press we received the following letter from Rev Munjita Kamuya in Lubuto:

This congregation has been privileged to have a special relationship with the Brothers, Sisters, boys and girls of Scotland. These friends in the Lord are a spiritual and physical blessing to us all in the congregation. They have a spring of love which is being generated by the Holy Spirit. This congregation will not even find words on how to thank them for what they are doing for the mission of God. Allow me to share some projects which are going on in this congregation.



Lifting the water tank to its new position

We have the outstanding water project where we moved the tank from its original point to a new point close to the bore hole. We have purchased a new tank and new pump as the old ones were broken down. Still we need to have some specialists to complete the installation who have charged us a lot of money.

The School is growing as you may be aware of the grades going up. The School is going on well, the teachers are being paid their Salaries. There is a need to build a 1x5 class room.

We have finished the under-pinning of the church and we are doing some extensions of the church and the church hall and we hope to use this as a class room for the pre-school. You may ask, why are we doing these projects when we were supposed to finish with the water first? Well, we had planned that the water was to finish with what we had planned but unfortunately that could not work as planned.

God bless you.

There are some photos in the recent events section of the Dunscore church website of the water tank being lifted up. Worth a look!

Community Council Column

Colin Mitchell

The Community Council continues to work hard on your behalf. Recently we have been working on the following

- The Tom Carrick Legacy – it is proposed to purchase musical instruments for the school and also fund a school prize. We also propose to plant a tree in the Millennium Wood in Tom's memory.
- Windfarm Plans – we discussed the application for weather masts in the area. These normally lead to wind farm developments.
- Footpaths – the path from Dunscore is now designated as a Core Path. Improvements are underway.
- Change of bus route through Newtonairds – D&G council are now consulting those affected.
- Improving Broadband provision – we are working along with Glencairn CC to try to get this improved.
- Community Council Boundary Changes – we have worked with Glencairn CC to have the houses between Dalgonar Bridge and the Skelston burn (near Milton) moved to Dunscore CC area. D&G Council are now considering this request.
- We are looking for a youth member for the Community Council. If you are interested please contact any member of the CC.
- We are about to allocate Windfarm funds to local groups.

Look at the Community noticeboards, the village website (Dunscore.org.uk) for further information and / or have your email added to the Dunscore Information list . To have your name added contact me at c.mitchell50@btinternet.com.

Our meetings are all open to the public. You are most welcome to come along.

Dunscore Writers

Libby McFadzean

Dunscore Writers meets monthly typically on the second Wednesday of the month at 2:00 pm (but in June it is on 26th). We meet in each other's houses.

Each time we are set a writing challenge. Recently it was Cinquains. These are five lines long with 2, 4, 6, 8 and 2 syllables in the lines. Not easy!

Sorrow

It's soft

A dark garment

Sometimes hard to take off

We're clothed when we're not expecting

It hangs

Pauline Johnstone

The wood

Night sounds chill him

Dry twigs snap underfoot

His breathing is hoarse and laboured

He runs

Libby McFadzean

Sleek seal

Sinks like wet tube

Sun smitten slippery

Airborne swans cast mute reflections

My loch

Jo Abbott

If you would like to know more about the group, contact Jo Abbot 820367 or me on 820398. And perhaps think about this month's challenge - fiction that is exactly 100 words long with the title Carpets. Everyone is welcome!

Freecycle

In the last edition of the Digest, there were several testimonials about Freecycle. We have one more to share. Neil was looking for a caravan... Dear Matthew, I just wanted you to know that through your Freecycle pages I managed to secure a caravan. I would like to thank you for your kindness at including my request and also to thank you for a totally brilliant Freecycle site, top notch!!

It is less usual to help to find something like a caravan on the Freecycle list but we do include a very wide range of items. Currently they include: a Flymo, a strimmer, a dog bed, a sander, flower pots, Velux windows, a rabbit hutch... You get the idea! The list is changing all the time with new things added and ones that have found a home removed. The If you would like to be added to the Freecycle circulation list just email: eco@dunscorechurch.co.uk.

Incredible Edible Dumfries

Rosie Rutherford

Growing food to share in Dumfries

After her recent visit to Dunscore, Rosie kindly agreed to tell the Digest readers about Incredible Edibles.

Those of you who were at the recent presbytery evening held at Dunscore will know all about Incredible Edible Dumfries - a group that has recently started in Dumfries. The Incredible Edible movement started in the small Yorkshire town of Todmorden just four or five years ago and has been enthusiastically embraced by other communities around Britain and beyond. The concept is simple - to reawaken our connections with the food we eat by putting beds and planters of herbs, fruit and vegetables in public spaces and encouraging local people to help themselves. It's also about growing community participation and has the potential to develop in many different directions.

At a time when the provenance of our food has been very much in the news, it seems to be a perfect time to encourage folk to discover how easy, and how satisfying, it can be to grow some vegetables and re-make that connection with the land. We have had an enthusiastic response from a variety of organisations and are developing partnerships with a variety of other organisations. We have also discovered lots of other folk starting to do similar things - in community gardens, church grounds etc. - growing food to share, to cook, bringing folk together in new (or maybe very old) ways, over shared work and meals.

The group in Dumfries is small and in our first growing season we have started with just a few planters and beds - outside the NCP carpark on Shakespeare St, at the Salvation Army, the Cumberland St Day Centre and the railway station. We have planted fruit bushes, potatoes and herbs, mostly - using spare plants and seeds from our own gardens, so far. All the food we are growing is for everyone to share.

We know of another Incredible Edible group that has recently started in Gatehouse, and there may be others in the area. It is truly a grassroots movement (although actual grassroots are not very helpful, and we are busy pulling them up in some places!).

We have a website <http://incredibleedibleumfries.wordpress.com/>, and you can find us on Facebook. If you would like to contact us you can email dumfriescanbeincredible@hotmail.co.uk or phone 07883 486951. You can also find out more at www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk.