

The Dunscore Digest

Dunscore Church and Community Magazine

Autumn 2019



The Twinning between our Parishes and Lubuto UCZ continues

More about this and more photos on page 8

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Minister's Musing

Rev Stuart Mill

Dear Friends,

I hope that you have had an enjoyable summer despite the disappointing weather. Perhaps the autumn will be better.

Robert Louis Stevenson once wrote " Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that we plant". Life is always about sowing and reaping; reaping and sowing. Christians believe that God assists us in our sowing and reaping.

We can sow seeds of faith hope and compassion in the words and manner of our speaking, through our actions at home, at work, or in the company of friends or strangers alike. It may appear simply to be a friendly wave, a helping hand, a letter written, an email sent, a telephone call made, a visit no longer postponed, but it is also a seed sown. And as we sow, we encounter Jesus, the Good Sower, always just ahead of us, scattering seeds of forgiveness, healing and hope to the down-trodden and those who have fallen by the wayside.

But we are also called to be reapers in the Lord's harvest. All around us, the golden waving crop, ripe for harvest. Again Jesus is with us. Now He is Lord of the Harvest. We wield the sickle and begin to taste the fruits of the Spirit, giving thanks to God for His Providence and Grace; and knowing that one day, in His good time, He will gather us up and lead us rejoicing to His heavenly Home.

Services of Care

Kath Aitken

As many folk know, there are four teams who lead short services (20 minutes or so) at Thornhill Hospital and Briery Park in Thornhill. This means that each place has a service nearly every month. The services, in both senses of the word, are much appreciated and create a real bond with the community. At Briery Park, there can be as many as 15 residents. Brian Lord has been a part of our group for many years and is a great asset as he knows most people in Thornhill and can sing lustily and he now lives in Briery Park and continues to participate as a resident but very much still part of our team.

The participation in the hospital is more varied but is typically anything from two to 10 people including patients, staff and visitors.

Dunscore Church has two teams. Pam and Colin lead one and I, Matthew, Aly, Susan and Brian (when we are at Briery Park) form the other. If you would like to join in with either of our teams or are just curious, please speak to any of those who are involved.

A New Minister

John Drabble

The congregations of Dunscore with Glencairn and Moniaive have elected a Nominating Committee whose job is to find a new minister after the retiral of Rev. Jannie du Plessis in February.

We have now met four times and we have established a plan and discussed what sort of minister we want. Both Kirk Sessions have been working hard to finalise a combined parish profile which will show applicants what sort of church and community we are, our vision for the future and how we go about our business here.

This will accompany the Vacancy Advertisement that we hope to get on the Church of Scotland website by early September. The nominating committee will discuss the applications, take up references and then interview suitable candidates. Once we have decided on the best candidate, he or she will be invited to preach at Dunscore and St. Ninian's when the congregations will vote on whether they wish to accept the applicant.

As ever, this all takes time, but the Nominating Committee will keep the congregations and the whole community updated on progress. Please pray for a successful outcome and watch this space! The team is creating a Parish Profile website at: www.cairnvalleycalling.org. Please have a look at this and share it with anyone (particularly any ministers) that might be interested!

Litter Larks

Raymond Nelson

Good news for Litter Larks as the the litter larking season re-opens soon.... in fact we will be resuming our larking on Thursday 5th September, meeting in the church car park at 9:30 am. We have been larking now for just over a year with 24 larkers coming when available. But we would love to see YOU if you would like a little fresh air and a gentle walk.... a little "crack", an Empire biscuit and a cuppa in the church afterwards....and a warm feeling of participating in an activity that benefits the whole community.

We visited Dunscore primary school last term and the school have asked us to return to keep the children focussed on what they can do to help Keep Scotland Tidy.



Book Review

Andrew Cowie

Jane Haining – A Life of Love and Courage by Mary Miller

The biography of an ordinary woman who was born just around the corner- if you happen to live in Dunscore. Who walked to church every Sunday, who went to the local school, who got herself a decent job in the big city but never forgot her home. Who always said her prayers and continued to love the world with all its shortcomings. (Oh yes, and she never married!) Why would you want to read about her? Doesn't she sound like so many other people- worthy maybe but, you know, just a bit boring? Where's the glamour, the romance, the adventure - the showbiz?

Well, yes, she did take herself off to Budapest to be the matron for a school which cared for girls who were either orphans or else came from distressed families - and yes, some of those girls (though by no means all) did happen to be Jewish. But really - a biography?

Ah, but what if one of those worldly shortcomings turns out to be antisemitism, and the country you go to work in - Hungary (or at least its government) turns out to be a big fan of racial discrimination. Back then in the 1930s / 40s as again now. Well then it all starts to get a little bit interesting doesn't it? What does an ordinary woman do when she begins to realise that some of the girls she cares for are facing serious harm - because they are Jewish? What would all those other ordinary people do? What would you do?

And so now perhaps you are hooked. You'd like to know more because now it gets personal. Something of a challenge. How will ordinary Jane's response measure against your imagined own? And the big question- what does (should) a Christian do when confronted by evil?

Mary Miller, by writing with great care and respect, by not giving way to sentimental or sensational speculation, by providing well researched socio-historical and political background, allows Jane to answer that question in her own very real and very ordinary way. As Mary Miller puts it " . . . at a time when armies were defeated, politicians capitulated and churches all over Europe made their accommodation with the Nazis, Jane Haining did not. She challenges us to remember that the most ordinary people still have a choice when they are confronted with intolerable evil: even if only in our hearts, we can refuse to consent to the division of humanity not 'them' and 'us' and the dehumanism of the 'other'. We can refuse to be corrupted. It is for this that Jane Haining stands as an inspiration for 'ordinary' people in all times and places."

We can never know what exactly Jane felt in those last days of her life on earth as she faced first imprisonment then internment in Auschwitz and then death. And there is no reason why we should. With great skill Mary Miller manages to put us in Jane's place.

We become the victim of a brutal regime. We suffer the humiliation, the degradation, the hunger, the disbelief. Jane's response in this way becomes ours. Could this really have happened? Can this happen again? Look around you. And then read the book.

There are copies of "Jane Haining – a life of love and courage" for sale in the Heritage Centre.

Connecting with the Issues

Tim Harmer

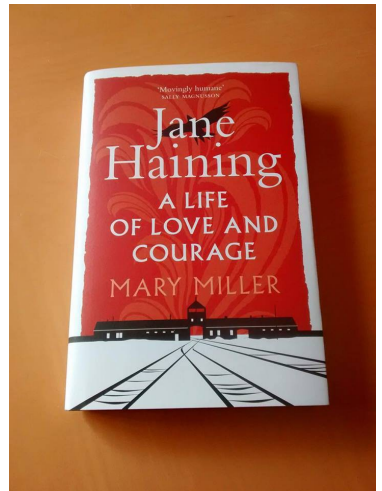
The Dunscore Connect Bible Study group meets on Thursday evenings in participants homes around the local area to study the Bible and consider contemporary issues in society. We currently have 12 regular members of the group. When Jannie and Sunet were with us they led the group and we met at the Manse. Since they left we have all undertaken to take turns to lead and host the group. We recently worked through a four week study course entitled 'Tenants of the King' produced by Operation Noah, a Christian charity working with the Church to inspire action on climate change.

After a break we have most recently been looking at some contemporary issues and have been seeking a Christian response to the challenges presented. The issues have included anti-Semitism, gender, assisted suicide and on September 5th we will consider whether Christians should get involved in direct action. We sometimes have a short act of worship to begin and we also pray together for individuals and issues. It is true to say that we have had some lively discussions and discovered that we have a range of experience and mature reflection to draw on in the group.

All are welcome to join the Group, you don't have to be a Church regular to attend.

Dunscore Toddlers

Dunscore Toddler Group runs from 1:15 – 3:00 pm on Fridays during term-time. We meet in the newly refurbished pre-school. The cost is £1:00 per child which includes snack for the children and tea / coffee for the carer.



Safeguarding Panel

Alison Robertson

Dunscore Church takes the protection of children and vulnerable adults very seriously and it is my responsibility, as Safeguarding Coordinator to ensure that we comply with the laws of the Church of Scotland that relate to safeguarding.

To assist in this, we have to have a Safeguarding Panel who will help me with this and I am looking for two more volunteers to join the three that are already in place. Duties will include supporting me in safe recruitment of volunteers, ensuring our Safeguarding procedures are followed and promoting training. We would meet very occasionally. You can find out more at the [Church of Scotland website](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk). Please contact me if you are interested.

Power of Prayer

Alison Boyes

Three miles away from my parents' home in Sussex, there is a church whose door is always open. When I'm down south, I always walk there, along the river, past the rugby ground and through some lovely old woodland. I open the heavy wooden door and smell that musty "old church mixed with polish" smell which I find very reassuring. It's the smell of a building where people have worshipped for hundreds of years, where the yew tree in the churchyard predates the birth of Christ. There's a 13th century wooden chest with a "do not touch" notice, and the grave of William Wordsworth's brother Christopher. Named after a Scottish queen, St Margaret, the church stands on its own, since in the 18th century, the landowner moved the surrounding village to a new site to make way for a deer park.

One corner of the church is reserved especially for quiet prayer (though the whole church could be used for that purpose on a weekday). On the wall is a small notice board, a pile of cards and a pen. Visitors are invited to write their prayer requests here, and the prayers will be read out by a group who meet every Thursday morning. For a few years, I left the same prayer request on this board every time I came to the church. It concerned somebody dear to me and whose personal problems I felt unable to share with people at home. It gave me great comfort, however, to know that a group of strangers were holding this person in their hearts once a week and asking God for help.

Quite recently, I filled in a card and left it on the board, to thank these people for their continued prayers, which are at long last being answered. They will never know who I am and I shall probably never meet them, but we have shared a precious connection.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4: 6-7

Taking Climate Action

Sarah Wind-Cowie

Over the past year, as facts and fears about climate change have rung out louder and louder in our daily news and social media, I have become increasingly interested in exploring what action I can take to help address the very important issue of our planet's future beyond my recycling, energy usage and purchasing choices.

I started by joining Extinction Rebellion, the umbrella group that organised and coordinated the Easter 'uprising' in major cities this year both here in the U.K. and across the world. I attended a very informative training day run by members of this group and through this, and further reading and research, came across Christian Climate Action: a UK based community who are inspired by Jesus Christ and social justice movements of the past to take meaningful action to urge those in power to make the changes that are needed. They believe that being faithful to God is a journey which might sometimes mean non-compliance with ruling authorities and, working with Extinction Rebellion and other such groups, come together in non-violent yet disruptive action to both draw attention to the issues and to achieve positive progress.

I was very interested in finding out more about these beliefs and how they are put into action so my husband Andrew and I are travelling down to Manchester for a training day with them. I will be feeding back our experiences to the Connect (Bible Study) group but, if you don't make that and would like to know more, you can email me on swindcowie@gmail.com.

How Trees are Groan

There was an old man who lived by a forest. As he grew older and older, he started losing his hair, until one day, on his deathbed, he was completely bald. That day, he called his children to a meeting. He said, "Look at my hair. It used to be so magnificent, but it's completely gone now. My hair can't be saved. But look outside, sooner or later all the trees will be cut down and the forest will look as bald as my hair."

"What I want you to do," the man continued, "is, every time a tree is cut down, plant a new one. Tell your descendants to do the same. It shall be our family's duty to keep this forest strong." So they did. Each time the forest lost a tree, the children replanted one, and so did their children, and their children after them. The forest remained as lush and pretty as it once was, all because of one man and his re-seeding heirline.

Tattie-Bogles to Trolls

Beccy Richardson

Having moved to the outskirts of Dunscore in the second half of 2018, this was our first experience of Dunscore Gala. Local folk had been telling us about it for weeks before the event, and it didn't disappoint. We threw ourselves into the challenges, and had a fun-filled time. The Tattie-bogle competition tickled Shell's creative streak and it wasn't long before our 'Ghost buster' appeared, standing guard at our gate. We had a few brave souls venturing up our track to view it.

Then, talk turned to the Bake Off, and whether I would be entering. After some encouragement I did, and although my apple tart didn't fare so well I was delighted on judging day to be announced winner for the Madeira cake, and overall adult Champion. Our newcomer friends (Chandler-Rogers) did well too, with Brian getting 2nd place for his cake, and Rachel gaining 3rd for her tart.

Brian and Pauline did a splendid job of the official Gala opening and crowning of Keira Borthwick as Gala Queen. The afternoon was very enjoyable, with the magician, dance displays, and viewing the art and wooden spoon tattie-bogles, along with the photography competition shortlists. But the day wasn't over, off we went to the Flying Pig for food, drink and a good sing-song. Whilst there we chatted about the other planned events, including the cycle challenge on Monday night. Shell got persuaded to take part but little did she know she would be the only female adult competitor – where were all the other sporty women from the village? However, she was unfazed and was very happy with her medal for taking part.

Tuesday evening it was time to get our beagles to the tent for the pet show. First puzzle was which category to enter them into, large or small dogs? In the end, on the vet's advice we entered one in each! Though we didn't win we enjoyed seeing all the different animals taking part.

We teamed up with Mary and Jimmy for the car treasure hunt, and with Jimmy at the wheel we set off for Auldgrith with Mary reading out the clues as we went. It was hilarious seeing everyone jumping in and out of their cars, running along looking for the answers, and we weren't the only team that headed to Tesco to get some of the items we had to collect on the list... Stock control will wonder why there was a spike in sales of Hall's mentholypus sweets, dummy tits, and protractors!

Thursday and Shell and her visiting family headed to the village hall for the Family Fun night. Shell's niece, Zoey, proudly told me on her return, that she had won a potato in the Irish Bingo. On Friday the weather was dreadful, but it didn't deter anyone from attending the Family Quiz. Anne and Andy were excellent quiz hosts, even when the wind and rain battered the marquee. But the Gala committee members were on hand to make sure everything was safe. I was chuffed to be in the Chandler-Rogers team which won the silver award, and Zoey came second in the children's quiz with Frazer, so another good night all round.

The climax to the week was the Gala Parade. We were lent the 'Dunscore Fuel' truck and had been working on our 'Trolls' float for weeks, with Shell as artistic director and Mark in charge of construction. We'd immersed ourselves in this project, getting the kids involved too, and were very satisfied with the finished result. Eight floats in the parade was a great effort from a small village, and we were given an award for having the 'best hair'.

Despite the rain, the events all went ahead in Holm Field, which were great fun. We didn't make it to the pub or dance on Saturday evening as we were exhausted, but it had been an amazing Gala week, full of community spirit, and we have felt very lucky to be part of it. Roll on next year, we can't wait!



Who You Gonna Call?



Dunscore's Glorious Gala

Fiona Thompson

The gala week was a huge success again, despite the awful weather Friday night and Saturday morning, the rest of the week was fine. This year saw the Tattie Bogle competition we were amazed at the interest this drew into the area. 44 entries which was fabulous! People from outwith the area came to see these - it was just brilliant. *We have space to show just a few of the Tattie Bogles through this article.*

We also had pet portraits done by Betsy which were fantastic.

Sunday was the crowning of this year's gala Queen Keira Borthwick, by Brian and Pauline Johnstone who made a great speech. This was followed by next level school of dance display, Ryan Stokes magician and ultimate dance group. A fun filled night of music food drink and sing song in the Flying Pig brought the day to a close.



Monday night was a good event for kids and adults alike with the bike challenge with Stephen Lethardy.

Tuesday night was our brilliant pet show but, unfortunately, due to the weather the dog agility had to be cancelled, but a fantastic 57 pets were entered.

Wednesday night was our well attended car treasure hunt this is always a fabulous night 44 cars took part.

Thursday night saw our Family Fun Night, with Irish bingo, bingo and countdown. Another night of fun and laughs.



Friday night was our ever popular Quiz Night. 36 teams took part this was an excellent night until we had a freak storm which was very scary. We thought

the marquee was going to take off. But quick thinking committee members and quiz participants saved this from happening. This still was an excellent night despite the weather.

Saturday, our Gala Day started off wet and the field was very wet and gate was very muddy but we still had a fabulous turn out for such a small village and again our committee members and volunteers kept the traffic from getting stuck!



A tremendous turnout of fancy dress with eight floats, and walking fancy dress, tractors and vintage cars took part so, despite the weather, it certainly did not dampen our community spirit!

An afternoon of fun with displays from H&M dog display, inch perfect trials, Buccleuch and Queensberry pipe band, plus lots of side stalls. Pony rides, archery, climbing wall, alpacas. Inflatables, quad bikes, mini funfair - something for everyone.

The fantastic week was brought to a close in the Flying Pig with a pipe

off with Gavin Dykes and Robbie Logan which was great. Followed by a brilliant gala dance to the fabulous Huggy bear. This was one of the best dances for a few years.

It is absolutely amazing when we get such good support through the week it makes it all worthwhile seeing people participating and enjoying themselves. It is really good to see some of the new people who have moved into the community taking part in activities.

The committee would like to thank everyone who helped and supported us through the week and during the year. If anyone would like to join the committee please let anyone of the committee know and come along to our AGM. The date will be advertised.



All's Fair in Dunscore

Alison Borthwick

The Fairtrade Group had a wonderful afternoon at Allanton for the recent Peace Festival which took place on Sunday 23 June. Lots of Fairtrade tea/coffee/cake was available and everyone enjoyed it thoroughly.

The School were officially awarded their FairAchiever Award on Monday 3 June at a special assembly. This is the highest award that a school can achieve and there are very few around – even fewer are primary schools. Colin Smyth MSP who is the Chair of the Cross Party Fair Trade Group in the Scottish Parliament presented the certificate to John Carter, Partnership Headteacher. What a fantastic achievement for the school – well done everyone!

On the run up to our Gala we had our Fairtrade Tattie Bogle which was put together by John, Toby & Jess – its was fantastic! Well done to them all. At our gala we raised the profile of Fairtrade by showing off some products that can be purchased and we continue to raise lots of awareness of FT when we can! We also handed out little gifts of Maltesers (did you know that Maltesers are Fairtrade?) to the children on gala day.



The Fairtrade Village Tattie-Bogle

Some of you may have seen a poster advertising our Fairtrade Wine and Cheese Evening. We are holding in conjunction with Gala Committee and it will take place on Friday 27 September at 7:30 pm in the Glenriddell Hall. Please come and sample some lovely Fairtrade wines as well as delicious Cows and Co cheeses and chutney. Tickets are just £3.50 these can be purchased from any Fairtrade Steering Group member or contact Beccy Richardson 820767.

How Can I Help?

Alison Robertson

Dunscore Church Skills Audit

'Give and it shall be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over will be poured into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back' Luke 6 verse 38.

There will soon be a leaflet available in the church. Please pick up a copy and list your talents which may be of use to the church. For example, you might be able to sing, bake, take minutes, listen, work with children, play a musical instrument...

When you have filled it in, please pass it to me and allow the church to use your talents.

Bird of the Season

Lesley Creamer

The Mallard

Most people, if asked, could identify the Mallard – a duck to be found on most ponds, lochs, lakes and rivers across Britain and well known for its loud quack. In fact the 'duck' that folk recognise isn't a duck (female of the species - she's the one with the quack) at all; it's the male, the drake. He's a splendid chap with dark green head, yellow bill, white neck ring, purply-brown chest, mainly grey body and black tail feathers and patch of iridescent purple/blue, edged with white on his wings.

But, like so many birds we might take for granted, populations of Mallard are declining. Fortunately we're still left with a healthy and sustainable quantity so don't panic if you realise you're not seeing any about just now. Both the drake and duck moult and lose their flight feathers for about four or five weeks during the summer. The drake looks quite similar to the mottled brown female at this time and skulks about in amongst vegetation, hence the apparent disappearance. You can't blame it really. Pretty much a sitting duck, you might say!



News from Lubuto

Alison Boyes

When the last Digest came out, Alison Robertson and I were about to go to Zambia. Now it all seems such a long time since we were there. Our visit was (in my view) a tremendous success. We were received with humbling enthusiasm and shown the most amazing hospitality. Old friendships were renewed and new ones made. We met the new minister, Rev. Simukonda, and the Congregational Committee, and spent a joyous Easter week attending long services full of prayer, preaching, music and dancing. We lived with Joyce Chishimba and her family and visited the homes of other congregation members for meals. We attended MCF Bible Study, met with school, Sunday School, Girls and Boys brigade leaders, and the presbytery Bishop. We were



The Bore Hole is well used

privileged to attend a funeral and the subsequent burial of a member of Lubuto congregation. We took part in a special Twinning Service attended by over 500 people, at which we gave a speech on behalf of Dunscore and Moniaive churches and then cut the ribbon on a twinning plaque.

After all this, we spent four days on safari at wildlife camp in South Luangwa National Park. I can truly say that these two weeks were among the most memorable of my whole life.

A copy of the full report of our visit is in a green file in Dunscore Church for anyone who would like to read it. We have given a talk to the Guild Coffee Club and are speaking to the Presbytery World Mission Convener's Conference in Edinburgh next month. We have had pieces about our visit published in the Church of Scotland World Mission magazine and in Life and Work.



The Twinning Plaque



Easter Service in Lubuto



Some of the Women's Christian Fellowship

shared with our respective congregations on the first Sunday of the month at our morning services. If you have any news to be shared, or prayer requests, please let me know and I will pass them on.

We also plan to have a Twinning Service in April every year near to the date of the signing of the Twinning Agreement (21st April) and this would happen in Lubuto, Dunscore and Moniaive at the same time.

We hope to arrange a return visit from members of Lubuto Congregation early in 2021.

Lubuto Impressions

Alison Robertson



At Joyce's House

This was my first visit to Africa. The heat was very pleasant, when I had thought it would be overpowering and we didn't see one mosquito whilst we were there.

The welcome from the Lubuto congregation was fantastic and we experienced a feeling of fellowship throughout our time with them. We were welcomed into Joyce's family home as well as visiting other members of the church for meals. We ate a wide variety of food which was delicious.

The highlight for me was the twinning service in a packed church on Easter day. There was terrific enthusiasm for the twinning and we publicly signed the renewal document for the next ten years.

I would ask you to hold the Lubuto congregation in your prayers. Their youth programme, through Sunday School, Boys' and Girls' Brigades reaches hundreds of young people and the work of the Men's and Women's Christian Fellowship are most impressive.



At the School

There is to be a collection for our twinned congregation at the bring and share harvest lunch after the harvest festival service.

Goings On in the Parish

Roy Spence

In the middle ages, the Court of Justiciary formed the upper level of the Scottish criminal legal system and was presided over by the Justiciar, a royal official, usually one of the great Earls. Although the Court of Justiciary was, in theory, the highest criminal court, it and others were subject to the authority of the Privy Council, whose particular concern was the maintenance of political stability and public order. In the sixteenth century, there were two Justiciars dealing with areas north and south of the Forth. One of these men, his Grace, Archibald, Earl of Argyle, presided over the trial of William Amuligane in Dempsterton in 1535, held at the circuit court in Dumfries. Cases brought before the Court of Justiciary were usually passed up from the Sheriff Court and tended to be complex cases such as the charge of high treason, religious dissent, adultery, sodomy, bestiality, witchcraft, forgery etc, serious offences punishable by death, transportation or heavy fines.

On 11th April 1578, the Court of Justiciary heard the case of Cuthbert Amuligane alias Amullikin in Dempsterton, charged with the 'filthy and abominable' crime of adultery with Elizabeth Hamilton, spouse to Roger Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, having been caught in the act at 'diverse and sundry times, within the manor place of Closeburn, the burgh of Edinburgh and other parts of the country in sundry houses and chambers'. This was no ordinary case, for the lady who became the object of his illicit affection, Elizabeth Hamilton, was indeed a remarkable woman. Based on these figures, Elizabeth may have been aged about 38 years, when she began her affair with Cuthbert. According to the register of the Court of Justiciary, the case was first heard on 8th March 1577, when Cuthbert made repentance and was formally admonished, after having been caught within the manor place of Closeburn on a number of occasions. However, despite being admonished, Cuthbert and the good Lady of Closeburn continued their affair, much to the deep annoyance of Roger Kirkpatrick, who had already tried to divorce her in 1566, following an appeal to the Privy Council of Scotland. The Privy Council were obdurate, and he had to pay £40 within six days and the rest before Whitsunday and find security. Elizabeth retaliated with a counter action of adherence, in which it is stated (erroneously) that they were married in 1555 and she had had six children by him, yet he had expelled her from the place of Closeburn and charged her with adultery with James Kirkpatrick, his brother. Perhaps Roger could not prove the charge, for he was decreed to adhere to her. His second attempt, however, succeeded with the Court of Justiciary finding Cuthbert guilty for continuing in the same act.

The details of the case as found in the register have been fully published in Robert Pitcairn's book, Ancient Criminal Trials in Scotland, which are transcribed below:

April. 11, 1578: - Cuthbert Amullikin in Dempsterton and dewll admonitioune maid be him the day foirfaid, and vtheris dayis and tymes fpecifeit in the teftimoniall gevin their anent. And conuictis him alfwa of the thiftuous fpending, waifting and putting away of the faidis Rogeris guidis and geir, during the fame fpace and tymes, quhill he vfit in maner foirfaid to hant and converfe with the faid Elizabeth, in the faid Adulterie. In witneffe heirof, the Chancellare, in name of the reft of this Affyife, hes fubfcriuit this delyuerance with his hand.

Cuthbert Amullikin in Dempsterton and with admissions made by him the day aforesaid and other days and times specified in the testimonial there anent. And accusing him also of the thievous spending, wasting and putting away of the said Roger's goods and gear, during the same space and times, he would visit in the manner foresaid to haunt and converse with the said Elizabeth, in the said adultery. In witness thereof, the Chancellor, in the name of the rest of this Assize, has subscribed this deliberation by his hand. This was taken from the website "Regarde Bien".

The Milligans of Dempsterton were a prominent family in the parish, their names feature in many heritor, kirk session and school board meetings.

Dunscore Bird Watchers

Colin Mitchell

Here are the dates for outings for the bird watching group. All are welcome to come along. No experience is required and we hope that those without much birding knowledge will learn from other more experienced members of the group. We usually share cars and fuel costs and sometimes use the Community transport minibus. Meet at the church car park at 9:00am with suitable clothing and a packed lunch.

Friday 11th October Sites on the North Solway coast between Gretna and Dumfries. Hopefully many waders and gulls.

Monday 4th November Various sites on the South Solway Coast. Hopefully large numbers of waders. Possibly watch the huge starling roost near Gretna on the way home.

Thursday 12th December Caerlaverock. Both WWT and NNR sites at Caerlaverock with lots of geese and ducks (entrance fee for WWT unless you are a member). Café for food if required

Friday 17th January Carsethorn, Southernness and RSPB Mersehead. Geese, Ducks and waders

Monday 17th February The Crannog Lochs and Threave. Ducks, geese and winter birds

Thursday 26th March Loch Ryan and Luce Bay. Sea ducks, divers, geese, waders

Friday 24th April Cree valley. Woodland birds

Monday 18th May Lochmaben Lochs. Ducks, summer birds

June Possible trip to Ailsa Craig

No need to book, just turn up. We have some binoculars to borrow. I can be contacted at c.mitchell50@btinternet.com or 01387 820 455.

Life with Trees

Alison Boyes

Trying to keep your carbon footprint as small as possible is difficult, and when you love to travel, it's even harder. We don't fly very often for our holidays, but when we do, we always calculate the CO₂ used and offset it. Sometimes an airline will suggest an additional charge to do this, or you can go through various websites which enable you to make a donation which will be used in projects around the world.

In the July edition of the [EcoCongregation Scotland newsletter](#), I was really pleased to find out about an organisation called "Trees for Life", a conservation charity dedicated to rewilding the Scottish Highlands. They have established 44 tree planting sites and so far have planted almost two million trees. Since 1993, the charity has been working tirelessly to restore the Caledonian Forest (of which only 1% of the original remained in the 1950s) bringing back Scots Pine and also growing rarer trees such as aspen, mountain willows and birches, creating a habitat for a range of wildlife. EcoCongregation Scotland have set up their own grove of trees, and currently 77 trees have been planted as members and supporters donate to offset their carbon emissions.

For every tonne of CO₂ emitted, they suggest that you donate £24, which is enough to plant 4 trees. David and I are flying to Athens in September, and the return flight will cause 0.8 tonnes per person of CO₂, so we have arranged for 8 trees to join the grove. Even if you aren't flying anywhere, you can plant trees to offset the carbon footprint of your driving, or your yearly electricity or heating oil use. You can plant trees as a birthday gift for the person who has everything, or leave money for it in your will.

Last month, over 350 million trees were planted in Ethiopia in 12 hours, and according to climate scientists, there are 1.7 billion hectares worldwide on which 1.2 trillion native trees could be planted (this excludes land used for crops and housing). This would remove 2/3 of the CO₂ emissions caused by human activity. Of course, it would still be necessary to reverse the rise in greenhouse gases caused by fossil fuel burning and forest destruction, since the tree-planting would take 50-100 years to remove this 200 billion tonnes of carbon.

Have a look at the website of Trees For Life (www.treesforlife.org.uk) and read about the wonderful work they are doing. A world with more trees will be a better place for our children to live in.

Hungarians Dunscore Visit

Pam Mitchell

This year our student visitors and their teacher, Rita, arrived on a sunny Thursday morning by train from Glasgow and were immediately whisked off to Dumfries Academy to meet some Scottish students and have a tour of Jane Haining's former School. The following day, 28th June we set off on the Jane Haining tour around the village arriving back at the Church in time to meet Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell who wanted to meet the girls and present the Heritage Centre with some artefacts which he had been gifted when he led the March for the Living in Jane's memory in Budapest in April.

The next day saw us taking tea at New Abbey tea room then walking the Solway coast to Rockcliff point and home via Castle Douglas. They all loved being at the seaside, gathering shells and sitting in the warm Scottish sun.

In Church, on the Sunday morning, the students gave a most interesting presentation about their studies and lives in Hungary. Sophie, a talented pianist and Timi a beautiful singer, performed to our congregation. It was also lovely to have Margit, a long-time friend of Dunscore Church, with us at that service. In the afternoon we visited Drumlanrig Castle Gardens before the amazing barbecue in the Anderson's garden. This was, as ever, well supported so thank you everyone for your contribution and participation in the activities of the 28th visit of Hungarians to Dunscore.

Dunscore Danceathon

Fiona Thompson

I, along with 10 others, am going to be doing a danceathon to raise money for Alzheimers Scotland on Saturday 26th October between 2pm-12am, Glenriddel Hall, Dunscore. We have been practising and have got up to 5 hours dancing which was almost 11 miles dancing!! We are continuing to practise for our danceathon!!

We going to be dancing for 10 hours. The day will comprise of:

Coffee afternoon 2-4 pm we will be dancing at this.

Next level school of dance display along with the 11 dancers will do a display

Chip van will be at the Flying Pig at 5pm, we will do a conga round the village.

Followed by a disco for everyone at 7pm. Again we will be dancing if we have not collapsed by then!!

People can join in dancing at all the events throughout the day and we hope to raise a lot of money for a great cause close to a lot of us. Please come and support us something for everyone.

Full Scale Apology

I put the scales in the corner of the bathroom and that's where the liar stays until he apologises!

From the Archives

Fifty Five Years Ago Dunscore Church Magazine (September 1964)

Letter from the minister (James Martin): One random Sunday in August it [the attendance] was 64 (counting both churches together) out of a congregation of well over 500. This seems to reveal large numbers of “members” who show little or no active interest in the work and worship of the church.

Village Hall Report: Our thanks are due also to Dunscore's own beat group The Rebel Anjels... who ran a dance in aid of hall repairs. They raised the sum of £13.16/ -.

Forty Years Ago: Dunscore Church Magazine (December 1979)

The New Manse: What is the position of the building of the manse? Briefly this... The site has been bought and excavated, the burn has been bridged and the road made into the site. The new building has been pegged off and levelled... WFW

A Village Film: Brian Easton is shooting a film record of a year in the life of our village... The intention at present is to make a video cassette to enable the film to be shown using out TV screens.

Ten Year Ago: Dunscore Digest Autumn 2009

Charity Choices: So at the ripe old age of 72, I am getting on my bike on 23 August and will ride through France and Spain for 2,000 miles to raise funds for our 16 projects. 2,000 miles for 2,000 smiles. Raymond Nelson.

Fairtrade Update: Discussions with D&G Council about the erection of Fairtrade Village signs are ongoing but we may be close to having these in place. Finally, the 90 kg challenge. This was to sell 90 kg of rice to send a child to high school in Malawi. All the rice has been sold. Should we order another 90 kg?

Watch out, as I happen to know that another 90 kg challenge is about to start!

SLYC: Skitter Lane Youth Club (known as SLYC and named by the youngsters!) has restarted. We meet in Dunscore, Penpont and Moniave on a rotational basis on Thursday evenings. About eight to 15 attend and enjoy a wide variety of activities (and the food that is kindly donated).

Five years ago: Dunscore Digest Autumn 2014

As anyone who has been to the church recently can confirm, the exceptional storms and rains of last winter have left their mark. Three sandstone pinnacles were blown off the parapets around the building, there has been major damage at the junction of the church roof and tower and there has been significant water penetration at the entrance to the church, around certain windows and in other places.

Community Bus Matters

Peter Roberts

It certainly does! We've found out just how much the bus matters with the very regrettable cancelling of some excursions and the Castle Douglas timetabled service earlier this year. This was due to difficulties in renewing the legal certificates required to enable the bus to carry passengers. We now have both certificates and the bus has been back on the road since late June.

At this point we must thank Chris Whittle, for his tremendous efforts in keeping the bus running for the past five years almost single-handed, handling just about everything apart from the actual driving. Chris now wants to hand over the reins, although he may continue to handle bookings for our excursions. We will make sure that there is a proper celebration of his service once we get new arrangements in place. 'We' are Stephen Sparrow, Alan James, Geoff Creamer and Peter Roberts, an interim management group nominated by the CVCT trustees to resolve the certification issue and bring management arrangements up-to-date. The first part of that brief has been resolved.

The second part will be progressed over the summer. We want to establish a new management committee to run day-to-day operations in line with CVCT's constitution. Ideally, we are looking for someone to handle bookings, driver scheduling and invoicing. If that person is you, we would like to hear from you. If we can establish someone in this role, we are confident a new committee can be set up around it, sharing other tasks like bus maintenance, finance and regulation. The constitution requires groups that hire the bus should be formally affiliated to CVCT.

Most already are, and contribute to its management but during the summer we will contact all local groups inviting them to renew their affiliation and to nominate members to attend an AGM to be held late September / early October. But you've no need to wait for us to contact you – if you would like an affiliation form for your group, contact Stephen Sparrow, details below. A management committee will be formed at the AGM. As well as affiliated groups' representatives, the AGM will be open to all residents of Glencairn and Dunscore parishes.

In early September we will stage an 'Open Day' event for residents and community groups to find out more about the bus, how they can use it and how they can support the running of this vital community asset.

CVCT has a great record of service to the community going back more than 15 years. Rising out of the recent difficulties we aim to ensure that it has an equally bright future. Stephen Sparrow: spadgesparrow@yahoo.co.uk or 01848 200564.

Time to go Electric?

Matthew Aitken

When your car reaches the end of its life, what are you going to replace it with? We hit this dilemma early this year and considered our options. We were keen to ditch petrol and diesel if we possibly could (so hopefully full-electric rather than a hybrid) but are electric cars really a viable option yet?

Between us, we drive about 10,000 miles a year but our longest journeys tend to be to the central belt – mainly Edinburgh. So if we could find an electric car that was not ridiculously expensive that could make Edinburgh and, ideally, back again on a single charge, we might be ready to make the change.

It turns out that there are several options and more becoming available all the time. We drove a few including the Renault Zoe (a bit small) and the Hyundai Ioniq but finally decided on the Nissan Leaf.

Driven gently, the Leaf will manage about 150 to 160 miles on a single charge (rather less if driven hard), so you can charge up at home and drive to Edinburgh and back with a little left in the battery.

Driving the Leaf is a pleasure. It glides rather than drives, especially at low speeds (at higher speeds, road noise means that it sounds pretty similar to a petrol car). If you like to beat others away from the lights, the Leaf is for you. It goes like greased lightning! Rapid acceleration does, however, reduce your range.

Running costs are very low. Recharging costs about a quarter of an equivalent mileage for fuel and, as there are very few moving parts, servicing is limited and, therefore, cheap. When charging from public chargers, most in Scotland are free!

What about the concerns that we hear expressed so often?

Don't you run out of charge? Absolutely not! When is the last time that you ran out of fuel? You have a large display telling you how many miles you have left so, unless you are really reckless, you won't run the battery flat.

Are there enough charging points? The vast majority of our charging is done at home so it isn't often an issue. You can use a three pin plug and every house has those. But we have a fast charging point at home that was installed with a government grant so we use that. When we have to charge away from home we either use the three pin plug option wherever we are staying or find a charge point locally (we have an app that has them all). A full charge costs about a bottle of wine for the host!

A lot of electricity is made using fossil fuels so aren't you just shifting from the car to the power station? In our case, we usually charge at home using electricity from our hydro scheme.

When on the road, you use the electricity supplied. Most of the chargers on the motorways are run by Ecotricity – a “green” supplier.

It takes a bit of planning to drive an electric car with a limited range. You have to plan long journeys with a stop for a coffee on the way but, that apart, there is really nothing negative to report. We love our Leaf and would recommend anyone planning to change cars to at least give electric a try.



Charging at home

Community Council Column

Colin Mitchell

Flowers In The Village: The Community Council once again funded and planted the flower tubs in the village. Thank you to those who planted them and those who watered them.

Tom Carrick Seats: Three further seats will soon be installed.

Speed Signs in Dunscore: We are still working on the funding for speed activated signs.

Windfarm Community Benefit Funds: We receive funds from the Dalswinton windfarm, the Harestanes windfarm and now the Blackcraig windfarm.

The following allocations were made at the May meeting:

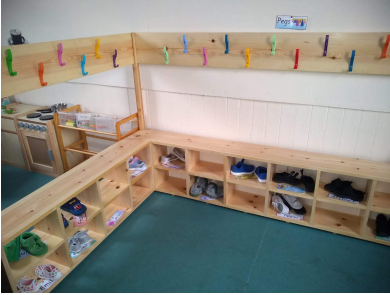
- Dunscore Gala - £4,000 for purchase of a trailer, tables and chairs
- Speddock Community Association - £2,000 towards interior decoration of the Speddock Hall
- Auld Alliance Twinning Association - £450 towards the costs of hosting twinning events and transport during the 25th Anniversary visit of our French guests.

Community Council Elections: The elections will be held on 3rd October. Three long serving members are retiring from the Community Council and it is important that they are replaced to keep our Community Council viable. If the Community Council ceased to function we would lose the windfarm funds and an important local voice.

Pre-School Progress

Lee Mackenzie

We are looking forward to a new term at Pre-School. While the children enjoyed their holidays staff and parents have been busy redecorating and refurbishing the Pre-School building. This was part of our improvement plan and the environment is now one calm colour which allows the children's work to be more prominent. As you can imagine with an old building with very high ceilings, this was a big job! We are incredibly grateful to parents who donned their overalls and literally got their hands dirty to help! In particular we would like to thank Chris Howieson and his colleagues at Scottish Power who were so supportive and put in many long hours!



New shoe storage

In addition to the redecoration we have also invested in some new resources. Mark Chandler Rogers has built us a beautiful bespoke new cloakroom unit which stores all the shoes coats and bags and will hopefully keep everything tidy. Family and parents have also helped constructing a new mudkitchen, play kitchen, caterpillar book storage seating, baby changing unit for our parent and baby group and a new outdoor sandpit! We have also invested in some new literacy and numeracy resources including a new coding robot



Our Mud Kitchen

who has proved to be very popular. He's called EARL.

Feedback on the changes have been very positive with parents commenting that it looks much fresher and that it looks like a whole new nursery. Members of the community have said that it almost makes them wish they were a child again!



We have welcomed some new children to Pre-School and our role is now 15 which will increase to 16 in January. This keeps us very busy! We have also welcomed a new member of staff and are very happy to have Laura Mushet working with us. We're excited to be working with her. We will of course miss Elinor and everyone at Dunscore Pre-School thanks her for all her help and support over the years, and wishes her well in her new training.



We are looking forward to our visits to the woods every week and are fortunate that one of our new parents, Jason, has volunteered to share his outdoor learning experience with us. If you see us

walking to the woods on Tuesdays give us a wave or stop to say hello.

This will be a busy year for us as we start to make the changes necessary to implement the new extended childcare hours in August 2020 when children will have double the number of funded hours at Pre-School.

Dunscore Guild Coffee Club

Alison Robertson

We meet on the second Monday of each month at 10:30 am for coffee (of course!), some biscuits (who know, maybe some cake?), a bible reading and a talk.

We are working to bring in a fascinating and diverse range of speakers including the Halo Trust, Christians Against Poverty, the Boys and Girls Brigade and Beekeeping.

Each month there is a free raffle for a month's supply of Who Gives a Crap toilet rolls and a matching bag! There is also a Bring and Buy stall in aid of Guild projects. Everyone is welcome!

I was lost... *Spotted in the Digest 10 years ago.*

There were two men shipwrecked on an island. The minute they landed one of them started screaming and yelling, "We're going to die! We're going to die! There's no food! No water! We're going to die!" The second man was propped up against a palm tree and acting so calmly it drove the first man crazy. "Don't you understand? We're going to die!"

The second man replied, "You don't understand, I make £100,000 a week, we'll be found soon" The first man looked at him quite dumbfounded and asked, "What difference does that make? We're on an island with no food and no water! We're going to DIE!"

The second man answered, "You just don't get it, do you: I make £100,000 a week, and I tithe 10% of that to my church - I give £10,000 each week to my church." The First Man, still dumbfounded said, "I still don't understand!" The Second Man said: "Listen, I said to relax, I tithe £10,000 a week. The treasurer will find us very soon!"

Church Services and Village Events Church services are held every Sunday at 11:45 am (unless stated otherwise)	
Date and Time	Event
Thursday 5 September 09:30 am	Litter Larks meet in the Church Car Park
Friday 6 September 8:00 pm	Quiz Night in the Flying Pig
Saturday 7 September from 5:00 pm	Chip van night at the Flying Pig
Sunday 8 September 11:45 am	Messy Church – Fun, singing, crafts...
Sunday 8 September 7:00 pm	Evening Service – A quieter service!
Friday 13 September 7:30 pm in the church	Dunscore Island Discs: Tim and June Harmer's life and record choices
Sunday 22 September 11:45 am	Harvest Service
Friday 27 September 7:30 pm in the Glenriddell Hall	Fairtrade Wine and Cheese evening
Thursday 3 October	Community Council Elections
Friday 11 October 9:00 am	Birdwatching Group in the church car park
Saturday 26 October from 2:00 pm	Danceathon in the Glenriddell Hall
Monday 4 November 9:00 am	Birdwatching Group in the church car park

Editor's Note: *The opinions expressed in the Digest are not necessarily those of the editor, the minister / Interim Moderator, the Church of Scotland or the Community Council.*

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