

# The Dunscore Digest

Dunscore Church and Community Magazine

Winter 2019



**The Incredible Dunscore Danceathon Team**

Read about their amazing efforts and see more photos on page 6

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## Minister's Musing

Stuart Mill

One Sunday evening in October, I was walking in the grounds of the Crichton, near the beautiful Crichton Memorial Church. The sun was setting, creating a soft pink and golden sky. The silence was broken by what at first I thought to be people's voices but there was virtually no-one else around.

I heard the sound again and instinctively looked up, and there, in the distance, I saw a flock of geese approaching. I took a photograph of them as they flew overhead, their distinctive calls filling the stillness of the air. Then I saw a bigger flock approaching, then another and another until the sky was filled with their wild beauty. But within less than a minute they had almost vanished from sight, floating over the distant trees and down towards the Solway like giant strands of delicate gossamer.

I could sense their excitement as they neared their destination. I could hear in their noisy conversations, a great desire to reach the coastal wetlands and find safe pasture. The V formations in which geese often fly when making long flights are not only beautiful to observe, they are practical as well. The geese change places in the formation quite often. The leading bird uses up the most energy, those at the ends of the formation the least. This is due to the updraft created by the geese in the middle of the formation. In this way, the flock can remain flying together for longer. Not just a beautiful spectacle of nature but a metaphor for living together in community.

As Christmas approaches, many of us will get caught up in the preparations for celebrating the Nativity of our Lord. Although Christmas is a very ancient Christian festival, the reality behind and within it is ever new. As we hear the gospel describe the beginnings of God's grace towards humanity, with the birth of Jesus, our maturing faith is able to see Jesus not just as the baby in the manger but as our life's companion whom we trust implicitly in the joys and sorrows of life, He who quite rightly described Himself as the light of the world, the way, the truth and the life.

May this Christmas and every Christmas be a time of peace, joy, hope and love for each of us, for our families and friends, for our sisters and brothers in Christ and for all humanity. May 2020 prove to be a year in which our lives are drawn ever deeper into the great mystery of God's love for us, begun in Jesus.

You will always be welcome to attend any of our church services over the Christmas season. Details of these services can be found in the calendar of services in this issue.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Don't Miss the Bus

Peter Roberts

Cairn Valley Community Transport (CVCT) is the voluntary organisation operating the community bus. It runs a fortnightly scheduled service to Castle Douglas which departs from Dunscore at 11:35 am on alternate Thursdays returning to Dunscore at 3:40 pm - the next dates are 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November and 12<sup>th</sup> December. There is also a varied programme of excursions and the bus is available for hire (with a driver) to affiliated community organisations.

After years of sterling service, Chris Whittle has retired as the CVCT co-ordinator. By the time you read this, a new management committee will have been elected at the AGM held on 6<sup>th</sup> November. The new organisers will maintain the popular services provided by CVCT over many years and will also look to broaden the use of the bus across the community.

The fundamental purpose of the bus is to provide transport for people with unmet needs, for example younger and older people who do not have the use of a car, or people with travel needs not matched by commercial bus operators. The management committee will always listen to the views of Cairn Valley residents about this. CVCT is also planning to extend the area of service to include Tynron.

CVCT welcomes volunteers to help organise the service and to drive the bus. The next issue of Dunscore Digest will include details of the new management committee and office holders, together with permanent contact details. In the meantime, if you would like to help run CVCT, please contact Stephen Sparrow on 01848 200564 or [spadgesparrow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:spadgesparrow@yahoo.co.uk); if you would like to drive the bus (training is provided) contact Geoff Creamer on 01848 330821. Also, to book a seat for an excursion, please contact Geoff.

The whole community owes a huge debt of gratitude to Chris Whittle, ably supported by many others including Archie and Sheila Anderson, Jimmy Anderson and Pam Mitchell, for many years of excellent work in keeping the bus on the road. Thank you, Chris!

Forthcoming excursions:

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Glasgow Country Living Fair, departs Dunscore 9:15 am - £12 (note the change of date from 23<sup>rd</sup> November).

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December – Carlisle Christmas Shopping, departs Dunscore 9:15 am - £10

And don't forget the fortnightly service to Castle Douglas (details above).

# For Peat's Sake

Mas Smyth

The Galloway hills are wet, and although woodland is natural on our slopes, a blanket of peat is natural on our wettest and flattest ground. Peat is precious; it would (in geological timescale) eventually turn into coal; peat is trying to become a fossil fuel. But Galloway has been subject to more than a century of efforts to drain the peat and create farmland and, more recently, plant forests. Luckily for the carbon, draining doesn't work well on peat: the climate is too wet and the peat tries to hold on to its moisture. Despite this, ditches and channels were dug across the moorland. An even more intensive system of deep ploughing and ditching has been used to plant conifers. Yet conifers planted on deep peat don't thrive. Even the sheep prefer drier ground.

Our peatland ecosystem has been damaged and for little benefit. Damaged peatland is not just ugly, it causes trouble. It's a triple whammy: firstly, man-made ditches flood much peatier water into the rivers than is natural, so the rivers become acidic, dirty and warm. Secondly, and bad for the climate, drained peat dries, erodes and loses its carbon. Thirdly, after a rainstorm, the ditches sluice too rapidly into the rivers, flooding downstream towns.

Climate change means we need to keep more carbon in the ground; and our increasingly long droughts and heavy rainstorms mean we need to keep the ground soft and able to soak up and store the rainwater. Restored peatland can continue its natural function: storing carbon and soaking up rain.

Restoring blanket bog on drained moorland is relatively easy: you just need to block the ditches. Within a few years, moss infills the ditches, with a win-win result – a better peatland ecosystem, and a secure carbon store. If you've walked across the Cairnsmore of Fleet bogs recently, you may have seen this. More complicated, but even more important, is restoring the extensive areas of eroding bare peat we see across many of our hills. Here, we aim to stop erosion and peat loss by re-vegetating bare peat badlands, gently smoothing peat hagsgs, and helping heal eroding gullies. Again, this has been done at Cairnsmore, but has been so successful that you can hardly tell where.



The peat beneath conifer plantations is often in a poor condition; yet restoring blanket bog from previous plantations is surprisingly effective as we now have a range of techniques we can use to fell the trees, block the drains, flatten out the ridges and furrows and allow the water table to behave more naturally. The recent Bog Splat (see Kath's article) took place on a bog in Galloway Forest Park from which the failing conifer crop had been removed. Within five years, the moss should have sealed the peat.

Working out what is best for nature and for carbon sequestration (should it be conifer plantations? native woodlands? peatland?) is tricky. The experts agree that all of these can sequester carbon, and conifers are certainly very speedy... but they release their carbon immediately the wood is burnt. The key thing is to store the carbon securely for centuries, and to ensure that we don't lose the carbon we have already stored. This means looking after the soil, keeping the peat wet and plugging the drains. Working out how to grow trees without draining or ploughing is a challenge for the forest industry, but if we can grow healthy trees at the same time as protecting our peaty soils, that would be a win-win.

# Kath Goes Splat

Kath Aitken

What a privilege to be invited to the world's inaugural Sphagnum Splat! This was an initiative by the Crichton Carbon Centre with the purpose of having a bit of fun while highlighting the vital importance of peat bogs as carbon sinks.

Around 25 people and several dogs met up at Clatteringshaws and were guided to the reclaimed peat bog with the appropriate permission from Scottish Forestry with whom the Carbon Centre have a very good working relationship. We walked from where we parked the cars (two of which were electric) for a mile along a forestry track to an area of about 40 acres which has been restored to bogland. We carried banners with statements such as: "For Peat's Sake" and "It's not too late to sequesterate" and, having collected sphagnum moss from the ditches, mixed this with peat into balls of various shapes and sizes. The balls were then lobbed into the bog in the hope that this will help to "seed" the area with the best moss to hold carbon. If you would like to see a video of the Splat, head to the Crichton Carbon Centre [Facebook page](#).



One of the most useful aspects of this rather unusual event was the opportunity to speak to some of the experts in this field (such as Mas who wrote the article above) and to find out why peat is still being extracted from sites such as the one near Annan. Apparently, this is because the licences which were issued still have some years to run. The Eco Group has invited the Council Climate Champion to speak in Dunscore Church on November 27<sup>th</sup> and I shall ask whether it would be possible to revoke these licences given our climate emergency. If you would like to hear from him or have any questions to ask, please come that evening.

### “Fathomless Riches - or How I Went From Pop to Pulpit” by Revd. Richard Coles

When choosing a new minister, it's my personal opinion that a candidate who has had some career experience outside the Church might be preferable. But how would the Nominating Committee view a CV which included previous employment as a pop star?

The Reverend Richard Coles is a parish priest in Finedon, Northamptonshire. He is also presenter of “Saturday Live” on BBC Radio 4. “Fathomless Riches” is his autobiography, telling the story of his life up to the point where he was ordained as a vicar in the Church of England. As is written on the book jacket, it tells of his “pilgrimage from a rock-and-roll life of sex and drugs to a life devoted to God and Christianity.”

Richard Coles was born in Northamptonshire and his family were comfortably off while the shoe industry, in which his father worked, was thriving. His parents could afford to send him and his two brothers to a local public school, where he was Head Chorister and played the organ, but academically was not a success. Leaving at sixteen, he went to drama school and joined a small theatre company. A compensation cheque from a bike accident paid for him to get his ears pierced, “some dreadful clothes” and a soprano saxophone. Then a turning point in his life happened when he met Jimmy Somerville. Jimmy sang with the band Bronski Beat, but when they split up, he and Richard formed a musical partnership, and with their new band, the Communards, topped the charts for four weeks of 1986 with the single “Don't Leave me This Way”.



Richard Coles' account of the life and excesses of a touring pop musician in the 1980s does not always make for comfortable reading, and it is to his credit that he writes so honestly about his past. I did enjoy reading about his involvement with politics at the time of the miners' strike and Red Wedge - acknowledging that his activism had not halted the conservatism of the Thatcher years, he writes of these experiences: “Failure, modest achievements, community, solidarity : I realise now it was an excellent preparation for ordained ministry in the Church of England.”

The 1990s passed by in a haze of so many drugs and friends dying from AIDS that it feels miraculous that the author ever lived through them. The story of how he went from there to a Benedictine monastery, the Catholic Church, a degree in theology and finally to ordination is one that is best discovered by reading the book for yourself.

The title of the book, “Fathomless Riches”, refers to a quote from St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians. Richard Coles obviously identifies with Paul, admitting that “I have frittered much in splendour and awfulness, and I have tried to be as candid as I can about that, in order that - if disgraced myself - I do not disgrace Paul's calling : to preach to the Gentiles the fathomless riches of Christ.” The book often shows him at his most unlikeable, and you can't help liking him for that. Having read it, I would love one day to hear him preach...

## Autumn Bird Walk

Colin Mitchell

On 8<sup>th</sup> October I took a walk from Dunscore to find out what birds I could see. I began by walking up the footpath opposite the Flying Pig towards Dempsterton Farm. **Pied wagtails** were calling from the top of the dyke and **skylarks** flew overhead. Near the farm **jackdaws** flew aerobatics above the trees and **starlings** perched on the branches below.

As I walked down the track towards the road at Blacksteps **meadow pipits** made their high pitched calls as they flew over, **carrion crows** searched the fields for food and a **woodpigeon** flew towards the wood by the road.

I walked towards Lochmaderie and looked over the wall to see what was on the ponds. Lots of **mallard** and **wigeon** were resting in the water. As I walked back towards Dunscore a **chaffinch** called from a roadside bush and I spotted a **buzzard** sitting on a fencepost by the wood near Brockhillstone. Here a **pheasant** made me jump as it flew out of the verge.

A **robin** sang its wistful winter song from the trees at Whitedyke and a **jay**, **great spotted woodpecker** and a **blackbird** called from the woods at Dalgonar.

I cut through the new woodland towards Greenwell and a party of **long tailed tits** and a **blue tit** flitted through the young trees. A **wren** sang its loud song by the gate and **coal tits** were feeding on bird feeders at Greenwell.

Church Crescent revealed noisy **house sparrows** and a **dunnock** in my garden as I arrived home. We are fortunate to live in such a bird rich area!

## Coffee with Land Mines

Aly Robertson

Dunscore Guild Coffee Club continues to meet on the second Monday of the month at 10.30am in Dunscore Church. Our last speaker was Paul, the human tap, who gave a very interesting and informative talk about [Wateraid](#). Our next meeting is on the 11th November when there will be a speaker from the land mine charity, [Halo Trust](#).

# We're Getting Messy

Rach, Jen and Sam

Messy Church has begun and what a great start we have had. We have had lots of enthusiastic participants and willing volunteers to help out with our craft activities. The painting station has always been a great hit especially with Malcolm!

Last time we had the theme of remembrance and some beautiful poppies were made to decorate the church. We have lots of exciting sessions coming up and we hope to see lots of you there (second Sunday each month starting at 10:30 am).



Eric and Malcolm show their art works

# Toddler Group

Dunscore Toddler Group runs from 1:15 – 3:00 pm on Fridays during term-time. We meet in the Pre-School. The cost is £1:00 per child which includes snack for the children and tea / coffee for the carer. The children (and adults) recently enjoyed a spooky party..



Church Services and Village Events	
Date and Time	Event
Monday 11 November 10:30 am	Guild Coffee Club – Halo Trust talk
Wednesday 27 November 7:30 pm	Climate Champion talk in Dunscore Church
Friday 29 November 7:30 pm	Candle and Cocktail Evening
Saturday 30 November 8:00 pm	Riverside Ramblers playing in the Flying Pig
Sunday 1 December 11:45 am	Holy Communion in Dunscore Church
Sunday 1 December 1:00 – 5:00 pm	Jane Haining Exhibition in Dunscore Church
Friday 6 December 8:30 pm	Christmas Quiz in the Flying Pig
Sunday 8 December 2:30 pm	Winter Barbecue at the Flying Pig
Sunday 8 December 10:30 am	Messy Church (evening service 7:00 pm)
Sunday 15 December 11:45 am	Gift Service in Dunscore Church
Thursday 19 December 7:30 pm	Carols in the Flying Pig
Friday 20 December 8:30 pm	Games Night in the Flying Pig
Sunday 22 December 11:45 am	Lessons and Carols Service in the church
Tuesday 24 December	Christingle
Tuesday 24 December 11:30 pm	Watchnight Service in Dunscore Church
Wednesday 25 December 10:00 am	Christmas Service in St Ninian's Moniaive

# Dunscore Dancers

Fiona Thompson

We did it! We danced for 10 hours – well, 10 hours and 10 minutes to be exact! It was a danceathon to raise money for Alzheimer Scotland.

It all started one Saturday afternoon when Jackie, Mandy and I were out and had been dancing and Jackie suggested that we could do a danceathon. Initially I said no but then came up with the idea that we could do it to raise money for Alzheimer Scotland, a charity which is close to a lot of the dancers and helpers. The idea then snowballed and we it turned into the coffee afternoon, a display by Next Level School of Dance, the chip van coming and the dancers and whoever wanted to join in doing a conga round the village, then having a disco at night with, Irish bingo, raffle and silent auction.



We started practising about three months before the event, building ourselves up to eight of hours dancing. We

had T-shirts printed with our names and dance-related names! In addition, Jackie and I were asked to go on Alive radio to talk about our fund raiser This is not the first time we have raised funds for Alzheimer Scotland having previously done, It's a Knockout, various coffee mornings and memory walks.



The day was well supported and the atmosphere was amazing. We all had an absolutely fantastic day and night. Good fun was had by us all and we raised £3,630.19!

Our amazing team of Fiona Thompson, Jackie Anderson, Mandy Gough-Young, Shell Rogers, Alison Borthwick, Emma Lawrence, Helen McNay, Laura Creaney and Jill Hoban Brown would like to thank everyone who supported, donated and helped us on the day. This was greatly appreciated by us all. Now what will we do next?

# Dinosaurs and Volcanos

Samantha Wallace

## Exciting times at school

We began the new school year with the sad news of the passing of John Robertson. All our love and thoughts are with Christine and the boys at this time.

Our new Primary 1 pupils have settled in well and are making an excellent start. They are excited and keen to learn, so fingers crossed that continues!

In P1-2 we had the exciting topic of dinosaurs and all the pupils have been engaged and retained lots of interesting facts. We went on a trip to Annan Museum to see Big Al and the exhibition that went with him. The pupils had a great time and completed lots of different activities.

Primary 3-4 have had a great start to the school year and Miss Handley has settled in well too and is a great addition to our team. They were studying Ancient Egypt and created their own museum. Parents and pupils were invited in to see their exhibits and what a lovely afternoon we had.

P5-7 have been studying Volcanoes and Earthquakes and in groups made their own volcanoes to erupt! Mrs Priestly is in the class full time until Mrs Robertson's return and we appreciate that she has stepped in and joined our team.



# John Drabble asks...

Before drawing boards, what did they go back to?

Which way up does a buttered cat land?

# After the Cairn Valley

Jannie and Sunet du Plessis

We asked Jannie and Sunet if they could send us an update on life after they left Scotland, here it is:

It's been only eight months but it feels as if we left the Cairn Valley ages ago. There are many times when we have vivid recollections and fond memories of a time so precious that we had found it very hard to say goodbye. And yes, we do miss all of you...and Bonnie Scotland!

As you know, we first travelled to Cranbrook, Canada, where our son, Jan-Hendrik, is the minister of Knox Presbyterian Church. Jannie baptised Carina, our wee granddaughter, on the 24<sup>th</sup> February. We stayed until the end of March, spending time with Carina and enjoying the beauty of deep winter in the Canadian Rockies. Jan-Hendrik and Hanlie are doing well and enjoy living in Canada. They love hiking and skiing. They have permanent residence now. Then we moved on to Atlanta (USA) to spend time with Bosman and Charlene. They are also happy where they are, have good jobs, bought a house in Alpharetta and have settled in very well.



With Carina

At the end of April we flew home to South Africa where the sun is always shining. We literally had continuous sunny days for four months, i.e. throughout winter! Safety is a priority in South Africa and we are very blessed to rent a small, two bedroom house for a reasonable price in a secure retirement village, called Retire@Midstream, on the southern outskirts of Pretoria. We have good tenants in our own house, which is now far too big for just the two of us. We enjoy most of our meals on the veranda (called "stoep" or "lapa" in Afrikaans), while watching the birds in the small garden, as well as antelope-like springbok and blesbok in the field right next to us. We also have small deer called "duiker", hare, mongoose, partridge and many other small animals inside the estate. We have lovely neighbours and Sunet's sister and brother-in-law now live in the same retirement village, just a ten minute walk away and Jannie's siblings are just an hour or two away. Our eldest son, Cornel, lives 15 minutes from where we are. He is still doing very well in his job. We often see him and his wife, Rhonwen, when they come for a barbecue or just pop in for coffee. Only time will tell if this is where we'll settle down because property in Midstream Estate is very expensive. We still attend the church where Jannie served for 24 years. It is a 25 minute drive from us. Occasionally we attend a local church called *Church Without Walls*(!).

At the end of June Jan-Hendrik's in-laws, Wicus and Marietjie Kotze, invited us to spend a few days with them on a beautiful farm called Verlorenkloof in Mpumalanga. In July we drove all the way to Upington in the Northern Cape province, where we visited old friends. Jannie was the minister of the Dutch Reformed Church there and Jan-Hendrik and Vian were born there, more than thirty two years ago. From there we drove to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. This wilderness area straddles the border between South Africa and Botswana. We saw oryx, springbok, kudu, steenbok, blouwildebees, zebra, jackal, caracal and many different bird species.

We had a funny encounter with an ostrich. Out of nowhere it ran into our new car from the side and Jannie was quite upset. While we sat worrying about what to do with the poor ostrich lying next to the car, it jumped up, regained its balance in no time, looked at us with contempt and ran off! By the way, no damage to the car! We spent a few nights there, camping with our little camping trailer with a rooftop tent, and then started the long journey to Windhoek. In Windhoek we stayed with Louis and Therese Conradie whom you met in June 2018 when they preached in Dunscore and Moniaive. They are well and send their love.



Family time in Canada

Then we drove to Walvis Bay to be with our youngest, Vian, and his wife Natania. You will remember that they visited us on two occasions in Scotland and he preached in August 2018 when Jannie had his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. We had a lovely time with them, exploring the wonders of the desert, and it passed all too soon. Jannie also had the privilege of leading the church in worship one Sunday. We returned to Pretoria early in August, touring and stopping at places with spectacular scenery, like the Quiver Tree Forest in Namibia and the Augrabies Falls in the Northern Cape. At the end of August we set off for Canada again, to assist Jan-Hendrik and Hanlie in taking care of Carina for 3 months when Hanlie went back to work in September - childcare is very expensive in Canada. However, just before we left for Canada, Hanlie's father, Wicus, was seriously injured in a tragic accident during a cycling event. It was a charity race to raise money for cancer research. Hanlie flew out to be with him and her family. She begged us to fly to Canada as planned, to help Jan-Hendrik with Carina and we did that with aching hearts. Sadly, Wicus passed away and Hanlie returned to us in Canada after the funeral. The Lord's comforting presence has been (and still is) very real and precious to us during this difficult time.

Jannie already had the opportunity to serve here in Canada. In March he preached in Cranbrook and also in Kimberley. In September and October he led the worship for four Sundays at St. Andrew's in Kimberley where there is a vacancy. We trust the Lord to show us where the next opportunity will be. God-willing, we'll spend Christmas in Pretoria. Jan-Hendrik, Hanlie and Carina will also be in South Africa. We hope to celebrate Cornel's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday with him. In early January we will join Jan-Hendrik, Hanlie and Carina, as well as the in-laws, in Hartenbos, a beautiful coastal town along the Cape south coast, to celebrate Carina's first birthday! A few days later, Jan-Hendrik, Hanlie and Carina will return to Canada.

In spite of sad things that happened, in spite of all the long hours of travelling and often saying goodbye to loved ones, in spite of the fact that South Africa is struggling to survive the corruption of the past decade, we are content knowing that we are where the Lord wants us to be now. All of you, and the vacancy of Dunscore and Glencairn-Moniaie, are always in our prayers, "and my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). We hope to see some of you in South Africa in the next year or two!

## Twinning Talk

**Alison Boyes**

### News from Zambia

We have been twinned with a congregation in Zambia for over 10 years. The United Church of Zambia (UCZ) Congregation in Lubuto is in the Copper-belt, near the city of Ndola. The Minister of Lubuto Congregation, Rev Joseph D Simukonda, sends me greetings and news at the beginning of every month. Here is his latest update:



"Good morning to you...we thank God that at least you have someone to provide pastoral care to your congregations....you are always in our thoughts and prayers....as we begin this new month..Lubuto wishes you God's blessings in all your undertakings.

This Sunday (3<sup>rd</sup> Nov) we will be celebrating the Lord's supper. In the month of November we will have nominations for office bearers please remember us in our prayers. We will also have our annual retreat from 14 to 17 November, 2019"

Zambians recently celebrated 55 years of independence - their National Day falls on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The flag as shown above was adopted on this day in 1964: green stands for the nation's lush flora, red for the nation's struggle for freedom, black for the Zambian people, and orange for the land's natural resources and mineral wealth. Additionally, the fish eagle flying above the coloured stripes is intended to represent the people's ability to rise above the nation's problems.

Zambia is presently experiencing drought conditions. When Alison Robertson and I visited Lubuto in April, we saw that the maize plants (staple crop and main food for most Zambians) were brown and parched. This is the second year running that there will be a poor harvest, and people have no doubt that this is a result of climate change. With water levels running low, and most of the electricity coming from hydro plants, the power companies have resorted to load-shedding, so that households are without electricity for long periods of time (sometimes 15 hours a day) and often unpredictably. This has knock on effects, for example the recently reported indefinite closure of a hospital mortuary.



One of the good things about Twinning, I think, is the window it provides into the lives lived by people in a different land from our own, and the dawning realisation that the world is smaller than we think, and that all that really divides us is geography.

At the end of this year, my term as Twinning Coordinator will come to an end. I don't know yet who will be taking over, but I wish that person all the best in what has been a very rewarding and privileged position to hold, and look forward to reading about the future progress of our Twinning with UCZ Lubuto.

## Fairtrade Dunscore

**Alison Borthwick**

The Fairtrade Group, in conjunction with the Gala Committee, had a most successful and enjoyable evening on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September in the Glenriddell Hall tasting Fairtrade wines and some delicious cheese and chutney. We had a very full hall and hoped everyone got a little taste of Fairtrade from it. We thank everyone very much who was involved in the organising of the event and we hope to repeat it next year.



We have supplied Fairtrade Bananas to the Danceathon Group of dancers and volunteers to keep their potassium levels up during the day. The volunteers served lots of lovely Fairtrade tea and coffee during the afternoon and many congratulations goes to the group for dancing solidly for 10 hours to raise money for Alzheimer's Scotland. What an achievement!

A question for you – do you buy Fairtrade in your weekly shopping? If you do what products do you buy? Send your responses to me at [caborthwick@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:caborthwick@tiscali.co.uk). We would be very interested to hear your views and we will follow this up in the next issue of The Digest.

## Tanks in Dunscore

Roy Spence

*As always, Roy has come up with a fascinating look back into the history of our village. This time the history is a little more recent:*

At Springfield, one day in the Spring of 1944, we heard a lot of traffic noises coming from the direction of the Dinning. Then we saw them, tanks, dozens of them coming down the hill towards McCheynston. We immediately went down to watch them going past Edgarton.

They were tanks of an armoured brigade of the 1st Polish Armoured Division, the "Black Devils". Probably so called because of the black tank suits they wore in common with the Royal Tank Regiment and the German Panzer troops. The division had been formed by troops who had escaped from Poland after it had been invaded by Germany and Russia in 1939. After some time defending the East coast of Scotland, some of them were being trained for the liberation of Europe at the tank range at Dundrennan near Kirkcudbright.

They had come overland down Glenesslin (in line abreast, to judge by the dykes that they knocked down!). I don't know why they came over by Lagganhill and Springfieldhill. Possibly a map reading mistake, taking the scenic route or a complicated pincer movement? They went on towards Dumfries to be loaded onto trains for their journey south. They were equipped with Sherman tanks, (nicknamed "Tommy Cookers" or "Ronson Lighters") that were made in America, they each had a crew of five and weighed over thirty tons so they made quite a mess of the roads.



The Polish division landed in Normandy on the 1st of August and helped in the "breakout" and continued advancing through France, Belgium and Holland until the end of the war when they were in Wilhelmshaven in Germany.

It is rather depressing to note that very few of the Polish soldiers, after fighting across Europe, would ever see a Free Poland.

As a ten year old boy I watched these tanks going past and I thought I would like to drive one of these things. Ten years later that was what I was doing!

## Community Council Column Alistair McFadzean

*For very many years it has been Colin Mitchell that has written this column. We now welcome a new Chairman to the Community Council.*

Across Scotland, there have been elections for Community Councils and Dunscore is no exception. We can have up to 11 councillors and seven of the previous Council decided to re-apply and there were two new nominations.

This means that we have nine Councillors and there was no need for an election. These are: Kate Duffin, Ann Hart, Carrie McFadzean, Catherine Duncan, Joe Cook, Allan Todd, Walter Patterson, Tom Spence and Alistair McFadzean. We also have two people who are willing to be co-opted onto the Council: Graham Walker and Gavin Creaney. Hopefully they will be formally brought into the Council at our next meeting and that will take us up to our full compliment of 11.

The four Councillors that are stepping down have a great many years of service between them. They are: Colin Mitchell, Archie Anderson, Morag McKie and Michael Doyle. We offer them our sincere thanks on behalf of the whole Dunscore community for all their hard work over their many years of service. Special thanks must go to Colin who has led the Council through thick and thin with his good humour and integrity in the role of Chairman.

Our new office bearers are: Chairman – Alistair McFadzean, Vice Chairman – Allan Todd, Treasurer – Joe Cook and Secretary – Lesley Ross.

We have secured funding from the Blackcraig Windfarm of £2,635 and therefore have enough funds to purchase two speed signs for the village. It will be wonderful to have these in place after so many years.

If you have any concerns about anything in your area, please contact any of our new Councillors.

# Protesting for our Climate

Sarah Wind-Cowie

Heading to London on the train I was full of anxiety. The weeks building up to my attending the London Climate Protests as a member of Christian Climate Action had been very busy both with work and preparations for the protest. There hadn't been much time for personal reflection or visualisation as to what I would actually be doing other than lots of jokes about trying not to get arrested. But here I was now, hurtling south, with a bag full of prayer flags lovingly made by children at the pre-school and members of the congregation and a heart full of doubts and questions. Was this an act of arrogance on my part? Was I pretending to be some kind of climate hero whereas, in fact, I knew very little about the whole thing and any courage was likely to disappear at the first sign of trouble?



Sarah in the thick of it

When I first considered joining the protests it was to be a part of a Faith Bridge - a multi-faith protest on one of the bridges crossing the Thames near the Houses of Parliament. In the week running up to my departure the police had confiscated most of the equipment and resources being used and forced all protest sites to move into Trafalgar Square. Plans were changing hour by hour and I had no idea what I would be seeing when I arrived.

I was travelling alone but was very lucky in that I have family to stay with in London and I headed straight to my sister's on arrival at Euston. We had an enjoyable yet uneasy evening as new reports came in and then at 9:30 pm we heard that the protestors had been given a 30 minute warning to leave Trafalgar Square as the police were going to clear it. We joked on our way to bed about how I was going to find a protest to join in the morning, not knowing how close to the truth that would be!

After breakfast the next morning I set off for the city. I had decided to head for Trafalgar Square and then try and find out what the plan was. I was worried that I wouldn't be able to find the protestors. As it was, it was all too easy. Vans of police officers were shooting past me with sirens blaring and a helicopter appeared to be circling a few streets away so off I set off in that direction. I stood for a little while taking in the scene. A group of a couple of hundred climate protestors had gathered and were singing and setting out their demands for the government to act boldly on the declaration of a climate emergency. Surrounding these people were cordons of police who were trying to keep them from blocking the road. As people sat down in the road others in the group would sing their support and, when they were carried away by the police more would take their place. Stepping off the pavement to move from being a mere bystander to a protestor was not an easy one but I was welcomed in and any thoughts of changing my mind was hi-jacked by an amiable "could you just hold that please?" as I was handed the end of a large banner! And so it began.

During my few days in London I was part of four protests and I was so moved by the constant goodwill and peacefulness of those I found myself amongst on the streets of London. And their ordinariness. A bigger mixture of people you couldn't imagine. We were from all corners of the U.K., of all ages and backgrounds and cultural histories. But we were drawn together through our righteous indignation both at what we have done to the planet we should be looking after and our fears for the future if governments don't act quickly.



A Grandparents of Extinction Rebellion protest outside Buckingham Palace was like a beautifully slowed down flash mob as people drifted along, caught each other's eyes, smiled, sat down and started singing to the Queen! A huge protest in Trafalgar Square in response to an announcement that it was now illegal for us to protest anywhere in London was extraordinary with passionate speakers and people being fed through the goodwill of others that made me think about the feeding of the five thousand in the Bible. There was no organisation as such but food was passed around and given freely without question. Some home made, some just carried to the square as were bags of apples brought up from a community orchard near Hastings. Having felt rather lonely initially I became grateful that I was alone. I did engage with others but mostly I listened, watched and weighed up

what was happening around me and I felt able to reflect in a way that wouldn't have happened if I'd been there with friends or family.

Although the protests were peaceful emotions ran very high. At my last protest on Whitehall the police were obviously tired and fed up. Many of them had been drafted in from miles away and none of them wanted to be there. As for the protestors their mood had shifted slightly too. In earlier protests there had been a sense of fun, even carnival, with drums and dance alongside serious songs and chants. Now the singing became sad and slow. I saw people like myself crying as they sat down in the road, frightened of what the outcome might be but feeling that the alternative could only be worse. I was very moved by the human strength and conviction around me and so glad to be amongst such people.

It was hard to leave and I arrived back in Dunscore rather exhausted and overwhelmed (and with a very sore throat after all the singing!) but so thankful that I was able to be a part of the Climate Protests and for the wonderful support I had from my friends here. You might also like to know that although the police were stopping anything being hung on railings etc. I gave out the prayer flags to people I met in Trafalgar Square and they taped them to their clothing and wore them! Myself included!

I have fed back to the Church Eco group and we continue to consider how we in Dunscore can work to our best for our beautiful planet and of the futures of all who will come after us.

## Lots to Learn at Pre-School

Lee Mackenzie

We have had a very busy term with lots of children, lots of fun, lots of leaning and lots of activities. We have been finding out more about our food and where it comes from, and as it's Dunscore that necessarily involved lots of tasting. We foraged for apples and blackberries and made enough blackberry and apple crumble to feed the children and their families as well as half of Dunscore!



**Bee Suited**

For harvest this year we thought about other people who aren't as fortunate as us. So for show and tell instead of bringing toys to talk about, we decided to bring in items of food instead. We brought these up to the church with our families so they could be distributed at the food bank.

We have been finding out about the fascinating world of bee and honey. We watched some videos, and made a beehive and some bees using junk modelling. Kath very kindly came to see us to share her bee expertise, along with a comb from her beehive and her spinner. We also had fun trying on her beekeeper's suit.

We hope to get together with Penpont playgroup to see how apple juice is made at Steilhead farm very

soon.

We have been enjoying our trips to the woods, and, thank goodness, most of the time the weather has been kind to us, although fortunately we have our trust tent tarpaulin should the heavens open! Many thanks to Mr Crawford who allows us access to the woods and for providing us with some new logs for our circle. We recently had a fun spooky treasure hunt, looking for witches' fingernails, leaves with black spots where the witch had touched, witches' combs, goblin cups and leaves which the ice witch had touched. We even made some broomsticks.

We enjoyed a trip to Penpont playgroup to get hands on with some interesting animals with "zoolab" who presented "zoo on the broom". We saw tarantulas and frogs and handled Ghost and Boowho who are white and black mice, giant snails, cockroaches, and even a snake. It was great fun and we were very brave.



**Crumble time!**



**It's a snake!**

# Birds of the Season

Lesley Creamer

## Fieldfare and Redwing

What a summer and autumn we've had, if not for humans, certainly for plants, flowers, shrubs and trees which have all produced amazing fruit this year and this is perfect for attracting my two target species this month – the fieldfare and the redwing. They're both members of the thrush family – as you might guess from the abundance of spots on their chests – but unlike the song thrush and mistle thrush which are natives, these two are winter interlopers, migrants from much colder north European countries, over here in search of food, primarily berries and fallen fruit.



**Fieldfare**

The fieldfare is bigger than a song thrush with a bluish-grey head and rump, chestnut back, longish black tail and yellowish chest with masses of chunky 'spots' which are actually more like v-shapes while the redwing is the smallest of our common thrushes and certainly a good bit slimmer than the sturdy fieldfare, with rusty-red flanks and underwing, brown upper parts, buff chest with spots and streaks and really obvious white stripes above the eyes and below its cheeks.



**Redwing**

They're often mixed together in large flocks, fieldfares distinctive in flight with their white underwings compared with the red underwings of the appropriately named redwing. Listen out for the fieldfares' loud cackling chack, chack.

*If the pictures of the birds are in black and white, it is probable that you are reading the paper version of the Digest. If you would like colour pictures throughout the Digest and would like to be among the first to receive your copy, send a message to Matthew at [auchenage@gmail.com](mailto:auchenage@gmail.com) and he will add you to the mailing list. This list also keeps you up to date with coming events and Dunscore Freecycle items.*

## From the Archives

### Five years ago

In a previous edition of Dunscore Digest there was an article about the damage that was caused to the church by the winds and rains last winter, and the possible cost of repairing the roof and preventing further ingress of water. The Congregational Board decided to explore the possibility of applying for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. *Peter Gunnell*

On 14 November, we held a Dunscore Playgroup Reunion in Glenriddell Hall. Mums and Dads of children(!) aged between 17 and 45 enjoyed an evening of nostalgia, good food and lots of wine! *Sheila Anderson*

E.ON has now submitted applications to build two more giant wind farms, at Loch Urr and Benbrack. If planning consent is granted, this will mean another 44 turbines each over 400 feet high blighting the landscape and skies of Dumfries and Galloway. *Caroline Pridham*

The writing group's latest task was to relate a memory in 100 words. Here is mine:

I scrambled up the muddy bank, shocked and choking after almost drowning. That weight of water above me had been terrifying as my feet sought vainly for firm ground beneath. I was 14 years old, afraid of water and meant to be learning to swim. This was the wide and murky river Annan (I lived above it on the hill) and I had just emerged from the notorious Salmon Pool, said to be bottomless! My mother had taken me and my sisters for a swimming lesson, although she remained safely on dry ground. I stay away from deep water now. *Libby McFadzean*

### 10 Years Ago

The play was written by Alison Reid and had starring roles for Christine Sime (Gabriel), Kath Aitken (Director) and John Drabble (the voice of God!). In addition to the contribution from Colin (with Pam's help to set the questions), the play was directed by Kay Keith.

The bad news is that we have been spending far too much time and energy trying to get permission for a sign reading 'Fairtrade Village' to be attached to the 'Welcome to Dunscore' road signs. The council gave us a grant to pay for these signs, but the Department of Transport has said that they would be illegal. *Alison Boyes*

Rock Solid is going strong. Numbers are low, it's true (usually five boys) and we're not seeing the challenging numbers of ten years ago. *Libby McFadzean*

I cycled 1617 miles in 40 days, including three days off. The weather was kind and made the whole journey a pleasure, though very hard work. *Raymond Nelson*

# Sleeping Out for Cash

Alison Boyes

You may remember that last year, some of us braved the winter cold to sleep out at Ellisland Farm without tents or shelters to raise money for Social Bite, the charity which aims to end homelessness in Scotland for good.

For some people, this was their first experience of sleeping out in the open. Some of them enjoyed it, with a sense of adventure and the joy of seeing the stars. Others found it a cold and uncomfortable night. Everybody was glad of hot drink the following morning and a safe, warm home to return to.

Homelessness could happen to any of us. Losing your job, having your marriage break up, suffering from mental health problems or addictions to gambling or alcohol - these are not things which only happen to "other people". In addition, there are countless people who are now fleeing their homes because of conflict or climate change.



In recognition of the scale of these problems, this year the Big Sleepout has gone global! On December 7<sup>th</sup> there will be thousands of people sleeping out in Times Square, New York and 60 other cities across the world. There will also be people arranging Sleepouts in their own towns and villages, and this is what is happening at a venue near you - on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December, at Allanton World Peace Sanctuary.

Toby Lowery, who slept out in the middle of Dunscore on the eve of her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday last year, will be bivvying out with us at Allanton. This is what she says: "I did it alone last year in the street in the village, I did it because I find it very hard to sleep when I think about so many who, through no fault of their own, are forced to sleep out every night. This year I'm part of the Allanton big Sleepout; it's my favourite place to be so it won't be hard. We are not pretending to be Homeless or to really know how it feels but I do know from last year that when all is quiet it concentrates the mind on that moment. I knew too that when I woke up cold and wet that I was loved and I had a place to get warm and dry just a short distance away. Come and join us if you are able but, if not, perhaps the price of the next cup of coffee that you think to buy could come to us."



**A welcome hot drink - Sleepout 2018**

It's not too late to join our team! We would love to have a few more people joining us and helping us to fundraise. This year, half the funds will go to these charities - Unicef, the Institute for Global Homelessness and The Malala Fund. The other half from our Allanton event will go to a local charity, MOOL, which you can read about elsewhere in the Digest.

If you want to stay cosy and dry at home on 6<sup>th</sup> December, please consider helping us with a donation, however small. You can do this by following the link to our fundraising page at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/alison-boyes> (or go to Virgin Money Giving and search for the Allanton Sleepout in Make a Donation) or simply by giving the money to Matthew, Kath or Alison who will donate it on your behalf.

## “Shared Fate” in Dunscore

Pam Mitchell

From October 2017 to March 2018 the exhibition 'Shared Fate' was viewed by more than 15,000 visitors to the Holocaust Memorial Centre in Budapest. This told the story of Jane Haining from Dunscore. Unlike most of the victims of the Holocaust, Jane could have avoided her tragic destiny. Her options were open until the very end. At the outbreak of war in 1939 she was on home leave but decided to travel back to Budapest. In 1940 the Church of Scotland withdrew its staff from Hungary, but she opted to stay. Her decisions were motivated by commitment and responsibility to her girls who she kept safe in the Mission School until she was arrested in April 1944.



**One of the many pictures**

We are hugely privileged to have many of the photographs on display now in Dunscore Parish Church and delighted that they have 'come home' to our village. You can view the exhibition on Sunday 1st December between 1:00 and 5:00 pm or message us if you would like to arrange a different time.

## A New Minister

John Drabble

An advertisement was posted on the Church of Scotland Vacancy website on 6<sup>th</sup> September along with our combined parish profile, which was agreed by both Dunscore and Glencairn & Moniaive Kirk Sessions and was expertly put together and is kept up to date by Matthew Aitken. Do have a look, it is really good! – [www.cairnvalleycalling.org](http://www.cairnvalleycalling.org).

We have agreed a closing date for applications of 15<sup>th</sup> November. Your Nominating Committee has now met five times to agree plans, to discuss and follow up enquiries. Please pray for your Committee and for a successful outcome.

# Massive Outpouring of Love

Alison Boyes

## More about MOOL

This gloriously-named Dumfries charity was set up only a few years ago by Moxie DePaulitte. Moxie is a mother of three small children and was horrified by the plight of Syrian refugee families escaping their war-torn country and making their way across Europe, often facing danger and death en route and hostility and violence when they arrived. Thankful for her family's relative riches and safety, she desperately wanted to do something to help refugees.

In 2015, D&G Council leader Ronnie Nicholson announced that twenty Syrian refugee families would be resettled in the region over the next five years. In an article in the Standard, he said: "We have an opportunity to provide safe new lives for people who have suffered unimaginable trauma in Syria, including torture, violence and persecution. They had ordinary lives before the war in their country and we want to help them get back to normal lives. By hosting Syrians we will enhance the diversity of our region and find willing contributors to job markets and community life."

The council said that this modest number would allow the refugees to access services and that financial support from the Home Office would cover the direct costs of hosting the families. Moxie and her friends wanted to be sure, however that the families received a warm welcome and a friendly transition to their new lives in Scotland. MOOL became an official charity in 2016 and with the support of volunteers, has helped with settling and befriending refugees.

There is also support for those who are still in refugee camps outside the UK. MOOL collects clothing, blankets etc and arranges for their transport. Recently it sent a team of volunteers to help at the Refugee Community Kitchen and Care4Calais.

Here is a message from their Facebook page which sums up the care and compassion with which MOOL carry out their work: "Massive Outpouring of Love is a local charity committed to spreading love, kindness, unity and understanding throughout the region and across the globe. We believe that, together, we can build a better world; one where hatred has no home and people treat others the way that they would like to be treated."

If you would like more information, please look at their [website](#).



## Church News

Colin Mitchell

The introduction of Messy Church as the basis for family services has been a big success with many young families and their parents attending. It has been a joy to see older members of the congregation joining in with the activities as well. Thank you to all those who organise and run these services.

We continue to enjoy the services taken by Rev David McKay, Rev Mark Smith and Rev Tim Harmer as well as by members of the congregation.

The Kirk Sessions of Dunscore and Glencairn & Moniaive agreed to appoint Rev Tim Harmer as an Associate Minister for both Churches. Tim also works with the children in the Primary Schools.

Representatives of both churches serve on the Nominating Committee, chaired by Pam Mitchell, The group is working hard to find a replacement for Rev Jannie du Plessis.

The Connect bible study group meets each week to study the bible. Recently we have been looking at Mark's gospel. The discussions are wide ranging and very informative as well as being great fun.

## Flying towards Christmas

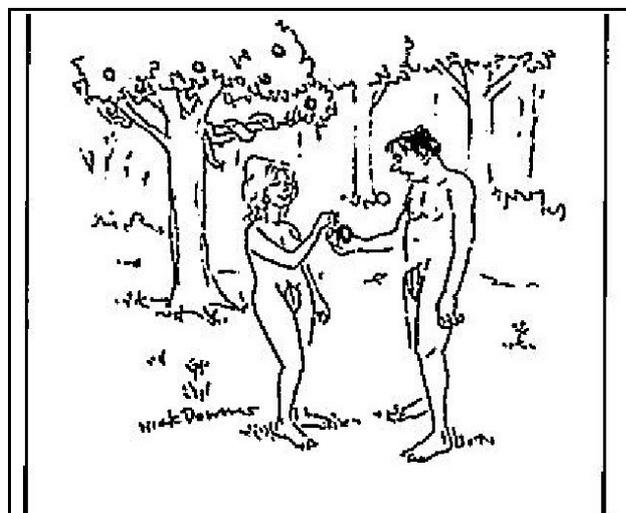
### Events at the Flying Pig

6<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Quiz night, The Inquizitor is in the Christmas mood and promises prizes for all. Starting at 8:30pm

8<sup>th</sup> December - Winter barbecue bar open 2:00 pm, serving food appropriately 2:30pm

19<sup>th</sup> December – Carol singing from 7:30 pm

20<sup>th</sup> December - Games Night 8:30pm



It's locally sourced

## 30 Years a Councillor

Colin Mitchell

After 30 years serving on the Community Council I decided not to stand in the recent election. Here are a few memories of what the Community Council dealt with and achieved in the 90s:

**Restarted the Gala in 1990** – The gala had stopped running and we decided to re-start it. It was initially run in the park on quite a small scale. Thanks to lots of support from the community it grew in popularity and a Gala Committee was formed in 1994. It is wonderful to see how these small beginnings have grown into the gala of today.

**Garden Area opposite the War Memorial** - This was just a field and lots of work and fund raising took place to create the garden area as we see today. The area was extended to be the Millennium Wood with the help of the Dalgonar Estate.

**Firework night** – we used to have a big firework display and bonfire. Funds to purchase fireworks were supplied by the then District Council. Eventually the funding ceased and the event stopped running.

**Problems with potholes** – this problem continues!

**Footpath from Moss side to the prefabs** (as they all were then) – after lots of lobbying this path was built.

**Glenriddell Hall refurbishment** – Funds were raised to carry this out.

**Speeding traffic** – this problem continues!

**Concern about wood lorries** – this problem continues

**Roadside rubbish** – the cubs collected 15 bags of rubbish – this problem continues.

**Twinning with French villages** – this twinning still continues.

**Telephone exchange upgrade** – lots of lobbying with BT took place to have the exchange upgraded to digital.

**Footpath from Thoughtgate to Dunscore** – this still has not been achieved

**Christmas tree** – we still have a tree erected at the cross

To end the 90s, at the Millennium, Dunscore was awarded the Scottish Rural Village of the Year following massive fundraising by the Community Council in conjunction with the church. Most of the funds were donated to Wateraid to bring drinking water to villages in Ethiopia

Since the 90s your Community Council worked hard for the Dunscore community. Using Windfarm Community Benefit funds we have supported Dunscore Pre-School, Dunscore Primary School, the Gala, the Twinning Association, the Flying Pig start up, Glenriddell Hall, Community Transport, an Art Show, a Cinema Club, Speddoch Hall, The Heritage Centre, Community Council (village flower tubs) and the Bowling Club.

We also worked on Safer Routes to School, installing a defibrillator, lobbying for a the Health Centre, keeping a Post Office service in the village, having the War Memorial renovated, having footpaths marked, running an information service via e mail, placing Tom Carrick seats around the area, clearing snow, gritting paths and roads, celebrating the Queen's Jubilee with a street party, gained funding to repair the village clock, having a memorial wall erected in the graveyard and lots more.

Thank you to all who have served with me on our Community Council and I wish the new Community Council, chaired by Alistair McFadzean, every success. I will miss the banter at the meetings but will not miss the dozens of emails and letters!

Dunscore Kirk Session extends an invitation to all members and friends to the service on:

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 11:45 am

When Holy Communion will be celebrated in Dunscore Church.

All are welcome to share Communion



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

# Our Associate Minister

*Tim Harmer has been appointed as our Associate Minister so we wanted to find out a bit more about his background and what the role will entail.*

**What made you decide to become a vicar?** I was ordained at the age of 48. I had previously worked as a PE Teacher, Naval Officer and Civil Servant. I came to faith as a Christian in my thirties and as I got more involved with Church life I increasingly felt called by God to ordained ministry.

**Can you tell us a bit about your training?** I spent three years at theological college in my mid forties which involved selling our house and moving with June and the family to Nottingham. The course involved academic study and practical placements. So I spent some time in hospital chaplaincy, in a secular workplace - the local racial equality council, on mission and in a parish placement shadowing a vicar. June joined in with some of this.

**Did you have to work as a curate for some time? What was that like?** I had a good curacy which involved another move with June and the family to a large busy parish south of Birmingham. As curate you work as an ordained minister alongside your training vicar who ensures you get involved in the full range of church and parish life. My training vicar and I remained firm friends after we left to move on to my own parish. I learnt a lot from him, he was an amazing guy and not afraid of breaking new ground. Sadly he died a couple of years ago.

**Can you tell us a little bit about life as a vicar?** I moved after three years (yet another house move for June and the family) to a parish nearer to Birmingham with a large medieval stone church. It was very popular for weddings. As a vicar the buck stopped with me. I was in charge of the worship life of the church, chair of the Church Council, Chair of Governors at the church primary school and on a number of local civic committees including the local alms houses. There were highs and lows with some conflict which is inevitable when you are trying to move things on, but we spent seven happy years there. We then moved to Cumbria where I took on a post as Rural Dean and Deanery Missioner whilst leading two rural churches as part of a ministry team across a wide area to the west of Kendal (the Deanery is rather like the Presbytery and the Rural Dean is the Chair). This is where our daughter met her soon to be farmer husband Michael. I then retired after another seven years but got bored and went back to part time work as a retired minister to lead the church at Coniston before returning to retirement and the move to Dunscore.

**What did you enjoy most?** Being alongside people as they deepened and grew in their faith.

**How does the Church of Scotland compare to the Church of England?** It is different, based on the Presbyterian system of Church governance. We enjoy the informality and lack of fussiness in the worship life here. The Church of England can be very formal. We have been made to feel very welcome by the congregation in Dunscore. We love the friendliness and sense of fun in church life here. In particular we really like the willingness to embrace change and try new ways of reaching people.

**Given that your training was in the Church of England, what was the process of becoming an Associate Minister in the Church of Scotland?** There is much greater recognition and cooperation in ministry across the denominations these days reflecting the fact that we are all part of the one universal Church. As I have become more involved in leading worship and other aspects of ministry here as a Reverend, particularly during the vacancy, I suggested to Colin, our Session Clerk, and the Interim Moderator Rev Stuart Mill, that perhaps I should take on a more formal arrangement in terms of ministry. Stuart Mill has been very good in pursuing this with the Presbytery and they have suggested the role of Associate Minister to the linked parishes.

**Since you are already leading services and going into the school, how will being an Associate Minister change your current role within Dunscore Church?** I really don't see a lot changing. I am 72 and, as June keeps reminding me, retired so I will continue to offer support in any way I can to the parish and to the new minister when he or she arrives.

Many thanks Tim for sharing with us and for all that you do!

## Church Contacts

Interim Moderator: Rev Stuart Mill Phone: 01848 331191 email: [stuartmill1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stuartmill1@hotmail.co.uk)

Session Clerk: Colin Mitchell Phone: 820455 email: [c.mitchell50@btinternet.com](mailto:c.mitchell50@btinternet.com)

Editor: Matthew Aitken Phone: 820448 email: [auchenage@gmail.com](mailto:auchenage@gmail.com)

Website: [www.dunscorechurch.co.uk](http://www.dunscorechurch.co.uk)

*Dunscore Parish Church – Registered Charity Number: SC016060*

*Congregation Number: 080454*

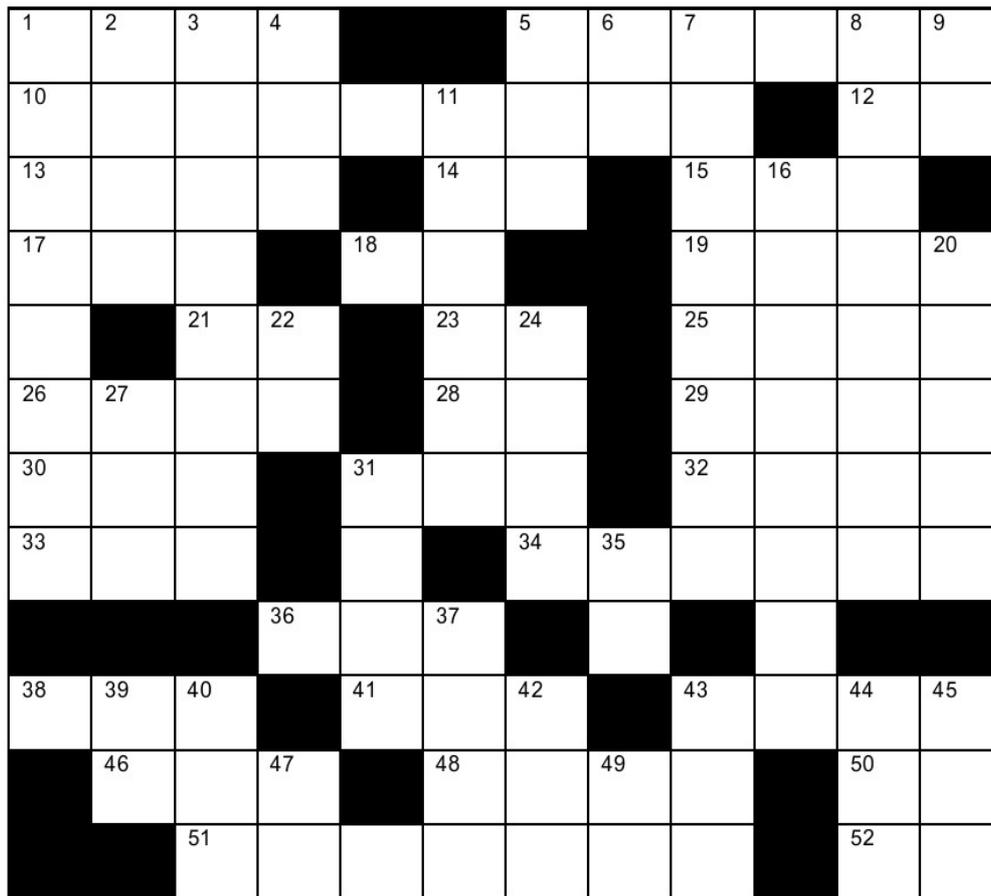
## Community Council Contacts

Community Council Chair: Alistair McFadzean Phone: 820398

Community Council Secretary: Lesley Ross 740501

# Digest Crossword

This is a first for the Digest and we have to thank Margaret Bryson for creating the crossword and allowing us to use it. You should spot a seasonal message when you have solved the puzzle.



## Across:

- 1 and 5 Given on a special occasion (4, 6)
- 10 Go along with (9)
- 12 Keep quiet! (2)
- 13 To have with a fish or on a shoulder (4)
- 14 Join to be all at sea (2)
- 15 The cat's seat (3)
- 17 Garden tool (3)
- 18 "\_ Kill a Mocking Bird" (2)
- 19 Goes with proper (4)
- 21 A definite negative (2)
- 23 An afterthought to a letter (2)
- 25 An encyclopaedia perhaps (4)
- 26 A security device (4)
- 28 A wide shoe or a phone company (2)
- 29 A country south of Iran (4)
- 30 The original of metals (3)
- 31 Everyone (3)
- 32 Could this be short for Matilda? (4)
- 33 Follows "des" to advertise it (3)
- 34 One of the first rules of learning (6)
- 36 For youngsters who want to fly (3)
- 38 The follow on from 36 across (3)
- 41 Certainly not "your" (3)
- 43 A procedure in hospital (4)
- 46 A tiny mouthful (3)
- 48 Could be short for Rudolf (4)
- 50 You may pay your road tax here (2)
- 51 Almost professors at University (7)
- 52 A lung disease (2)

## Down:

- 1 A single man (8)
- 2 A returning sound (4)
- 3 Can be life or social (8)
- 4 Summit (3)
- 5 Pale (3)
- 6 Not going out (2)
- 7 Evidence of illness (8)
- 8 A rough calculation (8)
- 9 Still calling for silence (2)
- 11 Move along (6)
- 16 Sweet smelling (8)
- 20 A gate in Ypres (5)
- 22 Alright (2)
- 24 Auction (4)
- 27 100 in a Danish crown (3)
- 31 A singer (4)
- 35 That is (2)
- 37 A type of cheese (4)
- 39 \_ good \_ gold (2)
- 40 Tree (3)
- 42 Regret (3)
- 43 Secret Intelligence Service (3)
- 44 Appropriate (3)
- 45 A wealthy person (slang) (3)
- 47 Keep fit in school (2)
- 49 Medical or academic? (2)