



Dunscore Church Family Notices

Registered Scottish Charity SC016060, Congregation Number 080454

Minister - Rev Mark Smith

Manse: 01387 820475. Mobile: 0776 215 2755

Email: Mark.Smith@churchofscotland.org.uk

Facebook: Rev Mark Smith

Zoom link to join our services online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86939887756>

11.30 Sunday 3 December 2023 ADVENT SUNDAY

READING – Mark 13:24-37

A Message from our Minister:

ADVENT starts today! A time of preparation - strictly speaking a penitential season in theological terms! Each of the four Sundays of Advent carries a background theme - Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love - as we are reminded of the three 'dimensions' of Jesus impact: Future, Present, Past.

As with Lent, we remember our need of Jesus so that our celebration may be enriched as we recall what He did for us in becoming a baby, a vulnerable human-being.

There is lots going on across the valley, in our villages and beyond. Events and activities to bring people together in the darkening days as we approach mid-winter. The darkening is more than just seasonal and meteorological, for so many in our world it is psychological, spiritual, and oppressive.

So we use the themes of Advent as spurs to prayer - asking that others may know the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that Jesus offers, not just grabbing them for ourselves but looking to share them with those around us. After all it is a season for giving, not just receiving!

Thanks must go to those who have worked so hard in preparing our buildings for the season. It's great to have such bright and cheerful decoration to lift our celebrations!

God Bless,

Mark

PS don't feel bad about having two extra chocolates in your Advent Calendar. If you've already eaten them, I forgive you. If you've left them ... well done, now pass them on!

PRAYER for this week: *As the adventure of Advent begins
I prepare to meet with You, God.
I bring my hopes and expectations
I prepare myself for what You want of me.
May You find me ready and waiting.*

PRAYER THEME - Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be alert and hopeful, ready and waiting.

Thursday 7 Dec:

7.30pm - **EMILY SMITH** in concert in Dunscore Church (tickets £12 from Colin M)

Friday 8 Dec:

7.30 for 8pm **Christmas Quiz Night** in the Flying Pig, Dunscore

Next Sunday 10 Dec:

10.30am - **Messy Christingle** in Dunscore Church. We will be collecting gifts for the Standard Toy Appeal at this service. Please bring gifts **unwrapped**. If you are not at the Messy Christingle could you please hand in/leave presents with Colin Mitchell (cottage opp the Glenriddel Hall) **on or before Sunday 10th December.**

2pm - **CAIRN CHORUS** in concert **in Dunscore Church (£10 on door)**

from 2.30pm - **Winter BBQ** at the Flying Pig, Dunscore

7pm - **ADVENT PEACE Prayer & Reflection** in Dunscore Church

12 December 2023 Kirk and **Session and Board Meeting** at 7.30pm

14 December 2023 at 7.30pm **Carol Singing at/in the Flying Pig** at 7.30pm

Special events coming up:

Four brilliant pre-Christmas musical events

- **Thursday 7 Dec** at 7.30pm in Dunscore Church.
Emily Smith & Jamie McLellan "Songs for Christmas". £12 (£10 for children).
- **Sunday 10 Dec** at 2pm in Dunscore Church.
Cairn Chorus "Little Gifts of Light". (£10)
- **Saturday 16 Dec** at 3.30pm in Closeburn Church.
Dalgarno Singers "Christmas Concert". (£10 - children free)

- **Sunday 17 Dec** at 11.30am **The Christmas orchestra** will perform again at our morning service. We provide a finger buffet after the service and we hope you will all contribute to this joyful occasion.

Eco Snippet.

Gift wrapping paper - Avoid anything embellished with foil or glitter as it can't be recycled. Don't forget to remove sticky tape before adding the paper to your recycling bin. Receiving items from internet shopping? The brown paper packaging makes great wrapping paper after a little straightening and using string to fasten gives it a personal rustic effect.

The First Base Food Bank: IF YOU CAN: Please donate through 'Just Giving' online - www.justgiving.com/firstbase or Mark Frankland would be delighted to receive cheques made out to 'The First Base Food Agency' at First Base Food Bank 6 Buccleuch Street, Dumfries DG1 2NH. or I (Sheila) will be happy to take a donation in church and send it. Many thanks for your help. Tel. 01387 820236 or e-mail sheila69@btinternet.com

Please send any items for next week's CFNs by Friday afternoon to Sheila Anderson at sheila69@btinternet.com Tel. 820236.