



Church Family Notices

17th November 2024

ALL Together. NOW!! Family Service

Time: 10:00am

Join the Service Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86939887756>

Minister

Rev Mark RS Smith



01387 820475



07762 152755



mark.smith@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk

Colin Mitchell



01387 820455

Find Us On



dunscorechurch.org.uk



Dunscore Church



Cairn Valley Churches



A Message from our Minister

I know that there are quite a few 'bugs' and 'germs' around in our communities at the moment. We're told that some people are more vulnerable than others ... yet we can all succumb to the various viruses which circulate the globe and come our way in Winter.

This is like life ... although some of us may appear more vulnerable than others, we are all subject to the vagaries of life – trauma, tragedy, the emotional rollercoaster of relationships, etc. None are exempt – however healthy you feel physically, however carefully you manage your life, however wealthy you are, wherever you live, life strikes!

In the midst of all that life stuff we need to know where to turn.

May I recommend God!?

That's what St Andrew did. He brought people to Jesus, the One he knew could help, whatever the situation. That's what our congregations seek to do – point people to Jesus. Andrew didn't always know the answers or understand the questions people had, but he knew where they could get all that they needed. Jesus.

Come and find out for yourself.

God Bless,

Mark

PS I'm 'off' this week so please contact Colin Mitchell (Dunscore 820455), Nan Tait (Moniaive 200403), or Rev Tim Harmer (Dunscore 820861) if you need any help or information.

Church and Parish News

Hymn / Worship song choices.

If you have a favourite hymn or worship song please send it to Mark and he will include it in one of our services. This might not be immediately but will be slotted in when the service theme is appropriate.

Christmas Ceilidh Friday 6th December Dumfries YMCA Lochside Road Dumfries.

Listen to or dance to the superb Bogle Mufty band. 7.30pm start. Bring your own food and drink. Raffle. Tickets £10 from alyrobbo@hotmail.com 01387 255722, If you can't make it donations for the raffle would be greatly appreciated. In aid of Dunscore church, Cystic Fibrosis, Dumfries YMCA and Dumfries Choral Society

Cairn Chorus concert

Tickets are now on sale for the Cairn Chorus concert "and to the earth be peace" taking place in Dunscore Church on Saturday 21st December at 4pm. Tickets are priced at £10 full / £5 under 26 / free for under 13s and can be purchased online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cairn-chorus>

For more information visit www.cairnchorus.co.uk

Roaming through Romans with Connect.

Our Connect Bible Study Group is currently being held on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm and looking at Romans from the New Testament. Connect is always welcoming and lively whilst improving our understanding of the bible and our relationship with God. If you are looking to perhaps enhance your own bible studies, whilst surrounded by a fantastic group of friendly and knowledgeable people, then Connect really could be the group for you. Please email Tim Harmer at timharmer95@gmail.com for more details.

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 21/11/24	7:30pm	Connect: Roaming Through Romans in Dunscore Church
Sunday 24/11/24	10:00am	Together with KiKs + BAPTISM in Dunscore Church
	11:30am	Family Worship in St Ninian's, Moniaive

This Week's Prayer

We praise You, Living God,
for showing us in Scripture and in the world, that:
trust can triumph;
longings can be fulfilled;
wounds can be healed;
circumstances can change;
dreams can come true;
the Light of Your Kingdom
can overcome the destructiveness of darkness;
and Your song of Redemption will never be silenced.

Prayer Theme:

Thank God that, through Jesus, things can be different for us.

Eco Snippet

A great alternative to harsh chemical descalers, distilled white vinegar works wonders on limescale. For shinier, limescale-free taps, soak a cloth in a solution of equal parts distilled white vinegar and water. Wrap it around the tap and leave it to do its thing overnight. Remove the cloth, rinse and dry the tap in the morning. To unclog a limescale-crusting shower head, unscrew it and soak it in a solution of equal parts white vinegar and water to banish limescale. Never use vinegar on gold taps, though.

Musings From The Manse

In case you missed you missed Mark's seasonal thoughts, comments and wonderings in his "Musings from the Manse" blog, here is the November edition:

As Remembrance passes, how do you react?

Are you reliving the Lawrence of Arabia sequence ... Christmas approaching ever so slowly through the haze of life, building the anticipation and tension to an almost unbearable level?

Are you more of a Back to the Future person ... wanting Christmas to be like you think it was, how you remember it from your youth, yet somehow sensing that it will be just the same as always?

Are you a Wall-E ... carrying on with the normality of life and its routines until suddenly Christmas interrupts, like a polished, shiny EV dropping from the sky?

Survey over!

So we enter ADVENT – a time of preparation for the big celebrations, a time when we are reminded that Jesus is three-dimensional (past, present, future), a time when we think about HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE. How will you get ready?

Perhaps we should first decide what it is we are getting ready for!?

I suspect that that is where many of us go wrong at Christmas. We are getting ready for the wrong things ... eating to excess, straining our credit limits, re-gifting to the 'right' people, children struggling with old-fashioned words or dodgy scripts, finding the ideal matching jumpers or costumes for the children, planning a trip to the Boxing Day sales, avoiding sprouts, spending time with people we normally avoid, etc.

Although the timing of our Christmas celebration in the West has links with the old Mid-Winter and Solstice, the battle against darkness and the return of the light, it is about more than that.

Christmas is actually about how much God loves you. We sometimes miss that in the familiar stories and songs. This year try to hear those stories and songs with new ears. Try and see them with new eyes. Try and receive them with new hearts!

Back to the movies ...

Is your life feeling like a desert as you wait for something to happen, someone to come over the horizon and rescue you? Jesus rode on a donkey – meek yet majestic!

Are you wanting to recapture some ideal time from your past or hoping to re-invent the present? Jesus is the same, yesterday, today, forever!

Do you feel surrounded by other people's mess, working tirelessly to please others, or getting swamped by the chaos of life's debris field? Follow the star to Bethlehem, to Jesus the Light of the world, who came down from Heaven for you (and would have done even if no-one else existed)!

Whatever your expectations, hopes, needs, try to make your own Christmas (whatever traditions there are in your family) about Love, Hope, Peace and Joy. Don't just open presents ... open yourself. Open your heart.

So why not join us at Dunscore Church:

to discover the real depth of Love – the Love that brought Jesus to Bethlehem all those years ago;

to find the comfort of real inner Peace – the Peace that breaks through the noise and chaos;

to experience the deep Joy of knowing you are loved by the One who invented Love!

Just as Mary and Joseph travelled in Hope to Bethlehem, not knowing what to expect next, so you may be surprised by what God has for you – if only you are open to it!

May God Bless you.

REV MARK SMITH, DUNSCORE PARISH CHURCH

And Finally...

Matthew Aitken's Dunscore Church 200th Centenary Book Review

It's an easy read with so many fascinating facts and wee snippets all relating to Dunscore Church and the life in and around the church.

There were many times when I laughed out loud and also numerous times when I said: "Listen to this...". For example, did you know that in the 1920s the Kirk Session was still involved and recording when a child was born in "uncleanliness" and both the child's mother and the father were dealt with according to the law of the church. In 1958 there was a lot of discussion about purchasing a car for the minister – consideration was given to a bubble car although these were felt to "not fall within the dignity of the appointment".

The book is a delight, get your copy from the church for just £10. All proceeds to Dunscore Church.



**Please send any CFN items for November to Sheila Anderson, by Noon on Friday, at
sheila69@btinternet.com**