



Church Family Notices

5th January 2025

Service Time: 10:00am (see below for other services and times)

Readings: Matthew 2: 1-12

A Message from our Minister:

Welcome to AD2025! May God Bless you with Peace and Joy!

Don't forget what the AD stands for: Anno Domini – the Year of the Lord. Not PC today, but essential for us on our journey of faith. We stand in the Lord's time, seeking His Way for our lives, needing His Blessing and support through our lives, whatever we face.

The visit of the Magi to Bethlehem is known as Epiphany, or The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles (there will be a test!). We think of an epiphany as a sudden, dramatic, revelation leading to a change of life direction – think of Paul on the road to Damascus. You may have had some yourself over the years. We often hope that a new year will bring such a change for us, hence our resolutions!

The Magi studied the skies for signs of change, believing that all things were interlinked. Many of us studied the skies for the Aurora – I hope you weren't disappointed. However, the Magi didn't just note down the new star they saw, they followed it, acting to confirm what they believed. That's good scientific method – testing a hypothesis. We don't know how they reacted when they got home, but we know that they were the first Gentiles (non-Jews) to see the Messiah, the new King, promised in Scriptures by the prophets for the faithful and signalled in the sky for the rest of the world to see!

Understanding the science behind the Aurora shouldn't diminish the wonder of seeing it. It shouldn't stop us wanting to see it again – each manifestation is unique.


Following Jesus is like that. Understanding more of what Jesus has done for us and how much He loves us shouldn't diminish the wonder of knowing Him. It shouldn't stop us wanting to know Him more, follow Him more closely, become more like Him, receive His blessings more – a unique experience for each of us.


Let's make 2025 a true AD – The Year of our Lord.

God Bless, Mark

Minister

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Find Us On

 dunscorechurch.org.uk

 Dunscore Church

 Cairn Valley Churches

Join the Service Online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86939887756>

Dunscore Parish Church Worship in Dunscore Church is for everyone, regardless of age, nationality, status, or ability. We'd be delighted to welcome you.

PRAYER for this year: *Almighty God, praise and thanks be to You!*

We give You thanks for the blessings You have poured out upon us, for the difference You have made to our lives. For gifts beyond measure: not the gold, frankincense and myrrh the Magi brought to Jesus, but gifts of forgiveness way beyond what we deserve, love everlasting, light in our darkness, hope in our despair.

We give thanks for the constancy of Your being, eternal, unchanging, reliable and secure, which grounds us when life around us seems constantly in flux. We give thanks for the glimpses we catch of You unexpectedly as we go about our daily living: glimpses in the light and in the dark; glimpses that uphold and sustain us.

Almighty God, praise and thanks be to You!

PRAYER THEME – Remember to thank God for past blessings and seek Him in 2025!

Next Sunday:

10am – ALL Together ... NOW! in Dunscore Church

11.30am – Family Worship at St Ninian's, Moniaive



ALL Together NOW!

Please do try and make it along to our new relaxed and fun, family- friendly services and support the younger members of our congregation. These are usually on the second Sunday of the month. The next All Together Now outing will be next Sunday 12 January. They tend to include arts & crafts, dramatic readings, songs with Claudia, worship and, of course, snacks & refreshments for everyone. All Ages – All Stages – Bring a friend – Bring the Family!

Eco Snippets

This week there is a bonus Eco Snippet! One left over from last month and a new one!

Well now that the light nights are coming and thoughts turn to garden planning and protection for our early crops, what to use?

Fleece is normally the number one Go-To but, according to RHS thoughts, perhaps we should invest in an alternative, woven polythene material. Under the name of Envirotect, it is pleasant to use, washable and will last at least five years. A bit more costly but spread over five years pretty effective.

If you were fortunate to receive some cards this Christmas, instead of just putting them in the recycling bin, why not try to reuse them creatively? Cut some into interesting shapes to make mini jigsaw puzzles for children; use the picture part as a postcard or for your shopping list; or make tags or cards for next year. Remember that recycling is good, but reusing is even better.