

# DUNLOP DIARY

December  
2023



Caldwell and Dunlop Church of Scotland  
Scottish Charity No.SC000447

## Dear friends & neighbours,

Every year we wait in anticipation, looking forward to a message which will change our lives and give fresh meaning to this season. You may think that I'm referring to the Christmas sermon, but I'm actually talking about the annual unveiling of Christmas TV advertisements!

High Street shops, supermarkets and on-line retailers all vie for our attention. With great care they create and premiere a very short film which they hope will entertain, amuse and engage us. They aim to tug at our heart-strings, to make us smile or even shed a wee tear, to make us feel good and most of all, to make us spend lots of money!

At a time when so many of us are

affected by the increased cost of living, it's more important than ever that we resist being lured by the adverts into over-spending or getting into debt. We remember that the true message of the season centres around God being born as a helpless baby into a poor family in a hostile environment.

God is always with us, always for us. He never wants us to come to any harm, and that includes financial harm.

Dunlop Primary School is currently providing a range of free school clothing and other items, as well as food parcels in partnership with East Ayrshire Council.

You can go and pick up items in the

vestibule, without needing to ring the bell or go into the school itself. If you, or someone you know, would like to pick up some of the food or clothing available, but aren't able to go for any reason, then you can contact me privately, and I'll arrange to pick up and deliver whatever is needed.

Now in December, we continue to wait in anticipation through Advent for the Christmas message of peace, joy, love and hope!

May every festive blessing be yours,

**Rev Alison McBrier, Minister**

**T: 01560 673686**

**E: [amcbrier@churchofscotland.co.uk](mailto:amcbrier@churchofscotland.co.uk)**

### Dunlop Kirk Services

Sunday Morning Worship,  
11.30am in the church

Our Sunday worship is also available online through the Dunlop Church Facebook page and the Church website (<https://dunlopkirk.org.uk>), or our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@dunlopchurchofscotland4062/streams>).

We also run a Zoom session on Sunday mornings — letting us have a chat and watch the service together.

All welcome!

### The Return of the Christingle!

Monday, 4th December, 6pm

All are welcome at our Christingle Service.

Around 6.30pm we'll walk up Main Street with our Christingles to the Church Hall for the Christmas Lights Switch-On (6:45pm), accompanied by the singing of the School Choir and followed by festive goodies and refreshments in the Church Hall, and a chance to admire the village lights which will cheer us through the dark winter nights.

Margo McMurdo, Session Clerk

### Dunlop and Caldwell, Exploring the Bible

Tuesdays, 10.30am via Zoom

If you want any information on the above, or would like to join our email information list, please email Margo:

**[contact@dunlopkirk.org.uk](mailto:contact@dunlopkirk.org.uk)**

### Erskine Hospital

Thank you to all who attended the Remembrance Service on Sunday 12th November. £200 has been donated to Erskine Hospital.

# Church Flowers & Readers

## Welcome Team

### December

Alan Young

Jim Mundell

Kristeen Hare

Alistair Martin

Christine Reid

Carol Fraser

### January

Mike Blyth

Carolyn Blyth

David Clement

Isabel Kerr

Mitchell Wilson

Charlotte McGuinness

### February

Jimmy Howie

Marilyn Bell

John Campbell

Alison Howie

Andrew Pinkerton

## Readers

### December

3rd Bob Brown

10th Alison Howie

17th Christine Wallace

24th Mike Blyth

31st David Sinclair

### January

7th David Clement

14th Lynne Moss

21st Anne Sinclair

28th Roy Wyllie

### February

4th Marilyn Bell

11th David Sinclair

18th Sheila Wyllie

25th Brian McGaw

## Flowers

### December

3rd Christine Wallace

10th Anne Young

17th Beverly Kirk

24th Dorothy Brown

31st Kirsteen Hare

### January

7th Fiona Walker

14th Anne Young (Lugton)

21st Nancy Graham

28th Sadie Reid

### February

4th Kristeen Hare

11th Margaret Robb

18th Margaret Hunter

25th Netta Howie

## Deaths

November 2023

Mrs Clara McLardy

Mrs Linda Pinkerton

*Blessed are they that mourn  
for they shall be comforted*

## The Caldwell Column

The recent Brunch for Erskine in Caldwell Church hall raised £700. A great effort by all who helped, and thanks to those who attended and donated.

### Soup and Sandwich Lunches...

are served every Friday in Caldwell Church Hall, 12-1.45pm, with a special Christmas lunch on Friday 15th December.

We will start again on 12th January 2024.

The lunch includes a choice of soups, sandwiches or rolls, a chocolate biscuit, and tea, coffee or juice.

The cost of the lunch is £2 for children and £4 for adults, and everyone is welcome to attend in a warm and friendly place.

### Christingle Childrens Service...

will be held on Christmas Eve at 6.30pm. Please come along with your family and enjoy this special time in church with the children.

### Ongoing activities...

**Seniors Group** meets every Tuesday morning in the Church Hall from 10.30am-12 noon for fellowship, lively debate, catch-up, coffee and biscuits.

**Bible Exploration Group** meets online between 10.30 and 11.30am on Tuesdays for analysis and discussion of selected bible passages and themes.

**Mobile Theological Library** is free, details from Paul Burgess at paulandcathie@gmail.com

**Check the notice board** for details of the Christmas Card delivery service, and also our Watch Night and Christmas Day services.

## **Dunlop Kirk Christmas Services**

**Sunday, 3rd Dec, 11.30am**  
First Sunday in Advent

**Monday, 4th Dec, 6pm**  
Christingle Service

**Sunday, 10th Dec, 11.30am**  
Second Sunday in Advent

**Sunday, 17th Dec, 11.30am**  
Third Sunday in Advent

**Sunday, 24th Dec, 11.30am**  
Fourth Sunday in advent Nativity Play

**Christmas Eve: 24th Dec, 11.15pm**  
Watchnight Service in the church  
(Carols from 11.15pm; service at 11.30pm)

**Christmas Day: 25th Dec, 10.45am**  
Short Family Service in the church  
(Please note earlier service time)

**Sunday, 31st Dec 11.30am**  
Worship in the church



## **Tuesday Coffee, Tea and a Chat**

On Tuesdays from 10 – 11.30am, we invite you to join us for our weekly morning coffee, tea, biscuits and chat in the Church Hall.  
**All very welcome.**

*\*Christmas break from 19th Dec. Back 9th Jan.\**

## **Christmas Appeal: East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action**

This year there will again be a collection of gifts for children affected by homelessness at Christmas.

Please mark the gifts for a boy or a girl (if relevant) and with an age range.

Please note that while gifts for all ages are very welcome, the age groups we are often short of are babies and toddlers, and teenage boys and girls. We distribute gifts for vulnerable infants and their families, as well as for young care leavers.

There will also be a collection of tinned goods for the residents in temporary accommodation, that is in the hostels and temporary flats throughout East Ayrshire so that they can have a festive meal on Christmas Day.

Donations of cash to help with the purchase of these goods will also be welcome if you are unable to arrange a gift.

Could the gifts please be brought to church by **Sunday, 10th December** so that they can be delivered to Kilmarnock for distribution before Christmas.

If you are unable to bring them to church, or would prefer to donate money, please contact: Margo McMurdo 01560 484824 or Lesley Beaton 01560 484989.

**We appreciate the support this appeal always receives from the congregation and the wider community.**

**Margo McMurdo, Session Clerk**

### **Cards for Christmas**

Our beautiful cards, featuring two of the most stunning stained glass windows in the church, are available with or without a Christmas insert.

**Special price £1 each**

### **Stained Glass Booklet**

With its fascinating details about all the windows, it makes a lovely gift. Easily wrapped and easily posted.

**£5 per copy**

**For sale in the church**

*or contact*

*Carolyn 01560 484846*

*Sheila 01560 480919*

## **Dunlop Musical Memories**

The last meeting of the year for Dunlop Musical Memories will be Wednesday 13th December from 2-4pm in the Church Hall.

Dunlop Primary school choir will join us for the afternoon and entertain us with some well known tunes. This will be followed by a welcome cuppa and cake. We will also hold our annual grand Christmas raffle so

make sure to get your raffle tickets. Santa also might pop in for a quick visit if he's not too busy, so please come along and join us!

A wee reminder that there is NO meeting in January. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to Dunlop Musical Memories on St. Valentine's Day, 14th February 2024.

## **DUNLOP S.W.I.**

*Wednesday, 31st January, 2pm*  
*Dunlop Church Hall*

Speaker: Jim Carruth, Poet and Author

Competitions:  
Flask of Soup, Three Biscuits  
Both own choice

**All Welcome**

## Dunlop Gallery

Our amazing Christmas exhibition, featuring the work of local artists, is showing now in the Conservatory Café.

Drop in to see the paintings until Thursday 14 December, when the café is open or while the hall is open for other events - and if you're interested in a painting, please call Ellenor on 07811 045600 or Shiona on 07506 951620.

The Dunlop Gallery 2024 Calendar, with photos by local photographers is on sale at the Post Office and will be available at the Christmas Fair in the hall on 2nd December.

And please keep taking photos for next year's photo competition - the theme for which is "Dunlop and Lugton Gates and Doors" - your photo could be included in next year's calendar!

## ST JOHN SCOTLAND AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN

St John Scotland Ayrshire and Arran held a coffee morning in St Columba's Church Hall, Stewarton on Saturday 18 November.

They raised £2,954, which will be used to purchase lifesaving defibrillators for local communities.

*Thank you to everyone who supported this event.*

## Dunlop Community Cinema

### Loch Ness: They Created a Monster (12A)

Friday, 1st December, 7:30pm

We are delighted to be giving you the rare opportunity to see this newly released documentary at the same time as it is on in the cinema. This is the unbelievable story, behind the unbelievable story... a new take on Loch Ness, it's affectionate, funny, shocking and wonderful. 'When you look deeper into Loch Ness, you'll be amazed by what you find...'

Following the screening (our very own) **Eilidh Robertson** will be hosting a Q&A with the **director John McLaverty** and (our very own) **Noel Nelis**, who edited the film. It should be a great night!

### Elf (PG)

Sunday, 17th December, 3pm

Well this film doesn't need much introduction. This was voted for by yourselves to be our Christmas film, was the out and out favourite and it nicely coincides with it being the film's 20th anniversary. Elf outfits optional! We will be serving the traditional mulled wine and mince pies to help you along towards fully embracing the festive spirit...

**Our first 2 films of 2024 are still to be confirmed - but save the dates!**

Sunday, 7th January, 3pm

Friday, 19th January, 7:30pm

All tickets can be booked online at [ticketebo.co.uk/dunlopcc](https://ticketebo.co.uk/dunlopcc)

If you have any difficulty with this, do let us know: [dunlopcinema@outlook.com](mailto:dunlopcinema@outlook.com)

*We would prefer you to buy your tickets online. This guarantees entry if we sell out and helps us know how many people are coming. There is a service charge, but it is only 75p per transaction (not per ticket) which we feel is very reasonable. If we do not sell out, tickets will be available on the door at a cost of £7.*

## Dunlop and Lugton Wildlife Group

The following events have been organised for December and January:

**Monday, 18th Dec**, 7.30-8.30pm, Dunlop Village Hall - Harry Richards, Scottish Wildlife Trust, will join us to discuss his work with Action for Nature Ayrshire and how we can help preserve and improve our local wild areas.

**Monday, 22nd Jan**, 7.30-8.30pm, Merito - Abbie Staig from the Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue Centre in Beith will be joining us to discuss the invaluable work of the Trust.

The events are **free to attend and open to anyone**. Further details are available via the 'Dunlop and Lugton Wildlife' Facebook page and will also be posted in the Post Office window.

## The Ayrshire Hospice

The Dunlop Friends of the Ayrshire Hospice would like to sincerely thank everyone who supported their recent Craft Fair. The veritable army of volunteers is vital to making the event a success and we are very grateful to you all.

We raised a fantastic £3,637 at the Craft Fair and, separately, £3,117 from selling Hospice Christmas Cards on the night and also in the wider community beforehand.

**With best wishes for Christmas and for 2024. Thanks again.**

## Dunlop Diary Submissions

Do you have something to feature in the next edition of the Dunlop Diary?

The deadline for submissions to the February Diary is Monday 22nd January. Send them to [dunlopdiary@gmail.com](mailto:dunlopdiary@gmail.com)