

DUNLOP DIARY



From the Church of Scotland, Dunlop

December 2012

Dunlop Church of Scotland is a Registered Scottish Charity. Charity Number SC000447

Minister: Rev Dr David Donaldson

**The Manse
Dunlop
Tel 483268**

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate the season of Advent, and then the great Christian festival of Christmas, I hope that you will find joy at this time, and that you will come to as many of our Services as you are able to attend. We will be worshipping in Dunlop Kirk from Sunday, 9th. December, and so this Christmas time will be special for all of us in many ways.

The world is engulfed in conflict and violence, as it was 2,000 years ago; God Himself, the Creator of heaven and earth, has come into the world, in the person and event of Jesus Christ, to offer all of us His love and His forgiveness. That is the good news we celebrate this Christmas time.

Best wishes,
David Donaldson.

Sunday Morning Services:

Sunday, 2nd. December: Preacher: The minister. Reader: Mike Blyth Flowers: Marie Gillespie

Sunday, 9th. December: Preacher: The minister. Reader: Netta Howie Flowers: Kristeen Hare

Sunday, 16th. December: Preacher: The minister. Reader: John Kitson Flowers: Jess Duncan

Sunday, 23rd. December: Preacher: The minister. Family Christmas service Flowers: Aileen Howie

Sunday, 30th. December: Preacher: Rev. Iain Roy. Reader: Anne Sinclair Flowers: Ann Howatson

Readers in January: 6th Alison Howie, 13th Douglas Bell, 20th Beverly Kirk, 27th Simon Gill



Dunlop Kirk - an invitation and thank you



We are delighted to confirm that the celebration service to mark the re-opening of our church will be held on **Sunday, 9th December at 11.30am**. We would like to extend a warm invitation to all those who live in the village and the surrounding district or even further afield, to attend this service. We very much hope you will be able to join us.

After the re-opening service there will be teas, coffees and a celebratory cake to allow an opportunity for conversation and fellowship.

We are pleased that we will be able to have our Christmas services in our restored and refurbished church. You will be made most welcome at any or all of the services.

There will also be an 'official re-opening service' on **Sunday, 13 January 2013 at 3pm**, to which you are also invited. This will be followed by afternoon tea in the village hall.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have given so generously to our restoration appeal fund and for their encouragement and support during what has been a long and difficult journey.

Welcome Teams

December

John Kitson
Fred Dinning
Liz Dinning
Jim Mundell
Fiona Thomson
Alan Young
Ann Young

January

Lesley Beaton
Carolyn Blyth
Mike Blyth
Carol Fraser
Netta Howie
Bill McLatchie
John Symon
Mitchell Wilson

Creche Rota

Nov 25th, Dec 2nd, 9th Marilyn Bell & Netta Howie
Dec 16th, 23rd & 30th Alistair Martin & Linda Gillon
Jan 6th, 13th & 20th Linda Pinkerton & Anne Miller

Souvenir Calendar for 2013 Dunlop Kirk

To celebrate the re-opening of the Church, there is a Souvenir 2013 Calendar on sale. It is an appointments calendar with a different photograph of the Church for each month of the year. These are available from Margo McMurdo (Tel: 01560 484824) or Margaret Hunter (01560 483231).

Baptism:

18th. November: Isla Jane Kilpatrick.

Deaths:

22nd. October: Mr. Bobby McEwan.

12th. November: Mr. Cameron Howatson.

W.R.I.

30th January

Scots Tea

Entertainment by "Piggery Brae"

Competitions 3 shortbread biscuits
Novice Flask of soup

Wednesday Coffee—thanks to all who have supported this over the year. We will be closed during December and January. We start again on the 6th February. We may even have a repeat of the "Coffee with Style"!!!

The Guild

Tuesday, 4th. December: Christmas Decorations, with Mrs. Kristeen Hare.

Tuesday, 18th. December: Candle Tea.

Tuesday, 8th. January: Getting the most from your Camera, with Mr. Fred Dinning.

Tuesday, 22nd. January: Film Night.

Our regular meetings are in the church hall at 7.30 p.m., and we welcome men and women to all of our meetings.

Dunlop Friends of Ayrshire Hospice

Dunlop Friends of Ayrshire Hospice would like to thank all those who helped to contribute to the success of the recent Craft Fair.

A fantastic £3274.20 was raised from the fair itself and a further £3055.30 from the sale of the Hospice Christmas cards making a grand total of £6315.69 for the Hospice.

Dunlop Gala day 1st June 2013



HELP WE NEED MORE FOLK!!!!



Dunlop Gala Day has gone from strength to strength !! Our recipe for success is simple:-

Put on a day that is **INEXPENSIVE** and **FUN** for all! No entry at the gate, stall charges very reasonable, rides and attractions priced **very** low and interesting stalls for adults too! This and the enthusiasm of those attending, makes a wonderful day, which brings the community together whether you are a helper or there for the day out!!

Our local businesses sponsor very generously, our fab wee brochure along with money made on the day means we can maintain a buffer fund from year to year to put on such a cool Gala Day.

However we badly need more folk. To survive the Gala Day requires the enthusiasm and input of many. SO, if you could spare a few hours of your time then **PLEASE PLEASE** come to our next meeting 27th Nov, 7.30 in the Village Hall or contact

Diane on 01560 483612, 07963061033 or email diane.wilson66@gmail.com.

No matter how young or old we would LOVE to hear from you.

If we do not have more willing helpers our Gala Day runs the risk of being no more!!!

Santa Comes to Dunlop Wed 19th December 18.30 - 20.00

Santa will be brought to you by Alpha Thistle Explorer Scout Unit. In days gone by, the Round Table brought Santa round on a Sleigh. Rudolph, Prancer and the other reindeer are resting for the big day, so we will be using some horse power (motor car) to bring Santa to visit all the children of Dunlop. We will call round doors and invite a donation to the ALPHA THISTLE EXPLORER SCOUT UNIT. This Unit is brand new and would really appreciate your support. Explorer Scouts are aged 14- 18 and come from the Dunlop area. Scouts in the local Dunlop Scout Troop move on to the Explorers at age 14. Most Scouts are from Dunlop. Your generosity will help make this fledgling Explorer Unit a great success. Monies used will go in to teambuilding and Scouting outdoor pursuits. Many thanks - Gerry McGeever - Explorer Leader.

Exploring Dunlop by David Clement

When going for walks in Dunlop, most people turn left at the Church and head off towards the Breckeneuch Braes. They will probably take first left at the Millennium Park, past the ruins of Templehouse ("Minnie Gemmell's" in local parlance after the last occupant), which will bring them back into the village via Netherhouses and the old cricket pitch. The more venturesome will continue, enjoying the views over Borland Farm and Aiket all the way to the coast around Irvine. At any point you can turn back or go on as far as the Stewarton road, turn right and then second right, which will bring you on to the Aiket Road, and thus via another right turn on to the Beith Road, then past Silverhill, North Borland and Brandleside to the Black Burn Bridge and the Church.

What happens if, instead of turning left, you turn right at the church? The road is normally busier. It is the main road between Dunlop and Beith, and the link to Burnhouse and the houses and farms along the Aiket Road. All that is on hold at present, with the Blackburn bridge closed for lengthy repairs. So let us embark on an imaginary walk down the hill to the burn, with Kirkland on your right and the graveyard and Mary King's Hill on your left. At the bottom of the hill, we have the bridge over the Black Burn, known more locally as the Tee Wal Burn after a spring that gushes out under the bridge. The folk etymology relates that the water was so pure that the people went down there to get the water for their tea.

As I demonstrated in an earlier article, it is more likely to contain a Gaelic element related to a place where the coffin-bearers would set down their burden for the last time, before heading up the hill to the churchyard. In the Highlands, these places were marked with cairns, and the toiling coffin-bearers would be offered a dram. The "-tuy" ending of Bellochantuy in Kintyre commemorates a similar spot. An old postcard shows a house (Bridgend Cottage) on the old bridge. If you look to your left you can see where the Glazert Burn, having passed through the Glebe, rounds the churchyard and flows between Mary King's Hill and Dunlop Hill to join the Black Burn.

Crossing the burn, we now have the lands of Brandleside on our right. My early memories of Brandleside were the sight of the huge horses belonging to Mr and Mrs Neil toiling up the slope pulling a plough in the spring and a harvester in the autumn. Their nephew, David Hewitt, the master barber of Stewarton, often played on his uncle's farm and knew the horses as Deirdre, Nannie and Mollie. Dunlop's best-known ancient monument, the Oggirtstane - a recumbent rather than a standing stone - also lies on Brandleside land. It is easier to see from the Lugton Road, as it lies near St Mary's. In a favourable light, I noticed cup and ring markings on it. There is nothing else visible to suggest what role it may have had in pre-Christian worship.

The druids are frequently mentioned by people with more imagination than scientific training. All I would say is that the druids, as their name suggests, were into tree lore, and worshipping at or on stones is nowhere recorded among their activities. It is likely that whatever magical properties the stone was thought to have had caused it to be visited for many centuries after the arrival of Christianity in our parish. Professor Thom told John Campbell that it lies in a straight line from the Carlin Stane at Commoncraig to the Borestane on the outskirts of Dalry where I now live.

As to the name Oggirtstane, the subject of much speculation and folk etymology ("thou great stane", "Thor's great stane" etc.), the solution turned out to be contained in a book in the family library, *The Religious Houses of Scotland*. There, faintly underlined, was "Oggirtstane", "a religious house in Stirlingshire belonging to the Templars". I have not yet been able to prove that the Templars owned (part of) Brandleside, but research is ongoing into the Templars' holdings in Ayrshire. We know they held land in Dunlop - the Gemmells of Templehouse were a very old family, only extinguished with the death of Miss Minnie Gemmell in the 1950s.

In Stirlingshire the "-stane" place-names are not related to special stones. They are the equivalent of the "-ton" names elsewhere in Scotland and England. So "Oggirtstane" is probably "Ogier's tou". Ogier is the Norman development of the Scandinavian name Holger. Brandleside itself seems to be a Scandinavian name. Brandale is probably the name of this valley, or the district in the years before the Battle of Largs freed the locals from Viking domination. The side-element usually means "sheiling, a summer pasture".

At harvest time all hands at Kirkland, North Borland and Brandleside combined to bring in the harvest on the three farms. I well remember as a boy being in the right place at the right time and enjoying tea eaten out in the fields (we only remember the sunny days) the home-baked scones and pancakes spread with home-made butter and jam.

Dunlop Church – Dates for your diary in December

- Sunday, 2 December at 11.30am – First Sunday in Advent - Last service in the village hall
Sunday, 9 December at 11.30 am – Second Sunday in Advent – Celebration service - re-opening of the Church
Sunday, 16 December at 11.30 am – Third Sunday in Advent – Sunday morning worship in Dunlop Kirk.
Sunday, 16 December at 6.30pm – Evening Christingle Service – A family service in Dunlop Kirk starting at 6.30pm and finishing at 7.15pm.
Thursday, 19 December at 1.30pm – Dunlop Primary School Christmas Service in Dunlop Kirk
Sunday, 23 December at 11.30am – Fourth Sunday in advent - Morning worship and Sunday School Nativity Play
Monday 24 December – Carol Bonanza – *Church Hall* (Meet there at 6.30pm to go carol-singing or at 7.30pm in Church Hall for entertainment, mulled wine and mince pies).
Monday, 24 December at 11.30pm – Watchnight Service in Dunlop Kirk (Carols from 11.15pm)
Tuesday, 25 December at 11.30am – Christmas Morning Family Service in Dunlop Kirk
Sunday, 30 December at 11.30am – Sunday Morning Worship in Dunlop Kirk



Dunlop & District Community Company

Christmas Fair

Saturday, 8 December 2012

10am till 2pm

In the Café - Teas, Coffee and Lunches

In the main hall there will be stalls selling a wide range of gifts and treats, including *Christmas trees, jewellery, home baking, Christmas flowers and decorations, knitted gifts, jams and chutneys, sweets, Christmas cards, handbags, purses etc etc...*



Village Hall Events Diary – December and January

December 2012

- Until 20 Dec - Mixed Art Exhibition by local Artists in Conservatory area
Sat 1 Dec - 5th Anniversary Church Christmas Dinner and Ceilidh – 7 pm prompt
Thurs 6 Dec - Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch at 12 for 12.30pm
Fri 7 Dec - Community Cinema - **Mamma Mia!** (PG) - 7 for 7.30pm;
Sat 8 Dec - Saturday Café Christmas Fair from 10am - 2pm - See above

Note: The Café closes after Sat 8 December until Friday, 11 January 2013

January 2013

- Fri 11 Jan - Café reopens for teas, coffees and lunches - 11am to 3pm
Fri 11 Jan - Exhibition of artwork by Paul MacPherson
Sun 13 Jan - Official Re-Opening of Dunlop Kirk at 3pm and then Afternoon Tea in the Village Hall
Wed 16 Jan - Dunlop & District Community Company AGM at 7.30pm.
Come along and support D&DCCo and have a glass of wine after the meeting
Sun 20 Jan - Community Cinema – **Happy Feet** – at 4pm
Fri 25 Jan - Community Cinema – **Salmon Fishing in the Yemen** at 7.30pm

Advance Notice: Beyond the Blues concert on Saturday, 2 February 2013

(More information on our website: www.dunlopvillagehall.org.uk)

To all Café volunteers - past and present

Please come along to a Reunion Lunch in the Village Hall

on

Saturday, 19 January at 1.30pm

Tickets (£10) from Sheila Wyllie (Tel: 486608) or any member of the Café Committee

Dunlop Diary Deadline for February 21st January

el: 01560 482966 Email: douglasbell@talktalk.net