

DUNLOP DIARY

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From the Church of Scotland, Dunlop

December 2020

Dear friends and neighbours,

As this strangest of years draws to a close, Christmas trees and lights have been appearing in windows and gardens much earlier than usual. We're all looking for ways to keep our hopes and spirits up as this pandemic continues to restrict our lives through the dark days of winter. Light and darkness are age-old metaphors for hope and despair, so these beacons and displays of light are a very human response to this situation in which we all find ourselves.

It seems fitting that this very basic human expression of hope should herald the beginning of Advent. Advent, that time of waiting and preparation for the season of Christmas, gives us a chance to ponder the humanity of Jesus. A baby, then boy, then man who was both fully divine and also at the same time, fully human. God come to us in human form, born of a woman, raised within a family and a wider community. His parents, family and community were all, at different times and in different ways affected by events and circumstances which were beyond their control. Like us, Jesus knew what it was to suffer and grieve, just as he also knew what it was to enjoy companionship and happiness. His life is a demonstration that God is not only with us in every aspect of our humanity, but that God has first hand experience of all that being human is all about.

As our Christmas lights sparkle through Advent, guiding us to Christmas and the light which shines always in the darkness, we will celebrate Messy Church, again On-Line and In-A-Bag. You'll find more about that elsewhere in this issue of the Diary and on the Dunlop Messy Church Facebook page. The light of companionship and community shines in our Circle of Care Befriending Service and in our Christmas Appeal for East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action (EACHA), again more information about these in this issue.

Although we cannot have our usual service and procession of light for the switch-on of our Christmas Lights and Nativity Scene, we plan to be all lit up on Monday, 30th November, to mark the start of Advent. Throughout Advent, you'll be able to share in our Dunlop Community Nativity on-line - all contributions welcome as we tell the Nativity Story in our own way.

And finally, some "light at the end of the tunnel" of the reopening of the church building - we hope to be able to make application very soon to Presbytery and all going well, and God willing, to have the church open before Christmas.

Wishing you all every blessing, and much light in the darkness, now and always,

Alison

Rev Alison McBrier

Christmas Appeal East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action:

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

As many in the community are still not out shopping, there will be a cash collection to help with gifts for children and the purchase 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.

Norman has kindly agreed to have a collection can for the Christmas Appeal on behalf of East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action (EACHa).

If you already have gifts prepared, please contact: Margo McMurdo 01560 484824 or Lesley Beaton 01560 484989 and we will arrange collection.

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

Margo McMurdo, Session Clerk

Alzheimer Circle of Friends Christmas Message

With the covid virus still among us and restrictions on how we live our lives, it is hard to imagine Christmas without meeting up with family and friends. We want you to know that everyone is in our thoughts and we are looking forward to seeing you again next year. We will send out our 2021 events calendar in the near future.

The Circle of Friends committee would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the last 6 years and that we will be continuing with our meetings and events as soon as restrictions are lifted.

We hope all our friends and guests are safe and well.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas.

**Christmas is family laughing and jolly
Christmas is candles and boughs of green holly
Christmas is pure white snow outside
Christmas is packages wrapped with pride
But, most of all can't you see
Christmas is God's love for you and for me**

Contact Susan 01560 482109

Dunlop Kirk Circle of Care – befriending

With covid restrictions still in place and the weather preventing us sitting in gardens, Dunlop Kirk would like to organise befriending telephone calls.

If you would like to receive a friendly phone call and have a chat, please pass on your number to Margo McMurdo.

If you would like to join our team of befrienders and make these important phone calls again, please call Margo for more information.

Margo McMurdo, Session Clerk, 01560 484824



DUNLOP GALLERY CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION

If you still have to do some last minute Christmas shopping, why not pop in to the cafe when the Hall reopens after lockdown. There are still paintings available to buy, in a mixture of styles, and a range of prices, from £25 up. This is your chance to buy an original art work, created by local artists. If you can't manage along to the cafe, give us a call, and we can arrange a time for you to view the exhibition on your own once the Hall is open again. The number to call is 07506951620.

We haven't planned any exhibitions yet for January, as everything is still so uncertain....but watch this space, we have a list of possible shows for next year, and we will let you know!



SPECIAL EDITION CHRISTMAS CARDS
featuring two of Dunlop Kirk's Stained Glass Windows :
THE BELL TOWER WINDOW
(shining like a beacon as you travel down Main Street on a winter evening)
THE RESURRECTION WINDOW
(depicting the elements of Nature coming to life after winter)
Both windows were designed by the famous stained glass artist, Gordon Webster.
The cards cost £2 each or £5 for a set of three
(They are also available blank for your own message)

STAINED GLASS BOOKLET
The booklet makes a delightful present,
easily wrapped and easily posted.
£5 per copy
Contact Carolyn 01560 484846 or Sheila 01560 480919

 **DUNLOP & LUGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S** 

 **GREAT** 
 **CHRISTMAS** 
 **DAZZLE OFF!** 

HELP YOUR COMMUNITY SHINE BRIGHT THIS FESTIVE SEASON

 **1st - 30th DECEMBER** 

 **PRIZES FOR 3 CATEGORIES:** 
 **BEST WINDOW DISPLAY** 
 **BEST OUTDOOR DISPLAY** 
 **BEST CHRISTMAS TREE** 



ENTER BY MIDNIGHT 20TH DECEMBER
PICK UP AN ENTRY FORM FROM STRUTHER FARMHOUSE,
NORMAN'S, DUNLOP POST OFFICE OR PRINT FROM FACEBOOK
FOR MORE INFO. CONTACT ELLENOR 07811 045600/LIZANN 07900 938379
JOIN OUR  GROUP: DAZZLE OFF! (DUNLOP & LUGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

KINDLY SPONSORED BY: THE CHRISTMAS TREE BARN & STRUTHER FARMHOUSE RESTAURANT



Messy Church online will happen again on Saturday 28th November with Christmas activities and stories. Look out for more information on our Facebook page <https://en-gb.facebook.com/DunlopMessyChurch/>

