

From the Church of Scotland, Dunlop

November 2020

Dear friends and neighbours,

Last month it was a real pleasure to be able to see and chat with children and families as they came along to collect their Messy Church In-a-Bag before heading home to watch the video on Facebook. The bags contained everything they needed to make their lanterns, cosy campfires, and agamographs, along with a couple of light-up bangles. If you'd like to know what an agamograph is, then have a look on Dunlop Messy Church FB page, where you'll also see photos of completed crafts made by the children. In the short video I showed my Bible with bookmarks in all the many places where God tells us "Don't be afraid!" and we remembered that He sent his Son, Jesus, to us as the light to the world.

Our next Messy Church will be at the end of November so look out for more information about that!

The clocks have changed, the days are dark and dreary, and the news about the pandemic is a bit gloomy. The light and cheer, though, is to be found around us as we think about what matters to us, and how we can do things differently. As I write this, pumpkin trails and competitions are on-going, and even the Dunlop Fun Run has gone on-line!

As a church we have made arrangements to mark Remembrance Sunday on 8th November, and the Dunlop and Lugton Poppy community group have crocheted and knitted thousands of woolly poppies for display. In this Diary you'll also find information about our Circle of Care - a befriending service which we are looking to develop at this difficult time when many of us aren't able to meet up with friends and family.

Christmas is already on our minds, and as the restrictions mean that we can't enjoy Nativity Services in the traditional way, we thought we'd try something very different this year. We're inviting you all to take part in a communal telling of the Nativity Story. In the Diary you'll find an insert with all the information you need to get inspired and get started. We'll show your video clips throughout Advent with the final full Nativity film being shown and shared at Christmas time! If you, like me, were always a shepherd and never got to be an angel, now's your chance to shine!

We shine God's light in the darkness - we shine with Him and for Him and each other, and together we will get through this.

Peace, love, joy and hope to you all,

Alison

Rev Alison McBrier

Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2020

If covid guidelines remain as is, we are permitted to organise an invitation only, outdoor service for Remembrance Sunday.

Leslie Kirk, our Worship Leader, will conduct the service at the war memorial, at 10.50 am. Wreaths will be laid by one invited representative from the usual community organisations. Following Government guidelines please <u>do not</u> attend the service if you have not been invited. The service will be live streamed on https://www.facebook.com/DunlopParishChurch/ Margo McMurdo,

Session Clerk

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

Harvest Plant fund collection.

Thank you to all in the community who donated to our Harvest Gift fund. We received over £250 and distributed 48 gifts. Margo McMurdo, Session Clerk

Harvest Christian Aid collection. The village has raised the wonderful sum of £1753 Thank you to all who gave so generously. Thank you, Alison Howie, Christian Aid Convener, Dunlop Kirk.



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





DUNLOP GALLERY

If you haven't had the chance to see Rebeka Loughran-Muir's exhibition, her work will be on display in the cafe until the 13th of November.

The cafe is open on Thursdays and Fridays, and also on Saturday the 7th of November. If you couldn't manage on a week day, that's the day to go....beautiful, affordable art works for gifts, or just treat yourself!

Our Christmas show will be starting on Friday the 13th, where you will get the chance to buy from a selection of local artists work. You can view the exhibition during cafe hours, Thursdays and Fridays, and on Saturday the 5th of December. We will also be in the Hall on the evening of Friday the 13th, from 7 till 9, and if you want to view the work before anyone else, you will have to book a time slot. You can book for a maximum of two households, with no more than six altogether, according to government guidelines.

To book a slot, call either of these numbers...

07506951620 07811045600 Support you local artists this Christmas!

Ayrshire Hospice Christmas Cards

Due to the restrictions imposed by the Corona virus, Jennifer Hunter regrets that she is unable to sell Christmas Cards from her home this year.

However, thanks to the Village Hall Board the cards are on sale in **Dunlop Village Hall** on Thursdays and Fridays 11am to 1pm until early November.

As always there is a beautiful range of cards available so come along and, while supporting the Hospice, be tempted by home-made goodies for coffee or lunch in the Community Café!

For further information contact Carolyn 07950 049504/ 01560 484846

The Alternative Hospice Craft Fair

Dunlop Friends can't invite you to the Craft Fair this year but we **CAN** offer you an alternative way to support the Crafters and the Hospice by joining an <u>Online Craft Fair.</u> This will allow our wonderful Crafters to showcase their wares and you to support them by buying that special gift for Christmas or perhaps a treat for yourself.

This virtual event goes live on <u>Saturday 31stOctober</u> at6pm and you can join in either by using the link below

https://www.facebook.com/events/3374357625989648/ OR via

the Dunlop Friends of the Ayrshire Hospice Facebook page using the following link <u>https://www.facebook.com/Dunlop-Friends-of-Ayrshire-Hospice-107258481141465/</u>

<u>Contact</u> Julie 07747 111994 with any queries

CONSERVATORY CAFÉ

We are desperately seeking more volunteers to help in café. If you have a few hours to spare on Thursdays and Fridays please speak to Maureen or Daniella at the café.

St Andrews celebration at the café

We are having the following menu on the 26th and 27th of November :

Highland Lentil Soup (V)

Cullen Skink

Balmoral Chicken

Steak Pie

Haggis, neeps and tatties (Vegetarian haggis option available)

Assorted Scottish sweets

Tea/Coffee with shortbread.

£12 per ticket and pre booking required.

Contact Daniela 07833462612 or contact us via Facebook or pop into the Conservatory Cafe.

The Dunlop Primary School PA have launched a virtual fun run to replace our usual September fundraiser. We're hoping to encourage people to get out and about to try and combat the winter gloom and raise funds for our cause. You have 2 months to complete your choice of distance. You can walk, run, hop, skip or jump and at the end you'll get a handy neck warmer and a medal. If 100km is too short for you you can choose to go further. Although this is definitely not a race, there is a trophy for the furthest travelled RunDunlopian! You can sign up from today. Please see our website for more details but we hope you'll join in.

