

Dumfries Baptist Church



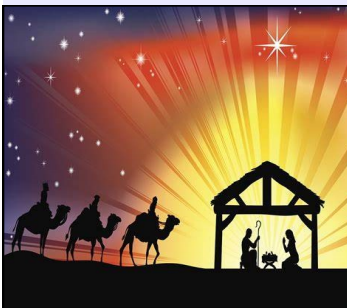
Worship | Grow | Reach | Serve

December 2024

Outlook

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Wonderful Counsellor,
Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace

*"For the Lord your God is living among you.
He is a mighty saviour.
He will take delight in you with gladness.
With his love, he will calm all your fears.
He will rejoice over you with joyful songs."*

Zephaniah 3:17 NLT

We live in a world where people are constantly comparing themselves with others, how much we have in the bank, what kind of house we have, food we eat, our intelligence, our career, our bodies, the list goes on!

But the big question is, '**what matters most to you in this life?**' because in contrast to the changing opinions of people, God's truth never changes. His word is permanent and fixed. It never changes.

So we can trust in the great truths of what God says about his people for it is his assessment that truly matters above all else.

As Zephaniah 3:17 says, the living God delights in his people. Those who trust in him by faith in Christ belong to him. He loves us, he values us as precious gems... he delights in us as his blood bought people.

Think of the joy when a new baby joins the family. As a Dad, words cannot sufficiently express the joy I felt as a parent.

When a soul comes to faith in Christ there is much joy among the angels over one sinner that repents and turns to Jesus (Luke 15:7).

God delights in us.

His thoughts toward us, as Psalm 139 reminds us, are more than the grains of sand.

I was struck by that in the summer when playing in the sand with my girls. In my hand I took some sand and tried to count the grains. But **I failed** because there were so many!

Yet, God the Father's thoughts toward us are just so many even the sand grains cannot compare with that number!

God delights in us with such a joy that it goes beyond any human calculation.

This great truth of God, delighting in his people, speaks to all the things we fear! - our depression, our darkness moments, our feelings of inadequacy, that we never measure up or meet people's expectations, poor self esteem, discouragement, making mistakes, letting people down...

We can trust our God, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is a mighty Saviour who has the power to set us free from the grip of our deepest fears.

With his love He will calm all your fears and rejoice over you with his love.

Let us respond in loving him, worshipping him and sharing him with others as we celebrate again the birth of Christ, God's Son, who came into this world a Saviour for all.



Eoghan Paterson
Pastor

Family News

Congratulations...

... **Paul and Jane Rafferty** are pleased to welcome a new granddaughter, Kiers, who was born on 31st October, here in Dumfries. Thanks for the cards, gifts and especially your prayers. Claire Aonghas and Kiera are now safely home on Barra



Congratulations...

... **Campbell & Marcella Eakin-Watt** celebrated their Silver Wedding anniversary in October.



We extend our sympathy...

... to Alan and Carol McDowall on the death of Alan's mother who passed away on 18th October. Alan and Carol would like to thank everyone for their cards, flowers, and prayers at this time.



Iain, Alison, Thomas, Murray and Erin wish to thank you all for your love, support and your prayers over this last year. We have felt God with us in the midst of a tough year and are so grateful that Thomas has made it to maintenance treatment. We still have another year of chemotherapy and trips to Glasgow to go, so please keep praying for us! Please pray for Thomas juggling

chemo, school and exams and Alison and Iain as they go back to work, but still need to fit in all the healthcare appointments, travel and communication. Thank you so much for being our extended family for Murray and Erin in both practical and emotional support.

Hopefully you will see Thomas back to church soon! He will still have a very low immune system so please avoid him if you have any infections/ colds. Also he is very vulnerable to measles, shingles or chickenpox. Should anyone develop any of these after being in contact with Thomas please inform the church office so we can get appropriate care in place for him to minimise risk. Thank you!

Alison McKendrick

We extend our sympathy...

... to **Tom Jones**, whose wife, Anna, passed away on 17th October. Tom thanks everyone for their kind condolences.

Thank You

Thanks to all who supported our family throughout our Daughter Alison's battle with cancer whether by prayer, kind words or cards. Alison was the most loving, caring daughter we could have wished for and her true inspirational spirit shone through to the end, always putting others before self. Special thanks to Alistair and Eoghan for the loving and respectful pastoral care shown in our time of need. Bless you all
Gibbie and Carol McGill



Debt Centre News

The last few months have been very busy with the setting up of the Centre. We had a couple of clients registered in November but we have still to have the first meetings. We have one further appointment for December. In addition, we are gradually reaching out to referral

agencies - organisations who have clients who may need our DebtHelp Service.

Many of you have asked about how to support the Centre financially - and a good few have already given towards our costs. A huge thank you to each of you who have done or who are considering giving financial support.

Some of that money will be used to provide practical support to clients as they await their budget. This may include food and/or heating/ electricity vouchers and occasionally mobile phone credits - so we can stay in touch. In addition we are encouraged to take a 'care pack' which will probably be a pack of teabags and some biscuits/cake.

Secondly, because we have had such an encouraging response we are now able to set up Money Coaching and Lifeskills Courses - both have a monthly outlay to CAP £10 and £40 respectively. I will give more details about these in our next Outlook.

To give to this work, whether through the offering bag or via the bank, please indicate that your gift is for the work of CAP.

The Big Quiz Night



The Big Quiz Night for Tearfund was a big success. It was great to have the DBC Youth joining people of all ages. The Avenue Rooms were almost filled - with just enough space to avoid overhearing most of the discussion about the answers at each table!

Every year Tearfund have a Totaliser (link below) which adds up all the numbers so we can see just how big this event is. We had about 34 participants and raised £180 on the night, with possibly a few folks making additional internet donations later.

Just a few minutes ago I checked the Totaliser again and the figures are:-

11,308 people were quizzing at the same time in 266 churches throughout the country and raised more than £102,100

That set of figures may go up slightly over the next couple of days as the last few churches register their events.

On behalf of Tearfund, their partners, but chiefly those who are being lifted out of poverty, poor health and lack of education I say "Thank You".

You will probably never know who they are, but they know that Christians here care and support them. God bless you all.

Rolf Buwert

<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/big-quiz-night/totaliser>

Coffee and Company

We began our Coffee and Company mornings in September on the third Saturday of the month. They have been well attended and enjoyed by all.

The idea is that anyone looking for some company would be free to join us for a cup of coffee or tea with a cake or biscuits and a chat. We are hoping to organise some conversation points, quizzes, etc in the New Year. Any suggestions would be very welcome.

We have decided not to have one in December as it would be too close to Christmas but we hope to see everyone back on Saturday 18th January 2025 at 10.30am.

In the meantime a big thank you to all those who have helped make it a success so far.



Carol Walker

BMS Birthday Scheme

This scheme allows people to make a difference by making a donation on their birthday. It primarily supports the health work of BMS and partner organisations around the world. Participants receive a birthday card with information about projects their donation supports..

Marion McKie is the contact person at Dumfries Baptist Church and she will happily explain more about it, if you are interested.

A good number of people at DBC take part in this scheme. Some people participate by giving online to the scheme. Marion asks that if you give directly online to the BMS Birthday scheme, please would you let her know your names. She does not want to know the amount you donate.

Ladies Craft Evening



A Ladies Christmas Craft evening took place at Drumlane Farm Steading at the beginning of November for the ladies at DBC and their friends. The evening was well attended, by about 40 ladies and we had a truly lovely time.

Everyone enjoyed tea, coffee and snacks while each craft was demonstrated. We created 4 simple Christmas crafts at each table. This was a relaxing evening, giving ladies a chance to take time out, getting to know each other better, meet new people and have a time of great fellowship. Many of the ladies expressed an interest in meeting up for other activities in the future, more info to follow....



A Rocha International

A Rocha is a global family of conservation organizations working together to live out God's calling to care for creation and equip others to do likewise.

At a recent morning service I suggested easy ways for us all to get involved:

1 Learn more about A Rocha:

Visit the website at www.arocha.org and sign up for emails, or just browse ...

Buy or borrow A Rocha books, eg *Under the Bright Wings* and *Kingfishers Fire* by Peter Harris, or *A Place at the Table* by Jo Swinney (I can lend them to you).

2 Support financially

During the The Big Give Christmas Challenge (3-10 December), any donation you make online will be doubled!

Or visit Gifts with a Difference at www.shop.arocha.org and choose a Christmas present for yourself or a friend. It can help a rare species, a habitat, a person – or all 3! Gifts



include fruit trees for schools in Uganda (£6-20), a fuel-efficient cookstove in Uganda (£9-16), tortoise rehab in South Africa (£25), an organic gardening workshop for children in Peru (£40), an elephant crossing in India (£110) or the purchase of land to protect endangered owls in Kenya from £190. Each order comes with a beautiful free card.

3 Pray!

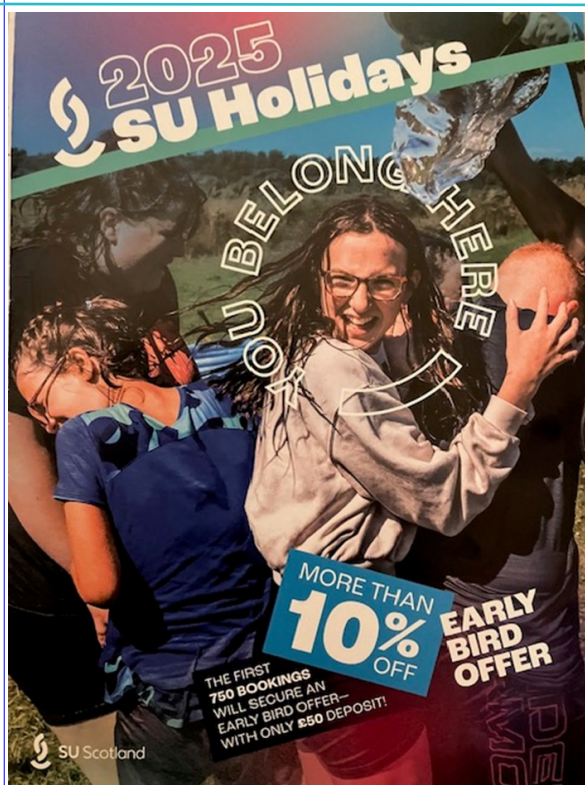
Please pray for A Rocha teams and the forests, wetlands, grasslands, coral reefs, estuaries and rivers

which they work so hard to study, restore and protect.

Why not pray for A Rocha wetlands when you walk on the coast, or forests when you are out in woodland? When you are gardening, could you stop for a moment and pray for the safety and wellbeing of refugees and schoolchildren who use the Mekse Nature Park in Lebanon?

Thanks!

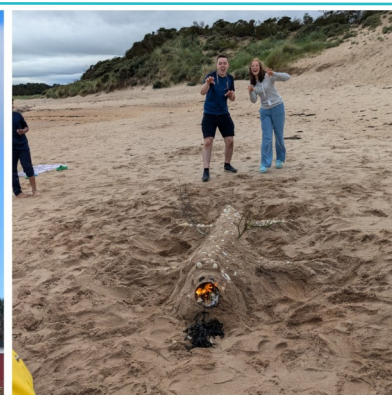
Barbara Mearns



Bookings are now open with an early bird discount for the first 750 to book and then a 10% discount for the next 250 new bookings.

New SU Holidays for this year include: Golf, Coding and Content Creation and all of the usual favourites are back.

Book online at suholidays.org.uk, or call on 0141 352 7620. For a physical brochure or information about subsidies from Dumfries and Galloway Action Group, speak to Rachel Lyagoba, Lesley Mackay or Chris Rossi.



What's in a Name?

How awesome to think that God knows each of us by name! He knows much more than that about us of course, but actually names are very important to God.

Even before Eve was created, Adam's very first assignment was to name all the other creatures God had made. (Genesis 2:19-20). God ascribes names to people and creatures according to their characteristics. He calls them what they ARE.

Indeed God even reveals himself under several names in the Bible - names which illustrate various aspects of who he is - and finding them all makes for a really interesting Bible Study.

God also changed the names of individuals when their existing names were no longer appropriate. For instance, when the Archangel Lucifer (meaning "Light-Bringer") became filled with pride and envy and tried to usurp God's throne, (Isaiah 14:12) God changed his name to Satan - meaning "Enemy", and Apollyon meaning "Destroyer", Beelzebub meaning "Accuser", "Prince of Darkness" and of course Devil - embodiment of evil. He is also described as "the god of this world".

There are also numerous biblical instances where God named or renamed people to describe them. The first female was called "Woman" because she was taken out of man (Genesis 2:23). Adam called her Eve because she was the mother of all subsequent generations: (Genesis 3:20). Later on, Abram was changed to Abraham, Sarai, his wife, was renamed Sarah, and Jacob was renamed Israel. Later still God specified that John the Baptist must be named John. He gave instructions to Mary that her

firstborn son must be named Jesus, and there is no salvation through any other name (Acts 4:12).

Our names are important too, because the Bible reveals the existence of the "Book of Life" in which the names of those who are saved are written. Luke 10:20, Philippians 4:3, Revelation 21:27.

Most of us did not choose a name for ourselves, yet it has denoted who we are since birth.

Children usually take the surname of their father - a custom which goes back to ancient times. In the famous passage of Matthew 28:19 the Greek word (eis) for "in" can be translated as "into", as it is in several bible translations and in other verses such as Romans 6:3 and Galatians 3:27. This gives a wonderful extra poignancy to the baptism ceremony, conferring upon us the family name of the triune God. We pray to God as "Our Father" because we are his children and carry his name. This also makes us truly brothers and sisters.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus prayed to his Father about his disciples (including us) specifically requesting that we should be kept through God's own name - a clear reference to the fact that by faith in God's firstborn, Jesus Christ, we also become children of God. See John 17:1-6-12, 20-26 (AV), Ephesians 3:14-15. *"And because we are God's children, we are thereby heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Jesus himself."* Romans 8:14-17.

Wow!!! Perhaps we should take a moment or two to let that sink in!

Richard Whiting

Keeping in Touch



Email If you have given the DBC office consent to use your email address, we will keep you updated by email. If you are reading this and not getting emails from the DBC office, then please email: office@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk and we will make sure you get a Data Consent Form to complete and return.



Telephone Please phone the DBC office if you have any requests for help, prayer or just for a chat! The church office is staffed 9am - 1pm Mon - Friday. Tel: 01387 268926



DBC website
The past sermons

and video messages recorded for Sundays and Wednesdays are available from the Dumfries Baptist Church website <https://www.dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk/resources.html#sermons>

Morning Worship on Sundays is at 10.30 in the Auditorium and also available on the church YouTube channel at [DBCC Gillbrae](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBCCGillbrae).

Discoverers meet each Sunday (in term time) during the morning service.

Evening Worship is at 6.30pm in the Auditorium.

Wednesday 9pm Short **evening reflections** are available at [DBCC Gillbrae](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBCCGillbrae).

The DBC Facebook page is at <https://www.facebook.com/Dumfriesbaptistchurch/> You don't need to be a Facebook user to access this page online.

Links to the evening reflection and other messages are regularly posted on the DBC Facebook page.



Educate and Empower Uganda

A wee update from Educate and Empower Uganda....

Fantastically, Edrin, Shakira and Mariam are joining Mutasa at school this January thanks to their kind sponsors. Rayij is already part sponsored and I am looking to find anyone led to give regularly to his schooling, from as little as £5 a month, to £20 a month remaining for his sponsorship.

Rayij Ssajabi is 7 years old and lives in Masese slum with his mother, Hellen, and 6



brothers and sisters. His mother washes clothes to help earn enough to feed her children. Rayij went to school but had to stop in Primary 2 when his father died. He would love an opportunity to go back to school and learn.

There are also 8 other children we have identified who are awaiting sponsorship to access education.

The 20 women who have been taught sewing skills have been working hard and can now not only sew, but also design and make their own patterns too. They have around 5 weeks left of their course but sadly the 2 sewing machines they have been using are now beyond repair and are awaiting ones that I

shipped out in September (they should arrive this week) but they really need an industrial sewing machine to do the job. £200 has already been donated by DBC and the remaining £150 I am hoping to raise at the Christmas Craft Night on 7th December, 7-9pm in the Avenue rooms. This is a chance to make and take home up to 6 crafts, help yourself to the hot chocolate station and mulled fruit juices, tea/coffee and home baking, all for a donation of £15. All are welcome

Please speak to me at church or phone me on 07834558597 or email eandeuganda@hotmail.com if you would like any more information.

Rachel Lyagoba

Christmas Craft Evening

★ In aid of ★

Educate and Empower Uganda.

Saturday 7th December, 7-9pm,

Dumfries Baptist Church, £15

Make and take home up to 6 different crafts, like a needlefelted bauble or beaded snowflake and more.

Help yourself to the mulled fruit juice, hot chocolate station, tea, coffee and home baking.

Also an opportunity to browse and purchase Christmas gifts at the African Crafts table.



Compassion Update

Compassion is a charity that many in the church will be familiar with, and I know that many of you sponsor children through the Compassion programme. As an introduction for those of you not familiar with the work of Compassion, it is a charity that works with more than 8600 churches in 29 countries around the world. It seeks to work with those churches to equip young people to thrive in their communities and to show them the love of Jesus.

Because they work through the local church, the programme in each community and country will look slightly different, as it is tailored to the needs of those children, but there are a few core parts to the child sponsorship programme. Children receive education, healthcare training, nutritional support and support through crises and disasters, whether they be personal or national issues.

Sponsors have the opportunity to send and receive letters, drawings and photographs, and for us, this has been a wonderful way to get to know our sponsored children and their wider family, as they tell us about their successes, challenges and spiritual journey, and as they support us through prayer and encouragement in our walk.

Child poverty can feel like an insurmountable problem, but through changing the life of a child, and allowing them to realise their God given gifts, families and communities are changed.

Dumfries Baptist Church has 33 sponsored children linked to it in 12 different countries. I know some of you who have sponsored children before attending DBC or have sponsored online and those children will not be linked to the church at present. If you would like me to link these children to the church profile,

please do let me know, either on a Sunday morning or at katrinashand@hotmail.co.uk.

Looking at the facts and figures for the children linked to the church profile, your sponsorship has provided almost 20,000 hours at Compassion projects, more than 6,500 nutritious meals, 113 medical check ups and 51 bibles since the church partnership began. This year alone, 191 letters have been sent and received.

Thank you for your incredible support thus far, both through child sponsorship and prayer for Compassion.

Please continue to pray for the churches involved in this partnership around the world as they seek to show God's love to their communities.

Katrina Henderson

Dumfries Fairtrade Group



Catch-up

With seasonal refreshments

Wed 4th December 7pm

Second Nature 24 Newall Terrace

All Welcome



Contact us for more information - dumfriesfairtrade@yahoo.co.uk

Or see us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/DumfriesFairtrade

Light Party 2024

Many thanks to all those who decorated and set up, gave loans of "light" objects, organised games, donated sweets, catered, served, chatted with people and of course all those who prayed!

A good time was had by all!



Contacts

Lead Pastor	Alistair Purss	01387 263032 alistair.purss@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk
Pastor	Eoghan Paterson	07926 731592 eoghan@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk
Church Magazine	Karen Miller	01387 710155
Church Office	Mon-Fri 9am-1pm	01387 268926 office@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk
Discoverers	Jane Rafferty	01387 268066
Elevate	Janet Derby	01387 268934
Encore	David White	07476379865
Friendship Hour	Chris Dewhurst	07473545994
Global Partnership Group	Joy Ransom	07513644387
Girlzone	Sharon Rossi	07739130934
Impact	Alison McKendrick	07752553703
Prayer Ministry	Eleanor Moss	01387 263994
Secretary	Lesley Mackay	01387 247456 secretary@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk
Toddler Groups	Heather McCombe (Mrs)	01387 253416
Treasurer	Ian Penn	01387 263242 pennnithsdale@supanet.com
DBC Youth Team	Alistair Wallace	07851145918 youth@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk



Treasurer's Report



Total Monthly Income

September 2024	£32,407.11
October 2024	£44,052.20

The following figures represent the first third of financial year 2024/25 with income 41% budget and expenditure 29% of budget. The total Income was £130,765 (£6538 / week against a budget figure of £6048/week). Expenditure during this same period amounted to £91,251 (£5703 /week against a budget figure of £6048/week).

The income for October included a donation of £4000 from the Sam Bunting Fund which has now been forwarded to Nepal for providing computer support in schools.

We will need to produce a revised budget for the 2024/25 financial year which will be available for the AGM in December. If you wish to give financial support specifically for the CAP project please contact me.

If you already give regularly, or are considering doing so, and you pay income tax (as the vast majority of us do) you can "gift-aid" your offering which effectively means the church can claim an additional 25p for every £1 you give at no additional cost to you. In the last financial year over £48,900 of our offerings were **not** subject to Gift Aid. Please prayerfully consider whether you can Gift-Aid your giving. You can continue to give weekly, monthly or directly through your bank. Please contact me if you want further information regarding Gift-Aid.

Ian Penn - Treasurer (01387 263242)