



## Inside this issue:

Family News	2
Man Alive!	2
Paul & Apollos	2
North to South	3
Act of Dedication	4
12th May Photos	5
The Journey	6
Flourish	6
June/July Events	7
Contacts	8
Youth Café	8
Treasurer's Report	8

## Dare to be a Daniel

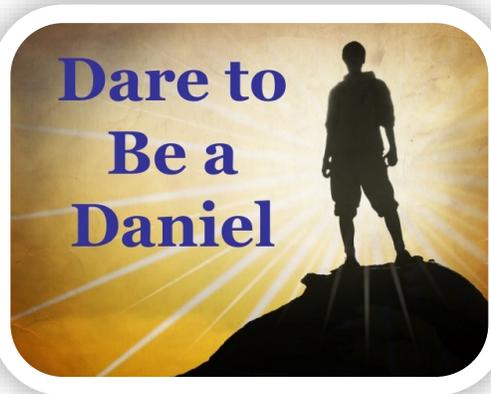
Read the story of Daniel in chapter 1:1-21; here's an extract:

*'In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia [a] and put in the treasure house of his god...Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego. But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way...'. (NIV)*

had been offered to idols. The point is that Daniel was willing to engage with the culture in which he lived but not to the point of defiling himself and offending God through being disobedient to His command.

Daniel asked that he and his friends may be allowed to eat a different diet, one that did not defile them. They were given permission to do this for ten days (Daniel 1:12-14). At the end of the ten days the Bible tells us that 'they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them the same food and drink as Daniel and his friends' (Daniel 1:15-16).

The story goes on to tell us that Daniel and his friends received from God knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning and Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. 'In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the King questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom' (Daniel 1:20). Daniel, dared to stand alone! Dared to have a purpose firm and dared to make it known.



In Sunday School as a child I often sang a song about Daniel, the chorus goes like this: 'Dare to be a Daniel, dare to stand alone! Dare to have a purpose firm! Dare to make it known'. The story of Daniel is a remarkable one and although it took place six centuries before Christ it has a contemporary message for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. God's people were exiles in Babylon under the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar yet through people like Daniel and his friends God's truth was proclaimed and lived out. Daniel and his friends were God's light in the darkness.

Daniel and his friends were placed in positions of responsibility within the society in which they lived. They did not shrink back from these opportunities and gave themselves fully to the tasks assigned to them. However within the opportunities afforded to Daniel and his friends they refused to be defiled by food and wine from the king's table (Daniel 1:8). This is something that God had asked his people not to do because such food and wine

This is a stunning challenge and exhortation to us! We too live in a pagan society where believing in the God of the Bible makes us stand out in sharp contrast to others when it comes to a number of spiritual, moral and ethical issues. In our daily living at home, at work, our place of study, our community, our church and centre we need to follow the example of Daniel and his friends. We need to engage with the culture and people around us in ways that make a difference but not be defiled by thinking and behaviour that is contrary to God's truth. Like Daniel and his friends we need to be equipped, ready and willing to take our stand individually and corporately for God's truth in an age that is increasingly walking away from it. Dare to be a Daniel, dare to stand alone. Dare to have a purpose firm and dare to make it known!

Rev Alistair Purss Senior Pastor



**Who will YOU invite to the Alpha course starting on Sunday 2nd September at Dumfries Baptist Church?**

**There will be a short reflective service of worship from 5:15-5:45pm then Soup & traybakes will be served from 5:45pm with Alpha beginning at 6:30pm**

## Family News

### Congratulations to...

... **Matt and Holly Titcombe** on the dedication of Charlie, little brother to Elissa-beth.

... **Chris and Jen Richards** on their recent wedding in Edinburgh.



### We extend our sympathy to...

... **Marion and Henderson McKie** on the death of Marion's mother Elizabeth (Bet) Fulton.

### Thank you...

... **Iain and Jean Muir** would like to thank everyone for their cards and kind thoughts and prayers following the death of Betty Muir.

... **Jane Rafferty** would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, messages, kind words and warm hugs after the loss of her father, John James. Thank you for all your support at this time.

## MAN ALIVE!

DBC's Men's Group is now known as MAN ALIVE! and will look for opportunities to bring men in the church and community together for informal fellowship. MAN ALIVE! is open to any men and their friends.

The first MAN ALIVE! event will be a **Walk'n'talk from Kippford to Rockcliffe on midsummer's evening, Thursday 21st June**. This will be followed by a BBQ on Rockcliffe beach at 8.00pm. Those preferring (for whatever reason!) to skip the walk can arrive in time for the BBQ at Rockcliffe at 8.00pm. Walkers will meet in Kippford at 7.15pm.

Rolls with sausages/burgers etc. will be provided along with soft drinks on the beach area at Rockcliffe. A small charge of £5 will cover catering costs. Anyone wishing to donate more on the evening will help meet the cost of our new BBQ equipment!

If you would like to join us:

1. Please sign up at DBC.
2. Please indicate your initial meeting point on the evening, either **Rockcliffe** or **Kippford** (outside The Ark shop).
3. Please also indicate with a **V** if you require a vegetarian option.

For more info see **Alan Cameron**

## Paul & Apollos

In 1 Corinthians 3 Paul tells us about growing in faith - *'I planted the seed, Apollo's watered it but God made it grow.'* With a bit of imagination we can perhaps relate it to gardening as well - we plant seeds, water them and God does his bit in the growth department. But there's more, isn't there always, for sneaking under the 'cloche' is the bit about maintenance, whether it be faith or gardens.

We all know what happens if neglect takes precedence!

I am not really a gardener per se. I can grow plants but shrub or flower recognition is not my forte; which go together, no idea really, but I know people who do; I can prune with the best of them but must refer to advice to determine when and how; I like being outdoors and prefer well maintained spaces rather than wilderness, unless it's by Godly design. "Hold on a minute" you ask "how can this guy lead the landscape group?" Well that's the point, really, we are a team of individuals with common focus, God's service, working together for the benefit of all.

Throughout the design and construction phase the team have attempted to incorporate low maintenance into the final scheme. However, as we all know, low maintenance does not mean 'no maintenance' so part of our intent was to make provision for the future by establishing a gardening group.

It will be a social group and up to members to establish its final purpose, how often it meets etc.

So please be on the lookout for information leaflets or speak to Lucy, Karen, or Richard!

PS

The intent is for the fellowship to prepare and plant the area on the pylon side of the car park later in season, when rain returns! The gardening group is initially meeting on Wednesdays at 10am to water and weed. Please look out for notices!

**Gibbie McGill and the Landscape team**

## North to South and Some In-between

I really can't believe that it is time to submit another article... the last few weeks have flown by, because we have been pretty busy. It seems as though so much has happened as we settle into our roles with SHED board.

We have had the opportunity to travel across quite a lot of Bangladesh since the start of April. In the north west we visited 6 pre-schools and a revival meeting (clocking up almost 1,000 km over 5 days). We also visited a pre-school a few hours directly north of Dhaka, and 2 separate hostels and schools (a boys, and a girls) in south Bangladesh. We were supposed to visit a further pre-school in the north-east of the country, but as it is situated within a tea plantation we needed special permission to travel there, and this wasn't granted. We have also spent some time working with the Principal at the Baptist Mission Integrated School (BMIS) for blind girls, looking at fund raising and improving the profile of their school.

Phil has been busy improving and updating the SHED Board website. He is working on both the BBCS and the BMIS websites. We have also been developing promotional materials, as well as editing the English on documents linked with a variety of projects run by SHED Board. This is rather frustrating as we are still spending much of our time trying to learn Bangla! We have concluded we will never be fluent, but are finding we are able to communicate better now. Louise is happy to be able to read along with the bible reading during our morning devotions in the office (sadly still not understanding much), and join in with some of the songs, if they aren't too fast! Phil will begin learning the script in the next couple of weeks, so hopefully he will be reading and writing before too long.

It has been great to visit some of the pre-schools, and see how both the teachers and children are getting on. We have had to reassess our expectations, having seen how rural some of the schools are, and when we

are told they have nothing, that really means nothing! Louise asked the teachers how they felt about their working environment, and all of them replied that it is good – despite the fact that in several cases the children are sitting on old sacks, the roof leaks, they have no chalk board or any other resources!



The children are delightful and have responded well to Louise and her more 'hands-on' approach, once they have realised that it is OK to move. In fact so much fun was being had, that the whole village tried to join in on more than one occasion.



Louise has also been fairly impressed by signs that the teachers have taken some of their training back to the classrooms.

We are expanding our knowledge of the work done by SHED Board and BBCS, including visiting some of the projects and properties. Part of Phil's role is to look at resources that both organisations already have and see firstly where money could be saved, and secondly how the land could be used for income generation to support other costly projects. This took us to the southern area of Bangladesh, to the city of Barishal. We travelled by boat for the

main part of the journey.



It was very smart and comfortable, taking us about 6 hours to get there. Sadly due to technical problems our boat back was cancelled, so we travelled back on a larger, slower boat overnight the following night. It was great to see the land, property, schools and hostels that were started by BMS over 100 years ago and we look forward to more involvement and further trips there. As with all of the projects we visit, there is a lot of help required in a practical sense, but they also all need funds.

Please remember to pray for Pastor Komol, his wife and son, who we have promised to pray for regularly as he studies and serves in the Kingdom.



Please also pray for the speedy recovery of Louise's wrist that she broke at the beginning of May.

We are looking forward to our visit back to UK at the end of the year, and would appreciate prayers that our schedule and arrangements can come together as smoothly as possible, so we don't need to stress about accommodation, travel and fitting everything in!

As always, thanks for your continuing support, it really does keep us going. **Phil and Louise**

# Act of Dedication at DBCC: 12th May 2018

Led by Rev Alan Donaldson,  
General Director of Baptist Union  
Scotland.

Greetings from the Baptist Family in  
Scotland.

## Act of Dedication

We say together:

**Our Father make the door of this building wide enough to receive all who need human love, fellowship and your fatherly care; and narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride, and hate.**

**Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to little children, the weak or the wandering, but rugged enough and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power.**

**Gracious Father make the door of this place the gateway to knowing and experiencing your eternal kingdom for many through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Compassionate Father use this place to strengthen your church, equip your people and send them out from here into this world as witnesses to your redeeming, transforming and life giving grace.**

Unless the Lord builds the house,  
its builders will have toiled in vain

For we are God's workmanship,  
created in Christ Jesus to do good  
works, which God prepared in  
advance for us to do.

Let us pray

*Almighty and ever present God, you are in every part of your creation, yet we recognise this place as a place where your people will gather and experience your presence in a special way. A place where the rhythms of prayer and worship, life and death, joy and sorrow will shape our experiences and expectations in this place as we gather day by day, week by week,*

*year after year and encounter the worship, teaching, comfort, challenge, rebuke, hope, love, joy and peace of your people and your presence in them.*

*We pray that through the influence of the worship and service in this place, this surrounding community of Georgetown, Dumfries and Dumfries and Galloway will be blessed and drawn to your light. We pray that in days to come this place will be a blessing every day of the week and every day of the year.*

*We thank you for its safe construction and for those who have worked to bring this building to completion. We thank you for this local congregation who shared in that journey of listening to your guidance over many years, who have worked hard to bring vision into reality and who have given sacrificially to continue the work of the church in this new location.*

*Amen*

## Final Act of Dedication

To the glory of God the Father, who has called us by his grace.

To the glory of the son, who loves us and gave himself for us:

And to the glory of the Holy Spirit, who brings us to the light, gives us strength, and is the source of our love: We dedicate this church building.

**Created for worship:** May worship and prayer be offered, the scriptures preached, the Lord's supper and baptism celebrated, so that faith may be strengthened, hope made brighter, and love made deeper.

**Commissioned to reach:** May the gospel come alive in the being, doing and words spoken by your people in this place. May many

come to know the Lord and be built up and sustained in their faith as they grow in understanding Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

**Compelled to serve:** May the practical love demonstrated in and from this place impact those living and working in this geographical area in which God has placed us. May everyone who seeks compassion and support find guidance, enrichment, comfort and help, as we increasingly demonstrate the outflowing of the Kingdom of God.

## Dedication to one another

We have gathered together in this place today and we pray that we will gather together continuously in this place for many years to come. So let us in this new place of worship, service and outreach commit ourselves afresh to one another declaring our faith in One God, Father Son and Holy Spirit.

Will you worship him together in unity seeking to magnify the Lord in the eyes and hearts of all who enter this place? **We will**

Will you reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in and from this place as a community and as individuals? **We will**

Will you obey him together in service of one another and in serving his kingdom purposes in this community? **We will**

## Prayer said Together

**Lord Pour down your Spirit on us. Help us so to walk in your ways that the promises we make this day, and the life that we live together, may become an offering of love, our duty and delight, truly glorifying to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen**



The worship Group



Sarah Galloway at her coloured glass window



Joyful Worship



Dumfries Baptist Church Centre

Rev David White Rev Alistair Purss Rev Alan Donaldson Rev Willie Wright Rev Raymond Arnold



## The Journey: A song of ascent for the 21<sup>st</sup> century

In early May 2017, not long after my return from Crete to live in Dumfries, I was asked by Alistair Purss to consider writing a song to celebrate the opening of the new church centre in 2018. Having not written a song for nine years I was unsure if I was able to oblige but agreed to make an attempt.

Over the days that followed I read passages from Scripture that convinced me that God was keen to remind us as a church that the new building was just another step on the journey to our ultimate home with Him in glory and that the building itself is not the church; we are.

The lyrics and tune for *The Journey* were written by the end of May last year, however the song had to remain under wraps until our Opening Dedication weekend 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018. I have since been asked if we could learn it as a congregational song (one house group has already done this) and so we may be using it in future worship services.

### The Journey

We know this world is not  
our home  
We're only travelling  
through  
Let us persevere and run  
the race  
Set our course to follow you  
We will fix our eyes on Jesus  
Christ  
Along the pilgrim way  
He will complete in us work  
that he began  
He's the champion of our  
faith

*You have called us on a  
journey  
And led us to this place  
Yet we know this journey  
must go on  
Till we see you face to  
face*

We have come to Christ the  
Cornerstone  
To bring our sacrifice  
He will build his church with  
living stones  
Who will offer up their lives  
You have called us out of  
darkness  
Into your wonderful light  
We declare your praise, we  
lift up your name  
Let your glory fill the skies

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Written for the Opening Dedication  
Service  
at Dumfries Baptist Church on 12  
May 2018

Hebrews 13:14-15 (NLT), Hebrews  
12:1-2a (NIV),  
Philippians 1:6 (NIV), 2 Timothy 4:7  
(BBE),  
Revelation 22:3b-4a (NIV), 1 Peter  
2:4-10 (NIV),  
Psalm 108:5 (NLT)

## Flourish: Women at DBC

*Flourish*



*Created for growth*

We are planning to have our ladies' meal on Thursday June 28th from 7pm at the Church Centre this year.

Jason has planned a 2 course meal for us with tea and coffee as well as other treats for £15.

I hope it will be a relaxing, enjoyable evening and a chance to invite friends and meet up with others from the fellowship.

We will need to make our choices from the menu in advance and pay a deposit of £5, so please look out for the sign up sheets once the menu has been finalised.

All women welcome. Hope to see you there!

Jane, Tina and Libby.

■ 07787545460 (Jane) for more information





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Box Office: 0141 353 8000 | [www.glasgowconcerthalls.com](http://www.glasgowconcerthalls.com)

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[www.praisegathering.org.uk](http://www.praisegathering.org.uk)



YOU ARE ESPECIALLY INVITED TO  
**JOY'S JUBILEE**  
CEILIDH

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DATE SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY    TIME 7:00 P.M  
AT DUMFRIES BAPTIST CHURCH CENTRE,  
GILLBRAE ROAD, DUMFRIES DG1 4EJ

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Come and celebrate....  
a big birthday  
the end of a career  
the start of a new adventure  
and  
God's faithfulness on the journey!



No gifts please ... donations for Nepal welcome.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE SOMEWHERE TO STAY  
CONTACT JOY @ [joybap41@gmail.com](mailto:joybap41@gmail.com) 07496019339

# DUKES

*(Dumfries and Galloway UKULELE Strummers and Singers)*

## Summer Singalong Concert

*Monday 11th June 7.00pm*  
*At Dumfries Baptist Church Centre*  
*Tickets £5*



**DOORS  
OPEN  
6.15pm**

# Contacts

Senior Pastor	Alistair Purss	01387 263032 <a href="mailto:Alistair.purss@btinternet.com">Alistair.purss@btinternet.com</a>
Associate Pastor	David White (on Sabbatical until 14th Aug)	07476379865 <a href="mailto:david.white111@btinternet.com">david.white111@btinternet.com</a>
Youth & Community Worker	Andy Feather	07889900850 <a href="mailto:andyfeather0311@gmail.com">andyfeather0311@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Lesley Mackay	01387 247456 <a href="mailto:dumfriesbaptistsecretary@gmail.com">dumfriesbaptistsecretary@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Ian Penn	01387 263242 <a href="mailto:pennnithsdale@supanet.com">pennnithsdale@supanet.com</a>
Church Office	Mon-Fri 9am-1pm	01387 268926 <a href="mailto:dumfriesbaptistchurch@gmail.com">dumfriesbaptistchurch@gmail.com</a>
Prayer Diary	Eleanor Moss	01387 263994 <a href="mailto:davemoss@btinternet.com">davemoss@btinternet.com</a>
Prayer Ministry	Eleanor Moss	01387 263994
Girlzone	Karen Miller	01387 710155
Impact	Alistair Purss	01387 263032 <a href="mailto:Alistair.purss@btinternet.com">Alistair.purss@btinternet.com</a>
Toddlers Group	Heather McCombe Rachel Lyogaba	01387 253416 01387 269719
Friendship Hour	Val Penn	01387 263242
Discoverers	Jane Rafferty	01387 268066

Looking for a relaxing place to be with friends?

## YOUTH CAFE @ DBCC!

Free Tea, Filter Coffee and Cakes in the Loft at DBCC  
Fully Accessible

Dumfries Baptist church Centre Gillbrae Road DG1 4EJ



15:30-17:30 every Wednesday

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ANDY ON 01387 268926

## Treasurer's Report

### Total Monthly Income

March 2018	£15,996.79 (+ £131,161.94 for appeal)
April 2018	£25,772.00 (+ £112,837.59 for appeal)
May 2018 (to 24.5.18)	£11,643.20 (+ £99,063.60 for appeal)

We are now well through the current financial year and both income and expenditure are close to budget. The total Income to date was £190,287 (£4,049 / week) plus £2,261,891 for the Appeal Fund. Expenditure during this same period amounts to £210,550 (£4,480 / week) plus £2,874,244 for the Appeal Fund. These figures are encouraging but expenditure is increasing considerably we continue the transition period to the new centre. Expenditure is greater than income which is a situation that cannot continue for too long.

The response to the appeal has been remarkable in that we have now actually received more than £4,952,835 towards the purchase of land and building of a new church (this includes loans of £956,655). We have spent about £4,896,818 for the purchase of the new site and building which gave us about £56,016 in the building fund towards the end of May. The loan figure has been dramatically reduced as a result of the loan from the Vardy Foundation being converted into a gift. We are so grateful to God for His generosity and we must continue to maximise our giving to ensure that we use effectively the gifts God has provided.

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. So far this year over £28,000 of our Sunday 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 see me if you want further information regarding Gift-Aid.

Ian Penn - Treasurer (01387 263242)