



Worship | Reach | Serve

# Outlook

## Inside this issue:

Family News	2
Tractor Tales	3
Toddler Groups	4
D&G Scripture Union	4
Contacts	5
New Build Progress	5
Treasurer's Report	5

## Back to School

→ with God ←

On  
Sunday 20th August

This years theme is



Join us at 10.30am at Dumfries High School for this all-age service to pray for and support young people and the local school community at the start of a new school year.

Currently **both** Sunday services are at the church in Newall Terrace (DG1 1LW) until 20th August when Morning Worship returns to Dumfries High School (DG1 1PX)

## Transition

There are lots of people within our church family who are going through or who are about to go through transition.

We have children transitioning from primary to secondary school, young people transitioning from secondary school to college or university. We have couples who have or will soon have the joy of welcoming their first child into the world, whilst other expectant parents will be welcoming additional children into their family. We have people becoming grandparents for the first, second, third (and so on) time!

We have folks in the church who are pursuing a new career path and others who have just retired and are embracing and getting used to a new lifestyle.

There are those amongst us who are learning to live with illness and seeking to adjust to the changes that this brings, and there are others who are trying to learn to live without loved ones who have died in recent months.

Also, very soon Andy and Claire Feather will be joining us along with their five children (Andy is our Youth and Community Worker). This will involve moving from Norfolk to Dumfries, finding a new home, starting a new job (for Andy) and settling into a new church and area for all the family.

I could go on - but you get the picture - there are many people experiencing transition in their lives. In fact DBC is going through a period of transition as we look to the future and our move to our new church centre.

On the 5th July 2017 it was a privilege for me to chair our first DBC Transition Team (DBCTT) Meeting. A privilege because it's all about doing God's work and getting to serve alongside quality and gifted team members. I am humbled by the commitment that people are prepared to make to help our church through this period of transition.

We are roughly half way through the building schedule for our new church centre and it's now time for the DBCTT to begin its work. But of course it will require more than the DBCTT to

accomplish a smooth transition, it will in fact require all the church family to ask themselves, **'what contribution will I make to help the transition from where we are to where we will be as a church?'**. This is not just a practical and geographical work, it is above all a spiritual work.

Transition is something that needs to be accepted, embraced, led and journeyed through together, as a whole church family. There are knowns and unknowns as we venture forward, some church family are motivated and excited by this while others need encouragement and reassurance that things will work out okay in the end! We must pray, depend on God and work with all our heart.

It strikes me that 'transition' is actually something that church ought to be able and willing to do! As a community of faith in Jesus Christ, transition is part of who we are! It is an inevitable part of what it means to be a Christian.

This dictionary definition highlights why this is the case: 'The process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another.

"students in transition from one programme to another" synonyms: change, move, passage, transformation, conversion, adaptation, adjustment, alteration, changeover, metamorphosis'.

Sounds a bit like the Christian life to me - a bit like Christian discipleship - so therefore we should not fear it but accept it, embrace it and **JUST GET ON WITH IT!** **This will require wholehearted commitment, involvement and hard work from the whole church family.**

So what part will you play? What contribution will you make? What team will you join? How will you pray and act through this period of transition? There's a lot to get done - make sure you contribute and get involved.

(To find out what needs doing please speak with Paula White or David Gurney)

Alistair, Senior Pastor



## Family News

### Congratulations to...

... **Josh & Fiona Best** on the safe arrival of 'Edith May Best' born on 7th July, weighing 8lb 7oz, baby sister for Sadie. She is another grand-daughter for Pete & Tricia Best and another great grand-daughter for Pat Barr and Agnes Best.



*Edith May Best*

... **Marita Barr** (youngest daughter of Lawrence & Pam Barr) graduated in Dumfries with M.A. Honours in Health and Social Policy.

... **Katherine Malone** received a Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

... **Grace Johnson** achieved **Girls' Sports Champion** and helped Moffat Primary 'Dowding House' to win the School House championship.

... **Dick & Libby Hammond** on their recent 40th wedding anniversary.

... **Mary Meek** celebrates her 80th birthday on 29th July. Happy Birthday!

... **Ray Routledge** also has a significant birthday, on 2nd August. Happy 80th!

... **Alistair Purss** will celebrate his 50th birthday on 7th August. Happy Birthday!

### We extend our sympathy to...

... **Alistair McFadzean** on the death of Libby on 5th June after a lengthy illness.

... **Libby Hammond** on the death of her mother in July.

... **Gwen Dennison** on the death of her sister Evelyn (wife of Rev David Bennett) who died on 10th July.

... **Hilary & Graham Roberts and Howard Williamson** on the death of Betty Williamson on Saturday 15th July.

### Thank you...

... **to everyone, for the fantastic support of the summer mission which made it so enjoyable for all the children, young people, church family, seniors and visitors at the various events.**

... **to all who pre-ordered the 2018 calendar to enable us to pay for the printing costs.** The calendars are now available to buy from various garden centres and also at church.

... **to the many contributors of articles and news for Outlook.** Without your input it would be a single sheet of paper! Please continue to contribute

articles, small or large (no bigger than 500 words), with or without photos.

### Pastures new...

... **Alistair is off on his 3 month sabbatical on 4th August.** He will be teaching and doing some pastoral work at South Tenerife Christian Fellowship during August; then visiting new build churches in the UK during September—seeking to learn from their experience; during October he will be a Senior Pastor in Residence at Regent College in Vancouver, attending lectures and talking with students preparing for ministry. Time will be spent reading, reflecting and resting. One of the themes he will be exploring is 'Resilience in Leadership'. Make a note in your diary to come to both services on Sunday 5th November to hear about this! Please remember to pray for Alistair and also for Sharon and the 3 boys.

... **Andy & Claire Feather** with their 5 children are looking for accommodation in Dumfries, prior to Andy taking up the post of Youth and Community Worker. Please pray for them.

... **Some of our young people and students, who are awaiting their exam results, will be hoping to go on to further education...settling in new areas...looking for accommodation and new churches to attend.** Please remember to pray for them and for their families at home!



It was great to be able to share the story of the life of the Lord Jesus with around seventy youngsters during the course of the week of the holiday club.

We started on the Monday with the story of Christmas from the point of view of Jeffery the cow, then heard about the care the Lord Jesus takes of us from the lost sheep Gus, before learning about the prodigal son from Penelope the pig. Thursday found us considering the account of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem by Donald the donkey, leading into the Easter story from Kev the cockerel on the last day!

However, I was struck again by the truth of 1 Corinthians 12 as we presented this story. Just as a film has a huge list of credits at the end delineating the huge array of people behind the scenes, who were necessary for the whole production to be possible, so too Tractor Tales, would not have been possible without the efforts of so many others.

There were those who gathered on the Saturday morning to erect the marquee, not forgetting those who fed and watered them! There were the guys who tended the generator (replacing the mouse nibbled fuel tube when the petrol dribbled away) and kept an eye on the stakes all week. The "night watchman" kept the equipment secure as well as the insurance company happy and ladies came each morning to supply juice and snacks to the children (and leaders) not to mention the ladies and gentlemen who might not have been anywhere near the holiday club, but came home after a hard day's work and baked so that there was a wonderful array of sweet things to boost energy levels! There was a smiling welcome too from those at the registration table and someone to clear up the discarded litter in bin bags.

The team were hospitably accommodated and generously fed their lunches and teas so that they could concentrate on

being up front and going on to work with the youth in the evenings (which, let's face it, wouldn't include any early nights!).

There were those who organised crafts and those who organised games as well as younger teenagers helping and older teenagers coming from colleges and universities and placements all over the place, to be group leaders and actors and singers. Then of course there were all those of us who were praying. And that was just for Tractor Tales to happen!

On Wednesday afternoon as we left the marquee I was conscious of handing on the baton, so to speak, as another team arrived and went into action to transform the Tractor Tales Farm to the venue for a cream tea. Saturday saw more people undertaking all that was involved in the Table Top Sale and Hog Roast.

Maybe the other story that was presented that first week of July was *"There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord... Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good"*.  
1 Corinthians 12:7

**Lesley Mackay**



## The Value of Toddler Groups

Picture the scene on Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings: a busy crowded room, toys strewn across the floor, babies protectively huddled together trying to avoid being run over by a boisterous toddler peddling towards them at alarming speed; and Mums having a cup of tea or coffee, snatching little bits of conversation in-between watching out that Charlie doesn't bop Emily on the head again!

Toddler Groups provide a backbone of support for parents who are desperate to escape their four walls & another episode of Paw Patrol with their beautiful, adorable, but insanely hard work little human people. We may take Toddler Groups for granted but do we under-value what they really offer? To the average Mum (who is tired & hassled, but is generally coping well & has a good support network around her) the toddler group is an additional social appointment & an added way to socialise their children & to meet other 'grown ups' to escape the endless rounds of

Peppa Pig! For some parents, especially some Mums, we will never truly know the value of the groups we provide.

The Government estimate that 1 in 5 Mums suffer with some form of perinatal mental illness during pregnancy & after having a baby. Illness such as pre or post-natal anxiety, post-natal or ante-natal depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder etc are on the rise... or perhaps they're not on the rise, perhaps we're just seeing them exposed a little bit more as their stigma is challenged tiny step by tiny step in an otherwise hidden & private struggle?

The hidden reality is that 1 in 5 Mums, who sit in our midst looking like they are coping, looking like they are enjoying our groups, are sometimes just trying to survive & to get through another day of living with perinatal mental illness. Many battles are hidden from view behind a weak smile & a cup of tea.

We need volunteers to help to serve the tea & coffee, to hold a crying baby while Mum has a drink, to play with a child for 5

minutes to give their parents a break, or to just be on hand to listen. Don't under-value the ministry of putting a hot drink safely into a Mums hands, it may be the only time she feels cared about & feels like she matters that week (who knows the battles she has at home & maybe hasn't told anyone about.)

Kindness matters and makes such a huge difference, especially to parents who may be at a distance from extended family support or who don't have quality relationships in their lives.

If you help at a Toddler Group yourself ...THANK YOU! If you could offer to help weekly or occasionally at Toddlers please speak to Mrs Heather McCombe.

*'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.'* Galatians 5: 22-23  
English Standard Version



## Dumfries & Galloway news

We have a new Regional Worker, **Owain Evans**, and you are invited

to meet Owain and his wife Vicky at a  event in Dumfries Baptist church on **Saturday 16th September**, from 2-4pm. Join us to praise God for His provision and to pray for the year ahead.

**Also:** Remember to pray for KX5 (29th July-4th Aug) & KX6 4-12th Aug) campers on Arran and the **Big Celebration, 150th Anniversary**, on **Saturday 19th August** at **Lendrick Muir**.

# Contacts

Senior Pastor	Alistair Purss	01387 263032 <a href="mailto:Alistair.purss@btinternet.com">Alistair.purss@btinternet.com</a>
Associate Pastor	David White	07476379865 <a href="mailto:david.white111@btinternet.com">david.white111@btinternet.com</a>
Youth Contact	Colin Holmes	07775 029423 <a href="mailto:colinhaitch@btinternet.com">colinhaitch@btinternet.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:davewmoss@btinternet.com">davewmoss@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	01387 253416
Friendship Hour	Val Penn	01387 263242
Discoverers	Jane Rafferty	01387 268066

## Treasurer's Report

### Total Monthly Offerings

June 2017 £12,347.90 (+ £218,099.52) for appeal)

As a result in the change of Financial year for the church this report represents the final figures for the year ended June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017. The total Income to was £178,938 (£3441 / week) plus £862,821 for the Appeal Fund. Expenditure during this same period amounts to £168,652 (£3243 / week) plus £1,367,380 for the Appeal Fund.

The response to the appeal has been remarkable in that we have now actually received more than £2,690,981 towards the purchase of land and building of a new church. We have spent about £2,023,961 for the purchase of the new site and fees which gives us about £667,020 in the building fund plus a number of promised gifts and pledges. We are so grateful to God for His generosity and we must maximise our giving to ensure that we use effectively the gifts God has provided. We have now begun the payment process for the new build.

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. 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. I also have information regarding Interest Free Loans if anyone is interested in investigating this further. **Ian Penn - Treasurer (01387 263242)**

## New Build Progress



It's hard to realise that building progress is now approaching half way to completion.

On Saturday 8th July, several groups from the church family were able to have a tour of the building and gain an inside view of progress to see the scale of the accommodation for our own ministries and that which will be available for many potential external users. The roof is now mainly weather clad; rain cladding of the sports hall is in progress; windows have been fitted and internal walls and partitions are receiving plasterboard and other linings.

Meanwhile, the Building Project Team continues to oversee decisions on matters of finishes, colour schemes; audio/visual and IT technicalities; landscaping and planting; CCTV and security measures and a myriad of other details to ensure the finished building will be fit for purpose now and for the future.

A tour of the building is recommended, as and when opportunities arise, if you have not yet been to see what God has made possible through the generosity of His people.

