



Worship | Reach | Serve

# Outlook

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**Tractor Tales**  
invite your child to...

a brilliant holiday club for Primary age children with singing, bible stories, games and crafts

**Where:** Marquee at Georgetown Primary School, Gillbrae Road

**When:** 3rd-7th July 2017

**Time:** 10am-12noon

**To Avoid Disappointment Register in advance**

**@**  
Dumfries Baptist Church Office:  
Telephone 01387 268926  
Email: dumfriesbaptistchurch@gmail.com



**Sunday 11th June:** Church Picnic @ Mabie Forest after morning worship – bring your own picnic & meet at the sawmill.

**Sunday 18th June:** Fellowship lunch at the High School after morning worship, with Phil & Louise.

## “God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.”

1 John 1:5b NIV

When we come into a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ we are called out of darkness into God’s wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9). We are children of light (1 Thess 5:5). Those who do wrong hate the light, because when the light of God shines in on our lives it reveals our true nature.

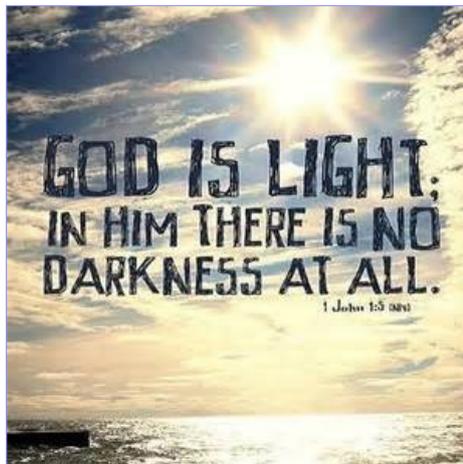
At a recent Open Doors Conference, which Hugh Brewster and David White attended, a Syrian Pastor showed those gathered a recently taken satellite photograph of Syria at night and it was in almost total darkness. This Pastor explained that both sides in the conflict are evil and the darkness is pervasive. Many of the major cities are b o m b e d t o destruction. Millions of people are either displaced, killed and injured and in human terms the situation appears hopeless.

However, most Christian Pastors in Syria have remained with their flocks. Christian churches are beacons of light sharing the love of Christ in very practical ways. This Pastor’s church in Damascus is supporting three thousand people. Their witness of love and light is impacting their Muslim neighbours and many Muslims are becoming Christians.

Alistair, reflecting on the recent atrocity in Manchester, wrote:

It was Martin Luther King Jr who once said that, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that".

These words are of course true, but as we take in and try to process the tragic and evil event that took place in Manchester recently, we need to turn to God and His Word which says, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" - John 1:5.



There are no human words that can express the personal and national sorrow that we feel for the families who lost loved ones. Our hearts go out to them and we pray for the peace and comfort of God. Also we pray for those injured that they will recover and be restored to health.

In all of this we believe that the light and love of Christ has, and will, overcome darkness and hatred of every kind.

Let's make sure that we walk in His light and live in His love - this is the Christian's response to darkness and hatred.

**Alistair & David**

# Family News

## Congratulations to...

... **Shiela Nicoll** who is celebrating the birth of her granddaughter - Cameron Charlie Nicoll - who was born on 13th April.

... **John Carter** on celebrating a special birthday on 20th May.

... **Luke & Colleen Bowthorpe** on the birth of their first child, a daughter called Aveliese Jean Bowthorpe, who arrived on Tuesday 30th May at 14.07pm weighing 7lbs 11. Everyone is doing well. Luke and Colleen would like to thank you all for your thoughts and prayers.



## We extend our sympathy to...

... the family of **Sheena Kirkpatrick** who died recently.

## Welcome to our new members...

... **Arthur Wright** who was baptised on 14th May and welcomed into fellowship.

... **Clare Benson** who was baptised on 14th May and welcomed into fellowship.

## Pastures new...

... See page 3 for **David and Shona Currie's** new address

# 2018 Calendar

This beautiful A4 calendar of Dumfries & Galloway can be pre-ordered now, before the print run. The photographs were all taken by the **Focus Photography Group** and all profits will go to the building fund.

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|  |  |  | <br><b>2018 Calendar Pre-order Form</b><br>£6 each or 2 for £10<br>Name: <input type="text"/><br>Contact details: <input type="text"/><br>Quantity: <input type="checkbox"/><br>Cost: <input type="checkbox"/><br>Signatures: <input type="text"/> |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |



to the **Who Let The Dad's Out? Team** who have supported the monthly Saturday activities throughout the past year, sharing in this valuable ministry.

**Rosemary Buwert**

# Drumlanrig Tearfund Challenge



**Many thanks to** everyone who contributed to the Drumlanrig cycle challenge. Upwards of £9000 was raised for the work of Tearfund from the 300 cyclists who took part.

A shorter 26 mile challenge was introduced for the first time this year and this proved to be a great success with many new faces joining in the event. With the very generous time allowed for this ride it's something that is achievable by just about anyone who can stay upright on a bike - we had two ten year olds complete the ride. Perhaps this is something a number of our own fellowship could aim for in 2018. (The date will be 5th May 2018)



**David Moss**

## Where is your home?

**"Have you settled in yet?"** This is an understandable question to be asked when you have recently moved house. As many of you know, Shona and I recently moved back to Dumfries. For the last 35 years if anyone has asked me where I am from, then my answer would usually begin with "I'm originally from Greenock, but now I live in ..." So clearly for me Greenock is my home town; thus explaining my continuing affection for Greenock Morton (some might say affliction!) However since I haven't lived in Greenock since I was a teenager, is it really my home?

Shona and I previously lived in Dumfries from January 1990 to September 2015. Our move to Dumfries and Galloway back in the 90s was to be closer to Shona's parents who at that time lived in Sanquhar, where Shona had been brought up. So for Shona, is Sanquhar home?

We bought a holiday home in Crete 10 years ago and enjoyed lots of great trips there. We eventually decided to move there and so our house in Collin was put up for sale. Moving to a new country is, of course, an exciting adventure; however it is not without its stresses as well, especially if you only speak a little of the local language and need to adapt to a different way of life, culture, bureaucracy, etc. Before long it became apparent that Shona wasn't settling in and didn't feel 'at home'; in fact she continued to refer to Dumfries as 'home'. After persevering for just over a year we decided that it was best for us to consider returning to Scotland to live. Over the years we have made many friends in Crete, both in our village (Drapanias) and through the church that we attended about 10 miles away. Anyone who is on Facebook will probably have been inundated with pictures of our Cretan adventure. However in the end Crete wasn't 'home' for as long as we may have thought originally.

When I started to learn to play guitar over 40 years ago there weren't many books of Christian songs suitable for a guitarist who doesn't read music. Therefore my first book from which I learned to play, using the guitar chords written 'above the dots', was the Country & Western Gospel Hymnal. One of the first songs that I learned (familiar to me from one of my dad's LPs) was the [Jim Reeves classic "This world is not my home"](#). Regardless of whether or not it is to your musical taste, you can't argue with the sentiment of the lyrics as they echo the words of Jesus:

***19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)***

Perhaps the verses above touch a nerve deep within your soul; for I know that they cry out to me. For as long as I can remember I have always loved to sing about heaven. Any time a hymn or worship song alludes to the day that we see Jesus face to face, my heart leaps, my spirit soars and my eyes well up with tears.

Back in 2015 moving house for us meant clearing out a loft, a garage and two spare rooms. In 30 years of marriage we had accumulated a lot of "stuff". We even had unused engagement and wedding presents! Downsizing and decluttering meant a lot of trips to the charity shops in Dumfries and just as many to Lochar Moss recycling centre. Perhaps we could all do with some spiritual decluttering to focus on what God tells us is truly essential.

In one of my favourite songs, [Beautiful Saviour \(All My Days\) written by Stuart Townend](#), the final verse says:

*I long to be where the praise is never-ending  
Yearn to dwell where the glory never fades  
Where countless worshippers will share one song  
and cries of 'worthy' will honour the Lamb!*

**Stuart Townend © 1998**

Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us that God has placed eternity in our hearts and so it is therefore understandable that somewhere deep within our souls there is a God-given awareness that there is "something more" than this transient world. Don't get me wrong, we need to keep a balanced view. God wants us to serve Him in the here and now but Colossians 3:2 tells us that in doing so we must "set our minds on things above, not on earthly things."

However, if we are going to be effective, healthy, maturing disciples then we need to be willing to defy the old expression that states, "Don't be so heavenly minded that you are of no earthly good." The danger is that sometimes we can become so earthly minded that we are of no heavenly use!

So in answer to the question "Have we settled in yet?" I would have to say "Yes and No". It is great to be back, but I guess I've realised that I'm less of a Doonhamer and more of an Up-hamer.

One final song recommendation; [Kathryn Scott - Heaven Is Our Home](#)

David Currie

*Happily unsettled back in Dumfries*

**David & Shona's new address: 16 Wellington Avenue, Heathhall, Dumfries DG1 3SB**  
**Telephone number: 01387 251429**

## Saturday May 6th



Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> proved to be an ideal day for 8 young (ish) people to travel all the way to Southwick to help tame my garden. Dry, sun and light wind were perfect conditions for chopping, barrowing and stacking logs, gathering stones for borders, demolishing a falling down old hen house – AND – for, not one but, TWO careful bonfires! An ENORMOUS ‘thank you’ to: Alistair, Liz, Katrina, Chris, Colin, Astrid, Emily and Adam for all their hard work, fun, laughter and good company. It was a very enjoyable and worthwhile afternoon, and all your efforts are much appreciated. Many thanks and God bless.

Phyllis Caldwell

## New Build Progress



## Contacts

|                  |                               |  |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Senior Pastor    | Alistair Purss                | 01387 263032<br><a href="mailto:Alistair.purss@btinternet.com">Alistair.purss@btinternet.com</a>           |
| Associate Pastor | David White                   | 07476379865<br><a href="mailto:david.white111@btinternet.com">david.white111@btinternet.com</a>            |
| Youth Contact    | Colin Holmes                  | 07775 029423<br><a href="mailto:colinhaitch@btinternet.com">colinhaitch@btinternet.com</a>                 |
| Secretary        | Lesley Mackay                 | 01387 247456<br><a href="mailto:dumfriesbaptistsecretary@gmail.com">dumfriesbaptistsecretary@gmail.com</a> |
| Treasurer        | Ian Penn                      | 01387 263242<br><a href="mailto:pennnithsdale@supanet.com">pennnithsdale@supanet.com</a>                   |
| Church Office    | Mon-Fri 9am-1pm               | 01387 268926<br><a href="mailto:dumfriesbaptistchurch@gmail.com">dumfriesbaptistchurch@gmail.com</a>       |
| Prayer Diary     | Eleanor Moss                  | 01387 263994<br><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<br><a href="mailto:Alistair.purss@btinternet.com">Alistair.purss@btinternet.com</a>           |
| Toddlers Group   | Heather McCombe<br>Lynn Mitra | 01387 253416<br>07711160983  |
| Friendship Hour  | Val Penn                      | 01387 263242   |
| Discoverers      | Jane Rafferty                 | 01387 268066   |



### Summer Youth Nights

What?

Outdoor Games  
Quiz Night  
Photo Challenge  
Table Talk  
Biblical Storylines

Where?

Marquee next to  
Georgetown Primary  
School

When?

3rd - 7th July 2017  
7.30 - 9.30pm

To Register

Dumfries Baptist  
Church Office  
Tel: 01387268926

e-mail [dumfriesbaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:dumfriesbaptistchurch@gmail.com)

Or just turn up

## Treasurer's Report

### Total Monthly Income

April 2017      £11,836.56 (+ £285,126.16) for appeal)

May 2017      £11,612.51 (+ £12,923.68) for appeal)

You will probably be aware that we have changed the church financial year to begin on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 and run to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017. We are therefore now 11 months into this financial year. The total Income to date is £166,590 (£3471 / week) plus £644,822 for the Appeal Fund. Expenditure during this same period amounts to £1523.75 (£3175 / week).

The response to the appeal has been remarkable in that we have now actually received more than £2,472,881 towards the purchase of land and building of a new church. We have spent about £1,665,614 for the purchase of the new site and fees which gives us about £807,267 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)