CONTACT

CRAIGIE, DUNDONALD and SYMINGTON CHURCH



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026

Message of encouragement



Dear Friends

Over the past few Sundays in Church, we have been studying the Parables of Jesus as found in Matthew's Gospel chapter 13. These have given me the opportunity to explore what the kingdom of heaven is really like. And I must admit it has been a bit of an eye-opener for me personally. Many of the parables are very well-known and have been read hundreds, if not thousands, of times in Church over the years. However, in studying these again I discovered that maybe I had got it wrong in the past. But for me that is not something new I know - I don't always get it right.

If we're honest with ourselves I believe that is the case for us all. I'm sure in the past we haven't always chosen correctly or wisely when making our choices. Unfortunately, we can't turn the clock back, but we can make another choice to learn from our mistakes.

Recently I have been reading the Book of Proverbs, which contains the Wisdom of Solomon and one of the features I've noticed is that the book of Proverbs uses stark language to present the choices of wisdom and foolishness to us. Much of its teaching is good advice for life, if we're prepared to take it. The writers of these proverbs endeavour to underpin how God expects us to live our lives.

Proverbs 9 is a good example of this. It offers us a choice between attending a banquet prepared by wisdom or an alternative banquet prepared by foolishness. Wisdom invites us to a feast which is good and wholesome, while Foolishness invites us to feast on the temporary delights of secret sin. Since the days of Eve, who was fooled into taking what seemed the more exciting option, choosing right from wrong has proved more difficult than at first sight.

For example, in the parable of the Great Feast that Jesus told in Luke 14:16-24, excuse after excuse was made in response to the invitation to the banquet until, eventually, the Master sent out the invitation to society's lowliest instead. It seems that wisdom didn't accompany the wealthy guests invited. They thought they had more important things to do and rejected the invite - Oh, how wrong they were.

The words we find in Proverbs 9: 5-6 mirror those of Jesus in John 6:35, where he declares himself "the bread of life", assuring us that 'He who comes to me shall never hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst'. Let's choose to accept the invitation we can trust – choose wisdom and forsake foolishness. Remember no party on earth can satisfy us as Jesus can.

God bless.

Tom McLeod
Interim Moderator and Locum Minister

07596719107 Tmcleod@churchofscotland.org.uk

Catriona Mayes, Family & Pastoral worker - 07305620611 / treenieg@gmail.com

Craigie Symington Church @9:30am

sunday services

Dundonald Church @11:00am

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026





August

9th	Craigie Symington - Rev Tom Dundonald - Rev Tom
16th	Craigie Symington - Catriona Dundonald - Catriona
23rd	Craigie Symington - Catriona Dundonald - Catriona
30th	Craigie Symington - Rev Tom Dundonald - Rev Tom

September

6th	Craigie Symington - Rev Tom Dundonald - Rev Tom Dundonald: 7pm - Catriona Song and Spirit - Castle Visitors Centre
13th	Craigie Symington - Rev Tom Dundonald - Rev Tom
20th	Craigie Symington - Rev Tom Dundonald - Rev Tom
27th	Craigie Symington - Rev Tom Dundonald - Rev Tom

Coffee & TEA AFTER CHURCH

CRAIGIE SYMINGTON

The first Sunday of every month except July and August

DUNDONALD

Come over to Hall after the service for coffee/tea and a catch up. Please contact Ruth if you are able to join the coffee/tea rota erutheaston@gmail.com

Dundonald Creche



Children of all ages are welcome in our Church. Those age 3 and under will be taken across to creche in the Church Hall with the Sunday School after the children's address.



Many thanks for all the good wishes, prayers, lovely flowers and afternoon tea I received after my recent illness. Very much appreciated.
Pat Hastings.

Many thanks to everyone for their kind messages, cards, gifts, flowers and plants that I received for my 80th birthday. They were very much appreciated. Thank you all.
Kind regards, Elaine.

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers I received recently. Such a lovely surprise; I was delighted. Pam.
xxxxx

Sincere thanks to everyone for their donations of home baking and help at the Games this year. Very much appreciated.
Adaline.

And thank YOU Adaline for all you do for our Church, the Games and so much more.

Parish Register – Deaths

Mrs Margaret Muir, 8 Laurel Place, Kilmarnock

Mrs Sheena Dunlop, 28, Old Auchans View, Dundonald

Mr Jim Fowler, Howard House Care Home, Kilmarnock

Mrs Helen MacDonald, 28, Golf Crescent Troon

Mr Ronnie Muirhead, "Hallyards", Old Loans Road, Dundonald

Mrs Flora Northcote, 21 Tarbolton Road, Dundonald

Mrs Maggie Kuczynzki, 2 Kilnford Crescent, Dundonald

Mr David Harrow, 33 Kilnford Crescent, Dundonald

Remembering family and friends in our prayers

Flowers for June and July

Sheila would like to thank everyone for their donations of flowers to Dundonald Church throughout the past two months which have provided much joy to the recipients after the morning service. Thanks go to ...

Moreen Linton, Janette Caldwell, Dorothy Watson, Irene McMillan, Margaret Miller, Rosalie Hemingway, Lilian Axford, Pam Kavanagh and Adaline Finlayson.

Please let Sheila know if you hear of anyone who would appreciate the flowers after the Sunday service.

Craigie, Dundonald and Symington Church Summer Fete















A huge thank you to everyone who helped make our Craigie, Dundonald and Symington Church Summer Fete such a wonderful success.

Special thanks to Fiona, Gordon and Harry for running the Tombola;
Sam for the Bottle Bags;
Angela and Doreen for the Handbags and Scarves stall;
Our BBs and officers Kevin, Kenny, Neil, Bill, Wullie, Ross, Caelan, Robin, Seb and Joseph for serving teas and coffees;
Adaline for the kitchen prep and home baking which was very much enjoyed;
Catriona for Higher and Lower Cards;
Margaret and Susan for the baking stall;
Alan, Maureen, Sheila and Sally for the Plant Stall;
Pam, Kate and Jennifer for Round a Pound;
Isla and Lachlan for the Guess the Teddy's Name competition, won by Adaline;
Debi for overseeing the very popular Chocolate Raffle and malteser smash;
the Scouts for helping with the tidying up.

We would also like to thank Sheila and Elizabeth for providing the stall floats and for counting up the takings at the end of the day.

A special thank you also to Lochlan the BB Best Boy who opened our fete, along with his driver for the day, Gemmill, who valeted his car specially, and to Eilidh for producing and promoting our event posters.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who donated prizes, baking, plants and their time, and to all who came along to support the fete.

Thanks to your generosity and hard work, a fantastic amount of £1,873 was raised to help support outreach projects across our local communities.

Thank you all for helping make the day such a success.

Elaine and Gillian x

Worship







NEW CHURCH WEBSITE

www.craigie-dundonald-symington.org.uk.
Some pages are still to have content added. Please pass any ideas & information on to Fraser McMillan 07932397582

VITAL WAYS OF SERVING YOUR FELLOW WORSHIPPERS ON A SUNDAY! ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP?

CAR DRIVERS

Do you enjoy worshipping with your Dundonald Church family in Church on a Sunday? Would you consider helping someone else to do the same?
To enable the continuation of the car service, which is vital to a number of people who are unable to access the Church independently, we desperately need more volunteer drivers. As a driver this would entail picking up & dropping off your passenger approx. once every 6-7 weeks. If you think you could help, please let Jane Ritchie know as a new rota will be compiled from August - 07817040426

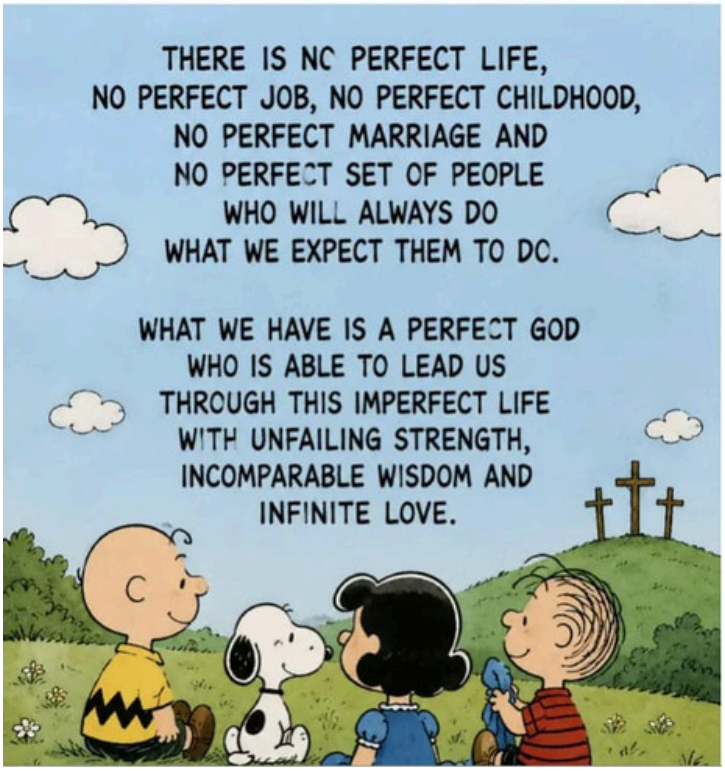
HYMN SHEETS

The worship team are looking for a volunteer to type the sheets each week...
Is typing one of your skills? Could this be a way of serving in your Church?
Please contact Catriona or Bob McMillan for more information.

JOB VACANCY - Sunday Club Leader

Craigie, Dundonald and Symington Parish Church.
We are looking for someone to volunteer as the Sunday Club Leader.
The role mainly comprises of preparing activities for each Sunday and organising the volunteer helpers to deliver the activities.
Experience of working with young children is an advantage but not essential.
For further information please contact the Interim Moderator Rev Tom McLeod
Telephone: 07596719107 Email: tmcleod@churchofscotland.org.uk
Please note this post is considered Regulated Work with children under the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007. The successful applicant will be required to join the PVG Scheme or undergo a PVG Scheme Update Check prior to taking up post.





Prayer

Debi Dunn



We have lost so many friends in our Church family recently. Losing a parent, partner, sibling, friend is heartbreaking.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you…Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." John 14:27-28

"The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:18

A Farewell to those left behind

I love this poem by Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) - Nobel Prize for Literature 1931

Farewell my friends.
It was beautiful as long as it lasted
The journey of my life.
I have no regrets whatsoever
Save the pain I'll leave behind.
Those dear hearts who love and care
And the heavy with sleep, ever-moist eyes.
The smile in spite of a lump in the throat
And the strings pulling at the heart and soul.
The strong arms that held me up
When my own strength let me down.
Each morsel that I was fed
Was full of love.
At every turning of my life I came across good friends,
Friends who stood by me
Even when the time raced me by.
Farewell, farewell my friends,
I smile and bid you goodbye.
No, shed no tears for I need them not,
All I need is your smile.
If you feel sad, do think of me
For that is what I'll like,
When you live in the hearts of those you love
Remember then
You never die.

I thank thee Lord that I have lived

I thank thee, God, that I have lived.
In this great world and known its many joys;
The song of birds, the strong sweet scent of hay
And cooling breezes in the secret dusk;
The flaming sunsets at the close of day,
Hills, and the lonely, heather covered moors;
Music at night and the moonlight on the sea,
The beat of the waves upon the rocky shore
And wild white spray, flung high in ecstasy;
The faithful eyes of dogs, and treasured books,
The love of kin and fellowship of friends,
And all that makes life dear and beautiful.
I thank thee, too, that there has come to me
A little sorrow and sometimes defeat,
A little heartache and the loneliness
That comes with parting and the word goodbye;
Dawn breaking after weary hours of pain,
When I discovered that night's gloom must yield
And morning light break through to me again,
Because of these and other blessings poured
Unasked upon my wonderful head.
Because I know that there is yet to come
An even richer and more glorious life,
And most of all, because of thine only Son
Once sacrificed life's loveliness for me -
I thank thee, God, that I have lived.

Elizabeth Craven (1730 - 1828)

If we were to be honest, most of us would admit to taking the freedom to live out our Christian beliefs in the UK for granted. If you are not familiar with Open Doors, I would recommend you take some time to read about their work. https://www.opendoorsus.org/en-US/about/

Starting in 1955 with a young Dutchman (who became known as Brother Andrew – the book "God's Smuggler" details his story) who went to Warsaw and discovered the existence of a Church that was oppressed, isolated, and apparently forgotten. From 1955 to 1967 he travelled throughout Eastern Europe, delivering Bibles, encouraging those he met, and recruiting others to help him with his vision of supporting Christians who faced persecution and discrimination for their faith. Through the years the vision has extended from the Soviet Union to supporting Christian Churches in China, the communist block, communist states and more recently, the Islamic world.
"With the aid of the international community, Open Doors now serves persecuted Christians in more than 70 countries, working with churches and local partners to provide Bibles, Christian materials, training, livelihood skills, and advocacy. "

Their aim is to "encourage and raise up people in every nation to pray, support and speak up for Christians around the world who suffer for their faith."
If you have it on your heart to pray for persecuted Christians, the World Watch List is a good resource. https://www.opendoorsus.org/en-US/persecution/countries/

Of particular note is Syria which has jumped to the top ten of the World Watch List, with pressure and violence spiking sharply compared with last year. A year ago, Syria was ranked 18, and this year it is number 6. This reflects the reality that Syria is now at its most dangerous since the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024 – after ruling Syria for more than 50 years. The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) group now occupies significant areas of territory.
Widespread instability has led to deadly clashes that have affected other religious minorities, particularly Druze and Alawites, with Christians caught in the crossfire. The resurgence of military operations by the Islamic State group since October 2024 reinforces a sense of insecurity. These include a deadly attack on a church in Damascus in June 2025. https://www.opendoorsus.org/en-US/persecution/countries/syria/

How can you pray for Syria? (by Opendoors)

- In the aftermath of the fall of the Assad regime, many Christians live with constant uncertainty. Pray that believers would lean on God as their 'Rock eternal' (Isaiah 26:4).
- Pray for converts from Islam, that they would find love and fellowship even when they encounter rejection by family and friends.
- Pray for the victims of the Damascus church attack, that their wounds would be healed, and they would feel God's closeness as they decide how best to live out their faith.

A Prayer for Syria (by OpenDoors)

Lord, the Syrian people have been through so much – and Your people have endured endless trials and tribulations. And now, God, we see how they face such an uncertain future, unsure of what new leadership and new regimes will mean for them, even as the reality has grown even more dangerous. God, we implore You to bring Your perfect peace to Syria; help new leaders to recognise how Syrian Christians have been part of the fabric of the region since the time of Christ. Lord, You brought St Paul to You as he travelled to Damascus, the capital of Syria. We pray that You would repeat this miracle in our time, reaching the hearts of even those who oppose You the most. In Jesus' name, we ask these things. Amen.

Friendship

Floyd's Cafe



9.30am – 12noon

We would like to acknowledge all the wonderful volunteers that make the running of Floyd's possible. There are many jobs that need doing - many of which go unnoticed - setting up, taking down, the weekly shop, baking, chatting, supporting, washing up, preparing toasties, making up children's boxes, making soup, serving, wiping tables, washing the piles of dish towels, trips to the South Ayrshire Foodbank , sorting foodbank boxes, trips to Micah and charity shops, sign posting visitors to other services - the list goes on.

It is always done with a smile and a happy heart and, in case we don't tell them enough, this is the time to say again how much they are appreciated.

PS: Most weeks we have items to give the Micah Project so here is some more info below about what they are collecting. Please feel free to drop at Floyds and we will deliver it.

The Micah Project
Thriving families, Stronger communities - good for the planet, great for the pocket

One of the purposes of our charity is to be able to reuse, repurpose and recycle wherever they can - in May we took in 138 bags of donations weighing 479kg. With some repairing, sorting and creativity we were able to use over 90% of them. Zero Waste Scotland research reveals that 56,000 tonnes of textiles are thrown away into Scottish residual waste (landfill or incineration) annually. Furthermore, across the UK, 70% of used clothing ends up in landfill or gets incinerated, with a staggering 11 million garments thrown out every week.

Children's clothes, age 0-15
So we can create Twice Treasured boxes that help families save money, reduce waste and make getting dressed simpler.

School uniforms
So children can feel ready, included, and confident at school without families facing extra pressure.

Baby items and essentials
So parents and carers have practical support for everyday family life.

Children's trainers and wellies
So children can play, walk, explore, and get outdoors comfortably.

Coats, jackets, hats, gloves, and scarves
So children can stay warm and dry through changing Scottish weather.

Books for children and families
So we can encourage reading, storytelling, language development, and family time.

Toys, games, and puzzles - Non plastic / durable and in very good condition.
So children can play, learn, imagine and develop without families needing to buy everything new.

Clean bedding and towels
So families can access everyday essentials with dignity.

Good-quality bags and backpacks
So children and families have practical items for school, nursery, trips, and daily life.

Fabric, haberdashery, buttons, and sewing items
So our Sew New team can repair, reuse, create, and teach skills while keeping textiles out of landfill.

Clean textiles not suitable for reuse
So we can turn them into rags rather than sending them to landfill.

Money - Yes, money does help the world go round and it helps us pay rent, bills and staff. It also helps our grant applications too.

MEN'S CLUB



Thursdays 7.30pm
in Dundonald Church Hall.
An informal group who meet to chat & support each other.
Carpet bowling, fellowship and a cup of tea. Ladies most welcome!
Please contact Dougal.

GOOD GRIEF GROUP

2nd Tuesday of the month,
1.30pm in The Auchans.
An informal group who meet to chat & support each other over a cuppa.
If you are interested in coming along please contact Anne FitzGerald,
Moira Kerr, John Wilson,
Catriona or Tom.



Symington Friendship Group

Wednesdays in Symington Community Hall
from 11.45am until 2.30pm.
All are welcome to come along for a cup of tea/coffee, cakes, biscuits and a good blether!



Giving Thanks

I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said:
This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received.' I looked around in this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world. Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section. The angel then said to me:

This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them. ' I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth.
Finally, at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing.

This is the Acknowledgment Section, ' my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed 'How is it that there is no work going on here? ' I asked. 'So sad.' The angel sighed.
'After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments.' 'How does one acknowledge God's blessings? ' I asked. 'Simple,' the angel answered. Just say, ' Thank you, Lord. ' 'What blessings should they acknowledge? 'I asked.

'If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy. 'If you woke up this morning with more health than illness ... You are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day. If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation ... You are ahead of 700 million people in the world. If you can attend a Church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death you are envied by, and more blessed than, three million people in the world. If your parents are still alive and still married ..you are very rare.' If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm, you're unique to all those in doubt and despair..... '

Craigie Dundonald and Symington Guild

The Church of Scotland Guild is a movement which invites and encourages both women and men to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action.

CRAIGIE SYMINGTON BRANCH

The Afternoon Guild Group will recommence in September and meet in Symington Community Hall once a month on a Tuesday at 2pm.
If you would like to join them for the next session you will be made most welcome.
Below is the syllabus for the coming Session:

29/09/2026
Mr Joe Cassidy
27/10/2026
Mr David Dickson
24/11/2026
Pastor Richard Woods Recent Visit to Haiti
15/12/2026
Afternoon Tea - Entertainment by Stevie & Ann of the Ayrshire Ukulele Group
26/01/2027
Joanne & Steve – Preventing Falls
23/02/2027
Open Afternoon – Entertainment by Music Box
30/03/2027 AGM
followed by Beetle Drive and Afternoon Tea

Details will be given through the intimations in Church or if you want any further information contact either Eleanor Gault or Sandra MacArthur



DUNDONALD BRANCH

The Evening Guild Group start again in October and meets in Dundonald Church Hall on a Monday evening at 7pm

5th October 2026
Scott Nicol Music
19th October 2026
Rev Tom Logan
Trip to Australia
2nd November 2026
Memories are better than dreams
Local Charity

Please contact Adaline Finlayson or Anne Young for further information

FRUIT FOR SCHOOL



Dundonald Primary School has a fruit basket available for all pupils during the day. It empties very quickly.

Why not buy some extra apples, pears, bananas, oranges, plums, peaches (not berries) and hand them to Debi, Adaline or Catriona at Church or Floyds. This fruit will be delivered to the school.

TOILETRIES



The Food Bank have suggested to us that it can be useful to have some simple toiletries to hand when we give out the provisions, if the client is in need of them.

The items suggested are:
toothbrushes, toothpaste, bars of soap, deodorants, shower gel, shampoo.
If you would like to contribute any of these please give to any of the volunteers at Floyds or to Adaline/Anne at Guild evenings

1st Dundonald Boy's Brigade

At the start of July, the Company Section headed off to Kirkham for their annual summer camp with 1st Irvine Boys' Brigade — and what a week it turned out to be. With glorious sunshine from start to finish and the largest number of boys we've ever taken, this year's camp set a new benchmark for adventure, teamwork and unforgettable memories.
Each day was packed with activities that kept the boys on the move from morning to night. They tackled theme parks, splashed through water parks, took to the loch for canoeing, enjoyed a night of bowling, and even squeezed in a football stadium visit. The mix of high-energy fun and shared experiences made it a standout camp that will be talked about for years.

Meanwhile, the Junior Section enjoyed their own fantastic weekend away at Craggan near Lochearnhead, where they also got stuck into water activities and outdoor challenges. The boys embraced every moment, and the atmosphere across the weekend was one of excitement, confidence-building and pure enjoyment.
Across both camps, one thing was clear: a brilliant time was had by all.
With summer adventures now wrapped up, leaders and boys alike are already looking forward to the new session beginning in early September — ready for another year of growth, fun and community. *Colin Meldrum*





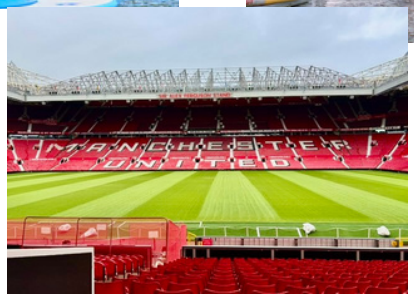


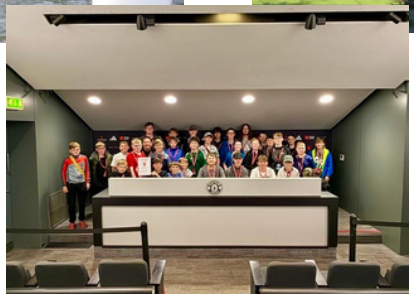












Discipleship

House Groups



Two House Groups meet each week in Dundonald: Wednesday afternoon at 2pm and Wednesday evening at 7pm. This is a meaningful time of friendship and sharing, delving into God's word over a cup of tea and getting to know each other better. Please do come and join one of these groups - you would be most welcome.

Wednesday Afternoon group 2-4pm

This group meets every other week at Eileen or Frances's home and recently we have been looking into Mark's Gospel following on from a series on the Fruit of the Spirit. It has been a great opportunity of learning more about God's word, the time ending with prayer and music reflecting the passage we looked at. Frances 07885 527087

Wednesday Evening group 7-8.30pm

This group meets every week and starts with time chatting to each other followed by listening to worship music and carrying out a study getting to know Jesus and how to be a better Christian, ending the time in prayer. Recent studies have included Romans, Unanswered Prayer and learning more about the Bible.

If you are interested in joining this group please contact Julie on 07923577082

The Church Library



For many years our Church Family has enjoyed a wonderful range of books in our Library which is situated in the Hall. However, after much thought and due to lack of use, we now propose that the library is disbanded and the books made available for the congregation and others to take away for personal use, if wished.

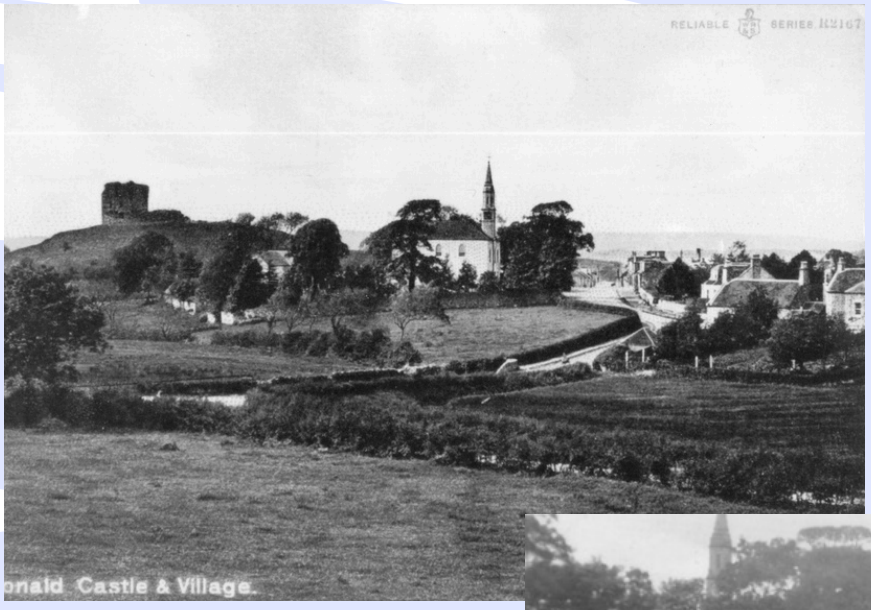
These books will soon be available to browse in the hall at tea/coffee on Sundays, at Floyds and during the week when other activities are on. After a while, any remaining books will be donated to The Opal Trust in Darvel and other sources that appreciate pre-loved Christian books. The shelves will still be put to great use, however, with space for all our lovely Children's books and the Guild hymn books.

There are lots of wonderful Christian writers out there, fiction and non-fiction - available to read online if preferred; And please don't forget our fabulous Christian bookshop in Kilmarnock - John Ritchie - with interesting books, Bible study guides, beautiful cards and gifts for any occasion.

Thank you all for your interest shown in the library over the years.

Shirley & Frances

Archive



LEFT: This picture of Dundonald Church and village was contributed by Jim McQuiston...
Do you have any idea which year this photo was taken?
Any suggestions would be welcome - let the Editor know!
Please lend us your historical photos from Dundonald or Craigie Symington for putting into the magazine at a later date.

RIGHT: Dundonald Church and Village taken in 1934.
With many thanks to Daisy and Jack McMurtrie







events.humanitix.com/therevival-2026/tickets

Community





KNIT N NATTER: A weekly social group where members gather to knit, chat and share creative ideas. **Every Monday from 1pm - just pop along.**

WRITE HERE AT DUNDONALD CASTLE: A creative writing group led by a Writer in Residence. Members work on short stories, poetry and collaborative projects. **Every other Monday 630-830pm. email info@dundonaldcastle.org.uk.**

LADY WALKERS: A group of local ladies who like to take a walk and talk followed by a coffee and treat in the cafe. **Every Tuesday from 130pm**

SCRABBLE CLUB: Join our enthusiastic players and challenge your word count. **Every Wednesday from 130pm - just pop along.**

BOARDOM BUSTERS: A fun and engaging group aimed at reducing boredom and loneliness through games, crafts and social activities. Open to all ages and especially welcoming to those seeking companionship. **Every Wednesday from 130pm.**

DUNDONALD HISTORICAL AND ARCHIVE GROUP: Friends of Dundonald Castle has recently taken stewardship of the local village archives, preserving stories and documentation that reflect the rich heritage of Dundonald and surrounding area. Monthly talks on a Wednesday evening - free for FoDC members, £3 for non-members
Doors open 630pm. Talk starts at 700pm.

BACK IN TIME CAFE: A relaxed Thursday morning dementia cafe session offering conversation, refreshments and a welcoming atmosphere for all. **Every Thursday 11am-1230pm - just pop along.**

CASTLE CRONIES: A friendly sociable group aimed at older adults, offering regular meetups for conversation, activities and community connection. It helps reduce isolation and build friendships. **Every Thursday from 2pm - Just pop along.**

SILENT BOOK CLUB: Each session opens with a gentle 30 minute social window to talk books, meet new people and ease into the evening. Then we move into a dedicated hour of silent reading, giving everyone space to unwind. We're multigenre with no required reading list, bring anything you like. **Every other Thursday 7-830pm - just pop along.**

CRAZY CASTLE KIDS JUNIOR COMMITTEE (CCK): Our Junior Committee take part in shaping the future of Dundonald Castle. Members help plan events, learn leadership skills and engage with heritage in fun and meaningful ways. **Every other Friday from 330pm. email outreach@dundonaldcastle.org.uk for more info.**

YOGA AT THE CASTLE: A relaxing yoga session held on the last Saturday of each month, overlooking the village from the castle grounds. Led by a local instructor, it focuses on mindfulness, flexibility and community wellbeing.
Check social media and website for dates and times.

AYRSHIRE YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS' CLUB:
A hands on heritage group for 8-16 year olds interested in archaeology and history.
First Sunday of the Month 2-4pm - email archaeology@dundonaldcastle.org.uk for more info

Music at Craigie

Sat. 5 September ● Louise & Chris Rogan in Concert ● 7.30pm in Craigie Village Hall.
A unique father and daughter duo from Manchester. Louise is a truly outstanding singer! One English folk club organiser claimed she has the finest voice on the current English folk scene.
Louise's voice has been compared with the great Joan Baez and the late Julie Felix. Chris's intricate guitar work, and smooth vocals, sit easy with Louise's voice and keyboard playing as they perform traditional and contemporary songs.

Sat. 3 October ● Stan Graham in Concert ● 7.30pm in Craigie Village Hall.
York-based singer-songwriter Stan, who has a wonderful rapport with audiences, performs self-penned songs, with excellent guitar accompaniment. His songs reflect life's immense variety. Stan has released seven highly acclaimed albums of his own songs.
Stan's songs have been sung and recorded worldwide by many well-known artists. Rock & Reel Magazine said of Stan "There's a real touch of Tom Paxton in Stan's writing and performances".

Please bring your own refreshments and glasses. Teas, coffees and cakes are available at the interval. Tickets (advance booking preferred) £12 & £6 (under 16), payable by cash only on the night ● Advance tickets / further info. from Lorna Dewar 078999 78736





DUNDONALD CRAFT AND SOCIAL CLUB

Thursdays in Montgomerie Hall, Dundonald
Over 50s
2pm - 4pm
Tea, coffee, biscuits
Board Games,
Card making, Pool.

One off yearly fee: £20

SWI DUNDONALD

First Thursday of month, Montgomerie Hall

Starting again in September



DUNDONALD BURNS CLUB

Dundonald Burns Club extend a warm welcome to all those who wish to join them.
Dundonald Bowling Club from October to April
www.burnsclub.org/syllabus/
www.facebook.com/people/Dundonald-Burns *Club /100086497921801/*
Dundonaldburnsclub@gmail.com

BADMINTON

Tuesdays/Thursdays
10am-12noon
Dundonald Church Hall



Marie 07847388646
£1 per session - please enquire about yearly membership

GENTLE EXERCISE CLASS

Wednesdays 10-11am
Dundonald Church Hall

Increase resilience, calm, flexibility and strength.

Carolyn 07961 323078
seasonalwellbeing@gmail.com





SMILERS

Laughter is the soul's medicine

Give me a good digestion, Lord
and also something to digest.
Give me a healthy body, Lord
with sense to keep it at its best.
Give me a healthy mind, good Lord
to keep the good and pure in sight;
Which seeing sin is not appalled
but finds a way to set it right.
Give me a mind that is not bored
that does not whimper, whine or sigh,
Don't let me worry over much
about the fussy thing called I.
Give me sense of humour, Lord;
give me the grace to see a joke;
To get some happiness from life
and pass it on to other folk.

Thomas H.R. Webb

TRAVEL



Hmmm, wonder how many places you've been to...
I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.
I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.
I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.
I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.
I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.
Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.
One of my favourite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart!
At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!
I may have been in Continent, but I don't remember what country.

Take part in Craigie Dundonald and Symington Church's Mary's Meals project for August and September and donate your leftover coins/notes from your holiday trips. Envelopes are at the Church doors for you to put in your contribution.



Make a lasting impact with your leftover foreign currency which often ends up forgotten in drawers, wallets or jars after a holiday. By donating it to Mary's Meals, you can ensure it goes somewhere truly valuable, helping us provide nutritious school meals to hungry children.
Every small contribution adds up, and together, we can turn unwanted currency into daily school meals that give children the energy to learn, grow and build brighter futures.

Tasty Treats

Please share your recipes, Craigie Symington and Dundonald !!

Oriental Beef *Sheila Payne*

450g tail end fillet steak
(buy from Morrisons on Saturday and get 20 per cent off!)
Vegetable oil
4 spring onions, 2 red chillies,
Mixed coloured baby salad leaves
Sesame seeds, toasted, Fresh coriander



For the dressing
1 teaspoon finely chopped ginger
1 clove garlic, finely chopped
1 small shallot, finely chopped
4 tablespoons sesame oil
6 tablespoons vegetable oil
4 tablespoons soy sauce
2 tablespoons lemon juice

Trim the beef of any membrane, rub with oil and seal quickly on all sides in a very hot frying pan. Set aside and cool. In a small bowl whisk together all the dressing ingredients. Set aside. Trim the spring onions and finely slice lengthways. Halve, seed and slice the chillies lengthways. Slice the beef very thinly and arrange round the edge of a platter and place the salad leaves in the middle, whisk the dressing and spoon a little over the beef and salad. Scatter over the spring onions and chillies and dust with the sesame seeds and chopped coriander. Pass round the remaining dressing.

Black Forest Gateau *Elizabeth Munro*



4 eggs separated,
4oz caster sugar
3oz self raising flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder
2 tablespoons corn oil, 1oz cocoa
4 tablespoons boiling water
4 tablespoons Kirsch, optional
1 tin black cherries (pitted) or frozen cherries
half pint double cream
Chocolate flake

Grease and line an 8in round cake tin. Put egg yolks, sugar, flour, baking powder and oil in a bowl and mix together with a wooden spoon. Beat for 1-2 minutes until batter is smooth. Mix cocoa with boiling water and add to batter. Mix well. Whisk whites until stiff and fold in gently with a wooden spoon. Pour into a prepared tin and bake for 50-60 minutes at 180C/160C Fan Gas 4. Test by lightly pressing with fingertips - if cooked the cake will spring back and have began to shrink from the side. Put on wire rack and when cool remove from tin, also remove paper. When cold cut into three layers and, if using, sprinkle Kirsch on bottom 2 layers. Cut cherries in half, reserving 6-8 for decoration. Whip cream and using about one-third of it spread on the bottom layer and about half the cherries on top. Place centre layer on top and repeat. Place the third layer on top and then decorate this layer with the remaining cream, the 6-8 cherries and the crumbled chocolate flake.

LOCUM MINISTER & INTERIM MODERATOR
Rev Tom McLeod 07596 719107

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S WORKER
Catriona Mayes 07305 620611

SESSION CLERKS
Bob McMillan & Doreen Tait

TREASURERS
Morag Marriot & Sheila Tannock

SAFEGUARDING
Ruth Easton (D) & Angela Liggat (CS)

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER
Mariea Chisholm (D)

SUNDAY SCHOOL (D)
Kirsty Zorget 07710 683757

FABRIC CONVENORS
Doug Grant (D) & Bill Kilpatrick (CS)

PASTORAL CARE
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Isobel Mactier (D)

PRAYERS
Thursdays 1-2pm (D)
Debi Dunn 07714 160486

BIBLE READING
Elaine Grant 01563 851985 (D)
& Doreen Tait 07762 730811 (CS)

CAR ROTA
Jane Ritchie (D) 07817 040426

FLOWERS & CHURCH DECORATION
Sheila Payne07833 522253
/Maureen Brown (D)
May Steele (CS)

FACEBOOK (CDS)
Debi Dunn 07714 160486

WEBSITE (CDS)
Fraser McMillan 07932 397582

DUNDONALD CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS
Katy Purdie 07860 878911

DUNDONALD SESSION ROOM BOOKINGS
Please record your booking request in advance on forms kept in this room.

SYMINGTON HALL BOOKINGS
Doug Marriot

CRAIGIE SYMINGTON CHURCH BOOKINGS
Doreen Tait 07762 730811

SOCIAL ACTION (D)
Adaline Finlayson 07582 590899

FLOYDS COMMUNITY CAFE (D)
Food Bank: Debi Dunn 07714 160486
Frances Mavor 07985 527087

WATER AID - JARS OF GRACE
Libba Fallows (D)

BIRTHDAY SCHEME (D)
Mary's Meals
Frances Mavor 07985 527087

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Articles for October/November CONTACT to be submitted by 25th September 2026

Thank you. Frances Mavor: sandyfrancesm@icloud.com 07985 527087.

Thank you to all who contributed to this edition of Contact Magazine - articles photos, recipes etc. Please put on your thinking caps for next time - Oct/Nov!

CONTACT MAGAZINE LOCATION The current edition, as well as previous editions, can now be accessed via https://www.craigie-dundonald-symington.org.uk/index.php?page=contact-magazine
Please note that this will be where all future editions can be accessed.