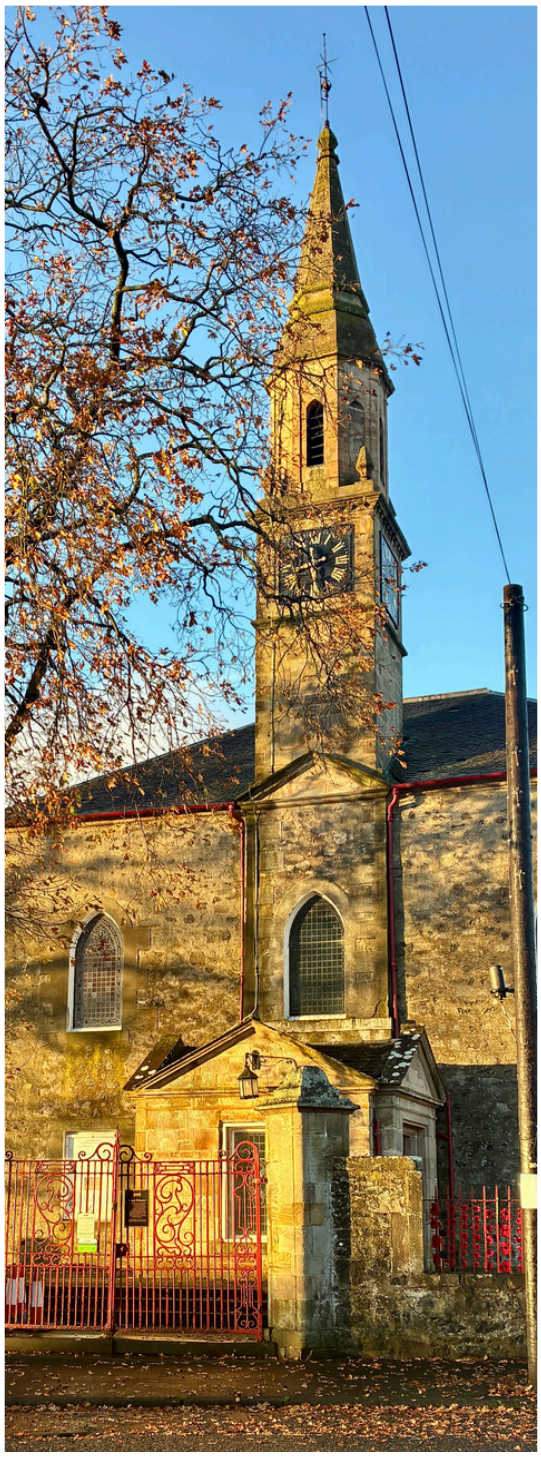
CONTACT

CRAIGIE, DUNDONALD and SYMINGTON CHURCH





OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2026

Message of encouragement



Dear Friends

In my experience one of the most hurtful activities we can participate in is helping to spread gossip. Those who participate in it will say that it's only a casual conversation or just a bit of banter between friends. In the past year there have been two devastating incidents in our local community and as I have experienced before when people don't know the whole truth they make up their own version. And sadly, more often than not their stories are full of inaccuracies. Also, they often use half-truths, deliberate lies or, to quote Mr Trump, "False News" to spice up their stories or to make it look as if they do know the whole story.

In my opinion there should never be room in our conversations with others for such practices. When we allow this into our conversations even between friends someone always gets hurt. And the usual excuse used to justify their actions is that there is "No smoke; without fire" which is one of the lamest excuses of all especially when the one who started the fire is the one stoking it now.

C.H. Spurgeon was right when he said in his Book "Gems from Spurgeon":

"A lie travels round the world while truth is putting on her boots."

How sad is it that as human beings we are happy to listen to, believe and pass on a lie, rather than taking time out to discover the truth. In Proverbs 26 :20 Solomon says:

"Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down."

He is telling us not to encourage gossip and without it any quarrel will end and any hurt will heal faster. The best way to avoid encouraging gossip is to walk away if you can but if you can't then at least challenge the validity of the information.

Whatever you do let's to try keep our conversation kind and uplifting or, as my wife would say, "If you can't say something nice don't say anything at all." Gossip devastates lives and as Christians we are asked to keep a tight rein on our tongues. So instead of spreading or sharing gossip let's make sure our words are used to encourage others and not to cause harm.

God bless.

Tom McLeod
Interim Moderator and Locum Minister

07596719107 - Tmcleod@churchofscotland.org.uk

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



CHOIR From Sun. 4 Oct. Dundonald Church choir rehearsals will resume at 10.15am in the choir room. It's not necessary to read music, just come along & join us. New members always welcome.

Craigie Symington Church @9:30am

sunday services

Dundonald Church @11:00am

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2026





October

4th - **AFTERNOON GUILD DEDICATION SERVICE** - Craigie Symington - Rev Tom
DUNDONALD BB DEDICATION SERVICE - Dundonald - Rev Tom
SPIRIT AND SONG - 7pm - Dundonald **-** Catriona

11th **HARVEST SERVICE - Collection for the Food Bank**
Craigie Symington - Rev Tom
Dundonald - Rev Tom and Catriona

18th Craigie Symington - Rev Tom
Dundonald - Rev Tom

25th Craigie Symington - Rev Tom
Dundonald - Rev Tom

November

1st **COMMUNION SUNDAY**
Craigie Symington - Rev Tom
Dundonald - Rev Tom
SPIRIT AND SONG: All Saints Day - 7pm - Dundonald - Catriona

8th **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**
Craigie War Memorial - **time to be confirmed - Rev Tom**
Craigie Symington - **9.30** - Rev Tom
Symington War Memorial - **10.15** - Rev Tom
Dundonald War Memorial - **10.30** - Mrs C Mayes
Dundonald - **11.00** - Catriona - All age with Youth Organisations

15th Craigie Symington - Catriona
Dundonald - Catriona

22nd Craigie Symington - Rev Tom
Dundonald - Rev Tom

1st SUNDAY IN ADVENT

29th Craigie Symington - Catriona
Dundonald -Catriona
MESSY CHURCH - 2pm, Symington Community Hall - Catriona

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



Creche

Children age 3 and under will be taken across to creche in the Church Hall with the Sunday School after the children's address.







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

Dundonald's new Church Officer – Willie Miller



A warm welcome to Willie who took on the role of Church Officer at the beginning of September. He is a Dundonald boy who has lived in the village all his life and is married to Ruth. He became a member at Dundonald Kirk in the early 1990s.

Willie attended Dundonald Primary School and Marr College and after leaving school began work as an apprentice joiner, moving on to farming where he remained for 24 years. Wiilie finished his working career in Morrisons supermarket in Troon which he loved.
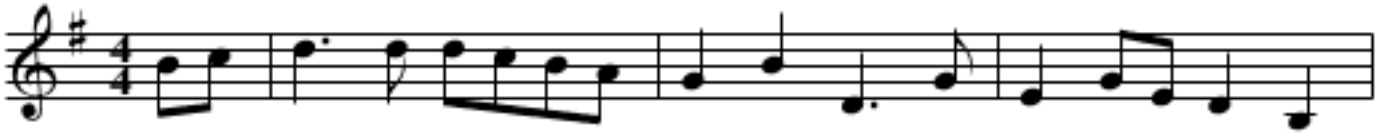
Willie is well known by everyone in the village with his friendly greetings and concern for others. He loves playing bowls at the Bowling Club and this year he has again made it through to the finals with his team.

Willie has been an officer in the 1st Dundonald Boy's Brigade for 32 years and still leads the Junior Section as Officer in Charge; he loves playing badminton, taking part in competitions, attending camps and going on outings. He has been involved with Dundonald Highland Games in many different ways including the BB stall and in 2023 he had the huge honour of being Chieftain, enjoying a very special day.

Willie works hard and diligently at all he undertakes and we know that he will be a dedicated and committed Church Officer.

The Lament for the Death of the Reverend Archie Beaton

Archie Beaton: Past President of An Commun Gaidhealach



This is one of my favourite pieces of music which is often played in our Church and at many other events. It is a beautiful Scottish slow air composed in memory of the Rev. Archie Beaton, T.D. M.A. Minister of Dundonald Parish Church from 1943-1971.

The Rev. Archie Beaton died suddenly in 1971 while serving as President of An Commun Gaidhleach at the National Mod in Stirling. He was a champion of Gaelic Culture. He succeeded in his aim to bring the Mod to Ayr, but, unfortunately, he did not live to see its success.

The composer of this piece of music was John Mason of Troon who had met Mr Beaton often and knew him well. Under the conductorship of its composer this lament was performed by almost 150 musicians by The Fiddlers Rally which preceded the start of the Mod in Ayr. It was also featured on television and radio.

A lovely piece of music which evokes so many memories each time it is played.

Janette Caldwell

John M. Mason, MBE (1940-2011) composer, musician and conductor, Scottish solicitor. He was the co-founder, musical director, and conductor of the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra from its creation in 1980 until his death in 2011.

Parish Register – Deaths

Miss Ellen Gray, Thortoun Estate Care Home, Crosshouse

Remembering family and friends in our prayers

Prayer

Debi Dunn

A Harvest Prayer from Christian Aid



Creator God, you give life and light to the world.
We rejoice together in the wonder and the fullness of Your creation.
We give thanks for small seeds that flourish into great trees and bear fruit in abundance.
We delight in the gifts of nature and the hope that a good harvest can bring.

Loving God, You know our sorrows and our failings.
We have cut down what was flourishing.
We have consumed and destroyed what was given to us to nurture.
We repent our wrongdoing and ask you to guide us in the ways of righteousness.

Living God, You call upon us to sow peace, grow faith, and tend to one another in love.
Plant in us a commitment to pursue that call.
Strengthen our hope as we seek together the coming of Your kingdom on earth. Amen

Remembrance Sunday



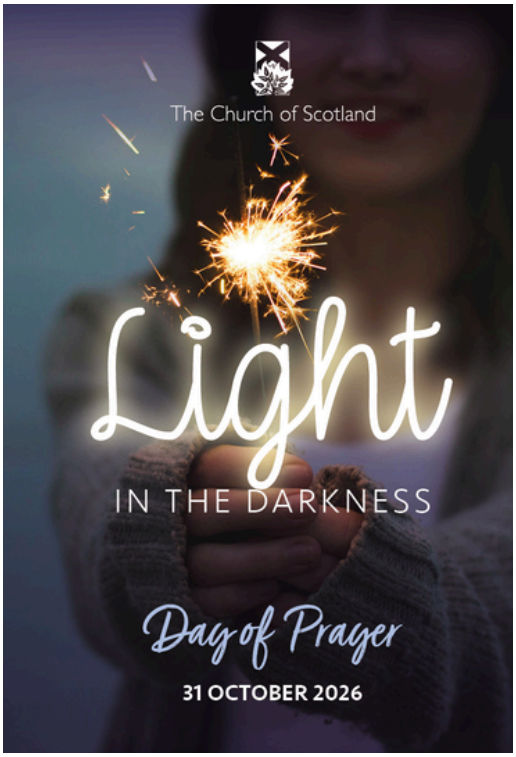
Holy and Beloved God,
Remember us as we remember the men and women who went to war with full awareness of the cost; many returning wounded, disillusioned or afraid. We pray for veterans, that You would bring restoration and healing to their bodies and minds. Give us the wisdom and heart to receive them with compassion and honour their great sacrifice.
May the courage demonstrated by the nations bear witness to the God of hope.
O God, bring unity and peace to our world. Amid suffering and despair, we look to You. As a Good Shepherd,
You gather us in your arms and carry us close to your heart.
You guide us with Your rod and staff through valleys of death into pastures of peace.
God, make us receptive to the cross and to the divine revelation of eternity with you.

We lift up servicemen and women who have been overlooked throughout history.
We praise You for the way they laid down their lives to protect us. Give us the confidence to defend the defenceless, the fatherless, the forgotten, the poor and the powerless.

Comfort us when we grieve the loss of those we have loved and lost.
May Your Church emerge as a force for compassion, conviction, grace, and peace.
May we bring ministry in times of war No matter the size of our influence, give us resilience to combat injustice with devotion to righteousness and truth.
Through the death of your Son, you showed us that the greatest love of all is a love that sacrifices for the good of others. In all that we do, may we reflect you.

In Jesus' name, Amen.
by Shanley McConnel, https://www.eauk.org/

Light in the Darkness



A day of Prayer for the Church of Scotland and the communities of Scotland. Saturday 31st of October

John 1:5 - The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Listen out for what is going on locally but there are two online gatherings organised.

The first is a live streamed prayer service from **West Kilbride Parish Church** at 11am. Follow this link on YouTube to join in with this - https://www.youtube.com/@wkpc

The second is at 4pm and will be led by Rev Scott McRoberts and Rt Rev Gordon Kennedy, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland,

To take part in this online prayer meeting, please click the link below to register on Microsoft Teams. You will then be sent a link with which to join the meeting on the day. It will be an exciting time to join in with others around Scotland.

https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/prayer/day-of-prayer#register

Look upon us, O Lord, and let all the darkness of our souls vanish before the beams of your brightness. Fill us with holy love, and open to us the treasures of your wisdom.
All our desire is known to you, therefore perfect what you have begun,
and what your Spirit has awakened us to ask in prayer.
We seek your face, turn your face to us and show us your glory.
Then shall our longing be satisfied, and our peace shall be perfect.
St Augustine of Hippo



A Five Year Blessing for Floyds Cafe

Lord, we gather now to praise Your grace,
That shines so brightly in this cosy space.
Five years of pouring warmth into each cup,
Five years of lifting weary spirits up.

We pray for many fruitful years to come,
May joy and kindness always beat here like a drum.
Keep watch over Floyd's, its staff, and its door,
And fill this space with love for five years more.

Lord, as we enter this new season of Autumn, the days become shorter, the evenings darker and weather begins to change. At this time we thank you for Floyds, a special place where people can come together, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and share one another's company with laughter, enjoy knitting/crocheting or simply sit together with friends.
Lord we are grateful for those who give their time so willingly and generously to make Floyds mornings possible, we give heartfelt thanks for all the time, care and kindness they give.
May there be joy among us and may we leave here feeling refreshed.
We ask all these things in your precious name, Amen. ***Adaline***



Sunday 20th September saw the second session of Messy Church in Symington Community Hall, this time focussing on the theme of 'Creation'. It was a fun-filled afternoon, with helpers from both Dundonald & Symington.

After registering, the children coloured in a sheet 'We Care for God's Creation' to stick on their paper bags, ready for the crafts they were to make through the afternoon for taking home. Hands were drawn around on green paper, so that the shapes could be cut out & stuck as leaves to a cardboard tree.

Catriona welcomed everybody and Kirsty led us in songs such as 'Welcome Everybody', with some musical instruments for the children to use.

Crafts included: colouring in people shapes to look like ourselves (Tom did a grand job preparing an illustrative one!), night/day paper plates with stars & moon, bouquets of cardboard flowers, making bead bracelets to represent people of the earth working together, cotton bud painting of flowers etc and the beauty of creation, a Bible verse (Psalm 139 v14) for colouring in and decorating Oreos with white & black icing?

A beautiful wooden cross, which had kindly been made by Kevin McAulay, was decorated in stained-glass window style using glue & tissue paper. Plastic farm animals were available for younger children to play with, along with a sandpit.

Julie, Catriona and Josie the puppet summarised the afternoon's activities and using an inflatable globe, Catriona encouraged the children to think of others around the world whom we should remember. After a short prayer, everybody enjoyed fellowship and an amazing buffet prepared by Anna and Morag.

Many thanks to all the helpers and a big welcome to anybody who would like to come along to join in the fun & worship next time. ***Shirley Shaw***

Next Messy Church 2pm Sunday 29th November

Dundonald Community Council

Meets on the second Thursday of the month, apart from January, July & August, to discuss any issues in the Village. All matters addressed. From 7-9 pm in Montgomerie Hall. ddcdundonald@gmail.com

Craigie Dundonald and Symington Guild

The Church of Scotland Guild 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
Symington Community Hall
Tuesday afternoons, monthly at 2pm

27/10/2026
Mr David Dickson
24/11/2026
Pastor Richard Woods Recent Visit to Haiti
15/12/26
Afternoon Tea
Ayrshire Ukuleles

Please contact either Eleanor Gault or Sandra MacArthur for further information

DUNDONALD BRANCH
Dundonald Church Hall, fortnightly Monday evenings at 7pm

5th October 2026
Dedication by Rev Tom McLeod
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

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!



A Christmas to Remember
Marr Cappella

Marr Cappella choir will be entertaining audiences again with their annual Christmas Concerts on the 1st and 2nd December in St Meddan's Church, Troon at 7.30pm. Doors will open at 7pm. This year's concerts titled "A Christmas to Remember" will be led by Musical Directors Krista Donnelly and Amanda Bell and we are hoping that members of the Kilmarnock Concert Brass will perform during the interval.
Come along and enjoy a wonderful evening of festive music and Christmas cheer showcasing local musical talent.
There is a suggested donation of £10, with proceeds from the events going to support The Micah Project and Troon RNLI. For more information, please visit Marr Cappella Troon's Community Choir on Facebook or email to: marrcappellachoir@outlook.com.



AYRSHIRE OPEN DOOR VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all who helped out at both Dundonald & Craigie-Symington Church Open Doors on Sunday 13th September

GEMMILL JACK

A huge thanks to Gemmill for filling in the pot holes in both the lane leading to the Church Hall and the Car Park. It is greatly appreciated by us all 👏

Foodbank

Thank you to all who have given toiletries so far towards the Foodbank.

Items recommended are:

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, bars of soap, deodorants, shower gel, shampoo.

If you would like to contribute any of these please items give to any of the volunteers at Floyds or to Adaline/Anne at Guild evenings

Thank you for the beautiful flowers Sheila so kindly delivered to me. It was a lovely surprise and much appreciated. Dorothy Richmond

I owe thanks to so many people since my two hospital stays and since coming home. To all those who visited and brought flowers and home baking and home made meals and who took me to appointments and for the delicious afternoon tea from Floyds and to all who remembered me in their prayers. I feel very fortunate to live in such a caring community and to be part of a loving Church family.

Thank you all - Eileen.

The Church Library

Thank you to everyone who has browsed through the books from Dundonald Church Library displayed on the pool table in the hall over recent weeks. Some Bibles, theological & evangelical books have already been put aside for the Opal Trust based in Darvel, whilst others are going onto various supermarket community bookshelves.

The remaining books will be left out on display in the Church Hall until Sunday 18th October, after which they too will be similarly distributed.

We hope you have enjoyed looking through the books, perhaps even discovering some you didn't realise we had in our Church Library, as well as passing them on to others to read and share.

See an article about the Opal Trust on the opposite page

Flowers for June and July

Sheila would like to thank everyone for their gifts of flowers to Dundonald Church throughout the past two months which provide so much pleasure to us all at the morning service and to those who receive them afterwards.

Thanks go to ...*Dorothy Richmond, Anne Watts, Lilian Axford, Frances Mavor, Jean Gorman and to the families of Ellen Gray and David Harrow.*

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



The OPAL Trust is an organisation which equips Churches and Christian leaders in the Majority World with affordable Bibles and quality evangelical literature.

The charity tackles Bible poverty by getting Bibles in local languages to those least able to afford them, as well as publishing affordable books and tracts by authors who speak from and to the Majority World perspective.
OPAL equips Christian leaders - preachers, evangelists, Church planters in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America - with books to help them grow in understanding, spiritual maturity, and fruitfulness. They need books to help them preach and teach and OPAL supplies this need through making books available at affordable and subsidised prices.
Furthermore, OPAL collects used theological books and makes them available to resource Bible school libraries to help in training leaders. Some of the Bible, theological and other books from Dundonald Church Library will be passed on to the Trust.

More information about OPAL can be found at: https://www.opalinternational.org/
Local branch is: 2B Green Street, Darvel KA17 0AY O1698 792894

Crossreach calendars and Christmas cards

Cards and Calendars are available and can be ordered from
Katy Purdie at 07860878911 or via email at ktpurdie@hotmail.com by 15th November
Calendars are £6. You can also order directly from Crossreach
https://shop.crossreach.org.uk/product-category/calendars/

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. If you would like to come along to one of these groups - you are most welcome.

Wednesday Afternoon 2-4pm
The afternoon group meets every other week at Frances's home and we are about to start looking at the **The Sermon on the Mount** from Matthew's Gospel, over three to four sessions. If this is a passage you would like to look at please do contact Frances 07885 527087

Wednesday Evening 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 Christians, ending the time in prayer - they are now looking at the **Grace Course.**
If you are interested in joining this group please contact Julie on 07923577082



HARVEST SERVICES - SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER

We are again collecting for the South Ayrshire Foodbank, Trussell Trust. Items most needed are jars of pasta sauce, instant mashed potato, tinned carrots, tins of chopped tomatoes, hot meals (stew, mince, chilli, bolonese, curry), fruit, custard and rice, UHT milk, tea, coffee, diluting juice, boil in the bag or microwave rice - but all non- perishable food items are most welcome.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER



This year Helen is hoping to decorate both inside Dundonald Church grounds and the fence facing the street. So, happy knitters and crocheters, time to start making your poppies please. Helen has carefully stored and rejuvenated many of the poppies from last year but hoping we can create another new display this year. Wool will be available at Church and Floyds.

BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOE BOX APPEAL 2026

Blythswood's Shoe Box Appeal involves filling shoeboxes with gifts for children and adults affected by poverty, trauma and exploitation. A shoebox filled with simple, practical items such as toiletries, stationery, clothing, sweets and a small gift can bring joy to someone who may have very little Since the first Shoe Box Appeal in 1993, more than 2.9 million shoeboxes have been delivered via Churches, schools, hospitals, orphanages and care homes to households in very low-income communities, through trusted partners to people in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. Blythswood also add to the shoeboxes -a Bible storybook for children, a story of a life transformed by Jesus for teenagers or a calendar with Bible verses for adults.
As usual, FullartonConnexions in Irvine will be involved in collecting, checking & packing shoeboxes during the first three weeks of November (from 2nd to 23rd). All help is greatly appreciated and it's always a delight to be part of such a worthwhile process. 01294 273741 or contact coordinator@fullartonconnexions.co.uk for further information/to donate/be involved.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS



NB4C are looking for pants and socks for children/young people ages 3-15, boys & girls. Also, they would very much like contributions of selection boxes, chocolate Santas and sweets like Haribos. If you would like to donate any of these items then please give them to Helen Campbell 07821936472. Alternatively bring them to Floyds, where we can collect them for Helen to pass on to the NB4C team.







SYMINGTON COMMUNITY HALL







Come along and enjoy this very entertaining event

We have a huge selection of **ladies clothes** to choose from for all age groups,
Come along join in the fun and pick up a bargain too!

THE BEST SHOW IN TOWN
GREAT BARGAINS
GREAT FUN!

Our display will be our *latest exiting clothes range - a great opportunity* for you to treat yourself. No one is under any obligation to purchase items but everyone is welcome to enjoy and take part in the entertainment.
Cash, cheque and card payments.

THE CLOTHES SHOW IS BEING HELD AT:
VENUE: COMMUNITY HALL, SYMINGTON
DATE: TUESDAY 24th NOVEMBER
TIME: 7pm TICKET PRICE: £ 5
BRIAN TAYLOR'S CLOTHES SHOW
Bookings taken all year round
30 years experience - Top fashions in all sizes
Afternoon and Evening shows available



Craigie Scarecrow Trail



If you were driving around the Craigie area at the end of July, you may have noticed some interesting characters appearing at the roadsides. Craigie Community Council invited residents to take part in a competition to make the best scarecrow. The theme was the Commonwealth Games and entries included high jumpers, weightlifters and gymnasts as well as background people such as cleaners and security staff.
Judging took place on Saturday 1 Aug and the Community Council would like to thank Councillor Julie Dettbarn for carrying out this difficult task.

First prize (Gold Medal) went to Jax, the pole vaulter at House of Craigie. Second prize (Silver Medal) went to Dunc the diver at Baillieston Pond, and Third prize (Bronze Medal) went to Slam Duncan the basketball player at Oaklea. There was a special prize for children's entries and it was won by the Meadowhead rugby player.
The event was sponsored by A G Rural Finance. Well done to everyone who took part!







UPdate from our Nursery Partnership



We have just transferred 2.3 million Malawi Kwacha (£762) to cover the cost of 'likuni phala' (maize flour reinforced with protein and vitamins/minerals) for the 14 weeks of the first term of 2026/27 which started on 14th September.

Using this maize, volunteers from our linked Mdyaka Congregation provide a daily wholesome meal for 122 nursery school children (about 50/50% boys/girls).
Rev Banda, the current Parish Minister, replied "Received with thanks and will do the needful. May the good Lord bless you."

Music at Craigie

Eilidh Grant Trio in Concert - A St. Andrew's Night Special • SAT. 28th November • 7.30pm
CRAIGIE VILLAGE HALL

A superb concert of Scottish Traditional music & and song. All three band members play in various Scottish bands & bring a wealth of experience after many years of performing. Excellent vocalist Eilidh Grant is joined by superb fiddler Fiona Cuthill & multi-instrumentalist musician Stevie Lawrence on acoustic guitar & bouzouki. Together they bring a wide range of musical influences to create their unique sound which is both traditional & contemporary.

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











CRAIGIE SHOW







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 would like to come along along please contact Anne FitzGerald,
Moira Kerr, John Wilson,
Catriona or Tom.



GENTLE EXERCISE CLASS

Wednesdays 10-11am
Dundonald Church Hall

Increase resilience, calm, flexibility and strength.

Carolyn 07961 323078
seasonalwellbeing@gmail.com



BADMINTON



Tuesdays/Thursdays
10am-12noon
Dundonald Church Hall

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

MEN'S CLUB

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



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



Thursday 5th November
Debbie Dunlop
Power of Attorney
Competitions
A favourite pen
3 squares tablet

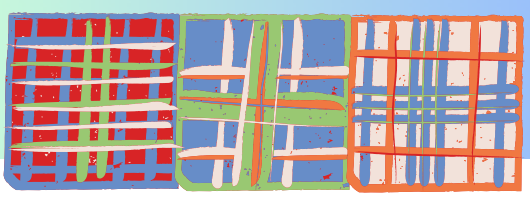
Thursday 3rd December
Wendy Kyle (MECOCO)
Candles and melt wax
Competitions:
Decorated Pringle Tin
3 Empire biscuits/Nellie Murdoch Trophy

DUNDONALD BURNS CLUB -

Wednesdays at 7.30pm
Dundonald Bowling Club
Annual Membership £10

28th October 7.30pm
BEHIND THE LENS
On royalty, Hollywood and world sport with Jeff Holmes
18th November
From Farming to Football
Behind the scenes at Kilmarnock FC - Robert Dykes
No tickets or Pre-booking required.
All are welcome to attend.

28th November 7.30pm
St Andrew's Celebration
The Auchans, Dundonald
Ticket only
Please contact
dundonaldburnsclub@gmail.com



FRIENDS OF

DUNDONALD CASTLE & VISITOR CENTRE

www.dundonaldcastle.org.uk | SC031541

CASTLE | VISITOR CENTRE | MUSEUM | COFFEE SHOP
GIFT SHOP | TOURS | EDUCATION | ARCHAEOLOGY
WEDDINGS | EVENTS | LOCAL WALKS
DOG-FRIENDLY | COMMUNITY SPIRIT

SIT IN OR TAKEAWAY

OPEN ALL YEAR | 7 DAYS A WEEK
FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT
WWW.DUNDONALDCASTLE.ORG.UK

2024 Scottish Thistle Awards
Celebrating Thriving Communities
NATIONAL WINNER

COMMUNITY EXCAVATIONS

13TH-18TH OCTOBER 2026
WWW.DUNDONALDCASTLE.ORG.UK





13TH–18TH OCTOBER 2026

Friends of Dundonald Castle SCIO (SC031541) are delighted to be welcoming everyone back to Dundonald Castle for community excavations in October this year. We will be working alongside our friends and colleagues at Historic Environment Scotland and AOC Archaeology.

We are looking for volunteers who are keen to get hands-on experience in the trenches looking for evidence of previous structures as well as exciting finds such as pottery, metalwork, animal remains and other artefacts that might tell us a better story of how the hillside has been used in centuries past.

No prior experience is necessary and all tools and equipment will be provided. This project is free to take part in.
For more details, email Lauren at archaeology@dundonaldcastle.org.uk

FRIENDS OF DUNDONALD CASTLE SCIO





DUNDONALD HISTORICAL & ARCHIVE GROUP PRESENTS:

BILL MCKINLAY
"ALLOWAY RAILWAY TUNNEL: TELLING THE STORY FROM CONCEPT TO COMPLETION"

DUNDONALD CASTLE VISITOR CENTRE
14TH OCT | 7PM



FREE ENTRY FOR FODC MEMBERS
NON-MEMBERS: MINIMUM DONATION £3

DOORS OPEN 6:30PM - TALKS BEGIN 7:00PM
SEATING LIMITED SO PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY

DUNDONALD HISTORICAL & ARCHIVE GROUP

HIGH ATLAS ADVENTURES	11TH NOVEMBER	ALASDAIR MCFARLANE
SCOTTISH MASON'S MARKS PROJECT	13TH JANUARY	IAIN ROSS WALLACE
DUNDONALD AND THE SCOTTISH WARS OF INDEPENDENCE	10TH FEBRUARY	BLYTHE PATERSON

Tasty Treats

Please share your recipes - Craigie Symington and Dundonald !!

A recipe for Happiness

Take equal parts of healthy honest work, rest and recreation mixed carefully with diligence, contentment, cheerfulness and an even temper.
Put them through a sieve of determination and get rid of any lumps of idleness and despondency
Bring the whole to a cream by adding the milk of human kindness, spirits of consideration and sympathy, stirring in each gently with an unsparing hand.
Add a generous sprinkling of smiles and colour with laughter.
At dinner, at supper, at morning, at night, Give thanks unto God for his gifts so in sight.

Curried Apple and Courgette Soup *Jean McCLelland*



2oz butter, 1 large onion - chopped,
2 level teaspoons curry powder
1 dessert apple - peeled, cored and chopped,
8oz courgettes -diced, 2oz rice
1 and half pints chicken stock
half a teaspoon salt
8oz milk, 1 heaped teaspoon sugar

Melt the butter, sauté the onion and apple, sprinkle with curry powder and stir in. Pour in stock, add rice, courgettes and salt. Cover and cook over a gentle heat until tender, approx 30 mins. Cool slightly and blend in the milk and sugar.

Mixed Fruit Crumble *Shirley Shaw*



1kg frozen fruit, 2 Granny Smiths (or other crisp, tart eating apples), peeled, cored and cut into 2cm chunks
4 tablespoons caster sugar
1 teaspoon ground mixed spice, 2 teaspoon vanilla bean paste
Finely grated zest of 1 small lemon
Crumble topping:
150g cold butter, diced, 150g caster sugar
150g plain flour, 80g rolled oats

Preheat oven to Fan 180°C/Gas 6. Put frozen fruit into the dish, add apple chunks and spread out to cover the base. Sprinkle the sugar and spice evenly over the fruit. Dot the vanilla paste over the surface and sprinkle with the lemon zest.
Crumble topping: Put all the ingredients into a food processor and pulse until the mixtures resembles crumbs (or put butter, sugar and flour into a bowl, rub together with your fingertips until resembles crumbs and then stir in the oats.) Spread crumble mix over the fruit, covering fruit completely. Bake on a high shelf in the oven for 35-40 minutes until the crumble topping is crunchy and golden & the fruit underneath is softened and saucy. Remove from oven and leave crumble to cool slightly before serving. Serve with hot or cold custard or vanilla ice cream or cream.
Shirley's note: I was tidying up my freezer so used up a mix of frozen blueberries, blackberries, pink gooseberries, plums & redcurrants. Whilst it didn't look as good as some of my usual crumbles (as I suspect it was a bit too moist) it was incredibly tasty and did not last very long at all in the Shaw household!

SMILERS

Laughter is the soul's medicine

Bonfire Night

Heat on your face and sparkler in hand,
Look at the children in a magical land.
Each with their face upturned to the sky,
Watching the colours from rockets way up on high.

Each child is a picture, a snap shot replay.
You remember how it was back in your day.
The fireworks were simpler, you did your own thing.
But bonfire night magic made your heart sing.

It conjures up memories of hot soup and cake.
Maybe a hot dog or a bit of home-bake.
Of neighbours all round and the darkness and light.
Dogs barking madly or hiding in fright.

But we know, 'cause we see, the fun and delight,
How many each year see nothing but night.
So careless, so futile, and not even needed.
All for a moment and warning unheeded.

So have all your fun, enjoy the delight.
But take care my friend on this new bonfire night.
And watch those around you, see they do the same,
And only the bonfire will burst in to flame!



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.

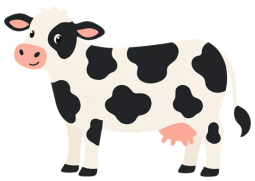


- What did the biscuit say when he got eaten?...."Oh, Crumbs!"
- Why did the banana go to hospital?.....It wasn't peeling very well!
- What is a Ghost's favourite ice-cream?.... I-scream!
- What's a bear's favourite pasta>....Tagliateddy!
- What is a frog's favourite drink?....Croak-a-cola!
- What's a bear's favourite drink?....Kola-Koala!
- Why did the orange stop rolling down the hill?....It ran out of juice.
- What is a cows favourite food?....Moosaka!
- What do you geet from a pampered cow? Spoilt milk
- Where do cows go on a Saturday night? The Moovies
- What's a sheep's favourite name? Barney!
- What do you call a wet bear? A drizzley bear?
- What do you call a bear with no teeth? A Gummy bear!

HOLIDAY CLUB JOKES
In a previous edition of Contact magazine (2013!)







LOCUM MINISTER & INTERIM MODERATOR
Rev Tom McLeod 07596 719107

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S WORKER
Catriona Mayes 07305 620611

SESSION CLERKS
Bob McMillan & Doreen Tait

CHURCH OFFICER (D)
Willie Miller 07304 349201

TREASURERS
Morag Marriot & Sheila Tannock

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

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER
Mariea Chisholm (D) 07709 152194

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL (D)
Kirsty Zorget 07710 683757

FLOWERS & CHURCH DECORATION
Sheila Payne 07833 522253/
Maureen Brown (D)
May Steele (CS)

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

CAR ROTA
Jane Ritchie (D) 07817 040426

PASTORAL CARE
Sheila Payne 07833 522253
Isobel Mactier (D)

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

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

INTIMATIONS
Lorna Dewar 07899 978736 (CDS)
lorna@cultural-connections.co.uk



(D) Dundonald (CS) Craigie Symington

Articles for December/January CONTACT to be submitted by 25th November 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.

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.

Prayers for our Nomination Committee

May we remind you to continue to pray for the committee that is searching for our new Minister. It is a great responsibility. Please pray expectantly – that they will continue to keep the Holy Spirit as their guide through the process**.**

Matthew 7:7-8 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

Pray intentionally – through the process of searching, advertising, speaking to people, trying to promote our church. For each member, for ministers out there who may be looking for a change but also, those who are not but whom God may be prompting – may they heed God's voice. Also pray about what you can do – to spread the word, promote our wonderful church and villages.

Pray reinforcing God's goodness and greatness. As our shepherd we can trust that he is leading us in this process.

Isaiah 55:9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."

Jeremiah 32:17 "Behold, you have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You."

Ephesians 3:20 "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us."

Matthew 10:11 "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."

Amen.

Sometimes the pressure of life may get us down, perhaps we have some special difficulty to face, some responsibility to shoulder. But if we look steadily to God we indeed find ourselves borne up by a power not our own. Then, as it were from a higher altitude, we can see life steadily and with clearer vision; and we can come back to our tasks- the humdrum and even dreaded tasks-with fresh heart and new inspiration.

We kneel, how weak! We rise how full of power!
Why therefore should we do ourselves this wrong,
Or others -that we are not always strong,
That we are ever overborne with care
That we should ever weak or heartless be,
Anxious or troubled, when with us is Prayer -
And Joy and Strength and Courage are with Thee"
Richard Chenevix Trench



CONTACT

CRAIGIE, DUNDONALD and SYMINGTON CHURCH



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026

GRATITUDE

Gratitude is often misunderstood and labelled as toxic positivity; as if being thankful means ignoring hardships or pretending everything is perfect. But real gratitude isn't about denying struggle; it's about strengthening yourself through it.

Gratitude doesn't erase difficulties, but it gives you the strength and clarity to face them. It's not about dismissing pain. It's about making sure it doesn't consume you by expanding your perspective beyond it.

Pretending our problems don't exist leads to emotional suppression and spiritual bypassing, causing more harm than good. Counting blessings isn't about ignoring challenges, but refusing to let them overshadow the light that's still present. It acknowledges that while hardships demand attention, joy deserves it too.

Gratitude reduces suffering by closing the gap between where you are and where you want to be. Instead of fixating on what's missing, it helps you recognize what's already here, making the journey forward lighter.

Remember: The sunshine is no less real just because the rain is falling. Pain and beauty can coexist. You can acknowledge struggles and still find reasons to be thankful. Recognizing the good doesn't invalidate the hard. Both deserve space in your story.

Your problems may test you, but your blessings sustain you. Challenges may shape your path, but gratitude fuels your resilience, helping you keep going even in difficult times.

Gratitude is a tool for balanced awareness. The kind that sees the light filtering through the cracks, the flowers pushing through concrete, and the moments of connection that persist even in isolation.

We often fall into all-or-nothing thinking, where either life is wonderful or terrible. But being thankful for what's working doesn't mean you're minimizing what isn't. It means you're seeing the whole picture. This nuanced perspective isn't inconsistency; it's the essence of being human.