

DUNLOP DIARY



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From the Church of Scotland, Dunlop

October 2020

Dear friends and neighbours,

Our lives continue to be filled with uncertainty and shaped by rules which seem to change constantly. Back in March, when we went into lock-down, and over the summer many of you said to me that you were counting your blessings. These included the blessings of gardens, of open space around us, of good neighbours, of a strong local community, of good weather and of long bright days. As those last two blessings have been replaced with chilly weather and shorter days, it's understandable that many of us are feeling more despondent about the limits placed on our lives. Some aspects of life have returned to some kind of normality, while others remain inaccessible to us. We're not really sure what exactly we are or are not allowed to do, who we can meet up with, and where.

However, it's worth remembering that many of those blessings we counted in the earlier stages of the pandemic are still very much with us, especially those of good neighbours and strong community, and that together we will support each other over the coming months and beyond. The autumn and winter months are usually filled with various church, community and social activities. Although we cannot get together as we would prefer, I'm sure that with determination and imagination we can make sure that we mark our usual celebrations and traditions, and maybe create some new traditions!

In this issue of the Dunlop Diary, you'll find out what different groups and organisations have planned, and how you can be involved. This includes knitted and crocheted poppies for outside display for Remembrance 2020, and soon I'll be letting you know about plans for Advent and Christmas. It had been hoped to have the church building re-opened for worship in September, but that has been delayed for a few weeks so we can have some electrical work carried out. This means that our Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be on-line, but we have made arrangements to ensure that our tradition of donating and taking houseplants to older people around the parish will continue. We'll celebrate Harvest on Sunday, 18th October, and you'll be able to donate money to the Harvest House Plant fund at Norman's. The church will purchase plants with the donations received and if you'd like to be a friendly face delivering one or more plants, then let me or Margo McMurdo know.

We are living in such strange times, all of us, and this time last year we would never have imagined that our lives would have changed so much. If you are finding it overwhelming, don't worry on your own - we are all in this together, and the strangeness and sadness of it is affecting everyone at different times in different ways. As your parish minister, I am here for everyone - church member or not, Christian or not. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like a chat, or if there is anyone you are worried about.

Through all of this, God is with us. I find it helps tremendously to take time every day to sit with Him, to speak with Him, to listen to Him, to be calmed, soothed and strengthened by Him.

May you all know yourselves to be blessed and loved,

Alison

Rev Alison McBrier

Dunlop Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, 18th October, will be our online Harvest Thanksgiving Service. That afternoon we will distribute a Harvest plant gift to those on our Harvest list. Norman has kindly agreed to have a collection can for the Harvest House Plants. The Church will purchase plants with donations received. If you are available to help deliver one or more plants please phone: Alison (01560 673686) or Margo (01560 484824).

A collection will also be taken for Christian Aid. Christian Aid envelopes and collection bucket will be available in Norman's.
Margo McMurdo, Session Clerk

Poppies for Remembrance

Anyone who has been making poppies for the Poppy Display for Remembrance please hand them in or leave them in the front porch of Ellenor Ferguson at 3 Lugton Road, Dunlop.

If anyone wishes further information please join our Facebook Group
'Dunlop and Lugton Poppies'

DUNLOP And LUGTON SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Following on from the Gala Committee delivering cream teas for the Seniors in our community it was brought to my attention that some people had not received one. We have a list which we hope is as accurate as possible but unless we are made aware of people reaching this milestone they will obviously miss out.

In normal times the Committee of the Association hold 2 coffee mornings a year in March and October to raise funds. We also organise an annual summer trip and Christmas Lunch both of which are very popular.

If anyone over the age of 65 would like to be included in our list please contact either Margaret True on 428165 or Jan Wardrop on 482023.

The Committee hope that everyone is keeping well and staying safe during these difficult times and it is to be hoped that we will be able to resume our events as soon as it is safe to do so.

Margaret True, President

Dunlop and Lugton Senior Citizens Association

It is with great regret that the Committee have taken the decision to cancel the Annual Christmas Lunch. As I am sure everyone will understand it would be impossible to adhere to Government guidelines with regard to social distancing for such an event.

We will continue to monitor the situation over the winter months and hopefully we will be able to resume some events in 2021. Take care and stay safe.

Margaret True
President

The Ayrshire Hospice

Regrettably, the Dunlop Friends have had to cancel the annual **Craft Fair** due to Covid 19 restrictions. We have been very grateful for loyal support for our events over the years and hope to find alternative ways to raise funds for the Hospice.

To provide our **Crafters** with an opportunity to showcase their work, an online event will be set up via Facebook, with the crafters making a donation to the Hospice in exchange for their details being posted for people to see and buy online. Keep checking the Dunlop Friends of the Ayrshire Hospice Facebook page for the link to Dunlop's first Virtual Craft Fair!

In addition, **Hospice Christmas Cards** will be on sale but at a different venue - in the Dunlop Village Hall on Café opening weekdays from mid-October. Look out for posters confirming dates and times. Support the Hospice and be tempted by home-made goodies in the community café at the same time!

For further information contact Julie 07747 111994 or Carolyn 07950 049504

DUNLOP VILLAGE HALL

Conservatory café open Thursday and Fridays for lunch and first Saturday of the month.

DUNLOP GALLERY ART EXHIBITION

So pleased to be back showing the work of our talented artists again.

This month we will be exhibiting the art work of one of our local artists, Rebekah Loughran-Muir. She will be exhibiting in the Conservatory Cafe from Friday the 9th of October until Thursday the 12th of November. Due to Covid restrictions, we will not be able to hold an opening, but the work can be viewed when the cafe is open.

If you would like to see Rebekah's work outwith cafe hours, please phone Shiona at 07506 951620 to arrange a viewing. Also, you can view Rebekah's paintings on her face book page, Rebekah's ART. Rebekah Loughran Muir.

Hope you can make it along to the cafe, have lunch, coffee, and of course cake, and view the art work on display. See you there!

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