

# The Link

## The Newsletter of Dalriada Mid Argyll Church

Registered Charity No. SC001002  
([www.dalriadamidargyllchurch.org.uk](http://www.dalriadamidargyllchurch.org.uk))

June 2024

From The Manse

For some of us, the first year of Dalriada Mid Argyll will be an occasion for celebration. For others of us, the changes and adjustments that this new arrangement has brought are still a bit of a challenge, and we may not feel comfortable or content with them yet.

Certainly things are different – our 5 church buildings don't all host a Service every week now, as they once did. But from another angle, our united congregation now meets for worship three times on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month and twice on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. For some, the opportunity to gather in larger numbers, sing out with more voices and enjoy fellowship and a cuppa with a wider group than before has been a source of great delight. However where travel presents a difficulty it has left some folk only able to attend a Service fortnightly, and we must acknowledge that is a loss to them and to us all.

The truth is, very few of us like change. Even fewer of us, especially in later years, actively seek change. When it comes our way, it feels it's been imposed on us and we can be pretty resistant to that, sensing that it may mean loss or diminishment.

Many within the Church of Scotland are feeling like that at this time of change within our

denomination. The General Assembly's Radical Action Plan (greatly needed but unwanted) has brought about change in every tier of its structure: from 121 (the institutional administration etc) to 1-2-1 (congregational life in communities throughout Scotland and beyond).

While we can't control many things, we can decide how to move forward, choosing what we keep, such as memories and traditions, and what we release, such as resentment or identities that no longer reflect who we are.

So, whether you are a "move with the times" person or a "long for the good old days" person, can I make 3 suggestions I think would be helpful?

1. Think of something from past days that you have really valued about your church experience. Thank God for it and tell someone about it.
2. Think of something you see potential for in our new church situation. Ask God to help you play your part in bringing that potential into existence.
3. Let me know about either or both of these things – I would be glad to hear your thoughts.

Remember, we're all in this together.

David

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When I am afraid, I put my trust in You.

In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. (Ps56: 3-4)

# BOOK AID

Book Aid's aim is to make Bibles and Christian Literature available at locally affordable prices for those who long to strengthen their faith through reading the Bible and other Christian literature. To this end, they send books globally to partner book-shops and sell books in the UK. They have distributed over 35 million books to partners since 1988!

If you have Christian books and Bibles on your shelves that you no longer need, please consider donating them to Book Aid.

You can bring any no longer needed Bibles and/or Christian Literature (in good condition) to any of our churches during July. Please do not see this as an opportunity to clear out your shelves but be considerate, and remember that the books need to be in good enough condition to be re-sold. Initially they will be forwarded to John McGregor in Bishopbriggs.



Jean Hodgson in our Ardrishaig Church with some of the 30 or so certificates identifying the Toilet Twinning Projects helped by Dalriada Mid Argyll Church

## Drop In Café

After much heart searching and a few tears, I have decided for health reasons that I will be giving up the Drop in Café held fortnightly in Lochgilphead Church Hall. The café will close on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

The café has run, first weekly and latterly fortnightly for the past ten and a half years. We have seen many volunteers come and go over the years but some of them have been there from day one, as have many of our loyal customers. The volunteers were not only from Lochgilphead Parish Church and Dalriada Mid Argyll but also from the other churches in the town. Some of them had no attachments to any church, making it a truly ecumenical project. As well as locals, we have met visitors from all over the world who have dropped in for a cuppa and to get away from our wonderful Scottish summers and the midgies. My one prayer each week was that we didn't get a bus party dropping in. Thankfully that prayer was answered.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone involved with the café: volunteers, customers, and the wider community for their unstinting support. I will miss my Wednesdays. The chat, laughter and camaraderie were good for the soul. The café was more than just a cup of coffee and a cake. It was a point of outreach for the church, bringing folk into the church buildings, some of whom may never have experienced the fellowship of Christian community.

Although this may be the end of the Café as such, let us pray that a new initiative will take its place.

Margaret Davidson



Toilet Twinning has been running since 2010. First, as a joint venture between NGOs Tearfund and Cord, and since 2015 as a fundraising source for Tearfund who keep their administration costs as low as possible, to make sure our donations have the biggest impact possible for people living in poverty in some of the world's poorest countries.

Without proper toilets, people get trapped in a vicious cycle

They're likely to become sick through sanitation-related diseases. Illness keeps people from working, children miss school, parents have to choose between paying for medicines or food and fall into debt.

Toilet Twinning funds hygiene education via community-led workshops and sourcing local materials for families and communities to build their own toilets.

## The Five Finger Prayer

What do you do with your hands when you pray?

Some of us “put our hands together.” Some of us clasp our hands. Whilst others may sit on their hands. Regardless of what you do with your hands, imagining them as you pray can provide you with a good approach to prayer and praying. The five finger prayer is also a great way to teach someone a way to pray.

**First, your thumb is nearest you** – begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you.

**Second, the next finger, is the pointing finger** – pray for those who teach, instruct and offer comfort. This can include teachers, doctors, police officers and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction.

**Third comes the tallest finger** – it reminds us of our leaders. Pray for those in government, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide the public in many different ways. They need God’s guidance.

**Fourth comes our ring finger** – we could pray for marriages and families. We could also pray for those who are weak, because our ring finger is the weakest of the five. You cannot pray too much for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain.

**Fifth comes our little finger** – it is the smallest of the five. It should remind us of our place in relation to God and others. God’s Word teaches us that, “the least shall be the greatest among you” (Matthew 23:11). Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.



## Weekly Offerings

When the congregations amalgamated, Dalriada Mid Argyll Church of Scotland inherited a number of different ways that our congregation donated to the work of the Church.

Primarily this is by Standing Order, but some still contribute by putting money and Freewill Offering envelopes into the Offering bowls at each Service

You may not realise how much it would benefit Dalriada Mid Argyll Church if you were able to sign a Gift Aid Declaration. If you are a UK taxpayer we can claim a further 25% of your giving from HMRC.

If you are happy for us to claim Gift Aid, please complete a Gift Aid Declaration form – available from our Finance Reps.

If, however, you do not pay tax, your Giving can also be increased by 25%. This can be done by giving your Offering in cash directly into the bag/plate/bowl and **not** using a Freewill Offering envelope. The extra 25% comes from HMRC under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme.

We are about to re-order Weekly Offering envelopes for the coming year. Please let any of the Finance Representatives know whether or not you wish to continue using these envelopes by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024. And please continue to give in the way that is easiest and most meaningful to you. Thank you.

Our Finance Reps are: Louise Logue  
Mary MacDonald  
John MacNab  
Caroline Waterhouse

Get a Bigger Frying Pan



Two people went fishing. One was experienced, the other wasn't. Every time the experienced one

caught a big fish, it was put into a cool box to keep it fresh; but whenever the inexperienced one caught a big fish, it was thrown back.

The experienced fisher watched this go on all day and finally got tired of seeing the waste of good fish – “Why do you keep throwing back all the big fish you catch?”

The inexperienced fisher replied, “I only have a small frying pan.”

Sometimes we throw back the big dreams and big opportunities that God gives us. Our faith is too small.

We laugh at the angler who didn't figure out that all that was needed was a bigger frying pan; yet how ready are we to increase the size of our faith?

Whether it's a problem or a possibility, God will never give you anything bigger than you can handle.

That means we can confidently walk into anything God brings our way.

Remember: You can do all things through Christ (Philippians 4:13).

### Church Picnic

Members and friends of our congregation enjoyed a happy afternoon at Ormsary. The garden was in bloom and delightful and the weather just right. After a tour of the splendid gardens members enjoyed a picnic together. It was an opportunity for fellowship and to meet new people. Our thanks go to Lady Lithgow for her hospitality.



### Service Rota

Kilmartin, 10:00am  
**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday** Lochgilphead, 11:15am  
Achahoish, 12:30pm  
  
Tayvallich, 10:00am  
Ardrishaig, 11:15am

### Summer Social Gatherings

Mon **Garden Club**, Church Hall, Ardrishaig, 2pm  
(Weather permitting)  
  
Wed **Not Another Coffee Morning**  
Church Hall, Ardrishaig 10:30am – 11:30am  
**Drop in Cafe** 10am -2pm  
Church Hall, Lochgilphead  
(Jul 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup> + Aug 14th and 28th)  
  
Sat **Cafe Connect**, Achnamara Hall, 10:30am

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