

HOPE



Auchinleck
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Serving Christ, Serving the Community

Welcome to the winter edition of our Newsletter

This year has been a year of uncertainties for so many people, in so many ways. It has been a year of change personally, nationally and globally and sadly also a year of change spiritually. Increasingly men are turning their backs on the truth of God's Word and paying the consequences!!

What does the future hold?

The Bible clearly tells us the future, ultimately, is God's judgement.

Jude 14-16 :- "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him. These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favouritism to gain advantage."

We can't individually, nationally or globally sin against God and expect to escape His judgement—it is just not possible. God is righteous and must punish the wrong doer!!

However, God is also a God of love and grace. That's what we celebrate at this time of year.

1 John 4:10 :- "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

God sent His Son (Jesus) to die on the cross as our substitute. He took the punishment that our sins deserve so that by repenting of our sins and believing in Jesus we can have our sins forgiven.

1 John 1:9 :- "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

*That's the special offer God makes
to us this Christmas!!*



**POET'S
CORNER**
**Strange
Kind of
Love**

Strange kind of Love,
That would be born in a stable.
Strange kind of Love,
That would lay in crude cradle.
Strange kind of Love,
That would come down so humbly.
Strange kind of Love,
That can make sinners holy.

Strange kind of Love,
That would lift up the lame.
Strange kind of Love,
That would bear with the shame.
Strange kind of Love,
That would walk on the sea.

Strange kind of Love,
That can, from death, set free.
Strange kind of Love,
That would come down to save.
Strange kind of Love,
That would conquer the grave.
Strange kind of Love,
That would welcome the nails.
Strange kind of Love,
That can stands all and never fails.

STRANGE KIND OF LOVE.

Mark Priestly



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A ROYAL INTERVENTION

We are now only too familiar with the success story of the ongoing regeneration work which is taking place at Dumfries House and its estate. However, this was not always the case. Those of us old enough can remember the days before the by-pass dissected the well walked estate road from Barony Road all the way round to the church at Kirk Brae. We can remember remnants and ruins in the trees and undergrowth providing us with clues and glimpses to the former grandeur of the estate. Of course the inside of Dumfries House itself was closed to the community and we could only speculate as to the treasures tucked away, hidden from the public, gathering dust, heirlooms to a financially struggling, titled landowner. We are reminded of how the decision was made for all the exquisite furnishings of the house to be auctioned off. Sold to the highest bidder in order to sustain the flagging fortunes - a sad demise from its original intent as designed by the Adam brothers and its unique collection of furniture originally bought for the house and made by Thomas Chippendale and the contemporary Edinburgh furniture makers William Mathie, Alexander Peter and Francis Brodie. And then, at the well documented 'eleventh hour', the collection, the house and the estate was 'Saved for the Nation' with the direct intervention of HRH The Prince Charles, The Duke of Rothesay. The Great Steward of Scotland's Dumfries House Trust was set up and raised £45 million to secure the future of the entire estate. And so now we are presented with a marvellous success story of regeneration, right on our door step. Many in the community, if not most, have enjoyed some of the opportunities afforded to us by the estate. People travel from far and wide to enjoy what it has to offer and perhaps pick up some of that royal association or hope to rub shoulders with The Great Steward himself on one of his visits. Royalist or Republican, it cannot be denied that current developments and the future for Dumfries House is overwhelmingly positive.



As we contemplate this and approach Christmas we cannot help but see, overwhelmingly, the parallels with another very well documented, yet taken for granted account, of Royal intervention. The bible recounts the nativity story and declares the birth of Jesus as the Saviour of men and women. Just like the failing Dumfries estate, the bible describes humanity as ruined and far from its original state of glory. Psalm 139:14 (NIV) says "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful. I know that full well." However, it goes on to say in Romans 3:23 " ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." How the world is today is far from what God intended. God wanted man to be the pinnacle of His creation, a thing which reflected His glory, His will, His designs. But with the introduction of sin into the world it wasn't long before man separated themselves from God, hiding themselves away in the undergrowth of their own wilfulness and rebellion, allowing these objects of beauty to become "remnants and ruins" of a past glory. Aware of our plight, God hasn't waited until the eleventh hour to intervene to save us. Galatians 4:4 " But when the set time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman..." There wasn't a hastily arranged consortium brought together to find funds from charities and well-wishers. The money raised to invest in Dumfries House now far exceeds the original £45 million it cost to secure its future. So too does the cost of our salvation- Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." This is a price which cannot be valued. God has acted to save each and everyone of us from our sin and the consequences of it. His purpose is to restore and regenerate those who accept his offer of forgiveness and salvation to bring them into a right relationship with Himself. How is this possible? Just accept through faith that on the cross Jesus paid the ultimate price, His life, to remove your sin once and for all. Allow Jesus Christ to be your 'Great Steward'

and trust Him to see his plans through to completion. What a privilege it is to know that we are loved by the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"



MEET A MEMBER

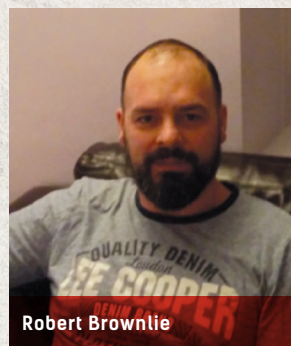
ROBERT BROWNLIE

I was adopted into a Christian family when I was three years old. In my teenage years I rebelled against parental authority and against God, as I saw the two as being linked together. For a few years I gave my adoptive parents a very hard time. I couldn't wait to be 16 so I could join the army. In the army I completely turned my back on my Christian upbringing and just tried to have as good a time as possible without any restraints. I got into keep fit and boxing but sadly also got into alcohol and drugs. I did a number of overseas tours, the last being the Gulf War, August 1990 to February 1991, code-named Operation Desert Shield. This was my first, and only, taste of conflict. Prior to leaving we were allowed a few days leave during which time I made contact with my birth mother, as I thought there was a chance I wouldn't come home. I even arranged for a friend of my adoptive parents to agree to take my funeral!!

Soon after the War ended, due to my bad behaviour, I was dishonourably discharged from the army. I kicked about the Cambridge area for a while, getting up to all sorts of trouble, eventually ending up in prison. My life was getting increasingly messed up so I decided to move back to my roots in Lanarkshire. During this period God was rarely, if ever, in my heart.

One day, a poster came through my mother's door depicting a verse from the Bible written in Old English script. My younger brother asked me to read it to him. After reading John 3.16 to him I took the poster and ripped it up. As I did so I felt that the very last feelings I had about God left me and I felt in a really dark place. Soon after, I had a dream in which I saw the Christians being taken into heaven at the return of the Lord. In my dream I ran into the garden crying for the Lord to take me, but it was too late!!

Life was out of control, drugs, drink, prison, etc, so I decided to end it. Before doing so I tried to contact my adoptive parents to let them know what I was intending. When I phoned I spoke to the man I had asked a few years previously to take my funeral. He told me my only hope was to trust the Lord Jesus as my Saviour and commit my life to Him. He also said he was coming to pick me up even though he didn't exactly know where I was!!! I walked out the phone box, fell on my knees at the side of the road and cried out to God to save me. Immediately it was as if a voice told me to walk out of Wishaw. I did that, not knowing what was going to happen next. After walking some distance,



a car stopped and the driver invited me in. It was the Christian I had spoken to on the phone—God had directed him to where I was. That was the start of a new life. God started doing amazing things in my life. I got married, had four kids, had my own business which also involved supporting recovering addicts—all was well.

However, ill health, which had been increasingly creeping up on me since my discharge from the army, put me in a wheelchair. Dark, dark days followed—depression, suicidal thoughts, total despair dogged me daily. My relationship with God, my wife and family were all affected. I felt useless and worthless. Miraculously, a few months ago, after being completely wheelchair bound for a number of years, God healed me. While praying with my wife I felt the Lord asking me if I believed He could make me walk again. I told Him I believed He could and after praying, Heather took me by the hand and I stood up, crouched down and sprung into the air. I was able to walk, leap and praise God. Professionals who knew my condition were totally amazed at the transformation, saying it was humanly impossible for me to be able to do what I was doing after my muscles had been unused for so many years.

I praise God for all He has done in my life. He has been so amazingly gracious to me.

Parent and Toddler Group

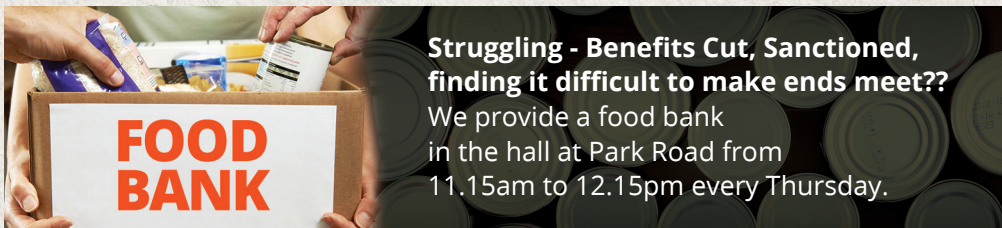
Thursday morning we have our Parent and Toddler Group. We enjoy a time where the children play with the toys, jigsaws and dress-up costumes while the adults have a chance to chat. Snacks are served around tables for the children and tea, coffee and cakes are on offer for the adults. We always end with a short time of singing nursery rhymes and kids' favourite songs. The Group has a relaxed atmosphere and we would welcome any children and their carers who wish to drop in on a Thursday at 9.30am. The Group runs during school term-time from 9.30am till 11.00am and is free.



Parent and Toddler Group

Thursday @ 9.30 - 11.00 (term time only)

Please contact Ruth on 07402 468 244 for further details.



Struggling - Benefits Cut, Sanctioned, finding it difficult to make ends meet??

We provide a food bank in the hall at Park Road from 11.15am to 12.15pm every Thursday.

CAFE TIME

Why not drop in for coffee, cake and chat the 1st Monday of each month from 9.30am to 11.00am
(4th December; 8th January; 5th February; 5th March) Tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits.

All free of charge.



Family Service

Our all-age family service is held each Sunday @ 12.45pm
Creche for kids
Singing, Kid's Message plus Message for Adults
Free lunch provided for all after service

Youth Fellowship

Every second Friday @7.30pm
Snooker, Table Tennis, Tuck Shop, Bible Lesson
Contact :- Simon - 07411801594

Times of Services

SUNDAY

11.00am – Breaking of Bread
12.45pm – Family Service
14.45pm – Bible Teaching

MONDAY

7.30pm – House Meeting @ 101, Main Street

TUESDAY

7.30pm – Prayer Meeting

CONTACT DETAILS

www.auchinleckchristianfellowship.co.uk
hecares4you2@aol.com Mobile :- 07734709834