

Davidson's Mains Parish Church

handbook 2011/12

updated 17 June 2011 work in progress



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dmpc.org.uk

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our vision

We are a family of ordinary people, united, for all our diversity, by knowing Jesus as Lord in our lives.

We see that God is glad to be involved with us in our daily living, and eager for us to be involved with him in all that he is doing. He therefore invites us all to enjoy such a relationship with him.

We believe that God is at work among us here. Just as Jesus could “*only do what he sees his Father doing*”, our priorities are to be determined by what we see God doing.

these are the priorities we've recognised

centred on Jesus: we see God growing a church here where Jesus is central to everything. We aim thus to help people to know Jesus and, in knowing him, to submit their lives to him and to become more and more like him.

building community: we see God growing a church here where his desire to bring people together is fully realised. We aim thus to create genuine community, recognising the diverse backgrounds and circumstances which people have, and cultivating the satisfying relationships through which they'll belong.

sharing good news: we see God growing a church here where his boundless love for the world is embodied in the lives of his people. We aim thus to bring and be good news to our families, friends and neighbours, submitted to the Spirit's leading and prepared to think outside the box, move outside our walls, and step outside our comfort zones.

shaped by the Bible: we see God growing a church here where the Bible is foundational to our living and formative of a radical lifestyle. We aim thus to be a people among whom the Bible is consistently being explained and applied to all aspects of our lives in a clear, contemporary and comprehensive way.

people-friendly: we see God growing a church here where each person is recognised as the unique individual they are under God, with needs to be met and gifts to be used. We aim thus to affirm the significance of each individual, not least in terms of the welcome, support and involvement they are given.

servant leadership: we see God growing a church here whose resources (of people, premises and wealth) and resourcefulness inspire, enable and encourage the whole people of God, in this land and beyond. We aim thus to exercise a significant ministry in the wider church, demonstrating a servant attitude, a global perspective and a sacrificial commitment.

constitution

The life of the congregation is overseen by a body called ***the Kirk Session***. The members of the Kirk Session are, in legal terms, the ‘trustees’ of the congregation.

personnel

The Kirk Session comprises the minister along with nine members each elected for a single term of six years.

The Ministry Area Leaders appointed by the Kirk Session, while not formally ‘trustees’ of the congregation, are also, in every other regard, full members of the Kirk Session, as is the Presbytery Elder, appointed annually by the Kirk Session. That makes a total of 16 in all.

going with the geese



We believe that there are lessons we can learn from geese in regard to the way in which leadership is exercised.

Geese fly in an arrow formation, with those at the front taking the strain for the rest. When they grow tired, they drop back and others step into their role.

We’ve tried to adopt that sort of ‘formation’ by ensuring that the burdens of leading God’s people are borne for only a limited period.

Members are elected to serve for six years and then afforded a break. Every two years three people are elected to serve on the Kirk Session. Those who’ve newly finished their term are given at least a two year break before being eligible for election again.

The Kirk Session – 2011/12

Minister

Jeremy Middleton

Elected Members

Anne Allan

Bertie Allen

Kathryn Coad

Michael Duncan

Flora Johnston

Allan McCulloch

Jim Smith

Alastair Stewart

Claire Sunter

John Watson

Ministry Area Leaders

Margaret Stewart

Stephen Ashforth

Jeremy Middleton

Alan Campbell

Fred Nelson

Derek Peach

Presbytery Elder

Graeme Small

‘Ministry Areas’

new day

Our aim, and therefore our prayer, is to be a church where things happen – where things get done, rather than just discussed – and where a new day starts to dawn.

So we've built our life around six key Ministry Areas, overseen by a team of leaders working closely together to ensure a real coherence to our life and work.

And to help us all to be ministers at large!

Nurture

the way we look after each other and help each other grow



This area of ministry is led by **Margaret Stewart**, who heads up a team intent on ensuring that each and every member of the congregation enjoys a real sense of belonging and is cared for in supportive and practical ways.

We've been trying to develop a flexible pattern of care which recognises the different and changing circumstances in which people find themselves.

'Nurture' Groups Margaret Stewart [336 4919] mastewart1111@aol.com

Many members are still pastored by an elder regularly calling. Formerly called 'Districts', we re-named them 'Nurture groups' to underline their purpose.

Magazine Visits Barbara Duguid [336 5197] bad@mmmcs.co.uk

We see the magazine as a good way of keeping everyone in the picture: for some this is the only contact they have with the church – and we want it to be a positive and meaningful contact.

Small Groups Margaret Stewart [336 4919] mastewart1111@aol.com

It's often in the context of these smaller groups that a sense of belonging is fostered. In varying degrees, they comprise the four Ws – welcome, worship, word, witness.

Care of the Elderly Margaret Peach [3361417] peach.family@blueyonder.co.uk

Eileen Carvel [339 8034] carvels@mac.com

Those less able to be out and about are often visited by members of the congregation. Many, too, receive a weekly tape of the Sunday service.

Young Families Susan McNarry [312 8722]

We seek to recognise the particular demands and challenges that there are in raising a young family. Practical help is afforded through a baby-sitting service, and visits are generally made following a baptism.

Baptismal Visitor Judith Barron [343 3694] Judith.barron@blueyonder.co.uk

Student Contact Barbara Duguid [336 5197] bad@mmmcs.co.uk

Conscious of the demands of student life, we're all the more keen to ensure that the links with our students are maintained while they're away, and that they feel very much a part of things when they're back home.

Wednesday Lunchtime Services & Minibus

Margaret Stewart [336 4919] mastewart1111@aol.com

We see these midweek services over lunch as having an important pastoral role: and a vital part of that is the bus which brings folk to the church.

Guild Visitor Hazel Allen [467 5842] bertie.allen@btinternet.com

Sunday Transport Barbara Duguid [336 5197] bad@mmmcs.co.uk

Where appropriate, lifts are arranged to and from our Sunday worship.

Flower Distribution Ann Nicolson [336 2024]

Evangelism

the way we become a people who bring, are, and declare good news



Stephen Ashforth oversees this Ministry Area, which has as its cohering principle the conviction that we are to be a 'gospel' community – that is, a people characterised by the 'good news' of Jesus Christ.

As you can imagine, the 'good news' finds expression in many different ways, not least in the context of our own day-by-day lives: but alongside that, this whole area encompasses a variety of ministries within our congregational life. Get involved! Be and bring good news!

Alpha courses Stephen Ashforth [339 2514] stephen@ashforth.co.uk

John & Sheila Watson [315 3581] johngwatson1012@hotmail.com

These well-known courses, run by congregations up and down the country, are a helpful way to think through the Christian faith.

'Coming Alive!' Jeremy Middleton [312 6282] liffe@dmainchurch.plus.com

Those who are thinking about joining the church by profession of faith are encouraged to work through this short booklet, either as part of a small group or on a one-to-one basis with someone already following Jesus.

West Pilton Christian Centre

Heather Andrew [339 2364] handiandrew@fsmail.net

We have a close association with the Edinburgh City Mission and in particular with their Centre at West Pilton. Non-perishable food from members of the congregation is taken along each Tuesday morning to the Centre; do please think about contributing regularly to this important ministry.

Care Van Derek Peach [336 1417] peach.family@blueyonder.co.uk

The Care Van brings practical help each evening to the homeless in the city; it's run by Bethany Christian Trust using personnel from different congregations throughout the city. Members of this congregation form one of the teams.

Winter Night Shelters Joan Willis [312 7524]

Over the past years Bethany Christian Trust has organised night shelters for the homeless over the winter months, again using teams from different congregations.

The Big Picture

Flora Johnston (editor) [3391541] flora.johnston@blueyonder.co.uk

Barbara Duguid (distribution) [336 5197] bad@mmmcs.co.uk

'The Big Picture' is the name given to our magazine. It comes out four times a year and provides a regular 'snapshot' of our congregational life in an informative, engaging and challenging way.

Fresh Start Stephen Ashforth [339 2514] stephen@ashforth.co.uk

Missionary Correspondent Allan McCulloch [339 0133]

Worship

the way we direct our living in praise to God the Creator



This area of ministry encompasses a range of different 'ministries' each of which, along with the teams of people involved, is headed up by a designated person:

Welcome Derek Peach [336 1417] peach.family@blueyonder.co.uk

John Davis [336 5707] jorudavis@blueyonder.co.uk

Content/conduct (AM) Sheena Headden [339 7833] SHeaddenSE@esmgc.com

Organist Phil Coad [336 4155] pncoad@aol.com

Vocal Phil Coad/Helen Mitchell [336 4155]

Technology Martyn Sunter [336 3739] martyn.sunter@btinternet.com

Hospitality (AM)

Felicity MacGregor [07896 845058] felicity.macgregor@googlemail.com

Flowers Ann Nicolson [336 2024]

Communion Martin Pearce [336 4864] martin.j.pearce@blueyonder.co.uk

Teaching Jeremy Middleton [312 6282] life@dmainschurch.plus.com

Our services of worship each Sunday are held at 10.30am and 6.30pm

We will also be celebrating the sacrament informally at the evening service, and in December, March & June at the Wednesday lunchtime service.

celebrating communion

We have a pattern of four 'communion Sundays' through the year with the sacrament being celebrated in the morning and afternoon; and the sacrament is celebrated informally at two additional morning services, as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 4 th September 2011 | 10.30am and 3.00pm |
| 30 th October 2011 | 10.30am and 3.00pm |
| 27 th November 2011 | 10.30am |
| 29 th January 2012 | 10.30am and 3.00pm |
| 4 th March 2012 | 10.30am |
| 27 th May 2012 | 10.30am and 3.00pm |

TO BE UPDATED Sunday morning worship 2010/2011

Using the life, ministry and message of Jeremiah as our starting point at the beginning of each new month, we get to grips with what it means to be a follower of Jesus in these days. You can listen to these again at www.dmpc.org.uk by following the link at the foot of the home page.

September

the call of Christ

October

the rule of God

November

the reality of judgment

December

the gospel of grace

– 2011 –

January

the primacy of Scripture

February

the distinctiveness of discipleship

March

the challenge of ministry

April

the cost of obedience

May

the loneliness of Christ-centred living

June

the moment of truth

discipleship

the way we ensure we are all able to learn to live the new life



Alan Campbell has recently taken on the leading of this Ministry Area: he has considerable expertise as a pastor, and has a breadth of experience within the wider church in Scotland. We're glad to draw on his gifts as we seek to develop the life of discipleship within our congregational life.

Bible Reading notes Elizabeth Ford [336 5398] ea.ford@btinternet.com

We want to encourage you to be reading the Bible for yourself, meeting with and learning from the Lord thereby. But the Bible is not always the easiest of books to read! A variety of daily Bible reading Notes are available and many people find them very useful.

Prayer Archie & Dorothy Mitchell [336 5652] dorothy.anne@blueyonder.co.uk

Prayer is an integral part of our relationship with the Lord.

As well as encouraging you to work at and develop your own personal prayer life, we want to safeguard the biblical pattern of God's people joining together to pray as central to our life as a congregation.

We're currently setting aside time each month when we can all come together to pray: Congregational Prayer evenings and Prayer breakfasts.

Prayer Breakfast Martin Pearce [336 4864] martin.j.pearce@blueyonder.co.uk

Small Groups Margaret Stewart [336 4919] mastewart1111@aol.com

We're keen to develop the discipline of learning together in a smaller group, where there's the opportunity to study the Scriptures, ask questions, and think through some of the issues arising under the guidance, instruction and encouragement of a mature Christian leader.

BibleFresh Alan Campbell [339 4885] abc7campbell@btinternet.com

During 2011 churches throughout the country will be marking the 400th anniversary of the production of the King James ('Authorised') Version of the Bible: we hope to share in this initiative.

Administration

the way we organise all aspects of our life to God's glory



Fred Nelson currently heads up this whole Ministry Area, which covers a number of important responsibilities in the life of the congregation.

The responsibilities are considerable and the range of work involved enormous – so if you think you may be able to help in one aspect or another, don't hesitate to get in touch with the relevant person (as indicated below) to

explore the possibilities!

Property Kathleen Ruickbie [336 4886] ruickbie@blueyonder.co.uk

Grounds David Johnston [339 1541] david.wj@blueyonder.co.uk

Finance

We encourage regular giving as a glad response to the Lord's giving of himself for us. There are various ways in which you can give financially to the ongoing life of the church:

'Open Plate'

during the course of the worship service there's an opportunity to give, as the 'wooden bowl is passed round.

Freewill Offering Envelopes Bob King [312 7240] bobchris73@aol.com

a numbered set of envelopes (one for each Sunday in the year) can be obtained by contacting our FWO convener.

Standing Order

some prefer to ensure their regularity in giving by taking out a Standing Order: this can be arranged very easily through your bank. The details of the congregation's account are as follows – Davidson's Mains Parish Church: Sort Code 83-18-47: Account No. 00140077.

Gift Aid Donald & Gillian Campbell [07703 123121] campbellfamily4@btinternet.com

if you're a tax payer you can increase significantly the value of your offerings to the church by signing a Gift Aid declaration form, which can be obtained from the Church Office or from our Gift Aid convener.

The Agape Fund

this Fund, managed by 5 'stewards', enables us to make grants which "will serve to advance the work of the Gospel around the world".

Treasurer Gordon Ness [332 7111] gordonrness@gmail.com

Office Lesley Ashforth & Felicity MacGregor [312 6282]

Reception Area

through the bulk of the year the Reception Area is open for teas, coffees and lunches, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 10am–1.30pm. There will be a break as usual throughout July and most of August on Tuesdays & Thursdays. the Reception Area will remain open on Wednesdays!

Youth



the way we help the next generation(s) grow to know life in Christ

Derek Peach is a primary school teacher, and a family man, so he's familiar with all the privileges and pressures of working with children. He heads up a huge team of folk involved in one way or another in this important area of work.

Crèche Judith Barron judith.barron@blueyonder.co.uk [343 3694]

Babies and infants (0-3 years old) can be taken to crèche (in the small Hall in the North complex) before the morning service starts.

Beginners & Sheila Watson johngwatson1012@hotmail.com [315 3581]

Explorers Pre-school to P6. *The children share in the first part of the service, sitting with family or friends, before going out after about 20 minutes to meet in their age groups.*

Baseline Sunday Anne McRorie dmpc_baseline@btinternet.com [336 2909]

P7-S3. Baseline Sunday (formerly known as the Bible Classes) meet during the morning service (starting off in the service) and will still be split between junior (P7 & S1) downstairs in the South Hall, and senior (S2 & S3) in the upper room, although the groups will occasionally meet together as well.

*Baseline is now simply the social part of Baseline Sunday! The general rule is that Baseline Social will take place on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 7 to 8.30pm – but this will vary depending on school holidays, what's happening and other events such as **Powerpoint**. See the diary for details.*

TGiS Jeremy Middleton life@dmainschurch.plus.com [312 6282]

For pupils in S4-6, this takes place on a Sunday evening from 8 – 9.30pm

Boys Brigade Jane Thomson janethomson@sky.com [312 8248]

Students Barbara Duguid bad@mmmcs.co.uk [336 5197]

Development Ministries Leader

GAIL ROSE

Church Diary 2011

June

- Sun 19th** Morning Service (10.30am)
Beginners, Explorers, Baseline (10.30am)
Evening service (6.30pm)
TGiS (8pm)
- Sun 26th** Family Service (10.30am)
TGiS BBQ (8pm)
- Tues 28th** Kirk Session (7.30pm)

Directory

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Anne Allan | Kirk Session | 336 5114 |
| Bertie Allen | Kirk Session | 467 5842 |
| Heather Andrew | West Pilton Christian Centre | 339 2364 |
| Lesley Ashforth | Office | 312 6282 |
| Stephen Ashforth | Kirk Session, Evangelism | 339 2514 |
| Judith Barron | Crèche | 343 3694 |
| Alan Campbell | Kirk Session, Discipleship | 339 4885 |
| Donald Campbell | Gift Aid, TGIS | 07703 123121 |
| Eileen Carvel | Care of the elderly | 339 8034 |
| Kathryn Coad | Kirk Session | 336 4155 |
| Phil Coad | Organist | 336 4155 |
| John Davis | Welcome team | 336 5707 |
| Barbara Duguid | Students, Magazine distribution, Sunday Transport | 336 5197 |
| Michael Duncan | Kirk Session | 312 8832 |
| Elizabeth Ford | Bible Reading Notes | 336 5398 |
| Sheena Headden | Worship (content) | 339 7833 |
| David Johnston | Grounds | 339 1541 |
| Flora Johnston | Kirk Session, Big Picture | 339 1541 |
| Bob King | Finance, FW Offering | 312 7240 |
| Felicity MacGregor | Coffee Rota, Sunday Transport, Office | 07896 845058 |
| Allan McCulloch | Kirk Session | 519 2049 |
| Calum MacInnes | Care Van | 336 2570 |
| Susan McNarry | Young families | 312 8722 |
| Anne McRorie | Baseline | 336 2909 |
| Jeremy Middleton | Minister, Worship, TGIS | 312 6282 |
| Archie & Dorothy Mitchell | Prayer | 336 5652 |
| Fred Nelson | Kirk Session, Administration | 336 4779 |
| Gordon Ness | Treasurer | 332 7111 |
| Ann Nicolson | Flowers, The Guild | 336 2024 |
| Derek Peach | Welcome team | 336 1417 |
| Margaret Peach | Care of the elderly | 336 1417 |
| Martin Pearce | Communion | 336 4864 |
| Gail Rose | Development Ministries Leader | 312 6282 |
| Kathleen Ruickbie | Property | 336 4886 |
| Graeme Small | Kirk Session, Presbytery Elder | 339 9882 |
| Jim Smith | Kirk Session | 334 4260 |
| Alastair Stewart | Kirk Session, Session Clerk | 336 4919 |
| Margaret Stewart | Kirk Session, Nurture | 336 4919 |
| Claire Sunter | Kirk Session | 336 3739 |
| Martyn Sunter | Technology (Worship) | 336 3739 |
| Jane Thomson | Boys Brigade | 312 8248 |
| John Watson | Kirk Session | 315 3581 |
| Sheila Watson | Beginners, Explorers, Holiday Club | 315 3581 |
| Joan Willis | Winter Night Shelters | 312 7524 |

Organisations