



Definition: Alpha  
*noun*

**Alpha starts on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>  
January 2023 at 6.30pm**  
**Contact us to book your place**

Alpha is a chance  
to explore life and  
the Christian faith in  
a friendly, informal  
& open environment.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy New Year!! 2022 may have been a great year for you or maybe one of much difficulty, but whatever the year brought you, my prayer is that you journeyed through the past twelve months with Jesus central to your life.

I'm not one for new years resolutions, mainly because I know they are so often broken within the first few weeks. But that said, each year I decide on what form my daily devotions will take. Over the last year I have been reading a book with readings each month from the early

**OPEN  
HOUSE  
CAFE**



### Winter Warm Space

Open Mondays and Thursdays

10am - 2pm

**FREE - Tea/Coffee**

**Soup & Roll**

**Other items at low cost**

Gillespie Centre, Chapel St.

church fathers, but as I woke to the first of January I realised I had not made plans for what I would start each day with in 2023.

After a short time of prayer, I was prompted to check my mobile smart phone to see if I still had the 'Bible in One Year' (BIOY) App, from the Alpha team at HTB London, installed and was delighted to find I had. So once again I will work through this year starting each day with time reading God's word and a short commentary from Nicky Gumbel. As I type this pastoral letter I have not long read day three of BIOY and am already being blessed by the wisdom of God's word. Day three had the theme of '*Talk as you walk*'. The idea that as we walk we can also be in communion with God. Often we associate sitting, kneeling or standing as being with God in worship, but also when doing other things: relaxing, working, eating, exercising, we are able to be with God at the same time.

A 'WALK WITH GOD' is a life journey. In it God invites us into an amazing relationship in which we both get to speak with God (praying) and also to hear from Him. I have talked over Advent and Christmas about '**Waiting**' being a **theme of 2023**, that as a church community we need to be '*waiting upon the Lord*'. I spoke at the first service of the year about waiting not being inaction, but rather '*waiting upon the Lord*' is not passive but active. Our waiting is to be expectant, in trust and faith, and in the power of Holy Spirit. Whether on your knees or sat in prayer, whether on a lunch break or out for a walk our '*waiting upon the Lord*' is active, with part of that activity being listening,

So in 2023, we as a Christian community at GMC need to be actively listening for God's guiding. This is a call to you all who are reading these words, that you be seeking the Lord's call upon your hearts and to share with me and the eldership at GMC what God is saying about our work and ministry amongst each other and to the community of Dunfermline around us.

There are big decisions to be made and great prayers to be said this year. In the first quarter of 2023 the Kirk Session will be deciding with God's guiding on how to proceed or not in regards a union with our neighbours at Dunfermline North Parish Church. We will be running Alpha again and pray for those attending and running it that God's presence will be manifest and this ministry will be a blessing to the church. We will continue to be a blessing all those who come to

OpenHouse Café, especially during the colder times of our Scottish Winter. We will be supporting Lee in growth of youth work and ministry as his contact with the high schools we pray bears fruit. Also, we will be welcoming a '*Reader in Training*', Sally Sheail for six-months from February as she undergoes training for this ministry in the Church of Scotland with me (Pastor Mike) as her supervisor.

We are doing these things alongside our weekly worship, and also will introduce twice monthly evening worship. From 22nd January 2023 evening worship will start at 6.15pm around tables as we praise the Lord and engage in discussions on the topic and reading for the day. Evening 'encounter' services will be on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month and will be hosted by either Mike, Lee or Maggie. Please come along and invite others for whom a Sunday morning might not be their thing.

So, you can see we start 2023 with great plans, and pray that what we are doing is '*of the Lord*'. That what we do blesses all whom it reaches but more than that, through it we glorify God. The reality though is we must have peoples involvement. We must have people '*waiting upon the Lord*', '*praying*' and '*walking with the Lord*'. We are called to be a praying church seeking God's path and so ensure our time and ministries as His church is what the Lord requires of us.

To that end and to start the year in a God honouring way, we will have a **Prayer Day** on **Saturday 21st January from 10am till 2pm**. This will be an opportunity for people to come and gather (for the whole time or drop in for a half or a couple of hours as suits) to come and find time to '**ACTIVELY WAIT UPON THE LORD**'. Waiting in not inaction but rather a positive action when it is the Lord we wait upon. PLEASE MAKE THIS A PRIORITY IN YOUR DIARY. We will provide resources for prayer, so you will be able to pray for yourself, your loved ones, our world, and most of all to seek God in what he is calling us, His church to be and do.

*Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.*

*(Psalm 95.6-7)*

Your servant in Christ, *Pastor Mike* (Minister, GMC)

## Dates for the diary

Every Tuesday: 10th January - 28th March at 6.30pm ALPHA, in the Gillespie Centre

First Friday Month: Embrace, the women's ministry at GMC meet at 7.30pm

First and Third Saturday Month: Men @GMC meet for breakfast at 8.30am in the Gillespie centre

Saturday 22nd January - Prayer Day 10am till 2pm in the church sanctuary. Drop in to bring your prayers for yourself, our church and community as we *'wait upon the Lord in 2023'*

# ENCOUNTER 2023

The New City  
Catechism

**GMC**  
GILLESPIE MEMORIAL CHURCH

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> days at 6.15pm



Gillespie Memorial Church, Chapel St. Dunfermline, KY12 7AW | 01383 621 253 | gillespiechurch.org

THANK YOU for supporting the mission of GMC ministry to our church family and for our community. Please continue to journey with us in 2023

- **PRAYER:** will you pray for opportunities to change lives for Jesus?
- **PEOPLE:** will you participate by offering some of your time each week or month?
- **POUNDS:** will you make a regular offering to the work of our church?

Are you in need of pastoral support?

Do you want to volunteer or financially support the work of GMC? Then contact

Rev. Mike Weaver OR the Office

Office: 01383 621 253 | Manse: 01383 724 347 | Mob: 07980 492 299

[minister@gillespiechurch.org](mailto:minister@gillespiechurch.org) | [office@gillespiechurch.org](mailto:office@gillespiechurch.org)