



# Pastoral Letter

## March 2023

Church and Office

Chapel Street

Dunfermline

KY12 7AW

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I write, I have just read day 14 in the 'catching the wave 40-day prayer guide from the team at TryPraying, and it is all about pressure. The opening statement says *'Stress is good for you, without it we wouldn't get anything done. But too much pressure in our lives can paralyse us'*. We are all prone to pressure in life and deal with it in different ways, whether in the family, at work, and yes in our church family. Worry abounds with loss and grief, with illness and aging, as well as worries around what is the future of the church.

And it is that particular pressure I want to address in this pastoral letter. What is the future of the church? Well in the broadest sense that is down to God. The church is the bride of Christ and as I've said before He will build His church. When Jesus asked the disciples who he was in Matthew 16, Simon Peter replied *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* and Jesus goes on to say *"and I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* (Matthew 16.16, 18)

Often this passage is understood to mean that Peter is the rock upon which Jesus would build the church, but is that the case? Isn't the reality that the Lord has built the early church not just upon Peter, but the other disciples too. Upon Paul, upon the Gospels of the disciples Matthew and John, as well as Mark and Luke. Perhaps a better reading is that the rock upon which Jesus will build His church is found in the earlier answer to the question of who Jesus is. *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

The church is built upon the rock that is Jesus Christ. Knowing Jesus as your Saviour and Lord makes you part of the church, a member of the worldwide church as sons and daughters adopted into the Kingdom of God. So where is the pressure and stress about our church today if the Lord is the one on which it is built and He is the one building it.

Well Jesus requires his followers to do their part. The church is not only founded by Christ but is His tool, His weapon if you like, against the sin of the world, against the very gates of hell. As Paul wrote, *'For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.'* (2Corinthians 10.3-4)

I am feeling the pressure as your minister to not necessarily build the church, but to equip it. As a pastor I try to journey with folk in the difficulties of life and as your minister I do that through pointing to the kingdom of heaven come and yet to come. My heart is for the Bible, for the inspired and breathed scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as I know they are still so relevant to the world today and can relieve the pressures and anxieties created by our world today. But we need the whole people of God (i.e. the congregation) to journey and to support one another, reaching also into the community to share the good news of the Saviour who said *"do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?...' But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself."* (Matthew 6.31, 33-34)

The church is a place where what we bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever we loose on earth shall also be loosed in heaven (Matthew 18.19). So what are you binding and loosing in your life today? Is your life being lived for the world or for the church of Jesus Christ? As Christians we are called into a particular church family. I say this not because the church is my work, but because the church is Christ's. If you belong to Jesus you should belong to the church found in a particular geographical place, i.e. the local church.

My prayer is that our GMC church family will come together throughout Holy Week, journeying to the good news of the cross and empty tomb as a springboard to serve the Lord in His church this coming year.

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

# HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**GMC**  
GILLESPIE MEMORIAL CHURCH  
Chapel Street, Dunfermline  
www.gillespiechurch.org

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 10.30am

**Palm Sunday**




**GMC**  
GILLESPIE MEMORIAL CHURCH  
Chapel Street, Dunfermline  
www.gillespiechurch.org

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>  
April, 7pm



**Passion Week Service  
of  
Prayer & Reflection**



**GMC**  
GILLESPIE MEMORIAL CHURCH  
Chapel Street, Dunfermline  
www.gillespiechurch.org

Maundy Thursday

**A Service of Passover**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm



Dunfermline Churches  
Good Friday  
Walk of Witness

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm  
starting at 'the gap',  
Dunfermline High Street  
(Opposite Bryan Beveridge Butchers)



**GOOD FRIDAY**

**GMC**  
GILLESPIE MEMORIAL CHURCH  
Chapel Street, Dunfermline  
www.gillespiechurch.org

Service of the Passion  
of Christ  
7pm, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April



Dunfermline North-West  
Churches Easter Sunrise Service

Join us for 'Sunrise Communion Worship' at  
6.30am Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April

Dunfermline Abbey Churchyard (near Palace Walls)  
and after at GMC halls for breakfast



**Easter Sunday – Worship the Risen Lord**

**EMPTY**

*Tomb*

**Service of Holy  
Communion**

**April 9th 10.30am**

**ALL WELCOME**

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## Dates for the diary

Every Monday: 7.30-8.30am Start the week with PRAYER (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

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AT GMC

**We have a need for folk to serve in your church!!**

The church needs volunteers to sacrificially serve not only with your finance but with your time and talents.

We are searching for some new office bearers and our ministries are always eager to have new faces coming alongside to serve our young people and wider community.

Please pray and think about what you could do, and how you could serve the kingdom of God through the church. Not sure what you could offer, then please just speak with Pastor Mike and share your heart and passions!!

**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

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