



Pastoral Letter Late April 2023

Church and Office

Chapel Street
Dunfermline
KY12 7AW

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I am preparing for the AGM next month, my mind is not only reviewing the past year but thinking forward to future years. My ministry at GMC is now in its 6th year and if I am honest we are perhaps not where I had hoped we might be. But then I didn't expect a worldwide pandemic as part of my first five-years in ministry with our building closed for over a year.

That said, the restrictions are now over and we are back to some sort of normality in our worship, though with some faces missing from our church family, but new ones joined too. I say normality, but what is normal?

For Christians, gathering as the people of God should be normal. Desiring to know God more should be normal. Wishing to engage in discovering God's word together, sharing in prayer together, serving with our gifts where the church can use them should all be normal, alongside an expectation of Christian love and service.

Yet as a gathered congregation much of what I hoped we would do is not happening. The reintroduction of an early evening Sunday service has been invigorating, where we praise God and question His word together with great challenging discussion, but it is poorly attended. Prayer events likewise are wonderful opportunities to come together before the Lord, but are sparsely attended.

Early this year we had a prayer day, with the theme of 'Waiting upon the Lord', and I want to share some feedback I got from one participant...

Do we see waiting as an opportunity to grow, share, be knowledgeable in the path God is choosing for us. Only by

coming together can we be accountable in the path God is choosing for us. Only by coming together can we be accountable for our actions and decisions. Waiting is a discipline.

It is a discipline and as I've said before waiting is active. Yes, we must be a praying church, but also must be an active church. Perhaps being a city-centre Christian community that is gathered in nature does not lend itself to deep community commitment and makes us weak in our outreach. But being gathered is also a strength, in that those who are part of the GMC family actively choose to be so.

So what are you choosing to do? Attend worship and be fed by the Lord's word. I hope that is the case for you all. But what else could you do? How else could you join in and be fed and serve the Kingdom of God through our church here at GMC?

I guess I am asking, **what do you want from your church?** I can plan all sorts of things but if you don't want them, am I just wasting my time?

This is a question I would love an answers to. I can be guided by the Lord as your minister/pastor in what I believe He is calling GMC to be and do, but unless you engage, join in and follow, then my labour is in vain.

What I do believe **we are being called to**, as a city centre gathered community of the Lord Jesus Christ, is to simply **go and proclaim the word of the Lord, to a lost people!**

Much of what church does is invite people to come and see, and that is good and noble, but it relies greatly on all of you in the 'pews' to invite. I would love you to be doing more of that inviting of course, but I believe **we need to find other ways of serving the Kingdom beyond the confines of our church estate.**

I know, I'm always asking you to pray, but I mean it. Will you **pray for Holy Spirit to come upon you and us all at GMC, to bring God's guiding.** Pray the Lord will speak with you, giving you

dreams and visions for GMC. **How are we to reach out? What is your part in it? Where do we go and with what resources?** Then tell me what the Lord is saying to you.

I know we must be a church filled with the Holy Spirit. I know we must be a church that stands firmly in the truth of God's inerrant word. I know we are here to call people to salvation. And I know there are **people crying out for salvation and spiritual understanding. How do we reach them?** That's the question.

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.' [Luke 10:1-2]

Please make the AGM a priority

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



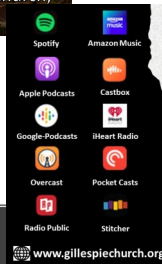
DATE for the DIARY

Sunday 14th May

AGM and FELLOWSHIP MEAL

GMC
GILLESPIE MEMORIAL CHURCH

Please ensure you prioritise our annual meeting after worship, to hear about the past year and plans for the future of your church, and have your say!



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www.gillespiechurch.org



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PODCAST



GMC **SPRING CLEAN**
GILLESPIE MEMORIAL CHURCH
SATURDAY 20th May – 9.00am – 11.00am



Get the date in your diary

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

MEMBERSHIP AT GMC

The church IS the people of God, in community

In this year of 'waiting upon the Lord' I am aware of God wanting to build His church, right here at GMC. 'Building' looks like growing together in faith, growing in trust and assurance, and committing to His church.

We will have a membership service on Sunday 16th June 2023 as part of our regular worship, followed by a fellowship lunch. Please put the date in your diary and make it priority to be with your church family.

In Christ... Pastor Mike

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

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