



Gillespie Memorial Church
Chapel Street
Dunfermline
Fife
KY12 7AW
Tel: 01383 621 253



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

You might be wondering why you are receiving such an early Christmas card, before even the first Sunday in Advent has come along. Well there are a few reasons.

First is I want to encourage you over December to daily pick up your Bible and follow the Advent journey by reading program overleaf. We are hearing much in the media about the uncertainty of what Christmas 2020 will be like for us and what restrictions we will be facing. Whatever they are it will be difficult for many and it will not be like a normal Christmas. However, one thing doesn't change – Christmas is the celebration of the most amazing gift offering in the history of humanity – that God would present Himself, en-fleshed as a baby in a backwater town in a not so important area of the Roman empire, born to an unmarried young woman and a lowly carpenter father. So, I pray whatever Christmas brings for you, the one main thing will be that you and your loved ones, wherever they may be can celebrate the coming of God into the midst of humanity in the person of Jesus.

The second was just to give a wee update to the GMC finances in 2020. Of course, as we have not met physically since March, and our halls have not been let during this period, and will not be for the foreseeable future, our revenues have been reduced. I have detailed the financial position for 2020 on the attached A5 sheet and as we journey toward 2021, I would ask you to consider your financial offerings to the work of GMC. If times are hard and you need to reduce your tithing then do so, and if you can offer more then please do that. Despite falling revenues this year, our outgoings have increased for some essential upgrades and maintenance to our property estate.

In January 2021 our new Youth Pastor, Lee Whitecross will join the team and so we will start spending the funds we have accrued for this purpose. We have sufficient funding for the first 18+ months, but will need to seek potential grant funding in the future alongside a commitment from our church family to grow the work of growing our church young – both through your prayer, practical involvement and financial offering.

Finally, we will be considering the Advent Conspiracy again this year, with themes of Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More and Love All. Please engage with our online services and also our gathered Encounter Advent on Sunday 6th December at 6pm (book with the office). There are also two 'Blue Christmas' services - Sunday 13th physically at Gillespie Memorial Church, 2.30pm and Tuesday 15th on Zoom at 7.30pm, with times of reflection for loss and bereavement (booking is essential for both services).

Wishing richest blessings to one and all in Emmanuel, God with us,

your humble servant

Rev. Michael Weaver