



Pastoral Letter - June 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters

I hope this pastoral letter finds you well as the weather has warmed; and we find the vaccine roll-out seems to be making positive effects on death rates and hospital admissions, even as we appear on the cusp of an upswing in Covid19 positive cases. It has been 15 months since the pandemic swept across the four nations of the UK (and the world) which has seen significant change to home life, work life, social life and yes... church life.

That said, much has been done over the last year-plus at GMC with upgrades to electrics, installation of a new heating system to halls as well as various safety checks and works, which now see us with buildings ready to serve our local community. And so I want to use this letter to address a few of these opportunities as well as consider some threats.

If you have been keeping abreast of church news you will be aware of the planned reduction in ministries across the Church of Scotland, with no Presbytery being unaffected. Presbytery planning will seek to reduce ministries across the church by 40% in the next 3 or so years. We will have less buildings, less ministers and staff and larger parishes. But the church is not our buildings. Yes they are important places of gathering for worship and for other activities of mission, but what is most important is the mission: for God's people to make disciples.

At GMC, like all churches, we face the challenge of Presbytery realignment but also the opportunity to work with our sisters and brothers in Christ across Dunfermline churches. We also need to ensure we are engaging with our own church! Are you keeping in touch with one another, engaging with worship, fellowship and growing in Christ together to serve the Lord in our community? For if we do not come together, how can we be the ecclesia—the people of God?

Online has been a great resource, but as we now enter the summer the pre-recorded services will take a break. These are time consuming to produce and now we are able to gather we will record parts of the service each Sunday, edit and make available for listening by Monday (to start from Sunday 4th July). Keep an eye on our website and social media for ways to access these recordings.

*I would draw your attention to other work that has progressed over the past year, which is advertised on the back of this letter. **GM3** is the new outward facing ministry to our community. A combination of 'Food for Families' (F3) and 'The Glen Ministry', GM3 will serve crisis needs around food and fuel poverty as before but utilize the Gillespie Centre as a hub from which to serve as a place of gathering, listening and signposting those in crisis. As part of the GM3 ministry, we hope this summer to hold some family days, where children and families can attend in a safe environment for fun and games. This of course will remain under the review of our Covid Response Team appointed by the Kirk Session, but if we can proceed Alan and Anne Monk have agreed to lead the day(s). Of course this can only happen if folk step forward to participate. **For details of how you can be involved**, please contact Alan or Anne via the office on 01383 621 253 or email office@gillespiechurch.org*

*Also, **Lee Whitecross, the full-time Youth Pastor** at GMC has been working with our young people on Zoom, and more recently has started back at church each Sunday morning, offering a time to chill, share and grow together. Please pray for Lee's engagement with our young people and their families. Additionally Lee is working on '**OpenHouse**', an after school drop-in at the Gillespie centre where there will be four areas: The Living Space for meeting friends | The Creative-Dining Space to gather, eat and do arts and crafts | The Tech Space is a dedicated room where young people can catch up on school/home-work | The Gaming Space, an area promoting social connection with games (online and off-line). This is a missional outreach project created to serve high school students, with a safe space to help with the pressure of life where they will find friendly and helpful adults serving them.*

Could you support either or both of these exciting ministries in any way? With your time, your finance or prayer, or maybe all three.

We as church are called to follow Christ, to humble ourselves as servants that others may see the love of Christ in us. I pray in these times of change we can do just that.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Mike

Below are basic financial figures for the first 5 months of 2021 with 2020 comparison.

Thank you for the £3,440 that was raised toward the £8,400 cost of works to the roof / gable end. Please contact us if you want more information on the church finances or wish to give for our work to general funds or any of the projects or building fund.

Report on Finances for 5 months to end May 2021

	2021	2020
Income:	£38,793	£43,514
<i>(Income Breakdown)</i>		
<i>Free Will Offering Envelopes:</i>	3,230	4,656
<i>Standing Order Offering:</i>	21,210	16,631
<i>Open Plate & Other Offering:</i>	7,708	3,129
<i>Hall Usage Income:</i>	-2,880 (refund)	2,772
<i>Other income comes from grants and gift aid reclaim:</i>	9,525	18,826
Expenditure:	£47,598	£38,749
Surplus / Deficit:	£ -8,805	£4,765

Contact Details



01383 621 253



www.gillespiechurch.org



facebook.com/GillespieChurch/



youtube.com/channel/UCdVxrWpmmathmsvGdXGJSHA

UCdVxrWpmmathmsvGdXGJSHA



'STUFF



Youth Drop-In at the
Gillespie Centre
Chapel Street, Dunfermline

Starting August 2021

Volunteers for various
roles...

Please contact

leewhitecross@gillespiechurch.org

A Ministry of  GMC
GILLESPIE MEMORIAL CHURCH

For success of our new key outward facing ministries we need:

- **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 one or both of the ministries?

Volunteer or
Support us?
Please contact

gm3@gillespiechurch.org



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Crisis Project and Listening
Drop-In at the Gillespie Centre