

# Pastoral Letter - February 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The first month of 2022 is gone already, and I am glad to say the financial accounts for GMC have been completed and are away for independent examination. The year finished with an overall deficit of £8,610, but if you'll allow I want to explain the numbers a little. Offerings to the general fund (from which we pay running costs of the church) were down by £8,592 on the previous year, but income to reserved funds (for specific project on our buildings or ministries such as GM3 and Youth Outreach) was up £8,213 on the previous year, in main due to additional grant funding received.

Expenditure was a little higher than the previous year (up £2,177) but we have kept costs controlled and they are in line with expectation. Works were carried out with installation of new heating to our halls; the chancel extension and carpeting to dementia friendly standards; necessary electrical works; and replacement of the manse decking which was unsafe. But more important than spending on our

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06-03-2011

SEVENTY TWO LONG HOURS LATER AND  
STILL THE STANDOFF CONTINUED ...

buildings, we employed our full-time youth pastor, Lee Whitecross who has had an effective first year with us. This ministry has been funded by some monthly giving, grants and a legacy left to GMC in 2020, and we have sufficient budget for the rest of 2022,

after which we must commit to a whole church budget that supports this most importance of ministries, through grant funding where possible, but also through our financial offering and tithes. It is rare for me to speak about finance, and is a topic many are uncomfortable with. This is even more so as we all face cost of living increases and no doubt a squeeze on wages and pensions. But I ask of you, do you value the ministry the church offers? Not just to you, but the ministries we offer to our community alongside the ministry of the word I bring to you. Jesus said *"No one can have two bosses. He will hate the one and love the other. Or he will listen to the one and work against the other. You cannot have both God and riches as your boss at the same time"* (Matthew 6:24)

We honour God when we use our money well. We partner with God as we are led to use our money wisely, both in our giving and in investing it ethically for growth, as a reflection of the generosity shown to us. Giving to God is a privilege and allows us to participate in His plan of generosity in the world. People in the early church gave generously to help those in need (Acts 4:34-35), to support other churches (Romans 15:25-28) and to enable mission and ministry (3 John: 5-8).

I mentioned in last months pastoral letter that the new Leadership Team were seeking *'God and the shape of things to come for our church and ministry in Dunfermline'*. The budget for 2022 is taking shape alongside the important *'Strategy Document'* that will lay out the goals for GMC, and how we will achieve them. Central to this will of course remain prayer, ministry of worship and word to us all, making disciples and the two pronged approach of growing the youth ministry, and the starting of a *'drop-in'* café in the Gillespie Centre. We need help!!

Immediately we need people who would help to plan the development of the café and see it into existence. Can you help? Do you want to work with a small team to see this come to life? Speak to me and I'll get you started. We also need volunteers across our ministries. Lee would love folk to be involved with our youth (speak to him). Would you help with our new Messy Church? (see Alan or Anne Monk). Or perhaps volunteering in the café is your thing (speak to Pauline).

The work of the church is to bring people into a relationship with the risen and

ascended Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. This is achieved in many ways, and we at GMC are seeking to achieve this mission through all we do, with the support of your time, your gifting (skills) and your finances offered.

Some of you may have heard about change in relation to Presbytery planning, and wonder what our future is. Yes change is coming, whether we want it or not. But I am excited by the changes to come. I know that the Lord has a huge amount for the people of GMC to do, so many people to reach for the Gospel and I have heard the Lord say that He will indeed build His church. However, the Lord includes you in that task too! I am here to serve the church in the locality of Dunfermline and specifically the people of Gillespie Memorial Church, but it is not a lone ministry, I have a great team, but we always need more support - your prayers, your ideas, your useful comments, your time to gather as the people of God in worship, your time to serve, and to offer the skills God has given you in service of His church, and yes your money.

I love the Lord. I love His church. I love the work He calls His church to do, and I hope you do too. The pandemic has cost us all so much, but I pray that 2022 will see new life coming forth from His church, from our church family. Commit to the Lord and His church this year.

Oh, and we're going to be starting regular monthly after church lunches soon, so please join us at those and let's really become one family united in Christ

Your servant in Christ,

*Pastor Mike*

### Website Details

 [gillespiechurch.org](http://gillespiechurch.org)

### Church and Office

**Chapel Street  
Dunfermline  
KY12 7AW**



TO SUPPORT THIS  
MINISTRY IN 2022  
Please contact  
[leewhitecross@gillespiechurch.org](mailto:leewhitecross@gillespiechurch.org)

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

*A Ministry of* 

# 'STUFF



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GAMES

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10am - 12 noon**

**Gillespie Church Hall  
Chapel Street, Dunfermline**

**For information call: 01383 621253  
or email: [office@gillespiechurch.org](mailto:office@gillespiechurch.org)**

**It's FREE!**



Listen back to sermons and other contents from GMC



There are plans to start a café in the Gillespie centre. **Can you help** - volunteer to help run in on a rota basis, or with financial support?

Volunteer or Support us?  
Please contact  
[gm3@gillespiechurch.org](mailto:gm3@gillespiechurch.org)



A Ministry of GMC  
Crisis Project and Listening Drop-In at the Gillespie Centre

**The mission of GMC ministry to us and our community needs:**

- **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?

In need of pastoral support, or wish to help or support the work of GMC? contact  
**Rev. Mike Weaver:**  
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[minister@gillespiechurch.org](mailto:minister@gillespiechurch.org)