

Pastoral Letter - July 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The school holidays are here and the Scottish weather hasn't exactly reached the peaks of warmth we might like, though we hope and pray for a great July and August. Of course this is also a time when churches take a break too. Often childrens church stops for the summer, house groups and meetings stop or reduce frequency, and church tends to be the weekly service, as ministers also try to take a break and recharge.

Emma and I will be taking a break in July following my mothers funeral, and I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have offered their condolences. This year especially has seemed so busy, what with starting up the wonderful Alpha course after the interruptions from the pandemic; the busyness and pressing thoughts of Presbytery planning; and then the praying, planning and strategy for the mission of our own church, GMC in Dunfermline. Sometimes it can feel like a lot of meetings and planning but not much doing.

But I want to share, I believe that God is moving and honouring us at GMC as we have been seeking to honour Him, and bring glory to His name and the Kingdom by ensuring our mission fits with the Gospel imperative to go and make disciples. That is why I am so passionate about the Alpha course, and hope too again run another course after the summer for young adults (18-35 age range), so if you'd like to share the news and invite someone to come along for food, a short video and time to ask open questions, then let us know.

God has also been in the planning for the mission of GM3. This is the evolution of The Glen Ministry (originally a ministry to the homeless and more recently a ministry focused on fuel poverty) and our summer food crisis ministry F3. GM3 is now pulling together our ministry in the provision of food and crisis grants in a café setting. OpenHouse Café operating in the Gillespie Centre will be a place people can come and find help, a listening ear and loving heart, where they can be signposted to other agencies, and find good coffee, teas, cakes and tray bakes alongside daily fresh soup available free or by donation. Gillespie Memorial Church has long been **a church that serves** the needs of the

city centre community and wider Dunfermline and through this project, the long legacy of God's love will continue to be shown to all whom we meet. That is key to what we do! **It is a calling to serve.** Jesus after setting the disciples the example of a servant heart by washing their feet said, *"Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."* (Matthew 13.16-17)d.

The blessing of the Lord to His people, His church, comes when we serve, sacrificially as He did. And so on Saturday 25th June we had the GMC Church Conference where we spent the morning looking at the five-fold gifts of the Spirit, of which St. Paul writes in his letter to the Ephesian church; namely the gifts or Apostleship, Prophecy, Evangelism, Shepherd or Pastor, and Teacher. The church family who attended have a leaning toward the gifts of Teaching and Evangelism, so we should be a church that is prepared to both teach, mentor and share widely the truth of the Good News of Jesus. We also delved into the 'strategy planning' underway by the Leadership of GMC. This is setting our goals for the next 1-3yrs, in all areas of church life—underpinned by Prayer, they are Mission; Active Worship; Discipleship, and the Enabling functions of church (namely the practical stewardship matters of finance, buildings, safeguarding, H&S that is required of any church). We are looking for active involvement of all our church folk, in whatever season of life you find yourself.

So, if you missed the conference, chat before or after worship to someone who was there. Come and share a coffee and a scone at the OpenHouse Café and chat over the plans for GMC in the heart of our great city. Also, come with you thoughts and ideas, knowing that Jesus calls and equips you too.

In these few weeks of summer as I recharge, I am already looking forward to offering classes for baptism and church membership. Baptism is a sacrament of the church, and is the sign that believers are called to undergo, the place of entry into the family of Christ through water and Spirit. If you have already been baptised but are not a member, then this is a wonderful opportunity to yourself affirm those vows of baptism by joining the church. If you'd like to know more, sign up to the classes that will take place in late August/early September (dates to be decided and sign up sheets available at the office or in the church sanctuary).

Finally, we are running a short course (7.30-9.15pm Friday 9th and

9.30am –12.30pm Saturday 10th September) called 'Hearing the Word'. This offers all folk the opportunity to understand 'how to read the word of God'. By this, I mean how to read, question, digest and understand the Word for yourself, and then the intention is to get some small groups off the ground once folk have engaged with this course. It costs £5 and requires sign-up please. We need a minimum of 20 folk to enable the course to run but can accommodate up to 60! Invite your fiends to come along—ALL welcome.

So to sign off, I wish you every blessings for a glorious summer, and to say, God is GOOD! The past couple of years have not been easy and there will always be trials, but **God honours and blesses those who serve Him with a glad and open heart. Let's get to serving and loving our community, bringing the most amazing new of Jesus to bear**

To the glory of God, from your servant in Christ, *Pastor Mike*

The GM3 Ministry which is the outward missional work of GMC to the community launches 'OpenHouse Café' on Monday 4th July. Initially opening Monday and Thursday 10.30am to 1pm, we will be serving great beverages (teas, coffees and soft drinks) alongside home baking and daily fresh soups, all with a serving of the love of Christ and a listening ear and loving heart to support those in need.

WILL YOU HELP? PLEASE SPEAK TO PAULINE!!

And come along yourself to support OpenHouse Café

**OPEN
HOUSE
CAFE**



'IMPORTANT STUFF'

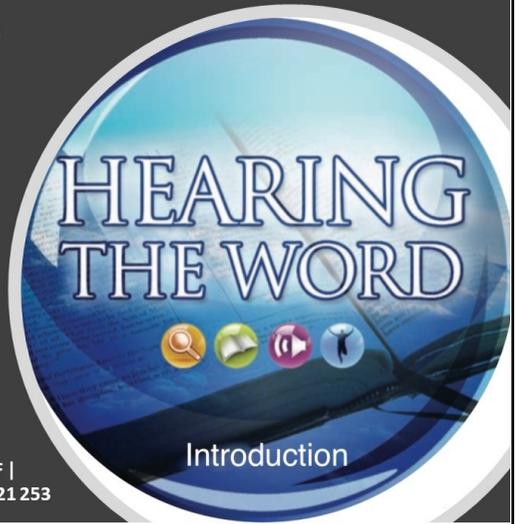
Learn to read the Word
of God more closely

Recommended for ALL

Friday 9th September
7.30 – 9.15pm

Saturday 10th September
9.30am – 12.30pm

Sign up: £5 adult / £3 student



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Date for the diary

31st July

Summer Communion Service
...at regular worship 10.30am, and also
a shorter service celebrating the Lord's
Supper at 2.00pm the same day

The mission of GMC ministry to our church family and our community needs the following:

- **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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