
GILLESPIE CHURCH MAGAZINE

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"He is not here, but has risen."

Luke 24:6



GMC - What's on and Where?

What	When	Where
Sunday service	Every Sunday, 10:30am	Gillespie Church
Midweek prayer	Every Thursday, 7pm	Gillespie Church, Upper room
Men's breakfast	1 st and 3 rd Saturday of the month, 8:30am	Gillespie Centre
Life group	Monday, 7:30pm - 9pm	Gillespie Centre
	Wednesday, 2pm - 3:30pm	Church Hall
	Wednesday, 7:30pm - 9pm	Ronnie & Viv's
	Wednesday 7:30pm - 9pm	Tom & Richard's
Women's Bible study	4 th Friday of the month, 7pm	Gillespie Centre
Open House Cafe	Monday's 5:30pm - 7pm	Gillespie Centre
	Tuesday and Thursday 10am - 1pm	

Staff team at GMC



Mike Weaver
-Senior Pastor



Maggie Lane
Teaching Pastor/Life Group Co-ordinator



David Melville
Preaching Pastor



Ronnie Aitken
Preaching Pastor



Pauline Hoey
Church Officer



Barbara - Anne Hoey
Church administrator



Gordon Eastop
Music Director



Janice Aitken
Session Clerk



Message from the Minister

Welcome to our third newsletter, and the first of 2026.

We're a little too far into the year to wish you a happy new one, but I do pray that in these first months you have known the blessings of our Lord and God.

If you're part of our church family, you may have noticed that the year has begun with funerals and the grief and loss associated with them. For others there have been anniversaries of the death of loved ones, alongside recent deaths of friends of our church family, not directly associated with us, but still sisters and brothers in Christ.

I've been pondering the doctrine of the supremacy of God and whether as Christians, we trust and believe it.

This doctrine emphasises God's ultimate authority, power and pre-eminence over all creation. Over life and death itself.

Through Isaiah, the Lord speaks of His supremacy in all things:

"Remember the former things, those of long ago;
I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me.
I make known the end from the beginning,
from ancient times, what is still to come.
I say, 'My purpose will stand,
and I will do all that I please.' (Isaiah 46:9-10)

Notice the present tense. Not 'will' reign in His Kingdom, but that it 'is' God's sovereign rule in the present. And who does He rule over?

"Lord, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you."
(2Chronicles 20:6)



Rev Mike Weaver

God rules over popes and prime ministers, presidents, kings and emperors. The rulers of this world, elected or otherwise, whether leaders in business or the church, every single person on this earth comes under the rule of God. Now that may be difficult to believe when you cast your eyes across the headlines or look across our city and country.

Difficulties abound us on every side, from global geopolitical chaos, domestic drama in our politics, daily reporting of crime, not forgetting the tragedy of illness and loss we all, at times, are impacted by, which is where I began.

Where is the sovereignty of God in all this?

If you read Psalm 139 (open your Bible and take a look now), perhaps this is where you can find the sovereignty of God in your life.

The Lord our God knew us each before we were knit together in our mothers' womb. He knows us completely and there is nowhere we can hide from Him. Verses 1 through 16 speak of God's intimate knowledge of us in every situation, from conception, birth and across the expanse of our lives. In verse 17-18 the Psalmist bathes in God's glory, acknowledging the preciousness of God's thoughts and knowledge to him.



Yet verses 19 - 22 speak of the darker parts of life – the struggles against enemies, the things of this world that are against us. It is an acknowledgement that not all goes well for children of God in this world, but regardless, there is acceptance that God is in control.

The psalmist concludes in verses 23-24:

“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me and lead me in the way everlasting!”

From personal knowledge of God and acknowledging we face enemies and worldly struggle, we can know the sovereignty of God. How? Through a personal relationship with Him.

When we ask God to search us and to know our hearts it challenges us to examine our hearts before Him. This allows any pride within to be gone, and any idols worshipped outside of us to be demolished. Then we can truly accept God as Sovereign, and so Jesus, as Lord of our lives both now and in the life to come.

May the Lord bless you as you read of the work of our church, as we seek to make Him known and His sovereignty be a reality in our lives today.

24 hour Prayer

To start off our 24 hours of prayer on Good Friday there will be a joint service with the Abbey Church at Gillespie Church, with worship, reflection and prayer. We have done a couple of 24 hours of prayer which were very well attended and very powerful. You can sign up to come and prayer in the church or from home. There will be reflections on the "stations of the cross", various prayer activities along with space to come and sit in the presence of God. There will be a sign up sheet where you can select an hour or two or three when you would like to join your brothers and sisters in prayer.

Holy Week 2026

Palm Sunday 29th March, 10:30 am

Family service with cafe style church and puppets

Monday 30th March*, 6pm

Dunfermline Abbey (Dunfermline Central Church of Scotland Together)

Tuesday 31st March*, 6pm

Gillespie Memorial Church (Dunfermline Central Church of Scotland Together)

Wednesday 1st April*, 6pm

St. Leonards (Dunfermline Central Church of Scotland Together)

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

Agape meal and reflection in the Upper Room

Good Friday 3rd April*, 12 noon

Commencement service for 24 hour prayer

Good Friday 3rd April, 24-hour prayer

12:30pm - 7pm & 8pm - midnight

Good Friday 3rd April, 7pm

Service of word, worship and contemplation

Holy Saturday 4th April, 24-hour prayer (cont)

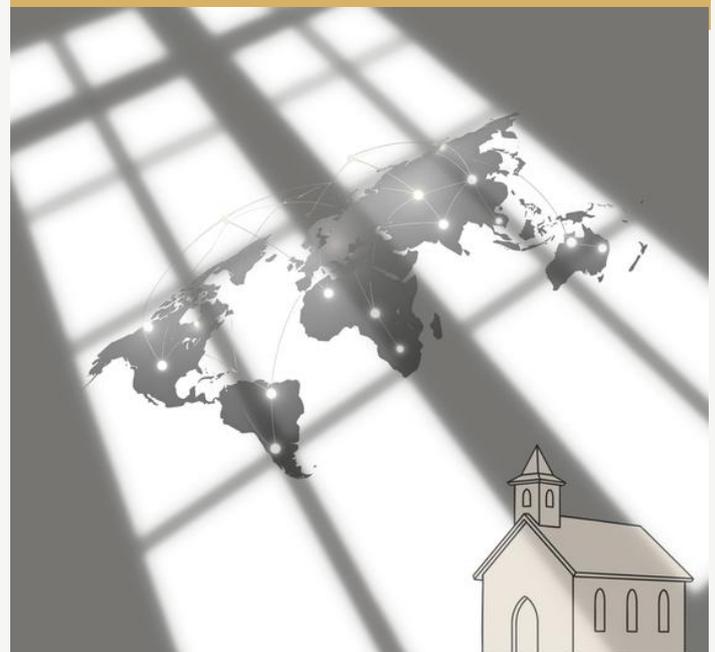
Midnight to midday

Easter Sunday 5th April, 7am

Sunrise worship on the steps of GMC

Easter Sunday 5th April, 10:30am

*Services will last approx 30 mins



24 HOUR PRAYER

Good Friday 3rd April

Midday - 7pm & 8pm - midnight

Holy Saturday 4th April

Midnight to midday



Guest speaker



CHANGING LIVES
FOR GOOD
AND **FOREVER**

In the last newsletter we wrote about the Christmas shoebox appeal run by Blythswood, so we were delighted when Paul Algeo, Church Engagement Officer, came along from the charity to speak to us about the wider work Blythswood Care is involved in.

Founded in 1966, Blythswood Care was set up by a group of young men who were studying for the ministry and were passionate about telling others about Jesus. From initially printing out tracts and giving out Bibles locally, the charity now has three main focus areas; Education, Community and the

Gospel. Blythswood Care currently has projects in Ukraine, Mumbai and South Africa as well as foodbanks in the Highlands and Edinburgh.

If you would like to know more about the work of Blythswood Care you can visit their website, www.blythswood.org, where you can find out about how to get involved in fundraising, offer prayer support or donate to one of their projects. You can also hear Paul's talk on the GMC podcast.

We'd like to thank Paul for taking time out to come and speak to us about the work of Blythswood Care. Please pray for its projects and those supported through them.

Listen up! - the GMC podcast



Keep up to date with all the sermons and Encounter sessions by listening to the GMC podcast, available on all main streaming platforms.

www.youtube.com/@GillespieMemorialChurch

Thomas Gillespie Memorial Presbyterian Church, South Africa



Rev. Thembeke Pitoyi, pastor of Thomas Gillespie Memorial Presbyterian Church, in Mount Ayliff South Africa will visit Scotland this April.

His visit will start in Campbeltown with the Rev. Steven Sass and the congregation there on Sunday 12th April. He will travel after worship on Sunday 19th April to join us in Dunfermline, staying with Emma and I at the manse for the week. Rev. Pitoyi will preach at our service on Sunday 26th April after which we will have a church lunch together, and he will leave to join the congregation of

Duns & District Parishes in the Borders. He will stay with them for the week and return to South Africa on Monday 4th May. I hope that Rev. Pitoyi will have a week of activities around the life of our church family and get to see some of our part of Scotland. Please do speak with me or email any suggestions and maybe volunteer to host our visitor for a meal, or a trip out.

My prayer is that this visit will kick start this small beginning of a relationship between our two church communities, here in Fife and there in Mt. Ayliff and so doing bring glory to the kingdom and the church of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Mike



GMC Outreach - taking the Word to the streets

At 10 am on the first Saturday of each month, saints from different churches across Dunfermline meet to share the news about Jesus Christ with all people on the high street. This looks like handing out Bibles, literature, speaking to people about Jesus and occasionally some street preaching.

The burden of conversions and success lies not on our shoulders, as it is God only who can open the eyes of those who are blind. Yet it is through our obedience to His will and the Holy Spirit's leading that people come to see Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

We are called by Jesus to make disciples of all nations and to be ambassadors of him who is the Sacrificial Lamb. With that authority, there has been a continuous presence on the high street, allowing for conversations about who Jesus is and what he achieved for the world.

People have received prayer for their families, for work and for healing, all of which has shown a desire for something more. Over 150 Bibles have been handed out along with other forms of literature, bringing the word of God into more homes. These all may seem like small seeds we are planting, yet the tree of the mustard seed grows large and bears much fruit.

Donations can be made payable to GMC through bank transfer, all donations should be referenced 'Outreach'. Cash donations can be handed to either Barbara-Anne or Alex Weaver to be set aside in the Outreach fund.

We as a church must pray for Dunfermline, pray for the outreach and seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in how we can use our God-given gifts for the kingdom.



Alex Weaver

Ways to help

- Pray for the outreach
- Donations towards Bibles and Literature
- Come along and follow the Holy Spirit
- Ask the Holy Spirit and other believers what your gifting may be

Prayer Points

- For the people of Dunfermline to be receptive and open to the Gospel
- For protection against the schemes of the Devil
- For wisdom and discernment
- To be equipped with the words to speak
- For boldness
- For healing over Dunfermline
- That chains and strongholds are broken

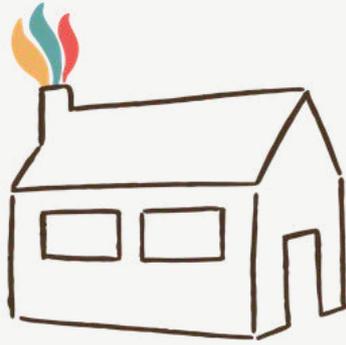
Thanks to Alex Weaver for this contribution



Gillespie Memorial Church Outreach Project
Sort code: 80-06-55
Account number: 00377222



OPEN HOUSE CAFE



We're delighted to share some lovely news from the Gillespie Centre.

We have now refurbished the two rooms in the back of the centre and turned them into two new quiet/reading rooms. The rooms are now open and offer peaceful spaces for reflection, small meetings or for anyone in need of support or counselling.



We're also incredibly grateful for a £1,000 Seed for Growth grant, which has enabled us to create a welcoming children's corner in the cafe. New toys have been purchased for both the café area and the church hall crèche, helping us encourage young families to visit, enjoy the café, and join us for church. It's been wonderful to see new families with young children at our Monday evening café, and we hope this will also bless Café Inc families when they visit during the school holidays.

WANTED!

Your Cafe Needs You! We need more volunteers for our Open House Cafe. If you know anyone who is able to help either on a Tuesday or Thursday morning, please see Emma or Janice. Full training given. ☺



DID YOU KNOW?

We have a children's creche/play area in the church hall? We are praying for families and children to come and join us at church. Please invite your neighbours and friends to come along. Why don't you invite them to Messy Church?

Got an idea?



If you have a fundraising idea or are planning a fundraising event, please get in touch with the office so that we can help you to promote it!





It's Ash Wednesday as I write this and thoughts are turning to Lent and Easter. Our next Messy Church will have an Easter theme, looking at the Last Supper - Jesus the servant, a wonderful, challenging and exciting message to share with the Messy Church families, young and old.

Well, that's to come, so what have we been up to since Christmas?

In January we had great fun learning about Zaccheus and how Jesus changes lives. You may have seen our picture on the wall in the hall



With thanks to Anne Monk for the contribution.

Church Conference update

The Leading Your Church Into Growth (LyCiG) conference took place at the beginning of February with Mike, Emma, Lorna, Jack and Hope representing Gillespie. LyCiG is described as a non-denominational, accessible, inspiring and enabling conference for everyone who wants to see numerical and spiritual growth in their congregation.

The team were lead through exercises that encouraged them to 'inventory' current activities in their church and were then challenged to come up with three realistic priorities for their church to concentrate on.

The camels Humphrey and Camilla discussed what was happening whilst Zaccheus looked menacing until Jesus spoke to him.

In February we explored the greatest commandments. We chatted all morning about who our neighbour was and made compasses and windsocks to show how Jesus guides and directs through the Commandments.

We have had new families come and join us - hearing about us from friends or the website. We're changing our table set up so everyone can sit down together to share a meal at the end!

Summer Holiday Club 2026!

We are hoping to run a holiday club for a week in the summer holidays from 3rd - 7th August 2026 in the church/church hall. It will run each morning following a Bible theme to be agreed by the Team. There will be crafts, games, Bible stories, quiet time in small groups exploring the Bible story of the day and what it means, jokes, songs, snacks and is great fun for all. The holiday club is for Primary School P1-P7.

We need a team of volunteers to be able to run the holiday club and would be delighted if you could volunteer - one day a few days, behind the scenes, preparing snacks, IT desk. If you would like to know more or want to volunteer please speak to Alan Monk or email alanmonk36@gmail.com

The Gillespie team are currently preparing a Planned Journey of Growth based on the identified priorities.



The plan will be shared with the Kirk Session and congregation once completed.

With thanks to Lorna Cook for the contribution



Life Groups

Do you know about our Life Groups? What exactly are Life Groups?

Our current collection of life Groups, (don't know if there is an official name for this), but we have four Life Groups made up of people of all ages and all stages in their faith. They come together at different times and days of the week. They meet in homes, and in the church café and church hall to share and build friendship over a cup of coffee. They listen to one another and share their stories of what God has done in their lives and they care for each another, pray for one another. They study God's word or a book about God's word and discuss things like spiritual disciplines, ethical issues, God's gifts and purpose for us as a church – issues we are interested in, that will help us grow in our faith and encourage vision, evangelism, outreach and leadership potential.

A Life Group is committing to the way of a disciple, and this is so important for anyone coming into the church and wondering where they can fit in, for those who would like to build a wider circle of friends and go deeper in their faith.

Groups are currently studying the Psalms, Paul's letters to Timothy, The Forgotten Manifesto of Jesus - bible studies from the Iranian Church, and Love & Respect. There is something for everyone, so if you are interested in finding out more or think you might like to join a Life Group, talk to Maggie Lane on a Sunday or email margaretlane@btinternet.com or Rev Mike Weaver and we will try and find the right Life Group for you.

Maggie Lane
Life Group Co-ordinator

Dates for your diary

Thursday Prayer Group

We're delighted to be restarting our Thursday Prayer Group, meeting in the Upper Room at 7pm for an hour of reflection, prayer, and simply spending time in the presence of God.

This year, our focus is on being intentional in prayer –lifting up God's Church and our Gillespie family. As Scripture reminds us, "My house will be known as a house of prayer." When we gather to pray together, we strengthen one another, deepen our faith, and make space for God to move among us. Please be reassured: there is no pressure to pray out loud. You are very welcome to sit quietly, reflect, listen, and pray silently if that feels right for you. What matters is that we come together.

Whether you've attended before or are thinking of coming for the first time, we'd love to see you there. Come along and join us. If you would like to join but unable to come out in the evening, you can join us via zoom. Please let us know if this would help you.

Prayer Team Refresher Course

Saturday 21st February

10am -12 noon

We will be running a refresher Prayer Team Training Course. If you would like to join our prayer team please contact Emma for more information.

Learning to Pray Course

Saturday 7th March

10am - 1pm (followed by a light lunch)

"A deconstructed, back-to-basics prayer course." Not sure how to pray? You're not alone. Learning to Pray is a gentle course designed to help us go back to the basics of prayer – learning how to talk with God and how to pray for others in simple, honest ways. Whether you're new to prayer or want to start again, this course offers encouragement, practical help, and a safe space to build confidence. Please let us know if you want to come so we can cater accordingly.

Church Finances

Finance Update

With thanks to Fiona Boyle for the contribution

	2025 actuals	2026 budget
Total income	£168,183	£108,000
Total expenses	£232,524	£128,000
Gap	£64,341	£20,000

Our reserves were reduced following the roof refurbishments last year, which impacts our monthly interest income. Gift Aid went up due to increased giving last year but needs to grow to make sure that we can meet our regular commitments this year and close the anticipated income gap of £20,000.

Last year, £107,000 was gifted by the congregation through the open plate, standing orders, stewardship, gift aid and other offerings. We're looking for your continued support to ensure we can meet our regular commitments as a Church.

There are two areas where we need to focus our income this year:

1.Upkeep of our buildings i.e. the Church building, the Centre, and the Manse. As GMC own these buildings, we can't look to the Church of Scotland for investment funding to support us. Expenses include electricity and gas, which increase year on year; repairs and maintenance, with the recent recurrence of a leak in the church roof now a priority to investigate as well as in the Manse.

2.General Church running costs - this includes administration costs, wages, and our Giving to Grow commitment to the Church of Scotland, which increase year on year.

As the Project fund can meet the immediate repairs to the floor of the back hall, the Manse roof and a new Manse boiler, our proposal is to ask that all tithing and stewardship giving from the start of March is allocated to general maintenance for the time being.If you have any issues with this, please let the Finance Team (Ronnie Aitken, Fiona Boyle) or the Church Office know.

The plan is to have a separate GM3 outreach budget for 2026 and going forward, as we look to continue and extend our community outreach.

We don't propose increasing the rates for current facility renters as we made a significant hike in 2024.However, we are always looking for new users, so if you know of anyone who needs a meeting space, please let the Church Office know.

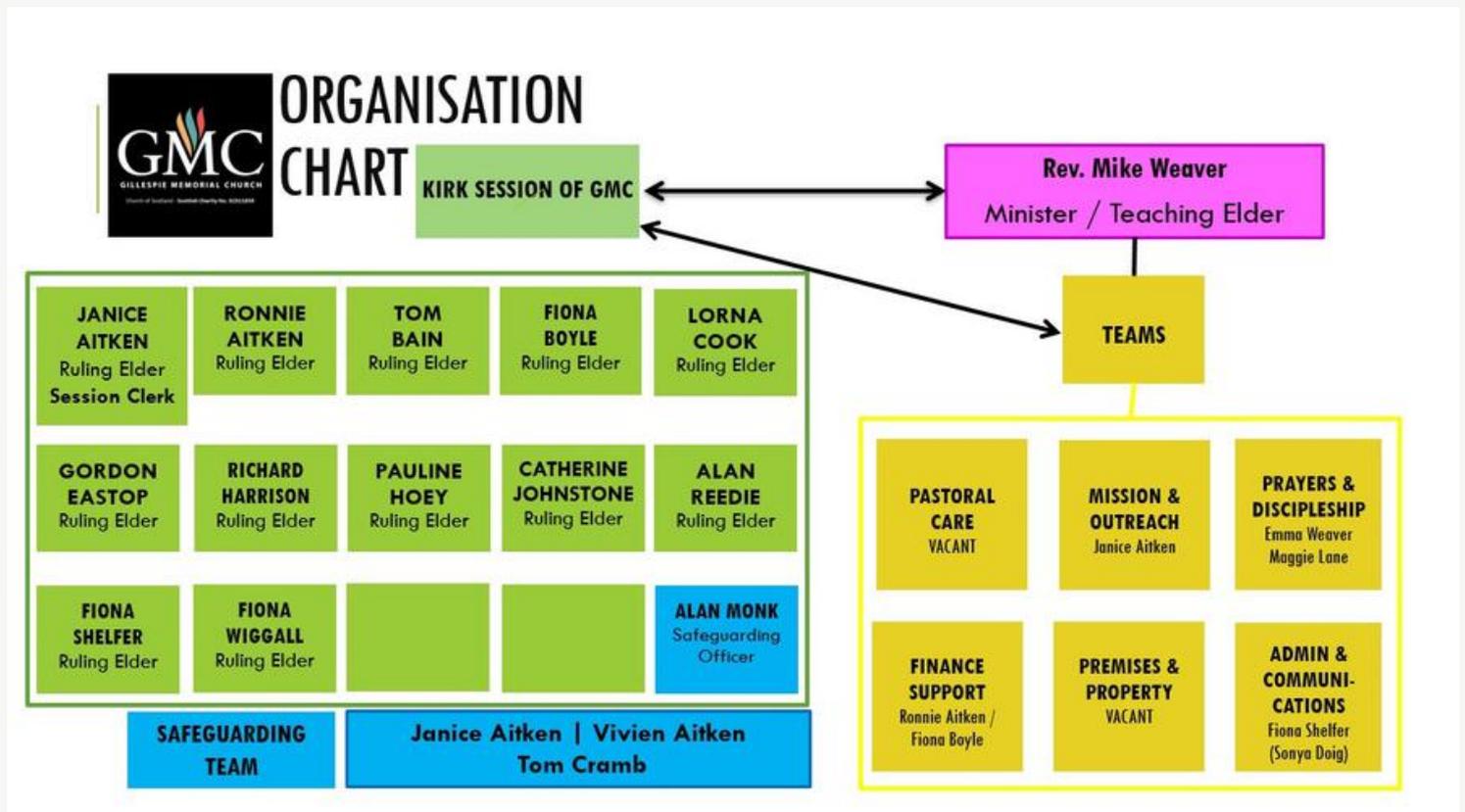
If you would like to give to the life and work of GMC, pls find the details below:



Gillespie Memorial Church
Sort code: 80-06-55
Account number: 00377222



GMC Property Convener: vacant role



The GMC Property Convener oversees all aspects of property management at Gillespie Memorial Church, ensuring buildings and grounds are safe, secure, and accessible.

This work is undertaken in conjunction with the Health & Safety Office, Church Office Administrator and the Property Team, all reporting to the Kirk Session.

Key duties include:

- implementing guidance from the central Church of Scotland
- conducting regular inspections
- maintaining safety records
- coordinating with contractors
- displaying required notices

Additional responsibilities cover accessibility, essential maintenance, and annual risk assessments.

This is an essential role in our church, and the position is currently vacant. Could you be the person to help us in the necessary ministry to the Lord's House?

Contact the office for more details, OR speak to Pastor Mike.

If you would like to contribute to the next magazine, please send your contribution to office@gillespiechurch.org by Friday 15th May to give the team time to pull it together. Thank you!

GILLESPIE MEMORIAL CHURCH



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