

GILLESPIE CHURCH MAGAZINE

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"I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Isa 49:6

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	Life groups will stop over the summer	
Summer coffee & catch up	Every Monday evening, 7 -9 pm	Costa Odeon, Halbeath retail park
Women's Bible study	4 th Friday of the month, 7pm	Gillespie Centre
Open House Cafe	Closed during the summer holidays	Gillespie Centre

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

Change is in the air.

As I write this the Prime Minister is in a cabinet meeting and the political pundits wonder if he will still be his position come lunchtime. By the time you read this, you will know the story of the British Government and machinations of the Labour party as it played out during the middle weeks of May.

Change is defined as 'making someone or something different; to alter or modify' and change is a constant in our world and environment. Change takes place at an individual level from the moment we are born through to our death. Physical changes to our bodies, changes in our knowledge and experience as we grow and change to our understanding around faith, religion and spirituality.

Changes to our physical and spiritual lives do not take place in a vacuum, for we live as members of society.

Yes, currently there are seismic changes occurring in society; nationally, politically and sociologically. The consequences of such changes were recently seen in the significant shifts to the political landscapes in Scotland, Wales and England. Time will tell how these political changes will affect our lives and shape society.

There has also been and continues to be, changes that affect our church life too. There are increasing economic costs to the running of the church which you can read about elsewhere in the newsletter. There has also been change for our congregation; people have died or left, whilst others have joined and become part of the church family at GMC.

Change is a fundamental part of life, whether as individuals, as society, or as the people of God, who gather as the church.



Rev Mike Weaver

So, what has the Word of God to say to us about change from Old and New Testament Scriptures...

- Isaiah 43:19 – “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

This verse reminds us that God actively works through change, creating new opportunities, even when circumstances seem difficult. Where is God in the midst of trial and trouble – He is with His people, through Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

This verse speaks of the ultimate change for anyone on earth, for real change begins in Christ, which brings spiritual renewal and a fresh start.

- Ecclesiastes 3:1 – “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:”

The beginning of Ecclesiastes 3 is a precursor to a long list of times of life, some difficult (death, weeping and mourning etc) and other more positive (healing, building up, to love, etc).

What is clear is that life's changes are part of God's design, and whatever season we find ourselves in, there is purpose in the changes and seasons of life.



Romans 12:2 – “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

As children of the living God, adopted into the family of God by Jesus Christ, we are no longer like the world, we are changed. And this transformation begins internally as God renews our thoughts and perspectives to become more like Christ, and less than the world's.

- Hebrews 13:8 – “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

Yet, even amid a changing world and the changes in the lives of people, whether believers or not, there is a constant... the unchangeable nature of the Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God's unchanging nature provides stability and reassurance in an ever-shifting world.

- Malachi 3:6a – “For I the Lord do not change;” It is not just in Hebrews where we hear of God's consistent nature. In speaking through the prophet Malachi, God himself states his unchanging nature. There is much comfort found in God's faithfulness remaining constant, even when life circumstances shift!

The last verses I bring before you, are a call to us all, wherever we are in our faith, whatever the circumstances of life. These words are encouragement to the church...

- Philippians 4:11b-13 – “I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

St. Paul was called to be an apostle of Christ when he'd been a persecutor of the early church. His life changed dramatically, shifting from unbelief to belief, faithlessness to faithfulness, from death to life. In serving the Lord he travelled, taught and preached. He was overjoyed in serving the Lord with abundance and plenty, while also facing trials, among them times of hunger and need.

In such changing circumstances Paul knew where his strength came from, in good times and bad. The strength he knew also comes from the same unchangeable source for us... the Lord our God.

So, as you view the changing circumstances around you in the world; as maybe your own life circumstances change; and as the church in which we serve and worship together changes, please know this... change is inevitable and necessary. But through it all God reigns. So, build your life on His firm foundations.

Blessings . Pastor Mike

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!



Gillespie Memorial Church
Sort code: 80-06-55
Account number: 00376799



Visit of Revd Thembeke Pitoyi, 20-26 April 2026

The Revd Thembeke Pitoyi, minister of Thomas Gillespie Memorial Presbyterian Church, Mount Ayliff, South Africa visited Dunfermline between Sundays 19th and 26th April, culminating with him preaching on God's word from Isaiah 29.v5-6 at Gillespie Memorial Church of Scotland (GMC).

Revd. Pitoyi was following in the footsteps of the founder of the church he pastors in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa, the Revd, Peter Langwill Hunter, of Campbeltown.

Rev. Hunter was ordained in 1889 in Campbeltown but was licensed to missionary work at Gillespie Memorial Church, then a united Presbyterian Church. In the same year Hunter married Elizabeth Young, a member of the church and together they set sail to begin a missionary life to the emaXesibeni people. The invitation for missionaries from Scotland had been sent by Chief Jojo to Rev. Ross and Rev. Stirling, both Presbyterian ministers working in nearby provinces.

Contact between Rev. Hunter and the sending congregation in Dunfermline was maintained during his life, but following his retirement and death of his wife, it seems the link between the two church was broken. That was until an email from Rev. Pitoyi to GMC in 2022 seeking information about P.L Hunter, resulted in an exchange between ministers and eventually this recent visit.



Thomas Gillespie Memorial Presbyterian Church, Mount Ayliff, South Africa



During the visit Rev. Pitoyi had a busy week experiencing some of the life and hospitality of GMC.

Pastor Mike and Thembeke visited New College (Divinity Schools of The University of Edinburgh), Edinburgh Castle and St. Giles Cathedral and made a visit to Dunfermline Abbey, guided by one of the Abbey church members.

A visit was also made to St. Andrews to meet fellow Church of Scotland colleagues and an international gathering with South Africa and England represented along with pastors Revd. Zoltan Safrany (Hungary, minister of Lochgelly & Benarty: St. Serfs) and Rev Dr Amos Chewachong (Cameroon, minister of Newport-on-Tay).



At Sunday worship on the 26th April, Rev. Pitoyi gave a powerful message about the vision of the church, that the purpose of God is bigger than just the church, but is about being a light to the nations, as evidenced by the mission of Rev. P.L. Hunter. The service was streamed live to the congregation in South Africa with many viewing as we worship across continents. At the end of the service gifts were exchanged and a congregation lunch enjoyed, before Thembeke moved on to Dun's where the next chapter of connection between TGMPC and Scotland continued.



Revd Pitoyi's time at GMC

A visit 3 years in the making saw Revd. Thembeke Pitoyi make a pilgrimage to the source of his own ministry at Thomas Gillespie Memorial Presbyterian Church, in Mount Ayliff, South Africa.

When the Revd. P L Hunter left Dunfermline as a missionary to South Africa, he could little know the joy that we would experience so many decades later, when the direct spiritual descendant of his church planting efforts would return to the mother church to celebrate all that links us and binds together in Christ. In between visits to Duns and Campbelltown, Pastor Thembeke spent a week with us, joining with community groups, our café staff and sharing meals and fellowship with dozens of our congregation. He shared the heritage that connects us, and many questions were asked and answered about our respective churches, our traditions and practices and general church life.



What was truly wonderful was the things that we share heavily outweigh the things that we do differently. All enjoyed Pastor Thembeke's gentle humour and passion for the gospel and for the preaching of the Word. The week we shared together culminated in a Sunday Service at GMC, where the Pastor shared a powerful sermon about the importance of the global church and the power of Faith to make a difference. Our final meal together afterwards was a time of Blessing and Fellowship with gifts exchanged and a true connection made between the two churches.



We thank God for the Revd Pitoyi's time with us, and for his safe return to Mt Ayliff. We hope there will be the opportunity for some of us to make a reciprocal visit to Thomas Gillespie Memorial in the future to continue to build our links and the community between the two churches

Thanks to Tom Cramb for this contribution



Revd Pitoyi's time at GMC





Thomas Gillespie Memorial Presbyterian Church
Mount Ayliff, Eastern Cape, South Africa

PERSON DEALING WITH THE MATTER: REV: TT PITOYI
To: To the Kirk Session of Gillespie Memorial Church, Dunfermline

SUNDAY, 10TH MAY 2026

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ from South Africa.
On behalf of Thomas Gillespie Memorial Presbyterian Church, Mount Ayliff, South Africa, I would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the love, hospitality, fellowship, and Christian kindness that were shown to me during my visit to Gillespie Memorial Church in Dunfermline.

By the grace of God, I safely arrived home in South Africa on the 6th of May 2026. Since my return, I have continued to reflect with thanksgiving on the spiritual significance of my visit and the warm fellowship I experienced among you.
It was deeply meaningful and emotional for me to worship with you at Gillespie Memorial Church, especially because of the historic connection between your congregation and Reverend Peter Langwill Hunter, who later came to South Africa and established the church that today is known as Thomas Gillespie Memorial Presbyterian Church in Mount Ayliff.

I especially treasure the worship service of the 26th of April 2026 where I had the privilege of preaching at Gillespie Memorial Church. One of the most touching moments of that service was that members of Thomas Gillespie Memorial Presbyterian Church in Mount Ayliff also joined the worship online from South Africa. For our congregation, that became a deeply emotional and historic moment as the two congregations connected through worship across continents and oceans. It reminded us that we are united not only by history, but by Christ Himself.

I also wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for the generous offering that was dedicated on that day to Thomas Gillespie Memorial Presbyterian Church. An amount equivalent to R15 262.23 was received. We received this offering with deep thanksgiving and humility.
Our congregation has dedicated this gift towards our ongoing building project here in Mount Ayliff. Your generosity therefore became not only an expression of kindness, but also a meaningful contribution to the future ministry and mission of our congregation. The members of our church were deeply touched when they heard about this act of Christian love and support from Gillespie Memorial Church.

Another deeply moving moment was the gift of the Holy Communion elements that were shared with us. That gift touched our congregation greatly upon my return home. We received those Communion elements not simply as church items, but as sacred symbols of fellowship, unity, prayer, and our shared witness in Christ.
I shared with our congregation in Mount Ayliff that each time we lift those Communion elements during Holy Communion, we shall also be lifting the prayers, love, and fellowship of both Mount Ayliff and Dunfermline before God. In that way, the table of the Lord continues to unite our congregations spiritually across generations and nations.



During my visit, I experienced genuine Christian warmth, friendship, and fellowship from the congregation and leadership of the church. I was deeply touched by the spirit of worship, hospitality, and faithfulness that I encountered among you.

When I returned home to South Africa, I received a warm welcome from the church and community. Special thanksgiving and welcome services were held both in Durban and Mount Ayliff where Holy Communion was celebrated and thanksgiving offered to God for the journey and the strengthening of the relationship between our congregations.

During these gatherings, I spoke warmly about Gillespie Memorial Church, about the kindness I received from the Kirk Session and congregation, and about the shared spiritual heritage that continues to unite us across nations and continents.

My visit strengthened my faith and deepened my appreciation for the enduring historical and spiritual ties between our churches. I believe these connections are not simply part of the past, but part of God's continuing work in bringing His people together through faith, mission, memory, and fellowship.

May the Lord continue to bless the ministry and witness of Gillespie Memorial Church. May He strengthen the Kirk Session, encourage the congregation, and continue to guide you faithfully in His service.

Please receive the warm greetings and prayers of the people of Thomas Gillespie Memorial Presbyterian Church in Mount Ayliff.

With gratitude and Christian fellowship,



The Reverend Thembeke Pitoyi
Minister, Thomas Gillespie Memorial
Presbyterian Church Mount Ayliff,
South Africa

Listen up! - the GMC podcast

If you missed the Revd Pitoyi's sermon you can hear it on the GMC YouTube channel.



www.youtube.com/@GillespieMemorialChurch

Answered prayer!



Sight restored after cataract surgery on 29th of April this year.

I have had issues with my sight since birth. Mum and dad thought I was just a clumsy child as I kept banging into things. From the age of two I've worn spectacles, and had high prescription lenses which enabled me to see things close up. My sight deteriorated significantly each year and I was registered blind many years ago. However, I fast tracked for laser surgery last month to remove the cataract in my right eye. Immediately after this procedure I jumped off the table and shouted "I can see!" My Gillespie Family held me in prayer, and God restored my sight. This was a Miracle which has transformed my life, to see clearly around six feet in front of me is such a beautiful and breathtaking thing. All glory to God he has healed me from within, and replaced sorrow, and weariness, with light, and joy. Praise The Lord.

With thanks to Mags for the contribution.



Film Night - a roaring success!



A huge thank you to everyone who came to watch *The Book of Daniel* at the film night fundraising event hosted by the Monday night life group.

Set in 605 BC, *The Book of Daniel* tells the story of Jerusalem's capture by the Babylonians and how subsequently many of its best young men were taken into captivity. Daniel was among those taken to Babylon to serve the powerful King Nebuchadnezzar. The film followed Daniel through these years and offered a good insight into him as a man, his determination to speak the truth no matter how high the cost and how he held fast to his faith despite the hardship.

We were delighted to enjoy the company of the Reverend Thembeke Pitoyi, Pastor Mike and about 30 people who, between them, managed to raise a fantastic £195 through donations, buying tea and coffee and enjoying a Lion Bar!

Fiona Boyle also went home with a lion after correctly guessing its name (chosen by Mirren Doig) don't worry, it was a cuddly lion!

Our next fundraising adventure will be a curry and quiz night, details to follow!

Wedding congratulations



Congratulations to Grant and Lisa who were married at GMC on 28th March. Everyone in the church family wishes you both many blessings for your future together.

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves." Romans 12:10

Baptism!



Congratulation to Jack on his baptism and public declaration of faith on Sunday 3rd May. The GMC family welcomes you!

"For in one Spirit we were all baptised into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and all were made to drink of one Spirit." 1Cor 12:13



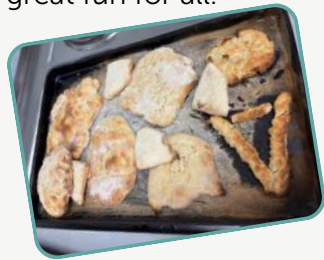
We had a great time learning about the Last Supper - noisy and fun. We made flatbreads with Olive oil, flour and milk (lactose free if needed) just like those eaten at the time of Jesus, made prayer planes and flew them, not to mention the erupting paint pictures. That was so much fun and very very messy! We were reminded that Jesus asked us to be joyful in spreading the Good News. All the families went home with a Messy Church about Easter and what happened next.

As Catriona said it was lovely to see so many returning families and new ones, as well as couple of Dads! (they were good at paper planes as well as other activities) ❤️



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

With thanks to Anne Monk for the contribution.

Church Conference update

Following the initial article about Leading Your Church Into Growth (LyCiG) in the last Church newsletter, the first session of the LyCiG programme was shared with the GMC Elders in April over lunch. They were asked to complete a questionnaire about the 'culture' of GMC, i.e. what we, as a church, talk about the most. These answers will help us to understand where GMC is currently at and what we need to work on. We need a culture of EXPECTATION and HOPE in all the things God might do.

We need a DESIRE to grow - not just numerically but spiritually too.

We need a PLAN and we need a TEAM with a ❤️ heart for GMC

Do you have a positive passion for church faith and life, with a "can-do" attitude?

If so, please speak to either Lorna, Emma, Hope, Jack or Mike. There will be a session on the basics of LYCiG at the church conference on Saturday 13th June 2026 which will give you further information.

G – God is still working

R – Release control

O – Open your heart

W – Walk by faith

T – Trust His timing

H – Hold onto hope

@MINDFULCHRISTIANITY

With thanks to Lorna Cook for the contribution



Church Finances

With thanks to Fiona Boyle for the contribution

We wanted to give you all a brief and honest update on our church finances. The main point is that our regular income is currently not enough to cover our regular running costs.

Key issues

- We are currently facing an average monthly shortfall of about £1,283.
- Even after bringing in the money from our remaining reserves, we are only likely to be able to meet our commitments until around the end of November 2026, if things stay as they are.
- This means we have very little financial cushion for unexpected costs. If unplanned costs arise, it's likely that we'll not be able to meet our regular commitments earlier than November this year.
- That is a serious concern, especially with things like the recent water ingress in the roof and other necessary repair or compliance costs, which we don't have a clear estimate of yet.
- Our income from giving has been lower than budgeted, partly because the makeup of church membership and giving has changed over recent years. This means that, based on current costs and an active attendance of around 60, without acting to bring in other income or reducing expenditure significantly, we would all need to contribute £35 a week to keep us on an even keel.

What we need to do

We need to act promptly and realistically in two areas:

- Increase income
- Reduce expenditure



Gillespie Memorial Church
Sort code: 80-06-55
Account number: 00376799

Some of the steps we are considering

- Encouraging regular giving and making it easier for people to give on Sundays, so an offering plate will now be passed around the congregation weekly from 24th May. If you support us through Standing Orders, please don't feel you have to contribute again.
- Encouraging all eligible taxpayers to use Gift Aid. This allows us to claim 20% of all giving provided this way from the HMRC on a quarterly basis so it really helps with our cashflow. Please speak to Ronnie Aitken, Fiona Boyle or Barbara Anne if you want to take advantage of this for your giving.
- Planning more fundraising events in the coming months. Please do support these fun activities when they happen! They not only help raise funds, but they also help bring the congregation closer together in fellowship.
- Looking for more rental income from our buildings by attracting new users. If you know of any group wanting space to meet, please let the Finance team know (Ronnie or Fiona).
- Reviewing how and when we use and heat different parts of the church buildings, so that we can reduce energy costs e.g. holding Worship in the hall during colder months (like April & May this year!!)
- Speaking with Presbytery and partners where needed about payment strategies.
- Could you consider leaving a legacy in your Will to GMC, which should (currently) reduce the level of inheritance tax your estate pays?

What we are asking of the congregation

- Please pray for wisdom and provision from our loving Father to allow us to maintain the work and witness for Him in GMC in the heart of Dunfermline.
- Please consider helping through giving, fundraising, or supporting practical cost-saving measures e.g. giving a greater proportion of your tithe to the church if you split it across several groups.
- And please continue to stand with us as we work to put the church on a more sustainable footing.



Closing note

So many people in the congregation already give generously, serve faithfully, support events and care deeply about the life of this church. We don't take that for granted and we recognise that much has already been done to sustain and strengthen the work here.

So, while this is a challenging moment, it's not a hopeless one. We have a church family that is committed, prayerful and willing to work together. With God's help, wise decisions and the continued support of the congregation, we believe there is a way forward. We ask you to keep praying, to keep encouraging one another, and to consider how each of us might play a part as we seek not simply to manage a difficulty, but to help the church move into a more stable and hopeful future.

GMC Church Treasurer: vacant role

Role: GMC Church Treasurer

Role summary: Manage church finances by overseeing all income and expenses, underpinned by the development and monitoring of annual budgets to ensure financial health and transparency. Act as the main GMC point of contact with the Church of Scotland Finance team to ensure financial and regulatory compliance. Research and pursue opportunities for grant funding where required.

Key Responsibilities:

- Prepare financial reports: Produce monthly, quarterly, and annual financial statements for church leadership, the congregation and Church of Scotland Presbytery.
- Ensure regulatory compliance: File necessary tax documents, charity commission reports, and adhere to financial regulations required by the Church of Scotland.
- Monitor financial controls: oversee cash handling, expense approvals, and safeguarding assets procedures.
- Liaise with the Independent Examiner: Facilitate annual review of accounts and respond to financial inquiries before submission to Church of Scotland Presbytery.
- Manage payroll, gift aid and grant submissions: ensure all regular activity is completed for payroll and gift aid submissions. Research opportunities for relevant grant funding; prepare and track submissions.
- Advise on financial decisions: Provide input on major expenditures, fundraising initiatives, and stewardship campaigns. Oversee all fund management.
- Attend church meetings: Present financial updates at board, committee, or congregational meetings as required.

The GMC Church Treasurer would be supported by the following roles already in post:

·Bookkeeper who maintains bank accounts, reconciles bank statements, monitors account activity and makes regular payments, pays invoices, and expense claims.

·Administrator who maintains accurate records of all financial transactions using appropriate accounting software or systems; tracks donations and tithes by recording and reporting all contributions, ensuring confidentiality and accuracy.

·Finance Team who provide Kirk Session input and overview, while taking on tasks as required to support the Treasurer in overall smooth running of GMC's financial activities.

If you think this role is something you can do, please contact Mike Weaver or Ronnie Aitken.

If you would like to contribute to the next magazine, please send your contribution to office@gillespiechurch.org by Friday 21st September to give the team time to pull it together. Thank you!



GILLESPIE MEMORIAL CHURCH



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