
GILLESPIE CHURCH MAGAZINE

WWW.GILLESPIECHURCH.ORG



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*Unto us a
child is born*

Isaiah 9:6



GMC - What's on and Where?

What	When	Where
Sunday service	Every Sunday, 10:30am	Gillespie Church
Encounter	1 st Sunday of the month, 6:30pm	Gillespie Church
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
Men's Bible study	1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd Sunday of the month, 2pm	Upper room
Open House Cafe	Monday's 6pm - 7:30pm,	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 the 2025 Christmas/Winter newsletter!

I recently went on my annual retreat to the Borders, the rain and damp being wonderfully contrasted by the vibrant autumnal colours of the trees littering the road and byways.

The purpose of the retreat is to seek the counsel of God; in prayer, in Scriptures and in contemplation, asking God for His direction both for myself and for our church in the coming year. What preaching series will we delve into in 2026? What, if anything, has naturally run its season and what new thing is God asking His people to do? How do we grow in faith as the family of God?

One thing I am certain of, God's people are challenged to grow in faith both as individuals and as a community of Christ.

At the retreat centre in Hawick, I read an article in 'Idea', the magazine of the Evangelical Alliance, about 'recovering the church as an authentic family'. The article suggested community was part of God's intention for the church, that community is transformational when relationships are real and intentional. It's not specific programmes or outreach from our church that make relationships work but rather it is about being vulnerable. It's where we invite people into the community of faith and participate in one another's joys and pains as we all try to follow Jesus, struggling along the way.

Community participation is not easy. It demands openness, forgiveness, patience and self-giving. These qualities are hugely attractive to those who want to come and see what's on offer in the Christian life, for following the Lord Jesus should offer something unique. The Biblical perspective of the Church and its contrast to the outside worldview is, what I believe, makes this so attractive.

We live in a world where, let's face it since COVID, things have become much more of a struggle. The statistics regarding ill health, mental health and unemployment reflect just how much folk are struggling with life. The Collins dictionary word of the year in 2022 was permacrisis, the idea of an extended period of instability and insecurity - the 24-hour news cycle of global and local issues around security, health, provision, injustice and inequality feed that sense of permacrisis and the breakdown of community.

So how do we as Christians speak into this context?

In the first instance we recognise that we don't live in this permacrisis by ourselves. We walk through life in the world with Jesus by our side and together, in community, say to those who will listen "come and find community with us, in Christ!"

How do we do that?

We need to be truly friendly; purposefully approachable, welcoming and sociable with community going further than Sunday worship and weekly church activities.

Community goes even further than Sundays and weekly church activities.

Whilst Gathering on Sunday to worship the Lord should be a weekly priority for all God's people, so too should be the nurturing of deeper, healthy relationships in our with our church family too.

In a recent meeting, I discussed what a healthy growing church looked like. My mentor, David, and I agreed it was one that depended upon the word of God and could be expressed in four steps:

1. The first step is coming to faith -knowing Jesus through his word, by reading and hearing the Bible and responding by faith.

2. The second step is growing in faith – like a newborn being weaned from milk to solids in order to grow and thrive, so too does the Christian need to be nurtured by the Word of God to grow and thrive in their faith.

3. Step three is the studying and sharing of God's word together. We should be discussing Sunday's sermon, or something that you've read in your weekly and daily devotions. Speaking to one another about the Bible as you chat and meet with your Christian friends should feel natural. We come to church on a Sunday so that we come under God's word and teaching... why would we not engage with it and nurture each other.

4. The final step of growing in faith together is to share our faith. The command to go and make disciples of all nations is done when we share God's word.

My sincere hope and prayer is that our church family will continue to grow together, sharpening one another by His word and sharing God's word outside of church.

May you have blessed Christmas and wonderful 2026, as we grow deeper in faith with the Lord together.

In Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pastor Mike

Advent & Christmas 2025

Sunday 30th November, 10:30 am
Isaiah 2:1-5/Matthew 24:36-44

Sunday 7th December, 10:30 am
Isaiah 11:1-10/Romans 15:4-13

Sunday 14th December, 10:30 am
Isaiah 35:1-10/James 5:7-10

Sunday 21st December, 10:30 am
Isaiah 7:10-16/Matthew 1:18-25

Wednesday 24th December, 11:20pm
Watchnight service
Isaiah 9:2-7/Psalm 96/Luke 2:1-14

Thursday 25th December, 10am
Isaiah 2:6-12/Psalm 97/Titus 3:3-7

Sunday 28^h December, 10:30am
Hebrews 2

ALL WELCOME

GMC
GILLESPIE MEMORIAL CHURCH



Christingle service



Sunday 21st December, 4pm

Join us for mince pies and non-alcoholic mulled wine afterwards!



ALL WELCOME

Christingle service will be held in the Sanctuary

Fabulous Fundraising!

A Night at the Musicals!



The Night at Musicals event in September saw local talent raise nearly £1,100. The event, hosted by Charlie Stewart delighted the audience with classic songs from West End musicals.

Congratulations to everyone who took part!

Treading boards to bridges....

Pauline and Brian may want some new trainers for Christmas after completing their sponsored walk over the Forth Road Bridge in October. The pair walked over and back 8 times totalling nearly a Marathon's worth of miles – 24 in total. They had lots of support on the day from other members of the church including Barbara-Anne, Viv, Gordon, Rachel and Judith Anderson.



The day went without a hitch until Brian got lost on the way home and became unexpectedly acquainted with Inverkeithing - oops!

Their efforts raised a fantastic £2149 which all goes towards the roof repairs recently completed at Gillespie. Well done and thank you!

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!

To make a donation to the roof repair and ongoing maintenance of the church please use the bank information below:



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



***"Messy Church isn't just for
young children!"***
***Quote of the week from the
teenagers***

This month we learned about the woman at the well. A humble tale that teaches us about faith, living water and that Jesus is for all.



With thanks to Anne Monk for the contribution.

Since the last newsletter, we've had two Messy Church sessions which have been well attended with two new families coming along. Invites are being made by word of mouth from our families and from the congregation.

In September we explored the story of the 10 Lepers. As we all know, only one said thank you, so we explored the different ways we can give thanks. We made thank you boxes, thank you cards and decorated thank you stones and then passed them on to someone.

I was especially touched to receive one and it has pride of place in my greenhouse! We also made a big banner that you can see in the church hall thanking God as well as a thank you branch which is in the passage way. You may remember being invited to write down something that you are thankful for - they are all there on the branch!



Blythswood shoebox appeal

"There was an amazing response from Messy Church who were eager to learn more about the shoeboxes, what happened to them, how they got there. There was much laughter as they covered boxes, filled them with the gifts they had brought and balancing the boxes so that all had the same number of things!

Our congregation, friends and family have been incredibly generous and many shoe boxes filled with essential and fun items. The count today is 39 but there are more promised. But more than that is the love and God's guidance which has gone into each gift for someone we do not know. On behalf of Blythswood thank you!"



***"On behalf of
Blythswood,
thank you!"***

***"The count
today is 39 but
there are
more
promised"***



Guest speaker



We were delighted to welcome Reverend Stan Brook as a guest speaker in September. Rev. Brook, the brother of our very own Maggie Lane, has been a minister of Word and Sacrament for 40 years with the Church of Scotland, serving parishes in Dundee, Edinburgh, Callander and Fife, before retiring to South Queensferry. You can hear his sermon again on Genesis 1: 20-25 where he speaks on creation revealed, creation ravaged and creation renewed, by visiting YouTube or wherever you get your podcasts.

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

Leadership conference

February 2026 sees the "Leading your Church into Growth" conference and GMC will be sending representatives thanks to funded places available from the Seeds of Growth programme. The conference focuses on strategies to grow church congregations and increase meaningful contact with young people.



The Open House Café at the Gillespie Centre, Chapel Street, Dunfermline is now open Monday evenings from 6 - 7:30 pm. There's free WiFi, a quiet corner for reading, a children's area and some great snacks. Ideal for anyone dropping off and picking up children from nearby clubs.



Thomas Gillespie Memorial Presbyterian Church, South Africa

We look forward to welcoming the Rev. Pitoyi Thembeke, minister at the Thomas Gillespie Memorial Presbyterian Church, Mt. Ayliff, South Africa, in April 2026. Rev. Thembeke will be visiting Campbell Town and Dunfermline to explore his church's historical connection to Thomas Gillespie and deepen the bonds of faith and friendship with GMC



Church Finances

Finance Update

- Thanks to the congregation's generous giving and recent Gift Aid reclaims, we are now in a better position to meet our total monthly commitments and maintain our remaining reserves (c£17,000).
- However, we know our energy costs will increase during winter months, so your continued financial help would be very welcome. If you have any fun fund raising ideas, let us know so that we can advertise it and support you!
- We are now starting to build up funds again to support our other various projects, with the balance currently just short of £32,000. This includes money raised through the 'Night at the Musicals' event and Pauline and Brian's epic marathon walk across the Forth Road Bridge! It means we can start to think about how we address our other priorities, like sorting the back hall floor and the Manse roof.

If you'd like to help with regular or one-off donations, please contact: office@gillespiechurch.org

With thanks to Fiona Boyle for the contribution

Equipping for the Future

I am delighted to announce that the Kirk Session application to the Church of Scotland's Seeds for Growth fund was successful, securing £1,000 towards the costs of creating a children's play area in our Open House Café and the updating of the creche facilities in the main church. The remaining monies will be used for Messy Church.

There was also an additional cost incurred in the replacement of the hot water boiler and dishwasher totalling £3,443. This was partially offset by a grant from Fife Council and the sale of the disused bain-marie.

The boiler was installed for free by a family member and the person that bought the bain-maire worked for Morris & Spottiswood, Glasgow. As part of the company's charitable work, they fitted new carpet tiles to one of the rooms in the Gillespie Centre allowing us to now offer a quiet room in the café.

Thank God for His faithful provision!

So what next? Why has the money been spent on these particular items when there are few families and children at church? The simple answer is that we need to be prepared for them when they do come! I'm sure if you have been at GMC for many years you will have seen many new faces amongst our church family, and you'll also have noticed the absence of families. The church is a place for all the people of God, from all backgrounds and ages, and we should all be praying that the Lord would bless us, His church, with growth across all ages.

So, what do I ask of you? Please visit the Gillespie Centre during café hours, invite families with young children, and share news of our Messy Church. Your support and word-of-mouth invitations are vital as we seek to welcome all to GMC, for this is YOUR church.

Support GMC, spread the news about us, and warmly welcome all who will come amongst us as we seek to serve the city of Dunfermline with the Good News of Jesus.

Shalom... Mike



SEEDS
FOR
GROWTH





If you would like to contribute to the next magazine, please send your contribution to office@gillespiechurch.org by the 13th February to give the team time to pull it together. Thank you!

