



**DUNFERMLINE
WEST BAPTIST**

JESUS SAID

**YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD -
LIKE A CITY ON A HILLTOP THAT CANNOT BE HIDDEN**

Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

(Hebrews 10:23-25)

Dear friends,

I hope that we would all agree that gathering together is a fundamental part of our lives as followers of Christ. Certainly, the writer of the letter Hebrews encouraged the early church to motivate each other to acts of love and not to neglect meeting together. It is hard to believe that on the 17th March I sent out the first weekly letter marking the beginning of the lockdown of our building. Since that time I have been immensely encouraged at how much the church has thrived, setting in stone (no pun intended) that Christ's church is so much more than the building. However, despite our remarkable ability to adapt to this unprecedented situation, there has also been an important undertone of lament. A recognition of the things that we have lost during this time. Indeed, we have all made sacrifices in order to keep others safe, and rightly so.

Today's letter marks the beginning of a new chapter. The Scottish government have announced that from 15th July places of worship will be able to reopen for:

- congregational services, including pre-arranged or scheduled acts of worship and communal prayer
- marriage ceremonies
- religious life event ceremonies, such as baptisms

Although this is welcome news, worship gatherings will be subject to a fairly extensive list of physical distancing and hygiene safeguards. Indeed, worship such as singing, communion and sharing refreshments is not permitted during this phase. It is important that as a community we carefully approach when and how it is right for us to safely reopen.

The following video provided by the Scottish Baptist Union provides a very helpful summary:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AcJNcNdvqO8>



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You can read the full guidelines at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/pages/overview/>

After reviewing and discussing the guidelines, the diaconate agreed that we ought to take a careful and measured approach to restarting our various worship activities. In the same way that the Scottish government has resisted rushing coming out of lock down we believe we should exercise caution, wisdom and patience. One thing we have learnt during this crisis is that it can, and may, change rapidly.

On Thursday 23rd July at 7pm we will be opening the church building so that we can gather together in a time of prayer and worship. Next week we will provide more details on what this may look like and any safety guidelines you will need to be aware of.

Presently we will continue to stream the Sunday service live until we have a clear image of how the worship service might look. Next Thursday will provide an important step in seeing what does and doesn't work and so I encourage you to gather with us.

As we have entered the summer period the Wednesday evening Prayer and Study group will not be running although the Wednesday 11:00 prayer session will continue.

I appreciate that you may have lots of questions, I hope that next week's further information will largely clarify these. However, in the meantime please do feel free to get in contact with either myself or any of the deacons: Alan & Ann Berry, Pete Haddow or Irene Gratton.

What's on

At the start of the **weekly prayer session** (Wednesdays 11:00) Anthony will be reflecting from the Psalms on how they might be speaking into our lives today. Tomorrow we will be considering Psalms 27 to 29 and the voice of the Lord. You may wish to read the Psalms in advance.

Praise the Lord!

For he has heard my cry for mercy.

The Lord is my strength and shield.

I trust him with all my heart.

He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy.

I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.



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(Psalm 28:6-7)

On Sunday we will be gathering online at 11:00am for our live service. We look forward to hearing Alan as he continues his sermon series.

Our **weekly evening prayer and bible study** will stop as usual during the summer holidays.

Generosity

We would like to thank all of you for your generosity in continuing to give to the church during this time. We appreciate that these are uncertain times and are grateful that many of us are still able to contribute to the mission of the Church. You can find further information on how to give to the church via bacs (preferred), cheque or cash at:

<https://dunfermlinewest.org/giving/>

Sunday's message

If you haven't had a chance to watch the message from Sunday or would like to watch it again you can watch it at: <https://youtu.be/FDziWlQNDVY>

Buddy groups and prayer items

Keep up to date with prayers for our community at <https://dunfermlinewest.org/prayers>.

Connecting with us

You can connect into each of these services via <https://dunfermlinewest.org/online> and also via telephone using our latest stay connected details at:

<https://dunfermlinewest.org/assets/files/dwbc-stay-connected.v6.pdf>

Subscribe, Like and Invite.

Please do regularly keep up to date with the churches news on Facebook and YouTube and interact with its content:

- YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7BuBS_TUKDMvu5Wcpg9PAg/
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dunfermlinewest>

Worship music



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As we are creating new songs we are adding them to a YouTube playlist which you can listen to whenever you like at: <https://dunfermlinewest.org/worship/playlist>

Let us continue to stay in touch, to pray for one another and do not lose hope.

Your brother in Christ, Anthony