

A crowd soon gathered, and Jesus sat down and taught them...

Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger.

John 8:1-11



## Monthly Thought

by Dawn Martindale

Sometimes when we read Bible stories, we have questions that aren't directly answered by the text. The answers may not be there, but pondering the questions can be important. One of the things that I have often wondered is what it was that Jesus was drawing in the ground in John 8:6, 8. This is the story of the woman caught in adultery, where Jesus says that the one without sin should be the first to throw a stone at her.

I felt the Holy Spirit giving me an interesting clue as to what was being written through an illustrated version of John's gospel that I have. In the picture for Jesus drawing on the ground, he is sitting on a bench with people gathered around him. Off to the side is the scene with the woman and the interrogators. I realised the context is that Jesus has gone to the temple at dawn with the intent of teaching those who had come to learn (John 8:2).

The picture of Jesus sitting on a bench drawing with people around him brought back to my mind memories from when I was 17-18 years old and I was studying an HND in maths at Fife College. In my maths class was a very tall lad (6'6"! ). My tall friend got on the same bus as me, but several stops before me. Because of his height, he always sat on the back seat where there was the most leg space; there I would join him. My friend was brilliant at maths! When I was struggling with grasping particular concepts in maths, he would write out equations for me, and show me the working out, **by drawing on the steamed-up windows at the back of the bus.**

Suddenly, it seemed to me as though Jesus was using the ground in a similar way to how my friend used the back window of the bus. Jesus, I felt, was using the ground as a teaching tool. Images and diagrams can make learning so much easier than when it is purely verbal, and Jesus would be helping the visual learners to grasp his teaching. In other words, when Jesus is writing on the ground, he is ignoring the scene in front of him, and focussing on what he came to do: teach those who wanted to learn.

Those making the scene with the woman caught in adultery are trying to get Jesus' full attention and give those who came to learn a bad impression of Jesus. Jesus shows an element of disinterest in the scene by giving it only a fraction of his attention and then returning to what he is doing. He keeps ignoring their questions and demands about the woman. Then, eventually, we can imagine him looking up, and with a disinterested shrug saying, 'well, whoever out of you has never done anything wrong, then that one can throw the first stone.' Then turning back again to those who came to learn.



I believe we can learn from this that there are times when it is best not to get caught up in fights and debates on rights and wrongs. Sometimes we just need to give our attention to the people who are ready to listen and learn about Jesus, like those who came to the temple that morning to learn.

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## What's On

You can view our monthly calendar at <https://dwb.church/events>. Please read our COVID guidance on meeting with us: <https://dwb.church/covid>

### July

#### **Worship Gatherings** (Church/Online)

Join us on at Chalmers St. or on YouTube/Facebook as we worship together every Sunday at 11am (Weekly).

04: Our Series on Luke with Communion

11: Eden Hope - Dawn Martindale

18: Even Better Than Eden with Communion

25: Even Better Than Eden

#### **Life Groups**

Explore the bible, pray and share life together in our Life Groups. The latest study questions can be viewed at:

<https://dwb.church/links/biblestudy>

No meetings in July & August resuming September Wednesdays at 10.30am in the back hall and 8pm on Zoom

#### **Natter & cuppa - Weds 7.30pm to 8 (Weekly Zoom)**

Join with us for a natter on Zoom, bring a cuppa with you if you want.

#### **Women's Bible Study – No meetings in July & August, resuming Mon 6<sup>th</sup> September 8pm (Monthly Zoom)**

#### **Psalms with Prayer - Wed 7<sup>th</sup> (Monthly Online)**

Joins us as we reflect on Psalms 88-91 followed by prayer. Released on the first Wednesday of the month watch the reflection and pray at your convenience.

#### **Prayer & Litter Pick walk – Wed 21<sup>st</sup> 11am (Monthly Church)**

Round the local area. Meet at the Church. Please speak to Anne Berry if you are interested.

### Dates for the Diary

#### **Family Fun Day - Sat 14<sup>th</sup> August (Community Garden/Church)**

The official launch of our community garden. Drop in and join us for family friendly activities for all ages. *More details to follow.*

## Sharing In and Out Together

### Generosity

We would like to thank all of you for your generosity in continuing to support the work of 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. Please note: tax payers are eligible to sign up to **gift aid**, through this we receive a sizeable top-up from the government – to find out more speak to Alan Berry our treasurer.

You can find further information on how to give to the church via bacs (preferred), cheque or cash at: <https://dwb.church/giving/>

### May Report\*

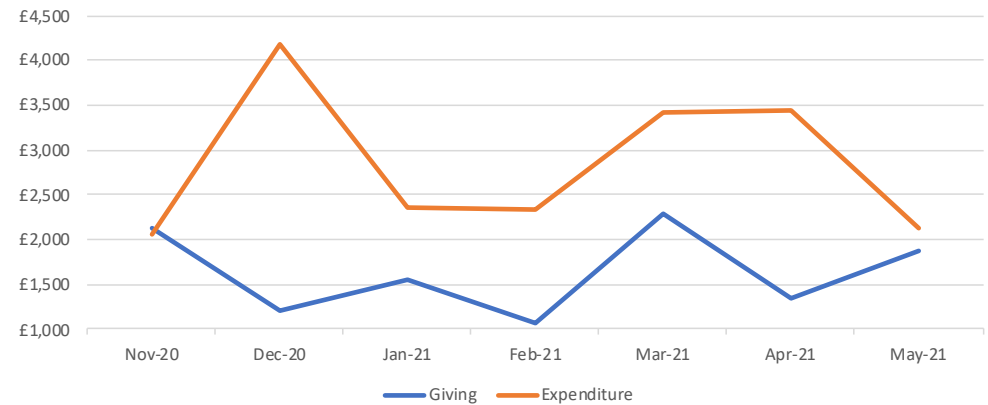
Income is higher than normal due to receiving payments from HMRC Gift Aid (£2,937) and the Carnegie Trust (£1,390). Expenditure is high due to our annual insurance payment (£2,095).

| Description  | Incoming      | Outgoing      | Balance        |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Bank         | £8,219        | £4,232        | £5,944         |
| Bank (2)     | £42           | £2,042        | £2,036         |
| Investments* | £0            | £0            | £86,117        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>£8,261</b> | <b>£6,274</b> | <b>£94,097</b> |

Monthly Giving



Regular Giving/Expenditure



\* **Investments** are estimates and can change at any time. **Charitable** income is ear marked for specific charities that we support.



### **Leadership Team**

We currently have 5 elected deacons who meet monthly to discuss matters of the church. Should you want to raise anything with us please contact the appropriate person below.

**Pastor:** Rev. Anthony Luxton

**Treasurer and Fabric:** Rev. Alan Berry

**Secretary and Events:** Irene Gratton

**Fellowship:** Pete Haddow

**Pastoral Care and Mission:** Anne Berry

### **Children & Safeguarding**

If you would like to find out about our provisions for the younger generations or have any safeguarding concerns please contact:  
Rachel Luxton

### **Mission Report**

We are dedicated to reaching out into the community and worldwide as a voice of hope, love and justice. You can find out more about our missional activities at:

<https://dwb.church/global-mission>

### **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://dwb.church/youtube>

### **Buddy Groups**

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

### **Connecting with us**

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

### **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://dwb.church/youtube>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dunfermlinewest>

### **Worship Group**

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

Please speak to Beth Rickman, Amy Wardle & Rachel Luxton if you have any song suggestions.