

A close-up photograph of several padlocks of various colors (red, yellow, brown) attached to a thick metal cable. The padlocks are of different shapes and sizes, some with inscriptions like 'Tricycle', '2017', and 'MADE IN CHINA'. The background is a blurred view of a city skyline.

2020 is hindsight |





If you could have known how 2020 was going to be what would you have planned differently? As a church we had high expectations for 2020. After recently completing the renovation of our worship area, we were anticipating our building to be used more regularly by the local community. We had organised with our local primary school that they would use our space for their key assemblies; we were looking forward to a Christian theatre company performing at the church for both the school and the public; we had planned to further develop our children's work after our successful Christmas party and many other activities. Sadly, none of these plans came into fruition.

As we look back over 2020, we probably have mixed feelings including frustration and disappointment. I chose the feature image (above) as, for me, it was a poignant reminder of this season. It is a utilitarian picture of love and promise in restraint. We are reminded during unexpected times that things do not always go according to our plan. Sometimes this may be a message that our plans were not God's plans. At other times maybe we are experiencing the delays and detours of life in which God develops us.

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. (James 1:2-3).

'There is a tension between taking control and letting God care for things.'¹ There is not a need to discard one for the other, rather we ought to strive to ensure that God is the ultimate building material of good plans. Through the book of Isaiah, we can identify several principles in making good plans and being confident in them:

1. Seek God's plans: affirming that His plans are better and higher than ours (Is. 29:16)
2. Accept God's plans: living by faith in His love, having confidence that God's goodness is expressed in His timing (Is. 30:18-22)
3. Credit God's plan: proclaiming that ultimately it is only God who will deliver his people (Is. 55:8-11)

My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine ... It is the same with my word. I send it out and it produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it. (Isaiah 55:8,11)

¹ <https://wwwFOUNDATIONSforfreedom.net/Topics/WaitingOnGod/WaitUpon010.html>



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>

January

Worship Gatherings

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

03: Communion Service (Online only)

10: Worship gathering (Online only)

17: Our Series on Luke (Online only)

20: Choose Your King - wk15 (Online/TBC)

31: Choose Your King - wk16 (Online/TBC)

Life Groups

Discuss the most recent Sunday message, pray and share life together in our Life Groups. The latest study questions can be viewed at:

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

Day time Prayer & Bible Study – Cancelled during current tier-4 firebreak lockdown to **recommence Tue 2nd February 2:30pm**.

Evening Prayer & Bible Study – Tues 12th, 8pm (TBC Zoom) – Join our first blended Zoom and House life groups as we decide how we will move forward.

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

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

Women's Bible Study – Mon 11th, 8.00pm (Monthly Zoom)

Gather together as we continue the <https://prayercourse.org/>. For further information contact Rachel.

Psalms with Prayer - Wed 6th (Monthly Online)

Joins us as a guest speaker reflects on Psalms 64-67 followed by prayer. Released on the first Wednesday of the month watch the reflection and pray at your convenience.

Prayer walk – Thu 21st, 11am (Monthly Church)

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

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/>

November Report*

Description	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Bank	£7,116	£2,061	£5,280.00
Investments	£0	£5,000	£86,000.00
Total	£7,116	£7,061	£91,280



* **DWB** is Income and expenditure directly related to Dunfermline West Baptist Church, it has been split between those who have signed up to **gift aid**. **Charitable** income and expenditure is ear marked for specific charities that we support



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 in our monthly mission newsletter at:

<https://dwb.church/assets/files/mission/dec-2020.pdf>

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>