A rustic wooden bench sits on a grassy hillside, facing a vast mountain range. The mountains are covered in patches of snow and have a hazy, atmospheric quality. The foreground shows dry, yellowish-brown grass and some dark rocks.

There was the sound of a  
gentle whisper... And a  
voice said, "What are you  
doing here?"

1 KINGS 19:12-13





As we began our new sermon series “Even Better Than Eden” we started at the very beginning when God created and his Spirit, his Ruach, was moving over the surface of God’s formless creation (Genesis 1:1-2). God made a faith statement that he was at the very heart and purpose of creation and that his Spirit was poised to breathe life into creation. In the New Testament Jesus tells us that It is the Spirit that gives life (John 6:63).

Today, the Holy Spirit continues to breathe, renew, empower and sustain life in his steadfast creative activity. We are reminded of this as we recall Jesus’ time in the wilderness which we remember during this season of Lent. As Jesus prepared for his ministry it was the Spirit that led him into the wilderness (Luke 4:1). Jesus’ time in the wilderness was full of many challenges. These challenges tested his commitment to follow the will and purpose of God in his life. The trials would not have been easy to face and yet the Spirit used the time to strengthen Jesus for his ministry, filling him with the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:14).

Over this Lent season I have been making the effort to regularly enter into a time of being alone with God. Many people attest that it is during these times of solitude that we can hear God more clearly. Often, people like the idea of hearing God in the dramatic, however that is not always what we need nor when we will hear him. Sometimes we need to make time and find a spot of solitude to listen for his voice in the gentle whisper. The prophet Elijah discovered this as he heard the voice of the Lord in the wilderness:

A mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire **there was the sound of a gentle whisper** ... And a voice said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” (1 Kings 19:11-13)

During lent we are reminded that we will not hear God unless we are prepared to listen. Many people give up things for lent, while this isn’t necessarily a bad practice it does sometimes miss the point. Certainly, it is helpful considering what might be distracting us from spending time with God, however, the important thing is making time to spend time with God. Finding that place in the wilderness, where you might have to face the challenges of your life, but knowing that you will return renewed with the power of the Spirit.

We know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. (Romans 5:5)



## 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>

### March

#### Worship Gatherings

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

07: Communion Service (Online only)

14: Even Better Than Eden (Online only)

21: Our Series on Luke (Online only)

28: Even Better Than Eden (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

**Evening Prayer & Bible Study – Tues 8pm (Weekly Zoom)** – Join our blended Zoom and House life groups as we share and grow together.

#### **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.

#### **Church Annual General Meeting – Wed 10<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm (via Zoom)**

Please note this replaces the usual Natter & Cuppa.

#### **Women's Bible Study – Mon 1<sup>st</sup>, 8.00pm (Monthly Zoom)**

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

#### **Psalms with Prayer - Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> (Monthly Online)**

Joins us as we reflect on Psalms 72-75 followed by prayer. Released on the first Wednesday of the month watch the reflection and pray at your convenience.

#### **Prayer walk – Thu 18<sup>th</sup>, 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.

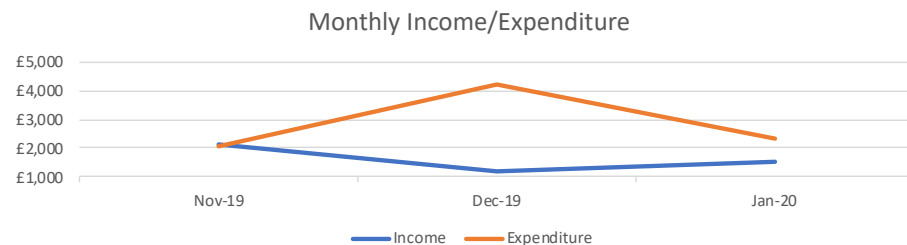
You can find further information on how to give to the church via bacs (preferred), cheque or cash at: <https://dwb.church/giving/>

### January Report\*

Description	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Bank	£1,556	£2,361	£4,476.00
Investments	£0	£0	£90,285.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,556</b>	<b>£2,361</b>	<b>£94,761</b>



\* **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





### **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

**Buddy groups and Men's 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.