

"Dear woman, why are you crying?" He asked her. "Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener. John 20:15



This was the dawn of the new creation. The gardener was up at the crack of dawn doing the work the first Adam failed to do. Even now the new creation is breaking into the wilderness of our lives in this world. ... This is what Paul means when he says, "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17)<sup>1</sup>

On Resurrection Sunday, Mary Magdalene was standing outside Jesus' empty tomb crying. After a while she turned to leave and saw someone standing there who she thought was a gardener. As the gardener called Mary's name she recognised him to be Jesus her friend and master. On the surface this seems like an unusual detail, was it simply a case of mistaken identity? Previously we were told that Jesus died near a garden where there was a tomb which had not been used (John 19:41). If Jesus' tomb was in this garden then it makes sense that Mary might have mistaken the stranger for a gardener, however, it is an unusual detail to include. Perhaps Mary didn't mistakenly think Jesus was a gardener at all. Maybe she saw him for what he was, the creative agent through which we all find life.

In the beginning the Word already existed ... God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The word gave life to everything that was created. (John 1:1-4)

Amazingly the Word became a reality in flesh and blood. In and through his life, Jesus rooted himself in the will and direction of God. He emptied himself, accepting a cup of suffering in order to plant a new beginning for us. He planted a seedbed of creativity with a promise of fruit in abundance:

I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. (John 12:23)

Easter reminds us that Jesus gave his life so that we might **participate** in his creative activity in obedience. It is a call for us to empty ourselves, making room for the Spirit to fill our lives. It is a call of **proclamation** as we identify with Jesus as it says at the beginning of John's gospel:

His life brought life to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. (John 1:4-5)

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<sup>1</sup> Nancy Guthrie, *Even Better Than Eden*, 24.



## 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** (Church/Online)

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

04: Easter Sunday Service including Communion

11: Take up your cross

18: Our Series on Luke

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>

**Day time Prayer & Bible Study** – Resumes on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm

**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 7.30pm to 8 (Weekly Zoom)**

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

#### **Women's Bible Study – Mon 5<sup>th</sup> , 8pm (Monthly Zoom)**

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

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

Joins us as we reflect on Psalms 76-79 followed by prayer. Released on the first Wednesday of the month watch the reflection and pray at your convenience.

#### **Prayer walk – Thu 15<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

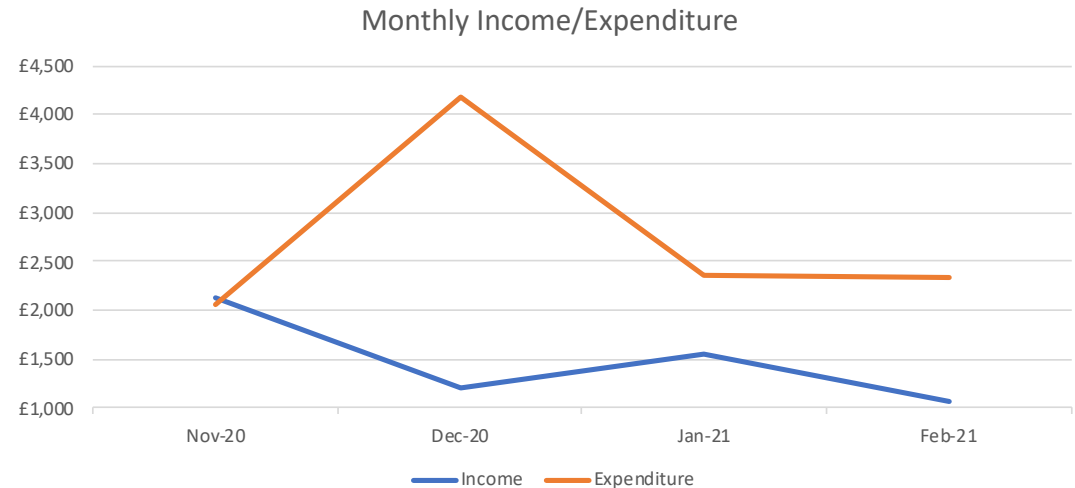
### Generosity

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/>

### February Report\*

Description	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Bank	£1,057	£2,330	£3,203.00
Investments	£0	£0	£90,285.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,057</b>	<b>£2,330</b>	<b>£93,488</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

**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.