

The Sovereign Lord will show his justice to the nations of the world. Everyone will praise him!

His righteousness will be like a garden in early spring,
with plants springing up everywhere.

Isaiah 62:11



It seems fitting as we have been exploring the theme of “Even better than Eden” in our services that we have been investing a lot of effort in the creation of our new community garden. The project says a lot about who we are and want to be. The garden speaks of our identity and in many ways it introduces us to the community. How we introduce ourselves and what that says about our identity should not be underestimated. In being Christ’s church we take on the responsibility to bear his name and be his body in the world:

All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it. (John 5:36)

The story of God’s creative event, as described in the book of Genesis, highlights humanity as being in a place of great honour and responsibility. God said ‘Let us make human beings in our image... So God created human beings in his own image’ (Genesis 1:26-27) and in this humanity bears God’s name. Since his creation event, God intended us to be his image bearers in the world. Interestingly, one of the early Church Fathers Basil commented that the image of God was given to us, but his ‘likeness is to be freely chosen.’¹ God captures this on stone as he declares at the start of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-7 *Paraphrased*):

I am the Lord your God who rescued you.
You shall not have other gods besides me.
You shall not worship them.
You shall not bear my name in vain.

Carmen Joy Imes writes ‘Unlike the gods of other names, Yahweh could not be represented by a carved image; instead he was to be represented by the people to whom he revealed his name. Since he claimed them as his own, their words and actions were to reflect his Lordship.’² Throughout his life Jesus made it clear that he bore his Father’s (God’s) name, that his works testified on behalf of his Father (John 5:26). In being Jesus’ body we also bear God’s name. So what does the community garden say about our identity and how much does that align with Christ? These are important questions to wrestle with as we consider the implications of our community garden project. Let us pray that it might be a blessing, that it might be fruitful and open new opportunities as we bear Christ’s name in the community.

¹ Basil quoted in Andrew Louth, ‘Genesis I-II: Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture Series’, 28.

² Carmen Joy Imes, ‘Bearing God’s Name: Why Sinai Still Matters’, 52.



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>

May

Worship Gatherings (Church/Online)

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

02: Communion

09: Even Better Than Eden

16: Our Series on Luke with Communion

23: Creation Stewardship – Scottish Baptist College

30: BMS Creation Stewardship - followed by BMS Fund Lunch

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 (Hall) – Wednesdays starting on 5th May at 10.30am in the back hall

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 3rd , 8pm (Monthly Zoom)

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

Psalms with Prayer - Wed 5th (Monthly Online)

Joins us as we reflect on Psalms 80-83 followed by prayer. Released on the first Wednesday of the month watch the reflection and pray at your convenience.

Prayer walk – Thu 20th , 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

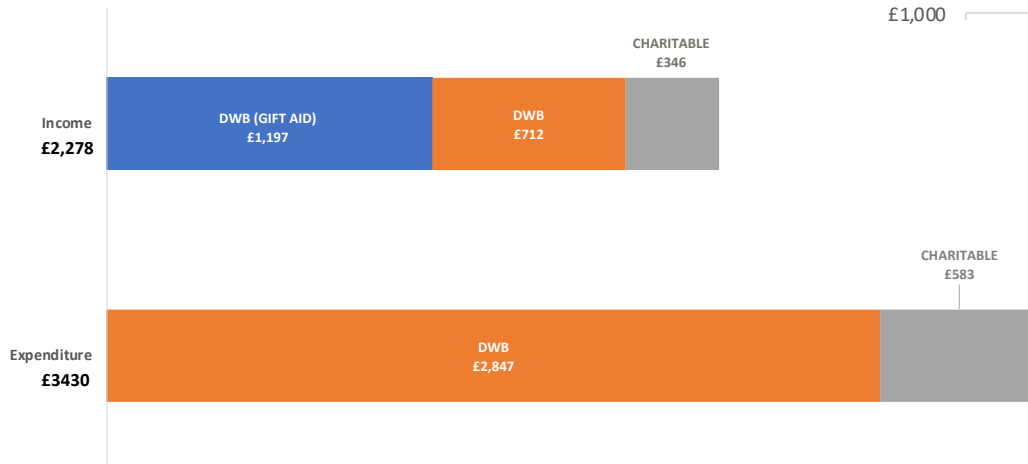
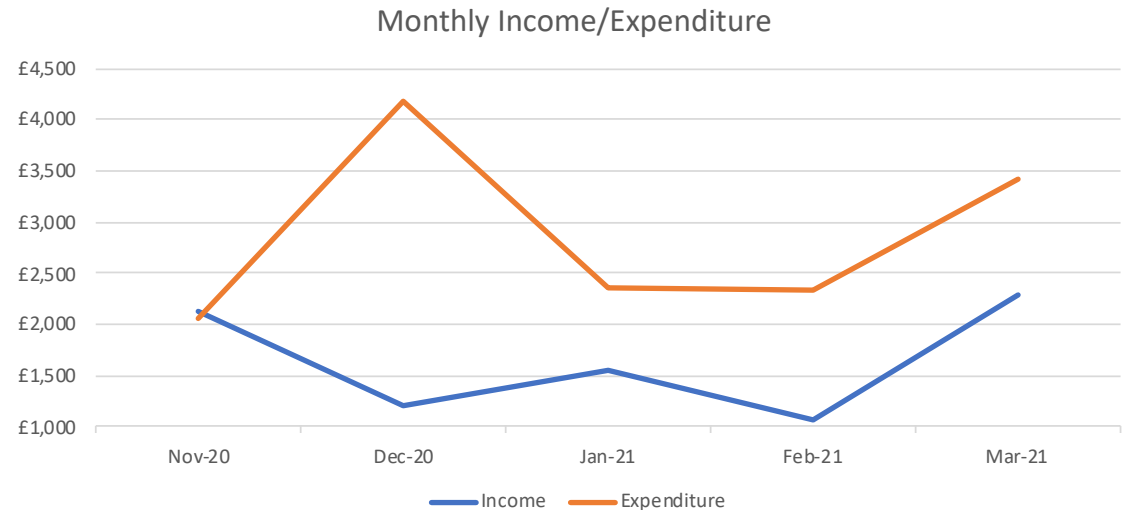
Generosity

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/>

March Report*

Description	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Bank	£2,278	£3,430	£2,051.00
Investments	£0	£0	£92,336.00
Total	£2,278	£3,430	£94,387



* **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.