



DUNFERMLINE
WEST BAPTIST

JESUS SAID

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD -
LIKE A CITY ON A HILLTOP THAT CANNOT BE HIDDEN

We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ:

If we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.
(1 John 1:3-4, 7)

Dear friends,

1 John begins with an encouragement to fellowship that is the mark of a living and healthy church. The passage highlights the inseparable nature of fellowship with God and fellowship with each other. It is truly heartening how many of us have invested so much time and effort in keeping connected during this time. Yes, this also includes the effort of reading the weekly ramblings of your pastor, which is certainly worthy of a medal!

In many ways, the fellowship of Christ's church is unique in our individualistic, self-centred, society. This uniqueness of Christian fellowship is captured in the Greek word *koinonia* that expresses our common life as followers of Christ. John Stott helpfully highlights two complementary truths that *koinonia* bears witness to.¹

Firstly, *koinonia* witnesses authentic fellowship that participates in the dynamic life of God (the relations of God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit). The life of the church, like the life of God, represents a remarkable diversity and unity without contradiction. Stott writes: 'It is our common share in [Christ] and in his grace that makes us one.'² *Koinonia* expresses what we share in together in Christ.

Secondly, Stott writes '*koinonia* expresses what we share out together. *Koinonia* is the word Paul used to refer to the collection he was organizing among the Greek churches for the benefit of poverty-stricken churches in Judea.'³ Interestingly, the Greek word *koinonkos*, which is in the same family as *koinonia*, means "generous." To fellowship together is also to be generous. Acts 2:44-45 is an incredibly challenging, perhaps even disturbing, example of Christian fellowship:

¹ John Stott, *Through the Bible through the year*, 308.

² Ibid, 308.

³ Ibid, 308.



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And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

This passage in Acts invokes the challenge of:

What are we doing as Christ's body to share outside of our community?

Yesterday evening at our church council meeting it was agreed that we would like to look at actively providing support to the **Dunfermline Foodbank**. Oi Lin will make contact to first give them a monetary donation and then to see how we can best continue to support the important work that they are doing during this time.

Over the last few weeks we have reached out to the local **Coop Funeral Directors and Primary School** to see how we might best serve them. We were delighted to receive an email from the head teacher Lee-Anne McAulay asking if they might explore using our premises when the schools are open again. She also expressed her thanks for the recently received donation that we made to the school during a collection in February.

For many sole-traders this situation has completely wiped away their monthly income. With sensitivity to this we have strived to engage with our **local tradesmen** enabling them to do jobs as required at the church. Our excellent electrician Kevin has been doing several jobs for us.

Finances of the church

We are very fortunate to have a healthy number of investments as a church, although the interest on these is very likely to slow down because of the present crisis. We were delighted to receive our gift aid payment recently which has gone towards paying the electrician and our annual insurance bill. Giving to the church has been generous and regular for which we are very very grateful.

We have several ways to make an offering to the church (In order of preference):

- BACs or standing order to: ACT: 00286118 Sort: 83-33-00 (Include your name or giving letter number in the reference)
- You can post a cheque to Dunfermline West Baptist, Chalmers Street, Dunfermline, KY12 8DG or send it directly to Alan.



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- You can also pay online with a card using Tith.ly at <https://dunfermlinewest.org/online>

We appreciate that during this time many of us will experience a period of serious financial uncertainty. Please do not feel pressured to give to the church what you do not have. If you have urgent financial concerns please do get in touch with either Anthony or Alan and we can explore how as a church we can best help.

Internship update

Andrew has provided the following update for us on his internship. "The global situation that we are all under has put a hold on many things. This sudden slowing down has been something that I have had to get used to. Throughout this period of lockdown I have continued to develop as an intern, even if it currently looks different to what we originally planned. I have regular duties hosting the live chats in the Wednesday and Sunday services. I also gather weekly updates from buddy group leaders and actively update the prayer document. Anthony and I have had regular zoom calls discussing various topics including this unusual situation. Luke, my Spiritual mentor, also stays in regular contact with me. Anthony guiding me towards the Tearfund course is defiantly a vital part of my internship during this period and I look forward to keeping you up to date with my progress on the course."

For more details on the course see: <https://weare.tearfund.org/emerging-influencers/>

Sharing In and Out Together

I hope that you have been enjoying the variety of our online services. I was particularly pleased this Sunday with the video for Psalm 104. Please do share the video on Facebook so that others might enjoy it too:

<https://www.facebook.com/dunfermlinewest/posts/861170361049398>

Please do **share any pictures with us** (if you are able) of what you are getting up to. You could share them to our Facebook Page, over What's App, or email them to me. Below is a photo of Margaret and Isla (who was four this week).



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World Mission: Platform 67

There are opportunities in Europe for Christian witness but reaching the many Muslims now settled for generations in Amsterdam and elsewhere is no easy task. One group in particular needs special, focused prayer - the Rif Berbers. Worldwide, they are two million strong but have no viable church anywhere. Pray for a New Testament in their language. Ask the Lord for local language speakers able to provide a speedy and accurate translation. Pray for converted Muslims in The Netherlands to take the lead in evangelising those around them.

What's on

At the start of the **weekly prayer session** (Wednesdays 11:00) I will be reflecting from the Psalms and how they might be speaking into our lives today. Tomorrow I will be considering Psalm 7 and starting our day with God. I hope that you might be able to join me.

Arise, O Lord, in anger!
Stand up against the fury of my enemies!
Wake up, my God, and bring justice!
Gather the nations before you.
Rule over them from on high.
The Lord judges the nations.
Declare me righteous, O Lord,
for I am innocent, O Most High!
End the evil of those who are wicked,
and defend the righteous.
For you look deep within the mind and heart,
O righteous God.

(Psalm 7:6-9)



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On Sunday we will be gathering again online at 11:00am for a time of worship together.

Luke is exploring getting the **weekly evening prayer and bible study** running again which will likely include a time to discuss the weekly study questions (as below). This would be over zoom.

Study Questions from 1 Samuel 10-13

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://youtu.be/IQ0HiLc2V84>

1. Saul's anointing (10:1-16) is full of spiritual significance:
 - a. What does it mean that Saul was given a new heart? (10:9)
 - b. Discuss the importance of calling and the authority of the Spirit of the Lord.
 - c. V3. In biblical times trees served as landmarks, meeting places and even sacred sites (Judges 4:5, Gen 12:6, Gen. 18). Why are such places important, do we have places like this today, do we need them?
2. Saul's great victory (11:1-12) serves as a contrast to his later fall. What might we learn from this victory, particularly the impact of the Spirit and Saul's character?
3. Saul's Fall 13:1-24. Was Saul setup to Fall? Discuss the following lessons that we might learn from Saul's fall:
 - a. We are always outnumbered. What other biblical stories can you think of from the scriptures of being outnumbered? What is the common lesson in each of these stories? (13:5, Judges 7)
 - b. Courage makes a difference. How has Saul shown courage and fear throughout the three chapters? (Perhaps, an early sign of Saul's fearful character can be seen in 10:22)
 - c. Obedience is essential. Consider Samuel's warning in 12:14-25. How might we listen to the spirit? What is obedience and why is it important?

Buddy groups and prayer items

Andrew has been contacting the buddy group leaders weekly to update our online prayer area at: <https://dunfermlinewest.org/prayers>. Please do view the document regularly to keep up to date with how we can pray for each other. You can also add your prayers to the document or update us on the progress of other prayers.



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Connecting with us

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

Subscribe, Like and Invite.

Please do regularly keep up to date with the churches news on Facebook and YouTube and interact with its content. Subscribe to both YouTube and Facebook. Like the posts and comment on them. Invite your friends to be a part of our community.

Our YouTube Channel (*To subscribe click on the red subscribe button*)

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7BuBS_TUKDMvu5Wcpg9PAg/

Our Facebook Page (*To Like click the like button below the Page's cover photo*)

<https://www.facebook.com/dunfermlinewest>

Worship music

I am sure we have all really appreciated the worship music that Amy, Beth and Rachel have been creating, please do offer them your encouragement. As we are creating new songs we are adding them to a YouTube playlist which you can listen to whenever you like. Simply click on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWewcFMHTJ0FjGKggn1g7DvINNI68px3C>

Let us continue to stay in touch, to pray for one another and to not lose hope.

Your brother in Christ, Anthony