



Worship | Reach | Serve

Outlook

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1st Sunday at Gillbrae



Beauty for brokenness

"Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair, Lord, in Your suffering world this is our prayer." (First line of the hymn entitled 'God of the poor' by Graham Kendrick.

During his recent visit to our church Peter Maiden challenged those gathered for the evening service to see people as Jesus sees them. *"When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."* (Matthew 9:36)

The Greek word used for compassion, speaks about deeply felt, gut wrenching concern for those who do not as yet know about the salvation we enjoy in and through our Lord Jesus Christ.

While ministering in Fort William I was invited to speak at a Christmas event organised by a local hospice, entitled 'Light up a Life'. Those who had lost family members to cancer in the previous year were invited to sponsor a light on the Town Centre Christmas Tree in memory of their loved one.

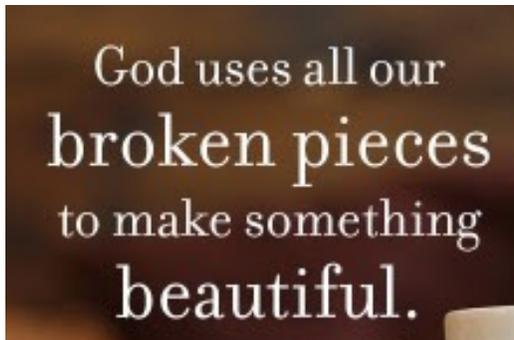
As we gathered in the nearby Faith Mission Hall after the lights had been switched on, what these hurting people needed to hear from me was not religious platitudes, but that they could find solace and comfort in their time of suffering and loss.

Even for those of us who are saved it is hard to find in Scripture the idea that our salvation means protection from suffering and pain. At that service in the Faith Mission Hall I elected to speak on 2 Corinthians 1:1-6 in which the Apostle Paul writes about suffering and comfort. He writes: *"Praise be to the God and Father of*

our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort others with the comfort we ourselves have received." (2 Corinthians 1: 3-4)

As we move into this new phase of our fellowship together in our new Church Centre at Gillbrae, may the Lord, by his Spirit, give each of us a heart of compassion for those who are spiritually lost and suffering.

Our salvation does not preclude any of us from suffering and pain, as my recent experience of illness has taught me. Monica Brands writes in 'Our Daily Journey - March-May 2018: In a misguided attempt to preserve our faith, we may silence our pain and confusion, denying - perhaps even to ourselves - the wounds we carry. But ironically - tragically - in denying our pain, we also in effect turn away from God's healing touch.'



As pain seeps in, doubt and shame may enter in too. We might ask ourselves "Why am I in pain? Shouldn't I be happy? Shouldn't I be whole? Surely I have been healed from my brokenness?"

We live in a fallen world full of broken people who are harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. These people do not need religion so much as reality. They need, that we be loving, caring and real, exhibiting compassion for one another and for those we encounter as we open our lives to the hurt and pain of the community in which we seek to witness to God's saving grace. By God's grace brokenness can become beauty.

Rev David White
Associate Pastor

Family News

Congratulations to...

... **Helen Turner** who recently celebrated a significant birthday. Happy Birthday and very best wishes!

Thank you...

... Christine, Cindy, Trevor, Susan, Peter and their families would like to thank everyone for all their messages, cards, kind offers of help and fellowship after the loss of their mum Pam Nicholas.

Pam moved into Lochduhar nursing home a year ago this past Burns Night. We would like to thank Lesley and Betty for their continued visits and time spent with mum. We know how much she appreciated and looked forward to seeing you.

We would also like to thank those who came to her service on the 13th February, we were able to send £176 (donations given in her memory) to the Guide dogs for the blind.

Many thanks once again.

Christine Dix

... We would like to thank **Pete and Tricia Best** for their help during the past 12 years at the High School in taking and washing up hundreds of small Communion cups! This has been much appreciated by those who would have had to do it if Dalscone had not helped.

... A great big **Thank You** to all the choir members for their generous gift after the Palm Sunday evening performance and to David Currie for his excellent narration about the various composers and also for his solo performances. Thank you to John Thomson for all his work with the visual effects and to Jason and Naomi for all their help in the new church centre. God bless you all.

Jean Lamb

... A huge **Thank You** to everyone who helped to move all the toddler toys across to the church centre. It was such an encouragement to receive the help that was needed. Thank you so much!

Heather McCombe

... Another great big **Thank You** to everyone who has helped to till and plant the quadrants two weeks ago (special thanks to Jonas) and all who helped dig holes, plant and stake trees at Gillbrae last Saturday.

Tilsley College Life



Term two has now come to an end and it has been a very eventful one. As well as lectures on Romans, Acts,

Doctrine of the Holy Spirit, World Religions, History of Mission and Old Testament Prophets, we also had a week on Team Evangelism.

I went with a team of second and third year students to a small church in Mumbles, near Swansea in Wales. It was a challenging week, but showed me the dedication required of workers in a small church and the difficulties they are faced with.

After the Easter holidays, I will be starting on my four week placement at Stirling Baptist Church. I will be involved mainly in their church plant in Callander, where I will get to lead a prayer meeting, preach, lead a home group, lead communion, etc. I will also get to shadow and work with women leaders at Stirling Baptist Church and attend their leader meetings. I am really looking forward to this new challenge; it will be good to get practical experience of working within a large church setting.

I would appreciate prayer for the following:

- ◆ that I can serve God well at Stirling Baptist;
- ◆ for clearer guidance on next steps;
- ◆ for all my fellow students who are also having to make big decisions
- ◆ and for the lecturers at college, that they can have some rest over the following weeks.

Thank you for your prayers.

Liz McGuinness



It's not the notes you sing!

If you enjoy singing, meeting with old friends and making new ones then you could be attracted to the new group that will be meeting at 2pm on alternate Fridays.

It is being led by Marian Copp and David Currie. Marian has a lifetime's experience of sharing the joys of singing and David does not need any introduction to the DBC fellowship. Gillian Henson and other volunteer musicians will be in support.

We have all enjoyed joining in a light hearted sing of well-known songs and this will be the format. Marian stresses the point that this is not a choir but an opportunity to have fun and, at the same time, gain the health benefits that singing, and socialising, bring even to those of us who regularly sing out of tune!

It begins on Friday 20th April and is part of our mission to 'reach out' to the local and wider communities as we use the new centre in God's service.

Tea and coffee will be provided and sessions will finish in time to collect children/grandchildren from school.

So, if you enjoy singing traditional Scots and folk songs, songs from the shows & films as well as the hits of the 50's, 60's and 70's, then come along and enjoy the fun and fellowship of singing together.

Please pray for this and other missions which allow us to introduce non-church friends to the centre and the fellowship and the opportunity it gives us to fulfil our personal and corporate mission of introducing others to the reason for the cross.

David Copp

Finally...

... We have received greetings from Brian Fraser (Big Brian) and BJ (his son), the High School Janitors who have served us fantastically over the years: **"Enjoy your new home, All the best!"**

Flourish



Created for growth

All women are welcome to join us and bring friends to any of the following events:

Saturday 28 April: Spring Walk



We are planning a walk around **Castle Loch at Lochmaben**.

Meet at DBCC at 9.30am for a lift or at the car park by A709, near the nature reserve visitor centre, Lochfield Cottage, for 10am. Number 81 bus leaves Whitesands at 9.35, arriving Lochmaben 10.10. (Returns at 12.36).

We will start with a short guide to the reserve by the warden, then walk the 4 mile route around the loch and return for coffee and cake at the visitor centre (toilet available).

Flourish: Women at DBC



The Visitor Centre

The circuit takes about one and a half hours at a fairly gentle pace. If you prefer a shorter walk there will be opportunities for this or simply enjoy the area around the visitor centre with views over the loch. Dogs are welcome. If it is very wet the walk will be postponed.

Please sign up so that we can arrange lifts and contact you if plans change.

Wednesday 11 April and 16 May, Craft Night: 7.30-9.30pm at DBCC.

If you are knitting squares for Knit a Square for AIDS orphans please pick up an information sheet or see www.knit-a-square.com

Wednesday 16 May: Helping your gifts to flourish. 7.30pm at DBCC

Flourish



Created for growth

Saturday 9 June:

Flourish as One - Women's Day at DBCC from 9.00 to 15.00

An opportunity for all women of faith to gather together, to explore and grow in their relationship with God. The day will involve worship, fellowship and optional workshops all designed to help us connect with God and each other, knowing we are safe, beloved, strengthened and free. More information at

www.dbchurch.weebly.com/flourish

Registration forms available at DBCC

Thursday 28 June: Meal at Casa Mia in the evening. Save the date and look for more details nearer the time.

For information contact Jane Rafferty 07787 545460

rafferty.jane@gmail.com

Libby Hammond, Tina McKenzie, and Jane Rafferty

Mean Bean 5-Day Challenge

Thank you to everyone who supported me when participating in the Mean Bean 5-day Challenge for Tearfund from 19 to 23 March. This involved five days eating a simple diet of porridge (made with water), plain rice and beans (not baked beans and no sauces or spices allowed) to raise money to help beat hunger and poverty. The only drink allowed during the challenge was water.

Any challenge by its very nature must include some form of denial otherwise it wouldn't really be challenging. It was in the small things that I was made aware of what we can so easily take for granted e.g. just about every time I come in the back door at home (when not a mean beanie) I automatically switch on the kettle for a cuppa. Clean water, kettle, electricity, tea, milk, biscuits/cake not to mention a door that leads to a nice kitchen in a warm, secure home. So it was important to take time to remember those who have none of these things we have.

I have to confess that by Day 4 I had to resort to making my porridge with milk, as the thought of another bowl of wallpaper paste (which was how I had begun to view my porridge made with water) was just too much. By the time of going to print we have raised £425 via online giving and cash donations received from family, and also friends at DBC. Once Gift Aid is added to some of the online donations this will increase the total which will allow Tearfund to empower 7 women in the Democratic Republic of Congo so that they can lift themselves out of poverty by giving them the skills they need to provide for their families. If you want to know more about the cause we were supporting or to make an online donation then please go to my JustGiving page.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/david-s-mean-bean-5-day-challenge2018>

David Currie

Thanksgiving Service at Newall Terrace

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making our Thanksgiving Service at Newall Terrace on Sunday 18 March such a memorable, moving and poignant occasion through their photos, memories, presence on the day and contributions within the service. It was great to be led in prayer across the generations, the script for which is recorded below.

• **Thomas McKendrick:**

'You made my whole being. You formed me in my mother's body. I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way. What you have done is wonderful. All the days planned for me were written in your book before I was one day old.'

Dear Father, thank you that every human being is made in your image. Thank you that you care not only for the born but also the unborn. Help us to value and respect all human life. Thank you for all the children within our church family. Thank you for the gift of life and for the adventure and excitement of being a child.

• **Katie Webster:**

'Then the little children were brought to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them and pray for them; and the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them! For the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these".'

Dear Father, thank you for the way that Jesus welcomed children. Thank you for the people in our church who have served children through our children's ministries over the years. We pray that this church will always be a community who welcome, include, protect and encourage children in the way that Jesus did.

• **Tom Rideout:**

'How can a young person keep their way pure? By living according to your Word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.'

Dear Father, thank you that there are young people who are choosing to trust and follow you today. Thank you for those who care for and serve young people in our church and for the opportunities that young people have to learn about Jesus and to serve him

as part of this church. Help young people and all people within this church family to keep their life pure and right with you. Help us to find ways to reach other young people within our community so that they will come to know you and what you have done for them.

• **Matt Titcombe:**

'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. Listen, my child, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.'

Dear Father, we thank you for the gift of marriage and family life. Thank you for the families you have placed us in and for those who are like family to us. Help us to continue to be a church that teaches both in word and action the Biblical view of marriage, family and all other relationships. Give us compassion and care for those who do not share our values and in love help us to live out your truth before them.

• **Anna Roberts:**

'Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.'

Dear Father, we ask that you may reign and rule in all aspects of our lives. In our families, study places, work places, at church, in our recreation and community life we pray that we will live lives that reflect your character and truth. Help us to steward and use the gifts, money and possessions you have given to us in your service. In whatever we do whether in word or in deed help us to do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. May we always choose to serve you first in everything.

• **John Dougan:**

'We are Christ's representatives, as though God were making his appeal through us to implore people to be reconciled to Him. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.'

Dear Father, we thank you that you have reconciled us to yourself through the gift of your Son the Lord Jesus

Christ. Help us always to remember individually and corporately that we are your representatives here on earth. Give us a heart to continue to serve our neighbours, locally, nationally and globally. May we be like Jesus in taking your light into dark places, giving hope to the hopeless, help to the helpless, food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, clothes for the naked, homes to the homeless and wholeness back to the broken.

• **Derek Johnson:**

'The Lord said; Even to your old age and grey hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.'

Dear Father, we thank you that you have made a way back to yourself through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for the forgiveness and new life that we find by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit to enable and empower us to live for and like Jesus Christ.

Thank you for every person in our church who can testify of your faithfulness to them over a long life. Thank you for the wisdom that can come through living until old age. We praise you for the gift of years. Help us to continue to be a church that honours and values those in their old age and help those of us who are old to set a godly example to our peers and the generations coming after us. Your Word teaches us that *'one generation shall commend your works to another'*. Let this be true of Dumfries Baptist Church.

Lord, we began our prayer by remembering that all the days planned for us are written in your book before any of us are one day old. Whether our life has been long or short on this earth, we thank you for the gift of life and for the privilege of belonging to a church that is multi-generational. Continue to help us all to love one another in the days ahead so that others might know that you live and love them too.

We pray all these things in Jesus' name.

AMEN

Contacts

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Treasurer	Ian Penn	01387 263242 pennnithsdale@supanet.com
Church Office	Mon-Fri 9am-1pm	01387 268926 office@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk
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Prayer Ministry	Eleanor Moss	01387 263994
Friendship Hour	Val Penn	01387 263242
Discoverers	Jane Rafferty	01387 268066
Girlzone	Karen Miller	01387 710155
Impact	Andy Feather	07889 900850 andy.feather@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk
Toddlers Group	Heather McCombe Rachel Lyogaba	01387 253416 01387 269719
Who Let The Dads Out?	Chris Rossi	07963 677222

Poem

God's faithful in havoc
God's faithful in storm
When the sky bellows wildly
and the sea contorts it's form

He is faithful in the minute
the banal, so-called ordinary life
He is faithful in trial
He is faithful in strife

There is no present danger
no menace or whim
that can thwart His perfect plan
that can threaten His will

Though the world be unjust
Though pain it may bring
He is just without fail
and still grace from Him springs.

by Emi Cesula

a pupil from GDQ (Gjerasin D. Qiriazhi)
School in Tirana, Albania.

Treasurer's Report

Total Monthly Income

January 2018 £22,427.72 (+ £249,453.06 for appeal)

February 2018 £16,176.07 (+ £286,676.26 for appeal)

We are now over half way through the current financial year and both income and expenditure are close to budget. The total Income to date was £136,876 (£3910 / week) plus £1,918,828 for the Appeal Fund. Expenditure during this same period amounts to £147,428 (£4212 / week) plus £2,500,422 for the Appeal Fund. These figures are encouraging but expenditure is increasing considerably as we move to the new centre. Expenditure is greater than income which is a situation that cannot continue for too long.

The response to the appeal has been remarkable in that we have now actually received more than £4,609,772 towards the purchase of land and building of a new church (this includes loans of £1,188,321. We have spent about £4,522,996 for the purchase of the new site and building which gave us about £86,776 in the building fund at the end of February. Towards the end of March this had reduced to just £6,000. We are so grateful to God for His generosity and we must continue to maximise our giving to ensure that we use effectively the gifts God has provided.

If you already give regularly, or are considering doing so, and you pay income tax (as the vast majority of us do) you can "Gift-aid" your offering which effectively means the church can claim an additional 25p for every £1 you give at no additional cost to you. So far this year over £20,000 of our Sunday offerings were not subject to Gift Aid. Please prayerfully consider whether you can Gift-Aid your giving. You can continue to give weekly, monthly or directly through your bank. Please see me if you want further information regarding Gift-Aid.

Ian Penn - Treasurer (01387 263242)