

# Dumfries Baptist Church



Worship | Grow | Reach | Serve

June 2024

## Outlook

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For links to online services and evening reflections visit the DBC website at [www.dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk)

### Love one another

The Lord Jesus instructs us to “**love one another**” (John 15:12) and the fact that this instruction comes as a command, enforces just how important and how vital this is to our relationships in everyday life; to family, in marriage, to our community and to God’s people.

JC Ryle, preacher, pastor, author and reformer quotes:

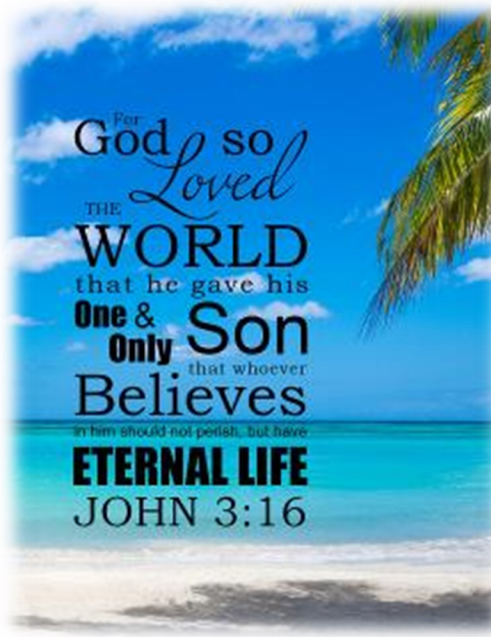
*“Love should be the **silver thread** that **runs through all your conduct**. Kindness, gentleness, long-suffering, forbearance, patience, and sympathy are the cords by which a **child may be led most easily**.”*

Such love is the very love of God, “**God is love**” (1 John 4:8) and this is the love which we can enjoy and in which we can rejoice. “**I will be glad and rejoice in your unfailing love**” (Psalm 37:7).

God’s love was shown in all its perfection in the Lord Jesus Christ - “**This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**” (1 John 4:10).

God’s love is the hallmark of his people - “**By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**” John 13:35

God’s love is immeasurable in its capacity - “**to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge**” (Ephesians 3:18-19)



God’s love is the love which truly satisfies the heart. It is this love which pursues us in life - “**surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life**” (Psalm 23:6; NLT)

This is love which is limitless in its capacity and unfailing, a love from which we

can be filled - “**that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God**” (Ephesians 3:19) so that it will overflow in our hearts and into our lives and serve to bless all we meet.

Eoghan Paterson, Pastor

## Family News

### Congratulations...

... to **Jean Lamb** on her 90th birthday on 30th May. Thanks be to God for Jean's ministry in music which has richly blessed the worship in Dumfries Baptist Church.



### Congratulations...

... to **Irene Reid** on her 80th birthday on 14th June. Happy Birthday Irene and many more to come!

### We extend our sympathy...

... to **Amy Blair**, our Tilsley College student on placement at DBC. Amy's mum Kim passed away on 21st May after a lengthy time of ill health. We pray for Amy, her dad Garry, brother Benjamin, sister Charis and her fiancé Daniel.

### Thank You for all your stamps



We have now passed on 2 boxes of stamps to Owain, our regional SU Rep. These will generate cash to support the work of Scripture Union Scotland

### Prayer for Israel



Monday 3rd June @ 3pm

Prayer for Israel group will meet again on Monday 1st July.

## DBC Week Of Prayer



A group of us from the DBC Prayer Ministry Team are organising a 24/7 Week of Prayer to run from Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July, which is the week leading up to our Summer Mission Week. The Board

Room in our Church Centre will be laid out into various stations for prayer, giving opportunity to pray for various topics, including countries at war, refugees, persecuted Christians, climate change, as well as our own church ministries and especially the Summer Mission. There will be plenty of information and creative resources available at each station to inform our prayers, plus the opportunity just to reflect and to worship God. The prayer room will be accessible to anyone whenever the Church Centre is open and sign-up sheets to book a specific time to come will be available soon. If you would prefer to pray in the comfort of your own home, that's fine, and sign-up sheets for the hours through the night will also be available. Please join in, so together we might experience the privilege and power of prayer.

*"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."* (James 5.16)



BMS world mission thanks Dumfries Baptist Church for the amazing total of £16,067.50 given during 2023. This helps to transform lives around the world and share the gospel. Thousands of people in need have been helped, lives have been changed, and more people have found abundant life in Jesus Christ.

Read more about the work of BMS world mission by clicking on this link:

<https://www.bmsworldmission.org>



## Drumlanrig Tearfund Cycle Rides August 24<sup>th</sup>

The Tearfund Cycle rides will take place this year on Saturday August 24<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to the 70 and 51 miles challenge rides there is a leisurely 25mile ride and a 10 mile (or as short as you like) ride that would be suitable for accompanied children or anyone who can ride a bike.

So come and join us at Drumlanrig and raise funds for Tearfund's vital work.



Entry is open at [sientries.co.uk](http://sientries.co.uk), if you are reading online this is the link: [SiEntries - Drumlanrig Cycle Challenge 2024](http://sientries.co.uk)

Dave Moss

# Cultivate



The ladies of Stranraer Baptist Church are delighted to announce that we will be hosting our third Flourish Ladies Conference in September 2024. We had such a blessed day together last year and we are excited to do it all again this year!

The theme this year is **Cultivate** and the ways in which the Holy Spirit is developing this within our hearts.

We all are cultivating something but often we are completely unaware and let the world and all the pressures be the thing that influences who we are becoming.

So let's be intentional about who we are becoming and begin to cultivate the life of someone who is a follower of Jesus.

- Cultivating Scripture
- Cultivating Creativity
- Cultivating Culture
- Cultivating Worship

We want to become people of love who shine brightly for our Lord.

We would love for the ladies in Dumfries Baptist Church to join us!

Car-sharing arrangements can be made nearer the time. Details in the August magazine

## When?

Saturday 7th of September 2024

## Where?

Stranraer Baptist Church

## Time?

10am-3.30pm with lunch included

## Cost?

£20 per ticket.

## What's on at DBCC?



**Volunteers Week** is celebrated between the 3rd and the 9th of June this year. It is a week in which the UK celebrates volunteers and says thank you to them for the

contribution that they make. The week also raises awareness about the benefits becoming a volunteer and the diverse volunteering roles that are available.

Further information about Volunteers Week and information about becoming a volunteer can be found at [www.volunteersweek.org](http://www.volunteersweek.org)

We are so blessed with volunteers at the Church Centre and want to thank them all for their hard work and dedication. We are always in need of new volunteers (to share the load), we have lots of different opportunities. Please come and see us in the office during the week or catch us after the Sunday morning service if you have any spare time.

Hebrews 6:10 says 'God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them...'

God sees the ways we try to honour Him by showing care and kindness to others. We all need help from time to time. Even when your service goes unnoticed by other people, God sees and is pleased

**Leavers:** We have 3 of our wonderful staff moving on in June. Louise, Carrie and Emma. We will really miss them but wish them all well with their future plans.

Blessings  
Phil  
Manager



# engaGE24

a project of CARE



Following the Prime Minister's announcement of a July 4th election, I'm delighted to launch CARE's dedicated election website, engaGE24!

[Visit the engaGE24 website!](#)

*(Right Click to open the hyperlink)*

I am sure you'll agree with me that it is full of quality content – from policy primers, to video interviews with Christian MPs, a blog, a podcast and so much more. One amazing feature is our election quiz where you can find out the party you might align with.

Our heart behind this campaign is to equip the UK Church to engage effectively with this election. Research tells us that Christians will vote. The question before all of us is who will we vote for? I pray our resources will help you as you come to your decision. I think this election is a golden opportunity for the Church to engage and make our voice heard.

CARE is strictly politically neutral. We work with MPs from all parties when they are with us on our causes. Our engaGE24 site will not tell you who to vote for but it will equip you to think through key issues, and help you connect with prospective candidates.

You'll also find our dedicated, 40-day prayer resource. God commands us to pray for all those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-2). That is one indisputable thing we can do this election that will make a huge difference.

I would love for you to pass this email on to friends, family and anyone else who would be helped by its content. A lot of resources have gone into this election site and if you can send us a [financial gift at this time, we would be very grateful](#).

I'm so glad that at a time like this, God is on the throne! His will shall be done and whatever the outcome, CARE is committed to pursuing our mission of speaking God's better story to a broken world.

Every blessing,

**Ross Hendry**  
CEO of CARE



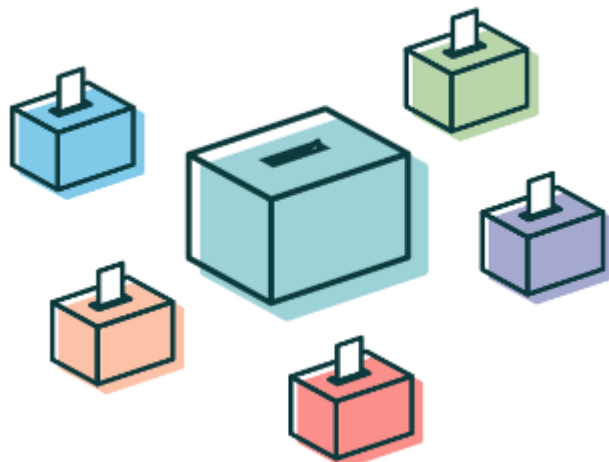
**ROSS HENDRY**  
Chief Executive  
Officer

[Visit the engaGE24 website!](#)

*(Right Click to open the hyperlink)*

## Helping you to prayerfully consider your vote

engaGE24 is CARE's dedicated website on the 2024 General Election, equipping Christians to think, act, and pray before they **#GetOutAndVote**



# The Transformative Spirit

Many believe that Christians must obey the Ten Commandments, and that the Holy Spirit imparts the willpower to do so. However the gift of the Holy Spirit is of far greater power and sent for a far higher purpose than that.

The Ten Commandments was a prescriptive law - a judicial system for an ungodly people, giving the Israelites a new identity based upon a national relationship with God. They were the centrepiece of the Old Covenant between God and Israel. They are called "the words of the Covenant" (Exodus 34:28), written on the "tables of the Covenant" (Deuteronomy 4:13,9:15), and kept in the "Ark of the Covenant" (1 Kings 8:9,21). The Ten Commandments did not make bad behaviour a sin. (Romans 5:12-13) Evil was always a sin. What they did was to make certain behaviour ILLEGAL, and subject to penalties for infringement!

They also provided a basic understanding of sin, stimulating a sense of guilt leading to repentance.

However they were prescriptive laws, mostly negative, and all such laws have their limitations because they cannot cover every situation. There's no mention of insider dealings, substance abuse, racism or drink-driving. They are also prone to legalists finding loopholes, adding caveats and prioritising them as the Pharisees did. Also, people often become judgmental of others according to their own interpretation of them. Even keeping prescriptive laws is problematical. You can keep them by rote, or grudgingly by "working to rule", or even by going to bed and doing nothing!

Jesus' teachings about divorce, wealth and loving enemies shocked his disciples. Someone who said he'd always kept the Ten

Commandments was told to sell all he had and follow him. (Matthew 19:9-25). These aren't in the Ten Commandments, and Jesus was not extrapolating FROM the Ten Commandments - that would be like saying "You should have read the small print".

Jesus appealed to higher spiritual principles from which the Ten Commandments were derived - a superior law that is not just a list of dos and don'ts. The two great commandments to love God with heart, mind and soul, and to love neighbour as self are wholly positive, all-encompassing and pre-eminent above the Ten Commandments, not extrapolated from them - and there are no loopholes, caveats or let-out clauses! It is all about LOVE, its source and its focus.

God's purpose was to start a process which would lead to this: 1 Timothy 1:5 "the end (goal, objective) of the commandment is charity (love) out of a pure heart, a good conscience, and faith unfeigned". Jesus inaugurated a New Covenant with a people whom he called and filled with his Holy Spirit so that their hearts reflect his love. This New Covenant supercedes the prescriptive law of minimal standards designed for the ungodly. (Galatians 3:19,24-25; 5:14,18). By faith we embrace the superior principles of love for God and fellow man that far exceed it. (1 Timothy 1:9).

This requires much more than just enhanced willpower. The Holy Spirit of God dwelling in us, together with our complicity and commitment, accomplishes within us a miraculous transformation, bringing our hearts "into sync" with the very nature of God, which is love. 2 Peter 1:2-8, Romans 8:1-14,29.

Richard Whiting

# Keeping in Touch



**Email** If you have given the DBC office consent to use your email address, we will keep you updated by email. If you are reading this and not getting emails from the DBC office, then please email:

[office@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk) and we will make sure you get a Data Consent Form to complete and return.



**Telephone** Please phone the DBC office if you have any requests for help, prayer or just for a chat!

The church office is staffed 9am - 1pm Mon - Friday. Tel: 01387 268926



**DBC website**

The past sermons

and video messages recorded for Sundays and Wednesdays are available from the Dumfries Baptist Church website <https://www.dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk/resources.html#sermons>

**Morning Worship on Sundays** is at 10.30 in the Auditorium and also available on the church YouTube channel at [DBCC Gillbrae](#).

**Discoverers** meet each Sunday (in term time) during the morning service.

**Evening Worship** is at 6.30pm in the Auditorium.

**Wednesday 9pm** Short **evening reflections** are available at [DBCC Gillbrae](#).

The DBC Facebook page is at <https://www.facebook.com/Dumfriesbaptistchurch/> You don't need to be a Facebook user to access this page online.

Links to the evening reflection and other messages are regularly posted on the DBC Facebook page.

# Sharing Jesus with Muslims in the NW of England

Our journey serving Jesus among Muslims has been a winding one.

In our twenties, God grew our heart for sharing the good news with unreached peoples. Exploring what this looks like has led us to Asia, where we spent 2 years studying and getting to know the people and the culture in that country. Then a global pandemic brought us back to the U.K. and a year of study at a bible college in Edinburgh. Then over the last 3 years God has placed us in a city in the NW of England, seeking to reach out to British South Asians.



We are so thankful for your ongoing support in many ways on this continuing adventure.

I (Pete) was a youth at Dumfries Baptist Church, and came to faith and was baptised there aged 11. Becky and I met through church while she was nursing and I was finishing my PhD in Earth Sciences. We realised we were both excited about serving God abroad. Now over a decade later God has blessed us with two primary aged children and we are living cross-culturally in the U.K.

Our day to day life feels quite ordinary. We live in a predominantly Muslim area of our city (90+%) and we take our children to a local school. Pete works at a local community centre, and Becky does a bit of nursing. We try to make friends and get to know the people around us.

As part of this, Becky has been involved in a ladies' group in the community centre each Friday and is getting to know Mums and other ladies. Pete has got to know Dads and some of the men at the local mosques. God is using these relationships to give opportunities to have deeper spiritual conversations, to show people Jesus' love in practical ways and read the bible with a few friends.

## Prayer Points:

- We'd love you to keep praying for these friendships, particularly for three extended family groups we know. We long to see God move in whole families to bring them to know Jesus, so they can support each other through the persecution that would likely follow.
- Please also pray for us, as the community centre Pete currently works at is closing in the summer. We are exploring starting a community focused business that we pray will give us new ways to serve and get to know people in our area of the city.

**Pete and Becky with Dylan and Skye**

*(Peter's regular newsletters will be forwarded to all on the church email list so that you can be kept up to date.)*

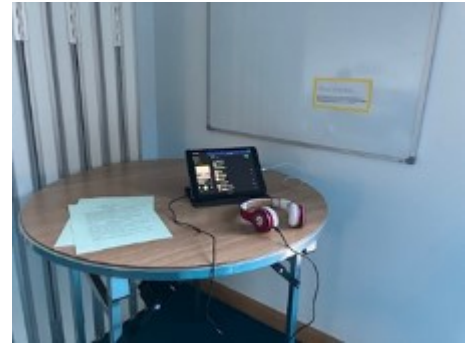




# Scripture Union in Dumfries and Galloway



For the **SU prayer day in January**, we had an afternoon of prayer stations in the Avenue Rooms at DBC. There were a range of opportunities to pray, from scrabble letters to listening to worship music, which seemed to go down well with old and young supporters alike - particularly popular were the Skittles prayers!



There have been many encouragements for the local SU volunteers over the last year.



There was a great response to the appeal for support for Owain Evans, our Regional Worker. From May to September 23, funding for the position rose from 60% to 98%. We are now looking to increase the number of the new D and G Support Squad by 25 people, giving as little as £1 a month, to build up a healthy regular giving for 100% of the costs of a full time SU worker.



In February there was a Secondary Weekend away at Barcaple and May saw the return of the Primary Weekend away at High Barbuchany near Newton Stewart.



For the summer, the local Action Group are delighted to be able to offer subsidised places at the Regional Camp at Gowanbank from the 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> of July. This has been possible as a the result of a bequest and donations specifically designated for young people who might not otherwise get the opportunity to go away. Please speak to Chris Rossi, the Treasurer if you would like to find out more about this opportunity.

Numbers of school groups in the region are still smaller than they were before the pandemic but are growing steadily. Speak to Jane Rafferty, Chris Dewhurst or Joseph Ellicott about the highs and lows of leading a group of young people through Bible teaching on a particular topic - not to mention relevant games or crafts - and talk to Owain Evans or any of the Action Group if you would like to explore the idea of helping in a local school either to run a group, volunteer as a helper or pray for what's going on in a particular school.

**Chris, Alison, Rachel,  
Anne, Lydia & Lesley**



# Contacts

Lead Pastor	Alistair Purss	01387 263032 <a href="mailto:alistair.purss@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk">alistair.purss@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk</a>
Pastor	Eoghan Paterson	07926 731592 <a href="mailto:eoghan@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk">eoghan@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk</a>
Church Magazine	Karen Miller	01387 710155
Church Office	Mon-Fri 9am-1pm	01387 268926 <a href="mailto:office@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk">office@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk</a>
Discoverers	Jane Rafferty	01387 268066
Elevate	Janet Derby	01387 268934
Encore	David White	07476379865
Friendship Hour	Chris Dewhurst	07473545994
Global Partnership Group	Joy Ransom	07513644387
Girllzone	Sharon Rossi	07739130934
Impact	Alison McKendrick	07752553703
Prayer Ministry	Eleanor Moss	01387 263994
Secretary	Lesley Mackay	01387 247456 <a href="mailto:secretary@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk">secretary@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk</a>
Toddler Groups	Heather McCombe (Mrs)	01387 253416
Treasurer	Ian Penn	01387 263242 <a href="mailto:pennnithsdale@supanet.com">pennnithsdale@supanet.com</a>
DBC Youth Team	Alistair Wallace	07851145918 <a href="mailto:youth@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk">youth@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk</a>

## Treasurer's Report

### Total Monthly Income

March 2024	£21,351
April 2024	£37,317

The following figures represent the first 83% of financial year 2023/24 with income 103% budget and expenditure 78% of budget. The total Income was £285,586 (£6420/week against a budget figure of £5400/week). Expenditure during this same period amounted to £217,725 (£5063/week against a budget figure of £5400/week) The income includes £12,462 for the "food parcel" ministry, which includes a grant and expenditure of £10,437 for this work, a great example of outreach to the community

We continue to notice the effects of increasing costs for many items but particularly gas, electricity and water rates. The Operating Company is particularly affected by rising food and staffing costs. We are also beginning to see some maintenance and replacement costs for the building being processed. However the general giving is well up on previous years due in part to the closure of the Appeal Fund.

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 in the current financial year over £35,000 of our 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 contact me if you want further information regarding Gift-Aid.

Ian Penn - Treasurer (01387 263242)