

# Dumfries Baptist Church

Worship | Grow | Reach | Serve

April 2025

## Outlook



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17th April: Seniors' Maundy Thursday Event 2.00 - 3.30pm  
Dumfries Christian Network Communion Service @ 7.30pm

18th April: Good Friday Prayer and Praise Service @ 7.30pm  
'The Suffering Christ and His Suffering Church'  
led by Chris Greenhalgh from 'Open Doors'

19th April: Community Car Wash 10am - 12noon  
(raising funds for Educate and Empower Uganda)

20th April: Easter Sunday All Age Celebration @ 10.30am  
Easter Celebration and Communion @ 6.30pm  
(including the DBC Singing Group)

**He is not here; he has risen,  
just as he said.** Matt 28:6 NIV

### Psalm 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
where does my help come from?  
2 My help comes from the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.

In Psalm 121 God's people were experiencing difficult times, and while we are not told specifically what they were, we are reminded six times that their **God would be their Keeper**. The Hebrew word for 'keeper' means to protect, support, guard. It's the same word used in Genesis 2:15 when God asked Adam to 'keep' the garden of Eden. It speaks of God's powerful and attentive care and loving protection over his people.

How beautifully this Psalm speaks to our situation right now! It reminds us of his forever loving care to us, his people. The writer says he lifts his eyes to the hills, probably the mountains that surrounded Jerusalem. Perhaps he is longing for the comfort of the mountains where he would be safe from his enemy.

In the Mediterranean region and the area surrounding Jerusalem many little towns were built on the top of hills to protect them from their enemies. Whatever he was thinking, he was lifting his eyes upward and so must we. There is no help to be found in the mountains or in casting our eyes downward, retreating into ourselves. Let's lift our eyes up to the Lord in this crisis! Just as King Jehoshaphat did - *"For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you"* (2 Chronicles 20:12).

This is where our help is to be found. Our help comes straight from the Lord.



God's care for us is personal, individual and tender beyond expression. He is ever watchful of his people as his *"treasured possession"* (1 Peter 2:9). He loves us beyond compare, we are his *"beloved children, and the apple of his eye."* He is as near to us as our shadow. He is able to keep us, he has engaged to keep us, and he promises to keep us. We have nothing to fear. His care is forever, it never ceases, *"the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."* (v8)

So, put your trust in the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth, the One who never sleeps but promises to be our Keeper.

Eoghan Paterson, Pastor

# Family News

## Congratulations...

... to Alec Cook and Jenny Kirkwood who were married at Dumfries Baptist Church on Saturday 22nd February.



## Thank You

*Hello. We would just like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported us on our big day. We have had so many compliments from guests about the variety, quantity and quality of baking that was provided, so a massive thank you to everyone who took the time to donate some baking. We had a truly incredible day and feel very blessed by the love, support and generosity shown to us by everyone at DBC.*

*A massive thank you from the bottom of our hearts for everyone who worked away behind the scenes to make our day one to remember!*

*We are looking forward to settling in to life in Dumfries and at DBC and getting to know more of the lovely congregation and community here.*

*Much love and blessings from  
The Cooks x*

## We extend our sympathy...

... to the family of Alex Cowan who died on 9th February.

**Thanks...** Josie, Cheryl, Zoe and family would like to express our sincere gratitude for all the cards, prayers and support following the sad loss of our beloved Husband, Dad and Papa, Alex Cowan.

Special thanks to Alistair and Eoghan for their many comforting visits whilst Alex was in hospital, and to Eoghan for leading the service to celebrate Alex's life.

Thanks also to all who attended or watched Alex's funeral service online.

The magnificent sum of £800 was raised from generous donations at the service, which has been divided between Parkinsons Dumfries and the MSA Trust in Alex's memory.

Many Thanks,

Cheryl and Josie Cowan

## We extend our sympathy...

... to Jean Park, Kevin, Colleen & Luke, Aveliese & Zariyah Bowthorpe on the passing of Colin on 25th March. He's now safely home with Jesus, his Lord and Saviour.

## Thanks...

I express my sincere thanks to all who have prayed for me, contacted me, sent cards, flowers, gifts and good wishes during my illness. It was wonderful to have so many lovely, caring friends. My particular thanks to the lovely group of ladies who brought me fresh, nourishing meals - many days that would be the only person I saw but was always greeted with a beautiful smile. I am still being looked after by my superb GP practice. Our God is good indeed.

Christine Robertson

## Gardening Helper and Handyperson Required

Gardening helper and handyperson required for an elderly gentleman with limited mobility. Initial requirements would be for several hours per week to restore garden to manageable level, then reverting to a fortnightly service for maintenance. You would be working alongside the elderly gentleman for some tasks, but you will need to be proactive and confident in working independently, too. Tasks will include painting garden furniture, pruning, washing paving, sweeping, planting and re-potting, and some moving of garden items. Rates to be discussed, but would be in line with the going rate and experience offered.

Contact:

Kenneth Shiers 07551754336  
or

Jennifer Smith 07592855837

## BMS Birthday Scheme

The total raised by members of the BMS Birthday Scheme in 2024 was £550. We have lost a few members due to various reasons and so, if you'd like to be a blessing to many throughout the world, would you consider giving to the scheme on your birthday? For further information please contact Marion McKie on 07786 915 231

## New Address:

Frank & Yvette Dorrans  
26 Newnham Road,  
Ralston,  
PA1 3DY



## ▲ Good News for Everyone Update

I am writing this in February, which means we are half-way through the Academic Year. Thus we are well into our visits to local secondary schools where we offer copies of the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs to pupils in S1.

It is one of the saddest aspects of our age that more and more young people enter secondary school with very little knowledge of the Christian faith.

Please pray that receiving this gift will encourage many to read it and become life-long followers of Jesus.



It is curious that our Dumfries Branch has lost three members in the last few months because they have gone to live in N. Ireland. We would be delighted if new members joined us to help distribute Scriptures around the area and around the world. Nowadays single women, as well as single men or married couples, can become members. We would love to hear from you if you feel God's call to this sphere of service.

Hugh Brewster

## Sunday Church Refreshments

Sharing tea and coffee after the church service is an important part of our fellowship giving us an opportunity to connect and build relationships whether we are newcomers or have been attending DBC for many years. This is only made possible by the Refreshments Team, a group of about 12 volunteers who between them provide a welcoming drink every Sunday.

These budding baristas, both male and female, serve in groups of 3 about once every 4-6 weeks. They arrive around 45 minutes before

church starts to make the hot drinks and set up. Leaving church promptly during the last hymn, they serve the drinks before clearing away, popping the cups and saucers through the dishwasher and wiping down the tables. Tidying up usually takes until about 1pm.

We are always looking for more volunteers to join the Refreshments Team and anyone who is over 18 and who feels called to serve in this way is very welcome to give it a go before committing. We would love for you to join us. The rota is made

up quarterly with the opportunity to state your availability in advance and to swap should things come up by messaging via our WhatsApp group.

Serving together in small groups is also a great way to get to know others in the fellowship better. If you would like to find out more about joining the Team, please speak to Jean Muir, Dawn Rideout or any of us who you have seen behind the counter on a Sunday morning!

Many thanks,

*Dawn Rideout*

## Souper Lent Lunch

Many thanks to all those who supported the Lent Lunch on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> of March so generously with their soup and service! We had a full hall and people at the overflow tables as well, yet "enough and to spare" of the soup as well as a cheerful bunch of servers and a stalwart team in the engine room of the kitchen- heating soup and washing up.

The first two lunches have so far raised £1,600 for Christian Aid.

Please support the lunches that are left each Friday before Easter.

Lesley Mackay



# CAP SERVICES



For those of you not directly involved in the CAP Services, it may seem that not much has been happening. In fact, the opposite is true and like everything in life, some of it is coming together well, while other areas seem to be a bit of a slog. At just the right time, I received 2 encouraging comments. The first was that, *"all we are doing now is a good foundation for what is going to happen"*. The second comment was referring to a farming analogy in that *"we are ploughing the hard ground"*. Both of these comments sit well together when we look at what has been happening in these last 3 months.

## BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION

Elaine Moscrop, Chris Rossi and I completed our training for running the Money Course. Chris has delivered his first course. I have set up another course for the Toddler parents beginning in May.

This course has been significantly updated and topics include: Building, balancing and using your budget; Credit - types and using credit wisely; Navigating Debt; Savings - types and benefits; and Smart spending. It is delivered through professionally made videos, discussion and activities. Once a budget is established, CAP's money management system is easy to use. We will be running more courses so do let me know if you are interested in joining one.

Janet Weir, David White and I also completed our training for running the Life Skills Course. We are now preparing to deliver the first of these beginning in May. This will always be delivered in small groups. It is aimed at helping people who are on low incomes learn to live well on a very tight budget. Topics will include practical money saving techniques, such as cooking on a budget, living healthily on less and making their money go further. It also includes helping develop good interpersonal skills and confidence. Each participant will also receive one-to-one coaching helping to work towards achieving a personally set goal.

## PLOUGHING THE HARD GROUND

CAP is not well-known in Dumfries and it has proved challenging to secure appointments with some potential Referral Agents (those organisations who work with people who may need help with debt or the above courses). Some have stated that they do these services themselves. Others have stated that they don't make any external recommendations to their clients, while yet others have been welcoming - it has been a real mixed bag.

I am working hard to break down barriers and I feel I am beginning to make progress with various groups. I still have a list of organisations to meet with but so far I am delighted with conversations I have had with: most of the Food Banks, Community Centres, the Job Centre and a few churches. I hope you are beginning to see posters displayed in local supermarkets and some schools. And there are future meetings with several Council departments. We will break through.

## PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY THAT:

- Barriers will be broken down and we will gain access to the right people;
- Relationships with existing contacts will develop positively;
- Conversations about CAP and the services we are offering begin to be heard;
- Those who need our help have the courage to make contact.

Paula White

## God's Children

There is something insidious about the Santa Claus myth that can creep into the lives of Christians and affect our relationship with God. It brings the implication that blessings are dependent upon our "being good girls and boys". Then our faith may be shaken when God doesn't give us what we pray for, and that can lead to guilt feelings that we can never be "good enough" to be saved. It implies that our relationship with God is transactional, and our prayers and worship may become simply a form of "cupboard love".

In his book "What's So Amazing About Grace?", Philip Yancey states that "There is nothing you can do to make God love you more; and there is nothing you can do to make God love you less". God's love is unconditional, it is not transactional.

We are God's children, and babies and infants are dirty, smelly, noisy creatures. They can't help it - they just are! They are inherently selfish, keeping their parents awake at night demanding to be fed or changed. Infants are totally oblivious to the sacrifices and hard work of their parents to clothe, house and feed them - they just take these things for granted, and rarely feel any need to request them or to express thanks for them, but as they grow up, most become aware of this and respond with appreciation and thankfulness.

Loving responsible parents provide teaching and discipline to mould character, behaviour and decision-making, but continue to love despite frequent mistakes and tantrums.

(Psalm 103:10-11). Of course parents want their youngsters to be "good kids", but it's for their own

happiness and well-being, not as a condition for being loved. They cannot always be protected from the consequences of their own decisions or the ups and downs of life. But when a child is hurt or fails at something, they don't want a new toy - they want to be comforted, cuddled and kissed better. They want their parents to "be there" for them through their successes and failures (Matthew 28:20, Hebrews 13:5). That is a wonderfully uncomplicated relationship. Many scriptures refer to God comforting his people, and in the AV/KJV the Holy Spirit is often called the "Comforter" (John 14:16,18,26; 15:26; 16:7; Acts 9:31).

Newborn babies know nothing about toys but they soon develop wants and desires beyond their basic needs. However there is a constant need which takes precedent over all other; they need to love and to be and feel loved. Jesus said that we are to become like small children (Matthew 18:3) in a relationship with him of uncomplicated mutual, unconditional love. We should seek God's Holy Spirit, his presence in our lives - not just his tangible gifts and blessings. That is so different from a "quid pro quo" relationship based upon mutual transaction.

Of course we have physical needs and God knows that (Matthew 6:31). He also wants us to be "good" and to "play nicely" in our relationships with others. It is very important that we do, but his love is not dependent on that. God help us to know his love, and in thankfulness to respond, rest and rejoice in it.

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.



## BMS World Mission

Dumfries Baptist Church has been supporting BMS for many years, in lots of different ways. We have been a sending church, sending mission workers to many different countries, supporting other mission workers and have been financial supporters over many years, as well as supporting harvest appeals, special appeals and welcoming BMS speakers to join us. For the first time in a long time we do not have any of our church members serving overseas with BMS and so have decided to support some workers we have links with.

Joy Ransom spent many years serving with BMS in Nepal most recently working with an organisation called EQUIP (Educational Quality Improvement Programme).

A former colleague of Joy's Dil Karki lives in Kathmandu with his wife, Meena, and their daughters. He is passionate about high-quality education for children and training teachers.

Dil is Head of BMS World Mission's Nepali partner, EQUIP, conducting the overall planning and leadership of the EQUIP programme and manages their projects and staff.



He is accountable for financial resources and assets, staff pastoral care, new project development, and policies. The work he does is crucial, as the situation of school education in Nepal is very poor.

Another former colleague, Krishna Bahadur Bohora lives in Lalitpur with his wife, Ramila, two children, and mother-in-law. He is deeply passionate about education and children. Krishna is Project Co-ordinator at EQUIP and manages an array of programmes and training.



He supervises teacher trainers and field staff, compiles reports, and closely monitors the progress of ongoing projects. He also serves as the focal point for child safeguarding, overseeing the development and implementation of policies across partner schools. His work also involves designing and delivering training programmes that enhance the quality of education, particularly through comprehensive teacher training efforts.

Phil and I served with BMS for almost 5 years in Bangladesh. Our last roles were with an organisation called SHED (Social, Health and Education) Board, who are linked to the Bangladesh Baptist Shanga.

Barnabas Hembron is the Mission Co-ordinator at Bangladesh Baptist Church Shanga in Dhaka, organising their evangelism and holistic mission work. He is also pastor of a local church, a tutor at the College of Christian Theology, Bangladesh, and the moderator for the Evangelism, Ethnic Unity and Culture Department of the National

Church Council of Bangladesh. Barnabas is married to Juthika, who serves in a women's fellowship. They have a son and daughter.



DBC have now committed to support these three BMS World Mission supported workers. What does this mean? It means that our financial giving to BMS will go towards their salaries. It also means that we are committed to praying for them regularly, and there are prayer cards available for all of them if you would like one. We also have responsibility to encourage them in all they do. As part of my role within the GPG I will be sending them all emails sharing our love and encouragement, and would be very grateful for messages to share with them. Of course you would also be welcome to email them directly and if this is something you'd like to do, come and have a chat with me. They are very encouraged by contact from us.

In return we will receive regular prayer letters from each of them keeping us up to date with the work that are doing as well as current prayer requests. These will be shared via church email so they are available to everyone.

Please pray for the work of BMS across the world, as well as Krishna, Dil and Barnabas.

Thank you.

Louise Proctor



## Kitega Uganda



The Kitega Centre in Uganda was set up 25 years ago as a Christian charity to help educate children with disabilities and to show the community that these children were worthy of love care and attention as sadly they were often thought of as cursed and hidden from the world, locked up or even abandoned. While it remains a Christian charity and their faith is clear to everyone, they don't discriminate when it comes to helping the community and many of the students with disabilities come from Muslim homes but all are welcomed and treated with dignity and respect.

Since it was started it has gone from strength to strength and now has a waiting list of children who want to join the centre and has trained multiple communities about micro finance and small business

encouraging the community to take charge of their own futures and providing some of the poorest people the chance to set up their own business. They have also just finished building a hospital and health centre which will hopefully be running very soon, providing essential health care to a community that would otherwise have to walk for a couple of days potentially to reach the nearest health centre and then have to pay for the treatments as well.

My family were first involved with Kitega in 2012 when my sister went out to volunteer and since then our links have grown stronger, we have all been out multiple times and we were asked to take over from the original patrons of the charity when they were suffering from ill health a couple of years ago.

This is the charity that we asked for donations towards at our wedding as I have seen with my own eyes the impact that they have had in their local communities. I also know that a small donation from here can go a long, long way in Uganda.

The current director and head of the charity, Daudi Clemy, is heading over to the UK for a Christian Conference in London and will be coming up to Scotland for a while. If anyone would like to know more about the charity or the amazing work they are doing or just to meet Daudi and chat to him (he is an incredibly interesting person) please send me a message (Jenny 07834363214) we will try organise a time that suits most. He will be in Moffat from the 4th until the 11th of April.

Jenny Cook

## Canopy 2025



At Canopy 2025 you will find another brilliant range of seminars to inspire, challenge and equip you!

During the afternoon there will be two seminar streams, each with multiple options to choose from. There will also be an opportunity to pray, worship and connect with others.

Keep an eye on the BUS website and on our socials for more details about these in the coming weeks!

We will learn together, with teaching from Gavin Calver, CEO of the Evangelical Alliance, plus insights from our guest speakers, and worship led by Sam and Erin Hibbard and team.

We will also be sharing stories and testimonies of God transforming lives, to inspire and encourage each other, and to remind ourselves that we are part of God's bigger story in Scotland!

Canopy is an amazing opportunity to join together with other Scottish Baptists, engage with a range of seminars, browse the bookstall, worship and be inspired as we celebrate what God is doing across our network!



**Early Bird Discount  
extended to 4th April**  
**Tickets available from**  
[www.scottishbaptist.com/canopy](http://www.scottishbaptist.com/canopy)

# 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>
CAP Debt Centre	Paula White	07886878113
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
Girlzone	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

January 2025	£35,212.27
February 2025	£24,413.91

The following figures represent the first two thirds of financial year 2024/25 with income 76% budget and expenditure 65% of budget. The total Income was £242,754 (£6643 /week against a budget figure of £6076 / week). Expenditure during this same period amounted to £204,060 (£5668 /week against a budget figure of £6076 /week ).

If you would like to give regularly by way of Sunday offerings we can provide weekly or monthly envelopes or you can give directly through your bank.

If you wish to give financial support specifically for the CAP project please contact me.

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. In the last financial year over £48,900 of our offerings were **not** subject to Gift Aid. Please prayerfully consider whether you can Gift-Aid your giving. Please contact me if you want further information regarding Gift-Aid.

Ian Penn - Treasurer (01387 263242)