

Dumfries Baptist Church



Worship | Grow | Reach | Serve

February 2024

Outlook

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One of the names of the Lord is "El Shaddai". It means 'God Almighty' or 'God All-sufficient'.

El Shaddai is mentioned seven times in scripture, exclusively in the Old Testament and mostly in the book of Genesis. El points us to God and Shaddai is derived from the Hebrew word shad meaning "breast." God calls Himself El Shaddai because He Himself is able to meet our needs completely, satisfying us uniquely as a nursing mother does her child.

He is a God who freely gives, a God who freely sustains, a God who freely nourishes and blesses.

The first mention of El Shaddai is in Genesis 17:1 ***"When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.'"***

Abram, a childless old man, was ninety-nine when God appeared to him and made a staggering promise. This God Almighty, El Shaddai, would make a covenant of multiplication between him as Abram walked before Him. The grief of barrenness had long been part of Abram's story; Sarai's arms and womb void of children. El Shaddai was spoken for the first time to Abram, a man who

no doubt had dreams for his family that did not match its reality. In God's kindness He essentially proclaims to him, ***"I know what you truly long for, and I'm here to satisfy you beyond every dream of what you think that will look like."*** God, the better fulfilment, the only All-Sufficient One—this God, our God, satisfies.

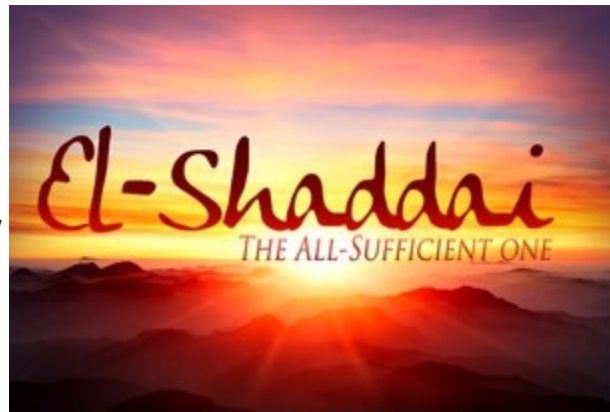
In the depths of our aches and our pains, He can meet our needs abundantly. Yes, the needs of

weakness and insufficiency in our grief. Yes, the loneliness and emptiness—the voids and doubts. Yes, the anxiety, the fears, the longing for something not

yet. God meets us here in all of this.

A Christian lady found much comfort in this name of God when facing a particularly difficult crisis in her life. "I can testify that El Shaddai is my God, he has nourished, sustained and satisfied my soul. He has met my every need, he is enough! And his grace really is sufficient and his power is made perfect in my weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9) God promises his peace and contentment when we submit our will to his, trusting El Shaddai with tomorrow, with our life!

Eoghan Paterson, Pastor



Family News

Congratulations...

... to Amy Blair who became engaged to **Daniel Munday** during the Christmas holidays.



Congratulations...

... on the birth of **Trinity Reece**, born to Abigail and Lewis Reece in New Plymouth, New Zealand on Friday 22 December 2023 - a third daughter, Trinity - sister to Tove and Elliotte and eighth grandchild for Francis and Jacqui McFaul.

Thank You...

... from Jacqui and the family of **Francis McFaul**, for all the support, prayers and help over the past few weeks since Francis passed away on Saturday 23rd December 2023, and for all the beautiful flowers and cards. Thanks to Al for his comforting words at Rochan Loch and to Al, Eoghan and everyone involved in the beautiful celebration at DBCC on Thursday 11th January. I'm so thankful to you all.

Jacqui McFaul

Thank You

Dear church family,
I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who sent messages of condolence, lovely cards and beautiful flowers, boxes of biscuits, homemade cakes, and offers of help and visits. They have all helped me to feel loved and cared for. A special thank you must go to

Alistair and Eoghan for all their visits both in the hospital and here at home. They must be emotionally drained after having 3 funerals within 5 days as well as their normal duties. Thank you to all who attended Roucan Loch and the thanksgiving service in DBC and to Josh for playing and singing at both. Thank you very much for your kind donations to DBC in memory of Henderson. I like to think of them as Henderson's last offering. Most of all I thank you all for your prayers and for the Lord who has given me the strength to get through this time – may He bless you all.

With much love,

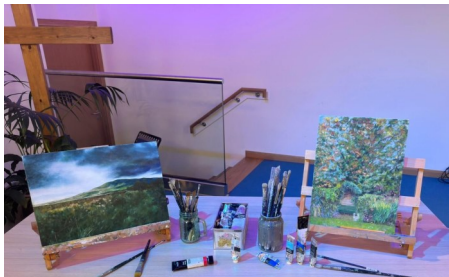
Marion McKie

Thank You

Caroline Cooke would like to thank everyone for their kindness in messages, cards, flowers and numerous other ways following the death of Colin just before Christmas.



4 examples of Colin's art



Thank You

Many thanks to everyone who made my special birthday so very special.

Sally T



Book your holiday for 2024

- For single mums and dads with children aged 5 to 15 (8 to 15 for our Fellowship Afloat holiday)
- Online applications are now open, [apply here](#)

Applications close at midnight on Monday 5th February

Instead of allocating places on a 'first come, first served basis', all applications will be considered after closing time on Monday. Priority will be given to those who have not already attended a Take A Break holiday in the past.

Every year single parent families come on our Take A Break action holidays to spend time together, enjoy new experiences, make memories and have great fun. Take A Break action holidays are packed with outdoor activities such as canoeing, raft-building and climbing.

Apply online at: www.cff.org.uk

Email: mail@cff.org.uk

Office Tel: 029 2081 0800

(10.00 am–5.00pm)

Prayer for Israel



Monday 5th Feb @ 3pm

Prayer for Israel group on Monday 5th February will meet in the Loft

Made for you - Women's Conference



Saturday 9th March 2024
9.00 am - 5.00 pm

Venue: Ps and Gs, York Place,
 Edinburgh, EH1 3HP

This is a one day women's
 conference - a day for the heart,
 soul and mind, with moments to

worship, wait on the Lord and
 celebrate all that God has done.

Featuring worship and word from
 Lou Fellingham along with special
 guests Cathy Madavan and Philippa
 Hanna.

Tickets £32.00

Whether you feel that your cup is
 empty or full, we're believing this
 day is going to be a blessing for you.

Please get in touch with **Debbie
 Paterson** or **Joy Ransom** for more
 details and to express interest so
 that shared transport can be
 arranged.

Lent Lunches 2024

With Easter earlier this year
 (Sunday 31st March), Christian Aid
 Lent Lunches begin on Friday 16th
 February 2024. Last year £4 856
 was raised over the six weeks.

Dumfries Baptist Church has been
 asked to host the Lent Lunch at St
 John's Church on Friday 23rd Feb..

Anyone who feels able to help this
 year e.g. by making soup, setting up
 tables, serving food on the day or
 washing up afterwards, should feel
 free to speak to Lesley Mackay or
 put their name down on the sign-up
 sheet.



12-1.30pm at St John's Church Hall, Lovers Walk, Dumfries DG1 1LW

Two Geezers in a Bath

The twenty first of January was a very special day for us as we confirmed our Christian faith through believer's baptism.

Sincere thanks for the many good wishes and cards received and for the blessing of the many who came to witness the event or to participate online.

Age is just a number it is no barrier to commitment.

Gibbie & Brian

Message from the old geezer:

It was perhaps inevitable baptism and membership would be mentioned in the same breath, indeed the announcement had barely been made before a call was received reminding me of conversations held during the last fellowship-wide discussion on broadening membership requirements. The discussions were thoughtfully meaningful and, as understood from information at the time, it was a fairly even split on whether baptism by immersion should be a prerequisite for

membership of DBC.

I was baptised as a child by Christian parents and again on 21 January 2024 as an open confession of faith, not because either Brian or myself sought membership of DBC. In fact, in all our conversations it was never discussed. We are saved by grace *'For it is by Grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.'* (Ephesians 2:8) - nothing more and nothing less.

Every Blessing to all,

Gibbie



Fairtrade Fortnight 2024 9th to 22nd September

This year's Fairtrade Fortnight will be later in the year, celebrating **30 years** of the FAIRTRADE mark.

Look out for local and national activities and events during the year.



For information contact Dumfries Fairtrade Group

On Facebook or on Twitter @FairDumfries

Email - dumfriesfairtrade@yahoo.co.uk

Or the Fairtrade Foundation web site: www.fairtrade.org.uk

DBC is a Fairtrade Church, so we should all make an effort to support local and global farmers & producers



Thank You



On behalf of Dumfries and Galloway Diabetes Support Group, I would like to thank all the staff and visitors of Dumfries Baptist Church who bought items from our December stall. Your purchases generated £46.50, raising the grand total of funds from sales of my jewellery to £184.00.

All this money goes directly towards Dumfries and Galloway Diabetes Support Group, which meets locally and welcomes anyone with links to Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes, including carers, friends and family members.

Membership and Attendance of the group is free.

With many thanks again,

Jennifer Smith, Jenny Wren Creative Designs

DBC DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS are open to all, and are held at:
THE FOOD TRAIN OFFICES, ENGLISH STREET, DUMFRIES.

- TUESDAY, 9TH APRIL 2024, 7-9PM
- TUESDAY, 14TH MAY 2024, 7-9PM - 2023/24 AGM

ALL OTHER FUTURE MEETING DATES TO BE CONFIRMED.



Strengths and Weaknesses

As Christians we understand that we must repent of our selfish human ways, and that this must be an ongoing lifelong process. Perhaps naturally, our focus tends to be centred upon our weaknesses, as we feel that this is where we are most likely to find our sins.

But let's take a few minutes to focus on our strengths instead. The first thing to consider is that strengths or powers can take many forms. Some have the physical strength and energy of youth. Others may be better educated and have greater intellectual powers or force of personality. Some have greater wealth, status or authority. Others a particular talent, training or ability. Some strengths or powers are relative and may only apply in specific situations such as parenthood, the marriage relationship or the workplace - but in one context or another we all have strengths or powers relative to those around us.

The first and possibly the worst sin that can arise from our strengths is that of pride or vanity. There was once a great archangel called Lucifer. He was the supreme archangel and his name meant "Bringer of Light". But vanity over his beauty and power, led him to try to usurp the throne of Heaven and he even managed to draw one third of the angels into his conspiracy. Isaiah 14:12-15 Revelation 12:3-9. God put down his rebellion and he became "Prince of Darkness". He was renamed Satan - meaning "Enemy", and Apollyon - "Destroyer". Pride is a great sin, and the very opposite of humility.

We need to see our strengths for what they are and how they came to us. We all came into the world as naked helpless babies and we have absolutely nothing that we weren't given. 1 Timothy 6:7.



We didn't choose our nationality, our parentage, our genetic make-up, our upbringing, our education or intellectual ability, or any of the natural talents or abilities we may have. In the truest sense there is no such thing as a self-made man! Even those who wield great power and authority over others were given it from above. John 19:10-11. Measuring ourselves against others is a pointless and fruitless exercise. 2 Corinthians 10 - 12, 17-18.

Consider God, who has supreme strength, absolute power and total authority. Yet he is meek and lowly and humble of spirit. Matthew 11:28-29. He uses all his power and strength in the service of those who are weaker than himself. Yet many people use their strengths and powers selfishly, to dominate, intimidate, bully, demean, defraud and otherwise exploit or undermine those weaker than themselves.

When Christians are given the Holy Spirit, God expects our hearts to be progressively synchronised to his nature of love, and to use the strengths and talents he has given us to serve and bless others. To support the poor and weak and to be a bright light of love and kindness in a harsh cruel world. God help us humbly and faithfully to use all that we are given, in the service of God and fellow man.

Richard Whiting

Keeping in Touch



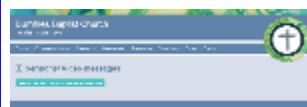
Email If you have given the DBC office consent to use your email address, we will keep you updated by email. If you are reading this and not getting emails from the DBC office, then please email:

office@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk 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.

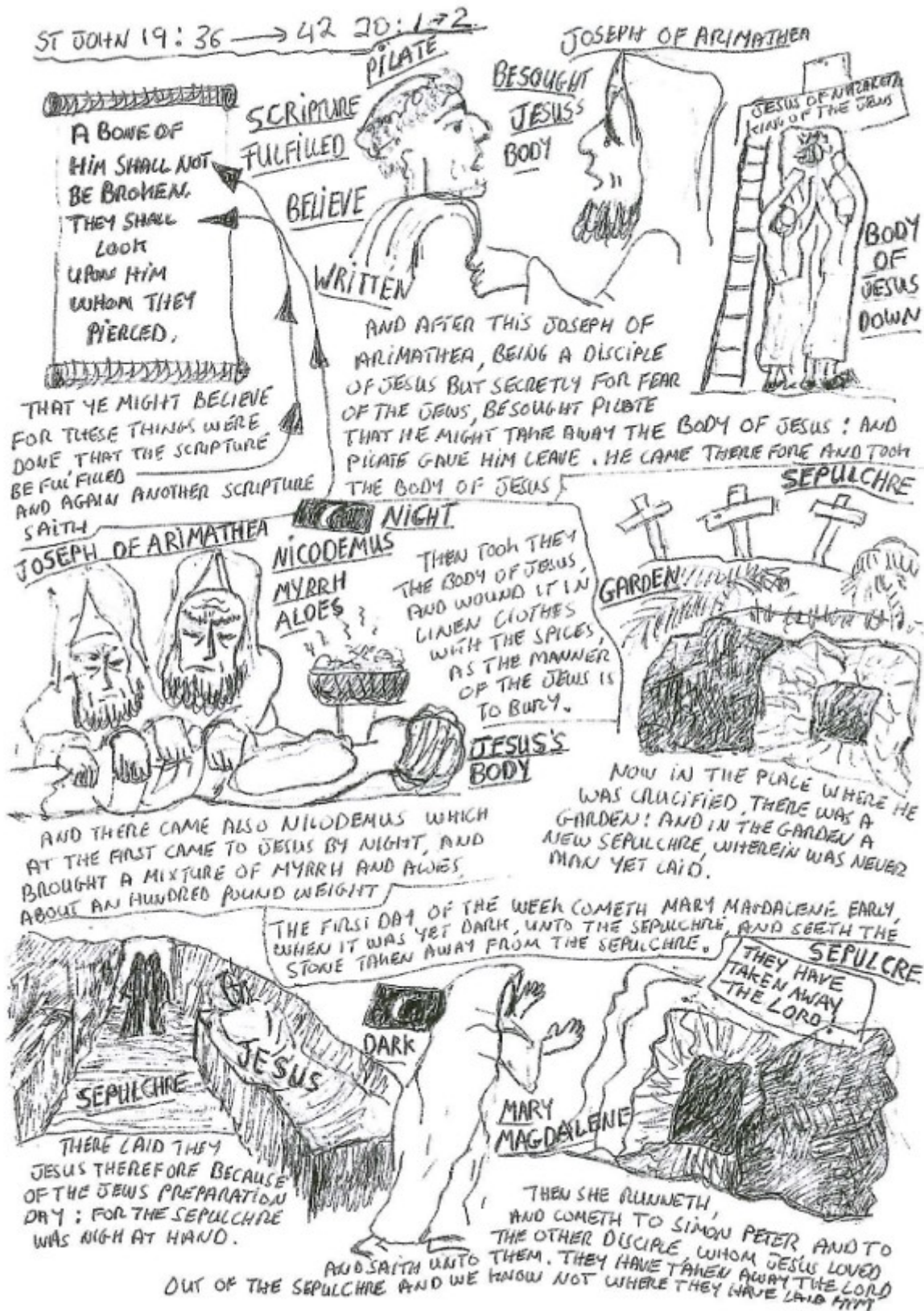
Evening Worship is at 6.30pm in the Auditorium.

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.

Scripture has been fulfilled!



As we approach Easter, at the end of next month, these sketches illustrate parts of the accounts given in the Gospel of John (King James Version). They have been drawn by **Fiona McGlynn**, one of our fellowship.

Contacts

Lead Pastor	Alistair Purss	01387 263032 alistair.purss@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk
Pastor	Eoghan Paterson	07926 731592 eoghan@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk
Church Magazine	Karen Miller	01387 710155
Church Office	Mon-Fri 9am-1pm	01387 268926 office@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk
Discoverers	Jane Rafferty	01387 268066
Elevate	Janet Derby	01387 268934
Encore	David White	07476379865
Friendship Hour	Chris Dewhurst	07473545994
Global Partnership Group	Barbara Mearns	01387 710031
Girllzone	Sharon Rossi	07739130934
Impact	Alison McKendrick	07752553703
Prayer Ministry	Eleanor Moss	01387 263994
Secretary	Lesley Mackay	01387 247456 secretary@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk
Toddler Groups	Heather McCombe (Mrs)	01387 253416
Treasurer	Ian Penn	01387 263242 pennnithsdale@supanet.com
DBC Youth Team	Alistair Wallace	07851145918 youth@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk

Treasurer's Report

Total Monthly Income

November 2023 £21,190

December 2023 £19,757

These figures represent the first half of financial year 2023/24 with income 59% of budget and expenditure 46% of budget. The total Income was £164,375 (£6322 / week against a budget figure of £5400 / week). Expenditure during this same period amounted to £126,805 (£4877 / week against a budget figure of £5400 /week). The income includes £9110 for the "food parcel" ministry, which includes a grant, and expenditure £6086 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.

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 first half of the financial year over £21,700 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)