



October 2020

Outlook

Inside this issue:

Family News	2
Prayer Week Response	2
Food Parcel Project	2
What's on at DBCC	3
Intense	3
Shoeboxes	3
Keswick	4
Tearfund Christmas Cards	4
The Rainbow	5
Sesquicentennial Suggestions	5
Keeping in Touch	5
Authentic	6
Traidcraft Open Days	6
Neighbourhood Prayer Walk	7
Canopy	7
Contacts	8
Thursdays	8
Treasurer's Report	8

In 1 Timothy 2:1-5 it says; *'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, ⁴who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus'.* (NIV)

I'm sure you've heard these words from the Apostle Paul repeated again and again in recent months. Our political leaders are constantly in the spotlight as they seek to lead the UK through the Covid19 pandemic. Would you like to be in their position at this present time? I certainly wouldn't!

The world seems to be full of experts when it comes to how we ought to deal with Covid19 and I'm not just talking about government officials and scientists etc. Social media is full of experts... NOT! I've had to stop reading certain Facebook pages and sites because of the negativity and vitriolic comments. It seems that people think it's okay to ridicule others whose views are different from their own. We live in a world where people are conditioned to think that their views and opinions about anything and everything are more important, more significant and more right than anyone else's. Sadly Christian's are not immune from this trend!

I'm not advocating that Christians should not scrutinise and question government approaches and policy regarding Covid19, BREXIT or the Scottish devolved government's Hate Speech Bill etc. We ought, of course, to be informed and up to speed with what our political leaders are saying, planning, proposing and doing. When it is required, we ought to intelligently and respectfully write to, speak with and seek to make our questions, views and concerns known to them, particularly in the days in which we live.

However, above all else we must pray because this is what the Bible tells us to do in 1 Timothy 2:1-5. Prayer draws us to God and His kingly reign and rule. Prayer reminds us that God is in control and that we are to look to Him first and foremost for help, guidance and strength.

Notice we are to pray for ALL people, which includes our political leaders (v1) and take care not to be biased in our praying because of our own political persuasion and position. We are to be SPECIFIC in our prayers, with petitions and intercession (v1). We are to pray with THANKFULNESS (v1). We are not to live in spitefulness or hatred but rather peaceably in all godliness and holiness (v2). Why? Because praying and living like this is good and pleases God our Saviour (v3).

We are to pray for the salvation of our political leaders, that they will find the truth that is in Christ (v4-5) and acknowledge that they are subject to Him and are to live, work and serve under His reign and rule (Romans 13). We also ought to pray for the many Christian politicians who every day seek to live, serve and work for the honour of Christ in Westminster and in the devolved parliaments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Let's not be quiet, indifferent or sit on the fence when it comes to the difficult issues and challenges of our day but speak with winsomeness and respect and through a life that is marked by godliness and holiness. Above all may our *'petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness because this is good, and pleases God our Saviour'*.

The command of Scripture in 1 Timothy 2 is not ambiguous, it's unambiguous and clear! Let's pray!

God bless.

Alistair – Lead Pastor



Family News

Congratulations to...

...**Luke & Colleen Bowthorpe** on the safe arrival of their second daughter, Zariyah Iana Bowthorpe who was born on 26th August weighing 8lb 11oz. Aveliese is loving having a little sister. We are all enjoying time spent together as a family of four.



...**Laura Weir** who has achieved her Masters from University of Glasgow - MSc in Genetics and Genomics, with distinction. She's now employed on a Scientist Training Programme with the NHS based in Newcastle where she'll also study part-time for a Masters with Manchester University, MSc in Clinical Science (Genomics). Praise and thanks be to God.

...**Susan Silver** who celebrated a significant birthday on 23rd September. **Many Happy Returns!**

...**Marion McKie** who celebrated a big birthday on 10th August with some of her family. **Happy Birthday!**

We continue to pray for and extend sympathy to those of our church family who have recently been bereaved through Covid-19 and other causes.

Prayer Week Response

*Dear Church Leaders,
With regards to the prayer week, I felt it gave me great inspiration to say my prayers out loud, but sometimes felt quite emotional with all the troubles in our world today and as we have been in these extreme times it has been difficult to understand, and as I live alone, so here is my prayer.*

A Prayer for those who live alone

I live alone dear Lord, stay by my side.
In all my daily needs be Thou my guide.
Grant me good health, for that indeed I pray
to carry on my work, from day to day.
Keep pure my mind, my thoughts, my every deed.
Let me be kind, unselfish in my neighbours' needs.
Spare me from fire, from flood, malicious tongues,
from thieves, from fear, from evil ones.
If sickness or an accident befall, then humbly Lord, I pray,
be Thou my call.
And when I'm feeling low or in despair
lift up my head, and help me in my prayer.
I live alone dear Lord,
yet have no fear
because I feel your presence
ever near.

*Thank you dear Lord for the Bible which speaks your word to us.
Amen.*

Pat Martin

Food Parcel Project

Many thanks for all your continued support and prayers for our food project from DBC. We've completed 5 months of delivering food to those in need in our community.

We delivered to 17 families this week. The pack up every Thursday

now continues in the Auditorium. We appreciate that Morrisons are still able to deliver the food to DBC.

Louise Proctor continues to do a great job in coordinating the volunteer team who work so hard.

We're continuing to build a good relationship with all the families the Lord has given us. Please pray for one lady who has suffered two bereavements in her family recently. Four more of our original families have come off the list as they are now able to support themselves, which is great. Three new families have joined the list this month and they have been so appreciative of our help.

Please pray for the Lord's direction and wisdom for the future of this ministry especially as we move into a period with further Covid-19 restrictions.

We've had so many lovely "thank you" messages and even a card expressing thanks & appreciation. It's also been a real encouragement that three people from this project are currently following one of the new courses we're running at present - (Alpha and Discipleship Explored). Please pray from them.

We have sufficient funds to keep the project going for another 2/3 weeks; if you'd like to give further financial support then please contact either Ian Penn or the office.

If you'd like to help with the food project then please contact Eoghan.



What's on at DBCC?

I want to start by thanking every one of you who has come to support Cornerstone Café since reopening on the 5th August after our period of lockdown. We certainly started back in full swing with the 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme, which was such a success that we continued to offer 20% off all food during the month of September.

We are a safe place to meet friends and family (abiding by the rule of 6) so please come and continue to support our café.

It is great to see some of our regular bookers return to DBCC such as Line Dancing, Tai Chi, Baby Massage & Slimming World. We also have a brand new dance class called FitSteps on a Wednesday morning at 0930. FitSteps is an energetic, upbeat dance fitness class featuring all of your favourite Strictly Come Dancing moves (no partner required!) The class is for all ages and abilities and is expertly delivered in our Sports Hall by Jayd & Jenna – the dancing twins! Follow FitSteps by Jayd & Jenna on Facebook for more details!

Other news at DBCC

We are delighted to welcome Patrick to our team as Facilities Assistant. Patrick is working alongside Neil looking after the Caretaking duties at DBCC. Please say hi if you see him around!

Take care & hope to see you soon!

Naomi Platt ~ Operations Manager

Intense



Over the past five weeks at Intense the youth and team have

been taking a deep dive into "Understanding our parents". We have been looking into scripture that shows us God's idea of how the intricacies of this relationship should work, and His intention for it to be a mutual blessing to both parents and teenagers!

If you are in S1-S6 join us on Sunday evenings at 6:00pm via Zoom as we play different games and continue the discussion!

Over the coming Sundays we will be looking at Galatians 6:2, Ephesians 6:18, James 1:19, and 1 Corinthians 13:11.

Lastly, a huge thank you to those who participated in the youth and parent questionnaire! This has provided us with excellent insight into how to improve youth work at DBC.

DBC Youth Team

Samaritans Purse Shoeboxes



This year at DBC we are still supporting the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox appeal but by using Shoebox Online

This makes it easy to get involved from home, with no need to go out for shopping. You simply select your gifts online and the shoebox is packed and sent for you.

The video link here explains how it works. Barbara Dobson's church remains closed which makes their usual way of packing challenging. They were delighted to discover Shoebox Online. She shares her experience [here](#).

For a donation of £20 per box, you can still help share God's love with children around the world. Click on the picture below to start packing your shoebox.



"Let the little children come to me ... for of such is the kingdom of God"
Luke 18:16

2021 Keswick Convention



KESWICK CONVENTION 2021

FAITHFUL

WEEK ONE	WEEK TWO	WEEK THREE
17 - 23 July	24 - 30 July	31 July - 6 August
Bible Readers ALISTAIR BEGG SIMON MANCHESTER MARK MEYNELL		
Worship Leaders COLIN WEBSTER BEN SLEE OLLY KNIGHT PHIL MOORE		

"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness"
Lamentations 3:22-23

www.keswickministries.org @KeswickConvention @KeswickC 017687 80075 info@keswickministries.org

Have you thought about attending the 2021 Keswick Convention?

The Keswick Convention is held each summer in the Lake District. It attracts Christians of all ages and backgrounds for a holiday and a time of spiritual refreshment in the beautiful surroundings of this World Heritage site.

Each day, there is a morning Bible Reading, an evening celebration and seminars – as well as a very active children's and youth programme. You will enjoy excellent Bible teaching, sung worship for heart and mind, have practical, engaging, bible seminars, and have fellowship with many other Christians who attend. This year's theme is "Faithful".

Most people attend one of the three weeks, which in 2021 are between the 17th July and 6th August. It's free to attend, as funding is through donations. All you need to do is book your accommodation and come along!

All the details are on the website: www.keswickministries.org

Tearfund Christmas Cards 2020

With greetings card sales declining, this is the **LAST YEAR** Tearfund will be partnering with Potters House to produce Christmas cards. Tearfund cards are available to order in packs of ten or twenty from www.tearfundchristmascards.co.uk

Orders are processed by Potters House Ltd, who have been selling



Tearfund Christmas cards for many years. 42% of the profits generated from the sales of Tearfund cards go directly to help transform many communities around the world.

All the cards are distinctly Christian and include a Bible verse. All the cards are recyclable, there is no glitter or foil on any of the designs. Card bundles are packaged in fully compostable material.

Please consider purchasing Tearfund cards for this Christmas.

Rosemary Buwert

The Rainbow

This 'Lockdown' has been difficult
In many different ways,
But there are always blessings
To brighten up our days!

The kindness shown to others
By willing volunteers
Who offer help to those in need
To ease their doubts and fears.

And then, there are the Posties
Who turn out, come what may,
In spite of all their worries,
To bring our mail each day!

And many other people, 'Key
Workers' as they're known
Are helping us through 'Lockdown'
Despite problems of their own!

And so, the year continues –
We've still some way to go!
But oh! How good to know
That, after a storm, what can we
see?

The RAINBOW to comfort you and
me.

Mrs Val Ingles
(Mother of Joan)
Thornhill

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 Sunday and during the week are available from the Dumfries Baptist Church website <https://www.dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk/resources.html#sermons>

On Sundays, Morning Worship is available from 10.30am on the church YouTube channel at [DBCC Gillbrae](#).



For Discoverers, each Sunday, you can watch a short video at [Virtual Sunday School](#).

Monday to Saturday at 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 reflections and other messages are regularly posted on the DBC Facebook page.

Sesquicentennial Suggestions

We're hoping to start our 150 anniversary celebrations in just over a year's time at our anniversary weekend in November 2021.

In order to make sure we're well prepared we're going to be looking at the suggestions that have already been made and working towards events that will take place throughout the whole year, culminating in our anniversary weekend in 2022!



We need your ideas and your memories, such as decorating the annual Christmas tree or being at celebration events at the Dumfries & Galloway College (that is no longer at Heathhall).

You might not remember 1872, but if you remember 1986 or if you would like to add any suggestions or, maybe more significantly, if you can offer any help in the planning, please feel free to contact the church office, Rev Alistair Purss or Lesley Mackay.

Authentic (a true story)

Recently I had the great blessing of recording a single called "I will dance". It has done well on all streaming platforms and I thank God for His favour in this endeavour. The song is about David dancing before His Lord with abandon.

Many of you know that I use a wheelchair and though I cannot

dance physically I dance to my Father in my heart.

The single was further enhanced by making a video to accompany it. Kristoff made the video for me and many of you who have seen it have commented on how wonderful it is and how it displays the majesty and joy of the Lord.

Well, putting that aside, a strange thing has happened!

A record company in Ireland contacted me recently and said they had uncovered a demo tape that I had made in 1979 and they particularly liked a song I had written at that time called Beast of Burden (I had written this song when I was 19).

The record company are now releasing this song in October as a 7 inch limited edition vinyl single.

So when I sought the Lord in prayer over this matter He revealed to me that vinyl is the original format.

How many of you secretly want to dispel with CDs and get a record player! Vinyl is authentic and that is what Jesus is - the authentic One!

All too often this world preaches a type of Jesus that's not authentic, but is a wishy washy version - more Hollywood than holy.

Paul says in Philippians 3 verse 8 *"I reckon everything as complete loss for the sake of what is so much more valuable, the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have thrown everything away; I consider it all as mere garbage, so that I may gain Christ"*. (Good News Translation)

Righteousness is found in Christ alone.

So I thank God for this vinyl single being released. I may not become a rock star but the experience of this adventure has helped me see more clearly who the One is that is truly authentic.

Francis McFaul

TRAIDCRAFT OPEN DAYS at SECOND NATURE

There will be an opportunity to buy Traidcraft products on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th November, from 10am to 4pm, at Second Nature on Newall Terrace. (Here's an opportunity to see inside our former Baptist Church home).

This will be the last time to buy from Judith Mylne's Traidcraft Stall as the Buwerts sell off the stock. There will also be JTS Eswatini chutneys, jams and marmalades, and Thought bamboo socks.



Second Nature will have a stall with crafts - looking ahead to the Festive Season. Karen and her staff are offering fairly traded refreshments.

As there is no Traidcraft representative in the town at present, there will be important information about shopping locally for Scottish and fairly traded products, and on line sites for further shopping to support producers around the world.

These Open Days are shopping on one level, within the social distancing and face coverings guidelines at the time of the event. We hope you can support the event - as a tribute to Judith.

Rosemary Buwert

Neighbourhood Prayer Walk

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

We would like to invite you to join us in a new 'reach' ministry.

In-reach - For the Body of Christ to come together and fellowship around His Word

Outreach - We go out into our local area lifting up others to His throne of grace, mercy and love

Up-reach - Building our relationship and communicating with our Father, meditating on His word and what He shows us on the walk.

Prayer walking incorporates all these reaches, getting us out into our local communities in a non-confrontational way, observing what is going on within them and praying for them. When we are out and about, we connect with the physical places where people are living & working and through this, God can show us his heart for that community and those that dwell there.

Bringing faces and places to Him.

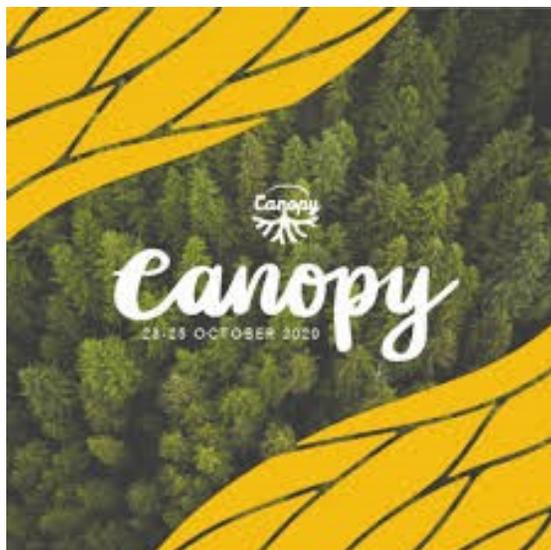
With this in mind, we would like to start our own DBC prayer walking group, to come together as a body and really seek God's heart for the community around the church and our own communities.

This will involve taking note of signs of hope and signs of need. Noticing what God is doing. Then praying for a vision of how God could use our ministry to align with what God is already doing there or even to start something new as we become aware of needs in the neighbourhood.

This will take place once a month on a Saturday afternoon at 14:00 from the DBC centre. If you would like to be part of this group, we are aiming to hold the first one Saturday 10th October 2020, so join us in the Church car park just before 14:00 for a few words of encouragement from the Word, then we'll split up into groups of 2 - 4 and walk around our assigned areas, praying with our eyes and hearts open to God's leading. Then we'll meet back after 30 mins at the church car park and, when we are able, meet inside together again, for prayer and fellowship.



For further information, please contact the church office



Canopy is a new online gathering for all Scottish Baptist Churches, being held **23 - 25 October, 2020**. Over the weekend there will be opportunities to pray together, listen to God's word, hear inspirational speakers, tell stories of what God is doing in his church and expect him to speak into our lives and communities.

The programme will begin with a national prayer event on the Friday evening. There will be two plenary sessions on Saturday morning, plus special programmes for children and young people, then a wide range of seminars on Saturday afternoon.

Canopy will conclude with an online worship event on the Sunday morning, which local congregations can join in with in full, or include a segment of this in their worship gathering.

The full programme and information about the speakers involved is available at

<https://scottishbaptist.com/events/canopy/>

and you can register for free at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/canopy-tickets-120163497255>

Contacts

Lead Pastor	Alistair Purss	01387 263032 alistair.purss@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk
Pastor	Eoghan Paterson	07515 939698 eoghan@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk
DBC Youth Team		office@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk
Secretary	Lesley Mackay	01387 247456 secretary@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk
Treasurer	Ian Penn	01387 263242 pennnithsdale@supanet.com
Church Office	Mon-Fri 9am-1pm	01387 268926 office@dumfriesbaptistchurch.org.uk
Prayer Diary	Eleanor Moss	01387 263994 davewmoss@btinternet.com
Prayer Ministry	Eleanor Moss	01387 263994
Girlzone	Karen Miller	01387 710155
Impact	John Dougan Alison McKendrick	07749 589189 (John)
Toddlers Group	Heather McCombe	01387 253416
Friendship Hour	Val Penn	01387 263242
Discoverers	Jane Rafferty	01387 268066

Thursdays

On **Thursday 8th October** at DBC, our Worship and Prayer gathering at 2pm and 7.30pm will include **Martin Paterson** sharing with us (by pre-recorded video) about the work of OMF (**Overseas Missionary Fellowship**).

On **Thursday 15th October Peter and Becky Holt** will be sharing with us (by pre-recorded video) about **what God is doing in China**. This should be a fascinating update from the Holt's.

It is important to pre-book your place at the Thursday gatherings as we are keeping to all the regulations of the government, including maximum numbers and social distancing. Here is the link to the DBC EventBrite page:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/dumfries-baptist-church-31221345205>

Treasurer's Report

Total Monthly Income

July 2020 £23,151.66 (+ £8,986.25) for appeal)

August 2020 £14,086.46 (+ £4,545.00 for appeal)

These figures represent the first two months of financial year 2020/21 with income 17% budget and expenditure 14% of budget. The total Income to date was £37,238 (£4137 / week) against a budget figure of £4269/week plus £13,531 for the Appeal Fund. Expenditure during this same period amounted to £31,968 (£3552 / week) against a budget figure of £4269 plus £9167 for the Appeal Fund.

By the end of August we had received £5,501,297 and paid out £5,462,001 leaving £38,756 in the Building Fund. We still have £499,104 of outstanding loans to repay. We are so grateful to God for His amazing generosity and we must continue to maximise our giving to ensure that we can repay the loans as soon as possible. Bequests directed to the Building Fund would always be appreciated.

The closure of all regular church activities including services is having an effect on both our regular income and expenditure. We are grateful to those who are making special efforts to continue to ensure their offerings are reaching the church. The continuing uncertainty regarding when some activities will be able to begin again makes financial planning difficult. It is likely that the church will need to support the "commercial activities" if the situation continues for much longer.

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. Last year over £31,000 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 contact me if you want further information regarding Gift-Aid.

Ian Penn - Treasurer (01387 263242)