

Discipleship Team Meeting – Tuesday 7th October 2025

Present: - Heather McManus (Convener), Jean Meek, George Mann, Scott Burton

Apologies: - Rachel Meek, Marion Graham (Donald and Kay have decided to step back from the discipleship team)

Opening: Heather shared the importance of being mindful of our limitations as well as our gifts, drawing on the story of Moses and a podcast by John Mark Comer. She reflected that we are made in God's image yet also made of dust—holding infinite worth but finite capacity. Heather encouraged the team to take time to rest, rely on one another, and seek God's strength, especially in the run up to the church conference. She reminded everyone to work together and pray for God's will to be done and trusting God with the outcome.

Followed by Prayer.

The minute of 19th June 2025 was approved.

Alpha

- Scott shared that there were currently 5 attending Alpha and 1 has come to faith during it. One participant has left the group, and Scott is following up with him separately.

Fellowship Groups

- It was agreed that Fellowship groups can share updates or contact Heather when required.
- Scott also suggested that it may be helpful to share a notice about Fellowship Groups and who to contact if interested in attending- Heather to action. It was also suggested that this information is added to the church welcome pack for new members- Jean to action.
- Rachel Gilmour approached Heather to discuss a possible Fellowship Group for young parents, to take place before church on a Sunday. Rachel would be willing to share this but will ask around to see if there is a need/ desire for a group like this and let the discipleship team know.
- The following updates have been shared:
 - Ian's group are studying the character of Joseph
 - Jim Hope's book group has around 10 members and they are reading "The Character of Christ: The Fruit of the Spirit in the Life of our Saviour" by Jonathan Landry Cruse. The basic premise is that the fruit of the Spirit is not a to-do list that we have to strive to perform, but an outworking of the Spirit in us and through us.
 - Nadia's book group has moved to the small hall due to large numbers. There are 14 members with around 10 attending regularly. The group are reading "What's so amazing about Grace" by Phillip Yancy.

Community Evangelism

- George spoke with Rachel Gilmour about her potential involvement in developing materials to support the congregation in community evangelism.
- Rachel then spoke with Heather to confirm that she is both able and willing to participate in this work.
- Scott shared that he, Heather, and James will be reading *Natural Evangelism* by J. John as a possible resource for this. They plan to develop a tool or resource with teaching, principles and conversation starters to be trialled with the current Huddle later in the year. Rachel to be consulted once the first draft is ready.

Friends of Jesus (Rachel shared an update for the meeting)

- Scott noted that Ivy Blair had retired, and Jean explained that she had continued in post for a few hours each week until the new person settled in.

- The group noted the need for more male volunteers and agreed to pray for more to step forward.

Huddle

- Heather shared that the 2025 Huddle group had started and was going well. They have met 3 times so far and are currently exploring the circle shape and Kairos moments. There are 8 members plus 2 leaders.

Safar

- Some members are continuing to access the Safar materials and Heather has printed more copies.
- Scott recommended information about Safar be shared in the notices and added to the Welcome Pack (Jean and Heather to action).

Friendship Plus (Jessie gave an update for the meeting)

- 12 new members joined from Rendezvous and the community.
- 2 new drivers have volunteered to help with transport.
- Monica and Gayle attended the first meeting with a visit from Catolina Choir.
- The group have invited YWAM to visit and are keeping in touch with members who cannot attend regularly.
- Jessie shared their thanks to the volunteers and Wednesday setup team and asked for prayer for the team and members.
- An invite was extended to any new members.

Guild (Carol Callaghan shared a written report prior to the meeting)

- Started back 15th September with 20 members.
- Ladies from Laurieston Guild and Shieldhill Guild have joined.
- Projects being supported this session are: Bear Necessities: Build My Church Bulgaria and CrossReach: Playful Beginnings.
- There will be a retiring offering in aid of the two projects in January 2026.
- Speakers from Build My Church Bulgaria will attending the next meeting on 29th September.
- The Guild do not have a convener but continue to take it in turns to open the meetings.
- On Saturday, 13th September eight Guild members attended the Annual Guild Gathering in Perth which they said was a good meeting.

Prayer (Marion shared a note prior to the meeting)

- A group continue to pray for young people and schools every Wednesday.
- The 24/7 Prayer Room Team has suggested another 24/7 prayer weekend in Feb or March and asked the Discipleship Team to consider possible dates.
- The team agreed that Lent would be a good time for this, and Heather will contact Caroline with the date of 20th to 22nd February.
- YWAM are interested in facilitating 12 hours of prayer and intercession. This could take place at same time as men's breakfast but Scott working with the team on this.
- There has been a change to Thursday live prayer within in-person meetings in a new style/format. Numbers have been fluctuating but will review after a term.

Daily Reading Notes (Heather shared an update prior to the meeting)

- There continue to be 7 Bible reading notes taken each month.
- Scott suggested raising awareness of Bible Reading Notes and other materials like Lectio/ Bible App in the Welcome Pack (Jean to add)

Charities

- Missionary Partners- No update from the Duncan's but Scott shared that giving in the last retiring offering was lower than expected. He has contacted the Finance Team about moving these retiring offering to Dec and June as this will follow the Connect magazine updates before these collections

are taken up. It was also suggested that the update from the Duncan's is shared in church on the day of the retiring offering (Heather to speak with Rachel).

- Scottish Bible Society- Rachel shared in advance that the latest magazines have arrived and she will leave these in the vestibule.
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide- No update to share. Scott suggested that as the Bible Society also support the persecuted church that we could change this charity to Thrive Scotland, which is a group who help to equip people to live out their faith in the workplace. This was agreed by the Team and will be brought to the Kirk Session in November.

AOCB- There were no AOCB to note

Discussion Questions:

What else can we do to assist all members, regardless of their age and stage, to mature in faith?

The following ideas were shared but the group agreed that there are already good opportunities to be involved. Some of the actions and decisions from this meeting may also help i.e. updating the Welcome Pack and supporting/sharing the work of Thrive Scotland.

- Getting to know one another outside of our usual "bubble"
- Build deeper relationships with a few close relationships
- Use model of "4 spaces" shared at evening services:
<https://thev3movement.org/2014/01/14/discipleship-and-the-four-spaces-of-belonging/>
- Attend more community events to be a presence there
- Increase testimony – work is ongoing to this via the Preaching Team
- Be aware that Sunday morning can't provide everything a disciple requires
- Support development of library including at Slamannan

Date of next meeting

10th March 2026