

September 2017

# The Bridge



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The next **Communion services** will be on  
**Sunday 10th September 2017**  
**at 11am & 6.30pm**  
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• **FRIENDLY** • **FAMILY** • **FELLOWSHIP** •



## From the Manse

"What is the meaning of life?" Thinkers of the ages have considered this question from many angles. Albert Camus said "You will never live if you are looking for the meaning of life." while Joseph Campbell simply said "Life has no meaning." What do you think?

You may rightfully wonder why I start with this vexing question. And here is why: just consider what we see, hear and experience. Allow me to remind you: in a recent mud slide, more than 300 people died in Sierra Leone. In different parts of the world people die of starvation, countless numbers of people are marginalised, jobless, homeless... and as is things are not bad enough political leaders threaten with nuclear war.

Even locally we are challenged: fellow believers have to come to terms with health scares, the untimely death of loved ones, loneliness; not to mention all the other issues we know so well. Truth be told, being cynical or living with your head in the sand (pretending things are just dandy) become a way to cope with reality. BUT as God's people we know that there is so much more to life...

Let us remind ourselves just again:

Knowing Jesus and following Him make all the difference. As followers of Jesus we find meaning in who we are and who we serve. We are children of God; family members of the Almighty. Just consider this for a moment... 1 John 3:1 reminds us of this wonderful reality: we are HIS children because He said so. It does not depend on how we feel, whether we are good enough or even on how much we deserve it.

Jesus is alive and we are called to live in Him, through Him, and for Him. I find true meaning in life through my faith relationship with Jesus – a reality so much more meaningful than merely subscribing to religion.

Life has meaning because God loves us. He loves me. He loves you! He cares deeply about us. More than this He has a future planned out for us. To get a view on this we are invited to enter into a relationship with Him. A relationship through which we are released from the burden of religion. No longer a seeker looking for ways to guarantee God's good favour we are set free to love

Him in return. We are set free to love our neighbours and care for God's wonderful creation.

Friends, we live in interesting times. As God's people, we have the most wonderful opportunity to share the hope we confess. May you find the courage, wisdom, and rights words to do this without reservation where you work, relax, holiday, stop over, visit, or just share a cup of tea with someone.

Many blessings

*Jaco*



Baptism of Katryna Utney D'Hauteville Schellenberg on 18th June

## Diary Dates

6th September	<b>Board/Session Meeting</b>
10th September	<b>Communion. 11am &amp; 6pm</b>
23rd September	<b>Coffee Bar for CrossReach</b>
27th September	<b>Board/Session Meeting</b>
30th September	<b>'Count me In' Coffee Bar. 10.30am-1.30pm</b>
30th September	<b>'The Wedding' &amp; Ceilidh. 7pm</b>
1st October	<b>'Count me In' Congregational Lunch</b>
2nd December	<b>Christmas Fayre</b>
31st December	<b>Hogmanay Bash</b>

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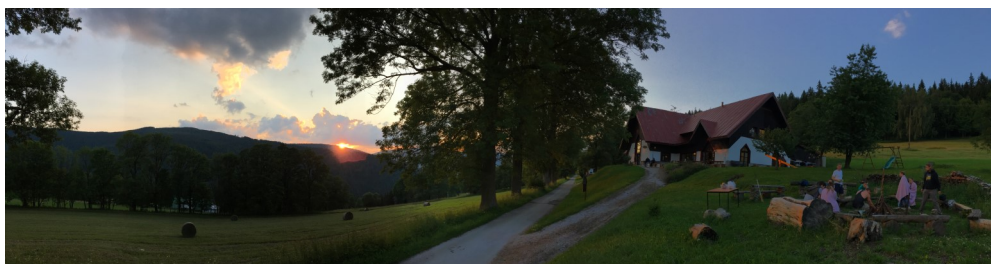
# Calum and Alistair's Czech Adventure

From Friday 14<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July, Alistair and I were on a Church of Scotland/ECCB camp in Czech Republic. We heard about the opportunity only a month before we were due to leave but managed with the help of Gigha to get everything sorted and signed up. We knew very little about what we were going to be doing, all we knew was that we would be in Czech Republic with other people our age in a place we couldn't pronounce and of course that was enough for us to say yes!

We arrived on the Friday afternoon in Vaclav Havel Airport (Another name to learn how to pronounce!) in Prague and met with the Scottish co-leader of the camp, Alister Murray, a trainee minister with the Church of Scotland who showed us around the city.

The next day we travelled to Herlíkovice, a place in the mountains in the north of the country, where we met with the other people on the camp. The participants of the camp came from 3 different countries: 2 people from Scotland (Alistair and I); 4 from Ukraine; and 5 from Czech Republic. Having being told there would be about 20-30 people on the camp this tally came as a bit of a surprise but a nice one as it turned out as it meant we were able to get to know everyone really well. The level of English from the Czech and Ukrainian's of the group varied massively, some not knowing much and others practically fluent however the most misunderstood people happened to be us talking in our Scottish accents!

The first official day of the camp was on Sunday where we had our first bible study and everyone had settled in. The topic of the study was the Armour of God, each day addressing a different piece of



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the armour that symbolises things that help us through our Christian lives and doing activities related to them.

On Wednesday we took a day trip to Elbe Springs, a tourist attraction at some point along the river Elbe. It was the first day of the trip in which we experienced the Czech weather we had been expecting, upwards of 20 degrees when we left at 9am that morning. We walked half an hour to the bus stop to take us to our start point of our hike then set off on our 20 mile round journey along the river Elbe. The nice weather meant that we could see for miles around, incredible views anyway you turned. The beauty was very similar to that of the Scottish highlands except we had



good weather. The daytrip meant we had a lot of time to talk to one another, and bonded with the group a lot. I think we realised how similar we all were, even though we come from different backgrounds, which made it easier to get on with everyone.



When we weren't away on day trips or doing activities and morning bible studies we had

quite a bit of free time, this gave us the opportunity to go on walks about the town and see the views of the mountains. We also were able to perfect our table football/table tennis skills!

The trip as a whole opened both of our eyes to what Christian faith is like, especially in young people, in different countries and by the time we returned to Prague on Saturday with the rest of the group it felt just like a group of friends going on another trip.

*Calum Turnbull*

*Alistair MacPherson*





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## Treasurer's Update

Firstly, thanks to everyone who has changed to standing order to make your donations. In the Spring edition of the Bridge magazine I first highlighted the bank charges that were due to be imposed on all future cash and cheque transactions. Since then, we have had twenty-one new standing orders put in place. This brings us to thirty-nine standing orders so far, of which twenty-nine have also been gift-aided. Most are set up for monthly payments but we have a few set up for weekly payments and a few set up for yearly payments. We have also had standing orders used to make one-off payments.

Thanks also to those who pay tax and who've now signed-up for gift aid envelopes. This allows us to claim back 25% from HMRC and will also help offset ongoing bank charges.

Up to the end of July our income from all donations, tax reclaims, coffee bars, soup lunches, weddings and funerals and hall lets totalled £58,712.08. We also raised £3,021.90 for various charities over the same timeframe.

Our expenses to the end of July were slightly less at £54,345.20, the majority of which were down to the normal running costs associated with a Church. We also passed on £4,165.36 to various charities (including monies raised at the end of last year).

Although our income has covered the expenses we have incurred so far this year, we know we have some heftier bills coming in for essential work and are still predicting finishing the year with a significant deficit.

Thank you for your continued support via regular donations.

If you want to move to standing order and/or to gift-aid your donations please speak to Jean Weir or myself or to your elder.

*Sue Sneddon*

*Congregational Treasurer*

Summer holidays are over and GB will be starting back and enrolling on Friday 1st Sept in the hall at the usual times.

**Explorers P1-P3 meet from 6.15 till 7.30pm**

**Juniors P4-P7 meet from 7.30 till 9pm**

**Brigaders S1 + meet from 7.30 till 9pm**

We are looking forward to seeing all the girls back again and also for any new girls who would like to come along and join us.

For any information please contact

Alison Turnbull on 07984315250

or [alit@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:alit@blueyonder.co.uk)



**Reminder** All intimations need to be submitted by Wednesday 5pm to ensure they are included in the following Sunday's intimations.

**[notices@broxburnparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:notices@broxburnparishchurch.org.uk)**

## Keeping your data safe

At Broxburn Parish Church, we are committed to protecting your privacy and keeping your personal information safe.

If you want to find out more about how we do this, and what it all means, you can find a copy of our privacy policy on one of the noticeboards in the large hall or you can access on our website.

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# Young Persons' Group

## (formerly the Young Women's Group)

We are a friendly & lively group providing an opportunity for women, mainly of working age to meet socially and spiritually. If you enjoy having fun, fellowship, laughter and the chance to make new friends then the Young Women's Group could be the group for you.

We usually meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 8pm from September until May and have a varied programme of events to suit everyone. Last year these included: a Bake Off with a



difference, creating mosaic crosses for the Easter celebrations, learning about Japan with the added bonus of some tasty treats, Strictly YPG where we learnt some dance moves once we got ourselves co-ordinated, and icing & decorating our Christmas cakes. We also welcomed a guest speaker who spoke about looking after our mental wellbeing. A number of us went to a screening of 'I Daniel

Blake', which was moving and poignant. In December we enjoyed a festive meal out and a summer evening of food, music & games with much laughter, whilst raising money for Church funds.

Last year we also set up a book group which meets on the second Tuesday of each month from September to May. This has proved very popular and is another opportunity to come together and share a passion for books and reading in a relaxed atmosphere.







You may have seen us painting the Church railings, all 560 of them, over the summer. It has been an enjoyable exercise and showed what team work can achieve!

If you are interested in coming along and would like to find out more then come and visit our stall at the Stewardship Coffee morning on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Alternatively you can speak to any of the members, including our office bearers Helen Dewar, Linda Locke and Janice Macpherson, who can give you details of this year's programme.

We look forward to welcoming you to the group and enjoying the fun and fellowship with us.

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## Property Group

Since I last wrote there has been a lot of work undertaken in and around the church buildings:

The Session room has been painted, with new carpet & windows fitted, the side entrance repainted, storage cupboards relocated, the manse has a new kitchen and of course you will have noticed the railings and handrails have all been painted by the Young Persons' Group. Thank you very much to them and all the others who have helped over the summer to ensure that these works happen.

There are further works budgeted and planned to be completed by the end of the year but there are also the ongoing, unplanned maintenance tasks that crop up.

If you would like to find out more about what we do, what needs done or how you could help then please speak to me or any member of the property group.

*Stuart Cunningham*

*Property Convenor*

As our Church activities start up again after the summer break, I hope you have had the opportunity over the last few months to enjoy some rest and relaxation. As a congregation we will have had a variety of experiences over the holiday period, whether as part of a 'staycation' within our parish or perhaps you were lucky enough to travel further afield. Whatever you've been up to, I just wanted to remind you there is one shared activity you can still take part in: our '**Count Me In**' Stewardship campaign.

The special edition of Bridge magazine was very well received but it is possible that due to the holiday period you have not yet had the opportunity to review and consider your response. If you have recycled that edition, below is a reminder of what we were asking you to consider (if you are in a position to do so).

- Are you able to increase your regular giving? Our expenses increase year on year but our regular income has not kept pace to the same extent. Or perhaps you could give on a more regular basis if you don't already.
- To help you manage your giving please consider completing a Standing Order form and giving it to your bank so even if you cannot make it to church regularly, your contributions will!
- If you are a taxpayer you can also increase your giving by completing and returning to us a Gift Aid form which will provide the church with extra income without any additional cost to you.

There are a couple of Stewardship events taking place very soon. On Saturday Sept 30<sup>th</sup> there is a 'Count Me In' Coffee Bar from 10.30 to 1:30. As well as coming along to enjoy a coffee, home baking and good company you will get the chance to meet and see what some of the organisations that use our premises do, whether they are church groups or not.

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On Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> there is a special 'Count me In' lunch after morning worship to which you are warmly invited. This will be the culmination of our campaign and it would be good to see you there.

Thank you for reading, asking people to give more is never easy and not always appreciated by everyone, however to enable us to continue Gods work here in Broxburn we need to be able to pay our way. I have no doubt that together we will rise to the challenge.

*David McWilliams, Stewardship Group*

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## **YOU ARE INVITED TO THE SOCIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR.....**

### *"The Wedding"*



The World Premiere of Jim Anderson's latest play "The Wedding" is happening at Broxburn Parish Church on Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m with a Reception Ceilidh and refreshments in the Halls to follow.

Why not take the opportunity to dress up in your best wedding finery for this grand occasion, the likes of which has not been seen since Jim's last play "Bothy Nichts". Dance the evening away with the stars, to help celebrate the wedding of Mary-Ann and Wull.

Invitations (Tickets!) at £8, and £20 for a family, are available from members of the Social and Fundraising Committee, Jim Anderson and Sally North. Numbers may have to be limited to allow enough space for the jiggin', so don't delay!



**No presents please, just your presence.**

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# 'Hitting The Right Note'

## The Bridge Choir Concert – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017

I haven't been to many choir concerts in my time, but the ones I have attended seem to hit all the right notes. Tonight was an annual treat for me on my calendar – The Bridge Choir Concert in Broxburn Parish Church. In every song, the choir, the Junior Choir and both the Ladies and Men's chorus all gave 100% to deliver every note in the right way – something that's very

exhausting thing to do, so give yourselves a pat on the back!

What were the highlights I hear you cry? I'll give you just a few, because as I mentioned every number was superb.

*The Juniors:* I've never seen young kids sing with such passion – and the youngest of the group is just 7 years old! It was a real pleasure to watch them express so much joy when they were singing, particularly with the Proclaimers 'I'm On My Way' which they ended cleverly as they returned to their seats. It brought the house down!

*Ladies Ensemble:* Again a real treat from the musical 'Wicked' which is very POPULAR (If you were at the concert then you'll appreciate that pun!)

*Men's Ensemble:* If last year's unique version of Randy Newman's 'You've got a friend in me' was a high, then tonight's jazz-inspired rendition of 'Beyond the Sea' by Bobby Darin topped even that!



*The Choir:* All of you were truly brilliant. It's extremely difficult to get everyone in a choir to sing together the way you guys do, but you really deliver and I'm lost for words at just how good you are!

A special mention must go to conductor Alan Gilmour who gets the most out of this amateur group of singers – though to be honest, they never sound anything other than professional! Not forgetting the musical maestro that is accompanist Alan Hastie. What a double act!

If you can't make the performance tomorrow you'll have to wait until next year. I know that's longer than waiting for a number 22 bus on Broxburn High Street, but trust me when I say it'll be worth the wait!

*Jamie Wells, Presenter, East Coast FM.*

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*Friends of Chernobyl's Children  
West Lothian*



**FOCC**

We had a great visit from 21 children who were here for a month in May/June. This was our 10th visit as FOCC West Lothian. We welcomed a further 12 children for a month from 5th August. You can see the

children at their thank you concert on Wednesday 30th August at 6.30pm in the church where they will sing songs in Russian and English and perform dances and fairy-tales. This visit will be my 10th visit as co-ordinator and I would like to say a very big thank you to the congregation of Broxburn Parish Church for all your support in so many ways over the 10 visits. Thank you.

*Kenny Turnbull  
Co-ordinator  
FOCC West Lothian*







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## Sunday School

What a busy lead up to the summer holidays we had in JAM:

On Saturday 10th June the older children met the leaders at the station full of excitement & anticipation for the adventure to North Berwick. They enjoyed chatting on the train & looking at the views. For some of them it was their first time on the train along the coast.

In the morning they enjoyed doing a photo challenge while exploring the area, shopping for some tasty treats and visited the lobster hatchery at the harbour. By then it was time for lunch & with an overcast sky we decided to go to St Andrew Blackadder Church where we received a warm welcome and were given a lovely room to have our lunch in. The Church had a craft fair on in the halls so the children wanted to visit that & had a lovely chat with some of the stall holders. Hopefully they picked up some good tips for our Christmas Fayre.

In the afternoon the sun came out so it was time for games on the beach & the children had great fun paddling in the sea. Not content with that though they then jumped into the lido. It was lovely to hear their laughter & squeals of excitement. All too soon the day was nearing the end so after changing into warm clothes there was just time to get an ice cream each & head back to the station for the train ride home. They all agreed it had been a magical day & were discussing where we could go next year!

Thank you to you all for making this day possible for them.

On the 18th June we had our annual prize giving and the celebrations continued after the service with our family fun afternoon where we enjoyed great fellowship, games and of course some refreshments. It was lovely to see so many of you join us, relaxing in the manse garden & joining in with the games. We hope you all join us at our 'Happy Birthday Jesus' party in December – more details of this will follow later in the year.

We hope you have all had a good summer & would like to thank all those of you who volunteered to look after the children who attended Church over the summer and ensured the fun continued while the leaders took a break. With the summer nearly over the JAM leaders have been busy planning the 2017/18 session and are looking forward to welcoming all the children back to JAM on Sunday 27th August.

Please spread the word of the fun we have in JAM so more children can enjoy the fun we have learning about Jesus and God's love.

If you would like to join the JAM leaders in helping on a Sunday in JAM even if it is not every week then please speak to one of the JAM leaders – Elaine Brown, Natalie Corner or Karen Simpson.



# Who's Who



## **Minister**

Rev. Dr. Jaco Boonzaaier 01506 337560

## **Session Clerk**

Mr. John Macaulay 01506 852947

## **Clerk to the Congregational Board**

Mrs. Anne Gunn 01506 856984

## **Treasurer**

Mrs. Sue Sneddon 07758 195274

## **Gift Aid Convener**

Miss Jean Weir 01506 855626

## **Roll Keeper & Property Convener**

Mr. Stuart Cunningham 01506 855952

## **Prayer Secretary**

Mr. David Wilkie 01506 238644

## **Pastoral Care Group co-ordinator**

*vacant*

## **Organist**

Mr. James Lawrie 01506 856609

## **Church Officer**

Mr. John Macaulay 01506 852947

## **Hall Convener**

Mrs. Alison Turnbull 01506 852171

## **Communications co-ordinator**

Mr. Hugh Brown 0131 334 1384

## **Safeguarding co-ordinator &**

## **Social & Fundraising co-ordinator**

Mrs. Elaine Brown 07936 363939