

Broxburn Parish Church of Scotland

The Bridge Magazine

Autumn 2018



● **FRIENDLY** ● **FAMILY** ● **FELLOWSHIP** ●

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From the Manse

In 'The seven Pillars of Wisdom' Lawrence of Arabia tells of his visit to the ruins of a Roman built palace. During his visit he is taken into the different rooms of the palace by a guide. The guide explains that the mortar used in building every room was not mixed with water but essential oils. As a

result there is a lavender room smelling of lavender, a rose room smelling of roses, a jasmine room smelling of jasmine and a violet room smelling of violets. At the end of the tour the guide invites Lawrence to come and smell the best odour of them all. He takes him to a crack in the wall and there he smells the fresh air off the desert.

Stale air is stuffy and unpleasant. We all need fresh air. In our faith the much needed fresh air is the Holy Spirit. We all need a good helping of the Holy Spirit. But here is the interesting thing - when someone opens the windows to allow fresh air to come into a stale room the people start coughing and clearing their throats. Even though we need fresh air our first reaction is resistance. The same applies to the work of the Spirit. While we need the life-giving work of the Spirit to rush through our lives we often resist it. Being so used to the stale air of 'aye-been', the fresh air of new thought and new actions cause us to cough and clear our throats.

This is the start of a new session. God wants to do a new thing and the Spirit is blowing into our lives to part of God's new plans and new actions. May you experience the freshness of the work of the Holy Spirit as we stop at the crack in the wall to inhale the fresh air!

Many blessings,

Jaco

* The next Communion Services will be on *
* **Sunday 9th September 2018** *
* **at 11am and 6.30pm** *

Diary Dates

29th August	Board and Kirk Session Meeting: 7.30pm
8th September	Coffee Bar: 11am—1pm
9th September	Communion: 11am and 6.30pm
22nd September	'Harvest Supper' play: 7pm
23rd September	Harvest Thanksgiving: 11am
26th September	Kirk Session Meeting: 7.30pm
7th October	Coffee Bar: 11am—1pm
27th October	Afternoon Tea: 2-4pm
31st October	Board meeting: 7.30pm
3rd November	Coffee Bar: 11am—1pm
28th November	Kirk Session: 7.30pm
1st December	Christmas Fayre: 11am—3pm

Social & Fundraising

As our church groups get up and running again after the summer break, the members of the Social & Fundraising team are making plans not just for this year but also for 2019. You will see the return of some old favourites that are back due to popular demand, but we are also working on bringing you some new events next year. If you have any thoughts on what you would like us to do, or if you would be willing to get involved, please let us know.

In August we had a Soup & Sweet lunch - these are always well attended and enjoyed by everyone who comes along. Please note the next one will be on 30th December. Here are some other dates for your diary:

8th September - Social & Fundraising Coffee Bar

22nd September - 'Harvest Supper', the new play by Jim Anderson. Tickets are on sale now priced £8 each or a family ticket is £20.

27th October - Afternoon Tea

1st December - Christmas Fayre

Please look out for more details on these as we are able to announce them. Thank you for all your support in the past and we look forward to seeing you at one of our future events.

David McWilliams, Social & Fundraising Convenor

The Bridge Choir

Hi everyone! The last time I put an article in the magazine was to announce the forthcoming concerts. I can hardly believe I'm announcing that choir starts back on Thursday 30th August. If anyone is interested in joining us you'd be made very welcome. You can contact me on: 07785 106895 and I can give you more information.

We also of course have our wonderful Junior Choir who range from P3 to age 16 so likewise if you know any budding musical stars, please let me know. I should also say a huge thank you to all who helped us during our concerts. It was greatly appreciated and wouldn't have been the success it was without your help.

Elaine Gilmour



Picture by Jim Borland

The Bridge Choir Concerts

Over recent years the Bridge Choir has gone from strength to strength. This year the concerts raised an interesting question: could they again raise the standard of previous performances - or even maintain them? Broxburn Parish Church was packed over two nights on 31st May and 1st June with people who were eager to find out.

The concerts had an uplifting and positive theme running throughout, starting with *'Put on a Happy Face'* which everyone seemed to comply with as there was smiles all round!

The incomparable compere, Mr. Hugh Brown kept everyone suitably informed on what was coming up next in an interesting and entertaining way. Even if you were familiar with all the tunes on the programme, you probably still learned some little known fact about the song, the lyricist or the associated film from Mr B.

The Junior Choir may be young but they now have some who have gained a few years of experience and I have to say, it really shows. They confidently tackled a trio of songs maintaining the feelgood factor: *'Consider yourself'*, *'You're never fully dressed without a smile'* (we were still smiling!) and *'Happy'*, which we also were! This selection proved not only that they can sing but can also put on a performance, and the rousing applause they received was testament to that.

The Ladies Choir was next to *'Ac-cent-tchu-ate the Positive'*.....it was fan-tas-tic! We also got *'Ain't no mountain high enough'* and although we didn't have Diana Ross, we did have our very own Supremes! The Choir reassembled to treat us to their version of *'The Rose'* and there wasn't a dry eye in the house - or was that just me?

Other treats were Gigha Lennox who sung *'Over the Rainbow'* beautifully and the Choir with *'I've had the time of my Life'*. So had we, and the second half was still to come!

After the interval, *'Anything Goes'* got proceedings off to a bright and breezy start, the Men's chorus greeted everyone *'With a Wink and a Smile'* but fear not, it was all relating to their song! The Juniors were back with more including the theme tune to the Addams Family which was 'finger clicking good' and Sandy Riddell & Alison Hunter became our very own Dolly Parton & Kenny Rogers singing *'Islands in the Stream'*.

Michael Jackson's *'Heal the World'* is still relevant in these troubled times and the Choir gave a powerful and passionate performance that did justice to the lyrics. It was the highlight of the evening for me and demonstrated the Choir at their very best.

The night ended with a lot of co-ordinated stomping and clapping as the audience and Choir combined to form a rousing finale of *'We will Rock You'* by Queen. It ended a great night on a high, and yes, everyone left still smiling! Don't just take my word for it though, here is audience feedback given as they were leaving:

- It was lovely, very entertaining
- Wonderful night!

Well done then to everyone who was involved, but a special mention must go to the Conductor and inspiration behind the Bridge Choir Alan Gilmour, and also accompanist Alan Hastie who perfectly combined their considerable talents. So was it the best concert so far? I think so. Can they improve again next time? I can't wait to find out!

David McWilliams

The Guild



The new session of the Guild begins on Wednesday 5th September at 7.15pm with a welcome meeting and dedication service.

The Guild's regular meetings are on alternate Wednesdays in the Small Hall at 7.15pm. You are warmly invited to join the Guild or to come along to any meeting that interests you. We look forward to seeing you!



***Sunday 2nd September at 11am
All children welcome!***

CROSSREACH

Care you can put your faith in



Walk for CrossReach in this year's Kiltwalk

Support us in our work with children and families.

Walk with us in **Edinburgh 16 September**

Sign up at thekiltwalk.co.uk



Treasurer's Update

A year on since our Stewardship campaign, I am pleased to report that our move to standing order payments has continued. This has helped maintain regular donations throughout the summer months, avoiding those 'leaner months' during the holiday period. We now have 47 standing orders in place, of which 35 have also been gift-aided, allowing us to reclaim 25% tax from HMRC. Most have been set up on a monthly basis but we also have a few set up on a weekly basis and a few operating on a yearly basis. We also had a few one-off payments made during this year's Gift Day campaign.

Up to the end of July our income from all donations, tax reclaims, coffee bars, weddings, funerals and hall lets totalled £51,966. We also raised £2,064.39 for various charities over the same timeframe.

Our expenses to the end of July were slightly less at £49,589, the majority of which were down to the normal running costs associated with a Church. We also passed on £2,856 to various charities (including money raised at the end of last year).

All figures are down slightly on the same period last year. Fewer regular coffee bars and no regular soup lunches at the moment have reduced income on that front. (If you're interested in organising a coffee bar or taking on organising monthly soup lunches please contact David McWilliams or Elaine Brown).

On the expenses front, a hold on large projects due to an ongoing Presbytery review of all churches has prevented us undertaking some of the work we had planned for this year. (This has, however, simply deferred that necessary work to future years). Our finances are still in a healthy state but we know we will have some heftier bills coming up for essential work. Thank you for your continued support via regular donations.

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

Sue Sneddon, Congregational Treasurer

Sunday School and Crèche

Resume on Sunday 2nd September.

We welcome children of all ages to join us in learning about our Christian faith through games, crafts, stories and fun activities.

Do we have your correct contact details....?

If you are about to move or have recently changed address please remember to let us know so that we can continue to distribute this magazine to you. Also if your preference for a magazine and regular elder visit has changed then please let your elder or the minister know. Alternatively you can contact us via the email address below:

rollkeeper@broxburnparishchurch.org.uk

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

Treasurer

Mrs. Sue Sneddon

Gift Aid Convener

Miss Jean Weir

Roll Keeper

Vacant

Prayer Secretary

Mr. David Wilkie

Pastoral Care Group co-ordinator

Mr. Nat Beggs

Organist

Mr. James Lawrie

Church Officer

Mr. John Macaulay 01506 852947

Hall Convener

Miss Sally North 01506 200042

Property Convener

Vacant

Communications Co-ordinator

Mr. Hugh Brown 0131 334 1384

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Mrs. Elaine Brown 07936 363939