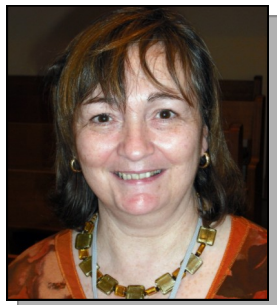


September 2011

# The Bridge



\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Communion will be celebrated on \*  
\* Sunday 11th September at 11am and 6pm \*  
\* **Everyone is welcome** \*  
\*\*\*\*\*



## From the Manse

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7.14)*

Many of you will be aware of the recent decision of the General Assembly in response to the report of the Special Commission on Same-Sex Relationships and the Ministry. The 'trajectory' chosen is believed by many to be contrary to the clear teaching of Scripture, many are deeply disturbed and disappointed by the decisions. I count myself amongst them.

The Church of Scotland faces a difficult time ahead as many members and Ministers reflect on whether they are able to remain in a denomination which is marginalising the place of the Bible in the life and practice of the church, and if they do remain how do they express their views. During the debate one commissioner remarked "*the bible says but we now know better*".

Indeed this decision by the church is a symptom of a deeper concern about the place of the bible in the life of the Church of Scotland. Historically the C of S has "affirmed the Scriptures as its supreme rule of faith and life" the decision at the General Assembly is a clear departure from that affirmation.

A Theological Commission has been set up (their remit is below) and they will meet over two days each month for two years. I have called the church to pray for the work of the commission and those who have been called to serve on it. Dr Jane McArthur, known to many of you, is a member of the commission. Details of prayer meetings are below.

We cannot be ostriches and stick our heads in the sand, whatever happens in 2013 will have an effect on every congregation within the Church of Scotland. If anyone would like to talk to me further about this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Terry*

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The deliverance that was passed and the task of the Theological Commission:

Resolve to consider further the lifting of the moratorium on the acceptance for training and ordination of persons in a same-sex relationship, and to that end instruct the Theological Commission to prepare a report for the General Assembly of 2013 containing:

(i) a theological discussion of issues around same-sex relationships, civil partnerships and marriage;

(ii) an examination of whether, if the Church were to allow its ministers freedom of conscience in deciding whether to bless same-sex relationships involving life-long commitments, the recognition of such lifelong relationships should take the form of a blessing of a civil partnership or should involve a liturgy to recognise and celebrate commitments which the parties enter into in a Church service in addition to the civil partnership, and if so to recommend liturgy therefore;

(iii) an examination of whether persons, who have entered into a civil partnership and have made lifelong commitments in a Church ceremony, should be eligible for admission for training, ordination and induction as ministers of Word and Sacrament or deacons in the context that no member of Presbytery will be required to take part in such ordination or induction against his or her conscience; and to report to the General Assembly of 2013.

### **Dates of prayer meetings**

Wednesday 24 August	10 – 10.30	Manse
Wednesday 24 August	7.30 – 8.00	Session Room
Thursday 25 August	7.30 – 8.00	Session Room
Wednesday 14 September	10 – 10.30	Manse
Wednesday 14 September	7.30 – 8.00	Session Room
Thursday 15 September	7.30 – 8.00	Session Room
Tuesday 18 October	10 – 10.30	Manse
Wednesday 19 October	10 – 10.30	Manse
Wednesday 19 October	7.30 – 8.00	Session Room
Wednesday 23 November	10 – 10.30	Manse
Wednesday 23 November	7.30 – 8.00	Session Room

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## Prayer Corner

It is nice to see the church notice board and wayside pulpit being put to good use.

Have you noticed some of the unusual and thought provoking items on the board. For the passer by, with no connection to the church, rushing about their daily business I am sure must be intrigued by some of the short sharp phrases on the board. One would pray that they will spend more time as they pass by and hopefully keep an eye on what is there today and seek to find out more inside the church building.

We live in a world where the media has a big impact on our lives and our lifestyles and it is good that we can make use of these tools to stir up an interest in Jesus' family, the church.

Jesus himself used parables to speak to people during his earthly ministry, everyday occurrences that they could relate and used them to teach his listeners the message of hope he brought from his father in Heaven.

One need only look at what we do in a church service Sunday by Sunday. The language we use, the customs we adopt and even the praise we offer, is alien to a great majority of the population albeit something we are comfortable with.

We should be open to God speaking, encouraging us to adapt and adopt new methods that are relevant to the greater part of our society. However the word of God and the message of hope it offers to this dark world cannot be compromised.

Recently I heard of a church that was reaching out to the community through the involvement in hobbies and activities. They mentioned walking groups, cycling clubs, book clubs and hosting meals. They found these activities built up relationships and trust and folks were coming to know Jesus and what he had to offer for them, the promise of eternal life.



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At this, the start of a new session in our congregation's life we should be more attentive to what God is asking of each of us and our role in sharing in the great commission that Jesus left his followers to take up.



In your personal prayers please pray for

**Our minister and office bearers that God with protect and lead them and their families**

**Our national church that it can remain true to God's world and please God in all it does.**

**For the congregations in vacancy, as there are many, in West Lothian Presbytery that they might find new leaders**

**At the start of this new session our church organisations**

**For our Queen and her Government in the very difficult issues facing the world today.**

**The sick, anxious, lonely, estranged and the bereaved that they will find God's peace and love**

**Our armed forces and the relief organisations that strive to bring peace, justice and relief to all in need.**

**For Dr Ruth Shakespeare, our Missionary Partner**

The Prayer Group continues to meet each Saturday at 10.00 am in the Session House. There is a seat for you. Please contact myself and the minister for prayer.

*David Wilkie*

*Congregational Prayer Secretary*

*01506 854777*

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## Diary Dates



<b>30th Aug</b>	Congregational Board
<b>3rd Sept</b>	People's Bible in Livingston
<b>11th Sept</b>	Communion - 11am & 6pm
<b>25th Sept</b>	Harvest Service
<b>28th Sept</b>	Council of Churches meeting
<b>29th Sept</b>	Kirk Session
<b>5th Oct</b>	The Guild dedication
<b>8th Oct</b>	Elders Conference led by Jason Curtis Cross House Linlithgow
<b>16th October</b>	GB/BB Dedication
<b>10 –12th November</b>	'Shoebox sorting'
<b>19th Nov</b>	Christmas Fayre
<b>20th Nov</b>	Presbytery Pulpit Exchange (Rev Scott Marshall will preach. Terry will be at Blackridge & Harthill)
<b>18th Dec</b>	JAM Nativity

**Bridge Choir** - rehearsals take place every Thursday @ 7.30pm

**Prayer meeting** - every Saturday morning @ 10am in the Session Room

### Minister's Holidays

Thursday 20 October – return to work Friday 28 October

Friday 11 November - return to work Sunday 20 November



## Christmas Card competition

The Communications Group is organising a competition to design a Christmas card for distribution to our congregation with the Christmas edition of the magazine.

**All young people are invited to submit a design that reflects the Christmas story as told in the gospels.**

Entries should be given to Hugh Brown, Stuart Cunningham or posted to the Communication Group tray in the vestibule.

The closing date is **30th October**.

Please ensure your name and age are written on the **back** of the submitted design.



### COFFEE BAR

The Coffee Bar will re-start after the summer break on Saturday 3rd September in the Church Hall from 10.30 to 12 noon. There will be home-baking one Saturday in the month for Church funds, usually the first, and on special occasions and organisation's turns. Other days we will serve biscuits. Do come along and enjoy meeting up with friends over tea or coffee.

If you would like to help, even occasionally, either with serving, baking, or in the kitchen, please get in touch with me. We can always do with more volunteers ---- it helps to spread the load!

*Margaret Henderson .*

*Tel : 01506 85297*



## Friends of Chernobyl's Children

We will be welcoming a group of 17 children, an interpreter and a teacher from Belarus from 14th September to 11th October. They will all be staying with host families in the West Lothian area and will be meeting in the church hall each week day during that period. A full programme of indoor and outdoor activities are provided.

The children come here for a month of love and care and receive optical, dental and health checks as well as much needed vitamins and non contaminated food. They arrive with a spare pair of pants and a toothbrush and go home with a full suitcase of warm clothes and vitamins for the next year for them and any siblings. They spend a month each year here for three years.

Thank you to everyone in the congregation who has contributed in any way to the visit and the fundraising events throughout the year. Your support is very much appreciated. Please remember us and our work in your prayers.

For more information about the charity and what the children are doing each day go to [www.focc-edinburghwest.org](http://www.focc-edinburghwest.org)

*Kenny Turnbull, Co-ordinator.*



### **Sound Desk**

We are still looking for anyone who is interested in helping with the sound desk rota. Please let Stuart know. Full training for those not familiar with the equipment will be given. Thanks



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# Girls' Brigade

Broxburn Girls' Brigade have now restarted. We meet every Friday night in the church hall at the times below-

**Explorers p1-3      6.15-7.30pm**

**Juniors p4-7      7.30-9pm**

**Brigaders S1+      7.30-9pm**

We have lots of fun with games and crafts while learning about Jesus. We already have over 100 girls so you can imagine it gets quite busy.



**We are looking for helpers to come along when they are free and lend a hand. If you feel you have an hour or so to spare and would like to help please contact me.**

**Alison Turnbull**

01506 852171

07984315250

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





Project Romania



Project Romania



Boys' Brigade



FOCC children with Inna, teacher (back right) and Olwyn Ke...





Girls' Brigade



(back left), Katia,  
Bogh, MBE the



Girls' Brigade





Boys' Brigade



Easter Mission







## Where did the summer go?

It was certainly a busy one. We  
(2nd Broxburn & 1st Kirkliston BB

Companies) took a party of 14 to the FDF National Camp at Sletten in Denmark. We were out of the country for the first 2 weeks of the summer holidays. We flew from Edinburgh to Copenhagen then on to Aalborg in the North of the country. From there we canoed and hiked to the camp site. We built our own camp, we slept in tents, we ate in the open air, we played games, we tackled all sorts of challenges and we made many new friends.

A full report is being prepared and if any of the boys have photos or video that they have not yet sent to Mr Stein then please encourage them to do so if they want their work included.

All of a sudden it is time start thinking about the new BB session, initial dates are as follows:

Joint Enrolment night with the GB - Friday 26th August.

Please come along and enjoy the BBQ and a blether as well as filling out a new consent form.

**All sections start on Monday 29th August.**

**Anchors: 6:00pm - 7:00pm**

**Juniors: 7:15pm - 8:30pm**

**Company & Seniors 7:15pm - 9:15pm**

Captain Jim Borland

01506 417597

07803 032063

Email [2broxburn@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:2broxburn@boys-brigade.org.uk)



# We are a **Fairtrade** church



Look for this Mark on products  
[www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

## **We have committed to:**

- use Fairtrade tea and coffee for all meetings for which we have responsibility
- move forward on using other Fairtrade products (such as sugar, chocolate and fruit)
- promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight – and through other activities where possible



Photos: Fairtrade Foundation and Jim Long/Fairfund

**'The fields of the poor may produce  
abundant food but injustice  
sweeps it away.'**

Proverbs 13.23

*Hazel Lamb*  
Director, Fairtrade Foundation



## **Reminder**

All intimations need to be with Elspeth by Wed 5pm to ensure they are included in the following Sunday's intimations.

**[elspethrodger@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:elspethrodger@blueyonder.co.uk)**

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## Easter Mission 2011

This year's Easter Mission title was Mission Rescue with a theme of espionage, undercover agents and secret messages. The daily activities told the story of Moses from his rescue from the River Nile by Pharaoh's daughter to the crossing of the Red Sea and his many encounters with God in the intervening years. If you have a look in the big hall you will see our 'big craft'. The children all had pieces of a picture to colour in without knowing what the out come would be, but I think you will all agree that the result is wonderful. Picasso eat your heart out!

The general consensus seems to be that the mission was successful, the children seemed to enjoy themselves and I think the adults did, too. Many thanks go to all of the helpers, without you we could not run the Mission and to all who made donations which are always greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank Lidl who once again supplied sufficient fruit to give all the children a mid morning snack.

*Elspeth Rodger*





## Missionary partner

### Introducing the new Medical Director

Dr Ruth Shakespeare has been appointed by the World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland and approved by Blantyre Synod of the Central Church of Africa Presbyterian to work here at MMH. She arrived on 3rd June.

Ruth was brought up in a Christian family and studied medicine in London. After further training in paediatrics she worked in a remote mission hospital in South Africa. There she came to understand the importance of public health and preventive medicine, and when she returned to the UK undertook a further five years training in public health.

She then went back to Africa, this time to work in Zimbabwe where she was responsible for communicable disease control and HIV programmes in the province of Manicaland. For the last ten years she has worked in prison health in the UK. Recently she has spent time with the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh, and studied mission at the International Christian College in Glasgow. She is very happy to have the opportunity to serve again in Africa.

We are very excited as Mulanje Mission community as a whole to receive Dr. Shakespeare after almost a year without a medical director. We almost lost hope that someone would come to head the hospital after Dr. Roland van de Ven left for Tanzania so you can imagine how happy we are that finally we have a medical director. She has come at the right time when as a hospital we are plagued by a number of crucial problems like diminishing donor funding and shortage of medical supplies among others and we are optimistic that with her leadership things will turn round for the better.

Her arrival coincided with MMH being presented with the prestigious infection prevention excellence award, we could not have thought of any better way of welcoming Dr. Shakespeare than the colorful ceremony which was full of celebration and interaction.

We wish Dr. Shakespeare a wonderful stay at MMH. Takulandilani adokotala.

*(Extract taken from Mulanje Mission Hospital Newsletter, Volume 12 issue 2&3)*

**Support our work — sponsor a bed!**

**Email to [director@mmh.mw](mailto:director@mmh.mw) for more information.**





# *Mulanje Mission Hospital*

## *Newsletter*

Page 1

Volume 12 Issue 2 & 3

## **A call to sponsor a hospital bed at Mulanje Mission Hospital**

**W**e are utterly dependent on our donor partners - individuals, church partners and development organizations throughout the world, for more than 50% of the running costs of this hospital. Your contribution is vital. Drug costs are rising all the time and nearly our entire budget for essential medicines and clinical supplies comes from donations. Most of the energy of our senior management team is spent on raising funds to keep the doors open and running the hospital as economically as we can without compromising patient care.

We have an agreement with government to cover the costs of essential maternal and child health services for our local population. All other patients are charged user fees, but patient fees cannot possibly cover all the costs of care here in Malawi. If we were to charge fees at normal rates most patients would not be able to afford health services. As a Christian hospital, those in need of medical treatment, but with no means to pay, are never turned away.

We are relaunching this programme in July 2011 to reflect the real costs of providing inpatient care. US\$1000 pays for one hospital bed to provide care for up to 40 patients during the whole year. But any contribution you can offer will make a difference and can save lives.

### **How can I sponsor a bed?**

If you would like to join this programme, please send your contact details to Dr Ruth Shakespeare ([director@mmh.mw](mailto:director@mmh.mw)) or log in to [www.mmh.mw](http://www.mmh.mw) for further info. We will send you confirmation and keep you informed about the hospital through our quarterly newsletter.

### **Account details**

National Bank of Malawi,  
Victoria Avenue, PO Box 945, Blantyre.  
Acct name: Mulanje Mission Hospital  
Sort code: 001

	<b>MKW</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>GBP</b>	<b>Euro</b>
Acct no.	646555	407275	286818	380873
Cost of one bed for a year	MKW150,000	\$1000	£600	€700

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## Finance

2011	Income	Expenditure
January	£8,753.89	£996.41
February	£5,546.28	£15,376.00
March	£5,277.42	£10,927.79
April	£5,078.35	£ 5,162.48
May	£10,383.48	£11,500.89
June	£7,408.30	£6,799.59
July	£5,232.56	£6,721.88
<b>Total (to 31st July)</b>	<b>£47,680.28</b>	<b>£57,485.04</b>

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## Funerals

### June

Sarah Gray

Margaret Whyte

Jean McWilliams

Helen O'Donnell

Jean Lowe



Items for inclusion in the next issue should be submitted by mid November to either Hugh Brown or Stuart Cunningham, or emailed to:

**[hughb92@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:hughb92@blueyonder.co.uk) or [stu.c@tesco.net](mailto:stu.c@tesco.net)**

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## Romania Trip

As many of you may be aware fifteen students from Broxburn Academy and five adults went to Romania at the end of June. The team included four members of our congregation: Taylor Lamond, Andrew MacPherson, Kirsten McPake and myself. We organised and took part in a three day children's camp, visited an orphanage and we had the opportunity of going to church and enjoying Christian fellowship with our new Romanian friends.

The highlight of the trip for me was seeing how much pleasure the children got from the art materials and sports equipment we brought. Materials such as hula-hoops, tennis rackets, face masks to paint and Hama beads were a great success. If you would like to experience the pleasure these simple toys gave, we created video diaries. These can be seen through this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5yQWeEPLY&feature=related>

Or type in to Youtube: Project Romania 2011 Day 3

I would like to say on behalf of everyone who went to Romania, thank you for supporting us both financially and in your thoughts and prayers. This gave us the opportunity to go out and spend time with the children and to appreciate how much we have. It has been a life changing experience and I am sure that my companions feel the same.

*Catriona MacGillivray*



# Who's Who



## Minister

Rev. Terry Taylor BA, M.Th	The Manse, 2 Church Street	852825
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## Session Clerk

Mr. John Macaulay	137 East Main Street	852947
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## Congregational Board

Chair: Mrs. Norma Short	28 Newhouses Road	857540
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Clerk: Mrs. Anne Gunn	3 Kirkhill Court	856984
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## Treasurer

Mrs. Marjorie MacRae	22 Parkwood Crescent	854702
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## Gift Aid Convener

Miss Jean Weir	135 Houston Gardens	855626
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## Roll Keeper

Mr. Brian Short	28 Newhouses Road	857540
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## Prayer Secretary

Mr. David Wilkie	53 Goschen Place	854777
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## Pastoral Care Group co-ordinator

Mr. Nat Beggs	6 Grange Road	852170
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## Organist

Mr. James Lawrie	13 Queens Avenue	856609
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## Church Officer

Mr. John Macaulay	137 East Main Street	852947
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## Hall Convener

Mrs. Jeanette Ewington	93 Fergusson Road	857194
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## Property Convener

Mr. Robert Pattison	12 Houston Gardens	855505
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## Communications co-ordinator

Mr. Hugh Brown	92 Gyle Park Gardens Corstorphine	0131 334 1384
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## Safeguarding co-ordinator

Mrs. Elaine Brown	92 Gyle Park Gardens Corstorphine	0131 334 1384
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## Social & Fundraising Convener

Mrs. Lillian Pattison	12 Houston Gardens	855505
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