

September 2013

The Bridge



Communion will be celebrated on
Sunday 8th September at 11am & 6pm.

Everyone is welcome

From the Manse



I have a little book that sits beside my computer, it is by Charles R Swindoll and is called 'Journey of Faith'. Each day there is a verse from scripture and a short thought. Short as it is this little devotional so often makes me step back and think about who I am in the eyes of God. It is all too easy for us to define who we are in the eyes of the

world, but who am I in the eyes of God is a very different matter.

Let me share a couple....

YOU ARE INVITED

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for our souls. For my yoke is easy, and my load is light.

(Matthew 11:28 – 30)

What restful words: easy light.....

The Lord gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their forefathers.... (Joshua 21:44)

Whilst so many are demanding, Jesus is gentle. While competition is rugged and being in partnership with hard-charging, bullish leaders is tough, being yoked with Him is easy. Yes, *easy*. And instead of increasing our load of anxiety, He promises to make it lighter.

This is not the God of the protestant work ethic, this is the God of grace who offers his people rest.

Recently a friend and I were discussing the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 19, I was sharing some of my insights into that story when David drew my attention to the way God ministered to Elijah, with food and rest. Eat and rest. Sometimes in life that is just what we need..... a time to eat and rest.

I believe we have allowed a busy-ness to enter into life and ministry (by ministry I mean the ministry of all people, not just the ordained person). Sometimes we, mistakenly, think the busier we are the more pleasing our lives are to God. We lay on ourselves burdens God never intended us to carry. Go read the story of Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42) and notice that when Mary was not as busy as Martha, Martha became critical, she assumed that spending time listening to Jesus was too passive, she should have been up and helping. "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

When we are critical of what people are *not doing* could it be that we need to take that time apart and rest? Times of rest form us in our faith as much as times of busy-ness. So, go put on the kettle, have a cuppa, open your bible and read and hear what God has to say to you today.

Terry

GOOD NEWS TRUST

Free Christian Lending Library will be in attendance at Coffee Bars again once a month starting in September.

Please watch intimation sheet for dates. The volunteers who run it appreciate our interest and support.

Prayer Corner

Today, we opened our service with the singing of Graham Kendrick's rousing hymn 'Shine, Jesus, shine'. It was uplifting to see such an outpouring of joy and praise as we joined together worshipping God. It was even more powerful as we had a good number of visitors join us for a baptism.

A couple of weeks back one of my work colleagues was baptised and again we sang this song. Another two of my colleagues also came along to this service, folks who are not regular churchgoers and were moved by this praise item and with the joy with which it was sung.

I only knew this the following day as we had an impromptu rendition of the song giving us all an opportunity to talk of the church service and importantly Tracy who was baptised a chance to talk of her faith.

One is never sure what folks take away from church each Sunday and the impact the praise, prayers, teaching and preaching will have on them and those they will come into contact in the following days. In this world where there is so much darkness and unbelief it is good that the word is shared and that hope springs from this.

It is important that the light of God's love for His people is shared with young and old alike, a love that is sure and steadfast, a love that is unchanging.

Life for many today is hard going with unemployment, debt, homelessness, broken families and ill health. It is at times like this that it is reassuring to know that God is with you through these trials.

At this the end of a beautiful Summer, let us pray that the love of God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit allows His word of love to truly shine in this land and beyond.

Amen

In your personal prayers please pray for:

- **Our minister and office bearers that God will protect and lead them and their families.**
- **Pray for our Queen and her Government as they rule over us in these seeming never ending difficult economic times.**
- **For other congregations in the community especially Uphall South with the appointment of its new minister.**
- **Gordon and the BUSY project for its youth work in the schools and the wider community.**
- **For the political turmoil in Egypt and Syria, that there might be stability, pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in these lands.**
- **For the unemployed, especially amongst our young folk, that they might find work.**
- **The sick, anxious, lonely, estranged and the bereaved that they will find God's peace and love.**
- **The Scottish Bible Society's Bibleworld visit to Broxburn in early September that it will be well received by pupils who visit and that lives might be changed.**
- **Our armed forces and their families, relief organisations that strive to bring peace, justice and relief to all in need.**
- **For Dr Ruth Shakespeare, our Missionary Partner, her work in Malawi and for her visit to West Lothian in October.**



David Wilkie

Congregational Prayer Secretary

01506 238644



Friends of Chernobyl's Children
West Lothian



FOCC

Well it's hard to believe that's another great visit over. We plan for so long for the children coming and the visit just flies by. It's so much fun.

Just in case you weren't aware or didn't notice – we had 22 children based in our halls each weekday from 8.30 to 5.30 for the whole month of June. We had lots of fun during our times in the hall and were doing activities such as making thank you cards, making model teddy bears and dogs from fimo, magic show with Tricky Ricky, "Rockin Rascals" disco, daily English lessons, Wednesday church service and soup lunch and of course the wonderful concert that the children put on at the end of the visit.

However compared to last year the weather was so good and the children loved being outside having fun in our clean uncontaminated surroundings. Our outside trips included the beach, Scottish owl centre, the forest, canal boat trip, Broxburn Academy, Bathgate Academy, Scottish agricultural science centre, Potter Around, Howden House, Paradise Island crazy golf, Bubbles Factory soft play area, Motherwell College, Scotland's Theme Park, Corstorphine police station, Five Sisters zoo, many visits to the swimming pool and many visits to Beecraigs. The children were all taken to Specsavers where a few new pairs of very nice glasses were needed and a visit to the dentist where some fillings and a few extractions were needed. There were also a few of the children needing medical attention at the doctors during the month.

There were lots of different activities that their own hosts took them to in the evenings and weekends and much shopping was done. As usual the children arrived with nothing and went home with a full 25kg suitcase of clothes, shoes, toys, vitamins, and medicine. So all in all a very busy but enjoyable month. The children were so well behaved during the month. It was great to see wee Dennis back in amongst the group again after missing out last year. He is a much improved wee boy, and with more visits hopefully he will improve more.

The highlight for me this year was the improvement throughout the month of Palina, a 7 year old girl on her first visit to Scotland. Palina and her 2 sisters lived with their mum until last year when they were unfortunately put into an orphanage as the mum was unable to care for them anymore. After a few months the father realised they were in an orphanage and took them out to live with them. He is a nice guy but his house can only be described as a wooden shack in a remote part of a remote village. I don't know what happened in the orphanage but since

Palina came out of it she doesn't really speak and has only said a few words to her teacher or her father in months. During our visit to her house in April in Belarus she was happy with us and smiling but didn't say one word. At the start of our visit in June she was the same, happy enough but not saying one word. She phoned home to her dad the first weekend and during the 2 minute call she didn't say one word.

The host parents we have in our group are very special people, including our first year host parents, like Palina's host family. They were very sensitive to her issues and eventually during the first week Palina started talking to their daughter Katharine, 8, and then a few days later host mum Clare and then eventually host dad Donald. We witnessed a similar pattern in the hall as she was talking occasionally with her friends and then the interpreters started to get the odd word out of her. Then the moment I had been waiting on since April, she said her first word to me. It was great to hear that soft quiet word as it meant we were making great progress with her. By the end of the visit she certainly wasn't a chatterbox but her shyness was diminishing and she was saying a few words to all of the adult helpers and hosts.

Our work with the children is not just about improving their health and experiences but also improving their lives in general. Palina had definitely started to overcome whatever fears were inside her and was starting to open up socially with children and adults which I am sure will make a big difference to her. This story of development could be said of all of our 22 children as they have all developed in their own way throughout their time with us. It was a truly great visit and was only possible through the kindness of our volunteer host families and our supporters in the church and the wider community of West Lothian. I can't thank everyone enough for the part they have played, however big or small. Thank you.

Our work is never done though, and we have already had our normal full review of this visit, implemented a few changes and have started planning next year's visit. Next year's visit will be the 5th visit to West Lothian and will see some of our original children make their fifth and final visit. Children who joined us as skinny 7 year olds will hopefully leave us as happy, confident, healthier 12 year olds who are ready to become young adults and be in a better position to face what life throws at them. One thing for sure, is that they will have felt God's hand touch their lives through the loving kindness of his people in this area.

Kenny Turnbull

Co-ordinator

Friends of Chernobyl's Children, Edinburgh West - West Lothian Group

Diary Dates



8th September

Retiring Offerings at
Communion for BUSY

10th September

Beetle Drive

14th September

BUSY Coffee Bar

15th September

Service in Holmes Gardens – 3pm

22nd September

Service in Middleton Hall – 3pm

26th September

Sesion Meeting

5th - 13th October

CrossReach Week

Coffee Bar on Saturday 12th October and Retiring Offering on
Sunday 13th October

9th October

Church Quiz

10th November

Service in Broxburn Nursing Home

16th November

Church Fayre

24th November

Service in Holmes Gardens – 3pm

2nd October

Guild Dedication Service – 7.15pm

Minister's Holiday

Saturday 12th October – Saturday 19th October (1 week)

Saturday 16th November – Saturday 30th November (2 weeks)

Pulpit Supply

13th October

Rev Ross McLaren

17th November

Alex Middleton

24th November

(to be confirmed)

West Lothian Credit Union

Savings and Loans at your new Broxburn collection.

This service for savings and loans is run by local volunteers and is open every Thursday from 11am to 12noon at Strathbrock Partnership Centre next to Council Payment Kiosk.

Leaflets are available in the church vestibule.

www.westlothiancreditunion.co.uk

Telephone: 01506 436666

The Bridge Choir

After a break over what turned out to be a lovely summer, it's good to be back refreshed and ready once again to do what we all enjoy!

The postponed concerts from earlier this year are planned for around the same time next year. As well as the concert repertoire, Alan plans to keep us busy with new pieces for Christmas and Easter, with a few others possibly added in also!

Concert dates should be confirmed soon, so watch this space.

Thank you for your continued support.

Janice MacPherson

Secretary



Sound Desk

We are still looking for anyone who is interested in helping with the sound desk rota.

Full training for those not familiar with the equipment will be given.

Thank you



Andrei



Dasha H



Dasha J



Dennis



Dima



Kiryl



Katia



June 2013 (after)
Friends of Alexander's Children
www.focwestlothian.com



Ira



Krystina



Lera



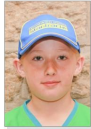
Luba



Masha



Natasha



Nikita



Palina



Pasha



Sasha E



Sasha S



Sergei



Tania



Vadim



Veronica



Vika



Zhenya



Palina (before)

Palina (after)





GB 90th
Birthday Party





Broxburn Girls' Brigade has 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 have nearly 100 girls so you can imagine it gets quite busy.

Having celebrated the Company's 90th birthday earlier this year, we are now looking forward to another great year as we head for our centenary.

So come along and **"BE PART OF SOMETHING BIG!"**

- new members will be made very welcome.

For further information please contact:

Alison Turnbull

01506 852171

07984 315250

alit@blueyonder.co.uk

Here we are again at the start of a new Boys' Brigade session, indeed we are off and running.

The following is an extract from a letter I sent to the BB parents recently:

"...As I said at the display you have seen and now know what we do. If we have more boys and therefore more income we can do so much more.

Please help to spread the word.

If you know of a boy starting in P1 please let his parents know about the BB and ask them to contact me. If you know of any other boys from P1 – S6 that might like to take part in our challenging and exciting program then please pass on my contact details".

The expression "Please help spread the word" can be taken two ways. It can mean, please tell anyone you know about us. It can also mean, tell everyone you know about the good news of Jesus Christ. For the BB it means both. Please help us do both. I have asked the BB parents to help (most of whom are not churchgoers) and I would like to ask you to do the same.

If you are agreeable there are several ways you could help us meet or Object:

- You could help us raise funds.
- If you have an interesting hobby that might interest the boys please get in touch.

Or as suggested above, please spread the word.

Some future dates:

8th September Pedal for Scotland.

20th – 22nd September Autumn Camp, Badaguish Centre, Spey Valley.

6th October Battalion Dedication Service.

We meet on Monday nights at the following times:

Anchors:	6:00pm - 7:00pm
Juniors:	7:15pm - 8:30pm
Company & Seniors	7:15pm - 9:15pm

Captain Jim Borland

01506 417597

Email: 2broxburn@boys-brigade.org.uk

Finance

It's hard to believe that we're already more than halfway through the year! Does time speed up as you get older, or is it just me? So far this year we haven't had a lot of big expenses (apart from the bill for Phase 1 of the refurbishment of the big hall) although I'm sure that could change if some of the other projects put forward by the Property Committee get the relevant approvals. We have already budgeted for those so this won't cause a financial strain on our accounts.

The summer months are traditionally a bit leaner in terms of income, as members of the congregation go away on holiday and there is no JAM. Income has however been bolstered by the tax relief reclaimed on the Gift Aid contributions, so although expenses have outstripped income, our working account is still at a healthy level, with more money available in our reserve and fabric funds to use for congregational purposes when needed.

As at the end of July our income year to date is £43,733.42, while our expenditure over the same period has been £51,394.90.

On the tax relief front, one of the key changes announced by HMRC earlier this year, is the introduction of a 'small donations scheme' which will allow us at the end of the tax year to claim tax relief on small donations made 'anonymously' ie that we can't trace back to any individual. After discussion, we have decided to make use of this for our open plate contributions. There is an upper limit we can take into account and this has to be balanced against our normal gift aid contributions too. But we estimate that if our open plate contributions stay at a similar level to the last few years, this should net us an extra £1250 after the end of the tax year. Although we need to complete a bit more paperwork to support this, we think it's well worth it.

Sue Sneddon

Treasurer

Soup Lunches



4 th September	The Busy Project
18 th September	Mulanje Mission Hospital, Malawi
2 nd October	United Christian Broadcast
16 th October	Tearfund
6 th November	Blythswood
20 th November	The Vine Trust
4 th December	Bethany

Christmas Card competition

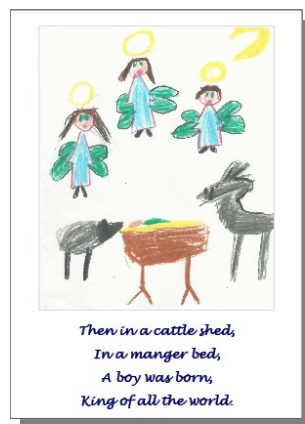
The Communications Group is again organising a competition to design a Christmas card for distribution to our congregation with the Christmas edition of the magazine.

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 **27th October**.

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



Midweek Services

The following is a service prepared by Jim Anderson and read by Sally North:

Welcome

Prayer; Dear Lord, We thank you that you care for each one of us, in our good days, and our bad days. We thank you that you know us and how we are feeling. Be with us today as we come together in worship and help us to focus on you. Amen

Hymn; 374; From Heaven you came, Helpless Babe

Reading: 1 Corinthians 9; 24-27 (NIV)

Many of you have known me for a long time, but I want to share a little of the importance and place of Faith in my life. During my life I've felt the touch of God at various times.

I was brought up going to church and was in the BBs. I heard lots of Bible Stories as a young boy. But it all fell into place one Good Friday Service when I heard Elaine Gilmour singing "I don't know how to love Him" from Jesus Christ, Superstar. I loved the song but suddenly the words hit home and I realised what it was that Jesus has done for us.

My faith journey has not always been easy. For instance, when I was at New Trinity Work Centre one of the staff, a Christian, set up a discussion group for interested people and invited speakers along. One day a Baptist Minister came along to talk to us and during his talk said "all disabled people are from the Devil" and this to a group of people with disabilities. I was very frightened He wrote us all off. Needless to say I was very upset and angry and never went back. I felt my faith was being challenged. The Jesus I know loves us all, and I was brought up to know he loves everyone equally, regardless of colour, creed or ability. He loves everyone, even that Baptist Minister, despite his hurtful ideas.

In 1998, at the beginning of June my Dad was involved in a serious accident and was in Intensive Care in the Western in an induced coma because of a bad head injury. He was seriously ill. One night when

Mum and I were coming back from hospital there was a beautiful rainbow over our home. Both of us felt a sense of warmth, security and peace in the middle of all our worries. Mum said that night, that from then on everything was going to be all right, because of that rainbow, God’s sign of hope.

In my sporting life I’ve met many athletes. I don’t know how they can compete without a faith behind them. Every time I went onto the starting blocks at a major championships I said a prayer to help me swim my best and to help me through the race. A lot of competitors become so big-headed and think of themselves as gods. I feel sorry for them, because they have nothing else in their lives. They don’t have anything to believe in except themselves and when the bubble bursts they’ve got nothing left. There was an occasion when one of the competitors said to me, probably trying to unsettle me, “You’ve not got anyone to love you”. My answer was “Yes I Have Jesus to love me, and my family and all my friends” and I walked away.

In my last race in the London Paralympics, which I knew would be my last at that kind of Championships, I swam badly, a very low point to end my career. There was a wee quiet room, where people could take time out and reflect or pray or just try to focus. I came out of the water and went in there. I bawled and shouted at God in anger. I blamed Him for my lack of success. I felt guilty for weeks afterwards. I couldn’t talk to my parents or anybody about it. One Wednesday service I plucked up courage and I poured it all out to Sally. She reassured me that God understood my frustration and disappointment, that everyone still loves me for who I am, not for what I’ve won, but most especially I am still loved by my forgiving God, who loves all of us.

Hymn; 564 Jesus loves me

The Grace



Midweek services resume on Wednesday 4th September

Summer Coffee Bars & Craft Stalls

29th June

The amazing sum of £435.39 was raised for this worthy cause and a letter of thanks and fundraising certificate was received.

'The aims of our charity are to support Service Veterans and their families, from all branches of the armed forces - past and present, especially those who may have fallen on difficult times due to being unable to re-adjust back into society.'

If you want to know more about the association or if you know someone who needs this support you can contact:

The Scottish Veterans Association, PO Box 15672, Broxburn, EH52 5AD

or visit www.scottishveteransassociation.org.uk

6th July

Alzheimers £371.91 raised

3rd August

Crohns / Colitis £421.00 raised

20th July & 17th August

Vine Trust Tanzania (Kim Taylor) £444.20

A big thank you to all for your support.

Fairtrade

Fair trade goods will be on sale during the months of September and November.

These goods are supplied by the shop Fair Tradewinds located at 133 High Street, Linlithgow

Funerals

May

Margaret Munro

July

James Anderson



June

Nat Clark

August

Elizabeth Boag

Baptism

Kaitlyn Bang – Sunday 18th August

Reminder

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

elspethrodger@blueyonder.co.uk

- Items for inclusion in the next issue should be submitted by early November 2013 to either Hugh Brown or Stuart Cunningham, or emailed to:

hughb92@blueyonder.co.uk or stu.c@tesco.net



Remember to visit our website:

(www.broxburnparishchurch.org.uk)

or **like** and **share** us on Facebook

(www.facebook.com/BroxburnParishChurch)

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: Mr. Hugh Brown	92 Gyle Park Gardens Corstorphine	0131 334 1384
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Clerk: Mrs. Anne Gunn	3 Kirkhill Court	856984
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Treasurer

Mrs. Sue Sneddon	15 West Hall Road	07758 195274
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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	55 Goschen Place	238644
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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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