

September 2014

# The Bridge



Communion will be celebrated on  
Sunday 14th September at 11am.

**Everyone is welcome**



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# From the Interim Moderator

Dear Friends,

I wish to begin with a sincere word of thanks to the Rev Bob Nicol for his wonderful service as your locum through the Spring and early summer months. I thank Bob for both his person and his work as your pastor, teacher and friend. I'm sure you have already let him know how you feel about him and his time with you. May God bless him with good health and joy.

I wish to thank as well those who have been filling in on Sundays in July and August: David Wilkie, Ian Walker, Cheryl McKellar-Young and Thom Riddell. Come September, Ian Walker has agreed to come on as locum, Ken MacKay having been called to duty in Avonbridge and Torphichen. I am deeply appreciative to Ian and to all who have helped us throughout the summer.

Regarding the search for a new minister – I have been very encouraged by the work of the Nominating Committee in pursuit of its responsibilities, and by the number of ministers and probationers showing interest even before the advert went into *Life & Work*. Some of the enquiries have come from outwith Scotland, others from closer to home. We continue to pray that God's Spirit be at work among us and among those who are searching for a call, that the congregation and its new minister find their way/your way to each other.

I expect you gloried in the achievements of Scotland's athletes at the Commonwealth Games, as we did here in the manse in Linlithgow. I have never seen a set of eyes more wide open than those of Ross Murdoch at his stunning victory in the pool, nor a man of girth leap as high as did Mr Marshall at his victory at the bowls. Then there was the moving image of Lynsey Sharp's face after



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her gutsy 800 run. To name but three. Glasgow itself won gold as host, as did all those who volunteered throughout, and came out to watch and cheer. Not to mention the thousands who serenaded a dancing Usain Bolt with 'I would walk 500 miles.'

As we look ahead to 18 September, we do well to remember those days when we were so clearly and happily together. As they taught me when I arrived ten years ago, for all our differences, "We're a' Jock Tamson's bairns." And for those of us who are members of Christ's church, we are all members of one another, as in a body – weeping with those who weep and dancing with those who dance, often the same people at different times in their lives.

Yours in Christ,

*Rev. Dr. Stewart Gillan*



## **Congregational Bible Study**

It is planned that a series of bible studies will start in September, please watch the intimations or let your elder know of your interest. Please come along and share in these times of learning where we can support and encourage one another on our journeys of faith.



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## Prayer Corner

Having been called to preach every Sunday from the start of June I have had an opportunity to study again God's promises to Abraham as written in the book of Genesis.

It has been interesting as well encouraging to look again at how the God's promise that through Abraham a great nation would be created, it was complex and to human understanding it seemed impossible that God's plans would ever be achieved.

But in these times of great uncertainty in the world in which we live, it is reassuring to know that God is in control and that his ways are not our ways, nothing absolutely nothing is too difficult for him.

Who would have believed that Abraham and Sarah, who was well beyond child bearing age, would conceive a child, it is laughable! Their son Isaac God then asked to be sacrificed to prove Abraham's trust in Him, his only son was spared and went on to marry and have his own children.

But why did God chose Jacob, the younger of Isaac and Rebecca's twin boys, especially when he, with the co-operation of his mum who favoured him, deceived his father into giving him the birth right due to his elder brother Esau.

Jacob, estranged from his brother for twenty years, never seeing his mother again having had to flee to his uncle's to escape his brother's death threat. Being cheated by his uncle for the one whose hand he longed for in marriage eventually to return winning God's favour and reconciling his differences with his brother.

One would have thought, Jacob would have realised that favouring one child over another was not healthy for a good family relationship, But he showed favour to Joseph, his first born son to Rachel, the one he longed for in marriage. Joseph sold by his brothers into slavery was to save God's chosen people from starvation when he rose to second command in Egypt during the seven years of famine, all part of God's promise to Abraham all these years before.



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The family settled in Egypt to return to the Promised Land, as a great and powerful nation, with God working through Moses.

God does indeed work in mysterious ways, trust in Him always.

In your personal prayer time

- **For the nomination committee that they will be faithful in prayer, constantly listening to God's leading**
- **For our locum, office bearers and leaders of our organisations that they will continue in their diligence**
- **For the staff in JAM and the other youth organisations at the start of a new term.**
- **For the Referendum later this month, and we will all vote and that God's will be done in Scotland.**
- **Our Queen, Elizabeth and her elected representatives as they govern this land.**
- **For Bibleworld's return to Broxburn this month that folks will hear and respond to the good news it brings**
- **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.**
- **For Ruth, our Missionary Partner and her work in Malawi.**
- **For peace in this troubled and broken world, for our Christian brothers and sisters who suffer persecution for their faith that they will know God's protection around them.**

*David Wilkie*

*Congregational Prayer Secretary*

*01506 238644*



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# Giving in Grace



The Kirk Session are taking part in a National Stewardship Campaign as instructed by The General Assembly. We have called our campaign **Giving in Grace**.

The focus of **Giving in Grace** is our Christian responsibility to give generously with our **Time, Talents** and **Money**.

We will approach each category separately and begin with **Money** as this is the most difficult to implement. We are including a pamphlet with your Bridge magazine explaining the choices you can take.

If you have a query needing answered please consult with your Elder or any member of the Kirk Session.

*For the Kirk Session,*

*David Thomson.*

## Bibleworld

Bibleworld, the Scottish Bible Society's mobile learning resource will return to Broxburn Academy between Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Please come along on the two open nights to support this venture and see the valuable work they do with the children who visit.

This could be the last visit to Broxburn of this vehicle as there are plans to replace it when funds become available.

Please pray for all involved in visit that God will change lives.





## Soup Lunches

3 <sup>rd</sup> September	<b>The BUSY Project</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Mulanje Mission Hospital</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> October	<b>United Christian Broadcasts</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Tearfund</b>
5 November	<b>Blythswood Care (Shoeboxes Appeal)</b>
19 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>The Vine Trust</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	<b>Bethany</b>
17th December	<b>Foodbank</b>

Anyone willing to make soup, sandwiches or just to help please contact Evelyn on 854973.

## Diary Dates



25th August	<b>Boys' Brigade Enrolment. 6.30 - 7.30pm</b>
26th August	<b>Congregational Board Meeting</b>
1st September	<b>Boys' Brigade starts</b>
5th September	<b>Girls' Brigade starts</b>
7th September	<b>Busy Project Thanksgiving Service</b>
14th September	<b>Communion</b>
22nd-26th Sept.	<b>Bibleworld</b>
25th September	<b>Kirk Session Meeting</b>
28th October	<b>Congregational Board Meeting</b>
27th November	<b>Kirk Session Meeting</b>





*Friends of Chernobyl's Children  
West Lothian*



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## FOCC

We had a really great visit from the 20 children and 2 interpreters who were based in our halls for weekdays for 4 weeks in May/June. As well as the usual visits to the dentist and specsavers we had

some really great trips to Edinburgh Climbing Centre, Xtreme Go-Karting, Scotland's Theme Park, Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh Castle, Jupiter Artland, Beecraigs, Hopetoun House, 4 schools, fire station, time capsule, Broxburn swimming pool, Xtreme combat, Edinburgh Castle, Kingsfield Golf Range, Drumshoreland Cadets, Safari Park, beach and 10 pin bowling as well as some nice days based in our halls doing crafts, music etc and practising for our Thank you concert. The great thing about all these activities is that the children are improving their health, while having fun in uncontaminated conditions.

Some of the highlights of the visit were:

Our newest girl Anya, who stayed with Heather and Gavin Kyle in Broxburn, settling in very quickly and being such a great and happy addition to the group.

Continued progress with Palina. When we first met Palina she was a very shy, frightened, introverted looking girl who did not speak. Now in just over one year she is a really beautiful happy girl and was great and confident in our thank you concert.

Continued progress with Denis, a favourite of many, not only in the congregation. He celebrated his 11th birthday while he was with us and had another great visit with us. He is a much better behaved boy than before and is probably the most loving child in the group. Its not difficult to see why he is many peoples favourite when you meet him.

It was also a happy and sad visit too. Happy that we could



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celebrate the 5th visit from our older children but sad that after 5 years with us we have to say goodbye to them for the last time. Its great to see the difference we make to the children over 1 visit but its even better to see the cumulative effect 5 visits has. It was so nice in our Thank You concert to look back to when these children joined us as small, thin, shy 7 year olds and compare that to the healthier much more confident 11/12 year olds they have turned out to be. It has been a real pleasure to add some value to their journey through life.

Central to everything we do during the month the children are with us is our base at our church halls. We can't thank everyone enough for letting us use the church halls to carry out the great work that our very special team of host parents and helpers do. We often receive comments about how welcoming our halls are and also any members of the congregation we meet. Thank you so much for that.

We do not rest on our laurels though and our plans for the next visit in 2015 are already well underway. At this early stage we have already signed up 4 new host families to replace some of the ones who have completed their 5 years and decided not to take a new child. Its very exciting to know that we will be looking for 7/8 new children to top our numbers back up to 20 again for next year. That's 7/8 new children and families that will start to feel the helping hand of God on their lives through the work of his people in our group. The people in these remote villages often say that the world has forgotten about them. With Gods help and your help we will not allow that happen.

*Kenny Turnbull*

*Co-ordinator*

*Friends of Chernobyl's Children, West Lothian Group*





Andrei



Anya



Dasha



Denis



Dima



FOCC West Lothian  
June 2014 (after visit)  
[www.foccwestlothian.com](http://www.foccwestlothian.com)  
[Facebook.com/FOCCWestLothian](https://www.facebook.com/FOCCWestLothian)



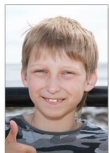
Luda



Tania



Karyna



Kiryl



Krystina



Maksim



Masha



Natasha



Nikita



Palina



Pasha



Sasha



Sergei



Tanya



Vadzim



Veranika



Vicka



Denis



Anya



Palina





## The Open Door

The Open Door café supports the Busy Project and would appreciate some additional help, even 2.5 hours once a month.

If you are able to help please contact Myra MacPherson on 853215 or Suzanne Wilson on 07540 806359.



## SOYA

**Please continue to donate items suitable for young people supported by this project.**

**They can be deposited in the vestibule.**

## Foodbank

Please continue to support your local foodbank by donating items - a list is available at the front of the church.

You can donate by bringing to church or putting in the trolley at Broxburn Co-op.



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## Nominating Committee Update

At the time of writing this we are 8 weeks into our quest to find a new minister for Broxburn Parish Church. I along with the rest of committee would like to thank the congregation for the opportunity to find our next minister. We accept the responsibility and will do our utmost to ensure we get the best possible candidate. A lot of work has gone on in that time and although it may not be evident the Nominating Committee have been working very hard. The job of finding our next minister will take time, there are currently over 100 vacant charges within the Church of Scotland at the moment. As a committee we will act as swiftly as possible but are mindful not to rush this process, and we ask that you are patient and continue to pray that the work of the committee will be led by God.

The parish profile has been completed and is available on the Church Website. If anyone would like a copy printed then please ask me for one. I would like to thank all the members of the congregation who filled in a feedback slip, and those involved in our organisations, and hall users who provided a report. This enabled us to put the profile together swiftly and accurately. Your feedback was greatly helpful, and all very similar. In your words Broxburn Parish Church, is a friendly welcoming church, and that is something very positive we will promote when interviewing prospective candidates.

The vacancy has been advertised in all Church of Scotland publications which go out to ministers, and in September's edition of Life and Work. I can tell you that we have already



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had some interest in the position. The committee are currently reviewing this interest and look forward to receiving more once the advert in Life and Work is circulated.

In summary, work is progressing well and we are encouraged by the input from the congregation and by some of the interest we have had already. I would ask that you keep the work of the committee in your prayers and assure you that we will work diligently, responsibly, and in faith that we will find our next minister in accordance with the Lord.

*Kenny Young*

*Convener of the Nominating Committee*

## **Hogmanay Family Celebration**

Seeing in the New Year can sometimes be a bit of a non-event, so it has been suggested that we should hold a Family Celebration on Hogmanay 2014. The evening would start at 10pm and finish after 'the bells' at about 12.30.

There would be music and games and folks would be encouraged to bring their own snack food. It would also be a great social night and a chance to 'see out the old and bring in the new' in the company of friends and fellow church members.

If you would be interested in coming along, please e-mail Hugh Brown at: [hughb92@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:hughb92@blueyonder.co.uk) with an idea of how many people you would be bringing.



Our enrolment night is on Monday 25th August 6:30pm - 7:30pm in the church hall. We start properly as a company on Monday 1st September.

This year to allow staff to get home from work and have something to eat before coming to the BB we will change our meeting times as follows:

<b>Anchors:</b>	<b>6:30pm - 7:25pm</b>
<b>Juniors:</b>	<b>7:30pm - 8:45pm</b>
<b>Company and Seniors:</b>	<b>7:30pm - 9:30pm</b>

These changes are experimental this session to try and make running the company a bit easier.

Our autumn camp this year is going to Auchengillan Outdoor Centre, North of Glasgow, for two nights from the 5th September. Adventure activities have been booked with the centre and a full program of activities is being prepared to fill the weekend and the Anchor Boy outing to Deep Sea World is currently being organised.

We need help running the Anchor Boys (P1 - P3), if you have spare hour on a Monday evening please get in touch, it will be the quickest hour of your week.

*God Bless*

*Jim Borland. Captain*

07803 032063

01506 417597

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



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## Treasurer's Update

It's hard to believe that we're almost two-thirds of the way through 2014 already. And with almost six months into this vacancy it's worth taking a closer look at our finances.

As at the end of July our total income reached £57,541.19, with our expenditure over the same period being slightly higher at £58,494.51. These income figures have, however, been boosted by monies transferred from our Fabric Fund. I arranged a £6,000 transfer in January to pay for the new boiler, and a further £4,000 transfer at the end of April to cover the costs of other various fabric projects, (including the new path at the front of the Church) arranged by the Property Committee. And with necessary maintenance work due to be carried out on our steeple, I will need to arrange a further transfer of funds to pay for that when the time comes.

We're now almost through our 'leaner months' when our regular income drops during the holiday period, and doesn't quite cover our ongoing regular monthly costs. We have, however, had our tax reclaim on gift aid contributions to help bridge the gap. These quarterly tax reclaims provide a very useful source of income, allowing us to reclaim tax on all gift aid contributions made and on any gift day contributions which authorise us to reclaim gift aid. Following a change in tax laws last year we can also now reclaim some tax relief on small donations (ie less than £50) made via the open plate. This year so far we've already received more than £7,800 via tax reclaims.

All in all, our finances are still in a healthy position thanks to the contributions you continue to make. If anyone is interested in making gift aid contributions, please speak to Jean Weir.

*Sue Sneddon*

*Treasurer*



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# The Bridge Choir

I can't believe it is now September!! Where has the summer gone? At least we had a few weeks of lovely weather.

It certainly doesn't seem like 3 months since the concerts back in June! It was heart warming to see so many people at the concerts, both known to us and also new faces who came to hear us also. If you managed along, we hope you enjoyed the concert, if you didn't – well there's always next year's concerts!! As usual the children brought the house down!! Also to the volunteers who helped us out, many thanks once again – we could not have done it without you all. It is appreciated by all.

Well it's back to reality rehearsing our new repertoire for next year's concerts. Always an exciting time, finding out what the boss has in store for us, trying a new piece once and saying – oh, we will never get this right in time for the concert and always getting there with Alan's patience, guiding and encouragement.

This year we will be joined by several younger members who have been promoted from the junior choir! This will certainly enhance the choir and we are so lucky that these youngsters are eager to be part of the adult group.

We will soon also be starting to rehearse this year's numbers for Christmas - whatever they might be! There's always

something new and exciting going on at choir.

As we keep saying – we could not do it without the help and support of all our friends within and outwith the Church.

*Janice MacPherson*  
*Secretary*







The Busy Project would like to thank every-one for their continued support and encouragement.

Busy Project activities are staffed and mainly funded by the efforts of local Christians – thank-you

Offering young people a unique opportunity to belong and a safe place to grow and develop their faith

It is a great privilege to share with them, they ask many challenging questions and are often very aware of the good things God is doing in their lives and are very willing to thank him in their prayers.

Over the summer weeks there has been a full programme of activities attended by many local young people

Some young people attended Scripture Union camp, and some were actually young volunteer leaders.

The Busy Project has touched the lives of many local young people, we are arranging a thanksgiving service, It would be great to see you there

Thanksgiving Service Sunday 7th September in Broxburn Parish Church @ 7pm

We are hoping to sell home baking at Broxburn Gala Day Saturday 30th August (all donations welcome)

*Laura Gordon*  
*Busy Project*





Broxburn Girls' Brigade will restart after the summer break on Friday 5th September . We meet in the church hall at the times below:

<b>Explorers p1-3</b>	<b>6.15-7.30pm</b>
<b>Juniors p4-7</b>	<b>7.30-9pm</b>
<b>Brigaders S1+</b>	<b>7.30-9pm</b>

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.

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

- new members will be made very welcome.

To enrol please email Alison for forms or come along on the 5th.

For further information please contact:

***Alison Turnbull***

*01506 852171*

*07984 315250*

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





**Remember to visit our website:**

**[www.broxburnparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.broxburnparishchurch.org.uk)**

**or like and share us on Facebook**

**[www.facebook.com/BroxburnParishChurch](https://www.facebook.com/BroxburnParishChurch)**

**The hall now has public Wi-Fi available for any users  
accessed by logging in to:**

**[BroxburnParishChurch\\_PublicWiFi](#)**

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

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Items for inclusion in the next issue should be submitted by early November 2014 to either Hugh Brown or Stuart Cunningham by email: **[hughb92@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:hughb92@blueyonder.co.uk)** or **[stu.c@tesco.net](mailto:stu.c@tesco.net)**



# Who's Who



## Interim Moderator

Rev. Dr. Stewart Gillan

01506 842195

## Session Clerk

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

Chair:	Mrs. Felicity Murrie	31 Nicol Road	852464
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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. Stuart Cunningham	15 Badger Brook	855952
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## Prayer Secretary

Mr. David Wilkie	55 Goschen Place	238644
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## Pastoral Care Group co-ordinator

Mrs. Jean Turnbull	19 Fergusson Road	854109
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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. Alison Turnbull	31 Queens Road	852171
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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

*Position vacant*