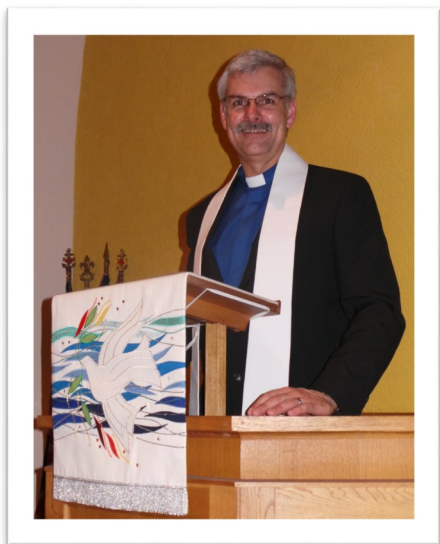


September 2015

The Bridge



* The next **Communion service** will be on *
* **Sunday 13th September 2015 at 11am.** *
* Everyone is welcome *



From the Manse

I hope to find you well. I can hardly believe it has been three months since the last church magazine. And here we are in August 2015. Strictly speaking the summer is gone and the extended holiday season is a thing of the past. To some this is good news: things can return to normal. To others the mere thought of going back to school or following a work routine is met with a sigh! Maybe you are somewhere in between. Neither

glad nor sad. Perhaps because the changes of seasons and routines do not impact you that much. Which brings me to the matter of **CHANGE!**

Shortly the change of the season will be announced with leaves turning yellow, brown, red and purple. All of this signalling the inevitable: **CHANGE!** Only six letters long but a word that can impact on your very being. How do you feel when you read or hear the word? Are you energised or drained by change? I read something interesting and inspirational that I want to share on the topic.

Living systems that do not undergo change are by definition dead. The human body is a good point in case. It is general knowledge that we are composed of trillions of cells. What is not common knowledge is that these cells are all fairly young no matter how old we are! Even when you have reached an age of sixty, seventy or even eighty the majority of cells in your body is less than a decade (ten years!) old. Some of the cells in our bodies have a life expectancy of only a few days while some of the oldest cells – muscle cells – can be 15 years old. The moral of the story: **WE WERE CREATED FOR CHANGE!**

The Bible has quite a bit to say about life and being human. Psalm 139 for example sings about the greatness of the Creator while Psalm 8 reflects on our position in creation. Life and how we live it are very important themes in the Bible. Often we are reminded that life is a process or journey. We are forever on the move.

No one of us know what the next three months may bring. It may require us to adapt to changes on different levels. Personal circumstances may necessitate dramatic changes in your life. Do not despair. Do not collapse in anguish. We were made with an ability to change and adapt to new circumstances. Above all our Creator God will not change. He will remain your anchor under all conditions.

Jaco

Diary Dates

25th August Board Meeting

27th August Bridge Choir re-starts

Wednesday services

Services start again on Wednesday 2nd September at 12 noon. Everyone is welcome.

13th September Communion - 11am

13th September Evening Service - 6.30pm

24th September Kirk Session meeting

11th October Evening Service - 6.30pm

8th November Evening Service - 6.30pm

Prayer Corner

I am sure most of us will agree the weather this Summer has been disappointing, thankfully God's love for us is unchanging, the same yesterday, today and till the end of time.

I prepare this just as the schools are about to open after the Summer break and pray for the youngsters starting school for the first time, for those moving on to the secondary school, college or university as well as all the staff involved in their education.

But our education does not finish when our formal schooling finishes as everyday is a school day when we learn something new.

This summer my diary has been particularly busy with preaching commitments and sadly I have not been able to join our services at Broxburn as often as I would have liked.

These preaching commitments have involved my deeper study of God's word to share with the congregation. I must confess as I study the bible at these deeper levels I find familiar passages have much deeper meaning that first perceived.

I had one of these 'every days a school day' moments when I was studying 2 Corinthians 12 for a service which I was preparing where I am embarrassed to say despite having read this passage before I had never understood Paul had had glimpses of Heaven, a fact he kept to himself for 14 years. Paul never used this experience to build up his standing in this world but continued to be humble in his ministry to the Gentiles and boasted only of him who called him to this commission.

How I had never noted this important aspect of Paul's life before is a mystery, as Paul is an apostle I greatly admire, and how Paul could keep this experience to himself for such long time amazes me.

So as the children return to school, we remember the Christian education they will receive sadly not too often at school but through the brigades, JAM and Bible Class, we pray for all the staff involved in this important element of their well-being.

But we ourselves must seek to spend time in the study of God's word, as individuals or through group bible study to enable us to know God's ways are not the world's ways and we can therefore avoid being led astray.

God bless

In your personal prayers please pray for

- **Our minister and office bearers that God with protect and lead them and their families**
- **For the start of a new session in the congregation's life as organisations start back after the Summer break**
- **Pray for our Queen and her new Government as they rule over us in these continuing difficult times.**
- **For the vulnerable in our communities that they will be provided for, we remember the work of the food banks**
- **The sick, anxious, lonely, estranged and the bereaved that they will find God's peace and love.**
- **For the BUSY project as they adapt to their smaller team in their work with the young folk in the community.**
- **For those leaving school that they find work, college and university place**
- **For Dr Ruth Shakespeare, our Missionary Partner her work in Malawi, especially following the recent flooding.**

Please contact myself and the minister for prayer.

David Wilkie

Congregational Prayer Secretary

01506 238644



Review of the Bridge Choir Concert, Broxburn Parish Church

4th and 5th June 2015

'Another op'nin, another show' from Kiss me Kate appropriately set the scene for the Bridge Choir's 2015 concert. How this choir has developed, both musically and in size - from a membership of 28 in 2009 to 50 in 2015. It's especially encouraging to see the wide range of ages in the choir, because in addition to the adult choir we also have the Bridge Choir Juniors (all girls, with the exception of one brave boy - come on you other boys!). They gave performances of songs from the musicals 'Annie' and 'The Sound of Music' and the hugely successful film 'Frozen' and remarkable choreography accompanied their lovely singing.

The senior Choir gave beautiful renditions of two contemplative songs, John Rutter's arrangement of the hymn 'For the beauty of the earth' and (ladies chorus) 'Wherever you are' made famous by the Military Wives Choir. The voices of two of the younger choir members Leah Heath and Debbie Mackin blended nicely in the duet 'For Good' from the musical Wicked. Compere Hugh Brown gave an interesting insight into many of the numbers, particularly 'I write the songs' where he explained that the 'I' in the song actually stands for God. What a difference this made when listening to the words.

The men of the choir really enjoyed themselves in the title song from 'Guys and Dolls'. A real highlight of the concert was 'Sisters' from the film White Christmas, performed by four pairs of real life sisters - Alison/Angela, Linda/Elaine, Janice/Gillian and Leah/Rachel. This was brilliant, but two extra 'sisters' broke in and tried to steal the show! They shall remain nameless, but for the curious their initials are RM and LW!

The able accompanist was Alan Hastie, apart from the Juniors who were accompanied by Moya Boonzaaier (good to see the recently arrived minister Jaco and his wife joining the Choir). The concert, which was superbly conducted by Alan Gilmour, ended with songs from the ever-popular Abba with the audience invited to join the choir and juniors in a final encore of 'Dancing Queen'. All in all, it was a very enjoyable evening - not least because of the obvious enthusiasm of everyone who took part. Roll on next year!

David Black

Guild

The Guild starts on Wednesday 7th of October with a Dedication and Thanksgiving Service.

Meetings are in the Small Hall from 7.15pm.

All are welcome.

Shoe Box Appeal 2015 - Blythswood Care

It's not difficult to choose gifts for people who have so little. Things we take for granted can often be the luxuries for people living in desperate poverty. Suggested items to be handed in:

- toothbrush and toothpaste, hat and scarf, gloves or warm jumper, soap, toy car or doll, sweets (no chocolate or any other food. Best before date March 2016. No loose sweets, lollies or undated bags of sweets please).

Or you can fill a shoebox yourself.

Items to be handed in to church by **Friday 6th November** at the latest. Thank you.



Alina



Alina



Dima



Ercamo



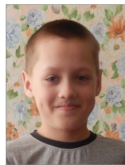
Katia



Kira



Lera



Liosha



Yuliya



Lena



Maksim



Nastya



Stas



Timothy

FOCC September Group





Bridge Choir Concert





Friends of Chernobyl's Children
West Lothian



FOCC

Thank you so much to everyone who helped in any way with our June visit. It was a truly wonderful visit, our best yet and it was a real pleasure to see the children progress throughout the month. Of course it was sad at the

end of the visit to say goodbye, especially to Dima, Denis, Tania and Veranika for the last time. These are children we have seen grow up over the past 5 visits and they go with our very best wishes and we hope that they remember their times with us in Broxburn and we know that we as a congregation of Gods people have been a positive influence on their young lives.

From 29th August to 25th September we will have a brand new group of twelve 7 and 8 year olds with us, from a brand new area in Belarus for us, for their very first visit to Scotland. They will be hosted a by a new group of host parents. With everything so new in this group we have had to work twice as hard to ensure that our new hosts are all well informed of what to expect. We do this because we want the children to have the best impression of Scotland and the people in this place who will look after them. Its very important for us that the children and host families settle quickly into a routine and feel comfortable in their surroundings and enjoy their time with us. I know that if you see any of the children in our church buildings or beyond you will say hello to them and be friendly towards them. This is very important in a land of strangers with a strange language where everything is so new for them.

You will definitely have the chance to see them at our midweek church service and soup lunch at midday on Wednesday 16th September and then again at our Thank you concert on Wednesday 23rd September at 6.30. It would be great to see you at any of these events. Please note the earlier than normal start time for the concert. If you speak with anyone who was at our thank you concert in June I am sure they would tell you it was great, and there wasn't a dry eye in the house. It was so humbling to see these children perform so beautifully.

This new group of children is a bold step for us to take and we have done everything to the very best of our abilities and everything is in place. These new children live in some of the worst conditions I have seen in all my times in Belarus. You may remember Jaco doing a live link from the church in Broxburn to me in Belarus in March. It was on that day that I met all of these children for the first time. I felt the power of your prayers that day as we made the choices of what children we would help. We need your prayer and support again as we continue with the next step on this new venture. Please pray that everything goes well with our arrangements for the visit, pray for the new host families and new children that they settle well and everyone feels the benefit of the children being with us.

This new group of children is from an area of Belarus never before visited by our charity. We are the first group to go there, but we are sure that God is guiding us.

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland”

Isiah 43 18-19

With God on our side and the congregation of Broxburn Parish Church behind us, we have a firm foundation for our new group. Thank you all for your help and support in making this happen.

*Kenny Turnbull
Co-ordinator
FOCC West Lothian*



I can't believe that's the summer holidays over already!

We start back on Friday 4th September with girls meeting at their normal times.

We look forward to seeing you again.

For further information please contact:

Alison Turnbull

01506 852171

07984 315250

alit@blueyonder.co.uk



I hope you have had a good summer, despite the weather. The company starts back for another

session of fun, challenges, adventure, friendship and worship on Monday 24th August at the usual times.

Up and coming events:

5th September Trip to Scottish Airshow

11th—13th September Autumn camp to Compass Christian Centre, Glenshee.

If you know of any P1—S6 boys that might enjoy or benefit from what we do please get in touch.

God bless

Jim Borland

Captain

07803 032063

2broxburn@boys-brigade.org.uk

Soup Lunches 2015

2nd September	Mulanje Hospital
16th September	FOCC
7th October	BUSY
21st October	Tearfund
4th November	Blythswood
18th November	Vine Trust
2nd December	Bethany Christian Trust
16th December	Foodbank

The Bridge Choir

The summer break has flown by despite the weather and the choir will have restarted rehearsals by the time you read this. Many thanks for your support with our concerts this year! Special thanks to our Juniors and the new members of the senior choir as well as to our very many volunteers who always step up to the mark and help everything to run so smoothly. We appreciate this so much.

This year is sure to be a very busy one for the choir. As well as our annual concert next year and Christmas events, we have been approached to guest at the Howden Theatre in Livingston on Saturday 21st November with Oxana Lesnichaya, a soprano signer from the Russian Bolshoi Theatre. Oxana will be accompanied by concert pianist Dimitry Onishchenko. Also guesting that evening will be the Toccata Ladies choir. It is looking to be a great evening of music, whilst at the same time raising funds for FOCC. Tickets will be available from the Howden Theatre priced £10, concession £8.

It will be good to catch up with everyone again for fun and fellowship as we start our next journey together.

Janice MacPherson

Secretary



Treasurer's Update

It's hard to believe that we're almost two-thirds of the way through this year – time seems to be flying past at an ever-increasing rate of knots. Time for a quick update on our finances:

As at the end of July our total income reached £54,126.73, with our expenditure over the same period being a bit higher at £63,713.49.

These income figures include the £2,027 settlement figure received from our insurance company for the claims made re our multiple roof thefts. The figures have also been boosted by almost £7,800 received to date in tax reclaims. 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. If anyone is interested in making gift aid contributions (whether via the weekly pink envelopes or via standing order) please speak to Jean Weir.

Also included in the income figures is the £1,563.39 balance transferred into our main account from the Elsie Lamont Bequest fund. That fund had previously been earmarked for the BUSY project but as we now donate £200 a month from our main account, we moved the money into the main account to help offset those donations. The monies raised for the various charities are also temporarily included within these income figures although not Church income as such (see below). The four special coffee bars (with craft stalls) held during the summer break themselves raised almost £1,400 for nominated charities thanks to your generosity.

On the expenses front, apart from the normal running expenses we had our final £2,835 bill for the roof repairs, and over £6,600 had to be spent to bring the manse up to an acceptable standard to satisfy Presbytery before our new minister could move in. We also passed on over £8,250 that had been raised for charities via soup lunches, coffee bars and retiring offerings.

All in all, our finances are still in a healthy position thanks to the contributions you continue to make. If anyone wants to start using weekly freewill offering (blue) envelopes or to sign-up for gift aid (pink) envelopes) please speak to Jean Weir.

Sue Sneddon

Who's Who



Minister

Rev. Dr. Jaco Boonzaaier	The Manse, 2 Church Street	337560
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Session Clerk

Mr. John Macaulay	137 East Main Street	852947
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Congregational Board

Chair: Mr. David McWilliams	33A Henderson Crescent	855584
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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