

March 2016

The Bridge



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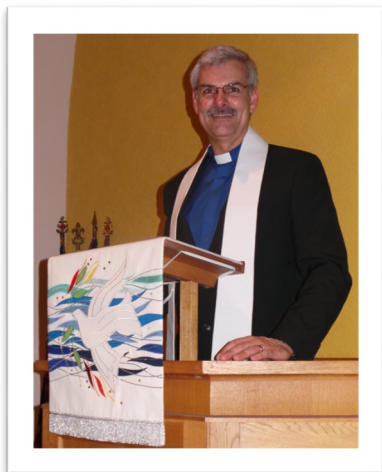
The next **Communion service** will be on

Sunday 13th March 2016 at 11am & 6.30pm

Everyone is welcome

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• **FRIENDLY** • **FAMILY** • **FELLOWSHIP** •



From the Manse

The days are getting longer and before we know it spring will be around. Just last week Moya and I were walking in Almondell Park and saw the daffodils appearing all over. Seeing the beauty of the trees and promise of yellow daffodils it triggered a thought on the season of Lent and Easter. Allow me to share this with you.

Expectations: do we (still) have an expectation for something truly remarkable to happen this time of year? What I mean is this. While we are in the season of Lent nature is waking up all around us. Nature is shouting it out: this is a season of potential, hope and new beginnings! Out of the dead limbs of a tree green shoots of new growth appear and flourish. All through the power of the same almighty God who created new life through the empty tomb of his Son.

Like the rest of nature, we go through seasons in our life time but also in our faith. Some times we get to an autumn stage and feel the leaves falling to the ground. After that a period of winter follows during which we may feel lonely and far from God. We may go through the motions of religion but of a living – let alone growing - relationship there is hardly any mention.

Maybe you know exactly what this feels like. Maybe you know someone caught-up in the wintery season. Wonderful news! There is better weather on its way; not only better weather mind you. The new season for growth is upon us! We were created by the same Creator God and He offers us new growth.

The wonderful news is that this is the season for expectations to be voiced. Therefore, why not go with your expectations for growth to God? The life-giving salvation work of Jesus enabled life in abundance for all of us. We can ask for it in prayer with a real expectation that God will grant us new life. This expectation may very well be called faith. Living faith means living with an expectation, after all.

As you witness the new growth in the garden: the splendour of blossoms, the dawn chorus of migrating birds returning from afar, remember that the same God that tends to the lilies of the fields and the birds of the skies looks after you. He offers new beginnings. He removes the staleness of yesterday and gives a freshness today and tomorrow.

Wishing you a deepening in your relationship with God this season of Lent and Easter.

Jaco

Diary Dates

Lent Bible Study:

15th February - 21st March: Mondays at 7.30pm

29th February	(Monday) Board Meeting
4th March	World Day of Prayer
13th March	Communion
17th March	Communion at Hanover Court
20th March	Stated Annual Meeting

Holy Week Services:

21st March	Praise & Prayers (Broxburn)
24th March	Maundy Thursday Communion (Strathbrock)
25th March	Good Friday Service (Baptist Church)
27th March	Easter Sunday service Holmes Garden service at 3pm
31st March	Session Meeting

Easter Mission:

4th - 8th April. 10am - 12noon

Wee JAM Band Concert: Wednesday 27th April

Prayer Corner

In this period of Lent, the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter to many Christians through the world it is seen as a time of reflection.

Personally during this period I take that bit longer from the chores of daily life to consider what I do or more importantly what could I do, or start to do to make my life Christ like.

Importantly it is a heart and soul searching exercise and one that is personal to me. The changes I make in my daily life, although it may impact on others, are from the heart and my desire to please God and not to conform to the world in which we live.

It can be good to boost of what you are giving up or taking up during this periods of Lent as long as your desire is to please God and not to gain favour with those around you.

All we do, say and think in our day to day living should bring pleasure to God, our Heavenly Father who through the death of His son Jesus and the cross at Calvary and our acceptance of our sins that we are adopted into His family.

God indeed loves us and mourns when we wander from His ways, He longs for us to be like Jesus in all we do and say, that others might see the light shine through us and lead them to salvation.

The pain, rejection, ridicule and death that Jesus suffered that first Easter was that we could experience life in all its fullness, the life that God created each and everyone of us to experience.

Reject all your worldly thoughts and action and follow Jesus. Pray to Jesus to help you become more like him. Come to know Jesus through reading God's word, praying and meeting with fellow Christians.

Jesus died that we might have life in all its fullness, today, reject what is restricting your enjoyment of this promise.

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 our Easter Mission**
- **Pray for our Queen and her Government as they rule over us in these continuing difficult times, our relationship in Europe and Scottish MP Elections.**
- **For Church some to meet in Assembly that your will be done.**
- **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.**
- **That our fellowship might serve the community as Jesus did in His ministry**
- **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



Bridge Choir

It's hard to believe that we are now in March with Easter just round the corner.

We enjoyed our time singing at the Howden theatre in November. Very different from singing in the church but a great experience singing with both another well known local choir and a Russian sopranoist and her accompanist. This event was in aid of charity and Friends of Chernobyl's Children benefited from a superb donation. Thank you to all our friends from Broxburn Parish Church and beyond for coming to support us.

We also took part in our annual visit to St John's hospital where we helped raise almost £200 in just over an hour for Friends of St John's and the work they do for the hospital.

The choir are rehearsing hard for this years concerts which will take place on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd June. We will again be joined by our very popular Junior choir who have also resumed their rehearsals and they have a few new members who are settling in well. No doubt they will be the "stars" again this year!!!! Keep a look out in the intimations for the tickets going on sale around April/May. And of course, once again, we will be asking for any willing volunteers to help out with teas, front of house etc. We have always been so lucky with the amount of help we get on concert nights and this in turn takes a lot of pressure off the choir members to allow them to enjoy their performances, as well as the audience.

Prior to the concerts we have been invited to sing at the Easter Sunday service and we hope to see you there.

Thank you all again for your support. We couldn't do a lot of what we do without it.

Janice MacPherson.

New Social & Fundraising Group

Did you know that the Social & Fundraising Group has changed?

We now have a smaller, all new decision making group to look at all aspects of fundraising and social events held within our congregation. So with that in mind we have established two new roles to look at these important aspects of our group:

Elaine Brown is our Fundraising Co-ordinator

Linda Taylor is our Social Event Co-ordinator

One way the new Group has changed is that it will look at how much each year we need to raise as a congregation, something we haven't done before. We'll then look to see what events we will run over the year - so you will be hearing from us! If you have any thoughts for either new Fundraising ideas or any Social events that you would like to see in our congregation please contact Elaine, Linda, myself or any other member of the new group who are:

Moya Boonzaaier

Rachael Stevenson

Lisanne Lamond

David McWilliams

Crèche

We are pleased to say that a crèche is now available on Sundays during morning worship. This will be held in the Session room and will be supervised by 2 adults who have been PVG registered. Should you wish to bring your child along there are also baby changing facilities and high chairs. If you want to discuss any issues relating to the crèche please speak to either Elaine Brown or Fiona Devlin.

Broxburn's Latest Author

Paralympian Jim Anderson held the official launch of his life story 'Jim the Swim' in the church hall in February. Sally North, who co-wrote the book, explains more about Broxburn's extraordinary gold medallist and his fascinating memoirs.



Congratulations to Jim Anderson on the publication of his autobiography "Jim the Swim". When Jim retired from competitive swimming after the London Paralympics, his sixth Games, he felt he wanted to write about his world-wide adventures. Incidentally this is the first time in a quarter of a century that Jim has not been in training and preparation for a Games. Jim enlisted the assistance of Sally North to be his scribe and after almost three years his book, with a foreword by Sir Chris Hoy, appeared in print in December 2015.

Jim hosted a celebration to mark the occasion, and people from his swimming career, people from his church family and his own family gathered in his honour.

What a voyage of discovery Sally had as Jim dictated his story to her. It was enlightening and inspirational to learn of his hard work, his dedication and drive. They met twice a week and Sally wrote down Jim's story longhand before typing it up at home later. The concentration required meant that each session could only last two hours before fatigue set in, but there were lots of laughs, and a few tears along the way. In the book Jim takes us back to his childhood, school days and growing up before embarking on his swimming career. You will recognise some of the names in the book. You may remember some of the occasions he talks about. You may not know about his disco-dancing prowess, or his story writing success. You may not

know he was in the BBs in Broxburn and the Scouts at school. He acknowledges the place of his faith and the people who have helped him along the way. that each session could only last two hours When you first meet Jim you accept a man in a wheelchair at face value and can have no idea of all he has accomplished in his life (so far!)

His book is available from Jim himself (paperback £9:95; hardback £16:95) or it can be downloaded as an Ebook.

Well done, Jim





*Friends of Chernobyl's Children
West Lothian*



FOCC

Our planning for this years 3 visits is already well underway. Yes, you read that correctly – 3 visits! We will welcome 20 children from 28 May to 25 June and also 12 children from

13 August to 9 September. This year is a special year as we will welcome 7 children for a private visit from 30 July to 13 August. The children on this private visit are children who have finished their time with us on the programme. Although I have been meeting them all once or twice a year in Belarus, for one of the children (Masha Bishop) it will be her first visit to her family in the UK for 4 years, so I am sure it will be a great and happy visit for her. She is a lovely big girl now. During the private visit we don't intend on meeting every day in the hall as some children will be on holiday with their hosts, but we do plan on getting the children together on some days and having outings. It will be really great to see them all again and spend time with them, even if most of them will be moody teenagers now instead of excited 7 and 8 year olds!

We are in the advanced stages of planning our visit to Belarus from 17 to 24 March. We will meet all of our September children in their homes and take them letters from their hosts families and food/supplies from the charity. Time flies and it hardly seems like a year since I had a live link up to Jaco in the church from Belarus and I met and selected all of the September children to come on their first visit to us. It will be great to meet with them and their families to hear about what difference the charity has made to them, even at this early stage in their journey with us and of course we will find out how excited the children are about coming back again in August/September. It will also be nice for us to see the difference we have made to the house of one of the young girls - Katia. We along with her host family and our friends at Helping Hands in Belarus made it possible to refurbish her kitchen a little to make it safer and nicer for using and what a lovely transformation it looks in the pictures.

We will also gather all of our 20 June children and 12 September children at the 10 pin bowling for a big party. It will be so good

to see them all together.

In February I celebrated a personal milestone in the charity where I have been co-ordinator for 5 years. During that time, I have co-ordinated 7 visits of children to UK and been on 7 visits to Belarus. I can't believe its 5 years already, its gone so quickly and its true, time flies when you are enjoying yourself. Thank you to everyone who has supported me and the group, I certainly don't do it all myself. All of the work that we do is only possible through the kindness of people who are so generous to us. Thank you all for your continued monetary, practical and prayerful support, it is so much appreciated by us all.

(Dates for your diary – meet the children at a service and soup lunch on 15th June at midday and meet them again at their thank you concert on 22nd June at 6.30 in the church)

Kenny Turnbull
Co-ordinator
FOCC West Lothian



The Busy Project is really delighted to welcome Debbie our new part-time administrator. Debbie attends Broxburn Parish Church with her family, we are delighted she has joined the team and look forward to working with her.

Recently 8 young people attended Lendrick Muir Scripture Union Camp sharing fellowship with young Christians from around Scotland.

The Busy Project runs activities for young people from primary 7 onwards:

<i>The Mine Tuesdays 4-5.30</i>	<i>Open Door</i>
<i>Feed n Chat 4.30-5.30</i>	<i>Open Door</i>
<i>Deep Chat 6-7.30</i>	<i>Open Door</i>
<i>Friday Youth Café 3pm-5pm</i>	<i>Open Door</i>
<i>Pizza Tuesdays 1.10-1.50</i>	<i>Academy</i>
<i>Wednesday drop-in</i>	<i>Academy</i>

Each Busy activity includes talking about God and reading the Bible. Young people are curious and hungry for knowledge and enjoy an environment built on mutual respect.

We are thankful for Hannah our youth worker, Debbie and all our volunteers and supporters that this wonderful local work continues

Laura Gordon (Chairperson)



Laying-up of the Standard

On Friday 12th February we held the Laying up of the Standard. The current caretaker of the Standard will now be transferred to the Canon of Canongate Kirk and the Canon of the Cathedral. The short service was followed by a reception.

Dear friends

We attended the Panto at Christmas time with the GB (Oh yes we did)! And a great time was had by all. Two

of our boys even ended up on stage.

We resumed after Christmas and have been following our various age related section activities. We received copies of the New Testament and Psalms, complete with a BB log on the cover, for each of the Company Section, from the Gideons. What a God send. The Bible is small enough to fit in their shirt pockets so they always have a bible to hand. This means that since January we have studied the Lords Prayer and have started to look at The Feeding of the 5000. As an added benefit the boys are learning their way around the bible.

Looking ahead we will have our Annual Display and Parents Night on Monday 16th May and go to camp the following weekend from Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd. We're looking for some warmer, dryer weather.

As always if you know of any boys from P1 to S6 who might like or benefit from what we do please get in touch, we are growing but have room for a few more.

God Bless

Jim Borland
Captain
01506 417597
07803032063
2broxburn@boys-brigade.org.uk

ed: RAMC

We welcomed representatives of the Royal Army Medical Corps for Scotland to our church. The Standard was the Standard Bearer and this caretaker function will be continued in the future. Currently the majority of Standards nationally are laid up in storage. We were served by refreshments in our halls.

Treasurer's Update

With the Christmas and New Year celebrations over, my post-Christmas 'treat' began – preparation of our end-of-year accounts! This is my third year as treasurer and I still feel very much on a learning curve when finalising these accounts. Apart from the Church accounts I work with on a day by day basis, the end-of-year accounts also need to consolidate account figures from all of the Church organisations and working groups (nine in all) eg The Guild, Bridge Choir, JAM, Easter Mission etc etc. January is very much my 'non-crafting' month!

The 2015 accounts are currently with the Independent Examiner, along with all the supporting paperwork and 'books', and the finalised accounts, once approved by the Congregational Board and Session, will be presented at our Stated Annual Meeting on March 20th.

With all the work needed in 2015 on roof repairs and to try to protect the roof from any future attempted theft of lead, as well as the ongoing upgrade of the hall, and the upgrade work needed in the manse, we have, as expected, eaten into some of our reserves. This will give our new Social and Fund-raising committee the opportunity to consider some new fund-raising initiatives.

Fundraising for charities via a combination of Soup Lunches, special coffee bars (and Sunday teas) and Retiring offerings, exceeded £10,000 in 2015 – thanks to your generosity.

We have just received our first tax reclaim in 2016 from HMRC of just over £2,000 – tax reclaimed on contributions gift-aided for the last quarter of 2015! This is always a welcome boost to our coffers. If you are a tax-payer and are interested in making contributions via gift aid (either via standing order or via the weekly pink envelopes) please speak to Jean Weir.

Sue Sneddon

Reminder All intimations need to be with Hugh by Wednesday 5pm to ensure they are included in the following Sunday's intimations. **intimations@broxburnparishchurch.org.uk**

Wee JAM Band

Having been a great success providing music for the Torchlight Procession in December 2014 and playing at Jaco's induction, The Wee JAM Band were once again asked to provide music for the Torchlight Procession in December 2015. We bolstered our numbers by inviting other youngsters (and the not so young) from other churches in the area and after weeks of practicing were excited to be playing in public.

Unfortunately the weather did not share our excitement and the Procession had to be cancelled due to heavy rain. This was a great disappointment to the band and we were very grateful to Jean Turnbull for suggesting to Jaco that the band play during the evening service and to Jaco for altering his service to include all bar one of the hymns that we had practised. The congregations seemed to have enjoyed singing along with the band as much as the band enjoyed playing.

The band has decided to continue with rehearsals and to hold an Entertainment Evening on Wednesday 27th April with proceeds going to church funds. Please keep this date free so that you can come along and support the young people who are working so hard at the moment to ensure that we all have an enjoyable evening. Keep your eye on the intimations for ticket information which will soon be available from band members.



Who's Who



Minister

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

Session Clerk

Mr. John Macaulay 137 East Main Street 852947

Congregational Board

Clerk: Mrs. Anne Gunn 3 Kirkhill Court 856984

Treasurer

Mrs. Sue Sneddon 15 West Hall Road 07758 195274

Gift Aid Convener

Miss Jean Weir 135 Houston Gardens 855626

Roll Keeper

Mr. Stuart Cunningham 15 Badger Brook 855952

Prayer Secretary

Mr. David Wilkie 55 Goschen Place 238644

Pastoral Care Group co-ordinator

Mrs. Jean Turnbull 19 Fergusson Road 854109

Organist

Mr. James Lawrie 13 Queens Avenue 856609

Church Officer

Mr. John Macaulay 137 East Main Street 852947

Hall Convener

Mrs. Alison Turnbull 31 Queens Road 852171

Property Convener

Mr. Robert Pattison 12 Houston Gardens 855505

Communications co-ordinator

Mr. Hugh Brown 92 Gyle Park Gardens 0131 334 1384
Corstorphine

Social Co-ordinator

Mrs. Linda Taylor 18 Galloway Crescent 07809 678326

Safeguarding co-ordinator & Fundraising co-ordinator

Mrs. Elaine Brown 92 Gyle Park Gardens 0131 334 1384
Corstorphine