

March 2018

The Bridge



The next **Communion services** will be on
Sunday 11th March 2018
at 11am & 6.30pm

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



From the Manse

It seems like only yesterday when we celebrated Christmas and here we are already well on our way to Easter. At this time we are in the 40 day period of Lent. Along with Christians all over the world we prepare ourselves for Easter during the time of Lent. It is well-known that for many believers Lent is the time to live in moderation or give up

something.

While Lent is a wonderful time to reflect on our vertical relationship with God it also presents an opportunity to consider our horizontal relationships. More specifically, the relationships with the world around us. It is easy to forget that we were called to be God's hands and feet in the world. Hands and feet to serve people and care for creation.

Martin Luther, the Church Reformer, always stressed the need for two conversions. Our first conversion is to God - we align our lives with his Word and intentions. Our second conversions happens when we align ourselves towards the needs of the world. This happens when we hear the cries of the needy and notice the opportunities to serve our community. As congregation here in Broxburn we are God's special agents of grace and mercy called to deliver healing oil on the wounds of those with injuries. We are the agents of grace and mercy bringing water to the thirsty and food to the hungry.

Our understanding of the Good News of Jesus Christ creates an urge in us to look out rather than to look in. As Christians we are not called to isolate ourselves from the world to live on holy islands in worship communities. Rather, we are called to reflect God's light in the world to allow everyone to experience God's goodness and love. This is a life-long commitment and task. It

is often hard and difficult. Often we want to retreat to the safety and warmth of the fellowship with fellow believers.

Giving up something is a reminder how much Jesus gave up for our benefit. Giving up reminds us that we were not called to a position of comfort but to be stretched. Giving up something makes us aware of the needs of so many people.

May Lent 2018 present us with an opportunity to allow God to bless the world through us. May we find ways to reach out rather than to reach in. May we find ways to serve rather than to focus on our own needs.

Allow me to wish you a blessed Lent and Easter.

Your brother in Christ.

Jaco

Diary Dates

28th February	Board Meeting. 7.30pm
7th March	Soup Lunch.
11th March	Communion. 11am & 6.30pm
17th March	Session Meeting. 10am
26th March	Holy Week - Prayer & Praise. 7.30pm Broxburn Parish Church.
28th March	Session Meeting. 7.30pm
29th March	Holy Week - Communion. 7.30pm Baptist Church.
30th March	Holy Week - Good Friday Service. 7.30pm Uphall South.

Chill

Chill continues to meet on the first Sunday of every month. Children who are in P4 right up to S6 are welcome.



We enjoy a number of activities on a typical Chill afternoon from, Indoor Archery, Badminton, and Table Tennis to cake decorating, art work, and making the most out of our time in any way we can. Recently we made advent pizza at Christmas where the girls made their own pizza in the shape of a star. The kids who come along really seem to enjoy themselves and we have seen numbers holding at around 12. We

hope to encourage more numbers over the coming months.

If you know of any children who would like to come along we meet on the first Sunday of every month from 1pm to 2.30pm. Lunch and plenty of fun is provided!!

All are welcome (even boys!!).

The Chill Team

Kenny, Fiona, Marc, and Leah.



Christmas Card competition

Congratulations to Rebecca Robinson who won the competition to design our Christmas Card.



Amazing SOYA - 15th Birthday

Congratulations to all who support our SOYA project in any way, whether you give on a regular basis, or as you are able, or even as you remember. The project has been running now for 15 years and over this time we have provided more than 3000 food bags as well as many, many Christmas gifts.

From very small beginnings in 2003, when we offered not much more than toiletries and toothpaste because the young adults were shown how to brush their teeth with salt when they had no money to buy toothpaste, we have progressed to being able to give between 36-40 bags per month, each containing around 4 days food, plus toiletries. This allows the youngsters food to eat at critical times when they may have to choose between eating or paying a utility bill.

As you know, the numbers we support vary from year to year - last year being the highest for many years at 105 - but thanks again to your incredible generosity, we also hit a new high in giving and were able to send 105 Christmas gifts, plus 105 three course Christmas dinners. Whatever support we can offer is so much appreciated by Social Work, who distribute our gifts, as well as, obviously, by the young people themselves. It gives them a feeling that someone really does care for them. God bless you all. New supporters gratefully welcomed.

To remind you, SOYA stands for:

Special

Offers (for)

Youth

Aid

For further information, or any questions at all, please contact :

Margaret Forisky 07818 266 523

Evelyn McFadyen 01506 202642

Bob Pattison 01506855505

JOY (formerly Young Persons' Group)

Our programme has continued to bring joy, fun and laughter to our members at our meetings & it is lovely to see everyone share their talents, interests & friendship with one another.

In November and December, we created beautifully decorated Christmas cakes under Shirley's excellent tuition. We once again surprised ourselves with our talents & it just goes to show what you can achieve if you have a try. Our amazing creations didn't last long however as family & friends were eager to sample them but we did capture our creations on camera beforehand.



January saw us celebrate the start of 2018 with a New Year Supper & Games night. We enjoyed a relaxed evening of fellowship while sharing a meal together. This was followed with some fun games to burn off the calories which brought out everyone's competitive side & had us all laughing.

We ran the coffee bar on 3rd February for the Social & Fundraising Committee to raise funds for the Church & raised over £136. Thank you to everyone who helped & came along to support us with this. We hope you all enjoyed the refreshments



& fun quiz which tested your knowledge of cakes.

Andrew MacPherson came along to our February meeting to tell us about his year as Youth Moderator. It gave us all a great insight into how important the youth of our Church is & how their varied experiences of Church & faith can make a valued contribution in helping make decisions within the Church of Scotland.

The weather stopped the book group from meeting in January which was unfortunate as we were all eager to share our thoughts on the book 'I See You' by Clare McIntosh which I believe we all found hard to put down once we started reading it. This will be discussed at the next book group meeting on Tuesday 20th February together with our February book 'A Man Called Ove' by Fredrik Backman. If you are unable to come along to the book group but would like to read any of the books we have read then please contact us as I am sure members would be happy to lend you a copy.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 20th February – Book Club meeting

Tuesday 6th March – Talk about Homelessness by Peter Hagenbuch

Tuesday 13th March – Book Group meeting

Tuesday 10th April – Murder Mystery evening (Time to test your sleuthing skills)

Tuesday 1st May – Outing to Supercube in Edinburgh (Bring out that secret singer in you with an evening of karaoke among friends)

New members are always most welcome so if you would like to come along to either the normal monthly meeting, book group or both please do so. More information can be found on our notice board or by emailing me Natalie on natalie.corner@sky.com Alternatively you can speak to any of our members.

Natalie Corner

Hi everyone, welcome to the BB section of the Bridge magazine.

We have been busy since we last spoke to you with our badge work, and had a very enjoyable trip to Deer Park

Bowling Alley at Christmas for our outing.

The Anchor Section have been learning how important it is to help others, and have been sharing soup and being thankful for what god has given us. They have also been hearing bible stories about trusting God and how God can help them succeed.

The Junior Section have been playing Trust games as you will see from the picture below. This involved the boys working in pairs with one "blindfolded" or as you will see with a jacket over their head!! The other boy was to direct them around the hall using only voice commands, thankfully they managed fine with no broken bones!! Also they have been enjoying a good old traditional game of football.



Company section has been learning all about camping ahead of what we hope will be a summer camp in 2018. Watch this space for more details!! They have been learning things like, how to cook camp food, camp site safety, and how to plan a camp ahead of setting out. Also this class has taken in map reading and photography.



Our numbers are remaining steady, we now have 8 regular attenders in Anchor Boys, 6 in Junior Section, and 4 in the Company Section. Along with myself we have Marc Turnbull, Andrew McPherson, and Douglas Leiper as officers and are ably assisted by our helpers Gigha Lennox and Ian Muir. We are always looking for new members however therefore if you know of any boys in our area who you think may be interested in joining us then please let me know.

Please keep the company and staff in your prayers as we are working hard toward building on the numbers we have, and thank you for your continued support.

Lt. Kenny Young

Acting Captain

Bridge Choir

Hi folks, I can hardly believe I'm writing yet another article for the magazine. It seems just the other day I was talking about Christmas being just round the corner and now it's almost Easter, unbelievable!

Life is so fast especially in the Bridge Choir. We are busy rehearsing for our 2 concerts which take place on Thursday 31st May and Friday 1st June this year so I hope you decide to come along and support us as well as our amazing Junior Choir who will no doubt delight us all once more.

Before our annual concerts take place we have been invited to perform on 9th May at St Andrew's Church in Deans which we are looking forward to but nearer to home we shall be sharing in the Easter Celebrations in our Church so would be great to see you there on Easter morning.

As with most events it wouldn't be possible to stage them without help and support re teas/front of house etc. so if you feel you are able to offer any help please see myself or any choir member. It will be greatly appreciated.

Tickets should be on sale around April so look out in the intimations for more details.

Have a wonderful Easter and thanks again for your continued support. We really do appreciate it.

Kind regards

Elaine Gilmour

Secretary



Sunday School

Thinking back to all that JAM have been doing since the last Bridge magazine has me smiling & thinking WOW. It is great to see the youth in our Church so active & enthusiastic about Jesus & their own faith journey.

In December they performed the Nativity for you all & on behalf of JAM I would like to thank Sally for lending us props & sharing



her drama skills/ knowledge with us all. The children all put a lot of time & energy into rehearsals & their efforts were rewarded with a wonderful performance which we hope you all

enjoyed too. If you haven't had a chance yet please view the photos of the Nativity on the Church website.

This was followed in the afternoon by the Happy Birthday Jesus party. This event is always a highlight in the calendar & looked forward to by all of us in JAM. It was especially nice to see more members of the congregation, our Church family, come along & share this special celebration with us.

One of our JAM members, Rebecca Robinson won the Church Christmas card competition & she was presented with her prize at the party – Congratulations Rebecca.



On Sunday 21st January the older group of JAM (P4 & above) rose from their beds early & enjoyed breakfast together at Church before helping shadow the door duty team. It gave them all a valuable insight into the role of the team & the preparations

involved each week prior to the service starting. Despite the early start the children are all keen to repeat this experience in the future & help again to welcome you all into the Church.

Each week the children enjoy learning about Jesus through stories, games, music & using their creative talents in various art activities. This is such an important part of their faith journey & we would like to thank you all for the support you give to our youth & leaders. Please continue to support us & remember JAM in your prayers as we move forward through the year.

Natalie Corner on behalf of all the JAM leaders

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.

Treasurer's Update

I'd like to start with a great big 'THANK YOU' – to everyone who responded so positively to our Stewardship campaign in any way. As a result we have seen a significant increase in our regular income, something we desperately needed, with more people also choosing to contribute via standing orders to help minimise our bank charges and provide regular cash flow.

My usual 'post-Christmas treat', pulling together all the figures and information needed for our end-of-year accounts, always helps reinforce all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes by the various committees and working groups. This year we focussed our coffee bars and soup lunches more on raising funds for the church and this helped bring in over £3,600 via coffee bars/Sunday teas and over £1,200 via soup lunches. Last year's Christmas Fayre organised by the Social and Fundraising Group was the most successful ever, raising almost £2,600 on its own. The total raised via all Social and Fundraising special events, including the Fayre, the new Afternoon Tea event and 'the Wedding' play (written by our own Jim Anderson) raised over £4,500. Thanks again to anyone who helped in any way, whether via making goodies to sell or coming along to support the events.

Another success story in 2017 was the increased income raised via hall lets. Following the open evening held in 2016 after decoration of our halls, we now have a lot of community groups renting our halls for various activities during the week. This brought in over £7,500 last year and is a very useful addition to our income stream.

We are continuing to manage expenses, as expenditure looks likely to continue to outstrip income for some time, with more hefty maintenance jobs still in the pipeline. This will, therefore, continue to eat into our reserves so we can't afford to be complacent.

We started 2017 with 20 standing orders in place and finished 2017 with 45 standing orders in place (34 of which were also gift-aided, allowing us to claim a further 25% tax refund from HMRC). A further 2, gift-aided, standing orders have been put in place since the start of this year. Being able to rely on regular cash flow in this way helps us in planning our expenditure.

If you're interested in moving to payment via standing order or, if you're a tax-payer and are interested in completing a gift aid declaration please speak to Jean Weir or myself.

Sue Sneddon

Congregational Treasurer

Social and Fundraising

The Social and Fundraising Group is in urgent need of new members to help us plan and help organise activities for 2018. As we look to increase our church income and put on new events we need to expand our numbers on the group to help us do so. Please contact David McWilliams or Elaine Brown if you would be prepared to help in any way.

Do we have your correct contact details....?

If you are about to move or have recently changed address please remember to let us know so that we can continue to distribute this magazine to you. Also if your preference for a magazine and regular elder visit has changed then please let an Elder or the minister know. Alternatively you can contact us via the email address below.

rollkeeper@broxburnparishchurch.org.uk

The Guild

Someone famous once said 'Not a lot of people know that'. Well I feel it is time to bring to the fore the good work that the Guild ladies have done and are continuing to do for the church.

What can be said of the Guild? Quite a lot actually. As we celebrate the Suffragette Centenary it is worth noting that the Woman's Guild were Suffragists non-confrontational, strong, caring women standing up for what was right, God's love always with them as a guiding light. The ladies were the backbone of the church. The support they gave, and their knowledge of church matters were second to none.

Through the years the ladies have worked tirelessly at Church events. 'The Guild will do the teas' was taken for granted and they were delicious teas, usually accompanied by some kind words of comfort if required.

The Guild throughout Scotland consistently raises money for chosen projects. Six charities, chosen specifically, cover every three-year period and we welcome speakers to our meetings each session. Over the last three years the Guild has raised half a million pounds for the projects, showing how generous those ladies, and men, can be. I should say here that men are always welcome to join. The General Secretary of the Guild is a man after all.

Nowadays it seems that the Guild is from a bygone era, maybe in need of some care. Huh! We just got here a bit sooner than everyone else.

Janet Watson

Guild Secretary



Guild Christmas Lunch



Baptism
George Swan - 4th February



Who's Who



Minister

Rev. Dr. Jaco Boonzaaier 01506 337560

Session Clerk

Mr. John Macaulay 01506 852947

Clerk to the Congregational Board

Mrs. Anne Gunn 01506 856984

Treasurer

Mrs. Sue Sneddon 07758 195274

Gift Aid Convener

Miss Jean Weir 01506 855626

Roll Keeper

Mr. Stuart Cunningham 01506 855952

Prayer Secretary

Mr. David Wilkie 01506 238644

Pastoral Care Group co-ordinator

Jeanette Ewington 01506 857194

Organist

Mr. James Lawrie 01506 856609

Church Officer

Mr. John Macaulay 01506 852947

Hall Convener

Mrs. Alison Turnbull 01506 852171

Property Convener

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Communications co-ordinator

Mr. Hugh Brown 0131 334 1384

Safeguarding co-ordinator & Social & Fundraising co-ordinator

Mrs. Elaine Brown 07936 363939