

Spring 2012

The Bridge



Communion will be celebrated on
Sunday 11th March at 11am and 6pm

Everyone is welcome

From the Manse



Many of you will already be aware that I will be away for six weeks on study leave.

The course I will be taking is run by The School of Theology at Toronto University. It runs from 22nd May until 22nd June) The requirements of the course are: Lectures, readings, group discussions, practical skill-building projects, two congregational study assignments and short papers. I will be staying on campus in student

accommodation and all that entails.....sharing kitchen and bathroom facilities.

I am stepping out in faith believing that God will supply all my needs on this adventure of learning. I am very excited about it, and I can't help but smile when I talk about it.... which leads some people to think I'm having an extended holiday J The truth is I do find it very exciting to have this great learning opportunity. Many years ago God spoke clearly to me about study, it's a long story so I'll not bore you with all the details, suffice to say that Paul's words to Timothy 'study to show yourself approved' (2 Timothy 2.15) were used by God to encourage me on my first stage of theological study... a short course by distance learning, I thought that was it.... there followed a period of study for an Honours degree in theology at Bible college in Glasgow.... and I thought, that was it.... no, God had other plans and I went on to do a Masters Degree in Theology at New College, Edinburgh, and if I thought my time of study was over, how wrong I was! This is a short, but intense course and did I say I was excited about it? But it's not all about me. The reason Paul encouraged Timothy to study was to show himself approved as one who correctly explains the word of truth to others. You are 'the others' in my ministry.

My main aim in undertaking this course is to become more effective in leading the congregation to develop vision and so engage in mission

in ways that are meaningful for the context in which we live, and appropriate to, and achievable by, the exercise of gifts within the congregation. (that's the statement for the Ministries Council, it means quite simply that I want to be the best I can be as together, we seek to serve God in this community)

You see it's not all about me, the benefits of the course for the church will certainly depend on my hard work and the desire of the congregation to develop vision and engage in mission.

If anyone is interested in knowing more about the course then this is a link to the course descriptor

[http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/UserFiles/Document/Divinity/TRP2665HF%20-%2020115\(1\).pdf](http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/UserFiles/Document/Divinity/TRP2665HF%20-%2020115(1).pdf)

This is the background to Study Leave.

It was decided in 1997, by the General Assembly, that study leave should be introduced for Ministers serving in parishes. Entitlement begins with two weeks at five years' service, four weeks at six years, and so on, increasing to a maximum entitlement of 14 weeks for those with twelve years of service in the Church. The Ministries Council fund study leave to the amount of £275 for each year of entitlement. There is no extra cost to the congregation when the Minister is on study leave.

The concept of Sabbatical Leave was not considered to be appropriate, (i.e. this is not to be a holiday/rest for the Minister, neither is it to be used as a means of rehabilitating ministers who require time off for other reasons). These were to be well constructed times of study that would be of benefit to the church and should rigorously uphold the ideals of continuing education and personal development. A report on the time of study is to be submitted to Presbytery within three months of return from leave. The Ministries Council has the last word on whether the study leave application is appropriate and meets the requirements of the General Assembly.

I am pleased to say that the course I have chosen has met with the approval of the Ministries Council and with Presbytery.

Terry

Prayer Corner

Joshua when he took over from Moses to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land was told by God to be determined and confident and not to be afraid or discouraged as God would be with him and his chosen people wherever they went.

They were asked to be faithful to God's word.

Later on in the Old Testament we again read of God speaking to His people through the prophet Isaiah, this time however they are in exile as they failed to be obedient to God's word but still God reminds them He has not forgotten them in their plight. He will rescue them and bring them home.

They were asked to trust God as He is faithful and keeps His promises.

And in the New Testament in Paul's letter to the church in Corinth we read him reminding the readers of his faith in God to provide his every need to fulfil the task, to take the gospel, to the Gentiles that they might come to know Jesus.

The message for us today is surely to be confident, determined and not to be afraid or discouraged at the state of the world in which we live today. Know that God is in control and He will bring us through these difficult times.

After all as we approached Easter we remember God's love for His people. He loved us so much that He let His son Jesus die for our sins that we could be reconciled to Him.

This Easter remember God's promises that as Jesus rose from the dead we too who believe will also share in this glory of eternal life with our Heavenly Father.

Amen



In your personal prayers please pray for

- **Our minister and office bearers that God with protect and lead them and their families**
- **Pray for our Queen in this her Diamond Jubilee when she ascended to the throne**
- **For the Busy project that funding will be forthcoming to allow this important work to continue**
- **For our Government in the very difficult issues facing the world today.**
- **The sick, anxious, lonely, estranged and the bereaved that they will find God's peace and love.**
- **Our armed forces and the relief organisations that strive to bring peace, justice and relief to all in need.**
- **For peace in our world**
- **For Dr Ruth Shakespeare, our Missionary Partner visit to West Lothian and her work in Malawi**



The Prayer Group continues to meet each Saturday at 10.00 am in the Session House. There is a seat for you. Please contact myself and the minister for prayer.

David Wilkie

Congregational Prayer Secretary

01506 854777

Diary Dates



World Day of Prayer Friday 2nd March,
7.30pm Broxburn Parish Church

Hanover Court Communion Thursday 15th March, 2.30pm

Stated Annual Meeting Thursday 22nd March, 7pm

Elders Conference Saturday 24th March at Cross House
Linlithgow – half day retreat for all Elders. Theme:
Stumbling Blocks or Stepping Stones.

Beetle Drive Tuesday 27th March

Session Meeting Thursday 29th March, 7.30pm in the
small hall

Council of Churches Holy Week Services

Monday 2nd April – Prayer and Praise, St Nicholas Church
7.30pm

Tuesday 3rd April – Messy Church, Broxburn Parish Church
Halls 4.30pm

Wednesday 4th April – Songs of Praise, United Free Church
7.30pm

Thursday 5th April – Holy Communion, Hope Hall 7.30pm

Friday 6th April – Good Friday Service, Uphall South
7.30pm

Easter Sunday 8th April

9am Early morning communion service in the church
followed by breakfast in the hall

11am Family Service followed by our usual Easter fun and games in the hall and outside (weather permitting)

Fashion Show Wednesday 18th April

Christian Aid Coffee Morning - 12th May, Broxburn and Uphall South

Church Quiz 10th October

Church Fayre 17th November

Bridge Choir - rehearsals take place every Thursday at 7.30pm

Prayer meeting - every Saturday morning @ 10am in the Session Room

+ + **stop press**..... + + + + + + + + +

Easter Mission

Will run from Monday 9 to Friday 13 April (2nd week of school holidays). Anyone who can help please see Elspeth Rodger. It is important that we have enough helpers to run the mission so please let her know as soon as possible if you can help

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Study Leave Arrangements

During Terry's study leave Rev David Black and David Wilkie will share pulpit supply. JAM will also have their service during this time.

The Pastoral Care Team will continue hospital and home visitation. If you know of anyone who requires a pastoral visit please contact Natt Beggs. 01506 852170

If there are funerals or situations where the services of a Minister would be requested this will be covered by either Rev Scott Marshall or Rev Richard Houston, see below for details.

15 May – 9th June Reverend Scott Marshall 01506 890919

10th June – 28th June Reverend Richard Houston 01506 202246

Finance

| 2011 | Income | Expenditure |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January - November | £73,998.21 | £91,786.56 |
| December | £6,302.90 | £5,287.63 |
| Total | £80,301.11 | £97,074.19 |

Thank you

To Marjorie MacRae for serving as treasurer, for her impeccable record keeping and the positive attitude with which she approached the work.

And welcome to our new treasurer, Sue Sneddon, as she takes up this role. We thank her for taking on this position and wish her well in what are likely to be challenging times ahead.



BUSY is a great project where you can express your feelings

It's given me lots of opportunities; its great.

...an amazing project with great leaders.



Information for Prayer February 2012

...it helped my build by confidence and deal with life

Busy is one of the best things thats happened to me.

A great place to hang out, have lots of fun.

BUSY is everything to me. I couldn't ask for a better group of people, a better bunch of friends, a better way to have fun, or a better way to et closer to God.

Give Thanks For...

- The **last 7 years of the project** and the variety of work done with young people in our churches, schools and the community.
- **Gordon Rouse**, our Youth Development worker. His energy, talents and dedication to building positive relationships with young people and helping them explore their potential.
- **Lynne McWilliams**, our administration worker, for all her organisational skills and time given to the project.
- **The management team and volunteers** who have worked with the project.
- The **local financial supporters** and the **BASICS Trust** for their continued support of the Project.
- **Project Romania** – a successful summer trip in 2011 in partnership with Blythwood and Broxburn Academy.
- **Seasons for Growth** a course for young people who are experiencing bereavement or loss. It is hoped to run a course before the summer. Susanne and Gordon have now run two successful courses, and intend to run another in the Academy before the end of the school year.
- The **young leaders** involved in many of the BUSY Project activities and organising a fundraising curry night on the 3rd March.
- **A recent grant** of £9,000 a year, for three years, from The Robertson Trust.

BUSY Aims

BUSY with
young people...

Developing
God-given
Potential

Reflecting
Christian Values

Exploring
the Gospel

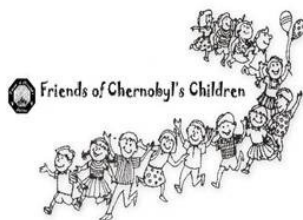
Connecting
with Church

Enabling
Local Volunteers

*With a specific
emphasis on
vulnerable and
disadvantaged
young people*

Please Pray For...

- **Easter Buzz** events, probably on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th April 2012.
- **The Acoustic café.** A regular event for young people aged 14+ held in the Open Door.
- **The Friday youth café.** A group meet in The Open Door on Friday afternoons.
- The **listening service** being introduced at the Academy.
- **Chill and Chat.** Monthly event at Broxburn for P7+. A new leader is needed.
- **Monday drop-in** at the Academy which is a mix of lively activities for young people, including games, craft, drama and a short video/thought/verse or story at the end of each session.
- **SOULspace** is on Wednesday lunchtimes with one of the young leaders (Taylor Lamond) which is a more in-depth bible study for young people who want to participate.
- **Breakfast Clubs** running at the Academy. Vulnerable young people are invited to come along to be part of these groups to help them have a positive start to their school day. We have specific money in place for breakfast clubs, and currently have 2 volunteers, an academy staff member and Gordon to run these clubs.
- **Volunteers.** There are significant opportunities for volunteering in areas like the new listening service, chill, chaplaincy and youth café. Give thanks for Matt Sinar volunteering a half day a week with the Project.
- **SU camps.** BUSY subsidise places for young people who are involved in the Project to attend SU camp. Give thanks for a recent donation towards this work. Pray that the right young people will be given the opportunity to go and take this opportunity!
- **Successful applications for funding** from a large number of Trusts, especially the Jerusalem Trust and the Gannochy Trust.
- Continued and increased **support from local Christians and organisations** in volunteering, praying and financially.



FOCC

I am delighted to advise that new host families have signed up and we are increasing the number of children in our group this year from 17 to 22. That means we will be making a huge positive impact on the lives of an extra 5 children and their families and that is a great feeling to have. We are now the largest group out of the 33 FOCC groups in the UK. That is down to the kindness of the host parents in our group and the number of great supporters we have and I cannot thank them all enough. You all make a huge difference to these very needy young children and their families and it is very much appreciated.

On 9th March I will be going to Belarus for a week with Shirley MacGillivray and Clare Cotton from our group as part of the charities official annual visit. During that trip we will :-

Host a party in the villages for our 14 village children to attend with their siblings and an adult. There will be lots of food for them to eat and each child will get a small toy and some chocolate/sweets.

Host a similar party in Mogilev for our 3 city children who will be joined by the city children from the Edinburgh group

Meet all 14 children from the various villages in their homes with their parents. During that visit they will be given a food parcel and (re-usable bags for life, a top up of paracetamol and vitamins, elastoplasts, stock cubes, tea bags, toothpaste and toothbrush, chocolate and sweets all of which will be taken from the UK as they are very expensive to get in Belarus) We will pass on letters/photos/ money/extra food from their host families and get feedback on what difference FOCC is making to them and how much they appreciate what the charity and the hosts do for them.

Similarly we will meet all of our 3 city children in their own homes.

Meet a number of possible new children and select the number required for our group and revisit them to advise them of the good news that they have been selected and pass on letters/photos etc from their new hosts and provide food parcel etc as above.

Our trip will not be an easy one and we will come across radioactive contamination, poverty, poor or no sanitation, corruption and all you would expect of a former Soviet state. We know that our every move will be followed by the KGB and our conversations and telephone calls listened to by them. However we are not afraid to go there as we know that God will be with us as we carry his love to the children.

Please remember our trip in your prayers - That we may be able to do all that we plan to do while we are there and return home safely to carry on this great work.

Kenny Turnbull Co-ordinator

SOUP LUNCHES

| | | |
|------------|-----------|------------------|
| 7th March | in aid of | Rutherford House |
| 21st March | " " | BUSY Project |
| 4th April | " " | Christian Aid |
| 18th April | " " | BUSY Project |
| 2nd May | " " | Church Funds |
| 16th May | " " | Scripture Union |
| 6th June | " " | CrossReach |
| 20th June | " " | FOCC |



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

Hearing the Word

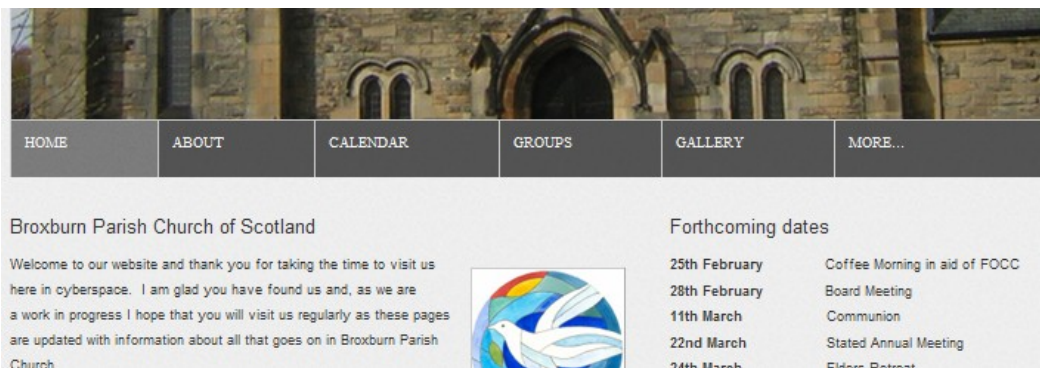
On Friday 29 and Saturday 30 January, Rev Nigel Barge came along to Broxburn and introduced us to an exciting way of exploring the Bible. It is all about asking questions, first we **LOOK** at the passage and ask questions about it, only questions, no answers at this stage. When we've asked all the questions (all questions are allowed and there is no silly question) we move to **LEARN** – together we work through the questions, discussing possible answers, bringing in other relevant parts of the Bible which help lead us to our conclusions.

We then **LISTEN** – what is the main point in the passage, is there a verse which sums it up? Often there are different ideas and as we discuss our thoughts we usually come to an agreement about what the passage is teaching us.

After we **LOOK, LEARN** and **LISTEN**, we think of how this might affect how we **LIVE**. What does the passage tell us about God, what might God have expected the first readers to do in response, what might God want us to do, individually or as a group.

Solomon, said ***"Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance," (proverbs 1:5)***

We have been exploring some passages from the book of Mark, some have been easier than others. We will begin a new exploration of the book of Philippians on Sunday 15 April – Sunday 6 May, 6pm in the small hall. The cost of the material is £3. Orders for the material will be taken soon.



Broxburn Parish Church on the world wide web

Some of you may be aware that we now have a web presence.

Our website is up and running and can be found by typing the following web address into your browser:

<http://www.broxburnparishchurch.org.uk/>

or by using your Smartphone and scanning the bar code below or by googling us!

This is an exciting opportunity for us to develop and may allow us to be accessible to people outwith our congregation and local community.

However the success of it depends on the relevance of information within. As a work in progress please feel free to suggest changes, content or submit news items for inclusion. These can be emailed to:



webteam@broxburnparishchurch.org.uk

Stated Annual Meeting

Chat, Choir, Coffee and Cupcakes!

Stated Annual Meeting - Thursday 22nd March at 7pm

This year's Stated Annual Meeting is on Thursday 22nd March at 7pm in the church. During the first part of the evening there's a chance to hear about all the exciting things that have happened in the life of the church in the last 12 months through chat and photos. There will be entertainment from the Bridge Choir, who are busy rehearsing for their concerts at the end of May. (*for details see pages 18 & 19*). After the 'official' part of the evening, everyone is invited to stay for coffee and cupcakes in the large hall.

To help us get a rough idea of numbers please fill in the slip which will be given out at the services on Sundays in March. We look forward to seeing you on 22nd March for what promises to be an informative and entertaining evening!



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 already have over 100 girls so you can imagine it gets quite busy.

Alison Turnbull

01506 852171

alit@blueyonder.co.uk

Funerals

November

Katherine Kent

December

Dorothy Sayers

Mary Innes

January

William Hyndman

Jean Grant

Andrew (Drew) Cunningham

Betty Colquhoun

Michael Forester Smith

February

Marion (Maisie) Gillies

Janet Kidd

Social & Fundraising

The coffee bars continue as normal but could do with some new volunteers for baking etc Please see Margaret Henderson.

The recent ceilidh was again successful in that it raised £108 for church funds.

Future dates for your diary.

27th March - Beetle Drive.

18th April - Fashion Show.

10th October – Church Quiz.

17th November - Church Fayre.

Lilian Pattison Social and fundraising convenor.



Bridge Choir

It's been a very busy time for the choir since I last wrote. As well as performing our two Christmas pieces at the Nativity Service, we went Carol singing to St John's Hospital and the Elements Centre in Livingston. Both Friends of St John's and Barnardos charities benefited as we raised an amazing £390 between the two, doing something we all enjoy! We also sang at the the Songs of Praise Service in January. A glimpse of what we are rehearsing for our concerts!

Speaking of the concerts, these will be on Thursday 31st May and Friday 1st June this year in Broxburn Parish Church. We will again be joined by the Children's Choir who are well into their rehearsals, and as I write this I have to say are sounding very good already!!

Tickets for the concerts are priced £5 for adults and £3 for under 12's. Tickets are available from any choir member or from myself - contact details as below.



In February we did the Wednesday Soup Lunch to raise much needed funds for the Choir. We raised over £200! Another fantastic amount!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all again for the continued support you give the choir. It is greatly appreciated.

We hope to see many of you at our concerts as we are sure you will be well entertained.

Janice MacPherson

Secretary

01506 852280.



Reminder

All intimations need to be with Elspeth by Wed 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 May 2012 to either Hugh Brown or Stuart Cunningham,

or emailed to:

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

Who's Who



Minister

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| Rev. Terry Taylor BA, M.Th | The Manse, 2 Church Street | 852825 |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------|

Session Clerk

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------|
| Mr. John Macaulay | 137 East Main Street | 852947 |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------|

Congregational Board

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------|
| Chair: Mrs. Felicity Murrie | 31 Nicol Road | 852464 |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------|

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------|
| 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. Brian Short | 28 Newhouses Road | 857540 |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------|

Prayer Secretary

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------|
| Mr. David Wilkie | 53 Goschen Place | 854777 |
|------------------|------------------|--------|

Pastoral Care Group co-ordinator

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------|
| Mr. Nat Beggs | 6 Grange Road | 852170 |
|---------------|---------------|--------|

Organist

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------|
| Mr. James Lawrie | 13 Queens Avenue | 856609 |
|------------------|------------------|--------|

Church Officer

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------|
| Mr. John Macaulay | 137 East Main Street | 852947 |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------|

Hall Convener

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Mrs. Jeanette Ewington | 93 Fergusson Road | 857194 |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------|

Property Convener

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Mr. Robert Pattison | 12 Houston Gardens | 855505 |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------|

Communications co-ordinator

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

Safeguarding co-ordinator

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

Social & Fundraising Convener

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Mrs. Lillian Pattison | 12 Houston Gardens | 855505 |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------|