

Spring 2014

# The Bridge



Communion will be celebrated on  
Sunday 9th March at 11am & 6pm.

**Everyone is welcome**



## From the Manse

As I sit at my desk at 6am on a Wednesday morning to write my last 'from the manse' for The Bridge magazine, I admit I am at a bit of a loss. What do I write, how do I say goodbye to people who have taken me to their hearts, have shown great kindness in their actions and

particularly to those who have spoken kind and gentle words to me when things in my own life have been difficult. ***Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.*** (Proverbs 16.24)

I have also been greatly encouraged by those who have challenged me, also with kind and gentle words, when I have needed challenged. ***Faithful are the wounds of a friend*** (Proverbs 27.6)

During my time at Broxburn my understanding of God's love has heightened and that in no small way by my experience of your kindness and generosity to Graham and I and our children and grandchildren, thank you, for taking us into your hearts. We have been encouraged and built up by your kindness and support. (1 Thessalonians 5.11)

This is no easy task, for I am sorrowful about leaving, I'll miss you. At Presbytery last night I said that even as I leave Broxburn I leave with a real sense of excitement at what God has planned for this congregation. Many times over the past few weeks things have happened that have greatly encouraged me to see how God has been at work and the great expectation that He will continue to work in the life of this congregation. But, for me the time has come to go, I experienced a time of feeling unsettled, and so I turned to God's word to try and make sense of it all. A passage from Deuteronomy came to mind; "Like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them aloft." (Deut 32.11). The mother eagle stirs up the nest to move the young birds out, (ok, I'm no young bird, but you get the idea) to keep the birds from being comfortable where they are, for in the nest they will never learn to fly.

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God continually works in our lives, equipping and enabling us to do His work and to face new challenges, sometimes He has to unsettle us to get us to do what He is calling us to do.

Paul reminds us that we are not saved by our good works but by God's grace and that God has a purpose for us, **"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."** And so, my confidence as I go to Aberfoyle is not in my own abilities but in God's faithfulness.

Let me digress here, when I made my *first holy communion* at the age of seven, I remember sitting in the church praying, I remember my prayer, a very simple prayer, a prayer that asked God to make me a good singer, 'even, just to sing hymns in tune', that was my prayer that day in May, 1962. I often think that God must have smiled down at my limited understanding of what He wanted to do in my life. That He had so many 'good things' planned for me to do, or perhaps he smiled at the wee girl who really did want to worship Him and would one day come to a greater understanding of how worthy He is of worship.

I can be nothing but honest here and say that at first I didn't respond as though God was the one unsettling me, I looked to other things as the cause, but when I came to see God at work in that time of unsettling, and through that time I was reminded that the important thing in life is always to look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. When things seem unsettled first ask God why? He is more ready to speak to us than we are to listen at times.

As I sat in the vestry in Port of Menteith, ready to preach as sole nominee I was feeling just a little anxious, in the quiet, I began to pray and as I prayed I heard the church bells peel out that wonderful tune, Finlandia, which I can't hear without singing the beautiful words of 'Be Still my Soul'. I sang quietly to myself, and was greatly encouraged by the lines, 'leave to thy God to order and provide, in every change, He faithful will remain,'. And He is faithful. I can expect God to be faithful to His promises in my own life and I am so very grateful for his grace.

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He has been faithful to this congregation for many years, he has gifted this congregation in so many ways, and He will remove any fear you have for the future and His peace will be known as you cast your cares upon Him, for He cares for you. I will preach my last service here on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. It will also be Liz Orr's last day with you, and I would like to say how much I have enjoyed having Liz here at Broxburn, it has been a delight to work with her, and my first experience of supervising a student has been a good one, thank you Liz. At this point we are not sure when we will be moving but you will be kept informed.

I pray that you will soon find the Minister who will take you on the next step of your journey and I pray that s/he will appreciate you for the many gifts and graces you possess. Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be perfected; be comforted; be of the same mind; live in peace: and the God of love and peace shall be with you. (1 Corinthians 13.11)

*Terry*



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## Message from Liz Orr

I can hardly believe that it will be four years, come the end of June 2014, since I went to the Enquirers Conference in Dundee to hear about the broad range of ministries within The Church of Scotland and to pray about my sense of calling into the Readership. My final placement at Broxburn Parish Church is nearing the end. I have my 'Final Preaching Assessment' on 9th Feb. and by the time you read this I will know whether I have been successful in being recommended to be set apart as a Reader [subject to finishing the academic study - hopefully by June].

My time in Broxburn has been very enjoyable, if a bit hectic at times. My involvement in various worship services, going into the Academy, funerals and home visits has all been of great benefit to me for gaining overall experience in the ministry of Readership and in many cases a real learning curve!

It has been a real joy and pleasure to share in conversations, attend the Guild, hear the wonderful music of the Bridge Choir and appreciate God's gifting and potential in the lives of the children and young people. May I sincerely thank you all as a Church family for your welcome, support, encouragement, friendship and practical help. Somehow it seems sad that my last Sunday [23rd Feb.] is also Terry's final Sunday before she goes to 'pastures new' in her call to be minister at Aberfoyle linked with Port of Menteith. I could not have learned as much as I have without the encouragement, guidance and advice given to me from Terry. Thank you to Terry for our fellowship and prayers shared and Graham for the many mugs of tea! May God go with you and abundantly bless you in this new chapter of your life.

I will be back to visit for I have tasted some of the best soup ever at the midweek lunches. Perhaps when I have completed my training you may invite me back some Sunday to Broxburn.

May God's blessing surround you each day.

*Liz Orr*

# Stated Annual Meeting

The Stated Annual meeting of the congregation is currently scheduled to take place in the church on Tuesday 25th March at 7.30pm (however due to other events this date may have to change - so listen out for intimations on the Sundays during March).

Members of the congregation are invited along to hear about the church accounts, to appoint auditors and to nominate any new Board members if required. Tea and coffee will be served after the meeting.



## SOYA

**Has now restarted for 2014. Anyone who wishes to contribute £1 per month should see Lilian Pattison.**



## Soup Lunches

5th March

The Busy Project

19th March

Mums - Malawi  
Underprivileged Mothers

2nd April

Christian Aid

16th April

Overseas Mission

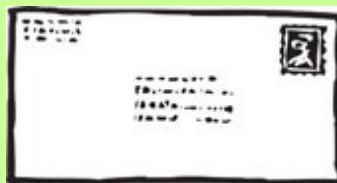
## Christmas Post

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped sort/ deliver/sell and buy stamps for the Christmas post.

The magnificent sum of £600 was

raised for charity. We greatly appreciate everyone's support and look forward to another successful " post" this Christmas.

Thank you.



We can't believe we are now working towards finishing badgework and starting to think about Parents night in May. We finished our birthday celebrations with the whole company going to the panto in Livingston in Dec. it was a great night with over 100 of us there. The girls behaved wonderfully well and had a ball.

We would also like to thank everyone for supporting our Carol Service. We always enjoy holding this service and singing for everyone.

The Brigaders are keeping busy. As well as working on their badgework many of them are attending training and also working on Duke of Edinburgh and Queens Award. The Juniors are looking forward to going to Camp in May. It's a great way to end the year.

Our parents evening is on Friday 30th May and everyone is welcome to come along.

**Thanks to everyone for their support.**

Broxburn GB leaders

For further information please contact:

***Alison Turnbull***

*01506 852171*

*07984 315250*

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









FOCC parties



BB 130 years old





*Friends of Chernobyl's Children*  
West Lothian



## FOCC

Our children in Belarus all had a large food parcel delivered to them at Christmas and of course some sweets. Some families are doing better than others but that is normal. All our children are in good health despite the very cold and snowy winter weather. In January the temperature was as low as -25 so you can imagine how much our good food was appreciated. Its hard to comprehend how they can survive those cold temperatures living in mainly wooden houses.

I will be travelling to Belarus for a week from 14-21 March with Ross Macpherson and another host parent, mostly paying our own way to go. We will be taking further food parcels/essentials when we meet with all of the existing children in their own homes and we will also meet Karyna again, the new girl who will come to our group for the first time. We will host a large meal for all the village children on our programme in the village of Cherikov. We will host a similar meal for all the city children on our programme These meals or parties are a great way of getting everyone together including the children who are finished on our programme. Its great to keep in touch with them and find out how them and their families are getting on. We will be taking all the children letters and pictures from their host families and maybe some money too if the hosts want us to pass it on. The children look forward so much to seeing us and getting the letter and pictures from their host family.

As I write this in January we have already started preparing our programme and provisions for the trip to Belarus and also for the trip in May/June when the children are here..

This year we will have 19 returning children and 1 new child making our group 20. The children will be here in our halls from 23rd May to 21st June. This is a special year for FOCC West Lothian. Our first children visited in 2010 as young, thin, weak, shy, emotional 7 year olds. It has been great to see them grow up and become more confident and healthy and I am sure we will be just as emotional as them as we say goodbye to them after their fifth and final visit this year. Some may join us on private visits in future years but for some this will be goodbye. We will hopefully

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keep in contact with them on our future visits to Belarus and of course next year we will be looking for new children for next year.

For 2014 we have agreed a bumper programme of really exciting activities for the children. They are going to have an absolute ball, especially the ones who will be here for the last time. We will ensure that they get a great send off and don't forget their final visit.

Please pray for us as we go on our annual trip to Belarus from 14th -21st March. Pray that we are kept safe from the many dangers we will face as we go about our work. Pray that we will be able to do all that we set out to do in bringing aid and love to the children. Pray that the children and their families will feel the hand of God on their lives through the work that we do. 1 John Chapter 3 verse 16-18 says:

"This is how we know what love is, Christ gave his life for us. We too, then, ought to give our lives for our brothers and sisters. Rich people who see a brother or sister in need, yet close their hearts against them, cannot claim that they love god. My children, our love should not be just words and talk, it must be true love which shows itself in action"

Its easy to talk the talk and have an opinion on things and do nothing but in FOCC we are so grateful that our hosts, helpers and supporters get an opportunity not just to talk the talk but to show their love in action.

Thank you all for your generous support in so many ways. We are all volunteers, giving our time very freely and we love what we do. We receive no official funding and all funds required (£20,000 p.a) are raised through donations and the hard work of our host parents and supporters putting on events. We know that we can't do it alone and the "work" we do is only possible through the kindness of good people like yourselves in this church and throughout West Lothian and beyond.

*Kenny Turnbull*

*Co-ordinator*

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

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## Diary Dates



<b>25th February</b>	Board Meeting.
<b>2nd March</b>	Elders Prayer time. 9.45 - 10.15
<b>9th March</b>	Communion. 11am & 6pm.
<b>9th March</b>	Middleton Hall Service
<b>25th March</b>	Stated Annual Meeting (TBC)
<b>27th March</b>	Session Meeting (TBC)
<b>30th March</b>	Holmes Gardens Service
<b>6th April</b>	Elders Prayer time. 9.45 - 10.15
<b>7th - 11th April</b>	Easter Mission
<b>4th May</b>	Elders Prayer time. 9.45 - 10.15
<b>1st June</b>	JAM Prizegiving & BBQ
<b>5th &amp; 6th June</b>	Bridge Choir Concert

**The Good News Trust Christian Library visits the Coffee Bar on the first Saturday of each month.**

## 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.

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# The Bridge Choir

It's quite hard to believe we are now into the third month of 2014!!

We enjoyed our outings to St John's Hospital and Dobbie's Garden Centre in December raising £260 for two charities – Friends of St John's and the Phillipines appeal. Two very worthy causes.

Choir rehearsals are going well with a very varied repertoire for everyone to enjoy. Our concert dates have been confirmed for this year as Thursday 5th and Friday 6th June, where once again the Bridge Choir Juniors will guest..... and probably steal the show again!!! Tickets for the concerts will go on sale around the end of April so mark the dates in your diaries and book your tickets through choir members to avoid disappointment.

Once again we are asking if any of our friends and supporters would be willing to lend a hand on either of the nights with front of house, programme selling and serving teas? If you can help could you let Elaine Brown, Elaine Gilmour, Alison Turnbull or myself know?

Thank you once again for your continued support, it really is much appreciated and means so much to all the choir.

*Janice MacPherson*

*Secretary*







## Boys mark 130<sup>th</sup> birthday

*The Boys Brigade across West Lothian celebrated their 130<sup>th</sup> Founders Day Service on 7th October .*

*Boy's Brigade companies from across the district met in Whitburn South Parish Church to celebrate the founding of the Brigade on October 4<sup>th</sup> 1883 by Sir William Alexander Smith in Glasgow.*

*After the service the boys and young men present lined up in the shape of "130" to be photographed from a cherry picker crane to mark this milestone. Boy's Brigade companies exist in Broxburn, Uphall, East Calder, Livingston, Blackburn, Bathgate, Linlithgow, Armadale, Whitburn and Harthill.*

*Lynne Glen, Battalion President said "We are indebted to the vision of our founder who created the first uniformed youth organisation. It continues to influence young people not only in Scotland but throughout the world. We are proud to continue what he started by offering young people an exciting programme of fun and adventure as part of local churches.*

*"Smith's legacy has been profound. It inspired the creation of other organisations. Millions of young people throughout the world have benefited through uniformed organisations"*

**Extract from West Lothian Courier** dated 10/10/2013

(See photograph)

We attended the Founders day service in October and many of our boys are in the picture depicting 130 years of the Boys' Brigade. I am sure many of us will remember the BB Centenary celebrations in 1983 and then our 125<sup>th</sup> celebrations 5 years ago. But that's enough looking back, we may be 130 years old but the BB is alive and well and still advancing Christ's Kingdom among boys.

We meet on Monday nights at the following times:

<b>Anchors:</b>	<b>6:00pm - 7:00pm</b>
<b>Juniors:</b>	<b>7:15pm - 8:30pm</b>
<b>Company &amp; Seniors</b>	<b>7:15pm - 9:15pm</b>

***Captain Jim Borland***

01506 417597

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

# Funerals

## November

Mrs May Sives

## December

Nan Fyfe

## January

Roderick Reid Marshall

Emily Bryce

Moira Bird

Lawrence Colquhoun

Mary (May) Potter



# Baptisms

## 1st December

Isaac James Matthews



**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 WiFi 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 May 2014 to either Hugh Brown or Stuart Cunningham, or emailed to: **[hughb92@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:hughb92@blueyonder.co.uk)** or **[stu.c@tesco.net](mailto:stu.c@tesco.net)**

# Who's Who



## Minister

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

Mr. Nat Beggs	6 Grange Road	852170
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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	21 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*