

March 2015

The Bridge



* The next **Communion service** will be on *
* **Sunday 8th March 2015 at 11am.** *
* Everyone is welcome *



From the Manse

Dear friends

Allow me to start by thanking everybody involved with the service of induction as well as social afterwards. I have high appreciation for the selfless way in which so many members and friends and family of members helped and contributed to the evening. It was a brilliant occasion! Many thanks to each and every one of you.

A special word of thanks also goes to the interim moderator, Rev Dr

Stewart Gillan, and the locums, Rev Bob Nicol and Rev Ian Walker for their efforts and dedication to the spiritual work in Broxburn.

As a family we feel blessed to be part of the next chapter of the Broxburn Parish Church story. It is indeed a privilege to be part of this faith community. We are looking forward to this faith journey with each and every one of you.

The nominating committee and those members in attendance on Thursday will pardon me for repeating my story about the three ships. I do this as an introduction of some sorts to allow you to understand part of my vision for ministry. Well, here goes...

I believe ministry and church life can be referred to as the fleet of three ships. Firstly, and most importantly we have the WORSHIP component. Worship answers the question about why we (Christians) are here. While we can probably venture any number of answers I am convinced that we are here to serve God and glorify his name; something we collectively call worship. Everything else takes a back seat to this.

Secondly we have the ship called FELLOWSHIP. We are called to love God above all else and second to that our neighbours as ourselves. By reaching out in friendship and seeking opportunities to share in fellowship we get the fellowship on its merry way.

Obviously, fellowship also extends to the strangers and visitors. Matter of fact since the earliest days of the Christian faith two characteristics made Christians different from all other faith communities: their fellowship with one another and their fellowship and hospitality to strangers.

Thirdly, we have the STEWARDSHIP. Stewardship is to be understood in a much wider sense than only matters pertaining to money. Stewardship in essence involves sharing and giving back out of the riches of my belongings (donations and contributions), my talents and abilities (lending a hand with projects), my time (volunteering), and everything else that I often take for granted. Stewardship therefore also involves sharing the Good News about Jesus Christ (evangelism, outreach and mission).

May I invite you to reflect on the three ships and if you feel like it stop me after church or give me a phone to discuss or interrogate it. I'm looking forward to share the journey aboard the three ships with you.

May I share a blessing from Max Lucado¹ with you in closing:

May the God of peace and grace and truth be your guide as you begin your day. May he go ahead of you and prepare the way. May he come behind you and protect you. May he surround you and make you aware of his presence.

Best wishes

Jaco

¹<https://maxlucado.com/read/topical/31-days-of-blessing/>



From the Locum

Dear friends,

I finished off my last letter to you with these words:

We look ahead with hope and expectation ----- to the beginning of a new ministry in Broxburn.



This will mean more change and adjustment but remember the Chinese symbol for crisis which means both danger and opportunity and as you have always done, enter into change with the hope that Christ gives, sure that he has the future in his hand and remember: he will never let you down.

It seems appropriate to repeat them now that our hopes have been fulfilled and, by the time you read this, a new ministry will indeed have started.

I have greatly enjoyed my time as locum in Broxburn and Shona wants me to say on her behalf how much she has enjoyed being part of the congregation and how much she has learned from her chats with other members over the cup of tea after services.

It has been a privilege to have been your locum for the past few months and I know that I 'hand over' to someone who sees the same positive features of church life that I have discovered in Broxburn and who really wants to be minister here.

Of course he will inevitably make changes but I have found folk here very adaptable and ready for new things

so I am sure that there will be a constructive dialogue and probable lots of laughter along the way.

Laughter will be one of my memories of Broxburn – a congregation with a sense of humour and a readiness to see the funny side of things – especially when the bits of paper have fallen off my white board!

That brings me to the responsiveness of the children who are always ready with their answers some of which have been so good that I have to do some quick thinking to follow up.

My thanks also to the Audio/visual team for all their help on Sundays and at a number of funerals where sometimes they were set difficult tasks and fulfilled them admirably and willingly.

I know that in the years ahead Broxburn Parish Church and her congregation will go from strength to strength and will continue to blossom under the ministry of Jaco and will be a great support to him and his family.

I have to say that had I been a few years (maybe a good few years) younger I would have been applying for Broxburn myself but I know that you are in good hands and I look forward to hearing about your development and growth.

Yours in Christ's service,

Rev. Ian Walker (Locum)

Prayer Corner

Recently, as I was sitting down for breakfast one Sunday morning listening to Pam Rhodes programme on Premier Christian Radio I heard the hymn 'Jesus loves me' being sung by a choir of children. A song, I am sure is very familiar to many of us, from probably a very early age.

But as I listened I was reminded of the assurance of God's love for me and for all of creation, a promise he has made that He will never leave nor forsake us.

To be able to proclaim with all your heart that 'you know Jesus loves us' is indeed a powerful declaration of faith and trust in Jesus and His Heavenly Father.

Knowing as you read God's word, he keeps His promises he has made. His love for us is unchanging, yesterday, today and to the end of time. Even if we chose to turn our backs on him when life gets rough, he is there waiting, longing for us to return to him.

Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so...

As we approach Easter we are reminded of God's love for His people that he gave his only son, Jesus, to die on the cross at Calvary for our sins. Jesus hung and suffered there for me, for you and for all who profess that Jesus died for their sins and through his death we are reconciled with God, our Heavenly Father. We are now brothers and sisters in Jesus, sons and daughters in God's heavenly family.

And through Jesus' resurrection that first Easter Sunday where he conquered death, we can be assured of sharing eternity in the Kingdom.

I know that Jesus loves me, how do I know I acknowledge that he died for me a sinner on the cross that I could be reconciled with my Heavenly Father and live forever in the Kingdom.

As we gather around the cross this Easter session let us all move forward in faith with our new leader on our Christian journey.

Amen

In your personal prayer times please pray for

- **For Jaco, at the start of his ministry with us that his ministry will be long and fruitful, bringing glory to God. For his wife and family as they set up home in Broxburn.**
- **For our office bearers, organisation leaders and all who serve in this church that they will give diligently of their time, talents and possessions.**
- **For our Easter Mission that Jesus touches many hearts and changes lives.**
- **For our friends at the Baptist Church with Frank their pastor having moved on.**
- **For Dr Ruth Shakespeare's work in Malawi, as I write this I am hearing yet unconfirmed reports that the recent devastating floods in East Africa have affected the work at the Mission Hospital.**
- **For our young people preparing for exams, give them discipline to study and confidence at they sit their tests.**
- **For all unable to join with us in regular worship, the knowledge they are missed and loved.**
- **For the forthcoming General Election that we vote and God's will is done.**
- **For peace in our world this Easter.**
- **For the prayer life of the congregation that we will be faithful warriors to see changes in our congregation, community and world that will bring glory to God.**

David Wilkie

Congregational Prayer Secretary

01506 238644



Induction Service

The church was filled for the induction of our new minister Rev. Dr. Jaco Boonzaaier on Thursday 19th February. Many of our own congregation plus a large contingent from St. Columba's Church in Stirling (where Jaco had been Assistant Minister) gathered to welcome our South African brother in Christ. The first half of the evening was led by members of presbytery with the sermon preached by the most recently inducted minister Rev. Dr. Jonanda Groenewald, who by coincidence is also South African – a fact she couldn't let pass without addressing Jaco in their native language of Afrikaans.

Following the service and a break for tea and cakes the second section of the evening (the social) had a lighter tone beginning with the talented JAM Brass Band. The Boonzaaiers were presented with gifts from the congregation – Jaco received a preaching scarf and his wife Moya a bouquet of flowers. Welcomes were extended from Rev. Ian Maxwell and Monsignor Patrick Burke and then a relaxed Jaco addressed those present. The Bridge Choir sang two songs which Jaco described as 'brilliant' (a word I suspect we will hear him say regularly!) One of Jaco's closest friends Rev. Dr. Annes Nel spoke next and said that although Jaco was 'a wonderful man' he sometimes had no common sense because he worked so hard and therefore he encouraged the congregation to look after him. The event was drawn to a close by Jean Turnbull who made presentations to our two locums Rev. Bob Nicol (who was sadly too ill to be with us) and Rev. Ian Walker who served us so well during the vacancy. It was a truly memorable evening and the perfect start to Jaco's ministry in Broxburn.

Hugh Brown

Vice-chair, Nominating Committee

Diary Dates

6th March	World Day of Prayer Service at 7.30pm
8th March	Communion @ 11am
22nd March	Stated Annual Meeting (after morning service)
26th March	Kirk Session Meeting

Easter Mission

13th - 17th April from 10am to 12 noon.

This year we're going on a Polar Expedition!

Council of Churches

Holy Week Services

Monday 30th March Uphall South Church - Prayer and Praise Service

Thursday 2nd April Broxburn Parish Church – Communion Service

Friday 3rd April Broxburn UF Church – Good Friday Service

All services start at 7 pm.

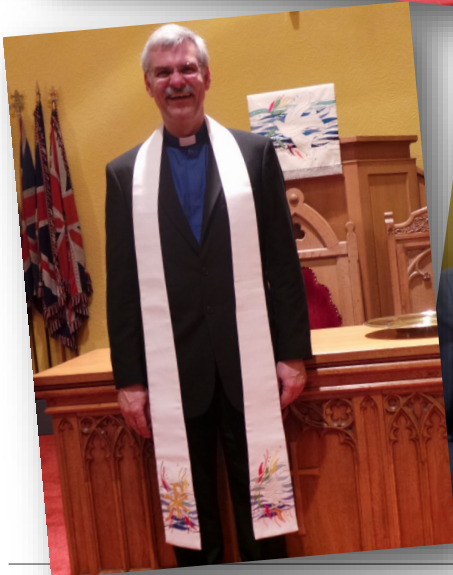
Offerings from all services for Scottish Bible Society

Annual **Bible Society Rally**, this year will be held on Sunday 26th April in Broxburn Baptist Church at 7pm. Come along and hear of the work of the Scottish Bible Society in our world.

Crèche

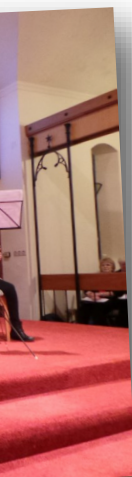
We are pleased to say that a crèche is now available on Sundays during morning worship. This will be held in the Session room and will be supervised by 2 adults who have been PVG registered. Should you wish to bring your child along there are also baby changing facilities and high chairs. If you want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

Jaco's induction





The Busy Project



FOCC

Some of our children receiving their Christmas parcels.





Friends of Chernobyl's Children
West Lothian



FOCC

At Christmas time all of the children on our programme received a large food parcel and a present from us, delivered to them by our great interpreters. They were all in good health and good spirits despite the harsh winter weather.

We are now in the process of making our final preparations for our 10 day trip to Belarus on 19th March. Feeling a bit like Santa Claus, making a list and checking it twice for all the letters and supplies we will take but luckily we don't have to decide who's been bad or good, naughty or nice. We don't go there to judge, we accept the children and families as we find them and we go only to love and help.

On this trip will be Kenny Turnbull (6th visit) and Bob Pattison (2nd visit) from our congregation and another host parent Adela Keenan (3rd visit). Our visit in October was a very exciting one for us as we found the 7 new children we needed to restore our May/June group to 20 children again after saying goodbye last year to some children for the last time in terms of their visits to Scotland, as they had completed their period with us on our programme.

Our visit in March will be even more exciting as we have taken a huge leap of faith and decided to invite a second group of children. So we will have 20 children with us, as normal, in May/June and a further 12 new children in September. We have been working away very hard in the background and have 12 new host families in place who have all been through the necessary checks with the authorities. So on this visit as well as visiting all 20 children in the May/June group and taking them food parcels,

essentials and letters from their host families and finding out how they are getting on and reporting back, we will be looking for 12 new children to join us in September.

For the 12 new children we choose I am sure it will feel like Christmas as the girls will get a gift of a doll with many outfits, the boys will get a gift of a football and pump, quite possibly the first new toys they will have received at the age of 7. More important than that they will receive much needed vitamin tablets to help their health and the gift of hope for the future as they will be coming on month long respite visits to Scotland for the next 3-5 years. They will also receive the gift of a second family who will love and care for them when they are in Scotland.

The new families have all provided us with a letter and pictures telling their new child all about them. This is very important for the child and their family in Belarus as they know that the child will be going to a nice loving family that they know something about, so its not so much of a journey into the unknown.

So please think about us between 19-29 March and pray for us, that we will be kept safe, we will be able to meet all of our existing children, we will be able to find 12 new very needy children and as our decisions on new children are life changing decisions, please pray that we will make the correct decisions. Thank you all for your prayerful and financial support. It is very much appreciated.

Kenny Turnbull

Co-ordinator

Friends of Chernobyl's Children, West Lothian Group

Over the last year the BUSY Project has worked with 254 young people aged 10-18. Boys and girls, some of whom are disadvantaged or from low income families, have engaged

with BUSY Project activities. The Project works with young people who have a church or no church background. The BUSY Project is a youth ministry reaching out to our young people

Our group work programmes have grown to include one breakfast club, and three activity groups, leading to weekly work with 29 young people.

6 young people have participated in Seasons for Growth, with a further 10 on a waiting list.

75 listening sessions were delivered to 33 young people by a team of 5 trained listeners.

In the past year, we have worked with 27 young people through our engagement programme, offering additional support for them to access project activities.

We have a further 20 young people who have been referred to our resilience focussed group work programmes, and we are in the process of establishing a further group, and setting up a waiting list to help meet these needs.

Weekly Youth Club sessions were delivered for 10-26 young people (average attendance of 16 young people)

Weekly Drop-in sessions were delivered for 2-15 young people (average attendance of 8 at each)

Monthly Youth Event ('Chill') was delivered for 3-23 young people in Broxburn (average attendance of 14)

A second event, created with our Young leaders ('The Mine') is now running weekly, with 13-37 young people attending weekly (average 22).

We have now extended this event into an online Minecraft world where young people can meet, create and play, with appropriate supervision.

18 young people were provided placements as Young Leaders across 7 Project Activities, including mentoring and training.

28 young people are registering hours towards Saltire Awards.

41 young people took part in Leadership Development Workshops this year.

We delivered our first structured Young Leaders training course / induction.

Project Romania will see 12 young people raising funds and working with young people in Romania.

The Busy Project has developed into a fantastic, vibrant, life changing project, reaching out to many hundreds of young people in our community over the past 10 years.

Gordon Rouse as our youth development worker has driven the project forward ably assisted by Hannah our part time youth worker and Lynne our administrator; and of course a team of very enthusiastic and able volunteers comprising young leaders and older young leaders!

Local people between the 3 churches fund one third of the work of the Busy project, which is very much appreciated. If 120 more people (only 40 from each church) gave £20.00 monthly we could be self-sufficient, that would be our best wish.

Over the past 3 years the gap was covered by the Gannochy and Robertson Trust funds they are coming to an end and we need more funds to continue – Now! We have applications to external trust funds underway, but at this time things are very difficult.

We are prayerfully moving forward with hope, and will continue as much of this great work as possible.

Using the strengths we have as a project; great staff, young people and volunteers;

We trust God has a plan and we put our faith in him to deliver us our future.

Thank you for all your support,

Laura Gordon

The Foodbank

By now the foodbank will have moved from the Baptist church to ours. Luckily many of the volunteers from other churches are willing to continue serving from our premises. Indeed Frank Murray and his wife Christine were happy to continue on Tuesdays even though they have moved to Kirkcaldy.

Our customers are men and women and their children who, through no fault of their own have found themselves in frightening circumstances unable to provide for themselves or their families. Our task is merely to open the appropriately sized box, check the contents, top up what may also be needed (sometimes adding baby nappies, sanitary products, dog food or toiletries etc) then to pack it all in carrier bags. We can only serve those who produce a voucher issued by one of the many agencies who can do so, such as the Job Centre, Council Information Service at Strathbrock Partnership, Open Door etc. People who arrive without a voucher are directed to the most suitable voucher issuing location. We supply breakfasts, lunches and dinners sufficient to last 3 days by which time their situation may have improved by obtaining employment or receiving help from the authorities.

The people who come in are welcomed with a smile and offered refreshments while one of the team sits with them for a chat to put them at ease, listening to any tales they wish to tell. Some arrive embarrassed and/or distressed, so by treating them with respect and sympathy, by the time their food has been sorted out and they've had a cuppa they are normally much more relaxed and optimistic. Volunteers are often moved by the genuine gratitude expressed by the customers.

It is often fairly quiet and the group can then enjoy good conversation over cups of tea. There are also busy periods when time flies and we feel this is a good opportunity for outreach by the church as we try to follow our Saviour's example of serving our neighbours. There are likely to be fewer staff available in the opening weeks at the new venue so it is hoped that many will see the benefits of sustaining the foodbank until (hopefully) the need for it ends. Thus we ask for more help from our own congregation. Volunteers can find a task suited to their preferences and abilities, either handling the boxes, filling the bags, completing the paperwork, making tea, coffee or soup or liaising with the Trussell Trust under whose Christian umbrella we operate. There are 8 outlets in West Lothian of which ours is believed to be the busiest!

We are open from 12.30 till 2.30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays so volunteers can opt for which day suits best. If we get sufficient numbers (as we had before moving) it can mean doing foodbank duty on only one day in three weeks. Not too much to expect of anyone don't you think?

Soup Lunches 2015

4th March	The Busy Project
18th March	UCB
1st April	Christian Aid
22 April	Project Romania
6th May	Scripture Union
20th May	CSW(Christian Solidarity Worldwide)
3rd June	CrossReach
17th June	FOCC

The Bridge Choir

The choir were kept busy in the run up to Christmas. As well as singing at the Nativity Service, we were up at St John's and also the Elements Centre in Livingston, raising money for Friends of St John's and also the Ebola project respectively.

Since the restart in January we have been very busy rehearsing not only for our annual concerts but also for the Induction Service for our new minister, Rev Dr Jaco Boonzaaier.

Junior choir has now restarted again and we are glad to have welcomed quite a few new children to the choir! I'm sure they will have a great time learning their songs for the concerts!

The concerts have been scheduled for Thursday 4th and Friday 5th June, tickets will become available in due course! We hope to see many of you there. We will also as usual be looking for helpers with teas and front of house. Any volunteers will be greatly appreciated!

We have been approached to sing at the Howden Theatre later this year along with another local choir and a Russian soprano, so watch this space for details!!

Thank you once again to all our friends for your continued support!

Janice MacPherson
Secretary



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**

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Items for inclusion in the next issue should be submitted by early May 2015 to either Hugh Brown or Stuart Cunningham by email: **hughb92@blueyonder.co.uk** or **stu.c@tesco.net**



Remember to visit our website:

www.broxburnparishchurch.org.uk

or like and share us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/BroxburnParishChurch

The hall now has public Wi-Fi available for any users accessed by logging in to:

[BroxburnParishChurch_PublicWiFi](#)

SOYA PROJECT

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Soya Project in the past year and raising the amazing sum of £700.00 including the bonus of £21.00 from ASDA. This gave many vulnerable young people a three course Christmas lunch and perhaps the only Christmas gift they received. The photograph shows just some of the bags of gifts prepared for the social work to uplift. If you would like to contribute £1.00 month, or more if you wish, to this very worthwhile project please see Lilian Pattison.

Who's Who



Minister

Rev. Dr. Jaco Boonzaaier	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: 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