

Summer 2017



Count me in!

**Stewardship
Special
Edition**

The Bridge
magazine
is inside

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

Count Me In! Count Me In! Count Me In!

A church built to last

Broxburn Parish Church sits in the heart of the community it serves and has been here for well over **100** years.

Over that time we've seen many changes and many challenges, as we look to maintain and grow our congregation and our links with the wider community.

Family, friendship and fellowship are our key values and we extend a warm welcome to everyone who visits our church, joins us for worship or uses our halls throughout the week.

We want our church to continue to grow and develop to meet the changing needs of our community, and invite you to play your part in helping achieve this.

Our stewardship programme aims to encourage all our members to review their giving to the church and help make sure that the church will still be here in another **100** years. We hope you will say...

Count me in!

Why should I give?

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (**2 Corinthians 9:6-7**)

Anything you give, whether large or small, will be appreciated and will help us continue to spread the word of God throughout the community.

Count Me In! Count Me In! Count Me In!

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Why does it always come down to money?

Broxburn Parish Church was built in **1879**. In today's world, keeping this lovely old building wind and watertight, and in good repair, doesn't come cheap. The theft of lead from our roof three times in the last few years - and the resultant damage caused - bit heavily into our reserves.

To keep the church and halls at a comfortable temperature for all our visitors needs a good heating system and controls, plus regular maintenance checks. Heating and lighting costs alone have increased by more than **25%** in recent years.

How many of us can say that we've increased our giving by the same percentage over the same timescale?

We have **350** members on our congregational roll and average around **110** attendees at our Sunday worship services.

We recognise that work and family commitments, and illness, can prevent members from coming along every week but if you haven't joined us for a while we'd love to welcome you back.

We welcome those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, comfortable, rich or poor. We extend a special welcome to wailing babies and excitable toddlers and offer a crèche during the service.

*"Heating and lighting costs alone have increased by more than **25%** in recent years."*

Count Me In! Count Me In! Count Me In!

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Can't we cut down on expenditure?

Sadly, having reviewed our predicted expenses, there's nothing we can really cut out. Building maintenance costs take a fair chunk of our budget every year and deferral of essential work simply defers, and increases, the cost when the work is finally done. Then there are heating and lighting costs, insurance, licences, telephone, council tax, photocopying/printing costs and our Ministry and Mission fees and presbytery dues.

Our budget forecasts for the last two years have shown a consistent shortfall in income over expenses of around **£18,000** a year, without allowing for any special projects. If this trend continues, then the church will run out of money in three or four years time - or sooner, if unexpected expenses hit us.

The other side of the financial balance is income, and that's where we recognise the problem lies. If every member



contributes an extra **£2** a week – less than half the price of a pensioner fish supper – that would increase our direct giving by **£36,400** a year! However, we know that not all members

contribute to the church so we are all being encouraged to review our giving.

*"If every member contributes an extra **£2** a week...that would increase our direct giving by **£36,400** a year!"*

Count Me In! Count Me In! Count Me In!

Count Me In! Count Me In! Count Me In!

Worship

Coffee Bar
Bridge Choir

Boys' Brigade

Craft and Chat

Soup Lunch

Pastoral Care

Sunday School

Guild

Girls' Brigade

CHILL

Young Persons' Group



FRIENDLY • FAMILY • FELLOWSHIP

Sharing fellowship

The congregation of Broxburn Parish Church are ordinary people united in faith in Jesus Christ. We provide the services expected of the local church, from weekly Sunday services, midweek services, celebration of communion four times a year during our normal Sunday services plus monthly evening communion and regular services in sheltered housing and nursing homes.

We also have a Pastoral Care team who visit the sick and frail whether at home or in hospital, and whether they are members of our church or not. And then there are the regular coffee bars on a Saturday morning, the monthly soup lunches, and the various groups associated with the church.

Count Me In! Count Me In! Count Me In!

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Outreach in the community

Broxburn Parish Church reaches out to the local community in a variety of ways, from members' involvement in other charities like Friends of Chernobyl's Children (FOCC) and BUSY, to volunteering and supporting West Lothian Foodbank.

Our halls are also used regularly by other local groups, playgroups and various after-school clubs.

What does the future hold?

That may very much depend on you. As you can see from the previous page, we can't afford to continue as we are.

We want our Church to continue to grow and develop and serve the needs of the community for at least the next **100** years. To make sure that happens we need to increase our regular income. **Can we count you in?**

How can I give?

Regular giving helps us plan our budgeted expenditure, and you can make regular contributions via donation envelopes or via a standing order placed with your bank.



If you use envelopes we now incur bank charges when we pay the cash or cheque into the bank (**25p** for every cheque we receive or write and **£1 per £100** cash on the first **£1,500**, dropping to **80p per £100** – for every transaction).

Count Me In! Count Me In! Count Me In!

Count Me In! Count Me In! Count Me In!

The bank doesn't impose charges on us for donations made via standing order. You can complete the standing order to pay in weekly to help with your budgeting (as with donation envelopes), or monthly or another frequency more suited to you. Donations made in this way will continue until you cancel the standing order, whether you are able to join us for worship or not.

If you are a tax payer you can help increase your contribution further by also completing a gift aid declaration. This then allows us to claim back **25%** tax from HMRC.

So, a **£2** contribution made in this way would be worth **£2.50** to us, and if paid via standing order, would be **free** of bank charges.

When you join us for worship, why not throw any loose change in your pocket into the open plate? We can also claim back **25%** tax on any small donations made in this way from HMRC, whether you are a tax payer or not.

One-off donations can be made at any time and can also, if you are a tax-payer, be gift-aided, allowing us to reclaim **25%** tax from HMRC.

You'll find further information about gift aid and a blank standing order in the magazine. Any gift aid declaration must be returned to Jean Weir, our gift aid convenor, either direct or via your elder. You should hand in the completed Standing Order form to your bank.

We hope you've now read enough to say...

Count me in!

Thank you!

Count Me In! Count Me In! Count Me In!



From the Manse

It is hard to believe that we are already half way through the year!

You may be packing for your cruise just now. Maybe you are preparing for a short break or maybe not planning to be on leave at all. Whatever the situation thanks for taking the time to read this.

Apart from the normal contributions the current edition of the magazine is themed around stewardship. You may remember

at my induction I mentioned that church is about three ships: worship, fellowship and stewardship. While we continue to seek more ways to address the former two 'ships' we have not really addressed stewardship. In a nutshell stewardship is our awareness that we have a responsibility to consume and utilise our resources in line with our confession that we are Christians.

In practical terms that mean that we consider how we spend / deploy / use our money, our time, and our talents. In the Church of Scotland we cycle through the three focus areas of money, time and talents over three year periods. We start later this year (end of September / beginning of October) with a stewardship campaign starting with money. Why money again? Well, I am sure you will find the answers to this question in several places of this magazine.

May I add two comments to what you will find elsewhere in the magazine? Firstly, allow me to thank each and everyone who is contributing to the church. It is nothing short of humbling seeing time and time again the open hearts and open hands after an appeal.

Secondly, the purpose of stewardship is to get more people to contribute regularly rather than to persuade people already contributing to increase their giving. (If giving can be increased obviously, it will be received with gratitude!). Stewardship is thus more than a once off appeal for a project. The idea is to increase the general income of the church in general. To this end standing orders and gift-aid declarations also greatly aid.

Finally, if you need to have a word on the matter of money or just in general please do not hesitate to contact me or Sue Sneddon, our treasurer.

In closing, may I wish you a happy summer – whether that means holidays or work! I am positive that we shall have lots of sunshine... it may not be this year, though.

Many blessings

Jaco



The next **Communion services** will be on

Sunday 11th June 2017

at 11am & 6.30pm

Everyone is welcome

Diary Dates

1st June	Bridge Choir Concert
2nd June	Bridge Choir Concert
11th June	Communion 11am & 6.30pm
14th June	Board & Session meetings
1st July	Coffee Bar in aid of Alzheimer Scotland
15th July	Coffee Bar in aid of the Foodbank
29th July	Coffee Bar in aid of Crohn's & Colitis
12th August	Coffee Bar in aid of The Busy Project
19th August	'An Afternoon Tea'
30th September	Stewardship Coffee Bar
30th September	'The Wedding' play, & ceilidh
1st October	Stewardship Lunch

Prayer Corner

I write this as we prepare for another General Election having just had an election for Councillors for the local council. Much moaning and groaning has been heard of late about the state of the nation and cries for something to be done about.

As Christians we should vote in these elections and pray for our elected representatives. In many lands throughout the world democracy does not exist.

Too often we hear woes of despair about one thing or another and I was reminded of one of my favourite hymns 'What a friend we have in Jesus...'

In the first verse of this popular hymn we sing these words;

'...What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit, o what needless pain we bear

all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer?'

On the night Jesus was betrayed he told the disciples not to let their hearts be troubled and to believe in God.

It could be seen why the disciples hearts were troubled. Jesus had just told them one was about to betray him, Jesus was about to leave them and they couldn't come with now and Peter would deny knowing Jesus.

Jesus tells them to pray to the Father in his name and their prayers will be answered.

We know just having celebrated Easter that we were reconciled with God when Jesus died for our sins, and that death was conquered when Jesus was raised from the dead that first Easter Day. And that God sent the Holy Spirit to the followers on Pentecost when Jesus had returned to his heavenly throne.

Don't let your hearts be troubled, take your prayer to God through Jesus and know that God hears and will answer your prayer.

Amen

In your personal prayers please pray for

- **Our minister and office bearers that God will protect and lead them and their families.**
- **Folks will review their giving to God's work in our community and give joyfully of their time, talents and possessions.**

-
- **Pray for the General Election**
 - **Pray for our Queen and her new Government in Westminster and MSP in Edinburgh as they rule over us in these continuing difficult times as we negotiate our exit from the EU.**
 - **For Donald Trump in his Presidency of the United States**
 - **For Dr Ruth Shakespeare, our Missionary Partner her work in Malawi who will be visiting West Lothian after Easter.**
 - **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 continue in their work with the young folk in the community.**
 - **For peace in our troubled world, and relief to suffering. For Christian Aid and other relief organisations**
 - **For all our leaders, officers, teachers and helpers of our church organisations**
 - **That our fellowship might serve the community as Jesus did in His ministry**

Please contact myself and the minister for prayer.

David Wilkie

Congregational Prayer Secretary

01506 238644



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.

Stewardship: Can we Count on You?

I hope you are enjoying this special Stewardship edition of our magazine and that you will take some time to consider in what way you can help us increase our congregational income - whether it is reviewing what you can give or how you give. If you are prepared to complete and set up the enclosed Standing Order on your bank account it means that even if you cannot make it into church on a regular basis, you can still give regularly to financially support the work of our church.

The reasons behind our campaign are well documented on the previous pages of this magazine. Once you have read over all the details and given it prayerful consideration I sincerely hope we can count on you to say '**Count me In**'.

Whilst we would like you to take action now if you are able, we will be picking this up again in September and are planning to have a special Coffee Morning on Sept 30th which will promote all groups with our church, whether they are our own organisations or others that meet within our premises. And after morning worship the next day (Oct 1st) we will have a lunch linking in with Stewardship called '**Count us In**.' Consider yourself invited! Please make a note of these events in your diary.

I do of course realise that this campaign comes at a time when people are having to carefully manage their own tight household budgets. If you find it is not possible to increase your giving at this time but you are a taxpayer, please read the enclosed Gift Aid leaflet, complete the separate form provided and return it to us. This will allow us to claim back tax already paid on what you continue to give, all at no extra cost to you.

Thank you for taking the time to consider how you can play your part.

David McWilliams

Stewardship Group.

Bridge Choir

Hi everyone, just a wee reminder that our Concert takes place on Thurs 1st and Fri 2nd June. We hope many of you will come and support not only us but our wonderful Junior Choir who have been working very hard.

Tickets are on sale at £7.00 for adults and £4.00 for children. These are available from Elaine Brown or anyone in the Senior Choir. If you'd like to book by phone please contact myself on either 01506 432414 or 07785106895.

We look forward to seeing you there and hope you enjoy it.

Once again, thank you for your continued support, it's much appreciated.

Elaine Gilmour
Secretary

.....BREAKING NEWS.....BREAKING NEWS.....BREAKING NEWS

WORLD PREMIERE COMES TO BROXBURN PARISH CHURCH

Jim Anderson presents his latest play "The Wedding" on September 30th at 7 p.m. in the Church with a "Reception" Ceilidh to follow in the Halls. Put the date in your diary and look out your glad rags!
Invitations (tickets) available from August.

Further details to follow.

.....BREAKING NEWS.....BREAKING NEWS.....BREAKING NEWS

Coffee Bars are held in the church hall every Saturday morning between 10.30 & 12 with home baking available every week. These are usually to raise money for the church but we also support a number of charities through the year. So please come along and enjoy some fellowship and a nice cup of coffee!



*Friends of Chernobyl's Children
West Lothian*



FOCC

We had a very successful visit to Belarus in March. We visited all 12 children in our August group and the 5 new children in our June group taking them all food parcels, medical supplies and love from their hosts in the form of a letter.

We gathered together all of our 2 groups of children (33 plus some parent helpers) for a meal and party at 10 pin bowling. It was great to see them all together having great fun and enjoying a good meal. We also visited 2 orphanages. The first one we took hundreds of pairs of new pants, socks, vests and tights. Imagine the luxury of getting new pants etc for the first time. These were very well received. The second orphanage was for special needs children. We took them much needed learning games and the children had great fun exploring them, as did we :)



We also helped mum and little brother of Ercamo and Zarina get to hospital. Little brother Sasha has cancer and has since had a large tumour removed and has had 2 lots of chemotherapy. So sad. He is not even one year old yet. We have now provided special medicine to stop him being sick and we will provide transport for all of his visits to hospital which is about 3 hours away. We have also helped a boy called Alexei. He was run over by a lorry during an outdoor art class. He broke almost every

bone in his body and nobody has taken responsibility for his recovery. So after coming out of hospital he is an invalid and he is left with his mum with no support. We have provided food and will visit him on our next visit and perhaps in the future if he recovers enough we will bring him for a visit to Scotland.

We also visited 2 schools, spending time encouraging the pupils in the English lessons. We also visited older children who are finished on our programme - Dima, Dianna and many peoples favourite in the church, wee Denis, who is not so wee now. He is growing up quickly. Jean Turnbull did very well on her first visit. She worked very hard and kept us all entertained.

Once all the work was done one day, Jean held a wee coffee meeting for all the interpreters who have stayed with her and others too. It was great to see them all together having a catch up and a blether.

Our June group of 21 children will be with us from 27 May to 24 June. A very exciting first visit for our 5 new children. They will all be based in our halls on



weekdays so you may see them around. We will be taking the Wednesday service on 21 June so please join us and encourage the children, who will take part, and share a soup lunch with us. Later that day at 6.30pm will be the childrens "Thank you" concert. Its normally very entertaining and very humbling. Please come along. Everyone is very welcome. Entry is free.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support and interest in what we do. It is very much appreciated.

Kenny Turnbull
Co-ordinator
FOCC West Lothian

Busy Project

Hi folks!

I just wanted to share some lovely moments we've had recently.

About a year ago I was praying for BUSY and asked God that one day a teenager would come up to me and show some evidence of them reading the Bible in their own private time.

Last week, I was sitting with a lad who has been with us for three years, who was first referred to us by the Academy for being behaviourally difficult and bullied and under confident. This lad is now a Christian, and a young leader in the project, and he's currently leading a discussion table in our Youth Alpha. Sure, he's not perfect, but he has come a long way. Well, last week he and I were sitting discussing how to lead discussions well and he said, 'oh, yeah, it's like what Jesus does in Matthew 20:19.'

And my mouth dropped open. And I ran to the bible to check it, and sure enough, he'd just quoted chapter and verse on the money! That evening his dad texted me to thank me for how much more courage his son now has.

The Alpha Course is three weeks in and going well. We've had around 10-12 young people. There's a few younger lads who don't seem to understand the topics, but they do understand that BUSY is a place for them, where they fit in and are included. And if they're not yet understanding who Jesus is in their heads, they're beginning to understand what it's like to encounter him in kindness.

Please keep praying for us. Pray for me too, that God keeps showing me ways to connect with the young people in meaningful ways.

Thank you for all of your help and support.

Hannah.



Sunday School

On behalf of all the JAM children and leaders we thank you all for your support in helping us raise funds for our summer outing. We hope you all enjoyed the challenge of our quiz and the fellowship and tasty treats at our coffee bar. In total we raised £330

which will not only fund our trip but will also provide the food for our JAM prize giving afternoon and help towards future events.

We are now hoping for sunshine on the 10th June for our trip to North Berwick so we have a good excuse for an ice cream and look forward to sharing with you news of our adventure in the next edition of the magazine.

In JAM we learn about the same stories as the rest of the congregation albeit from a simpler or slightly different angle and in a more interactive way. This is great as it means all members of each family from the very young to the more mature can share their knowledge & learn more from each other outside of Church.

Recently Anne came along to JAM to talk with us about the role of the Foodbank and why she volunteers with this. It was an interesting insight which the children really enjoyed. We hope to have more people come along and share their knowledge and hidden talents with the children. If you would like to assist in this way please speak to one of the leaders.

This year we have used new teaching material within JAM and the children have given us feedback on their thoughts and highlights of JAM so far this year which we would like to share with you:

Never bored because we always have lots of activities to do

It's awesome

Our favourite thing was when we washed our feet like the woman who washed Jesus' feet

I've enjoyed the done. The props into character and show the young

love the way JAM is more interactive now. We do something different every week

The best thing about all the friends I've and the fun we have together

Foodbank

The Foodbank continues to operate from the church hall every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 until 2:30. There are now 10 Foodbanks in West Lothian. The most recent openings were one in Armadale in April and in Craigshill last month.

In 2016 in West Lothian, 3559 people in crisis received a 3 day emergency supply of food. Broxburn is one of the busiest Foodbanks in the area. We have recently seen an increase of people coming to us who are homeless and may either be "sofa surfing" or in one room temporary accommodation. These people have often limited or no access to cooking facilities. If so we provide them with "kettle boxes" which contain food which needs either no cooking or just boiling water to be added.

Local bakers Heskeths, in West Main Street, now donate to us left over bread and bakery products. This is great, because most of what we distribute has to be processed and tinned food – not fresh.

We really appreciate the support from within our own church. This includes use of premises, with heating and lighting, financial support through for example retiring offerings, and the donations, volunteers and support from members and church groups. The monetary donations are required for admin and transport costs. We intend to hold a coffee bar with various stalls in mid July (date to be confirmed).

We could not do what we do without the support and donations we receive, as all food given out in West Lothian through the Foodbank is donated locally.

Thank you and may God bless you as you continue to support the Foodbank through your prayers and generous giving.

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Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that we are near the end of our 2016/17 session. But Easter has passed and by the time you read this we will have had our annual display. We will

have presented 6 Anchor boy promotion certificates, 3 Junior Section Gold Awards and the Company Section boys will have gained the 3rd stage of the Discovery multifaceted program.



We are looking forward to our annual camp in June, We will be returning to Meggernie in Glen Lyon. We had a great time last year and hope to repeat and improve the experience. Seeing the expression on the boys faces when they realise there is no phone signal, is priceless.

We stop for the summer and return on Monday 28th August, where we will be looking at going to the Scottish Airshow on Ayr beach.

Here are a couple of pictures of some of the aircraft the boys made recently.

God Bless

Jim Borland

Captain

07803 032063

01506 417597

2broxburn@boys-brigade.org.uk



Recording of Sermons

We are now recording our service on a Sunday morning. They are available to listen online via our website:

<http://www.broxburnparishchurch.org.uk/sermons--intimations.html>

If you know of anyone who would be interested in receiving a copy on cd then please let us know. Either by emailing: **webteam@broxburnparishchurch.org.uk** or by contacting the minister or your elder.



Have you got a hand to help?

You will have read all about the Stewardship campaign earlier in the magazine but if you have time and talent to share then the property group would also like to hear from you!

We have highlighted a number of specific tasks we are looking for help in completing this year. This list is now available on the Property Group notice board in the large hall.

If you feel able to assist in this way then please let us know. We will provide all materials to enable you to complete it and it can be undertaken at times to suit yourself.

If you want to find out a bit more or think you can help us in any other way then please contact me or a member of the property group.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

1 Corinthians 12: 4-6

Stuart Cunningham

Property Convenor

Reminder

Items for inclusion in the next issue should be submitted by early August 2017 to either Hugh Brown or Stuart Cunningham by email: **hughb92@blueyonder.co.uk** or **stu.c@tesco.net**

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 & Property Convener

Mr. Stuart Cunningham 15 Badger Brook 855952

Prayer Secretary

Mr. David Wilkie 55 Goschen Place 238644

Pastoral Care Group co-ordinator

vacant

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

Communications co-ordinator

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

Safeguarding co-ordinator & Social & Fundraising co-ordinator

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