

Summer 2013

The Bridge



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

Everyone is welcome

From the Manse



Come and find the quiet centre.....
Be still and know that I am God....

Some are blessed that in their nature the quiet centre and being still is not, for them, difficult. Others, struggle to be still, to be quiet and in our struggle we know that there is value in quiet times, meditative times.....

in our struggle we are longing to leave behind the distractions, in our struggle we are longing to dispense with the agony of anxiety, to let go and let God.

In the past few weeks I have had some very meaningful conversations with a young woman in this congregation....we've talked a lot about being still, being quiet, listening for God, listening to God. I have discovered that it is helpful to recognise the various things that distract me from being still and I have appreciated the conversations with this young woman, for I can be honest without fear of judgment or condemnation. In her company I can name those things. She doesn't raise her eyes, she doesn't scorn. At times she just reaches her hand over and touches my arm, leading me to that quiet centre, helping me to be still. She delights in being a help. The most amazing thing is ...she appears to be totally unaware of the preciousness of the space she gives me to be me. She has, in our often short times together, helped me to learn to



accept myself, because she is very accepting of me, I think because my struggle is her struggle.

There is an authenticity in our relationship, it is a gift from God. Authentic relationships are a gift from God. The paradox of finding the quiet centre is that it is to be found not by being alone but it is found in the presence of God who loves us and the presence of others who accept us and care for us, ridding us of the fear of being rejected or judged and making that quiet stillness a place less frightening.

Authentic relationships are based on love and we know

Love is patient, love is kind.
It does not envy, it does not boast,
it is not proud.
It does not dishonour others,
it is not self-seeking,
it is not easily angered,
it keeps no record of wrongs.
Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

Authentic relationships spring up where this kind of love is present and we can learn to take our day, our week, our lives, one step at a time, for, it is in relationship with God and with one another that we are able to be all we can be, to the glory of God our Father.

Terry

Prayer Corner

At the end of April I eventually got into the garden to do some preparation for the coming year.

Having turned over last year's vegetable patch I was joined by Joshua, my youngest grandson, 20 months old and his dog to offer their assistance! Knowing that wielding a spade with a toddler and a wee dog working by my side would not lead to much more being done I decided to call it a day.

But before putting my spade back into the garage I decided to make some castles for Josh with one of his buckets, he was impressed with his Grandad's effort and the castle remained standing for all of one minute before he decided to redesign it.

But as I stood and made these castles for him I was reminded of the song, 'There a flag flying high from the castle of my heart ... for the King is in residence there' and we were encouraged to let our flags fly high that whole world would know that the King was indeed resident in our hearts.

How by adding a flag a bland creation made from sand or earth in the garden can be transformed to something of beauty, to a thing that shows that it is cared for and loved. We too can be changed to be new creations and know that we have someone who cares for us and longs for the love we have received to be shared with others.

The love, the hope and promise we have in knowing Jesus and the knowledge of sharing our lives forever in His Kingdom should be evident for our attitude to life.

This love should radiate from us like a flag flying high, it should be vibrant, bright and full of life.

Let us, who know Jesus, and know His love for us is unchanging, show those around us that Jesus loves them too and they can share this everlasting peace.

Tell someone you love today the Jesus loves them.

Amen

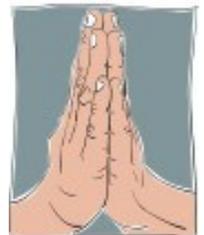
In your personal prayers please pray for:

- **Our minister and office bearers that God will protect and lead them and their families.**
- **Pray for our Queen and her Government as they rule over us in these seeming never ending difficult economic times.**
- **For the vulnerable in our society and those dependant on State Benefits that they will be provided for.**
- **For the unemployed, especially amongst our young folk, and those who live in the fear of unemployment that they might find work.**
- **The sick, anxious, lonely, estranged and the bereaved that they will find God's peace and love.**
- **The Scottish Bible Society's Bibleworld visit to Broxburn in September that it will be well received by visitors both young, and not so young, that lives might be changed.**
- **Our armed forces and their families, relief organisations that strive to bring peace, justice and relief to all in need.**
- **For peace in our world, especially in the Middle East, Indian Sub Continent, Afghanistan and the Koreas.**
- **For Dr Ruth Shakespeare, our Missionary Partner her work in Malawi and for her visit to West Lothian in October.**

David Wilkie

Congregational Prayer Secretary

01506 854777





*Friends of Chernobyl's Children
West Lothian*



FOCC

We had a very successful trip to Belarus in April. It was so nice to see all of our existing children and their families in their own homes and also to meet the new children who will be

travelling to Scotland for the first time this year to start their journey with us. Most of the children are improving well with the help of our programme. Some of the families continue to struggle, mainly because of alcoholism, and it is in these families that the children need our help more than ever. We got quite a shock when we saw Nikita. He has been with us for 3 visits and was quite a chunky boy. It was so sad to see his thin, gaunt face, which immediately showed us that he has had a hard year. We found that his mum who has drink problems has lost custody of the children and they now live with their dad, who is also an alcoholic. Nikita, 10, regularly has to take time off school not only to look after his younger siblings but dad too. He is a clever boy but unfortunately he is not getting the chance to learn. We will do what we can to help and support him.

It was also great and emotional to see Bob meet Vadim's mum for the first time since Bob and Lilian started hosting Vadim 4 years ago. Vadim's mum always says that Bob has been a great influence on Vadim's life for many skills, as Vadim's dad was murdered 5 years ago. It was also great to see Bob meet Dennis again and his lovely adopted mum for the first time. I had the pleasure of meeting her last year too and she is a remarkable "mum". We enjoyed a lovely cup of tea with her, Dennis and her other son and daughter. She was so relaxed and was telling more about Dennis's terrible life. She first met Dennis when he was 18 months old and loved the wee guy when she saw him, as we all do. He was in hospital after being beaten by his drunken parents. She then lost contact with him and we know that for the next few years he spent long periods

locked in a cupboard with no food, while his parents were drunk. Just by chance a few years later her friend was going to an orphanage about an hour away to adopt a child so she accompanied her. While her friend was in the orphanage a wee boy came straight up to Dennis "mum" and said "are you my mum are you here to get me" and she said "no" and then she thought " I know that face, how could I forget it – it can't be Dennis can it" So she went and checked the records and it was him. She agreed to adopt him and the rest is history. It has not been an easy ride for her over the past 4 years as we well know. Dennis's bags have been packed many a time to go back, but she couldn't do it. She was telling us that he has changed so much in the past year and now recites poetry at school. He evens asks mum if anything needs done in the house before he goes out to play and only goes out once all the work is done. We can't wait to see him again along with all of the other 21 children, who are just as special to us.

They will be with us from 1st to 29th of June and will be in our church halls on weekdays from 8.15 to 5.30 except when we are away out on outings. If you see the children I am sure you will all make them most welcome. Please come along to the Wednesday service and soup lunch on Wednesday 19th June at midday. The service will be about the children and they will be there singing 2 songs.

Please also come along to our thank you concert on Wednesday 26th June at 7.30pm in the church. Oh, and bring your hankies – be warned - it is a lovely and humbling experience being in the presence of these children.

Thank you for all your support and prayers. It is very much appreciated.

Kenny Turnbull

Co-ordinator

Friends of Chernobyl's Children

Edinburgh West - West Lothian Group



Diary Dates

8th June	Communion
15th June	Good News Trust Library Service at Coffee Bar
25th June	Board Meeting
20th July	Good News Trust Library Service at Coffee Bar
10th September	Beetle Drive
26th September	Sesion Meeting
9th October	Church Quiz
16th November	Church Fayre



JAM Nativity

It is a major part of the JAM calender to present the nativity play on the Sunday before Christmas. Some months before the leaders look over some of the material that is available and consider whether we are looking for a traditional nativity or something a little different. This year we went for a traditional one but which had the benefit of many parts so all the children that wanted to could take part. We then decided who would play which role - always a contentious issue! Of course we had Mary & Joseph with the shepherds and those wise men were also close at hand. We also had a modern theme with the older children contributing their own thoughts. Once we decide the roles we practice with the children for weeks learing their lines and the new songs.

We hope you enjoyed the Navitivity in 2012 and no doubt when we start back in September later this year we will start the planning all over again for Christmas 2013 after all it is only just over 200 days away from now! "

The JAM Leaders



JAM Nativity





Andrei



Dasha H



Dasha J



Dennis



Dima



Kiryl



Katia & Ira



Krystina



Lera



Luba



Masha



Natasha



Nikita



Palina



Pasha



Sasha E



Sasha S



Sergei



Tania



Vadim



Veronica



Vika



Zhenya



Bob, Vadim & his mum





Ceilidh March 2013



Fashion Show
April 2013

Social & Fundraising

The year started with a ceilidh on the 2nd March which was well attended and enjoyed by all raising £232.50 for church funds.

Then on 17th April we had a Fashion Show sponsored by Bon Marche which again was a great night, with everyone who came along in support receiving a discount voucher for the store, raising £296.

The coffee bars continue as normal with baking once a month.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the ladies of the committee for all their efforts in making these events so successful.

And a big thank you to all the ladies who acted as models and a big thank you to the gentlemen who helped to set up and clear the hall after the fashion show.

Lilian Pattison

Convenor



The BUSY Project

The Busy Project continues valuable work with the young people in the Broxburn and Uphall area, as you are probably aware the Busy project is supported by all three local churches and local people as well as a couple of charitable trusts. With the permission of Gordon Rouse, Busy Project Youth Development Worker, I would like to share with you and extract of an e-mail he received recently. He had been asked to host some ICC (International Christian College) students and their tutor for a day, they spent some time in Broxburn Academy observing some of the work of The Busy Project.

Gordon,

Please forgive this very late email which I've been meaning to send for the last week to say a HUGE 'Thank You' for the day that you gave to our students last week. Both they and I were very impressed with the style of youth work that you have developed at Broxburn Academy. Having spent quite some time myself doing and developing the kind of role that you now have in Broxburn I was incredibly impressed by the way that you'd folded BUSY into the life of the school; something that I didn't manage to do nearly as well as you have in my 12 years at Cheney High School in Oxford.

BUSY is superb Gordon! I've rarely seen better and I haven't seen anything better in Scotland so far. As far as I'm concerned I'd like to roll out that model for every schools worker across the land. We really appreciated meeting the staff and team and I personally learned a great deal about 'the art of conversation' though that simple exercise you gave us to do. Indeed simplicity seemed to be key in what you do and that made the style all the more Godly for me; it didn't require PhD's but it did require thought and you and the team have obviously put a great deal of careful thought

into what you're doing. It's my hope that some of the students might ask to come back and spend some time with you in order to understand better what makes BUSY tick.

THANK YOU

To you, to the team and to the school for hosting us so brilliantly last week.

Kind regards,

Ken

I think you will all agree this is very encouraging for Gordon and his team of volunteers and just a small example highlighting the quality of the work of The Busy Project.

Thank you for all the prayerful support we receive for this valuable work reaching out to our young people in our community and sharing with them the Good News.

Laura Gordon

(Busy Management Team)



Sound Desk

We are still looking for anyone who is interested in helping with the sound desk rota.

June & July require additional cover due to holidays and other FOCC commitments.

Full training for those not familiar with the equipment will be given. Thank you

Bridge Choir

As most of you will be aware by now, the Choir regretfully had to postpone their annual concerts this year. This was a very difficult decision to make but a necessary one.

We are continuing rehearsals until the end of our session which we feel is essential to the fellowship of the Choir. We will then have the summer off, (well, hopefully there will be a summer!) to allow healing and recuperation.

We will start our rehearsals again in August, looking forward to concerts next year. Meanwhile there will be pieces to learn for Christmas and Easter.

Thank you again for your continued support and understanding. It is really appreciated by all.

Janice MacPherson

Secretary

Good News Trust

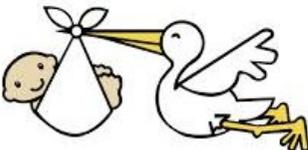
Christian Library Service will call at the coffee bar on the **15th June & 20th July.**

Other dates to be confirmed.

Any enquiries about this service please contact Margaret Henderson.

Congratulations

to Colin and Kirsty Matthews on the birth of Isaac James.



Stated Annual Meeting

The Stated Annual Meeting took place on Sunday 17th March, in a different format this year, as part of Sunday morning worship.

The statutory business of appointing the Independent Examiner and auditors took place as well as reappointment of non-Session Board members who were at the end of their three year term. Iris Lawrie and Janis Linton elected not to go forward for re-election both having served on the Board for many years. We are thankful for their service and commitment. Sue Sneddon gave an overview of the accounts for Broxburn Parish Church highlighting significant figures.

Hugh Brown spoke to Andrew McPherson and Blythe Rodger about Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade, focusing on the Queen's Badge/Queen's Award which they had each been awarded. They explained what they had to undertake to gain these awards and what the awards meant to them personally.

Elaine Brown gave a review of the activities of the Bridge Choir and spoke about the enjoyment and fellowship choir members experience from singing together.

Kenny Turnbull told those present about the work of Friends of Chernobyl's Children which has developed a close bond with this congregation. He spoke in detail about the situation in Belarus and the variety of activities which take place when they visit us in Scotland.

A copy of the approved minute of the meeting is displayed on the notice board in the big hall.

Anne Gunn
Clerk to the Board

Coffee Bars

Regular Coffee Bars will stop at the end of June until September to give teams a break.

The following will take place:

Sat 29th June - Scottish Veterans Association + Craft stalls
(contact E. McCreight)

Sat 6th July - Alzheimers + Craft stalls
(contact M. Punton)

Sat 20th July - Vine Trust Tanzania (Kim Taylor)
+ Good News Trust library service
(contact E. McCreight)

Sat 3rd August - Crohns/Colitis + Carft Stalls
(contact D.Macaulay)

Sat 17th August - Vine Trust Tanzania (Kim Taylor)
+ Craft Stalls
(contact E. McCreight)

If you can help and/or bake for any of these dates please get in touch with contact person. Thank you.

Do you give to Broxburn Parish Church by standing order or direct debit?

If so, thank you! For those who do give by those methods, we have now produced small laminated cards which you can pick up each Sunday at the front door to put into the offering bag. That way, you don't have to worry about passing the offering bag without putting anything in. Just remember to pick up a card on a Sunday as you come into church.

Funerals

February

Rebecca Manderson

March

Rose Craig

Janet Wardrop

April

John Blaikie

Donald Sives

Ian Philp

Bryan Thomas

Janet Johnson



Soup Lunches

Soup lunches in June are as follows:

5th June CrossReach

19th June FOCC



There will be no soup lunches in July or August.

Restart 4th September in aid of BUSY
18th September Mulanje Mission Hospital.

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 August 2013 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: Mr. Hugh Brown 92 Gyle Park Gardens 0131 334 1384
Corstorphine

Clerk: Mrs. Anne Gunn 3 Kirkhill Court 856984

Treasurer

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Gift Aid Convener

Miss Jean Weir 135 Houston Gardens 855626

Roll Keeper

Mr. Brian Short 28 Newhouses Road 857540

Prayer Secretary

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Pastoral Care Group co-ordinator

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Organist

Mr. James Lawrie 13 Queens Avenue 856609

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Mr. John Macaulay 137 East Main Street 852947

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Mrs. Jeanette Ewington 93 Fergusson Road 857194

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Mr. Robert Pattison 12 Houston Gardens 855505

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