

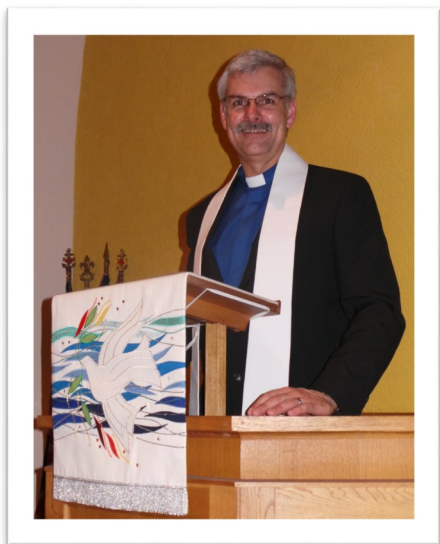
June 2015

The Bridge



The next **Communion service** will be on
Sunday 14th June 2015 at 11am.

Everyone is welcome



From the Manse

By the time you read this we shall be well and truly on our way to the summer. Maybe you have holidays to look forward to or would simply like to take the opportunity to get into the garden. Whether you are going away or taking a stay-cation (opposite of vacation) do enjoy every moment of the summer.

At church it has been little over a hundred days since we have arrived in Broxburn. On a personal level we have settled in

and are also looking forward to the summer during which we'll receive dear friends visiting us from South Africa. In a sense our friends are closer than family; we are the godparents to the wee ones and can hardly wait to see them and have a (long) catch-up blether. The anticipation and preparation for their visit made me think...

As children of God we are part of his family. Although we 'live down here' and cannot see God (yet) we know that we'll go home some time. We were made family when Jesus came to us and – as we celebrate at Eastertide – died for us, was resurrected and ascended to heaven. His words in John 14 are a reminder of what we can expect.

He was still on his way to the cross when He told his followers: "Don't let this throw you. You trust God, don't you? Trust me. There is plenty of room for you in my Father's home. If that weren't so, would I have told you that I'm on my way to get a room ready for you? And if I'm on my way to get your room ready, I'll come back and get you so you live where I live." What a picture of the future!

Until such time as Jesus returns or we go home, there is, however, a lot to be done here. The season of Pentecost is a

reminder that even when Jesus left we were not left on our own. The Holy Spirit is God's presence among us. The Spirit is God in us.

Whether you are preparing for a holiday or simply preparing the barbeque for the summer you can enjoy life to the fullest. We are already in eternity mode; we have an unending life courtesy of God's love. Therefore, enjoy that cup of tea; have another caring chat with a friend; live life for the gift it is. Above all else, live a life of gratitude; treasure every rose bud, stop to look at the rising moon and value the setting sun painting the clouds many shades of pink and blue.

Wherever you may be and whatever you do, remember you are a prince / princess; we call the King of heaven and earth 'Father'!

Best wishes

Jaco

Diary Dates

25th May	Boys' Brigade Annual Display
28th May	Kirk Session meeting at 7.30pm
29th May	Girls' Brigade Parents night
4th & 5th June	Bridge Choir concert
7th June	JAM Prize giving & BBQ
14th June	Communion at 11am
17th June	FOCC Concert at 7.30pm
23rd June	Board Meeting at 7.30pm

Prayer Corner

As I write this article I am listening to the radio broadcasting a concert from Horse Guards Parade in London as we recognise 70 years since the end of World War Two in Europe.

Tomorrow Christian Aid Week starts which roots also date back to the end of World War Two. Christian Forces' Chaplains serving in Europe were appalled at the desperate plight in Germany and throughout the continent where folks were left with little having been forced from their homes, families and in many cases their own country. The Chaplains decided to write home to their own churches in the UK to seek help knowing only too well the plight in our own land but their appeal was answered and churches provided some monies to relieve some of the suffering.

The work of Christian Aid has never ended with fresh appeals for the folks in Nepal following their recent devastating earthquake where many lost loved ones, their homes, possessions and livelihoods and the monsoon about to come shelter in urgently required.

The call on Christians to love one another is very real today and it is important we respond to God's call to love one another even if we think the situation in the world is far too big for our contribution to make an impact. Remember it only takes one more snowflake to snap the branch on the tree.

Daily, in recent months, we have heard of the plight of refugees fleeing wars, persecution and the hope of a better life for their families in ships from North Africa across the Mediterranean Sea, with many perishing on this dangerous journey. It should be remembered many of these refugees are our Christian brothers and sisters.

We who have must give to those who have little or nothing. Many lives were lost in two World Wars and the many conflicts since striving to make this world a better place for all.

Jesus gave His all by dying on the cross at Calvary that we

could have life in all its fullness when we were reconciled with His Heavenly Father.

Let us give what we have and not count the cost and be more like Jesus in our daily lives.

God bless

In your personal prayers please pray for

- **Our minister and office bearers that God with protect and lead them and their families**
- **Pray for our Queen and her new Government as they rule over us in these continuing difficult times.**
- **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 adapt to their smaller team in their work with the young folk in the community.**
- **For the young folk from Broxburn involved with Project Romania.**
- **For those leaving school that they find work, college and university place**
- **For Dr Ruth Shakespeare, our Missionary Partner her work in Malawi, especially following the recent flooding.**

Please contact myself and the minister for prayer.

David Wilkie

Congregational Prayer Secretary

01506 238644



Meet our Minister



Hugh Brown chats to Rev. Dr. Jaco Boonzaaier and finds he has Scottish roots...

Broxburn is the first parish of your own in Scotland. Has it been a bit of a culture shock?

It still is. There's sense in which ministry is ministry, people are people, but there are also unique elements and even within Scotland there are unique communities and the congregation is by no means homogeneous, so you have to have a diverse and open approach.

The people in Broxburn are very warm and welcoming, aren't they?

Absolutely! It's just amazing how people reach out – they greet you on the High Street and it's brilliant.

As a new minister, you bring your own talents and experience. But what about change, because some people in the church can be resistant to change?

My position on change is that firstly it is inevitable, but secondly we need a balanced approach. What I mean by that is we need people who are reluctant to move but we also need people who are willing to move - in that joint mix we have the balance. I always go back to my wristwatch, and in it I have the stationary elements – the screws, the nuts, bolts and crown – but I also have the moving hands, and jointly it moves like clockwork, so we need all of that spectrum to move forward in a balanced way. But change is a given!

If you were to label your ministry, how would you describe it?

I'm not big on labels! I pray to get rid of labels because I think they are limiting, so maybe my label would be the 'label remover'! I don't like pigeonholing people. I think we need to be open for the surprises that the Holy Spirit can bring about to change people, otherwise we

will be stuck in very set ways if we don't realise that people change over time. As a matter of fact, I have a life motto that says if I say the same things now as 10 or 20 years ago then I haven't grown at all – haven't moved one inch – I might as well be dead. So we need to guard against labels I think as a little bit 'yesterday'.

Why did you decide to come to Scotland to continue your ministry?

I'll give you the short version – there is also a longer version available on request! Many moons ago, my great grandfather from up north, who was a Church of Scotland minister, went to South Africa in 1853 as part of the London Missionary Society. In fact the Frasers, MacDonalds and Murrays were actually formative in the Dutch Reformed Church which I was part of. I only recognised that about 12 years ago when I studied my family history on my mother's side – my mother is a Fraser – and I discovered that my great grandfather came from Scotland. Out of curiosity I went on the internet and found that while in South Africa we had 250 ministers without pulpits it was the reverse here with 200 churches without ministers. And I felt the calling a while later to maybe reciprocate in kind, not with all the answers, but with a willingness to serve and that grew over time. In 2006 I had the first opportunity to make enquiries but the rest of the family, particularly Moya, wasn't ready for it. And I said 'that's also part of the calling – it's either all or nothing'. The next time it came around was in 2012 and I said to Moya 'how do you feel?' and she said 'I've been ready for a while' – and I think that's also part of the confirmation of the calling. I see it as part of a larger movement across the face of the earth where we have what's been termed 'reverse mission' where in Third World and developing countries the Christian ministry is growing, and they now take the opportunity to send people back, not necessarily missionaries, but ministers and others prepared to serve abroad and return in kind what was provided centuries ago – and here I am! That's the short version!

What's your plan for Broxburn Parish Church?

Everything starts with worship and prayer and the realisation that we are worshipping the living, real God – not someone captured within the pages of a book – to align our lives in worship through prayer to

this calling. Then we need to exercise the freedom and the right and responsibility of fellowship with each other to reach out and be there for brothers and sisters. And the third movement is stewardship – to have the willingness to share resources – time, talent, money – because we care not just for each other, but since God has provided, we share it with the world around us. So it all boils down to worship, fellowship and stewardship.

With so many churches vacant, what attracted you to Broxburn?

It's amazing! It goes back to one Saturday last October. We came on the invitation of the nominating committee and we met you and Elaine Gilmour at the door and when we entered we were simply amazed because there were a number of similarities to what we experienced in South Africa and in terms of our exposure to Scotland that was the nearest to home that we got. Over a cup of tea, the warmth and the inviting nature of the conversation, and there was just an awareness that we had found like-minded brothers and sisters. It was beyond words, because we had been to a number of churches and parishes by that point and we had gone to invitations where we felt it was just a little bit cool, a little 'professional – this is not us. And we came here, and lo and behold, we found people who were loving and warm. The whole thing about 'family, friendship, fellowship' – that's what we felt from that first encounter, and from then things just fell into place. It's easy to have a strapline, a motto or mission statement if you like, but if you experience that, people don't even have to put it in writing – you know it before they tell you it. I think there's some witness in that as to the personality of Broxburn Parish Church and we felt at home and still feel very privileged to be here and to be a part of that.



Is there a pressure on you to put your own stamp on the church? Because you're unlikely to please all the congregation all of the time.

I think it's essentially about meeting each other on common ground. I know from secular work environments that it takes you at

least three years to completely trust each other, so although you have goodwill from day 1, you need to earn the trust of people and therefore you need to meet each other in a common environment. I'm very conscious of the fact that I join a congregation that's already journeying with God – it's not like I'm introducing God to you – and if I can serve in any way to support, motivate and encourage – then that's the role I see me playing. Ephesians chapter 4, I need to help with the building because essentially everyone needs to 'minister' and you need to find your own ministry. My personal slogan is 'one member, one ministry', so you need to find that over time and often you grow into something, and it takes a while. But I'm not here to be the Director of this operation – I'm not the CEO running this company – it's Christ's church and he is the head and we are all following him. I've got this calling to serve more diligently and willingly than anyone else, so it's like an upside down funnel so I need to serve more than anyone else around here. I don't see it as an opportunity to make a name for myself; I see it as an opportunity to open all the channels – to be in touch with God and to have God's people moving and to be a part of that. It's not a big project of development or turnaround or anything like that – it's quite the opposite.

You used a wooden puzzle talking to the children today, and I feel that the pieces of our puzzle in Broxburn Parish Church have fitted together now that you are here.

Praise God! Because I think with the same trepidation that the nominating committee look towards a new minister, a new minister is looking forward with a sense of trepidation towards a new calling, a new congregation and parish. In a way, it's a little bit like a wedding – it's for better and for worse – and although you can have a divorce, it comes with such pain that you don't enter a relationship with a divorce in mind, so you are petrified about what you may discover on the road together, but if you have that goodwill initially, 1 Corinthians 13 says that love will cover all and be the 'bonding cement' between us. So although there will be differences of opinion and people more or less inclined to a change of direction or spirituality, I think there's a larger umbrella of unity that covers us all and we should just go forward – go with it!

Girls' Brigade

We are at the end of another year of GB which has passed again so quickly.

We have a great bunch of girls (over 100) who have been along with regular attendance.

Lots of fun has been had on Friday nights doing badgework and we have been to many division events too.

To everyone who came along to help at GB and lead a session we say a big thank you.

We would like to say congratulations to Amy Cunningham, Claire McKee and Catriona Salvini in gaining their Queens Award. This is the highest badge you can work for in GB and it takes 2 years to complete. The girls have put in a lot of work over the last 2 years and we are extremely proud of them.

All 3 girls are also finishing off their leadership training and by the time we restart after the summer they will be leaders . Well done and we look forward to you helping to guide other girls as they start their journey with God.

There has been a great interest from our Brigaders to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. We have a group of girls who are just starting out and some who have almost completed their bronze awards. We would like to encourage them to carry and complete the course.

Amy, Claire and Catriona (amidst everything else they have done) also managed to complete the bronze D of E . Catriona amazingly completed the silver award too.

Well done girls.

As we are writing this message we are preparing to take 30 girls to Lowport for the weekend. The girls (and leaders!!!) are all very excited and can't wait to go.

We will be holding our end of year Parents Night on Friday 29th May 2015 at 7pm in the



church and you are welcome to come along and join our celebration of the last year.

I would like to say again (as I have done many time) how wonderful our GB leaders are. They do a lot of work not just on a Friday night but many hours of their own time is spent preparing for GB or attending and leading other GB events. We have 14 dedicated leaders who have given many years of service to guiding girls to Seek Serve and Follow Christ.

At our parents night last year 5 leaders received a 20 year award and 1 leader received a 30 year award. Thank you for your dedication to the girls.

We restart at the end of August and if there are any new girls you will be made very welcome and if any adults would like to come along and help you too would be most welcome.

Many thanks to everyone for your support and prayers over the last year.

Alison Turnbull

Captain

Soup Lunches 2015

3rd June	CrossReach
17th June	FOCC
No lunches in July or August	
2nd September	BUSY
16th September	FOCC
7th October	Mulanje Hospital
21st October	Tearfund
4th November	Blythswood
18th November	Vine Trust
2nd December	Bethany
16th December	Foodbank



Dear friends,

The BB 2014 / 15 session is all but over. A few highlights from the year

include our Autumn camp at Auchengillan, winning the Battalion Badminton Seniors Trophy again, going to the Panto and going to the East Links Farm Park with the younger boys, what a laugh.

Having said that we have had Monday night after Monday night of electronics, games, discussions about good and bad, right and wrong, peer pressure and friendship. We have had lots of sports including badminton, hockey, dodgeball, football, football and some more football.

We have of course had Christian teaching and all though we did not win any battalion trophies for doing so, we all learned something about the Kingdom of God. We were asked the question "how would you describe the Kingdom of God in today's terms"?

We used football and Smarties analogies, how would you answer?

By the time you read this we will have had our Annual Display on the 25th May and will have presented two Queens Badges, 4 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards and a Junior Section Gold Award.



We will also have had the pleasure of the company of our new chaplain and his wife at their first BB display.

Looking ahead, we restart on Monday 24th August. On Sunday 6th September we go to the Scottish Airshow and on Friday 11th September we head for our Autumn Camp at Fordell Firs.

Some one asked me how we dealt with naughty Anchor Boys:
Have a good summer God bless.

Jim Borland

Captain

07803 032063

01506 417597

2broxburn@boys-brigade.org.uk

Pastoral Care Group

If you know of anyone whether a church member, a relative, a neighbour or a friend, ANYONE who is not too well or who is going through a bad time, please let us know.

We really do want to care.

Also it would be good to hear about happy events such as special birthdays, wedding anniversaries, new babies etc... On these occasions we would like to offer our congratulations.

Please keep us informed. Speak to Jaco our minister (337560) or myself, Jean Turnbull (854109)

Jean Turnbull

Pastoral Care coordinator



Friends of Chernobyl's Children
West Lothian



FOCC

We had an emotional but wonderful visit to Belarus from 19-29 March when we visited all of our children in the May/June group in their own homes, taking them food, letters and love from their hosts in Scotland.

We also had our biggest ever party for the children in Belarus where we bussed all of the children on our programme from the remote villages to join our city children for a large meal and a game of 10 pin bowling. They had so much fun, as did we. The 33 children there included current children, older children who had finished on the programme and of course the 7 new children who will come to Scotland in May for the first time. It really was a great day to have so many of the children we have known and loved over the past 6 years together in the one place and have such a great day out together.

For some of the new ones it was maybe their first visit to a city and when they got over the shock of the size of the place they soon settled down and had fun. There were some children who could not join us. One of them was Krystina, who stayed with Helen Cunningham last year in her final year. We made a point of going to visit her. Her dad is in prison long term and her mum was put in prison last year. Their house also burned down last year and she now lives with her aunt in a remote village. The reason she could not go to the party was that she was going to spend the weekend living with mum in jail. Such turmoil to cope with in a young persons life but its so heart- warming to see that despite all that's difficult in her life, she is such a happy and pleasant girl and she appears to get on well with her aunt. Krystina has done 5 years with us and is finished on the programme now but maybe Krystina and some of the others who are finished can come on a private visit next year. It would be so good to bring some more happiness into her life.

As some journeys with us come to an end others are just beginning and we have found our 12 great new children, so deserving of our help, who will join us for our new group in September this year. It was great to have a link up to Jaco and the congregation in Broxburn, by telephone, during our visit on a day where we were meeting these possible new children for the first time.

It was a difficult and emotional day for us exploring a new area of

Belarus for the first time, seeing some difficult sights and difficult situations so it was so good to feel the support of the folks back home at that time. I am sure we will also feel your support when the children arrive on 22 May and are based in our halls each weekday for a month, a "month of love and care" Remember they are a long way from home, a long way from the love of their family, some only 7 years old, so a loving smile or "hello, how are you?" would be great if you see them.

Somebody once likened our charity to modern day good Samaritans, but not just crossing the road to be good neighbours, crossing a continent. We will touch on that again when we take the Wednesday service with the children on 17th June and I would urge as many of you as possible to join us that day, so that the children feel the love of "good neighbours" in West Lothian, as well as the love of God.

Please also join us at the children's Thank You Concert in the church at 7.30 on Wednesday 17th June where the children will say thank you in their own special way by performing songs, dances and fairy tales in Russian and English. Come early as its always a very popular, enjoyable and heart-warming evening.

Until then remember us in your prayers. Pray for our host families and interpreters, that they will be well equipped with strength, energy, patience, understanding and most of all - love.

We pray that the children will arrive safely with us and that we will be able to give them a visit of great health and great fun and they will feel loved by their "good neighbours" in West Lothian.

Thank you all for your continued support of our enjoyable and rewarding "work"

(You can follow every day of the children's visit on our website www.foccwestlothian.com, click on visits, then VisitMay2015)

Kenny Turnbull
Co-ordinator
FOCC West Lothian



Gordon Rouse, our Youth Development Worker finished with the BUSY Project this March. We asked him to share a few words with us as he ventures off to pastures new.

Its been a while, hasn't it?

It has! I've had the privilege of serving the BUSY Project for the last 9 and a bit years. And it's been a real adventure.

I still remember my first days in the project, which back then, meant working across the community as the 'lone' BUSY worker, among local churches, and mainly in local primary schools and Broxburn Academy.

I could not have dreamt of how God would grow the project, and see us working together to serve the hundreds of young people we do now or how many great people I would get to meet, work with and be friends with.

So, what's happening?

The BUSY Project is continuing, in it's service of local young people. The story has changed somewhat though, as young people, staff and volunteers serve one-another. The BUSY Project is *so much more* than one worker; it's a community, serving the community, and loving Jesus. That's all continuing.

Those who love Jesus know that God is the good shepherd. He's shuffling the sheep around a little. He has good plans for all of us, and I look forward to seeing how God uses the Management Team, Volunteers, Young Leaders, Young people, families and local church in the next steps for BUSY.

I'm moving to work for another Christian charity, as my role in BUSY was no longer possible because of a shortage of funding. This gives me the chance to take a rest from Youth work for a period, and learn to be a good Husband to Gill, and take some time to find some refreshment in God.

What has been the highlight for you?

In the bible, Paul says: *"so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well."* (1 Thes 2:8) and I have had the great honor of being a part of many, many, lives in the community; celebrations, traumas and a thousand different moments of joy.

I couldn't possibly share just one of them. I'm grateful that it's been a time of pointing to Jesus, and laughing, crying, praying, worshipping and having loads of fun, as we've lived life together around the good news about Jesus.

If you could dream one thing for the project, what would it be?

The project continues to bring together loads of young people. Including them, caring for them, telling them about, and journeying with, Jesus.

The dream is just that: inclusive, outward looking, making space for any young person who wants something to do, people to be with, or to start a journey with Jesus and his people.

As I said, over 9 years ago; it's as simple as this. Love God and serve young people. That's still the dream. Keep going, and don't let anything distract you.

* * *

The Busy Project is very grateful for all Gordon's dedication, it was with great sadness that we had to let him go, we know God has great plans for him. We have an amazing opportunity to work with young people in our area, this year is the 10th Anniversary of The Busy Project, we plan to celebrate and will let you know of our plans for that celebration nearer to the date. Thank-you all for your continuing support.

Thank you for all your support,

Laura Gordon



The Bridge Choir

It is hard to believe that we are into June already! Our concerts will be upon us as you read this.

If you are going to either of the concerts we really hope that you enjoy the performances. Everyone has worked very hard with rehearsals to be able to participate.

After the concerts, the choir will be taking a break over the summer to recharge our batteries, ready for the next session for which Alan has been working hard putting a new repertoire together.

We have been so fortunate to have Alan Hastie to accompany us with the piano for rehearsals, and also our thanks go to Lorna and Moya, choir members, for their assistance with accompaniment also.

Finally can we thank all our wonderful friends who are always so willing to help out when we need assistance, especially on concert nights with serving teas, front of house and looking after the children. We could not do it without your help for which we are so grateful.

We hope that you have a lovely summer and that the weather is kind to us all.

Janice MacPherson

Secretary

Anniversary

The anniversary of Broxburn Parish Church was 28th April 2015. There will be a celebration for this event - a Family Ceilidh/Party - on Saturday 26th September 2015, 7-10pm.

More details will be available nearer the time.

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 August 2015 to either Hugh Brown or Stuart Cunningham by email: **hughb92@blueyonder.co.uk** or **stu.c@tesco.net**

Coffee Bars

There will be no regular coffee bars during July & August. They will resume on Saturday 5th September.

However there will be coffee bar/craft stalls in aid of the following:

Saturday 27th June	Scottish Veterans Association
Saturday 4th July	Alzheimers
Saturday 18th July	Royal Hospital for Sick Children
Saturday 1st August	Crohns/Colitis

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.

Who's Who



Minister

Rev. Dr. Jaco Boonzaaier	The Manse, 2 Church Street	337560
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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