

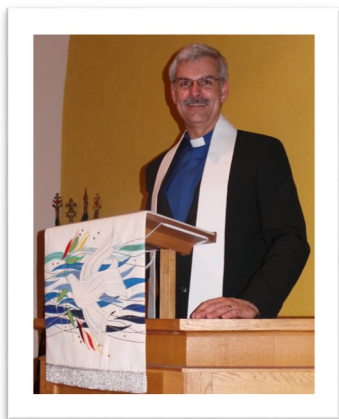
Christmas 2016

The Bridge



The next **Communion service** will be on
Sunday 11th December 2016
at 11am & 6.30pm

● **FRIENDLY** ● **FAMILY** ● **FELLOWSHIP** ●



From the Manse

"Time flies when you're having fun..." the saying goes. If this is assumed to be true we must have had a lot of fun in 2016. The year has whizzed past. We are weeks away from Christmas and Hogmanay! And true enough, 2016 was a special year. Looking back Easter was very early and the Easter Festival brought a good number of people into church. The bacon rolls and fellowship before Church were most enjoyable. The

flowery cross was on the main street for a full week following Easter and noticed my many folks from the parish.

Another definite high point was the number of people who moved lines to Broxburn and the number of new members we welcomed this year. It is a joy and privilege to be part of Broxburn Parish Church.

After a change on the diary the flower festival happened shortly after the summer holidays. And what a festival it was! We had wonderful arrangements, a very good turn-out over the two days, and a very successful fundraising through the flower festival. And now it is full steam ahead to the Christmas Fayre!

2016 was apart from any number of high points also a year of sorrow and pain. We lost dear friends and members. As life marches on we shall dearly miss them and their contribution to our church. Our thoughts are with the loved ones of those that have gone before us. May you find comfort and peace during the difficult times and inspiration from the Almighty.

Friends, and now as we begin our preparation for Christmas allow me to be as early as some of the retailers in wishing you a very blessed Christmas.

"Close your eyes and feel how Christ works in your life.

Look back and be thankful for all the blessings you received

And for staying strong despite all odds that came your way."

Wishing you a very special and blessed Christmas.

Jaco, Moya, Monique, and Simoné

Diary Dates

3rd December	Christmas Fayre. 10am - 2pm
4th December	CHILL. 1pm - 2.30pm
9th December	GB Carol Concert. 7pm
11th December	Communion. 11am & 6.30pm
11th December	Bereavement Service. 3pm
15th December	Community Carols & Readings. 7pm
18th December	Sunday School Nativity. 11am
24th December	Christingle Service. 6.30pm
24th December	Watchnight service. 11.30pm (Tea, coffee & mince pies from 10.30pm)
25th December	Family Service. 10am

Bereavement Service – 11th December 2016

This year will mark the start of an annual bereavement service at church. On Sunday 11th December at 3.00pm there will a service to remember loved ones who have gone before us.

The death of a loved one is devastating and while time goes on it is normal to struggle to come to terms with the loss. Bereavement affects us in different ways. Sometimes we may feel that we are managing well only to be overwhelmed in a moment and feel overcome with emotion. It is quite normal to experience grief as a tides; like waves at sea. At times we experience an ebb and at other times flow; peaks and troughs.

At church we want to create an opportunity for people sharing the same feelings of bereavement to get together. Particularly as we approach Christmas and other important dates on the calendar we can support each other.

Everyone is therefore very welcome to come along on the 11th December at 3.00pm in Church. If you are so minded, please bring a single flower with you. We want all the flowers to go into a flower pot to symbolise our unity and individuality.

For further information, please have a word with the minister.

Prayer Corner

I write this article on Remembrance Day when we remember those who gave their lives for their country in two world wars and subsequent conflicts, as well as those who came back from conflict scarred physically, mentally and emotionally, where lives and that of their families will never be the same again.

Today on the news we continue to hear of the horrors of war in Syria and Iraq, the devastation, the loss of lives and livelihoods and the displacement of so many people seek refuge.

If individuals, churches and nations were only obey God's command 'love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength' and to 'love your neighbour as yourself.' there could be peace and love for each other in this world today.

The political situation in United Kingdom following Brexit and in the United States following their Presidential Election has brought division in these lands and a need for reconciliation to move forward in unity.

In a few weeks we will celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas when God's love for His people became a reality with Him sending His only son into to world to bring peace and reconciliation.

God hears our cries in these difficult times and we must respond positively knowing that he will answer our prayers. God loves us who profess Jesus as our Lord and Saviour as much as those who continue to walk in darkness. He longs for all to come to Him to know His grace and mercy and the assurance of eternal live.

Love came down at Christmas, let us in our lives share that love with all whom we love and to reach out and share with others who don't know Jesus and his saving grace.

Jesus the reason for the Season, let it be known in our World today.

Happy Christmas

God Bless

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.**
- **Pray for our Queen and her Government in Westminster and Edinburgh 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 continue in their work with the young folk in the community.**
- **For all who find this time of year difficult with possibly spaces at the Christmas table where loved ones are no longer there to share the joys**
- **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**
- **For Dr Ruth Shakespeare, our Missionary Partner her work in Malawi, with a food shortage in the land**

Please contact myself and the minister for prayer.

David Wilkie

Congregational Prayer Secretary

01506 238644





Tennant Douglas & Kim Taylor (new members)



Catriona Salvini & Amy Cunningham (new GB officers)



Nathan and Gregor Dunbar's Baptism

Flower Festival (which raised £1600)



Broxburn Parish Church of Scotland
Christmas Fayre



Saturday 3rd
December
10am - 2pm

Tickets:

£3 adults, £1 children

(includes tea, cakes and sandwiches)

Christmas hampers

Raffle

Home baking

Face painting

Children's activities

Christmas crafts

Books, CDs, DVDs

Livingston Arts Association



● **FRIENDLY** ● **FAMILY** ● **FELLOWSHIP**



A Stroll in the Park

Yes, it's back! After a year's break and having reached most of the finance required the Princes Street Easter Play is back in April 2017. This production is returning to traditional costume and an update of the original script.

I know, you're thinking "what has this got to do with me." Had you ever thought about becoming involved in bringing Christ to the heart of the City at Easter?

There are opportunities to be part of the cast, with no need to learn lines. There has to be a crowd when the tables are overturned at the temple; we've never quite made 5,000 for feeding but we'd like to get close and the crowd is given the choice of shouting for Jesus or Barabbas in front of Pilate. You know the story but there are so many who don't and the chance to put forward the real Easter story is a privilege. Age is no barrier to taking part! We have babes in arms and nonagenarians involved, just as would have been at in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus' crucifixion.

If walking about Princes Street Gardens in fancy dress is not your scene then how about helping with costumes, catering, construction or stewarding nearer the time? There's the Information Tent to be staffed because people are inevitably touched by seeing the gospel story lifted off the pages of the Bible and acted out before their eyes. They want to know what's going on and many non-Christian tourists in Edinburgh may have no idea at all of Bible truths. Not least come and watch. A large audience is a great witness to tourists, passers-by and those who normally use the Gardens for leisure.

If you still don't see how you can be involved, then try praying; for safety moving around the Gardens, for good weather, for the remaining finance needed, for good conversations and for the telling of the true story of Easter to people who haven't heard it. The list is endless!

If you want any more information have a word with Sally North, who will be happy to hear from you.

CHILL

Chill is back!!!!

We have been running now since September on first Sunday of every month at a new time of 13:00 to 14:30. We have enjoyed food, and activities such as indoor archery, badminton and table tennis, as well as crafts. We would like to say a huge thank you to the person(s) who donated our new table tennis table. It is excellent and will be well used.

Chill now encompasses the P4 to S6 age group. We have had approximately 12 children most Sundays which is encouraging, although it is fair to say we have a heavy weighting toward the younger age group. It would be great to see older children / young adults who have been part of chill previously coming back along. With your help and input we can tailor our programme accordingly to suit all ages. We are currently encouraging all who have been coming to bring a friend along next time so hopefully by the next magazine we will be seeing higher numbers.

If you know of any P4 to S6 young people who you think would be interested in coming then please send them along. If anyone has any feedback on what we have done already then please let us know.

Kenny Young

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.

Reminder All intimations need to be submitted by Wednesday 5pm to ensure they are included in the following Sunday's intimations. **intimations@broxburnparishchurch.org.uk**

Defibrillator

The sharp eyed among you will already have noticed that we have installed a defibrillator next to the pay phone in the corridor leading to the small hall. A defibrillator or AED as it's also known, is a device which will give a high energy electric shock to the heart through the chest wall, to someone who is in cardiac arrest.

If someone does have a sudden cardiac arrest, their chances of survival fall by 7-10% with every minute that defibrillation is delayed. Often the emergency services are unable to attend and provide vital defibrillation quickly enough, so if we are able to use our AED we could save someone's life.

The defibrillator and training for volunteers were paid for at no cost to the church. We received £190 from Jimmy King of Uphall South, which was the surplus monies he had raised for their device. Thank you Jimmy. We made a successful application to the Scotmid Community Fund for £500 and the shortfall was met by an anonymous donation from two of our members which was wonderful. Stefan Hickman and Mags Black, First Responders from Bathgate and Broxburn trained 19 willing volunteers one evening in CPR and use of the AED. These included 2/3 members from each Sunday duty team, our Minister, and representatives from the various church and outside groups who use our halls. Some of the volunteers are already trained through their work.

By positioning the defibrillator in the corridor it should be quickly and easily accessible to everyone.



Welcoming in our local community

We've recently been looking at increasing use of our halls by the local community.

The halls are looking good, having been repainted, and with new window blinds in place and new flooring in the small hall. We can offer local groups a warm, safe and welcoming place to meet. Since the Summer we have had a number of outside groups meeting in the halls, including Scottish Slimmers (who plan to restart in January), Young Engineers (a group for children learning through building Lego and Knex models) and the Livingston Arts Group (who you might remember had a stand at the Flower Festival). We've also had a tai-chi group and Zumba class taking place when they couldn't use their normal halls.



In April a local lady will use both our halls for a family fun day to raise funds for Cancer Research. A group for

Adults with Learning Disabilities and their families is also looking to start meeting in the big hall next year. This is in addition to our regular Church groups and the Mother and Toddlers, Food Bank, fitness class for the Swimming club, and of course FOCC for their twice yearly visits of children from Belarus.

We're also looking to host children's parties for Primary School aged children.

It's great to see our halls being used more and it also helps us to raise vital money for the upkeep of our buildings.

Our normal hourly rates are £12 for the big hall and £7 for the small hall. If you or someone you know would like to find out more please speak to Alison Turnbull our Hall Convenor, call her on 07984 315250 or email hire@broxburnparishchurch.org.uk

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 11 children with us for a month over August/September. They are a lovely group of children, mainly 8 years old, who were mostly on their second visit with us. We had great fun outings to soft play centre, swimming pools, deep sea world, Polkemmet park and Scottish owl centre, potter around, Kelpies, Hopetoun house, Hatton Mains Tennis Club, Edinburgh Zoo, the craigs scout camp, 10 pin bowling, silver sands beach, St Margaret's school, canal boat trip, Beecraigs as well as some great craft, singing and dancing days in the halls and less fun but necessary trips to the dentist and optician. The host families and supporters/helpers ensured that the children had a great month and when the month came to an end they went home much healthier and happier with a full suitcase of clothes, vitamins, toys and essentials we take for granted.

At the time of writing this we are just about to leave for our Autumn trip to Belarus. Three volunteers will travel and visit all of our June group children in their homes taking them food and also letters and love from their host families. We will also gather both our June Group and September group children past and present for 2 separate parties in 2 different areas. Its always interesting and exciting to meet new children and families and on this visit we will be looking for 5 new children to replace the 5 children who completed their time with us in June. We look forward to welcoming them and getting to know them as we help them over the next 5 years. The weather forecast for the visit is very cold with the warmest day to be -2 and the coldest -9, but that's fairly typical of this time of year and the long Johns have been packed. It may be cold but I am sure we will feel the warmth from the people we meet.

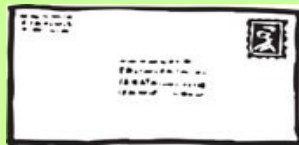
Our planning is already underway for both of our visits for next year. We will welcome 21 children in June and 12 in August/September. We know that we cant do all of this ourselves and our work is only possible through the kindness of others. We would like to say a huge thanks to the church and our many supporters in the congregation for their kindness and prayerful support throughout this year. It is very much appreciated.

Kenny Turnbull
Co-ordinator
FOCC West Lothian



CHRISTMAS POST

Dates of pick ups are: 4th 11th and 18th December.



Last date for Uphall cards is Sun 11th December.

All cards must be in **before** church service on Sunday 18th December.

Stamps cost 30p each which is still a great saving as a standard 2nd class stamp is almost 60p and all money will go to charity.

Stamps can also be bought and cards posted at Brian Curries until Sat 17th December.

You can post cards for:

Uphall, Broxburn, Uphall Station, Dechmont and Ecclesmachan.

If you are able to help with the deliveries please see Alison Turnbull - both regular and new "posties" - we always need extra help.

Christmas Card competition



Congratulations to Daniel Sutherland (age 10) from the Boys' Brigade who won the competition to design our Christmas Card.

Thank you to all the boys and girls who entered.

The girls are enjoying being back at GB and with over 100 girls can get a bit noisy but lots of fun is had by all.

Some of our Brigaders went to a division camp with girls from all over West Lothian and had a great weekend and also enjoyed meeting girls from other companies.

The girls are preparing for Christmas and would like to invite **you** to our Carol Service on Friday 9th Dec 2016 in the church at 7pm. This is a lovely evening and the girls certainly enjoy singing for you. Join us for a cuppa after in the hall.

Some other dates for you diary:

Friday 16th Dec GB panto trip.

There will be no GB on 23rd or 30th December or 6th January 2017

Happy Christmas to everyone from the girls and leaders of Broxburn GB and as always thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Alison Turnbull

01506 852171

07984 315250

alit@blueyonder.co.uk



Dear Friends,

The clocks changed a few weeks ago and the days are getting shorter. The company has moved to its' indoor program which has included building model aircraft, team games and a bit of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The company is growing slowly and with the help of a few parents we have had a welcome influx of Anchor Boys.

We are now looking forward to Christmas where the Anchor Boys will have a Christmas Party on the 5th December and the Juniors and Company Sections will go to Laser Tag in Motherwell on the 12th December. All sections will resume on the 9th January 2017.

I have included an image of the BB contribution to the Church Flower Festival for no reason other than the fact the boys liked the end result. It was the boys' idea to create our anchor logo and my wife Alison did the honours. We were all very impressed with the result, she obviously has a hidden talent there.

God bless and Merry Christmas to you all.

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.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.

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

Mrs. Jean Turnbull 19 Fergusson Road 854109

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

Social co-ordinator

Mrs. Linda Taylor 18 Galloway Crescent 07809 678326

Safeguarding co-ordinator & Fundraising co-ordinator

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