

Christmas 2017

# The Bridge



The next **Communion services** will be on  
**Sunday 10th December 2017**  
**at 11am & 6.30pm**

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



## From the Manse

We are weeks away from Christmas. 2017 is ready to make for 2018 and before we know it we'll be into the new year. As we prepare for all the festivities of Christmas and Hogmanay we are reminded that not everyone is celebrating with us. For many people this is a very lonely and even sad time of year. While families gather around a

lunch or dinner table loved ones who have moved on to our heavenly abode are dearly missed. Many people celebrate on the outside but weep on the inside this time of year.

Apart from those grieving over a loved one, some people feel the pain of a lifetime alone. Some have lost their jobs and livelihoods or had to close down a business. Some have to cope with very serious illness and simply cannot find reason to celebrate with those who will probably see another Christmas.

Where does it leave us as God's people? The short answer is: aware. Aware of the plight of those around us. Aware that some may find this time of year hard to cope with. Aware that we are perfectly positioned to put our Christian love in action during this time of year. As God's people we have the wonderful privilege and opportunity to be his arms and hands sharing kindness and grace with all people. And what better time than when we remember how God became human and came to stay among us?

At church we look forward to more worship services as we enter the month of December. On the 10th of December we will once again have our gift day to coincide with morning communion. Through our gift day we will once again have the opportunity to donate gifts to be handed out to those in need in our own community. On the afternoon of the 10th at 3pm we will have our bereavement service. During this service we welcome everyone in who have lost a loved one or feel the need to remember a loved one lost. If you would like to come to the service please do so! You are very welcome to invite friends or relatives to join you as well. On Thursday, 21st December we'll have our Carols and Readings service. On the night we'll be joined by the Bridge Choir.

Please invite family, friends, even strangers to come along and join us. On Christmas Eve we'll have a Christingle service at 6pm. This is a service aimed at the younger folks and families. This will be followed at 11.30pm with our Watchnight service. People who want to come to church but find it difficult to come out so late are welcome to come at 6pm. The Christingle service will be an all age worship service.

All that is left is to wish each and every one of you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year on behalf of Moya, Monique, Simoné and myself. May you and your loved ones experience the riches of God's grace in so many ways.

Many blessings

*Jaco*

## Diary Dates

<b>2nd December</b>	Christmas Fayre 11am - 3pm
<b>6th December</b>	Soup Lunch
<b>10th December</b>	Communion & Gift Service 11am Bereavement Service 3pm Evening Communion 6.30pm
<b>17th December</b>	Sunday School Nativity 11am
<b>21st December</b>	Carols & Readings 7pm
<b>24th December</b>	Christingle Service 6pm
<b>24th December</b>	Watchnight Service 11.30pm (tea, coffee & mince pies served from 10.30pm)
<b>25th December</b>	<b>No service</b>
<b>31st December</b>	Soup & Pudding Lunch
<b>2018</b>	
<b>10th January</b>	Soup Lunch
<b>7th February</b>	Soup Lunch
<b>7th March</b>	Soup Lunch



## Sunday School

All the children & leaders had a busy start to this session getting crafty. You may have noticed our lovely new mural on the theme of 'Creation' as you come down the ramp into the large hall. If not please take time to admire the artwork. All the children had so much fun working together on this & it is lovely to see each of them contribute their artistic talents. What a result – we hope you all agree it brightens up our hall beautifully.



Excitement is building in JAM as preparations are now underway for this year's Nativity which we hope you are all looking forward to it as much as us. It will take place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Children are asked to attend rehearsals & you will find the dates of these listed below.

Following our Nativity we are again having a Happy Birthday Jesus party. This is a very special celebration & we would like to invite **all** the Church family to come along to share in the fun & fellowship with us.

We know this is a busy time of year but we would like to see as many of you as possible come along this year so please don't miss out, get the date in your diary. Let's make this year's celebration even better. We look forward to seeing you & celebrating Jesus' birthday together.

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## **Dates to remember:**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December** – Children are asked to stay after Church so we can have a quick run through of the Nativity (should take approx. 20 minutes)

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am – 11.30am** – Full dress rehearsal of our Nativity

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December** – Our Nativity during the service followed by our Happy Birthday Jesus Party from 1-3pm

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 6pm** - Christingle service

## **2018**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 9am** - JAM BREAKFAST – for children P4 upwards (more details to follow.)

The leaders and children of Sunday School wish you a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

## **CHRISTMAS POST**

Once again we are running the Christmas post.



Dates of pick ups are: 3rd, 10th and 17th December.

**Last date for Uphall cards is Sunday 10th December.**

All cards must be in **before** church service on Sunday 17th December.

Stamps still only 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 Saturday 16th 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.**

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## Chill

Chill has now started back and we have met twice since the summer break. We have managed to increase numbers since last year and we had 13 attendees at our most recent session. This is really encouraging, however they are all girls and we would really like to see some boys coming along. Hopefully we will start encouraging some soon.

We enjoy a number of activities on a typical Chill afternoon from, Indoor Archery, Badminton, and Table Tennis to cake decorating, art work, and taking any opportunity to get out and explore our town on a Selfie hunt!! Most recently we were using a decibel meter to measure the sound of our voices. The meter only had a 120Db limit on it, just under the sound of a jet engine. You can rest assured when we measured how loud they could scream, most of the girls managed to hit that quite easily!! It was great fun. They even enjoyed the silent game we played too!! Which they sound much harder!!

Chill is open to all Children from P4 through to S6 and we now cater for 2 different age groups P4 to P7, and S1 and above. If you know of any children who would like to come along we meet on the first Sunday of every month from 1pm to 2.30pm. Lunch and plenty of fun is provided!!

All are welcome.

The Chill Team

Kenny, Fiona, Marc, and Leah.

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## Small Collection Boxes

The use of these for saving your small change is being discontinued at the end of the year, BUT, please continue to collect odd change from purse or pocket and simply put it in the offering bag on a Sunday morning, or give it to your elder. This way the treasurer can include it in the Gift Aid claim.

I would personally like to thank all those who have contributed so regularly and faithfully through the boxes over the years I have been dealing with them. It is amazing how small change mounts up. We have raised many thousands of pounds in this way.

*Margaret Henderson*



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

The girls are preparing for Christmas and would like to invite you to our Carol Service on Friday 8th Dec 2017 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 15th Dec GB panto trip.

There will be no GB on 22nd, 29th December or 5th January 2018

Happy Christmas to everyone from the girls and leaders of Broxburn GB.

We hope you have a Super Duper Christmas with Jesus this year!

As always thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Alison Turnbull on 07984315250

or [alit@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:alit@blueyonder.co.uk)

## 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.

## JOYful happenings at Young Persons' Group

### Changes are afoot at the Young Persons' Group.

We are blessed to have a range of ages in the women attending the group, from those in their twenties to those in their fifties. This is great, but it did mean that to call ourselves the Young Persons' Group probably did not accurately reflect who we are. We have therefore decided to change our name to JOY. There is a lot of fun, laughter and

joy in the group, at our meetings and when we undertake projects like painting the church railings. JOY is also associated with Jesus first, Yourself last and Others in between.

Since the Summer break, we have had a fitness session with Leigh Robertson from Broxburn United Sports Club, a talk from a Hospital Radio DJ at the Western General in

Edinburgh, and a Christmas Crafts night. We also had an added extra of a trip to the Kings to see the play of Khaled Hosseini's The Kite Runner which was really moving. Our ever popular Christmas cake decorating nights, led by Shirley MacGillivray, will be on 28<sup>th</sup> November and 5<sup>th</sup> December.

On 9<sup>th</sup> January we will have a New Year Supper and Games night, and on 6<sup>th</sup> February, Andrew Macpherson will share with us his year as Youth Moderator. Running alongside JOY we have a book group. In November we read Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen, December's book will be The Girl who Beat ISIS by Andrea Hoffman, then in January we'll tackle I see you by Clare McIntosh. We do aim for a real range of books, so there's something to please everyone- hopefully.





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We are always really happy, indeed JOYful to welcome new members so if you would like to come along you can be sure of a warm welcome. You can find more detailed information about our programme on our new noticeboard in the big hall, beside the Church Street door. Alternatively speak to me or to any of our members. We normally meet in the evening in the small hall on the first Tuesday of the month, with the Book Group meeting at my home on the second Tuesday of the month.

*Anne Gunn*

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## Bridge Choir

By the time you read this no doubt we will all be gearing up for Christmas. I can hardly believe it's that time of year again especially as the Choir have been rehearsing Christmas songs since August! This is always a busy time for us as not only are we practicing Christmas pieces but are looking ahead to our annual concert which will take place on 31st May and 1st June 2018 (dates for your diary).

Before that though we will once again enjoy performing at St Johns Hospital on 7th December where we hope to raise much needed funds for "Friends of St Johns". Last year we were able to donate £175 so let's hope we can do the same or better this year.

Within the last year we have been pleased to be able to donate £1480 to Church funds thanks to your continued support and the generosity of our Choir members.

We are really looking forward to taking part in the Carols and Readings on 21st December when we will sing a few Christmas pieces and hopefully share some fellowship with you over some tea/coffee and of course mince pies and shortbread. It would be great to see you there but if you can't manage, all of us in the Bridge Choir hope you have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

*Elaine Gilmour*

*Secretary*

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## SOYA Fund

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all who contributed to the SOYA fund this year in particular Janette Ewington whose help was very much appreciated.

This year a total of £1000 will be passed on your behalf which consists of six full ASDA cards and one with £97 along with the bonus from ASDA. All this has been achieved for giving £1 a month or more if you wanted, less than a cup of coffee.

This is a fantastic achievement and will allow many of our vulnerable young people to receive a personal gift this Christmas - perhaps the only one that they will receive and including a Christmas lunch, albeit from tins.

Since we started this project some eight years ago we have seen our giving gradually increase from around £350 in 2009 helping around 20 young people to what it is today. At the same time the numbers we are helping have also increased and this Christmas there will be over 100 in need of our help.

Since this project was started over £5000 has been raised. It is my intention to continue with this project again next year and would like to start to collect again in December as ASDA adds the bonus in mid November. If you would like to contribute to this project next year please see me for more details.

Thank you all so much again.

*Bob Pattison*

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## Christmas Card competition

Congratulations to Rebecca Robinson (age 9) who won the competition to design our Christmas Card.

Thank you to all the boys and girls who entered.



Hi everyone, welcome to my first report on how the BB is doing since taking over as Captain from Jim Borland this year on an interim basis while he is taking a break.

We restarted the session in September and have had our dedication service on 8<sup>th</sup> October which was a great opportunity for the company to attend church and commit ourselves to serving God and living up to the BB object of "advancing Christ's kingdom among boys". The company was also represented at West Lothian Battalion's Founder's Day service in Whitburn South Parish Church on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October. It was great to see the church full and the Battalion well represented.

Our numbers have been steady since coming back, we have 6 regular attenders in Anchor Boys, 8 in Junior Section, and 6 in the Company Section. Along with myself we have Marc Turnbull, Andrew McPherson, and Douglas Leiper as officers and are ably assisted by our helpers Gigha Lennox and Ian Muir. We are always looking for new members however therefore if you know of any boys in our area who you think may be interested in joining us then please let me know. The boys have also been challenged to bring along a friend so hopefully by the next report we can have increased greatly in numbers.

Since we have started back we have been looking at ways to broaden the boys culinary skills, with the Anchor Boys making "Stone Soup", and the Company making Flapjacks, and learning the basics of camp cooking. Hopefully we can get out and put those skills to the test soon early in 2018!! Junior Section have been working their way through their basic achievements as they get to grips with their badge work. Other skills we have been learning are compass reading and **BASIC** table tennis!

Please keep the company and staff in your prayers as we are working hard toward building on the numbers we have, and thank you for your continued support.

*Lt. Kenny Young*

*Acting Captain*

# Who's Who



## **Minister**

Rev. Dr. Jaco Boonzaaier 01506 337560

## **Session Clerk**

Mr. John Macaulay 01506 852947

## **Clerk to the Congregational Board**

Mrs. Anne Gunn 01506 856984

## **Treasurer**

Mrs. Sue Sneddon 07758 195274

## **Gift Aid Convener**

Miss Jean Weir 01506 855626

## **Roll Keeper & Property Convener**

Mr. Stuart Cunningham 01506 855952

## **Prayer Secretary**

Mr. David Wilkie 01506 238644

## **Pastoral Care Group co-ordinator**

*vacant*

## **Organist**

Mr. James Lawrie 01506 856609

## **Church Officer**

Mr. John Macaulay 01506 852947

## **Hall Convener**

Mrs. Alison Turnbull 01506 852171

## **Communications co-ordinator**

Mr. Hugh Brown 0131 334 1384

## **Safeguarding co-ordinator &**

## **Social & Fundraising co-ordinator**

Mrs. Elaine Brown 07936 363939