

Christmas 2011

The Bridge



* Communion will be celebrated on *
* Sunday 11th December at 11am and 6pm *
* **Everyone is welcome** *



From the Manse

I have been reading a very interesting and thought provoking book - 'The Hospitality of God' and was particularly moved by the following prayer from the book. I don't want to dissect this prayer, nor do I want to give you my thoughts on it. I offer it to us all as we reflect on the invitation Jesus extends to us.

All are invited, all are included

All are made welcome, none are excluded

This is the table of Christ.

Come if you're young, come if you're old

Come if you're broken, come if you're whole

Come if you're weary of the trials of life

This is the table of Christ.

Jesus the host washes your feet

Makes you his guest and lays on a feast

This is the table of Christ

Come if you're rich, come if you're poor

Come if the church stops you at the door

Come and eat bread, come and drink wine

This is the table of Christ.

Eat and remember Jesus the one

Who gave up his life so you could belong
This is the table of Christ
Come if you're thirsty, come and be filled
Come and be clean, come and be healed
Come and be held in the presence of God
This is the table of Christ.
(Jonny Baker)

The Hospitality of God : Emerging Worship for a Missional Church
Mary Gray-Reeves & Michael Perham
Seabury Books, New York : 2011

Terry

SONGS OF PRAISE

**To celebrate our 130th anniversary there will be a
Songs of Praise in the church on Sunday 22nd January
2012 at 6.30pm**

+ + **stop press** + + + + + + + + + + +

Shoe Box Appeal 2011

Shoebox sorting in the church on 24th, 25th 26th November

+ +

Prayer Corner

Earlier this week I started a new set of passages in my daily bible readings. Normally the daily readings consist of a short introduction to focus ones mind, then you are asked to read a few verses of scripture, then there is a short message relevant to Christian living today.

But at the start of this series you were asked, if you could find the time, to read a full six chapters from the Old Testament from the prophet Isaiah, chapters 40-45.

They suggested the reading should take about thirty minutes, and to me this is the best thirty minutes I have spent for a long, long time.

We as I have mentioned before living in very difficult times for the Christian faith and possibly for you and I as individuals and it is good to be reminded of what God has and continues to do for those who love Him.

This passage from Isaiah was written to God's people in exile and many were asking where was God in this their times of despair. Had God left them as they had gone their own way and had not lived lives pleasing to Him despite God's pleading for them to turn for their sinful ways.

Have you and I forgotten what God really means to us as Christians, as the church and as individuals in this world today. This is possibly the right time to be reminded of these key truths when.

As we approach Christmas we are reminded of God's gift to this world of His son Jesus. A gift that has the power to change lives, change families and transform communities but for this change to happen we must be reminded of what God means for us today and what He longs for each and everyone of us.

Please, take time to read these passages, I am sure, like me, your heart will rejoice at all He has done and promises to do for all we believe and allow Him to work in our daily lives.



In your personal prayers please pray for

- ***Our minister and office bearers that God with protect and lead them and their families***
- ***Our national church that it can remain true to God's world and please God in all it does.***
- ***For congregations in vacancy in West Lothian Presbytery that they might find a new minister.***
- ***For our Queen and her Government in the very difficult issues facing the world today.***
- ***The sick, anxious, lonely, estranged and the bereaved that they will find God's peace and love. For families divided that their might be reconciliation and forgiveness this Christmas***
- ***Our armed forces and the relief organisations that strive to bring peace, justice and relief to all in need.***
- ***For peace in our world this Christmas, where love for one another abounds***
- ***For Dr Ruth Shakespeare, our Missionary Partner in Malawi***



The Prayer Group continues to meet each Saturday at 10.00 am in the Session House. There is a seat for you. Please contact myself and the minister for prayer.

David Wilkie

Congregational Prayer Secretary

01506 854777

Diary Dates



| | |
|--|--|
| 24th - 26th Nov | Shoebox packing |
| 27th November | Middleton Hall Service |
| 30th November | 'Messy Church' 4.30pm till 6pm in the Hall |
| 1st December | Session Meeting |
| 3rd December | Pastoral Care Seminar - Pauline Steenbergen |
| 7th December | Project Romania night hosted by the Guild.
Teas served afterwards |
| 9th December | GB Carol Concert. 7pm in the church |
| 11th December | Christmas Post – last posting day for Uphall,
Uphall Station, Dechmont & Ecclesmachan |
| 16th December | Torchlight Procession |
| 18th December | JAM Nativity

Last posting day for Christmas Cards
– before 11am service.

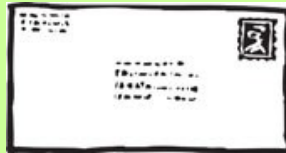
Homes Gardens Service |
| 24th December | Watchnight Sercice 11.30pm

Tea, coffee & mince pies served from 10.30
in the hall |
| 25th December | Christmas Day Service at 10am |
| 8th January 2012 | Council of churches exchange

Terry will be preaching at the Baptist
Church. Uphall South minister will be here |
| 10th January | Board Meeting |
| 21st January | Family ceilidh |
| 22nd January | Songs of Praise Service at 6.30pm |
| 28th January | BUSY project supporters evening – venue tbc |

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 Dec.

Stamps cost 20p each which is still a great saving as a standard 2nd class stamp is now 36p and all money will go to charity.

Stamps can also be bought and cards posted at the Fotocard shop and 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 can never have too much help.

Alison Turnbull

BUSY Project

There will be a supporters evening on Saturday 28th January 2012.
Venue and time to be confirmed.

The Open Door Cafe on Main Street, Uphall continues to seek volunteers to serve.

Please consider prayerfully if you can help in this way – even a couple of hours per month.

Contact Suzanne Wilson 852434 or Myra Macpherson 853215.

Bridge Choir - rehearsals take place every Thursday @ 7.30pm

Prayer meeting - every Saturday morning @ 10am in the Session Room

Social & Fundraising

We had another very successful Fashion Show by Bon Marche in May, well attended and enjoyed, and raising £285.50 for Church funds. The church quiz unfortunately had to be postponed for this year and it is hoped to hold it early next year.

By the time you read this the Christmas Fayre will be past and we hope it will have been as successful as recent years. Please watch the intimations for the amount raised.

On Christmas Eve we will again be serving tea, coffee and mince pies in the hall before the service from 10.30pm.

Do come and join us.

Our plans so far for next year:

Saturday 21st Januray – Family ceilidh

Sunday 22nd January – Songs of Praise service to celebrate 130 years of our church building

Between February and May – a Beetle Drive, Church Quiz and Fashion Show – dates to be arranged.

The Coffee Bar continues to run every week and the fellowship and friendship is enjoyed by all who come. As always though, we could do with more help in serving and/or baking.

Please think about it.

Thank You

The FOCC committee would like to thank everyone who attended the recent Ladies lunch and also all those who donated prizes or helped in any way.

We managed to raise £1500.

Rose Window Award

Our Rose Window was honoured with a commendation in the 2011 Saltire Society Awards which celebrate good design of all forms from buildings to sculptures. Emma Butler-Cole Aiken, who designed the window, explains the background to the window's creation.

It is a real honour both for me, and for you as a church, that the rose window has received a Commendation from the Saltire Society. It is a recognition of good art in an appropriate setting and affirmation that all the hard work was worth it.

I have to admit that the designing and making of the window was not without difficulty. Sometimes I was frustrated by the difficulty of communicating what I had in mind, and had to work harder at how to present a drawing on paper to portray what the window could look like. One breakthrough was to photograph the drawing and present it on a laptop as the light of the screen made it glow more like stained glass. Another breakthrough was the suggestion by a member of the group to turn the dove to fly sideways (as opposed to downwards). This was hard for me to accept at first, and it required considerable reworking of the design - but the result works beautifully.

Then there were the delays caused by repairs to the stonework taking longer than planned and unexpected extra work resulting from that. And finally the injury to Joab, who installed the window with me, meaning he was unable to finish the work. Bob kindly stepped in and all was completed successfully.

Thank you so much for trusting me with this project and your many kind words about it once completed.





Friends of Chernobyl's Children

From 14th September to 12th October we hosted the second annual visit of the West Lothian group with 3 new faces increasing the number of young children in the group to 17. Accompanying them this year was Katia the interpreter, again, and Luda the teacher for the first time. They are a great group of children. Well behaved and its hard to comprehend how they can be so happy and positive when you consider the conditions they live in at home.

The children come from some of the areas of Belarus badly affected by the radiation from Chernobyl, which is still harming people 25 years on and it will be 24000 years before the ground is clear again. As well as putting up with the health problems caused by the radiation, inflation running at 300%, living in wooden houses with no running water and an outside toilet, the children in our programme also come from some very difficult family situations.

We have seen many of the children return to us this year a lot thinner than they were when they left us last year. This is a reflection on the difficult economic situation at home where they are having to chose whether to eat or not on some days. As a result they need our help more than ever.

They come here for respite from the terrible conditions at home and live with host families mainly in the West Lothian area. Six

of the host families are members of our church. When the children are here they get a month of love and care which includes dental, optical and health checks and as much healthy Scottish food as we can give them. They meet each week day in our church halls for schooling and a full



programme of healthy activities and excursions to interesting and fun places.

The children arrive with a spare pair of pants and a toothbrush and go home with a full 25kg suitcase packed with warm clothes, toys and vitamins for the year. Most importantly they go home with a boosted immune system, many happy memories, hope for the future and knowing that the people of Scotland love them and care for them.

The 2011 visit was a great success and thank you to everyone in the congregation who contributed in whatever way to make this a brilliant visit for 17 very special young people.

Please remember the work of this charity and the families of the children in our group in your prayers. These are very difficult times for them.

If you would like more information on hosting a child, fundraising or donating money or goods or your time then please contact me on 07956 672312. We make a great difference to the lives of these young people and their families. You could too. You will see your endeavours reflected in the children's smiling faces when they return to us in June 2012.

Kenny Turnbull, co-ordinator.





An excerpt from a recent BB E-bulletin:

"You may have read that Barnado's, one of the BB charity partners, has recently published the results of Research which reveals that the public holds a negative view of all children, despite the majority being well behaved, attending school, taking part in activities and a significant number contributing to their communities and volunteering. The findings show:

49% of the UK population agree that children today are beginning to behave like animals.

44% agree that children in this country are becoming feral

47% agree that the trouble with young people is that they're angry, violent and abusive.

25% of people think that children who behave badly or anti-socially are beyond help by the age of 10.

More people disagreed with the statement that children who get into trouble are in need of help (38%) than agreed (36%)".

I was shocked and disappointed to read these statistics. What do think? Do you agree or disagree with them? Personally, I disagree and even if they are a true reflection of current society then what can we do about it? The BB and the GB may not guide as many young adults into the church as might be liked but we do provide engaging, exciting and challenging activities which keep at least some of the kids off the street that might otherwise go wandering as well as cater for those kids who would never wander the streets.

As an example, the BB Junior Section recently took 8 boys to the Battalion Indoor 5s and Handball competition. Where an afternoon of sports was enjoyed, all in a friendly, competitive, Christian atmosphere. During the rest of November the Anchor Boys entered a Battalion Colouring-In competition and the Company Section and Seniors will compete in the Battalion Badminton competitions. Our Christmas nights out have been booked and the New Year will see us studying several passages of the Bible for reflection and a regional quiz. Of course, not forgetting we have 4 young men working hard to gain their Queen's Badge, the highest award in the BB. Maybe our numbers are lower than they might be but we have to start somewhere and hopefully spread the Good News of the Gospel out to a larger number of young people.

God Bless

Jim Borland
Captain

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Anchors: | 6:00pm - 7:00pm |
| Juniors: | 7:15pm - 8:30pm |
| Company & Seniors | 7:15pm - 9:15pm |

SOUP LUNCHES

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 7 th December | in aid of | Bethany |
| 18 th January 2012 | | Leprosy Mission |
| 1 st February | | Bridge Choir |
| 15 th February | | Missionary
Partner, Malawi |
| 7 th March | | Rutherford House |
| 21 st March | | Busy Project |



With effect from January 2012 the cost of lunch will rise from £2 to £2.50

Congratulations.....

Pictured below are John & Bessie Roy who celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in August.



Bridge Choir

Following the success of our show "A Night at the Musicals" last year, we decided to officially become a choir, affiliated to Broxburn Parish Church. We are now known as "The Bridge Choir".

We meet on Thursday evenings when we are put through our paces by our ever patient choirmaster Alan Gilmour. At present we are working very hard creating a greater repertoire.

We have two events arranged in the build up to Christmas. On the 14th December we are singing in the foyer of St John's Hospital raising funds for "Friends of St Johns' Hospital" and on the 19th December we will be in the Elements Centre in Livingston to raise money for "Barnardo's".

Next year we plan to put on a performance in Broxburn Parish Church. This will be in the form of a concert, a little different to last year's show, but should be just as enjoyable.

We are always working hard to organise fund raising events for the choir to enable us to purchase new music to help us expand our repertoire.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us. We hope you will continue to support us and hope that we will continue to entertain you.

If you would like any further information about the choir or our forthcoming events please contact :

Janice MacPherson,

Secretary, The Bridge Choir

01506 852280.

Girls' Brigade



We have started back and well into badgework and still have about 100 girls which as you can imagine is noisy but lots of fun.

Given our large numbers we are always looking for help and have a parents/friends rota for anyone who would like to come along occasionally - Please see Alison Turnbull.

Our Brigaders took part in the Macmillan cancer care biggest coffee day and held a coffee evening on 30th September. Many thanks to everyone who came along and supported it.

The officers and girls would like to invite you to our Carol Service on Friday 9th December 2011 at 7pm in the church. This is always a lovely night and we look forward to singing for you.

Some other dates for you diary-

GB Christmas party is on Friday 16th Dec.

There will be no GB on 23rd, 30th Dec or 6th January 2012.

Finally we would like to congratulate Blythe Rodger and Leah Heath on their commissioning as officers in Broxburn GB.

Thank you for all your hard work during your training and we pray you find many blessings as you help other girls learn of Gods love for them.

Happy Christmas from everyone at Broxburn GB and thank you for your continued support.

Alison Turnbull

01506 852171

07984315250

alit@blueyonder.co.uk



Mission Partner News

Dr. Ruth Shakespeare, our missionary partner in Malawi, sends regular newsletters. These are circulated by the Church of Scotland Office in Edinburgh. These updates are always on the notice board in the small hall so please take time to read them.

The dedication of the staff at Mulanje Mission Hospital is widely appreciated and rewarded. The hospital recently won a shield for infection prevention. This scheme was carried out through the Ministry of Health and Mulanje is now declared infection free.

Please continue to remember Ruth and her staff in prayer.

Felicity Murrie



Christmas Card competition

Congratulations to Daniel Parkinson (8) who won the competition to design our Christmas Card.



Former local couple celebrate 70 years of marriage

Nettie & Billy Little were married on 24th October 1941 whilst Billy was on three days leave from the army. 70 years on they celebrated with family and friends at the St Anne's Care Home in Musselburgh where they now live. They met whilst teenagers as members of Tranent cycling club. Billy was serving in the Kings Own Scottish Borderers in India when he proposed to her and she set about arranging the wedding at Tranent Town Hall when he would return to East Lothian.

After he left the army in 1946, Billy set up a furniture shop in East Main Street - Wilson & Little – before moving across the street to run a newsagent shop of the same name. In the mid 1980s the couple returned to East Lothian, living in Longniddry, Tranent and Elphinstone before their move to Musselburgh.

The celebrations included Deputy Lord Lieutenant Jeremy Nichols presenting them with telegrams on behalf of the Queen and East Lothian Provost as well as flowers from staff and residents.



It is with sadness we learn that Billy fell shortly after this and died on the morning of Friday 28th October.

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

Finance

| 2011 | Income | Expenditure |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| January | £8,753.89 | £996.41 |
| February | £5,546.28 | £15,376.00 |
| March | £5,277.42 | £10,927.79 |
| April | £5,078.35 | £ 5,162.48 |
| May | £10,383.48 | £11,500.89 |
| June | £7,408.30 | £6,799.59 |
| July | £5,232.56 | £6,721.88 |
| August | £6,298.32 | £6,485.11 |
| September | £5,175.40 | £10,840.35 |
| October | £5,799.29 | £6,271.87 |
| Total (to 31st Oct) | £64,953.29 | £81,082.37 |
| | | |

Items for inclusion in the next issue should be submitted by mid February 2012 to either Hugh Brown or Stuart Cunningham, or emailed to:

hughb92@blueyonder.co.uk or stu.c@tesco.net



Sound Desk

We are still looking for anyone who is interested in helping with the sound desk rota. Please let Stuart know. Full training for those not familiar with the equipment will be given. Thanks

Funerals

August

Margaret Smith

October

May Clark



September

Eva Haynes

November

Margaret Thompson

Helen Quinn

Weddings

Paula Collins

and Alan Thomson

17 September, 2011



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: Mrs. Norma Short | 28 Newhouses Road | 857540 |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------|

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------|
| Clerk: Mrs. Anne Gunn | 3 Kirkhill Court | 856984 |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------|

Treasurer

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------|
| Mrs. Marjorie MacRae | 22 Parkwood Crescent | 854702 |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------|

Gift Aid Convener

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------|--------|
| Miss Jean Weir | 135 Houston Gardens | 855626 |
|----------------|---------------------|--------|

Roll Keeper

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------|
| Mr. Brian Short | 28 Newhouses Road | 857540 |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------|

Prayer Secretary

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------|
| Mr. David Wilkie | 53 Goschen Place | 854777 |
|------------------|------------------|--------|

Pastoral Care Group co-ordinator

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------|
| Mr. Nat Beggs | 6 Grange Road | 852170 |
|---------------|---------------|--------|

Organist

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------|
| Mr. James Lawrie | 13 Queens Avenue | 856609 |
|------------------|------------------|--------|

Church Officer

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------|
| Mr. John Macaulay | 137 East Main Street | 852947 |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------|

Hall Convener

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Mrs. Jeanette Ewington | 93 Fergusson Road | 857194 |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------|

Property Convener

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Mr. Robert Pattison | 12 Houston Gardens | 855505 |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------|

Communications co-ordinator

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

Safeguarding co-ordinator

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

Social & Fundraising Convener

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Mrs. Lillian Pattison | 12 Houston Gardens | 855505 |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------|