

Christmas 2012

The Bridge



Communion will be celebrated on

Sunday 9th December at 11am & 6pm.

Everyone is welcome

From the Manse



“And man will live forevermore, because of Christmas Day”

In which Christmas song does this line occur?

Who released this song in 1978?

Answers: Mary’s boy child.... Boney M

Shoppers Drug Mart, a Canadian store, agreed to stop playing Christmas music in its store in response to complaints from customers. They will start again, but many of their customers thought it was just too early to think about Christmas.

I am always fascinated by how people come to faith in Jesus. **Each of us has our own story, but my friend’s story always** brings a smile to my face and it is one I have shared often.

Mary had gone to live in Canada, to teach. She had no church **background, hadn’t been taken to church as a child and didn’t** give faith a second thought. One day, shopping for Christmas she heard that Boney M song being played as she shopped. And **she stopped.... what on earth could it mean that ‘man will live** forevermore, because of Christmas Day? She thought about it and it intrigued her so much that she decided to go along to church and see if she could find out. She did and it changed her life... I love her story, and when I think that these Christmas **songs are being played too early I remember Mary’s story and I** stop and I say a wee prayer, Lord, in the midst of all the preparation for Christmas may people hear the wondrous news of the birth of Jesus, in the Christmas carols.

May your Christmas be blessed and full of joy as you celebrate with family and friends.

Terry

Treasurer's Update



Income for the year to date (to 28 October 2012) is **£72,059.56**, with expenditure over the same period being **£72,066.38**. As expenses started to outstrip income over the summer months, I arranged a transfer of money from the Fabric/ Reserve Fund into our 'working' account, ie our current account, to cover the fabric costs already met from that account.

The overall assets held across all bank accounts continues to show a healthy total.

The highest regular monthly expense continues to be the higher contribution payable to central funds, with other regular monthly outgoings including heating, lighting, council tax and insurance costs. Most of the fabric costs this year have been incurred in the reburishment and maintenance of the manse.

The expenditure figure also includes the monies raised via fund-raising activities which have already been passed on to the various charities, as well as the various other costs involved in the upkeep and running of the Church and manse.

Sue Sneddon

Treasurer



From the beginning of December Terry will be changing her day off from a Monday to a Friday.

The minister will be on holiday from Friday 1st February returning on Saturday 9th February.

Prayer Corner

Recently as I was listening to a programme on the Premier Radio, the Christian radio station, I heard this story which I found challenging

It was of a husband who watched his wife prepare a roast for the oven, where she cut off both ends before placing it in the pot for cooking. Intrigued, the husband asked why she cut off the ends to which his wife replied that is how my mother does it. Next time he met his mother-in-law he brought up this question to which she replied that is the way my mother did it. He then spoke to granny who looked at him strangely, admitting she did cut off the ends of her joints but only because her pot was too small to accommodate it otherwise!

Sometimes, I sure you agree, we do things through tradition without questioning, but today I am finding our values and attitudes are being challenged.

It is no bad thing to stop and think why I am doing this, why am I doing this way. Society is changing, things we once treasured and found our security are maybe not so stable and are be eroded.

We are being asked by our local council for our views on the ways things are done in our community with less money available, could they be done differently to add value to the quality of our lives and still retain a loving and caring community.

When Jesus came into this world as a baby, born in a stable in Bethlehem, this is not how the Jews expected their Saviour to arrive, they were looking for something far grander. When Jesus started his public ministry what he taught was challenging to their beliefs and traditions, he turned their world upside down, but that was what His father wanted from them and us today.



What was, was no longer acceptable to God. When we come to accept Jesus as our saviour, we too need to turn all lives around and live God's way, to bring peace, hope and joy to the communities we serve.

In your personal prayers please pray for

- **Our minister, our office bearers and the leaders of all the organisations that God with protect and lead them and their families**
- **For our Queen and her Government in the very difficult issues facing the world today, for our local councillors.**
- **The sick, anxious, lonely, estranged and the bereaved that they will find God's peace and love.**
- **Our armed forces and the relief organisations that strive to bring peace, justice and relief to all in need. Prayer for peace in Syria and Afghanistan.**
- **For Dr Ruth Shakespeare, our Missionary Partner and her work in Malawi**
- **For the unemployed with the closure of Halls and other redundancies that they might find gainful employment to support them and their families**

The Prayer Group has taken a break meantime. Please contact myself and the minister for prayer.

David Wilkie

Congregational Prayer Secretary

01506 854777



The children are not due to be with us **again until June next year but that doesn't mean we are taking it easy!!** Quite the contrary!

Following the June visit some of our children and host parents had come to the end of the 3 years they **agreed to do at the outset and 3 "experienced" children are moving** to our new Forth Valley group. As a result our numbers had dropped from 23 to 14. However I am delighted to advise that we have signed up 7 new host families and we will welcome 21 children to Broxburn in 2013. As things stand we will still be the largest group in the UK. We have already started planning the activities programmes and provisions for the children for next year.

As West Lothian is pretty much at its limit in terms of numbers I have been involved in assisting with the set up of our new Forth Valley group in Linlithgow and mentoring the co-ordinator Clare Cotton who some of you will know as a host parent in the West Lothian group. Clare has just returned from Belarus after meeting all of the new children she will bring over to her group. Despite it being the first year for the new group Clare will welcome 17 children in April next year. So that group is already pretty near to capacity too!

What we do with the children and their families is very much appreciated. The children come from some of the areas most contaminated by the Chernobyl disaster and live mainly in wooden houses with no running water and outside toilets. The children all have a story to tell about their own family situations that would pull at anyone's heartstrings. When they are here for their month of love and care they live with host families and we organise a full programme of educational and leisure outings for them. The children also receive optical, dental and health checks and get anything they need. They arrive with a spare pair of pants and a toothbrush and leave with a 25kg holdall full of good warm clothes, vitamins and other essentials they find it difficult to get at home.

Between ourselves, Forth Valley and our sister group in Edinburgh we will bring around 60 children over next year. This takes a tremendous amount of money and we do not receive any grant funding. All the funds are raised by the host parents organising events or others raising/donating the money for us. None of the money is wasted on admin or salaries as we are all volunteers in UK, even our chief executive Olwyn Keogh, who many of you would have met at the service earlier this year. We have recently organised a **duck race, Ladies lunch, Ladies night, Race Night, Sportsman's Dinner, Coffee Mornings**, been involved in sponsored events as well as host parents organising smaller events in their houses and **workplaces. If we don't raise the money, the children don't come. Its** that simple, so we are all focused on it.

We have just arranged for all of the children/families to receive a \$100 food parcel nearer to Christmas and they will get another one when we visit them in their homes in March 2013. We are starting to think of our trip to Belarus in March already, organising our programme and provisions for our trip. This visit puts our own health and lives at risk however we accept these risks as we take Gods love to the children. **If we didn't do it then who would?**

Isaiah 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

So as we approach Christmas this year and think more about others please remember the work that this great charities does. There are not many charities where you can donate money and physically see where your money is going. You can with us. The healthy smiling faces of the children in our halls in June and the gratitude we see from the deprived families in March tell us the donations have been well spent and very much appreciated.

Kenny Turnbull

Co-ordinator, West Lothian Group.

Lands End to John O'Groats bike ride

When we agreed to take on this challenge at the start of the year, none of us really appreciated just how much hard work and effort it would take. After nearly nine months of training we were as well prepared as we could ever be however none of us really knew if we would actually make it across the finishing line. What would happen on day three? We had all managed 2 consecutive days of cycling more than 100 miles a day but would we be able to do this day after day for 9 days?

We faced extremes of weather, from glorious sunshine in Cornwall with temperatures of 24 degrees C to gale force winds and torrential rain between Hamilton and Fort William (including a diversion due to a land slide caused by the rain). This was to be our longest day anyway, but hearing that we would be doing 137 miles instead of 124 through this weather really raised the challenge level.

Some final figures came in at:

Total mileage- 993 miles,

Total hills climbed- 43 201 feet

Total hours in the saddle- 67 hours 23 minutes

But the most important figure was the amount of money raised. As you may remember we had set ourselves the target of raising £25,000 for Maggie's Cancer Centres between the 8 team members, however I am delighted to be able to tell you that we have raised a total of more than £40,000.

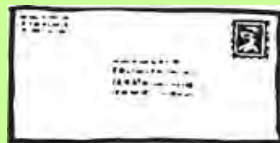
The caption of one of the main sponsors 'Threshold' is "More is in You" and we certainly found more in us than we ever thought we had. A huge thank you must go to everyone who supported us, not just through sponsorship, but your goodwill and prayers were also very much appreciated.

If anyone would like to see a (short) video of the highlights of the trip, it's available on You Tube, just search for "Scotmid RAB"

THANK YOU!

Martin Devlin

CHRISTMAS POST



Dates of pick ups are- 2nd 9th and 16th Dec.

Last date for Uphall cards is Sun 9th Dec.

All cards must be in before church service on Sunday 16th Dec.

Stamps cost 25p each which is still a great saving as a standard 2nd class stamp is now 50p and all money will go to charity.

Stamps can also be bought and cards posted at the Fotocard shop and Brian Curries until Sat 15th Dec.

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.



*Then in a cattle shed,
In a manger bed,
A boy was born,
King of all the world.*

Christmas Card competition

Congratulations to Megan Findlay (aged 6) from the Girls' Brigade who won the competition to design our Christmas Card.





GB Carol Concert 20



Martin and his team-mates



GB trip to Low Port



11



**FOCC
Belarus.
October 2012**



As mentioned in a recent letter to parents, after cycling all over Fife for two weekends trying to get fit, 6 of our seniors travelled to Arran on the west Coast in August and successfully completed a Duke of Edinburgh Silver Cycling Expedition. Well done lads. A picture tells a thousand words:



Ready for the off



1st Camp



Pladda & Ailsa Craig



Come on...boil!



Back on the road



Blackwaterfoot



Having a break



Another break!



How does this go again? Exhausted!!



That tastes good!



Where are they?



The support brew



Cycling in the BB



Finished, well done!

By the time you read this Christmas will be almost upon us. The BB stops on December the 10th when we have our Christmas party for the Anchor Boys and a night at Laser tag for everyone else.

We resume on Monday 7th January 2013.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Jim Borland

Captain

Bridge Choir

The choir are pleased to welcome five new members this year. I'm sure you will recognise most of them!

Christmas is almost upon us once again and that means the choir have been rehearsing their Christmas numbers for this year with two new pieces I'm sure you will enjoy.

We have been invited back to St Johns Hospital this year to sing during evening visiting times. This will be on Thursday 13th December in the foyer at the main entrance to the hospital. Money raised will go to Friends of St Johns. We will also be singing again at Dobbies Garden Centre on Saturday 15th December from 2 - 4pm. Again any money raised on that day will go to a charity.

You will also be able to hear our two new Christmas pieces at the Nativity Service on Sunday 23rd December. We hope to see you there.

If anyone is in the area for our charity events, please come and say hello! It's always great to see some friendly faces.

Our concert dates have been confirmed as Thursday 6th and Friday 7th June next year. There will be updates regarding the concerts in the next issue of the magazine.

The Bridge Choir would like to wish the congregation of Broxburn Parish Church a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Janice MacPherson

Secretary.

Reminder

- All intimations need to be with Elspeth by Wed 5pm to ensure they are included in the following Sunday's intimations.

elspethrodger@blueyonder.co.uk

- Items for inclusion in the next issue should be submitted by early February 2013 to either Hugh Brown or Stuart Cunningham, or emailed to:

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

Girls' Brigade



GB have had a busy year on Friday nights and also attending many events,outing and camps.

We are now back in full swing and still have nearly 100 girls and still as noisy as ever.

The girls are preparing for Christmas and would like to invite you to our Carol Service on Friday 7th Dec 2012 in the church at 7pm. This is normally 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-

GB Christmas party is on Friday 14th Dec.

There will be no GB on 21st, 28th Dec or 4th January 2013

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

Alison Turnbull

Captain



Soup Lunches

The following are the dates for Soup Lunches.

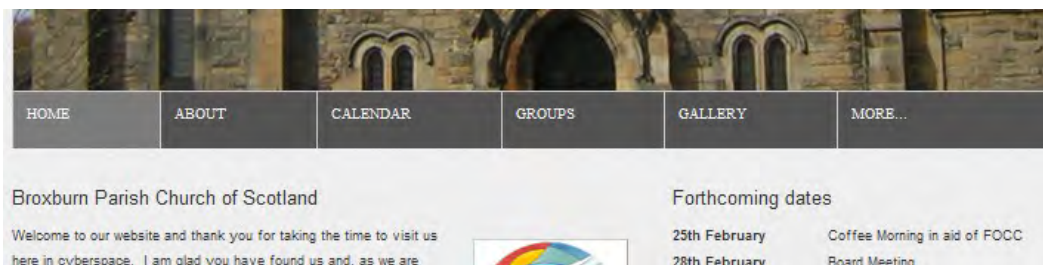
Please join us for the short service beforehand followed by lunch. It's a great time of blessing and fellowship and any monies raised goes to worthy causes.



2013

16th January	The Leprosy Mission
30th January	The Bridge Choir
6th February	Project Romania
20th February	Project Romania
6th March	Mulanje Hospital, Malawi
20th March	Broxburn Academy Wind Band

We hope to have some of the band play for us



Broxburn Parish Church on the world wide web

Our website is up and running and can be found by typing the following web address into your browser:

<http://www.broxburnparishchurch.org.uk/>

or by using your Smartphone and scanning the bar code below or by googling us!



Social & Fundraising

The church quiz, postponed from last year, was held in October with 10 teams taking part. A well attended and successful evening was enjoyed by all. The winner of the shield and certificate this time was the Kirk Session. The amount raised was £110.

By the time you read this the Christmas Fayre will be past. Plans are well in hand and we hope it will be as successful as in recent years.

Watch the intimations for the amount raised.

Saturday 1st December is the Council of Churches Torchlight procession, leaving Uphall at 6.15pm and finishing in our church with a short Carol Service. Following this we will be serving tea, coffee and mince pies in the hall.

Again on Christmas Eve we will be serving tea, coffee and mince pies in the hall from 10.30—11.15pm. Please come along and join in the fellowship before going through to the church for the Watchnight Service which starts at 11.30pm.

In the New Year we are planning a Family Ceilidh and a Craft Fair and a fashion Show in the spring.

The coffee bar continues to run every week providing a meeting place for friendship and fellowship for both regulars and visitors. Saturday mornings wouldn't be quite the same without it! But we do need a little more help with baking and serving.

If you can see your way to do either occasionally please have a word with me and find out what is needed. I'd be very grateful.

Margaret Henderson



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

'Jim the Swim' to retire

20-year Paralympian Anderson to retire

SIX-TIME Paralympic champion James Anderson has called time on a remarkable swimming career that has spanned two decades. At 49-years old, Anderson was the oldest member of the swimming team at the London 2012 Paralympic Games and competed at his first Games in 1992. He was awarded an MBE in 2005 and an OBE in 2009.

Anderson said: "I've had a wonderful career and feel it is time to go out on a high. Having competed at my sixth Paralympic Games in London it doesn't come much higher. I would like to thank all those who have helped me over the last 21 years from coaches to swimmers, support services and



James Anderson: Six gold medals

especially my parents. I still hope to be involved in disability sport and will look at other options for participation."

His last competitive meet will be the DSE National Short Course Championships at Ponds Forge in Sheffield next month.

From The Scotsman, 17th October

Funerals

August	Anna Black
September	Beth Black
October	Michelle Henderson



Diary Dates



29th November	Kirk Session. 7.30pm
1st December	Torchlight Procession
2nd December	Service led by Rev. Ian Walker as part of the Local Church Review
7th December	GB Carol Concert. 7pm in the church
9th December	Christmas Post – last posting day for Uphall, Uphall Station, Dechmont & Ecclesmachan
12th December	Carol Service at West Lothian Crematorium in aid of CLIC Sargent Fund
16th December	Last Posting day for Christmas Cards—before 11am service
23rd December	Nativity led by JAM
24th December	Watchnight Sercice 11.30pm Tea, coffee & mince pies served from 10.30 in the hall
25th December	Christmas Day Service at 10am
<u>2013</u>	
8th January	Board Meeting. 7.30pm
13th Januray	Council of Churches Pulpit Exchange. Terry will be preaching at St Machan. Adrian Lothian will preach at Broxburn
26th January	BUSY Supporters evening
1st—9th February	Minister on holiday
10th February	Presbytery Pulpit Exchange. Terry will be preaching at Boghall. Current minister at Breich Valley will preach at Broxburn
6th & 7th June	Bridge Choir Concert

New Kirk Session members

In November, the Kirk Session welcomed 10 new members. 9 were ordained as elders and Elaine Brown was admitted to the Session as she had been an elder in a previous congregation. The new elders are:

Jim Borland

Elaine Brown

Fiona Devlin

Elaine Gilmour

Laura Gordon

Anne Gunn

Lisanne Lamond

Ross MacPherson

Craig Smith

Kenny Turnbull



Please remember them in your prayers as they take on their new roles.

(Elaine Gilmour was unable to be present on 4th November but was ordained the following Sunday)

The Busy Project

From 18th—20th January a number of BUSY Volunteers are heading to Deep Impact, the national Training Conference for those involved in youth work.

Please continue to pray for our Youth Cafe, Hot Chocolate etc... The various events at school, Tuesday Drop-in, Seasons for Growth and all our leaders, volunteers and supporters.

The supporters evening takes place on Saturday 26th January and details will be given nearer the time.

www.thebusyproject.org.uk

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. Felicity Murrie 31 Nicol Road 852464

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

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 0131 334 1384
Corstorphine

Safeguarding co-ordinator

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

Social & Fundraising Convener

Mrs. Lillian Pattison 12 Houston Gardens 855505