

December 2014

The Bridge



The next **Communion service** will be on
Sunday 18th January 2015 at 11am.

Everyone is welcome

From the Locum

Dear friends,

This has been something of a turbulent year. It started with the departure of Terry Taylor and continued when Bob Nicol, who was well known to the congregation and had been serving as Locum, became ill.

In a sense then I arrived in Broxburn at a time of crisis, the church was vacant and there was no full time minister in sight; a time of great potential danger. The congregation could have lost hope and started to disintegrate



This is the Chinese symbol for crisis but as you can see it is made up of two different characters one of them stands, obviously, for "danger", but the other more unexpectedly is the symbol for "opportunity"..

The whole congregation of Broxburn Parish Church decided to see that critical time not as a danger but as an opportunity. You accepted me to help you along the way but it was you the people of Broxburn who had the heart and the spirit to forge ahead.

A turning point has now been reached with the nominating committee finding a Sole Nominee, a prospective new minister for Broxburn.

Things are changing but are, in a sense, still in 'limbo'. We wait for all the required steps to be taken and for Presbytery to give the go ahead at its February meeting.

Another time of change faces the congregation, a critical moment but as in every crisis alongside the danger there is opportunity and I know that the people of Broxburn Church are well able to grasp the opportunity offered.

Shona and I have both enjoyed being with you. We are grateful for the welcome you have extended and the care that you have offered to us.

We have been more than impressed by the friendly and spontaneous nature of the congregation by the way that you have held together and, even in difficult times, have looked to the future with faith and hope.

On Advent Sunday two years ago I preached in Broxburn at the start of the Congregational Review being carried out by Presbytery, and said

'These weeks of Advent are about waiting: waiting in Patience and Hope. Yes, we wait for Christmas with its message of peace; we wait to welcome Christ into the world; but we also look much further ahead, waiting for the time when he will come again in glory and in power.



The French philosopher Simone Weil often wrote about 'Waiting on God'. In one of her letters she made this statement, 'We do not obtain the most precious gifts by going in search of them but by waiting for them'.

We may the same as Advent Sunday 2014, the first Sunday of the new Christian year, approaches. We wait in anticipation for all that Christmas means. The new beginning for the world heralded by the birth of the Christ Child but we also look ahead with hope and expectation to a new year and to the beginning of a new ministry in Broxburn.

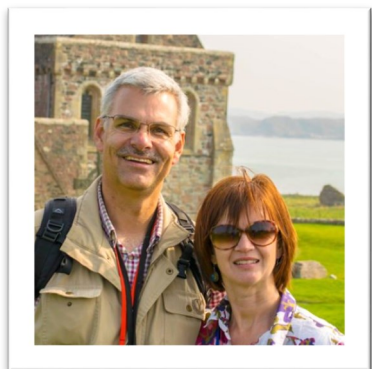
This will mean more change and adjustment but remember the Chinese symbol for crisis which means both danger and opportunity and as you have always done, enter into change with the hope that Christ gives, sure that he has the future in his hand and remember: he will never let you down.

Rev. Ian Walker (Locum)

Rev. Dr. Jaco Boonzaaier will preach as sole nominee at 11 am on Sunday 14th December.

The Nominating Committee encourages everyone to come along and hear him. The vote, on whether to appoint Jaco as Minister for Broxburn Parish Church, will take place immediately after the service.

In the event that the Congregation vote in favour of Jaco, the Call will be available for signature from 14th December until 28th December. Please do take the time to sign the Call.



**Rev Dr Jaco Boonzaaier
Sole Nominee
Broxburn Parish Church
Sunday 14th December
2014**

Rev Dr Jaco Boonzaaier originates from South Africa and has been living in Scotland since January 2014 working as Assistant Minister at St. Columba's Church of Scotland in Stirling. He is married to Moya and they have two teenage daughters Simone and Monique.

Jaco spent 18 years as a minister with the Dutch Reformed Church in Namibia and South Africa. He holds a BA from Potchefstroom University in South Africa, a BD from the University of Pretoria and an MDiv. Masters' degree covering the ethics and theology of the New Testament.

Prior to entering the ministry Jaco worked as a cashier in a bank, in I.T. product development, as a Senior Project Manager and as Operations Manager and Senior Logistic Planner.

Some of the companies he has worked for include Trust Bank, Tepco Petroleum, Shell Oil Products and the Namibia Broadcasting Company as a freelance radio presenter.

He is also a trained Toastmaster and accredited presenter of the Myers Briggs Temperament Index. Among his interests and hobbies he lists cycling, golf, reading, photography and woodworking.

In his application, Jaco wrote: "We serve God as individuals as well as families. To that end I see it as paramount to have a distinct and focussed approach in ministry; engaging with everyone at the stage where they are in their journey of faith. Therefore, whether very young, or older, whether single or family, healthy or frail, we are part of God's family. We all have the longing to love and be loved in return; and where better than in a fellowship of friendly, family of our Heavenly Father."



Prayer Corner

Where there is light there is hope, what a reassurance when one is feeling low and far from God.

When Jesus left his Heavenly Throne to come into this dark world over two thousand years ago his arrival was heralded by a bright shining star.

A star led the lowly shepherds to the manger in Bethlehem where Jesus was laid after being told of his arrival by a throne of angels.

This same star also led the Wise Men from distant lands to welcome the new king into the world.

From Heaven he came helpless babe into a way of pain, rejection and apathy to bring light and hope, an offer of reconciliation with our Heavenly Father.

Jesus came into this world at that time when God responded to the prayers from His people who were borne down and heavily burdened placed on them who were called to care for them.

This same Jesus who is now seated on his throne beside his father in Heaven still responds to the needs of those who call on him for help. Jesus having spent thirty or so years on this earth as a human being knows only too well the pressures, temptations and the disappointments we experience day by day,

He still through the Holy Spirit offers guidance to us in our daily lives to keep us to that straight and narrow path that leads to the Kingdom. His light leads us to him.

Our lives as Christians should also reflect this light in our living that others who walk in darkness can find Jesus and the hope, joy and peace he brought into this world.

Jesus is the light of the world and the world will never smother this.

Have a Happy Christmas

In your daily prayers please remember

- **Our search for a leader to take us on the next stage of our Christian journey.**
- **Our officer bearers and their families that they will be faithful in their calling.**
- **For the lonely, homeless and estranged that they will know God's love for them this Christmas.**
- **For our Christian brothers and sisters who suffer persecution because of their faith.**
- **For peace where there is unrest, for feeding where there is hunger, healing where there is sickness and a hope where there is none**
- **Pray for the peacemakers and the peacekeepers**
- **For a willingness to help all in need, that they might see Jesus love in our actions.**

Please remember we have a prayer group the first Sunday of each month at 10.45 am in the Session House where we remember the needs of the congregation and the community we serve

David Wilkie

Congregational Prayer Secretary

01506 238644



Wednesday Services

The final service of 2014 is 17th December.

Recommencing on 14th January



Friends of Chernobyl's Children
West Lothian



FOCC

I have just returned from a long but very rewarding trip to Belarus. Shortly after arriving I met Zhenya and his family at the hospital and was given the good news that, as it stands, he is fit

enough to travel to our group next year. We are all so pleased especially his Scottish host parents Steven and Louise. That meant I only needed to find another 7 new children for our group to return our numbers back up to 20 for next years visit. In total I met 17 new children and then had the agonising decision of picking only 7 to come to Scotland next year. Each child was very deserving and the 7 I have picked will be great additions to our group. They have many stories to tell that would pull at anybody's heartstrings. Many of them live in terrible housing conditions with parents who have their own challenges in life. It was a real pleasure going back to meet the 7 lucky children in their own homes, to tell them they are on our programme, to give them a letter from their new host family, to give them a gift of a doll or a ball but most of all to give them help and the gift of hope. When I returned I told all of the expectant host parents all about their new children and gave them lots of pictures of the children and the conditions they live in. There was much joy and many emotional tears as they saw them for the first time, but best of all, a renewed drive to want to do more and more for these needy children.



While I was in Belarus we held the biggest party in our history for the children at the 10 pin bowling with all our past and present children there. It was really great to see them all, have a great meal with them and play bowling.

I look forward to seeing all 20 of our 2015 group again in March next year, before they make the long journey to us in May and our work can begin in earnest in bringing some joy to the new ones lives. I cant wait.



Kenny Turnbull

Co-ordinator

Friends of Chernobyl's Children, West Lothian Group

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Diary Dates



- 27th November** Kirk Session Meeting
- 30th November** Afternoon Tea in aid of Project Romania
- 3rd December** Soup Lunch - Bethany
- 5th December** GB Carol Service
- 6th December** Torchlight Parade - leaving from Uphall Community Centre
- 14th December** Rev. Dr Jaco Boonzaaier preaching as Sole Nominee
- 21st December** Nativity
- 24th December** Watchnight Service
- 25th December** Christmas Day Service 10am
- 2015**
- 6th January** Congregational Board Meeting
- 18th January** Communion (postponed from 14th December)
- 29th January** Kirk Session Meeting

Tanzania Trip including Trek to Mount Kilimanjaro with The Vine Trust

Linda Taylor went out to Moshi, Tanzania in October on a work party with the Vine Trust charity and a trek up Mount Kilimanjaro to help raise funds. Linda was part of a group of 29 volunteers who managed to raise enough funds to build six three bedroom houses for local Moshi families; this was a record amount for one trip. So thank you to everyone who sponsored all of us.



Below are some photos and further information on the trip.

This hut housed two adults and eight children with a ninth child soon to be expected, The charity Tanzanian Women's Research Foundation (TWAREF), had identified this family who needed help, but as they lived more than an hour's drive from Moshi they

had to get special permission in order to go ahead with helping them. A new house normally costs around £2500 but due to the location of this family the costs were slightly higher also as it was on the mountainside it would need higher foundations due to the severe rainfall.



We had to clear a space in front of the hut this involved chopping down four banana trees and a Avocado tree all with a machete, there was also gravel and sand to be moved. Once the area was clear the engineer came in and marked out where the foundations would be and then we were given the task of digging out the foundations, once completed we set up a chain gang in order to put all the boulders into the foundations then the Fundi (builder) came and concreted over them before the bricks were brought in.



This is Abraham who is 8 years old he was quite bemused by us all but very keen to help, he returned from school at 2pm each day and was always keen to join our team even although sometimes things were a bit too heavy for him. I gave the family a Scottish flag which I thought could be used as bed cover or curtain and I was totally



surprised to find they had created a flag pole especially for it and were proudly flying the flag when we arrived back the next day

The houses take about five weeks to complete so further photos will follow once we receive them when the houses

are actually handed over to the families. Each house is also provided with a stand pipe for water and some basic items like soap sugar maize etc. We had taken out blankets knitted by local Scottish church groups and these were very gratefully received.



We visited a local school funded by A Parish (which was made up of 14 local churches), each church community provides enough funds to pay for the children of their own

community and also money to pay the headmaster. The children were delighted to have us to visit and we were each presented with a fresh bouquet of flowers and the brass band announced our arrival. We spent time in the classroom and then in the afternoon we had arranged a potted



sports event, we were told we would have ninety children, which is what we started out with but we finished with 400 so a bit chaotic but great fun was had by everyone.

Mount Kilimanjaro Trek

There were 11 in our group due to flight delays we lost a days climbing which made the whole trip much more arduous. Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest individual volcanic mountain in the world towering 5895m above sea level (Ben Nevis being 1400m approx.), We all made it to base camp at Kibo Hut but only two made it to the very top with



the rest varying how high they got.



I made about 5100m before descending due to illness. This is the toughest trip I have ever done during the day we were walking in temperatures around 32-34C and then at night was so cold that we had everything including jackets hat and gloves on in our sleeping bags trying to keep warm. The

landscape was so barren and there was no wildlife to be seen not even birds.

Consolation on the way down bumped into Will Travers from The Born Free foundation who was still on his way up and managed a wee photo shoot.





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 over 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 5th Dec 2014 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-

Friday 19th Dec GB/BB panto trip.

There will be no GB on 26th or 2nd January 2015

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

For further information please contact:

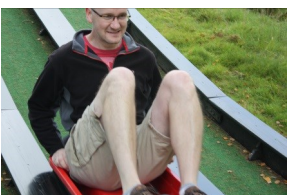
Alison Turnbull

01506 852171

07984 315250

alit@blueyonder.co.uk

We had an excellent camp at Auchengillan from the 5th - 7th September.



The company is off and running this session and we have already had success at various Battalion competitions, most recently at badminton where we are the reigning Seniors Champions.

Looking ahead we are looking forward to going to the Panto at Christmas time – Oh yes we are!

We are still looking for adult helpers to help out with our Anchor Boys, please get in touch if you can spare us an hour on a Monday night

If you know of any boys from P1 to 19 years who you think might benefit from some fun on a Monday night away from a television or games console then please pass on our details.

Season greetings.

God Bless

Jim Borland

07803 032063

Email: 2broxburn@boys-brigade.co.uk

Council of Churches

The pulpit exchange will take place on Sunday 11th January. Rev Ian Walker will be preaching at Uphall South and we will have someone from the United Free.

There is no confirmed date for Presbytery Pulpit Exchange but it is likely to be at the beginning of March.

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

The Bridge Choir

It's hard to believe that Christmas is almost upon us once again! A time to celebrate the birth of Jesus through worship and fellowship and also through music.

The choir are rehearsing their Christmas numbers in preparation for a few events in which we are taking part.

Once again, we have been invited back to St John's Hospital on Thursday 18th December, to sing around the evening visiting hour. This year we have decided to return to Livingston Centre, (The Elements, beside the big tree), on Sunday 21st December from 2-4pm. This follows the Nativity Service in the Church in which we will also be taking part. Once again we will be raising funds for worthy charities when we are out and about. If you are around at these times and venues, please come and say hello. It's always good to see a friendly face.

In the New Year it will be back to rehearsals for our annual concerts on 4th and 5th June.

Meanwhile, may the choir wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Janice MacPherson

Secretary

Hogmanay Family Celebration

Seeing in the New Year can sometimes be a bit of a non-event, so it has been suggested that we should hold a Family Celebration on Hogmanay 2014. The evening would start at 10pm and finish after 'the bells' at about 12.30.

There would be music and games and folks would be encouraged to bring their own snack food. It would also be a great social night and a chance to 'see out the old and bring in the new' in the company of friends and fellow church members.

If you would be interested in coming along, please e-mail Hugh Brown at: hughb92@blueyonder.co.uk with an idea of how many people you would be bringing.



Soup Lunches 2015

21st January

4th February

18th February

4th March

18th March

Leprosy Mission

Project Romania

Mulanje Hospital

The Busy Project

FOCC

CHRISTMAS POST



Dates of pick ups are: 7th, 14th and 21th December.

Last date for Uphall cards is Sunday 14th December.

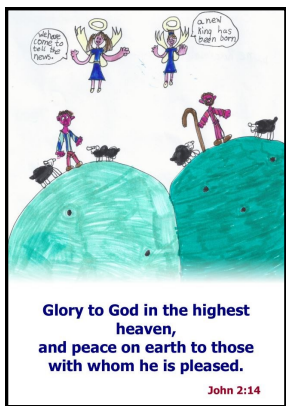
All cards must be in **before** church service on Sunday 21st December.

Stamps cost 30p each which is still a great saving as a standard 2nd class stamp is now 53p and all money will go to charity.

Stamps can also be bought and cards posted at the Fotocard shop and Brian Curries until Sat 20th 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.



Christmas Card competition



Congratulations to Rachael Black (aged 7) from the Girls' Brigade who won the competition to design our Christmas Card.

Queen's Award

The Queen's Award is the highest award achievable in Girls' Brigade and is the reward for at least two years study, application and hard work. The Queen's Award programme is open to all girls in Girls' Brigade between the ages of 17 and 25 and is designed to encourage and develop a range of skills and interests. I started working towards mine in February 2013 and have almost completed it. Although it has been hard work and at times I have felt like tearing my hair out, it has definitely been worth it!

Your Queen's Award is composed of various different sections all which feed into one award. The modules are: Voluntary Service, Initiative Tasks, Project, Company Service, Christian Growth, Residential Weekend and a General Study Paper. You are given a log book to track your progress as you work through each section which serves as a great way to keep on top of things.

The voluntary service was a particular area I enjoyed and where I felt I got the biggest reward. I helped at a club for children who have additional support needs or disability and thoroughly enjoyed my time there. I was helping with games and activities, having great fun while doing it and was able to see the positive impact my input was having. Although all the sections pushed me out of my comfort zone and let me try my hand at new things, this was definitely my favourite part.

The final module for me to complete is the Residential Weekend which is something I am really looking forward to. This will be a great chance to meet with other girls who are on the same path as me, delve deeper into my faith and learn more about the Girls' Brigade as an organisation. A great way to round off a busy two years!

Doing my Queen's Award has allowed me to meet new people, learn new things and has given me some great life experience. I would recommend it to each and every girl as a great way to challenge yourself and truly make a difference.

Amy Cunningham

Treasurer's Update

The end of my second year as Treasurer is almost up and I'll soon be getting ready to start work on the end of year accounts - a special post-Christmas 'treat' to look forward to!

As highlighted in the last edition of the Bridge magazine, I anticipated having to transfer more money from our Fabric Fund to help pay for the essential maintenance work needed on the steeple, and that proved to be the case, with a further £7,000 being transferred in October. This brings the total monies transferred from our Fabric Fund so far this year to £17,000. With the exception of the steeple work, all of the other expenditure had been expected, and budgeted for, although couldn't be met from our regular income. The last anticipated expense for this year was the fitting of the new storage cupboards on the stage as part of the ongoing hall renovation work.

But just when I thought that most of the big expenses were out of the way, in early November thieves stole some lead from the Church roof, damaging it in the process. We know we will have to meet at least £1,000 of those repair costs, even allowing for our insurance claim. And with the news that our vacancy may, hopefully, soon be coming to an end, with a sole nominee identified by the nomination committee, further expenses will be incurred in bringing the manse up to scratch for the new minister. We will be responsible for the provision of white goods for the manse kitchen apart from any other renovation/upgrading work needed in the manse.

So just as I was anticipating ending the year by having to arrange further money transfers, various unexpected donations came in to help boost our funds. So, on behalf of the congregation, I'd like to offer special thanks to the Friends of Broxburn Parish Church for their donation of almost £4,000 to help with the upgrade of the manse kitchen, and to the Bridge Choir for their donation of £700. And finally an extra-special thank you to the anonymous donor who generously donated £10,000! You've made this treasurer very happy!

Finally, thanks to everyone for their ongoing contributions. Thanks to you all, our finances continue to be in a healthy position. Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy new year.

Sue Sneddon

Who's Who



Interim Moderator

Rev. Dr. Stewart Gillan

01506 842195

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. 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

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

Position vacant