

December 2015

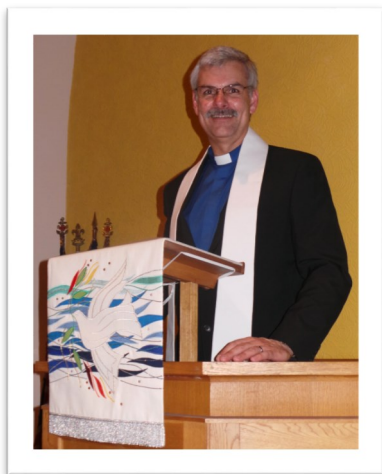
The Bridge



The next **Communion service** will be on
Sunday 13th December 2015 at 11am.

Everyone is welcome

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



From the Manse

Christmas Legend (based on an Afrikaans story)

In a big city not too far from here a young man was walking in a prominent the neighbourhood on Christmas Eve. He could see how people were scurrying to get their last minute shopping done, get the turkey in the oven and prepare their Christmas lunch. He saw the smiles of many boys and girls as they carried

presents from the luxury cars into their rooms ready to be covered in Christmas paper. As the night got darker and colder the young boy realised that he needed to get a shelter for the night.

He decided to knock on one of the huge dark wooden doors. After a while the door opened and a teenager greeted him and asked what he wanted. 'I need shelter for the night, please' he said. 'O no! My parents are out partying and the last thing they'll want is to find a stranger in our house.' And with that the door shut.

At another home he heard 'Sorry, pal! It's Christmas Eve. It's family time. Don't you have any respect for that?' And at another home the door was opened and closed in his face without as much as a word being said to him. It was clear: he was not welcome in this neighbourhood! And so he walked to another part of town. It was really very cold and he was shivering.

It was immediately evident that people in this part of town were poorer than in the former part. Houses were smaller and there were tenement houses here and there to be seen. Once again he knocked. He heard a dog bark and feet shuffling to the door. When the door swung open his eyes were met by four pairs of eyes staring back at him: the mother, two children and the dog stared at him. 'What on earth!' the mother said. 'Who are you and why are you out alone? It is unsafe and so cold. Do come in at once!' And with that he was in their home. Not fancy; pretty ordinary but warm. Not only warm from the fire that burned in

the fire place but a warmth radiating from their smiles and reaching out to them.

As they sat on the run-down sofa in the living room. The mother started to tell them the story of Christmas. And at once there was a bright light in the living room. The mother and her two children saw the young man change right there before their eyes. He was suddenly emitting a blinding bright light. They closed their eyes and when they opened it again he was gone. 'The young boy was the first to speak 'Was that Jesus, Mother?' 'Yes, my boy, I think that was Jesus...'

It is told for a fact that year after year God sends his Son to walk the streets at Christmas time to see where He is welcomed in. Who knows? Maybe Christ will be walking through Broxburn this year as well. Maybe you and I will have the opportunity to welcome Him in and show hospitality. Remember He said "...as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me..." (Matthew 25:40).

Let's put the CHRIST back in CHRISTMAS. Merry Christmas everybody.

Jaco

Diary Dates

2nd December	Soup Lunch
3rd December	Kirk Session meeting 7.30pm
6th December	Broxburn Nursing Home service
11th December	GB Carol concert 7pm
12th December	Christmas Fayre 11am—2pm
13th December	Communion
17th December	Carols with the Bridge Choir 7pm
20th December	JAM Nativity 11am
24th December	Watchnight Service 11.30pm
25th December	Family Service 10am

Prayer Corner

I, with millions of other viewers, was enjoying watching the BBC Children in Need event on television the other night enjoying and admiring the fund raising efforts of many folks, young and old, throughout the nation for good causes when the programme broke for the scheduled late news bulletin to be confronted with the horrors of the Paris terrorist outrages.

Now our screens were filled with unbelievable horror as the situation unfolded in Paris of innocent folk out for a enjoyable Friday evening of relaxation quickly became a living nightmare of the hands of brutal terrorists. This was not in some far off land but a city a few hundred miles from Broxburn.

I can't remember when, where or if ever had I witnessed such a contrast of unselfish commitment to helping others and not counting the cost to such evil where lives were seen as worthless all for the sake of some groups selfish cause.

Yesterday I heard the first flight of refugees from the Syrian refugee camps were to arrive in Scotland. Folks who have had to flee from their homes, livelihoods and sometimes their families to escape the terror that exists in that land.

Let us open our hearts and our purses to the needs of others and let not our lives be distracted by the evils of this world.

I came into this world to bring light and peace. Through his earthly ministry Jesus encouraged his followers to love their enemies, to run the extra mile and to turn the other cheek. He told us never to repay evil with evil.

God so loved the world He sent His son, His only son Jesus into the world that we might have peace within ourselves, with one another and most importantly with Him, God our Heavenly Father.

We must as Christians share in the distress, despair and anxiety of the victims of these terrorist activities but continue to pray that all might see the love of Jesus and the hope he brought to this world was for all.

God bless

In your personal prayers please pray for:

- **Our minister and office bearers that God with protect and lead them and their families.**
- **That folks young and old remember the reason for the season of Christmas and share it freely with families and friends**
- **Pray for our Queen and her Government in Westminster, Edinburgh and locally in West Lothian as they rule over us in these continuing difficult times.**
- **For a Emergency Services and Armed Forces that they may be diligent in their duties and the protection they provide.**
- **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 empty place at the Christmas dinner table for those who have passed on.**
- **For the BUSY project in their work with the young folk in the community.**
- **For Dr Ruth Shakespeare, our Missionary Partner her work in Malawi.**

Please contact myself and the minister for prayer.

David Wilkie

Congregational Prayer Secretary

01506 238644





The girls are enjoying being back at GB and having fun every Friday night.

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 11th Dec 2015 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 18th Dec GB/BB panto trip.

There will be no GB on 25th or 1st Jan 2015

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



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

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Items for inclusion in the next issue should be submitted by early February 2016 to either Hugh Brown or Stuart Cunningham by email: **hughb92@blueyonder.co.uk** or **stu.c@tesco.net**

Social & Fundraising Committee

To celebrate the **40th Anniversary** of us becoming Broxburn Parish Church a family ceilidh was held on Saturday 3rd October. There was a good attendance – about 80 people of all ages and everyone voted it an enjoyable and successful evening. Music was provided by Marjorie and Brian Macrae. Marjorie planned and compered the evening with a very varied programme of dancing and entertainment in which children and adults all took part.

A special celebration cake was cut by Mrs Doris Elcox, one of our oldest members. Our thanks go to those who provided the food, entertainment and help to make it a memorable family evening.

Our next event is the **Christmas Fayre** which will be on **Saturday 12th December** from 11am – 2pm, as part of a Christmas celebration weekend. The stalls will be Cake & Candy/Preserves, Christmas & Children, Bits & Bobs, Fancy Goods/Toiletries, Handmade Cards, Handmade Christmas Crafts, Books and DVD's. For the children there will be Craft Activities and Games to try.

Teas will be available and tickets (£3 adults & £1.50 child) are now on sale.

Donations for any of these stalls and the teas would be appreciated and may be handed in any Saturday or Sunday mornings, or on Friday evening 11th December or on the Saturday morning from 9am.

The **Coffee Bar** continues to run every Saturday morning from 10.30 – 12 noon providing a meeting place for friendship, fellowship and home baking. Saturdays wouldn't be quite the same without it! But we do need some more help with baking and/or serving. So if you can see your way to do either, even occasionally, please have a word with me. I'd be very grateful.

Margaret Henderson



Alina W



Alina F



Dima



Ercamo



Katia



Kira



Lera



Liosha



Yuliya



Lena

FOCC West Lothian
September Visit 2015
 (after)

www.foccwestlothian.com
[Facebook.com/FOCCWestLothian](https://www.facebook.com/FOCCWestLothian)





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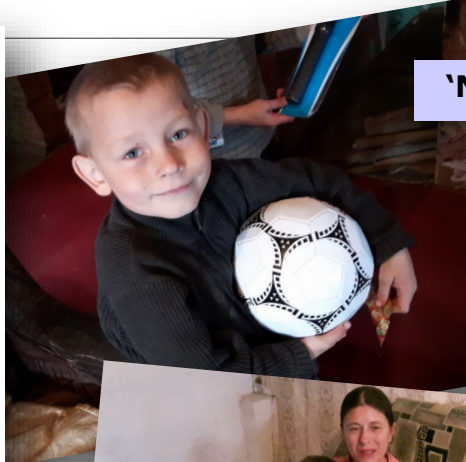
Nastya



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Timothy



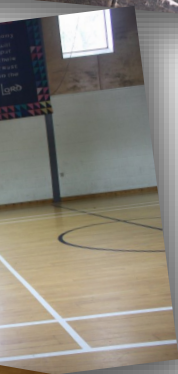
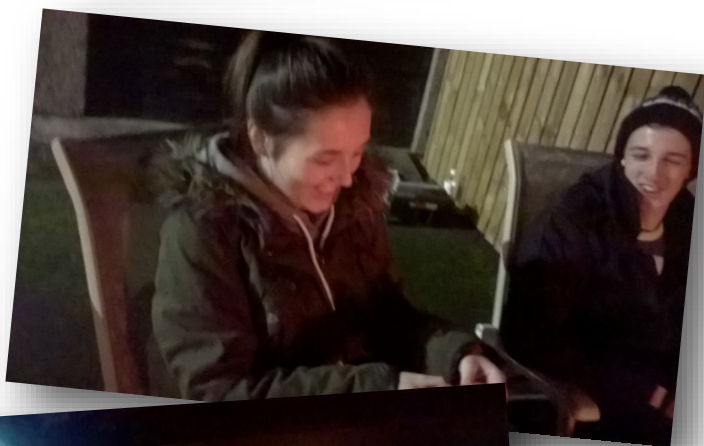
BB Camp

'New' Sergei

Anniversary ceilidh



'New' Sasha



CHILL





Friends of Chernobyl's Children
West Lothian



FOCC

I am happy to report that our new group of 12 children had a fantastic month with us in September and probably enjoyed the best spell of weather all summer. When the children arrived with us they were very shy and

most were really homesick. This wasn't a surprise considering they were all only 7 or 8 years old and we were prepared for it. The homesickness soon wore off and the children's confidence started to grow as they settled in to their new families. As it was school term time for the children, the interpreters had to give them lessons and we set up a school classroom in our session room. This worked well and it was nice to see them finish up playing in the small hall at 9 o'clock and put their school bags on and make the short journey to the session room for school. School finished about 12 each day and after lunch we went on half day activity outings with them and on Fridays there was no school so we went on full day outings. These outings included M and Ds, Edinburgh Castle, Mill farm, Swimming lessons and Clifton Hall school as well as visits to the dentist and opticians. It was great to see them grow in confidence and see their health and general outlook improve so much over the four weeks of the visit. It was also great to see their love grow for their host families. Overall it was a really great visit and our new host families are very special people.

At the end of October we had a week long visit to Belarus. During this time we visited all the children from our June visit in their houses and took them food parcels and letters from their host family. It was great to see them all and also to meet our five new children for the first time, who will come in June 2016. They are Sasha, Lera, Sergei, Maksim and Ksusha and were all given a doll or a football as a gift, which they were delighted with. We also saw our September group children and families at a wee gathering we had for them. Lastly we had a big party at the 10 pin bowling for our June group and older children. In total over the week we met 50 children who are either in our group, have been in our group or will be coming next year for the first time. So many children

that we have had the pleasure of working with and be a positive influence on their lives. Thank you all so much for supporting us in this very rewarding work.

Kenny Turnbull
Co-ordinator
FOCC West Lothian

CHILL

We enjoyed a very successful Chill on Sunday 1st November. The night went well with 8 children attending. There was hotdogs, milkshakes and toasted marshmallows by the fire pit, and remembered the story of the burning bush appearing to Moses. Numbers were encouraging and Chill will re start in January with a programme of dates through 2016. Anyone from P6 upwards to S6 is eligible to come and we aim to encourage as many friends as possible to come along and see what fun we can have. All those who attended enjoyed it greatly and we hope that this message will spread out throughout the community. If you know of any child in the age group above who would be able to come along, then please encourage them to do so. Chill will run on the 1st Sunday of every month throughout 2016 unless otherwise stated in the intimations. Please remember Chill in your prayers as we look to re-establish ourselves.

For more information please see Kenny Young, Fiona Devlin, or Sarah Devlin.

Reminder | All Hall Users

Please, Please, Please can you not turn up or down the thermostats within the church buildings. If you do need to adjust them can you please return the thermostats to their original setting to ensure the correct temperature for the next user.

Thank you

The Property Committee

Busy Chairpersons Report

The BUSY Project has worked with young people in Broxburn and Uphall for 10 years, based on the fact that God loves young people, and together, he has given us an opportunity to love them like he does.

2015 has been a year of change,

Due to lack of funding, Gordon (our youth development worker) was made redundant. Thankfully he went on to work with another Christian charity, and we wish him well for the future.

The BUSY Project has had many changes over the past few months, we have lost volunteer/team leader Val Heath (she has a new job). We are grateful for all she has done and thank her.

Lynne Williamson, our project admin assistant for the past 6 years, resigned, Lynne has served BUSY diligently and we thanked her for her important contribution.

We had some wonderful news, in April, we received another 2 years of funding from the Robertson trust. This has allowed us to employ Hannah, almost full time, and we are able to continue to bring together loads of young people, including them, caring for them, telling them about and journeying with Jesus. The BUSY volunteers believe this is a really important youth ministry and we have a great opportunity to Love God and serve young people.

Despite a much reduced staff BUSY worked with more than 70 young people over the summer months in a variety of different events, many promoting prayer and introducing young people to Jesus.

Project Romania

Scripture Union camp

Summer Buzz activities

(including trips).

Taking young people to Powerpoint (Christian youth service).

Summer activities were successful with good numbers attending.

We celebrated 10 years working in the local community on Saturday 15th August.

We had cake and fellowship in the Open Door and we had a party in Uphall South hall in the evening, both events were well attended and encouraging.

Broxburn Academy Guidance department continues to be very enthusiastic about BUSY's presence in school.

We pray for great relationships between Hannah and the young people, especially any that are new to BUSY activities,

A new part-time administrator is planned and will hopefully be in post, early in the new year, to assist our youth worker and BUSY volunteers.

Events over the last year have caused the BUSY Management team to refocus their vision and priorities for the future. Working together with Hannah, a renewed youth work strategy is in place with the ultimate aim of bringing more young people into the kingdom of God.

None of this would be possible without the enthusiasm of volunteers and young leaders and we are grateful for all help received, and are always keen to encourage new recruits.

We are making a fresh start and our prayers are that God would really direct and bless our future work.

Good youth work can change a life, the Gospel can change an eternity, we are doing both here,

And we need your help :)

Laura Gordon (Chairperson)

Busy Project Administrator

BUSY is looking for a new administrator for 4 hours per week. This is a paid post. The closing date for applications has been extended to Monday 7th December. Please look for further information on the BUSY noticeboard, or email:

susanne@thebusyproject.org.uk



The nights are drawing in and the first snow has fallen. Let's take a brief look back to September, when the rain was warmer.

The Juniors and Company section boys attended our annual camp, this year at the Compass Christian outdoor centre. We camped, orienteered, played on the low ropes, did some archery, played table tennis, pool, football and basketball. We worshipped and one clear evening we could gaze upward at God's magnificent creation. The pictures tell the story better:



Our badge work is progressing well and we are looking forward to going to the Panto again this Christmas with the GB. Oh yes we are!

I am writing this on the Sunday, after the Friday, that Paris was attacked. We had discussed just the previous week (armistice) about why we have war and where God is when bad things happen. I will remind the boys again that God allows us freewill. Where was He on that Friday? He was with the dying, the paramedics, the bereaved, the scared. He was also with us as the full horror of the atrocity unfolded in our own living rooms.

What would Jesus do? Would he support increased air and ground strikes on ISIS, or would he encourage the starting of dialogue between all the combatants before things escalate?

Perhaps now is a very good time to be looking forward to Christmas to confirm and renew our faith and to share time with our friends and family.

Seasons greetings.

God Bless

Jim Borland

Captain

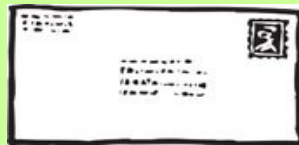
01506 417597

2broxburn@boys-brigade.org.uk

jimborland@talktalk.net

CHRISTMAS POST

Dates of pick ups are - 6th, 13th and 20th December.



Last date for Uphall cards is Sun 13th December.

All cards must be in before church service on Sunday 20th 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 19th 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 Lewis Archer (aged 8) from the Boys' Brigade who won the competition to design our Christmas Card.



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.

Who's Who



Minister

Rev. Dr. Jaco Boonzaaier	The Manse, 2 Church Street	337560
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Session Clerk

Mr. John Macaulay	137 East Main Street	852947
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Congregational Board

Chair: Mr. David McWilliams	33A Henderson Crescent	855584
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Clerk: Mrs. Anne Gunn	3 Kirkhill Court	856984
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Treasurer

Mrs. Sue Sneddon	15 West Hall Road	07758 195274
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Gift Aid Convener

Miss Jean Weir	135 Houston Gardens	855626
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Roll Keeper

Mr. Stuart Cunningham	15 Badger Brook	855952
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Prayer Secretary

Mr. David Wilkie	55 Goschen Place	238644
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Pastoral Care Group co-ordinator

Mrs. Jean Turnbull	19 Fergusson Road	854109
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Organist

Mr. James Lawrie	13 Queens Avenue	856609
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Church Officer

Mr. John Macaulay	137 East Main Street	852947
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Hall Convener

Mrs. Alison Turnbull	31 Queens Road	852171
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Property Convener

Mr. Robert Pattison	12 Houston Gardens	855505
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Communications co-ordinator

Mr. Hugh Brown	92 Gyle Park Gardens Corstorphine	0131 334 1384
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Social Co-ordinator (From Jan 2015)

Mrs. Linda Taylor	18 Galloway Crescent	07809 678326
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Safeguarding co-ordinator & Fundraising co-ordinator (From Jan 2015)

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