

Broxburn Parish Church of Scotland

The Bridge Magazine



2020 Issue 1

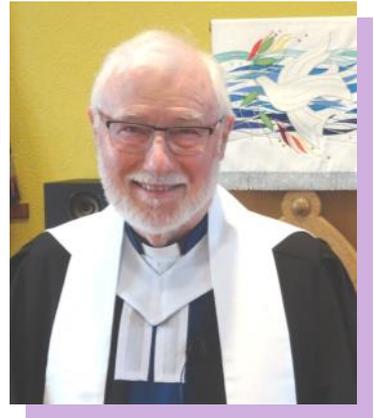


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From the Interim Moderator

Rev. Derek R. Henderson



When I was asked to write this article and started to think about it, I realised that Broxburn had featured in my life in a number of ways. As some of you may recall, on my first Sunday with you, I showed a picture of me with my great-grandmother taken in the early 1950s at her home, which used to stand opposite the church. To my amazement, it transpired that she was also the great-grandmother of a member of the congregation!

My next contact with Broxburn was during my tenure as an elder trainer when I did a series of training sessions with the Kirk Session.

I first felt the call to ministry at the General Assembly of 2010 but it took a little time before I was sure enough to put my name forward for consideration. And then, in 2013, I came to Broxburn once again to explore my sense of calling with your former minister, Rev. Terry Taylor. After completing my university studies, I was ordained to the ministry in September 2017, on the 40th anniversary of my ordination as an elder, in St Michael's Parish Church, Linlithgow, which is my home church and also my wife's.

I am married to Margaret and we have two daughters, both of whom are married and each have two boys.

Whilst my role as Interim Moderator is to chair meetings of the Kirk Session, Congregational Board and of the congregation, I think that it is important to be with you as often as I can and as my duties as Ordained Local Minister at Abercorn linked with Pardovan, Kingscavil and Winchburgh allow. The guidance given to Interim Moderators makes it clear that it is the task of the Kirk Session and Interim Moderator to lead the congregation in this period of transition.

It must not be forgotten that the ongoing life and witness of the congregation continues. We often speak of a 'vacant congregation', but nothing could be further from the truth: there may be a ministry vacancy but the life of God's people continues, as do the responsibilities of the Kirk Session. A vacancy can be a disconcerting time in the life of a congregation - there may well be uncertainty, or indeed apprehension, as the congregation contemplates the future in a time of change. However, it is also a time for reflection, prayer, growth and opportunity if used well.

Both Margaret and I have been made to feel very welcome in the short time that we have been with you. It is my prayer that we can move forward together, facing the future positively, as we seek to follow God's will for his kingdom in this place.

Yours in Christ, Derek

Our New Kitchen 'The Beveridge Room'

It was a long time in the planning, and put on hold whilst we went through the Presbytery review, but finally in January our new kitchen was installed.

Without doubt, the old one was well past its sell by date. It had served us well and catered for many events and fayres and gatherings, but it was time for it to go. A lot of time, discussion and meetings with different companies took place to decide on the design of the replacement. It was tricky as we were neither a domestic nor a commercial kitchen. We had to find something that was fit for purpose and which also met our needs and that we were comfortable with.

We engaged local firm Kitchens@theLoft, and they have supplied and fitted a kitchen to be proud of. If you've not been to see it yet, please pop in and have a look.

The kitchen was wholly funded from Legacy monies left to our church by the late Wilma Beveridge. It will therefore be called 'The Beveridge Room', and a plaque will be put on the kitchen door. Those who knew Wilma well are sure she would have loved that!

Anne Gunn, Session Clerk



Transformed from the old kitchen...



...into our shiny new kitchen!



Sunday Club and Crèche

Our Sunday School restarted in February with a new name of 'The Sunday Club'. All children age 5 and over are welcome to join us every Sunday morning to learn more about stories from the bible and get involved in a variety of activities. We leave during the service and move into the large hall. For younger children (aged up to 4) we also provide a Crèche in the Session Room, so families of all ages are welcome to join us each week knowing that your children will be safely cared and catered for.

Broxburn Parish Church Car Club – Beep Beep!

We are thinking of starting a Church Car Club to make it easier for all people who require transport to get to and from church on a Sunday.

If you would be interested in joining the car club, either getting a lift to and from church on a Sunday, or being a volunteer driver, please contact Anne Gunn or Andy Marshall.

Subject to enough interest and enough volunteers we may start a Church Car Club!

Solemates walking group



As the days are slowly starting to get longer, it's time to dust off those walking boots and get out and enjoy the outdoors. We enjoyed some great days out last year with walks in new places, great company and wherever possible a coffee stop too. We always look to offer a shorter and a longer walk whenever possible. So far, we've been at Almondell, up Berwick Law, round Linlithgow Loch, along the Pilgrims Way in Fife, and exploring in the Pentlands.

We usually walk once a month on a Saturday and will be meeting in March for a walk and then planning meeting over some coffee. If you are interested, see the intimations, check out the noticeboard, or speak to any of our members. You'll find our photos on our noticeboard in the Large Hall. You'll be made very welcome!

The Bridge Choir 10th Anniversary



We hope those of you who came to our 'Christmas Celebration' in the church enjoyed it as much as we did. It was a lovely evening sharing fellowship with one another - and of course mince pies.

The choir is busy rehearsing for our 10th anniversary concerts which take place on Thursday 28th and Friday 29th May in the church. We are performing lots of our favourite pieces which we hope are your favourites too - from Queen to the Beatles and many more!

Ticket prices will remain at £7 for adults and children under 12 get free entry. They will be on sale around April but we'll keep you informed.

However, we couldn't put on a concert without the help of loyal workers behind the scenes, particularly organising and serving teas, so if you're able to help, please let me know or speak to anyone in choir. My number is **07785 106895**. We really do appreciate it.

Elaine Gilmour

Food Bank

Thank you to everyone who supported the Reverse Advent Calendar appeal. Over 50 boxes and bags, filled by people from our congregation as well as local people, businesses and organisations, were sent to the warehouse from Broxburn. These were distributed to people in need in West Lothian to make their Christmas days a bit more special.

Over West Lothian as a whole there was on average one metric tonne of food donated for every day in December which is absolutely phenomenal!

People who came to the Food Bank on Christmas Eve were all given a Christmas lunch with home-made soup, Christmas pudding and trifle, as well as teas coffees and sweet treats. That was very well received. At Hogmanay we tried something new, offering a stovies lunch.

After a slow start, January saw a marked increase in the number of people needing help - for many (and often complex) reasons. They appreciate the food, the opportunity for a chat over a hot drink and a sandwich plus the advice we can give them about other organisations which can help them.

WEST LOTHIAN FOOD BANK FACT:

In 2019, 6,647 people were supported by the Food Bank, an increase of almost 25% from 2018

ATC Sunday

To celebrate the 79th Birthday of the Royal Air Force Air Cadets, South East Scotland Wing RAFAC held a Parade and Church service hosted by Broxburn Parish Church on 2nd February. Around 60 Officers and cadets assembled at Strathbrock Community Centre in



Broxburn, ready to march through the town centre to Broxburn Parish Church. Along the route we were honoured to have HM Lord Lieutenant of West Lothian, Moria Niven MBE take the salute. Accompanying her was Wing Commander Colin McCrae OC Wing and Lord Lieutenant's cadet CWO Blythe of 439 (Linlithgow) Squadron.

The packed church enjoyed a service conducted by Rev. Derek Henderson with readings from FS McCormack and Sgt. Nel, both from 1756 (Broxburn) Squadron. Commenting after the Service, Ms. Niven said she was very pleased with the excellent example the cadets gave in the community and also how fitting the service was to the ethos and aims of the Cadets. All in all it was a memorable service for young and old – church members and cadets alike!

Church Roll

I recently took over as Roll Keeper for our Congregation. At the end of 2019 we had 322 members on our roll. It is important that our records are kept up to date so please let me, or your district elder, know of any changes we should be aware of. Our districts have been in place for many years but as our parish continues to change and expand, we will review them this year to ensure as many of our members as possible will have direct contact with their church. This may mean you could have a different elder visiting you later in the year but we will keep you informed of any change when we are able to do so.

David McWilliams

Diary Dates

29th February	Afternoon Tea: 2-4pm
7th March	Coffee Bar: 11am-12.30pm
8th March	Communion: 11am and 6.30pm
4th April	Coffee Bar: 11am-12.30pm
12th April	Easter Sunday starting at 10am
2nd May	Coffee Bar: 11am-12.30pm
28th & 29th May	Bridge Choir Concerts: 7.30pm
6th June	Coffee Bar: 11am-12.30pm
14th June	Communion: 11am and 6.30pm

Social and Fundraising

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Christmas Fayre in 2019—it was a great success raising over £2,300! Our group is responsible for planning and organising events such as Soup and Sweet lunches after worship and Afternoon Teas which are always popular. Our next one is on **Saturday 29th February** from 2 till 4pm, tickets are available priced £5 - or just pay at the door.



Keep an eye out for more events during 2020 and please support them if you can. We always appreciate more help so if you would like to join our group please speak to myself or Elaine Brown.



It's very early to mention the 'C' word, but the date for this year's Christmas Fayre has already been set so please put **Saturday 5th December** in your diary!

David McWilliams
Social and Fundraising Convener

The Edinburgh Passion: A 2020 Vision

For several years the Princes Street Easter Play has taken place on the Saturday of Easter weekend. Our own Sandra Stirling and Sally North have taken part. The Easter Play aims to bring Christ to the centre of the city at Easter and has been viewed by thousands; believers, non-believers, tourists, rugby fans - in fact anyone in Princes Street Gardens at the time.

This year a new city-wide venture is taking place. The Easter Story is being told in real time starting with The Last Supper on Thursday 9th April, staged in homeless groups and in Dine, above the Traverse Theatre, leading on to the betrayal and trial, the death of Judas set in a nightclub. On Friday 10th is a modern day trial involving lawyers followed by the crucifixion. On Saturday 11th the Princes Street Easter Play Trust is presenting 'The Darkest Day' in the Gardens at 2pm, the time when Jesus was in the tomb, a time of despair, grief, reflection and hope. Later, members of Edinburgh Peoples Theatre will portray the women who followed Jesus. On Easter Sunday Jesus will appear to his disciples on the shores of Duddingston Loch at 7am. Then he will give his last commission at Easter Road stadium at 8am.

Various venues are being used, including the Scottish Parliament, a nightclub, a police box and Easter Road stadium. There are creative ways of telling the story - photography, dance, music, drama and social media. The Passion is seeking to break the Easter Story out of our church buildings (where it is often left to stagnate) and share it with the ordinary people to whom its truth is vital.

Some venues will be ticketed because of limited space, but the Princess Street play is free and easily reached by bus from Broxburn. Come along and bring a friend!

Treasurer's Update

I've just finished my usual 'post-Christmas-treat', pulling together all the figures and information needed to prepare our end-of-year accounts. This always helps reinforce all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes by the various committees and working groups. Despite a year in which we've seen significant changes, I am continually heartened by the number of people who are willing to give so generously of their time and talents to help our church continue to prosper.

As we started to catch up on the work we'd previously had to put on hold during the Presbytery Planning Review, we shouldn't be surprised to hear that expenditure outstripped income last year by approximately £10,000. However, thanks to a generous legacy we were left a few years ago we have, as planned, dug into our reserves to help fund installation of our new kitchen, something which we fully expect to pay dividends in the longer term. Fundraising efforts in 2019 raised over £5,600 thanks to the monthly coffee bars, regular Sunday teas, afternoon tea events, soup and sweet lunches after Sunday worship, reinstatement of the monthly mid-week soup lunches and another successful Christmas Fayre. In addition we raised almost £3,500 for various charities.

Our finances are still in a healthy state thanks to your continued support via regular contributions. We currently have 46 standing orders in place, 35 of which are also gift-aided. Most of the standing orders are set up on a monthly basis, with 4 on a weekly basis and 3 on a yearly basis. Being able to rely on regular contributions in this way makes it easier to plan expenditure and helps minimise the bank charges we incur whenever we bank cash.

2020 will no doubt bring us different challenges as we move forward and your continued financial support is very much appreciated. If you are interested in moving to standing order and/or to gift-aid your donations, please speak to myself, or Jean Weir, or your elder. Thank you.

Sue Sneddon, Congregational Treasurer

Do we have your correct contact details?

If you are about to move or have recently changed address please remember to let us know so that we can continue to distribute this magazine to you. Also if your preference for a magazine and regular elder visit has changed then please let your elder know.

Alternatively you can contact us via the e-mail address below:

rollkeeper@broxburnparishchurch.org.uk

Who's Who



Interim Moderator

Rev. Derek R. Henderson 01506 844787

Session Clerk

Mrs. Anne Gunn 07833 701274

Clerk to the Congregational Board

Mrs. Anne Gunn 07833 701274

Treasurer

Mrs. Sue Sneddon 07758 195274

Gift Aid Convener

Miss Jean Weir 01506 855626

Roll Keeper

Mr. David McWilliams 01506 855584

Prayer Secretary

Mr. David Wilkie 01506 238644

Pastoral Care Group Co-ordinator

Mr. Nat Beggs 01506 852170

Organist

Mr. James Lawrie 01506 856609

Hall Convener

Miss Sally North 01506 200042

Property

Mr. Bob Pattison 01506 855505

Communications Co-ordinator

Mr. Hugh Brown 07747 766498

Safeguarding Co-ordinator and Social & Fundraising Co-ordinator

Mrs. Elaine Brown 07936 363939