



Broxburn Parish Church

The Bridge Newsletter Edition 3

FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

Rev. Derek Henderson



Dear friends,

How long will the lockdown scenario last? When will things get back to normal? These were the questions which people were asking when I last wrote to you. Now people are wondering what the 'new normal' will look like. But, at the time of writing, still we are in lockdown.

My wife Margaret has a chronic health condition and when it was realised that the Covid-19 epidemic had serious implications for people like her, she was told by her GP to self-isolate for 12 weeks. Letters from her consultant, the UK and Scottish governments followed and her GP then instructed that I was not to go out either because of the risk to her. So here we both are, in lockdown. Some of you will be in the same situation.

At times like this, it would be all too easy to focus on the things you can't do, especially when recent weather has been good and has been beckoning us outside: we are fortunate to have a garden where we can sit out and relax, but not everyone can do this.

However, it is always possible to pass the time to avoid boredom, in ways that appeal to you – like, for me, watching TV, reading books (34 since this started), building jigsaws (3 x 1,000 piece ones so far) and doing a cross-stitch of wild geese over Canada (almost finished). We might even spend more time reading our bibles and in prayer! Modern technology also gives us the opportunity to do many other things, including some work and keeping in touch with friends and family, seeing them on screen as we speak to them, wherever they might be.

We are fortunate that two of our grandchildren stay relatively close and they can walk past some days and have a chat from the top of our driveway. Our daughters now get our shopping for us and one also gets shopping for my mother who is approaching her 98th birthday. It is remarkable the number of times I have heard about people helping each other out in many different ways in these difficult times – we aren't the only ones benefiting from their thoughtfulness and great kindness. So, although we are self-isolating, we are not isolated by any means. I hope that it is so for you as well.

A real problem with lockdown is the potential for members of a household to get on each other's nerves. One of my brothers, who lives in Edinburgh in a flat, doesn't have a garden and he was telling me recently that he and his partner now fight over who washes the dishes or does the hoovering! Anything to pass the time.

But not everything goes smoothly: simple things can become real issues. I managed to break a tooth at the start of lockdown and on phoning the dentist was told that they would lay out a do-it-yourself filling repair kit behind the surgery door. Quite how you are meant to do this yourself is a puzzle, but amazingly, it did work and has stayed in place.



And then there are haircuts! Margaret decided I was beginning to look scruffy and couldn't possibly be seen on a Zoom worship service like that, so she resolved to do something about it. My view is that it could be grounds for divorce...

But much depends on how you look at the situation – is it a disaster for us or an opportunity to re-evaluate our use of time, and even to catch up with those things which have been left undone for so long? For many families, this situation has indeed been a disaster – as I write, over 39,000 individuals have died as a result of the virus, some of them within our own communities.

Others do feel isolated and some are becoming depressed and unwell. I have received several prayer requests and all of these have been acted on and I continue regularly to remember you all in my prayers. I know that others are also remembering you in their prayers and in other practical ways – cards sent, calls made, shopping delivered etc. All these contacts make such a difference because we know that we are not forgotten.

This crisis will pass and the time will come when we will be living in the 'new normal'. Nonetheless, it does seem as if it will be a while before we will be able to meet with one another once again. Matthew gives us these encouraging words of Jesus:

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

For Margaret and me, so far, we have followed the guidance and have managed to stay safe and that is a real blessing. Although I haven't been able to carry out all my duties as a minister, it is surprising what can be done by way of technology and indeed simple phone calls. Life does go on with a little essential help from family, friends and neighbours. I am confident that many of you will have experienced this as well.

With every blessing and stay safe until we meet again,

Derek

Treasurer's Update

Firstly a huge thanks to everyone who is helping boost our Church coffers – those who've continued or increased their standing orders, started new standing orders or made one-off donations via bank transfer or by cheque. We are truly blessed!

Income in April outstripped expenses, with **£7,887** being paid in and **£5,280** going out. This was thanks in the main to our tax reclaim of **£4,316** (this included the once-a-year claim under the small donations gift scheme) and 3 early donations made. In May, however, expenses have again outstripped income, with **£4,065** being paid in and **£5,318** going out. Without the 4 new standing orders, donation increases and 9 cheques banked in May, the deficit would have been much higher. June looks set to continue in a similar vein with expenses expected to outstrip income, as our next tax reclaim won't be in until July at the earliest, and will be for a significantly smaller amount.

We are, however, now running with 50 standing orders and will, I think, be in a much better position financially than a lot of other churches thanks to your ongoing generosity.

I was reminded of another way of helping raise money for the church at no extra cost to ourselves via easyfundraising.org.uk. If, like me, you are doing more shopping online you can actually earn some money for the church - at no extra cost to yourself - while you're doing this. To get started, you first need to register at **easyfundraising.org.uk** and select 'Broxburn Parish Church of Scotland' as your chosen charity. Once you've done that, you just need to make sure that you start your shop via the easyfundraising website or app. When shopping this way, the Church will receive a percentage of the amount you spend - on average this ranges between **1%** and **4%**.

Although I had registered months ago I forgot this crucial step and wondered why I couldn't nominate Broxburn Parish Church as my chosen charity when starting my shop directly with the retailer! The other important thing I've learned since starting to shop the correct way now, is that some retailers, like Amazon, offer different percentages for different types of goods e.g. electrical, books etc. The important thing here (from my personal experience) is to remember to select the appropriate type and click on the 'shop now' sign which will then take you through to the retailer and you can shop to your heart's content and raise money for the Church. You will get a report from easyfundraising to let you know how much you've raised for your chosen charity. Every few months we are sent a cheque from easyfundraising for the total amount raised by everyone who has selected Broxburn Parish Church of Scotland as their chosen charity. 'Money for Nothing' to quote an old Dire Straits lyric!

Happy shopping and stay safe! Look forward to seeing you all again when we are set free to worship together.

Sue Sneddon

Hello everyone! We hope you are all keeping safe and well and are finding plenty of things to do while you cannot be at school and Sunday Club. Have you checked out the new

Sunday Club Hub yet? It is on the church website and has been set up especially for Sunday Club members and your friends. You will find things to do there which will help keep you busy and we will put up new Bible stories and activities every few weeks.

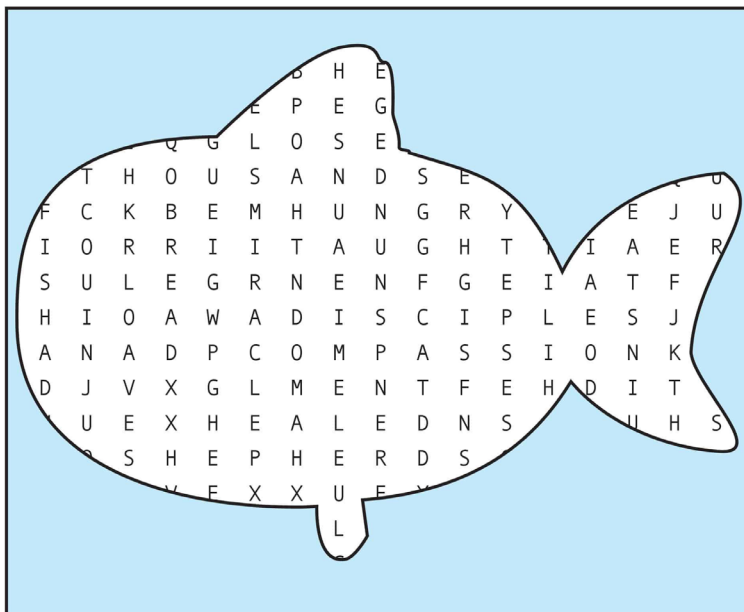
We would also love to hear from you. If you have any drawings you would like to share, or if you have been busy doing crafts you that you would like to tell us about, please send a picture and we can then share it with everyone else!

You can either drop off your pictures through the church manse letterbox or maybe a grown up could help you e-mail them to:

sundayclub@broxburnparishchurch.org.uk

Jesus Fed the People Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle.
The words can be right to left, up and down, or diagonally.



BREAD
COMPASSION
DISCIPLES
EAT

FISH
HEALED
HUNGRY
LOAVES

MIRACLE
SHEPHERD
TAUGHT
THOUSANDS

***PRAYER TIME - here is
a prayer for you to read
(and remember!)***

**God in heaven,
hear my prayer,**

**Keep me in thy loving
care.**

Be my guide in all I do,

**Bless all those who
love me too.**

Amen.

Thanks for reading.

We look forward to hearing from you very soon!

The Sunday Club

Scottish Place Names Quiz - Answers

Example: Cheap Chef - **Penicuik**

1. Continue to beat out the music - **Drummore**
2. Omnivorous Mammal's home - **Bearsden**
3. Where sheep bed down for the night? - **Kippen**
4. Double facial feature - **Eyemouth**
5. Happy family announcement - **Bothwell**
6. Half a laugh, and half another - **Gigha**
7. 55 got into this car organisation - **Alva**
8. Sounds like a religious place to live - **Holytown**
9. Stows bells (anagram) - **St. Boswells**
10. American money, that is - **Buckie**
11. "The" three - **Trinity**
12. A touch of French, but lacking in colour - **Moulin**
13. Another facial feature - **Tongue**
14. Sgt. Major's order - **Fallin**
15. East is cauld, but is.....? - **West Calder**
16. Hurl genre (anagram) - **Rutherglen**
17. Throw this to start the game - **Dyce**
18. Sounds like a Hawaiian greeting - **Alloa**
19. The French got onto this fleet - **Armada**
20. Noisy crossing - **Rumbling Bridge**

Well done if you got all 20! Thanks to Nat Beggs for the quiz.

HIDDEN BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Can you find the names of sixteen books of the Bible hidden in the paragraphs below?

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job.

We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you.

Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now!

There really are sixteen names of books hidden in this story!





A PRAYER BY THE MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, RT. REV. DR. MARTIN FAIR

Living God, you are our Creator and our maker and the very breath of life is given as your gift. We thank you for the gift of life And we embrace and treasure that gift.

Living God, you are the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose presence in the world reveals your love for us. In the giving of your Son, You reveal the depths of your love.

Living God, your Son embraced the cross and the depths of human suffering. We thank you that you delivered him on the day of Resurrection.

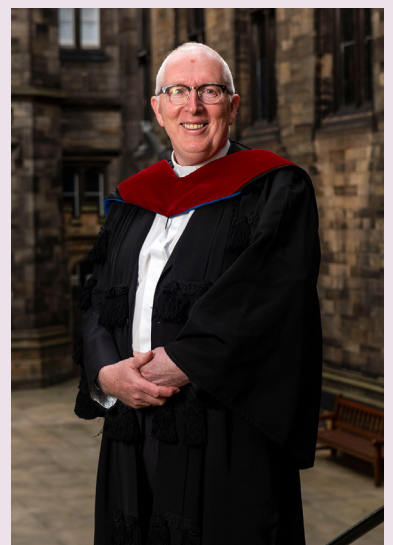
Living God, as you spoke to the bereft and the orphaned in days past, speak to the bereft and the orphaned in days present; speak to the uncertain and the anxious; speak into the depths of our incomprehension and fear.

Living God, your promise is that we will not be left alone to face the world. We thank you that through the gift of your Spirit that promise is fulfilled.

Living God, be with all who sustain our common life at this time, carers and nurses, cleaners and porters, doctors and ambulance staff, delivery drivers and posties. Through their giving our common life is sustained.

Living God, as you have watched over us in the past, watch over us in the present, as once more we thank you, that through Christ and by your Holy Spirit, we are not alone.

Amen.





Task Group members:

Rev. Derek Henderson
Anne Gunn
Andy Carter
David McWilliams
Sue Sneddon
Hugh Brown

Although we are not able to meet together for worship, we are all still members of our church family. So if we can help you in any way, have a Prayer Request, or perhaps you just need a listening ear, please telephone:
07934 073349



Although the General Assembly of 2020 had to be cancelled, you can watch the installation of the new Moderator and also the online Heart & Soul event at:
www.churchofscotland.org.uk

Broxburn Parish Church of Scotland
broxburnparishchurch.org.uk

Scottish Charity Number: SC 017180

FRIENDLY ○ FAMILY ○ FELLOWSHIP