

March 2017

The Bridge



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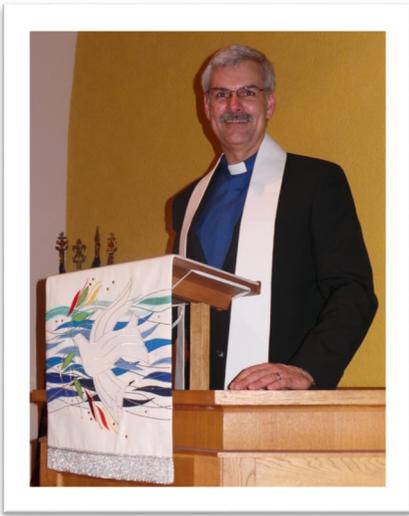
The next **Communion services** will be on

Sunday 12th March 2017

at 11am & 6.30pm

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• **FRIENDLY** • **FAMILY** • **FELLOWSHIP** •



From the Manse

Snowdrops, crocuses, and daffodils. Cherry blossoms and budding trees. There is something in the air. New life and the promise of growth are visible all around us. "They don't know it but our winter is still to arrive!" I hear someone remarking. (Granted, that person may be spot-on.)

Thinking about church I see snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils, cherry blossoms, budding trees, and any number of other indicators of new life in church! You only have to watch the children go out to JAM on a Sunday or come through for a cup of tea after the worship service to experience the buzz! And - I hasten to add - as with the botanic scene above, some folk would be cynical and negative. Which brings us to the real matter...

Are you a happy person? Do you know the deep peace and calm of true happiness? This has nothing to do with laughter or jokes; true happiness is a quiet state of mind.

People go to great lengths in the pursuit of happiness. Some go on pilgrimage to far away countries, some read books written by happy people, other attend group sessions promising happiness as an outcome. You may find happiness closer to home, though. The Holy Spirit is God living within us. The Holy Spirit is the Source of new life and spiritual development. By allowing the Spirit and God's Word to direct our thoughts, words and actions we grow in the life-giving change only God can bring.

Here is the wonderful news: God wants to re-create us and bless us with true happiness. He wants to make YOU a happy person. God will, conversely, never overpower us. He leaves it

to us to decide whether we want to blossom, bloom and bear fruit. We can be so much more. We can give so much more. Together we can achieve so much more.

If you want to be happy why not break out of the mould? Come and join our happy throng!

Many blessings

Jaco

Diary Dates

5th March	Chill. 1pm - 2.30pm
12th March	Communion 11am & 6.30pm
25th March	Elders Workshop
29th March	Board & Session meetings
10th April	Holy Week - Praise & Prayer
13th April	Holy Week - Communion Service
16th April	Easter Sunday
26th April	Board & Session meetings
24th May	Board & Session meetings
1st June	Bridge Choir Concert
2nd June	Bridge Choir Concert
11th June	Communion 11am & 6.30pm
14th June	Board & Session meetings

Reminder

Items for inclusion in the next issue should be submitted by early May 2017 to either Hugh Brown or Stuart Cunningham by email: **hughb92@blueyonder.co.uk** or **stu.c@tesco.net**

Prayer Corner

By the time you are reading this article we will have entered the period of Lent, a time for Christians to examine their relationship with God and to consider any changes that the Spirit is prompting you to make in the lead up to Easter.

Recently when studying Paul's first letter to the Corinthians I was convicted when he talked about having to speak to the Christians like he was speaking to any other person and not able to speak to them of things of the Holy Spirit as they were not growing in their faith.

The folks were happy to be spoon fed by their spiritual leaders, and content to live in a world where their knowledge related mainly to Jesus' earthly ministry.

Paul was encouraging to move forward to use the spiritual gifts they had received from God for the building up of their fellowship, each to use what they were given for the good and well being of the gathering.

We today need to take heed and pray for guidance that we can speak, and speak personally of the Jesus who now sits with His Heavenly Father.

The great commission Jesus left to the disciples before he ascended into him was quite specific; they were to `...

Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you... Matthew 28 vv 19-20

If we are all faithful in our Christian life, living a life pleasing to God and being the hands, feet and mouth of our Lord Jesus seeds will be sown which one day will bear fruit, hopefully much fruit and our churches will be full again. God will bless us.

You may have noticed my absence from the pews since January I was invited to be a Locum at Bannockburn Allan Church linked with Cowie and Plean, in Stirling Presbytery during their vacancy.

God bless

In your personal prayers please pray for

- **Our minister and office bearers that God will protect and lead them and their families.**
- **Folks will review their giving to God's work in our community and give joyfully of their time, talents and possessions.**
- **Pray for our Queen and her Government in Westminster and Edinburgh as they rule over us in these continuing difficult times as we negotiate our exit from the EU.**
- **For Donald Trump in his Presidency of the United States**
- **For Dr Ruth Shakespeare, our Missionary Partner her work in Malawi who will be visiting West Lothian after Easter.**
- **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 BUSY project as they continue in their work with the young folk in the community.**
- **For peace in our troubled world, and relief to suffering. For Christian Aid and other relief organisations**
- **For all our leaders, officers, teachers and helpers of our church organisations**
- **That our fellowship might serve the community as Jesus did in His ministry**

Please contact myself and the minister for prayer.

David Wilkie

Congregational Prayer Secretary

01506 238644



Treasurer's Update – *the times they are a-changing....*

Those of a certain age (like me) will recognise the words of that Bob Dylan song. As I finalise our end-of-year accounts – my usual post-Christmas treat – I realise how true that has been of our Church activities in 2016! When pulling together all the information needed for the Trustee report and accounts I'm always surprised by how much has been achieved and the amount of work put in by the various committees working behind the scenes.

The new Social and Fundraising Group introduced some new events in 2016, the Easter Festival (remember those bacon rolls, mmm), the Flower Festival (the first in 28 years), a Christmas Fayre that had the Church and halls buzzing, and a Hogmanay ceilidh. These helped boost the coffers by over £4,200 – thanks to everyone involved. 2016 also saw us change the focus of our regular coffee bars and soup lunches to ensure the Church (our own charity) received a fairer share of monies raised in this way, while still raising money for other worthy charities. This has helped bring in another £3,300. Thanks again to all who helped in any way, and to those who come to sample the goodies on offer.

On a less positive note, 2016 also saw us having to make difficult decisions towards the end of the year as expenses ate into our reserves – and put a halt to all non-urgent maintenance work needing done. This hasn't made the work magically disappear but simply deferred it to another day! And as those of us of a certain age know, the older we get the more maintenance we need!

Another change which caused us more practical difficulties in 2016 was closure of our local RBS branch, resulting in us having to make the decision to move the Church working account to the local Bank of Scotland. The switch process itself took a lot of time and effort (almost 2 months) but the new account was finally in place by the end of September. Apart from a few teething problems, the switch process has worked

well but we're now nearing the end of the 6-month bank charge concession period. Unlike RBS, Bank of Scotland will impose bank charges, because our yearly turnover is more than £50,000. Once these kick-in, we'll be charged for every cheque we write or receive, and will be charged for cash we pay in (£1 per £100 on the first £1500, dropping to 80p per £100 on the balance – for every transaction). The only types of payment which don't incur charges are electronic payments eg payments by standing order or direct debit.

Against that background, can I ask you to think about making a change to the way you make your offering, and consider moving from donation envelopes to using a standing order? You can complete the standing order to pay in weekly (as with your envelopes, to help with your budgeting) or monthly or another frequency more suited to you. The money would then simply transfer electronically from your bank account to the church account, minimising bank charges.

In addition, if you are a tax payer, we could claim back 25% tax from HMRC **if** you are also willing to complete a gift aid declaration ie by continuing to donate the same amount but in a different way, you can help minimise bank charges **and** enable us to increase donations by 25%.

If you're interested in moving to a standing order and/or completing a gift aid declaration please speak to Jean Weir or myself.

Sue Sneddon

Congregational Treasurer

Coffee Bars are held in the church hall every Saturday morning between 10.30 & 12 with home baking available every week. These are usually to raise money for the church but we also support a number of charities through the year. So please come along and enjoy some fellowship and a nice cup of coffee!

Soya

On behalf of my late wife Lilian I would like to say a big thank you to all who contributed to the SOYA fund in 2016. In particular Janette Ewington and Helen Cunningham who continued to collect while Lilian was in hospital. This year a total of £953.00 was passed on on your behalf which consists of six full ASDA cards and fifty three pounds in cash along with the £36.00 bonus from ASDA. This was a fantastic achievement.

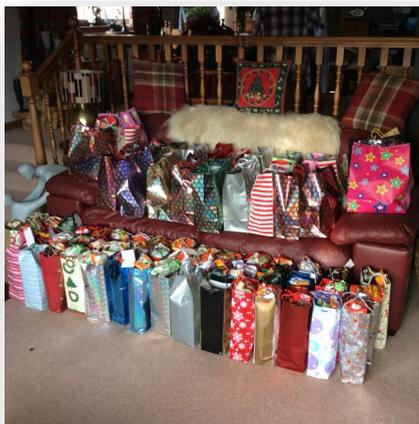


From the first tentative offering of 12 small Christmas gifts about 10 years ago, our commitment has grown until now each young person on this Social Work Register - the numbers vary but are between 45 and 55 each year - receives a lovely personal gift, plus a full 3-course Christmas dinner (albeit from tins and packets!).

Through Social Work, we hear each year of the sincere gratitude and relief of the young people as they receive food bags, but this is nothing compared to the incredible joy and emotion they show when they receive what is, for most of them, the only gift they ever receive.

Most of the youngsters are unable to write to convey their thanks for our constant help - and indeed, to ensure their personal safety we do not have individual contact with them - but Social Work tell us how overwhelmed they themselves are when they receive so much from us.

Since Lilian started with this project in 2009 with the members of the Guild almost £5000 has been raised. I felt so honoured when asked by so many members of the



congregation if I intended to continue with this project, and since December I have had a great response. If you think that this is something you would like to contribute to at £1.00 per month or if you wish to pay a full year up front then have a chat with Janette or myself.

Thank you all once again.

Bob Pattison

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

Property Group

Our budget for the proposed 2017 works has now been submitted to the Finance committee for their review and, hopefully, approval.

When I last wrote I mentioned that part of our review of works needing done would also highlight areas where members of the congregation could assist with property related matters.

This has been done and at the January Board meeting a number of items were approved. This list is now available on the Property Group notice board in the large hall.

If you feel able to assist in this way then please put your name against one of the tasks and let me know. We will provide all materials etc.. to enable you to complete it and it can be undertaken at times to suit yourself.

If you want to find out a bit more or think you can help us in this way please contact me or a member of the property group.

Stuart Cunningham

Property Convenor

Bridge Choir

It hardly seems any time since the Choir were busy rehearsing for Christmas where we performed both at St Johns raising funds for "Friends of St Johns" and of course at the Carol evening in Church which we all really enjoyed.

Now here we are, a few weeks away from Easter and busy rehearsing every Thursday for our annual concert which takes place on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd June.

We shall of course be joined by our ever popular Junior choir who have increased in numbers yet again which is fantastic and well worth buying a ticket just to hear them alone! These should be on sale around April so look out on the intimations for more details.

We will of course be needing volunteers to help with teas/front of house etc and we are very grateful for all the help we've had in the past. It's much appreciated, so if you are able to assist us, please speak to either Elaine Brown or Elaine Gilmour.

Prior to the concert we have been invited to sing at our Family Easter celebration on Easter Sunday so hope to see you there.

Thank you all once again for your continued support, we really do appreciate it.

Have a lovely Easter.

Bridge Choir

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.



Stewardship

Most of us face many questions on a regular basis, from the mundane 'What will I wear today?' or the more pleasant 'Where will we go on holiday this year?' right up to the more challenging 'What is the meaning of Life?' If you're struggling with the latter I can recommend a Good Book!

So let me ask you another question: What does Stewardship mean to you? The dictionary defines it as '*The job of supervising or taking care of something, such as an organisation or property*'. In our church we are embarking on a Stewardship campaign where we will be encouraging everyone to ask a few questions of themselves in respect of what they can offer to the church. Have you reviewed your giving recently or even how you give?

Our church like all organisations is facing challenging times where our income does not meet our expenditure and as a result we have had to delay maintenance of our property as we need to be financially prudent and try to live within our means.

While we do need to take care of our church, we should also be ambitious with our plans and not just aim to have enough to 'get by'.

So Stewardship is something you will be hearing more of during 2017 and beyond and I would encourage you get involved in making a difference where you are able to do so.

Can I ask you one final question? What would Broxburn be like if our church had to permanently close its doors? The aim of Stewardship is to make sure we never have to find out the answer to that one.

David McWilliams

Recording of Sermons

We are now recording our service on a Sunday morning. They are available to listen online via our website:

<http://www.broxburnparishchurch.org.uk/sermons--intimations.html>

If you know of anyone who would be interested in receiving a copy on cd then please let us know. Either by emailing: **webteam@broxburnparishchurch.org.uk** or by contacting the minister or your elder.



Friends of Chernobyl's Children
West Lothian

FOCC

We are looking forward to another great year in FOCC with our highest number of children ever coming, 21 in June and 12 in August. But first a wee look back. We had a great trip to Belarus in November 2016. We set out to find 5 new children to add to our group for

this year and we found 5 lovely and very needy children - Daryna, Marina, Lera, Yanna and Matvey. Marina's story in particular is a very sad one. Her mum, a lady in her late twenties, had just passed away from cancer 2 days before we visited. As we entered the house to meet Marina for the first time her dad said to us please don't mention the mum as he hadn't told the children yet that she had passed away. What a lovely positive wee girl Marina is despite her tragic loss. She will be a great help to her dad too as he is left with 3 children all 7 and under.

Our planning for our March visit to Belarus is already well underway. This will be Kenny's 10th visit to Belarus and the interpreters are

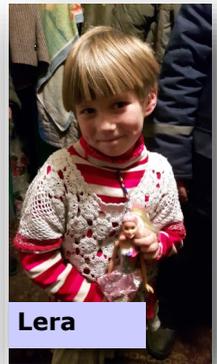
planning a small celebration to mark the occasion. On this trip will be 4 volunteers. Kenny, Adela, Lesley and also making her debut at the age of 74 is Jean Turnbull, who has hosted interpreters on 7 occasions. We will visits all of our August group children in their homes taking them

food and also letters and love from their host families. We will also gather both our June Group and August group children for a big party. We will also visit our five new children again so that they continue to feel more settled with us before they come to Scotland. We will also visit some older finished children as Jean would like to see them again (and us :)) Should be a very interesting and worthwhile trip.

Our planning is already underway for both of our groups visits to Scotland and we look forward to having a positive influence on the lives of our children again this year.



Yanna



Lera



Marina

We would like to say a huge thanks to the church and our many supporters in the congregation for their continued kindness and prayerful support. It is very much appreciated.

Kenny Turnbull
Co-ordinator
FOCC West Lothian



We are still heartened by the large number of girls attending every Friday. We have 105 girls coming along and 16 dedicated leaders & helpers guiding them as they learn of Jesus love.

In December we went to the panto again and had a great night taking over the theatre.

We are looking forward to camp in April and May this year. For the first time ever we had too many girls wanting to go and we now have 2 camps planned to enable them all to go. Watch this space to see if the leaders will cope with 2 consecutive weekends of little sleep!!

All girls continue to enjoy coming along and having faith, fun and fellowship.

We thank God for the dedication of all our leaders who give up many hours in preparation and leadership to help girls to Seek, Serve and Follow Christ.

Alison Turnbull

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Sunday School

It is lovely to see so many children attending JAM regularly. Of course there is always room for more so please spread the word of the great fun we have.

In the lead up to Christmas JAM concentrated on preparations for the Nativity performance. It was nice for all the age groups to work together to tell the Christmas story and share their acting talents. Their enthusiasm already has them planning how they can improve it this year so that will be something for us all to look forward to.



In December we had a 'Happy Birthday Jesus' party for all the children and their families. We enjoyed refreshments which then gave everyone the energy for the games & activities. A lot of fun and laughter was had by all who attended however the grown-ups need to practice their musical staves if they hope to compete with the children!



Since the start of the year JAM have been learning about Jesus' early years of ministry and the apostles, how they too can be followers of Jesus and help others in our community. This is done through songs,

games, crafts, drama and stories. Please have a look at our new notice board in the large hall where some of our work will be displayed from now on.

The older age group (P5 - S3) & teenagers are planning a summer outing to North Berwick in June & the younger age group (up to P4) hope to have an outing too. More details will follow about this nearer the time.



To raise funds for these trips JAM will be running the coffee bar on Saturday 29th April & we hope you all come along to enjoy refreshments & fellowship & support them.

On behalf of all the JAM leaders & children we thank you for your continued support.

Dear Friends,

Our Anchor Boy numbers continue to grow while the Juniors and Company Section are holding steady. At Christmas the boys wanted to do something

different from panto so the Anchors had a Christmas party in the hall while everyone else went to laser tag in Falkirk. Great fun!

We started the New Year with even more Anchor Boys, many thanks to the parents for spreading the word at the school. I can't stand in the play ground, but they can.

Monday night activities have included: bible reading, defend your corner, football, indoor hockey, cooking, map reading and having a really good laugh and fellowship at the same time.

As always at this time of year, the Juniors and Company Section are currently working through some of Jesus' parables as part of the battalion Christian Education competition.

It is not all hard work and the attached picture shows some of the Company Section setting up a Scalextric set. The challenge was, "figure out how it all goes together, get it working then arrange a race meeting with heats and finals". They managed it and learned a bit about patience and team working at the same time.



God Bless

Jim Borland

Captain

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Who's Who



Minister

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Session Clerk

Mr. John Macaulay 137 East Main Street 852947

Congregational Board

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 & Property Convener

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

Communications co-ordinator

Mr. Hugh Brown 92 Gyle Park Gardens 0131 334 1384
Corstorphine

Safeguarding co-ordinator & Social & Fundraising co-ordinator

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