

Spring 2013

The Bridge



* Communion will be celebrated on *
* Sunday 10th March at 11am & 6pm. *

Everyone is welcome

From the Manse



Impatience is a lack of love..... so says Miroslav Volf, a theologian from Croatia.

He condemned nothing in haste and without taking circumstances into account. He said, "examine the road over which the fault has passed."

Victor Hugo : Les Miserables spoken of Bishop Myriel

Is not patience one of the most beautiful, life endorsing, virtues of all?

To take the time to understand the life of the 'other' (which may be so markedly different from our own) is one of the most challenging and rewarding things we can do. Not to be tempted to assume that the experience of the person with whom we are impatient is exactly like our own.

The smart, apparently, couldn't care less, comments from the young girl are perhaps masking how she really feels about being so different from everyone else in the group.

One of my friends was sharing how when she was at school and was asked to bring in material to make a dress her response was.... 'Ah'm no making a dress, I widnae wear it anyway'..... she was worried that her parents did not have the money to buy the material. Her mother did scrimp and save in order to get the money to buy material, the cheapest she could find. When it came time to try the dress on to have it hemmed my friend responded: 'Ah'm no wanting a hem, Ah'm no gonnae wear it anyway.'

The truth..... she didn't want anyone to see her worn out underwear.

Telling me this story my friend expressed how she felt inside, it wasn't that she didn't want to make a dress, but she was trying, in the only way she knew, to cover up the poverty in which she lived.

Every day we encounter others whose lives are different from our own, let us not be impatient with one another, but let us show love and compassion. Let us take time 'to examine the road over which the fault has passed'.

Impatience is a lack of love..... so says Miroslav Volf, a theologian from Croatia.

He condemned nothing in haste and without taking circumstances into account. He said, "examine the road over which the fault has passed." Victor Hugo : Les Miserables spoken of Bishop Myriel.

Terry

Stated Annual Meeting

The Stated Annual Meeting will take place during the 11am service on Sunday 17th March.

This will be an opportunity for members to hear about the range of work and events of the church over the past year, approve the accounts and elect new office bearers (if necessary).

We are also delighted that there will be two songs from our own Bridge Choir. So please make an effort to come along to the morning service on 17th March.

Prayer Corner

There was a lady who used to walk from her village each day to a stream with two clay pots to collect water for her family.

One of the clay pots was cracked and by the time she returned from the stream it was only half full. The other clay pot told the damaged pot that it was useless and should be thrown away and replaced.

The woman shared, that despite the flaws in the damaged clay pot it still served her well. She explained, knowing the pot was leaking, that one day when she was returning to her village from the stream she had scattered some flower seeds along the side of the path where her pot was leaking. The flowers now blossomed and her journey home with the heavy clay pots more enjoyable as she admired the beautiful flowers that were kept watered day by day.

Despite our faults and failings God can and does still use us to bring hope and joy to others. After all, we all are created by God and He has called us to serve Him in His church in many differing ways, and the role we have been called to is as important as the next. We all need to recognise the gifts that others have and encourage them to use them fully to ensure the body works effectively. We are dependant on one another in the body of Christ doing what we have been called to do.

Amen

In your personal prayers please pray for:

Our minister and office bearers that God with protect and lead them and their families

Pray for our Queen and her Government as they rule over us in these difficult economic times.

That we as Christians will not be comprised by the laws of this land, grant our leaders, political and religious, wisdom to address the difficult issues facing this society.

For those dependant on State Benefits with the Welfare Reforms coming into force in April that they will be provided for.

For the unemployed and those who live in the fear of unemployment that they might find work.

The sick, anxious, lonely, estranged and the bereaved that they will find God's peace and love.

The Scottish Bible Society's Bibleworld visit to Broxburn in September that it will be well received by visitors both young and not so young, that lives might be changed.

For the BUSY project, our Congregation's Easter Mission and other activities with the young folk in the community.

Our armed forces and their families, relief organisations that strive to bring peace, justice and relief to all in need.

For peace in our world, especially in the Middle East, Indian Sub Continent, Afghanistan and the Koreas

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 854777



Diary Dates



26th February	Board Meeting
2nd March	Family Ceilidh
10th March	Communion. 11am & 6pm
17th March	Stated Annual Meeting
21st – 28th March	Minister on Holiday
April 4th	Session Meeting
8th—12th April	Easter Mission
27th April	Elders Retreat led by Very Rev. David Lunan
30th April	Board meeting
18th – 25th May	General Assembly – The Minister is a Commissioner and will be away from the parish that week.
6th & 7th June	Bridge Choir Concert

Holy Week Services.

Monday 25th March - Songs of Praise in Uphall South Church

Thursday 28th March - Communion Service Broxburn Baptist Church

Friday 29th March - Good Friday Service Broxburn Parish Church

Bible Society Rally Sunday 28th April in St Nicholas Church Uphall

A Treasurer's Tale

It's just over a year since I took over the Congregational treasurer's role from Marjorie MacRae, and I've been on a learning curve ever since. Apart from getting to grips with the day to day accounting, which has at times been challenging, it has given me a great insight into all the work that is done. I now have a much clearer understanding of all the 'behind the scenes' work that goes on as part of the Church life. I certainly didn't appreciate how much work is done by so many people to help raise funds for various charitable purposes, and to keep the Church and its buildings in good working order.

Thanks to their work, and to the generosity of the congregation, we were able to donate more than £7,000 to various charities in the last year.

When I was first asked if I would take on this role, I was both flattered and apprehensive in equal measures - flattered that people thought I would be able to do it, and apprehensive because it had been a **long** time since I had worked with numbers. Although sometimes it has been a bit hectic, like now when I'm working to finalise the end of year accounts, I have never regretted saying 'Yes'.

Sue Sneddon

Wordsearch/Quiz

Answer the following questions to identify the various ways people can make offerings to the Church, and then find the answers in the wordsearch below.

1. Given freely every week (6,8,8)
2. Given as a regular commitment (4,3)
3. Given on the day (4,3)
4. How to give on an ad-hoc basis (6)
5. Icing on the cake, provided on 2
Above by the government (3,6)

O	P	E	N	O	X	Y	D
O	F	T	E	A	L	O	G
F	O	F	T	K	P	N	P
F	R	E	E	W	I	L	L
E	N	E	A	R	G	O	A
R	W	P	X	A	I	D	T
R	E	L	I	E	F	N	E
D	D	O	N	A	T	E	G



FOCC

Our children in Belarus all had a large food parcel delivered to them at Christmas. Some families are doing better than others but that is normal. All our children are in good health despite the very cold and snowy winter weather.

I will be travelling to Belarus for a week in April with Bob Pattison and another host parent, mostly paying our own way to go. We will be taking further food parcels/essentials when we meet with all of the existing children in their own homes and we will also meet the 5 new children who will be coming to Scotland for the first time. This year we will have 15 returning children and 5 new children taking our group to 20. The children will be here in our halls from 1st to 29th June

We have already started preparing our programme and provisions for the trip to Belarus and also for the whole month of June when the children are here..

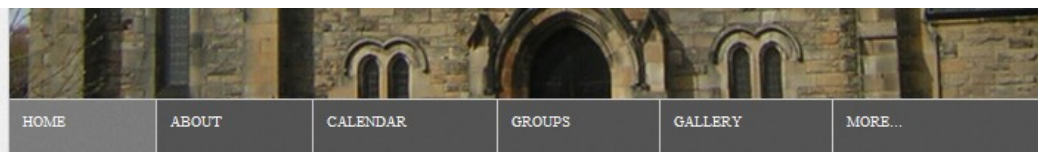
Please pray for us we go on our annual trip to Belarus from 12-19 April. Pray that we are kept safe from the many dangers we will face as we go about our work. Pray that we will be able to do all that we set out to do in bringing aid and love to the children. Pray that we can worship safely in Mogilev Baptist church when we are there. Pray that the children and their families will feel the hand of God on their lives through the work that we do.

Kenny Turnbull

Co-ordinator

Friends of Chernobyl's Children

Edinburgh West - West Lothian Group



Broxburn Parish Church of Scotland

Welcome to our website and thank you for taking the time to visit us here in cyberspace. I am glad you have found us and, as we are



Forthcoming dates

25th February

Coffee Morning in aid of FOCC

28th February

Board Meeting

Broxburn Parish Church on the world wide web

Our website is up and running and can be found by typing the following web address into your browser:

<http://www.broxburnparishchurch.org.uk/>

or by using your Smartphone and scanning the bar code below or by googling us!



You can also find us on

facebook



Please Like and share us with your friends. And remember to 'check in' when you visit us.





The Return of Wee Dennis

(Now - just Dennis)

All of the children are special to us but Wee Dennis has a very special place in our hearts. He is probably the most troubled but most loving boy we have had in our group.

Up until the age of 4 Dennis was "looked after" by his alcoholic parents who locked him in a cupboard for long periods of time with little or no food, while they were drunk. As a result Dennis is a very small boy. He ended up in an orphanage and was taken out of there by various guardians but was returned after a few days or a few weeks as he was too hard work. He was also admitted to a mental hospital for a few weeks, which is understandable, given what he had been through. 3 years ago he was taken out of the orphanage by his current guardian and he has remained with her since then. He came to Scotland with our 2011 group. A more loving boy you will not meet. He just wants to cuddle everybody and be their friend. However his behaviour within the group was not great at times and it was a similar story for his host parents at that time – Tom and Katie. He was taken out of the house for 2 nights to stay with the interpreters and while that helped a little he was soon back to his misbehaving ways. Despite the misbehaviour we all made allowances for him, because of his past and loved him very much. In March 2012 on the visit to Belarus I was given an update on his behaviour which was not good, including him attending a special school. Despite our love for him we were not equipped to cope with his deteriorating behaviour so I made the decision that he would not be invited in 2012. I have huge admiration for his guardian, who is a very special lady. She has had him for over 3 years when others only lasted days. She told me that many times during that period his bags were packed but in the end she could not send him back to the orphanage.

I promised her that we would not forget Dennis and he would stay on the programme for the remainder of the 5 years even if he wasn't to return to Scotland. We would support them with food parcels, vitamins, clothes etc and if his behaviour ever improved I would

consider a return. When the children returned to Belarus in June 2012 we sent home a full suitcase of clothes etc for Wee Dennis. When Clare visited Wee Dennis during the October 2012 trip she was amazed at the difference in him both at the party and in his house. A much quieter, more contented boy and nothing seemed to bother him including the younger ones hitting him with balloons. His guardian confirmed that he is a changed boy.

We have agreed that Wee Dennis will return to Scotland in June 2013 where he will be known as Dennis (as Big Dennis is no longer coming!) and will be hosted by Bob and Lilian Pattison, so we will see a lot of him at the church. etc I am not saying he will be an angel but Dennis wouldn't be Dennis without a nice mixture of love and wee bit of devilment. Thank you to Lilian and Bob for taking on Dennis so willingly. Dennis is 9 now and will have his 10th birthday on 19th June during the visit.

In my view it is very important that we give Dennis and his guardian as much support as possible as Dennis needs the stability in his life provided by his guardian and the consequences of him going back to an orphanage are unthinkable. Dennis was told at Christmas that he was returning to Scotland and both he and his guardian are delighted. His guardian tells us that his behaviour has been so good and he has been determined to get back to Scotland.

Sometimes you have to be cruel to be kind and missing out on the 2012 trip might have been a cruel decision for us to take but it looks like we have helped to turn a young life around. Its great to be a positive influence on someones life and I am sure this could be said of all 20 children in our group.

Kenny Turnbull



Bridge Choir

It's been a busy time for us over the past few months. Actually, we always seem to be busy doing something!

As well as singing at the Christmas Nativity service, we went carol singing at St John's Hospital where we raised over £200 in an hour and a half for "Friends of St John's". They've already booked us back for Christmas this year!

We also sang at Dobbie's again and they gave us a donation for the Salvation Army!

Rehearsals for this year's concerts are going well. The Junior choir restarted in January and numbers have increased from last year. I think they just might steal the show again this year!! They sound great!

The dates for the concerts are Thursday 6th and Friday 7th June 2013. Look out for the tickets going on sale in the next few weeks! Ticket prices will be £6 for adults and £4 for under 12's.

We are looking for any volunteers who might be willing to help behind the scenes on either of the concert nights. If anyone feels they could offer any help at all please see any member of the choir's committee team.

Once again can we thank all our friends for their continued support. The choir really appreciate it.

Janice MacPherson

Secretary.



Easter Mission

Will run from Monday 8th to Friday 12th April.

If you can help please give your name to Elspeth Rodger as soon as possible.



SOYA (Special Offers Youth Aid)

Please support this very worthwhile project by bringing tins, packets of food, etc.. and leave them at the front of the church any Sunday morning.

You can also support the project by donating £1 per month.

Last year £412 was given to the project in November to buy Christmas gifts and dinners.

Lilian Pattison has kindly agreed to continue to collect this.

Midweek Services

Throughout last year we put pound coins, week by week into a bank, the bank was opened in December and the money collected, which amounted to just over £508, and was topped up to £600 by a generous donation. This £600 was donated to Mulanje Hospital, where our Missionary Partner, Ruth Shakespeare works. The money will pay the full cost of running a bed in the hospital for a year. The money will be used for all those things that are needed to run a hospital! Electricity and water, fuel for ambulances, needles and syringes, catheters, anaesthetics, drugs... The cost of sponsoring one bed will provide care for about 40 patients during a whole year at MMH. More information can be found on the hospital website

<http://www.mmh.mw/sponsor-a-bed/>



Social & Fundraising

2012 ended with a successful Christmas Fayre raising £1599.34. and a big thank you to all who helped either setting up or on the day and to all who came along to support. The coffee bars are now back to normal with home baking once a month but we could always use more help. Here are some dates for your diary:

...continued

Sat 2nd March is the family ceilidh.

Tickets are now on sale priced £4 adults & £2 children under 16 & £10 for a family.

Wed 17th April Fashion Show.

Tue 10th Sept Beetle Drive.

Tue 8th Oct Church Quiz.

Sat 16th Nov Church Fayre.

For any further information please see any member of the committee.

Lilian Pattison

Social and Fundraising convenor.



The Guild

We are now half way through the 2012 – 2013 session and the ladies have enjoyed the fellowship and various topics of our meetings. These have included a talk on the “Julius Project” – the Scottish Churches Housing Action helping homeless people. This is sponsored by the Guild nationally and is focused on the young.

We had a friendship night of entertainment with the Spectrum Choir from Linlithgow, a Bible Study with Rev. Richard Darroch, based on our theme “A faith to proclaim” and an evening with Rev Maggie Lane from Kirkliston who spoke movingly about her life and experiences. There was a lovely Christmas Lunch at Uphall Golf Club and we look forward to more evenings of interest before this session finishes at the end of March.

We have an Open Night on the 6th March when the Tocatto Choir will be performing. Please come along and join us. You will be assured of a friendly welcome and a nice cup of tea.

Janet Watson

Secretary.



Sound Desk

We are still looking for anyone who is interested in helping with the sound desk rota. Please let Stuart know. Full training for those not familiar with the equipment will be given. Thanks

Soup Lunches



Dates are as follows:

- 6th March Mulanje Hospital, Malawi
- 20th March Broxburn Academy Wind Band
- 3rd April Christian Aid
- 17th April Vine Trust Project
- 1st May FOCC
- 15th May Scripture Union
- 5th June CrossReach
- 19th June FOCC

During 2012 26 lunch team volunteers made 90 pots of soup and 72 dozen rolls.

The amount raised for the various good causes was £2621.94 and a donation of £185 was given to the church for the use of the hall.



Fairtrade

Fair trade goods – food items and small gifts – are on sale in the big hall during the months of February, April and June.

The shop Fair Tradewinds, supplies these items and is located at 133 High Street, Linlithgow. Why not pay it a visit the next time you are in Linlithgow.



We meet on Monday nights at the following times:

Anchors:	6:00pm - 7:00pm
Juniors:	7:15pm - 8:30pm
Company & Seniors	7:15pm - 9:15pm

Captain Jim Borland

01506 417597

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



We meet every Friday night in the church hall at the times below:

Explorers p1-3	6.15-7.30pm
Juniors p4-7	7.30-9pm
Brigaders S1+	7.30-9pm

We have lots of fun with games and crafts while learning about Jesus. We already have over 100 girls so you can imagine it gets quite busy.

Alison Turnbull

01506 852171

alit@blueyonder.co.uk

Funerals



November

Margaret Sharp

Anne Redmond

January

Jim Raeburn

Jeannie Wilson

Emma Steedman

December

Grant Inglis

Ian Smith

Drew Dennison

Kenneth McMillan

Baptisms

Madison and Joshua Souza MacLennan

Reminder

- All intimations need to be with Elspeth by Wed 5pm to ensure they are included in the following Sunday's intimations.

elspethrodger@blueyonder.co.uk

- Items for inclusion in the next issue should be submitted by early May 2013 to either Hugh Brown or Stuart Cunningham, or emailed to:

hughb92@blueyonder.co.uk or stu.c@tesco.net

Who's Who



Minister

Rev. Terry Taylor BA, M.Th	The Manse, 2 Church Street	852825
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Session Clerk

Mr. John Macaulay	137 East Main Street	852947
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Congregational Board

Chair: Mr. Hugh Brown	92 Gyle Park Gardens Corstorphine	0131 334 1384
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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. Brian Short	28 Newhouses Road	857540
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Prayer Secretary

Mr. David Wilkie	53 Goschen Place	854777
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Pastoral Care Group co-ordinator

Mr. Nat Beggs	6 Grange Road	852170
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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. Jeanette Ewington	93 Fergusson Road	857194
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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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Safeguarding co-ordinator

Mrs. Elaine Brown	92 Gyle Park Gardens Corstorphine	0131 334 1384
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Social & Fundraising Convener

Mrs. Lillian Pattison	12 Houston Gardens	855505
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