

The Bridge



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Communion will be celebrated on
Sunday 13th March at 11am & 6pm.
Everyone is welcome

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From the Manse

John 10

⁶ Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn't understand what he meant, ⁷so he explained it to them: "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. ¹⁰ The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

I have quite a number of books of 'Daily Readings', one I have been looking at recently is Abraham Lincoln's Daily Treasure. On the death of his son in 1847 Lincoln was given a devotional called The Believer's Daily Treasure and he carried it with him always. Often he would quote from it in his addresses to the nation, he included snippets from it in his letter and he also read from it for personal strength during the Civil War. What comes through about the man is his measured estimation of himself. He didn't hide his failures, he was a great reconciler, and dare I say it, unlike many politicians today he kept his promises.

Helping other people grow – mentally, physically, and spiritually – was one of Lincoln's aims in life. He liked to see people do better for themselves. "We proposed to give all a chance. **And we expect the weak to grow stronger, the ignorant, wiser; and**

all better and happier together, he told a crowd during a campaign stop. Wherever Lincoln went, he stirred people to improve themselves and their surroundings.

Can we find ways to help others grow? Can we identify those in our congregation, those in our community who need help to reach their potential? Helping other people grow is a very real way to find personal growth and development. Lincoln's abilities to lead grew when he was given the opportunity to help his nation grow.

And now, let the weak say I am strong,

Let the poor say I am rich,

Because of what the Lord has done for us.

Terry

Soup Lunch

A soup lunch will be served after the midweek services on the following dates:



Wed 6th April

Maggie's Challenge

20th April

Bethany

4th May

Christian Aid

18th May

The Busy Project

1st June

CrossReach

15th June

FOCC

Diary Dates



4th March World Day of Prayer
Strathbrock Parish Church

13th March Communion - 11am & 6pm



31st March

Stated Annual Meeting @ 7.00pm
'Coffee and cupcakes evening' plus
music performed by The Bridge
Choir

7th April Session meeting @ 7.30pm

11th - 15th April Easter Mission

Holy Week Services (All services start at 7.30pm)

Monday 18th Prayer and Praise Broxburn Baptist Church

Tuesday 19th Songs of Praise Broxburn Parish Church

Wednesday 20th Youth Service Strathbrock

Thursday 21st Holy Communion Uphall South

Good Friday 22nd United Free

26th April Board meeting @ 7.30pm

5th June JAM prizegiving & BBQ

Funerals

December

Dorothy McKirdy Archibald Rogers Craig Rankine
James Anderson Albert Gray Jessie Manson

January

John McKeon



Presbytery of West Lothian

Extract from a letter sent to Ministers and Parish Workers by the Secretary of the Ministries Council:

Stipend and Salary scales for 2011

At its meeting on Monday 15th November 2010, the Council of Assembly agreed a recommendation from the Ministries Council that stipend and salary scales for 2011 continue to be held at the same level as 2010. You will recognise, of course, that this in effect means at the same level as 2009, since no increase was made to the scales in 2010. I am sorry to have to convey this news to you, as it will be certain to increase pressure in terms of personal and family financial management for many of us. The Council recognises this, but in the current financial climate of the Church, I'm afraid there is no obvious alternative.



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

Finance

It was agreed at the last board meeting that the figures intimated to the congregation will now be the total income and expenditure for the calendar month

	Income	Expenditure
January	£8753.89	£996.41

N.B. There were no major outgoings in January, but there are a number of larger payments to be made in February'.



Busy Project

The Live Lounge supporters evening which took place on Saturday 29th January was a great success. Thanks again to all who support BUSY.

If you would still like to get involved regularly in praying, giving financially or volunteering please contact any of the BUSY team or via details noted below:

c/o The Open Door

28 East Main Street, Uphall

01506 853872

office@thebusyproject.org.uk

www.thebusyproject.org.uk

Thank you to everyone who has submitted articles for this newsletter. Items for inclusion in the next issue should be submitted by mid May to either Hugh Brown or Stuart Cunningham, or emailed to:

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



As promised the entire company went bowling for Christmas, it is always encouraging to see the big boys helping out the younger boys.

(see photographs on page 8)

We started back after Christmas with a full complement of boys and for the past few weeks we have been working hard at our various program activities for each age group.

The Junior and Company Sections, including the Seniors are in the middle of preparations for the Battalion Spiritual Competitions. The CS & Seniors are studying the Beatitudes, found in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 5, Verse 1 - 12 . Why not have a look. Depending on what Bible translation you use each statement starts with "Happy are those..."

I used this as a theme when talking to the boys recently. It boils down to considering bees buzzing happily around a summer garden or meadow. They buzz happily as God has provided everything for them, everything from the sunny day to the nectar on the flowers waiting to be collected. He has even provided them with the power of flight which our scientists tell us shouldn't be possible for them. No wonder they are happy. If we consider and believe the beatitudes then we should be happy as well, indeed we could be said to have a bee – attitude.

Looking ahead we have various Battalion competitions still to enter and a ski trip to enjoy.

Eight of us are flying to Denmark in July to join the FDF for their centenary summer camp, there is much fund raising to be done.

As always - If you want to know more about the BB, want to offer us vast amounts of money (or even a little) or have boundless enthusiasm needing something to be enthused about, please get in touch.

The Adventure continues...

Thanks again

Jim Borland

Captain



Boys Brigade Christmas Bowling trip



**Girls' Brigade
Christmas Party**



**Girls' Brigade
Carol Concert**



Sign of the Times!

You can't have failed to notice our new signage and noticeboard on the corner of Church Street and Main Street. The sign, featuring the church's dove logo, was designed by the Communications Group and made by BEP Signs in Greenock. It's hoped that the new poster board will help to publicise regular church events such as the Saturday coffee bar, as well as fundraising initiatives like the fashion show and quiz night.



Hugh Brown, Convener, Communications Group



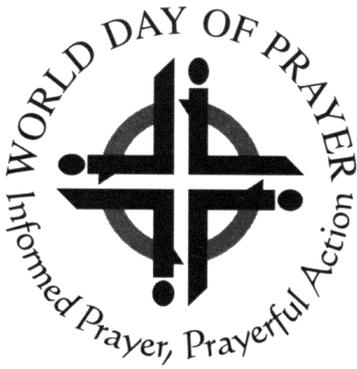
Friday Nights:

Explorers	P1-3	6.15pm - 7.30pm
Juniors	P4-7	7.30pm - 9pm
Brigaders	S1+	7.30pm - 9pm

As always, if you would like to help or be involved in any way please contact me:

Alison Turnbull

01506 852171 or alit@blueyonder.co.uk



World Day of Prayer

Friday 4th March is the date for the World Day of Prayer service in 2011.

Woman, men, old and young from around the world are invited to share in this service which will take place from sunrise in the Tonga

Islands until sunset over Alaska thirty six hours later. People in over 180 countries make time to come together to sing, think and pray around a common theme every year at this time.

Bearing in mind the horrific earthquake which occurred just off the coast of Chile on 27th February last year, it is highly appropriate that the world-wide service has been written by Christian woman of Chile.

Buildings, bridges and roads were destroyed in many parts of Chile at this time, and yet the resilience of the people looking ahead to a restored nation is echoed in the service which they have written. Taking as its theme 'How many loaves have you?' the service of 2011 looks at those in countries where food and possessions are in abundance, and sets that against places where the people are poor and starving.

Services will be held in schools, hospitals, nursing homes, universities, shopping centres and prisons. There will be a service near you, when you, like people throughout the world, will be asked to consider the question 'How may loaves have you?' Will you be there?

Prayer Corner

'The Church is wherever God's people are praising, singing their thanks for joy on this day'

It is wonderful to be able to offer praise and thanks to our God knowing that he is in control when all around us there seems to be chaos.

Over these past few weeks we have seen in the media the extreme weather that has caused destruction in so many parts of the world. Recently, we have seen turmoil, rioting and civil unrest in some Arab countries. And nearer to home we are constantly reminded of the grave economic situation we find ourselves in.

Yet despite the gloom we can, with confidence, offer our praise with joy and thanksgiving knowing that our Heavenly Father cares for His children.

As we approach Easter we are reminded of God's love for us by sending his son, Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Through his death we are reconciled with our Father if we accept Jesus in our lives. And through Jesus rising that first Easter Sunday we have the promise of eternal life if we trust in him.

Have faith, trust in God - he keeps His promises when all about us there is despair. Know that God is all powerful, all caring and all loving. Nothing, absolutely nothing is too difficult for him. Have a wonderful Easter and rejoice, knowing that Jesus loves you.

God Bless.



In your personal prayers please pray for:

- **Our minister and office bearers that God will protect and lead them and their families.**
- **The young folk in our church who love Jesus that they might be protected and have an influence on their peer group.**
- **Pray for our Queen and her government in these difficult times that they will ensure the weak are protected.**
- **The sick, anxious, lonely, estranged and the bereaved that they will find God's peace and love.**
- **Our armed forces and the relief organisations that strive to bring peace, justice and relief to all in need.**
- **For strong stable and just governments in lands where corruption, deceit and injustice reign.**



The Prayer Group continues to meet each Saturday at 10am in the Session House. There is a seat for you. Please contact myself or the minister for specific prayers.

David Wilkie

Congregational Prayer Secretary



Project Romania

When we sat down at that first meeting a little over three months ago now, the prospect of having to raise a minimum of £10,000 was quite daunting. But already we have reached an amazing total of £7,000 and hopefully more by the time this is printed.

Flights are in the process of being booked and arrangements for when we are in Romania are being made. The 23rd of June this year will bring the start of a new venture for Broxburn Academy, the fifteen pupils joined by the five adults, travelling to Romania to help with those children who really need it the most. Arriving in Romania after an over-night stay in Luton, the team will begin to prepare for the days ahead, the next day starting with a day visit to a local orphanage to spend time with the children. The Sunday will include church in the morning and preparing for the summer camp the next week. The Monday to Wednesday will be the summer camp led by Broxburn and some Romanian children of around the same age. The team will then travel back on the Thursday morning, the plane leaving at half past six, yes that's right, you don't need to rub your eyes (as I'm sure we will be) half past six.

We would like to thank everyone that has helped so far; Marjorie and her husband at the Ceilidh at The Club in Broxburn, events in the school, the McPakes who held an open day coffee house which raised over £600!! (another being held by the MacGillivray's on the 26th February) and the soup lunches we have held at the church and the coffee morning. We have many events upcoming to raise this £3,000+; I'm running the Edinburgh half marathon in April, local police officers are walking the West Highland Way, we have bucket collections arranged and are in the middle of organising bag packing. If you feel you can help us in any way possible, don't be afraid to speak to either myself, Taylor / Lianne Lamond, Kirsten McPake or Catriona MacGillivray, we look forward to smashing that £10,000 target!

Andrew MacPherson



Project Romania participants with local Police officers and Peter Reid, Headmaster



The Boys' and Girls' Brigade are collecting **Tesco vouchers for Schools and clubs** again this year.

Please keep them and give them to any officer or put them in the box in the hall.

World Mission - Used Stamps

Please remember to save your used stamps and put them in the box provided in the vestibule. World Mission are very grateful for the amount of money which can be raised in this way.

Who's Who



Minister

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

Session Clerk

Mr. John Macaulay 137 East Main Street 852947

Congregational Board

Chair: Mrs. Norma Short 28 Newhouses Road 857540

Clerk: Mrs. Anne Gunn 3 Kirkhill Court 856984

Treasurer

Mrs. Marjorie MacRae 22 Parkwood Crescent 854702

Gift Aid Convener

Miss Jean Weir 135 Houston Gardens 855626

Roll Keeper

Mr. Brian Short 28 Newhouses Road 857540

Prayer Secretary

Mr. David Wilkie 53 Goschen Place 854777

Pastoral Care Group co-ordinator

Mr. Nat Beggs 6 Grange Road 852170

Organist

Mr. James Lawrie 13 Queens Avenue 856609

Church Officer

Mr. John Macaulay 137 East Main Street 852947

Hall Convener

Mrs. Jeanette Ewington 93 Fergusson Road 857194

Property Convener

Mr. Robert Pattison 12 Houston Gardens 855505

Communications co-ordinator

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

Safeguarding co-ordinator

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

Social & Fundraising Convener

Mrs. Lillian Pattison 12 Houston Gardens 855505