

THE BROUGHTON BEACON

Magazine of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, Edinburgh



APRIL 2020

Issue No. 234

www.bstmchurch.org.uk

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April 2020

Letter from our Interim Moderator

Rev Karen Campbell

“One of the scribes who had listened to them debating appreciated that Jesus had given a good answer and put a further question to him, ‘Which is the first of all the commandments?’ Jesus replied, ‘This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one, only Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these’.” *Mark 12:28-34*

The last week has felt so long. It was only Wednesday when The Church of Scotland made the decision to close churches for worship and other congregational activities with immediate effect until the Government informs us it is safe to reopen. And then on Friday more announcements changed the axis of our daily lives. Sunday was another first; either at home, or for me, conducting worship in an empty Church except for the organist and another colleague!

Our first priority at this time is to care for the most vulnerable in our congregation and parish. However, in this new world we live in that will mean that pastoral care will be done remotely. Never before has a phone or skype been more important. There will be no face to face visits. Please keep in contact with your people as well, but no contact visits. The nursing homes are already locked down. If there's anyone in the community that needs a kindly contact let the Session Clerk know. Many people have already lost jobs, and it is imperative that those who are employed by the Church are cared for and protected.

Now is the time to keep strong. I know it's difficult. I know it's scary. I think that means that we must care for the most vulnerable. Keep safe ourselves and find new and remote ways to keep in contact. It will be a challenge, but we can get through this and we can be all the stronger for it.

The Lenten Ash Wednesday prayer from Genesis 3 says “remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. We will all die, and with the premature deaths of so many around the world, we are called up short, and made to face our own mortality. The Christian faith proclaims that God is with us: Emmanuel, but while we celebrate that, most of us are not ready, quite yet, to face the reality of that mortality.

The Coronavirus has confronted us all with this challenge, as well as many others. We are called up short. This time is challenging and scary and it's OK to express this without letting it overwhelm us. But it also raises other challenges when confronted with nature

already reclaiming the canals of Venice and the shores of the Adriatic as dolphins return. How many flights do we really need to take? How much pollution do we really need to pump into the atmosphere? I read somewhere at the weekend It feels like mother earth has just sent us to our rooms to make us think about what we have done.... And that means that we must stay put in our homes, and we must use this time, not only to tidy the cupboards, but to think a little about our lives and how we love our lives, as well how we are as neighbours.

Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer
May this eternal truth be always on our hearts,
That the God who breathed this world into being,
Placed stars into the heavens
And designed a butterfly's wing,
Is the God who entrusted his son
to the care of ordinary people,
became vulnerable that we might know
how strong is the wonder of Love.

A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp.
A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore.
Thanks be to God, Amen.

Keep safe. Keep strong.

Best wishes, Karen

Update from the Session Clerk

As I write this message, Scotland is responding to the Coronavirus Pandemic with many of the population following the government's advice to minimise social contact and self-isolate where necessary. The Church of Scotland has advised that services of worship should be cancelled. Broughton St Mary's will not be holding worship services pending further advice from the government and Church of Scotland headquarters.

Rev Dr Karen Campbell of Marchmont St Giles Parish Church has been appointed Interim Moderator at Broughton St Mary's by the Presbytery of Edinburgh following the untimely death of our dear minister Peter Macdonald. Karen has been liaising with me in the weeks following Peter's passing and has been a great support. Rev Dr Anne Logan, former minister of Stockbridge Parish Church, has been acting as locum minister these past 2-3 weeks and will continue to do so until the end of April. Anne is not able to continue as locum due to her having other commitments after April. It is hoped that the Kirk Session may be in a position to appoint a further locum in due course.

The Kirk Session met informally with Karen prior to the restrictions in gatherings due to the Covid-19 outbreak. We discussed the position of Broughton St Mary's following Peter's death and received encouragement that our plans to refurbish the sanctuary, audio visual facilities and vestibule could proceed pending approval from Presbytery and The Church of Scotland General Trustees. In this regard, we have continued to meet with the church's architect to discuss our plans and seek the necessary building warrants. *(continued on page 6)*

*We have received many more messages of
condolence - these are a selection.*

From Canonmills Church

To the Congregation of Broughton St Mary's.

Dear Friends,

The family of Canonmills are sharing in the loss of the beloved Peter Macdonald who was a good friend of our church where he preached on many occasions. As our Care-Taker of Worship Amanda Bruce described him in a tribute at our morning worship; "Peter was a down to earth, sleeves rolled up, follower of the way – deeply passionate about social injustice and ordinary people".

His sudden death is a huge loss to the church and to the wider diverse world to which he was committed. You are all very much in our thoughts and prayers, as are Lesley, Callum and Lorn.

Hamish Coghill, Church Secretary

From Pilrig St Paul's Church

Dear Ian,

Please let the congregation of Broughton St Mary's know that the Minister, Elders and Congregation of Pilrig St Paul's are holding you all in our thoughts at this time. We pray that God will surround you in love and help to bind together the broken pieces of your hearts, for you will need every fractured piece of them in the days to come. And through your heartache please remember that your neighbours throughout the city and communities of faith in Scotland and beyond are holding you all in their prayers at this time.

John Innes, Session Clerk, Pilrig St Paul's Church

From Torbain Parish Church, Kirkcaldy

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of everyone at Torbain Parish Church in Kirkcaldy, please accept our sincere condolences on the untimely death of your Minister, Rev. Peter Macdonald.

The news of Peter's sudden and untimely death was received with enormous shock and sadness by his many friends in Torbain. Peter was our minister between 1990 and 1998, during which time he made a very positive and lasting contribution to our Church and local community.

Peter was a dynamic, inspirational man, who was enthusiastic, passionate and caring and a great friend to many. He had the rare ability to reach out, and to touch the hearts and minds of so many people.

We share in your grief and in this unanticipated time of great sorrow, please know that all of you and also Peter's family are in our thoughts and prayers. We are praying that God's comforting arms will encompass Broughton St. Mary's Church and Peter's Family. We are also praying that God's grace will provide you with the strength needed at this time of bereavement. We

know that his loss will be felt greatly. Peter lives on not only in our memories, but also with our Heavenly Father.

Yours in Christ, *Gordon W.G. Thomson*

Session Clerk, Torbain Parish Church, Kirkcaldy.

From Broughton Primary School

Ian,

I've just been forwarded your very sad email from my office staff. How devastating for you all at Broughton St Mary's and for his family. I had really enjoyed meeting with Peter last term and was speaking about building relationships recently at our Parent Council Meeting. It was lovely to be back at the Church for our Christmas services. He was such a lovely man and we were both really excited about developing links across the community. My neighbour, Fiona Bennett, worked with Peter in his last Church and we had been speaking about how lovely he was.

Please pass on our condolences to his family. He spoke so fondly of his sons.

Maria Gowans, Headteacher

From Graham McGeoch

Dear Ian,

This is devastating news. It will be a particular strain for you, also. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at Broughton St Mary's, particularly Lesley and family.

Please convey my condolences to all. May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Graham

From Liz Randall

Dear All,

Greetings from New Zealand, I, along with everyone else, was totally shocked at the loss of Peter. From so far away it seems quite unreal. I've been thinking about you a lot, along with Lesley, Callum and Lorn and the wider family.

Meanwhile I am enjoying exploring this wonderful country. My friends are so kind and thoughtful and are doing all they can to make my time here memorable. I look forward to catching up with you all in April.

Love, *Liz*

From Scott Wham Architecture

Hi Ian,

I am just back from a site visit to Iona Abbey where I was informed by members of the Iona Community about the tragic news. As leader of the community Peter was instrumental in the development of the abbey refurbishment project which began six years ago and is due for completion next month.

I cannot imagine how distressing a time this will be for Peter's family and his church family at Broughton St Mary's. We will keep you all in our prayers.

Kind regards, *Scott*

Fund Raising

Sadly, due to the current situation with the danger of Coronavirus infection, and the directives from the Government and Church of Scotland regarding the gathering of large groups, it was decided to cancel the Coffee Morning (March) and the Afternoon Tea in May. We hope to be able to hold these in the autumn, or once all the current restrictions of movement are over. Please keep safe and well.



Debbie Buckingham

MESSY CHURCH

Due to the current crisis Messy Church will not be meeting for the time being.



For more information contact Jan Allan
messychurch@bstmchurch.org.uk

Peter Macdonald: Retiring Collection

The collection taken following the Thanksgiving Service for Peter's life raised £4084.75. This is to be shared between The Iona Abbey Capital Appeal and Medical Aid for Palestinians.

Ian Buckingham

More condolences

Many groups and organisations use our church buildings on a regular basis. These are some of the messages received by our church administrator, Lindsey, and by Ian Buckingham.

Hi Ian

The Wednesday Club members (Scrabble and Carpet Bowlers) would like to say how sorry they are to hear of the loss of Peter. They are thinking of us at this time. Thank you, *Margaret*

Lindsey,

We were all so sorry to hear about the passing of Peter. Although I was not fortunate enough to meet him, I had only ever heard positive things. Our thoughts are with you all at this difficult time. Kind regards,
Amy & 160th Edinburgh Brownies

Lindsey

I just wanted to let you know that we're thinking of you all during such a terrible time. I think I met Peter once, briefly, and he seemed like a really nice man. What a loss for you all. Please pass on our condolences, and of course we understand that this means certain plans you have for the Church may change this year. We'll wait until you're ready to tell us more. I hope the coming weeks go smoothly. Very best wishes,
Jenny (SCO Chorus)

Dear Lindsey

I am so sorry to hear about Peter's death. It must have been a terrible shock for all of you and you are in my thoughts.

With very best wishes,
Christine (Gaelic Choir)

Condolences continued...

Dear Lindsey,

We have been very sad to hear of the loss of your Minister, Peter Macdonald, which seems to have been sudden and far too young. I imagine everyone in the congregation and associated with the church must have been shocked at the news. Losing an energetic and inspiring leader and having to carry on the work of the church without him will be very challenging. For what it's worth, your friends at Cadenza would wish to send our sincere condolences and wish you all well at what is surely a difficult time.

Best wishes,
Chris (Cadenza)



"The organist isn't too sure about it, he says he can't play that fast."

APRIL CALENDAR

The calendar has been suspended for the time being due to the ongoing situation with the coronavirus.

Update from the Session Clerk - *continued from page 3*

The Kirk Session has agreed to present two of our members with certificates in recognition of their long service to the church. They are Ronnie Gibson and Stuart Brown who were ordained in 1955 and 1966 respectively and are our two most senior elders. Unfortunately, we will have to wait to present them with their certificates until such time as restrictions caused by the Covid-19 crisis are over. Chris Dyter has agreed to be ordained to the Office of Ruling Elder in this congregation. Notice of when Chris is to be ordained will be intimated at a later date.

Communication: We are keen that all members of the congregation and those associated with our worshipping community are kept in touch with what is happening at Broughton St Mary's. If you do not already receive email updates, and wish to, please contact me at ianbucks@hotmail.co.uk and I will add you to the distribution list.

The Pastoral Care Team has set up telephone links with a number of our older members and those who live alone. Please contact the Pastoral Care Convener, Colin Beck, on 0131 556 4516 if you or anyone you know needs support, especially during this time when we are being encouraged to minimise social contact with others.

Ian Buckingham

The Power of Prayer

Dear All, As we are restricted so much at the moment it seems like there is not much we can do, but there is one very important thing we can all do. It costs nothing but a little of our time. Prayer is such a powerful thing - something we often forget. We can pray not just for our parish but for all working so hard at this time to stop the march of the Corona Virus.

Your prayer can do so much - more good than you can imagine - and if we all pray at the same time, just like in Church on a Sunday, then we create a huge cloud of prayer. Imagine that - an enormous cloud of spiritual power hovering over all who are prayed for. So it would be nice if some of us could offer prayer while eating our breakfast or at lunch time, tea time or supper time or you might feel about to do all of them. Prayer only needs to be short. Something along the lines of:

“Almighty all creating God, please place your loving healing touch on all who are ill at this time. Please wrap your loving arms of protection around all working in the NHS. Please be the power of wisdom behind all putting in place those rules and regulations needed to keep as many of us safe as possible. Lastly, all giving God, please bring about a spirit of sharing rather than self-first, self-last and anything over self again.

Thank you loving Father”.

Sandra Endicott

Easter Story



The thud of nails on open palms,
'Father forgive' was all He said,
'Finished' was His final cry,
As death approached God bowed His head.

Born of a woman He entered our world,
Fully man yet fully divine,
Such is the mystery beyond comprehension
That One such as this should step into time.

He came to die and rise again
The firstfruits of the Father's love,
That man should follow in His train
On wings of light to realms above.

Megan Carter

Some thoughts for Easter...

Spring bursts today, for
Christ is risen and all the
earth's at play.

Christina Rossetti

Do not abandon yourselves
to despair. We are the Easter
people and Hallelujah is our
song.

Pope John II

Congregational Register

DEATH

12 February PETER J. MACDONALD, The Manse, 78 March Road, Edinburgh EH4 3SY.

Transference Certificate issued to

COLIN DUFFIN, 20 Gammon Close, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU31 4SU who now attends Petersfield United Reformed Church.



The Flower Rota has been suspended for the time being due to the ongoing coronavirus situation. All church services have been cancelled.



New Ways to Worship

It's important to keep in touch with your church family. While we are at home during the coronavirus pandemic, Broughton St Mary's is trialling a **short virtual service** and time to connect from 10.30 to 11am every Sunday.

For those with a suitable electronic device (a PC or laptop, a tablet e.g. iPad, or a smartphone e.g. iPhone or Android), you will be able to join using the **Microsoft Teams** application.

For those without a suitable electronic device, you will be able to join by phone.

We will issue some simple instructions to help you get started. The first meeting will open at 10am on Sunday the 29 March, to allow you extra time to get set up and to provide technical assistance if required. If you experience any technical problems please email webadmin@bstmchurch.org.uk.

Thank you to David McConchie, church member and our web administrator for arranging the above.

For details about this contact David McConchie or Ian Buckingham.

The Church of Scotland has an online worshipping community called **Sanctuary First**. It is a pilot mission seeking out new ways of worshipping and establishing church communities. For more information see <https://www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk/>

Some churches offer **live streaming** of their services. Check the Church of Scotland website for details.

Or, if you prefer, there is a weekly service of worship just after the news at 8.10am every Sunday on **Radio 4**. You can sing along with the radio!

The Last Laugh



Happy Easter!

Church notice: This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Jones to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Dear Minister - from the children...

- I liked your sermon on Sunday, especially when it was finished.
- How does God know the good people from the bad people? Do you tell him or does he read about it in the newspapers?
- Who does God pray to? Is there a God for God?
- Are there any devils on earth? I think there may be one in my class.
- I know God loves everybody but then he never met my sister.
- I would like to go to heaven someday because I know my brother won't be there.
- I think a lot more people would come to your church if you moved it to Disneyland.

Smile please!



A four-year-old visiting a Care Home was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. When she was found staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass, she merely whispered, 'The tooth fairy will never believe this!'