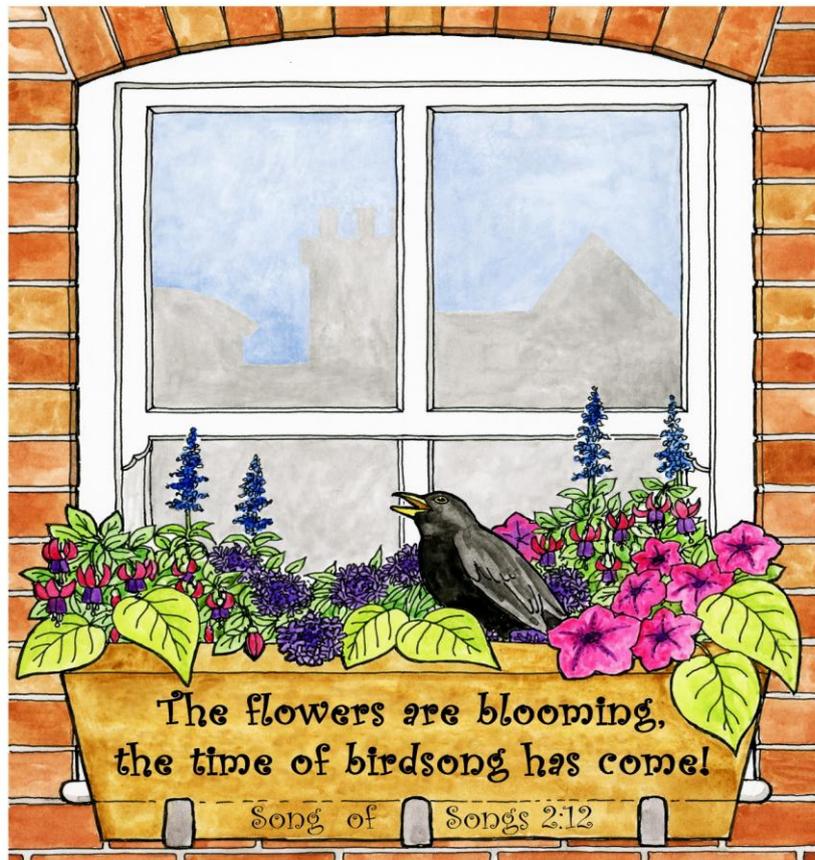


THE BROUGHTON BEACON

Magazine of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, Edinburgh



JUNE 2020

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Broughton St Mary's Parish Church

12 Bellevue Crescent EH3 6NE



Broughton St Mary's
Parish Church and Community Hub



CHURCH OFFICE: 0131 556 4252

Church website www.bstmchurch.org.uk

You can email us at mail@bstmchurch.org.uk

Find us on facebook www.facebook.com/bstmchurch

Broughton St Mary's Parish Church is a charge of The Church of Scotland in the Presbytery of Edinburgh. The church building was erected in 1824 by the burgh (city) of Edinburgh during the building of the New Town. It is a distinctive architectural landmark on the city skyline. And it is home to a faithful and creative worshipping community, while also serving as the parish church for people of all faiths and no faith.

In normal circumstances our facilities are open 7 days a week, offering a welcoming space to a number of community groups, organisations and faith-based initiatives. You are welcome to book the use of the facilities for your own creative initiatives.

No bookings being taken at the moment due to the coronavirus.

As a welcoming church, Broughton St Mary's offers a supportive space for the full participation of LGBT people in the life of the church.



jom Exterior

We are currently in a vacancy situation following the sudden death of our minister, Peter Macdonald, in February. We are grateful for the support of our Interim Moderator, Rev Dr Karen Campbell, of Marchmont St Giles Parish Church, and our temporary locums, Rev Dr Anne Logan (March-May) and Rev Matthew Bicket (May- June).



Our church administrator, Lindsey Rowlands, is currently on furlough so **the Church Office is closed** until further notice. You can contact Broughton St Mary's by email via the Session Clerk, Ian Buckingham, ianbucks@hotmail.co.uk or mail@bstmchurch.org.uk.

For enquiries about the Beacon, contact the Editor, Diane Chisholm, at diane_c@btinternet.com.

For more information about Broughton St Mary's, visit our website www.bstmchurch.org.uk.

Keep safe and well everyone!

The Broughton Beacon

June 2020

Letter from Anne Logan

Dear Friends,

Over the last few weeks, our Zoom worship has been focussed on Jesus's farewell words to his disciples as he prepared them for being without him. We entered the Easter Season, with the disciples locked away in fear - now we head into Pentecost, to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and to marvel again at the faith, courage, power and love which the Holy Spirit brought to those first disciples.

As we begin to take our first tentative steps out of lockdown, we too will need to trust to the Holy Spirit and to live with faith, courage, power and love as we try to work out how God wants us to show Christ and his love in the changed world we will find beyond our doors.

It has been a privilege to travel with you over the last few weeks. Although it has been a strange time and I have not been able to get to know you in the ordinary way, I cannot help but be impressed by your faith and your commitment to caring for one another. I wish you all well in your onward journey and perhaps our paths will cross again sometime in the future.

Blessings to you all!

Anne

(Rev Dr Anne T Logan)

Update from the Session Clerk

Locum Minister: I had hoped to report that the Kirk Session had appointed a locum minister during our vacancy, but to date we have not been able to identify someone to take up the position of locum. We have, however, been grateful to have the services of Rev Dr Anne Logan up until 24 May, and we thank her for leading our worship these past months. Contributions towards a thank you gift for Anne have been received and a gift will be sent to Anne shortly.

Rev Matthew Bicket has agreed to conduct worship on 31 May and each Sunday in June. Matthew is known to the congregation as he led worship on a few Sundays during our previous vacancy.

The **Kirk Session** met in video conference on 23 April. At this meeting the Kirk Session agreed to allow Chris Dyer to attend and take part in future meetings of Session. Chris has previously agreed to accept Session's invitation to be ordained to the eldership. However due to the restrictions on social interaction as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has not been possible to ordain Chris at this time. This is because ordination involves the laying on of hands, something that is prohibited during the current social distancing guidelines. Chris will be ordained at a future date. The next meeting of Session takes place on 4 June. At that meeting the Kirk Session will nominate one of its number to represent it at Presbytery from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

Refurbishment of Sanctuary & Vestibule: All required permissions for refurbishment of the sanctuary and vestibule have been received from all relevant church authorities. Building warrants have been submitted and approved. Surveys of our mechanical and electrical systems now need to take place along with input from a quantity surveyor before the tendering process can begin.

Ian Buckingham

Scottish Government's route map through and out of Covid-19 crisis

This has just been released and explains a phased route out of lockdown. You may wish to note the following which relates to places of worship:

- **Page 25 Phase 2:** "Gatherings and occasions: In Phase 2, we plan for registration offices to open for high priority tasks. Places of worship would be able to open for private prayer with physical distancing and hygiene safeguards. We are also planning to allow marriages, civil partnerships and other types of ceremonies to take place with a limited number of attendees."
- **Page 27 Phase 3:** "Gatherings and occasions: People can meet in extended groups subject to physical distancing. Places of worship can open to extended groups subject to physical distancing and hygiene safeguards. We will relax restrictions on funeral attendance, marriages, civil partnership and other services to beyond close family."
- **Page 28 Phase 4:** "Gatherings and occasions: Mass gatherings could resume in line with public health advice. All ceremonies could now take place with any necessary precautions."

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team have been working hard to keep in touch with members who might need support during the Covid-19 pandemic. We offer a chance to talk on the phone or to help pick up and deliver shopping or medications. If you are aware of anyone who might need help, or if you yourself would welcome some support, please contact **Colin Beck** on **0131 556 4516**.

The Virtual Collection Plate

Dear Friends,

I wanted to share a few comments about the church finances. We are fortunate to have had surpluses for the last few years which means that we do not need to worry about finances in the short term. We have sufficient financial reserves to survive many months of disruption.

In recent years our main source of income has been from the letting of rooms - in 2019 this amounted to over £66,000. That source of income is vital in meeting our expenses which are around £100,000 per year. That source of income has now ceased given the Covid 19 restrictions.

It is therefore important that as many of us who are able continue with regular giving. Many people already donate monthly or weekly by standing order. If you do not already do so, please consider setting up a standing order using internet banking. You should only need the Sort Code and Account Number. These are below.

Bank: Clydesdale Bank, 83 George Street,
Edinburgh EH2 3ES

Account name: Broughton St Mary's Parish
Church

Sort code: **82 63 05**

Account number: **70048491**

If you do not have access to internet banking, please contact treasurer@bstmchurch.org.uk for a form that can be mailed to your bank.

Many thanks.

Gordon Gray, Treasurer

For anyone who does not have internet access, a cheque made payable to Broughton St Mary's Parish Church can be posted to the church (address on page 2), or dropped through the letter box on the front door of the church.

From Rev Peter Millar

When the lockdown is over can we discover a new sense of shared values and tolerance in our connected world?

Recently I re-read an article by the Scottish journalist, Joyce McMillan, written several years ago. Her article was entitled - "Impulse to faith rooted deeply in our society" and in it Joyce asks - "So where does the way to peace lie"?

Peace in our world is for many of us interlinked with lasting justice; with awareness of the other who is different; with a wide compassion; with active faith. and with risk. Joyce pleads for all of those things in her article, a small part of which, marginally adapted - I share with you here:

"First peace lies in an acceptance that the impulse to faith is a near-universal feature of human societies; that most faiths, closely examined, tend to embody similar sets of values to do with charity, honesty, fidelity, humility before God, and that all therefore have a contribution to make to developing the codes of shared values on which any successful common life will be based.

Then, secondly, it lies in a strict understanding that faiths must operate within these shared values. If we believe in the fundamental equal value of each human being - as most of our faiths suggest we should, and as most of the great constitutional documents based on these traditions insist - then we cannot sanction Christian churches or any other group that advocate the subjection of women; we cannot have faith schools that teach intolerance, or even a sense of inborn moral superiority; and we cannot use the strident old language of holy war or moral crusade to justify self-interested aggression.

Today we need religious traditions that can accept the metaphorical and tentative quality of their sacred stories and rituals; that can gaze together into the mystery of creation and human consciousness without feeling the need to produce pat answers or to out-argue other faiths.

And those of us who feel that kind of spiritual awareness in our own lives have an obligation to come out of our private worlds and reclaim our place in public religious debate; which may be unfamiliar territory for us, but is now, suddenly much too important to be left to those whose intolerance of other faiths - or even of faith itself - may bring the world to further violence and division, and to unimaginable levels of oppression for more and more people."

With thanks to Peter Millar

Fund Raising

We hope to resume our fund raising events once all the current restrictions of movement are over. Please keep safe and well.

Debbie Buckingham

Update from Edinburgh Prison

We received this update from Colin O'Flaherty, referring to the toys which we donated in November.

I thought I would share with you what we are doing with the surplus gifts from last year.

There are no visits taking place at the prison due to Covid-19. Mothers and Fathers in prison are having less contact with their children. The staff in the Visitors' Centre are still working, but distributing food parcels to the families of those in the prison. We have been giving gifts to the children as part of this process. You can appreciate that these children fall in to the category of the most vulnerable and at risk. Because of your kindness and generosity, we are in a position to continue to help these children. Thank you. Stay safe.

Colin O'Flaherty

Heart and Soul 2020

Like many other events, the annual gathering in Princes Street Gardens, celebrating the life and witness of the Church, had to be cancelled this year. However, an online version is available on the Heart and Soul website (www.heartandsoul.org.uk) which features many of the events we would have seen.

The online video highlights parts of the Service of Installation of the new Moderator, Rev Dr Martin Fair. The BBC's Hugh Pym is 'in conversation' with Prof Jason Leitch, and Viv Dickenson (of CrossReach), discussing how they have been tackling Coronavirus and how their own faith has helped them.

There are choirs, bands, a session with Fischy Music and plenty of hymns to sing along with. It's definitely worth a look!

The Beacon - online!

The Broughton Beacon can now be accessed online via email and also on our website, www.bstmchurch.org.uk. Look for the 'What's On' section and click on 'Magazine'.

We will, of course, continue to send the Beacon by post to those not able to receive it online.

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



New Moderator of the General Assembly

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland had to be cancelled for the first time in 330 years. Rev Dr Martin Fair was installed as the new Moderator with only his wife, a few officials and a camera crew present. Dr Fair is minister of St Andrew's Parish Church in Arbroath.

He said the pandemic had forced the Kirk to re-evaluate because church buildings were closed and ministers across the country were spreading the Gospel message online.

"We find ourselves in uncharted territory, having to re-imagine church. We may not have a blueprint but this calling has always been about a willingness to venture beyond the familiar and comfortable. Jesus didn't give much away when he called those four fishermen. He called them and sent them with no terms and conditions, no detailed plan, radical or otherwise. Though circumstances change, God's love remains. And from love flows peace. The storms of life may come and go but the peace of God you will know."



JUNE CALENDAR

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

Prayer Requests

As we can no longer come together as a church family in a physical sense, it is not possible for us to write our prayers in the Prayer Request book held at the church. Perhaps you would like instead to notify me of any concerns you have for family, friends, neighbours, work issues, in fact anything that makes you uneasy at this time?

I can add them to the prayer requests I presently send out to our prayer group. Also, if any of you would like to join the prayer request group please do not hesitate to contact me. As I have said before, prayer is the most powerful tool we have in our armoury, more powerful than any of us realise.

Asking God to keep you all safe in the Palm of his Hand,

Sandra Endicott jendicott@btinternet.com

Nature out and about

The lockdown this Spring has given Nature a brief respite. According to wildlife watchers, wild goats, herds of deer, sparrowhawks, stoats, snakes, badgers, spawning toads and songbirds all seemed to have enjoyed the peace and quiet. As Mark Thompson, a presenter on *Stargazing Life*, said, "This lockdown is giving people a chance not just to connect with our families, but also to connect with Nature around us. It has given us the chance to recalibrate."

I always enjoy the wildlife in my garden and, a few weeks ago, I surprised a large hedgehog as it scurried along the back path between my garden and next door's. I have cut a gap in the fence to create a 'Hedgehog Highway'. Maybe you could do the same? *D.Chisholm*

History will remember

History will remember when the world stopped
And the cars parked in the street, and the trains didn't run.
History will remember when the schools closed, and the children stayed home,
And the medical staff walked towards the fire and they didn't run.
History will remember when people sang on their balconies, in isolation,
But so much together in courage and song.
History will remember when people fought for their old and weak,
And protected the vulnerable by doing nothing at all.
History will remember when the virus left, and the houses opened
And the people came out and hugged and kissed and started again.
Kinder than before.

Donna Ashworth
With thanks to Peter Millar (and Amnesty International)

St Sofa's

We worship at St Sofa's now
Since Covid came to stay.
We don't dress up or do our hair,
But still we come to pray!

Our Vicar is a clever chap,
A Zoom with his IT.
And so we sit down every week
And meet up virtually!

Our Parish Church stands empty,
With praise she does not ring;
But still her people gather round
To pray, and praise, and sing!

The virus is a nasty thing
Yet it has helped us see
The church is NOT a building
But folk like you and me!

Nigel and Carol Beeton

A Prayer for Trinity Sunday



O may God shield me, and
may God fill,
O may God watch me, and
may God hold;
O may God bring me where
peace is still,
To the King's land, eternity's
fold.
Praise to the Father, praise to
the Son,
Praise to the Spirit, the Three
in One.

*From The Creed Prayer,
poems of the Western
Highlanders*

Congregational Register

DEATH

24 April Mrs EDNA GIBSON, Guthrie House Care Home, 12 Lasswade Road, EH16 6RZ.



The Flower Rota has been suspended for the time being due to coronavirus.



New Ways to Worship

We are all having to adapt to the strange circumstances we now find ourselves in. Although the church building has been closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been holding virtual worship every Sunday at 10:30 am via 'Zoom'. Our locum minister leads a short act of worship and this is followed by time to chat. It's good to catch up with our church family and exchange news as we would normally do over coffee.

You can connect to the service using computer, tablet, smartphone or by 'normal' telephone. You can access this by downloading the Zoom app on a computer, tablet or smartphone and you will be able to see those taking part, and be seen. Or you can dial in on a telephone to hear the service and conversation.

For details about how to take part contact Ian Buckingham. If you are on the church's email list you will be sent instructions and an order of service. The Zoom meeting will open at 10am to allow people to get ready and to deal with any problems. 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 these meetings.

TV and Radio

For those of you who would prefer to worship via the television or radio there are a number of options.

BBC1 has a weekly service of worship on Sunday mornings, followed by 'Reflections at the Quay' which comes from Glasgow. Times vary from week to week but these usually start around 11am. Check details in a TV guide.

There is also a weekly service of worship just after the news at 8.10am every Sunday on **Radio 4**.

So, there are lots of opportunities to feel part of Christian worship in these times of lockdown.

The Last Laugh

Usually, June is popular for weddings...



- ❖ "Something's wrong with me," sighed a young lady after a wedding. "I've been a bridesmaid twice, I even caught the bouquet too, but I'm still single."
"Next time," advised her grandmother, "don't reach for the flowers, reach for the best man."
- ❖ Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage. He didn't have to hear about all the men she could have married, and she didn't have to hear about the way his mother cooked.
- ❖ One of the greatest mysteries of life is how the idiot your daughter married can be the father of the most beautiful and intelligent grandchildren in the world.

The following are actual call centre conversations....

Customer: "I've been ringing you on 0700 2300 for two days. Why didn't you answer?"

Travel agent: "Where did you get that number from, sir?"

Customer: "It's there on the door to your Travel Centre."

Operator: "Sir, they are our opening hours."

Then there was the caller who asked for a knitwear company in Woven.

Operator: "Woven? Are you sure?"

Caller: "Yes, of course. That's what it says on the label; Woven in Scotland."