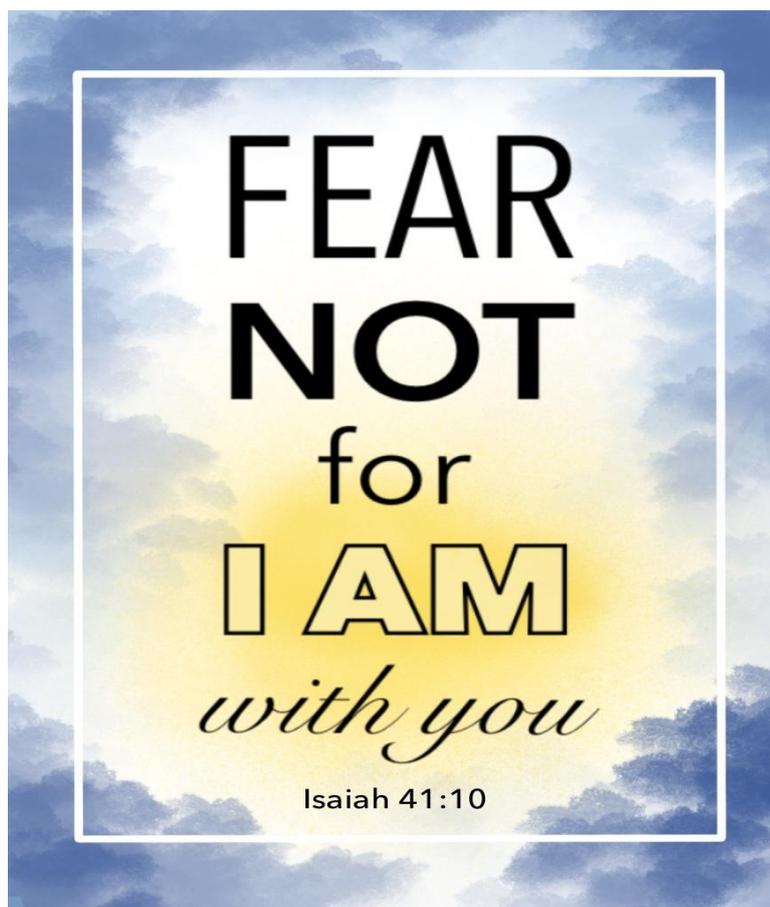


THE BROUGHTON BEACON

Magazine of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, Edinburgh



MAY 2020

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Broughton St Mary's Parish Church

12 Bellevue Crescent EH3 6NE

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.



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 locum, Rev Dr Anne Logan.



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

May 2020

Letter from Anne Logan

Dear Friends,

Psalm 104

What strange times we are living through! We haven't been able to get to know one another as we might have done in other circumstances, but I have been so impressed by the group who are able to gather for online worship each Sunday. There is a depth of Christian warmth and caring expressed by this group, which I am sure permeates the whole congregation.

As we all get used to this new version of daily life, I have found, as I suspect some of you will have found, that the daily exercise time has become very precious. It is the opportunity to be out of doors and to see, day by day, the created world waking up after the winter. For those of you who are having to be intensely shielded and must remain indoors, I hope there is a window where you can watch the miracle of returning life in our trees and wildlife. Fortunately, no one has told the leaves to stay closed; or the blossom not to break out; or the birds not to sing; or even the slugs not to eat! And we give thanks to God for all these wonders.

I hope that when this time is ended and we are able to rejoice in seeing one another again, meeting with family and friends, being back to Church, picking up on all our usual activities and pastimes, we will still take time to marvel at God's creation and to give thanks!

Blessings to you all!

Anne (Rev Dr Anne T Logan)

Update from the Session Clerk

The social distancing guidelines announced by the UK and Scottish Governments has meant a change to the way the Kirk Session currently holds its meetings. The Session held a "virtual" meeting on 2 April via Zoom (a video conferencing application, enabling members of Session to connect using a computer, tablet, smartphone or telephone).

You will have read in the press and seen on television that the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the economy impacting on among others, employers and the self-employed. The Kirk Session is also an employer and our church staff includes our administrator, organist and cleaner.

Following the closure of the church building on government advice, the Kirk Session has pledged to support our staff by firstly making use of the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme in respect of our administrator, and ensuring that she receives her full salary. Secondly, we are financially supporting our organist and cleaner, both of whom are self-employed.

Refurbishment of Sanctuary and Vestibule:

Presbytery has given its approval to our church's plans to refurbish the sanctuary and vestibule. We still await approval from the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland but do not anticipate this being refused. Wham Architects has been instructed to submit Building Warrant and Listed Building Consent applications as this will ensure that there is no delay to the tender process.

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. (See below).

Rev Dr Anne Logan has been temporary locum minister at Broughton St Mary's since the untimely death of Peter Macdonald. We are grateful to Anne for stepping in at short notice and leading our worship in recent weeks. Regretfully, the Covid-19 pandemic has prevented her from carrying out pastoral visits. Anne has advised that she is able to continue as locum minister until 24 May 2020. We are therefore in the process of identifying someone who will be able to act as locum minister during the continued period of vacancy. *Ian Buckingham*

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team have been in touch with all our members who might need support during the Covid pandemic. We offer a chance to talk on the phone or to help pick up and deliver shopping or medications. We also dropped off a Real Easter egg with the Easter message on the doorstep of some of our members over the Easter weekend. The team sent an Easter card to our members in Care Homes sending love and prayers from the congregation. Anyone needing help should contact **Colin Beck on 0131 556 4516**.

Church Music Continues...

...a message from Chris

Hi everyone!

In these strange and unprecedented times, there has been an explosion of activity online, particularly among those involved in the arts, and music especially. On a 'normal' Sunday, in the church, music has a unique role to play. There is the corporate act of singing together, primarily hymns and songs, drawing on rich centuries-old traditions and at the same time becoming a living, breathing expression of worship in the here and now. I know this is something that a lot of us are feeling the absence of.

Although I can't replicate the feeling of being together and the unique sound and space of Broughton St Mary's, I am attempting to stay connected with you by sharing some music on the church's *YouTube* channel, (see the link below), as well as playing my piano 'live' on the online Sunday service. I've recorded some wee videos, of me playing my piano at home mostly, and I hope you will have a little peek and a listen. There are also some pieces I've recorded on the organ in the church, to give you that unique 'BStM's' flavour! The audio is recorded with high quality gear and will sound far better if you listen through a decent speaker, or a pair of headphones plugged into your device. It's my aim to periodically add more videos, and Ian will keep you in the loop if you're on his email list.

If there are requests for a particular piece of music, please let me know. It might be a hymn or something else that you have heard in the church before. I can't make promises to fulfil requests but I will try. It doesn't hurt to ask!

Remember, *YouTube* is an almost limitless resource with a similarly vast global talent pool and so you might well find what you want if you do a quick search.

Any feedback or comments gratefully received – remember, if you listen to a *YouTube* video and like it, you can click the 'thumbs up' icon just below the video. Be careful not to click the 'thumbs down' icon by accident!! And you can even make a comment, and share the video with your friends on Facebook, WhatsApp, etc.

Love,

Chris (the organist).

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9IDzDM4MZH-WJw4qFnVxcg>

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**, or dropped through the letter box on the front door of the church. -Ed.*

Annual Report and Accounts

Our independently examined accounts for 2019 and earlier years are on the website under More/Finance. A link is below:-

<https://www.bstmchurch.org.uk/finance/>

Gordon Gray, Congregational Treasurer

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'.

MAY CALENDAR

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

A Prayer from Sandra

On a Tuesday night in April there was the most wonderful double rainbow over Edinburgh. I wonder how many of us saw it. I know when I did I was astounded at its brightness and beauty. It made me think of God's promise to Noah about not destroying the earth. I also wonder if you have noticed - during your limited excursions into the outside world - how many windows have rainbows in them? More and more are appearing. It seems that our small children have taken to drawing them - leastways that's what people are telling me. (Amongst them is Juliette Nelson who Meg tells me draws them constantly).

Almighty God, the Old Testament tells us that the rainbow reminds you of your promise to Noah not to destroy your children by flood. The coronavirus is a similar event. It is flooding the earth with its disease and destruction. So, Father, we ask just as you allowed the flood waters to rapidly recede, you rapidly remove the flood waters called coronavirus. Thank you, Father, for being there for us, listening to us and granting our request. Amen.

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

Rainbows on Iona

In response to Sandra's prayer, Lesley Orr shares this image of a double rainbow over St Martin's Cross on Iona. Lesley writes, "Callum, Lorn and I had planned to be on the island for Easter and we're sad that isn't possible. But Iona is always in our hearts, even when we can't be there."



NHS Rainbows

The rainbows in the windows are to thank all the NHS staff and key workers for all that they are doing in the battle against the virus. I painted my own rainbow which is in my front window! Perhaps, like me, you have been joining in with the Clap for our Carers campaign? Each Thursday, at 8pm, people have been out on their driveways, streets or balconies clapping and cheering to show support for the NHS and all essential workers. It has brought communities together, with neighbours chatting (at a safe distance) - sometimes for the first time. On one of the Thursdays, in my street, we clapped along as one of our neighbours played 'Scotland the Brave' on the bagpipes!

Diane Chisholm

The Day of Pentecost



From prophecy to fulfilment,
from fear to courage,
from confusion to conviction,
from despair to certain hope,
from head to heart,
from longing to knowing,
from weakness to strength,
from paralysis to power.
What a difference a day makes -

The Day of Pentecost
when the Spirit came
and everything was different
and possible.

Daphne Kitching



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



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 following the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been holding virtual worship every Sunday at 10:30 am. Locum Minister, Rev Dr Anne Logan leads a short act of worship lasting approx 15 minutes, 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. We are now using **Zoom**. You can access this by downloading the 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 from the Quay' which comes from Glasgow. Times vary from week to week but these usually start between 10 and 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

• A devout couple wanted a Christian dog. They were delighted with Fido who seemed to fit the bill. When they asked him to fetch a Bible he did it in a flash. When they instructed him to look up John 3:16, he turned right to it. They invited friends from their church over to see their remarkable dog in action and the guests were suitably impressed with his Christian tricks. 'Can he do normal dog tricks too?' they asked. So the couple decided to try this out. They clearly pronounced the command 'Heel!' Quick as a wink, the dog jumped up, put his paw on the man's forehead, closed his eyes in concentration and bowed his head.



• 'What is your cat's name, James?' asked the visitor. 'Ben Hur,' said James. 'That's a funny name for a cat. Why did you name it that?' said the visitor, with a smile. 'Well, we just called him Ben...,' replied James, '...until he had kittens.'

• Physics Professor: "What happens when the human body is immersed in warm water?" Student: "The telephone rings."

• The one thing that unites all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion, economic status or ethnic background, is that, deep down inside, we ALL believe that we are above-average drivers.

A senior moment

I made a list. I checked it twice. I left it at home.

A thought for these times...
'In a world where you can be anything,
be kind.'
Caroline Flack