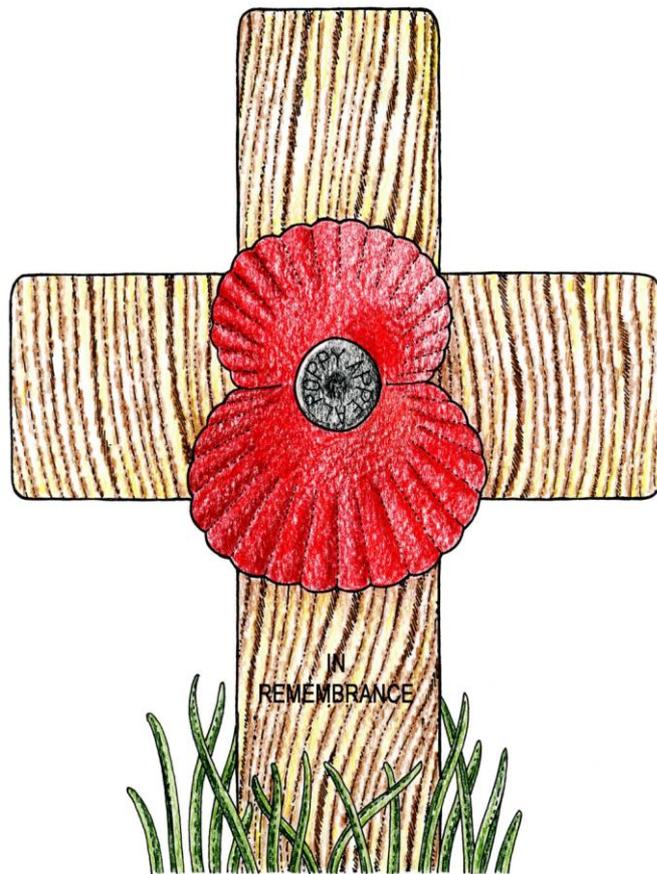


# THE BROUGHTON BEACON

*Magazine of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, Edinburgh*



## NOVEMBER 2020

Issue No. 240

[www.bstmchurch.org.uk](http://www.bstmchurch.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/bstmchurch](https://www.facebook.com/bstmchurch)

# 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](http://www.bstmchurch.org.uk)

**You can email us at** [mail@bstmchurch.org.uk](mailto:mail@bstmchurch.org.uk)

**Find us on facebook** [www.facebook.com/bstmchurch](http://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.

Our facilities are open 7 days a week, offering a welcoming space to a number of community groups, organisations and faith-based initiatives. We welcome enquiries to hire the use of the facilities but regret that we can only accept bookings for activities allowed under current government guidelines. Contact us for further information.

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. Presbytery has appointed Rev Sam Torrens as Interim Moderator and we are grateful for his support.

The Rev Bill Taylor will be conducting worship throughout November and December and we look forward to journeying towards Christmas with him.

Our church administrator, Lindsey Rowlands, has been on furlough since the start of lockdown. She is now back working a few hours a week, mainly from home. She can be contacted on [admin@bstmchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@bstmchurch.org.uk)

You can also contact Broughton St Mary's by email via the Session Clerk, Ian Buckingham, [ianbucks@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ianbucks@hotmail.co.uk) or [mail@bstmchurch.org.uk](mailto:mail@bstmchurch.org.uk).

For enquiries about the Beacon, contact the Editor, Diane Chisholm, at [diane\\_c@btinternet.com](mailto:diane_c@btinternet.com).

For more information about Broughton St Mary's, visit our website [www.bstmchurch.org.uk](http://www.bstmchurch.org.uk).



jom Exterior



**Keep safe and well everyone!**

## The Broughton Beacon November 2020

### Letter from Rev Bill Taylor

Dear Friends,

From a bus in Dalry Road I spotted some street art, a.k.a. graffiti! The spray paint artist had drawn a square box with an aerial on top. The picture on the graffiti TV was of a face with an upside-down smile. Underneath was written 'Are you happy?' It seemed to capture the mood of these times when people are tired of Covid 19 and want the virus to go away. We know there are many who feel their mental health tested as they try to cope. But the graffiti TV also made me smile, in its witty way perhaps it was inviting us to think about what makes us happy. Certainly, something that makes us laugh or smile each day is bound to help!

I've been thinking a bit about football these days and wondering what it must be like for footballers to play in an empty stadium. At the time of writing I believe some limited numbers can attend some matches, and that some clubs have arranged for fans to be able to watch games on a live stream. Does the absence of fans affect how footballers play? Somehow I think the cardboard cut-outs are not so vocal!

"With all the saints..." The month of November is a time of remembrance. It begins with All Saints Day, followed by All Souls. On Remembrance Sunday we think of those whose lives have been lost in times of war. As the nation remembers, this year we are conscious of many who have died as a result of coronavirus and other illnesses, and of the sacrifice of health care staff and key workers. I like to think of that 'great cloud of witnesses' mentioned in Hebrews, the heroes of faith who have gone before us. They are like a crowd in a great stadium. From where they are they cheer us on and encourage us, that we, whose time on the track or field is now, might "run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

We will each of us have our own remembrances at this time, and for our congregation treasured remembrances of Peter, our late minister. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and with all who feel the pain of loss.

In these challenging days we thank God for every word of encouragement. Smiles are welcome too, even if they can be hard to see behind a mask!

Paul prays for the congregation at Ephesus that they may be strengthened in their inner being and that they 'may have the power to comprehend *with all the saints* what is the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ's love, that they may be filled with all the fullness of God.' (Ephesians 3:18-19).

May the grace of our Lord Jesus also be with you.

Bill

*Rev Bill Taylor*

### Vacancy

On 3 November the Presbytery's Vacancy Procedures Committee will report to Presbytery that it has agreed to grant the congregation at Broughton St Mary's permission to call a minister in accordance with the Presbytery Plan. This is good news and means that after 3 November, subject to the necessary Church procedures, the congregation should be able to begin the process of looking for a new minister.

### Services at Broughton St Mary's

The Presbytery has given permission to use the sanctuary for worship on the condition that the total attendance at church is restricted to 40. This is based on the risk assessment and seating plan that was part of our application to reopen the building.

Worship will take place each Sunday at 10:30am at the church and on Zoom. Worshippers attending church are asked to wear a face covering and to follow the advice on the health and safety notices that are in the building.

For those who are unable to attend worship, we will offer worship from the church via Zoom.

For those who have internet access, you should follow the instructions on the church website at <https://www.bstmchurch.org.uk/2020/04/home-worship/>

If you do not have internet access you can still join the service on your telephone by following these instructions:

Step 1: Dial 0131 460 1196

Step 2: A recorded voice will ask you to enter the meeting ID on your telephone key pad

Step 3: Enter 112 135 361#

Step 4: A recorded voice will ask you to enter your participant number

Step 5: Enter #. You are now in the meeting/service.

With the exception of one Sunday, when the Rev Sam Torrens will conduct worship, services throughout November and December will be conducted by the Rev Bill Taylor.

### Refurbishment of Sanctuary and Vestibules

The tendering process for the refurbishment of the sanctuary and vestibules has begun and tender packages were sent out to 6 contractors who have expressed a desire to tender for the work. The closing date for applications is 13 November 2020.

*Ian Buckingham*

## PRISONERS WEEK 2020 'NOT ALONE'



This year's theme has emerged from the experience of COVID-19 – a reassurance to people affected by imprisonment that they are Not Alone. During the week we are highlighting the many different types of support and presence available to people. For more information go to <http://www.prisonersweek.org.uk/home#>

### Prison Christmas Gift Scheme

As in previous years, Broughton St Mary's will be supporting Edinburgh Prison's Gift Scheme this month. You are invited to bring your gifts of toys for the children of prisoners to church on **Sunday 29 November**. The gifts should be new and unwrapped. To comply with Covid safety measures, the gifts will be quarantined before being picked up by prison staff. The Gift Scheme has been running for over 30 years with many churches taking part. Hundreds of children and families benefit and this is much appreciated. Colin O'Flaherty from the prison told us: "I would like to thank you all for the work you do in arranging the collection of the presents. So many children have been able to open a present on Christmas morning due to your kindness and generosity."

### LIFE AND WORK

*A message from the producers of the Church of Scotland's magazine, Life and Work:*

"More than ever, Life and Work is playing a key role in keeping our Christian community connected and informed during difficult and uncertain times. Those that subscribe to the magazine of the Church of Scotland directly support the vital and vibrant work of the Church and we are grateful for their ongoing commitment. In the current climate we recognise the obstacles some people may face in receiving a copy of the magazine via their church. It is important we support our loyal readers and offer the opportunity to have the magazine sent **direct to their home**. We are offering a special promotion to anyone switching from purchasing their magazine via their church to placing a personal order to be sent

to their chosen address. This offer will be available throughout 2021 and is payable by direct debit only. **12 Month Subscription only £30, (usual price £36, so 2 free issues).**

Savings can also be made by subscribing to a digital edition of Life and Work at [www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org)."

If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please contact **Diane Chisholm** for details (0131 657 2447).

From January 2021 Broughton St Mary's will no longer be posting Life and Work to subscribers, and individual copies will not be available to pick up at the door.

### Margaret reaches 100!



Broughton St Mary's church member, Margaret Riddles, will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 14 November. Before the restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus, Margaret was a regular attender at church and we have missed her over these past months.

Beacon readers may be interested to know that Margaret had a distinguished career in the Navy during the Second World War, becoming a Chief Petty Officer in the WRENS. In civilian life she worked for many years as a draughtswoman for the Civil Service, and she supported the WRVS in voluntary work. Margaret has been a great supporter of the Guild and has also helped in the production of the church magazine over the years. She enjoys spending time with her family and is now a great-grandmother!

We wish Margaret many congratulations on reaching such a milestone and hope she has a very happy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*Diane Chisholm*

## Fund Raising

If anyone would like to purchase marmalade, jam or certain home baking items (eg fruit loaves) please contact Debbie Buckingham on 0131 557 5051. These items can be delivered if you live within a reasonable distance of the church. Many thanks to those who have already purchased jam, marmalade or baking in aid of church funds. Thanks also to those who have supplied me with empty jam jars.

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

*Debbie Buckingham*

## HELEN O'GRADY DRAMA ACADEMY

Classes are held at Broughton St Mary's Church, Bellevue Crescent, on a Friday from 1.50 - 2.50pm and a Saturday morning from 10 - 11am for Primary School children.

Our classes are great fun and are designed to give students confidence, self esteem and skills that will help them in all aspect of life.

*Get in touch to book a free trial lesson.*

[midscot@helenogrady.co.uk](mailto:midscot@helenogrady.co.uk)

[www.helenogrady.co.uk](http://www.helenogrady.co.uk)

07701 333476

## THE ROCK TRUST

Usually, at this time of year, we start collecting food for packing into Christmas boxes for the young homeless people of the Rock Trust.

Sadly, this year, we are unable to do this, due to all the Covid restrictions. Thank you for your support in previous years.

*Norma MacLeod*

## The Beacon - online!

The Broughton Beacon can now be accessed online via email and also on our website, [www.bstmchurch.org.uk](http://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, or you can pick up a copy at the church if you are able to attend on a Sunday.

## MESSY CHURCH

We are still unable to get together for Messy Church.

We hope to be up and running again before too

long, and we will keep you updated with any progress. For more information contact Jan Allan [messychurch@bstmchurch.org.uk](mailto:messychurch@bstmchurch.org.uk)



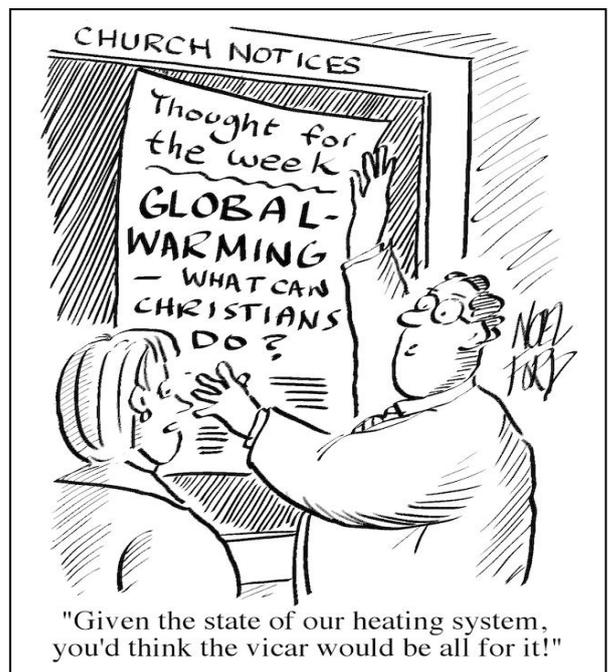
## Pastoral Care

These are tough times for people, and lonely times. We all keep well through inclusion, confirmation and having an element of control. Covid 19 has had an effect on everything that maintains wellbeing.

**Some handy tips for keeping well from the Pastoral Care Team:**

Connect with people - if you can't do face to face, write a letter, join Zoom Church or lift the phone to an old friend. Be active - even if it's exercises in your chair or a daily walk. Mental activity is also essential so try a wordsearch or puzzle, or sing old hymns to yourself and surprise yourself how the words come back to you. Take notice - a seat at the window, watch the news, read the newspaper, follow the seasons and the great work of nature. Keep learning - about yourself, about people, about society or just try and add a new recipe to your collection. Give - there is clear evidence that giving is part of feeling good. A kind thought, a wee gift to someone, or buy a toy for the children of prisoners and we can arrange to pick it up for you before Sunday 29 November.

**Please contact Colin Beck on 0131 556 4516 if you need assistance from a member of the team.**



# NOVEMBER CALENDAR

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

## Caring Communities

A Christian Aid survey found that around half of Scots were feeling more connected to their neighbours as the six-month anniversary of lockdown approached. The survey...found that 49% of Scottish adults felt an increased sense of community in their neighbourhood...

Sally Foster-Fulton, who is the head of Christian Aid Scotland, said that the results reflected what many people had been feeling.

“We are living through hugely challenging times but one of the positives is an increased sense of community connection with our neighbours – to those just across the street and across the world. We are all part of one humanity and share the same beautiful and fragile planet. As we launch our global Autumn Appeal we’re asking people to do what they can to fundraise for Christian Aid, and to do it for their global neighbours, who are facing huge challenges too and sometimes in really fragile contexts, with no access to even the basics like clean water and soap and with no safety net or NHS.

Climate change, less in the headlines because of the global pandemic but still causing huge challenges for those living in poverty, is an injustice we must keep challenging.”

*From an article in November’s Life and Work magazine.*

## Hilda's Home Comfort

Church member Hilda Miller features in an audio play by the Citadel Arts Group. *Home Comfort*, a new play by Vincent Maguire based on living memories of Isa’s Chat’n’Chew Café in Portland Place in Leith, has a new online rehearsed reading from Citadel Arts.

The script has been created by Maguire from conversations with the tenants of the Croft-an-Righ sheltered housing complex at Abbeyhill, run by Viewpoint Housing Association. It is the first production from Citadel Arts Group’s community project with the residents, the appropriately named Chat’n’Chew Drama Company. The Chat’n’Chew café was close to both Leith harbour and the well known Henry Robb Shipbuilders. It was the crossing point for many Leith lives in the 1950s and 60s. The play is performed by tenants from Croft-an-Righ, plus one professional actor. Hilda plays Dora, co-owner of Chat’n’Chew Café.

You can listen to the play by visiting:

<https://www.citadelgoesviral.com>

## Freewill Offering Envelopes 2021

If you are one of our members who uses FWO envelopes for your weekly donations, there will be a change to how they are distributed this year. The envelopes for 2021 will soon be available and in view of the circumstances, they will be mailed out instead of being left in the vestibule for collection. The aim is to post them at the end of November, so you should receive them early in December.

*Irene Marshall*

## The Blessed Dead



They lie at rest, our blessed  
dead;  
The dews drop cool above their  
head,  
They knew not when fleet  
summer fled.  
Together all, yet each alone;  
Each laid at rest beneath his  
own  
Smooth turf or white allotted  
stone.  
When shall our slumber sink so  
deep,  
And eyes that wept and eyes  
that weep  
Weep not in the sufficient  
sleep?  
God be with you, our great  
and small,  
Our loves, our best-beloved  
of all,  
Our own beyond the salt  
sea-wall.

*Christina Rossetti (1830-94)*

**Broughton St Mary’s will  
hold a Remembrance Service  
on Sunday 8 November.**

***Please note: The service will  
begin at 10.30am.***

## Greetings from

### Rev Dr Peter Millar

Peter has asked to pass on greetings to his friends at Broughton St Mary's. Peter writes, "In a few weeks I am bringing out a free book with the first 20 of the Candle Reflections in it. This was by popular demand!! I will have copies for Broughton St Mary's".



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



## The Real Advent Calendar 2020



The Christmas story told in a 24-page Christmas story-activity book free with every calendar.

Each calendar features 25 festive chocolate shapes in palm oil-free Fairtrade chocolate, with a line of the story behind each window.

In 2020/21 many of our products will feature a rainbow to remind us of the importance of working together in inspiring ways, for the common good.

We support these values by using Fairtrade chocolate – giving producers a fair price and a cash bonus. Money raised from the sale of the calendar will also help provide care and support for mums and new babies in African villages.

You can buy the calendar at [www.realadvent.co.uk](http://www.realadvent.co.uk) or by calling 01948 831043.



FAIRTRADE

For our full Christmas range visit [www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk](http://www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk)

## CrossReach Christmas Card and Calendar Collection

*A wide range of cards, 2021 calendars, gift wrap and other gifts.*

All profits go to support the work of CrossReach, the social care provider of the Church of Scotland, which provides services to the elderly, people with mental health and addiction problems, and vulnerable families and children across the country.

See the full collection and order yours at [www.shop.crossreach.org.uk](http://www.shop.crossreach.org.uk) or 0131 454 4374.

## The Last Laugh

### *A moving tale*

When the minister moved his family into the large Victorian manse, a member of the congregation asked the young son how he liked his new home. “It’s great,” the little boy replied. “At last I have my own room, my brother has his own room and my sister has her own room. But poor Mum is still in with Dad.”

### *With elections in mind*

~ A local council official said that he ran for office again because he thought his possible opponent, if successful, might be even more ineffective than he was.

~ Admirer to political candidate: “Great speech, sir! I really liked the straightforward way you dodged those issues.”

### *Going going...*

Auctioneer: Now what am I offered for this beautiful bust of Robert Browning?

Man in crowd: That isn’t Browning - that’s Shakespeare!

Auctioneer: Sorry - just goes to show how much I know about the Bible.

### *Put it this way...*

- ~ A man’s home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- ~ A pessimist’s blood type is always b-negative.
- ~ My wife really likes to make pottery, but to me it’s just kiln time.
- ~ A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother.
- ~ I used to work in a blanket factory, but it folded.
- ~ A gossip is someone with a great sense of rumour.
- ~ A committee is a dark avenue down which good ideas are lured and then quietly strangled.