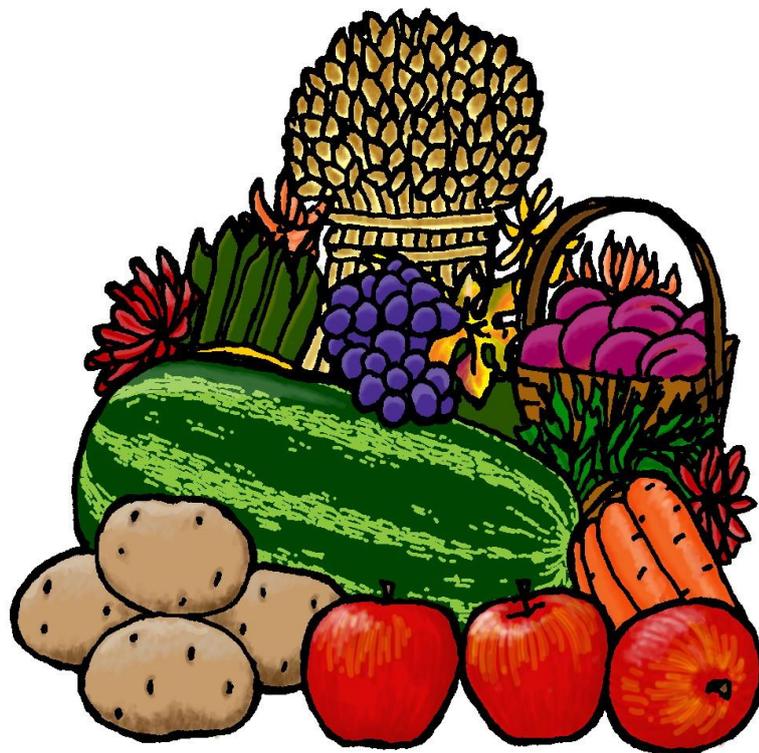


# THE BROUGHTON BEACON

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



## OCTOBER 2020

Issue No. 239

[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.

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



30m Exterior



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).

**Keep safe and well everyone!**

## The Broughton Beacon October 2020

### Letter from Rev Bill Taylor

Dear Friends,

A sailboat heading into the wind makes progress slowly and only with a lot of tacking and going about! Forward motion comes by working the angles and it's incremental. Boats feature in the Bible, from Noah's ark to Paul's shipwreck off the coast of Malta, from a floating pulpit Jesus used to the boat from which the disciples drew in a net so full of fish they thought it would burst. We know that tiny coracles brought Saints like Columba from Ireland to share the stories of Jesus when Christianity first began to spread in Scotland.

Words like 'navigation' and 'navy' owe their origins to the Latin *navis*, a ship, from which we also have the word 'nave', traditionally the long part of a Church or Cathedral where the congregation sits. Isn't it interesting that the Church is seen as a ship? We are on a voyage with Jesus in the boat, to places he will take us. There will be calm; at other times the passage will be hard. It appears Jesus sometimes calls his disciples to head for the deep waters and even to step out of the boat! Whatever the conditions we can be assured Jesus will be around.

At the time of writing new Covid restrictions are about to become law; it's clear it will take longer to emerge from this global pandemic than many of us imagined. As we tack and gybe and make adjustments to our lives it helps to know that Christ is by our side and the support of fellow-companions on the way. We look back and see how through the peaks and troughs we have found comfort and strength. Looking ahead we have every reason to believe God's never-failing love will inspire our forward journey.

At this time of year we often think of God's provision as we remember those who bring in the harvest and, these days, distribute it through a network of transport hubs and warehouses. Let us give thanks for all the people who bring food to our tables, whether it be the harvest of land or sea; let us also pray for those who have little to eat and are homeless in these times.

Thank you for the invitation to write this letter! I have enjoyed sharing in worship with you for a series of 6 Sundays during which time we have gone from Zoom services to Church and Zoom services! I want to say a special thank you to Ian, David, Chris, Lindsey and the Teams who have made this part of our journey possible and to all who support both these forms of worship. I look forward to being back with you in November.

With thanks for your prayers, faith and fellowship; may grace, mercy and peace be yours.

Bill *Rev Bill Taylor*

### Reopening of Church Building

The Presbytery of Edinburgh has given permission for Broughton St Mary's to open again for worship. Our first service following this permission was on 13 September when 28 worshippers came together in the sanctuary. The service was streamed live on Zoom for those that were unable to attend in person. 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 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.

Services on 4, 11 and 25 October will be conducted by Rev Fiona Tweedie. Rev Sam Torrens will conduct worship on 18 October.

*Ian Buckingham*

# Harvest Thanksgiving

## Sunday 4 October



You can help by donating food for the **Food Bank**. Just bring along your gift and drop it in the box at the front door on your way into church. Donations to the Food Bank can include: fruit juice (long life), tinned fruit, desserts (tinned or dried), coffee, biscuits and sugar. These gifts will be delivered by Food Bank volunteers who will wear a mask and will adhere to social distancing.

Our own members who normally receive a gift at Harvest will be sent the best wishes of the congregation in a seasonal card.

Happy Harvest from the Pastoral Care Team!  
[pastoralcare@bstmchurch.org.uk](mailto:pastoralcare@bstmchurch.org.uk).

## From the Kirk Session

### *Refurbishment of Sanctuary and Vestibules*

We had hoped to carry out the refurbishment of the sanctuary during the summer months but due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the business and construction sectors the start of the refurbishment has been delayed. The Kirk Session discussed this situation at its last meeting and agreed that, should circumstances allow, the planned work should begin in January 2021.

### *A Fitting Memorial to Peter Macdonald*

The completed refurbishment of the sanctuary and vestibules will be a fitting memorial to the vision of our late Minister Peter Macdonald. The Kirk Session, in consultation with Peter's wife Lesley, has discussed other ways in which Peter can be remembered. These include the possible creation of a fund in Peter's name which could be used to support people in need, and an artwork or

installation in the sanctuary. The Session felt it best to wait until the refurbishment is complete before proceeding with the installation of a possible artwork. The Kirk Session would like to invite members of the congregation to take part in these discussions and plans to remember Peter. **Please contact Ian Buckingham if you are interested in joining future discussions or simply wish to share your thoughts with the Kirk Session.**

### *Vacancy*

At the time of writing I am not in a position to give an update on steps to fill the vacancy at Broughton St Mary's caused by Peter's death. I can, however, advise that Presbytery does have the matter in hand and that I hope to be able to report more positively in next month's Beacon.

*Ian Buckingham*

## Message from Graham McGeoch

A letter from former minister Graham McGeoch appeared in last month's Beacon. Ian Buckingham replied to Graham who has responded as follows:

Thanks for the news on Broughton St Mary's. You have all been in our thoughts and prayers in recent months. It will have been a very difficult time for everyone. It is good to know that you have had the presence of experienced ministers to guide you through the grief and upset. I am sure, as I was when I left Edinburgh, that the future is bright for Broughton St Mary's.

Please convey my best wishes to everyone connected with the church and community. We have very fond memories of our time in Edinburgh in your midst.

Best wishes,  
Graham

## The Boggles have moved!

Readers might like to know that our friends Stephen, Anne-Claire and baby Martha have moved out of Edinburgh. They were looking for a family home with a garden and they have found it in lovely Bridge of Allan. It's sad for us - we will miss wee Martha smiling at us in church - but it's lovely for them. We wish them all the best in their new home and hope to see them sometime when they are visiting Edinburgh.

## 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*

## Prayer Requests

As we have not been able to come together as a church family in a physical sense, it has not been 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](mailto:jendicott@btinternet.com)

## CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Our church administrator, Lindsey Rowlands, has been on furlough throughout the past few months.

She is now back working a few hours a week, mainly from home, and is partly still on furlough.

If you wish to contact Lindsey please email

[admin@bstmchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@bstmchurch.org.uk)

## 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.

## MESSY CHURCH



Under the current guidance available to us, we are still unable to get together for Messy Church.

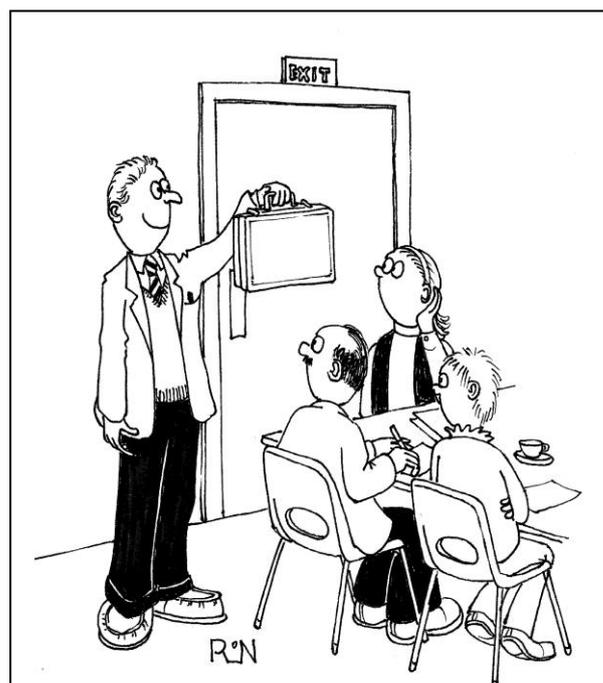
With the rules of social distancing, and restrictions on providing and sharing equipment, materials and lunch still in place, we are unable to find a way to work around all this.

We do hope to be up and running again soon, and we will keep you updated with any progress. We hope to see you back soon.

For more information contact Jan Allan  
[messychurch@bstmchurch.org.uk](mailto:messychurch@bstmchurch.org.uk)

## Pastoral Care

The members of the Pastoral Care Team, and others, 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 treasurer made the most of his moment in the limelight*

## OCTOBER CALENDAR

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

### *More thoughts on Covid...*

*...from the October issue of 'Life and Work'*

“Covid-19 has reminded us of our frailty - that we’re not all-powerful or invincible. Less of ourselves and more reliance on God would be no bad outcome of this season.”

*Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland*

“Many church buildings will remain closed and online worship rather than being a blip that has occurred during the summer of 2020, may well become the medium of choice for many for the next two years... Whatever way we decide to worship God, we need to offer our very best, regardless of cost, even in the midst of a recession. We need to be people of prayer and creativity as we search to blend offline and online worship in such a way that it brings honour to God and relief and inspiration to weary souls.”

*Very Rev Albert Bogle*

“I was always very involved with the church, and still am to this day... This virus has not shaken my faith in the least. It has, in some ways, made me more reliant - more relentless... We will all get through this. But we might have to accept that we will get a new version of ‘normal’.”

*Professor Jason Leitch, National Clinical Director of Health Quality and Strategy.*

### *Welcome the wild geese...*

One of the most iconic sounds of autumn is the chorus of honking from the skeins of wild geese as they fly in v-formation across Scottish skies. Thousands of pink-footed geese nest in Iceland and Greenland and migrate to Scotland in autumn to spend the winter months in a milder climate.



I heard that unmistakable sound last week while working in my garden. I looked up and, sure enough, there were several long straggles of geese following their leaders as they headed to (I’m guessing) Holyrood Park or maybe Duddingston Loch. They really cheered me up!

*Diane Chisholm*

### *A Helping Hand*

There is much we can do just to brighten  
This world of all take and no give,  
There’s a great deal that we can contribute  
Through the everyday lives that we live.

By supporting one’s elderly neighbours,  
Or through lending a hand in some way.  
It’s by taking a bunch of spring flowers  
To someone to brighten their day.

It’s by sparing a few precious hours  
In the service of those most in need,  
It’s all about setting a standard  
And trying to give others a lead

It’s the way that we tend to treat others  
And help and aid folks in distress,  
In the care and assistance we offer  
That will set us apart from the rest.

The choice that we face is quite simple,  
The rewards plain for all folk to see,  
As you did all of this to my brother,  
Then, said Jesus, you did it to me.

*Colin Hammacott*

### *A thought for today*

*Mother Teresa once observed:  
“We cannot do great deeds,  
but we can do small deeds  
with great love.”*



*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)

## The Last Laugh

### *News from the Pews...*

A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her class. After explaining the commandment to ‘honour thy father and thy mother’, she said: “Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?” Without missing a beat, one little boy answered: “Thou shalt not kill.”

Members of a local church discovered that the roof was leaking. The following Sunday morning the churchwarden stood up: “First of all, I want to apologise for the big drip in our pulpit this morning.”

### *From a parish magazine:*

We are delighted to report that the choir raised £120 for the building fund during their recent sponsored sing. This included £10 for them not to do it again.



### *Advert that appeared in a church newsletter:*

Wanted: Editor for the magazine. Must have own computer, own paper, own printer, own ink, own car for monthly distribution - and a good sense of humour.

*From a church bulletin:* The church council meeting on Tuesday will be gin with prayer.

A poster read: Where will you be on Judgment Day?

The graffiti below read: Still waiting for the number 8 bus.



## SALE OF PICTURES

*in aid of Christian Aid*

St Andrew's and St George's West Church  
13 George Street

22 – 24 October  
Thurs - Friday 10am - 5pm  
Sat 10am - 3pm