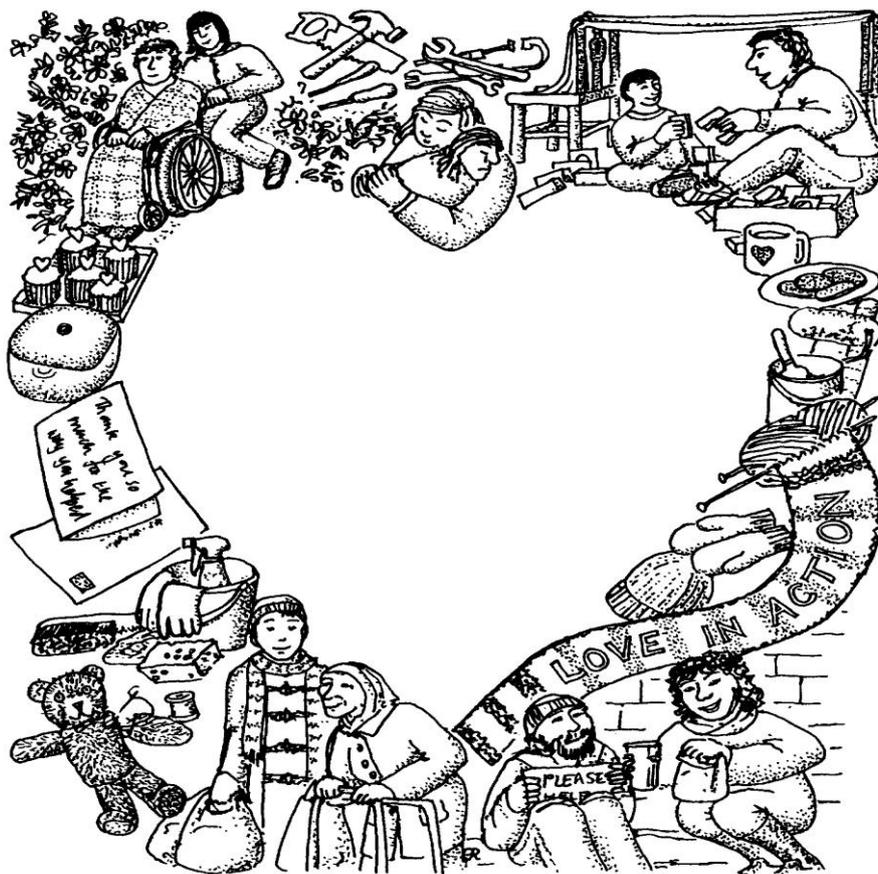


# THE BROUGHTON BEACON

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



## FEBRUARY 2021

Issue No. 243

[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



**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](https://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 2020. Presbytery has appointed Rev Sam Torrens as Interim Moderator and we are grateful for his support. We also value the support of Rev Bill Taylor, who will be conducting worship for the foreseeable future. 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)



## The Broughton Beacon February 2021

### Letter from Rev Bill Taylor

Dear Friends,

Maybe we have not said often enough that what we see now is “but a poor reflection” (1 Corinthians 13:12 NIV). If as Church the impression has been given that we have all the answers, then coronavirus has surely ended that, for there are no easy answers to why it should be we are living through a global pandemic. There is much we do not know.

The end of January marks one year since the first recorded case of Covid-19 in the UK. Life has totally changed for so many of us and words fail as we feel for those who have lost loved ones or livelihoods, education and opportunities. Unprecedented progress has been made in the development of several vaccines, though there are unknowns. The vaccines will protect the lives of those vaccinated, but it cannot be said yet if a person who has been vaccinated can still pass on the virus. Restrictions may well continue for some time to come.

Recently I’ve had the chance to read a short book called “God and the Pandemic” by Tom Wright\*. As I understand his argument, those who interpret the pandemic as a sign from God are likely to be disappointed. Prof Wright cites the parable of the Tenants in the Vineyard (Mark 12:1-12) who abuse the owner’s servants when they call to collect his share of the fruit. As a last chance he sends them his son, but they kill him. “After that there can be no more messengers.” He, the Son, was the ultimate message and that remains the case. If we want to know what God is saying to us during a pandemic, when so little can be said but lament, we need look nowhere else but Jesus. Here we see God shedding tears for friends, drawing alongside the broken, lightening the load, reaching out to the vulnerable. Jesus’ disciples are to do the same, making visible his compassion, working for God’s kingdom of justice where all are properly resourced, testifying through simple acts of kindness to the love from which nothing in life or death, things present or things to come, can separate us (Romans 8: 38-39).

This is the ‘kindly light’ that leads when we cannot see the distant scene.

February is a hard month for us as a congregation as we mark the anniversary of Peter’s death and remember in our prayers all who have lost loved ones over this time. Many find solace from the words of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. It conjures up pictures of green pastures and still waters, yet it was written from the Negev desert where these are in short supply. Though it is hot

and dry, arid and harsh there, the Psalmist is confident in the Good Shepherd who will lead him through the deepest ravines to refreshing streams and nourishment. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February when we are invited to journey with Jesus to Jerusalem where he will put that message of love into an ultimate action on a cross, by which we know God is with us and will lead us through to the renewal that is Easter. So it is we can pray with hope that the life of God’s Kingdom will break all the more upon this good earth.

Every blessing and keep safe,  
Bill

*Rev Bill Taylor*

*\*SPCK, 28 May 2020*

### The Church of Scotland is encouraging people to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Rev Dr George Whyte, Principal Clerk of the General Assembly, said it is imperative that people keep themselves and others safe. He has signed a statement with seven other faith leaders in a show of support for the vaccination programme which could see up to 400,000 people across Scotland given the jab every week by the end of February.

It reads: “We faith leaders in Scotland understand the difficulty that our communities are facing during this pandemic. We urge all faith communities to take measures that will ensure their safety and the safety of others. Furthermore, we support the COVID-19 vaccination programme across the community and we encourage people to be vaccinated so that they keep themselves and their neighbours safe...”

The Church of Scotland is working with the Scottish Government to ensure that local churches continue to be part of the effort to suppress the Coronavirus outbreak by following the advice to stay at home as much as possible. We fully accept that the latest pandemic restrictions mean that we have to close churches again for the time being.

While recognising that communal worship is an essential element of our faith, we also know that the Church remains present and active in our local communities even while buildings are closed. We will continue to work with the Scottish Government to ensure that reopening churches will happen as soon as it can be done safely”.

Dr Whyte said the vast majority of members understand and support the temporary restrictions and people are looking forward to the day when they can meet in person once again.

“In the meantime, we are encouraged by the many church congregations across Scotland who are offering essential support -both spiritual and practical - to their local communities,” he added.

*From The Church of Scotland website.*

## Covid-19 Tier 4 Restrictions

On 4 January 2021, the First Minister announced that mainland Scotland would move to a new temporary lockdown (referred to as 'enhanced level 4'). Church buildings could no longer open for public worship from 8 January 2021, although certain exceptions in relation to the use of buildings are allowed. This means that we cannot hold services in the church for the time being.

The Scottish Government's Communities Secretary, Aileen Campbell MSP has sent a message of reassurance to faith groups, saying that places of worship will be among the first to reopen when Covid restrictions are eased. In her letter, Ms Campbell thanks congregations for their hard work to support local communities during the pandemic and says she appreciates "the significant role communal worship plays in supporting people's mental and spiritual well-being, and its importance as a lifeline for many in preventing social isolation and loneliness".

The Kirk Session has agreed that Broughton St Mary's will continue to provide services of worship at 10:30am each Sunday for you via the Zoom platform. For information on how to connect to church services on Zoom, 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.

Before and after the service there is an opportunity to talk with the other worshippers and catch up with old friends.

*Ian Buckingham*

## WAVERLEY CARE

*Every year the monies raised from the sale of tea and coffee after Sunday Worship are donated to Waverley Care and our own Sunday Club. Due to the Covid pandemic we were not able to meet for coffee after March 2020. We have received a letter of thanks with information on the work of Waverley Care.*

Dear all at Broughton St Mary's Parish Church,

Thank you for the generous donation of £107.47. This has been an incredibly difficult year for Waverley Care, and we are so grateful to have your continued support. Your donation is needed now more than ever. We have found that many of the people we work with have needed more intensive support this year. Many of our service users already experience poor mental health and social isolation, which has been worsened by the pandemic. Those who are homeless, or who have no access to public funds, have also been severely impacted. We are pleased to have been able to purchase essential items for the most vulnerable people.

Staff from our frontline services have been working to stay connected with service users through regular phone and video contact. We've been delivering food, medication, and other essential items to those who are socially isolating or shielding. We have continued to run our infant formula milk scheme, delivering milk to families across the Central Belt to reduce the risk of mothers passing on HIV onto to their babies.

Your gift helps make this work happen. We can't thank you enough.

With warmest wishes,

*Holly Rawlings, Fundraiser*

## PASTORAL CARE

It is important to stay in touch with our church family in whatever ways we can during the current restrictions. The Pastoral Care team, and others, have been trying to keep in touch with those who need support during these difficult times. We have delivered over 25 calendars and best wishes to our older members, including those in care homes, and one of our members has been sending cards to remind people that they are in our thoughts. We also have a secret shortbread supplier who has dropped off some of the best ever shortbread on the doorsteps of some of our members. Soon it might be you!

If you know of anyone who might need support - even if just a friendly phone call - or if you would like to offer help, please contact the Team.

We hope it won't be too long before we can get back to home visiting, flower delivery and a right good party in 2021.

**Please contact Colin Beck on 0131 556 4516 or 07771 776415 if you need assistance from a member of the team.**

## Fund Raising

Due to the current restrictions, we are not able to meet in church, gather for coffee mornings, fairs etc. but, hopefully, there will be the opportunity later this year.

My grateful thanks to my customers (you know who you are) who purchase my home produce and who have contributed to the church funds by doing so.

Thank you to those who have supplied me with empty jam jars. I am now in the process of making Seville orange marmalade.

If anyone wishes to purchase marmalade or some baking, please phone and I can arrange to deliver it to you, if you stay not too far away. Sorry, I do not have any jam at the moment.

Until we can meet again in church and resume our fund raising events, please keep safe and well.

*Debbie Buckingham*

## Hilda Miller in "Lockdown Christmas"

Church member Hilda Miller appears in the Chat 'N' Chew Drama Company's production of an audio play entitled "Lockdown Christmas". The play by Vincent Maguire is the second audio production by the company which is based in Croft-an-Righ, a Viewpoint Housing Association complex for older people. The play is performed by the tenants assisted by professional actors, Sian Fiddimore and Adam Tomkins. Music is by Al Clement, sound design by Stewart Emm and the play is directed by Liz Hare. The production was a collaboration with the Citadel Arts Group. You can hear the play by going to the "Citadel Goes Viral Website" or following the link below:

<https://www.citadelgoesviral.com/?fbclid=IwAR3mCT2Po1eUEHrm1O9XtdUtbbnq0e3AwMSZvtgT9Jc3l3yWmIpJnVtPtk>

## Christmas and New Year Greetings

*These cards were delivered to the church.*

"Happy Christmas to all at Broughton St Mary's and a very big thank you. Roll on a new beginning in 2021." From Anne Aarsten.

To "the wonderful congregation of Broughton St Mary's Church. Merry Christmas and all the best in 2021". With love, Gordon, Meg, Annabelle and Juliette Nelson.

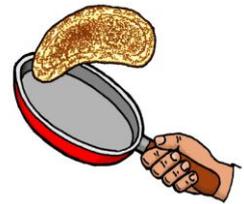
## Commissioner to the General Assembly

Broughton St Mary's has been invited to nominate an elder to attend this year's General Assembly. At its meeting on 16 December, the Kirk Session nominated Ian Buckingham to be its commissioner to the General Assembly which begins this year on 22 May. The Assembly will be held online due to the uncertainty about the Covid restrictions that may still be necessary this Spring.

*Ian Buckingham*

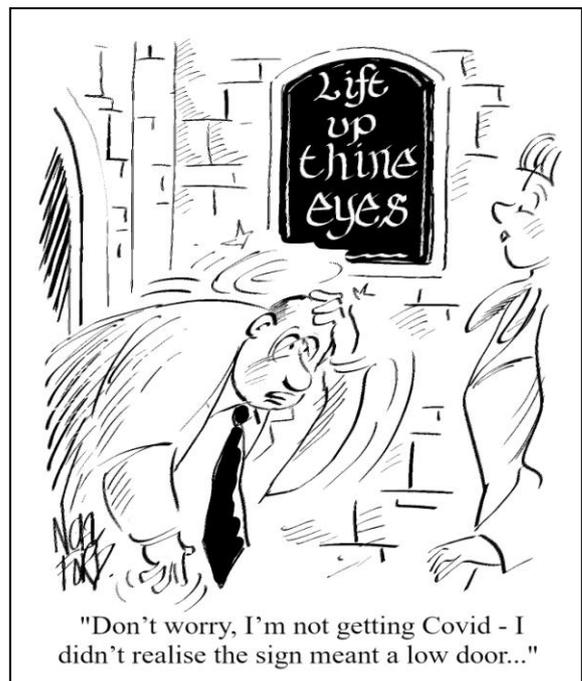
## Shrove Tuesday - 16 February

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and fasting.



So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us *Shrove* Tuesday.

At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. Flipping pancakes is a centuries old custom. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."



"Don't worry, I'm not getting Covid - I didn't realise the sign meant a low door..."

# FEBRUARY CALENDAR

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

## National Nestbox Week

Our birds are short of nesting holes, and no wonder: gardens, parks and woodland are much neater than they used to be, and modern homes offer few crannies for nest building. National Nestbox Week, which is celebrated from 14 February each year, aims to encourage us to put up more nestboxes, and to consider planting shrubs or trees with fruit that birds eat. These can make all the difference to birds struggling to survive, especially blue tits, great tits, house sparrows, robins and starlings. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) offers a variety of ideas for building and placing nestboxes.

Go to: <https://www.nestboxweek.com>

*I'm hoping to put up a nestbox in my garden if I can find a suitable spot. The recent lockdown has reawakened my interest in birdwatching. I recommend it as an absorbing activity! -Ed.*

## Let your light shine...

*Jim Liddle led our Prayers of the People on 3 January and included these words by Dr Elizabeth Kubler Ross:*

"People are like stained glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in their true beauty is revealed, only if there is a light from within".

"The most beautiful people we have known are often those who have known defeat, struggle, suffering and loss, and somehow found their way out of the depths. These individuals frequently have an appreciation, a sensitivity and an understanding of life, that fills them with compassion, gentleness and a deep loving concern.

Beautiful people do not just happen."

*Dr Elizabeth Kubler Ross.*

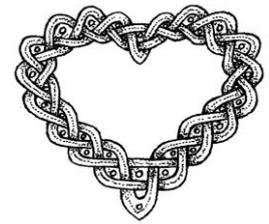
We are fortunate to have beautiful stained glass windows in our sanctuary at Broughton St Mary's. Perhaps we will look at them in a new way when we are able to return to our building.

You may recognise the window pictured above. It is 'The Adoration of the Magi' by Nathaniel Bryson and dates from 1925.



*For Valentine's Day...*

## Love



He held her close in his arms'  
embrace,  
Their eyes and their lips did  
meet,  
He looked down into her  
lovely face,  
And her heart did faster beat.

They went to the kirk and it  
came the day,  
And the book the priest did  
take;  
He in his kilt was so bright and  
gay  
As his promise he did make.

She stood at his side so white  
and fair,  
Her white fingers fair to give,  
The priest handfasted them  
then and there,  
And he blessed them long to  
live.

O God give the joy and God  
the love  
To those who are lovers true,  
Shed down benediction from  
above  
As in one are joined the two.

*From Prayers of the Western  
Highlanders*



*A Celtic prayer  
from Rev Peter Millar:  
I am in trust, that in its proper  
time, the great and gracious  
God will not put out for me  
the light of hope.*



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



## Church Action on Poverty Sunday 21 February

This month you can join churches around the UK in prayer, giving and action, on behalf of those who are struggling with poverty. Society should be “founded on compassion and justice, where all people are able to exercise dignity, agency and power,” says Church Action on Poverty.

For free resources for prayer or fund-raising go to:

[www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/).

## The REAL Easter Egg

*From the Meaningful Chocolate Company*

It is not too soon to order your Real Easter Eggs! Out of the 80 million chocolate eggs sold in this part of the world each year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one with a copy of the Easter story in the box, providing an opportunity to share the joy of Easter with friends and family. Because of the pandemic it is more important than ever that we find ways to share the Easter story in 2021.

Many of this year’s products will feature a rainbow to remind us of the importance of working together in inspiring ways, for the common good. The Real Easter Egg supports these values by using Fairtrade chocolate – giving producers a fair price as well as a ‘top-up’ cash bonus to invest in improving their communities, buying everything from school books to solar panels and providing fresh water.

The full range can be ordered at  
[www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk)

## WARNING: EMAIL SCAM

Church people have been targeted recently by an email scam. It will come from a trusted person, like a minister, and will say something like ‘I need a favor’ (American spelling).

**Do NOT reply to the email. Delete it right away.**

## The Last Laugh

~ A young woman woke one morning and told her husband, “I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace for Valentine’s Day. What do you think it means?”



“You’ll know tonight”, he replied with a smile.

Sure enough, that evening the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it, only to find a book entitled ‘The Meaning of Dreams’.

~ A young minister, serving his first church, noticed that one of his congregation had been absent from services several Sundays in a row, so he decided to see her and ask the reason. The old woman shook her head and looked at him pityingly. “Son,” she said, “you can’t help me. You are not old enough to have sinned enough to have repented enough to be able to preach about it.”

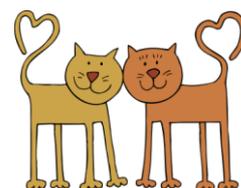
### *Miscellaneous observations on modern life...*

As any member of a church committee will tell you, after all is said and done, there’s a lot more said than done.

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

Cleaning is just putting stuff in less obvious places.

If I wanted to hear the pitter-patter of little feet, I’d put shoes on my cat.



I really don’t mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.