

# THE BROUGHTON BEACON

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



## MARCH 2021

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

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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](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 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 March 2021

### Letter from Rev Bill Taylor

Dear Friends,

Isn't it good to see the days lengthen and the early buds of spring? No doubt new-born lambs are leaping in the fields; if it were possible to go out of Edinburgh that would be a delight to see! After the year that has been, these little signs from nature lead us into hope and life again. Lent is an Old English word which means to lengthen, reflecting the increase in light that comes with Spring. Jesus uses pictures from nature to illustrate the swing of the pendulum to embrace life again. "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." (John 12:24 NRSVA) From seedtime to harvest, from the dead of winter to the green shoots of Spring, life emerges again. Jesus was helping his followers to understand what would soon happen to their Lord, that even when it came to an ignominious cross, life would come again.

Lent challenges us to reflect upon what brings life, to discern which ways enrich life and which do not. Though Lent is often associated with giving things up and less excess, the heart of it is about embracing life in all its fullness. Of course, this isn't just about my life but about life that is better for us all and indeed, for the planet. With God's help, we may have to set aside certain habits, attitudes or behaviours, not to dampen down the joy, rather to increase it throughout creation. "I have said these things to you" Jesus was clear, "so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." (John 15:11 NRSVA)

We have the advantage of being on the other side of the resurrection, which the first disciples did not. Yet Jesus reassured them and gave them ways of understanding how to make sense of the challenges they would face.

Lent is actually longer than 40 days (the traditional period derived from Jesus' sojourn in the desert at the start of his ministry) in this part of the world. Lent is lengthened! This is because Sundays aren't counted, Sunday being the day of resurrection. And so, through Lent there is this gentle oscillation that brings us back at the beginning of each week to life again, even though we may be daunted by some difficult stuff in the days in between.

We remember how passionately Jesus cared. He would not desist from the good that led to opposition finally taking the shape of a cross. Jesus' is the perfect love which chases all fear away and that nothing can end. Even when it seems to have been shut away in a borrowed tomb, Jesus' love springs to life again.

May you find much blessing on the journey through Lent to Easter,

Bill

*Rev Bill Taylor*

### Long Service Certificates

In recognition of their valued contributions to the work of the Church in their capacity as ruling elders, **Ronnie Gibson** and **Stuart Brown** have received Long Service Certificates signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Ronnie was ordained as an elder in 1955 and Stuart in 1966 and they have faithfully served the Church for 66 and 55 years respectively. During this time, Ronnie was Assistant Treasurer of St Mary's Church from 1982 to 1989 and Treasurer from 1989 to 1992. Stuart served as Session Clerk at St Mary's from 1983 to 1992. We regret that due to the Coronavirus restrictions we were not able to present them with their certificates in church.

### Services of Worship

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*

# Remembering Peter

*Last month marked a year since the sudden death of our minister, Peter Macdonald. Below is part of Ian Buckingham's moving tribute, given at a Zoom service on 14 February.*

Peter first came to Broughton St Mary's towards the end of 2017 as locum, and was inducted as minister in November 2018. Peter was a popular and dynamic minister in his previous charges at Torbain in Kirkcaldy and St George's West. He was driven, had vision and had a way of energising a congregation and getting things done. We became aware of this during his short time with us. He had an impact not only on church life but also in the communities in which he served...

Peter was a passionate man, politically driven and full of conviction. A champion for justice and human rights. The plight of the Palestinian people was a major concern for him. He was on the board of Hadeel, a Fair Trade shop which aims to provide a source of income for craftspeople working in the West Bank, Gaza and Galilee, and he had plans to visit Israel/Palestine last year. Peter was also Leader of the Iona Community, a Christian ecumenical community working for peace and social justice.

We will remember Peter as an inspiring preacher and encourager. He was adept at giving an insightful reading of the gospels and shining new light on the scriptures and allowing us an insight into the radical message of the gospel. For him the gospel was for everyone. People had to know that the love of God extended to all and he wanted us to know that the gospel mattered - there were no exceptions, and at the heart of this was a desire for social justice.

With an optimistic outlook, his enthusiasm was infectious. He was able to relate to people - and they to him - he was a real "people person". His enthusiasm came to the fore when he engaged with the children - he became a child himself often taking part in messy activities and pranks... He had a real sense of fun.

Peter was with us at Broughton St Mary's for what seems like the blink of an eye. In that time, he was able to build on the work of the previous ministries of Joanne Hood and Graham McGeoch as our church continues to be an inclusive and welcoming community serving the people of this congregation and parish. During the past week a

card was received at the church from a local resident living in Drummond Place:

"To the family and congregation of Peter Macdonald - have you thought of the way his ministry was both timeless, yet contemporary. At this time many thoughts are with you. Perhaps at this time he should have a living memorial, here in this cosmopolitan neighbourhood?"

How true that is. Peter's ministry was indeed both timeless, yet contemporary!

Peter and the Kirk Session had shared a plan for what was to be the 10 years of Peter's ministry with us. His sudden death has left a gap and unfinished business - we do not know why it was Peter's time to leave us - but we must trust that God is in control and remember that there is nothing in life or death that can separate us from the love of God. A love that was at the centre of Peter's preaching.

We miss Peter. The pandemic has prevented all of us from being able to grieve together and fully come to terms with our loss. There is a part of me that still expects him to be around. I still hear his voice. In my mind's eye I can still see Peter at the lectern passionately delivering the gospel lessons of peace, love, compassion, truth, understanding and positive activism, for all will transform our lives.

We give thanks to God for the life of Peter Macdonald. A life of service that saw him serve his God as an assistant minister at the Old Kirk Pilton, Church of Scotland Young Adult Adviser, Minister at Torbain and at St George's West, Leader of the Iona Community, and lastly Minister at Broughton St Mary's. We give thanks that we were able to share the journey with Peter albeit for only a brief time. It is poignant to remember the last service Peter conducted at Broughton St Mary's. He was looking forward and encouraged us to further the work of the church in this place and that we could all play a part in its work. Little did any of us know that that would be his last message for us. We are now the torch bearers, we can be the living memorial.

We remember those who miss Peter the most at this anniversary time, his dear wife Lesley, sons Callum and Lorn, and entrust them to the loving arms of God.

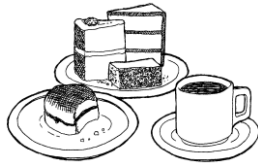
*Ian Buckingham*

## 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. 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. Thank you to those who have supplied me with empty jam jars.

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

*Debbie Buckingham*



*Grateful thanks must go to Debbie for all her fundraising efforts over this past year. It is much appreciated. -Ed.*

## Stated Annual Meeting

The 28<sup>th</sup> Stated Annual Meeting of the congregation of Broughton St Mary's will take place after worship on 21 March 2021. Due to the current coronavirus restrictions, the meeting will take place via the Zoom platform. Copies of the accounts will be made available by email or post on request to the Session Clerk.

Questions on the accounts may be made to the Treasurer, Mr Gordon Gray, by email at [treasurer@bstmchurch.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@bstmchurch.org.uk) or telephone 0131 315 0253.

## Notice of Stated Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Stated Annual Meeting of those whose names appear on the Communion Roll of this congregation will be held on Sunday 21 March 2021 following morning worship. At this meeting,

1. The Kirk Session will present the independently examined accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020.
2. The Kirk Session will present the budget for the year ended 31 December 2021.

By order of the Kirk Session  
*Ian Buckingham, Session Clerk*

## 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. 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.

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

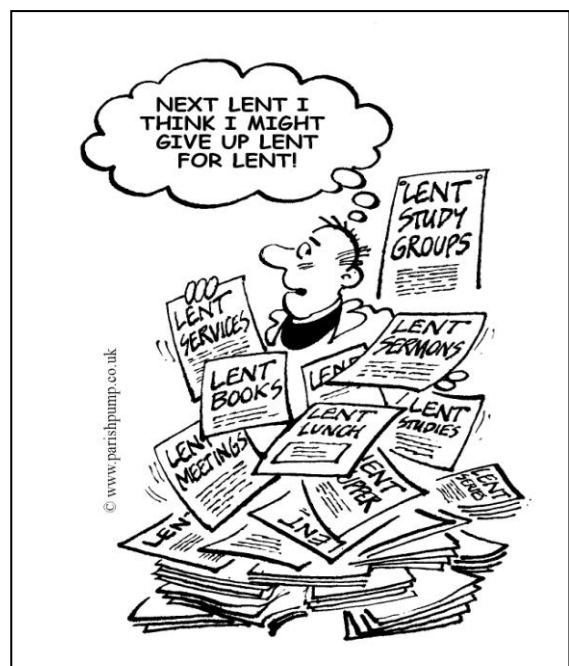
## Participation in Worship

Thanks to those who have responded as we seek to grow the team who lead prayers, readings or All-age addresses in our services. These opportunities help us celebrate the gifts God has given and the ministry of the whole people of God. If you are interested please contact Ian Buckingham or Bill Taylor.

## A Message from the Gift Aid Convener

Do you donate to church funds under the Gift Aid scheme? Please remember to let me know if your circumstances change and you cease to pay tax. You can do this by contacting me via the church email at [mail@bstmchurch.org.uk](mailto:mail@bstmchurch.org.uk)

*Irene Marshall*



# MARCH CALENDAR

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

## The Season of Lent

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland is encouraging people to use Lent, which this year runs from Wednesday 17 February until Saturday 3 April, as a period of reflection. The Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair also suggests that rather than give something up as is traditional, it could be used as a time to proactively start something new.

"This year let's try to avoid reducing Lent to 'I'm not going to eat chocolate'," he said. "Perhaps don't think so much about what you're giving up - think about what you're taking up. What am I going to do this week that's positive? Think about what you might do. Lent is a period of contemplation and reflection and as we look to the eventual easing of lockdown what have we all been through this last year?"

Can we use Lent as a period to reflect on that? To think about what is important and what our priorities are and to introduce the spiritual into that. What will the journey towards Easter mean for us this year?"

## Time to Pray

I got up early one morning  
and rushed right into the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
that I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me,  
and heavier came each task.  
"Why doesn't God help me?"  
I wondered.  
He answered, "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty,  
but the day toiled on, grey and bleak;  
I wondered why God didn't show me.  
He said, "But you didn't seek."

I tried to come into God's presence;  
I used all my keys at the lock.  
God gently and lovingly chided,  
"My child, you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning,  
and paused before entering the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
that I had to take time to pray.

*Author unknown*

## Send a Prayer

CrossReach is combatting isolation this Lent by inviting everyone to send them a prayer from 17 February to 3 April, which will be collected together and released on Easter Sunday. Entries can be submitted to the Church of Scotland's social care arm as a short 10-second video, audio file, or letter, which will then be used to create a single online prayer stream.

The 'Prayer Share' aims to cut through the loneliness of the pandemic and encourage people across Scotland to share our personal wishes for ourselves, our loved ones, our neighbours and the world.

- Submit a 10-second prayer online by sending it through Whatsapp on the number 07368844767.

Post a prayer by letter to:  
Supporter Development  
CrossReach, Charis House,  
47 Milton Road East,  
Edinburgh, EH15 2SR.

## A Message from Rev Sam Torrens (on 12 Feb)

Dear All, Thinking of you all on this poignant day. May you know that peace which passes all understanding, that love from which nothing in life or in death can separate us, and be aware of that presence which brings comfort in the felt absence of a wonderful minister and person.

Bless you,  
Sam, *Interim Moderator*

## The Goldfinch



A flash of yellow, gold, and red  
Dancing in our flower bed  
Flocked together, bringing charm,  
Their joyful song restoring calm.  
Through centuries since times of old  
We've always loved their plumage bold;  
As they gathered round to feed,  
Seeking grubs, and thistle seed.  
So, go ahead, and plant some thistles,  
You will see, among the bristles  
Golden birds who dance and dart  
Bringing joy to warm your heart.

*Nigel Beeton*

*Goldfinches are a favourite of mine. Did you know - the collective noun for goldfinches is a charm? -Ed.*

# Congregational Register

## New Member by Special Resolution of the Kirk Session

Mrs JEAN LYLE, 10 Bellevue Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 6NE.



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



## The REAL Easter Egg

*From the  
Meaningful Chocolate Company*



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.

**Order your eggs at [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk)  
or by calling 01948 831043.**

## Part of a letter from Edinburgh Prison

Dearest Friends,

I will begin with thanking you all personally for your help and support (*with the Gift Scheme*). The difference the gift collection makes is impossible to measure in words. But believe me when I say, it makes a difference to the lives of so many children. Children that without your kindness and generosity may not have had any gifts to open on Christmas morning... Through your kindness and generosity, we were able to help eighty-eight families and one hundred and seventy-eight children. My thanks go to you and your congregations for the wonderful gifts that were donated. The gift collection was perhaps more important this year, due to the circumstances we all find ourselves living in.

Kindest Regards,  
*Colin O'Flaherty*

## The Last Laugh

### *For Mother's Day...*

Q: Why did your mum marry your dad?

A: My grandma says that no-one will ever know.

Q: Who's the boss in your house?

A: Dad was until Mum found out what he had written about Granny on Facebook.

Q: If you could change one thing about your mum, what would it be?

A: She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.

### *Little old lady seeks handsome young man*

An advert appeared in a student newspaper: "Sweet little old lady wishes to correspond with good-looking university student - especially a six-footer with brown eyes, answering to the initials J.A.D." It was signed: "His mother."

### *Definitions from church life*

AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

PEW: A medieval torture device still found in some churches.

### *Bend it?*

I got an envelope in the mail the other day that had written on the front, *Photographs: Do Not Bend*. Underneath the postman had written: "Oh yes they do."

*Give me a sense of humour, Lord,  
Give me the grace to see a joke,  
To get some humour out of life,  
And pass it on to other folk.*

**"Tomorrow will be a good day".  
Captain Sir Tom Moore 1920 - 2021**