

THE BROUGHTON BEACON

Magazine of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, Edinburgh



APRIL 2021

Issue No. 245

www.bstmchurch.org.uk

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Broughton St Mary's Parish Church

12 Bellevue Crescent EH3 6NE



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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. 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

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

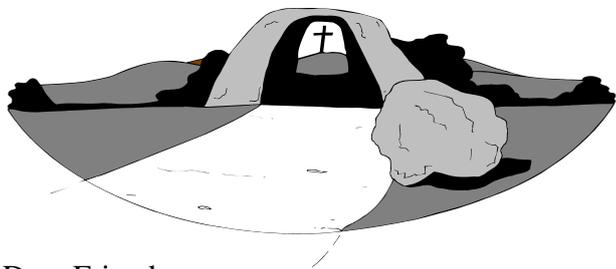
For enquiries about the Beacon, contact the Editor, Diane Chisholm, at diane_c@btinternet.com

For more information about Broughton St Mary's, visit our website www.bstmchurch.org.uk



The Broughton Beacon April 2021

Letter from Rev Bill Taylor



Dear Friends,

Easter is the reason; without it there would have been no Christmas, no Gospels, no Christianity. Easter was always regarded as the heart of the matter; if Christ is not risen, Paul argues in his great chapter about the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15), we have nothing to offer the world and there is no salvation. Yes, Easter is as important as that! The Easter story is compelling. Betrayal, desertion, power, politics, intrigue, insurrection, brutality, killing, all of that is met by tears, tenderness, humility, truth-telling, vulnerability, compassion, forgiveness, and resurrection. The good news is, in the words of those who were there, “The Lord is risen indeed!” (Luke 24:34a GNT).

The Risen Jesus met with many people and amongst their stories you may have your favourites: Mary mistaking Jesus for the gardener on Easter morning; the report from the women that the other disciples (male!) dismissed; John running ahead of Peter to discover the empty tomb; the walk to Emmaus when a stranger joined the two disciples; kippers for breakfast on the shore of Lake Galilee.... My favourite’s when the risen Jesus meets his disciples late on Easter evening behind locked doors. They are timid, frightened, not sure if they will be arrested as Jesus was. They are in lockdown, and Jesus comes to them saying ‘Peace be with you’. We are told the disciples were filled with joy in these moments. It’s a joy Jesus sent them into the world to share, “then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22). It's this breathing I like so much! Maybe you too find benefit from simple breathing exercises (<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/self-help/guides-tools-and-activities/breathing-exercises-for-stress/>). As we inhale it’s good to

think about taking in all that’s good and as we breathe out we can leave behind all that’s not. Here the risen Jesus acts like God who breathed life into humankind in the beginning of creation. A clear signal that the resurrection marks the beginning of the new creation. Jesus is the first; many, by trusting in him, will also come to newness of life. That’s still true today!

As the number of people vaccinated increases – Sunday 21st March broke new records with 844,285 jags in the UK – and restrictions ease, life begins to open up again. We give thanks for scientists and technicians whose skill has brought us to this point and pray for a swift roll-out across the world.

Maybe as we begin to breathe more easily again we can sense anew the presence of the risen Lord, who goes before us into what lies ahead. The Christian life is about seeing what the living God is up to in this world, and joining in. It is life lived trusting in the risen Jesus, who endured the cross and opened the way to fullness of life for all.

Wishing you a joyful Easter,

Bill

Rev Bill Taylor

Holy Week and Easter at Broughton St Mary's



Sunday 28 March at 10.30am: Palm Sunday
Worship

Friday 2 April at 7.00pm: Good Friday Service

Sunday 4 April at 10.30am: Easter Day Service

All services are also on Zoom

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

Due to government restrictions, numbers attending these services is limited to 40.

To reserve a place please email

mail@bstmchurch.org.uk

or telephone 0131 557 5051.

FROM THE SESSION CLERK

Refurbishment of Sanctuary and Vestibules

The Kirk Session has engaged Ashwood Scotland Ltd to carry out the refurbishment of the church sanctuary and vestibules. Ashwood Scotland will also carry out some external repairs to the exterior of the building which were identified as requiring attention following a Presbytery property inspection.

The refurbishment will begin on 19 April and is expected to last until the end of August this year. The refurbishment will include the redecoration of the sanctuary and vestibules, rewiring and upgrading the lighting throughout. The removal of pews at the side of the sanctuary will create passageways to the chancel area which will be levelled. The sanctuary floor will be covered with engineered wood providing a more level surface from the current boards. The white radiators will be replaced with new column radiators which should be more aesthetically pleasing. Infrastructure to provide a superior audio-visual system will be created. This will include the removal of some pews under the gallery to create space for a lighting and mixing desk. A glass entrance door will be installed at the front of the church and the four baffle doors at the entrance by the war memorials will be re-sited closer to the stairwells at either ends of the vestibules.

The cost of the refurbishment will be met from the net proceeds of sale of our former manse in East Claremont Street, the manse of Dean Parish Church and the purchase of our current manse in March Road. These were approximately £400,000. We will also draw on unrestricted reserves which we have accrued following surpluses in the congregation's accounts over the past few years.

Vacancy

We are getting near the time when the congregation will choose 9 of our number to serve on a Nominating Committee. The job of a Nominating Committee is look for and recommend one person deemed to be suitable to be the minister of the congregation and parish. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions preventing large indoor gatherings, we would normally hold an election to choose 9 people to serve on the committee. As we cannot do this this year, the Church of Scotland has agreed a protocol to enable vacancy procedures to take place during these times. In the case of the appointment of a nominating committee, the protocol reads:

“Section 15: Appointment of Nominating Committee: the Session Clerk shall seek Nominations from the congregation and shall accept responses both by email and by post or hand delivery; upon receipt the Session Clerk shall, if an election is required,

contact the congregation by email and/or post/hand delivery to provide summary information regarding each person nominated and to seek votes for the requisite number of persons;”

We hope to begin the above process in the near future. **Notice will be given before we proceed further.** Please do not bring forward any names until after the official notice has been made.

In the meantime, you may wish to consider who you would like to serve on the committee and also if you yourself would be willing to serve if asked. We request that, out of courtesy, you speak to any potential nominee before you put their name forward.

Services of Worship

Last month the First Minister announced the Government's intention to allow Places of Worship to reopen for communal worship from Friday 26 March 2021, with a final decision taken on 23 March. At the time of writing and subject to approval from the Presbytery of Edinburgh, the church will be open for worship on Easter Sunday (4 April) and following Sundays prior to the start of the refurbishment work on 19 April. Numbers allowed to attend these services will be restricted to 40 and it is recommended that you reserve a place should you wish to attend. You can do this by contacting Ian Buckingham on 0131 557 5051 or ianbucks@hotmail.co.uk Arrangements for future services will follow in due course.

In the meantime, 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

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

CHURCH GARDEN



Spring is here! There are many signs of life in the church garden. Crocuses, daffodils, primroses and hellebores are all in flower. Bergenia brighten up the patch beside the shady wall. The leaves on the tree peonies are unfurling and there are large buds on the rhododendrons. Birds are singing in the trees and, last time Debbie and I were there, we saw a frog hopping among the dry leaves!

At this time of year there is much to do in the garden. The grass will need some attention after a harsh winter; leaves, moss, stones and weeds need picked up and dead branches cut back. Some of the garden furniture needs repaired too.

We would welcome some new helpers to work with us in the garden. We would also welcome any donations of plants from your own gardens, if you have surplus plants looking for a home!

If you are interested in helping please contact:

Diane Chisholm
diane_c@btinternet.com

or **Debbie Buckingham**
debucks@hotmail.co.uk



PASTORAL CARE

Soon we will be back to delivering flowers and visiting people at home. In the meantime we want to keep in touch and help where we can.

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 **Colin Beck** on **0131 556 4516** or **07771 776415**.

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 address: mail@bstmchurch.org.uk

Irene Marshall



"Whilst I appreciate the thought, would whoever it is please stop tweeting, 'So far, so good...!'"

APRIL CALENDAR

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

We are reading more books

When many activities have been denied to us over recent months, we can still enjoy reading. Perhaps, like me, you always have a book on the go (sometimes more than one!) and enjoy discussing them with friends.

Many have continued to be involved in book groups online, via Zoom or something similar. With libraries and bookshops closed, I'm sure that many of us are looking forward to the pleasure of browsing in bookshops when they are allowed to reopen. I read recently that more than 200 million print books were sold in the UK last year. It was the first time since 2012 that the volume of physical books sold has exceeded 200 million, and it was the biggest volume rise in the books market since 2007, according to The Bookseller magazine.

It has certainly been entertaining to see presenters and politicians on TV trying to outdo each other with the quantity of books on display behind them when they broadcast from their homes. Apparently, since the lockdown began, there has been an increase in the number of people looking to buy second hand books in bulk, not to read them but just to have them on display!

Diane Chisholm



Lighthearted lament lifts lockdown spirits

A church elder from Aberdeenshire has written a comedy song about the COVID-19 lockdown. Jeannie Price said she has tried to reflect the experiences and observations of most people over the last year in the lighthearted lyrics. It is set to the tune of traditional folk song, The Wild Rover. Mrs Price, a member of Methlick Parish Church, said she tries to hold onto the lighter side of life and faith and a sense of humour has helped her get through the past year. The song touches on familiar themes like home schooling, baking sourdough bread, video conferencing, exercising with TV fitness coach, Joe Wicks, and poking fun at politicians' hair.

Mrs Price said: "I have been writing comic verse and parodies of well-known songs for a while but it was not a conscious decision to write a lockdown song. The stint since January has felt very long even though we know there is a vaccine, so I asked God, 'What can I do today to make a difference and be salt and light?' I was out walking the dog and inspiration for the song just came to me. I posted a video online and the reaction has been very nice with lots of people saying it summed up lockdown and cheered them up."

This is worth watching - and singing along with the chorus! You can find it on the Church of Scotland website.

www.churchofscotland.org.uk

We are your people

*Prayers by Barbara Glasson,
President of the Methodist
Conference*

In time of distress

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your
mercy
in this time of uncertainty and
distress.
Sustain and support the
anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought
low;
that we may rejoice in your
comfort
knowing that nothing can
separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

For the Christian community

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect
our own safety:
we are people who protect our
neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes.

SPRING

(Acrostic Poem)

Spring has arrived with
armfuls of blossom,
Petals of every colour and hue,
Rain and sun caressing the
earth
Inspiring spring bulbs to come
into view.
Now is the time of new
beginnings
Giving us pleasure all season
through.

Megan Carter

Congregational Register

DEATHS

7 November Mrs MARGARET SCOTT, 54 Claremont Bank, EH7 4DR
19 March Mrs ISOBEL WARD, Strachan House, 93 Craigcrook Road, EH4 3PE.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs LAVINIA SKELDON (formerly DICKSON), from 60 Salvesen Gardens, EH4 5JR to 85 Mountcastle Crescent, EH8 7SE.



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



Easter Traditions



Where does the name 'Easter' come from? The Germanic word 'Easter', seems to come from *Eostre*, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like *Eos* and *Aurora*, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' - a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

And why do we have Easter eggs? On the one hand, eggs are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter. Rolling eggs is a way to remember the rolling away of the stone from the tomb on Easter day.

General Assembly 2021

The 2021 General assembly of the Church of Scotland will take place online. The Assembly will open on Saturday 22 May as planned, but Commissioners will join the proceedings remotely, speaking and voting through video conferencing technology. The Rev George Whyte, Principal Clerk for the Church said: "We regret that we cannot join together in person as usual given the uncertainty about the Covid restrictions that may still be necessary this spring. However we intend to make our online experience as good as it possibly can be."
From March's Life and Work magazine.

The Last Laugh

- A minister was planning an Easter pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and was aghast when she found it would cost her £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. She protested to the travel agent that the cost was ridiculous. 'That might be true,' replied the travel agent, 'but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord himself walked.'
'Well, at £50 an hour for a boat,' she replied, 'I am not surprised!'
- A woman was found guilty in traffic court and when asked for her occupation she said she was a schoolteacher. The judge rose from the bench. 'Madam, I have waited years for a schoolteacher to appear before this court.' He then smiled with delight. 'Now sit down at that table and write, "I will not run a red light" one hundred times.'

Read the signs...

In a vet's waiting room: "Back in five minutes. Sit! Stay!"

At the electric company: "We would be delighted if you pay your bill. However, if you don't, you will be."

In a restaurant window: "Don't stand there and be hungry. Come on in and get fed up."

At an optometrist's office: "If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."