

# THE BROUGHTON BEACON

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



*Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person.  
The old has gone, the new has come. 2 Cor. 5:17*

## JUNE 2021

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

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# Broughton St Mary's Parish Church

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**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

## June 2021

### Letter from Rev Bill Taylor

Dear Friends,

It's a joy accompanying you regularly on Sundays through these unusual times in which we live, whether we meet in the Garden Room (whilst the renovations to the Sanctuary proceed), on Zoom or on the phone! The themes for our Sunday worship link in with the Christian year. The Bible readings come from the Revised Common Lectionary which provides a range of texts over a three year cycle. In our tradition preachers are not obliged to follow the lectionary, but there's a lot to be said for it. It keeps us in step with our sisters and brothers in other Churches and helps ensure preachers don't talk only about their favourite passages – though I have managed to slip in a few!

It's been remarkable to notice how the witness of the Bible to God's action in the world speaks in such a living way to these challenging days. Much has changed and much will change, but the constancy of God's faithful love is ever present. Eternal realities find a way to touch us through the kindness of our neighbours, the quest for a more just society and world, the dedication of scientists, healthcare and key workers, words of hope and encouragement, and the assurance that Christ is with us.

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.”  
(Lamentations 3:22-23 NRSV)

In a world forever changing it is tempting to see God as the last bastion of what once was, a refuge from the inconstant present. After Pentecost, however, it was clear the Church in the power of the Spirit was called to be on the cusp of change, challenging pre-conceived notions and traditions with new ideas, showing in their common life the care that extended to all, as with word and action they broke down barriers and built bridges. It is strange, perhaps, that now, 2000 years on, the Church has become associated in the minds of many with the past rather than the present and the future. The Holy Spirit equips Jesus' followers to engage with the here and now, for each step, as in faith we look forward to that day when the new

life of God's Kingdom will be complete and peace shall reign. This is the true constant: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.” (Hebrews 13:8 NRSV).

May the never-ending love of Christ be with you every day,

Bill *Rev Bill Taylor*

### Online worship 'here to stay'

New research has found that the lockdown and subsequent legal restrictions to the opening of buildings has resulted in a dramatic rise in online worship. The research was a partnership between Action of Churches Together in Scotland, Brendan Research and the Scottish Church Leaders Forum.

Church leaders were invited to complete an online survey last year. A total of 184 Church of Scotland ministers took part, accounting for 50% of the responses which came from all 32 local authority areas. The report found that, prior to lockdown, 18% of churches offered some kind of online worship but during the initial lockdown the figure rose to 96%. One minister said that online worship has provided people with a 'sense of community identity', but another noted that many older members who are not technically minded feel 'very left out'.

The Rev Mark Slaney, convener of the Scottish Church Leaders Forum, said, “The necessary shift to online church life has drawn us into a much wider field for mission, ministry and worship and we must learn to live a new blend and balance of engagement which could release us into new partnerships and places.”

The report makes five recommendations to the Scottish Church:

- Online worship is here to stay, and must be adequately resourced
- Online worship must be adequately reflected upon
- The Scottish Church should not rush back to pre-lockdown ministry and mission
- Cross-denominational partnership in mission should be better understood and extended
- Further research into the social capital generated by the churches should be undertaken.

*From an article by Thomas Baldwin in the June issue of Life and Work. The report is available at [www.brendanresearch.com/projects/scif-acts-covid19](http://www.brendanresearch.com/projects/scif-acts-covid19)*

## Refurbishment of Sanctuary and Vestibules

The works to refurbish the sanctuary and vestibules began on 19 April. This has so far included the removal of fixtures prior to the creation of new spaces and the installation of new fittings. Pews have been removed on the North and South sides of the church to create space for ramps which will include wheelchair access to the chancel. The carpeting in the sanctuary has been uplifted and the flooring at the side of the chancel has also been lifted. The chancel itself has been reduced in size which will result in a larger central floor area. The pendant lighting under the gallery has been removed. Some of these light fittings will be used in the vestry and upstairs meeting rooms. Pews at the rear of the sanctuary have been removed to create space for a mixing desk for Audio Visual and lighting controls. Cabling for the AV system is currently being installed. The doors into the sanctuary have had their felt covering removed and are being reconditioned prior to redecoration. Various electrical work is ongoing.

### Services of Worship

The works in the church are due to take until 3 September to complete. Until such time as we are able to meet in the sanctuary for worship, services will be held in our Garden Room. Regrettably, due to the current Covid restrictions, the number of individuals we can accommodate in the Garden Room with safe distancing is 14 (12 individuals, and 1 couple sitting together).

We will continue to offer worship via the Zoom platform and morning worship from the Garden Room will be broadcast each Sunday at 10:30am. Services in the Garden Room are primarily (but not exclusively) for those members who do not have access to Zoom. A booking system is in operation for services in the Garden Room. If you wish to reserve a place, you should contact Ian Buckingham on 0131 557 5051 or [ianbucks@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ianbucks@hotmail.co.uk).

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.

### Vacancy

The Nominating Committee has started its work in the process of finding a suitable person to be the next minister of the congregation and parish and has met with the Presbytery's Vacancy Advisory Committee. The following advert appears on the church website and Facebook Page and contains links for internet enquiries:

*Broughton St Mary's is pleased to invite applications for the role of Minister of Word and Sacrament inducted on a Basis of Unrestricted Tenure. Broughton St Mary's is an active and friendly congregation with a clear mission to reach out to all in the parish and make our excellent and modern facilities available to our neighbours. We want to continue to be engaged as the Church, united in faith and seeking to share God's love with those in the parish. Our church affirms people no matter creed, colour, gender, sexual orientation or age.*

*Please see our parish profile for more details:*

*[Broughton St Mary's Parish Profile \(PDF, 500KB\)](#)*

*If you would like further information or to discuss the vacancy, please email [Rev Sam Torrens](mailto:Rev Sam Torrens), Interim Moderator or [Diane Chisholm](mailto:Diane Chisholm), Clerk to the Nominating Committee. All correspondence will be confidential. If you are interested in applying for the role, please submit a CV and covering letter to Diane at [vacancy@bstmchurch.org.uk](mailto:vacancy@bstmchurch.org.uk).*

You are reminded that due to the nature of the process for finding a new minister, it should be understood that the work of the Nominating Committee is confidential. Committee members cannot discuss the work of the committee with other members of the congregation or with others outside the congregation, including family members.

The Nominating Committee is: Jan Allan, Colin Beck, Ian Buckingham, Diane Chisholm, Donald Ferguson, Jim Liddle, Catriona Lodge, Barbara Robertson, Graham Rogers.

*Ian Buckingham*

## Fund Raising

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we are not able to hold fund raising activities, but hopefully there will be the opportunity later this year.

I have marmalade and a small supply of strawberry jam available for sale. This can be brought to the Garden Room on a Sunday, by request. Alternatively, I can arrange to deliver to you, if you stay in the Parish.

My thanks to everyone who has purchased my home produce and, in doing so, added to Church funds.

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



*Deborah Buckingham*

## Dear Broughton St Mary's...

During the past year or so, we have welcomed a number of new worshippers, both on Zoom and in person when the church was open. One of these was a student at Edinburgh University, Zara Corbett, and she sent us this postcard. The front of the card was entitled 'HOPE'.

"I'm writing to say thank you for the lovely welcome I received during my time at Broughton St Mary's. I am so grateful to the congregation for your warmth and support.

After Christmas I stayed at home in Northern Ireland and returned last week to pack up my things and move out of student accommodation. I will be back in September to start second year of university and hopefully pay you all a visit!

Thanks again, and best wishes,  
Zara Corbett."

## Keeping in Touch

Members of the congregation who are on email receive weekly newsletters from the church. These include orders of church services, letters from friends of the congregation, congregational news. The most recent newsletters included photographs of the refurbishment works. If you are on email and do not already receive a newsletter and would like to, please contact Ian Buckingham at [ianbucks@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ianbucks@hotmail.co.uk) and you will be included in the mailing list.

## PASTORAL CARE

There will be meeting of the Pastoral Care Team early in June to discuss our work going forward and when we might be able to reinstate the flower donation and delivery.

Meanwhile, 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.

*Colin Beck*

## LIFE AND WORK

Life and Work is the Church of Scotland's monthly magazine, which contains news, features and opinion on Christian life in Scotland and further afield. You can support the vital and vibrant work of the Church by subscribing to Life and Work.

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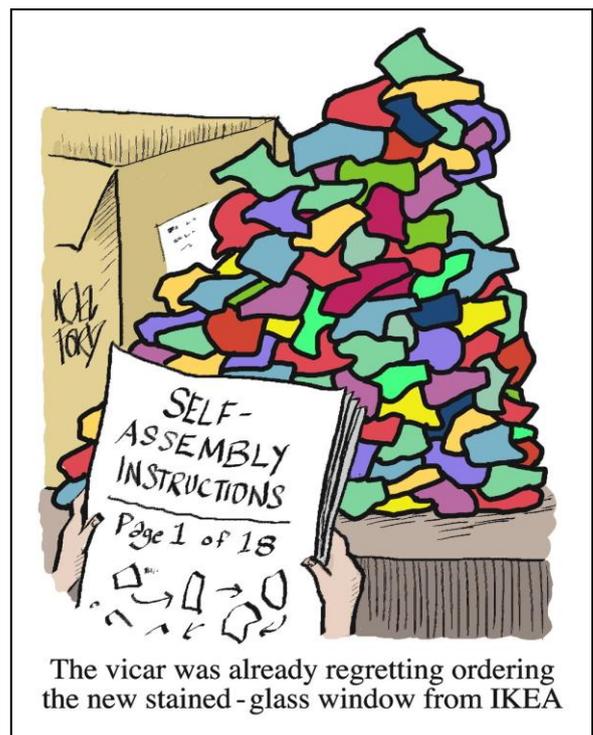
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The vicar was already regretting ordering the new stained-glass window from IKEA

# JUNE CALENDAR

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

## Open that window

Here is an easy way to help protect your home from Covid: open your windows at home for short sharp bursts of 10 to 15 minutes at a time, several times a day. The government's public information campaign says that regular fresh air can cut the risk of Covid transmission by more than 70 per cent. So, either leave a window open a small amount continuously, or open it fully on a regular basis throughout the day, especially if anyone has come to visit you in your home. Coronavirus is spread through the air by droplets and smaller particles known as aerosols. They can hang in the air for hours and they build up over time.

## Home alone? Get a gnome!

Do you yearn for a garden gnome? You are not the only one. Since last year's lockdown, garden centres have been reporting a massive upswing in ornament sales, due to people being forced to spend more time in their gardens. Gnomes top the list of most-wanted ornaments, with a near 100 per cent increase in sales over the past two years.

There was even a gnome crisis a while back, when the Suez Canal got jammed, and thousands of gnomes on their way to UK gardens could not get through.



## Don't look down...

This photo was sent to our Facebook page recently. If you look closely you can see three steeplejacks dangling from ropes on the church spire. They are carrying out survey work on the building as part of the refurbishment project, and in preparation for maintenance work to the exterior. It was taken by a passerby.



## General Assembly 2021

The General Assembly is being held online this year from Saturday 22 May to Thursday 27 May. You can follow it live on the Assembly webcast at:  
[https://stream1.churchofscotland.org.uk/about\\_us/general\\_assembly/](https://stream1.churchofscotland.org.uk/about_us/general_assembly/)

## Chrysalis

by Tom Leonard



On becoming a butterfly,  
A caterpillar breaks free from  
its bonds,  
Like a leaf turns into a tree,  
And flies into golden ponds,  
Like a child chrysalises into  
the adult  
They wanna be.

You can evolve into the great  
artist,  
Newtonian polymath,  
Celtic footballer,  
Or river dancer of your  
dreams;  
Even when you fall flat on  
your backside,  
And make a pig's ear of  
everything,  
Just shut your eyes and see,

Welcome is a lamb that  
becomes a lion,  
Who defies the locusts of  
repression,  
Who stands for the vulnerable,  
and the weak,  
Who tries to climb the spiritual  
peaks.

You can chrysalise into your  
fantasy;  
Just imagine, and wait and see;  
You have the insights of a  
Confucius of old;  
Just break free.

*Tom is a regular worshipper at Broughton St Mary's. He has posted this poem on his blog at <https://thomashoskynsleonardblog.blogspot.com/2021/05/chrysalis-poem-by-tom-leonard.html>*

# Congregational Register

## New Member by Transference Certificate

Ms CATRIONA LODGE, 27a Cumberland Street, EH3 6RT from Edinburgh: St. Catherine's Argyle.



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



## A message from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, to the General Assembly

"We are aware that the impact of Covid-19 is still being felt by the people across the country. Many have suffered illness and bereavement whilst others have lost their businesses or employment. The Church, which is so often a pillar of strength within the community, has not been immune. We pray for the whole Church of Scotland as in General Assembly, Presbytery and Kirk Session she seeks to discern God's will in challenging times.

We have been pleased to learn how the Church has developed deeper relationships within the Christian family, with neighbours of other faiths and with those who hold responsibility in government and parliament. These new bonds have been forged in times of emergency but they will serve us all well in the future as the United Kingdom seeks to rebuild and reshape community life.

Knowing that the Church has long had a concern for the care of God's earth we are heartened to know that she is engaging in many ways with the discussions and events which will be brought to Glasgow for COP26.

As stewards of Creation, Christians have much to offer to the shared task of ensuring that we bequeath to our children a planet which will continue to be a good place to live.

May your faith and courage be strengthened in your deliberations during the week ahead and through the times to come."

*From the Church of Scotland website*

## The Last Laugh

- Arriving at church to attend a wedding, a formidable looking lady in a large hat was greeted by the usher. "Are you a friend of the groom?" he ventured. "Certainly not," she said indignantly. "I'm the bride's mother."
- A young mother stood in her kitchen and watched her baby screaming, her sons fighting, her daughter crying, the washing machine leaking, and the dog being sick. She sighed and said to her friend: "I sometimes wish I'd loved and lost."
- An elderly man had his second dose of vaccine at the Covid vaccination centre. Shortly afterwards he began to have blurred vision and struggled to get home. He rang the vaccination centre and asked if he should go straight to the hospital for help. He was told **not** to go to the hospital, but instead to return at once to the vaccination centre and pick up his glasses....
- When I was a child I used to pray every night for a new bicycle. Then I realised that the Lord doesn't work that way. So I stole one and asked him to forgive me.
- Long ago when people cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's called golf.

## Walking with Megan

Are you over 65? Have you lost confidence in your ability to walk outdoors over this past year? I provide one-to-one sessions, to build up strength, confidence and stamina, starting and finishing at your own home. I am a qualified Personal Trainer, a qualified NHS Occupational Therapist, First Aider and Mental Health First Aider.

Contact **Megan McDonald** on 07488 372782 or [info@meganbethpt.com](mailto:info@meganbethpt.com) for more information.

Website: [www.meganbethpt.com](http://www.meganbethpt.com)