

THE BROUGHTON BEACON

Magazine of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, Edinburgh



MAY 2021

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Broughton St Mary's Parish Church

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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 May 2021

Letter from Rev Bill Taylor

Dear Friends,

The challenge of Covid-19 has impacted all our lives. At the time of writing India suffers from record numbers of daily infections and a desperate lack of oxygen; people are dying outside hospitals where there is no more room. International assistance will make some difference, but it will take time. Here in the UK we have seen a decline in the numbers of infections; the roll-out of vaccines is acknowledged as a major factor as is the hard work put in by people observing restrictions. Let us pray for our sisters and brothers going through the worst of times, and where easing has been possible, that it can be maintained.

The global pandemic has affected every aspect of life, including the way Churches have adapted, especially with online worship and fellowship. This adaptability must be a healthy sign! In taking forward the Inside Outside project to develop the Sanctuary into a more flexible space for the Church and community, we look forward to new ways of connecting with others in Christ's name. At the same time, we now have a Nominating Committee who will take forward the task of nominating the right person to be the next Minister of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church. This is exciting! Let us pray for all this work and those who are entrusted with it.

The Church of Scotland, through its Radical Action Plan, is looking at enormous change and I think it's reasonable to say these changes have been accelerated by Covid-19. The numbers of ordained Ministers, Deacons and Ministry Development Staff will be very much less across the country but local Churches working in parish groupings together will be supported by resource workers engaged by larger (and fewer) Presbyteries.

'Change,' it has been said, 'is the only constant in life.' We may be encouraged by the words of an angel to the two Marys who had just witnessed the empty tomb: "Then go quickly and tell his disciples: He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him. Now I have told you." (Matthew 28:7 NRSV) The Risen Jesus goes ahead of his disciples. Jesus goes before us into what lies ahead. Christ is there already, whatever the situation, whatever comes next. As we look forward we can be confident that before us God is at work, beckoning us to join in with what God is doing. Soon it will be Pentecost when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, described famously by Bishop John V Taylor as the Go-between God. The Holy Spirit goes ahead, makes connections, breaks down barriers, opens doors and paves the way for the continuing ministry of Jesus,

to which we are called. May every encouragement and blessing be yours as we look forward in faith, work and pray.

Bill *Rev Bill Taylor*

A Letter from Brazil

From our former minister, Graham McGeoch

Dear Friends,

We write from Rio de Janeiro. We are safe and well in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Obviously, the news from Brazil is not good either in terms of public health or politics. As we write, we are still awaiting vaccinations, and desperately hoping that Brazil's continued flirting with authoritarian rule does not lead to a military intervention.

We moved to Rio de Janeiro in January 2021. This makes life a little easier for us. Telma is still leading a Refugee programme for Venezuelans in the extreme north of Brazil (look up the city of Roraima on the map). Even although she continues to work from home most of the time, travel connections to and from Rio de Janeiro are much better than from Vitoria. I am largely unaffected as all university teaching has been online for over a year now. Once the pandemic passes, I will be able to commute fairly easily between Rio de Janeiro and Vitoria (it is similar to the Glasgow-London commute).

We decided to move to Rio de Janeiro partly for work and partly for family reasons. We found a little house on an island in the Guanabara Bay. It is a 45-minute ferry ride to central Rio de Janeiro, and administratively it is a neighbourhood of the city of Rio de Janeiro. The island has no cars. There is a school, which Lucas will attend once the pandemic passes. For now, his classes are online. It is a slower pace of life, but with access to a big city. Having a house with a garden is a lovely change from living in an apartment. 'Lockdown' taught us this. Lucas has enjoyed exploring the tropical fruit trees in the garden – bananas, mangos, grapes and tropical berries. The previous incumbent was a librarian and kindly built a little roundhouse in the garden as a reading room. It holds our collection of books, and even leaves the house looking tidy. Telma and I use it as a little office, too, while we work from home.

Lucas is thriving. He has learned to swim. And he cycles everywhere on the island. It is only 8-miles in circumference, so we get him to cycle every day to use up his energy. Luckily, there is a small quiosque selling his favourite sugarcane juice and savoury snack on the other side of the island. He needs no encouragement to 'get on his bike' to go there.

We hope that you and yours are well in these extraordinary times. We think of Scotland often, and hope to make a visit once we all emerge from the restrictions of pandemic living.

Best wishes,

Graham, Telma and Lucas.

FROM THE SESSION CLERK

Refurbishment of Sanctuary and Vestibules

Work to refurbish the church sanctuary and vestibules began on Monday 19 April. Prior to this, the church furniture in the sanctuary and around the ground floor and upstairs of the building was removed and put into storage. Also put into storage were a substantial number of church records which were kept in the upstairs rooms. The great pipes in the organ have also been removed and are now in storage at the organ builder's workshop in Glasgow.

Services of Worship

The works in the church are due to take until 3 September to complete. During this time, we will not be able to meet in the sanctuary for worship. We hope to hold services in our Garden Room and steps are currently being taken to facilitate this. Social distancing instructions due to Covid-19 will mean that, should we go ahead, we would only be able to accommodate around 14 people in the Garden Room. A booking system to attend worship is likely to be put in place. Services will also continue to be broadcast on Zoom.

Services on 2 and 9 May will be conducted by The Rev Dr Fiona Tweedie and will be broadcast on Zoom. Services on 16 May and until further notice will be conducted by The Rev Bill Taylor. We are grateful to Bill Taylor for leading our worship each Sunday since Autumn last year and thank him for his continued support.

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

All those whose names appear on the Electoral Roll of the congregation were invited to nominate someone to serve on the Nominating Committee which will be tasked with looking for and recommending one person deemed a suitable person to be minister to the congregation and parish. Nine people have been elected to serve on the Nominating Committee. They are: Jan Allan, Colin Beck, Ian Buckingham, Diane Chisholm, Donald Ferguson, Jim Liddle, Catriona Lodge, Barbara Robertson and Graham Rogers.

The work of the committee is confidential at all times. Members of the committee cannot discuss its work with other members of the congregation or family members. You are respectfully asked not to put members of the committee in a difficult position by approaching them for information. You **are** encouraged to pray regularly for the committee for the work it will be doing in your name.

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 newsletter 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 and you will be included in the mailing list.

Ian Buckingham

Remembering Prince Philip

Like many of us I was saddened by the death of the Duke of Edinburgh last month. At Broughton St Mary's we have a special connection with the Duke. He agreed to be our Royal Patron when we embarked upon the InsideOut Project over a decade ago. In February 2010 Prince Philip made a memorable visit to our newly refurbished rooms and spoke to many of us as he toured the building. He was gracious, charming and interested in everything we had to show him. And, despite the dismal weather that day, he took time to chat with members of the congregation waiting outside.

Diane Chisholm

Fund Raising

Due to the current restrictions, we are not able to hold fund raising activities, 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 strawberry jam, marmalade or some home baking, please phone and I can arrange to deliver it to you, if you stay not too far away. Thank you to those who have supplied me with empty jam jars.

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

Debbie Buckingham

PASTORAL CARE

At Easter time several volunteers delivered Easter eggs, in decorated 'goodie bags', to many of the elderly and housebound in our number, as well as to our Sunday Club families. Our friends in Nursing Homes received an Easter card sending love and prayers from everyone at Broughton St Mary's. Thank you to those who helped in any way.

Some people are still housebound, or shielding because of Covid, but we hope they will be able to get out and about soon.

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**.

Greetings from friends at Easter

From the Nelson family:

"Dear friends at Broughton St Mary's, We wish you a very happy Easter. It's Palm Sunday and I can just picture the children walking about Broughton St Mary's with palm leaves. We hope that you are all well and continuing to pull through this very challenging time. Spring is certainly bringing its colour and some new energy. I have spotted a lot of bright yellow winter jasmine, grown to a fair height.

Life has had to change fast in so many ways. Gordon and I have been working from home and the girls doing school beside us, but thankfully Juliette has been back a month now and Annabelle will return after Easter holidays. We have a new puppy, Russell, who is very cute, settling in well after 3 weeks with us. He is very cheeky, will go after anything to chew and is great fun. He is a long-haired dachshund, black and tan! Yesterday we let him off the lead on the beach for the first time and he loved it.

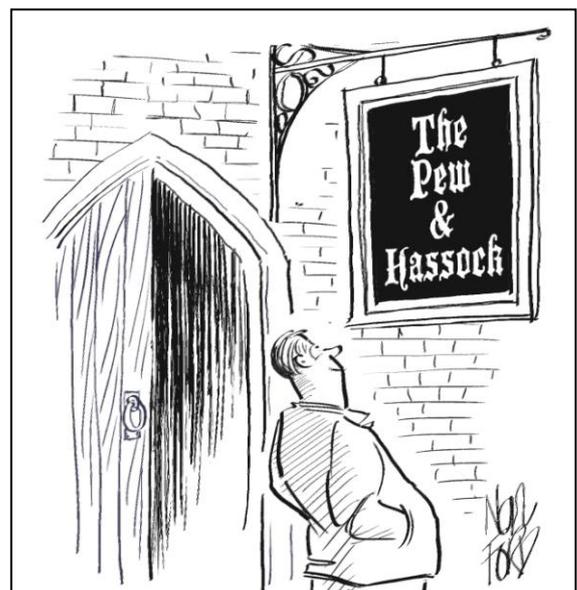
May God bless, encourage and strengthen you all.
Meg xx"

Our friend, Peter Millar, has been ill and we sent him a card with our best wishes. Peter writes in reply: "To all at Broughton St Mary's Church. Many thanks for your prayers and concern for me during this time of serious illness with Covid-19. Much appreciated and I hope we can meet up again before not too long. The Easter light shines and the darkness cannot put it out.
Peter, with love. x"

WARNING: EMAIL SCAM

Church people have again been targeted by an email scam. Messages supposedly from Lindsey have been sent from an officennn@gmail.com address. Lindsey would only send messages from admin@bstmchurch.org.uk. No other messages from Lindsey should be opened from any other email address.

The scam email asks for a favour (often using American spelling 'favor') which inevitably involves sending money. **Do not reply to this email and do not click on any link. Delete the email.**



Changing the name from 'St Mark's Parish Church', resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services

MAY CALENDAR

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

Christian Aid - Give Thanks Appeal

Christian Aid's work began in 1945, when it was founded by British and Irish churches to help refugees following the Second World War. Since then, it has provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support, while speaking out against injustice.

Christian Aid's latest appeal enables people to give thanks for their Covid-19 vaccine and help others in crisis across the world. Many people in the UK are feeling a sense of relief as loved ones receive their vaccines. Christian Aid's Give Thanks Appeal encourages people to pass the blessing on, by helping others who have little protection from the pandemic. Funds from the appeal are helping vulnerable communities around the world access soap, water, food and vital health information as Covid-19 continues to destroy lives and livelihoods. Christian Aid partners have so far directly helped over half a million people in 27 countries.

You can donate online at www.caid.org.uk/caw21 or phone 0845 700 0300. A donation page has been set up where people can give to Christian Aid's Coronavirus Appeal.

News from Rev John McCulloch

According to the World Food Programme, around 70% of Gaza's population suffers from food insecurity, although with the effects of Covid contributing to the further collapse of an already imploding economy, some are saying that the figure is approaching 80%. With a high population density (2M living in a stretch of land roughly the size of the Isle of Jura), and chronic poverty with all of the associated psycho-social ramifications, I have never seen Gaza so desperate. According to UNICEF, only 4% of Gaza's water is fit for human consumption. With Covid now spreading amidst an already impoverished community and with hospitals struggling to cope (there are only around 120 to 150 ventilators for the entire population), they feel abandoned by the world, their own leaders and by hope itself. The only silver lining in terms of Covid is Gaza has a very young population (half are children), and is therefore less vulnerable to its effects.

Any faint glimmer of hope is to be found in the people, those who are doing all they can to help the most vulnerable, trapped in this narrow strip between the Mediterranean Sea, Egypt and Israel. The Church of Scotland's partners on the ground are doing all they can to bring healthcare, vocational training, psycho-social support to those traumatised by conflict and crushing poverty (if you are a child of 12 you will have lived through three wars.)

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support for the mission of the Church of Scotland in the Holy Land.

Rev John McCulloch

Church of Scotland Partner in Israel / Palestine

A Brighter Tomorrow



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,
It's 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 men to see,
'As you did all of this to my brother
Then,' said Christ, 'you did it to Me.'

Congregational Register

DEATHS

21 March Mrs JEAN A FAULKNER, 103 Bellevue Road, EH7 4DG

12 April Mrs GLADYS ROGERS, Queen's Manor Nursing Home, 565 Queensferry Road, EH4 8DU.



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



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 for more information.

Website: www.meganbethpt.com

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."

The General Assembly takes place online from Saturday May 22 – Thursday May 27 and will be webcast at www.churchofscotland.org.uk where you will also find Assembly documents.

Visit www.lifeandwork.org for daily reports during the Assembly, and a summary of the key decisions which will be available for free download from 1 June.

From Life and Work magazines, April & May 2021

The Last Laugh

❖ During a lively game, the coach asked one of his young players: "Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?" The little boy nodded yes. "Do you understand that what matters is winning together as a team?" The little boy nodded yes. "So," the coach continued, "when a strike is called, or you are out at first base, you don't argue or curse or attack the umpire. Do you understand all that?"

Again, the boy nodded yes.

"Good," said the coach. "Now go over there and explain it to your mother."

❖ A client brought a litter of Golden Retriever puppies to the local veterinary clinic for their inoculations. As the look-alike pups tumbled over and under one another in their box, the experienced vet realised it would be difficult to tell which had been treated and which hadn't. So, the vet turned on the water tap, wet her fingers and gently moistened each dog's head as she finished giving it the necessary shots.

After the fourth puppy, the vet noticed her hitherto talkative client had grown silent and was looking rather reverent. As the animal doctor sprinkled the last pup's head, the owner leaned forward and whispered, "Thank you so much. I hadn't realised you baptised them, too."



With elections in mind...

Idealistic politician: "I dream of a better tomorrow where chickens can cross the road and not have their motives questioned."