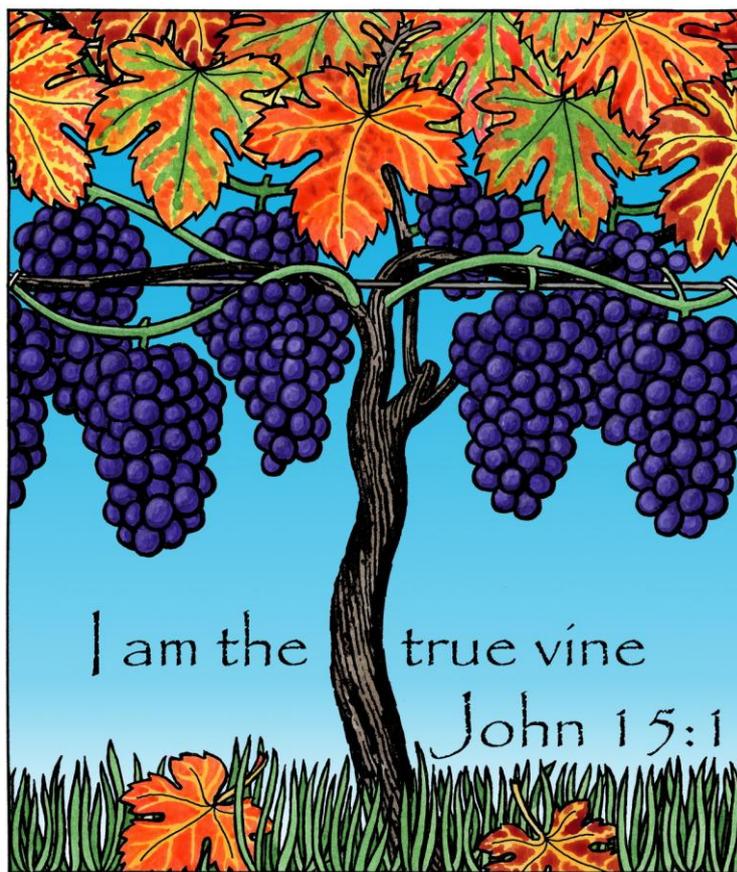


THE BROUGHTON BEACON

Magazine of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, Edinburgh



SEPTEMBER 2021

Issue No. 249

www.bstmchurch.org.uk

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
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 September 2021

Letter from Rev Bill Taylor

Dear Friends,

One of the loveliest moments for me took place on the last Sunday of July when, gathered in the Garden Room, online and by phone, the congregation of Broughton St Mary's was able to sing together again. Our first song that day was "All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice," to the tune Old 100th, played with expression by Chris on the keyboard. It was an iconic moment and quite a few of us were moved! How good it is to *sing* to the Lord again, albeit with face-coverings in communal areas. I had thought the sound would be more muted than it is but roll on the day when we can sing without masks!

Singing is good for the soul! It lifts the spirits, even if we are singing a sad song. Singing together creates a bond of fellowship. In our worship we celebrate in song the connection we have with God and with one another. No need to worry about being in tune! Singing God's praises isn't a performance, it's about being in touch with what's in our hearts and offering it to God. It has sometimes been levelled at the Presbyterian tradition that we are too cerebral in our worship, afraid, perhaps suspicious, of emotion. Music and song do a good deal to counter that and help us feel at a profound level the faith that words cannot always express. We sense the deep resonances which 'sound the depths of love divine', as Charles Wesley put it.

There are many kinds of song in the Bible, songs of joy and celebration, of wonder and mystery, of romance and love, there are ballads and laments and dreams. In such varied human experiences, the people of the Bible bear witness to God at work. The songs sung by these women and men reflect the story of God's intervention to demonstrate love in action. Like them we are invited to take up a new song and give voice to the good news of how 'God with us' (Immanuel) makes a difference in the world (Psalm 96:1-3). For Christians this is supremely expressed in Jesus.

We live through times of great turmoil – the pandemic, the rise in temperature due to climate change, the devastating earthquake in Haiti, the fear and chaos in Afghanistan. There are no easy

answers, of course, but the songs of our faith tell us of one who has walked the darkest valley and overcome. Present by his Spirit, the risen Christ strengthens every effort to care for people in need, in danger, oppressed or easily overlooked. We look forward to COP26, the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November, and hope for commitments to achieve temperature levels that will not endanger people's very existence.

There are indeed new songs to sing to express the story of salvation in our day, as we seek to join in with what God is doing through Christ, in our lives and in our world. May the Spirit of God lead you forward, and may you be richly blessed,

Bill

*If you love singing and are interested in joining our church choir, please contact our choir director, Chris Dyter, for more information.
0131 551 5110 chris.dyter@btinternet.com*

Church Services

We have been blessed to have The Rev Bill Taylor leading our worship over the past 10 months or so. Bill will be taking a short break this month and our services on 12 and 19 September will be conducted by The Rev Dr Fiona Tweedie and The Rev Sam Torrens respectively. Our services during the refurbishment are taking place in the Garden Room at 10:30am each Sunday. The number of people we can accommodate in the Garden Room is now much greater than before. Please contact Ian Buckingham at ianbucks@hotmail.co.uk or phone 0131 557 5051 if you wish to reserve a place, otherwise just turn up on the day. We will continue to broadcast the service on Zoom for those who are unable to attend. 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.

Ian Buckingham

Vacancy Update

There has been a high level of interest in the vacancy at Broughton St Mary's. Those who have served on Vacancy/Nominating Committees in the past have said that they have not experienced so many enquiries and applications. The Nominating Committee has carefully considered the applications received and shortlisted a number of applicants for interview. Interviews have taken place and follow up has been carried out to hear applicants in a worship setting. At the time of writing, no decision has been made as to who would be the committee's preferred candidate for Sole Nominee.

Refurbishment

The schedule for the works in the sanctuary was to be completed by 3 September. Regrettably the date of 3 September can no longer be met due to a number of factors including the erection of scaffolding and availability of materials. Furthermore, inspection carried out on the church tower revealed that repairs that were carried out in 2009 had failed and need to be made good. Examination of the cornice in the sanctuary by a specialist has identified that there are areas of the cornice which are defective. These need to be repaired for health and safety reasons. There is an area of rot in the timbers on the south elevation of the building where there has been water ingress in the past. The windows at the rear of the building are in poor condition and it is recommended that these be repaired. Because of these additional works and the other reasons shown above the contract has been extended to the end of October, with the possibility of a further extension beyond that.

We are awaiting costings for the additional works. The extra costs will put severe strain on congregational finances which have already been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Kirk Session met on 26 August to discuss the financial implications of the works and how to address them. Due to printing deadlines, it is not possible to give a report on this meeting.

I can report that the new glass entrance door to the church has been installed. Some areas of the building are being painted. The new side aisles and chancel have been floored. Work is being carried out on the ceiling in the sanctuary with the old light fittings having been removed.

Ian Buckingham

Young Christians begin climate activism campaign ahead of COP26

In the run-up to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), due to be held in Glasgow this November, young Christians are taking part in a relay from Cornwall to Glasgow. The Young Christian Climate Network relay to COP26 is currently covering 1,200 miles from Cornwall to Glasgow in a campaign calling on the Government to make decisions which protect people – not bank balances – and that ensure no country will go into debt tackling climate change. The Young Christian Climate Network is a UK action-focused community of young Christians aged between 18-30, choosing to follow Jesus in the pursuit of climate justice.

The Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, convener of the Kirk's Faith Impact Forum, said: 'Across the nation, the climate emergency is uppermost in the minds of young people, with well over 80% seeing it as the most important issue the world faces. When it comes to young people of faith, 9 out of 10 view the climate as of paramount importance while only a sobering 1 in 10 think the churches are doing enough to address matters. These figures offer an enormous incentive for us to take the environment and our young people's fears seriously. The recent General Assembly decision to aim for a Net Zero Church by 2030 laid down an important marker - but it is only a start. There is so much more to do.'

COP26 in Glasgow provides us with the opportunity to both say and do something about the Biblical imperative to care for God's gift of creation. This is a chance for people of all ages to support the lead our young people are giving and to encourage active engagement with the big questions the current serious climate emergency raises. Can we encourage our young people to support the pilgrimage to Glasgow? Can we create opportunities locally to show support for young people? Are there things we can do to show our commitment to the future our young people are going to have to face? To say this is a turning point in the life, work and witness of the Church is no understatement'.

She ended: 'We need to act now - in sincerity and love.'

*From the Church of Scotland website.
This article was sourced and edited for The
Broughton Beacon by Faith Mackintosh.*

Fund Raising

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we've not been able to hold fund raising activities, but hopefully that will change very soon. The Fund Raising Team will be meeting to discuss what will be possible within the current guidance.

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. Or 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

MESSY CHURCH NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The last time we were together for Messy Church, none of us had any idea it would be some 18 months before we would be able to be together again.



In that time, many things have changed and some of our Messy Church leaders are no longer able to help.

We hope to begin meeting up again on **2 October**, but in order to do this we need more volunteers to help out. Messy Church meets eight times each year, on the first Saturday in September, October, November and December, then again in March, April, May and June. Each meeting runs for only two hours, but we pack a lot into those two hours. We begin each session with gathering games in the Garden Room, then there are crafts and activities set out for the 'messy' bit. This is followed by Story time in the sanctuary, when hopefully the links between the activities will all connect with the Bible story of the day, which is the 'church' bit. During this time we would also have a short prayer and maybe a wee song, then we have lunch. That is Messy Church in a nutshell.

You don't have to be arty or crafty to help out. All the activities are planned in advance. It may be that you cannot commit to every meeting, but would be happy to help out sometimes. You may not be able to help for the full session but would be happy to come along to help set up or tidy up at the end. As the parents or guardians stay with the children, you don't need to go through disclosure checks. Many of our Messy families cannot make it along to our church on Sundays for various reasons, and many have no other church connection so this is a great, informal way to connect with them.

If you feel you can help, or would like to know more, please call me on 07526 108049 or email messychurch@bstmchurch.org.uk

I look forward to hearing from you soon, *Jan Allan*

PASTORAL CARE

Thank you to those who have been doing their best to keep in touch with our members and friends, many of whom may be stuck at home.

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.

Sunday Club Resumes!



I hope all the Sunday Club families have had a lovely summer, despite the restrictions, and you are now enjoying being back at school with your friends. We have enjoyed seeing some of you in person and on Zoom over the past few months, but it seems like a long time since the Sunday Club met! Now that restrictions have been relaxed we are able to meet again, so Sunday Club will resume on **Sunday 5 September** and is open to all children from age 3 upwards. Sunday services are being held at 10.30am in the Garden Room while the work is continuing in the sanctuary and space is limited so it would be helpful if you could book seats for your family by contacting Ian Buckingham (0131 557 5051).

We hope to see you soon!

Diane Chisholm



"Mike composes all his sermons on his iPhone - he uses something called Predictable Text..."

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

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



Our Trees

**Exploring Church Land with Citizen Science
In Association with Edinburgh Napier University
and the Church of Scotland**

‘Our Trees: Exploring Church Land with Citizen Science’ is a project developed jointly between the Church of Scotland and two Edinburgh Napier University MSc students (Maddy Richards and Victoria Cochrane). Trees in sacred spaces are seldom studied, yet they provide incredible benefits including mental and physical health, regulating air quality and carbon storage, and providing safe havens for humans and wildlife. Currently there is no existing database recording the trees in our Scottish sacred spaces and we are hoping that with your help we can create one. This would be particularly beneficial to congregations when looking at how to make your church carbon neutral, which the Church of Scotland is looking to achieve by 2030. We invited congregations throughout Scotland to take part in this citizen science project, between April and July 2021. Taking part was quite simple; you were asked to visit the land owned by your church to identify and measure trees and return the data to us. Before and after data collection, we asked that you also complete a short survey.

Maddy Richards (Project Coordinator)

Victoria H Cochrane (Project Coordinator)

Kathy Velandar (Project Leader)

I undertook this survey on behalf of the congregation. We have six trees in the church garden: two Manna Ash (*Fraxinus ornus*), a rowan, an apple (*Hereford Russet*) and two unknown trees which have self-seeded and are now quite large. The Manna Ash trees were chosen by the landscapers who laid out the garden in 2009 when the first phase of our redevelopment was completed. They chose them because of the association of ‘manna’ with the Bible, although there is no actual connection with the trees. I sent photos of the unknown trees to the researchers so, hopefully, they will be able to tell us what they are!

Diane Chisholm

Moderator backs Global Vaccine Campaign

The Moderator of the General Assembly has backed a campaign urging wealthy countries to do more to help vaccinate the whole world against Covid-19. Lord Wallace has signed a letter to the leaders of G7 nations calling for action because “no one will be safe until everyone is safe”. The campaign was started by former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who said only 2% of the population of sub-Saharan Africa have had their first shot and only 0.2% are fully vaccinated. Lord Wallace said: “Governments must step up and play their key part in ensuring a just and equitable opportunity for vaccination for all”.

From September’s Life and Work magazine.

Prayer for a New Student

This past year has been a difficult time for children and young people. They have missed out on schooling and social contact. We think of them, and their teachers, as they return to school, college and university.

We hold you, at university, at
the heart of every prayer,
And we ask our God who
loves you
Just to hold you in His care.
May He make His presence
known to you
In every way He can,
And may you know His
blessing
As you grow within His plan.
Where your life journeying
will lead you
In the future is not clear,
But we pray that God will
guard you
From all danger and all fear.
Millie Carver

Put the kettle on

Children should begin to drink tea from the age of four, in order to combat later stress, obesity and heart disease. So says a recent study which appeared in the *Nutrition and Food Technology Journal*. It says that green tea and the more traditional black tea contain compounds which can aid concentration and cognitive function. As one doctor said, “Including three cups of black tea daily as a part of a healthy lifestyle could help to preserve physical and mental health in childhood... and into old age.” Parents could offer tea as a substitute for sweet and sugary drinks for children.

*Who knew? Maybe miss out the milk and sugar though...
-Ed.*

Congregational Register

Change of Address

Dr. LESLEY ORR, 78 March Road, Edinburgh EH4 3SY to 8/7 Western Harbour Breakwater, EH6 6HZ.



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



Life and Work: The Magazine of the Church of Scotland

If there is one individual who can be said to have shaped the Church of Scotland of the 20th century, it is probably the minister and theologian Archibald Charteris (1835-1908). Charteris was instrumental in the founding of the Guild, restoring the office of Deaconess in the Church, and helping to establish the national social care initiative that would evolve into the Social Care Council (CrossReach). And in amongst all that, he found time to start a magazine.

Charteris identified that there was a demand for a distinctively *Scottish* Christian magazine for ministers to circulate in their parishes, complaining that the many English publications were 'very nearly unintelligible to the untravelled Scot'. The General Assembly of 1878 was persuaded, and eight months later Life and Work was born.

The new publication faced scepticism and even ridicule from elements of the Church establishment, but Life and Work quickly became part of the furniture and - with the exception of a two-month break because of a printer's strike in 1959 - it has published monthly ever since.

Charteris handed over the editorship after a year, but by then he had established the template that in many ways remains to this day: news of the Church at local, national and international level, commentary on the key issues of the day from a Scottish Christian perspective, spiritual guidance and Bible study, interviews and profiles of key figures within the Church. At the union with the United Free Church of Scotland in 1929, the churches' magazines merged too, becoming 'Life and Work: the Record of the Church of Scotland'. Colour started to appear on the covers in the 1950s, and the magazine went full colour in 1996. With the editor answerable only to the General Assembly for the content of the magazine, Life and Work has never been a conventional 'in-house' publication or the mouthpiece of the Church hierarchy. Instead, it has been positioned as a critical friend: always wanting the best for the organisation, but free to publish negative opinion or to stray outside the official line. With the coming of the internet it moved online, firstly on Facebook and Twitter and then with the launch of www.lifeandwork.org, which offers up-to-date news, exclusive features and extracts from the magazine. You can now also read the whole magazine in digital form. But however you choose to read it, Life and Work remains an essential news source and platform for discussion for the whole Church.

The Last Laugh

❖ A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Sunday school. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!" As she was running, she tripped on a kerb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! But please don't shove me either. That was naughty....."

❖ A preacher went into the pulpit one Sunday morning wearing a pair of new bifocals. The reading portion of the glasses improved his vision considerably, but the top portion of the glasses didn't work so well. In fact, he was experiencing dizziness every time he looked through them. Finally, he apologised to the congregation. "I hope you will excuse my continually removing my glasses," he said. "You see, when I look down, I can see fine, but when I look at you, it makes me feel sick."

❖ A man went into a drop-in medical centre where the diagnosis was done by a computer. The patient keyed in his symptoms. The machine whirred and buzzed for a few seconds and then presented its findings on the screen. It said simply: "There's a lot of it about."

❖ Before setting off on a business trip, I called the hotel where I'd be staying to see if they had a gym. The hotel receptionist's sigh had a tinge of exasperation in it when she answered. "We have over 100 guests at this facility," she said. "Does this 'Jim' have a last name?"