

THE BROUGHTON BEACON

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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
You can email us at mail@bstmchurch.org.uk
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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 have been in a vacancy situation following the sudden death of our minister, Peter Macdonald, in February 2020. Presbytery appointed Rev Sam Torrens as Interim Moderator and we are grateful for his support. We also value the support of Rev Bill Taylor, who has been conducting worship over the past year. We are now approaching the end of the vacancy process and we hope our new minister will be inducted next month.

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 November 2021

Letter from Rev Bill Taylor

Dear Friends,

As I write, a date for the Service of Induction of the Rev Laurene Lafontaine as the next Minister of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church has just been announced in the weekly e-news from Ian. The date is Thursday 2nd December, assuming Presbytery sustains the call at its next meeting. For now, it feels a little like we are somewhere between what has been and what will be, as we await the beginning of an exciting new chapter.

In some ways that's characteristic of the journey of faith. We give thanks for distance travelled, see what God is up to in the present moment and look forward to what is yet to come. We are people living between the times. We live in the Age of the Spirit sparked by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and the outpouring of God at Pentecost, glad of the invitation to work together with God towards the coming Day when all will know life in its fullness and God's Kingdom of justice and peace will be complete.

November is a month for remembering and giving thanks. Liturgically it marks the last Sundays of the Christian Year which begins afresh when the Season of Advent starts. This will be the second November of the global pandemic, and as we give thanks for the breakthrough that vaccinations have brought we are aware of the urgency around their distribution world-wide and conscious of how many have lost their lives or seen their lives changed. As we remember all who have died at the beginning of the month, Remembrance Sunday (14th November) invites us, lest we forget, to think on those who suffered as a result of war and conflict; that will have a particular poignancy this year as we reflect on the cost of military engagement in Afghanistan. Prisoners Week begins on the following Sunday when we remember people in prison and all whose lives have been impacted by crime. We give thanks for the God who in Jesus meets us where the hard places of life are and holds out the hand of love, courage and strength.

As the vacancy at Broughton St Mary's is resolved, we think of the challenges that have been part of the congregation's journey: the unexpected and sad loss of Peter, the impact of

Covid and other illnesses, the resolve to have an active presence in the community and on Zoom, the building works to turn the Inside Out vision into reality.... We give thanks for God's guidance, God's sustaining 'sufficient grace' (2 Corinthians 12:9) and for the ongoing contribution of dedicated office-bearers, staff, members, and supporters of the congregation.

As the outgoing 'usual Sunday preacher', I would like to say it's been a joy to share in your worship and fellowship and to catch a sense of your vision and commitment to social action and inclusion. I have learned a lot. My thanks to Sam, your Interim Moderator, for recruiting me!

Wishing you every blessing and joy in the time ahead,

Bill *Rev Bill Taylor*

Services in November

7 November: Rev Bill Taylor

14 November: **10.45am**. Remembrance Sunday, Rev Bill Taylor. Members of the Royal British Legion Central Branch will be in attendance.

21 November: Rev Bill Taylor

28 November: Christmas Gift Service, Rev Bill Taylor.

Our services during the refurbishment are taking place in the Garden Room at 10:30am each Sunday. We can accommodate 43 people in the Garden Room. 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. On Remembrance Sunday worshippers will be seated in the Garden Room and also the Drummond Room from where the service will be beamed on Zoom.

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

Presbytery will receive the Call from Broughton St Mary's to Rev Laurene Lafontaine at its meeting on 2 November. On the assumption that Presbytery sustain the Call, Laurene's induction to Broughton St Mary's will take place on **Thursday 2 December**. The induction service will take place in the Garden Room if the church sanctuary is not ready due to the ongoing refurbishment work.

Tower Repairs

The Kirk Session has set up a Just Giving Page on the internet to raise money towards the cost of the tower repairs. To date almost £6000 has been donated to the page from members of the community, friends and members of the congregation, and other donors who wish to remain anonymous. You can find the Just Giving page at

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/BSTM>

Further donations towards the cost of the tower repairs have also been received outwith the Just Giving Page.

Christmas Gift Scheme: 28 Nov

Along with other churches, we will be supporting the Christmas Gift Scheme at Edinburgh Prison again this year. You are invited to bring gifts of toys (new and unwrapped) for the children of prisoners on **Sunday 28 November**. Your donations are always greatly appreciated by the prisoners and staff, with any surplus toys being put to good use in the Prison's Visitor Centre.

Church Flowers

A combination of the closure of our sanctuary for refurbishment and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has meant that since April 2020 the rota for arranging flowers for the church sanctuary and their delivery to members of the congregation has been suspended. We intend to restart the rota from January 2022. Based on the 2019 rota, donors and deliverers for January are as follows:

2 Jan: Family of the late Douglas Munro. Flowers delivered by a VOLUNTEER.

9 Jan: The Wemyss Family. Flowers delivered by a VOLUNTEER.

16 Jan: Family of the late Joyce Gray. Flowers delivered by Colin Beck.

23 Jan: Mary Guthrie. Flowers delivered by Anne Aarsten.

30 Jan: Betty Bowes. Flowers delivered by a VOLUNTEER.

Donors are needed for the following dates in 2022: 1 May, 21 & 28 August, 4 September, 2 October, 20 & 27 November, 4 & 11 December.

Although some donors come to the church to arrange the flowers they donate, the church **URGENTLY** needs volunteers to arrange flowers on behalf of those donors who do not do their own arranging. It is essential that new volunteers come forward as those who were previously on the team are no longer able to do so. Consequently, we will need someone to arrange the flowers on **4** of the **5** weeks in January. For the rest of the year there will be a further **32** times when we will need someone to help arrange flowers. It would be really helpful if either a new team can be formed or if more donors would be willing to come to the church to put in their flowers. We want to encourage as many people to come forward on the understanding that volunteers are not expected to be highly-skilled floral artists.

We also need people to help deliver flowers to members and friends of the congregation. For various reasons the team of visitors has reduced leaving 7 people available to deliver flowers during the year. Based on the previous rota, there will now be **23 times during 2022** when we will need a new volunteer to help deliver flowers.

A quote from Elizabeth Andrew: "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart".

Please contact Ian Buckingham or Colin Beck if you can help by:

- Offering to donate money for flowers.
- Offering to arrange flowers in the sanctuary and vestibule.
- Helping to deliver flowers to members of the congregation.

National Giving Day

The people of Broughton St Mary's have gifted £2080 in thanksgiving for the presence of God with us through these challenging times. The gifts were received at our service on 24 October and will be used for the work of our church in what has been a difficult year for Broughton St Mary's and the wider Church. Thanks to all who were able to contribute.

Ian Buckingham

Fund Raising

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

For our first event in many months, we are holding a Christmas Coffee Morning on **Saturday 27 November, 10am - 12 noon**. Coffee or tea will be served with either a mincemeat pie or shortbread.

There will be 3 stalls: **Home Baking, Christmas Gifts** and a **bottle/tombola stall**. Donations of good quality items for the gift stall (toiletries, jewellery, books) & bottles can be brought on any Sunday. Items of home baking can be brought on the day or by arrangement. For those of you who are unable to come, you are invited to make a donation in an envelope marked 'Coffee Morning' on any Sunday before /after the event. Tickets priced £2 are on sale from members of the Fund Raising Team, or you can come along and pay at the door. The proceeds of this Coffee Morning will go toward the 'Spire Refurbishment Fund'. If you feel able to assist with a stall, serving coffee or simply sanitising tables and washing up, please speak to me, Deborah, any Sunday or on 0131 557 5051. Please be aware that masks will be required to be worn on entry and while moving around. However, masks can be removed while eating and drinking. Hand sanitiser will be available and should be used at every opportunity.

Deborah Buckingham

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.

A date for your diaries: The Pastoral Care Team plan to have a Christmas party on **Saturday 18 December**, from 2 till 4pm. We are still working on what catering and entertainment is allowed but we guarantee festive cheer!

Car drivers needed: Can we make a plea for drivers who could help some of our older members get to church? We have some of our most senior members standing waiting for a bus or not able to get to morning worship. Car drivers, can you help? If so, please contact Colin Beck on 07771 776415.

On **Safeguarding Sunday** we reminded everyone to report harm if they see it. Whether it is harm relating to children, adults, women or anyone who is vulnerable to abuse, you should call Social Care Direct on 0800 731 6969.

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church meets again on Saturday 6 November, from 11.00am.



The theme this month is Remember, Remember!

We share games, crafty activities, storytime and lunch, so if this sounds like something you want to do, just come along. There is no need to book, but don't forget to bring an adult with you.

We look forward to seeing you there,

From the Messy Church team.

If you would like to know more, please call me on 07526 108049 or email

messychurch@bstmchurch.org.uk

Jan Allan

Sunday Club Theatre Trip

The Sunday Club are organising a trip to the Panto at Brunton Theatre on **Saturday 11 December**. (*Oh no, you're not! Oh yes, we are!*)

The show is Hansel and Gretel and it's at 7pm. Tickets are £22 for adults and £19 for concessions, and the Sunday Club will cover the cost of the children's tickets. This trip is open to members of the congregation and friends, but tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis, so if you want to reserve a seat please contact me as soon as possible.

This should be a fun, festive event for all ages! (diane_c@btinternet.com or 0131 657 2447).

Diane Chisholm



...if you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this sermon...

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Some of our church and community groups have resumed their meetings, including those listed below. While still being Covid-aware, it is great to see our building busy and lively again!

Action Group – every weekday 9am - 3pm
Smart Cookies After School Club – afternoons 2-6pm, 12-6 on Fridays
Monday evening – Beavers 6.15 - 7.15pm
Tuesday evening – Brownies 6.15 - 7.45pm
Weds afternoon – Wednesday Club (Carpet Bowls & Scrabble) 2-4pm
Wednesday evening – Cub Scouts 6.15 - 7.15pm
Wednesday evening – Wildfire Choir 7.30 - 9pm
Thursday evening – No Strings Attached Wind Band 7.15- 9.15pm
Thursday evening – Church Choir 7.00 - 8.30pm
Friday afternoon – Helen O’Grady Drama 1.50 - 3pm
Friday evening – Cosmic Dance 5.15- 9.15pm
Friday evening – Violin lessons 6-8pm
Saturday morning – Helen O’Grady drama 10-11am
Saturday morning – Cosmic Dance 11.15 - 12.15pm
1st Saturday morning – Messy Church 11-1pm
Sunday mornings – Broughton St Mary’s Church services 10.30am
4th Sun evening – Quakers 6.45 - 8.45pm.

Every little helps...

Half of people in the UK who are aged over 50 have cut down on the amount of meat and dairy that they eat. They want to help the environment and to reduce their carbon footprint. A recent survey by the charity Rest Less, which offers advice to older people, found that many older people “feel a huge sense of responsibility for the health of the planet and their role in reducing climate change.” The charity found that “the vast majority of mid-lifers are making changes to their own habits, from recycling more to consuming less, changing travel habits, and even giving up their car.”

A Special Kind of Friend

Four years ago I produced a little book entitled ‘A Special Kind of Friend: Memoirs of a Big Sister.’ Having grown up in the 1950s and 60s, I am one of the ‘Baby Boomer’ generation and, as each year goes by, I am more aware of how much things have changed since those days. The book is part memoir, part social history. It has recently been reprinted and I have a limited number for sale. The price is £5, with 50% of this being donated to **Barnardo’s Scotland**.

Diane Chisholm

A Special Kind of Friend

Memoirs of a Big Sister



Diane Chisholm

Some thoughts on remembering



Remember me as the poppies fall
On the shoulders, heads, and at the feet
Of young and old,
All gathered for the Festival.

Remember me in the music played,
In the clapping of the audience,
Keeping time
And uniforms so proudly worn.

Remember me in the stories told,
Most from the distant past, but others new,
Each one rehearsing memories stored or
In the making.

Remember me -
And if a tear should chance to flow
Then let it flow for the world in pain,
And dedicate yourself to peace.

For you are my memorial.
And your life, if lived for others,
Is my legacy.

Sam Doubtfire

If only...

‘They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.’

Isaiah 2:4

Congregational Register



DEATHS

January? Mrs MARGARET HOBSON, Thorburn Manor, 2a Thorburn Road, EH13 0BQ
1 October Mrs JEAN COXSON, 104 Inverleith Row, EH3 5NJ.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Ms LESLEY SHEPHERD, 38 Powderhall Road, EH7 4GB to 8 Davis Terrace, EH4 2AH.

Transference Certificate sent to:

Mrs MARY A.W. SUTHERLAND, 12 Swanston Gardens, EH10 7DL.



The Flower Rota has been suspended for the time being but we hope to reinstate it in 2022. Volunteers are needed to help with supplying, arranging and delivering flowers.



New Counselling Service in Leith

Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre are trialling a new free service based at Dr Bells Family Centre on Tuesdays for mothers, trans and non-binary parents, who live in Leith and have a child not yet at school. This new service will start from Tuesday 26 October 2021.

- Have you experienced rape, sexual assault or sexual abuse at anytime in your life?
- Would you like to talk to someone about it and need childcare to do that?

We offer up to 6 one-to-one counselling support sessions with a **free crèche** place provided in the same building. After these sessions you can go onto our long term waiting list for a further 16 sessions or onto Group support. If you live in Leith within the EH6 and EH7 postcodes, have at least one child under 5 living at home and would benefit from this service, please email support@ercc.scot for more information or phone/text 07966 067301 or leave a voice message on 0131 556 9437.

Spaces are limited for this trial period and will be offered on a first come first served basis and so there may be a waiting time of up to 9 weeks for support. Crèche slots can be booked for up to 2hrs to allow for some time after the session, there can also be a settling in appointment for your child a week before any support sessions starts to get them used to being in the crèche.

Once you refer a Counselling support worker will get in touch with you to arrange an over the phone introductory session in order to set up the registration for the crèche and take down some personal details and give you more information about what times are available for support.

The Last Laugh

❖ When the minister moved his family into the large Victorian manse, a member of the congregation asked the young son how he liked his new home. "It's great," the little boy replied. "At last I have my own room, and my brother has his own room, and my sister has her own room. But poor Mum is still in with Dad."

❖ A Sunday School class was studying the Ten Commandments. The teacher asked if anyone could recite one from memory. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off thy neighbour's wife."

❖ A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup to come out of the bottle. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her young daughter to answer it. "It's the minister, Mum," the child said to her mother. Then she told her caller: "Mummy can't come to the phone right now. She's hitting the bottle."

❖ While out in the town, I saw an elderly couple holding hands while they were walking. As they approached, I commented on how romantic it was. The man replied, "We have been holding hands when we go out in public for over 30 years. I have to. If I let go, she shops."