

THE BROUGHTON BEACON

Magazine of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, Edinburgh



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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 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 months. We are now approaching the end of the vacancy process and we hope to appoint a new minister very soon.

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

October 2021

A message from our Interim Moderator, Rev Sam Torrens

Acts 13:2 While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

It was a privilege to be present at the end of morning worship on Sunday 26 September and to open the ballot box and witness the votes being counted by my Session Clerk as an independent Returning Officer. The outcome was very clear, not only through the vote on Sunday (48-2) but also through the unanimous recommendation of your Nominating Committee who have worked so conscientiously, prayerfully and carefully through this process. The Rev Laurene Lafontaine is aware of the legacy upon which she will build her ministry alongside and along with each and all of you. Laurene will speak to that in due course but it was with great warmth and joy that she received the applause of elated worshippers and a big hug from your Interim Moderator on the announcement of the result. Immediately she referred to those gathered as "her people". A people with whom she already feels a connection and an affinity, as she does with the whole of Broughton St Mary's.

May God bless you all and reassure you as you await Presbytery's acceptance of the Call and arrangements for the Induction. That Call can be signed by all members and adherents and I'm sure Ian Buckingham will make that available to you over the coming days.

As an observer of the process can I take this opportunity to publicly thank everyone on the Nominating Committee for being so conscientious, prayerful, rigorous and gracious in attending to the task at hand. They are Ian Buckingham (Convener), Diane Chisholm (Clerk), Jan Allan, Colin Beck, Donald Ferguson, Jim Liddle, Catriona Lodge, Barbara Robertson and Graham Rogers.

The Holy Spirit still sets people apart to serve God's good purposes in these days.

Warm appreciation,

Sam

Interim Moderator, Broughton St Mary's Church

Vacancy Update

At a meeting on 30 August, the Nominating Committee chose The Rev Laurene Lafontaine as the person they wished to propose to the congregation to be the next minister of Broughton St Mary's. Arrangements were made for Laurene to conduct worship at Broughton St Mary's, and this took place on 26 September. It was not possible to accommodate everyone who wished to attend in the Garden Room.

The service, therefore, was beamed live on Zoom to those in the Drummond Room at the church and also to those at home. A ballot was held following worship and our Interim Moderator, Sam Torrens declared the result of the ballot as follows:

Following the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, do you agree that the Rev Laurene Lafontaine should be minister of Broughton St Mary's?

Yes: 48 No: 2

There were 6 other votes in favour that were received but could not be counted as those voting did not hear Rev Lafontaine conduct worship either in the Garden Room, Drummond Room or on Zoom. Also, one ballot paper did not have a unique number on it.

Members and adherents of the congregation will soon be invited to sign "The Call" to Laurene Lafontaine to be our next minister. The result of the election and details of the number of signatures on the call will be reported to Presbytery. Once Presbytery sustains the call from Broughton St Mary's, it will make arrangements for Laurene's induction.

Laurene is currently minister of Kingswells Parish Church, Aberdeen, and is a minister with great experience. She is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, was ordained by the Presbyterian Church USA in 1987 and has spent the vast majority of her ministry in Colorado and Minnesota. She came to Scotland in 2017 to begin the Church of Scotland Familiarisation Programme for ministers outwith the Church of Scotland, with placements at South Leith and Mayfield Salisbury Parish Churches here in Edinburgh.

Services in October

3 Oct: Rev Bill Taylor; 10 Oct: Harvest Thanksgiving - Rev Bill Taylor; 17 Oct: Rev Bill Taylor; 24 Oct and 31 Oct: Worship leader to be confirmed.

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. 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

Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 10 October



We will celebrate Harvest this year on 10 October. This is an opportunity for you to contribute to the Food Bank which operates from our building. Just bring your gift to the Garden Room and drop it in the boxes at the door. Donations to the Food Bank can include: fruit juice (long life), tinned fruit, tinned fish, pasta sauce, jam, pulses, UHT milk, coffee, biscuits and sugar. Some of our own members will receive a Harvest gift and the best wishes of the congregation.

Colin Beck, Pastoral Care Team
pastoralcare@bstmchurch.org.uk

Refurbishment

As reported in the September Beacon, there were areas of the cornice in the sanctuary which required attention for health and safety reasons. These sections of the cornice have been repaired. The high level work on the ceiling is ongoing with new light fittings having been installed. Work in the vestibules and stairwells is also progressing with redecoration taking place. The architect has instructed the contractor to aim for a completion date of 12 November, however this date may be subject to change.

The Kirk Session has been advised that costings for additional works on the church ceiling and tower are estimated to be £160K. The Presbytery has approved the Kirk Session's request to liquidate some of our locally held assets to cover the cost and for an application to be made to the General Trustees for a short-term loan in the meantime.

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 £2,230 has been received 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>

National Giving Day



The Kirk Session has agreed to participate in the Church of Scotland's National Giving Day.

At Broughton St Mary's this will take place on **Sunday 24 October**.

'The aim of National Giving Day is to offer congregations an opportunity to reflect deeply on God's loving presence with us during these challenging times and to express our appreciation and gratitude through giving generously ourselves. Gifts can take many forms and can include offerings of time and effort shared within congregations as well as monetary gifts that can be used for an agreed purpose.

Congregations can use the money they raise to boost their own funds and support a renewed sense of mission or they can direct it towards projects at home or overseas, provided that it will be used in line with the charitable objectives of the Church. Funds raised on the designated giving day will not be included in a congregation's income when it is assessed for Ministries and Mission contributions'.

At Broughton St Mary's we have experienced a difficult 18 months following the loss of our minister Peter Macdonald, the Covid-19 pandemic coinciding with the additional works to our building. **You are invited to offer your time or a monetary gift for the church in line with the aims of National Giving Day outlined above.**

Anyone wishing to donate cash or a cheque (made payable to Broughton St Mary's Parish Church) may do so by placing their donation in an envelope marked National Giving Day. Similarly, offers of time and effort in support of the church can be made in the same manner, or by speaking to Ian Buckingham, if preferred.

Ian Buckingham

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 for sale which 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.

Life and Work Magazine 2022

Life and Work continues to play a key role in keeping our Christian community connected and informed.

As last year, Broughton St Mary's will not be ordering magazines through the church but you can purchase a **personal print subscription** and have it delivered directly to your home address. Contact **Diane Chisholm** if you would like an order form and direct debit form. (diane_c@btinternet.com)

Despite another year of increased production and operational costs, the Life and Work team have managed to hold the cover price of £3.00 for 2022, (£36 for 12 issues), with no additional charge for postage.

Alternatively, you can place your order online at www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe or telephone 0131 460 7487. Subscriptions to a digital edition can also be purchased via the magazine's website.

The Life and Work team hopes the price freeze will retain subscribers and entice new readers as the Church attempts to recover from the financial impact of Covid-19. Those that subscribe to the magazine of the Church of Scotland directly support the vital and vibrant work of the Church.



...I take it our local supermarket has a rather good offer on tinned peas at the moment!

OCTOBER CALENDAR

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

World Animal Day: 4 October

For all the animal lovers out there, you might like to know that 4 October is World Animal Day. This could be a day when you think about our animal friends and perhaps support them in some way. Even if you don't own a pet you could care for the birds in your garden by putting out food and water for them. You could volunteer to work at an animal shelter or local charity shop, or you could donate money to an animal charity. Worldwide, animals have never needed our help more than they do now. With plastic choking our oceans and deforestation robbing many species of their habitats, it is surely time for us to reconsider our role as 'stewards of the earth'. As climate change clearly demonstrates, we humans are not doing a very good job.

World Animal Day is an attempt to raise the status of animals in order to improve welfare standards around the globe. It's celebrated in different ways in every country, irrespective of nationality, religion, faith or political ideology. Through increased awareness and education let's hope we can create a world where animals are always recognised as sentient beings and full regard is always paid to their welfare. **Find out more at www.worldanimalday.org.uk**

Garden nets are dangerous!

Did you protect your fruit bushes and vegetable patches with netting this summer? Remember to put it away! Don't leave netting out in your garden over the winter - it is killing our hedgehogs.

So warns the RSPCA, after reports of dozens of hedgehogs getting entangled in football, badminton and pond nets.

Evie Button, a wildlife scientific officer, warns: "Netting can be a particular hazard for wild animals, as they can easily become entangled. As they thrash around trying to escape, the netting can tighten round them and cause terrible suffering."



Please stop buying compost with peat in it

So says the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). The large-scale removal of peat from bog "is destroying one of our most precious wildlife habitats. It takes centuries for a peat bog to form with its special wildlife - modern machinery destroys it in days."

Something to think about as COP 26 approaches...

"We are the first generation to feel the effect of climate change and the last generation who can do something about it."

Barack Obama

Sorry, Lord, I just couldn't make it

The bells ring out on Sunday morn,
O did you hear their call?
They call the faithful ones to prayer
To Church they summon all.
But Lord, I cannot come today,
I live a busy life,
Still, when there's something special on
I'll try and send my wife.

It poured with rain last Sunday
An inch or two, I bet.
You surely can't expect me then -
I'd get my new suit wet.
Today the sky is blue and clear,
but the car's as black as ink
And if I do not clean it soon,
What will the neighbours think?

You know I do my bit, dear Lord
I have a golden rule,
I sometimes send my kids along
To be at Sunday school.
But I really couldn't come as well,
There's grass to mow, and beds to weed
Shelves to fix, a dog to walk, and
Sunday newspapers to read.

And now this day has ended,
Lord
How fast the weekends go!
I ask for faith and strength this week
For I feel (spiritually) quite low.
Inflame, O Lord, my feeble faith
My lamp burns rather dim,
For God depends on me, of course,
And I depend on Him.
Author unknown



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



Community outreach 'Music Hub' opens at Stockbridge Church

As of September 17th, Stockbridge Parish Church began a community project centred around promoting health and well-being through music.

The 'Music Hub' will be led by Clea Friend, a professional cellist who previously played with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and alongside opera singer Andrea Bocelli, and even musician Sir Rod Stewart.

The Music Hub hopes to restart holding regular concerts of all varieties of music, as well as starting up a 'Culture Club', which will show theatre and opera performances and then host discussions on them after the screenings.

Through such discussions, the Music Hub will aim to bring people together and foster friendships by giving any and everyone the chance to make, listen to and talk about music in a safe and open environment.

Miss Friend also plans to run classes for children and young people with autism, helping them use music as a way to express themselves and connect with others in the community.

Information sourced and edited by Faith Macintosh.

The Last Laugh

Listen carefully...

A minister experienced some technical problems with the new sound system one Sunday. Instead of starting the service as usual with 'The Lord be with you', he said: "There's something wrong with the microphone."

Not hearing this, the congregation replied: "And also with you."



Lethal lesson

The Ten Commandments were the subject for a Sunday School teacher's lesson. After explaining *Honour thy father and thy mother*, the teacher asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat, a voice from the back offered, "Thou shalt not kill."

Start small...

A teenage boy told his mother: "I've decided I want to be a preacher so that I can clean up the mess the world is in."

"That's wonderful," replied his mother. "You can go upstairs and start with your room."

Who'd be a landlord?

Excerpts from real life requests sent by tenants:

- ~ The toilet is blocked, and we cannot bathe the children until it is cleared.
- ~ This is to let you know that there is a smell coming from the man next door.
- ~ I am writing on behalf of my sink, which is running away from the wall.
- ~ I request your permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen.

- Do you ever get up in the morning, look in the mirror and think, "That can't be accurate."
- We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.



CHRISTIAN AID

Sale of Pictures and Scottish Books

St Andrew's and St George's West Church

Thursday 14 - Saturday 16 October

10am - 3pm

Coffee Morning

Saturday 16 October 10am - 12noon

in the Undercroft

Enquiries to 07714 186754