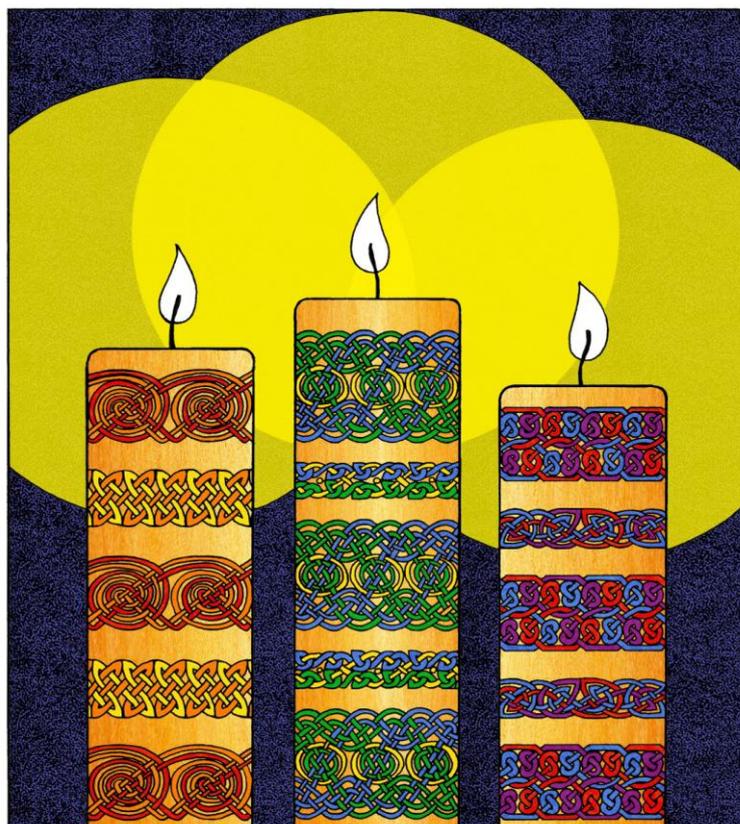


THE BROUGHTON BEACON

Magazine of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, Edinburgh



DECEMBER 2021

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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
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 have been in a vacancy situation following the sudden death of our minister, Rev Peter Macdonald, in February 2020 and this is now coming to an end. Presbytery appointed Rev Sam Torrens as Interim Moderator and we have been grateful for his support. We have also valued the support of Rev Bill Taylor, who has been conducting worship during most of the vacancy. We are now looking forward to the Induction of our new minister, Rev Laurene Lafontaine, on 2 December.

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 December 2021

Letter from Rev Sam Torrens

Dear Broughton St Mary's,
Advent simply means "coming"! And, this Advent will not only see the arrival of Christmas and the celebration of the birth of our Saviour, but it will also see the arrival of your new minister the Rev Laurene Lafontaine. Laurene's coming signals my going and this letter is an opportunity to say "Farewell" as your Interim Moderator and to thank you for the privilege of getting to know you as a congregation and getting to know your Office Bearers as people of vision, warmth, and tremendous commitment.

My job has been made relatively easy by the services of the very attentive and caring Rev Bill Taylor supported by Rev Dr Fiona Tweedie and Dr Mary MacLeod-Rivett, not forgetting the help of the Rev Matthew Bickett in Dr Campbell's time. I trust you have been served as well as possible in very restrictive and challenging times. I'm grateful to all of you for your support but I'm going to single out one person for special thanks, and that person is your Session Clerk, Ian Buckingham.

I stand in awe of his ability to attend to so many details on your behalf. The weekly emails, the site meetings, the setup on Sunday mornings, the preparation of Kirk Session meetings, conversations with General Trustees and Presbytery, the implementation and maintenance of Covid-19 Guidelines, vacancy Protocols, distribution of information, being a trusted voice and first point of contact for so many enquiries and day to day concerns, not to mention his role in Cluster conversations and as Convener of the now disbanded Nominating Committee. I am exhausted just thinking of the work done, and I thank him for being so approachable and available to me in the midst of it all.

There is a story told in the Alpha Course that Ian might be tempted to share with Laurene on her arrival. It is a welcome speech made by a Session Clerk (or equivalent) to a newly inducted Minister. It goes something like this:

"Minister, we welcome you and want you to know that you have come to a great place! We have a lot of work going on and a membership of 273 to do it. But out of those 273, 57 are nominal,

and aren't around much, so that leaves 216 to do it; of those 216, 84 of them are frail and housebound, so that leaves 132 to do it; of those 132, 62 are busy parents, with young families, so that leaves 70 to do it; of those 70, 24 are busy professionals with bulging diaries and heavy responsibilities, so that leaves 46 to do it; and of those 46, 44 are children! So, Minister, that leaves you and me! And quite frankly Minister, I'm knackered, so it's over to you!!!"

Ian might be tempted to tell that story but I doubt if he will because Broughton St Mary's isn't that church! Yes, you have nominal members, frail elderly, parents with children, busy professionals, young singles, a whole range of diverse people but a range of diverse people ready to get going with the arrival of Laurene.

It's interesting that Advent often begins with the lonely solitary voice of John the Baptist crying in the wilderness for people to prepare the way of the Lord, but it ends with a heavenly host lighting up the night sky with a harmonious choral tribute to God in the celebration of our Lord's birth! I'm trusting and I sense that Laurene won't be a lone voice but together with you all, you'll be singing in harmony like a heavenly choir and lighting up the dark night of souls all around you. Gloria in Excelsis Deo! (Glory to God in the Highest!)

With prayerful good wishes for the coming days.

Yours sincerely,

Sam

Interim Moderator (until 2 Dec 2021)

Christmas Services at Broughton St Mary's



Although we are not yet able to return to our beautiful sanctuary, we will still be celebrating Christmas! All services will be in the Garden Room and also on Zoom.

Sunday 19 December 10.30am
Friday 24 Dec 11.30pm: Watchnight Service
Sat 25 Dec 10.30am: Christmas Day Service
Sunday 26 December 10.30am

All are welcome!

The Rev Bill Taylor

A vacancy can be a period of uncertainty for a congregation and doubly so during a pandemic. At Broughton St Mary's we have been blessed to have had Bill Taylor leading our worship for over year. Bill's steady hand and keen sense of the needs of the congregation has been evident as he shared our journey during our vacancy. Bill has become a friend to many and we shall miss him. Thank you, Bill, for all you have done for us, and best wishes to you and Lorna.

The Rev Sam Torrens

The Kirk Session is grateful for the encouragement and leadership Sam has given as Interim Moderator. The Session has had to deal with a few setbacks during our vacancy, as not everything has gone smoothly for us. He has guided us through these setbacks with good humour and positivity which helped us over the bumps along the way. Sam has always been available to talk to and ready to assist when needed and has been an invaluable friend to us all. We thank Sam for making time for Broughton St Mary's on top of the demands of his ministry at Slateford Longstone and we wish him and his congregation God's blessing.

Ian Buckingham

CHURCH FLOWERS

An article in last month's Beacon explained that volunteers are needed before we can reintroduce the practice of flowers being placed in the sanctuary and vestibules, which, after worship, are given to members and friends of the congregation. Regrettably, no additional volunteers have come forward to help with either arranging flowers in the sanctuary or visiting members of the congregation after the service.

To date, I have one person from the original flower team available to arrange flowers for the whole year. You will note that we need a volunteer to deliver flowers on 5 of the 7 dates shown below. As stated in last month's Beacon, volunteers are not expected to be a highly skilled floral arranger to become part of the flower team.

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.

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.

6 Feb: Friends of the Late Cathie Lewis. Flowers delivered by a VOLUNTEER.

13 Feb: Margaret Davidson & Bertha Galbraith. Flowers delivered by a VOLUNTEER.

Services in December

2 December: 7.00pm, Induction of Rev Laurene Lafontaine to Broughton St Mary's.

5 December: 10:30am, all services conducted by Rev Laurene Lafontaine.

12 December: 10:30am

19 December: 10:30am

24 December: 11:30pm, Watchnight Service

25 December: 10:30am, Christmas Day Service

26 December: 10:30am

Our services during the refurbishment are taking place in the Garden Room at 10:30am each Sunday. We can accommodate up to 47 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

Fund Raising

We held our **Coffee Morning** on Saturday 27 November, a welcome resumption to our activities.

It was lovely to see many of our friends there. My thanks to everyone who helped with the organisation, selling on stalls, serving teas in the Garden Room, making the coffee, washing up and the tidying away afterwards.

It wouldn't have happened without you. The amount realised will appear in the January Beacon. We hope to hold more events in 2022, details will follow.

As this year draws to a close, may I thank my loyal customers who, through the year, have bought my home made produce and by doing so, added to church funds.

Wishing you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas.

Deborah Buckingham



MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church will be on Saturday 4 December, and the theme this month is 'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!'



We meet from 11.00am for games, crafts, storytime and a light lunch. All children up to P7 are welcome to come along with an adult, to share in the fun. If you have any questions, please email messychurch@bstmchurch.org.uk

Hope to see you there!

Jan Allan

Freewill Offering Envelopes 2022

To all our members who donate through the Freewill Offering scheme, the envelopes for 2022 are available and a number were handed out after the morning service on 28 November.

The remainder have either been delivered or put in the post, so should be with you early in December. If for any reason you have not received your envelopes for 2022, please contact me on 0131 554 8152. *Irene Marshall*

PASTORAL CARE

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

CHRISTMAS PARTY



The Pastoral Care Team plan to hold a Christmas party on **Saturday 18 December**, from 2 till 4pm in the Garden Room. We are still working on

what catering and entertainment is allowed but we guarantee festive cheer!

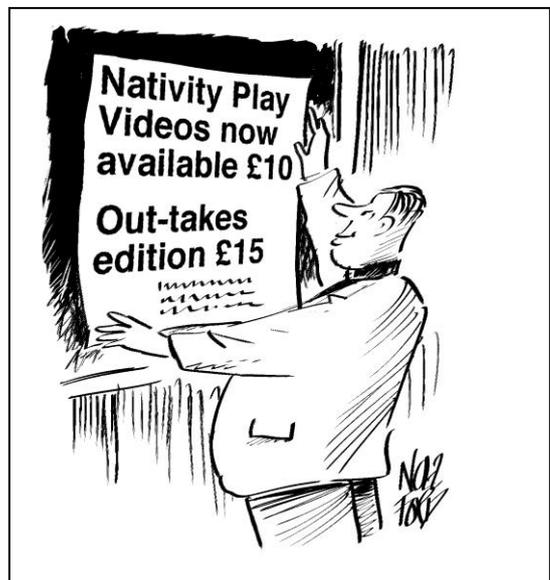
Car drivers needed: Can we make a plea for drivers who could help some of our older members get to church? We have some of our most senior members standing waiting for a bus or not able to get to morning worship. Car drivers, can you help? If so, please contact Colin Beck on 07771 776415.

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.

Vaccine Passports

If you plan on going out to theatres, restaurants or other venues in the near future, you may need proof of vaccination against Covid-19. You can access your vaccination status and download a certificate online at www.vacs.nhs.scot, or you can use the NHS Scotland Covid Status app on a smart phone.

You can also telephone **0808 196 8565** and your certificate will be sent out to you.



DECEMBER 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
Tuesday evening – Brownies 6.15 - 7.45pm
Weds afternoon – Wednesday Club (Carpet Bowls & Scrabble) 2-4pm
Wednesday evening – Wildfire Choir 7.30 - 9pm
Thursday evening – Rainbows 6 - 7pm
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.

Refurbishment Update

A progress meeting with the architect and contractor took place on 26 November. Due to printing deadlines, it is not possible to give a report from that meeting. At the previous meeting on 29 October, the contractor provided a timeline to the completion of the project which is now expected to end on 22 December 2021. Work to carry out a repair to the organ should start on 10 January 2022, and this and the reinstatement of the great organ pipes will be completed by 4 February.

Tower Repairs

The repair to the church tower is ongoing and is expected to be completed before the end of this year. The Kirk Session has set up a Just Giving Page on the internet to raise money towards the cost of the tower repairs. You can find the Just Giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/BSTM>

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

Your Gift of Life at Christmas



Creaking on the staircase,
Noise outside my door,
A rustle in the chimney,
It’s ‘Santa-time’ once more.

St Nicholas is on his way
With all his Christ-life gifts,
To fire every child-light with
The loving Christ-mass kiss.

In some he’ll place the gift of
gold
In others frankincense,
While others will be given
myrrh,
All signs of God’s presence.

For in each earthly crib or bed
In squalor, comfort, splendour,
The Christ child has been
placed again
To call the world to wonder.

So come you kings, come one,
come all,
Come shepherds to the cradle
stall
And hear the angels sing a-
new
The heavenly song they sing
for you.

Your God is in your gift of
life,
The life He gives with love,
So take the gift and use it,
Use it wisely, don’t abuse it,
Let the Christ-life fire your
spirit
That God in you may LIVE.
Sam Doubtfire



*We hope to reinstate the Flower Rota in 2022.
Volunteers are needed to help with supplying,
arranging and delivering flowers.*



Caring Christmas Trees

Bethany Christian Trust

Every year Bethany supports almost 7,000 people across Scotland, tackling the root causes and direct effects of homelessness. All proceeds from Caring Christmas Trees go to Bethany Christian Trust's work ending homelessness.

Pre-order one of our freshly cut fir trees, sustainably sourced in West Lothian.

We are able to offer home delivery on selected days in Edinburgh or Glasgow, or the popular option of collecting your tree from one of our sites across Edinburgh, Glasgow, East Lothian and Fife.

Delivery is £25 to cover our costs, and we will deliver your tree right to your door.

Collecting your tree can be done across a number of weekends in November and December. Just select your nearest location, pick a day and choose a morning or afternoon slot to collect. There will be a team on hand to help you choose your tree and get you in the festive mood!

www.caringchristmastrees.com

Phone: 0345 111 8733

Phone lines open from 10am to 4pm

Email: info@caringchristmastrees.com

The Last Laugh

- ❖ A little boy was to be an angel in the Christmas play and his one line was: "Behold, I bring you good tidings." He asked what tidings were and his mother explained that the word meant news. On the night of the play, the youngster had stage fright and, after a long silence, blurted out: "Hey, have I got news for you!"
- ❖ A Sunday school teacher was telling the story of the Nativity and had just finished the part about there being no room in the inn. A small voice piped up: "I blame Joseph. He should have booked."
- ❖ **According to the children...**
 - When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manger.
 - When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.
 - Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
- ❖ Christmas - what other time of year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat sweets out of your socks?
- ❖ It was so cold last night, the thermometer knocked on the door and wanted to come in.



*The Editor would like to wish
all Beacon readers a very
Happy Christmas!*

Christmas gift suggestions

To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect.
Anon.