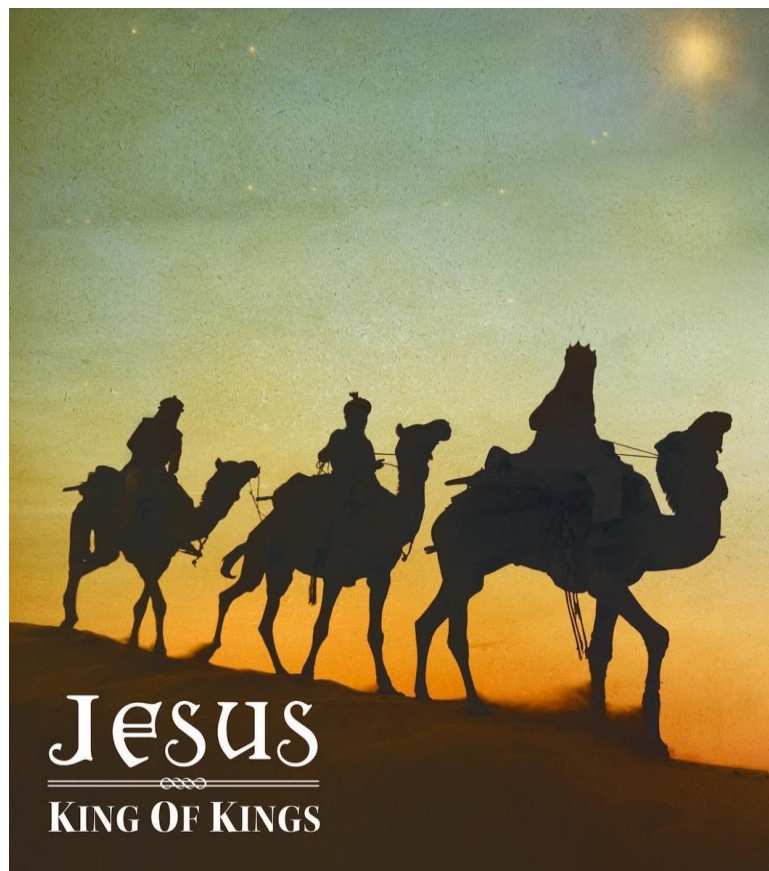


THE BROUGHTON BEACON

Magazine of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, Edinburgh



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Broughton St Mary's Parish Church

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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.



On 2 December 2021 we welcomed our new minister, Laurene Lafontaine, after a long vacancy following the death of our previous minister, Peter Macdonald. Laurene's induction was a happy occasion and we look forward to working with her as we face the challenges ahead for all of our churches in these difficult times.

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 January 2022

Letter from the Minister



Musings from the Manse

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11

I trust the joy of Christmas continues to be a source of comfort, strength, and inspiration during this season of Christmastide. As one who loves the community aspect of the festive season, it has been quite challenging not to have been together in-person as a congregation. In pre-Covid times, I would have had a couple of open house gatherings at the manse and the church to personally meet you and members/friends of Broughton St. Mary's during these past five weeks. I so look forward to meeting and getting to know each one of you once we get through these difficult days. Meanwhile, here are my top ten favourite things as a brief introduction.



Humpback whale in the Firth of Forth

1. Over the winter 2020 lockdown, I decided to take up photography. I was always taking photos of wildlife, scenery and nature with my iPhone but wanted the ability to develop my skills with a proper camera. Some of my favourite subjects are dolphins, birds, red squirrels and recently, the humpback whale in the Firth of Forth. I find it quite meditative and relaxing.
2. I love being out in nature and active so enjoy hill and coastal walks. Two of my favourite walks are from Arbroath to Auchmithie, and Findochty to Cullen. I am curious about your recommendations. What has been your favourite walk over the years?

3. Although I tend to mostly eat vegetarian, I do love a good fish dinner from time to time. I know the best chippy to get a takeaway in Stonehaven, Fochabers, North Berwick, even Oban. But I need your help here because I am at a loss where to find one in Edinburgh. Where is your favourite chippy?
4. I love to explore and get to know the area. Where is your favourite place to take visitors from out of town?
5. One of my favourite dogs is the Bernese Mountain Dog so am on a wait list for a puppy. My last dog, Gypsy, was a fabulous and kind "Berner." Although she was not an official therapy dog, she was well loved by the kids in my youth group at Columbine Church and people struggling with memory and health issues at my church in Minnesota. My hope is to train my next pup or two to become therapy dogs!
6. In addition to loving dogs, I do love my cats Frodo and Buddy. Both are rather large Ragdolls. They are gentle, personable, and tend to act like small dogs. I was fortunate to be able to adopt them when my minister friend Teri told me about their owner passing away and that they needed a new home. Honestly, I don't know how I would have survived lockdown without them!
7. I enjoy working with my hands so woodworking is an ongoing passion of mine. My grandpa taught me basic skills as a young girl and I was lucky enough to take a woodworking course later in life. I look forward to developing wood carving skills.
8. Another interest which originated from my grandpa is rocks and gemstones. Although he practised lapidary, I simply love to collect various rocks, fossils and stones. I am hoping to create a lovely rock garden at the manse with all the stones I have collected over the years.
9. I have a keen interest in ancient spirituality, standing stones, stone circles and Neolithic sites. I have had the opportunity to see many sites on Orkney and Arran along with numerous stone circles in Aberdeenshire. Anyone know where I might find such sites here?
10. I love being an active member of a community. I look forward to getting together. As an extrovert, I do love to entertain and have social gatherings. Once we get out of these challenging times, in the late spring and summer, I am looking forward to having a few open house gatherings at the manse.

I hope this list helps you get to know me a bit better. With all good things, it simply takes time to get to know one another. I am grateful to be your minister and look forward to our ministry together. May you continue to be sustained and encouraged by the ever-present love and light of God. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and yours.
May 2022 be the best year yet!

Peace,
Laurene

Refurbishment Update

The refurbishment of the sanctuary and vestibules is almost complete. The good news is that the congregation now has access to the sanctuary and services in the sanctuary will resume from **2 January 2022**. There are a few matters that are still outstanding, and the contractor will deal with these in early January. These include a new radiator to be installed in the vestry, completion of toilet facilities on the ground floor, painting of newly sited doors in the vestibule and a new cupboard in the upstairs room.

The repair work on the church tower has been completed and the scaffolding has been removed. Those returning for worship in the church will note the new glass entrance doors, new decoration and lighting in the vestibules and sanctuary, new carpeting, a brand-new audio-visual system with control booth, cameras and two new screens, new flooring in the sanctuary and new radiators on the ground floor.

Sunday Worship

Since April this year we have had to hold our Sunday services in the Garden Room. Now that we can return to the sanctuary, we will be able to accommodate many more people for worship. Current Covid guidance requires us to have one metre distancing in place. Services will continue to be broadcast via the Zoom platform for those who are unable to attend worship. 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.

Presbytery Plan

You may recall that the July/August Beacon contained a supplement from the Presbytery advising you of the issues affecting the Church of Scotland, namely that “presently the Church is using £11million of reserves annually to meet its commitments..... To live within its means, the Church could now afford only 600 ministry posts (parish ministers plus Ministries Development

Staff), plus maintain 60 vacancies (presently that number is over 200). To achieve this number the presbyteries across Scotland were allocated a number of posts, and instructed to achieve that number by 2025. For Edinburgh Presbytery that presently works with the number 78.2, the allocated number is now 48.5.” This means that in Edinburgh, there will be a reduction in the number of ministers serving congregations in the Presbytery.

A draft plan which impacts on every congregation within the Presbytery is to be discussed in Kirk Sessions as part of a consultation process. The Presbytery’s Planning Strategy Team is proposing the congregations of Broughton St Mary’s, Greenside and St Andrew’s and St George’s West will be served by 2 Full Time Ministers of Word and Sacrament and a 0.5 Ministry to the Theatres post and local staff. Church buildings used by each of the congregations will undergo an Asset Management Building Audit.

Currently both Broughton St Mary’s and St Andrew’s & St George’s West are each served by a Full Time Minister of Word and Sacrament. Greenside is under the Guardianship of the Presbytery and does not have a minister. A part-time post presently exists to minister to theatres.

Flowers for the Sanctuary

Thank you to those who have offered to contribute to the cost of flowers for the sanctuary during the year and on occasion help with the arranging of flowers. Volunteers are however still needed to assist with the delivery of flowers on a Sunday.

The rota for January and early February reads:

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.

It is hoped that as the congregation will now be meeting for worship in the sanctuary an ongoing rota can be prepared.

Ian Buckingham

Fund Raising

As we venture into 2022, the Fund Raising team have put a few provisional dates in the calendar for various activities, which we hope we will be able to hold within the guidance of any restrictions which may be in place.

Dates for the Diary

13 February – Baking Stall

March – Coffee Morning

I will be making Seville orange marmalade in early January when the fruit is, hopefully, available. Please ask me any Sunday or by phone if you would like to purchase some. Clementine marmalade is also available. Thank you for your help with raising funds last year, every little counts!

Deborah Buckingham



MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church is now having a short break but we will be back again from

March 2022, with games, crafts, stories and a light lunch. We look forward to seeing you then. For more information about Messy Church, please email messychurch@bstmchurch.org.uk

Jan Allan



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from 18 to 25 January. This year, the materials have been prepared by the churches of the Middle East. The Christians of the Middle East say that they offer these resources “conscious that the world shares many of the travails and much of the difficulties that it experiences”, and that it also “yearns for a light to lead the way to the Saviour who is the light that overcomes darkness.”

More at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/>

PASTORAL CARE

It was with a sense of sadness that the Pastoral Care Team (PCT) postponed the Christmas Party we had planned for 18 December. We had the food and entertainment all lined up and felt that everyone would benefit from a happy reunion. Realistically, there was also the need to keep us all safe, and caution prevailed. We will get together soon, wearing our best and ready to party. In the meantime the PCT will be delivering a gift to those who seldom get out, and for everyone else please let us know if we can help by calling Colin Beck on 07771 776415.

All the very best in 2022.

Colin Beck

Thank You

Many thanks for the generous and unexpected gift that you presented to us at the reception following Laurene's induction. It was a total surprise and shock, and we are very humbled to have received it.

Deborah and Ian Buckingham

Christmas Greetings from Annandale Street Mosque

To all our friends at Broughton St Mary's Parish Church. Hopefully 2022 will be a better year all round – Merry Christmas.

“And mention when the angels said, “O Mary, indeed God gives you the good news of a word from Him whose name will be The Messiah Jesus, The Son of Mary, held in honour in this world and in the hereafter, and of those who are near to God” (Qur'an 66)

Christmas Greetings

From **Liz Randall** - “To all at Broughton St Mary's, Season's Greetings and best wishes for a more normal 2022! Thank you all so much for your kind thoughts, prayers and messages. All much appreciated...and working! Recuperation going to plan. Love Liz.”

And **Anne Aarsten** – “To the congregation of Broughton St Mary's and all their family and friends, and of course our very welcome new minister, Laurene, my very best wishes for a happy Christmas and a ‘normal’ New Year to come.”



"We're looking for something to help us survive our church's early morning Winter services"

JANUARY 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 (March - June) – Messy Church 11-1pm
Sunday mornings – Broughton St Mary’s Church services 10.30am
4th Sun evening – Quakers 6.45 - 8.45pm.

Help your garden, help your planet

The TV presenter Monty Don has said that having pavement or tarmac on your property is one of the ‘worst contributions’ that homeowners can make to climate change. The Gardeners’ World presenter points out that hard surfaces prevent water from being absorbed into the ground, which is a growing problem because of increased flooding.

Instead, Don urges people to consider having as many absorbent surfaces in their gardens as possible. Writing in the BBC Gardeners’ World Magazine, he explains: “We need excess water to slowly work down into our underground aquifers and make its way gradually to our rivers and out to the sea.”

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) has launched a modern-day ‘Dig for Victory’ campaign to help tackle climate change. It is asking the UK’s 30 million gardeners to consider digging up their garden paving and instead to plant trees, grass and bee-friendly flora, to help nature survive. The RHS has calculated that if every gardener in the UK grew at least one medium-sized tree in their garden, then that would be the equivalent of storing the carbon produced from driving 11 million times around the planet. Further research from a YouGov survey has found that only 19 per cent of gardeners say that they have adopted sustainable gardening practices.

Let’s plant some trees in 2022! -Ed.

The Candle in the Heart



We all experience it - maybe for days, for months, that inner feeling that all is tumbling. That the precious candle in the heart is not lit: its glow gone, and the guiding flame no longer there. Within us, these defiant siblings- fear and confusion- play havoc with the mind. Anchorless and scared, are we drifting or drowning as we witness one global sorrow after another?

Yet from time to time something stirs the heart, the longing for Light; to know again that we share a common heart-beat; to accept that our fears may be shot through with hope; that this precious planet actually teems with life, compassion and beauty. And then in our drifting we see the candle is not out, but lit, inviting us back to an ever-present Truth; a Truth that understands drowning, and brings the wounded healing. Stumbling we may be, but our shaky hands reach for that candle and once more feel its energies of life - as Love fills our soul.

Peter Millar, December 2021.

Congregational Register

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs MARY DONALDSON, 42 Warriston Avenue, EH3 5NB, to Queen's Manor Care Home,
565 Queensferry Road, EH4 8DU.



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



'Our Trees' Survey

We received this update from the research students carrying out a project to survey the trees in church grounds and gardens. Diane Chisholm sent in data from our church garden.

Dear Participants,

We are delighted to tell you that we have finalised the database of trees on Church of Scotland lands that you helped us to create and have handed it over to the Church of Scotland. We have data from 161 sites and a total of 7,300 trees! The questionnaires you completed have helped us to understand the benefits of participating in citizen science and will hopefully impact how similar projects are run in the future.

The public database is available on our website (<https://exploreourtrees.wordpress.com/public-database/>) and is also viewable as an interactive map. The website will remain up and running so please feel free to continue using the resources there to carry on learning about your local trees. We are still working on both the questionnaire and tree data collected from this project and, if any publications are produced, we will make them available on the website.

We have really enjoyed running this project and hearing from all of you. Thank you very much!

Best wishes,

Maddy and Victoria

The Last Laugh

- The passenger tapped the taxi driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the pavement, and stopped inches from a shop window. For a second everything went quiet in the car, then the driver said, "Look mate, don't ever do that again. You scared the daylights out of me!" The passenger apologised and said he didn't realise that a little tap could scare him so much. The driver replied, "You're right. I'm sorry, it's not really your fault. Today is my first day as a taxi driver. I've been driving a hearse for the last 15 years."
- A minister is walking down the street when he notices a very small boy trying to press a doorbell on a house across the street. But the doorbell is too high for the little boy to reach. After watching the boy's efforts, the minister decides to give the lad a hand. So he crosses over and goes up to the house and gives the bell a solid ring. Crouching down to the little boy's level, the minister smiles benevolently and says, "There you are. What do we do now?" To which the boy replies, "Now we run!"
- When I look at chocolate, I hear two voices in my head. The first one says, 'You need to eat the chocolate.' The second one says, 'You heard. Eat the chocolate.'
- Did you know? By replacing potato crisps with grapefruit as a snack, you can lose up to 90% of what little joy you still have left in your life.



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