

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.



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.

Owing to current Covid guidelines, our church administrator, Lindsey Rowlands, is working mainly from home and can be contacted on admin@bstmchurch.org.uk or 0131 556 4252.

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

February 2022

Letter from Laurene

Musings from the Manse

*“The day of my spiritual awakening was the day I
saw and knew I saw
all things in God and God in all things.”*
Mechthild of Mecklenburg

This year Lent begins on the 2nd of March, which means the season of Epiphany is longer than usual. My initial thought with this realisation was, “Oh good, we all could really benefit from an extended focus on how God is revealing Godself to us, especially with all we have been through these past two years.” In many respects, it feels like we are slowly lifting our heads above the parapet as we gradually move out of the necessary life-saving restrictions.

Gathering together for worship in our beautifully refurbished sanctuary has been a joy even as we work through the “teething pains” of integrating our virtual worship space on Zoom via the newly installed A/V system. God’s revelation of Godself in each and every person gathered is a powerful witness. Seeing the kindness expressed in conversations and interactions, albeit still quite limited, is a sign of hope. There is much to be hopeful for as we move forward as a congregation and a people within our larger community.

During times of reflection, I have been pondering over what it means to be hopeful, hope-filled during these times. My current understanding of hope has been deeply influenced by the reflections of Kristen Tippet, American author and journalist, in her book, *“Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living.”* She explores the life-giving importance that genuine conversations with one another, hearing one another and learning from each other’s life experience can have for us, particularly during these unpredictable times in which we find ourselves. I found her definition of hope helpful as she liberates the word from its oft sappy Hallmark definition. She said, “Hope is brokenhearted on the way to becoming wholehearted. Hope is a function of struggle.” She captured the depth of how hope is expressed throughout the scriptures. It makes hope real, it’s not just “wish-based optimism.”

Hope becomes embodied in the personal struggle, daily living. Hope is rooted in intentional life-giving connection with one another, whether it be virtual or in-person. Glimpses of God’s presence amidst those interactions are restorative and renewing. We are invited to continue to follow the light of God, to let our eyes and heart observe those sparks of God’s presence all around us. May God continue to bless you and yours as you experience the fullness of God’s love and hope.

Peace,
Laurene

Sunday Worship

Services in the sanctuary at Broughton St Mary’s take place each Sunday at 10:30am. Current Covid guidance requires us to have 1 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/2021/12/church-reopening-2/>

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

LENT STUDIES

Laurene will be leading a Lenten book study of **“An Altar in the World”** by Barbara Brown Taylor.

“In a world where faith is often construed as a way of thinking, bodily practices remind the willing that faith is a way of life.”

This book will help us find the sacred in the ordinary, everyday practices of life.

As Lent begins 2 March this year, there is plenty of time to decide if you would like to take part. There will be a mid-morning in-person gathering at the church and an evening Zoom gathering, depending upon the response.

Please let Laurene know if you are interested via lafontaine@churchofscotland.org.uk.

Presbytery Plan

The Kirk Session discussed a consultation document from the Presbytery on its plan for 2022-2025 at a meeting on 6 January. The plan proposes there is a union of Broughton St Mary's, Greenside and St Andrew's and St George's West, and for the union to have 2 full time ministers, local staff, and a ministry post to theatres. No proposals have yet been made regarding the future of the buildings of each congregation. All buildings within the Presbytery will undergo an audit to establish the viability of each within the plan. The minister and some members of the Kirk Session met with the auditor assigned to Broughton St Mary's on 18 January.

The Kirk Session is supportive of the plan to unite Broughton St Mary's with Greenside and St Andrew's & St George's West, recognising that the challenges facing the Church of Scotland with regard to ministerial resources necessitates such action. The Kirk Session, however, believes that the Broughton St Mary's building is an essential mission resource for the Church of Scotland and has written to the Presbytery outlining why. The Kirk Session is excited about the possibilities of our ministry and the proposed ministry team with Greenside and St Andrew's & St George's West.

Refurbishment and Tower Repair Costs

The Kirk Session is encouraged by and is grateful for donations from members and others towards the cost of the tower repairs. To date, donations totalling £48,000. have been received. The Kirk Session decided to raise funds towards the costs by selling a garage in Inverleith Terrace Lane. An offer has been accepted which was substantially over the market value of £45,000, and this has also eased finances.

Ian Buckingham

Christmas Gifts for Edinburgh Prison

We received this letter of thanks from Colin O'Flaherty at Edinburgh Prison.

After twenty-one years of organising the gift collection, I am running out of superlatives to describe the difference the kindness and generosity of your congregations makes to the

families and children of those held within the walls of Edinburgh Prison.

The difference the gift collection makes is impossible to measure in words alone. Please believe me when I say your kindness and generosity makes a profound difference to the lives of so many families and children. Children that without your support may not have had any gifts to open on Christmas morning. That is truly how important the gift collection is.

The number of families and children that received gifts through the gift collection was 71 families and 153 children. The Barnardo's staff in the Visitor's Centre were again vital to the success of the gift collection, and the small amount of gifts that were left will be used throughout the year for birthdays and other events.

Thank you all for making the thirty-sixth Edinburgh Prison Christmas gift collection a success.

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. I would also like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very prosperous New Year.

Best Wishes,
Colin O'Flaherty

Candlemas

There are three reasons for this festival, which is celebrated each year on the second of February.

Firstly, it's the halfway point between the shortest day and the

Spring Equinox, so from

that date on the daylight hours get longer. In pre-Christian times, this day was known as the 'Feast of Lights' and celebrated the increased strength of the life-giving sun as Winter gave way to Spring.

Secondly, it's when we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby, Jesus, to the Temple forty days after His birth.

And the third reason? It's directly linked to the name of the feast – *Candlemas*. It was so named because on that day each year all the candles for the coming year were brought into the church to be blessed. Candles were important in those days, not only because there were no electric lights; people thought they gave protection against plague and illness and famine.



Fund Raising

The Fund Raising team are holding a **Baking Stall** on **Sunday 13 February** after Morning Worship, in the Garden Room. Home baking and marmalade will be on sale. Donations of home baking will be greatly appreciated.

Date for the Diary
COFFEE MORNING
Saturday 26 March
Tickets will be on sale at
the beginning of March from the Fund Raising team.



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 have been stuck at home. If you know of anyone who might need support - even if just a friendly phone call - please contact **Colin Beck** on **07771 776415**.

Car drivers needed: Can we make a plea for drivers who could help some of our older members get to church? Some folk have a long wait at a cold bus stop, or have to hire a taxi to get to and from church. It would be great if we could offer them a lift sometimes. Contact Colin Beck on the above number if you can help.

Colin Beck

Christmas Offerings

It has been our practice to donate the offerings made at our Christmas services to a local charity. The Kirk Session decided that the Christmas 2021 offerings should be given to The Yard, a charity supporting children and young people (aged 0-25), and their families, through adventure play. The Edinburgh base of the charity is in Canonmills near George V Park which is within our parish.

Because of Covid restrictions, our Christmas services had to take place on Zoom and it was not possible to uplift an offering. We therefore held retiring collections on Sundays 9 and 16 January, and these realised the sum of £174 which will be passed on the The Yard.

Ian Buckingham

MESSY CHURCH



Messy Church is now having a short break but we will be back again on **Sat 5 March**, from 11am-1pm, 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

The Broughton Beacon

It's so important to keep in touch with what's going on in the church, both at Broughton St Mary's and in the wider world. Since the start of the Covid-19 restrictions, we have continued to produce and circulate our monthly church magazine, *The Broughton Beacon*. Most people have opted to receive the online version (available by email or on the church website), but we have been posting around 40 every month, as we were not able, initially, to deliver these in person.

Almost 2 years on, and with restrictions being relaxed, it is time to reassess where we are regarding Beacon distribution.

I am now looking for a small team of volunteers to assist in collating and/or delivering the Beacon locally. If you are interested in helping with this, or would like to know more, please contact **Diane Chisholm** (0131 657 2447) diane_c@btinternet.com



"I'm updating the 'rota notice-board' rota, rota... do I see a hand...?"

FEBRUARY 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 afternoon – Food Bank 1 - 3pm
Tuesday evening – Brownies 6.15 - 7.45pm
Weds afternoon – Wednesday Club (Carpet Bowls & Scrabble) 2-4pm
Wednesday evening – Wildfire Choir 7.30 - 9pm
Thursday afternoon – Food Bank 1 - 3pm
Thursday evening – Rainbows 6 - 7pm
Thursday evening – Church Choir 7.00 - 8.30pm
Thursday evening – No Strings Attached Wind Band 7.15- 9.15pm
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.

Remembering "The Arch"

The recent death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu was mourned around the world. Barack Obama said of him: “He never lost his impish sense of humour and willingness to find humanity in his adversaries. He was grounded in the struggle for liberation and justice.”

Here are some of Desmond Tutu’s more famous quotes, which show why he was so especially honoured for his justice and reconciliation work in South Africa.

- Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.
- If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.
- Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realise our need of one another.

Are you a hugger?

What makes the perfect hug and when can we safely hug people again? The perfect hug should last between five to ten seconds, and it should be done with your arms criss-crossed behind the other person’s back. That is the finding of psychologists who experimented using more than 100 pairs of friends. They found that when it comes to hugging someone, “more is definitely more.” It seems that a ten

second hug gives great pleasure, a five second hug is adequate, but a brief hug of just one second leaves nobody comforted. Even worse, since Covid, elbow bumping has become popular. But a bump on the elbow doesn’t do much for anyone.

The research was done at the University of London and the University of Bristol.

Let’s hope it isn’t too long before hugs can return! -Ed.

Candlemas Snowdrops



February snowdrops we welcome you!

Candlemas Bells,
winter’s half-way markers,
symbols of hope and light to come,

creation’s reminders of the Creator

revealed in the child in Simeon’s arms.

Jesus - fulfillment of God’s promise

to save and illuminate.

Jesus - who overcame darkness and death

to live for us and in us.

At the snowdrops’ prompting Lord Jesus, we welcome you

afresh,

Hope and Light in person.

Daphne Kitching

Congregational Register

New Member by Transference Certificate

Mrs PAM SKRGATIC, 13 Claremont Crescent, EH7 4HX from Murrayfield Parish Church, Edinburgh.



Flowers for the Sanctuary

	DONORS	DELIVERY
FEB	6 Friends of the late Cathie Lewis	Diane Chisholm
	13 Margaret Davidson and Bertha Galbraith	Volunteer needed
	20 Jeanette Dougal	Volunteer needed
	27 Anne Aarsten	Barbara Robertson
MAR	6 Irene Marshall	Graham Rogers
	13 Anne Dewar	Volunteer needed



CAP: Christians Against Poverty

The Friday CAP Club that is run by Mustard Seed Edinburgh will be restarting on **Friday 4 February at 11.30am**. There will be sessions from the CAP Life Skills programme helping people on low incomes to look after their money better, to shop wisely and to put together a basic budget to live by. There will also be Job Club sessions for anyone looking to get back to work that cover motivation and confidence, CV writing and interview skills.

The sessions will be followed by a light lunch and people can also come along to the Soul Food breakfast beforehand. Breakfast is from 10-11am, with the Life Skills and Job Club sessions starting at 11.30am.

The address is **St Margaret's Church, 170 Easter Road, EH7 5QE**.

Mustard Seed's Cook Club is also restarting shortly. In addition to practical cooking skills and tips, sections of the CAP Life Skills programme on meal planning, nutrition and avoiding the supermarket traps are also covered. These sessions run 2-4pm every Tuesday at the same location.

All of these programmes are free of charge and open to anyone.

For more information please contact Mark Harris on 07519 268800 / markharris@capuk.org or David Strang on 07735 513536 / davidstrang@capuk.org.

The Last Laugh

14 February is St Valentine's Day...

- ❖ A man stopped by his local florist shop to buy flowers for his new girlfriend on Valentine's Day. He asked the proprietor, "You know the expression, 'Say it with flowers'?" "I do indeed!" the florist enthused. "How about three dozen of my finest roses?" The man hesitated. "No, make it just a half dozen roses. I'm a man of few words."
- ❖ Love may not make the world spin around, but it certainly makes a lot of people dizzy.
- ❖ Two vegetarians were getting married and had to choose their wedding music. The minister suggested the voluntary: 'Sheep may safely graze'.
- ❖ Love is when your dog licks your face even after you left him alone all day.
- ❖ I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.
- ❖ Here's to love, the only fire for which there's no insurance.

