

THE BROUGHTON BEACON

Magazine of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, Edinburgh



The flowers are blooming, the time of birdsong has come! Song of
Songs 2:12

MARCH 2022

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Broughton St Mary's Parish Church

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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.



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 March 2022

Letter from Laurene

*“it is a serious thing just to be alive
on this fresh morning in the broken world.”*

from Mary Oliver’s poem, Invitation

As we slowly emerge from the long nights of winter, and the previously unimaginable period of social isolation, communal disconnect and loss, these words of the poet Mary Oliver come to mind. She invites us to pause, take notice of the natural world around us and contemplate its meaning for our lives. Her words often reveal the desire and experience many of us have had throughout our lives.

Growing up in Spokane, Washington, winters meant bitterly cold Canadian winds, bleak grey skies, and lingering snowdrifts from late November. Then one day in late February or early March, there would be a glimpse of a radiant yellow crocus just peeking out from under the snow. The local newspaper had a photo contest for first crocus so many hours were spent walking through the snowy woods surrounding our mobile home. As a young girl, I loved this annual ritual. To pause and take notice of emerging signs of life was a simple habit encouraged by my maternal Grandmother and Great Aunt Florence, which unexpectedly became a lifelong spiritual foundation.

Throughout the Lenten Season, we are invited to pause and intentionally reflect on our own journey of faith. The spiritual practices of prayer, study, worship, and conversation can assist us to discover, or perhaps rediscover, those areas of our lives which need spiritual nurture and tending. This spiritual process will enable us to experience the depth of our humanness, including our strengths, joys, growing edges, and disappointments.

During this period of introspection as individuals and a community of faith, we are invited to be willing to transform those aspects of our lives that keep us from the experience and knowledge of the fullness of God’s love. This willing-ness, otherwise known as faith, will ultimately bring us to a deeper understanding of our life-giving interdependence on God and one another.



I will be leading a book study on Barbara Brown Taylor’s book, “An Altar in the World.” Her work is refreshingly engaging and delightfully honest. There will be two opportunities to participate: In person at the church, Wednesdays 10:30 am-12:00 pm and virtually via zoom, Wednesday evenings 7:30 pm-9:00 pm.

If you are interested, please sign up in the vestibule on Sunday morning, or via email llafontaine@churchofscotland.org.uk or 07497-756908. The morning group will begin on Ash Wednesday, 2 March, and the evening group on 9 March.

I will be co-leading an **Ash Wednesday joint worship service** with Greenside and St. Andrews/St George’s West churches to be held at Greenside Parish Church at 7:30 pm, Wednesday 2 March.

It is a wonderful time to be together as a community of faith as God continues to work in and through us.

Peace,
Laurene

Do you want to fast for Lent?

- *Fast from hurting words, and say kind words.*
- *Fast from sadness, and be filled with gratitude.*
- *Fast from anger, and be filled with patience.*
- *Fast from pessimism, and be filled with hope.*
- *Fast from worries, and trust in God.*
- *Fast from complaints, and contemplate simplicity.*
- *Fast from pressures, and be prayerful.*
- *Fast from bitterness, and fill your heart with joy.*
- *Fast from selfishness, and be compassionate to others.*
- *Fast from grudges, and be reconciled.*
- *Fast from words, and be silent so you can listen.*

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.

Presbytery Plan

In last month's Beacon I reported that the Kirk Session was supportive of the proposed plan to unite the congregations of Greenside, St Andrew's and St George's West, and Broughton St Mary's. Although the Presbytery wide plan is still at the consultation stage, the ministers of Broughton St Mary's, St Andrew's & St George's West (Laurene Lafontaine & Rosie Magee) and the Interim Moderator at Greenside (Suzie Stark) have met informally together to discuss closer working.

New member of the Kirk Session

The Kirk Session admitted Mrs Pam Skrgatic to membership of the Kirk Session at its meeting on 27 January 2022. Readers will have noted from last month's Beacon that Pam has joined Broughton St Mary's from Murrayfield Parish Church. Pam was an elder at Murrayfield and, as such, is eligible to join the Session at Broughton St Mary's.

Ian Buckingham

Stated Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Stated Annual Meeting of those whose names appear on the Communion Roll of this congregation will be held on **Sunday 20 March 2022** in the Garden Room following morning worship.

At this meeting,

1. The Kirk Session will present the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021.
2. The Kirk Session will present the budget for the year to December 2022.

By order of the Kirk Session.

Ian Buckingham, Session Clerk

World Day of Prayer - 4 March

Each year on the first Friday of March, people gather in churches across the world to share in a service of prayer for Peace and Justice. In 1928, at the International Missionary Conference in Jerusalem, Scotswoman Grace Forgan first learned of the World Day of Prayer and brought the news to the United Kingdom. The first service was held in 1930 in Scotland. Each year the service is prepared by Christian Women in a particular region of the world.

This year the service has been prepared by Women from England, Wales and Northern Ireland, under the title, "***I know the Plans that I have for You.***" It is based on the letter that the prophet Jeremiah wrote to the exiles in Babylonia:

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile."

Jeremiah 29:11-14

We should take this opportunity to raise awareness of the needs of our communities and offer the gifts of prayers and commitment. A seed, nourished by prayers of intercession and actions of love, binds us together around the world.

Fund Raising

BAKING STALL

The Baking Stall on Sunday 13 February, raised £120 for church funds. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

COFFEE MORNING - Saturday 26 March



Join us for a Coffee Morning on Saturday 26 March, from 10.30am - 12 noon. A scone and cake will be served with coffee or tea. Tickets priced £3 (£1 for children) are now on sale. There will also be a Baking Stall. Bring a friend and enjoy your coffee in our Garden Room.

Date for the Diary

JUBILEE AFTERNOON TEA - Saturday 28 May

We're holding an Afternoon Tea in the Garden Room, from 3pm to 4.30pm. Sandwiches, a scone and cake will be served with pots of tea. Tickets are priced £5 and will be on sale mid-April. Please keep this date free and come along with your friends!

Plea for help

The Fund Raisers are looking for:

1. New members to join the team
2. Offers of help to bake and/or serve teas at the

Coffee Morning and Afternoon Tea.

Please speak to Deborah Buckingham any Sunday.

Thank you.

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

MESSY CHURCH



Messy Church will resume on 5 March from 11.00am, with games, crafts, stories and a light lunch. The theme this month will be **Choices**, so why not choose to join us? Hope to see you there. For more information about Messy Church, please email messychurch@bstmchurch.org.uk
Jan Allan

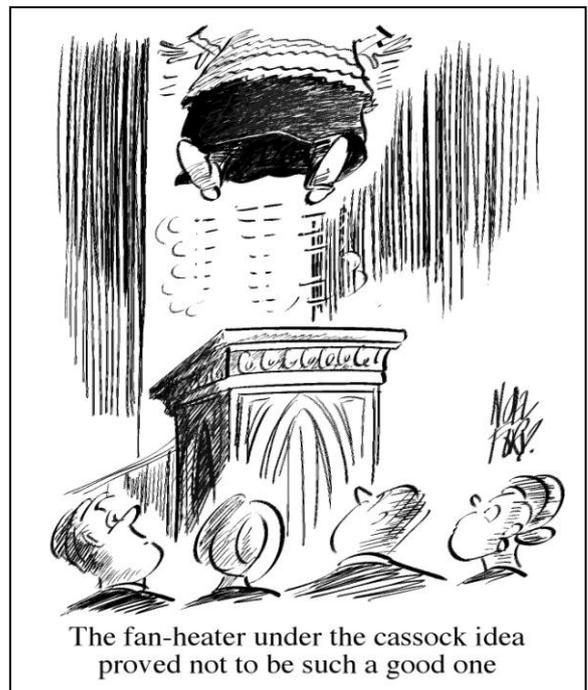
World Poetry Day

Do you have a favourite poem? You might be interested to know that March 21 is World Poetry Day. This day celebrates one of humanity's most treasured forms of cultural and linguistic expression and identity. Practised throughout history, in every culture and on every continent, poetry speaks to our common humanity and our shared values.

UNESCO first adopted 21 March as World Poetry Day in 1999, with the aim of supporting linguistic diversity through poetic expression, and increasing the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard.

World Poetry Day is the occasion to honour poets, revive oral traditions of poetry recitals, promote the reading, writing and teaching of poetry, foster the links between poetry and other arts such as theatre, dance, music and painting, and raise the visibility of poetry in the media. As poetry continues to bring people together across continents, all are invited to join in.

Perhaps it's time to re-read that favourite poem again!





Flowers for the Sanctuary

		DONORS	DELIVERY
MAR	6	Irene Marshall	Graham Rogers
	13	Anne Dewar	Volunteer needed
	20	Moira Campbell	John Endicott
	27	Family of the late Arthur Kerr	Anne Aarsten
APR	3	Jan Allan	Colin Beck
	10	Elise Theurer	Volunteer needed



The Real Easter Egg celebrates its 12th year

Churches and communities across the UK will be coming together to celebrate Easter as restrictions are relaxed. So, no wonder that the theme for the Real Easter Egg this year is 'Let's Celebrate'!



The Real Easter Egg was created in 2010 as a way for churches, groups and individuals to share the Easter story while supporting Fairtrade. Twelve years on, it has a network of thousands of churches and supporters. More than three million people have read the Easter Stories it produces, and it has raised more than £320,000 for good causes.

This year, you can also reach out to UK families facing hardship by donating to food banks through the Real Easter Egg's new foodbank scheme.

All Real Easter Eggs are made of Fairtrade chocolate and come with an Easter story in the box. The stories range from simple guides to 24-page activity book versions with a prize competition worth £200.

They are palm oil free and plastic free.

Because of the continued effects of the pandemic, it is more important than ever that we find ways to share the Easter story in 2022 and support producers.

The Real Easter Egg is a proven way to do this.

More details at www.realeasteregg.co.uk

The Last Laugh

❖ A minister took his young daughter to the grocery store with him. In addition to the healthy items on the carefully prepared shopping list, they returned with a box of sugar-laden biscuits. The minister noticed the glare of his wife and quickly said, "It's okay, this box of biscuits has one-third fewer calories than usual."

"How come?" she asked.

"Because we ate a third of them on the way home," he replied.

With Mother's Day in mind...?

❖ A police recruit was asked during the exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?"

Without hesitation he replied, "Call for backup."

❖ First time mum: "Nurse, what is the most difficult thing for a young mother to learn?"
Nurse: "That other mothers have perfect children too."

❖ A minister said to a six-year old boy, "So, your mother says a prayer over you each night? That's lovely. What does she say?"
The boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"

❖ You never learn to pray until your kids learn to drive.