

THE BROUGHTON BEACON

Magazine of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, Edinburgh



JULY - AUGUST 2022

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Broughton St Mary's Parish Church

12 Bellevue Crescent EH3 6NE



MINISTER: Rev Laurene Lafontaine 0131 556 4252 llafontaine@churchofscotland.org.uk

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.



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 has been settling in to life at Broughton St Mary's 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, 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, at mail@bstmchurch.org.uk

For enquiries about the Beacon, contact the Editor, Diane Chisholm, at mail@bstmchurch.org.uk

For more information about Broughton St Mary's, visit our website www.bstmchurch.org.uk



The Broughton Beacon

July - August 2022

Letter from Laurene

"The glory of God is the human person fully alive." Irenaeus

During a recent time of meditation and prayer, unexpectedly the question *"What is your joy?"* burst into my consciousness. It most certainly caught my attention as I had been reflecting on and praying for all those people impacted by the recent misogynistic and pro-gun US Supreme Court decisions, along with the cost of living and Brexit related challenges we are facing here. Not exactly inspiring thoughts as it is quite easy to go down the proverbial rabbit hole of angst when focusing on hard news of the day.

What is your joy? This jolting question was and is an invitation to a more balanced and intentional perspective. As people of faith, we are invited to be mindful of the challenges and difficulties in our lives and world from the larger faith perspective. Pondering my response reminded me that there is a vital need for the cultivation of joy in my life and our lives, particularly during these challenging times. The presence of joy and delight serves to fuel our souls. The wisdom of Brother David Steindl-Rast is helpful in this regard,

"We hold the key to lasting happiness in our own hands. For it is not joy that makes us grateful; it is gratitude that makes us joyful."

Over the years, I have found that the intentional practice of being grateful each day has been an inspiring transformational balm for healing and living a more faithful life. The simple practice of naming five people for whom you are grateful prior to getting out of bed and then again prior to going to bed is an easy way to begin. Keep in mind, this does not always mean only those joyful people, this practice includes being grateful for those angry or frustrating people and perhaps lessons learnt as a result. Practising gratitude with one another keeps us in the present, keeps us real with each other and allows for the ongoing development of life-giving community. God is doing a new thing here among us, within us and through us. We have so many blessings as a community of faith. Let us live a life of intentional gratitude as a community, which will transform each one of us for the glory of God.

What is your joy?

Peace, Laurene

You are invited!

As I have mentioned previously, the important work of building community takes time and effort. I am delighted to invite you to attend one of the upcoming gatherings mid-July. If necessary, I will be adding additional gatherings later in the summer. Due to the distance and transportation challenges with the manse, I will be hosting gatherings both at the church and the manse. If you are allergic to cats, I would suggest that you attend one of the gatherings at the church.

Garden Room at Broughton St. Mary's

Tuesday 19 July 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Thursday 21 July 2:00 – 3:30 pm

The Manse

Friday 15 July 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Sunday 24 July 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Over light hors d'oeuvres and drinks, this will be an opportunity to get to know one another in an informal setting. Through sharing together, we will gain a better understanding of one another and our strengths and gifts we bring to our community. Ideally, each gathering will be limited to 10 people so that we might have a good opportunity for conversation.

To reserve a space, please either call me at 0131 556 4252, sign up in church, or email me at llafontaine@churchofscotland.org.uk

Looking forward to being together!

Peace, Laurene

From the General Assembly 2022

- The General Assembly gave final approval to the legislation that will allow Kirk ministers and deacons to register to become celebrants of same sex marriages if they wish.
- The General Assembly overwhelmingly approved a Declaration of Friendship with the Catholic Church in Scotland. The Declaration is to be named the Saint Margaret Declaration.
- The General Assembly condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and called for an immediate ceasefire and a 'just and peaceful solution which respects human rights, democracy and the rule of law'.

From the July edition of Life and Work

Proposed Union with Greenside and St Andrew's & St George's West

Members of the Kirk Session met with representatives of the Presbytery's Deployment Group on 9 June as part of the Presbytery's consultation process relating to the proposed Presbytery Plan. For background, the congregation at Greenside has been without a minister for the past 12 months and during that time has been under the Guardianship of the Presbytery.

We shared Broughton St Mary's response to the proposals.

- Broughton St Mary's Kirk Session did not wish to be burdened with the maintenance of the Greenside building if a union was to take place.
- We learned that Greenside have plans to put ownership of the Greenside building into a trust but it has not been developed or approved.
- The minister shared the feedback from 4 congregational listening groups that our congregation held in May to discuss the proposed union. Listed were areas of positivity and concern.
- BSM is broadly in favour of moving towards union with Greenside and St Andrew's & St George's West.
- There was a consensus that members of Session and members of the congregations need to get to know one another prior to union and that holding joint social events is one way of achieving this.
- We suggested that a joint meeting of the 3 Kirk Sessions run by an independent facilitator to discern a mission plan for the joint parish would be beneficial.
- We were advised that Greenside's guardianship was due to finish at the end of June 2022 and that Greenside Kirk Session is not looking for a long extension. The Deployment Group wants to propose to Presbytery that the guardianship be extended to December and that Presbytery give a green light for Greenside, STAGWS and BSM to prepare for union in October, December at the latest.

At the Presbytery meeting on 21 June, Presbytery approved the continuation of the current basis of Guardianship for Greenside until 31 December 2022 and reported that recent discussions with Broughton St. Mary's and St. Andrew's and St. George's West have been encouraging, along with the local desire to move swiftly into the next chapter of the life of this congregation. It is hoped that discussions can move forward in order to allow Greenside to join with Broughton St Mary's and St. Andrew's and St. George's West.

Sunday Worship

Services in the sanctuary at Broughton St Mary's take place each Sunday at 10:30am. Services are now being live streamed every Sunday via the church's You Tube channel. You can view live and archived services at the following web address:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9IDzDM4MZH-WJw4qFnVxcg>

Please note that services are no longer available on the Zoom platform. This means that it is currently no longer possible to connect to a service by telephone.

A fitting memorial to Peter Macdonald

The Kirk Session has discussed what it thinks would be a fitting way to mark Peter Macdonald's ministry at Broughton St Mary's. The Session had previously decided to wait until the refurbishment of the sanctuary had taken place before revisiting this matter. Session would like to invite members of our worshipping community to also participate in the process of choosing what would be a suitable memorial.

You are invited to discuss this informally with your friends in the congregation over the summer months. Please share your thoughts with any member of the Kirk Session.

Ian Buckingham

Church Flowers

We are looking for people to donate flowers on the following dates:

28 August, 2 October, 20 & 27 November, 4 & 11 December.

Please contact **Ian Buckingham**.

Fund Raising

Coffee in the Garden

On Wednesday evenings, 13 and 27 July, we will hold coffee evenings in the garden and/or Garden Room, from 7 - 8.30pm. Coffee or tea will be served with a piece of cake, for a minimum donation of £2. There may also be the opportunity to purchase home baking, jam and marmalade. Please keep these dates free and bring a friend! All are welcome.



A Date for your Diaries

Saturday 24 September – Charity Coffee Morning (the charity has yet to be decided).

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 Gardens

Please speak to Deborah Buckingham any Sunday.
Thank you.

Marmalade and Jam

I have a small supply of strawberry jam and orange marmalade. Please ask and I will bring to church on a Sunday.
Deborah Buckingham

PASTORAL CARE

Each week the church flowers are delivered to people who are celebrating, or to those who have been unwell or bereaved. As well as a short scripture message, the note with the flowers always reads, "With love from your friends at Broughton St Mary's".

Please contact **Colin Beck** if you know of anyone needing support, or for information regarding pastoral care. You can leave a message on the church answer phone (0131 556 4252) or email pastoralcare@bstmchurch.org.uk

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church is having a break over the summer months. We will resume in September.

For more information please email
messychurch@bstmchurch.org.uk

Jan Allan

'Thank you for the music...'

A big 'thank you' to the choir for all of their hard work this session, in what, as we all know, have been quite difficult circumstances! Practices until just recently have been conducted wearing face coverings, and that of course has included singing in the Services on Sundays. This is not easy, especially wearing glasses at the same time. We have also been a little low on numbers at times, and I personally am especially thankful for the dedication shown by the choir members, without whom we would be missing a considerably enriching element to the worship services in the form of Introits and Anthems, but also in having a lead for focusing the congregation in song.

Having said all of that, it has been wonderful to be back singing again, especially in the refurbished sanctuary, and doubly especially with the enveloping, comforting and uplifting tones of our wonderful organ!

The choir are having a well-earned rest for a couple of months, to reconvene in the Autumn. We would be delighted if there were anyone interested in joining us..even just to try it out. I'm hidden from view much of the time in the gallery but I promise I'm not even remotely scary. Speak to me, or any of the choir members any time, if you are interested!

Chris Dyter

And a huge 'thank you' to Chris, our talented and hard-working choir director! -Ed.



It was bad enough your mobile ringing half-way through his sermon, without the ring-tone being the 'Christians Awake' tune!

JULY - AUGUST CALENDAR

Most of our regular church and community groups are having a break over the summer months and will resume their meetings in September. Children's groups tend to follow the school holidays and resume in mid-August.



Action Group: Every weekday 9am - 3pm

Smart Cookies After School Club: *on holiday till schools resume*

Mondays: Food Bank 1 - 3pm

Tuesdays: Pitchcraft Choir - 6.30pm

Wednesday & various dates till 12 August: Tailor Ed Group

Thursdays: Food Bank 1 - 3pm

Laidback Choir 7.30pm

Dance Group (Bernadeta) - evenings

Saturdays: Messy Church – *on holiday till 3 September*

Sundays: Broughton St Mary's Church services 10.30am

Sunday Club – *on holiday till 4 September*

United Methodist Church (Zimbabwe) 12.45pm

Assembly of God (Brazil) 4.30pm

4th Sunday of month: Quakers meeting 6.45 - 8.45pm.

For a fuller calendar, including information regarding Coffee Evenings and Summer Gatherings, please see details elsewhere in this issue of the Beacon or refer to the calendar in the printed version of the Beacon;

or contact the Church Administrator, Lindsey Rowlands, on 0131 556 4252, or email admin@bstmchurch.org.uk

We will meet when the danger is over

We will meet when the danger is over,
we will meet when the sad days are done;
we will meet sitting closely together
and be glad our tomorrow has come.

We will join to give thanks and sing gladly,
we will join to break bread and share wine;
and the peace that we pass to each other
will be more than a casual sign.

So let's make with each other a promise
that when all we've come through is behind,
we will share what we missed and find meaning
in the things that once troubled our mind.

Until then may we always discover
faith and love to determine our way.
That's our hope and God's will and our calling
for our lives and for every new day.

*Hans-Olav Moerk
with thanks to Peter Millar*

St Swithin's Day: 15 July

St Swithin's day, if thou dost rain,
For forty days it will remain;
St Swithin's day, if thou be fair,
For forty days 'twill rain na mair.

Ancient rhyme

Congregational Register

New Member by Profession of Faith
HEATHER LUNDY-KELSALL



Flowers for the Sanctuary

		DONORS	ARRANGED BY	DELIVERY
JULY	3	Hilda Miller	Ian Buckingham	Volunteer needed
	10	Walter Anderson	Ian Buckingham	Liz Randall
	17	Irene Marshall	Volunteer needed	Diane Chisholm
	24	The Kerr family	Deborah Buckingham	Volunteer needed
	31	The Pittendreich family	The Pittendreich family	John Endicott
AUG	7	Joyce Beveridge	Joyce Beveridge	Volunteer needed
	14	Ronnie Gibson	Ian Buckingham	Barbara Robertson
	21	The Wednesday Club	Margaret Davidson & Bertha Galbraith	Liz Randall
	28	Donor needed	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
SEPT	4	Doreen O'Neil	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
	11	Anne Dewar & Anne Dick	Anne Dick	Anne Aarsten



Can you help the Scouts?



Broughton St Mary's Scout Troop has healthy numbers and is running successfully thanks to its leadership team of Scott Richards and Steve Irvine.

Due to a number of circumstances however the Troop has had to be run on alternate Thursday evenings. It would very much like to return to meeting on Friday evenings which would enable a return to meeting on a weekly basis. New leadership is needed to make this possible.

The Scouts cater for girls and boys aged 11 to 14 years. There are approximately 20 Troop members.

Please contact **David Reid** on 07874 981007 or at david_a_reid@btinternet.com if you, or someone you know would be interested in helping as a leader.

The Last Laugh

With holidays in mind....

- A woman went to the beach with her children. Her four-year-old son ran up to her, grabbed her hand, and led her to the shore where a dead seagull lay in the sand. "Mummy, what happened to him?" the little boy asked. Not wanting to upset him, she said: "He died and went to heaven." The child thought for a moment and said, "And God threw him back down?"
- A couple with three young children went on holiday to San Francisco, and decided to purchase tickets for a boat trip to Alcatraz. Others watched with varying degrees of sympathy and irritation as the children fidgeted, whined, and punched one another. The frazzled parents reprimanded them, to no avail. Finally they reached the ticket window. "Five tickets, please," the father said. "Two round trip, three one way."
- An honest seven-year-old calmly announced to her parents that Billy Brown had kissed her after church. "How did that happen?" gasped her mother. "Well, it wasn't easy," admitted the young lady, "but three girls helped me catch him."
- Whoever said "Out of sight, out of mind" never had a large spider disappear in the bedroom.