

# THE BROUGHTON BEACON

*Magazine of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, Edinburgh*



## SEPTEMBER 2022

# Broughton St Mary's Parish Church

12 Bellevue Crescent EH3 6NE



**MINISTER:** Rev Laurene Lafontaine 0131 556 4252 [llafontaine@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:llafontaine@churchofscotland.org.uk)

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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 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](mailto: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](mailto:mail@bstmchurch.org.uk)

For enquiries about the Beacon, contact the Editor, Diane Chisholm, at [mail@bstmchurch.org.uk](mailto:mail@bstmchurch.org.uk)

For more information about Broughton St Mary's, visit our website [www.bstmchurch.org.uk](http://www.bstmchurch.org.uk)



## The Broughton Beacon

### September 2022

### Letter from Laurene

#### *Musings from the minister*

The sounds of children running around in the Garden Room, ripe bramble berries seemingly everywhere, and the last days of the Edinburgh Fringe... a few reminders that autumn is right around the corner. In a blink of an eye, summer simply flew by. It certainly didn't help that I caught Covid at the end of July.

My summer highlights are all about fellowship and deepening our connection with one another. The four summer gatherings with over thirty-five people participating provided a great opportunity to hear more about you and your passion for Broughton St. Mary's. I am looking forward to setting up a weekly meet up at the church for a cuppa and conversation and future small group gatherings for those unable to attend the summer groups.

Additional highlights involved connecting with our future union churches. The picnic with Greenside and St. Andrew's & St. George's West Churches was quite enjoyable with good weather, a healthy turnout from each of the churches, (I was quite pleased with our turnout!) and engaging conversations around the picnic tables. Even though I missed the Sunday that Greenside Church worshipped with us, I heard wonderful things about how our friends from Greenside enjoyed their time worshipping and having conversation over tea and coffee.

Going into the autumn, I am hoping that we will continue this theme of fellowship and congregational care for one another. As we all know, the cost of living is having a significant impact on many friends and neighbours, including ourselves. It would be good to check on our friends and neighbours, especially those who are vulnerable, to make sure that they have the food and necessities for daily living.

Recently, I discovered one of my neighbours was really struggling with little to no food and poor living conditions. I can only imagine she is not the only one so let us check on one another. If there are concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our pastoral care team and/or me so that we can follow up. It is going to take a caring and engaged community to help one another through these difficult times. What a simple yet profound way for us to be able to share the love of God through actions and deeds.

Another way that we can help make a difference for those in need will be supporting the Fresh Start programme through our new collaboration with St. Andrew's & St. George's West. Fresh Start helps people who have been homeless get established in their new home. More details about this exciting project will be forthcoming.

Building relationships through fellowship, conversations, and deeds of kindness and caring are simple ways that we can help make our community and neighbourhoods stronger. Sharing God's love and hope makes all the difference in the world.

Peace,

Laurene

*"There is a kindness that dwells deep down in things; it presides everywhere, often in the places we least expect. The world can be harsh and negative, but if we remain generous and patient, kindness inevitably reveals itself. Something deep in the human soul seems to depend on the presence of kindness; something instinctive in us expects it, and once we sense it we are able to trust and open ourselves."*

John O'Donohue

Excerpt from his book, *Benedictus*

### A new Editor for the Beacon

This month, September 2022, marks twenty years since I took over as Editor of our church magazine, The Broughton Beacon, from Alasdair Elders. The Beacon was then produced quarterly, with a slimline 'Bulletin' in the intervening months. I made the decision to produce a monthly magazine containing not just church news and information but, hopefully, an awareness of environmental issues, poetry and prayers to inspire, church and charity events more widely and, of course, humour!

Editing the Beacon has been a 'labour of love'. At times stressful (mainly when the photocopier broke down or the toner ran out!) Certainly time-consuming. But, for someone like me who enjoys the written word and writing for an audience, it has been a joy. I even enjoy proof-reading!

However, I feel that a 20-year anniversary is the right time to stand down and allow others to take this on as we move into a new phase of the church's life. If you have the expertise and enthusiasm to join an editorial team, please get in touch with me or Laurene.

Diane Chisholm



## Sunday Worship

Services in the sanctuary at Broughton St Mary's take place each Sunday at 10:30am. Services are live streamed every Sunday via the church's YouTube channel. In recent weeks we have been joined in worship by new worshippers in Canada. The following message was received in the church's email inbox:

"I am a retired minister in the United Church of Canada. While I was visiting Edinburgh last month, I attended worship at Broughton St Mary's on Sunday, July 10. I was warmly welcomed before the service. I found worship meaningful and moving and I had delightful conversation after worship over tea. Since coming home to Canada (I live in Kingston Ontario) I have linked into your livestream worship every Sunday... and I intend to keep worshipping with you!!"

*Elizabeth Macdonald*

You can view live and archived services at the following web address:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9IDzDM4MZH-WJw4qFnVxgc>

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.

## Joint Picnic

On 14 August the people of Broughton St Mary's joined our neighbours at Greenside and St Andrew's & St George's West for a picnic in the grounds of Greenside church. The following message has been received from the Session Clerk at Greenside; "...a special word of thanks to friends from Broughton St Mary's and St Andrew's and St George's West who joined us for the picnic on Sunday. It was a very happy event and great to meet so many of our neighbours.

A number of folk brought baking and other edible treats which were enjoyed and very well received. I would be grateful if you would pass on thanks to the bakers.

Very best wishes,

*Isabel McNab*

## Church Flowers

Thank you to everyone who responded to the request in the July/August Beacon for people to give donations for church flowers. There is one available date still to be filled (11 December). Please contact Ian Buckingham if you would like to make a donation to the flower fund for that

date. Volunteers continue to be needed to arrange flowers for the sanctuary/vestibule and deliver flowers to members and friends of the congregation. Contact Ian Buckingham if you can help.

## 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. Please share your thoughts with any member of the Kirk Session.

## Kirk Session

The next meeting of the Kirk Session takes place at 7pm on Wednesday 28 September. Meeting in the Bellevue Room and on Zoom.

*Ian Buckingham*

## A Mystery Gift



A few months ago we received a beautiful and unexpected gift. A carved stone was left on the front doorstep of the church. The stone is inscribed with these words: "Some hae heat and others greet 'n shiver neath a blanket but we hae heat an divis sweet an may the Lord be thanket".

So far, we have not managed to find out who is responsible for carving and gifting this stone to us. Perhaps readers of the Beacon can help? Does anyone have any information which could help solve this mystery?

# Fund Raising

## Coffee in the Garden

On Wednesdays 13 and 27 July, we held coffee evenings in the Garden Room. The weather was fair which encouraged many of our congregation and friends along. Although these evenings were social events, we raised £172 for church funds

## Charity Coffee Morning

On **Saturday 24 September**, 10.30am to 12 noon, we are holding a coffee morning in aid of 'Young Minds', a charity which supports young people with Mental Health difficulties.

Tickets, priced £3, are on sale from the Fund Raising team, but you can also pay at the door. There will also be the opportunity to buy some home baking.

Please come along, bring your friends and give your support to this worthy cause.

## 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

Please speak to Deborah Buckingham any Sunday.

## 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.

## A Date for the Diary: Sunday 30 October

Soup and Bread Lunch

(served after Morning Worship).

*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](mailto:pastoralcare@bstmchurch.org.uk)

# MESSY CHURCH



Messy will start back again on 3 September, after the summer break. Our theme will be New Beginnings.

All are welcome to join us, especially children of Primary School age and their families.

We meet from 11.00am for games, crafts, storytime and a light lunch.

For more information about Messy Church please email [messychurch@bstmchurch.org.uk](mailto:messychurch@bstmchurch.org.uk)

*Jan Allan*

# A Space for the Community

Broughton St Mary's is not only the parish church for the Broughton area but is also a Community Hub, open 7 days a week. We are passionate about offering our wonderful space to the many and varied groups which wish to use it. Recently our administrator, Lindsey, received this very nice letter:

"It has been a pleasure working with you and I am full of admiration for those at the church who took the decision to open it up more widely for community use. It is a lovely space to be in and feels quite 'sacred/spiritual'. I think that is a reflection of the spirit of love and generosity behind the decision to offer it more widely.

*Abigail Harte, Administrator*

*Strange Town Youth Theatre"*

Our church was also the venue, in August, for an enjoyable event run by Portobello Bookshop. The acclaimed crime writer, Val McDermid, addressed a large audience to discuss her latest novel, 1989.



There was no more dozing off after the vicar started serving the extra-strength coffee *before* the service

# SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Most of our regular church and community groups have returned after the summer break. Those listed below are by no means all the events taking place this month.



Action Group: Every weekday 9am - 3pm  
Smart Cookies After School Club Afternoons 3.30 - 6pm  
Fridays 12 - 6pm

Mondays: Food Bank 1 - 3pm

Tuesdays: Brownies 6.15pm  
Pitchcraft Choir 6.30pm

Thursdays: Food Bank 1 - 3pm  
Rainbows 6 - 7pm  
Church Choir 7- 8.30pm  
Laidback Choir 7.30pm

Fridays: Cosmic Dance 6.15pm

Saturdays: Messy Church 11am-1pm *first Saturday of the month*

Sundays: Broughton St Mary's Church services 10.30am  
Sunday Club 10.30am *for children from 3yrs old*  
United Methodist Church (Zimbabwe) 12.45pm  
Assembly of God (Brazil) 4.30pm

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month: Quakers meeting 6.45 - 8.45pm.

*At the time of printing no information was available regarding the  
NSA Wind Band, Cadenza Choir, Wildfire Choir and the Helen  
O'Grady Drama group.  
Hopefully these groups have returned as usual.*

*For a fuller calendar, please 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](mailto:admin@bstmchurch.org.uk)*

## ***The Difference***

So often  
I can't wear the right clothes,  
Speak the right words,  
Fit the right mould,  
Be the shape people want me  
to be,  
Expect me to be,  
Demand that I am,  
To conform.

But you Lord  
Accept me,  
Release me,  
Make it possible to be me,  
Perfectly free  
In your service,  
Open for you  
To transform.

*Daphne Kitching*

## ***God's Aid***



God to enfold,  
God to surround,  
God in speech-told,  
God my thought-bound.

God when I sleep,  
God when I wake,  
God my watch-keep,  
God my hope-sake.

God my life-whole,  
God lips apart,  
God in my soul,  
God in my heart.

God Wine and Bread,  
God is my death,  
God my soul-thread,  
God ever breath.

*Ancient Celtic Prayer*

# Congregational Register

## Transference Certificates issued to:

Mrs NORMA HARDY, 54 Craigentenny Avenue, EH7 6PX to St. Margaret's, Restalrig, Edinburgh  
Mrs NORMA MacLEOD, 10 Craigentenny Crescent, EH7 6QB to St. Margaret's, Restalrig, Edinburgh.



## Flowers for the Sanctuary

		DONORS	ARRANGED BY	DELIVERY
SEPT	4	Doreen O'Neil	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
	11	Anne Dewar & Anne Dick	Anne Dick	Anne Aarsten
	18	Marion Laird (in memory of Mr & Mrs McKay)	Ian Buckingham	Volunteer needed
	25	Jayne Whitfield	Volunteer needed	John Endicott
OCT	2	In memory of Jean Coxson	Pam Skrgatic	Volunteer needed
	9	Family of the late Mrs B Brown	The Brown family	Barbara Robertson



## KILTWALK: 18 September

Our church administrator, Lindsey Rowlands, is taking part in the Kiltwalk on 18 September (Mighty Stride – 24 miles) raising funds for Prospects Across Scotland (PAS).

PAS is a charity which aims to help churches understand and learn how to be inclusive for people with Learning Disabilities and Autism in both church and social life.

It was a Guild Project a number of years ago.

Lindsey has been involved since 2013, helping to run their annual holiday weekends and other events, helping with the music and administration as well as all the finances.

Lindsey says: "I have been walking my wee socks off and if anyone wants to sponsor me that would be great, or if they can come out on the day and just give me a wave as I go past that would be so encouraging!"

<https://edinburgh.thekiltwalk.co.uk/fundraising/EdinburghKiltwalk2022-LindseyRowlands>

*We wish Lindsey all the best for this challenging walk in aid of a very worthy cause. -Ed.*

## The Last Laugh

### Back to school...

~ A wise schoolteacher sent this note to all parents on the first day of school: "If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at school, I'll promise not to believe everything he or she says happens at home."

~ Young James finished his summer holidays and went back to school. Two days later his teacher phoned his mother to tell her that James was misbehaving.

"Wait a minute!" protested his mum. "I had him here for weeks and I never once called YOU when he misbehaved!"



~ The topic for my class was palindromes, which are of course words or sentences that are the same read forward and backward. I asked the question, 'What is the first thing Adam said to Eve?'

I was expecting the well-known phrase 'Madam, I'm Adam', but one student had a better reply: "Wow."