

THE BROUGHTON BEACON

Magazine of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, Edinburgh



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Broughton St Mary's Parish Church

12 Bellevue Crescent EH3 6NE



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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.



Almost a year ago 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

November 2022

Letter from Laurene

One of my favourite Mary Oliver poems is “*Song for Autumn*.” This year, I find myself resonating more with the poem’s focus on the beauty and magic of this time of the year, the letting go, and trusting what is to come, more than previous years. Perhaps, this is due to the unusual and oft quoted “unprecedented” times in which we live. In the midst of the falling leaves and shortening of days, we can be reassured that God is present. As summer has gradually shifted to autumn, we can trust the rhythm and pattern of life, that new life comes out of change, the dying to old forms. The season of autumn prepares us for winter.

As people of faith, we have celebrated the harvest through the sharing of food for those in need.

We prepare to commemorate the saints who have gone before us this year and to remember the victims and survivors of the two World wars and all conflicts in our world as we seek to create a world of peace, justice and the integrity of all of God’s creation.

Autumn is a powerful time of thanksgiving, remembrance and preparing for beginning of Advent in our communal time of worship and in our own personal lives. Autumn is a time of embodied experience of change all around us. In the midst of seasonal change, or changes occurring in our religious communities, social and political spheres, planned or unexpected, we are reminded to connect with the source of our lives and source of love in the world. Being grounded in our faith in God as we seek to follow Jesus and his way of living in the world is what will sustain you and I during these challenging times. Our faith, however great or small, will enable us to not only survive but to thrive as individuals and as a community of faith.

Trusting the still small voice of God in the chaos, in the challenges each day may bring is what continues to build the strong foundation of faith upon which we live our lives. In many respects, it is like God is creating the path of faith under our feet as we move into this restorative season. The good news is that the Spirit of God will continue to lead and sustain us as we move together through and into these new realities of life, whether they be pending union with Greenside Parish Church, or an evolving sense of community beyond the walls of our building, or the deepening of our own personal and communal sense of faith and purpose in life. Indeed, it is a time of thanksgiving for all that God is doing in and through each one of us.

Thanks be to God.

Peace,

Laurene

Song for Autumn

*Don't you imagine the leaves dream now
how comfortable it will be to touch
the earth instead of the
nothingness of the air and the endless
freshets of wind? And don't you think
the trees, especially those with
mossy hollows, are beginning to look for*

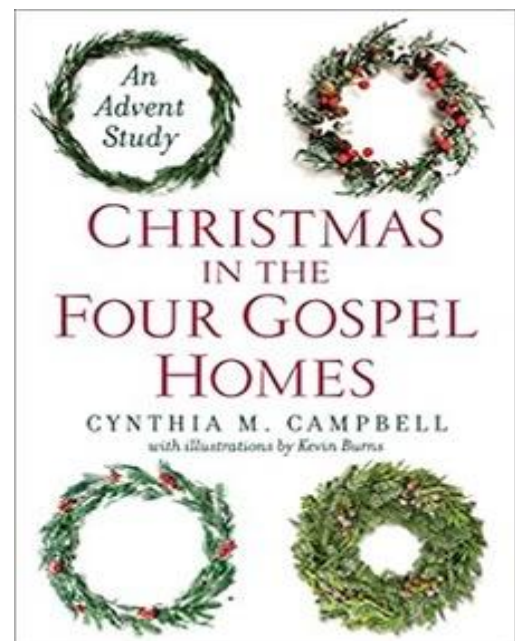
*the birds that will come - six, a dozen - to sleep
inside their bodies? And don't you hear
the goldenrod whispering goodbye,
the everlasting being crowned with the first
tuffets of snow? The pond
stiffens and the white field over which
the fox runs so quickly brings out
its long blue shadows. The wind wags
its many tails. And in the evening
the piled firewood shifts a little,
longing to be on its way.*

~ Mary Oliver, 2005

This Advent, we will be reading the book, “Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes” by Cynthia Campbell, president emerita of McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and minister of Highland Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky in America.

Rev. Campbell reflects on the distinctive perspective of Jesus’ birth offered by each of the four Gospels in a creative and engaging manner. There will be both a morning and evening gathering on Wednesdays beginning 30 November.

If you are interested, please let Laurene know via llafontaine@churchofscotland.org.uk or sign up at church.



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 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.

Flowers 2023

We are grateful to those who have donated flowers for the sanctuary and vestibule during 2022. Several donors have done so to mark significant family events and have made donations for many years, while others have done so on other occasions throughout the year. For various reasons, some previous long time donors have not been able to contribute to the cost of flowers this year. As new dates for donations have become available, a new calendar will be prepared for 2023 and anyone wishing to donate flowers during next year can reserve a slot by contacting Ian Buckingham (ianbucks@hotmail.co.uk or 0131 557 5051).

The dates below are already reserved based on knowledge of the significance of the dates chosen in previous years. Such information, however, is not known in all cases. As a result, some regular donors may note that their name does not appear below. Please be assured, no offence is intended by this. Please get in touch if you wish to reinstate any particular slot.

Jan 8 The Wemyss family, 15 Family of the late Joyce Gray; Feb 19 Marion Laird in memory of late parents; March 12 Anne Dewar, 26 Family of the late Arthur Kerr; April 16 Family of the late Joyce Gray; May 28 The Cartwright family; July 16 Diane Chisholm, 23 The Kerr family, 30 The Pittendreich family; Sept 17 Marion Laird in memory of late parents; Oct 1 In memory of Jean Coxson, 8 Family of the late Barbara Brown, 15 Family of the late Dawn Smith, 22 Family of the late Audrey Kerr; Nov 5 Diane Chisholm; Dec 3 David Cartwright.

We gratefully acknowledge the recent anonymous donation of £20 to the flower fund.

Ian Buckingham

Auntie Muriel is on a Mission!

At a service a few weeks ago Jim Liddle delivered this hilarious reading, in his inimitable style as 'Ex-Brown Owl, Auntie Muriel, aged 94'. It really cheered us up!

Just where dae a start this story, for ye ken I'm no one tae moan,

But it's nae wonder oor heids are spinning wae stress, while we dread tae switch on the TV news, which is generally full of doom and gloom.

The eloquent talkers are a plenty, heaven preserve us, they can spin a guid yarn.

But remember, there's many a true thing said through false teeth, so dinnae trust them all at their word, or be taken in by the flannel and charm.

It's true we're living through challenging times, that can often get us doon.

But one needs tae hold on tae oor daily blessings, by reaching oot tae those human gems around us, who offer cheering hope and light in the darkness, and are worth their weight in gold.

Where wud I be withoot Diane's uplifting 'Broughton Beacon', as I share ma worries ower a cuppa, wae caring Colin Beck.

Debbie's home-made marmalade is addictively delicious on a pancake, and should certainly earn that lassie a first class, silver fundraising cup and rosette.

Sandra's Sunday hugs remind us we're all special, while Chris and his talented Choir belt oot a braw inspiring tune.

The Minister's grounded, encouraging message is a tonic, and can help tae keep us heartened when life seems grim.

Margaret Davidson has got me sold on Scrabble. It's stretched ma outlook and vocabulary tae the max. Now let me tell ye, if it wasnie for ma dodgy ex-Brown Owl's arthritic hip, I wud be doon on ma hunkers wae the rest of the gang, geeing these carpet bowls a jolly guid roll!

My lovely Asian neighbour takes his bairns doon tae Messy Church, where fun and games are had by one and all.

What creative Jan can do wae a glue stick, string and a glitter-dusted, painted paper plate, thrillingly engages youngsters of all ages, and surprisingly wins their parents ower as well.

You see oor faith is like an elasticated lifeline. It's flexible and supportive, for it's truly stood the enduring test o' time.

So be like me at 94, and start each day with a coffee, prayer and a calming deep breath, then regardless of yer age or gender, gae yer knicker elastic a positive, guid kick-starting twang.

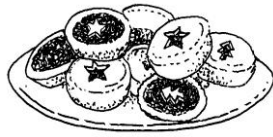
Jim Liddle

Fund Raising

COFFEE MORNING with Christmas in Mind

We are holding a Christmas Coffee Morning on **Saturday 26 November, 10am - 12 noon.**

Coffee or tea will be served with either a mincemeat pie or shortbread for a small charge of £2.



There will be 3 stalls:

1. **Home baking stall,**
2. **Christmas Gift stall** and
3. **Bottle/tombola stall**

We are looking for good quality items for the gift stall (unwanted gifts, toiletries, jewellery etc) and bottles or items suitable for the tombola. These can be brought on any Sunday. Items of home baking can be brought on the day or by arrangement.

Tickets can be bought from members of the Fund Raising Team, alternatively, you can come along and pay at the door. Everyone is welcome.

If you feel able to assist with a stall, serving coffee or simply sanitising tables and washing up, please speak to me, Deborah, any Sunday or contact me on 0131 557 5051. Thank you.

Deborah Buckingham

Christmas Gift Scheme

Along with other churches, we will be supporting the Christmas Gift Scheme at Edinburgh Prison again this year. You are invited to bring gifts of toys (new and unwrapped) for the children of prisoners on **Sunday 27 November.** Your donations are always greatly appreciated by the prisoners and staff, with any surplus toys being put to good use in the Prison's Visitor Centre.

CEILIDH AND SOCIAL EVENING

with the Scott Leslie Ceilidh Band



Broughton St Mary's Church
Friday 18 November 7 - 9pm

*Refreshments will be served
Let's have a party!*

For more information contact 0131 556 4252

MESSY CHURCH



Messy Church will be on Saturday 5 November.

Our theme this month is 'We Sparkle'.

Messy Church is open to all, and especially children and their families. Why not join us for games, crafts, stories and a light lunch?

We meet from 11am in the Garden Room and would love to see you there.

For more information about Messy Church please email messychurch@bstmchurch.org.uk

Jan Allan

PASTORAL CARE

We thank those who have offered to donate flowers, or to deliver them after the service. 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". We know these flowers are very much appreciated by those who receive them.

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



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Most of our regular church and community groups have returned. 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

Wednesdays: Carpet Bowls and Scrabble 2pm
Cadenza Choir 7.00pm

Thursdays: Food Bank 1 - 3pm
Rainbows 6 - 7pm
Church Choir 7pm
NSA Wind Band 7.15pm
Laidback Choir 7.30pm

Fridays: Helen O'Grady Drama 1.50pm
Cosmic Dance 5.30pm

Saturdays: Helen O'Grady Drama 10.00am
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
4th Sunday of month: Quakers meeting 6.45 - 8.45pm.

For a fuller calendar, please refer to the calendar in the printed version of the Beacon; or contact the Church Administrator on 0131 556 4252, or email admin@bstmchurch.org.uk

Good to know

The little word of love, the right time and place
Will be blessed by God above, and watered by His grace.
Author unknown

Some thoughts on remembering



Remember me as the poppies fall
On the shoulders, heads, and at the feet
Of young and old,
All gathered for the Festival.

Remember me in the music played,
In the clapping of the audience,
Keeping time
And uniforms so proudly worn.

Remember me in the stories told,
Most from the distant past, but others new,
Each one rehearsing memories stored or
In the making.

Remember me -
And if a tear should chance to flow
Then let it flow for the world in pain,
And dedicate yourself to peace.

For you are my memorial.
And your life, if lived for others,
Is my legacy.

Sam Doubtfire



Flowers for the Sanctuary

		DONORS	ARRANGED BY	DELIVERY
NOV	6	Diane Chisholm	Diane Chisholm	Volunteer needed
	13	Royal British Legion	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
	20	Pam Skrgatic	Pam Skrgatic	Anne Aarsten
	27	Moir Campbell	Ian Buckingham	Volunteer needed
DEC	4	David Cartwright	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
	11	Doreen O'Neil	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed



Carpet Bowls and Scrabble

Wednesdays 2-4pm

at Broughton St Mary's Parish Church



At Broughton St Mary's we have carpet bowling and scrabble that meets every Wednesday from October until April. We would absolutely love to add to our members.

Would you like to join us?

Or you can just come along to have a cup of tea, a biscuit & blether and check us out. You don't need to know anything about carpet bowls, some of us still don't despite coming for years. 😊

The scrabble group is small and friendly and would be delighted to have your company.

Please think about it, you would be so welcome!

For more information contact Margaret Davidson on 0131 258 1244

The Last Laugh

- ❖ A young minister took his rather old car to the garage for an oil change. After the mechanic had briefly inspected under the bonnet, he turned to the young man and said: "If I were you, I'd keep the oil and change the car."
- ❖ The minister called all the children up to the front for the weekly Bible story. She said, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." Very concerned, one youngster asked, "What happened to the flea?"
- ❖ A Sunday School teacher asked her children: "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One little girl replied helpfully: "Because people are sleeping."
- ❖ When I was young my parents told me what to do. Now I am old, my children tell me what to do. When will I be able to do what I want to do?
- ❖ I get most of my exercise these days from shaking my head in disbelief.
- ❖ A lot of people want to serve God, but only in an advisory capacity.

Meaningful Chocolate Company

Real Advent Calendars £4.50 each

Each Real Advent Calendar 2022 includes a 24-page Christmas story activity book. Behind each window there is a line of the Christmas story and a festive Fairtrade chocolate shape (palm oil free). To order contact www.realadvent.co.uk or 01925 877004