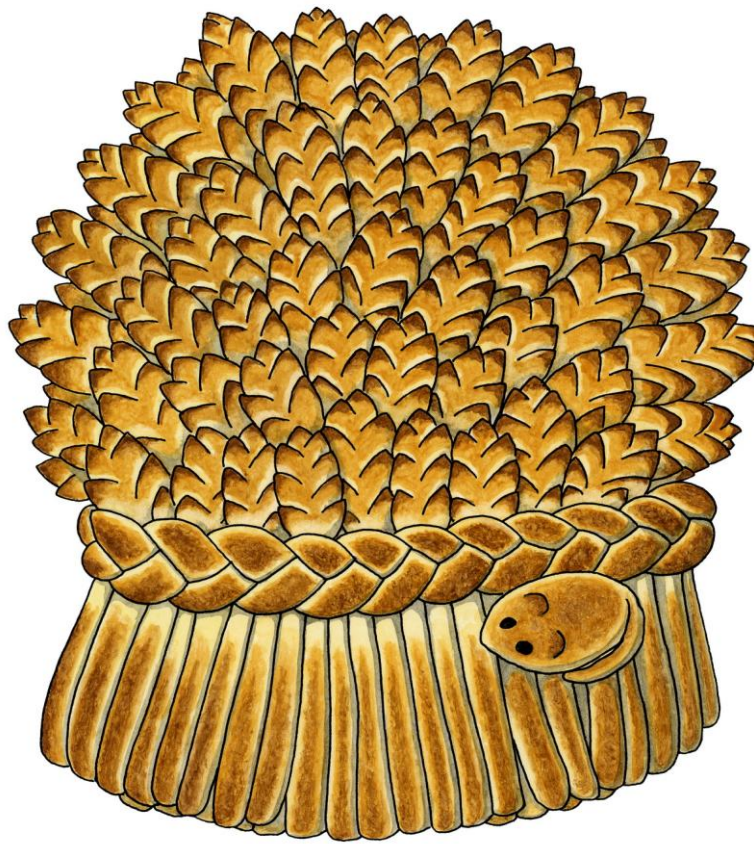


THE BROUGHTON BEACON

Magazine of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, Edinburgh



OCTOBER 2022

Issue No. 261 www.bstmchurch.org.uk

www.facebook.com/bstmchurch

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

October 2022

Letter from Laurene

As we move into autumn, it is a gentle reminder of change. With the crisp evening air and shortening of days, nature signals this change. We move from the joy of summer, the accompanying ease and holidays to the excitement of back to school, reconnecting with friends and daily routines.

There is a rhythm of change in our lives. Often, it is transformational and enables us to grow in unexpected ways in our faith and outlook of life. Yet, it does seem like we experienced a lifetime of changes in such a relatively short time. The memory of a pre-covid life seems ages ago, perhaps because of all that has transpired in our own personal, congregational and national settings during these roughly two and half years. During the second lockdown when I hit a particular rough patch, I had a profound sense of solace and inspiration after recalling that God created life out of chaos. In the midst of all the change and chaos, God is creating new life in and all around us.

Against this backdrop of intense change, we now have a new UK government, new monarch, and of course, an emerging new configuration of our national and local churches. The Presbytery Planning process is currently taking place in the thirty-nine presbyteries within the Church of Scotland. It is this change I would like to focus upon.

As you know, since mid February we have been discussing and listening to one another about the potential union of Broughton St. Mary's, Greenside and St. Andrews & St George's West. We have also been getting to know our brothers and sisters of both congregations through shared worship services and fellowship gatherings. It is all quite positive as we move toward union together.

Although, recently, this vision and the timing of this plan has needed to be adjusted. Rev. Rosie Magee announced that she was demitting her charge to St. Andrew's & St. George's West Church on 31 October. Because of this pending vacancy, "it is proposed that Broughton St. Mary's and Greenside enter into a Union as part of a Parish Grouping including St. Andrew's & St. George's West Church. Once the position of STAGW, shortly to be in vacancy, is clearer, a wider Union of the three churches may progress."

So what this means is that the three congregations will continue to work together, sharing worship together when appropriate, e.g. Holy Week, and developing a sense of community through fellowship opportunities. We will enter into a Union with Greenside, probably early next spring, worshipping at BStM.

Meanwhile, various configurations of our church leadership will begin meeting. We will explore how we bring our two congregations together so that all people are included. Suzie (*Rev Suzie Stark, locum minister at Greenside*) and I will exchange pulpits on 16 October, Greenside will join us for worship on the 20 November and pursue a time schedule of shared worship.

We had a good Session meeting last Wednesday when we discussed this new proposal. I can share there was positive support for moving forward.

These are exciting and of course, anxious times. The good news is that the spirit of God is leading as we seek to listen, learn and move forward into the new thing that God is doing. Look forward to many future discussions about the changes in our lives, and how God's spirit is manifesting goodness and peace.

"All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well."

— Julian of Norwich

Peace, Laurene

HM Queen Elizabeth II

'I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service' (21st birthday broadcast, 1947).

The sun shone on Edinburgh as the Queen's cortege made its slow way up the Royal Mile to St Giles. It was a mesmerising and moving spectacle and one many of us won't forget.

One of our own members, Adam Bruce, was involved in the state ceremonies that took place following the death of Queen Elizabeth. Adam was appointed Marchmont Herald in 2012, and eagle-eyed members would have seen him in his heraldic garb at many of the ceremonial events.

Mark Woods, Editor of the Bible Society said: "Our Queen's faith in Jesus Christ was central to her life... In her 2000 broadcast she told the watching millions: 'To many of us, our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me, the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example.'"

Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 9 October



We will celebrate harvest this year on 9 October. This is an opportunity for you to contribute to the Food Bank which operates from our building. Donations to the Food Bank can include: fruit juice (long life), tinned fruit, tinned fish, pasta and sauces, pulses, UHT milk, coffee, tea, biscuits, jam and sugar.

Some of our own members will receive a harvest gift and the best wishes of the congregation.

We will be looking for volunteers to deliver the gifts after the service. Please speak to Colin if you can help.

Colin Beck, Pastoral Care Team
pastoralcare@bstmchurch.org.uk

Church Administrator

Our church administrator, Lindsey Rowlands, will be leaving her post on 29 November. Lindsey has received and accepted an offer of a new job which is closer to her home. We are sorry to lose Lindsey's services as she has been a most competent administrator and has provided excellent support with regards to the day to day running of the church building. She has played a major role in helping increase the number of people and groups that use the building and the subsequent increase of income to the church to around £60K per annum.

Ian Buckingham

We thank Lindsey for all she has done for Broughton St Mary's over these past seven years and we wish her well in her new role. -Ed.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9lDzDM4MZH-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.

Participating in worship

I will be preparing a new rota for people to read the Bible readings at Sunday Worship. If you have not read in church and would like to do so, please contact me or Laurene. We also have a small team that leads the Prayers of the People. Please contact Sandra Endicott or Laurene if you would like to join the team.

Ian Buckingham

A new Editor for the Beacon

September 2022 marked 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!

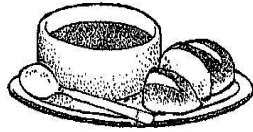
However, I feel that a 20-year anniversary is the right time to stand down and allow others to take this on as we move into a new phase of the church's life. If you have the expertise and enthusiasm to join an editorial team, please get in touch with me or Laurene.

Diane Chisholm

Fund Raising

Soup and Bread Lunch

On **Sunday 30 October**, the Fund raising team will be providing homemade soup and crusty bread after Morning Worship in the Garden Room. There will be a nominal charge of £3, all proceeds to church funds. Please keep this date in mind and plan to stay for a simple lunch with your friends. Thank you.



YoungMinds Charity Coffee Morning

This event held on Saturday 24 September raised the sum of £256.60, including donations from those not able to attend. Thank you to everyone who gave their time, money and support for this very worthy cause.

Date for the Diary

Saturday 26 November -
Coffee Morning with
Christmas in mind.



Plea for help

The Fund Raisers are looking for:

1. New members to join the team
2. Offers of help for the Sunday lunch and the Coffee Morning and stalls in November.

Please speak to Deborah Buckingham any Sunday.
Thank you.

Deborah Buckingham

MESSY CHURCH



Messy Church will be on
Saturday 1st October.
Our theme this month is
We Say Thank You.

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. We are also inviting people to bring along donations for the Food Bank if this is something they would like to do.

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

Jan Allan

AUTUMN SALE FOR CHRISTIAN AID

St Andrew's and St George's West Church

The autumn sale for Christian Aid opens on Tuesday 18 October and runs until Saturday 22 October. The sale focuses on art and Scottish books, and includes works by eminent artists from across Scotland and the UK.

Tuesday 18 Oct - Sat 22 Oct: 10am - 5pm
Closing at 7pm on Thursday and 3pm on Saturday.

There will also be a Coffee Morning with jewellery and gifts from 10am - noon on Saturday.

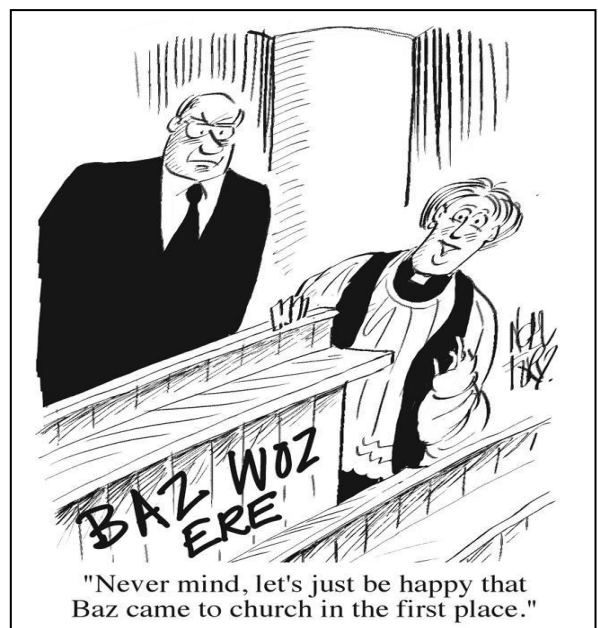
PASTORAL CARE

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



OCTOBER 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

Wednesdays: Cadenza Choir 7.00pm

Thursdays: Food Bank 1 - 3pm
Rainbows 6 - 7pm
Church Choir 7- 8.30pm
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, Lindsey Rowlands, on 0131 556 4252, or email admin@bstmchurch.org.uk

A Helping Hand



There is much we can do just to brighten
This world of all take and no give,
There's a great deal that we can contribute
Through the everyday lives that we live.

By supporting one's elderly neighbours,
Or through lending a hand in some way.
It's by taking a bunch of spring flowers
To someone to brighten their day.

It's by sparing a few precious hours
In the service of those most in need,
It's all about setting a standard
And trying to give others a lead.

It's the way that we tend to treat others
And help and aid folks in distress,
In the care and assistance we offer
That will set us apart from the rest.

The choice that we face is quite simple,
The rewards plain for all folk to see,
As you did all of this to my brother,
Then, said Jesus, you did it to me.

Colin Hammacott

Congregational Register

DEATHS

1 September Mr RONALD GIBSON, 93 Granton Road, EH5 3NH
11 September Mrs LAVINA CRUMLISH, 17 Vandeleur Avenue, EH7 6UH.

Transference Certificate sent to:

Ms ELIZABETH RANDALL, 16/58 Queen's Road, EH4 2BY, who now attends Davidson's Mains Church, Edinburgh.



Flowers for the Sanctuary

		DONORS	ARRANGED BY	DELIVERY
OCT	2	In memory of Jean Coxson	Pam Skrgatic	Volunteer needed
	9	Family of the late Mrs B Brown	The Brown family	Barbara Robertson
	16	Family of the late Dawn Smith	Volunteer needed	Graham Rogers
	23	Family of the late Audrey Kerr	Deborah Buckingham	Volunteer needed
	30	Colin Beck	Colin Beck	Colin Beck
NOV	6	Diane Chisholm	Diane Chisholm	Volunteer needed
	13	Royal British Legion	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 just come along to have a cup of tea, a biscuit & bletcher 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!

You can give Margaret Davidson a call on 0131 258 1244 for more information, or better still just come along on October 5th!

The Last Laugh

What a hoot...

One evening a bird-loving minister strolled over to his country churchyard and, just for fun, hooted softly, like an owl. To his delight, an owl hooted softly back.

The next night the same thing happened, and again, the night after that. Soon it became a regular habit, and every night for the following month, no matter what the weather, the minister would go to the churchyard and hoot back and forth with his feathered friend. The hoots became longer and more complicated, and the minister kept a careful log of the 'conversation'.

Just as he thought he was on the verge of a real breakthrough in interspecies communication, his wife happened to have a chat with the neighbour who lived in a big house and garden next door to the church. "My husband comes here each night," she said, "to hoot to the owl in the churchyard." "That's odd," the neighbour replied, "so does my husband."