

# THE BROUGHTON BEACON

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



## DECEMBER 2022

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# Broughton St Mary's Parish Church

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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.



Almost a year ago we welcomed our new minister, Laurene Lafontaine, after a long vacancy following the death of our previous minister. 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.

The church 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 December 2022

### Letter from Laurene



*"O come, O Come Emmanuel"*...we wait with expectancy and hope during this season of Advent for it is a time of preparing our hearts and minds to receive the birth of Jesus into our lives anew. This is not an intellectual experience, faith rarely is. It is a time of looking inward, letting go of our limited understandings of God, letting go of those nostalgic memories that keep our faith static, and being willing to create space within for the birth of our God incarnate. Preparing for the birth of Jesus is dynamic and life giving, and it is full of potential and possibilities.

These next four weeks of Advent are an invitation to create room for Jesus in our lives in the here and now, in the midst of all the worldly chaos, unknowns and change. I find Advent a time to pause and catch my breath. It is an opportunity to reflect and celebrate the light among us. I have always loved the Christmas lights which decorate buildings, homes and our surroundings. Now as an adult, I tend to see each light representing the light of God found in the people whom I meet or encounter.

Advent is a time of simplicity, creativity, and beauty. It is a time of meditation and prayer. It is a time of the inbreaking of God's presence anew. This year, let us be a light of Christ, a messenger of Christmas cheer, sharing the peace and love of Christmas with one another, our neighbours and those whom we encounter! May you be surrounded by the light and love of Christ this day. Blessing to you and yours.

Grace and Peace,  
Laurene

### I Am Silent . . . and Expectant

How silently,  
How silently  
the wondrous gift is given.

I would be silent now,  
Lord,

And expectant . . .

that I may receive

the gift I need,

so I may become

the gifts others need.

*Prayer for Advent, Rev. Ted Loder  
Guerrillas of Grace*

### Christmas Services at Broughton St Mary's



Sunday 18 December at 10.30am: Family  
Nativity Service with Greenside Church

Saturday 24 December at 11.30pm:  
Watchnight Service

Sunday 25 December at 10.30am: Christmas  
Day Service

Sunday 1 January at 10.30am: New Year  
Service with Greenside Church

*All are welcome!*

### CARING CHRISTMAS TREES

Scottish homelessness charity, Bethany Christian Trust, is asking festive shoppers to help people without a home this winter by purchasing a Caring Christmas Tree. Trees are priced from £40 and sustainably grown in Scotland.

They are available to pre-purchase online at [www.caringchristmastrees.com](http://www.caringchristmastrees.com) or by calling 0345 111 8733. The trees will be ready for collection at various locations in Edinburgh in December. Also this year, Bethany are partnering with St Stephen's Church in Comely Bank to put on a **Christmas Market on December 9 and 10**. This will be an opportunity to browse stalls, enjoy some home baking and listen to music from pupils at Broughton High School.



## An Evening of Celebration



On Friday 18 November we held a Ceilidh and Party at the church, to celebrate Laurene's induction - one year on! Thanks to the Covid restrictions we were not able to properly celebrate on 2 December last year when Laurene was inducted to Broughton St Mary's. We were also celebrating 35 years since Laurene was ordained into the ministry in the USA.

It was a fantastic night! Music was provided by the Scott Leslie Ceilidh Band, and our new floor was perfect for dancing on. Scott was very encouraging and patient with those who were new to the dances. These included a large group of Ukrainian friends who were experiencing a Scottish ceilidh for the first time.

Refreshments were provided, including some typical Scottish treats such as shortbread, Tunnock's Tea Cakes and Irn Bru! A beautiful cake was duly cut by Laurene and shared. The wine was supplied by Bludge, a small local business we were happy to support. ([www.bludge.co.uk](http://www.bludge.co.uk))

*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. More and more people are making use of this method of connecting with the church. 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

In the article in the November Beacon, I advised of the dates that are available for anyone wishing to donate flowers. Thank you to those who have been in touch and confirmed which dates they would like.

The following dates remain available:

22 & 29 January. 5,12,26 February. 5 & 19 March. 2,9,23 April. 7,14,21 May. 4,11,25 June. 2,9,23 July. 20 & 27 August. 3 & 24 September. 29 October. 12,19,26 November. 10, 17, 24 December. Please let me know if you wish to reserve any of the above dates.

Ian Buckingham ([ianbucks@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ianbucks@hotmail.co.uk) or 0131 557 5051).

Volunteers are always needed to arrange and deliver flowers. Please contact Ian Buckingham or Colin Beck if you can help.

*Ian Buckingham*

## A Farewell from Lindsey

It's hard to believe that I am saying my goodbyes after 7 years at Broughton St Mary's. Time flies.

I would like to wish my friends at Broughton St Mary's, both from the congregation and all the external building users, all the very best for the future. Thank you for all the friendship, love and support during my time here. I'm sure our paths may cross again at some point in the future.

*Lindsey Rowlands*

# Fund Raising

## Christmas Coffee Morning

We held our Coffee Morning 'with Christmas in Mind' on Saturday 26 November. It was lovely to see many of our friends there.

My thanks to everyone who helped with the organisation, selling on stalls, serving teas in the Garden Room, making the coffee, washing up and the tidying away afterwards. It wouldn't have happened without you. The amount realised will appear in the January Beacon.

As this year draws to a close, the team of 'fund raisers' wish to thank our friends and loyal customers who, throughout the year, have supported all our various activities and by doing so, added to church funds.

Wishing you all a peaceful  
and joyful Christmas.

*Deborah Buckingham  
On behalf of the FR team*



## LIFE AND WORK MAGAZINE

The Church of Scotland's monthly magazine is called 'Life and Work'. It is available both in print and digital format. Annual subscriptions are due now.

An annual subscription costs £42 for the printed magazine which can be delivered to your home, or £20.99 for the digital version (£11.99 for six months only). You can subscribe via the website by visiting [www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe](http://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe).

## NEW LOOK FOR 2023

In 2023 you will see the magazine refreshed in how it looks along with new features, contributors, reader offers and much more packed across the pages.

To ensure you keep connected with the vital work of the Church of Scotland, a double page Official Update on the Faith Action Plan will feature each month. Also, a joint monthly full page from the Chief Officer and Convener of the Assembly Trustees.

By subscribing to the magazine of the Church of Scotland you directly support its important work. Please visit [www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org) for full terms and conditions or contact our office on 0131 460 7487 to receive a copy.

*The Life and Work Team*

## MESSY CHURCH



Messy Church will be on  
Saturday 3 December.

Our theme this month is

### The Waiting Game.

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



# DECEMBER 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  
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  
4<sup>th</sup> 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 on 0131 556 4252, or email [admin@bstmchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@bstmchurch.org.uk)*

## I heard the Bells on Christmas Day



I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along th'unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:  
'There is no peace on earth,' I said  
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*



# Congregational Register



## DEATH

7 November Mrs MARY GUTHRIE, 86 Bellevue Road, EH7 4DE

## Transference Certificate issued to:

Mrs MAY DUNN, Homescott House, 6/42 Goldenacre Terrace EH3 5RE, who now attends  
Davidson's Mains Church, Edinburgh.



## Flowers for the Sanctuary

		DONORS	ARRANGED BY	DELIVERY
DEC	4	David Cartwright	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
	11	Doreen O'Neil	Liz Brown	Volunteer needed
	18	Margaret Braby	Ian Buckingham	Graham Rogers
	25	Donor needed	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
JAN	1	Allan Wilson	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
	8	The Wemyss family	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed



## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

*No Strings Attached Wind Band*

Thursday 8 December  
7.30pm  
at Broughton St Mary's Church

*Light-hearted and festive music  
followed by drinks & nibbles.  
Entry by donation.*

There will also be a fabulous raffle.  
Please bring cash!



*The Editor would like to  
wish all Beacon readers  
a very Happy Christmas!*

## The Last Laugh

- ❖ Four weeks before Christmas the minister was leading a service featuring an Advent wreath. She had told the children what the three purple candles represented and then asked, "Does anyone know what the pink candle means?" A little girl's hand went up. "Are they expecting a girl?"
- ❖ A mother took her young daughter to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at the garden centre. He greeted the youngster merrily and asked: "And what would you like for Christmas?" The little girl stared at him, open-mouthed with horror. "Didn't you get my email?"
- ❖ December is the month when the children begin to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some insist on getting him a shirt, others a pair of socks. But the argument always ends in a tie.
- ❖ What do you call Santa's helpers? – Subordinate Clauses.
- ❖ What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? – Frostbite.

