

# THE BROUGHTON BEACON

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



## JANUARY 2023

# 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](http://www.bstmchurch.org.uk)

You can email us at [mail@bstmchurch.org.uk](mailto:mail@bstmchurch.org.uk)  
Find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/bstmchurch](https://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.



Our 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 January 2023

### Letter from Laurene



Happy New Year! Happy Epiphany!

The wonderful Scottish poet, Jackie Kay, encapsulates the essence of this time of the year in her poem *Promise*, “*when the future appears like a blank sheet of paper, a clean calendar, a new chance.*” In the midst of all that life is bringing us, Christmas reminds us that hope continues to exist as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, God with us. Epiphany commemorates the visit of the magi, the revelation of the incarnate Christ, fully human and fully God for all people. This revelation of light and love is ongoing in our own lives through God’s spirit.

Some of us make resolutions for the new year, often many are short-lived. With this in mind, at our New Year’s Day worship service people were invited to ponder about their own lives as Mary did in that first Christmas account and then light a candle for their own hope, vision and desire for this upcoming year. Lighting a candle together was meant to remind us that we both need the support of one another and to support one another. This visible support is life-giving as we continue to seek to create and be an affirming and welcoming community of faith.

As we move through this coming year when we and members of Greenside Parish Church will merge to create a new community of faith, we are called to be the light and love of Christ in our communities. In creating this new community of faith, may we be mindful and intentional in our coming together guided by grace and an openness to one another. There is no expectation or requirement to be at a particular stage of our faith.

The beauty of forming this new faith community together is that we are intentionally creating a space where all people can be themselves, whether that be specific life circumstances, faith perspective, political understanding, or any other personal definition, **and** creating a welcoming community where all are respected as we grow together. Exciting times ahead! The good news is that the Spirit of God continues to guide us and lead us into this new thing. Thanks be to God.

Peace,

LAURENE

### Promise

by Jackie Kay

Remember, the time of year  
when the future appears  
like a blank sheet of paper  
a clean calendar, a new chance.  
On thick white snow  
You vow fresh footprints  
then watch them go  
with the wind’s hearty gust.  
Fill your glass. Here’s tae us. Promises  
made to be broken, made to last.

*From “A Poem for Every Day Of The Year”*  
Allie Esiri, ed, Macmillan Children’s Books,  
2017

### A message from the Moderator, the Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields

*Looking at the year ahead...* “We will bring into 2023 many of the unresolved issues and challenges we have had to face in 2022, but how we face them is as important as what we have to face. It is obvious to me that we need to re-prioritise our political and social thinking and hold those who lead us more to account. Close the gap between the haves and the have nots, make the environment our number one priority and insist on an end to spending on nuclear weapons in order to spend more on health, in particular.

At a personal level, learn to be more content and less complaining, more caring towards others than self-indulgent towards ourselves; recovering a sense of society where people matter more than possessions and where all are inspired to thrive and serve at the same time.”

*From the Church of Scotland website.*



## Nativity Service

On Sunday 18 December, worshippers from Broughton St Mary's and Greenside Churches took part in a Nativity service which included a presentation of "The Best Story of an Imperfect Christmas Eve", by Katherine Willis Pershey.

As well as Laurene and Suzie, the cast featured some brave volunteers from the two congregations (some drafted in at the last minute!) The youngest cast member was just four years old.

This was a happy and fun production which we all enjoyed, and a great way to celebrate the Christmas story. Well done all!

*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

The following dates remain available for anyone wishing to donate flowers for the sanctuary and vestibule in 2023:

29 January. 5 & 26 February. 5 March. 2,9,23 April. 21 May. 25 June. 2,9,23 July. 20 & 27 August. 3 September. 29 October. 12,19,26

November. 10, 17 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.

## Kirk Session

The Kirk Session will meet for ordinary business at 7pm on Wednesday 1 February.

## Christmas and New Year Greetings

Greetings to all at Broughton St Mary's Church have been received from Suzie Stark (Locum minister), Isabel McNab (Session Clerk) and our friends at Greenside Church.

## Christmas Offerings

The cash offerings received at the Christmas and New Year Services raised £300 in aid of the **Rock Trust**, a charity working to end teenage homelessness in Scotland.

*Ian Buckingham*

## From the Editor

It has been a privilege to edit *The Broughton Beacon* over the past 20 years. Our church magazine has travelled far and wide to countless numbers of readers, especially now that it is produced digitally as well as in print. We have readers in Canada as well as all over Scotland.

The power of the written word to keep people in touch with their church and community was never so clearly demonstrated as during those two long years of the Covid lockdowns. People were isolated at home and looked forward so much to their Beacon appearing in the post or online every month. (Special thanks to Ian Buckingham who delivered Beacons to some local folk while out and about on his bike. His kindness has helped to reduce our postal bill considerably.)

Hopefully, (like the BBC!), the Beacon has inspired and informed as well as entertained readers over the years, and will continue to do so.

A new era for the Beacon is beginning, as I pass on the editorial baton to others. May it go from strength to strength!

*Diane Chisholm*

# Fund Raising

## Christmas Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning 'with Christmas in Mind' held on Saturday 26 November raised the sum of £578-90. A further £70 was raised from the sale of Jan's knitted Santas, Snowmen, Penguins and Christmas puddings, each cleverly disguising a chocolate orange! (see picture) In addition, a further £60 was raised from the sale of Christmas cakes. This brings the final total to £708-90!

Well done everyone who contributed to its success.



## Dates for your Diary

Sunday 19 February – Baking Stall

Saturday 25 March – Coffee Morning

*Deborah Buckingham*

## 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.

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 does not meet in January or February. We will be back in March and hope to see you then.



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

*Jan Allan*

## PASTORAL CARE

In the days before Christmas we visited some of our older members and those who can't get out to church these days.

Each received a lovely Poinsettia plant and a card which read, "With love from all your friends at Broughton St Mary's."

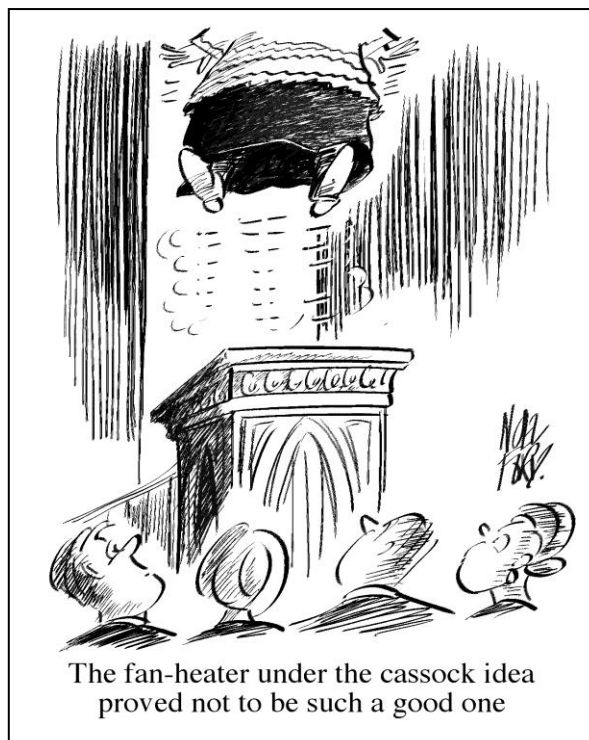


Please contact **Colin Beck** if you know of anyone needing support, or for information regarding pastoral care.

You can leave a message on the church answer phone (0131 556 4252)

or email [pastoralcare@bstmchurch.org.uk](mailto:pastoralcare@bstmchurch.org.uk)

*Colin Beck*



# JANUARY 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

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)*

## Hope



It's a time of exultation  
When hope triumphs over fear  
And we're filled with jubilation  
At the turning of the year.

As the clock begins its striking  
When we reach the midnight hour,  
None can help themselves  
from liking  
Love and hope's stupendous power!

Forget the woes and tears and troubles  
Of the year that's just gone by,  
Hope – just like the champagne bubbles  
Puts a gleam back in our eye!

Hold firm that hope although the pages  
from the calendar are torn,  
Hear the counsel of the sages:  
Hope is *every* day reborn!

*Nigel Beeton*

## Happy New Year

Heaven's gift of another year  
As the old departs and the new is born,  
Plans for a future and a hope  
Preparing us for each new dawn.  
Yesterday has gone forever,  
New days and ventures lie ahead,  
Even darkness turns to light  
When we make the Lord our head.  
Yielding to the Holy Spirit  
Ever mindful that He's there,  
As we live our lives before Him  
Rejoicing in His loving care.

*Megan Carter*



# Congregational Register

## DEATH

28 November Mrs CAROLYN HUTCHISON, 38/3 Barony Street, EH3 6NY

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs PAM SKRGATIC, 13 Claremont Crescent, EH7 4HX to Flat 32, 18 Hughes Close, EH7 4GL

## Transference Certificate issued to:

Mrs HILDA MILLER, 2/45 Croft-an-Righ, EH8 8EG, who transfers to Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh.



## Flowers for the Sanctuary

		DONORS	ARRANGED BY	DELIVERY
JAN	1	Allan Wilson	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
	8	The Wemyss family	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
	15	Family of the late Joyce Gray	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
	22	Irene Marshall	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
	29	No Donor	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
FEB	5	No Donor	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
	12	Bertha Galbraith & Margaret Davidson	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed



## The Big Garden Birdwatch 2023

The Big Garden Birdwatch is the UK's biggest and longest-running citizen science wildlife survey. By taking part, you can play an important role in helping us understand how UK birds are doing. Whatever you see; one blackbird, 20 sparrows or maybe no birds at all, it all counts. All you need to do is spend an hour between 27 - 29 January counting the birds you see in your garden, park or from your balcony. You can find out more about the birds you might see and tips at [rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](https://rspb.org.uk/birdwatch)



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

## The Last Laugh

### New Year's Resolutions – by your cat!

1. I will not play 'dead cat on the stairs' while people are trying to bring in groceries or laundry, or else one of these days it will really come true.
  2. TV screens do not exist to backlight my lovely tail.
  3. I will not suddenly freeze and puff my entire body to twice its size for no reason after my human has watched a late-night horror movie.
  4. I will not perch on my human's chest in the middle of the night and stare until they wake up.
  5. Above all, I will not walk on the key board when my human is writing important adagfsg gdjag ;lnk\*?!
- Feel a failure because you don't get everything on your list done each week? Don't worry - the only person who ever got everything done by Friday was Robinson Crusoe! *Anon*
- Sign on door of music shop: Gone Chopin, have Liszt, Bach in a Minuet. *Anon*