

The Broughton Beacon

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



*Nor will I then thy modest grace forget, Chaste Snow-drop, venturous
harbinger of Spring, And pensive monitor of fleeting years!*

William Wordsworth (1847)

February 2023

Issue 265



Broughton St. Mary's Parish Church
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Charity Number SC 012642

Broughton St Mary's Parish Church is a charge of The Church of Scotland in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian. 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 and a community hub. As a welcoming church, Broughton St Mary's offers a supportive space for the full participation of LGBTQIA people in the life of our church.

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.. Contact us for further information.

Minister Rev Laurene Lafontaine 0131 556 4252 (Church Office)
llafontaine@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk Ian Buckingham sessionclerk@bstmchurch.org.uk

Church Administrator Pravina Campbell admin@bstmchurch.org.uk
Office hours Wednesday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
She works remotely during the week.



*'Prayer is an auditing, hauling the boulders of self-absorption,
fear and prejudice away from ... blocking the flow of life.'*

Kathy Galloway, 'Living by the Rule'

Musings from your minister

The other day, I was speaking with a colleague and we both marvelled how quickly the month has already flew by, wasn't it just Christmas and now we're making plans for our Lenten services with Ash Wednesday less than a month away. It does fly by these days. And as life is full of changes around the corner, personal challenges, and ongoing chaos, injustice and violence in our daily news, sometimes life feels like drinking from a fire hose.

In the confluence of these two dynamics, I often wonder how often the delight of God's creative spirit goes by unnoticed. It's so easy to do, to get caught up in the blur of life, that I, and I imagine some of you, tend to miss out on those brilliant flashes of awe. Those glimpses are what feed my soul, give me a sense of hope against the backdrop of the injustice in society, and are life-giving sources of inspiration.

Even though it is a scientific reality that time does speed up as we age, we do not have to automatically acquiesce to this reality.

Psychologist, Dr. Steve Taylor, Leeds Beckett University, suggests "a number of basic laws of psychological time...One of these is that time seems to speed up as we get older. Another is that time seems to slow down when we're exposed to new environments and experiences."

These two laws are caused by the same underlying factor: the relationship between our experience of time and the amount of information (including perceptions, sensations and thoughts) our minds process. The more information our minds take in, the slower time seems to pass. As we get older, we have fewer new experiences and the world around us becomes more and more familiar. We become desensitised to our experience, which means that we process less information, and time seems to speed up." (Quoted from his article, "Time going too fast?" ScienceAlert, The conversation.com. 6 May 2019)

There are a number of academic papers which discuss this concept of time speeding up as we age. What I am learning from the research is that there are ways to shift the experience of time which can enhance our lives. By connecting with others, experiencing new adventures and developing our life long learning skills, we can re-energize our perspective on life. Sleep and a healthy diet also helps this process.

"Spirituality is thus for the hatching of the heart. Whatever helps to open our hearts to the reality of the sacred is what we should be engaged in."
Marcus Borg

I was struck by a common comment I heard when collecting your stars during worship on the 22nd. I had invited you to write down what gift or attribute you brought to our community of faith. More than a few people said that they struggled to identify such a personal characteristic. I remarked that this is why the invitation. It is vital for all of us to affirm the gifts which God has blessed each one and everyone. For some, it will be a beginning point of discovery. For others, it will be a profound awareness and acceptance that indeed, you are created in the image of God, called by God to be your fabulous self and to empower to sharing those gifts with others.

This spiritual journey together is a part of a new adventure. Guided by God's spirit, we will be able to grow into the new reality that God is doing here at Broughton St. Mary's as we unite together with Greenside and St Andrew's & St George's West. It is an opportunity to develop a deeper sense of faith, have some fun, and perhaps most importantly, slow down time so that we can enjoy and delight in our incredible ministry together. Thanks be to God!

Peace,

LAUREN

The way you look at things is not simply a private matter. Your outlook actually and concretely affects what goes on. When you give in to helplessness, you collude with despair and add to it. When you take back your power and choose to see the possibilities for healing and transformation, your creativity awakens and flows to become an active force of renewal and encouragement in the world. In this way, even in your own hidden life, you can become a powerful agent of transformation in a broken, darkened world. There is a huge force field that opens when intention focuses and directs itself toward transformation.

John O'Donohue
Excerpt from Benedictus

Fellowship and Fun



Wednesday Club

At Broughton St Mary's we have carpet bowling and scrabble that meets every Wednesday! 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. Just come along to have a cup of tea, a biscuit & blether and check us out.

Chat with Margaret Davidson for more information, or better still just come along on Wednesday February 8th



Baking Stall

Sunday 19th February after worship

You are all invited to bring a bit of home baking to sell on the stall and, of course, you are all invited to buy something, too.

I have a small supply of Seville orange marmalade. Due to the increase in price of ingredients and gas, I have had to increase the price to £2. If you wish some, please order from me and I'll bring it the following Sunday.

Any questions, please don't hesitate to speak to Debbie Buckingham. Thank you



Messy Church is currently on a short break, we will be back again on Saturday, 4th March with more games, crafts, and stories.

Dates for this term

4th March

1st April

29th April

3rd June.

Please note the change of date from 5 May to 29 April as the Coronation of King Charles III will take place on Saturday, 5 May.

Transitions

Chris Dyter, our organist and choirmaster since March 2015, has left his position at Broughton St Mary's to accept an invitation to become organist at South Leith Parish Church. Chris leaves with our good wishes and thanks for his services as organist and choirmaster.

During this time, Chris made a significant contribution to the musical life of the congregation through his skilful playing of the organ and piano in worship and leadership of the church choir. Chris made many friends at BStM and will be missed.

We are grateful to James McNeill, David Stewart, Colin Beck and Oli Kelly who have deputised for Chris during his recent period of ill health.

Colin Beck and Oli Kelly will be providing organ cover till the end of March. The Kirk Session will discuss the recruitment of a new organist at its next meeting.

HAPPY
Valentine's
DAY

We welcome Pravina Campbell as our temporary bookings manager. She is working a hybrid schedule in the church office on Wednesdays, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm and remotely. She will be staff until 1 April when she, her husband and three boys are off to travel the world for a time. Please drop by on Wednesdays to say hello.

At our upcoming Kirk session meeting, in addition to the aforementioned organist search, we will discuss how best to meet the growing needs of bookings and church administration, and implement plans for recruitment and hiring.

Watch this space!

Coffee Morning!



Saturday 25th March
10.30am to 12 noon

Thank you for the Edinburgh Prison Christmas Toy Collection

Dearest Friends,
The Edinburgh Gift Collection has been running for thirty-seven years. I cannot recall a time when your contribution to the gift collection was needed more than it was last year. The requests for gifts were the highest it has been for many years. It has been a difficult few years for all of us, due in part to the pandemic and the economy taking a turn for the worse. When I asked for your help for the thirty-seventh collection, I had no idea what your response would be. My friends, you never fail to step up to the mark. Your response for Christmas 2022 was to say the least amazing. I feel proud and privileged to be part of such a special group of people. I would like to thank you all personally for what you do.

This year, 259 children had presents to open. Over a thousand gifts were given out. The gifts were distributed through Christmas parties in the visits room organised through the visitors' centre and family contact officers. Gifts were also given out directly through the visitors' centre and delivered to those unable to collect the gifts. Thank you all once more for what you do in supporting the Edinburgh Prison Christmas Gift Collection.

Best Wishes,

Colin O'Flaherty

Flowers for the Sanctuary and Vestibule

	Donor	Arranged By	Delivery
5 February	Maxine Mackie & Jonny Brock	Maxine Mackie	Volunteer Needed
12 February	Bertha Galbraith & Margaret Davidson	Bertha Galbraith & Margaret Davidson	Volunteer Needed
19 February	Marion Laird in memory of Mr & Mrs McKay	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
26 February	Available	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
5 March	Available	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
12 March	Anne Dewar	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

Flowers 2023

Thank you to those who responded to the request for donors to provide flowers for the sanctuary and vestibule.

The following dates are available for flower donation in 2023:

26 February	20, 27 August
5 March	3 September
23 April	29 October
21 May	12, 19, 26 November
25 June	10, 17 December
2, 9, 23 July	

Please let know if you wish to reserve any of the above dates. Ian Buckingham at ianbucks@hotmail.co.uk.

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

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. The viewership continues to increase as people are making use of this means of connecting with the church, both here and overseas!

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

<https://www.youtube.com/@bstmchurch>

<https://youtu.be/QFXbu1cAMHE>

Please note that services are no longer available on the Zoom platform, which means that it is no longer possible to connect to a worship service via telephone.

Safeguarding Training

Please find below the link to register

for a face to face Introductory Safeguarding Training for volunteers on

Saturday 18th Feb 10am
Blackburn and Seafield Church
West Lothian

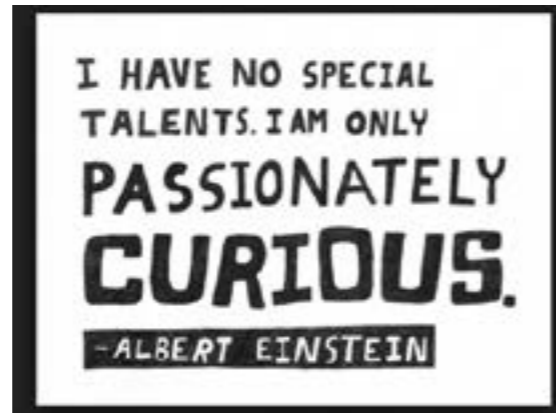
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/introductory-safeguarding-training-tickets-481928931407>

Broughton St. Mary's, Greenside
& St. Andrew's and St. George's West
Parish Grouping



Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.
Ecclesiastes 3:20

Ash Wednesday Worship Service
22 February 2023 at 7:00 pm
Broughton St. Mary's Parish Church



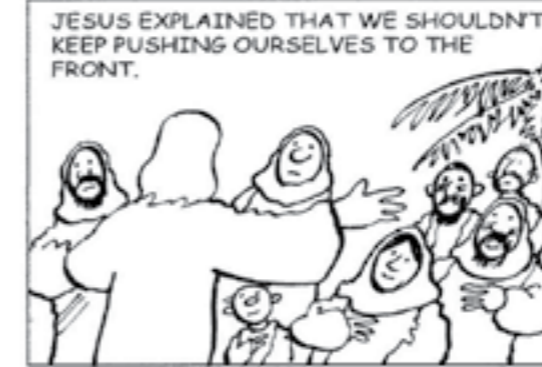
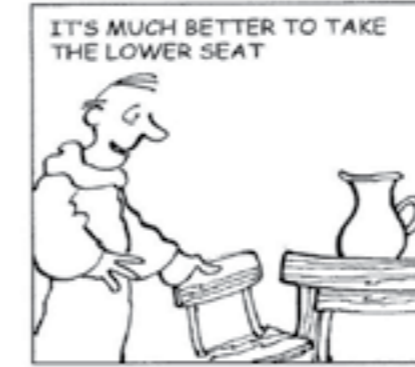
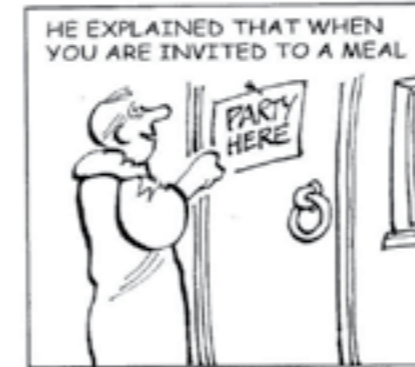
THE CONGREGATIONAL ROLL
There are no changes this month.



A prayer for Ukraine on the one year anniversary of the war in Ukraine February 24

Almighty and Great God, accept our gratitude for your boundless mercy towards us. Hear the supplication of our afflicted hearts for the land and people of Ukraine, as they confront foreign aggression and invasion. Open the eyes of those who have been overtaken by a spirit of deception and violence, that they be horrified by their works. Grant victory over the powers of evil that have arisen and bless Ukraine with your gifts of liberty, peace, tranquility, and good fortune.

We implore you, O Merciful God, look with grace upon those who courageously defend their land. Remember the mothers and fathers, the innocent children, widows and orphans, the disabled and helpless, those seeking shelter and refuge, who reach out to you and to their fellow human beings looking for mercy and compassion. Bless the hearts of those who have already shown great generosity and solidarity, and those who prepare to receive their Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Ukraine's greatest time of need. Bring us together as your children, your creation, and instill in us your strength, wisdom and understanding. May you be praised and glorified, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen



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Charity Registered in Scotland: Charity Number SC 012642