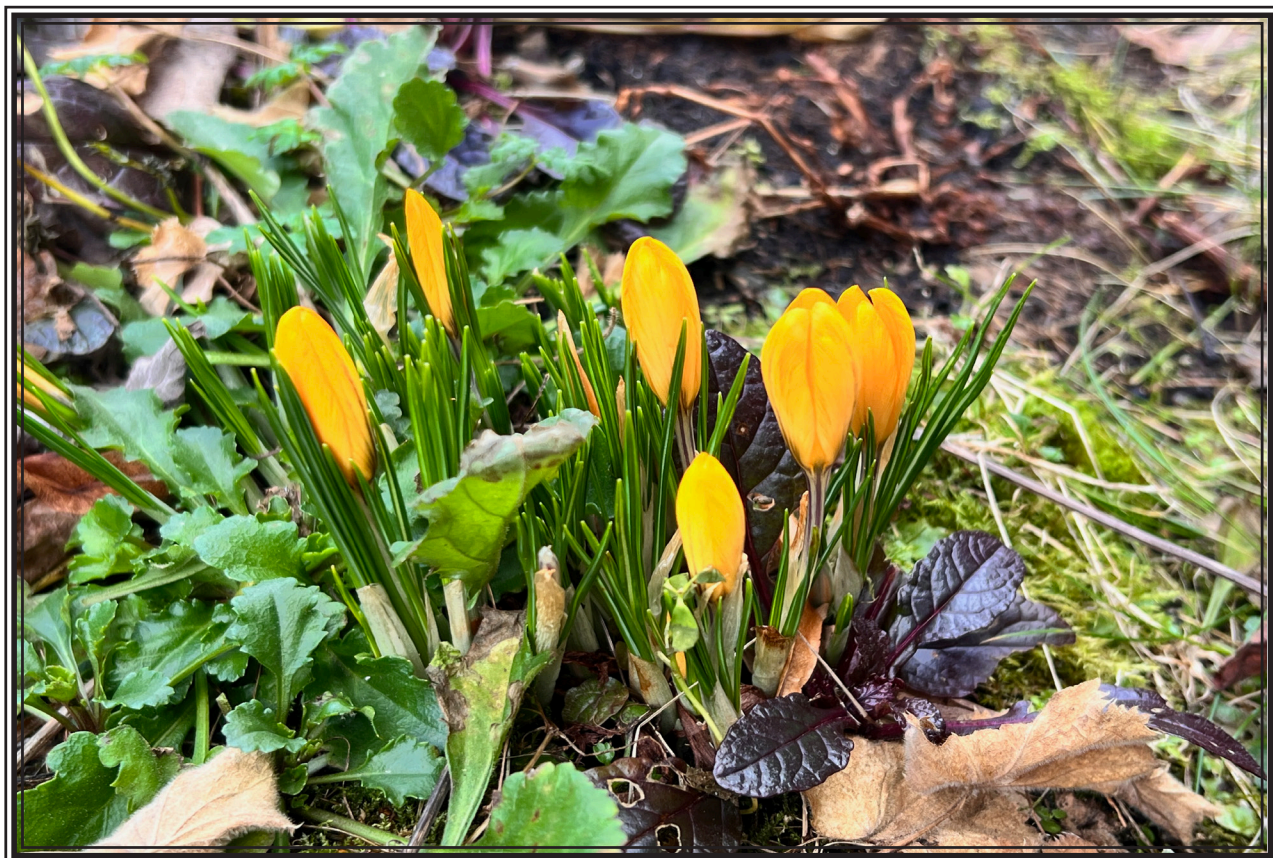


The Broughton Beacon

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



*"The purpose of life, after all, is to live it,
to taste experience to the utmost,
to reach out eagerly and without fear
for newer and richer experience."*

Eleanor Roosevelt



Broughton St. Mary's Parish Church
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Edinburgh EH3 6NE
0131 556 4252
www.bstmchurch.org.uk
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

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Session Clerk

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David Reid david_a_reid@btinternet.com

Wednesday Club (Carpet Bowls & Scrabble)

Margaret Davidson mail@bstmchurch.org.uk

Smart Cookies After School Club

hellosmartcookies@gmail.com

*Worry is a conversation you have with yourself about things you cannot change.
Prayer is a conversation you have with God about things God can change.*

BSM 200

As many of you will be aware, 2024 marks 200 years since our church was built as part of the Georgian New Town of Edinburgh. The church was opened for public worship on 12th December 1824.

This is quite a milestone and is a once in a lifetime event for us.

We've had an initial planning meeting for suggestions for celebrating our bicentenary throughout 2024. If you would like to help out with one of the specific events,

**please contact Diane Chisholm at
BSM200@bstmchurch.org.uk**



Save the dates for the following BSM 200 Celebration Events

26 April 2024

“200 Years of Music”

**A concert featuring music from across last 200 years,
involving music groups who use our BSM building**

29 June 2024

Garden Party

18 October 2024

Ceilidh

8 November 2024

John Kitchen Organ Recital

12 December 2024

Bicentenary Special Service

Dates to be confirmed

May 2024

Oli Kelly Organ Recital

September 2024

**Doors Open Day &
Church History Exhibition**

Welcome Rhona Johnston, our Church Administrator and Bookings Manager

Rhona has been our Bookings Manager since April 2023 and after concluding her time at Greenside Parish Church where she was the church admin for the past year, is now our church administrator. It's wonderful to have Rhona on our staff! Here's her introduction in her own words.



"I've thoroughly enjoyed my time so far working at Broughton St Mary's as the Bookings Manager. I have a background in administration in a variety of different organisations and I'm also really interested in the arts. In the 1980's I enrolled at York College of Art and later Chelsea School of Art where I specialized in mosaics. After finishing at art college my Dad persuaded me to take a secretarial course in order to get a 'proper job' (much to my Auntie's horror - she had warned me never to learn to type as it's all I'd ever end up doing). Thankfully I have managed to combine both my love of the arts and my administrative skills to keep the wolves from the door over the years.

My other big passion is travelling – I've been lucky enough to visit the USA a few times as well as Vietnam, Bali, Russia, and lots of areas of Europe. I spent a few months working in Andros in the Greek Islands and in Perugia, Italy when I was in my early twenties which were fantastic experiences, sadly not an option for young people today. There's still so much of the world that I'd like to visit – I think Sicily is probably next on my list. I spent a few years in London after college and then took myself off up to the Isle of Skye to work for one summer season – eventually leaving 8 years later! I have close family in Skye and try to visit as often as possible, avoiding midgie season is a big priority!

I eventually settled in Edinburgh in 2001 and can't see myself ever leaving this lovely city – where my parents were both born and raised, and my daughter was born in 2004. I opened an arts and crafts shop called Kiss the Fish in the Stockbridge area in 2008 and spent the next 5 years running children's birthday parties and adults craft workshops and sourcing unusual gifts. The timing could have been better as the big financial crash happened a couple of weeks after we opened – but we had a great time meeting lots of people that have become good friends, making so many kids happy and the adults were delighted that all the glitter was contained at our place!

One of the highlights of this time was when I was involved in organising the Stockbridge Giraffe Parade in 2010 – the shopkeepers all got together to decorate a 6ft paper mache giraffe each – there were about 45 in total dotted around Stockbridge. They were later auctioned and raised around £12,000 for Children 1st and the Sick Kids Hospital. I closed the actual shop in Stockbridge in 2013 but continued to run kids' parties and workshops as a mobile venture, which I still do today, combined with my administrative roles. I really look forward to meeting members of the congregation and all the different organisations that use the Church facilities.

Fellowship and Fun



The final result for the Coffee Morning with 'Christmas in Mind' came to £641.40. Many thanks to Jan for the sales of her beautifully knitted figures and to everyone who contributed to its success. Looking ahead to this year,

Saturday 16th March – COFFEE MORNING with BAKING STALLS
Contributions of baking for the Baking Stalls will be greatly received.

Wednesday Club



At Broughton St Mary's, carpet bowling and scrabble 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 info, or better still just come along on Wednesday February 21st at 2:00 pm!

Messy Church is currently on a short break. On Saturday, 2 March, Messy Church will resume with games, crafts, stories and fun! We welcome everyone, especially children with their families. For more info, please email messychurch@bstmchurch.org.uk.



Dates for this term
2nd March 6th April
4th May 1st June



Next month, Laurence Stevens, our building caretaker will be introducing himself! Laurence is doing a fabulous job welcoming groups, setting up for meetings and worship, making sure the sanctuary carpets are looking good. Thanks Laurence!!

Laurence Stevens and Ian Buckingham -- >



Flowers for the Sanctuary and Vestibule

	Flower Donors	Arranged By
04-Feb	Doreen O'Neil	
11-Feb	Bertha Galbraith & Margaret Davidson	Bertha Galbraith ' & Margaret Davidson
18-Feb	Marion Laird in memory of Mr & Mrs McKay	
25-Feb	Irene Marshall	
03-Mar	Available	
10-Mar	Anne Dewar	
17-Mar	Wednesday Club	Bertha Galbraith & Margaret Davidson
24-Mar	Family of the late Arthur Kerr	Deborah Buckingham
31-Mar	Ruth Whitfield	

Flowers 2024

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 2024:

3 March	1 September
2 June	6 October
9 June	3 November
23 June	24 November
21 July	8 December
11 August	

If you wish to reserve any of the above dates, please contact Ian Buckingham at sessionclerk@bstmchurch.org

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 You Tube 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>



CHANGES TO THE CONGREGATIONAL ROLL

Deaths

27/03/23	Mrs MARGARET CHERRIE, formerly of 11/1 Heriothill Terrace, EH7 4DZ
10/05/23	Mr STUART P. BROWN, 11 Cramond Bank, EH4 6PS
06/06/23	Mr WALTER ANDERSON, 5/2 Rodney Place, EH7 4FR
16/07/23	Mrs HELEN DOUGLAS, 21 Warriston Terrace, EH3 5LZ
04/08/23	Mrs CHRISTINA SMITH, 20 Logie Green Gardens, EH7 4HE
22/10/23	Mr. JIM LIDDLE, 107(1f2) Broughton Street, EH1 3RZ
01/11/23	Mrs NORMA HENDERSON, 11 St. Lawrence, Haddington, EH41 3RL

Would you like to help in the Church Garden?

Spring is well and truly here in the church garden. The daffodils have been and gone, but did you notice the lovely pink magnolia before the petals fell? And have you seen the large, peach-coloured blooms of the rhododendron?

Debbie and Diane have been getting their gardening gloves on to tackle some of the jobs needing done after a long and wet winter. We need to have a general tidy up, cutting back withered stems, pulling up weeds, trimming the grass edges and chopping back overhead branches. We would welcome help from anyone who is interested in coming along to give us a hand. You don't need to be an expert gardener - just willing to help out.

If you are interested, or for more information, contact Diane or Debbie via the church email mail@bstmchurch.org.uk or leave a message for us on the church answer phone, 0131 556 4252, or speak to us any Sunday.



Shared worship leadership is an important aspect of our worship together. Everyone is gifted by God, maybe you would like to explore your gift of leading worship. Please know that if you simply want to give it a try as a scripture reader or leader of the prayers of the people, you can. There will be a worship leadership workshop. Please speak to Laurene or Ian! It will be great to have you being a part of the worship leadership team.



Beginning efforts to tidy up our building for this year of celebrating 200 years!

Such a fabulous cleaning crew! Many thanks to Pam, Damir, Diane, Margaret, Liz, Nicola and Laurence who missed the photo opp!

We made great progress on washing down four sections of pews along with the sanctuary furniture with wood soap in a few hours. Washing away many decades of use! Next time, we will be able to finish the rest of the pews if we have some more helpers. So if you are interested, we are meeting again March 23rd!

Lenten Wisdom

We are living in an historic moment. We are each called to take part in a great transformation. Our survival as a species is threatened by global warming, economic meltdown, and an ever-increasing gap between rich and poor. Yet these threats offer an opportunity to awaken as an interconnected and beloved community. ~ Desmond Tutu

Do you want to fast for Lent?

- Fast from hurting words, and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness, and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger, and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism, and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries, and trust in God.
- Fast from complaints, and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures, and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness, and fill your heart with joy.
- Fast from selfishness, and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges, and be reconciled.
- Fast from words, and be silent so you can listen.

Dearest Friends,

Thank you for your kindness and generosity in supporting the Edinburgh Prison Christmas Gift Collection.

Every child that visited the Visitors' Centre during the time leading up to Christmas received a gift, whether their parents or guardians requested them or not. This year three hundred and twenty-eight children from one hundred and twenty-six families had a Christmas present to open on Christmas morning due to your kindness and generosity. Every child where possible received a toy, an activity gift and book, and of course something nice. More than a thousand gifts were given out.

The gifts were distributed through five Christmas parties in the visits room of the prison, organised through the Visitors' Centre and family contact officers. Gifts were also given out directly through the Visitors' Centre.

It is impossible to measure the difference that your kindness and generosity makes to these children. I cannot thank you enough for what you do. I feel proud and privileged to be part of such a special group of people.

Best Wishes, Colin O'Flaherty

A group of approximately 15 people, including adults and children, are posed for a photograph in a church interior. They are dressed in various costumes, including robes, hoods, and a Santa hat. The setting features a large, ornate white structure, possibly a pulpit or altar, and a decorated Christmas tree on the right. A sign on the left reads "Festival of the Danks Jubilee (BWV 729) J.S. Bach". The floor is covered with a blue carpet, and there are some props like a small table and a stuffed animal.

A large, arched window at night, illuminated from within, showing a colorful stained glass design depicting the Nativity scene. The design features Mary in a red and green robe, Joseph in a blue and pink robe, and the infant Jesus in a yellow manger, all set against a dark background. The window is framed by a dark archway.

A photograph showing two women participating in a tree-planting activity. The woman in the foreground, wearing a blue jacket and glasses, is using a red-handled tool to cut a branch from a tree and place it into a large black plastic trash can. The woman in the background, wearing a yellow jacket and a grey beanie, is standing next to a brown trash can, also handling branches. The ground is covered with a blue tarp and greenery. A blue sign with white text is visible in the background, partially obscured by the woman in the blue jacket. The sign contains text about the importance of trees and the environment.

Oli playing at the Christmas Carol concert which he organised! Wonderful evening! Thank you Oli!

Firmly Planted: Agroforestry for Sustainability

Firmly Planted is a community-based agroforestry initiative with the ambition of making a sustainable impact across Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It is spearheaded by our partners in the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), and built around the church's community structures. The initiative will resource individual groups to respond to the various challenges affecting Malawi today.

Agroforestry presents an opportunity to address challenges of food insecurity, deforestation, climate change and youth unemployment. Tree nurseries create employment opportunities, fruit trees improve nutrition and wider tree planting helps mitigate the impact of the climate crisis, in turn improving agricultural productivity.

Firmly Planted will provide community-based training tailored to the community's needs, ensuring woodlots are well maintained to have the greatest chance to thrive. The programme, through effective distribution, looks to attain large-scale tree planting of locally relevant woodlots – these could be linked to schools, churches, clinics and community groups. Having already established a pilot tree nursery, CCAP is looking to replicate this across the Synods by implementing Central Tree Nursery Hubs allowing each nursery to grow tree seedlings based on the needs of their communities.

This year stamp appeal proceeds will go towards establishing the tree nursery.



The Church of Scotland

STAMP APPEAL 2023-2024

Firmly Planted - collect your stamps to support Malawi project.

Help the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) improve nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, create youth employment and mitigate the impact of the climate crisis.

The CCAP project, Firmly Planted aims to establish self-sustaining tree nurseries to nurture and protect the environment and protect livelihoods for households and communities.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE:
Post your stamps to Stamp Appeal 2023, PO Box 9191, Wishaw, Lanarkshire, ML2 0YB
For other options and more information visit: www.churchofscotland.org.uk/stamps

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353
www.churchofscotland.org.uk

www.facebook.com/churchofscotland
[@churchscotland](https://twitter.com/churchscotland)

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Charity Registered in Scotland: Charity Number SC 012642