

The Broughton Beacon

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



*“To live is the rarest thing in the world.
Most people exist, that is all.”*

- Oscar Wilde



Broughton St. Mary's Parish Church
12 Bellevue Crescent
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 LGBTQ+ 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
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Session Clerk

Ian Buckingham
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Church Administrator

Denissza Nagy
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Office hours Tuesday 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Building Caretaker

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Treasurer

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Gift Aid Convener

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Jack Blaik mail@bstmchurch.org.uk

Sunday Club

Diane Chisholm
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Messy Church

Jan Allan
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Rainbows

Brownies

Amy Davis amyldavis@hotmail.co.uk
Louise Brotherston tango_lulu@yahoo.com

Beavers

Karen Todd karentodd1971@gmail.com

Cubs

Simon Cawthorne simon.cawthorne@blueyonder.co.uk

Scouts

David Reid david_a_reid@btinternet.com

Wednesday Club (Board Games & Scrabble)

Margaret Davidson mail@bstmchurch.org.uk

Smart Cookies After School Club

hellosmartcookies@gmail.com



Musings from the manse

"While I know myself as a creation of God, I am also obligated to realize and remember that everyone else and everything else are also God's creation."

Maya Angelou

As the seasons shift from a lovely, albeit, warmer than normal summer through autumn with winter on the horizon, we are reminded that God's creation all around us is dynamic and always changing. Whether we realise it or not, our own lives are dynamic, it is what it means to be human living amongst other human beings. Daily, we are being shaped by the lives of others in our community, nation and world through our personal interactions, our encounters via what we read, hear and see in the media, and our perceptions of those whose life experience is different to ours. As people of faith, we are invited to see all people and the whole of God's creation through the life and ministry of Jesus. The deeper lessons of our life, individually and collectively, are enhanced when we seek to embrace the fullness of God's creation.

As we continue to develop our sense of community with one another, our neighbours and community, we are blessed. The Bellevue Crescent BBQ/picnic was a huge success with over 50 people attending. It was a lovely mix of our neighbours living on the crescent, family and friends of Broughton St. Mary's. It was a such delight to get to know and enjoy one another's company. We are looking forward to celebrating Advent and the Festive season as we gather to light an outdoor Christmas tree on Sunday late afternoon, 7 December.

Since the initial impact of Covid and subsequent lockdowns five years ago, our lives were and are dramatically changed on so many levels. There is more isolation and disconnect within communities, church attendance and involvement has not returned to pre-covid levels in both the UK and US, and the political chaos and growing social unrest seems to feed into the fracturing of societal norms and expectations. As the Broughton St. Mary's community, we remind ourselves weekly of our desire to engage and connect, often reconnect beyond labels and differences.

We welcome and affirm people of any gender, race, ethnicity, age, nationality, sexual orientation, ability level, culture, and political opinion. We strive to be a faithful, inclusive church and community hub for people of our faith, any faith and no faith. All are welcome.

In the midst of the present chaos, growing social unrest and dis-ease, the ecumenical and interfaith communities have this precious opportunity to be a sacred space where all are welcome, where we can acknowledge our need for one another, share our lives without judgment and live out a life of love, justice and peace for all people. To be a beacon of light for all and anyone seeking refuge.

What a blessed time to be alive. Thanks be to God.

Peace, Laurene

From the Session Room

It was with sadness that Session received and accepted the resignation of Colin Beck as a trustee and member of Session. As Colin has made his home on Arran and is no longer able to attend Session meetings, he felt that it was the right thing to do. The Session is grateful for all that Colin has done during his time as a member of Broughton St Mary's. We give thanks for his work as Pastoral Care Convener, Sunday Club Teacher, Choir Member, participating in the churches work to establish ecumenical and interfaith relations as well as outreach to the LGBT+ community. Colin still intends to "take a Pew" at BSM from time to time and his letter thanks "Laurene, all elders and members at Broughton St Mary's for your friendship over the years and I wish you all Gods richest blessings as you journey into the future."

At its last meeting in September the Session discussed the results of a Ministers Wellbeing Survey that was carried out in 2024. The survey reveals that a significant number of ministers who responded are emotionally exhausted with 19% suffering from clinical depression and 16% from mild depression. Other results show that 82% said that their families provide a highly beneficial source of support. 39% said that their congregation provided a highly beneficial source of support. The Kirk will continue to study the report and take stock of its findings.

-Ian Buckingham, Session Clerk

*Beloved children of God, Trust in the faith that abides within you.
Know that the Spirit will nurture that faith,
Believe that the Christ will inspire that faith
And know that our Holy Parent will encourage
your faith in each stage in life. Today and always. Amen.*

Celebrations this summer

Baptism of Flora, daughter of Lizzie and Andrew, sister of Donald.

Eliza born to Judith and Nic

Maya born to Nicola and Lizzie

Congratulations to all the families!

In Memoriam 2024-2025

Margaret Dickson	August 25, 2025
Robertha "Bertha" Galbraith	July 3, 2025
Peter Dick	June 13, 2025
Nancy Blaik	May 10, 2025
Dick Smith	April 2, 2025
Margaret Riddles	**
Helen Lawrie	October 23, 2024
Alstair Donaldson	July 24, 2024
Mary Donaldson	June 19, 2024
Joan Gault	February 14, 2024
Christina Melrose	January 8, 2024
**via grandson's email with no details	

From Gordon Gray's Finance Report to September 2025 Session Meeting

Fabric fund

- Fabric fund expenditure for 2024 and 2025 to date is presented below. Over £47,000 has been spent in 2025.
- The Fabric fund balance has been exhausted in full including all the money transferred from fabric endowment funds in recent years.

2024			
22/01/2024	MOB, B&M Joiners (Edinb,	Church: Toilet door	681.36
26/02/2024	MOB, Ideal Electrical S,	Manse - Electrical (deposit)	252.00
18/04/2024	MOB, Andrew Gillie Roof,	Manse: Roof leak	215.00
12/06/2024	MOB, Ideal Electrical S,	Manse: electrical	588.00
19/08/2024	MOB, Paul Moncur Decora,	Church: Interior painting	640.00
19/08/2024	MOB, Edinburgh Roofing, B	Church: General repair/maintenance roof	936.00
04/11/2024	MOB, L&J Forrest, Fence00	MOB, L&J Forrest, Fence00	825.00
			4,137.36
2025			
17/03/2025	MOB, Ronald G. Graham R,	Roof repairs North Tower.	16,544.40
22/04/2025	MOB, Ronald G. Graham R,	Collapsed ceiling north tower	5,552.00
23/04/2025	RIB, Ronald G. Graham R,	Church: Missing slates and maintenance	1,890.00
12/05/2025	MOB, Boyter Electrical, I	Church: Supply, wire and install 7 Ballard lights	1,512.00
yet to be paid:-			
September	L&J Forrest Ltd	Decking Manse	6,060.00
September	Ronald Graham	Church roof	5,551.20
September	Partnership Flooring (UK) Limited	Nosing on chancel	700.00
September	FMS	CCTV Manse	3,020.40
September	FMS	CCTV Church	6,933.60
			47,763.60

General Fund

- Our General Fund deficit for the 8 months to August is £5,525 worse than budget (this does not take account of the Fabric expenditure). The main reason is rental income being lower than budget. Staff costs are lower than budget.

Investments

- Investments worth £14,885 were sold in April to meet the costs of fabric repairs.
- A further £30,003 of investments was sold in September.

Minister's Note: There are additional necessary repair costs not included

• Awaiting second quote from Stonemasons for the repair and regrouting of the masonry exterior steps and landing, and the interior vestibule floor. The repairs will include replacing the previous pointing done with concrete with lime mortar. The misguided desire to save funds by using concrete now requires significant repair as stones are loose and a health and safety issue.

• The Manse decking was replaced due to haphazard workmanship reflected by numerous rotten timbers, missing support posts and significant shortcuts. It had become a health and safety concern. I am just glad no one fell through the deck at our July 2023 S'Mores's gathering. Further remedial work is required to return deck area to an acceptable state.

Wednesday Club is back!

Please join us on Wednesday
from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Board games, jigsaw puzzles or a lively game of Scrabble with a cuppa, biscuits and a good blether! We meet on the garden level of the church. All are welcome!



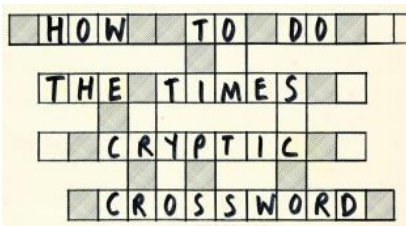
Some Wednesday Board Gamers with Donald!

Another fun opportunity to come together for fun, crosswording and some nosh.

Tuesdays beginning 14 October

5:00 - 7:00 pm

in the Bellevue Room



If you have ever considered dipping your toe into the puzzling world of the cryptic crossword, or even if you're an avid enthusiast, please join me on October the 14th.

My name is Jake a student at the university of Edinburgh and an enjoyer of the odd cryptic crossword. This session will be a relaxed informative introduction to cryptic crosswords, with explanations provided by myself and any other fellow enjoyers who care to join!

We will together and in pairs try to solve the same puzzle, and I will break down some of the key principles of getting to grips with the concept. They really aren't so scary if you understand the rules of the game. Not to mention that more than one head is both better and more entertaining than one!

All are welcome!

Harvest Sunday 12 October

Speaking with one of the Thursday Edinburgh Food Project volunteers last week, I learned that the current demand for food is significantly outstripping monthly food donations, requiring more funds are being used to purchase the food necessary for those people in need.

This Harvest Sunday donations are now more important than ever. Please bring your non perishable food items on Sunday, the 12th. Thank you!

Urgently needed items

- Tinned Cold Meat
- Pasta Sauce/Curry Sauce
- Long life Fruit Juice
- UHT Milk
- Tinned Fruit/Vegetables
- Tinned Fish
- Tinned Custard/Rice Pudding
- Quick Meals (e.g. Pot Noodles, Cheesy Pasta)



Delivery of Harvest Gifts

After the church service on Harvest Sunday, we will be delivering Harvest Gifts to our members and friends who find it difficult to get to church on a Sunday. We have 20 gifts to distribute and are looking for volunteers to help deliver them.

If you are available to assist with their delivery and/or provide transportation, please wait in the sanctuary after the service on 12 October where the gifts will be available for distribution. Thank you.



Do you enjoy getting your hands dirty? You are needed to help put our garden to bed

The church flower garden has looked fabulous over the past 6 months. Thanks to Debbie and Diane for providing great care. Now it is that time of year when our church garden and grounds needs some special attention in preparing for winter. If you would like to help weed and tidy up our flower beds and church grounds, please contact Diane or Debbie via the church email mail@bstmchurch.org.uk or leave a message on the church answer phone, 0131 556 4252, or speak to them on Sunday.

**Beginning 2 November, we will be collecting
food donations on the first Sunday of the month.
Together we can make a difference**

Toys for Children of Incarcerated Parents Sunday 23 November

"Angel Tree Project" by Prison Fellowship Scotland, provides presents for the children of inmates. The initiative, established by a prison chaplain decades ago, relies on donations, primarily from local church congregations, to ensure children receive gifts from their incarcerated parents during the holiday season.

2025 will be the 40th year this collection has been running, It will also be Colin O'Flaherty's 25th & last collection as he is retiring after 40 years in the prison service. Please bring toys by the 23 November.



Coffee morning with Christmas in mind

Broughton St. Mary's Church
Saturday, 6 December 2025
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Coffee and mince pie, bacon rolls and soup available
Home baking and Christmas gifts stalls

*The garden of love is
green without limit
and yields many
fruits other than
sorrow or joy.*

*Love is beyond
either condition:
without spring,
without autumn,
it is always fresh.*

~ Rumi



Christmas Tree lighting
Sunday, 7 December
Bellevue Crescent
4:30 pm

hot chocolate, mulled wine,
carols, and lighting our
Broughton community tree
All are welcome!

Flowers for the Sanctuary and Vestibule

2025	Flower Donors	Arranged By
5 October	Pam Skrgatic	Pam Skragtic
12 October	Family of the late Barbara Brown	Barbara Robertson
19 October	The Smith and Lamb Families	
26 October	Family of the late Audrey Kerr	Deborah Buckingham
2 November	Irene Marshall	
9 November	Diane Chisholm	Diane Chisholm
16 November	Margaret Hughes	Michael Delvin
23 November	Anne Dick	
30 November	David Cartwright	

Flower Donations 2026



We are grateful to all who donate and/or arrange flowers each week for the church sanctuary and vestibule. We are now preparing the calendar for 2026. This is an opportunity for you to donate flowers in memory of a loved one or commemorate a special occasion. Each Sunday flowers are delivered to bring cheer to members of our church community.

Please contact Ian Buckingham if you wish to become a flower donor and/or flower arranger. Volunteers are also welcome to help with the delivery of flowers after Sunday services. Ian Buckingham's contact details are sessionclerk@bstmchurch.org.uk

**DOORS
OPEN
DAYS** 2025

A BIG THANK YOU to all who helped on Saturday, 27 September! It was a very successful day.

- Debbie
- Laurence
- Norma
- Irene
- Lesley
- Jeanette
- Margaret Davidson
- Laurene
- Ian
- Margaret Braby
- David McConchie
- Jayne

A BIG thank you to you Diane for all your organisation and effort. It was a wonderful day. Thank you!!

LifeCare Edinburgh has been proudly supporting local older people for more than 80 years. Our mission is simple: to help people continue to thrive in their own homes and stay active in their communities.

Over 75% of the people we support live alone, and we offer a range of practical and personalised services, including registered Day Clubs for those living with dementia or frailty, Outreach care support, Help at Home, Meals on Wheels, and a wide variety of health and wellbeing activities for the growing numbers of unpaid carers.

At our welcoming community café and hub on Cheyne Street (EH4 1JB), we run a vibrant programme of events and activities that bring people of all ages together. From our Saturday Social and Games Clubs to Chatty Café, Pop-Up Play sessions, Monthly Talks and annual favourites like our summer BBQ and Christmas Fair, there's always something happening to keep our community connected.

Thanks to generous fundraising, all our support is subsidised, with an increasing number of our activities offered completely free of charge – over 60% of our hot meal deliveries are provided completely for free for those struggling on a low income.

Leading Prayers and Reading in Worship

The public reading of scripture and prayer in our worship is a vital ministry in the life of the church. Several of our worshipping community already take part in the service by reading the scripture.

If you do not already do so and would be interested in taking part in worship either by reading or leading prayer, please speak to Laurene or Ian or you can drop them an email. Thank you.
minister@bstmchurch.org.uk
sessionclerk@bstmchurch.org.uk



An Evening with Edinburgh Street Pastors

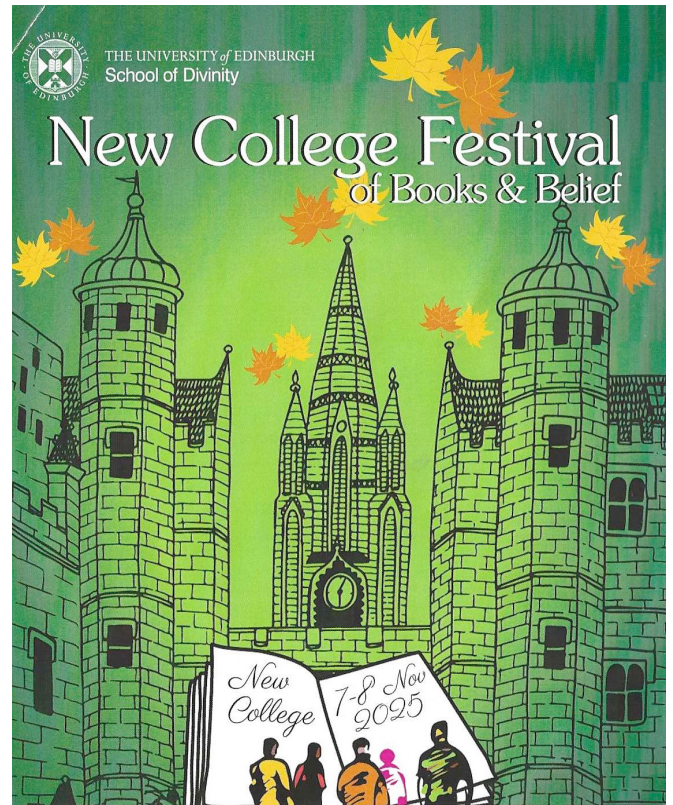
Wednesday 29 October, 7-8.30pm
at Canonmills Church, 14 Canonmills, EH3 5LH

Ever wondered about what the Edinburgh Street Pastors do, or how you could get involved?

Gerard McIver, Edinburgh Street Pastors Coordinator, will speak about the brilliant work of the organisation. The talk will be about the work of Edinburgh Street Pastors, the recruitment and training of volunteers, and will include real-life examples of people who the charity have helped.

This is a free event, but please help us estimate numbers by booking a free ticket with Eventbrite:

<https://shorturl.at/yzfgc>



New College Festival of Books & Belief 7-8 November 2025

An array of writers from the UK and beyond will explore the fascinating relationship between literature and all aspects of belief.



Scan the QR code for more information and booking

"In a very real sense not one of us is qualified, but it seems that God continually chooses the most unqualified to do his work, to bear his glory.

If we are qualified, we tend to think that we have done the job ourselves.

If we are forced to accept our evident lack of qualification, then there's no danger that we will confuse God's work with our own, or God's glory with our own."
— Madeleine L'Engle

Scotland Demands Better 25 October

Time TBD

This march is a chance to come together and demand that politicians make the changes we need for a society where every household can thrive and prosper.

Meet and march from the Scottish Parliament, up the Royal Mile and along George IV Bridge to The Meadows.

There will be a family-friendly rally with a festival vibe, including music, speeches, and entertainment on the Meadows..

In Honour of the legacy
of Nancy Blaik, MBE
founder of Children's Hospices
Across Scotland



**Please join us on
Friday, 17 October 2025 at 7:00 pm
Broughton St. Mary's Parish Church
for a Benefit Organ Recital**



with Dr. John Kitchen, MBE,
Edinburgh University and City Organist
supporting the work of Children's Hospices Across
Scotland and LifeCare Centre, Edinburgh



**Suggested donation: £10-15, or more at your discretion.
All proceeds will go directly to CHAS and LifeCare
Refreshments following the recital**

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**Broughton St. Mary's Parish Church and Community Hub
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www.bstmchurch.org.uk www.facebook.com/bstmchurch
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