

1946 - 2023



**CHURCH IS NOT  
SOMETHING YOU GO TO,  
IT'S A FAMILY  
YOU BELONG TO.**

# Broxburn Baptist Church Newsletter

*- The church on your doorstep for 77 years*

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No. 166 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023

*'We are ambassadors for Christ'*

## Some thoughts.....

*Has it really been three weeks since I pressed the magic button that sent out the last newsletter – or printed out the copies for those who struggle with the digital age? It can't be 3 weeks can it? Am I the only one for whom time seems to be defying the theory of relativity and passing faster than it has ever done before? (Don't bother correcting me, I don't really understand relativity!!) But if you're older you'll know what I'm getting at. When you're at school the summer holidays seem to last for ever but when you're an aging teacher they seem to be over in a flash. But 3 weeks? But it must be – and when I think about it a lot has happened in these three weeks – 2 weeks away, quite a number of miles walked (not saying how many!), church twice, ice creams enjoyed (again not saying....), met up with family for lunch, took a boat trip to see the Ospreys – saw a bird but being honest it might just have been a big seagull!! Enjoyed the sunshine, sat inside and watched the rain pouring down, endured the Brits failing at Wimbledon yet again. Saw Rishi losing a couple of elections. Flying visit from family. Lovely lunch for 7 down in Peebles (Can heartily recommend the food at The Green Tree). Celebrated another anniversary and a birthday.*

*But we're home and time hasn't stood still in the garden so the next couple of weeks are going to be busy, weeds to be removed, trees to be pruned, grass to be cut. Now we could just sit back and enjoy the lovely sunshine – nothing wrong with that – until the rain drives us in. But the result of that would be disaster in gardening terms. It's worse if you sit back and ignore spiritual things. It's easy to get wrapped up in life and let God take second place but is it worth it? The writer of Ecclesiastes has something to say about it in chapter 12 – check it out.*

Robert  
22<sup>nd</sup> July

## **Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2023**

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

### W/c 23rd July

Rev Jarod Meenan (Chaplain  
- NHS Healthcare Aberdeen)  
Rev John Craib (Chaplain -  
HMP Low Moss)  
Johnstone Baptist Church



You can sign up for prayer points via Facebook at

<https://scottishbaptist.com/prayer/>

### A view over the village of Hawkshead.



Memories!

*Ecclesiastes 12:1,6a Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, 'I find no pleasure in them'–.....Remember Him....*

*'We are ambassadors for Christ' Page 1*

## Church This Week

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>

**11.00am morning Worship – Bill Murdoch**

To join on zoom just click the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85227893884>

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>

**10.30am Zoom Prayer Time**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81347026860?pwd=Tk1RQm5ldDIRTk5tc0dEOUIZVEtDUT09>

## Preachers

July

23<sup>rd</sup> Bill Murdoch

30<sup>th</sup> Robert

August

6<sup>th</sup> Robert

13<sup>th</sup> Archie

20<sup>th</sup> Bill

27<sup>th</sup> Donna

September

3<sup>rd</sup> Donna



Cast all your  
anxiety on him  
because he cares  
for you.  
1 Peter 5:7

## Think you know it all? 23 – Brothers and sisters **ANSWERS**

Can you name the brothers and sisters:

The Marx Brothers **Chico, Harpo, Groucho, Gummo, Zeppo**

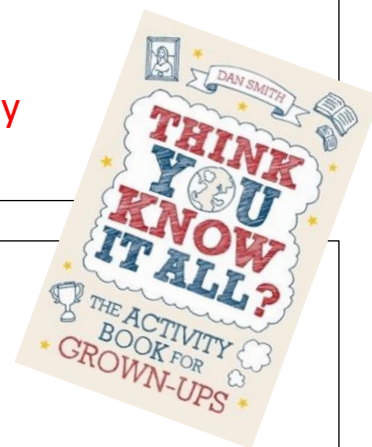
The Gibb brothers (Beegees). **Barry, Robin, Maurice**

The Andrews Sisters **LaVerne, Maxene, Patty**

The Beverley Sisters. **Joy, Teddie, Babs**

The Osmonds **Donny, Marie, Alan, Wayne, Merrill, Jay, Jimmy**

The Jonas Brothers **Kevin, Joe, Nick**



## Think you know it all? 24

The G7 (Group of Seven) is an international organisation comprising the world's seven largest economies.

Can you name all the member states?

## The Romans Course

This is a 10 week course on the book of Romans. It has been prepared by Andrew Ollerton who did the Bible Course that some of us enjoyed a couple of years ago. Anyone interested in joining a small group to have a go at this new course? Drop me an e-mail or text or speak to me so that I can assess interest. We would do it at dates and times that suits as many as possible.

Robert



## **BMS Prayer Guide 2023**



Every year Greece welcomes thousands of visitors: history buffs touring ancient sites; food lovers visiting olive groves; Bible scholars in the footsteps of Paul; tourists seeking sunshine; and people on the move searching for safety and security. This last group led BMS World Mission to Lesbos two years ago.

### **SUNDAY 23**

Greece and Cyprus have had to bear an inequitable share of bearing up the lives of those fleeing their home countries. Pray that BMS and All4Aid will help advocate to make Greece and Cyprus fairer places for people on the move and to keep their plight high on the agenda of European nations.

### **MONDAY 24**

Our partner has recently expanded to other countries and appointed a finance director. Praise God for the new financial systems that have been set up and pray that the director will have co-operative officials in all countries of operation.

### **TUESDAY 25**

Give thanks for the safe space for women and girls that BMS partner All4Aid provides on Lesbos. Pray that as well as being able to shower, wash clothes, pick up essential items and chat, the centre users would experience a deep sense of God's love.

### **WEDNESDAY 26**

Pray that those who come to choose items at the food banks run by our partner will also take time to stop and chat and find out more about the faith of those who run the programmes.

### **THURSDAY 27**

BMS started to work with All4aid in Cyprus this year. Pray that people on the move who come to the centre will encounter Christ as well as practical assistance.

### **FRIDAY 28**

Give thanks for the good reputation that our partner has and the respect that its staff have among the volunteer community. Pray that people will see that the difference is Christ in them.

### **SATURDAY 29**

Please pray for BMS-supported worker Rodrigo, leader of BMS' partner organisation. Pray that as he carries out speaking engagements he will increase awareness of the needs of people on the move.

## **Bible Reading .... this week we continue our readings in Isaiah**

July

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Isaiah 17:1–18:7   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Isaiah 19:1–20:6   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Isaiah 21:1–17     |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Isaiah 22:1–25     |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | Isaiah 23:1–18     |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | Isaiah 24:1–20     |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | Isaiah 24:21–25:12 |



**Why go to church....**

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the preachers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

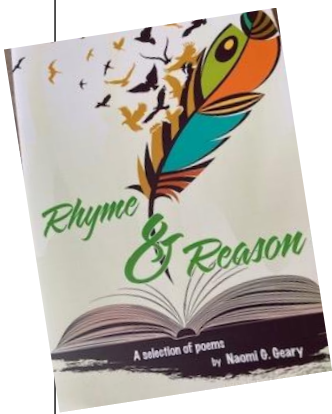
This started a controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals but I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

There was a preacher who fell in the ocean and he couldn't swim. When a boat came by, the captain yelled, "Do you need help, sir?" The preacher calmly said "No, God will save me." A little later, another boat came by and a fisherman asked, "Hey, do you need help?" The preacher replied again, "No, God will save me." Eventually the preacher drowned & went to heaven. The preacher asked God, "Why didn't you save me?" God replied, "But I sent you two boats!"

**A Great Read**

Naomi Geary is a very talented young woman who we met at Women's Fellowship, with her lovely family including Grace. She plays several musical instruments and she puts pen to paper. Her poetry is beautiful. The following is an example of her work. She is a member of the Evangelical Free Church of God and attends the Sunday school.



Hi Folks – just wanted to say a wee thank you to all those who purchased the poetry books. Trust you all enjoy them!  
Thanks  
Lyn

Lyn

**Duty Rota**

|        |    | LEADING      | DOOR    | VESTRY PRAYER | COMMUNION PRAYER |
|--------|----|--------------|---------|---------------|------------------|
|        | 23 | Bill Murdoch | Lindsay | Robert        |                  |
|        | 30 | Robert       | Doreen  | Jim B.        |                  |
| August | 6  | Robert       | Kevin   | Mary          | Mary             |
|        | 13 | Bill Murdoch | Isobel  | Jen           |                  |

## What does God look like?



What does God look like?

Is he an old man with long flowing grey hair and beard? Is he an amorphous cloud. Does he sit on clouds?

There have been many different ideas over the centuries of what God looks like but that's all they are – ideas. No one knows what God looks like. In fact, the bible expressly forbids people making representations of God because to do so would reduce God to simply one of us or encourage us to worship the image rather than God himself.

I have no idea what God looks like. I know what he is like, what his characteristics are – the Bible tells us that he is loving and just and merciful and all powerful and everything else we read of him – but nowhere, as far as I am aware does it tell us what he looks like. Is that surprising? No, it's not. Given that we are mere earthbound mortals limited to time and space and our own finite experiences we could never understand the immortal. We will need to wait until we meet him face to face and then we will know and understand.

But in the meantime, God has been good to us because he displays himself in forms that we **can** understand and he did that supremely when he sent his son. In Colossians 1 v 15 Paul writes – and he's talking about Jesus - *'He is the image of the invisible God'*.

So when we see Jesus that is the best picture of what God is like. Not in bodily form but in personality and character. Again in Hebrews 1v3 we read *'The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being.'* God sent Jesus in a human form – a form that we can understand with body and head and legs and everything else just like us and we are grateful that he did.

In the bible there are other different occasions recorded when God appears in a similar manner but not in completeness.

In Exodus 33 Moses has an encounter with God....

*<sup>18</sup> Then Moses said, Now show me your glory.*

*<sup>19</sup> And the LORD said, I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.*

*<sup>20</sup> But, he said, you cannot see my face, for no-one may see me and live.*

But there are occasions in the bible when God works in a visible form by using his hands. It has been said that God has no hands apart from you and I but that's not strictly true and I want, over the next 3 issues, to look at three occasions in the bible where God works and does so using hands.

If you want a title for these future thoughts, it could be *'The Finger of God.'*



I AM  
CLEANSED,



HOLY, MADE RIGHT  
WITH GOD.



But you were washed, you were sanctified,  
you were justified in the name of the Lord  
Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:11



# The Prayer Wall

Dear Lord,

As I look back over the past week I can see times when I have been true to what I believe and other times when I haven't been the person I should be. As I think over these times please forgive me and give me the strength not to make the same mistakes again.

In Jesus' name

Father, as I enjoy the sunshine of summer I thank you for your goodness. But as I read about record high temperatures and the problems they cause forgive me for what I have done to your planet and show me how to live better in your world and reduce the effects of climate change,

In Jesus' name

Amen

*Lord God, help me to love who I am as much as you love me – so much that you died for me.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

Father, I ask for your comfort for those who are mourning today, your protection for those who are being persecuted, for your presence with those who are lonely, for your encouragement for those who are depressed and your love for those who are unloved.

Amen

Lord God, I look forward to walking with you this week. Hold me tight.

Amen

Father– in a world that does not recognise you, may I be a faithful witness to you by what I say and how I live.

Amen

*Lord – I pray today for the young folk growing up in world where your name is not revered, your laws are ignored and your existence is doubted. Surround them with your love and protection.*

*In Jesus name,*

*Amen*

Lord God, When I feel it hard to hold on to you remind me that you are holding me and to stop trying and start trusting.

Amen

*Lord, I pray for my family and friends today. For those who know you I ask for guidance and protection. For those who don't I would ask that you would confront them, convict them and make yourself known to them.*

*Amen*

*Father, as I look forward to another week help me to live for you, to tell those I meet about your love for them, and honour you in everything I do.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen*

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV*