

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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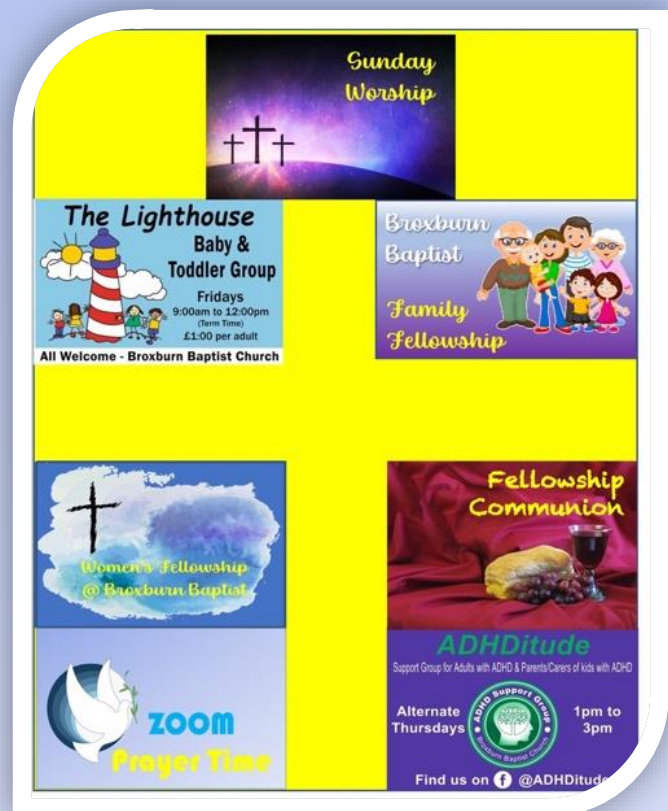
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No. 167 29th July 2023

'We are ambassadors for Christ'

Some thoughts.....

What is this weather like? I'm not thinking in global terms although with what's happening in the Mediterranean region with temperatures higher and more widespread than ever before even the most pessimistic climate scientists have been taken by surprise. Am I the only one remembering the words of the Peter, Paul and Mary song titled 'Well, well. Well.' - 'God said fire not a flood next time'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kS2MzoQwsiY>

Some would argue it's not biblical but that's open for debate if you look at 2 Peter 3:7 - But that's for better Bible scholars than me.

No, I'm thinking about the weather here this past week as predicted by the weather apps – my choice is the met office app (others are available). Planning the week has been difficult – for example – on Monday the app predicted that Wednesday was going to be a good day for gardening – fine and dry – so that's what we planned, only to find when we looked out the window on Wednesday morning early (for us that is) that it was raining and the forecast had changed to 90% chance of rain (whatever a 90% chance means??). Other days which had been forecast to be wet turned out to be nice - so we could have done that walk round Loch Leven instead of cleaning out the cupboards. With the changeable way the weather is we have to be ready to change plans, have other things that we can do – be flexible, nimble and change. Strikes me that life can be a wee bit like that – things don't always go as planned, things change, situations change, people change and we have to be ready to face these changes and deal with them. That's when it's great to know God who doesn't change. Enjoy the rest of summer! See you at church tomorrow?

Robert
29th July

Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2023

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

W/c 30th July

Katy Swan (PA to the General Director)
Kelso Baptist Church
Kilmarnock Baptist Church
Kings Park Baptist Church,
Glasgow



You can sign up for prayer points via Facebook at

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



Isaiah 40:28a Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth

Church This Week

Sunday 23rd

11.00am morning Worship – Robert ‘Who we are as Christians 2.’

To join on zoom just click the link below.

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

Preachers

July

30th Robert

August

6th Robert

13th Archie

20th Bill

27th Donna

September

3rd Donna

10th Archie

5.30pm Family Fellowship



Think you know it all? 24 ANSWERS

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

Can you name all the member states?

Canada France
Germany Italy
Japan USA UK

Think you know it all? 25

I'm sure you've played Monopoly at some time. Can you remember the streets and their colours? (On the UK edition)

Brown - 2 streets

Light Blue – 3 streets

Purple – 3 streets

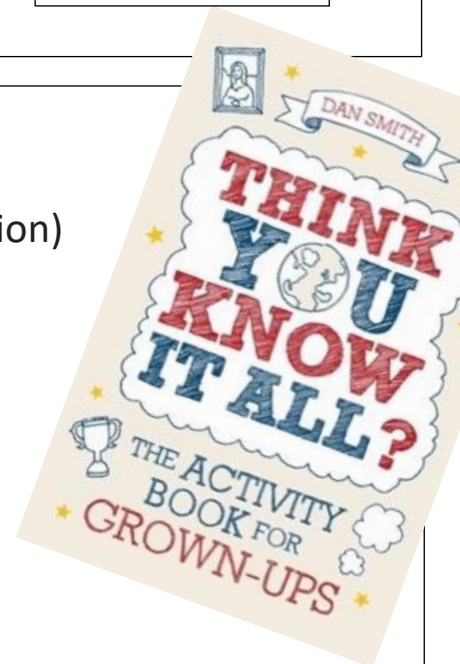
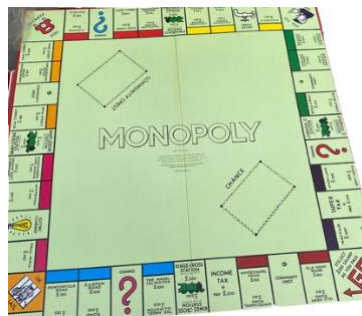
Orange – 3 streets

Red – 3 streets

Yellow – 3 streets

Green – 3 streets

Dark Blue – 2 streets



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

No interest so far!

'We are ambassadors for Christ' Page 2

BMS Prayer Guide 2023

We have been overwhelmed by God's incredible love and power working among the nations where BMS World Mission workers and partners diligently share the gospel. God's work has exceeded our expectations. "Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness." (Psalm 150: 2)



SUNDAY 30

Praise God for the Baptist Church of Mizoram's Christmas outreach in Cambodia. Pastor J and his team of young people ministered to more than 150 people, and around 20 people received Christ as Lord and Saviour.

MONDAY 31

BMS-supported worker Reverend Barnabas in Bangladesh led a team of evangelists to bring good news to communities who have not heard of Jesus. Praise God that many people came to Christ and 30 have been baptised.

TUESDAY 1

Praise God that BMS' partnership with the Thailand Karen Baptist Convention (TKBC) has enabled the training and sending of women evangelists to plant churches. Pray God's wisdom for BMS workers Paul and Sarah Brown as they work with TKBC.

WEDNESDAY 2

Praise God for BMS workers Wit and Helen Boondeekhun's ministry. They have seen 17 people become Christians and nine of those have been baptised.

THURSDAY 3

Helen and Wit focus their work on communities without any church. Give thanks for the three church plants they have started in Uttaradit district, Thailand.

FRIDAY 4

Praise God that BMS' partner in Spain has faithfully been broadcasting the gospel into North Africa. Through their broadcasts, thousands have heard the gospel.

SATURDAY 5

Praise God for BMS partner Biglife in North Africa. Despite the difficulties faced by Christians in Mauritania, where it is illegal to leave Islam, six house churches have

Bible Reading this week we continue our readings in Isaiah

July

30th Isaiah 26:1–21

31st Isaiah 27:1–13

August

1st Isaiah 28:1–29

2nd Isaiah 29:1–14

3rd Isaiah 29:15–24

4th Isaiah 30:1–33

5th Isaiah 31:1–32:20



Where, what and when 18. The death of Saul.

Back in April we paused this series with David sparing Saul's life – 1 Samuel 24. We pick the series up at the end of the book of 1 Samuel with the death of Saul and his sons.

Where?

On the slopes of Mount Gilboa

What?

The Philistines were a constant plague to the Israelites – you can read about them at

<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/who-were-philistines-where-did-they-come-from/>



Originating in Crete about 1200bc they travelled east and settled in Canaan.

The historians tell us they existed until around 600bc when Nebuchadnezzar II destroyed them. Goliath, killed by David, was a Philistine.



Read the story now in 1 Samuel 31

- Saul's three sons, including Jonathan, died in the battle. (v2) How do you think David felt when he heard the news in 2 Samuel 1? Now read 2 Samuel 1:22-27
- Saul was critically injured in the battle. How did he die? (v4)
- What happened to the body of Saul? (v8-10)
- How did the people of Jabesh Gilead show their respect for Saul? (v11-13)
- Beth Shan is now called Bein She'an and is described as *..one of the oldest cities in Israel. Often overlooked by tourists, it's worth a visit. ..It is in the Galilee region of northern Israel where the Harod Valley and Jordan Valley meet. It's 27km south of the Sea of Galilee and 5km east of the Jordan River. It is one of the country's largest archaeological sites* Read more about it at <https://www.touristisrael.com/beit-shean/8598/>

When?

The tragic end to this tragic life was around 1000bc

Duty Rota

| | | | | | |
|--------|----|--------|---------|--------|------|
| July | 30 | Robert | Doreen | Jim B. | |
| August | 6 | Robert | Kevin | Mary | Mary |
| | 13 | Archie | Mark | Donna | |
| | 20 | Bill | Isobel | Jen | |
| | 27 | Donna | Phyllis | Eddie | |

The Finger of God 1.

Last week I wrote..... I want, over the next 3 issues, to look at three occasions in the bible where God works and does so using hands. So this is the first.....

Exodus 31 v 12-18

¹² Then the LORD said to Moses,

¹³ Say to the Israelites, 'You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so that you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy.

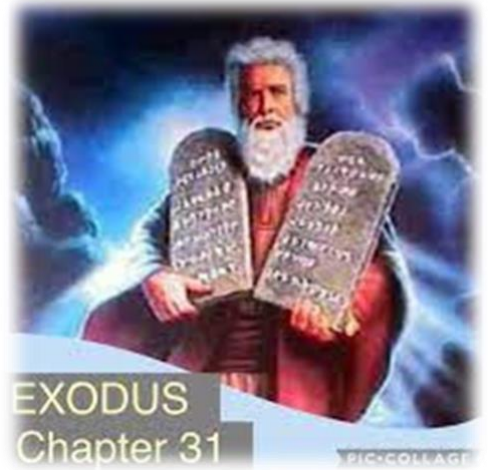
¹⁴ 'Observe the Sabbath, because it is holy to you. Anyone who desecrates it must be put to death; whoever does any work on that day must be cut off from his people.

¹⁵ For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day must be put to death.

¹⁶ The Israelites are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant.

¹⁷ It will be a sign between me and the Israelites for ever, for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he abstained from work and rested.'

*¹⁸ When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, **the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.***



At this point in the history of God's people they had gone through the transition from being a small nomadic family grouping to being a nation large enough not to be ignored. It hadn't been easy, it had taken many years of oppression in Egypt but now they were on their way to the Promised Land under the leadership of Moses. And on the way God was working on them and with them and in the passage above God was giving them clear instructions as to what was and was not acceptable to him. 2 months after escaping from Egypt the people arrived in the desert area of Mount Sinai. In chapter 19 v 1 Moses goes up the mountain to meet with God and as part of that visit he receives the 10 commandments. In chapter 24 v 18 we read that he goes up into the mountain again to meet with God *¹⁸ Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.'* In chapters 25 to 31 we can read more of God's instructions and with this guidance in place there could be no claiming that they didn't know how they should behave. And God gave them his detailed instructions written on 'tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.' If you like this was the Finger of the Law – this is how you should behave, this is what God expects of his people. The law – knowing what is right and pleases God and what is wrong and brings his displeasure. But the problem with the law was that no one could keep it in every detail. No one could save themselves from the wrath of God.



When the
RIGHTEOUS
cry for help
THE LORD
hears and
DELIVERS THEM
OUT OF ALL THEIR
troubles

PSALM 34:17

Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY

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,

I think about my family and friends, the ones I know so well and those that I've lost touch with. I thank you for their love and I would pray that each one would come to know you, love you and serve you. Help me to share my faith with them.

In Jesus' name

Amen

Father— I name my church family before you. Bless my brothers and sisters as together we seek to share the good news of the gospel.

Amen

Lord – I pray today for the young folk I know. Influenced in so many ways by our culture which denies your very existence. Reveal yourself to them.

In Jesus name,

Amen

Lord God, bless the work of the Salvation Army as they share their faith in practical ways.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

Lord God, When I am faced with anger this week may I respond with love.

Amen

Father, I think about our world and I sometimes despair when I hear of the things that are happening daily. Then I remember that we live in a world broken by sin but one day you will return to make everything new and I trust in you.

Amen

Lord,

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be pleasing in your sight,

Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

(From Psalm 19:14)

Amen

Lord God, be with me in the week ahead, when things are going well and when they are not

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