

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

In this issue on:

Page 1

- A thought.
- Verse for the week.
- Prayer calendar.

Page 2

- Worship this week.
- Preachers for the next few weeks.
- 'Think you know it all' 26 and answers for 25.
- The Romans Course

Page 3

- BMS Prayer Guide.
- Bible Reading Plan.

Page 4

- Where, what and when 19.
- Duty Rota for August

Page 5

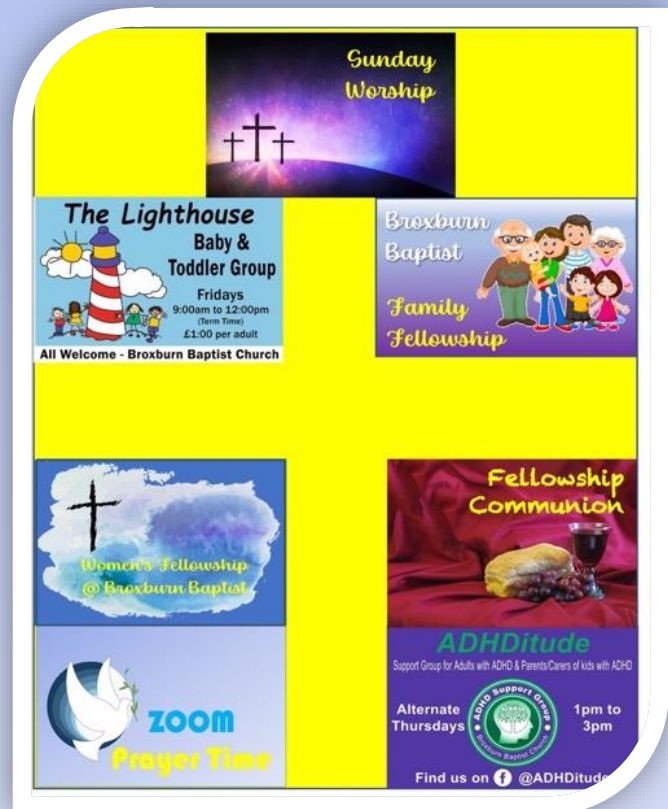
- The finger of God 2.

Page 6

- To colour and consider.
- A poem

Page 7

- The Prayer Wall.



secretary@broxburnbaptist.org.uk
pastor.donna@broxburnbaptist.org.uk
www.broxburnbaptist.org.uk

No. 168 5th August 2023

'We are ambassadors for Christ'

Some thoughts.....

*I don't know what the weather was like for you last Monday (I say this because of the wide circulation of this learned tome!!) but where we were it was not the best to put it nicely. Rain was forecast for most of the day and for once the met office app didn't let us down. Anyway, what do you do when you can't get out for a walk or do the weekly shop or work in the garden...Easy! You clean out a few cupboards. Let's call it spring cleaning...but the weather back then was too nice – then you **could** go for a walk etc.*

There's something nice about cleaning out. Someone once described it as cathartic (Dictionary definition -. providing psychological relief through the open expression of strong emotions;). If I understand the definition correctly I suppose it is. It helps you to focus on what is important right now, what's current, what's in fashion, what fits.

If you're like us you will have built up a collection of clothes particularly. And when you look at them honestly you realise they are just occupying space, getting in the way of the things you wear every day, the things that work well, the things that say who you are to those you come in contact with.

But there are some things that never go out of fashion, they are always relevant, they fit in no matter the occasion or the company, they've got a bit of stretch so if you've put on a bit of weight or maybe lost a few pounds they can accommodate that.

Sometimes we need to do a bit of spring cleaning in our Christian lives and in our church life and get rid of the things which have accumulated over the years. Maybe things that once were a big part of our lives but have lost their relevance. Maybe habits or traditions

Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2023

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

W/c 6th August

Kintore (Hillview Church Plant)

Kirkintilloch Baptist Church

Kirkstyle Baptist Church, Carluke

Kirkwall Baptist Church



baptist union
of scotland

You can sign up for prayer points via Facebook at

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

which seemed relevant at the time but life has moved on and they don't have the meaning they once had, maybe ways of sharing our faith which worked 50 years ago but no longer do, Maybe hymns we sang..NO don't go there! Maybe church meetings and activities which once drew in people but no longer do. Let's not be afraid to clean out the cupboards!!

Robert

5th August

Isaiah 43:18-19 'Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past ¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Church This Week

Sunday 6th August

11.00am morning Worship – Robert ‘Who we are as Christians 3.’

Communion will be part of the service

To join on zoom just click the link below.

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

Preachers

August

6th Robert

13th Archie

20th Bill

27th Donna

September

3rd Donna

10th Archie 5.30pm Family Fellowship

17th Donna 6.00pm Fellowship Communion

24th Rev Andy Scarcliffe



Think you know it all? 25 ANSWERS

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. **Old Kent Rd, Whitechapel Rd**

Light Blue – 3 streets **The Angel Islington, Pentonville Rd, Euston Rd**

Purple – 3 streets **Pall Mall, Whitehall, Northumberland Av**

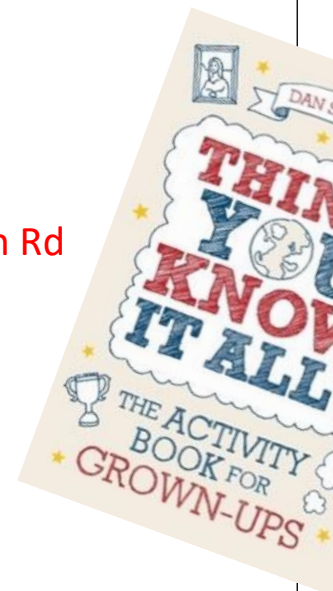
Orange – 3 streets **Bow St, Marlborough St, Vine St**

Red – 3 streets **Strand, Fleet St, Trafalgar Square**

Yellow – 3 streets **Leicester Square, Coventry St., Piccadilly,**

Green – 3 streets **Regent St, Oxford St., Bond St.**

Dark Blue – 2 streets **Mayfair, Park Lane**



Think you know it all? 26

Can you name the 10 largest countries in the world (by area) (An extra point if you get them in the correct order!!)

Any more interest! About 4 so far! If it's an encouragement there may be tea and coffee involved!!

The Romans Course

This is a 10 week course on the book of Romans. It has been led by Andrew Ollerton who did the Bible Course that some of us enjoyed a few 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

BMS World Mission has been involved in Tunisia since the 1990s. At one point, BMS had 15 adult mission workers placed with our partner. The current team is smaller, but praise God, it is now possible for BMS to support the employment of local Christians – unimaginable when we first started work in North Africa!



SUNDAY 6

The democratic hopes of the Tunisian Revolution in 2011 seem distant as the current President acts independently, leading to political and voter frustration. Pray that the fallibility of politicians and systems will encourage people to be open when they hear witness to the infallibility of God.

MONDAY 7

With the Tunisian economy in crisis, government subsidies on many basic goods ended over the past year. Pray that people who are now struggling to make ends meet will find the sources of help they need.

TUESDAY 8

BMS' partner is working with other groups to establish a network that could meet the needs of a group of refugees who are at risk of exploitation. Pray that this local partnership will bear long-term fruit.

WEDNESDAY 9

BMS mission worker Sophie travels to the UK for home assignment soon. Pray that she will complete the necessary work before travelling and that her time in the UK will be encouraging.*

THURSDAY 10

Lift up BMS-supported workers Hada and Alia*, working with our partner. Praise God for their passionate witness and their desire to honour him in all that they do. *Names changed for security reasons.*

FRIDAY 11

Sophie is on our partner's leadership team. Pray for the team as they lead and resource a growing organisation in a difficult financial environment. May they see God's miraculous provision during turbulent times.

SATURDAY 12

As Tunisia celebrates its National Women's Day tomorrow, thank God for the economic, educational and political rights that Tunisian women have and pray that more women and girls will come to total freedom in Christ.

Bible Reading this week we continue our readings in Isaiah

August

6 th	Isaiah 33:1–24
7 th	Isaiah 34:1–17
8 th	Isaiah 35:1–10
9 th	Isaiah 36:1–22
10 th	Isaiah 37:1–38
11 th	Isaiah 38:1–20



Where, what and when 19. David anointed King

Where?

In the land God gave to the Israelites.

What?

When Saul died, David’s succession was not automatic. Saul’s family still had the support of some of the army and people and for a time there was war between the family of Saul and David’s supporters. David was recognised as King of Judah (the southern part of the country) first (2 Samuel 2:1-6). While Saul’s son, Ish-Bosheth ruled Israel to the north. Gradually however the supporters of David became stronger – 2 Samuel 3 1. *‘The war between the house of Saul and the house of David lasted a long time. David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker.’*



Seven and a half years after he became king of Judah he was crowned king of Israel so uniting the country again. – 2 Samuel 5:1-5.

David reigned over the whole country for 33 years until he died – 1 Kings 2:10-12. David was God’s man but he was just a man and prone to get it wrong, sometimes disastrously.

Read a story of David’s kindness in 2 Samuel 9

- Why did David show kindness to Mephibosheth?
- What physical problem did Mephibosheth have?
- What derogatory name did Mephibosheth call himself?

Read a story of David’s failure in 2 Samuel 11 and 12

- Where should David have been when he saw Bathsheba?
- How did he solve the problem of her being already married to Uriah?
- What is your opinion of Nathan who forced the king to face up to what he had done?
- Was this failure final for David?

When?

David reigned from around 1000bc to 963bc.

Duty Rota		Preaching	Door.	Vestry Prayer	Communion Prayer
August	6	Robert	Kevin	Mary	Mary
	13	Archie	Mark	Donna	
	20	Bill	Isobel	Jen	
	27	Donna	Phyllis	Eddie	
September	3	Donna	Linda	Linda	Jen

The Finger of God 2.

Bible Reading 2 Daniel 5 v 1-5; 26-31

¹ King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them. ² While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. ³ So they brought in the gold goblets that had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them.

⁴ As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone. ⁵ Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote.

²⁶This is what these words mean:

Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.

²⁷ Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.

²⁸ Peres: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

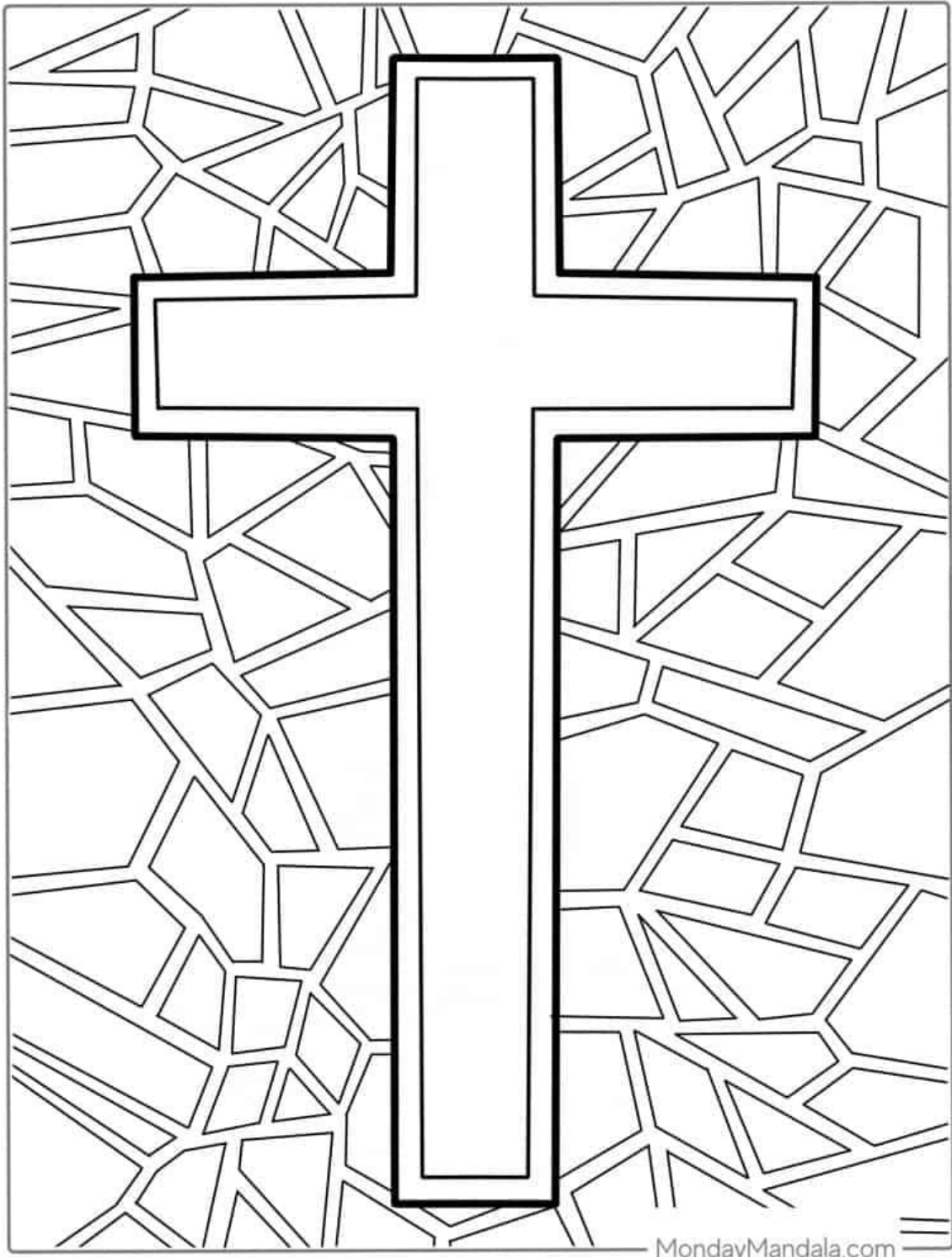
²⁹Then at Belshazzar's command, Daniel was clothed in purple, a gold chain was placed around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom. ³⁰ That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain, ³¹ and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, at the age of sixty-two.

Thoughts: 'The Finger of Judgement'

Belshazzar was one of the most powerful men alive at that time but he was not beyond the hand of God and here in this incident we see the Finger of Judgement writing on the wall. Sixty-six years earlier Nebuchadnezzar had sacked Jerusalem and taken away all the furnishings of the temple including the various gold, silver and bronze dishes and utensils. These had been made to God's instructions and dedicated to use in his worship but here Belshazzar used them in his drunken party. Used them not for worship but for merrymaking, not to serve the living God but to toast the gods of gold and silver of bronze, iron, wood and stone. He had complete disregard for God – and there was judgement. In their drunken partying this disembodied hand writing on the wall must have sobered them up very quickly. Words written in Aramaic a language the Babylonians could read and understand but no one could work out what the significance of the words was. That is not until the queen mother reminded them that Daniel the Jew had a gift from God of being able to interpret prophecy. And so Daniel was called and the judgement was pronounced.

Taking God lightly, disobeying God, breaking his laws, living without regard to him means judgement. Judgement, not only for Belshazzar, but for all those who disregard God. The bible states very clearly that the result of sin is death, separation from God for ever. Those who have never sorted things out with God will face the finger of judgement.





I carry a cross in my pocket,
A simple reminder to me
That I am a Christian,
No matter where I may be.

It's not for identification
For all the world to see.
It's simply an understanding
Between my Saviour and me.

It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my Master
And give themselves to His care.

This little cross isn't magic,
Nor is it a good luck charm.
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm.

When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or a key,
The cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me.

So, I carry a cross in my pocket
Reminding none but me
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my life,
If only I'll let Him be.

© Mrs. Verna Mae Thomas

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,

This summer we've learned that this world in which we live is not as it should be as the climate changes. Forgive us for what we have done. We remember those suffering from extreme temperatures and violent floods and we ask that you would encourage each one of us to do what we can do to make things better.

Amen

Lord God, thank you that you love me as I am. Help me to love others in the same way so that they might come to know your love too.

Amen

Father, I pray for my friends. I am thankful for those who love and serve you and I pray for those who do not yet recognise you as Lord and Master.

Amen

Lord God, it is easy for me to criticise and see the worst in people and situations. Help me to be a positive person knowing that everything is in your safe hands.

Amen

Father – help me not to be anxious about anything but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present my requests to you. (*From Phil.4:6*)

Amen

Lord – I remember those who taught me about you and led me to know you for myself. Give me the desire, opportunity, and ability to do the same for others,

*In Jesus name,
Amen*

Lord God, I remember those in power in our country today. Give them wisdom, clarity of thought, a caring concern for all, and a humility to know they don't know it all.

Amen

Lord God, Thank you that you hold on to me. Help me to relax knowing that your loving arms hold me tight in every situation.

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