

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. 169 12th August 2023

'We are ambassadors for Christ'

Some thoughts.....

Priorities! It's funny how priorities change isn't it. It was the family WhatsApp group that prompted these thoughts earlier this week.

'Is Fin looking forward to getting his exam results tomorrow?' I asked Kirsten. 'Is he nervous?'

'No...all he's concerned about just now is wanting to buy a paddle board/surf board/kayak....'

I'm not sure Fin's priorities would be the same his grandmother's, but I can appreciate where he's coming from! Maybe when he's looking for a career his priorities will be different.

All of us have priorities and these priorities will change according to age and circumstance. And our priorities can determine how we live our lives. I think that the experience of covid made us all examine our priorities and brought about changes for better or worse. During covid I think most of us prioritised keeping safe and keeping others safe so we obeyed the rules. Others prioritised their personal freedom so ignored the rules and made their own decisions on how best to deal with the situation. But after covid many people's priorities were changed from what they were before. Some people who attended church faithfully previously found that they could do without meeting up with their fellow believers and stopped attending church altogether or stuck with zoom. For others the feeling of loss that came with not being able to meet together regularly reinforced the priority for church attendance and they quickly got back into it.

Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2023

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

W/c 13th August

Knightswood Baptist Church,
Glasgow
Ladywell Baptist Church,
Livingston
Larbert Baptist Church
Largo Baptist Church, Lower
Largo



You can sign up for prayer points via Facebook at

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

I think it's good for us to regularly examine our priorities and ensure that they reflect what we are and what we believe otherwise our priorities might determine what we are and what we believe. Christians do not have the luxury of deciding their own priorities, they should be the same as God's and that is not always easy to accept.

Robert

12th August

Ps In case you're wondering Fin's exams results were good!!

Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."^[c] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself."

Church This Week

Sunday 13th August 11.00am morning Worship – Rev Archie Young

To join on zoom just click the link below.

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

Preachers

August

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



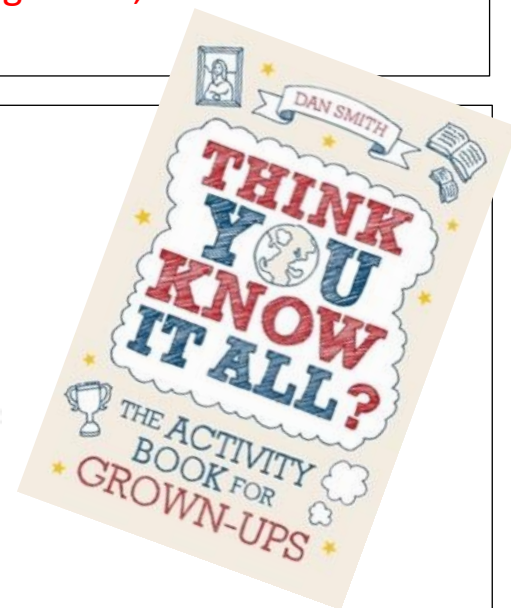
Think you know it all? 26 ANSWERS

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

Russia, Canada, USA, China, Brazil, Australia, India, Argentina, Kazakhstan, Sudan

Think you know it all? 27

Can you name the 6 chess pieces on a chess board?



Any more interest! Now got 5!
Would be good to get into double
figures.

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



In Uganda, BMS World Mission partners with Justice Livelihoods Health (JLH). BMS and JLH seek to partner in God's work of establishing his Kingdom, transforming lives and building beneficiaries' independence in our strategic locations of Kasese and Gulu.



SUNDAY 13

BMS mission worker Benon Kayanja is seconded to JLH as Executive Director. Pray for wisdom as he directs the overall strategy, the management of strategic partnerships and the administration of day-to-day operations.

MONDAY 14

BMS mission worker Genesis Acaye is seconded to JLH as Agricultural Projects Co-ordinator for northern Uganda. Pray that he would show patience and the love of God as he trains farmers to increase yields.

TUESDAY 15

Pray that the Church and Community Mobilisation process working through Kasese Baptist Association Development Committee and Gulu New Life Associations would see sustainable improvements in people's lives.

WEDNESDAY 16

Thank God for the audiology equipment procured in 2022. Please pray the clinic in Gulu will enable the early identification of hearing loss and referral for treatment.

THURSDAY 17

Thank God for the solar installations that provide light for schoolchildren to study by in the evenings. Pray that this helps children to achieve their educational potential.

FRIDAY 18

As the Agribusiness Livelihoods Project continues to expand beyond Gulu, pray for stable rainfall to improve crop growth for food security and income.

SATURDAY 19

Termites have been a particular problem, eating tree roots and hindering the spread of agroforestry pilot projects in Gulu in 2021 and 2022. Pray for a sustainable solution to improve the survival rate of young trees this year.

Bible Reading this week we continue our readings in Isaiah

August

13 th	Isaiah 40:1–11
14 th	Isaiah 40:12–31
15 th	Isaiah 41:1–20
16 th	Isaiah 41:21–42:17
17 th	Isaiah 42:18–43:21
18 th	Isaiah 43:22–44:23
19 th	Isaiah 44:24–45:7



I'm getting a wee break form 'Where, What and When.' this week (and so are you!!) thanks to Doreen who gave me a copy of the following – enjoy. Thanks Doreen!

The Black Dot

A professor entered a classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise exam.

They all waited anxiously at their desks for the exam to begin.

The professor handed out the exams with the text facing down, as usual. Once he handed them all out, he asked the students to turn over the papers.

To everyone's surprise, there were no questions - just a BLACK DOT in the centre of the sheet of paper.

The professor, seeing the expression on everyone's faces, told them the following: 'I want you to write about what you see there'. The students, confused, got started on the inexplicable task.

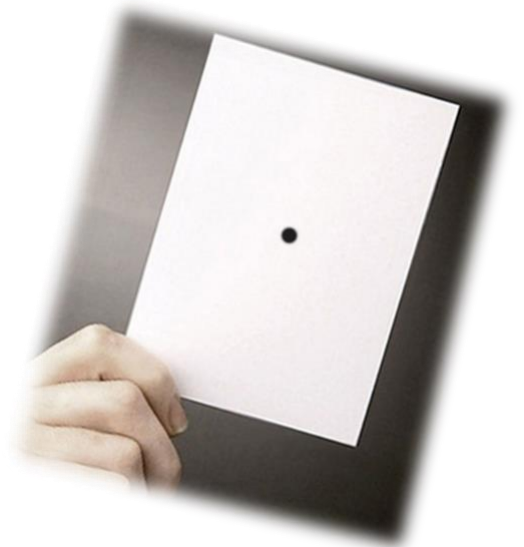
At the end of class, the professor took all the exams, and started reading each one of them out loud, in front of all the students. All of them with no exception defined the black dot, trying to explain its position in the centre of the sheet.

After all had been read, the classroom silent, the professor started to explain:

"I'm going to grade you on this, I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot. And the same happens in our lives. We have a white piece of paper to observe and enjoy, but we always focus on the black dots. Our life is a gift given to us by God, with love and care, and we always have reasons to celebrate - nature renewing itself every day, our friends around us, the job that provided our livelihood, the miracles we see every day. However, we insist on focusing only on the dark spot - the health issues that bother us, the lack of money, complicated relationship with a family member, the disappointment with a friend.

The dark spots are very small when compared to everything we have in our lives, but they're the ones that pollute our mind.

Take your eyes away from the black dots in your life. Enjoy each one of your blessings, each moment that life gives you. Be happy and live a life filled with love!



<u>Duty Rota</u>		Preaching	Door.	Vestry Prayer	Communion Prayer
August	13	Archie	Mark	Donna	
	20	Bill	Isobel	Jen	
	27	Donna	Phyllis	Eddie	
September	3	Donna	Linda	Linda	Jen
	10	Archie	Bill	Bill	
	17	Donna	Mark	Robert	
	24	Andy	Lindsay	Jim B.	

The Finger of God 3.

Bible Reading: John 8 v 1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

² At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered round him, and he sat down to teach them.

³ The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group

⁴ and said to Jesus, Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.

⁵ In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?

⁶ They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.

⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.

⁸ Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

⁹ At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.

¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, Woman, where are they? Has no-one condemned you?

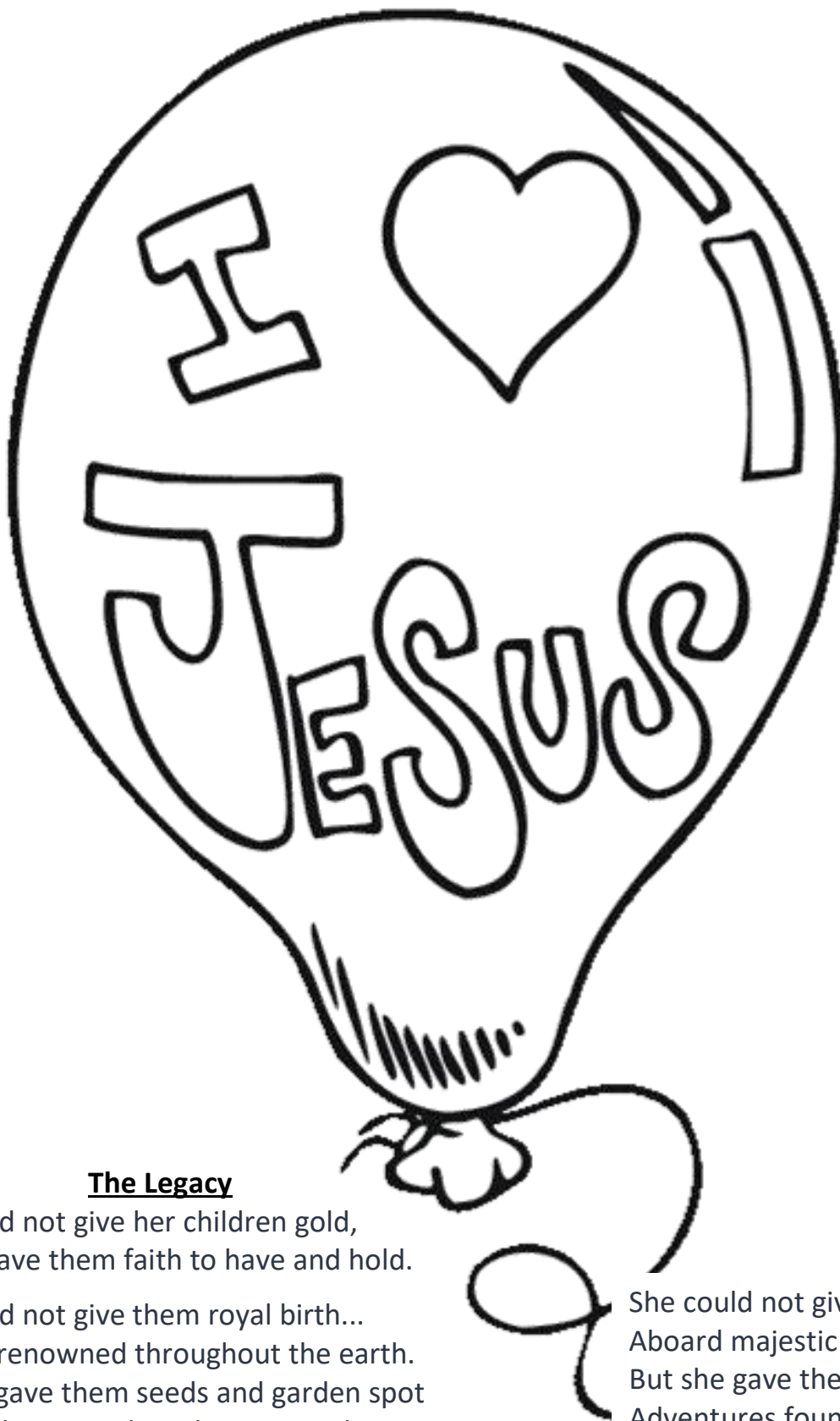
¹¹ No-one, sir, she said. Then neither do I condemn you, Jesus declared. Go now and leave your life of sin.



Thoughts: 'The Finger of Mercy'

The Finger of the Law had written that this woman's behaviour had broken the law. The Finger of Judgement had declared her guilty and identified the punishment. But Jesus wrote with the Finger of Mercy – *I don't condemn you, go and leave your life of sin*. How could Jesus say that? The law very clearly identified this woman's adultery as sin. She was guilty – no doubt – even she didn't deny it. She had broken God's law – but we said earlier that no one could keep the law in all its details – she had sinned, but so had those who accused her which is why not a single one of them had the brass neck to pick up a stone and be the first to throw it. Jesus recognised this and he knew that his mission was to make forgiveness possible – very soon he was going to accept this woman's punishment – and her accusers, and yours and mine. How do we know this woman was sorry – it would be seen in her behaviour afterwards. Did she leave her life of sin? We don't know – but God says the same to each one of us – *Go and leave your life of sin, I have taken your punishment and I stand before the throne of God above on your behalf declaring you innocent.*

The question for each of us is – do we know the finger of mercy or will we face the finger of judgement?



The Legacy

She could not give her children gold,
So she gave them faith to have and hold.

She could not give them royal birth...
A name renowned throughout the earth.
But she gave them seeds and garden spot
And shade trees when the sun was hot.

She could not give a silver spoon
Or servants waiting night and noon.
She gave them love and a listening ear
And told them God was always near.

She could not give them ocean trips
Aboard majestic sailing ships.
But she gave them books and quiet time,
Adventures found in prose and rhyme.

She could not give them worldly things
But what she gave was fit for kings.
For with her faith and books and sod,
She made each child aware of God.

—attributed to Alice Leedy Mason

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,

Help me to examine my priorities this week.

Show me where they are not your priorities and help me to make the changes I need to.

Amen

Father – thank you that you have shown be what is good and what you require of me. Help me to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with my God. (*From Micah 6:8*)

Amen

Lord God, I want to live for you and so often I fail. Give me the grace to recognise my failure, seek your forgiveness and with your help do better next time.

Amen

Lord God, I remember the folk in Hawaii who are dealing with wildfires. Be close to those who have lost family and friends. Bring an end to the suffering.

Amen

Father, thank you for your love and all the different ways you show it to me.

Amen

Lord God, I think about those I know who are struggling with health issues. I want them to be healed but I know that may not be in your plan. Give me the strength to accept your good will.

Amen

Lord – I remember our friends in the 3 local Church of Scotland congregations as they plan for the future, working more closely together. Give wisdom to those who are leading the process, an understanding and willingness to accept change gracefully to all involved and may everything be done according to your will.

In Jesus name,

Amen

Father, thank you for your love and all the different ways you show it to me.

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