

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. 173 9th September 2023

'We are ambassadors for Christ'

Some thoughts.....

A couple of weeks ago when on Skye for family birthdays Jen and I had an overnight on the island of Raasay. It's only a 20mn ferry ride from the mainland of Skye but has that lovely quiet island feel about it. It's about 15 miles from top to bottom and a couple of miles wide and I don't know how many live on the island but it's not busy – you can walk the roads without seeing a car and the footpaths without meeting a single soul. There is one hotel and one shop, a distillery which produces 'a lightly peated single malt' and is the first legal distillery on the island - although I would imagine there have been many enterprising crofters over the years who have had nice little less-legal earners going. We were there for not more than 24 hours and did a bit of driving up to the top of the island....until the road disappeared.....and a bit of walking....and it's a road and a path that I want to write a wee bit about this week and next.

This week – the road. As I said we drove from near the south of the island (where the ferry comes in) as far north as we could go without needing a tracked vehicle. The road was single track and twisted up and down and round almost impossible corners following the terrain. The last 1.75 miles of the road are known as 'Rathad Chaluum' - 'Calum's Road' for us non-Gaelic speakers. It's unremarkable until you hear that it was built by one man, Calum MacLeod, by hand whose only tools were a barrow and pick and shovel taking about 10 years. Until then there was no road serving the crofts where the majority of the islanders stayed at that time. It shows what single-mindedness can do. Sometimes being a Christian and being church needs single-mindedness and commitment. We may be limited in what we have but unlike Calum we're not on our own! [Read more about Calum's Road here.](#)

Robert

9th September

Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2023

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

W/c 10th September

Marion Carson (Pastoral Support Coordinator, Glasgow City Mission)
Martin Hodson (General Director)
Milestone Christian Fellowship, Girvan



You can sign up for prayer points via Facebook at

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



Joshua 1:9 ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'

'We are ambassadors for Christ' Page 1

Church This Week

Sunday 10th September

11.00am morning Worship & Communion – Archie Young

To join on zoom just click the link below.

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

5.30pm Family Fellowship returns – informal worship and fellowship time for all the family. If you don't do church you might just do this!!

Thursday

10.30am Prayer Time – in church and on zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81347026860?pwd=Tk1RQm5ldDIRTk5tc0dEOUIZVtDUT09>

Friday

9.00-12.00 The Lighthouse Babies & Toddlers

Preachers

September

10th Archie

5.30pm Family Fellowship

17th Donna

6.00pm The Romans Course 2

24th Rev Andy Scarcliffe

6.00pm The Romans Course 3

October

1st Church Anniversary with Andrew and Marie Hyde

8th Archie

5.30pm Family Fellowship



Think you know it all? 30

10 Downing Street

North Cemetery Ridge, USA

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

221B Baker Street

Wayne Manor, Gotham City

742 Evergreen Terrace, Springfield

Danemead, Hight Street, St Mary Mead

Southfork Ranch, Braddock County, Texas

Who lives there? **ANSWERS**

The Prime Minister

The Addams Family

The President of the USA

Sherlock Holmes

Batman

The Simpsons

Miss Marple

The Ewing Family



Think you know it all? 31

How well do you know your '-ologies'? What is the field of study?

Anthropology

Arachnology

Campanology

Cardiology

Conchology

Dermatology

Geology

Haematology

Meteorology

Nephology

Oology

Ophthalmology

Ornithology

Pharmacology

Vexillology

The Romans Course – great attendance at the first meeting!!!

The second study is on 17th September at 6.00pm. If you missed the first and want to get involved just email secretary@broxburnbaptist.org and I'll let you have the material from week 1.

Robert

BMS Prayer Guide 2023



BMS is starting to grow its Church and Community Mobilisation (CCM) work. In CCM, two things happen. Firstly, churches are encouraged to be more outward facing and see the positive role they can have in their communities. Secondly, churches are equipped to recognise the resources their communities already have, and to take ownership of the development they want to see.

SUNDAY 10

Thank God that through CCM, communities can recognise the resources they have and start using these to meet their needs. This has empowered people and given them a sense of ownership.

MONDAY 11

CCM helps people to see that poverty is not God's plan: there is potential within people to change their situations. Thank God that through the CCM Bible studies, people realise God has given us all gifts, talents and resources.

TUESDAY 12

Thank God for the 28 people in Nepal who are being trained to facilitate CCM. Praise God that CCM has enabled churches to build good relationships with community members and government officials. Churches have gained respect and recognition in their communities.

WEDNESDAY 13

Self-help groups are a key component of CCM. Thank God that through these groups people can save money and access loans, enabling them to start businesses and meet their needs.

THURSDAY 14

CCM uses Bible studies to help churches consider what it means to be "salt and light". Thank God that in Nepal this has led to Christians supporting the most vulnerable in the community.

FRIDAY 15

In Uganda, BMS partner JLH is planning to start CCM. Pray for them as they make their plans and identify facilitators to be trained.

SATURDAY 16

The widow in 2 Kings 4: 1-7 thought her situation was hopeless. But she learnt that a mere drop of oil could be used to overcome her challenges. Praise God that CCM gives communities hope.

Bible Reading this week we complete our readings in Isaiah and turn to Romans

10th Isaiah 66:1–24

11th Romans 1

12th Romans 2

13th Romans 3

14th Romans 4

15th Romans 5

16th Romans 6



Where, what and when 23. The Divided Kingdom 2

Where?

The divided kingdom – Judah in the south, Israel to the north.

What?

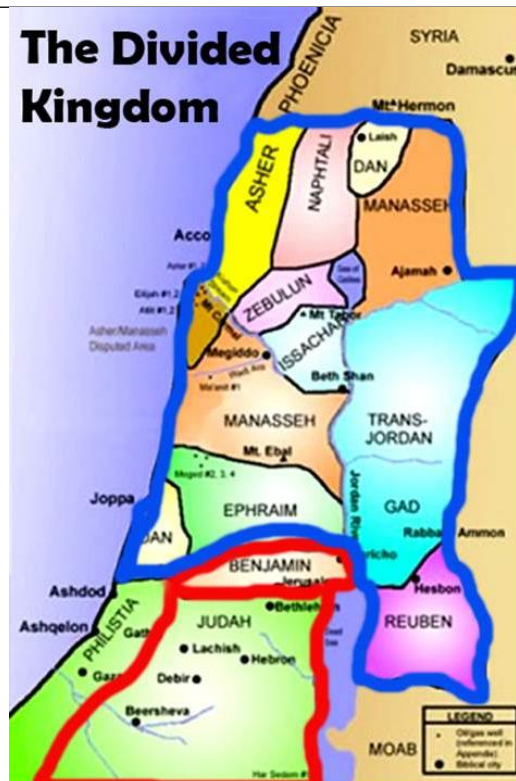
Last week we looked at Asa one of the kings of Judah. Ahab was a king of the northern kingdom of Israel whose reign overlapped with Asa but Ahab was a completely different character.

Read: 1 Kings 16:29-33

- Which town in Israel did Ahab rule from?
- What phrase in verse 30 describes Ahab’s reign?
- Who was Ahab’s famous foreign wife?
- Which God did Ahab serve and worship?

Read: 1 Kings 22:29-40

- How do you view the phrase ‘at random’ in verse 34
- Compare v 38 with the prophecy in 1 Kings 21:19.
- Who succeeded Ahab as King?



When?

Ahab ruled Israel from around 871bc to 852bc.

Duty Rota Preaching Door Vestry Prayer Communion Prayer

September	10	Archie	Bill	Bill	
	17	Donna	Mark	Robert	
	24	Andy	Lindsay	Jim B.	

Are you amazed by Jesus? – 4.

Those who heard and saw Jesus in action were amazed – amazed by what he did as we have looked at over the last 3 issues but also amazed by what he said. Does Jesus still amaze us by what he said? Does he still challenge us and the way we think about ourselves and the way we live by what he saidand says?

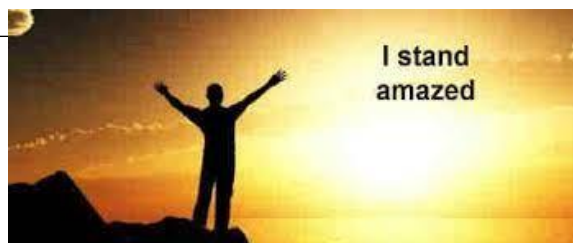
Reading: Mark 1:21-22

²¹ They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach.

²² The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.

Thoughts

The crowds who listened to Jesus were amazed, amazed at what he said – his teaching. But they were used to listening to folk expounding the scriptures so what was so different about Jesus? – ‘he taught as one who had authority. (Cont. on page 5)



But what was this authority? When the local rabbi or any visiting speaker spoke in the synagogue, they would normally take the scriptures and explain it to the people, they would cite previous experts and quote what they said but when Jesus spoke it was different. He didn't refer back to other so-called experts – he spoke with his own authority. He didn't need anyone else to back up what he said about God's word. On several occasions Jesus uses the words 'I say to you'. I, with the authority I have, say to you.

Matthew 8:11 *I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.*

Mark 5:41 *He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!")*).

Mark 13:37 *What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!' "*

Luke 7:14 *Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!"*

Luke 11:9 *"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.*

The authority Jesus had that was recognized by those who listened was his own. It did not depend on any else. **So, what was the source of this authority?** Well, we find that explained by Jesus himself in John 14.

John 14:10 *Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.*

So, the source of this authority which Jesus possessed was his Father, the one who sent him. No wonder the people were amazed at the authority with which he spoke – in John 7 when some temple guards had been sent to arrest Jesus they returned and told their bosses –

⁴⁵ *Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, Why didn't you bring him in?*

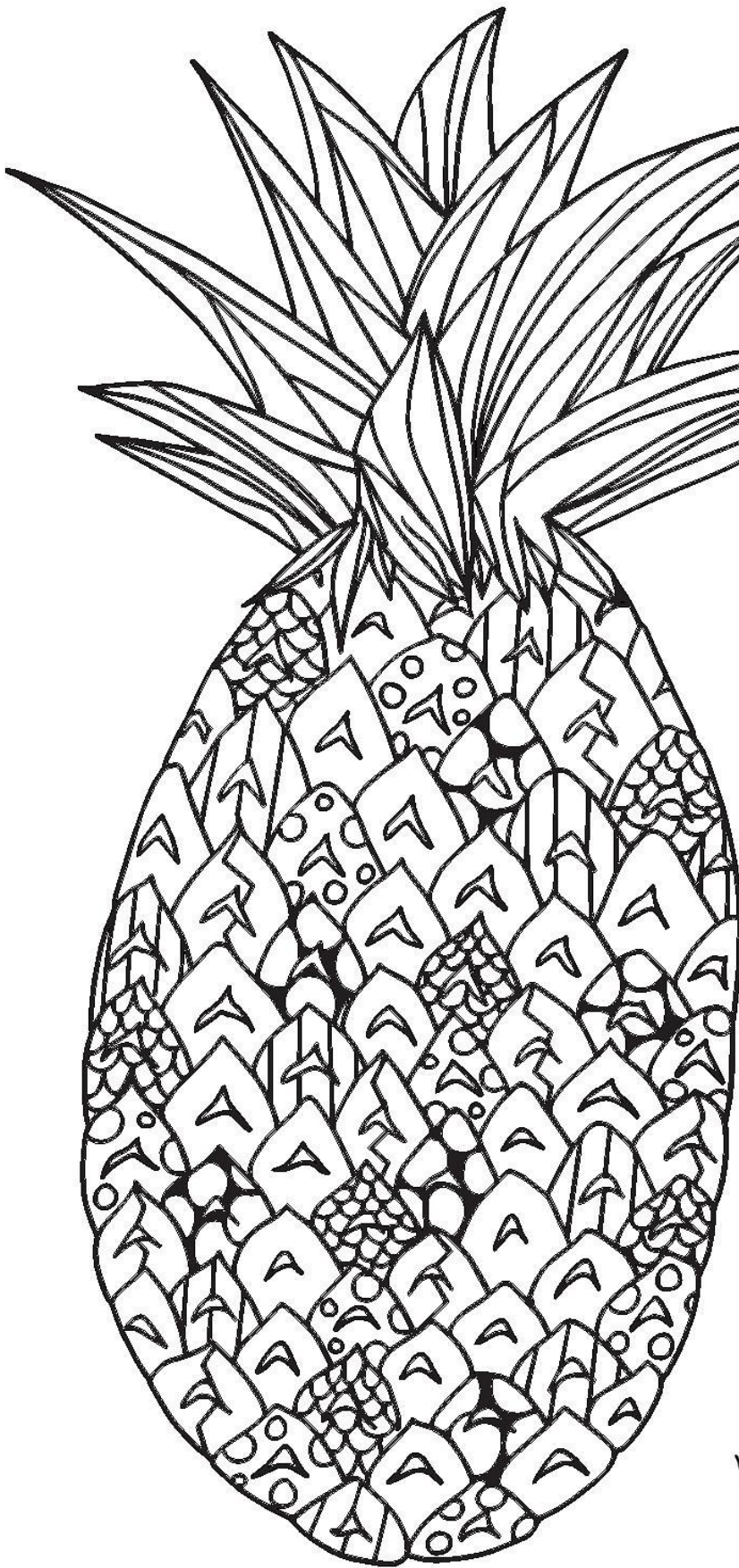
⁴⁶ *No-one ever spoke the way this man does, the guards declared.*

⁴⁷ *You mean he has deceived you also? the Pharisees retorted.*

So, Jesus spoke with his own authority, authority that came from being who he was and who had sent him. And that leads to another question - **Do we recognize his authority?**

This is a very dangerous question to answer. If we say we don't recognize his authority, then we are turning our backs on the one God has sent into the world to make himself known to us. And if not Jesus' authority, then whose? My own? My partner's? Some famous philosopher's? The state's? Or no one's.

And if we do recognize the authority of Jesus this is equally dangerous because we then have to take the decision – do we submit to that authority and live our lives in the light of what Jesus taught. Or do we ignore it and go our own way. **What's your answer?**



I AM
A
FRUIT
BEARER

IF YOU REMAIN IN ME
AND I IN YOU
YOU WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT
JOHN 15:5

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, - you have promised never to leave us but be with us in every difficult situation we face. I remember those I know who are struggling just now with 'difficult situations' – health, age, family, finance, addiction, disappointment, abusive relationships, job loss, fear of the future, loss of faith. Please be close to them.

Amen

Father – thank you for your goodness - for the kind word spoken, the gracious deed done, the warm embrace offered.

Amen

Lord God, change me for good, work in me that I might be more like the son that you want me to be,

Amen

Father, I remember today the folk who live next door. I may know them well or just a little. But you know them intimately and you love them so much that you gave your son to die for them. Help me to love them and share my faith with them.

Amen

Lord I think of those in our country in positions of authority. From the King down may they exercise that authority for the good.

Amen

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)

Lord God, when I look at the world you have created I stand in awe and wonder. Marred by sin as it is it still shows the handiwork of the craftsman. Thank you.

Amen

Lord I come, I confess
Bowing here, I find my rest
Without You, I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

<https://youtu.be/e37m315eH8g>

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