

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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On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October we will celebrate the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this local church. Details on page 4 – don't miss it!!

No. 175 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023

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*'We are ambassadors for Christ'*

## Some thoughts.....

*'He's getting more human every day!' – and no it wasn't Jen referring to me. It was Fiona referring to Harry - my Grand-dog – he now knows how to use the arm of his sofa – HIS sofa – don't get me started on spoiled pets!!! Anyway what prompted the comment was this pic with Harry looking like some Victorian gentleman posing for his portrait. I sometimes think he believes he is human and that Fiona is his Mum the way he follows her around all day – unless we're dog sitting when he will follow me but only after a suitable length of time whining and sitting at the window looking for Mum! They say that people begin to look like their pets – like the beard Fi! – and you can probably think of some cases where that's true – maybe we could have a competition for the best pic! Maybe not.*



*When the pic came through I had just sat down with my morning coffee (in my Harry cup!!) and was wondering what to write so - thanks Harry. I wonder if Harry had been Jesus' dog would he have become more 'Jesus-like'? But, more importantly, what about us who call ourselves Christians, for whom Jesus is 'our Father', who have accepted that Jesus died on the cross so that we might know forgiveness and freedom and who try to follow Jesus in our imperfect way. Are we becoming more 'Jesus-like'? Will people be looking at us and saying – he/she's getting more like Jesus every day. Do people see us growing in love and patience and kindness and honesty and faith and.....all the things we see when we look at Jesus. Well – do they?*

*Robert*

*23<sup>rd</sup> September*

## Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2023

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

### W/c 24th September

Newton Mearns Baptist Church, Glasgow  
Al Nicol (RAF Chaplain)  
Hillary Nyika (Chaplain - HMP Polmont)  
Oban Baptist Church



baptist union  
of scotland

You can sign up for prayer points via Facebook at

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



**Romans 12:2** <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

*'We are ambassadors for Christ' Page 1*

## **Church This Week**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

**11.00am morning Worship – Rev Andy Scarcliffe**

To join on zoom just click the link below.

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

**6.00pm The Romans Course 3 – refreshments served from 5.50pm**

**Thursday**

**10.30am Macmillan Coffee Morning**

**Friday**

**9.00-12.00 The Lighthouse Babies & Toddlers**

## **Preachers**

September

24<sup>th</sup> Rev Andy Scarcliffe

6.00pm The Romans Course 3

October

1<sup>st</sup> Church Anniversary with Andrew and Marie Hyde

8<sup>th</sup> Archie

5.30pm Family Fellowship

15<sup>th</sup> Donna

6.00pm The Romans Course 4



## **Think you know it all? 32 - African Capitals ANSWERS**

Can you name the country whose capital is.....

Abuja **Nigeria**

Addis Ababa **Ethiopia**

Asmara. **Eritrea**

Bamako **Mali**

Cairo **Egypt**

Dakar **Senegal**

Freetown **Sierra Leone**

Harare

**Zimbabwe**

Kampala **Uganda**

Khartoum **Sudan**

Kigali **Rwanda**

Luanda **Angola**

Lusaka **Zambia**

Mogadishu **Somalia**

Monrovia **Liberia**

Nairobi **Kenya**

Ouagadougou **Burkina Faso**

Rabat **Morocco**

Tripoli **Libya**

Windhoek **Namibia**

## **Think you know it all? 33 – Geographical Terms**

**What do you call....**

1 A pair of points on opposite sides of the planet.

2 A narrow strip of land connecting two bigger land masses.

3 A stretch of lowland between mountains, hills or other uplands

4 A narrow body of water connecting two larger water bodies.

5 A chain or cluster of islands in an ocean

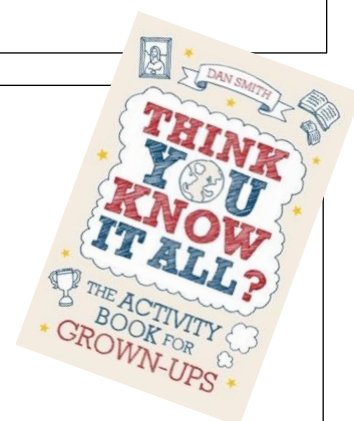
6 A pointed piece of land that sticks out into a body of water.

7 The imaginary line that circles the world at the midpoint between the North and South Poles.

8 A ring of coral forming an island in the sea.

9 An area of land surrounded by water on three sides.

10 A river or stream flowing into a larger river.





## **BMS Prayer Guide 2023**



*Since the arrival of the de facto government in 2021, the work performed by international organisations in Afghanistan, including BMS' local partner, has been hit by bans targeting the participation of women and girls in public life. This week, we lift up this troubled nation to the Lord.*

### **SUNDAY 24**

*Pray that the de facto government will be moved by compassion and will fully identify with the Afghan people's many needs. May the government promote a climate of freedom instead of oppression and fear, mercy instead of inhumane bans, and forgiveness instead of hate.*

### **MONDAY 25**

*Pray for the security situation in Afghanistan and for physical safety for BMS' local partner staff, their families and those served through their work. Pray especially for safe travel in their daily commutes.*

### **TUESDAY 26**

*Lift up BMS' local partner's distribution of food and basic supplies to support the poorest families while they wait for the agricultural season. Pray that the rainy season will be on time and the harvest will be plentiful.*

### **WEDNESDAY 27**

*Pray for physical and spiritual protection for BMS worker Ruby. Pray that her agricultural work produces not just food to sustain a family's physical needs, but fruits of hope for a better future.*

### **THURSDAY 28**

*Remember Afghan women and girls who are stuck at home, banned from primary, secondary and university education. Pray that they will soon be able to resume their studies.*

### **FRIDAY 29**

*Lift up BMS workers Arthur and Reeta as they continue learning the language and culture. Pray for strong local friendships, and that they will experience God's presence in all they do.*

### **SATURDAY 30**

*Pray for the leaders of BMS' local partner. Ask God to grant them protection, freedom, wisdom, creativity and the resources needed to continue supporting those living in poverty.*

**Bible Reading** .....*this week we finish Paul's letter to the Roman Christians and start a series focussing on women in the Bible, starting with Eve.*

- 24<sup>th</sup> Romans 14
- 25<sup>th</sup> Romans 15
- 26<sup>th</sup> Romans 16
- 27<sup>th</sup> Genesis 1 - Eve
- 28<sup>th</sup> Genesis 2 - Eve
- 29<sup>th</sup> Genesis 3 - Eve
- 30<sup>th</sup> Genesis 4 - Eve



**Macmillan Coffee Morning**

**WORLD'S BIGGEST  
COFFEE  
MORNING**

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**



'Coffee & Chat @ BBC' gets going again on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September with all proceeds going to Macmillan Cancer Care – from 10.30am to 12.00noon, all welcome. Charge maintained at £1.50 but anything else you would like to give will go to Macmillan.

**Anniversary Sunday – 1<sup>st</sup> October**

We are delighted to have as our guests for Anniversary Sunday Andrew and Maria Hyde – some of you would have met them at the Women's Fellowship earlier this year. They will be talking about what God is doing amongst the Kurdish people in the Middle East and sharing God's word.



Where Kurdish people live in the Middle East.

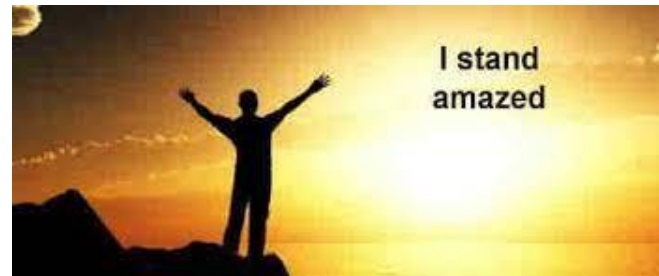


Communion will be part of the service and we will finish off with lunch. Please try to be there as we celebrate God's goodness over the 77 years of the existence of this local church.

<b><u>Duty Rota</u></b>		<b>Preaching</b>	<b>Door</b>	<b>Vestry Prayer</b>	<b>Communion Prayer</b>
September	24	Andy	Lindsay	Jim B.	
October	1	Andrew & Marie Hyde	Doreen	Donna	Jim B.
	8	Archie	Kevin	Mary	
	15	Donna	Isobel	Jen	
	22	Andy	Phyllis	Eddie	
	29	Robert	Linda	Linda	
November	5	Archie	Bill	Bill	Donna

## Are you amazed by Jesus? – 6.

Carrying on from last week where we thought about the authority with which Jesus spoke, the words he said...



### **Reading:** Mark 9 v 14-24

<sup>14</sup> *When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them.*

<sup>15</sup> *As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder (amazed) and ran to greet him.*

<sup>16</sup> *What are you arguing with them about? he asked.*

<sup>17</sup> *A man in the crowd answered, Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech.*

<sup>18</sup> *Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.*

<sup>19</sup> *O unbelieving generation, Jesus replied, how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.*

<sup>20</sup> *So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.*

<sup>21</sup> *Jesus asked the boy's father, How long has he been like this? From childhood, he answered.*

<sup>22</sup> *It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.*

<sup>23</sup> *'If you can'? said Jesus. Everything is possible for him who believes.*

<sup>24</sup> *Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!*

### **Thoughts:**

'Everything is possible for him who believes' What does that mean, in particular what does it mean in our lives?

At face value and first reading it seems to suggest that faith in Jesus is like a magic wand that can be waved to get us anything we want. And we know that is not true.

To get to the meaning can I suggest we focus not on the quality or quantity of our faith but on the object of our faith. I can have as much faith as you can possibly imagine but if the object of that faith is suspect then my faith is meaningless. It wasn't the man's faith which healed his son it was the object or focus of his faith – Jesus himself. Having faith in itself does not save us, having faith does not guarantee us we will have what we need but having faith in Jesus will do both these things. Having faith in Jesus will not mean we get everything we want – it means that we will have everything we need.

If we have faith in Jesus everything is possible because the power that we have faith in is God and with him anything is possible. And he will give us whatever we need to live for him and serve him.



# I AM A VESSEL



I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST AND I NO LONGER LIVE,  
BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME. THE LIFE I NOW LIVE IN THE BODY, I LIVE BY  
FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD, WHO LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME.  
GALATIANS 2:20

# 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 the world still reels from the disasters in North Africa I think of those who are left mourning the loss of loved ones, of homes and livelihoods and ask that you would be close to them. Protect the rescuers. Keep disease at bay. Empower your local church. Encourage the aid agencies and those that support them. Open hearts and minds to see the real cause of the brokenness of our world – our turning from you. Amen

Father, I think of my relatives that don't know you. I think of lovely, kind folk who live their lives trying to be the best they can be but never think of trusting the God who loves them. Lord confront them with your claim on their lives. Amen

Lord God, thank you for all the good things I experience – things like friends and friendship, gentle rain and soft breezes, a walk in the countryside, a loving touch or gentle word. Amen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PpiezP6xR>  
M

Father – thank you today that my sins are forgiven and I have the assurance of eternal life with you.  
Amen

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.....

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?  
(Psalm 8:1,3,4)

I have a friend, a mighty friend  
And Jesus is His name  
I shall not fear, He holds me near  
His strength will keep me safe  
His name is True King, Lord of creation  
Ruler without end  
I call Him Hope, Peace, Wonderful  
Saviour  
And what joy that Jesus calls me friend  
*Thank you Father*

***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*