

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. 177 7th October 2023

'We are ambassadors for Christ'

Some thoughts.....

It's Harvest Sunday tomorrow at church, the time of year when we traditionally thank God for his goodness to us as shown by the bounty of harvest time. At the Sunday service in Middleton Hall Care Home last Friday (OK let me explain....as a member church of the local Council of Churches we take services at the local care homes on a rota basis with the two Uphall churches. Mostly these are on Sundays but Middleton Hall asked if we could do it when their activities staff were on duty – so for us it's Friday – and it means we had about 20 at the service when it's single figures at other homes on Sundays). Anyway we were looking at harvest with the folks there and we were thinking about the story Jesus told of the different types of soil. You'll remember the story from Sunday School days – a farmer went out to sow corn and as he broadcast it by hand it fell on different types of soil – some on the pathway, some on rocky, thin soil, some among the thorns and some on the good fertile soil. Of course, the harvest was different on the different types of soil – but Jesus wasn't really talking about soil. It was a parable, a story with a hidden meaning. He was talking about the results when he told people about God's love for them and the different ways folk reacted to his message. Some folk didn't even listen to him, some believed him but the pressures of life meant they soon forgot what they believed, some believed but they didn't follow it up and they soon went back to their old life, but a few listened, believed and went on to become mature followers of Jesus. The question is – where do you stand? You have heard the message of the gospel – but has there been a harvest?

Robert

7th October

Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2023

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

W/c 8th October

Peterhead Baptist Church
Judith Pirie (Healthcare
Chaplain - Woodend & ARI)
Pitlochry Baptist Church
Pollok Baptist Church,
Glasgow



baptist union
of scotland

You can sign up for prayer points via Facebook at

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



Luke 8:5,8⁴⁵ "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up.other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown."

Church This Week
Sunday 8th October

11.00am Harvest Worship – Rev Archie Young
(Gifts to West Lothian Food Bank and donations for the work of the Baptist World Mission)

To join on zoom just click the link below.

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

3.00pm Service at Holmes Gardens

5.30pm Family Fellowship ‘Harvest’

Thursday

10.30am Prayer Time – in church, on Zoom.

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

Friday

No Lighthouse – school holidays!

Preachers

October

8th Archie

15th Donna

22nd Andy

29th Robert ‘Bible Sunday’

November

5th Archie

12th Andy

19th Donna

26th Donna

5.30pm Family Fellowship

6.00pm The Romans Course 4

6.00pm The Romans Course 5

6.00pm The Romans Course 6

6.00pm The Romans Course 7

5.30pm Family Fellowship

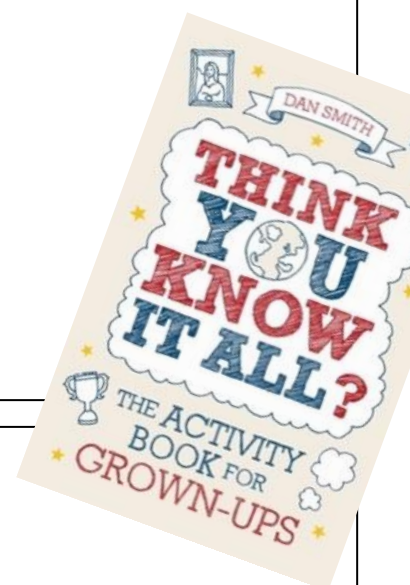


Think you know it all? 34 – Male and Female

ANSWERS

What do you call male and female....

- | | | |
|-------------|----------|--------|
| 1. Deer | Buck | Doe |
| 2. Donkey | Jack | Jenny |
| 3. Goat | Billy | Nanny |
| 4. Hedgehog | Boar | Sow |
| 5. Swan | Cob | Pen |
| 6. Duck | Drake | Duck |
| 7. Peafowl | Peacock | Peahen |
| 8. Sheep | Ram | Ewe |
| 9. Zebra | Stallion | Mare |



Think you know it all? 35

There are 5 North American Great Lakes, Can you name them all from largest to smallest?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

BMS Prayer Guide 2023



Every year, countries around the world face multiple crises. BMS World Mission's partners based in and near affected communities are quick to respond, ensuring the right support is given at the right time. Pray for those responding, both in prayer and action, that they would have wisdom, energy and sufficient resources.

SUNDAY 8

Pray for churches on the ground who play a key part in BMS' relief responses, who often find themselves in the midst of a crisis with no warning. Pray they will be places of safety and hope for the communities around them.

MONDAY 9

Climate uncertainty and insecurity is impacting the most vulnerable with erratic rainfall, higher temperatures and stronger storms. As BMS responds to the impacts of these events, pray that we will be able to increase communities' resilience.

TUESDAY 10

Back in February you gave so generously as BMS responded through our partners to the earthquakes and aftershocks in Türkiye (formerly Turkey) and Syria. Please pray as the work of rebuilding continues.

WEDNESDAY 11

Earlier this year BMS responded to the relief effort in northern Peru following the widespread destruction caused by Cyclone Yaku. Many of the 50,000 people made homeless remain in temporary shelter. Please pray for them.

THURSDAY 12

The aftereffects of Covid-19 may have faded mostly into the background in the United Kingdom, but for many of BMS' partners, life is only just resetting. Please pray for life anew in these places.

FRIDAY 13

BMS' relief work is about preparedness as well as response. Please pray for the work being done to develop Namuna Hospital in Nepal so they may become responders and not victims.

SATURDAY 14

In a broken world, peace comes dripping slowly, but with peace, communities flourish. Pray for places facing crises where conflicts rise, that they will experience peace in Jesus.

Bible Reading_this week we carry on the series focussing on women in the Bible, this week it's Sarah.

| | | |
|------------------|------------|-------|
| 8 th | Genesis 19 | Sarah |
| 9 th | Genesis 20 | |
| 10 th | Genesis 21 | |
| 11 th | Genesis 22 | |
| 12 th | Genesis 23 | |
| 13 th | Genesis 16 | Hagar |
| 14 th | Genesis 21 | |



Macmillan Coffee Morning

'Coffee & Chat @ BBC' - the final total doated to Macmillan was £203 – many thanks to all who donated and particularly to those who baked for the event.



SHOEBOX APPEAL 2023

Last year 252,022 shoe boxes were sent to seven countries across Eastern Europe, Africa and Central Asia. Read about it at <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/2022-shoebbox-destinations/> This year Shoe Box Sunday will be on **19th November. I have boxes available.** All donations can be given to Hester or myself.



Lyn

Enjoying God in Prayer – 2.

This week we continue the series looking at prayer. My thanks to Kieran, the Pastor at Dedridge Baptist Church for allowing me to share this.

2. We enjoy God by resting in his presence

In other words, we enjoy God when, like Martha, we “stop” and learn to “be still” in his presence. This is what it is to rest in God’s presence. The Psalmist says (37.7-9) ‘Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him...Do not fret; it tends only to evil...but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.’ Some of us, if we’re honest, work ourselves into such a lather over many things (like Martha’s sister Mary) when the real need of the hour is to rest in God’s peaceful, powerful and protective presence.

As Isaiah: In repentance and rest is your salvation (or deliverance) in quietness and trust is your strength. (30.15). Resting does sometimes mean ‘to wait.’ And Isaiah knew that. He says they who wait upon the LORD will renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

When we come to the LORD in prayer, the need is to resist the clamour of distracting thoughts over ‘what must be done’ and ‘what we must do’ & remember that underneath us are the everlasting arms of our God. When we learn to do this we can say with the Psalmist: ‘I have calmed and quieted myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content,’ (Ps.131.2). This is enjoying God, and it comes as we learn to rest in his presence.

Duty Rota

Preaching

Door

Vestry Prayer

| Duty Rota | | Preaching | Door | Vestry Prayer |
|-----------|----|---------------|---------|---------------|
| October | 8 | Archie | Kevin | Mary |
| | 15 | Donna | Isobel | Jen |
| | 22 | Andy | Phyllis | Eddie |
| | 29 | Robert | Linda | Linda |



'We are ambassadors for Christ'

Page 4

A Thought from Charlie

Many of you know Charlie Sommerville. Each day Charlie sends out a thought to those on his mailing list. He's given me permission to share one of his thoughts with you – thanks Charlie!

“But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry.” (Matthew 3:11)

In the days of John the Baptist, rich households employed various levels of servants for different responsibilities around the home. Yes, there was even a servant who had the lacklustre job of tying and untying a guest's sandals.

John the Baptist couldn't think of a better way to humble himself before the Lord than to say He would carry his Saviour's sandals to him; It was a vocation of humility.

But Jesus demonstrated a more amazing model of humility when he placed himself lower than even a sandal carrying servant. Jesus not only untied the sandals of his disciples and placed them to the side, but he went further and washed their dirty feet, the responsibility of the lowest Servant on any household ladder.

John the Baptist, extolled the power and the greatness of the Lord Jesus. But Jesus was the one who glorified His power by divesting himself of it in order to wipe clean the filthy feet of common men. And in so doing, Jesus showed us what power there is in sacrificial love and service.

A job description for a lowly servant can be found in ***Philippians 2: 3-4. “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourself. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”***

Bible Dingbats – say what you see! (Answers next week)

✓MATTER

BUSH

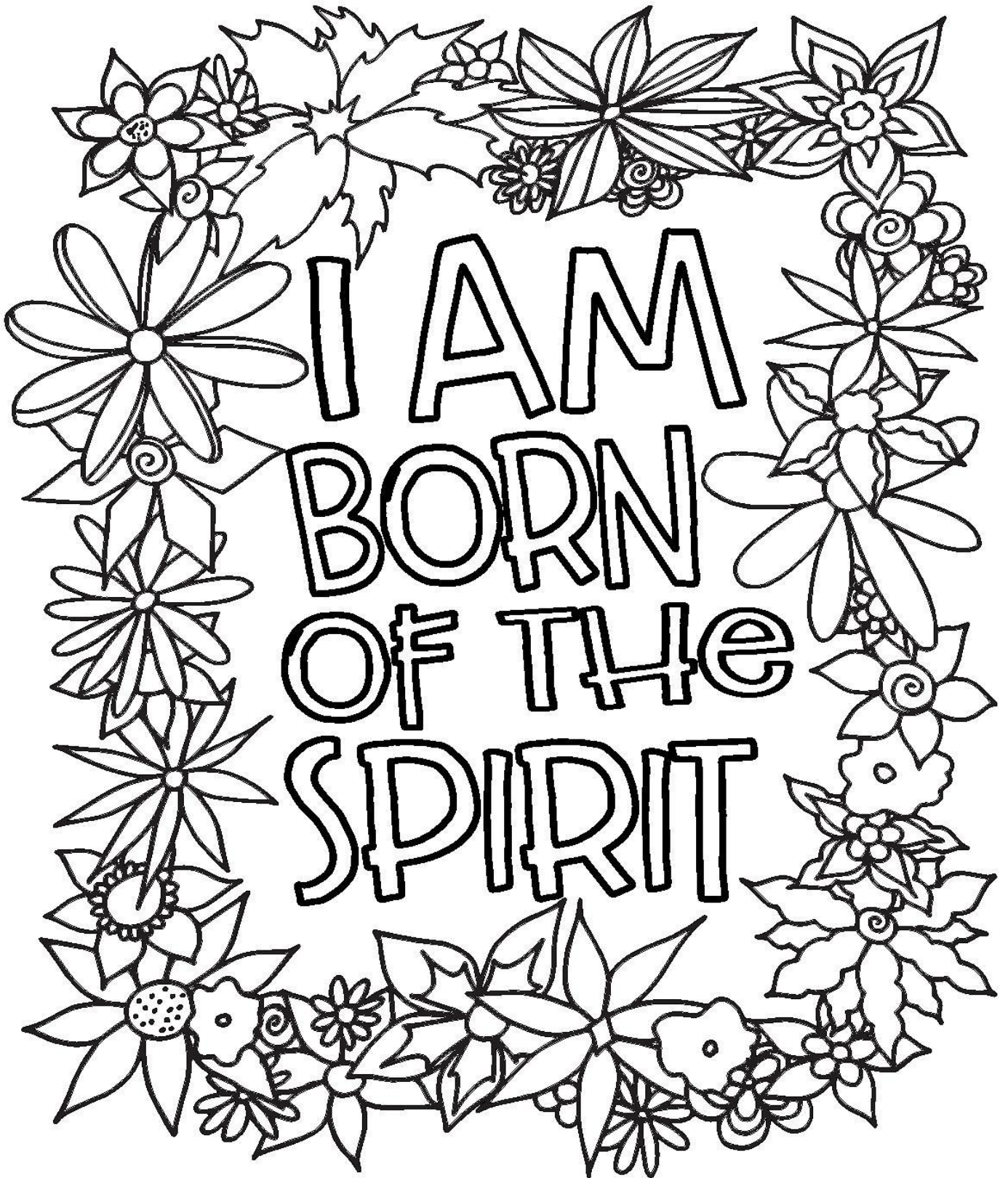
CHXK KEHC

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SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP
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SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP
SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP



I AM
BORN
OF THE
SPIRIT

FLESH GIVES BIRTH TO FLESH,
BUT THE SPIRIT GIVES BIRTH TO SPIRIT.

JOHN 3:6

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 Sunday we celebrate Harvest time and it makes me think of all the good things you have given us. But even as we celebrate we remember those in the world for whom harvest time often doesn't come. Help us to be generous to those who do not enjoy what we enjoy,
Amen

Father – forgive us for what we have done to our lovely planet. What you created perfect we have spoiled through our greed and thoughtlessness. Help me to seriously consider how I live to reduce the harm that I do.
Amen

Father, in a world where there are no certainties, where anything goes, help me to hold on to the absolute certainty of your love for mankind shown in the death and resurrection of Jesus.
Amen

How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?
But I trust in your unfailing love;
my heart rejoices in your salvation.
I will sing the Lord's praise,
for he has been good to me.
(Psalm 13:1,5,6)

Lord God, give me the courage to live for you today.
Amen

Father – I want to thank you for those who faithfully serve by sharing your word on Sundays – for Archie, Andy, Donna and Bill.
Bless them.

One day You'll make sense of it all, Jesus
One day every question resolved
Every anxious thought left behind
No more fear
When we all get to heaven
What a day of rejoicing that will be
When we all see Jesus
We'll sing and shout the victory

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

*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