

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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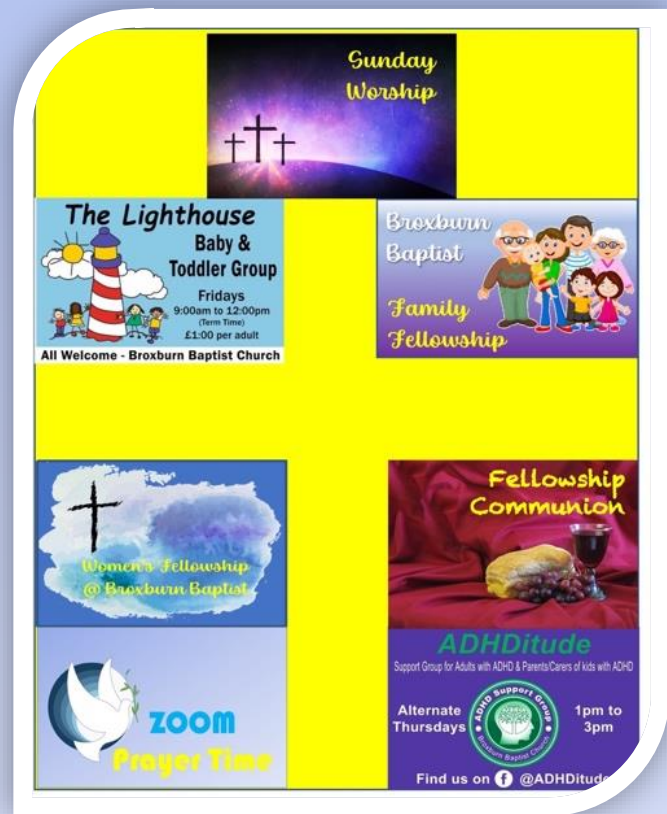
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No. 178 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023

*'We are ambassadors for Christ'*

## Some thoughts.....

*I'm sure you were horrified like me when you saw the pictures and listened to the reports from Israel last weekend. To see the bodies of young and old lying where they had been murdered; to feel the fear of men women and children -hostages - being dragged away to an uncertain future; to listen to the despair of those who have lost friends and loved ones; was truly heart-breaking. And was it any easier to look at the smoking remains of buildings in Gaza after Israeli missiles targeted Hamas bases but inevitably took the lives of civilians including women and children, old and young? As members of the human race I'm sure we all felt the same and maybe even remembered Burns' words from his dirge 'Man was made to mourn.' (which I must admit I had never read)*

*'Man's inhumanity to man*

*Makes countless thousands mourn!'*

*But as Christians, how do we react to what's happening in the 'Holy Land' today? There are Christians on both sides of the divide, Jewish Christians, Palestinian Christians – as Paul puts it in Galatians 3:28 – 'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'*

*We see right and wrong on both sides of this conflict – Hamas is a terrorist organisation using whatever definition you would use; Israel has a right to survival but has the responsibility of a civilised nation to do their utmost to protect non-combatants. How can it be solved? I'm not sure it can be completely until Christ comes back but until then we pray - we pray for peace and justice, we pray that Jew and Palestinian would turn to recognise Jesus as the Messiah in whom all are one, brothers & sisters together.*

Robert

14<sup>th</sup> October

### **Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2023**

*Here are the subjects for prayer this week..*

#### **W/c 15th October**

Portobello Baptist Church,  
Edinburgh  
Portlethen Christian  
Fellowship,  
Queens Park Baptist Church,  
Glasgow



baptist union  
of scotland

*You can sign up for prayer points via Facebook at*

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

#### **A Prayer from 'Open Doors'**

Sovereign God, I pray for peace in Israel and Gaza – for an end to hostilities and for peacemakers on both sides. Comfort all who mourn and all who are waiting to hear news of missing loved ones. Give boldness and compassion to Christians on both sides to shine the light of Christ in their communities and equip national and international leaders with wisdom. May Your will be done, and may Your loving kindness be evident to all. Amen.

## Church This Week

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October

**11.00am Worship Service – Donna**

To join on zoom just click the link below.

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

**2.00pm Service at Holmesview**

**6.00pm The Romans Course 4 ‘Peace’**

**Thursday**

**10.30am Prayer Time – in church, on Zoom.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81347026860?pwd=Tk1RQm5ldDIRTk5tc0dEOUIZVEtDUT09>

**Friday**

**9.00-12.00 Lighthouse**

## Preachers

October

15<sup>th</sup> Donna

6.00pm The Romans Course 4

22<sup>nd</sup> Andy

6.00pm The Romans Course 5

29<sup>th</sup> Robert ‘Bible Sunday’

6.00pm The Romans Course 6

November

5<sup>th</sup> Archie

6.00pm The Romans Course 7

12<sup>th</sup> Andy

5.30pm Family Fellowship

19<sup>th</sup> Donna

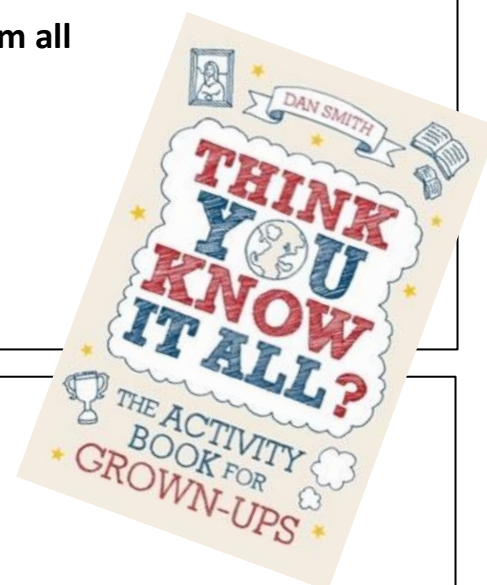
26<sup>th</sup> Donna



## Think you know it all? 35

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

- 1 **Lake Superior**
- 2 **Lake Huron**
- 3 **Lake Michigan**
- 4 **Lake Erie**
- 5 **Lake Ontario**



## Think you know it all? 36

OK it's maybe a bit early but the shops are getting their Christmas displays up so, can you name Santa's 8 reindeer according to the poem 'A Visit from St Nicholas'?

## **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-shoobox-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

## **BMS Prayer Guide 2023**



*BMS World Mission recognises the future of mission movements lies in equipping, training and working with partners across the world to help develop their emerging leaders. Thank God for this vision of building capacity and developing missional leaders in God's Kingdom.*

### **SUNDAY 15**

*BMS-supported workers Baptist John Jaya Prakash and Koffi Soké Kpomgbe are the regional leaders of the Baptist World Alliance 'Horizons' training programme for youth and children's work. Pray that young people across India and Africa will join this programme.*

### **MONDAY 16**

*Pray that we will successfully support the sending and training of mission workers through our partners the Global Institute of Vocational Excellence, Biglife in India and the Asia-Pacific Baptist Federation.*

### **TUESDAY 17**

*Pray for the All Nations Christian College collaboration for mission preparation. Pray for the staff from All Nations and BMS working together, that they will provide high-quality mission preparation training and learning.*

### **WEDNESDAY 18**

*Pray for Bijoy Sangma, our Indian-born, India-based Director of Intercultural Learning and Collaboration (ILC) and the ILC team at BMS. Ask God to open new doors for them to collaborate with global partners.*

### **THURSDAY 19**

*Pray for BMS partnerships among the academic community, that they will spread practical wisdom across Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia.*

### **FRIDAY 20**

*Humble leadership is vital for the work of the global Church and mission. Pray for all who provide guidance for the development of emerging leaders within BMS.*

### **SATURDAY 21**

*Pray for new programmes for emerging leaders with a focus on gender and women in leadership, that they will support women in leadership at all levels across various roles.*

## **Bible Reading .....***\_this week we carry on the series focussing on women in the Bible*

15 <sup>th</sup> Genesis 24	Rebekah
16 <sup>th</sup> Genesis 28	
17 <sup>th</sup> Genesis 29:35	Rachel & Leah
18 <sup>th</sup> Exodus 1	Hebrew Midwives
19 <sup>th</sup> Exodus 2	Mother of Moses
20 <sup>th</sup> Joshua 2:1-21, 6:17-25; Matthew 1:5; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25	Rahab
21 <sup>st</sup> Judges 4-5	Deborah



## 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.*

### 3. We enjoy God by meditating on his person

No one who has read the bible or the lives of past saints can fail to notice the place meditation has in helping us to enjoy satisfaction in God. Not only does Moses instruct Joshua to meditate on God's word day and night but David prays asking that the meditation of his heart be pleasing in Gods sight. He could only ask this - because he meditated.

Some say meditation is a lost art. If it is, I would say it's because today we live life in the fast-lane. You cannot meditate if your living life at speed. If we are driving on a fast motorway, our eyes need to be on the road ahead. If we are driving slowly, say, in the country, we can look around us a little, and enjoy the scenery. Today we live life on the motorway, only interested in what's ahead, and are the poorer for it.

Meditation, if you allow me to press the driving analogy, happens when we pull into a lay-by and concentrate, not on where we're going, but who is with us, and that of course, is God. To get to know him better, like David, in Ps1.1-3, we will listen to what he has to say. We will dwell for a while on a word, sentence, verse, or paragraph God has used; reflecting on what it tells us of God and only then, on ourselves and circumstances. We may have a small notebook, just to record what is said. David did this. Going back to the lay-by we might decide to look out the car window, at scenery. David did: Ps 77, 'I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds.' Maybe in the distance we spot a church; it's there to tell the world about God's Love. We might meditate on that; David did. Ps.48.9, 'In the midst of your temple, O Lord, we meditate on your unfailing love.

But the point is, in slowing down, and listening, we learn to enjoy God's presence. We get to know him, not just as the subject of a manual, but the One who is with us. Bona: 'the sweetness of God's presence.'

<u>Duty Rota</u>		<u>Preaching</u>	<u>Door</u>	<u>Vestry Prayer</u>	<u>Communion</u>
October	15	Donna	Isobel	Jen	
	22	Andy	Phyllis	Eddie	
	29	Robert	Linda	Linda	
November	5	Archie	Bill	Bill	Donna



**A Thought from Charlie**

*“...That you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”  
[Romans 12:2]*

God has a plan for the life of every Christian. Every circumstance, every turn of destiny, is for your good. It is working together for completeness. His plan for you is being perfected. All things working together for your good and for His glory.

As a young Christian, I wanted to be a pastor: But God had other plans for my life. Changing circumstances revealed God's plan for me, and now I could not be more delighted where God has placed me at this moment in time.

So many of us ask God to change the circumstances to suit our desires, instead of us conforming to His will. Don't let circumstances distress you.

Rather, look for the will of God for your life to be revealed in and through those circumstances that we face day by day.

How often I wanted to run ahead of God's leading for my life. But as the years have passed, I have learned to trust Him completely and to realise that in the midst of all the events of every day. Do I always get it right? Am I always on the mountain top...No...but when I get it wrong He is still there waiting to pick up the pieces and add them to the 'jigsaw' of His plan for my life!

He is there working out His will for my life, and there can be no better place to be!

**Dingbats ANSWERS**



The root of the matter.



The Burning Bush.



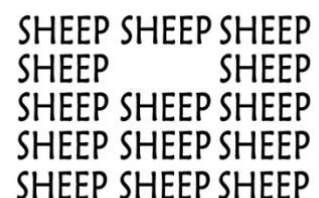
Turn the other cheek.



Noel.

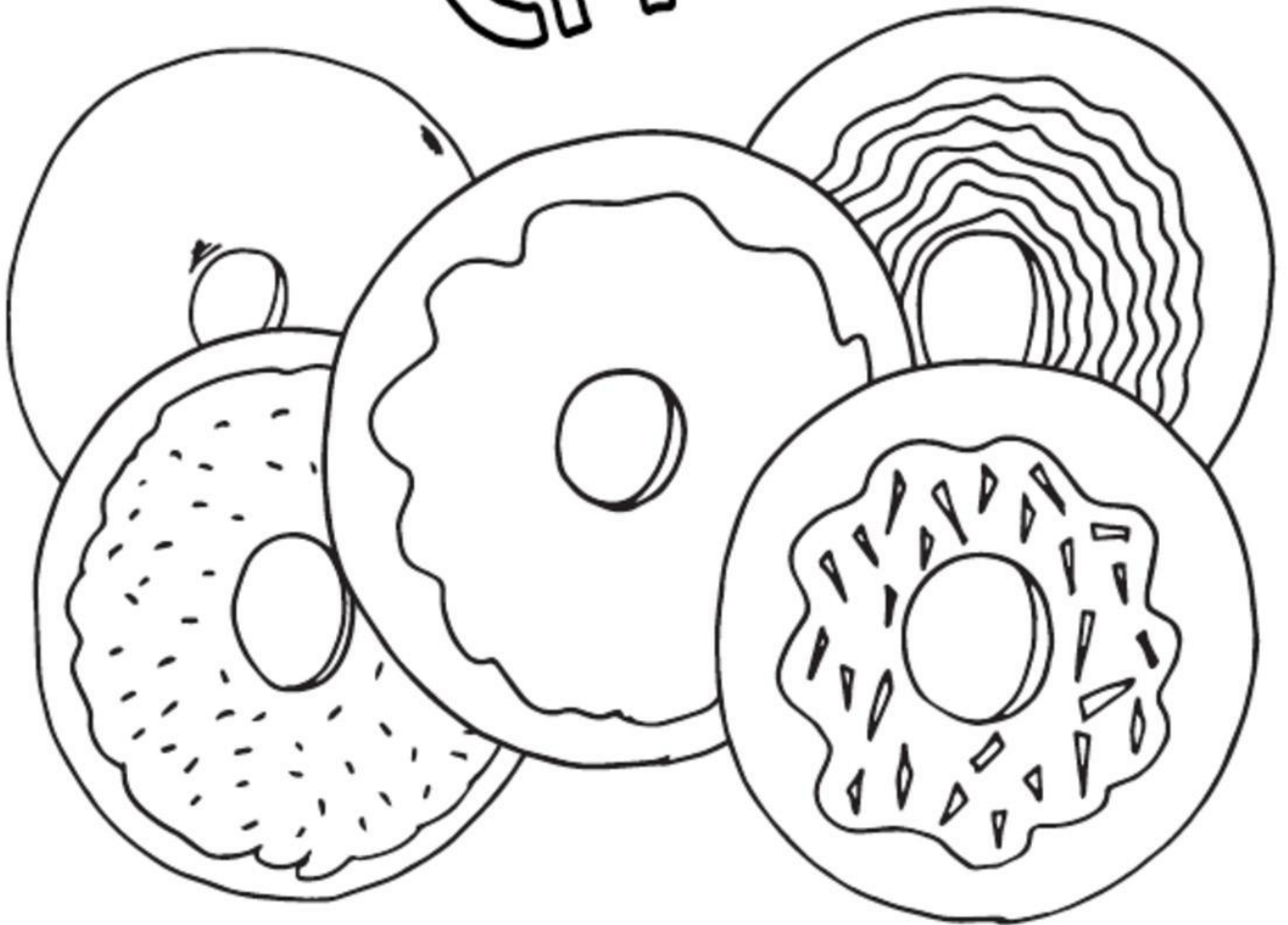


The Last Supper



The Lost Sheep

# I AM CHOSEN



YOU DID NOT CHOOSE ME, BUT I CHOSE YOU AND APPOINTED YOU SO THAT  
YOU MIGHT GO AND BEAR FRUIT - FRUIT THAT WILL LAST -  
AND SO THAT WHATEVER YOU ASK IN MY NAME THE FATHER WILL GIVE YOU.

JOHN 15:16

# 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 – I remember people I know who are facing health issues. Comfort them with the comfort that only you can give. Grant them peace in their distress, relief from pain and speedy recovery.

Amen

Father, I pray for Christian businesspeople that they would honour you in the way they conduct their business affairs. That they may deal with their work force fairly and generously and with their customers honestly and not greedily.

Amen

Lord God, fill me with compassion for all I meet.

Amen

Father – I pray that you would raise up Christians with a heart to enter politics and work for the good of all. In Jesus' name,  
Amen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QDnVD7gu5Y>

Father – *I think of the country and people of Afghanistan. I pray Lord that you would work in the hearts of leaders who subjugate others with their conservative, Islamic views; that you would open their eyes and minds to see what would be possible in a country where all were free to go to school, free to work for the good of their families and society and where people lived free from fear and want.*

Amen

Keep me safe, my God,  
for in you I take refuge.  
I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;  
apart from you I have no good thing."  
(Psalm 16:1-2)

When condemnation grips my heart  
And Satan tempts me to despair  
I hear the voice that scatters fear  
The Great I am the Lord is here  
Oh praise the One who fights for me  
And shields my soul eternally

*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*





**It was just two months ago that we emailed you with a reflection that in this broken world, disaster is never far away. Sadly, when we did so, we had no idea quite how true that statement would be.** With news of the escalating conflict between Israel and Hamas this week, and reports of two deadly earthquakes in Afghanistan (see more below), your prayers for these tragedies could not be more crucial

Following the surprise Hamas attacks on Israel last Saturday and the subsequent counter-attack and siege of Gaza, our partners in Israel-Palestine have asked you to lift up the following in prayer.

**From Bethlehem Bible College in Palestine:**

- Pray that God's love and peace may transcend the divisions and hatred that have plagued this region for so long. Pray also for God to help us all to be instruments of his peace, promoting justice, understanding, reconciliation, and most importantly a just peace in the Holy Land.
- Pray for leaders and decision-makers, that they may be inspired by wisdom, compassion, and a desire for peace.
- Lift up the families and individuals affected by the conflict, those who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods.
- Pray for the Church in Gaza, that it will be salt and light to its communities during these difficult days.

**From the Association of Baptist Churches in Israel:**

- Pray and affirm that God is sovereign over the entire universe and has the power to change this situation. Pray that there will be a swift end to the conflict and that it does not escalate into a larger war in the region.
- Pray for those who are grieving the loss of their loved ones. Pray too for those who've been wounded during the conflict and for those providing medical assistance to them. Pray that God's strength and peace will be with those affected.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment for leaders, that they would make decisions that lead to lasting peace and alleviate suffering. Pray for peace and security for the entire region, and that the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.

Psalm 46: 1 says "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble". Please keep praying that an end to this conflict will be seen soon. And if you want to do even more to make a difference when crises occur across the globe, please consider giving to our [disaster recovery fund](#) today.

Standing together,  
Bruce Clark  
Relief Lead  
BMS World Mission

**BMS World Mission** is a Christian mission organisation, working in around 30 countries on four continents.

BMS workers and partners strive every day to make Jesus known and share the full life he brings. From legal work to surgery, food projects to education, BMS works with local partners, providing help where it is most needed, among the most marginalised and least evangelised people in the world. We do this thanks to the support of UK Christians, individuals and churches, who share our vision for a world made better through Christ's grace.

*If you want to know more about BMS World Mission or how to support them find out here:*

<https://www.bmsworldmission.org/about-us/>

