

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. 179 21st October 2023

'We are ambassadors for Christ'

Some thoughts.....

I'm writing this thought while up at Fiona's for her birthday. I'm looking out the bedroom window - it's not a bad day, it's dry, a bit windy and the wind is blowing the leaves off the tree in the land next door.



It's autumn after all – again. Doesn't seem that long since last autumn – well for me it doesn't. It's a reminder that time doesn't stand still, that things move on.



I can also see just in front of the tree a wall – well to be accurate it's a 'dry stane dyke.' It looks like it's been there for some time – bit of moss and lichen growing on it, but

it is still in good order and doing the job it was designed to do. Might have been there 100 years and will probably last another

100 if it's left in peace. I don't know who built it, doubt if Tim and Fiona know either! But whoever it was they've left their mark behind. You could call it a legacy and the Bible has a lot to say about the things, memories, legacies we leave behind us. In Joshua 4 the Children of Israel had just crossed the River Jordan which God had miraculously dried up and God instructed them to build a physical legacy – something there for future generations - which would remind them of God's provision for them in times of difficulty. In this case it was a 'dry stane pillar' the people built. The nation would be faced with challenges on this side of Jordan and God knew that from time to time they might need a reminder of the God who loved them and led them. What pillars are you building?

Robert

21st October

Joshua 4:7a These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."

Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2023

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

W/c 22nd October

Renfrew Baptist Church
Rosyth Baptist Church
Rutherglen Baptist
Community Church
Samira Abdollahi (Finance
Assistant)



You can sign up for prayer points via Facebook at

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

Church This Week
Sunday 22nd October

11.00am Worship Service – Andy
To join on zoom just click the link below.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85227893884>
6.00pm The Romans Course 5 ‘Freedom’
10.30-12.00 Coffee & Chat @ BBC
9.00-12.00 Lighthouse

Thursday
Friday

Preachers

October

22nd Andy 6.00pm The Romans Course 5
29th Robert ‘Bible Sunday’ 6.00pm The Romans Course 6

November

5th Archie 6.00pm The Romans Course 7
12th Andy 5.30pm Family Fellowship
19th Donna
26th Donna



Think you know it all? 36 ANSWERS

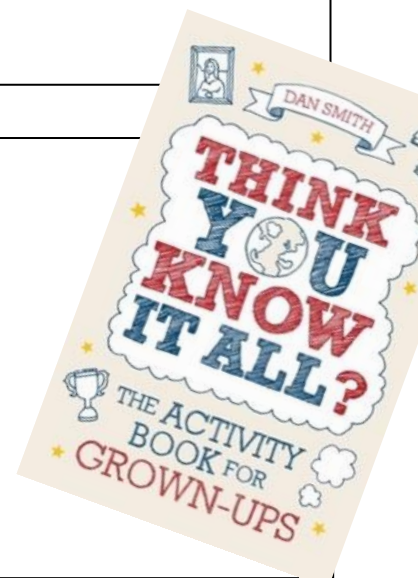
OK it’s maybe a bit early but the shops are getting their Christmas displays up so, can you name Santa’s 8 reindeer according to the poem ‘A Visit from St Nicholas’

Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner.Blitzend

Think you know it all? 37

What do the following people do?

Chandler	Hostler
Cooper	Keeler
Scriviner	Tanner
Wainwright	Draper
Costermonger	Chiffonier
Thatcher	



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-shoebox-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



From World War Two until 1991, Albania was an isolationist and communist state. Soon after the establishment of the democratic Republic of Albania, BMS World Mission began working in the country. Fast-forward three decades, and BMS' formal partnerships in Albania are due to finish at the end of this year.

SUNDAY 22

Give thanks that there is now freedom to worship and witness to Christ in Albania. Pray that the lives of those who follow Christ will reflect God's love, peace and hope to all they meet.

MONDAY 23

Pray for the people and churches of the Albanian Baptist Union (ABU), with whom BMS has partnered in supporting local pastors, food banks, youth camps and administration. Pray that the Union will continue to find sustainable ways to grow, plant churches and share the good news.

TUESDAY 24

Rejoice that Tek Ura (a charity started in 2016 by BMS and the ABU to serve vulnerable communities) is bringing transformation to many through the commitment and witness of its leaders and staff.

WEDNESDAY 25

Give thanks for the years BMS workers Dan and Annie Dupree have spent in Albania. Praise God for their gifts of mentoring and leadership, enabling Tek Ura to establish a strong national team.

THURSDAY 26

Lift up the Dupree family as they continue to discern their place of service after summer 2024.

FRIDAY 27

Pray for the thousands of Albanians who have been influenced through youth camps, food banks, the ABU, Tek Ura, local pastors, BMS mission workers and volunteers. Pray that these seeds would bear fruit.

SATURDAY 28

Many Albanians have moved across Europe seeking new opportunities. Pray that they would find "life in all its fullness", and ask God for an opportunity to bring hope to an Albanian local to you.

Bible Reading *this week we carry on the series focussing on women in the Bible*

22 nd	1 Samuel 1	Hannah
23 rd	1 Samuel 2	Hannah
24 th	Ruth 1,2	Ruth
25 th	Ruth 3,4	Ruth
26 th	Esther 1-5	Esther
27 th	Esther 6-10	Esther
28 th	Luke 10:38-42, John 11:1-12	Martha



Enjoying God in Prayer – 4.

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.

4. We enjoy God by receiving his love

We also enjoy God, not only by meditating on his person but by receiving his love. A Christian is not only one who's head is filled with knowledge but who's heart is filled with love. Paul, in Rom 5 talks of two ways we comprehend God's love. He says 'God showed his great love by sending his son to die for us,' and v5 by sending 'the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.' He also asks that Ephesian roots...grow down into that love, and understand how wide, long, high and deep his love is for them.

Some are only happy with a God we can talk about, who stays in his heaven and only enters experience in the form of words and thoughts. If this is you, then you better give-up Christianity; it's not for you. Our faith's literature and history are laden with accounts of those whose lives have been transformed by both a knowledge and experience of God's love.

The psalmist 33.22 puts it: 'May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.' Or v18 of the same Psalm: 'The eyes of the Lord are upon even the weakest worshippers who love him— those who wait in hope and expectation for the strong, steady love of God.'

If we ask in what settings the love of God should impact us, one is worship, and the other prayer. When we come to worship, we should expect something to happen: fresh in-fillings of God's love that overflow into worship and then out into life. It grieves me that one feels so little expectation in the worship of many churches; one is likely to find more expectation at the local bus-stop, than local church. The other setting is prayer. The Old Testament Song of Songs, is a collection of love songs. Over centuries many have seen in it parallels to the love between Christ and the church, his bride. Listen to these words of the bride: like 'an apple tree among the trees of the forest is my beloved among th young men. I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste. Let him lead me to the banquet hall, let his banner over me be love.' What is prayer if not sitting in the shade of the one who loves us more than any other can; and knowing that love sweet to our taste.

"True faith means holding nothing back. It means putting every hope in God's fidelity to His Promises."—Francis Chan

"He said "Love...as I have loved you." We cannot love too much."—Amy Carmichael.

"When we work, we work. When we pray, God works."—James Hudson Taylor.

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 fit them into the 'jigsaw' of His plan for my life!

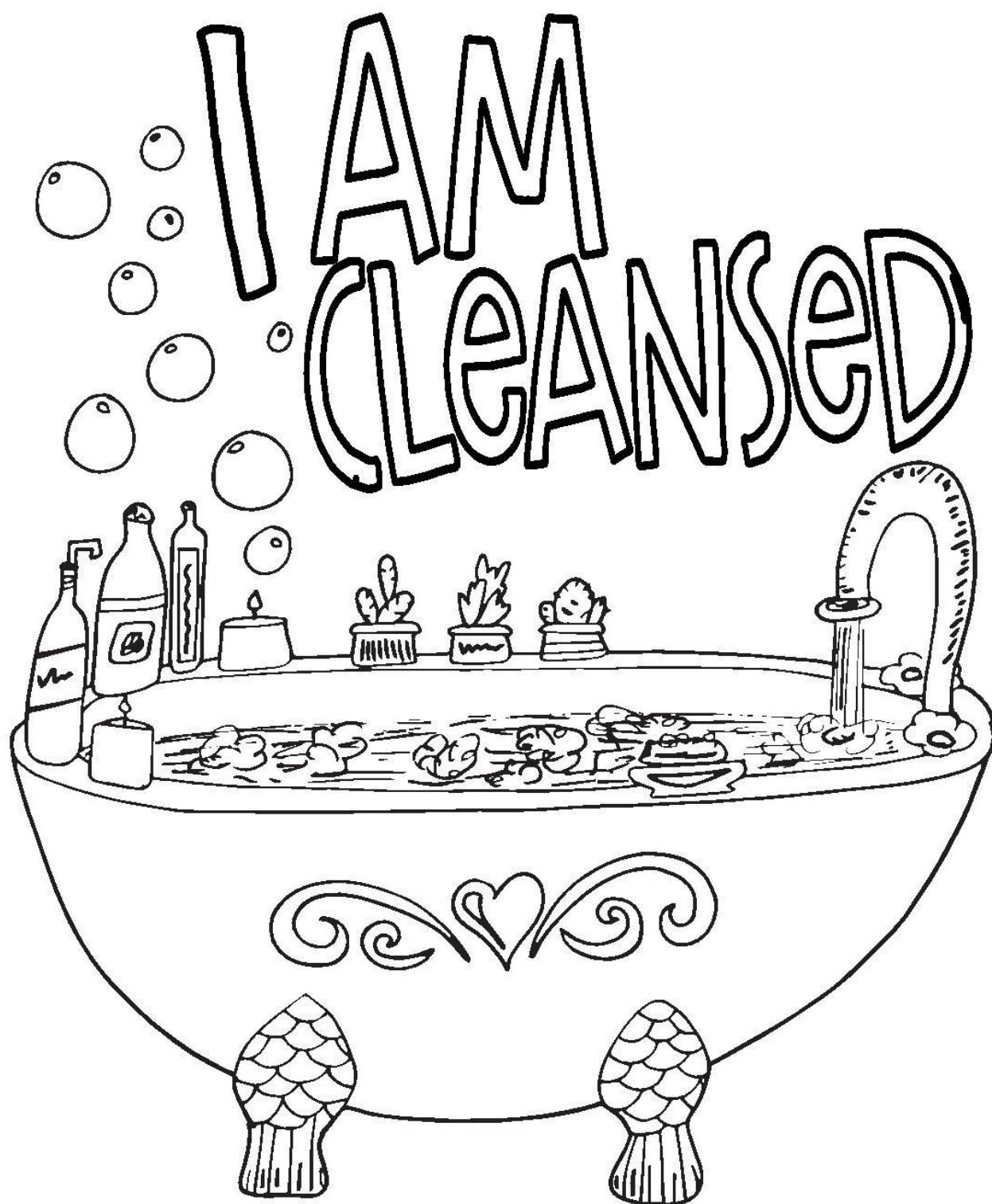
He is there working out His will for my life, and there can be no better place to be!

<u>Duty Rota</u>		Preaching	Door	Vestry Prayer	Communion Prayer
October	22	Andy	Phyllis	Eddie	
	29	Robert	Linda	Linda	
November	5	Archie	Bill	Bill	Donna
	12	Andy	Lindsay	Robert	
	19	Donna	Mark	Jim B.	
	26	Donna	Doreen	Donna	



“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.” - C S Lewis

“Christ literally walked in our shoes.’ – Tim Keller



HOW MUCH MORE, THEN, WILL THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, WHO THROUGH THE ETERNAL SPIRIT OFFERED HIMSELF UNBLEMISHED TO GOD, CLEANSE OUR CONSCIOUS FROM ACTS THAT LEAD TO DEATH, SO THAT WE MAY SERVE THE LIVING GOD!

HEBREWS 9:14

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 today the situation in the Middle East. Please restrain the hand of those who would do evil. Encourage those who work for peace. Protect those who seek to rescue and save. Lord, in your mercy step in and replace hate with love and war with peace.

Amen

Father – I think of the Christians who live in Gaza and Israel. Thank you, Lord, that in you there is no Palestinian and no Jew. Give them opportunities to show that there is an alternative way of living found in you.

Amen

Father, I pray for our country at this time, that the hate and violence which plagues the Middle East might not encourage similar problems in our society.

Amen

I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.

Show me the wonders of your great love, you who save by your right hand those who take refuge in you from their foes.

(Psalm 17:6-7)

Lord God, so often I feel so helpless in the face of things that happen. Remind me Lord that you are almighty God and no 'thing' is beyond your control.

Amen

*By grace, I am redeemed
By grace, I am restored
And now I freely walk
Into the arms of Christ, my Lord
Let praise rise up and overflow
My song resound forever
For grace will see me welcomed home
To walk beside my Saviour*

Father – use me in whatever way you will.

Amen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lgx7cCK29y>

[M](#)

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