

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. 183 18th November 2023

'We are ambassadors for Christ'

Some thoughts.....

Here was me thinking that I had the new AV system all sorted out when I got the message that the folk on zoom last Sunday heard the sound perfectly....but no picture. So, Monday morning down to the church and ran a zoom session – worked perfectly!! Why did it not work last week? I have no idea but it must have been something I had done but been unaware of. All I could do was apologise. Will it work this week? – that’s down to you Mark!!

Sometimes we get things wrong, we say the wrong things, we do the wrong things,- maybe for good reasons and maybe without realising it – so, what do we do? Hold our hands up, apologise, - and learn from it.

Anyway – Mark’s on duty tomorrow while we’re on Skye marking Fin’s birthday. It’s obvious he’s getting older when you look at his presents – (well if you ignore the expensive drinks bottle which makes you think you’re drinking flavoured water when in fact it’s just plain water – don’t fully understand it but its something to do with your sense of smell fooling your sense of taste??) – it was the toolbox that made me think – every man needs a good toolbox. I have several – and over the years they have become filled with tools – some bought for me, some bought myself, some inherited from my dad – they don’t make tools like they used to – no, that’s not fair, some of the new are much better – who would go back to a brace and bit when you can have an electric drill. But we need tools to get the job done and it’s good to have specific tools for specific jobs – we’ve all tried to extract a pozidriv screw with a Philips screwdriver! When we become Christians, God gives us a toolbox filled with the things we will need to be successful – it’s down to us to use these tools, practising with them until they become part of us. What have you got in your toolbox?

Robert
18th November



Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2023

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

W/c 19th November

Springburn Baptist Church,
Glasgow
St Andrew’s Baptist Church
St Mary’s Community
Church, Dundee
Stuart Murdoch (Chaplain -
Strathcarron Hospice)



You can sign up for prayer points via Facebook at

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



2 Timothy 2:15 ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Church This Week

Sunday 19th November

11.00am Worship Service – Donna

To join on zoom just click the link below.

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

Thursday

10.30 Prayer Time – join on zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81347026860?pwd=Tk1RQm5IdDIRTk5tc0dEOUIZVEtDUT09>

Friday

9.00-12.00 Lighthouse

Preachers

November

19th Donna

26th Donna

December

3rd Robert

10th Archie

6.30pm Advent Service in Strathbrock Church

5.30pm Christmas Family Fellowship

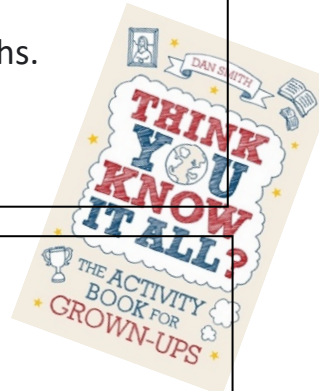


Think you know it all? 40. ANSWERS

The city that never sleeps - New York - is comprised of 5 distinct boroughs.

Can you name the five?

Manhattan, The Bronx, Staten Island, Queens, Brooklyn



Think you know it all? 41. – City Nicknames

Can you identify the cities from their nicknames:

The Big Easy

City of a Thousand Minarets

City of Dreaming Spires

City of the Seven Hills

Motor City

Queen of the Adriatic

Sin City

The Big Apple

The Forbidden City

Windy City

Athens of the North

SHOEBOX APPEAL 2023

This year Shoe Box Sunday will be on **19th November. It is available.**

All donations can be given to Hester or

Lyn

**LAST DAY
TOMORROW!!**

BMS Prayer Guide 2023



This week we pray for a region geographically small, but large in its impact on world affairs. In previous years BMS World Mission partnered mostly with peace and reconciliation organisations, and their work and impact continues today. Currently, BMS strategically prioritises work with people on the move within the country.

SUNDAY 19

Give thanks for the 12 years of partnership between BMS and the Association of Baptist Churches in Israel. Praise God for new churches planted, churches revitalised, Nazareth Evangelical College, and youth and family ministries.

MONDAY 20

Pray for the Association of Baptist Churches in Israel as the partnership with BMS finishes at the end of this year. Pray that they will be able to employ a full-time Executive Director, that their plans will prosper and that the Association and the churches will be a blessing to the nation.

TUESDAY 21

Pray that those who feel they have no influence on the peace process, but live with the daily consequences of decisions made by others, will know that God hears.

WEDNESDAY 22

BMS partner Bethlehem Bible College (BBC) trains people for ministries throughout the Arab-speaking world. Pray that the college would have the staff and facilities it needs.

THURSDAY 23

BMS contributes towards BBC student scholarships. Pray that those who study would grow both in theological knowledge and personal maturity.

FRIDAY 24

Pray for our partner the Shepherd Society in their humanitarian work in and around Bethlehem and with displaced people in Jordan. Pray that the people they work among would receive Christ's love as well as material aid.

SATURDAY 25

Intercede for all who have a role in contributing to peace in the Holy Land. Ask that they will be reminded daily to do their part, no matter what others are doing.

Bible Reading *this week we continue reading the NT through in 92 days*

Day 22	19 th	Matthew 18
Day 23	20 th	John 7-8
Day 24	21 st	John 9:1-41; John 10:1-21
Day 25	22 nd	Luke 10; John 10:22-42
Day 26	23 rd	Luke 12-13
Day 27	24 th	Luke 14-15
Day 28	25 th	Luke 16; Luke 17:1-10



I had an interesting discussion with some folks the other week. We were talking about what we do as churches and how that impacts on the growth of the local church. In our discussion we were talking about the ways folk in our churches have come to faith and/or come to church and almost exclusively the people we could think of had not come as a result of activities we have done or events we have organised or services we have provided, they have come almost despite these things, they have come through personal contact or through other means we had no input into.

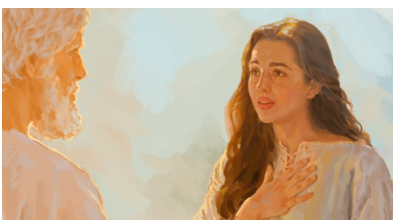
Then a day later this popped up on the fb page for Eddie Ziss's church in The Philippines.



The Trouble with Christmas.

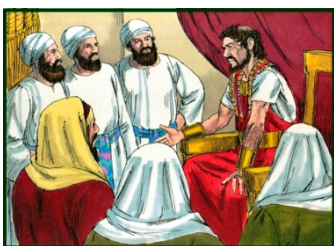
It's always good to have a theme running through our worship services during advent and this year the theme will be 'The trouble with Christmas.' Now before you get your pencil sharpened to write in and complain let me tell you where we're going with this...

On the first Sunday in Advent (Dec 3rd) I'll be looking at the birth of John the Baptist where we see Zechariah - gripped with fear, Luke 1:12 *'When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.'*



On Dec 10th Archie will consider Mary - greatly troubled. Luke 1:29. *'Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.'*

Then on Dec 17th and 24th, Donna will tackle the shepherds-terrified, Luke 2:9. *'An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified'* and Herod – disturbed Mat 2:3 *'When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.'*



Why not get these dates in your diary and plan to be there.

A Thought from Charlie

*“Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as LIVING SACRIFICES, holy and pleasing to God _ this is your spiritual act of worship.”
(Romans 12:1).*

As I was looking through old history magazines, I came across an article about the time of the Aztecs in South America. It spoke of the great temples and cities that they built, but also of the human sacrifices that they offered. Blood....flowing from human beings, because they thought it would appease ‘the gods’. But then also I thought of the Old Testament Tabernacle...and later the Temple, where the blood of animals would be sacrificed according to the Law of God.

But sacrifice is what God asks of us. A living sacrifice. I picture myself on an altar, and as soon as God strikes the match to light the flame of some fiery ordeal, I do what any living sacrifice would do.... Humanly speaking I crawl off the altar in the face of difficulty.

This is exactly the dilemma Christians face. First we are to present our bodies, that is, give them in the Lord’s service as a free will offering. And because our sacrifice is a living one, *it involves choice*. The gift of salvation does not require us to become a living sacrifice. We are not forced onto the altar. We are not coerced to stay on the altar. It is a choice that we make out of love for Jesus.

If presenting yourself as a living sacrifice seems downright distasteful, if you find yourself trying to devise a way of serving God that seems more agreeable to your comforts, remember this: Jesus sacrificed everything for you. Please do not argue with the Lord about how heavily He stokes the fire of your trial. Just get back on the altar.... It's your spiritual worship.

*Last Christmas the family gave us a gift voucher to use at Kinloch Lodge – ‘Lady Claire’s’ – and it had to be used by this Christmas so we decided to head off to the said Kinloch Lodge for a nice lunch on Wednesday. The boys were all at school so, not wanting to leave Kirsten alone, the three of us went. It’s a bit posher than we’re used to but it’s nice to push the boat out especially when someone else is paying! When we were led to our table there were three glasses of bubbly on the table. We hadn’t ordered it and it turned out it was a gift from Lady Claire’s daughter who runs the hotel and knows Kirsten. It pays to know the person in charge! There’s a verse in Revelation that takes this thought to a whole new level - *Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!*”
Knowing the Lord of Heaven brings much more benefits than free bubbly!!*

Duty Rota		Preaching	Door	Vestry Prayer	Communion Prayer
November	19	Donna	Mark	Jim B.	
	26	Donna	Doreen	Donna	
December	3	Robert	Kevin	Mary	Eddie
	10	Archie	Isobel	Jen	
	17	Donna	Phyllis	Eddie	



‘We are ambassadors for Christ’

I AM GOD'S HANDIWORK



FOR WE ARE GOD'S HANDIWORK, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS
TO DO GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD
PREPARED IN ADVANCE FOR US TO DO.
EPHESIANS 2:10

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 – sometimes I get so overwhelmed with things that are going on in the world that I forget that you are in control of my life. I want to say thank you that you will work all things for my good – not just the nice things but the things that I can't see any good in. Lord strengthen my faith.

Amen

Lord – I remember X. who is struggling so badly just now with health issues. Lord she cannot see any end to this and is losing hope. Lord in your goodness and for the sake of those who depend on her please work in her situation for good.

Amen

Father, the political situation in our country just now seems in an awful mess. Please raise up men and women of integrity – honest, trustworthy and able and call them into the political sphere to serve us, to serve you.

Amen

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.. (Ps. 23:6)

Lord God, as war still rages in Ukraine and the Middle East I pray that you would step into the situation and bring an end to hostilities, bringing a just and lasting peace.

Amen

We won't fear the battle We won't fear the night We will walk the valley, with You by our side
You will go before us You will lead the way
We have found a refuge, only You can save
Sing with joy now: our God is for us
The Father's love is a strong and mighty fortress

Raise your voice now, no love is greater
Who can stand against us if our God is for us

Father – give me opportunities to share my faith with others, give me the words to say, the courage to speak them, and leave the results to you. In Jesus' name,

Amen

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

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