

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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The First Week in Advent

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. [...] For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this."

No. 185 2nd December 2023

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'We are ambassadors for Christ'

Some thoughts.....

Well, last week I said we were hoping to worship at Hawkshead Hill Baptist Church on the Sunday and we did. It was good to be there and enjoy worship and fellowship with the folks for whom that is their spiritual home. We knew all the songs – old and modern – and we were led to consider Matthew 25 where Jesus talks about the time when the sheep will be separated from the goats. I learned something new – middle eastern sheep and goats are very similar in looks. Here it's quite easy to spot the difference between sheep and goats but not over there. So, if you ever



have to separate the sheep from the goats – look at their tails. Sheep's tails hang down, goat's point up.

But that's not the only thing I learned. In conversation with the speaker afterwards he told me that he was involved with a mission group that, I must admit, I had never heard of – 'Through Faith Missions' - you can check them out at <https://tfm.uk.endis.com>. He spoke enthusiastically about the work they do and the different ways they partner with churches to spread the gospel in the local area. When I checked out the website it says...
'Through Faith Missions (TFM) works alongside churches and other Christian organisations to train and equip them in outreach and mission. We have a team of staff and trained volunteers who can help plan outreach events, train local members, give support during your missions and offer advice on follow-up and discipleship. Our emphasis is taking the gospel to the people outside of the church, reaching them where they live work and play rather than expecting them to come to us.'
They have never worked in Scotland! Interesting. I have his contact details.

Robert

2nd December

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2023

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

W/c 3rd December

Stranraer Baptist Church
Strathendrick Baptist Church,
Balfron
Stromness Baptist Church,
Orkney
Thurso Baptist Church



baptist union
of scotland

You can sign up for prayer points via Facebook at

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

Church This Week

Sunday 3rd December

11.00am Advent Worship – Robert

To join on zoom just click the link below.

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

6.30pm Joint Advent Service in Strathbrock Church

Thursday

10.30 Prayer Time – join on zoom at

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

Friday

9.00-12.00 Lighthouse

Preachers

December

3rd Robert

10th Archie

17th Donna

24th Donna

31st Robert

6.30pm Advent Service in Strathbrock Church

5.30pm Christmas Family Fellowship

6.00pm Carol Service



Think you know it all? 42. – What does the middle initial(s) stand for in these names and what were they famous for **ANSWERS**

Robert **LOUIS** Stevenson

Dwight **LYMAN** Moody

John **FITZGERALD** Kennedy

Charles **THOMAS** Studd

Homer **JAY** Simpson

Dwight **DAVID** Eisenhower

Joanne **KATHLEEN** Rowling

Clive **STAPLES** Lewis

Daniel **DAY-** Lewis

Niels **HENRICK DAVID** Bohr



Think you know it all? 43 – Know your geography? What are the capitals of these South American countries?

Argentina

Chile

Ecuador

Paraguay

Uruguay

Brazil

Colombia

Guyana

Peru

Venezuela

I've got a glow stick bracelet lying on my desk. Lottie gave Grandma and Grandad one each when we were up there recently. It's lovely – perfectly round and fits my small wrist snugly. There's only one problem – it doesn't glow any longer! But that's what happens with glow sticks – they only have enough 'glow' within them for a short time and then they stop. They need something like the Holy Spirit inside them – like we have as Christians, who keeps us glowing no matter how old or infirm we get...doesn't he?

BMS Prayer Guide 2023



The world is often a broken place. People living in poverty are also commonly facing exclusion, violence, lack of services, political turmoil and natural disasters. BMS aims to improve services and income in areas where neither the government nor economy functions well. In emerging economies, we work with churches to help them respond to poverty in their own locations.

SUNDAY 3

Pray for church communities in Nepal who are tackling poverty as part of their daily witness within the Sanga-Sangai project, run by BMS' local partners.

MONDAY 4

Lift up mission worker Genesis Acaye as he serves communities in northern Uganda through agroforestry projects aimed at sustainable livelihoods. Praise God for the many Ugandan believers who are taking seriously their commitment to their families and the planet.

TUESDAY 5

Pray for access to justice for the poorest communities, and praise God that BMS' legal partners in Uganda and Mozambique are working to make this possible. When conflict is navigated and land rights are established, local communities can develop their land to provide enough income for their households.

WEDNESDAY 6

Pray for the BMS team in Guinea as they work with poor communities to help them discover their God-given gifts, enabling them to thrive in a highly marginalised context.

THURSDAY 7

Pray for fragile countries such as Afghanistan, Chad and Guinea. Problems such as political instability and the exodus of refugees reverse development and heighten poverty.

FRIDAY 8

Lift up regional Baptist bodies and the Baptist Forum for Aid and Development as they respond to major humanitarian disasters. Pray especially for settlement and reconstruction efforts in Ukraine, Türkiye and Syria.

SATURDAY 9

Pray for BMS workers in Afghanistan seeking to improve agricultural livelihoods and access to safe water. Pray that they can share something of our gospel hope through their actions and sensitive conversations.

Bible Reading_this week we continue reading the NT through in 92 days

Day 36	3 rd	Matthew 23; Luke 20-21
Day 37	4 th	Mark 13
Day 38	5 th	Matthew 24
Day 39	6 th	Matthew 25
Day 40	7 th	Matthew 26; Mark 14
Day 41	8 th	Luke 22; John 13
Day 42	9 th	John 14-17



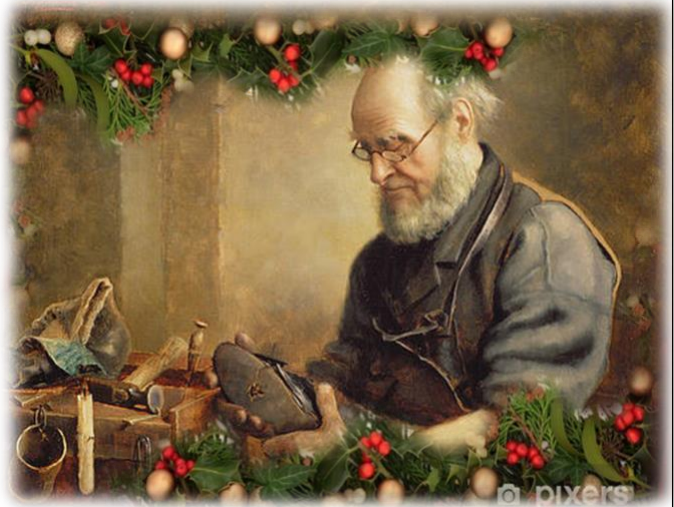
Recognizing Jesus

One of my favourite Christmas stories is about the old shoe cobbler who dreamed one Christmas Eve that Jesus would come to visit him the next day. The dream was so real that he was convinced it would come true.

So the next morning he got up and went out and cut green boughs and decorated his little cobbler shop and got all ready for Jesus to come and visit. He was so sure that Jesus was going to come that he just sat down and waited for Him.

The hours passed and Jesus didn't come. But an old man came. He came inside for a moment to get warm out of the winter cold. As the cobbler talked with him he noticed the holes in the old

man's shoes, so he reached up on the shelf and got him a new pair of shoes. He made sure they fit and that his socks were dry and sent him on his way.



Still he waited. But Jesus didn't come. An old woman came. A woman who hadn't had a decent meal in two days. They sat and visited for a while, and then he prepared some food for her to eat. He gave her a nourishing meal and sent her on her way. Then he sat down again to wait for Jesus. But Jesus still didn't come.

Then he heard a little boy crying out in front of his shop. He went out and talked with the boy, and discovered that the boy had been separated from his parents and didn't know how to get home. So he put on his coat, took the boy by the hand and led him home.

When he came back to his little shoe shop it was almost dark and the streets were emptied of people. And then in a moment of despair he lifted his voice to heaven and said, "Oh Lord Jesus, why didn't you come?"

And then in a moment of silence he seemed to hear a voice saying, "Oh shoe cobbler, lift up your heart. I kept my word. Three times I knocked at your friendly door. Three times my shadow fell across your floor. I was the man with the bruised feet. I was the woman you gave to eat. I was the boy on the homeless street."

Jesus had come. The cobbler just didn't realize it.

– by Melvin Newland



A Thought from Charlie

“If you Love me, you will obey my commands” (John 14:15)

The husband walked through the door at 5:50 PM and noticed that his dinner was not on the table. After throwing his coat over a chair, he muttered to his wife, who was in the kitchen: “If you love me, you will have dinner ready at 6:00pm when I come home”. Pressured by his intimidating tone of voice, she quickly rushed the casserole and half cooked vegetables to the table. She glanced at her watch, relieved to be serving dinner on time.

“If you love me, you will obey” can sound like a threat. When our motivation to obey becomes an oppressive pressure to do the right thing, to do what is expected of us as Christians, then it breeds serious problems.

Obedience that is only seen as rule keeping ruins the love relationship between us and the Lord. Why? Even though the rules may be biblically based, we will end up obeying them rather than God. Concern with the letter of the law will cause us to lose the spirit of love.

The Lord's words in John 14:15 are not a threat. His words are to be read as a promise. “If you love me, that is, if you make me the centre of your thoughts and do your most ordinary duties with an eye to my glory, then you can't help but obey, for it will be ‘the genuine desire of your heart’.

When we view the Lord’s call to obey as a promise, we wouldn't so much follow his rules as we will follow his voice.

“Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” (John 13:17).

Our prayer should be “LORD, may I rush to obey you not so much because it is the right thing to do, but because I long to please you with all my heart”.

Shoe Boxes – ‘Thank you.’ From Lyn.

Hi Robert

Could you add a thank you to the newsletter please.

A great big thank you to everyone who took part in our shoe box appeal. An amazing total of 57 shoe boxes were collected this year for Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child. I’ll let you all know where the boxes have been sent to soon.

Lyn

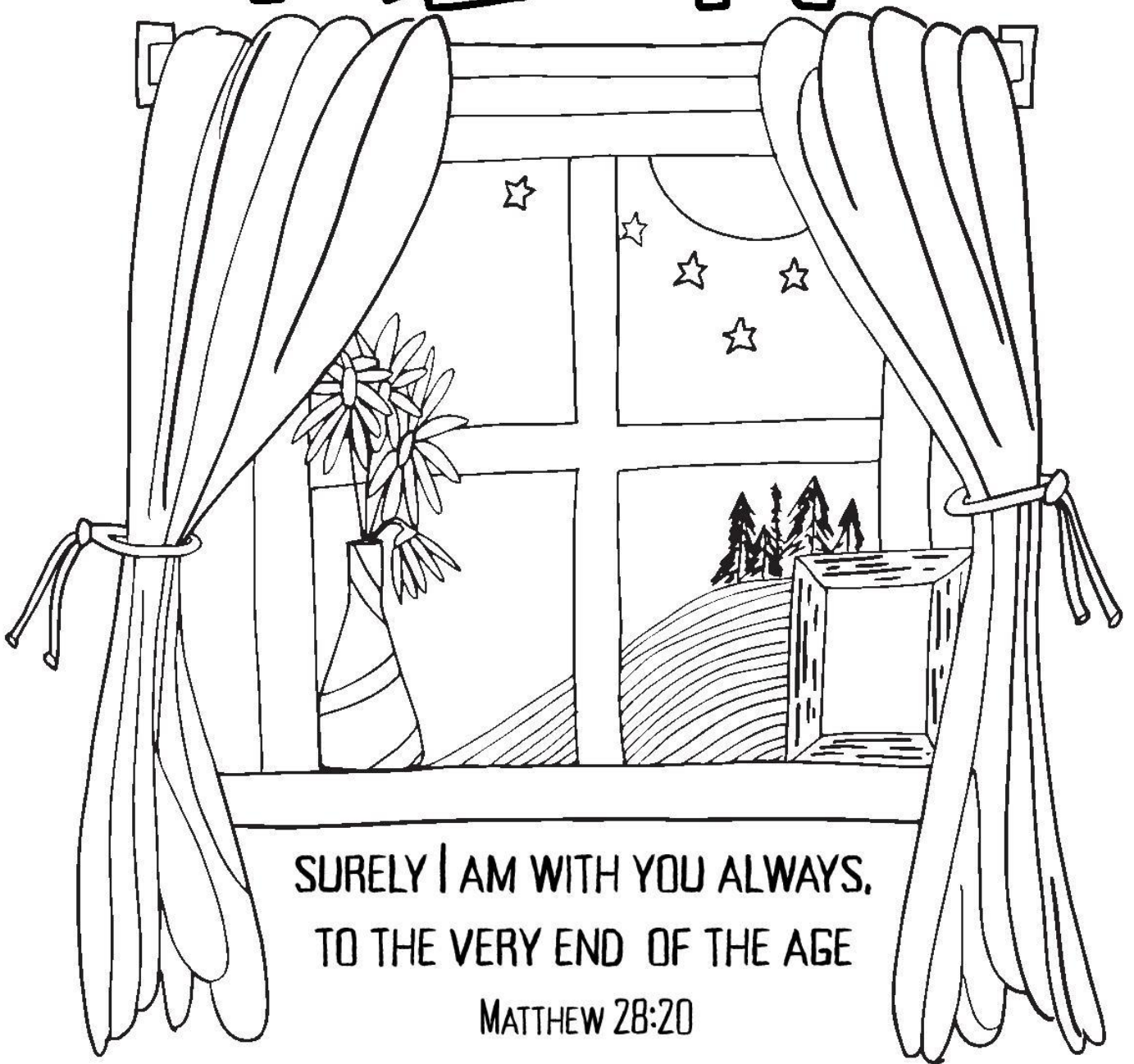


<u>Duty Rota</u>		Preaching	Door	Vestry Prayer	Communion Prayer
December	3	Robert	Kevin	Mary	Eddie
	10	Archie	Isobel	Jen	
	17	Donna	Phyllis	Eddie	
	24	Donna	Linda	Linda	
	31	Robert	Bill	Bill	

‘We are ambassadors for Christ’



I AM NEVER ALONE



SURELY I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS,
TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE
MATTHEW 28:20

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 we move into the Advent season help me to keep at the front of mind why Jesus came into this sick world.
Amen

Lord – as hostages arrive home in Israel and prisoners are freed in return I remember all those who are suffering as a result of the conflict. Lord, change hearts as only you can. Protect the Christians in Gaza and Israel and use them for good.
Amen

Father, I think of those who are my neighbours. Help me to be the good neighbour who is there for them in times of need. Give me opportunities to show the love of Jesus to them and share my faith in word and deed.
Amen

*Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Saviour,
and my hope is in you all day long.
(Ps. 25:4-5))*

Lord God, I remember those who struggle financially at this time. Give them wisdom to spend wisely, avoid expensive pay day lenders, and remind them that love is shown in the way we deal with people and not in the amount we spend.
Amen

See Him in Jerusalem
Walking where the crowds are
Once these streets had sung to Him
Now they cry for murder
Such a frail and lonely man
Holding up the heavy cross
See Him walking in Jerusalem
On the road to save us

Father – I want to thank you for your love shown when Jesus came into this world at Christmas – and died on the cross 30 years later. Greater love has never been shown.
Amen

<https://youtu.be/wX4ZCHRksBA>

*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*