

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 Second Week in Advent

"A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD ; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

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No. 186 9th December 2023

'We are ambassadors for Christ'

Some thoughts.....

I was sitting at my computer last Sunday morning and had been thinking about the service later in the day – going over my notes and thinking about folk who would be at the service – then I turned to this newsletter so that my mind would be thinking about what should go in when my phone poned – sorry pinged – I don't think it pongs!! Any way, it was a message from Linda... 'Robert, do you want me to come down early with a shovel?' Now I've no idea what the weather will be like when you're reading this but last Sunday we still had snow and the church path was still covered so..... 'Thanks Linda – I'll bring my snow shovel down as well...'

Sunday morning – Linda was true to her word and she and Archie started clearing the path while I got ready for the service, a wee while later Doreen arrived – 'Are there any more shovels?' 'You can have mine.' – so she got stuck in. Not long after that Mark was involved too.

Round about the same time Kevin arrived for door duty – feeling a bit more confident after his recent troubles and wanting to be there to play his part. A bit later Mary arrived – brought by Lyn – and as she was on vestry prayer duty I collared her and Kevin in the foyer and she led us beautifully in prayer. As I was preaching, Mark was on the sound system and tried to make sure that everyone could hear and see what they should. Donna took the kids out during the sermon and when it came to communion Eddie led us in prayer and distributed the bread and wine. After the service we had refreshments which Jen had prepared and laid out earlier – Janet was right in there pouring out tea and coffee and someone – didn't notice who – had brought through a table for those who prefer to sit for their tea. Bill and others put the chairs at the table. In the evening it was the joint Advent Service up in Strathbrock Church and there were about 8 folk connected with this church there – the most for a long time.

OK I know there's nothing very exciting here but it was church beautifully in action, each person playing their part, doing their thing, using their gift. Church is a family! Be part of it!

Robert

9th December 2023

Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2023

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

W/c 10th December

Tillicoultry Baptist Church
Tiree Baptist Church
Vale of Leven Baptist Church
Viewfield Baptist Church,
Dunfermline



baptist union
of scotland

You can sign up for prayer points via Facebook at

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

1 Peter 4: ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Church This Week

Sunday 10th December

11.00am Advent Worship – Archie

To join on zoom just click the link below.

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

5.30pm Christmas Family Fellowship

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

10th Archie

5.30pm Christmas Family Fellowship

17th Donna

6.00pm Carol Service

24th Donna

31st Robert – a praise service to end the year!

January 2024

7th Robert



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

Argentina **Buenos Aires**

Brazil **Brazilia**

Chile **Santiago**

Colombia **Bogota**

Ecuador **Quito**

Guyana **Georgetown**

Paraguay **Asuncion**

Peru **Lima**

Uruguay **Montevideo**

Venezuela **Caracas**



Think you know it all? 44 – Parts of Speech

Think back to primary school and identify these parts of speech.

Example

Part of Speech

to be

dog

quickly

we

beautiful

in

and

Cheers!

I wrote a letter to the seven churches while I was on the island of Patmos.

Who am I? (Revelation 1:9-11)

I was a Jew married to Priscilla who Paul found in Corinth.

Who am I? (Acts 18:1-2)

We were sent out from the church at Antioch to tell people about Jesus.

Who were we? (Acts 13:1-3)

BMS Prayer Guide 2023

BMS seeks to provide services to some of the world's poorest communities, where healthcare is always a huge need. The missionary medic has long been part of BMS' history and remains a critical aspect of outreach in some parts of the world.



SUNDAY 10

Pray for BMS mission worker Kalbassou Doubassou as he leads Guinebor II Hospital in Chad. Pray especially for Kalbassou in his work as a surgeon at the hospital.

MONDAY 11

Lift up the mental health work delivered by BMS partners in Afghanistan. After decades of conflict, many people in Afghanistan have witnessed extreme violence and are psychologically damaged by their experiences of loss and fear.

TUESDAY 12

Pray for BMS surgeons Mark and Andrea Hotchkin delivering vital medical services at a government-owned hospital in the isolated north of Chad. Pray for opportunities to share the love of Christ in word and deed in a region that is often marked by chronic insecurity.

WEDNESDAY 13

BMS partners in Nepal provide health education alongside improved water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Pray for healthier communities and a chance to share Christ's love.

THURSDAY 14

Lift up BMS worker Claire Bedford as she contributes to the leadership of Guinebor II Hospital in Chad and seeks to share the love of Christ within the pharmacy department.

FRIDAY 15

Pray for continued grace, energy and compassion for BMS worker Judy Cook as she brings respite care to families living with severely disabled children in Thailand.

SATURDAY 16

BMS partners in Afghanistan help women in remote communities to give birth safely. Pray for good planning for mothers, strong maternal care awareness for fathers and clear access to medical services during a snow-bound winter.

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

Day 43	10 th	Matthew 27; Mark 15
Day 44	11 th	Luke 23; John 18-19
Day 45	12 th	Matthew 28; Mark 16
Day 46	13 th	Luke 24; John 20-21
Day 47	14 th	Acts 1-3
Day 48	15 th	Acts 4-6
Day 49	16 th	Acts 7-8



Dear brothers and sisters at Broxburn Baptist Church,

We wanted to take this opportunity to personally thank you for standing with us through what has been one of the hardest years of our lives. We have felt your prayers love and support throughout the year. We also wanted to give testimony to what a great God we have. Emmanuel God with us, not just at our side, but through his spirit in us, guiding and leading us at all times of our lives. His greatest passion is to be in the midst of our lives, with us, loving us.

One of the highlights this year has been to see a number of believers be baptised. The number may be few, but we rejoice with heaven to know that these new believers are serious about being disciples of Jesus.

We thank you once again for all the ways you have blessed us and we ask Gods richest blessing on you now at this special time and throughout 2024.

Peace and joy this Christmas and throughout 2024
With love and best wishes

From

Andrea and Ian

BMS World Mission

***Andrea and Ian are our BMS Link Missionaries.*



At the end of October we changed our morning worship service to allow more time for praise and worship and sang some of your favourite worship songs. We will be doing something similar at 11.00am on the last Sunday of the year – 31st December. If there is a hymn or worship song that you would wish to be included, please let me know by Sunday 17th.

Thanks

Robert

The Romans Course

We have 3 sessions of The Romans Course left and we will do this in 2024 at 6.00pm on the following dates: 21st and 28th January and 4th February. If you haven't been at any of the previous sessions you would still get something out of these last 3 sessions so, if you're interested – or just curious – please plan to come along. Refreshments provided from 5.50pm.

What did God do to cure Moses' headache?*He gave him two tablets.*

A Thought from Charlie

“Elijah was afraid and fled for his life.” (1Kings 19:3)

The prophet Elijah lost his perspective. He went from the mountain top victory...to the valley of fear in an instant. One day, 400 false prophets came against him. They decided to have a contest to see whose God was real. 400 against one Prophet of the true God. It turned out not to be much of a fair fight. The false prophets prayed and prayed to their God, but no fire fell on the sacrifice...they cut themselves, but no fire fell on the Altar!

Finally, Elijah got fed up with it; he said “My turn”. So he soaked the altar and the wood with water. He wanted to make sure they knew that it was something only the One True God could accomplish. And when Elijah prayed, God sent fire down from heaven, and it not only consumed the sacrifice, but also the stone altar. Those false prophets, all 400 of them were killed...It was a great victory.

When Wicked Queen Jezebel heard what had happened to her 400 false prophets, she was furious and sent word to Elijah saying: “ if I don't kill you myself by this time tomorrow, then may the gods kill me”. For some reason, Elijah got scared to death. He took off running, and he ran and ran and ran. Finally, he ended up hiding. He was so discouraged, so afraid and depressed. He said, “LORD, I don't even want to live anymore. Just take me on home....I am done.”

Think about it: He had just seen God bring down fire from heaven. He had just seen God supernaturally protect him from 400 men. Now, he was allowing one angry women to cause him to want to give up and quit.

What's my point? *Elijah Lost perspective.* He had just seen God do a supernatural miracle. But somehow, he started magnifying his problem rather than magnifying his God. He got more focused on the Queen and her threat, than on God and His supernatural power. He started worrying. Before long, He allowed fear to come in, followed closely by depression and defeat.

I wonder how many times we do just what Elijah did?

We've seen God do great things in our past. We've seen Him bring us through tough times. But then we face an adversity that we think is too much for us to cope with, and we think: “This is never going to change! I'm never going to get out of this problem, I'm never going to defeat this enemy, it's just too big!”

STOP RIGHT THERE, IT IS TIME FOR US TO CHANGE OUR PERSPECTIVE! The same God that brought us through the last time is still standing by our side, ready to bring us through this time! The same God that helped us overcome in the past, the same God that gave us the victory... HE Has NOT lost His power.

He is saying: “If you get a new perspective and believe I'm in control, believe I'm bigger than that problem, and believe that I am working behind the scenes, then you will have peace in the midst of the storm and you will see my goodness, and you will see my power once again, just like you've seen it in the past”.

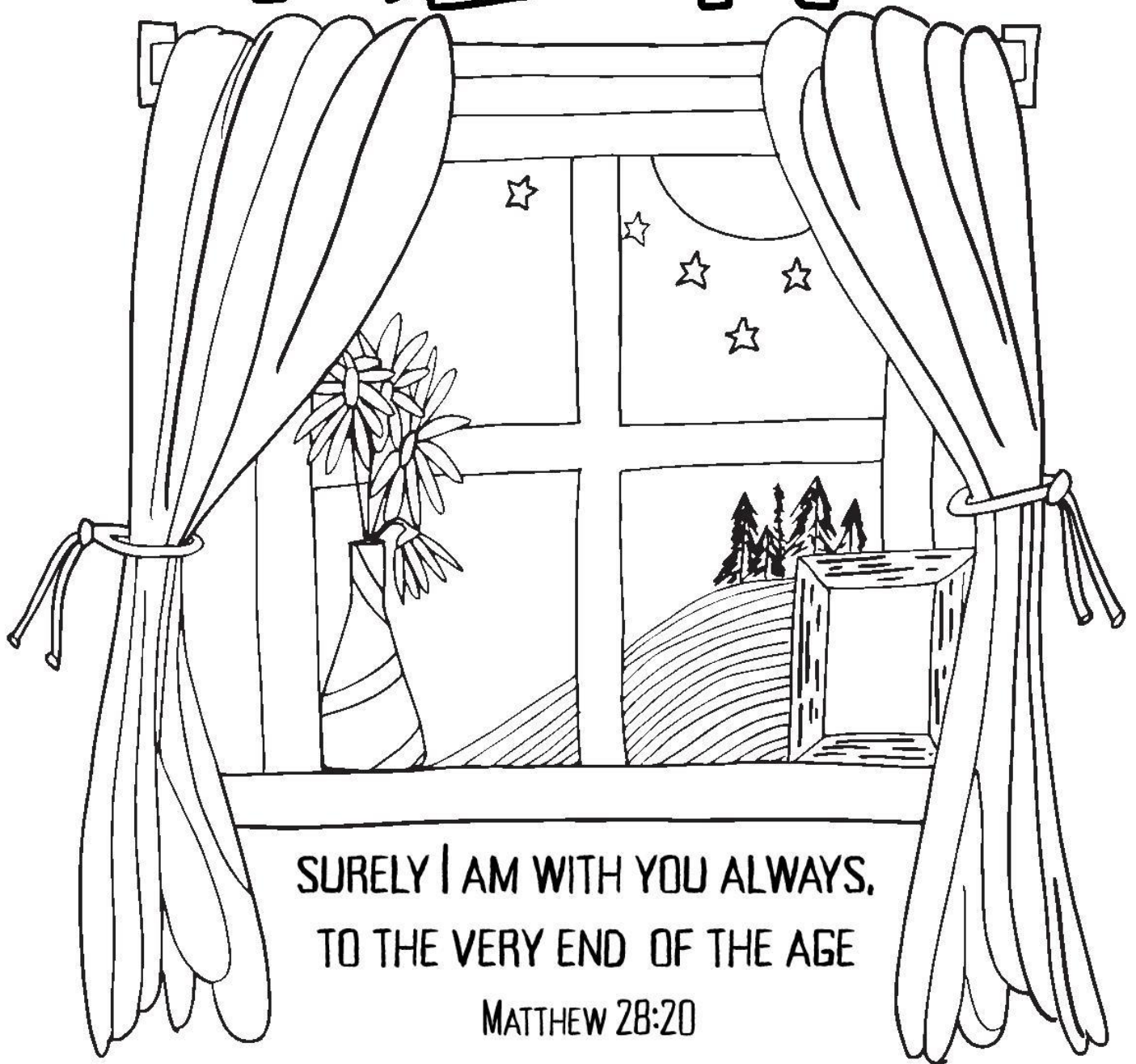
TRUST AND OBEY!

Duty Rota Preaching Door Vestry Prayer

December	10	Archie	Isobel	Jen
	17	Donna	Phyllis	Eddie
	24	Donna	Linda	Linda
	31	Robert	Bill	Bill



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 – many people will celebrate Christmas and not give a thought to the baby in the manger. Lord, confront them with the truth.

Amen

Father – give wisdom to those who are wrestling with the problems of bringing peace to Israel and Gaza. May your will be done.

Amen

Father, I remember the work of Bethany over this Christmas period as they seek to provide shelter for those who are homeless. Help them to raise enough money to allow them to do what they plan. <https://www.bethanychristiantrust.com>

Amen

Lord God, bless the work of each church in our town as they seek to reach out to share the good news of the gospel at this Christmas time.

Amen

Father – I pray for those who get this newsletter but do not know you personally. Speak to them, reveal yourself to them, help them to come to know your love for them.

Amen

Lord – I remember those who will find Christmas difficult this year as they remember loved ones lost. Lord, in your goodness, give them peace.

Amen

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin

(Ps. 51:1-2)

Amen

Holy child, so far from home,
all the lost to seek and save;
to what dreadful death You come
to what dark and silent grave!

Holy child, before whose name
powers of darkness faint and fall;
conquered death and sin and shame -
Jesus Christ is Lord of all

<https://youtu.be/g4ntaO2CeyI>

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