

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 Third Week in Advent

"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defence; he has become my salvation." With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say: "Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

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No. 187 16th December 2023

'We are ambassadors for Christ'

Some thoughts.....

It's getting near Christmas so I really should be writing something Christmassy. ...well let me share what I shared with the young folk (Lucas will be miffed if I say kids!!) at the start of Advent.

We were thinking about the church Christmas tree – and Christmas trees in general and talking about what they could see on the tree – baubles, lights, a star, - we even had 'a coffin' until we realised it was a lantern! We spoke about the Christmas tree they have at home and what part they played in decorating it. Then we had a question for them to think about – 'What is the most important part of the Christmas Tree?' Well, we had various answers – the star? Pretty important because it led the Wise Men to Bethlehem but, no, not the most important! The tree itself? Well, it certainly is necessary but still not the most important! The baubles – well just NO. The lights – after all Jesus is the Light of the World so that's pretty important – no, sorry. not the most important part of the tree! I don't think there was anything else so.....we got down on the floor and looked under the tree, ignoring the baubles and lights and star and...coffin.

Then it clicked - the most important part is the stand the tree is supported by. After all, if there was no stand the tree with all its decorations would just be a heap on the floor. The tree has to have a solid base to it. We then went on to think about what Christmas means for many folk – and for many there is no solid base, no faith, no Jesus – just the baubles and lights...and probably a fairy at the top of the tree. To change the metaphor, it's just froth with no substance to it.

So, the question is, 'What is the base for your Christmas this year?' Is it the baby born in the manger – or is it the fun and enjoyment which has disappeared not long after Boxing Day?

Robert

16th December 2023

Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2023

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

W/c 17th December

Westray Baptist Church,
Orkney
Westwood Baptist Church,
East Kilbride
Whytes Causeway Baptist
Church, Kirkcaldy



You can sign up for prayer points via Facebook at <https://scottishbaptist.org.uk/prayer/>



Luke 2:10-12 ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Church This Week

Sunday 17th December

11.00am Advent Worship – Donna

To join on zoom just click the link below.

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

2.30pm Service at Holmesview

6.00pm Carols by candlelight

Thursday - there will be no zoom prayer for the next 2 weeks at least. Please use the Prayer Wall to focus your prayers until we meet again on zoom.

Friday

9.00-12.00 Lighthouse

Preachers

December

17th Donna

6.00pm Carol Service

24th Donna

31st Robert – Praise Service

January

7th Robert



Think you know it all? 44 – Parts of Speech

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

<u>Example</u>	<u>Part of Speech</u>
to be	verb
dog	noun
quickly	adverb
we	pronoun
beautiful	adjective
in	preposition
and	conjunction
Cheers!	interjection



Think you know it all? 45

Can you name the 10 smallest sovereign countries in the world by area?

<u>Area (km²)</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Area (km²)</u>	<u>Country</u>
316		61	
300		26	
261		21	
181		2	
160		1	

Who am I? **ANSWERS from last week**

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

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

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

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

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

Who were we? (Acts 13:1-3) **PAUL and BARNABAS**

BMS Prayer Guide 2023



Bangladesh's rich cultural heritage has been influenced by Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism over the centuries. It also has the third-largest Muslim population in the world. BMS World Mission has been privileged to work collaboratively in Bangladesh for many years. Join us in praying for the ongoing work in this beautiful country.

SUNDAY 17

Give thanks for the children who benefit from the 32 preschools supported by BMS. Pray that the development of parent-teacher meetings will have a positive impact on family wellbeing.

MONDAY 18

Give thanks for BMS workers Louise and Peter Lynch, and for the support they give to BMS partner the Christian College of Theology in Bangladesh. Pray that the graduates will use their learning to enhance the Church's witness.

TUESDAY 19

Pray for BMS-supported worker Barnabas – for strength and health as he travels to co-ordinate the work of evangelists all over the country.

WEDNESDAY 20

Pray for BMS-supported workers Bina and James as they reach out to communities with the gospel message and help run education projects in Sreemangal.

THURSDAY 21

Pray for the leadership of the Bangladesh Baptist Church Sangha (BBCS) – for God's peace and guidance in their efforts to plant ten new churches by 2025.

FRIDAY 22

Give thanks that men and women are responding to the call to go and witness for Christ in their communities. Pray that BBCS will establish a mission training centre to equip people to be sent to new areas.

SATURDAY 23

Give thanks for the vision of BBCS to train and ordain 20 women leaders in the next ten years. Pray for a good pathway to identify, train, send and support these amazing women.



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

Day 50	17 th	Acts 9-10
Day 51	18 th	Acts 11-12
Day 52	19 th	Acts 13-14
Day 53	20 th	James 1-5
Day 54	21 st	Acts 15-16
Day 55	22 nd	Galatians 1-3
Day 56	23 rd	Galatians 4-6



Your *Days of Plenty* thank you certificate

Dear Broxburn Baptist

Thank you so much for all you do to advocate for BMS World Mission,.

Thank you in particular for hosting a *Days of Plenty* service this harvest, raising an amazing £100 for families like Barbara's.

We're absolutely thrilled to share that, overall, the appeal has raised more than £120,000 for farmers in Uganda. That stunning total is only possible thanks to your servant-hearted fellowship and their hearts for mission.

To show our gratitude, we've created a special certificate for you to print out and share with your congregation, so you can remind them of the total they raised and the life-changing work it's making possible right now.

As we give thanks for you, we also wanted to share a message from Barbara about how your kindness has impacted her.

"The onions I planted did really well, and the groundnuts and sesame too... The children are healthy and my elder girl passed her S4 school year. Because I've experienced a lot of illness this year, it's been hard to keep all the children in school. Since getting better, I'm now planting beans. The seeds I received meant I was able to grow onions and soybeans and they helped me with school fees, and I also gained knowledge.

"From the demonstration plot that was created at church, the church was able to use the food and spend the money we raised. We also have a savings group.

"I would like to thank the church so much for praying and I would like them to keep praying for my health and for the school fees." — Barbara

Thank you for blessing Barbara with crops and seeds that have allowed her to look after her family even through ill health. We hope the visual reminder of the certificate continues to encourage Broxburn Baptist Church through this Advent season and into the new year. Every blessing,

The Church Engagement Team



A Thought from Charlie

"For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality."

(1 Corinthians 15:53)

The Apostle Paul wrote wistfully about the resurrection body, and my sentiments are His. I, too am growing in my earthly tent. Age, illness, or disability has a way of making us look for a trade in. How we will be closed with the imperishable, I do not know. Perhaps C. H Spurgeon explained it best : "At present we wear our bodies on the outside and our souls on the inside. But in heaven, we shall wear our bodies, and the inside and our souls on the outside".

Oh, to wear our souls on the outside. Perhaps that's what the Bible means when it says that one day we will be clothed in righteousness. We will wear a right standing with God on the outside as though it were a beautiful garment. Our bright shining raiment will be all glorious, reflecting on the outside, the life of Christ cultivated on the inside.

While we wait to be clothed with the imperishable for eternity, we can 'put on' the advice of Colossians 3:12 "Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness., humility, gentleness and patience."

The best way to guarantee your body, clothed with the righteousness in heaven, is to clothe ourselves with godly attributes down here on earth.

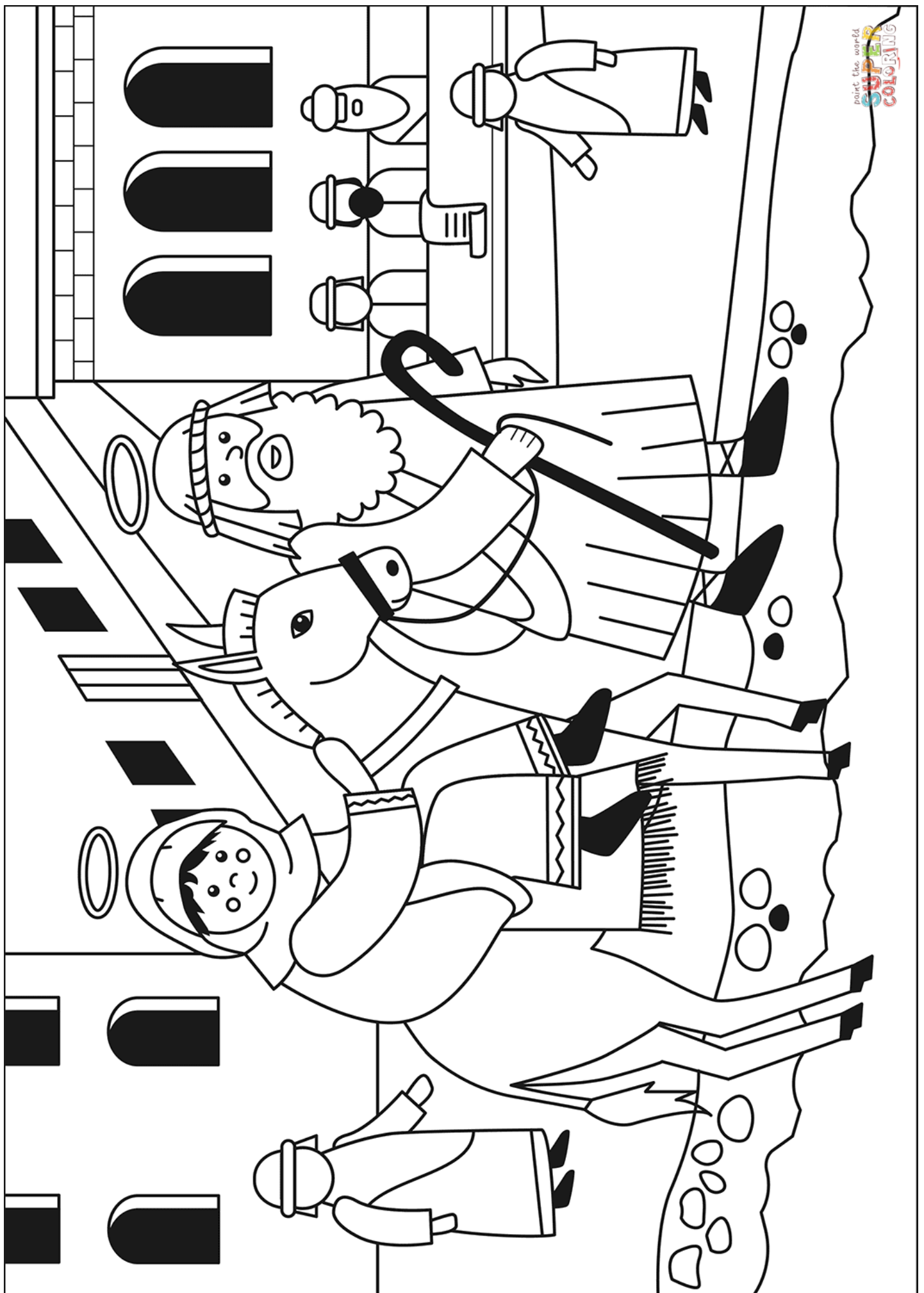
Think about it!

Missing Money

Three siblings club together to buy their parents a Christmas present. They hand over the £30 for the present and leave the shop. The manager remembers the offer of £5 off everything bought that day, so sends a shop assistant after the siblings with their £5 refund. On his way to the siblings, the assistant reasons that £5 would be difficult to split between three, so he keeps £2 and returns £1 to each of the siblings. Now, each sibling paid £10 and received £1 back, making the total they paid £27. The bellboy has £2, taking the total to £29. Where's the missing £1?

<u>Duty Rota</u>		<u>Preaching</u>	<u>Door</u>	<u>Vestry Prayer</u>	<u>Communion Prayer</u>
December	17	Donna	Phyllis	Eddie	
	24	Donna	Linda	Linda	
	31	Robert	Bill	Bill	
January	7	Robert	Lindsay	Jim B.	Bill
	14	Archie	Mark	Donna	





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

Over the next 2 weeks or so when there is no Zoom Prayer Time on Thursday mornings, please use your own prayer time to remember...

1. Yourself- is your heart right with God? Are there things you need help with, things you need to get sorted out? Are there failures which have become ingrained in your life so that you no longer notice them? Are you being all that God wants and needs you to be? Is your life speaking to those you are in contact with? Are you being the light and salt Jesus spoke about?
2. Those close to you - friends, family, church.
3. Folk who are having particular problems just now such as long-term illness, which is defying the medics, family relationship breakdowns, crisis of faith, loneliness. Folk who are hiding things going on in their lives.
4. Those in our country suffering with mental health issues, those living on the bread line, struggling to pay their bills, those suffering addiction problems, or unemployment.
5. The folk who live around you - the folk you meet in the community as you are shopping, walking the dog or whatever.
6. Our local politicians and councillors, our Scottish parliament and the MSPs of every party. The government in Westminster and the issues they are grappling with.
7. The ongoing situation in Ukraine where people are still dying daily. Death and destruction with no end in sight.
8. The war in Israel/Gaza. Pray for wisdom for those who have influence. Pray for a just peace which allows people of good will to live side by side in friendship. Pray for a removal of the extremists on both sides. Pray that God, in his goodness, will intervene to bring an end to the hate. Pray for the Christians living in Gaza and Israel that they might be influential in spreading the good news of the gospel which recognises neither Jew nor Palestinian, male nor female rich nor poor but all as sinners needing the love and forgiveness which knowing Jesus brings.

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