

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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## Christmas

"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."

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No. 189 30<sup>th</sup> December 2023

*'We are ambassadors for Christ'*

## Some thoughts.....

*The last week of 2023 – how was it for you? For us it was a busy week – nice but busy. On Sunday we worshipped at Culloden Baptist at their family service learning a new Christmas song (I'll play it tomorrow) and wondering about the several hundred Old Testament prophecies which Jesus fulfilled.*

*Christmas Day was an early start with the kids and a lovely day celebrating Jesus brth.*

*Boxing Day – (would have been my dad's 110<sup>th</sup> birthday) – a quiet morning then an afternoon of food and fun with more family – Jackie asked me to pass on her greetings to her church family at Broxburn and thanks for all their prayers.*

*Wednesday – we had planned to travel home and give Tim and Fiona a bit of time to themselves, but the weather meant that the A9 was closed – glad we listened to Fiona's advice and didn't try or we might have been one of those who spent 6 hours stuck in the snow. As it was the journey down on Thursday was a bit of a trial as the queues approaching Ballinluig were over an hour long due to floodwater.*

*And now we're in that in-between time, between Christmas and New Year. A time to relax, to look back over the year past with whatever it held, and to consider what the new year might hold. Maybe make a resolution or two? Maybe not – I'm not good at NY Resolutions.*

*Maybe the time to reflect on our relationship with God, and, if we are Christians – on our commitment to discipleship, our support of our local church and our witness in the way we live and interact with others.*

*Robert*

*30<sup>th</sup> December 2023*

The staff at the Baptist Union of Scotland have sent Christmas greetings....

**Luke 9:23-24** <sup>23</sup> Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

## **Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2024**

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

### W/c 1st January

Abbeyhill Baptist Church  
Aberdeen Christian Fellowship  
Adelaide Place Baptist Church  
Airdrie Baptist Church



You can sign up for prayer points via Facebook at

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



## Church This Week

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December

**11.00am Praise Service - Robert**

To join on zoom just click the link below.

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

## Preachers

December

31<sup>st</sup> Robert - Praise Service

January

7<sup>th</sup> Robert

14<sup>th</sup> Archie 5.30pm Family Fellowship

21<sup>st</sup> Donna 6.00pm The Romans Course 8

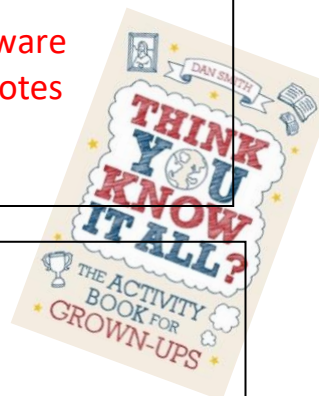
28<sup>th</sup> Donna 6.00pm The Romans Course 9



## Think you know it all? 46 – Generic Product Names **ANSWERS**

What are the brand names that have come to mean the same as...

Ballpoint pen	<b>Biro</b>	Clear sticky tape	<b>Sellotape</b>
Flying disc used as toy	<b>Frisbee</b>	Hook and loop fastening	<b>Velcro</b>
Luxury Recreational vehicle	<b>Winnebago</b>	Plastic storage containers	<b>Tupperware</b>
Raincoat	<b>Macintosh</b>	Self-adhesive notelets	<b>Post-It notes</b>
Vacuum cleaner	<b>Hoover</b>	Whirlpool bath	<b>Jacuzzi</b>



## Think you know it all? 47 – The Plagues of Egypt

The Bible talks about 10 plagues which befell Egypt. Can you name them?

1	6
2	7
3	8
4	9
5	10

## Christmas Greetings

**To Broxburn Baptist Fellowship**

*Love and Prayers.*

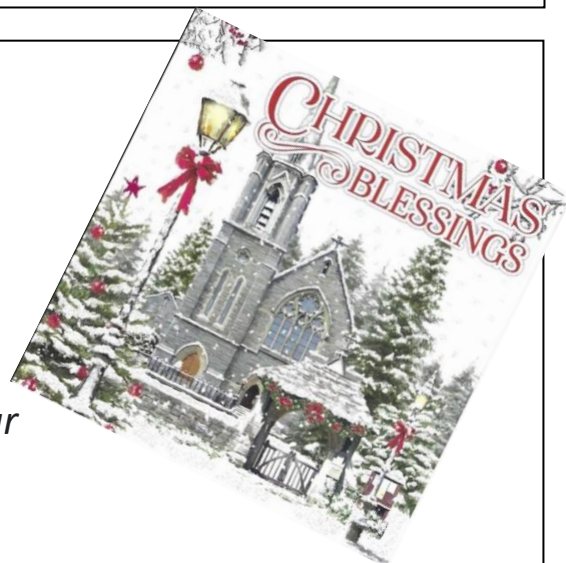
A special prayer for peace, hope and joy at  
Christmastime.

Blessings at Christmas

*With every blessing for Christmas and the year  
ahead*

*From*

***Bill & Grace Murdoch***



## **BMS Prayer Guide 2024**



*In many parts of the world, girls and women are denied access to education, employment, land, property, finances, status and respect. All too often, they are victims of violence. But the value Jesus placed on women was radically counter-cultural. BMS World Mission is committed to promoting the idea that women are inherently valuable, made in the image of God.*

### **SUNDAY 31**

*Pray that gender equality becomes the air we breathe. Lift up BMS partners as they contextualise the BMS Gender Charter. Pray that they will be open to considering their own gender theology to help overcome the fractures in society.*

### **MONDAY 1**

*Astha Shrestha works with Human Development and Community Services (HDCS), BMS' partner in Nepal. Pray for Astha as she promotes maternal and child health, encourages educational attainment for girls, and implements empowerment projects for women and girls.*

### **TUESDAY 2**

*Celebrate individuals with special needs who add value to our communities, remembering their intrinsic worth. Pray for the centre for children with learning differences run by the Lebanese Society for Education and Social Development (LSESD) now known as Thimar (see p19).*

### **WEDNESDAY 3**

*KISC EQUIP, BMS' partner in Nepal, is introducing safeguarding and gender-based violence training for teachers. Lift up their work towards reducing child abuse and improving girls' attendance and retention in schools.*

### **THURSDAY 4**

*Ask God for wisdom for Justice Livelihoods Health (JLH), BMS' partner in Uganda. Pray that their interventions will reduce inequalities and ensure justice for both females and males.*

### **FRIDAY 5**

*Pray for BMS partners supporting refugees and asylum seekers. Women are often the most vulnerable, frequently facing injustice and inequality not only in their context of origin but also in their new location.*

### **SATURDAY 6**

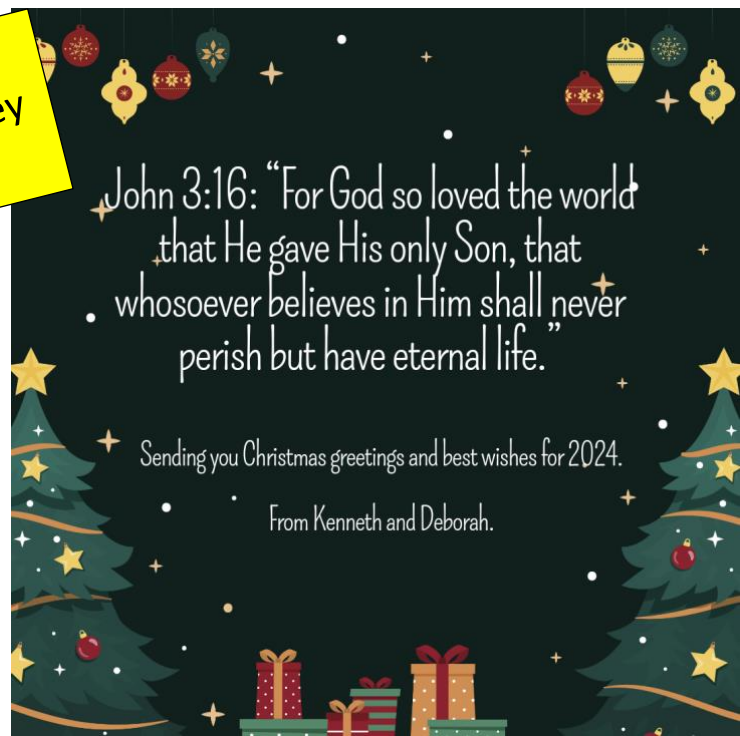
*Praise God for gender champions and BMS partners who have embraced women in leadership. May their efforts help free girls and women from gender-based violence.*

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

Day 64	31 <sup>st</sup>	1 Corinthians 15-16
Day 65	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 Corinthians 1-4
Day 66	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 Corinthians 5-9
Day 67	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 Corinthians 10-13
Day 68	4 <sup>th</sup>	Acts 20:1-3; Romans 1-3
Day 69	5 <sup>th</sup>	Romans 4-7
Day 70	6 <sup>th</sup>	Romans 8-10



Christmas Greetings from  
Kenneth & Deborah Mawhinney  
Northern Ireland



### **A Thought from Charlie**

*“We have one who speaks to the Father in our defence – Jesus Christ, the Righteous one.”  
(1 John 2:1)*

An advocate is a person who pleads for another's cause. But Jesus, our Advocate, adds a twist: He pleads his own cause, and he does so to our advantage.

For instance, picture a throne room with the devil reading a list of charges against you. He throws you an accusing glance and sneers: “This wretch deserves to die. He says he is a Christian but his life stinks. He claims to know Jesus, but you've never been able to tell from the way he acts”.

Now Picture Jesus standing as your advocate. He speaks confidently and with authority saying: “this person is mine. I died for every sin he ever committed”. That would be enough, but then Christ adds something. Even more amazing: “What's more, I've not only erased his debt, but I want you, Father, to credit to his account all of my righteousness”.

Jesus, our advocate, would be generous enough in cancelling the debt of our sin on the Cross...but he went further. He not only paid the penalty and cleared sins slate, he gave us right standing, His goodness. When the Father looks at you, he sees all the good things his son has ever done.

Such a debt we can never repay. We can only praise. “Even now my witness is in heaven, My advocate is on high. My intercessor is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to God: On behalf of a man he pleads with God as a man pleads with his friends.” (Job 16:19-21).

People often say: “My...you are LUCKY!”

OH NO WE ARE BLESSED!

**Some Quiz Questions:**

- 1) Which British author is best known for her crime novels featuring detective Hercule Poirot?
  
- 2) In the long-running British series "Doctor Who", which actor first took on the role of The Doctor in 2005 after the show's revival?  
 a) Christopher Eccleston b) David Tennant c) Matt Smith
  
- 3) Which iconic British music venue, located in London, has hosted the Proms classical music festival every summer since 1941?
  
- 4) Which 2000 British film, directed by Guy Ritchie, involves two intertwined plots and features an ensemble cast including Jason Statham and Brad Pitt?
  
- 5) The "Merseybeat" sound is closely associated with which British city in the 1960s?  
 a) Manchester b) Birmingham c) Liverpool
  
- 6) "Fawlty Towers", a British sitcom set in a fictional hotel, starred which member of Monty Python?
  
- 7) Which controversial British artist is known for works such as a shark preserved in formaldehyde titled "The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living"?
  
- 8) Which British band, fronted by Robert Smith, released the hit songs "Friday I'm in Love" and "Lovesong"?  
 a) The Smiths b) The Cure c) The Clash
  
- 9) The British fantasy author who wrote the "Discworld" series is?
  
- 10) Which British actress starred in the films "Sense and Sensibility", "Love Actually", and won an Oscar for her role in "The Reader"?

**ANSWERS NEXT YEAR!!!**

**Duty Rota**

Morning Worship		Evening Service	Sunday Morning Duty Rota		
Speaker	Topic	Topic	Door	Vestry Prayer	Communion
Robert			Lindsay	Jim B.	Bill
Archie		<b>Family Fellowship</b>	Doreen	Donna	
Donna		<b>The Romans Course 8</b>	Mark	Robert	
Donna		<b>The Romans Course 9</b>	Kevin	Mary	



# 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*

Until Zoom Prayer Time restarts 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*