

1946 - 2024



**CHURCH IS NOT
SOMETHING YOU GO TO,
IT'S A FAMILY
YOU BELONG TO.**

Broxburn Baptist Church Newsletter

- The church on your doorstep for 78 years

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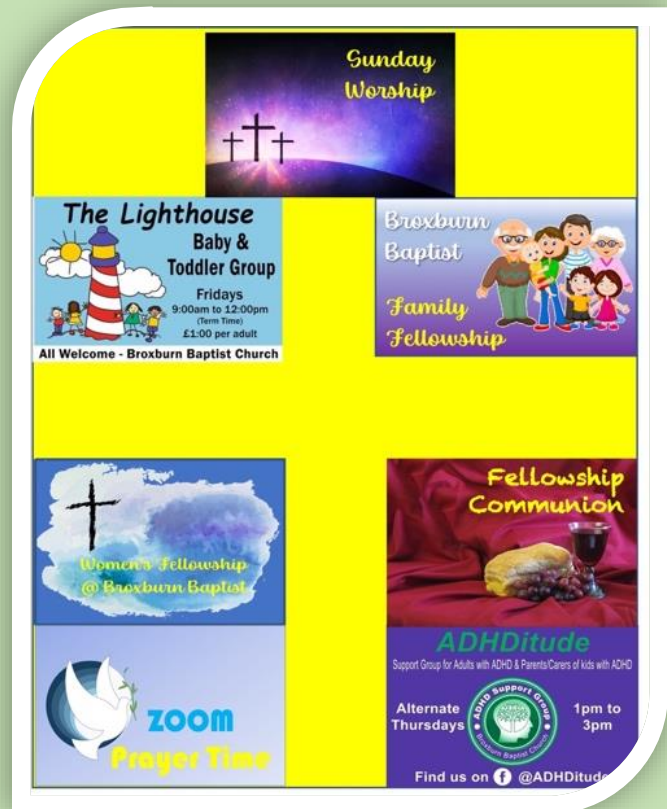
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No. 190 6th January 2024

'We are ambassadors for Christ'

Some thoughts.....

Well, it's 2024! I wish you.....well what do I wish you?

Do I wish you health and happiness and prosperity? – Yes, of course I do - but we all know that we will not all enjoy the good health we would wish for and for some happiness will be difficult to find and for others it will be the continued struggle of making a little go a long way.

Do I wish that the world would know peace and that all would live in harmony? – Yes, of course I do – but even the most optimistic of us will look at the history of mankind down through the centuries and know that this is unlikely – you just need to switch on the TV or scan your choice of on-line news to see what's happening in many parts of the world right now – a New Year has not brought a new reality. War continues, repression continues, violence and greed abound.

We may WISH as long as we like, as hard as we can, but wishing will not change what is. For our wishes to come true requires change – change in people, in us, in you, in mankind. But even the prophet Jeremiah so long ago realised that was impossible without divine help. He put it like this when speaking to the people of his day...

'Can a leopard change its spots?

Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil.'

We may be more advanced technologically than Jeremiah's audience but we are still the same at heart. We still have conflict and war – we're just better at it. We still put self first and let others fend for themselves. We still want more and better when many struggle with the basics. We need to change our spots and we can't do that ourselves.

So what do I wish for you in 2024?

If you are a Christian, more than all in 2024 my wish would be that you would get to know Jesus better, that you would follow him more closely, that the world might be a better place because of you.

And, if you happen to read this, and you think being a Christian does not make sense in a modern technological society my wish would be that you would openly use your intellect, look at our world as it is and look at the message of the Christian gospel and consider your position. My wish would be that God would open your eyes so that you might see.

Robert

6th January 2024

Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2023

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

W/c 8th January

Alloa Baptist Church
Alness Baptist Church
Alva Baptist Church



You can sign up for prayer points via Facebook at

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

Psalm 119:18 'Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.'

Church This Week
Sunday 7th January

11.00am Worship Service – Robert
‘The trouble with Discipleship’

To join on zoom just click the link below.

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

Thursday
Friday

10.30 Zoom Prayer Time
The Lighthouse restarts 19th

Preachers

January

7th Robert

14th Archie

21st Donna

28th Donna

5.30pm Family Fellowship

6.00pm The Romans Course 8

6.00pm The Romans Course 9



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

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

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Water to blood | 2. Frogs | 3. Lice |
| 4. Flies | 5. Diseased livestock. | 6. Boils |
| 7. Hail | 8. Locusts | 9. Darkness |
| 10. Death of the firstborn | | |



Think you know it all? 48

SI units are internationally recognised units of measurement widely used in science and commerce. What are the units of:

1. Length
2. Mass
3. Time
4. Electric current
5. Temperature
6. Luminous intensity
7. Amount of substance

Answers to last year's quiz

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Agatha Christie. | 2) Christopher Eccleston. | 3) The Royal Albert Hall. |
| 4) Snatch. | 5) Liverpool. | 6) John Cleese. |
| 7) Damien Hirst. | 8) The Cure. | 9) Terry Pratchett. |
| 10) Kate Winslet. | | |

BMS Prayer Guide 2024



Our Heart of the Gospel work is fuelled by the desire to show people everywhere God's of love for them. Please pray that more evangelists will be sent, and that through the preaching of the gospel many people will come to the saving knowledge of God in Christ Jesus.

SUNDAY 7

Give thanks for more than 80,000 house churches planted by Biglife in India. Pray that the Lord will protect the believers and empower them to share the gospel with people who will also become disciples of Christ.

MONDAY 8

Helen Boondeekhun to mentor disciple makers who will plant more churches throughout Thailand.

TUESDAY 9

Praise God for those who have been trained as disciple makers. Pray that they will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel boldly and that many will become followers of Christ.

WEDNESDAY 10

Praise God for the opportunity to share the love of God in Laos. Pray that God will raise up leaders who will be trained to make disciples and plant churches.

THURSDAY 11

We lament with those who face persecution in North Africa. Pray that God will strengthen the followers of Christ and bring unity among them.

FRIDAY 12

Praise God for the opportunity to work through mission hubs. Pary that these would function well and become instruments for fulfilling the Great Commission.

SATURDAY 13

Praise God for the churches that support BMS to take the gospel to the nations. Pray that BMS will have opportunities to share lessons we have learnt that may help UK Baptist home mission efforts.

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

Day 71	7 th Jan	Romans 11-13
Day 72	8 th	Romans 14-16
Day 73	9 th	Acts 20:4-38; Acts 21; Acts 22; Acts 23:1-35
Day 74	10 th	Acts 24-26
Day 75	11 th	Acts 27-28
Day 76	12 th	Colossians 1-4; Philemon
Day 77	13 th	Ephesians 1-6



Resolve to Involve Everything

With the new year comes resolutions. We like a fresh start, and we generally feel that the start of a brand-new year is best time to implement changes. I guess it's because we look back on the previous year and analyse successes and failures and make decisions on what we need to do to better ourselves—and that's not a bad thing. We make plans and determinations with great hope of accomplishing them in our lives.

Most people will make resolutions that improve their body (like eating better and/or exercising more), improve their mind (like reading more or learning something new), or improve their attitude. Without a doubt, these are good things to make positive progress in our lives.

But, in making our resolutions, let us not forget about the most important thing to improve in our lives: our spirituality. As Christians, we should always be striving to be growing closer to God, reading the Bible more, increasing in service, and becoming more mature in the faith. Improving our spirituality will also help us to improve anything else we wish to implement into our lives.

Interestingly, Jesus mentioned all of these areas when asked what the greatest commandment was. He mentioned them in connection with our relationship to God. We read it in Mark 12:30, "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." Notice how we are to love God with our all—mind, body, heart, and soul. So, it makes sense that we would always want to improve ourselves in all of these areas.

Yes, let us resolve to involve every aspect of our lives in loving, honouring, serving, and praising God, and not just at the beginning of each year, but at the beginning of each and every day.

Even though given to the Israelites, Deuteronomy 10:12-13 should still inspire our resolve to involve our all in our relationship with God: "And now...what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD...?"

Edd Sterchi
(Bulletin Digest)



A Thought from Charlie

“Nathan Replied to David: ‘Do whatever you have in mind, for God is with you.’ (1 Chronicles 17:2).

I wonder what is in your heart today. What occupies your thoughts constantly??
What are the dreams and the desires deep inside of you?

Maybe you want to start a business, be in some form of ministry, or go back to college.
Maybe you want to be involved with some practical work ministering to others: What-
ever is in your heart, ask the Lord to confirm it to you.

God often leads us by desires, but we have to submit our desires to Him. Sometimes, we
have to allow Him to change our desires, but you must know that He is always out for
your good. It says in the Book of Psalms, that as we “delight ourselves in the Lord, He will
give us the desires of our hearts”.

That means He places desires within us, then brings them to pass so that we can live a
fulfilled life here on earth for HIS GLORY.

I believe David did this very thing. He was known as ‘a man after God’s Own Heart’. He
wasn’t perfect but as he submitted his heart to the Lord, it was then that Nathan came
along and said: “Yes, do what is in your heart. God is with you”.

Things didn't turn out quite as David intended, but God doesn't steer a life that isn't
moving. When David stepped out in faith, God came alongside and said: “I want you to
get everything ready for your son to build my temple”.

Whatever is in your heart today, submit it to the Lord. Trust that He is looking out for
your good and working behind the scenes on your behalf. He REALLY wants the best for
you.

As you put your faith and trust in Him, He will guide you in the life of victory that He has
in store for you.

I dare you to take this prayer and make it your own:

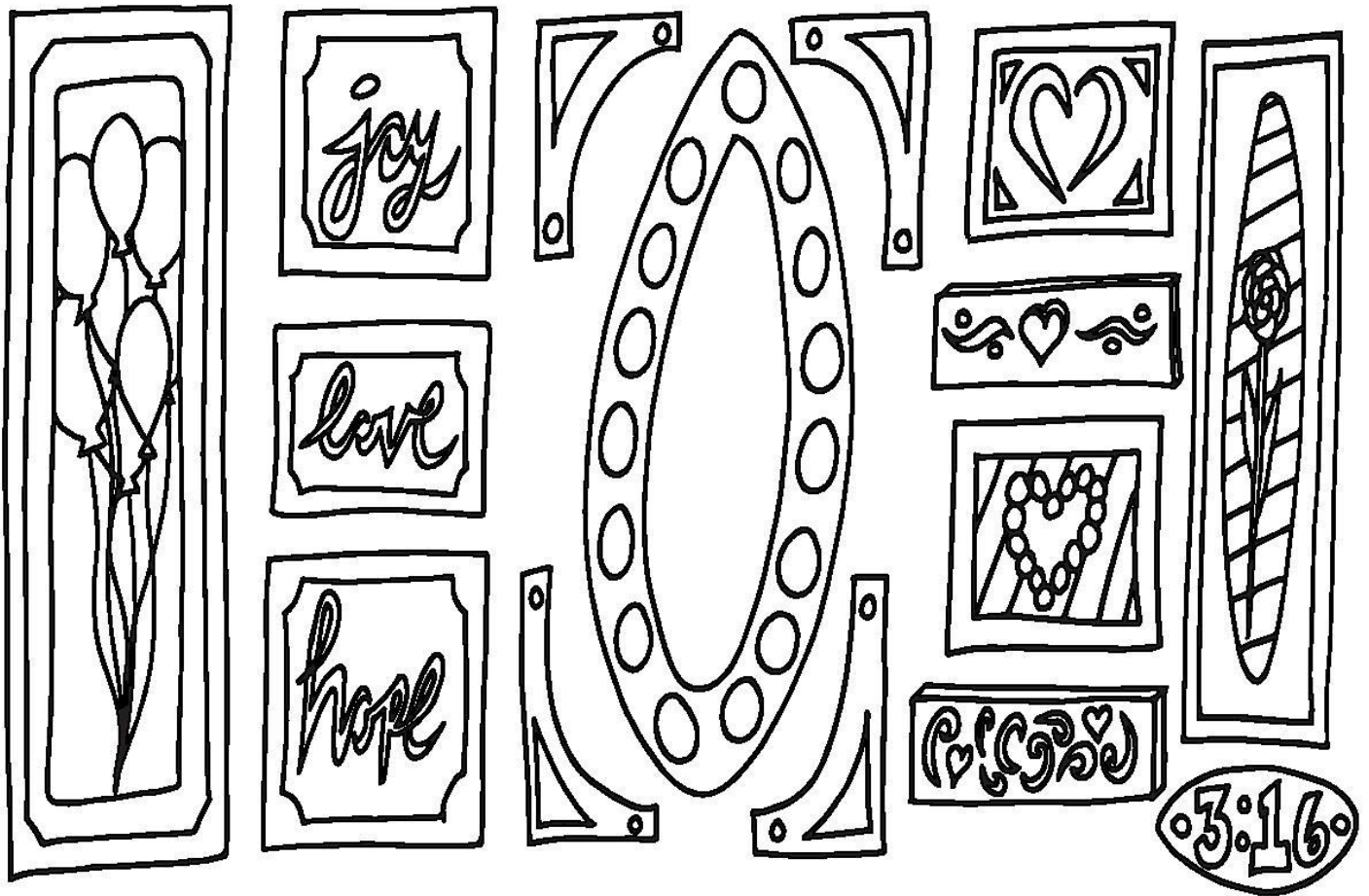
Oh Lord if you want me to serve you I will
I will be what you want me to be
I will say what you want me to say
I will go where you want me to go.

Amen.

Duty Rota Preaching Door Vestry Prayer Communion Prayer

January	7	Robert	Lindsay	Jim B.	Bill
	14	Archie	Doreen	Donna	
	21	Donna	Mark	Robert	
	28	Donna	Kevin	Mary	

I AM NOT CONDEMNED



WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM IS NOT CONDEMNED, BUT WHOEVER
DOES NOT BELIEVE STANDS CONDEMNED ALREADY
BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT BELIEVED IN
THE NAME OF GOD'S ONE AND ONLY SON.

JOHN 3:18

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 I come to you at the end of this first week of a new year I realise more than ever that I need you in my life.

Lord, I try to be who you want me to be but so often that doesn't work. Lord help me to stop trying so hard but to relax and allow your Holy Spirit to work in me and through me for good and to your glory.

Amen

Lord – there seems to be no limit to the evil that plagues our world, but I want to thank you for the bright sparks of love and goodness that I see that remind me that this is not how you planned your world. Help me to do good and show love until you return to restore your world and make all things new.

Amen

Father, I bring before you today _____ who is struggling with _____ issues. Step into their situation in a miraculous way and do something for good that only you can. Remind me that you might use ME to answer my own prayer. May I be ready to do so.

Amen

*The Lord is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?*

*The Lord is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid? (Ps. 27:1-2)*

Amen

Lord, as The Lighthouse begins a new session I pray for the mums and dads and babies and toddlers who will come along. May they find a place of love and acceptance and encounter 'Jesus' people. Bless Donna as she reaches out into the community. Remind me to support her in prayer.

Amen

*He is my strength when I cannot go on
Peace when all my power is gone
Hope, although the night is long and deep*

*He is my song, for He has rescued me
Joy, now He has set me free
Praise, praise to my Father be
My God is all I need*

<https://youtu.be/-fBeckPieds>

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