

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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No. 191 13th January 2024

'We are ambassadors for Christ'

Some thoughts.....

It's just the second week of 2024 and already we've had two breakdowns in the family. Both on the same day would you believe. Fiona's coffee maker went bang. Not surprised the use it gets! But there's always the back-up jar of Nescafe at the back of a cupboard somewhere - probably been there so long the contents will be a lump of solid coffee welded to the bottom of the jar - just pour some hot water in and swill it around and it will taste fine!

My breakdown occurred when my 2TB LaCie drive decided it couldn't be read by the computer. That's the one where I keep all the stuff I need - my church stuff, all the newsletters, personal stuff - all my photos and sermons. Never mind you'll have it all backed up I hear you say - well, I know the theory but actually - no. I've never had any trouble with these drives so I use them to keep all the stuff I might lose if my computer dies.

But what about my lost 'stuff'? First port of call was in the on-line sites - tried everything suggested but still no success. Next step - Well the disc was under warranty so onto the Seagate web site (Seagate have taken over LaCie) and found much the same advice but also a chat help line so quickly onto that, got past the 'bot' to chat with a real person - no idea where in the world she was but she suggested I try all the things I had already tried. No good? OK - I'll send you recovery software - brilliant. The software arrived and I ran it - it will take 11 hours and 6 minutes to recover your files it said. OK that's a long time but I'll leave it on overnight. Didn't sleep very well that night and rushed downstairs in the morning to get my files but.....unable to recover files! So back onto the helpline, through the 'bot' and back on to another young lady - well I imagine her to be young still don't know where in the world she was - no problem 'I will not let you down' she types. You will need to send it to our recovery centre in Holland. Which is where it is now and I won't know for between 30 and 60 days if they have managed to get my files back.

It's sometimes useful to have back-ups for things that go wrong. But if you have God in your life you don't need a back-up plan for life - he doesn't 'go bang', he doesn't lose connection, he doesn't give up on you. And it's never too late to get to know him. Church on Sunday?

Robert

13th January 2024

Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2024

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

W/c 15th January

Rev Marylee Anderson
(Chaplain, University of
Aberdeen)
Arran Baptist Church
Ayr Baptist Church
Baptist Union of Great
Britain



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

Romans 8:38-39 ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Church This Week

Sunday 14th January

11.00am Worship Service – Rev Archie Young

To join on zoom just click the link below.

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

3.00pm Service at Holmes Gardens

5.30pm Family Fellowship ‘A Bird in the Hand’

Thursday

10.30 Zoom Prayer Time

Friday

The Lighthouse restarts at 9.00am

Preachers

January

14th Archie

5.30pm Family Fellowship

21st Donna

6.00pm The Romans Course 8

28th Donna

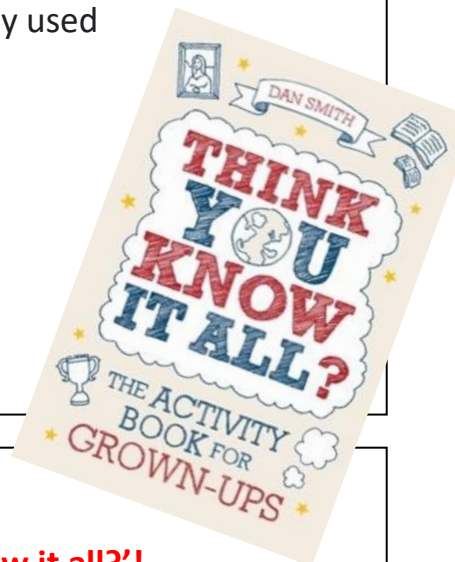
6.00pm The Romans Course 9



Think you know it all? 48 ANSWERS

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

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Length | Metre |
| 2. Mass | Kilogram |
| 3. Time | Second |
| 4. Electric current | Ampere (Amp) |
| 5. Temperature | Degrees Kelvin |
| 6. Luminous intensity | Candela |
| 7. Amount of substance | Mole |



Think you know it all? 49.

I've reached the end of the book so this is the last 'Think you know it all?'

What are the nautical terms for:

- The front of a vessel –
- A unit of speed equal to one nautical mile per hour –
- A unit of length usually equivalent to three nautical miles –
- The left hand side of a vessel when facing forward –
- The right hand side of a vessel when facing forward –
- The system of lines and masts on a sailing ship –
- A ship's kitchen –
- A measurement (principally of depth) equivalent to six feet –
- A line to show where the level of water should reach when a ship is properly and fully loaded -

BMS Prayer Guide 2024

BMS World Mission supporters deliver practical help to people in desperate circumstances in some of the world's most materially deprived places. By providing pathways to education, flourishing livelihoods and good healthcare for those with the fewest opportunities, you tackle injustice and suffering, and bring hope to the world.



SUNDAY 14

Through partnerships with established and trusted local agencies, we can do more together than we ever could alone. Pray for our partner in Nepal, the Multipurpose Community Development Service, which comes alongside villages to improve all aspects of life.

MONDAY 15

We also work with local churches who are best placed to bring long-term community transformation. Pray for Louise and Peter Lynch in Bangladesh and their work with the Bangladesh Baptist Church Sangha, responding in communities where the need is greatest.

TUESDAY 16

One of the ways we tackle injustice and suffering is by sending skilled mission workers to the world's poorest countries. Pray for the work of Andrea and Mark Hotchkin at an understaffed, underfunded hospital in Bardai, northern Chad.

WEDNESDAY 17

Last year, BMS joined Christians across the UK at The Big One climate pilgrimage. Pray that the world's leaders will hear people's voices and listen to God's wisdom as they make decisions.

THURSDAY 18

On the big screen at last year's Baptist Assembly, we saw Dil Bahadur Chhetri and his fellow Nepalese mission worker and climate change specialist, Sahara Mishra. Pray that God will guide their path.

FRIDAY 19

Isaiah Thembo from Uganda and Wissam Nasrallah from Lebanon are also serving in their native countries. Pray for them as they play a part in re-imagining mission.

SATURDAY 20

Pray for all BMS' Hope for the World projects: may they be motivated by faith, powered by compassion and deliver real change for the most marginalised.

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

Day 78 14th *Philippians 1-4*
Day 79 15th *1 Timothy 1-6*
Day 80 16th *Titus 1-3*
Day 81 17th *1 Peter 1-5*
Day 82 18th *Hebrews 1-6*
Day 83 19th *Hebrews 7-10*
Day 84 20th *Hebrews 11-13*



A Thought from Charlie

"HE is my refuge..." (Psalm 91:2)

Modern psychiatrists see that one of the basic needs of man is security. In the 91st Psalm we are assured that in God we have the greatest of security:

'There shall no evil befall you, neither shall any plague come near to your dwelling. For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all the ways.'

If you read and reread this beautiful Psalm, you will discover that in Him we have a permanent abode and residence, and that all of the comfort, security, and affection which the human heart craves is found in God.

Perhaps no visible angels will appear in your life and mine, but God's promise of security is nonetheless real and certain.

Those who live in the realm of God have genuine safety and security.

One question: Do you have that sense of security that only Christ can give you in your life?

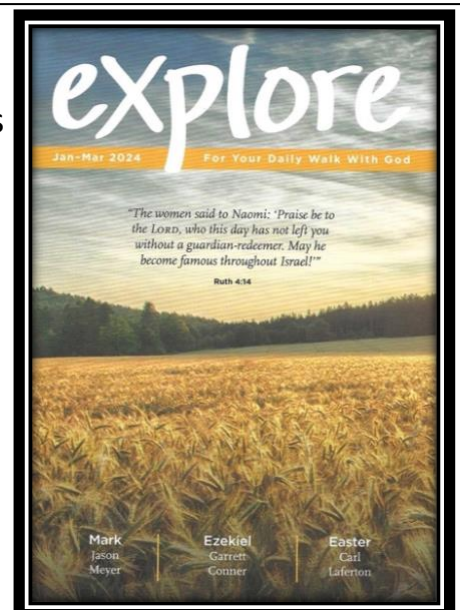
If not, seek God with all of your heart; and submit your life to Him.

| <u>Duty Rota</u> | | <u>Preaching</u> | <u>Door</u> | <u>Vestry Prayer</u> | <u>Communion Prayer</u> |
|------------------|----|------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| January | 14 | Archie | Doreen | Donna | |
| | 21 | Donna | Mark | Robert | |
| | 28 | Donna | Kevin | Mary | |
| February | 4 | Donna | Isobel | Jen | Mary |

Explore

If you don't have a regular pattern of Bible Reading here is an option – it's the daily reading programme called 'Explore' produced by The Good Book Company. I've copied the page for 11th January on the next page so you can get an idea of the format. It costs £4.57 from Eden, and that covers 3 months.

<https://www.eden.co.uk/christian-books/dated-bible-study-notes/dated-bible-study-notes-for-adults/explore/explore-jan-mar-2024/>



Church health

In a sense, instead of asking, "How healthy am I, spiritually?" we should ask, "How healthy is my church, spiritually?"

That's because there are very few Christians who are thriving while their church is stagnating or struggling. God saved us to be part of his people; he placed us in a body of his people; and we each grow or shrink spiritually as a member of his people.

That is why, in the New Testament letters, the vast majority are addressed to churches—and the overwhelming majority of those letters' content is aimed at the whole church, not individuals within the church.

Put off, put on

Read Colossians 3:5-14

- ❓ *What must the members of this church "put to death" by ridding themselves of (v 5-10)?*
- ❓ *What must God's chosen people "clothe" themselves with (v 12-14)?*

A Christian who never gave into the sins of v 5-9, and who consistently displayed the virtues of v 12-14, would be an amazing—an extremely Christ-like—person! But notice how many of both the sins and the qualities are others-focused. Most are flaws and strengths that are displayed in community. And love, the virtue "which binds [the other virtues] all together" (v 14), is relational.

In other words, if we truly want to be spiritually healthy ourselves, we will be committed to the spiritual health of others. The maturity of other members of your church must matter as much to you as your own.

God has given you your church community to help you grow, as you help them grow. Paul goes on to show how we do this...

One another

Read Colossians 3:15-17

- ❓ *What should rule our hearts (v 15)?*

No grudges, no one-upmanship, no divisions. If Christ has made peace with someone, who are we to be in conflict with them?

- ❓ *What should dwell in our hearts (v 16)?*
- ❓ *How does this happen (v 16-17)?*

Apply

- ❓ *Do you teach and admonish others in your church, based on what you've heard together from the Bible?*
- ❓ *Are you someone who is willing to be taught and admonished themselves?*
- ❓ *Why are we often so slow to do these things for each other, do you think?*

Pray

Choose three or four people in your church. Pray that they would take off specific sins in verses 5-9 which you know they struggle with, and put on the virtues of verses 12-14. And ask for an opportunity to encourage them.



I AM POWERFUL



I CAN
DO ALL
THINGS
THROUGH
HIM
WHO GIVES
ME
STRENGTH.
PHILIPPIANS 4:13

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 , Thank you that you have put me in a family of believers. Help me to love each one. I pray for the spiritual health of my church family today. [Use Colossians 3:5-17 to see what you should be praying for your church family, whatever church that is]

Amen

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is offence, let me bring pardon.
Where there is discord, let me bring union.
Where there is error, let me bring truth.
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.
O Lord, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love,
for it is in giving that one receives,
it is in self-forgetting that one finds,
it is in forgiving that one is forgiven,
it is in dying that one awakens to eternal life
Amen

Lord – protect your people in the Middle east. Use them to bring peace where there is war and love where there is hate.

Amen

*To you, Lord, I call; you are my Rock,
do not turn a deaf ear to me.
For if you remain silent, I will be like
those who go down to the pit.
² Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for
help, as I lift up my hands toward your
Most Holy Place. (Ps. 28:1-2)*
Amen

*In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
My lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You
My lighthouse, my lighthouse
I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore*

<https://youtu.be/IFBZJGSgyVQ>

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