

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. 196 17th February 2024

'We are ambassadors for Christ'

Some thoughts.....

*By the time you read this we'll be 'dog sitting'! That's what we're doing this weekend. OK baby-sitting- we have had experience of babies. but dog sitting? We've never had a dog, don't mind other people's dogs – as long as they are quiet, docile and friendly – and don't jump up on Jen!!. Happy to give them a bit of attention and let the owners take the strain of feeding and walking – and cleaning up after them. But **we're** dog-sitting so – **we're** taking the strain of feeding etc...*

It's quite a responsibility, after all Harry (who calls a dog Harry?) is a well-loved family pet (Even Daddy has come to like him); he is lively, affectionate (would lick you to death) and hasn't got a bad bone in his body. He can be determined – especially if he's picked up a stray sock or discarded slipper or pinched a pair of pants out of the wash basket – and will hold on tightly until a better offer (bit of sausage possibly) comes along. He's not allowed up on the furniture but does one paw count? He likes his walk – the longer the better, the muddier the better, and he seems to find the places where the ticks are most abundant! By this time we will have been Harry's minders for 2 days with another 4 to survive. - should have put us on the Prayer Chain for this week – or maybe Harry!

Anyway, we'll be doing our best to look after Harry and make sure that he is fit and healthy when the family come back. I can just imagine the look of relief on his face when they walk through the door – what does relief look like on a doggy face? And I'm sure Harry will look after us, making sure we don't sit about too much! A wee bit like being a member of a church fellowship where we look out for each other. There are times more than others when we need to know that there are folk we can go to, folk who will listen and not judge. advise and not tell. Folk who have been there before us and know what we're feeling and what it takes to get through it, folk with a bit more experience of living a Christian life in a selfish society. Folk we trust, folk we love (although we might not say it!). Who needs you this week?

Robert

17th February 2024

Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2024

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

W/c 19th February

Calderwood Baptist Church
Campbeltown Community Church
Baptist Union of Scotland
Canonmills Baptist Church



You can sign up for prayer points via Facebook at

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



Romans 10:9 ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Lent Bible Studies and Holy Week Services

Lent Bible Study

Tuesdays from 10.30-11.30am in Broxburn Parish Church Small Hall

Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm in The Open Door, Uphall

The Session themes are:

This week - Session 2 – Finding Jesus with Us in Our Hard Places – Psalm 16

Session 3 – Finding Jesus as our Shepherd – Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18

Session 4 – Finding Jesus as our Hope – Psalm 110, Psalm 100 and Hebrews 7

Session 5 – Finding Jesus as our Strength – Psalm 69, Matthew 26 and John 18

Session 6 – Finding Jesus as our Saviour – Psalm 22, Matthew 27 and John 20

Broxburn and Uphall Council of Churches.

Holy Week Services all at 7pm.

Monday 25th March
Praise and Prayer.

Uphall South
Church.

Thursday 28th March
Communion.

Broxburn
Baptist Church.

Friday 29th March
Good Friday

Strathbrock
St Nicholas Church

It is some time since we last offered 'The Bible Course' in the church. When we did it was greatly appreciated by all those who came along – those with little Christian experience and those with much. None of us ever knows everything! So it may be time to offer this again. At present the best time would seem to be Sunday evenings – possibly 6.00pm as for The Romans Course but there may be better options for some folk. If you would be interested please let me know.

The Bible Course helps you see how the books of the Bible are part of one big story. Using a unique storyline, The Bible Course shows you how key events, books and characters fit together. Video teaching, written guides, diagrams and readings will help you grow in confidence as you read the Bible for yourself. It acts as a great follow-on resource for those who have done introductory courses like Alpha.

BMS Prayer Guide 2024

During more than 35 years of working in France, BMS World Mission has supported many pastoral workers from the UK and within France. Our partner also welcomes many people learning the language and preparing to work in French-speaking countries. An exciting recent development with our partner is exploring work with people on the move.



SUNDAY 18

Give thanks that God is being worshiped in many languages and communities throughout the secular nation of France, and pray that God's Kingdom would grow through the witness of these faithful followers.

MONDAY 19

Pray that the three migrant church plants in Marseille, Strasbourg and Tours, supported by BMS through our partner the Federation of Evangelical Baptist Churches in France (FEEBF), would grow into flourishing communities.

TUESDAY 20

Give thanks for the growth of the church in Gif-sur-Yvette, both numerically and spiritually, under the pastoral guidance of Philip and Rosemary Halliday. Pray too for discernment for Rosemary in her other role as chaplain at Les Cèdres French language school and wisdom for Philip as part of the leadership of FEEBF.

WEDNESDAY 21

Pray for the recruitment of the new FEEBF General Secretary: for the team leading our partner in the interim; for recent structural changes; and that God will prepare the right person for the role.

THURSDAY 22

John and Sue Wilson have spent 35 years in France with BMS, pastoring churches and mentoring adults and young people. Give thanks for the legacy they are leaving behind.

FRIDAY 23

The National Council of the FEEBF meets with pastors and churches in the central region of France today and tomorrow. Pray that this would be a time of planning together to see God's Kingdom grow.

SATURDAY 24

Pray that French Christians may live in genuine relationships with their neighbours of all faiths and those with none.

Bible Reading – the whole Bible in 2 years.

18th Genesis 31:53-55; Genesis 32:1-32; Genesis 33:1-9

19th Genesis 33:10-20; Genesis 34:1-30

20th Genesis 34:31-31; Genesis 35:1-29; Genesis 36:1-20

21st Genesis 36:21-43; Genesis 37:1-27

22nd Genesis 37:28-36; Genesis 38:1-30; Genesis 39:1-1

23rd Genesis 39:2-23; Genesis 40:1-20

24th Genesis 40:21-23; Genesis 41:1-43



A Thought from Charlie

*“Now, the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”
(2 Corinthians 3:17)*

Jesus never said to his disciples: “obey my rules”. Instead, he told his followers to: **“Obey Me!”** And because the Lord did not leave us with a long list of ‘thou shall not...’, we have freedom.

Jesus stripped the fear and intimidation we often feel from obedience when he wrapped his life around his Word. What liberty! The Lord made obedience something that you would desire to do because he gave his life that you might be free. What a brilliant motivation for us to trust and obey.

Sometimes I wish that God would give me less freedom and force me to do the right thing to make me obey. It would be easier that way. This “Freedom stuff”, carries with it the heavy weight of responsibility. I am required to decide between white and black, light, dark, good and evil. I am reminded to make choices. I am required to be free.

But that's the beauty of knowing the freedom of the Lord. And it is his love that makes me want to be free.

This is why Jesus said his commandments were not burdensome. Obeying God was never meant to be a chore or a duty, but a joyous response to His love.

Do you know this joy today...even in the midst trials and difficulties?

We are not talking a frothy laughter here...but the deep seated joy found only when we are walking obediently before the LORD.

Duty Rota Preaching Door Vestry Prayer Communion Prayer

February	18	Donna	Linda	Linda	
	25	Robert	Bill	Bill	
March	3	Donna	Mark	Robert	Jen
	10	Archie	Lindsay	Robert	
	17	Donna	Doreen	Jim B.	
	24	Robert	Mark	Donna	



Church This Week

Sunday 18th February

11.00am Worship Service – Donna

To join on zoom just click the link below.

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

Thursday

10.30 Zoom Prayer Time

Friday

9.00-12.00 The Lighthouse

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'How to Survive Almost Anything 5.' (continued from last week)

Well, this week we move past the three-part introduction to this book, onto Part 1, 'The Survivor's Mindset'.

The part starts with general comments on 'What makes a survivor?' and in one paragraph the writer says that 'Survival is rarely an accident.' He then goes on to give examples from his own experience and that of others to back this up.

If we move our thinking from the physical realm into the spiritual the same holds good. Becoming a Christian is ~~rarely~~ never an accident. No one is born 'Christian'. No one can have a 'back to the future' experience and re-emerge as a Christian. Becoming a Christian is deliberate. No one can wander into it. It can happen in many ways but never accidentally. It can happen suddenly, it can take years, but never accidentally.

Paul the New Testament terror of the early church became a follower of Jesus through a sudden, mind-blowing encounter with God while on his way to round up Christians. For others it can be a long process of gradual realisation and understanding of God's love and Jesus' sacrifice for 'me'.

Want to know if you're a Christian? - the writer of the book of Romans in the New Testament put it this way – '*If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*'

And that doesn't happen by accident.

Next week we look at the part 'Embrace Change'.



'Some quotes about faith'

"Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times." — Martin Luther

"When you have faith in God, you don't have to worry about the future. You just know it's all in His hands. You just go to and do your best." — Elder Bryan Mathison

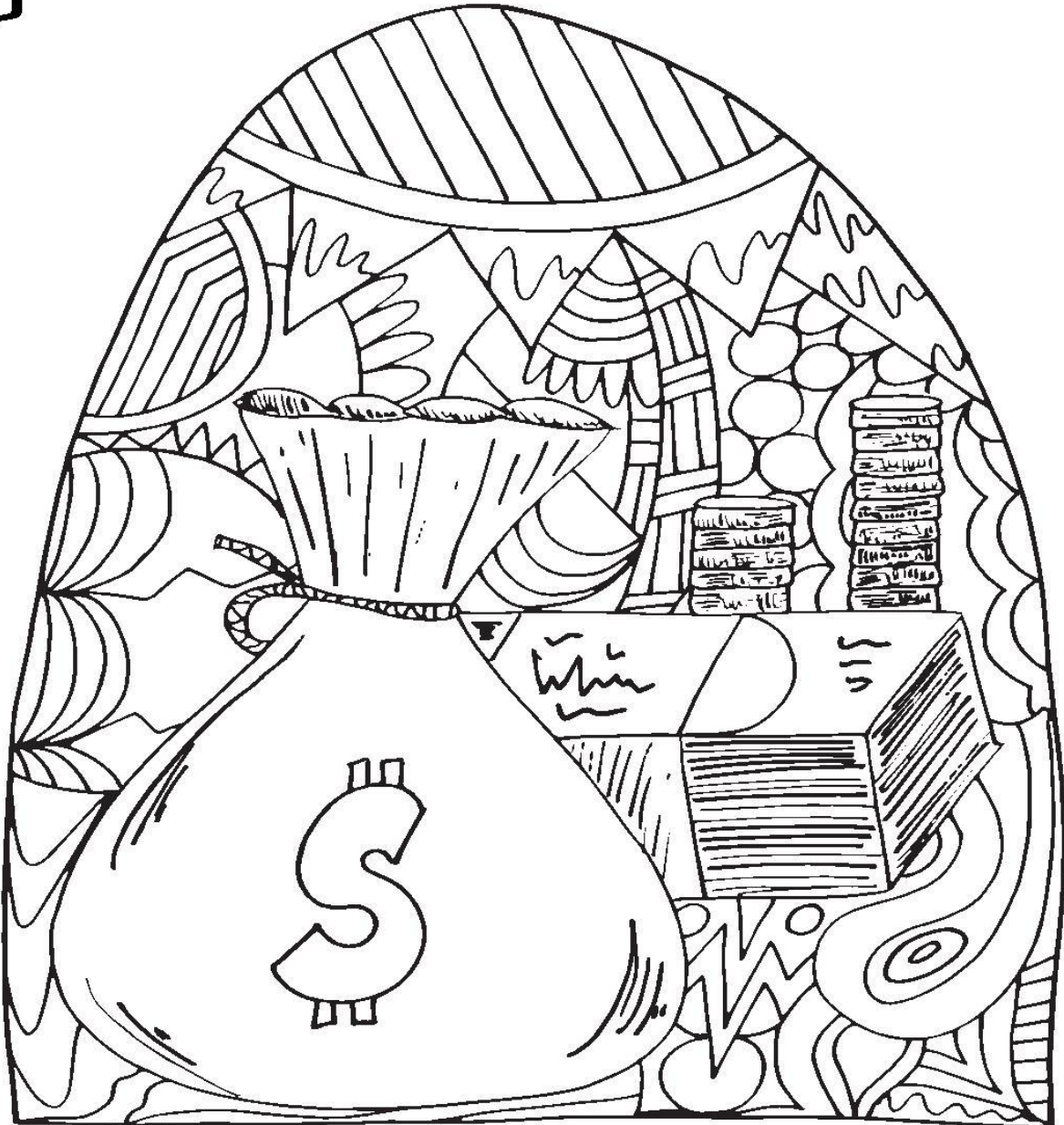
"Faith is unseen but felt, faith is strength when we feel we have none, faith is hope when all seems lost." — Catherine Pulsifer

"Through hard work, perseverance and a faith in God, you can live your dreams." — Ben Carson

"And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith." — Matthew 21:2

"My faith didn't remove the pain, but it got me through the pain. Trusting God didn't diminish or vanquish the anguish, but it enabled me to endure it." — Robert Rogers

I AM VALUABLE



BUT YOU ARE A CHOSEN PEOPLE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, GOD'S SPECIAL POSSESSION, THAT YOU MAY DECLARE THE PRAISES OF HIM WHO CALLED YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS WONDERFUL LIGHT.

1 PETER 2:9

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, help me to take my faith with me wherever I go this week. Let my hands be helping hands, my voice speak comforting or challenging words, and my presence witness to your love.

Amen

Lord, thank you that you know me better than I know myself and you still love me and want the best for me. You know Lord that I am struggling just now with _____ . Be what I need at this time, give me the wisdom I need to deal with this and the strength to see it through.

Amen

Lord – I ask for your blessing to be on each Christian church or fellowship in our town. Pour out your Spirit on each one that we might see society changed through our witness.

Amen

Lord, I pray for my church family. I thank you for each one. I thank you Lord that even though we are all different we are brothers and sisters, your children. Help me to remember that and cherish each one.

Amen

Lord, I continue to pray for the situation in Israel and Gaza. Lord it is difficult to see the way to a just solution but my heart breaks when I see what is happening. Lord give wisdom to the politicians and replace hate with love on both sides.

Amen

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. *(Ps. 33:6)*
Father, open my eyes to see you in the wonder of your creation.

Amen

*Heal my heart and make it clean
Open up my eyes to the things unseen
Show me how to love
Like You have loved me
Break my heart for what breaks Yours
Everything I am
For Your kingdom's cause
As I walk from earth into eternity*

<https://youtu.be/M7SMUf6QcyQ>

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