

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. 197 24th February 2024

'We are ambassadors for Christ'

Some thoughts.....

Well, we're back home now - dog-sitting duties carried out successfully and said dog now happily reunited with his family. No real crises – the intricacies of poo-bags conquered, the dog-healthy diet maintained, paws wiped after digging in the sand pit (Harry not me), walks enjoyed, - not as complicated as I thought it might be. But talking about complicated....

Why do some things have to be so complicated? When we were dog-sitting I asked Fi if there were any jobs needing doing. I would rather do than sit about so was quite happy to find out there were a couple of things. Two toilets actually – problems with the filling and flushing. 'That sounds straightforward' I thought, until I took the top offwhatever happened to the old-fashioned mechanisms which used to work so efficiently and were so easy to repair when things went wrong. But it's not just toilets – everything seems to be getting more complicated – open the bonnet of your car – what's going on there? At one time you could take off the cylinder head and grind in the valves – if you wanted! Now about the only thing you can do is top up the washer fluid – but make sure you don't put it in the diesel additive – AdBlue – filler or you'll wreck the engine (or so I'm told!).

Better take it into the garage and pay the going rate – make sure you're sitting down when you get the bill!!

And what about phones? I'm not sure you can buy a phone now that only makes phone calls - at the very least it will also take photos but if it's smart it can probably take you to the moon as well – now that is an exaggeration, at least it was when I wrote this but maybe not by the time you read it.

And if you're a frequent user of the rail system you'll know all about the vagaries of booking tickets to get you from A to B. To get the best deal you would think direct A to B would be the way to go but seemingly not – split tickets are the way to go – A to Z to G to C to ??? to B – WHY?

I'm so glad the Christian faith is simpler than buying a train ticket or fixing a toilet! The verse below is the same one as last week but says it as it is.

Robert

24th February 2024

Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2024

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

W/c 26th February

Carlisle Baptist Church
Carnoustie Baptist Church
Castlehill Baptist Church
Castlemilk Community 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 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

Last Sunday we worshipped at Culloden-Balloch Baptist Church. Kenny, the Pastor, was looking at the familiar story of Zacchaeus with different eyes and the punchline was that, as Christians, we have a responsibility to share our faith and suggested we can do that by 1. Being intentional and 2. Asking questions. Check out what he was saying at the link below – if you fast forward about 45 mins you'll get to the sermon.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZeHtDwUNU1Q&list=UUkuiSBS_iw53ju3Cv3zRPUQ&index=1



BMS Prayer Guide 2024

Bangladesh is often a tolerant and peaceful country. However, recently Islamist extremism has increased and there have been some attacks by violent groups. Let us pray for BMS World Mission workers and partners in their efforts to share God's message of peace.



SUNDAY 25

We praise God for the appointment of the new SHED board director.

Pray that God will provide more partners so that all the health, education and social development projects can flourish and make a positive difference in communities.

MONDAY 26

Praise God for the success of the national women's camp. Pray that God will bless Pastors Nandita and Jyoti in their ministry to support more women to use their gifts for God in evangelism and pastoral work.

TUESDAY 27

Praise God for five indigenous mission couples and their young children, who have been sent to new outreach areas. Pray for God's protection as they build relationships and seek opportunities to share the gospel.

WEDNESDAY 28

Praise God for Peter and Louise Lynch, and for their unity and increased collaboration with their colleagues. Pray that the churches will be equipped for community outreach through their ministries.

THURSDAY 29

Praise God for the College of Christian Theology Bangladesh, where both practical and higher-level theological training is provided. Pray that God will continue to raise up Bangladeshi theologians.

FRIDAY 1

Pray for all those with leadership responsibilities across the churches in Bangladesh. Pray that they will know God's grace and wisdom as they implement the 225 declaration goals.

SATURDAY 2

Praise God for the vision to train more local workers. Pray for the new Baptist mission training centre: that it will be a place of prayer, vision and preparation for mission.

Bible Reading – the whole Bible in 2 years.

25 th	Genesis 41:44-57; Genesis 42:1-28
26 th	Genesis 42:29-38; Genesis 43:1-27
27 th	Genesis 43:28-34; Genesis 44:1-33
28 th	Genesis 44:34-34; Genesis 45:1-28; Genesis 46:1-15
29 th	Genesis 46:16-34; Genesis 47:1-23
1 st	Genesis 47:24-31; Genesis 48:1-22; Genesis 49:1-7
2 nd	Genesis 49:8-33; Genesis 50:1-17



A Thought from Charlie

*“For the LORD takes delight in His people; He crowns the humble with salvation”
(Psalm 149:4)*

Could you imagine being invited to a party at Buckingham Palace to which the invitation reads: “The pleasure of your company is desired because the host just wants to be with you”.

Hard to imagine.... isn't it?

God would invite you to such a party because He doesn't just like you, He loves you. It is a subtle difference, but it is important to know that He feels both emotions towards us.

Perhaps you have pictured the love of God, but never saw His pleasure with you. Sorry for being fictitious but you've only pictured God going out for a curry with Paul, or Isaiah maybe even Daniel! But never with you! Or do you picture being on the perimeter of a circle while Jesus and the disciples contemplated the universe at the centre.

No! God is pleased with you. According to the Epistles, you were called according to God's pleasure, redeemed according to God's pleasure, and you work His will for His pleasure. The smile of God is for you, and on you! It is as wide and bright as His love is deep.

Do not worry about what you wear when you come into the presence of God. He tells us that: “He beautifies the afflicted with salvation”.

And as those who know Christ personally, we are clothed with HIS Righteousness!

Are you allowing yourself to enjoy the pleasure of God?

****If you would like a daily thought direct to your mailbox drop Charlie an email at drcharles.sommerville@sky.com and he'll add you to the mailing list.**

<u>Duty Rota</u>		<u>Preaching</u>	<u>Door</u>	<u>Vestry Prayer</u>	<u>Communion Prayer</u>
February	25	Robert	Bill	Bill	
March	3	Donna	Mark	Robert	Jen
	10	Archie	Lindsay	Robert	
	17	Donna	Doreen	Jim B.	
PALM SUNDAY	24	Robert	Mark	Donna	
EASTER	31	Donna	Kevin	Mary	



Church This Week

Sunday 25th February

11.00am Worship Service – Robert

To join on zoom just click the link below.

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

Thursday

10.30 Coffee & Chat @ BBC

Friday

9.00-12.00 The Lighthouse

'How to Survive Almost Anything 7.'



This week we look at the part 'Embrace Change' which is still under the heading 'The Survivor's Mindset'. The author reminds us that 15000 years ago *'humans were being hunted for food'*. Fortunately, this is no longer the case – things have changed, and we have embraced that change. The Luddites in the 19th century were against technological change in the manufacturing of wool – but things changed and we, society, embraced that change. Change is a constant and if not embraced can lead to extinction. Today things change almost daily – whether that's 'Body Shop' outlets being closed, or land line phone services being discontinued – next year I believe is the date for this 'old' technology to be phased out. There will be other options - but if we don't embrace this change we will lose out. Change is not something new – it is a constant.

In the area of the Christian life as individuals and church life as gatherings there has always been change. It has not always been easy or comfortable, in fact sometimes it was cruel and bloody but those who embraced the change survived and grew and those who clung on to what had been, disappeared. As Christians we have one advantage over others experiencing change - we have a God who never changes. He is constant. He is reliable. He will never leave us or forsake us. Let's embrace whatever change we or our churches are going through – we might find ourselves in a better place. The writer ends this passage with the words...

'Try to embrace the discomfort of change, trusting that it will lead you to a more desirable circumstance or environment.'

It's interesting that he uses the word 'trust'. His book is all about self-reliance, so I presume he means 'trust' in yourself. I know who I'd rather trust!

'Some quotes about trusting God

"Fear is the glue that keeps you stuck. Faith is the solvent that sets you free."

— **Shannon L. Alder**

"When God takes out the trash, don't go digging back through it. Trust Him."

— **Amaka Imani Nkosazana**

"The more you go with the flow of life and surrender the outcome to God, and the less you seek constant clarity, the more you will find that fabulous things start to show up in your life."

— **Mandy Hale**

"We must cease striving and trust God to provide what He thinks is best and in whatever time He chooses to make it available. But this kind of trusting doesn't come naturally. It's a spiritual crisis of the will in which we must choose to exercise faith."

— **Swindoll Charles R.**



I AM YOURS



IF WE LIVE, WE LIVE FOR THE LORD; AND IF WE DIE,
WE DIE FOR THE LORD. SO, WHETHER WE LIVE OR DIE, WE
BELONG TO THE LORD.
ROMANS 14:8

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

At The Romans Course we identified situations in our community where the power of the gospel is needed. One area was drug addiction. This prayer is written for someone experiencing drug addiction. You may be able to use the thoughts in it to pray for someone you know or for our community in general.

Dear Father, Please meet me in my loneliness, help me to have the confidence to speak with someone about my addiction. I trust that you can lead me out of this prison, that you can heal my mind and body. I long to be free, yet I still feel so trapped by my thoughts and fears. Cover me with your love and grace, until, with your help Lord, I can walk in freedom, break out and fully live again. Amen

Read more at: https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/topics/prayer_for_addiction.html

Lord, help me to deal with any fears I have knowing that you have promised to be beside me. Amen

Lord, I pray for my friends and family who don't know you. Speak to them and turn them to you. May they see Jesus in me. Amen

Lord, I continue to ask that you would step into the situation in Israel and Gaza. Your Son said "Blessed are the peacemakers, because they will be called sons of God" (Matt. 5:9). Please raise up peacemakers on both sides that we might see an end to the violence and your name glorified.

Amen

I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.

(Ps. 34:1)'

Father, may these words be true of me.

Amen

*Let praise rise up and overflow
My song resound forever
For grace will see me welcomed home
To walk beside my Saviour
By grace, I am redeemed
By grace, I am restored
And now I freely walk
Into the arms of Christ, my Lord*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lgx7cCK29>

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