

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. 199 9th March 2024

'We are ambassadors for Christ'

Some thoughts.....

If you can remember back to Monday of this week you might remember a cold but sunny day. Just right for a walk we thought – and it's been sometime since we headed for Loch Leven – so we decided to head across to park at the Historic Scotland office in Kinross. We normally walk round Loch Leven in 3 stages – Kinross to Leven's' Larder for lunch, then to the RSBP hide for coffee, and then finish the loop back to Kinross. It's about 14 miles and probably our limit. But it's been

sometime since we did the 14 miles so first time back we decided to do stage 1 and then back – 9 miles – and we made it....or I wouldn't be writing this and you wouldn't be reading....etc. It was a lovely walk although we felt a bit odd because everyone else seemed to have at least one dog with them – where's Harry when you need him!! But they were all friendly (the dogs), no bullies with muzzles. But is there a point to this rambling? Well 2 points actually – firstly – you may be reading this and haven't been to church since before lockdown – or maybe much longer than that. You're out of the way of going as we were with walking the 14 miles. If so, the situation won't improve unless you take the first step. It might be difficult for you but it has to be done if you want to get back to the level of Christian fitness you once enjoyed. Maybe break yourself in (and I don't mean walking half the distance to church), go with someone you know and trust.

But we also spotted on our walk a fallen tree, dead, root ball up in the



air. Sad – but everything has its life span – even Christians. But as we walked round the upturned stump, we saw a sapling growing out of the ground where the old tree had once drawn its life. It's a reminder that things don't stand still, that there's a 'time and season' for everything – for trees, for churches, for people – and where one thing dies new life can spring forth. Get out to church tomorrow!

Robert

9th March 2024

Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2024

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

W/c 11th March

Central Baptist Church
(Paisley)
Central Church
Clty Gates Baptist Church
Cleland Baptist Church



You can sign up for prayer points via Facebook at

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



2 Corinthians 5:17 ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

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 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

Thanks Jim!

A couple of weeks ago Jim Barclay (Rev Jim!) gave me a book entitled 'A Barrel of Fun' and suggested I might find some bits and bobs in it for the newsletter. The book does say that I can use up to 750 words without permission so here goes...

Age: The first half of our life we're romantic. The second half we're rheumatic.

'The old believe everything; the middle-aged suspect everything; the young know everything.' – Oscar Wilde

A minister visits an elderly woman from his congregation. As he sits on the couch he notices a large bowl of peanuts on the coffee table. "Mind if I have a few?" he asks.

"No, not at all!" the woman replies.

They talk for an hour and as the minister stands to leave, he realises that instead of eating just a few peanuts, he has emptied the bowl.

"I'm terribly sorry for eating all your peanuts, I really only meant to eat a few."

"Oh, that's all right," the woman says. "Ever since I lost my teeth all I can do is suck the chocolate off them."

From 'A Barrel of Fun' J John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books.

BMS Prayer Guide 2024



BMS World Mission is partnering with two denominations in Sierra Leone to support the empowerment of people to transform their situations, using their God-given local resources in a sustainable and holistic manner. Pray for these new partnerships and for continued transformation.

SUNDAY 10

2024 is the launch year for two new partnerships in Sierra Leone. Praise God for his hand in the many preparations and plans that have steered these partnerships into place.

MONDAY 11

Please pray for our partnership with the Baptist Convention of Sierra Leone (BCSL). Lift up their work in mobilising churches to be salt and light to their communities, and to lead development initiatives.

TUESDAY 12

Please pray for our other new partnership with New Harvest Development Office (NEHADO), as they train facilitators in Church and Community Mobilisation (CCM). Pray for all these facilitators that they would be agents of change.

WEDNESDAY 13

CCM encourages churches to reach out and build relationships with their communities. Pray that societies would be transformed through the work of BCSL and NEHADO.

THURSDAY 14

A major focus of CCM is to help churches identify all the gifts, skills, and resources that God has given each one of us. Pray for the churches in Sierra Leone as they reach out to those in need around them.

FRIDAY 15

Pray for all the initiatives that come about as a result of CCMP. These often include church buildings, access to healthcare, reconciling relationships and starting new income generating activities. Pray that people will flourish in all that they do.

SATURDAY 16

John 10:10 says that Jesus has come so that we may have life in all its fullness. Pray that the people in Sierra Leone would experience the fullness of God's love and purposes.

Bible Reading– the whole Bible in 2 years.

10 th	Exodus 11:3-10; Exodus 12:1-29
11 th	Exodus 12:30-51; Exodus 13:1-21
12 th	Exodus 13:22-22; Exodus 14:1-31; Exodus 15:1-8
13 th	Exodus 15:9-27; Exodus 16:1-19
14 th	Exodus 16:20-36; Exodus 17:1-16; Exodus 18:1-7
15 th	Exodus 18:8-27; Exodus 19:1-18
16 th	Exodus 19:19-25; Exodus 20:1-26; Exodus 21:1-14



A Thought from Charlie

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the LORD as a reward. It is the LORD Christ you are serving.” (Colossians 3:23-24)

*Sometimes I hear people say that a single woman or man had, “given their elderly parent the best years of their life.” Or I hear about a mother who had sacrificed all to: “devote her years to give care for her disabled child”. Occasionally it is a missionary who has: “given up their life from the mission field”. Sometimes I hear that this single man, mother, or missionary, has nearly worn himself or herself out, collapsing in bone weary exhaustion. No wonder these people sound tired. Who do you think they are serving? **Jesus must not only energise our service, He must be the focus of our service.***

*As Colossians chapter 3 advises, whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not men. Yes, service to God means sacrifice and devotion. But we do not give a lot for life to serve others; **we give up our life to serve the Lord.** It is almost incidental that we are serving a husband or a wife, an elderly parent, a disabled child, or people on the mission field....it’s ALL for the LORD!*

When our focus in Christian service is squarely on the Lord Jesus, our work may be tiring, but it doesn't have to be tiresome. We may get weary, but our work does not have to be wearisome if our energy comes directly from the Lord Jesus.

How can service to the Lord be tedious, monotonous or boring? It never should be....but if we get focus on the right Person...it never will be!

Duty Rota Preaching Door Vestry Prayer Communion Prayer

March	10	Archie	Lindsay	Robert	
	17	Donna	Doreen	Jim B.	
PALM SUNDAY	24	Robert	Mark	Donna	
EASTER	31	Donna	Kevin	Mary	
April	7	Archie	Isobel	Jen	Jim B.
	14	Archie	Phyllis	Eddie	



Church This Week

Sunday 10th March

11.00am Worship Service – Archie

To join on zoom just click the link below.

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

5.30pm Family Fellowship

Thursday

10.30 Zoom Prayer Time

Friday

9.00-12.00 The Lighthouse

'How to Survive Almost Anything 9.'

We're still in the section titled 'The Survivor's Mindset' and last week we considered the importance of letting go of trauma – not letting things which have caused us grief in the past determine our future. Today we're on something a bit cheerier and it's the importance of having 'A Spirit of Adventure'. I must admit that I'm glad that it's someone else writing about this idea because I think I was absent when the spirit of adventure genes were being given out. So what does our writer say about a 'spirit of adventure'?....well only a couple of pages to be honest but I found myself agreeing with a lot of what he was writing and a lot of it can be transposed into the Christian context so let's go....



The writer points out that this is not an age thing – a teenager can look at his parents and wonder where their spirit of adventure has gone, or even if it was ever there in the first place but equally parents can look at a teen and wish they were doing something other than being glued to their mobile device. We all can benefit from a spirit of adventure. It doesn't matter whether the adventure takes you to the local hills or the Himalayas it brings a sense of '*connecting with something bigger than yourself*'. For the writer that something bigger is nebulous – for the adventurous Christian it is Almighty God.

'There's nothing more boring than living forever..' says the writer....'I can't think of anything more exciting' says the Christian. The contrast here is that the writer sees eternal life as simply an extension of life here and now - he doesn't believe in the possibility of an 'afterlife' where the things that have caused us heartache in this life are absent and where there is no striving or conflict or crying or frustration. But he's right in one sense in that our life here and now is limited but, even as a Christian, it was never meant to be boring. Becoming a Christian is a life changing event, an adventure as we learn to appreciate what God has done for us in Jesus and how we can live our lives with that as the guiding star. We do have a limited time on earth so let's use it to the fullest. Then when we move from this life we can look forward to our *'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'* But not every Christian lives that sort of adventurous life in the same way that not every person shows a spirit of adventure. The writer suggests that this is because some people focus on the microscopic, getting caught up in the treadmill we call life while the others seek the unknown and stay open to the moment – and that can be true of the Christian. But if we take that first step, the second becomes easier.

It's true in life, it's true for the Christian that *'Nothing in life was ever great, unless at some point you doubted your ability to achieve it.'*

Right.... Who's up for it?



In all these we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. - Romans 8:37

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, I want to be more like the person you want me to be. Please grow in me the evidence of the Holy Spirit living in me – the love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
Amen

*Lord, I thank you that you are God of the universe, that you are almighty, that you know the end from the beginning, and so I leave the war-torn areas of our world in your hands. Bring peace where there is war and love where there is hate. In Jesus name,
Amen*

Lord – there's a problem I'm wrestling with. Let me share it with you.....
Show me the way forward.
Amen

Lord, thank you for your love and goodness to me. Thank you that you are with me in every situation – in joys and sorrows. Thank you that you love me despite my faults and failures. Thank you that I can lean on you when life gets too much for me. You never leave me.
Amen

We wait in hope for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.
In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.
May your unfailing love be with us, Lord,
even as we put our hope in you.
(Ps. 33:20-22)'
*Father, thank you for your unconditional, unfailing love.
Amen*

Lord – I miss _____ so much. Thank you for the time we had together, until we meet again.
Amen

Mine are days that God has numbered
I was made to walk with Him
Yet I look for worldly treasure
And forsake the King of kings
But mine is hope in my Redeemer
Though I fall, His love is sure
For Christ has paid for every failing
I am His forevermore

<https://youtu.be/roQovDZeAWE>

*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