

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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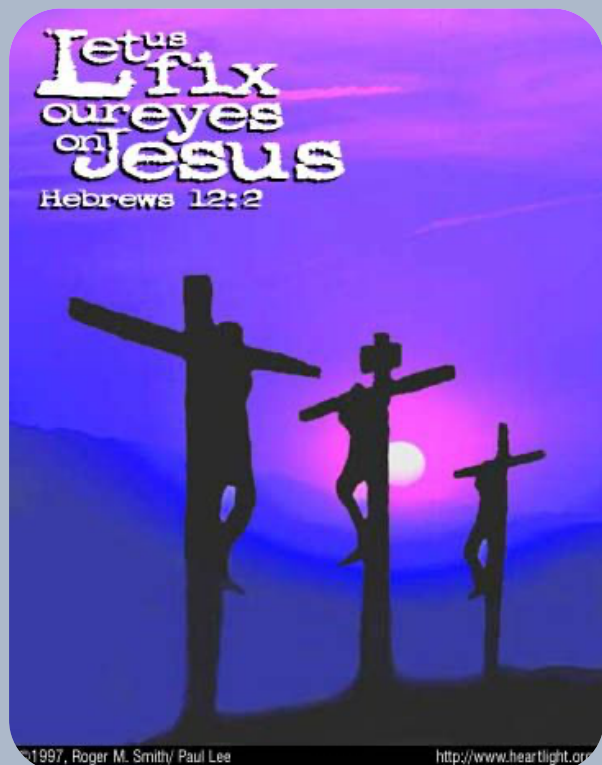
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No. 203 6th April 2024

'We are ambassadors for Christ'

Some thoughts.....

With this issue of the newsletter we move into its fifth year. It's appropriate that we start a new year of newsletters the week after Easter Day. Easter was when life started anew for the disciples. After that week, that day, things never the same again – lives changed, hope renewed, the future rewritten. Looking back on Easter week 2024 personally may not have been so life changing ...

On the Monday we laid our sister-in-law Margaret to rest. It was bitter-sweet especially for her family, losing the person who had given them birth and brought them through to the people they are today. And yet relieved that she would no longer struggle as she had done in the last few years. Margaret had been brought up in the catholic faith and had stuck with it – yes, we had many interesting discussions but she was true to what she believed. Life changed.

Thursday morning was Coffee&Chat where we open the church and welcome all in. I took Bill back home and we spoke about the loneliness he still feels three years after the life-changing event of losing his wife with whom he had shared so many years.

Thursday evening was Holy Week Communion – in our church this year – and it was great to welcome those from other churches to share our common faith – and that, as Christians, we are Christ's for evermore. It was especially nice for me to see Charmian, a former colleague from our working days and a member at Ladywell BC, coming up the steps. Catching up and hearing of the changes in her life and her plans for a round-the-world adventure.

Friday saw the Good Friday service in Strathbrock Church where Hanneke, the minister, led us in a dramatic retelling of the events of that dreadful day. In my acting debut (at least since primary school) - I managed to get my 6 words right and at the right time – I was Peter. Peter who knew a thing or two about life changes – changes for the better.

As we look back at Easter are there changes you need to make in your life?

*Robert
6th April 2024*

Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2024

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

W/c 8th April

Cumbernauld Baptist Church
Cupar Baptist Church
Dalbeattie Baptist Church
Irish Baptist Networks



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

From Ephesians 4:22-24 put off your old self,²⁴ and... put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

BMS Prayer Guide 2024



Like a symphony, our BMS community harmonises in pursuit of a common mission. Each note, from fervent prayers to generous giving, plays its part in the grand composition of spreading God's love around the world. Join us this week in celebrating our community's faithful commitment, service and sacrifice.

SUNDAY 7

Pray for the Baptist Assembly taking place in Telford next month. Pray that it would be a time of fellowship and worship, and a catalyst for mission.

MONDAY 8

Pray for BMS Birthday Scheme co-ordinators and members. Thank God for their faithful service and generosity. Pray that they would be blessed as they bless others through their gifts, and that the Birthday Scheme would continue to grow.

TUESDAY 9

Pray for lay leaders and deacons of Baptist churches, who are essential partners in ministry and mission. Thank God for their dedication and sacrifice. Pray that they would be encouraged and refreshed by God's presence and grace.

WEDNESDAY 10

Pray for the BMS Easter appeal, which supports BMS workers who are making disciples of all nations. Pray that the funds raised would help equip believers to share their faith.

THURSDAY 11

Pray for members of our community who have recently been bereaved. May they find strength and hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

FRIDAY 12

Pray for Sunday school teachers, who play a vital role in nurturing children's faith. Ask God to equip them with creativity, wisdom and patience. Pray that children would be inspired for God's mission.

SATURDAY 13

Pray for the Baptist Union of Great Britain, following the recent meeting of its Council. Pray that God would guide them in their decisions and actions, and that they would be united in their vision.

Bible Reading– the whole Bible in 2 years.

7 th	Leviticus 10:15-20; Leviticus 11:1-41
8 th	Leviticus 11:42-47; Leviticus 12:1-8; Leviticus 13:1-23
9 th	Leviticus 13:24-59
10 th	Leviticus 14:1-35
11 th	Leviticus 14:36-57; Leviticus 15:1-23
12 th	Leviticus 15:24-33; Leviticus 16:1-23
13 th	Leviticus 16:24-34; Leviticus 17:1-16; Leviticus 18:1-13



A Thought from Charlie

"Having a good conscience..."

(1 Peter 3:16)

What is conscience? God has put within each one of us something that cries aloud against us, whenever we do that which we know to be wrong. Our Conscience is the detective that watches the direction of our steps and decides our every conscious transgression.

Conscience is a vigilant eye before which each imagination, thought, and act, is held up for either censure or approval. I believe there is no greater argument for the existence of God in the world today than conscience.

There is no greater proof of the existence of a moral law and lawgiver in the universe than this little light of the soul. It is God's voice to the inner man. Conscience is a wisest counsellor and teacher, our most faithful and patient friend.

Let us listen therefore to our conscience; in doing so we will save ourselves from many a heartache.

Church Stuff

Sunday 7th **11.00am Morning Worship & Communion – Rev Archie Young**
To join on zoom just click the link below.
[Click to join](#)

Thursday **No Zoom Prayer this week – restarts next Friday**

Friday **No Lighthouse this week – restarts next Friday**

Sunday 14th **11.00am Morning Worship – Archie**
5.30pm Family Fellowship

Duty Rota **Preaching Door Vestry Prayer Communion Prayer**

April	7	Archie	Isobel	Jen	Jim B.
	14	Archie	Phyllis	Eddie	
	21	Donna	Linda	Linda	
	28	Andy	Bill	Bill	
May	5	Donna	Mark	Robert	Bill
	12	Andy	Lindsay	Robert	



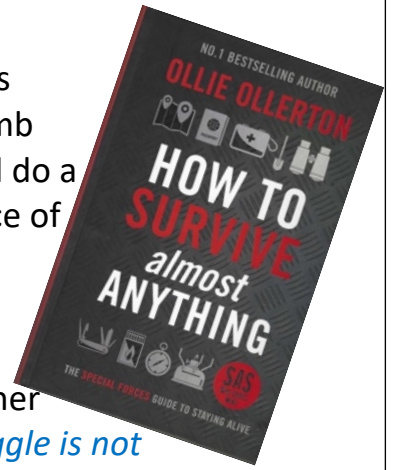
'How to Survive Almost Anything 12.'

We're on to Part 2 of the book headed 'Essentials' and this week it's about 'Thinking Ahead'. The author suggests that 'You wouldn't climb into a boxing ring with an opponent you knew nothing about; you'd do a bit of research on them and their style' and 'To have the best chance of survival you need to go equipped with knowledge.'

I don't suppose any of us would disagree with these sentiments – mind you I don't suppose many of us have gone into a boxing ring. But the Bible teaches us that, as Christians, we are in a battle whether

we like it or not. In Ephesians 6 Paul puts it like this, ⁴² *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms'*

Now that sounds scary, and it is and if we go into this fight unprepared we are in for a rough time. But fortunately, Paul goes on to explain that we are not defenceless – check out verses 13-19 of Ephesians 6. Think ahead, being equipped with the knowledge we need will give us the best chance of survival in this 'war.'



A 17th Century Nun's Prayer about Old Age

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old.

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the Devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people.

And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen

(From 'A Barrell of Fun' by J John and M Stibbe)

In church last Sunday we celebrated the resurrection by singing some old easter hymns and some new ones. Donna led us to look at the events of that Easter Day from the different perspectives of the gospel writers.

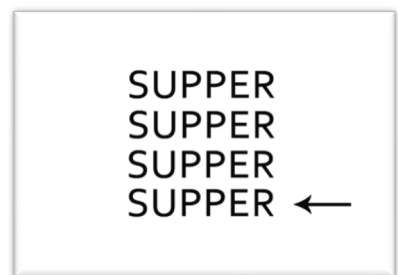
It was nice to welcome a couple of visitors who were enjoying a weekend break at Houston House. They did have links with the area having been married in Strathbrock Church some 57 years ago (If I heard correctly).

Even more interesting was the fact that the lady's aunt used to bring her to services in the Baptist Church. Her aunt was Miss Agnes Bell who is remembered by a number of members - especially as she was an expert seamstress who made several of the wedding dresses for past and present church members.

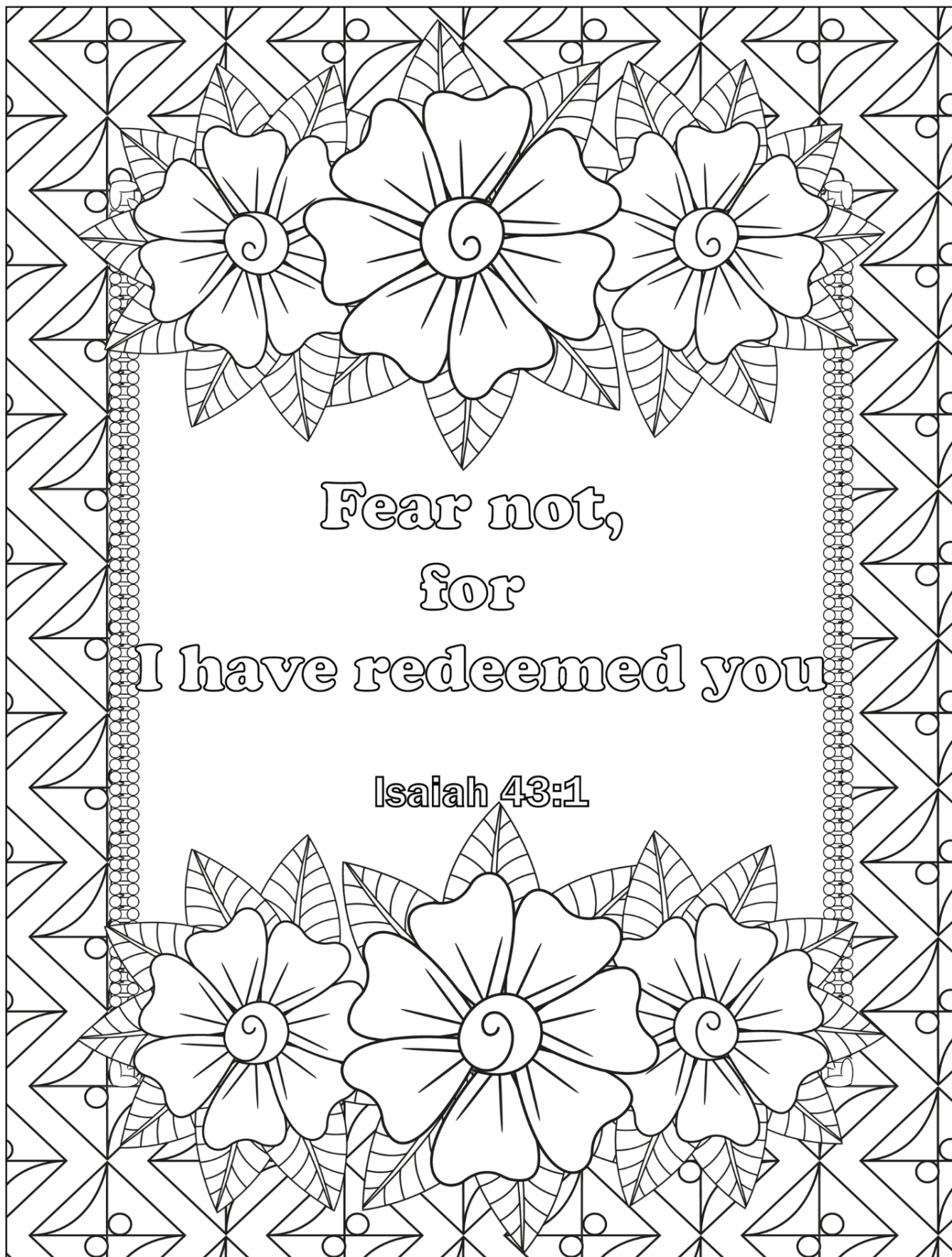
Agnes lived in Uphall Station. She was welcomed into membership of the church on 6th March 1955 after baptism and was a member until her death in 1981.

Thanks Agnes for the memories!

Bible Dingbats – say what you see!!



This week we start a series of 'Colour and consider' featuring bible verses. Maybe you could commit them to memory if you don't already know them?



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

Lord, so often I get tied up in the trivialities of life that I forget to say Thank You. So Lord, thank you!

Amen

Lord, I think of your words, that you will never leave us or forsake us and I pray for those who are yours who are going through difficult times just now. May they know the truth of your presence and the peace that can bring.

Amen

Lord, the events in Gaza are never far from my mind. It shows the reality of evil in our broken world. Lord stay the hand of those on both sides who want death and destruction. Give strength to the peacemakers. Comfort those mourning the loss of friends and family, aid workers who have died. Free the hostages, Lord, and end the carnage and suffering.

Amen

Lord, thank you for wonders of your creation, from the microscopic to the unimaginable vastness of space. Thank you for my place in it.

Amen

Lord, thank you for the beauty of art in all its forms and particularly when it takes us out of the temporal and gives us a glimpse of the spiritual.

Amen

Lord, show me how to be your hands and feet this week.

Amen.

Lord, I want to live my life for you, not so that I might earn my salvation but because you did all that was needed to be done on Calvary. I long to hear your 'Well done!'

Amen

One day You'll make sense of it all, Jesus
One day every question resolved
Every anxious thought left behind
No more fear
When we all get to heaven
What a day of rejoicing that will be
When we all see Jesus
We'll sing and shout the victory

<https://youtu.be/LGAdaGbmffs>

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