

BRIGHT LIGHTS



WINTER 2021
BRIGHTONS PARISH CHURCH

CHURCH CONTACTS

OFFICE BEARERS

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Organists	Jill Dickson Jon-Luke Kirton
Choir Master	Morag Lang
Beadle	Margaret Scott
Presbytery Elder <i>e-mail</i> - presbytery@brightonschurch.org.uk	Eric Smith

Communion Sunday

"This do in remembrance of Me"

As a member of the Church of Jesus Christ
you are invited to accept our Lord's invitation to
the Sacrament of Holy Communion
which will be celebrated **only at 11 a.m.** on
Sunday 5th December 2021

Elder Pastoral Group:
Contact tel. no:

A Message from the Manse

Dear friends,

As we approach the Advent season, I wonder what emotions and expectations you carry within you? Are you looking forward to a return of some “normality”? We’ll likely have our Christmas services – which we so missed last year – with a Nativity Service led by the children and young people, as well as our Christingle Service, Watchnight Services (early and late) and our Christmas Day service. Will we see you along? Strangely, these will be my first Christmas services in person, what with being ill the first year and then the pandemic in the second! I do hope to see you over the Advent season.

I think we must admit, we are very much creatures of habit – we like life to go the old familiar ways; we want normal; we prefer the rhythms of life we have become so accustomed to. Humanity has changed very little in this regard over the generations, so I suspect that the various characters of the Christmas story were just going about their regular lives, probably appreciating their own normal too.

But then comes Christmas – and everything is turned on its head for these individuals! A virgin is pregnant, shepherds are startled by angels; a king is threatened by reports of a possible coup – wow!

Yet, in the midst of normality being disrupted, God was doing something, God was at work, God was telling people not to be afraid, that there was good news which would bring joy, and there would even be the hope of peace (Luke 2: 10, 14). Maybe when some people heard this, they appreciated their normal being disrupted – maybe they couldn’t wait?! Maybe this news gave them life, maybe they had got too comfortable and this is exactly what they needed from God.

However, maybe you’re approaching this Advent differently, maybe you’ve experienced a lot of disruption or heartache this past year. Maybe your normal Christmas is never likely to return. Nevertheless, might the same words be for you too – not to dampen the difficulty, or minimise the hurt, but to give a measure of strength, hope and comfort as you journey through this season.

However, as we are approaching Advent, I pray that you and your families will know the truth and power of the Advent message: may it disrupt us where that is needed and comfort us where we feel broken, and through it all may you know that God came near through Jesus – and He still is, even today.

With love to one and all,

Scott

Congregational Roll Update

Baptism

September **Lewis William Rankine son of Emma and Calum Rankine**

New Members by Profession of Faith

October **Mrs Marie Burns**
 Mrs Jennifer McGuinness
 Mr Calum and Mrs Emma Rankine
 Mrs Suzanne Stirling

New Member by Resolution of Kirk Session

October **Mrs Jean McRae**

“...keep the unity of the Spirit, through the band of peace. There is one body and one spirit to one hope when you were called one Lord, one faith....” Ephesians 4:3-5(NIV)

Deaths

August **Mr Kenneth Hearn**
 Mr Allister McDonald

September **Mrs Jean Abercrombie**
 Mrs Christabel Rankine

October **Mrs Irene Dunbar**

November **Mr John Munro**

Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law. Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1st Corinthians 15:55-57 (NIV).

The Pastoral Assistant's Message



“It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas” as the song goes and it is only November as I write this article. But is it beginning to look a lot like the Christmas we knew in the past but with the continuing presence of Covid-19 things are still going to be somewhat different again this year. I guess we will still be singing “Silent Night” and “Hark the Herald” from behind a mask as we gather in Church for Nativity and Watchnight Services and as we share Communion together, it will still be a neatly conveniently packaged container of bread and wine.

This Christmas looks like it’s possibly going to be a bit better than last year with less internet shopping required and perhaps a trip or two to Glasgow or Edinburgh to do the Christmas gift shop or maybe you’r going to pass on your list and let family or friends shop for you as they had to do last Christmas.

Giving, not just for Christmas but also birthdays and other special occasions has been somewhat different of late and the choice may be a bit more limited than in the past but still we want to give because of the joy we see as our loved ones open their gifts on Christmas Day.

What can take the joy out of giving are the obligatory gifts. Despite working from home there may still be the “secret Santa”. There’s the box of sweets you keep by the door to hand the Smiths when they come to call as you know they will, once a year. And don't forget the gift for Great Aunt Jeannie whom you haven't liked since she pinched your cheeks when you were little. Really difficult are the gifts that come with long invisible strings dangling from them, gifts so very expensive that you could never afford to reciprocate.

I wonder how Mary and Joseph felt as they watched richly robed wise men kneel before their child offering alabaster jars of precious myrrh, inlaid boxes

heavy with the scent of frankincense, and iron-bound chests laden with gold - gifts fit for a king. How could they possibly repay?

I guess the most troublesome gift at Christmas is the Child Himself. What do we say? We smile nicely and pat the humbly- wrapped present. "How nice of you, God, to have been so thoughtful," we mumble politely. But the Gift lies in the cupboard unopened year after year. Perhaps because we don't expect to find much inside except a useless religious trinket. Perhaps because we don't feel any need for God just now. Perhaps because we know that if we unwrap the Gift we'll be obligated to the Giver beyond what we can ever repay. And so it sits ... and so it sits until in loneliness, in pain, in utter desperation we tug at the ribbons and tear off the wrappings, hoping against hope we'll find inside what we've longed for.

Unconditional Love!

Christmas may not be "like the good old days" but the gift given by God never changes. It has been given with love and comes without any conditions but, unlike the socks, hankies or other unwanted gifts, let's not pack the Christ-child away with the tree. We need Him in our lives even more as we head into 2022. We may not always be able to share with God's people in the sanctuary week after week but we can keep Him in our hearts 365 days of every year.

Ian Baillie, Pastoral Assistant.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Our Fellowship Groups are now operational after the summer break.

There is still time to get involved and anyone wishing to do so should contact the Group leader directly - details are below.

Group I, meets on Sunday evenings at 7:30 in the Small Church Hall- contact Ian Lawson

Group T, meets on Sunday evenings at 7:00 - Using Zoom at present – contact Tom Nimmo

Group A, meets on Monday evenings at 7:30 at the home of Sandra Smillie, Nicolson Avenue, Brightons. This is a women's group - tel. Annabella Nimmo

Group K, meets on Monday evenings at 7:45 at the home of Keith Wansbrough, The Ivy, Redding Road, Brightons

Group C, meets on Friday mornings at 9:30 in the church hall. This is a women's group - contact Carolyn McEwan

For further information, please contact Tom Nimmo

Having God's Word in your own language.

Based on article in **Words For Life** (Wycliffe Bible Translators) Autumn 2021

Rev Enoch Wandera grew up in a Christian family in Uganda, but as he admits, 'I lived a very bad life before I became a Christian.' After he started work in the Ugandan prison service, he got 'swept up into the world – the world of drinking, the world of partying, the world of immorality. I drank myself out of a job.' One day, a friend persuaded him to go back to church, and God revealed himself to Enoch in a sort of vision.

Enoch went on to become a pastor, looking after eight churches. One day, an assistant preached while Enoch was away visiting another church. He spoke on 1 John 5:12;

'Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the
Son of God does not have life.'

'Because my assistant wasn't able to read it in his own language, he misunderstood the verse. He preached that if you don't have children then you don't have a place in the kingdom of God!' When an older man spoke to Enoch about the upset this had caused him, his eyes were opened 'to the great need for people to have the word of God in their own language,'

'From that point on' Enoch says, 'I have had a passion for Bible translation.' His dream has come true with the recent publication of the Lunyole New Testament, and he says that seeing people reading it in church each week is giving him the motivation to finish the Old Testament. 'I want to express my gratitude and thanks to all those people and churches in the UK and Ireland who have helped us.'

You too could be part of bringing God's Word to people groups around the world, transforming lives. Why not take a look at Wycliffe's website for more inspiring stories and to get involved! There is a monthly on-line prayer meeting for the work of Wycliffe. For more details, contact -

Rachel Meek through the church office.

The Girls' Brigade

Brigaders

This year we are looking at "Climate Change" and what we can do to help the planet. We are doing this by looking into the clothing industry and the ways it misuses our resources. The girls also wrote their own promises to help combat climate change and hung them on our promise tree.



For Spiritual we are in a Nativity Escape room, testing our brains by answering the clues to help us understand the birth of Jesus.

We spent time painting stones with poppies for Remembrance Day and attended the Remembrance Sunday service.

We are all looking forward to having a film night for Christmas and to taking part in the Christingle Service on Sunday 12th December at 6pm.

Maggy Dick

Officer in Charge.

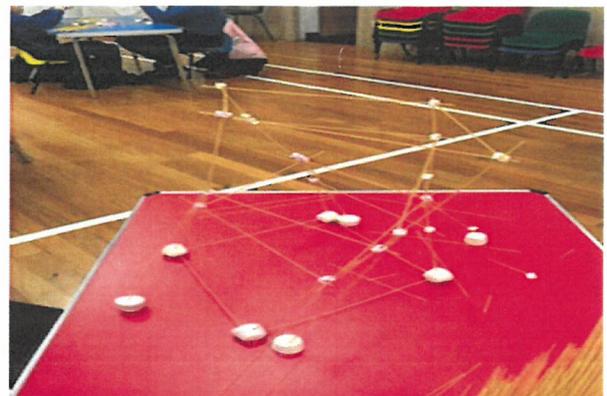
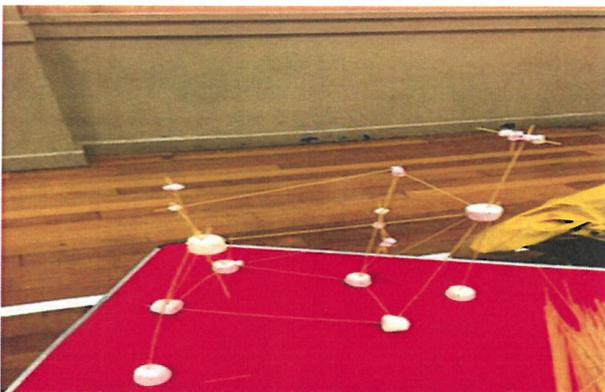
Juniors

It was great to be back in the Church Halls in September, meeting with the girls face to face after meeting on Zoom for so long.

Our first evening with the girls was a "getting to know you" night and discussing which subjects they would like to look at this session covering the four sections of our badgework.

For our **Spiritual** section we have been learning the books of the Bible and even having a Bible scavenger hunt. We are now starting to look at various stories within the Bible.

In our **Physical** section we have been having fun working in teams or pairs taking part in various team building activities. One of our challenges was the spaghetti and marshmallow tower building game. Here are a few pictures of the ones that stayed upright. It was harder than they thought.



For our **Educational** badgework we are looking at Endangered Animals and have picked out the top 10 to learn about. So far we have learned about sea turtles and pandas and are going to be looking at elephants and leopards before Christmas. We are also going to fundraise next year for our **Service** badgework and look at where we can donate the money raised to help endangered animals.



During the session we have also been making different types of puppets which the girls have all enjoyed doing and we have lots more still to make. It has been great seeing the girls creative sides coming out. At present we are working on making a giraffe and our next one is going to be a sock puppet.



We have also made a “promise” tree ahead of COP 26 as to what we can do to help climate change. The girls all wrote promises on leaves and hung them on the tree. Last week we painted remembrance stones ahead of the Remembrance Service which we attended.



This year our Christmas party is being held in the hall and we are looking forward to a fun packed evening with the girls.

Sandra Blair

Explorers

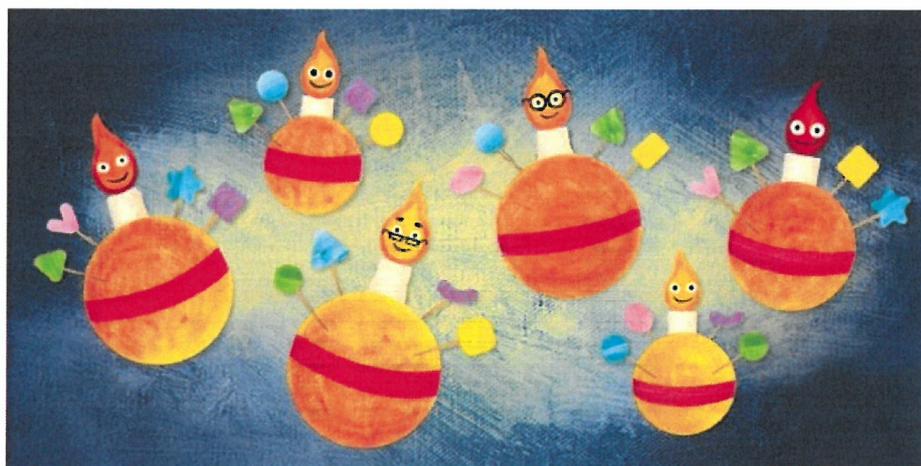
As with the other sections it has been great being back in the halls meeting with the Explorers. We are very pleased to have several new members joining us this session. Our theme this session is THE OCEAN. We have been looking at various bible stories relating to water etc. We started with Creation, Noah & The Ark, Moses Crossing The Red Sea and in the last couple of weeks we have been looking at Jonah And The Whale and Jesus Washing Disciples Feet. We have also learned some new actions songs relating to our theme.

The Explorers also painted remembrance stones and made a promise tree writing down the ways in which they could help climate change. We are now moving onto learn about some of the animals that live in the sea.

We are looking forward to taking part in the Christingle Service and our Christmas Party later in December.

Sandra Blair

1st Polmont Girls' Brigade



*Invite you to join them for
Christingle Service
Brightons Parish Church
Sunday 12th December 2021 6.00pm
All are welcome*

A Letter from the Duncan's in South Africa

October 2021

Dear Friends,

This letter is long overdue but it is not because we have been laid low with COVID-19. It just seems that we get busier and busier and this keeps us occupied. Life has certainly changed but we have adjusted well as we were already used to working from home. We have taken all the necessary precautions, and follow the protocols carefully. We have had our two vaccinations with almost no side effects! We are fortunate that in South Africa our government's policies have meant that we have fewer than 500 new infections per day and fewer than 60 deaths per day. This is excellent progress as the roll out of vaccinations progresses well. We are now down to Level 2 of the lockdown which is part of the government's measured response to the pandemic. Our current recovery rate is 96.3%.

Sandra has been incredibly busy with proof-reading. This is possibly because with lockdown and people working from home, students have more time to devote to their research. It is a never-ending stream. In addition, she keeps the students sane when they are under pressure from their supervisors.

She has also been busy with our elder, Violet Mashao at Mamelodi. As we have written before:

Thankfully, due to ongoing support from Scottish partners, particularly Cumbernauld Old and Brightons, we have been able to increase our involvement with the orphans' project at Mamelodi East congregation. These kids are a special risk at this time. The support given helps them understand that when all else around them is collapsing, the church is still there helping in times of great need, and that church means far more than the local congregation which nourishes them.

Just before Easter, Graham was invited by the minister, Rev Dr Fundiswa Kobo, to lead a seminar on the role of the eldership. This was a good opportunity to catch up with elders he had not seen for some time.

We have had spells at church where we went totally on to Zoom services but with the change in lockdown regulations we are back to 'normal' worship with Zoom for the elderly. On Good Friday we had an offering of Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living* by Unison voices, one of Pretoria's superb choirs. This was a performance of hope for Easter and during the continuing pandemic.

Graham has been involved in an increasing number of Zoom sessions. He taught our Post Academic Training (PAT) students contemporary spirituality,

preaching and church law. Then he was one of the respondents to the memorial lecture given in honour of our recently deceased colleague, Rev Prof Vuyani Vellem.

After a spell of online teaching at the Baptist College, we returned to contact teaching in July. The semester has now ended and students are about to write their final end of year exams. This year Graham was asked to prepare a new module for our Higher Certificate in Biblical Studies on South African History of Christianity. The college has been taking the teaching the History of Christianity more seriously since Graham joined the staff; which is gratifying.

St Augustine's College has been teaching online since the first lockdown, so that was another online teaching experience: a week-long honours module in Historical Theology. Students all passed!

The major change we have had to face is the lack of family and friends visiting us from the UK; hopefully, that will be resolved next year? We are fortunate in having local friends who keep us in good company in the meantime.

As we write this, we are preparing for a brief visit to the UK during November to see our family. For the most part we will be self-isolating in Brighton with our sons and then with our grand-daughter and her partner in Longcroft. We will not be 'doing the rounds' as we normally do. It is just that we need to see our family. Please excuse us if this appears to be selfish but we are at a great distance and it is almost two years since we saw them. We have struggled so hard in South Africa to overcome the pandemic, which is not our opinion of the situation in the UK, especially England. We acknowledge that this is not the case in Scotland as we see from international news broadcasts and reports. However, at our age and both having diabetes, we have decided to take a 'conservative' approach to our visit.

We are grateful for the ongoing contact. This has been a particular blessing during the past two years. We hope all is well with you and your congregations. If all goes well, we hope to make a visit to the UK during June/July next year.

With our Love and Best Wishes!
Graham & Sandra

Friends of Jesus Group

The Friends of Jesus Group have been meeting on Zoom and it's been great to be together again. Our theme this session is Creation and we have enjoyed learning about God and the beautiful world he has made.

We prayed for new helpers and God has blessed us with four for which we are very grateful.

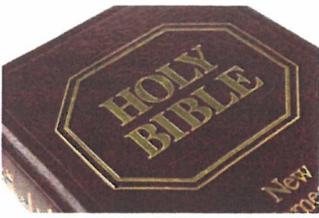
On Saturday 30th October we met in person in Brightons Church Hall for the Prospect's Annual Celebration which was live streamed on Zoom. It was wonderful to be together in person and to wave to other Friends on the Zoom screen. It was a joyous afternoon and we enjoyed joining in with singing and actions, plus waving our flags

We are looking forward to meeting back in person in Redding Church Hall on Thursday 18th November at 6.45pm.

Please remember our Friends in your prayers as we meet together in person and that we will all be kept safe and that they will enjoy learning about our special friend and Saviour -Jesus.

Wendy Dick





Some Helpful Bible Verses

- **Compassion** - The Lord your God is gracious and compassionate. He will not turn His face from you if you return to Him (2 Chronicles 30:9)
- The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. (James 5:11)
- **Kindness** - Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. (Colossians 3:12-13)
- Tell the Lord how thankful you are, because He is kind and always merciful. (Psalm 118:1)
- **Love** - "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life". (John 3:16)
- Love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4:8)
- **Patience** - Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. (Psalm 27:14)

The Guild

A big thank you from the Guild. You generously gave £698.00 through the retiring offering on Sunday November 6th for the two projects the Guild is supporting this year: the Vine Trust's project at the Village of Hope, Kazunzu, Tanzania and the Pioneer Trust's project in South-east Asia. Thank you so much, on behalf of these projects. We know that the children and families in Kazunzu will benefit from your gifts as houses are built for them along with schools, medical facilities and village support. We are also grateful that the family working in South-east Asia will be better equipped to support the development of their fair-trade chocolate business and to reach out in love to the people around them. Thank you!

The Guild, meanwhile, is being cautious this year and only meeting once a month. This allows us some flexibility in case we have to navigate more changes due to covid-19 over this coming winter. We are looking forward to hearing from a speaker from the **Vine Trust on Monday 15th November at 2pm** and then we are planning our **Christmas lunch on Monday 13th December**. In the new year we will have one afternoon meeting and two evening meetings. On **Monday 17th January** we will **meet at 2pm** and explore the Guild annual theme which this year is 'Lights and Bushels'. On **Monday 21st February at 7.30pm** we will be introduced to sea glass jewellery by Malcolm Field and on **Monday 21st March after our ABM at 7pm**, our speaker will be Marion Graham with poetry.

Fellowship and fun lie at the heart of the Guild's work, as we seek to serve Christ. Guild meetings and friendships help us to develop our understanding of what God is guiding us to do with our time, talents and money. We are supported through this nurturing fellowship to cope with what life throws at us, and we grow closer to God in surprising ways. This winter will undoubtedly give us challenges but we know that with God's help we will learn more about how better to follow our Lord.

Elspeth Reid
Convenor

News from our Sunday Schools

It has been absolutely wonderful to have all of our groups meeting back in person since August. I have had lots of the congregation commenting to me how wonderful it is to meet once again as a whole church family. I certainly enjoy the children's talks and all that childlike wonder they involve - especially when they get to join in!

Crèche has been running although we are not currently running a rota as parents are tending to stay with their children at present. As this changes over time, we will adapt to the needs of the users. It's just fantastic to have the wee ones with us in the sanctuary while the parents are able to relax and watch the service on the big screen while the wee ones play.

In Beginners (nursery to P1) we started by creating a new mural for our wall of the story of the wise man who built his house upon the rock, singing the song and having lots of games centred around foolish and wise actions. We then completed our section of what's inside God's book and are now learning all about God's creatures.

Juniors (P2 to P4) have continued to use their Jesus storybook Bibles which they received at their moving up services to read along with the stories. This was something that began during lockdown to ensure they were all able to follow the same story. They have been learning all about King David in the Old Testament and making Goliath models and how God is our shepherd.

The Beginners and Juniors joint Christmas party will be on Saturday 4th December 2-4pm.

Triple S (P5 to P7) have been learning about how God gives us courage when we call out to him when we are afraid or worried. They have memorised Jeremiah 33:3, Joshua 1:9 and Philippians 4:6-7. They have enjoyed some great crafts, games and colouring to help them memorise the verses. They plan on having a Christmas party, but the date and time are to be confirmed. Please watch this space.

Flam ((S1-S3) are currently meeting at the Gilmours' – in the garden when weather permits. They want to get out and about and involved in more around the community e.g. foodbank. If there are jobs needed done around the church, let them know.

Wait For It (S4-S6) are currently meeting once a month for a lunch after church and are involved in various church based activities - a younger group Sunday school, tech or drums. Most are also involved in the Israel and Palestine trip so are involved in lots of fundraising for that too.

We have begun our preparation for the Nativity service which will be on Sunday 19th December and Cameron Dick has kindly stepped in as our director. We are all very excited to be having a nativity in church this year. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do.

God's Blessings upon you all,

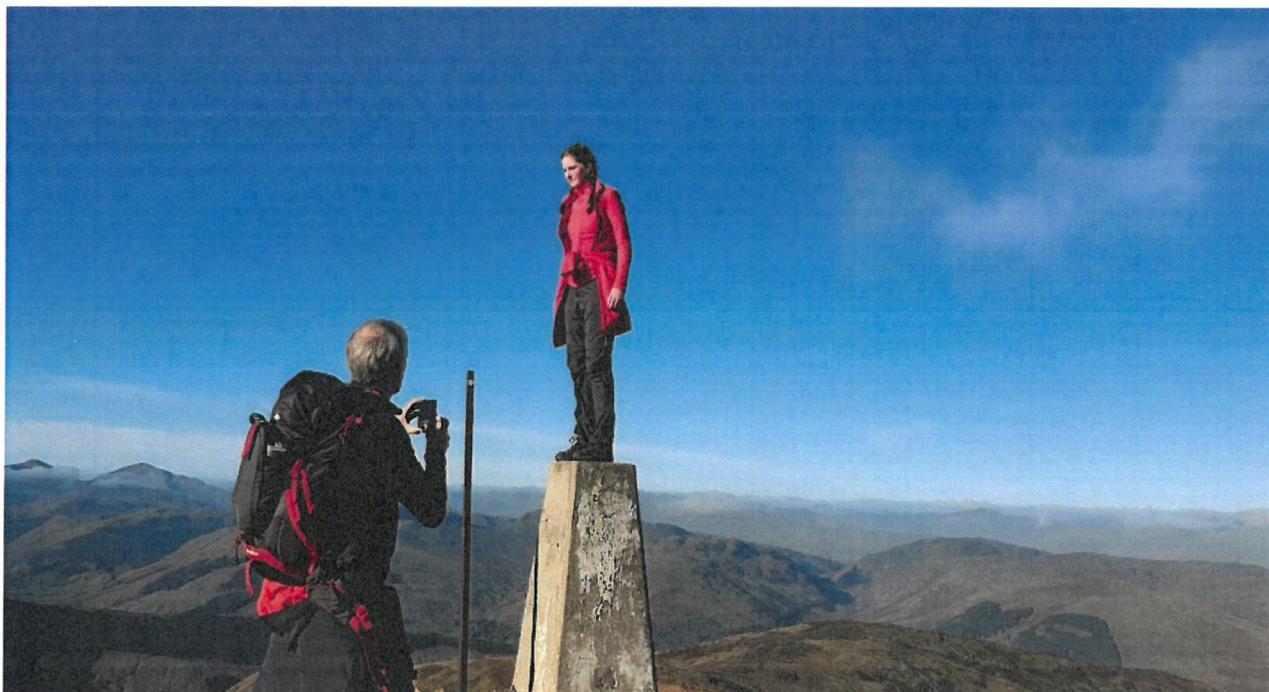
Alie Drackford

Sunday School Coordinator

"Israel and Palestine Youth Trip- Fundraising update

Everyone agreed to set themselves a personal challenge for completion over the next few months.

Leonie completed her first ever Munro climb in record time and Sharon and the Mums, not being athletic, held a successful Ladies Night dinner, photos below.



The Beatons have set themselves the ambitious target of walking and cycling the 3,500 miles between Linlithgow and Jerusalem!!

Total raised to date is just over £3000, almost 25% of our total target. Thanks to everyone for their support and encouragement to date. If you want to track our progress, feel free to ask anyone on the team or scan the QR code

Sharon, Jason and Scott



The Choir

The choir met on 21st October for the first time in many months. Eighteen choir members attended and it was great to hear the group singing. I have received a very warm welcome from everyone, and we are delighted to welcome two new members, Peter Arkless and his friend June to sing with us.

Current restrictions allow the choir to meet, sitting one metre apart, and sing without masks. We meet in the Rankine Hall for around an hour on Thursday evenings and run through the hymns for the upcoming Sunday service. We have a Choir copy of Mission Praise allocated to each member so we have no sharing of music, to keep everyone as safe as possible.

We remember Elwyn Batt and Robin Johnson who are no longer with us.

Morag Lang
Choir Leader

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal 2021.

I would like to thank everyone who donated a filled shoebox or drawstring bag for this year's appeal. From the church this year we have sent 180 boxes, which is a magnificent achievement given the circumstances of this year. I would especially like to thank Irene McNab from the Guild and Nancy Lees for the number of boxes that they have contributed.



Jim Dick

Boys' Brigade

Company Section

After a gap of over 18 months, we finally managed to start back properly with face to face meetings in the church halls on Friday 22nd October. We weren't sure how many boys we'd have along since the numbers had been reduced during the period when we could only meet online so we were very pleased to welcome 23 boys on our first night back. We are still not quite able to offer the full range of BB activities and, we were disappointed to note that the Battalion events have been postponed for this session although we hope this may be reviewed with a more positive outcome during January.

The Company Section programme this year is in the capable hands of Colin and Josh Heggie with the support of the rest of the staff. We have been able to do some squad drill and games as well as some classes where we used materials prepared by the staff at BB headquarters. We discussed whether it was ever ok to steal and this threw up some interesting thoughts. We also talked about the COP26 summit and looked at what simple steps we could all take which would have a positive impact on our environment. Colin used a big ball of string which we all held and demonstrated how a single action by one person could have a ripple effect on a lot of people. We even got a bit scientific on bonfire night and made a silent rocket using a plastic bottle, vinegar, bicarbonate of soda, pencils, sticky tape and some lights. The best one flew higher than the church roof and looked very impressive. One senior who will remain nameless even suggested we should do something like that every week.

We held our dedication service in church on 29th August and were there again on Remembrance Sunday. Both services were well attended. Hopefully, we will be able to have a proper parade to the church with the whole company on parade when we have our end of session service in March.

We had 7 young men who gained their President's badges over the last 2 years and 3 of these young men are now embarking on the work towards their Queen's Badge. Last session also saw another 7 young men gain their Queen's badge and we hope to be able to organise a special presentation event for Lewis Petherick, Peter Mitchell, Aidan Wansbrough, Gary Penman, Christopher Laird, Lewis McKay and Ewan McManus so we can celebrate as a church family.

I have had a few people asking about Christmas card delivery. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to offer this service again this year.

Due to work and family commitments we have found ourselves a bit short staffed some Fridays so I would encourage anyone who might be interested in helping to contact either myself, the minister or any member of staff to find out more about what is involved. Even if you could be available on the occasional Friday it would ease the burden a bit for the rest of us.

As you may have gathered from the communications which have been issued from the church earlier this year, it is my intention to retire from BB at the end of this session. I have been an officer since 1980 and captain since 1991 and feel that it is time for a younger person to take over. We really do need someone to step up and take on this role so that the work of the Boys' Brigade can continue here at Brightons into the future.

Billy Rankine - Captain

Junior Section

It's been great for the Junior Section boys (and Leaders!) to start meeting again face to face, and the boys have really enjoyed being able to run about and play games and get back to marching, as well as the different crafts and activities, which they seem to love.

We started back in September – we were very small in numbers and over the last few weeks have increased to the dizzy heights of 10! Unusually, our boys come from a range of different schools in the area, and it's great to see them all interact and make new friends through the Boys' Brigade. We may be small, but we are perfectly formed, and the leaders are blessed to have such enthusiastic boys who appreciate the games and activities.

We have undertaken a wide range of activities this year, based on some of the programme material provided by BB Headquarters which provides us with a wide variety of games, activities and worship to engage the boys. So far we had an evening based around Armistice Day, where the boys had fun playing games relating to our Services, learning about children who had to evacuate cities during the war, and they all painted a poppy on a stone.

We also used the opportunity of COP26 to play games and activities which made us think about saving the wonderful planet that God has provided for us – reminding the boys that God has made us responsible for keeping the planet safe. Earlier on in the session we had a "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" themed night, with lots of games and activities relating to chocolate! The boys did a great job inventing and marketing their own chocolate bars!

We were also delighted to welcome David Barnes who has come to join us as an Officer – David has sons in both the Company Section and Junior Section, and is a great addition to our team.

Please encourage any boys you know to come and join us. Adult helpers will also be very welcome. We meet from 6.15pm - 7.45 pm in the Rankine Hall on a Friday evening. We are keen to continue building our numbers and helping the boys to learn, grow and discover in a safe, fun and caring environment rooted in the Christian faith.

Helen Macleod

1st Polmont Anchor Boys



Our Anchor Boy Section restarted in September after an 18-month gap due to Covid-19 restrictions. It was great to see some boys back as we began with 7 boys, mostly from our Church families.

We began the section looking beyond the Earth to our Solar System and the boys created a wall mural of some very impressive planets to brighten up our area of the hall wall.

As we moved into October we were now running with 12 boys and at our fancy dress party the addition of 1 girl for the night. A great time was had by all dressed as story book characters and all went away tired but certainly not hungry.



It was a bit early for Christmas but our boys began preparing an assortment of Christmas cards that will be going out to our local Care Homes this month and along with the help of our Girls Brigade members, these will be distributed to every resident.

Our own Christmas Party will be held on the 14th December in the Halls and we also look forward to the "Out of the Box" puppets on Friday 17th December.

We will resume after the festive break on the 11th January 2022.



We have continued with various themes throughout the session and the boys created an array of rockets when we remembered the 5th of November and Guy Fawkes with his “gunpowder, treason and plot”.



We are now into a “Covid friendly” operating mode and would be happy to welcome a few more boys from Primaries 1, 2 and 3 on Tuesday nights. We begin at 6.15pm and are finished by 7.30pm if any of your children or grandchildren would like to come along. Please contact *Ian Baillie* by email at ianbaillie@sky.com



Finance Update

The year continues to be a very extraordinary time for us all and it is most heartening to see your continuing financial support.

The following summary reflects the position at the end of September as presented to the Deacons' Court on 9th November.

	FWO	Open Plate	Standing Orders	Total
	£	£	£	£
9 Months to 30 th September 21	18,016	510	79,554	98,080
Budget to 30 th September 21	17,250	1,600	77,200	96,050
9 Months to 30 th September 20	19,060	2,072	72,093	72,160
Increase / (Decrease) vs Budget	766	(1,090)	2,354	2,030
Increase / (Decrease) % vs Budget	4.44	(68.12)	3.05	2.11

Our overall expenditure to date is £18,456 less than the budget. The major factor in this underspend is £12,435 within the property repairs and maintenance budget. Only works to ensure the integrity or health and safety of the building are to be undertaken. This outstanding work will be included in the 2022 budget, when perhaps this restriction will be removed. The heat and light costs saving to date despite the increase use of the halls is £2,050. The Church has a fixed price contract that expires in May 2023. The Job Retention Scheme ended on 30th September and this saving on wages costs amounted to around £1800.

National Giving Day - All Church of Scotland congregations were encouraged by this year's General Assembly to take part in a Church-wide National Giving Day over the season of Harvest between 5th September and 31st October.

The sum raised during this period amounted to £4,475.52. There was £2,950 gift aided which will realise a further £737.50.

This money raised **will not** be assessable for Ministries and Mission purposes. All monies raised will stay with the local church and none of it will be passed to '121'.

In the meantime, stay safe and in good health and thank you for your continued generosity to the Lord's work in this your church.

Alan Macfarlane

Treasurer

On behalf of the Finance Team

Welcome to Forth Valley CAP Debt Centre
Autumn 2021 Newsletter

Dear All,

As the nights become longer, let's remember those for whom life becomes that little bit harder. When more money being spent on heating and light may mean less money for food and other essentials. For people on Universal Credit, it may also mean the loss of the extra £20 per week COVID-19 payment. Add to that, the isolation that people can feel when overwhelmed by debt and it can be a very dark place to be.

At CAP, as well as helping people deal with unmanageable debt, we offer practical help and friendship. This Autumn our focus is on our wonderful befrienders, the people that continue to have contact with CAP clients as they journey out of debt. I was looking for a Bible verse that might describe a befriender, and I think Matthew 5:16 does it nicely. "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Fiona

What makes a good befriender?

A good befriender is someone who is friendly and non-judgemental. They are patient, understand the concept of keeping good boundaries and are trustworthy in maintaining confidentiality.

What do befrienders do?

Befrienders can go on visits with Debt Coaches and listen out for practical needs and ways in which we might connect clients to community. They may pray for the person.

Some befrienders encourage people by calling or messaging them. Others are happy to maintain contact with people, meeting up with them and inviting them to things. One of our befrienders took someone a few household essentials until she had received her budget and debt advice. They later did the CAP Money Course together and now meet for coffee and a chat.

What difference do befrienders make?

Someone with a befriender is more likely to complete the journey out of debt and to feel able to accept invitations to things. It can be life transforming!
Continued on Page 2

Things a Befriender Does

- Visit
- Listen
- Help
- Signpost
- Encourage
- Bless
- Pray
- Share
- Invite

Client News

New Client bookings have really picked up since July.

We currently have 16 clients and a few of them have befrienders.

A befriender can make all the difference between someone giving up and reaching their goal of becoming debt free.

Next Prayer Meetings

WHERE?: on-line.

TIME?: 9:45am-10:30am

WHEN?: Saturdays:

Dates:

Oct. 9 2021

Nov. 6 2021

Dec. 4 2021

Other News

Lynn Cameron from Tilly Baptist Church doesn't have time to be a befriender currently, so she decided, for the second year running, to open her garden to the public to raise funds for CAP.

A whopping £620 was raised and 60% of that has been donated to our Debt Centre.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Mission Jars (Jars of Grace)

Prospects for Scotland - will continue to receive Mission Jar monies throughout 2021. The sum donated as at 4th November stands at **£326.09**. Our own **“Friends of Jesus”** group will receive all donations. Any small change can be brought to the Sanctuary on Sundays. However, there is also a secure post box located at the entrance to the halls where cash may be deposited. Alternatively, the church website has details on how to donate.

CrossReach

Christmas Cards and also a 2022 calendar are still available to order. Packs cost £3.80 and calendars £5. I am happy to collate church orders, thereby reducing postage costs. Orders over £110 postage free!

Care share gifts can also be ordered. By purchasing a Care Share gift of your choice, you are allowing CrossReach to provide life changing and live-saving services, so that every person can flourish and every life can be lived to the full. Care Share gifts start at £10. Catalogues are still available in the front vestibule. Our local care home, St Margaret’s House in Polmont, benefits from CrossReach Trading sales.

CrossReach and Social Care Sunday was celebrated on **21st November**. Resources available at churchofscotland.org.uk.

A wee reminder of the service areas covered by CrossReach:

- Children and families
- Learning Disabilities
- Counselling and Support
- Criminal Justice
- Older People
- Homelessness
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse

Maralyn Stirling and Roy Graham (Co-Convenors Community Outreach)



Sunday Reader/Prayer Rota 2nd January – 27th March 2022

As we come together as a congregation each Sunday, we give thanks for those who contribute to our services and enrich our worship as prayer leaders or readers.

January 2nd	R - Billy Rankine P - Rachel Meek	February 20th	R - Sandra Anderson P - Richard McManus
January 9th	R - Cilla Graudus* P - Annabella Nimmo	February 27th	R - Helen Brodie P - Marion Graham
January 16th	R - Isabel Scougal P - Eric Smith	March 6th No communion	R – Eric Smith P – Scott Burton
January 23rd	R - Irene Stewart P - Jason Glass	March 6th	R - Eric Smith P – Scott Burton
January 30th	R - Maralyn Stirling P - Rachel Meek	March 13th	R - Christine Jones* P - Annabella Nimmo
February 6th	R - Norma Thompson P - David MacAskill	March 20th	R - Alan Curr P - Irene Stewart
February 13th	R - Jessie Wallace P - Rena Moore	March 27th	R - BB/ GB P - Closing Service

** We are delighted to continue to welcome into our worship services members of Blackbraes and Shieldhill congregation as part of the Braes Churches area*

If you are unable to do your prayer/reading, or have arranged a swap with another person, please contact Jean Meek as soon as possible. If your name has not appeared for some time or you would like to be added to the rota, please also contact Jean. Thank you.

Thursday Online Prayer Time at 8.15pm.

Date	Leader	Date	Leader
6th January	James Falconer	24th February	Brent Haywood
13th January	Marion Graham	3rd March	James Falconer
20th January	Brent Haywood	10th March	Rachel Meek
27th January	Ian Lawson	17th March	Ian Lawson
3rd February	Marion Graham	24th March	James Falconer
10th February	Ian Lawson	31st March	Rachel Meek
17th February	Irene Stewart		

DIARY DATES

DECEMBER 	Saturday 4 th	2.00 pm. - 4.00 p.m.	Sunday Schools Christmas Party
	Sunday 5 th	11.00 a.m.	Communion Service
	Saturday 11 th	12.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.	Christmas Door Wreath Making Fundraiser - Israel/Palestine Trip October 22
	Sunday 12 th	6.00 p.m.	Girls' Brigade Christingle
	Monday 13 th	12.30 p.m.	Guild Christmas Lunch (external)
	Tuesday 14 th	7.45 p.m.	Kirk Session
	Friday 17 th	6.30 p.m.	Out of the Box - Musical
	Sunday 19 th	11.00 a.m. 2.00 pm. - 5.00 p.m.	Nativity Family Service Nativity Fun Day
	Friday 24 th	11.15 p.m.	Watchnight Service
	Sunday 26 th	11.00 a.m.	Morning Worship
Flower Calendar for December	Sunday 5 th Sunday 12 th Sunday 19 th Sunday 26 th	May McGill Anne Tomlinson Peter Lees Anne Smith	
JANUARY 	Monday 17 th	2.00 p.m.	The Guild
	Tuesday 25 th	7.45 p.m.	Kirk Session
	Flower Calendar for January	Sunday 2 nd Sunday 9 th Sunday 19 th Sunday 23 rd Sunday 30 th	Wendy & Jim Dick Jean Meek Jessie Wallace Sandra & Bill Smillie Anne Tomlinson
FEBRUARY 	Saturday 5 th	9.30 a.m. - 4.15 p.m.	Church Conference
	Sunday 6 th		Deadline for Articles for Bright Lights
	Monday 7 th	1.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.	Blood Transfusion Service
	Sunday 20 th	4.30 p.m. - 6.30p.m.	Belong
	Monday 21 st	7.30 p.m.	The Guild
	Tuesday 22 nd	7.45 p.m.	Deacons' Court
Flower Calendar for February	Sunday 6 th Sunday 13 th Sunday 20 th Sunday 27 th	Sheila Colebrook Vacant Rev Sandra Mathers Choir (Annette Sellar)	
MARCH 	Friday 4 th	7.00 p.m.	World Day of Prayer Service
	Sunday 6 th	11.00 a.m.	Communion Service
	Flower Calendar for March	Sunday 6 th Sunday 13 th	Netta Oliver Anne Miller