

# BRIGHT LIGHTS

Summer 2021



**Joshua** — *'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid: do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go'.* Joshua 1 v 9

# BRIGHTONS PARISH CHURCH

## CHURCH CONTACTS

### OFFICE BEARERS

Minister <i>e-mail</i> - <a href="mailto:scott.burton@churchofscotland.org.uk">scott.burton@churchofscotland.org.uk</a>	Rev Scott Burton
Session Clerk <i>e-mail</i> - <a href="mailto:info@brightonschurch.org.uk">info@brightonschurch.org.uk</a>	Eric Smith
Depute Session Clerk <i>e-mail</i> - <a href="mailto:info@brightonschurch.org.uk">info@brightonschurch.org.uk</a>	Jean Meek
Pastoral Assistant <i>e-mail</i> - <a href="mailto:info@brightonschurch.org.uk">info@brightonschurch.org.uk</a>	Ian Baillie
Treasurer <i>e-mail</i> - <a href="mailto:info@brightonschurch.org.uk">info@brightonschurch.org.uk</a>	Alan Macfarlane
Gift Aid Convener	Ken Goodwin
Freewill Offering Convener <i>e-mail</i> - <a href="mailto:fwo@brightonschurch.org.uk">fwo@brightonschurch.org.uk</a>	Barry Hamilton
Clerk to Deacons' Court <i>e-mail</i> - <a href="mailto:clerk@brightonschurch.org.uk">clerk@brightonschurch.org.uk</a>	Malcolm Lewis
Safeguarding Co-ordinator <i>e-mail</i> - <a href="mailto:safeguarding@brightonschurch.org.uk">safeguarding@brightonschurch.org.uk</a>	Irene Stewart
Organist and Choirmaster <i>e-mail</i> - <a href="mailto:choir@brightonschurch.org.uk">choir@brightonschurch.org.uk</a>	Elaine Finlay
Beadle	Margaret Scott
Presbytery Elder <i>e-mail</i> - <a href="mailto:presbytery@brightonschurch.org.uk">presbytery@brightonschurch.org.uk</a>	Eric Smith

# A Message from the Manse

Dear friends,

At the time of distribution of this copy of Bright Lights, the Church of Scotland will be meeting in General Assembly, with representative ministers and elders gathering together virtually from across the nation and the wider world to debate and agree plans for our denomination. For several years we have been told that we need to be “more radical” since the situation looks grim for the Church of Scotland. As I’ve said in a few sermons now, we have seen a 50% reduction in 20 years!

Well, from what I’ve heard at the time of writing this article, it would appear that this year’s General Assembly could bring some radical changes. Certainly not all the changes we need, but some at least, and likely to be focused on the number of ministers and buildings across the land, as well as the systems and plans which underpin this.

This is not new news of course – I’ve been telling you about this for some time and what it means for the Braes Churches, but I am waiting with bated breath to see what comes about at this year’s GA and I’ll give you further info once we know more.

Let us continue to be clear – change is still coming and likely will increase in pace and range even more than we’ve already outlined in previous articles and updates.

However, other changes are maybe more welcome – the easing of restrictions for example, and hopefully when you receive this letter we are still heading in a positive direction! With what has been outlined to us so far from the Scottish Government and Church of Scotland central offices, it does look like some activity might return over the summer, but what and how is still uncertain, so do keep in the loop by reading the weekly news sheet or speaking with your elder.

Nevertheless, if we are to be the people of God in this place – if we are to see God’s purposes furthered in our time – then we can’t rely on central changes, nor on the slow return to “normal”. That is in part why we’ve been seeking to encourage people to (re)connect with other members through their pastoral grouping over the summer and why I’m looking to try and visit all pastoral grouping households over the summer months as well. There is in fact so much we can still do even now and the kingdom of God has always been primarily furthered when God’s people – at the local level – took ownership of their faith and responded to God’s calling upon them to fulfil that Great Commission from Jesus: ‘...go and make disciples of all nations.’ (Matthew 28:20)



Friends, the times are still changing and uncertain, but the Lord is as near as ever and His call still stands. Will you respond and play your part? Will you give of yourself to His purposes, caring for His people and sharing your faith (in word or deed) with friend and neighbour? I hope and pray that we will, brothers and sisters, and that this summer will bring about much testimony to the glory of God.

With love to one and all,  
Scott

## Changes in the Kirk Session

Over the last 12 months, four Elders have retired from the Kirk Session.

Tom Grieve, Charles Lees, Martin Miller and Liz McKellar have, between them, given a total of 109 years' service as members of the Kirk Session.

We would like to express our gratitude for their work over these years and wish them God's blessings in the future.

With this in mind, the Kirk Session agreed to ordain the following people as Elders on May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021

- George Mann
- Heather McManus
- Judith Norton
- Willie Tomlinson

We pray for God's guidance and blessing for each as they respond to His call to serve Him here in Brightons as members of the Kirk Session.

*Eric Smith*  
Session Clerk

## Congregational Roll Update

### Deaths

**April                      Mrs Irene Dalrymple**

*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." 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:55-57 (NIV).*

## Remembrance Book

The Remembrance Book is available for any new insertions. For further information /details then please contact Robert Callahan via the Church office, Tel. 713855 or email [info@brightonschurch.org.uk](mailto:info@brightonschurch.org.uk)

*Pastoral Care Team*





### **Joe Hampson**

Joe was well known around Brightons Church for his indomitable partnership with Malcom Smith on the Property Committee for many years. His wife Isobel was in his class at school but it was a bit later that they courted and were married in 1963. After he entered the Prison Service, Joe, Isobel, son Derek and daughter Sandra moved to Brightons.

In his late teens, he realised he would never be a professional footballer but decided to train as a referee, officiating at amateur, junior and the lower leagues of Scottish Football.

Joe joined the Prison Service, and as an instructor, worked in various prisons, which allowed him to progress up through the grades until his retirement as Deputy Governor at Lowmoss Prison after 35 years of service. The highlight of those years was as an incumbent at the largest "Hotel" in Scotland, HMP Barlinnie, Glasgow.

Joe was always very community active with the Boys' Brigade, including many years as an officer in 1<sup>st</sup> Polmont. He was also a Youth Coach and in Brightons Church was Property Convenor for 15 years. Many have spoken of the high regard in which Joe was held for his work capacity, church activities and the Boys' Brigade.

Joe was Chair of the Shieldhill and California Community Council for seven years and in later life was a member of Braveheart as well as a volunteer at the Maggie's Centre in Falkirk. Unfortunately, illness in later life curtailed his Church life and his other activities but it didn't stop Joe from leading a full life with Isobel and his family, the most important thing in his varied and fruitful life.

Joe will be greatly missed by his loving wife Isobel. He will be greatly missed too by son Derek and daughter-in-law Jenni, daughter Sandra son-in-law Douglas and granddaughters Nikki and Scarlett.

*Ian Baillie*



## **Mary Munro**

Mary started in the Guildry Garden at Kerse Church, Grangemouth and began a lifetime association with 1<sup>st</sup> Grangemouth Girls' Brigade. She became an officer in 1964 and was also active in Kerse Church as a Sunday School teacher for some time. Mary was 21 when she became Company Captain and completed 50 years as Captain. She also held roles at GB Divisional

and Regional level and was at one time Commissioner for Central Division.

Mary's early working life was at Larbert Railway Station where she met her husband John. She had various clerical jobs before their son Kenneth was born, then they came to live in Brightons, where she ran the local playgroup in the village and joined our Church family at Brightons.

Mary taught in Sunday School and assisted in running a lunchtime Scripture Union Group for some years in Wallacestone Primary School. Latterly she attended the monthly Friendship Plus meeting.

Mary first began working with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme while in Girls' Brigade and then she joined the Duke of Edinburgh Award Project in Stirling and thereafter the Falkirk Council area with the Forth Award Group. She went on to take many more GB girls and local young people to all levels of the award. Through her dedication Mary influenced the lives of countless young people throughout her life and from this we can be assured that she led a purposeful, successful life.

Mary began Sunday School and continued over her 65 years as a member of the Girl's Brigade. A life that began in Church with numerous certificates covering over 125 years of service ended in Church when she passed away watching our live streamed service. Mary shared with many girls the GB motto to seek, serve and follow Christ and there can be no doubt she indeed heard his voice saying "well done thou good and faithful servant".

*Ian Baillie*



## BB Report

This session has been one of the strangest we have had at 1<sup>st</sup> Polmont. We have not been able to meet face to face since March 2020 and have had to use zoom for the Junior Section and Company Section meetings. As you would expect, numbers have not been as high as we would normally expect with 7 Junior Section boys and between 15 to 25 boys from Company Section joining the staff each week. We have managed to cover quite a few different activities over the session.

**Junior Section** has been busy. We have done various crafts and learned about some of the different patron saints. We managed to learn about St Andrew, St David and St Patrick and we would have covered St George as well, but his day is in April and we had finished by that time. We painted stones for Remembrance Sunday, learned about the Christingle and even managed to have our Christmas party with games and quizzes. After Christmas we learned about Robert Burns and his poems, and the Chinese New Year as well as learning some very basic Chinese. We found out a bit about Australia and the animals to be found there. We played bingo and beetle drive as well as pass the hot potato. I have probably missed a load of the things we managed to do, and I must thank all of the Junior Section staff for their dedication over the session, - Mr & Mrs Huntley even joined us from their caravan a couple of times. We did not manage to have a formal presentation of awards, but the boys received their badges and a special mug in time for our last evening of the session in March.

- Junior Section  
2020-2021





**Company Section** started off with around 25 boys joining the weekly zoom sessions along with 5 staff and we made use of the BB at Home and Virtual activities which were prepared by BB headquarters. Numbers seemed to tail off a bit over the session which was perhaps unsurprising as the Boys (and staff) were spending all day and every day online for school and work. We tested the boys' knowledge with quizzes and brainteasers as well as discussion sessions about various subjects. We had a couple of "cooking" sessions – well we stuck the ingredients in a mug and put that in the microwave for a couple of minutes with varying degrees of success. We finished the session with a murder mystery night following clues and using google street view to identify the baddie. This seemed to go down well with the boys as competition between the groups was intense. Unfortunately, there were no battalion or national competitions this session and we were not able to have our annual parents' night and presentation of badges but we will hopefully be able to hold a formal presentation after the holidays. We look forward to presenting President's Badges to Callum, Dougie, Joe, Kai, Lewis G and Owen who attended their leadership course via zoom in February. I am also pleased to say that four of our senior boys attended their Queen's Badge Completion Course via zoom on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May and we will be presenting Queen's Badges to Christopher, Gary, Lewis M and Peter after the holidays. We might still have a few more Queen's Badges to present as Ewan, Aidan and Lewis P are nearly ready for their completion course and hopefully we can get them through as well before the holidays.

We look forward to the new session and being able to meet face to face again in the halls, but as always, we are looking for staff, particularly for the Company Section. If you feel you want to find out more, please contact me and I will be happy to explain what is involved.

*Billy Rankine*  
*Company Captain*

## The Pastoral Assistant's Message



"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God." Isaiah 40:1. Forty years ago I bought my first theological textbook, a commentary on the book of Isaiah by William Barclay to explore the topic "the book of comfort".

We mostly preach sermons of comfort at funerals, dabbing at the tears with the Scripture's promises of Heaven for the believer and help for the sorrowing. We may preach comfort more than we realise because, properly preached, there is comfort in every Scripture text we deliver to God's people.

Among our flock are those worried about their unworthiness or waywardness. And there is in all believers a restless homesickness whether they think about it or not. In our flock there is one whose aching body has left her soul weary. There is a couple whose children walk a dreadful path. A brother whose anger is a dark, cancerous secret. There is one whose depression seems to isolate him even from God. So just stop and think, "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle."

The word *comfort* surely brings to mind a mother wiping away tears and whispering, "There, there, it'll be alright." So also, God invites his beloved sons and daughters to the comfort of his 'motherly care' for them. In his "Book of Comfort" he tells his people that a mother could sooner forget the baby at her breast than God could forget them (49:15). God says, "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you" (66:13).

Christ's Great Commission promises that we are never alone, that Jesus is "with you always." More than 120 times the Bible tells someone in God's care not to be afraid. "There, there," the preacher

echoes, "there's nothing to fear. God is with us." Christians can cuddle up safe and secure in a message that invites them to rest in God's nearness.

In 2nd Corinthians Paul recalls several of the crushing burdens in his ministry. He was "hard pressed on every side ... perplexed ... persecuted ... struck down." Paul uses the word *comfort*, in one form or another nine times in five verses, all by way of introduction to this account of his toughest ministry season. The comfort is the unique companionship with Jesus that believers have when we bear suffering by trusting obedience, just as Jesus himself did. His words, whether written or spoken, came with a special comforting force because of his fellowship with Jesus in his suffering. Persevere! God is with you in this. Your faith is not in vain. When Christians persevere in their faith, trusting and obeying the Lord, they experience the comfort of Christ's presence.

Our certain hope is that Jesus is coming again, that he will set all things right, and that we will live forever with him is life-saving comfort. I was reading about some young people and what they thought about Heaven. One replied candidly, "I don't think much about Heaven. I don't think much about mortality." Meaning, I guess, that unless mortality starts to take your breath away, thoughts of Heaven can wait like the defibrillators we now see strategically placed in our streets and buildings for when that time comes.

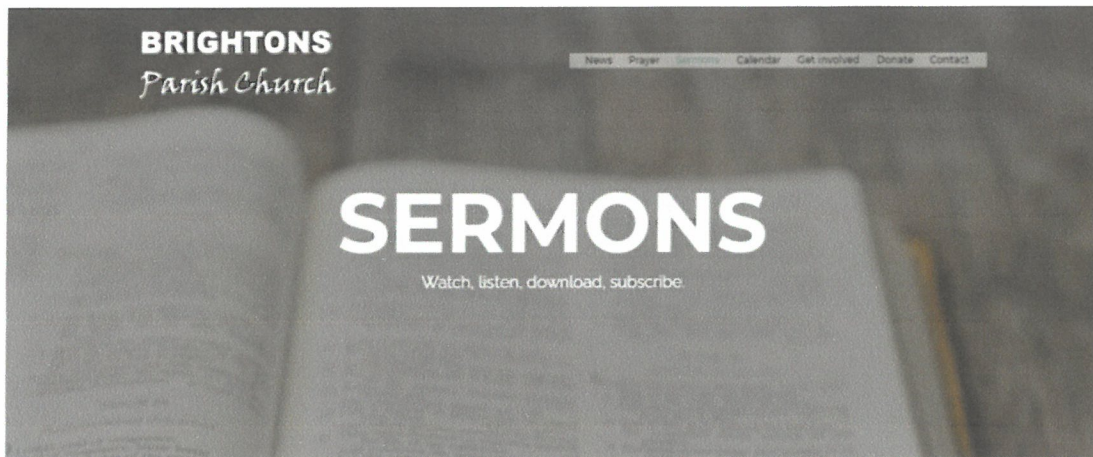
The hope of Heaven, of course, is not just comfort for the elderly. It is the reason Christians persevere. Many passages of Scripture have signposts pointing toward Heaven. When the going gets rough we must know the comfort of our hope of Heaven. We must know that "it will be worth it all when we see Jesus." Like Paul said, "If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied".

I have taken great comfort from this as I write it and hope you do too as you read it.

Every blessing, Ian



## A Sermon's not just for Sunday!



🕒 As a congregation we are reading through the New Testament at home during 2021. Join us in this as we seek to allow Jesus to nurture hope and faith in us. Download a copy of the reading plan by clicking below and simply start in the current week.

It would be inappropriate for me to judge others against what I'm like, however, I wonder if you are like me in not paying enough attention to the Sunday Sermon? Ever got to the end of Sunday worship and couldn't remember what the minister preached? I am slightly ashamed to admit that I have often done that!

Now, I am not saying that we should remember every word that is preached, every bible text used, every wee story told, every key point delivered. There are times when something that's said might strike a chord and lead me off thinking more deeply about it. However, I am often guilty of thinking what's for lunch, what the guitar chords, for the next praise item are, or how busy I'm going to be in the coming week - not really focused on the real reason for attending worship.

There are a number of things that keep me focused these days though:

1. I do a church social media post – 'View from the Pew' – on a Sunday which is my brief outline of the key message – this means I have to listen!
2. I find it helpful to keep notes – that helps me tease out what I'm getting from the message
3. I upload the Sermon to our website and often have to edit the message text which is helpful in embedding the teaching – it's surprising how many times I think "Can't remember the Minister saying that!"

That third point brings me to the real subject of this article – A Sermon's not just for Sunday! Since November last year our church website [www.brightonschurch.org.uk](http://www.brightonschurch.org.uk) contains an enhanced resource of sermons back to January 2019.

So, Sermons are available anytime, anyplace where you have internet access. They are listed chronologically and can be filtered by topic, speaker, series and book, so it's easy to find a particular theme, speaker or date. We've tried to make them as visually interesting as possible and have linked sermons in each series with the same or similar picture.



**Joshua: respond**

Apr 11, 2021

Watch later Share

MP3 PDF SUBSCRIBE on iTunes Podcast

Notes Sermons in this Series

Preached on: Sunday 11th April 2021

The sermon text is given below or can be download by clicking on the "PDF" button above. Additionally, you can download the PowerPoint PDF by clicking here 21-04-11 Message PPT slides multi pages.

Bible references: Joshua 1:1-16

Location: Brighton's Parish Church

Show sermon text

Let us take a moment to pray before we think about God's word:

Come Holy Spirit, have your own way. Change our hearts and minds to be more like Jesus.

Come Holy Spirit, shape us as the church of Jesus.

Come Holy Spirit with power and deep conviction.

Most sermons have a video (since March 2020 at least), audio, PowerPoint pdf and sermon text available to help people with different needs to engage more fully. All the sermon videos have subtitles available which a few of our members who have hearing difficulties find invaluable.

There have been several occasions over the past 6 months when I have looked back at some of these sermons to find what someone has said on a particular topic. I also know of at least one sermon series that I didn't engage well with at the time – 'Justice' from October/November 2020 – and I know that I can easily go back at any time and revisit those specific sermons.

<b>Justice: called to change</b> 22nd November 2020	<b>Justice: God has a plan of hope</b> 8th November 2020	<b>Justice and Mission (Tuesday evening)</b> 3rd November 2020
<b>Justice: light in the darkness?</b> 25th October 2020	<b>Justice: compassion over complacency?</b> 18th October 2020	<b>Justice: central to worship</b> 11th October 2020

So, I recommend this website resource to you. There are times when the sermon message just doesn't sink in and there are times when the sermon message is challenging and needs more than one go! Why not start to revisit past sermons and maybe make it a habit to have another look at the video, listen to the audio, download the text or PowerPoint slides.

If you do find this resource helpful or have any suggestions on how to make it better then please drop us an email ([info@brightonschurch.org.uk](mailto:info@brightonschurch.org.uk)). We love to discuss how to make God's word more accessible.

*James Falconer*

## Sermon Series Wordsearch

Find the following sermon series titles:

1. Prodigal God      2. Haggai      3. James      4. Psalms      5. Called to
6. People of prayer      7. Isaiah      8. Justice      9. Philippians      10. Joshua

*All words are spelled forwards, up or down or diagonal (left to right)*

P	P	s	p	o	J	u	s	t	i	c	e	J	t
u	e	a	H	l	k	G	q	y	h	i	H	w	C
P	r	o	d	i	g	a	l	G	o	d	x	r	a
a	l	m	p	g	c	y	u	n	n	a	l	t	l
v	P	h	i	l	i	p	p	i	a	n	s	o	l
H	r	s	C	a	e	G	b	J	G	b	l	P	e
z	k	b	g	o	J	o	s	h	u	a	k	f	d
f	J	g	G	o	w	r	f	a	e	e	r	c	t
o	a	h	w	C	a	s	e	p	v	P	p	h	o
H	m	P	h	l	j	H	e	l	r	s	l	s	m
n	e	d	q	J	c	t	j	C	z	a	i	u	d
m	s	m	b	r	w	P	d	o	G	l	y	t	a
l	c	J	h	l	s	a	i	a	h	m	H	e	H
o	o	t	C	a	m	r	o	J	e	s	u	b	r

Sermon series can be found on our website <https://www.brightonschurch.org.uk/sermons/>



# The Guild

With optimism and enthusiasm, the Guild is planning next session, starting in September with one meeting a month with a mix of afternoon and evening meetings. This, of course is dependent on what rules are in place at the time, but we do hope that we can meet in person at some point over the coming session.

The Guild has now announced the six new projects that we will be supporting over the next three years. Our own Guild Committee has decided that next session we will be supporting two of them: (1) the Vine Trust who are building a new sustainable, self-sufficient village in Kanzuzu, Tanzania, with community, education and medical facilities; and (2) Pioneers UK who are working with Chocolate Heaven to develop sustainable chocolate for export in South-East Asia. The Vine Trust is of course well known to us already and people from Falkirk Trinity have already been out to Kanzuzu to volunteer there. Pioneers UK are a very small charity that are reaching out to people who have not heard the gospel. We look forward to finding out more about both these projects over the coming year, and we hope they will inspire us to find new ways to support them as we look for less traditional ways of raising money and encouraging prayer for them.

We are also delighted to have presented 17 long-service certificates with this marked in the church service on 9<sup>th</sup> May, as we are unable to meet and present these certificates in the normal way. In particular, we want to celebrate Chris Rankine's 60<sup>th</sup> year in the Guild - an impressive record of faithful service and commitment which inspires us all. The full list is as follows:

Grace Robertson	31 years
Frances Cross	33 years
Carol Callahan	35 years
Jean Meek	35 years
Frances McCabe	38 years
Margaret Scott	41 years
Ishbel Watt	41 years
May Kennedy	42 years
Liz McKellar	42 years
Rena Kennedy	46 years
May Young	46 years
Irene McNab	49 years
Lorna Blair	51 years
Anne Smith	56 years
Rena Meikle	57 years
Janet Innes	58 years
Chris Rankine	60 years



Chris Rankine receiving her 60 years long service certificate

*Elsbeth Reid*

## News from our Sunday Schools

Since our last update, not too much has changed with our Sunday schools and youth groups, as we've continued to meet online. WFI did manage an outdoor meet at the Wansbroughs' which was well received.

As I write this, news that we will soon move into Level 2 has been announced, so we look forward to our groups meeting up face to face at some point before the end of this session! It will be so good to see our children and young people again in person. I can imagine we'll be surprised by how much they've all grown and matured over the year! It's hard to tell from neck up on a computer screen!

All of the groups are planning out the last few weeks of this session. Some may start to meet face to face regularly and others will do a combination of online and face to face. All the group leaders will be in touch to let you know the plans for their group.

All of the SS leaders and helpers have done an amazing job this year, working really hard to make the online sessions as engaging and interactive as possible for our kids and young people. Thank you to them all for their inventiveness, enthusiasm and tenacity to stick with the technology!

Also, thank you to all the parents who have supported each of the SS and youth groups this year, particularly those supporting the younger children during their SS groups. Thank you for getting your kids up (9.30am is early for our Juniors and 12 noon can be early for teenagers!), logging them on and printing off craft/activity sheets every Sunday! It has been much appreciated.

We'll be closing our session with our usual Family Service on 20<sup>th</sup> June. Each of the groups will be taking part, sharing something of what they've been learning this year. So we hope you'll join us for that!

Please do pray for our kids and young people. Pray that they know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, and His presence with them as they start to navigate their way back to normality. And please pray for our leaders and helpers - pray for their continued energy and awareness of the needs of our kids and young people as they teach the last few weeks of this session. And for wisdom as they plan for face to face meetings.

Thank you.

*Judith Norton, Sunday School Co-ordinator (re-branded from Superintendent!)*

## ***Friends of Jesus***

Our group have continued to meet fortnightly on Zoom - for our usual mixture of singing, praying, Bible reading - even a little bit of craft and drama to reinforce the Bible message. The group finishes for the summer break at the end of May and I'll also be moving away then. Please pray for Wendy Dick and Jennifer Maden as they take over as the Friends of Jesus group team leaders. The group will restart as usual after the summer.

*Ivy Blair*

## ***Knitting Squares Update***

A big thank you, to everyone who responded to knitting prayer squares for the World Day of Prayer International Committee meeting in Edinburgh in 2022. The response has been great and at this time I have an assortment of over 400 lovely colorful squares waiting to be sent off. If you are in the middle of knitting squares there's still time to hand them in.

*Jessie Wallace*

## **Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal**

Although it is only early summer, I thought that I would let you know about this year's Shoebox appeal. Last year a total of 75,218 boxes were sent to those in need, to show them that we are thinking and caring for them. This year, even in these difficult times, the appeal is still going ahead. Due to the likely shortage of shoeboxes, Blythswood have made some changes. We can now use cloth draw-string bags, maximum size 400mm by 300mm, to fill with items. This can be very useful to the recipient as they can use the bag throughout the year. This year, on their web site [blythswood.org/shoebox](http://blythswood.org/shoebox), they have knitting patterns for hats, scarfs and mittens as these items can be difficult and expensive to buy. They also have lists of filler ideas for various ages.

Once I have the dates for collection, I will advertise them through the church. If you need any help to get the above information, please contact me.

Many thanks,

*Jim Dick*

01324 713855 (Church Office)



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH



### **Mission Jars (Jars of Grace)**

**Prospects (Scotland)** will continue to receive Mission Jar monies throughout 2021. The sum donated as at 10<sup>th</sup> May stands at **£217.56**.

With lock-down, folks have not been able to hand in loose change at our Church building. However, there is 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.



### ***Christian Aid Week – 10-16 May 2021***

Thank you for supporting the work of Christian Aid.

Thank you for filling the envelopes, the total to date is **£262.90**.

As the Covid restrictions this year again resulted in the cancellation of a door to door collection, Maralyn Stirling and Roy Graham decided to undertake a challenge to increase the church's contribution to Christian Aid Week.

Maralyn was doing 300,000 steps in a month and already she has exceeded that. Come rain, hail, sun Maralyn is pounding the streets and paths of this lovely area in which we live.

Roy was in training to cycle 32 miles round all 12 communities in the Braes area, calling at all 12 places of worship. Over the last 9 weeks he has cycled 400 miles but says that will give him the legs to get him up Wallacestone Brae. Roy was ably supported during training and on the day by a number of (younger) church members. The cycle was on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

Roy and Maralyn would like to thank our church family for their encouragement and the very generous contributions to Christian Aid.

At time of writing the total they have raised is over £3,600.

### **Braes Litter Pick**

Plans are now being made to have a community 'litter pick' in and around Brightons during this year's "Keep Scotland Beautiful" campaign in early June. Watch out for details.

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





Pit Stop - Peter Arkless and Ewan Norton



Judith Norton and Roy Graham on the flat



A race to the top of the climb!!



Support team to lean on!!



The finish line

## Finance Update

This 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 April.

	<b>FWO</b>	<b>Open Plate</b>	<b>Standing Orders</b>	<b>Total</b>
	£	£	£	£
17 weeks to 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	7,612	160	35,038	42,810
Budget to 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	7,000	250	34,100	41,350
17 Weeks to 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	8,979	1,607	30,539	41,125
Increase / (Decrease) vs Budget	612	(90)	938	1,460
Increase / (Decrease) % vs Budget	8.74	(36.00)	2.75	3.53

Our budget for 2021 was based on the trend over the last nine months of 2020, and adopted a gradual return to a more normal time in the final quarter.

Our overall expenditure to date is in line with the budget. This included emergency plaster work repairs to 2 areas of the church during March. We have also just had the repair and refurbishment of the floor in the Heriot Hall completed as part of our 2021 planned expenditure.

To you the members, our sincere thanks for the way you have continued to support God's work during this ongoing Covid pandemic, whether this is through your attendance at worship, by standing order, sending cheques by post, depositing in the secure post box at the halls entrance, or using our web-based donation tool through PayPal.

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*



# Community Outreach News

## Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

Kirk Session and Deacons Court have agreed to enter into associate partnership with Forth Valley CAP project.

Becoming an associate partner enables our church to be part of a service that offers CAP's life transforming debt counselling service, whilst providing the support and care needed to lead clients to a relationship with Jesus Christ and to disciple them to our church.

### Background

The Debt Centre was launched in April 2019 by 3 churches. It has 1 full time Manager (who is also a Debt Coach), 2 volunteer Debt Coaches, 2 volunteer Community Links Coordinators and approx. 40 other volunteers from 8 churches, carrying out a variety of roles. In order of joining, the church partners are:

- Tillicoultry, Stirling, Cornton, Lambert, Denny, and Falkirk Baptist Churches
- Maddiston Evangelical Church
- Stirling Vineyard Church

We've seen 41 clients to date and 11 are now debt free.

As well as providing debt advice/support, we can provide emotional, spiritual and practical support (>80% of clients say they feel isolated).

### Becoming a partner

Each partner church commits to:

- The appointment of a CAP Representative to be part of the Steering Group (which meets quarterly).
- Financial Support - each church gives an annual gift (what you feel is right for your church).
- The recruitment of volunteers to join the team - prayer, befrienders etc.
- The promotion of the CAP Debt Centre (by having a launch service and annual CAP services – with an opportunity for people to give to the local centre or CAP UK).
- The discipleship of those who come to faith through a volunteer connected to their church

Watch out for more news in coming months and meanwhile pray for the success of this move and the work of CAP through out the UK.

See copy of FV CAP Spring newsletter later in Bright Lights.

www.capdebthelp.org

Forth Valley Debt Centre: 07395 281 788

### Welcome to Forth Valley CAP Debt Centre Spring 2021 Newsletter

As we enter spring, we are seeing an increase in the number of people being referred to us. The impact of the pandemic on people's finances is clear, with many people falling behind with regular payments due to a sudden loss of income. We had the opportunity to speak to JCP Job Coaches across Forth Valley and hope to implement a new process that should increase the number of referrals they make.

With help from the Scottish Government, adverts are currently being placed on social media, the Central FM homepage, some local buses, bus shelters and a billboard. We hope that the right people will see them and make the, all important, call to the CAP Helpline (0800 328 0006).

Could you support the centre on a regular basis? Our bank details are:

Bank Account: Stirling Baptist Church (FV CAP)

Account: 10250166

Sort Code: 80-91-29

Reference: your full name and FV CAP

We are so grateful for all the support we receive from you, in prayer, financial giving, and also, the time that you give to volunteering.

Fiona Welsh



**Stephen (CAP Debt Coach)**

**Client story – name not used  
to protect identity  
C's story**

C lives in a lovely house, has a car, a job and three children. No one would have suspected the stress being caused by the burden of debt.

Illness and the breakdown of her marriage had brought chaos into her life. Her home was at risk and she couldn't afford food.

Initially C was a model CAP client, organised, good with numbers and able to provide the details we required. During our second visit, we identified that C's estranged husband was not paying child support, nor was she receiving benefits for which she was eligible, so we signposted her to agencies that could help. All CAP needed, to proceed, were a few documents, which C said she would provide.

*Continued on Page 2.*

### Points for Prayer And Praise

New clients

Good publicity (posters on buses and bus shelters)

Stickability

Improved money management

Good health

Wholeness

Jobs

### Helen and Sarah Laing

A big shout out to Helen and Sarah Laing, who are running 5 kms each day in the month of March to raise funds for the Forth Valley CAP Debt Centre. What a commitment! The pair hope to raise £2000. If you would like to support them in this, please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/helen-and-sarah-laing>



### Next Prayer Meetings

**WHERE?:** on-line.

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

**WHEN?:** All Saturdays:

April 3 2021

May 1 2021

June 5 2021

### Client Debt Free

One more client has become debt free in the last quarter.

**11**

people are now debt free.



*C's story continued from Page 1*

C stopped responding to my messages and calls.

A couple of months passed before C texted apologising for being unresponsive, saying she was receiving threatening letters and calls "demanding money". She seemed lost.

But she again became unresponsive.

Another couple of months later, she made contact again. Her circumstances had changed (her estranged husband was now paying child support and she was receiving benefits), so we updated her details and she provided the missing documents, enabling CAP to work on her case.

C is on track to become debt free in December 2022.

C's befriender maintained contact throughout, occasionally gifting essential items. C said "E has been such a support.... I get quite emotional just thinking about it".

Through our experience with C, we learned that sometimes we need to be patient, simply holding the door open, as we don't know what the client is having to deal with in other parts of their lives.



HAPPY EASTER



# Sunday Reader/Prayer Rota

## 4<sup>th</sup> July - 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021



As we come together as a congregation each Sunday (live / streamed online) we give thanks for those who contribute to our services and enrich our worship as prayer leaders or readers.

July 4 <sup>th</sup>	R – Jessie Wallace P – David MacAskill	August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	R – Elaine Finlay P – Irene Stewart
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	R – Cilla Gaudus* P – Marion Graham	August 29 <sup>th</sup>	R – Jennifer Gallivan P – James Falconer
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	R – Sandra Anderson P – Richard McManus	September 5 <sup>th</sup> ** No Communion	R – Sharon Glass P – Jason Glass
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	R – Helen Brodie P – Rachel Meek	September 5 <sup>th</sup> ** Communion	R – Eric Smith P – Rev Scott Burton
August 1 <sup>st</sup>	R – Alan Curr P – Annabella Nimmo	September 12 <sup>th</sup>	R – Guild Week P – Guild Convenor
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	R – Jean Meek P – Rena Moore*	September 19 <sup>th</sup>	R – Organisations Dedication Service P – GB/BB Captains
August 15 <sup>th</sup>	R – Welcome Back Sunday P – Youth Leaders	September 26 <sup>th</sup>	R – Christine Jones* P – Marion Graham

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

\*\* Decision re Communion dependent upon the restrictions in place at the time.

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 at the church office, Tel 713855, or email [info@brightonschurch.org.uk](mailto:info@brightonschurch.org.uk). 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
1 <sup>st</sup> July	Ian Lawson	19 <sup>th</sup> August	James Falconer
8 <sup>th</sup> July	Irene Stewart	26 <sup>th</sup> August	Marion Graham
15 <sup>th</sup> July	James Falconer	2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Rachel Meek
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Marion Graham	9 <sup>th</sup> September	Ian Lawson
29 <sup>th</sup> July	Ian Lawson	16 <sup>th</sup> September	Irene Stewart
5 <sup>th</sup> August	Irene Stewart	23 <sup>rd</sup> September	James Falconer
12 <sup>th</sup> August	Rachel Meek	30 <sup>th</sup> September	Jean Meek