

BRIGHT LIGHTS



Give thanks unto the LORD,
call upon his name,
make known
his deeds among the people.

Autumn 2021

Brightons Parish Church

CHURCH CONTACTS

OFFICE BEARERS

Minister <i>e-mail</i> - scott.burton@churchofscotland.org.uk	Rev Scott Burton
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Depute Session Clerk <i>e-mail</i> - deputesessionclerk@brightonschurch.org.uk	Jean Meek
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Treasurer <i>e-mail</i> - treasurer@brightonschurch.org.uk	Alan Macfarlane
Gift Aid Convener	Ken Goodwin
Freewill Offering Convener <i>e-mail</i> - fwo@brightonschurch.org.uk	Barry Hamilton
Clerk to Deacons' Court <i>e-mail</i> - clerk@brightonschurch.org.uk	Malcolm Lewis
Organists	Jill Dickson Jon-Luke Kirton Margaret Scott Eric Smith
Beadle	
Presbytery Elder <i>e-mail</i> - presbytery@brightonschurch.org.uk	

Thursday Communion Service

***This half hour service will resume monthly on 2nd September
at 11.30am in the church***

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 September 2021

Elder Pastoral Group:

A Message from the Manse

Dear friends,

It was 15 months ago when I last wrote about Communion, sharing with you the reasons why the Kirk Session had postponed celebrating the sacrament until as many as possible could be physically present. We drew upon Paul's writing, where he said five times, 'when you come together...', and that the Lord's Supper makes the many one: 'one loaf...one body' (1 Corinthians 10:17). As a writer put it at the time, Communion *"gathers up the many who partake of the same elements together, in the same place, and makes them one."*

Since that time, we've seen many changes and faced many seasons – didn't we all think this would be over by last autumn? I know I surely did! However, things are now definitely beginning to progress towards some form of normality. As such, the Kirk Session have agreed to hold Communion services on Thursday 2nd September 11.30am and Sunday 5th September 11am (with a short post-service Communion for our Sunday School teams). By that stage, we anticipate there will be no social distancing requirements and that all groups for children and young people will have recommenced, and so the vast majority of our congregation can attend once more, if they feel able. Also, there is no need to book ahead of time, so you can simply turn up on the day again.

I do hope you'll join us! I'm aware that coming back after so long away can be daunting (and the comfy home pew on the couch does beat the wooden ones!), and who can deny that singing with face masks isn't a little bit frustrating? Nevertheless, I encourage you to try it, brothers and sisters, for the vast majority have found the experience to be encouraging and uplifting, for being physically present with the church family makes a huge difference!

I would also like to highlight the upcoming season of giving from 5th September to 31st October – for those receiving a paper copy of Bright Lights, you will have received a giving envelope in relation to this. As a later article by our Treasurer outlines, the Church of Scotland is giving congregations an opportunity to hold a "giving day" during the dates above. However, due to other commitments within Brighton, we didn't feel it was appropriate to have another Sunday so focused on giving, and as such there is simply a period of time to give towards this initiative. Do note, that all giving in this time remains with the local congregation and is not counted towards our Ministry and Mission giving (which supports my stipend and the wider work of our denomination). Please prayerfully consider what you can give, as this is a unique opportunity to support the life and ministry of our congregation.

Lastly, I'm aware that I haven't been able to fulfil my hope of visiting over the summer – between an adverse reaction throughout June to my first vaccination, then 10 days of self-isolation, I'm afraid I had to change my aspirations. And maybe there is something in that for us all? As Ecclesiastes reminds us, 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...' (Ecc. 3:1) Sometimes we need to hold our plans, our wishes, our preferences more lightly than we previously did, and reconcile ourselves to changed circumstances. Where do you need to do that? Is it in relation to how church – or Sunday worship – is done? Is it in relation to your finances – giving something up so others can benefit?

I pray the Lord might generously pour His grace upon us that we might fulfil His call and purposes in this time and in this season. I do hope you'll join us.

With love to one and all,

Scott

Congregational Roll Update

Baptism

June **Jessica Joan Henderson daughter of Rachel and Douglas Henderson**

September **Archie Roy James Sinclair son of Angela and Mark Sinclair**

New Members by Profession of Faith

August **Mr Charles and Mrs Margaret Sim**

"....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

June **Mr Elwyn Batt**

August **Mr Kenneth Hearn**
Mr David Nisbet

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



The pandemic has caused the church to re-examine the way she serves the community of believers. Ministers, Elders and Teams are trying to figure out the right course to chart in uncertain times. God reminds us that He is the Rock, and if we build his church on His Word, we will make it.

How many times have you heard, “I wish things would return to normal”? It is becoming more apparent that things will not return to “normal” for some time, and maybe that is a good thing. For too long, the church has operated the same way week after week, with little deviation or room for the Holy Spirit to move. The church is broken, and God is calling her back to centre again on Him.

We need to take time in prayer focusing on what God wants for the church and what He wants for his people. It can be seen as an opportunity not to be lost in the rules and regulations of our government. While you cannot control what is happening in society, you can control what happens in your soul. A time of intentional prayer will recentre the church back on Christ and prepare the way for the future.

Like sheep, our members have become scattered. Some have disconnected from being a part of the church. Groups and their activities had once attracted these members to attend, but today, they are seen as a threat to their health, if they gather in large numbers. The fear of catching COVID-19, and the time lapse during the lockdown measures have lured once faithful people to stay away. People want to feel connected. For months many have been isolated from family, friends, and routines. The church has an opportunity to fill the void, by reconnecting with the disconnected. Telephone calls, text messages, social media touchpoints, and old fashion snail mail are still required and can make people feel that they are a part of something greater than themselves.

If you have learned anything over the last eighteen months, it should be to be adaptable. By now, you realise that you cannot control what is happening to you, but you can control how you react to the prescribed changes. The rapid rate of change should be seen as an opportunity - and a chance to evaluate

grow deeper with God. For too many churches, things have become idols and have taken away from the valid reason people come to church. Use this time to change the old ways of having church. Do not be constrained by the past but adapt to the present situation and needs of the church even if it is live streaming, DVD and CD media or listening on the telephone.

Yes, Church will be different and may never be the same as you remember it but God's people will be the same. As you think about "dipping your toe in the water again" the continued wearing of a mask in church even when singing may still be difficult, getting to church may now require transport, you may have become used to the "comfy pew" of home church but do try to come back with us. On Thursday 2nd September at 11.30am there will be a short Communion service you may wish to think about. Contact me on 01324 719641 to discuss your concerns or needs.

Be encouraged - God is still on the throne, and He will work this out for the good of the church if the church is willing to do it's part in building the kingdom.

Ian Baillie, Pastoral Assistant.

VOLUNTEERS?

As organisations and groups are planning for a new session and to resume meeting in the halls subject to the Covid restrictions, please consider if you can get involved.

Anyone helping out with a new activity will always be given support to learn how to do the task required and be paired up with more experienced volunteers. Often there is also a degree of flexibility about how often you need to be involved.

If you are interested in any of the following opportunities, please email info@brightonschurch.org.uk or leave a message on the church office telephone (01324 713855) and we will put you in touch with the relevant members.

The Creche during Sunday Worship. This would be on a rota basis possibly once every 2 months.

The Sunday Schools covering the P2 -S3 age range. A leader for the Juniors *and Seniors* as well as 2 helpers and in Flaim 2 helpers.

In our uniformed organisations, the **Boys' Brigade** will need a Captain and help in both the Junior and Company Sections. The **Girls' Brigade** requires assistance in the Explorer and Junior Sections.

The **Sunday Tea and Coffee** rota after the morning service is looking for 6 new volunteers. This would be helping at least once every 4-6 weeks.

The **Pre 5s Tea and Coffee** rota only on Tuesday mornings and afternoons. There is no expectation to be more widely involved.

Extracted from E-News 13th August

Life and Work Sunday 29 August 2021

Life and Work has been informing, uplifting, moving, connecting and occasionally enraging the Church of Scotland for over 140 years. This summer, we are offering churches the chance to celebrate that.

The magazine was founded in 1879 by Archibald Charteris, who had identified that there was a demand for a distinctively Scottish Christian magazine for ministers to circulate in their parishes. He established the template that in many ways remains to this day: news of the Church at local, national and international level, commentary on the key issues of the day from a Scottish Christian perspective, spiritual guidance and Bible study, interviews and profiles of key figures within the Church.

Later editors would recall that the new publication faced scepticism and even ridicule from elements of the Church establishment, but distributed through the parish churches with a supplement for local news, Life and Work quickly became part of the furniture and – with the exception of a two-month break because of a printer's strike in 1959 – it has published monthly ever since – even, more recently during the Covid-19 global pandemic.

At the Union with the United Free Church in 1929 it became 'Life and Work: the Record of the Church of Scotland', and with the coming of the internet acquired an online presence, www.lifeandwork.org. You can now also read the whole magazine in digital form which also helps the Church of Scotland move to Net Zero position over the next decade (meaning greenhouses gases are equivalent to those taken away).

But however you choose to read, Life and Work remains an essential news source and platform for discussion for the whole Church.

If you would like to order Life and Work, print subscription, 3 months trial offer (UK) £6 (for new subscribers only), 12 months (UK) £36.00. Digital subscription available at www.lifeandwork.org 6 months £11.99, 12 months £20.99.

Please contact Anne Smith, telephone 01324 713855 if you would like any more information. Thank you.

What is Alpha

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome. It runs in cafés, churches, universities, homes—you name it. No two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation.

Food: Whether it's a group of friends gathered around a kitchen table, or a quick catch up over coffee and cake, food has a way of bringing people together. It's no different at Alpha. Most sessions start with food because it's a great way to build community and get to know each other.

Talks: The talks are designed to engage and inspire conversation. Usually around thirty minutes long and delivered over a few weeks, they can be given as a live talk or played as a video. They explore the big issues around faith and unpack the basics of Christianity, addressing questions from *Who is Jesus?* and *How can we have faith?* to *Why and how do I pray?* and *How does God guide us?*



Conversation: Probably the most important part of any Alpha: the chance to share thoughts and ideas on the topic, and simply discuss it in a group. There's no obligation to say anything and there's nothing you can't say (seriously). It's an opportunity to hear from others and contribute your own perspective in an honest, friendly and open environment.

An Alpha Course is being run in Brightons Parish Church starting on

Wednesday 8th September at 7.00pm

and you are warmly invited to come along and bring a friend/ friends.

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 July.

	FWO	Open Plate	Standing Orders	Total
	£	£	£	£
30 Weeks to 31 st July 2021	13,127	211	61,861	75,199
Budget to 31 st July 2021	12,750	900	60,000	73,650
30 Weeks to 31 st July 2020	15,040	1,772	55,348	72,160
Increase / (Decrease) vs Budget	377	(689)	1,861	1,549
Increase / (Decrease) % vs Budget	2.96	(76.00)	3.10	2.10

Our overall expenditure to date is £3,000 less than the budget. The heat and light costs saving is almost £1,500. The property budget is also lower than budget as repairs are currently restricted to maintaining the building wind and water tight.

National Giving Day - All Church of Scotland congregations have been 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 money raised through this National Giving Day **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'. If a donor wishes their gift to be used for a specific purpose, we will respect that request. For gifts with no identified specific purpose then the Deacons' Court / Kirk Session will be able to choose how to use the money, provided that it will be used in line with the charitable objectives of the church.

A special envelope is provided so that we can show all the gifts were given as part of this initiative. The special envelopes are included with the paper copies of Bright Lights and will also be available on a Sunday or by contacting the Treasurer. Gifts can also be made by popping them in an envelope and clearly identifying it is for the National Giving Day and bringing them on a Sunday or using the secure post box at the halls entrance.

This initiative will give all of us, of all ages an opportunity to reflect on God's presence with us and to offer a gift of thanksgiving to God.

You can give at any time within the dates above.

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.

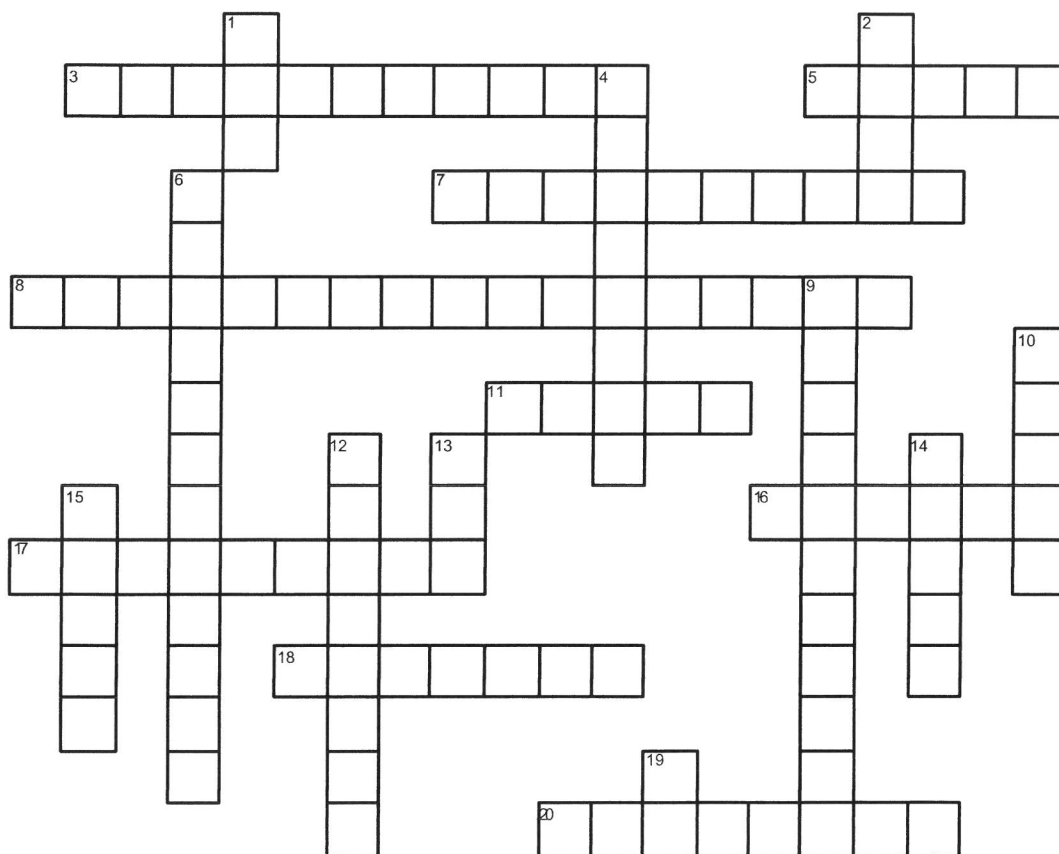
Alan Macfarlane

Treasurer

On behalf of the Finance Team

THE PARABLE OF THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS

Matthew 25:31-46



ACROSS

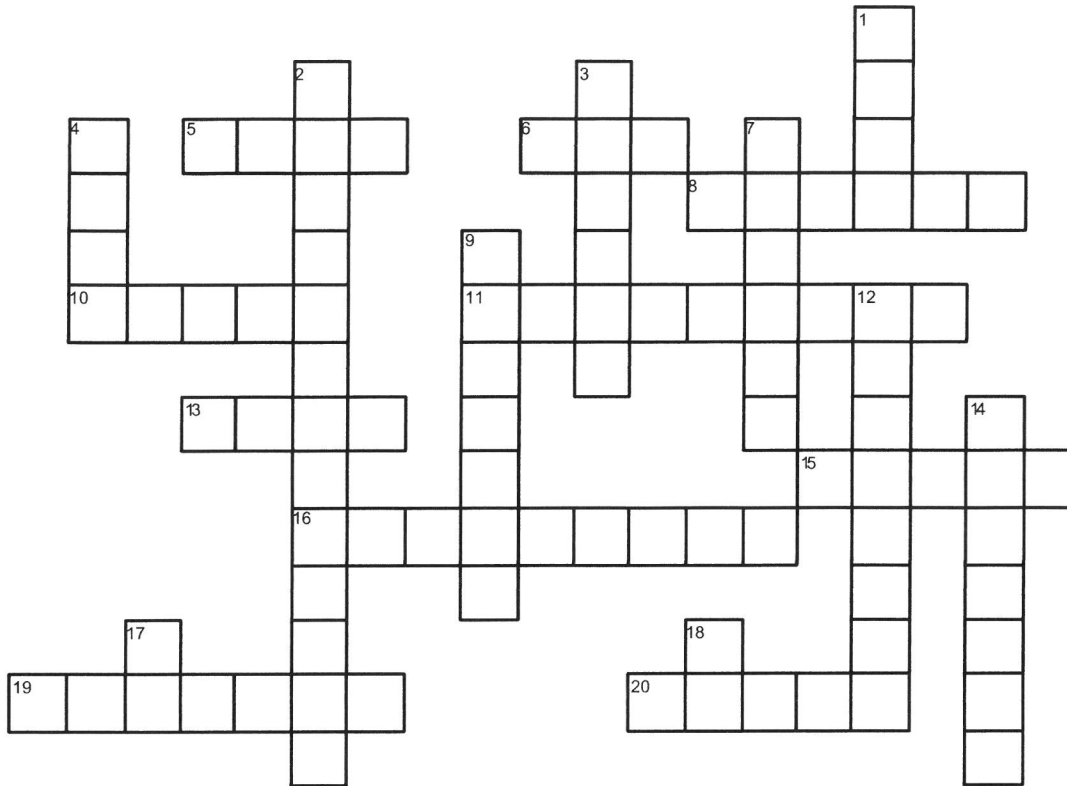
- 3 To whom shall the King speak to after speaking to the Righteous? (Mt. 25:41)
- 5 In this parable, who will stand on the King's right hand? (Mt. 25:33)
- 7 In the parable of the Sheep and the Goats, who will be gathered before Jesus? (Mt. 25:32) two words
- 8 To whom will Jesus give His kingdom? (Mt. 25:34) four words
- 11 In this parable, who will stand on the King's left hand? (Mt. 25:33)
- 16 Who shall come with the Son of Man on Judgment Day? (Mt. 25:31)
- 17 To whom shall the King first speak? (Mt. 25:34)
- 18 When Jesus comes to judge all nations, the reward and the punishment will be _____. (Mt. 25:46)
- 20 Jesus used this name describing a group of people to mean everyone rather than just Christians. (Mt. 25:40)

DOWN

- 1 Will this world ever come to an end? (Mk. 13:32)
- 2 In which word will the cursed say that the eternal punishment will be unfair, "_____ did we see ..." (Lk. 25:45)
- 4 Who will sit upon the throne of His glory at the Last Judgment? (Mt. 25:31) three words
- 6 The King, Jesus, will tell those who are condemned that their own earned their eternal punishment. (Mt. 25:45)
- 9 Where will the wicked then go? (Mt. 25:41) two words
- 10 Those who have helped the _____ of God's people, will inherit the kingdom of heaven. (Mt. 25:34, 40)
- 12 When was the kingdom prepared for the righteous? (Mt. 25:34)
- 13 When the unbelievers do the acts of kindnesses, do they seek a reward for their good works? (Mt. 25:44-46)
- 14 The eternal fire has also been prepared for the _____. (Mt. 25:41)
- 15 The _____ and his angels will be with the wicked. (Mt. 25:41)
- 19 When the believers do the acts of kindnesses in Jesus' name, are these acts done to seek a reward from Jesus? (Mt. 25:40)

THE PARABLE OF THE FOOLISH RICH MAN

Luke 12:13-21



ACROSS

- 5 At the end of the parable, the rich man was actually poor in his relationship with God. (Lk. 12:21)
- 6 What did God say would happen to the rich man that night? (Lk. 12:20)
- 8 The greedy person is concerned about his inheritance because his father had died. (Lk. 12:13)
- 10 Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your _____ will be also." (Lk. 12:34)
- 11 Because we cannot take our material possessions with us when we die, we should be concerned about storing up _____ in heaven. (Lk. 12:21)
- 13 What did Jesus call the rich man? (Lk. 12:20)
- 15 Jesus said, "Be on your guard against all kinds of _____." (Lk. 12:15)
- 16 The rich man was concerned only about his physical blessings and not his _____ blessings.
- 19 Do you think the rich man was wise or foolish in depending upon himself for his needs? (Lk. 12:20)
- 20 Jesus told His disciples they should _____ worry about their lives. (Lk. 12:4-7)

DOWN

- 1 By trusting in the Lord to provide for our needs, we become _____ unto salvation.
- 2 Jesus did tell the rich man and us to give diligence so that we do not fall into _____. (Lk. 12:15 KJV)
- 3 Since the rich man had a good crop, he wanted to build _____ barns to store the grain. (Lk. 12:18)
- 4 By trusting in the Lord to provide for our needs, we become _____ toward God.
- 7 What produced a good crop for the rich man? (Lk. 12:16)
- 9 The rich man made the mistake of thinking he was the owner of all he had. Rather he was only a _____ or a manager of his possessions.
- 12 The rich man was concerned about the present life and forgot about _____.
- 14 When someone asked Jesus a question, what title was used? (Lk. 12:13)
- 17 Do you feel that the rich man was content with a good crop?
- 18 Is it a sin to buy treasures on earth or to plan for retirement?

News from our Sunday Schools

The end of our 2020-2021 session came around quickly and we marked this with our usual All Age service on 22nd June. Each of the groups did a fantastic job taking part in the service, so a big thank you to all involved.

At this service I mentioned a few changes in our Sunday School leadership team –

- Heather McManus has stepped down from leading Triple S having taken on the eldership role and handed over to Dixcee Spencer.
- Laura Eckles has stepped back from leading FLAIM as she will now be singing live with the Praise Band in church.

On behalf of the Sunday Schools, I'd like to thank Heather and Laura for their service, encouragement, and commitment to leading our young people in their journey of faith. We pray God's blessing on them as they step into their next adventure!

I also mentioned that I was handing over the Sunday School Co-ordinator role to Alie Drackford. It's been a real privilege to hold the role of SS Co-ordinator working with such a fantastic team of young people, leaders and helpers. Thank you also to the wider congregation for all your valuable support and encouragement.

I'm excited for this new chapter with Alie leading and pray God blesses her richly in it!

Judith Norton

As we begin this new academic year of 2021-2022, we welcome all the children back **in person** to their various groups on Sunday 29th August. We are so excited about this and to see everyone back in the church buildings. It seems so long since we have been able to meet in person like this and we particularly look forward to welcoming those back who found meeting virtually very challenging.

We have had lots of children move up within the groups this year. We would normally have done this in April, but this did not seem appropriate this year. We are very glad that the timings have worked out in our favour as moving to new groups can be daunting and doing this in person will be much easier.

All our leaders are very keen to get back to welcoming everyone in person. While there are still changes happening regularly with regards to COVID, we hope for your understanding as while we get to grips with these changes. If, however, anyone would like to get in touch to discuss their child(ren)'s needs, please do not hesitate to do so and we will do all we can to accommodate.

I also want to reiterate what Judith has said that all the leaders work tirelessly for our young people to have their place within our worship. They are a fantastic group of people to work with and if you would like to be involved - no matter how small, we would welcome your contribution.

Lastly, I pray that God shines his love into each and every one of our young people and shows them the power of his love through the lessons they receive at all the Sunday school groups.

God's Blessings upon you all,

Alie Drackford

Friends of Jesus Group

The Friends of Jesus Group offers a warm welcome to people with learning disabilities. Our aim is to know more about Jesus as our special friend. We want to get to know each other better and celebrate that we are all different but equally loved by God.

The Group would love to welcome new people with learning difficulties. Do you know anyone who might like to come to the Group? Please invite them.

As the Group's new leaders, Jennifer Maden and I have been praying and planning for the Friends of Jesus for the coming session.

We have decided for a variety of reasons to restart our session on Zoom on

September 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Thursday 23rd September at 7pm

As Ivy Blair and Jean Cairns have left the Group we are praying and looking for some new helpers. Could this be **you**? You will be blessed being part of this special Group.

If you are interested do contact myself, Wendy Dick, details below. ... or come along to our planning meeting on Thursday 2nd September in Redding Church Hall at 7pm to find out more.

Wendy Dick

info@brightonschurch.org.uk or tel. 01324 713855

The Choir

On the service on Sunday 27th June to mark Elaine Finlay's retiral as the church organist after almost 11 years, Elaine was presented with a cheque from the church and a bouquet of flowers. Below members of the choir gathered after the service to wish Elaine and Ian their good wishes as they move to be nearer their family in Dundee.



The organist's duties are now undertaken by Jill Dickson who has deputised for Elaine for a number of years and Jon-Luke Kirton who joined the church in 2020.

The Guild

The Guild is starting up on Monday 20th September at 7.30pm. We are taking things cautiously and are planning for only one meeting each month, to begin with, but we hope to see all who are ready to come back to meetings and we would love to see some new faces. Our first meeting will be a chance to catch up with each other and enjoy some fellowship in person while following the latest guidance on safe indoor meetings. Future meetings will have speakers from the projects that the Guild supports.

We are learning about and supporting two new projects this year: Pioneers UK Chocolate Heaven in South East Asia and the Vine Trust Kazunzu Village of Hope, Tanzania. The Vine Trust is well known to us, of course, but this is a new project to develop a village on the shores of Lake Victoria to support high quality medical care in that part of Tanzania. Chocolate Heaven is working with local farmers from the Dan people to grow cacao and get a fair price for their crops. Both projects sound exciting and we are looking forward to finding out more over the next few months.

Elspeth Reid
Guild Convener

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Mission Jars (Jars of Grace)

Prospects Across Scotland) – and, in particular, our own “Friends of Jesus” group continue to receive Mission Jar monies throughout 2021. The sum donated as at 15th August stands at **£292.15**.

Once again, we want to thank everyone who generously gives us their “loose change”. With more folks now in a position to attend Church in the Sanctuary, this should make it easier to drop off donations.

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.



MACMILLAN Cancer Support

Friday, 24th September 2021

Once again, the Outreach Team intend to organise a fund-raiser to support the work of Macmillan Cancer Support. Depending on the restrictions relating to COVID, this coffee morning would either take place in the halls, or in our gardens! More details nearer the date.

In previous years, we have been blessed with donations of home-baking, coffee, tea etc and again, we would be delighted to accept any items.

As a Church Family, we all know someone who has benefitted from the support given by Macmillan Cancer Support. At Outreach, we feel this Coffee morning will be an excellent opportunity to meet friends, enjoy fellowship and help a wonderful charity. Please keep this date free in your diary. Thank you!

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

Thursday Night Prayer

During lockdown Thursday Prayer has taken place via Zoom, YouTube and recently Facebook.

In our opinion, this has been a blessing to many, and it reaches people from far and near.

As we begin to return to church and are able to meet face to face, we would like your thoughts on the way forward for TNP.

It would be useful if you could let us know if you think

1. We should continue with TNP as it is now, weekly, for about 50 minutes.
2. How we could meet up face to face throughout the year and how you suggest this could be done.
3. The format of individuals leading with Prayer points is a help.
4. You would like to join the small team of leaders.

Please contact Marion Graham

email - marionmoffat06@gmail.com

or leave a message on the church tel. 01321 713855



Thursday Online Prayer Time at 8.15pm.

Date	Leader	Date	Leader
7 th October	Ian Lawson	25 th November	Marion Graham
14 th October	Irene Stewart	2 nd December	Irene Stewart
21 st October	James Falconer	9 th December	James Falconer
28 th October	Ian Lawson	16 th December	Ian Lawson
4 th November	Rachel Meek	23 rd December	Irene Stewart
11 th November	James Falconer	30 th December	Marion Geaham
18 th November	Ian Lawson		

Community Outreach News

Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

As intimated in the summer issue of Bright Lights our church is entering into an associate partnership with CAP.

Arrangements are now being made to launch the signing of this partnership with a special service sometime in September/October. At this service we will hear about the work of CAP and have the opportunity to respond through prayer, volunteering or by responding financially.

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.

Christian Aid Week 2021 update

Final sum raised during Christian Aid week 2021 was £4200. Again, many thanks for your amazing generosity.

Braes Litter Pick

A very successful litter pick was held on Saturday 19th June with approximately 10 adults and 12 children taking part. We covered Quarry Park, parts of the canal path, Rumford shopping area and the streets closest to the park. A total of 10 large bags of litter was collected.

A litter pick was scheduled for Saturday 21st August, one at 10am and the other at 3pm. Arrangements are also being made to allow other organisations or individuals to easily do litter picks at a timing of their choice. The church now has a quantity of grabbers (child and adult), bags and bag rings for borrowing. Contact Roy Graham (roymunro13@gmail.com) for more information.

Some of the people who took part.



Joint Convenors - Roy Graham and Maralyn Stirling

A Message from Sandra and Graham Duncan, South Africa

Recent news from South Africa has been very concerning. There has been a big surge in Coronavirus infections, so it was good to hear that Graham and Sandra have both been able to have their second jabs. However, there are many people yet to be vaccinated and vaccines are in short supply.

There has also been considerable unrest and violence by supporters of former president Jacob Zuma, who was recently imprisoned for failing to comply with a court order. Graham and Sandra have sent us an article by Clem Sunter which helps to explain what is happening in the country, summarised below. Please keep the nation of South Africa in your prayers.

Following the 1994 democratic elections in South Africa, South Africa did really well economically until about 2008, which was the year Jacob Zuma was elected president of the ANC, since when there has been an increase in corruption and a weakening of government institutions. A stupendous sum of money was stolen during those years, which this country certainly cannot afford. Eventually however the internal tide within the ANC started to turn against Jacob Zuma, and in December 2017 Cyril Ramaphosa was elected as the president of the ANC and subsequently became the president of South Africa by a narrow margin. He has been determined to clean up the corruption we have seen since 2008 and established a commission to investigate and expose corruption issues.

Jacob Zuma refused to appear in front of the commission even when ordered to do so by the Constitutional Court, which then ordered his imprisonment for a period of 15 months for contempt of court. Initially there was resistance to imprisonment by Jacob Zuma and his supporters, but a few weeks ago Jacob Zuma submitted himself to imprisonment. And then all hell broke loose.

The riots have been at their worst in KwaZulu Natal, which is the region where Jacob Zuma has his powerbase, This is also, as the name will tell you, the home territory of the Zulu nation.. Within the Jacob Zuma camp, individuals set about instigating the so-called protests, riots and looting that you have seen in the media, using the existing problems of poverty and inequality to inflame the situation. In addition to that there are the existing fissures along race lines that exist in our society which were also available to leverage. Audio files doing the rounds encouraged people to attack and destroy what are perceived to be white and white owned businesses. In the end though, many black businesspeople also suffered considerable losses.

The gameplan was to create a situation which would force the hand of the current government, resulting in an overreaction by the security forces, which could have led to the deaths of many. If that had occurred, it might have forced the resignation or removal of Cyril Ramaphosa as president. This is one reason why the security forces have been so careful not to use excessive force in dealing with the riots and the looters.

While there is still a lot of instability in KwaZulu Natal and certain pockets in Gauteng, what is now starting to emerge quite clearly is that the gambit by the Jacob Zuma camp has failed. South African society of all walks has turned its face against this insurrection. In effect, an attempted coup has failed.

South Africa is a strange nation in many ways. They argue and fight amongst themselves, but when pushed to the edge, they always pull together for the common good. This has happened again and again over the decades. This has been perhaps a necessary test of our democracy and of the rule of law.

Sunday Reader/Prayer Rota

3rd October - 26th December 2021



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

October 3 rd	R – Margo Graham P – David MacAskill	November 21 st	R – Alistair McDonald P – James Falconer
October 10 th	R – Andrew Robertson* P – Richard McManus	November 28 th	R – Liz McKellar P – Jason Glass
October 17 th	R – Ann Herd P – Rachel Meek	December 5 th No Communion	R – Martin Miller P – Marion Graham
October 24 th	R – Ian Huntley P – Annabella Nimmo	December 5 th Communion	R – Eric Smith P – Rev Scott Burton
October 31 st	R – Charles Lees P – Eric Smith	December 12 th	R – Marion Zacks* P – David MacAskill
November 7 th	R – George Mann P – Irene Stewart	December 19 th	R Nativity Service P See Youth Leaders
November 14 th	R – Rachel Meek P – Rena Moore*	December 26 th	R – Pat Paterson P – Richard McManus

** 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 (01324 713855) or email info@brightonschurch.org.uk 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.

FLOWER CALENDAR



The distribution of the 'church flowers' has recommenced although at the present time the flowers will not be in the sanctuary as part of the Sunday worship. They will be purchased and distributed by a member at this difficult time with prayers and thoughts to spread a little light in dark moments.

It is possible that in the near future that the flowers will be back in the sanctuary and the distribution would then be following the service.

	NAME
OCTOBER	
3 rd	Lorna Blair
10 th	Jean Meek
17 th	Anne Tomlinson
24 th	Ann Herd
31 st	Irene McNab
NOVEMBER	
7 th	May McGill
14 th	Irene Stewart
21 st	The Guild
28 th	Sandra Anderson
DECEMBER	
5 th	Vacant
12 th	Anne Tomlinson
19 th	Peter Lees
26 th	Anne Smith

The current process of being contacted at least a month in advance to confirm that you are still wishing to donate to the purchase of the flowers (a flower fund) is continuing at present and the member purchasing and delivering the flowers is being reimbursed from the flower fund.

If you require any further information or take up a vacant Sunday please contact Ian Baillie in the first instance.