

The background of the entire page is a warm, golden sunset over a body of water. In the foreground, several hands are silhouetted against the bright light of the sun, which is partially obscured by a large gear. The hands are holding and interlocking several large, dark-colored gears of different sizes. The overall mood is one of hope, rebuilding, and community effort.

Bright Lights

SUMMER 2022

They replied,
'Let us start
rebuilding.'
So they
began this
good work.
(Neh. 2:18)

**THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF
BRIGHTONS PARISH CHURCH**

WWW.BRIGHTONSCHURCH.ORG.UK

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Our website is also full of resources and information, including a church calendar, hall booking forms, news updates and much more.

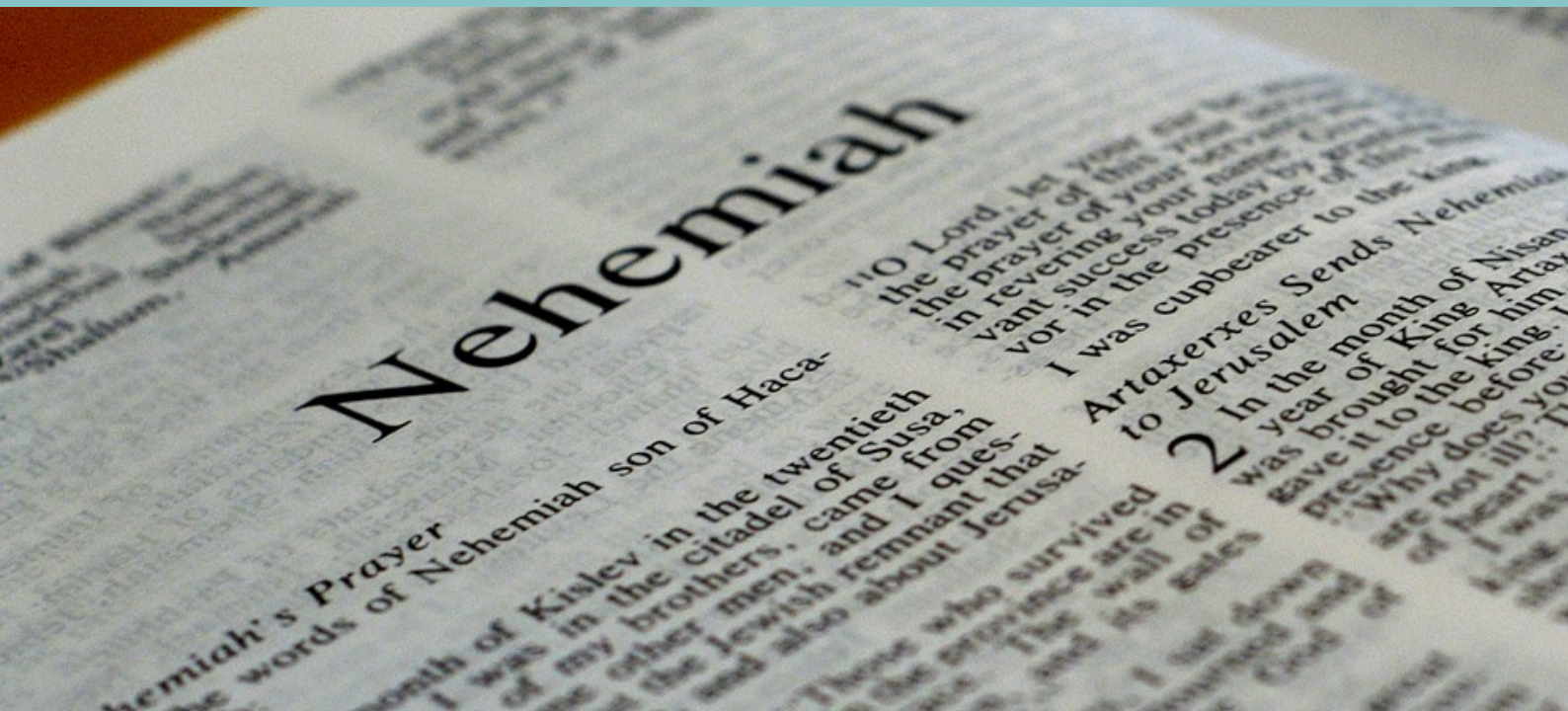


Communion Sunday - 11am 5th June 2022

"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 share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Rebuilding



Message from the Manse

BY SCOTT BURTON

Our recent sermon series has taken us into the book of Nehemiah and there has been much to learn from his story: repentance, prayer, playing our part, overcoming pride and embarrassment, and most importantly: *the rebuilding is not about the building*. That's a striking and uncomfortable thought, but a crucial one too. In the rebuilding that we undertake following the

last two years, or as congregations unite in the years to come, or even what we do and plan for the next session, our focus is to be on God's kingdom and His priorities.

So, is that where your focus is? Or is it on "getting back to normal"? Or might it be about what you, "get from church"?

Worryingly - if we're honest - we often make church and faith about us, and not really about God at all. As you weigh this, and recognise it

in your own life (since it's there for us all, even me), then come back to the start of Nehemiah: repentance. Get real and honest with God; start afresh and come receive His refining and upholding grace anew, as we celebrate the forgiveness and hope we have through Jesus in the Lord's Supper.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Love to one and all,
Scott

Pastoral Assistant's Message

BY IAN BAILLIE

“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast,” Hebrews 6:19. KJV

On 6th February 2022, Queen Elizabeth II became the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, which marks 70 years on the throne. Celebrations so far have ranged from a nationwide competition to find a new pudding, to a campaign to ‘plant a tree for the Jubilee’, with every planting recorded on a digital map to be presented to the Queen. Music will also play a key role in the celebrations. Queen Elizabeth II has a

particular love for amateur music-making and has been a staunch supporter of classical music and the arts throughout her 70-year reign.

Cathedral and church choirs, orchestras, composers and classical music organisations will all play a part in the musical tributes to Her Majesty. There will be a special bank holiday weekend to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, celebrations will take place outside Buckingham Palace, at venues across the country and on local streets. The Queen’s official birthday parade, Trooping the Colour, will take place on



Thursday 2th June. The following day, Friday 3rd, there will be a Platinum Jubilee Service of Thanksgiving at the magnificent St Paul’s Cathedral in London.

On Saturday 4th June, members of the Royal Family will attend the Platinum Party at the Palace, a live concert in front of Buckingham Palace. The final day of the Jubilee weekend, Sunday 5th June, will be marked by a Pageant, featuring a performance telling the story of The Queen’s reign. I missed the Queen’s ascension to the throne by six years and many more of you by many more years, yet there will be some of our number who remember those events of 1952 as if it were yesterday.



As the nation celebrates, you too may be joining in these celebrations and the Church will be celebrating the day of Pentecost, often referred to as the "birthday" of the Church, and here Communion will be shared. We celebrate, not a Queen but a King who has been on the throne for much longer than 70 years, a King who is "The Servant King" and who in the word's of Handel's Messiah "shall reign for ever and ever". "Covid and its chaotic aftermath has touched every one of us, throughout the Commonwealth and the wider world. "For 70 years our Queen has been there, a sure and steadfast rock in our

unpredictable world." Hebrews chapter 6 verse 19 has been implanted in my mind for over 50 years now, as the motto of the Boy's Brigade and of course the hymn "Will your anchor hold". Yet another more modern hymn, "You are my rock in times of trouble, You lift me up when I fall down; all through the storm Your love is the anchor, my hope is in You alone."

Let our hope this Pentecost weekend be secured in Christ Jesus and may the Spirit that descended that first day in the book of Acts fill each of us as we continue "In His Service".



Congregational Roll Update

NEW MEMBERS

Jean Brodie
June Griffiths
Cathie Playfair
Mary and Willie Stewart

DEATHS

February

Ishbel Stewart

March

Betty Wardlaw

April

Jean Wheeler

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms...if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

JOHN 14:1-3

Kirk Session

Session Clerk Update

BY ERIC SMITH

The Kirk Session has responsibility for the spiritual oversight of the church family here at Brightons. Session has a membership of 26 ordained Elders including our Minister and Teaching Elder, Scott, who chairs and moderates the meetings.

Along with the Deacons, the Elders are trustees of the congregational charity, and, as such, have responsibility for how the affairs of the congregation run. Practical matters such as Finance and Property are dealt with at the Deacons' Court, allowing Kirk Session to focus on the pastoral and spiritual health of the congregation.

Each Elder also serves

as a Pastoral Grouping Leader and as such will have contact with, visit if desired, and be available to talk and pray with, a number of church members.

Kirk Session meetings start with a short devotional time, prayer, and often a time for the Elders to reflect on our own spiritual life.

The various Kirk Session Teams report to the meeting but as well as this Session is responsible for the area of Safeguarding including approving new volunteers. Welcoming new members is also the responsibility of Session and we have had the joy and privilege of seeing a number come into membership of our church family over recent months.

During each meeting we try to take the time

to talk about a topic in greater depth. Over the past year these topics have included:

- Spiritual leadership - how can we, as Elders, keep our own spiritual lives fresh in order to help and encourage others?
- Sunday worship - how can we make this welcoming and real for those who attend?
- The Braes Churches and the Presbytery Mission Plan - in the middle of all the changes that are happening, and about to happen, what can we do to encourage unity and growth across our area?

If you would like to know more about Kirk Session, speak with any Elder and please do pray for us.

Team Updates

Discipleship

BY SCOTT BURTON

The team recently updated our purpose: "To assist the congregation in developing their Christian life through praying, learning and expressing faith in action."

Towards that end, we are working on a resource for the congregation to help everyone share our faith in simple, everyday ways, which we hope to produce soon. We also have a meeting coming up with the Pastoral Care Team to restart the Welcome Team, and we continue to be encouraged by the ways we see God at work to build and equip His Church.

We still need someone to be Convenor, so if you are interested, please speak with me.

Community Outreach

BY MARALYN STIRLING AND ROY GRAHAM

Recent months have seen renewed activity on all Community Outreach areas. As a group we have been tasked to spread God's love and His wonderful message out into the community. This is done by many members in the church, in a variety of ways, such as through: Falkirk Foodbank; Christians Against Poverty (CAP); Pre-fives; Thursday Coffee Morning; litter picking; supporting local and national charities; "Belong" Sundays / Fun Days; and banner displays.

At present we have five members in our group: Roy Graham, Maralyn Stirling, Margaret Scott, Rachel Gilmour and Cammy Dick. Each has an area of special interest and contributes by either running/ organising or supporting. Roy has a special interest with CAP, Maralyn is responsible for our charity activities, Rachel is Pre-Fives and the various "Belong" days, and Margaret is the Thursday Coffee Morning.



There are various overlaps with other Teams such as Discipleship, Pastoral Care and Comms but all have the same goal of showing God's love.

We are a small group but want to do more. Could you help? Do you have a passion for working in our community? If you can't provide time but would like to support us, why not come along to one of our meetings? Or why not lend prayer support? CAP, for instance, is supported by a once a month prayer time with representatives from all the churches supporting CAP in attendance. We have two reps on this group.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

This is a Christian charity, founded by John Kirby whom God called to use his financial skills to help people out of debt and poverty and in so doing, bring glory to God.

'If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.'
(1 Peter 4:11)

We are part of the Forth Valley CAP group, along with churches in Stirling, Falkirk, Maddiston, Tillicoultry, Alloa, Denny and Larbert. Each church provides financial assistance, volunteers and prayer support. We already have two trained Befrienders, a prayer supporter and offers of additional support. If you are interested, please get in contact.

See the 3rd anniversary CAP newsletter on subsequent pages.

Pre-Fives Play Group

This group meets twice on a Tuesday and provides fellowship and respite to parents, carers

and grandparents looking after young children.

Belong:

Easter Fun Day

We had a very successful day on Easter Saturday, with all sorts of activities to explain the Easter story to families. Around 150 people came, including many from the local community. We had a



“loaves-and-fishes” moment when we handed out the last treasure hunt prize to the last child, and just had enough crosses to make the final Easter gardens!

A massive thank you to all the volunteers, from the Flaim-ers, to those who sat and chatted over a cuppa. Many people were made welcome and learned more about what Jesus did for us at Easter.

Litter Picks

We have successfully held five events in the last year with the latest on the 2nd April, gathering in almost twenty bags of litter from our park areas and surrounding streets. Twenty people took part including some non-church folks from the local community, helping us to be a more visible presence in the community. The long-term aim is to partner with Community Councils and schools to improve the local area.

Thursday Coffee Morning

This is being held again every Thursday, 10am to 11.30am, in the Rankine Hall. Come and enjoy cake and coffee/tea in a friendly atmosphere. Join us!

June Communion

The retiring offering on Sunday 5th June will support the work of Tearfund.

Mission Jars (Jars of Grace)

Camphill, Blair Drummond will receive any donations for 2022. £31.44 is the balance as at 1st May 2022. As always, a big “thank you” to everyone who dutifully saves their “loose

change” and helps this designated charity.

Christian Aid Week: 15th – 21st May

Details of monies donated will be intimated in the Church news sheet.

Quiz sheets on the theme of *Food and Drink* will be available until 12th June. Cost £1 - or donation.

Lots of helpful resources and information can be found on the Christian Aid website.

Once again, thank you for supporting the work of Christian Aid.



Communications

BY SCOTT BURTON

The team continues to busy itself behind the scenes, supporting the congregation's purpose and the work of the Kirk Session Teams by facilitating effective communication. Part of our recent work has been refreshing "Bright Lights" and we'd value your feedback and new ideas.

We still need a Convenor to lead the team, and others to take on various roles, so if you have an interest in Communications in its various formats, please be in contact.

Thank you to the fantastic group of people who help us communicate and invest so much into developing this area of our shared life together.



Pastoral Care

BY SANDRA ANDERSON

We aim to provide, in partnership with our Pastoral Assistant, Ian Baillie, care and support to our church members and our parish, as and when required.

This includes:

- Visiting those who are sick or anxious at home, in hospital or in a Care Home
- Providing support and prayer for the dying and bereaved
- Providing, if required, transportation to hospital, especially for cancer treatment
- Keeping in contact, along with our extra visitors, with those who are housebound
- Sending cards to those bereaved, in hospital or celebrating special occasions
- Remembering those in Care Homes with cards, made by GB and BB, at Christmas and Easter
- Recording in the

Remembrance Book the memory of a loved one, as family may no longer be able to visit the grave or crematorium

- Holding an annual Bereavement Service to remember those who are no longer with us
- Giving a Prayer Shawl, knitted by church members, to someone housebound or ill,
- Letting them know we are thinking of them

If anyone in the congregation would be willing to visit our housebound members or Care Home residents; if you know of anyone who would benefit from a pastoral visit; if you wish to add an entry to our Remembrance Book or think our Team can help in any way, please contact myself, Ian or one of the Team.

Property

BY GORDON SCOTT

We continue to be in Category D status, which means we can only do works to ensure the integrity and safety of the building.

Following recent advertising of the position, I am pleased to let the congregation know that Annabel Haywood has been appointed to the post of cleaner for church and halls. Annabel lives in Polmont, and has previous connections with the congregation, knowing its layout, and how well used the halls are. We look forward to her starting with us in mid-May.

Various works, repairs and ongoing maintenance continue behind the scenes and I am grateful for the efforts of many to make it all happen.

Up and Coming

BY KEITH WANSBROUGH AND CAROLYN MCEWAN

Up and Coming is the Team that oversees the work of the Sunday Schools, Brigades, crèche, and other activities. We aim to share Jesus with our young people (aged 0-20ish), and to support families to bring up their children in a Christian environment. Our vision is to see young people of our church and parish becoming mature disciples (Matthew 28). While the groups themselves do most of this work, we coordinate between the teams; communicate with Session; and consider strategy and vision across all of our work with children and young people.

Recently, we have been helping groups reflect on the return to meeting in person; strengthening our work with children with additional support needs; connecting leaders and helpers with training available from the

Presbytery's Children and Youth Development Worker, from King's School of Theology, and elsewhere; and revising our vision, objectives, and strategy for 2022 and beyond. It's an exciting time and, as always, we very much appreciate your prayers as we seek to discern what God is doing amongst our children and young people and how He wishes us to participate in His work.



News

The Guild

BY ELSPETH REID

The Guild at Brightons has just finished its 2021-22 session and planning is underway for the 2022-23 session. We meet fortnightly from September until March each year and this coming year we will be alternating our meetings between afternoons and evenings - all on Mondays. A typical meeting includes worship, some business, a speaker (usually connected to our annual theme or with one of the projects we support each year) and a time of fellowship. The Guild is a very supportive group, where members keep in touch with each other and care for each other as we all go through the many challenges, sadnesses and joys of life, always in the context of Whose we

are and Whom we serve.

The Church of Scotland Guild is a movement within the Church of Scotland which invites and encourages both women and men to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action. Founded in 1887, there are currently about 15,000 members in about 800 Guilds across the UK. Throughout its history, the Guild has supported many outreach and mission projects, and in 2021-22 our fundraising was for the "Vine Trust" which is building a village in Kazunzu, Tanzania, and "Pioneers UK", which is developing a small chocolate business to reach out to people who have not heard the gospel in south-east Asia. We are thrilled with the support the



congregation was able to give us for these projects.

Next session, our theme is "Wee Seeds, Big Trees", and we are looking forward to speakers on horticulture, heritage and growing in faith, along with some entertainment. Our next two projects are "Home for Good" (finding homes for vulnerable children in Scotland) and "Hear our Voice" (empowering young women for ministry and service in Brazil). More information can be found on the Guild website <https://churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/the-guild/projects>. Our first meeting of the new session will be on

12th September at 2pm and we will distribute the syllabus in advance of that. All are welcome to come along to any of the meetings and we are always delighted to see new members joining us.

Blythswood Care

BY JIM DICK

Due to increased costs, the Glasgow depot is having to close. Unfortunately, due to this, the clothing collection bank in the community car park will be removed. The nearest collection point is now at Tesco Redding which supports the work of the Salvation Army.

Thank you for all your support. The clothing bank has been well used and it is a pity it has to go.



Friends of Jesus

BY WENDY DICK

Our Friends of Jesus group meetings have now finished for the summer break. It's been a challenging year with all that Covid has given us. We've had to have some meetings on Zoom, which was a big learning curve but, thankfully, many meetings have been in Redding Church Hall and we've enjoyed our time together.

We have 11 'Friends' and about 8 come along regularly to our meetings. Sadly, some have health issues and can't join us, so we send out a transcript of our evening along with any crafts, or colouring sheets for them to do, so they still feel part of our group. Each 'Friend' has a helper who keeps in touch with them, which was especially important during the pandemic.

We had our Visitors' evening on 5th May, which was a great

evening and we showcased what we had learned over the last year. Our theme up to Christmas was "Creation" and January to May we learned about the "Life of Jesus". In Mark's gospel we looked at who Jesus was, why he came to earth and how He wants us to follow Him.

I've been blessed and very humbled by working with these wonderful people and being assisted by a great team. I have learned so much and God has been with us and really blessed me and our group.

If you know anyone who would benefit from coming along to the Friends of Jesus group, do get in contact.

We meet in Redding Church Hall every second Thursday at 6.45pm.

Our session will start back in September.

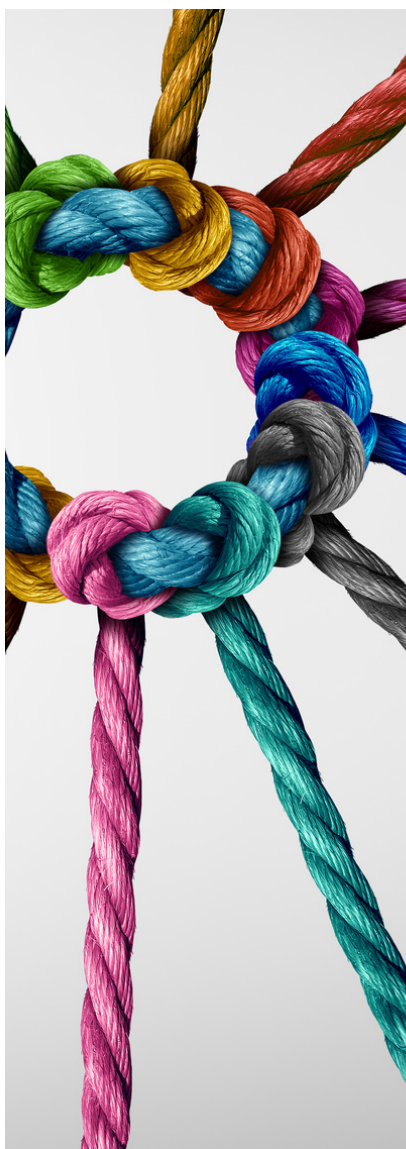
Youth Worker Committee

BY KEITH WANSBROUGH AND
CAROLYN MCEWAN

For some time the Youth Worker Committee has been working to call a youth worker. Brightons has been blessed with a large ministry to children and young people, but we would love to deepen and broaden our work in this area, building meaningful relationships beyond Sunday with those already in our church and Brigades, and reaching out to the 1100+ young people in our parish.

It's been a long and complicated process, but at last we are at the point of applying for grants to help fund this work. We have made two applications so far - one of which was accepted (thank you to the Ferguson Bequest Fund!) but there are many more to go. We would very much

appreciate your prayer for this phase, that we would be able to make the applications, find favour with the grant committees, and receive the funding we need to enable this work. We also look forward to the next stage, and pray that God will provide the right person to take on this role.



Alpha

BY IAN LAWSON



This year we began the Alpha course in April and, by the time you read this article, we will have reached halfway. Those attending have involved themselves in open discussions and it has been very helpful to the presentation team. I mention the presentation team but, in the background, we also have a prayer group supporting everyone with prayer.

The evening sessions begin with a cup of tea and some chat about anything and everything, which allows us all to relax and get ready for that evening's video.

So far the sessions have looked at the questions: "Is there more to life than this?", "Who is Jesus?", "Why did Jesus die?" and "How can I have faith?" It has been interesting listening to other

people's thoughts and experiences in their Christian journey and their views on the questions posed in the videos and some of the answers given.

The group of five ladies and one man mix very well with each other and the team. As we progress there is a Saturday where we look at the work of the Holy Spirit.

To conclude, the Alpha course has been an encouraging experience and uplifting for the team and we hope, in Christ's name, for those folk coming along.

C S Lewis wrote, "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen; not only because I see it, but because by it, I see everything else."

By looking at God's word we also see God's plan for us more clearly and Alpha can help in that search.

New Book Group

BY NADIA COWAN
AND
MARION GRAHAM

Are you interested in digging deeper in your faith by reading a faith book?

Do you enjoy meeting with like minded folk to talk about faith?

Are you seeking fellowship and friendship?

Are you free on a Wednesday morning once a month?

Are you free on Wednesday 8th June at 10am to meet up for a cuppa and chat about it?

If so, contact Nadia or Marion via the church office telephone number or email address, or in person.

Christians Against Poverty

BY FIONA WELSH,
FORTH VALLEY DEBT
CENTRE - APRIL 2022

Hi everyone,

Yes, it has been 3 years already! I think it goes without saying that there have been ups and downs, especially with the pandemic, but we are very thankful that we we've been able to keep supporting people through these times.

We are now gearing up for the latest challenge, of rising costs affecting the cost of everyday living, which will sadly push many people into debt.

In this letter we share the story of a couple who got in touch with us for help before things got out of control and we hope you will be encouraged by it. It's always best to get help as soon as you know things have become

unmanageable, rather than waiting for creditors to escalate things. I want to say a huge "Thank You and Happy Easter" to everyone that has been involved. It has been great getting to know you and a huge privilege to serve folks in our communities together.

3 Years in Numbers

- 66 Clients
- 12 Debt Free
- 3 Debt Coaches
- 10 Partner Churches
- 30 Volunteers/
Prayer Supporters
- 2 Baptisms
- 3 Years of
Generous Giving

Testimony Story

Jay and Lisa* were living with a growing fear that everything was about to "come off the rails". They'd been managing to keep on top of their bills, but they were close to breaking point.

Like jugglers spinning plates, they'd kept things going, but it was hard work. The monthly overdraft, which they now used to buy essentials such as food, was slowly getting larger. Jay and Lisa could see they were running out of options.

With CAP's help, Jay and Lisa faced the reality that without outside help, they were never going to be able to get their debt under control.

Following a detailed review of their needs and finances, CAP recommended a repayment plan. It'll take four years, but they're now on course to become debt free. It won't be painless or free of consequences, but they'll be able to keep their jobs, their car and their home.

**names changed to protect identity*

Sunday School

BY ALIE DRACKFORD
SUNDAY SCHOOL COORDINATOR

It's been a very busy session this academic year in all of our Sunday school groups. Most exciting of all, we have met in person ALL year – something we were wondering if it would ever be the case again. The children have all been growing and so has their faith, as I am sure you will agree from some of the amazing answers they have been giving during the children's talks. They blow me away on a regular basis! Each of the groups has had a different focus so here is what they have been getting up to.

Beginners (age 3 to P1)

BY MAGGY DICK



We have a lovely wee group of children in Beginners. We range from 2-3 to up to 9-10 kids on a Sunday morning. This year we have looked at topics ranging from Friends of Jesus, stories Jesus told, Friends of God, Easter, Pentecost and soon we will look at God gives us Families.

We start each Sunday with the children playing with Lego before going into the service. When we come out, we take the collection then sit on the mat and listen to the story, often joining in,

making faces or asking questions. Then we move to the tables to do a craft. The children all enjoy gluing and sticking as well as colouring in pictures.

Every couple of months we send out and post on our Facebook page the themes for the next few weeks. This means parents can look at what the story will be with their wee one.

We have children joining us throughout the year when they reach three years. We welcome them

before their birthday to help them settle.

As leaders we couldn't run Beginners without our amazing helpers. Over the last year we have lost a few helpers, so we are looking to add to their number. If you feel you could help us on a Sunday morning, please come and speak to Alie, Gillian or Maggy.



Juniors (P2-P4)

BY JUDITH NORTON

This year our Juniors have been working their way through the New Testament, using their Jesus Storybook Bibles. They've met John the Baptist (not Ewan Norton in a wig!); journeyed with Jesus as He was tempted in the desert and when He called His disciples; explored some of the parables; and learned about the sadness and ultimate joy of the Easter story. They have also been learning how to pray, as we've been trying to learn the Lord's prayer and how to sign it over the last few months.



Triple S (P5-P7)

BY DIXCEE SPENCER

At the beginning of the year, we focused on 1 Timothy 4:12 and the five characteristics we should exemplify for others, no matter what our age or stage. We then explored each of those characteristics over the following weeks. We also focussed on the importance of God's love by doing a special Valentine's "Escape Room" activity. We have also been learning how to use and look up verses in the Bible through fun games.

We enjoyed fun Easter activities and the other special Sundays where events have been on. We'll miss our three Triple S mates who have moved up to FLAIM. But we welcome our four new Triple S pals who have moved up.

Over June, we're talking about some well-known people of the Bible.

FLAIM Forever Living Alive In Me (S1-S3)

BY DOUG AND
RACHEL GILMOUR

As you probably heard at the recent Moving Up Service, FLAIM has been able to meet in the Community Centre again on Sunday mornings. However, attendance has been very variable in the last term due to Covid and it has been difficult to re-engage our young people - in school, FLAIM and even socials. We studied a number of the parables of Jesus and enjoyed participating in the first Buddy Sunday (see below).

Please pray for our young people as they face exams and as some of them join the Forth Valley SU weekend away at Lendrick Muir (20th-22nd May). If you know a young person who may wish to join us, please contact:

flaim@brightonschurch.org.uk

Wait For It (S4+)

BY KEITH

WANSBROUGH AND
CAROLYN MCEWAN

Wait for It are in the middle of exams just now, so please keep us in your prayers. When not studying, you can expect to find us helping out with the other Sunday Schools, or in the band or tech team.

Many of us are looking forward to travelling to Israel and Palestine in October as part of a leadership training programme and we are busy fundraising for the trip. We are in challenging and uncertain times, but we rely on God's constant presence with us.

Moving on up!

We held our "Moving Up" service on Sunday 24th April and so some of the children have already been trying out their new groups in preparation for them being there from August onwards. We understand that this can be an anxious time for them and so please get in touch if we can assist in making the settling in process as smooth as possible for them.

Israel & Palestine Trip - Oct 2022

Thank you for assisting us in raising over £10,000!!! We are nearly at our goal and will have a few more events before we go.

Buddy Sunday

We had our first Buddy Sunday on Sunday 8th May which was a fantastic success (see enclosed photos). The purpose of this is to help children with the transitions between groups and to help them grow in their faith together. Beginners met with Triple S, learned about Pentecost, and had games and crafts centred around the Holy Spirit. Juniors met with FLAIM and learned each other's names; favourite fruits and activities; reading stories; cutting and sticking.



We need you...

While we have really enjoyed this session, we are all looking forward to recharging our batteries over the summer and returning full of fresh ideas. We are always seeking new helpers in all of our groups and if you feel you can offer help (all groups run rotas, so it would never be every Sunday) we would very much appreciate hearing from you. Just send Alie an email and she'll put you in touch with leaders of the relevant group.

sundayschool@brightonschurch.org.uk

While we think about winding up for the summer, we would appreciate prayers from the whole church family for all our young people in the church, for them to grow in faith, and for all the leaders and helpers to continue the amazing work they do with the same levels of enthusiasm we know and expect from them all.

Hope you all have a wonderful summer,
Many blessings
The Sunday School Team



Girls' Brigade

BY SANDRA BLAIR

1ST POLMONT GIRLS' BRIGADE CAPTAIN

Explorers (P1-P3)

With 13 girls attending weekly we continued to follow our theme "Oceans" and it has been great looking at the different animals that live in the ocean and also the effects that plastic and waste going into the water can have on these animals.

The girls took part in our Christingle service in December and we also held our Christmas Party in the halls this year and a great night was had by all who attended.

The girls have created various crafts relating to our theme - turtles, jellyfish, suncatchers, octopuses, and crabs made from croissants. They have also made Advent calendars and

Valentine hanging decorations to name just two. They also decorated Easter cards which were sent out to residents in the local nursing homes within the Braes area.

To finish off our session we held an "Under The Sea" party for which the girls got to dress up if they wanted. As a result, we had mermaids and turtles attend on the night, which was great to see. All our games were ocean related and we had a fun night. We raised money for WWF as part of their service badgework. The money we raised was sent along with the money the Junior Section raised to go towards the work the charity does in helping to save endangered animals.



OUR CROISSANT CRAB



OUR REINDEER
TEACAKES



PIN THE HAT ON THE
SHARK GAME

Juniors (P4-P7)

This year we have had around 19 girls attending regularly each week. Our evenings consisted of making various different puppets, exploring endangered animals, team building, learning about the books of the Bible and studying a selection of Bible stories, as well as raising money for charity.

Each week we start off asking all the girls how their week has been and what they have been up to since we last met. It is great to hear all about the various activities that the girls do or where they have been over the weekend.

We continued making different types of puppets, some of which



were paper bag animals, rhinos and sock puppets. On our last week of meeting we finished off by asking the girls to work in their teams and make up a puppet show using their sock puppets and they all did very well with this challenge.

When taking part in the team building activities, we mixed the girls up and it was good seeing them work together and interact with each other - albeit perhaps out of their comfort zone, not being with their friends all of the time. Some of the tasks they undertook involved turning over 15 small glasses in a set time (which was harder than they thought); hula hoop; rock, paper, scissors; noughts & crosses dash; and building a tower of plastic cups using only string and a rubber band. It was brilliant to see the girls all working together to complete these tasks (some of which they found very frustrating).

After Christmas we continued to look at

endangered animals including elephants, snow leopards and rhinos. I am sure we all learned facts about some of these animals that we never knew and what is needed to protect them (this included the staff). The girls also made crafts relating to these animals.

For their Service the girls asked to raise money for WWF by trying to guess the number of pandas which they were given out. A total of £240 was raised between Explorers and Juniors, which I am sure WWF would be happy receive in support of their work to help endangered animals.

In December the girls took part in our Christingle service and also attended their Christmas party in the halls. The girls also decorated Easter cards which were sent out to residents in the local nursing homes within the Braes area. These cards are always appreciated by everyone who receives them.



Brigaders (S1-S6)

BY MAGGY DICK

This year we have enjoyed meeting face to face in the hall, albeit with face masks.

For our Educational badgework after Christmas we enjoyed learning about the Winter Olympics and the different sports involved.

In the first half of the session, we looked at a Nativity Escape Room scenario to look at Christmas and its meaning. From the start of the year, we have looked at an Easter Escape Room.

For Physical we enjoyed skiing using the skis made by BBs and using the indoor curling set here in the church.

We enjoyed being able to welcome folk to the Christingle service to announce the start of Advent as well as helping to set up the Thursday

coffee morning.

We have also spent time thinking about what we would like to cover for our badge work next year.

We look forward to welcoming the Juniors who will join the Brigader Section after the summer break.



Boys' Brigade

Anchor Boys (P1-P3)

BY IAN BAILLIE

Our albeit short session came to a close on the 29th March with a scaled down display and parents night. Our guests on the evening were our BB Captain Billy Rankine and his wife Liz as we acknowledged his many years of captaincy and wished both Liz and him well as he retired after over 30 years service to the Company. Billy must have just taken over as Captain when I took a young Christopher to enrol him in our Anchor Boys and returned that evening to a "press gang" of Charles Heriot, Anne Smith and Billy waiting to "encourage" me to take on officer-in-charge and the rest, as they say, is history.

The boys exhibited a few games, a story gym

about a bear on a chair and an Easter craft, after which the prizes were presented by Mrs Rankine, closing remarks were given by Billy and the section presented them with a voucher to dine out.

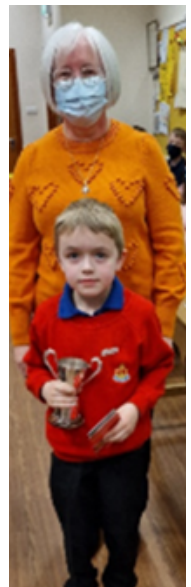
Prizes this year went to Best Group, Jupiter, with team leader Caleb Tripney receiving the Frank Benson Trophy, accompanied by his group Daniel Dickson, Lewis Rathie, Blair McComiskie and Aaron Barclay.

The Robert Callahan Shield for Spiritual activity was won by Daniel Dickson.

The Andrew McCulloch Cup for Best Boy went to Samuel Duke.

Promoted to Junior Section were Samuel Duke and Fraser Campbell and the evening was brought to a close by

our Chaplain Rev Scott Burton. We look forward to a more normal session after the summer break and would hope to recommence with our Enrolment Night on Tuesday 6th September.



Juniors

(P4-P6)

BY HELEN MACLEOD

Having missed out a whole session of Juniors (which is massive when you're a Junior) we were delighted to get back face to face in September.

We have had mixed numbers each week – one week as low as 3, with other weeks reaching 10, as all our boys and Officers have been impacted (at least once!) with either Covid or issues relating to Covid. We finished off with 11 on our register, with some boys just joining in the last couple of months, which is fantastic.

What we don't have in numbers we absolutely have in quality! The participation from the boys that come along each week has been amazing! They have embraced all the activities with enthusiasm and are an

inclusive and welcoming group.

We do need to give a special shout to our two Leading Boys this year – Gideon Sargent and Jamie Barnes. They are the only two boys who were in Junior Section pre-lock down and they have gone out of their way to support and integrate the other boys, and have truly led by example. We know they will love Company Section, and we look forward to watching them move through the Section.

In terms of programmes this year, we have been using the material produced by Boys' Brigade. This has allowed us to follow some really good programmes – where we can link opening service, with games and crafts (which have gone down particularly well this session). Some of the themes we have covered include Armistice Day, COP26, Charlie & the



Chocolate Factory, Superheroes, Advent, Australia Day, Chinese New Year, Winter Olympics and Gladiators. The boys have also been practising marching, and again considering only two boys had marched before, they have picked this up really well.

Of course, none of this would happen without the commitment of the Officers who come along every week. David Barnes joined us at the beginning of the session, and William Wilson joined us a couple of months ago. Lauren Hunter started with us when working on her Duke of Edinburgh, and we're

delighted that she came back this session. Lauren and our two Company Section boys – Kai and Calum – have been leading the games and are showing really promising leadership skills.

We do have to thank Ian and Sheena Huntley who are both retiring from Junior Section this year. Apart from the years of service which they have given to Junior Section, we can't thank them enough for the support they have given us as Officers, particularly over the last two years, through on-line sessions and then this year where they have given us the support and confidence to take the Junior Section forward in their absence. We are going to miss their enthusiasm, humour and friendship.

We look forward to next year, and hope that we continue to grow as a Section. Thank you for all your support!



Company (P7-S6)

BY COLIN HEGGIE

Thank you all for your support and understanding during this session. We started off in uncertain times last September and it was a huge relief to eventually get back to meeting in the church halls in

October after 18 months away.

The attendance level has been great all year with between 20 and 25 boys coming every week. I know it has not been easy for everyone to wear masks but, hopefully, things will be back to normal after the summer.

This year has been a real transition with almost half the Company being either in Primary 7 or first year whilst we lost a number of Seniors who completed their Queen's Badge during lockdown. We now have three boys who continue to work towards their Queen's Badge and another seven starting out on that work, having now gained their President's Badge. Well done everyone!

The one big void this year has been the lack of competitions, but these should all resume next session, and we will keep you updated once dates are finalised.

Josh has been taking the drill every week and we have seen the boys develop their marching over the months and we will look forward to preparing a Drill Squad for next year's competition.

We have tried to vary the programme this year with highlights including creating their own rockets for Guy Fawkes Night, the Christmas pizza games night, the Seniors escape room challenge and the Winter Olympic special. The Seniors also took charge of a full evening which was certainly great to see, as they all worked hard to plan activities from the opening talk through to the closing prayer.

A big thank you to all staff for their attendance and efforts during the session. As has already been reported, we are losing a few staff members this session. Billy Rankine, Brian Garioch, Calum Rankine and

Jack Gardner have all stepped back, following a combined 80 years of service and Ross Livingstone is heading off to Cornwall for a year's work placement after the summer, as part of his university course. We have had a couple of offers of assistance from new staff who will be supporting us next year but we could really do with more help. If anyone wishes to help in any capacity, please let me know.

Finally, I would like to add my personal thanks to Mr Rankine for his leadership of 1st Polmont over the past 31 years and wish him all the very best in his retirement from the Company.

The following main awards were presented at our end of session evening in March.



Junior Section

- Gold Badge, promoted to Company Section and winners of the Robert Callahan trophy for Best Boy:

Jamie Barnes and
Gideon Sargent

Company Section

- President's Badge:

From last session -
Owen Gough, Calum
Higgins and Kai Taylor

This session -
Gregor Bell, Stuart
Barclay, Harris
Drackford, Matthew
Erskine, Lucas Haig,
Liam Higgins, Ross
McKay and Andrew
Wearing

- Queen's Badge:

Christopher Laird,
Lewis McKay, Ewan
McManus, Peter
Mitchell, Gary Penman,
Lewis Petherick and
Aidan Wansbrough

- Best Recruit in
Company Section:

John Gilmour

- The Andrew McCulloch Cross for Christian Faith:

Ross McKay

- Frank Benson Trophy for Best Company Section Boy:

Stuart Barclay

- Alex Watt Trophy for Best Senior Boy:

Kai Taylor



Captain's Comments

BY BILLY RANKINE

I would normally be writing the reports for Junior and Company sections and telling you all about what has been happening on Friday evenings as well as how we have fared in the different Battalion and National events. But since Helen and Colin have covered this,

I find myself having to think of something to fill a few lines.

I started in 1st Polmont "Shipmates" (forerunner to the Anchor Boys) back in 1969 (or maybe even 1968) and worked my way through the Junior section and Company section before doing my officer training over 2 separate weeks at Carronvale House in 1979 & 1980. I became an officer on my 18th birthday, became captain in 1991 following the retiral of Malcolm Smith and just kept going, up until now. But as I approach a big birthday at the end of the year, I feel it is time to step back and let someone else take the reins. I know I am leaving everything in very capable hands - Ian Baillie with the Anchor Boys, Helen MacLeod with the Juniors and Colin Heggie with the Company Section.

I have experienced some great occasions in my time as a Boy, Officer and Captain. We've won competitions at Battalion

and National level. We had some great fun at summer camps in Nairn, Jersey, Stonehaven, Dunbar, Spittal, Pittenweem and Kinghorn. I can claim that I coached a double winning British Championship badminton team and I have taken part in a race on the track which was used in the 2014 Commonwealth Games. We have done various different fundraising activities over the years: we've delivered tens of thousands of Christmas cards; washed hundreds of cars (well, we got them wet and moved the dirt around on them); held coffee mornings; sold tons of jumble and auctioned off various items donated by friends of the company with Andy Gillespie on the gavel. Over the years I have seen over 100 young men gain their Queen's Badge during their time in 1st Polmont and even now it is great when I see these boys around the village.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the staff who have been part of the Company over the years. The combined years of service of the current staff is over 200 years and there have been many others before them who were always willing to support the Company even after retiring from BB. I would encourage you to consider offering your time and talents to help. It is really most rewarding and good fun. It also keeps you feeling young!! Speak to Helen, Colin, Ian, Scott or myself if you are interested in coming along. Without volunteers, the Company cannot operate.

I must also mention two other ladies who have been a massive support over my time in Boys' Brigade. I would never have made it to Company Section in 1973 if it hadn't been for my mum. Despite having been at BB

camp in Nairn earlier that summer, I was a wee bit apprehensive about going along to Company section in August and had only got halfway down Waggon Road when I decided to turn round because I was "scared of the big boys". That plan didn't work too well because I met my mum walking down behind me and she marched me down to the church hall and handed me over to Captain Andrew McCulloch – the rest, as they say, is history. The other lady is my wife, Liz. I am not sure she realised what she was letting herself in for when she met me all these years ago. She has been with me every step of the way and has never really had a problem with me being out every Friday or the many mid-week and weekend meetings or competitions. I suppose I will need to start on the list of things that Liz feels need to be done around the house now.

I must also take this opportunity to say thank

you for the gifts and kind words I have received from so many people over the last few weeks since I retired. It has been an honour and a privilege to have been Captain of 1st Polmont Company and I wish the Boys and staff all the best in the future.

Of course, there would be no BB without the boys. The boys are fantastic. They come along each evening. They take part in the activities and, hopefully, learn something about themselves and most importantly, the love that Jesus Christ has for them. Thank you, boys, for your willingness to participate and the support you give to the staff and to each other. As I have said many times, the friends you make in Boys' Brigade will be friends you have for the rest of your lives.



Missionary Partner

BY GRAHAM AND SANDRA DUNCAN

BASED IN SOUTH AFRICA (WRITTEN APRIL 2022)

Dear friends,

Our visit to the UK in November went off relatively well despite the stress of testing for the Covid virus.

Thankfully, we were able to visit Sandra's Aunt Nan, who, as we say, got her rest on Christmas Day – a merciful release after a five-year struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

After the UK and South Africa changed their regulations to allow freer travel, we had a visit from our friend Craig Mewha from Cumbernauld in February. That led to trips to Cape Town and to Madikwe Game Reserve on the Botswana border. Then our sons David and Chris came for a visit during March. David had a medical procedure here since

the NHS could only accommodate him in some two to four years. These visits gave us a break from our otherwise busy lives.

A new semester began at the Baptist College, and we have now closed for the Easter holidays. Student numbers remain the same. However, many students have transferred to distance learning due to rising costs. Graham is supervising a Master's student, while, at the University of Pretoria, he also has an additional Master's student. St Augustine's College has moved to having only higher degree students, due mainly to financial problems.

The President announced an end to the State of Disaster last week due to the

significant sustained decrease in the number of COVID infections and deaths. We are still advised to maintain mask-wearing and social distancing; most people are doing this; shops and offices still require hand sanitising which is sensible since, like other countries, we are preparing for a possible fifth wave in the next month or so.

Sadly, the President has failed to sanction Russia for her unwarranted invasion of Ukraine while calling for the world to work towards a peaceful resolution. By adopting a position of 'neutrality' he has demonstrated his support for Russia. This takes us back to the days of apartheid when neutrality indicated support for the oppressor. This is a clear

outcome of the support Russia offered South Africa during apartheid when the Western nations failed to take decisive action to bring apartheid to an end. We lament this ongoing tragic situation.

You may be aware that Pope Francis is looking at the possibilities of introducing synodal forms of government into the Catholic church. He has asked the global Roman Catholic community to consider this and make comments. Graham was asked by the Moderator of General Assembly to speak on our church's behalf on this topic to the South African Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference and found them quite receptive to the Presbyterian approach to Church courts.

He was also asked to prepare a lecture on a distinguished Presbyterian, Rev John Knox Bokwe, of the last century, to be given on

the centenary of his death. The lecture was sponsored by the Eastern Cape government, the John Knox Bokwe foundation and the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa.

Some distinguished South Africans connected with the Zoom lecture including the Minister of International Relations, Dr Naledi Pandor and several South African ambassadors - all of whom are descendants of Bokwe.

Graham's work with the National Research Foundation and the Council on Higher Education continue as we are all becoming quite adept at handling Zoom meetings! Sandra continues with her language editing and, after a quiet period following Christmas, is as busy as ever again. We are seeing more of our friends now so hospitality is back on her regular agenda.

We hope that you all had a blessed Easter. Graham led Easter Communion at St Andrew's Pretoria on Easter Day. Best Wishes!



A sermon's not just for Sunday

BY JAMES FALCONER

A few editions ago, I wrote an article in Bright Lights with the same title – "*A sermon's not just for Sunday*" – so I thought I'd give a bit of an update now that Scott is further into his ministry with us at Brightons.

I was able to catch up with Scott in his busy schedule for a bit of a Q&A, and I'm grateful for the time he spent answering some questions on how he brings together his sermons and how he would like people to engage with them. The answers provided are not verbatim and are by way of a summary of his responses.

Question 1 – How do you decide on the sermon series/theme?

Answer – "Many ministers use something called the Revised Common Lectionary.

That has its pros and cons:

Pros – it covers all genres of biblical text; ensures a 'rhythm' in the preaching; ensures we don't just preach our hobby-horses; benefits in preaching the same topic within the church worldwide.

Cons – it can jump about through the Bible; can miss the flow of a book or text.

So, I also like to be open to any topics, themes or issues that are relevant to our church or community that might benefit from providing a biblical context, as God leads.

Being a relatively new minister, I have developed my own rhythm and pattern of preaching. I think rhythm is important in all aspects of faith, not just for the minister and for preaching!"



Question 2 – Do you plan out the full sermon series in advance or do you go with God's leading during it?

Answer – "I have a broad plan of what chapters/texts I want to cover in each week without any specific themes planned out. If I am involving other preachers (as quite often happens) I might involve them in the series planning stage.

The detail in sermons often changes, even at the last minute - that's part of God's leading.

I spend about 15 hours preparing each sermon, from background reading on the previous Sunday evening, to running through the 'finished' sermon on Sunday morning."

Question 3 – How would you like people to engage with what is preached?

Answer – "I think people should engage with 'head and heart'.

Colossians 3 says we should 'Let the message of Christ dwell among (us) richly" and after Jesus had met with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus they said "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

It would be great if everybody could take at least one thing away from each sermon; over a year that's 52 things!

James 1: 22 tells us we are to be doers, not just listeners. We should also expect God to be speaking directly to us in the preaching (as well as in other ways including Bible reading and prayer). Often that one thing will need to be considered further through discussing with others, listening to the

sermon again, making notes, or journaling thoughts. Again, people might find their own rhythm in those things."

Question 4 – If people have any comments, questions or reactions to what's preached, how should they communicate them?

Answer – "I'd love to have a conversation with individuals about their comments or questions – not necessarily on a Sunday after church, as I am usually pretty shattered at that time! Dropping me an email can work, though I'd usually want to follow that up with a direct conversation.

There are other ways too, such as discussing with Pastoral Grouping Leaders, who now have sermon series summaries available to them, or discussion within your Fellowship Group, if you're in one,



or any other group you're part of."

Thanks for these responses Scott!

In pulling together this article it struck me that:

- God invests a lot in the preaching and teaching we receive – it's important to recognise that.
- Scott and other preachers invest a lot of time, energy and emotion in preparing and delivering a sermon – it's easy to not see that and only see the 20-30 minutes on a Sunday morning.
- As individuals and members of the congregation we should invest 'head and heart' (to use Scott's phrase) in taking away what we can from what is preached. That requires us to hear, think, take it to heart – and do something about it.

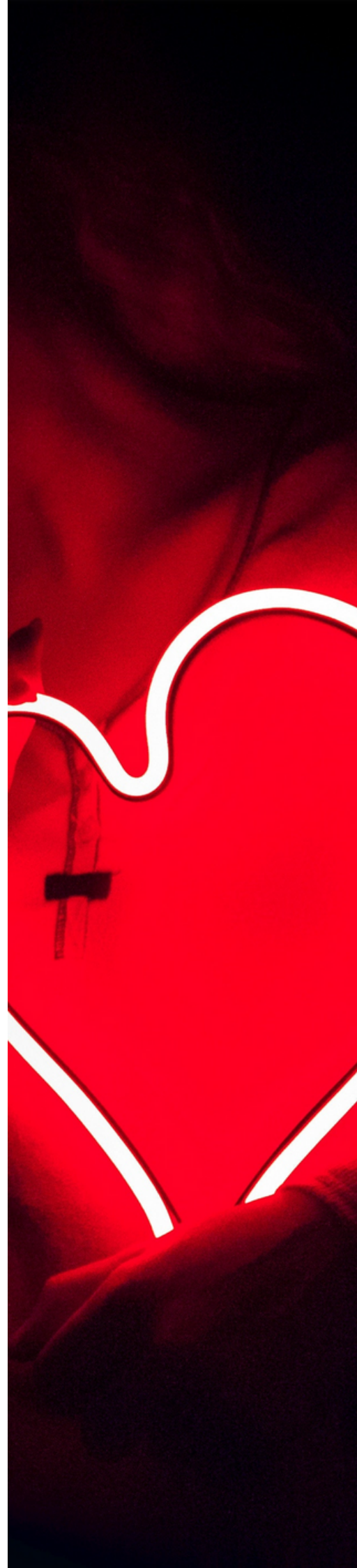
There are many ways we can engage and invest:

- coming with expectation to be taught and to hear from God.
- expecting to take away at least one key message from every sermon.
- taking notes during the sermon.
- taking time to think about the key message afterwards, maybe discussing it with others.
- revisiting the sermon through the website, listening to the sermon podcast, listening over the phone, getting a CD or DVD copy of the service, downloading the sermon text or sermon powerpoint slides from the website.
- re-reading the Bible texts.

James 1:22-25 (The Message) says:

"Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear! Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like. But whoever catches a glimpse of the revealed counsel of God - the free life! - even out of the corner of his eye, and sticks with it, is no distracted scatterbrain but a man or woman of action. That person will find delight and affirmation in the action."

We'd be foolish not to listen, and even more foolish to listen and not take heed of what we hear!



Understanding Gender Based Violence as a disciple of Jesus

BY KAY KEITH AND THE GENDER BASED VIOLENCE TEAM

What is the connection that links the brutal murder of a young woman with you and Brightons Parish Church? Prayer, for all of those caught up in the murder of Sarah Everard, will always be an important focus, but this event has sparked a very active response from many of us as well.

When Scott talked of it in his sermon, a short time after, he was challenged on what we could actually do to change things! Out of this challenge, the Gender Based Violence Team was started.

We looked at the issue and learned a lot about GBV through training and from professionals – but we also had to think about our response as Christians. Why does God care?

After some months of working together, we are ready to share with you about why, as disciples of Jesus, we should be ready to engage and respond to Gender Based Violence.

Do we 'get' trivial harassment and why it is unacceptable? Do we 'get' gender stereotyping? Do we notice it is happening? What has it got to do with violence and abuse? Do we just ignore it or something else?

We have put together a workshop for you which:

- challenges our understanding of the scale of the issue of Gender Based Violence.
- highlights some of the everyday ways that we may accept or condone simple things which, if escalated,

can have really serious outcomes.

- recognises why we, as Christians, have to face up to this challenge.
- questions what, as a church family, we can do about it.


In our church and community there are many women and children. They all deserve to live safely and without fear of harm. So, what can we do about it? We hope you will be able to join us for our workshop on Saturday 11th June 10am to 12 noon.

That is where we aim to start sharing and working together as a family, as disciples of Jesus, for change on this issue.



Quiz

How well do you know the story of Nehemiah? You are allowed to use your Bible! Answers at the bottom of the Word Search page.

Q1. Nehemiah was from...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samaria • Jerusalem • Macedonia • Rome 	Q7. How many gates did Nehemiah find needed repair?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52 • 10 • 25 • 13
Q2. Nehemiah served what king?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King Nebuchadnezzar • King David • King Ahab • King Artaxerxes 	Q8. How many days did it take for the Jews to repair the walls and gates?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 • 100 • 52 • 35
Q3. What occupation did Nehemiah have under King Artaxerxes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head chef • Cup bearer • Accountant • Advisor 	Q9. Who also returned to Jerusalem after exile and led the Jews to rebuild?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noah and Jonah • Caleb and Joshua • Jerubbabel and Ezra • Abraham and Isaiah
Q4. What was the bad news Nehemiah received?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was being fired • His mom was sick • His dog got lost • Jerusalem's walls were broken down 	Q10. After rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, Nehemiah then...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Went to Samaria • Stayed there • Returned to King Artaxerxes • Got arrested
Q5. How did King Artaxerxes know Nehemiah had a problem?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His face looked sad • He yelled at him • He didn't show up for work • He was angry 		
Q6. What did Nehemiah do when he first got to Jerusalem?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Got food • Found friends • Rested • Checked out the walls 		

Word Search

C	S	R	E	T	U	R	N	S	R	R	I	F	R
O	R	D	E	S	M	M	E	U	P	K	E	W	R
N	R	I	E	S	N	S	C	E	R	I	E	I	U
F	E	I	A	N	U	I	M	S	A	S	O	C	U
E	B	A	S	D	R	O	U	E	Y	L	C	K	D
S	U	N	K	O	S	U	X	R	I	E	U	E	I
S	I	W	S	E	R	I	O	N	N	V	P	D	S
S	L	F	W	A	L	S	I	M	G	A	B	L	G
U	D	A	G	E	N	O	M	N	T	R	E	Y	R
C	I	S	I	A	S	U	S	A	A	E	A	K	A
C	N	T	R	E	M	N	A	N	T	T	R	C	C
E	G	E	I	F	A	V	O	U	R	S	E	T	E
S	G	D	E	N	I	U	S	S	C	E	R	N	E
S	G	R	A	C	I	O	U	S	T	R	I	M	U

mourned, Kislev, sins, praying, wickedly, ruins, remnant,
cupbearer, exile, favour, confess, return, gracious,
disgrace, success, rebuilding, awesome, Susa, fasted

Word Search Maker (thewordsearch.com)

QUIZ ANSWERS: Q1 - Jerusalem; Q2 - King Artaxerxes; Q3 - Cup bearer; Q4 - Jerusalem's walls were broken down; Q5 - His face looked sad; Q6 - Rested; Q7 - 10; Q8 - 52; Q9 - Jerubabbel and Ezra; Q10 - Returned to King Artaxerxes then came back to live in Jerusalem as Governor

Flower Calendar

DATE	FLOWERS PROVIDED BY
JUNE	
5th	Jean Beattie
12th	Winnie Patrick
19th	Alan and Norma Thomson
26th	Nancy Lees
JULY	
3rd	Helen Brodie
10th	Bill and Sandra Smillie
17th	Rena Kennedy
24th	Ann McFarlane
31st	Annet Sellar

DATE	FLOWERS PROVIDED BY
AUGUST	
7th	May Young & John Kerr
14th	Helen Brodie
21st	Vacant
28th	Vacant
SEPTEMBER	
4th	Elaine Finlay
11th	Alan, Lynn & Karen
18th	Morag Lang
25th	Isabella Carr

You can continue to make your donation in an envelope marked "Flower Fund" to the church Treasurer, or purchase and place your own flowers in church, or get another to place them for you on your chosen Sunday. Alison Cassels and Carol Callahan will assist in provision and delivery of the flowers each week. For further information, to volunteer to sort flowers, or to join the delivery rota please contact Alison or Carol.



Flower Delivery Calendar

DATE	FLOWERS DELIVERED BY
JUNE	
5th	Denise Beggs
12th	May Kennedy
19th	Alison Cassells
26th	Nancy Lees
JULY	
3rd	Pat Paterson
10th	Shona Forrest
17th	Kathleen Frew
24th	Sheila Colebrook
31st	Carol Callahan

DATE	FLOWERS DELIVERED BY
AUGUST	
7th	Jessie Wallace
14th	Irene McNab
21st	Frances McCabe
28th	Lesley Baillie
SEPTEMBER	
4th	Jane Bell
11th	Ann Swinney
18th	Anne Smith
25th	Maralyn Stirling

If you are unable to deliver the flowers on your allotted date, please arrange a swap with someone else on the rota. It would be helpful if you could also note the change on the rota displayed at the front of the church beside the Flower Calendar.

If you need any assistance please call Carol Callahan.

Your help with this rota is greatly appreciated.



Reading and Prayer Calendar

DATE	NAME
JULY	
3rd	Margo Graham (R) Eric Smith (P)
10th	Jean Meek (R) Richard McManus (P)
17th	Norma Thompson (R) Marion Graham (P)
24th	Sandra Anderson (R) Rachel Meek (P)
31st	Sharon Glass (R) Annabella Nimmo (P)
AUGUST	
7th	Jean Meek (R) James Falconer (P)
14th	Marion Zacks (R) Rachel Meek (P)
21st	Alistair McDonald (R) Rena Moore (P)
28th	Jennifer Gallivan (R) David MacAskill (P)

DATE	NAME
SEPTEMBER	
4th	Eric Smith (R) Minister (P)
11th	From Slamannan
18th	Organisations' Dedication Service
25th	Lesley Mann (R) James Falconer (P)



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

If you are unable to read (R) or pray (P) on your designated date, please arrange a swap and let Jean Meek know who's doing what, and if anyone else would like to read Scripture or lead prayer in a Sunday service, please also let Jean know.