



Connect

WINTER 2022

**THE JOINT MAGAZINE OF
BRIGHTONS, BLACKBRAES &
SHIELDHILL AND MUIRAVONSIDE
PARISH CHURCHES**

REGISTERED SCOTTISH CHARITIES
BRIGHTONS | SC001385
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Contents

Message from the Manse.....	1	Girls' Brigade.....	21
Pastoral Assistant's Message.....	2	<i>Explorers</i>	
Brightons Contacts.....	4	<i>Juniors</i>	22
<i>Congregational Roll Update</i>		<i>Brigaders</i>	23
Team Updates at Brightons.....	5	Boys' Brigade.....	24
<i>Discipleship</i>		<i>Anchor Boys</i>	
<i>Community Outreach</i>		<i>Juniors, Company</i>	25
<i>Communications</i>	8	Presbytery Mission Plan Update.....	27
<i>Pastoral Care, Property, Finance</i>	9	Blackbraes, Shieldhill lw Muiravonside.....	28
Brightons News.....	10	<i>Locum Minister</i>	
<i>The Guild</i>		<i>Spiritual Footprints</i>	29
<i>Fellowship Groups, Choir</i>	11	<i>Everyone is loved here</i>	32
<i>Friends of Jesus</i>	12	<i>Rendezvous Group</i>	
<i>Faith Mission Bookshop</i>	13	Slamannan News.....	33
<i>Faith Mission Boodshop Card Stall</i> ..	14	<i>Martha's Pantry</i>	
<i>Wycliffe Bible Translators</i>		Quiz.....	34
<i>Christians Against Poverty</i>	15	WordSearch.....	36
<i>Food for thought</i>	17	Christmas Events and Services...Back page	
Sunday School.....	18		
<i>Beginners</i>			
<i>Juniors, Triple S, Flaim, WFI</i>	19		
<i>Israel & Palestine Trip - Update</i>	20		



Communion Sunday - 4th December 2022 at all three congregations

"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.

Brightons

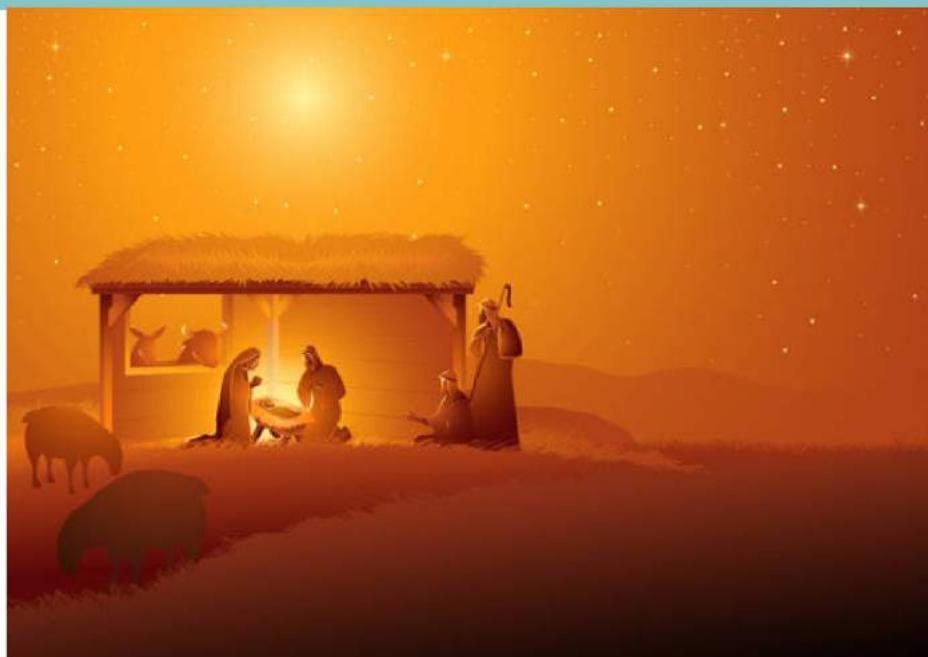
Message from the Manse

BY SCOTT BURTON

Dear friends,

Welcome to our new joint parish magazine! We hope it is a resource that will help us 'Connect' with one another and so build even stronger bridges between the congregations ahead of our longer-term future together. Inside you will find input from the different congregations and we are thankful for everyone's contributions and for those who put in the hard work of bringing it all together; it is a delight to hear one another's news.

By the time you read this, my family and I will be into a new manse, for which we are truly thankful. The last year has brought a whole lot of upheaval for us as a manse family, especially on top of all the other changes that have come our way. We are very much looking forward to feeling more



settled and getting into a new rhythm in 2023. For the support of the Brightons' Kirk Session, Deacons' Court, office bearers, volunteers and many others who have all made it possible we are truly grateful.

Yet, we are not the only family who have faced upheaval this year - many of you have as well. Whether it be family, relational, health or financial changes, we all are feeling the impact of the cost of living or maybe of age or other factors. I am sure you too are longing for things to change, to settle down.

So, how vital and full of good news is the Christmas story! It can

become something very familiar, too familiar, such that we miss its hope and message. Here is a story touching upon all facets of human life, in some way. Here is a story full of waiting and longing, echoing the experiences, emotions and desires we face, even if they take on a different guise in our day.

When we dig into the story, and open ourselves up to it once more, we find a message worth repeating year on year, for we hear of a God who cares about our everyday lives and who has taken concrete steps to bring us hope

and a good future. This is no politician's empty promise, flashy campaign slogan or pie-in-the-sky philosophy. It's good news that affects the everyday stresses and strains, across all walks and experiences of life.

However, is that how the world sees the Christmas message? Is that how the people of our parishes and wider Braes area view the story of a babe called Jesus? Probably not. So, we have a role to play in sharing this incredible news once more this year!

For those at Brightons, along with the distribution of the parish magazine, you will in time receive a few copies of our yearly Christmas card, which we encourage you to pass to neighbours, friends, family, etc. For everyone across the Braes congregations, anyone is welcome to any event at any church and I would encourage all of us to invite someone we know along to something, that then they too might hear and share the good news we know and treasure! See later

in the magazine for details on what's going on this Christmas.

So, as we long for a more settled way of life again – individually, as congregations, nationally – I pray that you and your families, will know the truth and power of the Christmas message, as we remember and celebrate afresh the good news that God came near in Jesus the Christ and in Him we have found a hope that grounds us amidst all the upheaval of life.

With love to one and all,
Scott

Pastoral Assistant's Message

BY IAN BAILLIE

The angel Gabriel appears several times in the Christmas story, but what do you know about “Gabriel’s Oboe”? That’s the title of a piece of music by composer Ennio Morricone who died earlier this year at 91. The piece was written as the theme music for the film “The Mission” released in 1986, the tragic story of a priest for whom glory only came through martyrdom and in the film, there is a collision of missions, an encounter between the Gospel and the Empire.

I remember listening often to Rena Kennedy playing this piece on our Church organ and to others since, and it will be no surprise that it still remains a popular choice to be played at funeral services. So much so that it now has had lyrics conveying the aching longing of humanity for a different and better world, a humanity more humane and a world more just, and a wistful yearning





for cities warmed by the winds of peace. And the singer confesses this is all in the imagination.

The Mission remains a potent and subversive statement of the perilous connections between Church and State, faith and empire, prayer and politics – because 'mission' is itself an ambiguous word. If the Church has a mission, so has the state. The word mission is used of an army incursion, a diplomatic service, a task delegated by a higher authority. And in the film, there is a collision of missions, an encounter between the Gospel and the Empire, a fatal meeting between the priest carrying the gold cross out of the burning church, and the lead musket balls that tear

the life from his body while this wonderful piece of music is played.

We've heard a lot of conversation about mission over this past year in respect of our national Church and I read in Saturday's paper how ex-moderator Albert Bogle is writing in the next Life and Work magazine of how we need to change and be more "missional" as this is "crucial to the future of the Kirk" as the headline said. Whether we retain our building or lose our building, it is what we the people of "the congregation" do in partnership with God that is going to secure the future of the Church of Scotland.

As Advent begins and Christmas and New Year comes round each of us will have opportunity to be "missional" to those who will cross our doorstep during December/January. For many there will be the opportunity to share in Church services but for others "church" has become our front room, where we might still join in online worship or listen to CD or DVD and watch "Songs of Praise"

and other religious broadcasting programmes. Wherever we are this Christmas and with fewer church buildings likely to be around, our home is not only the place for family celebrations at Christmas but also where all of us can be missional to family and friends. Where better to bring others to the baby of Bethlehem and the man of Calvary than right on our doorstep.

Many of you may have years of experience of knowing Christ that can be put to good use telling others of what he means to be in our lives and the difference God makes not just at Christmas but all year round. In closing not with a biblical reference to Christmas but to the final words of Christ in the great commission "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations". Let's make that our New Year's resolution wherever and whatever church we belong to.

Brightons Contacts

Minister - Rev Scott Burton
Session Clerk - Eric Smith
Depute Session Clerk - Jean Meek
Pastoral Assistant - Ian Baillie
Treasurer - Sharon Glass
Clerk to Deacons' Court - Malcolm Lewis

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Up & Coming Team
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upandcoming@brightonschurch.org.uk

Church Office: 01324 713855

General Enquires: info@brightonschurch.org.uk

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

Congregational Roll Update



NEW MEMBERS

Susan McIntosh
Aidan Wansbrough

DEATHS

May

Euphemia (Faye) Scott

June

Jim Wright
John Erskine

July

Alan Abercrombie

August

Dorothy Easton

"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."

Team Updates at Brightons

Discipleship

BY SCOTT BURTON

Since the last update, we have begun to run Alpha in October and are pleased to have a few young men attending - please keep them in prayer as they explore the Christian faith for themselves.

Meetings and work continues with Huddle to grow people's faith, and with the Gender Based Team to equip volunteers at Pre5s to understand how gender stereotypes affect our everyday living.

We are holding a meeting on 12th November to explore our "discipleship pathway" here at Brightons and what we might do to better equip one another to facilitate effective and joined-up discipleship for people at all stages of their faith journey. This will be an ongoing conversation for some months, so please do keep this in prayer too.

Community Outreach

BY MARALYN STIRLING AND ROY GRAHAM

Pre-5s Tuesday AM and Tuesday PM

The aim of the new session is to have more Christian input, acquainting children and parents with the sanctuary and slight change in songs repertoire. More is being done to direct / invite families to participate in Belong Fun Days.

Belong

Five sessions per year are being planned: Light party at end of October - Nativity in December - Mothering Sunday - Easter fun day - and finally finishing with participation in the Church family Sunday School BBQ/picnic in summer.

The recent Light Party was very well attended with a good number of Church members helping and mixing with participants. Each fun day theme will be carried over into the children's address on Sunday morning.

Thursday Coffee Morning

This is going well and we have restarted the visits from Wallacestone PS nursery.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

We have now been in partnership with Forth Valley CAP since November last year and in that time we have contributed finance, prayer support and volunteers to help bring approximately 6 more clients to become **DEBT FREE**. They are working with 3 new clients per month but will increase to 4 when a new Debt Coach has finished training.

Our two "Befriender" volunteers are working with clients in Grangemouth and Stirling.

To celebrate their work we will be holding a **CAP Service** on Sunday, 20th November at 11.00.



Community Flower Beds

Falkirk Council are looking for organisations to adopt one or more of the flower beds on the side of Maddiston Road, adjacent to Quarry Park. If no one comes forward they will be grassed over.

Could we adopt rose beds up Maddiston Road? If you have gardening skills and would like to be involved get in touch with Roy or Maralyn. Advice on the best way to cultivate these areas is sought.

Community Litter Picks

None have been carried out recently but if interested in helping to organise please get in touch. Please note **youth organisations** that we have a stock of litter pickers that are readily available for use.

Cost of Living Crisis

The group has been exploring the Church's response to the Cost of Living crisis this winter.

What can we do? We are investigating what other churches in the area are doing, Maddiston with their Community Cafe and Slamannan with their Martha's Pantry. See separate reports.

CrossReach

'Supporting people in Scotland to live life to the full.'

Thank you for supporting the work of CrossReach by buying Christmas cards, calendars and gifts from the CrossReach Trading Company. 10% of all sales go directly towards the diverse services provided by the charity.

CareShare gifts include:

- £10 Care Share gift could buy some colouring pencils for children to enjoy in our Prison Visitors Centres.
- £25 Care Share Gift could allow a child affected by their parent's substance misuse to take part in activities to build self-esteem and confidence.
- £50 Care Share Gift could cover the cost of one hour counselling session for someone at rock bottom.

CrossReach offers loving care to people of all ages who are in need of a helping hand, Christian love is at the heart of all their services.

Services offered include:

- Accommodation and support for ex-offenders and support for prison visitors in Perth and Polmont.
- Care for old people from day support to respite care and residential care homes. St Margaret's House, in Polmont comes under the CrossReach banner!
- Creative arts groups for people living with dementia.
- One-to-one counselling and perinatal counselling for parents.

Amazing statistics – 1,700 employees caring for close to 10,000 people daily, in 70 locations across Scotland!

The Church of Scotland Social Care Council is accountable for the work of CrossReach.

Find all services at: www.crossreach.org.uk

Pre-Fives

BY RACHEL GILMOUR

The Pre5s group is very busy, with lots of parents, grandparents and children meeting on Tuesday mornings and afternoons. We have a few changes this term, as we try to reflect more of who we are as a church, and God's love for the families who come.

We've started doing "themes" every month, and so far we have done "Everyone is Welcome", "Shine like Stars", and now "Autumn". We do themed activities like craft, treasure hunts, and new songs, as well as linking to church events like BELONG. We are meeting to pray before each session, and are seeing answers to prayer

as we build good relationships with many families.

The last session of each month is Foodbank Tuesday, where kids can bring a donation for the foodbank instead of paying their pennies at the door. This has been very successful, with lots of people taking part and valuing the chance for their children to give to others.

If you'd like to join our team, or come along with a child, then e-mail:

prefives@
brightonschurch.org.uk



Belong

BY RACHEL GILMOUR

BELONG is our all-age ministry, helping our church family to connect across the generations, and inviting the wider community to join us. Jesus said "As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples." At BELONG we aim to host events that are welcoming to everyone, where people can experience the love that we have in the church, and know that Jesus is the source of that love.

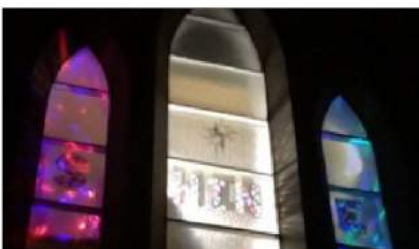
At the end of October we were "shining like stars", building up to a Light Party on the Saturday night. We invited everyone who came into the church building to add a star to the galaxy, writing ways we can shine in the darkness and make the world a better place. People of all ages took part, from Pre5s to the Guild. Our final galaxy was on display at the Sunday service.

The light party was a great success. Over 120 people took part in craft, games, sharing snacks

and lots of other activities. Our teenagers led cake decorating, craft and science experiments. We made light-up stars, and went for a walk outside, lighting up the darkness. The front window of the church was decorated (in time for Hallowe'en) and we joined together for a song and a blessing from Scott at the end. Many good relationships were built with people who don't normally attend church. It was particularly nice to see a number of children with additional needs popping in, as they can be excluded from many community events but are very much welcome in God's family.

Our next event is the Nativity Fun Day on Saturday 17th December. Please do come and join us, and invite your friends and family. You don't need to have young children, or be crafty, you can just pop in for a cup of tea and a chat. You can contact us at:

BELONG@BRIGHTONCHURCH.ORG.UK



Communications

BY SCOTT BURTON

Since the last update, the team continue to busy away in the background, covering some 15+ areas of communication for our church family.

The biggest development has been the pulling together of this new joint magazine - the name was chosen with the aid of ideas from members, then whittled down by the Comms Team, before being voted on by the Elders and Deacons across the three congregations.

Another big piece of work was the Welcome Pack - available at the front entrance and beneficial for new folks to the area or to Brightons, as it gives some info about our church family as well as local activities. Why not pick one up and look out for an opportunity to give it away to someone?



Pastoral Care Team

BY SANDRA ANDERSON

Visitors Lunch

The Pastoral Care Team Members were so pleased to see those who were able to attend the Snack Lunch on Sunday, October 16th. Instead of "Zooming", just being able to see each other and share fellowship (and food!) was great. Some Visitors unfortunately were unable to be there because of illness or holidays, and so we do hope those who are poorly get better soon! The visits and phone calls to the housebound and those in Care Homes are very much appreciated, and the feedback from those visited confirms this!

If any members are interested in becoming Visitors or learning more, please contact one of our Team – Sandra Anderson, John Anderson, Ian Baillie, Jean Callahan, Robert Callahan, Sheila MacLennan or Rev. Scott Burton.

Property Team - Wednesday Work Party

BY ROY GRAHAM

Work party continues throughout the year with 5 regulars. We meet every Wednesday between 9:00 and 11:30. Main activities include, safety checks, grass cutting, weeding, building inspection, plumbing repairs, general maintenance, light bulb changing, etc.

The work party also provides the labour to set up the Pre5s and strip it back down. You may wonder how many workers does it take to change a light bulb? Well, just recently it took the 5 members of work party plus 4 younger members of the congregation (the work party of the future?) to change one light bulb in Sanctuary. See why below.

So, if anyone out there wants to join us on a Wednesday, (you only do what you can do!) we would be pleased to see you.



Finance Team

BY SHARON GLASS

As reported at the ABM on Sunday 2nd October, all accounts for 2019-2021 are now lodged with OSCR, which has been the focus of much work this past year.

We currently have a surplus against 2021 but this is largely a result of being limited in what works can be undertaken on the building, with many costs delayed until the Presbytery Mission Plan is agreed.

We are aware that utility costs will increase next year due to our contracts changing and work is ongoing in this area.

Our thanks to everyone for their continued generosity and commitment to God's mission through Brightons.

Brightons News

The Guild

BY ELSPETH REID

Guild Sunday this year was on November 6th and we hope that it was a good opportunity to hear about the projects that the Guild supports. We have a proud tradition of supporting projects on the edge which make a difference to the lives of individuals in Scotland and around the world. This year is no different. Hear My Voice is our project to support scholarships for young, black, impoverished women in Brazil to enable them to study theology at university. With degrees, they will become teachers and leaders in churches and wider society. We are also supporting Home For Good, a charity which works to inspire people to think about fostering and adoption in Scotland and equips churches to welcome these families. The Guild was founded in 1887 and Brightons Guild was set up in 1931. We've been around for a long time, now, but

simply as one way of being Church together. In our meetings we worship God and we learn from speakers about how the Church is taking action in many places and situations. We have fun and fellowship with light-hearted topics as well.

This year our theme is 'Wee Seeds, Big Trees' so in October we heard from Rena Moore, well-known to many as Session Clerk at Blackbraes & Shieldhill, but this time with her Polmont Horticultural hat on. She gave us lots of advice on compost and making the most of gardens for wildlife, in her inimitable fashion, and we all thoroughly enjoyed learning from her. We also had a brilliant evening with the Bo'ness Belles who gave us songs from the musicals and we learned more about Hear My Voice. On November 14th (2pm) we are looking forward to hearing about women in



the bible and then on November 28th (7.30pm) we will see and learn about a range of crafts from Caledonian Crafts. We'll enjoy sharing a Christmas meal together on December 12th and then in the new year we will find out more about the Home For Good project (9th January at 2pm). We will also explore our theme with talks on eco congregations (Feb 13) and flowers and foliage (27 Feb). All are welcome to any meeting.



Fellowship Groups

BY TOM NIMMO

Fellowship Groups are now up and running after the summer break. There is still time to join a Group (or more than one, if you wish) – details below. Please contact the office for leaders' contact details.

- Group I, meets on Sunday evenings at 7:30 in the Small Church Hall - contact Ian Lawson
- Group T, meets on Sunday evenings at 7:00 Using Zoom at present contact - Tom Nimmo
- Group A, meets on Monday evenings at 7:30 at the home of Sandra Smillie - this is a women's group - Annabella Nimmo
- Group K, meets on Monday evenings at 7:45 at the home of Keith Wansbrough
- Group C, meets on Friday mornings at 9:30 in the church hall – this is a women's group - contact Carolyn McEwan

- Group A (Tuesday) meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 in "The Cross" Coffee Shop, Brightons and is a follow-on from our last Alpha Course / Grace Course. For further information, please contact Tom Nimmo

Choir

BY MORAG LANG



We are looking for new members to join the choir.

If you like to sing, and can join us on Thursday evenings, (tea/coffee is available afterwards) and Sunday mornings, please speak to any of the choir for more details.

As well as singing in church, some of the choir have been helping with the singing at the Sunday afternoon services at St. Margaret's.

Please do get in touch if you would like to join us.



Friends of Jesus

BY WENDY DICK

In June, some of us shared in the celebration of Michael getting baptised. It was a lovely service. Michael was so happy and pleased we were there. We started our new session in September and we were delighted that a previous member, Kenneth, has moved back to this area and was able to join us. Jean Smith, formerly Cairns, came along to present each Friend with a Bible, Bible notes and worship DVD in memory of her late husband Bill, plus some new musical instruments for the group. Both Bill and Jean were helpers with the FOJG for many years and led the worship. We had a wonderful worship time praising God with our new instruments. This was followed by a parachute prayer where everyone was encouraged to offer a prayer of thanks, saying sorry or offering a prayer for someone else. It was a lovely and moving time as nearly everyone took part.

Then we had an introduction to our theme for this session, 'Friends of God'. We are looking at some characters in the Bible – Joseph, Joshua, Ruth and David. On Saturday 22nd October, some of our group, travelled to Perth for our Prospects Annual Celebration and had a great time sharing and worshipping with other groups from all over Scotland on the theme of 'Giving Thanks to God'. Sadly, the following day we received the shocking news that Kenneth had suddenly died. He had thoroughly enjoyed his time at the Annual Celebration with us and we were all saddened by this news, especially as he had not long returned to the group. We are thankful though that he is now with his loving Lord. We would appreciate your prayers for all our Friends and the work of Friends of Jesus Group.



Faith Mission Bookshop

BY WENDY &
CAMMY DICK

We both work at the Faith Mission Bookshop in Dunfermline, while Cammy also works in the Stirling branch. Cammy has been with the company for six years and Wendy four.

It has been an immense blessing to us, serving and getting to know our customers in an environment that's filled with God's peace and presence. Some of them come in needing a listening ear and God has used our previous life experiences to speak and empathise with them and share our faith journey. We have both grown in our faith through our time there, reading more books, listening to Christian music and being blessed by loyal regular customers. It's a privilege to work there.

The purpose and mission of Faith Mission Bookshops is to be a Christian presence in the city, sharing the Good News of Jesus to those who come in. Also, to

help them find Bibles, good Christian books, cards and gifts. The Faith Mission also has a Bible college in Edinburgh, training students into long-term ministry and evangelism, and has Faith Mission workers (evangelists) being a witness and carrying out great Christian service throughout the UK and Ireland.

We are very thankful for your support as a church family towards the bookshop through our bookstalls, orders for Sunday Schools and Pre5s etc, the card stall and personal orders.

We would value your prayers as we carry out God's plan for us being a witness for Him plus blessing and encouraging our customers.

Could you also pray for the Dunfermline branch, as we are currently only open three days a week, and for the wider work of the Faith Mission?

We would encourage you to support your local Christian bookshop, especially as many Christian bookshops are closing.



Faith Mission Bookshop
Dunfermline
4 Canmore Street.
Open Mondays,
Wednesdays and Fridays,
9.30am-4.30pm.
01383 720643.
dunfermline@
fmbookshops.com

Faith Mission Bookshop
Stirling, 36 Barnton Street.
Open Tuesdays-Saturdays,
9.30am-5pm.
01786 451152.
stirling@fmbookshops.com

If you want to find out more about the work of Faith Mission, you can visit our website www.faithmission.org



Faith Mission Bookshop Card Stall

BY WENDY &
CAMMY DICK

A big thank you for all you support for our card stall. We are delighted and grateful that we have sold over 100 cards since the stall started in May.

10% of our sales goes to the church.

Could you bless someone with a card to let them know you are thinking or praying for them? Then do come and look at our card stall in the Rankine Hall.

Thank you.



Wycliffe Bible Translators

BY RACHEL MEEK

Wycliffe Bible Translators work around the world, giving people God's Word in their heart language, so that their lives can be transformed by the power of God's spirit through the scriptures. This story appears in the latest edition of Wycliffe News which brings news and prayer requests for Scottish Wycliffe workers. Copies are available from: scotland@wycliffe.org.uk

Translator Lee Bramlett was working among the Hdi people in Cameroon. He was confident that God had left his mark on the Hdi culture somewhere; but where was the footprint of God in the history or daily life of these Cameroonian people? What clue had he planted to let the Hdi know who he is and how he wants to relate to them? Then one night in a dream, God prompted Lee to look again at the Hdi word for love. Lee and his wife, Tammi, had learned that verbs in Hdi consistently end in one of three vowels. For almost every verb, they

could find forms ending in -i, -a, and -u. But when it came to the word for love, they could only find -i and -a. Why no -u?

Lee asked the translation committee, including the most influential leaders in the community, 'Could you 'dvi'? 'Yes,' they said. That would mean that the wife had been loved but the love was gone. 'Could you 'dva' your wife?' Lee asked. 'Yes,' they said. That kind of love depended on the wife's actions. She would be loved as long as she remained faithful and cared for her husband well. 'Could you 'dvu' your wife?' Lee asked. Everyone laughed. 'Of course not!' they said. 'If you said that, you would have to keep loving your wife no matter what she did, even if she never got you water, never made you meals. Even if she committed adultery, you would be compelled to just keep on loving her. No, we would never say 'dvu.' It just doesn't exist.'

Lee sat quietly for a while, thinking about John 3:16, and then he asked, 'Could God 'dvu' people?' There was complete silence for three or four minutes; then tears started to

trickle down the weathered faces of these elderly men. Finally they responded. 'Do you know what this would mean?' they asked. 'This would mean that God kept loving us over and over, millennia after millennia, while all that time we rejected his great love. He is compelled to love us, even though we have sinned more than any people.' One simple vowel, and the meaning was changed from, 'I love you based on what you do and who you are' to, 'I love you based on who I am. I love you because of me and not because of you.'

God had encoded the story of his unconditional love right into their language. For centuries, the little word was there. When the word was finally spoken, it called into question their entire belief system. If God was like that, and not a mean and scary spirit, did they need the spirits of the ancestors to intercede for them? Did they need sorcery to relate to the spirits? Many decided the answer was 'no', and the number of Christ followers quickly grew from a few hundred to several thousand.

Now that the New Testament in Hdi is available people can feel the impact of passages like Ephesians 5:25, 'Husbands, 'dvu' your wives, just as Christ 'dvu'-d the church.' As God's word is translated around the world, people are gaining access to this great love story about how God 'dvu'-d us enough to sacrifice his Son for us so our relationship with him can be ordered and oriented correctly. The cross changes everything! Someday, the last word of the last bit of Scripture for the last community will be done, and everyone will be able to understand the story of God's unconditional love.



Christians Against Poverty

BY FIONA WELSH,
FORTH VALLEY
DEBT CENTRE

*From our Autumn
Newsletter*

"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

Matthew 9:35-38

This passage tells us how Jesus felt about those who didn't yet know him. It also suggests that He wants us to see as He saw, to feel as He felt, and to show love and compassion just as He did. This Harvest time, let's ask the Lord of the harvest to help us do that.

LET'S PRAY:

Giving thanks:

- For God's compassion, provision and blessing and that more clients have had the weight of debt lifted
- For opportunities to help people during the Cost of Living Crisis
- That bookings are up

Asking:

- For more workers, where needed
- That people on very low income would be able to improve their situation
- That we'll see God at work in people's lives, giving them a new sense of hope.

VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

Befrienders (Support Volunteers) - We are looking for some male volunteers to go with us on client visits in the Stirling/Clacks area. We usually visit a client 3 times over a 6 week period. You would only have one client at a time and would have gaps in between clients.

Community Link Worker - Could you offer 2 hours per week to help with publicity in Stirling or Clacks? It mainly involves distributing leaflets and posters and speaking to small groups of people who

support folks, to help generate new referrals. Please contact Fiona Welsh for more information. Email: fionawelsh@capuk.org Tel: 07395281788.

News

Since our Summer Newsletter another 3 people have gone Debt Free!

We celebrate with them at reaching this milestone and pray that they will be able to manage tight budgets during the Cost of Living Crisis.

We are receiving invitations to speak to people in our communities about the Cost of Living.



VOLUNTEER STORY

My name is Victor and I am a Befriender for CAP, which involves me going on client visits with a debt coach. I get to know clients as I sit there and listen and it means they can get to know me, though I try not to say much but chip in things now and again. I decided to get involved when I heard that clients can be in a bad place until they get out of the spiral they can be in. They may feel hopeless or a failure or both. While in the process between visits, usually three, I can offer to meet for a coffee or chat until they get sorted out. I enjoy seeing a change in their faces when they find all hope is not lost, and CAP is sorting things out, taking a huge burden off them... plus we offer to pray for them... and recently a client allowed us to do this! You can make a difference by just being a Befriender!!

Food for thought

BY SCOTT BURTON

Christmas-time features a lot of food and often a very unbalanced diet – yet how we love this season where we can get away with things like this for a little bit! Personally, I can't wait for the mince pies, but not the ones with icing.

From time to time, I get asked whether the balance of things at Brightons is healthy, maybe especially in the Sunday service, but it can be in relation to other activities. Usually, the enquirer especially wonders if there is an imbalance towards children to the neglect of adults. Since this conversation has now come up a few times, I thought it could be helpful to share more broadly what I've said on those occasions.

In relation to Sunday services, which at Brightons' are usually 70 minutes long, a short kids' talk of about 7 minutes and a kids' song of 3 minutes is all that is aimed at children. Even then, the "all together time" now features a range of

material, not just a kids' talk, and some of that other material is more suited to older young people or adults at times. The rest of the 60 minutes is much more suited to adults.

We also have a number of all age services, 5 to 6 per year usually, but again, that leaves the other 45+ Sundays per year where the service (as above) is mainly suited to adults.

Or, what about other activities outside of a Sunday – is there an imbalance there? Well, all of our Pastoral Assistant's time is given to the care of adult members – his involvement in BB Anchor Boys is in his own time. We don't employ any other ministry staff yet, so all our self-funded posts focus on adults.

If we look at the activities we run as a church, the volunteer hours, or the finances of the church, again the weight of all this leans towards an adult-focus. That is maybe to be

expected when we have nearly 600 adult members compared to the involvement of 40-50 children and young people in Sunday School, 100 children and young people in BB and GB, and 50 families in Pre5s – but the point still stands: the adults in our congregation receive the larger share of time and input.

As I say, food for thought as we mull over things this Advent and prepare for a new year ahead. Another mince pie anyone? With or without icing?



Sunday School

BY ALIE DRACKFORD

SUNDAY SCHOOL COORDINATOR

Everyone at the Sunday school groups has been enjoying being back after the summer. It has been a mixed term and some of the groups have only met 3 or 4 times due to holiday weeks and the dedication service (only Beginners Sunday School runs on these weeks as we have found numbers are too low in previous years). From now until Christmas its full-steam-ahead as we prepare for the Nativity on 18th! Book your seats now as its bound to be a special event as always.

This year we are using our collection money to support the work of the Foodbank and during this session Triple S wrote a shopping list which was bought and donated during the Harvest Service. At Christmas we would also like to encourage all the children to bring a small Selection Box which we will send to the Foodbank.

We are always happy to welcome anyone who would like to join us in any of the Sunday School groups to work with our young people. If you feel God is calling you to help please come and speak to Alie (or email me on sundayschool@brightonschurch.org.uk) - you are even welcome to join with us on a Sunday morning and see what we do.

Here's a quick update on what's going on each group:

Beginners (age 3 to P1)

BY MAGGY DICK

We started this session by hearing about the Farmer sowing his seed and making a big picture for putting on the wall, this was all planned and lead by Ruth and Iona. We then went on to look at Creation and how God made everything in the world. We're now finding out God gave us People before we learn about Communion and then the Nativity story.

We have 12 children on the register and as leaders we are amazed and love how they respond and remember what we talk about. This year we have lost a few of our helpers and we welcomed 2 new ladies. We are always happy to welcome anyone who would like to join us in Beginners to work with these young children.

If you are interested come and speak to us or even come with us on a Sunday morning and see what we do.





Juniors (P2-P4)

BY JUDITH NORTON

We've loved being back with the Juniors after summer, welcoming our new P2s into the group. We continued using our Jesus Storybook Bibles and followed on from the Sermon on the Mount series Scott did over summer. So far we've learned from Jesus how God wants us to live; that we don't need to worry and that God has amazing power, shown by the miracles Jesus performed. We'll be continuing to hear just how much God loves us through the stories of Zacchaeus and the prodigal son, before we pick up on the story of the last supper, in preparation for All Age Communion on 4th December.

And with Christmas just round the corner, we're looking forward to our joint party with the Beginners on Saturday 3rd December, 2-4pm in the church halls.

We're super excited about Magic Mark from Enjoy-a-Ball coming along to tire us out with his games! And if we have any energy left, we might just be featuring in the Nativity Service on Sunday 18th December.

Triple S (P5-P7)

BY DIXCEE SPENCER

We have had a great start to Triple S! We have carried on with learning how to navigate through the Bible and have been learning the books of the New Testament. We are looking forward to getting ready for the Nativity.

FLAIM

Forever Living Alive In Me
(S1-S3)

BY DOUG AND
RACHEL GILMOUR

This term we've started with inspiring them with testimonies from leaders over 3 weeks. This also gave them an opportunity to ask questions and recognise that faith is a journey, with ups and downs along the way.

In the coming weeks, we will be studying Creeds (from Credo in Latin meaning "I believe" and the origin of our words credibility, credit or street cred!). What do we believe and why? The early disciples of the Church, led by Paul and Peter, believed they need to set out core beliefs on paper and make them personal with "I believe".



We'll be challenging FLAImers to write their own creed, strip the story of Christ down to the bare necessities and also study one of our Creeds in full, line by line.

We also plan a weekend away 12-13th November. Please pray for this trip, for protection, rest (!) and a time to reflect together on what our faith means. Also for lots of fun!

Wait For It (S4+)

BY KEITH
WANSBROUGH AND
CAROLYN MCEWAN

Wait for It had a safari supper in September, and are looking forward to Bonfire Night in November. We're also serving with the Sunday Schools, the tech team, and the band. School is challenging and the future is unknown, but God has a plan and we are learning to trust him.

Many blessings from all the Sunday School groups this Christmas.

Israel & Palestine Trip - Update

As was recently announced during morning worship, the trip to Israel and Palestine by 6 young people and 3 adults from our congregation had to be postponed due to massively increased financial costs, largely brought on by the financial pressures we are all familiar with. As a result, we decided to postpone the trip to February 2023, when costs appear to be more manageable, especially for flights.

However, we still have a deficit to fundraise, of around £3,000 - so look out for upcoming events, or make a direct donation if you are able to do so.

We really look forward to making this trip happen, so that these young people can have a once in a life time experience as part of their discipleship journey here at Brightons, journeying the same land as Jesus did and learning from local people and organisations about

the lives and issues in Israel and Palestine today, and what is being done to work towards a better future.

Please keep us in your prayers during this time of preparation and fundraising.

Girls' Brigade

BY SANDRA BLAIR

1ST POLMONT GIRLS' BRIGADE CAPTAIN

Explorers (P1-P3)

This year we have 14 girls attending Explorers and it has been great to have some new girls join us.

On our first evening the girls who attended were each given a goody bag which had in it a bring a friend card and the following week some of the girls had brought along friends and it was great to see them joining us on a Thursday evening and so pleased they have kept coming.

The theme we have chosen to explore this session is "The Jungle And The Rainforest".

For our Spiritual section over the weeks we have been learning about Creation, Noah, Jonah, Harvest and just last week we learned about Daniel in the Lion's Den.

Each week after our story we sing with the help of some YouTube videos. Most of our songs are action ones and all new to both the girls and the staff and

we have had fun learning these and the actions to go along with them. The girls are all very enthusiastic when it comes to this part of the night and have already been asking if we will be doing these at Parent's Evening.

So far for our Educational section the girls have learned about the different layers in the rainforest, facts about lions and parrots that live in the jungle or rainforest and have a few more to find out about over the coming weeks. Most weeks we have a craft to make which relates to what they are learning about that evening and sometimes it can become very messy in



the hall. More glue and pen seems to go on the tables than on the paper – but all good fun!!

For our Physical section we have been trying out some new games which relate to our theme and again the girls are very enthusiastic when we do these which is great to see.

We are looking forward to learning more over the coming weeks in the lead up to Christmas.



Juniors

(P4-P7)

BY CHRISTINA MASON

We have had such a great start to our new session at Juniors with 18 girls attending regularly. After taking some time off to be with my twin daughters who were born in December 2020, I am happy to be back at Juniors, working with a wonderful group of girls. They have shown an interest in learning about a range of topics and are enthusiastic about sharing their knowledge with the rest of the group.

For our SPIRITUAL badgework, we have chosen to find out about young people in the Bible. We have been getting used to using the Bible and have already looked at the story of David and Goliath.



One of the suggestions for our EDUCATIONAL badgework was climate change and we all agreed that this would be a really interesting topic to explore. The girls are very keen to raise awareness about how we can all make small changes to protect the planet.

There are many of the girls in Juniors who take part in dancing so we chose this for our PHYSICAL badgework.

We are going to be trying different styles of dance over the session.

So far we have done some aerobics and line dancing.

We are keen to raise money for charity and feel that there are many worthy causes at the moment. We are discussing different fundraising ideas to enable us to complete our SERVICE badgework.

We are lucky to have so many girls in our section this year and we love seeing you and working with you each week. I would like to say thank you to Sandra, Kirstine and Megan for your

support each week and for everything you do for the Junior section. You are all amazing and I am so grateful to be able to work with you. It is a lovely way to spend a Wednesday evening. If anyone is interested in coming along to help out please get in touch. The girls would love to show you what we get up to and get to know more people in the Church. I am very much looking forward to the rest of the session.



Brigaders

(S1-S6)

BY MAGGY DICK

This year we are a select wee group and we are travelling to 5 different countries to learn about their way of life. We started with Spain and finished by cooking Paella one Wednesday evening. We are now moving onto Turkey and learning more about this country.



OUR PAELLA

We are looking forward to having a Scottish night in November and we will also be baking for the Thursday morning coffee morning held at the Church.

The girls chose the Introit for our Dedication Service and enjoyed joining the choir to sing along with them.

We are hoping to try out some Zumba in the next few weeks for our Physical badge work and have enjoyed playing some fun games also.

In December to finish this half of the session we are heading out for a meal at Nando's with the girls for our Christmas night which we are looking forward to.



Boys' Brigade

Anchor Boys (P1-P3)

BY IAN BAILLIE

Our Anchor boys began their new Session in September and we are operating with around 15 to 18 boys at present. Our usual programme of games, craft and stories and bible instruction is beginning to take shape. In October we had our "Superheroes" fancy dress party and some of the boys can be seen below. They also learned to "dook for apples" (Covid friendly) using a fork to avoid any health and safety issues and this year we have senior BB boys Matthew Erskine and Ross McKay helping as part of their Queen's Badge, although most likely to be renamed King's Badge but nothing official.

We are now looking forward to our Christmas Party on the 13th December. We will then have our Festive break and resume again on Tuesday 10th January and still have space for a few more boys in P1,

P2 or P3 who are welcome to join the section in the New Year at 6.15 pm.



Juniors (P4-P6)

BY HELEN MACLEOD

We were delighted to welcome back Junior Section Boys for a new term and have enjoyed the company of Samuel and Fraser who have joined us from Anchor Boys. We have 10 boys coming on a Friday night, but what we miss in quantity we definitely make up with quality - we are again blessed with a great group of enthusiastic boys. It's so good to see them having fun and forming friendships with each other.

This year we have been again using the Boys Brigade themed programs. Each activity falls under one of the following categories, and this counts towards their award badge at the end of the session:

- Get Active
- Get Learning
- Get Creative
- Get Into the Bible

To date our programs have included an evening of remembrance to Queen Elizabeth II, Jesus

calling his first disciples, healthy hearts and our celebration of light, with some great programs planned for the rest of the session.

There is so much joy to be had from watching the boys develop and grow in confidence and faith, however, at present there is only myself and William Wilson. We have a great team of young leaders all under 18, but we do need at least one more adult leader. We have had to call on GB and Company leaders, who are already giving so much to their own sections. Please let me know if this is something you would consider.



Company (P7-S6)

BY COLIN HEGGIE

It is good to be back! The new session has started well with 25 boys in the Company section and it is also great to welcome a number of new officers who are all settling in and looking forward to the program for the rest of the year.

The session started with a trip to Muiravonside Country Park as the boys undertook bush craft activities led by the Park Rangers. We have had a wide variety of activities so far this session including a night of 'Taskmaster' activities as well as the boys making pizzas from scratch alongside our regular activities of drill, bible talks and games. We also had 7 boys attend their Enhancing their Skills overnight course at Carronvale as they start work towards their Queen's Badge.

We are all delighted to see the return of the Battalion and National competitions for the first time in three years and we will be competing in Battalion badminton and

5-a-side football events before Christmas. We have already competed in the cross country and the boys all did really well. We were runners up in the Junior team event and Owen Gough was 3rd in the Senior race. Harris Drackford won the Intermediate race with Stuart Barclay coming second. Very well done to all the boys!

We will also be competing in the Masterteam National quiz and the new FIFA video game competition during November and attending the battalion Carol Concert in Larbert in December.

The company will once again be providing a Christmas Card Delivery Service for the local community with stamps available 3 for £1 on sale either on a Friday night or on a Sunday morning at the church. All proceeds will be split equally between Company funds and a local charity chosen by the boys. The postbox will be at the back door of the church and cards will be delivered on the weekend of 17th December.

The company have also booked a weekend away

at the Compass Christian Centre in Glenshee in May next year and any fundraising will help reduce the cost of the trip for the boys.



Presbytery Mission Plan Update

BY SCOTT BURTON

Everyone will be aware from previous parish magazines that we are in the middle of Presbytery Mission Planning and that the Presbytery Team was working on bringing a draft plan to Presbytery by the end of this year. Out of that process we heard in September that the proposal is for the Upper Braes Churches to form one Union together, with the buildings being kept at Brightons and Slamannan, with Slamannan designated a Local Mission Church. Within this proposal, the Team had also included the allocation of one Full-Time Minister of Word and Sacrament, one Ordained Local Minister (OLM) and a shared portion of one Ministry Development Staff member (MDS) who would work across the whole of the Braes (Upper and Lower). The timescale for this proposal could have been somewhere around January 2024, as a most likely and workable date for commencement.

However, the previous Mission Planning Team (of which I was a part) resigned together at the beginning of October due to unhelpful and very hurtful feedback and comments from a number of quarters within the Presbytery. As such, a new Team has now been chosen, under the Convenorship of Rev. Ian Galloway of Glasgow Presbytery and 11 other members of our own Presbytery.

As a result of this development, it is likely the timescale for agreement of the draft and final Plan will be adjusted, however, I would hope that it might be possible for the Upper Braes Churches to still come into Union without any further delay, should that be the plan proposed by the new Team and agreed by Presbytery and other bodies within the Church of Scotland.

Please keep one another and this process in your prayers.



Blackbraes, Shieldhill linked with Muiravonside

Locum Minister

BY SANDRA MATHERS

Hello everyone, the months roll by and already we are coming to the end of autumn – the trees are rapidly shedding their leaves and this weekend the clocks change ushering us into winter – ever longer dark days. However, its not all gloom – for the children especially there's plenty to look forward to – dookin' for apples and fancy dress competitions; then there's firework night with sausages roasted on the bonfire (by adults of course) but best of all, most important of all, there's Christmas with all its wonder as we sing our Christmas carols and our homes, streets and churches are brightened by the sparkling Christmas trees in the windows, a celebration that's been going on for generations as we remember the coming of the Christ child to Bethlehem.

The scriptures have much to say about that coming both in the Old Testament and the New. The Gospel writers Matthew and Luke paint wonderful word pictures of the coming of the baby Jesus – how He came, where He came, who were the first to welcome this baby who was Emmanuel – God with us, but the Apostle John takes a different look at the story. He makes a definitive and world-shaking assertion: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning." (John 1:1-2)

The Word. Words are second nature to all of us – it's through words that we communicate with each other. Even before children have learned their letters in Primary 1 they're communicating by words. Think of all the daily reams of words that are printed in our newspapers, books and magazines.

Think of all the libraries

stuffed full of books waiting for us to read them so they can communicate their message and that's before we even think about radio and TV. Words, words, words! Yet from the children's first reading book to the most learned tome, none of them has ever had or can ever have the mind blowing, life changing effect of The Word – The Word was with God and the Word WAS God – the Word became flesh and lived among us (v14).

Along with most other people I enjoy all the tinsel, decorations and light of Christmas, the presents, the special dinners – but every time I read these verses they take my breath away – they strip away all the traditions that have accrued to Christmas and bring us down to the nitty-gritty – God became man – it was God lying in that crib in a filthy stable.

I was speaking to someone who'd visited Bethlehem and he told me how disappointed he

was when he went to the stable that the tourist trade declares is the actual stable where Jesus was born and saw it wasn't a stable as we know it and imagine, but was in fact a dark and dirty cave. The Word became flesh and his first bed wasn't a lovingly chosen and dressed Moses basket – if He was lucky He had some fresh straw to lie on.

Verse 11 of John 1 states right at the beginning the sad and horrifying truth – the Word came to His own, but they didn't want to know Him yet verse 12 starts the bells ringing all over again: "Yet to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave the RIGHT to become children of God." Hallelujah! That's you and me and all who by faith have put their trust in The Word, in Jesus our Saviour.

As Mary held that baby in her arms, as she pondered on the words spoken to her by the angel Gabriel, I wonder if she held his tiny infant hands and thought of the responsibility that these

hands would ultimately hold – what a destiny awaited this child – He would save His people from their sins! Little did Mary know just what would be the cost that infant – The Word made flesh – would pay.

I'm looking forward to Christmas – I always do. I must confess I've little patience with those who complain about the noise and the crowds, the decorations and everything else. Christmas is a joyous occasion so let's rejoice – above all others Christians have the *right* to rejoice and be glad for we are truly celebrating that momentous moment in the history of the world - The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Praise His Name.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a blessed and happy New Year.



Spiritual Footprints

BY DREW ROBERTSON

There are probably a lot of people just like me, but I simply can't resist going round all our local garden centres and looking at their plants and flowers!

I am such a regular visitor that I can tell you what has changed every week. I can also immediately spot any new stock that the garden centre has acquired. I think that the reason I like visiting garden centres so much is because I enjoy seeing all the plants and displays together in the one place.

There is such a myriad of colours on display with each trying to outdo each other. There is one local garden centre that involves driving along a small lane into a lovely country setting to access it. Every time I visit it, I always feel like I'm not in Scotland anymore, but have been spirited into an enchanted kingdom for an hour or two every Saturday afternoon!

Once I've retreated to the

garden centre's cosy café, I imagine what these plants and flowers would look like in my own garden. I even visualise and plan in my head the ideal spot that a certain bush or plant on display would look just perfect in. In those cheery confines, I feel like a latter day "Capability Brown," absolutely brimming with confidence. You'd think because of all that, I'd be a keen gardener who knows just when to plant all the different flowers and vegetables and also grows award winning stuff.

But I have a confession to make. I am one of the worst gardeners in the world!

The only time I ever remotely had green fingers in the garden was when I accidentally spilt some plant feeding food on them. They turned a lovely shade of green for a few hours, but even that soon faded!

I do like looking at all the plants and flowers that have been professionally grown. However, after I leave the confines of the garden centre, once

back home, I spend a grand total of just twenty minutes rapidly planting all the bedding plants I've bought. I simply gouge out small holes in the soil and push the plants in, whether they fit or not. They are then largely forgotten about and hardly ever watered or fed.

The amazing thing is that they still seem to grow!

I may be the worst gardener in the world. But I seem to have the most forgiving garden on the planet!

That is the one thing I love about gardens and the flowers that God has created for us. They have ways of regenerating and repairing themselves, even with the minimum of care. Especially when even people like me tamper with them!

One afternoon, I had trimmed all the large hedges at the back of the house and was standing in a green sea of discarded branches. My neighbour came to the rescue and very kindly produced a wonderful machine that literally eats trees and

converts them into compost. He was very environmentally aware and told me "This is much better than burning them and what's more, it'll reduce your carbon footprint!"

Sometimes you hear a word or phrase that captures your imagination or simply fascinates you.

"Carbon Footprint!"

Just before the neighbour popped his head over the fence, I had been contemplating burning my huge supply of leaves and branches. I tried to visualise my carbon footprint for that day and imagined a huge brown footprint something like the size of "King Kong" stamped on an unsuspecting map of Shieldhill!

For some strange reason as well, I visualised these little footprints they have in books about learning to dance which seem to go all over the page. Every time I try to follow these little sets of footprints, I always end up cross eyed and totally confused! I later did some research on carbon footprints and

discovered there is a formula you can use to work out just how large or small your footprint is, although I must admit, I haven't taken the plunge yet and done this! The word "footprint" is actually a good one to use because sometimes footprints can leave a lasting impression. I was once fascinated to read that the footprints left on the Moon by the astronauts are still visible today, if it was possible to go and view them. I was even more amazed to find, they will in fact, be visible for at least one million years - maybe a lot longer. This is due to there being no atmosphere or erosion on the Moon. But even on Earth, which is constantly changing, there are many examples of fossilised human footprints which appear to go back thousands of years. It is amazing to think that they can still be viewed and the person who made them would have seen a world that was so different to ours.

It got me thinking about another set of footprints that are absolutely invisible yet completely cover and criss cross the

world. These are Spiritual Footprints. In a recent reading at our church, we were told how Jesus said "Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me, isn't worthy of me." (Matthew Chapter 10, verse 38 NIV.) Jesus said this because following in his footsteps is crucial in a spiritual sense and vitally important.

Spiritual Footprints can achieve so much because they are filled with the love of Jesus. The apostles made some of the first Spiritual Footprints by spreading the wonderful news about Jesus and his teachings. These footprints have expanded ever since, through the work of massive groups of people such as missionaries and churches. But the footsteps also flourish through the work of individuals like you and I which is even more wonderful.

Spiritual Footprints are fantastic. They can bring mighty nations together. They can resolve stumbling blocks and solve problems which before would have been considered insoluble. But on a more individual

level, these footprints working in Jesus' name can do so much.

They can save and renew old friendships. They can restore relationships, with God's love and presence within our hearts. They can bring about endings that are happy rather than sad. Huge leaps forward can be made by making these small steps which mean so much. Compromises can be made. All because someone has taken the first step.

Spiritual Footprints can be seen as well, in all of the different projects we do here at church. They are visible when we go around the local villages visiting people who are housebound. They can also be seen when a prayer shawl, made by our knitting group, is delivered to someone who then takes comfort from God's love which



is woven into every
stitch.

Spiritual Footprints can
also be seen when a
recording of one of our
services is delivered to
someone who
unfortunately cannot be
with us. These footsteps
enable them still to
experience the joy of
worship in their own
home and feel very
much a part of our
church family every
week.

I love Spiritual
Footprints!

Everyone is loved here

BY DREW ROBERTSON

Everyone is loved here,
every person,
all most dear.
Everyone we embrace,
every creed and
every race.
Every faith
united together,
through common
problems
that we all must weather.

We all have joy, sadness
trepidations and fears.
We all cry identical tears.
We are much
more united
than one would
ever think.
All from the very
same cup of life,
united we all drink.

There's a wonderful thing
we all have
in our hearts.

From all other species
it sets us totally apart.
We are able to forgive,
to live and let live.
If only we could see this.

We are the human race,
every person every place.
Brothers and sisters
from the world we come.
Every woman, every man,
every daughter, every son.
Door is open,
come on in.

Rendezvous Group

BY RENA MOORE

The Rendezvous Group had
their first meeting of the
session on September 14th
when they enjoyed
afternoon tea in the
Richmond Park Hotel in
Bo'ness. The afternoon tea
here was so delicious that
this group are returning to
this hotel for a pre-
Christmas afternoon tea on
December 7th.

The group has been
entertained by Geoff Bailey
from Falkirk History
Society. His topic was The
Nobel Works. Nobel had an
extensive area utilised in
the manufacture of
grenades, sticks of
dynamite and other such

items. They were situated
on the banks of the Union
Canal where, today,
Tesco's has its store and
car park. Nobel's extended
beyond Tesco's site and
spread into the land on
the north side of the
canal. Many of our older
local people, particularly
the ladies, began their
working life in Nobel's
munitions factory.

We welcomed Chloe
Kirton and family to our
November meeting. Chloe
led a sing song and
treated us to some of her
violin playing. She began
with some well known
Scottish reels and jigs and
ended with a beautiful
Gaelic air.

The group is benefitting
from having the use of a
minibus. This mode of
transport collects people
who are not able to walk
to the church hall. It also
takes people to places for
afternoon tea and to other
places of entertainment
and is made possible
through Coal
Regeneration that was
awarded prior to
Lockdown.

Slamannan News

Martha's Pantry

BY REV MONICA
MACDONALD &
JAMES FALCONER
(SESSION CLERK)

It is certainly no secret that the current cost of living crisis is affecting a very large section of our communities, and of course, each one of us in one way or another. After discussions with our church leaders and members, and with local community groups – and prayer, it was decided to start a new food support provision primarily for the villages of Limerigg and Slamannan, called Martha's Pantry.

Based on the principle of a '*dignified food response*' we are seeking to provide help with food provision to households in need. This has taken a lot of organisation and we are currently working through all the start-up requirements.

We are grateful for local support from other organisations including those who will be our referring partners:

- Slamannan Community Centre Association.
- Slamannan Primary School
- Local GP and Pharmacist
- Falkirk Council inc. Social and Family Workers

as well as volunteer support from Slamannan and the local area, including Brightons.

Jesus said: "You will always have the poor among you and can help them whenever you want to...." (Mark chapter 14 vs 7)

As a church community, we simply cannot turn a blind eye to the needs of the people in the villages that make up our Parish. With God's help, we will be able to serve them by bringing

some relief to their already strained financial means.

As we set up this service, which will be based out of Slamannan Community Centre, we would appreciate your prayers for the huge amount of work needed to get this venture up and running. In due course we will be providing avenues for monetary and food donations.

In the meantime, if you would like further information or perhaps would like to volunteer some of your time please contact us via email:

marthaspantryFK1@gmail.com.

We would love to hear from you.



Quiz

- 1.) What does Jesus' other name, "Emmanuel", mean?
 1. Son of God
 2. He who is God
 3. God with us
 4. Anointed one
- 2.) When Joseph first discovered that Mary was pregnant, he:
 1. No longer wished to marry her
 2. Tore his robe
 3. Rejoiced
 4. Beat her
- 3.) Why did Joseph and Mary go to the city of David?
 1. To pay taxes
 2. To seek the Prophet Simeon
 3. To celebrate their wedding
 4. To see Joseph's parents
- 4.) In what city was Jesus born?
 1. Nazareth
 2. Galilee
 3. Bethlehem
 4. Cyprus
- 5.) Why were Mary and Joseph unable to stay in an inn?
 1. All the Inns were closed
 2. They didn't have enough money
 3. The Inn Keeper hated them
 4. There was no room for them
- 6.) With what did Mary wrap new-born Jesus?
 1. Swaddling
 2. A blanket
 3. Joseph's cape
 4. A scarf
- 7.) After Jesus was born, where did Mary lay Him?
 1. She held him
 2. In a pile of hay
 3. In a Manger
 4. On the ground
- 8.) What was the shepherds' initial reaction to the angel who visited them?
 1. They were angry
 2. They were upset
 3. They were excited
 4. They were afraid
- 9.) What did the angel tell the shepherds?
 1. To not be afraid
 2. The location of the New-Born Saviour
 3. How to recognize the New-Born Saviour
 4. All of This
- 10.) Who visited Joseph, Mary, and Jesus on the night He was born?
 1. Shepherds and Wise Men
 2. Shepherds and Wise Men and all living in Bethlehem
 3. Wise Men
 4. Shepherds
- 11.) The wise men travelled _____ to Jerusalem.
 1. Eastward
 2. Southward
 3. Northward
 4. Westward
- 12.) How many wise men brought gifts to Jesus?
 1. None
 2. 3
 3. The Bible never says
 4. 2
- 13.) Who diligently asked the wise men about baby Jesus?
 1. King Pilate
 2. King Elias
 3. King David
 4. King Herod

14.) Why did this man (Question 13) want to learn more about Jesus' whereabouts?

1. He wanted to kill Jesus
2. He wanted to ask Jesus to be heir to his throne
3. He wanted Jesus to heal him
4. He wanted to worship Jesus

15.) What guided the wise men to find Jesus?

1. A dove
2. Their dreams
3. A Star
4. An angel

16.) What gift did the wise men NOT give Jesus?

1. Frankincense
2. Silver
3. Gold
4. Myrrh

17.) What was Jesus' approximate age when the wise men presented Him with gifts?

1. Less than 2 years old
2. 12 years old
3. 10 years old
4. 6 years old

18.) Why did Jesus' family flee Bethlehem?

1. The Gentiles hated Joseph
2. God would destroy it
3. The King of Jerusalem wanted to kill him
4. They couldn't pay all of their taxes



19.) To where did Jesus' family flee from Bethlehem?

1. Nazareth
2. Egypt
3. Samaria
4. Greece

20.) When they returned, where did Jesus and His family dwell?

1. Samaria
2. Nazareth
3. Greece
4. Egypt

20.2 – Matthew 2:23
 19.2 – Matthew 2:12-15
 18.3 – Matthew 2:12-13
 17.1 – Matthew 2:16
 16.2 – Matthew 2:11
 15.3 – Matthew 2:9
 14.1 – Matthew 2:16
 13.4 – Matthew 2:7
 12.3
 11.4 – Matthew 2:1
 10.4 – Luke 2:15-16
 9.4 – Luke 2:10-12
 8.4 – Luke 2:9
 7.3 – Luke 2:7
 6.1 – Luke 2:7
 5.4 – Luke 2:7
 4.3 – Luke 2:4-7
 3.1 – Luke 2:4-5
 2.1 – Matthew 1:18-20
 1.3 – Matthew 1:23

Answers

Word Search



OH HOLY NIGHT

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

ANGEL
ANIMALS
BABY
BETHLEHEM
DONKEY
FRANKINCENSE

GIFTS
GOLD
JESUS
JOSEPH
MANGER
MARY

MYRRH
PEACE
SAVIOR
SHEPHERD
STAR
WISE MEN



Christmas Events and Services

Brightons

Sun 11th December: 6.30pm	Lessons and Carols
Sat 17th December: 2:00pm	Nativity Fun Day
Sun 18th December: 11:00am	Nativity Family Service
Sat 24th December 6:30pm	Early Watchnight Service
Sat 24th December: 11:15pm	Watchnight Service
Sun 25th December 10:30am	Morning Service - bring your presents!
Sun 1st January 11:00am	Morning Service

All services are available on our YouTube channel and Facebook page.

Blackbraes and Shieldhill

Sat 24th December 3:00pm	Afternoon Carol Service
Sun 25th December 10:00am	Morning Service
Sun 1st January 10:00am	Morning Service

Muiravonside

Sun 25th December 11:30am	Morning Service
Sun 1st January 11:30am	Morning Service

