

LOCKDOWN *Chr*^{Central}*nicle*

The “makeshift” magazine for Bellshill Central Parish Church | Scottish Charity No: SC012556



In Memory of
REV. A. THOMSON M.A.
Who was minister of this
congregation for over 30 years

† THIS · DO · IN · REMEMBRANCE · OF · ME †

An Invitation to Communion
Sunday 14th March 2021
online via www.bellshillcentral.church

Manse Message



Greetings all

It is quite astonishing to consider that I am closing in on my fifth anniversary as a minister of Word and Sacrament at Bellshill Central Parish Church.

*Spring
2021*

I am still amazed at the privilege of serving the Bellshill community and (even though 2020/2021 have held challenges that few of us could have imagined) the gift of being part of Bellshill Central is difficult to express in words.

The one word that does spring to mind is generosity. Bellshill Central is an incredibly generous church. Thank you for your incredible generosity of spirit toward us as a manse family and your willingness to share your love and care with each other.

This year of 'lockdown' has been particularly difficult and I am well aware that not everyone has access to the internet. The willingness, however, of people to reach out toward each other and offer support is truly amazing. Thank you.

For those who do have access to the internet I simply need to express my gratitude to Alan Mathew for his willingness to share his gifts and expertise so generously. He has certainly gone the 'extra mile' and has sought to involve a variety of people in our online acts of worship. He has also managed to string together a total of 50 episodes of 'The Organist entertains' and to say that we are proud of him and his efforts is an understatement. Well done Alan.

Our ministry at Bellshill Central is truly a celebration of God's love offered in and through the gifts of Story and Song.

We share God's Story by participating in worship, by offering our prayers, by sharing our experience of God's love and by simply delighting in the marvel that is God's grace.

We sing God's Song by adding our voices to the 'choir'. We might be a little shy as to how well (or how badly) we sing. Alan has reminded us all, however, that we have a song to share and a song to sing. It has been a huge privilege to see Alan's 'The Organist entertains' receive requests for hymns from all around the world. If there is one gift that can unite hearts and lives during times of crisis then it is probably that of music and song. Once again, a special thank you to Alan for reminding us of this.

There is also a very real sense in which all of this is held together in prayer. The word prayer can prove intimidating, but it doesn't need to be. The one thing that 'lockdown' has taught us is that we can all pray. We have shared in prayers from around the world and we have prayed as young and old alike.

It is thus during this season of Lent that I invite us all to continue in prayer. To express it as simply as possible - We are praying that we might remain faithful to God's call to share God's Love with each other and with the wider community and world.

A prayer offered in seeking to be open to God's life-renewing Spirit throughout the season that is Lent.

"Gracious and loving God. As we continue in this Lenten season – we open our hearts and lives to the gift of being strengthened in your love and purpose.

We recognise that this spiritual season of Lent coincides with the onset of Spring and so we are deeply grateful for the promise and possibility of life renewed. The season that is Spring, with its hints of warmth and its offer of renewed hope, often proves a remarkable season. Both Lent and Spring thus invite us to moments of reflection as well as to fresh acts of commitment. We reflect on the fragility of life – our own and that of others. We commit to a new way of being in the world – a way that is prepared to say sorry and to begin anew.

We acknowledge, loving and gracious God that your Spirit invites us to be a people of prayer and so we ask that you would empower us through this season of Lent to look to You for a renewed sense of strength and courage to face the challenges of life. We pray too that the season that is Spring will offer us the very real possibility of experiencing your Spirit at work in us. Grant us eyes to see, ears to hear, hearts to receive and hands to share the various gifts that Your Holy Spirit blesses us with. In Jesus Name. Amen."

And so thank you once again for the remarkable gift of your love and your prayers. Thank you for the gift of your story and your song.

Bless you all and thank you

Kevin de Beer



Church re-opening?

The First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, has announced this week that the COVID-19 restrictions could start to **gradually** be relaxed.

With this statement, we are all asking ‘When will we be back at church?’ This is the big question And there is lots for us to think about as a Church Family and lots for your office bearers to discuss.

We will be in touch with every member in due course, once your office bearers have had time to meet and discuss the changing situation and how that affects us here at BCPC.

Easter Services

Holy Week all at 7pm

Online reflections thinking of the “**I AM**” statements of Jesus

Monday – I am the door

Tuesday – I am the Good Shepherd

Wednesday – I am the Vine

Thursday – I am the Bread of Life

Friday – I am the Way the Truth and the Life

Easter Sunday

10.45am for 11am online worship with something for Children and Adults.

With it being Easter, we will also include the Sacrament of Communion for you to participate in at home.

News from the Guild

We were devastated to lose Mrs. Betty Mackie, our Vice President, after a short illness. Betty is sorely missed.

We will need to elect a Vice President. Would anyone like to take up this position?

The Syllabus Sheena Bowman, our Secretary, drew up for February to June had to be scrapped, due to the current situation with Coronavirus.

Sheena has drawn up another interesting and exciting Syllabus running from 4th October 2021 to 20th June 2022, a copy of which she sent out to all Members. Hopefully we will be able to return to The Guild in October. A big THANK YOU to Sheena for all her hard work.

A few weeks ago, we set up a WhatsApp group for the Guild and this has been very much enjoyed by Guild members. We have started The Guild on Mondays at 1.30pm on Central Guild WhatsApp. We have Hymns, Bible Readings and Prayers as well as a good chat. The Burns' Celebration on 25 January was particularly entertaining and most enjoyable. At the beginning of March we held our meeting on Zoom and it was good to be able to actually see and speak to each other. It is hoped to continue using Zoom on the first Monday of each month. A big THANKS to Peggy for organising a Guild Meeting each week.

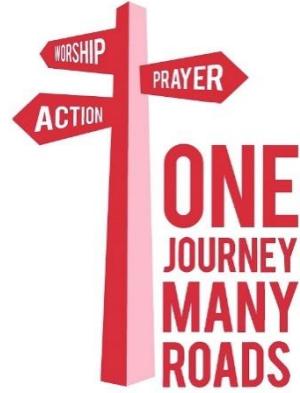
A big thanks to Alan Mathew for the special Guild edition of The Organist Entertains. This was very much enjoyed by not only Guild members but by lots of others.

So sorry to acknowledge the passing of Mrs. Betty Toal, a Church Elder and longstanding Guild member. Thoughts are with Colin and the family.

We are a friendly bunch. Why not come and join us. Men are welcome too.

Hope we can see you in October, Mondays at 1.30pm, or join us on line.

Liz Morton,
President.



Two Bettys!



During the past few months Bellshill Central has lost two well-known, stalwarts of its' membership - Betty Mackie in October and Betty Toal in February. Both funerals would have warranted a well-deserved Service in the Church to allow folks to pay their respects, but this could not happen during these unfortunate times. Instead on the day of the funerals, members and friends gathered outside the Church as the funeral processions passed by.

Both ladies were Church Elders as well as being active members of the Guild and had strong connections with the 2nd Bellshill Boys' Brigade Company..

Betty Mackie was a Choir member, although don't think she got her solo debut and signed a recording label. She had also been a Sunday School teacher, a Tawny Owl in the Brownies and at one time was President of the Guild for many years.

Betty Toal was the oldest Church member and Elder and had been heavily involved in Christian Aid collection and always available to roll up her sleeves when necessary.

Both these remarkable ladies will be sorely missed for their never-failing encouragement and attendance. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Betty's husband, Jim and daughters, Jane and Laura and also to Betty's son, Colin and Mary and all their extended families. It's to be hoped the party continues in heaven with plenty of meringues and pancakes.

Sheena Bowman

ORGANIST ENTERTAINS



I O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;



The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
The darkness falls at thy behest;
To thee our morning hymns ascended,
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

The organist entertains began in earnest so to speak in May 2020 with our first video being uploaded, lasting around 10 minutes. Fast forward to February 2021 and our Golden Episode..... it lasted 2 and a half hours! I never thought for a minute that we would still be going strong as we look towards Episodes 50+

It's been really tremendous and humbling to hear from so many people. We've been viewed by well over 25,000 viewers, from as far afield as New Zealand, South Africa and Canada.

I personally have had great comfort in maintaining my regular visits to church albeit by myself on Sunday afternoons, but I have had the pleasure of summer sunshine, rain battering off the windows and chilly wintery moments! The varying heating conditions of our Kirk remain the same! Haha! I must thank Drew for keeping the heating going for me on Sunday afternoons, to make things comfortable.

After some 10 months, we had reached Episode 49 and I decided to use Episodes 50 and 51 to reprise the top tier of favourites as chosen by requests. I was amazed, as probably was Ann Dillon, that 'As the deer pants for the water,' was not up there in the top tier. Next time, Ann!!!

You are invited to join me, and a growing number of folks each week, on Wednesday nights at 8pm for the weekly Instalments from the Organist Entertains.

The main page to find the videos is www.bellshillcentral.church/organist-entertains Or you can subscribe to our YouTube channel and get notified automatically for each new video premiere www.youtube.com/c/bellshillcentralparishchurch

Get in touch with your requests at bellshillcentral@gmail.com and I look forward to hearing from you.

Alan.

Communities Together Project

Bringing our community together during Coronavirus

COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Call today on
01698 747 483

Bellshill • Mossend • Holytown • Thorniewood

www.communityestogether.scot

Communities Together is an initiative created as a response to the needs of the Bellshill, Mossend and Thorniewood Areas (surrounding areas included) in North Lanarkshire against the backdrop of Coronavirus.

They are an umbrella group that pulls together the community response to COVID19 to make sure all areas are covered and supported where possible. Communities Together hopes to identify people who may need support now, and may be vulnerable for many reasons and get help to them.

Communities Together was launched on Monday 27th April 2020 and operates out of the Bellshill YMCA (294 Main Street, Bellshill).

Operating via a helpline 01698 74 74 83 or via email ContactUs@communityestogether.scot – their friendly team will be on hand to prepare food parcels and other essentials

for delivery to vulnerable people in the Bellshill, Mossend and Thorniewood communities during this difficult time.

The Group supports the collection and delivery of key items including Prescriptions to vulnerable people and facilitates the collection of Shopping for those who require a Shopper to get out and do this for them.

They also signpost and can give information via the helpline where people can be linked in to Befriending for a telephone call and given information on other services, through adding information packs to the deliveries.

Communities Together are also aware that although people need help now, that they also need to prepare for after lock down, so with your help together we can make sure all areas of our community are strong and supported – now and into the future.

Life and Work, the Church of Scotland Magazine is produced every month with bits and pieces of news about what is happening around the different areas of the church and beyond. It also carries features on a variety of subjects and people and is an interesting read.



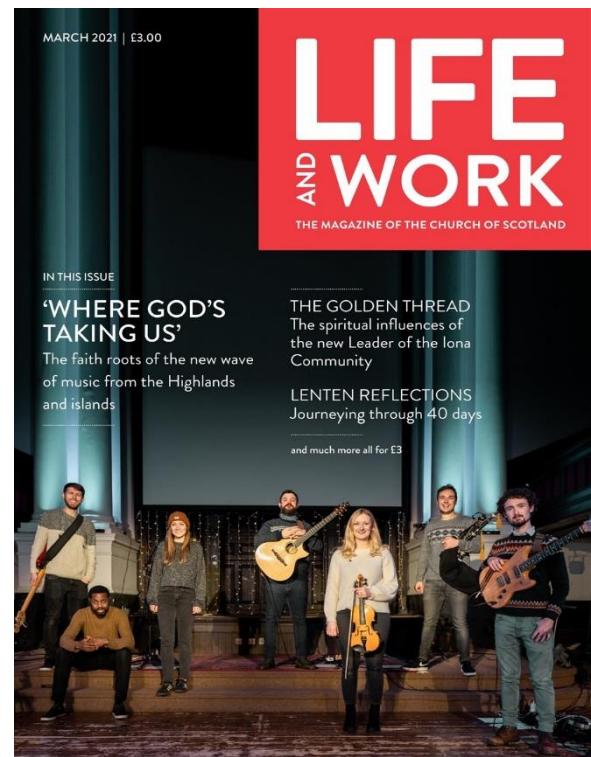
The printer paper version of the magazine now costs £3 per month. It is also possible to order a digital version which costs about £2 per month. I've been getting the digital version for the past year and I think it is better. It is received about a week before the paper version and you can read it on any of your digital devices. The only down side is that you can't pass on your copy to somebody else when you are finished with it.

If anyone would like to order a paper copy of Life and Work, please let me know as soon as possible. If you would like a digital copy, simply go to [Life and Work](https://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe/subscribe) website and click Subscribe. You can also order your own printed copy, to be delivered direct to you, at the same website. Payment via the website is by Direct Debit, whereas copies ordered via the Church are paid in cash on delivery. <https://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe/subscribe>

Life and Work produce a regular E-Newsletter which you can sign up for on their website and Life and Work can also be followed on [Facebook](#) where different news items are posted on a regular basis.

Peggy Walker,
Life and Work Co-ordinator

**March edition's
front cover**



*PS – did you spot our own organist in Life and Work during 2020?
And did you spot the mention of the 50th Episode
on the Church of Scotland website?*

Church Railings

2021 provides new opportunities for our Church Railings. Throughout 2020 we had a real sense of evolving and the seasons and the moments we normally gather and celebrate.

It was lovely to see the vast array of colours in the Hearts of Hope, then our Poppies, Poppy Crosses and pictures of our War Memorials. Moving towards Christmas we had tinsel, wreaths, stars, ribbons, bells, Santa's Boots and even a Santa's pair of trousers!



Now that Spring is on the horizon, and with that Easter too, I am looking for your help in brightening up our Church.

With of course the ever changing weather things need to be as waterproof or strong as possible to survive! Our Cardboard wool covered crosses lasted quite well actually. However am thinking that if anyone would like to draw and colour in a Cross, an Egg, a Rainbow, a sheep/lamb and post them through the letterbox of the church (this is found on the decking side of the church, not the main hall door side) they can be laminated to make waterproof then attached to the railings.

How does that sound?



This gate
takes you to
the letterbox

Please get in touch with me ASAP if you drop something off, that will need laminated as I am not often on the letterbox side of the halls.

Prayer Ribbons – wouldn't it be great to reintroduce the Prayer Ribbons on the front of the Church? It was lovely seeing them flutter in the wind. If you want to make a prayer intention (just like lighting a candle in a church) and show people that you have done so, then you can tie a ribbon of any shape, size or colour to the front of the church.

Alan.

Bellshill Prayer Walk

In 2021 we have begun a Virtual Prayer Walk around the town and our parish. Prayer is more important than ever in the midst of the COVID19 Pandemic. Please join us each Wednesday as we focus on another part of the town.

Each week, we select three streets from around the town and these are shared via the website, Facebook and twitter.

We ask you to:

- Thank God for the ways he is working in this town
- Invite the Holy Spirit to flow across the town
- Pray that people in our town would know the love of God
- Pray for all who live, visit, play, care for people in this area of our town.

Streets we have prayed for



Douglas Drive



Milnwood Drive



Clyde Drive



Flanigan Grove

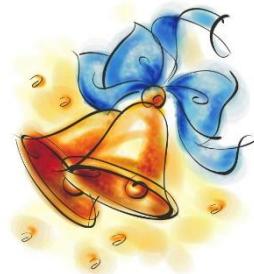


BCPC Family News

Forthcoming Wedding

Hugh and Nicky's wedding is still taking place on Tuesday 6th April. But due to the current COVID-19 restrictions there can only be 5 people in attendance. That will be of course Hugh, Nicky and Rev Kev.

Hugh and Nicky are very keen to have BCPC represented and have asked Stanley to be one of their witnesses. They also want the organ played so Alan will be there too and double as the 2nd witness. The service will be live streamed via our Church YouTube channel and will be available on our website too. The links to watch will be made available so everyone who would have been in attendance can take part albeit virtually.



We all wish Hugh and Nicky every blessing on their upcoming nuptial and when the circumstances permit we will have a right good knees up to help them celebrate.

New Granddaughter

On the 28th February 2021, Mary and Jim Mathew welcomed their latest Granddaughter, little Millie Mathew into the world.

Her mum and dad, Craig and Louise, thank everyone at BCPC for the warm wishes and congratulations, and the gifts that have been sent.

They hope it's not too long before Gran Mary can perhaps have little Millie for an over night and maybe join the Creche for the odd Sunday!



More Church Family News

Since the last issue of our temporary church magazine we have lost several members of our Church Family.

It's not been our practise to list the details, as we would with Lawson at the helm, but what we share with you is a prayer for the bereaved, and we ask you to remember each family at BCPC touched by grief, and our wider community.

**We pray for all whose lives
have been touched by tragedy,**

**whether by accident
or a deliberate act.**

**For those who mourn,
immerse them in your love
and lead them through this darkness
into your arms, and light.**

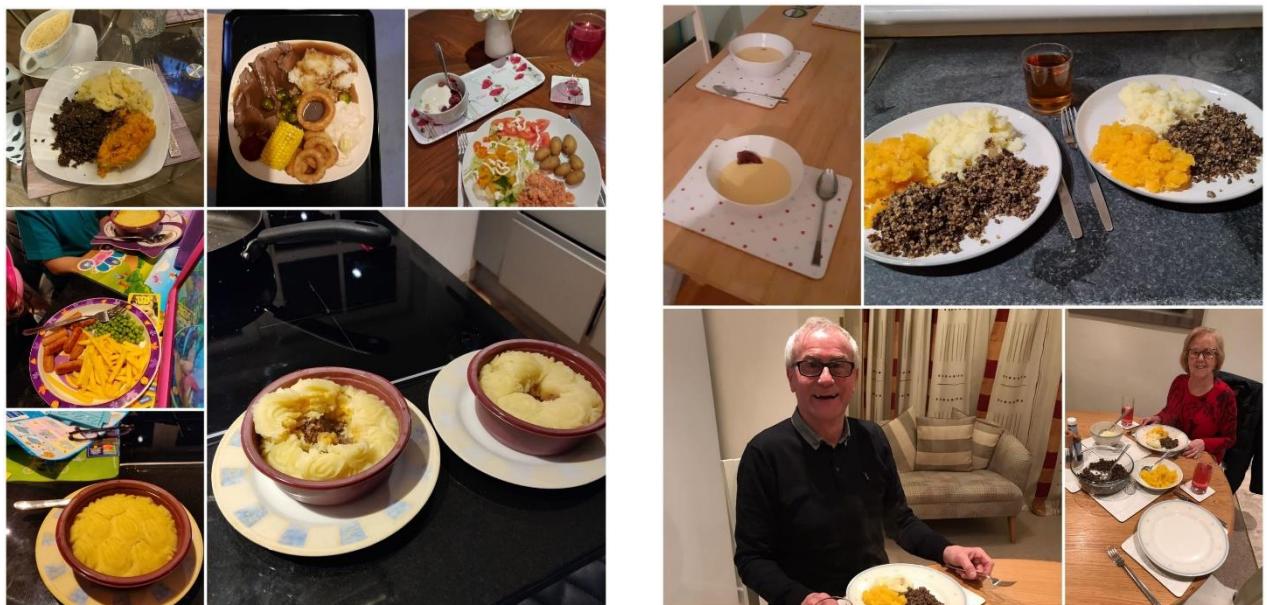
**For those who comfort,
be in both the words they use
and all that's left unspoken;
fill each heart with love.**

**We ask this through Jesus Christ,
whose own suffering brought us life,
here and for eternity.**

Amen

A recap on some of our “Virtual Activities” since the last Chronicle.

Burns Night at Home



All looks a lovely night!

And we had a wee online Burns Celebration

We did this via Zoom and some pictures are on the pages that follow



Hugh toasted the Haggis in both Scot's and English, we listened to some bag pipes and Anne "Rabbie" Guy had a lovely wee poem for us. We virtually toasted the haggis and those of us who had still to eat (Alan and Zandra) enjoyed their dinners with the pipes still ringing in their ears.

Coin Boxes

During 2020, the Church received £276.35 via the Coin Boxes; made up from nearly 5000 coins and some lovely paper money.

This is a substantial reduction on 2019 (£1,178.42) but considering that most of us were in jail for nearly the full year and cash is going out of fashion, this is a very welcome amount of money.

If you do have some little Sterling coins lying around the house that you would be willing to donate to the Church, let me know and I will pick them up. Pennies soon mount up into pounds!

Many thanks, *Peggy Walker*



Online Prayer Group

During Lent in 2021 we have started a weekly online prayer group. Meeting on Monday evenings at 7pm for ½ an hour only we hear a song or two, a scripture reading and then our prayers. Taking part so far have been Rev Kevin, Stanley, Alan, Zandra, Anne G and Grace. You can join in via Zoom (ask Kevin or Alan for the Zoom link/code) or there is a phone number to dial (plus a code to reach the correct group).

We have been using the materials for the period of Lent, helping us to reflect and respond to the word of God. We hope that perhaps a prayer group would continue after Lent, and we encourage you consider this, please let Kevin or Alan know.

Anne Guy's Bit!

People of BCPC by “Rabbie Guy”

A year has now come and gone and what a year it has been

We've kept together as best we can, good and bad times in between

With Easter just around the corner this could be our call

A time for us to perhaps reflect on how we've dealt with it all

There have been many sad times, folks we'll never see again
We tried so hard to show the respect that we all have for them

With just a thought I have to say a light came shining through
Couldn't quite think what it was, then I realised “IT WAS YOU”

From our little WhatsApp chats where we all have a tale to tell
We know your children's birthdays and anniversaries as well

We are so lucky to have Kevin and Alan who
Have worked so very, very hard to keep us together too

The togetherness of all of us has touched me very much
I just don't know how folk survive without the family of their Church

This beautiful congregation should be proud until its end
All that was asked of them was to have Jesus as their friend

So let us all look forward folks, I'm sure it won't be long
until we can all meet again in sermon, song and prayer

And it is up to all of us as sure as words are spoken
Through Jesus Christ our Church family never will be broken



From the Brownies



So it's been a long almost year and for a period of time we were unsure how we would possibly be able to keep our Brownie pack going.

However in January we had a long discussion about how covid and continued restrictions, along side school closures, were having a detrimental affect on the girls we work so closely with.

So as of February we began to run online zoom meetings, it's still a work in progress of what works and what doesn't. Kyana (our young leader) managed to source a new badge outwith the main programme with lots of drawing and craft activities which we felt the girls could work on within their house. We have since been running hour long meetings (which sometimes run over) which we try to make as fun as possible. We have adapted quizzes, scavenger hunts, developed our anime drawing skills and also worked together through whiteboard to decorate and design kites.

Over the coming weeks we are hoping to do some dance workshops to create more fun activities. It has been so good to get some of our girls back together and having some social interaction with their peers. We have also welcomed 4 new members into the pack which has been amazing. We look forward to getting back into the church hall and having a feeling of "normal" back. But for the time being we will continue to enjoy the company of the girls online.

Stacey and all the Brownies leaders

From the Guides

The last 12 months have been difficult for all in Girlguiding. Including our own Guide Unit! As our kids have gotten used to home schooling it seemed we wouldn't be back in our normal church hall meetings any time soon. After a long discussion with the Brownies leaders we decided to start weekly zoom meetings to help keep the kids engaged. The badge we're working on, Window on the World, has us travelling virtually around the world visiting a different continent every week! We've designed vehicles for safari adventures, come up with a new invention to benefit the community and help local people as well as trying our hand at drawing Anime! Its been so good to see the kids interact with each other again and we can't wait to get them all back together again!

Emily and the guides

FUNDRAISING NEWS

The fundraising team would like to say a huge thanks to everyone! You made our efforts last year very worthwhile. Although we weren't able to be in our Church building due to Covid it didn't stop us keeping in touch and sharing some special times.

We enjoyed a Daffodil Tea, Summer Afternoon Tea, some beautiful hanging baskets, there were hand knitted scarves, home made tablet, some cracking Christmas Hampers, you paid to hear your favourite hymns from our choirmaster, and there was a wreath and calendars all enjoyed with a Christmas Treat Box to celebrate the Christmas season.

This year we encouraged you to start a little charity fundraising box with a £2 coin.

Our first event was a Burns lunch which we asked you to consider putting your ticket money in your little box.

Hugh and Nicky very kindly ran a quiz night which also went into church funds or your wee box!

All we ask for the time being is that you keep our Church in your prayers and continue with your inventive ideas to raise funds.

Who knows what the future holds - but we are sure that we will all continue to enjoy each others company and look forward to the time where we can all be together once again.

Many thanks, The Fundraising Team

LORD OF ALL BEING, THRONED AFAR"

"For in Him we live, and move, and have our being"

(Acts 17.28)

A hymn which praises Him in whom we live and move and have our being is "Lord of All Being, Throned Afar." The text was written by Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr., who was born on Aug. 29, 1809, at Cambridge, MA, the son of Congregational minister Abiel Holmes. Oliver received his education at Phillips Academy and Harvard University. After graduating from Harvard in 1829, he studied medicine in Boston, MA, and Paris, France, and then taught anatomy at Dartmouth, but returned to Harvard as a professor of anatomy and physiology in the Medical School in 1847, a position which he held for 35 years, and eventually became dean prior to his retirement in 1882. While a brilliant lecturer and teacher, he is best remembered as an author, coming to fame around 1830 with his poem "Old Ironsides" which reputedly helped to save the USS Constitution from being scrapped. Even before leaving college he had become known as a capable writer of verse.

In 1836 he read a paper, "Poetry, a Metrical Essay," to the members of the Phi Beta Kappa Society at Harvard, and in 1857 he joined with James Russell Lowell, William Cullen Bryant, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and others to found The Atlantic Monthly, a literary magazine. In 1858, he wrote a series of essays for the magazine entitled "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table," and the next year followed that with another set entitled "The Professor at the Breakfast Table." In Dec. of 1859, that second series ended with the following words. "And so my year's record is finished. The Professor has talked less than his predecessor [The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table] but he has heard and seen more....Join in singing (inwardly) this hymn to the Source of the light we all need to lead us." At the conclusion there was a poem entitled "A Sun-day Hymn" beginning, "Lord of all being, throned afar." According to a statement later made by Holmes to James W. Kimball in 1876, it had actually been finished eleven years earlier, which would make 1848 its date of origin.

Holmes's son, Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., became Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

The song offers praise to the Lord as the eternal light and asks Him to be with us to guide our path.

Verse 1 identifies the Lord as the source of all light

"Lord of all being, throned afar, Thy glory flames from sun and star;
Centre and soul of every sphere, Yet to each loving heart how near!"

- a. God is the one who sits upon the throne of heaven: Rev. 4.2-3
- b. His glory flames from sun and star because He created them and declare His glory: Gen. 1.14-19, Ps. 19.1-6
- c. Yet, while He is the one whose divine power controls the movements of the heavenly bodies, He is mindful of man and is near to every one of us: Ps. 8.3-4, Acts 17.27

Verse 2 identifies the Lord's light as our comfort in life

"Sun of our life, Thy quickening ray Shed on our path the glow of day;
Star of our hope, Thy softened light Cheers the long watches of the night."

- a. Our Lord is the Sun of righteousness who gives life: Mal. 4.2
- b. He is also the Day Star who brings us hope: 2 Pet. 1.19
- c. His word is a lamp to our feet to shed light on our pathway: Ps. 119.105

Verse 3 identifies the Lord's light as a rainbow of mercy

"Our midnight is Thy smile withdrawn; Our noontide is Thy gracious dawn.
Our rainbow arch, Thy mercy's sign; All, save the clouds of sin, are Thine."

- a. Throughout the scriptures, darkness is used as a symbol of sin, so when we sin and His smile or favour is withdrawn from us, we walk in darkness: 1 Jn. 1.5-6
- b. However, as the sun shines down in its fullness at noontide, when we live in harmony with God's will, we walk in the light: 1 Jn. 1.7
- c. Also, God's light shines on our troubles to turn them from bad to good, just as the light of the sun shines on the rain and makes a rainbow which is God's promise of mercy: Gen. 9.13-17

Verse 4 identifies the Lord's light as truth

"Lord of all life, below, above, Whose light is truth, whose warmth is love,
Before Thy ever-blazing throne We ask no lustre of our own."

- a. Our Lord is the Lord of life because He came to give life: Jn. 10.10
- b. His light is revealed in the truth, which is His word: Jn. 17.17
- c. When we walk in the light of His truth, we can come before His ever-blazing throne to find grace to help in time of need: Heb. 4.14-16

Verse 5 identifies the Lord's light as the source of the light we need in life

"Grant us Thy truth to make us free, And kindly hearts that burn for Thee,
Till all Thy living altars claim One holy light, one heavenly flame."

- a. The light of the Lord's truth is what makes us free: Jn. 8.32
- b. If we allow the light of His truth in our lives, it will kindle kindly hearts that burn in love for Him: Mk. 12.30
- c. Then, just as animals were burned with fire upon altars under the old covenant, so we shall become living altars upon which we offer ourselves as living sacrifices: Rom. 12.1-2

This hymn is very well known among us, and has appeared in numerous versions and editions of our hymn books. Whilst we sing a variety of hymns in our worship, from the 'golden age' the 'gospel age' and more contemporary songs, we should certainly keep room in our worship services for the beloved songs of generations immediately passed, and even for more contemporary expressions of praise, it will do us well from time to time to have and sing songs which focus our attention directly on the power and might of the "Lord of All Being, Throned Afar."

Apologies for such a lengthy item on one item, the hymn Lord of all being. It was a much loved favourite hymn of the late Betty Toal and we felt that sharing some of the meaning behind the hymn would be in its own way a tribute to Betty.



Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre Spring Update 2021

We begin this update by welcoming new charity directors. Liz DiNardo, former manager of the Sir John Mann Centre, Councillor Colin Cameron and volunteers Jim Mackintosh and Helen Daly all joined the board of Utheo in the last year. We thank them for their commitment and willingness to get involved. The board still have places for new directors though. If you or someone you know wants to get involved with Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre too contact our chair Sheena Bowman.



As we make preparations for the full reopening of the Centre we need volunteers in all areas of the business. Volunteering opportunities are suitable for persons of all ages and abilities. Experience is not necessary, just enthusiasm and time. Any persons that are interested in volunteering contact Irene Gibson on 01698 842215 or email volunteer@oncbellhill.org.

With children returning to school in March Orbiston Childcare Service has before and after school care places available. The service provides escorts and collections to all Bellshill and Mossend schools. Children receive breakfast before school and healthy snacks after school. The service is taking registrations for children starting school in August. Parents requiring childcare are encouraged to contact Martin or Jillian on 01698 842215 or email oosc@oncbellhill.org.

BeFriend Bellshill continue to support older adults with weekly newsletters and telephone calls. Newsletters are delivered to sheltered housing and made available online using social media. Thanks to grants from Age Scotland our Older Persons Team are now working remotely supporting older adults who

previously attended the Day Care and Men's Group at home. Funding paid for digital equipment, games and resources with the team making daily wellbeing calls. For enquiries BeFriend Bellshill can be contacted by email befriend@oncbellshill.org. Our Older Persons Team can be contacted by phone on 01698 573250 or email daycare@oncbellshill.org.

We must give thanks to Bellshill Academy, Bellshill McDonalds, Hatton Lea Care Home, Motherwell FC, the Hamilton Family. They all donated food and essential supplies throughout December which were shared with families in need over the festive break. With give a special thanks too to housekeeping staff Jillian and Laura who opened the Centre to accept the donations.

We're looking forward now to opening up the Centre again to the general public, starting with a refit of Theo's Café. Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre received a large grant last year from Warburtons Bakeries. Lockdown restrictions prevented us from starting the work. When we have a definite date we will announce the Centre's reopening on our website and social media.

Website - www.oncbellshil.org

Facebook - www.facebook.com/onc.bellshil

Twitter - @BefriendBhill



Church Finances

As Christians, we believe that one way we thank God for the love he has shown to us is by making a financial offering to His work. As members of a church family, we believe that one of the best ways to do this is to give to our church to enable God's love to be spread by our work in the community. There are a number of ways you can give to your church.

FWO envelopes for the new Financial Year are now available and should be getting delivered to anyone who gives their offering in this way.

You can **give online** by visiting www.churchofscotland.org.uk and clicking on the 'Donate' button. When you select 'Give to a congregation', start typing 'Bellshill' and the name of our congregation will appear. You will then be able to give a gift online.

Direct Debit or Standing Order is the easiest and most regular way to give to your Church. Our banking details are available from June Cook, Donis Hudson or Zandra Swan. Direct bank giving means that even though we can't attend church physically, your offerings are still received in a regular way, helping our Finance Team know what our level of income might be.

Zandra, Donis and June wish to thank most sincerely our members and wider Church Family for your financial support to BCPC during the past 12 months – your regular offerings, those who Gift Aid their offering/donations, fundraising, Coin-a-Day boxes and financial gifts. To say that they have been challenging is an understatement, and they have been financially challenging to our Church Finances.

The Finance Team are currently finalising the Church Accounts for the year Jan-Dec 2020 and these will be issued to our Trustees for approval. Once they are approved they will be made available to all members. We would ideally be issuing these electronically to all members under the COVID restrictions, but if anyone wishes a paper copy please let Zandra or June know and this can be arranged.

Please keep up to date with your financial giving to your Church. Please continue with your standing orders and direct debits. If you give by way of envelopes/donations save these and bring to Church when we re-open.

If anyone would like to change to direct bank giving please let us know and we can give you the necessary information. There will continue be a significant impact on our Church finances in 2021 so your continued generosity will be particularly important and very much appreciated.

Yours,
Zandra, June and Donis

DIAL IN CHURCH – ON THE PHONE!

For those members & friends of BCPC who can't take part using the internet we have the dial-in option so anyone can now hear Kevin's weekly message using their phone.

Just call 01698 533211 (local rate number).

Please share this info with folks not online so they can take part in our worship. It is available anytime & every day and updated on Sunday mornings.



Keeping in touch

Please let Kevin or Stanley know ASAP about anyone unwell, needing the support of the church or any regular pastoral care.

We've set up a WhatsApp group, so if you have a smartphone and the WhatsApp "app" and would like to be part of this group let us know.

Remember to phone those who aren't online, share some news, ask them how they are, it really will make all the difference.

Ways to keep in touch

Online:

www.bellshillcentral.church

www.facebook.com/bellshillcentralchurch

www.twitter.com/bellshillchurch

The WhatsApp Group is a good place to chat with up to 50 people
Contact your Elder, the Session Clerk or the minister if you need to speak to someone

Phone numbers

Kevin de Beer 01698 841176

Stanley Cook 01698 747144

QR Codes

You can also use your smartphone to scan these codes. It's as simple as opening the camera app on your phone and pointing it at the code below.



Church Website



Youtube Channel



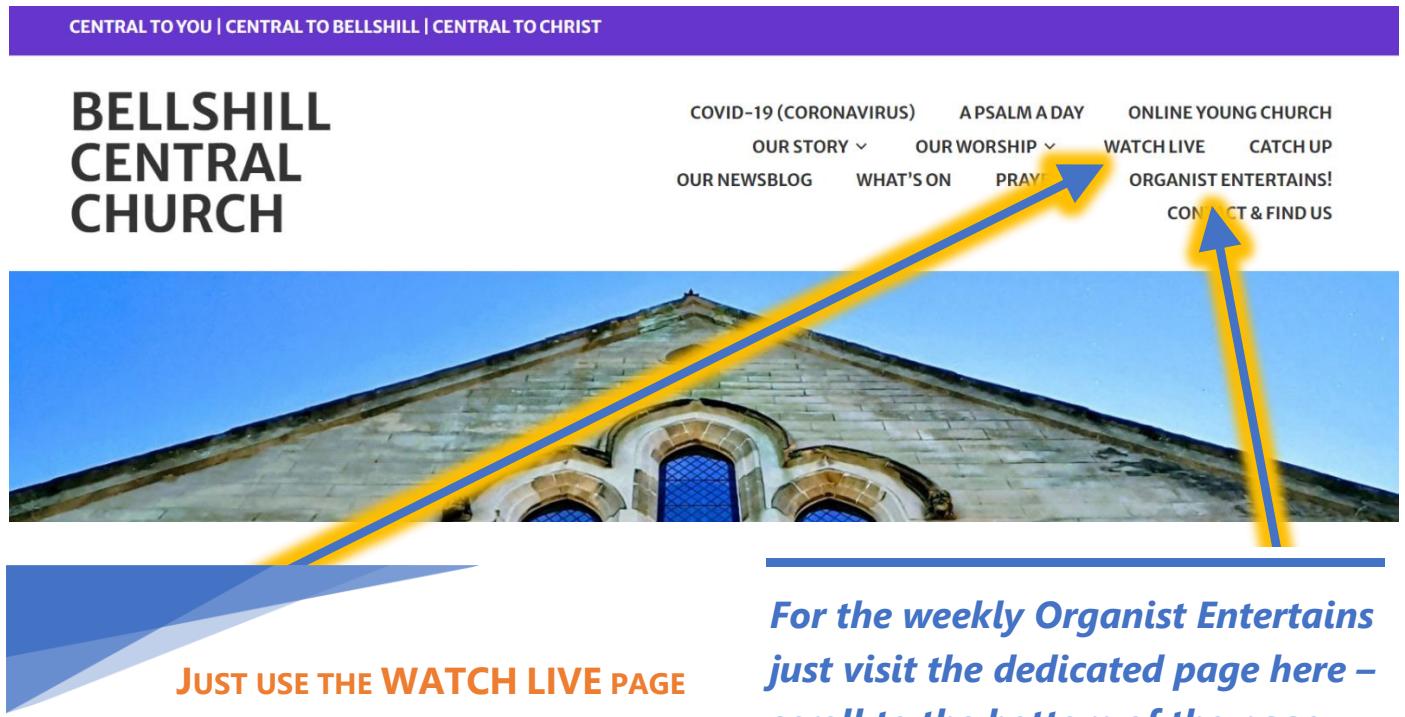
CofS Donation Page

You can share these “codes” with your friends to help them keep connected with BCPC

How to find and use our online videos

As we continue to Worship virtually via the internet we thought it was a good idea just to remind everyone where everything is!

The Church Website: www.bellshillcentral.church



BELLSHILL CENTRAL CHURCH

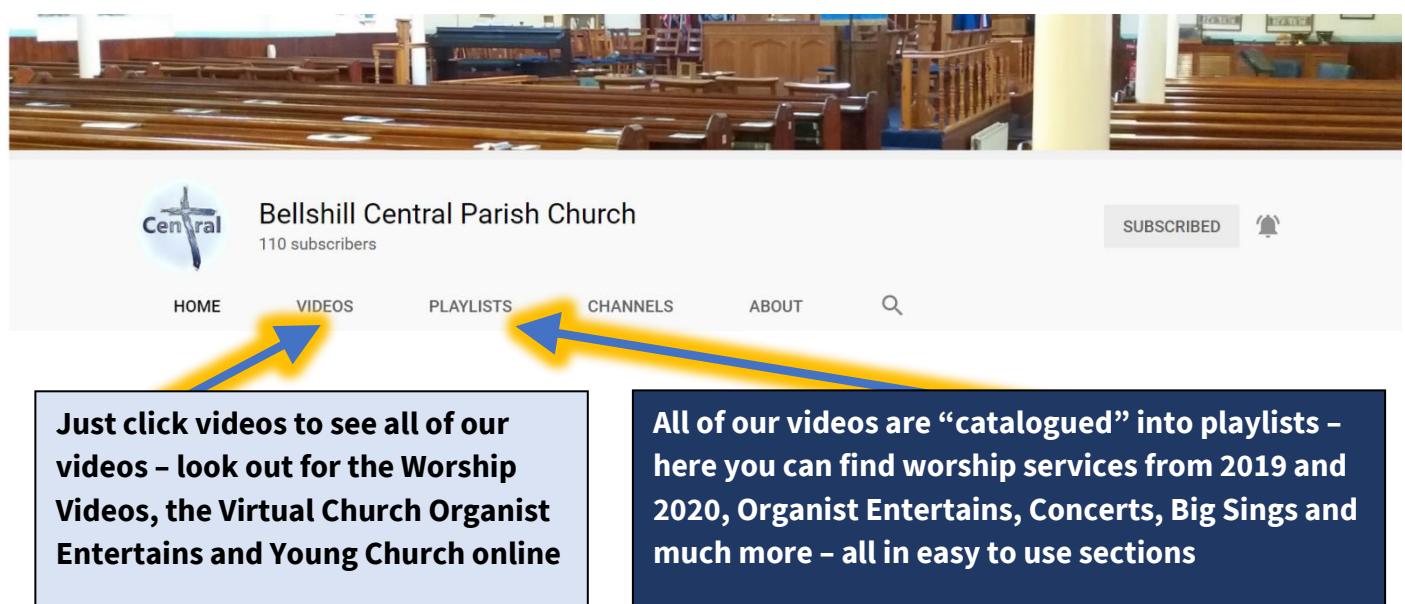
COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) A PSALM A DAY ONLINE YOUNG CHURCH
OUR STORY OUR WORSHIP WATCH LIVE CATCH UP
OUR NEWSBLOG WHAT'S ON PRAY ORGANIST ENTERTAINS!
CONNECT & FIND US

JUST USE THE WATCH LIVE PAGE TO TAKE PART IN OUR SUNDAY SERVICES.

For the weekly Organist Entertains just visit the dedicated page here – scroll to the bottom of the page for the most recent.

Our YouTube Channel:

www.youtube.com/c/BellshillCentralParishChurch



Bellshill Central Parish Church
110 subscribers

SUBSCRIBED

VIDEOS CHANNELS

Just click videos to see all of our videos – look out for the Worship Videos, the Virtual Church Organist Entertains and Young Church online

All of our videos are “catalogued” into playlists – here you can find worship services from 2019 and 2020, Organist Entertains, Concerts, Big Sings and much more – all in easy to use sections

SERVICES AND LOCKDOWN ACTIVITIES

Sundays

10.45am our online broadcast begins (service usually at around 11am)

1st Sunday of the Month from 12noon for ½ an hour

Zoom Catch up (bring your own coffee!)

Meeting ID and joining instructions issued via WhatsApp

Mondays during Lent

(possibly continuing afterwards)

7pm Zoom Prayer Group

(codes from Kevin and Alan)

Wednesdays

Morning – Prayer Walk Activities

12pm Online Young Church

8pm The Organist Entertains

PRAYERS DURING COVID

Sundays at 7pm with the Moderator

(links available online and via WhatsApp)

Monday to Saturday at 8pm

We simply ask you to set aside a short time to pray

