

LOCKDOWN *Chr* *nicle*

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

POTENTIAL CHURCH RE-OPENING

During the last 18 months or so a core group of BCPC office bearers have kept in touch, meeting regularly, to discuss how the various lockdowns and restrictions have affected our Church Worshipping Community.



The core group consists of: Rev Kevin de Beer, Stanley Cook, June Cook, Drew Aitken, Jane Aitken and Alan Mathew.

With the recent easements to the restrictions, the fact that the roll out of the COVID-19 Vaccine is progressing well and that we will need to normalise to living with the virus for some time yet, the core group met on 27th July and took the decision to prepare the building for re-opening for Public Worship. **LIKELY TO BE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.**

There is a considerable amount of work to be done, in preparing risk assessments, calculating the safe number of people/bubbles our sanctuary can accommodate, setting up a booking number, and arranging stewards for Sunday services - not just door duty, but checking off names, making sure people are seen to the pews, and then making sure people leave in the correct manner after the service.

Drew and Stanley will start the risk assessments as soon announcements are made by the First Minister on 9th August. After that the trustees will meet via Zoom **date to be arranged**, and if the motion to re-open is approved, we will submit our risk assessments and plans to Presbytery for final approval. The Zoom link will be sent to all trustees. Those not online can access by dialling a number and inputting a code. We want all trustees to be able to take part.

If the trustees and Presbytery approve our plans this is what Church will be like:

- You will require to “book” your place at church by calling a dedicated number. This is not to book your seat, but to allow us to know in advance who is coming to allow for Track and Trace to be set up. **Number and times to call will be circulated by your Church Elder.**

- Your details for Track and Trace needs to be kept for 21 days. It will be kept securely then destroyed.
- Please wear a face mask, unless you are exempt. (We will have face masks available should you need one)
- It is a requirement that you sanitise your hands, and sanitisation stations are available at the main points of entry
- The in-person Sunday Services will begin at 11:00am and the church will be open from around 10:30am
- When you arrive at church you will be greeted by a Steward. Please enter by the main door unless you need level access.
- A Steward will mark your attendance for Track & Trace and another Steward will see you to a pew (you will be allocated a seat, unfortunately you can't sit anywhere you like at the moment).
- We will fill the church from the front first working backwards towards the vestibule.
- Once you are shown to your seat regrettably you are not able to move around the sanctuary (not just yet)
- The toilets will be available for the duration of the service. Please make sure you are wearing a mask as you go to and from.
- We are not able to collect the offering as usual. There will be the opportunity to deposit your offering in a box/plate located in the vestibule.
- The service will be shorter than usual, lasting around 30 minutes. However, over time we will increase the length of the service so that it returns to our pre-Covid worship.
- We will be allowed to sing (Hallelujah!) but you will be required to wear your mask.
- Once the service is over, please remain in your seat until you are requested to leave by the stewards. Please leave by the main entrance (or side entrance if that is how you entered).
- Please do not gather in groups outside that exceed the government guidelines to help limit any spread of COVID-19

This list seems quite restrictive, but it has to be unfortunately. We want to keep everyone choosing to worship in-person as safe as possible.

Online worship will continue each week being live streamed from inside the sanctuary and will be available from the Church Website/YouTube Channel as usual and then anytime afterwards. www.bellshillcentral.church/watch-live

Please note that the building will only be open for in-person Sunday Worship, there will be no option for any other groups or activities. We will assess during the first month of in-person services how we proceed with other activities in the buildings, and let organisations know as appropriate.

The next stage will be letting you all know the results of the trustees and Presbytery. Then it is over to you! Keep a look out for the dedicated phone number to book your place.

WE ARE REALLY EXCITED TO BE ABLE TO SOON OFFER IN-PERSON WORSHIP ONCE AGAIN AT BELLSHILL CENTRAL PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

Take Care!
BCPC COVID-19 Core Group.

MANSE MESSAGE

Greetings all

I hope this letter finds you well. These are strange days indeed and I cannot quite believe that we are still in some form of 'lockdown'. The good news, however, is that more and more people are receiving the vaccine which will hopefully lead to us being able to gather for 'in person' worship in the not too distant future. I realise that many of us will be frustrated by the slow pace of return to what might be termed 'normality' and I have been asked on quite a few occasions when we might be returning to the building. The simple fact of the matter is that we have to be thinking of the most vulnerable in our midst and the guidelines are still fairly restrictive. Please join me in prayer as we seek to be church during these uncertain days.



I realise that not everyone has access to the internet, but I am incredibly grateful that we have been able to continue with some form of 'online ministry' at this time. My thanks to Alan Mathew and all those that have been involved in ensuring that Bellshill Central is in a position to offer worship via the internet.

It was Jesus who invited us to worship in 'spirit and in truth' and to be aware that God is with us wherever and however we might gather to worship. In these days we have had to gather via the gift of modern technology but I am ever hopeful that we will return to more familiar patterns in the not too distant future. It is with that in mind that I share a prayer that I wrote a few years back simply entitled – "Prayer to worship in Spirit and Truth"

“God who is Spirit”

In a world where we are tempted to reduce much of life to ‘things’...things to buy, things to own, and things to control, we thank you that Jesus, in John’s Gospel, reminds us of another possibility.

In a straightforward conversation with a woman at a well, Jesus invites us to be led by the Spirit to worship God according to the truth (John 4:24)

In a world that often trades in truth as if it were but one more object on a supermarket shelf, help us to receive ‘Truth’ as the unsettling gift that opens us to more of life, in light of who God is.

We pray that we might worship in Spirit and Truth.

- a) Spirit empowering us for fresh and meaningful encounters with God.
- b) Truth as the unsettling gift that challenges us to examine our values and priorities.

We ask this in Jesus’ Name and for his sake. Amen.

My honest prayer for all of us during these ‘uncertain’ times is that we might sense ourselves worshipping God in spirit and in truth.

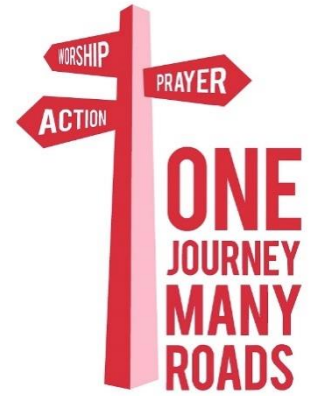
Bless you all and thank you for the privilege of being minister at Bellshill Central Parish Church.

Kevin de Beer



The Guild

We went on an outing to MacKinnon Mills on Monday, 7th June which was enjoyed by all. We went to Greenside Garden Centre on Monday, 5th July. We are having these Summer Outings to keep in touch with each other. Hopefully the Guild will be starting up in October, but we'll just have to wait and see.



Sheena Bowman, our Secretary, has received a letter from New Kilpatrick Guild telling us that their Afternoon Guild has folded up. We were very sorry to get this news as we have enjoyed meeting up with them twice a year for many years. Wishing them all the best for the future.

We are always looking for new Members. Why not join us. Contact Liz Morton 01698 745514 for details.

Liz Morton, President.

Coin Boxes

So far this year, we have received £175.70 via the Coin Boxes which is about double what we received in the same period in 2020. However, it is only about a third of the amount received in the same period in 2019.



This is easy to understand. We are beginning to get out a bit more to the shops but, if you are like me, well; "I don't do cash!"



If you do have any small change you would be willing to donate to the church, please let me know and I'll get on my security gear and come pick it up. All the pennies are very welcome.

Many thanks,
Peggy Walker

FROM THE PEN OF RABBIE GUY

WE'RE GETTING THERE

A poem from Anne Guy in these challenging times looking forward to when we can get back to normal!



Well folks I think it's time for us to come together
When we can get back to our Church in this glorious
weather

People are starting to get about, no more watching tellies
You can see what they've all been doing - jings look at all those bellies

Now we've all been very good, we've all obeyed the rules
And we still have to be careful don't behave like fools

We have to see each other now to keep our spirits up
Especially if England win that football cup

So let us hope that this is Alan's last Virtual News
We all want to get back and sit down in the pews

And we look forward to getting back to the place we love so much
to see our lovely friends at Bellshill Central Parish Church

Ed notes:

Anne has written a proper welcoming introit for to use once we are back in church for normal Sunday services. We look forward to more lovely and thoughtful words from Anne Guy.

VIRTUAL CHOIR

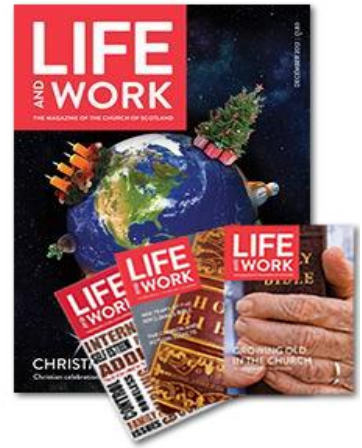
During 2021 some choir members have joined together from their homes, preparing hymns and songs for our online services. This has been fun and allowed some of the choir to continue making music, and keeping the vocal chords in working order!

Thank you to those members who have been able to take part and enhance our online services. (you can listen to all prepared hymns/songs on our YouTube channel)

Life and Work

I know it is only July (nearly August) but it will soon be time to order our Life and Work magazines for next year. There are lots of interesting articles and bits of news in the magazine every month so it is worth a read.

But you don't need to wait until 2022 to subscribe to Life and Work. Why not take advantage of their special offer?



To encourage new subscribers, we are offering a Life and Work Sunday Promotion

Annual PRINT Subscription - Buy 12 issues for the price of 10 and pay ONLY £30
Purchase and save at www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe using promotion code LWS2021

Annual DIGITAL Subscription - Receive 34% OFF when you buy 12 issues and pay ONLY £13.99
Purchase and save at <https://pktmags.com/lwspromo>
Promotions valid until 30 September 2021.

If you order via the Life and Work website, you pay by Direct Debit. If you prefer to pay by cash for the paper edition, please contact me.

Thanks, **Peggy Walker**

4th Bellshill Rainbows



A short note from the Rainbows. Sadly due to Covid we have been unable to meet since March 2020.

Unlike the Guides and Brownies zoom meetings weren't suitable for our age group and this means all activity was suspended. We did try to engage with the Rainbows by offering activity packs but had little interest in this – probably due to all the home schooling!

We are looking forward to restarting our meetings as soon as the hall is available. Until then – stay safe everyone and we can't wait to see you all!

Jane Aitken

CALL FOR SONGS FOR CH4 SUPPLEMENT

Church of Scotland congregations are being asked to suggest songs which they would like to see considered for a new supplement to the Church's hymnal.

The Church's Faith Nurture Forum is currently compiling the supplement to the hymnal, commonly known as CH4, with a planned publication date of 2023.

Phill Mellstrom, Worship Development Worker with Faith Nurture, said: "The demand for a new resource recognises that it is now over 15 years since CH4 was published and that most of the songs in it were written in the 20th century. If we are to enable congregations to renew their worship and new worshipping communities to develop, then we need to resource them with contemporary songs which can complement the rich musical resources the church already has to offer."

Iain McLarty, Worship Development Worker with the Church's Priority Areas team, said: "We would like to hear from congregations about their experience of contemporary congregational song: the songs they have found meaningful to sing in worship and the gaps in their repertoire. We are also looking for songwriters, composers and lyricists to submit songs they have written, so that we can consider these for inclusion."

The project was instructed by the General Assembly of 2019 and approved by Faith Nurture last spring. Hymns Ancient and Modern, publishers of CH4, have agreed to also publish the new supplement.

The congregational survey can be found at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/hymnarysupplement. The deadline is August 27. For more information on the call for songs, visit www.resourcingmission.org.uk/music/ch4-online.

WALKING GROUP



When – Summer months on Tuesdays

Time – 7pm for around 60 minutes

Meeting – outside the church

A small group of folks enjoy a gentle walk, usually around Bellshill, catching up and getting a little exercise. Out with COVID we would gather for coffee in the hall, but whilst restrictions remain we are exploring options to have a coffee somewhere else whilst we are out walking. **If you're interested keep an eye out in the WHATSAPP Chat or contact Alan.**

HOSTS NEEDED FOR COP26

Church members are being urged to consider hosting people coming to Glasgow for the COP26 climate conference in November.

At any UN climate change conference, accommodation in the host city is always expensive and quickly booked up. This is a huge obstacle for people and groups with fewer resources who wish to make their voices heard at the conference.

The COP26 Homestay Network has been launched by the COP26 Coalition and Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (which includes the Church of Scotland and Christian Aid) to offer affordable and community-minded accommodation for activists and scientists representing the Climate Justice movement.

Anyone within an hour's train ride from Glasgow who has available accommodation – anything from an open floor or sofa to a whole house – can sign up as a host, and charge a fair price for their space. They will be contacted by prospective guests and are free to accept or decline any request. For more details, visit www.humanhotel.com/cop26/

Online Prayer Group

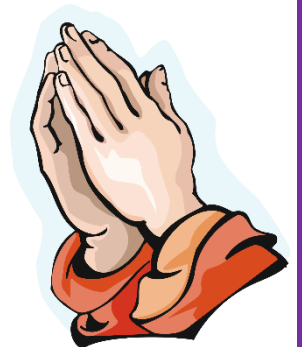
Since Lent this year our Church now has its very own weekly online prayer group.

We generally meet on Monday evenings at 7pm for half an hour. We hear a song or two, a scripture reading and then our prayers. Sometimes due to other commitments we meet on other days.

Taking part are 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 used materials for the period of Lent, helping us to reflect and respond to the word of God. We hoped that our prayer group would continue after Lent, and it has! We would encourage you consider joining us, please let Kevin or Alan.

Visit our page here to find out more and watch the recordings of our time of prayer <https://bellshillcentral.church/prayer-group/>





TWIN YOUR FRIDGE TO SAVE LIVES TODAY

By donating £30 to twin your fridge, you help provide emergency food and livelihood support to families across the world who are suffering most from the economic impact of Covid-19.

When you twin, you'll get a fridge magnet set so you can customise your fridge to show your support for this urgent recovery programme.

Please visit <https://appeals.toilettwinning.org/> to find out more and possibly make a donation and **TWIN YOUR FRIDGE** to support some of the more vulnerable families across the world.

You may remember a few years ago we successfully twinned our church toilets and one of the manse toilets after a very enjoyable BIG HYMN SING. Perhaps once we are able to gather normally in church for a long over due evening of praise we could twin our Church Fridge in support of this initiative?

If you decide to twin your own fridge please let us know and we can share the news!

OUR BROWNIES



So it's been a challenging year for the Brownies and adapting everything we do to try to enable the girls to continue to support each other through such a challenging time wasn't easy. So after months of waiting for the world to return to normal we made the decision to try to go online using zoom meetings! This was not easy, as we soon figured that the activities we thought would work DIDN'T! But through many meetings with leaders and pinging emails back and forth we finally found material we could use.

The girls spent an hour each week where we would start with a fun activity: the girls loved a scavenger hunt (although, I'm not so sure about the parents when they were running around. 🙈) closely followed by Would You Rather and Heads And Tails .

We worked hard to complete challenges on the Window on the World badge which we sourced on the Girl Guiding website.

We designed our very own safari vehicles, tried making origami animals and worry dolls. We made up quizzes, tried drawing manga art (which the kids did with ease, shame the same wasn't said for the adults). We then found out about traditional clothing of Asia, and designed our own surf boards from Australia. One week we even planted our very own sunflowers, which were a success! We learned a dance and performed it to each other before having fun trying out Tik Tok dances. We even tried some mindfulness Yoga!

The girls appeared to really enjoy these meetings, however we are really looking forward to returning to a more normalised meeting back in the hall to run about and returning to some arts n crafts and baking, where all our materials are in the one place.

Stacey Sneddon



Welcome Back! We've missed you!

*Our doors are re-opening and we're so excited to see you again!
Although many things have changed during this time,
our friendly service and warm welcome certainly hasn't.
We've introduced additional measures in the centre to help keep everyone safe.*



Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre, Busby Road, Bellshill, ML4 2BW
01698 842215 facebook.com/onc.bellshill oncbellshill.org



Save the Date

Save the date for the reopening of Theo's Café
Tuesday 3rd August

We will have a phased return and have changed our opening hours to:
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10.00am – 2.00pm

We have missed you and are excited to see you.
Come along and try our new menu and enjoy a free drink and
home-made cake with our compliments, on your first visit in August.

We need volunteers to help with reopening. Contact
volunteer@oncbellshill.org
with your details, thank you!

THANK YOU!

Hi everyone, I just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped contribute to the **Lockdown Chronicle** over the last 18 months or so. When I produced the first version none of us expected to be still here in Summer 2021, but it was important to keep connected, share our stories, and still hear what was happening in and around Bellshill Central Parish Church.

Thank you to Stan and all the elders for distributing some paper copies to those folks not online, and to those who gladly shared their time and talents, to keep our members and friends informed, connected and amused.

This will hopefully be the last Lockdown Chronicle. Lawson and Jean Kyle will take over the usual version of the Church Magazine in the coming months. We've created new ideas and expressions of communication over these last 18 months and it's my hope we don't lose the massive online community we have gathered together – just think of these online followers as an extension to our congregation!

Thanks again, Alan Mathew

CHURCH FINANCES

Everyone in the Finance and Fundraising Teams thank every single member, friend and supporter of BCPC for your generous giving over the last 18 months. It's been a very challenging time for BCPC but together we pulled through!

FUNDRAISING – Jane and the team decided that this year things needed to be done differently. We are all challenged to fill up our jars, tins, tubs etc with donations that might value the events and fundraising activities that would normally take place. The £2 Summer Fundraisers have been ongoing throughout 2021 – this year done differently of course!

Anne Dillon has once again been making her WORLD FAMOUS tablet. Susan McGleish has been planting out beautiful baskets and tubs. Alan Mathew has held a Hymnathon. Many of you all have donated money each time you have been vaccinated! There are countless other ventures quietly being done and we are very grateful to everyone.

GIVING SUNDAY – on our first Sunday back for in-person Church services we are designating as Giving Sunday. You are invited to bring in your Fundraising Jars/Tins and leave them at the Church. Your time, talents and generous donations will be dedicated during the service by Rev Kevin de Beer.

DIAL IN CHURCH – ON THE PHONE!

At present we provide the Church Service over the phone. Whilst we continue to worship online this dial in option will continue, and after we return to in-person services we will review if the dial in number is still required. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO STILL USE THE DIAL IN NUMBER PLEASE LET US KNOW.

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 and 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.

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

PROVISIONAL WORSHIP CALENDAR

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2021

AUGUST

Sunday 1st August – from 10:45am (online only)

Followed by Zoom Coffee Catch Up at 12noon

Sunday 5th August – from 10:45am (online only)

Sunday 15th August – from 10:45am (online only)

Sunday 22nd August – from 10:45am (online only)

Sunday 29th August – from 10:45am (online only)



SEPTEMBER

Sunday 5th September – possible in person service 11am (online from 10:45am)

Followed by Zoom Coffee Catch Up at 12:30pm

Sunday 12th September – possible in person service 11am (online from 10:45am)

PLEASE NOTE: This should be our September Communion Service, but due to the potential re-opening of the church for in-person services with COVID restrictions still in place we have decided to postpone the Sacrament of Communion until December.

Sunday 19th September – in person service 11am (online from 10:45am)

Sunday 26th September – in person service 11am (online from 10:45am)

CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister Rev Kevin de Beer

Session Clerk Stanley Cook

Clerk to the Board Catherine Bryden

Treasurer June Cook

Finance Convenor & Presbytery Elder Zandra Swan

Property Convenor Drew Aitken

Fundraising Jane Aitken

Organist & Webmaster Alan Mathew

Roll Keeper & Magazine Editor Lawson Kyle

Young Church (Sunday School) Susan McGleish

For all other organisations, or hall letting enquiries, please contact the church via our email address hello@bellshillcentral.church