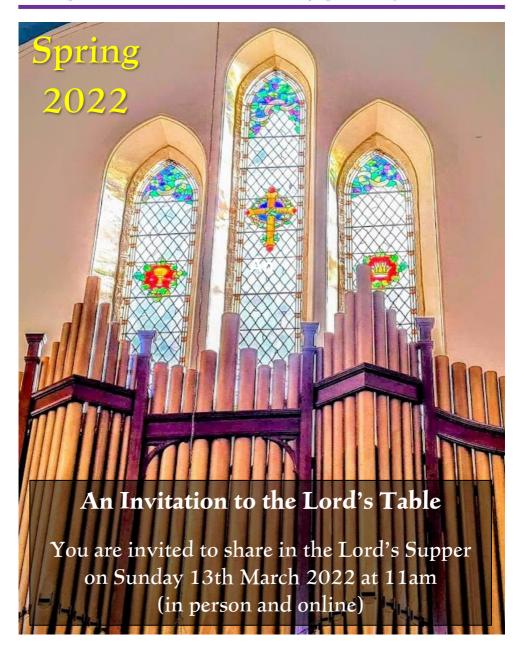


The Magazine of Bellshill Central Parish Church of Scotland | Registered Charity Number: SC012556



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Spring Chronicle. You will find the usual contributors and some updates from our organisations, and it's pleasing to see some things returning to normal!

As this edition was being put together we were being battered by storms, such as Dudley, Eunice and Franklin. Coincidentally Kevin's theme the previous Sunday was God is Faithful and the hymns that I chose made reference to the Solid Rock, and Fastened to the Rock, the storms of life etc – perhaps that was a bit of an omen! Hopefully we have all survived the extreme weather and are looking forward to Spring and all the colour and new life that the season brings. The cover picture is of our wonderful Macdonald Memorial window in the Church often obscured by the organ pipes. Doesn't it look resplendent in glorious sunshine?

The Chronicle acts as your invitation to the Lord's Supper, celebrated quarterly, so the next edition will be available at the end of May, and deadline for copy for that is 22 May 2022.

The easiest way to pass on info is by email to hello@bellshillcentral.church

Thanks, Alan (huge thank you to the super proof reader Peggy!)

ONLINE LINKS

Website <u>www.bellshillcentral.church</u>

Facebook <u>www.facebook.com/bellshillchurch</u>
Twitter <u>www.twitter.com/bellshillchurch</u>
YouTube <u>www.youtube.com/c/bellshillchurch</u>

FROM THE MANSE

Greetings all

As we head toward Lent and Easter, I would like to thank you for the privilege of sharing a few thoughts as to my understanding and appreciation of God.



God is so much more than our limited definitions of 'Him' and yet we do find ourselves participating in a rich conversation about those who have gone ahead of us and have sought to worship 'Him'. In the year 2017 I eventually managed to consolidate my own thoughts and write them down in a set of two books simply entitled: "Let us chat".

This year I am using the thoughts expressed in the first of those books — "Let us chat: God, Creation, Humanity and more..." as background material for a series of sermons. My honest hope and prayer is that we will all sense ourselves invited to a continued conversation with God as well as a practical response to the presence of God at work in the world. At the time of writing this letter (the beginning of February) we have already reflected on the truths that — a) God is Love. b) God is Trinitarian Love and c) God is Free.

I am thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to share my thoughts as they have been tried and tested in the world of pastoral experience and repeated response to the demands of worship, prayer and obedience. They are thoughts deeply rooted in my own wrestling with God over the years and, as fellow pilgrims, on this amazing journey I would like to thank you for receiving my ministry so graciously.

Questions as to God's nature have travelled with me for a long while now. It was as a teenager that I first experienced God's grace and since then I have been made aware of the many and varied pitfalls that seem to frustrate this most treasured and yet elusive gift.

It would seem to me that God plays what I might term a form of 'hide and seek' with creation and invites us to join in the game, the dance, the music, the story, the drama, the search...

My own participation in the drama has been shaped by a variety of theologians and thinkers over the years, but it was the work of Adrio Konig (a South African Reformed theologian) that eventually persuaded me that it would be helpful to try and pen a few thoughts of my own.

My honest hope is that as you journey with me this year we might all find ourselves surprised by God's grace. We all have a part to play, thank you for the privilege of letting me share something of my own small part in God's extraordinary story...

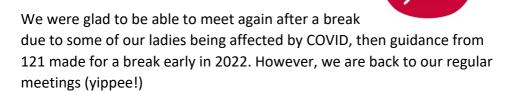
Kind regards Kevin de Beer

CLOTHES SHOW RETURNS

Anne Guy is pleased to announce that the next Clothes Show will take place on **Monday 30 May 2022 at the Neighbourhood Centre**. Tickets will be on sale at church during May. The limited numbers & track and trace details last time didn't dampen the atmosphere. We all had fun and raised a good amount for church funds. So save the date and your pennies!

GUILD NEWS

Hello and here is an update from the Guild, by way of a re-cap of our previous meetings.



- After two weeks off, the Guild met on Monday, 15 November, when we discussed Fruits of the Bible.
- On 22 November we had a Bring and Buy afternoon raising funds for the Guild.
- On 29 November we had our St. Andrew's Celebration with Oatcakes and Cheese.
- On 6 December we had a Beetle Drive which was a lot of fun.
- On 13 December we had Mince Pies and Carols.
- Mondays 20 December, 27 December and 3 January were holidays.
- We had to cancel our Meetings on 10 January and 17 January due to a directive from The Church of Scotland.
- We resumed on 24 January when we had an excellent Speaker for our Burns' Celebration. We had Oatcakes and Cheese and Shortbread.
- On 31 January we had a Holy Beetle Drive which everyone enjoyed.
- On 7 February we had a Speaker from one of the Guild Projects Beat Eating Disorders. This turned out to be a most interesting subject and the lady told us of her own personal story of having had an eating disorder.

We are a friendly bunch. Why not come and join us. Men are welcome too. Hope to see you there. Mondays at 1.30pm.

Liz Morton
President

COIN BOXES

So far this year (up to 14 February) we have received £33.84 via the coin boxes. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed. It is much appreciated. If you have been saving coins for the church and you would like them to be collected, please let me know; 01698 842744. Thanks. The exercise will do me good!

Peggy Walker

CARPET BOWLS

It is great to hear that the Church Carpet Bowling Club has resumed. Another sign that things are slowly returning to normal. The bowlers have decided to move to Wednesday afternoons, instead of Wednesday evenings.

If you would like to join them please come along on Wednesdays for a 2pm start in the church hall. You are guaranteed a very warm welcome, a warm cup of tea or coffee and an entertaining afternoon!

If you would like more information speak to Jim Mackie or Bobby Walker.



Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre (ONC) is delighted to welcome the community back into our buildings after the festive break.

- Theo's Cafe opens Monday to Thursday. Call in anytime between
 9.30am to 3.00pm to enjoy lunch, snacks or just a cuppa.
- Older People's Day Service resumed 25 January Tuesday and Thursdays, with a view to increasing days as demand increases. For enquiries about Day Care places contact Maureen 01698 573250.
- Men's Group returned Monday 1st February, with plans to resume Friday sessions shortly.
- Petals flower arrangers continue to meet Thursdays from 1.30pm,
- Bellshill Scouts and Fool On expected to resume weekly meetings in the Main Hall.

ONC has other slots and rooms available in our weekly timetable for groups looking for a base from which to deliver their activities or start new groups. For any enquiries for room hire call into the Centre during opening hours, or email your contact details to info@oncbellshill.org.

ONC continues to support people in Bellshill with emergency food donations. We'd like to thank all those who donated food over the festive break. We're always looking to top up our food stores so any new donations would be warmly received to be passed on to those struggling over the winter period.

A particular thanks to the members of Bellshill Central Church for their ongoing support to the Emergency Food Donations, they have helped countless service users in difficult times.



Volunteers – ONC needs new volunteers to support our existing services and activities and also to help with new activities we're looking to start in the coming weeks on the back of the pandemic. Previous experience volunteering with ONC is not necessary; just enthusiasm and willingness to care for others. To get involved, email your contact details to volunteer@oncbellshill.org. We look forward to meeting you!

The new calendar year marks 27 years since opening ONC to the community. We've always had good relationships with other groups, partners and funders who have supported our work and believe that partnership working is at the heart of what we do. We are therefore delighted to be welcoming Homestart North Lanarkshire, who are moving their team into ONC as a base for their work supporting children and families in Bellshill. We believe this will create new partnership opportunities, and further support for families in the community.

ONC - BUSBY RD, BELLSHILL ML4 2BW

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH WELCOMES REV JASON LINGIAH!

Dear friends at Central

It is very kind of you to invite me to pen a few words in your magazine.

I arrived to be Minister of St Andrew's United Free Church in December, a week before Christmas in the midst of the chaos of restrictions, but have battled through!

It was somewhat ironic too that I was almost homeless at Christmas with the St Andrew's



Manse not being available until March, and therefore I commuted for a couple of weeks before moving into a house temporarily on the Main Street just before Hogmanay. It's a bit more noisy and 'lively' compared to living in an Edwardian cul-de-sac in Alloa, where I was minister before, in a linked charge with Menstrie. It is good to come back to this neck of the woods as I was brought up outside of Glasgow, albeit I have spent most of my adult life prior to entering the ministry in Edinburgh.

We live in particularly challenging times with the restrictions that we operate in, but the real challenge to the evangelical churches is ministering in a culture where many are not brought up in the Christian narrative and the things of God are foreign to them, as well as the challenge of being true to the values of the Gospel, despite them being very different from the ways of the world. However, the fields are ripe for harvest, and with God's strength, I pray that we may all be harvesters for His Kingdom in the town's churches.

We are having a special service to mark the 260th anniversary of St Andrew's Church and Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Thursday 21 April, followed by refreshments, and all are welcome to join us to celebrate and mark these two milestones. More information on these and other special events may be found on our website and Facebook page.

With best wishes,

Rev. Jason Lingiah St Andrew's Church



CLLR ANGELA CAMPBELL

Spring is a beautiful season; it always lifts my spirits as the hours of daylight increase and the appearance of the lovely spring flowers. I always feel much brighter when I see the first snowdrops, then the lovely colourful crocuses and finally the daffodils, narcissi and tulips.



It is a season of new life as we see the leaves reappearing on the trees, the lambs in the fields and nests appearing in the trees. This year there is a ray of hope that we are moving forward to a new normality, as we appear to be getting to the end of the pandemic.

Ash Wednesday starts the season of Lent when we prepare for Easter and the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Baptisms often take place at Easter representing the new life or fresh start that people receive when they become Christians.

Here in Bellshill we will hopefully see new life in our town as we slowly emerge from the pandemic. Many new community initiatives started and a number continue to flourish. It is



good that you are planning to restart your prayer and a walk – a walk is always better in company.

Some groups have started to look at improving the appearance of our town with the Braehead Residents looking after their area;

- Bellshill Community Council and their Make Bellshill Beautiful Campaign
- Litter Picks already started but more to come; the Garden on the Bing group reclaiming the area as somewhere people can use for leisure;

 and the young people who are taking part in the Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award who are taking on cleaning up the "sandy park" and Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have offered their assistance.

If you pass any of the groups please give them encouragement and volunteers always welcome.

Email Angela - campbellang@northlan.gov.uk
Keep up to date via Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/Cllr-Angela-Campbell-Cllr-Harry-Curran-for-Bellshill-751036908397422

WALKING GROUP

Heart and Sole walking group will be starting up soon, we hope. We had planned to meet in February but the weather wasn't kind to us so we didn't bother – it would have been MAD to try.

Once the better weather appears we will resume Tuesday nights for an hour then a cuppa and a cake, usually at Café Guy and occasionally in the Church Hall.

We hope to take part in the Christian Aid take 300,000 steps campaign. Please see page 17 for more details of how you too can take part.

If you are interested in coming along, speak to Alan Mathew, Anne Guy or Zandra Swan who will keep you right.

CHURCH HISTORY

The building we worship in celebrates its 150th Anniversary in 2023. It was formerly known as Bellshill Free Church, the East UF Church, Macdonald Memorial Church and now Bellshill Central Parish Church. The last booklet was the Centenary booklet produced in 1973.



The Macdonald Memorial Church 1873 - 1973

To say a lot has changed is an understatement! There's been new ministers, new manses, halls demolished, new roof, linkages and unions!

The time is now right to bring our church history right up to date and we are going to produce the next 50 years in a piublication called "The Story of a Church – 346 Main Street – 1973-2023" and we want you to be part of it.

We need you!!!

You're invited to send in your random memories of the last 50 years – let us see what we get! Random bits of news can be more interesting than just a list of things.

Look through your old pictures of church events, occasions, groups etc and let us borrow them to compile the picture element of the book.

Former members and friends of Orbiston Parish Church are invited to send in items from this branch of our family tree over the past 50 years too. Our union has been happy, productive and fruitful and we want to record similar milestone events from Busby Road.

PRAYER GROUP

This is now an integral part of our life at BCPC and it proves to be such a continued blessing. We meet via Zoom, we listen, we read scripture, we read some prayers and Kevin leads us in intercessions for ourselves and each other.



New members to our group are welcome. Just ask for the joining link or code (usually they are in the weekly pews news).

If you can't take part when we meet, or you feel you want to pray on your own (and this is ok!) you can take part by watching our time together via the Church Website https://bellshillcentral.church/prayer-group/

AMAZON SMILE

By using Amazon Smile and looking for **Bellshill: Central Parish Church of Scotland** you can set up Amazon Donates so that BCPC get a



donation from Amazon each time you shop. All at no extra cost to you. Remember every penny counts and your support is greatly appreciated.

Places what we have visited - ANSWERS - from Lawson and Jim

- 1 Auchenheath, 2 Auldton, 3 Brocketsbrae, 4 Carluke, 5 Climpy, 6 Coulter,
- 7 Devonburn, 8 Dillaburn, 9 Dolphinton, 10 Draffen, 11 Elsrickle,
- 12 Glassford, 13 Hamilton, 14 Hawksland, 15 Larkhall, 16 Lesmahagow,
- 17 Libbberton, 18 Netherburn, 19 Quothquan, 21 Tillietudlum, 22 Wandel,
- 23 Whitecastle, 24 Wishaw

LET'S GET STARTED!

(by Rabbie Guy)



Well things are really looking up, our Church is on the go I just can't believe it, but I want you all to know

We may be golden oldies, but we're ready to take part Cause the bowling it has started and some ladies have joined the pack

I've heard a little story, I hope that it is true
It may not be too very long, before the choir practice is
starting too

And what about our children, we need to see them so Come on folks, the Guild, it started many months ago

I know we have to take our time, of that I have no doubt But we've all waited for so long, my patience is running out

And Kevin, Stan and Alan, we appreciate so very much All you have done to get us back to Bellshill Central Parish Church

COMMUNION SEASON 2022

Dates when we will be celebrating Communion in the coming months are as follows

- Sunday 13 March 2022 11am in the Season of Lent
- Sunday 17 April 2022 Easter Sunday Informal for all ages at 11am
- Sunday 12 June 2022 11am on Trinity Sunday
- Sunday 11 September 2022 11am (remembering the 9/11 anniversary)

There will be a retiring offering at each of these services, please if you are able bring along a monetary gift for our chosen charities - details will be in the pews news in the weeks beforehand.

Please be assured that all precautions for COVID-19 are taken in the preparation and distribution of the Bread and Wine. However, if you wish to bring your own Bread and Wine to use then that is ok.



ORGAN CONCERT

To mark the organ's 90th birthday we had planned a concert with David Fisher on 29 December. The COVID-19 Omicron Variant put all that on hold. We are pleased to announce that we are having a Holy Week Organ Meditation Concert on Wednesday 13 April, with David Fisher.

If you bought a ticket for the December date please just keep it safe and use it later there is no need for refunds or new tickets. Tickets will be available from Alan or any choir members.

Tea and Coffee should be able to be served afterwards so that is great news (you can put your flasks away once more) and there might be some famous BCPC home baking too!!!

OUR NEXT ORGAN HYMN-ATHON



Raising much needed funds for our Church here in Bellshill.



It's simple: take 300,000 sponsored steps throughout the month of May. You'll raise vital funds for communities battling the worst of this climate crisis.

Our steps challenge clocks in at just under 10,000 steps a day.

You can do the challenge alone or with a team, supporting each other to reach your goal. Whether you decide to walk, jump, skip, hop or run your steps is completely up to you!

Join the challenge in three easy steps:

- 1. Sign up and order your very own Christian Aid t-shirt
- 2. Set up your JustGiving fundraising page
- Join our 300,000 steps in May Facebook group. Connect with other people taking on the challenge, support and motivate each other, and share tips

You can choose the t-shirt size on the form - check the size guide if you're not sure which to get.

Step by step, we can change lives. Thank you for stepping up and turning hunger into hope.

www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/challenge-yourself

OUR STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

We are very blessed with the beautiful and intricate stained glass windows we have in our church. Stained Glass windows were originally placed in places of worship for two reasons

- 1) To beautify the House of God
- 2) To tell the bible stories to the people who were unable to read the stories from the Holy Bible

Nowadays stained glass windows still have the same purpose but of course we are all able to read ourselves, watch movies and learn about the bible in different ways!

However, windows in churches such as ours were generally installed to commemorate a significant event, the memory of a loved one or by a benefactor wishing to leave their mark for future generations.

Our "oldest" stained glass window is the Macdonald Memorial Window – a triple light window located high up behind the organ pipes (featured on this edition's front cover). It commemorates three significant dates in the life of the former Macdonald Memorial Church

- The window on the left has a Communion Cup in the middle of it and the date **1873** at the bottom, commemorating the first communion.
- The middle window has a Cross in the centre and the date at the foot is 1912, commemorating a change of name from Bellshill East UF Church to Macdonald Memorial UF Church.
- The right window shows a Crown in the middle and the date is 1923 marking the 50th anniversary of Bellshill Free Church's first service.

The four central windows were gifted by Matthew Corbett, in memory of his son Sergeant James Brownlie Corbett of the Royal Air Force, who was shot down and killed over Holland on 26 May 1943. They were dedicated on 7 October 1962.

The Miracles of Jesus



Christmas Window



On our website it says "These windows were designed and fitted by the Abbey Studio under the direction of Frank Ryan." There is a unique motif on one of them of a Bishops Mitre (have a look for it next time you are in church) and this would suggest that it is actually the Abbey Studios based in Glasgow and Edinburgh, not Ireland where Frank Ryan worked.

There was a great deal of debate online in various Facebook forums trying to ascertain the background of the designer and those responsible for the execution of the work.

First of all a Margaret Chilton was considered as a possible candidate for the design of the windows, but she would have been in her late 80s when the windows were installed. Not impossible but unlikely. Further "digging" realised she left Abbey Studios before our windows would have been conceived.

The Stained Glass designer James Crombie worked with Abbey Studios. Whilst it's not known when his association with Abbey started we know it ended in 1963. Works by Crombie of this period are similar to our four central windows, but because designers at Abbey either didn't or weren't allowed to sign their windows we can't be sure if they are by James Crombie. We are still trying to find out, as it will be good to know the background to the windows for our Church history.

Easter Sunday

Good Friday

We will look at some more of our windows, the story behind them, a bit about their design, execution etc in our next Chronicle.

Please do have a close up look at the downstairs windows next time you are in Church. We're blessed to have such a fine collection of windows.

FUNDRAISING NOTE

The fundraising team would like to thank you for all of your support during the last year. Your response has been amazing whenever there has been an opportunity to raise some much-needed Church funds.

Hopefully this year we will be able to start by having a few events in more normal settings.

Easter - We are hoping to have Easter cards and possibly some small gifts for you to purchase on the run up to Easter Sunday.

Queen's Jubilee Celebrations – as in the past it is intended that we will mark the Queen's Jubilee with a get together in the hall. This may take the form of a Jubilee Lunch and hopefully we will be able to recreate the Jubilee Pudding from the current competition.

We will have more events in the future as our Church returns to normal – keep your eyes and ears open and watch those screens!

Many thanks

Jane & the fundraising team



At the end of February our Rainbows helped their new leader Holly celebrate her engagement. I am so delighted to be writing this keeping you updated about our Rainbow Unit after being off for so long.



There are lots of girls who have sadly missed out on becoming a Rainbow due to Covid however on a much better note we have started back up again and we have been so lucky with the girls that we have at the moment.

We don't have quite as many as usual however our numbers have gone up over the last few weeks which is very encouraging.

We have also been really lucky to have a new leader called Holly to help us. She has fitted in so well and I know she will be a perfect member of our team.

The girls have been so busy as we have started working towards our Nature badge which has involved finishing the frieze which is currently on our board in the hall.

All the girls have now made their Promise and it is so lovely to see their badges on their uniforms.

We are going to be making musical instruments and the girls are looking forward to making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday!

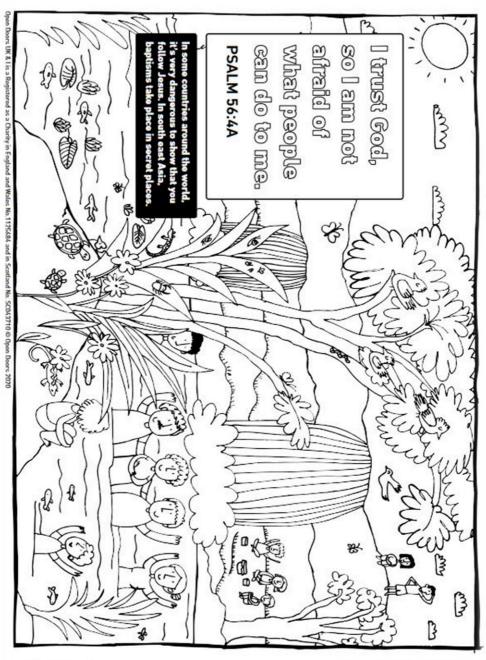
Keep safe everyone and remember things can only get better!!!

Chemaine

SWEETIE QUIZ

Thanks to Peggy for this quiz, which will keep you amused for an afternoon – answers provided next time!

- 1. Our planet is at one end of this...
- 2. Where Martians go for a drink?
- 3. A 'jolly test' confused
- 4. Edible Fastenings
- 5. Spider or Batman or maybe yours is Beckham or Martin Luther King
- 6. Anthea Redferm used to give Bruce one
- 7. A coat for your vehicle
- 8. Mariner's Pal
- 9. What the cows might carry their produce on
- 10. Wise guys
- 11. Pleased to be in Istanbul
- 12. Otherwise known as Ten pin bowling
- 13. Fallen Fruits
- 14. Inhabitants of Mediterranean Island
- 15. Corks for the mouth
- 16. Little Richard's Favourites
- 17. Pirates Loot
- 18. Did he promise a garden full of these?
- 19. Gear for Felines
- 20. London has big Red ones
- 21. Throw the stone and see them go
- 22. So good, the French man said it twice
- 23. What Scrooge thought of Christmas
- 24. Wobbly infants Jelly
- 25. 9, 10, 11



Open Doors

www.opendoorsuk.org

DIARY DATES

SUNDAY WORSHIP takes place each week beginning at 11am in the Sanctuary. We live stream at www.facebook.com/bellshillchurch/videos

Kevin's themes for March are:

Sunday 6 March 2022 - First Sunday in Lent

Theme: Out of the wilderness

Tea & Coffee Served afterwards in the hall

Sunday 13 March 2022 - Second Sunday in Lent

Theme: The face of freedom

Communion and Baptism Service

Sunday 20 March 2022 - Third Sunday in Lent

Theme: I am who I am

Sunday 27 March 2022 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Theme: Claiming our inheritance

Season of Lent begins on 2 March

Palm Sunday - 10 April

Bring your Palm Branches as we Enter Jerusalem!

Wednesday 13 April – 7pm Organ Meditations for Holy Week with

David Fisher in concert (ticketed event)

Easter Sunday - 17 April

9am early service outdoors, followed by breakfast in the hall 11am Whole Church All Age Service with Communion

Saturday 14 May – 8am-4pm Organ HYMNATHON online and in person

Monday 30 May - Clothes Show at the Neighbourhood Centre

Pentecost - Sunday 5 June Wear Red to Church

Teas and Coffees are generally served in the Hall after the Morning Service on the first Sunday of the month.

FUNERALS

Since the last Chronicle our Minister, Kevin de Beer, has conducted the following funerals. Please remember each person, their families and loved ones in your prayers

- 2 December Margaret Caulfield
- 2 December William Anderson
- 6 December Elizabeth Newlands
- 9 December Moira Irvine
- 13 December Elizabeth Anne McMillan
- 16 December Neil Walker
- 23 December Margaret Rodgers
- 23 December Elizabeth McPharlane
- 13 January Gary Husband
- 18 January George Palmer
- 18 January David Brown
- 19 January Lorraine Wotherspoon
- 24 January John McConnell
- 27 January Thomas Welsh
- 1 February Agnes Stewart
- 8 February Elizabeth McDermott
- 14 February Greer Anderson
- 14 February Daniel Fraser

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister Rev Kevin de Beer

The Manse, 32 Adamson St,

Bellshill, ML4 1DT Tel: 01698 841176

Email kevindebeer@btinternet.com

Session Clerk Stanley Cook

Board Clerk Catherine Bryden

Finance Convenor &

Presbytery Elder

Zandra Swan

Treasurer June Cook

Gift Aid Donis Hudson

Property Drew Aitken

Fundraising Jane Aitken

Young Church &

Church Flowers

Susan McGleish

Guild Sheena Bowman

(secretary)

Roll Keeper Lawson Kyle

Communications &

Church Organist

Alan Mathew

RainbowsJane AitkenChemaine JarvieBrowniesStacey SneddonRobyn Aitken

Guides Emily Aitken

Bowling Jim Mackie Bobby Walker