

The Central *Chr* *nicle*

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

Coronation Special – Summer 2023



You are invited!

**A Songs of Praise Service on Sunday 11th June
at 11am – ALL ARE WELCOME!**

AN INTRODUCTION FROM OUR INTERIM MODERATOR

Dear Friends,

First may I introduce myself for those of you I have not had the pleasure to meet yet. My name is Duncan Macpherson. I have been a Church of Scotland minister for 30 years this year, the last 20 of which I have served as a chaplain in the Royal Army Chaplains' Department or RACHD as we call it. I currently serve as the Denominational Representative Chaplain for the Church of Scotland to the RACHD as the senior Church of Scotland chaplain.

For the next wee while, Presbytery has asked me to walk alongside you as Interim Moderator in Kevin's absence. It is a joy and privilege to do so.

I am married to Jill, and our three children are just about all grown up, our youngest leaves school this year. It seems only yesterday I was dodging nappy changes on Operational Tours.

As some of you may know I have just had the incredible privilege of leading the detachment of chaplains who marched in the Coronation Parade. Show me any of the TV coverage and I will be able to tell you which dot is me (fortunately for everyone there were no close ups).

The seven of us were a very diverse bunch. We represented the diversity of our department in terms of background and denomination, but as we put in the hard yards together (the rehearsals and parade meant we marched more than seventy miles in seven days) we overcome aches, pains and blisters the size of golf balls.

Along the way we were surprised by each other, fell out with each other, made up and learned from each other as we shared our backgrounds and different faith traditions. We may not have reached complete harmony, but we all ended up going in the same direction and more or less in step with each other.

Chaplains are not known for their sparkling drill, and we had to learn some new and nifty drill moves along the way under the instruction of our kindly drill instructors (well, maybe kindly is the wrong word...). It was faltering at times and there were a few unintended collisions, and maybe a little muttering under the breath - we are all human after all. But thanks to God, none of us ended up on a blooper reel.

Over the next while as we walk together with Jesus as our guide and teacher, we may not always get it right as we navigate the next few steps in the faith journey of the Church. I pray, however, we learn together, are patient with each other and rejoice together that we are loved by our wonderful God and that in Jesus' name love each other.

Every blessing in Christ,
Duncan Macpherson.



EDITORIAL

It's been a season of firsts lately. The death of a Monarch who reigned for 70 years, the first death of a Monarch many of us have experienced. The accession of the oldest Heir Apparent to the throne of the United Kingdom. More locally, firsts for our Church with joint services in a new cluster grouping of Bellshill Central, Bellshill West and Bothwell Parish Churches. It is indeed a time of uncertainty for us all as we embrace change, whether we like it or not.

So, here's a quote from Queen Elizabeth II which is very relevant:
"It's worth remembering that it is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change."

Be aware of the changes, remember that some will take change in their stride and others less so. Be there for each other, and let us all travel the journey of change **TOGETHER!**

Alan and Peggy

ONLINE LINKS

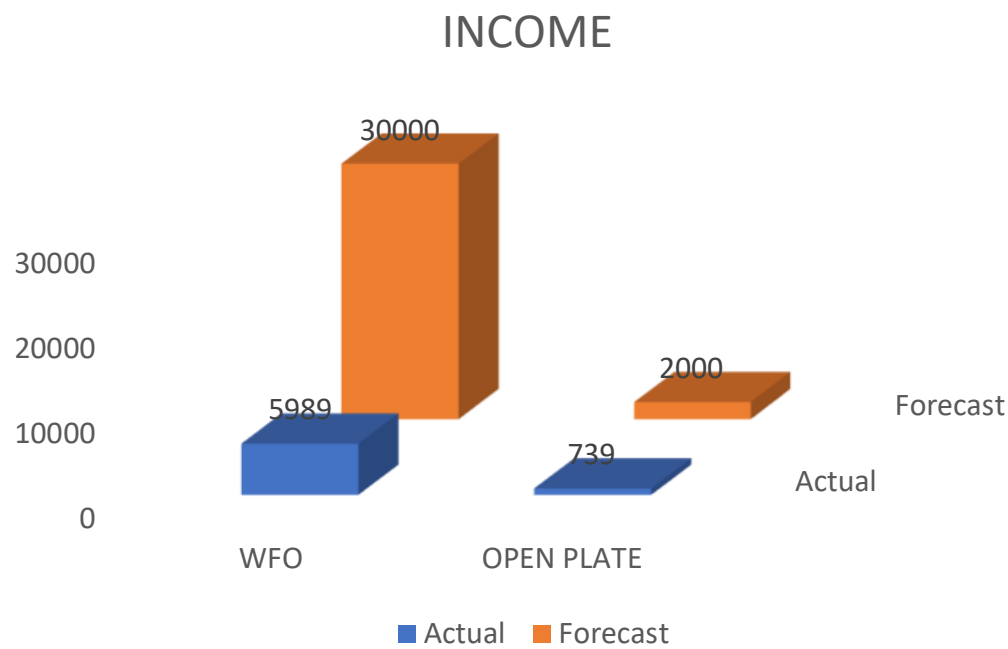
Website	www.bellshillcentral.church
Facebook	www.facebook.com/bellshillchurch
Twitter	www.twitter.com/bellshillchurch
YouTube	www.youtube.com/bellshillchurch

COINS

Between 20 March and 15 May 2023, we received £86.88 via the Coin Boxes which compares with £160.63 in the same period last year. Sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed!

Peggy Walker

FINANCE UPDATE



WFO for the 3 months ended 31 March 2023 amounts to £5989 which represents 20% of our target for the year. An indication that we are 5% behind where we would like to be. Open Plate, however, has exceeded our target as we welcome more visitors. This trend is reflected throughout the Church of Scotland as membership is in decline.

Thank you to every member and visitor of our congregation for your generous donations. We are very grateful for your support and hard work on our behalf.

Zandra Swan

GUIDE THINKING DAY

On Sunday 19th February we welcomed our Guiding Units to Church for a Guide Thinking Day Service. This was the first Thinking Day Service since the union of Macdonald and Orbiston Churches.

It was an all age service, led by Alan, with quizzes and over head pictures, thinking all about creation, which is the Girl Guiding theme. Emily and Chemaine read the bible, and the girls helped uplift the offering. Jane presented Thinking Day Badges to the girls who came along. Some pictures are included below.



THE RAINBOWS

We have had another busy session as the girls have been working so hard and managed to get all the badges done to obtain their Silver Award along with the four girls going up to Brownies who have also obtained their Gold Award too.

We are so proud of them all as they have had lots of fun doing all the different things to achieve the above.

One of the things we have done is build a bridge made completely out of straws which was so good it didn't collapse when they drove the toy cars along it!

They have had an Easter Egg Hunt, made Mother's Day gifts, made a frieze showing the different seasons and even done Yoga (sort of!!!).

We have also had a sponsored dance night to raise funds which was so much fun and all the girls did so well and managed to raise money to help with arts and crafts and the Census which is due each year.

All the girls have now made their Promise and the girls moving up to Brownies have all completed their Pot of Gold section in their Handbook and they are now looking forward to moving on to the next stage within Girl Guiding. We all wish them well and have enjoyed having them each Tuesday night.

The Rainbows will start back at 6 pm on Tuesday 29th of August.
Wishing you all a lovely long summer and may the sun shine



Chemaine Jarvie



At Mossend Primary School we have been working hard to develop our playground as we understand that great play has a positive impact on children's mental and physical health. We have introduced new resources to play with and the children have been enjoying playing with the resources and it's lovely to see so many of them engaged in imaginative and creative play. We are looking for more donations to enhance our loose parts play. We are still looking for the following:

- Milk/bread crates
- Cable reels
- Plastic piping
- Guttering

We also have lots of pallets and we are desperate for helpers to come and turn them into marvellous creations so if you can help, please let us know.

Thanks

Pamela Johnston
Principal Teacher
Mossend Primary School

THE GUILD

At our AGM in March, the Treasurer tendered her resignation. However, we are grateful that another member agreed to take on the role. In the meantime, it is hoped to have the necessary Bank changes made before our new session begins in October.

The closing social, the following week took the form of a lunch at The Rolling Barrel. Twenty-seven members enjoyed some good food and fellowship.

On 3rd April the first of our monthly outings took place to Garrion Bridge Garden Centre. Our next monthly outing was on Monday 1st May when nine of us enjoyed a trip to Mackinnon Mills.

Sincere thanks to all the lady drivers who are willing to take the ladies away for the day. We look forward to these monthly outings which are greatly enjoyed, appreciated and an excellent way for us to keep in touch during the summer months.

The syllabus for 2023/24 has all been finalised and we look forward to resuming our weekly meetings on 2nd October with a joint Communion Service with our friends at Burnhead Parish Church. Details will be announced nearer the time.

Sheena Bowman

LITTER PICK

As part of our Coronation weekend we had planned a Community Litter Pick. Unfortunately it had to be cancelled as the local refuse site was closed. In conjunction with Councillor Campbell we will re-arrange, on a date and time to suit ourselves and NLC, so we can do something good in our community for the environment.



First month's syllabus for the Bellshill Central Guild

Monday 2nd October at 2.00 pm
Communion Service at Burnhead Church Guild

Monday 9th October at 1.30 pm
Welcome/Syllabus Update

Monday 16th October at 1.30 pm
Guild Speaker: National Convenor Karen Gillon

Monday 23rd October at 1.30 pm
Mix 'n' Match

Monday 30th October at 1.30 pm
Hallowe'en Party

PRAYER BOOK

The prayer book is now back on the entrance table, and we have returned to our pre-covid custom of writing names in the book as you come to church and we use the names as part of our prayers during the service. We will also use these names in our Monday evening prayer group.

Please remember and use the book for any person or situation needing a wee word of prayer offered.

CHOIR AND ALL THINGS MUSIC!

The choir has been very busy in the last leg of the session. We “pulled out all the stops” for Introits and Anthems in April and May. We included choir favourites such as ‘All in the April evening’, ‘You raise me up’ and ‘Grant us thy peace’.

Newer items included: ‘After giving thanks’, ‘O God you searched me’, and ‘Jesu fill us with your love’ for Maundy Thursday.

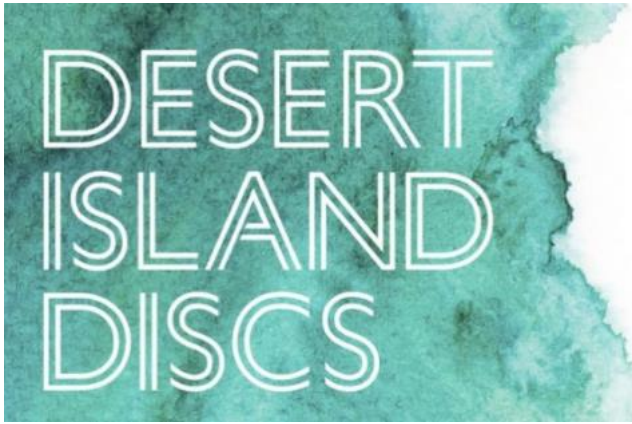
We enjoyed time together at the Redstones in Uddingston with our partners included. It was an enjoyable time to chat and have fun outwith Wednesday night parameters. A magician was on hand too and entertained us for a while.

Our visiting preachers have commented on our excellent choir, and good singing congregation, and that we should greatly value the choir as many churches sadly no longer have one. We are indeed blessed by our choir – I am sure you will all agree.

We’re looking to team up with Newarthill & Carfin Church Choir to host two “Big sings”, one at Bellshill Central and one at Newarthill & Carfin. The first will likely be in June/July here at Bellshill Central and the other in October at Newarthill & Carfin. We hope that both congregations can support this long overdue singing event that we were so used to pre-Covid.

Choir will resume on Wednesday 13th September at 7 pm in the hall, and as always new members would be made most welcome. Especially some men!!

Take care over the summer
Alan Mathew, Organist and Choirmaster



A few months ago a request was sent out among our members to submit their top tracks if they were deserted on an Island, a book they would want, and one object.

So, our first BCPC Desert Island Discs is Drew Aitken

1. Jim Reeves – Distant drums,

This reminds me of the parties we had when I was growing up in Liberty Road. We would have Jim Reeves, Dean Martin, Bing Crosby and all those great singers on the “radiogram”. I was in charge of changing the records and I think it started my love of music.

2. Mike Oldfield – Tubular Bells

This was the first music I can remember really getting into. We were on a BB camp and one of my pals brought this along and we would sit in the dining area during our free time and listen to Mike Oldfield all afternoon.

3. Genesis – Trick of the tail

Genesis were the next thing, again through the BB. I even went to Knebworth for a weekend concert that was starring Genesis.

4. Dire Straits – Sultans of Swing

Loved this song as soon as I heard the third verse,

*“You check out guitar George,
he knows all the chords*

Mind, it's strictly rhythm he doesn't want to make it cry or sing

They said an old guitar is all, he can afford

When he gets up under the lights to play his thing”

I thought, “that’s me!” I love to just strum along; don’t need to make it cry or sing, just like making music people can recognize.

5. Beatles – All you need is Love

During my first years after leaving school, we all decided to start a band, even had a couple of paid gigs and the Beatles were always on the play list.

6. Eagles – Lying Eyes

I have always messed about with the guitar but, when I discovered the Eagles, my love of playing along to and trying to sing to their songs just got bigger and bigger. Still my favourite songs to play along with.

7. The Carpenters – Yesterday once more

My brother-in-law Bob Revie introduced me to the Carpenters and in contrast to what I was listening to it was chalk and cheese, but they were brilliant and I still pick up their songs and play them now.

8. The last song on my list of 8 has got to be latest one and this month it's

“Me and Jane on a Plane” – a random Jazz album that I bought for £2 just for the title. But you know what? It was good.

The first book I ever read in its entirety – “Jaws”

I was 20 and had never really read a book completely before. At school, I only did the bare minimum, just to get through any exams but Jaws changed that. Now I love reading books, especially murder mysteries based in Scotland.

My one object would be my **Leatherman**, never go anywhere without one.

Editor Note:

Prize if you can tell Peggy what this is.

PASTORAL LETTER FROM FEBRUARY 1975

If you were on trial accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

It isn't usual to begin a letter by asking a question but this is a question that has been very much in my thoughts since I first heard it some time ago.

Now many of our fellow Christians in some parts of the world are put on trial on just such a charge and are convicted. I wonder just how we would fare?

We have in our own land, freedom of worship, yet we merely accept it and treat it lightly.

The fifth vow now taken by new communicants is, 'Do you promise, depending on the Grace of God, to confess Christ before men, to serve Him in your daily work and to walk in His ways all the days of your life?' Whether that was the exact vow we took or not, doesn't really matter, as it is implied in our membership of the Church. What does matter is whether or not we live up to it.

Do we put our faith into practice?

Do we just attend Church and leave it at that?

These questions we each need to answer honestly in the light of our Church membership. We have a duty to show in our community that we are Christians.

This now is the Season of Easter – the time of New Life. May New Life not just be preached in our Churches this Easter, may there be NEW LIFE in our Churches.

Your Friend and Minister, William M Glencross

Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre – Summer Chronicle

Since the last spring update we've welcomed 3 employees to the staff team. In January Billy Bell joined Befriend Bellshill as our new Befriending Support Worker. Working with Elaine and Tammy, Billy leads weekly group befriending activities in East Stewart Gardens, Coatbridge, and the Musical Memories group in the Centre Fridays. In May, Hayley Fitzpatrick started as our Capacity Building Officer to support the development of volunteers and group activities. George Hutchison joined us as our new Interim Manager, ensuring the smooth day-to-day running of the organisation.

BeFriend Bellshill are seeking more volunteers to provide befriending support for older adults in Bellshill and Coatbridge. To get involved email your contact details to Tammy and Elaine at befriend@oncbellshill.org or telephone 01698 573251 during office hours.

On Monday 22 May Orbiston Men's Group will be celebrating its tenth anniversary with games, food and entertainment. The group meets every Monday at 12.30pm and Friday at 10.30am. To enquire about places for the Men's Group contact 01698 573250 or email daycare@oncbellshill.org.

We'll be marking Volunteers Week from 1 to 7 June by posting pictures and stories on social media. You can follow the Centre on Facebook www.facebook.com/onc.bellshill and Twitter @OrbistonNC.

Our thanks go to everyone for collecting donations of non-perishable food and domestic supplies. The Centre continues to be contacted by families in need when in crisis and have nowhere else to turn.

The Centre will be closed on Friday 26, Monday 29 May for the bank holiday weekend, and again Monday 17 July for the Glasgow Fair week. Reminders will be posted on Facebook and Twitter pages.

CORONATION CELEBRATION

On 7th May we had a splendid time at our morning service and Coronation Afternoon Lunch. As you can see from the smiles in the pictures on this double page spread





It was lovely to see all ages having fun together.

Jean Meek won the Hamper (her lucky ticket was drawn on the day) and choir member Marion Thomson won best dressed.

We had a very special visit from HM The King and The Queen Consort, who very graciously cut our special Coronation Cake.



Macdonald Memorial Church – Memories by Sadie Nisbet

We joined Macdonald Memorial Church when we came to stay in Mossend in 1936. I was about eight years old and I joined the brownies.

The Rev. J Esson Gillon was the minister. He had a small beard on his chin. The story that we heard was that he had a small scar on his chin from a shrapnel wound and he grew a beard to hide it. He and his wife had two sons called Campbell and Ranza. Ranza and my brother George were in the same class at Mossend School and were pals.

The organist at that time was Mr Robert Symington. There was a big Church choir. A number of men were members and several ladies including Mrs Symington the organist's wife.

Mrs Symington took to do with the junior choir with some children from the church. My sister Catherine and I were in the junior choir. We practised on a Friday after teatime just before the senior choir had their practice, and we sang a verse of the children's hymn on a Sunday morning in Church, standing in the front pew, behind the organ.

We also did plays called 'kinderspeils' – Cinderella, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs etc... We loved it and put on shows and sold tickets for our parents and friends to see.

Mr & Mrs Symington also did shows with the senior members of the junior choir (teenagers). They did 'The Lady of the Lake' and I think 'Rob Roy'. They were all well received.

Later Mr & Mrs Symington decided to do some Operatic shows. So, the Bellshill Operatic Society was born. Anyone could join, not just members of Macdonald Memorial Church. They put on some very

good Operas, starting off with Merrie England and including Oklahoma, The Merry Widow etc... They were very good shows and the people of Bellshill appreciated and supported them.

Alex Stewart, a church member, followed on from Mr Symington as church organist. The church choir was mainly made up of ladies.

In 1950s we had a well attended badminton club. All keen members. We joined a league in Lanarkshire and enjoyed competing with other clubs. I can't remember the results, of course, but we all enjoyed meeting other players.

When Mr Gillon left the Church, I think he went to Glasgow and The Rev. Albert Thomson became our minister.

To me, Mr Thomson was a humble human being with the emphasis on those two words. He was paralysed on one side and carried his disability with fortitude.

Mr & Mrs Thomson had four sons who all grew up in the Church. Mr Thomson was our minister during my growing up years. He married George and me and christened our family. I have happy memories of him.

When Mr Thomson retired, The Rev. William Glencross came. He and his wife had three daughters. So, the manse would have different sounds from the times of the four boys.

During this time, the young women with young children started a Young Wives' Group. We met once a week in the hall, usually had a speaker who told us of their speciality. We would bring our young children (under school age). We had two halls at that time. The children were in one hall, the Blackie Hall, being looked after by the 'Aunties' (ladies of The Guild who were kind enough to look after our darlings) when we were listening to our speaker in the Church Hall.

From that Young Wives' group, we started a choir known as the Young Wives' Choir. We practised once a week, we all enjoyed it, eventually getting engagements, mainly singing to Women's Guilds all over Lanarkshire. We had a good repertoire and were warmly welcomed at whatever Women's Guild we were entertaining. Latterly, we changed the name to Ladies Choir for obvious reasons – getting older! We were all good friends and supported each other.

When Mr Glencross retired, The Rev. Alan McKenzie became our new Minister. At that time, preaching at Orbiston Parish Church was also part of his remit. He always spoke to the children about a polar bear and a penguin.

When Mr McKenzie left, we had a locum Minister who was also called Mr MacKenzie. He was The Rev. Ian MacKenzie. He was with us for a few months until our new Minister arrived. I wasn't attending Church at that time due to illness. Mr MacKenzie visited us a few times which was kind of him.

At one point, learning he had come from Glasgow, I asked him if he knew a Minister called Campbell Gillon. He said yes, and in fact, Campbell Gillon and his wife were friends. Also, the Gillons went to live in America and Mr & Mrs MacKenzie had a good holiday out there with them.

Campbell Gillon was the son of The Rev. J Esson Gillon, who was the first minister I had known at the Church. Campbell and his wife had three daughters, two of whom became ministers. One of the girls was being married and there was a story and a photograph in the newspaper, saying that there were eight ministers at that wedding. I am sure the couple would be well blessed.

Our new minister, The Rev. Kevin De Beer has been with us for a few years, serving our two churches, Macdonald Memorial Church and Orbiston Parish Church. They have now joined together and the

church's new name is Bellshill Central Parish Church and it is thriving.

We have heard that Kevin is ill just now. We wish him well and hope he will be able to lead us in the church again soon.

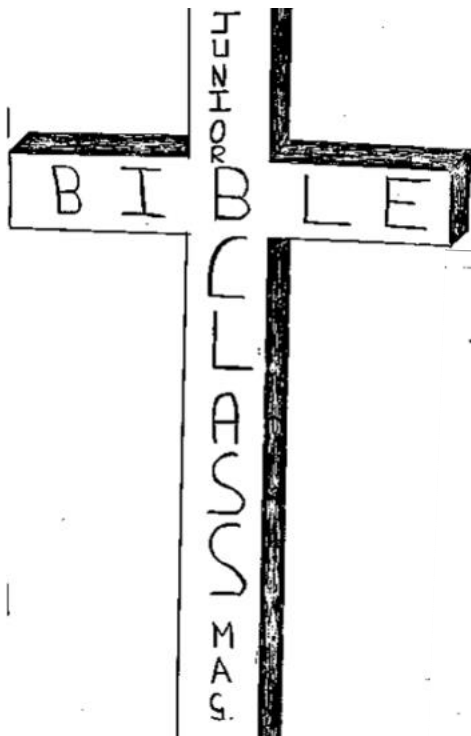
Sadie Nisbet

POTTS EASTER EGG APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who was able to donate an easter egg. We managed to send over 80 to Potts and Frazer was in church to say thank you and send his good wishes to us all.



MORE FROM THE ARCHIVES – THE EARLY 1980's



-o- INTRODUCTION -o-

This is the first edition of the J.B.C Mag. (Junior Bible Class Magazine). This first issue is all about the different departments of the Sunday School. There will also be featured in the magazine "The Recipe of the Season," a crossword or a word search, and intimations of importance. We hope you enjoy reading our first attempt at magazine writing.

James Neilson

David MacDonald

Alan Tweedie

Clair Walker

Colin Morrison

David Fisher

Carol Barr.

-o- THE BIBLE CLASS -o-

THE BIBLE CLASS MEETS EVERY WEEK
IN THE BLACKIE HALL ANTE-ROOM
TO READ PASSAGES FROM THE BIBLE
AND FIND JOY FOR OUR SADNESS AND GLOOM.

SO WE HOPE YOU READ OUR MAG.
AND LISTEN TO WHAT IT SAYS;
READ THE BIBLE, ALSO, AND FIND
LIGHT FOR THE REST OF YOUR DAYS.

CAROL BARR.

AN INTERVIEW WITH RIRIS RIGBY AINSLEY

1. Tell us a bit about yourself.

I was born and grew up in a city called Medan, Indonesia. My parents are both from 'Batak' ethnic origin with a majority of Batakneses being Christian. I have 4 siblings who all live in Indonesia. My dad used to be a Protestant church minister and mum was a secondary school teacher. I completed and left high school then moved to country's capital city, Jakarta to study at a Teacher Training Institute and then continued to live and work in Jakarta. In October 1999, I received the Japanese government scholarship for teacher's exchange program and continued my study at Hiroshima University and gained my doctoral degree in education in 2006. In May 2009, I visited Scotland for the first time to meet my future husband, Colin John Rigby. We got married in June 26th the same year and lived in Fife for nearly 10 years. Sadly, on February 15, 2019, I lost my dearest Colin due to terminal cancer. I then met Hugh Ainsley online and we got married at BCPC in April 2021 during the COVID pandemic. I moved to Airdrie and currently I am working at a special secondary school in East Kilbride.



2a. Tell us why you're glad you are a member of this congregation.

Being part of the church's congregation is always something I would love to be. I've been in various congregations but what I love about being part of BCPC is the warm welcome by church members that makes everyone feel 'at home'. There are plenty activities for everyone to take part in as well. I recently joined the prayer and the choir groups, although to be honest I cannot read musical notes, the alto-ers - Mary, Elspeth and Carole and the organist Alan - make sure

I don't get lost. To me, BCPC is not just a church, it's God's love family.

2b. What is the best thing about BCPC

Small size congregations with loads of group activities for members and community: Prayer, Choir, Walking, various charities events, Clothing shows, Bowling, Orbiston Food Bank – these are just a few that I know.

3. What is your favourite Hymn or Song?

I have plenty to name but one that always I favour is All the Way My Saviour Leads Me

4. What do you do in your spare time?

I love watching certain BBC programs: Strictly come dancing, Great British Bake Off, Richard Osman's House of Games. I also follow Jamie Oliver YouTube channel. With Hugh, we love seeing the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO) and reading books.

5. What event has most affected your faith and how has your faith changed throughout life.

I have been experiencing sunny and rainy days, many failures and a number of successes, incredible as well as tough times throughout my life which have impacted my faith. One of the events that really affected my faith was when I made the decision to leave my country Indonesia to marry my husband, Colin J. Rigby and residing in the UK. My family and close friends especially were all worried if things did not work out as I planned. It was indeed a huge risk considering that I had been working for a well known organisation in developing nation-wide teacher's training programme, a role that I always wanted to do. Thus, no one thought I had made the best decision and was simply being blinded by love. I was blessed to be happily married to Colin for nearly 10 years before he lost his fight to

terminal cancer. Colin apologised he could not be with me any longer but he had faith that I would find someone kind who would love and look after me. Looking back to where I began, I would humbly testify that God Almighty gave me opportunity to meet special people who helped me to exercise and strengthen my faith throughout my journey with Him.

COUNCILLOR ANGELA CAMPBELL

Officially we are getting into summer, but the weather seems to have forgotten as it not that warm or sunny. I know that Bellshill Community Council are working on the Community Garden near the new cycling facility and also the car park is now available at this access to Strathclyde Park.

The trees are coming on well in Rockburn Park/Laundry Park but unfortunately some of the bigger trees planted on Hattonrigg Road have been broken down by



vandalism. While thinking of gardens and trees – please enter the annual competition run by North Lanarkshire.

Already we have had great celebrations for the Coronation and looking forward to our rearranged litter pick, also to be a midweek one with one of the building firms working for NLC.

Really hoping the weather improves to get back out with some colleagues' hillwalking – I love the views and appreciate the fresh air. I did a little in Assisi just after Easter but always better with company.

Hoping that everyone has a lovely summer, and we get some good weather where we can relax and meet friends and family.

CHURCH HISTORY

A few weeks ago, while talking to the congregation, Alan mentioned the Blackie Family. This article (author unknown) from the Church Magazine in December 2002 might, therefore, be of interest:

THE BLACKIE FAMILY

Insofar as memory recalls and records now, this is a very small account of the association of the family and the church.

The family comprised of three brothers and two sisters and their names were: Gavin, Willie, Jessie, Elizabeth and an unremembered male. The family lived in a house called 'Gowanlea,' some 100 yards or so from the cross, in the North Road. The house is now a Dental Surgery.



Gavin was the major player in the affairs of the church and the town for, quite apart from being the Captain of the local golf club in 1921 – that was before it moved to its present location – in business he was Manager of the Airdrie Savings Bank, Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages and acted on behalf of the estate of Stewart and Murdison for the collection of feu duties (Mossend was part of that estate).

The family sat in the back seat on the west side of the church.

In the decades covering the 30s to the 60s, both in a monetary and a voluntary sense, the family was much involved in the affairs of the church and it is on record that, in total, some £11,000 was gifted.

In a voluntary sense, Gavin was again the major player for he acted as Treasurer for a time and, for many years, he was Captain of the Boys' Brigade Company. The man had an outstanding feature and it was that he wore a Button-Hole every day of the year.

Of the others, the sisters, it was known that one was a school teacher, whilst the other acted as housekeeper. One of the brothers was a blacksmith, whose workshop was within the grounds of Gowanlea.

Only one of the family married – 'flew the nest' – and it is believed to be Willie. Their generosity extended to the installation of stained-glass windows (*dedicated October 1973*), the Communion Table (*from Gavin Blackie in 1935*) with accompanying three chairs (*June 1952 by Jessie Blackie in memory of her sister Elizabeth*). Their 'liberality' can only be matched by that of the Potts family. Here ends the article from December 2002.

But the connection of the Blackie Family can be traced back to the beginning of our church with details being taken from the 'Annals of Macdonald Memorial UF Church,' a book which was produced around 1924, with information being gathered by Rev Granville G Ramage; M A; Minister at that time.

Some information is also taken from a booklet produced in 1973 to mark the Centenary of our Church.

The first time the Blackie name is mentioned in the 'Annals' is on Page 18:

5 January 1875: The first regular meeting of the Deacons' Court took place at Mossend School, comprising: Rev William Macdonald (Minister); Messrs Kenneth Urquhart, Ronald McArthur and Samuel Morton, (Elders); and Messrs Robert Blackie, John Stewart, Peter

Sneddon, William Walker, James Turner and John Reid. The minister acted as Clerk and Mr Blackie was appointed Treasurer. Districts were allocated, a Church Officer was appointed and other duties distributed.

This must have been an extremely difficult time to be Treasurer as the congregation had to raise the money to build a church hall, then a church and then a manse. It looks like in 1881, (Page 27) Mr Blackie's role was split with William Lawson being put in charge of the Sustenation Fund. (don't know what that actually means)

Page 31; Around the beginning of 1896, Mr Blackie is involved in finding a suitable plot of land to build a Mission Hall in the area of Bothwell Park. The Mission Hall was finished by September 1897. (The congregation at the Mission Hall were later involved in setting up what is now Viewpark Church)

In 1899 (Page 37) Mr James Blackie (presumably a relative of Robert Blackie) is appointed to organise a celebration to mark 25 years of William Macdonald's ministry. (His Induction had been on 31 December 1874). The celebration 'At Home' took place on 28 December 1899.

In 1900 (Page 36) Mr James Blackie is mentioned during discussions on the appointment of an Organist and Leader of Praise.

In 1901 (Page 38) The death is recorded of Mr Robert Blackie, who had been Church Treasurer for 28 years. He was appointed January 1875; so the dates don't quite match.

In June 1907: (Page 47) Mr Donaldson stood down from his role as Clerk to the Deacons' Court and this position was filled by Mr Gavin

Blackie; who remained in office for 17 years before moving on to be Treasurer.

On 8 September 1910, Rev John Steele was inducted and ordained and robes were presented to him by Gavin Blackie who had been Senior Elder of the Session for a long time.

At the end of 1913 (Page 50) Mr James A Blackie resigns as Congregational Treasurer after 16 years. *Must have become treasurer 1898.* On 21 April 1914 he is presented with a Drawing Room Clock and Travelling Case. Mr John Dawson agreed to take on the role of Treasurer

Around 1919 (Page 53) Mr Blackie (don't know which one) is involved in organising the purchase and installation of the Great War Memorial Tablets

1924; Gavin Blackie became Treasurer. He retired from this role on 1 December 1943; (19 years)

Gavin Blackie died November 1946; the halls in Dean Street were named after him. Mr William Blackie dug the first sod for these halls on 2 September 1949. The halls were opened May 1950 but were used in part exchange for our new manse in 1997.

I don't know how all the Blackie names are related but they are probably the same Blackie Family in whose name were given the four corner stained glass windows in our church; depicting The Creation; The Giving of the Law/The Building of the Temple; Follow Me and I will make you Fishers of Men/The Last shall be First; and The New Jerusalem; all designed by the renowned Gordon Webster.

We are indeed fortunate to have so many links back to our roots.

LATEST UPDATE FROM NEW ZEALAND ON BRADLEY LESLIE

A huge thank you to everyone for the amazing amount of £500 gathered recently towards Bradley's cancer treatment. Since then, the sum of £1430 from relatives and friends has been added, culminating in a total of £1930 with monies still on going. More donations have been sent privately.

Despite chemotherapy and radiotherapy Bradley's prognosis has worsened and he is no longer eligible to take part in the trials. At time of writing, he has a meeting on 23rd May with his consultant as to further treatment.

Bradley and Megan are extremely grateful to everyone who have, and are still contributing and cannot thank them enough. The prayers and support they are receiving is truly amazing.

Also, Iain, Fiona and Rebecca along with Bradley's family wish to convey their sincere appreciation and thanks.

We hope and pray for a positive outcome when Bradley meets with his consultant.

May God be with him.

Bobby and Alexa Walker



THE BIG CHALLENGE IN JULY 2023!!!!

For those who know me well, know I love a challenge and stepping outside my comfort zone, more so to raise money for worthwhile charities.

Who Dares Cares charity support veterans and those in the blue light services so when they opened up the challenge to canoe the Great Glen over 5 days I jumped at the opportunity to be part of the ladies team.

Having taken part and led teams of women through mud filled obstacle courses, free fall abseiling off the Finnieston Crane and Forth Rail bridge I thought this would be a natural progression.

The challenge starts off at Neptune's Staircase, Fort William and finishes at Dores Beach, Loch Ness. In total we will be rowing between 85-95km (depending on the route we need to take).

Hearing this I thought yip I can do this....then I heard I have to wild campnow this will certainly be a challenge! I am no princess by any stretch of the imagination however I do like my comforts....one of them being a toilet hahaha.

Throughout the challenge I will be self-sufficient, ensuring I have everything I need for the 5 days. To say I'm excited about this challenge is an understatement but still a little nervous about the camping side however it's only 5 days and I never give up lol.

I have a sponsor sheet and Just Giving link for anyone who would like to support me in this challenge.

Wish me luck!
Lorna Watson

Scammers - Who do you trust?

With so much technology out there it's hard to keep up as scammers become more sophisticated.

There are many types of fraud, all of which are a crime if the deception is used for personal gain, generally to make money.



The Police Scotland website has links for advice on various types of scams.

The advice below is not exhaustive nor is it intended to scare you but for you to simply keep in mind.

General advice to protect yourself:

- don't provide bank details over the phone to those calling stating you have an outstanding balance.
- don't share your whole life on social media
- your friends on social media should only be those who you would invite to your home for a cuppa
- ask for identification if someone comes to your door, even if they wear a uniform (call the company and ask if they have sent an employee to speak to you)
- don't pay money upfront to people who come to your door stating your property needs urgent repairs
- don't reply to WhatsApp or text messages stating its a member of your family or friend needing help but using an unknown number.

www.scotland.police.uk

Scams and frauds

WHATSAAPP FRIEND OR FAMILY 'IN NEED' REQUEST



What is a friend or family 'in need' scam?

Where an individual is pretending to be a friend or family member of the targeted victim who is in need of 'urgent' help. Usually they will claim that they are contacting from a new number, hence why it isn't recognised. Due to the personal connection, it is easy to not second guess the request, and provide the money that they are asking for.

Hi Mum, its me. Can u help, I have a bill I can't afford that needs paying today, would u mind sending me the money pls?

How does it happen?

Usually you will receive a message like the one above on WhatsApp that appears to be a friend or family member. The request will claim that they urgently need money for an array of reasons.
The message will request money, and provide bank details for the funds to be sent to.



What should I do?

STOP - Take five minutes before responding. Make sure your WhatsApp two-step verification is switched on to protect the account
THINK - Ask if the request makes sense. Scammers prey on people's kindness, trust and willingness to help
CALL - Verify that it really is your friend or family member by calling them directly or ask for a voice note.



How to protect yourself

- Check any messages are real by contacting the person through another means
- Set up 2-Factor Authentication
- Do not accept requests from people that you do not know
- Never share any codes or PIN numbers
- Always challenge requests for your information

LOOKING AHEAD

Dates for your diary

Sunday 4 th June	Ian Douglas
Tuesday 6 th June	Cake & Coffee in the hall (time TBC)
Sunday 11 th June	Morning Songs of Praise Service
Sunday 18 th June	Ian Douglas
Sunday 25 th June	Rev Duncan Macpherson
Tuesday 27 th June	Mossend Primary End of Term
Sunday 27 th August	DEADLINE FOR NEXT CHRONICLE
Sunday 10 th September	Quarterly Communion

Group start dates

Thursday 24 th August	7.45 pm	Guides
Tuesday 29 th August	6 pm	Rainbows
Thursday 31 st August	6 pm	Brownies
Wednesday 13 th September	7 pm	Choir
Monday 2 nd October	2 pm	Guild (at Burnhead)

Other information for your diary

Joint services in our cluster of Bellshill Central, Bellshill West and Bothwell Parish Churches may take place during the summer months, but as we go to print nothing has yet been finalised. Please listen out to weekly announcements and WhatsApp details. If you want to join the Church WhatsApp group contact Alan or Peggy.

Duncan Mackay and Alan Mathew are planning two Big Sings. One taking place at BCPC and one at Newarthill & Carfin. Hopefully the first will take place between June and August but no date has been set. Again, please listen out to weekly announcements and WhatsApp details.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

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

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Sundays: | 11 am Morning Worship
Creche
Young Church |
| Mondays: | 1.30 pm The Guild (October to March)
7:30 pm Online Prayer Group
7:30 pm XS Bellshill East Taekwondo |
| Tuesdays: | 6 pm The Rainbows
7.30 pm Heart and Sole Walkers
Kirk Session and Board Meetings
(as announced) |
| Wednesdays: | 2 pm Carpet Bowls
7 pm Church Choir |
| Thursdays: | 6 pm Brownies
7:45 pm Guides |
| Fridays: | Friday Night Club (yet to resume)
8 pm Organist Entertains (usually last Friday in month) |

CHURCH CONTACTS



Interim Moderator

Rev Duncan Macpherson
07484 664250
padredjm@btinternet.com

Session Clerk	Stanley Cook	01698 747144
Board Clerk	Catherine Bryden	
Finance Convenor & Presbytery Elder	Zandra Swan	
Treasurer	June Cook	
Gift Aid	Donis Hudson	
Property Convenor	Drew Aitken	
Fundraising	Jane Aitken	
Young Church & Church Flowers	Susan McGleish	
Guild President	Sheena Bowman	
Roll Keeper	Peggy Walker	
Organist & Communications	Alan Mathew	
Rainbows Brownies Guides Bowling	Jane Aitken Stacey Sneddon Emily Aitken Jim Mackie	Chemaine Jarvie Robyn Aitken Bobby Walker

Church Email Address hello@bellshillcentral.church