

The Central **Chr** **nicle**

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



WINTER 2024

**You are invited to the Sacrament of Holy
Communion on Sunday 8th December 2024
at 11am in person and online**

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Every Sunday at 11am we meet in the church to worship, pray, praise and learn more about God.

Everyone is invited, and we would love to see you in person. If you can't come along in person then tune in via the livestream link shared on our Facebook page.



[www.youtube.com/
BellshillChurch](https://www.youtube.com/BellshillChurch)

Church Website

www.bellshillcentral.church

The catch-up service is available afterwards to worship when you are able to sit back and relax.

You can watch on YouTube or through the Church website.



When you worship on-line it would be wonderful for you to say hello in the live chats so we can see who participated and perhaps give you a “shout out” so you feel even more part of our worshipping community.

A MESSAGE FROM IAN DOUGLAS

As I sit on my balcony and relax in the glorious sunshine of Lanzarote, I must confess to feeling a bit ‘uncomfortable’.

Not because it’s a Sunday - and I’m having a week off. No - it’s because as I sit and relax and look forward to another peaceful day in the

sunshine, I know that a mere few hours flying time from here, there are people in Gaza, Lebanon, and, to a lesser extent, Israel, not knowing what their day will be like. Their day could not be any greater a contrast to the relaxing day I am looking forward to.



They live under the same sun, on the same planet in a world God has created - in so many ways a wonderful world, and yet a world that seems to be tearing itself apart. Add to this the terrible situation in Ukraine, and the total ‘unpredictability’ of the Trump regime as it prepares for power, it is no wonder so many feel utter despair!!

As I write this in the middle of November, next Sunday, 24 November, is Christ the King Sunday and we enter into the wonderful season of Advent. A time when we will sing of ‘Peace to the World’ of the coming of a Saviour - the Prince of Peace.

Christ is the true Prince of Peace, and we can hope and pray that, in welcoming Christ once again into our lives on that Christmas morning, the world will indeed be a place of peace and harmony.

Christ so often talked of handing over our burdens to him. The Prophet Jeremiah put his trust in God when God told him that ‘He alone knows the plans He has for him’ - and it is not just for Jeremiah, but for us all. God alone knows the plans He has for us for the future.

Let us put our trust in God, let us celebrate the Birth of Christ, let us pray for peace to all on earth.

May you find Peace during this Advent time.

Now, where did I put that suntan lotion!!!!!!

God Bless you all, Ian



“Captain Douglas” has found the Marina!

Christmas at Bellshill Central

Saturday 30th November	12pm Christingles and Carols 1pm Christmas Afternoon Teas
Sunday 1st December	11am Guild Service (Advent 1) Tea & Coffee after the service
Friday 6th December	12noon Quiet Church 2pm Carol singing at Hattonlea
Sunday 8th December	11am Communion Service (Advent 2)
Monday 9th December	1.30pm Carols & Mince Pies at the Guild
Sunday 15th December	11am Morning Service (Advent 3)
Monday 16th December	2.30pm Carol singing at Beechwood
Thursday 19th December	7pm Sing a Song for Christmas with Mossend, Lawmuir and Noble PS
Sunday 22nd December	11am Choir Service (Advent 4) 7pm Candlelit Carols followed by Mince Pies & Mulled Wine
Tuesday 24th December	7pm Christmas Eve Family Service Refreshments served afterwards
Sunday 29th December	TBC

SHARED CHRISTMAS EVENTS ACROSS BELLSHILL & BOTHWELL CLUSTER CHURCHES

Unfortunately, at the time of going to print we are not able to advise of all the shared services that might be taking place in the three churches.

Once we are in a better position, these will be intimated in our weekly pews news and the Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages, along with the church “WhatsApp” chat line. We would encourage you to attend if you are able.

Christmas Day 11am at Bothwell Parish Church

BEREAVEMENT / REMEMBERING SERVICES

Saturday 7th December - 11am at Bothwell Parish Church

This is planned to be a short and reflective service in the Quire of Bothwell Church, led by Rev Iain Majcher.

Thursday 12th December - 7pm at Sacred Heart Church

This service will be led by Father Stuart Parkes, and will involve our own Ian Douglas and local celebrant Alma Rae.

CHRISTMAS MEMORY TREE

In our own church this year we will have a Christmas Memory tree where you can place a star, with a loved one’s name written on it, as we remember those we have loved and lost. You can place a star on the tree any time during December.

CHRISTMAS BIG SING RETURNS!

We're thrilled to see our Big Sing series return for Christmas 2024 with the popular "Sing a Song for Christmas" with our invited guests from Mossend, Lawmuir and Noble Primary Schools.

Our designated charity is **HOPE FOR AUTISM**. We hope that everyone can come along, and bring a friend or two. Refreshments will be served in the hall afterwards.

Sing a song for Christmas

Mossend, Lawmuir
and Noble Primary
Schools

**Thur 19th
DECEMBER**

Doors open 6.30pm, Concert starts at 7pm
BELLSHILL CENTRAL PARISH CHURCH
followed by tea and mince pies
Donations in aid of Hope for Autism SC033312

PRESBYTERY MISSION PLAN UPDATE

Since the last magazine, the Implementation Team from The Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale (FVAC) have met with a joint working group from all three congregations on two occasions.

“The question of the final decision regarding building use in Bellshill is difficult to determine. The Planning & Implementation Committee is anxious to find a way forward that gives the Church presence in Bellshill the best option to fulfil mission in the area.”

Following the first meeting a joint statement was read out in church, explaining that due to issues with the Bellshill West site, options for the place of worship in Bellshill would be either the Bellshill Central site or the former Orbiston Church site.

We had to send in all of our timetabled activities, so that a timetabling exercise could be undertaken to see if all current activities from Bellshill Central & Bellshill West could be accommodated in either of the options.

At a second meeting, the implementation team decided to change their stance that the Bellshill West site was no longer a viable option for Bellshill. We were then presented with a list of six options, which included both Bellshill Central and West sites, and also Orbiston. The list includes “hybrid” options covering more than one site.

Following this meeting, a Kirk Session was called, and a frank and honest discussion took place. Six members of session were appointed to a series of working groups, to take forward:

- Timetabling – Lorna Watson and Emily Aitken
- Building Costs – Drew Aitken and Alan Mathew
- Site Valuations – Stanley Cook and Zandra Swan

What is next?

We are currently awaiting contact from the Implementation Team Convenor, David Alexander, on how these three groups with members of each congregation will take shape and the timescales we are working towards.

We do not anticipate that these groups will have their findings until at least the Spring of 2025 at the earliest.

How can you be part of this?

It is vital that for you to help shape the future of the Church in Bellshill that you keep attending Sunday Services and supporting Bellshill Central Parish Church in every way that you can.

You need to let your Kirk Session team know of how you would like the Church in Bellshill to serve our community. The activities, mission and outreach that we want to deliver needs the best location and buildings, and for us to consider and help choose the right place we need to know how you want the space to be used. So please speak to any member of the Kirk Session teams.

What will happen in the short term?

We won't see any significant changes in how we are "church" at Bellshill Central.

However, we will try and do more things together as the cluster of three churches; for example activities across the cluster during Christmas are shared in the magazine, and daily short videos shared on Social Media. As we move into 2025 we will arrange pulpit exchanges, to allow the Rev Iain Majcher to get to know better both congregations in Bellshill.

THE GUILD

Sheena Bowman

The 2024 season of the Guild began in October with the usual joint communion service with members from Burnhead Parish Church. Rev. Margaret Rose led worship and tea was enjoyed afterwards in the hall. Miss Sandra Roy thanked Rev. Margaret for an interesting service and proposed the vote of thanks to ladies from Central for their hospitality.

The new syllabus for the next six months was distributed and discussed. A variety of speakers are expected for members to enjoy.

The first speaker on 21st October was Joyce Deans with Anna Magnasson. Joyce is a 97 year old lady who reminisced stories of Wartime Evacuation prompted by Anna. As a schoolgirl, Joyce attended Laurel Bank School in Glasgow, which was evacuated in total to Auchterarder for the whole of the Second World War. Her recollections of rationing and everyday life in the country were most interesting and amusing. In conjunction with Anna, Joyce has produced a book which was on sale, the proceeds being donated to Chest, Heart & Stroke charity.

Joyce proved to be one of the best speakers we have heard and was most appreciated by our members. Should anyone wish to read her book, several Guild members purchased it and I'm sure would be happy to lend it to you.

The following week we enjoyed a Halloween Party, complete with dooking for apples and goody bags distributed. Several ladies also dressed up for the occasion too.

Our next meeting consisted of a power point presentation on Unida - one of six projects supported by the Guild nationally. Details of this

project will be relayed to the congregation on 1st December when the Guild will be leading worship.

Guild numbers have dropped this session, due to ill health and the death of two long-serving members. If you are curious about the Guild, why not come along and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship? Men will also be made most welcome. We continue to meet weekly on Monday afternoons.

COIN BOXES

Between 19 August and 16 November 2024, we received £96.92 via the Coin Boxes which compares with £65.97 in a similar period last year. Every coin is much appreciated; so ‘Thanks!’ to everyone who contributed.



If you would like to give your small change to the Church, please help yourself to a box. You will see them on the shelf to the left of the door as you go through from the Church to the hall.

CHURCH REGISTER

The following deaths have been recorded in recent weeks:

1 October 2024	Joan Downie
15 October 2024	Mary Baird
11 November 2024	Nancy Hargrave

Our thoughts are with the family and friends of all these ladies

New member – by resolution of the Kirk Session

Elaine Renwick

RAINBOWS

Another new session after the summer has started with lots of new girls which has brought down our waiting list a little!

The girls have been great, finding their feet and making new friends. We have been really busy so far and the new Rainbows have been working towards making their promise.



Some of the things they have been doing are constructing bridges out of straws strong enough for toy cars to go along, drawing pictures of what they did on holiday, rubbings in the hall and church, making Halloween decorations and then having a Halloween party along with the Brownies and Guides which is a great way for them all to meet each other.

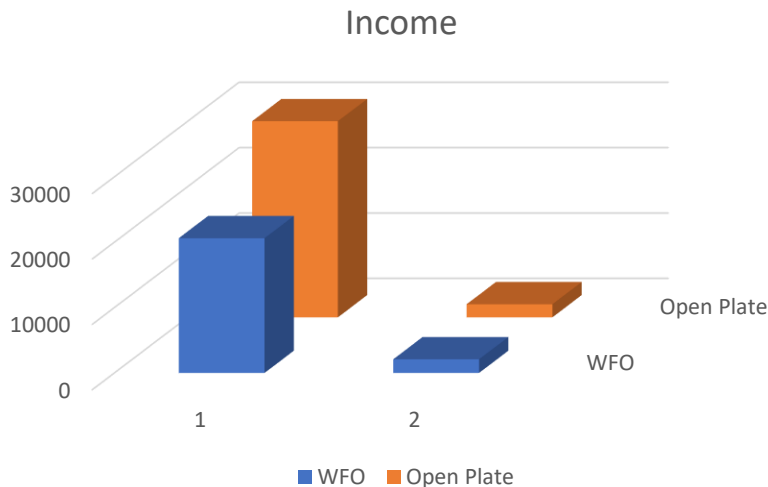
Leading up to Christmas the new girls will be making their promise and we have lots of activities planned towards a new badge they are working on.

We are also delighted to welcome back Holly, our unit helper, who has been off on maternity leave so we are all looking forward to seeing her again.

Love and best wishes for a merry Christmas and happy New Year from all the Rainbow leaders.

Chemaine Jarvie

FINANCE UPDATE



WFO for the 9 months ended 30 September 2024 amounts to £20,611 which is £1,889 short of our target for the period.

Open Plate, however, at £2,085 has exceeded our target of £1,500 for the nine month period.

Although we are currently £1,889 below our forecast, the final quarter of the period included the holiday period and joint services during which donations decrease.

Thank you to every congregation member and visitor for your generous donations.

PASTORAL COVER FOR DECEMBER 2024

Rev Margaret Rose is on leave for the month of December. If anyone needs the services of a minister, for home visits, home communions, bereavements etc please contact Stanley Cook, session clerk

From The Pen Of Rabbie Guy

Stan the Man!

Stan, he is our Session Clerk who takes on every job in the place
He's here, there and everywhere, ye canny fault his pace

We thought he had done everything but we were very wrong
We found out at choir rehearsal when we went to sing a song

Stan decided to take a seat, his face was full of joy
To our complete surprise we had a fabulous drummer boy

His drum could be heard throughout the Church
It reached up to the rafters

We all think without a doubt that Stan deserves a BAFTA!

AUTUMN CLOTHES SHOW

Anne Guy would like to thank everyone who supported the recent Brian Taylor Clothes show on 4th November. Check out the pictures on the next page.

The evening was a great success, one of our busiest, and raised over £560 for church funds.

A special thanks to those who helped set up the hall on Sunday after church and those who came along to clear up afterwards.

We hope to have another similar event in the Spring, so you can get your holiday wardrobe in order!



**25 SHOE BOXES FOR BLYTHSWOOD CARE WERE
DELIVERED IN NOVEMBER, THANK YOU EVERYONE!**



ORBISTON NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

Community Fridge is seeking food donations and essentials to help more people in the winter months. The Fridge opens Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am to 2pm. Local people can access 10 items for £3. Donations can be left at any time. For details about eligibility telephone 01698 842215.

What's On – The Centre remains open to the public 6 days a week.

- Theo's Café opens Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 3.30pm.
- Kai Wado Martial Arts meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 6pm to 9pm.
- The Community Fridge, accessed from Theo's Café, opens on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 2.00pm.
- Digital Inclusion operates on Tuesdays, starting at 9.30am.
- Fool On meets on Tuesdays from 2.30pm.
- GA Dance Academy meets on Wednesdays from 5pm.
- Petals flower arrangers meet on Thursdays from 1.30pm.
- Slimming World meets on Thursdays from 5.30pm to 8pm.
- 1st Bellshill & Mossend Scouts meet on Fridays from 5.45pm to 9pm.
- Elisa's Dance Academy meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6.30pm; and on Saturdays from 9am.

Mosshill Credit Union have resumed weekly meetings in ONC. Credit Union are available to meet with members in The Hoose on Mondays between 5pm and 7pm, or on Wednesdays between 10am and 12noon.

Older Persons' Service have various things planned, including:

- A St Andrew's Day event, which was held on Monday, 25 November, with themed games and activities
- Christmas Movie Days on Monday 9 and Thursday 19 December.

- Wee Friendly Club and Men's Group will share a combined Christmas Party on Monday 16 December from 12.00pm to 3.00pm. Members will enjoy a 3-course meal, raffle, a visit from Santa Claus and live entertainment with Angela Duncan.

For enquires about activities and places phone 01698 573250 or email daycare@oncbellshill.org.

Befriend Bellshill said goodbye to Befriending Coordinator Elaine Hamilton in November, as she started her retirement after 15 years with the service. Enjoy your retirement Elaine, we all miss you!

- Volunteer Befrienders will be sharing Christmas Lunch 5 December at Rocca restaurant, Hamilton.
- Befriendees Christmas party will be held at Burnside Bowling Club 12 December.
- Befriendees will receive a 2-course Christmas Lunch with live entertainment provided by Holly Fairlie.
- Musical Memories Christmas Paty will be held 13 December in the neighbourhood centre

Christmas Menu – Theo's Café will be serving a Christman Menu Wednesday 18 December. Diners have a choice of Scotch Broth, Prawn Cocktail for starters, Traditional Roast Turkey in gravy, Braised Steak, Quorn Turkey for a main meal, Christmas Pudding, Festive Chocolate Cheesecakes for desserts, all washed down with tea, coffee and a complementary mince pie. Sitings available from 12pm to 2pm. Tickets costs £16.00 from Theo's Café. Phone 01698 842215 for more details.

Holiday Closures – ONC closes for the festive period Monday 23 December. Normal services resume from Monday 6 January 2025. ONC wishes you all a warm and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

WHAT IS GIFT AID?

Gift Aid is a government scheme which allows a congregation, as a registered charity, to claim 25p from HMRC every time an individual donates £1. The donor must have made a Gift Aid declaration giving the congregation permission to claim on their offerings and donations.

The donor must be a UK tax payer and have paid as much or more income tax and/or capital gains tax in the tax year than will be reclaimed through Gift Aid on their donations.

giftaid it

Common Myths

You need to tell us your income – **NO**

You need to tell us what you donate – **YES**, but we will know that through your FWO envelopes or bank transfer. Only Zandra, June and Donis know these details.

What does Gift Aid do to your offerings?

If your weekly offering was £5, that would turn it into £6.25 at no additional cost to you.

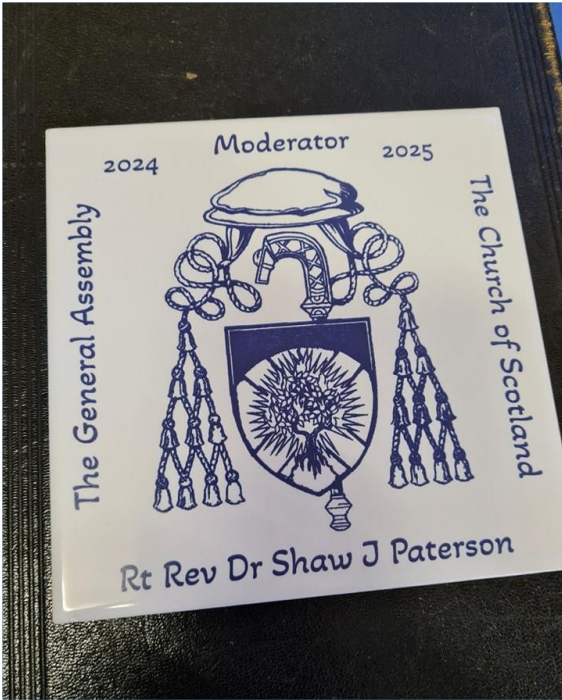
Last year we were able to reclaim £5012.80 in Gift Aid from the UK Government. If you were able to join the scheme or increase what you are able to donate to the work of our church, we would be able to increase our reclaim amount in 2024.

If you want to fill in a Gift Aid declaration form, please speak to Zandra Swan or Donis Hudson. If you want to check you are still part of the scheme, again speak to Zandra or Donis.

As a famous UK Supermarket's slogan says:

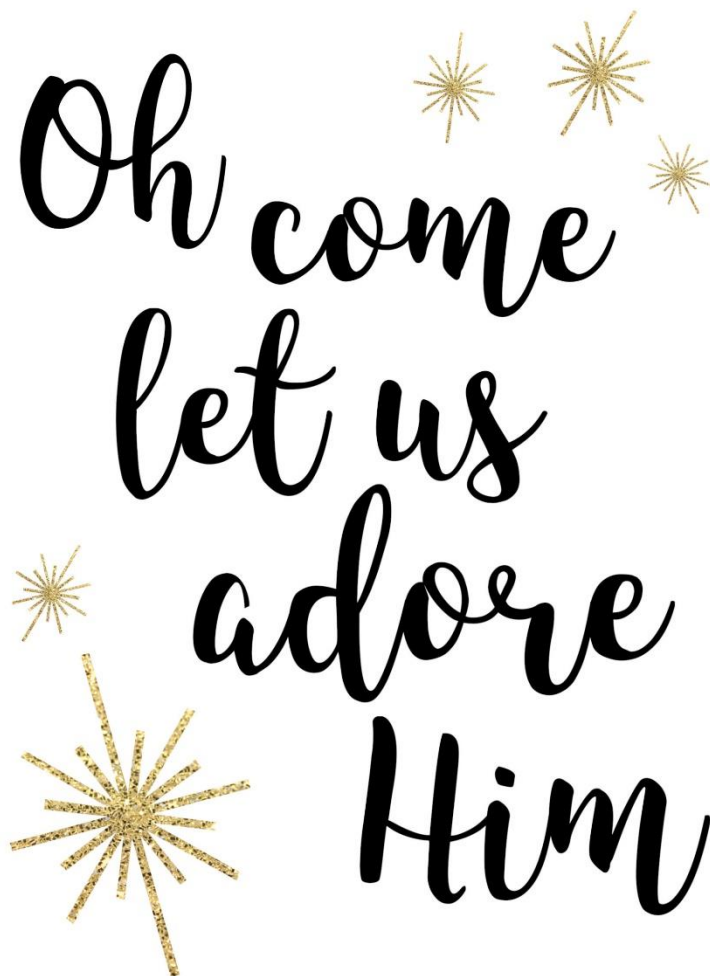
Every Little Helps





**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AT BELLSHILL
CENTRAL PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Oh come
let us
adore
Him

The text is written in a black, elegant cursive script. It is surrounded by several gold-colored starburst or snowflake-like decorative elements of varying sizes, scattered around the words.

**FROM THE KIRK SESSION, CONGREGATIONAL
BOARD AND ALL OFFICE BEARERS.**

SUNDAY MORNING PREACHING PLAN

Sunday 1st December	The Guild
Sunday 8th December	Rev Jim Zambonini (Communion)
Sunday 15th December	Mr Ian Douglas
Sunday 22nd December	The Choir
Sunday 29th December	TBC

Sunday 5th January	Rev Margaret Rose (Baptism)
Sunday 12th January	Worship Team service
Sunday 19th January	Rev Margaret Rose
Sunday 26th January	Mr Ian Douglas

Sunday 2nd February	Worship Team service
Sunday 9th February	Rev Margaret Rose
Sunday 16th February	Mr Ian Douglas
Sunday 23rd February	Rev Margaret Rose

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 12th December 7pm Time to Remember Service
at Sacred Heart Church

Sunday 5th January	Baptism – tea/coffee served after the service
18th to 25th January	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sunday 26th January	Burns Lunch after the morning service

Sunday 2nd February	Tea and Coffee after the service
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Sunday 2nd March	Tea and Coffee after the service
Sunday 9th March	Communion Service

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

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

Sundays:	11am Morning Worship Creche and Young Church
Mondays:	1.30pm The Guild (October to March) 7:30pm Online Prayer Group
Tuesdays:	6pm The Rainbows 7.30pm Heart and Sole Walkers (May – October) Kirk Session and Board Meetings (as announced)
Wednesdays:	2pm Carpet Bowls 7pm Church Choir
Thursdays:	6pm Brownies 7:45pm Guides
Fridays:	12noon – 1pm Quiet Church (as announced) 1pm – daytime walking group (as announced) 8pm Organist Entertains (now quarterly)



CHURCH CONTACTS



Interim Moderator

Rev Derek Pope, B.D.
dpope@churchofscotland.org.uk
01698 266716

Locum Minister	Rev Margaret Rose, B.D. Email - minister@bellshillcentral.church	
Session Clerk	Stanley Cook	
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, Choir and Communications	Alan Mathew	
Rainbows	Jane Aitken	Chemaine Jarvie
Brownies	Stacey Sneddon	Robyn Aitken
Guides	Emily Aitken	
Bowling	Jim Mackie	Bobby Walker

Church Email Address

hello@bellshillcentral.church