

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

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

Spring 2025

**You are invited to the Sacrament of Holy
Communion on Sunday 9th March 2025
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 YouTube 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.

EDITORIAL

Over the last two years we have had the privilege of having regular faces leading worship at Bellshill Central. We are truly blessed to have Revd Margaret, Ian Douglas, our church worship team, choir and organist.

In addition to those leading worship we are blessed to have our group of readers, duty team members, those who prepare and clean our sanctuary and halls, and of course our team of clickers in the corner.

It's always a delight and a privilege to meet for worship and it is great to see so many gather together on Sundays. There are, however, some of our membership who have been missing for some time.

Can we encourage everyone to think again about worship and its place in our life of faith? It is our hope you know that you are welcome at BCPC any time!

Enjoy the Spring Chronicle, reading about the life of our congregation and how you might be part of it in the coming weeks and months.

Peggy and Alan.

BIBLE VERSES OF FAITH AND STRENGTH

Hebrews 11:1

Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding in all your ways.

FROM OUR LOCUM MINISTER

Dear Folks,

It is almost a year and a half since I joined you as part time locum Minister and I can't quite believe how quickly the time has passed... yet in many ways it feels as if I've always been here and that is due to your welcome and offer of friendship.



On a personal level the last 18 months has been a time of change and taking stock; something we all need to do. It is only by looking at our lives from every angle that we shall determine what needs to be changed and what needs to be developed.

Lent is a time for us to do just that. But Lent is more than that – Lent is a time for us to be still, to be silent, to listen to God calling us, guiding us, directing us. Is God calling you to new challenges or take a different path? Amidst the busyness of your life can you hear God speaking to you?

During this season of Lent, as we journey with Christ towards the Cross let us take time to be with God and listen to what He wants for us.

A thought for Lent:

The humility of Christ is not the moderation of keeping one's exact place in the scale of being, but rather that of absolute dependence on God and absolute trust in Him, with the consequent ability to move mountains. The secret of the meekness and gentleness of Christ lies in his relation to God. – *H. Richard Niebuhr*

May God's blessing be with you.
Rev Margaret E. S. Rose B.D.

A MESSAGE FROM IAN DOUGLAS

There is a well-known pop song by the Boomtown Rats called 'I Don't Like Mondays'. Over the years, I've come to the conclusion that 'I Don't Like January'. The month of January is one where my normal 'glass half full' becomes a 'glass half empty'.

The thought of the long, dark, and normally cold winter month of January, after the enjoyment of the Christmas and New Year festivities is a hard month for many people. And it seems to drag by. However, this January has flown in. The days are now markedly longer, there are the first signs of new life in the garden, and Spring really does seem to be 'just round the corner'. With the exception of Storm Eowyn, the weather has not been too bad either. So the glass has been 'half full' for most of January for a change.

As you all know, as a Reader, I visit a number of Churches throughout the year, and at Bellshill Central, there is such a vibrancy and enthusiasm about the Church that it really is a privilege for me to be part of the Church Family.

There have been many events throughout January held at the Church, each helping to mitigate the effects of such a long and dismal month. I particularly enjoyed the visit to the Guild, and the Burns Lunch. Our Service that day was one to remember with the Hymns all sung to familiar Scottish tunes.

The one thing that does 'energise' me during January is the opportunity to preach on the many passages in the Bible related to the early Ministry of Jesus. From the first miracle to the calling of the Disciples, there is a great feeling of anticipation as the passages start to deliver the promises made by God to His people. Passages which are as relevant today in the broken world we see around us as they were 2000 years ago.

Christ came to save a broken world. He came to fulfil God's promises and set out a way of life which, if followed, will truly bring the Kingdom of God here on earth.

So let us all journey forward with confidence knowing that many generations before us have followed Christ's teachings and looked to God for direction and strength when faced with so many issues in the world around both them and us.

As I write this Message, we are already almost half way through the month of February, and this is a short month which really will 'fly past'. In a few weeks we will start our Lenten Journey, and I am sure there will be many events at Bellshill Central throughout that journey.

Talking of journeys, we head off on Tuesday to Arran for a few days. It's Margaret's 70th Birthday at the end of February, and I gave Margaret a number of options for my Birthday Present to her. One was Lanzarote for 6 days, the other was a midweek break anywhere in Scotland. Despite my focussing on sunshine, warmth, and relaxation (Lanzarote) – we're off to Arran to walk some of the Arran Way!! At least the weather looks dry, there are a couple of good distilleries on the island, and the hotel Margaret has chosen at Blackwaterfoot looks really nice. Add to that a return trip on the new ferry, the Glen Sannox, and I'm looking forward to the break. At least it's not a 4 hour flight!!

So Capitan Douglas is off sailing again!!

Oh well – Scotland have just been beaten by Ireland at the rugby. Off to console myself with a dram!!

God Bless you all
Ian

YOU IN YOUR SMALL CORNER, AND I IN MINE.....

This spring 2025, in our wee corner of Bellshill and Mossend, let us, like the words of the children's hymn, “in this world of darkness, so we must shine”.

Let us therefore shine as we sing our Easter hymns of praise, telling our neighbours that when we “survey the wondrous cross” that we’ll “stand amazed in the presence” of Jesus Christ who “up from the grave arose” representing the fulfillment of God's promises and the revelation of His plan for humanity.

We invite you to this journey of preparing, learning and joy, culminating in the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, which is seen as a victory over sin and death and a promise of salvation and new life.

“Thine be the Glory! Risen conquering Son”

The Easter season begins on 5th March with Ash Wednesday and finishes on 20th April with Easter Sunday.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In this issue of the magazine we have a few lovely “Letters to the Editor” which we hope you enjoy reading.

If anyone would like to put in a thank you, a hello or just a wee update on something, this would be warmly welcomed. Just pass on your Letters to the Editor to Alan Mathew or Peggy Walker.

In December the Kirk Session and Congregational Board met with the Chairman and two members of the Presbytery Implementation Committee.

At that meeting we were informed that at its next meeting, the Presbytery would be asked to agree to a change to the Mission Plan as it affected Bellshill and Bothwell, and that Bellshill Central Parish Church would no longer be part of the tripartite arrangement previously agreed.

This had not been our decision, but we were invited to bring to the Implementation Committee our options and ideas with regard to the future. We asked the Committee for help, and insight into the decisions from Bellshill West and Bothwell Kirk Sessions. We were not given any insight. We asked if mediation would be useful in moving forward, but the Presbytery Implementation Committee advised they did not believe it would be.

A small working group, (consisting of myself, Drew Aitken, Emily Aitken, Alan Mathew, Derek Pope, Zandra Swan and Lorna Watson) met to bring together options and ideas ahead of a joint Kirk Session and Board meeting to be held in January.

The Kirk Session and Board met on 14th January, and it was agreed that we would inform the Presbytery Implementation Committee of our willingness and readiness to speak with others and look to form a new cluster with another congregation, whilst exploring options for closer working with Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre.

The Presbytery Implementation Committee presented the following proposal to Presbytery at its meeting on Saturday 8th February, and it was approved.

The Presbytery approve a change to the Presbytery Mission Plan in relation to Cluster W6 (Bellshill Central, Bellshill West and Bothwell) as follows:

- unites Bellshill West and Bothwell;
- allocates staffing of 1 Minister of Word and Sacrament (MWS) and 0.5 Ministries Development Staff to Bellshill West/Bothwell
- allocates 0.5 MWS to Bellshill Central;
- categorises the Bellshill West Sanctuary as B;
- categorises the Bellshill West Halls as A;
- continues the classification of Bellshill Central as B* pending further consideration of the place of this congregation in the Presbytery Mission Plan.

We await further conversations with Presbytery, the Presbytery Implementation Committee and any potential new cluster partners. We await further information on how a united Bellshill West and Bothwell affects a worshipping body in Bellshill and how our own worship and mission can be continued and built upon as we move forward.

At its meeting on 8th February the Presbytery gave permission for the congregation of Bellshill West to use their halls for worship and other activities as of 10th February.

Please be assured your Interim Moderator and office bearers are working diligently in the background to ensure our congregation's presence and witness in Bellshill is continued. The congregation and office bearers will be kept updated along each and every step of this process.

Finally, we ask for your prayers in this process. In your daily prayers both spoken and silent, please pray for our Church in Bellshill.

TRIBUTE TO ALEX TWEEDIE

Stanley Cook

Alexander Tweedie, who recently passed away, will be fondly remembered by all who knew him. He was affectionately known as Alex and was a long standing Elder and stalwart member of our church.

He was a quiet and very personal individual who was always at hand to help and carry out the duties of an Elder. For many years he acted as Church Beadle and was always on hand to assist at weddings and funerals at the church.

He was an example of a true Christian person and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. He was delighted to receive his Long Service award in 2018, signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly.

The entire Bellshill Central family pays tribute to this good and faithful servant of God and of the Church. We offer our heart-felt condolences and assurance of our prayers to his family in this time of loss and bereavement.



CHURCH NOTICE BOARD! NEWS FROM AROUND OUR CONGREGATION



COIN BOXES

Between 24 November and 31 December last year, we received £91.64 via the coin boxes.

This brought the total for 2024 to	£442.13
For comparison; in 2023 we received	£281.74
and in 2022 the figure was	£325.84

So far this year, up to 4 February, £62.79 has been received. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed.

We are very happy to receive your small change and, if you would like to donate in this way, 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, or speak to Peggy Walker.

FUNDRAISING

The Fundraising team would like to thank everyone for their incredible support over the last year.

Once again we have had some memorable and social fundraising events, the latest being our Burns Lunch beautifully addressed by Ian Douglas.

This year, we have planned some events that we hope you will love.

Saturday 22nd February - Cheese and Wine, 6pm to 9pm.

Monday 12th May – Anne’s Clothes Show, 7pm.

Saturday 31st May – Strawberry Tea, 1pm to 3pm.

Keep your eyes peeled for other social gatherings such as our Hot Cross Buns after the service on Palm Sunday – 13th April

Our traditional handmade Easter cards will be available on Sunday 6th April when teas are served.

We are also hoping the Early Easter Breakfast will take place on Easter Sunday – 21st April before the main service.

Christian Aid Week falls on 11th to 17th May and we are hoping to hold a light lunch such as a hot roll when teas are served on 4th May. This is an event where donations would be welcomed for Christian Aid.

Thank you all for your continued support and many thanks to all those extra helpers that get roped in when we are busy. You are very much appreciated.

Jane Aitken

PRAYER GROUP

We meet most Monday nights via Zoom, and remember those in our prayer book, our community and the wider Church. Anyone can join us, either regularly or just whenever you are free. Speak to Stanley or Alan for more information.

THE GUILD

Before we saw the end of 2024, a couple of speakers came along to our meeting. The first of these told us a lot about Glasgow City Mission and the work they carried out, much of which we did not know.

It is always good to have the opportunity to inform the congregation of the work and support the Guild gives to specific charities. In depth details are usually obtained from speakers who have attended our meetings.

UNIDA provided a power point presentation of the Undergraduate, Masters and PhD training programmes they provide for women to ministry and service in Brazil in Theology & Religious Studies. The last of the six projects we heard about was KAZUNZU – Village of Hope. The Vine Trust can be traced back to a project initiated by the Very Rev. Albert Bogle and the congregation of St Andrews Church of Scotland Bo'ness in response to the famine in Ethiopia in 1985.

Between 1st June 2021 and 20th January 2025, the National Guild supported and raised an amazing £545,230.63 for the six projects. Four new projects have been identified for the Guild's support over the next few years, which we look forward to finding out more and passing on.

Our last speaker before the Christmas holiday period told us about the genocide in Srebrenica. The stories we heard about and saw were most upsetting. The speaker gave us all badges to wear to remember atrocities that have been endured.

2025 began with a belated Christmas lunch at The Rolling Barrel that was enjoyed by 18 of our members. Good food and good company was a good start for the next few months.

Our very own Ian Douglas was the first speaker of the new year in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Needless to say, Ian gave us an interesting and amusing insight into his life that was thoroughly enjoyed. Don't think we will ever look at platform shoes again without thinking about him!

The following week we heard an in-depth background about the life and loves of Robert Burns. There's always something we didn't know before about our Scottish Bard. Our very able speaker was a wealth of knowledge and has numerous topics he can speak about and will be returning on next year's syllabus.

At the time of writing, we have just enjoyed our annual Guest Night with Our Lady's Musical Society. It is always great to catch up with old friends from all the other churches in the area even though there are fewer Guilds still existing. Donations received on the night amounted to £383 and, on Sunday, 9 February, a cheque was handed over to Colin Toal, a member of our congregation and Director of the local charity, Lanarkshire Carers.

Another couple of speakers, including our own organist, are expected before we finish with a closing social in March.

During the summer months we have tried to maintain contact with members with monthly outings to local venues. Details are intimated at Church or via our Guild App.

A varied programme is already in the planning stages for the new session commencing in October and new members wishing to join us are always welcome, so why not come along?

Sheena Bowman
President

GIVING FOR GOOD CAUSES

Over the last few months your generosity has been greatly appreciated.

At the primary school Sing a Song for Christmas, we supported Hope for Autism raising £413.00. At our family Christmas Eve service, we supported the Trussell Trust raising £247.00. In November, our retiring offering on Remembrance Sunday for Earl Haig raised £99.00.

Looking closer to home, our support of Hope for Autism means they can continue to reach out to our local community right here from our own church building.

We've supported good causes to the amount of £759.00, in November and December. Thank you!

We also supported the Motherwell Jobcentre selection box appeal. We increased our giving to 100 selection boxes. In monetary terms this is approximately £150.00. This appeal supported the Maranatha project.

Looking ahead, there will be other opportunities at the church here in Bellshill to assist good causes locally and nationally. Our congregation is always very generous when we look to support good causes. We are very grateful for your support.

RAINBOWS

Another busy session is in full flow as the girls have started working towards a new badge. Part of our badge was to colour in on printed sheets the different muscles they used after doing different activities which they loved.

We have also done yoga which was hilarious however they did enjoy it although we did have to keep reminding them that it should be done quietly to relax!!!

We also had a Burns Night where they tried haggis, neeps and tatties and discussed Robbie Burns and read one of his poems.
Can I just say that nights involving food always go down well!

Finally, one of our older girls left to go up to Brownies which we know she will love however we will miss her but wish her well on her Girl Guiding adventure.

We also have lots of arts and crafts planned too and hopefully a trip to the park when the weather gets better.

Chemaine Jarvie

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...



Hi; it's Sylvia Devine.

I'd like to say what a lovely welcome I got on my first time at Church. Everyone was so friendly.

I'd like to say "Thank you," for mentioning me in the weekly prayers; in church and online. Thanks to Alan, I can sing along to the hymns each Sunday.

Many thanks to Rev Margaret Rose for visiting me. She is a lovely lady. Thank you to the Elders and those who donate the flowers. It was lovely to get the flowers at home.

The Guild concert was most enjoyable, as it was recorded. I like the Monday Prayers and Organist Entertains etc.

I hope, some day, I will be able to join you all again in person. Meantime I still feel part of the Bellshill Central family as I can take part in so many other ways.

Hello everyone,

I was asked to write a wee letter for the Church Magazine to introduce myself. I'm Elaine Renwick, I am Mary Mathew's niece, making me Alan's cousin – and I am also his Godmother. I live in Shotts with my husband Jim, and our cat Tigger.



I have been a Church Member all my days. I grew up in faith at Chalmers Church in Wishaw, some of you might remember the Wishaw Market that was right next door.

I used to sing in the Choir at Chalmers, and have been a member of the Deacon's Court and an Elder. I have not kept good health for a number of years and particularly since Covid have found mobility a problem.

I found myself very quickly and seriously ill in hospital in November, and my family were told to prepare for the worst. They contacted South Wishaw Church for a pastoral visit, only to discover that I had been removed from the roll. Mary and Alan spoke to Stanley and Rev Margaret, and arranged for my name to be added to Bellshill Central's roll, which allowed Rev Margaret to visit me.

By the time Rev Margaret came to see me, it was nothing short of a miracle as I had began to make a slow recovery. I finally got discharged and allowed home in January. Since then Rev Margaret has been able to visit me at home.

I enjoy being able to take part albeit from a distance, and thanks to the WhatsApp group, the online services and all the information on Facebook, I definitely feel part of a lovely church family.

God bless you all, Elaine Renwick.

FROM SADIE NISBET



Thank you for the lovely flowers you sent me while I was in hospital and for the beautiful flowers I received last week. I appreciate the visits and lovely cards too.

I am grateful for the care and kind attention I received in the hospitals, which continued when I got home with the community carers and therapists.

Its great to be home and I am improving and feeling better with the family's help.

On a lighter note, here's a wee poem for Spring, which I learned at school when I was 5 or 6 (a few years ago)! I remembered the first few lines and got the rest of it from the internet.

The Elf and the Dormouse

By Oliver Herford

Under a toadstool crept a wee Elf,
Out of the rain, to shelter himself,

Under the toadstool, sound asleep,
Sat a big Dormouse all in a heap.

Trembled the wee Elf, frightened, and yet
Fearing to fly away, lest he get wet.

To the next shelter – maybe a mile!
Suddenly the wee Elf smiled a wee smile,

Tugged till the toadstool toppled in two.
Holding it over him, gayly he flew.

Soon he was safe home,
Dry as could be.

Soon woke the Dormouse
“Good gracious me!

“Where is my toadstool?”
Loud he lamented.

And that’s how umbrellas
First were invented.

FOR LOVERS OF WORDS

A bicycle can't stand alone, it's too tired
A will is a dead giveaway
He broke into song because he couldn't find the key
Acupuncture – a jab well done
A calendar's days are numbered
A lot of money is tainted, 'taint yours' and 'taint mine'
A boiled egg is hard to beat
He had a photographic memory which was never developed
Part time band leaders are semi conductors
When you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall
Baker's trade recipe are on a knead to know basis
Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses

BIBLE VERSES OF FAITH AND STRENGTH

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works.

Philippians 4:13 - Faith needs to grow and stretch in order to mature us.

HYMNS FOR OCCUPATIONS

Baker:	"I Need Thee Every Hour"
Civil Engineer:	"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
Dentist:	"Crown Him with Many Crowns"
Golfer:	"There Is a Green Hill Far Away"
Optician:	"Open Mine Eyes that I Might See"

WHAT IS GIFT AID?

giftaid it

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.

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 £4,646.00 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 2025.

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

IMPORTANT WORDS

The six most important words...

“I admit I made a mistake “

The five most important words...

“You did a good job “

The four most important words...

“What is your opinion?”

The three most important words...

“If you please”

The two most important words...

“Thank you”

The one most important word...

“We”

HELP OUR CHURCH GROW!

Pray

When it comes to the matters of the kingdom, prayer is not a key. It is the key! In other words, we all need to pray to unlock the growth that we seek in our church.

Praying is a means of communication with God. Taking this action helps open our eyes to certain things that we must do to grow our church. Jeremiah 33:3 tells us to call on God, and He will answer and show us great and mighty things that we didn’t know. That’s how powerful prayer is.

Asides from the guidance you’d receive during prayers, you will also gather strength for the race ahead. Praying also helps you to build faith for the growth that we seek.

In your daily prayers, remember our church, and our prayers for growth, that we might reach out to our community in Bellshill, Mossend and Orbiston.

Share the Gospel

Share the Gospel on a regular basis and lead your church to do the same. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God to save a person from sin, and nothing grows a church like God's people getting right with Him and then sharing the Gospel with others.

Be a listening and community led church

Find out the significant needs in your community – what can we offer that would benefit our community – we could partner with other churches and groups to meet these needs. Effective ministry doesn't happen on its own, but can thrive with collaboration.

Being a listening church focussed on our community, can be a double-edged sword.

While it is our social responsibility towards our community, it does attract people to our church.

An example is holding a sports/health meeting in your community; or running a holiday club/event. Another example is cleaning the environment and handing out souvenirs to invite people to church.

We could host an online survey via the website or social media, so we know what would work, and that it's worth our time. Ask as many questions as possible instead of just diving headlong into an idea because it seems nice.

Get everyone involved

Every member and friend of BCPC should be involved in participation of some kind when it comes to carrying out the mission of the church.

The Church needs to keep its pulse on the congregation. What are the interests, needs, desires, and challenges? Sometimes, it takes creative thinking on how to get people involved. But don't be afraid to volunteer!

FORERUNNERS SCOTLAND

On Sunday 8th December, The Forerunners Scotland Christmas Family Gathering and Church Service was held at Bellshill Central Parish Church, and was such a happy and joyous occasion, and we're blessed to have been part of it at Bellshill.

Forerunners Scotland is an inter-denominational Christian group of Indonesians in Scotland. Their watchwords are:

“Healed to Heal,
Forgiven to Forgive,
Served to Serve and
Blessed to Bless”

Our very own Hugh and Riris (Nicky) Ainsley are heavily involved, and Nicky can be seen in the pictures at the heart of most of the Christmas Family gathering

As you can see from the pictures lots of fun and fellowship was had by all. We must thank Octria Prasojo for the amazing photos. Forerunners are returning to Bellshill Central for a special Easter gathering, and would warmly welcome the Bellshill Central congregation to come and join with them.

If you would like to know more about them, just have a word with Nicky or Hugh.



WHY COME TO CHURCH?

A man, who regularly attended church suddenly and without any notice, stopped participating.

After a few weeks, on a very cold night one of the Elders decided to visit him.

He found the man at home, alone, sitting in front of a fireplace where a bright fire burned. The man welcomed the Elder. There was silence as the two men watched the flames dancing around the logs that crackled in the fireplace.

After a few minutes the Elder, without saying a word, examined the woods that formed the fire and selected one of them with a pair of tongs. He put it to the side and sat down again. The host was paying attention to everything, fascinated.

Before long, the lone flame subsided, until there was only a momentary glow and the fire soon went out. What was previously bright light and heat had become nothing more than a black and dead piece of wood.

Before preparing to leave, the Elder picked up the useless piece of wood and placed it again in the middle of the fire. Immediately, the piece of wood was rekindled, fuelled by the light and heat of the burning coals around him.

When the Elder reached the door to leave, the host said: “Thank you for your visit and for your beautiful lesson. I’ll return to church this Sunday.”

Why is attending Church important? Very simple – each member that withdraws takes spiritual fire from the rest. Every single member is part of the flame, each responsible for keeping each other's flame burning.



**Church is a community,
where we all worship,
praise and learn together.**

COUNCILLOR ANGELA CAMPBELL

Around six months ago, a group I work with were looking at the values which were most important to us with the intention to look at how they may change, or not, the following year.

My choices were: integrity, honesty, strength, trust and loyalty. The reason behind my choices were down to a particularly difficult time I had experienced with colleagues where there was a lack of honesty,

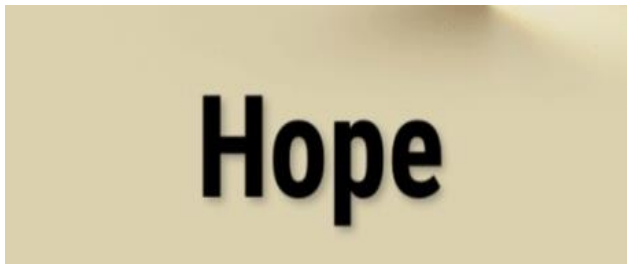
integrity and loyalty, resulting in an inability to trust them. It took a lot of strength to recover from the lies and really tested my faith and has left me finding it very difficult to trust anyone now.

As it happens, 2025 is a Holy Year and the theme is ‘Hope’ which we so need with so many conflicts in the world and so many people who are still struggling after the pandemic. This is especially true with our young people who found the isolation hardest, closely followed by older people. We also have many people struggling to get by in everyday life; be it through illness or financial hardship. Sometimes, hope is the only thing that keeps us going.

Sometimes we confuse hope with optimism. I live in hope but I am certainly not an optimist who assumes everything will work out well regardless. I know the best outcome must be planned for and worked at and we need help from others. We often hope for the best and prepare for the worst – pragmatic. We found our community values during the pandemic to help us get through but, sadly in many areas, we lost them again all too quickly when “normality” returned.

As a town, we have recently had to deal with the closure of two well-loved churches in West Parish Church and St Gerard’s Church. Things will be difficult for a time, but I am sure the congregations will work to stay strong, and the remaining churches will flourish.

Hope is essential to get through personal trials, local problems, national difficulties and worldwide conflicts.





ORBISTON NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

Community Fridge is seeking more food donations and essentials to help people with the cost-of-living crisis. The Fridge opens Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.00am to 2.00pm. Local people can access 10 items for £3. Donations can be left at any time. For details about eligibility, please telephone 01698 842215.

Befriend Bellshill: Following Elaine Hamilton's retirement, Befriend Bellshill recruited a new staff member, Suzanne Bell, who joined Tammy and Billy in January.

ONC Needs More Volunteers: ONC now open 6 days a week providing services which are used by more than 700 people. We need more volunteers to maintain the level of service. Training and support are provided. If you, or someone you know, can help, please phone us on 01698 842215 or drop in for a chat.

What's On At ONC:

- Music Makers and Shakers have added to ONC's timetable of community activities. The group offer interactive fun and music classes for pre-school children aged 0-5 years. Parents, grandparents and carers can join in with activities, which are normally delivered on Wednesday mornings between 10.30 and 11.30.
- Theo's Café opens Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 3.30pm.
- Mosshill Credit Union is now available to meet with members on Mondays from 5.00pm to 7.00pm and on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 12.00pm; in The Hoose.
- Kai Wado Martial Arts meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6.00pm to 9.00pm.
- Community Fridge, accessed from Theo's Café, opens Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.00am to 2.00pm.
- Digital Inclusion operates on Tuesdays from 9.30am.
- Fool On meet on Tuesdays from 2.30pm.

- GA Dance Academy meet on Wednesdays from 5.00pm.
- Petals Flower Arrangers meet on Thursdays from 1.30pm.
- Slimming World meet on Thursdays from 5.30pm to 8.00pm.
- 1st Bellshill & Mossend Scouts meet on Fridays from 5.45pm to 9.00pm
- Elisa's Dance Academy meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6.30pm and on Saturdays from 9.00am.

Spring Clothes Show will take place on Friday, 25 April from 7pm. Refreshments will be available. Tickets cost £3. For more information contact ONC on 01698 842215.

VE Day Celebrations: ONC will be marking Victory In Europe Day (which took place on 8 May 1945) a day early on Wednesday 7 May. More details will be posted on Facebook or Twitter.

Older Persons Service will be offering:

- Valentines Day Arts and Crafts in February
- Movie Days on 13 and 28 February
- A group outing to Bellshill Golf Club.
- Men's Group will have:
 - Pancake Day party on 3 March
 - Bowling Trip on 19 March.
- Wee Friendly Club and Men's Group will share
 - Boat Trips, Easter Party and Arts & Crafts in April.
 - Fish Suppers, more Boat Trips and Movie Days in May.

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

Holiday Closures: ONC will be closed on Friday, 18 April and Monday, 21 April for the Easter break; and Monday 5 May for the May Bank Holiday.

Robert Piper
 Utheo Ltd (Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre)

PREACHING ROTA MARCH TO JUNE

Sunday 2nd March	Rev Caryl Kyle
Sunday 9th March	Rev Margaret Rose (Communion) (Lent 1)
Sunday 16th March	Songs of Praise, Worship Team (Lent 2)
Sunday 23rd March	Rev Margaret Rose (Lent 3)
Sunday 30th March	Rev Margaret Rose (Lent 4)

Sunday 6th April	Rev Margaret Rose (Lent 5)
Sunday 13th April	Ian Douglas (Palm Sunday)
Sunday 20th April	9am Early Service followed by breakfast 11am Rev Margaret Rose (Communion)
Sunday 27th April	Ian Douglas

Sunday 4th May	Rev Martin Johnstone
Sunday 11th May	Rev Margaret Rose
Sunday 18th May	Worship Team (Christian Aid Theme)
Sunday 25th May	Rev Margaret Rose

Sunday 1st June	Ian Douglas
Sunday 8th June	Rev Margaret Rose (Communion)
Sunday 15th June	Ian Douglas
Sunday 22nd June	Rev Margaret Rose (Young Church BBQ)
Sunday 29th June	Rev Margaret Rose

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 2nd March	Tea and Coffee after Church
Sunday 9th March	Communion
April - TBC	Forerunners Scotland Easter Gathering
Sunday 6th April	Tea and Coffee after Church
Sunday 13th April	Hot Cross Buns after Church
14th to 18th April	Holy Week
Wednesday 16th April	Holy Week Film night (time TBC)
Thursday 17th April	Maundy Thursday Communion 7pm
Friday 18th April	Good Friday reflections 10am to 1pm, with words/music at 10am, 11am, 12noon and 1pm
Sunda 20th April	9am Early service, followed by breakfast 11am Family Service with Communion
Sunday 4th May	Rolls and sausage in aid of Christian Aid, after the Church service
Monday 12th May	Clothes Show with Brian Taylor
Friday 16th May	Concert with Arietta 7.30pm
11th to 17th May	Christian Aid Week
Saturday 31st May	Strawberry Afternoon Tea
Sunday 1st June	Tea and Coffee after Church
Sunday 8th June	Communion
Sunday 22nd June	Young Church Prizegiving and BBQ

CHURCH REGISTER

Baptisms

Grace Elisabeth Roy (5th January 2025)

Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'

New members

Jessie Middleton transfer in from Bellshill West

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Deaths

Andrew (Andy) Mitchell (husband of Ray Mitchell)

Alex Tweedie (10th February 2025)

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

Please let Peggy Walker our Church Roll Keeper, or your Elder, know of any changes to address and phone numbers so we can keep our list of members up to date.



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) 7pm Hope for Autism 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:	10am Hope for Autism 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 (as announced)

CHURCH CONTACTS



Interim Moderator

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

Locum Minister	Rev Margaret Rose, B.D. 01357 671664 Email - minister@bellshillcentral.church	
Session Clerk	Stanley Cook	01698 747144
Board Clerk		
Finance Convenor & Presbytery Elder		
Treasurer		
Gift Aid		
Property Convenor		
Fundraising		
Young Church & Church Flowers		
Guild President		
Roll Keeper		
Organist, Choir and Communications		
Rainbows Brownies Guides Bowling		

Church Email Address

hello@bellshillcentral.church