


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

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

Summer 2025



**You are invited to the Sacrament of Holy
Communion on Sunday 8th June 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.

A MESSAGE FROM IAN DOUGLAS

The trouble with getting that bit older (there is a difference between getting ‘older’ and getting ‘old’!!!) is that time seems to fly by faster each year. As I write this Message, here we are already almost at the end of May, and we will soon reach the longest day, and the half way point of the year. Where has the time gone?! No doubt we will start to see Christmas adverts in a couple of months, the way that marketing seems to be these days!



What a spell of weather we have been enjoying. I shifted my 2 tons of winter logs last week – usually I am working against the clock to shift them in a day before the rain sets in. I then suffer for a week with every muscle in my body aching. Not this year. I could take my time, plenty of coffee breaks, stack them carefully to make the most of the log stores...and no sore back!!

We had a glorious 2 weeks over in the Island of Coll. The sun shone every day, we visited Tiree for the first time, and the Church Services held in the beautiful ‘Kirk on the Hill’ were well attended.

Mind you, as you would all expect, there were a few ‘interesting’ moments during the stay which will provide a number of ‘All Age Talks’ over the next few weeks. Mainly to do with mechanical things breaking down, along with an interesting encounter with a peat bog on Tiree!! Getting stuck in a peat bog is one of my greatest fears – disappearing into the depths only to be discovered 2000 years later totally intact with my wee back pack, and walking pole still in my hand!! Yes – that was an interesting walk!!

We also stayed in a place on Tiree which would give ‘Fawlty Towers’ a run for its money!!

The Church Organist had the usual ‘repertoire’ of music before the Church Services – ‘Yellow Bird’, ‘I Do Like to Be Beside the Sea Side’, some Beatles hits, and the list goes on.

Yes – I am sure you would expect nothing other than a few good stories from the Douglas Adventures!!!

And the weather was superb!!!!

We did miss our wee Grand-daughter, Grace, while we were away. Over the 2 weeks, she has started to crawl, and she is into everything!! Every day is a new adventure for her (and us), and she brings the whole family so much joy with her smiles and her antics.

On Sunday 25th May, Margaret and I will be attending an emotional Church Service over in Motherwell. As you all know, I was Parish Assistant at Crosshill Church in Motherwell for almost 13 years, and on Sunday the 25th May 2025, the very last Service of Worship will be held in the Church, with the first Service having been held 147 years ago in 1878. The Service will be conducted by the Very Rev Shaw Paterson. An emotional time for the congregation, and I have many happy memories of my time there.

Crosshill has formed a Union with Dalziel St Andrews Church in Motherwell – and I am sure that both congregations are in our prayers for their future together.

The world around us is still in turmoil in so many ways. I shared the stories of Aurelia and Amelia from Guatemala last Sunday as part of Christian Aid Week. Their stories of hardship and struggle as a result of Climate Change put all of my recent ‘adventures’ into perspective. The

overwhelming message though, was one of hope. Their stories were inspiring, with Aurelia clearly stating that ‘I really give my life to my neighbours, sharing my knowledge with them’

In this fractured world, Christ’s one Commandment ‘Love thy Neighbour’ seems to be a distant hope with so many areas of the world in conflict.

Just like Aurelia and Amelia, we must not give up hope. Christ tells us that. God spoke to the Psalmists and Prophets of the Old Testament and, through them, told his people not to give up hope. Christian Aid’s theme is that of ‘Abounding Hope’.

Let us go forward into the second half of this year with Abounding Hope, Justice, and Love, the focus of our daily lives.

Blessings to you all,
Ian



PRESBYTERY MISSION PLANNING UPDATE

Since the last magazine, there's not much to report, as due to various factors there have been delays in organising meetings.

Derek and Stanley have had some informal discussions with Rev Michael Lyall and David Alexander (Session Clerk) of Viewpark Parish Church, to discern if our two congregations might be able to work together more.

We have informed the Implementation Team of the initial approach, and of our informal discussions and will report back to them for their next meeting.

The Kirk Session and Congregational Board met jointly on 13th May, where we were posed with questions from the Implementation Team.

The unanimous view of your Session and Board is to maintain our presence here at 346 Main Street. We are the only Church of Scotland offering Sunday Morning Worship in Bellshill.

We envisage meetings between ourselves and Viewpark to continue over the summer months as we discern a suitable way forward to serve our respective parish communities.

PRAYERS FOR THE PRESBYTERY MISSION PLAN

Please continue to uphold our office bearers and representatives as we discern our way through this process and how our congregation can continue to reach out into Bellshill.

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD! NEWS FROM AROUND OUR CONGREGATION



COIN BOXES

Between 10 February and 19 May 2025, we received £214.27 via the Coin Boxes; which compares with £129.92 received in the same period last year. Huge thanks to everybody who contributed! Every penny (bronze or silver!) is valuable and much appreciated.

LIFE AND WORK

Peggy

Life and Work magazine is full of information and articles about a variety of church-related subjects and people. You can buy one month at a time or make a regular subscription here:

<https://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe/subscribe>

If you would like to pay in cash; rather than by Direct Debit, please speak to me.

At this time of the year, you can also keep up to date with what's happening at the General Assembly and other things going on in the world, either via their Facebook presence or here:

<https://www.lifeandwork.org/news/news>

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.

BOWLS

Wednesday afternoon meetings finished on 14th May and the regular members look forward to returning in September. New members would be made most welcome on Wednesdays from 1pm to 3pm.

CHOIR

The choir session will be ending towards the end of June, and we have enjoyed our Spring/Summer session with lots of fun and new music.

Highlights have been our contemplative service for Maundy Thursday, when we sang “Come to the table”. We were also able to include that piece on Easter Sunday when we shared in Communion once more.

The choir acquired a mascot this session – Esther the Easter Lamb! Esther has made an appearance on some Sunday mornings and more recently has graced the top of the organ and communion table. Watch out for more from Esther!

We will take a break from our Wednesday practices in June and will resume in mid-September – once the Maestro has returned from sunnier climes. New members, particularly men, are always welcomed.

Alan
Organist

THE GUILD

The Guild syllabus during February and March included speakers from Alan Mathew, our organist, Karen Stangoe from Scripture Union and Rev Andrew Sarle who spoke to us "From Rabbi to Minister." In between times we enjoyed some varied in-house games.

Before the session closed, we held our AGM and a draft syllabus for 2025/26 was presented, most of which was already confirmed.

Peter Gardner and friends entertained us for the closing social which had to be held in the Church due to the ceiling coming down in the hall. This didn't stop the ladies from dancing in the aisle and enjoying our last meeting before our summer respite.

As has been the practice during the summer closedown, the first of our monthly outings has already taken place at the time of writing to Faraday Park in Coatbridge. Although numbers attending were low and M & S cafe was temporarily closed, the ladies still managed to enjoy a cuppa in Tesco and time to have a blether.

The next planned outing is on Monday 26th May to Gouldings Garden Centre and we look forward to another good day.

The Guild starts back on Monday 6th October with a joint Communion Service with our friends at Burnhead Parish Church. Anyone interested in joining us will be made most welcome.

Sheena
President

RAINBOWS

We have had a really busy session after coming back after Christmas and Easter as all the girls have been working hard for all the badges we are doing.

One of the activities we have been doing has been chalk drawing outside (as the sun has actually been shining) and the girls just love it. The first time we were outside they were drawing using all the colours and the second time they had to do a portrait of themselves!!

The other things they have enjoyed are a science night that involved magnets, tealights and baking soda and vinegar. It was fun and all the experiments actually worked!!

We have also been busy making Mother's Day and Easter cards. We have also done rubbings to get different textures, and they have played lots of games and learned new Rainbows songs.

We have even managed to go to the park and have ice cream on the way back to the hall. It's amazing what you can do on a sunny night.

Our last night will be the first Tuesday in June when we will be having our beach party with a bouncy castle. The girls will receive the two badges they have been working towards and the girls going to Brownies will receive their Pot of Gold badges to put onto their Brownie uniform.

Wishing everyone a lovely safe summer and may the sun continue to shine (fingers crossed)

Chemaine

FUNDRAISING

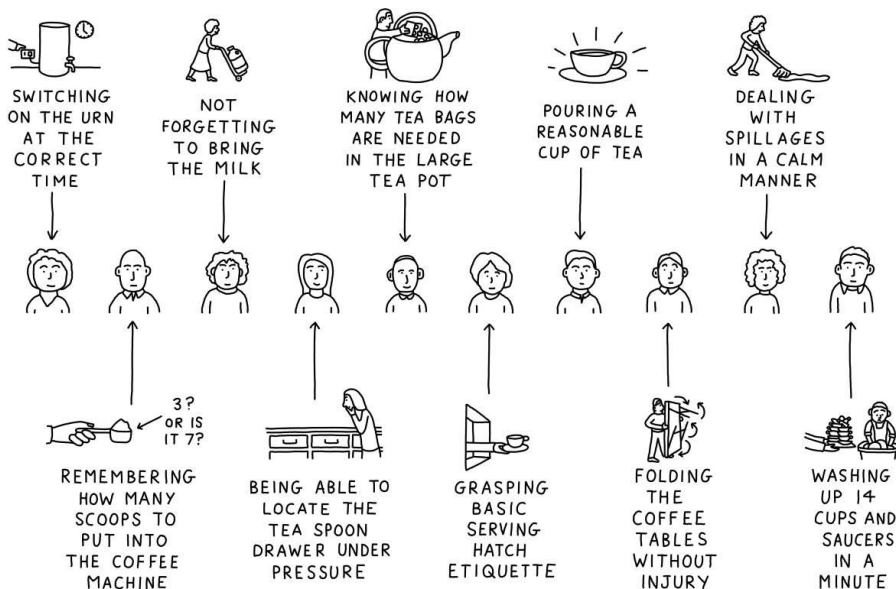
We enjoyed coming together for our Hot Rolls after church on the first Sunday in May to raise funds for Christian Aid. Anne Guy once again excelled herself in organising another excellent Clothes Show, raising over £600 for Church Funds.

We held a very enjoyable concert with the Arietta Ladies choir, in a joint fund-raising effort for Church Funds and Christian Aid. It was good to raise £165 for each and have a lovely sunny evening in the church with beautiful music.

At the time of going to print we are looking forward to our Strawberry Tea on Saturday 31st May, from 1pm to 3pm. Tickets are on sale from any of the Fundraising team, or you can pay at the door. We thank everyone who supports our events. Your generosity is always appreciated.

SKILLS

GAINED OVER A LIFETIME OF CHURCHGOING





The Church Walking Group held a belated Pancake Day coffee morning in April, helping raise funds for Christian Aid.

It was a lovely morning, and even our youngest of visitors had a ball, along with Gran Jessie – doesn't Pearl look gorgeous while she awaited her treats.

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported the event.

NEWS FROM MOSSEND PRIMARY SCHOOL

It's a busy and wonderful time of the year in Mossend Primary School and Nursery Class. The children are loving the sunshine and have been thoroughly enjoying being outdoors.

At Mossend, we have been working hard to develop our playground spaces – if you pass by you might see us dressing up, using chalks, enjoying water play and wheeling around in scooters and toy cars to name but a few activities! Give us a wave if you do!

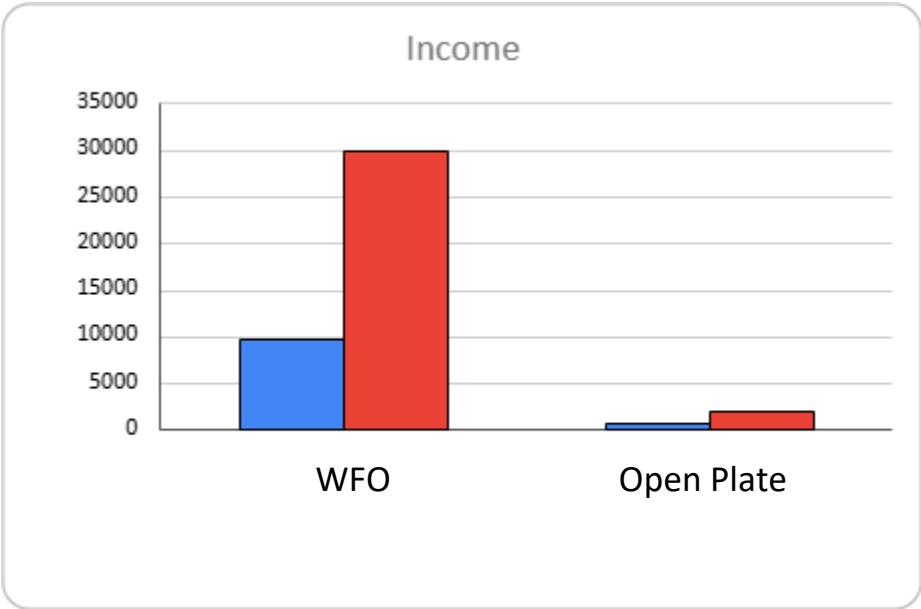
In Mossend we love to read and are working towards attaining our Reading School Gold Award. Do you know that we have a Community Learning Library in our foyer? We have some great titles and would love for any of the Bellshill Central Community to pop in and borrow a book at anytime.

Our Nursery class are looking forward to their trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park. Hopefully the sun continues to shine for us!

Please keep us in your prayers as we all prepare to transition to a new chapter in our lives. Wishing all of the Bellshill Central Community a restful and peaceful summer.



FINANCE



WFO for the 4 months ended 30 April 2025 amounts to £9722 which is £278 short of our target for the period.

Open Plate for the period is £667, slightly ahead of our forecast.

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

Zandra

HOLY WEEK

We had a lovely time of fellowship and worship during Holy Week, with a Film Night, Communion and Open Church taking place.

At our Open Church on Good Friday four members of our Prayer Group led a reflection and prayer on the hour – Zandra, Anne, Alan and Nicky. We played the beautiful hymn “My song is love unknown” each time.

It was lovely to welcome regular members of our church family along, to see Ian Douglas spend some time in the stillness and a few strangers who came in and sat for a moment.



John 3:16:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

FROM BOBBY AND ALEXA

(from the pen of Rabbie guy!)

Bobby and Alexa would like to thank you all
For joining with their family in our little church hall

And it was great to celebrate they'd like you all to know
In their wedding celebrations of sixty years ago

Drew saved the day from Morocco, when the roof came down
The same thing happened sixty years ago, when Drew was not around

The junior choir was where this couple met while deep in song
And their love has lasted sixty years and we know will always be strong

Again they thank you oh so much and just would like to say
How grateful both of them are that you made it such a special day



SCOTTISH PLACE NAMES QUIZ

Please submit your answers to Alan by the beginning of August.
Answers will be printed in the Autumn magazine.

1. In Church all day
2. Saucy Harbour
3. Mother and Baby okay
4. Shout!!
5. The Ned's favourite tippie
6. Spanish Spirit
7. A chef on the cheap
8. Talking about a part of the body
9. Transport for an aquatic animal
10. Sounds like trouble far away in 1982
11. Frank and Bancroft
12. Shoot new spouse in Lanarkshire
13. A very hot, fine little village
14. A musical instrument
15. A place for young women
16. Perhaps vehicles can get up these?
17. Attractive crossing
18. Handsome Richard
19. Heard on the battlefield
20. Baby sound with a holiday sweet
21. Bald folk may live here?
22. Whipping the young ovine
23. A fine example down under
24. People watching
25. Runner Farah has put on weight



We enjoyed our Easter Sunday early service in the church grounds again this year.

Thanks to all who came along and supported this special service. It was a wee bit chilly, but it was dry for another year, the birds were chirping and our neighbours said hello too!

Afterwards we had a lovely, shared breakfast in the hall, and we must thank our fundraising and social team for putting on another lovely spread. It was just lovely.

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

PREACHING ROTA MARCH TO JUNE

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

Sunday 6th July	Songs of Praise
Sunday 13th July	Rev Alan McKenzie
Sunday 20th July	Rev Jim Zambonini
Sunday 27th July	Ian Douglas

Sunday 3rd August	Rev Margaret Rose
Sunday 10th August	Ian Douglas
Sunday 17th August	Rev Margaret Rose
Sunday 24th August	Ian Douglas
Sunday 31st August	Rev Margaret Rose

Sunday 7th September	Rev Caryl Kyle
Sunday 14th September	Rev Margaret Rose (Communion)
Sunday 21st September	Rev Caryl Kyle
Sunday 28th September	Rev Margaret Rose

We are delighted that Rev Margaret has agreed to continue as our Part Time Locum Minister for another 6 months, with the proviso she has July all to herself!

We look forward to Rev Margaret leading us in worship, along with Ian Douglas and others, for the rest of the year.

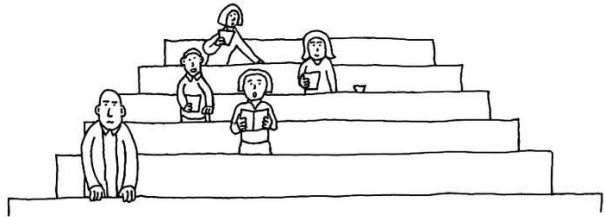
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 1st June	Tea and Coffee after Church
Sunday 8th June	Communion
Sunday 22nd June	Young Church Prizegiving and BBQ
Monday 23rd June	Mossend Primary End of Term Service
Sunday 6th July	Stated Annual Meeting
	Tea and Coffee after Church
Sunday 3rd August	Tea and Coffee after Church
Saturday 23rd August	Wedding of Carrie and Robert
Sunday 7th September	Tea and Coffee after Church
Sunday 14th September	Communion

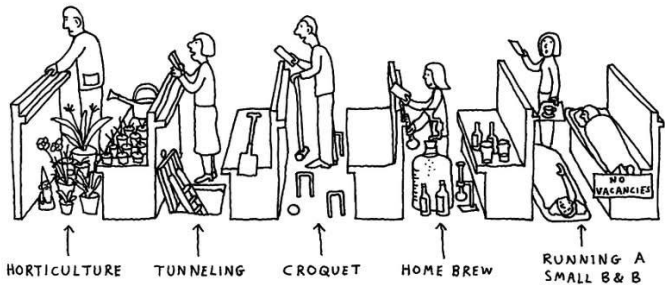
IN THE PEWS

WHAT IS GOING ON?

WHAT THE
VICAR SEES



ACTUAL
ACTIVITIES



CHURCH REGISTER

Baptisms

None

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

Alice K	from Bellshill West
Sadie C	from EU Church
Elizabeth C	added to roll

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

Deaths

It is with sadness that we note the death of three of our church members:

- Elaine R, Alan's cousin, who recently transferred to our congregation from South Wishaw. You will remember that Elaine told us a wee bit about herself in our last magazine.
- Alice K; a lovely lady in her late 90s, Alice had transferred to our congregation in March from Bellshill West. Alice much appreciated the pastoral care she received from Rev Margaret Rose.
- Peggy S; a long-time member of our congregation and former Guild Treasurer, Peggy had been unwell for some months.

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

Please let Peggy W 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	<p>Please enquire with Stanley Cook if you need to contact any of our office bearers or email the church email address below.</p> <p>For data protection the names and contact details are removed from our online copy.</p>	
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