

THE CHRONICLE

Spring 2026



Bellshill: Central Parish Church of Scotland
346 Main Street, Bellshill, ML4 1BA
Registered Scottish Charity: SC012556

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.

You can also look on the Church website www.bellshillcentral.church

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

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

On the second Sunday of March, June, September and December we gather as a Church Family around the Lord's Table to share in Bread and Wine.

We use non-alcoholic wine and have gluten free bread available, should you need to know this.

***You are invited to the Sacrament of Holy Communion on
Sunday 8 March 2026 at 11am in person and online,
led by Rev Margaret ES Rose, BD***

A MESSAGE FROM IAN DOUGLAS

Ah well – it seemed a good idea at the time!!! After what has seemed to be an unending winter of grey skies and dismal weather, the forecast for this Friday and Saturday actually looked quite promising. Blue skies, lengthening days, and a chance to hop on the ferry at Largs and go for the first walk in months around the Isle of Cumbrae.

Promising start on Saturday – bright sunshine in Strathaven, ‘shades’ on – and off we went. Apart from a slight ‘discussion’ with the Calmac loading staff at Largs pier, to allow us on the ferry despite the new rules forbidding passenger boarding after the cars were loaded, we arrived on Cumbrae in lovely sunshine. Promising start!! Looking towards Arran and beyond – the clouds were beginning to bubble up, and the weather was definitely on the turn. For two hours, the walk was most enjoyable. The signs of spring were all around us. Snowdrops, crocuses, narcissi, and even a bee collecting nectar.

And then the clouds rolled in!! The wind got up, and the temperature dropped dramatically. The bus pass was produced and we jumped on the bus back to the ferry instead of another 5 miles of miserable, cold walking.

However – the cobwebs were well and truly dispersed, and we both felt the benefit of our 8 miles of walking; and an enjoyable lunch in Frasers Bar.



Sunday 15 February was Transfiguration Sunday – marking the end of the Season of Epiphany, and entering into the Season of Lent. As I was reflecting during the sermon, the beauty of the Bible is that, no matter how often I read a passage, or reflect on readings, every time I look at a familiar Bible passage or story, I very often find a new ‘take’ on the story or passage. Sometimes it is as a result of a personal experience I have had, and sometimes it is simply looking at something in a different light.

That is the beauty of the Bible – it is a ‘living’ book!!

Of all the Seasons of the Christian Calendar, this period of Lent is one which causes me deep thought and reflection. The journey towards the Cross stirs many emotions. Christ himself went through many emotions as he made that journey. He knew what the end result was going to be. After all, this was to be the fulfilment of all God’s promises foretold by the prophets centuries before.

Lent gives us the opportunity to reflect. It gives us the opportunity to put into context all that is going on in our own lives and in wider society. Empires and emperors come and go, and they become part of history.

Not so with the Good News of the Gospel.

The Bible, and Christ’s teachings have never been ‘discarded’ into the realms of history. Even with the undermining of Christian values and Christian doctrine in our secular society, the Word of God has never become diluted or irrelevant. In fact, in many ways, it is the opposite.

As society becomes more divided and more intolerant, more members of society are turning to God and prayer as the only true hope they

have of making things better. I received an email from a good friend recently. He sent me a notification that the Supreme Court has ruled that Christian teaching in our schools is a human rights violation. As it stands, this ruling could be used to erase Christian RE worship and ethos in our schools.

A bit 'rich' considering that the vast majority of our laws and moral standing are firmly founded on the teachings of Christ. Our values in society are firmly rooted in the Good News of the Gospel, no matter how hard the 'secular' brigade try to undermine these facts.

The Bible tells us that the darkness will never put out the light. So often we feel surrounded in darkness, and yet the light of Christ so often shines through in our own times of doubt and concern. And that brings us hope.

That is our hope as we enter this period of Lent. The light of Christ shines as brightly now as it did on that lonely journey towards the Cross. The pain and suffering of the Cross is our road to salvation. It is our road to eternal life. It is the road upon which our faith is firmly founded.

During this period of Lent, take time to pray, take time to reflect, take time to look at our own faith journey. Christ must have felt alone on that journey to the Cross. As we journey towards the Cross during Lent, we need never feel alone. Christ journeys with us throughout our lives. The journey will have both times of joy and challenging times as we face the realities of life. But we are never alone.

Christ tells us – 'Do not be afraid, for I am with you always'.

God Bless you all during your own Lent Journey.

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD! NEWS FROM AROUND OUR CONGREGATION



COIN BOXES

Peggy Walker

Between 23 November and 31 December 2025, we received £89.78 via the coin boxes, bringing the total for the year to £782.99. For comparison, the total for 2024 was £442.13 and in 2023 the figure was £281.74. So far this year, £74.34 has been received. Huge thanks to everyone who contributes!

PRAYER GROUP

Alan Mathew

We gather most Monday evenings on Zoom, lifting up those in our prayer book, our community, and the wider Church. Everyone is welcome — whether you'd like to join regularly or simply when you're free. For details, please speak to Stanley or Alan.

RAINBOWS

Chemaine Jarvie

Since returning from our Christmas break, our Rainbows have been full of energy and enthusiasm as we dive into new badge work.

We've also welcomed several new girls who will turn seven over the summer. Rather than miss out on Rainbows and move straight to Brownies later in the year, we invited them to join us for the six

months leading up to the summer break. We're delighted that they all came along — and even more delighted that they've settled in so well. We'll be working on their Promise soon, with the hope of enrolling them before Easter.

Our badge work has already taken us on all sorts of adventures. The girls have drawn fantastic pictures now displayed proudly on our hall board, built imaginative tents from blankets and pegs, sorted clothes into summer and winter bundles, and even attempted to pack a suitcase. All of this contributes to the new badge we're working towards.

We also embraced the mess and fun of Valentine's crafts, creating handprint cards with plenty of red paint — washable, thankfully!

At the time of writing, our next meeting will be Pancake Night. Yippee! A food night is always a favourite.

RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS

The congregation of Bellshill Central Parish Church is warmly invited to celebrate the Renewal of Wedding Vows of Mary and Jim Mathew on Saturday 25th April at 3.00pm in the Church. The service will, we hope, be conducted by Revd Margaret.



Please join us from 2.15pm beforehand for a cuppa and cake as we gather in fellowship before the service.

All are very welcome to come along and share in this special celebration.

CARPET BOWLS AT BCPC

Our Carpet Bowls group continues to meet every Wednesday afternoon from 2pm, and we'd be delighted to welcome anyone who would like to come along and give it a try. It's a relaxed and friendly afternoon with plenty of laughter, a cuppa, and some treats — a lovely time of fellowship together.

CHURCH MUSIC

Alan Mathew

December was a busy and uplifting month for the choir, marked by dedication and joyful service:

- Time to Remember Service – providing music that offered comfort and reflection.
- Candlelight Carols – a highlight of the season, filled with warmth and festive spirit.
- Visits to two Nursing Homes – sharing carols and hymns, bringing joy and companionship to residents.
- Lessons and Carols – a traditional service where the choir's voices enriched scripture readings with music.

The choir worked tirelessly throughout December, contributing to the spiritual life of the congregation and wider community.

After such a full schedule, the choir enjoyed a well-earned festive break over Christmas and New Year. Rehearsals resumed on 14th January 2026, refreshed and ready for the months ahead.

By the time the Chronicle reaches you, we'll have planned two visits to Hattonlea in January and February, brightening a few Friday afternoons

for the residents. We're planning to return again in the spring, and anyone from the congregation is very welcome to join us.

Looking Ahead

The choir is now turning its focus towards Easter preparations, with rehearsals building towards the season's services. Alongside this, members are excited to explore new repertoire, including:

- A fresh arrangement of the familiar hymn Be Still for the Presence of the Lord.
- And a special version of The Prayer combined with Lead Me Lord.

These new pieces promise to add depth and variety to the choir's offerings, continuing the tradition of meaningful and inspiring music at Bellshill Central Parish Church.

We warmly welcome new members in every voice part — no need to read music! Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7pm to discover more.

Organ Update

During the Christingle Service, the organ experienced a slight problem due to some of the leatherwork in its inner mechanisms having perished. This is not unexpected, as the leather parts were last replaced around 50 years ago.

We are deeply grateful to Paul Miller, organ builder, who made an early morning dash to Bellshill to carry out a temporary repair. By blocking off the affected area, he ensured that the organ remained playable throughout the Christmas services.

A permanent repair will be required to fully resolve the fault. However, this work is currently on hold until the outcome of Presbytery Planning is clarified.

THE GUILD

Sheena Bowman, President

The second half of the Guild session began with a belated Christmas lunch at the Rolling Barrel. This has proved a firm favourite with the ladies for a couple of years, being local and good food. It was lovely to include Helen Clark who has been absent from our meetings due to ill health, as well as TWO men – Sam Clark and John Black.

Pastor Cal Morrison was expected as the first speaker of the year on the week of Christian Unity. An interested male came along to hear Cal but unfortunately, there was a breakdown in communication, and this did not happen. However, he has been pencilled in for next year.

The following week, the speaker told us about his involvement with Larkhall Volunteer Centre. This group provide a vast range of services both in house and out with the local area, including a community bus.

There is always plenty to say about Robert Burns, but we heard about Burns' strong connection with the Church, which included various quotes from his many poems.

Stonehouse Male Voice Choir provided excellent entertainment on our annual Guest Night. The first appearance of a female Junior Choir was also in attendance and added to the enjoyment. The evening was exceptionally well attended and a donation of £531 was handed over to Gillian, a representative from YAMS. This is a voluntary mental health organisation based in Newarthill Library, which is accessible to anyone.

Three other speakers are expected before our session closes at the end of March. One of these is from one of the four projects being supported by the Guild nationally.

During the summer months, it is hoped some local monthly outings will take place as before. The syllabus for the next session is already taking shape, and a few potential speakers have confirmed their attendance.

Membership dropped considerably during the past few months, mainly due to illness. There is always a welcome for new members, male or female, so please consider joining and enjoy a couple of hours away from the kitchen sink or the nagging wife!

FUNDRAISING TEAM

Jane Aitken

The Fundraising Team would like to thank everyone that supported the annual Burns Lunch. Thanks also go to Ian Douglas for his wonderful address to the Haggis which ensured we all had a wonderful time. We raised the lovely sum of £264 for the Church.

We are currently planning the cheese and wine night which will take place on Saturday 7 March. Tickets will be available shortly as there has been quite a bit of interest. Be prepared to have a brilliant night and there may be a wee retro game to be played! Cheese, biscuits and other nibbles along with soft drinks are provided and to keep prices low this is a bring your own bottle event.

We will help celebrate Easter by having tea, coffee and Hot Cross Buns on Palm Sunday – 29 March and if the early morning Easter Sunday Service on 5 April goes ahead, then we will be on hand to assist and provide breakfast.

We are also looking forward to a summer celebration at the end of May – keep your eyes peeled for more information on this in the near future.

Once again, a huge thanks goes to the fundraising team and all our helpers that offer their services to deliver tea, coffee and wash dishes and sell the tickets for the events. They spend many hours planning and preparing for each event and we could not do it without their skills and talents.

Please get in touch if you think you can help with or at any of the events as many hands make light work.

HYMN AND MUSIC REQUESTS

Alan Mathew

We continue our series of Hymns and Music Requests, and 2026 is already off to a lovely start. On 8 February we sang Sing of the Lord's Goodness, requested by Elspeth. Mary Mathew has an organ piece pending, when her son remembers!

We're delighted to chat with anyone who has a request — whether it's for a special occasion such as a wedding, or simply a hymn or piece of music that holds personal meaning. Your choices enrich our worship and help shape services that speak to the heart of our congregation.

This raised much-needed funds for the church throughout 2025, and we hope it will continue to make a significant contribution during 2026.

SPRING CONCERT FOR CHRISTIAN AID

Celebrate the season with an uplifting evening of music as the Cantabile Ensemble presents a Spring Concert on Friday 15 May, in support of Christian Aid and Church Funds. Known for their expressive

harmonies and thoughtful repertoire, the ensemble will offer a programme filled with freshness, colour, and the spirit of spring.

Your support directly supports Christian Aid's vital work around the world, making this night have meaningful impact.

After the performance, guests are warmly invited to stay for refreshments, including a complimentary glass of wine — a relaxed chance to chat, unwind, and enjoy the company of fellow music lovers.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK (10 TO 16 MAY 2026)

Each May, we join with churches across the country to mark Christian Aid Week — a moment when our prayers, generosity, and compassion reach far beyond Bellshill. It's a meaningful part of our church year, reminding us that even small acts of kindness can help transform lives.

Christian Aid continues to support communities living with poverty, conflict, and climate change. The challenges are real, but so is the hope. A donation, a filled envelope, or simply raising awareness can help families build safer homes, access clean water, grow sustainable crops, and move toward a future of dignity.

Here at BCPC, we're proud to stand alongside this work. Whether you give financially, pray for those in need, or help share the message, you are part of a movement bringing practical help and lasting change.

Ways to give:

- Christian Aid envelopes available in church
- Spring Concert on 15 May with the Cantabile Ensemble
- Online: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>



CANTABILE ENSEMBLE

MELODIES
of **MAY**

SPRING CONCERT

**BELLSHILL CENTRAL
PARISH CHURCH**

346 MAIN STREET, BELLSHILL, ML4 1BA

Friday 15th May 2026 | 7:30pm

Tickets on sale priced £10
Includes refreshments afterwards
(including wine)

Fundraising for Christian Aid
and Church Funds

All Welcome

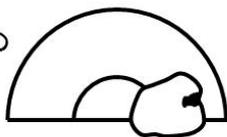
We enjoyed a wonderful Burns Day on Sunday 25 January. Our morning service, led by Ian and Alan, was both thoughtful and uplifting before we gathered for Burns Lunch organised by our Fundraising Team. The day was filled with warmth, fellowship, and good cheer, and it was truly enjoyed by all.



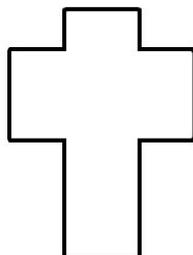
Easter Word Search

T H O R N S W Y S M L A P N G
K R I S E N Y C E N O T S E C
R E T S O O R D R K H O T V R
B E L I E V E S E O N H B I U
Y T P M E Z D X S Y S O C G C
E C I F I R C A S E A S D R I
E V I L A L N B M O T R B O F
S I N U I N N A I L S C T F Y
W V G F A E N P I L A T E E S
B R E A D E Y A R P D I E D B

ALIVE
BELIEVE
BETRAYED
BREAD
CROSS
CRUCIFY
DIED
DONKEY
EMPTY
FORGIVEN



GETHSEMANE
GUARDS
HOSANNA
LIFE
NAILS
PALMS
PILATE
PRAYED
RISEN
ROOSTER



SACRIFICE
SIN
SON
STONE
THORNS
TOMB

A FRIEND IS A TREASURE *by Jean Kyler McManus*

A friend is someone we turn to
When our spirits need a lift
A friend is someone we treasure
For true friendship is a gift

A friend is someone we laugh with
Over little personal things
A friend is someone we're serious
with, in facing whatever life brings

A friend is someone who fills our lives
With beauty and joy and grace
And makes the world that we live in
A better and happier place!

A PRAYER FOR BELLSHILL CENTRAL

God of all wisdom and mercy, look with kindness on Bellshill Central Parish Church as we journey forward in faith.

Nurture in us a spirit of growth that deepens our discipleship, widens our welcome, and strengthens the bonds that hold our community together.

Renew our commitment to serve with compassion, to worship with joy, and to follow Christ with integrity and courage.

When challenges arise, grant us resilience rooted not in our own strength but in your steadfast love that never fails.

Fill us with hope for the future you are preparing—a future where your light guides our steps, your Spirit inspires our imagination, and your grace sustains every good work we undertake.

Bless our leaders, our members, our families, and all who find a home among us.

Shape us into a church that reflects your heart and shines as a beacon of peace, welcome, and faith in our town.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

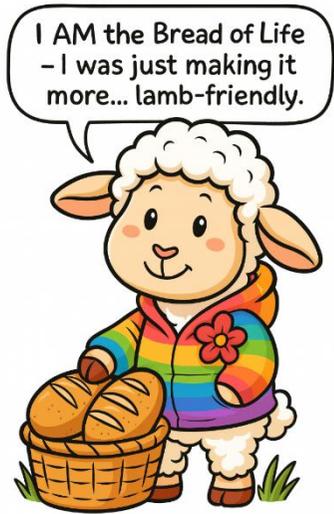
I AM the Bread of Life – from Esther the BCPC Lamb!

Esther was found this week in the church kitchen, standing proudly beside the communion bread with a look that said, “At last, they’ve recognised my culinary genius.”

Unfortunately, she had also tried to “improve” the recipe by adding a generous handful of grass from the church garden.

When confronted, she simply bleated, “Well, Jesus said He’s the Bread of Life — I was just making it more... lamb-friendly.”

The grass was removed. Esther was not impressed.



BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL

Jayne Anderson

Thank you for your generous donations which enabled our December haul of boxes to reach those in need.

As we turn our thoughts to the 2026 appeal, this is a great time to pick up bargains such as hats, scarves and gloves. You can also help by adding small toiletries to your weekly shop — soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste and similar essentials.

Carole Muir (in the choir) expects to have empty shoeboxes available soon, which can be collected directly from her.

NAOMI, GEORGINA & CORA

From Coatbridge (though not originally!)

A little about us

Georgina: I grew up in Blackhill and was part of St Paul's Church in Glasgow. There wasn't a huge amount to do locally, and because church was such a central part of life, it felt natural to get involved in the clubs and groups there.

As I got older, people my age drifted away, but I became more rooted – helping with the local youth group, volunteering with the GKexperience and the Iona Community. Through opportunities with the Poverty Truth Commission, I began working part-time while studying Business at university.

Then life happened — Covid happened — and I now work at Costco. I'm currently on maternity leave after welcoming our wee blessing, Cora.

Naomi: Like Georgina, I grew up in and around the church, so that space has always felt like a home away from home. At my previous church I was part of the choir with my mum, and I grew up attending Girls' Brigade before later becoming an Officer.

I've always felt called to some form of ministry, though it took time to work out what that looked like. I previously applied for ministry, and while I wasn't accepted, that experience led me to my current role working for the Church of Scotland. I truly believe that role is a ministry – God has called me to serve with a focus and a heart for congregations in Priority Areas.

Why we came to Bellshill Central

Naomi: For years, my mum had been pestering me to come along to Bellshill. She could see I was searching and feeling unfulfilled where I was worshipping — but I ignored her!

Then late last year, after Cora was born, strangers were praying for and celebrating our wee girl. Georgina came along first, scoping out just how accessible the church really was for me. Something shifted. We felt it almost immediately.

Things we love

Georgina: Irish dancing, and watching Arsenal Women play football

Naomi: Going to see Lulu live

Favourite hymn or Bible passage

Georgina: Lord of the Dance

Naomi: Psalm 139 or Ephesians 4

Favourite hymn: And Can It Be — always a winner for calming Cora!

One hope for the year ahead

Being slightly selfish — a wee house would be lovely.

Thinking of others — clarity, purpose, considerate leadership, and for more people to truly know the unwavering love of Jesus.

What made us feel at home when we first visited?

Radical hospitality.

We turned up with a baby — and babies are always a welcome distraction — but seeing how many people chose to care about our

daughter meant the absolute world. Auntie Sheena adopting Cora straight away sealed it. We felt at home instantly.

Getting involved

Georgina: Community. I love doing things with people.

Naomi: Wherever we can be of most use.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG APPEAL

In conjunction with Potts Funeral Directors, the Easter Egg Appeal returns for 2026. We invite you to bring as many Easter Eggs as you're able to church and place them on the east-side tables.



All donations will be distributed throughout our community to people of all ages.

Your generosity in previous years has been truly humbling, and we hope once again to exceed the total collected year on year. Thank you for your continued kindness and support.

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND STAMP APPEAL

Sadly the Church of Scotland stamp appeal came to an end in February 2026 after 56 years. Thank you to everyone who contributed over the years, especially Drew who coordinated our efforts. You can still donate stamps to organisations such as RNIB, Age Scotland, MS society and others.



PARISH PEOPLE

In this section of the Chronicle we hear from members of our congregation. Thank you to Donis Hudson for willingly being our third contributor.

How long have you been involved in the church here at BCPC, and in what ways?

I moved to Bellshill from Northern Ireland after David and I got married in August 1991. We moved to Academy Terrace (right next door to the Church!) and shortly after I became a member by transfer. I have been involved in the Church doing door duty, counting duty, preparing the WFO envelopes every year, Board Member, Board Secretary for a while and sometime Bible reader - oh, and manning the toy stall at the Christmas Fayre! Our two sons were also baptised and brought up in the Church/Sunday School.

Any special Memories of the Church?

As I didn't get married in this Church, I would have to say it was the Baptism of our two sons, David and Adam - and also the Sunday School excursions every year with water pistols!

Do you have a favourite Hymn (or song)?

No, it is impossible to choose I have so many I love!

What is the best piece of advice you've received?

Life is too short!

Something People don't know about me

I took part in the Scottish Monopoly Championships back in the 1990s. I didn't win!

CANDLELIGHT CAROLS AT COCKPEN AND CARRINGTON

On Saturday 21 December, a small group from Bellshill Central Parish Church – Alan, Sheena, Anne and Marion – enjoyed a wonderful evening at Cockpen and Carrington Church for their Candlelight Carols service.

The atmosphere and ambience were truly beautiful, with candlelight adding a sense of warmth, reflection and quiet joy to the service. The music was a particular highlight: Graham's playing was superb throughout, and the choir was in fine form, leading the congregation with confidence and warmth.

It was especially lovely to be able to return the visit, as Andrew and John are regular visitors to BCPC and valued friends of our congregation. We are always pleased to welcome them, including at special occasions such as the Guild Guest Night Concert on 2 February.

An uplifting evening of music, fellowship and shared worship, reminding us of the strong bonds between our congregations.



OUR CHURCH FAMILY BY RABBIE GUY

We've all coped well with Winter and I'm very glad to say
I spied a little snowdrop folks so Spring is on its way

Our congregation has managed well between sniffles, coughs and we
pray

That things will turn out better as the winter ebbs away

Positive is the word I hear and another word comes to mind
Let's make 2026 a year to be positive and kind

Everyone has problems and we all know for sure
That problems are here for everyone behind each and every door

And that's why it's important that with every prayer and song
We look out for each other and try to get along

I know we all can do it because we all care so very much
For one another here my dears at **BELLSHILL CENTRAL PARISH CHURCH**

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.



UPDATE FROM ORBISTON NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

Michael Clark

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of our valued colleague and friend, Michael. For 26 years, Michael served as the catering assistant and manager at the Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre, working in Theo's Café. Our thoughts and prayers are with Michael's family during this difficult time. He will be greatly missed by everyone at the centre.

Wee Friendly Club & Men's Group

The Men's Group and the Wee Friendly Club at Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre are facing difficult times due to upcoming council funding cuts from April, which place both services at risk. These groups provide vital social support, helping reduce isolation and improve mental health for people across the local community. Any support in helping to spread the word, or by contacting local councillors or MSPs to highlight the importance of these services, would be greatly appreciated.

Keep up to date with what is going on at ONC through our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/onc.bellshill



COMPETITION ANSWERS!

Did you find the sixteen books of the Bible in this story?

MY FRIEND LULU KEPT MAKING REMARKS ABOUT THE HIDDEN BOOKS OF THE BIBLE. PEOPLE WERE ALWAYS LOOKING SO HARD FOR FACTS, BUT FOR OTHERS IT WAS A REVELATION. SOME WERE IN A JAM ESPECIALLY SINCE THE NAME OF THE BOOKS WERE CAPITALIZED, BUT THE TRUTH FINALLY STRUCK HOME TO NUMBERS OF READERS. TO OTHERS, IT WAS A REAL JOB. WE WANT IT TO BE A MOST FASCINATING FEW MOMENTS FOR YOU.

YES, THERE WILL BE SOME REALLY EASY ONES TO SPOT.

OTHERS MAY REQUIRE JUDGES TO HELP THEM. I WILL QUICKLY ADMIT IT USUALLY TAKES A MINISTER TO FIND ONE OF THEM AND THERE WILL BE LOUD LAMENTATIONS WHEN IT IS FOUND! A LITTLE LADY SAYS SHE BREWS A CUP OF TEA, SO SHE CAN CONCENTRATE BETTER. SEE HOW WELL YOU CAN COMPETE. RELAX NOW FOR THERE ARE SIXTEEN NAMES OF BOOKS OF THE BIBLE IN THIS STORY.

1	Luke	9	Job
2	Mark	10	Amos
3	Kings	11	Esther
4	Acts	12	Judges
5	Revelation	13	Titus
6	James	14	Lamentations
7	Ruth	15	Hebrews
8	Numbers	16	Peter

While looking through old Minute Books, trying to find the dates when some of our members became members, I found some more information on our magnificent stained-glass windows. Here are some extracts regarding the Corbett Memorial Windows. Thanks to our Session Clerk at that time (Alexa Walker's dad) for such excellent record keeping.

3 November 1959

A letter is received to advise that Mr Matthew Corbett, who had resided sometime at 3 Rowanden Avenue, Bellshill; and latterly in Hamilton; had bequeathed the residue of his estate; a sum of around £1,900; to Macdonald Memorial Church, Bellshill, to be used:

- To erect a stained-glass window in memory of Sergeant James Brownlie Corbett, Royal Air Force, who had been shot down and killed over Holland during the 1939-45 War.
- Secondly, to supply Book Prizes annually, to be competed for by the Sunday School and known as "The James Brownlie Corbett Memorial."
- Thirdly, as a further part of the memorial, to supply flowers annually for decoration of the Church, as near the 26th of May as possible.

21 November 1959

It was noted that some repairs to the church would require be completed before a new window could be installed. it was agreed that say £1,000 was going to be spent on the window, £100 invested in say 3.5% War Stock, to provide income to meet the cost of flowers in the church once a year and the balance invested in like manner and the

annual income thereof expended wholly each year on Sunday School Prizes.

11 October 1960

The Clerk reported that he had met with Mr R Douglas McLundie of City Glass Co Ltd, Glasgow to discuss the proposed stained-glass window. Mr McLundie had suggested that two windows be installed instead of one; which would cost a total of £350; and produced drawings of proposed designs. It was decided that the Clerk should meet with Mr Corbett's solicitor to discuss matters.

9 November 1960

The Session, after discussing the matter, agreed to suggest to Mr McLundie that four stained-glass windows be provided on each side of the Church or two on each side and one of the windows above the entrance to the Church replaced by a stained-glass window and that the Clerk should again meet Mr McLundie and obtain his observations on those suggestions, along with an estimate of the total cost.

13 December 1960

Session noted that Mr McLundie had agreed with the suggestion that four stained-glass windows be provided on each side of the Church and that the total estimated cost would be approximately £1,400. Mr McLundie would be asked to submit designs for consideration as soon as possible.

14 February 1961

Session considered designs for memorial windows submitted by Mr R Douglas McLundie, based on the subjects agreed with Mr Thomson. (Rev Albert Thomson was our Minister at that time) It was unanimously agreed to approve the designs in principle subject to the same being acceptable to the Moderator.

14 November 1961

Under reference to decision come to at meeting held on 14th February last, the Clerk submitted and read letter dated 10th October from Mr R Douglas McLundie stating (1) that with regard to the memorial windows, the full sized cartoons are being prepared and that it is anticipated that they will be completed about the end of November 1961; (2) that it is expected that the actual windows will be completed and ready for erecting by the end of March 1962 and (3) asking for confirmation that it was agreed that, as the wording of the inscription could not be repeated on each pair on windows, a bronze plaque should be placed on the wall instead. The Session, after discussing the matter, agreed that a small strip plaque should be placed on the wall at the centre of the four windows on either side of the Church.

8 May 1962

There was submitted and read a letter dated 3rd May from Mr R D McLundie, stating, inter alia:

“Four windows, ie two pairs have been leaded up and are ready. Two others are in the state of being fired prior to leading up and the remaining two have yet to be cut for painting. The work is progressing very favourably and undivided attention is being given to complete the entire eight windows as early in June as possible.”

26 June 1962

A letter dated 18th June 1962 was read from The Abbey Studio, Edinburgh, intimating that the last of the stained-glass windows is now about to be complete and that all windows would be ready for erecting by the end of this month. The Session agreed that the Memorial Windows would be unveiled on the first Sunday of October next and the Clerk was instructed to notify Mr R D McLundie.

11 September 1962

The Clerk reported that, as decided at last meeting, he had notified Mr McLundie of the date fixed by the Session for the unveiling of the memorial windows. He then submitted and read a letter dated 13th August from

Mr R McLundie, stating that the windows will be erected in good time for the unveiling ceremony on Sunday,

7th October and explained that Mr Munro had taken in hand the erection of wire netting on the outside of the windows. The Session approved. The Moderator then intimated that he proposed to ask Mr Thomas Cook, who is a Trustee of the estate of the late Mr Matthew Corbett, to unveil the memorial windows along with three elders. The Session approved and agreed that the Moderator should arrange accordingly. The Moderator also intimated that he had attended to the wording of the plaque to be placed on the wall at the centre of the four windows on either side of the Church. The meeting approved. It was agreed that the Clerk should extend to Mr Hamilton of John Ford and Company, Agents for the Trustees of the late Mr Matthew Corbett, an invitation to be present at the unveiling ceremony on Sunday, 7th October.

There was submitted and read a letter dated 29th August from Mr Thomas Cook, an Executor for the estate of the late Mr Matthew Corbett, enquiring why the Memorial Windows had not yet been erected. The Session agreed to note the letter and also agreed that the Clerk should inform Mr Cook that, at a meeting of the Session held on 26th June, there was submitted and read letter dated 18th June from Mr R D McLundie stating that all the windows would be ready for erecting by the end of that month and that the Session had fixed Sunday, 7th October, as the date for the unveiling of the windows.

NOTES

Robert Douglas McLundie (1908-64) was born in Glasgow but attended Slade School of Art in London 1926-29. He then returned to Glasgow and joined his grandfather's firm of City Glass Co where he was taught by George Neal, who had worked for Stephen Adam, Oscar Paterson and Guthrie & Wells. In 1940 he moved to Edinburgh and took over the management of Abbey Studio. This was a subsidiary of the City Glass Co, with branches in Glasgow and Edinburgh, which had previously been run by his father, Alexander Monteath McLundie (d.1939).

Source: 200 Scottish Stained Glass Artists by Rona H Moody in The Journal of Stained Glass Scotland Issue Vol XXX (2006)

<https://www.visitstainedglass.uk/artist-page/mclundie-robert-douglas>

Abbey Studio was a subsidiary of the City Glass Co. with branches in Edinburgh and Glasgow. It was run by three generations of the McLundie family. After J Marcus McLundie it was run by his son, Alexander Monteath McLundie until his death in 1939 and then by his grandson, Robert Douglas McLundie (1908-64). It closed in 1964. Their designer from 1951-63 was James Atkinson Crombie.

<https://www.visitstainedglass.uk/location/3-sprouston-parish-church-kelso-scottish-borders>

To give an idea of the value of £1,900 in 1962; I started my first job on 1 August 1962 working as an Office Girl and being paid £12 a month; £144 per annum.

Please take time to look at these beautiful windows which tell us about Christmas, various Parables, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

WHAT IS GIFT AID?

Gift Aid allows charities to claim an extra 25p from HMRC for every £1 you donate. To join, simply complete a Gift Aid declaration. You must be a UK taxpayer and have paid at least as much income or capital gains tax as the church will reclaim.

giftaid it

What Difference Does It Make?

A £5 weekly offering becomes £6.25 at no extra cost. Last year we reclaimed £5,057 through Gift Aid. More participants—or increased giving—would raise this further in 2026.

Want to Join?

To complete a form or check you're already signed up, please speak to Zandra Swan or Donis Hudson.

150 YEARS AGO

Information taken from the Annals of the Macdonald Memorial U F Church.

February, 1876: Mr Blackie, the Treasurer, reported that the congregation's givings for 1875 amounted to £202 16s 4¼d, compared with £82 in 1874, when it had not been a fully sanctioned Charge. Although it was a tremendous obligation, estimates for the building of a church were approved at an amount something in excess of £2,700 and preparations went ahead.

The Foundation Stone was laid 19 June 1876

PREACHING ROTA

NB: This list is provisional and subject to change

01-Mar-26		Ian Douglas
08-Mar-26	Communion	Rev Margaret
15-Mar-26	Mothering Sunday	Naomi Dornan
22-Mar-26		Rev Margaret
29-Mar-26	Palm Sunday	Ian Douglas
02-Apr-26	7pm Maundy Thursday	Rev Margaret
05-Apr-26	Easter Sunday	Rev Margaret
12-Apr-26	Easter Songs of Praise	with the Choir
19-Apr-26		Ian Douglas
26-Apr-26		Rev Margaret
03-May-26		Ian Douglas
10-May-26	Christian Aid Sunday	Worship Team
17-May-26		Rev Margaret
24-May-26		Ian Douglas
31-May-26		Rev Margaret
07-Jun-26		Ian Douglas
14-Jun-26	Communion	Rev Margaret

150 ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION STONE

On 19 June 2026 we see the 150 Anniversary of the laying of our church buildings foundation stone. That day falls on one of our Open Doors days, when we may have a short service to commemorate the milestone followed by a cuppa. Keep an eye on the Pews News and the next Chronicle.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 1 March Tea after Church
Saturday 7 March Cheese and Wine night
Sunday 8 March Communion

Holy Week

Sunday 29 March Palm Sunday with Hot Cross Buns after Church
Monday 30 March Holy week Zoom Prayers
Wednesday 1 April 7pm Holy Week Film Night
Thursday 2 April 7pm Maundy Thursday Communion
Friday 3 April 10am-1pm Good Friday Open Church
Sunday 5 April 9am Early Service followed by Breakfast
11am Worship & Communion, Tea after church

Sunday 3 May Tea after Church
Monday 11 May Anne Guy's clothes show
Friday 15 May 7:30pm Concert with Cantabile
Saturday 30 May Summer Celebration

Sunday 7 June Tea after Church
Sunday 14 June Communion
Sunday 21 June Young Church BBQ

 **Don't forget!** 

**Put your clocks forward one hour
before bed on Saturday 28
March so you're not late for
church on Palm Sunday.**



CHURCH REGISTER

Baptisms

Cora Maeve Elizabeth Dornan

Mary Buller Vint Mitchell

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

John Roberts Resolution of Kirk Session

Ray Mitchell Profession of Faith

Naomi Dornan transfer from Airdrie: New Monkland

Georgina Dornan transfer from Glasgow: St Paul's

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

Deaths

Margaret McCart

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.

Our mission statement:

“We seek to look forward in faith, to worship God and to serve him in the community. To offer hope of a better future and to encourage people of all ages to know and love Jesus as Lord and Saviour.”

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 (Table Top) 7:30pm Online Prayer Group
Tuesdays:	6pm The Rainbows 7pm Heart and Sole Walkers (May – October) Kirk Session & Board Meetings (as announced)
Wednesdays:	10am Hope for Autism (Dungeons & Dragons) 2pm Carpet Bowls 7pm Church Choir
Thursdays:	6pm Brownies 7:30pm Guides
Fridays:	12noon to 1pm Quiet Church (fortnightly) 1pm daytime walking group (as announced) 8pm Organist Entertains (as announced)

CHURCH CONTACTS



Interim Moderator Rev Derek Pope, B.D.

Phone 01698 266716

Email dpope@churchofscotland.org.uk

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

Church Email Address

hello@bellshillcentral.church

Scottish Charity Number

SC012556