THE CHRONICLE

Winter 2026



BCPC
Bellshill Central
Parish Church of Scotland

The final Chronicle for Bellshill Central before we become

Legbrannock Parish Church

A special commemorative edition

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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

This will be the final communion service as Bellshill Central Parish Church of Scotland

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 13 December 2026 at 11am in person and online, led by Rev Margaret ES Rose, BD

A SPECIAL EDITION: A TIME OF THANKSGIVING AND HOPE

As we prepare to close the chapter of **Bellshill Central Parish Church** and begin a new one as **Legbrannock Parish Church**, this edition offers an opportunity to reflect on our shared journey, celebrate cherished memories, and give thanks for all that has made Bellshill Central such an important part of our lives and community.

We warmly thank everyone who has contributed to *The Chronicle* over the years, whether through articles, photographs, news, or simply by reading it. Every contribution has helped tell the story of our church and its people.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to **Lawson and Jean Kyle**, whose dedication as previous editors laid the foundations on which we have been privileged to build.

While this is the final edition under the name of Bellshill Central Parish Church, it is not the end of our story. Names may change and new chapters begin, but we carry forward our friendships, memories, traditions, and faith in a God who continues to guide us.

As we look ahead to becoming Legbrannock Parish Church, may we do so with hope, confidence in God's promises, and a willingness to embrace new opportunities, trusting that He will walk with us every step of the way.

Thank you for being part of *The Chronicle* and, more importantly, part of the story of Bellshill Central. It has been a privilege to share that story with you. With every good wish for the future,

Alan and Peggy, *Editors, The Chronicle*

FROM IAN DOUGLAS

Two years ago, almost to the day, I was typing up an article for the Christmas edition of the Chronicle, writing it from our balcony overlooking the sea in Lanzarote.

Two years later, I am sitting in glorious sunshine outside our terrace once again in Lanzarote. So much has changed in two years! We are here with wee Grace and her mum and dad, and she is loving the warmth and sliding down the chute in the children's pool. Grandpa has yet to have a go!

Two years ago, the future of Bellshill Central was unclear, and throughout the intervening period, as a congregation you all remained focused, enthusiastic, and faithful during this time of uncertainty. As a Reader, I visit many churches, and it is a real privilege to conduct worship in different congregations.

There is a real vibrancy at Bellshill Central, and a welcome that comes from the heart. There are so many different activities, events, and services throughout the year, all carried out with smiling faces, welcoming words, and genuine enthusiasm in everything you do.

This will hold you all in good stead as you move into the next phase of BCPC's future. The future is in the hands of God, and you have trusted Him to guide you through some really difficult times over the last few years.

I look forward to playing whatever part is required of me as you move forward. You have shown genuine warmth and friendship to both Margaret and me, as well as to Margaret Rose, over these last few years, and it has been a real honour to be part of the BCPC family.

I look forward to seeing you all over the Christmas season. There are a number of services in which I'll be involved in some way, and it will be a real joy to participate.

Blessings to you all.

A MESSAGE FROM REV MARGARET E.S. ROSE

Over the years, as a Parish Minister, I have met many couples preparing for marriage. One of the greatest challenges can be when one partner moves into the well-established home of the other.

Over time, we accumulate so much that there is little room for anything, or anyone, new. In these situations, a major declutter is often needed. We need the likes of Stacey Solomon and her team to help create the space a happy family needs.

Bellshill Central is now uniting with four other congregations. With only two church buildings remaining, this means making space, acknowledging the pain of those losing their building, and respecting the items that hold special meaning and value for them.

Coming together is never easy. However, sharing the same faith, mission and goals goes a long way towards making this new family work.

Having had the privilege of getting to know and work with the congregation of Bellshill Central, I have experienced first-hand your generous welcome and hospitality. I have no doubt this will be extended to your new family members.

As you move forward together as Legbrannock Parish Church, I wish you every blessing for the future.

May God bless you.

A LETTER FROM THE INTERIM MINISTER

Perhaps I'm getting old, but it seems to me people are putting up their Christmas decorations earlier than ever. The pumpkins have not left the door step more than a day when the fairy lights go up and the front door gets tied in a big bow.

I think I understand why. We are deep in the dark of winter, and the world seems a dark and dangerous place where technology we don't understand and billionaires intend on enriching themselves are all mixed up with war and rumour of war. The planet itself is unsettled, with melting icecaps and glaciers and huge forest fires, drought and flood: all affecting the poorest people of the world most, and destabilising the world order put in place after World War 2.

No wonder people are fearful. We know that change is about the only certain thing about life on earth: change in our bodies, in our families and society and change across the globe. Something to remember though: although we are naturally uncomfortable when the familiar changes, change is not in itself a bad thing. If, however, we resist change, sometimes even without thinking about it, the fear deepens.

There is a myth that the Bible says 'Don't be afraid' 365 times: once for every day of the year. In fact, its 100-150 times; but it is certainly true that God's desire for all people is peace on earth and an absence of

fear. God's promise is to be with us, whatever happens. Immanuel, one of the names given to the infant Jesus, means 'God with us.'

This Advent season we are using worship material with the theme 'Until the Dawn', recognising that 'longing for light, we wait in darkness'. There are huge changes ahead in terms of our church life, and we really don't know yet how 5 churches can become one church and maintain 4 worshipping communities. Fear and scepticism are entirely natural, but we step forward in faith that 'God with us' is for this season and for always; and we seek the light in the darkness.

That's why I welcome the Christmas lights and the carnival lights I can see on Glasgow Green from my front window. Every light is a reminder that as the prologue to John's gospel puts it, 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.' (John 1:5)

'The Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.' (John 1:14)

May you, your families and those you love, and the church, your faith community, know hope, love, joy, and peace this Christmas; and may we take that light into our homes, our streets and communities in Jesus' name. Amen.

Muriel

LOOKING AHEAD TO LEGBRANNOCK PARISH CHURCH

FIVE CONGREGATIONS, ONE SHARED FUTURE

In 2027, Bellshill Central, Holytown, Kirk O' Shotts, New Stevenston Wrangholm Kirk, and Newarthill & Carfin will unite to form **Legbrannock Parish Church**.

Following a period of prayer, discussion and planning, key foundations are now in place as the congregations prepare for this new chapter together.

Choosing a Name

Throughout the summer, representatives from all five congregations met to plan for the new parish. Each Kirk Session submitted three possible names, and members voted on their preferred choice on **20 September**.

The most popular choice was **Legbrannock Parish Church**, a name that reflects a shared future while recognising the people, communities and traditions that have shaped each congregation.

Welcoming Rev Muriel Pearson

On **25 September 2025**, **Rev Muriel Pearson** was appointed Interim Minister to the Newhouse cluster and introduced to Bellshill Central Kirk Session on **13 October**.

Muriel will help the congregations work more closely together and develop a shared identity while maintaining local expressions of church

life. She hopes to help Legbrannock Parish Church become a diverse, united and vibrant congregation with a common mission and identity.

In 2027, she will serve as **Interim Moderator**, helping guide the new parish as it establishes itself and prepares to call a minister.

Important Decisions

Alongside choosing a name, important constitutional and practical decisions have been made.

On **19 October**, trustees from all five congregations voted on the **Basis of Union** and **Basis of Reviewable Tenure**, with congregational votes following on **15 November**.

These decisions provide the framework for the new parish and reflect the congregations' commitment to building a shared future.

Worshipping Together

A significant milestone takes place on **29 November**, when all five congregations gather for a joint service of worship for the first time. The service provides an opportunity to worship together, strengthen fellowship and celebrate a shared faith while recognising the different traditions each congregation brings.

Four Worship Centres, One Parish

Legbrannock Parish Church will have four worship centres:

- Bellshill Central Church
- Newarthill & Carfin Church
- Holytown Halls
- Salsburgh Halls

Worship times and arrangements are still being finalised. The aim is to create a united parish that values local communities, encourages fellowship across the worship centres, and serves together in mission.

Building on Firm Foundations

Much work remains before the union is complete, but substantial progress has already been made. Representatives continue to meet, key decisions have been taken, and plans are moving forward.

Union does not mean forgetting the past. Each congregation brings its own history, traditions, friendships and experience of faith, enriching the life of the new parish.

In 2027, we will begin life not as five separate congregations, but as **one parish**, seeking together to discover what God is calling us to become.

With gratitude for the journey so far, patience for the work still to be done, and hope for the future, we look ahead with confidence.

Five congregations. Four worship centres. One parish. One shared faith and future.

HOPE
Bellshill Central Parish Church

Bellshill Central Parish Church

Christmas EVENTS

Saturday 28 November	12 noon Christingle Service 1pm Afternoon Teas with Santa
Sunday 29 November	1st Sunday in Advent – Joint Service
Sunday 6 December	2nd Sunday in Advent Teas after Church
Thursday 10 December	7pm Sing a Song for Christmas
Friday 11 December	7pm Time to Remember at Sacred Heart
Saturday 12 December	3pm Miracle on 34th Street family film
Sunday 13 December	3rd Sunday in Advent 11am Communion 7pm Candlelight Carols
Friday 18 December	2.30pm Carol Singing at Hattonlea
Sunday 20 December	4th Sunday in Advent 11am Service of Lesson and Carols
Monday 21 December	2.30pm Carol Singing at Beechwood 7pm Blue Christmas Prayer Service
Thursday 24 December	7pm Family Christmas Eve Service
Sunday 27 December	11am Final Service as BCPC

Hope

Peace

Joy

Love

Together

All are welcome

Bellshill Central Parish Church
346 Main Street, Bellshill ML4 1BA

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD!
NEWS FROM AROUND OUR CONGREGATION



COIN BOXES Peggy Walker

Between 31 August and 10 November 2026, we received £77.43 via the Coin Boxes and we are grateful for every penny. Sincere thanks to everyone who gives their small change to the Church. Every coin is appreciated.

The amount received varies from month to month and year to year. Since 2014, when Macdonald Memorial and Orbiston united to become Bellshill Central, a total of £6,892.70 has been received; so the pennies do grow into pounds.

RAINBOWS Chemaine Jarvie

We have been very busy at Rainbows since the start of the session, welcoming lots of new girls to the unit.
The new girls have been working towards making their Promise, and recently they all received their Promise badge and certificate. While they were busy doing this, the older girls created some beautiful sun catchers, which look lovely. The girls have also been working towards a new badge, and some of their photographs can be seen on the Rainbow noticeboard in the hall, alongside their sun catchers.

Everyone enjoyed decorating paper lanterns for Halloween to take home, and we also had a joint Halloween party with the Brownies,

which was great fun. The girls took part in a Halloween parade, dooked for apples, and tried to bite sugar doughnuts hanging from strings. It was messy but lots of fun! It was lovely to see everyone together.

We also held a sausage sizzle evening, with our pretend campfire set up in the middle of the hall. We sat around the campfire singing songs, chatting, and enjoying the atmosphere. The sausages were cooked in the kitchen by the leaders and served on forks for the girls to enjoy around the fire, followed by marshmallows. The girls always love an evening that involves food, and so do the leaders!

With Christmas fast approaching, we will be finishing work on our badge and making some Christmas crafts before our Christmas party at the beginning of December. We are hoping for a visit from a very special guest, if he's not too busy!

Wishing everyone a safe and Merry Christmas.

CHURCH MUSIC Alan Mathew

The choir resumed a little later than usual this year, returning in mid-September after the summer break. It has been a challenging session so far, with fluctuating numbers making planning somewhat difficult. Attendance at rehearsals does not always reflect the numbers present in church on Sundays, which can make preparation a little unpredictable. Nevertheless, we have successfully prepared and sung a series of anthems for Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and All Saints' Day, and we are now looking forward to the busy and rewarding Christmas season.

At the time of writing, we have also held our first joint Cluster Choir rehearsal. As we look to the future, it was encouraging to come

together in this way and to do so with hope and optimism for the future of Legbrannock Parish Church.

One welcome return this year has been the choir cuppa. While rehearsals remain focused and productive, the choirmaster is required to keep a firm eye on the clock to ensure all the singing is completed by 8.30pm, allowing time for the equally important half-hour of tea, coffee, cake and conversation! The opportunity to enjoy fellowship together has been greatly appreciated and has added to the sense of community within the choir.

The organ continues to serve us well, although its bellows remain in a rather perilous condition. Thankfully, the fluctuations in temperature experienced over recent months have not caused any further irreparable damage. The Board has approved the necessary work to renew the bellows and, subject to a few final administrative steps being completed, we are hopeful that the full repairs will be carried out in 2027.

As we approach Christmas, we look forward to sharing the music of the season with the congregation and wish everyone a peaceful and joyful Christmas.

PRAYER GROUP Naomi Dornan

Our Church Prayer Group meets most Mondays via Zoom, offering a quiet space to pray for our church, our community, and anyone in need. If you would like to share a prayer request, you can email prayer@bellshillcentral.church. The Zoom link is usually posted in the church chat, and everyone is welcome to join us in this simple but important ministry.

ORGAN FUND UPDATE Alan Mathew

Since the last issue of the magazine, we have enjoyed several more successful film nights in the church. So far, we have travelled down the Yellow Brick Road with The Wizard of Oz and enjoyed a sing-along evening with Grease. Looking ahead, we have a special Christmas screening of Miracle on 34th Street planned for December. Each of these events has helped to add a little more to the Organ Fund while also providing enjoyable opportunities for fellowship within our church community.

We have also been blessed by the generosity of many individuals. Contributions have come in a variety of ways, including donations made through our Hymns and Music requests, beautiful pictures donated by Annette for raffles, and a number of generously filled donation envelopes. Every contribution, large or small, has helped move us closer to our goal, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support.

With your help, the Organ Fund now stands at £1786 (as at 1/11/26), which is a truly remarkable achievement. This total reflects the dedication and generosity of our congregation and friends of the church.

While we are delighted that the necessary organ restoration works have now been approved by the Board, the work does not stop here. Maintaining an historic instrument such as ours requires ongoing care and investment. It is therefore important that the Organ Fund continues to grow so that we are able not only to support the forthcoming restoration work but also to meet future repair and maintenance costs.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far, whether through attending events, making donations, helping with fundraising activities or supporting us in other ways. Your continued encouragement and generosity are greatly appreciated as we work to preserve this important part of our church's worship and musical heritage.

THE GUILD Sheena Bowman, President

The Guild began its new session with our traditional joint Communion Service alongside our friends from Burnhead Parish Church. Rev. Derek Pope conducted a memorable and thought-provoking service based on this year's Guild theme, "Beyond the Walls", which was greatly appreciated by all who attended.

The occasion was made even more special as we celebrated a milestone birthday for Sandra Roy, President of Burnhead Guild. The surprise caught Sandra completely off guard, and it is not often that she is lost for words! We are also grateful to Alan Mathew for so generously sharing his time and musical talents.

Guild membership numbers appear to have fallen once again this session. However, with the proposed changes facing the church in the months ahead, we remain hopeful that new faces will join our fellowship.

One of the highlights of the session so far was a visit from an Egyptian couple who spoke about Operation Hope Egypt, one of the projects supported by the Guild. They provided a fascinating and insightful account of the challenges facing Christians in Egypt today. Their presentation reminded us how fortunate we are to enjoy the freedoms we often take for granted. The congregation had the opportunity to

learn more about this important organisation during the church service on 15 November.

The final Guild-supported project for this session is Bibles for Bairns. We look forward to learning more about their work next March, and details will be announced nearer the time. We encourage everyone to come along and hear about this inspiring initiative.

Looking ahead, the Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra has been booked to perform on Monday, 8 February 2027. This will be an open event, and everyone is warmly invited to enjoy what promises to be a wonderful evening of music. Dancing in the aisles is permitted! Donations received on the evening will be given to Operation Hope Egypt.

Our syllabus runs through until March and includes at least one guest speaker each month. Between these meetings, a variety of games and in-house events are planned. It is not too late to join us, and we would be delighted to welcome new members to our group.

While the future remains uncertain, we hope that the friendship, fellowship and support that the Guild provides will continue for many years to come.

A NOTE FROM THE FUNDRAISING TEAM.

As 2026 draws to a close, the whole fundraising team would like to thank everyone for their kindness and generosity for the last year.

We have had some wonderful events such as the Burns Lunch, Cheese and Wine, Summer Celebration, Young Church BBQ, Harvest Lunch and the latest the Christingle service and Afternoon Tea with Santa.

These have all been in addition to Anne's Clothes shows and Alan's concerts and film nights.

These events have created a wonderful social calendar for all ages which lets us share and enjoy each other's company whilst raising essential funds for the Church.

We are looking forward to next year with anticipation and celebrating with a wider circle of friends within the new cluster of Legbrannock. My eternal thanks go to the members of the fundraising committee - June, Sheena, Chemaine, Lesley, Susan, Lorna, Lynne and Robyn who all give generously of their time and talents whenever asked and embrace all ideas put in front of them.

Thanks also to the husbands and partners that we rope in for the heavy lifting and decorations!

We are in the throes of planning for 2027 and still anticipate having the Burns Lunch in January.

Lastly, thanks goes to you, without whom none of this would be possible. The Fundraising Team wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who supported and donated items to this year's appeal. We had over 40 boxes! We need to say thank you to Jayne and Carole, for sorting and delivering.

OPEN CHURCH: A PLACE TO PAUSE, PRAY, AND FEEL AT HOME

As Bellshill Central Parish Church becomes part of Legbrannock Parish Church of Scotland, we look forward to continuing our commitment to offering a warm welcome, a place of peace, and a quiet space for everyone in our community.

We believe that a church should be somewhere people can step into whenever they need a moment of stillness, a little peace, or simply time to breathe. That is why Open Church will continue to offer an opportunity to come inside, find some quiet, and feel at home.

Open Church takes place on selected Fridays from 12 noon until 1pm. Everyone is welcome to drop in, whether you wish to sit quietly, light a candle, say a prayer, reflect on life, or simply enjoy the peace of the sanctuary. You are welcome to stay for a few minutes or for the whole hour.

At 12.30pm, we share a short reflective service lasting just a few minutes. Through scripture, prayer, and stillness, it offers a gentle pause in the middle of a busy day—a chance to take a breath, reflect, and find renewed strength for the days ahead.

You do not need to be a regular churchgoer, know the right words, or have any particular reason for coming. Whether you have worshipped with us for years, have not stepped inside a church for a long time, or are simply looking for somewhere peaceful to spend a few moments, you will be made very welcome.

As we begin this new chapter together as Legbrannock Parish Church, we remain committed to serving our local communities and keeping our church doors open to all. While our name and our wider church

family may change, our hope is that this will continue to be a place where people find welcome, comfort, prayer, and a sense of belonging.

Sometimes, all we need is a quiet place to pause and remember that we are not alone. We look forward to welcoming you. Please come along.

OPEN CHURCH — UPCOMING DATES

Friday 15 January, 12 noon–1pm | Short service at 12.30pm
Friday 12 February, 12 noon–1pm | Short service at 12.30pm



Daily Advent Prayer Plan 2026
(29 November – 25 December)

WEEK 1 — HOPE

Sun 29 Nov	First Sunday of Advent Pray: “Lord, awaken hope in me again.” Focus on Christ the coming Light.
Mon 30 Nov	Pray for those who feel hopeless or forgotten.
Tue 1 Dec	Pray for renewed hope within your church family.
Wed 2 Dec	Pray for spiritual attentiveness — eyes open to God’s presence.
Thu 3 Dec	Pray for hope in places of conflict, injustice, and poverty.
Fri 4 Dec	Pray for children and young people discovering faith.
Sat 5 Dec	Quiet reflection: “Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.”

WEEK 2 — PEACE

Sun 6 Dec	Second Sunday of Advent Pray: “Lord, let Your peace dwell in my home.”
Mon 7 Dec	Pray for reconciliation in strained relationships.
Tue 8 Dec	Pray for peace in your community — schools, workplaces, neighbourhoods.
Wed 9 Dec	Pray for peacemakers, mediators, and those working for justice.
Thu 10 Dec	Pray for those living with anxiety, fear, or inner turmoil.
Fri 11 Dec	Pray for the Church to be a sign of peace in a divided world.
Sat 12 Dec	Quiet reflection: “Make me an instrument of Your peace.”

WEEK 3 — JOY (Gaudete Week)

Sun 13 Dec	Third Sunday of Advent (Rose Candle) Give thanks for signs of joy in your life.
Mon 14 Dec	Pray for those who struggle to feel joy — the grieving, lonely, or ill.
Tue 15 Dec	Pray for joyful service in your congregation.
Wed 16 Dec	Pray for musicians, choirs, and worship leaders preparing for Christmas.
Thu 17 Dec	Pray for joy in giving — generosity without expectation.
Fri 18 Dec	Pray for families preparing for Christmas under financial strain.
Sat 19 Dec	Quiet reflection: “Lord, let Your joy be my strength.”

WEEK 4 — LOVE

Sun 20 Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent Pray: “Lord, deepen my love for You and for neighbour.”
Mon 21 Dec	Pray for those who feel unloved or isolated.
Tue 22 Dec	Pray for acts of compassion — foodbanks, shelters, pastoral care.
Wed 23 Dec	Pray for your church’s Christmas worship and outreach.
Thu 24 Dec	Christmas Eve Pray in thanksgiving for the gift of Christ. Prepare your heart for Christmas Day.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Fri 25 Dec	The Nativity of Our Lord Pray: “Christ is born. Let His light fill my life.” Give thanks for God’s love made flesh.

OUR MEMORIES OF BCPC ♡

When I joined BCPC, I was made so welcome and such a friendly place to be.

Many thanks to you Alan for delivering the words so that I feel I'm taking part in the Service.

I enjoy all the videos I get sent x

Sylvia Devine

Have too many memories of growing up here.

Brownies, Guides, Youth Group, Sunday School, choir, BB's, Rev Albert Thomson & family.

Many happy days when the church was my social world.

So many friendships, laughter, faith and belonging.

Sheena B ♡

Share your memories ♡

A favourite memory -

Memories of Sunday School and parties in the Blackie Hall. Happy times spent at Beetle Drives when you had to provide the "goodies" for the tea, including the host to supply the crockery.



What made a difference:

Everyone working together ♡

Sheena B

The Christingle event is a must for everyone. The service first, bringing us all together, the wee craft session, which causes so much laughter and pleasure, as we continue with Carols. The lunch that follows filled with so many goodies, are a delight and a credit to the team who work so hard to bring it altogether. The various stalls offer something for all. We are a church family just relaxing in each others company.

I was fortunate to win the hamper one year which will always be a fond memory.

Mags T

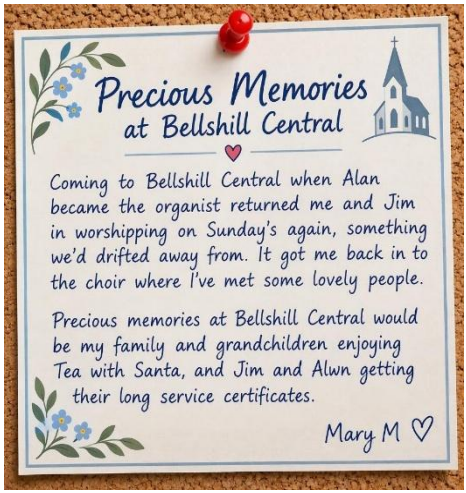
Arriving on Christmas Eve 2014, it has been a privilege to serve as Bellshill Central Parish Church's longest-serving organist.

My favourite memories include the Big Sings, the choir's performance of Stainer's The Crucifixion, and celebrating the church's 150th Anniversary.

Above all, I will treasure the friendships, fellowship and warm sense of community that have made my time at Bellshill Central so special.

It has been an honour to be part of the church's worship and musical life for so many years.

♡



I first started attending Orbiston church in in 1980s when I bought my first house in Bellshill – the minister was Martin Greig. I moved to Larkhall but stayed with Orbiston church until I worked abroad for nearly a year from autumn 1989 and on returning to church in 1990 the minister was Martin Johnstone. Martin asked me to become an elder and I have now served as an elder for over 30 years. When Martin moved on to other duties for the Church of Scotland I really enjoyed the services with Allan MacKenzie. I moved to Airdrie but still enjoyed the early services at Orbiston. However when Allan retired and Orbiston merged with MacDonald Memorial church I considered moving to Calderbank church. I decided I would wait and see what the new minister would be like before moving. However I soon made many new friends from the MacDonald Memorial congregation and found that I also got on quite well with the new young organist and also with Kevin when he arrived as minister. When I met Nicky I brought her along to a service and as our relationship developed Kevin was able give us some advice as we started to plan our wedding. You will all know that that did not go as planned because of Covid. Our Covid wedding remains a vivid memory as there were only 5 of us at the service – Kevin, Alan (organist), Stan (session clerk) and the pair of us. We did however have a large on-line presence and many contributions on line on the screen. It must be unique in our church's history. Nicky was made to feel very welcome at Bellshill Central and we both look forward to continuing to worsnip at Uggbrannock.

Hugh








Betty Toal celebrates her 91th
Birthday on Easter Sunday 2017










Hospitable
Engaging
Generous
Welcome
Caring
Joyful
Happy
Friendly
welcoming
Inclusive
welcome
Welcoming
Inviting
friendly
Fabulous
welcoming
friendly
friendly
Friendly
welcoming
What our church means to us
friendly
welcome
Musical
Friendship
Sociable
friendship
happy
friendship
friendly
sociable
Companionship
Laughter
Family
friendly
family
Sociable
Unity
Openness
friendly

I just want to say, if you have any elderly relatives, keep in touch as they can help you as much as you can help them.
I know some of you are elderly (I hope you don't mind me saying that), but if you have positions or jobs to do, you do them yourselves to the best of your ability. I admire you all for that, as you are keeping the church going. Even if you have no minister, you take the church service yourselves and make a good job of it.

George and I are keeping reasonably well with the best attention of our family and the attention of the carers who help us. They are all kind and helpful and are nice to know.

I've also enjoyed having communion from The Rev. Margaret and enjoy all the church contact especially from Peggy our Elder. I enjoy reading the Chronicle for its interesting and informative content.

I'm sorry to hear about the churches that are closing which must be a difficult time for the members.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Best Wishes, Sadie Nisbet

BLUE CHRISTMAS 2026 - A Service of Prayer, Light and Remembrance

Christmas can be a wonderful and joyful time of year — but for many people, it can also be a difficult time.

Perhaps this is the first Christmas without someone you love. Perhaps memories of someone special become especially strong at this time of year. Perhaps life has changed, and Christmas doesn't feel quite the same anymore.

That’s why, on the evening of Monday 21 December, we will gather at Bellshill Central Church for a special Blue Christmas Service.

As we gather on the shortest day of the year, we will make space for light in the darkness.

There will be music, candlelight, prayer and quiet reflection. There will be an opportunity to remember someone you love, to light a candle in their memory, and simply to spend some time in a peaceful and welcoming space.

You may wish to come with a particular person in mind. You may want to give thanks for a life that touched yours. Or perhaps you don’t know exactly why you feel you need to come — only that you do. Come along. Remember a loved one. Light a candle. Say a prayer.

There is no pressure to say anything or do anything. Simply come as you are and share in a gentle time of music, light, reflection and remembrance.

In the midst of the darkness, we remember that light still shines.
You are warmly invited.

HOPE
Bellshill Central Parish Church

Bellshill Central Parish Church

Blue Christmas

PRAYER SERVICE

Monday
21st December

7pm

Come remember a loved one you've lost.

Light a candle.

Place a name on our trees of Remembrance.

All welcome.

A time of prayer, peace and remembrance



BELLSHILL CENTRAL PARISH CHURCH
346 Main Street, Bellshill ML4 1BA

HOPE
Bellshill Central Parish Church

Bellshill Central Parish Church

Sing a song for Christmas





Thursday
10th December



7pm



Featuring local schools, the church choir, songs, stories and fun!



Raising funds for Hope for Autism.



All welcome.

Join us for an evening of music, joy and Christmas cheer.



BELLSHILL CENTRAL PARISH CHURCH
346 Main Street, Bellshill ML4 1BA


Bellshill Central
Parish Church
Family Film
34th STREET
Miracle
on
34th Street
Saturday 12th December
at 3pm
Free Entry
Refreshments and All Age Fun

LOOKING BACK/LOOKING FORWARD

It's about six months since we celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the laying the Foundation Stone of our Church building on 19 June 1876. According to notes in the Annals of Macdonald Memorial United Free Church, the following months were very busy:

While the builders were raising the structure of the church, the people were raising the money for the cost. By the end of 1876, in addition to increased contributions to Sustentation Fund, Schemes of the Church, for local and other obligations, the sum of Nine hundred and sixty-five pounds, seven shillings and three and a half pence had been collected for the Building Fund. Regular collections were being made around the congregation's homes.

Building work and fundraising continued during the Winter and into the Spring.

The original cost for the building had been estimated in February 1876 at £2,700. The final cost was, in fact, £3,200. But they must have been giants in those days for they lost no time in approaching the difficulty and Mr Macdonald did everything in his power to solicit assistance.

Donations towards the cost of the church building were recorded, including:

- *Ferguson Bequest - £250;*
- *Hamilton Bequest - £20;*
- *Miners' Mission Fund - £425*
- *Mr Neilson from Orbiston - £100*

Before the end of July 1877, the building was ready for cleaning and painting. The ground around the building was levelled and put in order.

Back to 2026; we are now building a new future; soon to be part of Legbrannock Parish Church. It is a time for us to honour the efforts and stamina of 'the giants' who have gone before us by continuing their endeavours in the months and years that lie ahead of us. As it says on Rev William Macdonald's memorial plaque:
"Other men laboured and ye are entered into their labours"

A WONDERFUL HARVEST CELEBRATION

Our Harvest Service was a joyful occasion, giving us the opportunity to thank God for His provision and remember those in need within our community.

We are sincerely grateful to everyone who donated so generously to this year's Harvest Appeal. The collection of food and essential items was exceptional, and the team at the Community Fridge at ONC were delighted with our continued support. Your generosity will make a real difference to local individuals and families.

The service was thoughtfully led by some Elders, with our Harvest Basket providing a focus for reflection on gratitude, sharing and caring for others. Following worship, members and friends enjoyed a delicious Harvest Lunch prepared by our dedicated Fundraising Group. It was a lovely afternoon of food, fellowship and friendship.

Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered and joined us. Once again, our Harvest celebration reminded us of the generosity and wonderful community spirit within our congregation. *"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."* Psalm 107:1


BCPC
Bellshill Central
Parish Church of Scotland
Central to Christ | Central to You | Central to Bellshill
Thank you!
for all your donations for
Harvest for ONC
Your generosity makes a real difference
TESCO
Morrisons
TESCO


YESTERDAY TODAY FOREVER
JESUS CHRIST
REV. A. THOMSON. M.A.
Who was minister of this
congregation for over 30years






TESCO

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 28 November	12 noon Christingle Service
	1pm Afternoon teas with Santa
Sunday 29 November	1st Sunday in Advent - **Joint Service**
Sunday 6 December	2nd Sunday in Advent
	Teas after Church
Thursday 10 December	7pm Sing a Song for Christmas
Friday 11 December	7pm Time to Remember at Sacred Heart
Saturday 12 December	3pm Miracle on 34th Street family film
Sunday 13 December	3rd Sunday in Advent
	11am Communion
	7pm Candlelight Carols
Friday 18 December	2.30pm Carol Singing at Hattonlea
Sunday 20 December	4th Sunday in Advent
	11am Service of Lesson and Carols
Monday 21 December	2.30pm Carol Singing at Beechwood
	7pm Blue Christmas Prayer Service
Thursday 24 December	7pm Family Christmas Eve Service
Sunday 27 December	11am Final Service as BCPC
Sunday 3 January	Teas after Church
Friday 15 January	12noon Open Church
	(With a short service at 12.30pm)
Sunday 24 January	Burns Lunch after church
Sunday 7 February	Teas after Church
Saturday 20 February	3pm Saturday Matinee and Chippy Tea

CHURCH REGISTER

Baptisms

Cameron Pelosi (son of Rachel and Mark Pelosi)

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

Elspeth Dornan (by resolution of the Kirk Session)

Elaine Adair (by resolution of the Kirk Session)

Colin Toal (added as an Adherent by resolution of the Kirk Session)

Ashley Nisbet (added as an Adherent by resolution of the Kirk Session)

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

Deaths

None recorded

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 – 1pm**	Quiet Church (fortnightly)
	1pm	daytime walking group (as announced)

All are welcome!

CHURCH CONTACTS

(Valid until 31st December 2026 only)



Interim Moderator	Rev Derek Pope, B.D	01698 266716
Session Clerk	Stanley Cook	01698 747144
Board Clerk	Catherine Bryden	
Finance Team / Presbytery Elder	Zandra Swan	
Finance Team / Treasurer	June Cook	
Finance Team / Gift Aid	Donis Hudson	
Property Convenor	Drew Aitken	
Fundraising	Jane Aitken	
Young Church / Church Flowers	Susan McGleish	
Guild	Sheena Bowman	
Roll Keeper	Peggy Walker	
Church Organist / Church Magazine	Alan Mathew	
Rainbows **Brownies** **Guides** **Bowling**	Jane Aitken Stacey Sneddon Emily Aitken Bert Batty	Chemaine Jarvie Robyn Aitken Bobby Walker



Church Email Address
hello@bellshillcentral.church



Scottish Charity Number
SC012556