

BISHOPTON PARISH CHURCH

(CHURCH OF SCOTLAND)
SCOTTISH CHARITY NO SC006109



Network Magazine

November 2021

New Organist

I would like to introduce myself as a newcomer to Bishopton Parish Church.

I have been an organist in various churches in Paisley over the past forty years and I am very much looking forward to working with you all here in Bishopton. It is somewhat daunting to be taking over from Marjory Ross after her immense contribution to the church and community for over half a century, and after the church having been served so well by John Campbell in recent times. Bishopton is extremely fortunate to have a choir and a praise band to lead musical worship as not many churches are so well resourced. We must all continue to encourage and support their efforts. If you would like to join either of these groups please speak to me and you will be warmly welcomed.

As well as playing the organ here I am accompanist for St Paul's Junior Drama Group in Johnstone, I am a keen amateur trumpeter in Glasgow Symphony Orchestra, Paisley Sinfonia and New Paisley Brass Group, and in my spare time I enjoy playing piano duets with several friends.

Thank you for making me feel welcome and I will continue to enjoy worshipping with you.

Stewart Munro



Contact Information

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Anyone wishing to contact the Minister should contact Yvonne on 01505 862161

Anyone wishing to contact the session Clerk, Douglas Hope or the Clerk to The Board, Des Nicholl should do so through The Cornerstone Office.

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Pastoral Letter



My Dear Friends,

It has been several months since our last edition of Network and during these Autumn months much has happened in our church and community.

With the relaxation of the restrictions which prevented us from having group activities and in person meetings many of our youth organisations have now recommenced in The Cornerstone. These include GB, and Sunday School.

The outdoor Carpark services ended on a high note in mid-September with a well-attended service shared with the congregation of Our Lady of Lourdes and we hope to have further Carpark Services next year.

The numbers attending church on a Sunday morning has increased over the Autumn period and although we are still encouraging social distancing and the (mandatory) wearing of face covering within the church, most people have gotten used to this and it is regarded as the new normal.

The choir has resumed, and it has been great to have members of the choir along with our new organist and choirmaster, Stewart Munro, lead our singing over the past few weeks. I am also very grateful to John Campbell who over the Autumn months uplifted us with his music and playing of the clavinova, especially in the days when we were not allowed to sing in church.

I hope that by the time that this edition of Network goes out that I will be back to leading worship and have fully recovered from the debilitating attack of “shingles” which rendered me unwell and required me to take time off sick. I am very grateful for all the get well wishes and prayers which not only speeded up my recovery but uplifted me during this time of illness. I am also very grateful to Lorna, Maureen and Esther who conducted the Sunday services in my absence. It was most reassuring to know that the congregation was in good hands, and I very much appreciated their ministry and support.

Now I look forward with renewed energy and vigour to leading our Advent and Christmas services as a church family we journey in this most wonderful time of the year.

Advent is the time when we prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the greatest gift of all time – the birth of the Christ Child, an infant whose birth two thousand years ago changed the world and still today transforms lives, for this tiny baby was the Son of God and John 3:16 states :

“For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its saviour.

This is a gift that we all need to receive and a gift we should share with our family and friends, our community, and our world. One way we can make known and share His love is by displaying the Church Advent symbol in a window of your home.

This year our symbol is the star, and we recall in the Nativity Story from Mathew’s Gospel how the Magi, or wisemen, followed the Star from their homes in the East and journeyed over all sorts of terrain until the star guided them to Bethlehem, where they found the Christ Child and at His cradle they humbly knelt and worshiped the holy child.

As we journey through advent this year, I pray that our services either in the church or in our homes will lead us again to reflect on the wonderful gift of Christmas - the hope, peace, joy and love that Jesus brought and continues to give to each of us. The wise still seek Jesus, the Saviour of the world – the light which shines brightly on each one of us and guides our path in life's journey.

Love came down at Christmas,

Love all lovely, love Divine.

Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.

Love shall be our token,

Love be yours and love be mine,

Love to God and all men,

Love for plea and gift and sign.

(Christina Rossetti 1830-1894).

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful Christmas and healthy New Year –

God Bless

Yvonne

Minister Rev. Yvonne Smith 07540 592937



Filming and Live Streaming of Singing In Church Church Services

This advisory Information is intended to inform those attending church of the implications for them of filming and live streaming of Church Services.



As many of those attending church and those watching at home are aware all worship services held within our church are now filmed and live streamed. This means that any images filmed and streamed are available to those watching at home and to others in the public domain via the *web* and YouTube.

The cameras in use are positioned such that only those on the chancel are captured face on and those within the congregation are mostly captured from behind, meaning that faces are not readily visible to those watching on screen.

At present we are implementing a policy of not filming areas outwith the chancel area unless at a Christening when the Minister may show the baptised infant to the congregation by a walk round the church. During this special service those attending will be advised by stewards that filming will be taking place and if not wishing to be filmed they will be offered a pew in an area not covered by the cameras.

We trust that this information clarifies the issue of filming and streaming for those attending our church thus allowing individuals to make a judgement on any implications for themselves and those under their care. If desired individuals can request seating in an area not covered by the cameras.

Bishopton Parish Church
Communications Committee

During the pandemic the rules for singing in church have changed. Current Scottish Government rules state that church choirs must be suitably distanced from the congregation and from each other, and that choir members may remove their mask to sing but must replace their mask after singing. The congregation must remain masked while singing.

Medical exemptions apply as normal.

I realise that it is not comfortable singing while wearing a mask, especially when it is one of your favourite hymns and you feel like giving it "big licks"! Hopefully restrictions on singing will ease at some time in the future, but until then I would advise singing at a lesser volume and stopping for a wee break if you feel uncomfortable.

S Munro

Girls Brigade

The Girls' Brigade was delighted to start back with face to face meetings at the end of October. It took a lot of planning but was worth it all. The girls have been having a great time catching up with each other and although activities are restricted they've been having lots of fun too. Lots of our Explorers have now moved up to the Junior section so we have places available for P1 to P3. Please email bishoptongb@gmail.com for more information.

Adult helpers are always needed so please consider joining us on a Thursday night too.

One World Committee

Christmas is coming and the Christmas symbols will be distributed to the parishioners' homes by the elders from the 28th November (there will be further copies available at the church after this date)

The Jars of Grace can be returned to the church on the 28th November and will be kept at the Cornerstone before being counted on the 5th of December. Anyone who is able to help with the counting will be most welcome between 12.30-2pm.

Also on the 5th December, between 12-2pm, we are keen to repeat the collection of a Christmas Day meal for the Foodbank which was so successful last year. We would ask if you can hand into the Cornerstone a meal of a starter, main with vegetables, a pudding or sweet and maybe a chocolate treat (can you avoid any alcohol please) .

We would like to thank you for your help with the Foodbank at Harvest when 453 kg of food was donated which makes up 1076 meals.

Finally we would like to support Shelter as we have done in past Advents and we are hoping to have some publicity about Shelter in the Church throughout Advent. There will be collection baskets in and around the church if you would like to contribute.

Thank you.

Sunday School

On October 25th a number of our young church members (aka Sunday School) met in the Cornerstone. A significant milestone after more than 18 months of Covid-19 restrictions! This enthusiastic group has now renamed itself as 'Sunday Kidz' and, apart from the first Sunday of each month, plan to continue meeting on Sunday mornings from 1100 – 1200. Activities will generally be aimed at Primary 1 – 7 children. Preschool children will be most welcome too, and appropriate toys / mats will be available. Parents of the latter will, of course, be welcome to stay with their children.

As of December, to allow parents to participate in morning worship whilst their children attend 'Sunday Kidz', the Church Service will be live-streamed in the open area downstairs at the Cornerstone.

It has been such a pleasure to see our young members again in person at the Cornerstone. Linda, Janice and Laura, in addition to their helper, Eilidh, look forward to welcoming all, old or new on Sunday mornings.

If interested in further information please contact Linda Nicholl at LindaAANicholl@aol.com or 07970826090 / 01505863046. Finally, please spread the news of the restart of this very important group within our church community.



More Network Online Please



Many members of the congregation receive their copy of Network by email which is very efficient and helps cut down the use of paper, this being in keeping with the need for us as Christians to look after our planet and its resources. We would be very grateful if more people would add to this number by receiving their copy in this way. Any members wishing to switch to this more environmentally friendly option please email the following information to Ruby at The Cornerstone office (ruby.gray@bishoptonkirk.org.uk) :

Your name ; your email address ; your home address (to allow the paper delivery list to be amended)

There is no limit to the number of people in any household who can receive the magazine by email. Simply include each email address in your message to Ruby.

INTIMATIONS

Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals

Baptisms – Let the little children come unto me (Matt 19:4)

5th September : Callum Andrew Williams, Parents Eleanor and Kevin

26th September : Millie Claire McGregor, Parents Alexandra and Alan

Funerals - Jesus said, 'I am the Resurrection and the life' (Mat 19:14)

2nd September : Mr Jack Campbell, Greenock Crematorium

3rd September : Mr James (Jim) Stables, Church and Bishopton Cemetery

7th September : Mrs Margaret Black, Woodside Crematorium

Church Services & Advent

Forthcoming services in the church and to be streamed online.

28th November : 1st Sunday in Advent – Hope

5th December : 2nd Sunday in Advent – Peace

12th December : 3rd Sunday in Advent – Joy

19th December : 4th Sunday in Advent – Love & Nativity Service

Our services commence at 11am and last approximately 45 – 50 minutes. Tea and coffee fellowship after worship.

Carols @ The Cornerstone sadly will not take place this year due to the restricted numbers that can meet indoors and the difficulty that this would pose trying to limit numbers or having to turn people away.

However we are hoping to hold a short carol service in **The Cornerstone Carpark on Christmas Eve at 3pm**. This would be weather dependent and subject to government restrictions at that time.

7pm Christmas Eve Service in the church (TBC) - This year while COVID restrictions remain in place we are proposing to hold a 7pm service instead of the usual 11:30pm Watchnight Service. This earlier time will hopefully allow families with children to attend or alternatively watch the service from home. It also means people will not be out late at night in wintery conditions. This service would be streamed and could be watched live or later in the evening.

Sunday 26th December : Family Boxing Day Service

Sunday 2nd January 2022 : New Year Service

Service of Reflection

A short service of reflection and memorial is planned for 3pm on Sunday 12th December which will be open to all those who have recently been bereaved and wish to reflect and remember loved ones gone from our sight but never from our hearts.

For any further information re services contact me Yvonne (Minster) 01505 862161.

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At your time of need our caring and professional staff are here to listen and advise you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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