

# BISHOPTON PARISH CHURCH

(CHURCH OF SCOTLAND)  
SCOTTISH CHARITY NO SC006109



Network Magazine

June 2022

## Chocolate Heaven @ Bishopton Day



The crowd was as big as any seen in recent years at Bishopton Day with everyone enjoying getting out and meeting friends and neighbours as well as the food, the stage singers and crafts. The Church focused on Chocolate Heaven with the participants having a draw for greatly appreciated chocolate. The money raised will be divided between Afghanistan (our charity for the year) and Ukraine.

The staff of One World and Communication Committees worked really hard and we all enjoyed ourselves, the enthusiasm of everyone around us was something to behold. One highlight was at the end of the afternoon when a little girl won a large box of Milk Tray. We asked her to close her eyes as we gave her her prize. The look on her face on opening her eyes was truly wonderful .....lucky Dad on Fathers' Day ! (something we mentioned to many of the winners).

Overall a great day, which raised over £930 for the two charities. Many, many thanks to all who took part, be it buying tickets, helping at the stall or who gave us chocolate, particularly Sainsburys, the Coop and U-Save from the village.

Here's to next year, but until then, remember that every heaven is not necessarily made of chocolate !!



## 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,

Since the last edition of the Network magazine a lot has happened in our Church and Community. As restrictions relaxed we were able to have evening Holy Week Services in the church and on Easter Sunday enjoyed an outdoor service at the cannon at 9am, followed by our Easter Service in the Church. These services were well attended and apart from the outdoor service they were live streamed so that members and friends could worship with us from home. We also had our Easter Monday walk and Easter Egg hunt in the church grounds – the weather was good, and this event was enjoyed by many of all ages.

In late April the mandatory wearing of face coverings was removed and over the weeks more and more individuals have elected to worship without them and it really is wonderful to see smiling faces in the church again. We still have quite a few individuals who due to health issues or in order to protect a family member continue to wear face masks and this is to be encouraged and I ask you to give them space and support, for we all know how uncomfortable the masks can be.

We have also started a new venture. The Chit Chat group, which meets on a Thursday afternoon. It has attracted many individuals from our church and community, and it is wonderful to hear the chatter again over tea/coffee in the Cornerstone. It is planned to have a variety of activities at Chit Chat - guest speakers and musical performances - and on the last Thursday of the month as part of the Chit-Chat Programme a short 30 – 40-minute service will be held, the first being on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June.

Looking towards the summer months we are planning to have a couple of Outdoor Carpark Services (Weather Permitting). These will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> August. Outdoor Services were very popular last summer when we were restricted in the numbers that could meet in the church. We hope that these all-age services will be fun and folks can enjoy fellowship together - and singing, which was not allowed last summer. Tea and coffee will be available at these informal services.

Several of our activities are taking a well-earned summer break. These include the Girls Brigade, Sunday Kidz, Coffee Stop, and Walk & Talk. It is planned to recommence all these activities and groups in the Autumn. My sincere thanks to all the leaders and volunteers who have been involved in re-establishing these groups over the Spring and we are extremely grateful to the COVID Group who have guided us through risk assessments and practical procedures in order to get things going again.

One of the lessons we have all learned over the last two and half years is not to take things for granted, especially the love and companionship of family and friends. It is so good to be able to gather in the Church and at The Cornerstone and be a church family united in our love for one another and for Jesus Christ our Lord. As the early church was established back in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century it was not the building where they met that was important but that the believers came together, and in Acts 2:44 it states, “All the believers continued together in close fellowship and shared their belongings with one another” ... verse 47 “And every day the Lord added to their group those that were being saved.” As we go forward into a new season may our fellowship grow stronger, may we be a Church family that will open our hearts to our community and the world.

The Church is wherever God's people are praising,  
Knowing they're wanted and loved by their Lord.  
The Church is wherever Christ's followers are trying  
to live and to share the good news of God.  
(Carol Rose Iker 1920 – Ch4 522).

God Bless and have a lovely summer

Yvonne

Minister Rev. Yvonne Smith 07540 592937

## **Bishopton Songs of Praise**

Delighted to report that we hosted a very successful Bishopton Community Songs of Praise on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June.

We were able to use the large Scout Marquee which provided a very comfortable seated area for 80 of us to meet and sing. We were accompanied by musicians from Bishopton Parish Church and Our Lady of Lourdes. This was a joint venture by both congregations and Father Peter and myself are delighted with the response and the fellowship that the afternoon provided to those in attendance and to a number of passers by who stopped and listened.

Our sincere thanks to Jim Sneddon and the Bishopton Scouts who allowed us to use the Marquee, set up for the event and then take the tent down late on Sunday afternoon.

I am very grateful to our musicians and all who help organise this event, compiling and printing the hymn sheets, the welcoming group and sound team. Hopefully this might become an annual event.

Yvonne Smith



## Have a break, Have a Chit Chat

This is a weekly social gathering which is open to all members of the community and is held in The Cornerstone on a Thursday from 1pm to 2.30pm. The varied programme includes speakers, musical items, quizzes and games. A monthly service will be held and the programme shall be advertised weekly including on the external notice board at The Cornerstone. Chit Chat will run throughout the summer months so please come along and join us.

A car run is available. Anyone wishing to access this should contact Ruby in The Cornerstone office on either a Tuesday or Thursday morning.

Our inaugural invited guest was Reverend Albert Smith, participating in a Desert Island Disc session. Following the radio programme format, Rev. Smith enthralled us with tales of his fulsome and interesting life interspersed with pieces of meaningful music. So much so, he has been invited to return (possibly Autumn time) to tell further of his experiences and adventures in Chile.

This was followed by a cuppa and biscuits.

There were about 60 people attending, plenty of chatter and laughs and all saying, "It was a lovely afternoon."

On the afternoon of 2nd June a Jubilee Tea was enjoyed by more than 60 people in The Cornerstone.

The food, all generous donations of home baking and sandwiches from Morrisons, was a sumptuous spread enjoyed by everyone. Music was provided by John Campbell beginning with a rousing rendition of our National Anthem. After refreshments there was singing of some well known songs.

The photographs show people enjoying a Chit Chat and friendship.



### One World Committee

The war in Ukraine has now raged for three months with thousands of soldiers on both sides killed and wounded; civilians killed, crushed and brutalized. A nation has been left in tatters and still it goes on. The world is starting to weary of the war as shown by the news always looking for the new headline.

The direct effect of the Ukraine war on our own lives has come. We have rising fuel prices, food costs and soaring inflation. We see wage requests understandably increasing which will, in turn, lead to industrial actions and further misery for everyone. But our troubles are little compared to the already impoverished peoples of the world in Africa, Asia and the Middle East who rely on Ukraine being one of the "breadbaskets" of the world. Vegetable oils and especially grain from Ukraine feed millions of these, the poorest peoples of the world. Western leaders can turn on the taps for more oil but the poor of the world cannot magic food to their mouths.

So thank you everyone who has contributed to Chocolate Heaven at Bishopton Day whereby chocolate along with your money gifts will help to feed and bring hope to the peoples of the world as we target our giving to the peoples of Ukraine and Afghanistan.

Chocolate, a luxury for us, will be turned into an essential for others

Last week there was a joint meeting of the Session and the Congregational Board. A presentation and question and answering session was given by Martin Fotheringham, the CEO of Citizens Advice, Renfrewshire. It was agreed that areas of mutual interest will be explored, allowing the Cornerstone to be used in helping people who need help and advice about issues including debt, inflation and poverty. Martin is also looking for volunteers to further support the work of Citizens Advice in our area.

The Foodbank continues to struggle with donations lessened and need constantly rising. They advise that all giving, including from shops is down and with people worried

about their own family's needs and the slow return to church as well as other settings that food parcels are a struggle for us all. They are particularly looking for tins of meat and fish, diluting juices and toiletries. If you can, please help.

Bill Doak

### New Group



**Bishopton Church Junior Singers**

**On Mondays starting 15th August**

**In the Cornerstone**

**From 4pm to 5pm**

**For Primary School Children**

**\* all ages welcome \***

**Interested?**

**To Register or For More Details**

**Email: [junior.choir@bishoptonkirk.org.uk](mailto:junior.choir@bishoptonkirk.org.uk)**

## Girls' Brigade

1<sup>st</sup> Bishopton Girls Brigade celebrated the end of a successful session with a trip to Finlaystone. The girls spent time in the grounds getting extremely wet but still having a great time before going indoors to receive their badges and to celebrate 40 years of the company with cake for everyone.

At the Thanksgiving Service in the Church on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, Keeley Fitzsimmons was presented with her Brigader Brooch - congratulations to her and long service awards were presented to Marie Kennedy (20 years) and Jill Morrison (30 years).

The company has now finished for the summer but will resume at the end of August. All of our Explorers are moving up to Juniors so we would love to get some new members from P1 to P3 and, as is a common plea from all youth organisations, we desperately need leaders to join us and take the company forward. Please contact [bishoptongb@gmail.com](mailto:bishoptongb@gmail.com) for more information.



### Property Update

As we get going again with “in-person” meetings and events, the Property and A/V Teams will be looking at what needs to be done over the coming months, not just in responding to defects but also in planning maintenance and development of our infrastructure for future years. To this end we are developing a “Budget” for the A/V Team – we already have one for Property.

But an essential aspect of planning is ensuring that we continue to attract – and retain! – our teams of volunteers. You don’t even have to be a Church member! So if you know of anyone who might be interested in joining the teams, please do speak to any of the members or contact me directly by phone/text on 07785907501, or by email at [Ian.Earnshaw@Bishoptonkirk.org.uk](mailto:Ian.Earnshaw@Bishoptonkirk.org.uk).

We have a “slot” on the new website (<https://www.bishoptonkirk.org.uk/property/>) where you can find out what we do and how to get in touch if you would like to become involved.

#### Bricks and mortar:-

We were visited on May 27<sup>th</sup> by Mr Jamie McNamara, who is the Presbytery Buildings Officer for Clyde Presbytery. Jamie was visiting to see for himself the condition of our buildings and see how we manage them. After his visit he wrote “Firstly, thank you both ever so much for taking the time to show me around your wonderfully maintained buildings (keep it up!), it really was very satisfying seeing them and the great work you are doing.” Phew!!

Jamie is also a judge for the John Betjeman Award being run by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). Our Church has been entered for this award, and we have apparently made it to the Short List. A judges’ visit will be held in July, so fingers crossed! Even getting to the Short List should help with our fund-raising applications.

#### Techie Stuff:-

The “Tech Team” is always on the lookout for

new talent to join us. If you have aspirations towards audio/visual productions, or towards IT/Network engineering, or are just interested in seeing how it works, have a look at <https://www.bishoptonkirk.org.uk/av/> and then get in touch.

### Sunday Kidz



On Sunday morning, June 19<sup>th</sup> the **Sunday Kidz** children joined the church service to celebrate a year of commitment. After a report, summarising the activities of the past session, the children received a book in recognition of their enthusiastic contributions to the wide variety of experiences that were on offer. You can find out more from the recording of the service, available via Youtube. SK will resume at the end of the summer and if any primary school age children would like to join us please email;

[LindaAANicholl@aol.com](mailto:LindaAANicholl@aol.com)



Session Clerk



An interesting picture from the Herald of our Session Clerk Douglas Hope in his days as a FIFA referee, showing him keeping the peace. Douglas has recently retired from his work with the SFA and the following will give you some idea of the scope of his involvement.

Douglas has been involved in refereeing for 55 years with 27 years as a Referee and 28 years as a Referee observer. In Scotland Douglas refereed two Scottish Cup Finals (in 1992 & 1994) - these being his most memorable games - and twelve Celtic v Rangers games

As well as refereeing in Scotland Douglas was an International referee for 4 years and over the course of his refereeing career he officiated in the following countries :

Albania, Germany, England, Iceland, Finland, Sweden, Ukraine, Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Italy, Wales, U S A, and Norway, as well as being involved in the Special Olympics.

It is a sign of the respect in which Douglas was held by the Professional Footballers he came into contact with while refereeing that even today – many years after these players have retired from playing – many of these “hardened professionals” when they meet Douglas still insist on addressing him as “Mr Hope”.

Luckily Session meetings are peaceful and he's not had to blow his whistle, let alone show a yellow card!!

Otago Class

The Otago class which has resumed on Monday mornings in The Cornerstone is glad to have so many returners and has also welcomed some new participants. ROAR who run this class can only do so with the help of volunteers and are appealing for additional helpers.

If you have some time to spare and may be able to assist, please contact Shirley Arrol on 07906685447



## 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](mailto: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.

## Elder District/Church Roll Review

It is important to keep Church records up-to-date and, given the circumstances of the last two and a half years, it is now time to once again undertake a Review of the Church Roll and Elder Districts. This task was last undertaken six years ago.

In order to facilitate this process over the next couple of months elders will be visiting church members to check, and where necessary update, the information currently held for each church member. This will only take a couple of minutes of each member's time and we would greatly appreciate everyone's co-operation in helping us to fulfil this important task.

## INTIMATIONS

### Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals

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

17<sup>th</sup> March James Goodall - Clydebank Crematorium

20<sup>th</sup> April Alice Ross – Church & Clydebank Crematorium

20<sup>th</sup> May Patricia Robertson – Clydebank Crematorium

25<sup>th</sup> May Myra Bremner – Church & Clydebank Cemetery

## Church Services

- .3<sup>rd</sup> July - 11 am All Age Service – **Car Park** (Weather permitting \*)
- 10<sup>th</sup> July - 11am Morning Worship
- 17<sup>th</sup> July - 11am Morning Worship
- 24<sup>th</sup> July - 11am Morning Worship
- 31<sup>st</sup> July - 11am Morning Worship
- 7<sup>th</sup> August - 11 am All Age Service – **Car Park** (Weather permitting \*)
- 14<sup>th</sup> August - 11am Morning Worship
- 21<sup>st</sup> August - 11am Morning Worship
- 28<sup>th</sup> August - 11am Morning Worship – Communion TBC



\*If wet or inclement weather the service will be in the church. **Please bring along a garden chair.**

Tea, Coffee & juice will be available after morning worship for both indoor and outdoor services.

### YOUR FUNERAL DIRECTORS -

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

*Funeral Pre payment plans and monumental masonry available.*

*For immediate personal attention, please contact:*

**J & W Goudie**

**10 -12 Maxwellton Street, Paisley**

**0141 889 5285**

**Walter Johnston & Son**

**14 Fulbar Street, Renfrew**

**0141 886 4256**

## Beaton Bros



24 Hour 7 day service

Please call 0141 812 4422

<https://beatonbros.co.uk>