

# BISHOPTON PARISH CHURCH

(CHURCH OF SCOTLAND)

SCOTTISH CHARITY NO SC006109



Network Magazine

June 2025

## Finance Committee Report

Our year end accounts for 2024 have now been approved by the independent examiner and have been forwarded to Presbytery for approval prior to being submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). The accounts showed a healthy surplus and have helped us recover from a few years of deficits in the post Covid period. This has been achieved through increased offerings from members, donations from regular activities such as Chit Chat, one-off social activities such as the Christmas Fayre, and, significantly, increased lettings and income from The Cornerstone. Our thanks for this extends to all, not forgetting the willingness of the many volunteers who help to minimise our expenditure and ensure we provide a valuable service to members and the community.

Our budget for 2025 assumed a slight increase in offerings in line with inflation but a reduction in income from hall lets as we were concerned that the 2024 level of hall use may not be sustainable. This was in part due to the difficulty in recruiting a hall caretaker, putting increased pressure on volunteers to open and close The Cornerstone. As a result, we took the decision to limit Saturday lettings of The Cornerstone for children's birthday parties to no more than twice a month until the situation with recruiting a caretaker was resolved. Despite this I'm pleased to report that our income for the first quarter of the year was slightly ahead of budget and expenditure was in line with budget.

The January storms resulted in some damage to the roofs of both the Church and The Cornerstone. Inspection showed that some other remedial work was required in addition to the storm damage. The works required should be completed in May at a cost just in excess of £10,000. Our insurers have agreed to cover just over half of this with around £4,500, to come from our own funds. While we had not budgeted for this, our reserves are more than sufficient to cover it.

In summary, the financial position of the church remains healthy. We are aware that expenditure may be required on the brickwork and drainage system at The Cornerstone and this will be kept under review .

Finally, for those of you who do on-line shopping can I remind you to sign up at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bishopton-parish-church>. It should only take a few minutes.

Thank you again for your continued support to the work of the Church.

Alex Macdonald  
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Convenor, Finance Committee

## 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

Dear Friends

I write this letter in the middle of a busy spell of activities and events at both the Church and The Cornerstone.

At the end of May we had the excellent Church Concert with performances from our Choir, Junior Singers and musicians from the Praise Band and other guests. At the Boys' Brigade Annual Display and Awards Ceremony on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June it was a great privilege to watch the boys being presented with their badges and awards. There was great fun, fellowship and enthusiasm on show and it was so good to see - considering that the 1<sup>st</sup> Bishopton Company has only reformed in the last 6 months - that by the dedication and commitment of the officers and helpers the company has re-established themselves as part of the regular youth activities within the church.

The Girls' Brigade also had their display and award ceremony in mid-May and again the Company is doing well in respect of numbers and enthusiasm. As a congregation we are indebted to the leaders and helpers who weekly commit to this organisation.

Within the Kirk Session we welcomed six new elders on Easter Sunday, It was a real privilege to ordain Agnes Doak, Alistair Doak, Evelyn Blair, Allison Hope and Patricia Woodrow and David Woodrow (previously ordained elder) and welcome them into the Kirk Session.

Since Palm Sunday we have also had several Baptisms. It has been wonderful to welcome these children and their parents into our Church, and it is lovely to see all of the children in the church and at the Family Services in The Cornerstone.

In our current climate the news stories dominating our world portray a very bleak and dark picture. Also, within the Church we hear of churches closing so it is so heartening, and I hope uplifting, to share with you our growth and development over the past six months. As we go into the summer recess and groups and organisations take a break I would like to thank all our volunteers, leaders and trustees for what they do and wish them a very enjoyable summer.

We have challenges ahead, but we also have the power of the Holy Spirit with us and through prayer and fellowship we will continue to flourish and grow as we spread the Good News Message of God's love – and help others to find a sense of belonging and awareness of the wonders of His Love.

A new commandment I give unto you,  
That you love one another as I have loved you,  
That you love one another as I have loved you.  
By this shall all know you are My disciples,  
If you have love one for another.  
John 13 (Mission Praise 1).

Have a great Summer and share with us in person or online, in the Church or @ The Cornerstone.

God Bless

Yvonne



### **Easter Sunday**

#### **Ordination & Admission of New Elders.**

## **Renfrewshire Foodbank**

The demand for the Foodbank in Renfrewshire continues to increase. During 2024 emergency food parcels were provided to 10,405 people which breaks down to 7095 adults and 3310 children. A truly heart-breaking number of children not having the security of something as basic as food.

At this time of year, the stock decreases significantly as we are between the generous donations usually received at Easter and Harvest. We continue to need tinned foods, meat, fish, soup, vegetables, pasta sauce, as well as cereals, biscuits, long life milk, diluting juice. We also welcome donations of toiletries - particularly shampoo and shaving items, pet food and chocolate/sweets.

Donations can be dropped off at the Church on Sunday or at the Cornerstone when it is open for Chit Chat, Coffee Stop or Services. The One World group have a rota to collect the donations and take them to the Renfrewshire Foodbank warehouse.

Sadly, Erskine Bishopton Inchinnan Unites (EBI Unites) based at the Church of the Nazarene has now closed which leaves the Renfrewshire Foodbank as the only local option for people in our community facing food poverty.

### One World Committee

#### Chocolate Heaven

The One World Committee are once again running the Chocolate Heaven stall at this year's Bishopton Day on 21<sup>st</sup> June. The proceeds are going to our Chisangano appeal - "Let's Finish the Job" when we are supporting the refurbishment of 10 schoolteachers' homes in Chisangano, Malawi where we have previously funded a fresh water supply.

We are looking for donations of chocolate of any size and any type and these can be handed in at the Church, Cornerstone or to any members of the One World Committee between now and the 17<sup>th</sup> June.

Thank You in anticipation,

One World Committee

### Bishopton Christian Aid Group

The Bishopton Christian Aid Group would like to thank everyone who donated in any way to our recent Plant Sale and Coffee Morning.

We raised the magnificent sum of £2474.20.

If you grew seedlings for us to sell perhaps you could again next year when we ask for volunteers. If you didn't and would like to help next year please let us know.

Our next venture will be the Christmas card delivery in December.

Thank you all.

Carolyn Macdonald

### Social Committee

We have several events planned for the remainder of this year:

> The ever popular Quiz Evening will be held in The Cornerstone on Saturday 28th June at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 per person and teams of a maximum of 6 people or individual places can be booked by phoning The Cornerstone office on 01505 862583#

> A family BBQ will be held on Saturday 23rd August at The Cornerstone starting at 2pm. There will be burgers and sausages and plenty for the children to do. More information to follow.

> We are delighted that The Glasgow Phoenix Choir will be returning to sing once more on Sunday 21st September at 2.30pm. The concert will be held in the Church and tickets priced £10 will be available from July.

> A musical evening with cheese and wine will be held on Friday 24th October at 8pm in The Cornerstone. A social get together with entertainment provided by the Bearsden Fiddlers.

> Save the Date for our Christmas Fair which will be held on Saturday 29th November

Maureen Henderson

### Network

A provisional date for the distribution of the next edition of Network is week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> August. Articles for this edition should therefore be submitted to Albert Sloan no later than Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August. This edition will include start up dates for the various church activities.

## Musical Activities

### Church Choir

The choir has sung introits and anthems this session, featuring a variety of musical styles. We have enjoyed singing with a string group, a brass group, and the church Praise Band. We sang at the church concert in May, and we continue to support the services at Ailsa Lodge, encouraging the residents in their singing. New members are always welcome. We are fortunate to have the choir leading the singing in services.

### Junior Singers

Although our numbers are few the children continue to make a nice sound when they sing. We joined the church choir at the family service in April and at the church concert, and we will sing with the St Machar's Church Junior Choir at services in June. We will sing "Jonah Man Jazz", which tells the story of Jonah in an upbeat style. The service at Bishopton is at 2.30pm on June 8<sup>th</sup> in the church, and also at the St Machar's church in Bridge Of Weir on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

### Praise Band

The Praise Band played at the family services in The Cornerstone, as well as at the carpark service on Easter Sunday morning. Band members also played as part of the orchestra at the church concert in May. Once again we are grateful to these talented musicians who add to our worship in the church.

### Church Concert

On Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup> we had the annual church concert, featuring all our music groups and some friends. A very large audience attended and enjoyed a varied programme of music – Scottish, classical, musicals, swing – ably performed by the Church Choir, Junior Singers and Praise Band with some friends augmenting the band. Everyone enjoyed the tea/coffee and home baking provided by choir members after the concert, and the sum of £633 was raised for church funds. Thanks are due to all who performed, the catering team, those who printed tickets and programmes, the stewarding team, AV team, those who set up and cleared away the hall, and everyone who came on the night and supported a memorable evening of music.

### Concert

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July at 2.30pm in the church, there will be a concert by Cheryl Forbes and Gordon Cree. This husband and wife team of professional musicians will present a varied programme of music suitable for a summer afternoon. They were recently scheduled to play a recital in Paisley Abbey, and are in great demand. Tickets for the concert, priced £5, will be on sale in July.

### Concert

There will be a concert featuring the church choir and the Praise Band, together with some soloists, in the church 2.30 – 3.30 pm on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August. There will be songs from shows, Scottish music and

### Renfrew Burgh Band Summer Concert

Saturday 5<sup>TH</sup> July at 7.00PM, (doors pen 6.30pm)

Renfrew Town Hall

Celebrate with the band as they proudly showcase their recent triumph as 3<sup>rd</sup> Section Scottish Champions with a night of beautiful music and community spirit.

Admission is free, but donations will be most welcome to support the band.



## Girls' Brigade Report

The Girls' Brigade here in Bishopton finished their 2024-25 session with an awards night in The Cornerstone on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May. We celebrated a successful session full of fun and fellowship with some "display" items for parents, family and friends followed by the girls all receiving their badges. We have stopped for the summer and will start back at the end of August once the schools have returned, however with one less leader who is retiring.....

Allison Hope. A fond Farewell.

So let's start with the official stuff!

Allison joined the Girls' Guildry as it was known (way back then!) in Moncrieff Church, East Kilbride when she was 10 years old and stayed in it throughout her time at school. From then she progressed to becoming an officer (lieutenant), being commissioned in 1967.

When she married her husband Douglas they moved to England where she continued her GB service as Captain of 1<sup>st</sup> Keighley company in Yorkshire and then was "promoted" (well took on an extra role) as deputy commissioner of that division.

When the family moved back to Scotland they settled in Erskine and Allison became Captain of 2<sup>nd</sup> Erskine. She joined us here in 1<sup>st</sup> Bishopton. (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Erskine companies merged at that time which prompted the move. Sadly, the company has since folded). We are so grateful that she joined us.

We've tried to figure out how many years she's been at 1<sup>st</sup> Bishopton but can't remember the exact date. But narrowed it down about 25 years.

Throughout her time within what was Inverclyde, Renfrew and Argyll region and Renfrew division she has held the posts of secretary, deputy commissioner, commissioner and president. This meant she was chairing meetings, visiting companies, commissioning new leaders and lots of other things that she did voluntarily.

For GB Scotland, she was a member of the national board and the camp committee and involved in national events in the Kelvin Hall, and open air displays which took a huge amount of time and effort to bring together.

But here in Bishopton we know that "event planning" is right up her street!

For any nights we have that involve a celebration, food or any type of co – ordination, Allison is on it before we've had time to blink. And she thinks of everything!!!! The only thing we have to remind her is that she's not catering for 100 people when there are only 30 of us.

We may joke about that, but what Allison has done for the girls and the company here in Bishopton is immeasurable. Everything that she does is for the girls in her care and for the organisation that is so dear to her. She has an eye (and an ear) for what works! The speakers, the visits, the crafts, and we could go on, that she has arranged for the girls have made their time in GB so much more memorable. Her persistence in pursuing someone or sourcing what we need is absolutely amazing.

I suppose when you have been in GB for 64 years (8 as a girl and 58 as an officer) it's in your blood and that's why she is so good at what she does here in Bishopton.

So all that is left for us to say is Thank you from the bottom of all our hearts for your loyal service to 1<sup>st</sup> Bishopton Girls' Brigade and beyond. We will miss you.

*Thank You!*





**Girls' Brigade June 2025**



**Boys' Brigade June 2025**

## Boys' Brigade Report

This has been a successful first year back for The Boys' Brigade in Bishopton with much fun and enthusiasm shown by everyone involved. The 1<sup>st</sup> Bishopton BB Company became dormant from COVID, but was restarted in September 2024. Following a six year absence, the first display took place on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June. Our Inspecting Officer was Allison Hope and the event was well attended, and enjoyed by those present. The company has grown from strength to strength and we now have 19 Anchor boys (P1-3) and 6 Junior section boys (P4-6) on our books. With more than half of our Anchors being in primary 1 and all of our Juniors in primary 4 we are in a prime position to consolidate and grow, bringing the message and ethos of the Boys' Brigade to more in the village.

Along with having fun the boys have been working hard towards their badges. The officers build their badge work into the programme to make it as seamless as possible for the boys. The work is based around six activity areas:- Get Active; Get Adventurous; Get Creative; Get into the Bible; Get Involved; and Get Learning. To this end the boys have been involved in a variety of activities this year. These included : for the Anchors - a Burns Night, star gazing, and Mother's Day crafts; and for the Juniors - trying an infrared camera, making a poppy wreath with tracings of their own hands, and having a go at touch rugby.

A highlight of the Display was the presentation of a trophy in memory of Bob Goodall, long-serving officer and Past Captain of 1st Bishopton BB Company. This trophy - for Sunday School attendance was presented by Bob's wife to Ross Connolly.

From a personal perspective, my favourite night of the year was when all of the uniforms arrived and were issued to the boys. Seeing the boys so happy to get something new and special for them did make me feel quite warm inside. These will be something that the boys and parents will treasure in years to come. My mum still has my Anchor Boys' jumper - even though it is 30 years old now.

Our display was been designed to demonstrate the skills and attitudes we endeavoured to develop in the boys this year. The Anchors - building fitness but also the teaching them how to follow instructions and to be accurate in what they do. The Juniors - showing their focus and discipline. These all lead into the Object of the Boys' Brigade as we aim to help the boys develop over the years from being children to good and upstanding men.

We would like to thank all of those in the church community who have helped and supported the BB through this first year. We will continue to strive to increase our numbers and bring more people into contact with the wider church family.

**Bob Goodall Trophy**





## Thursday Chit Chat

### 1-2.30pm in The Cornerstone

Our Thursday meetings continue to thrive with new and returning friends attending, some knowing no-one as they enter and leaving with smiles and promises to return. The chatter prior to meetings and over tea provides a friendly background and proof that our name Chit Chat was well chosen!

We have now been running for three years and our programme continues to be busy with speakers and musicians. Over the past three months we have had speakers from The Vine Trust, Mary's Meals, Branching Out, Vikingar, and - of historical interest - a speaker on The Glen Cinema Disaster. Musical items have included instrumental and choral performances that would not have been out of place in the Concert Hall. We have also enjoyed a "Daffodil Tea" and look forward to our annual "Strawberry Tea" in July.

Reverend Yvonne Smith conducts an informal worship service on the last Thursday of every month, which also gives time for chatter on a selected topic.

We do not take a summer break and therefore all are welcome on any Thursday at 1pm in The Cornerstone. Programme updates can be found on the Church website but an important date for your diary is July 3rd when we hold our strawberry tea.

Gill McHattie



## Worship Calendar

**1<sup>st</sup> June**                      **Family All Age Worship - 11 am @ The Cornerstone**  
 8<sup>th</sup> June                      Public Worship 11 am @ The Church – Baptism (Connolly Family)  
 15<sup>th</sup> June                      Public Worship 11 am Church – Sunday Kidz Celebration Sunday  
 22<sup>nd</sup> June                      Public Worship 11 am Church  
 29<sup>th</sup> June                      Public Worship 11 am Church

**6<sup>th</sup> July**                        **Family All Age Worship - 11 am @ The Cornerstone**  
 13<sup>th</sup> July                      Public Worship 11 am Church  
 20<sup>th</sup> July                      Public Worship 11 am Church  
 27<sup>th</sup> July                      Public Worship 11 am Church

**3<sup>rd</sup> August**                    **Family All Age Worship - 11 am @ The Cornerstone**  
 10<sup>th</sup> August                   Public Worship 11 am Church  
 24<sup>th</sup> August                   Public Worship 11 am Church  
 31<sup>st</sup> August                   Public Worship 11 am Church

**7<sup>th</sup> September**   **Family All Age Worship - 11 am @ The Cornerstone**

Services are usually in the **Church**, starting at **11am**, **except** for the **first Sunday in the month**, unless otherwise intimated via Newsy Mail, Church Website or \facebook.

On the **first Sunday of each month**, we hold a **Family - All Age Service** in **The Cornerstone** starting at **11am**. This is a more informal gathering and time of worship and we hope to encourage those in our Youth Organisations and families involved in activities @ The Cornerstone to come along and share with us.

Tea and Coffee is available after the service and served downstairs in the open area.

We have members of our Praise Band as well as Stewart our Organist and Choir to accompany our singing. Please come along and encourage family and friends to attend.

A weekly Creche is available in the church extension hall for pre-school children to access at any time during the morning service and there is a screen with live streaming of the service available for adults.

The **Sunday Kidz** usually meet in the church at 11am and after the 'Small Talk' and children's hymn go out to the extension hall for their age-related Bible activities and crafts.

During the Summer School Holidays (end of June – Mid August) there is no Sunday Kidz programme, however we encourage children to come along to the church and either sit with family or go out to the hall and join the creche if they prefer.

Tea and coffee is served in the extension hall after morning worship – all are welcome to join in this time of fellowship.

## Intimations

### Funerals – Jesus said I am the Resurrection and the life (Mat 19:14)

Mrs. Grace Peacock	27 <sup>th</sup> March, Bishopton Parish Church & Bishopton Cemetery (P)
Mrs. Jess McGill	29 <sup>th</sup> March, Bishopton Parish Church & Bishopton Cemetery (M)
Mrs. Rita Clark	31 <sup>st</sup> March, Clydebank Crematorium & Bishopton Parish Church (M)
Mrs. Jane Bramhill	17 <sup>th</sup> April, Woodside Crematorium (P)
Miss Margaret Harper	4 <sup>th</sup> June, Woodside Crematorium (M)

### Baptisms – “Let the little children come unto me”

13th April 25	Fraser Gilles Doak (parents – Emma and Alistair)
27 <sup>th</sup> April 25	Ruaridh Nicholas Henderson (parents – Nichola and Nick)



Palm Sunday - Fraser's Baptism



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