

BISHOPTON PARISH CHURCH

(CHURCH OF SCOTLAND)
SCOTTISH CHARITY NO SC006109

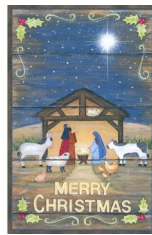


Network Magazine

November 2025

Bishopton Christian Aid Group

Christmas Card



Delivery



This year's Christmas card collection will take place between the 1st and 14th December with the cards being delivered from Monday 15th December. We deliver to Bishopton (including Dargavel), Erskine and surrounding farms.

There will be collection points at the Church and the Cornerstone, Our Lady of Lourdes, the Co-op, Sainsburys, Woody's, Avalon and Angie Campbells Hair and Beauty.

The Social Committee are also allowing us to have a box available at the Christmas Fayre on the 29th November for all the 'early birds'.

Suggested minimum donation is 40p per card.

Please put your donation in an envelope marked 'DONATION' along with your cards and place them in one of the post boxes.

PLEASE ENSURE FULL NAME AND ADDRESS ARE ON THE ENVELOPES OR WE WILL BE UNABLE TO DELIVER THEM.

If anyone would like to help with delivering or sorting the cards please contact me for details on 07971537348.

Thank you

Carolyn Macdonald

Contact Information

The Church office

The Cornerstone

Greenock Road

Bishopton

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Anyone wishing to contact the

Minister should contact

Yvonne on 01505 862161

Anyone wishing to contact the session Clerk, David Pollock or

the Clerk to The Board, Des

Nicholl should do so through

The Cornerstone Office.

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Pastoral Letter



My Dear Friends,

As I write to you in these early days of November, the signs of winter are already upon us, darkening afternoons, longer evenings, and in some places, the first snow and ice. The shops are beginning to sparkle with Christmas displays, drawing us into the excitement of the season. Perhaps you've already started writing your cards or buying gifts (just don't forget where you've hidden them!).

Yet, as we look forward to the joy of Christmas, it's important to remember that the first Christmas was far from festive or glamorous. Mary and Joseph journeyed from Nazareth to Bethlehem - 100 miles. A difficult trip for anyone, but especially for Mary, who was in the final stages of pregnancy. Whether on foot or riding a donkey, it would have been an exhausting and uncomfortable journey.

Upon arriving in Bethlehem, they faced another challenge: there was no room for them, even as Mary went into labour. Imagine Joseph's desperation as he pleaded for a place where Mary could give birth. And Mary—without a midwife, pain relief, or even her mother by her side—was left to face childbirth in a strange place, with only Joseph for support. Two weary travellers, far from home, in need of compassion and care.

Luke's Gospel tells us they found shelter in a stable, where Mary gave birth to Jesus and laid him in a manger. The King of Kings, born among animals, in conditions far from clean or comfortable. The reality was likely much harsher than the serene nativity scenes we see on cards and sing about in carols.

As we enter Advent and prepare for Christmas, our hearts turn to the Holy Land, where conflict continues to claim innocent lives—especially among the young. As we light our Advent candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, let us pray for a lasting ceasefire, for healing, and for peace to reign not only there, but in all places torn by war and division.

The Angel Gabriel said to the shepherds, *"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people."*

May this message fill our hearts and homes this Advent season. Let us carry His Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love into our lives and communities.

I look forward to sharing this most wonderful time of year with you in our services and activities in the Church and The Cornerstone.

Please join us in displaying the Church's Advent symbol for this year—a **Star**, the sign that something wonderful was about to happen. Let it shine as a beacon of Good News in our community.

God bless you,

Your Friend and Minister,

Yvonne



A Prayer for Advent

Lord God,

As we journey through Advent, open our hearts to Your presence.

Fill our homes with Your peace, our lives with Your joy,
and our world with Your love.

May the light of Christ shine brightly in us and through us,
bringing hope to those in need and comfort to the weary.

Amen.



Jesus

Today is the day of our dear Savior's birth! Advent is over, and we celebrate the great feast of Christmas!

"Dear God, thank You for bringing us to this holy Christmas Day. May our hearts be open to receive You and others in Your name. Help us celebrate with great joy the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!"

Hope

Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be born of a virgin, and would be called "Immanuel" - "God with us."

"Dear Lord, when You were ready, You sent us Your Son, Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary. Please help us prepare the way for Him to be born again in our hearts this Christmas."

Love

God chose Mary to bear His Son. Mary obeyed God because she loved Him. Thus, God was able to save the world through Jesus.

"Dear God, thank You for sending us Jesus and for giving us Mary to be our mother as well. Dear Mother, help us feel Jesus' love in our hearts this Christmas."

Peace

Joseph and Mary found no place at the inn, but only a stable, where animals were fed. There they waited for Jesus to be born.

"Dear God, very soon we will rejoice in the birth of Your Son. Mother Mary, help us to prepare for Christmas by taking time to pray and offer little sacrifices for others."

Joy

Joseph and Mary left Nazareth and traveled to Bethlehem for the census. This week we light the rose candle in joy as Jesus' birth is drawing near.

"Dear God, Joseph and Mary trusted You even when they did not understand. Help us also to obey You even in trials. Then we will know Your peace and joy."

News

Finance

Gift Aid

Thank you to all who have returned their new Gift Aid Declarations. Due to holidays, postal delays etc it is likely that some responses have been delayed. While we had set a date of 19th November for return of the forms, if for any reason you have been unable to meet that date we would still request that you return the completed form as soon as possible. This will allow us to provide a comprehensive response to the Revenue and avoid them asking too many difficult questions. Thank you again for your assistance with this exercise.

Alex Macdonald
Finance Convener

Social Committee

The Social Committee has held several social events in the the last few months.

A Family BBQ was held on Saturday 23rd August at The Cornerstone on a beautiful sunny day. Approximately 150 adults and children attended and it was lovely to see many new faces. Rolls with burgers and sausages were enjoyed by all and the children were entertained with games and activities indoors and outdoors.

The Glasgow Phoenix Choir entertained us in the Church on Sunday 21st September when we were treated to a Choral Celebration of a wide selection of musical genres.

A Musical evening with wine and cheese was held in The Cornerstone on Friday 24th October. We enjoyed an excellent evening with the musical entertainment provided by the wonderful Bearsden Fiddlers.

Our next event is the Christmas Fair being held on Saturday 29th November from 11am to 3pm. Why not come along and join us with a variety of stalls selling everything from Christmas items and decorations, jewellery, glassware, ceramics, preserves and many more - including the ever popular baking stall. Plenty for the children to do and our own Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade will have stalls. After exploring the stalls and starting your Christmas shopping why not relax and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a cake.

Entrance is only £3 for adults with the chance to win a lucky prize.

Maureen Henderson



CHIT CHAT

Chit Chat continues to meet on a Thursday in The Cornerstone from 1pm to 2.30pm.

Since the summer we have enjoyed a varied programme which included a speaker from the Paddle Steamers Preservation Society who gave an interesting and illustrated talk on the history and current journeys of the Waverley. We also welcomed speakers from Olive Tree Scotland who spoke of their work supporting craftsmen and women in the Holy Land. They brought with them many of these beautiful crafts and people will have further opportunity to purchase from them at the Church Christmas Fair.

In October we welcomed senior school pupil Josh Mungin who spoke of his story as a runner. Josh has already won many achievements and we look forward to tracking his journey as he aims to become a professional runner. All were impressed by his dedication and focus.

As always we have enjoyed a wide variety of music. The Semitones male voice choir entertained with a wide variety of song and were so good that we have already booked them for next year. Other musical items have included a ukulele group - the Skelpies; and a musical band – Clydebeat - singing a number of well known songs.

In November we welcome more musical artists and speakers so please follow our programme on the Church web page.

In December we are looking forward to celebrating Christmas with the Dargavel Early Learning Centre children and on the 18th we have our Christmas party.

Throughout the year we have supported various charities. For four months we collected foreign coins for Mary's Meals. 9kg of coins were collected to support the work of this charity and I shall report in a later edition how much this converted to. Over October our attendees have again been so generous in their support of Operation Christmas Child, a charity which sends Christmas gifts in shoe boxes to several areas in the world. Their operational director received these gifts at our monthly informal worship in October.

Please note that there will be no Chit Chat on the 25th December and 1st January. We will return again on the 8th of January enjoying a sing a long with John Campbell. As always everyone is welcome to attend any of these friendly meetings.

Gill McHattie



Worship Calendar

Worship Calendar November 25 – January 26

Services are usually held in the **Church at 11am** unless otherwise stated.

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

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

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

23rd November 11 am Public Worship

30th November 11 am 1st Sunday in Advent

7th December 11 am (2nd Sunday in Advent) - **All Age Thanksgiving Service with presentation of Long Service Certificates to Elders in the church** – Guest minister Right Rev Rosemary Frew (Moderator of the Church of Scotland).

This service will [be followed](#) by social event (sandwiches and cakes at The Cornerstone).

14th December 11 am - 3rd Sunday in Advent

14th December 2.30pm - Memorial Service in the Church. All welcome

21st December 11 am **Nativity Service** - All Age Service

21st December 2:30pm Christmas Music Concert in Church

24th December 4pm **Carols @ The Cornerstone**

24th December 11:30pm **Watchnight Service** in Church (Tea/Coffee & festive treats from 11pm).

25th December 11am Christmas Day Celebration @The Cornerstone

28th December 11 am Carols and Reflections

4th January 26 11 am @ The Cornerstone - Family Service

We plan to have a joint Carol Service with the congregation of OLL. Date and venue still to be confirmed.

Please join with us in person or online at our various Advents Services and Activities in The Church and The Cornerstone, some of these including Memorial Service will not be live streamed.

Intimations

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

Joyce Winifred Grant – Greenock Crematorium 15th September 25 (P)

Baptisms **"Let the little children come unto me"**

Lana Ivy Fleming 12th October – (Parents Rachel & Scott).

Weddings

Miss Jolanta Anna Ostrowska to Mr. Scott Alexander Redford

Music Activities



Church Choir

The choir continues to sing anthems and introits in a variety of musical styles every Sunday.

In October we were delighted to welcome Laura Hill as a guest soloist singing with us in music by Gounod and Mozart.

In November a large number of the choir will be attending the Church Music Scotland Singing Day at Dunblane Cathedral, singing music by John Rutter.

In December some of the choir will be singing in the Young Lives V Cancer concert at the Glasgow Concert Hall.

Throughout the year the choir members attend the monthly service at Ailsa Lodge, helping the residents in their singing.

We are very fortunate to have such a committed and enthusiastic group of singers in our church choir.

Junior Singers

Numbers are small, but we continue to sing with enthusiasm on a Monday afternoon.

We have been learning "The Bear Necessities", "Road to the Isles" and "Jubilate Everybody" among other songs and singing games. We hope to sing at some of the services at Christmas time.

We are very grateful to our adult helpers who give up their time week by week, and to the families of the children who bring them to the group.

Praise Band

The Praise Band accompanies the monthly service at The Cornerstone. Some of the band play solo items before the service starts, and these are much appreciated. Some of the Praise Band played as part of a woodwind ensemble at a service in September.

The church is fortunate to have these talented musicians enhancing services and concerts throughout the year.

Christmas Music Service

This takes place on Sunday December 21st at 2.30pm in the church. This will feature the choir, Junior Singers, and the Praise Band and guests, playing music by Handel and Rutter, with carols for all to sing.

Please come along and support what is always an enjoyable occasion.

Beaton Bros



24 Hour 7 day service

Please call 0141 812 4422

<https://beatonbros.co.uk>



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