



STATED ANNUAL MEETING 2026

The Stated Annual Meeting (our AGM) of the congregation of Bishopton Parish Church will be held after morning worship on **Sunday 8th March 2026**. The meeting format will be as usual, with verbal reports presented. Papers circulated here are the agenda, the minute of the meeting of 9th March 2025, and the end of year financial statements for 2025.

AGENDA

1. Constitution
2. Minute of the previous meeting held on Sunday 9th March 2025
(*appended*)
3. Minister's report
4. Session Clerk's report
5. Property Convenor's report
6. Finance Convenor's report
(*accounts appended for General and Restricted funds to year end 2025*)
7. AOCB
8. Close

STATED ANNUAL MEETING (AGM) – 2025

The Stated Annual Meeting (AGM) of the congregation was held after morning worship on Sunday 9th March 2025 in the Church, in the presence of office bearers and members of the congregation. The agenda and papers for the meeting were circulated to all Trustees and members for whom the office had email addresses, and were also made available as hard copies.

The Minister welcomed those in attendance and constituted the meeting with prayer.

Minute of the meeting of 11th February 2024

The minute of the meeting of 11th February 2024, held in person in the Church, had been distributed with the agenda and was accepted as an accurate record.

Minister's Report

The Minister delivered her report as follows: The past year had been another challenging and exciting time for the Church in Bishopton as we work with our expanding community. Weekly attendance at Sunday worship had returned to pre-Covid numbers, and several new members were added to the roll. We have also sadly lost members, some who have died, others who have moved away.

Two baptisms were conducted during the year, and the numbers attending creche and Sunday Kidz continued to grow, albeit modestly. We were blessed to have three devoted Sunday School Teachers and several Creche helpers and the children seem to enjoy the facilities of the extension hall and their dedicated space which is bright and full of their craft and artwork.

After much prayerful consideration by the Minister and the Kirk Session we did not restart the Early Bird Services after the Summer Break – numbers had been falling and very often there were no families or children in attendance as the time seemed to clash with dancing, swimming or football lessons.

It was decided to try having Monthly Family/All Age Services at The Cornerstone during the winter months to see if we could engage with those who use the Cornerstone during the week for activities, with the idea of meeting in a familiar setting and making these services more informal. So far these have been uplifting, and joyful services and we have had several families engage and join with us not just in the Cornerstone but here in the Church. I am very grateful to Stewart Munro our organist and members of the Praise Band for their musical accompaniment at these services which has been very much enjoyed and makes the service different. The Kirk Session has agreed to continue with this monthly service for the time being and review again in the summer.

While some of our older members are no longer physically able to attend church on a regular basis, many are now watching the service at home. Our number of subscribers is rising, and we have regular worshippers joining with us weekly from all over the country. I am very grateful to Daniel and the IT Team for all the work they have done to keep improving this service. For many, it is a lifeline and keeps their connection with the Church. We are aware that not everyone is comfortable being filmed. For the majority there is no problem; however, we do want everyone to feel safe and comfortable, so there will be more clearly defined areas within the Church for any who have concerns. This ability to livestream into people's home or for them to watch from a hospital bed has been gratefully acknowledged and very much part of our ministry and mission and I am very thankful to all the volunteers who make this possible. With all the high-tech video and recording equipment we really depend on good weather for any outside broadcasts, and unfortunately last summer was pretty wet (or tended to be on Sunday mornings) so we were not able to have any of our planned outdoor Carpark Services. However, we did have our Palm Sunday Procession with Buzz the Donkey leading the way.

Over the year I have been involved at both Bishopton and Dargavel Primary Schools and regularly attend assemblies and have been invited to lead Dargavel Primary to lead their Easter Service.

One of the most exciting projects this year has been the re-launching of the 1st Bishopton Boy's Brigade, and I am very grateful to Alistair Doak and the officers and leaders who undertook training and safeguarding sessions in their own time to enable a start date in late September. The number who joined has remained constant, with the biggest group being the Anchor Boys with a weekly turnout of 16 mainly primary one boys. We are also very grateful to Jim Finlay and Craig Pollock who have worked hard to encourage the boys of the Junior Section. From just two boys initially this number has grown, and will increase further when several of the Anchor Boys go up to this section. Although at this time we do not have a Company section one of the boys who would have been in the Company Section has become a helper within the Anchor Boys. I am also delighted to report that the 1st Bishopton Girls Brigade is doing very well and has good numbers and again we are very grateful to Captain Jill Morrison and her team of dedicated leaders.

Within The Cornerstone each week there is a variety of children's groups and youth organisations, and we hope to tap into this by hosting film nights and other events in The Cornerstone. So far, the two film nights we have hosted have been very successful – the first drawing in 14 and the most recent in February we had over 30 children and it was enjoyed by the youngsters and adults who attended.

Another continuing success is Chitchat and the number who attend this social event in The Cornerstone also continues to grow. It is a real joy to attend on a Thursday afternoon and hear the buzz of conversation in the hall. We continue to have monthly worship is also very well attended and enjoyed not just by our church members but by individuals from different faiths. I would like to thank Gill McHattie and all the volunteers involved in the organisation of Chitchat.

My general workload remains busy as I continue to be Interim Moderator at Old Kilpatrick and Bowling Church, and this is likely to continue until their Union at the end of 2026 as they have no *locum*, I provide cover for funeral services, as well as ministerial duties of Communion, Baptisms and moderating the monthly Kirk Sessions. I am most grateful to have the support of Iain Langlands and Annabel Goldie. I value their input, as I know the congregation does, and I find myself spiritually uplifted and nourished by their preaching and prayers. I would also like to thank Stewart Munro our organist, for his support and helping me with the various services not just at the Church and The Cornerstone but at the monthly service at Ailsa Lodge and for encouraging members of the choir to come along and this has really boosted the singing and means a lot to the residents.

In September as a Church we changed over from the Model to Unitary constitution and I would like to thank all those who help make this transition run smoothly; although he is not here today, much of this organisation was under the direction of Des Nicholl and I thank him for his tireless work. I would also like to thank all the individuals who served on the Congregational Board, many of whom have agreed to continue various committees and groups within the church under the Unitary Constitution.

I am aware that we need several more elders as a number of our elders have retired and plan to address this and have several individuals who have agreed to find out more and I will be running a Elder Training programme very soon. I am very grateful to Douglas Hope for his support as Session Clerk and to the Elders for their dedication to their duties within their districts and other roles and you will shortly be hearing from Douglas as he gives his report.

When it comes to the maintenance of our buildings we are extremely grateful to Ian Earnshaw and his team. Ian will be updating us later, and while he will probably concentrate on the big projects, Ian and his team are constantly working not just on big projects, but also on routine repairs. Many of these are not seen, but if left would result in big bills or long-term damage, and we are very grateful to Ian and his team for their dedication to our buildings.

Finally, you will hear today from our Finance Convenor. Without money, the projects and work needing done would not be possible, and we are most grateful to the Finance team for managing our financial affairs.

My final word of thanks is to you the congregation, for your support of the church by your attendance and encouragement to me in my ministry. Today, on this Day of commemoration of the Covid pandemic, I am reminded of standing in an empty church to record services in stillness and an unnerving silence, and as I have said before it really it is wonderful to have that silence filled with the chatter of people talking and witness the fellowship and smiles - there is a unity which I believe will help us face the challenges of tomorrow; for, together with God's help, we will do His work and be his disciples and bring others to him.

Reverend Yvonne Smith

Minister, Bishopton Parish Church.

There were no questions raised *re.* the Minister's report.

Session Clerk's Report

The Session Clerk presented his report as follows: The Kirk Session is currently made up of 46 elders, serving a Church roll of 537 (with 151 on the supplementary roll). In the past year we have had two baptisms. The work of the Kirk Session is largely carried out by a number of committees. The One World Committee continues to look at the needs of others, both locally (*e.g.* Foodbank, Bishopton Day) and globally (continuing to support development work in Chisangano, Malawi).

The Pastoral Visiting Team provides an important community service by keeping in touch with members who are unable to attend events, and by running Chitchat on Thursday afternoon. This continues to be a popular and well-supported event, offering a range of activities to engage and entertain those who come along.

Over the year some structural changes were put in place. A number of elders retired or resigned from active service, and thus a review of elders' districts was carried out, to reduce the number and make the servicing of these more manageable. Another major change was the move to adopt the Unitary form of constitution, where the Kirk Session assumes responsibility for all aspects of the work of the Church, including matters previously under the remit of the Congregational Board. A vote by the congregation on 7th January 2024 saw this proposal approved for adoption.

Our Social Committee organised a number of events across the year, which provided opportunities for the congregation to meet and enjoy some social interaction.

Younger members of the congregation continue to be supported, with the re-establishment of the BB under Alistair Doak's leadership being a welcome milestone. Our GB group continues to be popular and well-attended, and we hope that this is also the case for the BB as it develops in Bishopton once again. The coding club has also continued over the year, with a consistent number attending on a weekly basis.

Playtime is another example where we are addressing a local need. Under the guidance of Shirley Harper and Margaret Williams, and a rota of volunteers, Monday afternoon at The Cornerstone echoes to the sound of babies, toddlers, parents and helpers enjoying some 'quality time' together. Playtime has become a great success thanks to the efforts of all involved.

Sunday Kidz, with Linda Nicholl, Janice Murtagh and Laura Lewis at the helm, had a busy year. A highlight was the 'chocolate orange challenge', resulting in over a hundred knitted chocolate orange covers and an impressive amount raised for East Park School in Glasgow, for children with complex learning needs.

Youth choir meet on Monday afternoon, with Stewart Munro and his team providing a great opportunity for our small but enthusiastic band of young singers to grow and develop their talents. Stewart is also heavily involved in leading our Senior Choir, and in organising the Praise Band and the ever-popular concerts.

My thanks go to all who support the whole range of our activities, and particularly to our Minister Yvonne for her leadership and encouragement over the year.

Douglas Hope

Session Clerk, Bishopston Parish Church.

There were no questions raised *re.* the Session Clerk's report.

Property Convenor's Report

The Property Convenor noted that this was his first direct report to the Stated Annual Meeting, previous reports having been given by the Clerk to the Congregational Board. Although no formal meetings of the Property Committee had been held since March 2024, Committee members continue to work on ongoing maintenance tasks and also on some projects for the Audio-Visual Team. The Convenor offered his sincere thanks to all involved.

At the end of 2024, the A/V Team was subsumed into the new I.T. Committee, under the leadership of its very able and enthusiastic Convenor, Daniel Lyall, since when a number of significant projects have been authorised and completed. These will be discussed later.

A 5 yearly Budget Plan is maintained. In a well-ordered world, this would contain few surprises; sadly this is not the case, and we face a few more significant issues which are discussed below.

Church

Works at the Church have been completed as follows:

- The installation of the screen in the Extension Hall and the refreshing of the paintwork were both accomplished in time and to budget. The damp penetration at the Vestry appears to have been brought under control but will continue to be monitored.
- Storm Eowyn caused some minor damage at the Church to one of the lead gutters on the South elevation; this has been repaired, and a downpipe cleared.

No significant further works are envisaged for 2025.

The Cornerstone

- The main sewer, running along the rear of the building and then across the end to discharge into the main sewer in Greenock Road, was found to be choked in October, and was cleared at a cost of over £700. This follows on from a similar blockage found in February 2023. The main causes of this have been determined as (a) inappropriate disposal of materials into the WCs, and (b) construction faults with the actual sewer. The sewer faults will continue to cause blockage issues unless addressed. An Insurance Claim is being initiated but is felt to be unlikely to succeed, and we are therefore looking at about £13,000 to undertake corrections.
- The proposed re-pointing works have been determined to be "do-able" in small chunks, addressing the most urgent areas first *e.g.* the middle door and the area around the IT Lab windows, where a significant amount of rainwater was driven through during storm Eowyn.
- Storm Eowyn caused some damage to the main roof ridge and some displaced slates. An Insurance Claim is being raised and may cover most of the repair costs, other than the Excess. Subsequent strong winds have further dislodged the ridges and we are now treating this as works to be undertaken as soon as possible.
- As the halls become more widely used, it is vital that a programme of refurbishment is in place. This is being put in place, with the main expenditure item being refreshing the Upper Hall at a cost of about £1,600.

A/V Team – IT Committee

From its beginnings pre-Covid, the A/V (Audio Visual) scope and reach has grown legs, and it is with some relief that the responsibilities have now been taken over by a (much) younger, enthusiastic, and technically competent champion in the form of Daniel Lyall, IT Committee Convenor.

Daniel has pulled together 3 strands of work, around A/V (livestream compilation and execution), Media (Website, Facebook and other digital interfaces), and IT Administration (maintenance and improvement of infrastructure, including training/support and GDPR compliance).

Tasks completed since last year have included:

- Strengthening and training the A/V Team so that weekly services can be covered on a rota basis;
- Enhancing the livestream services presentation. Audience numbers have grown steadily and now run at about 70-80 returning viewers per week and some 30 or so new viewers per week.

- Installing the remote screen equipment in the Choir Room and Extension Hall;
- Designing and installing the new A/V setup in The Cornerstone – main hall, Open Area, Vestibule and Meeting Rooms;
- Redesigning the website and invigorating the Facebook page;
- Refreshing the Church IT archive systems and addressing GDPR issues around the use of email addresses.

I thank Daniel and the Team for all their good work and look forward to future developments.

Ian Earnshaw

Property Convenor, Bishopton Parish Church.

A query *re.* the drainage issues at The Cornerstone was raised, specifically around (i) the reasons and issues arising from the problem in the drain alignment/sizing, and (ii) level of expenditure and approval mechanism, in the context of the frequency of meetings of the Property Committee. No concerns were raised from other members of the congregation. [It might usefully be noted that *all* expenditure of significance is approved by the Finance Committee, and referred to the Kirk Session for secondary approval if required].

Finance Convenor's Report

The Finance Convenor presented his report as follows: While it's my task as Convenor of the Finance Committee to summarise the key issues from the income and expenditure statements and to look ahead to 2025 I would like to start by thanking the other members, Des Nicholl, Aileen Mungin, Stewart Campbell and Iain Langlands, for the support they have given throughout the year. Iain, in particular, as our named Treasurer with the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh, has ensured that our cash books are reconciled monthly and our submissions to the Charity Regulator meet their requirements; this is no easy task. Thank you, Iain.

The financial statements included with the Agenda papers provide information on 2022 and 2023 for comparison with 2024. The full accounts are available and anyone who wishes a copy should speak to a member of the Finance Committee.

The General Fund, which reflects our normal operating income and expenditure, ended the year with a surplus of £24,042, an improvement of exactly £30,000 on 2023. This reversed the deficit trend that we had seen post-Covid, which had been giving us cause for concern given the significant increase that we were facing in energy costs. At the beginning of the year the Session Clerk and Clerk to the Board issued a letter to all member households summarising the financial position in the Church, acknowledging that many households were struggling financially, but requesting that any increase in offerings that members were able to make to the work of the Church would be gratefully received. The response to this letter exceeded our expectations and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for the contributions, financial and practical, that they have made throughout the year which resulted in us returning to a surplus position.

Offerings increased for the first time since Covid, there were a number of significant one-off donations, and our fundraising activities such as the Christmas Fayre and Church concerts all helped to boost our income. Coupled with these was an increase of £11,252, over 50%, in hall let income.

Expenditure rose in the year due to increases in our Giving to Grow allocation, energy costs, salaries, and building maintenance. In addition, towards the end of the year the Kirk Session approved expenditure on an IT/AV upgrade at The Cornerstone and some of these costs, which have been minimised by significant volunteer input over the Christmas period, are in the 2024 accounts.

The Restricted Funds consist of legacies or donations, some of which are made for specific purposes, such as the Church Restoration Fund. There was a slight surplus in these funds, principally due to income from members to the Church Restoration Fund and to minimal expenditure, namely on a conservation report and a contribution to the IT/AV installation, both at The Cornerstone.

Looking to 2025, the church is in a far healthier position than was the case at the end of 2023, with bank balances of £78,050 and £82,650 in the General and Restricted funds respectively. We have now returned to our pre-Covid operating position of a surplus in our General Fund and are budgeting for a continued surplus in 2025. This assumes a slight increase in offerings in line with inflation, a reduction in one-off donations, and a similar level of fund raising as in 2024.

Rental from premises is our other main source of income and this remains difficult to predict. The demand for the halls for use by our own Church organisations may increase, such as with the welcome restart of the Boys Brigade, and this could impact our external hall let income. We have therefore taken a cautious approach with our 2025 budgets and have assumed a reduction in income from this source.

On expenditure, our Giving to Grow allocation which covers the cost of our ministry, as well as our contribution to the work of the wider church, will increase by over £4,000 in 2025. The full year effect of our new gas tariff has also still to be felt and this is expected to add around £2000 to our expenditure. Other expenditure is expected to rise in line with inflation.

Our buildings, the Church, The Cornerstone and the Manse, are generally in good order, and expenditure on items of repair and maintenance such as cleaning, painting, appliance renewal etc. is anticipated to be at around normal levels. However, there are issues at The Cornerstone with the sewer system, and also with moisture ingress through the masonry brickwork. These will start to be addressed in 2025. Once quotations are received a decision will be taken by the Kirk Session on the phasing and funding of the work.

Finally, thank you for listening and, more importantly, for continuing to support the Church both financially and in other ways. This allows us to maintain a strong voice and presence in the community.

Alex Macdonald

Finance Convenor, Bishopton Parish Church.

There were no questions raised *re.* the Finance Convenor's report.

AOCB

No items of AOCB had been intimated previously or were raised from the floor.

Close

There being no further business, the Minister thanked those present and closed the meeting with the Grace.

Des Nicholl
February 2026

Bishopton Parish Church
General Fund

Income and Expenditure

	12 Months to December		
	2025	2024	2023
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Income</u>			
WFO envelopes	5,610	7,605	6,376
Open plate	4,875	4,705	3,477
Standing orders	<u>84,013</u>	<u>72,800</u>	<u>72,327</u>
Total offerings	94,498	85,110	82,180
Gift Aid recovered	21,723	20,389	18,341
Rental of premises	31,796	32,761	21,509
Weddings and funerals	0	560	980
Social and fund raising	9,720	5,536	2,927
Legacy	0	1,368	497
IT and Web	2,367	3,708	0
Grants and donations	1,210	15,945	735
Other income	<u>593</u>	<u>214</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>161,907</u>	<u>165,591</u>	<u>127,169</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Giving to Grow	64,513	61,781	58,338
Presbytery dues	1,697	1,627	2,020
Minister's expenses	2,221	2,072	2,008
Pulpit supply	600	500	410
Salaries	18,689	20,878	19,220
Repairs and maintenance	16,031	16,042	14,215
Cleaning	6,206	7,057	6,446
Electricity and gas	13,274	11,340	9,604
Council tax	3,393	3,117	3,042
Insurance premiums	4,455	4,011	3,884
Administrative expenses	6,495	5,497	9,134
Trade Waste	437	373	0
IT and Web	5,699	6,761	0
Other expenses	<u>878</u>	<u>1,522</u>	<u>4,890</u>
Total expenditure	<u>144,588</u>	<u>142,578</u>	<u>133,211</u>
Net income/ (expenditure)	<u>17,319</u>	<u>23,013</u>	<u>-6,042</u>
Opening bank balance	77,019	54,008	60,050
Closing bank balance	94,338	77,019	54,008

Bishopton Parish Church
Restricted Funds

Income and Expenditure

	12 months to December		
	2025	2024	2023
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Donations (Church Restoration)	6,602	6,517	7,703
Gift Aid recovered	1,699	1,832	4,356
Flower Fund donations	0	0	30
Fund raising	0	0	1,783
Legacies and donations	342	789	0
Grants	5,548	0	77,760
VAT refund (Church Restoration)		0	16,447
Investment Income	594	706	0
Total	<u>14,785</u>	<u>9,844</u>	<u>108,079</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Phase 3 Masonry repairs	0	0	117,845
The Cornerstone Conservation	8,427	2,750	0
Coding Club expenses	0	0	0
Disbursement of Malawi ret ⁿ collection	0	0	0
Cost of flowers	0	0	30
Other expenses	3,181	3,517	2,110
Investment Deposit		0	0
Total	<u>11,608</u>	<u>6,267</u>	<u>119,985</u>
<u>Net income in the year</u>	<u>3,177</u>	<u>3,577</u>	<u>-11,906</u>
Opening bank balance	82,649	79,072	90,978
Closing bank balance	85,826	82,649	79,072
Analysis of closing funds:			
Church Restoration	18,800	13,053	6,665
Colin Gardner legacy	10,810	10,811	10,810
Jean Paxton legacy	47,303	6,597	46,597
Kerr legacy	3,913	6,483	10,000
Welfare Fund	5,000	5,000	5,000
Investment Deposit (Paxton Legacy)	-	40,706	0
Total	<u>85,826</u>	<u>82,649</u>	<u>79,072</u>