

BISHOPTON PARISH CHURCH

(CHURCH OF SCOTLAND)
SCOTTISH CHARITY NO SC006109



Network Magazine

October 2024

Happy Birthday Yvonne



Sunday 8th September was a different type of Sunday for Yvonne, our minister. At the start of morning worship Yvonne took her place in the Sanctuary as usual but when the choir rose to sing their normal Introit she was in for a bit of a surprise. Few present at the service – or watching online – will forget Yvonne’s expression when the choir, instead of singing the expected Introit, following a short introduction from Stewart, our organist, burst into to a rousing rendition- quickly joined by the congregation - of “Happy Birthday”.

It was indeed Yvonne’s 60th birthday. There was even a colourful Happy Birthday display on the screens in the church – all this despite Yvonne thinking she had kept the event a secret. And there was more to follow!

Following the service over a hundred members of the congregation and other church activities such as Chit Chat joined Yvonne and members of her family at The Cornerstone for a birthday celebration of sandwiches, scones and cakes (lots of them!). This also included the cutting of a birthday cake.

The Cornerstone was “buzzing”, the atmosphere was joyous, and everyone was delighted to be able to share this very special occasion for our minister.

Special thanks must be given to the large team of helpers, led by Alison Hope, who thought of the idea and then put it together so marvellously. Here’s to your 70th, Yvonne!

Contact Information

The Church office
The Cornerstone
Greenock Road
Bishopston
PA75JW
Phone;01505 862583
Email:
office@bishopstonkirk.org.uk

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

As I go out on my daily walks with the dogs, I see the glorious changing landscape of Autumn in and around our community. The leaves on the trees are an array of colours and many pavements or roads are covered in the golden leaves. These leaves have done their job in the summer months in feeding the tree and providing it with strength but now in the Autumn they are dying and falling to the ground but in this wonderful cycle of nature they provide a beauty display of colour.

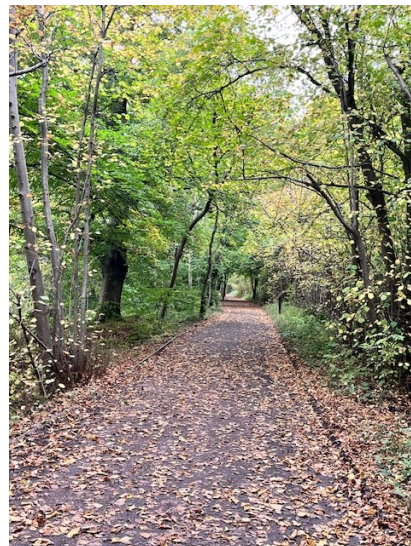
In the surrounding fields we also see haybales and the signs of the gathered harvest, and some farmers are already ploughing the ground and preparing for next year's crops.

In the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3:1- 4, it is written: "Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses.

He set the time for birth and the time for death,
the time for planting and the time for pulling up,
the time for killing and the time for healing,
the time for tearing down and the time for building.
He set the time for sorrow and the time for joy,
the time for mourning and the time for dancing.



As we go into the Autumn Season, as a congregation we will celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving in October and this is our opportunity to thank God for all his provision and goodness in our lives - our food, our family and friends, our comfortable home and the safe community in which we live as well as the many other things that we often take for granted but are not the experience of everyone.



In November we also commemorate Remembrance Sunday and think and reflect on all who in conflicts past and current have given their lives in service to their country, to protect us and keep us safe and free.

In these services we will reflect on planting and pulling up, on sorrow and mourning but we will also remember the words '**He has set a time for everything**' (Ecc 3:11) and how these words of reassurance help us to cope in the ups and downs of life, the moments of joy and in the periods of sorrow.

The Psalmist states – 'My times are in your hands' (Psalm 31:15 NIV) and at our Harvest Thanksgiving service we will sing again the wonderful words by Matthias Claudias -

"We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand:
He sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine
and soft refreshing rain.

*All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love."*

We have much to be thankful for, so do join with us in person or online each Sunday or whenever you can, as we gather to give thanks to God and enjoy being part of his Church and Community of Faith.

God's rich blessings and peace be with each of you.

Yvonne

Your minister and friend

Thank You



Can I take this opportunity to thank everyone in the congregation for the wonderful celebration at The Cornerstone to mark my 60th Birthday on the 8th of September.

It was a total surprise and this will be a day I will cherish and never forget. Thank you all for the cards, gifts and magnificent cakes and home baking. It was a truly wonderful occasion.

Once again thank you.

Yvonne

Thursday Chit Chat

1pm to 2.30pm in The Cornerstone

In planning our programmes we try to provide a variety of topics in the hope that everyone will find something that piques their interest. However there will always be a warm welcome given to all.

Our programme until the end of the year is listed below, please feel free to join us at any time.



OCTOBER 2024

- 3rd Inverclyde Heritage
- 10th Games
- 17th Neilston Strings
- 24th The Older Driver: Scottish Fire and Rescue Community Action Team
- 31st Worship

NOVEMBER 2024

- 7th The Clydebank Blitz: Jim Gardiner
- 14th Games
- 21st TBC
- 28th Worship

DECEMBER 2024

- 5th Christmas Crafts
- 12th Christmas worship with Dargavel Early Learning Centre
- 19th Christmas Party

NO CHIT CHAT 26th Dec and 2nd Jan

Music Activities



Church Concerts

Many thanks to those who supported the church concert in August. A varied musical programme was presented by the Church Choir, Praise Band and soloists to an enthusiastic audience, who had turned out despite the miserable weather that afternoon. The concert was in aid of World Central Kitchen, and £445 was raised on the day. This will make a real difference to people in areas affected by war or natural disasters in many parts of the world.

Church Choir

The choir continues to provide introits and anthems in a variety of styles on Sundays. Some of us took part in the Renfrewshire Church Choirs Singing Day at St Machar's Church in Bridge of Weir, and we hope to have some members singing at the Church Music Scotland Faure Requiem day in Dunblane Cathedral in November. The usual choir members will soon start rehearsing for the Young Lives V Cancer Christmas concert in December at The Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

Junior Singers

Our numbers remain small, but all the children make a very good sound singing together. Recently we have learned The Skye Boat Song and You've Got A Friend In Me as well as two spirituals.

Praise Band

The Praise Band took part in the Church Concert in August, and we will play for the family services in the coming months.

We are fortunate to have these groups in our church, and anyone interested in joining us should speak to Stewart Munro any Sunday

CHRISTIAN AID

HELP WANTED

Can you spare just one hour this December?



Last year Christian Aid delivered over 3000 Christmas Cards thanks to a willing group of helpers.

We would like to increase our pool of helpers - remember the saying :-

“many hands make light work”

If you can help, or would like to know more please contact

Network

THANK YOU

A big Thank You to the following people who, after many years of helping with distributing our Church magazine have now stepped down from this important task.

Mrs Evelyn McQueen, Mr Jim Blair, and Mr & Mrs Thewlis.

Next Network

It is anticipated that the next edition of Network (the Advent / Christmas edition) will be in circulation week beginning 25th November. Articles for this edition should therefore be submitted to Albert Sloan no later than Friday 15th November.



Trimmers

A big THANKS to the “Trimmers” (see photo), for their work in a much-needed trimming back of the trees and bushes at the east end of The Cornerstone car park. These four “young?” men (Lawrence, Albert, Des and Alan) spent an energetic morning making the car park look tidier, and also safer for car parking at that spot.

Thanks, guys for keeping our grounds neat and tidy!



Social Committee

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

When? Saturday 30th November 2024

Where? The Cornerstone, Greenock Road

Time? 11am - 3pm

Come along and browse and buy at our variety of stalls. Maybe start your Christmas shopping and enjoy tea, coffee and cakes.



Sunday Kidz

Following the summer break, Sunday Kidz is once again up and running. Apart from the first Sunday of each month, children attending meet the SK leaders - Linda / Janice / Laura - at the front of the church just before 11.00am. After Yvonne's worship introduction the children exit to the Extension Hall to take part in SK activities. On the **FIRST SUNDAY** of the month children are welcome to attend the Family-All Age service at 1100.

The weekly activities at SK are mostly based on an excellent resource, *Spill the Beans*. In addition to exploring the themes in *Spill the Beans*, we try to give the children other experiences as and when opportunities arise. At our first meeting in September, Yvonne welcomed the children at the start of the service and talked about how we all like to hold on to momentos of special occasions/events in our lives and in our communities. In keeping with this theme, the SK children and staff prepared their own *Time Capsule* containing a personal profile of each child, and various items that conveyed something about themselves or the world around us at the present time. We look forward to opening the capsule at the end of the 24/25 session.



To date the children have also focussed on the parable of 'The Mustard Seed' and how little acts of kindness can turn into big things. We considered how seeds spread far and wide, looked at the dandelion clock as an example and watched a short video demonstrating how one act of kindness can spread. The children had the opportunity to complete related activities including making a bookmark and completing a kindness wordsearch.

SK is a very important group within our church community. The group continues to be keen to welcome new members. So, if you know of any children of primary school age / younger who would be interested in attending, then please do get in touch. (LindaAANicholl@aol.com).

Worship Calendar

Worship Calendar October – December 24

Services [are held](#) in the **Church at 11am** unless otherwise [stated](#).

Creche is 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.

On the **first Sunday of the month** (Oct, Nov & Dec) we will be having a Family - All Age Service and hope to encourage those in our Youth Organisations and activities @ The Cornerstone to come along.

Please note during October, November, and December there will be no Early Bird Service in The Cornerstone.

Tea and coffee [are served](#) in the extension hall after morning worship – all [are welcomed](#) to join in this time of fellowship.

6th October - **Harvest Thanksgiving** (Family - All Age Service)

13th October - Public Worship (Baptism)

20th October - Public Worship

27th October - Celebration of **Holy Communion**

3rd November - Family & All Age Service

10th November - ***10:45am - Remembrance Service** (2 minutes silence at 11am)

17th November - Public Worship

24th November - Public Worship

1st December - Family & All Age Service – **1st Sunday in Advent**

9th December - Public Worship

15th December - Public Worship

22nd December- **Nativity Service** - Family - All Age Service

24th December - **Watchnight Service** 11:30pm (Tea and Coffee & treats from 11pm).

25th December - **Christmas Celebration** - 11am @**The Cornerstone**



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