

BISHOPTON PARISH CHURCH

(CHURCH OF SCOTLAND)
SCOTTISH CHARITY NO SC006109



Network Magazine

November 2024



Marjory Ross

1937-2024

Marjory Ross, our long serving organist until her retirement in 2021, peacefully passed away late in the evening on Tuesday 12th November 2024, just three days before her 87th birthday. Marjory was the first organist in Erskine Parish Church (later renamed Bishopton Parish Church) following the union between Bishopton; Erskine and Bishopton; Rossland churches in 1971. She had been the organist in Rossland Church for sixteen years making her an organist in Bishopton for an amazing total of 66 years!

Marjory's selection of popular songs of the day together with the more traditional "sacred" music endeared her to many who enjoyed her overtures as well as accompaniments of hymns and anthems.

Many will have memories and stories to share of their experiences with Marjory. She was always willing to play requests for members of the congregation to mark birthdays or other celebrations. For example, we always had The Dambusters Theme, or the R.A.F. March Past, in September to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Britain, requested by a retired R.A.F. Officer and former Clerk to the Congregational Board.

Marjory enjoyed a very full and active life until recent years when mobility and deteriorating health issues indicated a move to a care home was the only practical way to support her. Inchinnan Care Home provided that care and support until her death.

We have much to celebrate of her long and full life of service to the church and various local choirs. Our thoughts and prayers are with Marjory's family - sons Paul and Douglas - and her extended family and many friends at this time.

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,

I write this letter not from my study in Bishopton but from a cottage in Keswick as I take a few days away to refresh and prepare for the Advent Season and Christmas Celebrations which will soon be upon us. Part of my relaxation involves making up a 1000-piece Advent Jigsaw - 24 little boxes, each with pieces of the puzzle to **be fitted** together and then assembled to complete the whole picture.

Advent is a time which allows us as Christians to prepare for Christmas and each week in our services we reflect on events leading up to that first Christmas, until on Christmas Day all the pieces come together and we celebrate the full picture of God's amazing love for us and the gift of his Son, Jesus.

Each year as a church we give out an Advent Symbol and this year it is an Angel. This **represents** the messengers who announced to the Shepherds – “Do not be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring **great joy** to all people. This very day in David's town your Saviour is born – Christ the Lord!”

'Do not be afraid! I am here with good news' – these are words we all need to hear for our world at present is chaotic and troubled by war and disharmony. We all fear further escalation in the ongoing conflicts in Europe and the Middle East and we pray for peace and reconciliation, for healing and harmony in our world.

This is the hope of Christmas and as the last verse of the traditional Carol 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' reminds us –

'O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;

cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.'

This Advent display the Advent Symbol in a window in your home and let the message of the Angel shine out, but better still be a messenger and tell others the Good News. Encourage them to come to our services as we share the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that the first Christmas brought into our world and still brings to our world today - God's great and amazing gift :-

“This very day in David's town your Saviour is born – Christ the Lord!” (Luke 2:11).

God Bless and have a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

Yvonne

Used Stamps Appeal

Can you help the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) improve nutrition and agricultural productivity, create youth employment and mitigate the impact of the climate crisis?

The short answer is YES you can - by donating your used stamps.

Please either bring them to church (see box at the entrance) or drop them off in the box at The Cornerstone.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our Christmas Fair will be held in The Cornerstone on Saturday 30th November from 11am - 3pm. We have a variety of stalls including Jewellery, Candles, Christmas Decorations, Wooden Crafts, Children's books, Chutneys and Jams, Pets Christmas Stockings and a Home Baking stall to name a few. There will also be plenty for children - including a Treasure Hunt.

After exploring the stalls and starting your Christmas shopping why not relax with a cup of tea/coffee and a cake.

Entry is £2 with a lucky programme which includes the chance to win one of several fabulous prizes. Children entry is free.

We look forward to welcoming everyone.



Caretaker for The Cornerstone

We are still looking for a Caretaker for The Cornerstone to help manage access to the building; help with room setup as required; and clearing, checking and securing the building after each use. The nominal workload is up to 10 hours per week, and the salary is £7,345 *per annum*. For further details contact either Stewart Campbell (07882 305026) or Des Nicholl (07929 037906). Please also pass on to anyone you know who might be interested in this opportunity.

Help Us Define the Future

Are you interested in helping to shape the future of how we manage our ministry in challenging times? We are setting up a short-life working group (SLWG) to investigate how we might secure additional support, and what form that might take. The SLWG is just that – maybe 3 or 4 meetings over the course of a few months with some fact-finding between meetings. SLWGs work well as they tackle a defined task in a limited timeframe. If you feel that you have something to offer please speak to the Minister or Session Clerk for more information.

Network

Thank You

A big Thank You to Betty Watson who, after many years of helping with the distribution of our Church magazine has now stepped down from this important task.

Next Network

It is anticipated that the next edition of Network will be in circulation week beginning 3rd February 2025. Articles for this edition should therefore be submitted to Albert Sloan no later than Friday 24th January 2025.

Thursday Chit Chat

Chit Chat has continued to enjoy busy weekly meetings with a varied programme including musical items, speakers, games and worship. As always the meetings commence and conclude with plenty of social chat between old and new friends.

Everyone is made welcome
Please note that there will be no Chit Chat meetings on the 26th December and 2nd January.

Our programme for December and early 2025 is listed below, please feel free to join us at any time.

December 2024

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

January 2025

- 9th Sing a long with John Campbell
- 16th The History of Formakin: Fiona Sinclair
- 23rd TBC. Bishopton Primary School entertain
- 30th Worship

February 2025

- 6th Closeshave Chorus
- 13th Games
- 20th ROAR
- 27th Worship

March 2025

- 6th The Vine Trust; My trip to Tanzania: Elaine Ross
- 13th Games
- 20th Singing for Wellbeing
- 27th Worship

April 2025

- 3rd Daffodil Tea
- 10th Branching Out: Parklea



Music Activities



Church Music Service

This takes place in the church from 2.30pm until 3.30pm on Sunday 22nd December. There will be carols for all to sing, as well as readings, anthems and other festive music accompanied by an orchestra. This is always a very happy and enjoyable occasion, with a great chance to sing some favourite Christmas hymns. Please come along and support this event.

Church Choir

The choir continues to provide introits and anthems in a variety of styles Sunday by Sunday. We enjoyed being accompanied by the Praise Band at a recent family service. Some of the choir members attend the monthly service at Ailsa Lodge to encourage the residents in their singing, and this has been very much appreciated by everyone.

Junior Singers

Although few in number the children make a lovely sound when they sing together. We are currently learning some Christmas songs and carols as well as continuing lessons in learning to read music. We are grateful to the families of the children for bringing them to rehearsals and encouraging them in their singing. Thanks are also due to our team of helpers who assist at the weekly rehearsals.

Praise Band

The Praise Band accompanies the monthly family services, and recently some of our members have played solo pieces before the service. We will play at the Christmas Music Service as part of the orchestra.

All three music groups would be glad to welcome any new members. Speak to Stewart Munro if you are interested in joining us.

Christian Aid & One World Committee

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

Carolyn Macdonald on 07971537348 or at
Church.

Christian Aid Christmas Card Delivery

We will collect your Christmas cards from
**Sunday 1st December until NOON on
Sunday 15th December** for delivery on the
week commencing 16th December.

Post boxes will be placed in the Church,
Cornerstone, Our Lady of Lourdes, Co-op,
May's Coffee Stop, Angie Campbell's Hair &
Beauty, Woody's, Avalon Hair & Beauty and
Sainsbury's Local.

We ask for a donation of 30p per card. Please
wrap cards and donation together before
placing in the post box.

**PLEASE WRITE NAME AND FULL
ADDRESS ON THE ENVELOPES TO
ENSURE SAFE DELIVERY!**

Thank you for supporting Christian Aid.

Christmas Symbol

This year's Christmas Symbol will be delivered
to church members' homes by elders soon
after First Sunday of Advent. There will be
extra copies available for anyone who will not
receive a Symbol in this way, or who may wish
to pass a Symbol on to a family member,
friend or neighbour. This will be available at
Church services, and at the various activities
at The Cornerstone.

Soup Lunch



The one world committee are having a soup
lunch on **SUNDAY 12th JANUARY 2025** in
The Cornerstone after morning worship. The
lunch will consist of soup and bread followed
by tea, coffee and biscuits. There will be no
cost for the lunch but we do ask that those
who attend bring along a tin of soup for our
local Food Bank.



Worship Calendar

Worship Calendar

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

A 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 parents.

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** we have a Family & All Age Service and hope to encourage those in our Youth Organisations and children's activities at The Cornerstone to come along.

Tea and coffee is available in the extension hall after morning worship and everyone is welcomed and encouraged to join in this time of fellowship.

Worship Calendar for Advent & Christmas

1 st December	11 am in The Church - Family Christingle Service
1 st December	2:30pm in The Church - Memorial Service (Tea & Coffee after).
8 th December	11 am in The Church - 2 nd Sunday of Advent .
12 th December	(Thurs) 1pm @ The Cornerstone - Chit-Chat Worship /Carols
15 th December	11 am in The Church - 3 rd Sunday of Advent .
18 th December	7pm @ The Cornerstone - Joint Carol Service with BPC & OLL.
22 nd December	11 am in The Church - Nativity Service (All Age Family Service)
22 nd December	2:30pm in The Church - Christmas Music Service .
23 rd December	(Mon) - 6pm Carols @ The Cornerstone
24 th December	11.30pm Church - Watch-night Service (Tea and Coffee from 11pm).
25 th December	11am in The Cornerstone - Christmas Day Celebration
29 th December	11 am in The Church - Morning Worship
5 th January 2025	11 am in The Cornerstone - Family – All Age Worship (TBC)

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

Mr. Ian Samuel Redpath	7 th October 2024, Maryhill, Glasgow Crematorium
Mr. Charles Macfarlane	21 st November 2024, Clydebank Crematorium
Mrs Marjory Ross	26 Th November 2024, Church Service followed by Woodside Crematorium

Baptism

Charlotte Isabella Weidman : Baptised 13th October 2024, parents Paul & Lesleyann.



YOUR FUNERAL DIRECTORS -

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



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Please call 0141 812 4422

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