

# BISHOPTON PARISH CHURCH

(CHURCH OF SCOTLAND)  
SCOTTISH CHARITY NO SC006109



Network Magazine

February 2025

## Church Fundraising in 2024

Elsewhere in the magazine there are reports of some of the activities which have raised money for various charities over the Advent / Christmas season. However, at a time when we traditionally look back it is worth taking a few moments to reflect on what we as a church – with the help and support of those in our community – have been able to do over the whole of 2024 to in some way help to alleviate the difficult situations that others less fortunate than ourselves find themselves in – both locally and globally.

### Advent and Christmas

Unicef (Jars of Grace)	954
Shelter Scotland including	
Christmas Music Afternoon	753
Sunday Kidz East Park School	745
Christian Aid Card delivery	1 407
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3 859</b>

### Rest of the Year –

through Communion Retiring Collections, Bishopton Day etc

Accord Hospice	485
World Central Kitchen	1 563
Save the Children	282
Poppy Scotland	345
CrossReach	1 253
Christian Aid (Plant Sale & envelopes)	2 742
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6 670</b>



**TOTAL RAISED in 2024**                      **£10 529**

The above is a statement of the financial contributions which have been made but this runs alongside the regular food donations made to the Renfrewshire Foodbank – both on a weekly basis, and also with special efforts at Easter and Christmas

Thank You for your generosity over the year, and for the difference that it has made to so many people. We look forward to maintaining this level of support during 2025 thus continuing to bring some hope to others.

### 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,

What a busy Advent and Christmas period we had! I am delighted to say that all the services at The Church and The Cornerstone were well supported - not just by our church members, but by the community and our online worshippers.

During Advent the church was involved in several projects to raise awareness and money for the work of Shelter, Christian Aid and other charities (see separate report). The amount of money donated over this period has been outstanding and can I thank everyone for their efforts and contributions - every penny will make a difference to someone in need.

By mid-January our organisations and groups @ The Cornerstone were back up and running including Playtime, BB and GB and Chit-Chat and I am delighted to report that numbers continue to grow. I am very grateful to all our youth leaders and group organisers for the tremendous work they do and to all the volunteers who give of their time to support these activities.

I am aware that while we have a good number of children who come to The Cornerstone during the week and are involved in activities or organisations, few of them or their families have any other contact or connection with the church. Therefore, the Kirk Session have taken the initiative to host a monthly Family-All-Age Worship service at The Cornerstone (instead of the Church) on the first Sunday in February and March to try and attract some of the children and their families to come along.

I ask you to support this venture by your attendance at these services and by encouraging others to come. This is an opportunity for the younger members of our community to get to know us in a setting they are comfortable with and for us to welcome them to engage further with us.

How appropriate are the words of Hymn 198 in the hymnary (verse 4)

“Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they’ve known.

Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God’s face;

***All are welcome, All are welcome, all are welcome in this place.”***

(Marty Haugen)

As a Church within our growing community I hope and pray we can become a visible beacon to newcomers. While it may start small, in every bulb there is the potential of new growth and we can see this in the example of the little snowdrops emerging in our gardens and hedgerows. This new growth, although fragile, can stand up to the winter storms, and they remind us of God’s constant love – always at work even in the small and fragile.

***“All are welcome, All are welcome, all are welcome in this place.”***

God’s rich Blessings be on each of you.

Yvonne



# Sunday Kidz



Sunday Kidz continues to be a vibrant group of children. In November, the children made stained glass hearts to remind us of the people in our everyday lives who let God's light shine through. During Advent, crafting a garland of robins with their characteristic orange-red breasts and a visit from The Red Robin postie to Yvonne's Small Talk were big hits and certainly set the scene for Christmas services in the church sanctuary.



A significant highlight of the autumn session was the Christmas Chocolate Orange Stall. In the weeks running up to Christmas, SK was keen to raise awareness and some funds for East Park, a school in Maryhill that celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2024. Although the focus of this school has changed over the years, today, at EP, the focus is on children with complex additional support needs, including autism. Specialised placements provide a safe and nurturing environment where children with complex needs can learn, grow, and thrive alongside their peers.



Volunteer knitters and crocheters were sought to craft woollen Chocolate Orange Covers that would be exchanged for a donation. The response was astonishing, and yarn and patterns were the focus of numerous conversations during Advent. Church members, friends and family of SK donated chocolate oranges for the crafted covers. The array of covered Chocolate Oranges in the church sanctuary on Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, and at the SK stall after the Service was certainly a 'sight to behold'!

The Chocolate Orange Stall raised £805 and this sum of money was donated to East Park in January. Thanks to all who supported the venture and for making an impact on the lives of the children and young people at EP.



New members to SK are always most welcome and in recent months it was encouraging to recruit children from new families. If you know of any children of primary school age who would be interested in attending, then please do get in touch. ([LindaAANicholl@aol.com](mailto:LindaAANicholl@aol.com)).

## One World Committee

The brutalised child in Gaza, the poor homeless man or woman living in the streets of Glasgow, the family who rely on Foodbank offerings because the home breadwinner is made redundant, the starving children of the Third World or the women and girls of Afghanistan whose human rights and identity has been stripped by an oppressive government. This seems such a disparate group of people struggling to survive but all are helped and enriched by one common thing. That is in the receiving of the generous help you have given them throughout the year. The above are just some of the groups of impoverished people (and not just in money terms) that the parishioners of Bishopton Parish Church have been willing and wanting to support.

We should all be immensely proud of being willing to give financial support as well as prayer, reflection and the giving of our time to the poor and destitute in our country and across the world for without your help and that of others many people would have suffered.

The charities helped and gratefully in receipt of your donations have included World Kitchen, Save the Children, Renfrewshire Foodbank, Unicef, Shelter and the people of Chisingano in Malawi.

At One World we are humbled by your continuing support for our efforts, most recently at the Soup Lunch in January when 90 people came and gave time, their thoughts and their tins of soup (over 200 in total) for the Foodbank to distribute to those in need.

Once more we thank you for your generosity in your ongoing support of the work of the One World Committee.

Bill Doak



## Music Activities



### Church Choir

We continue to sing introits and anthems each Sunday, covering a wide variety of musical styles. We enjoyed singing with the choir of Our Lady Of Lourdes at the joint service in December, and we also sang at the Christmas Music Service, helping to raise around £350 for Shelter at a very enjoyable service. Some members of the choir also sing at the monthly service at Ailsa Lodge to boost the singing of the residents. We are very fortunate to have the choir to lead musical worship in the church.

### Junior Singers

The children make a lovely sound when singing together at Monday afternoon rehearsals. We sang at the Christmas Music Service and at Carols At The Cornerstone. We have been learning Scots Wha Hae, Uist Tramping Song, as well as some Spirituals and songs from Sesame Street and Jonah Man Jazz.

We are grateful to the families of the children for bringing them to and from rehearsals, and also to the adult helpers who assist with the group.

### Praise Band

The Praise Band has played at all the family services, the Christmas Music Service and Carols At The Cornerstone. We have a large repertoire of music now, and we all enjoy playing together. Some of the band have played solo items prior to the service starting, and these have been greatly appreciated.

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

**New members are always welcome** to join any of the music groups – just contact Stewart Munro for further details.

### Church Concert

This will take place in The Cornerstone on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30 until 8.30pm, and will include items from all the church music groups.

Tickets will be on sale in May, with all proceeds going to Church Funds.

## Thursday Chit Chat

Following a two week break after our very successful Christmas party, Chit Chat welcomed back regular attendees and some new friends to our first meeting of 2025. We resumed with a lively "sing a long" led by John Campbell and enjoyed an impromptu solo from our very own Malcolm Richardson. The following week saw a return speaker, Fiona Sinclair, deliver an extremely informative and interesting illustrated talk on the history of Formakin. This meeting was packed with old and new friends keen to hear some local history. Fiona has agreed to return and speak on the conversion of Formakin to its existing dwelling houses. Bishopton Primary School return at the end of January to entertain and recite some of their Burns poetry. We have strived to provide 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

Our programme for the first half of 2025 is listed below, please feel free to join us at any time.

### FEBRUARY

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

### MARCH

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

### APRIL

- 3rd. Daffodil Tea
- 10th. Branching Out: Parklea
- 17th. 12 noon: Maundy Thursday  
Communion  
1pm: Games
- 24th. Langbank Singers

### MAY

- 1st. Mary's Meals
- 8th. Games
- 15th. Musical Item TBC
- 22nd. Largs Viking Festival: Mr Blair
- 29th. Worship

### JUNE

- 5th. The conversion of Formakin continued: Fiona  
Sinclair
- 12th. Games
- 19th. Clydeside Singers



## News

### Finance Committee

While our end of year accounts have still to be approved by the Trustees, and subsequently presented to members at the Stated Annual Meeting, I am pleased to be able to report that the draft accounts show a year end surplus in our General Fund of £24,042 compared to a deficit of £6,041 at the end of 2023. Our Restricted Funds, which consist of various legacies and regular donations for church restoration (masonry repairs etc) were also in surplus by just over £3,500, which is helping the funds recover from the major expenditure on church masonry repairs in previous years.

The letter in February 2024 from the Session Clerk and the Clerk to the Board to all members, outlined the concerns we had at that time over the financial position in the church. It summarised various measures that were being taken to increase income other than offerings and to control expenditure. It acknowledged that household incomes were being stretched but asked that if you were able to increase your offerings that would be gratefully received. The response to this exceeded our expectations and has contributed to the significant change that we see at the end of 2024. Thank you to everyone for your support over the last 12 months which places us in a strong financial position to take forward the work of the church in the community.

Looking forward to 2025 we are budgeting for a more modest surplus in our operating income and expenditure. In 2024 there was significant income from one-off donations coupled with a substantial increase in hall let income at The Cornerstone. These may not be sustainable in 2025 and so we have assumed a reduction in income from these sources for the year. We are also aware that there are repair and maintenance requirements at The Cornerstone related to damp penetration and waste discharges. These will require phased, but essential, funding over and above our normal maintenance expenditure. Inflation is now at a relatively low level but will still result in increased costs over the year. However, despite these issues, our financial outturn in 2024 puts us in a position where we can go forward with a degree of confidence.

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. Our income from this in 2024 was modest but with enough supporters it should make a useful contribution to our funds.

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

Alex Macdonald

[alex.mcdonald@bishoptonkirk.org.uk](mailto:alex.mcdonald@bishoptonkirk.org.uk)

Convenor, Finance Committee

### Network

#### Thank You

After many years of assisting with the distribution of the Network Magazine Margaret McKillop has decided it is time to step back from this task. We would like to express our deep and sincere thanks to Margaret for all the work she has put in over the years.

#### Next Network

It is anticipated that the next edition of Network will be in circulation week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> April. Articles for this edition should therefore be submitted to Albert Sloan no later than Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March. This edition will include information relating to Lent and Easter activities.

### Social Committee

Our Christmas Fair was held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November in The Cornerstone.

It was a very successful day with a variety of stalls including baking, chutneys, a selection of gifts for Christmas and decorations. There was also a treasure hunt for the children.

Over 300 adults and 40 children attended during the day and we are grateful for all the volunteers who helped on the day and for the community's support.

Forthcoming events include a concert by Glasgow Phoenix Choir in April and a Quiz in June.

## News cont..



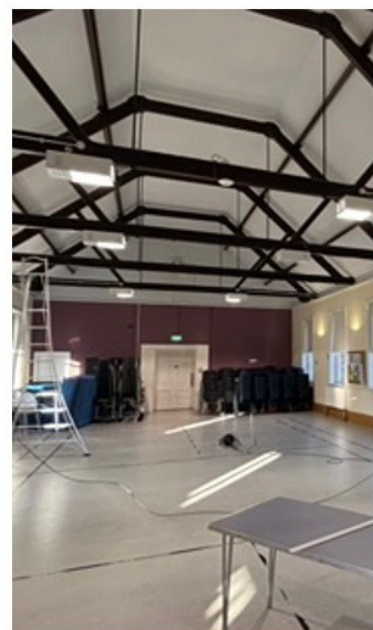
## IT Committee Update

As many will now be aware, an IT Committee was formed within our parish at the end of 2024 with the main objective being the management & operation of Computer Systems, Social Media, Website & Audio Visual technologies. The Committee has already made progress – and have successfully finished a project that will bring The Cornerstone Halls into the modern world of technology! The project took place over Christmas with multiple contractors also involved. All meeting rooms have been fitted with SMART TV's to enhance the quality of meetings & other activities. The Upper Hall System has also been fully refurbished with new modern TV screens & cabling. Plus, lots more! (See the photos)

Users of the system & halls have reported that the systems are much easier to use, and more up-to-date than before!

We are currently looking for folks to join our committee – you don't need to be very "tech savvy" at all! Training is provided! If interested, email Daniel at [daniel.lyall@bishoptonkirk.org.uk](mailto:daniel.lyall@bishoptonkirk.org.uk)

There's lots of things we do, including constant updates to Facebook & Church Website – plus running the services on a Sunday.



## Worship Calendar

### Worship Calendar February to April

Services are usually held in the **Church, starting at 11am**, except for the **first Sunday in February and March\*** unless otherwise intimated via Newsy Mail, Church Website or Facebook.

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 welcomed to join in this time of fellowship.

\*On the **first Sunday** in February & March there will be a **Family - All Age Service in The Cornerstone at 11am** and we hope to encourage those in our Youth Organisations and members of various activities @ The Cornerstone to come along and share with us, with Tea and Coffee available after the service.

We will 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.

### Worship Calendar

2<sup>nd</sup> February     **Family & All Age Service 11am @ The Cornerstone**  
9<sup>th</sup> February     Public Worship - 11 am Church  
16<sup>th</sup> February    Public Worship - 11 am Church  
23<sup>rd</sup> February    Public Worship - 11 am Church – **Holy Communion**

2<sup>nd</sup> March        **Family & All Age Service 11am @ The Cornerstone**  
9<sup>th</sup> March        Public Worship - 11 am Church, followed by **SAM**  
16<sup>th</sup> March       Public Worship - 11 am Church  
23<sup>rd</sup> March       Public Worship - 11 am Church  
30<sup>th</sup> March       Public Worship - 11 am Church

6<sup>th</sup> April         11am Church / The Cornerstone **TBC**  
13<sup>th</sup> April        **Palm Sunday** – Church 11am - All Age Service & Baptism  
20<sup>th</sup> April        **Easter Sunday**

Holy Week and Easter Sunday Services times and venues still to be arranged and will be in next Network Edition.

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

Mr. Ian Somerville    13<sup>th</sup> Jan 25, Woodside Crematorium

Mrs. Elizabeth (Elma) Dallas -    18<sup>th</sup> Jan 25, Hurlet Crematorium (M)

Mr. George Robertson    20<sup>th</sup> Jan 25, Bishopton Parish Church & Clydebank Crematorium (M)





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