

BISHOPTON PARISH CHURCH

(CHURCH OF SCOTLAND)
SCOTTISH CHARITY NO SC006109



Network Magazine

August 2026

Social Committee News



We held a very successful Quiz Evening in March with 72 people in attendance. As well as a fun social event, £551 was raised for church funds. The winning team was Shrodinger's Cat Stevens led by the Blair family.

On the 11th June a clothes show/sale with Brian Taylor was held in The Cornerstone.

Over 100 ladies who attended enjoyed an entertaining evening and managed to pick up some great bargains. £421 was raised for church funds.



Dates for you diary:

A visit by the NHS Choir on Sunday 20th September at 2.30pm in the church. Tickets on sale at beginning of August.

Our popular Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 28th November in The Cornerstone.

More information on both of these events will be advertised widely and in the NewsyMail

Maureen Henderson

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, 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 we move towards Autumn it is hard to believe that another season has passed and many of our youth organisations and activities are returning from their summer break. We certainly look forward to having them back.

This summer has offered many of us moments of rest and refreshment — time outdoors, time with loved ones, or simply the chance to pause and breathe.

Rest is not a luxury, nor is it something we should feel guilty about needing. It is a gift from God and part of the rhythm of life He has given us.

In Scripture, Sabbath rest reminds us that we are not valued simply by what we produce or how busy we are, but because we are loved by God. To stop, to breathe, to pray, to delight in creation and to be renewed in body, mind and spirit is a holy and necessary thing.

Many of us today rely on technology — computers and tablets, mobile phones and even smart watches — all of which need to be charged regularly to keep working effectively. In a similar way, if we do not allow ourselves time to rest and be refreshed, we can become tired, weary and less able to offer our best to those around us. God knows our need for renewal, and the Sabbath reminds us that rest is woven into the very fabric of faithful living.

I managed to have a lovely holiday this summer and feel the benefit of that time of rest and refreshment. I am now very much looking forward to our Autumn season of activities and events at both the Church and The Cornerstone as we continue to engage in ministry and mission within our community.

As a Church, we are blessed to have so many groups linked and associated with us, providing fellowship, companionship and support to people of all ages. For example, young parents attending Play Time while their children play – both age groups finding much-needed peer support, fun and laughter.

For others, attending Chitchat is the highlight of the week, offering entertainment through musical performances, guest speakers and, just as importantly, time to talk and share with friends.

We also have many members who can no longer come to church in person, and for them the live streaming of Sunday morning worship and other events has become a precious way of remaining connected with the Church family. This ministry is deeply appreciated by our Home Worshipers.

All these activities, and the many youth organisations we welcome at The Cornerstone, are supported by the kindness and faithfulness of volunteers.

Some roles involve training, safeguarding checks and a regular commitment, and we are deeply thankful for those who offer their time, gifts and care so generously. Their service is often quiet and unseen, yet it is a beautiful expression of hospitality, compassion and Christian love.

There are also other ways to help, and we are seeking individuals who can help from time to time — perhaps setting up for Play Time, making a welcome cup of tea or coffee, or helping with the live streaming. For this latter example training and support will be available, and no prior IT experience is required. If you feel that you have something you could offer in any of the ways mentioned - **even for an hour or two now and again**, please speak to me or to David Pollock, our Session Clerk. We would be delighted to hear from you.

As we step into this new season together, may we do so gently and faithfully — not hurriedly or anxiously - but rested in God's love, renewed by His grace, and attentive to the quiet ways He uses to guide and sustain us.

May the peace of Christ be with you, in your homes, in your work, in your rest, and in all that lies ahead.

God's rich Blessings be on each of you.

Yvonne

Finance

The first six months of 2026 have shown a level of income similar to 2025 but with some indication of a reduction in hall let income. This is despite an increase in hall hire rates from the beginning of the year. Regular donations from members of the congregation through standing orders and weekly freewill offering continue to be the mainstay of our income and I thank you for this continued support. However, the church is not immune to the cost of living pressures that we all see in our everyday lives with our costs for energy and council tax having increased significantly year on year. Our operating margin is therefore likely to be under pressure at the end of the year. However, we have built up sufficient reserves over the last couple of years to be able to cope with a more challenging year in 2026.

Our Restricted Funds, which consist of various legacies and regular donations for church restoration and maintenance, remain healthy and have benefited from significant one-off donations this year. Our buildings are old and in need of regular remedial works to ensure they remain fit for purpose. Work completed recently included over £10k expenditure on repointing brickwork at The Cornerstone to address damp penetration in the building. We were aware of the need for this, and it was recommended as an urgent requirement in a recent report by the Presbytery Buildings Officer. That report also recommended that we review the need for the installation of a lightning protection system at the church. The installation and study cost for this will be in the order of £15k. The funding and phasing of work such as this is still being considered but is likely to have an impact on the reserves we hold in both our General and Restricted accounts.

Your continued generosity allows us to undertake such unexpected work timeously and without too much concern on funding. We do, of course, seek grant funding on occasions and we hope that the Central Fabric Fund of the Church of Scotland will assist with a grant for lightning protection.

One of our main focus points last year was around the Gift Aid audit being carried out by HMRC. I'm pleased to be able to report that, after some discussion and negotiation with the Revenue, we were able to limit the financial impact of this to under £400 of repayment of previously claimed Gift Aid. This was mainly associated with donors who subsequently intimated that they were no longer taxpayers and hence we were unable to claim on their contributions, or declarations which remained with non-compliant wording.

Now would be an appropriate time to remind you that you should notify me if you wish to cancel a Gift Aid Declaration, have changed your name or address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you do not notify us then you may be liable to repay HMRC for any Gift Aid that we have claimed on your donations.

You may not have been able to complete one of the new declarations which we circulated last year which we are now using for our Gift Aid submissions. If you would now like one, then please contact me. Please note that if you have completed a declaration but do not contribute through standing order or weekly freewill offering envelope, we are unable to claim Gift Aid on your offerings as we need to track donations to individuals. Again, I would be pleased to take you through the standing order/WFO process if you are in any doubt.

Finally, for the many 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 2025 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

Convenor, Finance Committee

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News

Music Activities

Church Choir

The choir continues to sing anthems and introits at each Sunday service. We sing in a variety of styles, from contemporary to Baroque. The choir has supported the monthly services at Ailsa Lodge Care Home, helping the residents with the singing. This session choir members have participated in the "Come and Sing Stainer's Crucifixion" in New Town Church, Edinburgh; the "Sing and Study: Music and Creation" day at St Andrews University; the Church Music Scotland Triennial Festival in Dunblane Cathedral; and the Taize workshop at Langbank Church. The choir also entertained at one of the Chitchat Group meetings in April, and we sang in the Bishopton Church concert in May. We are very fortunate to have such a talented and enthusiastic group of singers in our church.

Junior Singers

The children have had an enjoyable session, learning songs including Skye Boat Song, Over My Head and Tomorrow. We have also been learning some aspects of reading music, and we sang at the Church Concert in May. The children although small in number are tuneful and enthusiastic. We are grateful to the families for their support, and to our own team of adult helpers, who give up their time on Mondays. Junior Singers is open to all children of Primary School age, and we restart on Monday 31st August at 3.45pm in The Cornerstone. New members will be made welcome.

Praise Band

The Praise Band accompanies at family services in The Cornerstone, with some of the members playing solo items prior to the service starting. We also played as part of the orchestra at the church concert in May.

In April the Praise Band played a concert as part of the 50:50 Proms series at Langbank Church. Our programme of ensemble pieces and solo items was enjoyed by the audience, and we raised £320 for Langbank Church Funds.

We are grateful to the musicians of the Praise Band for adding to the musical worship in our church.

Church Concerts

Thanks to all who supported the Church Concert in May. The sum of £600 was raised for church funds, and a large audience enjoyed an evening of lovely music. The next concert is on Sunday afternoon, 30th August, at 2.30pm in the church. This will feature the church choir, Praise Band and some solo items. Entry to this event is by donation, all proceeds going to Glasgow City Mission.

Network

Network Thank You

An expression of Thank to Mrs June Barbour who is stepping back from her service as a Network magazine distributor after many years of faithful service. Thank You June for all your work.

Next Network

This is the last Network magazine which will be produced by the current team – Albert and Lorna – who are stepping down from the position after 14 and 10 years respectively. We would like to thank everyone for their support over that time and look forward to reading future magazines.

New Network Team

A short message from the new team -

Thank you to the outgoing Network Magazine team (Albert and Lorna) for all their years of valuable service.

The next edition will be towards the end of November for the start of the Advent season. Any future submissions for the next editions can be sent to:

magazine@bishoptonkirk.org.uk

It will be picked up on by a member of the team. Anyone wishing to make any suggestions for content (can be completely wild!) that you may wish to see can also submit their ideas to the new email address above.

Girls' Brigade

1st Bishopton Girls' Brigade

We look forward to the start of our new session which will begin on Thursday 27th August in The Cornerstone. For anyone looking for more information or wanting to register for a place, please email bishoptongb@gmail.com

Meeting times	EXPLORERS	6.30 – 7.30pm
	JUNIORS	7.00 – 8.15pm
	BRIGADERS	7.45 – 9.00pm

Last session finished with our awards night on Thursday 14th May where 32 girls received their badges gained over the year. They learned new skills, shared ideas, had visits away and generally had fun... and shared a wee insight into it all with family and friends at the awards night. A thank you to all who came along and joined with us, giving £150 in a collection for Glasgow City Mission which was a fabulous amount.

Also last session we gained a new trainee leader – Eilidh (who was also presented with her gold Duke of Edinburgh by Prince Edward in July); 2 gold leaders – Lucy and Keeley; and Sarah was commissioned as a leader at Clyde division AGM.

This is a great position to be in as Girls' Brigade is moving to a new chapter from June 2027 when GB Scotland will become part of GB Great Britain. As a company we look forward to what this new version of GB will look like. Watch this space! And if you would like to be part of this journey, please get in touch.

Boys' Brigade

We commence again for this session on Thursday 24th August times are listed below.

An information evening is available for all boys and parents who would like to know more about Anchor Boys or Junior BB. This will be held in the Cornerstone at 6.30pm on Thursday 24th August.

Weekly meetings held in The Cornerstone halls:

Anchor Boys (P1-3) Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm

Junior BB (P4-7) Thursdays 6.45– 8.45pm

New members will be made very welcome our aim is to bring fun and fellowship to boys in our community. Further information is available on our Facebook link and Bishopton pages.

Chit Chat

Chit Chat continue to meet every Thursday at 1pm in The Cornerstone. Our programme has been varied as we attempt to deliver “something for everyone”. Since Easter we have enjoyed several musical items with genres to appeal to all. Inverclyde Heritage spoke on the history of the railway going through Bishopton and we surprised ourselves with an energetic session of seated Zumba. Our regular visits from the children of Dargavel Early Learning Centre were enjoyed. New to the calendar this year we held a Bishopton week fun day which will definitely become a regular event along with our annual Strawberry Tea.

Everyone is welcome to attend at anytime and will always find a welcome along with the most important part of our programme, tea, biscuits and plenty of chat. The updated programme can be **found on the Church website.**



September

3rd: Volunteer Patients at The University of Glasgow Medical School

10th: The Semitones

17th Board Games with Dargavel Early Learning Centre

24th Worship

October

1st: My Time in Justice

8th: The Midgies

15th: The Urban Historian

22nd: Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue

29th: Worship

November

5th: Greenock Historic Quarter

12th: Seated Zumba

19th: Bishopton Rugby Club

26th: Worship





Fun afternoons enjoyed by all!



Intimations

Baptisms – Jesus said, “Let the little children come unto me” (Matthew 19:14)

8 th March	Lucia Minnie Harper (Parents - Rebecca & Grant)
15 th March	Mason Douglas Kerr (Parents - Jennifer & Scott)
29 th March	Stuart Lang (Parents – Stacy & Stuart)
29 th March	Stacy Lang (Adult Baptism)
5 th April	Lily Esther McGhee (Parents – Emma & Michael)
12 th April	Maeve Elsie Johnstone (Parents – Laura & Graham)
19 th April	Augustin Iain Pierre Montenot-McGrory & Tobias Guillaume Peter Montenot-McGory (Parents – Suzanne & Pierre).
14 th June	Olivia Elsie Muldoon (Parents Alison & Steve)

Funerals – Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25)

8 th April	Mr David Latter – Woodside Crematorium (P)
16 th April	William (Billy) Hill - Bishopton Church & Bishopton Cemetery (P)
13 th May	Mr Ian Harper - Woodside Crematorium (M)
26 th May	Mrs. Jean McDermid - Clydebank Crematorium (P)
8 th June	Mr James Gilmour - Woodside Crematorium (M)
21 st July	Mrs. Margaret Harcus – Clydebank Crematorium (M)
23 rd July	Mrs. Veronica (Vera) Coils – Greenock Crematorium (P)
27 th July	Mrs. Helen Law – Woodside Crematorium (M - St George's Paisley)
28 th July	Mrs. Margaret Burke – Greenock Crematorium (M)
18 th August	Mr George Bradford - Woodside Crematorium (P)
19 th August	Mrs. Gwen Ferguson – Woodside Crematorium (M)
28 th August	Mrs Sheila Strachan – Hurlet Crematorium (M)



Worship Calendar

Our Services are usually held in the Church, starting at 11am, except for the first Sunday in the month when we have an All-Age Family Service (at 11am) in The Cornerstone.

Please note that on the 8th of November our Church Service will begin at the earlier time of 10:45am to allow us to join with the Nation in the Act of Remembrance. Tea and Coffee are available after each service at both the Church and The Cornerstone

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 gather in the church at 11am and after the 'Small Talk' during the family hymn they can go out to the extension hall for Bible activities and crafts.

Our services are lived streamed and there are sections in the church and The Cornerstone that are reserved for those that do not wish to be on camera please ask one of the duty team or IT members if in doubt.

Worship Calendar

30th Aug	Celebration of Holy Communion
6th Sept	All Age Family Service @ The Cornerstone
13th Sept	Public Worship
20th Sept	BB Enrollment Service
27th Sept	Public Worship
4th Oct	All Age Family Service @ The Cornerstone
11th Oct	Harvest Thanksgiving
18 th Oct	Public Worship
25 th Oct	Celebration of Holy Communion
1st Nov	All Age Family Service @ The Cornerstone
8th Nov	Remembrance Church Service - starts 10:45 am
15th Nov	Public Worship
22nd Nov	Public Worship
29th Nov	Public Worship – 1st Sunday in Advent.
6th Dec	All Age Family Service @ The Cornerstone

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