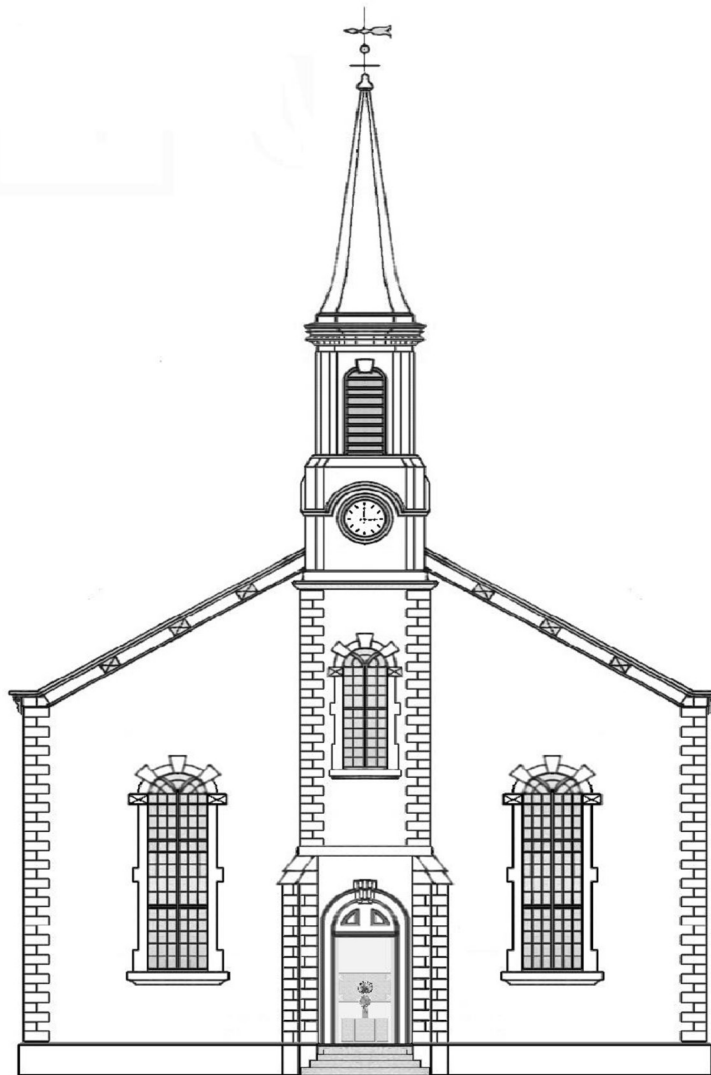


# St. Andrew's United Free Church Bellshill



Magazine – March 2024



**Minister - Rev. Jason Lingiah** MA BD LLM FSAScot

**Scottish Charity Number - SC016252**

St Andrew's Manse  
14th February 2024

Dear friends,

A new year calls us to look back. The year 2024 reminds us of the eightieth anniversary of the D-Day landings and the sacrifice of many for our nation's identity and our Christian rights and responsibilities and the liberties afforded to many. We enter another year as we emerge from the aftermath of lockdowns, which have really done more harm than good. Yet, it can also give us the opportunity to consider who and what is important to us. It is hard to think that life has changed so much in the last four years – and not for the better. Yet it is nothing compared to what our young men endured – and still continue to endure in our theatres of conflict. The years of 1939-1945 also saw an enormous change in our country.

The issue of liberty is a huge one in Scotland at present. Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the USA has the following quote attributed to him: 'The price of liberty is eternal vigilance'. This was true at the beginning of the nineteenth century and is very true today.

The Scottish Government consultation on so-called 'conversion therapy' is one that needs eternal vigilance for Christian liberty. 'Conversion therapy' is a wide umbrella term chosen by LGBTTQQUIA+ campaigners. It covers abusive practices by quack medical practitioners and charlatan preachers which are largely illegal already. But campaigners want to go much further and criminalise repentance as well as preaching, prayer, pastoral care and even parenting that fails to endorse liberal theology.

As Christians we believe that all people are made in the image of God with inherent dignity and worth. There are some practices conducted by pseudo-medical practitioners and some false preachers that are harmful to those struggling with issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. We oppose all abusive practises and reject the idea that anyone can be forced to live a certain lifestyle. However, the term 'conversion therapy' is too broad and confusing to be useful. A major concern is that other practices might be inadvertently criminalised in the process of 'ending conversion therapy'.

The ban threatens to criminalise Christians who offer prayer and pastoral support to members of their congregation. A proposed broad ban threatens our rights to freedom of expression and belief.

There is no medical consensus on the best way to help people who identify as transgender. The recent legal cases over the Tavistock clinic in London have shown the controversy and complexity of the issues involved. NHS England are currently conducting an independent review into gender identity services for children and young people, which includes an

examination of the issues surrounding children and young people who are prescribed puberty blocking and cross sex hormone drugs.

In Europe, Sweden has ended the prescription of hormone blockers for under 18's and Finland has prioritised psychotherapy over the use of drugs. The proposed ban on conversion therapy commits the Government to a single side in these debates and makes it illegal for health and social care professionals to offer the full range of options. It also makes any discussion about issues of gender and sexuality impossible with young people, even between parents and child, unless the adults involved are totally affirming of the young person's gender and sexual identity.

Experience shows young people can be deeply confused about issues connected to gender and sexual orientation. This confusion is largely being caused by what they are being exposed to in the school environment and in wider culture. This could amount to something akin to 'conversion therapy' where young people are encouraged to think that they may need to change their gender or sexual orientation.

Coercive and abusive behaviour should be caught by existing law. But it is wrong for biblically faithful preaching, prayer, pastoral care and parenting to be in the sights of lawmakers. True 'conversion therapy' comes by sitting under the preaching of Gospel that leads to repentance and faith, and to true personhood as our identity is found in Jesus.

As Convenor of the denomination's Church and Society Committee this is something that has come to my attention. However this issue has far reaching implications that threaten the articulation and teachings of the ancient landmarks of the Christian faith. We should certainly pray for the young people of our land in this time of confusion, and for our leaders that they may see that need for true liberty. Pray also for our church, that we may see more families come and worship with us, with their children.

Thinking about our nation, many of us will be saddened and anxious to hear of the death of our Monarch. We are called to pray for our Monarchs and leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-4). We do need stability in our nation, which is very important in this year of a General Election in the United Kingdom. In Judges 21:25, we read of the confusion that the Children of Israel faced: 'In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.'

We need leadership, discernment and direction. Let us pray for our leaders at all levels, in both the spiritual and temporal kingdoms. Let us be encouraged that Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

With every blessing,

Rev. Jason Lingiah  
Minister

## **The Committee of Management**

The Temporal Court have addressed the problems with the setting of the granite steps at the front of the church and have continued to undertake work on managing the churchyard. Unlike most churchyards, St Andrew's owns and manages this, rather than in most cases being under Local Authority care and management.

The Fellowship Hall and toilets will be decorated in March and new low energy lighting installed. The fluorescent tube lighting is being phased out, so this is a timely opportunity to change this. It is hoped that these costs will be subsidised from a grant from The Ferguson Bequest Fund. Another Environmental Grant has assisted in procuring equipment for the grounds for maintenance.

The chairs on the chancel and vestibule and some in the vestry have been replaced with very comfortable and durable wooden framed chairs. The new ones on the chancel particularly enhance the appearance of the church. The chairs were from Newbattle Parish Church which has now closed and only cost the congregation £150, which sum has been more than recovered from the sale of the old seats. I am sure that we are all encouraged by the acquisition of the Yamaha Clavinova to assist our praise.

Igoe-up Limited have been engaged to start work from April on the high level areas of the church over three phases. These include:

Scrape all lichen and spray the full spire with biocide.

Carry out a full spire repoint using a sand and lime mortar, after the lichen and algae has been removed.

Repaint the finial using primer followed by 2 coats of block paint.

Repaint all clockfaces using a red oxide primer followed by 2 coats of gloss paint

Remove all bird droppings from the tower. Replace the mesh on all elevations of the tower. Replace the defective roof ridge tile with a new tile.

Fully repoint all drip courses using a sand and lime mortar.

Repaint all the gutters and down pipes.

Repoint the bottom mortar joint of the drip course under the gutter.

The cost of this will be £8,500 in total. Around £750 was raised from the Gift Day and if anyone feels led to contribute to this one-off project, please speak to The Treasurer. We were unsuccessful in our application to the Bellahouston Bequest Fund. However an application to The Baird Trust has been submitted and the Bellshill Protestant Auld Boys Flute Band have arranged an evening of loyal and patriotic music to raise funds for us in the Imperial Club, to which we are thankful.

We are still looking at other benevolent funds to obtain funds. If we are unsuccessful, this will be a huge financial burden on the congregation and we will have to manage funds carefully. In 2023, we had a deficit of around £16,000 on what was largely essential spending, but reserves do not last forever. It is also always good to prayerfully review the giving of our time, talents and money for the work of Christ's church.

Our new First Aiders will be Mrs Betty Houston and Mr Harry Todd, who have previous experience of care in their professional lives. They will be attending an authorised First Aid course soon. We still require people with appropriate Food hygiene certification. Any volunteers should speak to Anita Henery.

Our organist, Ivan Varchenko is organising a concert for late-April and there will be a 'sale of work' in the Imperial Club on a Friday in November. We have found that footfall in Bellshill is very low on Saturday, hence the Friday events.

In terms of personnel, the Committee has had Mrs Eileen Bunch and Mrs Anne Chang-Leng resign and we have lost Jim Russell, our longest standing member. The Minister is now the Preses *pro tem* and Mrs Henery the Clerk *pro tem*. The Committee is seeking persons with the practical skills to manage the fabric and finance, who also have a spiritual understanding of stewardship. Managers, along with Elders, are also charity trustees. Please speak to the Minister if you feel that you may be able to serve in this way.

In the last issue of the Magazine, you will have seen the number of work and items that the Managers and Session would like to procure. It is good to see that list going down a little. Further updates will be given at the AGM.

## **St Andrew's Church Mission Statement and Vision**

### **Inspire**

**'INSPIRE' Inspiring a new generation of evangelism:**

**INvest in community outreach and engagement to encourage**

**SPiritual reconnect with the Christian Gospel**

**REgeneration of Church and Community.**

**'INSPIRE' .....a spiritual reawakening through the Word made Flesh**

**'To reconnect with the community through a strategy of gospel centred local engagement initiatives. A revitalised Christian mission, stimulating engagement and participation from across the demographic spectrum with a focus on youth and a drive for Church growth – both numerically and spiritually'**

St Andrew's has deep roots in the town and community of Bellshill dating back to 1762. The Church has provided a precious conduit for the Gospel message to flow. The central and highly visible location of the Church building has, throughout the ages, enabled the Christian message to be communicated right at the very heart of the town. Looking forward and building on recent successes, the Church wishes to develop and reimagine the role of the United Free Church in the locale as a conservative evangelical church with an expository pulpit ministry and discipleship and accountability.

Central to our plans will be:

- Investment in the Church estate to further develop an appealing and welcoming Church environment.
- Redesign and refurbish aspects of the existing Church building to create a multi-purpose environment in support of our Christian ministry
- Increase visibility within local communities, develop and strengthen relationships with likeminded Christian ministries
- Engage with community through the hosting and promotion of a broad range of events complimentary to the work of the Church

Our values

The Bible: The sole rule of Faith and Life

Faith: To be born again into a living hope in Christ alone.

Prayer and Discipleship: To know Christ and to serve Him

Mission: To make disciples of the Lord Jesus and to see others being saved.

Community: To be a joyous, healthy local church in fellowship, family and service.

### **Sunday School**

It is good to have been able to re-establish a Sunday School again. If you have children and young people in your extended family, please do prayerfully consider inviting them to come to church and Sunday School.

We are looking for a few more Sunday School Volunteers and a Superintendent to oversee this ministry. Please speak to the Minister or Session Clerk if you can help. Volunteers will be given training and will be subject to Protection of Vulnerable Groups disclosure. Our Safeguarding Officer is Ian Houston.

**Stedfast** Please speak to the Session Clerk if you would like a subscription to Stedfast, the United Free Church magazine (£12). As a small denomination, it is good to know what is going on and to be encouraged and to read stories and consider items for prayer. Sample copies are available in the Vestibule.

## **Communion**

The Sacrament of Communion will be observed on - Sunday, 3rd March at 11am, and on the first Sundays of March, June and September, and the last Sunday in November in 2024.

If you are unable to attend church for Communion, and would like to receive Communion at home, please speak to your Elder.

To come to the Lord's Table requires a public profession of faith, and a testimony of God's saving grace in one's life. All in communicant membership of St Andrew's Church and in good standing in other fellowships are welcome to the Lord's table.

## **Church Membership**

If you would like to join St Andrew's Church by public profession of faith or transfer from another congregation, please speak to the Minister. Membership is the public profession of repentance of sin and being born again in faith in Jesus Christ and the identifying and the belonging to His people in a local congregation, of having the spiritual guidance and discipline of the Kirk Session, and being able to come to the Lord's Table at Communion.

## **Easter services**

-Preparing for Easter: Sunday 10 March at 6:30pm

-Good Friday (29 March) 7pm

-Easter Sunday 11am

Do remember that the clocks go forward on Easter Sunday, 31 March.

Please do consider praying about bringing neighbours family and friends to church at this special time.

There will be leaflets to deliver to local households in Bellshill. If you can help by delivering to a few streets, please speak to Andrew Brown.

## **Conventicle to mark the Battle of Bothwell Bridge.**

There will be another Conventicle held at the Mary Rae Well, Gordon Place, Bellshill, on Sunday 26 May at 3pm.

## **Annual Business Meeting**

The Annual Business Meeting of the congregation will take place on Sunday 10 March following the conclusion of public worship. A report will be given on the work of the Committee of Management, the accounts will be presented and there will be the Election of Managers. Please do prioritise attending this meeting, to understand how the congregation operates and to show our appreciation to the Managers for all of their work.

## **Recording of services**

Those of you who use the Internet may have noticed that the live streaming of public worship ceased on Hogmanay. This was due to the lack of viewers, but also the sound and picture quality was poor to the extent that it was detrimental to our ministry. It was felt that the priority should be improving the audio visual set up in the church – for example, the digital projection of hymns and videos – and focus on the congregation that is in attendance. It was felt that now that the Coronavirus situation is over, that people should be encouraged to attend church in person.

For those who are housebound, and those who are unable to attend church on the Lord's Day, the outline of the sermon as well as the order of service is available – and is always uploaded to the Church website. As we are following an expository approach in preaching and teaching, this makes it easier to follow our services.

## **Website**

Our website at [www.bellshillstandrewsufc.org.uk](http://www.bellshillstandrewsufc.org.uk) has now been re-designed. Do have a look as it gives a good picture to the outside world of the vision, ethos and activities of the church.

On social media, we are now available

Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/thechurchatthecrossbellshill>

Twitter/X at <https://twitter.com/bellshillufc>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bellshillstandrews/>

## **Technology help**

We are seeking people to help with the projection of hymns and other multimedia material at services. If you can help, please speak to Anita Henery or John Stewart. It is hoped that when the roof and spire work is completed, that we can focus on improving this output through improved visual screens in the church.

## **West of Scotland Gospel Partnership**

In 2023, the Kirk Session agreed for the congregation to join the West of Scotland Gospel Partnership. This is a conservative evangelical network of Churches with a similar mindset and is for networking, prayer and support. More information can be found here: <https://wsgp.org.uk/>

## **Student**

**From our Approved Local Preacher Student, or more colloquially, our student for the Readership.**



## **Choices**

My name is David McGill I am a member of the United free church at Shieldhall and Drumoyne. I was asked by your minister Jason to write a few word's about my background and my journey with the Lord Jesus Christ.

To say the least in my youth I ran around in a gang. Fighting with other gangs getting drunk and no respect for law and order this was my choice and had no time for God or His church. As you get older from my personal experience you get wiser.

Being a time served engineer my work took me to Aberdeen Dundee and Arbroath with myself settling in Carnoustie.

This is the time when my life took a big turn. Through member's of the U F church in Carnoustie I accepted Jesus Christ as my saviour a choice i will never regret. To my utter shame from here my life spiralled out of control. I walked away from God like the prodigal son and like him I came to my senses. You can walk ten thousand miles from Jesus and His forgiveness but it only takes one step back into His loving grace. I have now completed the approved lay preachers course, and may I be led by the Holy Spirit in whatever task I be given.

## **Tuesday and Friday Welcome**

The Church is open for free tea, coffee, chat and company on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11am-1pm. Do come along if you are in the town and invite any friends that you have that would benefit from this.

## **Presbytery Service**

There will be a Presbytery Service on Sunday 31 March at 6:30pm with Mission partners David and Wilma Lytle at Knightswood United Free Church.

## **Bible Study**

The Prayer Meeting and Bible Study takes place on a Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Manse and Thursday at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. We are currently studying themes from the book: Priorities for the Church by the late Rev. Professor Donald Macleod, former Principal of Edinburgh Theological Seminary. We sometimes have a guest speaker from outwith the congregation.

This is a wonderful opportunity to engage more with God's word in a smaller setting, to be disciplined in our faith and to enjoy fellowship together. There is always a range of home baking!

## **Christmas Services**

Thanks to all who helped with the services and events in December. Your support is appreciated as we celebrate the incarnation of Jesus and seek to bring the love of Jesus to our visitors and community.

## **Easter eggs**

Once again, Joseph Potts Funeral Directors are having an Easter Egg appeal for those in need and the elderly in our community. If you are able to contribute, please bring them to the area under the pulpit. Frazer McGown from Potts will be coming to our morning service on Sunday 24 March to receive the eggs and give a talk to the congregation.

## **Daffodil Tea**

There will be a Daffodil Tea on Friday 22 March from 10am-4pm. Tickets (available on the door) are £3. There will also be cake and candy, seasonal Easter goods and the usual high quality selection of cards and knitting and other items for sale.

## **Public Lecture**

The Lecture on 'The Enduring Christian Legacy of the Glorious Revolution and the Siege and Relief of Londonderry on Sunday 26 November was well attended and well received. The Minister spoke on the Glorious Revolution and the establishment of the Protestant faith by law as a consequence. Mr John Kai Campbell of Shettleston Free Church spoke on the latter subject, focusing the impact that faith had on the people of the Maiden City.

## **Church Register**

### **Membership (by professional of faith)**

#### **Lesley Ritchie**

3 December 2023 (and baptism)

#### **Ian Forsyth**

10 December 2023

## **Deaths**

### **Jim Russell**

#### **1938-2024**

Jim Russell, a Bellshill man all his days, was a long serving member of St Andrew's Church. Ordained in 1985 into what was St Andrew's Church of Scotland, (linked with Orbiston Church at that time) under the ministry of Rev. C. Greig, he was also a long serving Manager and Preses.

Jim and Marion have given up a lot for St Andrew's Church. From very practical work around the church building to spiritual direction as an Elder, he has served us well and has been a person of continuity in the turbulent years of St Andrew's Church.

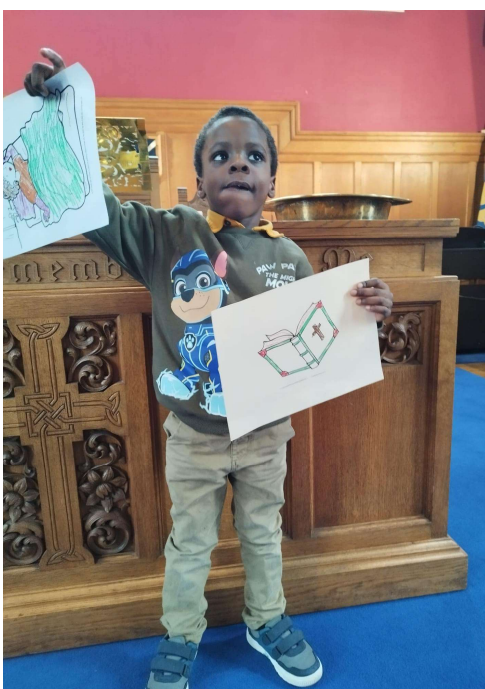


Jim brought stability to the Committee of Management and was a strong advocate of returning to the United Free Church of Scotland. Jim was also very involved in the Mens Club and the Boys Brigade.

Jim always offered me sound advice on the work of both courts of the church. He was a diligent visitor to those in his District even in the last months of his life. Indeed, it was a huge shock to us all when we heard of Jim's sudden passing on 21 January, soon after his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Family was very important to Jim, he loved Marion and what he called the girls, in Christine, Sheena and Norma and their husbands in Shaw, Alan and Fraser, and we also remember Ian who died in infancy. Having had a long life, Jim had the privilege as a grandfather of spending a lot of time with his nine grandchildren, which many grandchildren and grandparents don't have that opportunity. We remember Marion especially at this time and pray for her future care, as well as Jim's beloved 'girls.'

Rev. Jason Lingiah



## A Few Items For Sale At The Daffodil Tea

**There will be lots more on the day, Greeting Cards, Cake and Candy etc.**

We have been busy making items for sale at the daffodil tea  
We will be selling hand knitted baby jackets and hats and lots of Easter goodies for the kids  
We will have home baking for the adults  
We would all like to thank everyone for the continued support  
Eileen



## **General Assembly of the United Free Church of Scotland**

The Assembly meets in Perth from 5-7 June. The Moderator designate is Rev. Colin Brown BD.

Mr Brown is Junior Principal Clerk of the General Assembly and was Minister of Darnley from 1979-2021, and was a very active Interim Moderator at St Andrew's. Our Elder Commissioner to the General Assembly is Mr David Provan.

## **Dunblane Day**

The denominational day held at Dunblane on the Last Saturday of August has been replaced by 'The Gathering' on Saturday 17 August at Lendrick Muir. Please do support this endeavour for us all to come together for worship, fellowship and discussion.

UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
WOMEN'S HOME & OVERSEAS COMMITTEE

# LADIES' DAY 2024

11:15am - 4:00pm

MONCRIEFF SUITE,  
SALUTATION HOTEL, PERTH, PH2 8PH



## THEME - HELP IN A TROUBLED WORLD

Speakers from Scripture Union, Scotland

JACKIE RINGAN

ELIZABETH McDOWALL

TAMARA STUPAK

Musical items from

RACHEL de BLIECK & BENJAMIN MAYBURY

Lunch available in the Adams Restaurant - Priced £14.

Choice of 4 main courses:

Small Haddock with chips & peas / Lasagne with garlic bread & side salad  
Roasted Pepper stuffed with couscous & side salad (v) / Cheese Salad (gf / v)

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Slice of millionaire's shortbread/traybake and Tea/Coffee with tablet square.

Please contact Church Office to give menu choice and to make payment.

**Sunday Worship - 11.00am**

**Sunday School – 11.00am**

**Evening Service 6.30pm (second Sunday of the month)**

**All are welcome**

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**Tuesday**

**Cardmaking Group - 12 noon - 2.00pm**

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**Bible Study**

**Wednesday Evenings - 7.00 - 8.30 pm Manse**

**Thursday Mornings - 10.30 - 12 noon Church**

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**Friday**

**Knit and Natter ~ 11.00am - 1.00pm**

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**Church Website**

**[www.bellhillstandrewsufc.org.uk](http://www.bellhillstandrewsufc.org.uk)**

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**Facebook**

**Facebook @thechurchatthecrossbellshill**

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**Deadline**

**Items for the June 2024 issue of  
the magazine to be received by  
Sunday, 5th May, 2024.**

~~~~~**Please email items to:-**

**[contact@bellhillstandrewsufc.org.uk](mailto:contact@bellhillstandrewsufc.org.uk)**