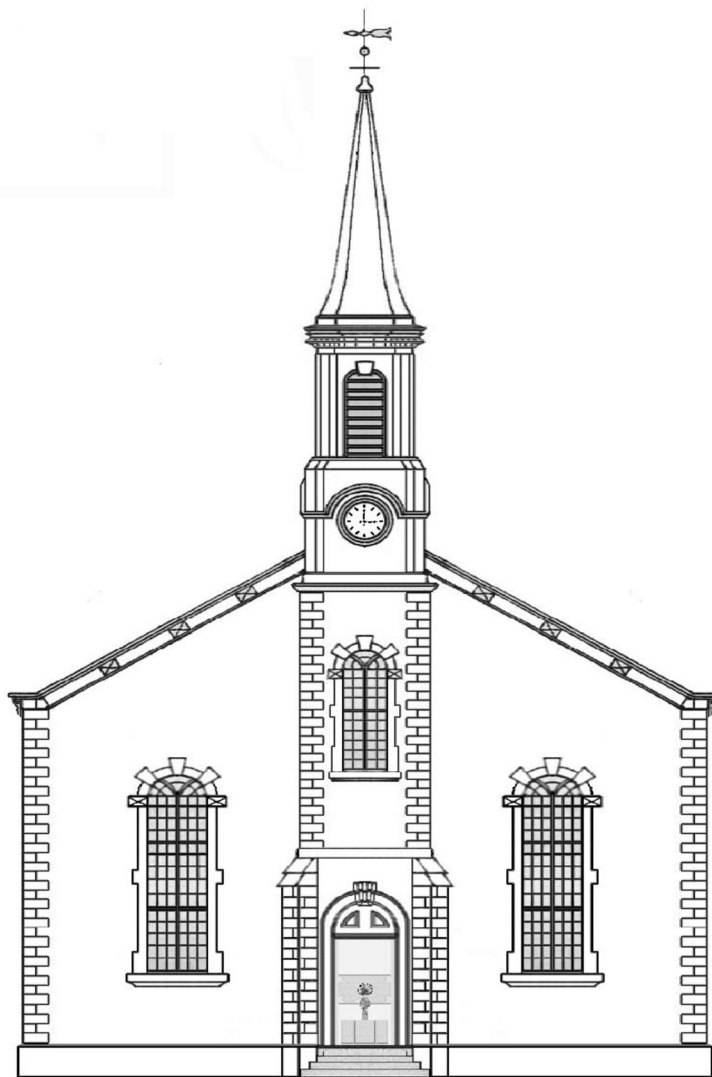


St. Andrew's United Free Church Bellshill



Magazine – September 2024



Minister - Rev. Jason Lingiah MA BD LLM FSAScot

Scottish Charity Number - SC016252

St. Andrew's United Free Church

Minister and Moderator of the Kirk Session:

Rev. Jason Lingiah

Session Clerk: Andrew Brown

The Committee of Management

Preses: The Moderator (pro tem)

Clerk: Mrs. Anita Henery

Treasurer: Lex Crossan

Safeguarding Officer:

Ian Houston

First Aider:

Mrs. Betty Houston

Sunday School Superintendent:

Mrs. Elizabeth Brown

Presbytery Elders:

Andrew Brown and Ian Houston

24 August 2024

Dear Friends,

Like many of you, I have been in many church halls around the country. One of the things that I have noticed is the variety of the styles, length and materials for the hall curtains. Often they simply are old fashioned, too long or short and often not thick enough for warm and visual projection, and often quite well used. Now, we must not be ungrateful for what many have contributed, often sacrificially and in a time of need. However, in our giving to the church, we often focus in our contribution of our time, talents and money not as what is sacrificial, but what we have spare.

In the Old Testament, the Children of Israel were to bring to the Temple their best livestock and crops and the first fruits, or the best, would be for the Lord's work. In the New Testament, the focus on God's salvation plan was that of God the Father giving to mankind, his Son, the most precious gift that He could give for the atonement of mankind's sins.

Being intentional about our giving is what we are called to do in our Christian life. We are commanded to give what is sacrificial, rather than what is spare. In the early Church, we gain a picture in Acts 2 of how these first Christian made conscious changes to worship and educate themselves in the faith, to meet together and to contribute to their church community.

A lot of this would start with self. We have to be willing to be able to attend public worship, subject to works of necessity, even when we don't feel like it. There is no better place to be when we are feeling down than in the Lord's house, worshipping with His people. We also have to learn more about the Christian faith and what this means for us in a secular world where a Christian worldview is very different from a non-Christian worldview. A Sunday morning or evening is not enough to sustain us in maintaining our faith. In addition, Church is not primarily here to meet our wants and tastes, but our needs, which is the Gospel. If we do not feed ourselves, then we easily fall away.

St. Clement of Alexandria, for example, once said, "Calling her children about her, [the Church] nourishes [Christians] with holy milk, that is with the Infant Word. Two Scripture passages come to mind here:

- 1 Peter 2:2, *Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.*
- Matthew 23:37, *"How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!"*

In addition, there are other activities run by the United Free Church, such as the Ladies Weekend and The Gathering, the denominational away day, and other Christian events that sustain us in our faith. Intentionally saturating ourselves in God's Word and seeking His ways mean that we give sacrificially, not what is spare.

Many will think that this is a 'begging letter' for cash, but it encompasses more than financial giving. Financial giving is important, we have lost the concept that the Lord's money is raised by the Lord's people and the topic of tithing our time, talents and money. However, this is still a Biblical concept to put into action based on what we have been blessed with. It is not for 'other people' to fund our church; it is primarily for the Lord's people in our context. There is no other central body to pick up the shortfall and also people from other fellowships and non-Christians may bless us with the giving of resources, we cannot always depend on that.

A prayerful intentional, joyful sacrificial giving of our time, talents and finances spring from a saving understanding of the Gospel and results in people being drawn into our midst with discipleship and conversion.

C.S. Lewis once wisely wrote: "I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare."

The hymn writer Issac Watts wrote in *When I survey the wondrous cross* 'Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.'

Furthermore, addressing the big issue of motivation, a wise woman was quoted as saying: "If you give what you do not need, it isn't giving."

Jesus Christ said "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?" (Mark 8:36).

Some questions that we may wish to reflect upon:

Do we intentionally plan to attend the public worship of God and in fellowship in our ways, rather than looking at what time we have to spare?

If we cannot attend worship on the Lord's Day and in the midweek meeting? How are we seeking to .

meet our spiritual needs?

Is our money spent on our hobbies and interests in balance with our financial giving to the church?

Can we bless our church and be an encouragement to the Lord leadership and an example to others by being present at church activities?

Perhaps these are challenging words in the liberal, sleepy Christian narrative that many of us will be used to, where churches survive because they have a big congregation. However, growing churches, whether in poorer or more affluent areas, all grow from being intentional in their intentional sacrificial giving, and not putting in what is spare.

With every blessing,

Rev. Jason Lingiah

Minister and Moderator of the Kirk Session

Congregational Register

Baptism and Profession of Faith

26th August – Scott McMurray



Marriages

Deaths

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, 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 8th September at 11am, and on Sunday 24th November 2024 (please note the change of dates).

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 who have made a public profession of faith 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.

Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

The Prayer Meeting and Bible Study takes place on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm in the Manse and Thursday at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. 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 disciples in our faith and to enjoy fellowship together. It is perhaps the most important meeting of the week to grow as Christians. There is always a range of home baking!

Tuesday and Friday Welcome

The Church is open for free tea, coffee, chat and company on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:30-12noon (please note the change of times). Do come along if you are in the town and invite any friends that you have that would benefit from this.

The Minister is usually available in the vestry at these times.

Website

Our website at www.bellshillstandrewsufc.org.uk or www.standrewschurch.nicepage.io continues to have a number of resources, including the Orders of Service and Intimations, if you happen to miss church. 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. A TV screen has been donated to the church and this has been installed in the Fellowship Hall

Upcoming events

Harvest Thanksgiving

The Harvest Thanksgiving service will be held on Sunday 6th October at 11am. There will be a collection of non-perishable food and toiletries in aid of the Salvation Army. Donations can be left under the pulpit, including any financial donations in envelopes.

Congregational Lunch

Lanarkshire Cancer Care will be the beneficiary of a congregational lunch after public worship on Sunday 20th October.

Tickets priced £4.00 each will be available from Mrs A. Henery soon.

Coffee Morning, Open Day and Gift Day

This will take place on Saturday 26th October from 11am-2pm. We will have teas and refreshments, a card making workshop and an organ recital. There will also be a slideshow of photographs of the church and the congregation from the past to the present time. The beneficiary of the Gift Day is for the balance of the work on the church roof and spire, and also for essential work on replacing the Neilson Hall lighting and tree-felling. See the Committee of Management report for more information.

Reformation Service

On Sunday 27th October, The Minister will conduct a service in St Andrew's Church to mark the Protestant Reformation Anniversary at 3pm for Glasgow Orange and Purple District No. 3. All are welcome to attend.

Remembrance Sunday – 10th November

The Remembrance Services will be held at 11:30am (note the later time) and 6:30pm. The later service time accommodates the service the Bellshill War Memorial.

There will be a service at the War Memorial earlier in the morning.

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 15th November from 11am-3pm. Initially it was planned to be in the Imperial Function Suite, however due to a lack of volunteers to assist, it will now be held in the Church.

Christmas Services

Sunday, 8th December: 6:30pm: Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Tuesday, 24th December: 7pm: Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, 24 December 11:15pm: Watchnight Service and Bellshill EU Congregational Church (conducted by Rev. Lingiah)

Wednesday, 25th December: 10:30am: Christmas Day Service.

The Gathering – Saturday 17 August

The Gathering replaced the previous 'Dunblane Day' and is the Denominational Day Conference. The keynote speaker was Rev. Professor Sinclair Ferguson of the Reformed Theological Seminary in the USA. Although he is an academic, his talk and approach has been rooted on pastoral ministry, having served in St John's Baltasound Church in Unst and St George's-Tron Church in Glasgow and in the USA. His talk was on the theme 'We believe in God' and was an accessible talk on the nature. The words 'uplifting' and 'inspiring' are often over-used, however they would be applicable here, along with the most important aspect, clear, accessible teaching from the Scriptures. There were also small group sessions on the following topics in the afternoon: Worship of God, The Work of God in Today's Scotland, Seeing God Through Puritan Eyes, The Servant King (Leadership and Power in the Church), Who we are in Christ: Sexuality and Gender Identity, 'We Believe in Creativity': Mission and Worship Through Creative Practice and Jesus and The Questions of the Age. I would encourage folks from St Andrew's to attend next year, it is a good chance to meet other Christians in our denomination and also others, and to learn more and be discipled in the Christian Faith.

Our Daily Bread

Our Daily Bread is a quarterly booklet with a Bible verse, thought and questions to help us live the Christian life for every day of the year. There are copies in the Fellowship Hall by the Tea Urn, and a sign up sheet so it can be reserved for you when they come in. A suggested donation of £1 per edition can be given to the Treasurer.

Prayer Points

A new initiative for prayer is the monthly prayer points that are inserted in the Order of Service. Please do let us know if this is helpful and if you have any suggestions for prayer. A church without prayer is merely a social club.

Hatton Lea Nursing Home

We have now developed a relationship with the Home and The Minister will be holding a short service there on the third Tuesday of the month at 2:30pm.

Any visitors are welcome.

We have also had Hatton Lea residents visit the Tuesday and Friday Welcome.



Orbiston Centre

The service at the Orbiston Centre continues on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:30pm, with the assistance of Ian and Betty Houston.

Concert for St Andrew's Church

Thanks to the Bellshill Auld Boys Flute Band for organising an event of 'loyal and patriotic music' in aid of the Church roof and spire appeal – with £1,800 being raised at the evening in the Imperial Social Club.



Classical concert: Piano and Saxophone

The last evening of May saw a concert of saxophone and piano in St Andrew's Church with Denis Patrickson and Ivan Varchenko (our organist). Perhaps different from what we are used to, and probably the first recital that included the 'Soviet jazz' genre in Bellshill. However it was certainly a night where the music took us into another world.

D-Day Commemoration Service

The Service to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day was held in the church with an excellent turnout on Sunday 9th June at 6:30pm.

Battle of Bothwell Bridge

The 345th anniversary of the Battle of Bothwell Bridge, was marked by an afternoon service on Sunday 26th May at 3pm. We recall Bellshill's place in the battle: a Covenanter, believed to have been an Ayrshire man, was injured at the Battle of Bothwell Bridge. He managed to escape to a well now located at the modern Gordon Place in Bellshill., but collapsed due to his injuries and exhaustion. He was found by his fiancée, Mary Rae, who nursed him using water from the well.

The Battle of Bothwell Bridge took place on 22 June 1679. It was fought between government troops and militant Presbyterian Covenanters, and signalled the end of their brief rebellion. The battle took place at the bridge over the River Clyde between Hamilton and Bothwell in Lanarkshire, Scotland.

Pictured: Councillor Robert Burgess, North Lanarkshire Deputy Provost, Councillor Mrs Beth Baudo, Holytown and Mossend Ward, Mr John Campbell, Precentor, and The Moderator.



The Christian Implications of the Siege and Relief of Londonderry

An evening based on this theme was held on Sunday 11 August at 6:30pm where we looked the theme of 'Londonderry: a place of safety and security' based on John 10:9.

Churchyard works

The staff from Joseph Potts Funeral Directors, led by Dignity Funeral Services Business Partner Frazer McGown cleared a huge amount of vegetation around the north wall of the churchyard with the supervision of Andy, our Session Clerk.



The Committee of Management

There has been a sense of relief that the high-level roof and spire works have been completed by Igoe-Up Limited, who work across a number of churches and historic buildings, including other United Free Church congregations in the central belt. The relief stems from the news that there were no unexpected repairs required the total cost was £9,020 (£500 of which was paid last year for the survey and slate repair). To date, around £5,000 has been raised. No doubt we have all seen the repointing of the spire and the removal of the green vegetation on the spire and the repainted clock faces. The 'tree' growing out of the west side of the belfry is a blessed subtraction! However, a lot of the work is unseen, but will help to future-proof our building. The Gift Day later in the year will focus on financial gifts towards this project. The majority of the funds have been raised from outwith the congregation from individuals (one giving £1,000 and another £500 respectively), The Bellshill Auld Boys Band and Tunnocks. However, all the smaller donations are gratefully received. Do consider if you are able to contribute, or ask a business that you are connected with if they can make a contribution.



The Fellowship Hall has been re-decorated and new lighting added, along with the toilets. The money spent on this can be claimed back from a pledge of £3,000 from the Fergusson Bequest Fund. The kitchen tap has been replaced. Further work from this wallet will include the installation of dado rail in the Fellowship Hall, replacement lighting in the kitchen and vestry and redecoration of the vestibule.

There are some other major works that are required that will incur extra expense. The Scottish Administration are phasing out fluorescent tube lighting. All of the light fittings in the main church building have been replaced, except for the kitchen, which will be done in due course. The biggest exercise and cost is replacing the fittings in the Neilson Halls with LED (light emitting diode) fittings, around the Bumblebee Nursery schedule.

In addition, tree management works are required in the churchyard as the trees are getting too big and could be dangerous in the future. Further items to address will be new digital screens in the sanctuary, replacement church kitchen units and work on the Manse conservatory to remove rot and replacement of the Manse kitchen. All of these things will be completed in due course with prudent budgeting and grants sought. We are currently in the process of the compulsory land registration and are looking at the Title Deeds for the church estate.

I am hoping that we can add to the number of Managers to help with this work. As Preses on a *pro tem* (or acting) basis, unfortunately a lot of my time is taken up with temporal (fabric and finance matters) rather than preaching and pastoral ministry and going forward this is unsustainable. I do pray that there will be more labourers in the vineyard to assist in this important work.

The Moderator of the Kirk Session, and Preses (*pro tem*)

Sunday School

On Sunday 28th July 2024, we held our Sunday School Prize Giving. David and Daniel each received a book about a bible story to do with their own names. The boys also received a packet of Haribo sweets which I think they were more pleased about. We are now settled at the Neilson Hall which although not ideal it is better than in the vestry. As well as learning the Lord's prayer and a bible story suitable to their age, the boys also have time to go outside and enjoy what little sunshine we have had this year. AS the twins have now reached the age to start School we look forward to watching them grow in their learning and understanding of God and the world.

Again I would like to appeal for anyone interested In beng a Sunday School teacher to get in touch with Myself, Rev Jason Lingiah or Ian Houston, as we would like to be able to start a rota to allow all teachers to be able to enjoy the sermons on a Sunday morning..



Sarah Love - Camp America

A news item for Church members and attendees just to inform you all that my daughter Sarah has now completed 12 weeks as a group leader at Christian camp in Ozark, Arkansas in U.S.A.

Sarah has enjoyed her time and experience working with young Christian children aged mainly between 8-10 years. She has been teaching crafts, various sports and outdoor activities, there is bible study, regular prayer and they attend the Cross on the hill for Sunday worship.

She has met some new friends from all over the World and will be touring America at the end of her contract. Her main friends are from Portsmouth England, New Orleans and Australia they will join her on a visit to Washington D. C. for a few days before they fly to Alabama to spend time with one of her friends parents. 5 days later they will travel to Florida to spend some leisure time at the theme parks for a few days before travelling North to New York.

Sarah and her friends will end their time together in New York thereafter she will fly to Los Angeles to meet up with her mum and sister Ellie where they will spent the last week of her travels before returning to Scotland.

A great experience for a young girl and as she said a good one to add to your C.V.

Sarah whilst away was delighted to hear she has passed all of her 1st year exams at University where she is studying for a Law degree. She is looking forward to her new term when she returns i'm really looking forward to our reunion after a four month absence, really a proud dad watching her develop and grow up.

Archie Love (Jnr)



Knit and Natter Bellshill

A big thank you on behalf of NHS Lanarkshire and the A&E department at University Hospital Monklands to the Knt and Natter Group in Bellshill for their fantastic contribution of knitted heart donations to help give comfort to patients who are at end of life and their families.

School Time Photos



**David & Daniel on their
first day at
Cambusnethan Priimary
School**



**Archie Provan
S5 Airdrie Academy**

**Chloe Henery
S4 Dalziel High School**

