

United Free Church of Scotland Bellshill

St Andrew's Church



Magazine – March 2025



The Cross, Main Street, Bellshill, Lanarkshire.

United Free Church of Scotland

Bellshill: St Andrew's Church

Sunday Services: 11am, and 6:30pm (second Sunday of the month).
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study: Thursday 10:30am (Church) and 7:30pm (Manse).

St Andrew's Church, The Cross, Main Street, Bellshill. ML4 1AH

The Neilson Halls, Main Street, Bellshill. ML4 3DU

(All mail to be sent to the Manse)

Scottish Charity Number - SC016252

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Session Clerk: Andrew Brown

Roll-keeper: Andrew Brown

Safeguarding Officer: Ian Houston

Sunday School Superintendent: Mrs. Elizabeth Brown

Presbytery Elders: Andrew Brown and Ian Houston

Organist: Christopher Powell

The Committee of Management

Preses: The Moderator (*pro tem*)

Clerk: Vacant

Treasurer: Lex Crossan

Finance Convenor: Scott McMurray

Property Convenor: Vacant

First Aider: Mrs. Betty Houston

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St Andrew's Manse
Bellshill

10 February 2025

Dear Friends

We are well into 2025 now and it is now over three years since I was inducted as Minister of St Andrew's back in December. Life seemed to be very different then with all sorts of restrictions and recommendations pertaining to public health and perhaps some of you were not attending St Andrew's Church back then.

There have been a number of changes since then. We are fortunate that a number of building works has taken place on the church estate in this time. The roof and spire repairs thankfully revealed that there are no other structural issues at high level and the Fellowship Hall, vestry and vestibule. We have benefited as well from the new microphones and visual screens. There are some other works that are outlined elsewhere in the newsletter. We have also improved the governance of the church with the addition of extra Managers.

Sometimes in church life, we do spend a lot of time, effort and finances on church buildings. Buildings are however necessary for ministry and mission and we have found ourselves the curators of a significant and old set of buildings. However, being a Christian is more about buildings and the place of worship.

As we approach Communion on the first Sunday of March we are reminded in the hymn 'When I survey the wondrous cross' of the last two line: 'love so amazing, so divine, demands my life, soul, my all'. It reminds us that following Jesus is more than our church building. Many of our sisters and brothers in Christ are working through these issues with so many buildings closing, or congregations meeting in other premises. However, the question we should all ask ourselves is 'are we worshipping God through Jesus, or are we worshipping church and the traditions of religion?'

As we approach Easter, I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul who said 'But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.' (Philippians 3:7-11). As we come into a new season towards Easter, but perhaps in a new season of our church life, we should do well to consider this.

My question is: *Do you believe in the resurrection as a historical event, and have you also had that profound personal experience of spiritual resurrection?* Christianity refuses to be stuck in either category.

To be a Christian is not just to believe in a set of ideas. It is that, but it's much more. It is to say, "I count everything as loss or rubbish in comparison to my number one ambition, which is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his suffering." Paul is saying that if you understand the doctrine of the resurrection you don't just believe, you have a passion.

When I talk about having a passion for Christ, it might make you afraid that I mean you need to be a fanatic. Maybe you think, *I had a friend like that. All she did was talk about religion and the Bible and made everybody sick of it.* That's not what we're talking about when we talk about a passion for Christ.

A person with a passion for Christ is not necessarily always talking about Christ, but is looking at everything through Christ.

So how does a person with a passion for Christ deal with worry? You go to Jesus. You look at your concerns through the perspective of Christ. How do you deal with bitterness? You look at how Christ has forgiven you. How do you deal with fear? You take it to Jesus. How do you decide how much money to spend in a year on what items? You go to Jesus. You look at his teachings. You think about things through his values.

For the person with a passion for Christ, Christ is like your glasses. You're not necessarily always seeing Christ, but you're seeing everything through him.

Do you strain with all of your might to see things the way Christ sees them? Do you strain to please him in everything? Do you strain to understand everything through him? Do you have that passion, or do you just believe the propositions?

For the person with a passion for Christ, Christ is like your glasses. You're not necessarily always seeing Christ, but you're seeing everything through him.

Paul not only has a passion to know Christ; he says he wants to know the power of his resurrection. The difference between knowing Christ and knowing the power of his resurrection is the difference between knowing a person and resembling a person. It's the difference between knowing of Jesus and knowing Jesus and Lord and Saviour.

This helps us to think about moving beyond buildings. We need to grow in faith and discipleship. I remember in a previous charge inviting a lady to come to the midweek meeting, but she said to me: 'I have been reading the Bible much longer than you have been alive!' I said to her 'Well why don't you come and share your wisdom?' She never did.

Christian discipleship is about growing in our faith, and seeing others come to faith and Christian maturity. If you want the church to grow, then people need to come to saving faith in Jesus. I have outlined some questions to help us, and to help others.

These questions assume that the person you are discipling professes Christ and understands the gospel at least at an elementary level. If not, you should start there. These questions can be asked weekly, bi-weekly, or however often you meet. They are not meant to be exhaustive, but rather to serve as a guide.

1. Are you reading your Bible? What are you learning? Is there anything you don't understand? (Get on a Bible reading plan for accountability & consistency.)
2. How's your prayer life? Has God answered any of your prayers this week? Recently?
3. Where is God showing you sin in your life? Where do you need to grow? What are some temptations you're facing? What part of your old life do you feel is hardest to leave behind? What do you want to see changed? Let's pray for this right now.
4. Where has your walk with Christ been evident this week? For example, where have you seen victory over sin? Faith in the midst of trials?
5. Have you shared the gospel with anyone this week? Who are some people in your life you'd like to see saved? What are some ways to see this happen?
6. What's the most challenging thing in your life this week? Recently? Let's pray about it right now.
7. How are your relationships with others going? At work, in the home, on social media, in the community?

It is good to see the buildings and facilities improving. However, I have discerned over the last few years that what is holding us back is a lack of passion for the Lord Jesus Christ and His church, and His Kingdom. One of the issues that is of concern is that of serving two masters and often (but not always) show where our priorities lie is in the idolatry of sport. For those who love the Lord Jesus Christ and seek to worship and serve Him in the local, their place on the Lord's Day morning is in the public worship of God, not at the football terraces or other entertainment.

This may be a culture change to many, but this is what would be expected in every conservative evangelical church, especially amongst the Eldership and church leadership. Perhaps it is an elephant in the room in churches, especially in West Central Scotland. However, this is where Christian maturity and discipleship comes in. We are called to lead by example, whether we are in formal church leadership or not, and most importantly to follow the Lord's commandments.

Let us desire to seek the Lord, to serve Him and be disciplined by him that we may run our race for Him.

With every blessing,

Rev. Jason Lingiah

Minister and Moderator of the Kirk Session

Congregational Register

Admittance to Membership by transfer

Mr Henry Irvine (8 September)

Mrs Liz Irvine (8 September)



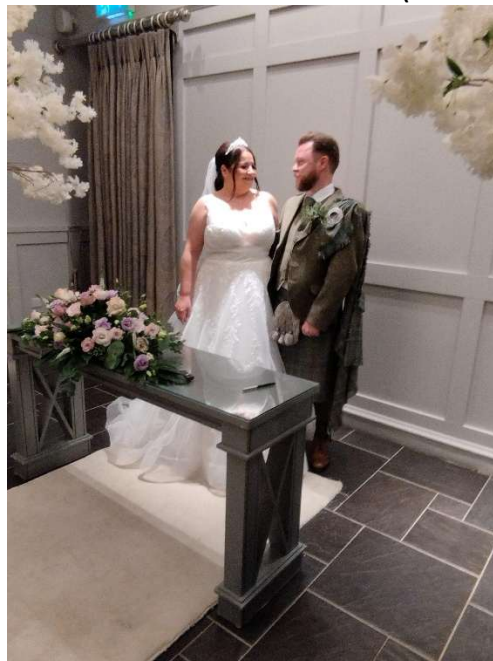
Removal by certificate

Mr David Provan (21 November)

Mrs Linda Provan (21 November)

Marriages

Miss Ruth Brown to Marc Swan (24 October)



Deaths

Betty Quate (4 September 2024)

Anita Henery (12 March 2025)

Communion

The Sacrament of Communion will be observed on – Sunday 2nd March at 11am, and on Sunday 2 June, Sunday 7 September and Sunday 30 November (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 Thursday morning at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall and 7:30pm in the Manse.

We sometimes have a guest speaker from outwith the congregation and we are currently studying John's Gospel.

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!

Upcoming visiting speakers (10:30am):

3 April: Mr Graeme Wetherill, Teen Challenge

10 April: Rev. Cal Morrison, Bellshill Baptist Church

15 May: Rev. Brian Ross, Minister of St Andrew's 1975-1979.

Pulpit Supply

Sunday 6 April – 11am: Rev. David Carmichael.
Abbeygreen Free Church of Scotland, Lesmahagow (retired)
Chairman, Scottish Reformed Conference.

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.

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.

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.

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 Andrew Brown or John Stewart.

A TV screen has been donated to the church and this has been installed in the Fellowship Hall and two screens have been installed in the main church auditorium to replace the projector and screen. This will be assisted by another screen to be mounted to the front of the balcony so that those on the chancel can see what is being displayed. This will also more flexibility in worship and for other events in the sanctuary.

Congregational Lunch

Lanarkshire Cancer Care was the beneficiary of a congregational lunch after public worship on Sunday 20th October and around £130 was raised for the charity. Neil Roy CBE also gave a talk on the work of the organisation.

Harvest Thanksgiving



On Sunday 6 October Major Jim Bryden came to speak to us about the work of the Bellshill Salvation Army Foodbank and his own life and ministry. The collection of toiletries and non-perishable food was gratefully received by the Salvation Army.

Upcoming events

Annual Business Meeting

The Annual Business Meeting of the congregation will take place on Wednesday 5 March at 7:30pm in the church. All are welcome to attend.

Gift Day, Teas, Spring Gifts

This will take place on Saturday 29th March from 11am-3pm. We will have teas and refreshments, a card making workshop and sale of spring gifts and cake and candy. 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.

Easter Services

Sunday 13 April at 6:30pm: Holy Week: Waiting

Friday 18 April at 7pm: Good Friday Service: Surveying the Wondrous Cross.

Sunday 20 April at 11am: Resurrection celebration.

Dykehead Amateur Flute Band in concert

Wednesday 30 April at 7:30pm. Tickets £5

VE-Day Commemoration Service

The service to mark the 80th anniversary of VE-Day will be held in the church on Sunday 11th May at 6:30pm.

New Scottish Hymn Bands in concert

Thursday 18th September at 7:30pm. Tickets £5

www.newscottishhymns.com

Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra St Andrew's Concert

Thursday 27 November at 7:30pm

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 15th November from 11am-3pm in the main Church Building. More details to follow.

The Gathering – Saturday 16 August

The Gathering replaced the previous 'Dunblane Day' and is the Denominational Day Conference. This year our keynote speaker is Dr. Mark Stirling, Director of the Chalmers Institute, lecturer at the Highland Theological College and former member Cornerstone United Free Church in St Andrew's, Fife.

I would encourage folks from our church to attend this 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.

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, rather than a place to seek God.

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.

Battle of Bothwell Bridge

The 345th anniversary of the Battle of Bothwell Bridge, will be marked by an afternoon service on Sunday 25th May at 3pm in the Church. 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.

Wishaw United Free Church, Kirk Road.

The Minister is Interim-Moderator at Wishaw, where Rev. Colin Mackenzie, a retired Baptist minister, serves on a part time appointment. Do remember in prayer the folks at Wishaw, and if you have connections over there looking for a church, it could be a good direction to point them to.



The Committee of Management

The last year has been one of relief with the completion of the roof and spire work with no extra issues having been found. The total cost of the work was £9,620, with around £7,700 being raised in the appeal.

The Fellowship Hall has been re-decorated and new lighting and a chair rail 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 vestibule has also been decorated, along with the vestry at a cost of £1,010. The lighting in the vestry, vestibule and kitchen require to be replaced due to the poor lighting and to meet current standards. The light costs have been met from a Community Grant from North Lanarkshire Council. The vestry carpet and blinds also require to be replaced.

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.

The recent storms have not caused any tree issues, however Greg Paterson, a Volunteer in the community has managed a number of trees in the grounds and we are grateful for his help. He will come back to prune the trees that overlook the 'beer garden' as there are potentially a liability. There has been storm damage to the Nelson halls which has cost £600 to repair. The Bumblebee Nursery have also volunteer to undertake some other repairs as well as ongoing general upgrades that we are grateful for.

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. Scott McMurray has been pursuing a number of avenues for grant funding for the church. The offering stands in the church have come from Paterson United Free Church in Stonehouse, along with some kitchen ware.

I am hoping that we can add to the number of Managers to help with this work. Scott McMurray and Liz Irvine have been co-opted as Managers. 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 extra work mentioned above (as well as the visual installation in the church) has largely been funded through restricted donations and grants, largely coming from folk outside the congregation as far as Northern Ireland! The bottom line however is that the income does not meet the running costs of the church. In 2024, we had a c. £25,300 deficit, even with

the grants and donations for the roof. However the basic costs of stipend, heating, lighting, insurance and target mean that we are running out of money quite fast. Although we will now receive an additional £6,000 per annum from the nursery, we still need to increase on general fund income to pay for the basic costs of running the church. **At this rate, we will run out of money by the end of 2027. Although finances have been positive in the first quarter of 2025, we cannot be complacent as based on the trajectory, we will have to enter a continued vacancy.**

Again as said in the last magazine, our giving is to be what is sacrificial, and not what is spare. I would urge all members to consider reviewing the sacrificial giving of time, talents and in particular finances towards the work of the church. As explained in the presentation last year, it would only take each member to increase their giving slightly for us to have a balanced budget for general expenditure. Giving also comes from making disciples of others and inviting people to church and social and faith activities that the Social Committee runs. Please give this matter your utmost prayerful and practical consideration and do let me know if you have any questions, or indeed ideas.

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

Mrs Betty Quate



A Coatbridge girl, she married in St Andrew's 29 March 1963 when Rev. Allan Macpherson was the Minister. Betty was an active member of the Girl Guides and she was a patrol leader and was in the colour party carrying the Union Flag for a number of years. She also attended the various Guide camps including Rothsay and Belfast. Betty was also a regular attender of St Andrew's Church and was involved in the life the church. We remember David especially in this season.

Mrs Anita Henery



We were all shocked to learn of the sudden passing of Anita this month, just short of her 71st birthday. Anita had been coming to St Andrew's Church for 53 years, having been introduced by Mary McGibbon when they both lived in the same 'stair'. Anita was the last surviving serving Elder who was ordained in what was St Andrew's Church of Scotland, indeed, she was the longest serving, but the youngest Elder at the time of her passing. Anita also served as Clerk to the Committee of Management and was involved in a huge number of activities in the church.

Anita was brought up in Sevenoaks, Kent, where she took to her school education and was a high achiever. She excelled at swimming and the cadets, where she played the big drum in the band. She moved to Scotland with her family and she married Stuart, which kept her in Bellshill. We remember Colin and Eveyln, Chloe, Craig, Robert and Ian at this time.

Anita was a lady who knew what she thought, and what she liked, and also what she didn't! However, she was always a lady, who had a lot of wisdom from life and church experience to offer, with a good sense of humour, which I appreciated in my time as Minister.

Knit and Knatter

Last year we made a total of £740 which we gave to Lanarkshire Cancer Care Trust which we are going to support every year. We had a lovely letter of thanks from them which we really appreciated. I'd like to thank Mary, Elizabeth, Annabelle Tina, Liz, and Janet for their continued support throughout the year. We now have a new member Betty who we hope will enjoy joining our wee group. Thanks also to Church members for buying goods and supporting us. We have a few surprises lined up for this year so watch this space

General Assembly of the United Free Church of Scotland



The Moderator designate of the 2025 General Assembly will be the Rev. Martin Keane BA BD, Minister of St Ninians United Free Church since 2001, south of Stirling city centre. Mr Keane is the Senior Principal Clerk of the General Assembly and was Moderator in 2009. Do remember him and Margaret and the children in prayer.

The General Assembly meets from 4-6 June in Perth.

Life Explored

Life Explored offers the opportunity to consider questions that help us understand our search for fulfilment, and Jesus's offer of life in all its fullness.

Six original stories exploring our longing for more

The seven interactive sessions centre around a collection of silent films, featuring people from across the world, which help us uncover what we are really living for and how God can meet our deepest desires for happiness.

Each session focuses on a different way we try to find said happiness, and asks whether it brings the satisfaction we long for.

The series starts with an introduction, then each session includes:

- a silent film
- a talk
- a Bible passage to study.

Please contact The Minister if you would like to attend, either online or in person, dates and times are flexible. We aim to start in May 2025. Perhaps you can invite a non-Christian friend to come with you. It is intended to run the course after Easter at dates and times to suit participants. <https://www.christianityexplored.org/courses/life-explored/>

Vision, values and beliefs.

In January, the Kirk Session reviewed the mission and values and beliefs of the church to summarise what kind of church we are and what we want to be. We hope that this will be helpful for us to focus our activities as a church.

St Andrew's United Free Church of Scotland A Reformed, evangelical, Presbyterian Church.

Seeking to glorify God and make known His love in Jesus Christ in Lanarkshire.

Mission

Our mission is, by the grace of God, to help people of all ages to come to repentance and faith and become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour alone.

Vision

Our vision is, by the grace of God, to be a welcoming community of Christ's people of all ages, which:

is increasingly characterised by love for God, and love and concern for others;
is committed to the historic Christian gospel as revealed in the Bible;
is relevant to people of this time and place.

Living the Faith

St Andrew's Church is a place to know others, and be known. The Christian life is not meant to be lived alone, and church means more than just a Sunday gathering. In order to fulfil the Bible's call to be a family, we are committed to fostering deep community where diverse people are united together. We foster people who have come to faith and worship regularly to come to a profession of faith and membership of the congregation and become a communicant member and have the privileges of coming to the Lord's Table.

We aim to live out our Mission and Vision as a family of God's people by being:

- A Worshipping Community: where the public worship of God on the Lord's Day and during the week is how we formally meet together for worship and praise to learn from an expository pulpit ministry.
- A Covenant Community: where our relationships are rooted in the promises of God by living faithfully toward him and toward one another and to give a fitting proportion of our time, talents and money for the work of the Gospel in the local church.
- An Intergenerational Community: where adults intentionally take the lead to engage with, encourage and nurture younger members to maturity in Christ.
- An Outward looking Community: where we want the blessings of God that belong to us in the gospel to become blessings for others beyond the bounds of our community.

Our beliefs

As a congregation of the United Free Church of Scotland, we believe that the Bible is the supreme authority over all we do, and that the Westminster Confession of Faith, along with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms set out what we understand the Bible teaches on key matters of Christian faith and practice.

THE BIBLE

It is originally given, without error, the fully inspired and infallible word of God and the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

THE TRINITY

The Godhead exists coequally and coeternally in three persons Father, Son and Holy Spirit and these three are one God, sovereign in creation, providence and redemption.

THE SAVIOUR

The Lord Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God and was born of the virgin Mary, was completely sinless, taught authoritatively, died as our substitution and atonement, was resurrected and ascended to heaven.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit has been given to guide believers into all truth and empower them to work the works of God and be His witnesses.

MANKIND

We believe in the universal sinfulness of mankind since the fall rendering them subject to God's judgement.

SALVATION

We believe in the necessity of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ leading to salvation – being pardoned and accepted as righteous in God's sight and becoming a child of God. This is by the grace of God and received by faith alone.

THE MINISTRY

We believe in the ministries God has set in His church including evangelists, pastors and teachers.

THE COMMISSION

The Gospel answers the needs of the whole man and believers are commissioned to preach the Gospel to the whole world.

St Andrew's Churchyard

As the ivy has been cleared from parts of the grounds we have uncovered Gravestones not seen for some time. A gravestone that has intrigued us is the one pictured which is at the right hand side of Church. The Inscription reads: *Erected by the Misses Jamieson in memory of their brother William Jamieson surgeon Bellshill who died on 25th day of June 1858 aged 54.* His death certificate shows he died at home at Thornville Cottage, which according to census of 1851 was on Edinburgh Road east of Bellshill, a sale notice for the house from July 1858 informs us that Holytown Railway Station of the Caledonian Railway is within 10 minutes walk of the cottage , the census form also notes that he had Graduated from Glasgow University on 18th March 1822 and his profession as General practitioner. I have also found that William Jamieson was one of the earliest members of Lodge Woodhall St. John's no. 305 Masonic Lodge being the 47th name on the roll in 1823 the year of their foundation and was Worshipful Master in 1827. The Death Certificate lists his father as John Jamieson Minister (deceased). Rev. John Jamieson is commemorated in a tablet set in the wall of the Church at side of boilerhouse which reads: *Erected by the members of Bellshill Relief Congregation to the memory of their late Worthy Pastor who died Feb. 16th 1832 in 56th year of his age and the 33rd of his ministry. The memory of the just is blessed.* We hope around March to meet every Wednesday and continue to tidy up and revive the grounds Anyone wishing to assist should contact Andrew Brown or Ian Houston.

Andrew Brown

St Andrew's Church Sunday School

We have had quite a busy time in Sunday School and we have now welcomed Harris and Lily who have been learning how to look up passages in the Bible and the difference between the Old and New Testaments. We hope that Harris and Lily will enjoy their time in Sunday School and will gain a better understanding of the word of God.

On Sunday 8th December we had an afternoon lunch then a visit to Hamilton Townhouse Theatre for the pantomime Mother Goose. This was enjoyed by the children and adults in attendance.



Elizabeth Brown

Meet our Organist: Christopher Powell



I was originally brought up in the Midlands of England but I have recently taken early retirement and relocated to Hamilton in South Lanarkshire. I studied for my degree (and post-graduate studies) at Cambridge and early in my varied career I was a qualified classroom teacher for 11 years (teaching Religious Studies and music).

I have over forty years of experience playing the organ, most recently in North Wales where I was working as the project manager to save an historic ancient church for the Church in Wales. I played regularly for the two years I was there, and was the local church's Sunday organist. I am very happy to play hymns and songs of all traditions, old and new. I am a Christian, brought up in the Anglican (Episcopal) tradition.

The team in Wales managed to raise the necessary money and save the ancient parish church (about half a million pounds), and the building has recently reopened as a centre of healing and well-being as is a resource for the whole community.

I have worked overseas for the church (Southern Africa) and for nearly 16 years was the CEO of a Christian Cancer and Parkinson's disease support charity based in the south of England.

I am an Associate of the National College of Music and Arts, London (since 1985) and I have played regularly in churches since my school days. Although I have semi-retired with a number of other interests, I am keen not to allow my organ playing just to fade away and I still enjoy being invited to play for church services.

Easter Scheme

The United Free Church of Scotland Easter Scheme will be in aid of Scripture Union's Special Education Needs facilities at Lendrick Muir. The proceeds from the 'tea money' in April will be in favour of this project.



LADIES' DAY 2025

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Wednesday 4th June
11.15 - 4.30pm

Salutation Hotel
Perth, PH2 8PH

MORNING SPEAKERS: KIRSTY & NAM - OMF

AFTERNOON SPEAKER: HEATHER HOLDSWORTH

MUSICAL ITEMS: REBECCA HARRISON

+ FAITH MISSION BOOK STALL

LUNCH AVAILABLE IN THE ADAMS RESTAURANT FOR £15.50
BOOK THROUGH CHURCH OFFICE



office@ufcos.org.uk | 0141 332 3435

WOMEN'S HOME & OVERSEAS COMMITTEE

UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



Tearfund

For the last few years, St Andrew's Church has supported Tearfund financially with a contribution of £20 per month.

Tearfund is an international Christian relief and development agency based in Teddington, UK. It currently works in around fifty countries, with a primary focus on supporting those in poverty and providing disaster relief for disadvantaged communities.

Tearfund offers this support regardless of race or religious affiliation. However, they fulfil the work by operating largely through local Christian churches and other Christian partner organisations around the world but aid others, but also to bring people to a knowledge of Jesus. Tearfund strives "to follow Jesus where the need is greatest, responding to crises and partnering with local churches and organisations to help people lift themselves out of poverty."