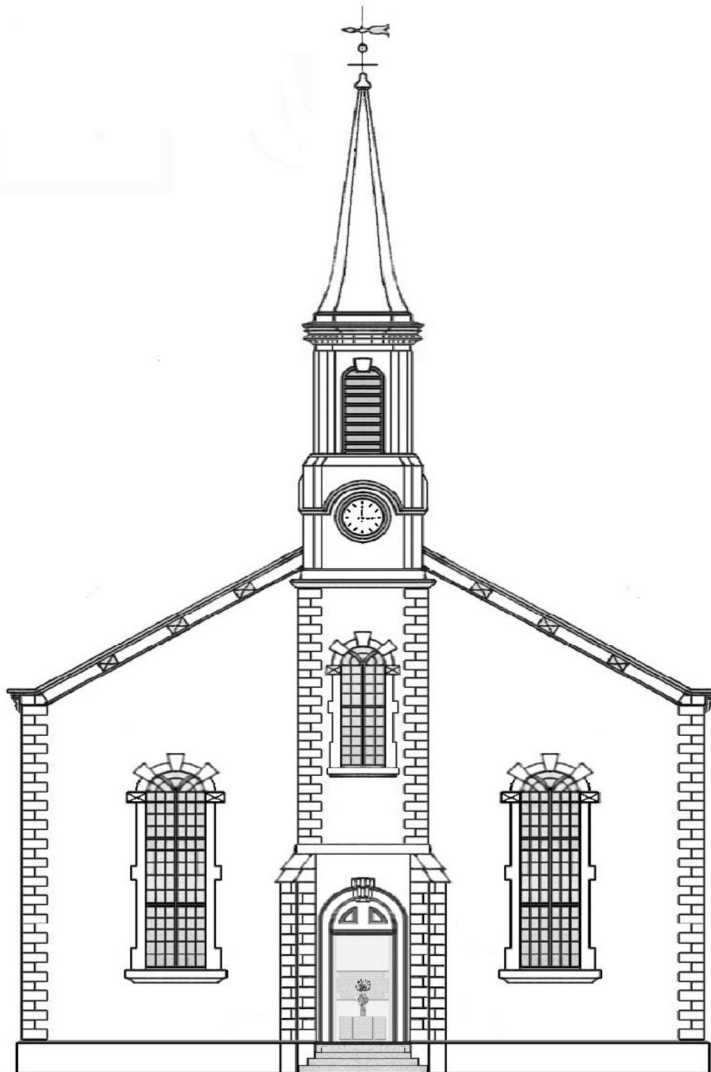


St. Andrew's United Free Church Bellshill



Magazine – June 2024



Minister - Rev. Jason Lingiah MA BD LLM FSAScot

Scottish Charity Number - SC016252

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

Tuesday welcome 10:30am-12noon

Cardmaking Group - 12 noon - 2.00pm

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Bible Study

Wednesday Evenings - 7.30 - 9.00 pm Manse

Thursday Mornings - 10.30 - 12 noon Church

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Friday

Friday Welcome 10:30am-12noon

Knit and Natter ~ 11.00am - 1.00pm

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Church Website

www.bellshillstandrewsufc.org.uk

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Facebook

Facebook @thechurchatthecrossbellshill

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Deadline

Items for the September 2024 issue of the magazine to be received by -
Sunday, 1st September, 2024.

Please email items to:-contact@bellshillstandrewsufc.org.uk

St Andrew's Manse

1st May 2024

Dear friends,

In every part of the world, everything is being reviewed. Whether it's processes in work that are being reviewed for efficiency, or the way education is delivered, or even at home where we may review our spending choices and priorities due to our income and the cost of items and services, we all review things. Sometimes in life we review our plans and commitments and interests due to the stages of life, family and health.

The church should always review its work. Reviewing is often used when one does not know what to do. For example, a Christian organisation I know of has probably come to the end of its useful life, but constantly has huge and relatively expensive reviews of her activities, mission and purpose and little seems to actually change.

What does actually stay the same in church and what changes. In Psalm 100, we are reminded that God's truth remains forever. In Colossians 1 we are reminded that Jesus has always existed and in Hebrews we are told that Jesus is the same 'yesterday, today and forever' (Hebrews 13:8).

A phrase that came about just after the second world war was 'Ecclesia semper reformandaest'. This means the church should always be reforming – according to the Word of God. This can be coupled with another Latin phrase 'nec tamen consumebatur'. The Latin used in the emblem created by George Mossman, the printer of the Principal Acts of the General Assembly back in 1691 for the Church of Scotland roughly translates into: Nec: it was not; tamen: however; consumebatur: it was consumed.

The wording refers to the Book of Exodus in the Bible when Moses encountered the burning bush. No matter how much it burned, it was never consumed by the flames. Scholars suggest that Mossman may have got the idea to use the Latin from France or Holland. It is suggested that the printer deliberately used the wording in its new context to celebrate the liberation that came following the bloodless Revolution of 1689 when the suffering of the Church involving the monarchy and the Covenanters was finally over.

The emblem also echoes the teachings of 16th century theologian and preacher John Calvin who saw the burning bush as representative of the people of God: the Church which suffers in any age or place but against which not even the gates of Hell can prevail. Perhaps it also echoes one of my favourite passages of Scripture in John 15 where Jesus said that he is the True Vine and we are the branches and if we abide in Jesus, we will thrive.

Therefore, the Scriptures, and church history shows that the message of the Christianity and the teachings of the faith stay the same, but perhaps the way it is presented changes in different times and cultures. Going back to the faith staying the same, often people say to me, 'surely you can't believe that, we have to move with the times.' In other words, they believe that the miracles and social teaching should change with culture. We have to affirm that faith remains the same, but culture changes over time, but culture does not change the church. Thinking about things that change with time, one simple thing would be this: in the past when Lanarkshire was more agricultural and people travelled further distances to church, the Sunday Morning Service would have been at 12noon. Yet as we moved into a more industrial age and now in a service industry age, the timings of worship have changed. Yet the Word should never change.

When I first entered the Ministry, I was placed on the General Assembly Committee of Ecumenical Relations. I remember at one such meeting, we met with representatives of another denomination. I remember that their Convenor said 'We all believe in mission, we just have different ways of expressing it.' Mission can be described in many ways, however a verse from the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:18 comes to mind: 'For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.'

The mission of the church, and indeed what it means to preach the Gospel, is to bring people into the knowledge and love of God through repentance and faith, then into a place of commitment within the local church and then to serve God, using the gifts that He has given us. If we are a Christian today, our job is to nurture, baptise and make disciples. Sadly, many in the Christian church in Scotland today have lost the vision of seeking the Holy Spirit in seeking to save those who are outside of Christ who are perishing for eternity.

We are in a time of transition in our church. Perhaps due to the short ministries and long ministerial vacancies since the start of the millennium we have lost our focus on being a healthy Gospel church and making disciples.

The Inspire vision in the last couple of Newsletters highlights the direction that we are travelling for the spiritual development of the church, as well as of the buildings. One of these changes that we need to make in our church culture is being less Minister reliant and seeking for spiritual leadership to come, as is the Biblical model, from the Kirk Session as a whole, and also in the Committee of Management that there would be spiritual outcomes in the temporal decisions that are taken. Finally, for all of us, we need to have confidence in the faith we profess to be able to share that with others.

With every blessing,

Rev. Jason Lingiah

Minister

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, or amongst friends and neighbours please do prayerfully consider inviting them to come to church and Sunday School.

Mrs Elizabeth Brown has agreed to be superintendent. We are looking for a few more Sunday School Volunteers 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 2 June at 11am, and on the Second Sunday in September, and the last Sunday in November in 2024 (please note the change of date).

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

Thanks to all who assisted with the Easter Services and delivered flyers to the community. There will be more of an organised approach to the delivery of leaflets for Christmas services (a long time away!), however it is good to be organised.

Conventicle to mark the Battle of Bothwell Bridge.

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

Website

Our website at www.bellshillstandrewsufc.org.uk 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 is being acquired due to a donation and this will be mounted on the wall of the Fellowship Hall and this will enhance our use of the Hall.

Student

Our Approved Local Preacher Student, or more colloquially, our student for the Readership, David McGill of the congregation of Shieldhall and Drumoyne in Govan has completed his time with us and we wish him well as he completes his studies.

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.

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 are currently studying themes from the book: 'Magnificent Obsession: Why Jesus is Great' by Rev. David Robertson. 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. There is always a range of home baking!

Easter eggs

Thanks to the congregation for the contribution of over 150 Easter Eggs for the Joseph Potts Appeal.



Public Lecture – The Truth about South Armagh

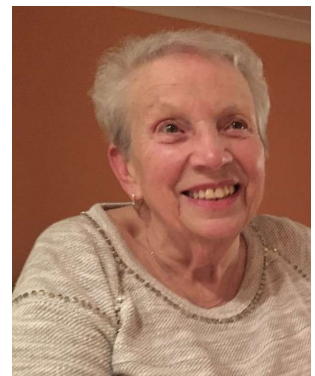
The lecture on 'The Truth about South Armagh' was given by Quincey Dougan. An academic from The Queen's University, Belfast, who spoke on the history, faith and culture of County Armagh and the challenges there. Just over thirty attended on Friday 5th April and around £100.00 was raised for the church.

Church Register Deaths

Marion Russell

We were all saddened and shocked to learn of the passing of Mrs Marion Russell a few weeks after the passing of her beloved husband Jim.

Marion had a busy life working, and bringing up Christine, Sheena and Norma as well as being an excellent servant of the church in the Women's Guild and Women's Association and helping with events.



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.

Our Minister is due to be appointed Convenor of the Christian Life and Mission Committee of the General Assembly, which is the largest and the most fast paced Committee of the denomination.

Pastoral assistants

As we grow as a congregation, we encounter folks of all ages and stages with different kinds of needs. Therefore, in order to assist the work of the Minister and Kirk Session we are looking for people to be pastoral assistants. These will be church members, male and female, with a degree of Christian experience who are prayerful and with servant heart to visit and meet with folks in the congregation. If you would like to suggest a name, or even to discern if God is calling you to this ministry, please speak to the Minister.

Dunblane Day – now The Gathering

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. There is something for all ages and stages of faith. Forms and details are available from the Session Clerk

Lily Competition

At the time of printing, demand for lily bulbs has surpassed expectation. A new batch has been ordered. If you would like to participate, please speak to Ian Houston. Packs of four lily bulbs are available for £5 and photographs should be sent to contact@bellshillstandrewsufc.org.uk by 12 July.

Upcoming Dates

Conventicle at the Mary Rae Well 26 May at 3pm

Music for Saxophone and Piano concert 31 May at 7pm with our own organist Ivan Varchenko. £10 entry at the door

A Service to Commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day – Sunday 9th June at 6:30pm

Coffee Morning, Open Day and Gift Day - Saturday 26th October 11am-2pm

Glasgow District 3- Reformation Service 28th October at 3pm

Remembrance Sunday – 10th November at 11:30am and 6:30pm

Christmas Fair - Friday 15th November - (Imperial Club)

Roof repairs

Igoe-Up Limited will begin work on the Church roof and spire on Thursday 23rd May at 10am. We have been grateful to have received £1,800 from the Bellshill Auld Boys Flute Band, £1,000 from Tunnocks and £500 from an anonymous donation, £350 from the Orange Institution, along with donations given by folk in the church for this purpose and by friends of the congregation. There is the possibility of using up to £2,000 from the Ferguson Bequest Fund pledge for this purpose. The total cost is estimated at £8,520. If you feel led to contribute, please do speak to Lex Crossan.



Billy Smart presenting
Orange Institution donations

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 spiritual dead.

Hatton Lea Nursing Home

We have now developed a relation 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.

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

Target and Financial Giving

The Target for 2024 for has been set at £6,397. This works out as £136.10 per member, at 47 members. We have usually asked for £60 per member towards Target, however, we would encourage members to contribute £90 per year.

With regards to giving in general, the church requires £60,000 per year for stipend, basic running costs and some enhancement costs per year. After taking into account donations from the Neilson Hall and Gift Aid, this would mean that we need £27,000 from members. This would work at £11 per member per week. For some of us, this may be a challenge and for others, they may be able to give more. In many ways, it would not take much for us to achieve a balanced budget, without taking account donations, grants and giving from adherents and attenders which help towards the special projects, such as the roof and IT upgrades for the church, as well as work on the Halls and Manse. It was noted by a number of funders in that our offerings per member is low and we were rejected from six grants for the roof on these grounds. Whatever our situation, Christ calls us to give sacrificially and this is something for us to give our prayerful consideration to.

The other side of the equation is that when you have more people coming to the church, and more people coming to faith in Jesus and belonging, the income naturally increases. The real challenge as Christians is to bring others to know the love of Jesus and the fellowship of His people in the church. Therefore, this is not just a call to consider our giving, but a call to consider inviting our friends and family to events and services at the church.

Anna Millar Update

Anna was admitted to Croftbank House, Nursing Home in Uddingston on 10th October 2023.

I visited her on 10th January 2024 to see how she was adapting to her new surroundings. The photo below shows how she is today.

She lives in her own world and doesn't communicate much with other residents. That included me, and I was left wondering if she really knew who I was?

Supporting her in our thoughts and prayers is better than visiting or sending a card. Remember her as she was.

Jim Wilson (Anna's Brother)



Anna Millar

Managers

For those who don't know me, hi! I'm Ruth and have been a Manager here at St Andrews for just over a year. In the second half of 2023 I took over from our previous bookkeeper. We had in the past paid an external bookkeeper £100 a month to prepare the monthly statements. As Managers we felt bringing this in house would give us a better understanding of where we are each month and save us £1200 per year! We also thought it would be good to give an update on where we are each quarter in the magazine.

Our position financially is one where we are experiencing a significant deficit each month. Part of this is offset by reserves and income from the Neilson Hall rental, however this is not a long term solution to have a balanced budget and being able to sustain a full time ministry.

The ladies of our Social Committee also ran a lovely Daffodil Tea which was a great success opening our church up to the community and raising £588. Along with selling the old chancel chairs and old chairs in the vestry and vestibule for £111 this gave us an additional income of £3932 for the month of March. We received twenty new red upholstered chairs from Newbattle Church of Scotland which cost £150 including delivery.

In January both the manse and church insurance were renewed costing a combined £4517.83, and we had Betty and Harry attend a first aid course at a cost of £140. In February we had the repairs to the Neilson Halls roof costing £950 (overdue bill from 2023) and in March we had the painting done in the

Fellowship hall costing £950, which has freshened up the area and looks lovely.

In the first three months of 2024 we paid £639.72 towards Target and only brought in £236.40 towards Target. Elsewhere in the magazine the importance of Target is laid out, however when we don't bring in enough for Target we have to take it from other donations or income.

I hope you have found this an interesting read and I look forward to bringing you more updates!

Ruth Brown

St Andrew's 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