



Bellshill and Bothwell Parish
Church of Scotland

Communion Sunday



See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me

Malachi 3:1

Dear Friends,

This Sunday, we will celebrate Communion together as we draw closer to Christmas. Today marks just **20 days** until Christmas Day and the joy it brings, as we remember our Saviour, the Christ Child, lying in a manger for the world.

Yet we also know that Christmas is not always a season of joy for everyone.

For many, this time of year can make the pain of missing loved ones feel even sharper. The empty chair at the table, the silence where laughter once filled the room, memories of smiles and embraces we can no longer share.

When the world around us insists that Christmas must be merry and bright, it can be hard to acknowledge sadness or grief.

This Saturday, we hold our **Blue Christmas** service, there is an open invitation to come just as we are, to recognise and honour the pain of loss, whether recent or carried over many years. If you would value a space to pause, reflect, remember, and be held in prayer, we would love to welcome you to Bothwell Church at **11:00am**.

In this time of joy we also carry with us towards the manger a wider grief for our world. We continue to see the devastation of war in **Gaza, Israel, Ukraine** and **Russia** filling our news. But beyond the headlines is also the suffering

in **Myanmar, Afghanistan, Syria, Nigeria**, and so many more places where fear and conflict rule daily life. Heartbreakingly, there are more active conflicts now than at any time since the Second World War.

And closer to home, many face the pain of illness or diagnosis, of broken relationships, of families strained or separated. Pain is a harsh reality of our world.

Yet, it is precisely into that world of pain that we turn our eyes to the manger, and the Christ Child laid there. Not just any child, but God's only Son, given so that we might know His love.

As we wait through Advent, God reminds us:

You are not forgotten.

You are not alone.

You ARE loved.

My prayer is that in these weeks ahead, no matter what we carry, joy or sorrow, peace or worry, that each of us may know the closeness of Christ, the one who entered our darkness to bring light and life everlasting. The one who came to show us that love that will never let us go for He will never let us go.

With every blessing

Revd. Iain

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Iain', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Click on the button to download the Order of Service for Sunday morning.

Click here

Sermon recap



Here is a brief recap from last weeks Sunday Sermon.

To watch the sermon (again) click [here](#).

Last Sunday we lit the first Advent candle and reminded ourselves to keep watch for Christ's coming.

We began Advent remembering that this is a season of expectation and preparation. We heard Jeremiah's promise of a righteous branch "The days are coming" a glimmer of hope in the midst of turmoil, and we heard Jesus' warning in Matthew 24 that no one knows the day or hour of his return.

Advent calls us not to date-setting or busy calendars but to a daily readiness, trusting God's faithfulness and keeping our eyes open for his work among us.

So this week let your Advent calendar or your to-do list become a reminder to do one small act of kindness each day, whether that's giving one present to someone in need, checking in on a neighbour, or pausing each evening to pray "Come, Lord Jesus." Don't let the routines of life blind you; be prepared, stay spiritually awake, and let Christ's light guide your days.

Head over to <https://pastors.ai/church/@bbcofs> to catch up on last weeks sermon and the previous weeks.

Giving Sunday

A Christmas Gift to the Church

*Each of you should use whatever gift
you have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God's grace
in its various forms.*

1 Peter 4:10



GIVING SUNDAY



This Sunday we are celebrating **Giving Sunday** and Roy, our Treasurer will take some time at the start of the service to explain more about it. We pray that it a chance for all of us to support the ongoing mission and ministry of Bellshill & Bothwell Parish Church.

This week the world celebrated Giving Tuesday. Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Over the last decade, this idea has grown into a global movement that inspires millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. We're continuing the spirit of Giving Tuesday with Giving Sunday here in the Church.

As we look toward Christmas, a season of generosity, thankfulness, and hope, we invite you to consider making a special one off gift to the church.

Every penny given, including any Gift Aid that can be claimed, will go directly to our Exceptional Roofing and Building Fund, supporting the essential work needed to care for our buildings going here in our

local community. Although we budget for work throughout the year there are always unforeseen circumstances and the sad reality is that we are running at a deficit, in part due to the cost of our wonderful buildings that we get to worship in.

Whether your gift is large or small, we thank you and if you can't give on Sunday we thank you for all that you already give. and appreciated. Together, our giving becomes a sign of our faith, our hope, and our commitment to the future of our church family.

Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and continued support.

Blue Christmas

Tomorrow at 11:00am



Christmas is often described as a season of joy, yet for many, it can also be a time of sadness, longing, and grief. It is a time when we remembered our loved ones as our pain often feels more present and visible.

Our Blue Christmas Service offers a quiet and gentle space to acknowledge those feelings. It is a time to come as we are to find comfort in the presence of God and one another.

 **Blue Christmas**

 **Bothwell Church**

🕒 Tomorrow at 11:00am

All are welcome.

New Website



Have you seen our new website yet? You can find the new site

at www.bbcofs.org.uk.

My thanks go to Nathan who has helped behind the scenes with planning, photography and technical help and to Jamie who has designed and built the new site.

We hope and pray that the site shows the rich history of the past while also looking forward and outwards into our community. There is information about upcoming events, room-hire, ministry details, and a warm welcome for anyone wanting to learn more about our church family.

As with anything new, there might be the odd typo or a link that needs a tweak. If you spot anything that looks a little off, please let us know, we'd really appreciate it! Have a wee look around: explore the pages, click through the new sections, and see what's new. Visit the new site today and enjoy exploring!

We are also looking for a small team of volunteers to help keep it updated with news, events, and weekly orders of service. No experience needed, full guidance and support will be provided. Please chat to Revd. Iain for more information

Evening services



I wanted to give you all an update regarding the evening worship services. After discussion with David and Sally, I have decided that we will pause the evening services for the month of January. January is typically a quieter time in the church calendar, and I am also hoping to take two Sundays' holiday during that month.

More importantly, I hope this pause will give us the opportunity to prayerfully reflect, review, and discern a clearer direction for the future. While we have tried a number of approaches, attendance has been declining rather than growing, and we are not yet connecting with the community in the way we had envisioned. I believe strongly that everything we do should be purposeful, fruitful, and mission-focused, not simply continued out of habit.

I recognise that this may be disappointing for some, but I am confident that taking this time to pause, pray, and plan will allow us to return with renewed energy and clearer focus.

If you have reflections, concerns, or creative ideas for shaping a

refreshed evening ministry, please do share them. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Christmas at BBCofS

SATURDAY 6TH

11:00 BLUE CHRISTMAS
*REMEMBERING THOSE WE HAVE
LOVED AND LOST*

SUNDAY 14TH

17:00 HOG ROAST
RESERVE A SPACE IN ADVANCE

19:00 9 LESSONS AND CAROLS
NO EVENING SERVICE IN WEST HALLS

FRIDAY 19TH

19:00 PHILHARMONIC CHOIR
Tickets available at the door

SUNDAY 21ST

NATIVITY SERVICE **10:30**
WEAR YOUR CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

CHRISTMAS EVE

MESSY FAMILY CHRISTMAS **12:00**
IN THE WEST HALLS

ALL AGE CHRISTINGLE **15:00**

CAROLS AND MINCE PIES **23:00**
WATCHNIGHT SERVICE **23:30**

CHRISTMAS DAY

CHRISTMAS SERVICE **11:00**
WEAR YOUR CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

**BOTHWELL CHURCH G71 8PQ
WEST HALLS ML4 3DN**

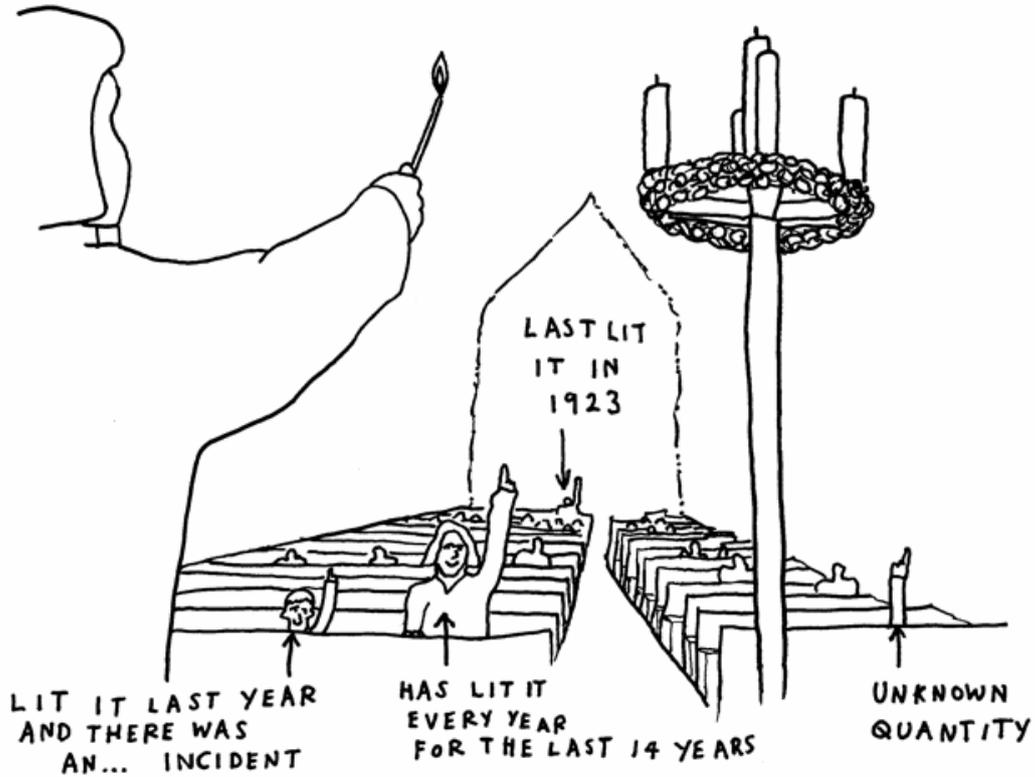
SC009819



A final giggle!?!....

ADVENT

DURING THE SUNDAYS IN ADVENT THE VICAR MUST CHOOSE SOMEONE TO LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE. IT IS ONE OF THE YEAR'S MOST DIFFICULT DECISIONS



CartoonChurch.com. On Twitter @davewalker, and on Facebook [CartoonChurch](https://www.facebook.com/CartoonChurch).

Please consider giving a financial gift today towards the work and the mission of the Church.

Donate

Do you like this newsletter? Share it!



Bellshill and Bothwell Parish Church



You received this email because you signed up on this newsletter. If you no longer wish to receive these emails please click on the unsubscribe button.

[Unsubscribe](#)

