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Bellshill and Bothwell Parish Church of Scotland

Sunday 8th November 2026

Making room



Making Room: Lessons from Our Past for the Next Hundred Years, Project 100

Almost one hundred years ago, the church in Bothwell went through a drastic redevelopment that created the space we worship in today. It was no easy task.

The hardest part of joining the old Quire and 'newer' church into one was the tower. Its west supporting wall had to be pierced with a wide, lofty arch, while the infilling of the old arch in its east wall was removed. Before any of this could happen, the weight of the tower, estimated at 800 tons, had to be lifted off its supporting walls and transferred onto a steel structure of great size and strength. It was a feat of remarkable skill by the architect, the masons, and the engineers alike. All of that is still carefully hidden from view, quietly holding the tower up above our heads every Sunday. At the same time, the gallery was taken down, and workers laid a new floor and kept the damp at bay.

A century earlier, it had became clear that the building which was there was no longer fit for purpose. It was simply too small for the community it served. Communion tokens show at least nine communion sittings, which probably required more than one minister. Not only at communion but at other times too, tents were pitched outside the church to hold the overflow. And so, between 1825 and 1833, the building we see today was raised to house the congregation, although it would have been laid out the opposite way round, with the pulpit just to the right of the steps as we come in.

Those who went before us were radical and brave. They saw the need in front of them and sacrificed what they had so that the gospel could be preached to the community of their day and beyond. It took prayer, vision and a great deal of hard work, but they did it. They didn't think about themselves only but they thought about those to come, us today.

Now, in 2026, we face our own moment. Do we follow their example and adapt our church building for the next hundred years? Or do we leave it as it is and, in doing so, find ourselves closing the door for the last time?

I must admit that I am excited about the changes ahead. This is a building that I believe can and should change, so everyone who comes through our doors can find peace within its walls, so that it can be used all day, everyday and not kept behind lock and key for one hour a week.

When God’s people rebuilt the temple in Jerusalem, those who remembered the old one feared the new could never measure up. Into that moment God spoke through the prophet Haggai:

> **“The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,” says the Lord Almighty. “And in this place I will grant peace,” declares the Lord Almighty.**
>
> **(Haggai 2:9)**

Some of the ways our community will use the building in the future may not look obviously missional at first glance, but we can be intentionally missional in our welcome and in how we care for people on the day. New uses of the building will also open up other sources of income, freeing us to be intentionally missional elsewhere in the life of our congregation and help to pay towards the upkeep and repairs of all of our buildings.

None of us likes change, and I understand that. But God’s promise through Haggai was not that the former house would be forgotten. It was that his glory would go with his people into what came next. Like the steel hidden in our tower, change done well holds up what has been handed on to us, so that it can stand firm for those who come after us. I am excited to see what God is calling us to do as we share his message, his gospel and his love for the next hundred years, and to see new faces walking through our doors.

So let us pray, plan and work together as they did, so that one day those who come after us might look back on 2026 and say of us what we say of them: they saw the need, they were brave, and they made room.

If you would like to be part of the working group to take the church forward can I ask you to please sign up via the Microsoft form link below.

Sign up here to be part of the Project 100 working group.

Sign up

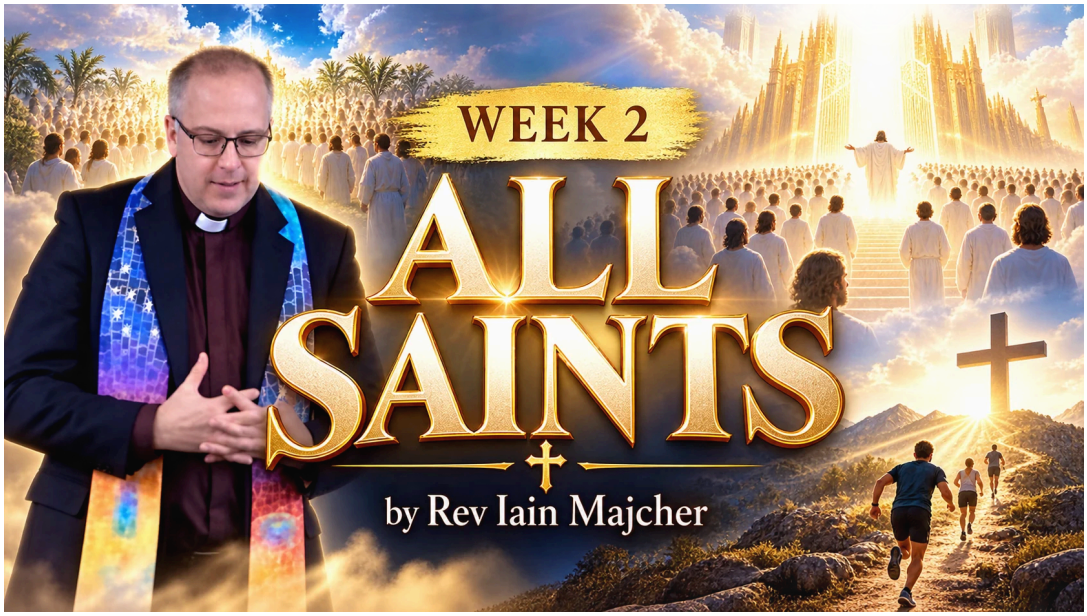
Grace and Peace to you,

A draft Order of Service

Please note that the Order of Service is currently only a draft and the final version will be posted on the church website towards the end of the week.

Download here

Sermon Recap



Sermon Summary: All Saints

Reading: Revelation 7:9-17; Hebrews 12:1-2

We are in week two of our sermon series, Held Together. This week we are taken to John's vision in Revelation 7 of a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, united in worship while retaining their differences. We see

that Christian unity is not uniformity, but being held together in Christ despite our differences.

We are all part of a great song in God's choir. The choir includes those who have come through ordeals, trials, and difficulies. It's a choir in which we sing together, weary and worn. But sometimes a song has an unresolved chord. It is here that we live, waiting for the dissonance of that chord to land and be resolved. And it does resolve. It resolves because of the one at the centre of the throne, Jesus Christ. He will wipe away every tear and we will worship together, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.

Christ has called us into his choir. Let us take our place in the choir and sing in our weariness and ordeals, with the chord still hanging. Not because we cannot hear how it ends, but because we can. Christ goes with us.

Sorry that there is no copy of the service this week due to being in the hall.

We are moving



As you will now be aware, the heating in our church in Bothwell is not working at the moment. While we work on a solution, we will be making some changes to where we gather for worship.

This Sunday, 8 November, is Remembrance Sunday. We will gather at the War Memorial in Bothwell at 10.45am, and afterwards return to the church for a shorter service, so that no one is sitting in the cold for too long. Please do wrap up warmly.

From Sunday 15 November, we will worship together in our West Halls in Bellshill while the work on the heating continues. The halls are warm and welcoming, and we would love you to join us there.

If getting to the West Halls would be difficult for you, please don't let that keep you away. Simply email office@bbcofs.org.uk and we will arrange a lift, with cars leaving from the church in Bothwell.

It was wonderful to see so many of you in the Church Centre last Sunday, so thank you. That spirit of togetherness means so much, and I hope we can carry it with us into the weeks ahead. Wherever we meet, we are one congregation, and the warmth of our fellowship matters far more than the building we are in.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. I look forward to seeing you there.

We all have 'What If?' moments of fear and uncertainty. Listen to what Revd. Iain shares about how Jesus speaks to us in the storm. Cick here to watch.





Saturday 7th November

Everyone young, old, and in between are most welcome. There are crafts, stories, songs, and tea! Please come and join in.

A Cracking Christmas



Join us on Sunday 13 December at 5pm for our Cracking Christmas meal! We will be enjoying a delicious roast pig, with tasty vegetarian options available too.

There is a recommended donation of £15 per person, but please sign up whether or not you are able to give. Everyone is welcome at our table. If you would like to bless someone else this Christmas, you can also buy a space for someone else and we will ensure the seat is filled.

Afterwards, why not stay on for our Nine Lessons and Carols service at 7pm, a wonderful way to begin the Christmas season together.

To book your place, please speak to Anne Laird.

It's Wednesday Waypoint time with Stewart! Click here to watch.


B SSED



We know, we know....it's not even November yet! Before anyone starts humming "Jingle Bells" at us, we promise we're not getting carried away. We're just planning ahead (and secretly a wee bit excited).

We're looking for one, two, or three artificial pre-lit Christmas trees to help decorate our church in Bothwell and our West Halls in Bellshill this Christmas. If you have a pret-lit tree that's in good condition, with lights that still work, and it's looking for a new home, we'd love to hear from you. It could be one you've upgraded, one that no longer fits your living room, or one that's been sitting in the loft for a few years.

Your gift will help make our buildings warm and welcoming for everyone who joins us across the Christmas season, from our carol service to our Christmas Day worship.

To donate, send us a message here or email office@bbcofs.org.uk and we'll arrange the details with you. Thank you for hleping us make Christmas shine!

Movember



Minister's Movember

This November I will be attempting to grow a moustache as part of Movember UK. Those of you who see me on a Sunday during the month of November may want to brace yourselves!

It may be a small and slightly silly act, but it is for a serious cause. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the UK, with around 1 in 8 men diagnosed in their lifetime. Movember also funds work in testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention, helping to stop men dying too young.

I wouldn't normally use the newsletter to share a personal fundraiser, but this cause is close to my heart, both through my own family and through the many men and families I walk alongside in my ministry. Too often, men put off talking about their health, or don't feel able to speak about it at all and suffer alone or in the privacy of their family. Church should be a place where those conversations can happen and I want to be part of that conversation as I grow my moustache.

If you would like to support me, you can donate through my fundraising page which is linked via the button below. Every donation counts, whether it's a few pennies or a few pounds. And if you can't give, please help by encouraging the men in your life to look after their health and to speak to their GP if anything doesn't seem right.

If you or someone you love is facing prostate cancer, or any health worry, please know you don't have to carry it alone. My door is always open, as is our pastoral care team.

Donate to Movember



Remembrance Sunday

On 8th November we'll be observing Remembrance Sunday. Join us in Bothwell at 10:45am for a service by the War Memorial before going to the church just after 11am for a service of remembrance.

Music @3pm Concerts

Bellshill & Bothwell Parish Church

Music @ 3pm Concerts

A series of light musical interludes…



Matt Edwards - A Night at the Musicals
Organ - Director of Music, Bothwell Parish Church

~~12th July: Rachel & Holli – Fiddle & Accordi~~
~~Traditional Scottish Music~~

~~9th August: Harp Choir~~
~~Come and Relax for an Hour of Beautiful Music~~

~~13th September: Music for the Soul*~~
~~Music for Piano, Cello, Violin and Clarinet~~

~~11th October: Aviatta Ladies Choir~~
~~Directed by Janet Young~~

8th November: Pianorama
Bringing the Piano to Life with Four Hands



6th December: A Christmas Quartet
Festive Music from a String Quartet

Second Sundays at 3.00pm

Entry is FREE

Retiring Collection - All proceeds to Church Funds*

www.bbcofs.org.uk

*Proceeds of the September Concert will be given to a charity nominated by the performers

Registered Charity: SC009819



Saturday, 14th November 10am

Come along to the Narthex and purchase all of your favourite homemade bakes from our talented team of bakers.

GLASGOW HOSPITALS' CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Conductor: Alistair Digges

Featuring
The Glasgow Hospitals' Christmas Choir
The Glasgow Chamber Orchestra

With Guest Artists
Stephen Ashfield | Sally Magnusson
Bothwell Primary School Choir | right2dance

FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2026
7.30PM
GLASGOW ROYAL CONCERT HALL



More than a ticket
This concert supports Young Lives vs Cancer.
It's more than a ticket. It's a way of helping to make sure children and young people with cancer get the care and support they need this winter.

Adults £20 | Children (under 16) £5
Booking fees apply

Available from
https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/event/1/young-lives-vs-cancer-46th-christmas-concert
or scan the QR code
Box Office: 0141 353 8000

YOUNG LIVES vs CANCER
Scotland

Young Lives vs Cancer is an operating name of CLIC Sargent Cancer Care for Children. A registered charity in England and Wales (1107328) and in Scotland (SC039857). Also operating in Northern Ireland. Registered office: 4th Floor, Whitefriars, Lewins Mead, Bristol, BS1 2NT.

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Buy tickets here

Christmas 2026

There's room for you

Sundays 10.30am · Communion 6 Dec | **Wednesday Welcome** 2 & 16 Dec, 11am WEST HALLS

Sat 5 Blue Christmas 11am
A time to pause, remember and honour those we have lost

Sun 6 A Christmas Quartet 3pm

Sun 13 A crackling feast 5pm
Yule love it!
Tickets: office@bbcofs.org.uk

Carols by candlelight 7pm

Fri 18 Philharmonic Choir 7pm

Sun 20 Pop-up nativity 10.30am
Wear your Christmas jumper

Wed 23 Family film with snacks 2pm
WEST HALLS

Thu 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

WEST HALLS
Messy Church 12–2pm

BOTHWELL
Christingle service 3pm
Carols & refreshments 11pm
Watchnight service 11.30pm

Fri 25 Christmas Day 11am

Thu 31 Hogmanay ceilidh 8.30pm · Live music, dancing till late!
WEST HALLS £10, children £5 · Tickets: hogmanay@bbcofs.org.uk

BOTHWELL
Main Street, G71 8EX
All events unless tagged

WEST HALLS
Main Street, Bellshill
ML4 3DN

www.bbcofs.org.uk
Follow us @bbcofs
Charity No. SC009819



Buy your **Hogmanay** tickets! £10, £5 for children. Doors open at 20:30 at the West Halls, first dance at 21:00, last dance just before 01:00. Bring your own drinks (alcoholic or soft) and snacks, and bring your family and friends along for a night of fun as we dance our way into2027. Purchase tickets by emailing hogmanay@bbcofs.org.uk

Pass it on



Enjoying the Newsletters? Pass It On

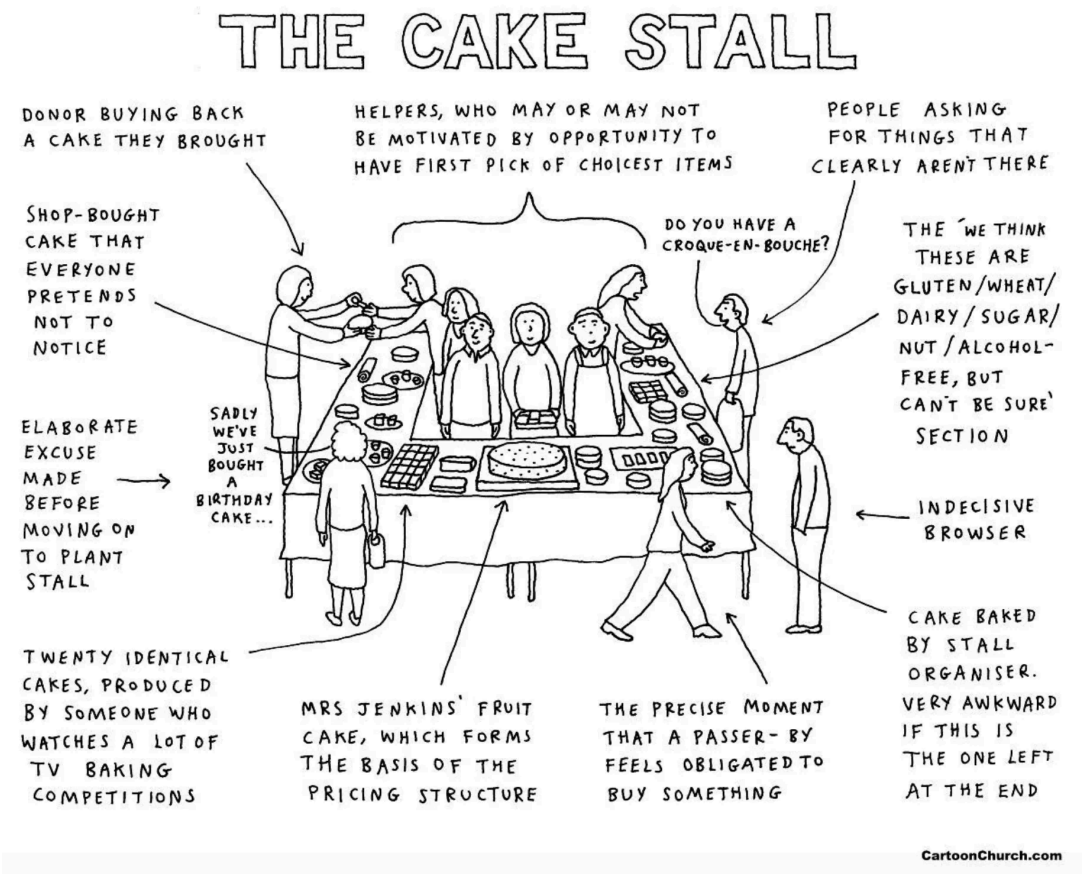
Do you enjoy receiving these emails? Is there someone in the congregation who cannot get online, or who has drifted out of the habit of coming along but who you still keep in touch with?

We are not able to run a delivery service, but you can. Why not print this email off, head round for a cup of tea, and catch up with them while you share it.

The newsletter is only ever a means to an end, of sharing news and the hope of Jesus Christ. A printed page through a letterbox is good. A printed page delivered by a friendly face at the door is far better and shows the love of Christ in action. Perhaps you cannot commit to every week, but could you manage it once a month? Start today.

Time to sign off

A final thought to leave you with



Bellshill and Bothwell Parish Church

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www.bbcofs.org.uk

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