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Bellshill and Bothwell Parish Church of Scotland

Sunday 15th November 2026

Remembering?

PROJECT 100

With God and our community, building for the next hundred years

BELLSHILL AND BOTHWELL PARISH CHURCH

Dear friends,

This week we have been remembering. Remembrance Sunday asks us not to forget what has gone before, because it is in forgetting that we repeat the mistakes of the past.

On Sunday we stood together at the War Memorial, alongside our neighbours from Grace Church and St Bride's and the children of our local primary schools, before worshipping together with friends and strangers in a packed church.

I was struck again by the prophet Isaiah's longing for a day when

> "neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).

That is our prayer too: that war will be something we no longer teach our children, and that peace will be what they inherit.

Remembrance also set me thinking about Project 100.

The work to adapt our church in Bothwell is exciting, and I am grateful for the energy and ideas already gathering around it. Yet I have a quiet fear that, in our discussions and in our planning, we may forget the sacrifices of those who came before us.

People have worshipped on the site of our church building for well over a thousand years. Every generation since has given something: those who built the first places of worship there, those who built the Quire in 1398, those who repaired and extended it, those who gave the windows we still gaze up at on a Sunday morning. The list goes on. None of them built only for themselves. They built for us.

That is why, as we look to adapt our church building, we have called it Project 100. The vision is to build a future not for today, nor even for tomorrow, but for the next hundred years. I do not believe there is any point in thinking only of the short term. We need to plan well beyond ourselves, so that our legacy is the courage we showed in adapting to a world that is shifting beneath our feet. Tradition still matters, and it matters a great deal. But what is tradition worth if we are no longer able to welcome people through our doors?

There is a verse in Ecclesiastes I keep returning to:

> “Do not say, ‘Why were the former days better than these?’ For it is not from wisdom that you ask this” (Ecclesiastes 7:10).

It is a gentle rebuke to all of us, and I include myself. If the church of our childhood was so wonderful, why are our pews not full today? Looking back through rose tinted glasses is easy. Looking back with honesty is harder, but it is the only kind of remembering that helps us move forward.

Honest remembering does two things at once. It gives thanks for what was good, and it names what no longer works. Those who went before us did not keep the church alive by standing still; they adapted, rebuilt and made room for the people of their own day. If we truly want to honour their sacrifice, we will not do it by preserving everything exactly as they left it, but by showing the same faith and the same courage they did.

So I want to invite you to be part of that. We are still looking for people to join the Project 100 working group, which will lead this exciting work. It is open to anyone, because we all have something to bring to the table, whether that is strong opinions, practical skills or simply a love for the place. You can sign up using the form via the button below.

We remember so that we do not forget. We look forward so that those who come after us will have something worth remembering too.

Grace and Peace to you,



Sign up here to be part of the Project 100 working

Sign up

group.

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: Learning Peace

Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 12:9-21

During the first World War, Allied bombers destroyed the city of Dresden. One of the buildings lost was Frauenkirche, the Church of Our Lady, which had stood for 200 years. For 45 years the rubble lay exactly where it had fallen, kept as a memorial. Then in 1994, rebuilding began. Wherever possible, original stones from the rubble were used. They didn't hide the damage or the past. They built it in. At the top of the dome sits a golden cross— a gift from Britain, made by Alan Smith, whose father flew one of

the bombers that destroyed Dresden. The son of a man who flew in the raids that destroyed the church made the cross that now stands on top of it.

On another cross on a hill outside of Jerusalem, Christ hung because of our sin, our division, our wars. Paul tells the Ephesians that it was on the cross that Christ broke down the dividing wall and put hostility to death. Peace isn't only something we learn. It's something that has already been made, and made at enormous cost. What we're learning is how to live in it. And we're not there yet. Hatred is still rising. Difference is still treated as a reason to exclude and to blame.

We are held together more than we want to believe, and more than we can see. Yet Isaiah reminds us that we were not made to be divided. We were made to be one. God wants us to see each other for who we are. Not enemies but neighbours.

God takes the ground where the worst happens and makes something grow.

As we remember those who never came home, let us walk together with Christ and with one another. Let us teach our children something other than war. Let us teach them the ways of peace, by the grace of the one who hung on the cross for all of humanity, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Sermon Link

Worship in the West Halls



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.

From **THIS 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.

One Question, One Minute



What does a minister actually do all week? Apart from Sunday, obviously. Follow Iain through one day, squeezed into 90 seconds. Not an ordinary day, because it turns out there isn't really such a thing. There's just a day. Click here to watch.

Conference



The Presbytery is arranging a conference that will be of particular interest to anyone thinking of joining the Project 100 working group. If you have the time, please consider

joining Revd Iain there.

One Step Beyond Conference

Saturday 21 November

9.30am – 2pm

Venue: Motherwell, Kirk at The Cross

What does ministry and mission in our local communities look like beyond the Presbytery mission plan? How can we play our part in the mission God calls us to in our community and what does that look like?

Join the Presbytery and Forth Valley of Clydesdale for One Step Beyond, a conference to help you develop mission relevant to the skills and abilities in your congregation and appropriate to your community. Inspirational workshops and discussion to help you develop mission relevant to the skills and abilities in your congregation.

Our keynote speaker for the day is the **Rev Dr Doug Gay** who will open our conference with an overview of contextual mission.

Delegates will then have the option to attend three out of four workshops on offer:

- **Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)** - Derek and Helen Pope unpack what this is and how it can enable your church to develop local mission.
- ***Taking SHAPE* -** David Cameron will consider how our Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality and Experiences can help shape our mission and develop our congregation.
- **Mission Audits -** Lyndsay Cameron helps us consider how a mission audit can enable us to better understand the needs of our local communities.
- **New Spaces -** Peter Wood will be exploring Fresh Expressions and Pioneering and how these new spaces can enable more effective mission in different contexts and people-groups.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Over lunch the Presbytery Staff Team will be available to chat about how the Presbytery can help resource churches for mission including creating stepping stones to faith and belonging.

We would encourage as many people as possible from the Presbytery to attend this conference and take the opportunity to learn from some great speakers and practitioners and would be a space where a few members of your church might wish to attend so that you can then unpack the themes with your congregation at a later time.

Free tickets are available here:

Click here

A Crackling Christmas



Join us on Sunday 13 December at 5pm for our Crackling 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.

Pray for our schools



Praying for our schools is so important as children spend so much time in school, it is only right that we pray for that time and God is already opening doors where previously doors were shut. Can you join the next Bellshill Local Ministry Prayer on Wed 18th at 7pm at Liberty Community Church? No need to sign up just head along please, sadly Revd. Iain can't make the next meeting.

Wednesday Waypoint



Why Bother? Catch up with Steward to find out. Click **here**



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

Baking Stall



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 5pm
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
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Charity No. SC009819

Hogmanay



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

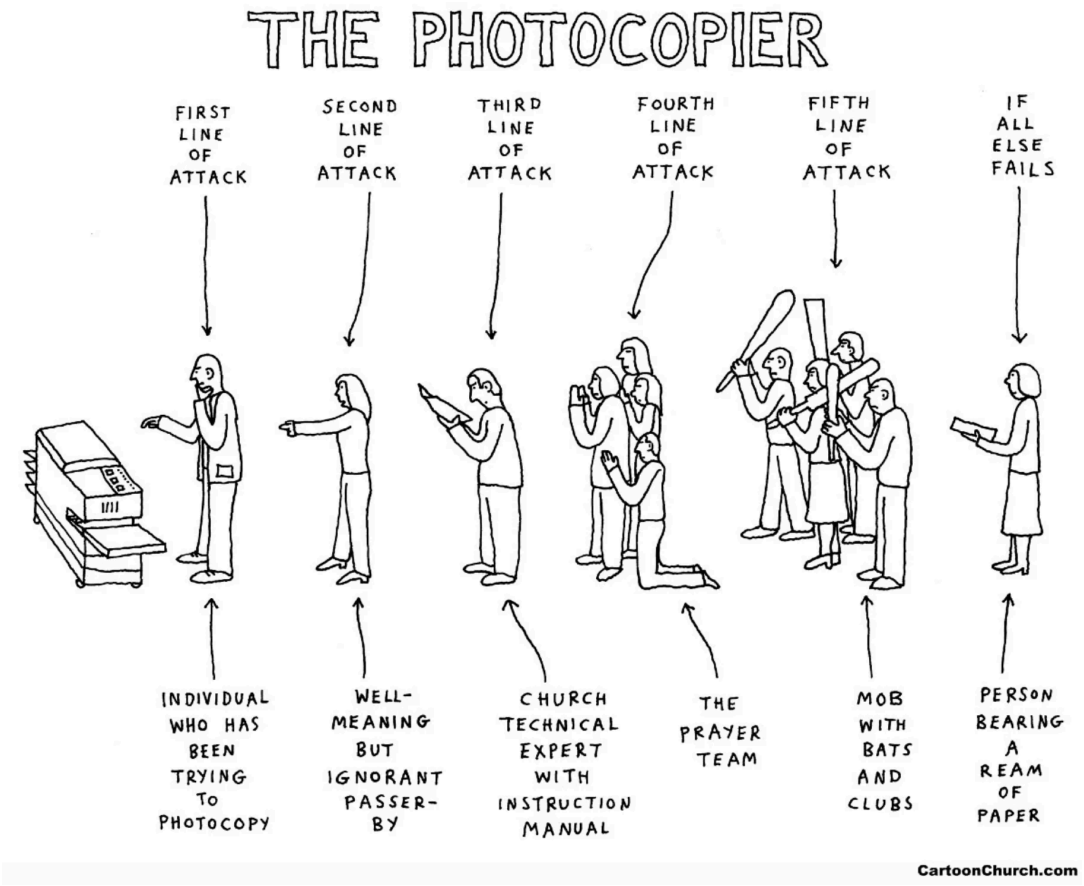
Do you enjoy receiving these emails? Is there someone in the congregation who cannot get online, or who has drifted out of the habit of coming along but who you still keep in touch with?

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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