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Bellshill and Bothwell Parish
Church of Scotland

Sunday 29th November 2026

Waiting for...?



Dear friends,

This Sunday is Advent Sunday, the start of a new year in the life of the Church. We light the first candle on the Advent wreath and begin four weeks of waiting.

Most of us aren't very good at waiting. We wait in queues, on hold on the phone, and for the bus that never seems to come. Usually it's just something to get through. Advent asks something different of us. It asks us to wait well, and to notice where our attention goes while we wait.

It's very easy for our waiting to turn inwards. December fills up quickly with lists, cards, presents and plans. As a church we have our own list too: buildings, finances, rotas and repairs. None of this is wrong, and much of it matters. But if we're not careful, it can become all we see, and a season meant to prepare us for Christ turns into a season of looking after ourselves.

John's Gospel shows us where else our focus could be. When Philip meets Jesus, the first thing he does is go and find his friend Nathanael. Nathanael isn't convinced:

> **"Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'"**
>
> (John 1:46, NRSV)

Notice what Philip does. He doesn't argue or wait until he has all the answers. He simply invites his friend, and goes with him. His attention isn't on himself, but on the person beside him.

That's the kind of waiting we are all invited to practise this Advent. As we wait for the coming of Christ, the light of the world, who are we looking out for? Who in our street, our family or our workplace might be waiting for something too, even if they couldn't put it into words?

In January we begin Alpha at our West Halls, on Monday evenings at 19:30 from 11 January, starting with a meal. Alpha is a place to explore life, faith and the big questions, and to ask anything at all. People are far more likely to come if someone invites them and offers to come along too. So this Advent, I want to ask you to do what Philip did. Think of one person, and say to them, "Come and see." You don't need to have all the answers yourself, you only need to be willing to walk alongside someone.

May this Advent be a time of waiting with our eyes lifted, our hearts open and our doors wide.

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: In Him All Things Hold Together

Reading: Colossians 1:15-20; Ephesians 4:1-6

This week, Rev Iain Majcher continued our journey through our *Held Together* series with a powerful message titled "In Him All Things Hold Together." We were reminded that Christ is at the centre of everything. He holds all things together, bringing us into unity, giving us purpose and reminding us that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. In a world that can often feel divided, uncertain and disconnected, how do we live out a faith that puts Jesus at the centre? Perhaps the reminder we all need is this: we don't have to hold everything together ourselves. In Him, all things hold together. Take a moment to catch up with Sunday's message and reflect on what it means for your journey of faith.

Sermon Link

Wednesday Waypoint



Tune in with Stewart as he talks about anger. Click here to watch.

Worship in the Church this Sunday



Thank you to everyone who joined us at our West Halls over the past two weeks. It has been a real blessing to see what is possible in a worship space as we think about how we will worship in our church in Bothwell in the years ahead.

When we return to the church in Bothwell this Sunday, most of the right-hand side (the piano side, as you face the communion table) will be closed. We are still waiting for the area affected by dry rot to be made safe, and because of the availability of the necessary trades, this can't happen until Monday at the earliest. Why not take the opportunity to sit somewhere different, and perhaps meet someone new?

Please also be aware that next week's work is only to make the area safe. The actual work to find the cause of the dry rot, and then to put it right, cannot take place until January and will once again cause disruption to the use of the Church building. We are grateful for your patience while this work is done.

One Question, One Minute



Has God stopped being faithful? Click here to watch.

Alpha: Who will you bring?



On Monday 11 January, we begin Alpha at our West Halls. It is an 11-week course on Monday evenings, starting at 19:30 with a meal, for anyone who wants to explore life, faith and the big questions. After we eat there is a short talk, followed by time to talk together in small groups. You can ask anything, and no question is too simple or too difficult.

We know that most people come to something like Alpha because somebody asked them, and they are much more likely to come if that person comes along too. So this

Christmas, we are asking you to think of one person. It might be a friend, a neighbour, a family member or someone from work. Invite them, and offer to come with them.

You do not need to have all the answers. You just need to say, "I'm going, why don't you come with me?" and then turn up alongside them.

To find out more, with no commitment, fill in our short form via the button below:

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the cooking. You do not need to commit to every week. If you can help, please let us know.

Sign up here

A Crackling Christmas



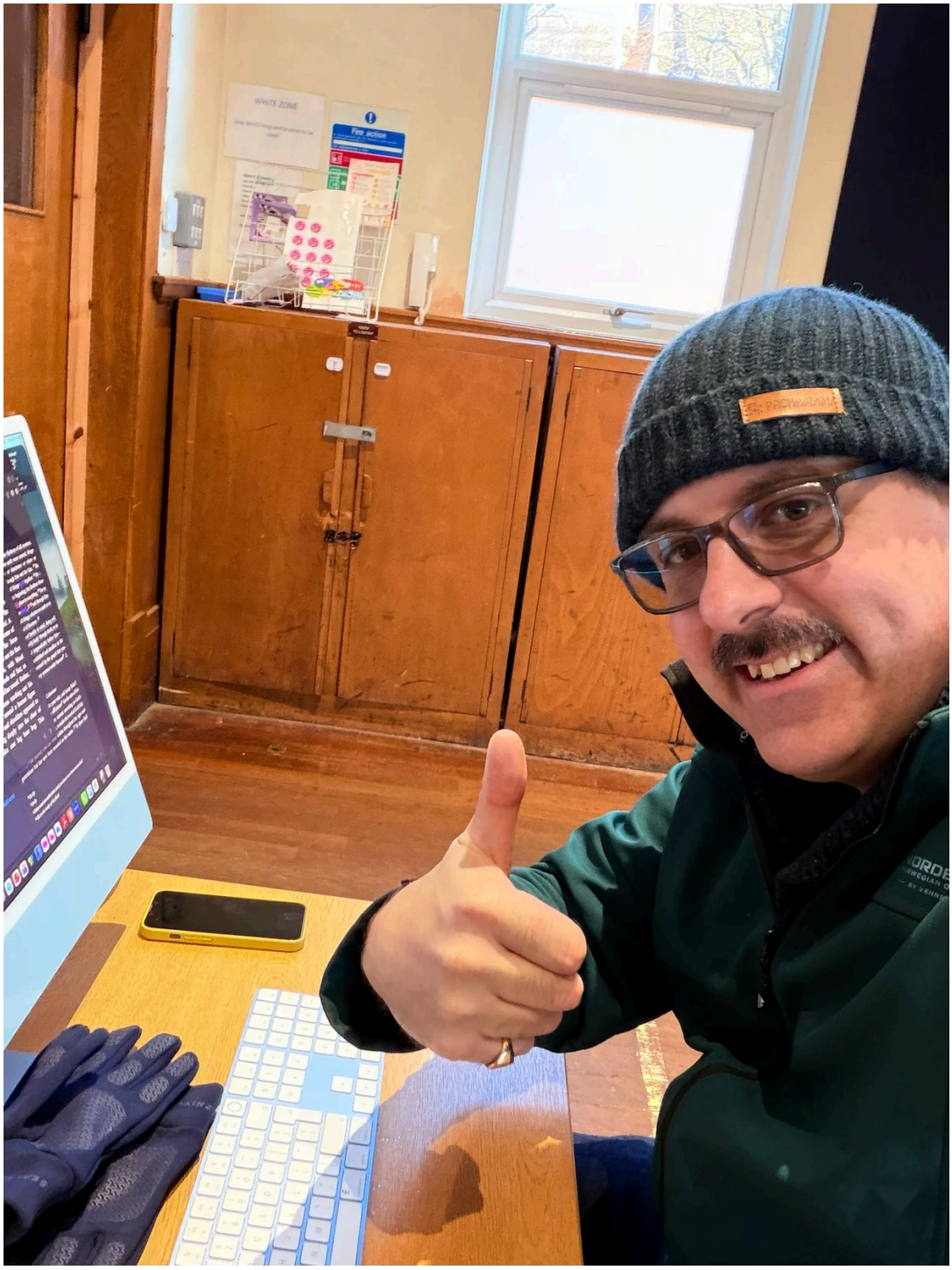
Join us on Sunday 13 December at 5pm for our Crackling Christmas meal! We will be enjoying a delicious roast pig, with tasty vegetarian options available too.

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.

The moustache is going....



It's the final countdown! Celeste can’t wait for it to go. Only a few days left of Movember, and the end of the moustache is in sight.

Thank you to everyone who has donated already. You have given far more than I could ever have imagined, thank you from the bottom of my heart for every gift, large and small.Behind the jokes about the moustache is something serious. Around 1 in 8 men in the UK will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime. Many are living with the effects of treatment, day in and day out. As a family, we know the reality of it.That is why this matters to me. The money raised through Movember funds research, better

treatment and support for men and their families. So, gentlemen: please don't ignore the signs, and don't put off that conversation with your GP.

If you are over 50, or over 45 with a family history of prostate cancer, ask your GP about your risk. And if you are worried about someone you love, encourage them to do the same.

If you would still like to give, the link is below. There's still time, please use the Facebook link

https://www.facebook.com/donate/971104092725000/?fundraiser_source=external_url

or directly via Movember:

https://movember.com/m/15533561?mc=60

Every donation makes a difference, and makes the itching worthwhile.

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
Follow us @bbcofs
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

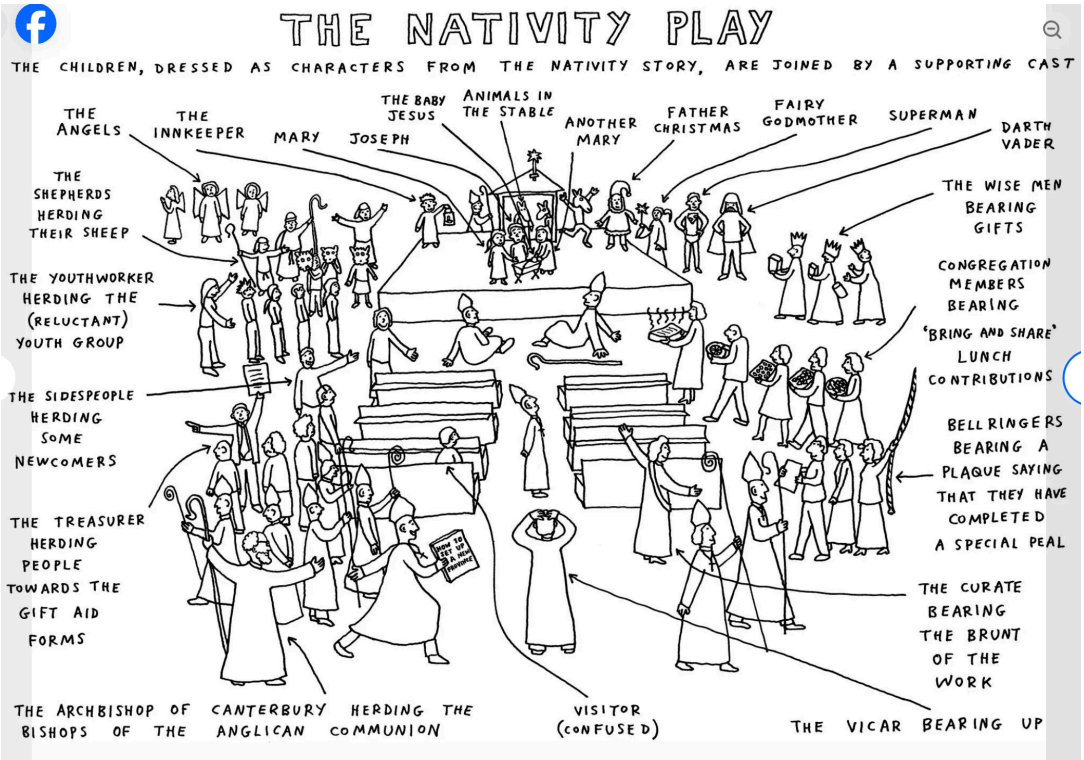
Do you enjoy receiving these emails? Is there someone in the congregation who cannot get online, or who has drifted out of the habit of coming along but who you still keep in touch with?

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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