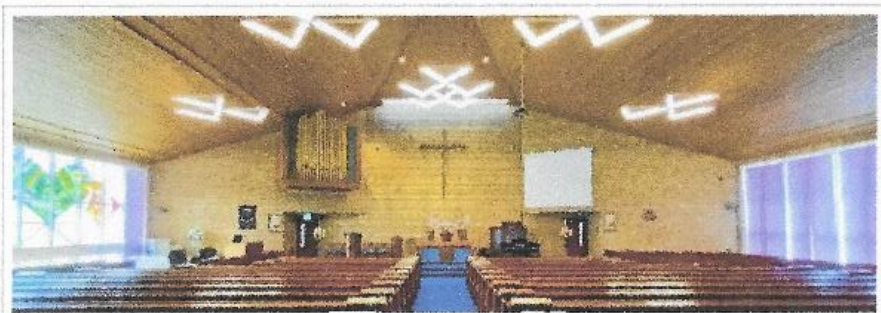


Bennochly Parish Church of Scotland

Newsletter

December 2022



We wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Our congregation now finds itself in a state of change, awaiting progress on the union with the other town centre churches.

As we understand it, two buildings are to be retained in the long run, with one as the main centre of worship and the second for church office and community activities. From January, joint services will take place at the end of each month, using the four churches in turn, until the arrangements for the union are in place.

In the meantime our services continue and the use of halls is back to normal. On-line viewing of services has proved popular for those who are unable to attend. (See notes overleaf)

The enclosed questionnaire is intended to help the Kirk Session communicate more effectively with our members.

Session Clerk: 200179

Church Office: 07483 162346

Website: www.bennochlyparishchurch.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity SC005628

DECEMBER 2022

From the Worship Team

We are facing a challenging few months ahead as we begin a time without our own minister.

During Covid and lockdown, people said so often how much they appreciated having the chance to have our services available on our website and Facebook. But, most of all, they also missed meeting on Sunday for worship and fellowship in person!

Well there will be a service every Sunday and tea and biscuits too!

The Worship Team will be working with a number of visiting leaders on Sunday mornings, and also providing services from our own resources.

We look forward to sharing our faith in words and music and hope to provide some continuity at this time. If anyone would like to join us, or has a suggestion for a theme for a service that we could explore, please let us know.



Along with this Newsletter you should receive, where appropriate, your Free Will Offering envelopes for 2023. If you have changed your method of giving or no longer require these please advise our Roll Keeper, Ena Thomson or your elder.

You will also find a questionnaire, which we hope you will find time to complete. This will be collected by your elder when completed. Thank you for your co-operation.

Harvest Zambia Appeal 2022

The final amount collected over two Sundays during our harvest appeal to support Jenny Featherstone's work in Zambia was £433.50 – a generous amount which was greatly appreciated and which will go a long way towards helping her 'alcohol and drug rehabilitation' project in Choma.

Service of Remembrance



This year our Remembrance service was led by the Worship Team. After joining with the nation for a 2 minute silence at 11am we heard the story of the National Arboretum, followed by some very interesting personal thoughts on the war years, inspired by family experiences. Our hymns included one written by our own Brian Fairful, and a collection was taken for Poppy Scotland, which raised a total of £250.80.

In addition the memorials in the sanctuary were decorated with borders of poppies, knitted and crocheted by ladies of the congregation. Thanks to these ladies, the Worship Team and to all who contributed to the Poppy Scotland Appeal.



Deaths

3.11.22

Mrs Emma Doig



Christmas Coffee Morning

On Saturday 19th November we held a Christmas Coffee morning with a difference in aid of the Salvation Army Christmas appeal. Instead of bringing baking to sell, members were asked to bring gifts of adult toiletries to complement the toys which we hope to receive at our toy service on 4th December, thus ensuring that the parents are not forgotten. A very generous number of gifts were received, and thanks must go to all who donated as well as to the ladies who organised the morning.



By the time you read this we will have already held our annual Toy Service on 4th December. This year the service was led by the Sunday School with some well known carols and readings. A member of the Salvation Army was present to receive our gifts, ready to be distributed to needy children in the district. Christmas jumpers were worn.



Smiling is infectious;
You catch it like flu
When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner;
And someone saw me grin,
When he smiled back I realised
I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about the smile;
Then realised its worth
A single smile like mine
Could travel round the earth

If you feel a smile begin;
Don't leave it undetected
Let's start an epidemic quick
And get the world infected

Author unknown



Winter Calendar

December 7	Brownies Christmas Fayre, 6.30-8pm
December 8	Olive Branch Christmas Lunch (ticket only)
December 24	Watchnight service at 7pm
December 25	Christmas Service in Bennoch, 11 am.
January 1 2023	Joint service in Abbotshall Church, 11am
January 8	Sunday School resumes
January 12	Olive Branch Café reopens



- * The Olive Branch Café will be closed on Thursdays, 22nd & 29th December and 5th January 2023.



Bennoch Carpet Bowling Group

Bennoch Church Carpet Bowling Group continue to meet most Mondays from 2-4pm, with a break for tea/coffee at 3pm. We have a full complement of ladies but will consider opening a waiting list for any male members of the congregation who might be interested. Contact Charlie Low who will advise. The carpets are laid at the start then uplifted at the close of play by Peter and Simon Chapman and we are very grateful for all their help.

Our last day of bowls this year will be 12th December and start of play in the New Year will be Monday 9th January 2023.



Sandra and Jim Marshall wish our friends and all members of the congregation a Very Happy Christmas and good wishes for 2023.

