

Connected  
Bathgate Parish Church  
Easter 2024



Scottish Charity No. SC007418

## **From the Editor**

Welcome to the very first edition of Bathgate Parish Church's quarterly magazine, '*Connected.*' What a fitting and symbolic choice of name! We are *connected* as a united church moving forward in faith, the updates and news items contained in the magazine keep us *connected* with parish life and its various organisations and, above all, we are each and every one of us *connected* by God's love for us.

Inside, you will find details of upcoming Easter services, important congregational updates, a message from our locum, David Wilkie, and news from parish organisations.

At the time of writing, (a dreary wet Sunday in March), we are ever so slowly emerging from the cold and dark of the bleak winter months into the very first signs of spring in the world around us. As such, we are filled with renewed hope and courage. As we journey through Lent, we look forward with great anticipation to the joyous season of Easter.

***“Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
lovingly, He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
for her Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.  
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.”***

Alison



## **Message from the Session Clerk**

Dear Friends –Members,

This is my first contribution to the new Parish Church newsletter and I am happy to be able to share some thoughts with you.

This very morning, I attended a meeting of the re-purposing group in the building of what was St John's Parish Church, I was reminded of the need to "rehome" with sensitivity so many items of religious and historical interest. We have been custodians of many items, important in the life of Church of Scotland and of Bathgate. It is our duty to preserve many items for the Parish Church worshipping congregations of the future.

Margaret Hardy, chair of the re-purposing team, and its members are to be applauded for such valuable ongoing work.

This is a poignant task which invokes many precious memories.

However, we have to embrace the future in a United Church and remember the former St John's Parish Church is just a building, as many people have said to me recently yes, but such an important part of our personal history and the history of Bathgate.

On a note of positivity, I was taken aback by the success of our first tea and coffee in February after worship. There was a buzz of conversation to be heard and lots of animated laughter. We need to get to know each other and encompass the lonely among us. This with the grace of God will happen in the months ahead.

With thanks to all those supporting me.

Wishing you a Happy Easter.

**Anne E. Noble**

**Session Clerk**

## **Locum's Easter Message**

On Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, I joined with others in attending the World Day of Prayer that was hosted this year by our friends at Boghall Parish Church.

The theme of this year's service was '*I Beg You...Bear With One Another in Love,*' inspired by Ephesians 4 vv 1-7.

The service had been prepared by a group of ecumenical Palestinian Christian women who have worked collectively, the last 4 years, to pray and reflect on the theme and now they are inviting all people around the world to join them in prayer and action.

This service, you will see, was prepared well before October 2023 and before the troubles in Gaza started.

The service was touching, made more so, with the ongoing crisis in Gaza.

Pray for peace in the Holy Land, the birthplace of Jesus our Saviour. Pray also for peace in Ukraine.

This Easter as we focus on Jesus taking on the sins of the world and giving his life that we could be reconciled with our Heavenly Father and find eternal life when Jesus was raised from the dead that first Easter Sunday. Death was conquered, the Devil defeated, and we have the promise of Eternal life in the Kingdom, sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus.

All this through God's love for the world, that He sent His only son into the world with Good News for us all. Repent and accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and you will receive eternal life.

All through God's grace, no amount of money, hard work or social standing will give us this peace.

***Continued...***

## **Locum's Easter Message Continued**

Jesus is the ONLY way to the Father.

This Easter Sunday sees our brothers and sisters at the former St John's Parish Church hold their final service.

The loss of their church building will be hard, many happy memories of family celebrations attached to the church will be treasured in all our hearts.

With the Parish Church, with members of both the former St John's and the former High, we will move forward following God's will.

The enlarged congregation will bring new spiritual gifts that will allow us, God's people, to continue, even expand, our calling to share the Good News to the folks in Bathgate.

I beg you... bear with one another in love.

A love for the Christian Church that as we move forward in faith, we move forward knowing Jesus is by our side and the Holy Spirit that God sent when Jesus returned to His Heavenly Throne will guide our each and every step we take.

Jesus died that we could have life in all its fullness.

Happy Easter

**David Wilkie (Locum)**

Be completely  
*Humble and Gentle;*  
*be Patient,*  
bearing with one another  
*in Love.*  
Ephesians 4:2

## **Communication Working Group**

The communication working group is responsible for looking at all aspects of how Bathgate Parish Church communicates both internally and with the wider community.

There are three current streams of communication that we are working on –

### ***The Church Magazine***

The group proposed to Session that the Church magazine should be produced quarterly. This allows the magazine to be targeted at certain times of the year so that information about events around the town can be shared. An edition in mid-March allows information about services and events over Easter to be shared. Similarly, an edition at the beginning of December allows arrangements for the Advent period to be shared. Further editions in June and September mark the end and beginning of the traditional sessions for organisations. While having only four editions a year gives bigger gaps than we may have been used to, it allows a real focus on articles. If there are more immediate issues to be shared, this can be done by intimations in church and by our on-line provision.

A competition was run at the end of February to choose the name for the new magazine and 'Connected' was chosen. This name was proposed by Emma, one of Crawford Morgan's granddaughters.

### ***The Church website***

It has taken a good few weeks, but the new Bathgate Parish Church website is now up and running. This has meant a change to the name to reflect the name for our new united church and also a change to the e-mail address.

***Continued...***

## **Communication Working Group Continued**

The general church e-mail address is now [info@bathgateparish.com](mailto:info@bathgateparish.com) and there is an e-mail for the Session Clerk at [sessionclerk@bathgateparish.com](mailto:sessionclerk@bathgateparish.com) Any e-mails to the old bathgatehigh.com emails will be forwarded to the new addresses. The church website remains fairly static as it balances visits from within the congregation and from outside. The church carries information about our worship, with links to the previous week's live stream, information about organisations, contact information and directions and a 'This week' column for up-to-date news. The worship resources page on the site is where we post reflective materials at Advent, Easter and for special events throughout the year. For purely practical reasons the Bathgate Parish Church website was developed from the Bathgate High Church website. Now that the website is up and running, Shona is collating new photographs of church life to bring the content more up to date.

### ***The Church Facebook Page***

This does a different job to the website as it is our social media face. It hosts the weekly livestream of our worship and allows for feedback through 'likes' and comments. Some groups, the Pre-School, for example, have their own Facebook pages alongside the main page. As with most social media, the Facebook page is updated on a day-to-day basis if necessary, so is a very effective 'Stop press' for up to date news and often carries pictures which are worth a thousand words!

With these different strands to the communication stream, we would encourage as many people as possible to become involved in contributing; either on a personal level or representing an organisation. We also need to develop a team approach to communications and anyone wishing to be involved should see Alison Paul (magazine), John Wood (website) or Shona Sanderson (Facebook). **jw**

## St John's Complex – Closing Service

It is with a huge mixture of emotions that Bathgate Parish Church prepares for the Easter Sunday Service on 31<sup>st</sup> March. This service will be held in the St John's buildings and marks the last service time that this complex will be used for regular Sunday worship. The closure of any church building is a time of great sadness, but for those for whom this was their spiritual home for years, or generations, the pain is even greater. While there will be sadness, the Session is keen that this service should be as much as possible a celebration of the life of St John's and its contribution to our community. A number of invitations have been sent out to those for whom St John's has been a special place, or who have made special contributions to the life of the church.

While this service marks a particular milestone, it is important to understand the context in which it sits. St John's *buildings* may close, but the church has not. The church has *united* and now forms part of Bathgate Parish Church. Presbytery was keen that the two Bathgate charges unite to form a new church with a more positive outlook for the future. Neither St John's nor the High Church has survived, but, together, we now are part of Bathgate Parish Church. With God's grace, we will not survive, but thrive.

**jw**





## **One more step along the ....**



Now, in case you hadn't noticed, the act of union is not the end of the line. As a new charge, Bathgate Parish Church, we now have the task of calling a minister. As with many processes within the Church of Scotland, this can be a long-drawn-out affair with a number of different steps –

### ***Confirmation of the electoral roll***

The congregation has to take votes in order to appoint the Nominating Committee and in calling the minister. It is very important, especially when two rolls are being amalgamated, that everyone who is eligible to vote is named on the electoral register so that they can be allowed to vote. People who are allowed to vote are; full communicant members, members on the Supplementary Roll and Adherents – people who are not members here or of any other church but are regular attenders who play an active role in church life. Intimations were read out in church to invite anyone who believes that they are an adherent, but is not currently listed as such, to apply to the Kirk Session to have their status confirmed. Similarly, people attending who are members of another church should arrange to transfer to Bathgate Parish Church so that they can take part in any voting.

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## **Appointment of the Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee is normally made up of an odd number of members – not necessarily Office Bearers – whose task is to undertake the formal steps in the calling of a minister. In the case of a Union, it is normal that there is a balance of members from the two original congregations. The tasks for the committee include the collation of the Parish Profile, a description of the life of our church and our visions for the future, preparing the advert, assessing applications and visiting and interviewing prospective candidates. The Nominating Committee then make a recommendation to the congregation who have the final vote on whether or not to call the sole nominee. The Nominating Committee are supported by a Vacancy Support Committee appointed by Presbytery, but who have no say in the recommendations or appointment. One or more members of the Vacancy Support Committee are due to meet with Session on 21<sup>st</sup> March to give advice on the processes involved.

We are keen that members with a vision for the future of the church and an idea of how they see a minister fitting with that vision would feel free to be a part of the Nominating Committee. With typical Church of Scotland convolutions, rather than volunteer for the Nominating Committee, you need to be proposed by another member. If you feel that there is someone that you would like to propose it is very important that you discuss this with them and have their consent for your proposal prior to the congregational meeting to form the Nominating Committee.

Whatever your part – big or small - in the process we would encourage everyone in the congregation to take a thoughtful and prayerful approach.

**jw**

## **The Boys' Brigade Annual Report**

With our numbers down at the end of 2022, we carried out a recruitment drive through the local schools' Facebook page and parents' blog pages. On starting back in September, we had 5 Anchor and 9 Junior Section boys and gained another 4 Junior Section boys later. These are supported with 2 officers, 1 parent helper and 1 student helper. As we will not have any boys of an age to move up to Company Section we will continue to operate with only Anchor and Junior Sections. The Company continues to be self-financing.

**Dave Robertson**

### **Bessie's Quote**

When the going gets tough,  
the tough get going.  
The not-so-tough scream for help!



## **Bathgate Parish Church Foodbank**

Firstly, and most importantly, can I say “*thank you*” to everyone who has donated to the Foodbank. We do appreciate the tins of soup, the packets of cereal and bottles of juice that are handed into the large hall on a Tuesday morning or left in the box in the church vestibule. These appear on a regular basis and are always a pleasant surprise to us. We also appreciate the gifts of money that comes to us via the offering plate, the church office, or personally. A few of you have also started giving regularly through a standing order at the bank - which can be gift aided. We are grateful for it all and to each and every one of you.

We continue to be busy each week, although some weeks we are particularly so. Perhaps this is due to when each client receives their money. They run out of money before they run out of week/ fortnight/ month. In the future, I would love to see budgeting classes alongside simple cookery classes. We are always reminding some Foodbank users about prioritising their needs.

We are also aware that there is very little job security. Clients have been delighted to leave us because they have managed to obtain a job, but their contract (if they get one), is only short term and they come back to us once more.

Our customers continue to be varied in age, family size and outlook. We have quiet ones and others whom we have to quieten; those who are certain of what they want and others who accept anything. All the Foodbank team know that they are stewards of the gifts of money and food you give us and we do our best to act fairly to each customer.

After all, we are all God’s creatures and everyone is unique.

**Christine Robertson**

**On behalf of the Foodbank**

## **Finance Matters**

This note provides information regarding new financial governance arrangements, the forthcoming annual report and accounts for 2023, the sort code and account number to be used for giving, Gift Aid and office contact details.

The Kirk Session recently agreed new governance arrangements for Bathgate Parish Church, which means that in future the Session will meet every two months. Five new working groups will also meet every two months, between Session meetings. One of these working groups is the Finance and Property Group, which held its first meeting on 15 February 2024. The group comprises 13 members and is chaired by Dave Robertson, Property Convener. The vice-chair is Ian McLean, and the clerk is Crawford Morgan.

A new Treasury Team has been formed, comprising Crawford Morgan, Treasurer, Ian McLean, Deputy Treasurer and Jean Greenock, Financial Administrator. David McComb, previously Treasurer of Bathgate St John's Church, is standing down. Many thanks to David for his five years of service in that role.

The Annual Report and Accounts for 2023 for both the previous High Church and St John's Church will be presented for approval by the congregation at the annual stated meeting, which is scheduled to take place on Sunday, 12 May 2024.

Bathgate Parish Church has two accounts with the Royal Bank of Scotland, Bathgate Branch. The sort code and account numbers are as follows: –

**General account - Sort code – 83-16-05 Account number - 00110297**

**Fabric account - Sort code – 83-16-05 Account number – 00149991**

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## **Finance Matters Continued**

The general account should be used for regular giving. **The fabric account should only be used if you wish a proportion of your giving to be earmarked for fabric purposes.**

These are the sort codes and account numbers previously used by Bathgate High Church. **Consequently, members of the former High Church do not need to amend the sort codes and account numbers for their giving, however, members of the former St John's Church will need to make amendments to have their giving credited to the new church account.**

A standing order form for general account giving is included with this newsletter. If you require a standing order form for fabric account giving, then please contact the church office. We encourage giving by standing order, which is now used by many members of the congregation. Anyone still wishing to donate by WFO envelopes, please contact the church office or any elder. Please state whether you are a gift aid donor or not.

If you pay income tax, the church can claim an extra 25p for each £1 of your giving from HM Government if you sign a gift aid form. We would encourage everyone who is able to do so to complete a gift aid form if you have not already completed one. Former High church members already signed up to claim gift aid do not need to sign again but, unfortunately, former St John's members are required to sign a new form.

Standing order forms and gift aid forms are available from the church office or can be collected in the church vestibule. Completed forms can be returned to the office or handed to any elder.

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## **Finance Matters Continued**

**The church office is open on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am until 12 noon and can be contacted on telephone number (01506) 650517.**

More volunteers are required to enable the office to open on a Thursday and also to form a reserve pool to cover for holidays, sickness or other appointments. Any member wishing to volunteer can visit the church office when open or contact the Treasury Team.

There is also a vacancy for the Gift Aid Convenor post. Any member wishing to volunteer can visit the church office when open or contact the Treasury Team.

The formation of our new church is a great opportunity for a fresh beginning, as we come together, seek to Call a Minister, and pray for new opportunities to do His will here in Bathgate. **This may be a good opportunity to prayerfully consider your level of giving, especially if you have not reviewed your giving for some time.**

**Crawford, Ian and Jean**

**The Treasury Team**

## **The Guild**

I hope you all have had a good festive break but here we are back again for our next session, which I hope you will enjoy.

We meet in the Lesser Hall on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30pm till 3:00pm and we usually have an interesting speaker then the ever-welcome cup of tea or coffee and biscuits and a good chat with each other. There is always room for more people, if you care to come along, you will be made most welcome.

Yours in His service,

**A Ferris (Secretary)**





## **Praise Be!**

I would just like to express how much I enjoy the music in church. We are so fortunate to have a talented group of musicians in our midst.

Alison is a great organist and skilled choir mistress. I love to hear the individual and group voices in the choir - singing such a varied and sometimes difficult selection of tunes and songs. It takes courage to stand up and sing to your peers and even more to sing solo.

What would do without the praise band? The service would not mean as much to me personally. Coming in the door on a Sunday, you know exactly where you are and who is playing. All kinds of tunes too! The quiet, reflective ones which gives me time and the urge to contemplate; and the beat of some songs that get my feet tapping and brings a grin to my face. Again, all the individuals are great musicians – but together they really make music!

I know it can't be easy to put all this together. It needs lots of practice and perseverance as well as the talent and right people - but it has happened in our church.

Well done all of you and many, many thanks.

**Christine Robertson**



## **Christian Aid Week 2024**

**12-18th May 2024**

Push back against poverty this Christian Aid Week.

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. Alini Nibogora, a determined mother in Burundi, was pushed to the brink of survival by poverty. She was a victim of abuse, spurned by her community and forced to flee. She lost almost everything. Separated from her children, she had to sleep on the streets. "People forgot I was human," she told us. "I don't want my children to have a painful life like mine."

But there is hope. Together we can push back against the inhumanity of extreme poverty.

Churches can help fund the training that enables a community like Alini's to form a **Village Saving and Loans Association [VSLA]** that will support people to grow food, buy medicines and improve their living conditions. Together, we can help ensure more people in Burundi get the skills and knowledge they need to fulfil their ambitions and hopes. We can help families plan for a better future that they'll build together.

Many fundraising events will, no doubt, be undertaken by individuals and church communities.

Under the umbrella of Bathgate Churches Together, Bathgate Parish Church will be holding a Coffee Morning **on Sat. 18th May 2024** from 10-12 to raise funds for CA. [This would normally be our monthly coffee morning.] Christian Aid envelopes will be available at the coffee morning and at church services.

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## **Christian Aid Week 2024 Continued**

**On 6th July 2024**, BCT will be taking a stall in the local market to raise funds for Christian Aid. This did well last year despite the rain and wind.

Kiltwalks will be taking place this year and the Edinburgh walk is on **15th September**. If you would like more information or wish to register, then phone 0131 220 1254 or email: [edinburgh@christian-aid.org](mailto:edinburgh@christian-aid.org)

To set up a JustGiving page for friends/family to make a donation then this can be done online. If there are any problems, phone the no. above or email the address given. [Last year Christian Aid Kiltwalkers raised over £24,000].

We can all make a difference to help others.

BCT: Bathgate Churches Together

CA: Christian Aid

**Liz Orr**



## **Working Groups**

One of the aspects of church life in the past few years is, unfortunately, a dwindling pool of people who are willing to take on areas of responsibility in congregational life. This leads to situations where too few people are doing too many tasks within church life.



But the lesson of the bed of nails is that the weight can be shared between many small points to lessen the pain!

Bathgate Parish Church would encourage everybody in the congregation to make a point (get it?) of doing a little something to be a part of a big adventure.

The Session has therefore approved that there will be a collection of different working groups within the church each with its own area of responsibility. It will be the job of these working groups to provide recommendations to Session to plot the way forward.

The Working Groups proposed are –

- Property and Finance
- Worship and Pastoral Care and Welcome
- Communication
- Mission and Outreach
- Nurture

**Continued...**

## **Working Groups Continued**

It is hoped that, in the future, the church can adopt a pattern of Session meetings and Working Group meetings in alternating months. The Groups are working with proposed remits at the moment and will take time to plan the way forward in the short, medium and long term.

Please consider prayerfully whether you feel able to get involved to support the development of the church through the working of one of these groups. **jw**

## **The Alto's Lament**

It's awkward for an alto when you're singing in the choir,  
The sopranos get the twiddly bits that people all admire.  
The basses boom like trombones and the tenors shout with glee –  
But the altos' part is on two notes – or, if you're lucky, three!

And when we sing an anthem and lift our hearts in praises,  
The men get all the juicy bits and telling little phrases.  
Of course, the trebles sing the tune; they always come off best.  
While the altos only get three notes – and twenty-two bars rest!

It doesn't matter what we sing, from hymn book or from psalter,  
The organist just looks at us – our voices start to falter:  
Too high, too low, too fast, too slow – you held that note too long!  
It doesn't matter what we do – it's certain to be wrong!

And when the final trumpet sounds and we are wafted higher,  
Sopranos, tenors, basses will all join the heavenly choir.  
While they sing 'Alleluia' to celestial flats and sharps.  
In a corner all the altos will be polishing their harps!

**Originally submitted by the late Betsy Millar, September 2006**

## **Bathgate Churches Together**

In January the churches joined in the services for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The materials were prepared by an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso and the theme chosen was "You shall love the Lord your God----and your neighbour as yourself: [based on the parable of the Good Samaritan].

There were three services during the week and despite the stormy weather at the first service, there was positive feedback from our gatherings. Following discussion, it was agreed that we may adapt the material in future to suit our own context.

The group met on 1st Feb. to plan ahead for Lent and Easter. Lent Study groups have been taking place in St Columba's Episcopal Church on a Tuesday afternoon, led by David Graham-Service and on a Thursday afternoon at the E.U.URC Church, led by Morag Crawford. These are worthwhile times of discussion, sharing our thoughts and experiences and reflecting on our faith as we journey through Lent.

The World Day of Prayer Service, held this year at Boghall Parish Church, was a blessing and very relevant as the material was written by the Women of Palestine. We are all horrified by the ongoing war in Israel and Gaza and the cost in terms of human loss and unimaginable suffering. We continue to pray for an end to this conflict and for peace and stability to be restored.

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## **Bathgate Churches Together Continued**

United Services will be taking place throughout Holy Week as follows:

- Palm Sunday**                      6:30pm at Boghall Parish Church
- Tuesday 26th March**            7pm Evensong at St Columba's Episcopal Church
- Maundy Thursday**              6:30pm Communion Service at the E.U.URC Church
- Good Friday**                      6:30pm at Bathgate Parish Church [former St John's Building]

**Easter Sunday** will be a joint service at the former St John's; the last Sunday Service of worship to be held in that beautiful sanctuary. Our prayers are with our brothers and sisters, for whom this will be a very sad and poignant day, but may we now help and encourage one another to feel loved and appreciated; to move forward in this new beginning as we work and witness together in Bathgate Parish Church.

We are grateful to the Guild for the opportunity we had to talk about Bathgate Churches Together at one of their February meetings; sharing memories of the past and hopes and vision for the present and future.

Details of Christian Aid Week can be found in a separate article.

**Liz Orr**



## **Thrift Shop**

At the completion of our last Thrift Shop, in Autumn 2023, we were still unaware as to which buildings would be retained and the staff decided that we would not retain any of the clothes and items.

Following the decision having been made, to retain the High Church buildings, we have decided to resume our normal Thrift Shops.

The next one is scheduled to operate in the Large Hall at the following date and times.

### **OPENING TIMES:**

**MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL – FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL 10.00am – 3.00pm**

**SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL 10.00am – 12.00 Noon**

We intend to set up on SATURDAY 30<sup>th</sup> and SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH from 1.30pm and clear up following the close of business on SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL.

We would obviously benefit from assistance in setting up and clearing up and for members to staff the shop throughout the week.

If you are available and willing to help, or require more details, please get in touch with Jean Logie.

Also, if you have items you wish to donate, again please contact Jean Logie to make arrangements for these to be delivered to the church or uplifted.

**Jean Logie**

**Tel: 077100 57034**



## **Church Flowers**

We are extremely grateful to members and friends who continue to generously gift flowers for church use despite the economic difficulties we all face at the present time.

The Flower Calendar is in the usual place in the outer vestibule, now extended till the end of June. Unfortunately, we still have to limit one name per week on the Calendar, only gifting just enough flowers for two arrangements. This is due to continuing illness, ongoing staff difficulties and shortage of drivers. Sadly, this has a knock-on effect on pastoral care visitation within our church family. We are hopeful, however, matters will improve by Autumn.

**“We are the dazzling daffodils,  
The very breath of Spring.  
We come to keep you company,  
Both joy and hope we bring.  
How dare you still be miserable!  
Note well our golden cheer.  
You know we herald sunny days  
To brighten up your year.”**

**Beth Anderson**



## **Choir Update March 2024**

Monday evening at choir practice is a joyful time of song, fellowship and fun as we rehearse our weekly anthems and prepare to lead the praise during Sunday worship.

We begin every practice with a prayerful reflection from Liz, followed by our customary scales and arpeggios to warm our voices. Then it is onto our anthem list, which is currently planned to Pentecost. The anthem list is a mixture of traditional choral praise items, contemporary hymns and a “Choir Choice” / “Music Group Choice” to encompass all the great ideas and depth of musical experiences of our church musicians/ singers. The musical beauty of each hymn is different, and together, we decide on solo verses, soprano/alto duets, 4-part harmony of verses, unison, as best fitting the individual hymn.

At the end of the practice, Agnes leads us in our closing prayer as we prepare to return home again.

We meet again on the Sunday morning at 10:30am, prior to morning worship, to sing through the hymns on the Order of Service.

Anyone wishing to join the Choir will be made most welcome. We meet at 6:30pm every Monday evening in the church office, where the acoustics are particularly good for choral singing!

**Alison**



## **A Final Thought**

Life is sweet because of our friends,  
And the things which in common we share;  
We want to live on, not because of ourselves,  
But because of the people who care;  
It's giving and doing for somebody else,  
On that all life's splendour depends,  
And all the joys of this wonderful world,  
Are found in the keeping of friends.



If, after Church, you wait awhile,  
Someone will greet you with a smile,  
But if you quickly rise and flee,  
Will all seem cold and stiff, maybe,  
The one beside you in the pew,  
Perhaps is just a stranger too,  
All here, like you, have fears and cares,  
All of us need each other's prayers.

**From Bessie's Australian friend.**

## **Church Magazine Donations**

### **January – March**

Beth Anderson	5:00
C Robertson	2.00
C Macfarlane	<u>15.00</u>
Total	<u>£22.00</u>

## **CONTACT INFORMATION CONTACT INFORMATION**

Interim Moderator: - Rev Nelu Balaj Church Office 01506 650517

Locum:- Mr David Wilkie

Session Clerks: - Mrs Anne Noble

Church Officer: - Mrs Jean Logie

***All other office bearers/ head of groups contact via Church Office***

***Phone 01506 650517 Email: - [info@bathgateparish.com](mailto:info@bathgateparish.com)***

Treasurer: - Mr Crawford Morgan

Property Convenor: - Mr Dave Robertson

Sunday School and Creche: - Mrs Carolyn McCusker

Safeguarding Officer: - Mrs Carolyn McCusker

Boys Brigade: - Mr Graeme Robertson

Girls Brigade :- Hazel Gallacher

Data Protection Officer:- Mrs Lorna Hutchens

Roll Convener:- Mrs Janette Peel

WFO Convener:- Mrs Anne Graham

Pre-School:- Mrs Karen Redmond

Flower Convener:- Miss Beth Anderson

Pastoral Care Team:- Miss Bessie Stein

Country Dancing:- Mrs Agnes Ferris

Food Bank:- Mrs Christine Robertson

***The Church Office is open Monday to Friday 10am-12noon (not  
Thursday)***