

# The Beacon

**St. John's - Renfield Church**

**Magazine No 378**

[www.sjrchurch.com](http://www.sjrchurch.com)

**2023**

**Feb**

**Mar**

**April**

**May**

**June**

**Sept**

**Oct**

**Nov**



# Minister's Letter

How do you feel as the calendar turns from August to September: 'Oh no, that's Summer over, and now it's the long road to Winter', or 'Oh good the [whatever organisation] will be starting up soon!?' Some people always see the negative side of life, the half-empty glass, the problems, the things that are not right. Others take a more positive view, the half-full glass, opportunities, the things that have gone well.

It is easy to look at the world around us and sometimes feel depressed, to feel that we hear nothing but 'bad news': crime, conflict, ill health, political problems, economic problems, environmental issues and so on. Traditionally it was said to be 'bad news' that sold newspapers, and the same outlook probably guides the editing of news stories conveyed by television and online



media. There is a lot of 'bad news' in the world, but there is also a lot of 'good news' too, for which we can give thanks. It may be worth swatting up on some of the 'good news' stories for the next time we are meeting up with

our gloomy friend or relation who is always full of moans and complaints!

As Christians we have an amazing 'good news' story, about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It doesn't magically cure every problem and ill in the world, but it helps us to see life and the world through a new perspective. Peace, Justice, Honesty and Truth will triumph. We are empowered to share the love of Jesus in practical ways wherever we go, wherever we see need. We are also assured

that he will always be with us, surrounding us with his love and care.

So, whatever the weather on 1 September, let's feel positive, and ready to get our sleeves rolled up and on with work, looking forward to the things God wants us to do.

**Rev. Ian Johnson**

## **PARISH RECORDS**

### **Joined by Certificate of Transfer**

Angus and Lorraine Cunningham of Dorchester Ave, Kelvindale

### **Funeral and Memorial Service**

*"Nothing can separate us from the love of God"*

Friend of the Church Lilia Moore's funeral was held Monday 21st August at Hurlet Crematorium, Barrhead

## **Welcome to a new Interim Moderator**

You may notice elsewhere in this edition of the Beacon that our Interim Moderator has changed from Rev Kleber Machado to Rev Audrey Jamieson.

We are still in negotiations over ministry allocation within our new Cluster and part of those discussions centres round conversations we are currently having with St Andrew's West, Kleber's church. In case there is a conflict of interest at some future date, Presbytery

decided that we should have an Interim Moderator from outside our Cluster and thus Kleber was thanked by Presbytery and discharged and Audrey was appointed. This took effect from 11<sup>th</sup> July, when Kleber returned from his study leave.

Rev Audrey Jamieson is the minister of Drumchapel St Mark's. Our current Cluster consists of ourselves, St Andrew's West, St George's Tron, St Rollox, Sandyford Henderson Memorial, Toryglen and Wallacewell.

Unfortunately, until ministry allocation is resolved, we cannot make any progress in the vacancy.

*Isobel Digges, Robin Hutchison,  
Pat McGill, Graham Moore and Jim Tassell*

## **Message from our Session Clerk**

Greetings! Although I have written in the Beacon before, I think this is the first time that I am writing in a personal capacity. Please forgive me that I do so now, but I would like to share with you the reasons why I am having to give up my role as Session Clerk for the second time in such a short space.

Since Roma died in February my two daughters who live in England, Clare and Helen, have been urging me to move closer to my elder daughter Clare and her family. They appreciate how welcome Roma and I were made here when we came up in 2016. At that time, we were responding to the urging of Roma's younger daughter Nicky to move to Glasgow, where she and her family had

settled permanently, and we agreed that with Roma in the very late stages of Parkinson's disease, which she had had for over thirty years, it would be good for Roma to be closer both to Nick and her family and to her other daughter, Catherine, who lives in Newcastle. I know that I am far from alone in having family scattered widely!

I believe that it is right for me now to go back to Buckinghamshire and I am hoping to buy a flat within a mile of Clare's home near Beaconsfield. While naturally I look forward to being close to that branch of my family, and to renewing old friendships, there is a great deal I will miss here. Roma and I truly appreciated the welcome received in church. The last five years have been deeply challenging for us all, but I have been privileged to share in the many ways in which St John's Renfield has continued to worship and serve. The wonderful music had both an immediate and a lasting appeal, but the range of the church's activity - ongoing alongside otherwise already very full lives - has been an inspiration. Roma and I greatly appreciated the friendship shown through chats and visits together, to shared music and to the great sense of support you have given us. We have appreciated the efforts to keep worship alive through the Covid epidemic and beyond. The ministry of both Fiona and Stewart, and more recently the pastoral concern of Eric and Janis have meant a great deal.

This church has a great gift for friendship which I have every confidence will be sustained. I have also been inspired by the dedicated service of those who have taken on the truly demanding roles of planning for a rather different future through the work of the Mission Planning Group in the revised structure of Presbytery which now lies in front of us. New challenges await. How best do we witness to the love of Christ for all in a multi-faith world? How

do we stand up for the poor, the disadvantaged and those discriminated against when so many in power show no interest or support for such Christian concerns? How do we keep to the fore the needs of refugees and migrants, those driven from their homes when our own government says “of course we must show them our concern, but we must keep the door shut?”

The leadership team and elders will now be considering the next steps in filling the vacancy of Session Clerk when I leave, at some point in the New Year. We thank Kleber for his work as our Interim Moderator since Stewart left for his work in Jerusalem and beyond, and we are welcoming Audrey into that office. I thank you all for the warmth and the love you have shown us during our all too brief stay in Glasgow.

The agenda for the future is long and complex, but God’s promise remains the same now as ever: love Him and serve others, and our Lord will be with us.

**Bob Bradnock**

## **Pulpit Supply**



3rd September – Rev. Ian Johnson  
10th September – Rev. Ruth Halley  
17th September – Rev. Ian Johnson  
24th September – Alan McKay

# HAVE YOU HEARD THAT...



...volunteers are needed for setting up communion. Are you able to help on a Saturday morning at 10am once or twice a year? Please contact the office ([office@sjrchurch.com](mailto:office@sjrchurch.com)) or Christine McCann.

\*\*\*\*\*

... the Bonanza will be taking place on Saturday 4th November from 10am till 12.30pm and it will be similar to last year's event. More details to follow in the October Beacon but start putting aside your donations for the book stall, bottle stall and the discarded treasures!

\*\*\*\*\*

...next month's Beacon will be published on Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. Our deadline is the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September so you have plenty of extra time to send us your events and news.

\*\*\*\*\*



...Harvest this year will be marked on Sunday 8th October. Donations will be forwarded to the Lodging House Mission who would particularly appreciate biscuits and coffee.

\*\*\*\*\*

.... The Toddler Group that runs at SJR on a Thursday morning has been saved thanks to Elspeth Johnson. Let everyone with young children know the group returns on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September.

\*\*\*\*\*

.... this month's Life and Work magazine features a letter from our former minister Rev. Dr Stewart Gillan and one of our September guest ministers the Rev. Ruth Halley.

# Return of the SJR Walking Group

Our summer walking group reunited on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of June for a local walk to the new Stockingfield bridge at the canal. Their second adventure in July, was a lovely journey from under the Erskine Bridge in Old Kilpatrick to the Bowling Basin.



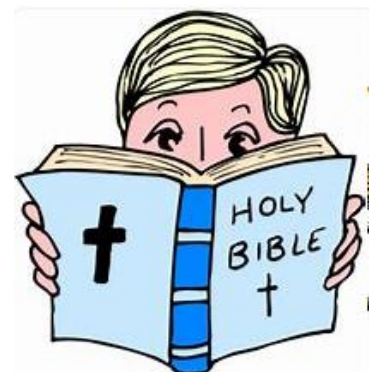
The next walk will take place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September at Chatelherault Country Park just south of Hamilton. Chatelherault offers a wide range of different trails suited to

different abilities, so we have the luxury of choosing our route(s?) once we are there. There are good toilet and café facilities. We leave from outside the church at 10 a.m. All welcome.

For further information, please speak to Roddy Watt or Sarah Hamilton or the church office ([office@sjrchurch.com](mailto:office@sjrchurch.com)).

## Reader Rota September

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Carolyn Calder
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Margaret Paton
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Jim Tassell
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Bob Bradnock





# Beading Rota

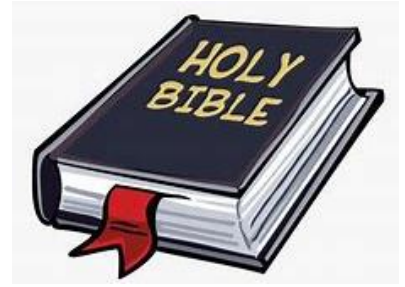
3<sup>rd</sup> September - John Allan

10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September - Laura Calder

24<sup>th</sup> September, 1<sup>st</sup> October - John Finnigan

8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October – Roddy Watt

22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October – Fiona Robinson



## SJR Welcome Team Door Duties

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>

**Lead Elder:** Maria McFadyen with John McFadyen and  
Ron Thomson

**Reserve:** Margaret Paton

## Arranging your Flowers in September

Liz MacDonald  
Susan Finnigan





The Boys' Brigade  
5<sup>th</sup> Glasgow Company  
<http://5glasgow.boys-brigade.org.uk>  
[5thglasgow@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:5thglasgow@boys-brigade.org.uk)

follow us on social media



## Boys' Brigade News

Our summer break has passed by in a flash since our excellent day out on Saturday 10th June at Castle Semple Country Park, Lochwinnoch where the boys enjoyed mountain biking and canoeing in the scorching weather!

Our first Parade night will be on Friday 1st September 2023 at 7.45pm. Exact details are currently being finalised, and we will be in touch with the boys soon. However, we are always very welcome to receive new members, therefore please keep watching our social media feeds for more information in the coming days.

We are looking forward to another full and active programme with lots of our much-loved activities and outings. The Partick District competitions will be resuming too, starting with 5-a-side football in late September.

Remember - any boys from P7 up to S6 are more than welcome to join us. Please do spread the word!



### 2nd Kelvinside Rainbows

The Rainbows Start back on Monday 4th September in Brotherton Hall at 6.15 - 7.15pm.

### 25th Glasgow Brownie Pack

Brownies start back on Tuesday 5th September in Brotherton Hall at 6.00 - 7.00pm.

### 25th Glasgow Guide Company

Guides start back on Tuesday 5th September in Brotherton Hall at 7.15 - 8.45pm.

### 25th A Glasgow Brownie Pack

Brownies start back on Friday 1st September in Church Hall at 6.00 - 7.30pm.

Over the last session Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have enjoyed lots of badge work, craft and parties.

Rainbows enjoyed crafts, games and a trip to softly.

The 25th A Brownies to gather with some of 25th Brownies went on Pack Holiday to South Newton, they had a great time, weather was good and lots of outdoor activities were done.

Guides did new badges



# Sunday Club

Well, here we are after a very long and enjoyable summer – but with some sad news. Unfortunately, due to the fact that there are hardly any children able to attend the club each week and also the fact that the staff have additional



commitments that they need to fulfil, we have taken the difficult decision to suspend the Sunday Club at St John's-Renfield indefinitely. We can assure you that this decision wasn't taken lightly, but we realise that at this integral stage of the church's life, we are simply unable to keep the club running. We do hope that maybe in the not-too-distant future, when the ministerial role has been resolved and the cluster groups formed and confirmed, the club could possibly be resumed in a new form. But at the moment, it unfortunately isn't tenable.

We have to say that we have very much enjoyed being able to meet, guide and entertain so many children over the years. In the 17 years that I have been involved, I have seen the children go from being in 3 separate groups (junior, intermediate and senior) each week to then all being together in the Brotherton Hall – which gave its own challenges when the ages ranged from 3-11 years old! But we have had a lot of fun and laughter, presentations in the sanctuary, nativities, parties and outings. There are so many other activities available now on Sundays

with which to compete – which we totally understand. And we are so grateful to those that have come over the years and hope they have happy memories of their time at St John's-Renfield, as we do of them.

Thanks too to all the staff and members of the church over the years who have helped in any way with the Sunday Club – it simply couldn't have run without you.

So hopefully not goodbye for ever – but adieu for now. Let's see what the future holds... Children will always be welcome into the sanctuary for Sunday service – and of course, secondary-aged children may wish to attend the wonderful Sunday evening Youth Group. Details can be obtained from the church office re this.

With fond memories and wishing you all well.

**Caroline and the Sunday Club Team**



# Pop-in Café

Our popular community café is back!

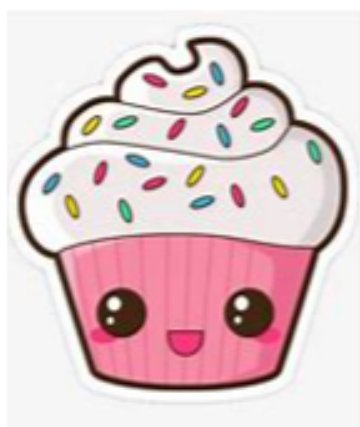
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

**From 2- 3.30 pm**

**At the Large Hall,**

**St. John's Renfield Church,**

**Beaconsfield Road, Kelvindale**



## **Free Tea, Coffee, Cake**

No booking required

Bring the kids - everyone is  
welcome to join the fun  
and chat

Contact us: [office@sjrchurch.com](mailto:office@sjrchurch.com) or call  
(0141) 334 0782 - [www.sjrchurch.com](http://www.sjrchurch.com)



# Opera Comes to SJR



Following an opening night to a packed Eastwood Theatre, Opera Bohemia brought Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* to a sell-out audience in the church on August 2nd. This production, first performed in the church in 2012 with piano and violin, saw three of the original main cast returning to their roles, accompanied this time by the Opera Bohemia Ensemble. Not many dry eyes at the end!! Sell interval refreshments raised £365 for Epilepsy Connections.

The company then toured Scotland, to sell out audiences, from the Outer Hebrides to the Borders, finishing in Dundee.



## Opera Donations to Epilepsy Connections

A huge thank you from Epilepsy Connections to everyone who made a donation during the interval of Opera Bohemia's wonderful performance of *Madama Butterfly* last month. Thanks, too, to the volunteers who poured the drinks! You raised a whopping £365 which will help us continue our vital work supporting children and adults with epilepsy in Glasgow and Forth Valley.

Presbytery of Glasgow

# MISSION POSSIBLE

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 10am-3pm

Full Day Conference

With Martin Fair

Seeds for Growth Roadshow

Choice of seminars

Free entry including lunch

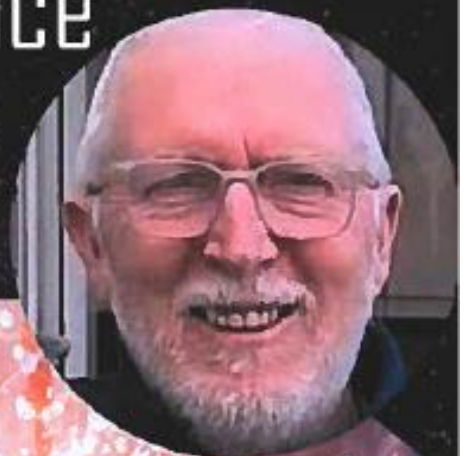
St Rollox Parish Church,

70 Fountainwell Road,

G21 1RG

Book at Eventbrite

[bit.ly/3p39U9K](https://bit.ly/3p39U9K)





# **LIFE AND WORK**

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

## **‘Scotland was Effectively Ruined’**

The 325<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Darien Expedition

## **Letter from the Holy Land**

The Rev Dr Stewart Gillan reflects on the hope of presence

## **‘One More Death is One Too Many’**

John Gibson and Murdo Macdonald on a Christian understanding of suicide

## **The New Day**

The Rev Ruth Halley offers a reflection on her morning run

## **Beacons of Light**

The Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton challenges readers to ‘be church now’

## **Enriched by the Glory of God**

Amy Tanner, Children and Family worker at New Laigh Kirk, Kilmarnock, describes her faith journey

## **View from the Pulpit**

The Rev Josh Milton highlights the journey of a newly-united congregation in embracing challenge

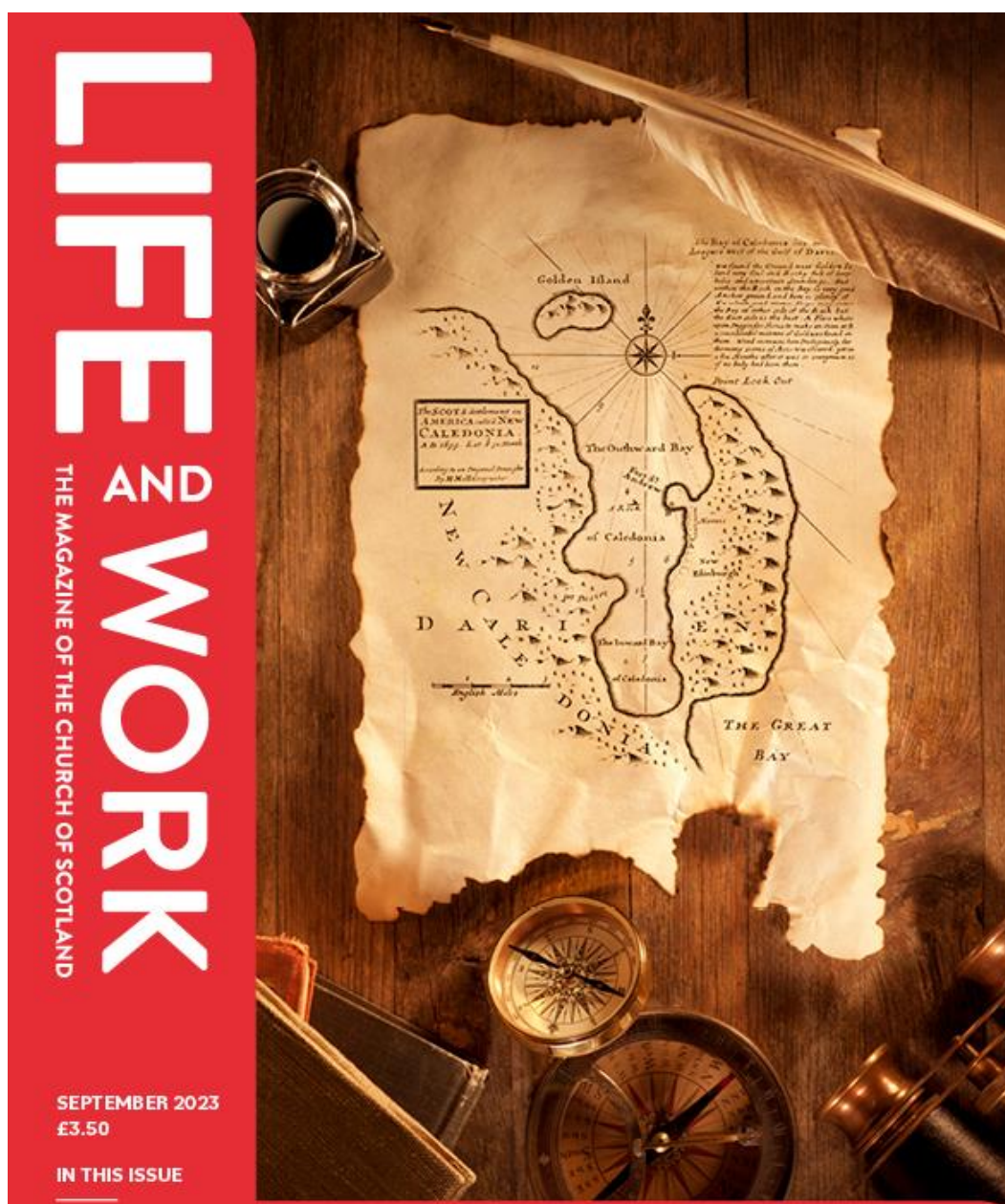
## **Regulars**

The Rev Roddy Hamilton on worship

The Rev Dr Martin Johnstone on leadership

The Very Rev Albert Bogle on digital church  
Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer  
Bible Study by Ruth Harvey

Plus: official updates from the Assembly Trustees and Faith Action Programme, readers' pictures, news, letters, reviews and puzzles – all for £3.50. Visit [www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe](http://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe) or speak to your church's Life and Work co-ordinator.



**LIFE AND WORK**  
THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

SEPTEMBER 2023  
£3.50

IN THIS ISSUE

'Scotland was effectively ruined'  
325th anniversary of the Darien Expedition

'One more death is one too many'  
Reflection on male suicide

The power of trust  
Leadership and trusting others

The new day  
Gifts of an early morning run

'Be church now'  
Rallying call from the Moderator

and much more all for £3.50

# WHAT'S ON

## SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m. (Livestreamed)
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Pop-In Café SJR Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m.
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Mission Possible (see poster page 15) St. Rollox Parish Church, 10am – 3pm
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Walking Group trip to Chatelherault Country Park. Meet 10 a.m. at SJR
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m. (Livestreamed)
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Kirk Session – 7.15 pm
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.

Please note: Events are subject to change

# OFFICE BEARERS

## Minister – Position Vacant

Interim Moderator – Rev. Audrey Jamieson

### Session Clerk

Bob Bradnock

### Assistant Session

#### Clerk

Susan Finnigan

### Editor of Beacon

Alan Christie

Material for the October 2023 Beacon is required by

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 midnight**

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

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