

The Beacon

St. John's - Renfield Church

Magazine No 380

www.sjrchurch.com

2023

Feb

Mar

April

May

June

Sept

Oct

Nov

Dec



Minister's Letter

Say 'November' and the picture that often springs to mind is grey, damp weather and fog. To my children it conjured up a month with no school holidays. Due to a quirk of the English language 'November' rhymes with 'remember', and it is usually a month when people do 'remember'.

It begins with All Saints (or All Hallows, which gives us 'Hallowe'en' the night before), a time when many Christians recall those who have gone before in the faith, the great and the good, the awkward and the 'fruitcakes' (the church is meant to be inclusive for everyone!), and also All Souls, a time not only to remember close family and friends who are sorely missed, but also God's promises for them through Jesus.



Towards the middle of the month we have Remembrance Day, remembering the pain and sacrifice accepted by so many in the World Wars and other conflicts, that we might live in freedom, and reflecting too on conflicts, tensions and potential trouble in so many places today.

At the end of the month is St Andrew's Day, remembering Jesus' first disciple, the first to bring someone else (his brother Peter) to him, and who served him so faithfully and quietly. It is usually a time to think of Scotland and the Scots diaspora, but we can also recall others who look to him as their national saint – like Ukraine and Russia, and pray for peace. Maybe on that day we should remind ourselves of the words of Hymn 339 in the hymnbook:

*So may we who prize his memory
honour Christ in our own day,
bearing witness to our neighbours,
living what we pray and sing.*

Rev. Ian Johnson

From the Leadership Team

Due to Bob Bradnock's recent serious illness he has decided to demit office as our Session Clerk.

The Leadership Team with the support of Rev. Audrey Jamieson, our interim moderator, and with the help of too many other people to mention, are committed to keep everything going as normally as possible in SJR Church while we seek a replacement for Bob.

Following Bob's discharge from hospital, he spent a week in his Bearsden home then travelled south to Buckinghamshire to be with his daughter to continue his miraculous recovery from such a serious illness.

He recently wrote to say he was moving into a flat of his own in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

He also asked that it could be conveyed to all how much he and his late wife Roma appreciated the warmth and kindness of all SJR folks during their time with us.

He hoped to return one day to see us.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the Leadership Team, your district Elder, or the Church Office if you have any queries or pastoral care needs.

Fiona, Graham, Roddy and Susan

Pulpit Supply November



5th – Alan McKay
12th – Rev. Ian Johnson
19th – Rev. Ian Johnson
26th – Alan McKay

PARISH RECORDS

By Certificate of Transfer

Anne Mayo, Winchester Drive

HAVE YOU HEARD THAT...

... Pat McGill was presented with her certificate of Long Service on Sunday the 22nd of October, 2023. Congratulations and thank you to Pat for 40 years of Eldership in the church.



... there are some Lodging House Mission Christmas card leaflets available in the East Vestibule. Cards can then be ordered direct from LHM

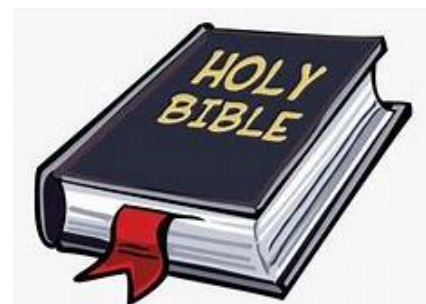
... the Lodging House Mission were very pleased with our generous donation of coffee and biscuits. They could not carry on their work without our

support. Thanks are due to John Allan and his team of helpers who dealt with the boxes after the Service. Once again John and Andy McCrindle delivered them to the LHM.



Reader Rota November

5th – Moira Eaglesham
12th – Nick Calder
19th – Graham Moore
26th – Maureen Christie



BONANZA

Saturday 4th November 2023

10am to 12.30pm

St. John's-Renfield Church,
Beaconsfield Road, Kelvindale



**Books * Bottles
Car Wash * Tuck Shop
Raffle * Toy Stall**



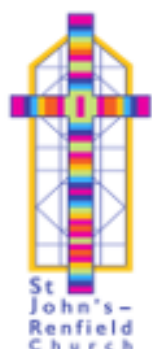
**Discarded Treasures
Jewellery * Toiletries
Time, Talents & Treats**



Adults £2.50 * School Age Children £1.00

Includes Tea/Coffee + Piece of Homebaking

Please bring cash – we are unable to take card payments



Registered as a charity in Scotland.
Registration No. SC012920



@SJRCHURCH



@sjrchurch



SJR Welcome Team Door Duties

November 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

Lead Elder: Pat McGill with Sandra and Norrie McLeod
Reserve: Anne Bryden

Arranging your Flowers in November

Grace MacKay
Marion Dowling
Liz MacDonald



Pastoral Care



Just a note to let you know how we have kept in touch with those unwell, bereaved or celebrating happy times. This year we have delivered 31 cards.

Each Easter and Autumn we have sent a card to those who are housebound or elderly to say, as the season changes, the church still remembers them.

We send our Best Wishes to all this Autumn.

Sandra Hutchison and Eleanor Murphy

Return of Olive Tree

Mrs Juliet Robb of Olive Tree Scotland is to return on Sunday 12th November. Again, she will have beautiful Palestinian crafts for purchase.

Olive Tree Scotland is not-for-profit, non-sectarian and non-political with the following aims:

To promote a wider understanding of the situation in the Holy Land today including Israel – Palestinian issues.

To support people, especially women and children, in the Occupied Territories who suffer deprivation in the current situation.

To buy and sell Palestinian crafts – thus improving employment, income and hope in a difficult economic situation.



Kelvindale Toddlers

Elsbeth Johnson stepped in to maintain the existence of our Group, which has changed its title from Beaconsfield to Kelvindale to emphasise that it is for the whole district.

Elsbeth tells us how the session is going.

We have about a dozen children each week with a mixture of Mums, Dads, grandparents and other grown-ups. It happens, as you know, on Thursday mornings from 9.45 to 11.45 but families come and go as suits them. There's a snack time after 10.15 when the children are encouraged to sit at low tables (if they are able!) and hot drinks and snacks are also provided for the grown-ups.

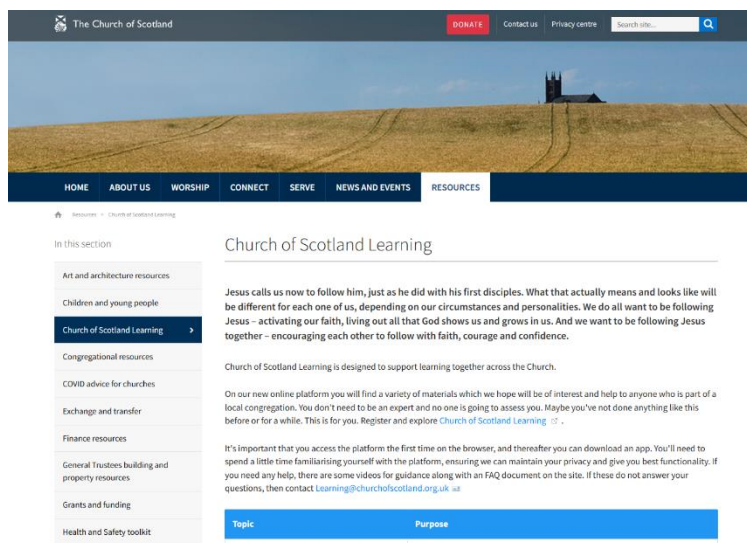
Later, everyone is encouraged to help put the toys away and about 11.30 there's a short singing-circle time, finishing with The Grand Old Duke of York which is a great favourite.

The cost is £2 per week, plus £1 for additional children. We are insured for under 5s but most children come until they are 3 and old enough to go to nursery.



CHILD OR ADULT? MILK OR SOLID FOOD?

The famous passages in *1 Corinthians* 13: 11-12 and *Hebrews* 5: 12-14 (read and check them for yourself!) remind and encourage us that we as Christians should be seeking to explore and deepen our faith individually and with each other in such a way as to grow in Christian maturity.



The Church of Scotland has now launched a new online learning portal called **Church of Scotland Learning** that offers a wide range of exercises, courses and programmes suitable for individuals, small groups and larger groups. The portal can

be easily accessed via the **Church of Scotland Website > Resources > Church of Scotland Learning**.

This is very promising material, and I would invite and encourage members of St John's with an interest in a shared fellowship of Christian learning to check it out. If enough interest is shown, we could begin with the topic **Conversations in Discipleship**. This would be a useful taster as it is a one-off, tightly structured, single meeting lasting 90 minutes.

If you wish to follow this up in any way, please feel free to contact Roddy Watt.

SJR Walking Group

The six brave (or daft?) souls who made it even as far as the church on a Saturday morning with rain of monsoon proportions in early October, were treated to an enjoyable walk despite the conditions! The destination was Hamiltonhill Claypits, a bit of a hidden gem on the north bank of the Forth and Clyde Canal between Applecross and Firhill Basins. The area is being developed as a local nature reserve, with many options for walking and a new bridge and walkway making the area more easily accessible.

Given the 'inclement' conditions, we skipped the walk to the viewpoint, but vowed to return on a better day in future to properly enjoy all the area has to offer. Find out more the Claypits here - <https://claypitslnr.co.uk/>

Soaked to the skin (literally) but all feeling a little bit righteous to have carried on regardless, we found a warm welcome and a place to hang our dripping waterproofs at Gathering Ground by Applecross Basin.



Definitely recommended for their smashing homemade soup! Gathering Ground is a Community Interest Company operating

as a local food-led community space and café and worth checking out – find out more here - <https://www.gatheringground.org/>

Thanks to John McFadyen for organising and leading the walk.

CRAFT GROUP UPDATE

The Craft Group have been knitting squares to make blankets at the request of the Lodging House Mission.

There is now a container in the East Vestibule where squares can be left if you have joined the Group in this enterprise! It's not too late to pick up your needles and cast on 40 stitches and knit till it forms a square. Needles to be used should be 4mm or No8.



It would be helpful if squares could be left by Sunday 19th November to give time for them to be sewn up and delivered to LHM by 2nd December.

Eleanor Murphy



WINTER WEDNESDAYS

You're Invited to Celebrate with Us!

2.30pm, WEDNESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER

Annual Service of Remembering

In partnership with City Mission

1.30pm, WEDNESDAY 6th DECEMBER

Christmas Show

Capacity is limited so book through June/Angela

2.30pm, WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS SERVICE of CAROLS & READINGS

With Guest speaker
& Mission Voices

Closed January 1st & 2nd

LHM, 35 East Campbell Street, Glasgow, G1 5DF





Pop-in Café

Join the Halloween fun at our community
café!

Wednesday 1st November

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 or call
(0141) 334 0782 - www.sjrchurch.com



BONANZA

The Bonanza will take place on Saturday 4th of November from 10am till 12.30 at St John's-Renfield Church.

Come and join us and help us raise much needed funds for our Church. Tickets, available on a Sunday morning or at the door on the day, are £2.50, to include tea/coffee and a piece of home baking, and school aged children £1.



The following stalls will be there and donations as described will be very welcome.

Book Stall - paperback and children's books only. Please NO hardbacks or magazines.

Bottle Stall - donations of any kind of bottles

Car Wash

Discarded Treasures - small household items, ornaments, pictures, etc. No large items, please.

Jewellery

Raffle - raffle prizes welcome

Tearoom

Time, Talents and Treats

Toiletries - unused toiletries

Toy Stall - toys and games in good condition

Donations can be brought to the church at the following times:

Thursday 2nd November between 7 and 9pm

Friday 3rd November between 10 and 12 noon

Friday 3rd November between 7 and 9 pm

Please note that we only accept cash payments on the day.

No card facilities available.



We would be delighted if some volunteers can help with the clear up at the end of the event.

Further information or any queries to:
Isobel Digges and Shirley Tassell

We look forward to seeing you and your donations!



Foodbank Update

The congregation's support of St Gregory's Food bank continues. Evidence in their recent Newsletter lays bear that we are contributing to meet a the need that is growing.

A depressing record was set in the week of the 11th of September 2023, with 287 bags given out. This figure is almost double the demand of 2021. To add to this, the cost per bag has now risen to £10.50. This means that for the first time ever, the food bank's weekly cost reached £3,000.

The need for help is seen as persisting into the future, so during the last few months there has been a focus on volunteer development. Many of the volunteers now hold food hygiene qualifications. In addition to this, they are in the midst of setting up new shelving and under-table storage. Such is the need, they now have five fridges and five freezers which is helping to keep pace with demand.

The food bank is staffed entirely by a dedicated team of volunteers which means there are no staffing costs.

HOW TO SUPPORT US

We are in continual need of non-perishable goods to keep up with increasing demand. If you are kindly considering helping us, we would be grateful for the following:

Baked beans	Tinned curry
Tinned soups	Tinned stew
Cereals/porridge	Tinned spaghetti
Tea/coffee	Meals in a can
Sugar	Tinned hotdogs
Biscuits	Tinned meatballs
Pasta	Tinned tuna
Rice	Tinned beans
Noodles	Deodorants
Cooking sauces	Shampoo
Tinned tomatoes	Toothpaste
"Pasta 'n' sauce"	Washing powder
Tinned meats	Toilet rolls
Long life milk	Baby wipes
Rice pudding	Crisps/sweets
Jam or marmalade	Tinned fruit
Biscuits	
Custard	
Tinned macaroni & cheese	
Pet food/packageged treats (cat & dog)	
Nappies - size 3 and above	



The Boys' Brigade
5th Glasgow Company
<http://5glasgow.boys-brigade.org.uk>
5thglasgow@boys-brigade.org.uk



Boys' Brigade News

5th Glasgow Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys and Junior Section

As an organisation, the Boys' Brigade celebrated its 140th birthday on 4th October this year, the first meeting having been held in 1883.

To mark the occasion, the Anchor Boys made a huge 140. It was their idea to decorate the digits with Anchors which they worked really hard to colour appropriately and carefully.

Allan Watt and Aileen Morison (Officers-in-Charge)



William Smith founded the Boys' Brigade, here in the West End, in a building that still stands in North Woodside Road, virtually overlooking the grove of the river Kelvin.

Company Section

October was a bit of a stop-start month for Company Section due to the school holidays, however we returned to action late in the month with an evening filled with Halloween games.

Pte Ariel Booyens and Pte Jackson Burns participated in the first Partick District competition of the session - the 5-a-side football at Scotstoun. In a combined team with the 44th and the 135th, Ariel and Jackson gained bronze medals. The Company Section boys also enjoyed participating in the first District Sports athletics competition since 2019. This was held in Scotstoun Stadium. It was a great evening of action, and our boys did well to achieve third place overall. Our next District competition will be 10-pin bowling in November.

Our Seniors have been set the task of leading one Friday parade night towards the end of November. We await with bated breath to see what they deliver!!

An important announcement - we are delighted to say that the renowned BB Quiz & Chippy Night will return again on Saturday 20th Jan 2024 in the Large Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets will be on sale soon, at £10 per person. Ticket enquiries should be directed to Allan Watt.

Finally, please remember, if you know of any boys from P7 upwards who would like to join us then please don't hesitate to get in touch. They will be made most welcome.

STEDFAST

REMEMBRANCE 2023

The memorial to the members of this congregation who lost their lives serving in the forces in the Second World War faces the congregation throughout every service, as it has done since it was unveiled in 1949.

On Remembrance Sunday it gets extra attention. A small vase is attached to the wall just under it, donated by a member who was touched that one individual no longer had family here. This suggests that flowers from the others' relatives were laid in front.

One of the memorialised, Miller Dunlop, died when the plane he piloted on a bombing raid over France was shot down. He is buried in the graveyard of the small town of Ecorcei.

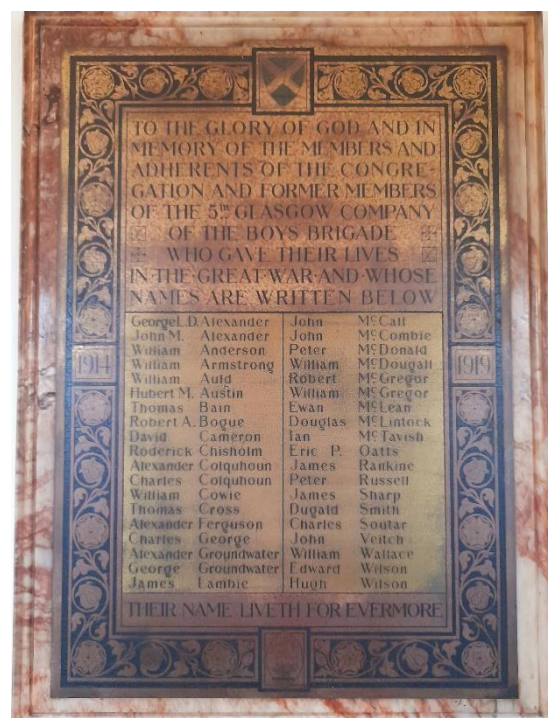


A local teacher produced a study of those in the military graves. His conclusion is relevant to all

the names on the St John's-Renfield memorials, including those to the Great War,

All these young men, coming from a variety of backgrounds, had a family, a fiancée, friends.

They had also a career and they thought about what they would do after the war, once peace had returned.



Thinking of our names that have been researched:

William Lang, partner with a firm of steel merchants

Robert Young, printer and lithographer

Kenneth Campbell, shipping office clerk

Patrick Barr, engineering student

David Hutchison, lawyer

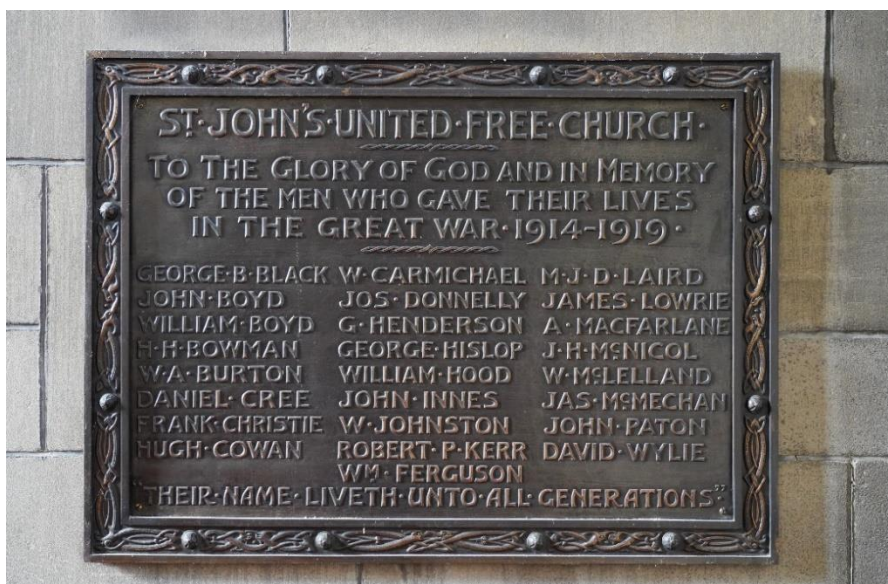
Miller Dunlop, Robert Cameron, Hamish Campbell, called up on leaving school



Britain was different from the other combatants in having no peacetime conscription. When war broke out, for example in France, vast numbers of men headed for their regiment. On

reaching manhood they had spent up to three years in the forces, followed by years in the reserve, with several weeks very year in camp having their skills refreshed.

In Britain, when both wars broke out, a fighting force



had to be created from scratch, overwhelmingly from men who had never had the desire to be soldiers.

In this sense, the names we see in front of us are all civilians.

We have the responsibility of not forgetting the sacrifice made by all these men and to know how to preserve this peace, paid for so dearly.

Alan Christie



Comedy night
in aid of



The Stand Comedy Club,
333 Woodlands Rd, Glasgow

November 12th 2023
20:30 (doors open 19:30)

Ticket £12/£10

To reserve tickets go to www.thestand.co.uk
or scan the QR code.

Tickets also on door if still available

LIFE AND WORK

NOVEMBER 2023

Remembrance

‘A privilege to follow God’s call’: an insight into the lives of chaplains to the armed forces

Remembrance prayer from the Moderator of the General Assembly

‘Guild Needs to Change’

A report from the Annual Gathering of the Church of Scotland Guild

New Minister for Sanctuary First

A change of leadership at the Church’s online worshipping community

A Deeper Understanding

An Episcopalian priest reflects on his experience working for the Church of Scotland in Fife

‘Life is Still Good’

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson reflects on the challenges of ageing.

Whispering and Proclaiming

Ruth Harvey considers the messages of Matthew 10.

View from the Pulpit

The Rev Scott Brown reflects on the value of rural ministry

Regulars

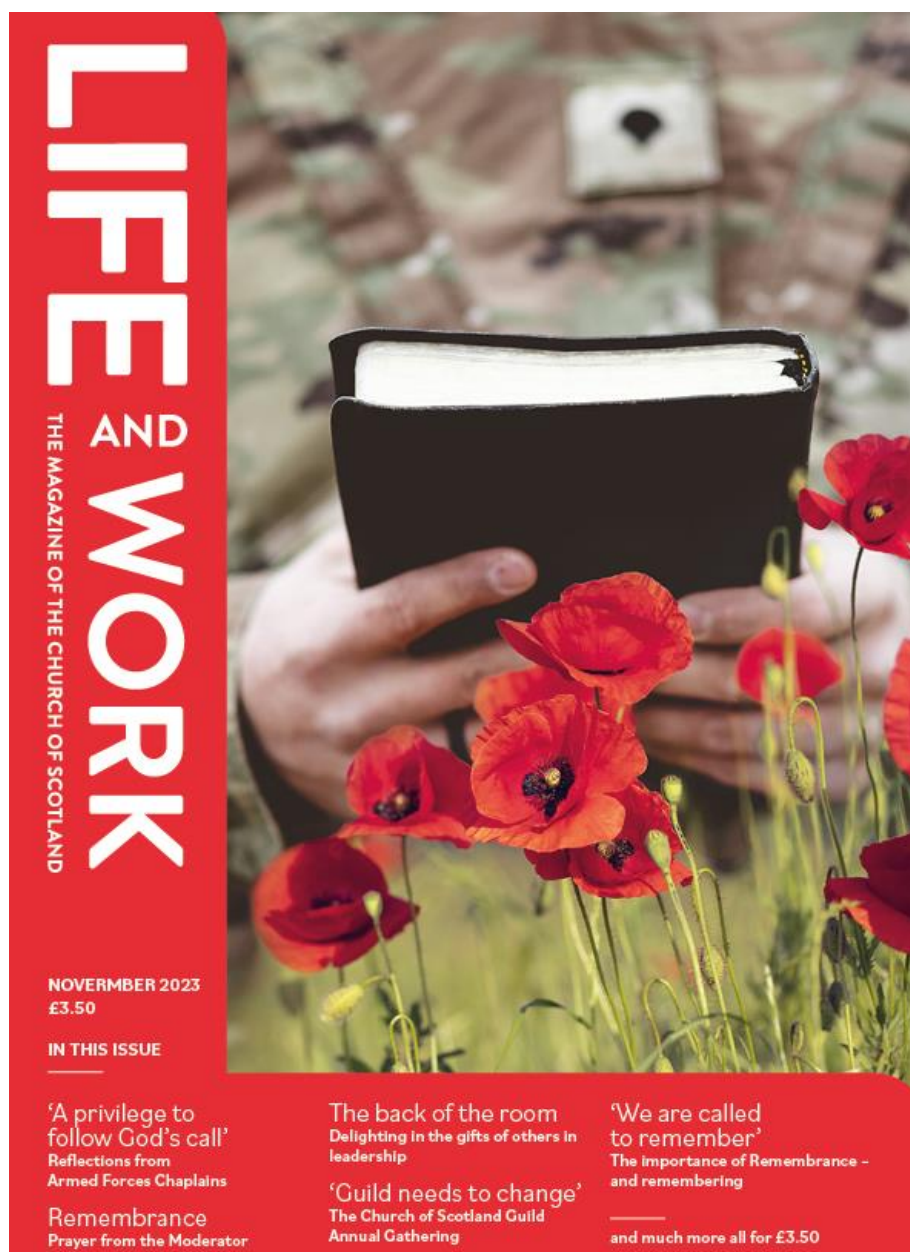
The Rev Roddy Hamilton on worship

The Rev Dr Martin Johnstone on leadership

The Very Rev Albert Bogle on digital church

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

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 or speak to your church's Life and Work co-ordinator.



LIFE AND WORK
THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

NOVEMBER 2023
£3.50

IN THIS ISSUE

'A privilege to follow God's call'
Reflections from Armed Forces Chaplains
Remembrance
Prayer from the Moderator

The back of the room
Delighting in the gifts of others in leadership
'Guild needs to change'
The Church of Scotland Guild
Annual Gathering

'We are called to remember'
The importance of Remembrance - and remembering
and much more all for £3.50

WHAT'S ON

NOVEMBER 2023

Wednesday 1 st	Pop-In Café SJR Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m.
Thursday 2 nd	Church Open for Bonanza donations between 7 and 9pm
Friday 3 rd	Church Open for Bonanza donations and set up 10 and 12 noon plus 7 and 9 pm
Saturday 4 th	The Bonanza 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Sunday 5 th	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.
Sunday 12 th	Morning Worship – 10.50 a.m. Remembrance Sunday Olive Tree Scotland
Sunday 19 th	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.
Wednesday 29 th	Kirk Session – 7.15 pm
Sunday 26 th	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.

Please note: Events are subject to change

<p>Cover Photo & War Memorial Photos from Kate Russell Photography</p>
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OFFICE BEARERS

Minister – Position Vacant

Interim Moderator – Rev. Audrey Jamieson

Leadership Team

Susan Finnigan, Fiona Robinson, Graham Moore, Roderick Watt

Editor of Beacon

Alan Christie

Material for the December 2023 Beacon is required by

Friday 17th November 2023 midnight

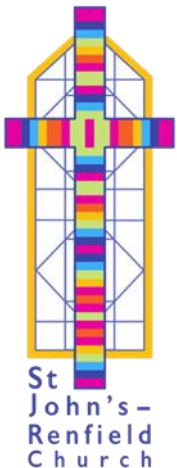
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