

The Beacon

St. John's-Renfield Church

Magazine No 375

www.sjrchurch.com

2023

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Minister's Letter



I saw something in the news recently that the olive oil to be used at next month's Coronation had been blessed by the Patriarch of Jerusalem in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. By way of explanation for those unfamiliar with the Christian faith, the article added that the Church was built a long time ago on what was traditionally believed to be the burial site of Jesus.



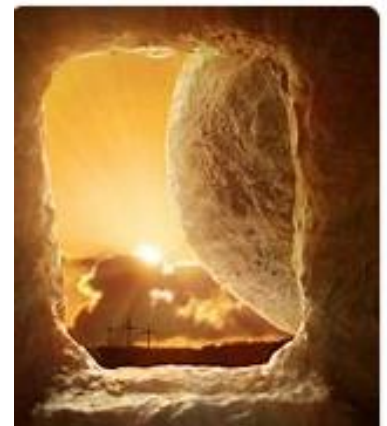
I don't think we have a problem with any of that, as far as it goes. However, for us as Christians it misses out the most important bit of the story. The garden tomb was not just the place where Jesus was buried on the evening of Good Friday, but the place where he rose from the dead on the morning of Easter Day. Without the Resurrection we would know nothing about the life and teaching of Jesus of Nazareth, there would be no world-wide community of his followers, and no Church of the Holy Sepulchre (whether the traditional site is the 'right' one or not) – or St John's-Renfield.

Neither those present on the day who encountered the Risen Jesus, nor those in our own day who have the benefit of modern science on hand, can explain how the Resurrection happened. Those who met him did, however, know that through that experience their broken, shattered lives were transformed, and they became confident witnesses - and martyrs - to the Good News about the Risen Jesus.

Although they could not explain HOW the Resurrection happened, they thought hard about WHY it happened, and WHAT it meant for other people. For a long, long, time people have reflected ruefully on the injustices of the world. As the Psalmist said long ago:

‘This is what the wicked are like –
always carefree, they increase in wealth.
Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure;
in vain I have washed my hands in innocence.’ (Ps 73: 12-13)

The Resurrection of Jesus saw a ‘good man’ vindicated. He suffered injustice and cruelty, but death was not the end for him. He was restored to life. Justice and faithfulness to God’s way had the last word. It was a hope that faithful members of the Jewish faith had long clung to, now they saw it put into practice.



But Jesus wasn’t just ‘a’ good man, and he hadn’t been restored to life to die when he reached old age. The witnesses to Easter slowly realised that he was much more than that, and his story meant more than that. He was God the Son, human and divine, and through his death and resurrection he brought people into a new relationship with God. Not only were individual sins and failings forgiven, but through the gift of the Spirit God was working to transform their attitudes, outlooks and behaviours, so that they could truly be his ‘holy people’. And through faith in Jesus, all people could look forward to sharing in his Resurrection – they might have a foretaste of the new life that God offered through Jesus now, but there was so much more in store in the life beyond this one.

Why didn't that News article talk about the Resurrection? Was it by someone who hadn't heard of the Resurrection, or someone from a tradition that dismisses it (another faith or none)? The story of the Risen Jesus is 'Good News'. People of other faiths and none will not be telling it. It is up to us share it, and through the Spirit's help to live it out in our everyday lives.

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Ian Johnson (Rev)

Who is Rev Ian Johnson?

He was born and brought up on Tyneside, studied Mediaeval History at St Andrew's University, and worked as a banker for 13 years (latterly in London) before beginning his training for the ministry at Glasgow University.

He was a minister in Greenock for sixteen and a half years (which included seeing through a triple union). He then moved North of the river to Dumbarton, initially to a double linkage, which was later expanded to a triple one. For most of his time as a minister he worked in one form of ministry team or another.

His interests include walking, swimming, Scottish Country Dancing, National Trust for Scotland and Historic Scotland, and family (wife Elspeth, two daughters and sons-in-law, and five grandchildren – the younger members of the family being down South).

Pulpit Supply for April and May

2 nd April	Rev. Dr Kleber Machado
9 th April	Rev. Ian Johnson
16 th April	Rev. Ian Johnson
23 rd April	Rev. Eric McLachlan
30 th April	Rev. Eric McLachlan
7 th May	Rev. Ian Johnson
14 th May	Worship Group for the Christian Aid Service
21 st May	Rev. Ian Johnson
28 th May	Rev. Eric McLachlan

Please note that Rev Andy McIntyre, Partick South, will cover as our Interim Moderator while Rev. Kleber Machado is on study leave from the 11th April until the 18th of July.

PARISH RECORDS

Funeral and Memorial Service

“Nothing can separate us from the love of God”

Iain Ross, Kirklee Quadrant,
Friday 24th March at Glasgow Crematorium

HAVE YOU HEARD THAT...



... we still need volunteers for the Tea/Coffee Rota for June and October. If you can help serve refreshments after the Sunday service, please contact the office (office@sjrchurch.com) or Liz MacDonald.

... weather permitting, our gardening team returns at 9am on Thursday 30th of March. Anyone prepared to lend a hand will be made most welcome, and a cup of tea and cake is guaranteed! If you'd like to join, contact the office.

Good News from Kyiv about the MacDonald's granddaughter



News from Emily in Kyiv
She has recently won two bronze medals in karate

That Was the Financial Year That Was

Summary Annual Accounts - Year ended 31 December 2022

General Account	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Offerings (incl. tax recovered on gift aid)		130,518		135,789
Fund raising, interest, etc.		12,986		4,974
Legacies, donations & grants		2,000		500
Total Income		<u>145,504</u>		<u>141,263</u>
National Ministry & Mission and Wider Work	84,705		82,773	
Local Staffing Costs	20,286		19,273	
Building and equipment costs	35,501		37,111	
Other local costs	3,669		4,312	
Total Expenditure		<u>144,161</u>		<u>143,469</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for year		<u>1,343</u>		<u>(2,206)</u>
Balance brought forward		<u>28,566</u>		<u>30,772</u>
Balance to carry forward		<u><u>29,909</u></u>		<u><u>28,566</u></u>

Other Property Funds	Fabric Funds £	Project 2022 £	Benevolent - Foodbank	Other Funds £
Donations (incl. Gift Aid)	0	2,437	4,107	1,208
Fund raising	0	6,258	0	0
Investment income	2,637	1,540	283	391

Total Income	2,637	10,235	4,390	1,599
Expenditure	24,207	0	4,250	1,187
Decrease in value of investment	5,627	0	0	0
Surplus/(deficit) for year	(27,197)	10,235	140	412
Balance brought forward	95,779	45,618	8,373	12,477
Balance to carry forward	68,582	55,853	8,513	12,889

Last year the General Account showed a small surplus but we spent some of our Fabric Fund.

Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments:

General & Fabric Funds	(£20,227)
Other Funds	10,787
Overall	(£ 9,440)

Other funds is mainly as a result of the Bonanza and other donations and investment income received for the current projects during the year.

Fabric Fund expenditure includes payment for the Brotherton Hall Floor and the electrical work carried out so far.

Collections for third parties

	2022 £	2021 £
St Gregory's Foodbank (incl. Gift Aid)	4,250	7,057
Christian Aid Week	3,040	n/a
Ukraine Emergency Appeal	2,640	0

Lodging House		
Mission	2,421	485
Erskine Home	434	350
The Book Trust	170	0
	<u>12,955</u>	<u>7,892</u>

It has not been possible to fully quantify donations for others which have been made, since some members gave direct to the charities concerned.

We were able to send an extra £1,000 to the Foodbank in December over and above the £250 per month we normally give to help those families in real need over the Christmas period.

Gift Aid will also be able to be claimed direct by the charities on some of the donations listed above.

Donations in kind were also made during the year to St. Gregory's Foodbank, the Lodging House Mission and Christmas gifts for children through Glasgow, the Caring City.

Sincere thanks are due to:

- To Mary Glassford for continuing to act as Treasurer.
- To Shaun Digges for acting as input maestro for keeping the Church's finance records in such good order.
- To Linda Moore for Gift Aid admin
- To David Cox for salaries admin.
- To Elma Boyd (*minute secretary*)
- And the remainder of the Finance Committee for their work in looking after our finances.

The Report and full set of accounts was emailed to all members with the papers for the Stated Annual Meeting

Arranging your Flowers in April

Susan Finnigan

Eleanor Murphy



We are still looking for volunteers to arrange flowers in September. If you can help, please contact the office.

Return of Olive Tree

Mrs Juliet Robb of Olive Tree Scotland is to return on Sunday 2nd April. Again, she will have beautiful Palestinian crafts for purchase.

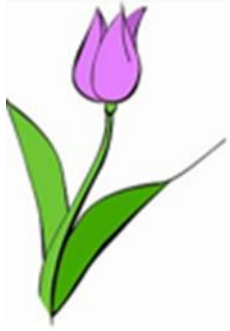
Olive Tree Scotland is not-for-profit, non-sectarian and non-political with the following aims:

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.





Spring Fair



Saturday 29th April

10 am to 12 noon

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



Books,

Unloved Gifts,

Bottle Stall, Baking

and more...



£2 Entry includes free Tea/Coffee and Cake

All proceeds will be split between the Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal & SJR Church



*Registered as a charity in Scotland.
Registration No. SC012920*



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SJR Welcome Team



We are a small band of folks who welcome you to church each Sunday but, we really could do with a few extra folks so that we can leave a bit of space between duties. It's not an onerous duty by any means and you need to arrive by 10.30am to get ready to welcome everyone who comes in the front door! There is a team of three – Lead Elder plus two others (who do not need to be elders and any members will be most welcome) plus a reserve for those times when you just can't make it at the last minute. We have been tending to use choir volunteers as 'reserve' as they can do both choir rehearsal and welcome duties.

The lead elder tends to 'sit out' to catch anything else that happens while the service is taking place. One person sits at the back to open the Bride's door in an emergency and the other joins the congregation. At the end of the service, we count the collection which is left as folks leave. However, this takes no time at all as most folks give through the bank. We also deliver the flowers from the sanctuary that are distributed after the service.

If you would like to join us, please speak to Shirley Tassell on [REDACTED] or Linda Moore on [REDACTED] or catch us on a Sunday morning.

Welcome and Social Conveners
SJR Church

SJR Welcome Team Door Duties

April 2023 - 2nd, 9th (Easter Sunday), 16th, 23rd, 30th

Lead Elder: Linda Moore with Maria McFadyen and Moira Eaglesham

Reserve: Elma Boyd



CHRISTIAN AID
SUNDAY 14 MAY

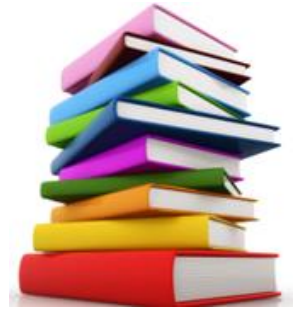
This year's Christian Aid service, which will be led by our Worship Team, falls on Sunday 14th May. Donation envelopes for the collection on that day will be available on Sunday 30th April, 7th May and at the service itself on 14th May. Please remember that if you "Gift Aid" your donation you can add 25% to its value at no extra cost to yourself.

We also need some volunteers to help count the collection after the service on 14th May. Anyone willing to help out, please contact Roddy Watt ([REDACTED])



Spring Fair

Saturday 29th April 2023
10am till 12 noon



The Proceeds will be split between the Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal and SJR Church

Please come and join us. Browse our stalls for books, bottles, jam, home baking, unloved or unwanted new gifts and come out and see your friends! Tickets at £2.00 per person will be available on the door where a warm welcome awaits. Your ticket includes tea or coffee and a piece of cake or home baking.

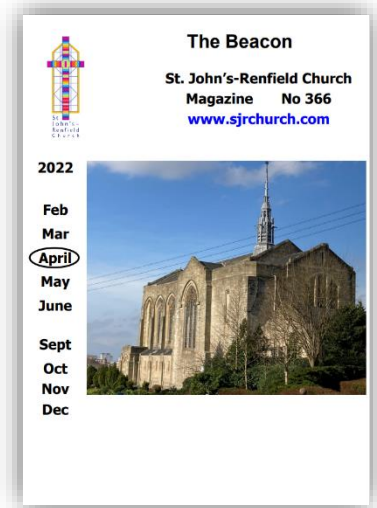
Donations are most welcome for Home Baking, Bottle Stall, Books and unwanted new gifts. Please only donate paperback books and children's books. No hard backs or magazines. Donations can be brought to the church on Friday 28th April between 10am and 12 noon plus 6.30pm – 8.00pm.

We look forward to seeing everyone and to the sound of chatter and laughter in the large hall!

Please remember to bring cash in small denominations as, sadly, we are not equipped with card machines!!

Any queries to Isobel Digges ([REDACTED]) or Shirley Tassell ([REDACTED])

CONTACT INFORMATION IN THE BEACON



Some Beacon readers have queried why we no longer give as much personal information as we once did in the Beacon. There are two reasons for this. First, we have a strong duty to control the use of personal information which comes from the Data Protection Act and GDPR. Second, we need to be careful that by publishing details such as email addresses of office bearers etc. in an open publication like the Beacon we may be exposing them to all sorts of malicious and unpleasant material sent to them by "trolls" and similar individuals. It's regrettable but it's a sad reflection on the current nature of communications on the internet.

Our data protection policy is not intended to restrict 1:1 communication such as those between individuals and their Elders; far from it. These are person to person and are not broadcast to the world, unlike the Beacon. So, if you do not have your Elder's contact details, then please ask for them and keep them safe and to hand.

We have informal arrangements for checking the office email address and answerphone most days when it is not open.

Jim Tassell
Data Protection Officer.

SPRING POP-IN CAFÉ



We had a fantastic turn out to our Spring Pop-in Café in early March. People of all ages came along to enjoy the good company, raffles and lovely baking.

We hope you can join us next month for some Easter fun on Wednesday the 5th April. Kids on school holidays are welcome too.



Pop-in Café

Join the Easter fun at our community café!

Wednesday 5th April

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



Easter Appeal Update

During Lent, we began collecting Easter eggs on behalf of the Lodging House Mission and St Gregory's Foodbank. We set a big target of 500 Easter Eggs to support the homeless and those struggling to make ends meet. We have collected an impressive 250 eggs so far.

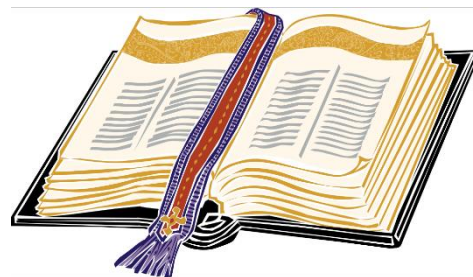


If you can help, please drop off your donations at St John's-Renfield any Sunday during March or on Palm Sunday, 2nd April, so eggs can be delivered during Holy Week. Drop off boxes are located in the vestibule and at the back door.

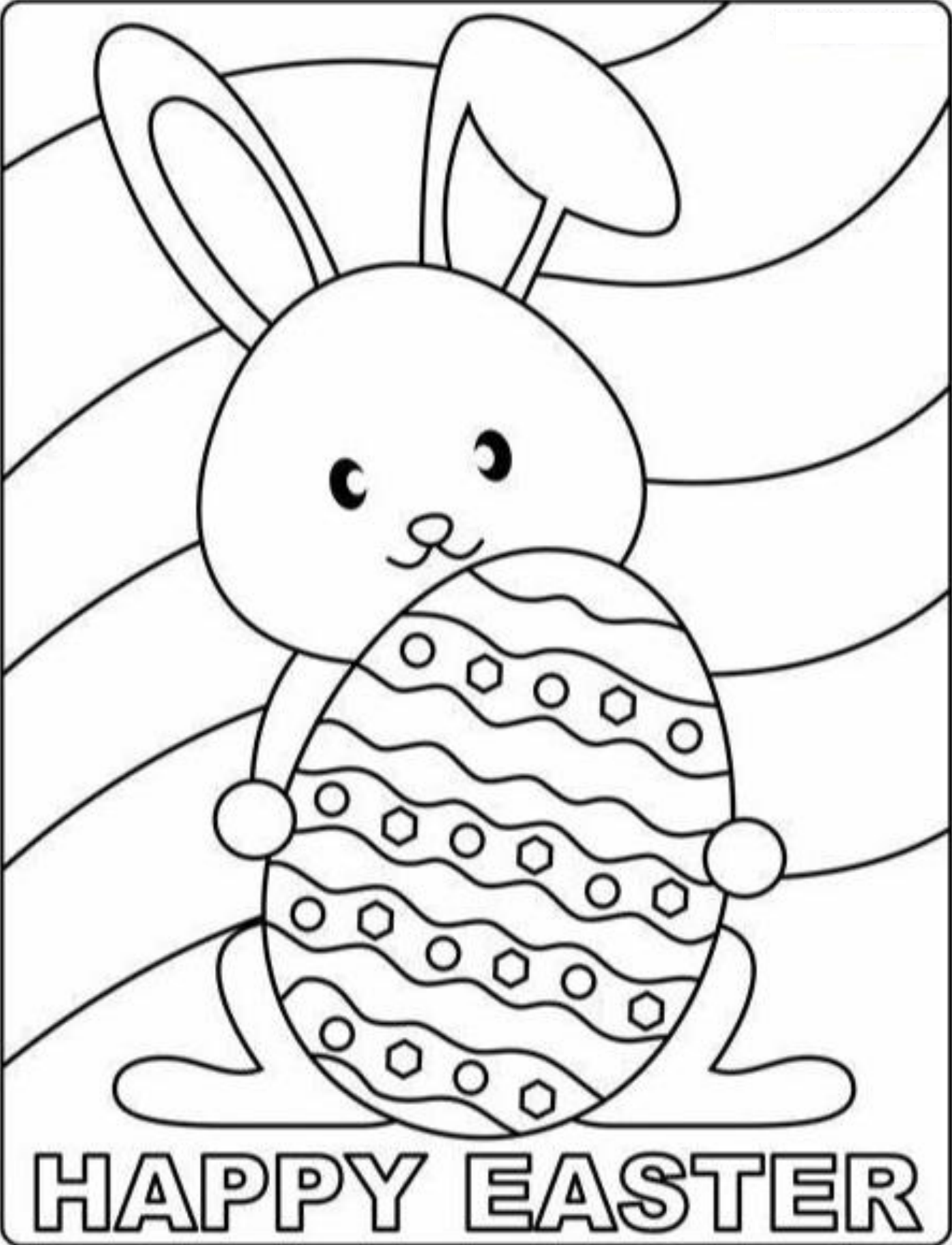
Your support in giving chocolate to those who cannot afford such a luxury is greatly appreciated.

Reader Rota – April

2nd – Elma Boyd
9th – Grace MacKay
16th – Margaret Paton
23rd – Alison Craig
30th – Bob Bradnock



Kids colour-in



Sunday Club

Hi everyone!

April already... scary how fast the time goes...



Easter this year falls in the middle of the spring break so unfortunately, we will be on holiday on Palm Sunday – but we WILL be here on Easter Sunday for the decorating and rolling of eggs outside the church. Do hope that you will be able to join us – is always fun! We will be doing an Easter activity during the service. Sunday Club will restart on the last weekend of the holidays, on 16th April.



Our numbers are still low but we have fun each week with stories, crafts and activities. We are happy to welcome any new children to our group – the more the merrier – and the more we have, the wider range of activities we can do. So please spread the word, and encourage any children aged 3-11 to come along.

Have a lovely holiday and a fabulous Easter.

Sunday Club Team 😊



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

follow us on social media



Boys' Brigade News

Firstly, many thanks to everyone who supported our "comeback" Coffee Morning at the start of March. An amazing £1400 was raised for Company funds. We really appreciate the backing we get from those within the Church and in the local community, and it was great to see so many friends in the Large Hall that morning.

The boys have now completed their First Aid classwork, which culminated in some CPR practical work with the "Little Annie" equipment. We also tested our Communication Skills, and looked at Astronomy, and Criminal Exploitation.

On the Partick District competition front, L/Cpl Alexander Bell was runner up in the Seniors Badminton singles final. The highlight this month was our Senior 5-a-side football team winning their competition for the first time in years. Well done to all the boys who participated. Quite literally, a great team effort.

Sgt Andrew Watt successfully navigated his way through a muddy, and sometimes wet, Queen's Badge Completion Course weekend at Auchengillan Outdoor Centre. Andrew is now on the home strait to becoming a Queen's Man (or probably technically a King's Man!) in May.

Please continue to keep up to date with our weekly activities on our social media feeds and please don't forget to 'like', 'share', and 'retweet' our posts if possible!

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

April 2023

Sunday 2 nd	<p>Palm Sunday</p> <p>Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m. (Livestreamed)</p> <p>No Sunday Club, Olive Tree visiting</p> <p>Last day for Easter Egg Donations for Lodging House Mission and St Gregory's Foodbank</p>
Wednesday 5 th	<p>Easter themed Pop-In Café</p> <p>SJR Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m.</p>
Thursday 6 th	<p>Maundy Thursday Service 7 p.m.</p>
Sunday 9 th	<p>Sunday Club Children's Egg decorating followed by egg rolling – 10 a.m.</p> <p>Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.</p>
Sunday 16 th	<p>Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m. (Livestreamed)</p>
Sunday 23 rd	<p>Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.</p>
Friday 28 th	<p>Church opens for Spring Fair Donations</p> <p>10 a.m. to 12 noon, 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.</p>
Saturday 29 th	<p>Spring Fair</p> <p>10 a.m. to 12 noon</p>
Sunday 30 th	<p>Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.</p>

Please note: Events are subject to change following any new Covid guidance.

OFFICE BEARERS

Minister – Position Vacant

Interim Moderator – Rev. Dr. Kleber Machado

Session Clerk

Graham Moore

Assistant Session

Clerk

Susan Finnigan

Editor of Beacon

Alan Christie

Material for the May 2023 Beacon is required by

Friday 21st April 2023 midnight

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

Tel: 334 0782

Email: office@sjrchurch.com

www.sjrchurch.com

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