

The Beacon

St. John's-Renfield Church

Magazine No 385

www.sjrchurch.com

2024

Feb

Mar

April

May

June

Sept

Oct

Nov

Dec



Minister's Letter

This year the Feast of Pentecost falls on Sunday 19 May. It is one of the three great Festivals of the Christian Church, along with Christmas and Good Friday/Easter.

The wider community (of all faiths and none) are happy to celebrate Christmas (or at least use the word regularly), and many might even recognise characters in a Nativity Play and know the words for 'Away in a manger'. Many others, however, are focussed more on Santa, decorations, presents, food and drink. The wider community also know the word 'Easter': though to many it is a prefix to 'Bunny' and 'Egg', rather than being associated with the Resurrection of the Crucified Jesus. But Pentecost? I doubt if more than a few have heard the word, let alone know what it means.



To be fair, I suspect that the same is true of many church folk as well. According to the Book of Acts, it was the day when the disciples – a very mixed group, of humble origins – felt empowered by God to go out and share his Good News and love with the whole world. In some ways it is the 'Official Birthday' of the worldwide church, but more importantly it is a reminder to us that in each generation, each week, each day, God sends out his people – as individuals, and as the church acting together - to share his Good News and love, empowered by the Spirit (the active power of God at work in the world).

Different images are invoked in the Bible to describe the Spirit in action: it is gentle like a dove, it cleanses like water, it purifies like fire, it disturbs and upsets like a raging wind. God calls on us to do things that reflect these different images of how the Spirit works. We are called to be ready to get alongside people who need help, support, comfort, friendship and reassurance. God is also looking for us to help people to explore and learn about the Christian faith, and embark on the journey of following the Risen Jesus, with all that that means. At the same time we are called to 'disturb and upset', speaking out against injustice, corruption and neglect of those in need, and taking steps to work for peace and justice, both on our doorstep and around the world. Plenty to do, and no excuse for feeling bored!

Whatever it is God wants us to do, he equips us with the support and energy of his Spirit, and gives us the opportunity to work with others in his church to help and encourage each other.

Rev. Ian Johnson



5th

Pulpit Suply – May

5th – Rev. Ian Johnson

12th – Christian Aid Service
Worship Team

19th – Rev. Ian Johnson

26th – Rev Gordon MacRae



The Church of Scotland

MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

***Thy Kingdom Come* Global Prayer Initiative
Ascension Day to Pentecost Sunday 2024
(Thursday 9 May – Sunday 19 May)**

Prayer takes us from where we are to where God calls us to be.

The Lord's Prayer takes the disciples from where they are to where Jesus needs them to be, the space where, together, they anticipate the coming of the Kingdom. That is why we pray 'thy Kingdom come'. That is why we join with the followers of Jesus across the world and pray 'thy Kingdom come'. Together, we anticipate the coming of the Kingdom. Together, we seek to live out our response to the words that Jesus taught his disciples: 'thy Kingdom come'.

Since November 2018, the Church of Scotland has partnered in the *Thy Kingdom Come* Global Prayer Initiative. Launched in 2016, it has since grown into a movement which unites Christians from across different traditions to pray for family and friends, for neighbours and colleagues, to come to a deeper understanding of the meaning of faith in Jesus Christ.

In 2024 *Thy Kingdom Come* runs from **Ascension Day to Pentecost Sunday (Thursday 8 May – Sunday 19 May)**:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

An integral part of the resourcing of *Thy Kingdom Come* is the provision of a Prayer Journal. In 2024, and for the first time, there will be a digital Scottish Prayer Journal featuring voices from across the Scottish church. I am happy to have contributed to this and encourage you to make use of it.

Once more: Prayer takes us from where we are to where God calls us to be, and as we pray 'thy Kingdom come' may we look for signs of the Kingdom come amongst us.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton
Moderator
General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

PARISH RECORDS

Baptisms

“Go into all the world and make disciples, baptising them in my name”

Milosz Osiadacz of B [REDACTED] Road, Glasgow was baptised on Sunday 7th April.

HAVE YOU HEARD THAT...?



... our Easter Egg Appeal collected a grand total of 490

eggs! With 244 Easter eggs for the Lodging House Mission and 246 Easter eggs for St Gregory's Foodbank, this is 20 more than last year. A huge thank you to the congregation, youth organisations and hall let users for this fantastic total. Both LHM and St Gregory's were very appreciative of our donations.



... our Walking Group is back. The first outing of 2024 was on Saturday 27th April, with a city walk from Garnethill, via Glasgow University and Kelvingrove, to the Clyde. Fancy joining future



walks? Speak to John McFadyen or Sarah Hamilton or email the office (office@sjrchuch.com)

...Kelvin Choir will be performing their annual spring concert here on Saturday May 4th. The choir will be singing a couple of lesser-known works from the choral repertoire, Handel's Te Deum 'Utrecht' and Haydn's Theresienmesse. They will be accompanied by players from the Glasgow Chamber Orchestra and the concert also features some talented up and coming soloists. Tickets are £12 for adults and £6 for students/children and can be purchased on the door. The concert starts at 7.30 pm and will be followed by post-concert refreshments.



Goodbye and Good Luck

Not all of the SJR family may have heard that Graham and Linda Moore are to leave SJR from May. Back in mid-April, Graham and Linda moved from their home in Ashburton Road to a bungalow in Erskine. As Elders, both have made enormous contributions to our Church and will be missed greatly.

Graham and Linda were married in SJR 49 years ago and have been involved since, welcoming 2 sons and 2 granddaughters along the way. Both bankers, they have been a huge asset to the Finance team with Graham being treasurer and Linda bonds convenor for many years. As faithful district Elders both have made many friends within the congregation. Youth church also benefited from their commitment in Boys Brigade and YF.

More recently Graham served as Session Clerk.. twice! He also served on vacancy committees and up until the move was on the Mission Planning Group. Linda, as well as organising successful Bonanzas has served on a vacancy committee and more recently been a co convenor of the Welcome and social committee.

So, as Graham and Linda settle in to a new life in their Erskine bungalow, I know that all in St John's - Renfield want to say a huge thank you and wish them and Uist (their beloved lurcher) good luck, blessings and every happiness.

Susan Finnigan – Assistant Session Clerk

SJR Welcome Team Door & Beadle Duties

May 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

Lead Elder: Maria McFadyen with John MacFadyen and Grace MacKay. **Reserve:** Isobel Digges

Beadling: John Finnigan - 5th, 12th and Fiona Robinson – 19th, 26th

You Email the Beacon

A late but still sincere thank you for forwarding The Beacon so faithfully each month. It gives me great pleasure to follow the fortunes, albeit sometimes mixed, of St. John's-Renfield.

With many thanks, and all good wishes,
Fiona Lille.





Spring Fair



Saturday 11th May 2024

10 am to 12 noon

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



**Books,
Unloved Gifts,
Bottle Stall, Baking
and more...**



£2.50 Entry includes free Tea/Coffee and Cake

**All proceeds will be split between Cancer
Research UK & SJR Church Special Projects**



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



@SJRCHURCH



@sjrchurch



CHRISTIAN AID SERVICE SUNDAY 12 MAY

This year's Christian Aid service, which will be led by our Worship Team, falls on Sunday 12th May.

This year we have an online envelope which is specific for St John's Renfield. Please scan the QR code below or type fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2024/sjr-christian-aid-week-2024

Donation envelopes for the collection on that day will be available on Sunday 28th April, 5th 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 Alison Craig alisoncraig40@hotmail.com or Roddy Watt ([REDACTED])





Beatson
cancer
CHARITY

DETERMINED TO BEAT CANCER

JOHN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CONCERT



St. John's-Renfield Church, Beaconsfield Rd,
Glasgow G12 0NY

FRIDAY 17TH MAY 2024

7 P.M.

(DOORS OPEN 6.15 P.M.)

TICKETS £15 ADULTS - £8 U18

Compere:

GORDON BARCLAY

Artistes:

CAMERON MURDOCH

(Piano/organ/accompanist)

MOIRA DOCHERTY (Soprano)

RYAN CORBETT (Accordion)

GRAHAM MACKENZIE (Fiddle)

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR OR

EMAIL: jdrmacmillan@icloud.com

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE BEATSON
CANCER CHARITY (Register No. SC044442)



Easter Celebrations

Many thanks to Nick and Carolyn Calder for organising another wonderful breakfast for the congregation to enjoy on Easter Sunday. It was beautiful blue skies for the egg rolling efforts.

Spring Fair

Saturday 11th May 2024 from 10am - 12noon.

All proceeds will be split between Cancer Research UK and SJR Church Special Projects

Tickets are available on entry at £2.50 per person. Stalls include: Bottle Stall, Jam, Unwanted but New Gifts, Hot Rolls, Book Stall with children's books and paperback novels. Please, no hard backs books or magazines. And, of course, Home Baking for both the tearoom and for selling!

Donations of books, bottles and unwanted but new gifts can be brought on Sunday 5th May from 10.30 am, prior to the 11.00 am service, thereafter until 12.30 pm.

Donations for all stalls – including home baking - can be brought to the church on **Friday 10th May** from 10 am till 12 noon and also from 7 pm onwards to the Sanctuary as the BB Display is on in the large hall. Please use the main east vestibule entrance on the Friday evening.

Any queries to Isobel ([REDACTED]) or Shirley T ([REDACTED])



This Year's Lenten Study Programme

During this past Lent up to ten of us studied Christian Aid's **Act on Poverty** Course. This course, consisting of six study packs, is predicated on the fact that there will be a General Election this year and invites us to explore the experience of poverty with a view to raising it as an issue in that election. Each study is rooted in a passage of Scripture and also provides relevant audio and visual supporting material.

The first pack [**Prophetic**] challenges us to consider what a prophetic voice is in our day and age, leading us to reflect on how we can individually and collectively speak out with a prophetic voice against the reality of poverty in our world and era.

The second pack [**Broken**] helps us to recognise that we live in a broken world and invites us to explore how we might contribute to mending such a world.

The third pack [**Generous**] confronts us with examples of the lived experience of poverty and examines how we can show generosity to those less fortunate than ourselves.

The fourth pack [**Located**] focuses on Jesus' example of regularly associating and identifying with the poor, asking how we can locate ourselves locally and globally with those in need.

The fifth pack [**Hopeful**] reminds us that hope should not be just an abstract concept, but rather a call to, and inspiration for concrete action in helping the poor.

In the sixth pack [**Together**] all these threads are drawn together, making quite explicit the general direction of travel underpinning the first five, that is the question of what, in the upcoming General

Election, can we as a group, a congregation, a local cluster of churches, a national church do together to alleviate poverty? This pack provides practical guidance and advice about pushing the issue of poverty higher up the political agenda, particularly by engaging with local and national politicians and community stakeholders.

Those of us who attended this course hope to pursue its practical implications further in due course and would welcome the involvement of anyone else challenged by what they have read above.

All the material is still available on the Christian Aid website.

Roddy Watt

Arranging Your Flowers in May

Grace MacKay
Susan Finnigan
Liz MacDonald



May Reader Rota



5th – Moira Eaglesham
12th – Grace MacKay
19th – Nick Calder
26th – Shirley Maxwell

Pop-in Café

Our popular community café is open

Wednesday 1st May

From 2- 3.30 pm

At the Large Hall,

St. John's Renfield Church,

Beaconsfield Road, Kelvindale



Free Tea, Coffee, Cake
(served until 3pm)

No booking required

Bring the kids - everyone is
welcome to join the fun.

Contact us: office@sjrchurch.com or call
(0141) 334 0782 - www.sjrchurch.com





April Pop-in Café

Despite the rotten weather we had a fantastic turn out of thirty people for our April Pop-in café.

There are two cafés left before we take a break over summer. Come and join us on the 1st of May and 5th of June for some lovely baking and chat.



The Pop-in Pops Out



Regular visitors to our Pop-in Café, Kelvinside Nursery invited us to their charity fundraising Daffodil tea in March. They raised a wonderful £718 for Marie Curie Cancer Care.



Kelvinside Nursery @KA_Nursery · Mar 25

Lovely afternoon hosting some friends from the local community and St John Renfield Church. The children performed songs and poems followed by afternoon tea 🌻 😊 #glasgowwestend #daffodiltearehearsal

OPERA BOHEMIA

"This company is a wealth of extraordinary fresh talent" (The List)
"Opera's perfect evangelists as they sound their song around Scotland" (The Student Newspaper)
"A breath of fresh air on the operatic circuit" (The Courier)



GIACOMO PUCCINI

Saturday 29th June 7.30pm
St John's-Renfield Church, Glasgow
www.rcs.ac.uk/box-office
0141 332 5057

Sunday 30th June 7.30pm
Eastwood Park Theatre, Giffnock
www.ercultureandleisure.org/theatre
0141 577 4956

Tuesday 2nd July 7.30pm
The Gaiety, Ayr
www.thegaiety.co.uk
01292 288 235

www.operaboheemia.co.uk

Thursday 4th July 7.30pm
Perth Theatre
www.perththeatreandconcerthall.com
01738 621 031

Saturday 6th July 2pm
Rothesay Joint Campus, Isle of Bute
www.wegotickets.com
Print Point & Fraser Gillies

Sunday 7th July 4pm
Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries
www.absoluteclassics.co.uk
01387 253 383

Opera Bohemia

will be performing

Puccini's **TOSCA** on Saturday 29th June at 7:30 in St John's-Renfield Church.

Tickets can be obtained from Shaun or Isobel Digges at a cost of £20, £18 concession, £7 under 18. Contact

- shaun.digges@gmail.com, [REDACTED]

Tickets can also be booked through the RCS www.rcs.ac.uk/box-office (0141332 5057)

Other Venues:

Sun 30th June 7.30pm, Giffnock, Eastwood Park Theatre

<https://www.ercultureandleisure.org/events/opera-bohemia-tosca/> 0141 577 4956

Tue 2nd July 7.30pm, Ayr, The Gaiety

<https://thegaiety.co.uk/events/opera-bohemia-tosca/> 01292 288235

Thu 4th July 7.30pm, Perth Theatre

<https://www.perththeatreandconcerthall.com/whats-on/puccini-s-tosca-with-opera-bohemia-294602>

01738 621031

Sat 6th July 2pm, Isle of Bute, Rothesay Joint Campus

<https://www.wegotickets.com/event/610813>

Sunday 7th July 4pm Dumfries, Easterbrook

Hall, <https://absoluteclassics.co.uk>

Midsteeple Box Office 01387 253383



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

Anchor Boys & Junior Section

We left you on a cliff hanger last month wondering how the Junior Section boys fared at the Partick District marching competition. We are delighted to report that they were triumphant! We are now working on training the Anchor Boys to perform to the same standard and look forward to showing off our marching skills at our forthcoming display on Tuesday 21st May at 6.30pm. Come along and see how we perform.

Word must be spreading about the fun to be had as part of the Junior Section and Anchor Boys of the Boys' Brigade on a Tuesday evening as, even at this late stage of the session, we are recruiting new members, bringing our membership up to 25 boys! This bodes well for the future of 5th Glasgow Boys' Brigade Company.

Looking past the display date, we are planning an end of session outing. Having investigated private coach hire and discovering the cost to be prohibitive, the outing will probably be to somewhere fairly local, by public transport... Where there's a will, there's a way....

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

Company Section

The Company Section session is whizzing by! After the Easter break, we are rolling on towards May when we will be holding our Company Section "Open Evening" on Friday 10th May starting at 7.30pm in the Large Hall. As per the last couple of years, this will be a shorter, less formal affair than our traditional "Inspections" with an informal opening, a couple of short items, and closing with the Presentation of Awards. Families, friends, and supporters of the Company are very welcome to join us on the night. We look forward to seeing you there!



On the awards front, we are delighted to say that Cpl Cameron Gregor, Cpl Alexander Bell, and Cpl Thrinei Davabalan have just about completed their work for the Queen's Badge and will, fingers crossed, officially become 'Queen's Men' on 10th May. Well done to all three boys. We are very proud of them.

We are also happy to announce that we will have five President's Badges to award this year to L/Cpl Hamish Matheson, Pte Vincent Russell, Pte Charlie Robertson, Pte Iniyan Davabalan, and Pte Bradley Tierney. They will now start their two-year journey to the Queen's Badge (or King's Badge as it will be known by then!).



After the Open Evening we have a few outdoor evenings planned before our weekend camp at Stillaig, Tighnabruaich from 7th to 9th June 2024. Hopefully the weather gods will shine on us that weekend!

We are also hoping to squeeze in a return visit to Glasgow Tigers speedway one Friday night - once again hoping for better weather than the last time we were there and the racing got abandoned due to rain!

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!

Alan Rattray



Attention all book lovers!

As you may know or have read, the Book Group has ceased to operate as a regular monthly meeting in each other's homes, but we are going to continue to share book recommendations on line. I was thinking that we could also submit suggestions for a good read to the Beacon. Let's have a wee competition for a snappy title for the article/ heading!

Wilma Murphy

EMILY IN UKRAINE



Many of you may remember Emily, our granddaughter from Ukraine. Euan, Tina and Babusya Zoya fled from Kyiv on 3rd March 2022; it took them 12 days to reach Glasgow. On 20th May 2022 they had to go back to Kyiv, the return journey took 5 days.

We are in regular contact with them and share scary and happy times via text messages and video calls. They are all well and get on with life as best as they can. Kyiv at the moment of writing is



relatively safe (as safe as a capital city can be during a war.) Euan, Tina and Zoya make sure that Emily enjoys as many of the activities for a nine-year-old as possible. She has been high wire swinging and pony trekking lately. The photo shows Emily on a patriotic Kyiv pony.

The extended MacDonald family thank St John's Renfield congregation for remembering Ukraine and our family in Kyiv.

Elizabeth & Jim MacDonald

We are all right here!
We went to the park
and Emily had a go on a
cuddie
(Euan's caption)

LIFE AND WORK

MAY 2024

General Assembly 2024

Interview with the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Dr Shaw Paterson

Reports to the Assembly

Timetables

‘It’s Not About Status’: the Lord Lyon, Joe Morrow, discusses his role in the Assembly ceremonials

‘Dignity, Freedom and Hope’

Christian Aid Week 2024

A Gift to the Church

The editors of a new supplement to the Church Hymnary reflect on how the book took shape.

Our Presbyteries

The Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian

‘My Eyes Have Been Opened’

Rebekka Read, a Young Adult Volunteer serving in New York, reflects on her experience

View from the Pulpit

The Rev Neil Glover on the challenges of rural ministry and how ‘God always gives enough’.

Regulars

The Very Rev Dr Martin Fair on ministry recruitment


Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church

Bible Study by the Very Rev Dr Colin Sinclair

My Church: Elizabeth Pennykid, Session Clerk of Kirknewton and East Calder Parish Church

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

MAY 2024
£3.50

IN THIS ISSUE

General Assembly 2024
Interview with the Moderator-Designate
Assembly reports
Assembly and Fringe timetables

'Dignity, freedom and hope'
Christian Aid Week 2024
'It's not about status'
Interview with the Lord Lyon

Our presbyteries
Edinburgh and West Lothian
Towards ministry
The Four Es of Ministry
and much more all for £3.50

WHAT'S ON MAY 2024

Wednesday 1 st	Pop-In Café SJR Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m. Kirk Session – 7.15 p.m.
Saturday 4 th	Kelvinside Choir Concert at SJR Church 7.30 p.m.
Sunday 5 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m. Donations for Spring Fair
Friday 10 th	Spring Fair Donations – Church open 10 am to 12 noon then from 7 p.m. in sanctuary.
Saturday 11 th	Spring Fair 10 am to 12 noon
Sunday 12 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m. Christian Aid Service
Friday 17 th	John's 90 th Birthday Beatson Charity Concert Doors open 6.15 p.m.
Sunday 19 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Sunday 26 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.

Please note: Events are subject to change

OFFICE BEARERS

Minister – Position Vacant

Interim Moderator – Rev. Audrey Jamieson

Leadership Team

Susan Finnigan, Fiona Robinson, Shirley Maxwell and Roderick Watt

Editor of Beacon

Alan Christie

Material for the June 2024 Beacon is required by

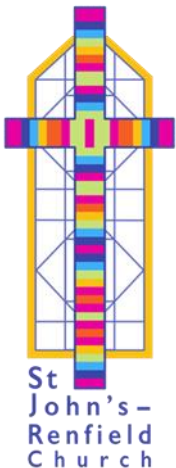
Friday 24th May 2024 midnight

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

Tel: (0141) 334 0782

Email: office@sjrchurch.com

www.sjrchurch.com



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@sjrchurch

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