

The Beacon

St. John's-Renfield Church

Magazine No 388

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2024

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Minister's Letter

Go into many shops and supermarkets in October (and much of September) and you are liable to be confronted by ghosts, ghouls, witches, skeletons, giant spiders and various other macabre artefacts. You can buy them, take them home, and decorate your windows and garden with them. For many retailers 'Hallowe'en' has become big business.

It is all a big change from the 'Hallowe'en' that many of us knew decades ago, with turnip lanterns, dookin' for apples, treacle scones, fancy dress and guising. A raft of American ideas and products, including pumpkins and 'trick or treat,' have edged out the traditional Scottish way of doing things.



No one really knows when and where Hallowe'en began, though there have been many different suggestions. One is that it grew out of pre-Christian customs linked to a significant day marking the formal end of Summer and the beginning of Winter. It was a time when everyone readily believed in spirits, demons and other super-natural creatures – some were benign, some were spiteful, and some were down-right horrible, responsible for so much pain and hardship. No one wished to upset them, for fear of what they would do, so they celebrated with them at the end of October, and shared food and gifts with them. Well, it's one possibility!

The Mediaeval Church tried to 'Christianise' festivities at the end of October, making it the Eve of a great celebration of the power of Christian saints. The Reformers took a dim view of the Catholic position on saints, so that approach lost its appeal in some quarters. Meanwhile the public at large were quite happy to carry on celebrating Hallowe'en, whatever the theology.

It's strange that in a country where so many people claim not to believe in God or any 'spiritual beings', there are so many who are fascinated by ghosts, ghouls etc. Maybe, like the folk of long ago, people are conscious that everyday life for them, and for many around the world, involves pain and hardship. While some can be directly attributed to e.g. the action of governments, so much cannot be explained. Maybe decorating your house and garden with ghosts and skeletons is a way of expressing some of their concern with the inexplicable in life (as well as keeping up with the neighbours next door!)

While the Church may have moved away from denouncing demons and devils, and takes a different stand from its forebears on the nature and role of saints, we do still have something positive and helpful to say to the world around us. Along with the rest of our country, community and world we have no answer for the inexplicable pain and hardship that occurs, but we do feel compelled by God to speak out against the pain and hardship which could be avoided if people acted differently. We affirm most strongly that not only has God experienced pain and hardship for himself in Jesus, but he works to bring healing and wholeness to his world, and calls on us and everyone else to engage in that work too. And nothing – human, ghostly or whatever else – can stand in the way of God.

Pulpit Supply – October

6th – Rev. Ian Johnson

13th – Rev. Ian Johnson

20th – Rev. Gordon Macrae

27th – Rev. Gordon Macrae



PARISH RECORDS

Funeral and Memorial Services

“Nothing can separate us from the love of God”

The funeral of Elizabeth Mackenzie was held at Clydebank Crematorium of Wednesday the 25th of September.

The funeral of Mattie Brittain, formerly of Highfield Drive and Westerlands Park will take place at Dalnotter Crematorium, Clydebank on Wednesday 2nd October, 2024 at 09.30 am

Information From the Leadership Team

The Leadership Team, in the absence of a Minister and a Session Clerk, organise the day-to-day and week-to-week running of SJR.

Assistant Session Clerk, Susan Finnigan leads the team and ensures that we work within Church of Scotland law. As our named contact person for the Presbytery of Glasgow office, Susan liaises as required with them and with “121” (Church of Scotland HQ in Edinburgh) as required. The team is governed by Church of Scotland law.

We work closely together with our Kirk Session, bringing to them all issues that require discussion and/or approval. We very much rely on our Committees whose skilled and experienced convenors and members deal with their individual remit. They regularly report to us and Kirk Session.

Our Admin Assistant, Cathy Allan is an excellent back up force. Her amazing organisational, IT, and social media skills keep us organised and help promote SJR to the world. As a team, we firmly rely on Cathy

and appreciate the work she does to support us, the Kirk Session, the congregation and everyone around our church.

The Leadership Team appreciates the support of the Kirk Session and congregation and welcomes any constructive comments on its work.

Ministry

Our Ministerial vacancy is likely to go on for some time yet. In the meantime, we are fortunate to have Rev Audrey Jamieson as our Interim Moderator. Audrey willingly works with us behind the scenes moderating our Kirk Session meetings, representing us at Presbytery and carrying out pastoral care duties as required.

Week by week thanks go to Rev Ian Johnson and Rev Tom Pollock who have committed to cover all but one Sunday every month. This means we will enjoy some continuity in our worship.

On the remaining Sunday of the month, we will receive visiting support from Ministers from churches in our cluster (Cluster 1E). For this commitment we thank them too.

Our own Worship Team are also a valuable asset and they are also willing to lead services if required. We are enormously grateful to each and every one of them.

The Leadership Team welcomes any feedback you may have on worship.

**Susan Finnigan, Fiona Robinson, Shirley Maxwell, Roddy Watt.
The Leadership Team**

HAVE YOU HEARD THAT...?



... our regular visitor the Olive Tree Charity has organised a talk: ***What's happening on the West Bank?*** on Monday 14 October 2024, 7.30pm at Wellington Church, University Avenue, Glasgow (enter from 77 Southpark Avenue, G12 8LE).

... our next Messy Church is scheduled for Saturday the 16th of November. Let your friends, family and neighbours know that music, games, crafts and a shared meal will start at 4 p.m. We hope to see you there. Please note that children must be accompanied by an adult.

... SJR will be hosting a joint cluster social event on the evening of Sunday 27th October. This is likely to take the form of a light-hearted quiz, with refreshments. It will be an opportunity for us to get know our friends in the cluster churches (Kelvinbridge, Wellington, Partick Trinity and Kelvinside Hillhead). More details to follow.



SJR Welcome Team Door & Beadle Duties

October 2024 – 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

Lead Elder: Sarah Hamilton with Margaret Paton and Vivienne Limond

Beadles: Anne Bryden (6th & 13th) John Finnigan (20th) Caroline Taylor (27th)

Gardening Team

Did you know that every Thursday morning from the end of April till the beginning of November a small band of 6 SJR folks, John Allan, Shaun Digges, John Finnigan, Harry Hitchcock, Robin Hutchison, John McFadyen work away on our extensive gardens and grounds. The task is enormous and is heavy difficult work. From grass trimming, hedge cutting, shrub trimming, weeding, tree felling, path clearing, leaf lifting, railing painting ... yes, they do it all. They do a grand job of keeping it tidy. For this we are much indebted to each and every one of them. So, next time you see any of them why don't you say a thank you!



Finally, if you'd like to join them in 2025, they most certainly would be delighted to welcome you to the team. Gardening experience not required!

Susan Finnigan (Assistant Session Clerk)

Reader Rota - October

- 6th – Nick Calder
- 13th – Margaret Paton
- 20th – Grace MacKay
- 27th – Caroline Taylor



LODGING HOUSE MISSION

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER

The Lodging House Mission prepare more than 45,000 hot meals every year for those who are homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded. They take pride in providing their service users with one of the basic necessities for survival - food - in a safe, warm and trusted environment. An open-door policy is in operation where no-one is turned away. LHM want their service users to feel welcome so that they not only enjoy a good meal but also benefit from the social and emotional aspects of attending. Food is provided Monday to Friday in the cafe based within the Drop-in Centre, East Campbell Street.

LHM are very aware that they can only carry out their mission to those on the margins of society through the generosity of supporting churches and organisations. After consulting with LHM, the items we will be giving this year are: -

Sugar

Tinned fruit

Long-life full-cream milk

Baked beans

Lentils



Any donations of the above will be very much appreciated. As usual, there will be boxes in the East Vestibule on Sunday 6th October. The contents will be delivered to the LHM following the service.

Cash donations to LHM may also be considered as it would enable them to buy exactly what is needed and will also help to prevent wastage, etc. If you would like to donate in this way, there are LHM envelopes in the East Vestibule which can be picked up prior

Car Wash

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

Jewellery

Raffle - raffle prizes welcome

Tearoom

Time, Talents and Treats - more information to follow

Toiletries - unused toiletries

Toy Stall - toys and games in good condition

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

Thursday 31st October between 7 and 9pm

Friday 1st November between 10 and 12 noon

Friday 1st 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 -

Shirley Tassell -

We look forward to seeing you and your donations!

BONANZA

Saturday 2nd November 2024

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

St Gregory's Food Bank



We are currently giving £350 per month to the Foodbank, but are now receiving around £200 per month in donations. It would be good to see the donations rise so we can continue to pay the £350, particularly as we approach the winter when some families are having to choose between food and heat. The need is growing, and the Foodbank relies on our contribution. If you can, please give generously – either regularly or in single payments - every pound raised helps a family in need.

The Finance Team

September Pop-in Café

We were delighted to welcome everyone back to our popular Pop-in Café on Wednesday the 4th of September. Café goers were busy catching up after the summer break.

We were joined once again by members of the congregation, Kelvindale



community and our little friends from Kelvinside Nursery.

Pop-in Café

Join the autumn fun at our community
café!



Wednesday 2nd October

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



A Personal Paradise

On 1st September 1964, with my wife Myra and our 11 months old daughter, Barbara, I moved from a top flat in Woodlands Drive to my semi-detached house in Colchester Drive. We were joined by Andrew in March 1966 and Hamish in September 1969 (four days after Barbara's birthday.). For some time, the cost of similar houses in Kelvindale had plateaued at £3000. Perhaps because of the many steps at the front of this house, our buying price was £2750.

For almost all of my time here, I have been a member of St. John's-Renfield Church and an elder for over 50 years. In my districts as a deacon and an elder, I met a lot of other members. Even more so,

as convener of Deeds of Covenant then Gift Aid for twenty years, I got to know many of the congregation. I found the church motto, 'A faith to proclaim, a fellowship to share' very appropriate. For



nearly sixty years, I have found the ministers and fellow members, through good times and bad times, very friendly and supportive.

I prefer to deal in positives rather than the other thing. I welcome a warm sunny day and a beautiful sunrise or sunset but can put up with cold weather, wind and rain. Being high on the hill, through

my front windows, I have a panoramic view of the west end of Glasgow. From the Science Centre to the left, on a clear day I can see Goat Fell in Arran, to the right. Although I am not a 'city boy', having been brought up in the rural district of Aberfeldy in beautiful Perthshire, I love Glasgow and its people; my home, family and friends. This is a sort of 'personal paradise' for me.

Again, on an optimistic note, I believe that church congregations will gradually build up again. There are able people locally, nationally and internationally with the drive and knowledge to sustain and spread the Christian faith. Covid 19 dealt a severe blow to church attendance but at St. John's Renfield Church, services have continued due to the forbearance of the leadership team, our choirmaster and choir, supported by regular attenders. As we do not have a full-time minister at present, we are indebted to several ministers who have never failed to guide and inspire us.

John MacMillan

Arranging Your Flowers in October

Liz MacDonald
Marion Dowling
Susan Finnigan





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

The BB session is now underway with numbers still settling down. To date, we have had fourteen Junior Section boys attending and eleven returning Anchor Boys. Unfortunately, no P1 boys have enrolled so, if you have friends or neighbours with a boy in P1, please encourage them to join us on a Tuesday evening from 6.15-7.30pm.

Already the Junior Section has attended a Partick District football tournament with ten boys attending. This enabled us to enter two teams with one finishing second and the other fourth, the most important thing being that the boys all enjoyed the experience.

October will bring a night off on Tuesday 15th during the school holiday week and of course, the much-anticipated Hallowe'en Party on Tuesday 29th.

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

Company Section

The Company Section kicked-off the new session on Friday 6th September in the Large Hall. It was fantastic to see all the boys again.

We've started the session with our usual mix of games, classwork, and activities, which we hope will keep the boys well engaged over the

coming weeks. Amongst other things, we've been looking at Energy Drink, UK Football Stadiums, and the recruits have been learning The Lord's Prayer and about Our Organisation.

As we go to press, the first Partick District competition of the session is upon us with the 5-a-side football at Scotstoun. We are also looking forward to the return of the annual District Sports, also being held at Scotstoun, in October.

Do keep watching our social media feeds to see what we get up to. Please do 'like', 'share', and 'retweet' our posts if possible!

We have five boys starting their work towards the King's Badge this session - L/Cpl Hamish Matheson, L/Cpl Vincent Russell, Pte Charlie Robertson, Pte Iniyan Davabalan, and Pte Bradley Tierney. They have already attended their first BB Skills course and have started their BB volunteering work helping with our Anchors and Juniors on a Tuesday evening.

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

STEDFAST



AWARENESS

AND

FUNDRAISING

EVENT

**9 October, 19:00
The Renfield Centre,
260 Bath Street
Glasgow
G2 4JP**

**Join us for an evening celebrating
Glasgow's twin city of Bethlehem, featuring:**

- **Testimonies**
- **Photography exhibition**
- **Live link with speaker from Bethlehem**
- **Refreshments and bake sale**
- **Raffle**

(Please bring cash.)

**Donations raised will be used to
support people from Bethlehem in
Israeli Administrative Detention
(incarceration without trial or charge)**

**Please RSVP to:
bethlehemteam7
@gmail.com**

LIFE AND WORK

OCTOBER 2024

‘A multi-faceted and profound relationship’

Africa and the Church of Scotland

Bears and daisy chains

New Guild partner projects

Jane’s story

A life transformed by God

Bewilderingly varied

New book on the gifts of ministry

Our Presbyteries

The Presbytery of South West Scotland

Regulars

The Moderator of the General Assembly on Harvest

Worship column by the Rev Roddy Hamilton

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church

A new series of Bible studies by the Rev Richard Baxter

My Church: David Thompson of Christ Church, Bermuda

Youth: Corrie Douglas-Young of the Church of Scotland

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OCTOBER 2024
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'A multi-faceted and profound relationship'
Africa and the Church of Scotland

Bears and daisy chains
New Guild partner projects

Jane's story
A life transformed by God

'Hooray! It's harvest time'
Reflection from the Moderator

Bewilderingly varied
New book on the gifts of ministry

and much more all for £3.50

WHAT'S ON OCTOBER 2024

Wednesday 2 nd	Pop-In Café SJR Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m.
Sunday 6 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m. Harvest and Communion
Sunday 13 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Wednesday 18 th	Kirk Session – 7.15 p.m.
Sunday 20 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Sunday 27 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m. Cluster Social Event – details to follow
Thursday 31 st	Bonanza set up – 7.00 to 9.00 p.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 November 2024 Beacon is required by

Friday 18th October 2024 midnight

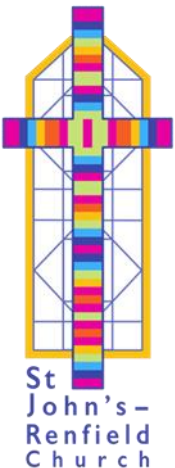
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