

# The Beacon

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

**Magazine No 384**

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

**2024**

**Feb**

**Mar**

**April**

**May**

**June**

**Sept**

**Oct**

**Nov**

**Dec**



# Minister's Letter

Primary 1 or 2 child to School Chaplain: 'I know what Easter is all about. It's when the Easter Bunny was born. My Gran told me.' Chaplain then has to do a diplomatic manoeuvre telling small child that the church celebrates something else at Easter, while trying not to shatter the child's faith in Gran's infallibility (even while he thinks, 'Your Gran told you a load of rubbish!')



Many people seem to find it easier to believe in the Easter Bunny than in the Risen Jesus, but for those of us who do believe in Jesus, and trust in the Easter message, it gives us a completely different perspective on life.

When we lose someone close, or know that we are approaching the end of our time on earth, Jesus' promise that there is a life beyond this one, where we will be forever with him, and where there is no more pain or hurt, is a comfort and consolation.

When we look at the world around us – whether it's politics, armed conflict, increasing polarisation of views, the impact of climate change, misuse of new technology or whatever – it would be so easy to feel despair and give up hope of a better, safer world for generations to come. But the Easter message speaks of hope, of assurance, that God is concerned about our world, and that in the end Truth, Love, Justice and God's other values will have the last word.

Easter gives us hope. Easter gives us life. But it is not just about life beyond this one. Assured that there is a God who cares, who acts,

who has demonstrated that he and his values will have the last word, our life in this world can take on a new quality and outlook. Easter hope doesn't promise us an easy life, or a life packed with fun and comfort. In fact, it can be the complete opposite – we feel compelled to be involved in charity, community or church work which can be tiring, and sometimes thankless. But Easter gives us a new outlook on life, a conviction that it is worth striving to bring change, and the power of God's Spirit is with us to keep us going, and make us have an impact on the world around us.

**Rev. Ian Johnson**



## **Pulpit Supply – April**

7<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Tom Pollock

14<sup>th</sup> - Rev. Ian Johnson

21<sup>st</sup> – Rev. Audrey Jamieson

28<sup>th</sup> – Worship Team with Roger Sturrock

## **HAVE YOU HEARD?**

...the Scottish Government has announced two charities will receive a total of £500,000 to support work in Malawi. The Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) and Christian Aid will be given £250,000 each to tackle food insecurity in the country, one of the poorest in the world. The World Food Programme has said that 5.4 million



of the near 20 million population of the country are “chronically food insecure” due to climate change-related and economic issues. Great timing as Christian Aid Week is celebrated from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2024.

\*\*\*\*\*

...our Annual Business Meeting will be held after service on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> of April. Everyone is welcome to attend.



\*\*\*\*\*

... we have been heartened by the number of eggs donated to our Easter Egg Appeal. These boxes will be making their way to the Lodging House Mission and St. Gregory’s Foodbank in time for Easter. A huge thank you to everyone for their generosity.

\*\*\*\*\*

...Olive Tree Scotland will be returning to SJR on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of April. The charity will once again have beautiful Palestinian crafts for sale after service.

\*\*\*\*\*

... St. Gregory’s Food Bank have enough empty glass jars and bottles, thank you all who donated. Other donations are still very welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

...locks have changed on the back door and the lane entry to the church and all the new keys have been issued. If you feel you should have been given a key, please contact the office ([office@sjrchurch.com](mailto:office@sjrchurch.com)).



\*\*\*\*\*

... Shirley Maxwell will be joining the Leadership Team from May. The LT look forward to working with Shirley and know she is going to be a great asset to the team.



## **SJR Welcome Team Door & Beadle Duties**

**April 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Lead Elder:** Nick Calder with Anne Bryden and Vivienne Limond

**Reserve:** Carolyn Calder

**Beadling:** Roddy Watt - 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and Laura Calder - 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

## April Reader Rota



7<sup>th</sup> – Isobel Digges

14<sup>th</sup> – Wilma Murphy

21<sup>st</sup> – Seonaidh Gibson

28<sup>th</sup> – Roddy Watt



## Our Book Group

All good things come to an end, they say, and so it is with our Book Group. We have been sharing our love of books for at least 20 years and had many happy hours sharing our thoughts about life the universe and everything – as well as the content of books! We have always been a very varied group, but as the years pass, our tastes change, and what was once stimulating for some is no longer so.

We have so many fond memories to cherish of members who are no longer with us and it has been a pleasure to welcome new ones.

We are planning to hold a ‘Wrap Party’ to celebrate the many happy memories. And of course, we will still remain a friendship group to share our stories – and of course – books we have been reading!

**Wilma Murphy**

P.S. Would anyone out there like to pick up the mantle?



# MESSY CHURCH

We held our first Messy Church since 2019 on Saturday 16th March 2024. We were pleasantly surprised that 6 families and 10 children joined us for the fun.

Rev Ian Johnson was excellent and delivered a fun filled Bible story with lots of participation from the audience. Music input came from Ross Taylor on piano and 3 action songs were sung.

Craft was next on the agenda and the children got thoroughly involved in Easter card making, origami, skittle rainbows and Easter colouring. An enthusiastic Easter Egg hunt followed in the Sanctuary, then it was time for a yummy meal.



A great time was had by all. Thank you to all who attended, organised and generally made this event relaunch a success. Will we do it again ...

.... watch this space 😊

**The Messy Team**



# Spring Fair

Saturday 11th May 2024

10am till 12 noon

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

Please come and join us to browse our stalls for books, bottles, jam, home baking, hot rolls, silent auction, unloved or unwanted new gifts and chat to your friends! Tickets at £2.50 per person will be available on the door and they also include either tea or coffee and a piece of cake or home baking.

Donations are most welcome for Home Baking – both for the tearoom and for selling – Bottle Stall, Books and Unwanted New Gifts. Please only donate paperback books and children's books. No hard back books or magazines. Donations can be brought to the church on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May from 10am till 12 noon or in the evening to the Sanctuary from 7pm. The BB Display takes place in the large hall on this evening.

We look forward to seeing everyone and hearing the chatter and laughter in the large hall.

Please remember to bring cash as we do not have card machines!  
Any queries to Isobel Digges (██████████) or Shirley Tassell (██████████  
██████████)





# 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



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## Summary Annual Accounts - Year ended 31 December 2023

General Account	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Offerings (incl. tax recovered on gift aid)		133,521		130,518
Fund raising, interest, etc.		15,639		12,986
Legacies, donations & grants		10,300		2,000
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>159,460</u>		<u>145,504</u>
National Ministry & Mission and Wider Work	68,819		84,705	
Local Staffing Costs	22,050		20,286	
Building and equipment costs	53,071		35,501	
Other local costs	3,519		3,669	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<u>147,459</u>		<u>144,161</u>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for year</b>		<u>12,001</u>		<u>1,343</u>
Balance brought forward		29,909		28,566
<b>Balance to carry forward</b>		<u><u>41,910</u></u>		<u><u>29,909</u></u>

Other Funds	Fabric Funds £	Toilet Upgrade £	Foodbank	Other Funds £
Donations (incl. Gift Aid)	0	1,152	4,769	1,654
Fund raising	0	6,208	0	0
Investment income	2,863	2,332	0	855
Legacy	0	10,000	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>2,863</u>	<u>19,692</u>	<u>4,769</u>	<u>2,509</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>	0	7,559	6,600	1,521
Decrease in value of investment	2,134	0	0	0
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for year</b>	<u>729</u>	<u>12,133</u>	<u>(1,831)</u>	<u>988</u>
Balance brought forward	68,581	55,854	2,619	18,783
<b>Balance to carry forward</b>	<u><u>69,310</u></u>	<u><u>67,987</u></u>	<u><u>788</u></u>	<u><u>19,771</u></u>

## **2023 A good Year?**

Thanks, in no small measure to your continuing generosity and two legacies received into the General Account, last year we had a surplus of £12,001.

Ordinary income rose by 2.3% while interest received and Sunday coffee increased by 20%. However, legacies totalling £10,300 raised our income by almost £14,000 to £159,460.

Expenditure rose by £3,300 but that masks some wide variations. Being vacant and without a locum has saved us just over £11,000 but we have spent that money on the property and electrical work in particular. We also spent money on the heating and this work is ongoing as well.

We have also been fortunate that our gas and electricity contracts were dated before the steep rises in late 2022 but alas these are now having to be renewed going forward.

During the year we received a third legacy but this was placed directly into the fund set up to pay for refurbishing the toilets and upgrading the Brotherton Hall. After paying some architects' fees we now have almost £68,000 in the Project Fund.

More details and a look into the future will be provided at the Stated Annual Meeting on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>. April after morning service when we will consider the future financial needs of St John's-Renfield.

A couple of notes from the accounts are also shown in the Beacon which will not be directly reported on but may be of interest and confirming our generosity as a congregation and community.

Full accounts can be requested from Robin Hutchison



### Collections for third parties

				£
St Gregory's Foodbank (incl. Gift Aid)				6,600
Christian Aid				2,583
Lodging House Mission				1,275
Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal				1,000
Olive Tree Scotland				700
Epilepsy Connections				365
Mission without Borders				290
BBC Children in Need				75
Red Cross in Ukraine				50
				<u>12,938</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 £350 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.

<b><i>We are grateful for the following legacies received</i></b>			
<b><i>during the year:</i></b>			
			<b>£</b>
	Bequest from Mrs Irene Frame		10,000
	Bequest from Mrs Moira Forsyth		10,000
	Bequest from Mr Ian Ross		300
			<b>20,300</b>

# Pop-in Café

Spring has sprung at our community café!

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 along - 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)



# Easter Pop-in Café

We had a fantastic turn out for our Easter themed Pop-in café in March. Our little friends from Kelvinside Academy Nursery joined us along with some old and new visitors. Our next café is

during school holidays so please come along and bring the kids!



## Arranging Your Flowers in April

Grace MacKay  
Marion Dowling  
Liz MacDonald





## **Heartfelt Thanks from Lodging House Mission**

I am writing to thank you for the generous donation of £500 received from the Piano Recital given by Stanley Butcher. This donation will greatly assist us in our work with people who have lived experience of homelessness, vulnerability and social exclusion and are guests at our centre at the Lodging House Mission here in Glasgow.

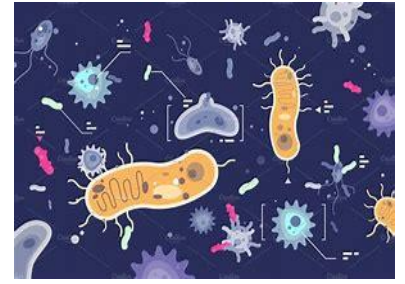
In our current housing crisis, it is even more important to recognise the difference that individual contributions can make – helping to combat the sense of isolation that accompanies the experience of being without a forever home. This was overwhelmingly demonstrated in our ‘Knit Together’ exhibition recently where individual contributions led to display of over 140 colourful and hand knitted blankets.

We are very aware we can only carry out the work we do at LHM thanks to the generosity of supporters such as yourselves. On behalf of everyone at LHM, please pass on our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed and continues to support our work through prayer and raising awareness raising.

Best wishes from all the team at LHM360,

**Deacon Claire Herbert, Chaplain LHM.**





Rainbows, both Brownie Packs and Guides attended a Thinking Day Celebration at St Davids Church in Knightswood on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February, doing lots of Thriving Future activities. We all had a great time and joined in with a campfire and learnt new songs.



On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March Brownies took part in a Microbes at Boyd Orr Building at Glasgow University. Brownies had a great time learning and touching things and all got a badge and goodie bag to take home.





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**

### **Anchor Boys & Junior Section**

We continue to run a busy programme of activities on a Tuesday evening from 6.15 - 7.30pm for a lively group of boys aged 5-11 (P1-P6) In fact, in recent weeks our number has grown to a very respectable and healthy 25 boys, 11 x Junior Section boys and 14 Anchor Boys.

As well as enjoying routine activities on a Tuesday evening, the Junior Section are attending a Partick District marching competition on Friday 22nd March, deadline for submissions for The Beacon, so we will have to keep you in suspense till May's edition to hear how they get on! The boys have worked hard under the direction of Mr Watt and the senior company section boys in preparation for this competition. We wish them well.

We are planning a more formal display than we have had in the last couple of years due to COVID restrictions, on Tuesday 21st May from 6.30pm. Mr Rattray, Officer-in- Charge of the Company Section, will be our Inspecting Officer. And again, in a first since COVID restrictions, we are considering an annual outing, possibly on 1st June to Almond Valley Farm Park, near Livingston. Watch this space for confirmation and final details.

## **Company Section**

Firstly, many thanks to everyone who supported our Coffee Morning at the start of March. An amazing £1700 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. Thanks also to those congregation members who gave us donations even though they could not make it along on the morning.

The boys have now completed their First Aid classwork, which culminated in some CPR practical work with the "Little Annie" equipment. We also had a Hollywood themed evening and one of our leaders ran a Car Maintenance class. Thankfully his car was still running after the boys had had their hands on it.

On the Partick District competition front, Pte Hamish Meikle gained third place in the Juniors Badminton competition. Our Senior 5-a-side football team enjoyed a competitive game against the 135th and came out narrow winners 5-4.

On the Glasgow Battalion front, our drill squad relinquished the Limited Squad Drill trophy after a five-year winning streak. We gained second place this year.

Cpl Alexander Bell, Cpl Cameron Gregor, and Cpl Thrinei Davabalan successfully navigated their way through a muddy, and sometimes wet, Queen's Badge Completion Course weekend at Auchengillan Outdoor Centre. The boys are now on the home strait to becoming Queen's Men (the award has not changed to King's Badge yet!) 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!



**BEATSON  
cancer  
CHARITY**  
DETERMINED TO BEAT CANCER

**JOHN'S 90<sup>TH</sup>  
BIRTHDAY  
CONCERT**

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

**FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:jdrmacmillan@icloud.com)

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

# **LIFE AND WORK**

**APRIL 2024**

## **A Blessing to the Church**

Churches taking on worship without a minister

## **Love in Action**

An update on the work of the charity Scottish Love in Action, which has its roots in the Church of Scotland

## **New Life for Church Buildings**

How redundant church buildings are being repurposed

## **Our Presbyteries**

Focus on the Presbytery of Clyde

## **View from the Pulpit**

The Rev Scott Rennie on the challenges and differences of ministry in London

## **God's Original Cathedral**

The Rev Roddy Hamilton says outdoor worship 'invites a whole range of new experiences'

## **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: Alan Blair of St Columba's Church, Jersey

Youth: New elder Grant Henderson shares his journey of faith

**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

APRIL 2024  
£3.50

IN THIS ISSUE

'A blessing to the Church' Leading worship without a minister	'Christ is risen, so rise up' The Moderator's message in the Easter season	Holding politicians to account Resources ahead of a General Election
Love in action Update on the work of charity rooted in Church	New life for church buildings Caring for redundant churches	and much more all for £3.50

# WHAT'S ON

## APRIL 2024

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Pop-In Café SJR Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m.
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11 a.m. Olive Tree charity after service
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Morning Worship – 11 a.m. Annual Business Meeting after service
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	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 and  
Roderick Watt

### Editor of Beacon

Alan Christie

Material for the May 2024 Beacon is required by

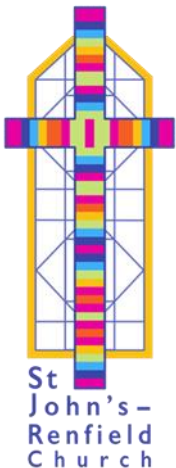
**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024 midnight**

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

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