

The Beacon

St. John's-Renfield Church

Magazine No 374

www.sjrchurch.com

2023

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Letter from Rev. Eric McLachlan



My Dear Friends,

I have been asked to prepare the pastoral letter for the month of March and am happy to do so.

One of the things that many unbelievers and indeed many believers also, have difficulty reconciling today is the inactivity of God when there is so much suffering in terms of famine, natural disasters and warfare. They wrestle with the question – ‘Why doesn’t God do something?’

As I write, we are into the second week of one of the worst earthquake disasters in decades in Turkey and Syria where the death toll to date is in excess of thirty-five thousand people, not to mention those injured, and this number is projected to more than double in the coming weeks. This tragedy and that of the Ukraine/Russia war are uppermost in all of our minds.

A man by the name of Mervyn Stockwood, reflecting on the Easter events says that when he was a young boy he wrestled with this question. He used to go to the three-hour Good Friday service held at his church. As the service moved on, he kept hoping something would happen to save the situation. Surely somebody would intervene before the soldiers finished nailing Jesus to the cross. Surely someone would break into the drama, before circumstances became too desperate. The whole pageant was frightfully unfair. He shouldn’t have, “suffered under Pontius Pilate”.

Of course, God did have a hand in the affair. He shared it. He knew the pain and anguish of it all. We don't fully understand it, but as Christians we believe that in his love for us, God was crucified with Christ. Jesus knew it and it was this which sustained him and kept him faithful to the end. "Father into your hands I commit my spirit", said Jesus and he came through the worst with a word of forgiveness and trust on his lips.

Pain, suffering, famine, natural disaster, warfare; it would be wonderful if God would remove it all at a stroke, but he doesn't. A Christian is someone who can live with these uncomfortable facts, not in any complacent way. We have faith that God is involved in all these tragedies and horrific circumstances in the same way that he suffered with Christ at the cross.

The fact is we don't fully understand it, but we seek grace and courage and strength to live with life's hardships and contradictions and we are comforted and strengthened by the knowledge that God is with us.

As Easter Sunday (9th APRIL) will be our last Sunday with you, Janis and I take this opportunity to thank you all for the privilege of being at St John's Renfield again albeit for a short period of time and we wish you every blessing both now and into the uncertain future that lies before you.

God bless,
ERIC and JANIS.

PARISH RECORDS

Funeral and Memorial Service

“Nothing can separate us from the love of God”

Roma Bradnock, Thorn Road, Bearsden

HAVE YOU HEARD THAT...

...two of our sister congregations within the North West Cluster, St Columba Gaelic Church and Blawarthill have formally linked and will be led by the Rev Melvyn Wood.



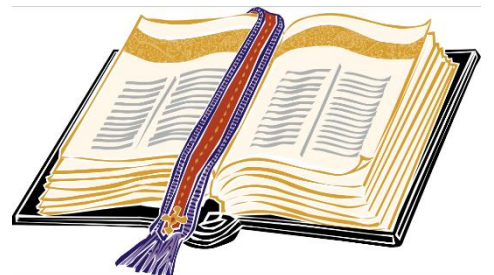
Reader Rota – March

5th - Laura Calder

12th – Fiona Robinson

19th – Wilma Murphy

26th – Jim Tassell



March Communion

On Sunday 5th March, at 11am Rev. Dr Kleber Machado, our Interim Moderator, will lead us in Holy Communion.



Your district Elder should have delivered you a Communion Card, it is not essential, but would be helpful for us to if you could please bring the card along and give to one of the welcome team as you enter.

They will give you an order of service and also a little clip for your communion glass. Please place the clip into the holder in front of your seat. Seating in the whole Sanctuary on Communion Sunday will be on alternate rows only. This is to allow serving Elders to move along the rows in front to give you bread and wine.

The welcome team can help with any questions you may have on the day.

SJR – Welcome Team Door Duties

March '23 -5th, 12th, 19th and 26th

Lead Elder: Christine McCann with Anne Bryden and Nick Calder

Reserve: Carolyn Calder

Lent Bible Study Meetings



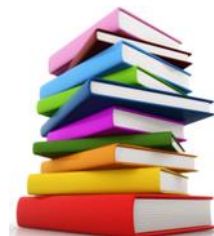
The purpose of Lent is preparation for Easter. For that reason, it is a time for self-reflection and renewing relationships. Aiming to help in this process of reflection, I am planning some Bible Study meetings. The main theme of these encounters is *Reconciliation*. There will be five encounters in total. They will be at Church on Wednesdays at 2:00 pm. The first one is on 1st March. All are welcome.

**Interim Moderator,
Rev. Kleber Machado**



Date for your Diaries!

The Spring Fair will be held on Saturday 29th April from 10 a.m. till 12 noon. Please start collecting your paperback books and bottles. Full information in next month's Beacon.



Pop-in Café

Spring has sprung at our community café!

Wednesday 1st March

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



Sunday Flowers

As you know, the Church flowers are distributed each Sunday to those who are in our thoughts for sad, worrying or happy reasons. The flowers are much appreciated by those who receive them.

Each of the flower team members takes down the flowers, each Sunday for a month and arrange them in bunches, which are then delivered by the Elders on Sunday duty. The month we don't have anyone to do this is September. If anyone feels that they would like to take part, please get in touch with me. We can arrange for you to find out what happens. There is always someone to swap a date with you if you are unable to do a Sunday. Thank you for giving this some thought.

Eleanor Murphy



Arranging your Flowers in March

Liz McDonald
Eleanor Murphy

*Where flowers bloom, so does
hope - Lady Bird Johnson*

NEW WORSHIP LEADER

Roddy Watt recently conducted morning worship with us, the culmination of a course he was following entitled Designing and Leading Christian Worship.

The results have now come through to Roddy, and of course he passed with straight 'A's, meaning that he is now officially authorised by Presbytery as a Worship Leader.

Presbytery does not allow a service to take place without an ordained minister or qualified worship leader present.

The result for us is that if our worship team is leading the service with no minister there, then Roddy's presence sanctions the service.

“This was my reason for taking the course,” says Roddy. “I have no desire to go and preach in another church. However, although it was challenging, I did enjoy the course and certainly recommend it.”

Lodging House Mission Update

Opportunities are being explored for new courses in drama, poetry and arts to run at the Mission. These are exciting new developments for the guests.

Could you get involved? Give manager June a call:
552 0285



Heartfelt Thanks from the Lodging House Mission

I am writing to acknowledge and thank the members of St John's-Renfield Church for the generous donation of £1910 (this includes a donation of £610 for the McIntosh Choir) given at Christmas in support of our Winter Appeal. This donation will greatly assist us in our work with people experiencing homelessness, vulnerability and social exclusion at the Lodging House Mission here in Glasgow.

As always at LHM, we seek to make a positive difference to the lives of those who we support. We were open on Christmas Day and served 60 guests a 3 course Christmas lunch and Santa handed out gifts. Our nutritious food is often the gateway to engagement and relationship building. For our guests who visit LHM over the festive period it is also a place they received a warm welcome and are treated as part of the family, reducing isolation, loneliness and providing temporary shelter.

The Glasgow Overnight Welcome Centre is operating from their base in Glasgow City Mission, Crimea Street this year – ensuring there is shelter for everyone across the city on the coldest of months from December to the end of March.

We know none of our work would be possible if it were not for the support and prayers of individuals such as yourself, so please accept our heartfelt thanks. May God bless you as you blessed the least of these brothers and sisters of Christ. (Matthew 25:40)

Yours sincerely,

Deacon Claire Herbert - Chaplain LHM

Eggstatic Easter Appeal

To share the Christian message with individuals in temporary accommodation and hostels the Lodging House Mission are once again asking supporters to get involved during Lent (22nd Feb to 7th April) by donating an Easter Egg labelled with “A gift of Hope”.



In conjunction with this we would also like to extend this appeal to include St Gregory's Foodbank which provides food to over 300 people each week.

So, in total we are looking for around 500 Easter Eggs.

For Eggs to be delivered in time for Easter Sunday, 9th April, we are asking for eggs to be dropped off at St John's-Renfield any Sunday during March or on Palm Sunday, 2nd April, so they can be delivered during Holy Week. Drop off boxes will be placed in the vestibule and at the back door.

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

Graham Moore
Session Clerk

St Gregory's Food Bank

St Gregory's Church, 130 Kelvindale Road, G20 8DP

www.stgregorysfoodbank.com

stgregorysfoodbank@gmail.com



The cost of living crisis means demand at our foodbank is increasing

We urgently need your support!

Please donate non-perishable food here.

Financial donations can be made via our website

Your generous support is helping local people in real need.



Thank you



Donations to St Gregory's Food Bank



Thank you all for your contributions over the last few years to the Foodbank – they have really been vital and have become even more critical as the cost of food and heating spirals ever upwards.

Due to this current economic crisis, the foodbank is experiencing a huge increase in demand, and every penny we donate is put to help the unfortunate people struggling to feed their families. Due to the generosity of the congregation, we were able to donate an extra £1,500 in time for Christmas from funds as at the end of September.

As we now have over £2,500 in the fund, the Kirk Session have decided to increase the monthly amount we pay to the foodbank from £250 to £350, and we will look again in a few months to see if another cash boost can be given. So please keep your donations coming!!

A great big thankyou to all who have contributed.



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

The BB session seems to be flying by, and the Company Section continues apace with a busy schedule. Our February highlights included a tranche of First Aid classes, trying our hand at some Pancake Art, and taking on our TV Challenge.

Sgt Andrew Watt is all set to attend his Queen's Badge Completion Course at Auchengillan Outdoor Centre in late March. A weekend full of outdoor activities and team working awaits.....probably with a little mud and muck thrown in for good measure! We wish Andrew well.

On the Partick District competition front, Pte Hamish Matheson won the Intermediate Laser Quest competition with Sgt Andrew Watt taking third place in the Senior event. As we go to press, we are looking forward to the District Badminton and Senior 5-a-side football competitions, along with the Masterteam general knowledge quiz. Results to follow next month.

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!

Finally - Saturday 4th March sees the welcome return of the BB Coffee Morning, taking place in the Large Hall from 10am - 12 noon. We are grateful for all the support people have given to this event in the past, and we hope to see as many folk as possible on the 4th for our first Coffee Morning for three years!

STEDFAST



The Boys' Brigade
5th Glasgow Company

☀️ COFFEE MORNING



Saturday 4th March 2023
10am - 12 noon at
St John's - Renfield Church

Adults £1.50
Children 50p

COME ALONG AND SUPPORT THE 5TH GLASGOW!



<http://5glasgow.boys-brigade.org.uk>
Scottish Charity No. SC034527

LIFE AND WORK

March 2023

Connecting to God in Nature

Thomas Baldwin learns about the growth of groups taking church outdoors.

Intergenerational Church

In the third of the series, Suzi Farrant and Darren Philip consider mutual relationships and learning

Joyful Generosity Amid Uncertainty

The National Stewardship Team reflects on exercising Christian stewardship in times of economic challenge

Being Open to Change

The Moderator explains why the Church has to be prepared to change

‘Let Justice Roll’

Ruth Harvey considers the call of the prophet Amos that justice is a matter of extreme urgency

Plants of the Bible

Jackie Macadam looks at the plants, food and scents of the Bible

View from the Pulpit

The Rev Shuna Dicks offers an ‘encouragement for creative thinking’

Youth Column

Rebekah Lennon explains why she made a Profession of Faith on her 16th birthday

Regulars

The Rev Dr Martin Johnston on leadership

The Very Rev Albert Bogle on digital church

John L Bell on worship

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

MARCH 2023
£3.50

IN THIS ISSUE

Connecting to God in nature
Forest Church and Muddy Church

Reading aloud
The importance of church readings

Joyful generosity amid uncertainty
Christian stewardship in times of economic change

Intergenerational church
Second in series

A team game
Importance of leadership support

and much more all for £3.50

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

March 2023

Wednesday 1 st	<p style="text-align: center;">Pop In Café SJR Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m. Lent Bible Studies Meeting – 2.00 p.m.</p>
Saturday 4 th	<p style="text-align: center;">Boy's Brigade Coffee Morning 10 a.m. to 12 noon.</p>
Sunday 5 th	<p style="text-align: center;">Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m. Communion - Livestreamed</p>
Wednesday 8 th	<p style="text-align: center;">Lent Bible Studies Meeting – 2.00 p.m.</p>
Sunday 12 th	<p style="text-align: center;">Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.</p>
Wednesday 15 th	<p style="text-align: center;">Lent Bible Studies Meeting – 2.00 p.m.</p>
Sunday 19 th	<p style="text-align: center;">Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m. Livestreamed</p>
Wednesday 22 nd	<p style="text-align: center;">Lent Bible Studies Meeting – 2.00 p.m.</p>
Sunday 26 th	<p style="text-align: center;">Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.</p>
Wednesday 29 th	<p style="text-align: center;">Lent Bible Studies Meeting – 2.00 p.m. Kirk Session - 7.15 p.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 April 2023 Beacon is required by

Friday 17th March 2023 midnight

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

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www.sjrchurch.com

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No.SC012920

