

The Beacon

St. John's-Renfield Church
Magazine No 376

www.sjrchurch.com

2023

Feb

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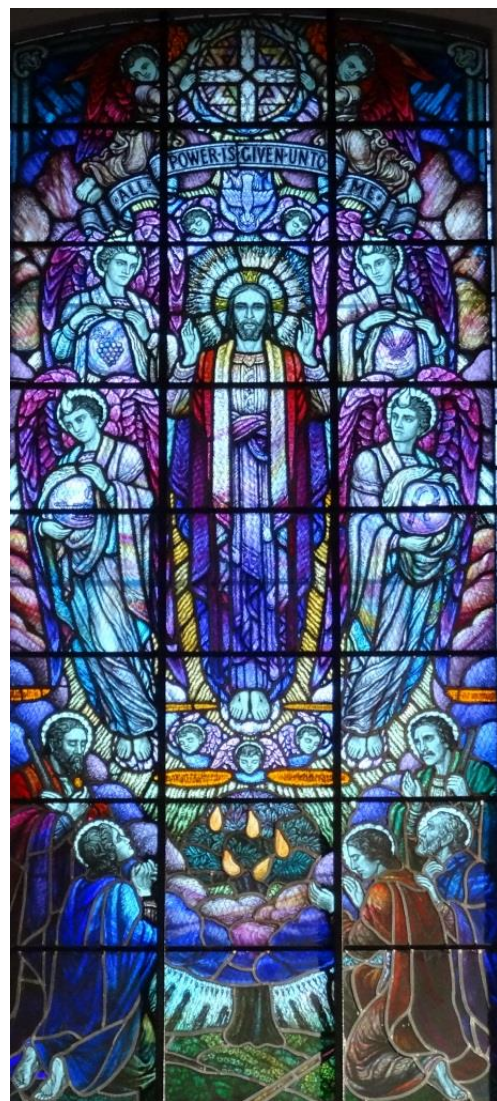
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Minister's Letter

May seems a strange time to talk about Nativity Plays and Christmas cards, but when they are in season, the Wise Men travelling to Bethlehem are usually shown wearing fine robes and crowns. Crowns are what we expect kings to wear, so if we see a man with a crown on his head, we assume that he is a king.

On 6 May King Charles will be crowned in Westminster Abbey. A large proportion of the country's population had not been born when the late Queen was crowned in 1953, and even fewer will remember when the last King (George VI) was crowned in 1937. After the Coronation, how often will the King wear a crown? In the Middle Ages kings tended to limit their crown-wearing to banquets at Christmas, Easter and Whitsun/Pentecost, and, apart from coins, later portraits tend to show them in hats or wigs. I have never worn a crown, nor am I likely to do so, but I can see a number of good reasons for not doing so on a regular basis: they are heavy, they are probably difficult to balance on your head, and given how valuable they are, other people might want to steal them (by force if necessary).



Later in May (Thursday 18th) we celebrate the Ascension. Perhaps the best way to describe it is in the words quoted by Paul in his letter to the Philippians:

[Jesus], being in very nature God...
humbled himself
and became obedient to death – even death on a cross.
Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord
to the glory of God the Father.



The early church spoke of Jesus as ‘King of kings, and Lord of lords’, but the only crown we hear of him wearing is the crown of thorns, part of his Passion on Good Friday. His glory, and his humility and suffering, go hand in hand. He calls his people to follow his way, the way of service, the way of the Suffering Servant. There may be hard times for us, knockbacks, times when we ask ourselves ‘why do I bother?’, but we also know that the one who ascended to glory has promised us that if we follow in his way, we will share in his glory too.

With the Coronation, Christian Aid Week, the General Assembly, school exams, Ascension Day and Pentecost (plus whatever you have planned for yourselves) May is going to be a busy month.

Ian Johnson

June Communion



The Kirk Session recently discussed Communion Serving Arrangements and consuming of Communion Elements.

The arrangements for Sunday, June 4th will be as follows:

Hand sanitizer is available in the vestibule.

Please pick up your little wine glass holder from the welcome team as you enter and place in the holder in front of your seat.

Communion elements will be served as we did in pre pandemic times, by passing of trays person to person along the rows.

Bread first followed by wine.

Wine trays will have a dot to indicate the non-alcoholic option.

Please feel free to consume your elements as you personally receive them. ***There will be no direction from the minister when to consume.***

Refreshments and fellowship will be, as always, available in the large hall after the service.

The Leadership Team

PARISH RECORDS

Funeral and Memorial Service

“Nothing can separate us from the love of God”

Dr Andrew Kyle of Balmanno House

HAVE YOU HEARD THAT...

.... a concert in aid of Maggie's will be held at the Scottish Mask and Puppet Centre in Winton Drive on Sat 13th May at 7pm. *From Buenos Aires to Mumbai*, will be a concert of music from around the globe played by accordion, guitar, cello and tabla. The tickets are £15 and will include chai tea and samosas at the interval. Tickets can be booked from the Puppet Centre web site at <https://www.maskandpuppet.co.uk> go to What's On. For more information speak to John Guerrier.



...Lost property tables will be set up after service on Sunday 7th May and 21st May. Come and see if any of the water bottles, scarves or umbrellas belong to you.

... a Coronation Tea will be held on Sunday 7th May at 12 noon. Please join us after the service for a special after-worship tea and cake to celebrate the Coronation of our new King and Queen. Donations of home baking will gratefully received.

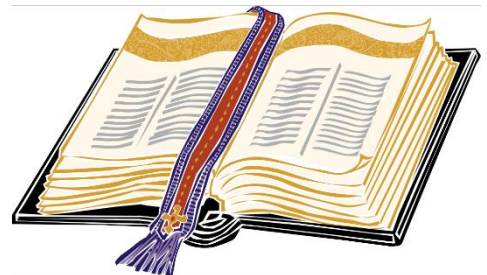


The accessible ramp door to the kitchen will be open on the evening of Friday 5th May from 6-30 -7-30 pm to receive donations.

No fresh cream items please

Reader Rota – May

7th – Isobel Digges
14th – Shirley Maxwell
21st – Nick Calder
28th – Graham Moore



Would you like to join our reader rota? Perhaps you wish to return now we only livestream twice a month. Please contact the church office if you'd like to join in.

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!!

Eggstatic!

Our congregation raised over 350 Easter eggs and added to that we received another 120 from Kelvindale Primary School.

150 went to Lodging House Mission at 8 am on Monday 3rd April (see their Facebook



Lodging House Mission

2 d · 🌐

Wonderful to have a visit this morning from Graeme who delivered this trolley full of Easter Eggs kindly donated by the congregation at St John's Renfield Church. We are blessed to have such generous support for our guests who often feel over looked and unnoticed. Thank you for all you have given us.

below) and later that morning the rest went to our local foodbank at St Gregory's.

Both were delighted to receive the eggs. What a magnificent effort from all.

Thank you.
Graham Moore
Session Clerk



SJR Welcome Team Door Duties

May '23 - 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th

Lead Elder: Helen Barclay 7th, 21st and 28th
(Shirley T on 14th) with Sandra and Norrie McLeod
Reserve: Mary Glassford



CHRISTIAN AID
SUNDAY 14 MAY

Just a reminder that this year's Christian Aid Service, which will be led by our Worship Team, falls on Sunday 14 May. Donation envelopes for the collection on that day will be available on Sunday 30 April, 7 May and at the service itself on 14 May. Please remember that if you "Gift Aid" your donation you can add 25% to its value at no extra cost to yourself. A devotional booklet for Christian Aid Week (14-20 May) will also be available on that day.

Funds collected during this Christian Aid Week will be used to support a project in Malawi, formerly Nyasaland. This should be of particular interest to all Scottish Christians since the Scottish presence in Malawi has been strong ever since David Livingstone "discovered" the country in the late 19th century, although Malawians now point out that they in fact put Livingstone's name on the map, as evidenced by the fact that two of Malawi's major cities carry the names of Blantyre and Livingstonia. Anyone

interested in pursuing the Scotland-Malawi link further can find the latest information at scotland-malawipartnership.org

Not only does Malawi have the dubious distinction of being one of the five poorest countries in the world, but recently, during the period 4 February - 15 March 2023 it had the misfortune to suffer the longest lasting tropical cyclone ever recorded. Cyclone *Freddy* caused catastrophic flooding, especially in the south of Malawi. Further information on this disaster can be found by googling *Malawi and cyclone Freddy*.



A question frequently raised is whether charities such as Christian Aid should be providing short-term aid or actively supporting long-term development in countries such as Malawi - as if the two were mutually exclusive. Catastrophes such as the effect of Cyclone *Freddy* clearly demand an immediate humanitarian response, but Christian Aid also has a long and honourable history of campaigning on long-term international issues and working with local agencies for long-term and permanent solutions to local problems. Indeed, some years ago Christian Aid supporters were canvassed as to the advisability of changing the name of the organisation by dropping the focus on aid and emphasising its role in campaigning and long-term development. In the final analysis it was felt that the brand name of Christian Aid was too well established, too well recognised, and too valuable to lose. Further details of the range of Christian Aid's work can be found at its website christianaid.org.uk

Esther is doing amazing things for her family with her pigeon peas

**We raised
£**

 Your Christian Aid Week gifts could help more farmers like Esther secure a fair price for their crops, and make their children's dreams come true. Thank you!

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RECEIVED CHURCH FLOWERS?

Your church flowers come with all our good wishes and we want you to enjoy them for as long as possible. To make your flowers last:



- a) Trim the ends off the stems (about ½ inch or 1cm)
- b) Put the enclosed flower food in your vase of water
- c) Top up your vase with fresh water when necessary
- d) If the stems darken after a week – retrim

Take these few simple steps and your flowers will reward you by staying fresh for longer.

From Liz MacDonald, the team of flower arrangers and the bouquet makers who wrap your flowers. Happy flower arranging!

Arranging your Flowers in May

Maureen McWilliam
Grace MacKay
Maron Dowling

SAVE THE DATE – Sunday 21st May

The Flower committee hope that as many folks as possible will join them in the hall after service where the flower theme continues with tea, coffee and chat.

EASTER POP-IN CAFÉ



We had a fantastic time at our Easter Pop-In Café on the 5th of April. Young and old enjoyed the lovely cakes, company and raffles. Join us for some coronation fun on Wednesday the 3rd of May.



Pop-in Café

Join the Coronation fun at our community
café!

Wednesday 3rd May

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



From Buenos Aires To Mumbai



An evening of music
fundraising for the
Maggies Centre Gartnavel

Saturday 13th May

John Guerrier - Accordion
Dev Jassal - Tabla
Vijay Kangutkar - Pakhawaj
Charlie Reilly - Guitar
Trish Strain - Cello

The Scottish Mask & Puppet Centre
8-10 Balcarres Ave
G12 0QF

Tickets £15
Includes samosas and chai
Doors open 6.30pm



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 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 19th May starting at 7.30pm in the Large Hall. This will be a shorter, less formal affair than our traditional "Annual 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 Sgt Andrew Watt has completed his work for the Queen's Badge and will officially become a 'Queen's Man' on 19th May. Well done to Andrew. We are very proud of him.

We are also happy to announce that we will have one further President's Badge to award to L/Cpl Thrinei Davabalan. Thrinei has already started on his journey to the Queen's Badge which he is looking to achieve in May 2024.

After the Open Evening we have a few outdoor evenings planned before our day out on Saturday 10th June at Castle Semple Country Park, Lochwinnoch where we have an action-packed activity day planned to round off our session.

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!

Sunday Club

Hi everyone

Despite only having Peter and Elizabeth on Easter Sunday as everyone else was on holiday, we had a fun time with egg decorating and rolling and then, after a lesson about the meaning of Easter, had a chocolate egg hunt around the church buildings on a lovely sunny morning!

During May, we have numerous bank holidays so there will be no Sunday Club on the 1st weekend (actually the 30th April) or the last weekend – the 28th May. However, we will be here on the Coronation weekend – on the 7th – and also running as usual on both the 14th and 21st. Do hope to see some of you there.

Here's to sunny days...

Sunday Club Team 😊



A Remarkable Woman



Bryan Whitty for a number of years has kept readers up-to-date with activities of the Valerie Taylor Trust.

Here, Bryan gives us an overview of the career of this remarkable woman whom he first met early in her time in Bangladesh. Valerie has been awarded an OBE and an Honorary Doctorate from York University.



Born as daughter of a Vicar and trained as physiotherapist at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Valerie Taylor volunteered for Voluntary Service Overseas in 1968 and we served together in the Christian Hospital

Chandraghona in what was then East Pakistan and subsequently Bangladesh.

We admitted two paraplegic cases and Valerie took total care of these patients. So concerned was she at the plight of spinal injury patients that, after leaving Chandraghona following her two-year stint, she returned to Bangladesh and in a "go down" warehouse attached to a hospital in Dhaka treated her first four patients.

She progressively moved to new premises and finally founded the now large hospital in Dhaka which has a large one hundred bed facility which admits spinal injury patients and also has facility for stroke patients. The hospital also has a Children's Unit, and a Special School for Children with Special Needs.

The hospital has an operating theatre to treat spinal injuries. The hospital is linked with Dhaka University and offers degree courses in nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and orthotics and prosthetics. The hospital makes all its own wheelchairs, with any adaptations required.

Early on arriving in Dhaka, Valerie adopted two orphan children, perhaps about two years old, Joyti and Poppy. Joyti, wheelchair bound, works in Administration in the hospital and Poppy, profoundly disabled with a rare cerebral palsy and also wheelchair bound, does counselling for patients

In addition to all of this, twelve outlying clinics in the country have been established to follow up patients and find them employment. The story goes on with further developments - truly remarkable.

LIFE AND WORK

MAY 2023

The Coronation Stone

Ian Bradley reflects on the Scottish influence on the King's coronation

General Assembly 2023

Interview with the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Sally Foster-Fulton

Reports to the Assembly

Assembly and Fringe timetables

Christian Aid Week

Interview with the chair of a Malawian farming co-operative supported by Christian Aid

What is the Will of God?

Continuing the series on Intergenerational Church, Suzi Farrant and Darren Philip highlight the importance of being led by God in finding the balance between tradition and innovation

Deepening Faith

A group of young people from a Falkirk church share their reflections of a trip to Israel and Palestine

My Church

Sheena MacFarlane OBE says there is 'growing optimism' around Port Glasgow New Parish Church

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

View from the Pulpit: the Rev Gillean MacLean

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 2023
£3.50

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The coronation stone
The influence of Scotland on this
month's coronation

'Christian Aid believed in
our dream'
Looking ahead to Christian Aid Week

Assembly 2023
Moderator-Designate,
the Rev Sally Foster-Fulton

Reports to the Assembly
Assembly business and
fringe timetables

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Intergenerational church series

When we pray
John L Bell on public prayer

and much more all for £3.50



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CHRISTIAN AID
www.christianaid.org.uk

Conductor: Cameron Murdoch

WELLINGTON CHURCH

University Avenue
G12 8LE

Saturday 20 May
2023 at 7.30pm

Tickets: £12

£10 U18/UB40 at
www.wegotickets.com



CONTACT the GPC at eventsco@globalnet.co.uk or tel: 07711 421347
or www.phoenixchoir.org ~ The GPC is a Scottish Charity SC002904



WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

May 2023

Wednesday 3 rd	<p>Pop-In Café SJR Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m.</p> <p>Kirk Session – 7.15pm</p>
Sunday 7 th	<p>Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m. (Livestreamed) Coronation Tea at 12 noon Lost property tables after service</p>
Saturday 13 th	<p><i>From Buenos Aires to Mumbai</i> - Maggie's Concert - Scottish Mask and Puppet Centre 7pm. https://www.maskandpuppet.co.uk</p>
Sunday 14 th	<p>Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m. Christian Aid Service</p>
Saturday 20 th	<p>Glasgow Phoenix Choir Concert for Christian Aid Wellington Church, University Avenue G12 8LE at 7.30 pm. Tickets from www.wegottickets.com</p>
Sunday 21 st	<p>Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m. (Livestreamed) Flower Sunday - Tea and Coffee after Service Lost Property Tables</p>
Sunday 28 th	<p>Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m. No Sunday Club</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 June 2023 Beacon is required by

Friday 18th May 2023 midnight

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

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Registered as a charity in Scotland Registration

No.SC012920

