

The Beacon

St. John's-Renfield Church

Magazine No 386

www.sjrchurch.com

2024

Feb

Mar

April

May

June

Sept

Oct

Nov

Dec



Minister's Letter



Summer is usually a great time for sport. For some it is a chance to play outdoor bowling, cricket or tennis, to sail, to walk or climb. For some it is a chance to watch sporting events, either in person or on television. As well as the usual Wimbledon, Epsom, Ascot and cricket matches, this summer also sees the Euros, the open Golf Championship at Troon, and the Olympics in Paris at the end of July.

The Olympics are designed to be an opportunity for the world to come together and be united in the fun and challenge of sport. However, as we know, the competition is not just between sportsmen and women, but between countries large and small whose leaders try to score points against each other over the number of medals won. Some are quite prepared to break rules to ensure that their person or team wins.

The modern Olympics are, of course, based on a competition held regularly in ancient Greece, but as we have a number of other sporting competitions alongside the Olympics, so it was in ancient Greece. Among these was the Isthmian Games, held near Corinth, which attracted large crowds of spectators and competitors.

Paul would have been very aware of the Games from his visits to Corinth, and may have been there while they were happening. He is described as making a living by being a tent-maker, and it is quite probable that many of his tents were designed to provide accommodation for those attending the Games. He uses sporting analogies in his letters to the Corinthians, the Philippians and to Timothy.

Like sportsmen and women, he encouraged the followers of Jesus to strive for the highest standards and goals – in how we live our lives, in what we want our community and world to be like. Like sportsmen and women, we are part of a team too, there to help and be helped by each other. Unlike sports people we do not rely on the help of a good, human coach but on the teaching and example of Jesus, the presence of the Risen Jesus with us everywhere we go, and the power of the Holy Spirit to guide and empower us through all life's challenges.

Whatever you do or watch, have a good summer.

Rev. Ian Johnson

June Communion

The arrangements for Sunday the 2nd June 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 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

Pulpit Supply – June

2nd – Rev. Ian Johnson
9th – Rev. Susan Miller
16th – Rev. Ian Johnson
23rd – Rev. Susan Miller
30th – Rev. Ian Johnson



PARISH RECORDS

Funeral and Memorial Services

“Nothing can separate us from the love of God”

The funeral of David McVicker was held on Wednesday the 1st of May at Maryhill Crematorium.

The funeral of William (Bill) Wood of Chesterfield Avenue will be held at Maryhill Crematorium on Monday the 3rd June.

Left by certificate of transfer

Graham and Linda Moore
Elizabeth Cassidy
Alison Craig

HAVE YOU HEARD THAT...?



... we are putting together our survey results about livestreaming. You can have your say by emailing the church office (office@sjrchurch.com)



... our church office will be closed from the 28th of June until the 11th of July for staff holidays. Someone will be checking for urgent messages however services will be very limited.

... St Gregory's Foodbank is running information sessions on Monday 24th of June and 29th of July for those who would like to learn more about the food bank or how to get involved. For details email stgregorysfoodbank@gmail.com



... a Praise Gathering Concert will be held at Glasgow Concert Hall on Saturday 22nd June at 2pm and Sunday 23rd June at 7pm. With special guest Alvin Slaughter and The Praise Gathering Youth Choir. Tickets available from the Concert Hall.

THANKS, FROM THE EDITOR

A huge thank you to all our regular *Beacon* contributors. We greatly appreciate your articles, photos and news each month. The Beacon will now take a break until the September issue. Have a wonderful summer. **Alan Christie**



SJR Welcome Team Door & Beadle Duties

June 2024 – 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st

Lead Elder: Pat McGill with Ron Thomson and Liz Macdonald

Reserve: Jim Macdonald

Beadles: John Allan 2nd, 9th and 30th; Anne Bryden 16th and 23rd

July 2024 – 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th

Lead Elder: Moira Eaglesham with Christine McCann and Annette Watt

Reserve: Wilma Murphy

Beadles: John Finnigan 7th and 14th; Caroline Taylor 21st and 28th

August 2024 – 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th

Lead Elder: Shirley Maxwell with Elizabeth Arthur and Helen Barclay

Reserve: Elma Boyd

Beadles: Roddy Watt 4th and 11th; Fiona Robinson 18th and 25th

CHRISTIAN AID 2024



A huge thank you to the Christian Aid team who raised the fantastic total of £1677.50 including Gift Aid. Special thanks to Alison Craig as she steps down as Christian Aid co-ordinator and leaves St. John's-Renfield Church.

Welcome to Caroline Taylor as the new Christian Aid co-ordinator.

SJR Spring Fair

Saturday 11th May 2024

It was a beautiful morning and the sun was splitting the skies! Very unusual weather for a SJR Spring Fair - instead of thermals, we were all in summer mode!



It was a busy morning, full of fun and fellowship. Thank you to all who supported the event in any way, helping, donating, buying or just coming along. Grateful thanks also to Cleveden Deli and the Mini Market for their support. The Mackintosh Choir were rehearsing in the sanctuary and popped out on their break for hot rolls plus tickets for tea/coffee and cake - much appreciated.

To date we have raised £1966.00 for SJR Special Projects and Cancer Research UK with a cheque for £1000.00 being sent to Cancer Research.

Next date for your diary: **Bonanza**
- Saturday 2nd November 2024.

Many thanks
The Ways and Means Team



NEW TOILETS



During the summer we will be carrying out major work to upgrade the church toilets. Starting on 1st July they will not be available for about a month while our contractor strips them out completely and installs up to date fittings. This work

includes the present accessible toilet and finally the vestry toilet.

While the work is progressing, we will be opening the Brotherton Hall toilets on Sunday mornings and, on request, providing access to the vestry toilet for those whose mobility is limited. The contractors will be using the small hall for storage of fittings and cubicle components.

The vital news though is this: WE ARE SWOPPING OVER THE LOCATIONS OF THE LADIES AND GENTS. So please watch out! This is to make space so that we can double the number of cubicles in the ladies to reduce congestion at peak times.

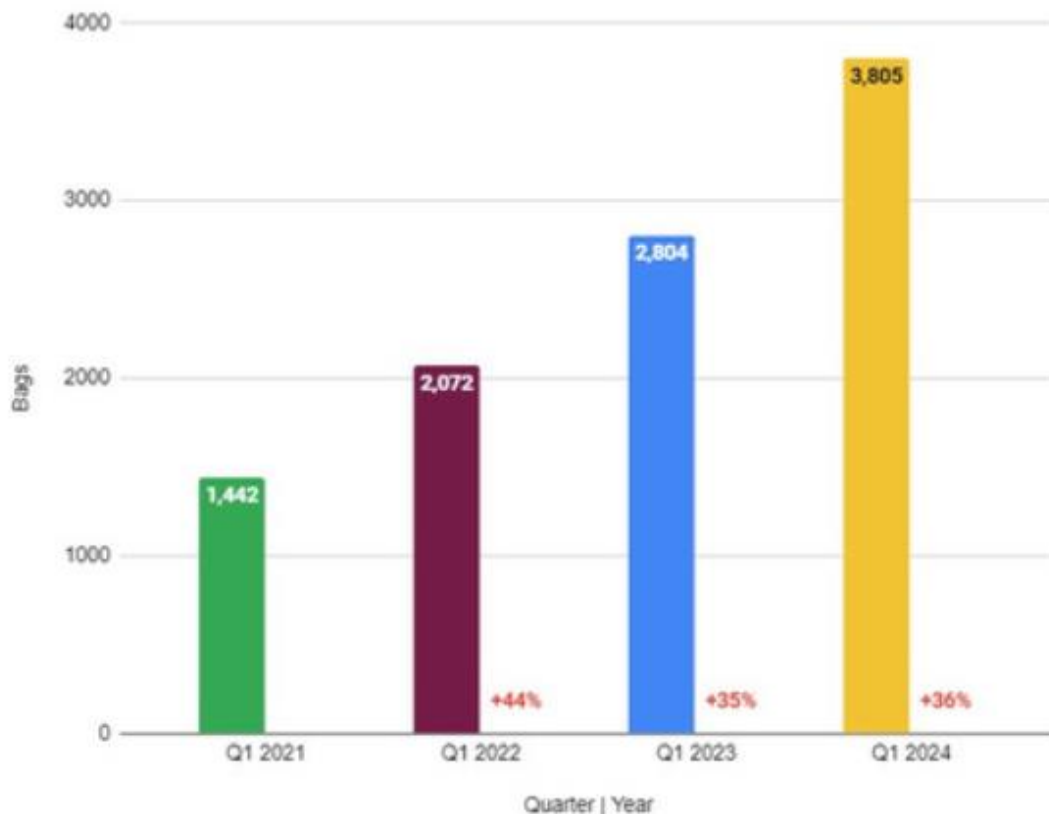
The working areas will be sealed off. If you want a progress report, please just ask one of our Property Committee members.

Jim Tassell

News from the Foodbank



Bags given out in first quarter



We've just completed the first quarter of 2024 and we looked back to 2021 to create the above chart which makes for sobering reading. The year-on-year percentage increase in bags distributed can be clearly seen from the bar chart but the overall increase between 2021 and 2024 is an astonishing 164%.

In the current quarter, we've helped almost 10K adults and children by dispensing more than 4K basic bags of food. These figures include approximately 250 adults and children who report never having been to a food bank before.

Monday 22nd April we again broke our record when we gave out 106 basic bags in a single 2-hour period, passing our previous grim record of 98 back in January of this year.

SJR Walking Group

The walking group's first outing of 2024 was an interesting route from the city centre down to the Clyde, led by John McFadyen. Starting at the impressive viewpoint in Hill Street, Garnethill, we crossed over the M8 to Charing Cross, and headed along Woodside Place and Clairmont Gardens to Kelvingrove Park. After carrying out a thorough survey of the Stewart Fountain, a coffee stop was called for, which was ably supplied by the friendly staff in the Art Galleries.



Suitably refreshed and having decided to leave an exploration of the new university campus on the old Western Infirmary site for another day, the group followed the route of the Kelvin to the Riverside Museum, where we caught a glimpse of the new bridge being built over to Govan. From here, the final leg took the group to Glasgow Harbour, with views across the Clyde to the construction of HMS Cardiff at BAE Systems and some final inspection at Andy Scott's sculpture 'Rise'.



With plenty of interesting architecture, history and change to

experience, plus good company and glorious weather, the scene was set for a very enjoyable outing.



Our next adventure, on Saturday 8th June, keeps us in Glasgow, this time crossing the new Sighthill Bridge over the M8 from the city centre, then following a route along the Forth & Clyde Canal from the Pinkston Watersports Centre back to Kelvindale. The route takes in a number of interesting new developments designed to add to the amenity value of the canal. Have you met 'Bella' yet??!

The walk is just over 4 miles long, and level with the exception of a gradual incline from Buchanan Street Bus Station to reach the new bridge. If a shorter walk is preferred, there are plenty of options to leave the walk and pick up public transport back home.



Leave the church prompt at 10.00 to catch No 15 bus from the bus stop on Great Western Road (10.16) to Buchanan Street Bus Station. All welcome!

For further information, speak to Roddy Watt or Sarah Hamilton or contact the Church

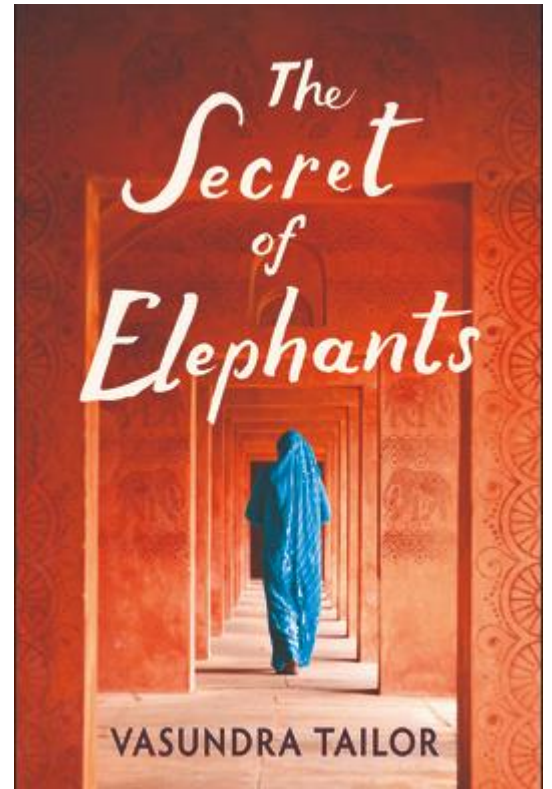
Office (office@sjrchurch.com).

Summer Reading

The Secret of Elephants by Vasundra Tailor (Lake Union Publishing, available on Amazon)

I am taking up the challenge posed last month by Wilma Murphy to recommend to other readers a book I have enjoyed.

I have to confess the author of my family saga nomination Vasundra Tailor is a friend of fifty years. We met at Indian dancing when she was a post graduate pharmacy student at Strathclyde University.



Firstly, The Secret of Elephants is a good read reflecting Vasu's own background in both Zimbabwe and India. Quickly drawn in, I wanted to keep reading.

The story concerns a member of the Indian diaspora in Zimbabwe who has long been intrigued by hazy family connections in the sub-continent. When she makes a visit, the long-hidden secrets come to the surface and she understands why.

I liked the short chapters, each very much a story in itself. With an instalment's length often crafted with 'what happens next' I readily returned next day.

At times moving, laced with heartbreaking family tragedy, family ties not what they tell the world, true love evaporated by arranged marriage ... or is it? The Secret of Elephants will enhance your summer reading.

Maureen Christie

Arranging Your Flowers in June, July and August

Grace MacKay
Marion Dowling
Susan Finnigan
Liz MacDonald



Reader Rota June - August

2nd June – Fiona Robinson
9th June – Caroline Taylor
16th June – Elma Boyd
23rd June – Jim Tassell
30th June – Margaret Paton



7th July – Aileen Morison
14th July – Maureen Christie
21st July – Jim MacDonald
28th July – Sarah Hamilton

4th August – Pat McGill
11th August – Wilma Murphy
18th August – Seonaidh Gibson
25th August – Moira Eaglesham

Pop-in Café

Join the summer fun at our community
café

Wednesday 5th June

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

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





May Pop-in Café



Our large hall was buzzing with a fantastic turn out to our May Pop-in Café. Remember to come and join us for the last Pop-in Café, before we close for the summer, on the 5th of June. The Pop-in fun will return on Wednesday the 4th of September. We hope to see you there!



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.wegottickets.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, 07896193603

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-boheemia-tosca/> 0141 577 4956

Tue 2nd July 7.30pm, Ayr, The Gaiety

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

Thu 4th July 7.30pm, Perth Theatre

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

01738 621031

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

<https://www.wegottickets.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

On Tuesday 21st May, the Large Hall was bustling with the presence of parents, relatives and friends, as the boys of the Junior Section and Anchor Boys presented the marching skills that won the Junior Section the Partick District drill competition trophy as well as a selection of games that represented some of the activities in which the boys are regularly involved on a Tuesday evening. Mr Alan Rattray, Officer-in-Charge of 5th Glasgow Company Section, was the inspecting officer and Mrs Fiona Robinson, liaison elder for the Boys' Brigade, opened the evening with prayer and pronounced the benediction. Mrs Wilma Murphy played the piano at appropriate points throughout the evening. We are grateful to them all.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our annual outing, this year to Balloch Country Park, on Saturday 1st June and are grateful to those parents who have volunteered to help on the day, which allows us to provide the outing for the boys. From now until 11th June, we will enjoy games evenings on a Tuesday. Thereafter, we will have a break until Tuesday 3rd September when we will start another year of fun, games and achievements. Please do tell any friends and neighbours with boys in P1-P6 of the fun to be had on a Tuesday evening in the hall of St. John's Renfield Church. They will be made most welcome. We wish everyone a relaxing summer with, hopefully, some

sunshine.

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

Company Section

Company Section enjoyed hosting our Open Evening & Presentation of Awards on Friday 10th May. It was great to see parents & families again, and we thank everyone who came along and supported the boys on the evening.

With the lighter nights, we now have a couple of Fridays at Jordanhill playing fields for some outdoor games before we break for the holidays.

We also have our weekend camp at Stillaig, Tighnabruaich from 7th to 9th June 2024 where the boys will be participating in all manner of outdoor pursuits, not to mention a sea kayaking taster session. Let's hope the weather is kind!

Our Queen's Men, Sgt Cameron Gregor, Sgt Alexander Bell, and Sgt Thrinei Davabalan are looking forward to Thursday 20th June, when they will attend the Glasgow Battalion Queen's Badge Presentation Ceremony at Glasgow City Chambers. This is a very prestigious evening and one which the boys have certainly earned with all their work.

Over the summer please do keep a watch out for our flashbacks and memories on social media, and don't forget to 'like', 'share', and 'retweet' our posts if possible!

Company Section will return on Friday 6th September 2024 for another action-packed session. We can't wait!

STEDFAST

Concert For Palestine

Harp and Violin Duo

Barros Pereira -Alves Duo

Young Portuguese musicians from
Royal Conservatoire Glasgow.

Programme includes Bach, Ravel, Rodriques
Also Palestinian Music

Poetry Reading by Palestinian from Gaza
Olive Tree stall of Palestinian crafts

Sunday 23 June 2024 at 2.30pm

Venue: St John's Renfield Church
22 Beaconsfield Road G12 0NY

Tickets include refreshments
£10 by cash /card at door

All proceeds to Palestinian charities

Please register by email to
olivetreescotland@gmail.com

Organisers Olive Tree Scotland & St John's Renfield
olivetreescotland.org



LIFE AND WORK

JUNE 2024

The True Measure of Fatherhood

The fathers of the Bible

‘We Genuinely Care About People’

The Railway Mission

General Assembly 2024

Four pages of reports to the Assembly

Our Presbyteries

North East and the Northern Isles

Letter from the Holy Land

Update from the Church’s mission partners

‘Fundamental to Who He Was’

A new book on the faith of Scottish physicist James Clerk Maxwell

‘This is Not About Worldly Success’

Artist Linda Hoskins and her connections with a Christian homelessness charity

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: Paul Riley of St Andrew’s in the Grange, Guernsey

Youth: Christian Aid prophetic activist Oluwatoyosi Baruwa.

View from the Pulpit: Rev Maggie Hunt, minister of a new union in Forfar

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

JUNE 2024
£3.50

IN THIS ISSUE

The true measure of fatherhood
Biblical fathers

Our presbyteries
Presbytery of the North East and the Northern Isles

'We genuinely care about people'
Work of Railway Mission

Letter from the Holy Land
Quarterly update from Church's Mission Partners

'Fundamental to who he was'
New book on James Clerk Maxwell and faith

and much more all for £3.50

WHAT'S ON

JUNE 2024

Sunday 2 nd	Morning Worship – 11 a.m. Holy Communion
Wednesday 5 th	Pop-In Café SJR Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m.
Sunday 9 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Sunday 16 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Sunday 23 rd	Morning Worship – 11 a.m. Concert for Olive Tree at SJR – 2.30 p.m.
Monday 24 th	Information session at St. Gregory's Foodbank
Saturday 29 th	Opera Bohemia performing in the Sanctuary – 7.30 p.m.
Sunday 30 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.

JULY 2024

Monday 1 st	Construction begins on toilets
Sunday 7 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.

Sunday 14 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Sunday 21 st	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Sunday 28 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Monday 29 th	Information session at St. Gregory's Foodbank

AUGUST 2024

Sunday 4 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Sunday 11 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Sunday 18 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Friday 23 rd	Cut-off date for September Beacon contributions
Sunday 25 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 September 2024 Beacon is required by

Friday 23rd August 2024 midnight

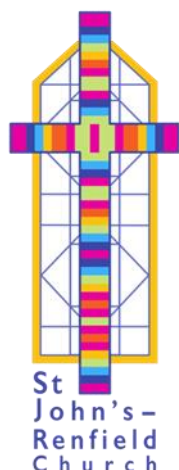
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Tel: (0141) 334 0782

Email: office@sjrchurch.com

www.sjrchurch.com

Follow us on social media



@SJRCHURCH



@sjrchurch

Registered as a charity in Scotland Registration
No.SC012920