

# The Beacon

**St. John's-Renfield Church  
Magazine No 373**  
**[www.sjrchurch.com](http://www.sjrchurch.com)**

**2023**

**Feb**

**Mar**

**April**

**May**

**June**

**Sept**

**Oct**

**Nov**

**Dec**



# LETTER FROM KYIV

## “Let there be light!”

These are the first words that the Bible records God as saying, as He performs His third act of creation after bringing the heavens and the earth into being.



It is an act of creation with profound consequences: With the creation of light, and its counterpart darkness, the first day is also created, and with it the concept of time.

Moreover, we know that natural light is produced in the hearts of stars – a by-product of the creation of new elements. These elements combine to form still more, heavier and more complex elements, from which we ourselves are made.

So simply, without this third of God’s acts of creation, the seven-day schedule of the rest of creation could not have been set, and all the matter that made further creation possible would have been unavailable in the universe. The creation of light makes both history and life possible.

In our modern world, we can forget that in flicking a light switch, we are performing a small act of creation ourselves, or rather performing the last act in a long chain of creative endeavours that bring light into existence.

Power engineers, grid managers, power plant workers, electricians – they and others maintain a complex network leading from your light switch to transformers, power lines, turbines, thermal generators, wind turbines, arrays of solar panels, hydroelectric reservoirs, and nuclear reactors. All of it must function properly,

including the humble light bulb in your lamp, to bring light to your home.

And it is not only light, of course, that our modern energy grids make possible: Communications rely on it – your modern smartphone will run for perhaps a day without recharging, and many no longer have fixed-line phones. Televisions won't work without power. Fridges will keep cool for a few hours. Forget the microwave dinner.

But it is most disconcerting, and disheartening, when we flick a switch and no light comes, as the sun sets and darkness creeps into our homes. Light is the most basic product of our electrical grid – perhaps that's why we often say “the lights are out” as shorthand for “there is no electrical power.”

If the production of light is a creative process, then the creation of darkness is a destructive one.

And today, lights are going out again in Europe. A dark force from the past – fascism – has risen again in the form of the dictatorship of Vladimir Putin in Russia.

Frustrated by his failure to conquer Kyiv, Putin is lashing out in his malice and vengeance at Ukraine's energy grid. His military was unexpectedly mauled on the battlefields of Ukraine – his corrupt generals had robbed much of the investment he thought he had made in his army, and his Kremlin “yes-men” deceived him into thinking that his army was great and Ukrainians weak.

He desperately needs a ceasefire to reconstitute his battered military, to gain time to amass more force, gather more weapons, and form new plans of conquest.

His aim is to wipe Ukraine from the map, and absorb the Ukrainian nation into his revanchist empire. He sees Ukrainians as nothing more than “little Russians.”

By viewing Ukrainians as “untermenschen” or subhuman “little Russians”, and the lands of Ukraine as merely “lebensraum” or living space for Russians, Putin is, of course, repeating the mistakes of another European dictator, thankfully defeated 77 years ago.

But there is no guarantee that Putin will also be defeated. He is systematically destroying Ukraine’s energy grid with repeated mass missile attacks, expending the last of his stocks of missiles in a desperate bid to bring Ukrainian civilians to their knees, having failed to defeat Ukraine’s army.

Each attack, each destructive blast, strikes at the work of creation that is Ukraine’s energy grid. The work of years can be ruined in a micro-second flash of light and explosive force, the product of which is merely darkness.

With every attack, the lights stay off for a little longer. With every attack, life becomes harder for Ukrainian civilians. With every attack, Putin hopes, the resolve of the Ukrainian people to defy him weakens.

Let him be wrong.

Let the resilience of the Ukrainian people remain strong.

Let the resolve of the civilized world to defeat fascism remain bright.

Let there be light!

**Euan MacDonald**

*‘Euan MacDonald, the son of Liz and Jim MacDonald, resides in Kyiv working as a journalist. Responding to parental suggestion, he sent*

*us an end of year letter which was read in church on New Year's Day. In the first Beacon edition of 2023, it seems appropriate to include it as we contemplate what the future might bring us.'*

## **PARISH RECORDS**

### **By Certificate of Transfer**

David Brown of Chesterfield Gardens, Kelvindale

### **Funeral and Memorial Service**

*"Nothing can separate us from the love of God"*

Moira Forsyth, Norfolk Crescent, Bishopbriggs

## **HAVE YOU HEARD THAT...**

... the Kirk Session has agreed, now members are returning to Church, that live-streaming will be reduced. It will now take place on the first and third Sundays of the month. Live-streaming for February will be Sunday 5th and 19th.



\*\*\*\*\*

... Cleveden Club, a community group that previously ran out of the high school has moved to the SJR church halls. It is open to anyone who lives in Kelvindale and meets on the last Sunday of each month from 2 – 4 pm. They have crafts, games for kids and refreshments.

... after service tea and coffee will go ahead in February. Many thanks to the volunteers who came forward. We still have a desperate need for a coffee team later in the year. Contact Liz McDonald or the office if you can help.

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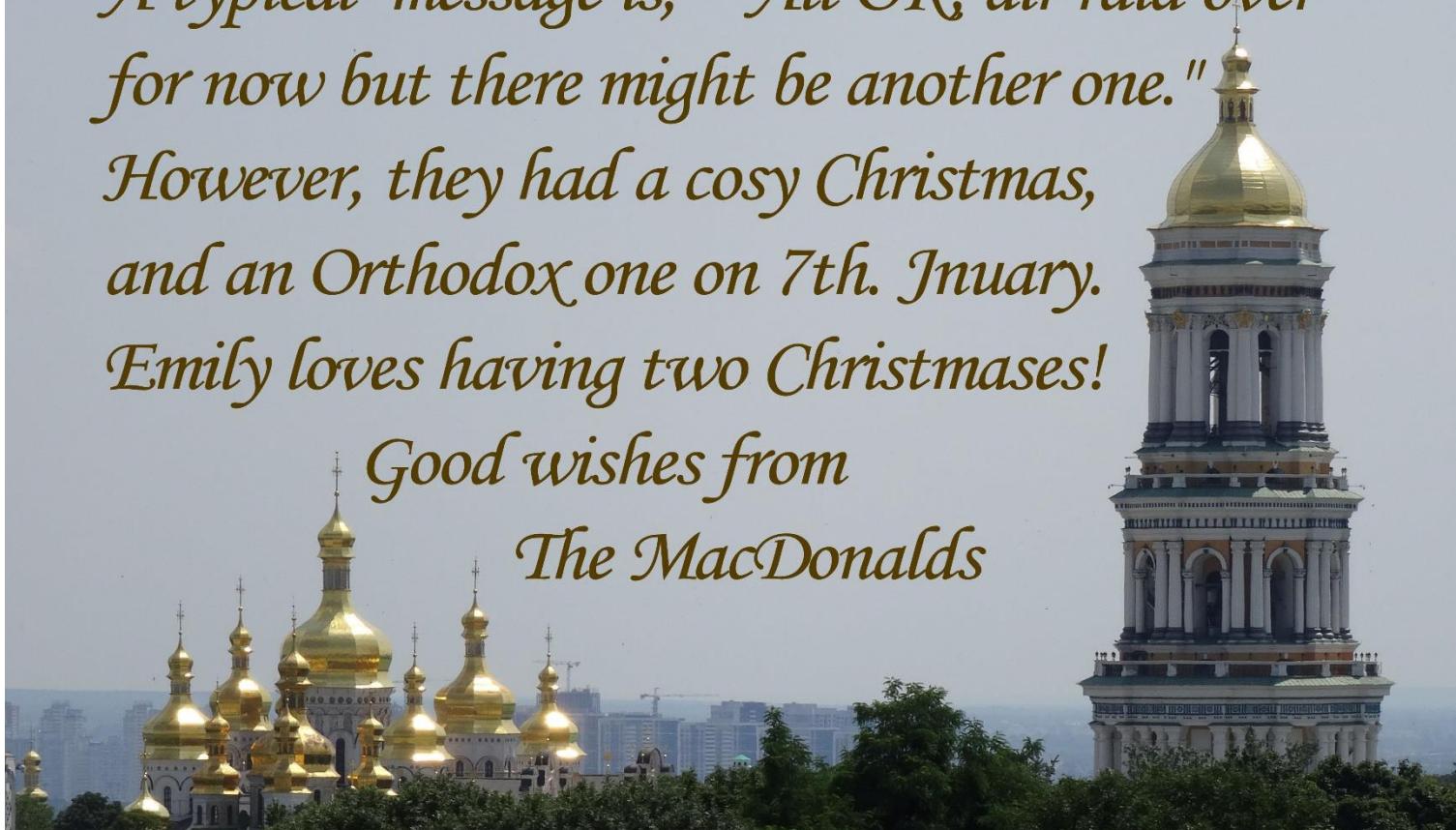
## **YOU EMAIL THE BEACON**

*Dear Friends*

*Thank you for your continuing support for us and our family in Kyiv. Winter is challenging in that city. Euan regularly reports outages of heating, lighting and internet connections. A typical message is, - "All OK, air raid over for now but there might be another one." However, they had a cosy Christmas, and an Orthodox one on 7th January. Emily loves having two Christmases!*

*Good wishes from*

*The MacDonalds*



# **LONG SERVICE AWARDS**

We're delighted to announce Moira Eaglesham was awarded a Long Service Certificate at the December Kirk Session for her commitment and work over the last 30 years.

Sunday the 15th January 2023 saw the presentation of Long Service Certificates by our interim moderator, Rev. Dr Kleber Machado on behalf of the Moderator of The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to John MacMillan for 50 year's service as an Elder in SJR and to our Session Clerk Graham Moore for 30 year's service.

A huge thanks, and congratulations to everyone.

**Susan Finnigan**





## CHRISTMAS TREE STOCKING



During December, we collect money for our chosen Christmas charity - the Lodging House Mission. A stocking on the Christmas tree collects donations Sunday by Sunday, and the collections at the Christmas services are also donated.

Overall, we raised £920 with an extra £100 due from Gift Aid. On top of this, the Mackintosh Choir donated an incredible £610 raised at their Christmas Concert. A cheque for the total of £1,530 was therefore passed to the Lodging House. It is hoped that this will go some way to replenish the funds spent over Christmas.

**Shaun Digges**

## Pulpit Supply Arrangements February and March

5th February - Eric McLachlan

12th February - Kleber Machado

19th February - Eric McLachlan

26th February - Eric McLachlan

5<sup>th</sup> March - Kleber Machado

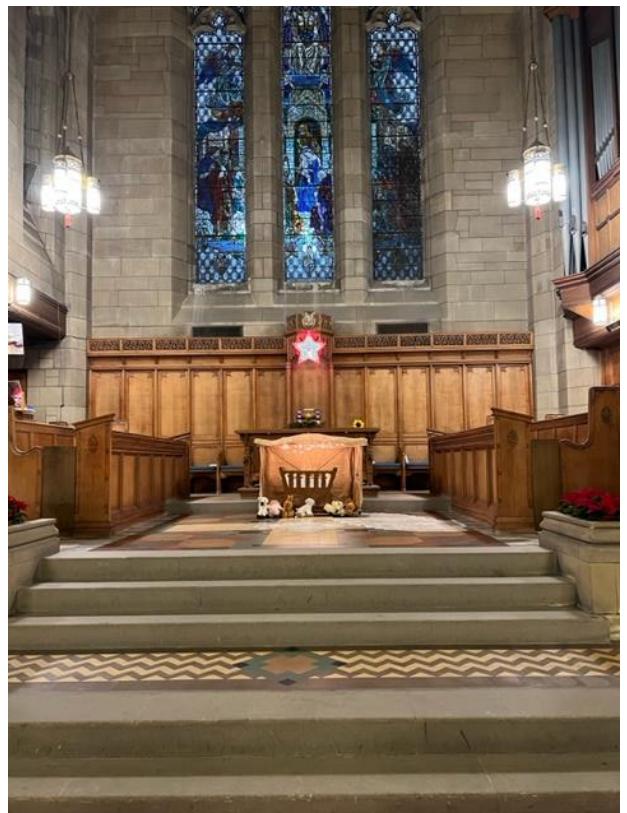
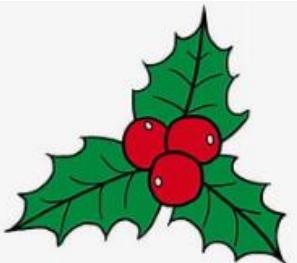
12<sup>th</sup> March - Eric McLachlan

19<sup>th</sup> March - Ian Johnston

26<sup>th</sup> March - Eric McLachlan



# CHRISTMAS 2022



# SUNDAY CLUB



Well after a great festive break, we would just like to thank Frances once again for the nativity that was performed at Christingle (changed from the 18<sup>th</sup> because of unforeseen circumstances). It was very well received and performed fantastically by our 3 stars – Peter, Elizabeth and Imogen! The words were learnt by heart by Peter and Elizabeth and Imogen acted out her various parts brilliantly! Just goes to show what can be done, even with very reduced numbers (and a great playwright!)

We have continued to meet up during January, looking at chapters from the gospels of Matthew and John and exploring the themes of being ready to serve with the right attitude, the importance of names, repentance and opportunities for growth in life's darker times. Even though our numbers are small, there is always enthusiasm and willingness to learn – and have fun! We would obviously love for other children to join us though so if you know of any that would want to come along, please contact any of the leaders each Sunday. Obviously, we have half term in February so there will be no club on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February. We will be there every other Sunday though – so look forward to seeing you there.



**Sunday Club Team** 😊

## BOOK GROUP

It hasn't been so easy over the winter what with weather and other matters, to maintain our momentum, but we are all set to start the new year with renewed energy.

One of the changes we have made is to meet, at least in the winter months, in the afternoons to avoid going out into the cold and dark at night.



Some of you may have noticed an article in the Herald before Christmas about an initiative by the Scottish Book Trust to raise money in order to buy brand new children's books to be placed in Food Banks and other Community Hubs. The Book Group decided to support this initiative, so to that end the proceeds from the Surplus Christmas Stall, plus our own personal contributions (in our hand-made designer collecting boxes!) were to be divided between the Book Trust and the Food Bank. As the Appeal closed on Christmas Day, the proceeds from the stall (£170) were sent to the Appeal. At our next meeting we will pool our collections and if there is a shortfall, we will run a book stall at coffee time to make up the difference. Watch this space!

Happy Reading!

**Wilma Murphy**

# Pop-in Café

Our first community café of 2023!

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

**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](mailto:office@sjrchurch.com) or call  
(0141) 334 0782 - [www.sjrchurch.com](http://www.sjrchurch.com)





# Christmas Pop-In Cafe



## SJR – Welcome Team Door Duties

**February'23: 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Lead Elder:** Roddy Watt with Andy McCrindle and  
Helen Barclay  
**Reserve:** Marjory Watt

## **Useful Information from the Church of Scotland**

I was formally the Kirk Session World Mission representative and received regular updates on events in Scotland and the World Church. World Mission is now part of the Faith Impact Forum and I now am sent updates weekly from them.

The latest newsletter contains articles including information about raising funds on Souper Sunday for the Church of Scotland HIV Programme, Holocaust Memorial Day in the UK being commemorated online on 26th January, a plea for prayers for the Presbyterian Church in Myanmar during unrest, and an update on Mulanje Mission Hospital in Malawi. You can also read updates from our Mission Partners, including Stewart our former minister, who is in Jerusalem.

In order to receive these weekly newsletters online go to [faithimpact@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:faithimpact@churchofscotland.org.uk) You will need to send them an email requesting you are put on their mailing list.

**Marjory Watt**



### **THE FOOD BANK**

Jars with well-fitting lids, like small jam jars\*, are used to distribute items such as washing powder, that has been obtained in bulk. If you have a few jars to spare please leave them in the box in the vestibule. Empty egg boxes are also welcome as these are split up to distribute small amounts, like two eggs at a time.

\* not the larger ones that John McFadyen prefers.

**Website: stgregorysfoodbank.com**  
**Email: stgregorysfoodbank@gmail.com**

18th January 2023

St John's Renfield Church

## **YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO GREGORY'S FOOD BANK**

On behalf of Father Allan Cameron, St Gregory's Food Bank and it's volunteers, I write to thank you for the ongoing help and support we receive from your congregation. We are blown away, yet again, for the magnificent donation of £1500 direct to our bank account in December as well as the monthly payment of £250 we are fortunate to receive too – we are blessed.

It was lovely to chat with Jim MacDonald recently, when he so kindly dropped off a food donation to the Food Bank

It's heart warming to have your support and generosity and your kind gestures will help us continue to serve the local community here in the Wyndford, Maryhill, relieving some of the anxiety that so many are experiencing in these extremely difficult times.

We do like to acknowledge and cheer our hero Food Bank supporters and donators, as without them, our role here would be much more challenging.

Please pass on our sincere gratitude to your congregation and all who supported, for continuing to have St Gregory's Food Bank in their thoughts. We are truly thankful.

Kind Regards

*Eileen Low*

Eileen Low  
Volunteer



# St Gregory's Food Bank

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

[www.stgregorysfoodbank.com](http://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*





**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

December was a busy month for the Company Section. The boys were in Bake Off mode preparing Caramel Cookie Squares which went down a treat. Some of them were even edible! Then we had great fun on our Christmas night out at Laser Planet in Clydebank.

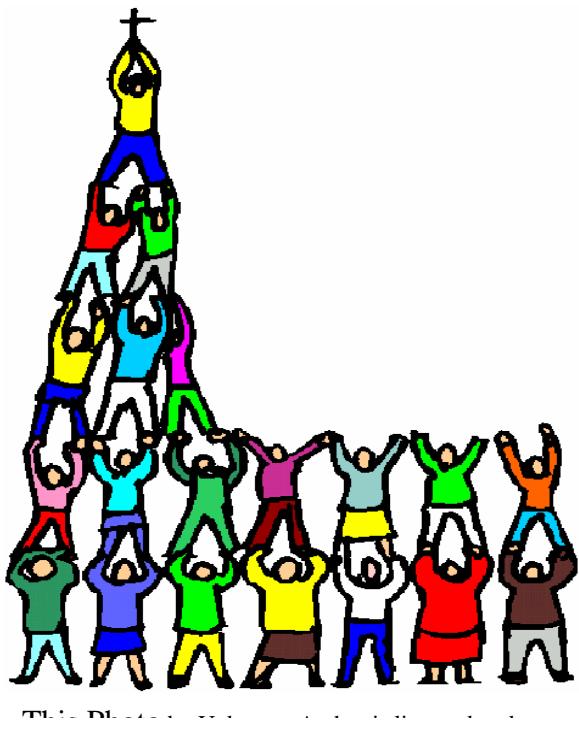
In January we turned our attention to subjects such as Being a Good Sport, Veganism, Ponds & Birds, & First Aid. We also polished up our trampoline skills.

On the Partick District competition front, Pte Felix Russell won the Intermediate Tenpin Bowling competition with Pte Bradley Tierney taking second spot. L/Cpl Christopher Watt was victorious in the Senior event. As we go to press, we are looking forward to the District Laser Quest and Senior 5-a-side football competitions.

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, many thanks to everyone who turned out to support the return of our BB Quiz & Chippy Night on Saturday 21st January. We hope you all enjoyed it and, fingers crossed, we'll do it all again next year!

**STEDFAST**



# Safeguarding in the Church of Scotland

## Protecting children and adults at risk

**Who are the Safeguarding Coordinators in St John's-Renfield Church?**  
**Moira Eaglesham, Marion Dowling (Assistant)**

First of all, our thanks go to Jennifer Stewart and Susan Finnigan for their many years working as Safeguarding Coordinators and through their efforts, keeping a safe Church for all.

The Church of Scotland requested that we review and update the Safeguarding Congregational Roll and so, you may have been approached about this recently. If you no longer wish to do regulated work with children or with protected adults (pastoral care worker/visitor), please let us know. (We have a form for that!)

Just a reminder that all people doing regulated work with children, and/or protected adults, must join the PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) scheme, go through the recruitment process and be appointed by the Kirk Session before they start work. (We have lots of forms for that!)

Refresher Safeguarding training is required every five years. With Covid restrictions, these mandatory training opportunities

were greatly curtailed in the past three years. However, this situation is now easing and we are looking to encourage those people due to refresh their training to find the appropriate training courses within the next few months. (We're looking for forms for that!)

*Remember*, if you are worried or have concerns about any Safeguarding matter, or suspect that harm or abuse is taking place, you should contact Moira Eaglesham or Marion Dowling as soon as possible. There are notices around the Church reminding you of these contacts.

Thank you.

**Moira and Marion**  
**[Moiraeaglesham@aol.com](mailto:Moiraeaglesham@aol.com)**  
**[dowlingm242@gmail.com](mailto:dowlingm242@gmail.com)**

## RECYCLING NEWS

A son in San Diego California means I keep an eye on what's happening there, by way of an on-line San Diego newspaper.



Saving the planet is a world-wide concern. So, I share thoughts prompted by a recent article, headlined: 'Green Bin Delivery to Begin for SD Residents As Part of Organic Waste Recycling Launch.'

Our brown bins have been in operation for some time, so I had been puzzled, on my visits, by the lack of an organic waste bin,

especially in California - a leader in environmental improvement. Glasgow seems to do it better.

The move now, I learn, is because the tardy city has been prompted by a state ordinance. California, in turn, being leaned on by Washington, where a national bill had been passed in 2016 to reduce the disposal of organic waste by 75% by 2025.

Reading the details of the new bin operation, from the background of our 'arrangements', was eye opening.

'The city will collect organic waste weekly on the customer's normal trash collection day and location.'

Has the number of vehicles and employees been doubled?

No puzzling, 'What colour is it this week?'.

The article closed with information that should encourage commitment, whether in CA or G12.

'When organic waste decomposes in a land fill, it releases methane, a harmful gas that traps the sun's heat and contributes to climate change'

'Recycling organic waste is the single easiest and fastest thing an individual can do to fight climate change.'

**Alan Christie**

# LIFE AND WORK

February 2023

## **'A Tangible Thing Everybody Can Do'**

As Fairtrade Fortnight begins, how Fairtrade traders and campaigners in Scotland are facing the cost of living crisis.

## **'We Are Facing Huge Challenges'**

The Rev Dr Doug Gay, author of *Reforming the Kirk*, tells of his journey from an upbringing in an Exclusive Plymouth Brethren Assembly to influential theologian – and where he feels the Church of Scotland is going wrong in its reforms.

## **Being Intergenerational Church**

Suzi Farrant and Darren Philip continue their series on the importance of developing a Church which embraces all generations.

## **Sitting Near My Neighbour**

John L Bell reflects on the impact of layout on worship.

## **Radical Reconciliation**

Ruth Harvey considers the message of reconciliation in 2 Corinthians 5.

## **A Good Host**

The Rev Dr Martin Johnstone reflects on the art of hosting as a vital leadership skill.

## Pilgrim Journeys

The Rev Dr Richard Frazer reflects on the value and gifts of pilgrimage.

**Plus:** youth column, My Church, View from the Pulpit, official updates from the Faith Action Programme and Assembly Trustees, readers' pictures, news, letters and reviews – 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

FEBRUARY 2023  
£3.50

IN THIS ISSUE

'A tangible thing, everyone can do'  
Fairtrade Fortnight

'We are facing huge challenges'  
Interview with the Rev Dr Doug Gay

Sitting near my neighbour  
John L Bell on layout in worship

Intergenerational church  
Second in series

Changing lives  
Moderator on CrossReach

and much more all for £3.50

# **GOOD NEWS STORY**

## ***Artist gives back to hospital following life changing brain surgery***

An artist and former patient has donated paintings to the neurology department at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital following her life changing brain surgery.



Helen Butler, 42, started painting a month after she underwent surgery to remove the hippocampus and the right temporal lobe of her brain to help control her epileptic seizures.

This type of surgery can be considered in some patients with this form of epilepsy who do not respond to treatment with anti-epilepsy medicines.

As a result of the surgery in 2018, she is now seizure free and has been able to live an independent life and as a thank you, has now donated a number of her paintings to the hospital to show her gratitude for the treatment she received.

Helen said: “I cannot thank the neurology department at the QEUH enough for the treatment and care they provided for me.

“I had the surgery in 2018 and I am now four years seizure free and one year medication free. I used to have up to 25 seizures a week and now I have passed my driving test.

“After my surgery, I decided to take up painting to help deal with stress as it was an escape and helped keep my mind occupied.

“Now I have managed to sell paintings around the world to help raise awareness and funding for epilepsy and brain surgery.”

*This article has no direct connection with our church but we include it in The Beacon because it is a Good News Story.*

## We conclude with this image as a memorial of life in Kelvindale in winter 2022-3



# **WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH**

## **February 2023**

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Pop In Café SJR Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m.
Sunday 5th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m. Livestreamed
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11 a.m. No Sunday Club – School Holiday
Sunday 19th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m. Livestreamed
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Kirk Session - 7.15 p.m.
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.

**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 March 2023 Beacon is required by

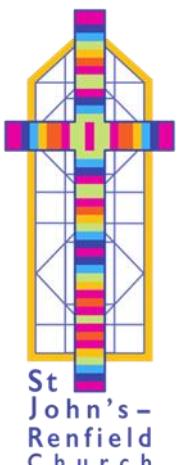
**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023 midnight**

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