

# The Beacon

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

**Magazine No 382**

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

**2024**

**Feb**

**Mar**

**April**

**May**

**June**

**Sept**

**Oct**

**Nov**

**Dec**



# Minister's Letter

At the start of each January some people feel fired up to make 'New Year Resolutions' – sometimes inspired by over-zealous participation in the festive celebrations. They plan to take up some sort of exercise (to lose weight and become fitter), they will stay off alcohol for the whole month, etc etc. I'm not sure whether there is any scientific research into the success rate for implementing these Resolutions through the whole of January (let alone the whole year), but anecdotal evidence suggests that the rate isn't very high.

February sees the start of Lent this year, and it offers Christians a chance to make a whole new set of Resolutions, which only have to last for 40 days, not a whole year. Some may decide to have another go at exercise. Some may try to abstain from favourite indulgent food or drink (with a financial 'penalty' of making a donation to Christian Aid, or some other charity, for every chocolate eaten, or glass of wine drunk) between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day. Some may choose to make a new list of people/ situations to remember in prayer each day, or re-read a Gospel, or join a Lent Study Group.

Some may decide to make a more determined effort to help others throughout the period, perhaps as a way of expressing appreciation for the good things that we have (and maybe usually take for granted). It might entail making extra donations to the Foodbank, visiting or phoning housebound friends or neighbours, or making a financial donation to a charity (irrespective of chocolate, glasses of wine, or whatever).

We don't have to do any of this, but Lent offers us an opportunity to give our faith a bit of a 'Spring Clean', and share the love of Jesus with people in need.

**Rev. Ian Johnson**

## **Pulpit Suply – February**

4<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Ian Johnson

11<sup>th</sup> – Worship Team

18<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Gordon MacRae

25<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Ian Johnson

### **PARISH RECORDS**

#### **Funeral and Memorial Services**

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

The funeral of Gillian McCann, daughter of elder Christine, took place on Thursday 25th January at SJR Church.

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

...student's from Clevedon Secondary School's

Campsie Centre had a wonderful visit to the church in early December. Rev. Stewart

Mathews explained the parts of a church building and their music teacher played beautiful hymns on the

Sanctuary piano.







... a little 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration was held for John McMillian, after service in December.

\*\*\*\*\*

...Messy Church is returning. Look out for the full ad in this edition of your Beacon. If you'd like to be involved in any way, think you might like to bring along your children, grandchildren



neighbours/friend's children or just would like details on what Messy Church is then decide if it's for you please contact the church office ([office@sjrchurch.com](mailto:office@sjrchurch.com))

\*\*\*\*\*

...Christian Aid has been awarded £250,000 for communities impacted by loss and damage in Dasenech, South Omo, in southern Ethiopia. Recently this area of Ethiopia has been impacted by cycles of drought and flooding. The funding, from the Scottish Government's Humanitarian Emergency Fund, was announced during COP28 and will be used to support communities in several different ways.



\*\*\*\*\*

Life and Work magazine has a new regular editorial feature in every issue that focuses on Presbyteries. The February issue just carried a focus on the new Perth Presbytery and the **upcoming March issue**; which is our Easter Special this year and is naturally one of the two biggest of the year, will carry a 2-page spread on Glasgow Presbytery.

# **SJR Welcome Team Door Duties**



**February 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Lead Elder:** Helen Barclay with Linda Moore  
and Marion Dowling.

**Reserve:** Mary Glassford

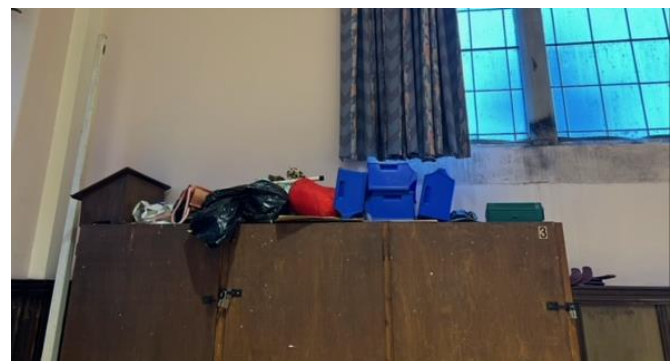
## **A message from our Organist**

Cameron would like to say a huge thanks for the appreciative applause he receives week on week after the postlude organ recital. However, Cameron respectfully asks for the applause to please stop happening. Cameron does not think of his playing Sunday by Sunday as any sort of performance that requires appreciation by applauding.

He'd also like people to leave at their leisure and not to feel awkward leaving after the end of the service while music is still playing.

## **Our Unsightly Cupboards**

If any of this stuff on top of and around the Large Hall cupboards belongs to you or your organisation can you please remove it and store elsewhere. If it remains at the end of if February it will be disposed of.



Many thanks,  
From the Leadership Team

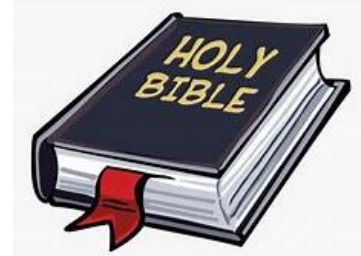


## Arranging your Flowers in February

Marion Dowling  
Liz MacDonald

### Reader Rota

4<sup>th</sup> – Aileen Morison  
11<sup>th</sup> – Grace MacKay  
18<sup>th</sup> – Margaret Paton  
25<sup>th</sup> – Pat McGill



## CHRISTIAN AID LENTEN PROGRAMME

This year Christian Aid is running a six-part Lenten study programme entitled *The Act on Poverty Course*. We shall be running the course in St John's-Renfield for six weeks and all are welcome to attend. The material is suitable for group or individual

study and can be accessed on the Christian Aid website under the *Act on Poverty* title. All meetings will be in the church at 7.30 p.m., beginning on Tuesday 20 February, and thereafter on

the next five Wednesdays. It would be helpful to have some notion of likely numbers, so if you do intend to come, perhaps you could



inform Roddy Watt ([roderick.watt@btopenworld.com](mailto:roderick.watt@btopenworld.com)), but feel free to drop in unannounced. The official course descriptor follows on this invitation.

## **The Act on Poverty Course explores six themes:**

### **1. Prophetic**

This pack looks at what it means for churches to speak prophetically. The Bible shows us that being a prophet is far from easy. Many prophets have felt powerless, despite being called by God to speak out. How, with God's help, can your church develop its prophetic voice when speaking about poverty?

### **2. Broken**

We are increasingly aware of the divisiveness of politics in the UK today. But this is not the only place where there is division. Our churches, our world, our selves are all in need of redemption and repair. This pack helps you discuss division and brokenness in our different contexts. The resource opens up space to think together about where repentance is needed, and how we can be part of God's healing and redeeming work.

### **3. Generous**

Many people in the UK are having to tighten their belts due to the cost-of-living crisis. In this pack we take a close look at the lived experience of poverty, both near to home and around the world. We explore poverty as a justice issue that demands action. Churches can explore what it might mean to be 'generous' or 'cheerful givers' (2

Corinthians 9.7) when we feel like we have nothing to spare. What gifts do we have that we can share?

#### **4. Located**

Beginning with reflections on where Jesus chose to place himself during his ministry, this pack equips your church to look afresh at where you are located. This includes your physical environment, community resources, local concerns and priorities. Groups can explore questions about how we discern what God is already doing in our community, about life on the margins, and who has power in your locality.

#### **5. Hopeful**

This pack helps churches outline their hopes for the future and turn these hopes into a manifesto for action. There are practical ideas about facilitating events and community discussion in the lead up to the General Election. And there's an exploration of how nurturing hope can be part of our calling to love our neighbour. What will your church do to grow hope in 2024?

#### **6. Together**

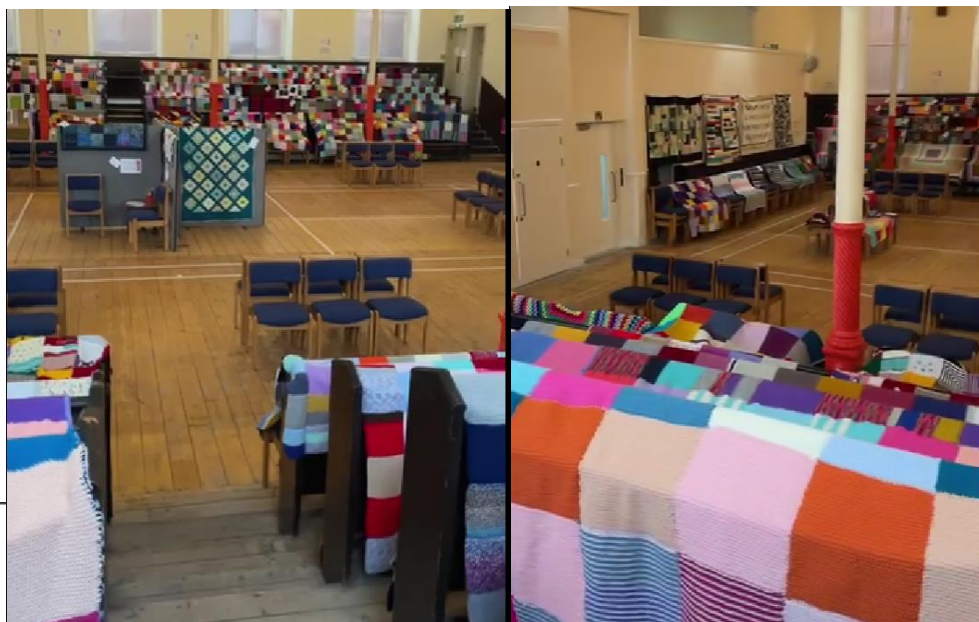
Our final pack looks at what we can do together to tackle poverty, local and global. This resource focuses on practical action in community, suggesting a range of ways to come together, perhaps hosting a shared meal or event to which you can invite your Prospective Parliamentary Candidates and MP's. Sharing time, ideas and food as we plan to Act on Poverty together. This can act as a



standalone session or mark the culmination of your course over the last five weeks.

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## **LODGING HOUSE MISSION KNITTING**



Lhm360

14 December 2023 at 21:50 · 🌐

Our Heartfelt Thanks to everyone who donated, visited and contributed to the Knit Together Exhibition as it closed today. The Exhibition boasted 147 blankets in the end from 33 organizations and individuals. The work was 'amazing', 'inspiring', 'wow', and 'a thrill to see'. We are now pleased to be able to distribute them to our guests, and to the women's shelter for Christmas. [#lifehopemeaning](#) [#LHM](#) [#Christmas](#)

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## **KELVINDALE TODDLERS UPDATE**

After the successful spotty event which Kelvindale Toddlers held for the BBC Children in Need appeal, we continued to meet each Thursday morning finishing with an exciting Christmas party on 14th December. Thank you to Santa for his visit! We started again on Thursday 11th January with around 20 children each with a parent, grandparent or carer, everyone appreciating the warmth and the space in the large hall. Thank you to all those who make us welcome including the gardeners, Cathy and Michael.



# CHRISTMAS AT SJR CHURCH 2023



Our December Gift Service –  
with wonderful donations for  
Glasgow the Caring City



Christingle service held on the  
15<sup>th</sup> of December attended by  
former Sunday Club members  
Elizabeth and Peter Poet



# Christmas Stall Generosity

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas stall.

Unexpected last-minute donations brought the final total to £340. We sent the money

to Mission Without Borders and the Ukrainian Red Cross who provide practical and psychological support to adults and children in Ukraine whose lives have been torn apart by war.



## CHRISTMAS POP-IN 2023

We had a fantastic visit from Kelvinside Academy Nursery who enjoyed refreshments before singing us some delightful Christmas carols.



# Pop-in Café

Our first community café of 2024!

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</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)






# Charity Piano Recital at SJR Church

Sunday 18th February at 3pm  
Entry by donation (suggested £10) for  
Glasgow Lodging House Mission

18-year-old Stanley Butcher is from Norwich and is a student of renowned conductor and pianist David Parry. He has performed in various venues across Norfolk including the Assembly House, the John Innes Centre, Aylsham Parish Church, in a Guildhall Young Artist concert, and at the Belfry Arts Centre. He recently won a place to continue his studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. Stanley will play a programme featuring the music of Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Debussy and Chopin, and may even be joined by David Parry for an encore duet! Interval refreshments will be served and all proceeds from the recital will go to the Glasgow Lodging House Mission.

**Piano Recital**  
**Stanley Butcher**

**Sunday 18th February 3pm**  
**St John's-Renfield Church**  
**Beaconsfield Road G12 0NY**



**Bach - WTC Book 1: Prelude and Fugue in E major**  
**Mozart - Sonata in A minor K. 310**  
**Mendelssohn - Variations Sérieuses Op. 54**  
**Debussy - Images: série I**  
**Chopin - Sonata in B minor Op. 58**

**Entry by donation (suggested £10) to help raise funds  
for the Glasgow Lodging House Mission. Refreshments  
will be served at the interval.**

**Alaistair Digges**

Further information contact Shaun ([shaun.digges@gmail.com](mailto:shaun.digges@gmail.com))



**ST. JOHN'S-RENFIELD CHURCH,  
BEACONSFIELD ROAD, KELVINDALE**

**SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024  
FROM 4-6 pm**



**ENJOY SPRINGTIME AND EASTER CRAFTS, MUSIC,  
FUN, GAMES, STORY TIME AND A SHARED MEAL FOR  
ALL**

**Children of all ages welcome but must be accompanied by a  
responsible adult who remains for the event.**

Free but small donations welcome if you  
can afford it.

FURTHER DETAILS AT [www.sjrchurch.com](http://www.sjrchurch.com)  
or email: [office@sjrchurch.com](mailto:office@sjrchurch.com)





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 and Junior Section**

The Anchor Boys and Junior Section continue to meet on a Tuesday evening from 6.15pm – 7.30pm. Twenty-two boys attend on a regular basis enjoying marching, achievement work and games.

Of course, in December, we all enjoyed our Christmas Party, with good food, traditional games and a visit from the, 'man in red,' himself. Santa was very generous with even the staff receiving gifts.

Just prior to Christmas, the Junior Section attended Partick District Ten Pin Bowling competition with our own Angus Matheson being crowned the winner. Well done, Angus!

We are looking forward to a busy third term. By the time you read this, upwards of 100 people will have enjoyed the now much anticipated BB Quiz and Chippy night on 20<sup>th</sup> January and as well as more Partick District competitions, we have the BB Coffee morning to look forward to on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Be sure to put the date in your diary.

Also, be sure to follow all our activities and see what we get up to on a regular basis by following us on Facebook and Twitter. (now X)

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



## Company Section News

December was a busy month for the Company Section. The boys were in Bake Off mode preparing Neapolitan Cupcakes which went down a treat. Some of them were even edible! Then we had great fun on our Christmas night out at The Loading Bay in Port Dundas.

In January we turned our attention to subjects such as Vaping, First Aid, Burns Night, and Car Maintenance.

On the Partick District competition front, Pte Harris Gault won the Junior Tenpin Bowling competition with Pte Ariel Booyens taking second spot. Pte Felix Russell was runner up in the Intermediates competition, with L/Cpl Hamish Matheson also second in the Senior event. Our two squads performed well in the District Drill competition, with our 'A' squad victorious. As we go to press, we are looking forward to the District Masterteam and Badminton 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 our BB Quiz & Chippy Night on Saturday 20th January. We hope you all enjoyed it and, fingers crossed, we'll do it all again next year!

**Alan Rattray**



# Angels & Wild Beasts

*meeting God in the wilderness*

All are welcome  
for an evening of  
creative and participative worship  
marking the beginning of Lent

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024

6.30 - 8pm

St Andrew's West Parish Church

260 Bath Street

Glasgow G2 4JP

# **LIFE AND WORK**

**FEBRUARY 2024**

## **A Missional Tool?**

The Church and social media, 20 years on from the launch of Facebook

## **‘Values Really Matter’**

BBC presenter Ed Stourton on faith and living with cancer

## **Our Presbyteries**

Focus on the new Presbytery of Perth

## **Journey With Love**

The Moderator reflects on Lent and Valentine’s Day

## **What’s in a Name?**

The relevance and riches of stewardship

## **Jordan and Faith**

A group of teenagers and youth leaders from Skye reflect on a trip to Jordan

## **Regulars**

The Very Rev Dr Martin Fair on ministry recruitment

The Rev Roddy Hamilton on worship

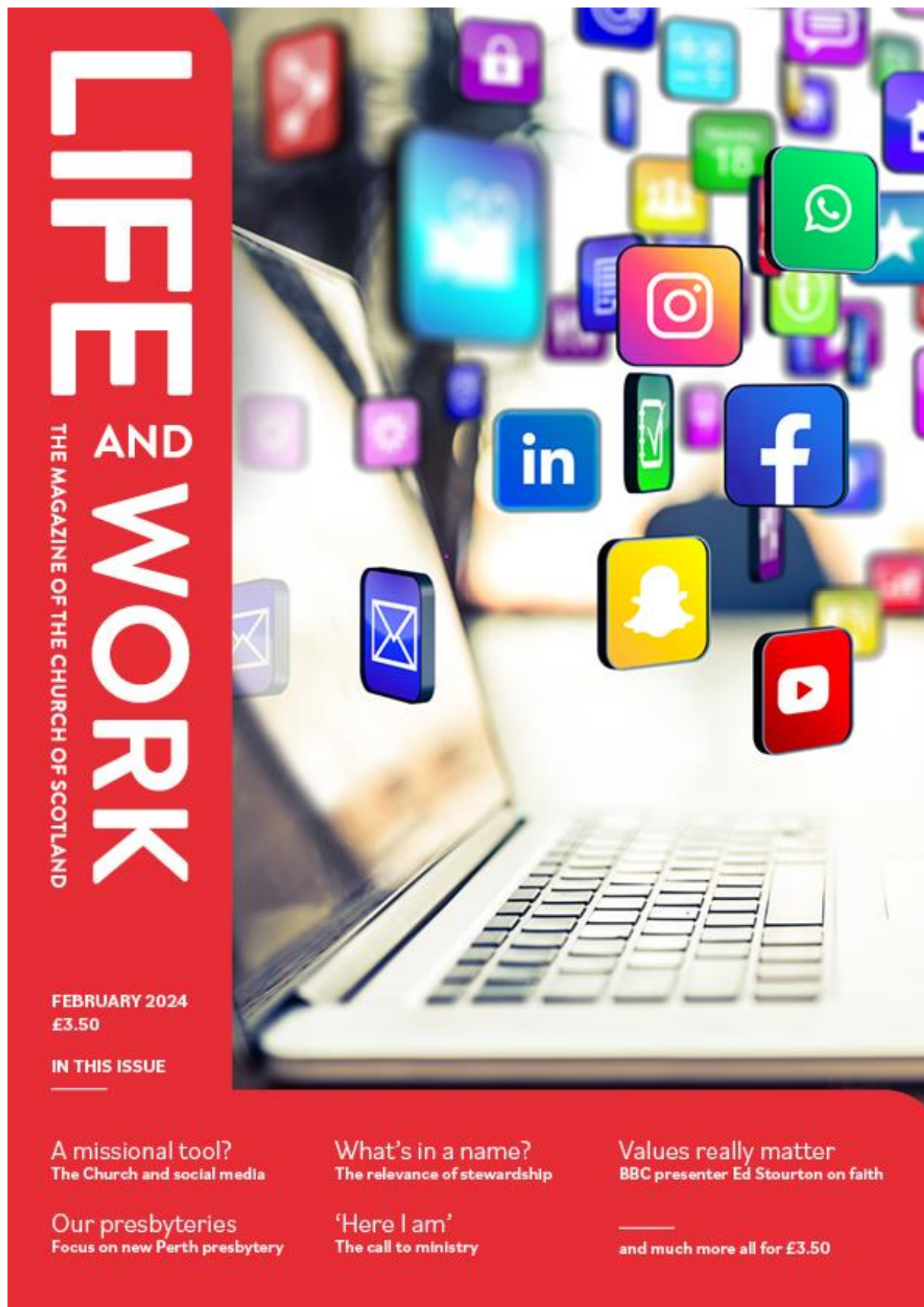
Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church

My Church: Fiona Spooner, Boys’ Brigade worker and member of Neilston Parish Church

View from the Pulpit: the Rev Justin Taylor

**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

FEBRUARY 2024  
£3.50

IN THIS ISSUE

A missional tool? The Church and social media	What's in a name? The relevance of stewardship	Values really matter BBC presenter Ed Stourton on faith
Our presbyteries Focus on new Perth presbytery	'Here I am' The call to ministry	and much more all for £3.50

# WHAT'S ON

## FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Pop-In Café SJR Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m.
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m. Charity Piano Recital – SJR Church – 3 p.m. Angels and Wild Beasts – St. Andrew's West Parish 6.30 -8 .30 p.m.
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Kirk Session – 7.15 p.m. Small Hall
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11.00 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, Graham  
Moore, Roderick Watt

### Editor of Beacon

Alan Christie

Material for the March 2024 Beacon is required by

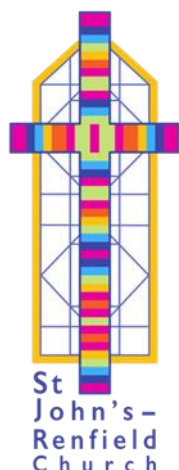
**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024 midnight**

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

Tel: (0141) 334 0782

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