

# The Beacon

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

**Magazine No 366**

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

**2022**

**Feb**

**Mar**

**April**

**May**

**June**

**Sept**

**Oct**

**Nov**

**Dec**



## Minister's Letter - April 2022

### One more year for the fig tree, or Speed dating for churches

Dear Friends,

I begin with a prayer. Specifically, a prayer when anxious:

Merciful God,  
in Jesus Christ we have your promise of peace.  
Receive us who seek your help,  
assure us that you are near.  
Fill us with your Spirit,  
cast out our anxiety and fear,  
and help us to rely on the strength you provide,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
whose strength you were,  
whose cry you heard,  
Amen.

On the Third Sunday in Lent, 20 March, we observed, or took a step into, what the Presbytery was pleased to call 'Threshold Sunday.' A service of spiritual strengthening, and an opportunity to focus in worship on the major challenges facing us. It had initially been called 'Presbytery Plan Creation Sunday.' Taking the two names together, we are being called to cross a threshold into a new Presbytery Mission Plan, one that we create ourselves. As Robin Hutchison's piece will tell you, the facts of life are that, going forward, the 29 pastoral charges in what is now called Zone 1 of Presbytery, our zone, will have a provision of 17 ministry posts. Twelve will have to be lost. The stated way forward is that of clustering pastoral charges, to be served by a shared ministry.

Accordingly, we like everyone else, have been engaged in conversations and consultations with our neighbours towards the formation of our own cluster. This at a rate of knots. The first deadline, for setting out our plan for the cluster and making our case for what we think a sufficient level of ministry provision, is 15 April. A tall order. We have asked five elders to carry the talks for us, with whom we had prayer on Sunday: Graham Moore, Robin Hutchison, Isobel Digges, Pat McGill and Jim Tassell. Liaising with the leadership's team – the minister and the Session clerks – they will engage in talks with prospective partners regarding the five marks of mission; the assets we bring to the table, our people and our life and work; our context and values as a congregation; our finances and our buildings.

I call it speed dating for churches. Hence the prayer when anxious at the beginning of this letter. The reading from the gospel, the Parable of the Fig Tree (Luke 13.6–9), proved to be most apt for the moment that is upon us, with its threshold looming or beckoning depending on how you feel it. Here it is:

Then Jesus told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So, he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

So it's one more year for the fig tree. That's as good as it gets. Because the jig was up. That's how the story starts. The fig tree has had its three years and produced no fruit. It's a waste of space, says its owner. 'Cut it down!' he tells his gardener. Perhaps he's thinking to use the space for a new vine.

We hear the finality of it. We can see the axe leaning up against the trunk of the tree. Sharpened. But not yet in the gardener's hand.

Bad enough for any tree you might think, but it gets worse. It is a fig tree. A most venerable species of tree. Present in the Garden of Eden. We know because it is with fig leaves that Adam and Eve cover themselves. How can it be a fig tree that is to be cut down? Present at creation as it was.

Surely an exemption must be sought for such a tree, we want to cry! But there is no exemption clause in the owner's order.

And there's more. A fig tree is a symbol of peace and security in scripture. When the prophets wished to paint a picture of the life the Lord intends for Israel and for all nations, the images are of a secure life amid vines and fig trees. In Micah, for example, we read:



Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken.

How can it be a fig tree that is to be cut down?!

Further, there is the value of the fig tree for food, its fruit widely used in the Middle East, and in recipes the world over. (Even if it is not the main ingredient in our figgy pudding.) Here, images of a peaceable and protected vineyard and fruit bearing trees meet the practical provision of food, furthering the strength of the fig tree as a symbol of human security.

How can it be a fig tree that is to be cut down?!

But stop! The gardener is speaking. Drawing on a gardener's skill set and experience, they advocate for the fig tree, saying, 'Sir, let it alone

for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'

We might wish to note the guts and skill of the gardener in their negotiations with the owner. And the very practical terms in which they speak of the work to be done. We note too that it is the gardener who gets the last word. It will not be the axe they take in hand, not just yet, thank-you, but a garden trowel. And pray God, it will be a basket in someone's hand at the harvest.

It is a parable then of looming disaster, and of disaster averted. For now.

By 15 April – not even a year for us – we are to have negotiated a cluster arrangement with one or more of our neighbours, and set out our stall for ministry provision. With our gardening skills in hand. God being our helper.

Let us be in prayer and in conversation that we find our way forward together to a vital future, our worship and witness of our Lord Jesus Christ strong and compelling, meeting our needs, enabling us to meet the needs of others. Let us be of good cheer.

Your friend,  
Stewart

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## **Look Forward in Faith**

Last Sunday your Editor suggested that I might write some memories of growing up in Kelvindale in the 1950's. Instead, I am writing about what is happening in our Church in 2022.

We are in a time of change not only affecting our own Church but also the Church across the Presbytery of Glasgow and even the Church

nationally. Presbytery have decided that it will be divided into five zones, with ours stretching from Finnieston to Drumchapel, a total of 29 charges. However, this grouping has only been allocated 17 posts not all of whom are necessarily ordained ministers. There is, therefore, no guarantee that we will have our own minister going forward.

Where does this leave us? Geographically we are right in the middle of the zone. We need to be right at the centre of the discussions going forward and we are beginning conversations with several of our neighbouring churches to discuss, realistically, what our requirements and expectations can be given the directive that 12 posts need to be, “lost”. We will have to accept some of the pain but the group appointed by the Kirk Session will aim to keep this to a minimum.

Presbytery will also be looking at property and finance may also be a consideration.

Last Saturday morning there was a very positive meeting of the members of the zone and some initial conversations took place. These will be continued over the next few weeks but we have been tasked with coming up with proposals not later than 15<sup>th</sup> April so that Presbytery can meet the national Church deadline of having a settled Presbytery Plan by 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022 – not very long indeed.

Please keep the group tasked with conducting the discussions in your thoughts and prayers.

As the hymn says, Look Forward in Faith.

***Robin Hutchison  
Presbytery Elder***

## **A Special thank you from Elizabeth and Jim MacDonald**

We express our most sincere thanks to the congregation of St John's Renfield Church. Your prayers and support have helped us through one of the most difficult times in our lives. Our son Euan, along with Tina, her mother Zoya and 6-year-old granddaughter Emily, escaped the war-torn perils of Kyiv and are now refugees in Glasgow – the Caring City. The ordeal of the journey from Ukraine, by way of Lviv and Warsaw, has been reported on the media by Euan and many other journalists. We thank God for the safe arrival of our family in Glasgow and all of you for remembering our family in your prayers.



The tryzub, derives from the seal-trident of Volodymyr, the first Grand Prince of Kyiv. It is worn as a symbol of freedom, as a symbol of the Christian Trinity or as a synthesis of the divine elements of fire, earth and water.

# PARISH RECORDS

## By Certificate of Transfer

Iain Ross of Kirklee Quadrant, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022



\*\*\*\*\*

## Church Kitchen

Now that things are slowly getting back to normal and the kitchen is coming back into use, please can we just reiterate the rules of the kitchen.

Please leave the kitchen as you would hope to find it and take any used tea towels home to wash and return. We no longer have a Church Officer who used to deal with this and it is down to the user.

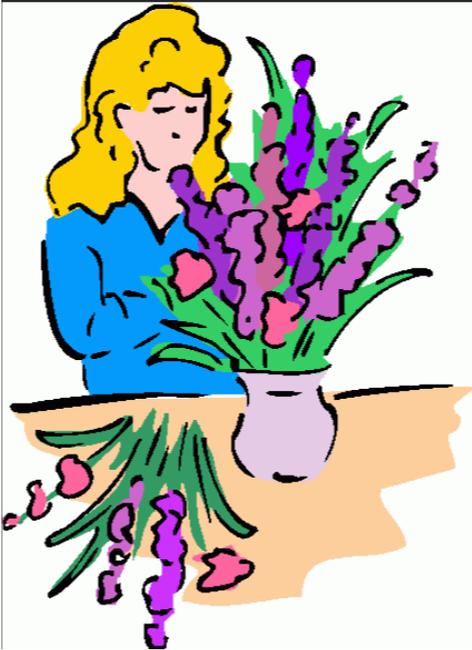
Please take care when using the dishwasher and refer to the card showing how to use it. We have just had an expensive repair because a tooth pick got stuck in the pump. Make sure that excess liquids are drained in the sink and that tea plates are clear of any food residue before loading into the machine.

If using the fridge, please also clear your contents out at the end of your event. People tend to leave things for others to use but that rarely happens and it falls to someone else to clear it out. If you bring things in, then please take the remains home too.

At the end of your event, please also check that the floor is swept and, if necessary, washed.

# HAVE YOU HEARD?

## ARRANGING YOUR FLOWERS IN APRIL



Grace MacKay  
Marion Dowling

*Flowers don't tell, they show*  
Stephanie Skeen

### **Easter Pop-in Cafe**



The Easter Pop-in Café will be held on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> April from 2.00 to 3.30 pm in the Large Hall.

Come and join the fun and chat!

# UNEXPECTED ACT OF KINDNESS

## ACTS OF KINDNESS

Some time ago, around Christmas, my husband Guy was looking forward to a seat in the Botanic Gardens to read his paper and drink a cup of coffee. Just as he approached an empty bench his fingers malfunctioned, squeezing his cup, which sent the contents flying high along with the lid. Instead of returning to the coffee stall for another cup, he decided just to sit down and read the paper. Much to his surprise five minutes



later two young women, who he assumed were foreign students, came along and said that they had observed what had happened and hoped he would accept the cup of coffee they had bought for him. Rendered almost speechless by their kindness, he later presumed that they reckoned that the auld fella on the bench wasn't fit enough to walk back to the stall for another cup.

Would another Beacon reader like to share any similar type of experience of kindness from strangers?

**Eleanor Murphy**

### ***The editor is the first to respond:***

*Walking round the Pond on the way back from a hospital visit I gave a nod to a chap sitting on a bench. He replied: 'Hoo's it ga'un auld yin'.*

# Holy Week Services



**Monday 11<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

Holy Week Reflection and Prayer  
7pm in the Sanctuary St John's - Renfield

**Maundy Thursday** Communion 7pm

Hosted by Hillhead Baptist Church on Zoom and led by  
Rev. Catriona Gordon and Rev. Dr. Stewart Gillan

**Good Friday Vigil**

Seven Last Words

Pop in between 12 noon and 3pm  
Kelvinside - Hillhead Church

**Holy Saturday**

Reflection Service in  
St John's- Renfield Sanctuary at 10am

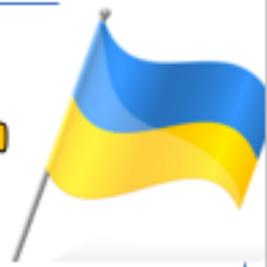
**Easter Sunday**

Botanic Gardens 9am - Wellington led

Breakfast and Egg rolling at 10 am  
St John's-Renfield  
followed by Easter Day Worship at 11am



# Spring Fair



**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

**10 am to 12 noon**

**St. John's-Renfield Church,  
Beaconsfield Road, Kelvindale**



**Books,  
Baking,**

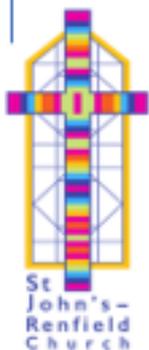


**Bottle Stall  
and more...**



**£2 Entry includes free Tea/Coffee and Cake**

**All money raised will go to the D.E.C for  
Ukraine**



*Registered as a charity in Scotland.  
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# **Spring Fair on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

## **from 10am till 12 noon**



**All proceeds will be donated to Ukraine through the  
Disasters Emergency Committee website**

Ways and Means are back! The first venture will be a Spring Fair with all proceeds going to Ukraine.

Please come and join us to browse our stalls for books, bottles, jam, home baking, unloved or unwanted new gifts, car wash - come out and see your friends! We realise that not everyone will wish to join-in just yet but still support our efforts for Ukraine and we will be happy to receive monetary donations to Isobel or Shirley T. 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 29<sup>th</sup> April between 10am and 12 noon plus 6.30pm – 8.00pm.

All this is, of course, subject to us all being Covid free. We look forward to seeing everyone and to the sound of chatter and laughter in the large hall!

Any queries to Isobel Digges (334 8697) or Shirley Tassell (339 3573)

# LODGING HOUSE MISSION APPEALS



The LHM is hoping to fill two volunteer posts.

## **Front of House Team**

Your role front of house is so much more than just taking details for track and trace, you will be the first person they see so it is crucial to set the scene and show a friendly face and be helpful and considerate.

How much time would you need to commit? We would ask that you commit to one shift a month as a minimum if possible. Our day runs from 8.30am until 3pm. We would ask that you do a minimum of 4 hours within that time period.

## **Chaplaincy Team Prayer Support**

This role has two main purposes; to support our mission aims through prayer for the events, activities and people of Lodging House Mission, secondly to provide and oversee the provision of a prayer space for guests of the Lodging House Mission to support their prayer life.

How much time would you need to commit? We would recommend that you commit to one prayer meeting per month as a minimum. The aim would be for the prayer space to be open to guests between 10 and 2pm. In addition, we would ask that you are able to take a regular slot within that time.

***Fuller information is available, so if interested see the notice board in the Large Hall or speak to Roddy Watt.***



**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



## **COMPANY SECTION NEWS**

It's April already, and getting closer to the culmination of our first "physical" BB session since lockdown. It seems to have flown by!

Prior to our Easter break, the boys completed their block of First Aid classes, learning both theory and practical elements which, we hope, will stand them in good stead for the future. We also had some great fun with Pancake Art, and if you follow us on social media, you would have seen the awesome results!

Other topics we have covered recently include Social Media, My Town, and Calories & Exercise - which was suitably rounded off with some refreshments and chip shop chips!

Planning for our post Easter programme is currently underway, but we hope the boys will be excited with some new activities that we have planned.

Cpl Jack McClelland and Cpl Grant MacLennan successfully navigated their way through a muddy, and sometimes wet, Queen's Badge Completion Course weekend at Auchengillan Outdoor Centre in mid-March. Jack and Grant are now on the home straight to becoming Queen's Men in May.

Planning is also well underway for our weekend camp at Stillaig, Tighnabruaich from 17th to 19th June 2022. We are really excited to get camp back on our schedule again for the first time since 2019 - so much so that all the boys and staff have signed up to go!

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, please remember, if you know of any boys from P7 upwards who would like to join us then please don't hesitate to get in touch. It's never too late! They will be made most welcome.

**STEDFAST**

### **Did you know?.....**

I'm sure many of you will know that behind the old Gartnavel Hospital is a walled garden, which is tended by volunteers. It was designed as a therapeutic place for the hospital's patients. When we are all welcoming the brighter days and (slightly) warmer temperatures -when the wind isn't blowing - and looking forward to getting outside and tending our own gardens, if you make your way up there, you'll find a table with a selection of plants which you can take away for the price of a donation – there are notices which explain in more detail the history of the garden and the use which will be made of the donated money.

I was speaking to one of the volunteers and asked if they could use surplus plant pots and the answer was yes, please, and don't just stop at plant pots!

So why not take a walk up there – take the road to the right at the back of the hotel then turn left just past the little chapel, up the hill then pass through the gap between two of the old buildings. It becomes quite Gothic after that!

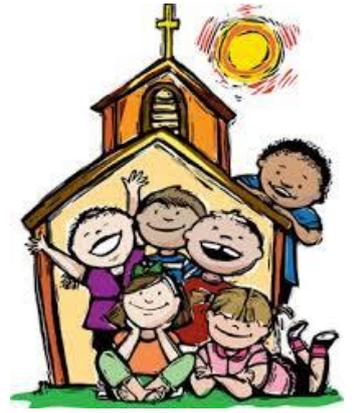
I do hope you will go exploring!

**Wilma Murphy**

# SUNDAY CLUB NEWS

Hi everyone!

Well, here we are at April already... we have continued to meet up in the (newly floored!) Brotherton Hall on Sunday mornings and enjoy seeing the children and discussing the scriptures, playing games and doing crafts.



Sunday Club will have a couple of weeks holiday at the start of April (3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>) but we will be back for the last weekend of the holidays for Easter Sunday, when we will roll eggs outside as usual! We haven't been able to do this for a couple of years and we are so looking forward to it! Please come along if you can and join in!

We are delighted that we have a new helper in Neil Watson and are grateful that he has come to support the Sunday Club. We are always happy to welcome anyone who is willing to help out so if you are, or know anyone who would like to help, please let us know! Our lovely children are enthusiastic, kind and helpful!



Have a lovely holidays and a fabulous Easter.

Sunday Club Team 😊

ST. JOHN'S-RENFIELD IS OPEN FOR



WE ARE OPENING OUR DOORS TO ALLOW PRIVATE  
PRAYER AND REFLECTION ON THE UKRAINIAN  
CRISIS

TUESDAYS: 11AM TO 12 NOON

THURSDAYS: 6.30 TO 7.30 PM

ALL WELCOME



NO BOOKING REQUIRED



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APRIL 2022 | £3.00

# LIFE AND WORK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

IN THIS ISSUE

## EASTER ART

Visual retelling of Resurrection

'I KNEW THAT I COULDN'T  
NOT FOLLOW JESUS'

Artist Iain Campbell

## MARKS OF MISSION

Loving service

## FAITH ACTION PROGRAMME

Official update

and much more all for £3

## LIFE AND WORK

*APRIL 2022*

### **Easter Art**

Jackie Macadam talks to Christian artists about how the Resurrection story has been represented in art.

## **‘I Knew That I Couldn’t Not Follow Jesus’**

Interview with artist Iain Campbell.

## **Marks of Mission: Loving Service**

Continuing the series looking at the Marks of Mission, Thomas Baldwin speaks to the convener of CrossReach about how the Church responds to human need by loving service.

## **Faith in Action**

An official monthly update for 2022 from the Faith Action Programme

## **Who Guards the Guards?**

In his final column as Moderator, Lord Wallace pays tribute to the work of chaplains

## **Love, Grace and Transformation**

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers argues that in His execution and resurrection, Jesus is an archetype of redemption

## **Unnoticed Joy**

The Very Rev Albert Bogle reflects on the hidden moments of the Resurrection

## **Forgiving Others**

Continuing the series on the Lord’s Prayer

## **Plus**

News, letters, readers’ pictures, crosswords and registers

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**Work promoter.**

## POEM

(( ( rosemarkie ) ))

I feel at home when I reach the sea,  
Light breeze, fine golden sand,  
Waves wash towards the shore, liltng back and forth,  
Their healing power makes life simple, naturally.

Easing into clear water, shimmering mosaics of light,  
Sky a bridal beauty in her wedding dress.  
Gulls sing like bells ring, joyfully,  
An invitation to a glorious day here on the milky way.

Dancing dolphins leap from the ocean  
Near the lighthouse at Chanonry Point.  
Gorgeous wild flowers, machair, tall grasses,  
Life simple, naturally.

Half Moon Bay. White sailboats pass by,  
Sun strokes my shoulders; the air is content.  
Flip-flop. Children chatter over sandcastles  
Full of sweet hope; an idyllic seaside event.

***Jane Finnie***

# WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

## APRIL 2022

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Morning Worship – 11 a.m. Communion
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Private Prayer and Reflection for the Ukrainian Crisis – Open from 11am to 12 noon
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Pop-In Café Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30pm.
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Private Prayer and Reflection for the Ukrainian Crisis – Open from 6.30 to 7.30 pm.
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday - Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Week Reflection and Prayer 7pm in the Sanctuary St John's -Renfield
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Saturday Reflection Service in Sanctuary at 10am
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Sunday – Breakfast and Egg Rolling at 10.am with Worship at 11 a.m.
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Wednesday 27th	Tea Dance with Gordon Cree from 2pm-4pm.
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Fair – 10am to 12 noon. Raising funds for the Ukraine

**Please note: Events are subject to change following any new Covid guidance.**

# OFFICE BEARERS

## Minister

Rev. Dr. D. Stewart Gillan

### Session Clerk

Bob Bradnock

### Assistant Session

#### Clerk

Susan Finnigan

### Editor of Beacon

Alan Christie

Material for the May 2022 Beacon is required by

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 midnight**

The Church Office is appointment only due to current restrictions.

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

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