

# The Beacon

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

**Magazine      No 365**

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

**2022**

**Feb**

**Mar**

**April**

**May**

**June**

**Sept**

**Oct**

**Nov**

**Dec**

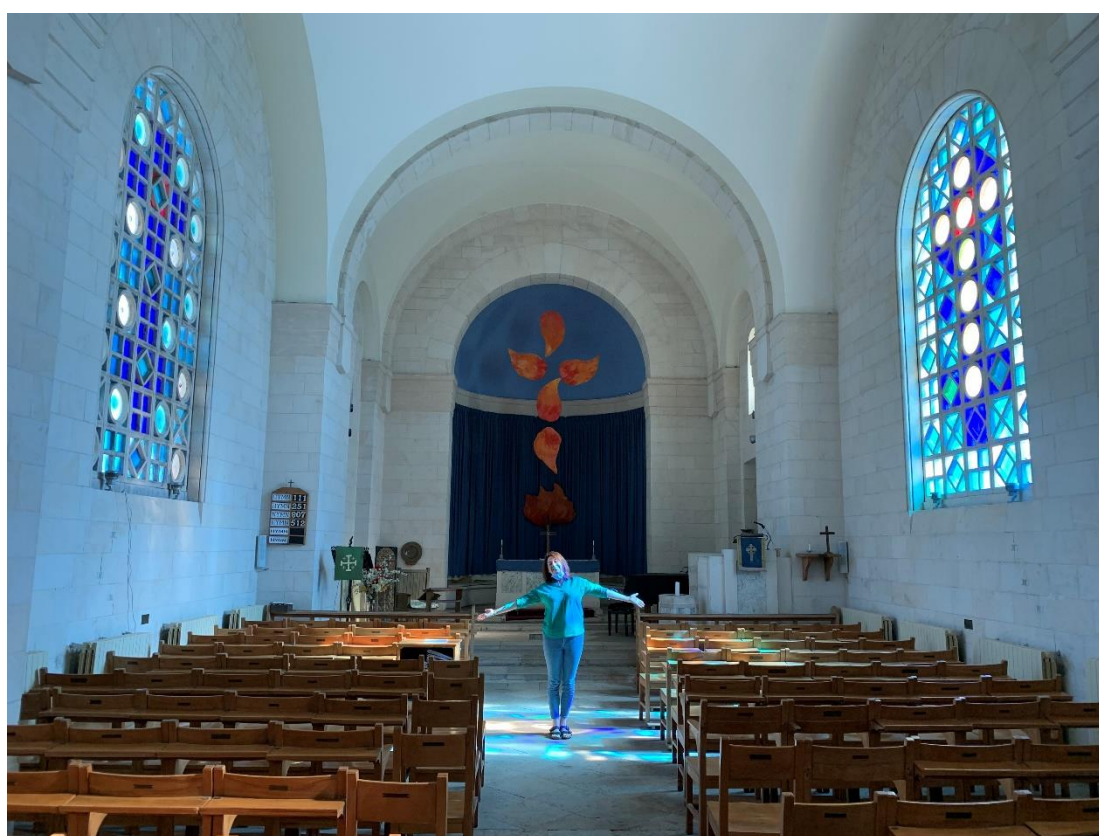


## Minister's Letter

### March 2022

Dear Friends,

Of the photos we took on our trip to Jerusalem and Jaffa in February, the one that appears below is my favourite. For me, it captures the instant in which a place of worship comes to life; the moment, that is, when someone enters it, transforming the space just by being there, recreating it. In this case, someone catching the Spirit in the movement of her body, with symbols of the fire of the Spirit around her. Sarah, of course. There is too the light painting her face in different colours, and the floor around her. The medium of window art is light.



The space in which Sarah takes her stance, the sanctuary of St Andrew's Scots Memorial Church Jerusalem, was designed by architects Clifford Holiday and Zoltan Shimshon Hermat almost

one hundred years ago. It is said they wished to bring east and west together in the shape of the building, and achieve this with a mixture of right angles and curves – high squared-off walls, a tower, a dome, a half dome and arches. A church and hospice built

in remembrance of Scots who fell during the Palestine Campaign of the Great War and in commemoration of the liberation of Jerusalem on 9 December 1917.

Though much has changed since the cornerstone was laid by Field Marshall the Viscount Allenby, on 7 May 1927, the Church continues to welcome partners, pilgrims, and seekers from east and west, God being our helper. We were eighteen for worship on the Sunday morning, attendances still heavily Covid-affected, as they are here. It was led by the Rev Dr Richard Sewell, Dean of St George's College in East Jerusalem, which gave Sarah and I an early opportunity to meet him and his wife Julie Anne, thus to connect with two of our Episcopalian partners. Two of St Andrew's Ecumenical Associates were present as well, the Rev Angleena Keizer, a Methodist minister, and Marc Falconer, a Mennonite working with many of the same human rights and development partners we do. Sarah and I had met the Clerk of Session, Heather Dobson, for an informative hour over coffee already on Saturday, our Covid isolation far shorter in duration than we had anticipated.

The high point for us as a family came at Tabeetha School in Jaffa when, after their 'taster classes' on Tuesday morning, our children reported themselves happy and already making new friends. Delighted we were to hear it. Tabeetha being its friendly self. Oh, blue skies, sandy beaches, Mediterranean dishes and gelato played their part to be sure. Our talks with Trish, Head of the Senior School, and with Mona, Tabeetha's Executive Director, went well, assessing where the kids will fit in to their GCSE and A Levels programme, and exploring what Sarah's role might be. And yes, there on the wall by the front door was a mosaic of Jonah's whale, said to have ejected him at Jaffa. I go more willingly.

For those of you who are not aware of Tabeetha, founded by Jane Walker-Arnott in 1863 in Ottoman times, this opening paragraph from the school's website might help:

Tabeeetha School is a truly unique school, not only because it is the only Church of Scotland school in the world, but also because this is one of the very few schools in the Holy Land where children and young people of different languages, faiths, cultures, and histories are being educated together in English.

In the middle of our Jaffa/Tabeeetha experience, I found myself on the balcony of our hotel room in front of my computer screen in a meeting on zoom with the Society of Friends of St Andrew's Jerusalem, chaired from Edinburgh. You can run but you cannot hide. What might Jonah have done? Meanwhile there was Kenny Roger, Middle East Secretary, and the Rev Muriel Pearson, my soon to be colleague at St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias, diligently attending to the matters at hand. As was I, of course. Someone asked me why there was a blue sky over my shoulder.

In Jerusalem we managed an introductory visit to the Old City, and, perhaps incongruously, to the Israel Aquarium: overwhelmed by the one and called to eco responsibility in the other.

We were fortunate to be able to visit my old friends Susan and Samuel Barhoum in Nazareth, enjoying their hospitality and talking through many aspects of the Church's life and work in Israel and Palestine at this time. For many years Samuel was Rector of Holy Family Episcopal Church in Reineh, so called because Jesus made his home not far away, and his first proclamation of the good news of the gospel was to Galileans. Samuel who, when asked about the authenticity of Palestinian Christianity, takes joy in replying, 'Jesus

was my cousin!’ At table, the dishes of his family were a great hit with my family. Palestinian soul food.

We were welcomed back to Glasgow by storm Dudley, of course. Glasgow being itself. A second storm followed, and there is one blowing as I write. These things we know.

And so we prepare as a family to join with many others in the life and work of Christ’s Church in Israel and Palestine, the Land of the Holy One. I look forward to our conversations and times of prayer and fellowship along the way.

Your Friend,  
Stewart

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As we face the future Session Clerk Bob Bradnock keeps us  
abreast of developments.

**“So here we are - where do we go from here?”**

This last weekend I read a quotation attributed to Harold Macmillan: “So here we are” he said “the question is, where do we go from here?”

Many may feel that that quotation fits our situation today. Our situation as St John’s Renfield. Our situation as part of the Presbytery of Glasgow and the Church of Scotland. And our situation as part of the wider church. At every level profound and difficult questions have to be answered. We all know that it is not just Covid that has lent the question great urgency. The question

“Where do we go from here?” has exercised our local congregation very heavily over the last ten years and maybe more. Our membership has aged, our active membership has shrunk, and the activities to which we have contributed have all been feeling the pinch. Our Session has engaged with these issues at virtually every meeting. It has spent long periods of discussion and reorganisation over the last decade in order to make our worship and our wider church life sustainable, while at the same time reaching out to those in need. To date, our full-time ministry has been sustained thus far through the acceptance by Glasgow Presbytery of our need. The calling of our Minister to serve the Church and the community in Jerusalem brings us to an immediate-cross-roads where decisions cannot be postponed and have to be taken urgently.

It is against this background that Session is embarking on a strategic review. Some of the choices that we have had available even in the recent past are likely to be foreclosed. For example, as the charges on our resources grow beyond our current ability to meet them, we face immediate financial questions. How best can we manage these resources - our land and property as well as all the different uses to which they are put? How can our Ministry be sustained? Presbytery is actively discussing how to implement proposals across the whole of Presbytery to limit ministerial replacement and only to support ministry in churches which have formed links through which fulltime ministry can be effectively shared. The level of ministerial support in Glasgow Presbytery, and across the Church of Scotland, is being radically reduced, and the likelihood of our being granted permission to appoint a minister for whom we are their sole charge is small.



Since his induction on August 30th 2018 Stewart has ministered to us all at a time of unprecedented change and challenge. He moves on to face more in the context of Palestine/Israel. So how do we proceed from here?

## **The mechanism of replacement**

Of course, we are all familiar with the recent history of the process by which Stewart and his family came to St John's Renfield. In key respects the process of calling ministers is itself now undergoing radical change. Presbytery has sent out plans to Sessions across Glasgow of a proposed new blueprint for the activity of Presbytery and the churches within it. The key to the proposed changes lies in the sharing of ministry which will now be expected of us all. The immediate questions are: With whom do we share? And on what basis? Stewart has already met with the Interim Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery, Rev. Grant Barclay, to discuss his own plans and to raise questions about his possible replacement. At the same time Grant has contacted me as Session Clerk to talk over our current position. And Rev Roy Henderson, who moderated the induction as Minister here in St John's Renfield just under four years ago, has told me of a morning conference in early March with Ministers, Session Clerks and members of our Congregations, to discuss plans for shared ministry. So, the ball has been set rolling. Session and the church membership will be kept fully abreast of proposals for the new ministries as they emerge. In the meantime, we are encouraged to think openly and positively about our own situation. We should not assume that any doors are automatically closed. Where we see scope for positive links, we should advocate them and work for them, as we have through our existing links.

Presbytery's own agenda is to move forwards rapidly, and as the clarity we all hope for emerges we will do our best to keep you fully informed. We can only come through this process stronger and clearer witnesses to our faith if we do it together. The whole of Session asks for your encouragement and support in this most challenging of times.

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*The Choir made a welcome return on Sunday 20th February.  
Their choral lead in worship was much appreciated by all.*



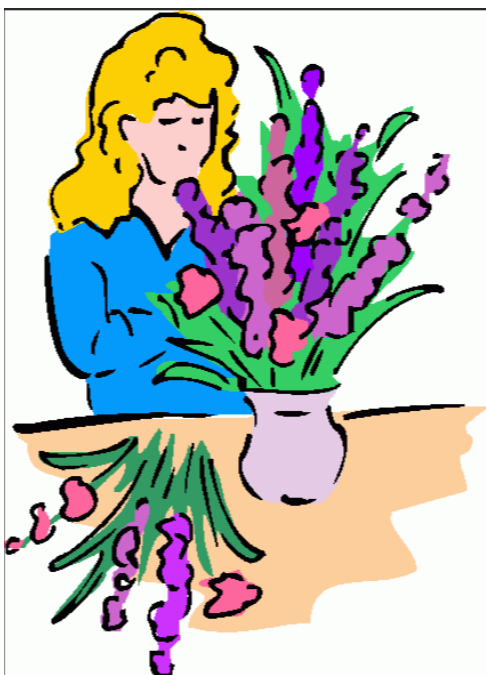
# PARISH RECORDS

## Weddings

*"To those whom God has joined, let no-one separate"*

Ruth MacLean and Craig Smith on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February

We were pleased to support the Gibson family for the service in celebration of the life of Lady Veronica Gibson (widow of Sir Alexander) on a very cold Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February. There can have been few such services where the string quartet was made up of Principals of the Royal Scottish National Opera and BBC Scottish Symphony Opera, with support and a fine soprano from Scottish Opera.



\*\*\*\*\*

## ARRANGING YOUR FLOWERS IN MARCH

Margaret Simpson  
Eleanor Murphy

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

# HAVE YOU HEARD?

## NOTHING LIKE A SAFT SEAT

All the cushions were moved at the start of COVID. There is no continuing reason to ask people not to use them.

So, if you can find your cherished cushion in the heap, please feel free to get comfortable.



## **Pop-in Cafe**



The Pop-in Café returns on Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March from 2.00 to 3.30 pm in the Large Hall.

Come and join the fun and chat!

## Lodging House Mission News

The Kitchen team were delighted when they heard that Mackie's Crisps had made a large donation of stock to compliment the packed lunches, we provide to the Glasgow Overnight Welcome Centre (formerly the Winter Night Shelter). Big thank you to Mackie's of Scotland.



Waverley care have returned to offer Blood Borne Virus testing. Waverley Care recognise there are thousands of people in Scotland living with undiagnosed HIV or hepatitis C. Without a diagnosis, people cannot access effective treatments and are more likely to unknowingly pass on their infection.

Burns Day with a difference was celebrated with a visit from the staff of the RASOI, OREGANO & EAGLE LODGE restaurants who prepared a beautiful two course Indian lunch for all our visitors and staff.



This is an advance notice that a congregational Lent appeal for Easter Eggs for donation to the Lodging House Mission will be made in next few weeks. Look out for future notices and details by email, on orders of service and in next month's Beacon.

**Susan Finnigan, Assistant Session Clerk**



### Heartfelt Thanks from the Lodging House Mission

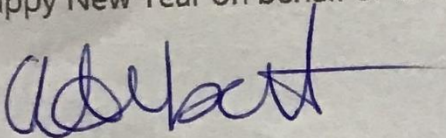
I am writing to acknowledge and thank you and the congregation of St John's Renfield Church for their generous donation of £485 from Christmas Services, in support of our Winter Appeal. Your donations will greatly assist us in our work with people experiencing homelessness, vulnerability and social exclusion at the Lodging House Mission here in Glasgow. We are pleased to report that we were able to serve 70 hot meals on Christmas day to members of our community who would otherwise be isolated, alone or without shelter.

We are now able to open more fully to provide a table service breakfast and lunch on weekdays, guidance and staffing levels permitting. As always at LHM, we seek to make a positive difference to the lives of those we support. Our nutritious food is often the gateway to engagement and relationship building. Allowing our team to offer interventions for those with multiple complex needs who often have chaotic lifestyles.

We are delighted to be able to partner once more with Glasgow City Mission and others to support the Glasgow Overnight Welcome shelter and to play our part to ensure there is shelter for everyone across the city on the coldest of months from 1<sup>st</sup> December to end of March. We are contributing with practical support providing lunch bags until the end of March and are accepting donations of multipack crisps, individually wrapped biscuits and lunch pack fruits, such as raisins or dried fruit to supplement our supply of prepacked sandwiches, juice cartons and cuppa soups. Our interventions worker Angela is on hand to offer support every weekday and our Chaplaincy phone line (07864 705 668) remains available for support, prayer and bereavement conversations.

We know none of our work would be possible if it were not for the support and prayers of individuals such as yourself, so please accept our heartfelt thanks. May God bless you as you have blessed the least of these brothers and sisters of Christ. *(Matthew 25:40)*

Happy New Year on behalf of everyone here at LHM,



Deacon Claire Herbert  
Chaplain LHM

## Summary Annual Accounts - Year ended 31 December 2021

General Account	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Offerings (incl. tax recovered on gift aid)		135,789		141,811
Fund raising, interest, etc.		4,974		4,254
Legacies, donations & grants		500		5,000
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>141,263</u>		<u>151,065</u>
National Ministry & Mission and Wider Work	82,773		91,363	
Local Staffing Costs	19,273		17,507	
Building and equipment costs	37,111		39,626	
Other local costs	<u>4,312</u>		<u>5,642</u>	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<u>143,469</u>		<u>154,138</u>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for year</b>		<u><b>(2,206)</b></u>		<u><b>(3,073)</b></u>
Balance brought forward		<u>30,772</u>		<u>33,845</u>
<b>Balance to carry forward</b>		<u><b>28,566</b></u>		<u><b>30,772</b></u>

Other Property Funds	Fabric Funds	Toilet Upgrade	Parish Develop	Other Funds
	£	£		£
Donations (incl. Gift Aid)	0	2,967	0	7,793



Legacies grants and other income	0	20,000	0	0
Investment income	2,049	524	268	162
Increase in value of investment	7,839	0	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>9,888</b>	<b>23,491</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>7,955</b>
<b>Expenditure -</b>				
Cooker	599	0	0	6,419
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for year</b>	<b>9,289</b>	<b>23,491</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>1,536</b>
Balance brought forward	86,490	22,127	11,329	7,717
<b>Balance to carry forward</b>	<b>95,779</b>	<b>45,618</b>	<b>11,597</b>	<b>9,253</b>

We had a deficit on General Account of £2,206. Income was down by almost £10,000 with offerings down by over £6,000. Expenditure was also lower than expected, mainly as a result of lower energy bills as a result of the Church being used a lot less due to Covid. We also spent less on stationery and also salaries as a result of not having a Secretary/PA for part of the year.

The toilet upgrade fund benefitted from income from wood and jam sales in particular but also from a legacy from the late Bob Paris. This fund now stands at £45,618.

The Foodbank received donations, including Gift Aid, of £7,057 and during the year sent £5,700 to the Foodbank. The Flower Fund stands at £880 having received £736 against expenditure of £719.

## COULD IT BE ...?

March is here again and with the cruel month comes the nights of the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup>. In popular memory they are the 'Clydebank Blitz'.

The Bankies did suffer enormously. Five hundred and twenty-eight citizens died. Of the twelve thousand houses in the town four thousand were



completely destroyed and a similar number were very badly damaged.

In fact, the Germans targeted more widely resulting in a further 628 deaths in the greater Glasgow area.

On the night of the 13<sup>th</sup> the Luftwaffe were over Kelvindale, dropping a parachute mine that brought death and destruction to Chelmsford and Leicester Avenues.

I wrote an article for the March edition of The Beacon a year ago – the eightieth anniversary.

Why mention it again? Well since then my thoughts have widened.

On Armistice Sunday 2021, in an impressive and moving service, the names listed on our building's three war memorials were solemnly read out.

We know by name who these service men who lost their lives are. We can locate their graves, if known, and visit them. Research their backgrounds, as I have done for the World War II memorial names, resulting in a little booklet (still available from the office).

But what of the civilians? Seven killed in Kelvindale. Fifty in Peel Street, Partick, across from the cricket ground. Thirty-six in Hyndland's Dudley Drive. Eighty-three in Maryhill, at the lights where you turn off to go to Asda.

Nameless.

All that is known of the Kelvindale casualties is that two were children, one aged five and the other a baby.

It's the same across the land. Memorials to servicemen and women to be seen everywhere, but none to the civilian casualties of bombing.

Could it be that those in power did not want a permanent reminder of their failure to protect their citizens?

**Alan Christie**



**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)



5THGLASGOWBB

## COMPANY SECTION NEWS

The BB session seems to be flying by, and the Company Section continues apace with a busy schedule. Our February highlights included a giant game of Hungry Hippos and a very icy session of Curling which were both great fun.

During March our block of First Aid classes continues along with some new topics such as Six Nations Rugby, Escape Rooms, and Italy. We will also try our hand at some Pancake Art! What can go wrong!

Cpl Jack McClelland and Cpl Grant MacLennan are all set to attend their Queen's Badge Completion Course at Auchengillan Outdoor Centre in mid-March. A weekend full of outdoor activities and team working awaits them.....probably with a little mud and muck thrown in for good measure! We wish them well.

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. They will be made most welcome.

**STEDFAST**

# SUNDAY CLUB NEWS

Hi everyone!

We have been continuing with weekly Zoom meetings since January and it's been great – we have explored magic, played games and done quizzes! But as I write, we are SO looking forward to meeting face to face again this Sunday! We haven't been together since December and so have a lot to catch up on...



Our numbers have dropped due to various reasons but those that come along do enjoy the lessons, games and activities. So, if you know of any primary aged children that may like to join us, please tell them to come on a Sunday morning or to contact us via the church website.

**Sunday Club Team** 😊



# **LIFE AND WORK**

**MARCH 2022**

## **Scotland's Year of Stories**

2022 has been designated the Year of Stories in Scotland. Jackie Macadam learns about the importance and power of storytelling in the Christian faith, and interviews storyteller and author Donald Smith.

## **The Five Marks of Mission: To Teach, Baptise and Nurture New Believers**

Continuing the series on the Marks of Mission, Thomas Baldwin speaks to ministers of two churches which have welcomed considerable numbers of new members in the past year.

## **Faith in Action**

Official monthly update from the Faith Action Programme.

## **A Giant of Spiritual Life**

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers remembers Archbishop Desmond Tutu's speech to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

## **Unity in Community**

The Moderator reflects on the strength of working together.

## **'Our Loving Father Will Always Listen'**

In this month's youth column Orla Wheatley, 16, reflects on the key moments in her journey of faith.

## **A Sense of Restlessness**

Albert Bogle explains why restlessness can be a sign of preparing the way for the future.

## **'One of the Prettiest Landscapes in Scotland'**

John R Hume reflects on the parish church of Langholm.

## **Daily Bread**

David Searle continues his series on the Lord's Prayer.

## **Plus**

News, letters, readers' pictures, crosswords and registers

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# LIFE AND WORK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

## IN THIS ISSUE

### STORIES ARE 'COMFORT FOOD FOR OUR SOULS'

The Church and Scotland's  
'Year of Stories'

### A GOOD LISTENER

The faith journey of storyteller  
and author Donald Smith

### THE FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

To teach, baptise and nurture  
new believers

and much more all for £3

Once Upon A Time...

## POEM

### *Una*

From the Spanish Armada to Ireland,  
Long black hair,  
Skin so fair,  
You are an ally for everyone  
Una.

Summer's day Powerscourt picnic,  
Soft rain falls upon our heads,  
Sublime blend of gardens, sweeping terraces,  
Pepperpot Tower from Lord Powerscourt's dining table,  
Look towards Great Sugarloaf Mountain.

Waterfall dance of graceful orchids  
Cascading over steep rocks,  
We had strawberries and cream, umbrellas too,  
No such thing as bitchin' weather;  
Craic was ninety, so true.

In the blink of an eye  
You were pushing a wheelchair Una,  
Around the trunk of the Giant Sequoia Tree,  
The face of the occupant smiling, lucky,  
Laughing like the sun, carefree.

A gesture of kindness towards a stranger,  
Heart a pot o'gold  
Th' heck with 24-hour news of fear, danger;  
Ocean's daily goodness far outweighs  
Darkness of evil, monstrous deeds.

*Muchas gracias senorita. Ole!*

***Jane Finnie***

# WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

## MARCH 2022

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Pop-In Café Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30pm.
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11 a.m. 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent, Sacrament of Communion and Admission of New Member
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11 a.m. Annual Business Meeting
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Kirk Session – 7.15 p.m.

**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 April 2022 Beacon is required by

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 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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