

The Beacon

St. John's-Renfield Church

Magazine No 367

www.sjrchurch.com

2022

Feb

Mar

April

May

June

Sept

Oct

Nov

Dec



Beacon Letter - May 2022

Dear Friends,

‘Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.’

I write with a heart full of thanks to God and to you, for our fellowship and journey together in faith and witness through these years. Though it has been a trying time in the history of the world and of the city, it has been a time in which we have come together in Church and community, finding ways to be present in care and support, observing necessary restrictions with a view to seeing what we could nonetheless be doing. Masks on, hands sanitised, socially distanced. All that.

Yet do I give thanks. In so many ways God has answered our prayers for care and comfort, treatment and vaccines, and a resilient hope that keeps us working through stern days. And still we pray for justice, peace and healing, within ourselves and in our world, to a Lord who knew what it was to cry out in pain, and have his cry heard by the God who sent him.

As I write this final letter, I went back to my first and found that, apart from the word ‘induction,’ it is all still true. I was feeling blessed and thankful: ‘Blessed by the warmth of your welcome to me and my family, thankful to God and to all who worked so hard to prepare so wonderful a welcome.

You have given us a great gift, you have made us feel at home. It is a gift of the Spirit’ (Beacon Letter 1. September 2018).



Yours gifts to us as we leave have come with that same warmth and strength of the Spirit, at work in and through you.

I wish to take the opportunity to say a sincere word of thanks to Alan Christie for his patience and guidance, and to Cathy and Moira in the office for the same reasons! I have been very fortunate to work with Session and its Leadership Team over the course, Graham, Shirley M and Shirley T at first, and Bob, Susan and Graham now. Sarah I know will wish to thank all those who made Messy Church go, with Laura primus inter pares. On behalf of Imogen and Alexander may I thank the Children's and Youth Group Leaders. I leave Cameron to the end because the chief comes last – a joy to know and work with him, and be ministered to by him in music, an act of worship and a class act. And how I took heart at the return of the choir.

I leave later today for Jerusalem, spending the month of May to get visit our long-standing partners and lead worship Sundays in St Andrew's Scots Memorial Church, before returning at the end of the month to further our family preparations. In July we will visit family in Nova Scotia, and plan to throw a party at the manse in August before we all head out. God willing, or *inshallah* as I'm learning to say.

I wish and pray you God's love and guidance for the challenging days that lie ahead, and through it all an astonishing experience of the joy of our salvation. Or, as the Apostle Paul said it better:

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1.3–6).

Your friend,
Stewart

Stewart's Farewell

Rev. Stewart Gillan conducted his final service on Sunday 24th April. At its conclusion, Session Clerk Bob Bradnock brought forward Stewart's family to express the congregation's thanks for, as Bob put it, "all they have been to us over the last nearly three years."

Focussing on the position of a minister and his family during the pandemic, Bob said, "We find it difficult to imagine what the challenges of the last two years have meant for the whole family, you have faced these difficulties face to face."

Bob's Assistant Susan Finnigan then made individual presentations to Sarah, Imogen and Alexander.

Turning to Stewart, Bob said, "We have been privileged in the last few years to know the benefit of the experience you have brought to us and your willingness not just to take on challenges yourself but to challenge us to face the questions that are in all our lives of how to live God's word here."

Stewart was then presented with a cheque. Thereafter a sandwich lunch was enjoyed by around sixty members.



We're Still Talking!!

As Corporal Jones in Dad's Army would say "Don't Panic!"

We have just said goodbye to Stewart, our minister, and it will be some time before we are able to start the process to find a replacement. Our Church, however, will continue and, yes, we do have a future. We just require some patience and some creative thinking.

The "Cluster" is up and running. We have had two very constructive meetings with the other Churches and are now working together to formulate a plan going forward - our Mission Plan. To remind you, these churches are Broomhill-Hyndland, Jordanhill, Blawarthill and St Columba (Gaelic).

The group of Elders from our Church, tasked with continuing the dialogue, have been working hard on your behalf. We have spent the last month preparing our information pack, gathering together all the information we can think of to present as full and true a picture of St. John's-Renfield as we possibly can. This covers everything, the people and also the buildings and finance. All the other Churches in the cluster have been doing the same exercise, so that we are able to compare one with another. This will require working together in smaller groups, to look in depth at the various aspects of the Mission Plan which will affect all of us in the Cluster.

At the same time, we have been conducting a SWOT analysis. No this has nothing to do with exams although it is, we suppose, a sort of revision. The letters SWOT stand for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats and we have looked at these as far as our congregation is concerned, so that we can identify how we can contribute to the Cluster positively, but also how they may be able to help us going

forward. The rest of the Cluster are carrying out the same analysis.

No decisions have yet been taken, nor will they be, without the agreement of the whole of our Kirk Session. We are still talking – positively.

We ask for your prayers as we continue the dialogue.

***Isobel Digges, Robin Hutchison, Pat McGill,
Graham Moore and Jim Tassell
Group members***



CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 14th May
10 am -12 noon

Stalls, music and home baking
Help needed for bottle stall, and home baked goods.

Please help if you can to raise funds during CA week.

Please contact Alison for details alisoncraig40@hotmail.com

*

HAVE YOU HEARD?

the Spring Fair held on the last Saturday of April has reached the total of £2,600 (at the time of going to press),

which will go to aid relief in Ukraine – see more about it on page 9

*

on the first Sunday of May our newly installed Interim Moderator, Rev, Dr, Kleber Machado was with us to preach the pulpit vacant.

Kleber Machado is the minister at St. Andrew's West Parish Church since the end of 2019. He was born in Brazil, there he was ordained in the Presbyterian Church, served a Presbyterian congregation for 4 and a half years, and then in a Reformed congregation of Dutch migrants in Brazil for 8 and a half years. Then, from Brazil he moved to the Netherlands for his PhD, and from the Netherlands to Glasgow for a familiarisation period of one year. Thereafter, he was minister at. St. Ninian's Corby (Presbytery of England) for 7 years, until he settled back in Glasgow.

*

on the morning of Saturday 14th May a Plant Sale in aid of Christian Aid will be held from 10 am to 12 noon at Broomhill Parish Church's Kingsborough Sanctuary on Hyndland Road

ARE YOUR THURSDAY MORNINGS FREE?



The gardening team will soon begin their task of keeping our vast grounds neat and tidy.

No need for you to be an expert gardener.

The team would welcome any help you can offer.

Tea and cake are usually involved too!

Speak to John Allan or John Finnigan on a Sunday for any further information

Pop-in Café

Join the Jubilee fun at our community
café!

Wednesday 1st June

From 2- 3.30 pm

**At the Large Hall, St. John's
Renfield Church,**

Beaconsfield Road, Kelvindale



Free Tea, Coffee, Cake

No booking required
Bring the kids - everyone is
welcome to join the fun and chat

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





FUN AT THE EASTER POP-IN CAFÉ



LODGING HOUSE MISSION NEWS



During Holy Week we set aside a time of MORNING PRAISE, at 8.30am in the IT room off the main hall.

Being blessed as we started our day, listening to the Lord's Prayer and other praise songs and spending time in the Lord's presence. We would like to continue to offer this short worship time on a more permanent basis. To do so we would need more chaplaincy volunteers. If you can spare time to be alongside our guests, listening to 15 minutes of praise music, and enjoy companionship, and afterwards a free breakfast, then please speak to chaplain Claire.

We offer our prayers of gratitude in this season of Easter. We give thanks for:

the beauty all around us as we venture out to our parks and open places seeing them begin to flourish in the warming weather

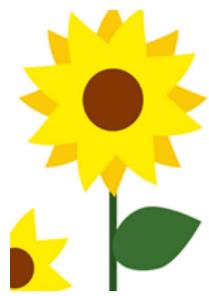
the generosity of support for our appeal: over 1000 chocolate eggs were received, the potential of our outreach with eggs to 20 projects and partners, the joy as our guests received their eggs and were blessed

for new volunteering opportunities which mean our service is busy

for our board and members as our AGM remembered the blessings during the hardship of the year gone by

As the disciples were blessed by the resurrected Christ (John 20:19), I wonder what are you grateful for this Easter time?

Deacon Claire Herbert, Chaplain to LHM.



Spring Fair for Ukraine

Many thanks are due to those who donated both goods, money, helped out, and came to support our Spring Fair, where we raised over £2,600 for Ukraine! This will be sent via the DEC appeal. Special thanks to the BB boys who braved the cold wind and rain to wash cars, and also helped with furniture moving. Also very grateful thanks to the three choirs who rehearse weekly in our buildings, and to the Dance School, who all donated so generously.



There was a real buzz in the halls and lots of folk from the community joined us. All were delighted that we are able to run such events after such a long time without them.

Thank you one and all!

Isobel, Shirley and the Ways and Means Team



The Boys' Brigade
5th Glasgow Company
<http://5glasgow.boys-brigade.org.uk>
5thglasgow@boys-brigade.org.uk

follow us on social media



COMPANY SECTION NEWS

The Company Section session is whizzing by, and we're at award time already! No display this year, but the parents will get to see the boys in action in a short Open Evening & Presentation of Awards on Friday 20th May. This will give us the opportunity to re-engage with everyone again after the easing of the restrictions, and we are very much looking forward to it.

On the awards front, we are delighted to say that Sgt Grant MacLennan and Sgt Jack McClelland have completed their work for Queen's Badge and officially become 'Queen's Men' on 20th May. Well done to both the boys. We are very proud of them.

We are also happy to announce that we will have three President's Badges this year, awarded to Pte Alexander Bell, Pte Christopher Watt, and Pte Cameron Gregor. They will now start their two year journey to Queen's Badge.

As mentioned last month, planning is also well underway for our weekend camp at Stillaig, Tighnabruaich from 17th to 19th June 2022. Hopefully the weather gods will shine on us that weekend!

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!

STEDFAST

SUNDAY CLUB NEWS



Hi everyone!

After a super spring break, we had a great time on Easter Sunday as we were able to do our egg rolling in glorious sunshine! The children came along to have their croissants in the large hall and decorate their eggs – before rolling them down the grassy bank. We were then able to go back into the church after a long absence and the children enjoyed listening to Stewart and being able to be a part of the service. We were delighted to be able to welcome some new children too! Fun was had thereafter with a treasure hunt outside, chocolate prizes and a ‘pin the tail on the rabbit’ game. We discussed the symbolism of egg rolling and rejoiced in the glory of the resurrection!



We will continue to look at renewal and healing following Easter and Lent throughout May – being able to link this to the renewal and healing in the world as we hope to soon be through the worst of the pandemic. It has been – and continues to be for some – a challenging time for all of us...

A couple of holidays in May and we are nearing the end of another Sunday Club session. What a year!



Sunday Club Team 😊

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY



Cancer Support Scotland is based in the grounds of Gartnavel Hospital. Cancer Support Scotland, formerly known as "Tak Tent", is helping an increasing number of people deal with cancer.

All the services we provide are free of charge and in the last year we have been able to offer more than 6,500 appointments. However, demand for our services is rising and we rely heavily on fundraising, donations, and most importantly our amazing volunteers!

Volunteering Opportunities

We currently have a variety of opportunities available for volunteers which you can see on our website. These include Data volunteers, Here for You Befrienders, Fundraising Assistants and Wellbeing Assistants. Some of our specialised volunteering opportunities also include Counsellor, Counsellor in Training and Complementary Therapists.

We really value the work of our volunteers and in return, they receive the following benefits:

- Learning and developing skills
- Meeting new people and having fun
- Helping to make a real difference to people affected by cancer
- Becoming more connected in your local community
- Improved health and wellbeing

If anyone is interested and would like any further information, please contact Raisah at volunteer@cancersupportscotland.org.

LIFE AND WORK

MAY 2022

General Assembly 2022

- The hidden art treasures in the Assembly Hall
- Interview with the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Iain Greenshields
- ‘No Time for Turning Back’: The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers, convener of the Assembly Trustees, urges the Church to continue the journey of reform
- Assembly reports and timetable

Marks of Mission

Continuing the series with the Fourth Mark of Mission: to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation

A Privilege and a Joy

In this month’s youth column, Jamie Sutherland reflects on his experiences after being called to the Eldership at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic

United by Hope in Times of Crisis

This year’s appeal for Christian Aid Week

Plus: Prayers and Aid for Ukraine

Celebrate Digital Church

The Very Rev Albert Bogle says that as in-person church resumes, it is important that local congregations continue to develop their digital footprint

East Neuk Churches

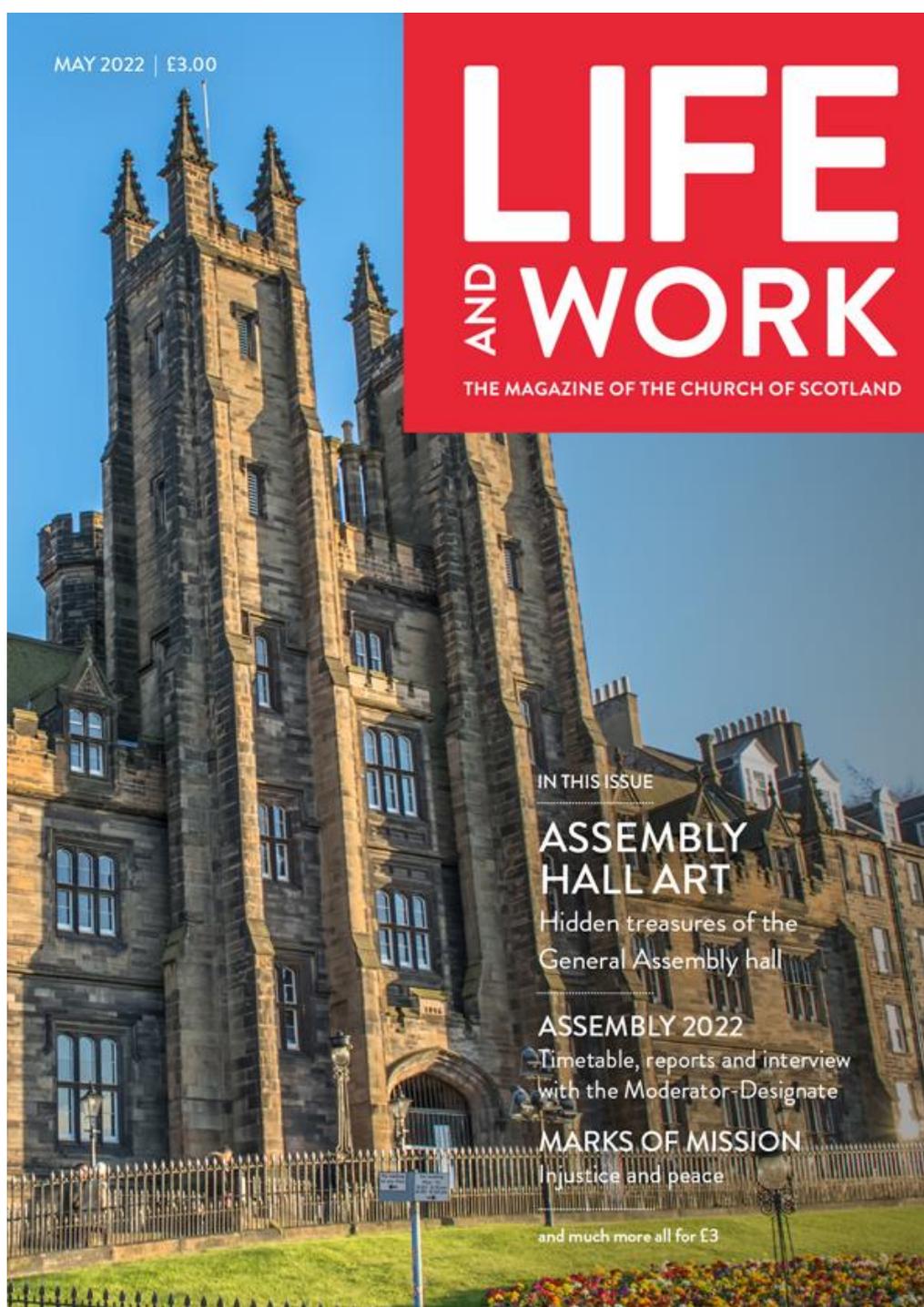
John R Hume reflects on the history of some of the churches around the East Neuk of Fife

God's Test

In the latest of the series on the Lord's Prayer, David Searle considers temptation

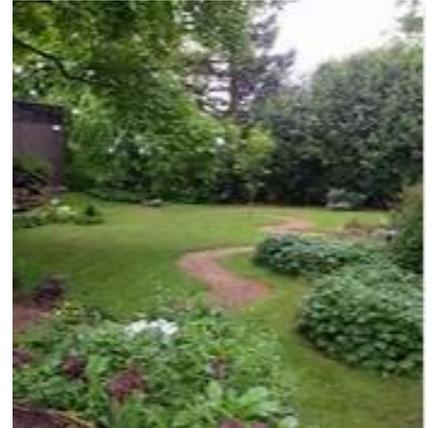
Buy or subscribe, in print or digital, at www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe, or speak to your church's Life and Work promoter.

The General Assembly kicks off on Saturday May 21. Visit www.lifeandwork.org for daily reports during the Assembly and a free downloadable summary of the key decisions, available the following week. There will also be full coverage in the July magazine.



LOCAL NEWS

Staff from the NatWest Group have been giving up their time to plant more than 7,000 bushes and trees as part of a new hedgerow which will increase biodiversity and enhance greenspace at the Gartnavel Hospitals Campus.



Since the first COVID lockdown, two years ago, use of the greenspace has gone up by over 500 per cent. The hedgerow will provide a natural barrier, affording patients in adjoining wards some extra privacy, without restricting access to the incredible outdoor amenity.

The plants are all native to the area, including hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, apple and cherry trees and bushes, which when mature will provide fruit for harvest. There will also be willow which will provide opportunities for basket weaving, all part of natural, therapeutic activities for patients too.

Fiona Sinclair, Voluntary Services Manager of the Art in the Mental Health volunteer programme at Gartnavel Royal Hospital, said: ““With more and more people using the space, we want to build natural ways to allow a little more privacy for our patients in the wards. Once mature, the new hedgerows will provide a haven for wildlife and even fruit for harvest, without limiting access to what remains a valuable community asset.”

POEM

Sheena

*I am heartened by the daffodils,
Darling flowers with round baby faces,
Song of spring in bloom; swathes
Burst through with new beginnings,
Contentment latch your door.*

*Last time I saw her
In first flush of youth
Voice remnants honey-laced*

*I am heartened by the daffodils,
Gentle gift remember, moment of reflection,
Like a soft yellow shawl, life well lived.
Grief eyes light at sight of smiling
Sunfilled beds blowing in the breeze.*

*Last time I saw her
In first flush of youth
Voice remnants honey-laced*

*Carpe diem; trumpet and song,
Paint a vital future
That takes nothing for granted,
Courageous drawing loveliest daffodil,
Short life captured.*

*Rare flower
She slipped away
Love remains
Love.*

Jane Finnie

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

MAY 2022

Sunday 1 st	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Wednesday 4 th	Pop In Café Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m.
Sunday 8 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Saturday 14 th	Christian Aid Coffee Morning 10 am to 12 noon
Sunday 15 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Sunday 22 nd	Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Sunday 29 th	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

Bob Bradnock

Assistant Session

Clerk

Susan Finnigan

Editor of Beacon

Alan Christie

Material for the June 2022 Beacon is required by

Friday 20th May 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.

Tel: 334 0782

Email: office@sjrchurch.com

www.sjrchurch.com

Follow us on social media



 @SJRCHURCH

 @sjrchurch

Registered as a charity in Scotland Registration No.SC012920