

The Beacon

St. John's-Renfield Church

Magazine No 406

www.sjrchurch.com

2026

Feb

Mar

April

May

June

Sept

Oct

Nov

Dec



Minister's Letter

Up to 23 July a large display board in Central Station indicated how many days, hours and seconds until the Commonwealth Games started. We don't really need such a board in Kelvindale, reminding us how long until Gary is inducted as the new minister at St John's Renfield, as we know that it is very soon.



It is good that we are excited about having a new minister. It is good that some of the comments from the Congregational Survey forms spoke about the potential for new initiatives and growth 'when we have a new minister' [when we completed the Survey in the Spring, we didn't yet have a Sole Nominee].

However, though we are looking forward to Gary's arrival, we need to remember that he is neither a one-man-team, nor Superman. He cannot do everything himself. Rather he comes to join, lead, guide and encourage a team of the whole congregation seeking to do God's will. If we want things to happen, if we want new developments in the life of St John's Renfield, we have to step up to the mark and volunteer, giving him help and support, and not, 'Oh, we tried that before, but it didn't work.'

A great deal of effort has gone into keeping St John's Renfield functioning during the vacancy (especially as it began just after the 'Covid years'), and also into seeking a new minister, and preparing for his coming. As a congregation we express our thanks to everyone involved in those processes.

We also express our good wishes to Gary for his ministry among us, and will continue to hold him in our prayers.

We will also keep doing our arm exercises, so that when a volunteer is sought we can put our hands up quickly (won't we?).

Rev Ian Johnson

The recurring nightmare of an editor is being faced with a white space on publishing day.

So, the likelihood of a long Vacancy brought the image of a persistent blank under the headline, 'Minister's Letter'. Something must be stuck in. Quality of message, secondary.

Until a volunteer spoke up. 'I'm happy to supply a monthly Minister's Letter until told to stop.'

The Editor rejoiced. Empty space no more. As to the standard of the material? The volunteer being Ian Johnson, it was certain that readers would be supplied with quality items.

Now, the moment has arrived, 'Stop' has been spoken, along with 'Ian, Many Thanks.'

PARISH RECORDS

Funeral and Memorial Services

"Nothing can separate us from the love of God"

Margaret Anderson, formerly of Kelvin Court but residing in Bearsden passed away in July of this year.

The funeral of Margaret Robinson was held on Monday 21st September at Bishopbriggs Crematorium.

Induction Reminder

A reminder that Rev Gary J McIntyre will be inducted as our new Minister on Thursday 8 October. The service starts at 7pm and will be followed by refreshments in the Large Hall at approx. 8pm after which we return to the Sanctuary for a short welcome ceremony with music and speeches. Please do join us for this joyful event in the life of our church.

THE CONVERSATIONS CONTINUE - BRING A FRIEND!

In the coming weeks we continue with three more **CONVERSATIONS**. These are on **STEWARDSHIP**, Tuesday 13 October, **PURPOSE**, Tuesday 27 October, and **WORSHIP**, Tuesday 10 November. All the meetings are at 7.30 pm in the small hall and follow the same relaxed format and supportive atmosphere of the previous meetings. All are welcome.

NEWS FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM



Congregational Action Plan Update

The Kirk Session approved our draft plan at their meeting in September. The plan has been sent to Presbytery for their approval, and when this is received, copies of the plan will be made available to the congregation.

Leadership Team Update

Led by Acting Session Clerk Susan Finnigan, the Leadership Team of Fiona Robinson, Roddy Watt and Shirley Maxwell have served the congregation diligently in recent years. Fiona has now stepped down from the team, and we are grateful for her work and her support for the Kirk Session and the congregation. Susan and Roddy remain as Assistant Session Clerks, with Shirley taking on the role of Session Clerk from September 2026 for a 3-year term.

Particular thanks are due to Susan, who took on the role of Acting Session Clerk at short notice and who has led and supported us through the vacancy with skill, efficiency and grace.

SJR Welcome Team Door & Beadle Duties



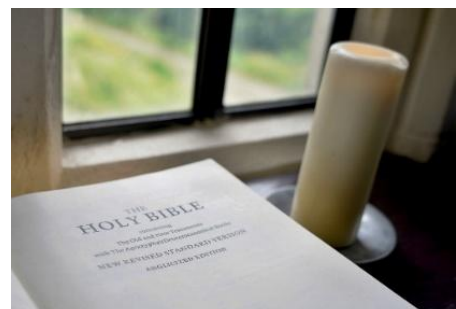
4th, 11th, 18th & 25th October 2026

Lead Elder: Maria McFadyen with Sandra and Norrie McLeod

Beadle duty: 4th, 11th & 18th - Anne Bryden; 25th - John Allan

Reader Rota – October

4th – Pat McGill
11th – Sarah Hamilton
18th – Aileen Morison
25th – Susan Finnigan



BONANZA

The Bonanza will take place on **Saturday 7th November '26** from **10am till 12.30** at **St John's-Renfield Church**.

Tickets: Entry is £3.00 per person and it will include your tea or coffee plus a piece of baking. As always children of school age will be charged a £1.00 entry fee.

The following stalls will be there and donations as described will be very welcome.

Book Stall – Adult and children's books.

Bottle Stall - donations of any kind of bottles

Car Wash

Discarded Treasures - small household items, ornaments, pictures, etc. No large items, please.

Home Baking – donations gratefully received

Jewellery

Raffle - raffle prizes welcome

Tearoom

Time, Talents and Treats - more information to follow

Toiletries - unused toiletries

Toy Stall - toys and games in good condition

Donations can be brought to the church at the following times:

Thursday 5th November between 6.30 – 8.30pm

Friday 6th November between 10 and 12 noon and 6.30 – 8.30pm

Please note that we only accept cash payments on the day. **No card facilities available.**

We would be delighted if some volunteers can help with the clear up at the end of the event.

If you are not on a stall and wish to help, please contact us and we will find you a place!

Further information or any queries to: Isobel Digges -

— and
Shirley Tassell - — mobile:

We look forward to seeing you and your donations!

SJR Walking Group: Hamiltonhill Claypits

Our August walk saw an intrepid group of 12 travel the short distance to Applecross Basin for a 'figure-of-eight' canalside walk, taking in Speirs Wharf and Hamiltonhill Claypits local nature reserve. This was an especially good number for a walk that was arranged at very short notice. We were also delighted to be joined by two members of Kelvin West's International Club, as well as some new SJR faces.



The weather forecast for the day was 'ok', but a cloudy early morning soon turned into an unexpectedly glorious, warm and sunny day. Quite a contrast to the monsoon conditions experienced the last time we attempted this walk! There is lots to see along the route, from house boats to murals, and industrial history to the hallowed



turf of Firhill ('mon the Jags!) as well as the relatively new Claypits. This urban nature reserve, opened in 2021, lies on the north side of the canal, between Firhill Basin and Applecross – somewhere on our doorstep that few were aware of but well worth a visit. Clay was extracted from this area over 200 years ago to line the Forth & Clyde Canal, and there are interesting interpretation boards highlighting where remnants of this former industry can still be seen. The highlight was an easy walk to the viewpoint, with stunning views across the city and beyond. <https://claypitslnr.co.uk/>

We were once again made very welcome for post-walk cakes and lunches in The Gathering Ground, a non-profit café and community space located in Old Basin House at Applecross Basin. Several members of the group took note of their opening times with the intention to visit again in the future – not a place you'd likely be aware of if you haven't visited this stretch of the canal. <https://gatheringground.org/>

Our next outing takes place in late September, with a circular walk around Calderglen Country Park in East Kilbride.

Flower Rota for October

Susan Finnigan
Marion Dowling



BONANZA

Saturday 7th November 2026

10 am to 12.30 pm

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



Books

Car Wash * Tuck Shop

Raffle * Toy Stall

Discarded Treasures

Jewellery * Toiletries

Time, Talents & Treats



Adults £3 * School Age Children £1.00

Includes Tea or Coffee and a piece of home baking



Please bring cash – we are unable to take card payments

www.sjrchurch.com

Registered as a charity in Scotland.
Registration No. SC012920



 @SJRCHURCH

Pop-in Café



Join the autumn fun at our community café!

Wednesday 14th October

From 2- 3.30 pm

At the Large Hall,

St. John's Renfield Church,

Beaconsfield Road, Kelvindale



Free Tea, Coffee, Cake
(served until 3 pm)

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



Roddy Watt has been accredited to serve as a Worship Leader for a further 3 years. This allows our Worship Team to lead worship in our church.

The Rev. Prof. Roger Sturrock has been appointed Interim Moderator of Kelvin West Church during the absence, on health grounds, of the minister Rev. Gordon Kirkwood.

David Nasser, a Palestinian Christian, will talk about his pursuit of peace and justice and his struggle to keep hold of his family farm in the hills above Bethlehem. This is an ongoing problem with Israeli Settler Activity.

Sunday 4th October at 3pm with refreshments at
Govan & Linthouse Parish Church, 796 Govan Road, G51 2YL

Handsel Press are launching STEPS:
the spiritual journey of artist Peter Howson by John Miller.

Tuesday 3rd November at 6pm at St George's Tron Café with Norman Stone, film director and the author.

Copies £15 available at the launch
RSVP jstein@handselpress.org.uk

Marjory Watt



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



Boys' Brigade News

Anchor Boys and Junior Section

Session 2026/2027 has got off to a flying start. By the time you read this, we will have had our fourth meeting and already will have participated in our first competition.

Fifteen boys are meeting regularly on a Tuesday evening and are enjoying all the games and activities. We have been "Getting into the Bible" by studying the story of Noah. - Search for the evidence in the Large Hall - as well as enjoying lots of games which allow us to "Get Active"

We have formed three teams of five boys each and are looking forward to challenging one another to achieve success in our games, by co-operating and looking our best. Unfortunately, we have only one boy from P1. P1 boys are the foundation on which the future of the 5th Glasgow Boys' Brigade are founded, so please, if you have friends or neighbours in the area, please encourage them to come along and join in the fun on a Tuesday evening 6.15pm - 7.30pm.

We are supported by our two volunteers, Lewis Kelly and Kyle Bolan and by four senior boys from the company section, Felix, Lukas, Jamie and Jackson.

On Monday 7th September, three boys represented 5th Glasgow Boys' Brigade at the Partick District 5- a side football competition. We had to seek support from other companies to make up a team of

five but we had no shortage of volunteers and all boys played in a spirit of good sportsmanship. The three boys who came along, Billy, Syd and Joseph were excellent ambassadors for 5th Glasgow and enjoyed the experience. We are grateful to Mr. Rattray from the company section for coming along to be our “manager” on the evening, as Mrs Morison knows nothing about football!

We are looking forward to exploring the other aspects of the BB programme and participating in more Partick District competitions in the coming months.

Aileen Morison
(Officer-in-Charge Anchor Boys and Junior Section)

Company Section

The Company Section kicked-off the new session on Friday 4th September in the Large Hall. It was fantastic to see all the boys again.

We've started the session with our usual mix of games, classwork, and activities, which we hope will keep the boys well engaged over the coming weeks. Amongst other things, we've been looking at The Cost of Fast Fashion, Banning Social Media for Under 16's, Listening Skills, and the recruits have been learning The Lord's Prayer and about Our Organisation.

The boys participated in the first Partick District competition of the session - the 5-a-side football at Scotstoun. Our Junior team took home the bronze medal in the competition, which was played in a great spirit. Next, we are looking forward to the District Laserquest competition which should be held in late October.

At the end of August, we enjoyed a trip to Foxlake Adventures in Dunbar, to take on the Aqua Park and the Ringos on the lake. A great afternoon was had by all!

Do keep watching our social media feeds to see what we get up to. Please do 'like', 'share', and 'retweet' our posts if possible!

L/Cpl Jamie Cameron, L/Cpl Jackson Burns, and L/Cpl Lukas Carvalho are starting their work towards the King's Badge this session, and one of our Seniors - Cpl Felix Russell, is continuing on the path to gaining his King's Badge in May 2027.

Remember - any boys from P7 up to S6 are more than welcome to join us. Please do spread the word!

STEDFAST

FRIENDS / SPORTS & GAMES / ARTS & CRAFTS / ADVENTURE

ANCHORS
Boys in P1-3 at school
Tuesdays during school term
6.15pm-7.30pm

Juniors
Boys in P4-6 at school
Tuesdays during school term
6.15pm-7.30pm

Company Section
Boys in P7-S6 at school
Fridays during school term
7.45pm-10pm

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES
Do you have talents to share?
We need your help
Contact us for more information

5TH GLASGOW COMPANY
St. Johns Renfield Church, Beaconsfield Road
For more information come along or email 5thglasgow@boys-brigade.org.uk

SKILLS / CAMPING / FAITH / DISCUSSION

TRIPS / TEAMWORK / COMPETITIONS

THE BOYS' BRIGADE
>the adventure begins here

f i X 5thglasgowbb
<http://5glasgow.boys-brigade.org.uk>
Scottish Charity No. SC034527

WHAT'S ON OCTOBER 2026

Sunday 4 th	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m. Communion
Wednesday 7 th	Pop-In Café SJR Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m.
Thursday 8 th	Induction Ceremony – 7 p.m.
Sunday 11 th	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.
Tuesday 13 th	Conversations – STEWARDSHIP at 7.30 p.m. in the Small Hall
Sunday 18 th	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.
Tuesday 20 th	Kirk Session – Small Hall at 7.15 p.m.
Sunday 25 th	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.
Tuesday 27 th	Conversations – PURPOSE at 7.30 p.m. in the Small Hall

OFFICE BEARERS

Minister Elect – Rev. Gary J. McIntyre

Shirley Maxwell (**Session Clerk**)
Susan Finnigan and Roderick Watt
(**Assistant Session Clerks**)

Editor of Beacon
Alan Christie

Material for the November 2026 Beacon is required by

Friday 23rd October 2026 midnight

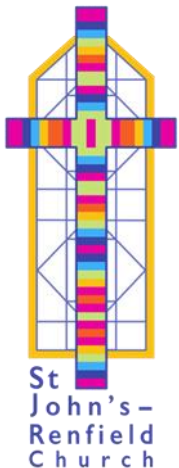
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

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