

The Beacon

St. John's-Renfield Church

Magazine No 372

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2022

Feb

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CHRISTMAS LETTER

Due to the demands and pressure of the Interim Moderator's time I have been asked to bring to you the ministerial Christmas greetings. Janis and I are happy to be back with you again for a short time at St. John's Renfield and we hope we can bring, at least, some degree of continuity to you during these unsettling times of vacancy and Presbytery readjustment of parishes.

Apart from the threat of catching the corona (Covid 19) virus and the very real concerns and fears of the increased living and heating costs, the war in Ukraine has also been on all of our minds over these past months, indeed since February. All our thoughts and prayers are with service personnel and loved ones who will continue to be on active duty and away from home this Christmas.

In the early 19th century, a war weary world was also anxiously watching the advance of Napoleon. During the battles of Trafalgar and Waterloo, William E. Gladstone was born in Liverpool, Alfred Lord Tennyson was born in Somersby, Felix Mendelssohn was born in Hamburg Germany and Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky in the U.S.A. Like us, people's minds were preoccupied with battles, not babies and yet some 200 years or so later there is not the slightest doubt about which made the greatest contribution to history. It was not those battles but the babies.



So it was with the birth of Jesus. The Bethlehem crowd had no inkling that the Son of God was asleep in their little town. Only a few shepherds and wise men came to see him, and they left glorifying God. More than ever, we need to recapture some of the wonder and significance of that infant child coming into the world. He came into this war-torn world of selfishness and sin for one purpose – to die as a sacrifice for our sins. Only the forgiveness that Jesus offers will satisfy the deepest needs of our hearts. This is a message not just for Putin and his cohorts but for all of us to take to heart. Jesus is the gift for all ages and for all people and we need to be willing to acknowledge our failings; our fears and our needs and receive him as our Lord and Saviour, our guide and our counsellor, the everlasting Father, the Prince of peace.

Janis joins me in wishing you and yours a very blessed Christmas and a happy New Year in 2023.

Eric and Janis

PARISH RECORDS

Funeral and Memorial Service

“Nothing can separate us from the love of God”

Inez Murray, of Winton Drive - funeral held on Wednesday 9th November at Dalnottar (Clydebank) Crematorium.

Communion

December 4th is our final statutory Communion Service of 2022. As most of you know since June 2020, we have used the pre pack Fellowship Communion cups. However, we have decided it's now time to get back to a little more normality, although, not fully to Communion as we remember it. It's still not recommended to pass plates and trays around. The following article explains what to expect on 4th December.

As you arrive the Welcome Team will ask you to pick up a metal clip cup holder. This should be placed in the little holder in the seat in front of you. One of the team can help if you have difficulty. For this service seating on both the pulpit and prayer desk side will be on alternate rows only, this is to allow serving Elders to move along the row in front of you to serve you elements.

Bread will be served first. Please keep your bread till everyone has theirs. Eric, the minister, will let us know when to consume our bread.

You will then be served your choice of wine or grape juice, again, please wait until directed before consuming and we will all take together.

Place your little empty cup in the pre placed holder and that completes the process. The choir and those seated in the chancel will be served by the Communicating Elders.

Please be patient it may take a little more time than before.

Blessings from the Leadership Team

HAVE YOU HEARD THAT...



the Sunday Club will do a short 10-minute Nativity, on Sunday 18th December.

our own Mackintosh Choir Christmas Concert is on Sunday 11th December at 7:30. Please come along and give them our support.

as in past years, there will be no January issue of the Beacon. Normal service will resume with the February 2023 edition.



Christmas Stall

As in previous years, we're going to have a Christmas Stall in the run-up to the day, where you can bring in your surplus decorations, Christmas crafts, cards, paper, duplicate gifts etc

Please bring them on Sunday December 4th. There will be a table in the Hall to receive them. The stall will be open on the 11th and 18th (and on other occasions where appropriate.) There will be no pricing, just donations.

Proceeds to be divided between our local Food Bank and the Herald Appeal in partnership with the Scottish Book Trust which is planning to provide books for children at the Food Banks. See information and article by Val McDermid in the Herald on Monday Nov 14th.

Annual Christmas Gift Service



This year our Gift Service will take place on 11th December at 11 am.

The church will also be open on Saturday 10th December between 11 am and 12 noon to allow gifts to be donated, if you are not attending on Sunday.

The gifts will again go to:
Glasgow ...The Caring City.

This year we are being asked for gifts suitable for boys and girls aged 10-12 years.

Thank you.

Please contact Susan Finnigan for further information.

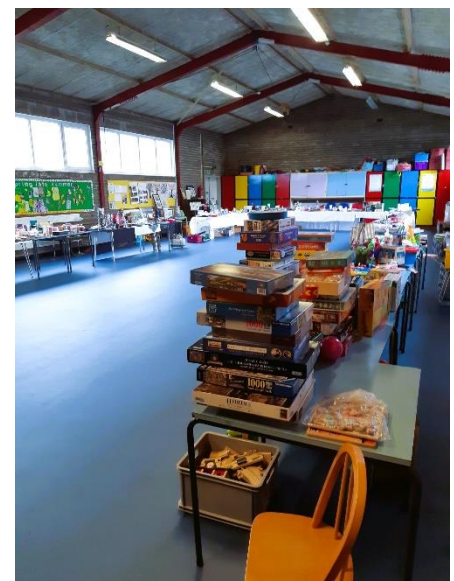


Bonanza 2022



The Bonanza was back, and back with a bang! The queue waiting for the doors to open snaked down the path onto the street. We were so well supported by the local community, and there was a great buzz all around, and lots of fun and laughter.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make it such a successful morning. Those who donated, those who helped with



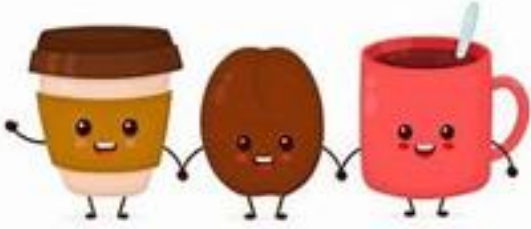
the set up and on the day, and those who came along to spend. The total raised to date is round £6,000! As usual our leftovers were taken to a variety of charity shops, so others benefitted as well.



Below is a breakdown of the money raised.

Books	£446
Bottle Stall	£255
Bric-a-Brac	£697
Car Wash	£110
Home Baking	£475
Jewellery	£361
Jam & Wood	£654
Raffle	£351
Tea Room	£346
Tickets & Donations	£937
Time, Talents & Treats	£664
Toiletries	£220
Toys & Games	£284
Tuck Shop	£28
Whisky Raffle	£171

Isobel, Shirley T and the Ways and Means Team.



COFFEE ROTA

Many members of our congregation enjoy coffee or tea and a chat after the morning service. This service is provided by a team of about four volunteers. A rota ensures that a team is available each month of the year. Lately there has been a decrease in the number of volunteers so we have reached the position that currently we have no permanent team and team leader for the months of June and October.

If you can help us out, please contact Liz MacDonald (0141 357 0241). We will be more than happy to welcome you aboard.



FLOWERS IN CHURCH

The floral arrangements that decorate our Sanctuary every Sunday are created by Members of our Flower Committee. When worship is over volunteers re-arrange the flowers to form bouquets which are then distributed by duty elders to some of our folk who are ill, recently bereaved, or are perhaps celebrating a special occasion.

The Ministry of Flowers goes on quietly every week. That it does so, is thanks to those whose generous donations permit this work to continue year on year.

If you would like to choose a special Sunday, to mark an anniversary, special occasion or in memory of a loved one, please add your name and telephone number to your chosen date in the Flower Diary situated on the wooden chest in the East vestibule on the right of the church entrance doors. The Flower Committee Convenor, Liz MacDonald, will be in touch with you. Alternatively, you may wish to make a donation/contribution to the Flower Fund using the donations box on the shelf beneath the war memorial opposite the church doors.

The Flower Committee welcomes new members to our team. Come along to so see what we do. You can make a real contribution to our work – YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU.



SJR – Welcome Team Door Duties

December: 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th

Lead Elder: Shirley Tassell with
Grace MacKay and Anne Bryden

Reserve: Jim Tassell

January'23: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th

Lead Elder: Shirley Maxwell plus Carol Riddell and John
Finnigan

Reserve: Margaret Paton



SUNDAY CLUB

We had a great time at the Bonanza on the toy stall and would like to thank everyone that donated to or purchased items from the stall, as well as everyone that helped set up and work on the day. The Toy Stall raised a fantastic £284 to add to the total. Great to see so many of the community back in the church and enjoying the event.

Some of the children have designed Christmas cards and one will be picked to be used by the church – so look out for that!

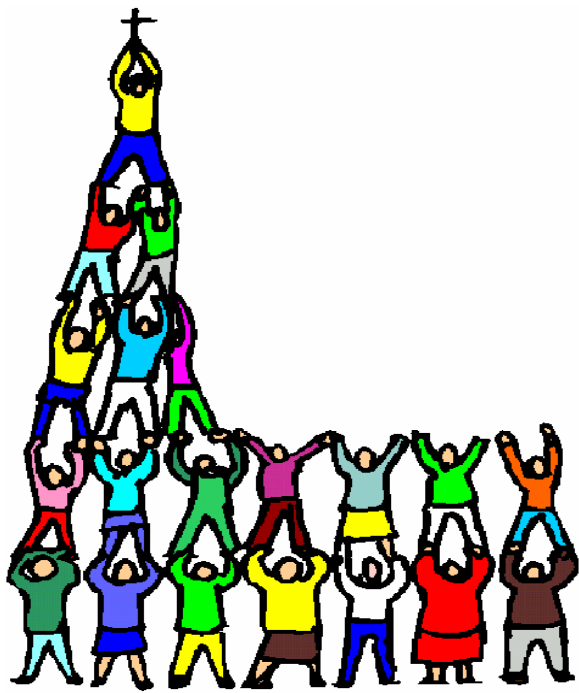
As we head into December, we have a busy month ahead. The gift service will be on December 11th and the children will be having their Christmas Party in the Brotherton after bringing in their gifts.



Frances will be writing a bespoke nativity for the 18th, the content of which will depend on the number of children available but there will definitely be a performance on the 18th – so look forward to that! Will be great to have this back in the sanctuary after a 3-year absence!

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and all good wishes for the coming year.

Sunday Club Team 😊



Safeguarding in the Church of Scotland

Protecting children and adults at risk

Who are the Safeguarding
Coordinators in St John's-Renfield
Church?
**Moira Eaglesham, Marion Dowling
(Assistant)**

First of all, our thanks go to Jennifer Stewart and Susan Finnigan for their many years working as Safeguarding Coordinators and through their efforts, keeping a safe Church for all.

The Church of Scotland requested that we review and update the Safeguarding Congregational Roll and so, you may have been approached about this recently. If you no longer wish to do regulated work with children or with protected adults (pastoral care worker/visitor), please let us know. (We have a form for that!)

Just a reminder that all people doing regulated work with children, and/or protected adults, must join the PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) scheme, go through the recruitment process and be appointed by the Kirk Session before they start work. (We have lots of forms for that!)

Refresher Safeguarding training is required every five years. With Covid restrictions, these mandatory training opportunities

were greatly curtailed in the past three years. However, this situation is now easing and we are looking to encourage those people due to refresh their training to find the appropriate training courses within the next few months. (We're looking for forms for that!)

Remember, if you are worried or have concerns about any Safeguarding matter, or suspect that harm or abuse is taking place, you should contact Moira Eaglesham or Marion Dowling as soon as possible. There are notices around the Church reminding you of these contacts.

Thank you.

Moira and Marion

Moiraeaglesham@aol.com

dowlingm242@gmail.com

HARVEST THANKSGIVING FOR LODGING HOUSE MISSION



It is wonderful to be able to tell you that apart from all the groceries which were requested we raised around £1200 – yes, £1200 in cash and Gift Aid Donations and Gift Aid is still to be added!! Thank you on behalf of Lodging House Mission for your incredible generosity. Thanks, are also due to those who helped make this happen by delivering the groceries, dealing with the finance, the Mini-Market for the boxes and the Elders on duty for their help and support.

Eleanor Murphy



LHM
NEWSLETTER
November Issue
SCO 17283



WELCOME

November has provided a time to reflect and to remember those we have said goodbye to over this past year. Our joint annual service of Remembering on Thursday 24th November at 10.30am.

Our "space to breathe" prayer room is opening on Thursdays 10-2pm. Contact Chaplain if you can assist: clerbert@churchofscotland.org.uk

CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2022

Please support this year's appeal by donating online to support our work over Christmas: Christmas Day Lunch and Gifts; Overnight Welcome Centre Lunch bags December January and February.

<https://www.pledge.com/CIB/fundraiser/charity/3645105>

Help us help more!



VOLUNTEERS

Our table served meals provide a seated, dignified, and welcoming environment for café guests. This service is only possible with the help of volunteers. We need you! Can you spare one day a month or more often? Could you bring a group regularly? Contact manager, june.mcfadden@lhm-glasgow.org.uk



CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND READINGS

Mission Voices and friends will lead us in our annual carols service. All are welcome when our Guest speaker will be Rt Rev Iain Greenshields, Moderator General Assembly.

**Thursday 15th December
2.30pm.**



Pop-In Cafe



The Pop-in Cafe has been well supported since our return.



We have around 20 regular attenders. They turn out each 1st Wednesday of the month and enjoy each other's company and chat for an afternoon. Tea, coffee and cake also always on the agenda. Our recent themes have been Autumn and Hallowe'en.



Although the cafe is free, we do hold a raffle each time and this enables us to gather funds. We recently asked our attendees which charity they would like to support with funds raised. A decision was made to send a cheque to The Calman Trust and also to our own SJR church.



We are looking forward to our Christmas Pop-In on 7th December.

All are welcome.

The Pop-In Team

Pop-in Café



Join the Christmas fun at our
community café!

Wednesday 7th December

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



St Gregory's Food Bank

St Gregory's Church, 130 Kelvindale Road, G20 8DP

www.stgregorysfoodbank.com

stgregorysfoodbank@gmail.com



The cost of living crisis means demand at our foodbank is increasing

We urgently need your support!

Please donate non-perishable food here.

Financial donations can be made via our website

Your generous support is helping local people in real need.



Thank you





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

follow us on social media



Boys' Brigade News

November was a busy month for Company Section which started with our Driving themed evening, followed by the Bonanza weekend where the Seniors and staff got in a lather with the Car Wash!

Our five Senior boys "ran the show" on 18th November and did a great job at organising and leading our Friday night activities.

As we go to press, the Partick District competitions continue with Tenpin Bowling which took place at Braehead.

December sees the boys doing a spot of baking followed by our Christmas night out at Laser Planet in Clydebank. We'll round off the first half of the session with our Christmas games night!

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!

Going into the New Year please don't forget we have the return of the BB Quiz & Chippy Night to brighten up your January!! Saturday 21st January 2023 is the date to remember, in the Large Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets are on sale now, at £10 per person. Ticket enquiries should be directed to Allan Watt at the following email address: allanwatt74@gmail.com

Finally, 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



5TH GLASGOW BOYS' BRIGADE'S FAMOUS...

QUIZ & CHIPPY NIGHT

SATURDAY 21ST JANUARY 2023
ST. JOHNS' RENFIELD LARGE HALL
7.30-10PM
TICKETS £10 (INC. CHIPPY OF YOUR CHOICE)
CONTACT allanwatt74@gmail.com FOR TICKETS



follow us on social media
5THGLASGOWBB



Another COP – Where are we now?

It scarcely seems possible that the COP 26 Glasgow, which to many seemed such a landmark moment, has now been succeeded by COP 27 – Cairo. We are told that the current COP is focussing on action, focusing on Africa, but around the world– but what action? And how can it be achieved? And can it be successful?

Let's start this immensely complicated subject with some good news from Bangladesh. Bangladesh? Surely only terrible news comes out of Bangladesh. I have had the privilege of studying Bangladesh for over fifty years, supervising PhD students and conducting research. Surely Bangladesh is a country of desperate poverty, ravaged by cyclones and floods, a country and a people without hope.

In December 1970 it had just suffered its worst ever cyclone when two thirds of the country was flooded, an estimated 500,000 people lost their lives and millions saw their homes destroyed. Surely there can't be any good news coming out of such a disaster-prone area?

It turns out there is. The first relates to the scientific facts about cyclones in Bangladesh. We are constantly told that cyclones are increasing in number and getting stronger. The evidence shows that this is not the case. Furthermore, data from the Indian Meteorological Office, which has kept records of cyclone activity in the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal since the mid-19th century, shows that the last thirty years have been the quietest in terms of cyclone activity in the entire record of 150 years. There is no

correlation between increasing levels of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere and frequency of cyclones.

It is certainly the case that cyclones continue to cause great loss of life and great damage. It is just that the IPCC says that there is no evidence that such cyclones are the result or a sign of climate change. In the 1970 “Cyclone Bhola” two thirds of what was then East Pakistan was flooded.

Perhaps the most significant change that has occurred in the last one hundred years is the growth of population. In 1900 the population of Bangladesh was about 29 million, in 2022 it stands at over 170 million. Such growth is the result, not of an extraordinarily high birth rate, but of an extraordinary change in public health. Average life expectancy in 1900 was 17 years. Today it is over 70. But such growth has meant that far more people are exposed to environmental risk. One would expect therefore that any cyclone today would cause far more loss of life than ever before. And the cost of damage to housing and crops has also grown dramatically.

I vividly remember giving a BBC interview on Cyclone Bhola to Radio 1. When I explained that Bangladesh experienced deep flooding every year the producer interrupted and asked the blunt question: “Why the hell don’t they do something about it?”

And the truth is that Bangladeshis have “done something about it” and continue to do so. In many of the most cyclone affected areas the government has provided public buildings on raised lands to which people can come for refuge when storms strike. Early warning meteorological systems, and the universal adoption of modern communication systems, enable people to move up to the

shelters. As a result, the death rate in recent cyclones has been far lower than that which occurred in 1971.

Another piece of inspiring news is the astonishing adaptability shown by often extremely poor Bangladeshis to all the challenges thrown at them. About 70% of the labour force is still engaged directly in agriculture, although today, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN, it accounts for around 17% of the GDP. Those figures conceal the great diversity of environments to which farmers have successfully adapted over the generations. Large areas of Bangladesh are flooded to a depth of 5 to 7 metres every year. Imagine your garden going under 20 feet of water every growing season. How long would you stay in your house? Yet Bangladeshis have built earth mounds for their villages above the flood level, and developed varieties of rice so suited to these conditions that they grow as the floods rise and produce a worthwhile crop, gaining their sustenance from the flood waters themselves. Cash crops like jute (on which Dundee earned so much of its prosperity) continue to bring in vital income.

But the flooded “aman” crop is only one of the three seasons important to agriculture. It is the aus (spring/early summer) and boro (winter) crops which have seen the largest changes in production since Bangladesh became independent in 1971. Here Bangladeshi farmers have brought irrigation to land that traditionally has been too dry to farm. They have introduced new crops, notably wheat and dry season rice. Productivity has soared.

A great deal remains to be done. To achieve it, Bangladeshis need help. Effective government planning, research, investment. None of this is or will be easy. Outside help can play a critical role in improving sustainability. Aid can be vital. Development agencies

such as Christian Aid, working with and alongside local communities, have done invaluable work in enabling development to take place. For me, the chief motivation for such help is simple. Can we move away from the oversimplifications of climate change and environmental campaigners and respond appropriately to real need. Just because there are no simple solutions does not mean nothing can be done. Our Christian motivation is born not out of a sense of guilt at our 'responsibility' for climate change, but out of our common humanity. Such aid can play a crucial role in enabling the people of the developing world to adapt and to sustain life. Our government has shamefully massively cut our aid budget, at a time when we have a responsibility, along with concerns for the whole environment in which we live, that we must not shirk.

Our case is not hopeless; there is much that can and must be done. We must cooperate with those who are already engaged in the struggle.

Dr Bob Bradnock

CLUSTER GROUP ACTIVITIES



A Christmas coffee morning
will be held in Jordanhill Parish
Church on Saturday



3rd December, from 10 am until 12 noon. There will be a Traidcraft stall selling Items for your Christmas shopping. The Church and Community committee look forward to welcoming you.

POEM

Would you believe.....

Would you believe
That a forklift truck driver
Could create a poem?

I was watching
As he worked
Just outside my garden.
He was standing at the controls.
All I could see were his hands
Dancing, delicately dancing
Across the levers,
As though they were piano keys.

And in the background
Katherine Tickell was playing a folk tune
On the Northumbrian pipes.
He was in perfect time with her.

I believe it!

Wilma Murphy

LIFE AND WORK

December 2022

'Come Closer'

Life in Israel/Palestine as Christmas approaches

'God Has Given Us All Talents'

The life and faith of award-winning environmental campaigner
Maureen Potter

Small Seeds

The Annual Gathering of the Church of Scotland Guild

At the Heart of Scotland's Christian Heritage

In his final article of the series, John R Hume reflects on the
history of Christianity at Whithorn, Wigtownshire.

Christian Living Starts at Home

The Very Rev Dr Martin Fair explains why Christian life begins with
those closest.

Where God Has Gone Before

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers emphasises the importance of
transforming the Church of Scotland for the future.

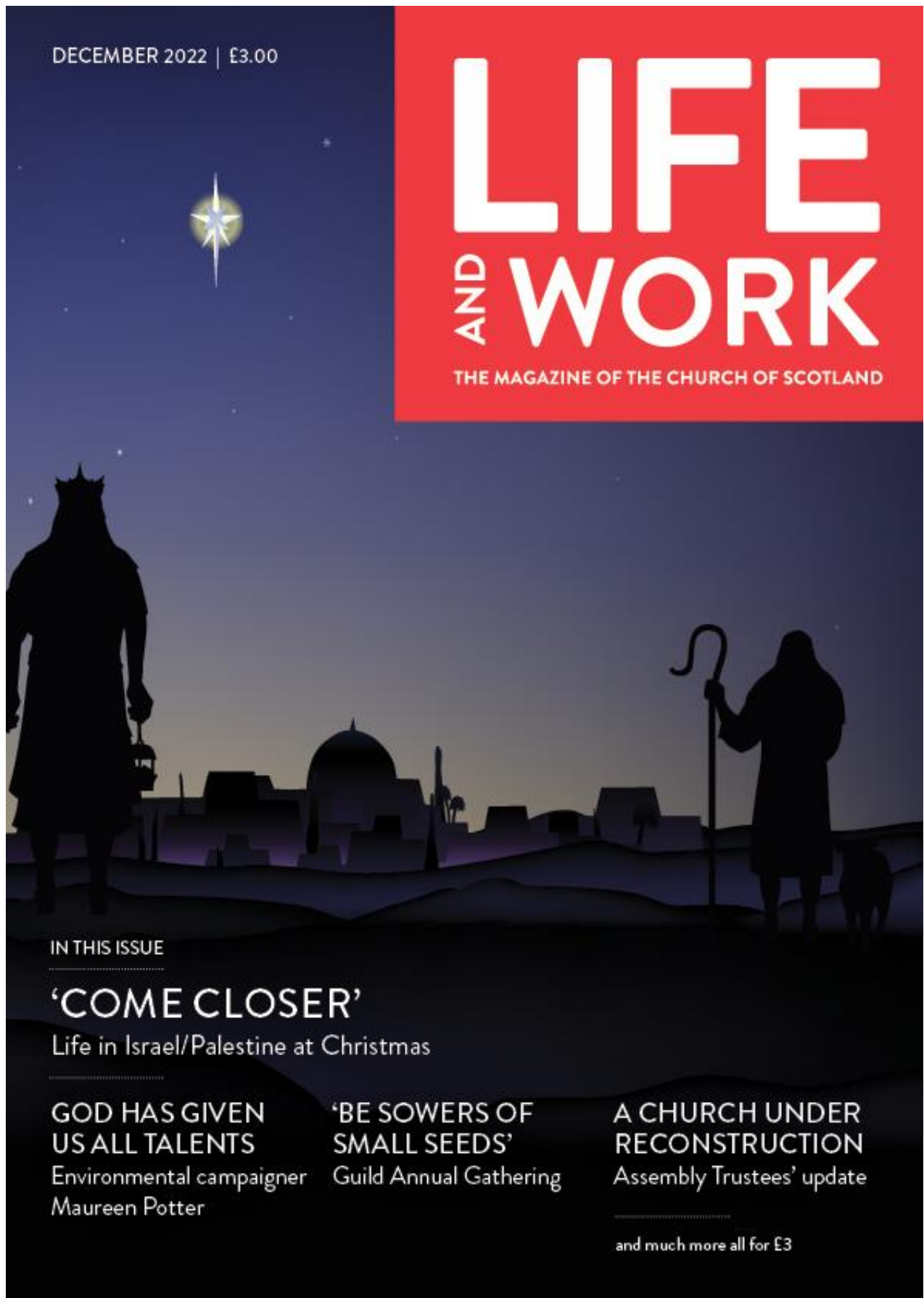
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News, letters, readers' pictures, crosswords and registers

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WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

DECEMBER 2022

Saturday 3rd	Christmas coffee morning - Jordanhill Parish Church from 10 am until 12 noon.
Sunday 4th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m. Communion Decorating the Christmas Tree with the Youth Group at 7pm.
Wednesday 7th	Pop In Café – Christmas themed SJR Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m.
Saturday 10 th	Gift Service Donation Drop-Off 11.00 a.m. to 12 noon.
Sunday 11 th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m. Gift Service Christmas Stall
Sunday 18th	Morning Worship – 11 a.m. Sunday Club Nativity Christmas Stall
Saturday 24 th	Christingle Service – 6.30 p.m. Watchnight – 11.30 p.m.
Sunday 25 th	Christmas Day Family Service 10.30 a.m.
Sunday 1 st January	Carol Service – 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

Graham Moore

Assistant Session

Clerk

Susan Finnigan

Editor of Beacon

Alan Christie

Material for the February 2023 Beacon is required by

Friday 20th January 2023 midnight

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

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www.sjrchurch.com

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