

The Beacon

St. John's-Renfield Church

Magazine No 396

www.sjrchurch.com

2025

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Minister's Letter

Glasgow City Council is celebrating 2025 as the city's 850th anniversary. It may be that you have already attended a/ some 'Glasgow 850' event(s). Between 1175 and 1178 King William I of Scots ('William the Lion') granted Bishop Jocelin the right to establish a burgh, marking the start of the corporate community of 'Glasgow'.



There are no visible, physical traces of Bishop Jocelin's burgh. Even the cathedral that he knew burnt down and was replaced. The centre of civic life, perhaps initially at the junction of the High Street and Drygate, or around Glasgow Cross, has moved over the years. What began as a small market town has had various incarnations down the centuries. It is still Glasgow, but it is very different from the one that Bishop Jocelin knew – and at times can feel quite different from the one that many of us knew when we were young!

Maybe much the same could be said about the church (and indeed about our own congregation). There are few surviving physical remains that Jesus and the Apostles would have seen: the Western Wall of the Jerusalem Temple, the Theatre in Ephesus and maybe some other ruins in Rome and other towns or villages. Over the centuries the heart of the church moved from the Holy Land and Eastern Mediterranean to Western Europe and North America, but now the growth points seem to be Africa, Asia and South America.

The city motto, registered with the Lyon Court in 1866, is 'Let Glasgow flourish'. This is acknowledged to be based on an engraving

of a bell from 1631 in the former Tron Church 'Lord let Glasgow flourish through the preaching of thy word and the praising of thy name.'

In the 2020s most of the population of Glasgow would find it hard to relate to that engraving, even understand what it means. For all the vibrancy that does exist in our city, there are also many serious social, health, crime and other issues. Preaching from pulpits or street corners may not address these issues, but the message of Jesus, the message about Jesus – about how outlook, values and behaviour can be changed, with self-interest being replaced by loving-care and service – is one that our city, our country and our world needs desperately to hear and respond to positively.

We have no idea what our congregation, city or world will be like in the next 50 years, let alone 850, but we go forward trusting in the care and goodness of God, challenged by him to continue proclaiming his word and praising his name.

Rev. Ian Johnson

Pulpit Supply – September

7th – Rev Ian Johnson

14th – Rev Ian Johnson

21st – Allan Lafferty

28th – Worship Team



PARISH RECORDS

Funeral and Memorial Services

“Nothing can separate us from the love of God”

The funeral of Margaret (Margo) Watson was held in Maryhill Crematorium, on Friday 18th July, 2025 at 12 noon.

The funeral of Jean MacLeod, formerly of Baronald Drive was held at Maryhill Crematorium on Tuesday 29th July, 2025 at 11.15 a.m.

The funeral of Marion Allan, of Burlington Avenue was held at Clydebank Crematorium on Friday 15th August at 10.30 a.m.

From the Leadership Team

Unbelievably the long summer evenings of 2025 are slowly coming to a close as autumn approaches. We hope everyone has enjoyed the sunshine of Kelvindale and if you were lucky enough to have a break away, we hope it was a happy time.

Sadly, for some of our SJR family, during summer 2025 there were difficult times to endure, we continue to remember that in our prayers.

As the youth organisations, toddlers, choirs and other hall lets begin to bring vibrancy to our buildings once again we wish God's blessing on them all.

The Leadership Team are delighted that the nominating committee are hard at work and look forward to the day they have news to

share.

Our first Kirk Session meeting of 2025 /26 will be on Tuesday 16th September. May all our Elders be blessed with wisdom and guidance as another season begins.

The Leadership Team is always available should you have anything you wish to discuss about SJR.

Susan, Shirley, Fiona and Roddy.

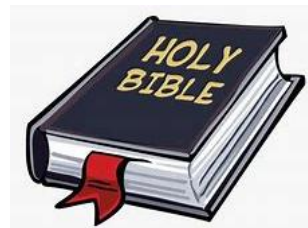
Reader Rota – September

7th – Carolyn Calder

14th – Caroline Taylor

21st – Susan Finnigan

28th – Maureen Christie



HAVE YOU HEARD THAT...?

... following a three-year vacancy, we are delighted, to now be advertising for a new minister for St John's Renfield Church on the Church of Scotland website. See the advertisement on the new Vacancy section of our website www.sjrchurch.com/vacancy.

...a painter will start work on the small hall and corridors on Monday 1st September. Watch out for the Wet Paint signs!

...LHM Annual Homeless Service will be held 9th October at 7 p.m. at 35 East Campbell Street, Glasgow G1 5DT. Everyone welcome.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS...?



Presbytery of Glasgow

21 hours ago · 🌐

...

A big thank you to St John's Renfield for the lovely blankets brought in today by Christine and Anne for the Glasgow Close Knit project.



Flower Rota for September

Susan Finnigan
Liz MacDonald





Save the Date!

**Bonanza - Saturday 1st November
2025 from 10am till 12.30pm**

It's surprising how quickly this comes round and it's time to start working on our major fund raiser for SJR Special Projects.

As most folks will be aware, our shopping baskets cost more and more these days, including baking ingredients, before we even turn the oven on! This has led us to have a look at pricing and what is included in the entry ticket.

We propose to leave the entry at £2.50 per person and it will include your cup of tea or coffee. As always, children of school age will be charged a £1.00 entry fee.

From this Bonanza onwards anything from the baking trays will be charged as chosen by you. There will be trays of baking with prices clearly displayed. All baking items will be charged at the cash desk when you give up your entry ticket to cover the tea or coffee.

We will still have a home baking stall which will be priced by whoever leads on that stall but, it does need to be realistic to the cost of producing the goods.

More details to follow in the October Beacon and we look forward to seeing everyone in November.

The Bonanza Team

You Email the Beacon

A huge thank you to everyone for their love and support over the last weeks and months. The kind donations to Revive MS Support at Marion's funeral raised an amazing £1400.



Love from the John, Elizabeth and the whole Allan Family

SJR Welcome Team Door & Beadle Duties

September - 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th

Lead Elder: Pat McGill with Sandra and Norrie McLeod

Beadles: 7th & 14th – Anne B; 21st and 28th Glynis and John



Concert no. 20

BWV 138 Warum betrübst du dich, mein Herz

BWV 99 Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan

BWV 161 Komm, du süße Todesstunde

Director: Michael Bawtree

Sunday 28 September 2025 7pm (end 8.15pm approx.)
St Margaret's Episcopal Church, Newlands G43 2DS

Admission free. Retiring collection.

All J.S. Bach's Cantatas. All in Glasgow. www.glasgowbach.com





Kelvindale Toddlers

(also known as Beaconsfield Toddlers)

The group continued to meet during the school summer holidays for the first time in a long time. Several carers expressed their gratitude that the group was available when many other activities cease over the summer. The toddlers enjoy the space, whether it is hot sunshine or rain that is stopping them from enjoying the great outdoors. Many thanks to those who put away tables to create the space and put them back again for tea and coffee after the service.

Recently we tidied out our cupboards in the Chalmers Room. Now the chairs and tables fit inside the cupboards leaving more space in the rest of the room. Thank you to Michael for Hoovering the Chalmers Room once we had finished.

We are happy for church members to borrow toddler toys and / or equipment for visiting friends or family. Please contact me to make arrangements for viewing, collection and return.

Recently, on her grandson's last day at the group, one grandmother said that she was glad that he had been able to come. "It has been good for him; he has really come on." Do please recommend the group to family, friends and neighbours: Thursday mornings, 9.45 – 11.45, plenty of space, plenty of toys, snack time, tidy-up time and action songs to finish, all for £2.

Elsbeth Johnson

The Summer 2025 Adventures of the SJR Walking Group

Late May saw the group head out to explore the new bridge crossing the River Clyde between Yoker and Renfrew. A group of 15 made the trip, ably led by John McFadyen. The bridge is impressive and there is much development underway in the immediate surroundings. A very pleasant walk along the banks of the




Rivers Clyde and Cart took us nicely to the Normandy Hotel for coffee, before continuing through Renfrew. The target was a different form of over-water return via the Renfrew Ferry. However, a call from Marjory Watt en route was to disappoint everyone - early just that morning, the operator announced they were ceasing operations with immediate effect! The bridge gained some extra pedestrian crossings on our return, but a piece of Clyde history drew to a close.



July's outing saw a group of 12 take on a circular route around Palacerigg Country Park on the edge of Cumbernauld. The route takes in views of the

surrounding countryside and Fannyside Loch, as well as passing through forest and woodland. We started in fine, sunny weather but showers were on the way and we just made it back to the park's golf club for coffee in time to miss the deluge! The park has a range of well-marked paths offering walks of varying lengths and is worth a visit. Thanks to Ron, Shaun and Ewen for providing transport.

KELVIN WEST
 PARISH CHURCH

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

INTRODUCING JESUS
Life-Changing Encounters
from the Gospel of John

Seven Studies by
Tim Chester

THURSDAYS 7.30PM

04/09

11/09

18/09

25/09

02/10

09/10

16/10

FOR ZOOM BIBLE STUDY DETAILS CONTACT:
rsturrock@churchofscotland.org.uk OR
t.moffat2010@btinternet.com

Scottish Registered Charity SCO 000289

Support the foodbank

St Gregory's independent food bank is based at the chapel of St Gregory's RC Church in Wyndford. It operates free of overheads such as rent and heating costs and is staffed entirely by a dedicated team of unpaid volunteers. We at St John's Renfield Church make a monthly donation which helps to ensure that a balanced range of food stuffs can be distributed to needy and vulnerable people in our society.

There is an ever increasing demand for tinned meatballs, tomatoes, curry, spagehetti, tuna and many other items with a long shelf life such as sugar, long life milk, tea, coffee, sugar, pasta and pet food (for dogs and cats).

Toiletries are also welcome such as nappies (size 3 and above, especially size 5), baby wipes, shampoo, etc.

While contributions of any of the above are very welcome a particular way in which we at St John's can help is by providing empty egg boxes (size for 6 eggs) and durable bags. At present jars are not needed.

Well over 300 bags are distributed every week to close to 1000 people.

More detailed information is available on a leaflet at the church vestible or at stgregorysfoodbank.com or from Jim MacDonald



HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

SUPPORTING LHM

SUNDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Harvest Appeal from the Lodging House Mission has told us before that the provision of a healthy breakfast and lunch five days a week is often the beginning of a trusted relationship, leading to intervention and support. The Day Centre offers shelter where individuals know they will not be judged and can always find companionship. The annual LHM Harvest Appeal has in previous years replenished two thirds of the food required to run the café and hot food service for the year ahead.

LHM are very aware that they can only carry out their mission to those on the margins through the generosity of supporting churches and organisations. Unfortunately, LHM are receiving fewer donations from their Harvest Appeal.

Having consulted with LHM, items that are urgently needed and which we will be donating this year, are -

BISCUITS
COFFEE
TEA
DILUTING JUICE
SUGAR
VEGETABLE STOCK CUBES.

These will be very much appreciated.

As usual, there will be boxes in the East Vestibule on Harvest Sunday, 28 September, and the contents delivered to the

LHM. Envelopes will also be available in the East Vestibule for anyone who would prefer to make a financial donation.

If you would like further information or should like donations to be collected from your home, please contact Grace MacKay through the Church Office.

Thank you as always, Grace MacKay.



35 East Campbell Street, Glasgow, G1 5DT

LHM 360
LIFE
HOPE
AND A FUTURE

Harvest APPEAL

LAUNCHES
1ST SEP - 31ST OCT

Drop off 2pm - 4pm weekdays
See Harvest List for preferences
Or donate online at lhm360.org

A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee Registered
in Scotland No. SC225199 Registered Scottish Charity
No. SC017283

Would you like to widen your horizons of worship?

If so, why not come along with some of our Worship Group to a musical celebration led by the Wild Goose Resource Group on Sunday 14 September, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Gorbals Parish Church. Fuller details of WGRG's invitation are given below. If you are interested, please speak to Roddy Watt.

Join us for a Second Sunday Sing: a musical meeting place for songbirds and squawkers in Glasgow. If you love a Big Sing, you'll love Second Sunday Sing.

Building community

One of the joys of the Iona Community is the way in which we build community through singing. Our approach to song is all about inclusivity, participation, and social justice. We are passionate about singing as a communal and transformative act rather than a polished performance. All are welcome. Music is too important to be left to the professionals!

Learning together

We know that songs are one of the things people hold most dearly. It is often the thing that shape people's faith. We also believe that worship should reflect our own growing and learning. Second Sunday Sings are intended as a musical growing place to explore new material, revisit little known gems, gain skills and confidence, and exchange with others who join us.

We'll trace the journeys of our songs, listening to what the words and music reveal about war and suffering, resilience and hope. We'll sing in harmony with worshippers all across the world: from

Nicaragua to Ukraine, Palestine to Pakistan. There may even be drums.

Second Sunday Sings

So, join us for on the second Sunday of the month at Gorbals Parish Church. We'll sing songs, share stories and sip beverages.

Sometimes we'll showcase a special someone with significant skill and we'll close with a short service. It'll be a sensationally splendid way to spend a Sunday afternoon together.

You'll find full details of the monthly Second Sunday Sing below.

Welcome back to the new session of Second Sunday Sing. Freshly returned from a summer of festivals and island life, we'll be bringing songs from Iona Abbey and all around the world to Gorbals Parish Church.

This is the first event of the new term. We'll be meeting each month until the end of 2025.

- 14 September
- 12 October
- 9 November
- 14 December

Refreshments will be provided and we'll close with a short time of worship.

Gorbals Parish Church, 1 Errol Gardens, Glasgow, G5 0RA
(please note this event is not available online).

No need to register. You're welcome to just turn up at Gorbals Parish Church on the day.

Pop-in Café

Our popular community café is back!

Wednesday 3rd September

From **2- 3.30 pm**

At the **Large Hall,**

St. John's Renfield Church,

Beaconsfield Road, Kelvindale



Free Tea, Coffee, Cake

(served until 3pm)

No booking required

Bring the kids - everyone is
welcome to join the fun



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





2nd Kelvinside Rainbows

The Rainbows Start back on Monday 1st September in Brotherton Hall at 6.15 - 7.15pm.



25th Glasgow Brownie Pack

Brownies start back on Tuesday 2nd September in Brotherton Hall at 6.00 - 7.00pm.



25th Glasgow Guide Company

Guides start back on Tuesday 2nd September in Brotherton Hall at 7.00 - 8.30pm.

25th A Glasgow Brownie Pack

Brownies start back on Friday 29th August in Church Hall at 6.00-7.30pm

Over the last session Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have enjoyed lots of badge work, crafts and parties.

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have new badges they can complete.

RAINBOWS



BROWNIES



GUIDES





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

follow us on social media



5THGLASGOWBB

Boys' Brigade News

Anchor Boys and Junior Section

The Anchor Boys and Junior Section begin a new session on Tuesday 2nd September at 6.15pm.

Anchor Boys are for boys in P1-P3

Junior Section is for boys in P4-P6

At the end of last session, Allan Watt who had been running the Junior Section retired. Unfortunately, we have been unable to secure another helper, but Christopher Watt has indicated that he is available to help at least until Christmas. We will also have the help of five senior boys from the Company Section on a rotational basis and in addition, Kenny Cummings, who although not attending BB meetings on a regular basis is still working to support the company, has identified two possible volunteer helpers via Volunteer Glasgow. However, these volunteers are subject to a number of checks which, as we know, can take some time.

The boys will return on 2nd September with their usual enthusiasm and the staff will match that enthusiasm to ensure a positive, vibrant experience for the boys.

Please let friends and neighbours know we are starting back and are happy to welcome new recruits at all stages.

Aileen Morison (Officer - in - Charge)

Company Section

Our summer break has passed by in a flash since our excellent day out on Saturday 7th June to the Lost Shore surfing centre, near Edinburgh.

Five of our Senior boys also enjoyed their overseas trip to Copenhagen to participate in the Væbnermesterskabet "Senior Championships", competing in teams in a variety of challenges at 45 different stations across Copenhagen over the course of 4 days.

Our first Parade night will be on Friday 5th September 2025 at 7.45pm. Exact details are currently being finalised, and we will be in touch with the boys soon. However, we are always very welcome to receive new members, therefore please keep watching our social media feeds for more information in the coming days.

We are looking forward to another full and active programme with lots of our much-loved activities and outings. The Partick District competitions will be resuming too, starting with 5-a-side football in late September.

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

STEDFAST

OLFACTION - THE SENSE OF SMELL

I love the smell of new-mown hay
Rich aromas each new day
Take the time to smell the flowers
Make best use of all the hours.

Petrichor, the smell of rain
Long dry spell, rain falls again
Gardeners welcome a steady downpour.
And earthy odours, not there before.

Scent of smoke may be a warning
Through the day, at night, in morning
Gas escape in street or dwelling
Likewise, danger is foretelling.

Cooking, baking, food to savour
Salt or sugar adds to flavour
Honey, herbs and spices enhance
Smells good, inviting sustenance.

By John MacMillan



GARDENERS WANTED

EVERY THURSDAY FROM 9AM TO 12 NOON.

Join our Gardening Team and help maintain the church grounds followed by a tea break.
Everyone welcome! No experience required.

CONTACT:

office@sjrchurch.com
(0141) 334 0782

WHAT'S ON

SEPTEMBER 2025

Wednesday 3rd	Pop-In Café SJR Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m.
Sunday 7 th	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.
Sunday 14 th	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.
Tuesday 16 th	Kirk Session Small Hall – 7.15 p.m.
Sunday 21 st	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.
Sunday 28 th	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m. - Harvest

Please note: Events are subject to change

OFFICE BEARERS

Minister – Position Vacant

Interim Moderator – Rev. Audrey Jamieson

Leadership Team

Susan Finnigan, Fiona Robinson, Shirley
Maxwell and Roderick Watt

Editor of Beacon

Alan Christie

Material for the October 2025 Beacon is required by

Friday 19th September 2025 midnight

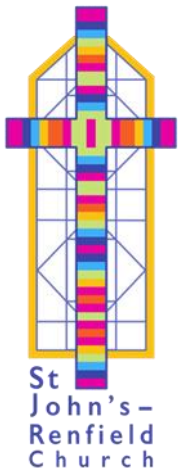
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Tel: (0141) 334 0782

Email: office@sjrchurch.com

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