

# The Beacon

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

**Magazine No 397**

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

**2025**

**Feb**

**Mar**

**April**

**May**

**June**

**Sept**

**Oct**

**Nov**

**Dec**



# Minister's Letter

Hopefully most of us were able to take advantage of the warmer, drier, sunnier weather over the Summer, to do whatever we enjoy doing between June and September. Meanwhile the Kirk Session, Leadership Team and Nominating Committee of St John's Renfield have been busy progressing the search for a new minister.



At the time at which I am writing this, and when you will receive the completed Beacon, no one outside the Nominating Committee knows whether anyone has responded to the advertisement, and applied to be considered as our minister. Only the members of the Nominating Committee know, and they will keep quiet about it until a formal recommendation of Sole Nominee is made. We keep praying for them and for the work they are doing.

It will be good to have a new minister to lead us forward as we try to fulfil God's will for us over the coming years as his church in our part of Glasgow, with all the challenges ahead. We must remember, however, that the new minister is there to 'lead us', and should not be left to do all the work him or herself.

God calls all of us to be involved in his work of building the Kingdom – sharing his love and his Good News. Many of us grew up in a world with a very different attitude to the church, to God and to faith. We cannot put the clock back and try to do things as we did 70, 50 or even 30 years ago, but we can acknowledge that many (neighbours, colleagues or complete strangers) still have a 'spiritual' dimension', and many feel burdened by the pressures of Twenty First Century

life. The love and Good News of Jesus are still as relevant for people today as they were when the Apostles first went out to share them.

Jesus is calling us – led by our new minister – to carry on the task he first entrusted to Peter, Andrew and the others all those years ago. Let's be ready to respond with energy and enthusiasm to his invitation to do so.

**Rev. Ian Johnson**

## **Pulpit Supply – October**

5<sup>th</sup> – Rev Ian Johnson - Communion  
12<sup>th</sup> – Rev Richard Baxter  
19<sup>th</sup> – Rev Ian Johnson  
26<sup>th</sup> – Rev Roger Sturrock



## **HAVE YOU HEARD THAT...?**

... Trinity College, the Church of Scotland's college at the University of Glasgow, runs short courses in practical theology, church ministry and mission. Suitable for church members and leaders who want to learn in their spare time, courses take place throughout the autumn and winter, and most are delivered online. Find out more here <https://www.trinitycollegglasgow.co.uk/short-courses> or speak to Roddy Watt or Shirley Maxwell.

\*\*\*\*\*

... Five members of the Worship Team attended the Wild Goose Resource Group's "Second Sunday Sing" at Gorbals Parish Church in

September. They sang some Wild Goose favourites and learned new songs from round the world, and then there was a chance to make new friends over a cup of tea before sharing a short time of worship. The next “Second Sunday Sing” takes place at 3 pm on 12 October in the same venue. There’s no need to register – just turn up on the day, or speak to any member of the Worship Team to find out more.

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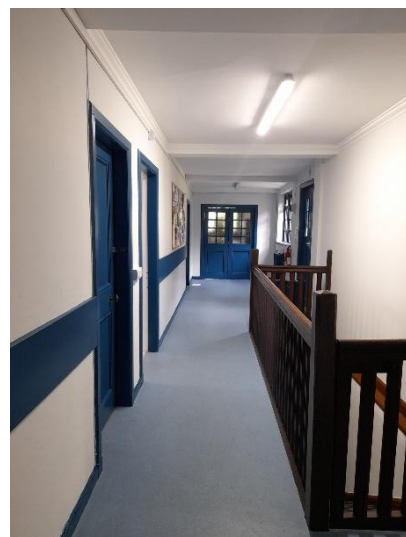
...the closing date, for applications to be our new minister, is Friday the 26th of September. The nominating committee will update the congregation when there is more news.

\*\*\*\*\*

...painting has finished in the vestry, hall ways, small hall and even the cornice in the large hall. Thanks go to the Property Committee and the painters for all their hard work.

\*\*\*\*\*

...our friends from the Olive Tree Charity return to SJR on Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> of November.



\*\*\*\*\*

...a special coffee time, will be held after our Remembrance Service, in November and all proceeds will go to The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice.

## **Flower Rota for October**

Marion Dowling  
Grace MacKay





# BONANZA

**Saturday 1st November 2025**

10 am to 12.30 pm

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



**Books \* Bottles**  
**Car Wash \* Tuck Shop**  
**Raffle \* Toy Stall**  
**Discarded Treasures**  
**Jewellery \* Toiletries**  
**Time, Talents & Treats**



Adults £2.50 \* School Age Children £1.00

Includes a cup of Tea or Coffee



*Registered as a charity in Scotland.  
Registration No. SC012920*



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# BONANZA

**The Bonanza will take place on Saturday 1st November '25 from 10am till 12.30 at St John's-Renfield Church.**

As most folks will be aware, our shopping baskets cost more and more these days and baking ingredients come into that category 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 tea or coffee. From this Bonanza anything from the trays will be charged as chosen. There will be trays of baking with prices clearly displayed. 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 30th October between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Friday 31st October between 10 a.m. and 12 noon

Friday 31st October between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

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 - [isobel.digges@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:isobel.digges@hotmail.co.uk)

Shirley Tassell - [shirleytassell@aol.com](mailto:shirleytassell@aol.com)

**We look forward to seeing you and your donations!**

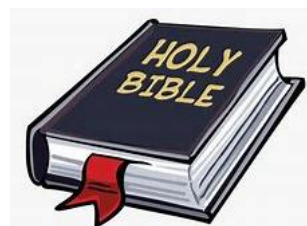
## **Reader Rota – October**

5<sup>th</sup> – Shirley Maxwell

12<sup>th</sup> – Moira Eaglesham

19<sup>th</sup> – Seonaidh Gibson

26<sup>th</sup> – Margaret Paton





## St Gregory's Foodbank

The Foodbank provides foodstuffs to allow local families and households to be fed, giving them the opportunity to remain in their homes. This is continuous and, from reports received from St Gregory's, is actually expanding as the cost of living continues to rise. In August food inflation was running at 5.1%. This year we have been providing £250 per month in the vital work of supporting these local families and your donations to the Foodbank, the Gift Aid recovered on these where possible, has just covered this cost.

We know times are tough, but we also know that collectively we are a generous congregation who have consistently stepped up to the plate to maintain our commitment to this important cause. Please give what you can in the lead up to Christmas, either as a cash donation or, as some members are now giving to the Foodbank by standing order, think about setting one up yourself. If you are not sure how to do that, please ask our assistant Treasurer, Mary Glassford, and she will be happy to help you set it up.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Robin Hutchison**

### **SJR Welcome Team Door & Beadle Duties**

**October - 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**



Lead Elder: Nick Calder with Robin Hutchison and Carolyn Calder  
Beadles: 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> – John Finnigan; 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Fiona Robinson





## Blazing Blankets

Your Editor's jaw dropped when he entered Kelvin West parish Church.

He had been inside before – principally in his school days; marched whither, in file, for a term-closing service.

The overarching memory is boredom. Even the quality woodwork, in best Presbyterian manner, was the same wherever his eye strayed. No danger of the congregation wandering from the Word of the Lord.

Now the pews were on fire with colours, usually wild colours, everywhere he looked. Different combinations in every pew and differing combinations from one end to the pew's other. Upstairs and down.

Gathered in Kelvinside West were the magnificent outpourings from knitting needles and crochet hooks of those who had responded to the joint initiative of Glasgow Presbytery and The Lodging House Mission. Squares crafted by Churches, Community Groups and individuals had been sewn together into hundreds of blankets – 575 in mid-September with more promised.



St. John's Renfield's beautiful blankets

A wonderful effort, with St John's Renfield involved, perfectly timed for distribution through The Lodging House Mission to people experiencing homelessness and isolation across the city this winter.



## **SJR Craft Group**

Want to take part in great projects like Glasgow Close Knit? Our friendly craft group meets weekly on Tuesday afternoons in the small hall from 2 to 3.30 p.m. Come along for a natter whilst you knit. Contact the office ([office@sjrchurch.com](mailto:office@sjrchurch.com)) or Anne Bryden for more details.

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## **SJR Walking Group August Adventure**

August saw the group (of 14) head out closer to home to walk along the River Clyde from Stockwell St to the Riverside Museum, a distance of 3 miles. Inspiration for this route came from the Glasgow's Clyde Bridges Trail leaflet produced by the Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE), which Roddy came across on his travels (<https://www.ice.org.uk/download-centre/glasgows-clyde-bridges-civil-engineering-trail>).







To suit our bus travel requirements and desired distance, we skipped the section in Glasgow Green, starting instead from Victoria Bridge. As someone who hadn't walked along the riverside through town in years, much has changed, but even for those who had, all spotted things not seen before. Most notable were the inscriptions on two piers of the redundant 1<sup>st</sup> Caledonian Railway Bridge by artist and writer Ian Hamilton Finlay (not in the leaflet!), remnants of the elevation system for the old Finnieston Ferry ([www.theglasgowstory.com/image/?inum=TGSW00044](http://www.theglasgowstory.com/image/?inum=TGSW00044)), a 2nd Spanish Civil War memorial and 50th anniversary memorials to those lost in the 1960 Cheapside St fire.

An impromptu coffee stop was made in the Hilton Garden Inn beside the Finnieston Crane, before some intrigue at the soon-to-start charity zip line on waste ground between the Clydeside Distillery (old Pumphouse at Queen's Dock) and the Riverside Museum. Attempts to bribe Mr McFadyen into signing up proved futile!

Our next walk will be on Saturday 11th October 2025, destination TBC. As always, all welcome.

**Sarah Hamilton**





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)

follow us on social media



5THGLASGOWBB

## **Boys' Brigade News**

### **Anchor Boys and Junior Section**

We have made a very positive start to the session on Tuesday evenings with The Anchor Boys and Junior Section. We have 20 boys attending regularly, fifteen Junior Section boys and five Anchor Boys. Five company section boys are proving to be of invaluable help each Tuesday evening attending on a rota basis.

Unfortunately, the staffing situation is not quite so stable.

Christopher Watt, who had originally thought he would be able to help until at least Christmas, was offered a place at a college in Bristol at the very last minute and had to leave at very short notice. Christopher was a very valuable and much valued member of staff and will be a huge miss, but we are delighted he has been offered a place to study his chosen subject and wish him every success.

It says a great deal about Christopher that despite leaving for Bristol on a Thursday, he attended The Partick District Junior Section five-a-side football competition on the Monday evening and Boys' Brigade on the Tuesday evening. Mrs Morison was so grateful to him as she needed his guidance! He was rewarded, in that 5th Glasgow came home with the trophy. As one boy put it, we won every game and didn't concede a goal! Well done boys. It's also to their credit that each game was played in a spirit of true sportsmanship.



Alan Rattray from the Company Section and Kenny Cummings have been taking turns to help Mrs Morison on a Tuesday evening. However, we are hopeful that very soon, a volunteer with BB connections will have cleared all the necessary checks and been awarded his PVG and will be able to help out on a regular basis.

In the meantime, we are addressing the BB programme, Getting Active, Getting Adventurous, Getting into the Bible, Getting Creative, Getting Involved and Getting Learning. Already, we have learned a bit about our founder, Sir William Smith and a bit about the history of the organisation we belong to. We are looking forward to addressing the other areas as we progress through the year.

**Aileen Morison (Officer - in - Charge)**

## **Company Section**

The boys participated in the first Partick District competition of the session - the 5-a-side football at Scotstoun. Both Junior & Senior teams were victorious in the competition, which was played in a great spirit. Next, we are looking forward to the District Laser Quest competition which should be held in late October.

At the start of September, we enjoyed a return to Lost Shore surf resort where most of the boys (and some of the staff!) actually managed to stay upright on their surfboards for at least a few seconds. We can assure you; it was great fun!

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 Felix Russell is starting his work towards the King's Badge this session, and four of our Seniors - Cpl Hamish Matheson, Cpl Vincent Russell, L/Cpl Iniyan Davabalan, and L/Cpl Bradley Tierney are continuing on their path to gaining their King's Badge in May 2026.

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

**STEDFAST**

# Pop-in Café

Join the autumn fun at our community  
café!

**Wednesday 1st 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](mailto:office@sjrchurch.com) or call  
(0141) 334 0782 - [www.sjrchurch.com](http://www.sjrchurch.com)



# WHAT'S ON

## OCTOBER 2025

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Pop-In Café SJR Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m.
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m. Communion
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Lodging House Mission Annual Homelessness Service – 7 p.m.
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Kirk Session Small Hall – 7.15 p.m.
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Church open for Bonanza Donations 7.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m.
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Church open for Bonanza between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon plus 7.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m.

Please note: Events are subject to change

# OFFICE BEARERS

## **Minister – Position Vacant**

Interim Moderator – Rev. Audrey Jamieson

### **Leadership Team**

### **Editor of Beacon**

Susan Finnigan, Fiona Robinson, Shirley  
Maxwell and Roderick Watt

Alan Christie

Material for the November 2025 Beacon is required by

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025 midnight**

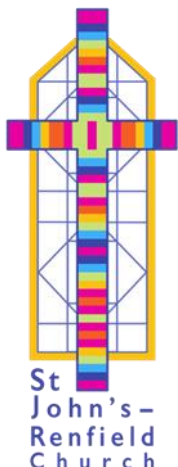
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Tel: (0141) 334 0782

Email: [office@sjrchurch.com](mailto:office@sjrchurch.com)

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

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