

The Beacon

St. John's-Renfield Church

Magazine No 394

www.sjrchurch.com

2025

Feb

Mar

April

May

June

Sept

Oct

Nov

Dec



Minister's Letter

I am sure that we have all registered that the price of 'a coffee and cake' (not to mention the weekly/ monthly shop, and energy bills) has increased significantly over the last few years. We might mutter, but I suspect that readers of the Beacon – unlike some in our community – are not in the position of having to go without food or heating because of the general increase in the 'cost of living'.

During April the world's stock and bond markets have behaved very erratically, with some significant falls in value, in response to the United States' administration's imposition of tariffs, and the fear of a major trade war. Some people may not understand much about stock markets, some may not have their own portfolio of shares, but many are either in receipt of pensions, or have savings in a 'pension pot' for when they retire – and the pension funds are invested in stocks and shares, in many cases in companies and countries around the world.

For a large section of the world's population going out for 'a coffee and cake' is unimaginable, as is the concept of having a pot of money to provide for their old age. We know from our support of the St Gregory's Foodbank and the Lodging House Mission that poverty is well-established in sections of our community and country. In some parts of the world extreme poverty is entrenched, and the situation is getting worse.

There are many factors at play causing this extreme poverty, including conflict, climate change, corruption, historic

mismanagement, and political and economic decisions taken by world leaders who are geographically, socially and economically far removed from those in so-called 'Developing Countries'.

During the month of May we mark Christian Aid Week. It is not simply a time to raise some money to dig new wells, plant trees, provide seeds and livestock, or build a classroom or outpatients clinic. It is a time for us to reflect on the issues of



poverty, inequality, injustice, corruption, the causes/ effects of climate change and the economic policies of richer nations. It is a time for us to raise these issues with the wider community, engage with people of other faiths and none who have similar concerns, and to address our concerns to governments and industry. It is a time to remind ourselves of the need to keep ourselves aware of what is happening in the world, and to renew our commitment to pray for and work for the establishment of God's Kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven.

Pulpit Supply – May

4th – Rev Ian Johnson

11th – Worship Team (Christian Aid)

18th – Rev Ian Johnson

25th – To be Confirmed



Vacancy Update

FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

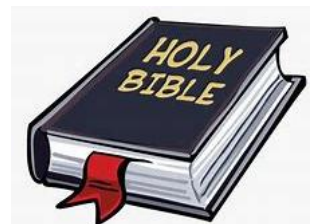
As we go to press, the latest news is we have been advised to expect the Presbytery's Vacancy Advisory Committee to contact us soon to arrange a meeting with the Kirk Session.

In the meantime, the manse has been inspected and the property team are working their way through arranging manse upgrades. The electoral roll and the parish profile are in preparation in advance of the election of the Nominating Committee.

Our interim moderator Rev Audrey Jamieson and the leadership team will continue to update the Kirk Session and congregation on the progress of the vacancy.

Reader Rota - May

4th – Pat McGill
11th – Worship Team
18th – Nick Calder
25th – Shirley Maxwell



HAVE YOU HEARD THAT...?

... the Olive Tree Charity has sent a huge thank you to all who purchased from their stall on Sunday the 13th of April. They raised a fantastic £537 to help those in desperate need in Palestine.

... SJR is acting as an exam centre for students studying online, from the 13th of May until the final exam on the 19th of June. There will be changes to the office hours and some church activities during this time so please contact the office before coming to the church.

... our Easter Egg appeal for the Lodging House Mission and St. Gregory's Foodbank collected an amazing 614 chocolate Easter Eggs! A huge thanks to all who donated.



...there will be a Craft Fair and Coffee Morning at our cluster church, Kelvin West in the Crypt Café, University Avenue on the 10th of May from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. Entry is £3 and includes tea, coffee and biscuits. All proceeds to Christian Aid. There will be stalls for handmade gifts, home baking and vintage linen. Offers of home baking are very welcome, and can be brought along on the day.

SJR Welcome Team Door & Beadle Duties

May 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th

Lead Elder: Helen Barclay with Elizabeth Arthur and Marjory Watt

Beadles: Anne Bryden (4th & 25th) John and Glynis McKenzie (11th & 18th)

Spring Fair

Saturday 17th May 2025

10am till 12 noon

All proceeds will be shared with Christian Aid and SJR Church Special Projects

Please come and join us to browse our stalls for books, bottles, jam, home baking, hot rolls, unloved or unwanted new gifts and chat to your friends! Tickets at £2.50 per person will be available on the door and they also include either tea or coffee and a piece of cake or home baking.

Donations are most welcome for Home Baking – both for the tearoom and for selling – Bottle Stall, Books and Unwanted New Gifts. Please only donate paperback books and children's books. No hard back books or magazines. Donations can be brought to the church on Friday 16th May from 10am till 12 noon or in the evening to the Sanctuary from 7pm. The BB Display takes place in the large hall on this evening.

We look forward to seeing everyone and hearing the chatter and laughter in the large hall.

Please remember to bring cash as we do not have card machines!

Any queries to Isobel Digges ([REDACTED]) or Shirley Tassell ([REDACTED])

ST. JOHN'S-RENFIELD CHURCH

A vibrant spring-themed poster for a church fair. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds. A large, circular wreath of various flowers, including yellow roses, pink tulips, and purple flowers, is centered. Several butterflies, including monarchs and purple ones, and a green hummingbird are scattered around the wreath. The text 'SPRING FAIR' is written in large, bold, blue letters with a black outline, centered over the wreath.

SPRING FAIR

**BOTTLE
STALL**

**HOME
BAKING**

BOOKS

HOT ROLLS

**UNWANTED
NEW GIFTS**

JAM

SATURDAY, 17 MAY

10AM TO 12 NOON

ENTRY £2.50 - INCLUDES TEA/COFFEE + BAKING

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE SHARED WITH CHRISTIAN AID & SJR SPECIAL PROJECTS

FOR MORE INFO VISIT: WWW.SJRCHURCH.COM



Christian Aid Week

11TH – 17TH MAY 2025

This year's Christian Aid Service, which will be led by the Worship Team, falls on Sunday 11th May. Donation envelopes for the collection on that day will be available on the 27th April, 4th and 11th May. Please remember that if you "Gift Aid" your donation you can add 25% to its value at no extra cost to yourself. If you prefer, the online donation QR code is below. Simply photograph the code on your device, click the link and follow the instructions to donate. Alternatively, you can type the page address (as shown below) to access the online donation page. You will see that the page is connected to St John's-Renfield Church and a running total of our online donations will be shown, without detailing specific amounts from individuals. Any amount at all will help to alleviate the suffering that climate change is impacting on so many people.

In 2025, Christian Aid Week focuses on the struggles of communities in Burundi and Guatemala, particularly those impacted by poverty and climate change. The campaign aims to raise awareness and funds to support these communities, encouraging people to take action and pray for those facing hardship. Your money can support communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis. In Guatemala, extreme weather is destroying crops, deepening hunger and threatening livelihoods. But with the right tools and training, farmers can build sustainable futures.

Every pound raised can help;

- Provide climate-resilient seeds to help families grow food.
- Fund water conservation techniques to protect crops.
- Support vital training so farmers can build a sustainable future.



One farmer that is benefitting from this training is Aurelia in the Alta Verapaz region of Guatemala. It's here that the livelihoods, traditions and very survival of Indigenous farming communities are threatened by deadly droughts, damaging storms and industrial plantations. Aurelia has faced



extreme heatwaves that have killed her crops, but through Christian Aid's partner, Congcoop, she's learning to grow resilient crops, make fertiliser and conserve water. As an inspirational and ambitious leader, she's sharing this knowledge with others, helping her community build a sustainable future. You can learn more about Aurelia's experiences in the Christian Aid Daily Devotional booklet (11th-17th May) available at the church on both the 4th and 11th May. This year, Christian Aid will also be calling on the UK government to address reckless polluters and introduce debt justice laws to alleviate poverty.

Please donate if you are able and help raise a fantastic total for Christian Aid's 80th Anniversary!

Many thanks in advance
Caroline Taylor
Christian Aid Co-ordinator



<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2025/st-johnsrenfield-church-glasgow-ca-week>

EASTER POP-IN CAFÉ

Our Easter themed Pop-in Café was delighted by a special performance from the children of Kelvinside Academy Nursey. They entertained us with a poem with actions and song with dance moves.

The cake, quiz and coffee were enjoyed by all.

Our next Pop-in Café will be held on the 7th of May and mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day.



We hope to see you there.



Pop-in Café

Join our VE Day Anniversary community café!

Wednesday 7th May

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 and chat

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



Upcoming Events at St. John's-Renfield

Saturday 10th May 7:30: The Kelvin Choir return with their Spring concert under the baton of their Musical Director Tiffany Vong and accompanied by the Glasgow Chamber Orchestra. Tickets at the door.

Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th May at 8 pm: Our own Opera Bohemia will perform Puccini's Suor Angelica. Tickets from the RCS box office or from Shaun at [REDACTED] or on a Sunday morning.

Saturday 7th June 7:30: Members of the Glasgow Chamber Orchestra return with a light, fun summer concert. Tickets at the door.

Sunday 15th June 7:00: The Mackintosh Choir Summer concert, including "Feel the Spirit" a cycle of spirituals arranged by Sir John Rutter. Tickets at the door.



OPERA BOHEMIA
amicus
orchestra

SUOR
ANGELICA
Puccini

Friday 23rd & Saturday 24th May
8 pm
St John's-Renfield Church
£20, £7 (Under 18)
Tickets from Shaun
Shaun.digges@gmail.com
(Or at Church on Sundays)



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

At the time of writing, we have been on holiday for two weeks, but on the lead up to the holiday, we had a very exciting evening when we welcomed a police dog handler with three dogs. Police constable, David McIntyre, spoke to all the boys about how to approach a dog and what dogs who work for the police do. He brought each of his dogs into the hall in turn. First of all, we met Eddie, a Sprocker spaniel, who is nine years old. It has been Eddie's job to sniff out drugs or "bad medicine," but he is going to retire at the end of the year and will stay with David as a pet.

The second dog, Goose, a golden Labrador, is only a year old. He and David are in training to detect explosives with a big exam to sit at the end of training. If either of them fails, neither will have the chance to work in this field again. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity. We wish them both well.

The final dog stayed only briefly as she had been unwell, and was very uncomfortable in our hall with twenty wee faces staring at her. This particular evening was a highlight of the BB session for everyone.

We are working hard preparing for our Parents' evening on Tuesday 27th May at 6.30pm. We hope members of the congregation will make a note of the date and feel free to come along to show their support. We will meet for a further two weeks

after which we will finish for the summer with an eye on Tuesday 2nd September as the start of another new session.

Allan Watt and Aileen Morison (Officers - in - Charge)

Company Section

The Company Section session is whizzing by! After the Easter break, we are rolling on towards May when we will be holding our Company Section "Open Evening" on Friday 16th May starting at 7.30pm in the Large Hall. As per the last couple of years, this will be a shorter, less formal affair than our traditional "Inspections" with an informal opening, a couple of short items, and closing with the Presentation of Awards. Families, friends, and supporters of the Company are very welcome to join us on the night. We look forward to seeing you there!

On the awards front, we are happy to announce that we will have one President's Badge to award this year to Pte Felix Russell. Felix will now start his two-year journey to the King's Badge.

After the Open Evening we have a few outdoor evenings planned before our summer day out at Ratho, near Edinburgh, for some climbing and then surfing at the new Lost Shore centre. Here's hoping the weather behaves itself!

We are also hoping to squeeze in a return visit to Glasgow Tigers speedway one Friday night.

Five of our Senior boys are also off to Copenhagen at the end of May to participate in the Væbnermesterskabet "Senior Championships" which is a major event run by the Danish FDF

organisation for around 1600 young people, competing in teams in a variety of challenges at 45 different stations across Copenhagen over the course of 4 days.

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

Christian Aid

Christian Aid

Christian Aid

Christian Aid

Christian Aid

Christian Aid

Christian Aid

CRAFT SALE AND COFFEE MORNING

SAT 10TH MAY

CRYPT CAFE

KELVIN WEST CHURCH

UNIVERSITY AVENUE

10.30AM - 12.30PM

HOME BAKING

HANDMADE GIFTS

VINTAGE LINEN

Entry £3 (children go free) -
includes tea/coffee & biscuits
All proceeds to Christian Aid

Registered Charity SC 000289

A MATTER OF TASTE

Fair enjoyed that juicy apple
Orally, each bite down my thrapple
An apple a day (or so they say
hopefully) keeps the doctor away.

Some like salad, some like meat
Our own choice is what we eat
Just enough, not in excess
Checks his waistline, fits her dress.

Taste buds tell us each taste type
Whether fruit is raw or ripe
Salty, savoury, bitter or sweet
Is it too sour for me to eat ?

To survive we need some food
None or little is no good
Like the tale of Mother Hubbard
Many have an empty cupboard.

By John MacMillan

LIFE AND WORK

MAY 2024

General Assembly 2025

Interview with the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Rosie Frew
Reports to the Assembly
Assembly Timetable

'We Are All Connected'

Christian Aid Week

Honorary Glaswegians

WW2 bonds between Guernsey and Glasgow

Hope for the Future

Touching Lives in Scotland's Poorest Places

A Day in the Life

New Series Focussing on Chaplaincy

Regulars

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church

Worship column by the Rev Roddy Hamilton

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

Bible study by the Rev Richard Baxter

My Church: Karen Mathers of Prestwick South Parish Church

Plus: official update from the Assembly Trustees, readers' pictures, news, letters, reviews and puzzles – all for £3.50. Visit

www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe or speak to your church's Life and Work co-ordinator.



LIFE AND WORK
THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

MAY 2025
£3.50

IN THIS ISSUE

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Meet the Moderator-Designate
Assembly timetable
Reports to this year's meeting
in Edinburgh

'We are all connected'
Christian Aid Week

Honorary Glaswegians
WW2 bonds between Guernsey
and Glasgow

Hope for the future
Touching lives in poorest places

and much more all for £3.50

WHAT'S ON MAY 2024

Sunday 4 th	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.
Wednesday 7 th	Pop-In Café SJR Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m. Kirk Session – 7.15 p.m. Small Hall
Saturday 10 th	Craft Fair at Crypt Café, Kelvin West from 10.30 am to 12.30 p.m. Kelvin Choir Spring Concert 7.30 p.m.
Sunday 11 th	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m. Christian Aid Service
Friday 16 th	Church Sanctuary open for Spring Fair donations from 10 am-12 noon then from 7pm.
Saturday 17 th	Spring Fair – 10 am to 12 noon.
Sunday 18 th	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.
Friday 23 rd & Saturday 24 th	Opera Bohemia at 8 p.m.
Sunday 25 th	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.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 June 2025 Beacon is required by

Friday 23rd May 2025 midnight

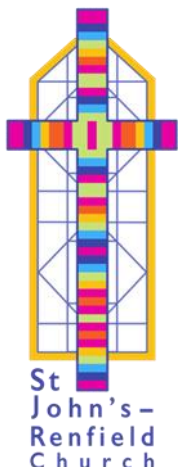
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

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www.sjrchurch.com

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