

# The Beacon

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

**Magazine No 393**

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

**2025**

**Feb**

**Mar**

**April**

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# Minister's Letter

A few years ago, at a school Easter service, a wee boy in P2 or 3 told me that he knew what Easter was all about, 'It's the Easter Bunny's Birthday – my Granny told me.' You can't tell a wee one of about 6 or 7 that his Granny was talking rubbish, so I simply said something like, 'Well in church we celebrate something else.'



Around this time of the year (and certainly once retailers have finished with 'Mother's Day') the word 'Easter' starts to be bandied about a lot - usually in conjunction with chocolate, eggs, sweets, special holiday food, holiday breaks etc. We might even hear some commentators pointing out that the word 'Easter' is derived from a pagan Germanic Spring goddess, Eostre. Anglo-Saxons who became Christians used that name for their Spring-time celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, but the story of Easter most certainly does not come from a Germanic pagan myth. The church had been celebrating the resurrection of Jesus for nearly six centuries before the Anglo-Saxons began to adopt the Christian faith.

In the earliest days of the church its members were all, and then primarily, Jewish by background and beliefs. To them Jesus was the fulfilment of God's promises through the Law and the Prophets, so it was natural for them to celebrate the Jewish festivals like Passover – but understanding God's salvation from slavery and call to be his holy people in a new way. Even though the church membership gradually became more 'Gentile' by background, there do not initially seem to have been any 'festivals', 'seasons' nor a liturgical year (which is why some of the more strict Reformed traditions do not celebrate Christmas or Easter). Rather the church celebrated the

birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension of Jesus and the coming of the Spirit each Sunday!

By the Second Century the church seems to have developed a special Spring weekend - for fasting, reflection and celebrating Baptism and Communion - linked to the Jewish festival of Passover. It was the forerunner of Good Friday and Easter Day. They called it 'Pascha', a word derived via Aramaic (Jesus' native tongue) from the Hebrew word for the Passover Festival (Pesach). Many modern European languages use a word derived from Pascha (eg French Paques) for the day we call 'Easter Day'. In Northern England (at least when I was young) dyed hard-boiled eggs prepared for Easter Day were sometimes referred to a 'pace-eggs' or 'paste-eggs' - terms derived from that same word 'Pascha'.

Whatever word(s) we use to describe that special Spring weekend, however much advertisers, retailers etc seem to have commandeered the word(s) to sell merchandise and experiences, for us the core importance is not just what happened a long time ago, but that Jesus is alive now. He is with us each day. He demonstrated that God is active and cares about his world, that God has shared in the suffering of the world, and promises us that in the end the way of goodness, truth and love will have the last word. That's much more exciting and long-lasting than a chocolate egg or a holiday weekend!



Happy Easter/Pascha/whatever!

**Rev. Ian Johnson**

## **Pulpit Supply – April**

6<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Audrey Jamieson (AGM)

13<sup>th</sup> – Ian Reid (Palm Sunday)

20<sup>th</sup> – Rev Roger Sturrock (Easter)

27<sup>th</sup> – To be Confirmed



## **PARISH RECORDS**

### **Funeral and Memorial Services**

*“Nothing can separate us from the love of God”*

Elise Allan, passed away on the 12<sup>th</sup> March at Buchanan Lodge Nursing Home. Her funeral will be held at Bishopbriggs Crematorium on Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of April.

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

... the special after service coffee, in tribute to Eleanor Murphy on Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> of March raised a fantastic £405 for the Beatson Cancer Charity. Grace MacKay would like to thank everyone who contributed.

\*\*\*\*\*

... SJR is acting as an exam centre for students studying online, during the months of May and June. There will be changes to the office hours and some church activities during this time so stay tuned for updates.

\*\*\*\*\*

... the Olive Tree Charity returns after service on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> of April. They will once again be selling Palestinian crafts and products to support those in desperate need.

# Vacancy Update

As reported in the March Beacon, we have been given permission to begin the process of seeking to call a Minister. Assistant Session Clerk Susan Finnigan and others recently completed and submitted a Vacancy Schedule to the satisfaction of the Church of Scotland's Faith Action Team and we have been advised that, unless any member of our church or of Presbytery lodges an objection by Saturday 29 March 2025, our congregation can take the next steps towards calling.

Rollkeeper Jim Tassell will make sure our Electoral Roll is up to date; a member of Presbytery's Property Committee will inspect the manse; and a member of Presbytery's Vacancy Advisory Committee will meet with the Kirk Session (time to be agreed).

Updating our Parish Profile is another job to be done before we advertise our vacancy. The Profile will give potential candidates an overview of the life and work of our church, and will reflect the congregation's views about what we're looking for in our next Minister, and what s/he can expect from us. Please share your views by completing a short survey. Please remember St John's-Renfield is **your** church and your opinion counts. Copies of the survey are available in the church or you can complete it online here: <https://forms.gle/rMZC7MDAonmrnL3G8> You don't have to identify yourself on the form and we won't be able to see your email address if you respond online. ***Don't miss the closing date of 13 April.*** If you'd like to help write our Parish Profile, please get in touch with any member of the Leadership Team.

If all the background work goes smoothly, we should soon be in a position to appoint a Nominating Committee. Church Members and Adherents are eligible for nomination to the Committee and you are invited to consider whether you would be willing to be nominated to serve in this way. We will advise you as soon as we can of the process and timetable for electing the Nominating Committee, and will keep you informed of progress Sunday by Sunday and in the Beacon.

**Leadership Team**

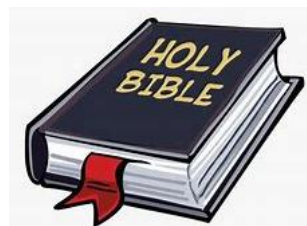
## **Discovery Programme Update**

Our Discovery Group has met weekly since late February to think about St John's-Renfield's role as the church in Kelvindale. As you'd expect, our conversations are very much a starting point and we're generating more questions than answers! We'll report back to the Kirk Session and in the Beacon later in the spring.

Helen Barclay, Carolyn Calder, Nick Calder, Sarah Hamilton, Christine McCann, Pat McGill, Shirley Maxwell, Aileen Morison, Zoe Thomson.

### **Reader Rota - April**

6<sup>th</sup> – Grace MacKay  
13<sup>th</sup> – Jim Tassell  
20<sup>th</sup> – Susan Finnigan  
27<sup>th</sup> – Sarah Hamilton





# Christian Aid Week

This year celebrates the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Christian Aid and we are hoping to raise as much as possible for this wonderful organisation that is close to our hearts. The main focus of this year's Christian Aid week (11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May) is to help poor communities around the world that are affected by climate change.

There will be more information about the appeal in the May Beacon – but I am just putting the online donation QR code here for anyone who feels they would like to donate sooner rather than later. 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. Please donate if you are able. There will, of course, be donation envelopes available at the church on both the 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of May, for those who prefer to donate that way.

Many thanks in advance  
Caroline Taylor  
Christian Aid Co-ordinator



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

# Support from The Scottish Government's Humanitarian Emergency Fund (HEF)



Funding from the Scottish Government's HEF continues to enable some of our work in places where there are hidden crises. In South Sudan we've received additional funding (£100,000) meaning our work supporting vulnerable refugees and returnees fleeing Sudan can be extended. In the Neno area of Malawi, we'll be distributing emergency cash grants. We're delighted to have been awarded £150,000 in a project which will benefit more than nine thousand people.

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## Easter Egg Donations

This Easter, we are once again supporting the Lodging House Mission Easter Egg Appeal and St. Gregory's Foodbank. Boxes will be in the Vestibule for chocolate easter egg donations. If you are unable to make it to the church and would like your donation collected, please contact the church office ([office@sjrchurch.com](mailto:office@sjrchurch.com)).



For the past two years we have reached the fantastic target of 500 eggs and we'd love to do the same again, donation envelopes are available in the vestibule for those who'd prefer to provide financial help.



# Spring Fair

Saturday 17th May 2025  
from 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 or Shirley Tassell



# The Youth Service on 16th March an Appreciation

The Sanctuary was a buzz of activity, with in excess of one hundred and thirty present, including Brownies, Guides, Boys Brigade, all their leaders, friends and family.

Members of the Youth Fellowship of 2000 and their leader Linda Moore were also welcomed back. There were colours on parade, readings and prayers from the young folks and a whole congregation, young and not so young, bopping up and down to the actions of Hallelu Hallelu Hallelujah We'll Praise The Lord!



Then to the opening of the Time Capsule from 2000.

The chancel was full of enthusiastic youngsters desperate to see the interesting content of the capsule. Rev Ian Johnson did a sterling job of keeping it all under control. Then to the hall for a light lunch and cake to celebrate the 5th Glasgow BB 140th anniversary.



Rev Ian Johnson, as our worship leader, was outstanding and we thank him most sincerely.

All in all, a great day. Thank you to all who came along.

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*The following extract is from a fantastic part of our Youth Service*

## **The Past and the Present - part 1**

### **BB READER 1**

Wow, who would have thought that on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025, the 5<sup>th</sup> Glasgow would be celebrating an incredible milestone, its 140<sup>th</sup> birthday! It's amazing to think where the Company has come from, how it started all those years ago, what we get up to nowadays, and to think about what the future holds.

### **GUIDE READER 1**

What an amazing achievement, and the 25<sup>th</sup> Glasgow Guide Company has also been around for a considerable number of years - 94 years to be precise! Only 6 years to go until our centenary! So tell me, how did the 5<sup>th</sup> Glasgow BB start all those years ago?

### **BB READER 2**

Well, it was on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1885, some 18 months after the founding of the 1<sup>st</sup> Glasgow Boys' Brigade at Woodside Hall, that the 5<sup>th</sup> started. The Company has forever been associated with St John's Renfield and its pre-deceasing churches. At its birth, the 5<sup>th</sup> was connected to Renfield Free Church and met on Thursday evenings in the Mission Hall at 199 Cowcaddens under the captaincy of Mr J Carfrae Alston – who also had the distinction of being the very first Boys' Brigade President and held that position for 24 years. Out of interest, when did the 25<sup>th</sup> Glasgow Guides start?

## GUIDES READER 2

Well, way back in 1910, Lord Baden Powell, who started the Scout movement, asked his sister Agnes Baden Powell to formally start the Girl Guides. When Lord Baden Powell died, he requested that his wife Olave took over the Girl Guides.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Glasgow Guide Company started on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1931. The movement thankfully managed to continue through World War 2, and grew in strength from there on. What sort of activities did the boys do in the early years?

## BB READER 1

Well, drill and discipline were favourites along with Physical Training. Camping was also a well-loved activity and, did you know, that the 5<sup>th</sup> Glasgow was one of the pioneers of BB camping. 1913 was one of our first camps at Kilchattan Bay on the isle of Bute. What did the Guides do in the early days?

## GUIDES READER 1

Girl Guides used to love marching, singing campfire songs, and doing various interest badges such as Firefighter, First Aid, Childminding, Knitting, and Sewing. So how did the 5<sup>th</sup> Glasgow end up here in St John's Renfield?

## BB READER 2

Well, in 1931, after an amalgamation of two churches - St John's Free Church and Renfield Free Church – which created St John's Renfield U.F. Church in 1926 - this present church building in Beaconsfield Road was opened and the 5th Glasgow moved into their new headquarters. Have your Guides been here at St John's since you started?

## GUIDE READER 2

Yes, for 94 years the 25<sup>th</sup> Glasgow Guide Company have been holding our weekly meetings in St John's Renfield. It's amazing to think of all the

girls that must have passed through these doors as Guides over all that time.

I want to know what's changed with the BB over the years, can you let me know?

## **The Past and the Present – part 2**

### **BB READER 1**

Well, back in the days after the Second World War, the 5<sup>th</sup>, in common with other Companies, struggled for Boys and had fewer officers. 13 ex-members lost their lives in service for their country during this war. However, the Company began to grow again with camping and the bugle band being central to the BB activities, and the Company held their annual camps both in the UK and abroad down the years. What sort of stuff did the Guides get up to after the War years?

### **GUIDE READER 2**

During the 1950's & 1960's Our Chalet in Switzerland was opened then Our Cabana in Mexico and Sangam in India were opened. Our Guides have been to Switzerland twice over the years.

In 2014 we went to County Camp with over 200 Guides at Gartocharn. The weather was terrible and on the Saturday all the tents blew down and we had to sleep in the Brownie House. Poor Eileen had to sleep in the kitchen as there was so many sleeping on the Brownie House floor.

### **BB READER 2**

Well, one important and notable fact that you might not know, is that the 5<sup>th</sup> Glasgow occupied a camp site in Glen Ashdale on the isle of Arran over a number of years, and the trigonometrical point at the top of Goatfell was erected courtesy of the 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **GUIDE READER 1**

Nowadays our Guides get up to all sorts of fun activities such as Sleepovers at Flipout and Glasgow Science Centre, lots of camps to Gartocharn and Auchengillan. Do the BB still do all that boring marching around, or have you come into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

#### BB READER 1

I'll have you know that we are quite good at Drill thank you very much. But that's only a very small part of what we do. We still enjoy weekend camps at Tignabruaich, although not so much getting bitten by midges, and we do lots of great events such as canoeing, mountain biking, climbing, racing simulators, skateboarding, wakeboarding, not to mention all the games and skills that we do and learn on a Friday night. What do you guys get up to these days?

#### GUIDE READER 2

Our Interest badges cover 6 sections which include Know Myself, Be Well, Have Adventure, Take Action and Skills for the Future. So what do you think the future holds?

#### BB READER 2

Well, who would have thought back in 1885 that the 5<sup>th</sup> Glasgow Company, and the Boys' Brigade movement as a whole, would be alive and kicking well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Many things have changed over those 140 years but, in a funny way, many things have stayed the same. You see it's all about having fun with your friends, while learning and developing skills that you can take forward as young men. I mean, the spirit of camaraderie and teamwork, and the great BB ethos still lives on in the 5<sup>th</sup> Glasgow today. That's why we still come. What do you reckon the Guides will be like in the future?

#### GUIDE READER 1

We think the future of Girl Guiding should consist of learning skills that set us up for life and provide us with the leadership abilities which we can use as we move into adulthood. In other words, help us to grow into well rounded and responsible citizens.

# Inside the Time Capsule

ENCLOSED IN THIS TIME CAPSULE :-

TOY CAR

NAIL POLISH

HAIR CLIP

PICTURES OF POPULAR TOYS

LEGO BUILDING BRICKS - VOTED THE TOY OF  
THE CENTURY

A TAPE OF OUR HOPES AND DREAMS.

THE FRONT PAGE OF THE MILLENNIUM COURIER  
(THE COURIER WAS A LOCAL FREE PAPER)

A PARTICK THISTLE PROGRAMME + RAFFLE TICKET  
(PARTICK THISTLE WERE THE LOCAL DIVISION 2  
FOOTBALL TEAM)

CLEVDEN SCHOOL - NEWSLETTER

CLEVDEN ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTERS  
(THEY WERE PEOPLE TRYING TO PREVENT THE  
SECONDARY SCHOOL BEING EXTENDED)

LOCAL HISTORY AS REMEMBERED BY MRS MAIR

THE CHURCH WELCOME PACK.

THE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP PRAYER

THE MILLENNIUM COIN - VALUE OF £5

COINS - £2, £1, 50p, 20p, 10p, 5p, 2p, 1p.

FIRST CLASS STAMP.

PAMPHLETS COVERING LEISURE INTERESTS OF OUR  
TIME

SWEET PAPERS, CRISP PACKETS

A PEPPERMINT

A PLAYSTATION DEMO DISC AND MAGAZINE  
COVER. (THIS WAS A POPULAR GAME / ENTERTAINMENT  
WITH ALL AGES OF CHILDREN)

A COMPACT DISC OF STEPS MUSIC.

(STEPS WERE A POPULAR GROUP IN THE YEAR  
2000)

PICTURES OF CARS.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF YOUTH ORGANISATIONS IN THE  
CHURCH - GUIDES, BOMB BRIGADE

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP  
MEMBERS AND LEADERS



Letter from inside the  
Time Capsule

11 Jan. 2000

Having been asked to write as oldest (92yrs) member of St John's Renfield Kirk Session I must admit to not being the longest serving member.

When my late husband - who had been Session Clerk of Finnieston Church - later called Kelvin Grove and later still Anderston-Kelvin Grove - for 30 years, retired from that office we decided to join St John's Renfield.

This was 18yrs ago and we <sup>were</sup> invited to join the Kirk Session by the Rev. Colin McIntosh in spite of the fact we had said we were going to take a back seat.

I was ordained an Elder in 1974 not long after women were admitted to the Eldership. I have been Sunday School Teacher, Bible class Teacher, Presbytery Elder, Commissioner to the General Assembly, Women's Guild Secretary and at present missionary Partner and Convenor of Tea + Coffee after Morning Service.

Not long after I joined St John's Renfield the church officer who had been there for years decided to retire and after some difficulty in finding a replacement we got one who turned out to be a rogue and vanished soon afterwards taking with him some church funds. We now have a gem called Peter.

Having lived in Kelvin Dale for some 40yrs I have seen many changes.

2.

Near St John's Renfield is Clevedon School on a site which was once a Riding School and young ladies could be seen riding up and down Clevedon Road. Very good manure could be obtained for the garden!

Then the school was built. The long awaited new building was to replace the dilapidated old Girl's High School in Renfrew St. A few years later it became Clevedon Comprehensive

When we came to Kelwendale 40 yrs ago it was called "Little England" - a village. supposedly because of the type of houses and many of the inhabitants were English. Then the shops were important - always busy and a good meeting place.

There was the paper shop and Post Office - a wee sweetie shop - a fruit, veg + flower shop, ironmongers  
the Bank, butcher, City Bakeries - hairdresser. Ladies + childrens wear a chemist and of course Massey's the Grocer with Campbell the "message boy" complete with his "barra" trundling up and down the road with his deliveries - mostly on Saturdays

Alas - most have gone, tho' we still have paper shop + Post office. Spar. Butcher. Hairdresser + Take Away. We hope the empty shops will come alive again for the benefit of "oldies" like me.

3.

Then there was Tony (from Sicily) the 'veg' who came round regularly to the door on a Friday or Saturday with his wares. Alas, no more.

Now we have J. Wood fishman from Pottenwean on a Wednesday.

The bus service - always a Cause for Complaint! It used to be a No 3. Moespark to Kelvindale - coming along Gt Western Road from St George's Cross <sup>(before the M8)</sup> up Clevedon Rd to the Terminals where the Corporation flats are now - reversed there + went back down Clevedon Rd.

There were queues for the bus in the morning from 8 to 8.30 or 9am. It would take 5-6 bus loads to get us all to work and school - many going to Hillhead - this before Kelvindale Primary was built. It was just as difficult getting home - long waits for bus. When we complained we were told we were "too articulate"!.

Even to-day there can be  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr waits for a bus. - how 44 A.

Wonder what the Transport System will be like in 2030.

Margaret M Hair



# St. Gregory's Foodbank

Whilst I was away, I am delighted to say that all continued smoothly under Mags MacDonald's watchful eye. We were however disappointed to have to close on the day of the great storm and consequently had to down many of our service users on what is often the busiest of days. Even though we managed to stay open throughout all of Covid, we had to be mindful of the safety of our service users and volunteers and reluctantly closed for that one day! We did put plans into place to have extra bags Fr Allan to give out at his front door, should anyone arrive in desperate need that day or over the weekend that followed.

Whilst Volunteers may come, sometimes they go - to jobs, family commitments or to a well-earned rest from what can be a pretty relentless effort. However, we continue to be blessed with many others who come forward to volunteer their precious time and energy to help keep us ticking over and covering the myriad of jobs that need to be accomplished to keep this "show" on the road.

My last update to you revealed the projected figures for 2024 but I am now able to append the final annual figures for actual numbers helped, bags given out and the estimated financial implications of these efforts covering the years from 2021-2024.

The year-on-year increase in demand is quite staggering and you can see that those attending our food bank for the first time during the year has also risen significantly.

It's only with the dedicated support of so many volunteers and donors like yourselves, at St John's Renfield, that we are able to continue, but we don't know where 2025 will take us.

Year	Adults	New Adult	Children	New Children	Total helped	Bags given out	Cost of Bags from 31/5/24 > £10.75	Cost of Goodie Bags 31/5/24 > .65p	"Cost" to St Gregory's
Actual 2024	23657	624	14872	328	39481	15326	163216	4297.60	167513.6
Actual 2023	16647	486	10082	265	27480	11616	115571.4	2314.52	117885.92
Actual 2022	11673		6291		17964	8672	78048	572	78620
Actual 2021	9130		5448		14578	6350	57150		57150

I hope this message gives you a snap shot of what's been happening since last we communicated. Feel free to share the contents of this message as you see appropriate and God bless you and your great congregation for your strength and steadfast support.

Kind regards

Eileen

Volunteer - St Gregory's Food bank



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

**April 6<sup>th</sup> ,13<sup>th</sup> ,20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Lead Elder:** Maria McFadyen with John McFadyen and Andy McCrindle

**Beadles:** Roddy Watt (6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>) John Allan (20<sup>th</sup>)  
Shaun Digges (27<sup>th</sup>)

## Summary Annual Accounts - Year ended 31 December 2024

General Account	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Offerings (incl. tax recovered on gift aid)		129,584		133,521
Fund raising, interest, grants etc.		19,018		15,639
Legacies, donations & grants		20,000		10,300
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>168,602</u>		<u>159,460</u>
Giving to Grow and Wider Work	69,009		68,819	
Local Staffing Costs	23,948		22,050	
Building and equipment costs	53,626		53,071	
Other local costs	3,392		3,519	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<u>149,975</u>		<u>147,459</u>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for year</b>		<u>18,627</u>		<u>12,001</u>
Balance brought forward		41,910		29,909
<b>Balance to carry forward</b>		<u>60,537</u>		<u>41,910</u>

Other Property Funds	Fabric Funds	Toilet Upgrade	Parish Development	Other Funds
	£	£	£	£
Donations (incl. Gift Aid)	0	862	0	6,746
Fund raising	0	8,550	0	0
Investment income	3,070	1,683	1,882	277
Grant receivable	0	13,613	0	0
Legacy	0	0	83,055	250
Increase in value of investment	2,312	0	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>5,382</u>	<u>24,708</u>	<u>84,937</u>	<u>7,273</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>	0	80,657	0	7,626
Donation - Cancer Research	0	1,000	0	0
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for year</b>	<u>5,382</u>	<u>(56,949)</u>	<u>84,937</u>	<u>(353)</u>
Balance brought forward	69,310	67,987	12,488	8,071
<b>Balance to carry forward</b>	<u>74,692</u>	<u>11,038</u>	<u>97,425</u>	<u>7,718</u>

# **Notes on the Accounts – Year ended 31 December 2024**

## **General Account**

The General Account shows an excess of income over expenditure of £18,627. Overall ordinary income increased by £9,142 to £168,602. The main items showed offerings down by £3,819 to £102,835 Gift Aid recovery up by £523 to £25,744. There was one legacy of £20,000 a grant £3,009 and £400 from our Boys' Brigade Company received during the year.

General Account expenditure increased by £2,516 during the year to £149,975. The main changes were an increase in salary costs and pulpit supply of £1,898 a reduction of £4,898 in property repair costs to £17,485. Heating and lighting increased by £4,991, Insurance by £1,046 and upkeep of grounds by £1,004. Equipment maintenance reduced by £1,211. All other costs fluctuated by no more than £1,000 each.

## **Project Fund**

We identified a need to upgrade all the church toilets to bring them up to an acceptable standard and also consider improving access to the Brotherton Hall. We have raised a further £10,095 towards the cost of this work and received a grant of £13,613. The toilets in the main building have been completed at a cost of £80,657. The fund currently stands at £11,038.

## **Parish Development Fund**

During the year we received a legacy of £83,055 to permit us to improve our profile in the parish. We also received interest of £1,882. The fund now stands at £97,425

## Looking forward.

This year we are looking at a significant deficit with a large increase in our commitment to Giving to Grow and increases in other costs. It is essential that we maximise income and control costs.

## Collections for third parties

	2024
	£
St Gregory's Foodbank (incl. Gift Aid)	6,000
Lodging House Mission	4,387
Olive Tree Scotland	2,476
Beatson Cancer Charity	2,219
Christian Aid	2,173
Fields of Life	1,055
Cancer Research	1,000
Young Lives vs Cancer	350
Red Cross in Ukraine	270
Crossreach	125
BBC Children in Need	56
	<hr/>
	20,111
	<hr/>

It has not been possible to fully quantify donations for others which have been made, since some members gave direct to the charities concerned.

We were able to send an extra £1,000 to the Foodbank in December over and above the £350 per month we normally give to help those families in real need over the Christmas period.

Gift Aid will also be able to be claimed direct by the charities on some of the donations listed above.



Donations in kind were also made during the year to St. Gregory's Foodbank, the Lodging House Mission and Christmas gifts for children through Glasgow, the Caring City.

## **Legacies and donations**

***We are grateful for the following legacies, grants and donations received***

***during the year:***

**£**

### **Legacies**

Bequest from Mrs Moira

Forsyth

83,305

Bequest from Miss Mary McKenzie

20,000

103,305

### **Grants receivable**

Listed Places of Worship Scheme

16,623

*Robin Hutchison  
Chairman, Finance Committee*

# News from Tiberias

Muriel Pearson, our Mission Partner, has updated her blog “Stepping out the boat”. To find it go to [murielpearson.com](http://murielpearson.com)

Muriel’s **blog** features a documentary called “**No Other Land**” made jointly by an Israeli and a Palestinian filmmaker.



At the Oscar’s it won best picture in the documentary category. You can watch it online or on Channel 4. Watch to get a sense of the poverty of the Bedouin people but most of all to get a glimpse of the dignity and courage of people who have been dispossessed several times over and whose community is threatened today.

Muriel has also sent a **letter** to Partner Congregations and Presbyteries about “What to do?”. She says that it is really important to be informed and to focus on what we can affect, rather than what we can’t. A vital example is writing to our MPs and the Foreign Secretary about UK involvement in arming and assisting the Israeli military.

Prayer is also important - informed prayer that recognises the humanity of all and the fragility of the current situation. A prayer from Christian Aid has been published in the March edition of the Beacon.

Muriel is hoping to visit the West Bank more frequently now that travel restrictions have lifted somewhat and that she hopes to meet with many partners in the North and find out about their programmes with young people and their leaders. She continues to lead worship in Tiberias and Jerusalem and work with staff in the hotel. She continues to enjoy time spent at Tabeetha school, a school run by the Church of Scotland which welcomes all children regardless of race, nationality, gender or religion.

She says “Let us stand in solidarity with all those who long for peace with justice for all. “

**Marjory Watt**

## Our 2025 Annual General Meeting ‘Together we can’

*Strengthen Relationships, Transform Lives*



With our Guest Speaker

**Margaret Fraser**

**Director of**

**Together Leading Communities**



Time  
6pm



Date  
30th April 2025

# Pop-in Café

Join the Easter fun at our community café!

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

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





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 Company Section**

Firstly, many thanks to everyone who supported our Coffee Morning at the start of March. An amazing £1700 was raised for Company funds. We really appreciate the backing we get from those within the Church and in the local community, and it was great to see so many friends in the Large Hall that morning. Thanks also to those congregation members who gave us donations even though they could not make it along on the morning.

The boys have now completed their First Aid classwork, which culminated in some CPR practical work with the "Little Annie" equipment. We also looked at topics such as Fake News, Skills for Life, and enjoyed a Murder Mystery Challenge during this month.

On the Glasgow Battalion front, we were delighted that our drill squad won the Limited Squad Drill trophy. Well done to all the boys involved.

We may be on holiday for a few weeks during April, but we won't be resting as we start to make plans for our annual Display which will be coming up on Friday 16th May!

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**

# THE GIFT OF HEARING

Did you hear a baby cry?  
Did the baby hear? Och aye !  
On day one, a girl or boy  
Welcome to 'a bundle of joy'

Is the ear a learning tool?  
Concentration, while at school  
Hard at times to beat the rest  
We can only do our best.

Did you hear that mellow sound?  
Cellos; birdsong all around.  
Sounds of nature and orchestral  
Through the ears they do enthrall.

Outer, inner, middle  
All quite a riddle  
Hammer, anvil, stirrup too  
Aurally, audibly, I hear you.

**John MacMillan**

# **LIFE AND WORK**

## **APRIL 2024**

### **‘A Calling Like No Other’**

The challenges of rural mission

### **No Spoilers**

Easter Reflection from the Moderator of the General Assembly

### **Following God’s Call**

Interview with Steven McLeish, poet, mental health and dyslexia advocate, and new Scotland Head for Leprosy Mission

### **A Nomadic Ministry**

The Joys of Pulpit Supply

### **‘The Hills Are Alive’**

The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Sound of Music

### **A Day in the Life**

New series focusing 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 updates from the Assembly Trustees and Faith Action Programme, readers’ pictures,

news, letters, reviews and puzzles – all for £3.50. Visit [www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe](http://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

APRIL 2025  
£3.50

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Joy of Pulpit Supply

‘A pivotal issue’  
Importance of Debate on Assisted  
Dying

and much more all for £3.50



# WHAT'S ON

## APRIL 2024

Tuesday 1st	Kirk Session Small Hall 7.15 p.m.
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Pop-In Café SJR Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m.
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m. AGM – Large Hall at 12.15 p.m.
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday - Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m. Olive Tree Charity here after service
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy Thursday Service being held by Kelvinside Hillhead
Friday 18th	Good Friday Service being held by Kelvin West
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Sunday – Easter Breakfast before Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	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

Susan Finnigan, Fiona Robinson, Shirley  
Maxwell and Roderick Watt

### Editor of Beacon

Alan Christie

Material for the May 2025 Beacon is required by

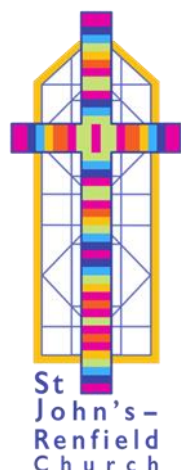
**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025 midnight**

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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