

The Beacon

St. John's-Renfield Church

Magazine No 392

www.sjrchurch.com

2025

Feb

Mar

April

May

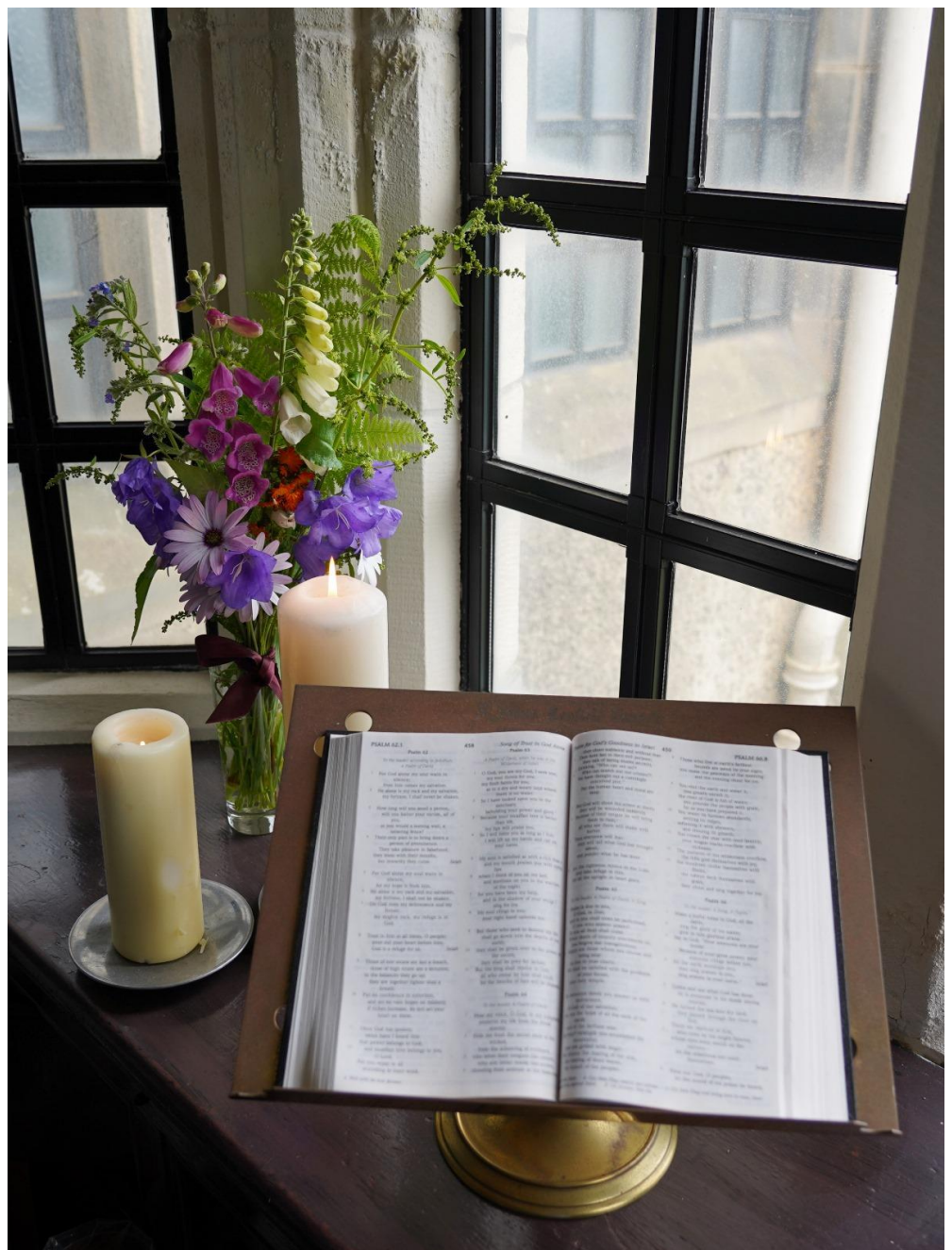
June

Sept

Oct

Nov

Dec



Minister's Letter

There is an old saying about the month of March, that it comes in like a lion, and goes out like a lamb, referring to the kind of weather people should expect – gales roaring like a lion at the beginning of the month, and mild, gentle weather at the end, like a new-born lamb. Even if that were once the case, with climate change traditional weather patterns are disrupted – and as they say of the West of Scotland, we can do four seasons in one day!



Lions are noted for their ability to roar, to make a loud noise that frightens other creatures and causes them to run away. We are familiar with people who do much the same thing: their tone, their volume, the words they use, are all designed to bully and intimidate other people and make them go along with what the person with the loud voice wants. Lambs on the other hand are traditionally understood to be weak and vulnerable, unable to stand up to any threat.

Lions and lambs are both mentioned in the Bible. Lions tend not to get a good press, because in Biblical times there were lions living in the Holy Land, and they had a reputation for attacking livestock and people. On the other hand, the leader of the tribe of Judah (including King David and his successors) was described as being like a lion, and that image was applied to the risen and ascended Jesus in the Book of Revelation.

Lambs appear more often. They were regularly used as sacrifices in the Temple worship, and the Suffering Servant in the Book of Isaiah is likened to a lamb being sacrificed. That was an image that the early

church readily adopted when they considered Jesus submitting meekly to his passion on Good Friday.

If you know the Narnia stories of CS Lewis, the 'Jesus-type' figure is the lion King Aslan who submits meekly to being sacrificed – and rises again, to go and confront, and defeat, the forces of the wicked queen. Jesus combines being both lion and lamb. He has a loving, caring nature that seeks healing and wholeness for everyone, but he is not weak. He is ready to speak out and roar against injustice and cruelty – though he does not bully or intimate, indeed he stands up to bullies. He looks to his followers to do the same, to be caring and loving, but also ready to speak out, without degenerating into insults or mockery.

In some places in the Bible, when speaking of the kind of world God would like to see, there is talk of fierce carnivores, lambs and little children living peacefully together. These images may not be intended to be taken literally, but they speak of the hope that with God's help and power the world can be a place where all can live together in peace. It may be hard to imagine that when we see/hear the news each day, but as we draw closer to Holy Week we are reminded that God ensured then that love, goodness and truth will have the last word.

Pulpit Supply – March

2nd – Rev. Ian Johnson

9th – Cluster Minister

16th – Rev Ian Johnson

23rd – Cluster Minister

30th – Rev Roger Sturrock



PARISH RECORDS

Funeral and Memorial Services

“Nothing can separate us from the love of God”

Ann (Nancy) Cumming, formerly of Nottingham Avenue on the 2nd
of January, 2025.

Eleanor Murphy, formerly of Whittinghame Court on
the 13th of January 2025

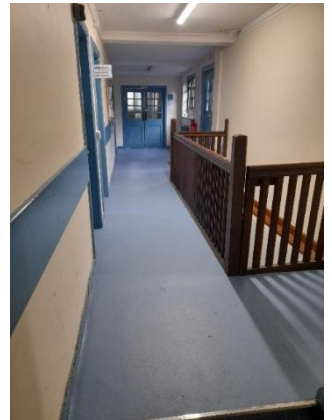
HAVE YOU HEARD THAT...?

... our Assistant Session Clerk announced to the congregation on Sunday 16th February that Presbytery amended the Approved Presbytery Mission Plan for Cluster 1E by allocating 1 of the 3.5 posts within the Cluster to St John’s Renfield Parish Church and approved the terms of the updated Mission Plan for the area. This gives St John’s-Renfield Church permission to seek to call a minister. Susan stressed that this was only the first step of what could be a long process.

...we’re taking part in *Glasgow Close Knit*, a project of the Presbytery of Glasgow with Lodging House Mission to mark Glasgow’s 850th. Individuals, churches, community groups and more are knitting blankets, or squares for blankets. Once finished, they will be displayed as pieces of art in Glasgow and surrounding areas from the middle of 2025 and then distributed by LHM to those who need them. Please leave your knitting efforts in the labelled plastic tub at the back door. Instructions on knitting the squares are at the tub.

... our Spring Fair is on Saturday 17th May 2025 from 10am till 12 noon. The usual stalls: bottle stall, hot rolls, new but unused gifts plus books and baking for catering and selling. Full details to follow in the April Beacon. Proceeds for Christian Aid and the SJR Special Projects fund. Many thanks from the Spring Fair - Ways and Means Committee

...our new floors look fantastic. The flooring runs from the toilets to the kitchen and down the stairs to the back door. Thanks to Jim Tassell and John Allan of the Property Team for organising the work.



...**Glasgow Chamber Orchestra** will treat us to a wonderful selection of orchestral music on Sunday March 9th at 7:30.

Plus **Opera Bohemia** joins forces with Amicus Orchestra for two performances of Puccini's heart rending 'Suor Angelica' on Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th of May at 8pm. Tickets from Shaun (shaun.digges@gmail.com) or from the RCS booking office.

Lenten Studies

The Lenten Studies will be based on the BBC series "Broken" and will be held in the Woodlands Hall on Thursdays at 7.30pm. Each week there will be a showing of a DVD clip followed by discussion. Tea and coffee will be available at the beginning of each study. Our cluster churches will be invited to attend. The dates are:



March 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th
April 3rd and April 10th

Roddy Watt on behalf of Rev. Roger Sturrock

March Communion

There will be some changes to how we serve Communion on Sunday 2nd March. Carrying of the Communion elements down the chancel steps can be quite challenging for Elders. So, as a Kirk Session, we have decided to change things a little.



A table will be placed at the bottom of the chancel steps with Communion elements on and serving Elders will sit on the front rows of Sanctuary chairs. Service of elements to the congregation will come from this table.

The minister, choir and 2 Communicating Elders will continue to sit in the chancel.

There are no changes to how the congregation are served, just remain in your seat and wait for Elders to serve you.

Please feel free to feedback any comments to the minister, your own district Elder, or any of the Leadership Team.

Susan Finnigan, Assistant Session Clerk



Arranging Your Flowers in March

Marion Dowling
Grace MacKay

You Email the Beacon

Dear Editor,

I wish to thank the members of the congregation for the support they gave the family on the occasion of the funeral of my wife, Eleanor 'Gibby' Murphy.



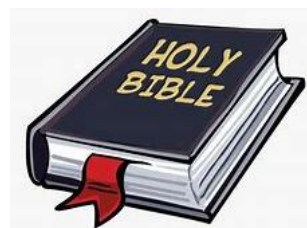
The singing of the hymns was magnificent, bolstered by the choir members among the mourners; Gibby would have been absolutely delighted. It really lifted the whole day; I found myself moved by it.

I am also very pleased to say that the retiring collection, with one or two other contributions, reached just over £1,000 for the St Margaret of Scotland Hospice in Clydebank; well beyond Gibby's expectations.

With all best wishes
Guy Murphy

Reader Rota - March

2nd – Grace MacKay
9th – Carolyn Calder
16th – Margaret Paton
23rd – Shirley Maxwell
30th – Jim MacDonald



A Tribute to Eleanor Murphy

I was asked to write a short contribution to this month's Beacon as part of a tribute to Eleanor Murphy. Where to start?

Eleanor had many talents, and facets to her gentle but strong personality that we shall so miss. She possessed a wicked (though never cruel) sense of humour; tremendous creativity; a love of music and a lifelong sense of the importance of service to others.

One way I remember Eleanor is by thinking of her hands - always busy. Creating beautiful flower arrangements; sandwich making for our Clevedon Club and Afternoon Communion; baking for church fund-raising events; sewing, embroidering and knitting



at Craft Group; playing the piano for ballet classes with such sensitivity and fun that those little girls "now middle-aged women" (Roger Sturrock) couldn't help but dance!

So many of us knew and treasured Eleanor through these and her other interests. When we feel her absence keenly, I hope we might find her again through them.

Grace MacKay

A Prayer from our Mission Partner

Prayer Points: Alongside Christian Aid, we pray that the ceasefire allows political leaders and negotiators to address the root causes of this war. In this fragile moment, we pray for a just and lasting peace and for the powerful to recognise the value of every human life.

We pray that families on all side of the conflict may be reunited and for the displaced to return home safely. May shelter, food, clean water and healthcare be accessible to all who need them. We also pray for the safety of humanitarian workers as they carry out their vital work.

God of life and love, we pray for those who remain fearful for their future and all those weighed down by pain, loss and trauma. May accountability and truthfulness lead to hope and healing and restoration and peace.

We pray for the congregation of St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias that they will grow in faith and number.

We pray for staff at Scots Hotel, Tiberias and Scots House Hotel Jerusalem, particularly for those staff currently unable to get work permits to leave the West Bank.

We pray for Tabeetha School, students, parents and staff who have maintained their open, hospitable and learning community, despite the war and who are now looking towards the future. In polarized times, the spaces where Jews, Christians and Muslims can come together are more important than ever.

We pray for those involved in reviewing the presence of the Church of Scotland in Israel/Palestine, asking for new insights and practical ways forward.

Muriel Pearson

YOUTH SERVICE & TIME CAPSULE OPENING



SUNDAY 16TH MARCH
11 AM

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

Everyone is welcome to see what's
inside the year 2000 time capsule and
stay for a light lunch

www.sjrchurch.com

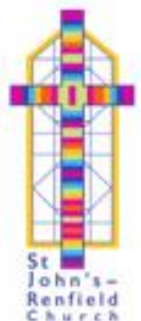
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Foodbank asks and Answers a Question

Have you ever wondered what happens to your cash donations when they reach the food bank?

St Gregory's Food Bank operates with a strong commitment to utilising 100% of cash donations for purchasing essential food items, ensuring that every contribution directly supports those in need. Our dedicated team of about 16 shoppers spends between £25 and £55 each week on staple items, guided by current requirements and donations received.

Additionally, a group of 7 members handle the procurement of cheese and eggs, with each spending approximately £70-£100 weekly. Our partnership with Barnhill Farm ensures a fresh supply of fruits and vegetables are delivered every Monday by Raymond, costing us £155. Furthermore, our weekly bulk orders from Aldi Milngavie, collected by our volunteers, typically exceed £450, reflecting the current demand. We also have a team who keep us stocked weekly with our bulk order of milk, sugar and noodles from Farmfoods, at a cost in excess of £300.

We are profoundly grateful for the generous donors who make it possible for us to provide comprehensive support to the community we serve.





SJR Welcome Team Door & Beadle Duties

March – 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th

Lead Elder: Moira Eaglesham with Pat McGill and Jim MacDonald

Beadles: John Finnigan (2nd and 9th) Fiona Robinson (16th and 23rd)
Shaun Digges (30th)

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



Easter Egg Appeal

LODGING HOUSE MISSION

Join our
Mission Initiative to
Share the message of
LIFE, HOPE and MEANING

by
DONATING Easter Eggs
With a label "A gift of Hope"
to be shared with our guests

Drop off 2-4pm, weekdays at:
LHM, 35 East Campbell Street Glasgow, G1 5DT

APPEAL RUNS THROUGH LENT:
ASH WEDNESDAY 5th March – PALM SUNDAY 13th April



Pop-in Café

Spring has sprung at our community café!

Wednesday 5th March

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 along - everyone is welcome to
join the fun and chat

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





First Pop-in Café of 2025

What an amazing turnout we had for our first Pop-in Café of the year. It truly was a community event with visitors from the new nursing home on Dorchester Avenue, Kelvinside Academy nursery and the Maryhill Hub. Special thanks to the Pop-in volunteers who were run off their feet catering for so many extra people.

We hope to see you on the 5th of March for our springtime event.



5TH GLASGOW 140TH BIRTHDAY



The 30th March 2025 is a milestone date for one of our Church youth organisations - the 5th Glasgow Company are 140 years old! The story started on 30th March 1885, some eighteen months after the foundation of The Boys' Brigade. The Rev. Marcus Dods, Professor Henry Drummond, and Mr. J. Carfrae Alston, who were all at the time in Renfield Church, got the Company off the ground, and they started their weekly meetings at 8pm on Thursday evenings in the Mission Hall at 199 Cowcaddens, under the captaincy of Mr J Carfrae Alston.

From its enrolment, the 5th Glasgow has been associated with the advancement and growth of the Brigade locally and nationally. Mr Alston, Captain from 1885 to 1888, was appointed the first Brigade President on 12th October 1885 and held that office for the first twenty-four formative years of the organisation (William Alexander Smith, the founder, had declined the post of President in favour of that of Secretary).

In 1901 an officer was enrolled in the 5th Glasgow who was also to become a leading figure in BB circles - William D Scott. Mr Scott was appointed Captain in 1905 and held that position until 1950, our longest serving Captain.

With the onset of war in 1914, Mr Scott, now a Brigade Vice-President, served as Recruiting Officer for the 16th Battalion, The Highland Light Infantry (known as the BB Battalion due to the large number of BB personnel connected with it) and subsequently served as adjutant and Second-in-Command of that Battalion. In 1931, after an amalgamation of churches - St John's Free Church

and Renfield Free Church creating St John's-Renfield U.F. Church in 1926 - the present church building in Beaconsfield Avenue was opened and the 5th Glasgow moved into their new headquarters.

The Second World War, 1939-1945, again had a serious effect on the BB and the 5th Glasgow, but after the war the Company began to steadily grow in numbers again.



The 5th Company in 1954

Like many other Companies of the time, camping and the bugle band were central to the BB activities, and the Company held their annual camps both in the UK and abroad down the years.

As times have changed, so has the Company, and while things may be less militaristic nowadays, we still offer boys a varied selection of fun activities and events, all with the BB Objective in mind: "The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness." So, as we celebrate this landmark occasion, join us at the Youth Service on 16th March, where you might even get a slice of our birthday cake!



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 & Junior Section

The Junior Section and Anchor Boys continue to enjoy the routine of following their programme which has the aim of ensuring that each boy has covered all the necessary areas which will allow them to achieve their badges at the end of the session.

The Junior Section had a great night out at the Partick District Ten Pin Bowling competition with considerable success. Meanwhile, the Anchor Boys had a good night playing lots of games and as the evening coincided with Chinese New Year, the Anchor Boys went home with red envelopes containing chocolate coins.

Throughout the month of March, the Junior Section will continue to prepare for the Partick District drill competition with high hopes of them retaining their position as district champions.

We will enjoy a break during the first two weeks in April. When we return for the final term on Tuesday 22nd April, we will be busy preparing for our open evening in May.

Summer will be here before we know where we are!

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

Company Section

The BB session seems to be flying by, and the Company Section continues apace with a busy schedule. Our February highlights included a tranche of First Aid classes, talking about Mental Health, and the Invictus Games, and an Insect Eating Battle (yes, you read that correctly - have a look at our social media feeds for the evidence!).

Pte Felix Russell completed his Building your Skills course and is on schedule to receive his President's Badge at the end of this session.

Congratulations to Pte Jackson Burns & L/Cpl Vincent Russell who claimed second and third place respectively in the Glasgow Battalion NCO's Drill competition, in which the boys were tasked with commanding a squad through a set drill routine. It was no easy feat but both Jackson & Vincent did a great job.

On the Partick District competition front, we had lots of success at the Tenpin Bowling competition - Pte Harris Paterson won the Junior event, Pte Lukas Carvalho was victorious in the Intermediate event, and Pte Felix Russell scooped the Seniors title with L/Cpl Hamish Matheson taking second spot. As we go to press, we are looking forward to the Partick District Badminton competition, along with the Masterteam general knowledge quiz.

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!

Finally - Saturday 8th March sees the return of the BB Coffee Morning, taking place in the Large Hall from 10am - 12 noon. We are grateful for all the support people have given to this event in the

past, and we hope to see as many folks as possible on the 8th for the usual stalls - hot rolls, tea/coffee, car wash, bottle stall, raffles, and more!

STEDFAST



5TH GLASGOW BOYS' BRIGADE
COFFEE MORNING



SATURDAY 8 MARCH, 2025
10AM - 12PM
ST JOHN'S RENFIELD CHURCH

ADULTS £2 / CHILDREN £1

COME ALONG AND SUPPORT THE 5TH GLASGOW!

   <http://5glasgow.boys-brigade.org.uk>
Scottish Charity No. SC034527

THE EYES HAVE IT

The beauty of eyes
The magic of sight
The glory of sunrise
That gives us day-light.

The pupil, the iris, the retina too
All working together, so I can see you
Binocular vision takes in the view
One eye only, winking at WHO ?

Seeing nearby, or far, far away
Stars in the night sky, unseen by day
Grey geese in formation, like The Red Arrows
An eagle in flight, the flutter of sparrows.

Sometimes our feelings are hard to disguise
It's easy to show our delight or surprise
A gorgeous sunset, pink, purple, red
A feast for the eyes, before heading for bed.

John MacMillan

LIFE AND WORK

MARCH 2024

Served with Soul

A partnership between a West Lothian church and a charity offering companionship and meals to the local community.

Healing Brokenness

The work of mental health charity Kintsugi Hope

Spiritual Journeying

The Church of Scotland and Lent

Drawing People to Faith

Two more of the Church of Scotland's New Worshipping Communities

Shining the Light of God's Love

The story of a life transformed by one of the Church's Priority Area congregations.

Supporting Religious Education

A milestone for a Scottish Christian education charity.

Changing Lives

The work of Comfort International, which celebrated its 25th anniversary last year.

Regulars

The Moderator reflects on how God can be found in unlikely places

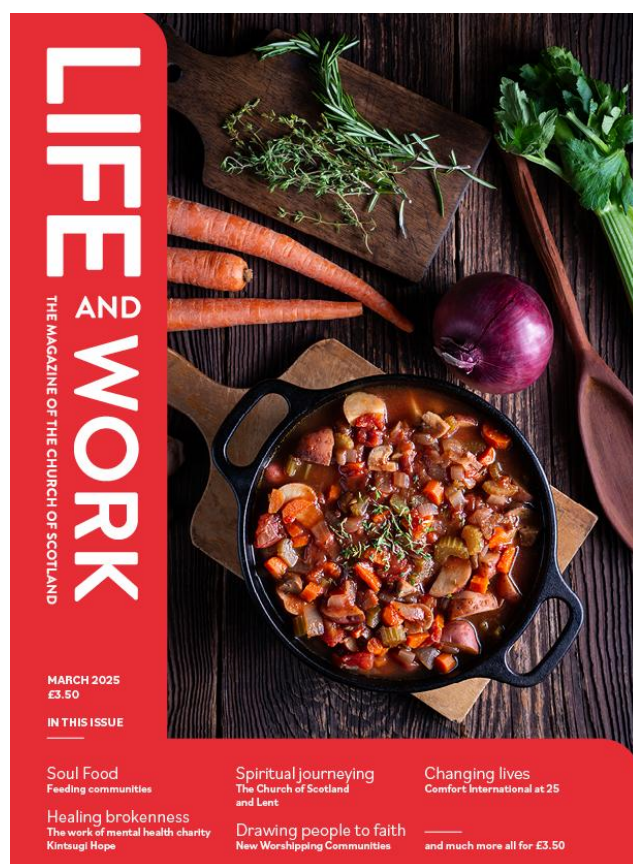
The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church

Worship column by the Rev Roddy Hamilton

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

Bible study by the Rev Richard Baxter

My Church: Rachel McWilliam, an elder at Edinburgh: Greenbank



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 or speak to your church's Life and Work co-ordinator.

WHAT'S ON MARCH 2024

Sunday 2 nd	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m. Communion
Wednesday 5 th	Pop-In Café SJR Large Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m.
Saturday 8 th	BB Coffee Morning – 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
Sunday 9 th	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.
Sunday 16 th	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m. Youth Service – Time Capsule
Sunday 23 rd	Morning Worship – 11.00 a.m.
Sunday 30 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

Susan Finnigan, Fiona Robinson, Shirley
Maxwell and Roderick Watt

Editor of Beacon

Alan Christie

Material for the April 2025 Beacon is required by

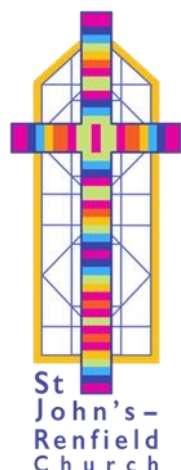
Friday 21st March 2025 midnight

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

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