

The Beacon

St John's-Renfield Church

Magazine No 325

www.stjohnsrenfieldchurch.org.uk

2017

Feb

Mar

April

May

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Dear Friends

On a recent visit to the hairdressers, I was assailed by Christmas music being played on the radio in the shop even though it was still only early November!

The commercial side of Christmas is now in full swing and we are being encouraged to stock up with all the goodies to (in the words of the John Lewis advert) have the 'best Christmas' ever! Paradoxically most of the Christmas songs are about relationships at Christmas time as exemplified by the song "All I want for Christmas is you.:

*"I don't want a lot for Christmas
There is just one thing I need
I don't care about the presents
underneath the Christmas tree
I just want you for my own
More than you could ever know
Make my wish come true
All I want for Christmas is you, yeah."*

Despite this, Christmas is often a time when there are more arguments between family members than at any other time of the year!

This year we have been remembering the beginning of the Protestant reformation when 500 years ago on Oct. 31st, Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door at Wittenberg – an event that led to a cataclysmic upheaval in Western Europe. Luther was a very charismatic and controversial figure in his day but he was a devoted family man and he grew increasingly cheerful as Advent and Christmas approached. One of his students wrote about him that:

"All his words and songs and thoughts concerned the incarnation of our Lord. Then he sighed and said, 'Oh, we poor people that we should be so cold and indifferent to this great joy that has been given us. For this is indeed the greatest gift, which far exceeds all else that God has created. Yet we believe so sluggishly, even though the angels proclaim and preach and sing, and their lovely song sums up the whole Christian faith, for 'Glory to God in the highest' is the very heart of worship."

So often we as Christians are sluggish in our faith as we approach Christmas and the temptation is to get caught up in the commercial 'rat race' encouraged by the omnipresent media. But Christmas is about relationships and pre-eminently our relationship with the Christ - child born in humble circumstances in a cave in Bethlehem. One of Luther's Christmas hymns has the stanza:

*“Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.”*

Perhaps Mariah Carey's song can be re-interpreted by Christians since the lyrics *“All I want for Christmas is you”* resonate with Martin Luther's carol!

As we approach Christmas may you all know the peace and joy of remembering that the incarnate God is with us at the very centre of our lives.

Roger Sturrock
Interim Moderator

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2017

Sunday 10 December	11 a.m.	Gift Service
Monday 11 December	2 p.m.	Afternoon Communion
Sunday 17 December	11 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6.30 p.m.	9 Lessons and Carols
Sunday 24 December	11 a.m.	Sunday Club Nativity
	6.30 p.m.	Family Service
Wellington Church University Avenue	11.30 p.m.	Watchnight Service (tea/coffee/mince pies from 11 p.m.)
Monday 25 December	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 31 December	11 a.m.	Congregational Carol Service

CHANGE TO WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

At the September meeting of the Kirk Session we were advised that the West End Parish Grouping had discussed the possibility of a joint Watchnight service to be held at Wellington Church, with our church being invited to join.

Wellington's watchnight service would start at 11 pm with tea/coffee and mince pies followed by the service between 11.30 p.m. and midnight. Both Kelvinbridge and Kelvinside-Hillhead had already advised they would be joining Wellington's Watchnight service.

Session had a lengthy discussion on the various implications and ultimately by a small majority decided to join with the other Churches in Wellington's Watchnight joint service.

This decision is for one year only and will be reviewed again next year.

In conclusion there will be NO Watchnight Service at St John's-Renfield Church. Instead we are all invited to join our friends in the Parish Grouping at

WELLINGTON CHURCH on 24th December at 11 pm for tea/coffee and mince pies with the Service starting at 11.30 pm.

Have You Heard That ...

- Robin Hutchison is stepping down from the position of Treasurer after no less than seventeen years in post! Such has been his exertions that the job is now to be shared out
- the recent Glasgow Phoenix Choir concert raised a magnificent £1,400 for the Organ Fund (read a review on page 7). We are very grateful to the W M Mann Foundation who have given us a donation of £1,500 which means that we have now reached our target and so can cover the costs of the organ repairs. (The late Aileen Mann was a former treasurer and the grand piano in the Sanctuary was gifted to us in her memory)
- Olive Tree Scotland will be selling Palestinian crafts in the Hall after worship on Sunday 3rd December (particularly appropriate in this season, read more about the good work of this charity on page 6)
- Vivienne Limond thanks everyone who sponsored her on her walk for St Margaret's Hospice. She has raised £800 (without gift aid)
- real postage stamps still appear on Christmas mail; snip them off carefully and put them in the stamp box in the east Vestibule from where they will be conveyed to Oxfam who raise revenue from them
- the next concert, 'Yule Welcome', by the Glasgow Lyric Choir will be held in the Church on Sunday 3rd December at 7.30 p.m. Works by Bach; Handel amongst others
- John Bell of the Wild Goose Worship Group is coming to St John's on the evening of Wednesday 31st January to share his expertise on worship with us. All welcome
- this is it from your Beacon team – well not quite, we'll be back in February.

OLIVE TREE SCOTLAND

Mrs. Juliet Robb of Olive Tree Scotland, a small voluntary group based in the west of Scotland, will be present on Sunday 3rd December. Juliet has been with us before as a regular at the Charity Fair every April. She has just returned from Bethlehem bringing lots of beautiful things which will be available for purchase.

Olive Tree Scotland is not-for-profit, non-sectarian and non-political with the following aims:

To promote a wider understanding of the situation in the Holy Land today including Israel - Palestine issues.

To support people, especially women and children, in the Occupied Territories who suffer deprivation in the current situation.

To buy and sell Palestinian crafts - thus providing employment, income and hope in a difficult economic situation.

CHRISTMAS STALL

Last year, you may remember we had a Christmas stall in December. This was an opportunity for you to bring in any Christmassy things which are surplus to your requirements, including cards, wrapping paper, decorations, duplicate gifts etc etc. There is no pricing, just a donation box. We raised the very creditable sum of over £300 which was sent to Embrace, a charity which works with partner agencies to alleviate the suffering of children in Syria. This year's charity is the British Red Cross Emergency Appeal for Syria.

Items for the stall can be brought in on 3rd, 10th and 17th December for sale on 10th and 17th.

Thank you.

Wilma Murphy



GLASGOW PHOENIX CHOIR CONCERT - 5TH NOVEMBER 2017

In recent years, the social life of St. John's-Renfield Church has been much enriched by a series of successful musical events. The acoustic quality of the sanctuary is widely acknowledged and we have excellent assets in the organ, piano and the resident maestro, Cameron Murdoch. He brought along his friends and colleagues of the renowned Glasgow Phoenix Choir to entertain us, while raising money for the organ repair fund. It was a pleasure and a privilege to be there.

As the concert began, the bright autumn sun shone through the church windows, putting us all in a good mood. For the rest of that Sunday afternoon, the talents of the conductor, the accompanist, the choir and the soloists continued to shine brightly. Marilyn Hill Smith, the conductor, communicated happily with the audience and set the scene for her varied choice of songs. In his accompaniments, Cameron gave us ample evidence of his skill on both the organ and the piano. There was variation too from the three soloists, who all sang beautifully and added colour to the programme. Kirsty Orchiston sang a Gaelic song, 'Lullaby for Kenneth'. Elspeth Shearer treated us to a moving version of 'The Lord's Prayer' and her second song was 'If I Loved You' from Carousel. Janette Walker chose a humorous song 'Someone's been Sending me Flowers' from Shoestring Revue.

Due to Cameron's involvement, it was appropriate that the money raised through the visit of the Glasgow Phoenix Choir enabled us to reach the funding target for the organ repair. The combined efforts of many at the Beacon Bonanza on the previous day had already made a massive contribution to the cause. Cameron explained that electronic parts are to replace the worn leathers in the organ mechanism. We can now look forward to enjoying the rich sound of the refurbished organ for many years to come.

John MacMillan

A touch of Nostalgia, a look forward and thanks – a message from the treasurer

“This should not be seen as a life sentence.” So said the minister when he “persuaded” me to take on the role of treasurer in 2000. So, seventeen years later, I feel the time has come to pass on the baton to someone else.

In the great clear-out I have come across accounts from earlier times. In 1953 the total income was £3,655 and a note that the treasurer, J A Young, “was looking forward to a continuation of this trend” of increased giving. In 1960 the total income was £5,901 and the treasurer was “complaining” that “performance lagged considerably behind our promises.” We jump to 1978 and a different treasurer, H R Wherry, when the total income had jumped to £27,529, including the first Bonanza which raised £2,460. He wrote “The last two months of the year were, to say the least, hazardous from the financial point of view..” This year to the beginning of November, the Church’s income from all sources is over £148,000 – and we still need more! We treasurers are definitely a breed apart!

We now move into the period when we ask you to consider your level of giving to Church work within Kelvindale and beyond for the year ahead and although I won’t be at the helm it is important that we stay afloat and keep income increasing. Please consider, prayerfully, your response to this request.

Lots of things have changed in the last seventeen years but some of the important things have not. This includes the commitment of members and friends to raising funds at events like the Bonanza and happily working together doing it. This year the total looks to be around £6,500. Sincere thanks to Isobel Digges and Shirley Tassell and their organising team.

There is then the commitment to be part of the finance team whether as Assistant Treasurer or Ways and Means convener, or Gift Aid and WFO organisers or “ordinary” members of the Finance Committee. I have merely held the purse strings – some may say too tightly! Thank you to all finance committee members for their support and advice over the years.

As an echo of all my predecessors, really the stars of the show have been yourselves for without you all my efforts would have been for nothing. Thank you **ALL** for your support throughout these seventeen years.

Merry Christmas and all the best for 2018.

Robin C Hutchison

NEW BEACON DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED!

The Beacon Distribution team, led by Elizabeth Arthur, are keen to hear from anyone who might be willing to become a distributor, to share the load of magazine delivery and perhaps allow some of the longer-serving members to 'retire'. Duties are not onerous, with each distributor being responsible for the delivery of approximately 10 magazines in one street in Kelvindale, for the 10 months of the year that The Beacon is produced. A good excuse for some fresh air and gentle exercise!

If you could help out, please contact Elizabeth Arthur.

To all current Beacon distributors: A gentle reminder that The Beacon is now published on the last Sunday of each month, and is available for delivery from this date.

The Beacon



5th Glasgow Boys JUNIOR SECTION UPDATE

Hi all, only a short update this month.

The boys have continued to work through the 100 challenges and have ticked off another couple.

5 boys recently attended the Science Centre Sleepover organised by BB Scotland. 400 boys in total were in attendance.

It was great fun for the boys who had freedom to explore the centre and attend science shows, not so much fun for the leaders who didn't get much sleep!!!

Final act of the year will be Christmas Party, again jointly with the Anchor Boys, with a bit of luck we will have a special visitor along too.

Hope you all have a great Christmas and New Year.

Thanks again for your continued support.

Allan Watt
(Officer-in-Charge)

THE POP-IN CAFÉ

The people are the most important in any situation, not least in the Pop-In café. What warm, chatty and friendly people!

Over a few scones and cakes we have made £400 for Glasgow night shelter and children in Yemen.

A lot of us are going for a Christmas lunch on 1st December at 12 p.m.

We will describe the three course lunch in the New Year! Woooooo!

Not content with that we are also meeting again on 6th December, 2 - 3.30 p.m. for a Christmassy tea and 3rd January 2018.

Do come and join us and Season's Greetings to all.



Bonanza 2017

Tickets & Donations	£ 1,693.10	27.04%
Bric-a-Brac	£ 569.83	9.10%
Jewellery	£ 193.40	3.09%
Soft Goods	£ 496.67	7.93%
Time & Talents	£ 578.50	9.24%
Bottle Stall	£ 339.60	5.42%
Brownies Raffle	£ 216.50	3.46%
Toiletries	£ 171.85	2.74%
Tuck shop	£ 26.40	0.42%
Toys/Games	£ 265.75	4.24%
Dolls Raffle	£ 20.40	0.33%
Whisky Raffles	£ 100.00	1.60%
Sports tombola	£ 72.00	1.15%
Coffee Shop & Lunches	£ 381.85	6.10%
Books	£ 461.43	7.37%
Cake & Candy	£ 270.45	4.32%
Plants & Produce	£ 336.88	5.38%
Car wash	£ 67.00	1.07%
Total at 4th. November	£ 6,261.61	100.00%

Thank you all !!

BOOK GROUP

Our next meeting is on Monday December 4th at 7.30 p.m. and our choice is 'The Outrun' by Army Liptrot. **Its setting in Orkney reminds us of someone!** Poetry theme: the healing power of nature or Orkney. The venue is Flat32, Whittingehame Court.

SUNDAY CLUB

First and foremost, we want to thank everyone for their support at the Bonanza - we had a very busy stall - our biggest for a very long time! So if you donated toys, or came and bought toys or helped set up the stall or served on the stall on the day itself - a very big thank you. We couldn't do it without you! The left-over toys were donated to nearby charities - so nothing went to waste!

We have been looking at the teachings from Matthew's gospel at the start of November and learning the importance of being prepared for everything that life can throw at us - understanding what Jesus wants us to be ready to do at all times. We have also studied honest living, not trying to be someone that we are not. Future teachings look at faithfulness and trust, self-giving generosity and being accountable for your actions...

Now we are into the festive season life gets very busy. On the 10th December, we have the gift service where all the toys donated are sent to Glasgow's Caring City charity and subsequently given to children in the city who would otherwise receive nothing. So please consider buying a toy, wrapping it and labelling it with the age/gender that it is suited for. Help spread some festive cheer! The children will be so grateful...

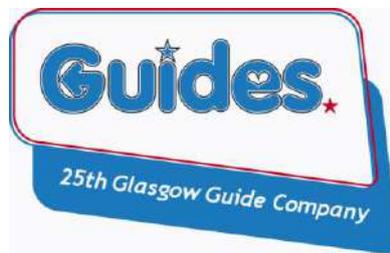
The Sunday Club children's Christmas party is on the 17th December in the Brotherton Hall during the service. Games, fun, food and a special visitor!

The nativity will be on December 24th and we have a small change this year in that it will be the non-rehearsal nativity that has previously been performed at the early evening Christmas Eve service. We hope that we will have a good number of both children and adults in attendance to take part – it has been very enjoyable previously and tells the traditional story in an alternative way! There will be children's costumes on the day – but they can come in their own if they prefer – and adults, please feel free to come dressed appropriately if you so wish! The more the merrier...

There is a family service on 31st Dec – so no Sunday Club. We will be back to normal on 7th January.

We all wish you a very Merry Christmas and hope you have a wonderful, peaceful and enjoyable break with family and friends.

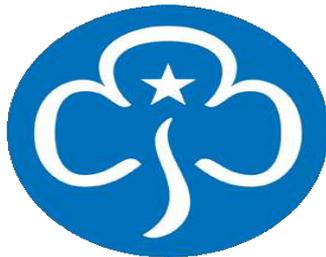
Caroline



**25TH GUIDES COFFEE EVENING
TUESDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2017
AT 7 PM
ST JOHN'S-RENFIELD CHURCH
LARGE HALL**

**Please come along and support us, we will have
a toiletries stall & craft stalls**

We can offer you Tea/Coffee and a piece of home baking for £1



VALERIE TAYLOR TRUST

From a recent Newsletter from **Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed in Bangladesh:**

"The physiotherapy gait practice harness is a newly launched assistive device. It is a joint venture between the Physiotherapy and Special Seating Departments. This harness is an affordable device manufactured by CRP's workshop using local materials and resources.

The harness system enables physiotherapists to challenge their patients while walking, and also keeps them safe."

Just one of the many current activities in the **CRP**.

Also a reminder at this Festive Season of the **Essential Gift Scheme**.

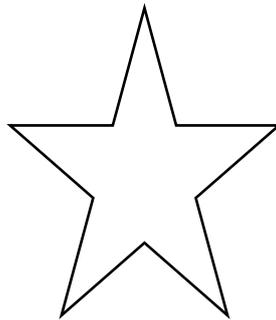
Leaflets in the church vestibule.

Contact Elizabeth Arthur.

Bryan Whitty

Hello Children,

I have drawn a star for the top of a Christmas tree. I want you to put your hand flat down on the paper with the middle finger just underneath the star, ignore your thumb. Draw round your hand, making sure there are no gaps in between your fingers, don't worry if it's not perfect, it will be imperfectly perfect. Once you're finished, you will have an outline of a tree, draw the trunk underneath it, draw decorations and colour it in and there you have it your very own Christmas tree. Merry Christmas, Beacon Butterfly 😊





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

The busy BB session has continued over the past month.

After the staff and Senior boys washed cars at the Beacon Bonanza, the boys and staff completed an afternoon of bag packing at Morrisons Anniesland at the end of November to raise money for Company funds.

Our Senior boy, Cpl Ewan Hay participated in his Queen's Badge Leadership course, which is one of the major steps along the way to gaining his award in May 2019.

The boys enjoyed an evening of *parkour under the expert eye of instructor Calum Johnston.

As we go to press, The Partick District Laser Quest competition has taken place and the defence of our District Drill crown is also upon us. As always, the results can be found on our website.

We also hope to have Senior boys competing in the Glasgow Battalion NCO's Drill competition in January, where our own Staff Sgt Charles Tod is the defending champion.

Also in December we will have our annual Christmas night out for the boys & staff. Arrangements are under wraps at present, but we're sure we'll all have a great night out!

STEDFAST

*Parkour is a training discipline using movement that developed from military obstacle course training. Practitioners aim to get from one point to another in a complex environment, without assistive equipment and in the fastest and most efficient way possible.

5th Glasgow Boys

ANCHOR BOYS NEWS

Having become aware that the Company Section and the Junior Section of 5th Glasgow Boys' Brigade Company keep you abreast of their activities on a monthly basis, I thought I should raise awareness of the existence of the Anchor Boy Section.

Each Tuesday evening, twelve very energetic wee boys, 7 x P3s, 4 x P2s and 1 x P1boy, participate in a variety of activities including drill, games, arts and crafts and Bible stories. The staff include one former member of the company section, one current senior company section boy and a new volunteer.

We have had a joint Hallowe'en party with the Junior Section and are already looking forward to a joint Christmas party on 12th December, when we hope a very special visitor will be able to attend!

There are not quite so many District or Battalion competitions for the Anchor Boys as there are for Junior and Company Sections, but we are participating in the Christmas and Easter Colouring Competitions. We had very good success with these last year and so look forward to hearing of the results with anticipation. Partick District is seeking to establish a Potted Sports Competition which we would anticipate joining in.

If you know of any boy currently in P1 - P3, at Primary School, please encourage them to come along and join us.

Aileen Morison
(Officer-in-Charge)

WORLD MISSION ENEWS

Every 2 months at the Main Door of the church I put out newsletters from the World Mission Council.

Now, in addition, **enews** can be received electronically. This gives-up-to-the minute World Mission information, plus dates of future events in Scotland.

To access the **enews** go to world@cofscotland.org.uk and ask to be put on the mailing list.

Marjory Watt

FIRST CONCERT OF 2018

A return visit on Saturday 3rd February from Glasgow Academy choir. Readers will remember their acclaimed performance a year ago; entry £10 will go to Alzheimer's Scotland, Actions on Dementia and Cancer Support Scotland (Calman Centre).



LIFE AND WORK : DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS

From Holy Land to Advent Centrepiece: The journey of a Christmas crib carved from olive wood

Christmas reflections from the Rev Lezley Stewart, Ron Ferguson, the Very Rev Albert Bogle and the Moderator

God With Us: the Rev Richard Frazer highlights the people on the move in the Christmas story

The Accidental Trailblazer

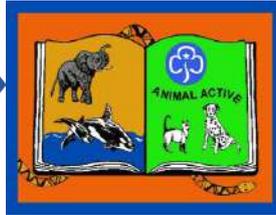
Thomas Baldwin meets the Rev Rola Sleiman, the first female ordained Christian minister in the Middle East

Signposts of a Living Faith

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers explains why radical change is needed to reshape the Church of Scotland to serve in future

Return to Chitambo

Ronald and Andrew Swanson, children of Church of Scotland missionaries, return to the Zambian mission station where they spent their childhood



Scottish SPCA

Give a Dog or Cat a Christmas Dinner

St John's-Renfield Girlguiding Good Turn for 2017

25th Brownies & 25th Guides are doing a Good Turn for dogs and cats this Christmas.

During the month of December we will put containers at the vestibules, we are hoping to collect

lots and lots of dog and cat food. We are going to split the food between **Cardonald Dog and**

Cat Home and The Dogs Trust.

Why not buy a dog or cat a Christmas dinner!

You can donate dry or wet food, we will keep you up updated with our progress.

Thanks in anticipation from Brownies & Guides in St John's-Renfield Girlguiding.

Eileen Wilson
Brownie & Guide Leader

Brownies



Guides

DUTIES

Welcoming you to Church in December

Jean Guthrie
Jennifer Stewart
Ann Cassells

Mamie Hamilton
Jim Tassell
Elizabeth Arthur

Anne Bryden

Crèche Rota

3rd December
10th December
17th December
24th December

Marion Dowling
Fiona Smith
Margaret Brown
John Finnigan

Maria McFadyen
Freda Gardner
Carolyn Calder
Susan Finnigan

Arranging your flowers

Grace MacKay, Maureen McWilliam, Elizabeth MacDonald

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Material for the February Beacon is required by

FRIDAY 12th January 2017, MIDNIGHT

The church is open to visitors outwith the usual hours of opening, between 10 am - 12 noon on Thursdays from April to October and at other times by arrangement with the Session Clerk (see telephone number above) A Guide to the church building is to be found on sale in the East Vestibule. The price is £1 with proceeds going to the Fabric Fund; the cash should be placed in The Beacon Box using the marked slot.

Church Office: (open Wed/Thurs/Fri 9 am – 12 pm)

Tel: 334 0782/www.stjohnsrenfieldchurch.org.uk/secretary@sjrchurch.plus.com

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CONGREGATIONAL DIARY

DECEMBER 2017

Saturday	2 nd	7.30 p.m.	BB Chippy and Quiz Night
Sunday	3 rd	11 a.m.	Morning Worship with Sacrament of Holy Communion
		7.30 p.m.	Glasgow Lyric Choir Concert
Monday	4 th	7.30 p.m.	Book Group
Tuesday	5 th	7 p.m.	25th Guides Coffee Evening
Wednesday	6 th	10.30 a.m.	Unlocking the Word
		2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	The Pop-In Café
Sunday	10 th	11 a.m.	Gift Service
		7 p.m.	The Mackintosh Choir Christmas Concert
Monday	11 th	2 p.m.	Afternoon Communion
Sunday	17 th	11 a.m.	Morning Worship
		2.30 p.m.	Service in Rannoch House
		6.30 p.m.	9 lessons and Carols
Wednesday	20 th	10.30 a.m.	Unlocking the Word
		2.30 p.m.	Service in Balmanno House
Sunday	24 th	11 a.m.	Sunday Club Nativity
		6.30 p.m.	Family Service
		11.30 p.m.	Wellington Church University Avenue Watchnight Service (tea/coffee/mince pies from 11 p.m.)
Monday	25 th	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	31 st	11 a.m.	Congregational Carol Service

JANUARY 2018

Wednesday	3 rd	2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	The Pop-In Café
Sunday	7 th	11 a.m.	Morning Worship followed by shorter service of Holy Communion
Tuesday	9 th	10.30 a.m.	Unlocking the Word