

# The Beacon

**St John's-Renfield Church**

**Magazine      No 330**

**2018**

**Feb**

**Mar**

**April**

**May**

**June**

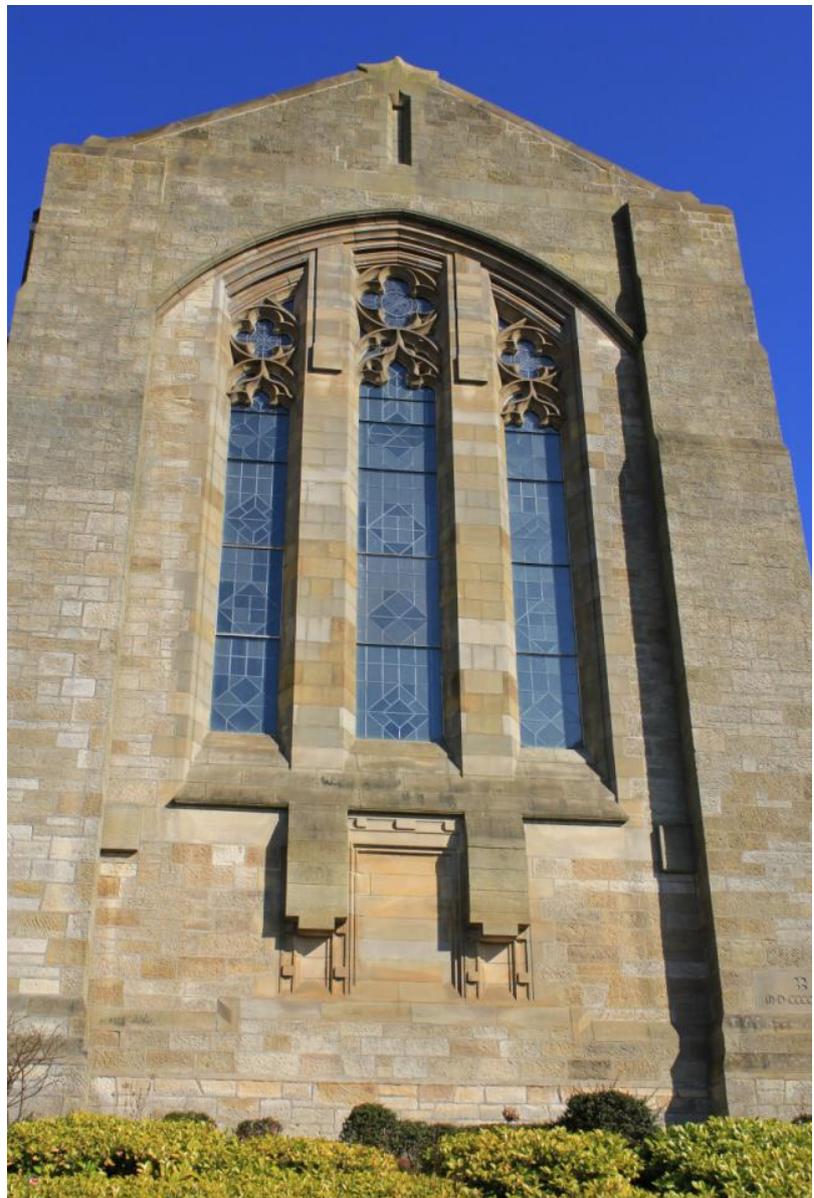
**Sept**

**Oct**

**Nov**

**Dec**

**[www.stjohnsrenfieldchurch.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsrenfieldchurch.org.uk)**



Dear Friends

The evening before writing this article I attended the “Grasping the Nettle” dinner in Motherwell at which Professor John Lennox of the University of Oxford was the speaker. “Grasping the Nettle” is an ecumenical organisation with the aim of giving a Christian scientific response via ‘respectful dialogue’ to the aggressive new atheism spearheaded by Richard Dawkins the author of the ‘God Delusion’ and others. Professor Lennox is a scientist and mathematician who has taken part in well publicised debates with Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins. The issues involved include the origin of the universe, the validity of miracles and the nature of human kind. These are big subjects but John Lennox made the point that we all have to be ready to give an account of why we are Christians.

The church has recently celebrated the season of Pentecost when the dramatic coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples in the upper room lead to the birth of the church. If you read the first seven chapters of the book of Acts you will be astonished how post Pentecost, the apostles and disciples were transformed from frightened men and women to bold advocates for the ‘good news’ of the risen Jesus Christ. In Acts. 7 we read the account of Stephen the first Christian martyr. He was falsely accused by the Jewish religious authorities of blaspheming against the Jewish law but when

challenged by the high priest, he gave a superb account of the Old Testament narrative focussing on the 'Big Picture' that points to the coming of the Messiah in the person of Jesus Christ.

You and I need to be able to respond to the Apostle Peter's injunction 'don't be intimidated but be always ready to make a defence for the hope that is in you' (paraphrase 1 Peter 3:15). We need to have a grasp of the biblical "Big Picture" and be ready to engage in respectful dialogue with our non-Christian friends!

Roger Sturrock

Interim Moderator.

## **'UNLOCKING THE WORD'**

The Bible study group will continue to meet fortnightly at 10.30 am on a Tuesday during May and June (22 May, 5, 19 June). During this time, we shall be looking at some of the Psalms, using material produced by the Scottish Bible Society in their *Conversations Studies* series. The idea is to share a conversation around the text, looking at the language and historical context and discussing how this relates to our present day context. The conversation tends to range quite widely (!) and there is plenty of opportunity for fellowship. The meetings are open to all and anyone is most welcome.

In the autumn, we shall again be using the Scottish Bible Society *Conversations Studies* material to look at Paul's Letter to the Colossians. The resources can be viewed at [www.scottishbiblesociety.org](http://www.scottishbiblesociety.org)

***Pat McGill***

## **200TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST JOHN'S-RENFIELD CHURCH**

At a recent Kirk Session meeting it was proposed that in 2019, we should remember our past, celebrate it and look to the future of St John's-Renfield. Hopefully by then, we will be led by a new minister, enabling us to further our work here and beyond. Kirk Session agreed and a committee is now planning celebrations for 2019.

At present all organisations have been contacted and given the opportunity to be involved in a 2019 Calendar.

200 Committee: Irene Stewart, Jonathan Allan, Shirley Tassell, Susan Finnigan, Margaret Paton.

## Have You Heard That ...

- the Spring Fair raised £1,636 for the Manse Refurbishment Fund
- the newly refurbished organ came back to life on the first Sunday in May with worshippers appreciating the many hued tones. At the end of the service Cameron played Widor's Toccata, widely regarded as a test of both instrument and organist. Needless to say, both passed with honours, to the acclaim of the listeners
- the West End Festival comes to St John's-Renfield on Sunday 17 June (7.00 pm) when the Mackintosh Choir present Summer Songfest. Something for every musical taste: Scottish collection, songs from the shows, songs of a Rainbow Nation etc, etc!
- Lodging House Mission are seeking volunteers to help in our kitchen and main hall. Duties are basic but the effect is huge. Can you spare 1 day per week, (or even a half day) to extend care and compassion to people who are on the margins of society by virtue of homelessness, mental health and addiction? Contact Gus on 0141 552 0285 or email enquiries@lhm-glasgow.org.uk
- the Summer Coffee Morning takes place on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. £2.00 for adults and free for children!! From 10 -12 as usual, with delicious nibbles, quality coffee and the well-loved book stall
- the Book Group particularly enjoyed a poem by Ben Okri - '*To An English Friend in Africa*' - find it online
- the laurels in front of the church have been trimmed - pretty short, but like us they will be back. See you in September.

## **CHURCH TREASURER WANTED – HELP!**

As you know, we have been looking for a Church Treasurer for quite some time. As we have so far had no success, we took a long hard look at the role, and the various tasks involved in it, and tried to see where we could reduce the burden.

As a result, we have now purchased a financial software package, which will help deal with all the day to day running of the church finances. It will also provide the reports that are required for monitoring and reporting to the Kirk Session, and most of the data required for the end of year reporting to OSCR, the Charity Regulator. Mary Glassford, the Assistant Treasurer, will input the data into this, and generate the required reports. Robin Hutchison has kindly agreed to continue to have input into the end of year report. Shaun Digges will provide any technical support that is required.

All aspects of salaries and associated pensions, tax and National Insurance are dealt with by David Cox. Linda Moore deals with Gift Aid and associated matters.

This means that the role of Treasurer, which is a post that we have a legal obligation to the Church of Scotland to fill, has markedly reduced in workload. The role will now require:

- Chairing the Finance Committee
- Providing reports for the Annual Business Meeting and Kirk Session (x4)
- Overseeing the finances

## In conjunction with the Finance Committee

- Guiding the strategic planning of the finances
- Managing the Annual Review of Giving
- Providing financial updates for The Beacon

This means that the role is far less onerous and time consuming. The person does not require any financial qualifications, but merely requires a degree of understanding of financial matters. They also do not need to be a current member of our congregation.

We need everyone's help to try to find this person. Perhaps it may be you, or someone you know. Please help us by giving it some thought, and approaching anyone who might consider it, or by passing any names on, to Graham Moore, Robin Hutchison, Mary Glassford or your Elder.

### *The Finance Committee*



## SUNDAY CLUB

Another session closes and we can't believe how fast it has gone!

It has been another great year with the children playing, learning, sharing, laughing and creating together. A huge thank you to the parents who have helped us this session- we couldn't do it without you.

Thank you also for your monetary contributions. We have filled lots of piggy banks with our "Dropping, Dropping" pennies and in doing so, we have helped a variety of charities including the most recent pig which was donated to the Water Aid appeal.

June 10<sup>th</sup> will be the end of session service with contributions from the youth of the congregation including the Sunday Club. The award of books to the Sunday Club children will also take place on this date.

Our annual end of session family picnic will take place in the Brotherton Hall after the service on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Bring along some sandwiches and we will provide the rest! That will be the last day for Sunday Club until the beginning of September. However, Summer Sunday Club will run throughout the summer thanks to our army of volunteers so come along and join the fun!

Can we take this opportunity to wish you and yours a lovely summer holiday. We look forward to seeing you all again next session – feel free to bring a friend!

***Caroline & Wendy***



## **WaterAid LENT APPEAL – JARS OF GRACE**

**As at 10<sup>th</sup> May we have raised £1,945** with WaterAid being able to **claim a further £300** through Gift Aid. This means a whole community can benefit from a new well, £1,670, which is magnificent. The remaining money could be used towards either hand washing facilities in a school, £160, OR the setting up a school hygiene club, £202, OR indeed both could be provided and WaterAid would still have a couple of hundred left to go towards something else.

However a couple of hundred pounds more from St John's-Renfield and they might be able to provide a school toilet block with handwashing facilities, which costs £800, in addition to the well, and we might just be able to do that as money has still to come from the Company and Junior Sections of the Boy's Brigade. Both Sections were holding their annual displays in mid May and as they were making collections during their respective displays they wanted to wait until they had ingathered all their funds before passing them over.

At present the Congregation lead the challenge having raised slightly more than the Youth Organisations but with further money to come from the Company & Junior sections this could all change. So if you haven't already donated it isn't too late as I will accept contributions up until the final figures are announced at the closing Youth Service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June.

Your support for this Lent Appeal and the Challenge has been much appreciated.

***Graham Moore***



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You as we say in Brownies to Rainbows, 25<sup>th</sup> Brownie Pack and 25<sup>th</sup> Guides who filled smartie tubes with coins for WaterAid. Also a very big thank you to everyone who supported Guides Soup and Sandwich lunch on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

### WaterAid Collection

Rainbows:	£121.00
25 <sup>th</sup> Brownies:	£193.33
25 <sup>th</sup> Guides:	£160.00
Guides Soup and Sandwich Lunch:	£305.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£774.33</b>

Both Brownie Packs, Guides and Senior Section are going to Division Camp in June where 131 girls and 24 leaders will hopefully have sunshine!

Rainbows finish on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June, Guides and Senior Section on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June and both Brownie Packs on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June and all start back first week in September.

Thanks to St John's-Renfield Congregation for continued support of Girlguiding.

We have vacancies in Brownies, Guides and Senior Section, please contact me if you need any information: [eileen.wilson@ntlworld.com](mailto:eileen.wilson@ntlworld.com)



## POP-IN CAFÉ

We had a Take-off Bake Off at the Pop-In café, for Cancer Research.

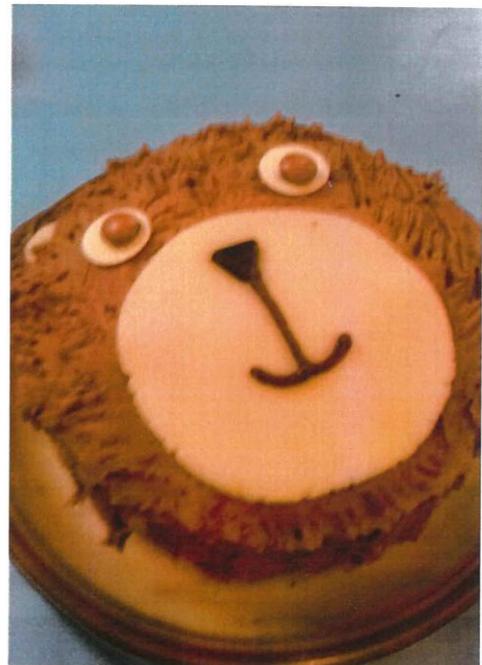
There were 4 contestants: Margaret, Marion, Nora and Seonaidh all dressed in Chef's hats! The contestants were asked to ice a face on a cake. They were only given 12 minutes and then asked to stand back from their handiwork.

Our judge M. Berry arrived to great applause.

Marion was the winner. However everyone received a prize! Bake-off oven gloves and tea towels!

Mary chatted very pleasantly to everyone and then left to more applause.

The **next Pop-In** is on **6<sup>th</sup> JUNE**. Usual tea, coffee, cakes and **prizes**.



The Judge

## 5th Glasgow Boys JUNIOR SECTION UPDATE

As a very quick and busy 17/18 session draws to a close, below is a brief summary:

Tuesday nights have followed the usual format: Inspection, marching, achievement activities, games.

In addition, we have been trying to complete some of our 100 challenges to celebrate 100 years of the Junior Section. We made some empire biscuits, met MPs, passed a ball 100 times, ran 100 metres, sampled cheeses of the world and even moved smarties with chopsticks.

We have attended several District events, achieving 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the figure marching and a very credible 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the five a sides.

We recently took two boys along to the Glasgow Battalion sports at the Emirates Arena, always a busy and well contested event.

One of the highlights of the year was attending the BB Scotland Sleepover at the Science Centre, although little sleeping took place.

Numbers have fluctuated a little this year with a couple of boys leaving us but four new boys joining during the year which is very pleasing. With nine boys being promoted from the Anchor Boys, we are already looking forward to a very strong 2018/19 session and hopefully even to regain the District Trophy, after a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in recent years.

We will finish our session with a couple of games nights (Tue 5<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> June). All boys P4 – P6 welcome.

We hope everyone has a great summer and will see you all again in September.

Best Regards

*Allan Watt*



## KELVINDALE MEMORIES

*One of our older members, a life-long Kelvindaler, posed some questions in the May Beacon.*

Well. How many knew where Crossloan road was? Well it was Cleveden Road and stretched from Great Western Road to the canal. Where Cleveden school is there were stables and the owner used to ride down the road on a white horse. At the canal was a Pipe works making field drains. The 4 inch diameter pipes were made from clay from the Kelvindale clay pit.

The BOMB landed in a garden in Chelmsford Avenue. I had been playing football with a boy that day who was killed by the bomb. He had been evacuated from the Channel Islands to be safe!

The Kelvindale shops were absolutely devastated. You couldn't walk down the road for the contents of the shops lying there.

The SHOPS in KELVINDALE:

2 ladies owned the corner shop where Spar is. It was a ladies' outfitters.

Next was Ross's dairy

The Post Office

Greengrocer

Miss Crawford, Sweetie Shop

The Bank

Mason, the Butcher

Torry, the Ironmonger

Grant, the Chemist

Hairdresser - Miss Blossom

Hubbard's Bakery shop

Ferguson, the grocer, who sold to Massey's.

More about Miss Blossom and her family and much more next time.

***Ken Morton***

## **5th Glasgow Boys**

### **ANCHOR BOYS**

As we approach the end of session, the following is a short summary of another successful year.

Fifteen Anchor Boys have enjoyed lively Tuesday nights participating in drill, games, art and craft activities and stories. Jointly with the Junior Section, we have enjoyed a haunting Hallowe'en party and the usual fun and games, with a very welcome, although not entirely unexpected, visitor at our Christmas party.

We participated in the Partick District Christmas Colouring competition with great success as previously reported and we are currently awaiting the results of the Easter Colouring Competition.

Following our display, again to be held jointly with the Junior Section on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 6.30pm., we will have two more Tuesday evening meetings filled with fun and games before enjoying our annual excursion on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June. This year we are visiting Almond Valley Farm Park where as well as seeing a variety of animals we will have a tractor and trailer ride and a train ride. We can't wait!

Of our fifteen boys, nine are currently in P3 and consequently will be moving to The Junior Section from September this year. This leaves us with six boys, two in P1 and four in P2. In order to maximise the fun we can share and to build a foundation for the future of 5<sup>th</sup> Glasgow Boys' Brigade Company, we need to recruit more boys. If you know of any boys who from August next session will be in P1, P2 or P3, please encourage them to come along and join in the fun. Equally, if any adults would like to support the current staff to provide fun, games and frolics for the youngest section of the Boys' Brigade, please feel free to speak to any Boys' Brigade officer or myself. You will be made most welcome!

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



**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)**

## **COMPANY SECTION NEWS**

Many thanks to all parents, friends and congregation members who attended our annual display on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May. We hope you enjoyed it as much as the boys did.

As we go to press, the boys and staff are looking forward to our overnight trip to Seil Island for our Seafari rib boat adventure on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. With all the boys signed up to go, we're hoping for an active and sunny trip!

Our final Friday night of the session will be on 8<sup>th</sup> June with a visit from BB Sports development officer Graham Cossar, who will lead us in an evening of ... weather permitting ... outdoor games.

Finally, after our summer break, the Company Section will resume on the first Friday of September. We hope to see any boys from P7 upwards for what will no doubt be a fun packed session!

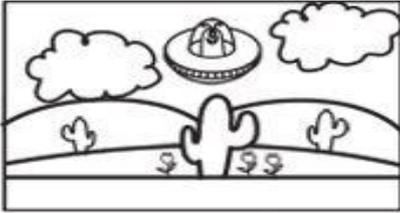
***STEADFAST***

Hello Children,

I hope you have managed to get out to enjoy the great outdoors. I have created a roll the dice game that you can play with your friends.

You will need a piece of paper each, a dice and pencils. Take it in turns to roll the dice and draw the appropriate item. Once you have each reached 6 go's you will have a landscape, you can decide what colours to put where.

Have a lovely Summer, Beacon Butterfly ☺



# ROLL-A-LANDSCAPE

1st Turn Air/Sky						
2nd Turn Background						
3rd Turn Foreground						
4th Turn Trees						
5th Turn Flowers						
6th Turn Extras						

## MEMORIAL CONCERT : SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2018

The weather was good. A parking space was hard to find. St. John's-Renfield Church was filled with fifty professional musicians and a capacity audience. All had come to pay tribute to the life and talent of John Maxwell Geddes, a gifted musician, teacher and composer. The musicians had all been taught, mentored or inspired by John. The concert programme consisted of a varied selection of his work. As he lived locally, you could say that he was a musical genius in our midst.

John Maxwell Geddes was born in Maryhill and attended Woodside Secondary School. He played the oboe and saxophone in Glasgow Schools Orchestra, then studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of music and the Royal Danish Conservatoire. He went on to stimulate the interest of countless children and older students in musical education. A prolific composer this concert was a small sample of his music whose unique style is valued worldwide.

The concert opened with a piece entitled 'The Wolf of Badenoch' well played by young brass students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. That was followed by a more familiar tune, 'Ae Fond Kiss', expertly arranged by John and beautifully played by the orchestra.

John's family was involved; daughter, Nicola, gave a beautiful rendering on her cello of part of her father's music 'Callanish IV', which was inspired by the stone circles in Lewis. 'Rose for Margaret' was written for the wife of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and was premiered in the Mackintosh church in 2017 with John's grandson Ruaridh playing solo violin.

Entry to the concert was by donation, the proceeds of £2,218.36 went to Cancer Support Scotland at the Calman Centre in Gartnavel grounds.

***John MacMillan***

## BOOK GROUP MAY 2018

Our choice this month was *'Small Island'* by Andrea Levy. It was a very timely choice as two of its characters came over to England from Jamaica on board the Windrush, in 1948; a topic which has been hotly debated in Parliament recently due to the treatment of those who fought for us as Commonwealth soldiers in the Second World War but afterwards were not welcomed or accepted. As you can imagine, there were lots of issues raised.

For our next meeting, we are going to link up with a former member of the Book Group (guess who!) so instead of a Sunday School outing, we will be having a Book Group Outing. (Sounds like a good title for a holiday read!). Everybody likes to catch up on their reading over the summer – if, dear Reader, you come across some books which you enjoyed, do let us know and we can share them in the Beacon.

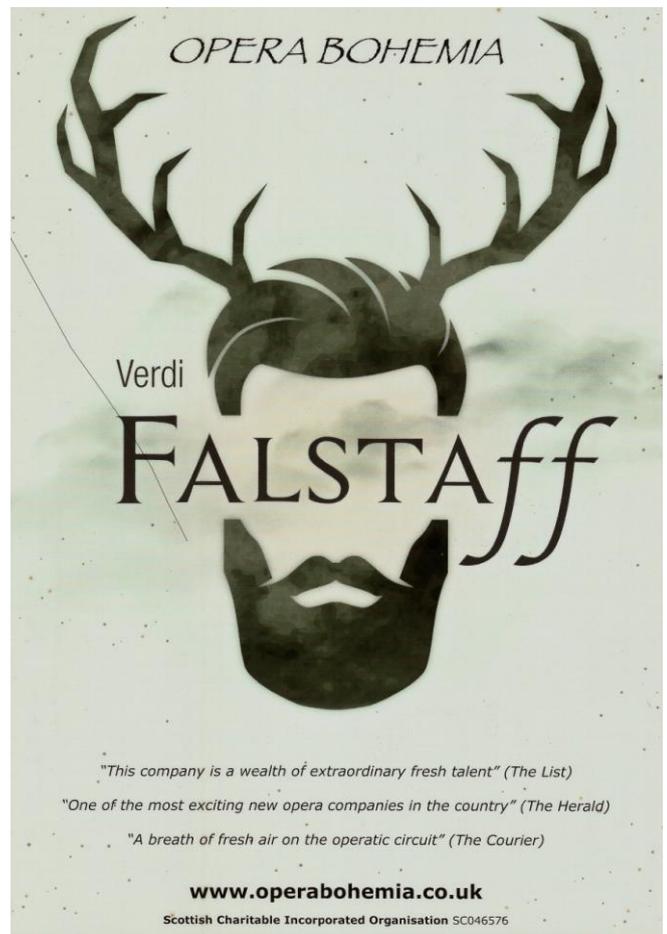
**Wilma Murphy**

## REMINDER

**Opera Bohemia** returns to the church on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August at 7:30.** with Verdi's comic opera "Falstaff".

Tickets for this performance will be available from Shaun & Isobel Digges on 334 8697 or the Church Secretary nearer the time. We had a full house again last year, so make sure you get your tickets early!!

Alistair Digges, Musical Director, is joined by award winning Director Adrian Osmond and Designer Kenneth Macleod to create a dynamic new production. Andrew McTaggart (remember Gianni Schicchi?) returns to play Falstaff, along with a star studded cast including, Hazel Mcbain, Douglas Nairne and Catriona Clark.



Material for the **September** Beacon is required by  
**FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018, 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](http://www.stjohnsrenfieldchurch.org.uk/secretary@sjrchurch.plus.com)

Registered as a charity in Scotland Registration No.SC012920

# CONGREGATIONAL DIARY

## JUNE 2018

Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	11 a.m.	Morning Worship
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m.	Unlocking the Word
Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Pop-In Café
Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 a.m.	Youngsters and Youth Organisations' Closing Service
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 p.m.	West End Parish Grouping (SJR)
Sunday	17 <sup>th</sup>	11 a.m. 2.30 p.m. 7 p.m.	Morning Worship with Sacrament of Holy Communion Service in Rannoch House Summer Concert - The Mackintosh Choir
Tuesday	19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m.	Unlocking the Word
Wednesday	20 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 p.m.	Service in Balmanno House
Friday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Kelvindale Primary School Service
Saturday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	10 a.m. – 12 noon	Summer Coffee Morning in aid of Manse Refurbishment Fund
Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup>	11 a.m.	Morning Worship

## JULY 2018

Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup>	11 a.m.	Morning Worship followed by shorter service of Holy Communion
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**The regular Sunday service will continue throughout the summer at 11 a.m.**