



The Beacon

St John's-Renfield Church

Magazine No 329

2018

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www.stjohnsrenfieldchurch.org.uk



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My Dear Friends,

The story is told of a young naval officer who was saved from dishonour in his first experience in battle. He was a mid-shipman still in his teens. The enemy gunfire was so terrifying in the midst of the battle that he felt as if he would faint. Just then a senior officer came over to him, placed his hand over the young man's and said with a note of confidence:

“courage young man, you will be alright, I felt the same way in my first battle.”

Reflecting some time later on those words the young officer said:

“I felt as though an angel had come and given me new strength.”

From that moment on his fear was gone and he was as brave as the most courageous officer. That word of encouragement was exactly what he needed. Although none of us are likely to be in a situation just like that, everyone experiences crises that calls for special strength and courage at some time or another. At such times we appreciate a hand on the shoulder, a pat on the back or a helpful word of encouragement.

I'm reminded of Paul's words to his fellow passengers on a storm-tossed vessel when they had lost all hope of surviving and those on board the ship were terrified for their lives. Paul told them he had been visited by an angel of God who assured him that not a soul on board would perish. Then he said:

"Therefore, take heart men for I believe God that it will be just as it was told to me." (ACTS 27: 25.)

Discouraged, disheartened, fearful people may cross your path today. The ministry of encouragement is what you can offer in Christ's name. A sincere compliment, an expression of appreciation, a comforting word of reassurance can be worth its weight in gold to a troubled or anxious person. The ministry of encouragement is something we can all have a part in.

Janis joins me in wishing you every blessing and every encouragement.

Eric McLachlan

A MESSAGE FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Our vacancy is re-advertised in the edition of *Life and Work* due out at the end April. What does this mean? Simply that we are following the plan we made last October to advertise every six months until the vacancy is filled. Be assured that we are being kept busy!

Alison Craig; Allan Watt (Secretary); Caroline Taylor; Christine McCann; Christopher Gardner; Fiona Robinson; Isobel Digges; Linda Moore; Robbie Allan; Robin Hutchison; Shaun Digges; Shirley Maxwell (Convener); Vivienne Limond.

WATERAID - JAR OF CHANGE LENT APPEAL CHALLENGE BETWEEN THE CONGREGATION & YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Lent is over and during the first three Sundays in April members of the congregation have donated **£547, with WaterAid being able to claim around another £100 via Gift Aid.**

What an excellent start.

The Youth Organisations have been on holiday during this period so we will need to wait until later in the month before we begin to see what they have raised. The Guides are holding a lunch on Sunday 29th which hopefully will significantly increase their fund raising.

See next month's Beacon for final totals and who is the winner. Will it be the Congregation or The Youth Organisations?

It's not too late to contribute. You can do this over the next few Sundays or if you can't manage to Church but want to help this worthwhile cause please phone me and I will arrange to uplift your donation.

Graham Moore

Have You Heard That ...

- Christian Aid Week is from 13th to 19th May
- it has been remarked that the church can be proud of efforts at fundraising last year – see precise details on page 6
- new tables and chairs, some with arms, have arrived in the small hall. They have come courtesy of Anniesland campus of Clyde College
- the next walk will be Saturday 26th May. Marjory and Roddy have very kindly agreed to organise this one, which will be in Stirling, with travel by bus. Details to follow nearer the time
- organ repairs proceed. The components of the old organ, having been sent south for refurbishment, were due back around our publication date. Re-assembly should be completed within two to three weeks thereafter
- the Bride's door will re-open on Sunday 3rd June and close again on Sunday 26th August 2018 at the close of morning worship
- with the Organ Fund having met its target, event proceeds, starting with the Spring Fair, now go to the Manse Fund to bring our minister's home up to Presbytery requirements
- the BB Display is on 18th May at 7.30 p.m. and they are hoping for as many of the congregation as possible to come along and congratulate the boys on their efforts.

Extract from the Accounts for the year ended 31 December, 2017

Collections for third parties during 2017			
Christian Aid (incl Gift Aid)			6,050
Lodging House Mission (incl Gift Aid)			3,224
Beatson Cancer Charity and Beatson Oncology Centre			2,574
Revive MS Support	(Concert and Charities Fair)		2,347
St Margaret of Scotland Hospice			800
Alzheimer Scotland			769
Brain Tumour Charity			769
Pancreatic Cancer Action			769
Projects India Charitable Trust			589
Make-a-wish Charity			110
Glasgow City Mission			100
UNICEF - UK			100
Borderline			75
			<u>18,276</u>

In addition, a number of charities were supported by direct contribution and the Charity Fair raised £1,745.

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

Donations were also made throughout the year to the local Food Bank, the Lodging House Mission, The Valerie Taylor Trust and Christmas gifts for children and also patients in Gartnavel Royal Hospital plus Dogs Trust and Scottish SPCA.

ST JOHN'S-RENFIELD PLAYGROUP

On Friday 22nd June, St John's-Renfield Playgroup will close for the last time. Due to a fall in the number of children attending we are no longer in a financial position to keep it going and sadly this difficult decision has had to be taken.

However, Playgroup celebrates its 50th anniversary this year and we intend to mark the occasion with a coffee morning on Saturday 19th May. It is quite an achievement to have been such a valued and valuable community resource for 50 years, and we feel this is well worth celebrating, even at this sad and difficult time. Please put the date in your diary, spread the word to families who have been associated with Playgroup and come and celebrate with us.

One of the early members nostalgically remembers: 'Painting at a stand-up painting board, playing with lots of toys and being supremely starstruck when meeting Santa Claus for the first time ever'.

If anyone has any photos or memorabilia, please hand in to Playgroup before the event.



1819 WAS A BIG YEAR

2019 brings the two hundredth anniversary of the foundings of the two churches that give our congregation here in Kelvindale its name.

To quote from the excellent short history produced to mark the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary:

In June 1819 two new congregations were established in Glasgow. Their places of origin in the Calton, just off the Gallowgate, were scarcely a hundred yards apart. Both were courageous missionary enterprises.

The population of Glasgow was booming and the existing church provision was not sufficient. The Church of Scotland created the new St John's Parish with a new building.

Renfield Church came from a different branch of Protestantism in Scotland, the Secession Church which had broken away from the Church of Scotland in 1733, as the members could not accept ministers chosen and imposed by local landlords or, in the cities, town councils.

Two different trains of thought, but a common impulse to act where a need was seen.

In time St John's also left the established church, with the Disruption of 1843 seeing the congregation one of hundreds that set up the Free Church, to which Renfield also adhered.

Ever conscious of where need could best be served and of the population drift to the west from central Glasgow, in 1856 the Renfield congregation sold their church in Renfield Street and moved to the corner of Bath Street and Elmbank Street.

Population movement west continued. In 1923 St John's left the city centre, to link with Renfield; four years later the need for a church in rapidly developing Kelvindale was satisfied with the move to Beaconsfield Road.

1969 saw the 150th Anniversary celebrated and Kirk Session has given permission for us to mark the 200th Anniversary in June 2019. Please keep your eye on The Beacon for future news!



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

April was a fairly quiet month for us due to the school holidays, however we're back in the swing now and looking forward to a busy few weeks.

Our recruits, Pte Alexander Bell, Pte Cameron Gregor, and Pte Christopher Watt, participated in the Glasgow Battalion Compass Badge Challenge which consisted of three elements - Drill, Scripture Knowledge, and BB Knowledge. Our boys did very well, coming second out of fourteen teams from across the city.

All our boys participated in the District Masterteam and Scripture Knowledge competitions. No winners, but the team of Pte Louis Shields and Pte Grant MacLennan were placed third in both events.

Our senior boy, Cpl Ewan Hay continues his work towards the Queen's Badge and is nearing the halfway point in the quest for the award. His aim is to complete this in May 2019.

After our display we have an overnight event planned up in Easdale, near Oban - staying in the village hall on Friday 1st June before enjoying the Seafari rib boat adventure on the Saturday morning. The boys and staff are looking forward to it, and hopefully the sun will shine and no one will be sea sick!

Finally the Officers and Boys of the 5th Glasgow Company Section would like to extend an invitation to you, on the occasion of our 133rd Annual Inspection and Presentation of Awards. The venue as usual is the Large Hall at St John's-Renfield Church, on Friday 18th of May 2018 starting at **7.30pm**. Both the boys and the staff would very much welcome your attendance on the night. There will also be tea and coffee in the Large Hall after the display is concluded.

STEDFAST



CALLING ALL GARDENERS AND BAKERS

SPRING FAIR

SATURDAY 12TH MAY 2018

The **Spring Fair** takes place on **Saturday 12th May** and all proceeds are going towards our Manse Refurbishment fund. We are looking for folks from the pews to donate plants and to get into their greenhouses and bring on the **cuttings and produce** to sell on 12th May.

After the success of last year's **Bottle Stall**, we will do it again this year. New for this year is a **Scarf Stall** - if we all look in our wardrobes and drawers I'm sure we can find lots of scarves that we've fallen out of love with but that someone else may just be looking for - as long as they are in very good condition and newly washed and ironed! Contributions for both of these stalls would also be very welcome.



We will also be delighted to receive donations of **summer reading paperbacks** into the Chalmers Room in the week prior to 12th May and **donations of home baking** on Friday 11th May and Saturday 12th from 9 am into the kitchen.



We are looking for **baking for both the tearoom and the cake stall.**

Tickets priced at **£2.00 to include tea/coffee** and baking are on sale now!

***Isobel and Shirley
Ways and Means Convenors***



SUNDAY CLUB

We enjoyed the Easter services - after waving our palms at the beginning of Palm Sunday and handing out crosses to the congregation, we had a great session over in the Brotherton Hall. This year, Roots had organised the lesson to include various activities corresponding to events through Holy Week. This helped the children to understand more clearly the circumstances and occasions, from the joyous arrival of Jesus at Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the crucifixion and then the resurrection a week later. We enjoyed a 'last supper' and explained the significance of this, discussed the betrayal and arrest, talked about the trial and Peter's denial (made a group picture with paper fish swimming one way - and having a goldfish swimming the other way to show that it's not always easy to follow Jesus - sometimes it means swimming against the tide) and finished with the children making crosses and decorating them in dark colours on one side to represent Good Friday and then with bright colours and the message - Jesus has Risen - on the other side for Easter morning. It was a great way to present Holy Week to the children - and one which we would be happy to use again. It is so important that they realise that this is the most important part of our Christian calendar - and why!



Easter Sunday brought good weather this year and so we had fun decorating and rolling eggs outside the church. We created lovely 'stained glass' crosses with tissue paper and black card in the large hall during the service and also card baskets with chocolate eggs! Great fun had by all - and thanks go to Janis (Eric's wife) for providing the baskets and eggs - and also to Anne Bryden for knitting gorgeous little chicks and putting chocolate eggs in - I know some of the congregation were lucky enough to receive one of these too!



Christian Aid week is almost upon us and we will be part of the service at the start of that week to hopefully give a morale boost to our collectors! We look forward to seeing you there.

Caroline 😊

THE POP-IN CAFÉ

In April The Pop-in Café had an Easter theme and a beautiful birthday cake. There were excellent prizes.

The latest event was the lunch on Friday 27th April.

On Wednesday 2nd May there will be the Take-off BAKE-OFF.

There will be the usual chat, tea and coffee. **However** 4 contestants will be icing cakes before our eyes!!!!!!.

The winner etc. will win a prize.

The prize will be presented by a famous face.

Then.....

we will eat the cakes

All donations will go to Cancer Research.



A very special person's birthday at the Pop-in Café and having fun at the Pop-in Café.

WORLD MISSION NEWSLETTER

Many people enjoyed the service on Mothering Sunday conducted by the Worship Group. Material was used from the World Mission Council which this year is highlighting **Women in the World Church**.

Copies of the Spring newsletter can be found at the main door of the Church. This issue focuses on the impact of the Easter story on women across the world: in Hungary, the Middle East, and Africa.

For the World Mission online edition go to:

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/world-mission

Marjory Watt

CROSSREACH UPDATE

In the last 12 months, CrossReach's Daisy Chain Early Years project in Govanhill, Glasgow, worked with over 240 children and 225 parents. As a result of your support and their expertise, together we have achieved the following:

- 91% of parents agreed that 'I feel like I am more able to spend time with my child when at Daisy Chain'
- 86% of parents said that 'I have made friends with other parents at Daisy Chain'
- 96% of parents saw that 'my child seems happier'
- 82% of parents indicated that 'my child seems more confident to explore the play area at Daisy Chain'.

Thanks to everyone who has donated and prayed for Daisy Chain over this last year. You can celebrate with us the remarkable accomplishments parents are recognising they have achieved. There is still much more to be done so please keep giving and keep praying. To find out about how you can donate or to receive a Prayer Diary, please contact Supporter Development on 0131 454 4374 or email us at supporters@crossreach.org.uk



Our own **Opera Bohemia** returns to the church this summer with Verdi's comic opera "Falstaff". The opera revolves around the unlikely protagonist Sir John Falstaff and his farcical attempts to seduce women in order to gain access to their husbands' wealth. **Sunday 19th August** is the date for St John's-Renfield – so pop it in your diary now!!

Like last year, the opera will tour to twelve venues round Scotland during July and August, from Strathpeffer in the North to Dumfries in the South, so if you can't manage on the 19th, how about 11th July at the Ayr Gaiety, August 16th at the Dundee Whitehill, 21st at the Greenock Beacon or 24th at St Cuthbert's Edinburgh?

Tickets for the Glasgow 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!!

Full details of all performances and booking information will be on fliers at the Church door from next month and are currently on Opera Bohemia's website. (www.operaboemia.com)

JUNE BEACON PREVIEW

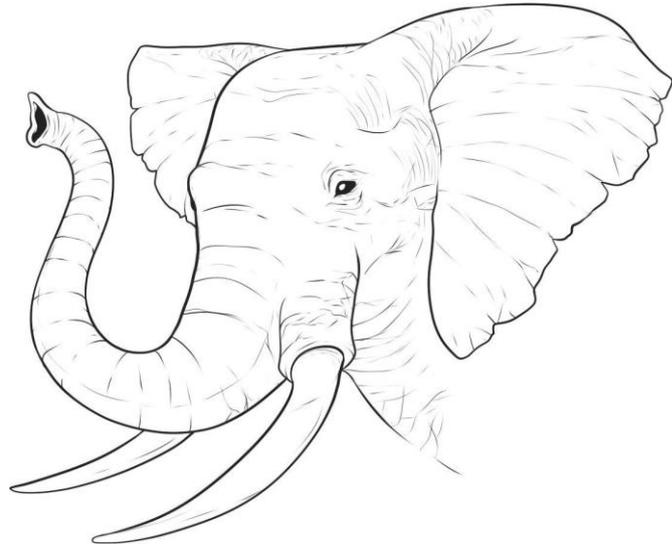
Where was Crossloan Road? Where did the bomb fall in Kelvindale in WW2? **KEN MORTON** will be answering these questions and providing more interesting facts about the history of Kelvindale.

So do not forget to get your June Beacon!

Hello Children,

I was wondering if you could help me finish off a drawing of an Elephant. I have got the head but I can't remember how the body should be. After you have drawn the body you could colour it in. Either the normal shade of grey or you could make a pattern or multi coloured. You can add in anything you like to the background.

Enjoy, Beacon Butterfly ☺





Valerie Taylor Trust

Helping the Disabled Poor and their Families

In November there was an Appropriate Paper Based Technology training forum. Appropriate Paper-Based Technology is a cost-effective way of producing personally designed assistive devices and other useful objects.

The objective was learning how to make APT items for indoor or outdoor use in dry countries or for use in any community room.

The program was very relevant to the participants, as the devices made by the trainees not only had therapeutic value but also were valuable in terms of recreational activities for the children.

Materials that can be recycled in this process are waste paper, thin cards and corrugated cardboard boxes. Flour is used to make the paste with waterproof paint helpful to coat the completed items. The only other things needed are a kettle or a pan to boil water, a suitable receptacle to make the paste, knives and a smooth stick. Once the technique is mastered, endless varieties of equipment can be made easily.

Bryan Whitty

LIFE AND WORK : MAY ISSUE

General Assembly 2018

Lynne McNeil meets the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Susan Brown. Reports, Assembly and Fringe timetables, Heart and Soul preview.

50 Years of Women in Ministry

The Rev Dr Margaret Forrester reflects on the journey which led to the ordination of women to the ministry in the Church of Scotland; and four female ministers reflect on their journey.

Dark Saturday

Ron Ferguson explains why there is much to learn in the journey from Easter to Pentecost.

YOU write to THE BEACON



Opening Doors to a brighter future for Glasgow's Homeless



35 East Campbell Street.
Glasgow G1 5DT
t: 0141 552 0285 f: 0141 553 0658
e: enquiries@lhm-glasgow.org.uk
www.lhmglasgow.org.uk

12th March 2018

Following the success of the 2016 project to commence Saturday opening, LHM decided to open on Sundays for the duration of the Winter Night Shelter (1st December 2017 till 31st March 2018).

I am delighted to tell you that the Board have made a decision to open **permanently** on a Sunday.

LHM's opening hours are now:

8am – 3pm, 364 days every year (closed NY day).

This is a major step forward in our aim to provide food warmth, security and a host of backup services to Glasgow's poorest and socially excluded citizens.

Please share this good news as appropriate.

Gus Smeaton

Manager

Material for the June Beacon is required by FRIDAY 11th May 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

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CONGREGATIONAL DIARY

MAY 2018

Wednesday	2 nd	2 – 3.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Pop-In Café Bake Off in aid of Cancer Research Kirk Session
Sunday	6 th	11 a.m.	Morning Worship followed by shorter service of Holy Communion
Tuesday	8 th	10.30 a.m.	Unlocking the Word
Saturday	12 th	10 a.m. - 12 noon	Spring Fair
Sunday	13 th	11 a.m.	Christian Aid Service
Wednesday	16 th	2.30 p.m.	Service in Balmanno House
Friday	18 th	7.30 p.m.	Boys' Brigade Annual Display
Saturday	19 th	10 a.m. – 12 noon	Playgroup 50 th Birthday Celebration
Sunday	20 th	11 a.m. 2.30 p.m.	Morning Worship Service in Rannoch House
Tuesday	22 nd	10.30 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Unlocking the Word Joint Anchor Boys and Junior Section Display
Saturday	26 th	Church Walk (meet at Bus Station)	
Sunday	27 th	11 a.m.	Morning Worship

JUNE 2018

Sunday	3 rd	11 a.m.	Morning Worship with Sacrament of Holy Communion
Wednesday	6 th	2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Pop-In Café
Sunday	10 th	11 a.m.	Morning Worship
Wednesday	13 th	7.30 p.m.	West End Parish Grouping (SJR)