

The Beacon

St John's-Renfield Church

Magazine No 324

2017

Feb

Mar

April

May

June

Sept

Oct

Nov

Dec

www.stjohnsrenfieldchurch.org.uk



Dear Friends

The election of our Nominating Committee on Sunday 1 October was an important milestone on our journey to finding a new Minister. Nineteen people allowed their names to be put forward for election, and we give thanks for and to each of the nominees for their willingness to serve. The election outcome and brief report of the Nominating Committee's activities to date can be read elsewhere in this edition of the Beacon. You are asked to encourage, support and pray for Committee members as they begin their task.

Due to advance planning, careful preparation and teamwork the first steps of the vacancy procedure - including the ballots relating to Ministers in civil partnerships and same sex marriages and the election of the Nominating Committee - were completed within a few weeks of receiving Presbytery's permission to proceed.

This same approach has enabled the life and work of our church to carry on thus far into the vacancy. Routine work continues to ensure that pastoral care needs are addressed, our buildings and grounds are looked after, our finances are overseen, the Sunday Club runs, the Bible Study Group meets, beautiful flowers decorate our Sanctuary, coffee mornings and tea afternoons are held, donations to the foodbank are gathered and delivered, fundraising for good causes continues, Beacons are produced, and much more besides. In addition, preparations for the Bonanza are well underway and plans are being put in place for our Christmas services. Further reason for optimism is the news that a small group of volunteers led by Laura Calder will launch a Sunday evening club for young people at the end of October.

A vacancy is a time of challenge, but as we can see already it can also be a time of renewed commitment and new beginnings. Let's be confident and positive about what lies ahead and look forward to the continuing involvement of our Lord in all that we try to do in His name.

We are blessed to have as travelling companions our Locum Minister Rev. Eric McLachlan and our Interim Moderator Rev. Dr. Roger Sturrock. Let us give thanks for their leadership, support and guidance and hold them in our prayers.

E D Graham Moore, Shirley Maxwell & Shirley Tassell
The Session Clerk Team

Have You Heard That ...

- you can bring your donations for the **BONANZA** , taking place on **Saturday 4th November**, on the evenings of Thursday and Friday (from 7 pm) and on Friday morning (between 10 am and noon)
- that there was an impressive amount of groceries donated on Harvest Sunday. Many thanks to the congregation, the Sunday Club, the Guiding Movement and Kelvindale MiniMarket (Londis). John Allan and Andy McCrindle delivered it all to the Lodging House Mission!
- the Organ Fund boosting continues on the afternoon of the day following the BONANZA – Sunday 5th November – when The Glasgow Phoenix Choir (Accompanist and Depute Conductor our own Cameron Murdoch) present in the church A Choral Celebration with songs from the Classics to Scots' Songs to Music from the Shows – "In honour of all who believe that Life was made for Friendship" (Doors open 2.30 pm)
- the new Crossreach Wall Calendar can still be ordered (cost £5 including envelope); please speak to Jim MacDonald after Sunday services or e-mail him at jmsgroc@aol.com. This attractive calendar features 12 full colour photographs of Scottish scenes. A sample is on display on Sunday mornings, along with information on other Crossreach products sold in aid of the Church of Scotland's social services. **Please order by mid-November**
- the Bearsden Choir return to our Sanctuary on Saturday 11th November at 7:30 with a concert of Brahms and Beethoven
- the Tea Afternoon had a competition for a snappier title – find out what the new name is and who conjured it up, on next page
- with Remembrance Sunday come round again, it is worth a reminder that the names on our WW2 memorial are memorialised in detail in the booklet available in the East Vestibule (£2 to the fabric Fund)
- the Boys Brigade have decided to run the Fish and Chip Quiz again this year. Final arrangements have yet to be confirmed but a provisional date for your diary is Saturday 2nd December. Look out for more information in the intimations, or contact Allan Watt re tickets.

THE POP-IN CAFÉ

('TEA AFTERNOON' NO MORE)

2 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. every first Wednesday afternoon of the month, next one 1st November. ALL welcome. Tell your neighbours. Spread the word!

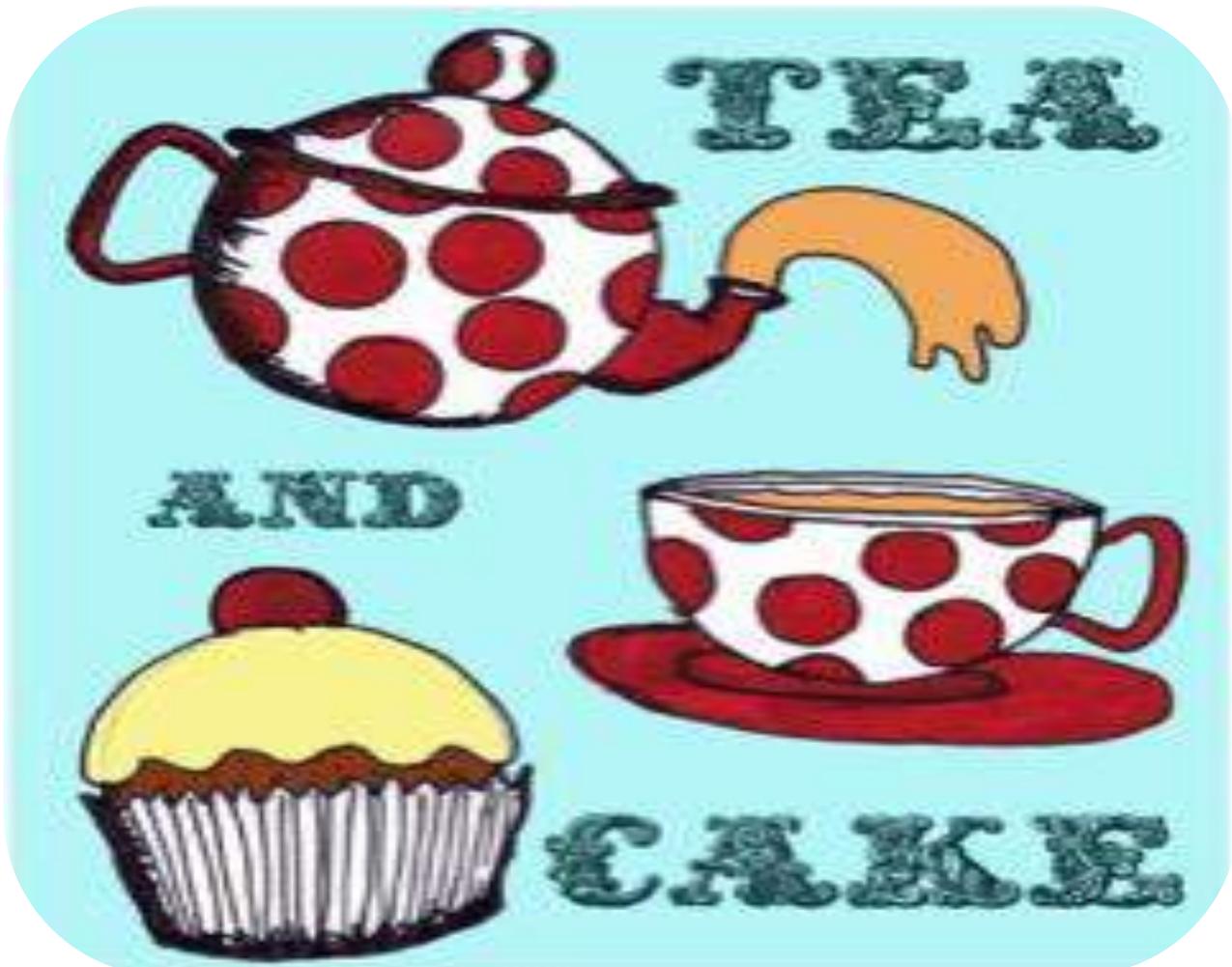
Free tea and coffee and a pound stall.

Star Baker in September was Nora from Burlington Avenue.

Places for the December lunch are all taken with a small reserve list.

Anne, Eileen, Freda, Vivienne

PS winner of the snappiest name title was Jean Guthrie who snapped up the grand prize of a ticket for the congregation Panto outing, plus a bag of chocolate drops to enjoy during the show! (surely *share with fellow theatre goers?* Ed)



REMEMBER, REMEMBER - SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2017 IS

'THE BONANZA!'

We are fast approaching our main fund raiser of the year. Anyone who wishes to help, but so far is not involved, please give Isobel or Shirley a call and we will gladly find something for you. It's good to be part of the event and it does not have to be for the full morning - one or two hours is fine. We are also looking for some help setting up on the Thursday and Friday nights and again clearing up on the Saturday after the event.

In the meantime:

please look out your **Forgotten Treasures** (quality G12 items please) bottles for the **Bottle Stall, Raffle Prizes, Toiletries, Cake and Candy, Craft Stall, Face Painting, Toys, Books, Jewellery, Time, Talents and Treats, Tuck Shop, Sports Stall** and plants for the **Gardening Stall**. All donations can be brought to the halls on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd November between 7pm and 9pm and also on Friday morning 3rd November between 10am and 12noon. Members of the BB will be on hand to help with heavy loads on the Thursday and Friday evenings and they will also be running a **Car Wash** on the Saturday morning.

We look forward to another successful event with lots of laughter and good fellowship as well as raising money for the Organ Fund!

Isobel and Shirley



SUNDAY CLUB

As we journeyed into October our thoughts turned to Harvest. The parable of the labourers in the vineyard helped us to introduce the subject of Fairtrade. The children watched an interesting video made by the Fairtrade organisation which explained how bananas grown in Colombia travel to our supermarkets. We saw how one farmer, Funchal, tended to his trees as if they were part of his family and we discussed how important the bananas were to the farmer and his real family. Without Fairtrade ensuring he is paid a fair price for his crops, Funchal would be unable to pay for necessities such as food, clothing and medicine. We discussed with the children why paying a little more for Fairtrade products makes such a difference to farmers like Funchal.

Closer to home, our donations of food at Harvest time make a huge difference to the people in need in our own city and we pray for those involved with the Lodging House Mission.

October's lessons continued to focus on vineyards in the parables told by Jesus. Through the stories we encouraged the children to analyse authority and question if the people we assume to have power use it appropriately. Needless to say, Mr Trump's name came up once or twice. It is interesting to hear the views of the children on such topical matters.

November brings the Beacon Bonanza. As usual, the Sunday Club will be in charge of the toy stall so spread the word to your friends, family and neighbours – we are looking for donations!

Wendy

NEWS FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee met on 8 October to begin the search for our new Minister. We were joined by Rev. Linda Walker, Vice Convener of Presbytery's Vacancy Committee, whose practical advice was most helpful.

By the time you read this, we hope that the parish profile will be available on the church website. We are preparing to advertise the vacancy in Life and Work, but it might be that you know a Minister who may be interested in applying. If so, please encourage her/him to do so, or speak to Nominating Committee Convener Shirley Maxwell or Interim Moderator Rev. Dr. Roger Sturrock. The business of the Nominating Committee is confidential. We will keep you informed of the process as it proceeds, but not the content, and there will be no feedback on any recommendations.

WORLD MISSION NEWSLETTER

Copies of the October/November newsletter can be found at the main door of the Church. This issue focuses on Women in the World Church. It includes stories about visits to Malawi, Bangladesh, and China.

Marjory Watt



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

COMPANY SECTION NEWS

The Company Section continues to build on a good start to the session with ten boys now attending regularly on Friday nights.

On the Partick District front, we entered teams in the 5-a-side football tournament and the Sports which were both held at Scotstoun. Both teams did really well considering we had a young team representing us, and all the boys had a great time. Well done to all those who participated.

As we go to press, the boys and staff have been cycling round Cumbrae on the last Saturday in October.

The boys' classwork also continues on a Friday night with the current topics being Recycling and Sign Language. Vaulting and trampolining have also been on the schedule.

During a busy month ahead, we will be washing cars at the Bonanza, and on Saturday 18th November the Company will be doing our annual bag packing effort at Morrisons Anniesland from around 11am-3pm so look out for us if you're in store that day!

Do keep checking our excellent website to keep up with our latest news.

STEDFAST

FUND-RAISING AND THE FUTURE - A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

By the end of November we should be almost there as far as raising funds for the organ repairs. This is thanks in no small measure to yourselves and the parish for your support at the Bonanza on 4th. November but also particularly to the Glasgow Phoenix Choir for the concert they are putting on for us on Sunday afternoon, 5th. November. The choir have waived all fees and expenses with all funds raised going to our organ fund. Please come and support these events.

That is great news on the organ front because we hope to be able to confirm soon when the work will actually take place.

At the same time we need to be looking forward to 2018. You know it's the same old story. This is the time we have our annual review of giving and when we ask you to prayerfully consider your level of giving for next year. It is very important you take time to do this.

Our Church has been running at a deficit or loss on General Account for several years now and has only been saved from financial embarrassment by sizeable legacies and donations received from time to time. 2017 has so far been one of the "fallow" years and as a result we are running up a significant deficit.

The bulk of our income comes directly from you, the members and friends of St John's-Renfield, and so it is vital that this is where any increase will come from.

We are counting on you.

The Church family values your contribution, whatever the size.

Thank you.

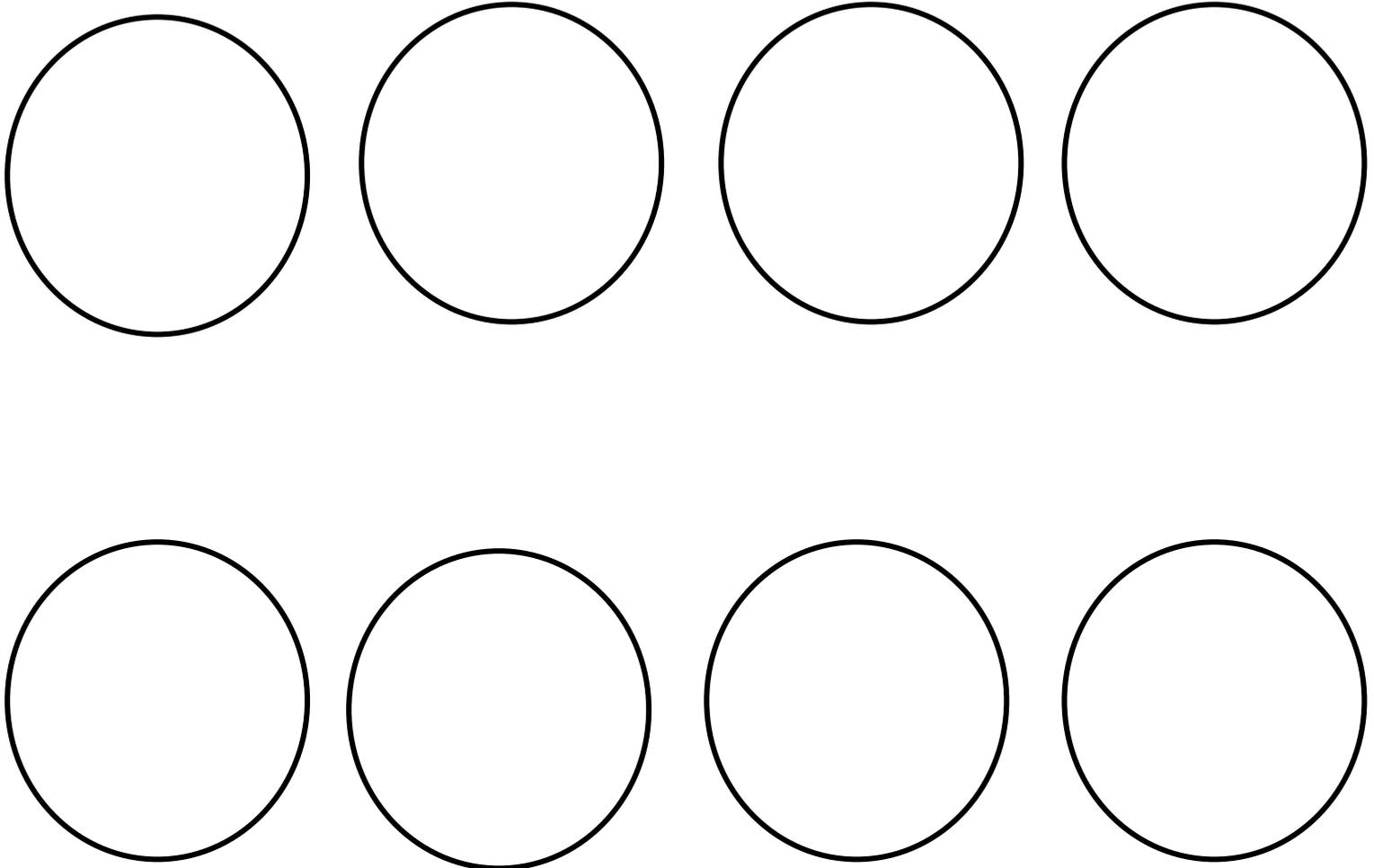
Robin C Hutchison

Hello Children

Below are 8 circles, I want to see if you can think up circular objects, food, images etc. and draw them. You could time yourself or draw with a friend and see who comes up with the most, or the most unique circle. I'll start you off, the first one could be a pizza!

Happy hunting.

Beacon Butterfly 





5th Glasgow Boys JUNIOR SECTION UPDATE

Hi again everyone,

Junior Section year is now well underway, with the boys getting involved in lots of achievements on a Tuesday night.

We have already made empire biscuits, discussed "temptation" and as a team managed to untangle ropes.

In our attempt to regain the much sought after Partick District - McKenzie Trophy (best JS in the district) we are planning to attend (and perform well) in all competitions this year.

Six weeks into the year and we have already taken part in two events.

The District 5 a side competition was a well-attended event and our five boys (including 2 juniors) came a very credible 3rd place, only losing to the eventual winners with the last kick of the ball. (*Sounds familiar? Ed*)

Well done to Zac, Harris, Hugh, Harry and Aaron.

The District sports held at Scotstoun stadium is always a popular one and we had four boys in attendance.

They did incredibly well with Harry Watson and Hugh McDonald picking up medals in the Junior and Intermediate events. Well done to everyone who participated.

More on district events to follow in future editions.

Our 100 Challenges task is also going well, I think so far we completed 7 or 8 activities, including learning to say "Hello" in 10 languages, and managing to throw and catch the ball 100 times. (that took a couple of attempts!)

We have a totalizer and list of the challenges on the noticeboard in the large hall; have a look and see what we have been up to.

Party season next!!

Thanks again for your continued support - Allan.

Allan Watt (Officer in Charge)

DECEMBER DATE

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.

BOOK GROUP

The next meeting of the Book Group will be on Monday October 30th. Our title, for a little light relief/Glasgow Noir, is *The Darkest Goodbye* by Alex Gray and the poetry theme is 'Glasgow'.

At our last meeting we combined discussing *A Room with a View* with watching the DVD. The Session Clerk was asking his wife afterwards what the gusts of laughter were about – should we tell him?

Wilma

LODGING HOUSE MISSION CHRISTMAS CARDS

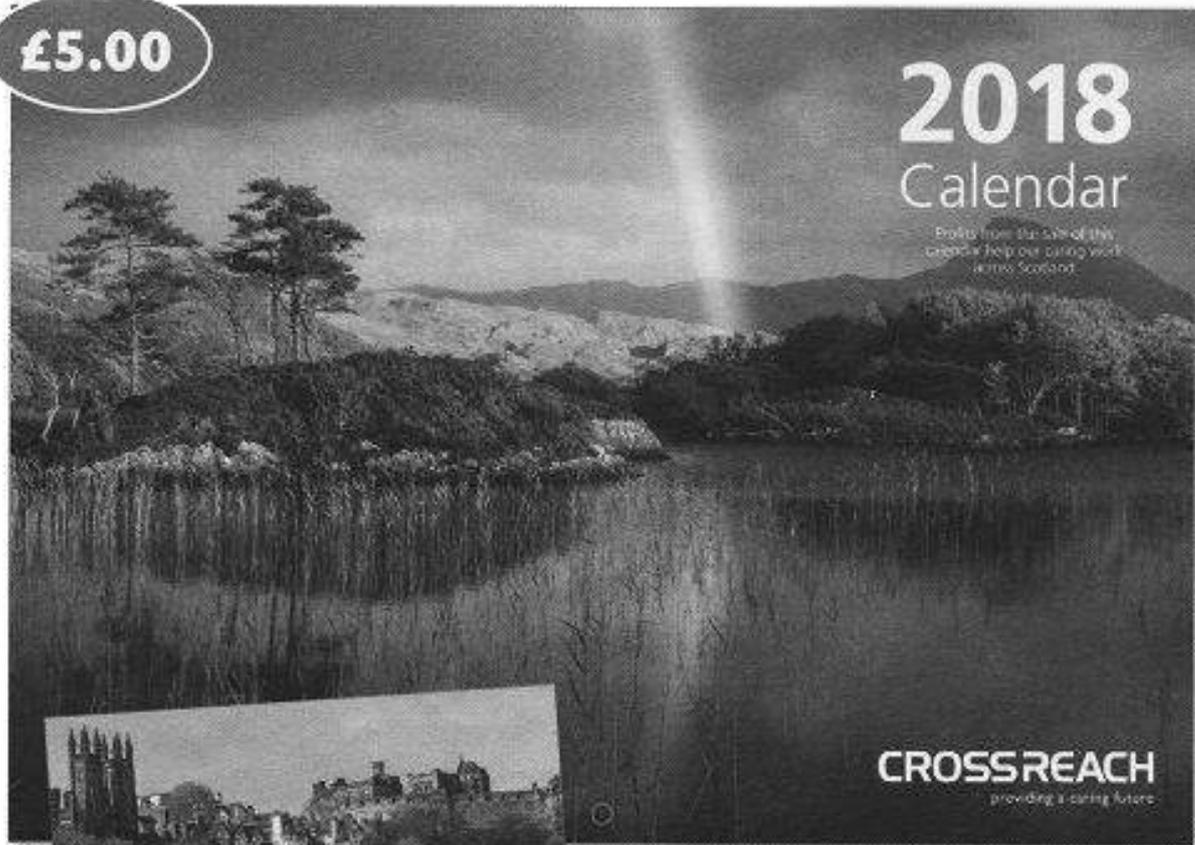
Leaflets depicting the LHM Christmas Cards will be available on 12th, 19th and 26th November at Coffee Time. Please place your orders as early as possible, preferably on or by Nov 26th so that they will be available for collection and payment on Dec 3rd and 10th.

Order your Crossreach Calendars now!

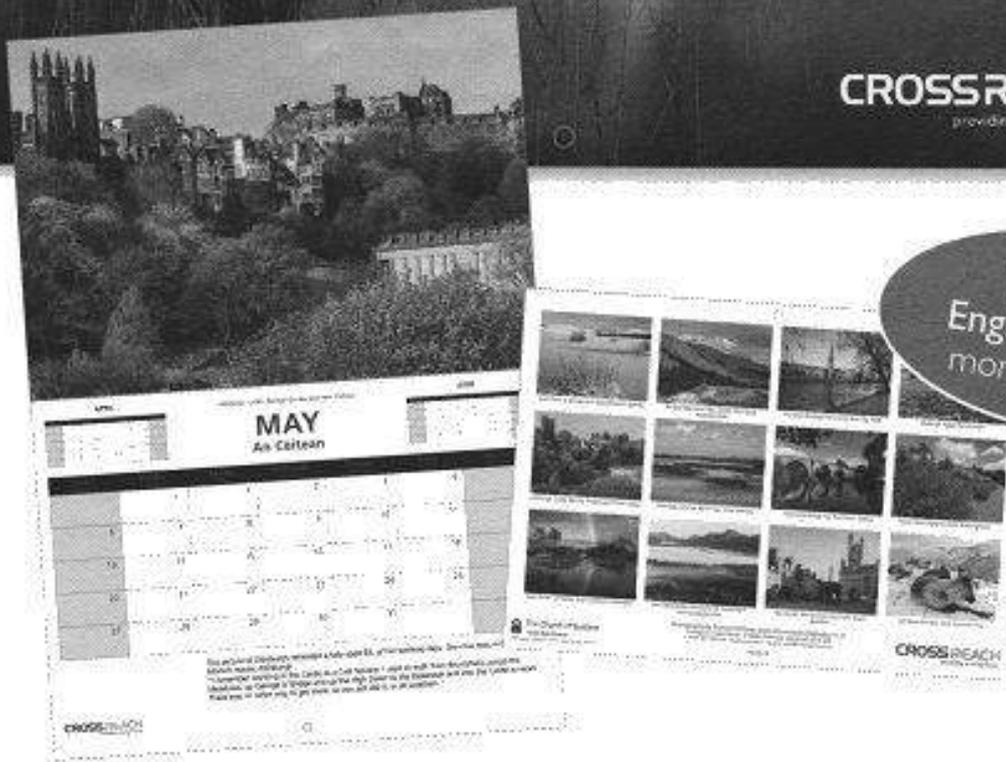
Wall Calendar 11.5 x 8.25 inches complete with envelope

Order from Jim MacDonald at Church or e-mail jmsgroc@aol.com

£5.00



Featuring
English & Gaelic
months and days



VALERIE TAYLOR TRUST

The shops are filling up for Christmas. When one thinks of the thousands of pounds of unwanted gifts which are returned to the stores each year, why not, this year, think of a gift which is not only needed but also very gratefully accepted.

The Valerie Taylor Trust has a scheme whereby you can give a worthwhile gift which benefits greatly a patient in Bangladesh. The scheme **The Essential Gift Scheme** is run by Elizabeth Arthur. Leaflets are available in the vestibule. Do take one or two.

Once the contact is made you will receive a gift card to send to the person in whose name you wish to send the gift.

Bryan Whitty

UNLOCKING THE WORD

This study group, which meets fortnightly on Wednesdays at 10.30 in the Session House, provides an informal and relaxed forum in which to deepen our understanding of the bible's relevance to our daily life and work.

Up till Christmas we shall be using the thoughts of William Barclay as an introduction to the biblical teaching on forgiveness. **As always, all are welcome.**

CANADIAN VISITORS

The first Sunday of last month was a particularly busy one, what with Communion followed by the election of the nomination committee

Additionally we had visitors from Canada, Moira and Alex Walker from Hamilton in Ontario. They were on a particular mission, to view the stained glass window dedicated to a family member of Moira, Andrew Hardie Nicholson who was our organist from 1924 to 1960.

His term of office spanned the 1920s move from Bath Street to here in newly-building Kelvindale. As the organist he no doubt viewed with close interest the removal of the organ, so much in our focus currently, from the church in Bath Street to its reconstruction here.

"I didn't know Uncle Andrew," confessed Moira, "but I have been told all the wonderful stories of him. He loved his church, he loved the people, he loved the choir and he was a Godly man all his days."

Amid all the bizz of the morning we came across well to our visitor, Moira remarking, "What a beautiful church; it has been a joy and a delight to be with you."

Andrew's window, gifted by his widow, is the second one on the left as you enter. These windows facing east, the work of noted artist and former elder here Gordon Webster, are best enjoyed over the winter months when the low sun causes them to glow.

LIFE AND WORK

Life and Work is now available as a digital edition for computer, tablet and smartphone. Subscribe from £11.99 for six months or buy a single issue for £1.99 from www.lifeandwork.org

Gift subscriptions are also available: an ideal Christmas present!

NOVEMBER 2017

‘Okay God, You Win’

Thomas Baldwin considers the new Hollywood film *The Case for Christ*, charting one man’s journey from atheism to faith.

‘It’s Here’

Jackie Macadam meets Dr Pam Cairns and learns the shocking truth about human trafficking.

Remembrance Prayer

From the Moderator of the General Assembly

Time for Change

In the second of a series on the need for reform in the Church of Scotland, the Very Rev Dr John Chalmers urges the church to resist the Presbyterian instinct for dispute

The Guild’s Annual Gathering

Lynne McNeil reports from Dundee’s Caird Hall

When I Needed A Neighbour

Maureen Jack highlights the response of churches in Lebanon to the Syrian refugee crisis.

Congregations Urged to Take Part in World’s Biggest Sleep Out

A challenge to congregations to help end homelessness in Scotland

Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords

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DUTIES

Welcoming you to Church in November

John McFadyen
Maria McFadyen
Bob Paris

Allan Watt
Norrie McLeod
Sandra McLeod

Mary Paris

Crèche Rota

5th November
12th November
19th November
26th November

Sally Bell
Elizabeth McDonald
Sandra Hutchison
Christine McCann

Fiona Robinson
Elizabeth Arthur
Vivienne Limond
Anne Bryden

Arranging your flowers

Susan Finnigan; Elizabeth MacDonald; Grace Mackay

Material for the December Beacon is required by

FRIDAY 10th November 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

Registered as a charity in Scotland Registration No. SC012920

CONGREGATIONAL DIARY

NOVEMBER 2017

Wednesday	1 st	2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	The Pop-In Café
Saturday	4 th	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Bonanza
Sunday	5 th	11 a.m. 2.30 p.m.	Morning Worship followed by shorter service of Holy Communion The Glasgow Phoenix Choir Concert in aid of Organ Fund
Wednesday	8 th	10.30 a.m.	Unlocking the Word
Saturday	11 th	7.30 p.m.	Bearsden Choir Concert
Sunday	12 th	10.50 a.m.	Service of Remembrance
Wednesday	15 th	2.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Service in Balmanno House Kirk Session
Sunday	19 th	11 a.m. 2.30 p.m.	Morning Worship Service in Rannoch House
Wednesday	22 nd	10.30 a.m.	Unlocking the Word
Sunday	26 th	11 a.m.	Gift Service

DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	3 rd	11 a.m.	Morning Worship with Sacrament of Holy Communion
Wednesday	6 th	10.30 a.m. 2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Unlocking the Word The Pop-In Café
Sunday	10 th	11 a.m. 7 p.m.	Gift Service The Mackintosh Choir Christmas Concert
Monday	11 th	2 p.m.	Afternoon Communion