

The Beacon

St John's-Renfield Church

Magazine No 332

www.stjohnsrenfieldchurch.org.uk

2018

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Dear Friends,

The Book of Proverbs presents Wisdom as a woman crying in the streets for humanity to hear her voice and seek the life she offers. She's called Hokmah in the Hebrew text, Sophia in the Greek translation. In the New Testament, Christ is seen to embody the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24). Entering into the spirit of this Wisdom, it is not too much of a stretch to picture Wisdom crying in the halls of Westminster these days, seeking a hearing amid the roars of the Brexit end game. If it is the end. Seeking a hearing anywhere people seek reasonably to respond and not merely to react, searching for a language of life in faith and politics. No easy search, given the heavy biases and interests at work, and in so many different languages and accents.

Our kids used to come into the kitchen and ask us to change the news to one of the children's channels. I couldn't blame them. Not everyone wants Brexit for breakfast. But now they ignore the television, expectations suitably lowered, and bring their own screens to table. They're just about old enough to appreciate the irony of the term 'Brexiteer,' the musketeers' slogan having been: 'All for one and one for all.' A far cry, we might agree, from current machinations. I am reminded of a riff on this slogan that I once saw written on the sea wall outside of Georgetown, Guyana. The then President, Forbes Burnham, had recently won an election in which he had used the slogan: 'All for Forbes and Forbes for all.' But on the sea wall it had become: 'All for Forbes and none for us.' Irony is not a tame figure of speech.

But Wisdom calls us to more than the capacity to appreciate irony. We need head and heart, our critical faculties engaged together with our creative faculties. Otherwise it is the cynic that wins out. Old visions of unity and diversity go begging and new visions cannot be born. The retreat to a mythical genome of origin is sounded, as if it were an answer. And all of a sudden it is again counter-cultural to quote Jesus saying he has sheep from outside his first fold that he is going to bring in, that they be united in him.

The gospel relates numerous stories of Jesus on walkabout, crossing borders and boundaries, encountering all sorts. His wisdom comes from outside the wall. Hadrian's, for example.

At St John's-Renfield we have a 'faith to proclaim – a fellowship to share.' It is a faith in the grace of an inclusive God, and a broad fellowship with a practice of welcome over walls, hospitality over hostility, embrace over exclusion. Long may it continue.

Your friend,

Stewart

ST JOHN'S-RENFIELD CHURCH CELEBRATING 200 YEARS

In 2019 our church plans to celebrate 200 years of its foundation. The first step is a 2019 Calendar, portraying our church and its activities, which will be on display in the large hall from Sunday 7th October. Orders can be placed for the £7 or £4 version. Other events are being planned and will be announced when finalized.

200 Anniversary Committee

FOOD BANK UPDATE

Summer has come and gone. As the days shorten and grow colder and we turn up the heating we hardly need to be reminded about those, less fortunate than ourselves, who often have to make the choice between heating and eating. At least we have the opportunity to ease that burden with our contributions to the food bank operated by volunteers at St Gregory's RC church in Kelvindale Road. When Andy McCrindle and I make our monthly deliveries we often find that a notice at the door of the church house says that there is nothing left and to come back later. We have no sooner started to unload your contributions than a trickle of folk start to appear with hope in their eyes that their lifeline will operate again, for a while. Within a few hours the shelves are empty again and will remain so until further supplies appear, largely contributed by members of St Gregory's. There is never enough to satisfy the needy, but Anne and her helpers constantly ask me express their thanks to us for continuing to lend our support. We cannot by ourselves eliminate the injustices of an imperfect society, but how can we fail to respond to our Saviour's plea to feed the hungry?

Jim MacDonald

Have You Heard That ...

- The BONANZA is on Saturday 3rd November 2018 from 10am till 1pm. All the usual stalls Save the Date
- the September coffee morning raised £727. Onwards to the BONANZA!
- this year's Tron Theatre Panto is 'Mammy Goose'. The show outing is being organised by Freda Gardner, get your name to her as soon as possible
- Jim MacDonald reports that food bank fatigue is growing nationally. Read about Jim's experience of delivering our contributions to the local food bank
- on Sunday 11th November – the one hundredth anniversary of the Armistice that brought an end to the First World War - we have a retiring collection for Erskine Residents, responding to an appeal for funds so residents can be taken either out for the day or to shows/concerts
- Harvest this year takes place on Sunday 7th October. What the Lodging House Mission would like from us this year is:-tinned veg (including beans and tomatoes), tinned meat, coconut milk (for making curries) and sugar
- St John's-Renfield Youth Group was given a mention in the autumn edition of Westender magazine. The author of the article happily discovered our recently founded group for her children. Read about the group's activities further on.

BONANZA - TIME, TALENTS AND TREATS

Once again we will be having the Time, Talents and Treats for you to support at this year's Bonanza. The success of the venture depends totally on the kindness and generosity of everyone who provides the treats and those who bid for them. This year we are delighted that Allan Watt and Jonathan Allan have taken on running the stall. We are looking for new ideas so, if you have any suggestions, please email:- allanwatt74@gmail.com or contact Isobel or Shirley T after church any Sunday.

Thank you!

Isobel and Shirley

JUNIOR SECTION UPDATE

Junior Section returned at the start of September with 16 boys raring to go. After a couple of informal nights we are now back into our normal programme.

We have covered topics like Fairtrade, with the boys gaining an understanding of the benefit of Fairtrade and getting to compare some bananas and chocolate.

Wednesday 12th September saw the 5 A Side, the first District competition of the session, and I am delighted that we were able to field two teams (borrowing one boy from another company).

Five of our new recruits made up the A-team, and whilst some good football was played, I think their young age told in the end and they were unfortunately not strong enough to progress from their group. Still as they are only Primary 4s they have another two years to try at this one.



On the other hand, our B team, made up of Hamish Mathieson, Hugh McDonald, Alexander Gillan and Harry Watson (plus the loanee) won their group and progressed to the semi-finals. A strong 3-0 victory in the semis saw them proudly progress to the tournament final.

They came up against the 44th in the final, a team they had beaten in the group, but the result was reversed in the final our boys going down 3-1 in a really competitive match with lots of chances at both end. Well done to all who took part, a credit to the 5th.

Continuing the busy start to the session, we also have the District Sports coming up in October, results to follow in the next edition, and a Science Centre Sleepover early November.

All the Best.

Allan Watt
(Officer-in-Charge)

REMEMBER, REMEMBER – SATURDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2018 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** (no large items of furniture) bottles for the **Bottle Stall, Raffle Prizes, Toiletries, Cake and Candy, Soft Goods, Toys, Books, Jewellery, Time, Talents and Treats, Sports Related Items,** and **Plants** for the **Gardening Stall**. All donations can be brought to the halls on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd November between 7 pm and 9 pm and also on Friday morning 2nd November between 10 am and 12 noon. 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.

Isobel and Shirley



OPERA REVIEW

FALSTAFF at St. John's-Renfield Church on 19th August 2018.

Beaconsfield Road was beautifully resurfaced on cue to welcome a capacity audience to Opera Bohemia's latest production, the comic opera, Falstaff.

Sir John Falstaff is a fictional character created by William Shakespeare and Sir John appeared in several of his plays, including *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, from which the libretto for Falstaff was adapted. *The Merry Wives* was first performed between 1600 and 1601.

Fast forward to 2018 and Verdi's opera Falstaff arrived at St. John's-Renfield with Andrew McTaggart in the title role. Andrew, with his fine singing and acting, treated the audience to an excellent portrayal of Falstaff as a hard-drinking, womanising buffoon, who also associated with criminals. The rest of the cast maintained the same high standard of singing and acting, none more than Susan Moore, as Mistress Quickly, the inn-keeper, with her memorable and mellow contralto voice.

The opera was originally staged in Windsor, inside and outside The Garter Inn, in the house of the wealthy family Ford and in Windsor Great Park. Falstaff attempted to or succeeded in seducing Alice Ford (Catriona Clark) and was pursued by her jealous husband and others for that and other misdemeanours. He hid in a large laundry basket in the Ford house. Alice Ford ordered her servants to drop the laundry basket, complete with Falstaff, through her window into the River Thames. Falstaff survived his soaking but was continually pursued for his wrongdoing.



The Opera Bohemia's Ensemble, under Alistair Digges, ably supported the cast with 'easy on the ear' Verdi's music. Opera Bohemia goes from strength to strength, delighting audiences all over Scotland. This slick performance was typified by Tom Sedgwick and Kevin Digges, who changed the scenes with minimum delay.

As previously, the next performance by Opera Bohemia is eagerly anticipated.

John MacMillan

**COULD YOU BE OUR CHURCH'S REPRESENTATIVE WITH THE
LODGING HOUSE MISSION?**

The main function of the Church Rep is to receive information from the Lodging House Mission (LHM), forward it to Alan Christie for possible inclusion in the *Beacon*, and act on any requests or suggestions that might come from LHM. The principle activity each year relates to the Harvest service. This involves publicizing in intimations and the *Beacon* what articles and goods LHM has requested and finding boxes and containers to hold the donations from the service (the Minimarket is very helpful here and usually make a donation as well). John Allan organises delivery to LHM.

This is not an onerous responsibility. The Church Rep is not responsible for the Christmas tree stocking nor is in any way involved with the Saturday rota of volunteer workers at LHM. Please give serious consideration to taking on this role. Anyone interested should contact Eleanor Murphy for further details.

BOOK GROUP

The next meeting of the Book Group will be on Monday October 1st at 7.30.

Our chosen book is '*The Sealwoman's Gift*' by Sally Magnusson. Poetry theme to be confirmed. See Intimations!

Further information from Wilma Murphy.

P.S. Don't forget the BONANZA is not far away and the Book Stall will be looking for stock!

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group recommenced for the new session on Sunday 2nd September with a games night. Eleven young people and our new minister were there.

The Group was a qualified success in its first year - the young people who attended enjoyed it and mainly, attended frequently throughout the year. The numbers were not as good as we might have hoped, with usually around 8 young people per night. The numbers attending were boosted after Easter when we decided to allow young people who were due to start S1 after the summer holidays to join. The down side of this is that the age balance is slightly in favour of the younger ones, which means that sometimes during discussions the maturity level can put off the older ones.

Having a leaders group of just four has made it difficult at times to ensure that two leaders were present - we did always manage it in the end, but more help would be beneficial.

This year we will have discussions about the 100th anniversary of the ending of the First World War, to coincide with congregational focus on this anniversary. We will also be organising a fund-raising evening - details to follow when the young people have come up with a plan!

We are hopeful that, as the group becomes more established, we will be able to attract larger numbers of young people and leaders. If any members or friends know anyone who may be interested in helping please ask them to contact me or Laura Calder.

Nick Calder

THEY WROTE TO THE CONGREGATION

Dear Graham,

I shall be grateful if you would express our thanks to the Congregation for the extremely generous gift cheque, the pen with St John's-Renfield inscribed on it and the beautiful flowers for Janis.

We are completely overwhelmed by their generosity and thoughtfulness and we express our warmest thanks.

We will always have fond memories of our time spent at St John's-Renfield Church and we will continue to pray that Stewart's Ministry will be a very real blessing to the congregation and parish.

Once again our warmest appreciation and sincere thanks.

Eric and Janis

Dear Graham,

Please convey my thanks to the Kirk Session and Congregation for the gift of the pen (which I am using now) and the VERY GENEROUS Cheque which took me by complete surprise.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time as Interim Moderator at St John's-Renfield and pray that you will be greatly blessed as you go forward with Stewart.

Helen really appreciated the flowers.

Again many thanks,

Roger Sturrock

5TH GLASGOW ANCHOR BOYS

At the start of the new session, there is not too much to report....

We began our new session for 2018-2019 on Tuesday 4th September with only three boys present, two of whom returned from last session and the other being new to Anchor Boys. This was a bit disappointing given that Allan Watt (Officer-in-Charge of the Junior Section) had worked hard to promote the Boys' Brigade in general and the Anchor Boys in particular, by visiting Kelvindale Primary School in August and speaking to parents of the new P1 pupils and arranging for a leaflet to be delivered home to all pupils in P1-P3 via school bags. However, at the time of writing, we are hopeful of another three boys returning and another new boy registering.

In the meantime, we are planning the same fun and games as always with the usual parties at Hallowe'en and Christmas. If numbers remain small, we will use the opportunity to arrange outings and participate in more detailed craft activities.

We are grateful for the support and help of Andrew Bell of the Company Section, Cameron McLaughlin, former member of 5th Glasgow and Gary Craig, a volunteer and look forward to another year of excitement and activity.

If you know of any boys who are currently in P1, P2 or p3, please encourage them to come along to the Large Hall on a Tuesday evening between 6 p.m. and 7.15 p.m. for fun, games, craft activities and storytelling.

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

KELVINDALE, CLEVEDEN ROAD ... AND BLUEBELLS.

Last time, I described all the shops on Cleveden Road. Well, father of Miss Blossom, the hairdresser, supervised the building of the organ in the church. Miss Blossom's brother was connected to "Ecurie Ecosse" who won the Le Mans twenty four hours race. He had a garage in North Woodside Road. Fred Grant, the chemist, lost his house in the bombing in the war.

Cleveden Road was widened in 1933 or thereabouts to make it as wide as the rest of the road north of Kelvindale Road. The pavement on the church side was moved back and some of the trees were therefore left on the pavement. You can see them today. On the school side, the line of the wall was moved back and a new wall built, as it is today.

There was, at the back of the Church, a wooden building that housed building equipment and tiles used for the Mactaggart and Mickel houses on that side of Cleveden Road. Where Winchester Court is, there was what children called, "the bluebell wood". They would run through the bluebells to get to Brownies!

Yours Aye Ken Morton

Editor's note: Ken is probably the longest residing Kelvindaler



Hello
After the

Summer we have had we are well and truly into Autumn. I want you to write down a

Children,
brilliant

word describing Autumn for each of the following letters. I have given you a start and some clues.

A-PPL_

B-__ _ ZY

C-__ _ T_ U T

G-__ _ _

H-__ _ _ _ E'E_

L- _ A V_ _

M-__ _ TS

P-U_ P_ IN

R-I_ _ _

See you next month, Beacon Butterfly ☺



CROSSREACH NEWS

Sunflower Garden: Claire's story, so far....

Claire (not her real name) is 5 years old. Her mum has significant substance use issues and no longer has any contact with Claire. Claire lives with her dad.

Claire's counsellor has been supporting her for the past four months. Her dad told us that Claire was often distressed and confused about her mum and that this had shown in problems with other children at school and anxiety-related behaviours at home.

From the beginning Claire enthusiastically engaged in her sessions. Her counsellor decided to start with play-based support as she sensed Claire needed a secure space in which to take 'time out' from anxiety-provoking environments in her life. As their sessions have progressed, Claire's play has become more settled and collaborative, although her underlying anxiety shows itself in a continuing need to control. Claire's counsellor hopes that, through, sensitive, imaginative play, Claire will feel that she can express her emotions and needs in a safe and secure place. In their forthcoming sessions her counsellor hopes to continue to strengthen Claire's sense of security, and help her make sense of her feelings and behaviours.

Please pray for the children, like Claire, who come to Sunflower Garden as well as the counsellors and other staff who make up the tremendous team there.

CROSSREACH 2018

Pack of 10
£3.50



Calendars
and
Christmas
Cards

Order early
before some
designs are
sold out!

Support the work of the Church of Scotland's Social Care Charity by purchasing cards that remind us of the true message of Christmas. See the wide range of designs at the stall in the Church Hall at coffee, Sundays from the end of September through October. A sample of the 2019 CrossReach Calendar will also be on display.



Valerie Taylor Trust

Helping the Disabled Poor and their Families

The expansion of the work of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed in Bangladesh just seems to go from strength to strength with the inclusion of help for wide ranging disability issues.

In July there was the ceremony for seventeen new B.Sc graduates in Nursing Studies, reflecting the remarkable Bangladesh Health Professionals Institute based at CRP.

Twenty three students had received an M.Sc in Rehabilitation Science in June from BHPI.

A special workshop session for highlighting the need for digital communication devices for children with Autism and other nervous debility disorders was held in June at CRP.

Bryan Whitty

MORE CROSSREACH NEWS

Perth Prison Visitor Support and Advice Centre (PPVSAC) report another excellent piece of partnership working the Family Contact Officers at HMP Perth with the re-establishment of their Court work at Perth Sheriff Court.

Elaine, the manager at PPVSAC, reports; "After a long gap in this service, the Sheriff Clerk has agreed that our Centre worker can attend the Court once a month to provide a much needed service for families at the point of family crisis and need.

Our Centre Worker has materials with them to occupy children in an environment that is alien to them.

An example of a typical morning at the court saw three families and five children in total. This demonstrates the need for us to have a visible presence and we are thankful to the Sheriff Clerk for allowing this opportunity again."

SUNDAY CLUB

Sunday Club has once again been very busy throughout the summer in the form of its alter egos, Super JRs and the Summer Sunday Club!

The Super JRs was a roaring success with new activities including basketball and Lego. We had around 50 primary school aged children attending each day for the week that the club ran.

A huge thank you to Caroline for taking over the reins of organiser and to all who volunteered to help out - without you the Summer Club could not run. Once more, the feedback from parents and children has been great and hopefully you all enjoyed being involved.

Thanks also to those who volunteered on a Sunday morning to allow Caroline and I to have a break! We are feeling refreshed and raring to go for a new session under the guidance of Stewart, our new minister. Imogen and Alexander have slotted into the group without a problem and hopefully we can encourage some more new faces as the year progresses.

Our piggy from last session was on its last trotters so we humanely emptied his tummy! The £40 we collected will be donated to the SSPCA as requested by the children. They felt that God's creatures deserved some assistance too! Maybe we should all pay more attention to the world we are leaving to our children and grandchildren.

Wendy



Monday Evening
Brotherton Hall
6.15 p.m. - 7 p.m.
5 - 7 year olds



Friday Evening
Brotherton Hall
6.15 p.m. - 7.45 p.m.
7 - 10 year olds



Tuesday Evening
Brotherton Hall
7 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.
10 - 15 year olds



Tuesday Evening
every second Tuesday
Brotherton Hall
7 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.
15 - 24 year olds



Friday Evening
Church Hall
6 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.
7 - 10 year olds

We have **spaces** in all the Units please contact
Eileen Wilson District Commissioner
glasgow25guides@ntlworld.com



The Boys' Brigade
5th Glasgow Company

**<http://5glasgow.boys-brigade.org.uk>
5thglasgow@boys-brigade.org.uk**

COMPANY SECTION NEWS

The Company Section kicked-off a new session on Friday 7th September, and by the time you read this the boys will be well underway with their first block of classes – a heady mix of Smoking, and Human Rights, as well as the usual Drill and PT classes.

The first Partick District events of the new session are also upon us. As we go to print the 5-a-side football competition is scheduled to take place at Scotstoun Leisure Centre. We then return to Scotstoun in early October for the Annual Sports. Keep watching our website for the results!

Our Senior boy, Cpl Ewan Hay is continuing his work towards the highest award the Brigade has to offer, the Queen's Badge, which he aims to achieve in May 2019.

We have a few more events planned before the turn of the year – more news about them in next month's Beacon.

Lastly, if you know of any boys from P7 upwards who would like to join us then please don't hesitate to send them along any Friday night, from 7.30pm in the Large Hall. They will be made most welcome.

STEDFAST

Material for the November Beacon is required by

FRIDAY 12TH OCTOBER 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

OCTOBER 2018

Monday	1 st	7.30 p.m.	Book Group
Wednesday	3 rd	2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Pop-In Café
Sunday	7 th	11 a.m.	Harvest Thanksgiving Morning Worship with Sacrament of Holy Communion
Monday	8 th	2 p.m.	Afternoon Communion
Tuesday	9 th	10.30 a.m.	Unlocking the Word
Sunday	14 th	11 a.m.	Morning Worship
Wednesday	17 th	2.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Service in Balmanno House Kirk Session
Sunday	21 st	11 a.m. 2.30 p.m.	Morning Worship Service in Rannoch House
Tuesday	23 rd	10.30 a.m.	Unlocking the Word
Sunday	28 th	11 a.m.	Morning Worship

NOVEMBER 2018

Saturday	3 rd	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	
Sunday	4 th	11 a.m. 7 p.m.	Morning Worship followed by shorter service of Holy Communion Service of Grieving and Gratitude
Wednesday	7 th	2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Pop-In Café

