

St John's-Renfield Church

**Welcome to the Parish Profile of St John's-Renfield
Church of Scotland**

Beaconsfield Road

Glasgow G12 0NY

'A Faith to Proclaim – a Fellowship to Share'

www.stjohnsrenfieldchurch.org.uk

Unrestricted Call



Registered as a charity in Scotland Registration No. SC012920

About us

St John's-Renfield Church is at the heart of the parish of Kelvindale in Glasgow's West End. We aim to be an open and friendly congregation, welcoming anyone wishing to worship and nurture their Christian faith or simply to learn more. We are an upbeat, outward-looking community. Our members and friends are generous with their time, talents, and giving and we show our love of God through our care for one another and our love for our neighbours within the parish and beyond.

We look forward to welcoming our new Minister to encourage us to be more confident about our faith and to lead us towards our vision of sharing God's love and our love of God with the parish; of encouraging more people, particularly younger people, to come to church; and of growing our community of faith.



Our Kirk Session has voted to depart from the traditional teachings of the church in relation to same sex marriages and civil partnerships and welcomes applications from any who hear a call to lead us.

What we can offer our new Minister

- A warm welcome and wholehearted support.
- An able, active, liberal Kirk Session and congregation.
- Our commitment to pastoral care in its various forms.
- Willing volunteers and employees.
- Readiness to embrace change.
- A rich and vibrant musical tradition in our worship.
- A worship group experienced in preparing and leading Sunday worship.
- Well-maintained church buildings and grounds.
- A congenial environment for home and family life.
- The usual human failings and a good sense of humour.

What we're looking for in our new Minister

- A leader who will support us in nurturing our spiritual growth.
- Preaching and teaching that will challenge and encourage the broad spectrum of progressive views in our forward-looking congregation.
- Commitment to addressing the pastoral care needs of the whole congregation.
- A leader who will help us to discern and fulfil God's purpose for our church and its people in our community.
- Willing to help us explore and experiment with alternative worship styles.
- Commitment to maintaining the important role of music in our worship.
- Willing and able to work as part of a team.
- Capacity to recognise the strengths and qualities of all, and to encourage and support members to give of their skills and knowledge for the benefit of our church.
- Ability to interact effectively and in a friendly, open and inclusive way.
- Energy and imagination.

St John's-Renfield Church and Parish

St John's-Renfield Church is set within the residential districts of Kelvindale and Kelvinside in the West End of Glasgow and was dedicated in 1931. It is the only place of worship in the parish, which extends either side of Great Western Road to include the housing development of the inter-war years in Kelvindale, the Victorian villas of Kelvinside and a number of modern apartment buildings. The parish includes Kelvindale Primary School, with which the church has a very close relationship, Cleveden Secondary School, Glasgow Clyde College (Annesland Campus), the Gartnavel Hospital complex and the private Nuffield Hospital. We hold monthly services in two of the three residential care homes located in the parish.

The 2011 Census return showed a parish population of 8,952. Church of Scotland Census data on the parish is available at:

http://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/church_finder/profile.php?property_id=21044

The Congregation

We have a total membership of 296, which includes 15 adherents. In addition, 33 individuals have registered as friends of the congregation. Approximately two thirds of the members live within the parish and nearly all of the remainder live in immediately surrounding areas such as Hyndland, Jordanhill and Bearsden.

In the five-year period 2012 – 2016, 17 children and 2 adults were baptised, 21 people joined the congregation, and there were 118 parish funerals.

All age groups are represented in the congregation, with a smaller proportion being younger families and those of working age. A larger group are retired or in the older age range, but still very active and committed. Together, we seek to be a welcoming and inclusive faith community, where we may all seek the presence of God in Jesus Christ and witness to the Spirit at work among us.

Worship and Christian Nurture

Worship is at the heart of the life of St John's-Renfield Church. We meet for a main service of worship at 11.00am on Sundays (with attendance of 80-100) and welcome all ages. Youngsters leave the service to attend Sunday Club and a crèche is provided. Sunday services have in the main followed a traditional structure, but we have welcomed the fact that the content of worship has been inspired by imaginative and varied contemporary liturgy. We use the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible and CH4. A printed order of



service is provided, which includes a section for church news and notices. There is a strong musical tradition in the church and the choir, led by our Organist and Choirmaster, enrich our worship with a weekly introit and anthem. Our pipe organ and grand piano enhance the experience of worship. Communion is celebrated quarterly as part of morning worship and on the first Sunday of the remaining months, a short, informal celebration of the Lord's Supper is held immediately following the service. Three times a year, a Monday afternoon Communion service, with transport and tea provided, is held primarily for those less able to get to church.

Some ten members of the congregation attended a series of workshops in 2015 on leading worship and have conducted a number of services. What proved a challenging experience for the leaders was well received by the congregation.

The Sunday Club for children from age 3 to 11, involving around 20 children, meets throughout the year. During the school holidays this is more informal with games and activities.



The Sunday Club uses the *ROOTS* worship material, which links to the *Revised Common Lectionary* explored in adult worship. The Sunday Club and their creative leaders have a significant input to a number of services during the year and particularly lead the service to mark the start of Christian

Aid week. All-age services are held to mark the opening and closing sessions of the Sunday Club and the youth organisations.

An informal Bible study group, 'Unlocking the Word', meets fortnightly on a weekday morning from autumn to spring. . Several evening study courses based on the '*Living the Questions*' series and film-based Lent study courses have been held. Although the numbers attending these study groups are small, they are very much appreciated by the participants. Scheduled Kirk Session meetings begin with a brief Study Time, looking at a section of the *Learn Eldership* booklet.

Children and Young People

All sections of the Boys' Brigade and Girl Guiding movement meet in our premises. The Kirk Session sponsors a successful pre-school Playgroup in partnership with Glasgow City Council, and the church hosts a busy community Parent and Toddler group. For one week in August, church volunteers run a popular Summer Club open to primary school children in the community. In Autumn 2017 we launched a Sunday evening youth group for secondary school students.

Pastoral Care

The primary responsibility for pastoral care rests with the Minister and District Elders, supported by the Pastoral Care Committee. In addition, our pastoral care volunteers visit those who are housebound or in residential care. Each Sunday, the church flowers are delivered to two or three households where our love and prayers are needed.

Focus on the Future

The Local Church Review for St John's-Renfield Church is scheduled to take place between Autumn 2017 and Spring 2018. The Presbytery Plan runs until 2022 and will be reviewed at that time.

In anticipation of the current vacancy caused by the retirement of our Minister, the future focus of the congregation was discussed at a Kirk Session Conference in April 2017 and at a special follow-up Kirk Session meeting in June 2017. We recognise that we face challenges common to many congregations including a decline in membership, an ageing congregation, reduced income, and responsibility for the upkeep of large buildings and extensive grounds.

We aim to reverse the decline in our numbers and to encourage more people, particularly younger people and young families, to join our fellowship. To achieve this we know that we need to find new ways of reaching out to the community. The traditional forms of worship that we hold dear may be unfamiliar and inaccessible to many, and we are ready to consider alternative approaches to worship that may be better suited to contemporary life.

In recent years opportunities for learning and spiritual growth have been embraced with enthusiasm. We wish to further develop such opportunities and to build the confidence to proclaim and demonstrate our faith as we seek to place worship and witness at the centre of all that we do.

The Kirk Session has prioritised the following objectives for immediate action:

- To enhance the momentum of worship and church life
- To improve communication and outreach to the local community
- To find ways of engaging local young families and other members of the community in the life of the church
- To improve opportunities for younger people in the congregation, particularly for the secondary school age group.

The Kirk Session and the congregation are working together to achieve these objectives. We remain positive about our future as we seek a new Minister to lead us through a period of change.

Organisation and Kirk Session

Our move to a unitary constitution in 2014 has been very successful and the diagram of the current committee structure is shown in the Appendix. We have been able to appoint committed conveners and members to all posts. Following the introduction of the unitary constitution a Time and Talents campaign led to a significant number of additional members becoming involved in various aspects of church life.

The Kirk Session comprises 43 elders (15 men and 28 women) ranging in age from 30s to early 80s. The most recent ordinations were in 2015, when 6 elders joined the Kirk Session. There is a Session Clerk team of three. Members of the Kirk Session are active and willing to undertake both major and minor roles and their associated tasks and responsibilities.

Stewardship and Finance

The Finance Committee carries out an Annual Review of Giving by challenging each member to review their financial contribution to the work of the whole church. The overall financial position over the last three years has been as follows:

Year	<u>2016</u> (£'000)	<u>2015</u> (£'000)	<u>2014</u> (£'000)
Income	219	178	199
Expenditure	190	225	211
Surplus/(Deficit)	29	(47)	(12)

The latest accounts are available on our website.

Our Ministries and Mission contribution in 2016 was £84,073. As well as a number of coffee mornings held every year to raise funds for our organisations, our principal fund-raising events for local church funds are the *Bonanza* in November (a mix of sale of work, bric a brac stall, raffles, and coffee morning) and the Book and Plant sale in May. All these events are well supported by the local community.

Employees

We employ a part-time Secretary, who works the equivalent of 12 hours per week. The Church Office is open Wed/Thurs/Fri from 9am – 12pm. Our Church Officer lives in accommodation attached to the church buildings and is employed full-time. His duties include cleaning, security and set-up. We also employ a part-time Organist and Choirmaster.

Charitable Outreach

One way in which we put our faith into action is through our enthusiastic support for local, national and international charities. We are strong supporters of Christian Aid and have raised many thousands of pounds by our house to house collections during Christian Aid Week. The work of the Lodging House Mission in Glasgow is supported by a number of volunteers, fund-raising initiatives and food donations at harvest time. Projects India Charitable Trust (PICT) was originally set up by two former members of the congregation and has been supported over many years. We are also supportive of the Valerie Taylor Trust, which is the UK charity supporting the work of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed in Bangladesh. Each year, we host a Charities Fair, where charities can take a stall to raise funds or simply to raise awareness of their work. We have links with St Gregory's Roman Catholic Church in the neighbouring district of Maryhill and provide monthly donations to the foodbank run from their premises.

Community and Social



A number of social groups are active within the congregation including a book group, a Saturday walking group, a craft group, two badminton groups, and a gardening team. A successful initiative for 2017 has been our Pop In community café on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month. When the opportunity arises, the church participates in Glasgow's Doors Open Day.

Ten editions of the church newsletter, *The Beacon*, are produced and distributed each year and details of forthcoming events and activities are posted on our website and on the noticeboard outside the church.



Volunteers provide the church flowers Sunday by Sunday. Transport to and from church is provided for those who require it.

West End Parish Grouping

Our church is a member of the West End Parish Grouping (WEPG), currently including the Church of Scotland churches of Kelvinbridge, Kelvinside-Hillhead, Partick Trinity, and Wellington, with Hillhead Baptist Church as observers. Our ministers meet together quarterly and with the WEPG representatives from each of the six churches three times a year. Our congregations travel through Holy Week together, meeting in different churches each evening and celebrating Easter with early morning worship in Glasgow's Botanic Gardens. We also come together on the Sunday closest to All Saints Day for the annual service of Grieving and Gratitude held in St John's-Renfield Church. At the time of writing, three WEPG churches are in vacancy and one is housed in temporary premises, pending redevelopment of their building. However, the ministers and WEPG representatives continue to meet, exchange news and encourage and support each other's congregations.

Church Accommodation and Fabric

There is no recognised community centre in the parish and the accommodation within the church is a significant community resource.



The church complex ('B' Listed) includes the Sanctuary, which seats approximately 600 people, the Large and Small Halls, the Vestry, Office, Session House, a room used primarily for storage, a kitchen, and accessible toilets. All these areas are fully accessible. There is another, separate large hall in the grounds, which also has toilets. The Church Officer's house and a further storage room are downstairs. The

accommodation is extensively used throughout the week by our youth organisations, our choir, the craft group, two external choirs, a dance school and two badminton groups. We also hire out the halls for parties for children. All hall lets are managed by the Hall Lets Convener.

The congregation is about to embark on a major repair to its pipe organ for which significant funds have already been raised. We anticipate that the balance required will be secured by the end of 2017 and the repair is scheduled for early 2018. A new public address system was installed in the Sanctuary in 2017.

The buildings and extensive grounds are well-maintained.

Further information about the church and congregation can be found on the church website at: www.stjohnsrenfieldchurch.org.uk

The Manse



The manse is a traditional bungalow built in 1931, with flexible accommodation. It is situated in Leicester Avenue, a few minutes' walk from the church and has an open outlook over school playing fields. The accommodation is well-maintained. The ground floor comprises a hall, lounge, dining room, family room, bathroom and kitchen and two bedrooms, one of which could be used as a study.

Two further bedrooms, one with an en suite shower and toilet are on the upper floor. The house has gas central heating and double glazing. There is a small garden to the front, a larger secluded garden to the rear, and a garage. The manse is within easy walking distance of Hyndland railway station and bus routes on Great



Western Road. The Botanic Gardens, the University of Glasgow and Byres Road are within 20 minutes' walk and Glasgow Clyde College (Annie'sland Campus) is nearby. The Clyde Tunnel, which leads to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and Glasgow Hospital for Children, is a 10 minute drive and Glasgow Airport a 30 minute drive away.

Enquiries and Applications

Our Interim Moderator welcomes informal enquiries.

To apply, please post or email a letter with CV and the names and contact details of two referees to the Clerk of the Nominating Committee.

Contact Details

Interim Moderator:

Rev. Dr. Roger Sturrock

Email: RSturrock@churchofscotland.org.uk

Mobile: 07970 535358

Clerk to the Nominating Committee:

Allan Watt

10 Burlington Avenue

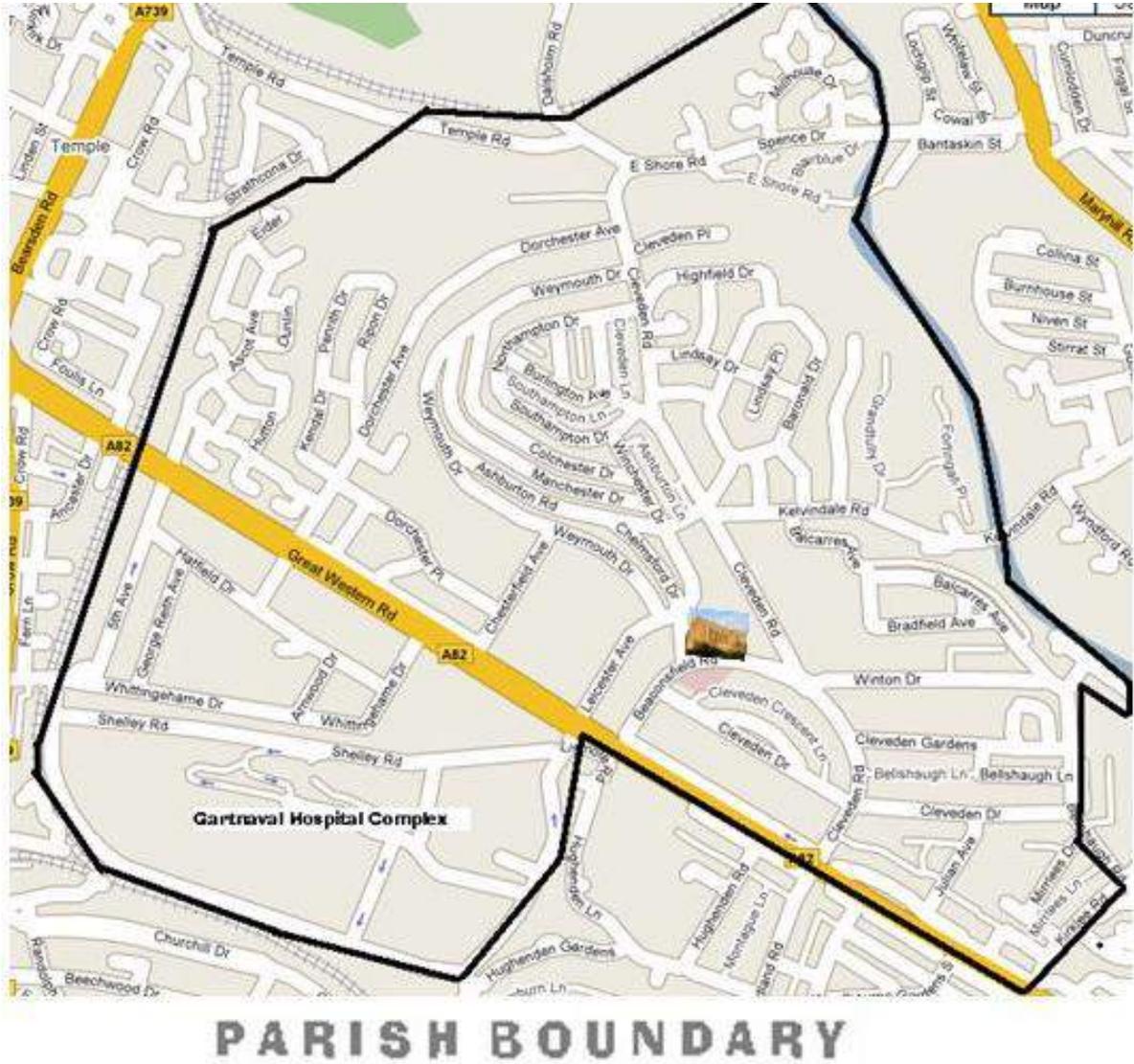
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Appendix 1



Appendix 2

