

The Beacon

St John's-Renfield Church

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2018

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Dear Friends,

It's coming on December and we are looking forward to our first Christmas with you. Asking ourselves where the tree is going to go at the manse, thinking in front of the window in the front room would do nicely. We've got that far. The kids have been hinting loudly for some time, of course, what they'd like for Christmas. We keep saying their big present will be our trip to London. Sarah's friend Trevor is getting married on 3rd January and we're going down on the 2nd. This doesn't entirely answer it for the kids, but they seem to be rolling with it.

The Church will receive its own tree soon and shine its light through Advent and the Christmas season. It is the essential symbol of Advent: light shining in darkness. Light that comes as a child, the birth of God among us, within us, for us and our world. The good news of the gospel in a world acquainted with darkness. To complete the reference to John's gospel: the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. We celebrate the coming of Christ's light at the darkest time of the year, when we are most keenly aware of our need of it.

The words of Leonard Cohen are often quoted in this regard. Montreal poet and singer-songwriter, Cohen's lifelong engagement with his Jewish faith left him able, in spite of darkness within and without, to say that word of praise for which he is famous, Hallelujah. An optic heart, if troubled, he left us with this weathered and wonderful encouragement: 'There's a crack in everything, it's how the light gets in.' It is from his song, 'Anthem,' on his album *The Future* (1992). I think it's a bit optimistic of him, a crack in everything. That's a lot of light getting in. Still, he knew what he was doing, reversing our view of cracks in the way things are, the status quo, the received wisdom, the accommodations we make with darkness.

And now a different song comes to mind. *Phos Hilaron*, 'Laughing Light,' is thought to be the earliest hymn we have in praise of Christ, after the hymns found in the New Testament itself. It was sung at sunrise to greet the day, we are told, and again at nightfall as candles were lit. It thus became known as the 'Candlelight Hymn,' and, later, as 'Hail Gladdening Light,' following John Keble's 19th century translation. But it is as Sylvia Dunstan's 'O

Laughing Light' that I first encountered it, sung to the tune *Christe Sanctorum* (hymn 135 in CH4). It is delightful (pardon the pun), conjuring images of the cracking light of creation, the light that is lit in shadow, and the laughing face of Jesus. A fine Advent hymn, a praise song to Christ as the Light of the world that shines upon us, before us and among us. Let us warm ourselves in this light, be lit by it, and shine it forward in our homes and community. The light of welcome and company, hope and hospitality. Darkness notwithstanding.

Your friend,

Stewart





CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2018



Saturday 8 th December	Messy Christmas Party	4.30 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday 9 th December	Gift Service (Glasgow Caring City)	11 a.m.
Sunday 16 th December	Nine Lessons and Carols	6.30 p.m.
Sunday 23 rd December	Nativity (unrehearsed)	11 a.m.
	Christingle	6.30 p.m.
Monday 24 th December	Watchnight Service	11.30 p.m.
Tuesday 25 th December	Family Service	10.30 a.m.
Sunday 30 th December	Family Service	11 a.m.

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER AT 6.30 P.M.

Cameron and the Choir invite you to join them for their 20th service of Nine Lessons and Carols - their Christmas gift to the congregation. Enjoy some time away from the business of Christmas preparation to hear the Christmas story unfold in word and song, both modern and traditional, in the peace of the candlelit sanctuary.

This year transport is available for anyone who requires it. If you would like to be collected, please contact Maria McFadyen or Eleanor Murphy.

Have You Heard That ...

- the BONANZA raised the fabulous total of around £7,700
- the 2019 Calendar, portraying our church and its activities, plus celebrating 200 years since its foundation, is currently available. Orders can be placed for the £7 or £4 version.
- there remains one week to make donations to the Gartnavel Royal Hospital Appeal. Gifts asked for (particularly for men) are: hats, gloves, biscuits, sweets. No scarves, ties or glass containers please. Box in east vestibule
- the Mackintosh Choir Christmas concert is on Sunday 9th December at 7 o'clock here in St. John's-Renfield. Please come and support our "in-house" choir as we head towards the festivities at Christmas
- Vivienne Limond thanks all who generously supported her recent sponsored walk that raised over £700 (excluding gift aid) for St Margaret's Hospice
- on Communion Sunday in December, Mrs. Juliette Robb, well known to the congregation, is bringing her wonderful gifts for Christmas sold in aid of the OLIVE TREE CHARITY helping Palestinian women and children
- the Christmas tree will again have a Christmas stocking for donations for the Lodging House Mission
- the Parish Grouping Watchnight Service returns to our church this Christmas. Details from weekly Order of Service.

BONANZA 2018 UPDATE

This year's Bonanza was a great success! The total raised on the day was £7,017.30 rising to around £7,700 when including money received afterwards. A fabulous total, especially considering the weather! Thank you everyone for the part you played, whether publicising the event, donating goods, helping with the preparation, manning a stall on the day, helping with the clear up, or just by being there. All very important to the success!

Not only does our church benefit from the event, but also many charities: Oxfam, Barnardos, British Heart Foundation, Starter Packs and Marie Curie, to name but a few, benefitted from our leftovers.

There was a great turnout of folks from the community, so our leafleting is certainly worthwhile. We should also never underestimate the value of the fellowship and fun that the event generates.

Charts showing the breakdown by stall are displayed on the church noticeboards.

The Bonanza Team

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church is coming to St. John's-Renfield. But what is it?

Messy Church is happening across the world and is a way for families to get involved interactively in church in a fun and creative way. Its values are Christ-centred, brought to life through creativity, hospitality and celebration. Traditionally, Messy Church is held at an alternative time to a Sunday service so that those who may not be able to attend on a Sunday morning can get involved. Expect a warm welcome on arrival, an all age interactive chat to introduce the Bible message, some awesome music, family crafts and messy play, and perhaps the most important part, all coming together in fellowship to share a meal.

Our first Messy Church will be Saturday, the 8th of December from 4:30 - 6:00 pm. The focus will be the Christmas message, celebrating Jesus, the Light of the World! Crafts will centre around the Light, with a floral art project, candle holder and some truly messy games for the kids! We hope you will join us, whether you are part of the St John's-Renfield family or a welcome visitor! We'd love to know ahead of time if you are planning to come, but if you haven't, don't let this stop you from coming along on the day.. For further information, contact sarah.gillan@hotmail.com or visit the St John's-Renfield Messy Church Facebook page ([sjrmessychurch](https://www.facebook.com/sjrmessychurch)) or Twitter [@sjrmessychurch](https://twitter.com/sjrmessychurch).





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

The busy BB session has continued over the past month.

For one evening only, our Senior boys prepared and led our Friday parade night.

The boys are continuing their Friday night classwork with the topics - T shirt design and Astronomy.

Two of our Seniors, Pte Andrew Bell and Pte Blair Hay, will be attending their Glasgow Battalion Building Your Skills course in January as they near the completion of their work towards their President's Badge in May 2019.

As we go to press, the Partick District Laser Quest competition has taken place. The District Drill competition and Go Karting are also on the horizon in January. As always, the results can be found on our website.

Also in December, we will have our annual Christmas night out for the boys and staff. Arrangements are under wraps at present, but we're sure we'll all have a great night out!

STEDFAST

POP IN CAFÉ

By the time, dear readers, you are reading this, twenty four Pop- In Café people will have popped out for a three course meal as a pre-Christmas treat. So far, we have raised £400 for Yemen children, £300 for Glasgow Night Shelter and £58 for Cancer relief, at our Bake-In. Ho, Ho, Ho, MERRY CHRISTMAS when it comes. Peace, goodness, forgiveness and love to all.

SUNDAY CLUB UPDATE

December already and as usual it will be a busy one in Sunday Club!

The Festive season will kick off on Sunday 2nd December with the decoration of the church Christmas tree – please join us for some mince pies and mulled wine before we deck the halls.

The 9th of December will see our annual Gift Service where we bring gifts for children of the city who may not receive many or any presents. Could we ask that any donated presents be wrapped and labelled with "girl" or "boy" and an appropriate age range.

The 16th of December will be our Sunday Club Christmas Party. This will take place in the Brotherton Hall during the Service with the usual food, fun and games. Fingers crossed for a special visit from the man in the big red suit.

On Sunday 23rd December we will present our nativity. Plans are still to be finalised, however it is sure to be the highlight of the year, with the children bringing the story of the very First Christmas to life in their own special way. Through the voice of the young we can hear the true meaning of Christmas ringing out above the noise, hustle and bustle of the festive period.

The service on 30th December will be a family service to allow the children to spend time in church with their loved ones. We will be back to normal in the New Year on Sunday 6th January 2019.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Sunday Club.

ARMISTICE MEMORIES



UNLOCKING THE WORD AT ADVENT

We have been meeting fortnightly to 'Unlock the Word' and have had good sessions covering Forgiveness, Ecclesiastes and some of the Psalms, all of which were revealing and helped our understanding.

We are delighted to welcome Stewart to our number.

We have now been planning our Advent studies, which will take place in the Session House, weekly, on Tuesdays at 10.30 throughout Advent.

Stewart is going to lead us in an examination of how the different Gospels address Advent, including references and parallels in Old Testament writings.

Tuesday	November	27 th	The Gospel of	Mark
	December	4 th		Luke
		11 th		Matthew
		18 th		John

We hope you will feel moved to come and join us.
From the Worship and Christian Nurture Committee

BOOK GROUP

The next meeting of the Book Group will be on Monday December 3rd at 80 Ashburton Road at 7.30 p.m. and our chosen title is 'SNAP' by Belinda Bauer.

LIFE AND WORK : DECEMBER 2018

Christmas 2018

- The Christians who will be working on Christmas Day
- Chris Wigglesworth reflects on a personal journey to Bethlehem
- The Moderator urges us to celebrate Christmas by reaching out to others
- The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers urges us to focus on the core message of the Christmas story
- The Rev Dr Margaret Forrester considers Christmas from the perspective of the innkeeper's wife
- Ron Ferguson argues the best Christmas gift would be justice for all

CHRISTMAS STALL

It will soon be time to go up into the loft and bring down the boxes of Christmas decorations...Now that you've decided to have calm, white, ethereal decorations, you can bring your surplus jazzy items to our Christmas Stall for sale! (We wouldn't be averse to accepting wee crafty things too if you have the time and talent to make them!). There are no prices, just donations. Items can be anything with a Christmas connection. Last year we raised over £300 for a small Middle Eastern Charity working with children in distress. Please bring donations on or after November 25th – the stall will run on 2nd, 9th and 16th December at Coffee Time. Thank you.



P.S. The Bethany Christian Trust runs 'Caring Christmas Trees'. You can order your tree online and pick it up at Bearsden Baptist Church. They work with the homeless and people in crisis at Christmas. See online.



ST JOHN'S-RENFIELD'S ROOF MOVED 4 INCHES!

Hello Folks,

I am concluding my reminiscences of the war here in Kelvindale.

The church's roof was moved four inches by the bomb. Stained glass was broken. The Church officer's house was destroyed. Eight houses were totally destroyed in Leicester Avenue and Chelmsford Avenue. There was a lot of damage in many streets: windows were blown out, ceilings down, houses went on fire. However, there was very little damage on the other side of Cleveden Road because of the hill.

Anti-aircraft guns were located on a railway wagon at Maryhill yard near the canal. The guns fired a few shots at enemy aircraft then the guns were taken along the line to Knightswood where they did the same. This was to make it look like we had more defences than we had. Incendiary bombs landed in the canal between the Cleveden Road bridge and the aqueduct.

Ammunition was kept in Kelvindale House which was derelict. It had been Collins' house at the Mill at the foot of Cleveden Road.

There were four wardens wounded in Leicester Avenue. Together they thought they saw a parachute but it was a bomb. One of these was Jack Smith of 134 Cleveden Road and another was Freddie Grant, the chemist. One was the son-in-law of Mrs Duff, the Postmistress. They were injured but survived.

Next time: the houses of Kelvindale, Stanley Baldwin's visit and Murder!.....

Yours Aye,

Ken Morton

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

Hello Children



It's that time of year again, I hope you are all looking forward to Christmas. Now I have a slight problem that I hope you can help me with? The list on the left has all been muddled up for some reason. So can you un-jumble the letters and draw a line to match them to the Christmas word on the right?

leslb	Mistletoe
sdlneac	stockings
snerggtgei	decorations
lahyido	gifts
sksgocint	candy cane
aydcn ncea	elves
ttisomeel	bells
tawerh	santa
nreaocotids	greetings
seelv	christmas tree
ntaas	holiday
tsgfi	frost
trfso	candles
Mshtiscar rete	wreath

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and I will see you in the New Year.

Beacon Butterfly 😊

DUTIES

Welcoming you to Church in December

Mary Paris
Moira Eaglesham
Eileen Brown

Bob Paris
Eileen Wilson
Andy McCrindle

Carol Riddell

Crèche Rota

2nd December

Elizabeth MacDonald

Margaret Brown

9th December

Susan Finnigan

Carolyn Calder

16th December

Christine McCann

Anne Bryden

23rd December

Lena Ramage

Fiona Robinson

30th December

No crèche

Arranging your flowers

Margaret Simpson; Susan Finnigan; Grace MacKay

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Material for the February Beacon is required by

FRIDAY 11th January 2019, 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

DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	2 nd	11 a.m.	Morning Worship with Sacrament of Holy Communion
Monday	3 rd	7.30 p.m.	Book Group
Tuesday	4 th	10.30 a.m.	Advent Study
Wednesday	5 th	2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	The Pop-In Café
Saturday	8 th	4.30 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Messy Church Christmas Party
Sunday	9 th	11 a.m. 7 p.m.	Gift Service Mackintosh Choir Christmas Concert
Monday	10 th	2 p.m.	Afternoon Communion
Tuesday	11 th	10.30 a.m.	Advent Study
Sunday	16 th	11 a.m. 2.30 p.m. 6.30 p.m.	Morning Worship Service in Rannoch House Nine Lessons and Carols
Tuesday	18 th	10.30 a.m.	Advent Study
Wednesday	19 th	2.30 p.m.	Service in Balmanno House
Thursday	20 th	9.30 a.m.	Kelvindale Primary School Service
Sunday	23 rd	11 a.m.	Sunday Club Nativity (unrehearsed)
Monday	24 th	6.30 p.m. 11.30 p.m.	Christingle Watchnight Service
Tuesday	25 th	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	30 th	11 a.m.	Morning Worship

JANUARY 2019

Wednesday	2 nd	2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	The Pop-In Café
Sunday	6 th	11 a.m.	Morning Worship followed by shorter service of Holy Communion