

# The Beacon

**St John's-Renfield Church**

**Magazine**

**No 340**

**[www.stjohnsrenfieldchurch.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsrenfieldchurch.org.uk)**

**2019**

**Feb**

**Mar**

**April**

**May**

**June**

**Sept**

**Oct**

**Nov**

**Dec**



Dear Friends,

I begin with three cheers to all the young people who pelted me with wet sponges at our Summer Fête! Especially to the young fellow who did not miss, even once, his opportunity. Three cheers too to my associates in the stocks, including our Clerk of Session, Graham Moore; our Glasgow North MP, Patrick Grady; one of our Community Police Officers, Rod Sharp; and our Fête Organiser, Allan Watt who, together with the whole fête team, did such a superb job. Good call too on the weather by Allan and Jim Tassell – what a bright and sunny day we got. Giving it the go ahead at noon on a very wet Friday was an act of faith!

The baked goods were a revelation of colour and shape, not to say taste, with some truly stunning offerings. Glad it was Rachel from Butterscotch who had to judge them. Save for the Victoria Sponge cakes of course, Shirley Maxwell tells me, judged by a most willing Community Police Officer. The bouncy castle was well bounced, and afforded an opportunity for conversation with parents from the neighbourhood. The ice cream van and fire truck crew attracted lots of attention from kids and adults alike. Meanwhile, Wendy must have set a record for number of children's faces painted in a single shift. The tug of war and sack race got us nicely on the grass, though not all of us managed to get that wellie past the starting line.

In the middle of it all came the sophisticated sounds of Jim MacDonald and John Guerrier on clarinet and accordion, accompanying those who went upstairs for a wee bite and a cuppa. Cheers to the team who volunteered to keep the teas and coffees going. The donation basket was found to have some £230 in it, which we cleared, given the wonderful generosity of people and organisations who contributed to the day in true community spirit.

A sincere thanks to Kelvinside Academy for providing Balgray free of charge, and to Charles, their groundskeeper, for his warmth and guidance as he looked after us on the day.

And when it was over, as we took down the marquees pole by pole, and pondered the prospect of doing it all again next year, I offered up a quiet prayer of thanks to the God whose Spirit calls us to be together, in all our generations, whatever roads we may have been travelling to get here.

I don't know who said it first, but the world is run by those who show up. We showed up that Saturday, and it felt good. Not that we want to run the world; we just do not wish to be run by it, and are called to work to change it, heralds of the justice and joy of God in Christ.

Your friend,

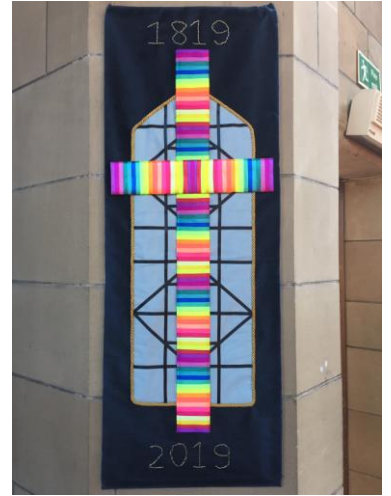
Stewart



## 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banner

When the Craft Group was asked some time ago if it might do something to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of St John's Parish Church and Renfield Church I had the idea of a banner. Moira Reid and I set about designing and making it on behalf of the Craft Group.

The design was inspired by features of our present Sanctuary. The shape of the Sanctuary windows is reflected in the shape of the 'window' on the banner and the 'leading' is in the same pattern as a section of one of our windows. The multi-coloured Cross reflects the Children's Cross made at Easter a few years ago by the children which represents the diversity within the Church. The deep blue velvet background reminds me of the background of the Pulpit Fall which was used when I was growing up in St John's–Renfield.



***Elma Boyd***

## Have You Heard That ...

- the Property Team need your help. Do you know anyone who is a good wood carver? Our searches have so far got nowhere. We simply need someone to complete Rev Fiona Lillie's details on the roll of ministers - it's not a big job but we can't find anyone to do it. John Allan and Jim Tassell will be delighted to receive your suggestions
- the restoration of the Piano Stool in the Large Hall was generously funded by Maureen McWilliam, one of our "Flower Ladies"
- that Motor Neurone Disease Scotland have asked that we pass on their thanks for the contribution of £225.00 which was raised in April at the Charity Fair and by the congregation on the following Sunday. They are very grateful for such a generous donation
- Claire Herbert who was with us as a locum in the summer of 2017 has completed her training took up the post of Chaplain to the Lodging House Mission on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Arrangements for her ordination at LHM are to be confirmed and will be shared when we have them. Read her own story of her journey to ministry, that began in 2011, on page 6
- our neighbours across at the Nuffield Health Glasgow Hospital start work in September on a new MRI suite. It will be a single storey building facing out onto Beaconsfield Rd. We have discussed with them any potential impacts during the 33 week construction period and there do not look to be any significant ones. They won't be working at weekends or in the evenings. The contractors' accommodation will be on Beaconsfield Road alongside the works, so we will lose a few parking spaces. They have offered, on Sunday mornings, the use of their car park as a replacement for the duration of the works. If you have any queries about the works, please speak to Jim Tassell
- the next meeting of the Book Group will be soon – watch the Intimations on Sundays! Our choices are *Circe* by Madeline Miller and *The Watchmaker of Filigree Street* by Natasha Pulley. Further information from Wilma Murphy
- on Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup> there is a Coffee Morning to coincide with Day 1 of Doors Open Day. There will be a Book Stall, so if you would like to pass on the paperback books you have read over the summer, please bring them to church on the Sundays running up to the date. There will be a box in the Large Hall for them. Thank you!
- the Bonanza, our main fund raising effort takes place on Saturday 2 November - all the usual stalls and more details next month!





## A MESSAGE FROM PROBATIONARY DEACON CLAIRE HERBERT

I am writing to share the news with my placement congregations that on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May I was invited to interview for the position of Chaplain at Lodging House Mission Glasgow. I am delighted to share with you that I have been offered the position and was overjoyed and humbled to accept the call. Discussion is underway at presbytery for an ordination later in the year after summer break.

I began my journey to ministry back in 2011. I attended vocations conference in Dundee to explore the variety of ministries on offer throughout the Church of Scotland. The next step was a period of discernment at Claremont Parish to explore my particular call to ministry.

From there I spent time in 2013 exploring the ministry of a Deacon at neighbouring Moncrieff. In 2014, I volunteered with Revival FM community Christian Radio Station prior to being accepted as a candidate in training for the diaconate of the Church of Scotland.

During 2012, I was also accepted onto the Divinity Degree course at Glasgow University. I began a period of full time study which would see me graduate with honours in 2017. During this time I was placed with a number of congregations. Prior to taking up my probationary placement I spent the summer of 2017, serving as Locum with you.

God is good and I was blessed with many supportive people who have helped and encouraged me and my family throughout this journey. I was assessed to have been successful in completing my training in December 2018. This meant that after years of God's equipping and training through the Church of Scotland, I was free to apply for positions.

I will take up my post as *Chaplain to Lodging House Mission* in Glasgow on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019. The Chaplaincy is just a small part of the service that the Lodging House Mission have been offering to those experiencing homelessness in Glasgow since 1909. I look forward to sharing the story of the mission and partnering with many of you again in the near future.

Thank you for all the support and prayers that my family and I have received during this time. We have been greatly blessed and strengthened in our faith as a result.

God's richest blessings to you all

***Claire, Craig and family.***

# SUNDAY CLUB

Hi everyone!

Well that was a fast summer! Hope everyone had a great time. Very many thanks to those wonderful people that volunteered to do the summer club over the past two months – and to Isobel for organising it. Thanks too to the volunteers at the Super JRs – a great time was had by all!

We are back on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September in the Brotherton Hall with a games day. Bring a pal along and show them what the church is all about! We also have the Youth service on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

Look forward to seeing you there and hearing all about your holidays.

*Caroline*

## **DOORS OPEN WEEKEND 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019**

St. John's-Renfield Church is taking part in Glasgow's Doors Open event this year. The church will be open to visitors on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September** from **10am till 4pm** and on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** from **1pm till 4pm**.

On **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>** at **2 pm** Alan Christie will give a talk about the memorial plaque to those lost during the second world war.

**On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Cameron Murdoch will be giving an Organ recital after morning service.**

Visitors are welcome to join the congregation for morning service.

Tea and Coffee will be available throughout the two days.

Anyone who can spare an hour to help welcome visitors over the weekend please contact Mina Cummings after church or by email.

# 5<sup>TH</sup> GLASGOW BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY

## ANCHOR BOYS

The new session for the Anchor Boys begins on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 6pm – 7.15pm. We are looking forward to welcoming as many P1-P3 boys as possible.

Last session we had only three boys, two P2s and one P3. The P3 boy has been promoted to the Junior Section, leaving us with only two boys for whom this will be their last Anchor Boy session before they too are promoted to the Junior Section. We NEED recruits!

The Anchor Boys are the foundation for the Boys' Brigade and the future of 5<sup>th</sup> Glasgow Boys' Brigade Company depends on the success or otherwise of the Anchor Boys. We have been fortunate enough to recruit two volunteer helpers over the summer period. We don't want more adults than boys present on a Tuesday night.

Kenny Cummings, Officer-in-Charge of the Company Section, and Allan Watt, Officer-in-Charge of the Junior Section have been working closely with the Boys' Brigade Glasgow Battalion secretary, Jim McVean, on a recruitment drive. Together, they made a presentation at an assembly at Kelvindale Primary School and we are hopeful of new recruits following this initiative.

Officers in the Company Section have also been working hard to promote the Boys' Brigade and all its activities on a variety of social media platforms

If you have neighbours or friends or know any families with boys in P1, P2 or P3, please follow up this assembly with encouraging words, promoting The Boys' Brigade where they will have fun participating in games, art and craft, story- telling, drama, baking, parties and outings.

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



# COFFEE MORNING

A **Coffee Morning** will be held on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September** to coincide with the Doors Open Weekend when we hope to have some visitors to the church. It will run between 10am and 12 noon and cost £2.00 per person – includes tea/coffee. We will be running our usual stalls of books, bottle stall, home baking and would be delighted to receive donations of paper-back books and bottles on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September and Friday morning 20<sup>th</sup> September between 9am and 12 noon. Home Baking can be left on Friday morning 20<sup>th</sup> September and between 9am – 10am on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September.



## **The Boys' Brigade**

### **5<sup>th</sup> Glasgow Company**

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

**[5thglasgow@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:5thglasgow@boys-brigade.org.uk)**

## **COMPANY SECTION NEWS**

With another session now upon us, the Company Section will start their normal Parade nights on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 7.30 p.m. in the Large Hall. Any boys from P7 up to S6 are more than welcome to join us for what will no doubt be another jam packed year of events, outings, badge work, and competitions. Please feel free to come along on the 6<sup>th</sup> and see what we're all about! For additional news, you can also check out our informative website and, of course, watch out for our updates on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

Rounding up the latter part of last session, the Company Section held a great weekend camp at the 1<sup>st</sup> Glasgow's campsite at Stillaig, near Tignabruaich, between 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The weather did us proud and a good time was had by all.

We've got lots of plans for this session, so we'll keep you posted over the coming months!

***STEDFAST***



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

**Contact: Eileen Wilson**

**District Commissioner**

**kelvinsideistrictguiding@gmail.com**



**Rainbows**

*2nd Kelvinside Rainbows*

Monday Evening

Brotherton Hall

6.15pm - 7.15pm

5 - 7 Year olds

**Starts Monday**

**2nd September**

**Brownies**

*25th A Glasgow Brownie Pack*

Friday Evening

Church Hall

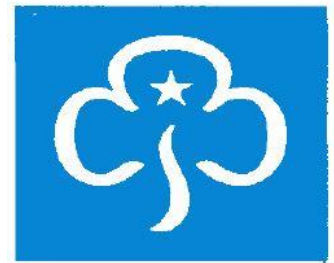
6.00 pm - 7.30pm

7-10 Year Olds

**Starts Friday**

**6th September**

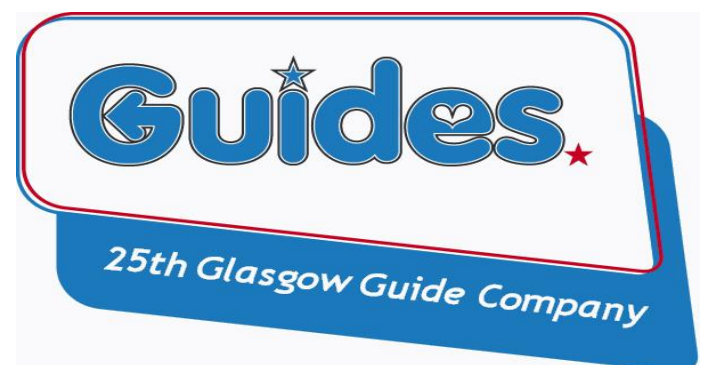




Friday Evening  
Brotherton Hall  
6.15pm - 7.45pm  
7 - 10 Year Olds  
**Starts Friday**  
**6th September**



Tuesday Evening  
Brotherton Hall  
7.00pm - 8.30pm  
10 - 15 Year Olds  
**Starts Tuesday**  
**3rd September**



Tuesday Evening  
every second Tuesday  
Brotherton Hall  
7.00pm - 8.30pm  
14 - 18 Year Olds  
**Starts Tuesday**  
**3rd September**



**FLORAL NEWS**

As from September 2019 Grace McKay will take over as treasurer of the church flower fund, a task handed on to me some years ago by Irene Frame. I am, however, happy to continue to convene the flower arrangers' group as a member of the rota of volunteers responsible for the purchase and display of flowers in the church. As well as beautifying the church Sunday by Sunday your flowers are distributed to members of the congregation in their homes, or care homes. Should you wish to donate to the flower fund please approach any member of the team, Grace McKay, Eleanor Murphy, Maureen McWilliam, Margaret Simpson, Marion Dowling, Susan Finnigan or myself. We are grateful for your continued support.

***Elizabeth MacDonald***

## **PASTORAL CARE INFORMATION IN SEPTEMBER**

There will be a display of booklets and leaflets on a number of topics which may be of interest to the congregation - Cancer Care, Dementia and Mental Health. These deal with how to speak with friends who may be affected, rather than in depth explanations. Also available are a variety of small cards with Bible verses and prayers which may be useful for sending to those who are unwell or worried. All these are available free of charge. They will be on a table in the Large Hall after Worship on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September**. For more information, please contact Sandra Hutchison, or Eleanor Murphy..

## OPERA REVIEW

Torrential showers throughout the day and into the evening did not deter the enthusiastic capacity audience from welcoming the return of Opera Bohemia at St John's-Renfield Church on Sunday 18th August 2019. Some of the cast made an immediate impact - framed in the doorways of the imaginatively designed set, the ladies in beautiful dresses and the men also in smart attire. All through the evening, the singing, dancing, acting and movement were most impressive. The members of the cast were sensitively accompanied by the excellent Opera Bohemia Ensemble, led by the magical sound of Daniel Meszoly's violin and ably conducted by Alistair Digges.

Many of the melodies from the operetta, such as The Merry Widow Waltz, have been familiar to us since our early years. The much-loved song 'Vilia' was marvellously presented by The Merry Widow (Catriona Clark) aided by the Chorus and dancers. The pursuit of Valencienne by Camille de Rosillon (Tyler Clarke) was largely unsuccessful but he had ample opportunity to entertain us with his fine tenor voice.

Two romantic couples being re-united provided a fitting finale to a thoroughly enjoyable evening and highly professional production of The Merry Widow by Opera Bohemia. The company goes from strength to strength and travels around Scotland to give pleasure to many.

***John MacMillan***

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Donations of £265 for The Lodging House Mission were raised from interval refreshments at Opera Bohemia performance of The Merry Widow.



# **GREAT SCOTTISH RUN - GLASGOW 10K**

Roddy Watt will be running the Glasgow 10K on **Sunday 29 September** to raise funds for **Christian Aid**. Roddy tells us why:

Everyone is equal in the sight of God. Yet we live in a world where poverty still persists. Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. But together we have the power to transform lives. For over 70 years, we've been standing with the poorest of our neighbours. We work in 37 countries, with people of all faiths and none, to stand up for dignity, equality and justice. We stand together with our global neighbours. Together we can create a world where everyone can live.

If you would like to support this fund-raising effort, sponsorship forms will be available in due course and online donations can be made via Roddy's JustGiving webpage:

<http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Roderick-Watt2>

## **POP IN CAFÉ**

Pop in on first Wednesday of the month EVERY MONTH....

We had a very happy afternoon recently. People and cakes kept popping in and merry children. Graham Moore helped on the day as did Mina Cummings and Candy Rankin. We had a short piano recital from Candy, which made the afternoon like sitting in a tea garden.



We got a grant from the council so we were off on a free bus run to Largs on the 28<sup>th</sup> August.

All pre-loved items are always welcome for our prizes!

Will let you know what we got up to in Largs next time!



# 200 ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

## KELVINDALE SUMMER FÊTE

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August, we hosted our first Fête at Balgray Playing Fields.

The thundery wet weather did its best to put us off in the days running up to the event, but we went ahead and were lucky to have a bright sunny day with just a short shower.

About 250 people came along over the afternoon and enjoyed a variety of activities.

A couple of the highlights were

- Baking Competition

As you can see from the picture we had a large variety of entries to our baking competitions, and after a lengthy tasting session, Rachel from Butterscotch Bakery selected her winners.



Winners

Best Victoria Sponge: Gemma Stewart

Best Traybake: Rose Clark

Best Other cake: Wendy Watt

Best Scones: Fiona Savage

Best Jam: Marjory Watt

There were no entries for the Chutney/pickle category, but we got a number of jars of marmalade, and the winner of this impromptu category is Diane Paterson.

- Soak the Elder,

A set of stocks were borrowed from Stirling Old Town jail several volunteers were found to spend 5 minutes each trapped in the stocks with the kids ( and some adults) throwing wet sponges at them. Those soaked included Stewart Gillan our Minister, Graham Moore our Session Clerk, Patrick Grady our local SNP MP and a variety of dads!

- Community Police officers

Officers Shanks and Sharp came along for the whole day. They were brilliant with the kids, playing football, showing them around the police car and some of the riot equipment. PC Sharp even volunteered for a shot in the stocks while PC Sharp “assisted”



with the baking judging. They were both a credit to the force.

Other activities included Tug of war, Races, Toss the Welly, bouncy castle, ice cream van, tea and coffee, face painting, fire engine and crafts.

The committee would like to thank all those that came along on the day, everyone who supported the event in the preparation stages and all those that volunteered to assist on the day.

You never know, we may well do it again next year.....

# YOU WRITE TO THE BEACON

**THE COMMUNITY SUMMER FÊTE** The 200 Committee would like to thank all volunteers from the Community and the Congregation for their contributions and help on the day of the fêete. Thank you to Rachel from Butterscotch, to the Community Police, the Fire Brigade, and Patrick Grady MP for entering the spirit of the event. Our thanks to the Groundsman and to Kelvinside Academy for the use of Balgray. Thank you to Allan Watt for all his work in organising what was a very special and happy day!

## THE CHURCH TABLECLOTH MYSTERY

Can you please cast your minds back to the beginning of January (I know that's a big ask...). When the Christmas decorations were being taken down can anyone remember what happened to the white tablecloths that were on the table in the Sanctuary? They were there because the Advent Wreath was placed on the table due to Shirley and Jim's granddaughter's Baptism. Someone may have put them in 'a safe place'.

The second mystery is the whereabouts of a white tablecloth that was kept in the drawer of the table in the Session House. Does anyone have any ideas?

This one was sometimes used for weddings etc. If anyone has any bright ideas we would love to hear them! Thank you very much. Shirley and Eleanor.

STOP PRESS!!

The second cloth has been **FOUND**

## **WORLD MISSION**

Copies of the September newsletter are to be found at the main door of the Church. This issue focuses on **Stories from Partners Around the World.**

You can read stories from Yara, a refugee from Syria, who has been resettled in Dundee and hopes to go to University to study human rights, with the goal of helping vulnerable people in Scotland. Another story is from Rev. Bob Milne about people supporting each other after the floods in Malawi caused by Cyclone Idai. We also hear from Joel Hafvenstein, director of The United Mission to Nepal, about how money from the "Let Us Build a House" appeal in Scotland is being used in Nepal to build schools and water systems. This follows the earthquake in 2015.

For the World Mission online edition go to:

**[www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/world-mission](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/world-mission)**

***Marjory Watt***

## **VALERIE TAYLOR TRUST**

Supporters will be pleased to know that Valerie has made very good progress after her worrying health problem earlier in the year. She is due a medical review and scan in September and plans to return to the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed in Bangladesh in October. Her adopted daughters Joyti and Poppy will be so happy to see her back.

With thanks to all who maintain an interest in the charity.

***Brian Whitty***

## **Material for the October Beacon is required by**

**FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup> September 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/Facebook](http://www.stjohnsrenfieldchurch.org.uk/secretary@sjrchurch.plus.com/Facebook)

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# CONGREGATIONAL DIARY

## SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup>	11 a.m.	Morning Worship followed by shorter service of Holy Communion
Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup>	NO POP IN CAFÉ	
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup>	11 a.m.	Morning Worship
Monday	9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 p.m.	Book Group
Tuesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	10 a.m.	Unlocking the Word
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup>	11 a.m.	Opening service for Youth Organisations
Wednesday	18 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 p.m.	Kirk Session
Saturday	21 <sup>st</sup>	10 a.m. – 12 noon 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Coffee Morning Doors Open Day
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	11 a.m. 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Morning Worship Doors Open Day
Sunday	29 <sup>th</sup>	11 a.m.	Morning Worship

## OCTOBER 2019

Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 - 3.30 p.m.	Pop-In Café
Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup>	11 a.m.	Harvest Thanksgiving Morning Worship with Sacrament of Holy Communion