

The Beacon

St John's-Renfield Church

Magazine No 342

www.stjohnsrenfieldchurch.org.uk

2019

Feb

Mar

April

May

June

Sept

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Dec



Dear Friends,

For some reason I decided I would have a go at naming the ABCs of November. I had a lovely B: B is for Bonanza. Solid ground there. But I had skipped A, failing to come up with something, until I remembered that All Saints and All Souls come at the beginning of the month. C came along nicely thereafter: C is for Commemoration (thinking of Remembrance Day). I was much encouraged. All the more when I realised that All Souls and the Bonanza fall on the same day this year. Which brought back scenes of last year's Bonanza.

I recalled that Kerr had brought to the Bonanza an electric guitar signed by the members of the band Kasabian, which went for a pretty penny. This in turn put me in mind of a different guitar, owned for time by Sarah's father Peter. Peter who loves a good garage sale himself, and can hardly pass a collection of bric-a-brac at roadside. This summer we were in his car on the way to a Used Books in Bridgetown, driving through a light rain, when I asked him, to pass the time, if he ever got his guitar back from Joni Mitchell.

He'd told me the story before, how he'd once loaned her his guitar. But I had not heard how it had all turned out. Caught up in a glorious imaginary of my father-in-law in Yorkville (Toronto's Greenwich Village) in 1964, I had pictured Joni Mitchell playing Peter's guitar at a gig in one of the clubs. With all kinds of cool people listening. Turns out it didn't happen that way.

It was a pretty special guitar, he told me. Handmade. A classical design with nylon strings. Great sound. A music shop on Yonge Street, wanting to improve its image, had hired a renowned guitar maker from Mexico to make them five guitars. The idea was to put the guitars in the hands of the kind of people who could boost sales. The shop sold other makes but they wanted to make a splash. Four had been sold when Peter showed up. He bought the remaining one for about \$150, a fair buck for the time. He was making \$50-\$70 a week.

So he's sitting on the steps of his building on the north side of Yorkville, playing the guitar, when 'a tall girl with long blonde hair' came up to him. She had been playing in the east end of the village, not yet big but getting a name for herself. Someone had told her Peter had a really cool guitar. She asked if she could play it. Peter said sure and she played it there in the street. 'I really like the sound,' she said, 'would you sell it to me?'

But Peter liked it himself and wouldn't sell. Nor was she the first to show an interest.

Then one day, about three weeks after Joni Mitchell played it, the guitar disappeared from the flat. Peter never saw it again. He came home and couldn't find it. He didn't blame Joni at all, he says, but thinks someone must have overheard he had a pretty special guitar and walked off with it.

So there it was. Gone. Fate unknown. Not the ending I had imagined. Even so, I like to think I can hear Peter's guitar on Big Yellow Taxi ('Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got 'till it's gone'), but that sounds like a flat top acoustic.

The thing is, these items we acquire and keep for a time and then lose or get rid of have a story. That Kasabian guitar will have one (a new one now), as will that book that will go for 50p in the Brotherton. Or the game, or that jar of apple and rhubarb jelly. Very few things are what they are merely in themselves. They are storied things, however imagined, and this is a big part of their value to us. Objects are not objective, if we have anything to do with them. Like loaves of bread that come to life when people break them and share them out.

Your friend,
Stewart

*Fiona Robinson took this picture, appropriate for Remembrance,
when on holiday in Sri Lanka*

LIFE AND WORK : NOVEMBER

Discipleship Today

New series looking at what it means to follow Jesus today

'God's Word Has the Power to Transform Lives'

The faith journey of trainee minister Kaye Gardiner

Thinking 'out of the box'

An insight into 'hub-style' ministries

Remembrance

- Looking Back at the Church of Scotland's response in the early months of World War Two
- Remembrance Prayer from the Moderator of the General Assembly
- The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers reflects on war and remembrance

Gratitude for the Guild

The Church of Scotland Guild's Annual Gathering in Dundee

Rhythms of the Year

Ron Ferguson reflects on the approach of Advent

Have You Heard That ...

- BONANZA donations can be brought to the halls on Thursday 31st October and Friday 1st November between 7pm and 9pm and also on Friday morning 1st November between 10am and 12noon
- to date sponsorship for Roddy Watt's completing the **GLASGOW 10K FOR CHRISTIAN AID**: stands at **£1,155** including Gift Aid. Roddy says 'Many thanks to all who contributed so generously to such a total', while the congregation says well done!
- Juliette Robb of The Olive Tree will be visiting us again on Sunday 1st December to offer her Palestine made items. Many members of the congregation have previously been delighted to acquire lovely bowls, jewellery, cards etc while at the same time in this way supporting the people of Palestine
- on Armistice Sunday an extra flower vessel is in use. It is a little wall vase affixed under the World War II memorial. It was gifted soon after that memorial came into being by a member, conscious that one of the memorialised no longer had relatives attached to the church. Perhaps that suggests to us today that relatives left flowers by the memorial on Armistice Sunday
- BB Quiz returns again this year, on Saturday 16th November. Look out for tickets on sale on Sunday mornings, or contact Allan Watt to reserve your place
- those wanting to know a little more about the lives of the former members commemorated on the Second World War memorial can do so in the booklet to be found in the east vestibule, *Memorialising the Memorialised*. A minimum donation of £2 goes to the property fund
- Vivienne Limond would like to thank everyone who sponsored her on her walk for St Margaret's Hospice - she raised approximately £866.

REMEMBER, REMEMBER – SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2019 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 31st October and Friday 1st November between 7pm and 9pm and also on Friday morning 1st 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.

Isobel and Shirley

Just looking for donations for time talent and treats...

With the bonanza nearly upon us, we are once again looking for anyone able to donate a little time talent or a treat!

From home baking to DIY skills and gardening, if you have anything you'd be willing to donate for auction please get in touch with Robbie Allan.

DOORS OPEN WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 21ST - 22ND 2019

The event opened with the coffee morning which certainly encouraged visitors and on such a lovely day we continued to have visitors all afternoon. Most spent quite a bit of time reading the history as presented on the display board for the 200th anniversary and also the history behind the BB colours and the BB board all of which made an excellent feature of the tour which was enhanced by the wonderful arrangements created by the Flower Committee.

On Saturday Alan Christie's talk about the men named on the WWII memorial was a highlight of the afternoon and very much enjoyed by those present. One visitor was a church organist from Corstorphine who enjoyed a few minutes playing our organ. On Sunday morning I had doubts about anyone coming out at all as the weather was so bad but, thankfully, it cleared up and we had several more visitors. The afternoon opened with a "non recital recital" on our lovely organ by Cameron which was enjoyed by visitors and members of the congregation who don't often have the opportunity to enjoy such a varied performance. The afternoon visitors included a young couple from Canada. The young woman's parents had been married in St John's-Renfield in 1986. Some gentlemen came especially to photograph the windows and one gentleman, who had been involved in working on Wellington Church as young apprentice, was particularly interested in the structure of the building and of the earlier churches as displayed in the large hall where visitors could also see information about some of the many church activities. Everyone commented on how lovely the building is and a few stayed for a cup of tea.

The event could not have taken place without the involvement of all the people who contributed to displays, gave me advice (much needed) and gave so much of their time during the two days. There are too many to list but my heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to each one of you.

We totalled 58 visitors over the weekend so well done to everyone.

Mina Cummings

SUNDAY 27TH JANUARY 2019

COLOMBO LIVERAMENTU CEMETERY, SRI LANKA

Hamish Campbell, age 21, the second son of the minister of St John's-Renfield church, died 18th November 1945 in Sri Lanka. His story was shared with the congregation, along with others on the memorial plaque, at the Remembrance Day service last year.

We, (my husband Deric and myself) had a trip planned to Sri Lanka in January 2019 and when we heard about Hamish's story it felt right that we should try and see where his final resting place is.

It was fairly simple on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website to research and get the details of which cemetery he was in. There was also a plan setting out the location within the cemetery. Plot 3 C 7 - all seemed quite an easy task to locate the headstone.

Our driver Sanjaya was fantastic and drove us to the cemetery which was in a residential suburb in North Colombo. We entered the cemetery and Sanajaya called over to three local grave-diggers to ask where the war graves were located and we were shown to the area – a beautifully well kept area of the graveyard behind a high wall and locked gate!

Unable to gain entry our initial thoughts were of great disappointment having travelled so far.... But all was not lost. Thankfully the three workers took us through the long grass up the side of the walled area. Behind some bushes there was a gap in the fence, and they helped us through into the war graves cemetery.

We were unable at first to find the grave and our three workers yet again came to our aid. With their help the headstone of Hamish was located. They then went away and came back with flowers picked from the border and gave them to us to place on the grave. This most gracious and simple act made us realise how warm and friendly the Sri Lankan people are and couldn't do enough for us.

On his headstone the words -
Home, School, Friends,
The Scottish Countryside, I loved and have

What started off as a sad and poignant story on a cold Sunday morning turned out to be one of the highlights of our trip of a lifetime.

Fiona Robinson



SUNDAY CLUB

We are getting ever nearer to the annual Bonanza and will be, no doubt, as busy as ever on the toy stall in the Brotherton Hall. Thanks in advance to those who are helping out with the set up or on the day (or both!)

The lessons from the Gospel of Luke this session have been centred around the importance of helping those less fortunate than ourselves and the children realising what is important in their lives – and not to want too much stuff!! So hopefully they will be happy to clear out some of their cupboards at home and donate it to the bonanza!

Thank you to the parents and grandparents who contributed to the harvest collection for the Lodging House Mission. We made a fabulous owl from various seeds, grains, pasta and rice and he was placed at the front of the sanctuary for all to see! The Junior BB boys also made some great scarecrows.

We also used seeds again recently when we sowed some cress seeds to grow at home – this was compared to Jesus reminding the disciples that if they have even a tiny amount of faith they can achieve extraordinary things – just like the tiny seeds growing into bigger things! The children's faith continues to grow, as does their understanding of what is the right thing to do.

The Sunday Club Team

5TH GLASGOW BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY JUNIOR SECTION

October has been another busy month for us with boys attending the District Sports at Scotstoun Arena where Jackson Burns came away with 3 medals.

On a joint evening with the Anchor Boys, we made 3 scarecrows for the Harvest Service and are now looking for a good home for them!

We have been following the new BB achievements structure and so far have covered topics such as, Saving our Oceans, Recycling and The Rugby World Cup.

Finally we created a presentation for Doors Open Day, including pictures of our activities over the last 12 months, and some Wordles of the boys names.

The presentation remains at the rear of the sanctuary if you missed it.

Allan Watt

LODGING HOUSE MISSION CHRISTMAS CARDS

Examples of this year's Christmas Cards will be on display in the Large Hall on Sundays 3rd and 10th November when orders will be taken. (No payment at this time). We hope to have the cards ready to be collected and paid for on Sunday 24th November.

Thank you once again for your support.

5TH GLASGOW BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY ANCHOR BOYS

The Anchor Boys continue to enjoy working through their programme ensuring the boys reach their targets in all aspects within this session.

We had a themed night focussing on "Harvest" when the boys brought donations of food for the foodbank and the following week, we had great fun with the Junior Section making the life sized scarecrows which were on display in the church on the Sunday of the Harvest Service. Thank you to all those who made donations of materials which allowed us make such a good job of the scarecrows and to Fiona Robinson, the Boys' Brigade Liaison Elder, who was visiting that evening and willingly and enthusiastically "mucked in!" By the time you read this we will have enjoyed our Hallowe'en party and will be looking forward to learning about Armistice and, believe it or not, participating in Partick District's Christmas Colouring Competition!

Aileen Morison
(Officer-in-Charge, Anchor Boys)



Looking to kickstart your Christmas? Why not come to the Clic Sargent Glasgow Hospitals' Christmas Concert at the Royal Concert Hall on Friday 6 December? This concert raises a large amount of money each year to support children with cancer. Alistair Digges has taken over as Musical Director, and with guests Jamie MacDougall and Sally Magnusson, it should be a good fun night. Tickets from the Concert Hall Box Office.



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.

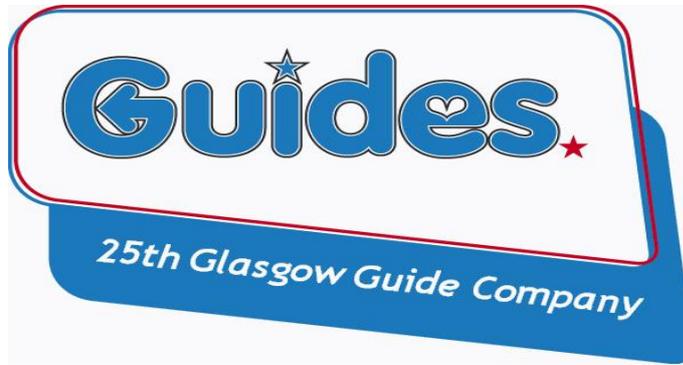
On the Partick District front, we entered a team in the 5-a-side football tournament which was held at Scotstoun on a soggy evening. We are delighted to say that our four boys, augmented by a 'sub' from the 93rd Glasgow, were victorious and brought home the silverware. Well done to our four boys - Pte Cameron Gregor, Pte Alexander Bell, Pte Christopher Watt, & Pte Vincent Russell. The weather for the District Sports was much better, and a great night was had at Scotstoun in early October with our small team claiming a creditable third place.

The boys' classwork continues on a Friday night with the current topics being Fairtrade and Alcohol . Vaulting and trampolining have also been on the schedule. The boys also continue to demonstrate their cooking abilities. Chocolate chip cookies were the latest creation. Hopefully more to come!

During November there is the return of the popular Quiz Night on Saturday 16th. We hope to see many of you there!

Do keep checking our excellent website and our social media feeds to keep up with our latest news.

STEDFAST



25TH GUIDES COFFEE EVENING
TUESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2019
AT 7 P.M.
ST JOHN'S-RENFIELD CHURCH
LARGE HALL

Please come along and support us, we will have
craft stall, toiletries stall and raffle

We can offer you a tea/coffee and a piece of
home baking for £1.50



Proceeds to 25th Glasgow Guide Company

Scottish Charity Number: SC032008

WORLD MISSION

World Mission Newsletter: Copies of the November newsletter are to be found at the main door of the Church.

This issue focuses on **Mustard Seed Stories** highlighting why our connections with the global church can be so valuable. There is an emphasis on sharing resources with others and the merit of learning from churches around the world.

For the World Mission online edition go to:

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/world-mission

Marjory Watt

POP-IN CAFÉ

Next Pop-in Café - Wednesday 6th November - 2 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Pop Out Lunch - Friday 22nd November - Clyde College - 12 p.m.

Pantomime - Cinderfella - 30th November - 2.30 p.m.

COFFEE/TEA ROTA

The August team for the much enjoyed post worship cuppa, Maureen McWilliam, Jennifer Stewart and Liz Craik, have decided it is time to retire and hang up the dish towel. There is now no team to provide 'after Service' refreshments at that time of year.

Please, if you can help by taking over in August, contact me, Liz MacDonald as soon as possible.

P.S. Many of the best chefs and café owners are men. How about 'A Man's Team' for August?

VALERIE TAYLOR TRUST

The Christmas Season is approaching as it does each year! No doubt you will be wondering what to give all these relatives and friends who have "everything" so would really appreciate the Alternative Gift!

A wonderful solution is Essential Gift Scheme/Valerie Taylor Trust. Those who have used it in previous years found it very helpful by giving very valuable gifts to friends and relatives and as a result people who are not so fortunate as ourselves benefit greatly. Please contact me if you feel this would help you this Christmas.

Elizabeth Arthur

Look forward to hearing from you to help solve your Christmas shopping!

BOOK GROUP

The next meeting of the Book Group will be on Wednesday November 6th at 7.30 at 91 Whittingehame Court. Our title is *'In the Days of Rain'* by Rebecca Stott. Poetry theme to follow.

For more information, contact Wilma Murphy.

MAY WE RECOMMEND

A new feature for The Beacon suggested by Wilma Murphy who has had very good service from a couple of workshops - please send us your recommendations.

Ihnen Electronics, Repairs to Laptops, LCDs, Hi Fi, Sat Navs....

236 Battlefield Road, Glasgow G42 9HN, 0141 649 9461

ihnenelectronics@btconnect.co.uk

They repaired my elderly stereo system and I can now listen to my LPs again!

Also

Sewing Machine Repairs

Direct Sewing Machines, 2 Elderpark Workspace, 100 Elder Park Street, Glasgow G51 3TR, 0141 638 0540

directsewingmachines@hotmail.co.uk

My elderly sewing machine now has a new lease of life thanks to this father and son partnership.

THE SUMMER (MIS)ADVENTURES OF THE ST. JOHN'S- RENFIELD WALKING GROUP - PART 1

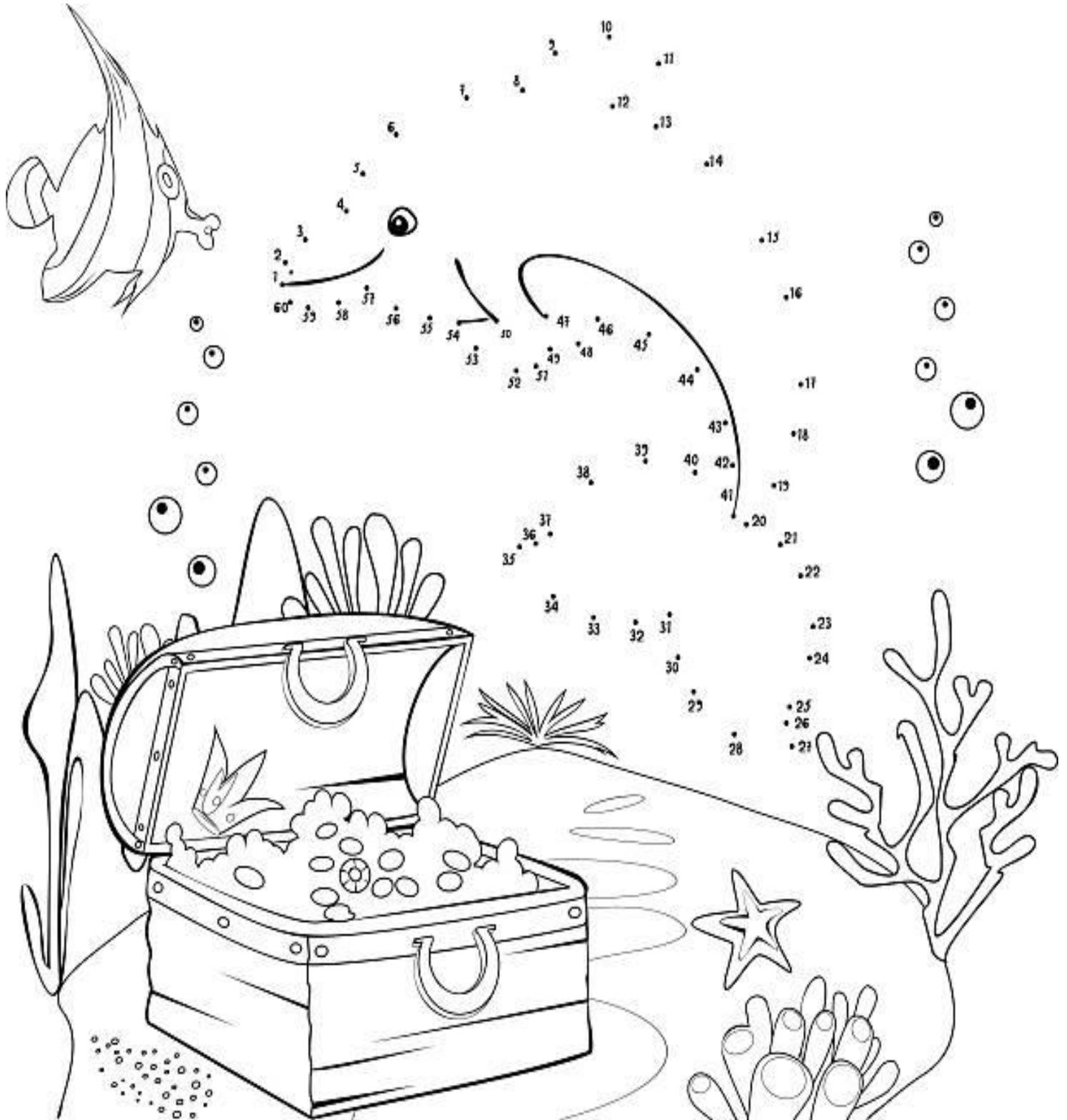
The walking group have continued to get out and about over the summer, visiting a range of locations across central Scotland. Following on from the successful 200th anniversary walk around Glasgow in May, June saw the group head east to North Queensferry. Under the shadow of the Forth Bridge, we set off along a section of the Fife Coastal Path, from which we enjoyed beautiful views over the Firth of Forth, before turning inland at Inner Bay, just south of Inverkeithing. Freda bravely took to the rather industrial looking waters of Inner Bay for a paddle during our lunch stop! Smug at keeping dry on what had so far been a glorious day, despite the grim weather forecast, we were brought back to earth on the return leg to North Queensferry, when the heavens opened (and stayed open!) We were glad of the warm welcome and offer of a place to hang wet jackets and bags in the Ferrybridge Hotel, for our much needed coffee/drying out stop!

The destination for July was Dalry, North Ayrshire. A large and enthusiastic group set off on a glorious summer day, to follow what was supposed to be a well marked and well used local route...All started well, but fairly quickly we were forced to deviate from the mapped route, but pressed on assured that the main path would soon be re-met... Maps, route instructions and satellite images on phones couldn't help us when we soon arrived at what was perhaps a critical junction, and probably chose wrong....It would seem that tree felling replanting in the area had resulted in a changed to the main pathways. Undaunted, enjoying the sunshine and with confidence that it would all come good, we pressed on. Advice from two separate local dog walkers seemed to take us further astray, and in the end, we followed our noses and finally made it to the safety of the road back to Dalry! Packed lunches were consumed in the local park (Christine and Eileen's lunch, as always put the rest of us to shame!) followed by coffee and some impromptu shopping in a nearby factory shop. Plans to take on a second shorter route were dropped, as we had probably ridden our luck for the day!

Hello Children,

I hope you are well. This month I have created a join the dots underwater scene for you to complete. Can you name the creature you are filling in? Once you have done that you can colour it in. The more colour the better.

Happy colouring. Beacon Butterfly ☺



Material for the December Beacon is required by

FRIDAY 15th November 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

Registered as a charity in Scotland Registration No.SC012920

CONGREGATIONAL DIARY

NOVEMBER 2019

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Saturday | 2 nd | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Bonanza |
| Sunday | 3 rd | 11 a.m. 7 p.m. | Morning Worship followed by shorter service of Holy Communion Service of Grieving and Gratitude |
| Wednesday | 6 th | 2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m. | Pop-In Café Book Group |
| Sunday | 10 th | 10.50 a.m. | Service of Remembrance |
| Wednesday | 13 th | 10 a.m. | Unlocking the Word |
| Saturday | 16 th | 7.30 p.m. | Boys' Brigade Quiz and Chippy Night |
| Sunday | 17 th | 11 a.m. | Morning Worship |
| Wednesday | 20 th | 2.30 p.m. | Service in Balmanno House |
| Sunday | 24 th | 11 a.m. | Morning Worship |
| Tuesday | 26 th | 7 p.m. | 25 th Guides Coffee Evening |
| Wednesday | 27 th | 10 a.m. 7.30 p.m. | Unlocking the Word Kirk Session |

DECEMBER 2019

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| Sunday | 1 st | 11 a.m. | Morning Worship with Sacrament of Holy Communion |
| Wednesday | 4 th | 2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. | Pop-In Café |
| Saturday | 7 th | 4.15 p.m. – 6 p.m. | Messy Church |
| Sunday | 8 th | 11 a.m. 7 p.m. | Gift Service Mackintosh Choir Christmas Concert |
| Monday | 9 th | 2 p.m. | Afternoon Communion |