

The Beacon

**St. John's-Renfield Church
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Dear Friends,

As we enter phase 2 of our transition out of lockdown, God being our helper, matters related to the reopening of the Church come to the fore. Together with the whole Church, we are making preparations to reopen for individual prayer in the first instance, and, looking ahead to open our doors for Sunday services later in the month, or early in August, once we will have entered phase 3. That said, timings are subject to a watching brief on the part of Government, and due diligence on the part of the Church.

As our Clerk of Session, Graham Moore, has noted in a recent email to elders, the Church of Scotland has produced a guide to Re-opening of Church Buildings. There are two checklists to be completed: one concerning Buildings and the second a Risk Assessment. I am happy to report that Jim Tassell as our Health & Safety Officer has completed our Risk Assessment. As I write, the property convenors are working on the Building Checklist and hope to have it completed within days. By the time you read this, the Session will have met to consider approval of phase 2 reopening, and, if so minded, forwarded its request to Presbytery for permission to open for individual prayer.

Those charged with planning the reopening of the Church, at national and local levels, have kept the wellbeing of congregations – physical and spiritual – front and centre throughout these preparations. It has been necessary to take careful thought for those who are in higher risk groups, in keeping both with the Church's call to responsible care and Government guidance concerning physical distancing and personal hygiene. We are working hard to ensure the safety of all who come.

For me, this makes for a welcome that is both warm and wise. Please be assured that when we are able to reopen, the doors will be open to all equally, whatever your age or colour, gender, orientation or social status might be.

Over the weeks, filming pre-records for online worship with Matt and Sarah, I have enjoyed being in the sanctuary, looking for locations and angles I have not yet used, trying to bring the Church home to those of you who have been joining for worship in this way. I have enjoyed receiving feedback from many of you – including certain Nova Scotians – and exploring the options, some of them at least, that online worship gives us. At the same time, I have been mindful that many of our members and friends have not been able to access the services. Which brings us back to the matter at hand: preparations to reopen the Church.

May I ask for your prayers in this, as we seek to ready a safe and sustainable welcome to all who come through our reopened doors.

Until the day when we may again see each other in person, singing God's praises and telling stories over tea and coffee, may the peace of Christ be with you and yours,

Your friend,
Stewart



PARISH RECORDS

Funeral and Memorial Services “Nothing can separate us from the love of God”

On 10 June, **Christine Douglas**

Intimation of Deaths and Funeral Arrangements

For many years whenever we have been advised of a death of a member or parishioner this information would be emailed to all the Elders as soon as possible. A follow up email would be sent giving the funeral arrangements.

The Congregation would be advised of these details during the intimations on a Sunday morning.

During lockdown we couldn't inform the congregation of a death or funeral arrangements and the Session Clerk team decided to email all members for whom we had an email address so they could be made aware of the situation.

Going forward we propose to continue with the practice of emailing these announcements as we realise not everyone is an Elder or in Church on a Sunday to hear the intimation and it will therefore give more members the opportunity to pay their respects.

When Sunday Worship in the Church resumes the congregation will still be advised of details during the intimations

21 June 2020

A faith to proclaim, a fellowship to share as we prepare to reopen our doors

Dear Friends,

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

We hope this letter finds you safe and well. You may have read or heard that The Herald recently carried an op/ed piece that misrepresented the Church of Scotland's position concerning care of people in high risk groups as it prepares to reopen churches for individual prayer and, eventually, Sunday worship. In particular, the author of the piece focussed on people over 70 years of age, thinking errantly that the Church was excluding over 70s from its plans for reopening.

The Church has responded robustly, rejecting the accusation, and affirming its position that it is prudent, not cruel, to take careful thought in its preparations for those in the more vulnerable categories. This is in keeping both with the Church's call to responsible care and Government guidance concerning physical distancing and personal hygiene as it begins to ease some lockdown restrictions. Those charged with planning the reopening of the Church have kept the wellbeing – physical and spiritual – of the congregations front and centre throughout their preparations.

Our own preparations to reopen our doors at St John's-Renfield are for all, whatever your age or colour, gender, orientation or social status might be. Be assured that we have worked hard to ensure the safety of all who attend. When we are able to reopen, the doors will be open to all equally.

Until the day when we may again see each other in person, may the peace of Christ be with you and yours,

Stewart, Graham, Shirley, Susan and Matt

Foodbank

As previously intimated St John's-Renfield is giving the foodbank at St Gregory's £200 every month, £800 to date, so Father Cameron can buy what the foodbank most requires to help those people in need. This contribution is in lieu of the estimated cost of the food donated by the congregation each month. At the outset members were asked to set aside the money they would have spent so that when we were able to meet again in the Sanctuary we could contribute to replenishing the funds the Church had used.

The Church may soon be allowed to open for private prayer/meditation but we are still some weeks away from when we can resume Sunday Worship and for members to be given the opportunity to refund the Church. Because of this we are looking at setting up an online giving page so members and friends can donate as and when they wish. Indeed not everyone who wishes to donate food can bring it so an online giving page would allow everyone the opportunity to help our neighbours.

Your support for the foodbank is much appreciated and we will advise you of the link for giving next month.

Kirk Session - Informal Meeting

The Kirk Session met informally via zoom on Wednesday 3rd June with 33 Elders being online. Again it was great to see so many faces we haven't seen for a while and hear what has been happening in their lives.

Stewart opened with a reading from Isaiah Ch40 V1- **"Comfort my people," says our God. Comfort them!**

There was appreciation for the online Sunday service and blogs, with special thanks to Matt for his technical expertise in setting this up, and also for the continuation of the Beacon during lockdown.

Elders were asked to tell how they were, what was going well, what challenges they had experienced and what they were looking forward to. The general consensus was that personally elders were well and enjoying the little bit of extra freedom of being allowed to exercise more and meet family or friends. Gardening and decorating seems to have been the fallback activities for many with a few enjoying listening to music they hadn't heard for a while. A number had spent time watching the wildlife in their garden or surrounding area and were surprised at what they had seen from foxes to toads, damsel flies, nesting oyster catchers, the ducklings and signets down at the Pond, even deer in Chelmsford Drive.

One Elder has family living in Sweden and they were now regretting not locking down as most other countries had done as the number of covid-19 cases there had soared during the later part of May.

Another had enjoyed being out for the first time in months but on looking at the mobile phone pictures they had taken later discovered they had their camera setting round the wrong way.

A small inflatable pool had been erected by one Elder's family and they had been enjoying cooling off during the warm weather.

An Elder who works on the frontline in one of the major hospitals advised that they were still living in the basement section of their house separate from the rest of the family. Because of the good weather the family had however been able to eat regularly together in the garden as well as exercise together. By the time you are reading this hopefully the family will no longer need to be safeguarding but once again living together.

A lot of Elders expressed their appreciation for having a garden while a few were thankful for living near to parks especially those with children.

With the more relaxed exercise regime a lot of Elders had met members, at a distance, while out walking and it was good to hear how they were getting on. Those members who had walked past the Church were glad to see that the building works at the Nuffield had finished and Beaconsfield Road had once again unrestricted parking.

One Elder had ventured into the city centre and noticed that parking was free and although Sauchiehall Street was fairly busy other streets were relatively quiet.

Another Elder had moved house last year and during lockdown had been able to get to know their neighbours as they joined together to show their appreciation for the NHS and Carers.



There were a few Elders who had been working throughout lockdown and they all seemed to be looking forward to getting some "holiday" time off, well deserved too.

Susan Finnigan and Caroline Taylor were thanked for their work on setting up and organising the Londis food delivery programme for those unable to get out to shop. A couple of Elders were appreciating this food service.

Again there was huge appreciation for everyone in the NHS and care services for everything they were doing, especially at their own personal risk, but there was concern for the continuing issues surrounding care homes.

Elders were glad to hear that we were still making a financial contribution to the Foodbank at St Gregory's each month and noted the Church would be seeking contributions from the congregation once restrictions had been lifted to reimburse this outlay made on their behalf.

Stewart advised there was a "Ministers Discussion Forum" and they regularly talked about issues affecting ministers, parishioners and the life of the Church. On a positive note he was pleased to advise that our Probationary Minister, Matt Ritchie, had completed his final round of assessments and would therefore be able to apply for a vacancy later in the summer. Everyone online showed their pleasure on hearing this news.

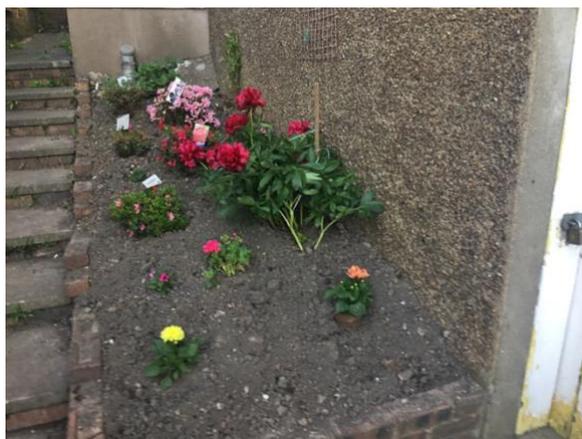
At present however due to the suspension of Sunday Worship no-one can preach as a sole nominee which means vacancies can't be filled so Matt may be with us beyond August. On the other hand there was a possibility that despite probationers not being ordained the Church of Scotland might allow them to undertake locum work in which case Matt may not be with us beyond August. We will just need to wait and see what develops.

The meeting closed with the saying of the "Grace" and the agreement to meet informally again online on Wed 1st July.

Take care, stay safe and Peace be with you.

Graham

In the May Beacon we learned of how some members are getting through lockdown. John MacMillan let us know that thanks to improved health and good weather he was waging war on weeds. Look at what John has replaced them with! Other pics of Kelvindale in lockdown are scattered through the edition.



SUNDAY CLUB

Hi everyone

Hope you are all keeping safe and well during this difficult time. We know it feels weird but it is so important at the moment to understand that it is for the best and that it will help us all in the long run to return to some form of normality. As I write this, we are hopefully coming into Phase 2 of the lockdown very soon and this will allow us a little more freedom and a chance to see some of our loved ones... Hopefully some of the older children have been able to visit your new secondary schools in these latter days of the school term and been able to familiarise yourselves with new surroundings and meet new people. It's such an exciting time, as well as a challenging one – but will all be worth it in the end.

Am hoping that some of you will have seen the **SJR Kids at home** posts on church website and Facebook pages – there have been some fun activities for you to do – baking, colouring, decorating biscuits, making planet pictures, writing letters for Christian Aid, making chains of paper people – to name a few! Have a peek and have a go!



In the meantime, remember to be good and act in the way Jesus taught us. Be kind, caring and considerate and help your mum and dad whenever you can. This time will pass and although it's difficult in lots of ways, hopefully you will remember lots of good things that have come from this time. Have a lovely summer and hopefully we will see you all in the Autumn.

Stay safe and keep well.

Sunday Club Team x

'Funny how you see more of a familiar object when you are just sitting'





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

COMPANY SECTION NEWS

As mentioned last month, during the lockdown period the Company Section have been trying to keep busy and keep in touch with our boys.

We have continued to utilise the Brigade's weekly BBatHome activities and sharing these via our various social media avenues. In return, the boys have come up with some more great responses through videos & photos - "use your head" challenge, re-creating old photos, cooking pizza twists, and creating their own circuit training. We look forward to continuing this productivity over the coming weeks. Keep checking our Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram feeds for all the action!

We have held another couple of "Virtual Friday Parade Nights" with the boys over Zoom, and our final meeting will be at the end of June before we take our summer break.

Finally, we had another great turnout of teams in our "Virtual Quiz Night - Part 2" which was held on 5th June. With lockdown easing slowly but surely, we have decided to hold one final blast - Quiz Night - Part 3 "the final chapter"! This will take place on Friday 3rd July at 7.30pm. Usual format applies and, once again, this will be held over Zoom. Remember, you don't need to download any programmes or create logins, just respond to the 5th Glasgow email address, 5thglasgow@boys-brigade.org.uk by noon on Friday 3rd July and we will then reply with a link to click into the Zoom meeting on your PC/Laptop/tablet.

STEDFAST

BOOK GROUP

I was writing to the Group and telling them which books I was reading. I am currently reading Robert McFarlane's '*Underland*'. I have read several of his books, and always enjoyed them. This one is quite different in that it is about the world under the ground and is a fascinating account of caves, labyrinths, old mine workings and catacombs, not to mention the amazing world of tunnels underneath cities like Paris and London. I wouldn't like to go there but it is certainly fascinating to read about them and about the people who explore them.

I am between fiction books just now and there are so many to choose from I don't know where to start. Katie's advice was this: 'Try turning the question into a simpler one: which cover do I like best? Which is nearest to hand? Which one has the silliest title? Read yellow books first!'

We got on to the subject of books we read as children and teenagers. In 'The Herald' Book Section on Saturday 13th, the crime writer Denzyl Meyrick mentioned a writer whose books I loved – Angus McVicar. They combined Scottish history, adventure and daring deeds. He lived and worked in Kintyre. Then of course there was Arthur Ransome which we read to our children and built holidays round the settings, camping in the Lake District and Norfolk. We could always start up a 'conversation' as they say, about the books we read in our childhood. I vividly remember my first year in the English Department at GU, when the first essay we were asked to write was entitled 'To what extent has your childhood reading influenced your adult taste'? To which I replied that I hadn't really formed my 'adult taste' yet. The reply was a withering 'at least you tried to answer the question'!!!

Hope you've found some gems to read during this enforced time at home.

Wilma Murphy

WORLD MISSION: HELP FOR SCOTLAND FROM TAIWAN

CrossReach has praised our partner church, the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan, for their generous gift of Personal Protective Equipment which arrived on 9th June. The consignment contained aprons and gloves, the latter an extra gift from the Taiwanese Association in Manchester who oversaw the handling of the gift after it entered the UK. They made sure it cleared customs and reached CrossReach safely.

Viv Dickenson, CEO of CrossReach said that there was much rejoicing when the huge pallet was unloaded. This is a wonderful example of the practical relationship between the Church of Scotland and its partner churches.

Marjory Watt

YOU WRITE TO THE BEACON

I should like to express my thanks to Kelvindale Mini Market and to the volunteers who are part of "The Kelvindalers".

Since lockdown began, I have had my Herald delivered every morning, usually by Arfan. The shopping requests I have made on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays have been delivered by volunteers – "Kelvindalers".

To all those involved in setting up this service, especially Susan Finnigan, Alison Willacy and Caroline Taylor please accept my thanks; also to Angela, Jane, Ainsley, Mary (and Elena), Caroline, Elaine (and Mirka), Aileen, Lyn and Sarah.

Many of the Kelvindalers delivering my shopping have been new faces to me, from outwith our own folk at St John's-Renfield. This has given me the opportunity to meet 'new' people in our local community and extend an invitation to join with us at St John's-Renfield, in Church, Messy Church, or our other groups/youth organisations, when we are once again able to meet together.

I believe this offers us hope for the future and I have certainly been heartened by these and the many, varied demonstrations of "viral kindness" that we are seeing during these unprecedented times. Whether faith-driven or not, it would be wonderful if we could maintain a sense of common humanity when we finally emerge from lockdown into a doubtless changed world.

Grace MacKay

KELVINDALERS TOGETHER

Under the umbrella of SJR and an agreement Stewart made with the Londis store, I launched a Facebook site called Kelvindaler's Together on the 26th March.

Within hours, 25 local people had joined and were happy to take on volunteer duties. The plan was to deliver to the vulnerable, self-isolating, shielding residents of Kelvindale basically anything the Londis shop on Kelvindale Road sells.

We launched on 30th March and we are now averaging around 7 deliveries a week with our now 35+ registered volunteers.

We will endeavour to carry on as long as Lockdown continues.

If you, or anyone you know who lives in Kelvindale is in need of the Kelvindaler's Together service, here is a reminder of how to access help.

We take orders and deliver on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Call your order between 8.30 and 10 am to:

Susan 07951 667539 or Caroline 07881 780221

It may even be a familiar face delivering to your door :)

Susan Finnigan

The editor continues to endorse the efficacy of the service!



TATTIES GALORE

During lockdown many of us have been walking around our parish.

If you've been along Ashburton Road you may have spotted the lovely coloured hessian bags called Gunny bags on steps of most of the houses.

A food growing initiative started life at the music venue SWG3 but due to lockdown this project found it's new home in Ashburton Road.

Each bag contains 3 Maris Piper potatoes and all being well in August/September these potatoes will find their way back to feed the hungry for free. Wish them luck!!

Following this initiative a WhatsApp group, Ashburton Road Chat, was set up so people could keep in touch. Besides alerting neighbours to sprouting tattie shoots, roe deer in the street etc etc other irrelevant things have been discussed like who currently had lived in the road the longest, our own Bettie & John Revie, 43 years.



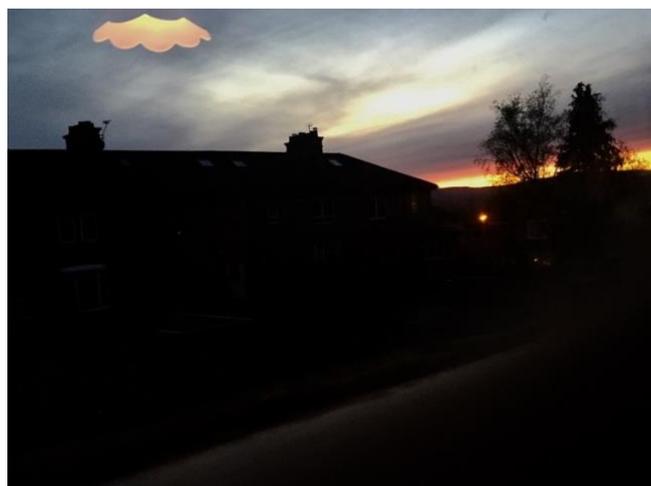
KELVINDALE DAYS

This then led to a discussion on house prices and the unearthing of an original 1929 Terms & Conditions of Purchase house guide, a mid house £775 or £820, an intermediate end (end terrace or semi) £820 or £860 and a corner end (house situated at the intersection of two streets) £835 or £875. Corporation Loans of up to 80% were available over 25 years repayable at the rate of £7 1s per annum for every £100 borrowed. Repayments half-year at Whitsunday and Martinmas. £820 in 1929 is equivalent to £52,436 today.

The Editor and wife Maureen moved to Hertford Avenue on 1 August 1970 - anyone beat fifty years?



'UFO over Kelvindale?'



TRAILING AROUND THE WEST END : PART 2

For anyone interested in the Parish Boundary Walk, Shaun Digges now has the leaflet on his computer and would be happy to pass it on. Tel 0141 334 8697. Sarah Hamilton has kindly given me information on other West End trails and one of them is about Hyndland and Partickhill. I would like to share three interesting facts from this leaflet published by the Friends of Glasgow West Heritage Trail in 2008 – text and layout by Gordon R Urquhart.

Did you know that the oldest surviving building in the West End is 64 Partickhill Road? Dating from at least 1794 it is shown on old maps as the house of 'Mr Robb' who was a prominent local lawyer.

One of the 'most unusual' listed buildings in Hyndland is the 1934 former bank building at 162 Hyndland Road. The booklet states that James McLachlan's little gem of a building is pared back to a monolithic cube of cream sandstone from Tyne and Wear on a base of polished black Bon Accord granite from Aberdeen. There are Egyptian-style Art Deco "capitals" on the pilasters between the large metal casement windows(!)

By far the most intriguing fact is that at the corner of Clarence Drive and Lauderdale Gardens was a vacant site used during the last war as a small PoW camp guarded by some fifty American soldiers. Why there? Why Americans?? This needs some more investigating ...

Eleanor Murphy

TAE A VIRUS

Twa months ago, we didna ken yer name or ocht about ye
But lots of things have changed since then, I really must salute ye
Yer spreading rate is quite intense, yer feeding like a gannet
Disruption caused is so immense, ye've shaken oor wee planet
Corona used to be a beer, they garnished it wae limes
But noo it's filled us awe wae fear, these days are scary times
Nae shaken hawns or peckin lips, it's whit they awe advise
But scrub them weel, richt tae the tips, that's how we'll awe survive
Just stay in the hoose, ye bide nae sneaking oot for strolls
Just check the lavvy every hoor and stocktake your loo rolls
Oor holidays have been pit aff, noo that's the jet 2 patter
Pit on yer thermals, have a laugh and paddle doon the 'water'
Canaries Isles no for a while, nae need for suntan cream
And awe because o this wee bug we ken to be19
The boredom will set in, but have a read or doodle
Or plan yer menu for the month wi 95 pot noodles
When these run oot, just look aboot a change, it would be nice
We've beans and pasta by the ton and twenty stane o rice
So dinny think ye'll wipe us oot, aye true a few have died
Bubonic, bird flu and TB, they came, they left, they tried
Ye might be gallus noo my freen, as ye jump far cup to cup
But when we get the vaccine made, yer number will be up

Anon

Yes I think you will immediately recognise these drawings from the Good News Bible!

These line drawings are by Annie Vallotton. I have always admired her drawings for their simplicity and truth.



Firstly we have Zacchaeus, so much wanting to see Jesus. In pencil lines Annie has captured his eagerness. He is standing on his tiptoes as he is small and can't see from the back of the crowd.

Then we have Mary. Annie has caught the peace and calmness of Mary 'pondering Jesus' birth.'



In 'Do not make a show of it' we are shown the self-important, smug smile of the rich man as he condescends to give, with affectation, coins to the man on his knees. In a few strokes Annie has captured the richness and portliness of this man and the way his head is turned away, not even looking at the poor man.

Her drawings have a minimum of lines and a great deal of restraint. Her characters are expressive and speak across cultures.

'I didn't want to have illustrations with many lines. I wanted to simplify, to get the truth.... the most important thing. I used a pencil for the roughs and a pen to ink them.'

Annie Vallotton is actually the best-selling artist of all time thanks to worldwide sales of the Good News Bible, over 225 million.

Annie was Swiss and French speaking, born in Lausanne. Her father was a writer, teacher and journalist who had studied theology in Munich. Her mother was born in Alsace, grand-daughter of a Lutheran pastor. Her father's cousin was the accomplished painter Felix Vallotton. Her brother became a minister and he hand-built many magnificent church organs.

Annie, after studying art, worked in the refugee camps during the 2nd World War, painting frescoes for the children and adults. During the war she and her friend Jeanne worked in the Resistance. Annie's Swiss nationality helped her when she transported mail back and forth. Another friend was Berthe Albrecht who also worked for the Resistance. Berthe was tortured and imprisoned and awarded, among other awards, the Croix de Guerre.

In later life Annie spoke to children in the Protestant church in Paris and other churches.

She clearly loved children and dedicated her life to presenting the bible in the clearest way. She wanted to tell the truth to every child and all.

"Suffer the little children to come unto me for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

She said "Laughter is the king and saves one's life. You especially need humour!

Too many people read the bible with a severe face! I say No, the bible is not that.

The bible is life and it is wonderful!"

Thank-you Annie!

Freda Gardner

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