

# OUTREACH

RENFREW NORTH PARISH CHURCH

2023 – winter edition

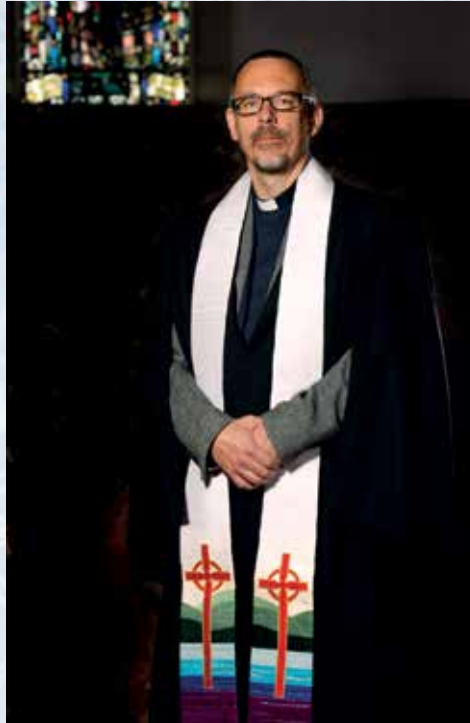
[renfrewnorth.org.uk](http://renfrewnorth.org.uk)

## Dear Friends,

Time seems to fly by. It seems no time at all since the last edition of Outreach and I was writing about Autumn, and here we are heading into Winter. The frost and cold and high winds have made a visit, the leaves have almost all fallen off the trees... and the season of Advent is approaching and then, before you know it, Christmas will have arrived!!

Advent is the season of waiting in the Christian calendar. A time of preparing for the celebration of the coming of the Christ child at Christmas time. The few weeks before Christmas may sometimes seem like a head long rush of buying food and presents, sending cards or emailing good wishes to friends and family, and celebrating with colleagues and friends (and all of these things are great), but it is also a time in which we can take time to think about the preparation at that first Christmas. To think about the words of the prophets: prophecies offered hundreds of years before the actual event. How did Mary and Joseph feel about the travel to Bethlehem? What were their hopes and fears for their unborn baby? What did they think of all the visitors to the place of the birth, and the visitors' demonstration of joy and wild celebrations over the birth of their child? They would have had normal human reactions, and yet, also been aware that something special was happening.

The Advent Sundays traditionally have had readings associated with John the Baptist (the one who prepared the way), the Second Coming of Christ and Mary herself as she



prepares herself for the coming events. You are all invited to the services this Advent and Christmas period: Sunday services as we prepare for the coming events, and Christmas Eve itself as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Do come along: you will be assured of a very warm welcome.

On behalf of Valerie and myself, a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to you all.

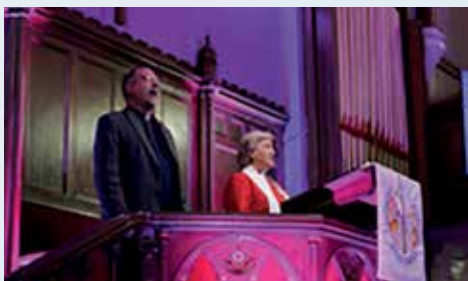
*Philip*

## 180th Celebration

Renfrew North Church opened in 1843, and so this year it reached the grand age of 180! We celebrated on Sunday 29 October with music led by our praise band, and the sermon preached by former minister of Renfrew North: the Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood. She preached from Hebrews 11 and 12 and Mark 4 and encouraged us to sow and plant the seeds that will help build the Kingdom of God. It was great to see friends old and new joining us for worship, both in the sanctuary and online.

At the end of the service a photo was taken of the whole congregation and the Kirk Session, and then a wonderful buffet lunch in the halls.

Thanks to all who played their part in making this a very special day.



## Diary

- 1 November**
  - Congregational Board – 7 pm
- 10 November**
  - QuizCo – 7 pm
- 26 November**
  - Toy Service 11 am
- 2 December**
  - Christmas Fete – 10 am
- 6 December**
  - Kirk Session – 7 pm
- 10 December**
  - Communion – 11:00 am
- 17 December**
  - Nativity – 11 am
- 20 December**
  - Carols, Coffee, and Candles – 7pm
- 24 December**
  - Community Carol Service – 7 pm
- 28 February**
  - Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra – 7pm
- 10 January**
  - Congregational Board – 7 pm
- 7 February**
  - Kirk Session – 7 pm

## Property

The big news we have is that hopefully by the time you read this we will have given the go-ahead to the work on our Stain Glass Window above the front doors of the church with the initial work taking place very soon. We have received grant funding from the General Trustees and Presbytery to enable this work to take place, we are just waiting on final confirmation of one of the grants.

We have continued our programme of ongoing maintenance around the building with thanks predominately to Eric Welsh who continues to assist with a lot of wee jobs, many of which go unnoticed. We have a couple bigger jobs needing done which subject to our finances will be able to go ahead in the next few months.

The wall at the manse has been sorted with the coping stones replaced, some minor roof repairs are due to be done in next week or two.

As always, we're on the lookout for volunteers for jobs around the place. If you think you can help, please get in touch.

*Andrew*

**Andrew Scott,**  
Property Convenor



# 1st/3rd Renfrew Boys' Brigade



We have had a great start to the session although we have space for boys in all sections. Our Juniors are now feeling the effects of no recruitment during the pandemic but hopefully numbers will grow during the session. Please spread the word and let boys that might be interested know to contact us [1st3rd.RenfrewBB@renfrewnorth.org.uk](mailto:1st3rd.RenfrewBB@renfrewnorth.org.uk)

We had a very successful coffee morning raising £700 for company funds, thanks to everyone who supported on the day. As this article is being written we are approaching our annual social fundraising event, QuizCo on Friday 10 November; we'll update you on how we do in next edition. We are always looking for funding to support the work of the company and in particular towards our plans for camps over the next couple of years, if you or you know of anyone that can assist with grants or funding please get in touch.

We congratulate our boys, Harris Turner and Fraser McCready who recently attended Paisley & District Battalion Presentation Evening who received their certificates for the Presidents Badge. We also congratulate Ross McCammick and Josh Wheeler for completing Youth Leader Training which gives us another two qualified leaders.



*Andrew*

**Andrew Scott**  
Captain

## The Guild



By the time you read this, our session will be well underway. This session we've had interesting speakers, including from one of the guild projects, "Star Child".

This project aims to build a holistic centre called The Sunflower Sanctuary in Uganda. This sanctuary will offer support for disabled children – to bring them out of darkness and bring some light into their lives. We've also enjoyed musical evenings with the Neilston Strings and a charity night with The Midge folk group who support CHAS.

This year we are hosting carols, coffee, and candles in the church on the 20th December at 7pm. Do come and join us for the service

and enjoy our Fellowship in the hall afterwards. Next session we have a varied programme. One of the highlights is a visit from the Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra on 28 February at 7 pm. The meeting is open to everyone.

The guild wishes everyone a very relaxed, joyful Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

*Cathie*

**Cathie Cameron,**  
Secretary



**Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity**

## Prayer Group

The Prayer Group meeting for Advent will be held on Tuesday 12th December at 12:00 noon for lunch (no charge). The meeting itself will commence at 1:00 pm and the themes are 'Roots' and 'Who do you think you are?' Intrigued? Interested? Then please do join us in the Coffee Bar on the 12th December.

During the month of November there will be a Prayer Box in the Library Nook outside the Small Hall. Any prayer requests will be prayed for at this meeting.

*Sheila*

All welcome,  
**Sheila Love**





The 2nd Renfrew Brownies are back and have been doing crafts, badgework, games and are looking forward to Halloween and Christmas parties this term. We have had three Brownies complete their Promise badge and the pack are working on the Know Myself theme award. The brownies had a great time at our recent trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park. We meet Tuesday nights 6:30 pm – 8 pm. For further information please register on the Girlguiding website parent area and contact **Valerie Wallace** at [2ndrenfrewbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:2ndrenfrewbrownies@gmail.com)



Guides runs every Tuesday 7:30 pm – 9 pm. We do badge work, crafts and games. We are having a sleepover at the science centre on the 10/11 November. If you would like to join, please email us on [secondrenfrewguides@outlook.com](mailto:secondrenfrewguides@outlook.com) and we'll send you a link to our waiting list.

**2nd Renfrew Guide Leaders**

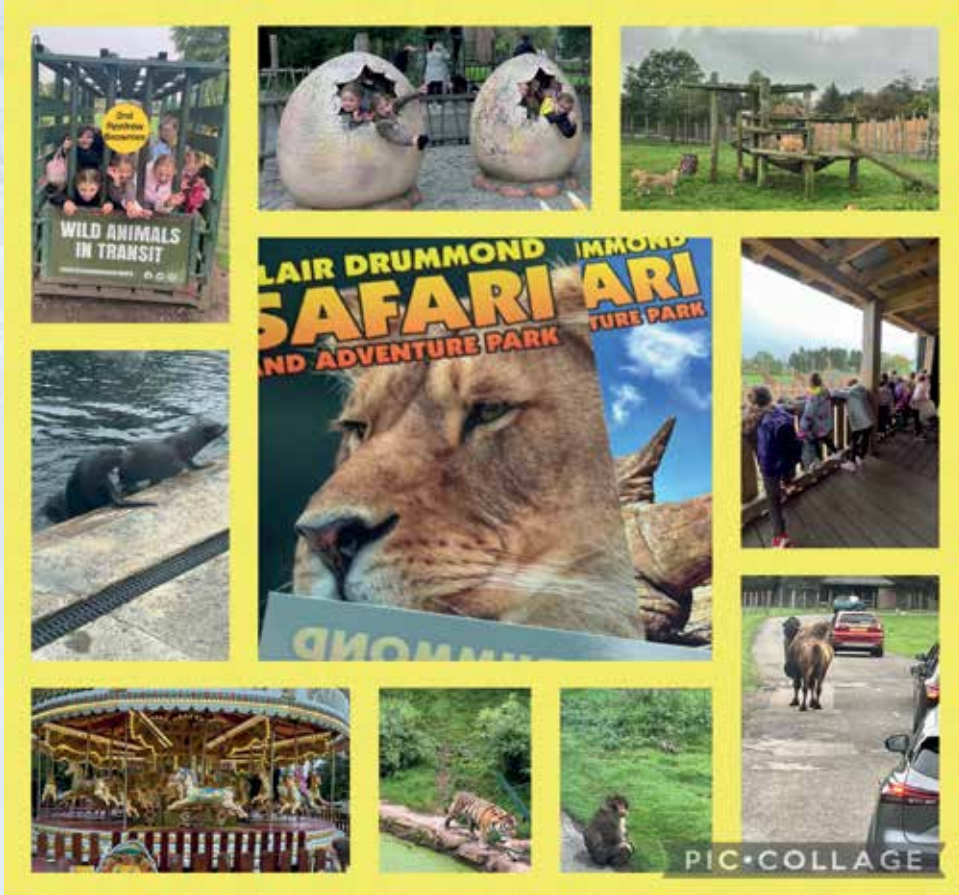
**Coffee Bar**

I would like to thank everyone who has attended the Coffee Bar throughout the year for your support, this has helped the Church and the wider community in a many of ways. The Coffee Bar helped towards the purchase and fitting of the new central heating in the large hall and the new lights in the lesser hall. Throughout the year the Coffee Bar has supported charities including Christian Aid, Macmillan Cancer Care and Renfrew Foodbank.

At the end of this year, I am resigning from the Coffee Bar. I would like to thank the volunteers for their help and support which has been invaluable for the running of the Coffee Bar by making and serving the tea, coffee, and baking throughout this year. I would also like to thank all of you for your support. I am sure that you will continue to give your support to my successor.

Thank you  
Alison Gerrard

*Alison*



**Forget-Me-Not Café**

The Forget-Me-Not Café is open every Wednesday afternoon between 2 pm and 4 pm. The café is for anyone living with Dementia and their family, carer, or friends. Presently, people attend from all over Renfrewshire. Carers are welcome to stay or take a couple of hours to themselves while their relative enjoys the entertainment or activities that are on at the café, of course, there is also a cuppa and treats. There is no charge to attend the café and it is open all year, only closing over Christmas and New Year. It's a place to meet with others in similar circumstances, and a social event, where people who attend always tell us how much this weekly meet up means to them. We are supported by Katie from Alzheimer's Scotland, who offers support and advice.



**Our programme until the end of the year is as follows:**

- 15 November: South Glasgow Choir**
- 22 November: Christian Entertainer**
- 29 November: Games & Crafts**
- 06 December: Ferguslie Choir**
- 13 December: Singers**
- 20 December: Christmas Party**

For more information, please pop in or telephone:

Irene Barr (07771 893231) and  
Marion Henderson (0772 8761644)  
FMN Cafe Co-ordinators





## Deaths

5 August – Robert Gordon

5 October – Rita Patterson

## Men's Association

The 2023/24 season opened on the 4th September with the return of 11 members. It was with sadness that yet another of our long serving members, Robert Gordon, died in August. Robert was a regular attender and was Association Secretary for close on 20 years. During that time, he organised away nights to places of interest such as Glasgow police museum, Tenant's brewery, and local distilleries.

The Association continues to meet on Monday nights from 7:15 pm for games nights such as carpet bowls, darts, dominoes, snooker/pool, and carpet putting. The competitions for these games are well under way. Anyone wishing to join the Association would be most welcome.

On 2 October a General Meeting was called to confirm that Jim Bain and Charles Hamilton would be President/Treasurer and Secretary/Games Organiser respectively until the end of the current session. Thanks were expressed to Allan Canavan who stood down as Secretary.



The program for the next few months will be a visit by residents from Erskine Care Home, the annual Quiz night (funds for Erskine Care Home) on 5 February and our annual coffee morning on Saturday 17 February (funds for the Association as a contribution towards heat and light) to which a good turnout would be appreciated.

**J. Bain.**  
President

## Treasurer's Report

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continuing support of giving to the church. We as a church are so very thankful to anyone who donates the church via any method, whether that be by standing order or by donations in the plate on a Sunday morning. It is great that we have

## Contacts

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**Clerk to the Board:** Alison Gerrard

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**Church Office**

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## Welcoming Groups

**26 November, 7 January, 18 February**

Charles Hamilton, David Henderson,

Lynn Ross, Marion Weir

**3 December, 14 January, 25 February**

Catherine Adamson, Elizabeth Bruce,

Jim Bruce, Stewart Gilchrist

**10 December, 21 January, 3 March**

Gordon Ferguson, Marian Ferguson,

Sandra Kerr, Lesley McFarlane

**5 November, 17 December, 28 January**

Scott Mitchell, Mary Dempster,

Lesley Smith, Jack Winch

**12 November, 24 December, 4 February**

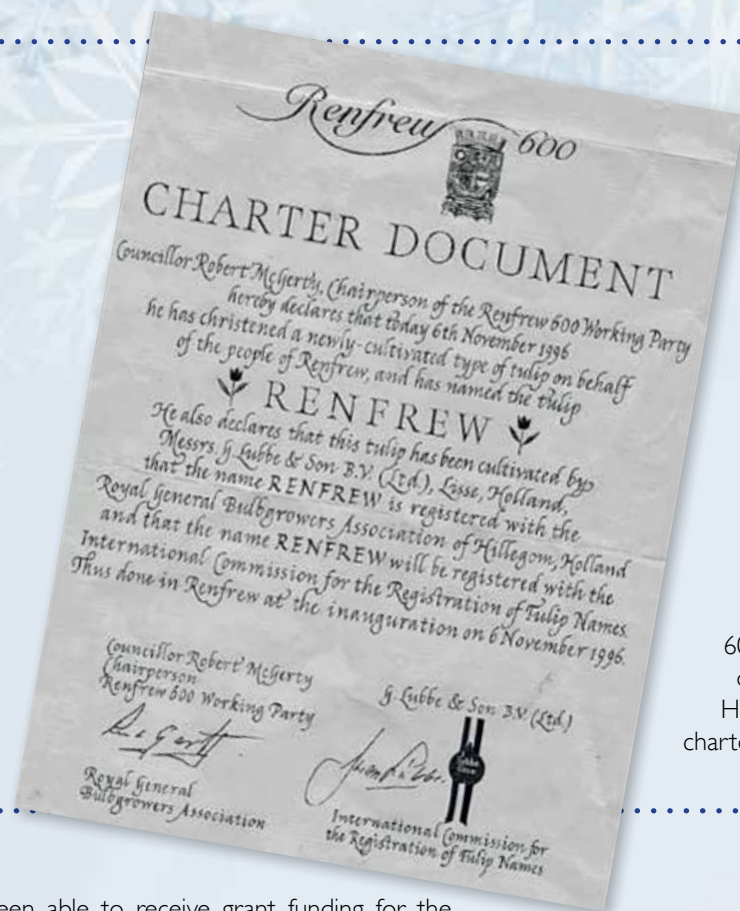
Rena Bradley, Alistair Corkindale,

Campbell McGregor, Marion Wallace

**19 November, 31 December, 11 February**

Marion Henderson, Stuart Irving,

Sheila Love, Robert Parker



## Did You Know...

...there is a tulip named 'Renfrew'? It was named for the 600-year anniversary of Renfrew in 1996. Here is a copy of the charter from its creation.

been able to receive grant funding for the window project and I am now really looking forward to seeing this develop. I would also like to thank the team of people who are involved in any of the financial elements of the church and for the continued support provided. If anyone is interested in joining

our Finance team or is interested in starting a donation to the church, please feel free to reach out to myself.

**Scott**

Scott Jeffrey  
Treasurer

Articles for Spring 2024 Outreach should be sent to: editor@renfrewnorth.org.uk (or for those without access to a computer, please place articles in the 'Church Office post box', marked 'Outreach'), by Sunday 28th January 2024