

OUTREACH

RENFREW NORTH PARISH CHURCH

2024 – spring edition

renfrewnorth.org.uk

Dear Friends,

The Christmas season is now over; the long dark days are drawing to an end, and the New Year has well and truly started. At the time of writing, January is drawing to a close and the future is beckoning, with the promise of lighter days, maybe a little less rain (!) and certainly the surprises that may befall us. We never truly know what is just around the corner, and maybe that is a good thing. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6 not to worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will have its own surprises and worries; in Philippians 4 Paul reminds us not to be anxious, but to bring our concerns to God. We are to be concerned about today and to ask God for encouragement and help for today.

We are also approaching the season of Lent, which not only helps us to recall the early ministry of Jesus, but also helps us to prepare for the events of Holy Week and Easter. Lent is a time of reflection. Historically, for some traditions within the Christian faith, it has been a time of fasting and prayer; of giving something up. I often encourage people to take something on: it may be praying a bit more, reading an extra chapter of the Bible, or going out of your way to help a friend or neighbour. We are encouraged to reflect on the sacrificial nature of Jesus' ministry, and what that may mean in our lives. We might want to reflect on our membership promises of the giving of our



time, talents, and money for the work of God's kingdom.

It is always great to share good news! There is activity on the scaffolding at the front of the church. Work has started on the window repairs, with the glass having been removed and the task of cutting and shaping the new stonework is underway. Good news indeed!!

Every blessing to you all at this Lenten time. You are also warmly invited to our Easter services and activities, details of which may be found elsewhere in Outreach.

Philip

New Faces

Hello! My name is Julian Pombo, and I am a 2nd year Theology student at the University of Glasgow. I was born in Argentina and moved to Scotland in August 2002. After school I studied jazz music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. It wasn't until late 2019 that I discovered the Christian faith and became a follower of Jesus. During my first year of university, I was introduced to ministry candidates at Trinity College, and it was at that point that I felt God's call. That is how I have ended up here at Renfrew North, discerning my call to ministry.

My time here has been fantastic and enlightening. Philip has been an incredible mentor, and the congregation has been wonderfully welcoming. I've been able to see what full-time ministry entails and feeling encouraged to continue pursuing the call to ministry wherever it leads. My favourite



things that have been playing in the Praise Band – especially at Christmas. Most importantly, I have enjoyed spending my Sunday mornings praying and worshipping with you all. I'm excited to see where God's wild call will lead me next, but for now I look forward to continuing to worship with you!

Julian

Diary

- 1 March** – World Day of Prayer – 2 pm
- 2 March** – Events Group Church Coffee Morning – 10 am
- 16 March** – Kirk Session Day
- 20 March** – Taylors Fashion Clothes show – 7:30 pm
- 23 March** – Brownie Fundraiser – 7:30 pm
- 24 March** – Christian Aid Songs of Praise – 7 pm
- 9 April** – Junior Church Easter Breakfast – 10 am
- 20 April** – Christian Aid Sponsored Walk – TBD
- 27 April** – Spring Fete – 10 am
- 17 May** – BB Display – 7 pm

Thanks

The Community Coffee Bar at Renfrew North Church is often the place to be: a place where you can drink endless tea and coffee, meet up with friends and even join the knitting table! But on Friday 22nd December the Coffee bar had its Christmas Party and also said goodbye to the Coffee Bar manager, Alison Gerrard. After five years at the helm, Alison has hung up her apron, and will be able to spend more time with her family. With our grateful thanks for her hard work, she was presented with flowers and a gift voucher. Thank you, Alison!



Renfrew North would also like to extend a massive Thank You to Bannatyne Butchers. Joe and his team have been supporting our coffee mornings and fundraising events.



The Guild

This year's Carols, Coffee & Candles celebration was held in the church and we were pleased that members of the congregation were able to join us. In January we enjoyed a lunch at Piccolo Mondo and an informal evening at the manse chatting with the minister and Valerie.

We also have more serious evenings with speakers. This session Marion Henderson, the coordinator for Project Linus, will explain how she has extended her role. Project Linus supplies comfort quilts to children in stressful situations. At the end of February, we enjoyed our open night with the Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra, a happy foot

tapping night with traditional Scottish music. At the beginning of March, we host the World Day of Prayer. This year's service was prepared by the Christians of Palestine. At this service, representatives of all the churches join together to offer prayer and support to the nominated country – this year, Palestine.

The Trinity School of Dance are coming in March for our Irish night. We look forward to their music and dancing. On 20th March Taylor's Fashion Show is visiting us: a fun night with lots of bargains. Admission is £3 and includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Come along and bring a friend.

The Guild meets on Wednesday night at 7:30 pm. Why not come and join us. Everyone is welcome.

Cathie Cameron, Cathie Secretary

Property

Work is underway on our stained-glass window. The two lancet windows and all stonework have been removed. The window has gone to the specialist glazier for restoration. The block of stone is due to be delivered and will be in the temporary work shed adjacent to the halls. The larger stone carving will be done away from site; however, all the smaller and more intricate carving will be completed on site. Depending on the weather, it is expected the window will be completed in April or early May. If we have a milder winter then it could be sooner.

Minor maintenance has continued. We do have some jobs needing done that require some volunteers. If you or know anyone that might be able to help, please do contact me. We have plans for other repairs, however all focus is understandably on the works on the window at the moment.

Andrew

Assistant Minister's Letter



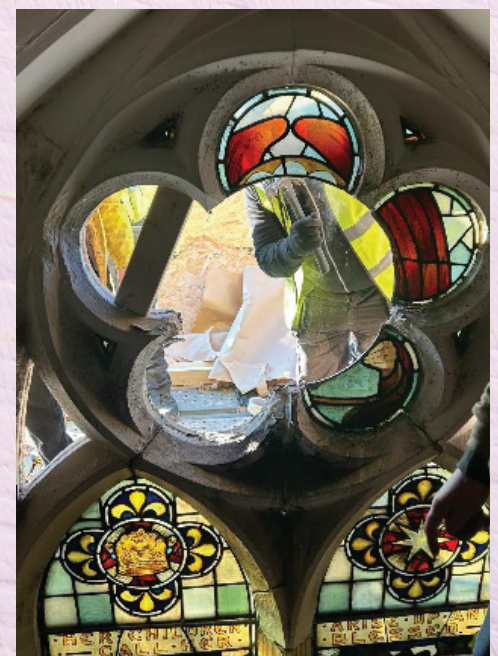
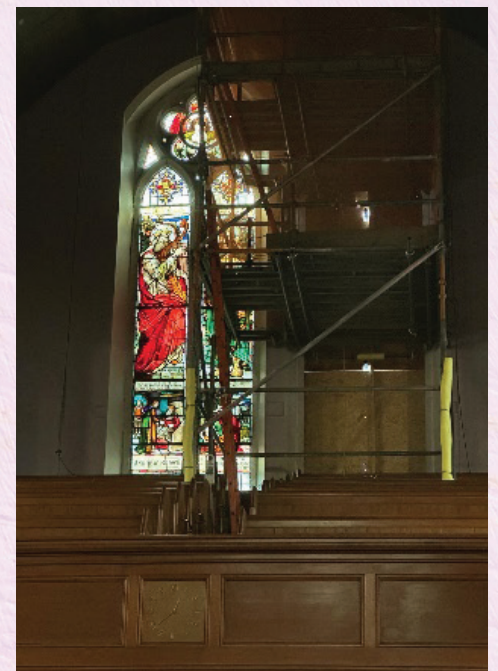
work like hosting a 'listening ear' service in Ferry Village with some tea and coffee, run some community events, continue to deliver more newsletters for Ferry Village, and put together welcome packs for people moving in to the new houses and flats being built.

It has been a massive encouragement to have a few people from Renfrew North sign up for Forge Scotland's pioneer ministry course. At a time when there are lots of myths and misconceptions about pioneer ministry or fresh expressions of church the course is a great of finding out about the opportunities and challenges pioneer ministry can present us with, and find out what new ideas are being piloted elsewhere in Scotland.

Let's look forward in faith and ask what we can do in 2024 to make Renfrew North a good news story where we keep doing what we already do well and also try new things to bring the love of God to the people of Renfrew.

Dougie
God bless, Dougie

The next couple of years will be among the most significant in this congregation's history. I am hoping we can successfully apply to the Church of Scotland's Seeds For Growth fund. £25 million has been set aside to help congregations look at new ways of doing mission and building relationships with their local communities. With some funding, we could be able to finance new areas of



Coffee Bar

The Community Coffee Bar is open and ready to welcome you every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Come along to the church halls between 10 am and 12 pm to catch up with friends, and for just £1.80 enjoy bottomless tea or coffee along with a biscuit or perhaps even a cake or two!

The Coffee Bar is run by volunteers and I would like to thank all who give up their time to help. However, more help would be gratefully received. If you have a few free hours, every couple of weeks, why not become part of the team? If you'd like to find out more, please contact sheryll.pickering@renfrewnorth.org.uk

The Coffee Bar would also welcome any donations of tea, coffee, biscuits, or cakes to serve to its customers.

1st/3rd Renfrew Boys' Brigade



Since the last edition of Outreach, we have been busy. Our 'QuizCo' was very successful and we thank everyone for their support in this event. Fundraising is vital for our Company in order to maintain our variety of programmes in addition to keeping our fees to parents down each year. Our Juniors & Company/Seniors had their Christmas Outing at Tenpin Bowling and our Anchors had a Christmas party and with a special visitor. We also did our annual deliveries of parcels to elderly members of the church.

We also say congratulations to our Senior Five aside Football team who have progressed to the Scottish Final of the National Boys' Brigade Football Competition which is being held in Grangemouth. We wish them well.

Lots going on in the next few months which culminates in our Annual Display on Friday 17th May in the church halls which will be followed by our Activity Weekend to finish off the session.

Andrew

Andrew Scott
Captain

Junior Church

Since Christmas, at Junior Church we have been learning about the light Jesus brought to the world: meeting people's needs, offering them a different way of living and asking them to trust him. We're discovering that following Jesus today means we have to show it in our attitudes and actions, which can be hard especially amongst our friends. But to be a light to others you need to be switched on!

Easter comes early this year, so Lent has begun. The children in Lighthouse/ Little stars are doing a 40 Thanks Challenge for this period up to Easter when we all celebrate with thanks Jesus' resurrection. As always, Junior Church will be holding Church Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday morning at 10.00am. Everyone is invited to join in.

Christian Aid

The Renfrew and Inchinnan Christian Aid Group are planning a few events between now and Christian Aid Week as follows.

Sunday 24th March

Songs of Praise in Renfrew North. Join us for an evening of joyful praise accompanied by Renfrew a North praise bands. During the evening there will be an opportunity to donate to the vital work of Christian Aid

Saturday 20th April

A sponsored walk around Robertson Park. Our headquarters for the date will be in St. Margaret's Scottish episcopawl Church Hall, Oxford Road. If you would like to take part either as a Walker, steward, or sponsor please get in touch with Elizabeth Sweetin or Campbell McGregor

13th – 17th May

Christian Aid Week. We will be at the coffee bar every morning (Mon – Fri) 10 am until 12 noon with a cake and candy stall. The day allocated to Renfrew North for the cake and candy stall is Monday 13th May. All donations will be gratefully received. Renfrew North has always been very generous in its support for all that Christian Aid is involved with and we look forward to another good year.

How's your knowledge of the Easter events? Try the quiz here to test yourself.

Who am I?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| _____ 1. I did not want Jesus to wash my feet. | A) Jesus |
| _____ 2. I betrayed Jesus with a kiss. | B) Mary |
| _____ 3. I doubted Jesus' resurrection. | C) James |
| _____ 4. I was the Governor of Judea. | D) Thomas |
| _____ 5. Jesus Raised me from the grave. | E) Lazarus |
| _____ 6. I was released from prison Instead of Jesus. | F) Barabbas |
| _____ 7. I poured perfume on Jesus' feet. | G) Matthew |
| _____ 8. I was in the desert for 40 days. | H) Pilate |
| _____ 9. I was a tax collector. | I) Peter |
| _____ 10. I was the first disciple to be martyred. | J) Judas |



Guides

The guides have started a new theme with 4 guides moving up to stage 4 and 1 moving up to young leader and starting her Ranger gold after getting her guide gold award last term We

also have a small group of girls going to county camp in tent. For more information please contact us at Secondrenfrewguides@outlook.com

Deaths

6 November – Mrs Margaret Rennie
19 December – Mr William Watt
23 December – Mrs Elizabeth Seggie
29 December – Mrs Molly McLaren
8 January – Mrs Anne Carson

Brownies

2nd Renfrew Brownies are back for the New Year after having a fantastic start to the Brownie term. We ended last term with a Christmas craft night followed by watching the Paisley Players Christmas Show. We did our "Know Myself" theme Award and we are moving on to our "Be Well" theme Award this term. We will be making pancakes for shrove Tuesday and looking forward to craft nights, games and badgework. We will also be preparing to go on Pack Holiday in summer term! New members are still welcome to join. Our big fundraiser for this is a Race Night at Renfrew Golf Club on Saturday 23rd March 2024. Tickets with a horse are £6. Please get in contact with one of the guiders on a Tuesday night or via 2ndrenfrewbrownies@gmail.com if you are interested in buying tickets, donating raffle prizes, or further supporting this fundraiser. Thank you!

Valerie

Brown Owl
Valerie Wallace

Prayer Group

The Easter Prayer Group will be held on Tuesday 26th March. Lunch will be provided at 12 noon. The meeting itself will start at 1.00 pm and finish at 2.00 pm. The meeting will include a short Tenebrae Service (meaning darkness and shadows). Candles from the Christmas Advent Wreath will be extinguished one by one symbolising Christ's Passion.

There will also be a time for personal prayers and reflection. There is a Prayer Box situated on the corridor wall outside the coffee bar where prayers can be posted. These prayers will be read out by Sheila at the meeting. For more information, please contact Sheila Love. All welcome!

Sheila

Sheila Love

Contacts

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Welcoming Groups

3 March, 14 April, 26 May

Gordon Ferguson, Marian Ferguson, Sandra Kerr, Lesley McFarlane

10 March, 21 April, 2 June

Scott Mitchell, Mary Dempster, Lesley Smith, Jack Winch

17 March, 28 April, 9 June

Rena Bradley, Alistair Corkindale, Campbell McGregor, Marion Wallace

24 March, 5 May, 16 June

Marion Henderson, Stuart Irving, Sheila Love, Robert Parker

31 March, 12 May, 23 June

Charles Hamilton, David Henderson, Lynn Ross, Marion Weir

7 April, 19 May, 30 June

Catherine Adamson, Elizabeth Bruce, Jim Bruce, Stewart Gilchrist

Forget-Me-Not Café

The Forget-Me-Not Café is open every Wednesday between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm. The café is for anyone living with Dementia and their family, carer, or friends. People attend from all over Renfrewshire. Carers are welcome to stay or take a couple of hours to themselves while their relative enjoys the café, of course, there is also a cuppa and treats. There is no charge and it is open all 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 encouragement and advice.

Our programme March 2024 can now be found on the notice board in the halls, or in the livestream on Sunday mornings. For more information, please pop in or email forgetmenot@renfrewnorth.org.uk

FMN Cafe Co-ordinators



Articles for Summer 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 28 April 2024.