

OUTREACH

RENFREW NORTH PARISH CHURCH

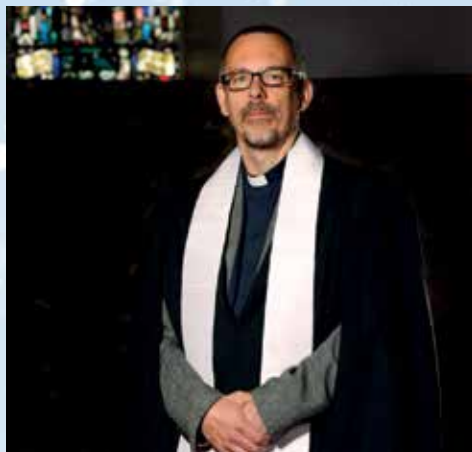
2024 – winter edition

renfrewnorth.org.uk

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, I love stories. Not just the obvious – the detective stories, the mysteries, and the thrillers. I also love to hear people's stories, whether that is through the written word of biographies or through the spoken word as I listen to the stories that people share with me. Everyone has a fascinating "take" on life, or an experience that few people have had. We are all unique in our relationships with other people, and importantly we are unique in our own relationship with God. The bible also offers an insight into the lives of many people, as the accounts detail the interactions between people and God. We also see that those interactions, positive and negative, have implications. The conclusions of detective mysteries strive to have satisfactory conclusions: the murderer is caught; justice is seen to be done. We don't always have such luxuries in the bible, and as with real life, relationships are complicated and messy. That is why we have Jesus to show us the way: to treat others with love and kindness, to respect the unique life of the other person, and to uplift and encourage other people in their own relationships with God.

One of the best stories in the bible is the focus of the next few weeks. We love to retell the Christmas story and to share the message



of hope that the birth of the Christ child brings. That is a story that always encourages us, and which is the basis of our life's spiritual journey with Jesus Christ. Each one of those journeys is different and we must respect them and cherish them.

I look forward to sharing more stories with you when we meet. Valerie and I wish you all a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Every blessing,

Philip

FMN Café

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.

See our Facebook Page **Forget-Me-Not Cafe@Renfrew North Parish Church** for events over October, November & December or request this information via by email to: henderson269671@icloud.com



Brownies

The 2nd Renfrew Brownies are back and have been doing crafts, badge work,



games and are looking forward to Halloween and Christmas parties this term. We have new Brownies ready to complete their Promise badge and the pack are working on the Skills For My Future theme award. The brownies are also designing their Christmas Tree which will be on display at the Christmas Fete. We meet Tuesday nights 6:30PM-8PM. For further

information please register on the Girlguiding website parent area and contact Valerie Wallace at 2ndrenfrewbrownies@gmail.com

Diary

- 4 Dec** – Kirk Session – 19:00
- 8 Dec** – Sacrament of Holy Communion – 11:00
- 8 Dec** – Informal Communion in Small Hall – 13:00
- 22 Dec** – Nativity Service – 11:00
- 24 Dec** – Christmas Eve Service – 19:15 for 19:30
- 5 Jan** – New Year Communion – 11:00
- 8 Jan** – Congregational Board – 19:00
- 26 Jan** – Souper Sunday – 12:00
- 5 Feb** – Kirk Session – 19:00
- 2 Mar** – BB Coffee Morning – 10:00
- 5 Mar** – Congregational Board – 19:00
- 9 Mar** – Sacrament of Holy Communion – 11:00
- 9 Mar** – Informal Communion in Small Hall – 13:00

Property

Things have been a bit quieter on the property front recently – a good thing in a way. However, many wee jobs have progressed including maintenance and paint touch ups as ever. A new Fire Door has been installed at the rear of the halls past the office. The internal front doors have been made more secure by fixing the mechanism and preventing it being opened by any means other than the correct means! This means now that these doors can be secured to allow the black external doors to be left open and not make us look closed when, in fact, we are open.

Some preparatory work had to take place for the NHS to begin their vaccination clinics – our church is certainly now a busy place each Wednesday and Friday. We have more plans which we are currently seeking quotes for; then we will seek approval from the Congregational Board. In addition, we have just had our Quinquennial Inspection. It will take 3 or 4 weeks to receive the report and then we will be able to review and plan the way forward from that.

I am still looking for volunteers to join my small pool of people that can do bits and bobs or work and maintenance around the buildings, please get in touch if you can offer any help.

Andrew

Andrew Scott

Farewell From Dougie



I wanted to write and thank everyone involved at Renfrew North for the time I've spent with you on discernment (before I started training) and on probation and the last two years since I passed probation. I've enjoyed my time with you, and will miss you as I move on within the assistant minister scheme to work with two vacant churches in Greenock and Port Glasgow for the next 6 months or so. Around 20 churches in presbytery don't have a minister at the moment and it felt right that I should offer to work with some of them until they can get permission to call a new minister, and while I wait to get my own first charge.

I want to wish the congregation all the best for the future. I genuinely believe you are

one of the best-placed congregations to buck the trend of decline and start to grow again. If you've not joined us on a Sunday for a while, you are welcome back any time; and if you are a regular, why not think and pray about who you could invite to join us on a Sunday in the next year?

Thank you for the cake on my final Sunday, and for the gift of the tie... I may need to get a new suit to match it!

Dougie

God bless,
Dougie

Messy Church

On Saturday 10th August, the church halls were a buzz of noise and activity as we extended our hand of Fun, Fellowship and Faith, hosting our first ever Messy Church.

Our Olympic Themed Messy Church was attended by over 30 people, including children, parents, grandparents, aunts, and friends. Over 25 volunteers offered their services to assist with the crafts and activities, the celebration, the meal, and the tidying up at the end. There were obstacle courses in the garden, painting of Olympic Rings, torch making, and edible medal biscuits, to name a few of the 10 activities on offer. After the activities it was time for the celebration based on Hebrews 12:1-3 with songs such as My God Is A Great Big God linking the awesome power of athletes in the Olympics and the awesome power of God. We also sang I'm Gonna Click and Praise the Lord, linking to the cheering which is done for athletes. After this it was time for the meal. The kitchen team served up pasta followed by fruit crumble, ice cream and jelly.

There were many positive comments with people asking when the next Messy Church would be. At that point no decisions had been made. However, by the time you read this, our Advent Messy Church will have taken place.

It's a busy time for children and young people in Renfrew North, so let's pray that the Fun, Fellowship and Faith helps the young people find a path to our door.

Prayer Group



The Advent Prayer Group will be held on Tues 3rd Dec @ 12.30pm beginning with tea/coffee and home baking. The meeting itself will start @ 1.00pm-2.00pm. The theme is From Darkness to Light. During this meeting there will be an opportunity to remember any loved one who has died by hanging their names on a small tree. There will also be a time for praying for others. Some communal prayers are printed out on sheets.

Prayer requests can be handed to Sheila Love or posted into the box on the wall outside the coffee bar.



The Advent Prayer Group

Tues 3rd Dec @ 12.30pm

All Welcome!

Probationary Minister's Letter



pray, we edify and encourage each other to pray more.

We are urged to keep praying together for common needs, struggles, and times of celebration so that we will encourage other believers and motivate them on to the love of God and love for others.

Prayer is a powerful tool because it allows us as Christians to partner with God in His work in the church. The Bible says that when two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst, therefore the more we pray together in intercession for all, we will see an increase in miracles as our faith rises.

Christ called us to pray without ceasing and in James 5:16 we are reminded that "The earnest prayer of the righteous has great power and produces wonderful results."

We therefore call on anyone who is led to be part of our prayer team, to contact either our Minister Rev, Philip Wallace, the Session Clerk Jack Winch, any Elder, or Adaeze.

Shalom

Adaeze

Adaeze Goziem-Ibonye,

Christ in Matthew 28:16-20 called us all to the same mission: to make disciples of all nations, teaching others everything He taught. The best way to remember that we are on the same team is to pray for each other, our community, the church of God, and the world at large.

We represent Jesus, so we should pray for each other to stay strong and present Jesus' message well. The Bible instructs all Christians to pray for all people. When we



of Renfrew North really do support our Boys' Brigade Company which is invaluable to us. As I write this, we are heading towards QuizCo, our annual social fundraising event, hopefully we will raise a good amount from this which goes towards paying our annual fees and insurance along with towards all our activities and programme.

The great news is that 14 boys have signed up to our Summer Camp in Dyffern Ardudwy in North Wales next August, so we are really looking forward to it. However, it is expensive so please look out for some specific camp fundraising over next few months to support the camp.

Andrew

**Andrew Scott,
Captain**

We have had a busy start to the new session as always, although we really need more boys in our Anchors as they started the session basically from scratch. This is due to the two years we did not recruit during the pandemic, however I'm sure we will build up over next few weeks to a good level. Our Company/Seniors are taking part once again in the National Competitions which are in the early rounds, so hopefully we will manage to progress and maybe even emulate last sessions trip to a final.

We thank everyone who supported our Coffee Morning, the congregation and friends



The Guild

The Guild session for 24/25 started on 9th October. So far we've had a summer mission sing-a-long and our bring and buy sale which raised funds for our Guild. Over the coming weeks we'll be entertained by Dougie Bruce and Renfrew Ladies choir; by the time you read this we'll also have hosted a jewellery open night on 13th November which we hope you enjoyed and on 20th we'll be sharing memories old and new.

On Wednesday 27th November we're going to be entertained with some Scottish country dancers, we only have 2 items on our programme for December, on 11th we're joining with The Paisley Players to enjoy their panto and the following week we're holding a Coffee/Candles and Carol evening, everyone is welcome to join with us in the church as we look forward to celebrating the Christmas story along with tea and fellowship afterwards.

Our first date back after the Christmas break is our Christmas lunch on 15th January followed by a visit to the manse on 22nd January.

Everyone is welcome to join The Guild as we're open to all.

Lynn

**Lynn Ross,
Secretary
Tel: 07552 737 101**

The Guild

- 27 Nov** – Scottish Country Dancers
- 11 Dec** – The Paisley Players Panto
- 18 Dec** – Coffee/Candles and Carol Evening

Coffee Bar
Open every Monday, Wednesday & Friday
10am - 12pm
£1.80
Unlimited Coffee and Tea
with a selection of cake and biscuit goodies available each day
Volunteers to help run the coffee bar will be much most welcome.

Coffee Bar Christmas Party
ALL ARE WELCOME
Monday 23rd December
10.00am - 12.00pm

Deaths

Mrs Ellen Weir
Mrs Elizabeth Pollock
Mrs Nancy Perry

Baptism

Archie David Maxwell Wilson – 25 Aug 2024
Cameron James Donald Mollins – 1 Sept 2024

Contacts

Minister: Rev Philip D Wallace, BSc(Hons), BTh, DTS.

T: 0141 570 3502 E: minister@renfrewnorth.org.uk

Assistant Minister: Adaeze Goziem-Ibonye

T: 0797 912 7791

E: Adaeze.Goziem-Ibonye@renfrewnorth.org.uk

Session Clerk: Jack Winch

T: 0141 889 0458 E: sessionclerk@renfrewnorth.org.uk

Clerk to the Board: Alison Gerrard

T: 0141 561 6540 E: clerktotheboard@renfrewnorth.org.uk

Treasurer: Scott Jeffrey

T: 07806 740 527 E: treasurer@renfrewnorth.org.uk

Organist: Rhona McNeil

T: 01505 323 779 E: organist@renfrewnorth.org.uk

Property: Andy Scott

T: 07900 583 853 E: property@renfrewnorth.org.uk

Communications & Media: Greig Mitchell

T: 07474 687 089 E: media@renfrewnorth.org.uk

Church Office

T: 0141 530 1308 (Option 1) E: office@renfrewnorth.org.uk

Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone who donated an amazing 432.19kg of goods to Renfrew Foodbank at our recent Harvest Service. A collection box for the Foodbank is available throughout the year in the small hall – **Alison Gerrard**



Welcoming Rota

Dec 8, Jan 19, Mar 2, Apr 13

David Henderson, Lynn Ross,
Marion Weir

Dec 15, Jan 26, Mar 9, Apr 20

Catherine Adamson, Elizabeth Bruce,
Jim Bruce, Stewart Gilchrist

Dec 22, Feb 2, Mar 16, Apr 27

Gordon Ferguson, Marian Ferguson,
Sandra Kerr, Lesley McFarlane

Dec 29, Feb 9, Mar 23, May 4

Scott Mitchell, Mary Dempster,
Lesley Smith, Jack Winch

Jan 5, Feb 16, Mar 30, May 11

Rena Bradley, Alistair Corkindale,
Marion Wallace

Dec 1, Jan 12, Feb 23, Apr 6

Marion Henderson, Stuart Irving,
Sheila Love, Robert Parker

Junior Church

It has been a very busy summer, especially for young people and children.

Junior Church finished at the end of May however Ice Cream Sundays were still available throughout the months of June, July and August. Thanks must go to the volunteers who came along each week, ice cream scoops in hand, to deliver Fun and Fellowship to any young people who came along. We even extended this Fellowship to the rest of the congregation during

World Ice Cream Day!

Junior Church returned on Sunday 1st September. Invitations are extended to all young people who wish to come along. We are available every Sunday during morning worship.

So, what's coming up in the next few weeks and months?

As I write this we are currently working on our Christmas Trees and by the time you read this, these will be available for all

to see as part of the church community display inside the church.

The children will also be preparing for the Nativity which you will be able to see on Sunday 22nd December.

Thanks must go to the dedicated leaders who come along each Sunday to share Fun, Fellowship and Faith with all our young people.



*I would like to thank everyone who helped and supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning on September 27. We raised an amazing **£1,260** to help people affected by cancer – **Mary Dempster***