

ST. MARGARET'S
Parish Church
CONTACT MAGAZINE



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John Nicolson

Locum

I was born in Broughty Ferry, Dundee, and trained at the University of Dundee / College of Art. I came through to Glasgow in 1978 and have worked for over 30 years as a Professional Architect before being called to study for Readership in 2009 while serving as Session Clerk, and then later as Pastoral Assistant at Chryston Parish Church.

On completion of my studies at the International Christian College, I was set apart as a Reader in August 2013. During this time, I had placements at Lansdowne Parish Church and Burnside Blairbeth Parish Church both in Glasgow, as well as providing Pulpit Supply for many churches throughout the central belt of Scotland.

Locum positions since then have included 2 separate months of serving the Church of Scotland on the Costa Del Sol in Fuengirola, Spain followed by two and half years at Rutherglen West and Wardlawhill Parish Church in Glasgow. I was then locum at Sandyhills Parish Church, Glasgow for over a year, before a short spell at Anderston Kelvingrove Church in Glasgow.

My most recent appointment was in Hamilton where I was locum for a year and three months to the joint vacant charges of Gilmour Whitehill Parish Church and Hamilton West Parish Church./

I am passionate about preaching the Gospel and a great believer in the power of prayer as the only means of establishing and growing faith, as well as transforming individual lives and communities.

I am married to Alison and we have two children. Graham who is married to Melissa and they have two children Lewis and Oliver, and we also have a daughter Lorna who lives near Uddingston with Gary.

Both Alison and I count it an immense privilege to serve you at St Margaret's Parish Church during this time of vacancy, and we sorely miss not being able to meet you in person.

It has been a real joy to lead worship and 'see' many of you each Sunday morning, and I am so grateful to all those for organising this.

However, once this difficult period of lockdown is over, we look forward so much to getting to know you better over the weeks and months ahead.

Meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish any pastoral support or advice. I would love to hear from you.

My contact details are -

0790-222-1655

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Every blessing,

John.



Dear Friends,

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your new Interim Moderator. I also bring you the best wishes of my own Kirk Session and Congregation at Eastwood.

I know you do not need me to tell you how COVID-19 has had a major impact on Church life. We are now at the stage where the Kirk Session and Congregational Board at St. Margaret's will have to begin planning how to re-open the Church. Whilst we do this I want to thank you for your patience, forbearance and grace.

I want to put on record my thanks to John Nicholson for all the work he has undertaken so far. John has a vast array of experience in leading worship and caring for a congregation in vacancy and I was delighted when I heard he had been appointed.

So, you may be wondering what I can bring to help as Interim Moderator. I have been a minister for eleven and a half years and have served as Interim Moderator in three congregations within the Presbytery of Ardrrossan. I have also served the National Church on the Ministries Council and latterly was Convener of the National Presbytery Planning Task Group.

My primary role at St. Margaret's is to represent the views of the Kirk Session to the Presbytery of Glasgow and vice-versa. I do look forward to meeting you at an appropriate time but for now I want to let you know that I will be joining you for Worship and to share with you the Sacrament of Holy Communion, on Zoom, on Sunday 9 August./

As I sign off for now, I want us to remember, that during times of uncertainty, even pandemics, God is always with us. As we read in the Old Testament Book of Jeremiah 29, verse 11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Your friend and Interim Moderator,

Rev Jim Teasdale

0141 571 7648

JTeasdale@churchofscotland.org.uk

Sunday Worship

Please join us for service each Sunday on Zoom at 11:00am.

Lines open at 10:45am each week to allow a time for everyone to chat, and service begins at 11:00am.

Access is either by phoning **0131 460 1196**
and putting in access code **85469943484**
(followed by the # key)
or online at <https://zoom.us/>



'UNCHARTED WATERS!'

How often have we heard that expression over the past few months?

Politicians and the media have chosen to use that expression to describe the unknown consequences of recent events and decisions taken whether it be in relation to the politics of the Middle East, America, or even nearer to home, namely – Brexit, or especially Coronavirus!

As you know it is an expression that has its roots in sailing - it's when we journey into areas that are unfamiliar to us - situations that have never been properly mapped out.

These journeys are often risky and full of potential danger.

The Gospel writers record a boat journey that Jesus took one day with His disciples. They had not ventured far when a furious storm arose.

The disciples, many of them who were seasoned fishermen, became very afraid and began to look for Jesus to save them from drowning. To their amazement, they found Jesus **sleeping** in the rear of the boat completely unaware of the impending danger.

On waking, we read that Jesus replied - 'You of little faith, **why** are you so afraid?' The account tells us that Jesus then rebuked the winds and the waves, and the waters became calm again. The danger had passed.

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As we consider both Post-Brexit and these Coronavirus days, we too will be faced with many 'uncharted waters' - situations that at first appear calm and familiar to us, but then suddenly change to become stormy and out of control - and we too become just like the disciples - very afraid!

Yet our account from the Bible teaches us that Jesus is **always** with us - He was in the boat with the disciples then - and **still** He travels with us **every** day even through the most difficult times in our lives.

For that one brief moment the disciples **forgot** about all about Jesus - they placed their hope on the storm abating from their many years of sailing experience - **instead** of turning to Jesus.

As I have mentioned, these times of both Post Brexit and Post Coronavirus will inevitably bring about many changes for us internationally, nationally and yes, even locally.

Many of us see these as moving into 'uncharted waters' - but unlike the disciples, we must remember that Jesus has promised 'never to leave or forsake us' - He remains **beside** us in our 'boat' no matter what - so we must **never** be afraid.

Instead, we must be those of **faith** - those who trust Jesus - those who will place **every** situation and **every** aspect of our future into His hands.

The chorus of the well-known children's song reminds us of God's wonderful grace to deal with the future -

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'I know who holds the future, and He'll guide me with His hand;

with God things don't just happen, everything by Him is planned.

So as I face tomorrow, with its problems large and small,

'I'll trust the God of miracles, give to Him my all.'

My prayer is that we will give **all** that lies ahead into God's hand for He has promised -

'I will never stop doing good to them' (Jeremiah 32 verse 40b)

May God keep you and your family safe during these different and difficult times, and until we meet you in person, may God richly bless you all.

'We **will** meet again!'

John and Alison.



Church Music

Usually when I am preparing an article for the magazine about music in the Church I am surrounded by organ music and anthems, trying to choose music appropriate to the Church Year and music that the congregation will enjoy. However, coronavirus has rather changed things for us all and according to the scientists and politicians it sounds as though it may be sometime before we shall be singing again in Church as singing can spread Covid droplets. Oh well! We shall just need to keep singing at home to keep our bodies healthy and our minds active!

So keep singing so that we shall be in good voice when we meet again in Church to sing praises to God!

Christine Furnish



Frog Report: Reddit Reddit (June 2020)

There is much turmoil in our world at present with demands for statues to be removed etc. Black Lives Matter protests and demands for reparation for past involvement in the historic slave trade. I recently read a book which gives a pretty balanced view of that evil trade. Written by Jonathan Aitken former Conservative Cabinet minister under John Major and prison inmate (found guilty of perjury serving 7 months of an 18 month sentence).

In this biographical book "John Newton: From Disgrace to Grace", Aitken has revealed the life of the man who was a slave trader and subsequently a slave himself. The details contained in this well researched book (extensive bibliography) gives an interesting perspective on two sides of the slave trade. Some harrowing details of the vileness of the trade in human flesh itself as well as some of the conversion of Newton and his views of the business from the outside. Statements from Newton include this self denouncing quotation from his own publication, "*Thoughts Upon the African Slave Trade.*" "*I hope it will always be a subject of humiliating reflection to me that I was an active instrument in a business at which my heart now shudders.*"

Newton of course we know goes on to write one of the great hymns of all time "*Amazing Grace*". Aitken fills in some little known background information about the hymn and the final version of the tune we now sing, only united with the lyrics in 1835, by one William Walker.

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That tune is often titled inaccurately as "Amazing Grace" has as its original name of "New Britain" bracketed in CH4. Aitken's work is an excellent read. Depicting the Slave trader, become slave, become minister of the Christian faith and hymn writer. The man who described himself as "*A striking example of the riches of thy mercy that can pardon scarlet and crimson sins and the power of thy grace that can soften the hardest hearts and subdue the most Inveterate habits of wickedness.*"

I recommend this book to any who might be interested in the Christian position during the slavery and abolition period. (ISBN-13: 978-1-4335-4181-0)

[Robert McFarlane](#)



Check out our website at:

<https://knightswoodstmargarets.org.uk/>

to keep up to date with information on the church.
Our Zoom service each Sunday is uploaded for you to view, and you can also listen to services from previous weeks on audio on our site.



Property

During lockdown, with our church closed, it would have been difficult to maintain our grounds. A local resident, Andy, volunteered to come round each day and work in the gardens, and for the last few months he has been working each day keeping the gardens maintained. His hard work has been fantastic and the gardens look truly wonderful! In what has been a dark time for people, it is so heart warming to see the goodness as well. A huge thank you to Andy for his work

A repair to the flat roof at the entrance to the Large Hall has recently been carried out. Hopefully there will be no more leaks! Thanks to Dumgoyne Roofing and Frostcote Roofing for their prompt service.

Wilma Macaulay



Sunday School

It is incredible that the 15th March was the last day that our Sunday School met together as part of our church family.

This obviously meant that we were unable to celebrate Easter together.

However, through the church website, we were able to make contact with the children at that time. We are continuing to provide stories and activities for our young people on the Kids page of the website.

Now that Lockdown restrictions have eased we will soon be delivering Easter eggs to our children.

These have been stored We hope they will enjoy this little surprise.

We look forward to the happy day when we can welcome our young people back to St Margaret's.

Janet Hall and Christine Keith



Bible Study Group (June 2020)

Well COVID 19 has certainly blown a hole in most of our lives. Our Church family lives in particular. Zoom appears to have arrived just in time to be useful for the Services on Sunday mornings. The Bible study group sadly was suspended as a result of having no suitable medium for interaction of the group. However, with Zoom the possibilities have opened up once more to re engage with our study. I think we will continue with the Psalms (even though Iain Macleod stole our thunder - a bit with his wonderful daily devotional) The emails have been truly great as a daily devotional opportunity. My hope is that we might try the Zoom option for our group. If you would like to join us please let me know (email: robertmcfrln@yahoo.co.uk) Once I have set up the Zoom page I will be able to advise of the address for people to log into. With the easing of lockdown, it might even be possible in the very near future to meet face to face in the Church hall or vestibule - with appropriate social distancing! Watch this space.

God bless.



Robert McFarlane

Glasgow Doors Open Day

St. Margaret's Church is again privileged to be chosen to participate in the Glasgow Doors Open Day Event in September, which this year is digital.

A group of us from St. Margaret's have been busy compiling a power point presentation to submit to the organisers and hopefully it will meet with their approval and you will be able to access it online. This year the themes are 'Untold stories' and 'Children' and we do hope you enjoy, and find interesting, the stories about St. Margaret's Church over the past 100 years. You should also be able to access this presentation on the Church Website.



Friendship Café

Unfortunately the Friendship Café has not met since Tuesday 17th March, the first time it has not met weekly since it started on 16th August 2016.

I miss it very much as do the other volunteers and we hope it won't be long before we can return to our tea and toast and being with our friends for fellowship and a chat.

In the meantime stay safe and try to find some positives in this very challenging time and we so look forward to meeting you all again in person.

Christine Furnish



Prayer

Lord God, Father of us all, we come to you feeling anxious, frustrated and at times helpless.

In our weakness we are strong, in our anxiety you reassure us and when we feel lost you give us hope.

Remind us Lord that you are in control and when we place ourselves in your care we have nothing to fear.

During the restrictions of lockdown let us turn our thoughts to you. Make this a time when we read your word and discover anew your call to us. Let us come to you in prayer knowing that we can share our hopes and fears. Every prayer is heard and answered. Teach us to accept your way and strive to serve you diligently so that your will be done and your name glorified.

As we slowly come out of lockdown make us patient and caring of others. Make us exemplary servants so that from our good deeds people come to know you,

Guide leaders and governments throughout the world to think carefully, act justly, seeking to serve all, not a privileged minority.

May your grace, mercy and peace be known to all of your people.

Amen

