



# Wellington News

**May 2024**

**Wellington Church, 77 Southpark Ave, Glasgow G12 8LE**

**Office: Tel: 01413390454**

[www.wellingtonchurch.co.uk](http://www.wellingtonchurch.co.uk)

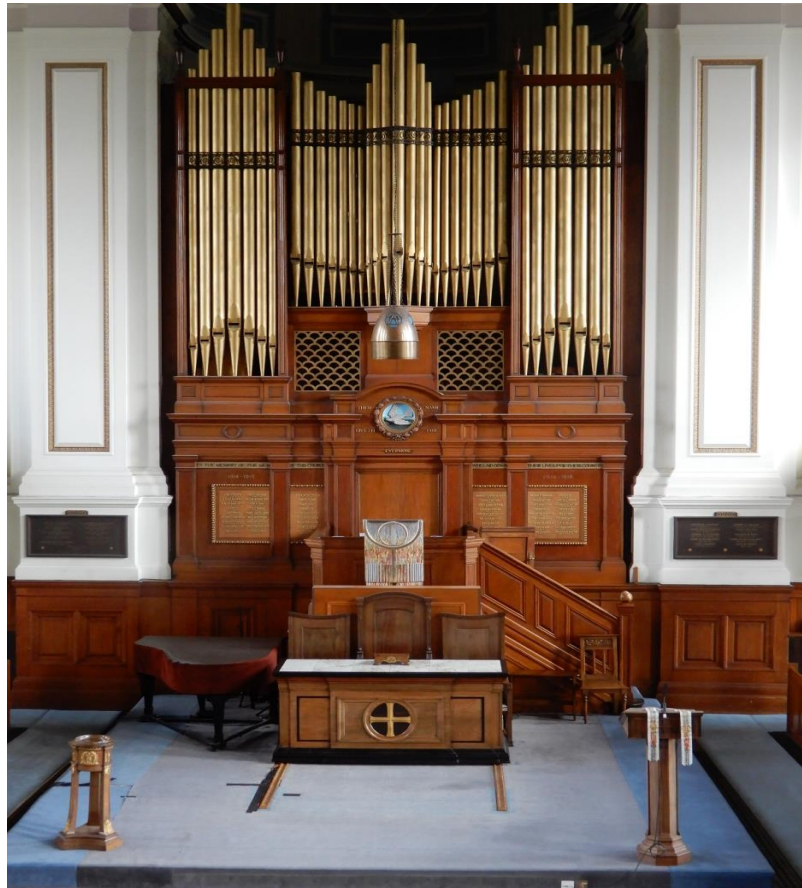
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***Welcome to all***

*Love one another, as I have loved you (John 15:12)*

*We welcome into the life and worship of our congregation people of every race, gender, background, age, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability.*

*We affirm our diversity and the dignity of each person.*

*Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)*

Dear friends,

One of the great joys of Christian ministry is the chance to share special celebrations with families. Most recently, we shared a baptism on Palm Sunday, and hopefully there are others to follow not too far down the line.

The chance to bring back memories of weddings and baptisms in Wellington will be a special part of our year of celebrations, and we're looking forward to the exhibition taking place over the second weekend in May. Here is just one tantalising hint. If you want to know how on earth the minister ended up getting married to the same person twice, in two different countries, you'll just have to come along and find out!

Also in May, the General Assembly takes place, and from Wellington Nicholas Budgen, Ruth Potter and John Bradley will all be attending this year. Christian Aid week is also on the horizon. We're also hoping to run an in-person Christianity from Scratch group and a new Bible study session has just started up online, so there's plenty of spring life around the congregation.

At this time of year we offer our best wishes to all of the students in schools, colleges and universities who are approaching exam time. We're sure none of them will share the fate of King Belshazzar who was told he had been weighed in the balance and found wanting (Daniel 5.25-28), and we wish them all the success their efforts deserve. Hopefully God's message to Paul will apply: "My grace is sufficient for you for my power is made perfect in weakness." Enjoy the arrival of spring weather (hopefully!) and do continue to pray for all that is going on around the life of the congregation just now.

Yours in Christ,                      Richard

# Wellington Church

CELEBRATING WEDDINGS  
PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Friday 10th of May  
1pm - 4pm

Saturday 11th  
10am - 4pm

Sunday 12th  
1pm - 4pm

Open to all  
Free

Enter via  
77 Southpark  
Avenue G12 8LE

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**Wellington Workshop Weekend Away**  
**8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at the Conforti Institute Coatbridge**

On the first weekend in June, we invite elders, members, adherents, and friends of Wellington to join us for a workshop that aims at shaping our future.

We will come together as a community over one and a half days to discuss issues relating to our building but more importantly to take steps to develop a clear sense of what our mission in the West End will be. The workshop will be led by an experienced facilitator and a program will be published on the church website nearer to the time.

The venue is the Conforti Institute in Coatbridge which is a 20-minute drive from the church or a 25-minute train ride from Queen Street Station to Whifflet followed by a 15 min walk. The workshop will start on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 10am and finish on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June around 2pm. We will organise a social program for the Saturday evening and share worship on Sunday morning, however, staying overnight is optional.

The costs for the weekend away are GBP 100 for full board overnight, GBP 51 for taking part as a day delegate on both days including meals, GBP 33 for taking part Saturday only (including lunch & dinner), or GBP 18 for attending Sunday only. Financial support is available, please talk to the minister if you need assistance.

If you would like to take part, please fill the RSVP form in this link: [www.wellingtonchurch.co.uk/workshop-weekend-2024/](http://www.wellingtonchurch.co.uk/workshop-weekend-2024/) If this link causes you any issue, you can email your RSVP directly to [rebecca@wellingtonchurch.co.uk](mailto:rebecca@wellingtonchurch.co.uk)

*Rebecca Gebauer*

## **Mission and Outreach Committee**

### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May**

Christian aid envelopes (two per person) will be given out on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May. They can be handed in at the pedestals the following week.

### **COFFEE MORNING 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

A Coffee Morning, to raise funds for Christian Aid, will be held in the Crypt on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May ,10.30 to 12 Noon, entrance fee £3.50.

This is a joint effort with Kelvinbridge Parish Church, with a large craft stall produced by their Craft Group, as well as home baking. Please come along, to buy goods and to meet friends.

A representative from Christian Aid will be present and willing to answer questions on the work of Christian Aid. If you wish to write any letters on important issues, paper, envelopes and stamps will be available.

Entrance will be via the Crypt door, but if anyone has trouble with steps come in at the side door and the Stair-lift will be available to access the Crypt.

Look forward to seeing you there.

### **LENTEN Appeal**

The gift aid has not yet been distributed, but the total cash raised so far is over £3K.

M. Small, Mission and Outreach committee

## **Wellington Concert Series**

Saturday 25th May 1pm Concert will feature solo guitar music, and piano duets. (4 hands at the one piano)

## Commemoration of 140 years of the Organ



### Concert featuring three organists – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30

Organ music and accompaniment has been part of worship services in Wellington since the building opened in 1884. Save for the various short periods of the instrument's renovation, we can assume that it has been heard almost every Sunday since. The "established" Church of Scotland had sanctioned the use of organs in 1865 (only 19 years before Wellington was built), but opinion on the matter was still divided, sometimes bitterly. When

the present Wellington Church building was being planned, a congregational vote resulted in 95% in favour of the installation of an organ. One wonders if the United Presbyterian Churches (such as Wellington) were generally better disposed to the concept of organs in worship, as there seem to be many former UP Churches which had organs ahead of their C of S counterparts.

The major UK organ builders of the time were Henry Willis and T C Lewis, both of whom built many organs for churches in Glasgow. However, the tender for the Wellington organ went to the Hull firm of Forster & Andrews - also a very reputable company producing high quality instruments.

While planning the new building, there would be consultations with F & A about the provision of a suitable space for the organ. F & A would work out what size of organ was required in relation to the proposed building dimensions. Most of the instrument would be constructed in their workshops in Hull, then transported north, presumably by train, and onward by horse & cart from the railhead to the building site! The organ would probably be one of the last permanent fixtures to be installed, after the joinerywork (pews, galleries, etc), and painting, etc was complete. One can see that the organ case is clearly designed for the space provided.

Since 1884, however, there have been several changes to the instrument. The original console (where the player sits) was originally at floor level in front of the pulpit. Whilst there were some minor alterations in 1906, it wasn't until 1950 that a major rebuild took place, increasing the number of pipes and sounds available. A rebuild can involve either much or little alteration, but the basic construction of the instrument remains the same. A great deal was added in 1950, whilst the organ chamber remained a fixed space. I was informed by the late Sandy Small that some acoustic problems arose due to there being too many pipes and mechanisms crammed into the space. However, I

would like to have heard the 1950 instrument. The specification looks fantastic on paper, at least.

By the early 1970s several aspects of the instrument had become unreliable. Coupled with the problems of the 1950 rebuild, and changing fashions of the time in pipe organ design, it was decided to look at improvement options. The chosen option involved a major rebuild in 1976, reducing the overall size of the organ, and the provision of a new console to be sited in the east gallery.



The changes to the pipework have resulted in a somewhat hybrid Victorian Romantic/mid 20<sup>th</sup> century neo-classical instrument.



## **WestFest**

Once again the whole of the West End will be filled with events during the month of June as part of the second WestFest. Three music related WestFest events in Wellington will be:



On **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30** you are invited to come and hear 4 Wellington organists (past and present) in a commemoration concert. This will feature music and anecdotes from Wellington organists Paul McNeill (1985-92), Dr Malcolm Sim (2003-05) and Alan Kitchen (2005 – present) and a pre-recorded video chat with Sarah Longrigg (nee Dawe) who was organist from 1975 -1985. The event will be part of WestFest. Entry is FREE, with an opportunity to donate to the Special Music Fund – the fund which finances the Choral Scholar Scheme. Please come along and celebrate.

### **Friday 14th June 7.30pm Summer Airs**

A recital of soprano duets from choral scholar Rachel McLean and Claire Lumsden.

Sopranos, Claire Lumsden and Rachel McLean are recent RCS graduates, joined by Scottish/Dutch pianist, Anna Michels, to present an evening of opera classics and art song. From Mozart's beautiful "Sull'aria", to Delibes' famous Flower Duet, there is something for everyone. Audiences can also look forward to intimate French song, and the Glasgow premiere of an American song-cycle by Jake Heggie. Entry by Donation.

### **Midsummer Music and Poetry**

Friday 21<sup>ST</sup> June • 7.30pm • free event

Celebrate Midsummer at our Music and Poetry Evening in the Woodlands Hall of Wellington Church. We will listen to delightful music from the Camas String Quartet interspersed with poetry old and new. To book a slot on the Open Mic please email [munrowalker@ntlworld.com](mailto:munrowalker@ntlworld.com).

Let's celebrate the solstice together with light refreshment in good company.

## Garden group

A new garden season has started with regular tea and chat every Monday between 2pm and 4pm. On the final Monday of April, the first vegetable was harvested from the garden of one of the Club. Rory McDuffy – who has one of the nine plots – dug out a fine leek which had grown over the winter. Possible ways of eating it were suggested by other gardeners. He also had some beautiful tulips and has planted several other vegetables.

All plots are tended, though one is lying fallow as the current plothead holder has just taken up a new job. Another plot holder has planted exotic seeds from his own country and is patiently waiting to see which – if any – grow in this climate.

Things are looking good. A group of community garden plot holders is due to visit Wellington green fingers early next month just to see how we do things. They - and anyone interested in Wellington garden is welcome to join us for a cuppa anytime from 2pm till 4pm any Monday.

Wellington Church International Welcome Club



## **Mary's Meals Pray in May**

Thank you so much to you and all your congregation for your ongoing support of our work.

I would like to invite you to join us for our Pray in May campaign this year.

During Pray in May, we remember the children around the world who receive Mary's Meals, their families, and communities, and all of those living in poverty. This year, in the face of a hunger crisis unfolding in Ethiopia and largely going unreported in the media, we pray in a special way for the families there, and for the international community to hear their cries for help.

*Mary's Meals, who provide school meals to over 2.4 million children every day in their place of education, invite you to join their Pray in May campaign. During the month of May, we invite you to join us in praying for the hungry children who rely on our life-changing school meals, and for all the children and families around the world who live in poverty.*

*We pray particularly for families facing extreme food insecurity and hunger in Ethiopia*

*Please visit [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk) to access our Pray in May resources and find out more about our Crisis in Ethiopia appeal.*

If you have any questions please do just get in touch.

Thanks and very best wishes,  
Sally Davidson  
Supporter Engagement Officer  
Mary's Meals UK





**Beatson  
cancer  
CHARITY**

**DETERMINED TO BEAT cancer**

# **JOHN'S 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CONCERT**



St. John's-Renfield Church, Beaconsfield Rd,  
Glasgow G12 0NY

**FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024**

**7 P.M.**

**(DOORS OPEN 6.15 P.M.)**

**TICKETS £15 ADULTS - £8 U18**

**Comperer: GORDON BARCLAY**

**Artistes: CAMERON MURDOCH**  
(Piano/organ/accompanist)

**MOIRA DOCHERTY** (Soprano)

**RYAN CORBETT** (Accordion)

**GRAHAM MACKENZIE** (Fiddle)

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR OR  
EMAIL: [jdrmacmillan@icloud.com](mailto:jdrmacmillan@icloud.com)

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE BEATSON  
CANCER CHARITY (Register No. SC044442)

## **Wellington Members visit Global Minorities Alliance Project in Pakistan**

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024, Wendy Alexander and Shahid Khan visited a recently launched digital inclusion project in Lahore, Pakistan.

Wendy was part of the UK governments' delegation to the Pakistan to support transnational education strategy which will enhance educational experiences of students from both countries. Shahid was visiting Pakistan in a personal capacity and to check-in on different strands of GMA work.



*Wendy hears about GMA work and Christian ministry in Pakistan*

They both found time to meet in Lahore and engage with GMA key partners, among them Pastor Anwar Fazal, CEO of Issac TV, and Muhammad Haroon Malik, CEO from Corvit College, who pledged to develop a digital literacy project in Pakistan which would be accessible to minority communities. The partners organised a launch event which set out ambitious plans for realising digital inclusion in years to come.

After the event, Wendy and Shahid spent the evening Pastor Anwar Fazal along with his family. Pastor Anwar heads some of

the largest Christian ministries in Pakistan, Eternal Life Ministries and ISAAC TV, and gave valuable insight into the life of Christian communities. We thank God for Wendy's visit and GMA's work in Pakistan.



*Left to right: Pastor Anwar's wife Nida, Wendy Alexander, Pastor Anwar Fazal, and Shahid Khan.*

## **Kiriyan's Long Walk**

Conversation Corner Host, Kiriyan announced recently he was going on the KILT WALK to raise funds for the Scottish Refugee Council. He and his family arrived in the UK from Sri Lanka as asylum seekers some years ago and the Scottish Refugee Council gave them a lot of help and support. An IT professional, Kiriyan went into training so that he could manage the 23 miles from Glasgow Green to Loch Lomond on Sunday 28 April.



On the day, he left Glasgow Green at 9.30am with several hundred other people in that 'batch.' Around 10.15am he arrived at the Clyde Arc Bridge where the photographs were taken showing him in a smart Black Watch tartan kilt.

The 'welcome' party went to Loch Lomond after lunch planning to meet him as he arrived at the FINISH line. As the group approached that point around 3pm they sent a message to ask if he was nearly there. His swift response was: I'm back in Glasgow now! So he finished before the welcome party reached the finishing tape!

He was none the worse of his first Kiltwalk experience and raised over £200 for the Scottish Refugee Council.

Well done Kiriyan!

### **Volunteers/asylum seekers**

With the growing concerns about asylum seekers being put into detention in advance of being sent to Rwanda, Positive Action in Housing (PAiH) has asked Wellington church congregation for help.

Iona Taylor, the charity's Advocacy and Campaigns Lead said:

'I am building a network of volunteers who can support any of our clients who are going to their reporting appointments at Brand Street (the Home Office base in Govan).

Is this something that members of Wellington Church congregation would be interested in supporting?'

This would entail going with an asylum seeker when they are obliged to attend Brand Street for a regular appointment. The volunteer would not be allowed in. Their task is to wait outside till the asylum seeker comes out. If the person doesn't come out within an expected length of time, the volunteer then alerts the network to trace what has happened to the asylum seeker and establish which detention centre they may have been sent to. The network would also have to ensure the person's belongings were safe and not removed and dumped as has happened in the past by government appointed housing providers.

Anyone reading this who is interested in being such a volunteer should get in touch with Iona Taylor, Advocacy and Campaigns Lead at PAiH. Email: [iona@positiveactionh.org](mailto:iona@positiveactionh.org)

## **RWANDA ROUND UP**

People reading this newsletter will almost certainly have picked up on the fact that the current Westminster government intends to send people who have arrived on UK shores seeking asylum, to Rwanda. They will never be allowed to enter the UK again. Whether or not they are allowed to settle in Rwanda will be up to the law courts there.

Within Wellington Church and the International Club, there are real concerns that some individuals who are in the process of seeking asylum here in Glasgow, could be detained on their next regular visit to the Home Office base in Govan and sent to detention to await the first flight to Rwanda. Consideration is being given to what action the Church and the wider church family could take to show that we are not willing, as Christians, to accept this treatment of people we know and love.

During Refugee Week in June, there may be some function in Wellington in collaboration with the British Red Cross, Wellington Church Mission and Outreach committee and the International Welcome Club to highlight what asylum seekers bring to this country with their different cultures, cuisines, traditions and music. Just as important, people who are likely to be detained and sent to Rwanda will be given the opportunity to speak out and tell their story.

If you wish to support them: write today to your MP saying what you think of people being sent to detention and then to Rwanda.

Or find out more via Wellington International Welcome Club: email: [grace@iwelcomeclub.com](mailto:grace@iwelcomeclub.com) or contact the Scottish Refugee Council, Positive Action in Housing, Refuweegee, The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, Free Movement or any of the other agencies supporting asylum seekers.



Finally - please keep praying that all people in the UK seeking asylum will be treated with respect and dignity.

## **Wellington Church International Welcome Club**

**David Stow** (1793-1864) was one of those nineteenth-century Christians who lived out their faith both in the service of the church and, more significantly, through social action during the worst excesses of the industrial revolution at the beginning of the nineteenth century.



Born in Paisley, where a plaque still marks his birthplace, he was brought up in the Church of Scotland but, as with many who thought deeply about their faith and practice, he left at what is now called the "Disruption" to join the Free Church. He was a silk and later carpet manufacturer at Port Eglinton but used his wealth to provide education for thousands of the poorest children of the city. Inevitably, this meant training their teachers and Stow was responsible for the establishment of two teacher-training colleges in the city. The first, the Glasgow Normal School, still exists though woefully neglected. The second, The Free Church of Scotland Normal School, was eventually demolished though many of you will remember Stow Street and even the trams trundling their way to the 'Normal School'. Eventually, the two colleges were merged into the magnificent 'David Stow' building at Jordanhill.

His sensitive and sympathetic approach to children was instilled into young teachers and missionaries who carried his ideas into village and parish schools, workhouses and prisons throughout Great Britain and beyond. It formed the basis of the 'pupil-teacher system' which was eventually regularised in the great Education Act of 1871. '*Train up a child in the way he should go*', was his oft-repeated advice from Proverbs 22 verse 6, '*and when he is old he will not depart from it*'. If you'd like to dip into Stow's story you are welcome to borrow a book about him '*David Stow: A Sort of Amateur Teacher*' from me. If you're really interested it's available at £20 from me or Amazon!

Glenda A. White

## **Stainer's Crucifixion**

The Palm Sunday evening service was directed by Dr. Katy Cooper (Director of *Chapel Music* - University of Glasgow) with James McIntyre (Tenor), Michael Cameron-Longden (Bass), Alan Kitchen (Organ), and the West End Voices

Supported by Glasgow University Chapel Choir, Wellington Choir and some other invited singers. Many thanks to all who participated.

*Soloists Michael, James and the choir with Katy ready to conduct.*



## **Sunrise worship held at Botanic Gardens on Easter Sunday**



## **Congregational Roll**

### **Deaths:**

Grace Martin 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (9<sup>th</sup> March 1933- 24March 2024)

### **Grace S. A. Martin** **1933-2024**

Grace Sommerville Armour Smith was born in Govanhill, Glasgow, 9<sup>th</sup> March 1933. She was 6 years old when WWII broke out. Initially she, her brother and mother were evacuated to Gatehouse of Fleet in Dumfries and Galloway.

Grace did well at school. During her time at Queen's Park Secondary School she came first in her year. After qualifying as a primary teacher from Jordanhill, Grace stayed on to specialise in infant teaching, gaining a Froebel certificate. For the remainder of her life, Grace was a firm believer in the importance of this early stage of a child's life.

She met Robert Martin in Renfield Street choir. Robert was a student at Glasgow University, studying for the Ministry. In Nov '55 Robert decided to set off for Canada to try and find a post. He sent money to Grace to buy her engagement ring and her passage across the Atlantic. In October 1956 Grace left her post in the Gorbals and said her farewells to friends and family as she prepared to embark on a new adventure. She packed a trunk which included her wedding dress and wedding cake and sailed across the Atlantic solo to meet up with Robert. Five days later she arrived in Montreal and was married to Robert in Thornbury, Canada in Apr 1957. In 1960 her first child Melville was born in Saskatchewan.

The family decided to return to Scotland for Melville's schooling and Robert secured a post in Cowdenbeath, Fife in 1962. In 1966 Grace's second child Stella was born. In 1974 she was appointed Head Teacher in Shortlees Nursery School in Kilmarnock where

she worked for a total of 20 years, retiring in 1994 aged 61. Even in retirement it was important to Grace to put her valuable experience to use, and importantly to continue to have contact with children. For many years she was a regular volunteer at Park Special Needs School.

Grace was a regular attender at Wellington Church and drove from Kilmarnock to attend the services where she always felt very much welcomed and at home. She supported the International Welcome Club and helped with their BBQs. Post Covid she continued to join the services online.

**Dr Forbes Pearson**  
**(1931-2024)**

Forbes Pearson, who died on 14 March 2024 aged 92, was for many decades a significant part of the community of Wellington Church. Alongside an illustrious and busy business career, he was active in Wellington as an elder, convener of the Board of Managers, leader of the Friday Club for Partick teenagers that met in the crypt, instigator of Park Week, an outdoor holiday club held in Kelvingrove Park, advocate for the reconstitution of Wellington as a Community of Mission, and many other unsung and unseen activities.

Forbes and Jean left Wellington after he retired from business in 2001 and moved to Innellan near Dunoon. There, for many years, they continued to host friends and visitors from Wellington, who enjoyed a trip “doon the water” and their renowned hospitality.