



Newsletter of St John's Johnstone & St Margaret's Renfrew

March 2022



www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Dear friends of St John's & St Margaret's,

Looking to Lent is our perspective as we embark upon March this year. Ash Wednesday falls on Wednesday 2 March, and we have Ashing Services at 2pm at St Johns and a 7pm Sung Eucharist at St Margarets. It is wonderful that we are able to begin to engage in our traditions again to mark the seasons.

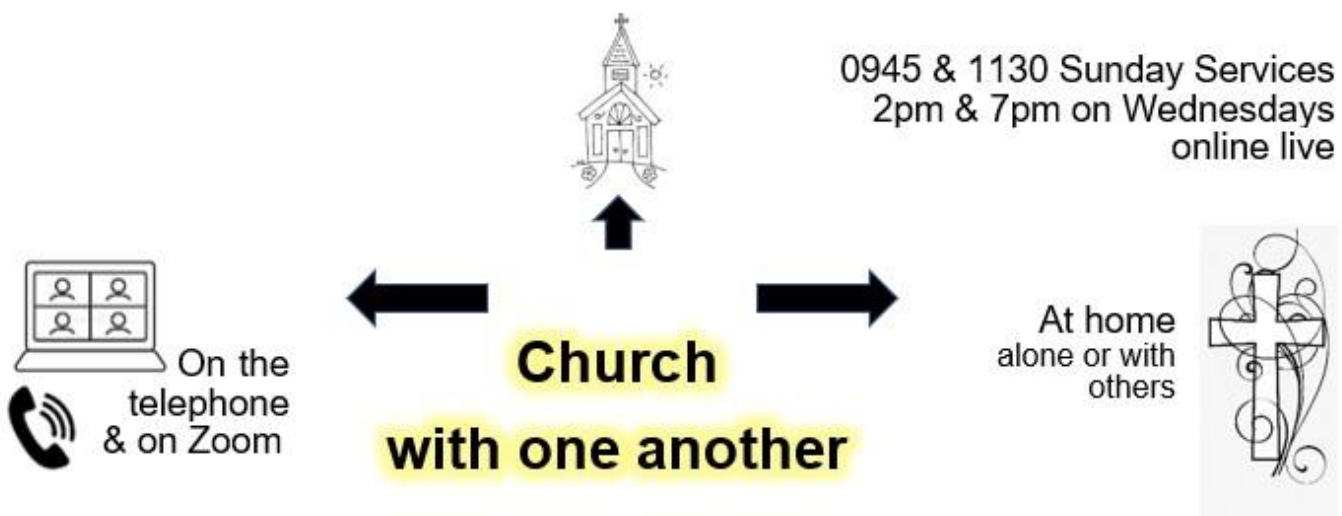


The bulk of this issue of the newsletter is looking at what is on offer for Lent this year, both in our Charges, in our Diocese and joining in with Ecumenical partners as we reflect on the work and offering of Christ's life for the world.

Please take a careful look and do join in – remember Lent is not about learning stuff but reflecting upon our relationship with God now, where we are in our own individual contexts. Come as you are – bring your life and experiences in their totality as we seek God in Lent 2022.

St Johns and St Margarets are good places to be as we seek the living God amongst us in Lent 2022.

Very Rev Reuben Preston – Rector



Our 2022 Zoom & Telephone access remains

Tel: 0131 460 1196 Meeting ID: 832 4184 0407 Passcode: 076546
or use this link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83241840407?pwd=YnBqWkxEeW5NMlBuTDRmbDc0cFZhUT09>

The Service rotas for March 2022

you are invited to the physical, online & telephone Services

St Johns details in RED St Margarets in BLUE



Date	Celebration	Readings
Wednes 2 March 2pm St Johns 7pm St Margarets <i>both on zoom</i>	ASH WEDNESDAY with Ashing Principal Holy Day (violet/Lenten Array)	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Sunday 6 March 0945am St Johns & 1130am St Margarets <i>both services streamed</i>	LENT 1 (violet/Lenten Array) Reader: Ann , Gordon - Prayers: David P , usual	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13
Wednes 9 March 2pm St Johns 7pm St Margarets <i>both on zoom</i>	Baldred, Bishop, 608 commemoration (violet/Lenten Array)	Jonah 3:1-10 Psalm 51:1-2, 11-13 Luke 11:29-32
Sunday 13 March 0945am St Johns & 1130am St Margarets <i>Only Renfrew streamed</i>	LENT 2 (violet/Lenten Array) Reader: Dave , Pat - Prayers: Vanessa , usual	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17 - 4:1 Luke 13:31-35
Wednes 16 March 2pm St Johns 7pm St Margarets <i>both on zoom</i>	Boniface of Ross, Bishop, 8th century commemoration (white)	Jeremiah 18:18-20 Psalm 31:1-5, 13-16 Matthew 20:17-28
Sunday 20 March 0945am St Johns & 1130am St Margarets <i>both services streamed</i>	LENT 3 (violet/Lenten Array) Reader: Agnes , John M - Prayers: Tosh , usual	Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9
Wednes 23 March 2pm St Johns 7pm St Margarets <i>both on zoom</i>	Cuthbert, Bishop, 687 [6] White (translated from 20 March) commemoration (white)	Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-10 Psalm 147:13-21 Matthew 5:17-20
Sunday 27 March 0945am St Johns & 1130am St Margarets <i>both services streamed</i>	LENT 4 – Refreshment Sunday Mothering Sunday (violet/Lenten Array/rose) Reader: David R , Jane T - Prayers: Pat , usual	Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Wednes 30 March 2pm St Johns 7pm St Margarets <i>both on zoom</i>	feria (violet/Lenten Array)	Isaiah 49:8-15 Psalm 145:8-15 John 5:19-30



Daily Prayer

-9am to 920am Monday to Friday on zoom.

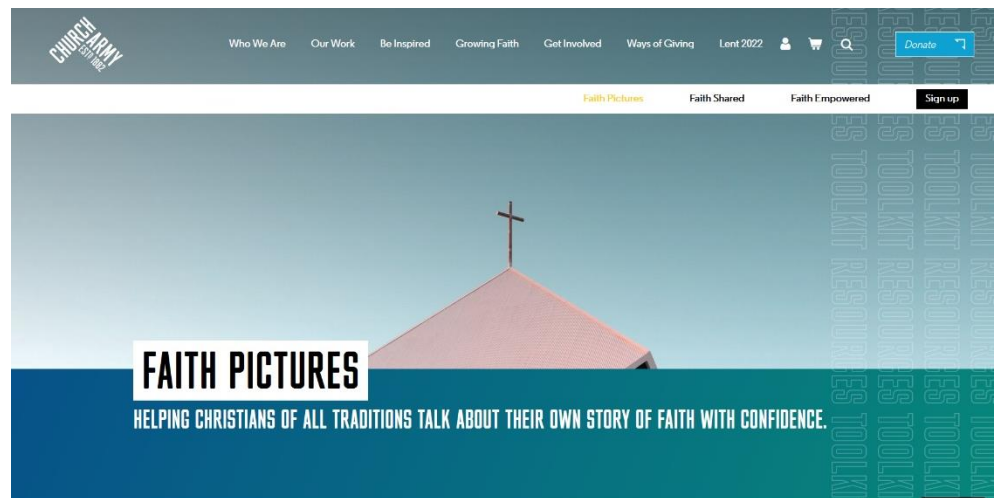
The words are shared on the screen and we go to our day at the end of the service.



You can join in the National Scottish Episcopal Church Services at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

Doing Lent 2022

For our Lent Course we shall be having two Lent groups, one at St Johns on Wednesday afternoons and one at St Margarets on Wednesday evenings. We shall be using the Church Army *Faith Pictures* resource. To find out more see <https://churcharmy.org/resources/faith-pictures/>



Wednesday 9, 16, 23, 30 March & 6, 13 April at 3pm in St Johns

Bring your iPads if you have one and we shall use the church laptop to look at the images we are using to help us in our reflection together.

Wednesday 9, 16, 23, 30 March & 6, 13 April at 745pm in St Margarets & on zoom

St Margarets session are being led by Tosh and all the materials you need will be available week by week. If you have an iPad you can use it to view the materials and images as we use them in our studies.

Please Sign up in church to let us know approx. numbers attending



Lent Compline Fridays 8pm

Thank you for the comments of appreciation of COMPLINE on the Telephone. By popular demand COMPLINE will be each Friday in Lent at 8pm on the

telephone with the gospel of the day and a brief reflection along with familiar Compline music and words.

Just dial in on your phone Tel: 0131 460 1196 Meeting ID: 832 4184 0407

Passcode: 076546 then * 6 to make yourself audible to everyone else

Other things to do in Lent

Ecumenically we are invited to join in the Ignatian Spirituality Centre Glasgow Lent Course.

This is available in two forms –

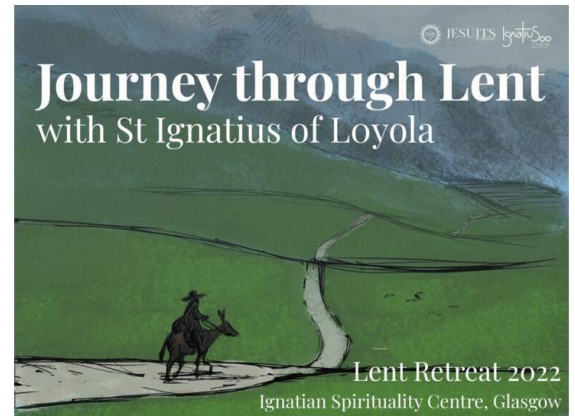
1 using the book and working through the material yourself day by day at home – these will be available in church from March and a donation is requested towards their costs.

2 using the online version at

<https://www.onlineprayer.net/ignatius/>

Android and Apple Apps are freely downloadable for the content too.

Online Prayer Ignatian Spirituality from the Jesuits in Scotland Ignatian Spirituality Centre Methods of Prayer



Lent with Ignatius of Loyola

Be inspired by the eventful life of Hugo of Loyola, later known as Ignatius. Maybe his trials and discernment could help you in your search for fulfillment in life. Follow the life of the Spanish courtier turned priest this Lent. It is 500 years since he converted to Christ yet his story still has the power to move us.

Prepare for Easter by dedicating time this Lent to pray using our focused daily reflections. Join us for daily prayer using pictures, Scripture, Music and episodes from the life of Ignatius.

During Lent we invite you to share your experiences weekly in a group either in person or online.

Picture of the Day

Online Prayer Ignatian Spirituality from the Jesuits in Scotland Ignatian Spirituality Centre Methods of Prayer

Online Prayer

Ways of Praying Guided Retreats Friday Prayers ISC Glasgow

Wherever you live in the world you can tap into our online prayers and retreats. We offer one to one guided retreats, two themed series of prayers, and weekly group prayers. So experience an individually guided retreat at home or in your favourite location, use one of our Scripture based themed retreats to get to know Christ or his mother better. Or come along and join us for a hour's prayer on Friday.

Lent Retreat 2022

Begin on Ash Wednesday March 2nd 2022

Be inspired by the struggles of Ignatius who found God in sickness and then changed his life's direction from fighting wars to introducing others to Christ. Join us for our new retreat to celebrate 500 years of the conversion of St Ignatius Loyola.

Daily – Music, Pictures, Scripture and the story of Ignatius of Loyola.

Retreats in a group or individually. Sign up for being part of a group with the button below.

[Join a Group for the Lent Retreat](#)

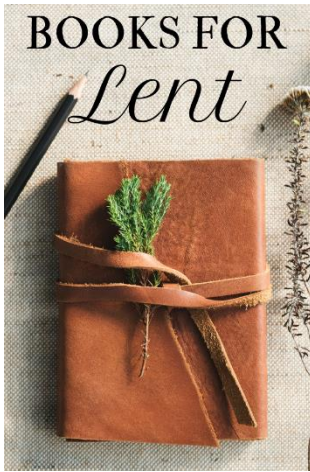
Receive a daily email with links to the Lent Retreat prayer material and additional resources from the Jesuits in Britain. Sign up

**"In Knowing Jesus
I encountered Jesus speaking to ME"**

Lilian

You can also sign up for an online group – there are groups for men, women, mixed groups, LGBT groups.... and journey through the materials day by day with a small group of people through Lent in 2022. There are currently 100 groups being set up so why not sign up and join an online group at

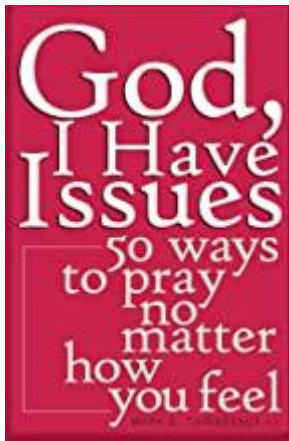
<https://www.onlineprayer.net/>



Book Corner Lent 2022

As we look to Lent in 2022, we look to connect to God in a new way, to draw near when we have felt resistance, to dwell with the spirit when we have felt frustrated or uncomfortable, to ask for a new experience of faith in these days of our Life.

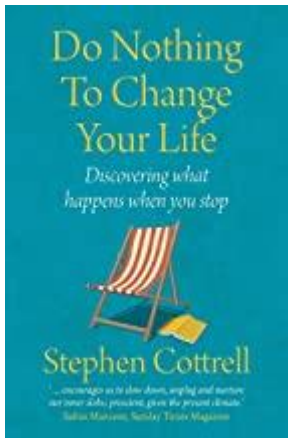
Below I have selected a few very different books you may like to order and try using to draw closer to God this Lent.



A Prayer one for people who recognise they have issues **God, I Have Issues: 50 Ways To Pray No Matter How You Feel** by [Mark E. Thibodeaux](#)

Paperback £13.76 Kindle £7.36 "Human lives and human issues run the gamut from addiction and anger to weariness and worries. God, I Have Issues is a gentle call to prayer in the midst of our good and bad times, trusting our problems and joys to a God who wishes to share them all with us. Each issue opens with a Scripture passage (and lists others that are related) and contains a reflection, prayer pointers and words to take with you."

https://www.amazon.co.uk/God-Have-Issues-Ways-Matter-ebook/dp/B005EHQIP0/ref=sr_1_1?crid=JTHSR6SLVWYV&keywords=god+i+have+issues&qid=1644851878&srefix=god+i+have+issues%2Caps%2C80&sr=8-1



A Spirituality one for people who need to stop

Do Nothing to Change Your Life 2nd edition: Discovering What Happens When You Stop

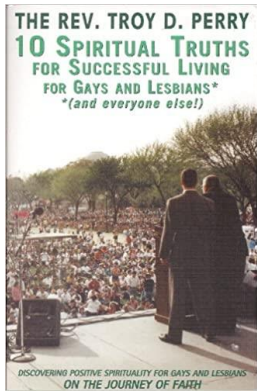
by [Stephen Cottrell](#)

Paperback £6.99 Kindle £6.49 "When did you last allow yourself to waste time, to enjoy the pleasure of having a lie-in, to daydream, lose yourself in your favourite music, or simply to be idle? Most of us live at break-neck speed, cramming work, family, friends and endless tasks into every relentless day. We barely give ourselves enough time to sleep, let alone to stop and take stock. In this generous, life-affirming book Stephen Cottrell shows what we are missing when we listen to that inner voice that keeps driving us on. With humour and down-to-earth wisdom, he encourages us instead to hang out with our inner slob and rediscover not just the pleasures but the real benefits, the unexpected gifts and the deep truths to be found in simply messing about."

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Nothing-Change-Your-Life-2nd/dp/1781402051/ref=sr_1_1?crid=22WHFMS4UD07Q&keywords=do+nothing+to+change+your+life&qid=1644852156&srefix=do+nothing+to+change+your+life%2Caps%2C72&sr=8-1

Amazon links for ease – other book sellers exist!

A daring one to allow you to discover positivity in the journey of faith a classic



Ten Spiritual Truths for Successful Living for Gays and Lesbians (and Everyone Else)

Paperback £42

a reviewer writes "About five years ago someone ask me who my hero was. I did not have one. I decided I needed to find one and he needed to be a gay man like myself. I looked around and found Rev Troy Perry. His story inspires me to be to a better person. His belief in God helped me find the belief I had lost. I do not know if other people find his books the way I do. This book like his other books are written in a way were it seems to be more like he is talking you as the reader. His books

are factual account of events that occur to me it seemed like it was written like he was talking to me.

Learning and living the 10 spiritual truths is a tremendous growth experience."

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Spiritual-Truths-Successful-Lesbians-Everyone/dp/B004D11ZTM/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1VXPGXS2RK0HM&keywords=10+spiritual+truths+for+successful+living+for+gays+and+lesbians&qid=1644852362&prefix=10+spiritual+truths+for+successful+living+for+gays+and+lesbians%2Caps%2C59&sr=8-1

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Spiritual-Truths-Successful-Lesbians-Everyone/dp/B004D11ZTM/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1VXPGXS2RK0HM&keywords=10+spiritual+truths+for+successful+living+for+gays+and+lesbians&qid=1644852362&prefix=10+spiritual+truths+for+successful+living+for+gays+and+lesbians%2Caps%2C59&sr=8-1

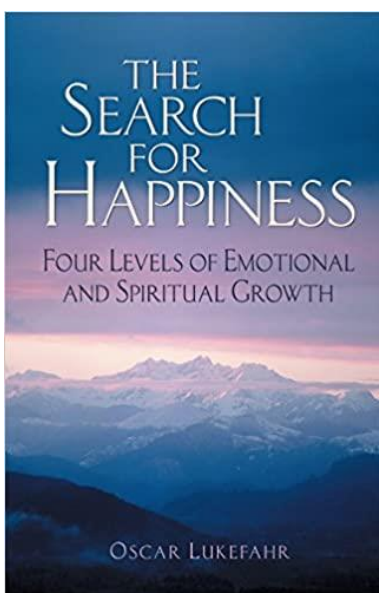
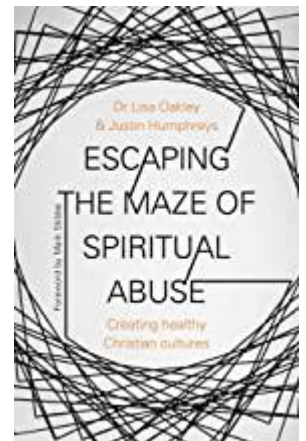
A heavy one Escaping the Maze of Spiritual Abuse: Creating Healthy Christian Cultures

by Lisa Oakley and [Justin Humphreys](#)

a text for church leaders and vestry members as we consider building a safer and more caring churches. £7.99 paperback £4.99 Kindle

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Escaping-Maze-Spiritual-Abuse-Christian/dp/028108131X/ref=sr_1_1?crid=LCJ99QBL8PW0&keywords=Escaping+the+Maze+of+Spiritual+Abuse&qid=1644851734&prefix=escaping+the+maze+of+spiritual+abuse%2Caps%2C67&sr=8-1

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Escaping-Maze-Spiritual-Abuse-Christian/dp/028108131X/ref=sr_1_1?crid=LCJ99QBL8PW0&keywords=Escaping+the+Maze+of+Spiritual+Abuse&qid=1644851734&prefix=escaping+the+maze+of+spiritual+abuse%2Caps%2C67&sr=8-1



A searching one The Search for Happiness: Four Levels of Emotional and Spiritual Growth

By Oscar Lukefahr £7.99- £21 varies from USA

Looking ahead – Spiritual sustenance

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Search-Happiness-Levels-Emotional-Spiritual/dp/0764809326/ref=sr_1_1?crid=KM4ZNI9SL8K1&keywords=0764809326&qid=1644852864&prefix=0764809326%2Caps%2C79&sr=8-1

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Search-Happiness-Levels-Emotional-Spiritual/dp/0764809326/ref=sr_1_1?crid=KM4ZNI9SL8K1&keywords=0764809326&qid=1644852864&prefix=0764809326%2Caps%2C79&sr=8-1

If you have a good book recommendation pass it on for inclusion in the April Newsletter.....

Well Done and Thank you to the people of St Johns

15 Birth Certificates

for street children in Latin America were paid for by the donations through St Johns during Advent and Christmastide – 15 children have been given hope and potential for a future, work, identity and social dignity. We collected through Toy Box and more details of their campaign can be found at

<https://toybox.org.uk/support/campaigns/birthcertificate>

Take the Birth Certificate Quiz to find out why this is so important...

<https://toybox.org.uk/support/campaigns/birthcertificate/quiz>



Scottish Episcopal Church at Prayer and in Action

Faith In Action Network

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/spirituality/prayer/faith-in-action/>

In March we pray on the theme of ***Asylum Seekers***

"Before presenting some possible suggestions about how to help the plight of asylum seekers it is important to consider several popular myths found in the printed media. Many newspapers place particular rhetorical emphasis on the 'hordes' of people attempting to seek asylum in the 'soft touch' UK. However, the actual proportion of people applying for asylum to the UK is actually a minute percentage of the overall worldwide number of asylum seekers and the UNHCR calculates that the UK receives less than 0.5% of the total world population of refugees.."



Asylum Seekers

The Prayer leaflet for March is here
<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/03-march.pdf>

Another common view in the press is that asylum seekers drain the resources of local authorities which could have been spent on tax-paying citizens. However, this is again fallacious, since funding for asylum seekers comes from central Government, not local authorities' budgets.

Finally it is vital to emphasise that despite media attempts to demonise asylum seekers, the vast majority of people seeking asylum are genuine, scared and desperate people who are seeking refuge often from countries where their basic human rights are not respected.

Of the thousands of people who apply for asylum, only a thousand or so come to Scotland each year. However, due to government re-organising, this number is set to rise over the next few years. So, what can we do? It is important to keep yourself informed and up to date with accurate statistics and information about asylum seekers. You can do this very easily by contacting and/or applying for a free e-mail newsletter from the Scottish Asylum Seekers Consortium which will give you accurate coverage of the state of affairs in Scotland.

You may wish to try the following:

- pray for asylum seekers
- become a member and support the work of the Scottish Refugee Council
- if a student get in touch with Student Action for Refugees
- donate clothes, blankets, baby clothes, toys and non-perishable foods to charities caring for refugees
- join the Scottish Detainee Visitors' Scheme and visit Dungavel detention centre and support those living there
- write to your MP and MSP regarding the plight of refugees in our country
- become a mentor to an approved refugee as he/she seeks employment



Bishop's Lent Appeal 2022

"Children in Distress"

please see the last four pages of the Newsletter for full details – we shall be collecting each Sunday during Lent as a retiring collection

Celebrating 30 years



From 1989

A crisis in care

In 1989, Romania's communist regime was swept from power by the Populist Revolution. The news media showed shocking images of children abandoned in orphanages and hospitals – images so horrific that many in the UK felt moved to take action.

One of these people was the Rev. Dr. John Walmsley from St. Laurence Church Barkingside in Essex. A true visionary and driving force, Dr Walmsley took part in the first aid convoys and had the idea of creating a charity.

The Association for Helping Children in Romania was the result of this idea. For the first few years its sole focus was children with HIV/AIDS – generally shunned by society.

In the years that followed, the centres and programmes expanded, setting new standards for children with neurological conditions, severe disability, and autism. With projects increasingly being initiated in Romania, the charity structure was changed to that of a foundation and was renamed:

**Fundația Copii în Dificultate
Children in Distress**



To 2019

Helping the most vulnerable children in Romania

Today we care for children living with the most severe disabilities, whether the result of accident, infection, genetic and neurological disorders or autism. We continue to set new standards for respite, palliative and terminal care and multiple therapies, along with education, development and training programmes.

Our ongoing mission is:

*To cure, sometimes;
To help, often;
To comfort, always.*

Setting new standards in care

St. Margaret's Hospice and Children's Centre – a beacon of best practice

Our residential unit in Bucharest offers life, hope and happiness to around 25 children with the most complex developmental, genetic and neurological conditions or disabilities. Most have a short life expectancy. The centre is renowned for its respite, palliative and end-of-life care, and has some of the best-trained and most experienced paediatric nurses in Romania.

Attached to St. Margaret's is a Child development Centre. It provides the best in onsite therapy services and delivering mobile services to local and regional communities.

Over the past 30 years, we have established several other centres. Some of these are now run by government bodies and/or other NGOs.



Extra-curricular activities for **>1,800** children at risk of dropping out of school

Trips for **>10,000** children with TSA and neurological conditions and for children from families facing social and economic problems

55,320 cognitive behaviour therapy sessions for children with neurological conditions

9,855 days of specialist care for children with HIV/AIDS



Bishop's LENT APPEAL 2022

9,490
days of
specialist care
for children with
neurological
conditions

210,720
physiotherapy
sessions for
children with
neurological
conditions



Love in a box

A defining and core campaign is the 'Love in a Box' shoebox appeal. Wrapped and filled with sweets, toys, clothes, toiletries and more, over 2 million of these gifts have brought smiles and joy to those in extreme poverty, the destitute or those in hospitals and institutions across Eastern Europe.

Jeans4 Dreams

Our latest campaign in Romania has the support of celebrities, mainly from the worlds of sport and entertainment. Those involved include Simona Halep, Marcel Iureş, Ştefan Bănică Jr., Zurli Band, Ivan Patzaichin and the cosmonaut Dumitru Prunariu.

518,400
ABA therapy
sessions for
children with
TSA conditions

support for
>250,000
children and family
members in families
facing social and
economic
problems



1,280
counseling
sessions
for parents
of children
at risk of
dropping
out of
school

1,560
sensory
integration therapy
and occupational
sessions for
children with
neurological
conditions

Student Work Experience and Training

We currently offer practical work experience to psychology, physiotherapy and social work students at three key universities. The aim is to improve the attitudes and expectations of the next generation of professional treatment and care givers.

**Would you like
to support us?**

Bring hope and change to a child in need

Your support could make a real difference

- Help a child with a disability live life to the full
- Surround an abandoned, terminally ill child with love
- Enable a child with an incurable illness to die with dignity,



Corporate and personal giving

Please contact us if you would like to nominate Children in Distress for any of the following:

- CSR initiatives and giving
- Fundraising sporting events or challenges which you may be entering such as runs, triathlons, mountain climbs or marathons
- Fundraising events such as charity balls, auctions or car boot sales
- A personal legacy in your will

Join our wonderful supporters

Our supporters include Alison Hayes for the transporting of shoeboxes, the stars who took part in the Dreams4Jeans concert. Then there are the volunteers and staff in the UK and Romania who work tirelessly in many different roles.

Our great fundraising initiatives, range from coffee mornings to the 'Land of the Midnight Sun Boom Banger Challenge' car rally to the Arctic Circle (see justgiving.com).



Patron:

HRH Princess Maria of Romania



www.childrenindistress.org

www.cid.org.ro

Tel: 0141 559 5690

Email:

admin2@childrenindistress.org.uk

Suite 30 Ladywell Business Centre
94 Duke Street, Glasgow, G4 0UW

As we plan for entering the Church Triumphant in heaven spare a thought for the church on earth.



What can I do for the Kingdom of God? St Margarets & St Johns for the Future

– if you have left a bequest in your Will to St Johns or St Margarets, *Thank you very much*. If you are thinking about doing so, please do, as we plan for the next chapters of St John's and St Margaret's ministry in and around Renfrew and Johnstone. If

you would like to have a private conversation about it with the Rector please just call him on 07971 895897.

Also a very helpful page on the Province's website is at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/vestry-resources/stewardship-gift-aid-and-legacies/leaving-a-legacy-in-your-will-to-the-church/>

Thank you for your continued giving to our Churches

For Online & Telephone banking use these details for your giving:-

to St Johns the Evangelist Episcopal Church:

Bank of Scotland Sort Code: 80-16-53 Acct No. 00356544

to St Margarets Episcopal Church:

Royal Bank of Scotland Sort Code: 83-26-22 Acct No. 00196266

Or send your giving for St John's or St Margaret's to the Rector at his home 29 Gleniffer Road, Renfrew PA4 0RD and Reuben will ensure your cheques/cash are banked. If you would like to give directly please use these details above or you can give via PayPal at www.paypal.me/reubenjamespreston and put *St John's/Margaret's* in the message box.

Contacts:

Rector@SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Tel: 07971 895897

The Rector – the Very Rev Reuben James Preston, 29 Gleniffer Road, Renfrew PA4 0RD

renfrewshirecurate@glasgow.anglican.org

Tel: 07802 888 423

The Renfrewshire Regional Curate – the Rev Dr Lisa Curtice, 2/2 40 Queensborough Gardens, Glasgow G12 9QS

Lisa is on placement at Greenock until Candlemas and then at Heartlands until Easter Day. She will then be at Paisley until Corpus Christi. She is always at Morning Prayer on zoom.

This Newsletter is available on our website to follow the live links throughout – please pass it on, or send it to friends for them to read and pray for us as well!

www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

This March 2022



St Johns Connecting Scotland iPad Users Group

We shall be using our iPads at the Lent Group at St Johns, so bring your along each week as engage with the materials of the Lent Course. See below for details of our Lent Course.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP INTO 2022.....

The Spiritual Growth Group will continue after Easter, so that we can all concentrate at join in the Lent Groups in St Margarets and St Johns.

The weekly **Pewsheets**, The Weekly **Intercessions sheet**
& The weekly **Gospel Reflection**
all from

a complete back-catalogue is on the website at
www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Diary Dates so far

Ash Wednesday 2 March 2pm St Johns & 7pm St Margarets

Mothering Sunday 27 March usual services

Palm Sunday 10 April with procession of Palms

Maundy Thursday 14 April service tbc

Good Friday 15 April service tbc

Easter Sunday 17 April services tbc

St Johns building works are due to start at the beginning of March – if services need to be cancelled for practical reasons we will ring around as best we can or do Joint Services as needed – please be patient and kind!