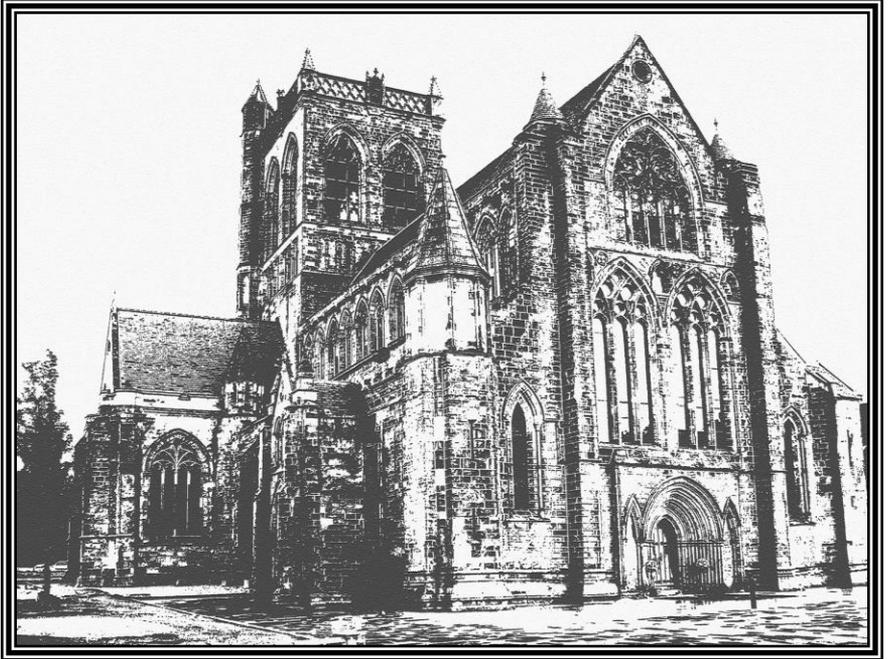


Paisley Abbey



Abbey Herald

October 2016

November 2016

Dear All

Another year in the church calendar draws to a close this month and a new year in our liturgical cycle begins on Advent Sunday, 27 November. The last four Sundays of the Christian Year have in recent years been designated by some as Sundays of the Kingdom when our focus is on the reign of Christ on earth and in heaven. I welcome this liturgical innovation because it means that we end the church year on a high note, rejoicing in Christ's kingdom. At a time of year when we remember those who have gone before us at All Saints Tide and on Remembrance Sunday, it is good and encouraging to recall that Christ's kingdom exists on both sides of that narrow divide we call death. Christ's reign may be perfectly acknowledged in heaven and imperfectly acknowledged on earth, but it is one and the same kingdom. In a wonderful way, when we come together for worship on a Sunday, the earthly and the heavenly come together and in the worship of the Church we become aware that here we are one with all those who have gone before us, one with them in Christ's kingdom.

Choral music has long been a prominent feature of our worship and the choral scholarship scheme exists to ensure that the choral music sung on a Sunday is of the highest standard, enriching the worship of all of us. A fundraising dinner is being held on Friday 4 November to raise funds for the scheme which requires an annual income of £10,000 to support the five choral scholars. If you were not able to attend the dinner, please do consider supporting the scheme with a donation clearly marked as being for Choral Scholarships.

Alan D. Birss
Minister at Paisley Abbey

CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH

Our Congregational Lunch will be held on Sunday 4 December at 1.00pm in the Glynhill Hotel

Tickets are now on sale for the Congregational Lunch and can be purchased at the shop or in the Cloisters after the morning services on a Sunday

Adults £20 Children £7 (under 12 and choosing for the children's menu)

The menu is:

- ❖ Soup of the Day served with buttered croutons (v)
- ❖ Trio of Melon served with blackcurrant sorbet, mixed berry compote & peppermint syrup (v) or Serrano Ham
- ****
- ❖ Roast Turkey and cranberry paupiette served with chipolatas & jus
- ❖ Scottish Salmon, seafood and baby spinach pie, buttered puff pastry served with a selection of winter vegetables & roast Charlotte potatoes with rosemary
- ****
- ❖ Rich Christmas pudding and Brandy sauce
- ❖ Fresh Fruit Salad, strawberry coulis & Glynhill vanilla ice cream
- ****
- ❖ Coffee and Mints

Do come along and enjoy a pleasant afternoon in good company

SHOP NEWS

The shop is now beginning to fill with cards, ornaments and gifts for Christmas. A number of new items are now in stock and these include a beautiful range of embroidered purses and glasses cases from Canny Squirrel (made in Paisley), a new range of Paisley jewellery. "Paisley Pins" pins and bangles and Paisley made "Paisley Birdie" framed pictures. It is wonderful that so many lovely items are now being made in Paisley.

By the time this magazine goes to print we will have had, hopefully very successful events, including our discount weekend, Halloween weekend and Fireworks Saturday! We will then look forward to the extremely busy event for the switch on of Christmas lights on 12 November!

A huge thank you to all who helped at all or any of these days

The next major outside event will be the start of the Monte Carlo Rally on 25 January.

This year the shop will be closed during the week from Christmas until it reopens on Saturday 21 January 2017. This is because the main kitchen is being refurbished.

Volunteers for stock taking in early January are now being sought!

Please let me know if you could help.

Carol Birss

NUMBERS IDIOM QUIZ

The competition was drawn after the morning service on 23 October and the winners were; 1st Helen Ansell and Runner-Up Evelyn Donaldson both of Paisley.

A net total raised for the Abbey was £232

The answers will appear in next month's Abbey Herald. SGC

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE STEWART KINGS

KILSYTH TO STIRLING

Unseasonably brilliant and warm, late summer sunshine had accompanied the early days of autumn. This did indeed bode well for a lovely, scenic thirteen and a half mile walk from Anderson Parish Church Kilsyth to the Church of the Holy Rude Stirling where James VI was crowned king of Scotland. Unfortunately Saturday 24th September, meteorologically did **not** conform to the trend of balmy September 2016 days to which we had become accustomed. It was cloudy and dry when we set off but deteriorated to the point of a precipitation of monsoon like proportions.

The 'Tak' Me Doon Road', an ancient drove road connecting Glasgow to Stirling, does a great deal of takin' up before takin' doon, so the walk of three miles to our first stopping point at the top of a relentless climb would provide a welcome break. The site of our place of rest had been carefully selected for its completeness. There was a car park. It had the added luxury of tables and benches and the view was magnificent. From here it was possible to look straight across Kilsyth nestled in the valley below to the Firth of Forth, its bridges and the sea beyond. Breathtakingly beautiful, this place was ideal in all aspects. That was the situation on the previous, Recce Saturday. Unfortunately, for us, on 24th September, an invisible magician's hand had adeptly and efficiently thrown a veil across the splendour of the whole vista causing it to disappear in its entirety. Undaunted and before our flapjacks and lited oranges could become unbearably and soggily inedible we continued on our way.

Regardless, spirits remained high. There is something very special about walking in wild countryside. No matter what weather conditions may offer, nothing can take away that feeling of oneness with the surroundings. Looking at an unhindered beautiful view is a bonus (especially in Scotland!) but when one is walking with nature there is a difference. So much so that when I asked individuals if they were ok it was apparent that all were

enjoying the experience and by this time we were on the ‘tak’ me doon’ part of the road and the lunch stop was not too far away.



Under a canopy of dripping trees we proceeded to unpack our lunches. In the event of there being no dry place to sit this was to be a ‘stand up’ lunch. Just when all were settled into the early gnawing stages of sandwiches and the sipping of steaming tea and coffee the visible hand decided to turn up the force of rain to that of a power shower.

There was no longer any need for search for shelter. There was no possibility of any at all! Hurriedly all decided that we would be better off walking.

However, before we could move Jean had encountered a problem with her rucksack. Her complaint was that it seemed to have increased in weight. Pat noticed that there was a bulge between the sack and its cover. To everyone’s amusement, at least a gallon, so it seemed, of rain was released, waterfall like, on to the ground.

We squelched onwards. By now we were all soaked to the skin. We needed to keep moving so that our sodden clothes and boots could take on the warmth of our exertions and become wet suits. Spirits were undaunted!

Eventually the Tak' Me Doon Road became New Line Road. At this point another road veered off to the left. This was Chartershall Road. In order to give the pilgrims a rare off road experience on this particular walk, just before the bridge over the M90 we turned left to take a path through Chartershall Farm which in turn linked in with a green lane known locally as Tinker's Loan.

This old route was so called as it was known to be a stopping place for Travellers. The bridge over the Bannock Burn which was necessary for us to use, is believed to be an 18th century packhorse bridge. An old sign revealed that it was known as the 'Bridge of Lannon' however it was also given a 19th century name of 'Bramble Bridge'.



After half a mile we needed to cross Gateside Road in order to pick up the continuation of Tinker's Loan.

We followed this to Polmaise Road, which in turn took us across a bridge over the M90 and onwards into the centre of Stirling via King's Park.

King's Park is the earliest recorded Royal Park in Scotland and the last former royal park to be owned by the crown. In 1257 it was laid

out as a hunting ground by Alexander III.

Cup and ring marks near the golf course indicate that there had been a much older settlement in the area. Eventually we walked towards the High Back Walk which traverses the south side of the 'crag and tail rock' formation which affords a natural foundation, similar to that of Edinburgh Castle, for Stirling Castle.

We followed the path upwards until a sign board directed us to take a right, sharply ascending path towards the Church of the Holy Rude.

We arrived at the church forty five minutes earlier than anticipated! An amazing achievement especially as we had among our number walkers who had never in their lives walked the distance let alone under such difficult conditions.

The ladies of the church despite our early arrival were ready to receive us with tea, coffee and biscuits.

We were informed that the minister Rev. Alan Miller was going to meet and talk to us at 4:00p.m the appointed time of our arrival. As we waited we walked around this lovely Church. On his arrival Rev Miller gave us an outline of the church's historical importance.

The Church of the Holy Rude is the second oldest building in Stirling the castle being the oldest. It was founded in 1129 by David I as the parish church. Robert II founded an altar to the Holy Rude (Holy Cross).

The church was destroyed, as was most of Stirling, by fire in March 1405. Shortly afterwards a grant was made by the Lord Chamberlain of Scotland to have a new church built. This was completed in 1414.

It is suggested that King James IV may have helped masons build the later eastern end during the early 16th century. In 1567, the infant, King James VI son of Mary Queen of Scots was crowned here. The church, because of its links with the castle, always had the patronage of the Stewart/Stuart kings particularly in the 15th, 16th and early 17th centuries. Other than

Westminster Abbey it is said to be the only 'living' church in the United Kingdom, today, to have held a coronation.



Our next walk will take us from the Church of the Holy Rude to Cambuskenneth and Clackmannan.

ELDERS ON DUTY

NOVEMBER 2016

Michael McGill's Team

DECEMBER 2016

Jim MacGregor's Team

Articles for inclusion in December issue of the Abbey Herald should be handed into the office or e-mailed to cathycraig73@aol.com or robincraig73@aol.com **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT NO LATER THAN 12.30 PM ON SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER**

LIFE AND WORK

Subscriptions for the 2017 issues of Life and Work are due in Edinburgh by the 23rd November 2016.

Current subscribers should have received notification together with an envelope in which to put their subscription if they wish to **continue** receiving it or to inform me if they wish to **discontinue** their subscription.

If any member of the congregation would like to become a subscriber the discounted cost is £27.36 for twelve issues (cover price normally £2.50 per copy) of the magazine, which is delivered with the Abbey Herald, could they please let me know by Sunday 13th November.

I can be contacted on 01505 323532 or leave your details at the Abbey office.

Thank you.

Cathy Craig

PASTORAL COMMITTEE – HARVEST FESTIVAL 2016

As you know the Charity which is supported by the Abbey at Harvest time is WaterAid, the organisation which does such excellent work in bringing safe water, sanitation and education about hygiene to the developing world.

This year the full impact of, and need for, WaterAid's work was brought home to me more than ever before.

I was on holiday in Cambodia and our guide, an exceedingly well educated middle aged man, mentioned that the one thing his mother yearned for in her life was a water pump for her little hamlet. The village along the road had just had one installed and she really envied the fact that those villagers no longer had to carry every drop of water from the distant stream. To know someone whose own mother is still without even a village pump really underlined for me how essential is the good work which WaterAid carries out.



Thanks to everyone's generosity, this year our donation of **£582** has been sent to WaterAid to help that work – and £375 of that sum was gift-aided. This of course increases the benefit which WaterAid receives. These sums are up from last year (£543 and £340

respectively in 2015) and indicate how open-hearted and generous everyone at the Abbey has been.

Harvest is also the time when we take gifts to our own members who, for one reason or another, are unable to come to Church. The houseplants (kindly organised by the Flower Guild) were

taken to the elderly and housebound and were greatly appreciated by all who received them. The Pastoral Committee would like to thank everyone who delivered these plants – their visits bring real joy to the recipients and, judging by the feed-back, are really appreciated.

Thanks also go to those who contributed in any way to this year's Harvest Festival – the Sunday School, the Flower Guild and everyone who helped with the harvest decorations. The Pastoral Committee really appreciates all who help in any way and make the Harvest Festival so significant to us all.

Thank you all again

SGC



THANK YOU

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

What a varied display of God's bounty to us in the decoration of the church on October 2nd. This was only enhanced by the variety of food set out on tables in the North Transept, an example of the goodness of Our Father in Heaven. Here the talents of Aileen Livingstone were shown with the use of the many staple foods so well served,

Aileen – Thank you for a “Parable” well executed and explained.

Thank You!!

IC

CHURCH FLOWERS

	Church	St. Mirin Chapel
November		
6 November:	Mrs J. Arthur	
	-	
13 November:	Mrs J Lynch	Mrs M. Sharp
20 November:	Mr J. A. Wardrop	Mrs M Crosbie
27 November:	-	-
December		
4 December:	Mr & Mrs A. Donn	-
11 December:	-	Mrs M. Bell
18 December:	Mrs M Corrie	-
25 December:	-	-

I would like to let all members of the Flower guild know that we will be decorating the Abbey for Christmas this year on Friday the 16th December. It would be helpful if members could let myself or the team leaders know who can assist on that day.

Thanks, and looking forward to a happy Festive day.

Margaret Neil

SCOUT GROUP NOTES

Beavers: The Beavers are enjoying a busy month including making cookies, working towards their Promise badge. They had a great night with a bouncy castle in the halls.

Cubs: The Cubs have been extremely busy during the month. They had a Bring a Friend night where they did a wide variety of activities including fire lighting, bouncy castle, making empire biscuits and table tennis. There was something to suit everybody. They have also run the local knowledge badge based around the painted lions that are spread throughout the town.

Scouts: The Scouts had a day out at Fordell Firs taking part in caving, abseiling, archery and the King Swing. This basically lifts you about 10m in the air before letting you free fall through the swing frame. Great fun was had by all involved. In the halls, they have been practicing camp skills with lashings and had a night based on Emergency First Aid.

As the month ended they joined with other scouts from around the District in JOTA (Jamboree on the Air) and JOTI (Jamboree on the Internet). This was an international event allowing scouts from around the Globe to meet over the airways.

The Group took part in the District Swimming gala during the month with the Cubs winning the pack trophy and the Scouts the relay race.

Explorers: Over the past few weeks the Explores have had a wide variety of good program nights. They did a Polish culture night to combine with the information evening for the District camp next year in Poland, ran a Snapchat race

around Paisley and a Zodiac overnight camp to Arrochar to visit the caves which was a success.

We have two new Leaders, Stuart and Rachel who have brought a wealth of experience and new ideas to the Explorer programme. All sections have healthy numbers; however we are always pleased to welcome new recruits who wish to enjoy Scouting at Abbey

Danny Harper

Group Scout Leader

FRIENDLY HOUR

On the 6th and 20th October we had informal meetings when we all enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

Our speakers for November will be; Cathy Craig and her subject is 'Paisley Abbey'. Come along and learn more about our Church.

Then on 17th November Margaret Neil's subject is 'A different wedding'.

Our final meeting in 2016 will be on a 1st December. This will be an informal meeting. We meet on alternate Thursdays in the White Room in the Place of Paisley. We are always looking for new members to join us .Please come along.

PARISH REGISTER –OCTOBER 2016

Baptism

9 October Charlotte Hope MacDonald
9 October Harrison William McLeish

Funeral

14 October Elizabeth Falconer
19 October Liz Burns

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

19 November: Coffee Morning and Recital by Trio Vocalise
with:

Daniela Schuster (Soprano)
Mark Hathaway (Baritone)
Stephen Adam (Piano)

17 December: Coffee Morning and Recital by Abbey Brass

24 December: Coffee Morning served by a team of gentlemen

WORLD MISSION

Continued from last month:

Keeping Girls in School

The education of girls in Malawi is of utmost concern for the Church of Central Africa. There are many reasons why girls are not educated to the same level as boys and the Synod has put practical plans in place to try and improve the lives of all people. Reluctance to educate girls is a form of gender violence

Rev. Moses says when resources are low parents will choose to educate boys over girls particularly as a girl has economic worth because they will receive a dowry when they marry.

The contributions of women in the family

When she is widowed her husband's family often grab the home forcing her to return to her parent's home. They think "our son bought this home so it is now ours"

Mother's groups are being formed to support girls in schools. The Synod of Blantyre hopes that by raising awareness of the importance of educating girls and by involving the entire community in ensuring girls are given equal educational opportunities

J. H.

FOOD BANK

The November collection for the Renfrewshire Foodbank will be on Sunday 26 November. Items can be left at the shop during the previous week.

Non – perishable goods such as rice, tinned goods, toiletries are and carrier bags are always welcome.

Thank you

Margaret Sharp

SUNDAY SERVICES NOVEMBER 2016

Sunday 6 November – *Second Sunday of the Kingdom*

11 am Holy Communion

Readings: Job 19. 23-27a
St. Matthew 5. 1-12

Music: Communion setting – *Collegium regale: Howells*
There is an old belief - *Parry*

Sunday 13 November – *Remembrance Sunday: 3rd Sunday of the Kingdom*

10.50 am Service of Remembrance

Readings: Romans 8. 31-39
St. John 15. 12-17

Music: Thou knowest, Lord – *Purcell*
Benedictus – *Stanford in C*
Set me as a seal – *Walton*

12.15 pm Holy Communion (in the St. Mirin Chapel)

4 pm Choral Evensong

Readings: Daniel 6
St. Matthew 13.1-9; 18-23

Music: Responses – *Smith*
Psalm 97
Canticles – *Gloucester Service: Howells*
O pray for the peace of Jerusalem –
Howells

Sunday 20 November – *Christ the King*

11 am Holy Communion (with Soroptimists attending)

Readings: Jeremiah 23. 1-6
Colossians 1. 11-20
St. Luke 23. 33-43

Music: Communion setting – *Scottish Church Society*

Christus factus est *McPhee*
Bruckner

LECTIONARY YEAR A BEGINS

Sunday 27 November – Advent 1

11 am Morning Service

Readings: Isaiah 2. 1-5
Romans 13. 11-14
St. Matthew 24. 36-44

Music: Psalm 122
Te Deum – *Short Service: Gibbons*
O thou the central orb *Wood*

12.15 pm Holy Communion (in the St. Mirin Chapel)

4pm Advent Carol Service

Sunday 4 December – Advent 2

11 am Holy Communion

Readings: Isaiah 11. 1-10
St. Matthew 3. 1-12

Music: Communion setting – *Missa Brevis:*
Britten
Laetentur coeli – *Byrd*

Advent Carol Service

Sunday 27 November 4pm

Choral Music, Readings, Procession, Prayers and Hymns

