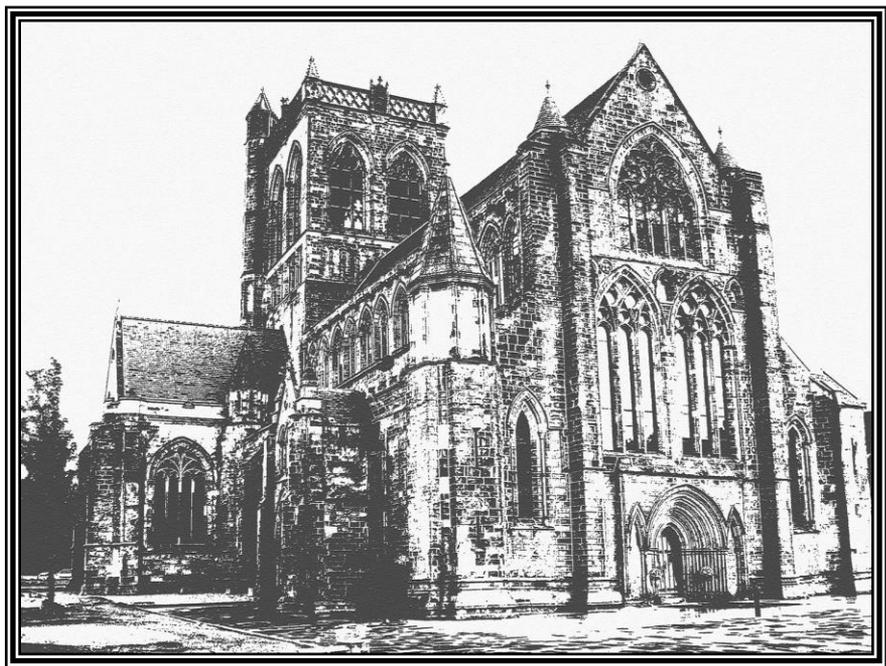


# **Paisley Abbey**



# **Abbey Herald**

**December 2018**

December 2018

Dear all

First of all, a huge ‘thank you’ to our wonderful band of volunteers who have turned out weekend after weekend to keep the Abbey, gift shop and coffee shop open for a whole range of events from Hallowe’en to graduation ceremonies to the switch-on of Paisley’s Christmas Lights. You keep alive the great Abbey tradition of extending a warm welcome in Christ’s name to all who visit for whatever reason. We are always looking for more people to help at these events be it serving soup and hot-dogs at our outdoor stall, helping in the shop, café and ‘tuck shop’, welcoming people into the Abbey. If you could offer a few hours to help at a future event please hand in your name to the office or speak to Robin Craig or Carol Birss.

In Advent and Christmas we enjoy some really glorious liturgical music and I would also like to express thanks to those who provide that music week after week – the director of music, assistant organist and choir members. Our worship is greatly enhanced by the organ and choral music that forms an integral part of that worship and, as with the welcome we extend to visitors, is only possible because of the loyal commitment of those involved.

In the summer, the St. Mirin Chapel was redecorated and what a difference that made! Now the appearance of the chapel has been further enhanced by the gift from a member of the congregation of new curtains for the door and reredos. That gift, along with the earlier generous gift of a candle stand from another member of the congregation, has made the chapel a truly beautiful and spiritual place.

I commend to you all our services over Advent and Christmas – and leave you with the verse from John’s Gospel that so wonderfully expresses the real meaning of our celebration: ‘And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.’

Alan D. Birss  
Minister at Paisley Abbey

## SHOP NEWS

It has been a very busy few weeks in the Abbey Shop. Major events like the Halloween weekend, the Discount weekend, Graduations, Remembrance weekend and concert and the Switch on of the Christmas Lights have brought many extra customers into our shop. This is wonderful for the Abbey and Shop, but involves a lot of work for a great many volunteers, so a huge thank you to all who make these special events so special and successful.

The shop is now full of Christmas decorations, gifts and cards and we hope to be busy selling these items over the coming month. Do please come and visit the shop if you have not been for a while and do some Christmas shopping!

There are a number of new items in the shop at the moment including a range of gifts from Silk by Liliias- mugs, magnets, cards, prints and coasters with a special design of the Abbey.



We also have a new range of Lucky Sixpences and Pins from Scottish Keepsakes, which are proving very popular and a new range of fun jewellery.

Additions to the range of Paisley cards by Silk by Lilies have arrived recently and are well worth having a look at along with new additions to our Holy Mackerel range of cards.

We would like to take this opportunity to ask all of you who have 'volunteer' badges without names on them to please return them to the shop as soon as possible!! Over the last few months we have lost dozens and are now extremely short of spare ones for use by volunteers who need one. Please search bags, cars etc. and find as many as possible PLEASE!! If you wish a badge of your own please give a note of your name into the office and a badge will be made for you.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and look forward to your support throughout the New Year. We will be closed for stock taking and to give our volunteers a break from after the service on Christmas Day (apart from services) until our reopening on Monday 14 January 2019.

## **CROSSREACH PLANS EXHIBITION TO MARK 150TH ANNIVERSARY**

2019 is the 150th anniversary of the Church of Scotland's social care provision and CrossReach plans to mark it with a special exhibition - and we're looking for your help! Do you have any memorabilia from the past such as brochures or invitations which we could display? If so, please take photos of your items and e-mail them to: [bdd@crossreach.org.uk](mailto:bdd@crossreach.org.uk).

However, don't send the originals to us just now.

## **DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

Saturday 22 December      10.00am Coffee Morning run by the gentlemen of the Abbey followed by a Concert of Christmas Music by the Abbey Brass at 12.30pm

Tickets £5 payable at the door

## **ADVANCE NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN EARLY 2019**

Saturday 19 January      Recital by Alastair Savage and Friends  
Alastair Savage & Pete Clark (Fiddles), Eddie McGuire (Flute)  
Ewan Robertson (Whistle), Ewan Drysdale (Guitar/Piano), Iain Crawford (Double Bass)

Sunday 27 January      Burns Lunch (See separate notice)  
Come and Sing –Vivaldi Gloria and Faure Requiem

29<sup>th</sup> January - 4 February      Holocaust Exhibition in Abbey

Monday 18 February      Family Beetle Drive

## **ABBEY STITCHERS “COFFEE DAY”**

The Stitches had a very busy time on the day of the switch on of the Christmas lights. Some very tired people went home at the end of the day having raised £704.40 which has gone into Abbey funds.

Thank you everyone for your hard work.

# **Paisley Abbey**

## **COME AND SING**

**Vivaldi Gloria and Faure**

**Requiem**

**with orchestra**

**Sunday 27 January 2019**

**Directed by**

**George McPhee**

Further details can be found:

On the Paisley Abbey website:

[www.paisleyabbey.org.uk](http://www.paisleyabbey.org.uk)

On the application forms on the information table in the church

Email: [proutley@talktalk.net](mailto:proutley@talktalk.net)

## **POPPY SCOTLAND**

The Remembrance Crosses and the Retiring Collection on Remembrance Sunday raised a total of £554.12 and a further £800 was raised as a result of “Lest We Forget” Commemoration. This has been sent to Poppy Scotland.

£800 from Lest We Forget” has also been sent to “There but Not There” Charity

Thank you everyone for their generosity



## **BURNS LUNCH**

### **BURNS LUNCH**

On Sunday 27 January we will be holding a Burns Lunch with some entertainment in the Place of Paisley after the morning service.

Tickets priced £8 for Adults and £4 for children are on sale in the Cloisters (after the service on Sundays) and in the Abbey Shop.

Do come along and join us.

## **PARISH REGISTER –NOVEMBER 2018**

### **New Members**

October            Mr Niall & Mrs Alex Ogilvy

### **Death**

Elizabeth Quinn

### **HEARTSTART CLASS**

Since the Abbey acquired its defibrillator, three Heartstart Classes have been held in the Place of Paisley for approximately 30 Abbey members and volunteers. The classes have been both informative and enjoyable.

It is planned to arrange a further class at a time to suit those attending.

If you would like to be involved, please contact Marion Sommerville at the Abbey Office.

### **CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**

I regret that I am unable to send Christmas cards this year. I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a healthy and happy 2019.

Edna Muncie

## **ELDERS ON DUTY**

### **DECEMBER 2018**

Robin Craig's Team

### **JANUARY 2019**

Jim MacGregor's Team

As the Abbey will be closed over the holiday period (except for services) it would be appreciated if contributions for the January 2019 issue of the Abbey Herald could be emailed to [cathycraig73@aol.com](mailto:cathycraig73@aol.com) or handed into the office as soon as possible but no later than 12.30pm on Sunday 9 December. This is to allow the magazine to be printed before the closure.

## **FRIENDLY HOUR**

Cathy Craig was the speaker on 8th November. She gave a very interesting account of research for details of her uncle's war service in the First World War. She and members of her family visited his grave. Margaret Neil thanked Cathy for her very interesting presentation.

There will be an informal meeting on 13th December. Please come along and join us at 2pm in the White Room.

Cath McCord

## **FOODBANK**

The next FoodBank collection will be on Sunday 30 December. Thank you to all who included Christmas treats in November's donations.

M Sharp

## **BIBLE PUZZLE**

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much; he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

Solution can be found elsewhere in the Abbey Herald

## SCOUT NOTES

**Hallowe'en parties** – all sections held Hallowe'en parties that were great fun and somewhat messy! Some wonderful costumes were worn and activities such as 'ducking for apples' were greatly enjoyed by all ages.

**Remembrance Sunday** – all sections took part in the Remembrance service at the Abbey with Explorer Scout and Young Leader Rhiannon Thompson carrying the Union Flag, Scout Matthew Walker the Scout Flag and Scout Abbie Barton-Crawford the wreath. All three were a great credit to the Abbey Scouts and to themselves in the dignified way in which they carried out their duties and in the smartness of their appearance.

**Social Bite Wee Sleep out** – for a number of years Social Bite has organised an event whereby people sleep out in the open as part of a campaign to end homelessness. This year, the Year of Young People, the idea was extended to young people aged between 8 and 16 years old challenging them to get out of their beds, and their comfort zones by organising their very own Wee Sleep Out. This, the Abbey Scouts did overnight 9 to 10 November and they slept out in the car park of Renfrewshire Council. The Council were tremendous in supporting the young people's initiative providing a safe area for the scouts and all night security for them. In addition the Provost visited and spent several hours with them as did the police. Both the Provost and the police answered questions from the young people about homelessness and the resources available to help people who end up sleeping rough. A very worthwhile experience for the scouts!

## THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Jesus Christ was born this day  
So many years before  
He came a servant to the lost,  
Though he was Lord of Lords

We celebrate this joyous time,  
Reflecting on His birth  
Not born in a mansion, but a stable  
As if He had no worth

He came so He could identify  
With the human heart of man  
And gave His life as a sacrifice,  
Offering a better plan

A plan that reconciles us back  
To our loving Father God,  
Bringing hope and redemption from  
Sins ruling, iron rod

For this is the only reason that we  
Should celebrate this day,  
To become focused on anything else,  
Would take the meaning away

So let's arise with joy in our hearts  
And share it with everyone  
The meaning of Christmas will always be  
The birth of Jesus – God's son

## **CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IN THE ABBEY**

This is a reminder that we will be setting up the Christmas decorations in the Church in Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December and it would be helpful to know who would be available to help, please notify your team leader or myself as soon as possible.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge with grateful thanks, all the donations for flowers our benefactors give over the year. It is much appreciated.

Margaret Neil



## **PAISLEY ABBEY MUSIC BOOK**

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of Dr McPhee's appointment as Abbey Director of Music, a music book containing many of Dr McPhee's compositions and arrangements was published. A small number of copies of the music book is currently available to purchase.

Anyone looking for further information should contact Marion Sommerville on a Sunday or at the Abbey Office.

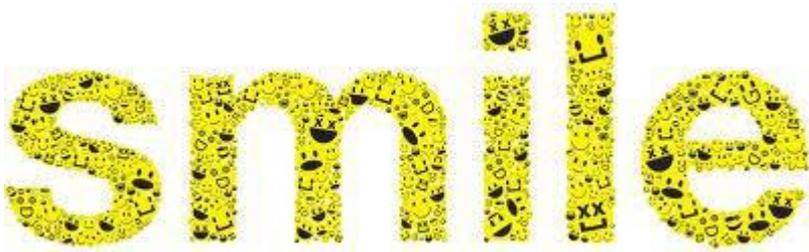
## **PRESBYTERY PRAYTIME**

God is always with us, even at times when we feel low. Let us pray.

Eternal loving God, you are always with us, even when we feel like losers. You give us strength to cope even when we are down low. And you empower us to rise up, to start again.

You, and only you, can build us back up and inspire us to hope; make us smile and laugh again. And your good will to us will always blast through our stubborn resistance and our petty pessimism. Bless us as we share that news with those we meet. Amen.

(from Douglas Scott, presbytery prayer coordinator)



## **THANK YOU**

On behalf of the Visitors' Committee I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who gave their time and energy to make the Council organised events in October & November such a success. On Saturday 17th November particularly with the market & the children's storytelling in the Church many thousands of parents & children came in – the number of single, double & even triple buggies plus wheel chairs was amazing. It was great to see so many people of all ages coming into the Abbey. Many of them had never been into the Abbey before and vowed to come back.

Without the help of our willing volunteers these events would not have been the success they were in every way.

At this time of year I would like to express my gratitude to all the stewards who staff the Church, to all those who keep the Shop going, to all the guides who take the tours on Tuesdays, Thursdays and at other times and finally to all the reserves who willingly step in when needed making the job of staffing the Church & Shop so much easier for myself and Margaret Craig.

The volunteers who help so willingly are the lifeblood of the Abbey – thank you again.

I wish you all a merry Christmas & a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all refreshed after the Christmas break when we reopen on Monday 14th January 2019.

Robin Craig

## BIBLE PUZZLE SOLUTION

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is **a most remarkable** puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, **keeping** him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends...One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his **john** boat. Another friend studied it while playing his **banjo**, Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend **judges** the **job** of solving this puzzle so involving, **she brews** a cup of tea to help her nerves. **There** will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a **fact**. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a **jam**, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. **Truthfully**, **from** answers we get, we are forced to admit **it usually** takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them **at the worst**. Research has shown that something in our **genes is** responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta **Phi lemonade** booth set a new record. The local paper, The **Chronicle**, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As **Daniel Humana** **humbly** puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." **Those** able to find all of them will hear great **lamentations** from those who have to be shown. One **revelation** that may help is that books like **Timothy** and **Samuel** may occur without their **numbers**. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. **A chipper** attitude will help you **compete** really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad **exodus**, there really are 30 books of the Bible **lurking** somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

## **SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOE BOXES**

A huge thank you to all who supported this wonderful project  
As a result of your donations of goods, money and filled boxes  
we sent nearly 80 boxes this year.

This photo shows 2 boxes sent from the Abbey to Belarus a few  
years ago!



## **HOLIDAYS**

The Abbey (apart from services), the gift shop (apart from before  
and after services) and the coffee shop will be closed from  
Tuesday 25 December to Saturday 12 January inclusive:  
Reopening Monday 14 January 2019 at 10 am

## Services 9 December 2018 – 6 January 2019

### Sunday 9 December - *Second Sunday of Advent*

11am *Morning Service*

Readings: Isaiah 40. 1-11  
2 Peter 3. 8-15a  
St. Mark 1. 1-8

Music: Benedictus *Gibbons (Short Service)*  
This is the record of John *Gibbons*

12.15 pm *Holy Communion*

### Sunday 16 December - *Third Sunday of Advent*

11am *Holy Communion with Ordination and Admission of Elders. Gifts for children to be handed in to Renfrewshire Social Work Department may be handed in at this service*

Readings: Philippians 4. 4-7  
St. Luke 3. 7-18

Music: Communion setting: Missa Brevis *Palestrina*  
Rejoice in the Lord alway *anon*

### Tuesday 18 December

11 am ACCORD Carol Service

### Thursday 20 December

12 noon Paisley Grammar School Carol Service

### Sunday 23 December – *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

11am *Morning Service*

Readings: Micah 5. 2-5a  
Hebrews 10. 5-10  
St. Luke 1. 39-45

Music: Magnificat *Weelkes (Short Service)*  
Ave maris stella *Grieg*

12.15 pm *Holy Communion*

6 pm *Christingle Service*

Christingles can be made in the Place of Paisley from 5.30 pm onwards. Short service followed by carol singing round the Christmas tree and then mince pies etc. in the Place of Paisley.

**Monday 24 December – Christmas Eve**

3 pm *Informal Family and Shoppers Carol Service*

7.30 pm *Festival of Nine Lesson and Carols*

11.30 pm *Midnight Carol Service*

**Tuesday 25 December – Christmas Day**

10.30 am Holy Communion (with orchestral ensemble)

Readings: Isaiah 9. 2, 6, 7

St. Luke 2. 1-14

Music: Messe de Minuit

*Charpentier*

Hodie Christus natus est

*Sweelinck*

**Sunday 30 December – First Sunday after Christmas Day**

11am Morning Service

Readings: Numbers 6. 22-27

Galatians. 4-7

St. Luke 2. 15-21

Music Jubilate Deo

*Stanford in Bb*

I saw a maiden

*Basque Carol*

**Sunday 6 January - Epiphany**

11am *Holy Communion with presentation of the wise men at the Crib*

Readings: Isaiah 60. 1-6

St. Matthew 2. 1-12

Music: Communion setting: St. Anne's Mass

*MacMillan*