

# **Paisley Abbey**



# **Abbey Herald**

**October 2019**

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Dear Friends,

At the beginning of October, Carol and I are going to the annual meeting of the UK Cluniac sites which is being held this year at Much Wenlock in Shropshire, from where, back in the 12th century, the monks who established Paisley Abbey came.

Kenneth Clark's book and television documentary series 'Civilsation' which appeared in 1969, traces the first manifestations of the reawakening of western civilisation after the Dark Ages to Cluny Abbey and the reform of Benedictine monasticism which Cluny embraced. What a privilege it is to be part of that inheritance! The blending of beauty in art, architecture and music with the upholding of the dignity of all people regardless of ethnicity, status, colour or creed are the hallmarks of any civilised society and will hopefully long continue to be the hallmarks of our life and witness as the heirs of the Cluniac monks who first brought the ideals of Cluniac monasticism to Paisley.

I am delighted that Gillean Richmond, a candidate for the Holy Ministry, has joined us for a placement over the autumn and winter period and will be with us until Pentecost 2020. As she is studying for her degree, she will only have limited time with us each week but will be with us most Sundays and will try to experience as many aspects of the life of the Abbey as she can. At a time when there is such a shortage of ministers, it is great that people like Gillean are coming forward and offering to serve Christ and his Church in the Ministry.

With all good wishes

Revd. Alan D Birss  
Minister at Paisley Abbey

## **CHOIR DINNER IN AID OF THE CHORAL SCHOLAR SCHEME**

We are constantly seeking ways of raising money to fund our Choral Scholars in the choir. Without them, it wouldn't be possible to provide the high standard of music performed week after week.

To that end, there will be a dinner held in the Abbey on Friday the 8th November 2019 at 7pm.

This will be the third dinner we have had, and I hope those of you who have attended any of the others, will agree that they have been a great success, and raised a significant amount for the cause.

Tickets priced £35 will include a drinks reception, 3 course dinner and entertainment. Tickets will be on sale from mid-September.

Please contact Irene Doole on 07734 456779 for any further information.

We look forward to many of you joining us at this event.

Irene Doole

## **ABBEY AID**

This fund raising initiative is still ongoing. Loose change in small jars is still being collected and the yoga classes bring in a healthy sum for our funds.

If you are looking for small odd jobs such as sweeping up leaves etc. to be done contact the Abbey office and leave your name and someone will get back to you and you can negotiate times and charges.

The Events and Fundraising Committee would be pleased to look at any ideas you might have for future fund raising activities and events.

## PARISH REGISTER - SEPTEMBER 2019

### New Members

Geoff & Jennifer Baker  
Ann Mickel  
Mary Thallon  
Jean Pettigrew  
Jean Peters

### Baptisms

1 September      Jacob William Hunter  
1 September      Megan Isobel Hunter  
22 September     Innes Alexander McAusland  
22 September     Emily Mary Paterson

### Funeral

14 September     James Wardrop

### FRIENDLY HOUR

**26 September:** Our speaker today was the Revd Alan Birss who spoke to us about “A Year in the Life of the Abbey”. It was much enjoyed by everyone.

**10 October:** There will be an informal meeting in the White Room at 2pm. Do join is for a chat and a “cuppa”

**24 October:** There will be a special meeting in the **St. Mirin Chapel** on 24<sup>th</sup> October when Phyllida Shaw will be our guest speaker. Phyllida is the author of two books about Alice and Morris Williams, artists and sculptors, who did some work in the Abbey Choir during its restoration and they will be the subject of her talk.

Any member of the congregation is welcome to join us at this meeting so do come along and find out more about this interesting couple and their work.

## **ELDERS ON DUTY**

### **OCTOBER 2019**

Marjory Noble's Team

### **NOVEMBER 2019**

Robin Craig's Team

Articles for the November 2019 issue of the Abbey Herald should be emailed to [cathycraig73@aol.com](mailto:cathycraig73@aol.com) or [robincraig73@aol.com](mailto:robincraig73@aol.com) or handed into the office as soon as possible but no later than Sunday 20 October. Thank you.

### **CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH ADVANCE NOTICE**

Our 2019 Congregational Lunch will be held at the Glynhill  
Hotel on Sunday 8 December.

More information in the October Abbey Herald

## **EASY FUND RAISING**

Christmas shopping will soon be on our minds. If you are thinking of purchasing gifts online why not use Easy Fund Raising to help raise a little money for the Abbey. Many retailers give a small proportion of your spend to good causes, in our case the Abbey.

For more information and to register look online at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk).

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Saturday 12 October**      Coffee Morning at 10.00am  
followed by a recital at 12.30pm by  
the Paisley Abbey choral scholars

Tickets £5 payable at the door

**Saturday 23 November**      Coffee Morning at 10.00am  
followed by a recital at 12.30pm by  
the Douglas Lawrence (Violin)

Tickets £5 payable at the door

## **ADVANCE NOTICE OF RECITALS**

There will be recitals on the following dates;

Saturday 21 December      Abbey Brass Concert

Saturday 25 January 2020      Alistair Savage and Friends

Saturday 22 February      Ralph McDonald with George  
McPhee

Saturday 21 March      Russkaya Capella

Saturday 2 May      Abbey Strings

Saturday 23 May      Peter Seivewright

Saturday 21 June      Andrew Laird

Details of these recitals will follow nearer the time

## **THANK YOU AND HELP WANTED**

The Visitors Committee is grateful for the continued support of the volunteers who help to make our Open Days a success and look forward to their continued support at the following future events.

**Halloween Event** – This will take place over two days Friday 25 October from 4.00pm to 10.00pm & Saturday 26 October from 12 noon to 10.00pm when there will be a food stall outside selling hot dogs etc., hot soup will be sold from the Café and there will be a tuck shop in the Abbey. Help is needed for this event. You do not have to be there for the entire time. Whatever time you can manage will be very helpful. Contact Carol or the Abbey office.

**Fireworks Display** - Saturday 2 November 3.30pm to 7.00pm  
We plan to sell hot soup from 5pm to 7pm in the Cloisters. Again help would be much appreciated.

The **Christmas Shopping Discount Weekend** and a **Coffee Morning** in aid of Erskine will take place on the day of the **Switching on of the Christmas Lights - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November**. The Church and the Shop will be open till 6.00pm and various activities will take place in the Abbey including the sale of mince pies and mulled wine. As before lots of help would be much appreciated.

These events, which are an important part of our outreach to the community, have been very busy in past years and while they can be hard work they are good fun while at the same time helping the Abbey's finances. I hope that many of you will give some of your time to these events.

## **HELP URGENTLY REQUIRED**

One of our Church stewards has had to retire while two others will not be available long term so we **URGENTLY** need help.

The shifts for which we need cover long term are Friday am & Saturday pm.

If you can spare some time to cover one of these not necessarily every week or if you know of a friend from out with the Abbey who would be interested in helping with this very important part of the Abbey outreach to the community please contact Robin Craig on 01505 323532, email robincraig73@aol.com or leave your contact details with the Abbey office (0141 889 7654) or at the Shop.

Do not let a lack of knowledge of the Abbey's history put you off as we are looking for people to welcome visitors and give out our information leaflet in the first instance. It is amazing how quickly one picks up the knowledge.

Please give this appeal serious consideration. All who steward in the Church find it can be a most interesting and enjoyable experience.

Robin Craig  
(Convener of the Visitors Committee)

## **LIFE AND WORK**

Subscriptions for the 2020 issues of Life and Work magazine are due in Edinburgh by the 31st October 2019.

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 £30.60 for 12 issues of the magazine, which is delivered with the Abbey Herald, could they please let me know by Sunday 24 October.

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

Cathy Craig

## PILGRIMAGE TO IONA

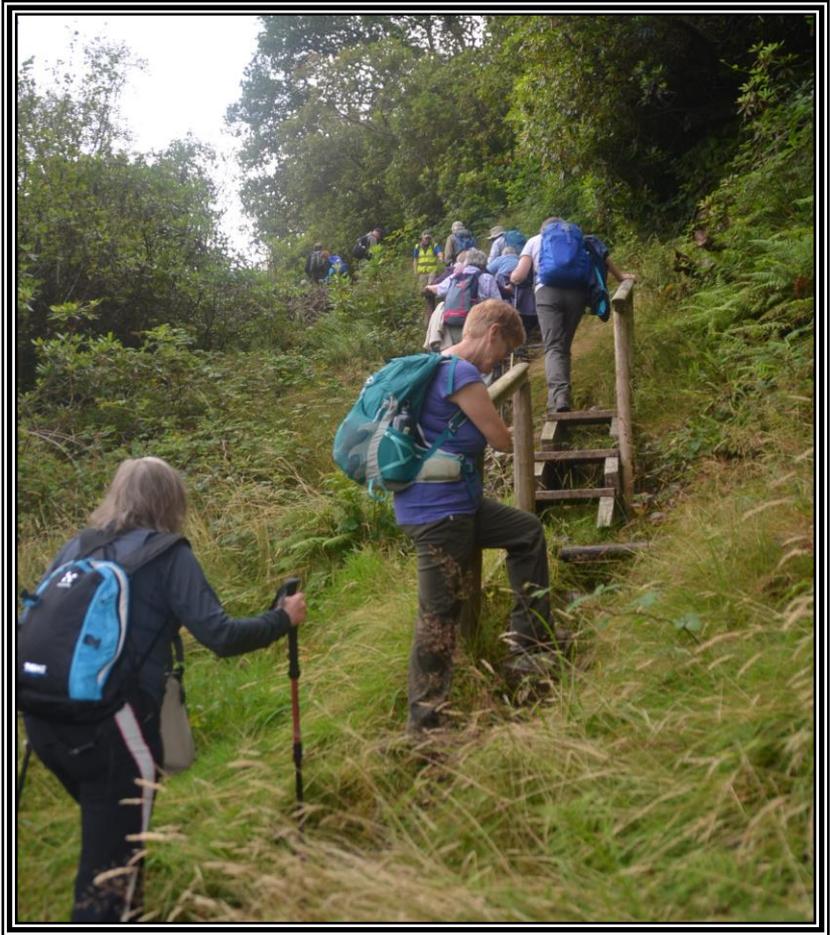
### Walk 3: Glendaruel to Tighnabruaich

This walk was accompanied by health hazard warnings. Whilst on certain sections due care and attention would need to be observed. After a short prayer Kilmodan Church and in a fine drizzle of light rain and we took the path from the church, towards the gates.

We turned right onto the A886 road on which, a month earlier, we entered Glendaruel. Heading south we retraced our steps. Shortly we reached the rough forest road marked as a route to Otterferry. Only 6miles to Otterferry! “Great!” I thought whilst planning the walk a few months earlier. This ancient mountain pass had been the original intention but when we reced the section by car, like an unfit and complaining child, the labouring vehicle seriously struggled up the exceptionally long and unrelenting gradient. One look at Robin’s face convinced me that it wasn’t a good idea to pursue this route. The route we did take had always been a possibility but it was a longer alternative and an extra day of walking would be required to reach Iona. The route followed the well-marked, long distance footpath of the ‘Loch Lomond and Cowal Way’.

We turned right to walk along the forest road for a much less strenuous and shorter time than originally intended. We continued walking crossing the historic Telford road bridge over the River Ruel and towards the comforting ‘Loch Lomond and Cowal Way’ signs which were to accompany us all the way to Tighnabruaich and beyond.

A wooden, purpose built bridge for walkers over the Bealachandrain Burn, indicated an onward meandering path which both cut out road walking yet connected up with the A8003 to Taighnabruich. Strangely one could see through the lattice of woodwork that our bridge was also protecting the typical stone built, low level arch, of what I would call, a pack bridge. This was, in equal measure, both quaint and intriguing.



At Waulkmill Cottage our path opened onto the A8003 which we followed for approximately 3miles. To our left we caught sight of Colintraive Church on the other side of Loch Ruel (also known as Loch Riddon). Someone commented that it would have been quicker by boat. Unfortunately it was obvious that when the tide was out, as indeed it was, sailing or walking would be impossible through waterlogged sand.

We continued our walk until we reached a sign saying Mechan's Grave. On a huge rock there is an inscription "Here at the foot of this rock, according to tradition, is the grave of Mechan Norse

chieftain, who fell in 1263 in a local shortly fight before the battle of Largs"

The word 'ruel' means blood in Gaelic. When the invaders were defeated, the slaughtered were thrown into the River Ruail. Glen-da-Ruail means Glen of Red Blood (Some years ago the grave was opened by the proprietor of Ormidale estate, but nothing was found.

The Ormidale Estate The house was originally built in 1693, by the then Duke of Argyll. It has been through various incarnations since, and the building has changed over the years. Since the turn of the century before last, it has stood more or less as it stands now, with a major restyling and renovation of the North West wing undertaken under famous Scottish architect Sir Robert Lorimer completed in 1910.

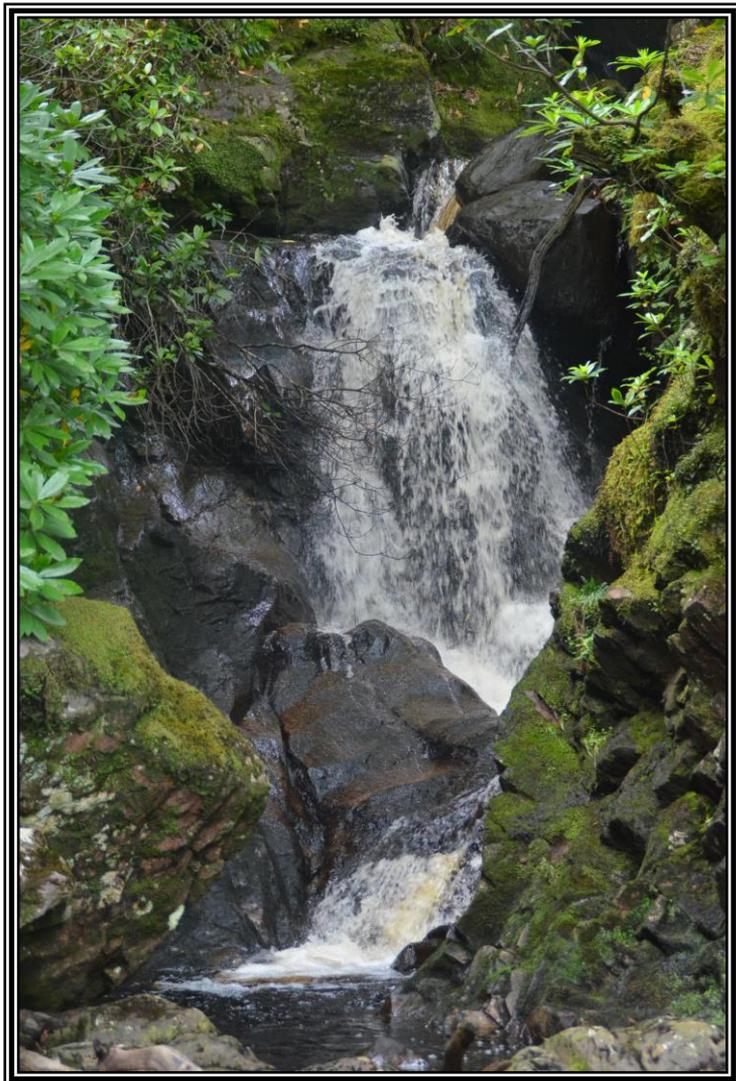


Eventually with a certain amount of traffic dodging we reached the turn off to a single track road which ran beside the Loch. This was access for sailors, surfers, one or two holiday homes and of course walkers of the 'Loch Lomond and Cowal Way'. Just as

we were about to round the corner a gentleman addressed us and asked if we were by any chance walking the 'Loch Lomond "Yes" we replied. He then introduced himself as Mr James McLuckie, the writer of the guide book about the route of the Loch Lomond and Cowal Way. He lives in the area and he was just checking to discover if the lane was being resurfaced. The guardians of the Loch Lomond and Cowal Way had been given money to improve the road surface. He was checking if everything was going according to plan. James does not live in these parts so what were the chances of us meeting him? He told us, what in fact we all knew, that the walk along the lane beside the Kyles of Bute marked the end of easy walking for a while and that he was greatly impressed by the apparent average age of the group. He gave me two of his books and signed them. It would seem that another edition is ready and prepared to go. We stopped for lunch just short of the point where we were to climb the rock face of some fifty metres above sea level behind Ormidale lodge to continue on our way to Tighnabruaich. Specially created steps with risers of varying height, which depended upon the shape and gradient of the underlying rock face, challenged those with shorter legs. Help was at hand, however, in the form of the gallant men of our party. Having succeeded in manoeuvring themselves safely they stopped to help others. The views were stunning as we grabbed useful 'handrails' of rope or wood and walked along specially placed wooden plank bridges over awkward section. Up to this point rhododendron bushes accompanied us along the route. They must have been stunning in May and June. The thick growth however helped us to haul ourselves up or let ourselves down awkward. The previous few days had been particularly wet and gentle unassuming brooklets were now fast flowing mill races accompanied by miniature waterfalls which we had gone unnoticed on the Saturday of the recce.

Once we descended from the rocky face we were in woodland and still descending. We continued to make our way towards our goal. It had taken us an hour to complete the whole experience of the scramble, which was about a mile in length.

We crossed a wooden bridge near Upper Caladh where a beautiful foaming waterfall, in full spate tumbled towards and beneath us.



We continued walking along the Kyles of Bute and made our way around a sharp bend which took us down to the boat yard at



Tighnabruaich. Soon we were on the street at the point where the houses presented themselves as magnificent villas. Tighnabruaich means ‘house on the hill’. There are plenty more houses on the hill now! With the advent of steam ships Tighnabruaich was transformed from a little fishing village to a tourist attraction for Glasgow day trippers ‘gannin’ doon the watter’. People, who were able to afford to do so, settled or made holiday homes here.

We finished our walk at Susy’s Cafe. After having been informed by the advance party of rescue drivers, Susy very kindly kept the cafe open especially for our arrival. The weather had become quite hot and dry. So ice-cream, cakes and tea were the order of the day. For myself, I hadn’t tasted Irn Bru in years and my very first experience of a double nougat wafer with two scoops of flavoured ice-cream went down an absolute treat.

The next walk takes us from Tighnabruaich to Portavadie.

## CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

It is that time of year again when we launch our annual appeal on behalf of the Samaritan's Purse 'Operation Christmas Child. Do please support this appeal.

**Filled shoeboxes should be brought to the Abbey by Sunday 3 November.** There are leaflets available in the Abbey with gift suggestions (and a list of items not to include) along with 'boy/girl/age' stickers.

We would also be grateful for cash donations as there are always boxes for which we need to find the £5 that should accompany each box.

If you are not able to fill boxes then please either donate some items or make a donation and we will fill a box for you.

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to show God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world. Since 1990, more than 157 million children in over 160 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child.



## **PARISH AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

### **PRESBYTERY NOTES**

#### **MINISTERS ARRIVING AND DEPARTING**

Rev Gray Fletcher has been appointed to Elderslie Kirk

Rev Jim Cowan has retired from St Andrew's Barrhead

Peter McEnhill is moving from Auld Kirk Kilmacolm to St Andrew's Church of Scotland Rome

Rev Derrick Nicholson is moving from Greenock Lyle Kirk to Nebraska USA

Rev David Nicholson has been appointed to Erskine Parish Church

There are 73 candidates in training for various ministries in the Church of Scotland which is encouraging after hearing about the shortages of ordained ministers throughout the country.

#### **FOOD BANK**

The next collection will be on Sunday 27 October.  
Any basic food items will be gratefully received.

We have had a letter of thanks from the manager of the Renfrewshire Food Bank which is displayed on the noticeboard in the Abbey Cafe.

Margaret Sharp

## SCOUT NOTES

Members of the scout section helped at Doors Open Day taking visitors up the tower and stamping children's passports. It was a very busy day for the tower with most tours fully booked.



All sections have seen new recruits since the start of the new session but there are still some vacancies for girls and boys in the beavers (ages 6 to 8) and cubs (ages 8-10.5). Email [scouts@paisleyabbey.org.uk](mailto:scouts@paisleyabbey.org.uk) if you know of someone in those age bands that would be interested.

## *Confirmation Class*

A Confirmation Class will begin on  
**Sunday 20 October at 12.30 pm**

The class will look at the basics of the Christian Faith and is open both to those who wish to be confirmed and to people just interested in learning more about our faith.

The class will last 45 minutes and will run for four weeks.

## SUNDAY SERVICES OCTOBER 2019

### Sunday 13 October – *The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity*

11 am Harvest Festival Holy Communion

Readings: Deuteronomy 26. 1-11  
St. Luke 12. 13-21

Music: Communion setting: *Little Organ Mass:* Haydn  
Lobe den Herrn Schütz

4 pm Choral Evensong

Readings: Nehemiah 6. 1-16  
St. John 15. 12-27

Music: Responses *Smith of Durham*  
Psalm 144  
Canticles *Gibbons (Short Service)*  
Teach me, O Lord *Byrd*

### Sunday 20 October - *The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity*

11 am Holy Communion

Readings: Genesis 32. 22-31  
St. Luke 18. 1-8

Music: to be confirmed.  
Visiting choir – St. Mary's Ecumenical  
Choir from Shropshire

4 pm Choral Evensong

Readings: Nehemiah 8.9-18  
St. John 16.1-11

Music: to be confirmed.  
Visiting choir – St. Mary's Ecumenical  
Choir from Shropshire

**Sunday 27 October – The Last Sunday after Trinity**

11 am Morning Service

Readings: Jeremiah 14. 7-10, 19-22  
2 Timothy 4. 6-8, 16-18  
St. Luke 18. 9-14

Music: Psalm 84. 1-7  
Jubilate à Deo *Gabrieli*  
Behold, O God, our defender *Howells*

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

**Sunday 3 November – All Saints Sunday**

11 am Holy Communion

Readings: Revelation 7. 9-17  
St. Matthew 5. 1-12

Music: Communion setting – Missa ‘O quam  
gloriosum’ *Vittoria*  
Faire is the heaven *Harris*

**Service of Remembrance**

**Sunday 10 November at 10.50 am**