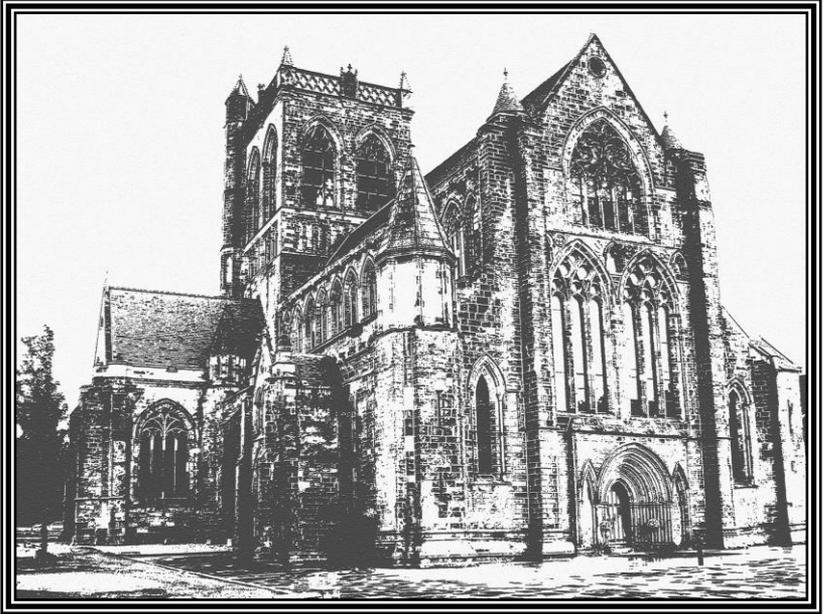


# **Paisley Abbey**



## **Abbey Herald**

**August 2020**

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My dear friends,

**Worship:** as I mentioned last month, worship is at the heart of our life as a church and the Abbey's worship has continued throughout lockdown albeit in a very different way from that to which we were accustomed beforehand. On our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel, there was posted a daily reflection and prayer. Between the start of lockdown and 31 July there have been over 150 of these reflections, prayers and services posted online. Some of these were recorded in the Abbey, some at the manse and some by our student assistant Gillean in her home. Our choristers, choral scholars and organists provided us with music on many occasions, music that enriched the short acts of worship and reminded us all of the important rôle liturgical music plays in our Abbey worship. People from the rota of readers have also been contributing most effectively from their homes and at the end of June, children from the Sunday School led magnificently a large part of the Sunday short service. To all who have helped Carol and me produce these prayers and services a huge thankyou – when it all began, we never imagined it would go on for so long! The daily online prayers and reflections came to an end on 31 July although we still aim to produce a short online service for Sundays 2 and 9 August. Provided we receive the required permission from the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley, **we propose resuming services in the Abbey on Sunday 2 August** – although there will have to be many changes from what we were used to before lockdown. The Scottish Government has stated that there can be no more than 50 people present at services of public worship, and that includes Minister, Organist, Church Officer, Cantor etc. Moreover, there can be no choir and no congregational singing. Social distancing will have to be observed, face-coverings worn by those attending and a note taken of names and contact telephone numbers for the Test and Protect public health measure put in place by the Scottish Government to contain Covid-19. Access to the Abbey will only be through the Cloisters (no access from the Place of Paisley

carpark) and signs will indicate which way to go. To enable those who might want to attend worship at the Abbey (and I know many long to be able to worship again in the Abbey) we propose to hold two services on a Sunday, one at 10.30am and the other at 12.30pm – each lasting 30-40 minutes. Those wishing to attend are asked to email or phone in to the Abbey by 4pm on the previous Thursday to indicate which service they would like to attend. Email: [linda.barrett@paisleyabbey.org.uk](mailto:linda.barrett@paisleyabbey.org.uk): phone 0141 889 7654. The café and shop will not be open on Sundays until it is safe to do so.

This is all new to us and we will have to experiment to find out what works! So, if you can, do keep looking at the website ([www.paisleyabbey.org.uk](http://www.paisleyabbey.org.uk)) and Facebook page for updates.

**Re-opening of the Abbey:** we were delighted to be able to re-open the Abbey for private prayer in accordance with Scottish Government and Church of Scotland guidelines on Wednesday 15 July. To manage a safe route in and out of the Abbey we need a number of volunteers on duty when we are open as well as member(s) of our Church Officer team. If you could help with this please let the Church Manager, Linda Barrett, know either by email ([linda.barrett@paisleyabbey.org.uk](mailto:linda.barrett@paisleyabbey.org.uk)) or phone (0141 889 7654).

We also hope to re-open the shop in early August at the same times as the Abbey Church is open. At the time of writing, the date of re-opening and the times have not been finally decided, so again keep checking the website and Facebook page for details.

**Retirement:** as mentioned last month, Carol and I will take some ‘holiday’ allowance before our retirement at the end of August during which time we will make the move to Aboyne and return to Paisley to finalise things. I will take the services on 2 and 9 August and then The Revd Jim Gibson will provide ‘pulpit supply’ on Sundays 16, 23 and 30 August and will then take over as locum on 1 September. The Interim Moderator for the vacancy is The Very Revd Lorna Hood who will guide the Kirk Session

and congregation through the process of finding a new minister in these unprecedented times. When we planned last year to retire originally in June of this year, we never imagined it would turn out the way it has!! Carol and I are pleased that staying on a few months longer has meant that we have seen the Abbey re-open and, hopefully, services resumed. However, we know that inevitably it will not be possible for us to bid farewell to many people and groups that we would have liked to and who have meant so much to us over these past years. We do hope to come back for a 'final service' once restrictions have been further eased and very much hope that that will give us an opportunity to say 'farewell' more adequately than is possible at the moment. In the meantime, both Alan and Carol want you to know what a privilege it has been for us to spend over 32 years at the Abbey and to have been part of the wonderful family that is Paisley Abbey.

For all you have given us in so many ways over these years, a most sincere and heartfelt 'thank you.'

Alan and Carol

## SUNDAY READINGS AND COLLECTS FOR AUGUST

### 2 August - Eighth Sunday after Trinity

**Readings**     Isaiah 55. 1-5  
                     Psalm 145. 8-8, 14-21  
                     Romans 9. 1-5  
                     St. Matthew 14. 13-21

**Collect**        Almighty God,  
                     your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom. Renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by the true and living bread, Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever, Amen.

### 9 August - Ninth Sunday after Trinity

**Readings**     1 Kings 19. 9-18  
                     Psalm 85. 8-13  
                     Romans 10. 5-15  
                     St. Matthew 14. 22-33

**Collect**        Almighty God,  
                     you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love, joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen.

### 16 August - Tenth Sunday after Trinity

**Readings**     Isaiah 56, 1, 6-8  
                     Psalm 67

Romans 11. 1-2a, 29-32  
St. Matthew 15. 21-28

**Collect**

Almighty God,  
you have broken the tyranny of sin and sent into  
our hearts the Spirit of your Son. Give us grace to  
dedicate our freedom to your service, that all  
people may know the glorious liberty of the  
children of God;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for  
ever, Amen.

**23 August - Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**

**Readings**

Isaiah 51. 1-6  
Psalm 138  
Romans 12. 1-8  
St. Matthew 16. 13-20

**Collect**

Almighty God,  
you have taught us that without love all our doings  
are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit, and  
pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,  
the true bond of peace and of all virtues; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for  
ever, Amen.

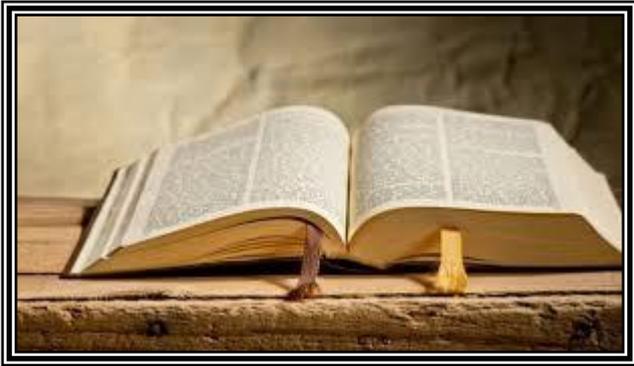
**30 August - Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**

**Readings**

Jeremiah 15. 15-21  
Psalm 26. 1-8  
Romans 12. 9-21  
St. Matthew 16. 21-28

**Collect**

Almighty and ever-living God,  
you are the author and giver of all good things.  
Graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase  
in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness,  
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
for ever, Amen.



## **ABBEY FINANCE**

The very significant loss of income since lockdown began continues to be a challenge for the Abbey. Just one way in which we have seen our income adversely affected is in the cancellation of all major civic events in the town for the rest of the year. The Food Festival, Sma' Shot Day, Hallowe'en, Fireworks Display, Switch-on the Christmas Lights and other major town events all brought in to the Abbey substantial income through the hiring of rooms and through thousands of visitors spending money at our stalls and in the shop.

While we hope to re-open the shop in August, it will be on a limited basis possibly for some time and the projected income is likely to be well down on what would have been expected in previous years. All in all, the Abbey needs to find income to replace that which has been lost.

Standing Orders are a good way to give to the Abbey as they ensure a regular income. Details of how to set-up a new standing order or how to increase an existing standing order can be obtained from the Treasurer, Stewart McDougall ([stewart.mcdougall@btinternet.com](mailto:stewart.mcdougall@btinternet.com)).

Another very straightforward way of making a donation to the Abbey is through our website. Go to the Abbey website ([www.paisleyabbey.org.uk](http://www.paisleyabbey.org.uk)) and on the front page, scroll down and click on the red 'Donate' button. That takes you to a page on the Church of Scotland website where the Abbey details are already entered.

Fill in the Gift Aid declaration if appropriate, and proceed

## SCOUT NOTES

Online Zoom meetings have continued through July with a mixture of badge work, challenges and games.



All sections were involved in the UK's biggest digital summer camp over the weekend 11-12 July. From building dens to making rockets, compass coding to swing braiding, a virtual campfire, to midnight star-gazing, yoga to tower building our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts joined with others throughout the UK from their living rooms and gardens: a truly memorable experience.

In their planned easing of restrictions, Scouts in Scotland have moved to the next stage in easing which means that as well as providing a programme online, we can now organise 'Covid-19 safe' face-to-face activities outdoors for up to 15 people including leaders. Risk assessments for such activities will be produced and, hopefully, with the authorisation of Paisley & District Scouts, we can organise some outdoor activities for later in the summer/early autumn.

## **KINDNESS COUNTS**

The Very Rev. Dr. John Chalmers considers the importance of kindness in the 'new normal'

In the grounds of the Abbey Church of Dunferline next to the Palace of the ancient Kings of Scotland is the shrine of St. Margaret. Margaret, sometimes known as the 'Pearl of Scotland' married King Malcolm 111 in the year 1070, so becoming Queen of Scots. By all accounts Margaret was a devout and pious woman; she persuaded the Benedictine monks at Canterbury to establish a monastery in Dunferline and Queensferry gets its name because Margaret endowed a ferry route across the Forth which made it easier to make the pilgrim journey to St Andrews.

We are told that day by day Margaret rose to serve food to the poor before she herself ate and evening by evening she rose at midnight to attend the liturgy. It is for her prayerful devotion, kindness and humility that she is remembered; a Queen of Scots of whom not enough is known and whose virtues are, perhaps, not celebrated as they should. She did not stand on her dignity as a monarch; instead she reigned from her knees and in imitation of Christ she washed the feet of the poor dedicating her life to the service of others. Humility, forbearance and kindness were her distinguishing marks and for these and other acts of piety and devotion she was canonised by Pope Innocent IV in 1250.

During the extraordinary times brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, humility, forbearance and kindness have been the oil that has lubricated these difficult days. A patient willingness by the vast majority to abide by the lockdown rules, a multiplication of acts of neighbourliness, self-sacrifice on the part of frontline workers and a generosity of spirit evident in countless acts of charity and fundraising – these have kept us going and kept us smiling. Now, as people begin to imagine what the new normal will look like there is a great hope that we will come out of this a kinder and more considerate society.

Dunfermline is also the birthplace of the world-famous

philanthropist Andrew Carnegie and it is home to the Trust that bears his name, just a year or so back the Carnegie UK Trust in concert with the Joseph Rowntree Trust published an important report on the *Place of Kindness* in building stronger communities (<https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/project/kinder-communities/>). The report highlights that there are factors in present day living that can get in the way of engaging and encouraging kindness on both individuals and organisations. The report highlights the problem that formal and organisational rules often prevent the kind of informal contact that leads to a level of empathy and understanding and it says, "modern definitions of professionalism and good leadership crowd out everyday kindness and intuitive human interactions". Most of us have had experiences confirming that goodwill, affection, warmth, gentleness and concern can be crowded out by the application of formal procedures.

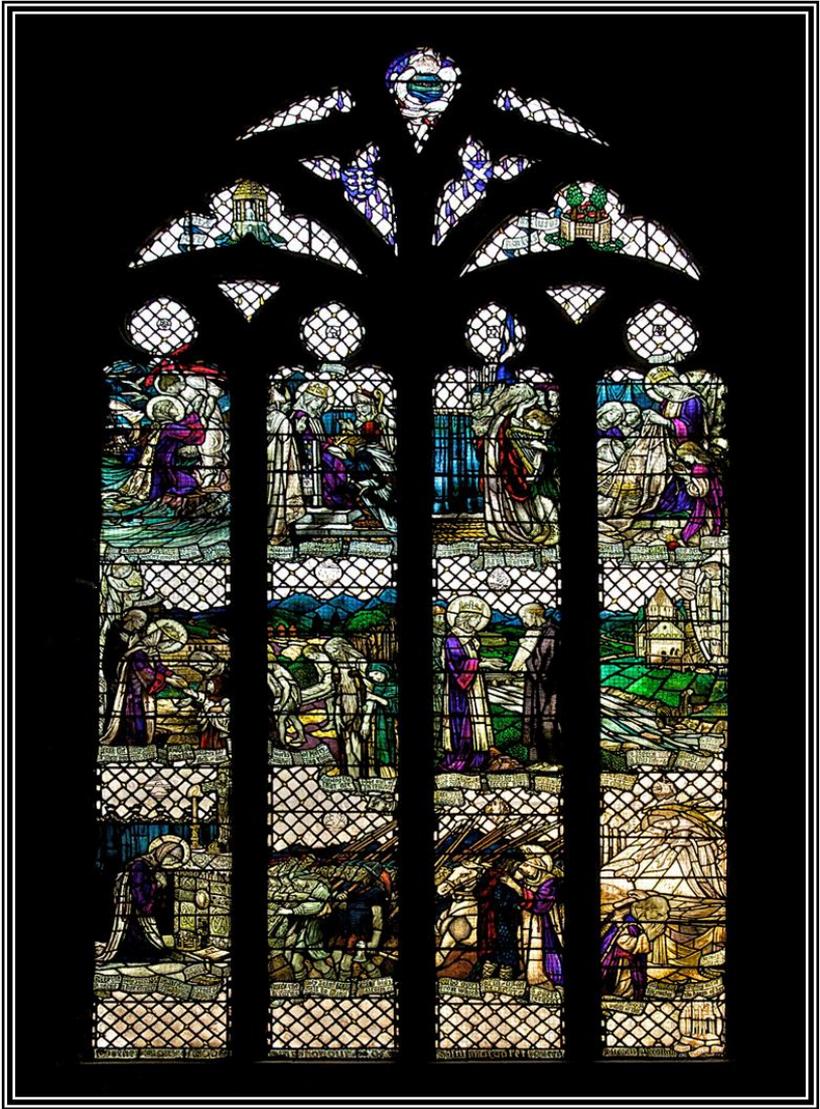
A few months ago, The Scotsman newspaper published an article in which a good friend of mine, John Sturrock, posed the question: "Suppose we decide that the benchmark for success, a key performance indicator, was how kind we are to others? Suppose the only criterion for an annual (performance) review was "How kind have you been to your colleagues this year?" That takes me back to Queen Margaret whose annual performance review would have placed her in a league of her own.

I was brought up in the hard school of an old time religion which never tired of reminding people that being a Christian was more than trying to be good or trying to be kind and no one, who understands anything of the depth of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, would demur at such teaching. But, as a first response to our faith in Christ the practice of kindness must be high on our list and I hope that there will be more of it around the post-Covid world.

*This article was first published in the August 2020 issue of Life and Work*

The St. Margaret window in the west wall of the North Transept of Paisley Abbey.

Designed by Louis B. Davis in 1909



The window depicts scenes from the life of St Margaret of Scotland.

Here is a poem I came across in an old copy of St. Luke's Church magazine. It was written and contributed by Kate Smith.

## **THE GARDENER'S HYMN**

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.  
But what we never mention, though gardeners know it's true,  
Is when he made the goodies, he made the baddies too.

### *Chorus*

All things spray and swatable,  
Disasters great and small.  
All things paraquatable,  
The Lord God made them all

The greenfly on the roses, the maggots in the peas,  
Manure that fills our noses, He also gave us these.

### *Chorus*

The fungus on the goose-gogs, the clubroot on the greens,  
The slugs that eat the lettuce and chew the aubergines.

### *Chorus*

The drought that kills the fuchsias, the frost that nips the buds,  
The rain that drowns the seedlings, the blight that hits the spuds

### *Chorus*

The midges and mosquitos, the nettles and the weeds, the pigeons  
in the green stuff, the sparrows on the seeds.

### *Chorus*

The fly that gets the carrots, the wasp that eats the plums,  
How black the gardener's outlook though green may be his

thumbs.

*Chorus*

But still the gardeners labour, midst vegetables and flowers,  
And pray what hits our neighbours, will somehow pass by ours.

*Chorus*



## **“PLACES ON-LINE AT LOCKDOWN” QUIZ**

As the draw for the Lockdown quiz took place on 28th June it was too late to publish the names of the winners in the July edition of the Abbey Herald. I am delighted that Priscilla Routley, well known for all she contributes to the Abbey, was the winner. The runner up was from Penrith – Rachel Carruthers. A most equitable result - one winner so involved with Abbey life, the other winner, one of our many kind participants who, although having no other connection with the Abbey, nonetheless kindly donate financially to it. Congratulations to Priscilla and to Rachel – and to all the others who sent it all-correct answer.

I am happy to report that this quiz produced over £700.00 (£709.00 nett to be precise) for Abbey funds – and to all those who contributed to this sum most sincere thanks are given.

SGC