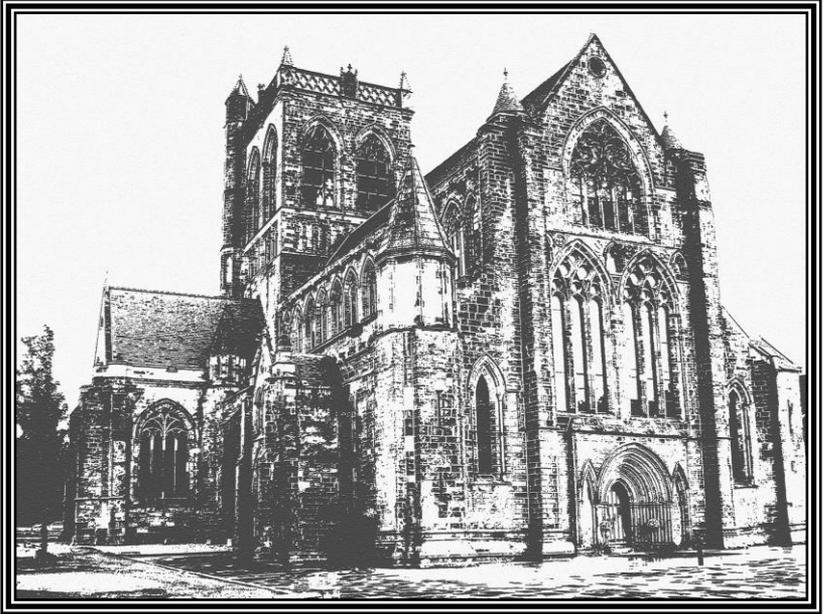


Paisley Abbey



Abbey Herald

April 2020

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My dear Friends

What extraordinary times we find ourselves in! The Abbey, the gift shop and coffee shop all closed. Services cancelled - with a government ban on wedding and baptism services. Lets cancelled and all staff on furlough awaiting better days. No-one could have imagined such a scenario even a short time ago.

At such a time let us remember that although the Abbey buildings are closed there is still an Abbey family, albeit many members of the family are 'confined to quarters' for the time being. We cannot welcome visitors to the Abbey or the local community to the shop, but we can pray for our community and our nation at this time. We cannot physically visit one another but we can telephone or email or use social media to keep in touch. In her inspirational talk in the Abbey earlier this year, Olivia Giles quoted some words of the American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, 'Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.' These words are surely applicable at this time. There is so much we cannot do anything about including the impact of the virus on our lives and the restrictions placed on us in an attempt to mitigate the effects of the virus. We must try to accept the elements of the situation we can do nothing about while at the same time not allowing ourselves to get down or anxious. Enforced confinement in our homes can provide us with an opportunity to reflect on the things that matter to us in our lives and on the place our faith has in our lives. Perhaps we can use the time to deepen our faith through prayer or reading the bible. And we can remember time and time again that we believe that God's love never fails. In Christ he walks alongside us however challenging the path we must travel. As the psalmist proclaims, 'The Lord is my Shepherd ... Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me.'

Wishing each one of you God's richest blessing

Alan

Coronavirus and its impact on Abbey Life

All services, including weddings and baptisms, have been suspended until further notice.

The Gift Shop and Coffee Shop are closed.

All meetings and events are cancelled for the next few weeks.

On Facebook, and sometimes on the web page, a daily prayer is available. This reminds us that although the church is closed, prayer continues. We try to post the prayer at 12 noon each day and as part of the event, those watching are invited to join in the saying of the Lord's Prayer. Even if Facebook is not 'your thing,' do please consider pausing at 12noon and saying the Lord's Prayer. That way, the Abbey congregation will be united in worship even if, for a while, we are physically isolated from one another.

I have sent a letter to the congregation about the financial implications of having to close the Abbey, part of which I reproduce here:

'This is a confusing and worrying time for all of us with so many uncertainties. It is a time that presents us all with many challenges. I do believe that together, as the Abbey Family, we can overcome the considerable challenge that confronts us as the Abbey Church through the enforced cancellation of services and of all meetings and events in the Abbey due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

I write in respect of the considerable financial strain put on the Abbey by the current situation. Income has been dramatically reduced. No general offerings at services, no sales in the shop and no income from events and meetings. On one day alone, we lost more than £7000 worth of future bookings. Income has been cut but most of our expenditure continues. We value our staff and want to retain them. We still have insurance and M&M

payments to meet. The Treasurer estimates that we need a monthly income of around £20,000 to cover our core expenditure.

Some of you already give by Standing Order and, of course, that income will still come in and for it we are most grateful. To those who give in other ways either through FWO, the yellow Gift Aid envelopes or the 'open plate' may I make a plea? Could you do one of three things

- (1) take out a standing order (a standing order form is available from the Minister or the Treasurer),
- (2) pay your offering directly into one of the Abbey's bank accounts (details: account name - Abbey Church Paisley; Sort Code - 82-54-04; Account Number 30100012 and give your name as the reference),
- (3) post a cheque to The Treasurer, Paisley Abbey, Abbey Close, Paisley, PA1 1JG.

Given the extraordinary circumstances in which we find ourselves, both standing order donors and others might like to consider making an additional donation to the Abbey to help us weather this unexpected storm.'

PARISH REGISTER

Funeral

13 March Cath Burgess

Death

Date Unknown Dennis Eadie

Baptism

19 March Angus Murray Alan Caulfield

ABBEY AID

As a new fundraising initiative, it has been suggested that members of the congregation might like the opportunity to sell any new but unwanted items they might have. On the last Sunday of each month a table will be in the cloisters from which such items may be sold. The first sales will be of new, unused, ink cartridges. Please see Priscilla Routley if you have anything to offer

This will not take place until everything is back to normal but do keep it in mind.

FRIENDLY HOUR

In the light of the coronavirus situation the remaining meetings of the Friendly Hour have been, reluctantly, cancelled. Hopefully by the autumn the situation will have improved.

Look after yourselves and keep safe

20 PUZZLES FOR 2020 COMPETITION

For the first time, I think, since they began in 2014, both the winners of the most recent competition are members of the Abbey and indeed both are Elders of the Church. It is certainly the first time that that has happened – so congratulations to Cathy Craig and Fiona Small not only for being the winner and runner-up in the 20 Puzzles for 2010 Competition but for creating a “first”.

As ever, a warm thank you to everyone who bought a competition and commiserations to the very many who sent in all-correct answers but were not lucky enough to have their entry drawn on March 8th.

The answers were:

1. 29 Days in a Leap Year
2. 27 Books in the New Testament
3. 365 Days in a Year
4. 13 Loaves in a Baker’s Dozen
5. 5 Lines in a Limerick
6. 7 Pillars of Wisdom
7. 60 Minutes in an Hour
8. 23 Pairs of Chromosomes in the Human Body
9. 64 Squares on a Chess Board
10. 52 Weeks in a Year
11. 1000 Years in a Millennium
12. 15 Men on a Dead Man’s Chest
13. 57 Heinz Varieties
14. 7 Years in Tibet
15. 60 Seconds in a Minute
16. 7 Brides for & Brothers
17. 3 Blind Mice
18. 5 Fingers on a Hand
19. 12 in a Dozen
20. 3 Lines in a Haiku

S.G.C.

PILGRIMAGE TO IONA

Yes, by courtesy of Storm Dennis the Scottish spring weather **did** prevent us from walking the approximately 12 miles of the latest walk from Ardrishaig to Kilmartin on the 15th February 2020. That would be Dennis the Menace as it turned out to be particularly windy and exceedingly wet.

Similar weather was predicted for our rearranged date of Saturday 7th March but as there were chinks of ‘un-rainy’ patches forecast and in the light of what could happen if we decided not to i.e. our next choice of walking day being worse, it seemed worthy of a shot.

The minister of Ardrishaig Church, Rev. David Caruthers met the pilgrims very briefly, as he had a wedding to go to. He had kindly opened up the toilets in the Church Hall and the vestry. As our car was the last to leave Paisley Abbey, we arrived later than the coach. I was disappointed to have missed him as he was the only minister, we had been able to meet on this particular walk. Like everywhere else in Scotland there are more churches than ministers. Ministers here in Argyll are in charge of three and four churches.

After the pilgrimage prayer chosen by Alan, who was unfortunately, unable to walk with us, we set off towards the Crinan Canal.

In the early 19th century, Ardrishaig on Loch Fyne, was a fishing village of just four or five houses. After several delays the canal was opened in 1809 linking Loch Fyne to the Sound of Jura at Crinan. This was not the end of the many problems which had beset it however. Later in 1809 the bank near Lochgilphead collapsed requiring a directional change to avoid marshy land. Thomas Telford was called to assist in the design and building of locks and swing bridges on the canal. As a result, Ardrishaig had become an important port during the 19th century for passengers as well as freight traffic.

During a holiday in the Highlands in 1847 Queen Victoria travelled along the canal to Crinan. She was greeted at Ardrishaig from where her boat was towed by four horses two of which were ridden by **postilions** in royal **livery**. As a result of the monarch's visit Ardrishaig became very popular. Steamer Companies were now advertising the canal as the 'Royal Route'.



By the late 1850s, over 30,000 passengers were travelling along the canal each year. We walked six miles along the north bank, part of Cycle Route 78, towards the small village of Cairnbann. Its name is Scottish Gaelic, which means 'white hill' or 'white cairn'. On the hill above the village there are **Iron Age cup and ring marks**.

The Cairnbann Hotel was built in 1800 to cater for canal travellers. It was, once, a **temperance hotel** also. It featured in the television series of '**The Tales of Para Handy**', based on the novels of **Neil Munro**. It was here where we met our accompanying car driving friends. We took a break with our usual 'lithed' satsumas and pieces of flapjack and Margaret Morton's exceptional Jumblies so called because they are neither currant biscuits nor chocolate chip cookies, they are both. Yummy and always most welcome. Two miles further along the canal bank we were due to stop for lunch at Bellanoch. It is a pretty spot at the swing bridge which connects the B841 with the road B8025

which is also part of Cycle Route 78. The bridge crosses an ancient raised bog. Amazingly it still hadn't rained and there



was no hint of any wind despite the weather warnings! There were tables and benches here perfect for our packed lunches and time to take in the stunning landscape. Moine Mhor or Great Moss is home to plants and animals specially adapted to thrive in water-logged conditions. It is one of Europe's most threatened and fragile habitats. It has a rich diversity of wildlife including coastal birds, hen harriers, otters, roe and sika deer. As we resumed our walk after lunch. I was aware of how different this area was from anywhere else I had. To our right and in the distance, we could see the 175 foot rocky outcrop of Dunadd which was home to an Iron Age fort built some 2,000 years ago and was the centre of power of the Gaelic Kings from AD 500 to AD 900's. The original Scots were migrants from Ireland who from about AD 500 settled across **Argyll**. They founded the Kingdom of **Dalriada**.



Dunadd was the capital of the Kingdom and it was in this place that Kings were anointed.

By looking at the formation of the hills one could see other smaller forts. This was indeed a truly historically rich area. Unfortunately, Dunadd is only approachable by road which like all other roads in this area can be ‘pavementless’ and amazingly busy. There is a car park but getting there on foot would have proved to be somewhat out of our comfort zone. The B8025 was a long straight road of approximately 3.5 miles with bog on either side. The construction of the road we were walking must have been some feat of engineering when it was first built. Eventually we reached the end as we entered deciduous woodland with a small car park and a very modern standing ‘stone’ made of wood with a design which was a modern take on cup and saucer rings. Short walks in this woodland are catered for here. Our weary walkers were catered for too. Turning left and then right towards Kilmartin meant that we were

on the home stretch. From here on, our walk, and without needing to deviate from our route was rich attractions on both sides of the road as it began to reveal more areas of past Iron Age activity. First of all, we arrive at Temple Wood. It is thought that Temple Wood stone circle was in use a thousand years before Skara Brae on Orkney. Ritual activity here would have been performed since before 3000BC. It is believed that the northern circle was constructed to align with the mid-day sun on the winter solstice. The large circle dating from around 2500 BC was built in several phases. It is thought to have had 22 stones originally. If that was the case only thirteen survive today. Just at this point the wind blew more strongly and it began to rain heavily. Most of the group decided to continue walking, and who could blame them, on to Kilmartin leaving four of us to investigate one chambered cairn before reaching Kilmartin Primary School where the track is restricted walkers only. Two more Cairns were investigated. After leaving the path I noticed that the footbridge which we should have used on the recce led to a swampy and impassable field which was over grown. This would mean an extra 1.5 miles of walking on road back to Kilmartin. However, it was now clear, open and passable! Winding carefully up the hill the remnants of the advance group could be seen making their way along the path in the distance and then wending their weary way up the road in the pouring rain towards the church and museum cafe.

The final overall distance was 11.2miles. There is much to be seen in Kilmartin Glen. Next time when we set off from Kilmartin we shall hopefully be able to visit briefly, the Museum, Church and ancient grave yard.

Ah! But when will that be.....?

Please, do take care everyone!

Cathy Craig

What a wonderful evening was held at the Provost's Community Awards Ceremony at the Normandy Hotel on Friday 13 March. Many worthy recipients received awards but none more so than our own Cathy Craig who won the award for Arts and Culture for her marvellous work in the Abbey. The Award recognised her work as a guide particularly with groups of young people and her creation of many resources to enhance the visitor experience including the timeline of Abbey history and many temporary exhibitions such as those that marked each year of the First World War featuring local Paisley people who had fought in that conflict. We were all so proud of her. Here are some photographs from that happy evening.



Tae a virus

Twa months ago, we didna ken,
yer name or ocht about ye,
But lots of things have changed since then,
I really must salute ye
Yer spreading rate is quite intense,
yer feeding like a gannet
Disruption caused, is so immense,
ye've shaken oor wee planet.

Corona used tae be a beer,
they garnished it wae limes
But noo it's filled us awe wae fear
These days, are scary times.
Nae shakin hawns, or peckin lips,
it's whit they awe advise
But scrub them weel, richt tae the tips,
that's how we'll awe survive
Just stay inside, the hoose, ye bide
Nae sneakin oot for strolls
Just check the lavvy every hoor
And stock-take, your loo rolls

Our holidays have been pit aff
Noo that's the Jet2 patter
Pit oan yer thermals, have a laugh
And paddle 'doon the watter '
Canary isles, no for a while
Nae need for suntan cream
And awe because o this wee bug
We ken tae be...19

The boredom surely will set in,
But have a read, or doodle
Or plan yer menu for the month
Wi 95 pot noodles.

When these run oot, just look about
A change, it would be nice
We've beans and pasta by the ton
and twenty stane o rice.

So dinny think yell wipe us oot
Aye true, a few have died
Bubonic, bird flu, and TB
They came, they left, they tried
Ye might be gallus noo ma freen
As ye jump fae cup tae cup
But when we get oor vaccine
Yer number will be up.

(Anon via Facebook) Apologies to Burns)

THANK YOU

I felt very humbled and grateful for all the cards and gifts people gave to me on my recent "big" birthday.

Thank you also to all who came along to the bowling club to celebrate with me. It was lovely to see so many people.

Thank you

Gerry

Readings for April

5 April - Palm / Passion Sunday

Entry into Jerusalem

St. Matthew 21. 1-11

Passion

Isaiah 50. 4-9a

Philippians 2. 5-11

St. Matthew 26. 14 - 27. 66

6 April - Monday in Holy Week

Isaiah 42. 1-9

Psalms 36. 5-11

Hebrews 9. 11-15

St. John 12. 1-11

7 April - Tuesday in Holy Week

Isaiah 49. 1-7

Psalms 71. 1-14

1 Corinthians 1. 18-31

St. John 12. 20-36

8 April - Wednesday in Holy Week

Isaiah 50. 4-9a

Psalms 70

Hebrews 12. 1-3

St. John 13. 21-32

9 April - Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12. 1-14

Psalms 116. 1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11. 23-26

St. John 13. 1-17, 31b-35

10 April - Good Friday

Isaiah 52. 13 - 53. 12

Psalms 22

Hebrews 10. 16-25

St. John 18. 1-19, 42

11 April - Holy Saturday

Lamentations 3. 1-9, 19-24

Psalm 31. 1-4, 15-16

1 Peter 4. 1-8

St. Matthew 27. 57-66

12 April - Easter Day

Acts 10. 34-43

Psalm 118. 1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3. 1-4

St. John 20. 1-18

19 April - Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2. 14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1. 3-9

St. John 20. 19-31

26 April - Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2. 14a, 36-41

Psalm 116. 1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1. 17-23

St. Luke 24. 13-35

3 May - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2. 42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2. 19-25

St. John 10. 1-10

Set free, O God, your servants from all restlessness and anxiety.
Give us your peace and power, and so keep us,
that in all perplexity and distress, we may abide in you,
upheld by your strength and stayed on the rock of your
faithfulness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen