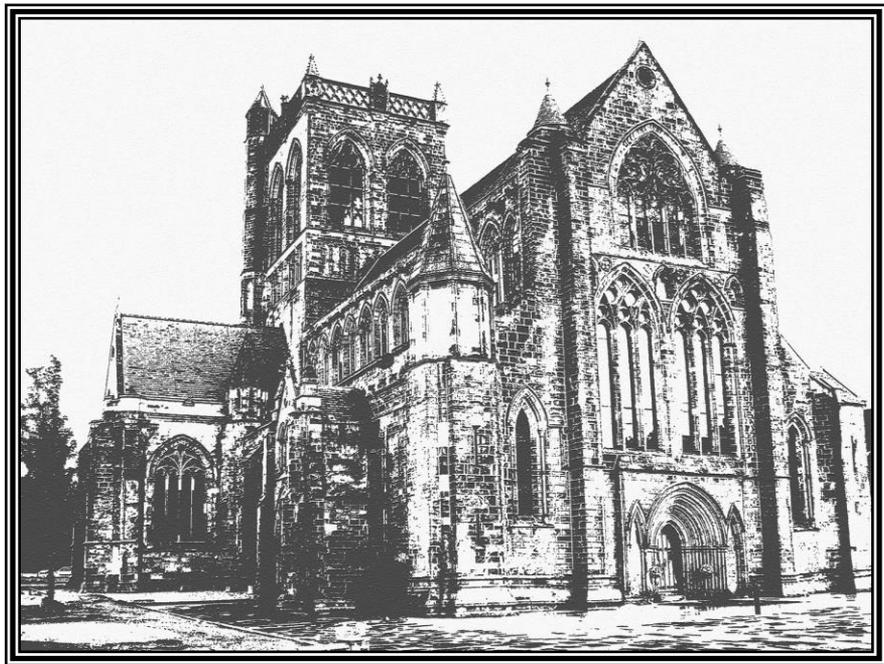


Paisley Abbey



Abbey Herald

September 2018

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Dear Friends,

Of the saints in whose names our abbey Church was first dedicated, St. Mirin is the 'local' one. All we know about him comes from the Aberdeen Breviary published in Edinburgh in 1510, the most important collection of information we have about Scottish saints' lives as well as having the distinction of being Scotland's first full-scale printed book. There are 6 readings relating episodes from our patron saint's life and the 6th reading ends with these words: 'At length, full of miracles and holiness, he fell asleep in the Lord at Paisley: and that church is dedicated to God in his honour.' That is the only mention of Paisley! Prior to that, the stories about him relate to his time in Bangor in Ireland. So we know next to nothing about his life and work in Paisley - and yet ... Mirin probably came to Paisley around the end of the 6th beginning of the 7th century. The Abbey was not founded until 1163 but when the monks came to dedicate their new church they chose Mary, the mother of our Lord, James the Apostle, the patron saint of the Stewards, Milburga, the patron saint of Wenlock from where the monks came and Mirin. So whatever he did, his memory had been held dear by the people of this community for some 600 years, so dear that the monks from Wenlock decided to include him among the Abbey's patron saints. At or near the site of the present-day Abbey, Mirin will have prayed, read the Scriptures, sung psalms and hymns and partaken of Holy Communion - as we still do. In the community around the banks of the Cart, he made known the limitless, extravagant, non-judgmental love of God as we are still called to do. Worship and witness are ever the marks of the follower of Christ, the marks of our patron saint Mirin and, we pray, our marks as we strive to follow in his footsteps and the footsteps of all who have gone before us in the Abbey Church.

Revd Alan D. Birss
Minister at Paisley Abbey

ELDERS ON DUTY

SEPTEMBER 2018

Michael McGill's Team

OCTOBER 2018

Jim MacGregor's Team

For this month only articles for inclusion in October 2018 issue of the Abbey Herald should be handed in or e-mailed to the Abbey Office on info@paisleyabbey.org.uk **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT NO LATER THAN TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 9 September Concert at 4pm by Søborg
Motetkor from Denmark
Tickets £5

Saturday 15 September Lunchtime Recital at 12.30pm
Laurie Gargan (trumpet)
George McPhee (Organ)
Admission £5 payable at the door

Wednesday 10 October Whist Drive – Details to follow

FOODBANK

The next FoodBank collection will be on Sunday 30 September.
Thanks to all who donate.

M Sharp

MINISTRIES AND MISSION CONTRIBUTION 2018

A letter of thanks for the Abbey's support of the worship, mission and service of the Church was received in June from the Church of Scotland Stewardship and Finance Department with the following information for the congregation.

Paisley Abbey total contribution to Ministries and Mission for 2018: £106,808

1. £89,185 (89.5%) of this total will go towards **Ministries** to provide over 750 parish ministers and other parish workers in communities throughout Scotland and further afield. This contribution also assists with the costs of recruitment and training.

The 2018 cost of a parish minister at the top of the stipend scheme is **£42,362** (stipend plus employer's national insurance and pension contributions). The Abbey's contribution not only meets the cost of our own minister but also supports other congregations.

2. £17,623 (16.5%) of the total is used for **Mission** to support the Church's work in resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach; providing social care services in Christ's name to further the caring work of the Church to people in need; accompanying partners around the world in our shared journey; contributing the Church's opinion in public debate and on issues affecting Scotland and the World; providing central day-to-day service work in administrative, financial and legal matters; and in planning the General Assembly and ensuring the Moderator represents the Church.

Thus the Abbey's contribution ensures that a very diverse ministry is maintained and that the Gospel of Christ is shared in many ways and in many places.

LENT APPEAL 2018

You are probably thinking that it is quite a time since this year's Lent Appeal and you'd be right as it ran from 14 February to Easter Sunday, 1 April

This year's total exceeded my expectations in raising £8,741.93 and once you add in the tax reclaimed from the Government – they don't often give money back - the overall total came to £10,733.25.

This was a fantastic effort from members of the congregation and underlines the love that they have for the Abbey and all the work that is put in by the army of volunteers.

The Session had decided that the money would be put against the 'building fund' unless the person giving the money wanted it to go elsewhere and this resulted in roughly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total going to the 'building fund'.

Thank you for all your donations no matter how small as they all count towards the cost of keeping the Abbey open seven days each week.

Stewart McDougall
Treasurer

THE FRIENDLY HOUR

The first meeting of this session will take place on Thursday 27th September in the White Room in The Place of Paisley at 2pm.

Our speaker will be Reverend Alan Birss who will talk about the various events which he has taken place in the Abbey during the past year.

Please come along and join us.

Cath McCord

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.' The photograph shows one of the Shoebox Appeal boxes being received and surely that photograph itself says far more about the worthwhile nature of this project than any amount of words. Do please support this appeal. **Filled shoeboxes should be brought to the Abbey by Sunday 4 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 a box, 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 REGISTER –JUNE TO AUGUST 2018

New Members

May 2018 John Craft

May 2018 Ruby Cormack

Baptism

8 July Isla Paterson Nash

Wedding

2 June Andrea Devries & Scott McKenzie

8 June Margaret Ann Barr & Ramy Aly

16 June Zoe Rogers & Darren Cosh

14 July Nicole Dickson & Martin Hamilton

18 August Rosemary Delargy & Edward Grady

25 August Gillian Doole & Stewart Peacock

Funeral

29 May Evelyn Horsburgh

26 June Elizabeth McKechnie

3 July Ian Fairfull

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE ROYAL STEWARTS

Wemyss Bay to Rothesay Isle of Bute

We had hoped for a pleasant day for our visit to the Isle of Bute and the forecast was, indeed, promising.

As we assembled at Paisley Gilmour Street station one could almost hear the ‘kerching’ of coins in Scot Rail cash boxes and imagine the friction burns on the miserly rubbed palms of the executive members and owners of the train line from Paisley to Wemyss Bay, for we were numerous. Little did they realise that most of us had rail and bus passes.

On Saturday 23rd June 2018 we were to complete the Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of the Royal Stewart which began back in 2016 when we celebrated the 700th birthday of the first Royal Stewart Robert II son of Walter Stewart the Sixth Steward of Scotland and Marjory Bruce. Over the last two years we have walked from Paisley to Neilston where Walter Fitz Alan the first Steward had given lands to his friend Robert de Croc who assigned the patronage of Neilston to the monks of Paisley Abbey. Our second walk took us to Dunlop and the third to Kilmaurs and fourth section finished at Dundonald Castle.

The castle was built by Robert II on the foundations of a wooden structure possibly built by Walter Fitz Alan the first Steward. It was here that the Robert II preferred to live and where he died in 1390. The first Stewart King is buried at Scone Palace.

Our walk on Bute was equally valid. As we stepped off the ferry the group which had gathered at Gilmour Street was enhanced further by those who had taken their cars on board the ferry. “It is a large number of folk to keep together,” warned the teacher voice in my head.

I needed to count them all.

Having done so twice and come up with two different results I decided that I needed help so announced that everyone would be

given a number and I would ask them to shout out theirs in numerical order. “Ok everyone here we go!” “1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8.....silence “Yes -8.....next 9! Who is number 9.....?” “I’m number 11” Carol Birss called out. “Good who is number 9?”

“I can’t remember my number” admitted Alan Birss. This comment was greeted with a murmured, hubbub of “Neither can I” “What number?”etc.....

Such a melee from likeminded, bewildered persons proved my task to be impossible.

They were homogenised into a group taking a break from responsibility and looking forward to a lovely walk. All that was needed was the ability to follow the person in front! Someone helpfully suggested that she would be number 9. “It doesn’t work like that!”

“Line them up in twos against the wall then count them,” two helpful retired school teachers recommended. By this time I had actually lost the will to persevere further or find any possible means of getting an accurate result. We made our way to Rothesay castle. We were expected and met by a representative of Historic Environment Scotland.

She was equally pleased to see us despite the fact that a good number were members and the rest, apart from a handful, were of concessionary age.

The Castle has a long history going back to the thirteenth Century. It was built either by Alan Fitz Walter the 2nd Steward (son of Walter Fitz Alan B1140 - High Steward 1177- 1204) or Walter Stewart the 3rd Steward (B1198 –D1246). Originally the castle was a wooden circular structure. It is known however that the circular curtain stone wall was in place by 1230s when according to the ‘Hákonar saga Hákonarsonar’, the King of the Isles, Óspakr-Hákon, attacked the castle.

At the turn of the century, further building created modern accommodation for The saga, which describes the attack, is the earliest available account of such an event on any Scottish Castle. According to the saga the castle was captured after three days of fighting and hewing at the stone walls with swords. During the Wars of Scottish Independence, the castle was again held by the English. However in 1311 it was taken by Robert the Bruce only to be returned to English hands in 1334 but then retaken by the Scots.

In 1371 with the accession of the Stewarts to the throne of Scotland the castle became a favourite residence of Robert II and Robert III who subsequently died there, in 1406. Robert II granted the hereditary protection of the castle to his son John who became the ancestor of the Earls and Marquises of Bute.

Robert III made his oldest son David, Duke of Rothesay, in 1401. Thus began the tradition of honouring the heir to the throne of Scotland with the title which is still upheld to this day HRH Prince Charles is the current Duke of Rothesay Yet again Rothesay Castle was strengthened in the early 16th century at which point in time a small chapel was built. A gatehouse keep was constructed, extending from the north of the curtain wall.

James IV.

Today the castle is in no fit state of battle worthiness. Well – not by human intervention anyway.

We were visiting the castle in late spring. The elaborate doocot and most of the available crevices in the ruined walls had become nesting sites for what seemed to be the entire population of Scottish herring gulls. Marauding crows were given short shrift from the nesting birds. They were mobbed and one was actually killed. I did not see the event but the resultant debris was picked up in a polythene bag and dispensed with as we left. Fascinating as it was to get close to the nesting birds they weren't too enthused by our presence either. Some were sitting on golf balls, not to encourage laying but to prevent too many chicks being hatched. Their eggs had been taken away and were replaced with rogue pottery ones.



The castle, although a ruin, is very picturesque outwardly and surprisingly complete in other aspects inside. We met in the chapel for a prayer before continuing on our way to St Mary's Chapel.

En route a few people told me of their changes of plan and intentions for the rest of the time they were on the island.

Basically it meant that everyone was going to walk to, close by, St Mary's Church but some would not be following on the rest of the walk. Proceeding up Townhead High Street we shortly arrived at the United Church of Bute.

We were met by Rev J Owain Jones and Session Clerk James McMillan. Both greeted and addressed us but it was James McMillan who told us of the church's history.

The United Church of Bute was formed in 1999 after a union of

five congregations of the Church of Scotland parish. We were then shown the new addition to the church which was accessed by stairs. From this useful large and bright space we were able to look out over Rothesay's lovely views from what had become known, affectionately, as the Crow's Nest. It was here that we were able to eat our packed lunches. The main event for us was the interior of the original church now known as St Mary's Chapel. Despite its title as a chapel it is highly likely that in its early history it was acting as a cathedral church.

It is first mentioned as a burial place in 1321 of Bishop Alan of Sandor, the Isle of Man and the Hebrides. His successor is also buried here.

The remains of the Chancel have been recently roofed by Historic Environment Scotland. This was a necessity, long overdue in my view, for the real treasures relevant to the Stewards and Paisley Abbey are unique and significant. Most of what survives is possibly of the 16th century church but there is also evidence of 14th century architecture too.

The tomb effigies were impressive.

There were two canopied recesses in the walls. On the knight's tomb is a coat of arms which connects him with the Royal House of Stewart. Despite the fact we know that the first Stewart king, is buried at Scone could this have been built by Robert II for himself or maybe even an ancestor?

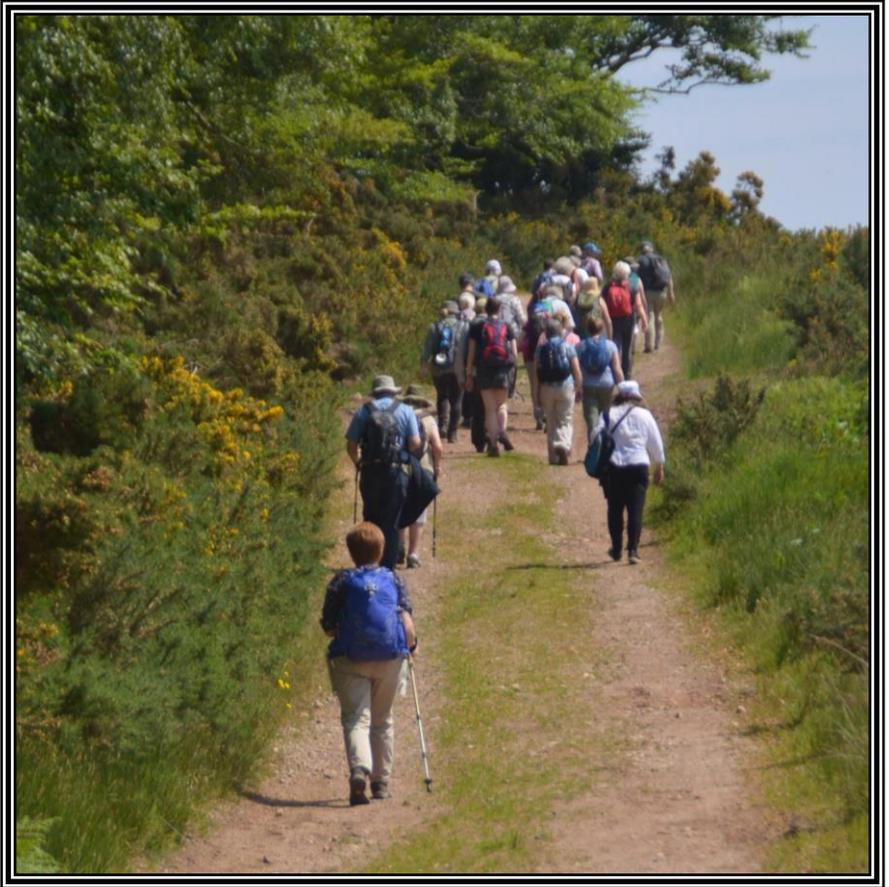
In the opposite recess lies a lady wearing a flowing gown and a prayer necklace. Beside her, quite movingly, lies a baby in a long flowing robe. Being so close to the altar is it possible that these were the final resting places of the patron of the church and his lady?

All too soon we need to move on if we're to get to Mount Stuart on time for a tour.

Quite recently a new footpath has been opened up on the island. It is called the 'West Island Way (Yes! I know!) It runs the entire length of the island. Our intention was to go off road and walk part of this route as far as Mount Stuart.

The weather was glorious as were the views as we climbed around the contours of Lochly Hill towards Loch Ascog. We continued to climb towards an area called Cnocnicoll Wood. At the top we needed to leave the West Island Way and walk towards Mount Stuart.

A certain amount of tree felling had been going on making the resultant, seriously undulating ground quite dangerous to walk on. There was a distinct possibility of damage to ones ankles. Under wetter conditions it would have been an absolute up and over the ankles quagmire.



Everyone managed to avoid injury and two of our number celebrated by swinging from a tree on a woodland rope swing. Eventually the ground became more like the usual woodland, fir

and pine needle carpet walk one would expect. We reached Mount Stuart after passing through beautifully, sun sifted, dappled woodland.

The staff members were amazing. They had worked out exactly the length of time required for two groups to see the major attractions of the interior of this unusual 19th Century Gothic Revival house.



Everything worked out perfectly and according to plan. Many thanks to the staff of Rothesay Castle, Rev. J Owain Jones, James McMillan, the staff of Mount Stuart and the shuttle bus driver who managed put in an extra run in order to catch the service bus from Mount Stuart to the ferry.

So....

What next? Hmmm

SCOUT NOTES

During the summer several young people and leaders took part in international camps including the Blair Atholl Jamborette at which around 1700 Scouts and adults took part. Scottish Scouts representing every District and Region in the country were paired with counterparts from as far afield as Japan, Ecuador and Canada. Also taking part were youngsters from many countries including Iceland, Hong Kong and the USA. It was a great experience for our young people and leaders.

Also over the summer, Abbey young people and leaders took part in the “return camp” following last year’s Paisley and District summer camp to Poland. Again a great time was had much enhanced by the glorious summer weather.

All sections have now resumed and recruiting new members.

Girls and boys aged 6 to 8 are welcome to join the Beavers who meet on a Friday evening in the Lawn Street Halls from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

Cubs (girls and boys aged 8 to 10.5) and Scouts (girls and boys 10.5 to 14) meet on a Friday from 7.30pm to 9.30pm also in the halls.

Older people aged 14-18 can join the Paisley North Explorer Scout Unit which also meets in the halls on a Wednesday from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

All sections combine scout training with games and outdoor activities and adventure and offer many exciting and memorable opportunities to children and young people.

TALK IT OVER GROUP

The group resumes on Tuesday 4 September in the Place of Paisley at 10.30am. We are still looking for Crèche volunteers. Only one Tuesday a month would be a big help. So please give it some thought. Thank you



TALK IT OVER

GROUP AND CRECHE

Feeling low or anxious since having a baby?
A bit overwhelmed being a new Mum?
Come and chat with us - you are not alone

We are here for mums who are struggling with post natal depression, anxiety or just needing to chat. You can find us on Facebook or contact us direct by email or phone before you come along.

We are a free service, offering peer support, opportunity to meet other mums and crèche for children from birth to 5 years of age.

- Access to further counselling services if required
- Group meets throughout school term times.
- Information leaflet available.

 talkitoverpaisley@gmail.com

 Talk It Over Paisley

 07969 351318 - Joanne
07919 130751 - Janette

We meet Tuesdays
10.30am - 12.00 noon
Talk It Over Group Room
Paisley Abbey
Abbey Close
Paisley PA1 1JG

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone who supported the Coffee Morning in June in aid of the Transplant Games. A total of £330 was raised.

There are Pre and Post Liver Transplant Support Groups in Renfrewshire and Edinburgh. The main aim of the groups is to raise awareness of Organ Donation and the positive results of Organ Transplantation in Sporting Events by our team members.

Their participation in Sporting and social events throughout the UK and beyond, most notably the annual British Transplant Games and internationally the European and World Transplant Games

By demonstrating the remarkable physical achievements of people whose lives have been saved or transformed by organ transplantation, we hope to raise the number of people registered on the NHS Organ Donation Register both in Scotland and the UK, and therefore increase the chances of people on the Transplant list of receiving lifesaving surgery. Currently 3 people die each day whilst waiting for a transplant.

Following each Transplant Games there has been a significant increase in the numbers registering on the organ donation register. A similar outcome also exists worldwide after the completion of both the European and World Transplant Games in the respective countries. By competing in these events representing Edinburgh, Scotland and ultimately Great Britain we are contributing immensely to raising the awareness of Organ Donation with the general public.

Your £330 contribution will be well used supporting the Transplant Games.

Janette Lynch

SERVICES SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday 2 September – *The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity*

11 am Holy Communion

Readings: Deuteronomy 4. 1-2; 6-9
St. Mark 7. 1-8; 14-15; 21-23
Music: Communion setting - Missa iste
confessor *Palestrina*
Holy is the true light *Harris*

Sunday 9 September – *The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity*

11 am Morning Service

Readings: Isaiah 35. 4-7
James 2. 1-5
St. Mark 7. 24-37
Music: Benedictus *Ireland in F*
God be in my head *Rutter*

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

NO EVENSONG AT 4pm

Instead there will be concert given by Søborg Motetkor from Denmark.

Sunday 16 September – *The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity*

11 am Morning Service for St. Mirin's Tide
with Battle of Britain Commemoration

Readings: Isaiah 50. 5-9
James 3. 1-12
St. Mark 8. 27-35
Music: Jubilate Deo *Lassus*
Justorum animae *Stanford*

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

Sunday 23 September – *The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity*

11 am Morning Service

Readings: Jeremiah 11. 18-20
James 3. 16 – 4. 3
St. Mark 9. 30-37

Music: Beati quorum via *Stanford*

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

Sunday 30 September – *The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity*

11 am Morning Service

Readings: Numbers 11. 24-29
James 5. 13-20
St. Mark 9. 38-50

Music: Benedicta es - *McPhee*
Factum est silentium *Dering*

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

4 pm Evening Service for St. Michael and All Angels

Readings: Revelation 12. 7-12
St. John 1. 47-51

Sunday 7 October – *The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity*

11 am Holy Communion

Readings: Genesis 2. 18-24
St. Mark 10. 2-16

Music: Communion setting – Mass for 4 parts - *Byrd*
Laudate nomen Domini – *Tye*