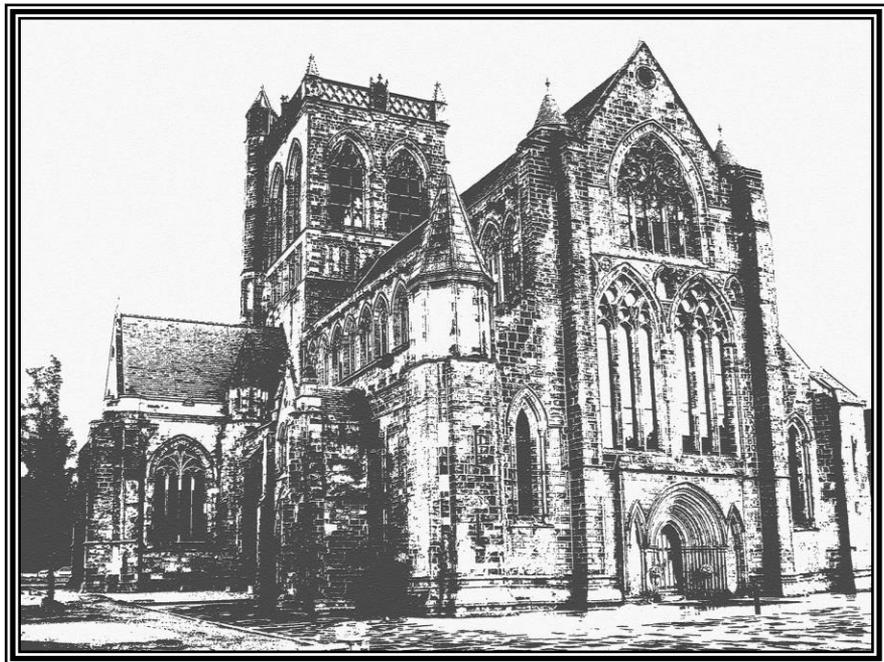


Paisley Abbey



Abbey Herald

January 2018

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Dear Friends,

We were all so disappointed on the evening of 7 December when the City of Culture 2021 was announced - and that it was not to be Paisley. The bid process has done great things for the town and for the Abbey creating a real buzz about the place and I think we all need to do what we can to ensure that, in some way or other, the journey continues and the sense of pride in our town that has been palpable these past months continues and bears fruit in a confident, forward-looking, inclusive community rejoicing in its rich diversity.

How do we, as the Abbey, build on our long tradition of being a place of welcome to visitors and the community around us? Part of the answer to that is by providing a welcoming, easily accessible 'way in' for all and in that regard, by the time this magazine appears, we should be in the process of renewing the screen and door at the cloister entrance, providing us with an automatic sliding door that will be much easier for wheelchair users and others to use. Another important part of the answer is through our marvellous team of volunteers who, day by day and week by week, welcome all who come into the Abbey for whatever reason. It matters not if someone comes in to the Abbey to decorate a pumpkin at Hallowe'en or attend a meeting of AA, to listen to classical music or be part of a rock music gig, to admire the architecture, marvel at the history, enjoy a cup of tea, pray quietly or to share in Sunday worship. What matters is that they have come in, what matters is that they are welcomed in Christ's name, what matters is that they go from the Abbey knowing that they have been made welcome: having experienced, we trust, something of the unlimited, unconditional love of God for them and for all people.

May God bless each one of you in this New Year

Alan D Birss
Minister at Paisley Abbey

ELDERS ON DUTY

JANUARY 2018

Michael McGill's Team

FEBRUARY 2018

Jim MacGregor's Team

Articles for inclusion in February 2018 issue of the Abbey Herald, should be handed into the office or e-mailed to cathycraig73@aol.com or robincraig73@aol.com **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT NO LATER THAN 12.30 PM ON SUNDAY 21st JANUARY**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Saturday 20 January | Coffee Morning from 10.00am followed by a Recital with Jillian Christie (Soprano) with Catherine Herriot (Piano) in celebration of Robert Burns at 12.30pm.
Tickets £5 payable at the door |
| Sunday 28 January | Come and Sing Messiah 6.30pm

January Foodbank Collection date |
| Wednesday 31 January | Monte Carlo Rally leaves from Paisley. Carol will be looking for volunteers for this event |

PAISLEY ABBEY FINANCES AND GIFT AID

January is often the month when people review their financial statements and obligations. Many members of the Abbey congregation donate to the church by direct debit or standing order mostly each month, but sometimes quarterly or yearly. This has great benefits for the Abbey's cash flow, but one downside is that these regular contributions can remain at the same amount for many years yet the church's expenditure continues to rise.

It is a simple exercise to alter the amount especially if online banking is used, and it would greatly assist the Abbey's financial situation if members could increase their donations.

Other members of the congregation prefer to donate via the Free Will Offering Envelopes giving what they can, when they can, but sometimes the same amount for several years. The Abbey would be very grateful if those who contribute this way would also consider increasing the amount they give.'

Everyone who pays United Kingdom Income Tax can, at no cost to themselves, Gift Aid their donations and thereby can increase the donation by 25%. Gift Aid is applicable to the various methods of giving: single donations; Freewill Offering Envelopes; the Yellow Gift Aid Envelopes or by Direct Debit/ Standing Order monthly; quarterly or annually.

Please contact me if you require more information; would like a Gift Aid Declaration Form; if you no longer pay Income Tax or will not do so when the Personal Allowance rises to £11,850 from April 2018.

Deryk Docherty
Gift Aid Convener

**Come and Sing HANDEL'S MESSIAH
with orchestra
In Paisley Abbey on Sunday 28 January**

Directed by Dr. George McPhee

Rehearsal 2.30 with entry from 2.00

Performance 6.30

Ticket prices

School pupils and Students £5

Adult singers £20

Audience £5

All adult performers will receive one free audience ticket on arrival

All singer applications are welcomed, but places are allocated on a first come, first served basis, enabling the conductor to achieve as balanced a choir as possible.

On this occasion scores will not be provided.

You are welcome to make copies of this registration form for friends. Only applications returned with payment will ensure a place is reserved.

Cheques to be made payable to **Paisley Abbey Music Society**
Forms and payment to be returned to Miss P Routley, Paisley Abbey Choir, c/o Paisley Abbey, Abbey Close, Paisley PA1 1JG

Email enquiries to proutley@talktalk.net

NETHERBY HALL CAROL CONCERT

On a cold but sunny Saturday the Choir, Choristers, Instrumentalists and choir supporters left the Abbey bound for Netherby Hall in Cumbria. At the invitation of Margo and Gerald Smith, who are the current owners of Netherby Hall, the choir were going to be performing at their Carol Concert. Despite all the weather warnings the drive to Cumbria was very pleasant with little evidence of the snow that had been forecast.

On arrival the Choir were straight into rehearsals with the accompanying orchestra. Some of the supporters took the opportunity to have a lovely winter walk around the grounds and



the walled garden.

Later, in the beautifully decorated Oak Hall, we were treated to a wonderful concert by the choir and orchestra with many favourite carols and Advent music being sung and played.

The audience enthusiastically joined in some well know carols such as “Once in Royal David’s City”, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”, “Still the Night”. At the interval mulled wine and mince pies were available for the audience. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.



SENIOR MEMBERS CHRISTMAS OUTING TO DOBBIES

On Tuesday 5 December 36 senior members of the congregation and their drivers were entertained to afternoon tea at Dobbie's Garden Centre preceded by some retail therapy. From all reports everyone enjoyed the afternoon.



TRANSPORT CONVENOR

I wish to express fully my appreciation of the unstinting and totally reliable backing I have been given by my small band of Volunteer Drivers and Assistants who contribute so massively to our Seniors enjoyment of their outing to Dobbie's Garden Centre. The arrangements went flawlessly thanks to your inspiring, cheerful and constant support, and it was a satisfying swansong for me since because of my health restrictions I am clearly no longer fit to fill the role of Transport Convenor for our Abbey. I would not have made it through Tuesday without the greatly appreciated help of Ian Kyle. It is my intention to join the loyal team of volunteer drivers and hopefully I will have the privilege to serve in that capacity for a few more years and transport my older and dear friend Ina who might well outlive me by the look of things!

Dr. Bobby Brown



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Once again this year, we have been privileged to have in our worship throughout Advent and Christmas liturgical music of the highest standard: choral and organ music that has truly enriched our worship and created for us in the Abbey what the Celtic tradition of our church would call a thin place between earth and heaven. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our Director of Music, Assistant Organist, Choral Scholars, voluntary singers and choristers. Your talent and your commitment are both much appreciated.

Alan D. Birss

SCOUT NOTES

The **Cubs** and **Scouts** braved wintry conditions at Lapwing Lodge at the beginning of December for an overnight 'Hobbit Hut' camp



Great fun was had by all with the scouts also putting into practice some of the practical scouting skills they had been learning at the halls.

The **Scouts** marked the end of term with an outing to Soar Into Braehead where they went ten-pin bowling, had something to eat and ended the evening with a session of Lazer Quest.

The **Explorers** invited the Leaders of all sections to join them at Trattoria Genova on Glasgow Road for their Christmas dinner. An excellent evening was had with a 'secret Santa' adding to the fun and enjoyment.

Finally, to round off the term, the **Beavers** and **Cubs** enjoyed an end-of-term film night in the halls.

BURST HEATING PIPE

Last month, we were faced with a burst in one of the heating pipes in the choir area as the weather turned considerably colder and as we were entering one of the busiest times in the Abbey's calendar! Having found the burst pipe, itself no easy task, it was discovered that the pipe was encased in asbestos! Thanks to the efforts of our contractors, we were able to obtain a licence to have the asbestos removed, then safely remove the asbestos and repair the broken pipe, all within a relatively short space of time. Needless to say such work is not inexpensive and although at the time of writing this article the exact cost is not known, it is estimated that it will be around £8,000. By its nature such expenditure is not budgeted for - but nonetheless has to be met. It would be great if this unexpected expenditure could be covered by special donations so that it does not impact on our ability to fund our core activities of witness and worship. Already some donations have come in and if you feel this is something you could help with, then please hand in your donation clearly marked 'Burst pipe repair'.

Alan D. Birss

SCOTS BINGO NICHT

Thanks to everyone who came along to support this new and different venture – a Scot's Bingo Nicht – which was Bingo with a difference. Each game had a Scottish theme. Everyone seemed to enjoy it as there was a lot of laughter and people shouting "Hoose" instead of "Bingo".

Stewart and Cathy entertained us with a poem "A Dug, A Dug"

Thanks to your generous support over £350 was raised for Abbey Funds

A NEW YEAR WITH THE LORD

A new year is about to unfold
With new opportunities to explore
Doors will open for new experiences,
New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things,
The things of this past year,
The Lord will do new things in us,
Much more than we are aware

For He will make a way for us
As we put our trust in Him
And He will guide our every step
By His presence we have within

What God has placed within our hearts
We find we'll be able to do
If we look for the opportunities,
We'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back
But rise up and take our place
And be all that God wants us to be
With a fresh touch of His grace

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CHRISTIAN AID

The retiring collection at the Advent Carol Service realised £170
for Christian Aid.

Thank you

M. Sharp

SERVICES: 7 JANUARY TO 4 FEBRUARY 2018

Sunday 7 January – Epiphany

11am Holy Communion

Readings: Isaiah 60. 1-6
Ephesians 3. 1-12
St. Matthew 2. 1-12

Music: St. Anne's Mass

MacMillan

(setting for congregational singing)

Personnel hodie *Piae Cantiones arr. Holst*

Sunday 14 January – Second Sunday after the Epiphany

11am Morning Service

Readings: 1 Samuel 3. 1-10
1 Corinthians 6. 12-20
St John 1. 43-51

Music Jubilate Deo
The Lamb

*Britten in C
Taverner*

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

**Sunday 21 January – Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday within the Week of Prayer for
Christian Unity**

11am Holy Communion

Readings: Jonah 3. 1-5, 10
St. Mark 1. 14-20

Music: Mass for Four Voices
O taste and see

*Byrd
Vaughan Williams*

**4pm Ecumenical Service marking the Week of Prayer
for Christian Unity**

Sunday 28 January – *Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*

11am Epiphany Carol Service

Readings: St. Matthew 2. 1-11

The Epiphany - Godfrey Rust

Isaiah 60 1-6

Journey of the Magi - T S Eliot

Colossians 1 11-20

Music: Here is the little door *Howells*

Almighty God, who by the leading of a
star *Bull*

Quem pastores *14th C German, arr. Rutter*

Magnificat *Stanford in Bb*

The Three Kings *Cornelius*

Bethlehem Down *Warlock*

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

6.30 pm “Come and Sing Messiah” performance

Sunday 4 February – *Candlemas*

11am Holy Communion

Readings: 1 Samuel 2. 1-11

St. Luke 2. 22-40

Music St. Anne’s Mass *MacMillan*

(setting for congregational singing)

Senex puerum portabat *Byrd*

Nunc Dimittis