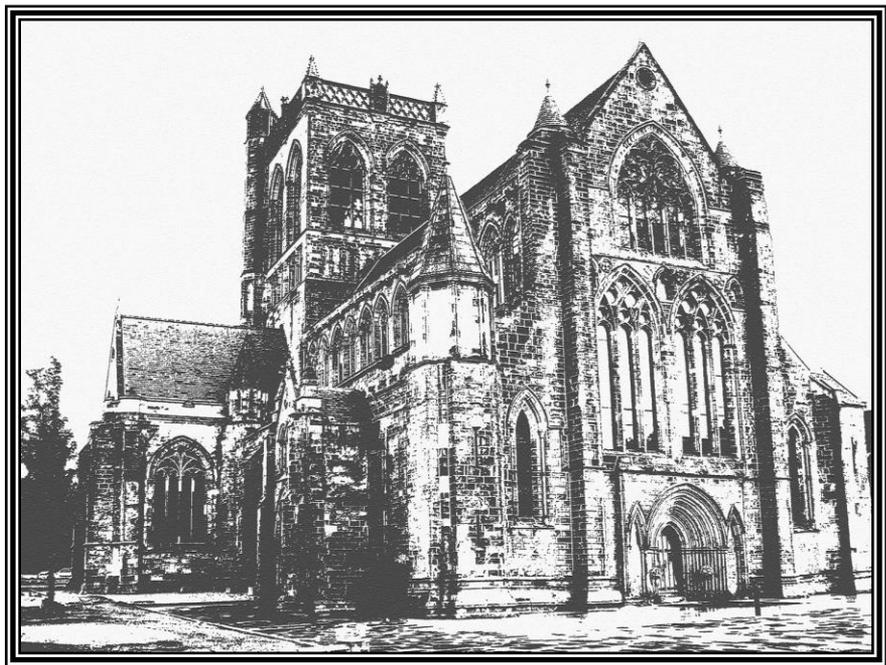


Paisley Abbey



Abbey Herald

November 2018

November 2018

Dear Friends,

At 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, along with so many others throughout the UK, we shall remember, with two minutes silence, the sacrifice of those who died for our country in the First and Second World wars and subsequent conflicts. This year marks the centenary of the end of the First World War and it is particularly poignant that the anniversary falls on a Sunday.

Four years ago, at the centenary of the start of the First World War, we 'planted' crosses in the cloister garden in memory of the men of the Abbey congregation who gave their lives for our country in the First World War. This year we are going to do this again and crosses are available for a small donation on which the name of one of those men can be written or on which you can write the name of someone related or known to you who died in that conflict. The crosses will be placed around the war memorial on Sunday 4 November and during the following week the names of those remembered will be 'broadcast' in the cloisters during our normal opening hours. I have no doubt that, as it was four years ago, this will be a very moving reminder to us all of the sacrifice made by so many during the Great War.

The hymn 'I vow to thee my country' reminds us in the first verse of the self-sacrifice that love of our country sometimes requires. Then the second verse reminds us that as Christians we also love 'another country', God's kingdom. Acknowledging that sometimes there is no alternative but to go to war to defend freedom and to protect the weak, the Christian also works towards the realisation of that 'other' kingdom whose 'ways are ways of gentleness' and whose 'paths are peace.'

"I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:
the love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,

the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

Cecil Arthur Spring-Rice (1859-1918)

13 13 13 13 13 13

Copied from Hymn Quest: Copyright Licence Users' Edition

HymnQuest ID: 55184

May God bless each one of you.

Alan

Alan D Birss
Minister at Paisley Abbey



REMEMBER – A PRAYER

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old

Most Holy God and father of all mankind, hear our prayers for all those who strive for peace and all who yearn for justice. Help us, who today remember the cost of war, to work for a better tomorrow, and as we commend to you lives lost in conflict past and present, bring us all in the end to the place of eternal rest and peace through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

Age shall not weary them, not the years condemn

Holy God the protector of all who trust in you, grant to the Armed Forces of the Crown, and all who seek to do your will, courage, loyalty, discipline, integrity, selfless commitment and respect for others, so that the assurance of your presence, the knowledge of your love and the guidance and gift of the Holy Spirit be enduring. Bring healing and wholeness to people and nation so that mercy may rule and your kingdom come.

Amen

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

All powerful and ever living God we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence. Grant that we, being faithful in death, may receive with them the crowns of life that never fades throughout our land. Make us mindful at the day's end and in the morning of the love of God. May the touch of his hand and the guiding of his Holy Spirit make us ever thankful.

Amen

We will remember them

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life, hear our prayers and thanksgiving for all whom we Remember this day: fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all with them to your eternal joy in rest and in peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

By a Padre

This article first appeared in the November 2018 edition of Life and Work

PARISH REGISTER

Funeral

17 October Jean Neilson
17 October David Shearer

Baptism

7 October Florence McLeish
28 October Zac Andrew McLachlan

PRESBYTERY PRAYTIME

As Christians, let us brighten the darkening days of approaching winter by reflecting and conveying God's love.

Eternal God, we thank you for the spark of love which you ignited to brighten our dark world and heal our ailing lives. Inspire us, your disciples, to be mirrors that reflect your love in this world.

Shield us from arrogance, spite, bewilderment and hesitation.

So let us go forward galvanised by the power of your love.

Amen.

(From Douglas Scott, presbytery prayer coordinator)



Paisley Abbey Shop

Christmas Shopping Discount Weekend

Saturday 10 November

10am - 3.30pm

(There will also be a coffee morning)

Sunday 11 November

before and after 11am service

approx.10am - 10.55am

12.10pm - 1pm



ST MILBURGA OF MUCH WENLOCK, SHROPSHIRE

In the September Abbey Herald the Mr. Birss recalled some history of St Mirin, one of the Abbeys four patron Saints. Now I am going to tell you about St Milburga, as I spent 32 years living in Shropshire and she was my local Saint

You may recall that a small band of monks came from Much Wenlock Abbey at the invitation of Walter FitzAlan High Steward of Scotland to assist in the setting up of a religious community here in Paisley. Their own monastery in Shropshire had been built after the Norman conquest by Cluniac monks, a reformed Benedictine Order set up in 910 in Eastern France and was built on the site and reputation of Milburga's nunnery which had been destroyed by invading Danes some time two hundred years before .So these pioneering monks probably wished to recall their old patron saint in their praise and prayers in Paisley.

Fortunately St Milburga is well documented as she was the eldest daughter of Merewold, one of the kings of Mercia. He was probably a son of Penda the ferocious pagan king of Mercia. Merewold ruled the western –south kingdom of Magonsaete which more or less corresponds to the present day counties of Herefordshire and Shropshire. He married a saintly princess named Ermenburgh who came from Kent, the county where I was born and grew up. Not far from the landing place of St Augustine sent from Rome by the Pope to convert the English pagans.

Under the influence of his holy spouse Merewold was converted to Christianity and became a pious king. They had four children a son who died very young and three daughters Milburga, Mildred and Midgyth all of whom became abbesses and were made saints.

While Milburga was living at home she refused the riches of her father's world and along with her mother and sisters cared for the poor and sick while converting many to Christ. She was determined to dedicate her life to serve God and the poor. Unfortunately for her she was a great beauty and attracted many suitors all of which she refused, but there was one who would not take no for an answer and this is where the famous legend began. There are many variations on the creation of the "Holy Well" But it is so well spread throughout Shropshire that there must have been some truth in it. Owing to the unwanted attention of this

eager prince she was forced to run away from home and set off alone on her faithful white ass. She was pursued by a gang of rough men on horseback with a pack of dogs. After two days and nights of rough riding she reached the spot where the well now is. She fell from her horse unconscious. The version I heard from locals was that the horse then pawed at the ground till fresh water poured forth from a spring and horse and rider were able to refresh themselves. It is presumed that villagers who looked after her were able to divert her pursuers. She eventually returned to her family. Her father and an uncle decided to finance the building of a church and nunnery at Much Wenlock then known as Wemnicas so that his daughters could fulfil their ambitions, and placed it under the direction of St Betolph of Iken, an English missionary at that time. He became St Milburga's spiritual mentor. The first Abbess was the French nun Liobsynde of Chelles but the second abbess was St Milburga who ruled the monastery for the rest of her life. She was canonised while still living because of the miracles reported in her name. She died on the 23rd February in 727 this date being dedicated to her feast day.

St Milburga's well is in the village of Stoke St Milborough, named obviously after the saint. If you should find yourself in south Shropshire sometime in the future and want to visit, follow the A4117 out of Ludlow branching off on the B4364 which leads to Bridgnorth. About seven miles out of Ludlow turn left towards the village. After passing the parish church dedicated to St Milburga take a winding lane up the Brown Clee hill towards Clee St Margaret. (a road I know well). Just as you get out of the village a sharp left hand bend hides the well on your left opposite a cluster of cottages. Steps lead down to the spring. It is some years since I myself visited the site so the site may not now be well marked, as it depends on the good will of the local villagers. With many fond memories I hope it is and wish you happy hunting.

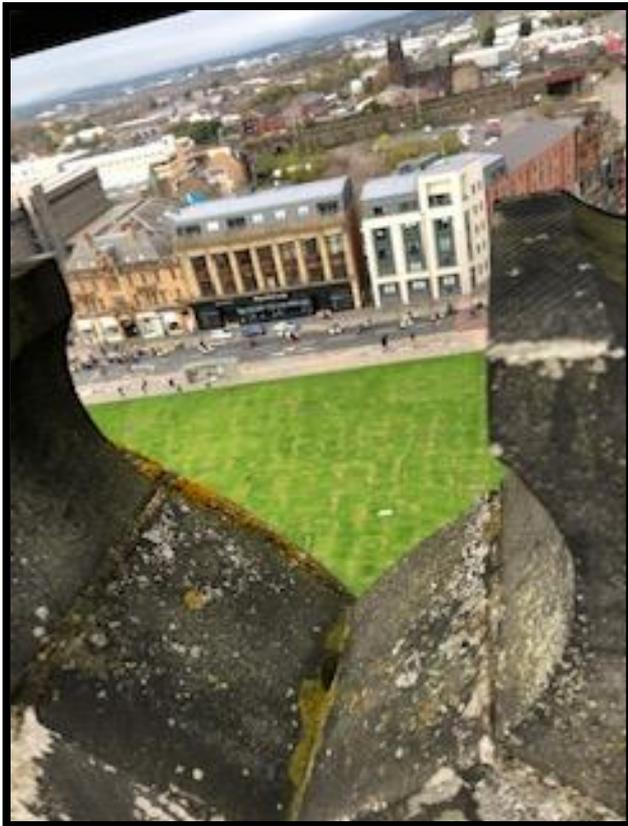
Meg Campbell

JOEL'S TOWER AND COFFEE DAY

I had the Tower and Coffee Day on 20th October. The day was a massive success and it made well over £1000 towards my trip to the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia USA in 2019.

I couldn't have done it without the help from the Abbey, my family and friends and everyone else who volunteered and also those who came along to climb the tower and have a coffee.
Thank you everyone

Joel Young



View from the top of the tower



MISSING VOWELS COMPETITION

A record number (I think) of answers to the Missing Vowels Competition were received and the first two drawn by the Minister on 30 September were Tony Martin and Sue Donn

The answers were:

1. What's worth doing is worth doing well.
2. More hurry less speed
3. Everything comes to those who wait
4. If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again
5. A stitch in time saves nine
6. Many hands make light work
7. Too many cooks spoil the broth
8. A rolling stone gathers no moss
9. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush
10. All that glitters is not gold
11. Once bitten twice shy
12. Two heads are better than none
13. Absence makes the heart grow fonder
14. An apple a day keeps the doctor away
15. In for a penny in for a pound
16. A miss is as good as a mile
17. Still waters run deep
18. A new broom sweeps clean
19. There is no smoke without fire
20. Empty vessels make the most noise

Congratulations to the two winners and to all correct entrants and, as ever, our thanks go to all who participated in the Competition. The Missing Vowels Competition brought in £236 gross to the Abbey (nett £211 once the prizes have been paid - not the most lucrative of competitions but nonetheless a welcome contribution to Abbey funds. Thank you all.

SGC

SCOUT NOTES

All sections have continued with their usual mix of badge work and games.

The Beavers have been learning the importance of teamwork with a visit from two rugby players who soon had them passing the rugby ball to each other in the 'correct' way.

The cubs have been looking at the solar system and the scouts have been focusing on their 'personal challenge' which has seen a wide range of outcomes from musical performances to delicious home-baking.

Several new scouts were invested into the troop, with the ceremony taking place at the top of the Abbey tower - a memorable evening for them and their parents.

The scouts have also had a weekend camp at Auchengillan, north of Glasgow, as part of the Jamboree on the Internet. Over the weekend they had the opportunity to speak to scouts in many different countries and continents all over the world, emphasising that scouting is indeed a worldwide family.

Explorer Scout and young leader, Joel Young, ran a tower open-day and coffee morning as part of his fundraising to go to the World Scout Jamboree in North America next year.

Many thanks to all who supported him as a result of which he raised over £1000 towards the cost of this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

RECITALS

Saturday 24 November Coffee Morning followed by a recital at 12.30pm with Gemma McGregor (Flute) George McPhee (Accompanist)

Saturday 22 December Coffee Morning followed by a recital at 12.30pm by the Abbey Brass
Director Allan McPhee
Concert of Christmas Music

Saturday 19 January 2019 Coffee Morning followed by a recital at 12.30pm by Alastair Savage & Friends
Alastair Savage & Pete Clark (Fiddles), Eddie McGuire (Flute), Ewan Robertson (Whistles), Ewan Drysdale (Guitar/Piano), Iain Crawford (Double Bass)

Entry £5 payable at the door

Details of further recitals will follow

Saturday 17 November Abbey Stickers Coffee Morning and Switch on of Paisley's Christmas Lights

Sunday 9 December Paisley Philharmonic Choir Concert

Sunday 16 December Our Congregational Lunch will be held at the 1.00pm in the Glynhill Hotel.

CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH ADVANCE NOTICE

Our Congregational Lunch will be held at the Glynhill Hotel on Sunday 16 December.

Adults £22 Children £10

The menu is:

Trio of Melon served with blackcurrant sorbet and Cassis Glaze (V gf)

Selection of soups of the day served with buttered croutons (V)

Roast turkey and apricot paupiette served with chipolatas and jus

Steamed fillet of salmon served with a langoustine and spring onion velouté

A vegetarian option will also be available

Selection of winter vegetables and roast Charlotte potatoes and rosemary

Rich Christmas pudding and Brandy sauce

Fresh fruit salad, strawberry coulis and Glynhill vanilla ice cream

Tea, Coffee and Mints

Tickets are now on sale in the Shop or Cloisters on a Sunday after the morning services.

Do come along to this happy Abbey family event.

ELDERS ON DUTY

NOVEMBER 2018

Marjory Noble's Team

DECEMBER 2018

Robin Craig's Team

Articles for inclusion in December 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 18 NOVEMBER**

FRIENDLY HOUR

8 November: Our speaker today will be Cathy Craig whose subject "A Lost Uncle" is very relevant for this week.

Please come along and join in. Usually we enjoy a cup of tea, a chat and enjoy the presentation.

Cath McCord

WATER AID

An amazing £792.60 was raised at the Harvest Festival Service. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to this worthy cause.

SGC

FOODBANK

The next FoodBank collection will be on Sunday 25 November This month tinned fish; tinned fruit, biscuits, juice and ladies and gents toiletries are needed.

M Sharp

THE WOUND IN TIME

It is the wound in Time. The century's tides,
chanting their bitter psalms, cannot heal it.

Not the war to end all wars; death's birthing place;
the earth nursing its ticking metal eggs, hatching
new carnage. But how could you know, brave
as belief as you boarded the boats, singing?

The end of God in the poisonous, shrapneled air
Poetry gargling its own blood. We sense it was love
you gave your world for; the town squares silent,
awaiting their cenotaphs. What happened next?

War. And after that? War. And now? War. War.

History might as well be water, chastising this shore;
for we learn nothing from your endless sacrifice.

Your faces drowning in the pages of the sea

Carol Ann Duffy, 2018

A new poem by Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy written to mark
the centenary of Armistice Day

SUNDAY SERVICES NOVEMBER 2018

Sunday 4 November *All Saints Tide 1st Sunday of the Kingdom*

11 am Holy Communion

Readings: Revelation 7. 9-17
St. Matthew 5. 1-12
Music: Communion setting
Mass for Double Choir:

O quam gloriosum *Martin*
Vittoria

Sunday 11 November *Remembrance Sunday: 2nd Sunday of the Kingdom*

10.50 am Service of Remembrance

Readings: Romans 8. 31-39
St. John 15. 12-17
Music: Thou knowest Lord *Purcell*
Benedictus *Stanford in C*
Set me as a seal *Walton*

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

4 pm Choral Evensong

Readings: Isaiah 11. 1-9
St. John 14. 23-29
Music: Responses *Leighton*
Psalm 46
Canticles *Rubbra in Ab*
And I saw a new heaven *Bainton*

6.45 pm *Lest we forget* Commemoration and Lighting of candle to mark the centenary of the end of the 1st World War with a programme of word and music devised by Starlight Youth Music Theatre

Sunday 18 November *3rd Sunday of the Kingdom*

11 am Holy Communion

Readings: Daniel 12. 1-3
St. Mark 13. 1-8

Music: Communion setting *St. Anne's Mass:*
MacMillan
My soul there is a country *Parry*

Sunday 25 November *Christ the King*

11 am Morning Service

Readings: Daniel 7. 13-14
Revelation 1. 4b-8
St. John 18. 33-37

Music: Psalm 93
Te Deum *Howells (Collegium regale)*
Great King of gods *Gibbons*

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

4pm Choral Evensong *with the choirs of St. Giles' and St. Mary's Cathedrals, Edinburgh*

Readings: Daniel 5 *selected verses*
St. John 6.1-15

Music: O rex gloriae *Marenzio*
Canticles: Second Service *Leighton*
Let all the world - *Leighton*

LECTIONARY YEAR C BEGINS

Sunday 2 December *Advent Sunday*

11 am Holy Communion - *celebrant The Revd Margaret Whyte*

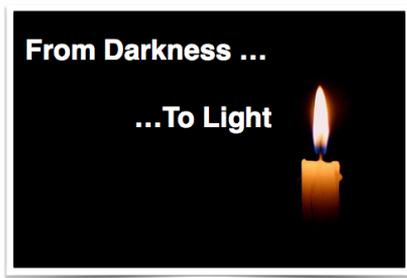
Readings: Jeremiah 33. 14-16
St. Luke 21. 25-36

Music: Communion setting; *St Anne's Mass;*
MacMillan
Canite tuba *Palestrina*

Advent Carol Service

Sunday 2 December 4pm

Choral Music, Readings, Procession, Prayers and Hymns



LEST WE FORGET

REMEMBRANCE CONCERT

11th November 2018 at 6.45pm

There will be a performance in the Abbey featuring Starlight Theatre Group and Johnstone Band.

It will begin at 6.45pm and incorporate national events including the Last Post at 6.55pm and the lighting of a candle at 7.00pm by the Provost of Renfrewshire.

Admission is by ticket which is free.

Tickets are available at the Abbey Shop and from Starlight Theatre Group