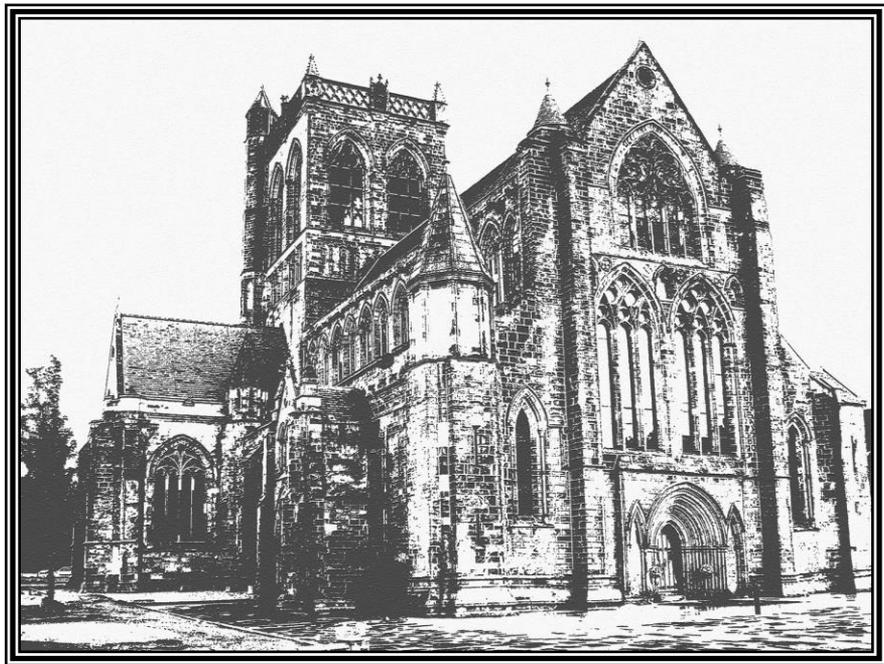


Paisley Abbey



Abbey Herald

May- 2018

May 2018

Dear Friends

Sunday 20 May is Pentecost or Whit Sunday, the day on which the Holy Spirit transformed the disciples, the birthday of the Church. As we read in Acts, ‘When the day of Pentecost had come, they (the disciples) were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.’ In the centuries since that first day of Pentecost the Church has both remained the same and has changed. It has remained the same in being a divine creation. The Church is not a club for religious people but is created by God to be the Body of Christ in the world. The same Holy Spirit who filled the disciples energises the Church in each succeeding generation including our own. However, the Church has also changed in the ways in which it is manifested in the world. In the fourth century it changed from being a persecuted religion to the official state religion of the Roman Empire. In the 16th century in Scotland, the whole way in which the Church is governed and much else was changed. And perhaps we are about to go through another period of change in the Church of Scotland as the model of being the church that has worked so well for us for centuries now faces an unprecedented challenge. A recent Presbytery conference highlighted the serious shortage of ministers that our church faces in the next 10 years - for how long can we continue with the model of a minister in every parish, even with parish linkings and unions? By 2028 the allocation of ministers for our Presbytery of Greenock & Paisley could fall from the current 38 to just 18 - and that picture is replicated throughout Scotland. No-one has the solution yet but it looks like the shape of our Church will change in the years to come. However, whatever happens let us always remember that first and foremost we have been created by God to be as Christ in the world. Structures can change but our *raison d’être* never changes.

Revd. Alan D. Birss
Minister at Paisley Abbey

ELDERS ON DUTY

MAY 2018

Michael McGill's Team

JUNE 2018

Jim MacGregor's Team

Articles for inclusion in June 2018 issue of the Abbey Herald, which is the last before the summer break, should be handed into the office or e-mailed to cathycraig73@aol.com or robinrcraig73@aol.com **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT NO LATER THAN 12.30 PM ON SUNDAY 20th MAY**

THANK YOU

My sister Arlene and I would like to thank those who visited, telephoned and sent cards following the recent passing of our mother Phyllis Small. They have all been a great comfort to us. Many thanks for your kind words, thoughts and prayers.

Fiona Small

THE FRIENDLY HOUR

The last meeting of our 2017-18 session will take the form of afternoon tea and chat on Thursday 3rd May at 2pm. Please come along and join us. We do not always manage to set the world to rights but our discussions are quite varied. We would love to have more members – so do come and join us.

Cath McCord

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Saturday 12 May | Pilgrimage Walk from Gourock to Wemyss Bay |
| Sunday 20 May | Organ Concert by Gordon Stewart at 3.00pm Ticket £10 |
| Saturday 26 May | Coffee Morning followed by a recital at 12.30pm by Ayr Choral Union, Conductor Gerry Doherty |
| Sunday 3 June | Organ Concert by George McPhee at 3.00pm Ticket £10 |
| Saturday 9 June | Pilgrimage Walk/Sail from Wemyss Bay to Rothesay |
| Sunday 17 June | Organ Concert by Kevin Bowyer at 3.00pm Ticket £10 |
| Saturday 23 June | Coffee Morning followed by a recital at 12.30pm by Andrew Laird (Clarinet) and Ronald McIntosh (Piano) |
| Sunday 24 June | Abbey Family Big Lunch Details to follow |

Each recital £5 payable at the door

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF PAISLEY ABBEY

The A.G.M. of the Society of Friends of Paisley Abbey will be held on Sunday 3 June 2018 at 12.30pm in the Place of Paisley.

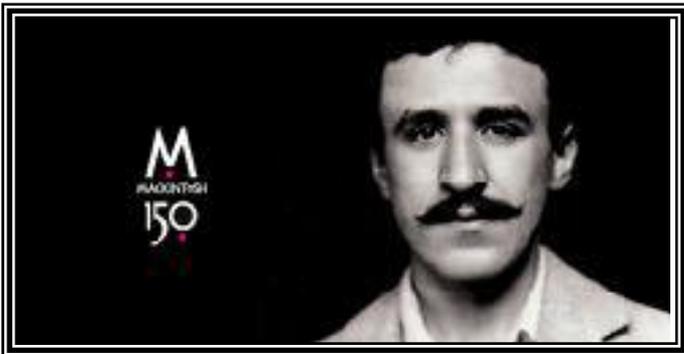
Prior to the A.G.M. Mr Guy Clark, Lord-Lieutenant of Renfrewshire will give a short talk.

If you are not a member but would like to find out more about the Society do come along to the meeting. You will be made most welcome.

A light lunch will be served.

SHOP NEWS

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Charles Rennie Mackintosh. There is a wonderful exhibition to mark the event in Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum which is well worth visiting. In our shop we have a series of new Colcards greetings cards, notepads and jewellery to mark this celebration. A new range of jewellery by Paula Bolton will arrive this month in the shop.



GIFT AID

Only donors who pay UK taxes can apply Gift Aid to their donations.

The new tax year for 2018 - 2019 began on 6th April and this year there were several important changes which could result in someone no longer being subject to Income Tax in which case, if they have previously completed a Gift Aid Declaration Form for Paisley Abbey, they should inform the office as soon as possible before the next claim for Gift Aid is sent to HMRC.

For the first time the rates and bands for Income Tax in Scotland differ from the rest of the UK. On 20th February 2018 the Scottish Parliament set rates and bands for Scottish Taxpayers for the 2018 -19 tax year. If your main place of residence is in Scotland then the Scottish rates of Income Tax applies to most sources of income including salary, pensions and rental income. However, tax on savings interest; dividends and the Personal Allowance of tax-free income of £11,850 continue to be set by the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer.

There are now five income tax bands in Scotland:

Over £11,850 - £13,850 pay a Starter rate of 19%; £13,850 - £24,000 pay the Basic rate of 20%; £24,000 - £43,430 pay an Intermediate rate of 21%; £43,430 - £150,000 pay the Higher rate of 41%; and above £150,000 the Top rate of 46%.

Higher and Top Rate Income Tax payers who have added Gift Aid to their donations can claim an extra rebate but are advised to retain notes of all their Gift Aid donations to charities so that this rebate can be verified.

Gift Aided donations are increased by 25% which makes a considerable contribution to Paisley Abbey finances and I encourage all who are eligible to donate in this way.

Please contact me if you require more information; would like a Gift Aid Declaration Form; or if you no longer pay Income Tax.

Deryk Docherty
Gift Aid Convener

PASTORAL COMMITTEE

BOBBY BROWN

Many of you will have noticed that on the back page of the “Abbey Herald” in March there was a blank space at the position of Transport Convener.

This space was caused (figuratively and in reality) by the sad resignation as Transport Convener of Dr. Robert Brown.



Unfortunately, Bobby’s health has been deteriorating over the past several months and although the reason was manifestly obvious, it was with great reluctance that the Pastoral Committee accepted his resignation from the Committee and thus also as Transport Convener.

In March 2005 Bobby willingly took on the job of organising the transport for the Senior Members Outings and ever since then he has carried out that task with care and efficiency - and with great humour. Over these thirteen years all our guests have benefitted not only from his impeccable organisations of their transport to and from the outings but by the warmth of his welcome when they arrived at the destination. Most obvious to everyone was his sense of fun but less apparent was the great concern and care he took when matching driver to passengers. He really greatly cared about every single guest and their comfort was his prime concern.

He was too, of course, our photographer – in – chief and every outing was well documented – many of his photos have appeared in the “Herald” so that every member of the congregation has been able to enjoy these outings vicariously!

We thank Bobby for all he has contributed to the Pastoral Committee and wish him a speedy betterment in his health.

We thank too Bobby’s successor. As you will have seen in the April edition of the “Herald” Marion McDougall has agreed to

become Transport Convener and will, I know, do a wonderful job. The Committee is really grateful to Marion for taking on the task – we thank Bobby sincerely for all he has done over the years and Marion for all she will do in the future!



Most importantly, however, we hope that Bobby's health will not prevent him from attending our future outings so that we will not be deprived of his warmth and humour which has been so greatly appreciated by all our guests over many years. Thank you so much.

SGC
Convener Pastoral Committee

PARISH REGISTER –APRIL 2018

Baptism

8 April	Mason Mark Traquair
8 April	Scott Diamond (Adult)
15 April	Victoria Helen Russell

Wedding

6 April	Donna Millar & Martyn Munro
---------	-----------------------------

Lent Appeal 2018

Our 2018 Lent Appeal is drawing to a close. If you still have your Lent box and would like someone from the Abbey to collect it please phone Karen at the Abbey Office on 0141 889 7654 on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays between 9.15am-3.30pm. If you do not have a box and have not yet had the opportunity to support the appeal there is still time. Please put any donation you would like to make into an envelope marked "Lent Appeal" and ask Karen to arrange for it to be collected.

PILGRIMAGE WALK FROM OLD KIRK KILMACOLM TO OLD GOUROCK AND ASHTON PARISH CHURCH

What a difference a fortnight makes. Our recce for this walk followed the cycle path route from Kilmacolm Old Kirk to Old Gourrock and Ashton Parish Church. This, as cycle paths go, was one of the best scenically. As it had snowed during the week the ground was somewhat treacherous as we dug our walking poles into the icy traps of compacted, drifted snow. The scenery with its snow-capped Lomond's hills and mountains reflected in the River Clyde was awe inspiring. I commented that I hoped that the snow would still be around when we were all to walk on the Saturday 24th March from Kilmacolm to Gourrock. We gathered on the 24th March without our minister who unfortunately felt duty bound to remain in the Abbey that day.

It was a beautiful morning; Blue skies **and** sunshine. I was praised, yet again for my superb planning and choice of such a sunny day. As always, I indicated heavenwards, and admitted that I had been helped a little. So after a prayer, sent by messenger in the form of Carol Birss we started our 12.5 mile walk to Gourrock. We made our way to the Pullman Tavern which was the old station. Kilmacolm railway station was opened 23rd September 1869 by the Greenock & Ayrshire Company. In 1904 it was renamed Kilmacolm G&SW. The Station was rebuilt in 1907. In this affluent village the early train was for the "STRIVERS" i.e. the workers. The second, arriving in Glasgow, for 9:00 a.m. and the opening of the city centre offices. This was used by the "THRIVERS". The third was for the company directors, senior stockbrokers etc. They were known as the "DRIVERS". Unfortunately the station and railway was finally closed on 10th January 1983.

Our route progressed running at a distance, parallel with the Port Glasgow Road. It was an amazingly rural route and there was, for the walker, no apparent traffic noise as we snaked our route towards Port Glasgow.

Port Glasgow is the second largest town in Inverclyde council area. It was originally a fishing hamlet called Newark. As the River Clyde was impossible to navigate the town became a remote port for Glasgow in 1668. It became known as New Port Glasgow which was shortened to Port Glasgow in 1775. From the Cycle path above Port Glasgow we looked down onto Newark Castle.



The castle was built in 1478 by George Maxwell when he inherited the Barony of Finlanstone or Finlaystone as it is known today. The original castle had a tower house within a walled enclosure which was entered through a large gatehouse. We made our way downhill into Port Glasgow and continued to walk along an unnamed section of cycle track which eventually crosses Barrs Brae toward Devol Burn. We came off the track in Greenock where the cycle route now followed a veritable warren of quiet and safe streets which followed the contours of a steep hill; a much better plan than playing Russian roulette with the traffic on the main road.

We made our way to the Tail 'O' The Bank. This was the name given to the anchorage in the upper Firth of the Clyde at Greenock. The name derives from a sand bar which marks the entrance of the estuary of the River Clyde. It was a point of embarkation for travellers and emigrants to Canada and the USA. In 1974 the sugar boat 'Captayannis' was anchored at the Tail o' the Bank when a storm arose driving the ship northwards. A sandbank midway between Greenock and Helensburgh turned it on its side. I have never seen it myself but I believe that under certain conditions the wreck is still visible in the middle of the river.

At the pub restaurant of the same name we would be able sit looking out to sea across the Firth of Clyde, admire the view, eat our lunch and use pub's convenience facilities.

Well we had been able to do this on the recce.... but no sooner than we had reached our stopping place, the heavens tipped bucket loads of stiffly, vertical bouncing off the ground, RAIN! It was a different story now! "Did you organise this?" Some found refuge under items of playground apparatus. Notably one person was sitting on a seat under a slide. Various other ingenious "umbrellas" were found. I somewhat guiltily slid into Sally's car.

Greenock is named after Hugh de Grenock who was created a Scottish Baron in 1296. His successor, Malcolm Galbraith died c.1400. His estate was divided between his two daughters. The oldest inherited Easter Greenock and married a Crawford, while Wester Greenock went to the younger daughter who married Schaw of Sauchie. The Reformation closed chapels in the parish. Unfortunately the parish church was virtually inaccessible. It was at Inverkip_six miles away over a difficult route. However in 1589 John Schaw obtained a charter from King James VI to build a Kirk. He indicated that it was for the "poor people upon his lands who were all fishers and of a reasonable number".

The Old West Kirk was possibly the first Protestant church to be built in Scotland after the Reformation but more about the church later.

After lunch we squelched along the Coastal Route towards the Greenock Custom House, designed by architect William Burn (1818) in the neoclassical style. It must have been a magnificent landmark on the busy River Clyde. It was used by HM Revenue and Customs until April 2011. The building now houses the 'Riverside Inverclyde Company' dedicated to the regeneration of the riverside. The rest comprises a hotel and office spaces.

We made our way towards the Esplanade and it is at the starting point that we saw the Old West Kirk the name by which it is still known today. The West Kirk itself has had an interesting history.

As the town expanded the West Kirk became too small and other churches sprang up to supply the demand. To cut a long story short. The West Kirk became derelict unfit for purpose and in 1841 it was closed in favour of a new West Church. However there was a move to restore the old church in 1864 when enough money had been raised to do so.

Beautiful stained glass windows were installed bearing the names of such famed Pre-Raphaelite artists as Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Edward Burne-Jones and Daniel Cottier.

In 1917 Caird & Co. were taken over by Harland and Wolff. They proposed a huge expansion of the shipyard, which would take over several properties including the original harbour, the kirk and the Kirkyard.

Generous compensation was offered including a new site about half a mile further west along the coast at the east end of the Esplanade. This was agreed to and the church was moved stone by stone to its present position. All but one of the burials from the Kirkyard were taken to Greenock's Central Cemetery and placed into a communal grave there.

We paused here whilst Robin told us West Kirk's story of how the stones were cleaned, numbered and moved to its present site at the east end of the Esplanade. Interestingly in the event

of cleaning the stones there were found mason's marks and carvings of birds, fish and animals.

Work began on rebuilding the church in March 1926 and was finished in January 1928.

Robin then went on to relate the story of the reburial of one Mary Campbell, Robert Burn's inspirational muse 'Highland Mary'. Mary Campbell died at the age of 23 on 20 October 1786.



The Esplanade deserves some space in this narrative. It was built with spoil from the excavations of the Albert Harbour and officially opened in July 1867. At that time Greenock had become the home port for some 1400 ships. Magnificent villas along its length reflected the wealth which was brought in by sugar, shipping, engineering, woollen manufacture etc. Here is a selection of part of the **Esplanade's 'Who was Who'** (and **where**)

Heywood House: Daniel **Kerr**, ship-owner. Daughter **Isabel** was Greenock's first woman magistrate. His son **John Kerr** was Greenock and Scotland's international gentleman cricketer; from **1908 – 1933**.

Bagatelle House: Home of **Dr Walter Washington**

Buchanan, godson of George Washington also **James Reid Kerr** after whom Reid Kerr College was named. In World War 2 it became a communications centre for Flag Officer Clyde.

Number 56: Abram Lyle (1847-1912) was a director of the sugar refining business founded by his father. It became part of **Tate & Lyle**. Later shipbuilder **Robert Caird** of **Caird & Co** lived here.

Number 60: James McCunn was a merchant and ship owner. Son **Hamish** who studied music in London is best known for the overture '**Land of the Mountain and the Flood**'

Other interesting points along the Esplanade were the **Estuary Tower**, the **Yellow Navigation Pillar** of 1810 and the **Flashing Buoy** lit by oil gas. This was the first of thousands of similar buoys worldwide.



We headed from Greenock seamlessly into Gourock. The name Gourock comes from a Gaelic word for "rounded hill", with reference to the hill above the town. In 1494 it was recorded that James IV, the Pilgrim King, sailed from the shore at Gourock to quell the rebellious Highland clans.

We left the Esplanade and passed the Battery Park. I was intrigued by the park's name. It turns out that the site was used for designing torpedoes for testing in Loch Long. The Clyde Tornado Factory was opened in 1910 with 700 workers. During WW2 it was used for manufacturing torpedoes and in 1947 the site yet again became an experimental site. It was closed in 1959. It wasn't much further for us to walk in order to reach our destination. We arrived just as the weather, yet again, decided to turn to rainy. More perfectly timed than at Greenock! Again we were greeted with cups of tea, coffee and delightful edible goodies thanks to the ladies of Gourock and Old Ashton Parish Church.



Our next walk will be to Wemyss Bay on Saturday 12th May.

PRESBYTERY PRAYTIME

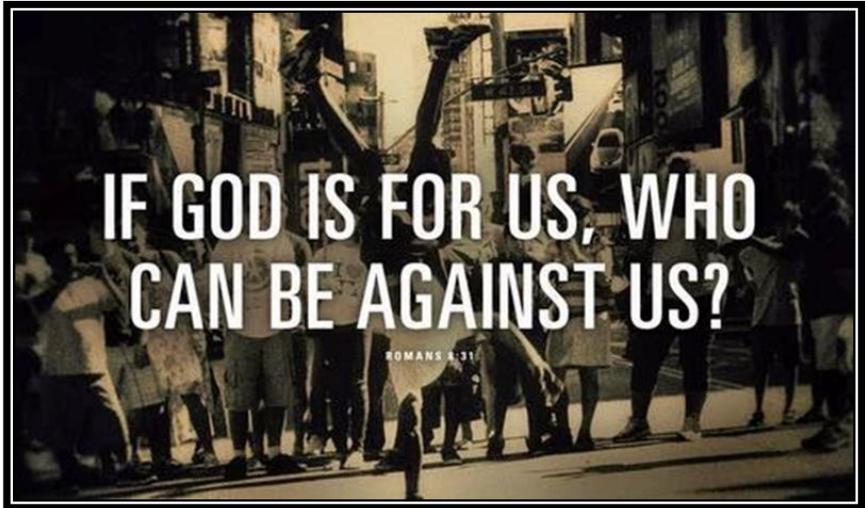
Let us always remember in prayer the communities of which we are part. Here is a short prayer of intercession, expressed in very general terms, useful for all.

God of life, we thank you for our families, our neighbours and friends, for communities where we feel at home.

We commend to you people who are close to us, precious parts of our community, who are having a hard time; people who seek assurance, seek purposeful employment, seek healing, and seek acceptance and love.

Be with us all during our ups and downs, in our good times and bad times, and guide us to do good, to follow your will. Amen.

(From Douglas Scott, presbytery prayer coordinator)



RENFREWSHIRE FOODBANK

April 2018

Dear Friends

I would like to thank you for the support you have given to Renfrewshire Foodbank over the past year. We could not do the work we do without the help of our donors, volunteers and partner organisations who provide us with accommodation.

We were very honoured this year to win the Provost of Renfrewshire's Community Group Award. We could not have done this without the magnificent support we are given. I think you would agree the Foodbank is a wonderful example of the Community working together to help local people in crisis.

Your help has enabled us to provide people with a nutritionally balanced, non-perishable food parcel. In addition, people visiting the Foodbank are welcomed with a cup of tea, listened to and signposted to agencies that are able to help resolve the underlying cause of the problem.

Many thanks once again for your help.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Alexander
Project Manager
Renfrewshire Foodbank

The next collection for the Foodbank will be on Sunday 27 May.

Margaret Sharp

Services : 13 May to 3 June 2018

Sunday 13 May – Sunday after Ascension Day

11am Morning Service

Readings: Acts 1. 1-11
Ephesians 1 15-23
St Luke 24. 44-53

Music: Psalm 47 *Responsorial*
Te Deum *Vaughan Williams in G*
O clap your hands *Gibbons*

12.15 pm Holy Communion

4pm Choral Evensong

Readings: Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26
St. John 17. 6-19

Music: Psalm 1
Canticles *Howells (Collegium Regale)*
Data est mihi omnes potestas
MacMillan

Sunday 20 May – Pentecost

11am Holy Communion

Readings: Acts 2. 1-11
St. John 15. 26-27; 16. 4b-15

Music: Communion Setting -
Vaughan Williams in G
If ye love me *Tallis*
Loquebantur variis linguis *Tallis*

Sunday 27 May – Trinity Sunday

11am Morning Service

Readings: Isaiah 6. 1-8
Romans 8. 12-17
St. John 3. 1-17

Music: Psalm 29
Te Deum *Stanford in Bb*

Let all mortal flesh

Bairstow

12.15 pm Holy Communion

4pm Evening Service

Readings: Ezekiel 1.4-10,22-28a
 Revelation 4

Sunday 3 June – *First Sunday after Trinity*

11 am Holy Communion

Readings: Deuteronomy 5. 12-15
 St. Mark 2. 23 - 3. 6

Music: Communion Setting -
 Howells (Collegium Regale)
 Give alms of thy goods *Tye*

Society of Friends Annual Lunch and AGM

SUNDAY 3 JUNE: lunch 12.30pm AGM 1pm

**Guest speaker Mr Guy Clark,
HM Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire**

**The Society of Friends exists to support the Abbey.
Potential new members
most welcome to attend**