

Paisley Abbey



Abbey Herald

December 2019

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Dear Friends

In Advent, which this year begins on Sunday 1 December, we think about three 'comings' of our Lord. There is his first coming as Mary's son, the eternal Son of God born as the child in the manger: 'veiled in flesh the Godhead see' as the great Christmas hymn 'Hark! the herald angels sing' expresses it. There is what is often called his second coming at the end of time when he will come, not as a helpless babe, but in glorious majesty. As the great Advent hymn 'Lo, he comes with clouds descending' expresses it, 'thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train; Alleluia! God appears on earth to reign.' But there is a third coming, his coming among us now, his coming among us in those in need in our community and in our world, his coming among us in our worship and supremely in Holy Communion. It was the great 19th century Scottish churchman and hymn writer Horatius Bonar who wrote 'Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face' and later on in the same hymn 'the bread and wine remove, but thou art here, nearer than ever, still my Shield and Sun.' The one whose birth we celebrate at Christmas is the same one who comes to us, makes himself one with us, in Holy Communion and is the same one who comes to us in those in need. It was Mother Teresa of Calcutta who expressed this connection so wonderfully when she wrote that in Holy Communion we have Jesus in the appearance of bread, while in the slums we see Christ and touch him in the broken bodies and in the abandoned children. May this season of Advent help us all prepare to meet our Lord in worship and in those in need and may each one of us know great joy as we celebrate once again at Christmas the first coming of our Lord in Mary's baby son.

Revd. Alan D. Birss
Minister at Paisley Abbey

Holidays

The Abbey (apart from services), the gift shop (apart from before and after services) and the coffee shop will be **closed** from Wednesday 25 December to Saturday 11 January inclusive:
Reopening Monday 13 January 2020 at 10 am

ELDERS ON DUTY

DECEMBER 2019

Michael McGill's Team

JANUARY 2020

Marjory Noble's Team

As the Abbey will be closed over the holiday period (except for services) it would be appreciated if contributions for the January 2020 issue of the Abbey Herald could be emailed to cathycraig73@aol.com or handed into the office as soon as possible but no later than 12.30pm on Sunday 8 December. This is to allow the magazine to be printed before the closure.

FOODBANK

The next collection will be on Sunday 22 December

Shortages this month are tinned potatoes, litre cartons of juice, tinned fruit, custard and rice pudding, shampoo and shower gel, jam, tinned fish.

I'm afraid Christmas items needed to be delivered to the FoodBank by the end of November. The Christmas holidays will put an increased strain on FoodBank resources so any of the above food items will be very welcome.

Margaret Sharp

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 7 December Glen Cinema Commemoration
Service/ Concert from 6.00pm

Sunday 15 December Paisley Philharmonic Choir 7.00pm

Saturday 21 December Coffee Morning at 10am organised
by some men of the congregation
followed by a recital with the Abbey
Brass at 12.30pm

Saturday 25 January Recital at 12.30pm with Alistair
Savage and Friends

Sunday 26 January Scots Lunch
Come and Sing Messiah

Details of both to follow

ADVANCE NOTICE

Friday 21 February Volunteers Coffee Morning

Saturday 22 February Recital with Ralph McDonald
(Baritone) with George McPhee
(Piano)

Entry to recitals each £5 payable at the door

Tuesday 25 February Beetle Drive

SHOP NEWS

Firstly a huge thank you to all who so generously supported the Shoebox appeal this year enabling us to send over 120 boxes. This is a wonderful result.

Another thank you to all who gave their help with the Halloween Hot dog stall (about 1000 hotdogs were sold!), tuck shop, soup stall, church stewarding and serving in the shop during the Town's 2 day Halloween Event. It was an extremely busy event but a very successful one enabling us to welcome thousands into the Abbey.





It has been a busy time at the Abbey and shop recently and on the weekend of 16th November we had the Town's Christmas Lights Switch On. We also had the shop's annual discount weekend at the same time!

The Abbey was again very busy and we had wonderful volunteers helping at the shop, our tuck shop and our Mulled Punch and mince pie stall as well as in the Cloister Cafe (half of the cafe's takings are going to Erskine so we are delighted that it did so well on this day) Thank you to you all.





This followed on from University Graduations at the Abbey during the week over 2 days and one evening. This meant another wonderful opportunity to serve a great many people through the shop. These events cannot continue so successfully unless we get more volunteers. They involve a large number at each event and we desperately need more of you to help. It is very rewarding and a fabulous way to welcome visitors to our Abbey and also bring valuable income to the Abbey. So if you feel called to help please let us know!

There is still time to buy Christmas cards and gifts from the shop! So do come and visit us soon.

**Come and Sing HANDEL'S MESSIAH with
orchestra
In Paisley Abbey on Sunday 26 January 2020**

Directed by Dr George McPhee

**Rehearsal 2.30 with entry from 2.00 Performance
6.30**

Ticket Prices

Adult singers	£15
School pupils and Students	£5
Audience	£5

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. Early applications are appreciated

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 1 JG

Email enquiries to proutley@talktalk.net

Please register using the tear – off slip below

All funds raised support the music in Paisley Abbey

Name of singer

.....

S A T B (Please circle)

Contact address/contact number/ email

Do you require confirmation/receipt of payment
yes/no?



PARISH REGISTER – NOVEMBER 2019

Wedding Blessing

28 November

Joseph McTaggart & Avilio Mendez-Delgado

THE PRESSURE IS ON COMPETITION

The winner of the “PREssure is on” competition was certain Mrs. Marion Sommerville of Elderslie – a thoroughly deserved win as Marion; in addition to everything else she does, not only regularly sells a number of these competitions on behalf of the Abbey but also invariably sends in all correct answers.

The Runner-Up was Nick Cooke of Doune - again a great supporter of the Abbey through his involvement with the Whithorn Way and as secretary of the Scottish Pilgrim Route Forum. Congratulations to them both and, as ever, a warm thank you everyone who bought a competition.

The ANSWERS WERE:

- 1) PREFACE (OR PRELUDE):
- 2) PREHENSILE:
- 3) IMPRESSIVE:
- 4) SPREE:
- 5) PREVIEW:
- 6) PREDator:
- 7) ExPRESS:
- 8) DePREcate:
- 9) PREtzel:
- 10) PREparatory (or PREp):
- 11) ComPREhensive:
- 12) PREvail:
- 13) ExPREssion:
- 14) SupPRESS:
- 15) ImPREssionist:
- 16) ApPREciates:
- 17) PREceding:
- 18) PREcise:
- 19) PRElate:
- 20) UnPREmeditated (or unPREpared):
- 21) SPREAd:
- 22) ComPRESS (or dePress):
- 23) ApPREhend and
- 24) RePREsentative.

As we approach the end of 2019, it may be of interest to know that since these competitions began on a regular basis in 2014 (with a one-off in 2012) up until now, over six thousand pounds have been given to the Abbey. Truly a worthwhile contribution and sincere thanks are due to everyone who has helped to achieve this sum – either by selling or by buying the competitions.

It is particularly pleasing to note that, judging by the completed forms received, well over half of the participants have no immediate connection with the Abbey and very, very many come from furth of Paisley. Particular thanks are due to all these kind supporters whose interest in, and support of, the Abbey is really appreciated – but, of course, everyone who has ever bought or sold a competition has helped to raise that six thousand pounds so thank you one and all.

SGC

COLLECTION FOR WATERAID

In the November issue of the Abbey Herald I reported that the total sum collected for WaterAid at the Harvest Festival was £640.21. Since then, however, further donations have been received and our total contribution to the work of WaterAid this year was just under £700.00 - £695.21 to be precise.

In their letter of thanks to the Abbey, WaterAid stated “that your support will help to transform communities like the village of Milimo in Zambia where we have been able to install a bore-hole. Families in Milimo now have access to clean water close to their homes and, using water from the bore-hole, the village collectively grows vegetables in the flourishing community garden – enough to eat and sell. Clean water has brought Milimo health and financial security”.

I happily pass on these thanks from WaterAid to everyone who gave so generously and thus has helped to fund this ongoing work of transformation.

SGC

SCOUT NOTES

All three sections and their leaders attended the Service of Remembrance at Paisley Abbey. Three scouts James, Daniel and Abbey took part carrying flags and the scout wreath - all three were very smart and very dignified and their contribution greatly enhanced the Abbey's Service of Remembrance.



Other highlights of the month included an outing by the Cubs and Scouts to watch Glasgow Clan at the Braehead Arena and a visit from an ambulance to the Beavers and Cubs, not because someone took unwell but to help them with their Emergency Aid badge.

There are a few vacancies in our Beaver and Cub sections so if you know young people aged 6 to 8 for the Beavers or 8 to 10 for the Cubs encourage them to come along and discover what makes Scouting so special - we're sure if they try it once they will want to come back again and again.

Services 8 December 2019 – 5 January 2020

Sunday 8 December - *Second Sunday of Advent*

11am *Morning Service*

Readings: Isaiah 11. 1-10

Romans 15. 4-9

St. Matthew 3. 1-12

Music: Benedictus *Gibbons (Short Service)*

Canite tuba *Palestrina*

12.15 pm *Holy Communion*

Sunday 15 December - *Third Sunday of Advent*

11am *Holy Communion. Gifts for children may be handed in at this service and will be passed on to*

Renfrewshire Council Social Work Department

Readings: James 5. 7-10

St. Matthew 11. 2-11

Music: Communion setting: Mass for Five Voices

Byrd

Monday 16 December

12 noon Paisley Grammar School Carol Service

Tuesday 17 December

11 am ACCORD Carol Service

Sunday 22 December – *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

11am *Morning Service*

Readings: Isaiah 7. 10-14

Romans 1. 1-7

St. Matthew 1. 18-24

Music: Magnificat

MacMillan

Hymn to the Virgin

Britten

12.15 pm *Holy Communion*

6 pm *Christingle Service*
Christingles can be made in the Place of Paisley from 5.30 pm onwards. Short service followed by carol singing round the Christmas tree and then mince pies etc. in the Place of Paisley.

Tuesday 24 December – Christmas Eve

3 pm *Informal Family and Shoppers Carol Service*

7.30 pm *Festival of Nine Lesson and Carols*

11.30 pm *Midnight Carol Service*

Wednesday 25 December – Christmas Day

10.30 am Holy Communion (with orchestral ensemble)

Readings: Isaiah 9. 2,6,7

St. Luke 2. 1-14

Music: Messe de Minuit *Charpentier*
Hodie Christus natus est *Sweelinck*

Sunday 29 December – First Sunday after Christmas Day

11am Morning Service

Readings: Isaiah 63. 7-9

Hebrews 2. 10-18

St. Matthew 2. 13-23

Music Jubilate Deo *Lassus*
Personent hodie *German arr Holst*

Sunday 5 January - Epiphany

11am *Holy Communion with presentation of the wise men at the Crib*

Readings: Isaiah 60. 1-6

St. Matthew 2. 1-12

Music: Communion setting: St. Anne's Mass
MacMillan