

Paisley Abbey



Abbey Herald

September 2021

WELCOME BACK ABBEY CHOIR, WE'VE MISSED YOU!

The Churches have not responded to the Covid pandemic over the past eighteen months or so with great glory. Office-bearers and individuals at local level deserve enormous praise for doing their very best to keep the show on the road while dictates from on high closed church doors depriving communities everywhere the comfort, solace and reassurance of Christian faith at the very time when it was most needed.

You may or may not agree. If you don't, you have every right to do so. All I ask is that you ponder things for yourself. That which I, personally, most missed has been the opportunity to vent my faith through singing. Not that I would ever be judged suitable to become an Abbey chorister. So, welcome back Abbey Choir. Your return to participation in worship at the beginning of this month, means that our hymn singing can regain its rightful place within our Sunday liturgy. Sadly, the size and geography of the Abbey building has precluded a mask-bound congregation singing any sooner. Without a choir participating, their sound would be lost and only an organ solo would be heard.

Singing is often where our emotions come closest to the surface. That's why football crowds time and again have defied Government advice and sung their club songs, without even a modicum of social distancing. All the while, Churches remained cowed by their desire to show unquestioning obedience to those for whom the worship of the Church may have little relevance.

Christianity is a 'singing' faith. Its one of the main things that followers of Jesus have been known for down through the centuries and, now, all over the globe. Within the Abbey, we are so fortunate that week by week, our worship is supported by an organist and choir who offer their talent and expertise to ensure our worship transcends the words of everyday language. Calming, encouraging, inspiring mind, heart and soul in ways words often cannot: transporting us beyond the confines of stone and mortar into the

realm of that which we might want to call 'divine'. This has happened here for centuries. Whether by Celtic praise, Roman chant, the singing of the Psalms and Paraphrases or the offering of our modern-day hymns there has never been a time when the sacred walls of the Abbey did not echo the sung prayers or jubilant praises of faithful women and men of all ages and circumstance until these last eighteen months.

Singing is so important to us. People tend to sing about what they love, what they are passionate about and what they want to tell others about. That's why so many of our sacred songs and hymns are about relationships – wanting to start them, wanting them to continue, wanting them to stop or wishing they hadn't ended. In Church, we sing to and about that love we know as God: a love known through the person of Jesus and experienced by the actions of his Spirit in our lives. Our singing helps us express our concerns about our life, the world in which we live, the issues in life which affects us and

others across the globe. In other words, singing is powerful stuff. It can help to unite people in ways few other activities can. So, come and join us in our singing and in our worship, Sunday by Sunday. Come and add your voice to the praise of a love which gives us a song to sing!

Jim Gibson
Locum Minister.

Dear friends

You will know by now that Rev Elspeth McKay LLB LLM BD was elected by secret ballot at the service on 22nd August. As your Interim Moderator I was more than delighted that the Nominating Committee were able not only to bring forward a candidate but were able to propose a candidate of such experience and ability. Beautifully crafted prayers and a challenging sermon were the hallmarks of a service which unfortunately was still without hymns - which I know Elspeth would have preferred -and problems with the sound system.

There are almost 250 vacancies in the Church of Scotland at the present time and the number of ministry posts will be greatly reduced over the next two years to only 600. In order to achieve this, all-vacant posts not filled by 31st December will be sisted (halted) for at least another year or longer. To have a new ministry in such uncertain times should indeed be seen as a blessing and give you hope for the years ahead.

Whether you were present or not at the service you can still subscribe to the Call to Elspeth. Papers will be available for signing after the morning services and during opening hours of the Abbey on Wednesdays Thursdays and Fridays. A mandate for a proxy signature is also available.

The service of Induction will hopefully take place at the end of October with details to you as soon as Presbytery approves the Call.

Very Rev Dr. Lorna Hood OBE
Interim Moderator

PARISH REGISTER

June 2021

Funeral

Jean Rintoul

Baptism

Freddie Hugh Scollon

July 2021

Funeral

David Goldie
William (Bill) Love

Wedding

Elvira Vania & Ross Tipping

August 2021

Baptism

Daisy Helen Lamont

THE KILT WALK

The next Kiltwalk is to take place on Sunday 26th September, this time it takes the form of either a "wee wander" of 3.5 miles, or a "mighty stride" of 16.5 miles.

Anyone interested can find the details on the Kiltwalk website. The charity adds 50% to any sponsorship given making this a very effective way to raise money.

You may remember that some Abbey members took part in the Spring resulting in a useful donation being made to Abbey funds.

ABBEY AID

Abbey Aid fund has been gently ticking over in the past few months. It is surprising how a few small donations add up.

Before and during lockdown small donations for little acts of kindness such as shopping, baking, and winnings from fun quizzes and sweepstakes, collecting loose change have all contributed.

Thank you to all who have remembered about this way of giving to the Abbey and we hope you will continue as income is much needed.

FOOD BANK

The last Sunday of the month is Foodbank Collection Day. This month they are looking for any tinned items except beans and soup. Also cleaning and washing materials especially washing up liquid, cartons of juice, longlife milk and small packets of sweets would be suitable.

Gift Aid forms are available for those giving cash donations.

Some of the food collected is distributed to refugees as well as those in Renfrewshire. Thank you.

THE TALK IT OVER GROUP

The Group has not been meeting for the past 18 months due to Covid 19 and the subsequent lockdowns and closure of the Abbey.

The Abbey is only open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at present. Until the Group can meet again on a Tuesday morning a group of 4 can meet with Fiona on a Thursday morning from 10.30am till 12.00 pm as an interim measure.

There will be **no creche** at present.

Anyone wishing to attend should telephone Fiona (07763 128911) beforehand.

We will have the group resuming on a Tuesday morning as soon as possible

Soon we will be into the season of autumn after a summer of very nice weather. I heard on the news just tonight the the central belt of Scotland has its warmest summer on record. I think we deserve it after all the wet summers we have had. Below is an Autumn poem reminding you of the next season of the year.

FALL, LEAVES, FALL BY EMILY BRONTË

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.
I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a drearier day.

From A Poem for Every Night of the Year

POPPY SCOTLAND

Undoubtedly you will have been following in the news the troubling events unfolding in Afghanistan. We know how distressing and difficult many in our community will find these developments, both veterans and those still Serving, their families, and of course the families who lost loved ones or experienced a life-changing injury because of the conflict.

We have seen an increase in calls to Poppyscotland and our sister charity the Royal British Legion, and our expert welfare teams are already helping those who have reached out, working collaboratively with referral partners and national and local government to provide the very best support.

If you or anyone you know has Served or is currently Serving and has been affected by the recent events, we are here to help and support during this time. We understand that the current events in Afghanistan may be distressing for many in the Armed Forces community. Remember, you are not alone. We're here for you, your family and those you served with.

We urge anyone who is struggling to contact our trained advisors in patient health on 0808 802 8080.

Whether it is regarding emotional distress, mental health issues, the need for practical support or a listening ear, we are here for anyone that needs us. Our support extends to Afghans who worked alongside the British Armed Forces and hold a HM Armed Forces campaign medal - our full range of assistance is available to them. We have done significant work in the last week, looking at the potential needs that will arise for all those eligible for our help and planning the best way to offer that support.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely, working with our partners as necessary, and we are encouraging those people in the

Armed Forces community to regularly check in with one another and call us if they are struggling.

Our annual Field of Remembrance mailing will be landing with some of you shortly, and we understand that this may be a difficult time, especially for those remembering a loved one who lost their life during the Afghanistan conflict. This mailing is just one of many ways that our supporters can choose to remember.

Please reach out for support if you need it, and we encourage everyone to show understanding and compassion at what is a difficult time for many.



ABBEYFIELD CARE HOME

The past eighteen months has been a lonely and difficult time for many people living on their own what with Shielding and Lockdowns. Some of them may be thinking of moving to a care home more for the company than anything else. Linda Barrett has spoken with Fiona Stewart of Abbeyfield Care Home in Station Road Paisley and they have some vacancies. So, if you or someone you know is thinking about moving it might be worthwhile contacting Fiona.

BIBLE CAKE

Ingredients:

- 1 8 oz Judges 5:25
- 2 8 oz Jeremiah 6:20
- 3 1 Tblsp I Samuel 14:25
- 4 3 Jeremiah 17:11
- 5 8 oz I Samuel 30:12
- 6 8 oz Nahum 3:12 chopped
- 7 2 oz Numbers 17:8
- 8 1 lb I Kings 4:22
- 9 Season with 2 Chronicles 9:9
- 10 and a pinch of Leviticus 2:13
- 11 1 Tsp Amos 4:5
- 12 and 3 Tblsp Judges 4:19

Following Solomon's advice in Proverbs 23:14 you then
Beat 1, 2 and 3 to a cream
Add 4, one at a time
Add 5, 6 and 7 and beat again
Add 8, 9, 10 and 11. Mix well
Finally, add 12

Bake in a slow oven for not less than one and a half hours

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|-------------|-------------------|
| 1 = Butter | 7 = Almonds |
| 2 = Sugar | 8 = Flour |
| 3 = Honey | 9 = Spices |
| 4 = Eggs | 10 = Salt |
| 5 = Raisins | 11 = Bread Crumbs |
| 6 = Figs | 12 = Milk |

MUSIC FOR SEPTEMBER

5 September 2021

11.00 am

Kyrie eleison

Jubilate Deo

Anthem

Trinity

Morning service

MacMillan (St. Anne's Mass)

Stanford in Bb

God be in my head

Rutter

12 September 2021

11.00 am

Kyrie eleison

Psalm 116 1-8

Anthem

Trinity 15

Morning service

MacMillan (St. Anne' (Mass))

Hymn for St. Cecilia

Howells

19 September 2021

11.00 am

Kyrie eleison

Te Deum

Anthem

Trinity 16

Morning Service

McPhee (Scottish Church Society Service)

Stanford in Bb

Beati quorum via

Stanford

26 September 2021

11.00 am

Communion Setting

Anthem

Trinity 17

Holy Communion

Howells (Collegium Regale)

My soul, there is a country

Parry

3 October 2021

11.00 am

Kyrie eleison

Jubilate Deo

Anthem

Anthem

Trinity 18

Morning Service Harvest Thanksgiving

MacMillan (St. Anne's Mass)

McPhee

The heavens are telling

O clap your hands

Haydn

Gibbons

ABBAY DIRECTORY

Locum Minister:	Rev. James Gibson	
Director of Music:	Dr. George McPhee	
Assistant Organist:	Mr Peter Shepherd	
Church Manager	Mrs Linda Barrett	0141 889 7654
Church Secretary:	Mrs Karen Kerr	0141 889 7654
Session Clerk:	Mrs Marion Sommerville	
Treasurer:	Mr Stewart McDougall	

The Abbey office is not manned every day just now so if you need to contact any of the above people leave a message on the office answering machine (**0141 889 7654**) and it will be passed on to the appropriate person. Thank you.