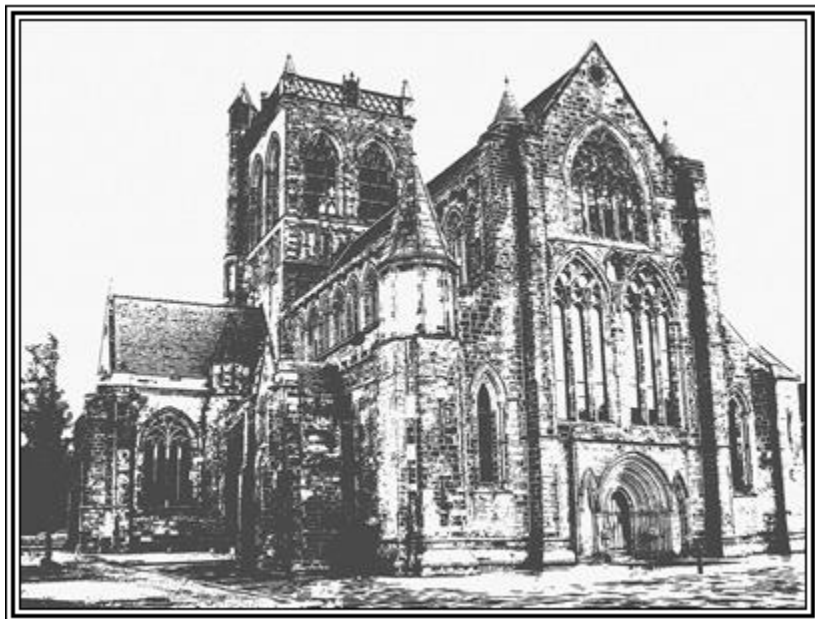


Paisley Abbey



Abbey Herald

October 2021

This will be my final contribution to the Abbey 'Herald'. Sadly, for me, my term as Locum at the Abbey comes to an end on Sunday 24th. Having been my wife Doreen's family church and the place where I trained as a Probationer Assistant, I cannot tell you how much we have enjoyed being back and associated with the church in such a special way. Our thanks to all who, almost from the very first Sunday, welcomed us and extended a friendship which, we hope, may endure over coming years.

The last year has not been easy for anyone or any congregation. Movement was strictly curbed and liberties, which we are simply took as a right of citizenship, were severely restricted during periods of lockdown. Tragically church buildings were forced to close doors just at the very time when a great many people needed the strength and hope that can come from the Christian message. Over 8,300 deaths due to Covid have taken place in Scotland. Each and every one a fellow human being whose life mattered. Now we have the military assisting trying to ease pressure on the ambulance service while the NHS struggles against being overwhelmed. Meanwhile people continue in their posts, in education, delivering mail, collecting household rubbish or working in essential and non-essential jobs: many of them heroes by any definition.

What about the Abbey? Well, from my experience of the Abbey forty-something years ago, aspects of decline have been evident – as they are in the life of most other congregations. Naturally, in the mind of many members with whom I have spoken, this has resulted in a certain lack of confidence caused by uncertainty about what the future may hold. That's why it has been particularly encouraging to witness the Sunday worshipping congregation slowly increase in number and the willingness of so many individuals to assist during the lockdown blackouts with ensuring some form of worship was offered from this place of ancient holiness and prayer. Over many weeks, services were broadcast online. In a bit of an amateurish way admittedly. But nevertheless, as a sign of the determination of those involved that, though the doors had to close, the voice of the Abbey's Christian message should not be silenced. Those individuals were my heroes. For their time, effort, skills and encouragement I thank them for all they did.

Before the end of this month, a new chapter in the long history of the Abbey will begin with the Induction of the Revd. Elspeth Mackay as

minister. Without doubt, the future will bring both reassurance and challenge. One thing is for sure: nothing stays the same for ever. Current practices and activities will need to be evaluated, just as the needs of an ever-evolving parish need to be regularly appraised. This will not necessarily please everyone. However, it should be remembered that complacency is the death knell of many a congregation. Just as individuals rose to the challenges of lockdown by adopting new ways by which to communicate our worship, so I hope and pray that, with a new minister in post, the congregation will welcome opportunities to better embrace new ways of reaching out and so extend the healing, hope-giving reach of the Church into a frightened, scary and unconfident world.

Paisley Abbey congregation is comprised of some truly remarkable and talented people. People of great kindness, generosity of spirit and faith. People who strive, as best they can, to let love live in their life. May that love live in all and pervade all? And may it be a source of blessing to all.

Jim Gibson
Locum Minister.

PARISH REGISTER

Transference to another Church

Alison Mercer
Margaret Mercer

Funeral

22 September Thomas Reid (Tom) Wilson

Baptism

23 September Alfie David Henry Hodge

Dear Friends

This will be my last letter to you as Interim Moderator of Paisley Abbey. When Alan Birss asked me if I would consider being your Interim Moderator, Covid was not part of our vocabulary. Very quickly however it became apparent that Covid was going to interfere with our lives, but I don't think anyone could have imagined its extent and controlling influence over every part of our existence. Worship and church activities have especially been affected. It was very gratifying therefore to see so many members and adherents in attendance on Sunday 22nd August when your new minister Rev Elspeth McKay preached as sole nominee. I cannot emphasise strongly enough just how fortunate you are in the uncertain present circumstances of the Church of Scotland to know that you will very shortly have a new ministry. No church regardless of heritage or financial condition will be exempt from the wide sweeping changes about to take place in the next few years with our own larger Presbytery of Clyde having to greatly reduce the number of full time Ministers of Word and Sacrament.

An exciting time lies ahead with new ideas and hopefully new ways of being 'church' in the centre of Paisley. So yes, there will be changes and different ways of looking at what you have relied on and taken for granted over the years.

It has not been an easy journey to get you this far but knowing you have a dedicated and talented new ministry ahead of you makes the hours of work I've undertaken on your behalf worthwhile.

My prayer is for God's blessing on your future as I take my leave of you. Normally that would be done at an Induction Social but the restrictions make such events difficult at this time. I'm just delighted a Presbytery Induction Service – the first since a year ago in March- is now possible.

May God bless you all,
Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Lorna Hood', written in a cursive style.

Very Rev Dr E Lorna Hood OBE

A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

The Very Rev. Dr. Craig Chalmers reflects on the importance of next months climate change conference COP26 in Glasgow

“Securing a brighter future for our children and future generations requires countries to take urgent action at home and abroad to turn the tide on climate change. It is with ambition, courage and collaboration as we approach the crucial COP26 summit in the UK that we can seize this moment together, so we can recover cleaner, rebuild greener and restore our planet”

These words are the frontispiece of the booklet which sets out the aim and purpose of COP26 which will meet in Glasgow from October 31 – November 12.

Under these words is the signature of the Prime Minister and it is to be hoped that he and other world leaders are serious about the climate crisis and not simply mouthing platitudes.

Under the 1922 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change every country on earth is treaty-bound to “avoid dangerous climate change”.

COP stands for the Conference of the Parties and year on year for almost thirty years world governments have met to generate a global response to the climate emergency. This year world leaders will be in Scotland and that gives us a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a stooshie around promises which have been made and then disregarded.

In the minds of scientific experts there is little doubt that government and nations are miles behind resching the targets set at COP21 when

the so-called Paris Agreement was adopted. Then, the members promised to reduce carbon output “as soon as possible” and to do their best to keep global warming well below 2degrees C. On top of the overwhelming scientific evidence, more and more extreme weather events are underling the urgency with which we must make changes to the political, economic and industrial models which have brought us to the poinr where we are endangering the life of our children and our children’s children. As President Obama has said “We are the first generation to feel the effect of climate change and the last generation who can do something about it”.

There should be no confusion in Christian circles about the sacrednss of life and the responsibility we have for the stewardship of the earth. What is more, because, climate change disproportionately affects the poor and vulnerable, there can no mistaking the call on the churches to be engaged actively in the programme of change wich are urgently needed.

The fact of the matter, however, is that the necessary “fix” does not rest with science and politics alone. Alongside the work of scientists and politicians, we requir a change of mind-set, a cultural transformation and a profound spiritual awakening. This is the message of Alastair McIntosh’s book “Hell and High Water”. There are lots of books which detail the dire nature of the scientificevidence for climatechange bur there are very few which tackle the deeper wuestions which relate to the cultural, psychological and spiritual metanoia which is neededin response to this emergency.

Alastair’s opening chapters provide an accessible guide to the scirnce of what is happening to planet earth but it is the later chapters which tackle the more difficult, even esoteric dimensions of the spiritual malaise which lies behind the trouble that we have brought upon ourselves. He points us in the direction of the sort of inner changes that are needed as we seek to mend a broken world. Importantly however, he says “my call to rekindle(the) inner life....

doesn't mean we should wallow there! We need a dance between the fantastical and the practical: not an apartheid between the two”
To our Prime Minister and other world leaders we say **this is a time for real change** but we also remind those same world leaders that that the level of change which is required may only come about as a function of our willingness to acknowledge the change which is needed at the deepest level of our inner being.

This article first appeared in the October 2021 issue of Life and Work,



Some effects of climate change.

FOODBANK

The last Sunday of the month is Foodbank Collection Day as last 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.

Margaret Sharp

LIFE AND WORK

Subscriptions for the 2022 issues of Life and Work magazine are due soon.

Current subscribers should have received notification together with an envelope in which to put their subscription if they wish to continue receiving it or to inform me if they wish to discontinue their subscription.

If any member of the congregation would like to become a subscriber the cost is £36 for 12 issues of the magazine, which, until the pandemic, was normally delivered with the Abbey Herald, could they please let me know by Sunday 31 October. Currently it has been posted to subscribers.

I can be contacted on 01505 323532 or 07762730038 or leave your details at the Abbey office.

Thank you.

Cathy Craig

SHOE BOX APPEAL 2021

This year we are supporting Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal. It is similar to what we have done in the past but not just for young children but the charity helps teenagers, older men and woman and the elderly.

Your boxes make such a difference, receiving a shoebox brings so much joy to young and old.



The shoeboxes are sent to vulnerable communities across eastern Europe. They hope to be able to deliver shoeboxes to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

The charity accepts both shoeboxes or drawstring bags.

Leaflets, which may give you an idea of the possible contents for the different age groups and the date for bringing them in to the Abbey will be available in the coming weeks.

We hope you will continue to support this charity which is new to us.



MUSIC FOR OCTOBER

3 October 2021

11 am

Kyrie eleison

Jubilate Deo

Anthem

Trinity 18

Morning Service (Harvest Thanksgiving)

McMillan (St Anne's Mass)

McPhee

The heavens are telling

Haydn

10 October 2021

11 am

Psalm 90

Anthem

Trinity 19

Morning Service

Give aims of thy goods

Tye

17 October 2021

11 am

Kyrie eleison

Te Deum

Anthem

Trinity 20

Morning Service

Howells (Collegioum Regale)

Howells (Collegioum Regale)

My eyes for beauty pine

Howells

4 pm

Responses

Psalm 122

Canticles

Anthem

Choral Evensong

Smith of Durham

Gibbons (Short Service)

O clap your hands

Gibbons

24 October

11 am

Kyrie eleison

Psalm 126

Anthem

Last Sunday after Trinity

Morning Service

McPhee (Scottish Church Society Service)

O sing Joyfully

Batten

31 October 2021

11 am

Communion Setting

Introit

Anthem

All Saints Day

Holy Communion

O quam gloriosum

O quam gloriosum

Faire is the heaven

Harris

7 November 2021

11 am

Kyrie eleison

Benedictus es

Anthem

4 pm

Responses

Psalm 136

Canticles

Anthem

Third Sunday before Advent

Morning Service

McPhee (Scottish Church Society Service)

McPhee

Give us the wings of faith McKie

Choral Evensong

McPhee (Second Set)

Stanford in G

Data mihi omnis potentas MacMillan

ABBEY DIRECTORY

Locum Minister:	Rev. James Gibson	
Director of Music:	Dr. George McPhee	
Assistant Organist:	Mr Peter Shepherd	
Church Manager	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.

Paisley Abbey (Church of Scotland) – Registered Charity No SC00763

