

Paisley Abbey



Abbey Herald



November 2021

Dear all

I thought some might like to know a bit more about me, so here is a little bit of my background. Before I was a Minister I completed a law degree in England, then a postgraduate law degree at the University of Aberdeen where I also completed my BD. I have come from a Church in Cumbernauld, not in the new town, but in the old village. Before that, I was Minister for a linked charge in rural Aberdeenshire. I still have strong links to Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, and we have our own house there. Some have asked where my accent is from as it isn't from the north-east of Scotland. I was born in Windsor and grew up in Cambridge as my father worked in London all his working life but then returned to Scotland when he retired. I also lived in Stoke-on-Trent for a while, so sometimes my Midlands accent can be heard too.

I am married to David who is Professor of Music at Northumbria University in Newcastle. Most weeks David will be travelling to Newcastle on a Sunday night and coming back to Paisley on a Thursday evening as he works from home most Fridays. We have one son, two Romanian rescue dogs and one very elderly cat.

I am very grateful for all the hard work which has been put into getting the new Manse in the Place of Paisley ready for us. Particular thanks go to Alan Donn who has met me on several occasions to choose wall colours, carpet colours and reconfiguring some of the rooms. It really is looking wonderful.

I am keen to meet as many people as I can, so please if you are in the Abbey and I am in the vestry, do pop in and say hello.

With very best wishes

Elsbeth

SERVICE OF INDUCTION - MONDAY 25 OCTOBER 2021

Presbytery's service of Induction of our new minister, Revd Elspeth McKay, marks the opening of a new chapter in the Abbey's ministry. For those members of the congregation present it was both a joyful and solemn occasion as it marked our hope for and commitment to the future.

The Presbytery of Clyde Moderator, Revd Dr Alistair Shaw, led the service and in his sermon showed a close acquaintance with the Abbey and its past history, emphasising its long tradition of Christian worship and witness. He had words of support for Elspeth McKay, too, as she takes up her charge with its many demands and sets about getting to know us. A direct address to the Congregation asked that we, too, support and assist our minister as she carries out her new role.

We were happy to welcome to the service members of Presbytery but especially, Elspeth's husband and other members of her family. If any of you were unable to be present in the Abbey or were unable to view the live streaming via the Abbey website, it can also be found on YouTube.

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

As we now rejoice that our time of Vacancy is over and we enthusiastically welcome our new minister, we also have to say farewell and express our gratitude to Revd Jim Gibson, our locum minister, and to the Very Revd Dr Lorna Hood, our Interim Moderator, both of whom in quite different ways have allowed the Abbey to reach this extremely satisfying destination. Apart from the Vacancy, the Abbey along with other churches, has had to contend with the restrictions of the pandemic.

To Revd Jim Gibson who led our services, both in the Abbey and online, we owe so much. His leadership and support as well as his pastoral care for so many of the congregation assisted us through difficult times and those of us fortunate enough to have been able to attend services have been encouraged to consider our ways of

thinking and doing. It was wonderful to welcome him and his wife, Doreen, back to the Abbey after a long period and to have other members of his family with him, too.

Our Interim Moderator, Lorna Hood, by virtue of that special role, was less visible to the general congregation but during the period of Vacancy she Moderated the Kirk Session at its very regular meetings and, once elected, she guided the Nominating Committee in its task of searching for a new minister.

To Dr Hood, the Abbey owes a tremendous debt of gratitude. We were fortunate to have as Interim Moderator, someone of such experience and ability.

HARVEST COLLECTION FOR WATERAID

The amount collected for WaterAid at Harvest time this year was an amazing £909.08. When the gift-aided donations are added to that sum, the total by which WaterAid will benefit from the generosity of the Abbey congregation will be over £1,000.00 – yes, one thousand pounds!

Enormous thanks are due to everyone who gave so very generously in support of this greatly needed charity. It is appalling to think that in 2021 there are still over 780 million people in the World who have no immediate access to clean water and it is good to think that, thanks to the Abbey's donation, WaterAid will be able to install, for instance, 2 wells or several hand-washing stations and thus hundreds – perhaps even thousands – of lives will have been dramatically changed for the better.

SGC

HELP THE ABBEY TO RAISE SOME MONEY BY SHOPPING ONLINE.

With Christmas looming in a few weeks shop online and avoid crowded shops.

It's a really simple process, all you have to do is:
Register at www.easyfundraising.org.uk

When you're asked to choose your cause, select **Paisley Abbey**.
Get shopping - it couldn't be easier!

There are over 2,700 online retailers available, including Amazon, John Lewis, eBay and Tesco and all will give a small percentage of what's been spent back to **Paisley Abbey** to say thank you for shopping with them.

What are you waiting for? Head to www.easyfundraising.org.uk to boost your fundraising for **Paisley Abbey** now. Already registered? Spread the word to family and friends to let them know just how easy it is!

ADVANCE NOTICE PAISLEY SINFONIA

There is a concert being held in the Abbey by Paisley Sinfonia on Sunday 28 November at 4 pm.

Details of the event will be published on the Abbey and Social Media websites as soon as we have details.

The standard rules will apply for access to the concert, face mask, hand sanitiser and contact and trace.

The Abbey now has a QR code so those with smart phones will be able to scan their details.

“FREEDOM ISN’T FREE”

The Very Rev. Dr. John Chalmers reflects on the impact of the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan as Remembrance Sunday approaches.

Back in August when news broke that British troops were being sent to help evacuate British nationals from the ever-increasing dangers of an Afghanistan which was in the hands of a resurgent Taliban. Tom Tugendhat, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee tweeted: “If you think I’m taking the news from Afghanistan badly and personally, you’re right”.

He served there for four years of his career in the army, he had served with courageous women and men and he was perturbed because, close up, he had counted the cost and seen the sacrifices, which now appeared to have been for nothing.

Having has some up-close and personal experience of how the war in Afghanistan has impacted individuals and families across the world, I know how Tom Tugendhat was feeling and I shared unease about the way in which an opportunity for lasting change seemed to have been cast to the winds.

War is not the way to resolve the world’s problems and with hindsight it is hard to see how a war on terror could be won: but once we had become an ally to those who supported democracy in Afghanistan and after we had paved the way for tens of thousands of ordinary of Afghans, especially women and girls, to enjoy new freedoms; surely, when the chips were down, we should have been a better friend.

It is the idea that we let people down, it is a humanitarian crisis that has been left behind and it is the human rights abuses which will now follow that make the current situation in Afghanistan so distressing. I find it difficult to disagree with those who feel that we have abandoned and even betrayed the Afghan people. So much was sacrificed so much was promised, so many dreams have been dashed

and I feel ashamed when I hear people blame the current situation on the Afghans. We have to take responsibility for our part in this and political expediency does not trump the need for political integrity. Now as we approach the season of Remembrance, there is concern for the families of those whose loved ones were killed or injured in this conflict. Year on year these families comfort themselves with the thought that, at the very least, their loss contributed to making life better for others. I dread the thought that this year those families may be feeling that their loved ones died in vain. They most certainly did not.

Even if the difference they made was short lived – they made a difference and one day the voices of Afghan women will be heard above the sound of Kalashnikovs, and one day Afghans who respect the views of others will prevail and one day the violence and oppression the Taliban will be consigned to the dustbin of history.

Then, we might trace the origins of change to those who befriended people on the ground, to reopen schools and marketplaces and gave the Afghan people a proper taste of freedom.

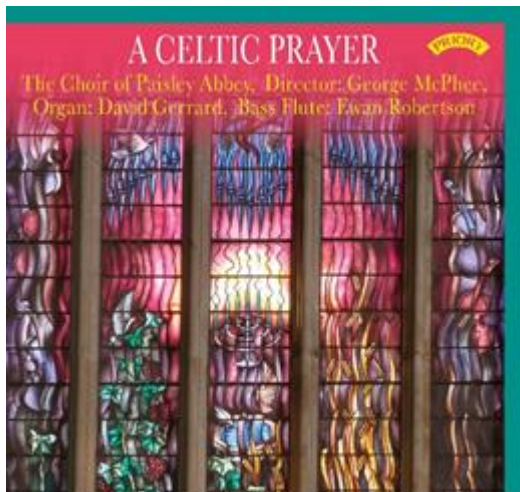
The Remembrance Season reminds that freedom isn't free and the journey from conflict to concord can be a long drawn out and complex business.

Experience tells us that it can take generations to establish peace. In so we have to play the long game and with the real stuff of the spiritual life includes repentance and regret, justice, truth, pardon, forgiveness and atonement.

For Afghanistan, this has now become even longer, but the seeds of freedom and hope and the vision of a better Afghanistan will not die in the ground, one day these seeds will grow and flourish. For now, we have to take the view and we must assure those feeling the pain of acute loss and aggravated grief that the price which has been paid will one day may be repaid in full.

This article first appeared in the November issue of Life and Work.

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS PRESENT!
THE CHOIR CD RELEASED LAST YEAR



AVAILABLE IN THE ABBEY SHOP £11.99

SPECIAL OFFER: BUY ONE GET A DIFFERENT CD HALF
PRICE!

FOODBANK

The next collection will be on Sunday 28 Nov. Shortages are longlife milk, diluting juice, jam, small boxes or bottles of detergent, and treats are always welcome. Cash donations can be gift aided.

Thanks to all who donate.

Margaret Sharp

BLYTHSWOOD CARE APPEAL SHOEBOXES

Our total for the Blythswood Care Appeal was 20 shoeboxes, £90 in contributions and some extra items were also handed over.

Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Sue Donn



SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

7 November 2021

Third Sunday before Advent

11.00 am

Kyrie eleison

Benedictus es

Anthem

Morning Service

McPhee

(Scottish Church Society Service)

Give us the wings of faith

McPhee

Bullock

14 November 2021

Remembrance

10.50 am

Introit

Benedictus

Anthem

Morning Service

Thou knowest, Lord

Greater love hath no man

Purcell

Stanford in C

Ireland

21 November 2021

Christ the King

11.00 am

Introit

Psalm 93

Anthem

Morning Service

Howells (Collegium Regale)

O clap your hands

Gibbons

4.00 pm

Responses

Psalm 72

Canticles

Anthem

Choral Evensong

Byrd

Howells (Collegium Regale)

Great King of Gods

Gibbons

28 November 2021

Advent Sunday

11.00am
Communion Setting
Anthem

Holy Communion
Palestrina (Iste confessor)
Canite tuba *Palestrina*

5 December

Advent 2

11.00am
Te Deum
Psalm 27
Anthem

Morning Service
Gibbons (Short Service)

Laetentur coeli *Byrd*

4.00pm
Conditor alme siderum
Adam lay bounden
Ecce concipies
A spotless rose
Ave Maria
Magnificat
Motet Komm, Jesu BWV 229

Lessons & Carols for Advent
Plainsong
McPhee
Handl
Howells
Parsons
Weelkes (Short Service)
J S Bach

ABBEY DIRECTORY

Minister:	Rev. Elspeth McKay LLB LLM BD	0141 889 7654
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.

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