

Paisley Abbey



Abbey Herald

February 2022

Easter Day is on Sunday 17th April this year, which means that Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, will be on March 2nd (40 days, not including Sundays, before Easter). In many traditions, people give things up for Lent. Common things to give up are chocolate and alcohol; others give up sweets or fizzy drinks. Other more unusual things people give up are procrastination or complaining! Social media can take a hit too when people give up communicating through websites such as Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

Giving things up, whether it is food, the way we behave or using social networking, is counter to our present culture. Our present culture is built around consumerism, and that consumption of things is good – in fact, very good. The more we eat, the more we buy, the more we spend, the more that we are entertained, the better. And we want it now. The ethos of previous generations of saving up to buy something is in the past. Generally, we don't like waiting for things any more.

And where does the Church and Lent fit in with this? One of the things that we can do as a Church is to show a different way of living. A great deal of Jesus' ministry concerned social justice, bringing good news to the poor, those who were suffering and the broken-hearted. The 40 days of Lent gives us all a chance to look at our priorities and to challenge the status quo. It could be that giving something up will concentrate our minds on this challenge. Or perhaps we could take something up? Perhaps by giving something up or taking something on, it will enable us to find out what is really important and, once we have found this, it can be shared with others through our words and actions.

Have a happy Easter when it comes!

Elspeth

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF PAISLEY ABBEY

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society of Friends of Paisley Abbey will be held by Zoom on 23rd February 2022 at 2pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive a report on the year's activities; to receive the financial report as independently examined; to elect office bearers and council members; to reappoint the External Examiner; and to conduct such other business as may be necessary.

By order of the Council

(Signed) 'Alison Cook' _____

Secretary

GIFT AID NEWS

Firstly, a huge thank you to all Gift Aid donors.

If you would like to become a Gift Aid donor, please contact the office, or speak to Jan Norris, who has taken over the role of administrator from Deryk Docherty.

As mentioned separately in the Herald, there will be a Lent Appeal in March and April. If you have signed a Gift Aid, please remember it is your responsibility to balance your Gift Aid total each tax year. As the Lent Appeal will span the end of one tax year, and the beginning of another, you may wish to make your donation before or after the 6th of April accordingly.

Jan Norris

LENT APPEAL 2022

Dear Abbey Members,

When you see the heading ‘Lent Appeal’ I hope you don’t say, “O, not another appeal for money from the Kirk Session.” However, I would like you think the Appeal is giving you the opportunity to keep the Abbey afloat in exceedingly turbulent financial waters.

In November of last year, we had a highly successful ‘Giving Day’ that raised over £14,000 for Abbey funds and 100% of that money went straight to the Abbey with no ‘taxation’ going to the Church of Scotland. With the addition of Gift Aid from HMRC, the total certainly exceeded £16,000.

Thank you all for that outstanding effort.

We are fortunate that the Covid restrictions are slowly being eased although it will be a considerable time before the Abbey gets back to anything like normal working. For instance, the Abbey and shop are only open on three days plus Sundays and we are still not allowed to serve tea and coffee.

In recent years the shop contributed around £35,000 to Abbey funds. So, to the Lent Appeal which I hope you do not mind considering.

This will run from 2 March to Easter Day, 17 April.

Every little bit of money, no matter how small, will be really appreciated and put to good use in supporting Paisley Abbey, a community and building that is close to all of our hearts.

Please look out for your Lent Appeal 2022 pack dropping through you letterbox

Many Thanks

Stewart McDougall
Treasurer

ABBEY FLOWERS

It is with optimism that I look forward to 2022, hoping that the Abbey's opening times and services will be back to normal soon. Happily, we have the Queen's Jubilee service on the 6 February, when the Guild will arrange a floral tribute for that. It has been difficult to arrange and maintain fresh flowers during the lockdown and the restricted opening times so we used artificial flowers with fresh greenery but it is not the same. The other problem with the restrictions has meant the flower fund has not been operating, there has been a small number of donations received and we are very grateful for these.

I have been updating the donations list and I am saddened to see how many of our benefactors have passed away, so I will post the revised list shortly.

I mentioned earlier that we used fresh greenery but not all of our arrangers have access to appropriate foliage. There is some at the Abbey but not a lot of variety, so if anyone can offer access to their garden greenery it would be welcome! Just contact me or the office.

Margaret Neill
Convener



FOODBANK

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

Shortages this month are toiletries and dog food.

Thank you to all who donate.

Margaret Sharp

PRESBYTERY REPORT

At a special meeting held on 5th January the union of Kilmacolm St Columba and Kilmacolm Old was confirmed. the following matters of interest were discussed.

A consultation meeting of Presbyters was held on 21st January to discuss future arrangements for the General Assembly. This topic will be discussed at the General Assembly this year and the consultations with all Presbyteries will be taken in to account.

The Presbytery has appointed James McNamara as the Presbytery Buildings Officer and he will work across the whole of Clyde Presbytery to assist congregations with property matters.

John Kitson
Presbytery Elder

PARISH REGISTER – DECEMBER 2021

Funeral

9 December Kenneth MacKenzie

14 December Anne Winton

PARISH REGISTER – JANUARY 2022

Baptism

9 January Sophie Gillian Sally Deakin

Funeral

24 January Claire Johnston

New Member

Peter Richmond

ABOUT US FESTIVAL MARCH 2022

An outdoor spectacle will transform the outside of the Abbey and surrounding streets at the end of February with a weeklong arts spectacle. The North face of the Abbey will become a huge outdoor backdrop for the launch of a UK wide cultural celebration, with projection mapping technology on the building, along with poetry, music and choral singing. This fantastic light show will cover 18 billion years of history starting with the Big Bang, taking us through the cosmos, and exploring the links between the natural world and the human race, bringing us right up to date with poems and animations from children all over Renfrewshire. There will also be illuminated plinths around the Abbey and on Cotton Street with stories from local people.

There will be live performances each night from, Paisley Philharmonic, City of Glasgow Chorus and Strathclyde University Chamber Choir, on a stage set up outside the Town Hall.

A new musical score for the event has been created by award winning musician and composer Nitin Sawhney, along with, Scots Makar Kathleen Jamie, and mathematician, author and broadcaster Rachel Riley.

This free event starts on Monday February 28th February until Sunday 6th March and there will be 25minute shows each night between 7pm and 9.15pm.

About Us, is one of ten new cultural projects which will be staged across the UK in 2022, and Paisley will launch the £120 million Unboxed festival, instigated by the UK Government after the Brexit referendum, but since backed by the devolved administrations.

With all major events which are centred around the Abbey, come road closures, Cotton Street, Bridge Street as well as the Cross and Gauze Street will be closed off to traffic from **20th February until 8th March** to allow for the install and de rig of this event. We have been in discussion with the event organisers for assurances that access will be available for Sunday services, and that has been agreed. More details about access will be made available as soon as possible.

Linda Barrett, Abbey Manager

MUSIC FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday 6 February 2022 Epiphany 5

11.00 am Morning Service
Psalm 138
Te Deum Britten in E
Anthem Behold, O God, our Defender Howells

Sunday 13 February 2022 Epiphany 6

11.00 am Morning Service with Holy Baptism
The Lord bless you and keep you McPhee
Psalm 1 Metrical
Anthem Blessed be the God and Father S.S. Wesley

4 pm Choral Evensong
Responses Leighton
Psalm 6
Canticles Stanford in A
Anthem Os justi Bruckner

Sunday 20 February 2022 Epiphany 7

11 am Morning Service
Psalm 37 1-11
Jubilate Deo Gabrieli à 8
Anthem Ubi caritas Duruflé

Sunday 27 February 2022 Transfiguration

11 am Morning Service
Introit O nata lux Tallis
Psalm 99
Anthem Holy is the true light Harris

Wednesday 2 March

4 pm Ash Wednesday
Holy Communion
Communion Service Plainsong
Psalm 51 Allegri
Anthem Sicut cervus Palestrina

ABBEY DIRECTORY

Minister:	Rev. Elspeth McKay	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