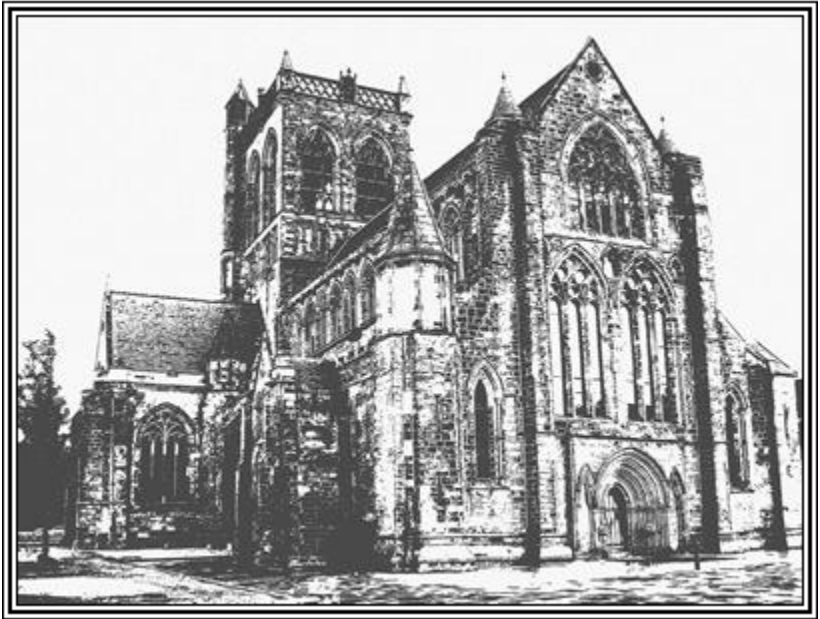


Paisley Abbey



Abbey Herald

April 2022

It has been a very busy time for the Abbey recently which has hosted the About Us Festival attracting thousands to watch the light show on the north side of the Abbey; the Aled Jones concert was attended by hundreds; we have recorded an episode of BBC Songs of Praise (to go out the week after Easter) and have hosted many other events too. I would very much like to thank all the staff and volunteers here for all the work and extra hours they have put in to enable us to host such wonderful events which have seen many come to the Abbey. It looks as if we have, hopefully, emerged into the light after the awful days of lockdown and restrictions

After the Covid-19 epidemic, the Easter message of hope and rescue from despair and fear has rarely felt so needed and urgent. The Easter story begins in darkness, the darkness of Good Friday and the crucifixion. The disciples had all runaway and were hiding behind locked doors fearing for their lives – sound familiar? This could easily describe the world in which we were living during lockdown.

When Christ rose from the dead on that first Easter morning, he brought the light of hope into the darkness of despair. The Easter story may begin in the darkness, but it ends in the light. From Good Friday to Easter Day – from the cross to the empty tomb, from death to life – we are invited to journey to find the inner peace that only Christ can bring. That peace and confidence which helps us to announce and live out the Good News that Christ is alive.

We must never give up hope. The Spirit is with us and we will move from darkness to light.

‘Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord’
(John 20:20)

PARISH REGISTER – MARCH 2022

Funeral

18 March Anna Mathie

30 March Elizabeth (Lily) Kennedy

Baptism

20 March Jacob Murray

New member Stuart Murray

FLOWERS AT EASTER 2022

With Easter fast approaching it's giving me mild panic attacks thinking of our commitment to decorate the church for this significant Sunday in the church's calendar.

It will be lovely to use fresh flowers this year although finances will restrict our efforts.

There will be arrangements needed from the three teams so check in with your leader and if you can help.

The hours we can access the Abbey are also restricted and this will dictate when we can work.

Margaret Neil

FOODBANK

Shortages this month are toiletries, especially toilet paper, coffee, UHTmilk and tinned rice or custard.

Next collection date is Sunday April 24.

Many thanks.

Margaret Sharp

EASY FUNDRAISING

Have you registered yet?

There are 48 people who are supporting the Abbey by purchasing items online via www.easyfundraising.org and a small portion of their spend goes to Paisley Abbey. The recent total amount which the Abbey received was £80.80. Not a large amount but every penny counts.

ABBEY AID

This initiative has been quietly going on and raising much needed funds for the Abbey.

The amount raised to July 2020 was £800. Since then, smaller donations have come from various small efforts such as selling baking, bric a brac, collecting loose change etc. This amounted to £721 which has been added to the total.

If you have anything to give to Abbey Aid, see Priscilla Routley.

THANK YOU

By the time you read this, the Abbey Office will probably be back to pre-covid opening hours. That is the hope at least.

It is therefore a particularly opportune moment to thank the staff for all they did to keep the show on the road throughout these horrendous couple of years. The only slight grumble I ever heard was how miserable it was to be in the Office entirely on your own because (and let us not forget it) for several months during the pandemic the Abbey was without a minister and, of course, no-one else could go into the Office. Under this miserable circumstance a slight grumble was understandable!

All four of the wonderful team endured the enforced cut in hours with endurance and understanding and despite these shortened hours, somehow got through all that was asked of them – which, of course, included the introduction of all the precautionary measures, risk assessments and cleaning which were essential for our well-being.

I am sure that the entire congregation would wish to thank Linda, Karen, Nora and Alex. for all they did during the “unpleasantness”.

We all really appreciate how you coped with the difficulties and supported our Abbey throughout, and we can only say a very large and heart-felt “thank you” to you all.

S.G.C.

“LOVE, GRACE AND TRANSFORMATION”

As Holy week approaches, the Very Rev. Dr. John Chalmers explains why Jesus is an archetype.

Whatever you believe about the life and times of Jesus of Nazareth you cannot but be disturbed by the conspiracy around his arrest on jumped up charges, the farce of the trial to which he was submitted and the injustice of his sentence to death.

By all accounts Jesus personified a way of living which rejected violence, which favoured the poor over and which preferred humility to supremacy and yet he died the death of a criminal in what might be described as an archetypal instance of prejudice and injustice.

Of course, history is strewn with cases of good people whose lives have been snuffed out because they got in the way of the ambitious and the powerful. Worse still, too much of history’s violence war has been waged in the name of God so the Church itself is not an innocent party. Sadly too, you do not have to look back in time for examples of ruthless oppression and the sacrifice of the innocent to suit the ends of one form or another of belief or ideology.

It is distressing to look around the world from the ravaged ruins of Somalia to the Uyghur internment camps of Xinjiang Province; from the dust bowls of South Sudan to the war-torn regions of Afghanistan and see something akin to the crucifixion of Jesus repeated daily. In Matthew 25:13 Jesus is directly identified with the most marginalised in society. Whatever is done for the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the ragged, the sick and the prisoner is seen as being done for Christ himself. On this sort of analysis, it becomes easier to understand what it means to say that Good Friday was archetypal in its significance. An archetype is an original model or symbol that resonates with human experience. The psychologist Carl Jung is, perhaps, most

famous for his work in describing the archetypes which belong in our collective experience. He referred to the collective unconscious as the means through which human beings are connected to each other and to our ancestors through a shared set of experiences. Jung believed that we used these collective experiences to give meaning to the world.

You will be glad to know that I have no intention, in this article, of unpacking what Jung believed about the “collective unconscious”. Instead, I simply want to highlight the idea that understanding Christ as an archetype is a rich seam, to be mined by those searching for the deepest truths in the Christian narrative. The Christian faith has to be understood on many different levels and for some people it is the richness of the symbolism attached to the narrative which gives it its deepest meaning.

If there is any truth in the archetypal nature of Christ’s suffering and death, then most surely the same is true of his resurrection. On Easter morning when we say, “Christ is risen” and we hear the response, “He is Risen indeed”, we are expressing the most profound hope that while death cannot be avoided, it can be transformed in contemplating the death of Christ. Carl Jung said “There was need of a fantastic, indestructible optimism and one far removed from all sense of reality, in order, for example, to discover in the shameful death of Christ really the highest salvation and the redemption of the world”.

Interestingly, in Western Christianity Jesus in his resurrection is often pictured walking alone out of the tomb carrying a white flag. It is an image of the resurrection of an individual. However, in the Eastern Church the resurrection of Jesus is pictured as the Harrowing of Hell with chains and bolts, and locks flying around in every direction. This imagery suggests a hopeful message that the resurrection is not only about Jesus but society, humanity and history itself being redeemed. Christ as an archetype of love, grace and transformation.

This article first appeared in the April 2022 issue of Life and Work magazine.

THE LAMB OF GOD An Easter Poem by M.S. Lowndes

Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away our sin,
He came the sinless Son of God to cleanse our hearts within

He hung upon the blood-stained cross thinking of you and me,
Dying like some hardened criminal, his body in agony

His blood flowed down from the cross; His body tormented with pain
He cried out to His Heavenly Father, but it seemed no answer came

People stood and jeered at Him mocking to the end
Who Jesus was and why he came, they couldn't comprehend

Their hearts were indifferent to the Lord; Their consciences grew ever cold
His mother watch on – unable to bear it as the sword pierced through her soul

As you try to gasp the picture, the pain that Christ went through,
Remember that day you were on his mind, he endured it all for you

Just so you could know his love and forgiveness for your sins,
To know his resurrection power and to have His life within

He cares that much about your life; he endured the cross for you
Like those who jeered, or those who loved, with Jesus – what will you do?



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SATURDAY RECITALS

The Saturday Lunchtime Recitals are resuming again.

The first one will be on Saturday 23 April at 12.30pm when The Abbey Strings will perform a programme of quartet music by Mozart, Glazunov and Borodin.

This will be followed by an organ recital on Saturday 21 May by David J. Smith and the recital will include organ music by Bach and Mendelssohn and some improvisation.

On 11 June, Peter Shepherd, the Abbey's assistant organist will give an organ recital.

More details next month.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Palm/Passion Sunday 10th April

11am Morning Service

Monday 11th April

7.30 Evening Service will be held at
Holy Trinity and St Barnabas Church
Stations of the Cross

Tuesday 12th April

7.30pm Evening Service

Wednesday 13th April

7.30pm Evening Service
Performance by Iuchair
(With financial support from the Scottish Early Music Trust)

Maundy Thursday 14th April

7.30pm Holy Communion

Good Friday – 15th April

7.30pm Service of Meditation
The Abbey Choir will sing *Lotti's* Crucifixus à 8

Easter Day – 17th April

11am Holy Communion with Sacrament of Baptism
The Abbey Choir accompanied by a small orchestra sing
Mozart's 'Coronation' Mass Churches Together Renfrewshire

Churches Together Renfrewshire
Good Friday walk – meet at Paisley North Church at 11am.

MUSIC FOR APRIL

Sunday 3 April 2022

11.00 am
Introit
Psalm 126
Anthem

Lent 5

Morning Service
God so loved the world *Stainer*

When the Lord turned again *Batten*

Sunday 10 April 2022

11.00 am
Introit

Psalm 118 1-2, 19-29
Anthem

Palm/Passion Sunday

Hosanna to the Son of David
Gibbons

Metrical
Ave verum corpus *Byrd*

Thursday 14 April 2022

7.30 pm
Communion setting
Psalm 116 1-2, 12-16
Anthem

Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion
Byrd, Mass for Four Voices

Wash me thoroughly *S.S. Wesley*

Friday 15 April 2022

7.30 pm
Psalm 22
Anthem

Good Friday

Holy Communion
Plainsong
Crucifixus à 8 *Lotti*

Sunday 17 April 2022

11.00 am
Communion Setting

Anthem

Easter Day

Holy Communion
Mozart ('Coronation' Mass K 317)
The Lord bless you and keep you
McPhee
This joyful Eastertide Arr. *McPhee*

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