

# Paisley Abbey



## Abbey Herald

**November 2023**

Seems no time at all since I was writing copy for last month's magazine. Indeed, where have the months of this year gone ? Before long the countdown to Christmas will begin and, thereafter if we blink, a new year will be dawning. Of course, maybe it is just that I am growing older faster than I would like! But, in truth, that's not the reason. For to suggest otherwise would be to diminish the tremendous amount of work that has been done, and continues to be done, week by week within the Abbey.

### **WORK BEHIND THE SCENES**

For those with keen interest in matters ecclesiastical (or, simply suffering from insomnia), even a cursory glance through the Kirk Session Minutes, made available on the notice-board in the cloisters for public scrutiny after each meeting of the Session, will indicate something of the huge variety of matters investigated and debated. Moreover, the Session Executive continues to meet regularly ensuring that no items of business are forgotten and important matters are thoroughly discussed before being taken to the Session for recommendations to be decided. Having chaired such meetings for over forty years, I have been both impressed and delighted at the faithfulness and seriousness with which such matters are dealt. Meetings of the Kirk Session are open to the congregation; and constructive comments from any member of the congregation will always be welcomed.

### **CONGREGATIONAL CELEBRATION**

At time of writing, the congregation is preparing to celebrate the quite remarkable feat of Dr George McPhee in celebrating 60 years as our organist and director of music. The dedication George has shown over these years almost defies description. Little wonder that his tremendous skill and application as a musical man o' parts has gained him a global reputation. Throughout, his wife Margaret has given unstinting support. The Royal School of Church Music accorded George rightful recognition during their visit to the Abbey at the beginning of October with well over 100 choristers present (some travelling great distances through atrocious weather conditions). On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October, the congregation offer their own gratitude when a presentation will be made following morning service to George and Margaret. In the evening, a Reception will be held within the Abbey when George will be united with over a hundred guests comprising congregational members, personal friends, former colleagues, guest singers, choristers and assistant organists past and present. Let us pray that George and Margaret may enjoy our tribute and continue to be a blessing to us for many years to come.

## REMEMBRANCE

November is, perhaps, the most sombre month of the year. It is preceded by the Sacrament of Holy Communion being held on the last Sunday of October. To some, the sacrament is a reminder of the arrest and death of Jesus. But, if that is all it is for us, then we are missing out. Sombre may be our act of remembrance, but joyful hope out to be its consequence. – Holy Communion is the heartbeat of all our worship. It is what offers us the power to act, to be, to live. It is the power to ‘love’ calling each one of us to the ministry of our common humanity: a ministry of loving, sharing, caring and accepting. This year, we need to hear about such a possibility all the more so when thousands, and hundreds of thousands, of people both in Ukraine and in Israel and Palestine face devastating conflict and all the horrors that war brings. I hope our Remembrance Service may be a source of hope and strength to all who attend.

Jim Gibson  
Minister at the Abbey.

## SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF PAISLEY ABBEY

Are you a member yet ?  
Why not ?  
Don't miss out.

Membership of the Society is open to anyone who shares the Society's aims and would like to support its activities. Please contact the Abbey Office and ask the Secretary for a membership form; or collect one from within the Abbey. The Society exists to enhance and safe-guard your Abbey church.

The Society exists to aid:

- The preservation of the Abbey buildings for posterity;
- The adornment and furnishing of the building;
- The safe-guarding of the amenity of the Abbey and its surroundings;
- The promotion of the Abbey as a centre of excellence for education, the arts and music as well as a place of Christian worship.

## GIVING WITH A WILL

### *(A legacy to your Church)*

Did you know that Paisley Abbey is a registered charity?  
Did you know that giving a LEGACY is one very important way by which you can continue to support the ministry and work and outreach of the Abbey after your death?

A legacy may be a specific sum of money, a property, share in a company or the residue of your estate.

Legacies are exempt from Inheritance Tax and may provide vital funds for a particular project of the Abbey; or may be invested to produce annual income for ongoing work.

All legacies are only used in accordance with the donor's wishes. So, why not speak with your solicitor and '*give with a will*'? Alternatively, you might consider donating your legacy while you can still enjoy witnessing the benefits your generosity makes.

## ABBAY AID

Abbey Aid was set up a few years ago to encourage members to contribute to the Abbey's fundraising efforts by using their skills and talents, the thought being that "every little helps" and many small donations add up to a useful addition to our bank account. Currently we receive regular donations for baking, jars of loose change, knitting, also sales of plants and bric a brac, jam and chutney.

Can you think of anything you could do? Make and sell any crafts? Help someone out by doing their shopping or ironing or gardening?

Or maybe there is something you need help with, let me know and I will try and find a willing member to help you out!

Please contact Priscilla via the Abbey office on 0141 889 7654.

or by email at [info@paisleyabbey.org.uk](mailto:info@paisleyabbey.org.uk)

Priscilla Routley

## PARISH REGISTER – OCTOBER 2023

**Death** Archie McDougall

### EASYFUNDRAISING

#### SHOP ONLINE TO RAISE MONEY FOR PAISLEY ABBEY

It's a really simple process, all you have to do is:  
Register at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://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](http://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!

#### BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL

This year we are supporting the **Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal**, the charity helps children and the elderly. Leaflets, which give you an idea of the contents will be available shortly, information is available from Sue Donn or from [Shoe Box Appeal](#) | [Blythswood Care](#)

I know that times are tough for people just now, we are very grateful for any donations so if you feel that it is too much to fill a whole shoebox then we would be grateful for a few items and there will be a box available to receive them.

Sue Donn

## GIFT AID

Calling all UK Tax Payers who is donating to the Abbey today, or on a regular basis. Please consider completing a Gift Aid Yellow Envelope. This will allow the Abbey to claim an extra 25% from HMRC for the donation you are making. Collection baskets are available on entry to the service, and also at the door as you exit. If you wish further details regarding Gift Aid or the Small Donations Scheme, please speak to Jan Norris, our Gift Aid co-ordinator, or contact the Abbey Office.

## CAFÉ

The Café is now open Tuesday to Saturday from 10.30 am - 3.30 pm now serving Matthew Algie coffee The café will serve tea, coffee & home baking from 10.30 am—12.30 pm on the Saturday mornings when the Lunch Hour Concerts take place. The next lunchtime concert will be on Saturday 25 November with Daniella Hathaway (soprano) & Stephen Adam (piano) admission is £5 payable at the door.

## RENFREWSHIRE FOODBANK

The congregation of Paisley Abbey generously supports the Foodbank set up to serve our local community in Paisley. By doing so we are trying to assist the most vulnerable people for whom life can prove the most difficult. The Foodbank distributes to those for whom the need is most urgent. If you would like to contribute, please bring along your donations to the Abbey on the last Sunday of the month. Anything you may be able to donate will be much appreciated.

Shortages this month are SOUP, jam, tinned meat, shampoo, shower gel, cat & dog food. We would also appreciate treats this month for Christmas.

Thank you to all who faithfully donate each month and to those who now give support. Your donations show the community that the congregation of the Abbey care for others and actively contribute to the wellbeing of all.

## RENFREWSHIRE TOY APPEAL

On Sundays in November there will be an opportunity to donate toys for Christmas to the Renfrewshire Toy Appeal, administered by the Salvation Army. All gifts should be received by the **30 November** and then will be distributed by the Social Work Department to children who, otherwise, would be unlikely to receive a present at Christmas. Anything suitable from babies to teenagers (especially), wrapped and labelled with gender and age will be welcome. Last year approximately 2,5000 toys were delivered.

## ROYAL NATIONAL MOD

With all the volunteer rotas for the Abbey, shop and café in place; café menus planned and extended opening hours advertised, the Abbey looked forward to welcoming the many people visiting the town to support and participate in this year's Mod. And what a week it turned out to be!

After the steady start of the competitions early in the week, by Thursday and Friday, visiting numbers reached crescendo point as competing choirs arrived from throughout the country.

The café's reputation for light lunches with homemade soup, coffee and sweet treats attracted queues with food also running out on occasion.

The shop was busy and very pleasing sales were achieved. Visitors to the Abbey of all ages and in much increased numbers were impressed by the beauty and interest of our building and left with very positive memories.

The warm welcome, helpfulness and friendliness extended by the large numbers of volunteers in every area and by staff, too, were greatly appreciated by visitors and attracted many very favourable comments.

As a congregation, we also are grateful to all those who come forward to volunteer on the Abbey's behalf.

## REPORT FROM THE PASTORAL COMMITTEE HARVEST FESTIVAL 2023

### WaterAid

The wonderful charity of WaterAid is, sadly, in as much need of our support today as it was when first we selected it as our 'Charity of Choice at Harvest Time' in 2007. Still in third world countries there is a desperate need for pipe-lines and pumps to provide clean, safe water to millions of people who, even in 2023, are living without this essential commodity. This is the type of work being carried out in Africa, Asia and South America by WaterAid and I am pleased to report that following the Harvest collection the Abbey congregation has contributed £504.95 to help with that work. That amount was enhanced by the gift aided donations which amounted to £305.00.

We on the Pastoral Committee and on behalf of WaterAid thank everyone who gave so generously to support the work of this still so necessary organisation. Thank you all..

### Delivery of House Plants

Harvest is also the time for the Pastoral Committee to carry out the very pleasant task of taking a little plant to those in the congregation who are unable to attend Church in person or who have experienced some unpleasantness during the year. We know that the plants give much pleasure but also acknowledge that very often the little chats with the recipients bring as much joy as the plants themselves. The Pastoral Committee is extremely grateful to everyone who helped with these deliveries and we thank you all most sincerely.

Sally Cook

## THANK YOU FROM ISOBEL CLONEY

My family and I thank you all for the kind messages on my recent encounter with being off colour. Now I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

## CONNECTING WORDS COMPETITION

The Competition must have been a particularly tricky one as only 9 all-correct answers were received. The main problem was the last clue - Blood ,,,, Point and the answer to that was PRESSURE.

The winners were - first Alistair Park of Newton Means and the runners up were Michael and Susanne Rooney of the Abbey.  
It is always good when the prizes are split between Abbey members and those who so kindly support us.

The answers are:

1. Full MOON Shot
2. Shoe HORN Pipe
3. Small TALK Sense
4. Small BEER Barrell
5. True LOVE Knot
6. Life LINE Dance
7. Pale FACE Paint
8. Flower GIRL Guide
9. Down SIDE -or HILL – Walk
10. Polo MINT Condition
11. Box HEDGE Fund
12. Black DEATH Rattle
13. Black BOARD Walk
14. Life BLOOD Bank
15. Hockey STICK Insect
16. Snap DRAGON Fly
17. Silver BULLET Train
18. Flea MARKET Research
19. Gall BLADDER Wrack
20. Blood PRESSURE Point

Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way – particularly those who although not members of Paisley Abbey, support it so generously. We greatly appreciate that support.

Thank you all and again congratulations to the worthy winners of this competition.

S.G.C.

## GATHERING OF ABBEY VOLUNTEERS/GUIDES

As part of our progressing the Kirk Sessions' transition document 'Progress for Action 2023-2028' a gathering of Abbey volunteers and guides will be held on Monday 4 December from 2 pm until 4 pm.

The purpose of the gathering is to allow our supporters to share their experiences and their ideas/ hopes as to how we can better improve the facilities the Abbey offers and the experience visitors have.

The gathering is open to all our regular volunteers and to anyone who is interested in becoming a volunteer/ guide. All are welcome.





## Remember, Remember?

**REMEMBER, REMEMBER,  
THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER,  
GUNPOWDER TREASON AND PLOT;  
FOR I SEE NO REASON  
WHY GUNPOWDER TREASON  
SHOULD EVER BE FORGOT.**

Bonfire Night, Fireworks Night, Guy Fawkes Day . . . . all names applied to the fifth day of this otherwise dreary month of November . . . . and to which, with fond memories of my late companions, I would sardonically add “dog-scaring night!” It is perhaps typically British that most of us will have observed an event that has its origins in the remembrance of something that didn’t happen more than four hundred years ago. The Gunpowder Plot failed. The House of Lords was not blown up. King James VI and I was not assassinated.

It was no accident that this commemoration endured for centuries. The English parliament legislated that it should happen by passing “The Observance of 5th November Act” in 1606. Known as the “Thanksgiving Act,” it remained on the statute book until 1859. When publishing its provisions, the background to the Act was described in florid terms, recollecting that “many malignant and devilish Papists, Jesuits, and Seminary Priests, much envying and fearing, conspired most horribly [ . . . ] suddenly to have blown up the [ . . . ] whole House with Gunpowder.”

As so often with important historical events, retrospective analysis of this failed assassination attempt has abounded in conspiracy theories. It is certain at least that news of the plot fuelled fears of counter-Reformation, foreign interference, and especially anti-Catholic sentiment. At the same time, it bolstered the acceptance and security of King James in his newfound accession to the throne of England, and in the union of the crowns of Scotland and its southern neighbour.

Religious and political extremism characterised much of the century that followed, resulting in civil wars, regicide, and the temporary abolition of the monarchy – in all, associated with much hardship and avoidable bloodshed. Finally, what emerged was a restored and secure Protestant succession in a country called Great Britain, ruled by one monarch, and governed by one parliament, but with distinctly different systems of religion and justice on either side of the border. Frustratingly and regrettably, that outcome at the end of those one hundred years was far too similar to the beginning of them to have justified so much strife. The turmoil of the previous century had already entrained the greater part of what, when examined collectively, was a seismic change in Scotland. As Jane Dawson, the Professor Emerita of Reformation History at Edinburgh University, wrote:

“Scotland was re-formed within four broad areas: the nature of its governance and political structure; its ecclesiastical and religious lives; the integration of the kingdom; and its place in the world.”

Professor Dawson’s seminal work specifically covers the period from 1488, the year of James IV’s succession, to 1587, the year of Mary, Queen of Scots’ execution. It is striking to consider how the changes in Scotland during those hundred years were reflected in the transformation of Paisley Abbey and Monastery.

Immediately prior to and during these years was the “era of the great Abbots” as Howell described it. During their reign, the interior of the Abbey was of great magnificence. The beautiful clerestory and triforium of the nave were completed in the 1450s when it is said “the Abbey attained to great prosperity and splendour.” A refectory and other conventual buildings were erected, and a tower added to the gatehouse. Abbot George Shaw’s great wall enclosing the monastery grounds was completed in 1484, extending to a mile in length, and adorned with statues, armorial shields, and inscriptions.

Abbot Shaw’s brother had taken a leading part in the rebellion which led to the overthrow and assassination of James III, and which resulted in James IV’s succession. He was already in favour with the new king having been tutor to his younger brother the Duke of Ross, in recognition of which, James, in 1488 within months of becoming king, confirmed full privileges of Regality on the Abbey and erected the town of Paisley into a burgh. James IV was to visit the Abbey on many occasions in subsequent years, but most significantly in 1491, when he received the papal absolution for his involvement in the plot against his father, which Abbot Shaw was commissioned to bestow.

If such times represent the apogee of the monastery’s existence, it was to prove short-lived. A disastrous fire took hold in 1497 resulting in great damage to the Abbey Church such that repair of the nave alone could be immediately contemplated. A wall was constructed to separate the nave from the crossing until restoration of the other areas was possible. Perhaps it was anticipated that royal patronage would sponsor the restoration work required, but Abbot Shaw had by then retired in old age and his successor could not exert the same influence. Moreover, James had grown in self-confidence and aspiration. He was living like a Renaissance prince, well beyond his means, and also facing the spiralling but necessary costs of maintaining his army and navy. He looked to the wealth of the church to resource his predicament and, for Paisley Abbey, in common with other ecclesiastical institutions, this was payback time. For the king, however, worse was to follow. In 1513 he fell on the field of Flodden along with an estimated 5,000 Scots, including nearly all the nobility.

After Flodden and the loss of a generation of its ruling class, Scotland was in turmoil. James V was crowned King of Scotland at the age of seventeen months but there would be fifteen years of instability before he could begin his personal rule. In such times of uncertainty, Paisley Abbey was in any case unlikely to proceed with expensive building work but, in the 1520s, news from within Europe of Martin Luther's revolt and the dawning of the early Protestant Reformation began to arrive in Scotland. At first, the reaction in Scotland was not to embrace internal reform of the church but, instead, for Parliament to pass an Act against heresy. In 1528, Patrick Hamilton became the first Scottish martyr for his faith, but his execution served only to bolster the Reformation cause.

In Paisley, John Hamilton, an illegitimate son of the First Earl of Arran, had become Abbot in 1525 aged only thirteen years. It is unlikely that he would have taken any part in the running of the monastery, and its lack of leadership, set against the backdrop of growing uncertainty in the church nationally, must have prevented any significant progress with the Abbey church's necessary repairs. In addition, after James V had assumed personal rule, he was able to expand his father's policy of placing family members in lucrative church appointments, bringing considerable income to the royal treasury at the expense of damage to spiritual leadership. A strengthening church-crown hybrid proved to be a means of levelling heavy taxation on the church but also gave the crown a vested interest in resisting changes to the church's institutional structure that ultimately contributed to the cause of Reformation.

As James grew increasingly dependent on ecclesiastical finance, so those with leading church appointments gained greater political power and influence. One such was Abbot Hamilton who, following the death of James V and accession of the newborn infant Mary, Queen of Scots, was able to exploit the favour shown to him by his half-brother, James Hamilton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Arran. A great-grandson of James II and heir presumptive to the Scottish throne, Arran had been appointed Regent and sole Governor of Scotland in 1543. Through his influence, Abbot John was made Keeper of the Privy Seal, then Bishop of Dunkeld, before succeeding the murdered Cardinal Beaton as Archbishop of St Andrews in 1546. He meantime retained his office as Abbot of Paisley until 1553 when he resigned in favour of his seven-year-old nephew, Claud, a younger son of the Regent Arran.

Still awaiting repair, a further even more calamitous disaster befell the Abbey church in about 1556. The central tower and spire collapsed, destroying in its wake the already damaged choir and north transept. By that time, the Reformation movement was gaining momentum in Scotland. When Mary, Queen of Scots, unexpectedly became Queen Consort of France in 1558 on the accidental death of her father-in-law and accession of her newlywed husband Francis to the throne of France, the prospect of Scotland's future as little more than a French dependency contributed to the rapidly unfolding events that culminated in a Scottish Parliament meeting in August 1560 to pass Acts which abolished the pope's jurisdiction and forbade celebration of the Mass and other Roman Catholic sacraments.

In his "History of Paisley," Robert Brown describes the ensuing events at the Abbey: "A manifesto [ . . . ] for the destruction of the places of worship, was then issued. [ . . . ] The populace at once [ . . . ] commenced the work of destruction [ . . . ]. It appears that the Archbishop was at the Monastery of Paisley when it was attacked, and had with him many assistants to defend it; but they were overpowered by the destroyers from the adjoining counties, for the people of Paisley had themselves no hand in the wanton work of destruction. John Knox refers to this event in the following terms: - "The Lords of the Secret Council made an act that all places and monuments should be destroyed, and for that purpose were directed to the west, the Earl of Arran having joined with him the Earl of Glencairn, together with the Protestants of the west, who burned Paisley. The Bishop of St. Andrews, Abbot thereof, narrowly escaped" Those zealot Protestants made thorough work in this attempt to cleanse the Abbey of idolatry. They demolished, or rather burned, the eight altars it contained, [ . . . ] and among the many and costly furnishings which were then destroyed no doubt were "the claiiths of gold, silver, and silk, and mony gud books," which had been so reverently provided by the good Abbot Tervas."

"At the meeting of Estates in 1560, it was decreed that no one should perform mass under the pain of death. Abbot Hamilton must have returned to Paisley Abbey [ . . . ] for in 1563, he [ . . . ] was charged before the Court of Session "with the crimes of celebrating mass and attempting to restore popery [ . . . ] in the town of Paisley [ . . . ]" [He was] found guilty and imprisoned, but in July following, [was liberated]. In 1566 he was, through the intercession of Queen Mary, appointed a member of the Privy Council, and on 15th December in that year baptised her son [the future King James VI] in Stirling Castle. On that occasion he administered all the ceremonies of the Church of Rome except the "spittle," which the Queen had forbidden. [ . . . ] During Queen Mary's Imprisonment in Lochleven Castle, he appears to have acted as the head of her party, and was present with her at the battle of Langside in 1568. [ . . . ] When the Queen's army was defeated, he [ . . . ] fled with her [ . . . ] as far as the Solway, but on seeing that she was determined, contrary to his advice, to leave Scotland and to throw herself into the power of her rival, the Queen of England, he waded knee-deep into the water, held back the boat with his hands, and conjured her by every argument which his agitated mind could suggest, not to trust herself in England."

"[ . . . ] The Earl of Lennox, on becoming Regent, declared several of the leaders [of the Queen's party] traitors; and chief among them was the Archbishop. With some of his most trusted supporters, he now returned to Paisley, and imprisoned Lord Semple, who, after the battle of Langside, had received from the Regent the lands belonging to the Monastery. Regent Lennox besieged the Place of Paisley and the defenders, with the exception of the Archbishop, his nephew Claud Hamilton, and some others, capitulated on condition of their lives being saved. But the stipulation was not carried out, as thirty of them were hanged. [ . . . ]"

“[ . . . ] The Archbishop retired to Dumbarton Castle, then believed to be impregnable. The castle was, however, taken [ . . . ] and the long-existing hatred of the Lennox faction was not to be satisfied with less than the blood of Archbishop Hamilton. He was hurriedly taken to Stirling to be tried. [ . . . ] The judge found the Archbishop guilty, and ordered him to be hanged. [ . . . ] Dressed in pontificals, by way of derision, he was hurried to the battlements of Stirling Castle, and was there hanged on a gibbet on the 6th April, 1571. [ . . . ] His body was afterwards quartered, but no further indignity was inflicted; and it is believed that his remains were soon after collected and secretly interred in the Monastery of Paisley.”

The end of Archbishop Hamilton was not the end of the Hamilton family's association with Paisley Abbey. Claud was a staunch supporter of Mary, Queen of Scots, and following her flight to England, he continued to act on her behalf. He was even implicated as instigator of the assassination of the Regent Lennox in 1570. It was no surprise therefore that he was declared a traitor and had his estates forfeited. More surprising was that the forfeiture was recalled within a year! Claud was able once again to settle down in residence at the “Place of Paisley.”

Notwithstanding the favour shown to him, Claud doggedly resumed his intrigues on Mary's behalf and was again forfeited in 1579. Now a fugitive, he fled to England and later withdrew to France. Finally, in December 1585, a general Act of restitution of Scotland's several banished lords was passed, and a special Act of indemnity was passed for Claud. He was made a Privy Councillor and at last made a permanent return to Scotland, his rehabilitation being cemented in July 1587 when he was invested with the secular properties of the Abbey of Paisley and created a peer of Parliament with the title of Lord Paisley.

Although for a time suspected of further subversive activities, Lord Claud finally withdrew from politics and settled down in retirement at the Place of Paisley. There, in 1597, he received Anne of Denmark, the Queen Consort, and in 1617, King James VI himself, though by the latter date he was so old and infirm that his eldest son James, first Earl of Abercorn and Master of Paisley, had to act as the King's host. Claud, Lord Paisley, died in 1621.

Meanwhile, the fate of the Abbey church was to become part of the process of the “long reformation.” James Cameron Lees, in his history of the Abbey, continues the story: “Up to the death of the Archbishop no preachers of the new opinions obtained a settlement in Paisley. The doors were “stepped” against them. [ . . . ] In the year after the Archbishop's death, 1572, Paisley continued hostile to Protestantism. Mass was still said there, and the Kirk called on all the neighbouring professors of religion to assist in putting down and finally stopping what they felt to be a great scandal and sin. It was probably in consequence of the measures taken in pursuance of this order that the first Protestant minister obtained an entrance into the Church.”

Successive ministers - Patrick Adamson in 1572, Andrew Polwart in 1576, and Thomas Smeaton in 1578 - came and went, but none appears to have been much appreciated by or able to influence the parishioners in Paisley. The last was more successful than his predecessors as Lord Claud had flown for his life and the new Commendator was favourable to Protestantism. Smeaton was gentle and kindly in his manner and, by these qualities, at least won a certain amount of respect. He was held in high esteem throughout the Church, serving as Moderator of the General Assembly, but left Paisley in 1580 to be Principal of the University of Glasgow.

In 1585, Andrew Knox came from Lochwinnoch as minister to Paisley. With greater determination and a stronger hand than his predecessors, he put down opposition to the newly established Church, resulting in some semblance of conformity, however probable it was that many clung in secret to the old faith. After 1590, when the parishes of Renfrewshire were erected into a presbytery, the Catholics of Paisley were granted little rest and certainly no mercy. They were excommunicated, fined, imprisoned, or compelled to make acts of public repentance. Under this iron rule, “Mr. Andro Knox bade fair to stamp out all Papistrie in his parish.”

Knox was appointed Bishop of the Isles in 1606, and afterwards translated to the See of Raphoe in Ireland. Following his departure from Paisley, his strict repressive measures were relaxed and there was some resurgence of Roman Catholicism. Cameron Lees notes that “the Abercorn family seem always to have had a warm side to the old faith, and the traditions of the Monastery, and stories of the kindness and hospitality of its inmates, between whom and the people of Paisley there had always existed the closest intimacy, would be handed down from father to son.

At any rate, nearly one hundred years after the Reformation, and notwithstanding all the persecutions of the Presbytery, we find Paisley described, in the words of a most reliable writer, as a “very nest of Papists”.

Any thoughts of repair of the Abbey church vanished in the turmoil. The building suffered complete neglect and, in 1789, essential repairs were carried out to avoid demolition. Not until the end of the nineteenth century, by which time a new and more worthy spirit had dawned, was reinstatement again contemplated, leading at last to the creation of today's magnificent place of worship.

It is not unreasonable to suggest that Paisley epitomised what was happening throughout the country in the years after 1560. There was a revolution in Scotland but, as Professor Dawson points out, it was both “radical and conservative at the same time.” The ensuing “long reformation” respected the culture and traditions of ordinary people. The Protestant Reformation was achieved to an extent through political opportunism but was characterised less by heavy handed imposition than by persuasion through the appeal of prayer, praise, and preaching. “The Word did everything.”



How different does that seem to the religious and political extremism that characterised much of the century that followed? Was the reaction to the Gunpowder Plot just one example of incitement of sectarian hatred and interdenominational quarrelling which continue to manifest themselves after more than four centuries?

I ask you to forgive the author of this paper for finishing on a personal note and appending a quotation written in 1849 by my great-great-grandfather. He was a Paisley-born minister, licensed in Paisley Abbey church, who served Crieff parish for forty-one years, was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1886 and, that same year, elected Principal of St Mary's College, St Andrews, in which appointment he continued until his death in 1893.

“ . . . . I hold salvation is not confined to any particular Church. Wherever there is a devout worshipper, there, there is a present God; wherever there is a believing people, there, there is a compassionate High Priest able to save them to the very uttermost. I confidently believe that the consummation of all things will reveal that Christ has gathered his people alike from the Papal, the Episcopal, and the Presbyterian Churches; and that, purged from the prejudices and imperfections of our respective systems, we shall yet be united into one, and enabled, with no dissonant note in our song, to praise our common God and Saviour.”

*John Cunningham (1849)*

That creed I fain would keep.

*David Cunningham Davidson (2023)*

## PAISLEY ABBEY SHOP

New to the Abbey Gift shop are two bespoke candles. Working with local artisan candle maker Ashleigh Airey, I wanted to create fragrances that reflected key aspects of the Abbey's history. Ashleigh brought an number of fragrances that she felt fitted the brief, and over an afternoon we selected different 'notes' which would work in combination to create candles that were unique to the Abbey.

Cloister Garden is reminiscent of the physic gardens that monks would have planted and tended.

Daughter of Scotland acknowledges Marjory Bruce, daughter and mother of Scottish kings.

Each candle is handcrafted using only clean burning soy wax and cruelty free fragrance blends. I had a particular look in mind for the labelling of the candle which had a strong historical and heritage feel. Ashleigh once again understood exactly what I was looking for and created the beautiful illustrations.

The candles are priced at £17 and make a lovely gift.



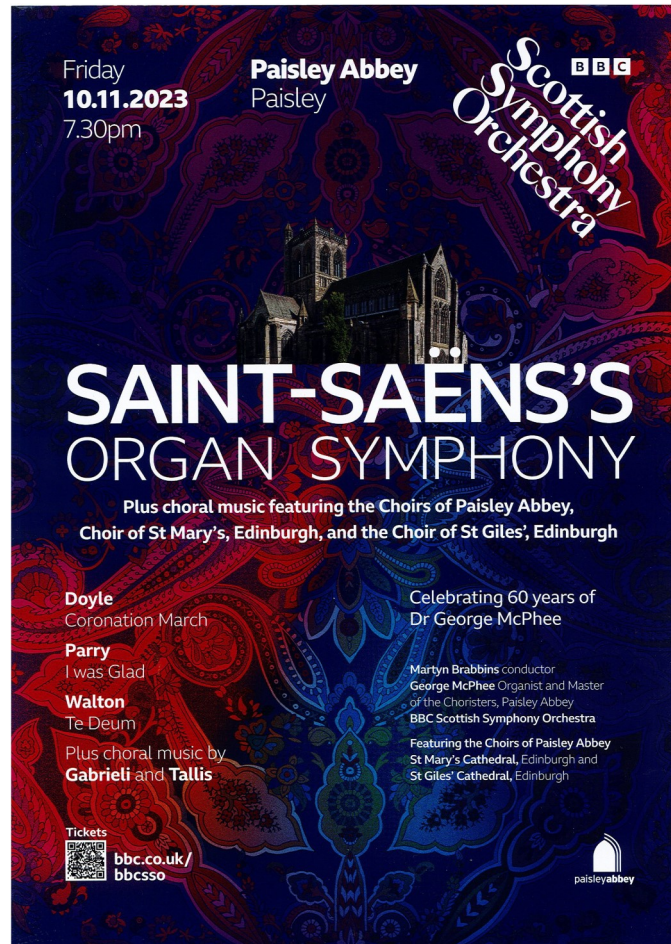
Linda Barrett– Abbey Manager

# BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

***Saint-Saëns's Organ Symphony***  
*Plus choral music featuring the choirs of Paisley Abbey, Choir  
of St Mary's Edinburgh  
& the choir of St Giles' Edinburgh*

**Celebrating 60 years of Dr George McPhee**  
**Friday 10 November at 7.30 pm**

Tickets £10—£30 available from  
[www.eventbrite.co.uk>paisley-abbey](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk>paisley-abbey)



# MUSIC FOR NOVEMBER

**5 November**  
11 am  
Psalm 43  
Te Deum  
Anthem

**12 November**  
10.45 am  
Introit  
Benedictus  
Anthem

4 pm  
Introit  
Responses  
Psalm 82  
Canticles  
Anthem

**19 November**  
11 am  
Psalm 90 v 1-8  
Jubilate Deo  
Anthem

**25 November**  
11 am  
Communion Setting  
Psalm 95 v 1-7a  
Jubilate Deo  
Anthem

**3 December**  
11 am  
Psalm 80 v 1-7  
Te Deum  
Anthem

**The Fourth Sunday before Advent**  
**Morning Service**

Justorum animae *Harwood in Ab  
Stanford*

**Remembrance Sunday**  
**Morning Service**

Thou knowest Lord *Purcell  
Ireland in F  
Ireland*  
Greater love hath no man than this

**Choral Evensong**  
The souls of the righteous *McPhee*  
Byrd

Murrill in E  
Give unto the Lord *Elgar*

**The Second Sunday before Advent**  
**Morning Service**

God be in my head *Gabrieli à 8  
Rutter*

**Christ the King**  
**Holy Communion**  
Howells (Collegium Regale)

Great King of Gods *Howells (Collegium Regale)  
Gibbons*

**Advent Sunday**  
**Morning Service**

Canite tuba *Gibbons (Short Service)  
Palestrina*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### **LONDON CONCERTANTE – West End Musicals**

Sunday 5 November at 7.30 pm

Tickets £19-£45

available from [ticketsource.co.uk/classical](http://ticketsource.co.uk/classical)

**BBC SCOTTISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**—*Choral music featuring the choirs of Paisley Abbey, Choir of St Mary's Edinburgh & the choir of St Giles' Edinburgh.*

**Friday 10 November at 7.30 pm.** Tickets £10—£30 available from [www.eventbrite.co.uk>paisley-abbey](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk>paisley-abbey)

### **LUNCH HOUR CONCERT - with Daniela Hathaway (Violin) Stephen Stephen Adam (piano)**

Saturday 25 November at 12.30 pm

Tickets £5 payable at the door.

### **NYCOS—Renfrewshire**

Wednesday 19 November (Time TBC)

More details to follow

### **LONDON CONCERTANTE – Viennese Christmas by Candlelight**

Sunday 3 December at 7.30 pm

Tickets £19-£45

available from [ticketsource.co.uk/classical](http://ticketsource.co.uk/classical)

### **ADVENT CAROL SERVICE**

Sunday 10 December at 4 pm

### **ACCORD CAROL SERVICE**

Thursday 14 December at 11 am

### **RAINBOW VALLEY CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Saturday 16 December at 1.30 pm

Tickets £15 & Children £5

available from [www.rainbowvalley.org.uk](http://www.rainbowvalley.org.uk)

### **LUNCH HOUR CONCERT - Abbey Brass, Concert of Christmas Music**

Saturday 23 December at 12.30 pm

Tickets £5 payable at the door.

## *Advent & Christmas Services*

### **Sunday 10 December - Advent 2**

**11 am** Morning Service with Holy Baptism

**4 pm** Lessons & Carols for Advent

### **Thursday 14 December**

**11 am** Accord Carol Service

### **Sunday 17 December - Advent 3**

**11 am** Morning Service

### **Saturday 23 December**

**12.30 pm** Recital of Christmas Music by Abbey Brass

**3 pm** Shoppers Carol Service

### **Sunday 24 December - Christmas Eve**

**11 am** Morning Service

**7.30 pm** Lessons and Carols upon Christmas Eve

### **Sunday 25 December - Christmas Day**

**10.30 am** Choral Communion

including Charpentier's 'Messe de Minuit'  
sung by the Abbey Choir accompanied by a small orchestra.





# Come and Sing!

## Handel's Messiah

Join George McPhee & Paisley Abbey Choir

Sunday 4 February 2023

More details to follow

### ABBEY CONTACTS

Minister:	Rev Jim Gibson
Director of Music:	Dr. George McPhee
Church Manager:	Linda Barrett
Church Secretary:	Karen Kerr
Session Clerk:	Marion Sommerville
Treasurer:	Stewart McDougall
Abbey Herald:	Karen Kerr

The Abbey office can be contacted on 0141 889 7654 or by email at -  
info@paisleyabbey.org.uk

### *UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF SCOTLAND GRADUATIONS*

*Monday 13 - Friday 17 November.*

*The Abbey will be closed to visitors these days,  
the shop & café will remain open.*

*The Abbey, shop & café are normally open  
Tuesday to Saturday from 10.30 am - 3.30 pm  
Tuesday & Thursday tours are at 2 pm.*