

Paisley Abbey



Abbey Herald

December 2023

Come the beginning of December, in worship we greet the season of Advent. A time of truly magnificent music, familiar tales and increasing excitement as we look forward to the coming celebration of God among us, within our lives. Advent also marks the beginning of the Christian Year. So, once Christmas has come and gone, we will continue once more the unending rhythm of Biblical stories offering their wisdom, encouragement and hope.

For the first six months or so, we hear *about* the story through Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost. Then, we hear *from* Jesus: following him through the long green season after Pentecost when we are able to see who he is, and what he does; and hear something of what he has to say. Then, come next Advent, we will do it all again.

Every Sunday, we hear from the ancient stories of the Old Testament, listen to the letters of St Paul and follow the writings of the Gospels. Just like we did back in 2010, 2005 and 1995. This we do because we can discern in these ancient tales, the story of God's love for creation and humanity: a love as real and true today as ever has been throughout history.

Over the long centuries, the community of the Church has learned that this regular continuous cycle of worship and action gives shape and content to our faith and its practise. It is our path into spiritual growth and maturity. Without it, we might be clever and, even, good: but we will not be complete or anything close to who we are all created to be. It's that important.

It's that important because it's not that these cycles teach us important things – though, of course, they do. If that were just all there is to it then, after a few of these cycles, we would know pretty much all they have to teach. No. The real point is that these cycles *'form'* us. They gradually shape us as people; and fashion us slowly, gradually, quietly toward the mind of Jesus. They do this as nothing else can. There is no substitute. You have to be there to hear them, ponder them, wrestle with them.

So: if you have not been to worship for a while, why not come to the Abbey?

It's important. You have to be there. It really does matter. What better time to come along to hear familiar tales that delight still, and music that is unsurpassed in its beauty, its richness and splendour than now?

An Advent Prayer:

O come, O come Emmanuel and pierce the cloud of familiarity which threatens to blur the truth of who you are. Help me to know you afresh this Christmas, not with the tired eyes of annual routine, but with eyes of excited discovery; that I may bear more strongly the family likeness of your people. Amen.

AND THEN COMES CHRISTMAS !

Always a very special time in the life of the Abbey, with joyous music, warm spirit and a message of Love's encounter with humanity. We need Christmas this year more than ever. So much darkness exists across the face of the globe with unspeakable cruelty scarring untold lives in Ukraine, Israel and Gaza as elsewhere. As we unpack our glitzy decorations and organise family gatherings, fantastic meals and expensive presents, let's remember that central to Christmas joy is the simple kindness, patience, forgiveness and acceptance we can all show one to another. So, give thanks for those personal gifts we can all share and, as we do, let's give thanks for the gift of love once personified in a dependant child grown man: God become flesh – from whom our greatest strength, hope and wisdom comes.

A Prayer for Christmas Day

Today, loving God, the soles of your feet touch the earth
and the back streets and forgotten places of our living
light up with significance.

For today, the households of earth welcome the King of heaven.

You come among us. You are one of us.

So may our songs of praise rise to welcome you
as, on our knees, we bring our gifts
of humble devotion and loyal faithfulness to your cradle.

ABOUT THE NEW YEAR....

The name of the month January comes from the old Greek god Janus: the god of beginnings and transitions, of gates and doorways. It's a great name for the first month of the year and I thought it might be good to use it as an excuse to do something a wee bit different. I want to look back a little, and forward a little, and reflect a little on both.

THE YEAR THAT IS PASSING

2023 was a difficult year in the life of the Abbey. It began under a cloud of great sadness. Close to the end of the previous year, Revd Elspeth McKay, then minister of the Abbey, decided to leave. She had only been in post for one year, but had suffered illness for some time. It was a time of particular disappointment for we had hoped for so many good things from her ministry. Our best wishes are with her and her family. This brought about my own involvement not just as Locum but now as Interim Moderator; and meant for me a far greater participation in Abbey life and work than had been expected. The Kirk Session and I immediately set about the task of bringing some stability, whilst getting the Abbey back to fully functioning as it was pre Covid. This was not as easy a task as it may sound. Rules and regulations seemed to dominate. However, thanks to the teamwork of the Session, 2023 saw that accomplished. But that was only the beginning. Clyde Presbytery was breathing down our necks regarding unpaid allocations (due entirely to Covid shutdown) and negotiations were taking place concerning the Abbey's future. It was an uncertain time, to say the least. I suspect few actually realise, even now, just how precarious a position the Abbey was in. In order to counter those who thought the Abbey had no future, we had to quickly put together our own transitioning plan of action. This involved an enormous number of meetings, working out what were the Abbey's priorities and realistic possibilities. Thanks again to the goodwill of so many, a 'Plan of Action: 2023-2028' was unanimously agreed by the Kirk Session last May and wholeheartedly approved by the congregation last June. This document is now the basis for a great deal of our outreach work over the next few years. Worship must always be our heartbeat as a congregation. From worship comes our motivation to reach out to each other, to the community of Paisley and, even, beyond. In order to do this, meetings were held not only with Clyde Presbytery but, also, with representatives of the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland to see how best the Abbey could free itself from Covid shackles and better organise and administer itself so that crushing financial expectations are less likely in the future. These talks helped to give rise to '*Signature Churches*' being recognised – cathedral type churches, such as the Abbey, where the financial pressures bourn by medieval buildings are excessive and far above the norm experienced more generally by parishes churches throughout the Church of Scotland. Because of this, Church authorities are being asked to look again at how these churches, in particular, are taxed annually and yet expected to meet these huge financial responsibilities. At time of writing, our talks are still continuing; though I look forward to some form of positive outcome from the General Assembly of 2024 or 2025. No quicker fix being possible.

AND THE FUTURE ?

By the grace of God, and the loyal dedication of people in and around the congregation, we are entering 2024 in a much stronger position. Led, administered and organised by people who would not in any sense consider themselves *special*, as a congregation an enormous debt of gratitude is owed to all who so willingly give so much of their time and abilities to the Abbey's cause and witness. Paisley Abbey may not be perfect, but it is truly blessed with people witnessing to their faith as best they can and working together voluntarily in so many varied ways. It has been a particular source of encouragement to see our worshipping congregation not only remain solid, but increase over past months and, also, the roll of congregational membership.

However, make no mistake: huge difficulties are yet to be resolved in order to safeguard the future of the Abbey. On almost every front there are issues to be faced. Prayerfully, and using our gifts of imagination, creativity and sheer hard work, difficulties will be addressed and solutions sought. More than ever, in 2024 we will be looking beyond the Abbey to learn new practises, to work collaboratively, to adopt fresh ideas, to earn not just our place in the local community but a global presence.

Not everything introduced will be welcomed. Some may find new ways of working threatening to *'the way things have always been done'* or, even, to *'ego'*. While every effort will be made to include and encourage everybody, no one person is more important than the mission of the Abbey to today's society.

So: what is the Abbey's future?

That lies within the hand of God. However, as we progress farther into the new year, we need to remember two things:

Firstly: that we are a strong, determined, faith-filled and, therefore, healthy congregation with a viable and important mission to fulfil in Paisley. God wants us here! Of that, the past year has shown there can be no doubt.

Secondly: we only exist for the sake of our worship, our ministry and our mission both within our community and beyond. The Abbey is no *'normal'* parish church. It has global responsibilities being one of the great *'cathedral signature churches'* in Scotland. We exist as a congregation to proclaim, in every possible way we can think of, the relevance of the Gospel of Jesus – as we, ourselves, have received it.

That means, we exist to love, to share, to care, to listen, to observe, to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves and, on occasion, to say hard things in truth. In short, we only exist to be a blessing to one another and beyond one another. It is something many of us do very well. But, always, we must be learning how to do it better.

I hope you will help us do that.

Wishing God's Blessing in you, and yours
may Advent bring us all Christmas Joy
and leads us into a very happy New Year.

Jim Gibson

Minister at the Abbey.

Chaplain to His Majesty The King in Scotland.



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

Priscilla Routley

PARISH REGISTER – NOVEMBER 2023

Wedding Christie Stevenson & Malcolm Nolan

Funeral Ann Chawk

Transference from another Church Valerie Gibson

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

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!

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.

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CAFÉ

The Café is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10.30 am - 3.30 pm. 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 23 December with a Concert of Christmas Music with Abbey Brass. Admission to the Concert 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.

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.

THANK YOU FROM GEORGE MCPHEE

I would like to thank the Minister, Kirk Session and congregation for the incredibly kind thoughts and actions over my recent (hard to believe) celebrations. I consider myself so lucky to be buoyed up by so much support. I hope that I can repay this with a continued and meaningful contribution to worship in the Abbey.

George McPhee (Director of Music)

BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL

I took 16 shoeboxes and £95 cash to the Blythswood Care depot in Hillington. This was two fewer boxes than last year but a bigger cash donation. Many thanks to everyone who donated.

Sue Donn



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.



CELEBRATING KINGS IN PAISLEY ABBEY

ANE SAIR SANCT FOR THE CROUNE

KING JAMES I OF SCOTLAND

I am writing on the last Sunday of “Ordinary Time” – the end of the liturgical year – the day designated as Christ the King Sunday. Our Minister, Jim Gibson, explained its significance during this morning’s worship. It is a time which emphasises the true kingship of Christ, and the church gives thanks and praise for the sovereignty of Christ who is Lord of all creation and is coming again in glory to reign.

By the time of publication, it will be Advent, when our church year begins again with the hope of the coming Messiah, the season observed in preparation for our Christmas celebration of the birth of Christ. Our thoughts will inevitably have turned to putting up Christmas trees, dusting off decorations, writing Christmas cards, and opening the first doors of our Advent calendars. At the Abbey, we will revisit the Christmas story through readings and carols, worship, and a feast of fine music.

In our Gospel readings, we have two infancy narratives, although the story in Matthew is often regarded as being far less inspiring than Luke’s account of the annunciation, birth, and childhood of Jesus. Both provide us with a genealogy. Matthew traces Jesus’ descent through the royal line from King David (and earlier, from Abraham), while Luke reverses the order, back through another line to King David and Abraham. They represent different attempts, independent in source, to tell the story of Jesus’ life, its origins, and beginnings.

Central to Luke’s story is the angel Gabriel’s annunciation to Mary that she is to bear a son who “will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” It articulates the ancient hope of the Messiah, notwithstanding that its author knew for a fact that Jesus never ascended any earthly throne, far less aspired to do so.

Matthew describes the visit of the Wise Men who enquire “Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews?” In the New Testament, it is only at the beginning and the end of his life that Jesus is referred to as the King of the Jews, but the idea had been enough to foster jealousy and suspicion, firstly in Herod and lastly with Pilate who presided over Jesus’ final suffering and execution.

Before I risk being accused of theological discourse, let me immediately proceed to the territory in which I feel more comfortable. Through an accident of birth, I was invested with a proprietary interest in the name “David.” In infancy, and as the result of what appears to have been an extraordinary failure of imagination on the part of my parents, I then became doubly invested in that name, certified through registration and baptism. Though not genealogically David, son of David, that naming was the source of the moniker that I have consequently borne throughout my life.

As a child, hearing stories from the bible, it was not surprising that the occurrence of the name David caught my attention. After all, my personal “proprietary interest” aside, King David is the most frequently mentioned human in the entire bible, second only to Jesus. He is the protagonist of both books of Samuel, both books of Chronicles, and is mentioned numerous elsewhere. Nearly half of the Psalms are attributed to him. The story most likely to fire any child’s imagination is his duel with Goliath, so famous that it became the standard allegorical metaphor for the plight of the underdog (albeit that many interpreters will point out that it was God, through the agency of David, who defeated Goliath).

In the stained glass of Paisley Abbey, I know of three windows that depict David, two in the wall of the south aisle and the great *Te Deum* window in the north transept. The first shows the boy triumphantly appearing before Saul, somewhat gruesomely carrying the oversized head of Goliath. The others are of the adult King David with his harp and praising God.

Though in human terms, being the youngest son of a large family, David was not destined for greatness, he was anointed by Samuel as the signal that he was God’s “chosen one.” Even early in life he demonstrated characteristic qualities: honour, diplomacy, political shrewdness, organisational skill, and religious zeal. He was on the one hand a great warrior and on the other, a noted poet and musician. From what is told of his life, David was undoubtedly flawed with the frailties of all human flesh – an adulterer and a conspirator to murder - but his faith and the summation of his achievements single him out as a standard to be measured against.

The biblical King David lived around a millennium before the time of Christ and it is to another King David, who lived just over a millennium after Christ, that I now turn. This David was named after that Hebrew epitome of Godly kingship and, in common with his namesake, was the cub of a large family. As the youngest of the six sons of King Malcolm III and his second wife Margaret (later St Margaret of Scotland), his prospects were seemingly limited and succession to the throne unlikely - yet he did become David I, “the King who made Scotland.”

When he was only about ten years old, in 1093, David’s parents and oldest brother died, triggering a succession crisis, and forcing him and his siblings into exile in England. His brother Edgar regained the Scottish throne in 1097, but David remained in England, hoping to secure his future, and was rewarded for doing so when, in 1100, his sister Edith (re-named Matilda) married the newly crowned English King Henry I. Now “brother of the Queen,” David was favoured with his brother-in-law’s patronage, which brought him rapid social advancement, titles and offices, as well as lands.

Edgar died in 1107 having bequeathed to David territories extending over much of the southern half of Scotland and making him the likely heir to the new king, Alexander I. His enhanced status in turn led to his marrying, in 1113, the “richest widow in England,” Countess Matilda of Northampton and becoming Earl in her right, as well as “prince of the Cumbrian region.” From that time onwards, David embarked on a programme of founding multiple religious houses – “he illumined in his days, his land with kirks and with abbays.” He drove forward the ecclesiastical reforms begun in 1070 by his mother Queen Margaret, continued by his older brothers, and which he prosecuted until his death in 1153. These resulted in a reorganisation and reorientation of Scottish Christianity from its Celtic past to an eastern-looking church, conforming to the practices of continental Europe.

Finally, in April 1124, David ascended to the throne. He introduced the feudal system of landholding to much of Scotland, developed his government and led modernising schemes that boosted the economy. He projected an image of the king as lawgiver and is attributed with founding a system of sheriffdoms for the local administration of justice. Although never able to achieve his ultimate territorial ambitions in the north of England as far south as the Humber, including York, David did attain control of Northumbria as well as Cumbria.

South and west of Glasgow, David established trusted men of military power and expertise to secure the region. He himself held on to Renfrew for many years while the first castle was built and the burgh established, before passing these on to Walter FitzAlan. Walter had entered the king’s service around 1136 and later became his hereditary steward before founding Paisley Priory in 1163.

Although when founding monasteries in person, David preferred the newly fashionable and ever more austere religious orders (firstly Tironensian and later Cistercian) he was a supporter of the other established orders. He founded only one Cluniac monastery – bringing a community of monks from Reading Abbey to establish a priory on the Isle of May – but many members of his family had been closely associated with Cluniac foundations. Moreover, the Cluniac abbey of Reading was the favourite religious house of David’s brother-in-law, Henry I, and David’s wife, along with her first husband Simon de Senlis, had founded the Cluniac priory of St Andrew, Northampton. Simon de Senlis had died at La Charité-sur-Loire, where he was buried in the settlement’s Cluniac priory church.

King David I died in 1153. He was in his seventies, old by the standards of the day. Assessments as to the overall success of his reign have varied in the estimation of historians over the centuries. His reputation as saint or sinner has been contested by each successive author. There was no doubting David’s piety, however. He devoted such resources to religious works, founding monasteries and building churches with generous gifts of monies and land alienated from the crown, that his descendant James I characterised him as “ane sair sanct for the croune.” That, however, paid little heed to the benefits that monastic communities brought to the country.

Monks developed their estates through agriculture and stock management, but also provided as much health and social care for the populace as was possible.

Unlike his mother before him, David was never formally canonised. His status as a “popular saint” was, however, acknowledged in the seventeenth century when his name was included in a list of Scottish saints drawn up by Archbishop Laud in his vilified liturgy. Some may regret that David did not personally found the monastery in Paisley. Given more time, he might have done, but it fell to his surviving steward, grateful for the royal patronage that he had enjoyed, to do so. Perhaps it was for the best. Had David been the founder, no doubt the monastery would have belonged to one of his favoured highly austere religious orders. It would probably not have had the outreach and engagement with the developing outside community that the Cluniacs had. Paisley might never have developed into the great marketing and industrial town that it became and, as the royal burgh, Renfrew would have been left unrivalled to dominate the region.

Aware of our long and distinguished history, and especially our royal associations, we have much to be proud of in Paisley Abbey. I have mentioned two earthly warrior kings - one of biblical fame depicted in the Abbey’s stained glass, the other closely associated with the Abbey’s history and the inspiration for our original foundation. Perhaps we might allow ourselves a celebration of the latter in April of the coming year when it will be the ninth centenary of the accession of David I to the throne of Scotland? It would be a right royal occasion were we to do so.

More importantly and more immediately, in this season of Advent following Christ the King Sunday, when in the Abbey Church, look towards Douglas Strachan’s Great East Window magnificently depicting Christ ascended and enthroned, the Lord of all, who never ascended any earthly throne, far less aspired to do so. Now that is cause for celebration!

Happy Christmas!

David C Davidson

THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

Many readers will have enjoyed some of the panoply of concerts and recitals that we hold in the Abbey. The church, with its superb acoustic, is a highly popular auditorium for performers offering a wide range of entertaining concerts and productions.

One of our best attended ensembles, with a loyal Paisley following, is *The London Concertante*. They love coming to the Abbey to perform concerts ranging from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, through themed spectaculars of music and songs from musicals and the movies, to solo and chamber recitals of classical music. Many of their shows are performed by candlelight, adding an additional atmospheric dimension to the wonderful backdrop of the Abbey.

Imagine the occasion recently when more than four hundred enthusiastic patrons were making their way to the Abbey to take their seats for another thrilling evening's entertainment. The church had been made ready and was resplendent with its staging and lighting effects in place. The performers had arrived, having travelled north from England where they had given a concert on the previous day. They had unpacked their instruments, ready to warm up and tune up before the concert. All was going well, and all were in high spirits, excited in anticipation of the evening ahead. What could go wrong?

Suddenly, the *Concertante's* ashen-faced director sought out Linda Barrett, our Abbey Manager: "Linda!" she blurted, "we can't go on we don't have any music it's been left behind when we travelled up from England!"

The vanguard of the audience was already arriving. It was too late to cancel. Humiliation, embarrassment, grovelling apologies, and ticket refunds seemed the only recourse.

With a cool head, Linda came to the rescue. "Can someone email you copies of the music?" she asked.

In the panic, nobody else seemed to have thought of the possibility.

Soon the Abbey Office was a hive of industry as downloaded music was rapidly fed through the photocopier. Just in time, the performers had what they needed to begin the concert. It was one of the best shows that anyone could remember . . . and no-one would have known how close it came to catastrophe. Just remember, dear reader, that it's a secret, and you mustn't tell a soul! Well done Linda for saving the day!

Linda, though, would be the first to say that it was "just one of those things" that our Abbey staff do all the time, whenever the need arises.

So, especially at this festive season, let's say a loud "thank you" to Linda, Karen, Alex, and Norah in appreciation of all their hard work behind the scenes. How else could the show go on? **Bravo!!! Encore!!!**

PAISLEY ABBEY SHOP

Cards, calendars and candles are just some of the decorations and gifts available in the Abbey Gift Shop. The shop has all you need to solve your present dilemma. After browsing the shelves, why not enjoy a cup of something warming, accompanied by something sweet from the cake selection in the Cloister Café.



Linda Barrett– Abbey Manager

MUSIC FOR DECEMBER

3 December

11 am
Psalm 80 v 1-7
Te Deum
Anthem

Advent Sunday

Morning Service

Canite tuba

Gibbons (Short Service)
Palestrina

10 December

11 am
Psalm 85 8-13
Jubilate Deo
Anthem

Advent 2

Morning Service with Holy Baptism

Laetentur coeli

Weelkes (Short Service)
Byrd

4 pm

Lessons & Carols for Advent

17 December

11 am
Psalm 126
Benedictus
Anthem

Advent 3

Morning Service

This is the record of John

Gibbons (Short Service)
Gibbons

23 December

3 pm

Family & Shoppers Carol Service

24 December

7.30 pm

Christmas Eve

Lessons & Carols upon Christmas Eve

25 December

10.30 am

Christmas Day

Choral Communion

Including Charpentier's 'Messe de Minuit' sung by the Abbey choir accompanied by a small orchestra.

Advent & Christmas Services

Sunday 3 December - Advent Sunday

11 am Morning Service

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 Family & Shoppers Carol Service

Sunday 24 December - Christmas Eve

11 am Morning Service

7.30 pm Lessons and Carols upon Christmas Eve

Monday 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.

Sunday 21 January -

11 am Service of readings and carols for Epiphany



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

LONDON CONCERTANTE – Viennese Christmas by Candlelight

Sunday 3 December at 7.30 pm

Tickets £19-£45

available from ticketsource.co.uk/classical

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 10 December at 4 pm

VARIETY THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY CAROL SERVICE

Tuesday 12 December at 10 am

ACCORD CAROL SERVICE

Thursday 14 December at 11 am

Tickets available from Accord Hospice

RAINBOW VALLEY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday 16 December at 1.30 pm

Tickets £15 & Children £5

available from 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.



LUNCH HOUR CONCERTS 2024

Saturdays at 12.30 pm

Admission is £5 payable at the door

23 December

Abbey Brass

Concert of Christmas Music

20 January

Ewan Robertson (Flute)

Flute music of the Stuarts

24 February

Peter Seivewright (Piano)

Music by Khachaturian & Balakirev

23 March

Scottish Clarinet Choir

20 April

Abbey Strings

25 May

Douglas Lawrence (Violin)

Maureen Rutherford (Piano)

15 June

Richard Craig (Flute)

Classical and contemporary chamber works for flute





Come and Sing!



**With orchestra
Directed by George McPhee**

Sunday 4 February 2023

Rehearsal at 2.30 pm & performance at 6.30 pm

**Application form available from the Abbey website
www.paisleyabbey.org.uk**

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

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

*Apart from Sunday Services on 31 December, 7 & 14 January,
the Abbey will be closed from 26 December
and will re open on Tuesday 16 January.*

There will be no Abbey Herald in January.