

Paisley Abbey



Abbey Herald

March 2024

LENT, HOLY WEEK and EASTER

The weeks prior to Easter Sunday are always hard and challenging. The last days of Jesus' life were full of events and sayings that shone a piercing light onto his personality, relationships and beliefs.

If it is the event of Easter that brought the early Christian believers a new sense of hope for their living, it is Jesus' reaction to the events of that first Holy Week which gave their hopes credibility.

We, therefore, cannot expect to enter the full glory of Easter's reality without first coming to an understanding of what lay behind his rejection, suffering, ridicule and crucifixion. As is our custom at the Abbey, on the Monday to Thursday evenings during holy Week (March 25th – 28th) a special series of services will be held each evening beginning at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

This year's reflections will focus on the re-awakening of common images and themes in the Easter story. We will try to look with 'new eyes' at these crucial events and ask ourselves those questions which present world events demand. This ancient and sacred story may yet hold a few surprises for us. It may have new things to tell – if only we are prepared to listen.

GOOD FRIDAY.

This year, our Three-Hour Devotion begins at 12-midday with the Abbey Choir singing Stainer's *'Crucifixion'*. Thereafter, the minister holds a series of short devotions highlighting the events and characters affecting and surrounding Jesus during his final hours. Beginning at 1.00pm till 3.00pm. People may enter/leave at any time.

EASTER SUNDAY.

The most glorious, hope-filled day in the life of the Christian Church and its people. The Abbey's service begins at 11.00am and takes the form of Choral Communion with Sermon. An orchestra accompanies the music of organ and choir. Along with stirring hymns, we rejoice in the magnificent Communion Setting of Mozart's *'Coronation Mass'* and allow the thrilling atmosphere within the Abbey to aid our wonder at the Easter Message of things beyond our imagining.

As the storms keep coming and flood waters swamp roads, homes, shops and all manner of buildings elsewhere; and rain keeps falling on us all, voices have been demanding to know why more has not been done to protect people and property from the devastation caused by Climate Change. Understandably, a great deal of anger has been vented as homes and vehicles et al have been overwhelmed time and again by floodwater. It must be one of the most horrendous experiences to face.

All of it is too late, of course. Homes and other properties were knowingly built on flood-plains. Now, people are simply suffering the consequences. It is not at all pleasant. Environmental specialists are advising that it will be months before displaced folk will be able to return to habitable homes, if at all. People are saying that their lives have been ruined since appropriate insurance was just too expensive for them ever to contemplate.

The Government and Environmental Agency are in an impossible position. They try to do what they reasonably can, but what can be done against such continually wet climatic conditions? No wonder that a whole army of people have been mobilised to combat the danger to life and threat to the nation's commerce such weather presents: no quick fix is ever going to be possible, for sure.

With that realisation, how good has it been to hear that people have banded together in their local communities to try to help each other in their need. Individual homeowners and shopkeepers and others, have quickly understood that their strength lies in a sense of *'togetherness'* : each looking out for the other, especially the elderly and those most vulnerable. Someone said to me, *'It's an example of Britain at its best.'*

I would actually like to think it's an example of *'humanity at its best'*.

Looking out for each other, whoever the *'other'* might be; taking care of those less fortunate or able than ourselves; reaching out to strangers as well as friends; regarding everyone as our neighbour is, surely, the responsibility of all of us who regard ourselves as part of a civilised Society. All the more so should we be part of the community of the Christian Church.

Around Paisley, we may have been fortunate. Rain has certainly fallen, but most people have not had to endure terrible flooding of their homes like so many others. The consequences of Climate Change may not be the most pressing problem faced by our neighbour, colleague or kith and kin. Maybe, its quite another kind of devastation that people around us are daily having to endure.

Poverty, loneliness, ill-health, obesity, addiction, abuse, old-age, broken relationships, guilt. These are just some of the nightmares with which so many people struggle in every family and community.

As we travel further through this new year, continuing our faithful in the Abbey to the faith we hold, the quietly desperate cries and needs of many people challenge us to provide the healing and comforting touch of friendship to them.

To fail in such a task would make us, our church and our faith, a disgrace.

Jim Gibson.

Minister at the Abbey

Chaplain to His Majesty The King in Scotland.



INFORMAL MONTHLY COMMUNION

No doubt, as we entered this new year, many of us promised ourselves to get together more often with family and friends and /or to take more time to focus of what really matters in our life. Perhaps, we thought we would commit more of our time and energy to the church? However, as time goes on, we find that time has the tendency to simply return to whatever routines are 'normal' for us. Our good intentions dissipate.

Well: to help create that sense of greater inclusive and reflective space in our life, once a month, on each second Sunday, immediately following the close of the Morning Service, there is an opportunity to share Holy Communion with others. The time required is brief, approximately ten minutes. The format is quite informal and personal. Make the time. You *know* you can.

CLOSE ENEMIES

An Easter Poem
by David Ogston

There were three men in that country
Who walked the earth and slept in fear.
Each saw his own sweet fantasies
In front of him appear.

For Caesar, Pilate held the rule
And beat a martial drum.
Each loyal Jew was ready for
The day of wrath to come.

In purple and in jewels bright
Sat Herod on his throne.
He was the landlord poor and weak
Of all the might of Rome.

And Caiaphas the Temple Mouse
Who prayed with open eyes:
And Caiaphus with cunning says
'Find me a man that dies'.

There were three men in that country
Three lonely men of power
Close enemies and distant friends
Who waited for their hour.

Here was one man in that country
One daring, dreaming man
Their flags and thrones and prayers too
Could not destroy his plan.



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.

MINUTES OF KIRK SESSION MEETINGS

Furthering our policy of transparency, Minutes of recent meetings of the Abbey Kirk Session are made available to the public as soon as possible after each meeting of the Kirk Session. They can be found attached to the noticeboard in the cloister outside the entrance to the St Mirin Chapel. We are grateful if they can be returned to the noticeboard after they have been read, so that they may be available to others who may wish to read them.

THANK YOU FROM THE GIFT AID TEAM

Many thanks to everyone who already includes Gift Aid in their donations to the Abbey.

The quarterly refunds from HMRC are, on average, in excess of £5000. Gift aid claimed on donations for music or flowers etc is aligned to the appropriate fund.

All UK taxpayers are welcome to add gift aid to any donations made to the Abbey.

Remember we need to be able to identify your donation in order to claim the refund.

If you would like to check that gift aid is being collected on your donations, please contact the office or Jan Norris.

We would be delighted to help you.

Many thanks to those who use the yellow envelopes.

It is also possible to complete a gift aid declaration. If you would like to do this, please contact the office or Jan Norris.

As in previous years, the Small Donation Scheme reached the £8000 threshold in the third quarter of the tax year.



LENT APPEAL 2024

Dear Abbey Members

Every member of the congregation should have now received details of our 2024 Lent Appeal. Details will have been delivered by your Abbey elder. Other worshippers who are not Abbey members are warmly invited to take part in this appeal, whose purpose is to support the ongoing worship and witness of the Abbey Church. Envelopes with details of the Lent 2024 appeal can be collected at the welcome table at the St Mirin Chapel steps on a Sunday.

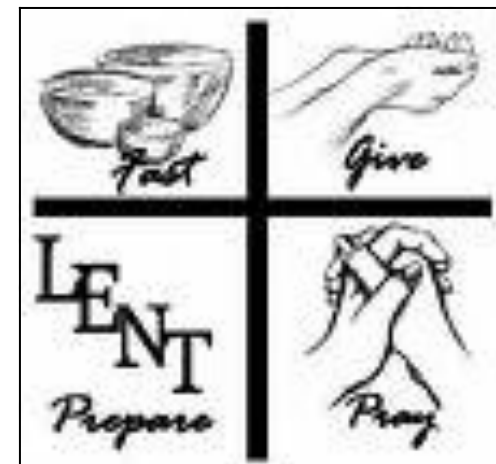
The Lent Appeal runs until Sunday 31 March.

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.

Many Thanks

Stewart McDougall

Treasurer



PARISH REGISTER – February 2024

Funeral

14 February Elizabeth Gray

Weddings

16 February Jade Anderson & Jamie Whiteford
23 February Helen Macdonald & Jamie Cochrane



Beautiful wedding flowers created by the Abbey Flower Guild

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 March with The Scottish Clarinet Choir. 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.

PAISLEY ABBEY SHOP

Special spring offers in the Abbey Gift shop.

Earth Squared handbags and purses have 20% off and there is also 20% off Ortak jewellery. Ladycrow scarves are also reduced, with the luxurious velvet and dragonfly brooch set down from £70 to £55, beautifully boxed these make a very handsome gift or a glamorous accessory. Come and browse the full range, plus our new stock of Celtic and MacIntosh jewellery.



Linda Barrett– Abbey Manager

CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS

The Competition was drawn on 28th January – too late for the results to be included in the February Abbey Herald so my apologies for the long wait for the answers.

The winner on this occasion was **Mrs. Ann Bell of Kilbarchan** and the runner-up was **Mrs. Sue Donn.**

Both winners contribute greatly to the Abbey and are regular contributors to the quizzes so particular congratulations and thanks to them.

The answers are:

ALADDIN
INN
SNOW
SANTA
EPIPHANY
WISE MEN
DRUMMERS
CASPAR
CHERUBIM
SERAPHIM
SLEIGH
SWANS
ADVENT
TINYTIM
CHRISTMAS
STOCKINGS
QUIRINIUS
CUPID
BLITZEN
BLIZZARD

Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way – particularly to 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 two worthy winners of this Christmas Quiz..

S.G.C.

R. A. SMITH (1780-1829)

*Give ye unto the Lord, ye sons that of the mighty be,
All strength and glory to the Lord with cheerfulness give ye.*”

Psalm 29

Robert Archibald Smith was born in the St Lawrence parish of Reading in Berkshire on November 16th and baptised on December 27th, 1780. He would later give the name “St Lawrence” to one of the many psalm tunes that he composed or arranged - this for Psalm 29.

His father, Archibald Smith, though a native of East Kilbride, had been a silk-weaver in Paisley before removing himself to Reading in 1774 during one of the all too frequent downturns in the trade of our town. Robert was to be the only surviving child from his father’s marriage in Reading to Ann Whitcher. Robert’s early performances, first on the tin whistle, then a small flute, before progressing to the violin and cello, were taken as signal of possessing some musical talent. He also became a church chorister but there was no thought that he could make his living by such means. Instead, his father followed convention and placed his son in his own workshop to learn the trade of weaving.

That was never to be, however, as it quickly became apparent that Robert had neither aptitude for nor interest in a life spent at the loom. After the family returned to Paisley in 1800, young Robert’s health appeared to deteriorate which, along with his obvious unhappiness, caused his parents to abandon their ambitions of his following in his father’s footsteps. In 1802 he married Mary McNicol, a native of the Isle of Arran and settled in Paisley, joining the band of the local volunteer regiment. Although largely self-taught, he began teaching music and turned his hand to composition, initially by way of band tunes and then increasingly of song.

Having assisted his predecessor from 1803, Robert was appointed Precentor of Paisley Abbey Church in 1807. Passionately fond of music and having discovered Smith’s merits, the Rev. Dr Robert Boog, Minister of the First Charge of the Abbey, became one of his earliest patrons and friends. Through Dr Boog’s introduction, Smith became acquainted with the Rev. Dr Young, Minister of Erskine, who aided him in the study of harmony.



Post-Reformation church music in Scotland, influenced by Puritan ideology, had descended to a miserably low standard during the period between 1650 and 1750. Finding no outlet for musical expression in the church, music-loving Scotland instead turned to secular music and, in national song and lyric poetry, through the genius of Allan Ramsay, Robert Fergusson, and the minstrelsy of the Jacobite movement, unleashed the full force its restrained sentiment. Only in the latter half of the eighteenth century, as sacred choral works, especially of Handel, began to be heard by and influence progressive concert-going Edinburgh society, did the church begin to acknowledge the need for improvement. In 1755, Edinburgh Town Council sought to employ a master of music for its city churches to address the “very indecent and offensive way in which church music was performed.” Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Dundee quickly followed Edinburgh’s lead and, before long, most of Scotland’s larger towns had founded musical societies, initially focusing on a diet of psalm tunes and simple anthems, while a knowledge of music rapidly spread throughout the wealthier classes.

Such advances were inevitably associated with a growing clamour for improvement in church music and for better church praise. In 1746 the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland made what was then regarded as a radical recommendation to adopt “the ancient practice of singing without reading the line.” Congregational singing was harsh and noisy – the notorious “bawling and drawling” – and most worshipers, even those enthusiastic for improvement, lacked even rudimentary musical education. Advances were correspondingly slow but in response to the changing scene and a desire to accelerate reform, Scottish churches in the first half of the nineteenth century increasingly turned to their newly appointed precentors to bring about the desired progress.

R. A. Smith is widely regarded as being the first of the great race of precentors who were finally to succeed in this valiant pioneering work. There is nothing disingenuous in the assertion of Duncan Fraser in his 1906 tract entitled “The Passing of the Precentor,” that “to no one does the Scottish Church owe more – indeed, we might even put the statement stronger, and say that to no one does she owe so much – than to Robert Archibald Smith.” In leading and training the choir at Paisley’s Abbey Church, he was so able to introduce expression and feeling that the “band” as it was called soon gathered fame in the West of Scotland, making the “soft” singing of the Abbey Kirk synonymous with his name, as “R. A. Smith” became a household word in Scotland.

Scarcely any of Smith’s several Psalm tunes remain in the regular canon of 21st century church music. Some of our members still recall attending worship at the Lawn Street Mission Hall where services invariably began with Psalm 43, “*O send thy light forth and thy truth; let them be guides to me*, sung to Smith’s tune “Invocation.” Our Director of Music, George McPhee, remembers inheriting a similar tradition in the Abbey Church which he quickly dispensed with, adding in justification: “*Invocation is a dog’s breakfast of a tune! Dreadful!!*”

In *Common Praise*, the Abbey Church's hymnary, "Martyrdom" alone is attributed to R. A. Smith, but it is in fact only his adaptation of Hugh Wilson's well-known tune. Smith's own compositions listed in the 1855 Scottish Psalter extend to "Cupar," "Hamilton," "St Mirren," and the aforementioned "St Lawrence," none of which is now in common use. Why? Perhaps, much as George has identified with "Invocation," they betray Smith's lack of formal musical education. The blame for his "crude" arrangements and harmonisations might more justly rest with his only known tutor, Dr Young, the Minister of Erskine.

Soon after settling in Paisley, Smith was introduced to Robert Tannahill. A warm and steady friendship developed between them. They became founder members of Paisley Burns Club in January 1805 and, as Smith later described to his friend William Motherwell: "For several years previous to his death we commonly spent the Saturday afternoons together by a walk to the country; but, if the badness of the weather prevented us from enjoying this weekly recreation, the afternoon was passed in my room, reading and reviewing what pieces he had composed through the week, or if I had any music I played or sung it over to him."

In 1808 Smith published his setting of Tannahill's song — "Jessie, the Flow'r o' Dunblane" — which quickly ran through several editions, and made his name known far and wide. His first collection of Psalmody, entitled "Devotional Music, Original and Selected," was published in 1810, and nine years later, he issued "Anthems in Four Vocal Parts." He next undertook his *magnum opus*, "The Scottish Minstrel," which was published in six volumes at intervals from 1821 to 1824. By matching the words of "O My Luve's Like a Red, Red Rose" to the tune now most commonly combined with Burns's lyric, "Low down in the Broom," he is credited as being the first, in print at least, to have done so. The tune had been a popular eighteenth-century melody, well known in Burns's time, and was not Smith's composition.

From its very first meeting in 1805 until his departure to Edinburgh in 1823, R. A. Smith appears to have been a loyal and devoted member of Paisley Burns Club,

presiding at its annual dinner in 1816. In addition to Robert Tannahill, many other members became his close friends, including William Motherwell, the poet, antiquary and journalist, and Andrew Blaikie - the latter eventually succeeding Smith as precentor and session clerk at the Abbey. It was in recognition of their shared association with Smith that Paisley Burns Club, on the centenary of his



departure to Edinburgh, presented the plaque that can be found in the North Aisle of the Abbey Church.

In 1816, R. A. Smith, while continuing as precentor, was appointed joint session clerk and kirk treasurer alongside the long-serving sole incumbent of these posts, James Love. In these days, such office bearers were remunerated for their work. It is probable that Smith was disappointed at having to share his emoluments, especially as his older colleague had taken to absenting himself from session meetings while having his son deputise for him. Nevertheless, the arrangement continued and indeed was consolidated in 1822 when Smith's appointment was made *ad vitam aut culpam*, i.e. for life unless the incumbent were to be guilty of some misdeed. At the end of 1822, Love appeared at last to have resigned and Smith finally assumed the full responsibilities but still not the full emoluments, the session having decreed that he must surrender ten pounds annually to Mr Love for as long as the latter lived. Strangely and without explanation, subsequent minutes continued to describe them as joint holders of the office. The minute of the kirk session meeting on 29th May 1823 records: "There was produced a letter from Mr Smith, addressed to the Moderator, resigning the office held by him as joint session clerk, kirk treasurer and precentor with Mr James Love. Altho [sic] the session regret being deprived of the valuable services of Mr Smith, yet, as he considers it is for the benefit of his family, they agree to accept of his resignation."

The session immediately proceeded to the election of a successor, only pausing to confirm that the new appointee would continue to be liable for the ten pounds annually to be paid to Mr Love. R. A. Smith's successor was named as John Taylor who was preferred to the other candidate, Smith's friend Andrew Blaikie. In 1826, the session minutes record a series of significant irregularities that Mr Taylor had been guilty of, including neglecting to record proclamations that he had allegedly received payment for. His substantial "debt" was calculated to be around fifty pounds and he was suspended pending further investigation and procedures against him. Andrew Blaikie was appointed acting session clerk, continuing as such until May 1828 when it was reported that Taylor's debt was "now paid up." At the same time, Taylor proffered his resignation and at last Blaikie was elected to and assumed the substantive role of session clerk.

Whether frustrated by his terms of employment at the Abbey Church or perhaps increasingly ambitious, Smith turned to Edinburgh as a more fertile field for his musical exertions. He had become acquainted with Dr Andrew Mitchell Thomson, Minister of St George's Church there, and had assisted him in the compilation of "Sacred Harmony, Part I., for the Use of St George's Church, Edinburgh," 1820. To that work, Smith had contributed five tunes, two sanctuses, and two anthems. Dr Thomson was an influential preacher belonging to the Evangelical Party of the Church of Scotland. He had strongly promoted singing at his church and sought to improve the psalmody in Scottish church worship generally. His "Sacred Harmony" included a new set of tunes, some of which he composed himself - the best known among them being "St George's, Edinburgh" to which the words from Psalm 24 are set, *Ye gates lift up your heads on high*. Just as Smith's "Invocation" back in the day opened the praise at Lawn Street Mission, so it was that "St George's, Edinburgh" brought it to a triumphant close.

Thomson was fully aware of Smith's worth as a leader and choir-master and in 1823, when a vacancy arose at St George's, Smith received the following invitation: "Our minister, Mr Thomson, and all the members of the Kirk-session, are exceedingly desirous of improving the psalmody of the congregation, and of procuring an able musician as well as a person of respectable character to fill the vacancy." Smith duly accepted the appointment and soon enhanced his reputation further, bringing about as marked an improvement in the psalmody of St George's as he had achieved in Paisley Abbey.

Combining teaching with editing collections of psalmody and other works, Smith spent a busy life. He appeared at many concerts and music festivals in Edinburgh and other parts of the country and was well known for his fine tenor voice. In addition to the works already mentioned, he published in 1825 "Sacred Music, consisting of Tunes, Sanctuses, Doxologies, Thanksgivings, &c., Sung in St George's Church, Edinburgh," and then in 1828, its second edition and a new work: "The Sacred Harmony of the Church of Scotland, in Four Vocal Parts, adapted to the Version of the Psalms, Paraphrases, Hymns, &c., used in the Presbyterian Churches." Secular works included "The Irish Minstrel, a Selection from the Vocal Melodies of Ireland, Ancient and Modern," published in 1825, "An Introduction to Singing, comprising various Examples, with Scales, Exercises, and Songs," in 1826, and "Select Melodies, with appropriate Words, chiefly original, collected and arranged with Symphonies and Accompaniments for the Pianoforte" in 1827. Besides these, innumerable sheet publications also appeared under his name.

Smith seemingly was not blessed with a robust constitution, suffered from a nervous disposition, and never enjoyed good health. He died at Edinburgh in his 49th year in January 1829, leaving a widow and five children, and was buried in St Cuthbert's churchyard. Paisley Museum has in its collection R. A. Smith's violin along with many of his manuscripts, and a print of his portrait.

It has been said that in any history of Scottish song or Scottish psalmody, the name of R. A. Smith must ever be mentioned with profound respect. His reputation has no doubt faded, and remembrance of him dimmed with the passage of time. In 1850, Andrew Thomson, one of Smith's successors as precentor at Paisley Abbey wrote that "unfortunately the singing of the band (choir) became gradually a matter of musical display, and the congregational singing, if not discouraged, has been generally neglected, so that it is long since the Abbey congregation, in a great measure, have ceased to sing."

Let the last words be kinder. When Smith was leaving Paisley to go to Edinburgh, a newspaper remarked that he had "turned the singing of the Abbey band to soft and feeling music from what was drawling, harsh, and noisy." At the same time, the trustees of the Abbey Music Fund added that he brought the church's Psalmody to "a state of perfection hitherto unknown in Scotland."

David C. Davidson

MUSIC FOR MARCH

3 March

11 am
Benedictus
Anthem

10 March

11 am
Benedictus
Anthem

4 pm
Responses
Canticles
Anthem

17 March

11 am
Psalm 51: 1-13
Anthem

24 March

11 am
Introit
Benedictus
Anthem

31 March

11 am
The Abbey Choir sing *Mozart's 'Coronation Mass'* accompanied by a small orchestra.

Lent 3

Morning Service

My soul, there is a country

*Tallis
CHH Parry*

Lent 4/ Mothering Sunday

Morning Service

Hymn to the Mother of God

*Byrd (Short Service)
John Tavener*

Choral Evensong

A Hymn of God's love

*Tomkins
Noble in B minor
Peter Nardone*

Lent 5

Morning Service

Like as the hart

Herbert Howells

Lent 6

Holy Communion

Pueri Hebraorum

*T Vittoria
Gibbons (Short Service)
William Byrd*

Ave verum corpus

Easter Day

Easter Celebration with Choral Communion

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

10 March—Mothering Sunday
11 am Morning Service

24 March - Palm Sunday
11 am Morning Service

Monday 25 March
7.30 pm Service with Sermon, Choir & Organ

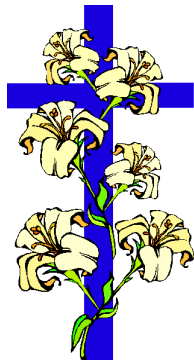
Tuesday 26 March
7.30 pm Service with Sermon, Choir & Organ

Wednesday 27 March
7.30 pm Service concluding with Compline

Thursday 28 March—Maundy Thursday
7.30 pm Service with Choral Communion and anthem sung by the Abbey choir.

Friday 29 March— Good Friday
Three Hour Vigil
12 noon - 1 pm - 'Crucifixion' by John Stainer (sung by the Abbey Choir)
1 pm - 3 pm - Music, Meditations & Prayers

Sunday 31 March - Easter Day
11 am Easter Celebration with Choral Communion
The Abbey Choir sing Mozart's 'Coronation Mass'
accompanied by a small orchestra.



LUNCH HOUR CONCERTS 2024

Saturdays at 12.30 pm
Admission is £5 payable at the door

23 March
Scottish Clarinet Choir

20 April
Abbey Strings

1 June
Douglas Lawrence (Violin)
Maureen Rutherford (Piano)

15 June
Richard Craig (Flute)
Classical and contemporary chamber works for flute



PAISLEY ABBEY ORGAN RECITALS

In celebration of the Cavaillé Coll Organ
1874-2024

Sundays at 3 pm
Admission is £10 payable at the door

7 April
George McPhee
Director of Music at Paisley Abbey

21 April
John Kitchen
Organist to Edinburgh City, Edinburgh University
& Old St. Paul's Church

28 April
Tiffany Young
Jordanhill Parish Church, Glasgow

19 May
James Lancelot
Durham Cathedral (Emeritus)

2 June
Mark Browne
Paisley Abbey

23 June
Matthew Beetschen
Dunfermline Abbey

30 June
Kevin Duggan
Dunblane Cathedral

J.S BACH - B MINOR MASS

Saturday 25 May at 7.30 pm

J.S. Bach B Minor Mass

Paisley Abbey
Saturday 25 May, 7:30pm

Described by an early critic as
'the greatest musical artwork
of all time and of all nations',
Johann Sebastian Bach's
B Minor Mass is one of the
towering masterpieces of classical
music. With its lyrical arias,
profound choruses and dazzling
orchestral writing, it really is a
work of universal appeal.

Under the direction of the
inimitable George McPhee, the
celebrated Paisley Abbey Choir
is joined by an orchestra made
up of leading Baroque musicians,
who regularly perform with
ensembles including Dunedin
Consort, Orchestra of the Age
of Enlightenment, Academy of
Ancient Music and The English
Concert, with a lineup of
virtuosic soloists.

Presented in the magnificent
acoustic of the medieval
Paisley Abbey, this promises to be
a performance not to be missed.



Mhairi Lawson soprano
Jessica Gillingwater alto
David Lee tenor
Colin Murray bass

George McPhee conductor

Tickets £5-35, available at
bminor2024.eventbrite.com

This performance given in memory of
Prof. Norman Sharp OBE



paisleyabbey

Paisley Abbey (Church of Scotland)
Registered Charity No. SC007633
www.paisleyabbey.org.uk

EVENTS AT THE ABBEY

THOMAS COATS CHORAL SOCIETY - Balshazzar by Handel

Sunday 17 March at 7.15 pm
Tickets available from Coats Choral Society

LUNCH HOUR CONCERT - Scottish Clarinet Choir

Saturday 23 March at 12.30 pm
Admission is £5 payable at the door.

LONDON CONCERTANTE – The Four Seasons & The Lark

Ascending by Candlelight

Friday 12 April at 7.30 pm
Tickets £21-£46 available from ticketsource.co.uk/classical

LONDON CONCERTANTE – A Night at the Opera by Candlelight

Sunday 5 May at 7.30 pm
Tickets £21-£46 available from ticketsource.co.uk/classical

JS BACH - B MINOR MASS

Saturday 25 May at 7.30 pm
Tickets £5 - £35 available from bminor2024.eventbrite.com

LONDON FILM MUSIC ORCHESTRA - The Best of Hans Zimmer & Film Favourites Illuminated

Thursday 6 & Saturday 8 June - performances at 6.30 pm & 9 pm
Tickets from £38.22 available from Eventbrite

LONDON CONCERTANTE – Music from James Bond Movies by Candlelight

Sunday 16 June at 7.30 pm
Tickets from £19 available from candlelightconcerts.co.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
Depute Session Clerk:	Dr David Davidson
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.*

Paisley Abbey (Church of Scotland) – Registered Charity No SC00763