

Paisley Abbey



Abbey Herald

November 2024

There are some things we have to do on purpose if we are going to do them at all. They just will not happen automatically.

By the time you read this issue of our magazine, in church we will have begun what are, for most of us, the most intense and hectic months of the year. November begins with the Church's celebration of All Saints'. This is quickly followed the next Sunday by our annual Service of Remembrance. The month then ends with a celebration of Christ the King and, before we know it, we begin December with Advent Sunday preparing us for Christmas and Epiphany. Sadly, this flurry of activity, the pressures of family expectations and the sheer burden of stuff that this time of the year brings all make it very easy for us to turn everything into an emotional and commercial feeding frenzy.

Christmas nowadays is usually a holiday season for the majority of us. Maybe it is worth our remembering that the word 'holiday' comes from 'holy day' – a time set apart as special for recalling and giving thanks for God's goodness.

However, if we are serious about keeping this season 'special' and the 'Christ' in Christmas, we will have to actually 'do' it deliberately and on purpose. The world 'out there' offers us sales, not salvation; a piece of the action, not the peace that surpasses our understanding; and a pretty false view of ourselves, not the truth that, as part of God's creation, we are held in love and acceptance.

Please, do not misunderstand me. I have no difficulty with this secular busyness and intrusion. There is nothing wrong with a bit of tinsel and turkey. But, from our spiritual tradition, we know there is more – much more – on offer. That behind all this secular fluff is the assurance of a Love – so great and so profound – constantly reaching out to us. That is why I invite you, over the next couple of very busy months, to reflect on what your life's priorities really are: what really matters to you. Consider the true richness lying at the heart of the Church's celebrations that lie ahead. You will have to do it deliberately, and on purpose if you are going to do it at all. It will not just happen automatically.

In these secular days, at the Abbey we are fortunate in having a fairly strong core congregation attending worship Sunday by Sunday. There is no room at all for complacency, of course. However, what a difference it would make to have YOU present with us also.

Worship is important. For it allows us the opportunity to consider really important issues affecting our life and living. To help us in our consideration, Faith offers us symbols and myths containing truths which, when understood, allow us to glimpse something of life’s meaning, purpose and opportunity.

So: give yourself a ‘gift’. Rather than allowing your life to slide without grounding, come and join us at worship where you will be able to participate in something far bigger than you. You will be able to immerse yourself in music that is sensational, evocative and the best that humanity has ever produced. You may hear words that challenge or comfort, disturb or inspire. You may find that peace being kindled within you from which contentment comes. What an experience that would be. What a gift to receive. How can you not make the effort – deliberately, and on purpose ?

Jim Gibson
Minister at the Abbey
Chaplain to His Majesty The King in Scotland.

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ELDER DUTY TEAMS

- November -** Michael McGill’s Team
- December -** Marion Sommerville’s Team
- January -** Team 2

PARISH REGISTER OCTOBER

Baptism
13 October Sloan Georgina Coyle
13 October Sunni Coyle
13 October Rhuraidh Moore

Death
Date unknown Ann Mickel

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.

Taylor Swift (pop icon) donated to 1600 Foodbanks on her summer tour so why not follow her example and give to your local collection. Be a “swiftie”. You can donate bags of nonperishable food at the Abbey service on the last Sunday of each month. Cash donations are also welcome.

In the last year the Abbey congregation have donated over £700 in cash much of which is gift aided which adds an extra 25p to every pound you give. 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 BANK CHRISTMAS APPEAL

We are once again supporting the Renfrewshire Toy Bank Christmas Appeal. The Salvation Army will be storing donations of toys which will be collected for distribution in December. Last year, gifts were provided for 1636 children.

If you would like to donate a present (ages 0 -16) please bring on any Sunday up to 30th November. The parcel should be marked boy/girl and an approximate age. Thank you.



CLOISTER CAFÉ - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Following extensive planning and budgeting, the Cloister Café re-launched in July. This was only possible due to generous funding from the Lottery, donations from Abbey families and a hugely dedicated small band of volunteers. Most of the café team also volunteer in the shop and church, the choir, community projects, many committees and the flower teams. So, the café team needs to expand. Are you able to offer 3.5 hours per week, or on an ad hoc basis? We are indebted to Margaret Craig and the shop volunteers who have had to step in to assist on a couple of occasions. We hope to strengthen the team over the next few months, and develop what is on offer too. Please let the Church Manager or Jan Norris know, if you are interested in joining the team.



REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

HARVEST FESTIVAL 2024

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 2024, 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 **£579.43** (happily **up from £504.96** last year, to help with that work. That amount was enhanced by the gift aided donations which amounted to £308.43.

We on the new Community Outreach 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 Outreach 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 Outreach Committee is extremely grateful to everyone who helped with these deliveries and we thank you all most sincerely.

Sally Cook

ALLOVUS

**Wednesdays - 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm
Meeting fortnightly**

**Varied programme of activities, speakers
and outings
Refreshments served**

SYLLABUS for the rest of 2024

20 November

Film Day

4 December

Scams And Scammers

18 December

Christmas Fun



CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

This year there will again be a congregational lunch which will be held in Ralston Golf Club on Sunday 15 December at 1 pm.

Over the years, this lunch has been a popular event in the Abbey diary and as it is certain to attract a large number of Abbey members, you are advised to book early.

Marion McDougall will be taking bookings and you can also book in the shop. The cost will be £25 per person which includes a two-course lunch plus coffee and mince pies.

When you book, please choose your starter and main course from the menu shown below.

Marion McDougall
0141 889 6463 (h) 07710 486462 (m)
marion.mcdougall@paisleyabbey.org.uk

MENU

Starter

Cream of asparagus soup with roasted chestnut oil (v) (g/f)
Cointreau infused smoked salmon with orange salad (g/f)
Poached scented pear with brie and sage dressing (v) (g/f)

Main Course

Braised topside of beef cooked in wine with shallots, tarragon and bacon lardons (g/f)
Traditional roast turkey served with stuffing and pigs in blankets
King prawn and salmon risotto (g/f)
Cranberry & apricot nut loaf (v)

Tea, Coffee & Mince Pies



SATURDAY LUNCH HOUR CONCERTS

Saturdays at 12.30 pm

Admission is £5 payable at the door

23 November

Paisley Abbey Choral Scholars

21 December

Programme of Christmas Music
Abbey Brass

25 January

Programme of music in celebration of Robert Burns
Diane Merson-Jones (violin) George McPhee

15 February

Alastair Savage (Violin)

22 March

Scottish Clarinet Choir

Sylvia Jenks awarded the John Henderson Award for Services to Pilgrimage in Scotland

At the Annual Gathering of the Scottish Pilgrim Route Forum held in Ceres in Fife, on 27th September this year the Chairman of the S.P.R.F. , the Very Rev. Dr. Martin Fair, called Sylvia Jenks 'A Champion of Pilgrimage in Scotland'. He was presenting her with the John Henderson Trophy - only the third time that this prestigious Award has been presented – and went on to remind the meeting “of the pioneering role which Sylvia had played in leading Paisley Abbey Church to Celebrate the 850th anniversary of its founding as a Cluniac Monastery. In 2012/2013 Sylvia had established the Whithorn Way Pilgrim Route and over the next ten years, marked it by a series of one-day walks with members of the congregation and others. However the Award also recognised that, in that same period, Sylvia also organised Pilgrim Walks in many other parts of Scotland. For all of this, Sylvia was a highly worthy winner of this year’s award.” In accepting the Trophy, Sylvia warmly thanked all who had helped her along the way.

What was not said at the Gathering was the immense amount of work Sylvia put into all the Walks she organised: always one or two recesses to find the best and safest route (normally helped by the sadly, no longer with us, Robin and Cathy Craig and occasionally by Rena and Eric Simpson.) Thereafter Sylvia wrote the careful notes on the route to be taken and detailed descriptions of interesting or historical facts along the way. She organised the transport coaches and cars, bought the legendary flap-jacks and lots of oranges and even provided every walker with a little badge at the ultimate destination of each walk. The original walk – the Whithorn Way – started at the Barochan Cross in the Abbey itself and ended eleven walks later at Whithorn where the Abbey Walkers (as they came to be known although only about half of the regular pilgrims were attached to the Abbey in any way) entered the town preceded by 2 Abbey scouts (Joel and Alice I think) bearing the banner “CELEBRATING 850 YEARS OF PAISLEY ABBEY” and were joined by a bus load of less able-bodied (or simply less energetic) members of the congregation for a barbeque - all of which was organised by Sylvia. The return walk from Whithorn to Paisley was completed in 10 days by about 12 of the Abbey Walkers (thus requiring the pre-bookings of overnight B & Bs) – and ended in the Abbey on St Mirin’s Day 2013.

Thereafter walks to St. Andrews (again a bus load of our congregation joined the Walkers) to Edinburgh, to Dundonald and - what has proved to be the last Walk to date – but sadly curtailed by Covid – was to be to Iona.

Those of us who took part in any way have been left with wonderful memories and know how thoroughly deserving the award of the John Henderson Trophy is.

Perhaps our most memorable recollections are of September 15th, 2013- St Mirin’s Day - when after a very drenching walk from Johnstone (the last leg of the 10 day Walk from Whithorn) there was (and I quote my own diary of the time) ”A fairly chaotic gathering in the cloisters, some lovely words from Alan to Sylvia in gratitude for all she has done and as the choir sang ‘*I was glad*’ we, all the pilgrims together (each one wearing our Pilgrim T-shirt, our Pilgrims badge and our Pilgrims shell) walked down the aisle of our great Church..... We all found the singing of Bunyan’s ‘*To be a Pilgrim*’ very emotional and felt that it was truly fitting that after the walk of 140 miles we were greeted by a very full Abbey at the special Service to mark the culmination of the celebrations for our 850 years of existence.

A perfect ending to the first of the many walks to be organised by Sylvia over the years. She has not only championed Pilgrimage in Scotland but has equally championed our own Paisley Abbey. A worthy winner indeed of the John Henderson Award.



NORAH BEATTIE

After almost 20 years at the Abbey, Norah retired as Church Officer in early October. She was delighted with all the gifts, flowers and cards she received and sends her sincere thanks and good wishes. Not one for a fuss, and at her request, she had a small tea with sandwiches & cakes with her colleagues Linda, Karen & Alex.



Norah with the Minister Revd. Jim Gibson and Session Clerk Marion Somerville.

The Minister presented Norah with a monetary gift from the congregation, volunteers, her colleagues and the many friends she has made over the years.



ABBEY SHOP

The Abbey Shop now has a new selection of Christmas cards, calendars and gifts available to purchase.

More Christmas stock will be appearing in the next few weeks!

There is also a new range of Sheila Fleet jewellery available.

Linda Barrett
Abbey Manager



NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN PAISLEY ABBEY

We were delighted to host a major and prestigious conference on 1st November 2024 in the Abbey. The event entitled “Building Sustainable Futures for Scottish Churches” was presented by the *National Churches Trust*, along with *Historic Environment Scotland*, *Scotland’s Churches Trust*, and *Historic Churches of Scotland*.

A wide range of funding bodies and charity-sector organisations was represented. The crossing and choir became a busy concourse with their stands set up throughout. That afforded ample scope to discover more about the funding opportunities that the Abbey team is already actively pursuing but were of equal interest to other delegates. Little wonder that as many as two hundred attended, each one as eager as another to stake a claim to any available grant.



Staging of the event was made possible by the energetic and enthusiastic efforts of the Abbey staff and volunteers who proved themselves to be as willing and welcoming as ever. Our visitors were delighted with the facilities at their disposal: the new sound system is a tremendous asset along with our recently acquired video screens – all coming to the Abbey through the generosity of donors. Lunch, teas and coffee were provided for an unfathomable number of attendees, much to their appreciation, and the shop did roaring business during the programme breaks. Our staff, volunteers, and unstinting donors all deserve our heartfelt gratitude.

In keeping with the status of the event, Sir Philip Rutnam, Chair, and Claire Walker, Chief Executive, of the National Churches Trust were present and amongst the list of able and informative speakers. Our minister, Jim Gibson, gave an inspiring welcome and introduction to the day. Jan Norton shared her experiences gained in the active and successful pursuit of grant funding on behalf of the Abbey. They all performed admirably but were ultimately and inevitably upstaged by the real star and *prima donna* of the show. She of course is our wonderful Abbey Church, never failing to impress newcomers and regular visitors alike by her treasures of history, art, and architecture! Thank you to all who helped to make the conference such a great success.



THE PLACE OF PAISLEY RESTORATION

Recent articles in the *Abbey Herald* have focused on the ancient domestic buildings belonging to Paisley Abbey. Uniquely amongst Scottish Abbeys, a portion of these has not only survived but remains in use today. Where once was the refectory or dining hall in which the monks of the Cluniac monastery ate their meagre rations, became a private mansion after the Reformation, and came to be known as the Place (palace) of Paisley.

We have heard that King James VI was entertained there in 1617, and the first Earl of Dundonald “lived there in great splendour and hospitality for many years.” The fourth earl is said to have “reconstructed, enlarged, and beautified the Place” in the early 18th Century but then, towards the end of that century, the Abbey grounds began to be feud out: “shoddy buildings were run up to the very walls of the Abbey” which “became largely obscured behind a screen of mean and squalid buildings.” “The Place itself was let out to a steadily deteriorating class of tenants, its stately chambers being mutilated by partitions and whitewash, and the former monastery kitchens were occupied by a public house despite its being directly connected with the church building.”

Happily, the Place of Paisley was “rescued from its state of degradation by the Kirk Session who bought the buildings in 1904.” Two of the five floors were brought back into use, but the upper storeys remained in their pitiful condition as recently as in the 1950s. Eventually, the top flat was stripped of its partitions and plaster to reveal the wonderful original oak beams of the refectory roof but also the urgent necessity for renovation, with the ravages of woodworm and decay only too evident.

Recognising that “the burden of restoration was more than the congregation could shoulder alone,” a restoration fund was created under the auspices of the Society of the Friends of Paisley Abbey and an appeal was launched for “all who value our Scottish heritage to help to complete the restoration of this historical treasure.” Plans to adapt the derelict upper storeys for use as the Abbey Manse were drawn up by Paisley’s eminent architect, James Steel Maitland (1887-1982), and the project proceeded to its completion in the early 1960s.

This was one of the first large schemes to be supported by the relatively newly founded Society of Friends of Paisley Abbey. According to the *Paisley Daily Express*, the Society’s inaugural meeting was held in the “County Hall” on Wednesday, October 10th, 1951. On the 65th anniversary of the launch of the Restoration Appeal for the Place of Paisley and at a time when the Abbey is again contemplating the need to raise funds in connection with its future plans to repurpose the upper storeys of the Place, it seems appropriate to reproduce the text of the address that Steel Maitland gave to the Friends on that occasion.

It is a fascinating and enlightening record of the work undertaken *not so very long ago* (as this writer regards any happening within his lifetime).

David C Davidson

TALK GIVEN TO THE SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDS OF PAISLEY ABBEY

by JAMES STEEL MAITLAND. F.R.I.B.A.
on 1st December 1959

PLACE OF PAISLEY

I think I might safely begin this talk by giving you some facts concerning the probable date and origin of the Place of Paisley – especially because from certain quarters, doubts as to its value as an ancient monument and even as an ancient building have been expressed locally and given a certain prominence in the Press. The word “medieval” has been used. Now what exactly does “medieval” mean? – the Middle Ages -- what are the Middle Ages? The words conjure up that period in history when knights were bold, when chivalry reigned, when the blazoning of armorial bearings was flaunted at the lists or in the field of battle, when the crusades were in full swing – in other words, during the 12th, 13th and 14th Centuries.

In a talk I gave here a year or two ago, I pointed out how little – how very little – of our old abbey itself remained that could be considered older than the 15th Century – and we always consider it to be, and to talk of it as, a medieval building.

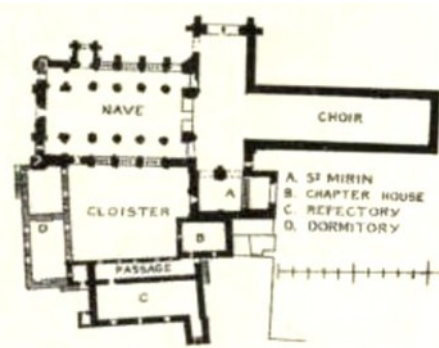
All our abbeys were invariably planned in a certain way, and it is as well to remember this when trying to reconstruct those portions which have been destroyed or altered during the centuries. The plan was as follows:

1. The Church itself, consisting of Nave, Transepts and Choir;
2. The Cloisters;
3. The Dormitory and ancillary accommodation;
4. The Refectory attached to one side of the Cloisters. Always opposite the church and under the Refectory were the cellars and possibly kitchens;
5. The Parlour, or Common Room;
6. The Chapter House and other accommodation.

The above accommodation was standard to all our abbeys, and it is certain that this standard would be followed at Paisley. The refectory and cellars, therefore, would occupy almost automatically the site where what is called the Place of Paisley stands, and an examination of these buildings makes it perfectly clear that the old Refectory itself has formed the nucleus of the whole group. Now this old Refectory which formed a simple oblong building, eighty feet long by thirty feet wide, has walls five feet thick and a roof spanned across every two feet with great oak timbers shaped out of the solid tree to form a semicircle, and extending the whole length of the building. At the west end are the remains of a stone archway whose elaborate mouldings date it to the early 15th Century, or perhaps even the late 14th Century. This archway obviously led to the Cloisters which stretched from the west end of the Abbey to the west end of the Refectory.

At the time of the demolition in 1874 of the buildings to the west of the Cloister Garth it was admitted, even by those in favour of this act of vandalism, that portions of the destroyed buildings were very old indeed and were erected long before the Reformation. It is possible, indeed very likely, and McGibbon & Ross indicate it in their plans in "Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland" that the superstructure at the west cloisters housed the dormitories of the monks.

As for the south cloisters, it would appear that the passageway running along the north wall of the Refectory occupies the ground where they originally stood and were removed at the time when the Refectory building was incorporated for use as a dwelling house for the Abercorns.



Originally the Refectory building, which is the portion which most interests us, was probably only a two-storied building, not three-storied as now: the lower floor occupied as was usual by cellars and storerooms, and maybe only nine or ten feet high; the upper storey a magnificent single room from end to end, eighteen or twenty feet in height, surmounted with its gracious semicircular oak beams. That the internal walls taking the chimneys were built at a later date when occupied as a dwelling house is obvious since the oak timbers remain within the stonework of the chimneys and are continuous from end to end and from side to side. Obviously, also, the windows of this apartment are not the original windows, which would be very much smaller and narrower.

So, with all the available information we have now, I should place the date of the nucleus of the Place of Paisley around about the middle of the 15th Century or a little earlier, and it was in all likelihood built at the time when Abbot Thomas de Tervas was very busy restoring the terribly damaged, ruined abbey. The pity is that the whole of the buildings to the west of the Cloister Garth were ruthlessly swept away in 1874, and no record kept to indicate what they were like and throw more light on the date of their erection.

There appears to be no record as to when the Refectory was turned into a dwelling house, but Claud Hamilton, son of the Earl of Arran, Commendator of Paisley at the Reformation, became the owner of the property on which the conventual buildings stood in 1589. He was created Lord Paisley in 1591. His son James, who became first Earl of Abercorn, his grandson the 2nd Earl, who sold the lands to the Earl of Angus who in turn sold them to Lord Cochran, afterwards Earl of Dundonald, and from whose descendants they were repurchased by the then 8th Earl of Abercorn, all are said to have lived in the Place of Paisley, and various changes have occurred in it during their various occupancies. These changes are fairly obvious, and I should say that the passage and one or both of the wheel stairs at each end along with the building of the internal chimney-walls and the extra floor were among the first, possibly about the end of the 16th Century or the beginning of the 17th Century.

Then came the building of the crowstepped high buildings alongside of St Mirin's Chapel and on top of the Chapter House (making this portion five stories), and finally in 1672 - the date stone is on the dormer window there - an addition jutting out from the south-east corner of the old Refectory building.

A Century later, it fell on evil days and the whole place developed into a slum. Shops, a public house, and a stable occupied ground floor apartments and "single ends" filled the upper floors with their accompanying squalid conditions, and these conditions obtained during the 19th Century and well into the 20th when the two lower floors were restored.

I have given you the above history of the Place in its relation to the Abbey. The greater portion you may take as fact and only a little as intelligent surmise based on the facts. It is of course impossible to pin-point any actual dates within a quarter of a century.

When we first came to restore the upper floors of the Place, it was a veritable shambles. All the old wooden partitions of the portion above the Chapter House, which had divided off the little rooms in the 18th Century, along with the old plasterwork were there in their state of decay and dilapidation, and it was necessary first to have them removed and all plasterwork on the walls and ceilings cleared away. In the portion within the curtilage of the old Refectory, plasterwork covered over the fine old oak circled timbers of the roof, and this had to be removed to expose the ravages of the woodworm beetle. The volunteer workers - "the Gang" - did valiant and most unpleasant work hacking and cutting away all the decayed portions of these timbers so that in due course the experts on disinfestation could get busy eradicating any live beetles that might still give trouble. The tearing away of the plasterwork exposed some shockingly unnecessary work of restoration, done probably about the beginning of this century, consisting of pine timbers attached to the old oak timbers. Many of these had to be cut away to carry out the reconstruction work we intended to do. The old oak timbers themselves were so warped and twisted by great age and neglect that they had to be cramped up into their original position and reinforced by metal bolts and plates, and new heavy oak pieces inserted to take up deficiencies and make the whole work as like the original as possible. I should have preferred not to have used metal plates and bolts at all, had expense not had to be considered and had time not been a vital factor.



Lord Cochran, afterwards Earl of Dundonald, in 1672 when he added the wing that is now proposed to be the Study, tore apart and removed the circled members of the old roof of what is now to be the main living room of the house, leaving gaping unfilled mortices in the sloping members. New curved oak members have been reintroduced here, bringing the roof of this apartment into its original condition when part of the Refectory. A peculiar piece of construction, which I have never been able to understand, must have made this room in Lord Dundonald's day very unsightly indeed. This has been done away with altogether, and new plasterwork judiciously used in relation to the old stonework, and a fine old carved panel of the 15th or 16th Century which has lain in the Cloisters for years, has now found a more fitting place above the original fireplace with its bolection moulding. All have turned this room into a noble and gracious apartment. The carved panel bears the ancient coat of arms of the Royal Stewarts before the Union of the Crown - the lion rampant between a tressure flory counter-flory, surmounted by a royal crown and with two unicorn supporters surrounded by thistles.



I mentioned earlier the wing thrown out evidently in the time when the house was occupied by Lord Cochran, later the Earl of Dundonald, and which will be the Study of the restored house. It has been said, and it is quite possibly the case, that here Graham of Claverhouse met and courted his bride Lady Jean Cochran. In this room

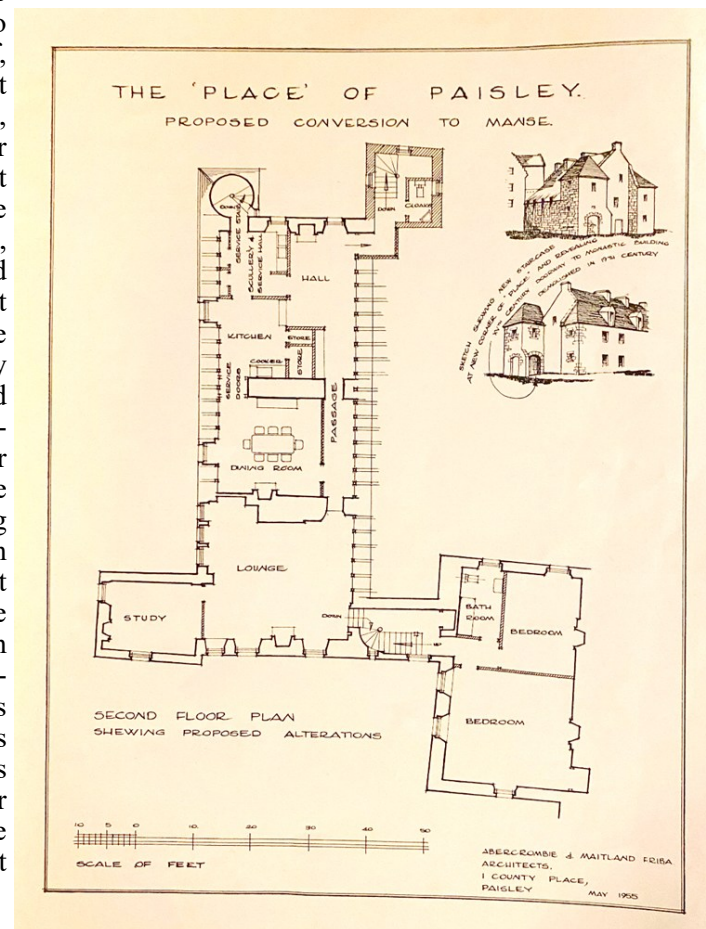


picked out in colours, and it should be restored as near as possible to what it was in its heyday. The plasterwork has been undercut in its modelling and is quite unusual and elaborate.

The old fireplace was dilapidated and unsightly, and we have managed to take the bolection mouldings of another fireplace and re-use them here. It would have been delightful to have panelled this little room as no doubt it was in Dundonald's day but, alas, present-day costs make refinements like that impossible.

It was thought by some, before this project was started, that the rooms would turn out to be dark and dingy and quite unsuitable as a dwelling house. I am sure that the critics who saw the Place before work was started on it would be agreeably surprised, even now before it is completed, to see how their dismal forebodings have been confounded.

The accommodation that has been provided in the Refectory wing consists, starting at the west end, of a main staircase with cloakroom accommodation at the top of the stairs, an entrance vestibule and entrance hall leading to a passage which, in itself, leads to the main apartment - call it living room, lounge, sitting room or what you will. On the right of the entrance hall are the kitchen quarters - not large, but quite adequate and quite modern. The old west spiral stone stair will serve as a service stair directly from the small courtyard below to the kitchen quarters - quite a trail! Further along the passage is the entrance to the dining room, which connects with the kitchen but separated from it by double sets of doors between which will be a service layout table. The study enters from the main apartments and will have bookcases along one wall, and its four ample windows will make it an especially well-lit room.



PHOTOGRAPHS FROM
PAISLEY ABBEY ARCHIVES

These fill the whole refectory wing, and a step or two at the far, or east end, lead down from the main apartment to the old eastern spiral stone staircase which connects with the middle and ground floor flats of the Place and to the Abbey itself. Avoiding the spiral staircase, a small hall gives access to the bedroom wing over the Chapter House. This is in two floors joined by a new staircase. Each floor has three bedrooms and a bathroom. Everything in these two floors had to be stripped, and the sagging joists had to be reinforced with new steelwork. The old wooden lintels of the windows were so decayed that they had to be cut out and concrete built in. That is the worst of restoration work - so much that has to be done is completely hidden and there is nothing to show for it, and it all costs such a lot of money.

Just a word now about the main entrance to the house. Here we have restored and used the old 15th Century archway which I mentioned earlier in my talk. This is incorporated in the new stone stairway tower at the northwest corner of the Refectory block. The old arch was much mutilated and, while one terminal to the label moulding remained, the other with several of the arch stones was missing. I found among the old stones lying about in the Cloisters a carved terminal block of the correct period but quite different from the existing one, and unfortunately it was for the same end as the existing one. It was very badly broken, and it had to be doctored up and made to work into the right-hand side of the label moulding. I took the liberty, while doctoring it up, to cut the dates 1459 and 1959 on a ribbon of stone. I could not help wondering if the lay-brother carver of five hundred years ago was looking on disapprovingly while his work was being desecrated.

The new staircase tower is really the addition of two stories to the old single-storey wing at the northwest corner of the Refectory building. This wing was reduced to the single-storey arrangement in 1874 when the Dormitory buildings were removed. The new tower is therefore to some extent restoring this part of the building to its original condition. It adds character to the group, although it helps to accentuate the leaning southwest corner of the Abbey itself when viewed along Abbey Close.

That then is my story about the old Place of Paisley and my review of the things we are doing to it to restore it for some further centuries I hope - and at the same time to turn it into something really useful - a house that any cultured person would delight to live in and enjoy. Its restoration has not been easy and has revealed many faults of construction and sometimes shocking bad building. Never believe that they built better in those days than now: there is hardly a wall that is plumb and hardly an angle that is a right-angle in the whole of the Place of Paisley!

James Steel Maitland

EVENTS AT THE ABBEY

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF SCOTLAND GRADUATIONS

Monday 11 - Saturday 16 November

RENFREWSHIRE SCHOOLS CONCERT

Tuesday 3 & Wednesday 4 December at 7 pm

LONDON CONCERTANTE – *Viennese Christmas by Candlelight*

Strauss, Tchaikovsky & Brahms

Thursday 5 December at 7.30 pm

Tickets from £21 available from candlelightconcerts.co.uk

RAINBOW VALLEY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday 7 December at 1.30 pm

Tickets £15 (adult) & £5 (child) available from Rainbow Valley

CITY MUSIC PRODUCTIONS - *Vivaldi Four Seasons at Christmas*

Sunday 8 December at 7.30 pm

Tickets from £20.52 available from www.citymusicproductions.co.uk

VARIETY CHILDRENS CHARITY CAROL CONCERT

Tuesday 10 December at 10.30 am

ACCORD CAROL SERVICE

Thursday 12 December at 11 am

Tickets £5 available from Accord

LONDON CONCERTANTE – *Christmas at the Movies*

Home Alone, Elf, White Christmas & many more

Sunday 15 December at 6 pm

Tickets from £21 available from candlelightconcerts.co.uk

SCOTTISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Elgar The Dream of Gerontius

Thursday 27 February at 7.30 pm

Tickets available from bbc.co.uk/bbcso

THE CASCADE OF POPPIES IN THE ABBEY AND THE CLOISTERS MADE BY THE LADIES OF THE ABBEY FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER AT 4PM

Processional	Conditor alme siderum	<i>Plainsong</i>
Carol	Drop down, ye heavens	<i>Judith Weir</i>
Hymn 26	Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding	
Anthems	Adam lay ybounden Hosanna to the Son of David	<i>George McPhee</i> <i>Orlando Gibbons</i>
Hymn 39	Wake, O wake! with tidings thrilling	
Anthem	Alam Redemptoris Mater	<i>Cecilia McDowall</i>
Advent Antiphon:	O Emmanuel	
The Magnificat: (Short Service)		<i>Orlando Gibbons</i>
Advent Antiphon:	O Emmanuel	
Hymn 27	Hark, the glad sound, the Saviour comes	
Motets	Never weather-beaten sail O Radiant Dawn	<i>C.H.H. Parry</i> <i>James MacMillan</i>
Hymn 29	Hills of the North rejoice	



Advent, Christmas & Epiphany Services

Sunday 1 December - Advent Sunday
11 am Morning Worship for Advent Sunday
4 pm Lessons & Carols for Advent

Sunday 8 December - Advent 2
11 am Morning Worship on the Second Sunday in Advent

Thursday 12 December
11 am Accord Carol Service

Sunday 15 December - Advent 3
11 am Morning Worship for the Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday 22 December - Advent 4
11 am Morning Worship for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

Tuesday 24 December—Christmas Eve
3 pm Christmas Shoppers' Carol Service
7.30 pm Lessons and Carols upon Christmas Eve

Wednesday 25 December - Christmas Day
10.30 am Christmas Day Choral Communion
 including Charpentier's 'Messe de Minuit'
 sung by the Abbey Choir accompanied by a small orchestra.

Sunday 29 December - First Sunday after Christmas Day
11 am Morning Worship with Sacrament of Baptism

Sunday 5 January - Epiphany
11 am Morning Worship for Epiphany



SERVICES & MUSIC FOR NOVEMBER

3 November	Sunday after All Saints Day	
11 am	Morning Service	
Introit	O quam gloriosum	<i>Vittoria</i>
Te Deum		<i>Britten in E</i>
Anthem	Bring us, O Lord God	<i>Harris</i>
10 November	Remembrance Sunday	
11 am	Morning Service	
Introit	Thou knowest, Lord	<i>Purcell</i>
Benedictus		<i>Ireland in F</i>
Anthem	Greater love hath no man	<i>Ireland</i>
4 pm	Choral Evensong	
Responses		<i>Byrd</i>
Psalm 46		
Canticles of Zachariah		<i>MacMillan</i>
Anthem	Set me a seal	<i>Walton</i>
17 November		
11 am	Morning Service	
Jubilate Deo		<i>Stanford in C</i>
Anthem	Almighty and everlasting God	<i>Gibbons</i>
24 November	Christ the King	
11 am	Holy Communion	
Communion Setting		<i>Howells (Collegium Regale)</i>
Anthem	Let all the world	<i>Leighton</i>
1 December	Advent Sunday	
11 am	Morning Service	
Te Deum		<i>Gibbons (Short Service)</i>
Anthem	O Thou, the central orb	<i>Wood</i>
4 pm	Advent Carol Service	

ABBAY 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 now open
Monday to Saturday from 10 am - 4 pm with last entry at 3.30 pm
Tuesday & Thursday tours are at 2 pm.

University of the West of Scotland Graduations
The Abbey will be closed to visitors from
Monday 11 - Friday 15 November for Graduations
The Shop & Café will remain open.

Abbey website - www.paisleyabbey.org.uk
Facebook - @paisleyabbey
Instagram - @paisleyabbeyofficial
X (formerly Twitter) - @paisley_abbey