

# Paisley South News



Spring/Summer  
2024

Paisley South Church - Scottish Charity No SC 000558

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# Pastoral Letter Spring/Summer 2024

*A letter from our Minister - Rev David Hood*

January is a time when we look back and then forward, wondering what the year ahead will hold for us. Writing this letter in the middle of January for a magazine to be delivered in March, presents a challenge. I have no idea what the world, town, Parish and Church will be like in 2 months time. Huge international tensions, Ukraine and Russia, and military action in the Middle East are the more serious of humanly created issues, and the world is also experiencing more and more major natural events, often affecting huge numbers of people. You may be reading this and thinking, "Well, not much has changed in the last 2 months", but there is a real possibility that you are acutely aware of a particular event or situation in the world which has dominated the media for the last week or two, or more.

Change is the one constant we all face, and that applies to us as individuals - from small changes to the big life altering events which are part of life. Whenever my life is shaken by unwelcome illness, accident or loss, I seek reassurance and strength from the promises contained in the Bible, which declare that nothing can separate us for the love of God, found in Jesus. Elsewhere it says that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. I try to hold on to these declarations as well as the promises of God's presence and love. Christian believers are not exempt, and should not be surprised when challenges and change comes. However, the real challenge is to hold to faith, to trust and follow, to persevere and grasp courage, knowing that we are never left to cope alone by the God of Love.

Looking ahead can also bring the anticipation of joy and celebration. The wedding scheduled for later this year, the birth due to take place, the special birthday or anniversary, or the trip of a lifetime - all of these can create a wonderful excitement as the day or event approaches. I have often described Jesus as a bit of a 'party animal'.

His first miracle was when he was at a wedding and although reluctant, was persuaded by his Mum to help when the wine ran out. He didn't just convert a few gallons, but rather he converted 1440 pints of water into the best quality wine. The wedding party got back on track and the wine would last well after the party had finished. That reminds me of the abundant generosity of our Saviour who loves us.

In the last magazine, I spoke about the new one due to be produced. Ironically we could not foresee some of the change related technical difficulties which have delayed this, and so this issue will be the last magazine in this format.

If you are not already on the weekly email list, can I encourage you to have your address added [just email Tony the Church Secretary]? And if you have Facebook, please 'like' the Church page. Information and the link to the Livestream can always be found on the website as well. Thanks for reading. I hope you find the magazine interesting and inspiring.

David

## OUR MISSION

**"PAISLEY SOUTH PARISH CHURCH EXISTS AS PART OF GOD'S CHURCH IN SCOTLAND TO GLORIFY GOD. WE AIM TO BE AN ACTIVE, LOVING, MODERN, CARING COMMUNITY OF FAITH, REACHING OUT TO THOSE AROUND US, SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS AND SERVING OUR PARISH"**

## Let's meet @ Paisley South Church

Since the last edition of the magazine, a new group has been formed within Paisley South Church, primarily, but not solely, aimed at the men within the Church and our community. It offers a more social time to meet with fellow members, which had not been possible since the union, due to the restrictions of meeting with the pandemic. The meetings allow us to look at opportunities to join with our fellow members (and friends) to get to know each other better, through chat, play, or other opportunities (*but not a Men's Shed!*). So...

Let's meet  
Let's chat  
Let's play  
Let's learn (from others)  
Let's hear (from speakers)  
Let's ....

We are all encouraged by the response and are happy to explore the format and content of this group, as we move forward. We meet twice per month on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 2.30pm in the Halls.

At the time of writing, we have had monthly talks from speakers within our group on varied topics including the work of a railway preservation society, the history of the church, and working for JP Coats. Other talks are planned for forthcoming meetings.

Every second meeting is a games day with our members engaging in carpet bowls, dominoes, chess, quizzes and trying to understand backgammon! For our Christmas social, we all enjoyed some music, games, and party food.

**All are welcome**

**Jim Miller**

# Worship Diary@PaisleySouthChurch

This overview is subject to change if circumstances dictate.

## MARCH [World Day of Prayer service Fri 1<sup>st</sup> March 2pm Salvation Army]

3<sup>rd</sup> 2 Kings 2 : 1 – 12 Mark 9 : 2 – 9

10<sup>th</sup> Genesis 9 : 8 – 17 Mark 1 : 9 – 15

Mother's Day

17<sup>th</sup> Genesis 17 : 1 – 7, 15 – 16 Mark 8 : 31 – 38

**Stated Annual Meeting after morning service**

24<sup>th</sup> **Rev Archie Speirs** **PALM SUNDAY**

28<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm *Maundy Thursday*

29<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm *Good Friday*

31<sup>st</sup> **EASTER DAY**

## APRIL

7<sup>th</sup> Psalm 3 1 John 1 : 1 – 2 : 2

14<sup>th</sup> Isaiah 6 : 1 – 9a 1 John 3 : 1 – 7

21<sup>st</sup> Zechariah 10 1 John 3 : 16 – 24

28<sup>th</sup> Exodus 19 : 1 – 6 1 John 4 : 7 – 21

**COMMUNION 11am + 3pm**

## MAY

5<sup>th</sup> Psalm 98 1 John 5 : 1 – 6

12<sup>th</sup> Jeremiah 10 : 1 – 10a 1 John 5 : 9 – 13

19<sup>th</sup> **DPH at General Assembly** Pentecost  
Ezekiel 37 : 1 – 14 Acts 2 : 1 – 21

26<sup>th</sup> Isaiah 6 : 1 – 8 John 3 : 1 – 17

## JUNE

2<sup>nd</sup> Deuteronomy 5 : 12 – 15 2 Corinthians 4 : 5 – 12

9<sup>th</sup> Psalm 138 2 Cor 4 : 13 – 5 : 1

16<sup>th</sup> Ezekiel 17:22 - 24 2 Cor 5 : 6 -10 (11-13) 14 – 17

23<sup>rd</sup> Job 38 : 1 – 11 2 Corinthians 6 : 1 – 13

Sunday School Prizegiving service with Sundaes to complete service

30<sup>th</sup> Rev Archie Speirs COMMUNION 11am + 3pm

## JULY

7<sup>th</sup> Freestyle service

14<sup>th</sup> Amos 7 : 7 – 15 Ephesians 1 : 3 – 14

21<sup>st</sup> Songs of Praise Service

28<sup>th</sup> 2 Kings 4 : 42 – 44 Ephesians 3 : 14 – 21

## AUGUST

4<sup>th</sup> DPH OFF Exodus 16 : 2-4, 9-15 Ephesians 4 : 1 – 16

11<sup>th</sup> DPH OFF 2 Samuel 18 : 5-9,15,31-33  
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

18<sup>th</sup> Proverbs 9 : 1 – 6 Ephesians 5 : 15 – 20

25<sup>th</sup> Joshua 24 : 1-2a, 14-18 Ephesians 6 : 10 – 20  
COMMUNION 11am + 3pm

## Pastoral Committee Update - February 2024

Hi everyone, the Pastoral Committee and Visitors work with our members who are in Care Homes and in their own homes but for health reasons unable to get out and cannot attend Church. They keep the Members up to date with what is happening in the church and let them know we have not forgotten them. They all get a copy of the Church Newsletter which gives those who are able something to look at and information, such as telephone numbers should they or their families require to contact the Minister or the office or a particular person.

We certainly could do with more visitors, so please consider helping with this, a little time or a telephone call now and again can and does make a big difference especially to these Members. The Pastoral Committee and Visitors are fully stretched covering the 15 Members in Care Homes and 7 visited in their own homes. So Please Consider Helping Us. We know of another two members who will celebrate 90th Birthdays this year. We already had one in early January.

So everyone, PLEASE, if you hear of a member who is about to celebrate a special 90 or 100 Birthday just let us know.

The work of Paisley South can only be done if we all do a little. Yes, we are asking everyone to think seriously about what they can do to help, so please contact The Minister or any committee member if you feel you can give little of your time.

Margaret Banks.

### Blister Packs

Thanks to all who have brought along empty medical blister packs to be recycled. To date, we have filled many, many black bags. Please keep bringing them, as they get recycled and a donation is sent to the Marie Curie Fund.



# PARISH REGISTER



## *DEATHS*

### *CHURCH MEMBERS*

*David Caldwell - 18th May 2023*

*Maureen Fulton - 26th June 2023*

*Elspeth Campbell - 3rd August 2023*

*Janet Kemp - 1th August 2023*

*Yvonne Arnott - 30th August 2023*

*Alastair Beattie - 19th November 2023*

*Rae Jenkins - 12th December 2023*

*Sheila Currie - 31st January 2024*

*The Lord will watch over your coming and going  
both now and for evermore*

Psalm 121 v8

We will celebrate the  
Sacrament of Communion  
during our morning worship and at 3pm

**Sunday 28th April 2024**

**Sunday 30th June 2024**

**Sunday 25th August 2024**

**Sunday 24th November 2024**



## **Rowan Street - Toddlers Group**

The Toddlers Group meets on Tuesdays & Thursdays  
9:30am - 11:30am, during school term.

At present there is no waiting list.

The age group is 0 to 3yrs.

The cost is £2 per morning (which includes tea and  
biscuits for the child's carers)

Contact Person is Mrs Margaret Nellis

## The Banner Group

The Banner Group is working on a Banner which will be placed next to the new Cradle Roll when it is put in the vestibule of the Church. Our Organist Martin mentioned he had seen banners in other churches that had recently joined and asked if this was something the Banner Group would consider.

After a lot of planning and discussions we have now got a clear view of what we envisage will depict the joining of Lylesland and St. Lukes Churches into Paisley South Church. The work on the Banner will start shortly and we hope it can be enjoyed by all. Special thanks to Kay Bowman for all her work in finding a design the group feel is modern and will match in with the colours and decor of the Church Vestibule.

Janice McNeil asked if the group would consider making poppies for later in the year to sell, to raise funds for one of the Scottish Charities supporting the armed forces. Production of the poppies has already started and will come in two sizes. Our hope is that the wider church will be able to assist us in selling these during October/November.

These two projects will keep us busy and we ask anyone who would wish to join us to come along and I am sure they would enjoy the company and the cuppa and biscuit.

Thanks Ann and Margaret.

# CHARITIES



## THE CHANGE FOR GOOD BOX

Our appeal for Smile Train for 2023 raised the sum of £365.

Donations to the box (to be found in the vestibule) for 2024 will be sent to Sightsavers UK.

Since 1950 this charity has been tackling blindness in more than 30 developing countries, working to prevent avoidable blindness and fighting for the rights of people with disabilities.

91% of donations received is used for vital charity work. Please donate and help protect sight and change lives.

## APRIL THANK OFFERING FOR UNICEF GAZA APPEAL

Children in Gaza are facing the triple threat of conflict, disease and malnutrition. All children under five are at high risk of severe malnutrition and preventable death. Violence is taking a terrible toll on children and families.

UNICEF is continuing to call for a complete and immediate ceasefire, for the killing and maiming of children to stop and for the establishment of humanitarian corridors to allow safe access.

This organisation is providing food, clean water and medical supplies.

Please support the Children of Gaza Crisis Appeal through the Thank Offering envelopes at our 28th April Communion service.

Thank you,  
Carolyn Kyle ( On behalf of the Outreach Co. )

## Change to Choir Rehearsal Arrangements

The choir will not now rehearse on Friday evenings. We will practise at 10am on Sunday mornings and will review this arrangement as time passes.

If you would like to join us but have been prevented up to now for whatever reason, you are very welcome to come to church at 10am on any Sunday to see how we work and whether you feel it is for you. Just turn up. You wouldn't have to sing in the choir for the service on the day of your visit if you prefer not to.

We only sing two pieces each Sunday, plus, of course, the hymns.

Looking forward to seeing you at some time of your choosing.

Regards.

Martin Doole

Organist and Choirmaster

07985 090 673

[martindoole@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:martindoole@hotmail.co.uk)

## Technology

If you are not 'on-line' but would like help to explore how to set it up in your home, we have some people who can help you to understand the options. Please contact your elder who will pass on your request.

## What does the Presbytery do?

When the Rev Robbie Hamilton, the Presbytery Clerk, preached in Paisley South on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January, I wonder how many asked "What does the Presbytery Clerk do?"

Indeed, what does the Presbytery do?" I think everybody is aware that the Church of Scotland has a General Assembly in Edinburgh every year and that it determines the direction for the Church, sometimes after lively debates. So what is the rôle of the Presbytery? First of all, we need to know that Scotland is divided into 39 presbyteries. (There are three other presbyteries furth of Scotland: the Presbytery of England, the Presbytery of Europe and the Presbytery of Jerusalem.) Our congregation is one of those covered by the Presbytery of Clyde (which was created in September 2020 out of the union of Greenock and Paisley Presbytery and Dumbarton Presbytery.) Each presbytery is made up of ministers (one per congregation), elders (one per congregation), deacons, retired ministers and a few additional elders. Paisley South is represented by our minister, the Rev David Hood, and me, as Representative Elder. In addition, the following members of our congregation are members of Presbytery: Liz McFarlan and Sandra Maxwell, as Readers, Russell Banks, as a Reader Emeritus, and Rev David Kay, as a Retired Minister.

So what do we do?

Well, first of all, we worship together, and that helps to create friendship and fellowship among the congregations. Secondly, it should be noted that every Presbyter, whether a minister or an elder, has the right to speak at meetings and has an equal vote. Sometimes, topics for discussion are sent down to Presbyteries from the General Assembly. A recent example was the Confessions of Faith Overture. The General Assembly had adopted an Overture seeking amendment of the Articles Declaratory of our faith and had asked presbyteries to confirm that they agreed with this. Clyde Presbytery debated the matter at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November last and concluded by signifying its approval, with 75 votes for and only 2 against. Apart from such matters, which do not arise very often, Presbytery has many other duties. One is to deal with the situation arising when a minister decides to retire or to accept a call to another congregation or also when a minister is ill: in these events Presbytery appoints someone (usually a minister but sometimes an elder with the appropriate training) to act as Interim Moderator, and can sometimes help the Session Clerk in organising a Locum or pulpit supply. Where there is a vacancy, and a new minister has to be found, there is a Committee - the Vacancy Procedure Committee, of which I am the Convener - which deals with the situation by meeting with, first, the

Kirk Session, and, then, the Nominating Committee to give advice as to how to go about the task. Presbytery's next duty is to calculate how much each congregation has to contribute each year to the work of the Church and to record how the communal funds are expended. This onerous duty is undertaken by the Presbytery Treasurer, who is currently Ian Steven, father of our own Congregational Treasurer, Derek Steven. There is also a Stewardship & Finance Committee, which examines each congregation's annual accounts. The Ministry Committee oversees the progress of those who are training to become ministers. It also organises training courses for un-ordained people who wish to become Worship Leaders.

The Property Committee arranges the carrying out of the Quinquennial Reports on every congregation's properties. When a congregation wants to spend larger sums of money on repairs or alterations or even to purchase a new manse, it cannot do so until Presbytery gives its approval. A congregation cannot call a new minister until Presbytery has confirmed that the manse is suitable, not only as regards its accommodation and condition but also, nowadays, as regards its energy efficiency. Another important function of Presbytery is to support ministers and congregations and to offer advice as to how each congregation can improve its mission to its parish. The Church is determined to make mission its *raison d'être* and that's what is behind the recently approved Presbytery Plan: the Church should be concentrated on the number of parishes and buildings which will best enable it to fulfil this mission.

So back to the question: "What does the Presbytery Clerk do?" It's his job to administer and supervise all these functions. It's very much a full-time job.

John Armit

# The Wednesday Break

You may have been wondering what happens at the Wednesday Break and thinking about coming to join us. Read on!

Our meetings are a combination of worship, music and fellowship. We provide tea/coffee and quality biscuits. Five 'volunteers' take it in turn to lead. We cover a wide range of topics using a variety of styles.

We are told we are a friendly and welcoming group of people. Those who attend, whether regularly or once in a while, enjoy spending time together. We meet on Wednesdays ( The clue is in the name! ) between 11.00 and 12.00 from September to May. Why not give us a try?

Here are some photos to set the scene .....



Quality Biscuits

## Props for a talk





# The Wednesday Break (Photos)



**Friendly Faces**



# SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS

## SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS

### BEETLE DRIVE

Saturday 2nd March 2pm - Tickets £3/£1 for children - includes tea/coffee and home baking

### SUNDAYS

Tea / Coffee and biscuits in large hall after Sunday services. All are welcome.

### TEAROOM ON A TUESDAY

10 to 12 in medium hall  
Join us for a cuppa and chat.

### SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCH

Medium Hall

Served 12 to 1pm

**Friday 29th March** (Good Friday)

will conclude with reflection on lent from Rev David Hood

**Friday 26th April**

**Friday 31st May** -Donations for Christian Aid

All welcome for homemade soup and variety sandwiches

### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

**12th to 18th May**

All donations from Sunday Coffee, Tuesday Tearoom, Wednesday Break plus Soup Lunch on 31st May will be donated to this cause.

### GARDEN PLANTS TEA/COFFEE & PANCAKES

 GET YOUR GARDEN ORGANISED 

Saturday 25th May

10 to 12 in church halls

A variety of garden plants for sale .

*We wish to thank all those who contributed to this magazine and apologise for any omissions or changes to the original text.*

*Please advise your Elder if you would like to have a large print version of the Newsletter.*

Items for future editions may be handed direct to the office or emailed to [paisleysouthchurch@outlook.com](mailto:paisleysouthchurch@outlook.com)



[www.paisleysouthchurch.org](http://www.paisleysouthchurch.org)

Don't forget to keep an eye on our website for information about our Church. You can find details of our Sunday services and other opportunities for worship and fellowship, our children and youth programmes, special upcoming events and other activities. Have a look and let us have your comments!

**You can also follow us on Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/paisleysouthchurch/](https://www.facebook.com/paisleysouthchurch/)

**Data Protection Act, 1998**

It is normal practice to include the names and phone numbers of our office bearers and other individuals in the Church. If any person does not wish to have their personal details included please inform the office.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS



### WEEK AT A GLANCE ...

**Name of Elder:**  
**Telephone Number:**  
**Email:**