

# Paisley South News



## Winter 2021

Paisley South Church - Scottish Charity No SC 000558

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# Pastoral Letter      Winter 2021

Three years ago I recall seeing three young adults wearing face masks in Glasgow city centre - I had never seen face masks worn in public and wondered if they were protecting themselves from us [those walking past] or protecting us from some condition they knew they had. I could not have anticipated the change in attitudes towards mask wearing which we have journeyed.

The impact of Covid has been felt all round the world. There is a dimension that has had echoes of the impact of World Wars, which we remembered again at the start of November in Remembrance Services. No-one has escaped the impact, restrictions and fears which were so powerful and to a great extent remain. The 'lock down' removed our freedom of movement, and we glimpsed the real punishment of being in prison - which we consider(ed) during Prisoner's Week later in November. There were also disturbing reminders of the first decade of HIV/Aids when the world turned its back, shamed and demonised a generation of young men slaughtered by a virus - which we will remember on World Aids Day on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our next Communion service will be on November 28<sup>th</sup> and I hope you are able to attend. As in recent times all attending are invited to bring their own 'bread and wine' - literally or by using a wafer and red juice. This is the safest way to protect one another. There is no 'right way' so feel free to bring a small bottle and glass(es) or a carton or any other solution which works for you. Jesus was flexible, and so we are following his example. The notion that God's blessing is withheld because the elements have not been blessed by me at the communion table, limits God in a way that is invalid. God is so much bigger than that. As it is the Sunday closest to St Andrew's Day I invite you to wear an item of tartan, or even a full kilt, if you wish to do so.

In the past two years we have faced our relative powerlessness and our mortality. For many this has raised huge spiritual questions, causing some to be drawn to faith and others to turn from it. Churches altered their care for people and their means of hosting services. Many, including Paisley South, incorporated

technology in new and inspiring ways and developed additional 'online' congregations.

I am really grateful to the congregation for the welcome and care they have shown me. The understanding of the challenge of getting to know a newly united congregation, absent from worship for my first few months and then distanced and masked, has been appreciated. I have found it very difficult to learn names and [half] faces, and Covid preventing me visiting for most of the year [and still doing so if a household prefer to shield] means many members are just a familiar voice on the phone. Please retain your patience and care - I am doing my best! If I have missed you or let you down, please, please get in touch or ask someone to let me know. I live with the constant fear of failing someone who would wish me to be in touch.

It is good to publicly thank the Session Clerks Janice and Jim for their work in so many areas, Alex for dealing with all the financial transactions of property matters, and Martin and the choir for contending with a variety of changing methods of supporting worship services. I also wish to pay tribute to the district elders who have engaged the challenge of the newly organised districts, and to Margaret and the Pastoral Care team for their outstanding commitment to Pastoral support. Carolyn and the Outreach group have also been active in exploring how we engage with church and community. The rise of the importance of technology has demanded more from those who facilitate it for us - Tony in the Office, Derek and the technical team at the rear of the Church, and also the many months of 'mixing' by Sarah, required huge commitment of effort and time. Church Officer John has also been very flexible as so many changes came our way. The leaderships of organisations have worked hard to ensure the safest possible context for resuming their meetings. On behalf of the congregation I thank them all.

We are returning to more familiar practices, but I am acutely aware that many families endured funeral services which were severely restricted, adding loss of anticipated meaningful ritual to the loss of their loved one. Please note the Reflective Service which is going to be held in Advent - a special time to remember in Church, those we have lost recently, or longer ago.

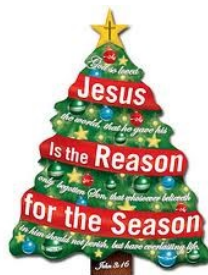
I am looking forward to my first Christmas with you. The title "Emmanuel" means "God with us" and is an inspiring message to hear at any time. It is also a good time to return to church if you have been absent. Most of the church is unregulated with one section retaining social distancing for the sake of those who are more comfortable with the restrictions. Sadly, we are still legally obliged to wear masks, unless there is a medical exemption. We do not know when this is likely to change.

It is an exciting time to be involved in Paisley South. We have a new Church with a new Minister and with new possibilities as we move forward. There is a hunger to develop and grow, and I would love you to be part of that. The best way is to be at worship and be at the heart of the journey. If you are unable to attend, please watch the Livestream so you can still feel part of the act of worship. Growth requires the passion and enthusiasm of those involved, but it also involves them sharing that with others - so I ask you to invite family, friends, neighbours and colleagues to come to church [with you?]. In the Spring I intend to host a 'Just Looking' set of meetings [in person or on zoom or perhaps both] so that anyone can explore what the Christian faith and Church membership are all about. It will be open to all - those who have been members for decades and those who have never attended any church. It will be a safe space where no question is invalid and every question will be addressed. I cannot claim to know all the answers, but that is part of the mystery of faith which we will explore. Look out for the advertising on Facebook, on the website and at the Sunday services.

Thank you for reading this far. I hope that you experience the deep peace of the Advent Season and know love and joy as we end another difficult year and look forward with hope to 2022.

With best wishes,

David



## Reflective Service

For many people, Christmas and New Year is a difficult and challenging time. Most obviously because of the absence of loved ones no longer with us, but also because of broken relationships, illness, regrets and fears. Somehow, many feelings which we manage to suppress throughout the year are nearer the surface. For some, there is no 'celebration' - rather an endurance, a 'coping', a 'putting on a brave face'. For some, there is simply withdrawal until things get back to normal.

In response to this, we will be hosting a special service on the afternoon of Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm. It is open to all and any who find the time of year difficult. It will be a gentle and peaceful time to meet in the church and seek strength from God. It will be a place where humanity and emotion are accepted with love and without embarrassment. It is our desire that it is a safe space and time for all who feel they might value it.

## 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.



# The Pastoral Committee

Hello, the Pastoral Committee would like your help. If you know of anyone who is about to have a special Birthday eg. 90 or 100, please let us know. We also have a Pastoral Visiting Committee, so if you wish to recommend any member who is in Care or in their own home but unable to attend church and would like a visitor, again please give their name to the Minister or any member of our committee, listed below:

Margaret Lang, Morag Wylie, Roslyn Barbour, Elizabeth Gibson, Bill Armstrong, Liz McFarlan, Margaret Banks. Many thanks in anticipation for your help with these matters

Margaret Banks





## **The Guild – Go In Love** **“Whose we are and Whom we serve”**



As you probably already know, the Guild will no longer be functioning in Paisley South Church, which I am sure we will all regret. Guild Headquarters have been informed.

I am sure many of us are really sorry to see this happen and have many happy memories of great nights of fascinating talks of foreign lands, quiz nights, concerts and our memorable Beetle Drives and many more!

However we are not giving up. We hope to have some other format of a get-together for those interested. This will be in the afternoon since that somehow seems more appropriate.

We cannot say at present exactly what, as restrictions are such that holding meetings indoors is still not fully approved. Any ideas will be warmly welcomed. We hope that early next year we could try to get this off the ground.

We hope this meets with enthusiasm and co-operation.

Margaret Lang





# PARISH REGISTER



## BAPTISMS

*Kieran Pirret (25th July 2021)*  
*Samael John McInnes (10th October 2021)*  
*Cindy Cherry Orr (17th October 2021)*

## DEATHS

### CHURCH MEMBERS

*Norman Hayes - 7th December 2020*  
*Margaret McMillan - 9th December 2020*  
*Chris Higgins - 28th December 2020*  
  
*Charlotte Vance - 8th January 2021*  
*Sandra Cameron - 18th January 2021*  
*Duncan Ralston - 31st January 2021*  
*Hutton Logan - 8th February 2021*  
*Iain Borthwick - 9th February 2021*  
*William McCormack 19th February 2021*  
*Una Hardaker - 20th February 2021*  
*Margaret McGill - 14th March 2021*  
*Nicola Jess - 1st April 2021*  
*Joan Clark - 26th April 2021*  
*Jenny Dewar - 13th June 2021*  
*Janette Johnston - 30th June 2021*  
*Anita Barr - 12th July 2021*  
*Margaret Murdoch - 16th July 2021*  
*Margaret McCallum - 20th July 2021*  
*Isabella McCormack - 26th August 2021*  
*Harry Green - 1st September 2021*  
*Ann Fraser - 12th September 2021*

***The Lord will watch over your coming and going  
both now and for evermore  
Psalm 121 v8***

# ADVENT Worship@PaisleySouth



Date	Theme
Sunday 28th November 11am	<b>First Sunday in Advent</b> <b>Communion</b> <i>The congregation is invited to wear an item of Tartan</i>
Sunday 5th December 11am	<b>Second Sunday in Advent</b> <b>Gift Service with Youth organisations invited.</b> <i>The congregation is invited to wear an item of red clothing.</i>
Sunday 12th December 11am	<b>Third Sunday in Advent</b> <i>Rev Jill Clancy [Prison Chaplain, HMP Barlinnie]</i>
Sunday 19th December 11am	<b>Fourth Sunday in Advent</b> <i>Nativity Service and Carols</i>
Sunday 19th December 3pm	<b>Fourth Sunday in Advent</b> <i>Afternoon Reflective Service</i>
Friday 24th December 7pm	<b>Christmas Eve</b> <i>Christmas Eve - All Age Service</i>
Sunday 26th December 11am	<b>Boxing Day Service</b> <i>Children [of all ages!!] bring a gift they received to show the congregation</i>
Sunday 2nd January 2022 11am	<b>Welcoming the New Year</b>

## Gift Service on December 5th

The following gifts are requested as we support others at Christmas :

**For those receiving support due to being homeless.**

Toiletries

New hats, scarves, gloves, socks, thermal vests,

Sweets

Tinned meals.

### **Gifts going to Barlinnie Chaplaincy**

"The prison love to receive toys for the children who visit their Dads, Uncles, Grandads, Brothers. We are especially looking for teenage pressies."

Rev Jill Clancy, Chaplain, HMP Barlinnie

Please do **NOT** wrap any gift or donation.  
All donations to be placed in the entrance  
vestibule upon arrival at church.



## **A VERY SPECIAL THANK OFFERING**

Session has agreed that we should ask the congregation for a thank offering at Communion time. Given the current situation worldwide, we would like our first offering to be in support of the World Health Organisation's 'Go Give One' campaign to provide fair and equitable access to vaccine.

At a time when many of us in this and other high income countries have had or are about to have our third 'booster' dose, half of the world's population has had no access to vaccine at all.

We can end the tragedy of Covid 19. Vaccines give us the power to do that. No-one is free from the effects of this dreadful disease until everyone is free. We need to use vaccines fairly.

Please give as generously as possible either in person or on-line.

## **OTHER CHARITABLE GIVING**

During a time when organisations have been unable to meet or fundraise, Paisley South has supported the ongoing work of Compassion UK and Kiriti+ Limunga Schools in Kenya by sending £75 to each.

Our Harvest Appeal was very generously supported both with goods and through monetary donations (£328.34 ).

By the time you are reading this we will also have supported the work of the Earl Haig Fund by donating to Poppyscotland.



## FINANCE



When we last were able to distribute a Newsletter (March 2020 to be precise), we were still in the throes of getting to know each other properly following our union. Now some twenty months later, it sometimes feels like life has not moved on by very much. Perhaps Providence was aware of this, for we now have a Minister, and he too is in the throes of getting to know us 😊. On the financial front, I suggest that an outsider looking in would be amazed at the congregation's activity in those twenty (fallow?) months. For example, we sold two manse, bought a new manse, sold a church with its halls, and raised funds to enable us to instal equipment to live stream services to the congregation, and to the world at large. All of this financial activity has generated numbers which I have never before seen in the congregation's accounts. Indeed, last year, in order to calculate the accounts, I had to use every row and every colour on my abacus 😊. The gory details of those 2020 Annual Accounts were set out in the Finance Report prepared for the Stated Annual Meeting of the congregation held on 27 June. Life moves on.

As compared to this time last year, the restrictions on our church activities have eased slightly, yet still we are not able to function as we would like. Although not to the same degree as last year, this disruption to normal congregational life will continue to impact on our finances. In that vein, last August a Stewardship letter was delivered to every household in the congregation. Although we are required to be constantly aware of our stewardship obligations, the timing of that letter largely was dictated by the administrative requirements of amalgamating the financial records of the two uniting congregations. However, and with a health warning not to get too excited by the following little snapshot, I am pleased to say that I was able to report to the Kirk Session in September that, as of 31 August, and as compared to the same period last year, the amount of our offerings had increased by 2.5% and the proportion given under the Gift Aid Scheme had increased from 79% to 89%. That is a very heartening response, and the Kirk Session is indeed grateful to all who were able to respond positively to this initiative.

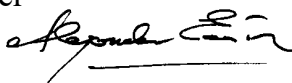
On 3 October we initiated a facility to make on-line donations to the work of the church here at Paisley: South. This takes the form of a “Donate with Dona” button on the homepage of our website. Dona is a product of Regium Consulting, a London-based specialist technology consultancy working in partnership with churches and charities. Regium Consulting’s mission with Dona is to help churches and charities maximise their donation revenue. Dona customers include churches, mosques, temples, museums, food banks and many other types of charities. 5% of all Dona’s profits are given to charities. A transaction charge of 2.4% on all donations is deducted by the merchant (SumUp) that processes donations from donors to our bank account. Donations which are gift aided attract gift aid on the whole amount of the donation. Also in October, we extended this facility so that cash donations could also be made to our Harvest Appeal in support of Renfrewshire Foodbank and Renfrewshire Council Homeless Unit in Thrushcraig Crescent. Watch the website for future special appeals and please support these generously.

I again remind everyone that the proper stewardship of our financial affairs is an ongoing and ever-present requirement. It is not a matter for a ‘from time to time’ special appeal. It is something which each of us must conscientiously reflect upon on a regular basis, and so I ask:

- Have you reviewed your regular giving to the Church?
- If you pay income tax, are you a member of the Gift Aid Scheme?
- Have you remembered the Church in your Will?

Jean Lindsay (tel. 0141 561 2433) will provide any assistance that you require regarding donations under the Gift Aid Scheme or by standing order. The ability to pay our way as a congregation is not a matter of discretion; it is an obligation to which we are all committed.

Alex Easton  
Treasurer



## Sale of the Former St. Luke's Church and Halls

The Basis of Union between St. Luke's and Lylesland agreed that the new Paisley South Church would use the Rowan Street buildings and that our Neilston Road property would be put up for sale.

With the Covid lockdown, the relocation and clearance was delayed for more than 6 months, until with some great work, led by Ian Barbour and our team of volunteers, the move was completed. Unfortunately, we then had a roof leak which had to be repaired to maintain the building in a wind and watertight condition before we could market the building for sale. During that time the grounds have been maintained by Alan Morris, and the required weekly building inspections and maintenance records, have been undertaken by Ian, Derek and myself. Notwithstanding these delays, the buildings were advertised for sale in July, and quickly attracted attention, with 7 viewings, 1 offer and 1 note of interest in the first 2 weeks. On the advice of our Solicitors, we moved quickly to a closing date, which resulted in 6 offers to purchase the buildings. The Kirk Session rightly agreed that we should accept the highest offer as Church Trustees. There then followed a period of correspondence exchanges between the respective Solicitors and I provided further details, such as the Planning Permissions for the buildings, when required.

I am pleased to report that the sale was completed on the 15<sup>th</sup> October and the keys handed over to the new owner, 'The Number one Bead Shop'.

The company is a successful business based in Glasgow for the past 15 years, selling jewellery and craft materials, and hold classes on making jewellery. They have been looking for premises to hold bigger classes teaching craft and jewellery making, and where customers can rent a bench to make their own creations, and also offer the halls for use by the community. The new owner is excited about this new venture and 'loves the building'. So we consider that we have passed the building into good hands!

Whilst we are sad at leaving our much loved Church, we will remember the joy of all of our significant family occasions of weddings, baptisms and funerals; and our Worship as a Church family. We know that the 'Church is the People' and we continue our next chapter of serving our Lord as the Church of Paisley South.

Jim Miller  
Joint Session Clerk

## DONATIONS TO HOMELESS

*Dear Congregation,*

I am writing to you to pass on our sincere thanks to everyone in your congregation for the donation of your harvest which we received at our accommodation at our Thrushcraigs complex.

This was very kind of everyone to considering giving these goods to us to help those who can be in a crisis situation when they present as homeless. We appreciate your continued support in helping locals in the community.

It is very much appreciated, especially when times are difficult for everyone.

So once again thank-you on behalf of homeless services.

Kind regards,

Angela.

Angela McCormick  
Accommodation Coordinator  
Housing Advice Centre  
15 Abercorn Street  
Paisley  
PA3 4AA





*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 church 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 find us on Facebook!**



**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



Name of Elder:  
Telephone Number:  
Email: