



## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

My dear friends,

I am writing this on one of the rare days of summer. It is late July, the sun is splitting the sky and many of us are bemoaning the temperature. Covid restrictions are easing, for some not quickly enough and for others the pace is a little too fast.

We are now in the fortunate position of being able to worship in the one place Sunday by Sunday and we are looking forward to being able to sing again, albeit masked. It will be good to be able to raise our voices once more to praise God. Informal hospitality can take place so, hopefully, it will not be too long before we can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a blether after church (however there will be restrictions!).

A huge amount of work has been going on behind the scenes in forming new teams or committees to help St George's function efficiently. Plans are being made to ensure that the Outreach Centre is able to function to ensure that God's word is taken in a practical way to all parts of St George's parish.

We look forward to our organisations being able to start again in both the Outreach Centre and Causeyside - the property team has been busy with their paintbrushes, and more, to get ready for this. As I thought about the organisations which use our halls I remembered the mottos of the Girls' Brigade: Seek, serve and follow Christ: the Boys' Brigade: Sure and Steadfast, and The Guild: Whose we are, and whom we serve.

As we move forward let us remember that the church is reformed and reforming. We cannot stand still, we cannot go back. We go forward led by our Lord, Jesus Christ and empowered by the Spirit; and through it all we are sure, we are steadfast, we seek Christ, we follow Christ, we serve Christ.

Yours in Christ, Mhairi



### Paisley St George's: Our Proud History

Created on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 with the service of Union of Glenburn Parish Church & Stow Brae Kirk, St George's can lay claim to a heritage dating back to 1738 when the Laigh Kirk opened to reduce pressure on the Paisley Abbey who were then having three services each Sunday due to the growing population of Paisley. Between 1738 and now, the congregations that make up Paisley St George's represent 1,111 years combined ministry to the people of Paisley – something we are proud to continue in 2021, but what original congregations of Paisley are now represented by St Georges?

The earliest congregation is that of the Laigh Kirk, with their building constructed between 1736 and 1738. The parish was disjoined from the Abbey in 1738 to create the new congregation. In 1819 the congregation moved to a new building on George Street, changing its name to St George's (Low) Church covering the same parish.

Over the coming months we will go into the history of each congregation that now comprises Paisley St George's – you may expect a short list, but this is not so! We shall be looking at the history of the congregations of the Old Laigh Kirk (1738), St George's Low (1820), the West Relief Church (Castlehead Church), The Middle Church, the South Church (1834) South Free/ St Andrews (1843/1929), The Laigh Kirk, Stow Brae Kirk, George Street Secession Church (1799) / Glenburn Parish Church (1955), and the Nethercraigs Mission (1877). Between the Laigh Kirk and the Middle Church alone their parishes covered half of Paisley, with the Abbey and High Church covering the other half. In the next edition we will look closer at the history of the original Laigh Kirk.



#### EXCITING TIMES

We are now getting excited that the month of August will see the start of some of the projects at St George's Outreach Centre. The weekly calendar is really filling up and we have more projects in the pipeline to add to the ones already pencilled in. How can you help? We are looking for volunteers or helpers to come on board with a couple of them.

#### CAFE STYLE CHURCH

This will be held on Tuesday afternoons once a fortnight to begin with. It will be an informal half hour Service followed by an hour of social time with various activities.

To help with this we are looking for the following:

1. People who could come along and be part of a team who could help with setting up, serving teas and coffees and just to be there to interact with those who come along.
2. We are also looking for a variety of board games. Do you have any lying about the house that you don't use anymore and could donate them?

#### LIGHTHOUSE CHILDREN'S CLUB

This will be held weekly on Thursdays. Suggested times could either be 4pm to 5 pm or 6pm to 7pm, the final time will be worked out to suit the majority of those who would be part of this ministry.

Again we are looking for volunteers to come on board to help with this work. As the old saying goes "many hands make light work". If we have a good number of people on this team, we will be able to make up a rota so that we don't need to be on every week.

Finally.

The Sanctuary area at the Outreach Centre is large it will give us great flexibility as to what we do with it. We would like to have one area as a comfy area to which end we are looking for 2 or 3 two seater leather sofa's. If you know of anyone looking to get rid of one can you please let us know.

Please pray that as a congregation of Paisley St George's, God will help us to really connect with our community in the projects we have planned.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and if you are able to help in any way or want more information, you can contact me either by email at [deputysc.ms@paisleystgeorges.org.uk](mailto:deputysc.ms@paisleystgeorges.org.uk) or of course you can speak to me on a Sunday.

Muriel Smith

### Pins and Needles

At last some good news for our sewing group, if all goes to plan we should be able to get together again later this year. We have all so missed each other's company and the exchange of sewing ideas. I do hope that you are all safe and well and looking forward to meeting up again I will keep you informed as things tick along.

Sadie

### Exercise Class

As soon as the church halls are allowed to reopen we look forward to starting our all ability fitness class.

The class will take place on Monday afternoons and Friday mornings.

All are welcome.

The Youth Committee met outdoors on a sunny Sunday afternoon in June to discuss plans for the children and young people of St. Georges.

There were lots of exciting ideas and suggestions and we look forward to offering a monthly Ice-Cream Sunday alongside a new programme of bible based fun. More details to follow.



### FLOWER COMMITTEE

Sadie and the ladies of the flower committee would like to thank everyone for their support and for the generous donations to buy flowers for the Sanctuary each Sunday.

We are delighted to have flowers in the church once more and are now able to show support to members who are ill, suffered a loss or have a special celebration by delivering the sanctuary flowers to them after Sunday Services.

Please let us know of any member who should receive flowers. The flower committee are normally at the communion table wrapping the flowers for distribution after the service, please come and talk to us then.

As Paisley St. George's we look forward to sharing God's Love.



The Glenburn Buddies History Project starts on August 20th at 10 am in the Outreach Centre. This project is funded by the Great Places Scheme run by Renfrewshire Council with Heritage Lottery Funding aims to teach a group of up to 10 people, mostly from Glenburn basic history skills.

Over 10 weeks the group will learn skills such as how to carry out basic research, how to carry out an oral history interview, use IT to scan images and record information discovered, present information to the public and create social media posts and blogs. The teaching and student work will focus on the history of Glenburn, before and after the housing scheme was constructed.

The project is managed and delivered by Stephen Clancy. If you know anyone in Glenburn that has no previous history research skills and would like to learn, please contact Stephen at [info@theurbanhistorian.co.uk](mailto:info@theurbanhistorian.co.uk)

# Renfrewshire Doors Open Day

The Outreach Centre will be participating in Renfrewshire Doors Open Day on the 4<sup>th</sup> September between 10am and 4.30pm.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> of September is the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone for the Sanctuary at Glenburn, and it seems an appropriate time to look at the heritage of the Glenburn Church and its predecessors. There will be several heritage displays and information on the future use of the Outreach Centre. We will also have tea/ coffee/ juice and snacks regulations permitting.

We are looking for a few stewards to be on duty during the day, either for the day or for a morning/ afternoon session. Please contact Stephen Clancy if you can help out.

The Glenburn Heritage Group was established in 2020 to research the history of the Glenburn Housing Scheme area as a partnership between Glenburn Parish Church and The Urban Historian.

Initially the project has focused on a Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/glenburnheritage>) which now has over 500 members.

From Friday 20th August the group will be holding regular drop-in sessions between 2 and 4pm in the Outreach Centre providing a facility for residents (present and former) of Glenburn to come in, have a cup of tea/ coffee and chat about their life and memories in/of Glenburn.

The drop-in sessions will provide the opportunity for people to come in with photographs to be digitised for the project and allow their memories to be recorded through oral history interviews. People will be encouraged to come along and participate on a regular basis to gain basic skills and then research anything of interest to them in the history of Glenburn, be it the churches, mansions, industries etc. The group is open to anyone in or originally from the Glenburn scheme to come along and participate. Again, if you're interested, contact Stephen via [info@theurbanhistorian.co.uk](mailto:info@theurbanhistorian.co.uk)



## The Guild

For the final edition of the Connections Magazine a few months ago, the prospect of the Guild resuming seemed not very hopeful due to Covid, however, Kirk Session is now discussing the opening of the church halls for some groups. Depending on the outcome of this, perhaps, the Guild can begin to start thinking ahead for next season. There are, of course, many issues to be dealt with not least the safety aspect but it is good to know that there is some reason to be hopeful!

We hope when we do resume that our attendance will be as good as was previously at Stow Brae Guild and look forward to welcoming new members to Paisley St George's Guild, especially from the former Glenburn Church.

Please do come to join us when we know more information about dates and times etc. Meantime, the ladies of the Guild Committee send their good wishes to all our members, past and present, and hope you enjoy the remainder of the summer.

Pat (Convener)





## Boy's Brigade Update

It's great to be writing our very first article for St George's. We're very much looking forward to sharing in the new adventure which our union brings and we hope a much bigger parish will bring lots of new opportunities to share the work of the Boys' Brigade more widely.

Towards the end of last session our Anchors took part in the national Go Wild campaign and had lots of fun with the various challenges like making a den or animals from plants etc. Our national team have come up with lots of challenges which we've used and sometimes altered a bit to suit us when we've been meeting via zoom.

Juniors too met by zoom and spent many hours on lots of different quizzes, or in some fairly simple craft work. Sometimes we just shared stories of what we'd been up to during lockdown. It was just great to keep in touch.

Lock down and zoom have taught us so much. Before we had to make the best of what we had, whoever would have guessed we could have so much fun and spent so much time with four sheets of coloured card or in playing bingo.

We currently have three boys in the Company section working towards their Queen's Badge. One of the most important parts of this work is to complete a minimum of 30 hours of service to the Community. It's quite a challenge to secure these opportunities as many groups require boys to be 16. However, through a chance conversation, Ina made a connection with the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice and our three boys have been helping out there over the summer. Their efforts have been very much appreciated and despite some hard work the boys tell us they've enjoyed it too.

Our Battalion received a new trophy in memory of James Grier, a past member. Our Executive decided it should be awarded annually to a boy who had gone above and beyond what would be expected in his BB work and sought nominations from across the Battalion. We nominated Matthew MacDonald who had, during lockdown, set up and run a Fairy trail for young children near where he lives and also completed Operation Bletchley involving a series of challenges to support our forces charities. We were delighted to learn that he was voted the first ever winner and look forward to his presentation. Well done Matthew!!

Finally and probably the most important of all – we're planning our return to face to face meetings at the Causeyside street halls. On **Tuesday 24 August** for Anchors (boys in primaries 1 to 3) from 6pm until 7.15pm and Juniors (boys in primaries 4 to 6) from 7pm until 8.30pm and on **Friday 27 August** for Company Section (boys in P7 to S6) from 7.30 – 9.30pm. If you know of any boy who'd like to share in our adventure please let him know these dates. If you've any questions please speak to any BB Officer or get in touch via our Facebook page – see below

If you'd like to find out about more of our activities please visit our Facebook page – 15<sup>th</sup> Paisley Boys' Brigade. Thank you as always for your ongoing support.

**Jan Phillips, Captain (01505 348103 or [George.phillips3@ntlworld.com](mailto:George.phillips3@ntlworld.com))**



## GREEN FINGERS AND WOODEN SPOONS - FRIDAY 20th AUGUST



In previous years, Stow Brae Kirk held a Green Fingers and Wooden Spoon afternoon. This allowed members of the church to show case their talents by exhibiting cut flowers, floral arrangements, fruit, vegetables etc. all home grown. There was also a craft and home baking section. Crafts displayed included knitting, crochet, sewn items, cross stitching, bookmarks and cards. Baking could include anything from jam and chutney to cheesecake, cupcakes and pancakes.



With Covid-19 restrictions remaining in place this year we are going to hold the Green Fingers and Wooden Spoon show online. We would like members young and old of Paisley St George's Church together with the Girls Brigade, Boys Brigade and Guides to send us by email a photograph of a flower, pot plant, fruit, vase of flowers, floral arrangements etc. If you are crafty then we would like a photo of your craft, be it sewn, crochet, cross stitch, painting etc. Alternatively, if you are a baker then your photograph could be of a fruit loaf, Victoria sponge, cheesecake, pancake, cupcake, even a pot of jam or chutney. The photographs of flowers, veg, crafts and baking are of your choice. We would like the children to send us a photograph of a drawing of a flower, fruit or craft it could even be an animal made from veg. The photos should be emailed to [flowersandcrafts2021@gmail.com](mailto:flowersandcrafts2021@gmail.com) by the evening of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and they will then be posted on the church Facebook page for all to see. **Remember the flowers, fruit, crafts and baking must be home grown or made by you.**

There will be no trophies or prizes.

**IF WE ARE OVER SUBSCRIBED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS THEN YOUR PHOTO MAY NOT BE SHOWN.**

We look forward to seeing your entries.

**Green Fingers and Wooden Spoon Committee**

If you would like to contribute to the next edition of News from the Pews please email Irene Gemmell with your suggestions [igirenegem@gmail.com](mailto:igirenegem@gmail.com)