

The Church of Scotland

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

My dear friends,

I am writing this at the very end of January. Another year has begun and I am sure that I am not alone in hoping that 2022 is different from 2021. I hope that at some point this year we will be able to pass the bread and wine at Communion, I hope that we will be able to shake hands at the door and maybe even give one another a hug. I hope we will be able to sing without masks, most of all I hope we will continue to be able to worship Sunday by Sunday face to face because if we can do all that then it means that the threats from Covid 19 are receding.

This time has been difficult for all of us, some more than others. It has been difficult to mourn the deaths of loved ones, it has been difficult to celebrate life events.

The two congregations of Glenburn and Stow Brae have come together to form St George's with most of our Kirk Session meetings held on Zoom or the telephone - not the best way to get to know one another. Last year our Session Clerk, Graeme Allison, and his wife moved out of the area so we needed a new Session Clerk and I am delighted to say that early in January Hamish Sutherland took on this role. I know that Hamish is introducing himself below so I will say no more. I trust that Hamish will have the full support of the Kirk Session and the members of St George's. As I said in church, the Kirk Session has a new structure and information about this will be shared with you.

By the end of this year the Presbytery of Clyde should have its Presbytery Plan in place, having made difficult decisions about buildings and congregations.

Let us all work together to ensure that the good news of Jesus Christ is shared in this parish.

May we all know God's love surrounding us, supporting us and leading us forward in His way,

Mhairi Breingan

Friendly Hour

The Friendly Hour meets in the Causeyside building every Tuesday at 2pm. Due to Covid restrictions we would ask that face coverings are worn at all times except when having your tea. We would also ask you to bring your own cup (we will supply the tea or coffee).

Myra Bell

February

1st Danny Harty

8th Food Bank

15th Rowanberries

22nd Bell Ringers

March

1st Toast

15th Quiz

22nd Neilson Strings Band

29th Oops Morag and Friend

April

5th Highlights

12th

19th AGM Music Group

26th Bus Trip



GLENBURN HERITAGE GROUP

Our joint venture between St George's and The Urban Historian continues to meet on a Friday afternoon in the Outreach Centre between 2 and 4pm. We have been meeting many old residents of Glenburn and former members of the Glenburn Congregation who have been talking about their memories and donating images and having images digitised for the project archive.

The project covers the whole of Glenburn; schools, churches, social clubs etc. and everyone is welcome to come along have a hot drink and share.

If you'd like to participate or come along and chat with those who drop in, please speak to Stephen Clancy at any time.



Image - the old Nethercraigs School opened in 1877, donated by Jackie Pirie.

The Guild

The Guild kept going throughout November when we had guests from Erskine Hospital, Compass (a musical duo), our own Elders (Jan and Charlotte) and the ladies with their Handbag Party. All proved to be very interesting with the varied topics and entertainment they delivered.

Mission Audit was the subject that our Elders discussed and the content of their talk enlightened us in what was quite difficult to fully understand. Muriel Smith (Deputy Session Clerk) was also with us that evening and contributed accordingly.

The Handbag Party as always was enjoyable although Covid restrictions limited us to a certain extent as we usually view the goods in crowds around the display stall!

We had our Carol Service at the beginning of December. This annual event is organised by "Paisley Guilds Together" and is attended by Guild members from around Paisley and district. We were fortunate to have this Service at the time because, soon after, Covid restrictions caused other Carol services to be cancelled.

We had our Christmas dinner in Telford's restaurant before stopping for our Christmas break. Unfortunately, this break lasted longer than planned, however, we are looking forward to resuming at the end of January when again weather and Covid permitting, we will welcome our regular members and, hopefully, new members to come and join us. We are continuing to meet Monday evenings at 7.30pm.

We are looking forward to leading worship during our annual Guild Service in the Church in February.

Meantime, take care.

"Whose we are and whom we serve".

Pat (Convener).



APPLY TODAY!

HELP WANTED

PEOPLE TO ACT AS BEADLE

DUTIES

Open up Church on a Sunday morning and set up for service. Tidy up and close up afterwards

COMMITMENT

About 2 hours on a Sunday morning approximately every 8 weeks

PAYMENT

The grateful thanks of your fellow members

APPLY NOW (GUARANTEED ACCEPTANCE)
by speaking to the Session Clerk or
by email: hmsutherland@hotmail.com

Short Prayer for Loving Like Jesus

Father, I have to thank You for looking beyond my faults
and for loving me unconditionally.

Forgive me when I fail to love others in the same way.
Give me eyes to see the needs of the difficult people in
my life, and show me how to meet those needs
in a way that pleases You.

A WORD FROM OUR NEW SESSION CLERK

Our Session Clerk, Graeme Allison, recently moved to a new life in the Borders area, and the position has been vacant for some time.

I have volunteered to undertake the duties of Session Clerk for a period of three years up to the end of 2024. I will be ably supported by the current Deputy Clerks, Muriel Smith and Steven Drennan, and the Elders of the congregation.

I have been a member of the church since the days of St Andrew's, which became the Laigh Kirk and then Stow Brae and now St George's.

If you want to talk to me about anything, I usually sit in the back pew on the left hand side as looking from front entrance. Alternatively my email address is hmsutherland@hotmail.com.

I do not guarantee to know the answers to all questions, but can certainly try to find out from others.

We face uncertain times in the next few months until the result of the Presbytery Plan Review is announced, so it is essential that we all support the church by continuing to attend and contributing financially.

Hamish Sutherland



Our Session and Church Teams

Following the Union to create Paisley St George's, we have been working hard to plan a way forward.

Our Interim Moderator Mhairi gave some details during a recent Service, and we thought it worthwhile sharing more information with all the Congregation.

The best place to begin is with our Kirk Session who are led by The Moderator. This is currently Mhairi, who we rely on to guide us.

The Kirk session is a court in the Church of Scotland, comprising the Minister and Elders. The Session uses a Unitary Constitution and oversee both Civil and ecclesiastical areas. This includes everything from property to pastoral care and from finance to vision for the future. We discuss and take key decisions to help St George's move forward.

Our Session report into Clyde Presbytery who in turn report into the highest Court at the General Assembly

Our Session have created a structure to help us manage the church and distribute the decision making to Elders and members of the Congregation.



Business Team

Led by Session Clerk Team

This team is made up of our Session Clerks and those who lead the various Church Ministries Groups together and the support the Finance team. This provides representation from across Session to help plan our Session meetings and deal with any urgent decisions needed.

If you wish to contact us, then please speak to us in Church or by email.

Session Clerk: Hamish Sutherland: sessionclerk@paisleystgeorges.org.uk

Deputy Session Clerks: Muriel Smith: deputysc.ms@paisleystgeorges.org.uk

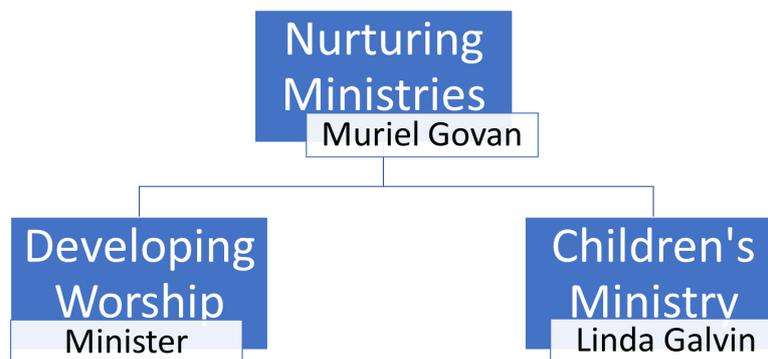
Steven Drennan: deputysc.sd@paisleystgeorges.org.uk

Nurturing Ministries

Led by Muriel Govan

Our aim is to encourage everyone from the youngest to the oldest members to learn and grow in knowledge and understanding of our faith through engaging in worship and other activities.

Within the Nurturing Ministries we have 2 teams.



Developing Worship

Led by The Minister

The focus of the Developing Worship team is to plan our Worship Calendar and look how we spiritually reach our members through various methods such as Music within worship, Bible Study for Lent, or Advent, and investigate alternative forms of worship.

Children's Ministry

Led by Linda Galvin

We hope to offer to our children and young people a positive experience of what our church is about and to give them an understanding of famous Bible passages.

If you feel that you can help support our church and help in any of the teams then please get in touch to let us know

In future Magazine issues we will share the other 3 Ministries (Outreach, Caring and Support).

Needles and Pins



Delighted to let you know that this group will resume on Tuesday 8th February. We meet in the Lower Hall (Stow Street) from 10.30-12.30.

All are welcome to join us.

Sadie

St. George's Toddlers

Our toddler group meet in the Lower Hall on Wednesday mornings from 10-11.30.

Babies and children from 0-5 are welcome to join us along with their parents or care givers. We provide toys, play time, singing, healthy snacks and even a cuppa and a blether for the grown ups.

If you wish more information please check out our Facebook Page or contact Irene Gemmell on 07932780364

Paisley St. George's Church History

The Scottish Church History Society (SCHS) have given Stephen Clancy a small grant (£300) to facilitate the acquisition of some of the church records of our former congregations to allow research to be carried out on a comprehensive history of all the congregations that now comprise Paisley St George's. This work will take a few years, with the intention to start carrying out the research in late February. A condition of the award is that the SCHS receive regular updates on the research and these updates will be published and shared on both the Urban Historian's website and our own. The research will focus on the history of each congregation and the impact that the 18th Century congregations had on the people of Paisley through their support of the poor relief and other means of support offered by the churches. In the 18th Century between the Laigh Kirk (St George's) and the Middle Church they covered half of the population of Paisley.

The Safeguarding Team/Panel

As we settle in to our new life as Paisley St George's, there are so many changes we are having to get used to. One thing which has been carried over from both Stow Brae and Glenburn is Safeguarding.

The whole Church of Scotland takes the safeguarding of its members and friends very seriously. Each church must have a Safeguarding Team in place to ensure that we do all we can to keep the church and all those who use its facilities as safe as possible. It is important to remember, however, that safeguarding is not just the responsibility of the Safeguarding Team. It is the responsibility of everyone.

In St George's there are 6 people on the Safeguarding Team.

The Coordinator is Jean Urie. The other members are Lesley Mackay, Lesley Miller and Lesley Sutherland, and the Depute Session Clerks Steven Drennan and Muriel Smith.

If you ever have concerns that someone may be at risk of harm or abuse, please don't ignore these. Report your concerns to one of the Team. Don't try to do anything yourself. The Team have training in the procedures which must be followed. They will treat your concerns seriously and confidentially. Only if you feel there is a situation where there is immediate danger to life should you first contact the police, then report it to the Safeguarding Team. It would probably be good practice to make a note in writing of your concerns, and pass this to the Safeguarding Team.

Remember that there are very few harmful situations occurring in the Church. Most people are good and helpful. Don't go looking for trouble! But be mindful that if your instincts make you feel concerned, listen to them. The Team will always take things seriously, take advice and do what is necessary, and will eventually inform you of such results as they can while maintaining confidentiality.

Jean Urie (Safeguarding Coordinator)





Boy's Brigade Update

Hello, Another case of déjà vu with cancelled meetings but we're back again.



Thankfully our entry in the Jingle Bell run on 5 Dec went ahead on a beautiful, if cold, Sunday morning. All of our runners did exceptionally well and as a bonus we were able to raise funds for our Company. A great start to Christmas preparations. Little did we know as we said cheerio to the boys at the end of the races that we wouldn't see them again until mid January due to Omicron.

November was a busy but successful month when our Company and Seniors competed in the Battalion Quiz and to their delight came first in both events bringing us two lovely trophies. Our Juniors took part the next week in the first ever Battalion model making competition and they too did very well with a second place. It's amazing what boys can create using a load of old materials.



Thanks to the generosity of our boys and their parents, and many of you in the congregation, we were able to send a very full donation to the Night Before Christmas campaign. We also contributed to the online donating and gave £140 in cash too. A great charity whose Facebook page reported giving out over 5000 bags to those in need in the West of Scotland.

The Battalion Christian Faith competition ran very differently this year and for the first time involved events for Anchors and Juniors. Again we did very well with one of our Anchors gaining second place with a beautifully coloured nativity scene, our Juniors won in telling of the nativity in picture strip, our Company came third with their video clip report of the nativity and our Seniors came second with their report. Lots of effort with good results.



In early December news of our entries in the Battalion Christmas card competition came through and we were delighted that our entries did very well. In the Juniors section Fraser won and Ronan came second with Fraser's card being selected to be printed and used as the Battalion card. I'm sure you agree it was very well done with many folks commenting on his talent. There's a number of Battalion competitions still to happen although sadly many have fallen victim to Covid. We're doing our best to participate in them all and so boys in Juniors and Company are working hard each week to learn and practice whether its figure marching, drill or first aid. Anchors are working hard on lots of new activities from the programme pack to gain their badges so lots going on.

We've space for new members in all sections for boys in P1 to S6, if interested, please speak to any BB officer. If you'd like to find out about more of our activities please visit our Facebook page – 15th Paisley Boys' Brigade. Thank you as always for your on-going support which really is very much appreciated.

Jan Phillips, Captain

01505 348103

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Note to Elders: If you know of any member in your district in need of flowers for any reason, please let a member of the committee know and, where possible, be prepared to help with delivery.



If you would like to contribute to the next edition of News from the Pews please email Irene Gemmell by Sunday 24th April with your suggestions igirenegem@gmail.com