

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

My dear friends,

It is now a year since Glenburn Parish Church and Stow Brae Kirk united to form St George's. It has been a challenging year with the continued problem of Covid and the General Assembly's decision to sist (freeze) all vacancies.

As far as Covid goes, I am glad to say that now things are much better with virtually all the restrictions gone. I have particularly enjoyed being able to sing in church without wearing a mask (I am not sure what folks close to me think!). While many of us are glad to see the ending of restrictions we need to be sensitive to folks who remain cautious - those who have had to shield because they are particularly vulnerable. With this in mind the intention is that the North transept (and balcony) will continue to be available for people who wish to keep a distance. Normal service has resumed at the Tea Bar after church and it has been good to hear the voices once again and to see folks catching up with old friends and making new friends.

Over Lent we held a series of Bible Studies and a Bible Study group will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm in St George's Outreach Centre. Everyone is welcome.

On Easter Sunday we were at long last able to free the Alleluias which had been packed away in 2020 - there may still be one or two on the ceiling of the church!

A year on since the union St George's is no further forward in the vacancy process as all vacancies were sisted after last year's General Assembly until a new presbytery plan is in place. The deadline for this is the end of the year. Both the Kirk Session and myself will keep you informed as to what is happening. I appreciate how disappointing this is for St George's. However, there is much that can still be done without your own minister as you have a committed membership, Kirk Session and officebearers.

On the 24th April a service was held to celebrate the history of the churches which form St George's. I spoke then of the way in which so many of the former churches are linked together - the churches are linked together by the people and the service that has been offered in Christ's name. Through these former churches and their members, St George's has a firm foundation on which to continue to build Christ's church.

May you know God's grace and peace,  
Mhairi

For Easter the younger members of the church made these colourful crosses.

They are hanging up in the large hall for all to see.



## The Guild

The Guild managed to meet from January to March this year. Our first day back was at the end of January when we met in the afternoon. Our guests were Alan (our Organist) and our choir members. We thoroughly enjoyed a good afternoon with lovely singing, good tunes and some poems. They will be welcome to return any time in the future.

In the weeks following, our speakers covered various topics: "Create Paisley", "Chocolate Heaven" and "Homes for Vulnerable Children" and provided interesting talks which were much appreciated. We also had a good evening hearing about Margaret Linnie's life as a child in Quarriers Homes and our Deputy Session Clerk (Muriel) came to speak about her Christian journey. Her story was really interesting and it was so good of her to stand in when we had a last minute cancellation.

During March we had Rev. Esther Ninian whom we know well and her talk was very entertaining. We usually towards the end of our session have a musical evening and so the group AGM came over from Dumbarton and provided a great night of familiar songs which are always appreciated.

We concluded our session with our own AGM where we recollected our "year" and discussed how Covid had affected our arrangements, our financial position since we'd been unable to have fund-raising occasions and whether we should try to accommodate our members who have difficulty coming to our evening meetings. We might try to resolve this situation by having afternoon meetings from time to time. This has still to be finalised.

We also led worship at the Guild Service mid-February and recently took part in the first of the Holy Week Services. So it's been a busy year and we hope when we resume in October we will be able to welcome back our faithful members and encourage new members to come along.

*Whose we are and Whom we serve.*

Stay safe and enjoy the summer.  
Pat (Convener)



## 9th Paisley Brownie News

We have had a busy year so far since restarting after Covid Closures.

We worked on our Feel Good Stage 2 and Mindfulness Badges in the first session - 6 girls completed this in full and were awarded their badges when we returned in January.

The first evening back after Christmas was our traditional Games Night. This was rapidly followed by Burns Night and Chinese New Year where the girls enjoyed lots of food tasting both evenings. The Girls went on to designing and sending Birthday Cards to Edna Clayton who celebrated her 101st Birthday in a Glasgow Care Home.

After the mid-term holiday we started our new theme called Express Myself and immediately started on the Baking Badge by making pizzas and Fairy Cakes. We are also working on Communicate Skills Builder which we will complete before we finish in June.

Our girls also received a thank you letter from Windsor Castle after sending HM Queen Elizabeth a selection of Jubilee Cards all individually designed by the Brownies.

A fun time has been had by all this term. We will be ending it with a trip to South Newton for REN-CHOC on Saturday 14th May and our traditional end of term campfire at Lapwing Lodge on Tuesday 31st May 2022.

Pamela, Aileen and Alison  
9th Paisley Brownies





## YOUR COLLECTION

Before Covid - and do you remember there were days before Covid? - we used to collect your donations every Sunday by passing the collection plates along the pews and then taking them to the front of the Church.

With the start of Lockdown and all its restrictions, we changed to having the plates at the doors, so that people could leave their donation on the way in. With the ending of restrictions Session have talked about this and feel that we should continue to have the plates at the door.

This is partly because it is more convenient, not just for the congregation, but also for the team collecting the money. But the other reason is that increasingly people are donating by a Standing Order through their bank. If you are one of our members still using a weekly envelope, I wonder if you have thought about a Standing Order? It is certainly more convenient for the Church and our Treasurer. But I know that people also find it better for themselves. It saves the hassle of looking for cash or your cheque book to fill the envelope every week and also means you don't have to worry about catching up if you are away.

If you would like more information about using a Standing Order, please feel free to approach either myself (Jack Martin), Margaret Brown, or our Treasurer, Gavin Wilkie.

Jack Martin

# The Easter Code

Could you identify 5 words, would describe Holy Primary 6 at Langcraigs and spent half a day at the about the events that led

As the theme was all about

something they might know about – a quiz about chocolate eggs. Having run around lots, the pupils settled to watch a short drama about Jesus healing a lame man and some were able to be included as Jesus called his 12 disciples.

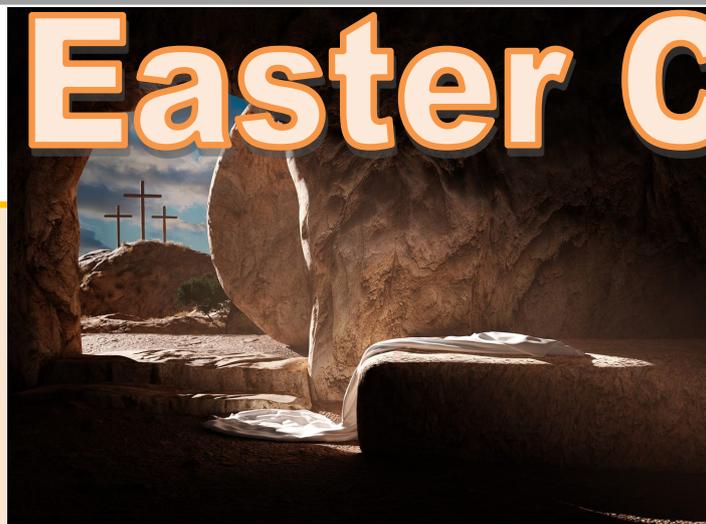
After this, the pupils moved round a series of activities in smaller groups. There was Foot washing, where one of them got to choose to wash the feet of a classmate. The Last supper where they had bread and wine, with a few brave ones trying the bitter herbs. In our 'indoor garden' they found out about Prayer and Jesus' arrest in the garden of Gethsemane. Having watched Peter's denial, they encouraged Pilate to choose Jesus as the prisoner to be killed. Standing in front of a cross they found out more about the crucifixion and were able to express personally what they thought about it on a small paper cross. This was later attached to a wooden cross and taken back to their school. There was also a craft activity where the pupils were able to make a beautiful Easter card.

Once everyone was back together again there was some singing and a chance to explain that Jesus' death was not the end. While gathered at the tomb, pupils learned about how Jesus was buried, the guards that were sent to keep watch, the entrance stone rolling away and revealing an empty tomb. Mention was made of some of the theories into how this could have happened, but it was explained that we believe Jesus rose again and was seen by many people.

On the way out, each pupil received a leaflet explaining the Easter story, a palm cross and a chocolate bar to help them remember all that they had been learning.

So what about the five words?

The key ideas emphasised were: **Serving, Sharing, Suffering, Swithering and Sacrifice.**



all beginning with S, that Week? The pupils in Bushes did this when they Outreach Centre learning up to Jesus' death.

Easter, we started with

# Social Committee



Hello Everyone,

At long last, we are getting back to normal. I am delighted to say that the Social Committee met and got down to business straight away and have planned the whole year. It was wonderful meeting everyone after such a long time, and I am sure you, like me, will enjoy the company of our friends when we get going again with the events we have in store for you.

## THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION: SUNDAY 5TH JUNE



There will be an Afternoon Tea after the morning service on Sunday the 5th June and all are welcome.

ADULTS £5, CHILDREN OVER 12 £3 and CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE. £2 from every adult ticket sold will go to the Woodlands Trust Scotland 'Plant a tree for the Jubilee'. Don't miss out on this "ONCE IN A LIFE TIME SPECIAL DAY". The Kirk Session has very kindly agreed to subsidise this. "Will there be food?", "OH YES THERE WILL".

We will have juice, tea or coffee, sandwiches, fruit bread, etc. and of course; a large PLATINUM JUBILEE CAKE for sharing.

We are asking the Leaders of all organisations and Young Church to encourage the children to make bunting, draw pictures etc, in fact anything relating to the Queen's Platinum Jubilation Celebrations. We intend to collect all their "Precious Art Work", no matter the size, and to decorate the halls with them and if we have plenty of bunting, perhaps put some of it on the railings of the Church.

There will be a flyer in the Order of Service from the end of April for you to complete and return to us via the Silver Boxes situated at all the entrance doors of the Church. This is to assist us to know how many people to expect on the day and also numbers in connection with catering, safety, etc.

If you have any ideas which you think the children or the adults would like, please let us know, we are always willing to listen to your thoughts and suggestions, This is a "Once in a Life Time" event and we would like to make it special and memorable for all.

## TRAQUAIR HOUSE, PEEBLES: SATURDAY 18th JUNE

A coach has been booked from White Star and it will leave the Church at 10am and go straight to Traquair House where we have arranged for a Tour Guide to talk about Traquair House and its history. Thereafter, there will be free time to wander around the inside of the House and the gardens at your own leisure, before joining the coach once again to go to The Green Tree Hotel for High Tea.

We have kept the cost of this excursion down to £35 per person, which is very good considering the rising cost of everything at the moment.

We hope to return to Paisley by 8.30pm approximately.

Please fill in one of the Traquair slips dotted around the church and place them into one of the Silver Boxes, we will collect them and acknowledge it by giving you your Excursion ticket.

## ANNUAL BOWLING NIGHT: TUESDAY 5th JULY

This is our Annual event and is definitely a Fun Night. You don't need to be a bowler to enjoy this evening just come along and enjoy the company and have some fantastic fun, a superb supper AND a game of Bingo. Fantastic!!!

The cost for this evening is only £4.50 per person.

Please meet in the Wellmeadow Bowling Club, (Argyle Street, Paisley) at 6 pm for a 6.15 pm game start. Shoes must be flat (no heels). Don't worry if you don't have any bowls, there will be bowls there which you can borrow. We do have a Trophy for this event which was given to us by one of our members. This trophy has seen lots of service; it has been passed from Winner to Winner for quite a number of years now and maybe this year, YOU could be the one to win it.

I can't guarantee the weather, so keep your fingers crossed for a nice dry night!

Food for the night will be a barbecue which Brent has arranged with his friend in the club.

Just imagine playing bowls and the smell of sausages etc cooking away- what a treat.

If you are interested please complete one of the Bowling slips and drop this into one of the Silver Boxes and we will contact you with your ticket(s).

We are planning more for the latter part of the year but I will tell about this nearer the time. In the meantime, summer is knocking on the door, so grab it with both hands, and enjoy it. Sorry for the length of this Social Report but I had quite a lot to tell you.

Kind regards, **Anne Sellars**



## 15th Paisley Boy's Brigade Update

Hello,

We're now on the last few weeks of our session and boys and staff are now working on our Display on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May. It's going to be quite different from our usual format to allow for folks to distance if they want to. For that reason it'll be in our church and so lots of the traditional display items won't be possible. If you want to see how it'll work out then please come along and watch. Final details of start time etc will be announced in the pew leaflet and on our Facebook page.

It's been great being back face to face since January and even better as the Covid restrictions are further eased allowing us to meet almost as normal. We've made the most of our meetings across all sections – noise levels are just about back to normal too as you'll be able to hear if you're in the building on Tuesdays or Fridays.

Both Juniors and Company/Seniors did well at Battalion competitions run in the last part of the session. At the First Aid competition in February our Company boys won and also gained second place and our Seniors came second. March brought competitions, very aptly, for marching and our Juniors came third in the figure marching and Company/Seniors won the drill competition. Boys and staff were delighted that their hard work paid off and our thanks again go the staff who taught them.

Kyle Mackay took part in the Battalion training which completed his work for the Presidents badge and he'll be awarded with this at our Display. Craig Glassford and Fraser Kydd have been working for their Queens badge for 2 years and we were all delighted when they successfully participated in the Battalion completion course which was the final part of their Queens badge journey. Like Kyle their presentations will be made at the Display.

Our boys are willing workers for our Church and each Friday at the end of their activities they put out tables and chairs for the tea bar on Sundays. They were asked to help out at the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and as you see in the photo again they played their part.

Our Battalion received funding for some Company activities and as a result paid for a visit to Anchors and Juniors from Let's Go Construct one Tuesday. Again as you can see it was a huge success although like many activities we're not sure whether boys or staff had more fun! A visit to a local gym is on the cards for our Company/Senior boys soon.

With promotions to Juniors and Company being made at the Display, we'll have lots of space for new members in all sections so if you know of any boys in P1 to S6 who'd like to get involved please speak to any BB officer and we'll give you details of our start back dates in August.

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 on-going support which really is very much appreciated.

**Jan Phillips, Captain**

**Phone number: 01505 348103 E-mail: [George.phillips3@ntlworld.com](mailto:George.phillips3@ntlworld.com)**



Hello

I'd like to introduce you to the Paisley St George's Community Support Team and give you a flavour of what we do.

The members of the team are; Frances Telford, George Lawrie, Anne Russell, Moira Campbell, Lesley Sutherland, Joan Campbell and Helen McLaughlan. The group was set up just after the union so we have been meeting for about a year now. Our aim is to provide the congregation of Paisley St George's with opportunities to support each other and also to support community projects in the local area and further afield. Both churches involved in the union had previously been associated with a variety of organisations and we have tried to include all of these in our ongoing work.

- Three times a year we collect donations of goods or money, Mothering Sunday: toiletries, Harvest Sunday: non perishable foodstuffs and Christmas: gifts. These are divided between Renfrewshire Foodbank and Women's Aid.
- At Christmas we also collected socks, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. for the Washing Line appeal. These went to Renfrewshire Housing Advice Centre who support the homeless of the town. We joined with the BB to provide Christmas gift bags for NB4CC (Night Before Christmas Campaign). These go to families in Renfrewshire and Ayrshire who are finding it hard to make ends meet and hopefully provide a little Christmas cheer. Between the congregation and the BB around 50 gift bags were donated.
- We have well established links with the Student Support Service at the University of the West of Scotland. On occasion, students, for reasons beyond their control, find themselves in financial difficulties and unable to buy food. We supply emergency food bags containing enough basic provisions to last for a few days. Often this gives the student the time they need to find a more permanent solution and prevents them dropping out of their uni course. Although the bags only cost £5 they can provide a real lifeline at a very difficult time.
- On Palm Sunday Moira Campbell organised a stall selling Easter goodies. This raised around £300 which will go to 'Release International' to support persecuted Christians around the world. Release International also produce a prayer diary which Moira can provide you with if you would like one.
- Please continue to save your used stamps and put them into the boxes at the church doors. These are sent off to the Church of Scotland World Mission Stamp Appeal. This year they hope to raise enough money to fund a pastor for NESSL, a partner church of the Church of Scotland which works in Syria and Lebanon.
- Already in 2022 we have had two DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) collections. In January we collected £523 for the Afghanistan Appeal and in March, £1444 for the Ukrainian Appeal. Christian Aid week this year will be 17-24th of May when envelopes will be available if you wish to donate and we are planning a retiring collection on Sunday 19th of June which will go to Adams House, the local Church of Scotland home which cares for dementia sufferers.
- On a much more personal level we also like to keep in touch with those in our congregation who are no longer able to join us at Sunday worship and church social events and send Christmas and Easter cards to our homebound members. If you know of anyone who should be on our list but isn't please contact any of the team and let us know.

Can I finish by thanking you all for the amazing way you support all our requests? It never fails to surprise and delight us.

The Community Support Team

If you would like to contribute to the next edition of News from the Pews please email Irene Gemmell by Sunday 28th August with your suggestions  
[igirenegem@gmail.com](mailto:igirenegem@gmail.com)