



The Church of Scotland

Scottish Charity Number SC011353

Edition 7: February 2023

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

My dear friends,

It is the middle of February and this morning I enjoyed a walk along the banks of the Clyde. As I walked I listened to the song of the thrush and admired the bright yellow of the gorse, the white of the snowdrops, the just visible greening on the hawthorns and the fattening buds on the daffodils. Spring is just around the corner; the mornings and evenings are brighter as the hours of daylight lengthen. Next week will see the start of Lent, the weeks leading up to Easter, the period which takes its name from these lengthening hours of daylight. During Lent we are often encouraged to give up something as we remember the time Jesus spent in the wilderness facing temptation placed in his way by the devil. We also remember the suffering of Jesus as he walked to the cross for each one of us. He gave up his life to change our lives.

St George's is now almost two years old and hopefully soon will be given permission to call a new minister. It would have been so easy for the congregation to sit back and wait passively until that time but that has not been the case. Despite the restrictions of Covid so much that is new is going on: we now have the Connect Hub - a cafe style church held twice monthly in the Outreach Centre; there are opportunities to learn new skills again at the Outreach Centre; there is the weekly warm spaces in the Causeyside buildings and our services are now live-streamed. All of these provide St George's with the opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, to enable others to learn of the new beginnings offered by Christ.

As the hours of daylight increase so too do our energy levels, let us use this increased energy to share God's love or to use the Guild's theme - to sow wee seeds to grow big trees.

God bless, Mhairi

### Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Panel would like to thank all those who give of their time and talents to volunteer in the Church in so many ways. Please bear in mind how important it is to follow the Church's guidance in always creating a safe environment for children and protected adults. Make sure you know what your role is – you may have a written Job Description. Ensure that you help create an environment based on honesty, trust and respect, where everyone can share their concerns and are involved in making decisions. Follow SG procedures and be confident in reporting any concerns. Please attend Safeguarding Training when it becomes available.

**Introductory Training (All volunteers) – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 7 – 9 pm on Zoom**

**Trustee Training (Elders only) – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 7 – 9 pm on Zoom (Full)**

**Trustee Training (Elders only) Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2 – 4 pm at Paisley South Parish Church**



## The Guild



The Guild resumed following the Christmas break to three evening meetings. Thinking that the January weather might be bad we arranged "in house" guests. One of our deputy session clerks, Muriel, came on opening night to speak on "Wee seeds Big trees" our theme for this year; Alan and some of our choir came to provide a musical evening on the second night and on the third night one of our Elders, Moira Campbell, came to talk about her involvement with "Release International". We enjoyed all of these familiar guests.

We have now commenced afternoon meetings for February. So far, we have had musical entertainment and Philip Arbon speaking about his visits to various parts of Africa, spreading the Gospel and training local pastors. He is also an artist and we hope he will come back in the future to discuss this further.

While writing this article, it coincides with a very busy weekend for the Guild...

On Saturday 18th February we had our guild concert. The Rockus Choir provided a great afternoon of entertainment. Our audience all thoroughly enjoyed the music and the afternoon tea and the choir enjoyed being with us too.

The next day, Rev. George Lind was our guest Preacher at the Guild Service. He was well received by the children and the adult congregation. This service also gave some of the guild committee the opportunity to organise and take part in the readings and prayers. We are grateful to Mhairi for concluding the service by giving the blessing. After a busy weekend we don't have another meeting until the end of the month when we meet again at 2pm.

Our March meetings will be back to evenings. Please come along before we finish for the season, or think about coming when we recommence in October. All will be made most welcome.

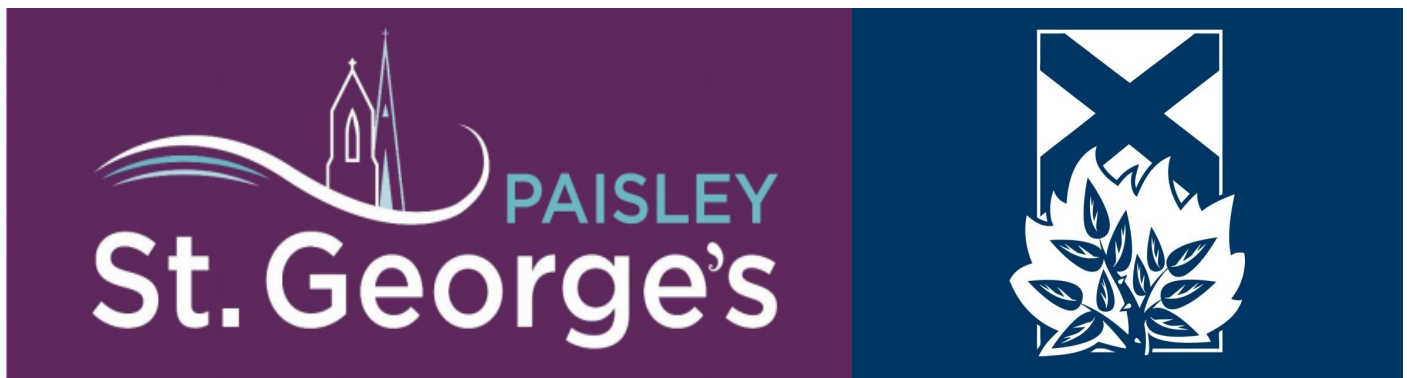
Pat (Convener)

## Come and Try



Since the last edition of the magazine the Church has held two "Come and Try" days. These events gave young people a taster of different activities as well as the chance to learn new skills, meet new friends and have lots of fun. The different activities on offer included basketball, drumming, cookery, baking, stained glass demonstrations, arts and crafts, dancing and lots more. The events have been well attended and feedback has been very positive. Hopefully not too long before the next one!





## **The Role of the Kirk Session**

I thought as Session Clerk that it might be helpful and educational for members to have some information on the function of the Kirk Session, as I am sure that many do not really know how it operates and what its powers are.

Our church, Paisley St George's, operates under what is known in Church of Scotland as a Unitary Constitution. This means that we operate solely with a Kirk Session, and not as used to be in many churches, with a Kirk Session and Congregational Board. Under the Unitary Constitution the Kirk Session deals with all matters of the congregation whether spiritual (worship, pastoral care, etc.) or temporal (finance, maintenance, etc.) as opposed to previously where Kirk Session dealt with spiritual matters and Congregational Board dealt with temporal matters.

The Kirk Session is made up of the Moderator, usually the Minister of the Church, and Elders. Appointment of Elders to the Kirk Session is usually by recommendation from existing elders. The person is asked if they are willing to become an Elder, and then the Kirk Session approve the appointment.

The Kirk Session meets regularly, in our case about every two months unless there is something urgent to discuss. Session meetings are open to all members of the Church, although there are certain matters which must, due to the confidential nature of the discussion, be held in closed session, i.e. no person other than Elders present.

Elders are ordained for life, but can retire from active Session duties, either full time (due to age, illness, etc.) or a limited time (work commitments, illness, etc.).

Duties of an elder are first of all to attend Session meetings, and thereafter any duty allocated to them by Session. This could include for instance, being responsible for a 'district', i.e. a small number of members who they keep in contact with and deliver Communion invitations, and also being a member of a small committee, of which there are many, dealing with all aspects of Church Life.

A Kirk Session also has responsibility for

- ~ matters of discipline
- ~ admission of new members
- ~ appointing new elders
- ~ appointing a Treasurer (not necessarily an Elder),
- ~ maintaining property in accordance with all legislation and regulations,
- ~ issuing Contracts of Employment to any employee (cleaners and organist),
- ~ delegating to committees with remits.
- ~ all other matters relating to running of the Church

A Session Clerk will be appointed (not necessarily an Elder) and the duties are

- ~ orderly keeping of records including Minutes of Session meetings,
- ~ issue Extracts of Minutes as required,
- ~ deal with any other correspondence,
- ~ any other matter as directed by Session.

The format of Worship is not included in Session remit as this is solely the responsibility of the Minister, although in a well organised and run church, it would, hopefully, be decided by mutual agreement.

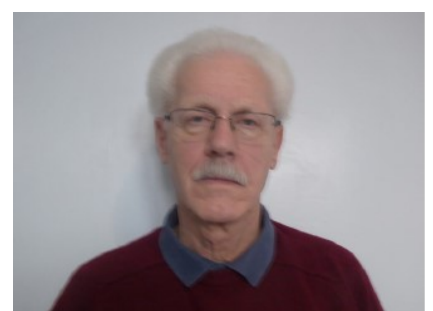
As can be seen from the above brief description, the work of running the Church depends very much on the cooperation of many volunteers who are willing to give their time and talents to make things happen. Much of the work is done without the knowledge of the congregation, who in many cases do not appreciate what it takes to keep the buildings in good condition, control finances, etc.

If you feel that you could contribute your own talents in any way, without the need to be an Elder, please contact me at any time.

Hamish Sutherland

Session Clerk

[sessionclerk@paisleystgeorges.org.uk](mailto:sessionclerk@paisleystgeorges.org.uk)





# Young Church

Our young people are busy week in week out, learning about God's love and their role in sharing it. Recently they have made prayer jars to remind them to pray and to think about who to pray for. Lollipops were a welcome treat for all their hard work.



In November they raised well over £500 from their Ice-Cream Sunday Christmas stall. They chose to donate equally to Guide Dogs for the Blind and Water Aid. They have already started to think about their next fundraising project.



## FLOWER COMMITTEE

We reach out to our members by sending flowers every week. To do this we rely on members keeping us informed when someone is unwell, in hospital, lonely, having a difficult time or have lost a loved one. Or it could be a celebration like a special birthday or anniversary.

Thank you to everyone who donates the flowers for making the sanctuary of the church so beautiful. If you wish to donate, the diary is now open for dates from July - December. Please see a member of the committee after church on any Sunday.



## Friendly Hour

The Friendly Hour meets every Tuesday from 2pm  
3.30pm in the large hall.

Here are some of the upcoming speakers and events:

|            |                      |
|------------|----------------------|
| 7th March  | Quiz                 |
| 14th March | Toast (1.30pm start) |
| 21st March | Beetle Drive         |
| 28th March | Neilson Strings      |
| 4th April  | Airs and Graces      |
| 11th April | Guess Who            |
| 18th April | AGM Music Group      |
| 25th April | Outing               |

Myra Bell

## St. George's Toddler Playgroup



Since restarting in the New Year, our playgroup is gradually growing in numbers but we still have some spaces available.

We meet on Wednesday mornings in the Stow Street Hall from 10am during school term time. Children from 0-5 are welcome to come along with their carers to play, meet new friends, sing songs and enjoy seasonal crafts and parties. There is always a cuppa and a sweet treat for the adults and a healthy snack for the children too.

If you would like to join us please message us on our Facebook page to arrange a visit.



## Boy's Brigade Update

Hello,

As always all of our sections are busy with lots of activities and working towards their awards. Since I last wrote we've had lots of success in our ventures with your help. Our combined support of the Night before Christmas Campaign contributed to a hugely successful campaign, recognised not only locally but also by the House of Commons. Christmas 2022, as you'll appreciate, saw a huge ask across the West of Scotland and they rose to the challenge with around 6800 red bags handed over to those in need. It's so good to be able to help folks less fortunate than us and to teach our boys to share the Christian love they have with others. Together we contributed more than 80 bags and we know they were very gratefully received.



Our boys ran in the annual Jingle Bell run at Barshaw Park and again did very well raising funds for our Company and also for our chosen charity. It was good that the weather was kind to us – it always helps.

Although at Battalion level there have not been many competitions, those that have been run have been well supported by our company and it was great to learn that Fraser from our Juniors again won the annual Christmas card competition. I'm

sure you'll agree he's very talented and especially for a P5. His card was printed and used to send to all of our Chaplains, leaders and to local dignitaries.

In all sections our boys are working hard to gain their awards and this is especially true in the Senior sections where Mackenzie is on the last section of his work to gain the Queens Awards – we're still awaiting news of when and if this badge might be renamed as the Kings award. Kyle too is working on this award with a target completion date of April 2024. We've also two boys, Alan and Matthew, hopefully completing the last stages of their President's badge to be awarded at this year's presentation night. For all of these boys the Brigade has revised the work to once more include a faith journey and it's great to have the support of our Chaplain, Mhairi, to help both boys and staff to complete this very important element of the award.

Our Anchors section continues to grow in number and this year, for the first time, Anchors and Juniors get together for a short time to complete their weekly challenge. It's so good to hear and see the fun they have.

Our Company/Seniors have lots of fun too and it's great that, at the end of their Friday meeting, they take time to put out tables and chairs for Church activities on Sunday. A great way to teach boys to use their efforts to help out.

We've 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.

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**

