

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

My dear friends,

I am writing this on one of those changeable days: one minute the sun is shining and the next it is raining! As I look out of the study window I can see the trees - some covered in leaf, some with the leaves just beginning to unfurl and one or two still looking bare. Some trees have blossom on them and for others the blossom is past. As I looked out I was reminded of the verses from Ecclesiastes 3, There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. This season of spring has followed on from winter and summer will follow and so on.



Just now in the church it may seem as if we are in winter but I believe we are in spring, for there are signs of new growth. Most of us are now comfortable about being back in the buildings, sitting beside our neighbours after the time of Covid. The congregation is growing, there are new faces with us. New events have been happening particularly at our Outreach Centre where we reached out to the community with the offer of learning new skills. We have enjoyed a number of social events where we have had the opportunity to meet new friends and renew longstanding friendships.

By the time you read this the General Assembly will be past and the presbytery will soon be meeting when we may or may not hear about the Presbytery's Mission Plan. The Mission Plan was approved by Presbytery in March and has been sent to Edinburgh for approval by various committees, so we continue to wait. As we wait we work to ensure that Christ's church flourishes here in this corner of Paisley. Just like the garden, work needs to be done to ensure the church flourishes, that seeds are sown, plants nurtured and a good harvest achieved. We look for the signs of new growth and we seek to nurture that growth and we trust that as the writer of Ecclesiastes puts it, 'He (God) has set the right time for everything.'

May we all know God's constant love surrounding us,  
Mhairi



Ladies Afternoon Tea—Saturday 18th March



There has been lots of activity this year at our Outreach Centre.



**SCHOOLS** - In December we had a fun time with Primary 6 pupils from Bushes and Langcraigs primaries when we had 116 pupils to experience the true meaning of Christmas through the fun programme of Bubblegum and Fluff. Then in March, with the same pupils, when we introduced them to the last week of Jesus life leading up to Easter with the programme Easter Code. The pupils and the volunteers had a great time exploring together.



**CONNECT HUB** - which runs every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 1.30 to 3pm, continues to be popular with those who wish to join in with our informal Cafe style half hour Service followed by a time of friendship and fellowship, we even have our resident dog Willow who love's coming along! One of the highlights recently was a visit to the Hub from the Right Rev Iain Greenshields Moderator of the Church of Scotland.

Why not give it a try? Everyone is welcome.

**LIFE SKILLS PROJECT**- This year saw us trying a new initiative by offering a variety of things that the community could join us in. Trying their hand at crafts, or rekindling the art of knitting or sewing. We even had our resident chef who shared how to make affordable quick meals for families.

Watch this space to see what we might get up to in the Autumn.

Muriel Smith (Deputy Session Clerk)





Lately we have been fortunate to have lots of cause for celebration and get-togethers, including the Ladies Afternoon Tea, the King's Coronation Lunch, the visit from the Moderator of the Church of Scotland - the Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields - and of course a special lunch to celebrate Laurie Henderson's 100th birthday. Thank you to all who have organised and facilitated these events as well as all who have attended.

More pictures can be seen on display in the Church Halls and on our Church Facebook page.

Our young people were delighted to unveil their very own backstage space at it's grand opening in April!



**The Friendly Hour are having their Summer Drop-in Days on Tuesdays the 6<sup>th</sup> June, 4<sup>th</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 from 2pm until 3.30pm.**

**All are welcome to drop-in for a cuppa, a biscuit and a blether.**

**Johnny Morrison** recently celebrated his 80th birthday at the Men's Breakfast. He was so excited he couldn't wait to blow out his candles before this picture was taken!!



Johnny would like to thank all his friends in the congregation for helping him celebrate and their kind wishes.

## 140 years of Boys Brigade - Were You There?

As many organisations come out of the lockdown years there are very few who can celebrate such a special birthday like The Boys' Brigade. Celebrating it's 140th year in 2023 and as part of their celebrations Paisley & District Battalion would like to hear from any former members, friends or members of the public about their memories of the 1983 Centenary.

During the movements Centenary Year members from Paisley and District were prominent in the national celebrations at The Centenary International Camp at Scone Palace or at Centenary Salute at Ibrox Park. Indeed Paisley's President Raymond Shaw was the man instrumental in the success of Centenary Salute along with many others from this Battalion. Andrew Hosie was another who led the administration at the Centenary Camp – a major undertaking for 2,000 campers from around the world. Rev Sandy McDonald - David Tennant's father – Minister at St Mark's Oldhall & Ralston conducted The National Centenary Thanksgiving Service and many more who made the year such a success at a national level.

In Paisley & District local celebrations took place from an Anchor Boys Day at Erskine to a Centenary Show in Paisley Town Hall and not one but two Fiddler's Rally Concerts. In companies across this Renfrewshire there were many events including Birthday Parties on 4th Octobers and for some trips abroad.

Alas many who were part of these events are no longer with us but a spokesman for the Battalion said it would be important to record the memories of people who are still around. One member recalled the reaction of the Centenary Campers as they left the field at Centenary Salute and of The Anchor Boys' Day at Erskine a photo of two boys one stroking a Boa Constrictor the other shying away in horror. Yes it is fair to say none of the 1933 officers who attended the reunion in Paisley Town Hall are with us today but the fun and joy shown by these men many of whom were in their eighties and nineties but those who saw that fellowship they enjoyed could ever forget.

This celebration is not only about looking back in time a spokesman commented, but also an opportunity to recharge the inspiration that is young people after the Covid years. Indeed we hear there are twenty-five young men who have completed their Queen's Badge Course and will be put forward for The Brigade's highest award later this year. With companies working throughout Renfrewshire from Anchor Boys through to Queen's Men yes The Boys' Brigade has much to celebrate.

If you were at any event grand or small The Battalion would like to hear from you by writing to Celebrations at BB HQ North Street Paisley or Email to [headquarters@bbpaisley.org](mailto:headquarters@bbpaisley.org)

# Social Committee Update

It seems a long time since I last brought you up to date with what the Social Committee have been doing. So here goes....



On **Sunday 26th March** we celebrated **Laurie Henderson's 100th Birthday** with a lunch following morning worship.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend but it was very well attended and from what I have heard it was a great afternoon. He is a marvellous man and would you believe it? He drives and bowls! (and bowls very well, believe me) so **Happy Birthday Laurie**, all the very best and good luck in everything you do from the Social Committee.



On **Saturday 22nd April** we had our Spring Excursion and we could not have asked for better weather as the sun shone all day. We went by coach to Dumfries House and received a most enjoyable and very knowledgeable guided tour of the house followed by afternoon tea, served to us in the House. Thereafter we all went out into the gardens and strolled in the sunshine. It was wonderful to see bushes and plants beginning to burst into life. It was all very still and calming with the sun shining and hearing the birds singing. The atmosphere was fantastic. Feedback has been very positive and it seems everyone really enjoyed the day. Some have said they would like to go back at Christmas time, as they put candles in the beautiful crystal chandeliers. I think that would be spectacular!

## STILL TO COME IS OUR ANNUAL BOWLING EVENING:

This will take place on **Tuesday 4th July** in the Wellmeadow Bowling Club at 6 pm and we hope to start playing bowls at approx. 6.15. Everyone is very welcome.

Even if you don't own your own bowls, the club will let you borrow some from their Clubhouse and some bowlers from our group will also bring extra bowls with them for your use. That's the bowls taken care of, now for your footwear, they require to have **FLAT SOLES** (no heels) so the green is not ruined. That's you sorted, no excuses! Remember, you don't have to be a bowler to take part in this; it's purely a fun game and open to everyone.

Brent Dorey makes the teams up from all the names which have been put into the Silver Boxes; he tries to make sure there is a good mix of Bowlers and Non bowlers in every team. It's a lovely opportunity to meet some old friends and also make some new ones. After your game of bowls its back into the Clubhouse to enjoy a superb barbecue prepared and cooked by Bobby Ferguson (who is a member of Wellmeadow), this will be followed with a short game of Bingo to end the evening.

We always have a raffle on this evening to help us keep the cost of our events to you as low as possible. So on that note, we would welcome anything you care to donate towards this. You can either bring it on the evening or give it to any of the committee members on a Sunday, who will take care of it until the 4th July. We really do appreciate the help you always give us.

Please complete any of the Bowling slips dotted around the Church and drop it into one of the Silver boxes and we will contact you with your ticket.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Anne Sellars, Social Convenor

The Flower committee would like to say thank you to the many members who have written to thank them for flowers received. The flowers issued weekly are from all those who donate the flowers. The committee are more than happy to pass them on to you especially when we arrive at your door and receive a smile from you.

To donate to the church flowers please add your name to the flower list outside the church in the corridor or let a member of the committee know the date you would like to donate the flowers between July and December. If you would like to choose and arrange the flowers you donate yourself please let us know and we will be happy to let you into the church and show where the vases are kept so that you can make your own display.



# The Guild



The Guild is now on summer break until meetings recommence in October. We finished the session with various items including a quiz afternoon with guest Jean Urie, our Elder, posing the questions and we all enjoyed having to work out the answers. Archie Miller came to talk about Paisley's history including Sma'Shot Cottages and again that was an interesting evening. Our musical evenings were provided by Rays of Hope Cancer charity and choir and Neilston String Band who came along for our Basket Tea, and we ended the session with our AGM at the end of March. As is customary now the members of the Guild led the Service on the first Monday of Holy Week.

I have been Convener for many years now and it's now time for a change of leadership for the Guild next session. I have enjoyed my eight years, thanks to the support of all my friends on the committee and to our loyal guild members, and look forward to continuing on the committee. Our new Convener will be our friend Sadie McKeown, who is very well-known within the Church and has been in the Guild for many years... and indeed, has been Convener at various intervals over the years. We are delighted to welcome her back to lead us and we know that she will continue to appreciate the support and generosity of the Congregation, the Kirk Session and, of course, our Interim Moderator Mhairi. We all look forward to supporting Sadie in the new session as she has supported us all in the past. As always, to ensure the success of the Guild for the future, it is essential that we have new members to increase the role so please come along to join us in October and enjoy fellowship, chat and serving our Church for God.

"Whose we are and Whom we serve"

Pat Colgan (Convenor)



## Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Panel would like to thank everyone; Volunteers, Panel Members and Trustees, who have responded to the requests to attend the appropriate Training Courses over the last few months, including those who will be attending on Tuesday 23rd, either at home or in the Church building here.

The General Assembly of 2022 issued the instruction for all this training to take place before the end of June 2023. It is important that all those who work in the Church are reminded about the importance of Safeguarding and our commitment to the children and vulnerable adults who use our services. I am happy to report that over 90% of our Volunteers and Trustees and all of our Panel members have been able to meet this target. There should be one or two more dates to come in June. We might improve our % yet.

Thank you all very much!!!

Jean Urie (SG coordinator)



## Help for Asylum Seekers



We were recently made aware by "Faith in the Community" that Vodafone were providing free sim cards to registered charities. We applied and have received 50 cards which will be given to asylum seekers who live in local accommodation. The cards last for 6 months and provide free phone calls, text and data to enable the people to keep in contact with their families.



## 15th Paisley Boy's Brigade Update

Hello,

As I write this our Session is over with the last activities having taken place this weekend: our presentation night and a first fun afternoon for Anchors and Juniors in our own church.

In the last couple of months our Anchors attended the Battalion's Anchors Afternoon where they played lots of games, enjoyed a snack and were entertained by a magician. It was so good to be part of a bigger event again and begin to understand that BB is wider than just their own Company.

Our Seniors have been working at Battalion level too where Alan and Matthew took part in training for their President's badge and Makenzie spent the weekend at Scottish HQ (Carronvale House) where he successfully participated in his Queens Badge Completion course. It's lots of work and not just for the boys as Pamela is one of the trainers so she was hugely involved too.

April saw boys from all sections although predominantly Company and Seniors leading the Congregation on the Tuesday of Holy week. We got lots of compliments for their hard work so know that their very different delivery was appreciated.

The highlight of any Company Presentation night is always the achievement of our highest awards and our three boys deserve lots of praise for their achievement. It's lovely too seeing the delight of any of the trophy winners and doing our best to see their relative's reaction. It was good to acknowledge the hard work started by Pamela to introduce a joint activity for Juniors and Anchors each Tuesday for around 10-15 minutes. We hope this new initiative makes the transition from Anchors to Juniors easier – time will tell but already the signs are good.

Rather than a trip away we decided to stay local and enjoyed an afternoon 'at home', Almost all of our boys came along and seemed to have great fun as you can see from the photos. We made pizza – and then ate it of course, played lots of games in teams and then all together and decorated a water bottle each which we took home.

It won't be many weeks until a new session begins and while we're delighted that our Anchors section has been growing throughout the session 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 – 15th Paisley Boys' Brigade. Thank you as always for your ongoing support which really is very much appreciated.

Jan Phillips, Captain

