



The Church of Scotland

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

My dear friends,

I am writing this in the middle of December, bang on the deadline for articles for January's News from the Pews, knowing that this will not be read until about the middle of January!

When you read this, Christmas will be past, 2023 will have ended and 2024 begun. The decorations will have been put away, (at the time of writing mine are still to be put up) and maybe some New Year resolutions made. I think one of my resolutions should be to get things done before the deadline! As we look forward into 2024 we build on all that has gone before and we dream dreams for the future all the while existing just in this moment.

Thinking ahead, I love the realisation in January that the hours of daylight are getting longer; I love the signs of new growth - the tiny green shoots of the earliest bulbs pushing their way through the cold, damp of the dark soil into the light; the catkins on the hazel at the bottom of my garden - all signs of new growth, new beginnings, showing us the promise of brighter days and spring flowers. As we watch these early signs of growth and look forward I am sure that I am not alone in thinking ahead to the time when St George's will call its first minister. As you probably know a nominating committee has been formed and is quietly working away. May I remind you of what I wrote in the autumn, "As the committee works I want to ask you to do one thing - it is simply this - to keep the committee in your prayers at all times. I also want to ask you to avoid doing something: please, please, do not ask the nominating committee who they are going to see, or how they are getting on as the work of the committee is confidential."

This year, like so many years before, will be a time of change and growth. The world does not stand still, the church must not stand still, we must go forward in faith and trust God's Holy Spirit to lead us.

May we all know God's love surrounding us and his strength supporting us, today, tomorrow and always.

Mhairi

The editor would like to thank all who have contributed to this edition of the church magazine. All items for inclusion in the next magazine should be with Irene Gemmell by Sunday 4th February.

Email igirenegem@gmail.com

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15th Paisley Boy's Brigade Update



Hello,

Here we are at the end of another busy BB year and making plans for the remainder of our session.

When I last wrote we were preparing for our first Juniors sleepover at our Church. According to our boys, who let's face it are the reason we're involved, it was 'fun' and that's good enough for us. It was great to end our sleepover at the church service and then to share our birthday cake with all of you. As you saw our Company boys slept over too which allowed them to complete some more of our 140 challenges. One involved great fun in planning, shopping for, cooking and then eating their squad three course meal and all done for less than £15!! Since then boys have competed in battalion Ten Pin bowling both at Junior and Company level and both boys who gained Presidents badges last session have started out on their Queens badge journey by attending the Skills for Queens badge course.



Our Anchors section just keeps growing and that's absolutely fantastic. We're now up to 19 boys with our latest recruit arriving just 3 weeks ago. It's a delight to see and hear them as they work on their awards, play games and do crafts. In the coming months the P3s will start their visits to Juniors as they prepare to move up next session. We've just learned that Euan from our Anchors won his category in the Battalion Christmas card competition. Well done Euan!!

Unfortunately our Jingle Bell run at Barshaw Park was cancelled this year due to the ice and snow which the organisers sensibly decided made the event unsafe. Roll on next year when we'll be ready again to take part.

Once more we supported the Night Before Christmas campaign (NB4CC). With your help we collected in excess of 60 red bags of joy which went off to Elf HQ in Annbank where a team sort and distribute the contents to families across the West of Scotland who need support.



Our end of year for Anchors and Juniors was, at their request, a movie night when we all enjoyed watching Elf. Company section also marked the end of this part of the session with a games night and some pizza.

We've lots to do next session and we're hoping to again lead worship one Sunday. As mentioned earlier we're working hard to complete our very own 140 challenges to mark the BB's 140 anniversary and if you'd like to see our progress, or what these challenges are, you'll find them on our board in the large hall. Maybe you could help us to complete some – any help is very welcome.

Although our Anchors have greatly increased in number there's always room for more boys in any of our sections so if you know of any boy who'd be interested please send him along or come and speak to any of our leaders. 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

The Guild



The Guild resumed in October for weekly meetings (Mondays at 7.30pm). Our "new" Convener Sadie McKeown was made welcome and she, in turn, welcomed our first guest Rev. Mhairi Breingan who spoke about our theme for this year "New Wine New Wineskins". We were all delighted to also welcome a few new members and the return of some of our previous members. After this night, unfortunately

Sadie our Convener suffered a knee injury and by our second night back she had to be absent, much to her regret, for the remainder of the session. This gap was very adequately filled by June Proctor who fulfilled her duties very well for the rest of the session. We are so grateful to June for doing this and we now look forward to next session to welcome Sadie back.

The programme continued with several speakers on varied topics and including three of our BB leaders, who not only spoke about the work they do, but also provided some interaction to get us thinking. The BB do a great deal with "The Night before Christmas" (NB4CC) collecting goods to give to those less fortunate children and the results of this were seen at the end of November when they had their usual success with lots of red bags for distribution.

Alan (our Organist) came along one evening with several members of our church choir and we all enjoyed (as we always do) the varied entertainment provided by them. Although it's good to welcome guests from outwith the Church, it's lovely to have our own folks too.

Our Annual Carol Service involving Paisley Guilds Together unfortunately had to be cancelled this year due to the snow which immediately preceded the date, when, in fact, by the day itself the weather had improved. We shall look forward to that taking place next year. We finished with our Christmas dinner, and are now on a slightly longer break until February, when we hope the worst of the weather might have passed.



Our programme for our return again consists of various speakers and musical evenings as our syllabus illustrates. **Monday 5th February** our guest for opening night is Rev. Liz McFarlane. By then we will be very busy preparing for **our Annual concert (17th February 2 - 4pm)**. This is a very popular event and is always well supported by those in the Congregation and outwith. Tickets will be on sale soon so be sure to look out for the announcement in the pew leaflet. Our guests are the Renfrew Ladies Choir and the Clydebank Male Voice Choir. Good music and delicious afternoon tea to look forward to.

Our guest preacher for the **Guild Service on Sunday 18th February** will be Rev. Wesley Hands. He has been our guest before when he provided a very entertaining evening so we look forward to his return for this service.

There is always lots going on in the Guild so do come along to join us. New members are always welcome as are our regular, faithful members!

Whose We are and Whom We Serve.



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

Upcoming events and activities.

23rd January	Scottish Singalong	27th February	Compass
30th January	Beetle Drive	5th March	Quiz
6th February	Aires and Graces	12th March	TBA
13th February	Keep Fit	19th March	Canine Partners
20th February	Aromatherapy Talk	26th March	Rowanberries

Doing our bit for the local community



At our Harvest Thanksgiving service a total of £135 and 24 bags of non-perishable foods were collected and shared with Women's Aid and the local Foodbank. Both groups were delighted with our contributions.

The Young Church Sunday Club hosted a Christmas Craft Stall after worship on Sunday 27th November. They raised £324.60 which has been shared between Mary's Meals and Release International.



Advent Labyrinth

Thank you to all who helped to set up and run our first Advent Labyrinth. I appreciate everyone who worked on the project and came along to experience it. I was involved in typing up the cards for each station and setting the stations up but when walking round the labyrinth, in the peaceful setting with lovely background music, it was a special time of peaceful reflection, which I wouldn't have missed.

Muriel Smith (Deputy Session Clerk)



Church Flowers

The rota list for flower donations over the next six months is pinned to the wall in the corridor. Any member of the congregation who wishes to donate can add their names to the list.

Thank you to all who donate and special thanks to those who receive flowers and send notes to the committee saying how much they appreciate them.

