



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone,

It is great to finally be here as your newly ordained and inducted minister. It is all very exciting and I am so pleased to be the first full time minister of Paisley St George's. Thank you all so much for the most amazing evening on the 19th of April when I officially became Rev Hazel and your new minister. I cannot thank you enough for being so gracious and generous; welcoming and offering refreshments to so many travelling from far and wide. It was an amazing service with music and singing filling the church, with prayer, scripture and teaching - certainly an evening I will never forget.

As our family settle into life at the manse I would like to thank the Property Committee who worked so hard in helping make everything just right - even building our dining table and chairs and moving the whirligig! We; my husband Iain, son Mark and, from time to time our daughter Laura, are enjoying settling into our new home. A big thanks too goes to Hamish and all the nominating committee for their hard work in choosing me as sole nominee and to you all for deciding to take that leap of faith appointing me. From the first moment of my enquiry everyone has been so welcoming and friendly. For me, and I pray for you too, this calling has definitely felt right. I am also very grateful to Mhairi who has lovingly and ably led you through a prolonged vacancy and I know she will miss you and you will miss her too. Mhairi has been extremely helpful to me in handing over the reins and helping me to settle in.

I am very much looking forward to getting to know you all as we journey together listening for God's plan for our parish and then reaching out in action to love and serve God, our community and each other. So far in these first couple of weeks I have met with Kirk Session, the Guild, the Boys and Girls Brigades, the Brownies and the Guides, worshipped at Connect Hub as well as led worship on Sundays. I have watched the beautiful knitters, met the exercise group, chatted with the toddlers—and even met 4 week old Nathan! I've been to Presbytery meetings and the roadshow, met with other local ministers and have generally been finding my way about the town on foot and by car. It's been an amazing but busy couple of weeks. I am looking forward to the Sunday Club Prizegiving on the 19th of May and the closing events of all our uniformed organisations on the 7th and 17th of May. I am delighted and excited that our young people will take part in an inter-church football competition in East Kilbride on the 19th of May and will be cheering all the participants on to do their best. I know many of the groups will shortly have a summer recess and a well deserved rest. There is much need for volunteers in many of our groups and I do encourage you to prayerfully consider how we can all play our part in the life of our church.

During the summer I hope to meet with many of you more informally and get to know you as well as introducing a few summer activities that I hope you will enjoy and come along to. More details soon – watch this space!! One of the first is a fun quiz night on Friday 31st May from 7pm to 8.30pm. All ages welcome and please do come along. In the meantime please know of a warm welcome at St George's in Causeyside Street, at our Outreach Centre and at the manse. I am absolutely delighted to be here and will always try to love and serve God, to love and lead all in our congregation and together to extend that love in our wider community to all God's people.

Thank you all for your warm welcome. May God continue to richly bless you all.
Your friend and minister,
Hazel



15th Paisley Boy's Brigade Update



Hello

As you read this our 23/24 session will be over. It's been a very special session for us in lots of ways not least as we celebrated 140 years since Sir William Smith founded our great organisation in Glasgow on 4 October 1883.

As you know our Company set 140 challenges to be completed during the session and I'm delighted to say we are on track to complete them all. Our last ones are being done during our overnight at the church on 10 May, with Company/Seniors off to Laserquest and some summer bulb planting amongst others. Juniors and Company had a great night trampolining at Gravity to see off another challenge but they've not all been sporty. At Juniors, we learned to say hello in 10 languages, we've baked (and survived), Anchors have spent the afternoon at the Battalion Fun afternoon and so much more. Not forgetting leading you all in worship at the end of February and the hot dog sale afterwards when we raised over £140 for the Night before Christmas charity. Our record of achievement is displayed on our noticeboard in the large hall – please have a look.

We were delighted to be part of the last service with Mhairi and able to present her with gifts to thank her for her support in the years she spent as Chaplain. In a really busy week it was great to play our part in welcoming Hazel to Paisley St George's where boys helped with stewarding. Wasn't it lovely that Kyle was able to represent the youth of the church during the service? We've always known our boys are a credit to us all in our Church but it was lovely to hear that said so often on Ordination evening by the many visitors who attended. We even managed a photo on the night of our outgoing and incoming Chaplains together with our Battalion Chaplain – you can never have too many Chaplains!!

Our annual presentation night on 17 May sees one of our elders, Brent Dorey who has over 70 years BB service, present our Boys with their trophies, certificates etc. Hazel, who we're delighted to say has accepted the invitation to be our Chaplain, is also presenting Kyle MacKay with his Queens Badge. Always the highlight of any presentation night it's made even more special this year as it'll be the last Queens badge awarded in our Company for probably the next three generations as from September the award will change to the Kings Badge.

Presentation evening was due to be our last event of the session but Iain Shaw, Hazel's husband, invited us to enter a team in a primary school age football tournament he organises every year. As with most asks, our boys accepted the challenge and will turn out on Sunday 19 May in East Kilbride. We've never played as a team before but it's the taking part that counts and we'll be delighted to fly the flag for Paisley St George's.

We'll then be off over the summer months. Time for some much deserved relaxation time for the staff (and boys too) although there will be planning meetings for next session and hopefully if you're at the Paisley 10k on Sunday 18 August you'll see our boys handing out medals.

We'll start back around the same time as schools resume and we'd love to have new members in all 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 on-going support which really is very much appreciated.

Jan Phillips, Captain



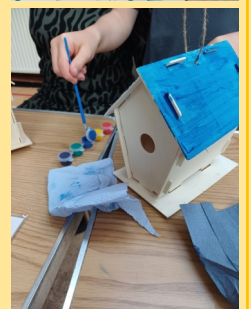
Sunday Club

The Sunday Club at St George's has had a busy year with a mixture of Bible stories, crafts and games.

Ice Cream Sunday, in its usual slot on the last Sunday of the month, has had a variety of activities too which included kite making, baking, fancy dress party and Christmas crackers. We also held a successful Christmas stall and raised a significant amount of money for Mary's Meals and Release International. On our most recent workshop we assembled and decorated nesting boxes and planted sunflower seeds and included the Congregation in a competition as to who can grow the tallest one by September. No pressure! For our last workshop in May before the summer we are having a Game-athon where a variety of games will be on offer with the overall winner being the one with the highest score at the end. As always, regular Sunday Clubbers are encouraged to bring their friends along to join in.



Over the summer there will be a variety of different workshops on offer, keep an eye out on Facebook for what's on when. Looking forward to a great summer.



The Guild

The Guild is now on summer break following a busy February, March and April. Most of February was devoted to preparing for our Concert and Guild Service. Our hard work was, however, rewarded when we saw a busy church and hall for the two choirs (Clydebank Male and Renfrew Ladies) and everyone appeared to enjoy the entertainment and tea to follow. The following day we led the Service with our guest Rev. Wesley Hands. As has become customary, we also led the first of our Holy Week Services in March.



Speakers during March were an author, and a gentleman representing one of our projects UNIDA and both proved to be very interesting. Our musical evenings were provided by Elizabeth Gallagher and then a few weeks later the Langbank Singers. A keep-fit night was an energetic addition to our programme. A lady representing her charity "Smalls for All" was a novel idea where we contributed items of underwear for those who cannot afford to buy the basics in life. Our penultimate evening was led by our own friend and Elder, Mary White, who guided us through floral arranging with some eye-catching results!

We finished the session with our basket tea and AGM. It was lovely to welcome Hazel, our new Minister, who came along to visit us that evening. At the AGM the future of the Guild was discussed and our difficulty is that many of our members are now not keen to be out driving at night to get to the Hall, so it is more than likely that when we resume in October we will probably meet in the afternoons. Unfortunately, a few members cannot come in afternoons due to family commitments, etc. We don't want to lose members...indeed we want to encourage more people to come to join us so do please consider doing so! We hope to acquire new ideas as the syllabus is being progressed so we are open to any suggestions you think may be suitable.

We are the only Guild within the town and it's vital that we keep going for the sake of our members and our Church and to live up to our theme: "Whose we are and Whom we serve."

Hope everyone has a good summer and stays safe.

Pat

The Friendly Hour are having drop-in days on Tuesdays of 4th June, 2nd July and 6th August at 2.00 pm until 3.30 pm in the Church Hall. All are welcome so please drop-in for a cup of tea (or coffee), a biscuit and a blether.

The Friendly Hour restarts for the new session on the 3rd September 2024 at 2.00 pm.

Communication Team – What do we do?

We are often asked what the communication team do in the church so we thought that it would be good to share with all the congregation.

Our role is help enable the church information to reach everyone. This can be details about Worship or updates from the various groups or upcoming events. Our intimations, displayed on screen and in the Pew Leaflet each week, the Paisley Daily newspaper notice, this magazine, as well as updates to the Church Calendar and Website together with the Facebook pages. We also organise the Communion invites into packs for Elders to distribute together with other documents to everyone in each district. Finally, we also take responsibility for the Livestreaming of the weekly Service so that all our members can take part each week.

But we do need your help!

We cannot tell everyone what's happening if nobody tells us. It is important that we are aware of all events well in advance for our Church Calendar, have stories and background on all church groups to include on the website and magazine, and Intimations for the pew leaflet and anything else we want to share.

If you watch online, then it would be great to know if we can do anything better.

So please help everyone know what's happening around the church by telling us.

Thanks from Margaret, Irene, Stephen, Ina, June & Steven

Here's a list of what is on regularly at St George's Outreach Centre, Nethercraigs Drive. Everyone would be very welcome to come along to any of these events.

Connect Hub, an informal time of worship with tea, coffee and chat. This takes place on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 1.30-3.00pm. The service usually lasts about 30 min, giving lots of time afterwards for another cuppa and lots of chat.

Bible Study. This takes place on the first Tuesday of each month from 7.00-8.00pm. Come and be enriched through reading and discussing the Bible.

Prayer Meeting. This takes place on the second Tuesday of each month from 7.00-8.00pm. It is great to set aside time to pray with others about the work of the church, the needs in our Parish and throughout the world. It is helpful when people place prayer requests into the Prayer boxes to direct our prayers to specific situations.

Learning Together. This group meets every Wednesday from 10am to 12noon. A variety of knitting and crochet projects are already happening and there are plans for some more craft projects also. Please let Muriel Smith know of any places that are needing hand made goods as we are always looking for outlets for our work. Come and join us or even pop in to see what is happening.

Exercise group. Every Wednesday from 12 – 1pm, cost £3 per session. The exercises, which use a chair as a piece of apparatus, are designed to strengthen your core, balance and muscles. (Just because you have a chair doesn't mean its easy peasy!)



**St. George's
Church**
Men's Breakfast Club

is proud to present

A
SUMMER LUNCH

Saturday 29th June 2024
at 12:00
Tickets £9.00

Please see Kenny Ross or Stuart Duncan for more details

Church Flowers

We would like to thank all our wonderful members who give generously to the flower fund for our beautiful floral display on the sanctuary each week.

We receive many letters of thanks from our members who receive the flowers. These letters are really for our wonderful donors.

Shortly the July to December list will be up in the hallway for anyone who wishes to donate during the next six months if you want to add your name to the list on a particular date.

Many thanks to everyone.



Our Welcome

If after Church you wait a while,
Someone greets you with a smile,
But if you quickly rise and flee,
We'll all seem cold and stiff maybe.
The one beside you in the pew,
Perhaps is just a stranger too.
All of us here have needs and cares,
All of us need each others prayers.
In Fellowship we bid you meet,
With us around God's mercy seat.

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 8th September.

Email igirenegem@gmail.com