



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Hello friends,

Well the season of Advent is upon us – are you excited, are you looking forward to Christmas and to all that 2025 may bring?

I hope that you are and that you will know the love of Jesus which brings, peace and joy to our homes as we prepare for Christmas.



Advent is not just a time for festive gatherings and gift giving but it's a time to celebrate and give thanks for Jesus, the baby born in a manger, the love that first came down at Christmas.

In a world that often feels chaotic and uncertain, the story of Christmas brings us great hope. The humble birth of Jesus in a stable surrounded by animals and shepherds teaches us that God often works in the most unexpected ways. It reminds us that love can be found in simplicity and that every life has value no matter how small or seemingly insignificant.



This year as we celebrate our first Christmas together let's remember the true gifts of the season: hope, peace, joy and love. Let's open our hearts to those around us, sharing the light of Christ with family and friends and in our community. Perhaps we will consider reaching out to those who are lonely or in need and offer them a warm meal, a kind word or simply our presence.

As we gather for our Christmas services and activities, all come together with hearts filled with joy, a joy that will carry us into the New year as we continue to share the love of Christ with all we meet.

There is much happening in our church family and I hope that you will join us as much as you can at our varied Christmas events. Please know that all are welcome.

Iain and I wish you and your loved ones a very happy Christmas and every blessing for 2025.

Your friend and minister,

Hazel

The editor would like to thank all who have contributed to the church magazine this year

. All items for inclusion in the next magazine should be with Irene Gemmell by Sunday 9th February 2025.

Email igirenegem@gmail.com

Christmas Wishes



Your property Team and Men's Breakfast would like to extend a Christmas message to all. May the Christmas Season bring only happiness and joy to you and your family.

15th Paisley Boy's Brigade Update



Hello,

Recently, we've taken part in Church services at Harvest/Dedication and then again on Remembrance Sunday. It was so good on Remembrance Sunday to also have our Girls Brigade colours too. A huge thank you goes to not just the colour parties but to Alan and Pamela who coached them all through the process and a special well done to Millan who gave the commands.

Our overnight to celebrate the 141st birthday went well with cooking, escape rooms, a quiz, games and some sleep too. We're very grateful for the accommodation to be able

to hold these events meaning boys gain their 'Nights away' awards.

Our anchors numbers are growing and boys have great fun each Tuesday. Their programme gives lots of opportunities to 'Learn, grow and discover' but most of all they enjoy coming to meet friends and play games. They just loved their alternative Hallowe'en night when they had a glow party.

Juniors have been learning some basic first aid, making Christmas gifts of snowmen, learning to use the trampette to jump safely, did the monopoly fitness game and, as with Anchors, play lots of games. We're off to the Battalion's 10 Pin bowling competition which David from our Company is organising. Hopefully we'll do well but participation is the main aim.

Company boys are very regular in their attendance. In their 'squads' they've taken part in lots of challenges and enjoyed some good discussions. The Monopoly fitness challenge proved lots of fun for them too and allowed others to do that necessary colour party practice.

We're all now trying to help our chosen charity 'Night Before Christmas' to bring some Christmas cheer to folks across the West of Scotland who need a bit of help at this time of the year. We're so grateful to all of you for helping us in this area of our community work.

Before we stop for Christmas we've our first Company outing to the Panto 'Oh yes we have'. We' booked to go the Johnstone's panto and have since discovered it's to be a St George's night out. We're hoping for a good night – with nearly 100 from both church and BB there Paisley will certainly be well represented.

As well as delivering weekly activities, our new leaders, Calum and Makenzie, gave up precious weekend time to undertake Youth Leader training giving our Company another two fully trained officers – well done to both. David also completed additional Company Management training – more benefit to our Company. With both Pamela and Jan delivering some of the training our Company is again well represented.

Lots of plans for the new year with a BB service to arrange, Presentation Night and hopefully a Battalion trip for Anchors and Juniors to take part in, as well as loads more. As we head into what will be our 40th anniversary year we're hoping for some additional events to celebrate.

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.

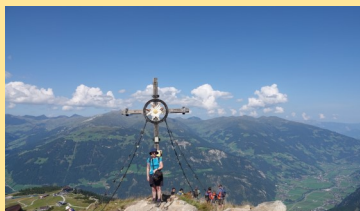
Jan Phillips, Captain



Thank you and an update from Mhairi

To all my friends at St George's,

Thank you all so much for your generous gifts when I completed my time as Interim Moderator and Locum with you. Jim and I were astounded at your generosity and the careful consideration that went into the gifts.



Whenever I wear the Paisley pattern pendant it will always remind me of my time at St George's and the people I was privileged to walk beside, people who so quickly became friends.

The travel vouchers were well used last month when Jim and I had the most marvellous break in Mayrhofen in Austria. Everything went so well: Flights on time, a luxurious hotel, good food (and the odd glass of wine!), perfect scenery and beautiful walking and most of all sunshine and warmth - a real bonus. The holiday was just perfect and made all the more special because of the love with which it was given.

I have had a good break and have just recently been appointed Interim Moderator at Kilbowie St Andrew's linked with Radnor Park in Clydebank. I am not covering the pastoral care nor am I preaching on a regular basis so it will be a different situation to being at St George's. This appointment will involve readjustment for the congregations so please would you keep these congregations and the many others in presbytery who have not yet go to the stage you are at in your prayers.

Thank you for all your support during my years with you and I know you will support and look after Hazel and Iain in the same way.

May God continue to surround you, to support you and to lead you forward as you serve Him in Paisley.

Mhairi and Jim

The Guild



The Guild recommenced October 7th in the afternoon. So far this has been quite successful with several new members, who were made very welcome, along with many of our previous members. Our Minister, Hazel, opened the afternoon with a very interesting talk and activity involving planting seeds in lovely tiny pots and decorating the same... just recollecting the activity but no evidence, so far, of any results! Other talks this month were from Jan, the BB Captain, about their year's programme and successes and at this time of year we always hear about the work going on re the "Night before Christmas" and we as a guild contribute to this worthwhile cause. We also had a travel talk and that always is appreciated from a good Speaker. Our guests were the Midges for our musical afternoon and we enjoyed their programme. Following our contribution to the McMillan day just before we resumed in October, we then had our own Autumn Leaves Tea which is always enjoyed.

November began with a very amusing talk from Rev. Eliz. Clelland about St Cuthbert as she enjoyed the challenges of her recent pilgrimage. We will be seeing this lovely lady again in the new year. At the time of writing this article we've had only one other speaker (Sheena Oo) in November and her talk was Scottish Literature when we learnt some new Scottish words and expressions as well as a few "weel kent" words! We are progressing through November with further speakers and then we commence our Christmas plans.

Paisley Guilds Together Carol Service will be Monday 2nd December at 2pm on our Church. We host this annual event and have done for many years now so please come along to enjoy readings and carols followed by tea/ coffee and shortbread in the large hall. This event is not just for guild or guild council members but is for everyone, who would like to join us, and will be most welcome.

We finish the first part of our season with our Christmas lunch on **9th December**. We will then look forward to the Festive Season and to resuming on **13th January, 2025**.

The Guild would like to wish all our members and all in the Congregation a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

"Whose we are and Whom we serve"

Pat Colgan

Friendly Hour—All are welcome Tuesdays from 2pm in the large hall

We will kick off the New Year with musical group, Compass, on **Tuesday 14th January**. On January 21st we will work off our festive indulgences with some Keep Fit and on 28th January we are looking forward to a Scottish Sing-along. February 4th we will be hearing some Paisley Mysteries and on The 11th an earlier start will allow us to enjoy musical group, The Midges. We will have a Beetle Drive on February 18th and more music with Local Vocals on the 25th.

Our regular events at the Outreach centre will go on hold for a few weeks over the Festive Period. All are welcome to join us when we resume in January. Details below.



Event	Last Meeting 2024	First Meeting 2025
Connect Hub	Tue 3rd December (1:30-3pm)	Tue 21st January (1:30-3pm)
Bible Study	Tue 3rd December (7pm)	Tue 4th February (7pm)
Prayer Meeting	Tue 10th December (7pm)	Tue 11th February (7pm)
Learning Together	Wed 11th December (10am-12noon)	Wed 8th January (10am-12noon)
Exercise Class	Wed 4th December (12noon-1pm)	Wed 15th January (12noon-1pm)



Paisley St George's in December

1st Sunday of Advent and Sunday Club Craft Stall	1 st December 11am	Causeyside
Memorial Service with baubles and flowers	1 st December 2pm	Causeyside
Paisley Guilds Together Carol Service	2 nd December 2pm	Causeyside
Mother Goose Pantomime (bus from Causeyside)	3 rd December 6pm	Johnstone Town Hall
Care Home Worship	4 th December 2pm	Stanely Park Home
Bubblegum and Fluff (local primary schools)	5 th December	Outreach Centre
Gift Service	8 th December 11am	Causeyside
Youth Group Christmas Party	11 th December 7pm	Outreach Centre
Friends from the Watermill Christmas Party	13 th December 2pm	Causeyside
Nativity Service	15 th December 11am	Causeyside
Messy Church and Sunday Club Party	15 th December 12:30pm	Causeyside
Care Home Carol Service	17 th December 2pm	Hillside View Home
Lessons and Carol Service	22 nd December 11am	Causeyside
Christingle Service	24 th December 7pm	Causeyside
Watchnight Service (mince pies from 11pm)	24 th December 11.30pm	Causeyside
Sunday Worship	29 th December 11am	Causeyside
Hogmanay Party	31 st December 8pm	Causeyside

