



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Hello friends,

Well what a year, my first full year with you and such a privilege and pleasure to be your minister and friend. Thank you all for the wonderful cake and flowers to celebrate my year in post and thank you so much for your love, encouragement and support. It means a lot and not just to me but to Iain too. We feel very much at home here and look forward to continuing our journey with you here at St George's for many years.

It has been quite a first year with change and challenge, and with new ventures and ideas, all of which you have kindly and generously supported. It was wonderful to have our first Gathering at the Mill & Brae where 120 of us enjoyed a time of fellowship and friendship over lunch and an afternoon reflecting on all that is going on in our Church and community. It was great to hear and listen to one another share suggestions as to how we can continue to serve God and our community going forward. At the April Kirk Session and at our May Annual Stated Meeting, Elders and the congregation agreed on the next steps to prioritise and then implement these ideas over the short, medium and long term. So please do watch this space for the exciting ways we will tell the Good News through worship, the ways we will care for our congregation pastorally, the ways we will care for our environment and how we will serve our Church and our Community sharing God's love with all.

There is much to look forward to and also much to challenge us. The world we live in is changing, financial constraints need to be faced and yet we can be optimistic. Optimistic because we have a faithful God; one who promises never to leave us nor forsake us and whose plans are to prosper and not to harm. May we all choose to respond to God's generous promises being willing to embrace change, welcome new initiatives and generously love and serve all in our Parish with our time, talent, and resources.

I hope you enjoy reading this latest News from the Pews and are encouraged by all that God is doing in our community through your love and service. Thank you everyone.

Love and prayers

Your friend and minister, Hazel

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now . . ."

Philippians 1: 3 - 5

CC'S Line Dancers

Join our friendly dance class and get ready to Boot, Scoot & Boogie and have a blast!

Expect laughter, new friends and fun! We'll dance to some brilliant tunes, learn cool moves and support each other every step of the way. We have just celebrated..... our 1st Anniversary! One year of Dancing, laughing and making memories together! Here's to another successful year - With over 30 years experience, you're in safe hands!

Join our friendly class and be part of CC'S Line Dancers and "Let's get Dancing".

Everyone welcome – no experience needed, wear what makes you happy/ comfortable.

Wednesday's 6.30pm at St Georges Church, Causeyside Street. Please enter via Stow Street door. (Free Parking after 6pm at Stow St carpark)

£5 per class, cash only/Adults only

For more info please contact Carol on 07359869459.



15th Paisley Boy's Brigade Update

Seems like we blinked and a whole session has almost passed!

By the time you read this our session will have ended for another year but right now we're full steam ahead for our Presentation night. As is our new tradition we'll make the awards in our Sanctuary and follow this with time to chat over tea and coffee in the large hall.



Presentation night is the culmination of the hard work of the session. This year, as well as 2025 being 40 years since the amalgamation of the two former companies into what we now have as 15th Paisley, it's made even more special by the hard work of two of our boys. Matthew McDonald and Alan McNally who've both been with us since Anchors have now achieved their Kings Badges. A huge achievement made all the more special by being the first in the Company for over 70 years. We also have a President's badge to award to Millan Elmes – this award marks his entry to the Kings Badge so more to look forward to. We've lots more awards and promotions too from Anchors to Juniors and Juniors to Company. Great to see boys progressing as they grow up.



We've had a great few months with Anchors afternoon in our own church halls – lots of fun with an assault course, singing, snacks, parachute games and lots of fun.

After leading worship in February our bake sale for Company funds raised the amazing amount of over £400. You really are the most supportive congregation and we're so lucky to have you.



We, with lots of help from you, donated 176 Easter eggs and some Easter chocolate to the Foodbank – they were absolutely delighted and our picture of boys with a display of eggs made the local press. Another great example of us all working together for our Community.

It was great that one of our boys, Millan, came along to The Gathering. Millan has also been helping out some Sundays with the livestream. We need to hear what our young folks look for from our Church and it was good that he was willing to get involved.

Our last night of the session for boys in Anchors and Juniors will be a trip to Gravity where they can jump for joy to their heart's content. We're then again competing in the East Kilbride football tournament which Iain Shaw organises. Last year was blessed with lots of sun – here's hoping for a repeat performance!!

We're then looking to next session which starts for us in late August. We're always delighted to have new members, especially Anchors who'll lose so many of their number to Juniors at the end of this session. If you know of any boy who'd like to join any of our sections please talk to any of the 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

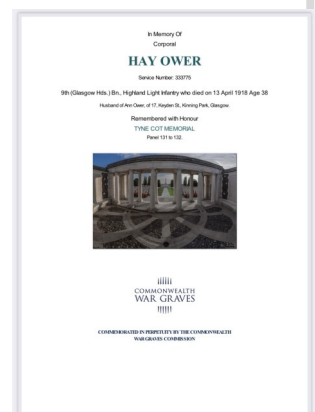
A letter from one of our members, Mary Phillips

As we recently marked the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) I am once again thinking about my Great Grandfather, Corporal Hay Ower, who was killed in action in the First World War in Belgium on Flanders Fields. Hay's body remains unbound.

Two years ago I was contacted by The Ministry of Defence, Commemorations Department who are concerned with identifying any found remains in the hope of reuniting them with family and facilitating a suitably fitting burial. Hay was Corporal in 9th (Glasgow Hds.) Battalion Highland Light Infantry.

He was killed in action on 13 April 1918 aged 38 years old. He was survived by his widow Ann, two sons and a daughter. The MoD had contacted me as they were desperately trying to obtain DNA evidence to correctly identify the found remains. As a male descendant of a male was needed for the correct DNA sample, a search of our family tree ensued and I met some distant relatives for the first time. It was a very exciting and hopeful time for our family as we all wished that Hay had finally been found. Unfortunately it was discovered that this was not my Great Grandfather and although we were disappointed we were happy that another family had been reunited and able to bury their loved one with the honour and respect they deserved.

Until I was contacted by the MoD I had no insight into the work of the people who try so hard to find and reunite lost soldiers with their families. The amount of investigative work that they do is incredible. Although this time it was not my Great Grandfather who was found I am very grateful for the work that this team does. I remain hopeful that one day we will get the news that Hay has been found and we can bury him with the love and dignity that he and so many others so deserve. Hay has been commemorated at the Tyne Cot Memorial Memorial in the military cemetery at Zonnebeke, Belgium



The Guild

The Guild is now on summer break after a busy, successful year. There were several new members when we began afternoon meetings although, one of two people were unable to attend due to family commitments.

In the article for the previous issue of this publication I mentioned that we were busy during February preparing for our annual concert and church service arranged by the Guild. I'm happy to say that both occasions were very successful. The Bearsden Fiddlers provided the entertainment at our concert and were excellent and well received by our audience. Rev. Elizabeth Clelland was our Guest Preacher at our service the following day, joined by our own Minister and some of our guild members. There were very favourable comments to follow this uplifting service which we did expect bearing in mind the main preachers. On both occasions tea, coffee and cakes were served and appreciated.

During the other weeks in February and March we had guest speakers on various topics including "Optical Confusion", "Scottish Superstitions", "Aromatherapy" and "CrossReach" our project for the year. The Singing Birdies and our church member Tracey Howe provided very enjoyable musical afternoons. Our Basket Tea and finally our AGM ended our season.

The Guild has also been involved in some of the recent ventures in the church year and so our holiday has only recently begun.

We are looking forward to recommencing in October especially as we are welcoming our new Convener...Myra Lang. We hope she will be well supported in this new venture and that there will be many new members joining as well as our faithful friends from previously continuing to come along.

We will keep everyone informed of our social events which possibly precede October.

"Whose we are and Whom we serve". Pat Colgan



Friendly Hour

The Friendly Hour are holding 3 drop-in days this summer on the 3rd June, 1st July and 5th August at 2pm until 3.30pm. Please pop in for a cup of tea, a biscuit and a blether.

All are welcome.

Flower Committee

We hope everyone enjoys the flowers on the chancel on Sunday mornings.

Please let the flower committee know of anyone who should receive flowers! Perhaps for a celebration, an illness or if they are a bit low. If we don't manage to give them on the Sunday you request we will give them as soon as we can.



This is a small selection of thank you cards received from grateful recipients.

Needles and Pins

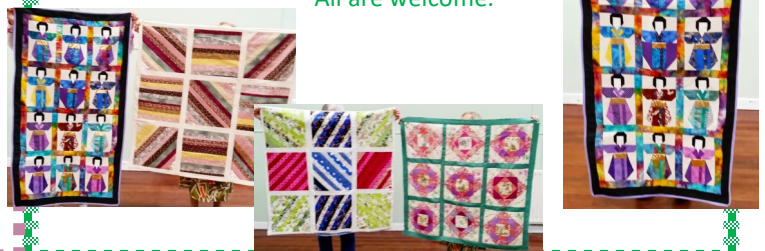


Since last September a lot of sewing and quilting has been done by Needles and Pins.

The group meet every second Tuesday at 10.30am at Causeyside not only for quilting but for a chat and a cuppa.

The group will be stopping for well earned break in June and are looking forward to commencing new projects after the summer.

All are welcome.



OUR FINANCES

In the last magazine we said that in the May edition we would start to show comparative figures for our Income and Expenditure.

We now have figures for the first quarter of this year and a comparison with the final three months of 2024 shows the following:



| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan- March 2025 |
|----------|--------------|-----------------|
| INCOME | £38417 | £37512 |
| SPENDING | £35396 | £34919 |

The broad picture is that Income in 2025 is down by about £1,000 and Spending has reduced by a similar amount.

The drop in income was mainly because of a reduction in Donations.

On the plus side we had a useful increase in the Gift Aid we recover from HMRC.

On spending the numbers seem to be fairly stable, but we always need to keep an eye on this.

A small 7% surplus for the first quarter of 2025 is an encouraging start and let us see how things develop. Thank you for your continued support.

Gavin, Jack and the Finance Team

Can you help our Church?

It's that time of the year when we look to update the rotas we have for a variety of duties we need to cover throughout the year to keep our church operating.

Could you help?

Maybe you're not aware of what's all involved and so haven't offered your help yet. For that reason, I've listed below the main duties of each role in the hope that if more people came forward to offer help the duties would be shared out more fairly and folks wouldn't have to be on duty so often.

Our rotas are due to be completed by the end of June so if you're able to help please let me know as soon as possible. If you'd simply like more information then please ask me any Sunday, email me on sessionclerk@paisleystgeorges.org.uk or call me on 07899040525

Many thanks in advance

Jan Phillips (Session Clerk)

Welcome Team: This team provides a welcome prior to worship and uplifts and counts the offering each week during and after the service.

Beadles: This role covers mainly carrying the Bible into and out of the Sanctuary each Sunday, liaising with Sunday Club and Choir to co-ordinate participation in the service and other duties as required. There is a list of duties available.

Bible Reading: Scriptures read each week by a different member of our Church family.

Prayer of Intercession: The person leading this prayer is responsible for the composition. Support for this is available through a wide range of resources including the Church of Scotland website or by liaising with Hazel.

Screens and Livestream Team: Prepare and operate IT each week to allow us to view screens and also for our online service.

Tea Bar: Prepare for the tea/coffee bar before worship and serve and clear away afterwards

Property Team: Cover a wide variety of property related roles eg painting, electrical and joinery work and general maintenance. Our property includes manse, Sanctuary and halls.

Administration: Helps to prepare and copy material to support the communications for our congregation.

Folks who're experienced in the roles will be more than happy to show newcomers the ropes so don't worry!! Please prayerfully consider what you could offer to do.

The Easter Code



It was great to have the Primary 6 pupils from Bushes and Langcraigs Primary Schools come to visit us again at St George's Outreach Centre. This time the focus was on Easter.

During their visit the pupils heard about the events that happened in Jerusalem that first Easter and participated in various activities, e.g. trying some of the herbs that might have been eaten at the Last Supper, shouting to have Jesus crucified or washing another pupil's feet. They were told of some of the theories of why the tomb was found empty on Easter Sunday morning and allowed to make their own choice on what they believe.

As a leader, one of the best parts is hearing the questions that the pupils are asking – though sometimes trying to answer them can be difficult.

This year one pupil asked, "When did this happen?" This led into a discussion of BC and AD, that Jesus was about 33 years old when he was crucified and that not all the world uses the same calendar as us.

Another pupil, having been told that Jesus will come back again, must have been considering this statement because, later, he came back and asked, "When Jesus comes back again, do you think they will kill him again?"

These questions remind us that the pupils are listening carefully, really thinking about what they have been told and are seeking answers. Please pray that there can continue to be opportunities for these children, and others, to learn about Jesus and be able to ask questions.



Reflections of an ex Session Clerk

When I took on the position of Session Clerk at the beginning of 2022, I did so on the stated basis of a 3 year period. This was completed in February, and I have now handed over the baton to Jan Phillips, who I am sure will do an excellent job.

I made many mistakes in the first year, but learnt from them and made fewer in the second year, and hopefully got it right in the third year just in time to give up.

I started my tenure with several objectives in mind – some of which I have achieved, some partially achieved, some not even attempted, and some which I have failed to achieve. I will however not tell which ones fall into what category!

During the three years, I have been involved in the continuation of a prolonged vacancy, the Presbytery Plan with all its uncertainties, permission to call a Minister, the search for a new Minister, and of course the Induction of our new Minister. All these have been a rollercoaster of emotions and the amount of work involved in addition to the normal duties of a Session Clerk.

What I learnt early on the process was that nothing happens quickly in the Church of Scotland. Something which in a normal working environment would be dealt with within a week can take at least 6 weeks or more, particularly if it involves the Presbytery or 121 (head office in Edinburgh)

Of all the things that have happened in my period of office, the stand out one to me (apart from getting a new minister) has been the installation of the Audio Visual screens in the sanctuary area. It was only when going around other churches to assess applicants for the vacancy, that I realised how normal it is to have screens to aid and enhance the worship experience.

I am extremely grateful to all elders and members of the congregation who have contributed in many ways to some or all of the things that have happened. It is only by congregational involvement that we can continue to have a vibrant and busy church. We have a band of dedicated people who do a lot of the work, but we need more people to be involved to share the burden, so when an appeal for help is made, please volunteer.

I am not retiring for the life of the church and will continue to be involved in many areas, but not as the main leader, ie Session Clerk.

Once again, thanks to all who have assisted me in my time in office – the names are too many to mention, but you know who you are.

Hamish

BIG, BOLD and BRILLIANT BAZAAR!

These were just some of the words used to describe St George's Church inaugural Spring fundraising event which took place on Saturday 26th April in the Causeyside Street building.

There was a very special and memorable moment when Centenarian Church member, Lawrie Henderson who is 102 years old, cut the ribbon to officially open the Bazaar, which involved more than 30 different vending stalls.

Our minister, Hazel says, "This was a fantastic friendship day which brought so many of our Church members, as well as our Organisations and those from our wider community together for an extremely enjoyable social gathering. Fun events like ours require a lot of preparation and planning and my thanks to everyone for their efforts for making this a huge success"

In the Main Hall Stalls ranged from Toys, Easter items, Books, Arts, Crafts, Baking, Clothing, Bric-a-Brac, to Plants, Knitting, Fruit Machine, Baby Clothes, Wood Turning Ornaments and Face Painting, Hampers and Raffles.

In the Lesser Hall a free Kids' Games Programme was set up with all the 'Fun of the Fayre.' Tea/Coffee Bar and Hotdogs and Burgers were also available and in the Sanctuary live entertainment took place involving solo Singers, Pianists and Gleniffer High School Choir. And outside on the Church grounds there was a Football Challenge and 'Soak a Leader' in Stocks with a wet sponge.

The Social Committee invited all the Church Organisations to participate including the Girl Guides, Boys Brigade, Sunday Club, Guild, Friendly Hour, Girls Brigade, Youth Group, Men's' Breakfast, Toddlers and the Property Group.

Thanks to everyone who got involved and attended on the day!



Rhythm to a T

My name is Tom Chalmers and I lead the weekly music making group, Renfrewshire Rhythm, that meets Friday mornings 10.30 to 12.00 in the lower hall at St George's.

We use African styled djembes, lots of percussion and songs to have an uplifting and fun morning each Friday

Renfrewshire Rhythm recently celebrated being together for 2 years and we have a healthy turnout each week from people across our community.

No experience is necessary, and it is great for your wellbeing.

Each session costs £5.00, payable on arrival.

If anyone is interested in joining us then please email me at rhythmttoat@gmail.com

