



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Hello friends,

We are now in August and much has been happening these past few months and there is even more to look forward to. We have an amazing God who loves and blesses us each day. Yes there are many challenges too but from these we grow in our understanding and from these we learn to lean more on God; trusting in his plans for us.

Our summer holiday club exceeded expectations and it was great to see our Sanctuary filled with children making a joyful noise to the Lord with musical instruments and in song. Our halls were bursting at the seams as children enjoyed learning Jesus parables through games, crafts and puzzles. At the time of writing we are looking forward to an exciting trip to Troon beach after the children have led us in worship at our end of holiday club summer service (17th August).

We have been blessed too with the recent addition of new elders as we ordained and admitted Pat Angus, Alison Hunter, Lindsay Lang, Myra Lang and Colin Maxwell and admitted 2 previously ordained elders Lorraine Armstrong & Iain Shaw.

I am very grateful to all our existing elders and delighted to welcome our 7 new members who will no doubt bring their talents to enhance our Kirk Session.

It has been a blessing too, to recently baptise 2 infants, as we welcomed Grace and Quinn to Church membership. I am delighted that we have 2 further infant baptisms planned for the early autumn. And I am excited that this autumn we have a Church wedding to look forward to and wish our happy couple every blessing as they prepare for this special day.

Our new alternative worship opportunities have been well supported. Our 4 Sunday at 7pm services focused on friendship and it was great to see friends old and new each week. Also our midweek 3Cs services offered something a little different – worship with crafts, conversation and coffee. Thank you to all who joined us and we hope to offer more alternatives that meet our community needs again soon.

Over recent months many of our congregation have been unwell at home, in the hospital or in the hospice and it has been a privilege to visit and pray with those who are ill. I am very grateful to families for keeping me updated and appreciate the many pastoral visitors who also visit our members regularly. We are extending our telephone service and pastoral visits thanks to the increased number of volunteers willing to serve in this way. If you or someone you know would benefit from a telephone call or visit let me or our pastoral care team know.

There is so much going on within our church - from Creche, Sunday club and Youth Group to Friendly Hour, from Strawberry Teas, to Doors Open Day, from BBs, GBs and Guides to toddlers and schools work, from Sports Chaplaincy at Thorn Athletic to our Men's Breakfast, from our support of friends from overseas to our Guild, from Knitting to Keep Fit, to Choir practice, from Property team to Community Support and our recycling initiatives, all these and more complement our regular Sunday and Connect Hub worship and serve our community showing Jesus love in action. There is more in the pipeline too including a youth gathering hearing the views of our youngsters, a youngish adult group, a resource library, additional bible study groups and prayer walks too. Also a Discipleship Explored course will run in the late autumn for those interested in finding out more about Church membership. So much more – watch this space.

We are indeed blessed - what an amazing God we have and what a wonderful congregation we have here at St George's, thank you all for your support and encouragement.

Be blessed and continue to be a blessing to others.

Love and prayers

Your friend and minister, Hazel

The Guild

During our summer break we had our **Strawberry Tea** which was very well attended and a huge success as always. Thank you to all who came along and also to all, Guild members and friends who contributed in any way to make it a very enjoyable occasion. We will now start to prepare for our **Autumn Leaves Tea** later in the year.

The Guild recommences **October 6th at 2pm**. Our programme is almost complete and a varied schedule is anticipated. We look forward to having our loyal members back and are always looking for new members to join us. Last year we were fortunate to welcome several new people possibly due to the change to afternoon meetings.

Sadie and I shared the post of Convener last year and, of course, have thoroughly enjoyed working together but this year we are delighted to hand over to **Myra Lang our new Convener**.

Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us over the last few years and now we would like to extend our best wishes to Myra, whom we will continue to support. Thanks also, to Hazel, our Minister, whose help has been invaluable. I will continue with secretarial duties for another year and hope that I also can help Myra to achieve another successful year in our Guild.

"Whose we are and Whom we serve"

Pat Colgan



Friendly Hour

The Friendly Hour resumes in September and we look forward to welcoming everyone back.

The programme of events for the next few weeks is outlined below.

September

2nd Rev. Hazel Shaw

9th A.G.M. Music Group (1.30 start)

16th Keep Fit

23rd Beetle Drive

30th Aires and Graces

October

7th Mr Iain Shaw

15th The Midges (1.30 start)

All are welcome.



Christmas will be here before we know it and with that our Social Committee are organising a Christmas Fayre. It will take place on **Saturday 29th November** from 11 until 2pm and promises to be a great event.

To help make sure all the stalls are well stocked you can help by donating items each month. These can be left at the entrances to church and halls as follows:

September -	Bottles
October -	Toiletries
November -	Food items

OUR FINANCES

To bring you up to date with our current financial affairs below is a comparison of the April to June 2025 income and spending with the previous three months:



2025	Jan - March	April - June
INCOME	£37,512	£42,029
SPENDING	£34,919	£42,744

Income has increased due to:

- a general increase in offerings and income tax refunds under Gift Aid
- an increase in donations, some given for a specific purpose e.g. extension of the sanctuary balustrade
- additional fund raising activity e.g. the Bazaar

Spending is up, substantially, in the second quarter when significant annual payments are made e.g. Presbytery Dues, alarm contract and boiler servicing. We also had dry rot repairs in the sanctuary and maintenance work on the sanctuary roof. The roof repair to the damage caused by storm Eowyn was covered by insurance.

We have a small deficit of £715 in the quarter.

Gavin, Jack and the Finance Team



We're very blessed in St George's with the array of talents in our congregation and wider community. Could we use them to help others and at the same time raise money for our Church? We think so and plan to have a silent Auction of Talents

Saturday 20th September - Have you got this date in your diary?

It's the grand finale of our Silent Auction. Come along to see if your bid has been successful or make some final bids. Browse what's on offer while enjoying fizz and nibbles.

Tickets for the event are on sale from our Social Committee

15th Paisley Boy's Brigade Update



With school holidays over our new session will have just started as you read this. As you'll know this session marks an important milestone in the life of our Company. It's 40 years since the former 12th and 13th Companies united and were given a new Company name of 15th Paisley. I'm delighted to say we're in good shape and looking forward to another full and busy session across all of our sections.

We've had quite a relaxing summer after a busy end of session in which we celebrated our **first Kingsmen** in our 40 years. We were thrilled to have Hazel present our awards on Presentation night and she was not only able to present **Alan McNally and Matthew McDonald** with their Kings badges but also **Millan Elmes** with his President's badge. It was a great night

with many of our congregation able to join parents and friends to recognise the work and achievements of all our boys.

Outings to gravity for Anchors and Juniors and Laser Tag for Company boys marked the official end of our 24/25 session with lots of fun for all.



We were able to field a good number of players at the football tournament Iain organised in East Kilbride on 8 June. Sadly our footballing ability didn't quite match our enthusiasm but it was great to be involved and the most important fact was that the boys had a great time. So much so at the end parents were asking when Iain is organising a similar event in Paisley – no pressure Iain!!

Some of our boys have been with us at Summer Club and it's been great to catch up with them and see just how much they've grown. We're all looking forward to seeing everyone when we start back on **Friday 22 August** for Company and **Tuesday 26th** for Anchors and Juniors.

We, the staff, are busy planning for the new session and hope to have some different activities to challenge the boys across all the areas of our programme.

With so many of our Anchors now promoted to Juniors we've lots of room for new boys in Primary 1 to 3 to join the fun at 6pm on Tuesdays. While numbers in Juniors will have grown there's always room for more from P4-6 at 7pm again on Tuesdays. Our Company numbers will also have grown with 3 boys promoted from Juniors (although sadly we said goodbye for now to Kyle who reached the end of his Company service and is off to University next month) but like other sections there's always room for more and they welcome boys in P7 through to S6 on Fridays at 7.30pm.

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



The editor would like to thank everyone who contributed to this edition of News from the Pews. We always welcome new ideas and articles which are enjoyed by many across our church community. If you have an interesting story, photographs or event to advertise please email Irene on igirenegem@gmail.com with your contributions for future editions.