



The Church of Scotland

Scottish Charity Number SC006718

Edition 18: November 2025

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Hello friends,

Christmas day will soon be here, the tree up and decorated, gifts bought, family invited, plans to celebrate, plans & perhaps even more plans as we wait for the big day.

Or it may be Christmas day will soon be here and it's quiet, loved ones are missed, we wish we lived closer to those we love, we wait and we hope that 2026 will be better.

That very first Christmas day was different too - chaotic and uncertain for Mary and Joseph, scary and exciting for those shepherds and a confusing adventure for the wise men. Yet for us all Christmas is a time to wait with hope, to wait for the long awaited Messiah of all those years ago, who came as promised and brought love to earth as a tiny baby. For He is the one who offers hope in the chaos, the one who brings joy out of despair and the one who offers peace to our hearts despite life's challenges and hurts.

Advent is a time to celebrate and give thanks for Jesus, the baby born in a manger, that love that first came down at Christmas. The nativity story 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.

For us as Christians we are called to share that hope with others, to bring peace where there is conflict, to live with joy in our hearts and to show love and compassion to all we meet. I pray that this advent season we will all wait with hope and act with love and compassion and however we spend Christmas we will know the love of Jesus in our lives then and always.

There is much happening in our Church to help us to celebrate as we wait so please do come along to our many Christmas services and activities. Please know that all are welcome.

From our family to yours, I wish you and your loved ones a very happy Christmas and every blessing for 2026.

Your friend and minister,

Hazel



Upcoming events at St George's

The most wonderful time of the year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Please come along and join the celebrations

Christmas Fair - Saturday 29th November from 11am

Gift service - Sunday 7th December at 11am

Communion service – Sunday 14th December at 11am

Carols by Candlelight - Sunday 14th December at 7pm

Family Nativity service – Sunday 21 December at 11am with Messy Church to follow

Christingle Service – Wednesday 24th December at 7pm

Watchnight service – Wednesday 24th December at 11.30pm with tea/coffee and mince pies from 10.45pm

The Guild



The Guild started back on 6th October and it was great to welcome a few new members. Our first guest speaker for the new session was Clare McKenzie who spoke about the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Her talk was very interesting and she brought many shawls with her which we were encouraged to take. Clare gave us the patterns for the shawls and for little prayer squares which we could carry in our pockets. We all thought that was a lovely idea. Many of the Guild are knitting some of those right now.

For our second week we welcomed back Sue Memmot who spoke about Healthy Eating. She gave a very interesting and informative talk about her travels to Northern Island in New Zealand and then the east coast of Australia. Her beautiful photos made us all wish for a sun filled holiday.

On 18th October the Guild held a very successful Autumn Leaves afternoon where almost £1000 was raised. Lots of tea/coffee were drunk and many cakes and scones were eaten. Kirsty Duncan also entertained us with a few songs and we were encouraged to sing along. Thank you all so much for your support.

Mags runs a Keep Fit Class in the church and she agreed to come along to our 3rd week and put us through our paces (very gently!) We all enjoyed this although I believe one or two of us were a little stiff the next day.

We also heard from our very own Jan Phillips who once again told us more about the work of the BB and of our company's two recipients of the King's Badge. She also entertained us with a game of Truth and Lies which went down very well and gave us all a good laugh.

We meet on Mondays at 2pm and new faces will be made most welcome.

Myra Lang - Convenor

Friendly Hour

The Friendly Hour meet for the last time this year on Tuesday 2nd December.

The programme of events for the start of 2026 is outlined below.

January

13th to be announced

20th Keep Fit

27th Aires and Graces

February

3rd Quiz

10th The Midges (1.30pm start)

17th Compass

24th Rev. Hazel Shaw

All are welcome.



Messy Church is held on the third Sunday of each month. It's a time of fun and fellowship for all ages.

In September we had a visit from lots of small animals. The halls were bursting with children and parents, food, fun and crafts on the theme of Noah's Ark then time to spend seeing and touching the animals - all part of God's creation.



Next messy Church is on 21st December straight after the family nativity service. Why not come along and join in the fun?

OUR FINANCES

Our Financial Year runs from January to December and for the third quarter ending in September our income and expenditure were still, broadly speaking, in balance. We took in £44,073 and spent £44,290.

But, over October and November we expect to spend a lot. The decoration of the church will cost about £60,000 and new carpets and linoleum will add a further £10,000.



There has also been work done to remove trees at the Manse and Causeyside, with a new Manse fence bringing the cost to about £10,000. We have also had to spend £5,000 on the closure of the Outreach Centre.

The money for all of this work, which Session felt was essential, will have to be withdrawn from our Property Fund Reserves, although we can assure you that we will still be left with adequate reserves.

However, as we look forward to next year, there will be changes in our income and spending. For example, we will lose the income from renting our property on Glasgow Rd, but, we will not have the cost of running the Outreach Centre.

So, our advice is that we will have to be prudent and cautious about spending until we are clearer about our income and expenditure for next year.

Gavin, Jack and the Finance Team

Hello from the Sunday club

We meet every Sunday in the Lesser hall at 11am and finish at 12 after joining the rest of the congregation in Church. Our numbers are increasing but we would still like other children to join us. We look at bible stories and the teachings of Jesus.

On the last Sunday of the month we have our Ice cream Sunday where we do crafts and games and, of course, ice cream. On the 21st of December we are taking part in the Nativity story then following that we will be joining Messy church for food and games.

We are looking for anyone in the congregation that could share their skills or talents with the children at one of our ice cream Sundays. If you can help then please let us know.

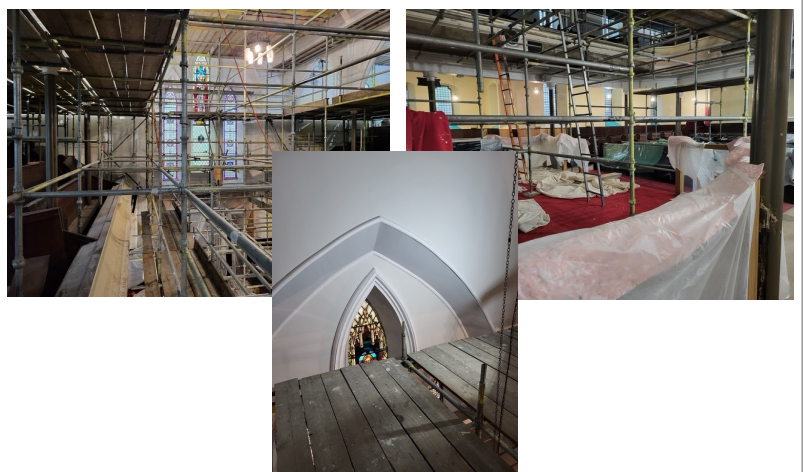
Charlotte

Redecorating our Sanctuary

By the time you are reading this, it is likely that the redecoration will be almost complete.

It has been a long road from seeking permission both for the work and then the colours, relocating the contents, replacing lighting and erecting scaffolding in preparation for the painting. Lots of work done by lots of people.

As October draws to a close the scaffolding is still up but work is on schedule and there is evidence of the new colour scheme. We all look forward to its completion and returning to worship in the sanctuary soon.



Bottle Stall with a difference!

The bottle stall at our Christmas Fair on 29th November will look a bit different this year! Along with the usual bottles of wine and juice, will be a selection of the bottles displayed here.

Please come and see! The bottle stall is organised by Lesley Sutherland



Keep Fit

We host regular chair exercise classes in the church hall. All are welcome to join us.

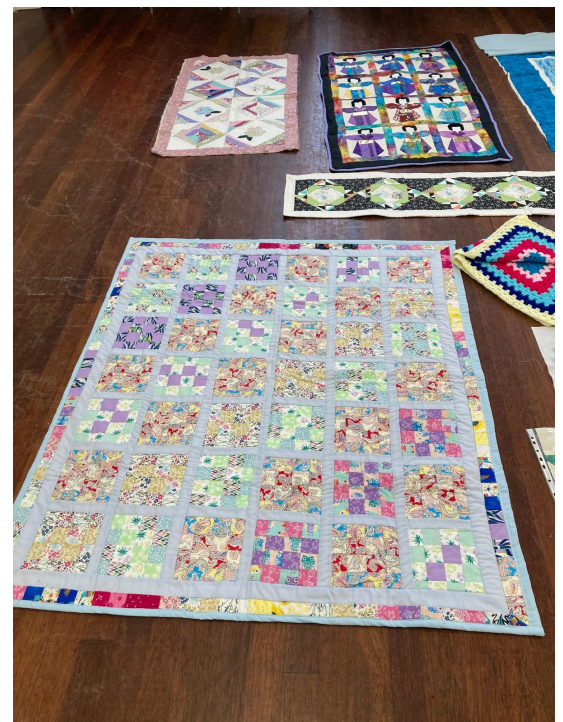
Mondays 12noon - 1pm and Fridays 11am - 12noon. See Sadie McKeown for more details.



Needles and Pins

The group meet every 2nd Tuesday from 10.30am - 12.30pm.

New members are always welcome.



THE END OF AN ERA AND NEW BEGINNINGS

After serving the community for 71 years, the former church building of Glenburn Parish Church, now Paisley St George's Outreach Centre has now come to an end. Sadly the building became too big to maintain as it required a lot of costly repairs, so the Church of Scotland made the decision to close the building. This, of course, is a sad time for those who had worshiped and served God there for many years but the church is not a building, the church is the people.

I love the saying from the Sound of Music, "when God closes a door, somewhere He opens a window" and so to our New Beginnings. As Paisley St George's still have the desire to serve the Glenburn community, we have sought out premises where they could still run various activities for the community. The window has opened in the form of us being able to hire the Glenburn Resource Centre in Donaldswood Rd and we are continuing to run our various weekly activities there. Why not come along and join us where you will find a warm welcome?

THE HUB

On the first and third Tuesday every month we have an informal cafe style worship. **1.30pm to 2.45pm**. Plenty of time for chat and of course tea, coffee and tasty treats too. All are invited to come along to our Carol service on Tuesday 2nd December.

KNIT and NATTER

Every Wednesday from 10am to 12noon. You don't need to be a great knitter just come along and meet with a lovely bunch of local ladies and enjoy the company, you might even learn new skills!

CHAIR EXERCISES

With our professional teacher Margaret, she takes us through our exercises which are aimed to help with balance and strengthening our core muscles. **Every Wednesday from 12noon to 1pm** Cost £5 per session.

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER MEETING

Meet 1st Tuesday of the month from 7pm to 8.30pm. This is a great opportunity to learn a bit more of what our Bible has to teach us with time to discuss and chat about what we have learned.

Here are some quotes from Audrey and Celia who come along to our knit and natter sessions...

"Living on my own I love to come along and enjoy the company"

"For anyone interested or thinking about coming along I would thoroughly recommend giving it a try"

"My efforts at knitting leave a lot to be desired but at the other end of the skill set we have fabulous crochet and knitting from Mary, Jennifer and others. If anyone gets stuck you can rely on the more experienced crafters to lend a hand"

"Florence and Moira do a grand job of providing tea, coffee and snacks."

"Baby Daniel comes along with his mum and grandmother, we have seen Daniel progress from a small baby to a lively toddler keeping us entertained. His Grandma has not only learned to crochet by attending our sessions but has become a very proficient crocheter."



15th Paisley Boy's Brigade Update



Our Session is now fully underway with, I'm delighted to say, a healthy increase in our numbers. We are also pleased that Iain Shaw has joined our Leaders roll. He has been along to meet the boys and we're delighted to have him.

A good number of our boys and leaders came along to the Harvest service with some of them taking part in worship. After worship some of our younger members stayed on for Messy Church while a few older boys and leaders helped with clearing the Sanctuary in readiness for painting. It's good to play our part in the work of the church and we're indebted to our Company boys who set up the tea bar each Friday evening at the close of their evening.

30th September marked the last of the events to celebrate our Kingsmen. Renfrewshire Council provides a Civic Reception for our highest award and this year it was hosted by Houston and Killellen Church. A lovely evening attended by many of our leaders including our Chaplain as well as the boys and their families.

The next weekend saw Juniors and Company boys marking the 142nd anniversary of the founding of the BB by holding a sleepover in our halls. Another great night allowing us to do activities we don't usually have time for (Ready, steady cook and the 1% Club for Company and a poppy craft and movie for Juniors) as well as lots of games. After breakfast rolls very tired boys and leaders headed home. We're planning another sleepover at the end of March, this time a fundraiser in preparation for our weekend away to BB Headquarters at Carronvale House, Larbert at the end of May.

We were thrilled on Sunday 12 October when not one but two of our boys were declared winners in the junior section of the Sunflower competition. Boys were delighted with their prizes – maybe future recruits for the gardening committee??

Our Company and Seniors joined us for Remembrance Sunday worship with one of the boys laying the Poppy wreath.

Once again, we are encouraging everyone to help us fill as many Red Bags of Joy as possible to share God's love at Christmas with many families across the West of Scotland who need help. We're asking for donations, either in a gift bag or items to include in bags, by the end of November to allow the Charity to distribute gifts in time for Christmas Eve. We're also taking part in the Christmas Fayre on 29 November – our stall is the Tombola stall so please come along and support our Church. On Tuesday of that week we're going to the Panto (Oh yes we are!) in Johnstone. Sunday 7 December we will be at Barshaw Park taking part in the Jingle Bell Run to raise funds for the Company. This is a sponsored event for our boys so hopefully a good result.

Finally as we continue to celebrate 40 years of our Company we're setting ourselves 40 challenges to complete before our Presentation night in May. They cover a wide area of activities, some of them might need your help so please watch out for notices. We've also started planning for our Service on 22 February when we will lead worship and afterwards invite you to join our fundraising lunch.



Jan Phillips, Captain


St George's Worship Choir - a message from Toni James

I am delighted to be joining St George's as Musical Director and boy is it a busy time to be coming on board! Some dates for the diaries...

On **Monday December 1st** from 2pm, the choir will be helping lead St George's Guild's Christmas Carol Service with a combination of carols performed by the choir, sing-a-longs for all to join in and perhaps a piano solo!


All are warmly welcomed to attend Christmas by Candlelight from 7-8pm on **Sunday December 14th**, in the Sanctuary (painting completion permitting). This will be a special evening of carols, songs, readings, poems and more. Rumour has it, there will be mince pies and shortbread for all following the event, sure to put everyone in the Christmas spirit.

We value the amazing members of our choir and their dedication and hard work every week to lead the congregation in worship. We also know life is busy and some may not be able to commit to weekly rehearsals on **Thursdays from 7.30-9pm**. However, even if this is case, for anyone with an interest in singing, music making, great company and great music, please come join us whenever you can. Also, even if you are not a regular member of our worship choir, you are welcome to rehearse with us to perform in Christmas by Candlelight. In the spirit of Christmas, the more the merrier. See you Thursday evenings!



The flowers in the church are always a beautiful addition to the sanctuary on a Sunday morning and are appreciated by members of the congregation who receive a bouquet to acknowledge important life events; births, birthdays, anniversaries, illness, bereavement, etc.

Please let Sadie McKeown or Mary Dennison know of anyone you think should receive flowers and they will arrange for delivery.



Buddies Chill & Chat Group

Buddies Chill and Chat are the relatively new Youngish Adult Group of the church for those of working age and/or young at heart.

We meet monthly on the first Thursday of each month from 7.30-9pm in the lower hall at the church. We currently have 18 on our roll but have space for many more!! We enjoy a varied programme of events and activities including members' talks, nights out, art/craft nights, games, challenges and music but most importantly we simply chill out, talk, enjoy each others company and have fun.

So far this session we have had a quiz night, took part in an art session using our names and held a fancy dress party. At Christmas we are going out for a meal as a group and hopefully some of us will be able to attend the Church Hogmanay party.

Activities planned for 2026 include a beetle drive, a murder mystery night and member talks when we get to hear from and learn more about our members.

If you interested in joining us please speak to Iain Shaw or any group member or email Iain at iainshaw18@gmail.com



Organisational Structure at St. George's

Since the Gathering in April, we have been working towards a new organisational structure for St. George's. We have based this on the 5 Marks of Mission and have also added Property/Finance and Communications/Administration.

We are now at the stage of filling the various committees and are looking for your help.

Our committees are essential to the smooth running of our Church and cover a wide range of interests and skills. Committee members and Team leaders don't need to be members of Session – all are welcome to share in the work.

I thought it might be useful to share the new structure with you along with the names of the strand leaders – these 7 people along with Hazel, our Minister, and me as Session Clerk make up our Business Committee. We meet monthly to discuss items brought forward by the committees, to make decisions delegated to us by Session and to agree the agenda for the next Session meeting.

Over the coming editions, each of our Strand leaders will share an update on the work of the committees they look after.

If you would like to join one of our committees or have any ideas to support their work please speak to me, Hazel or any member of the Business Committee. We would love to hear from you.

Jan Phillips, Session Clerk

