NEWS FROM THE PEWS

PAISLEY St. George's

The Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity Number SC006718
Edition 22: November 2026

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Hello friends,

As Advent approaches and Christmas draws closer, there is a growing sense of anticipation in the air. The lights appear, trees go up, plans are made with family and friends, and our thoughts turn once again to the wonderful story of Christ's birth.

As I write, I find myself wondering what this Advent and Christmas season will look like. What will it mean for me personally, for my family, for our church family here at St George's, and for our wider community across Paisley and beyond? These are important questions, because Christmas is far more than preparations and festivities. It is a season that reminds us of God's great love for the world, revealed through the gift of His son.

As Christians, we are called not only to celebrate that love ourselves but also to share it with others. Advent offers us a wonderful opportunity to reach out with kindness, welcome and friendship, helping others to experience the hope and joy that knowing Jesus brings.

There will be many opportunities to do just that in the weeks ahead. Whether it is inviting family, friends, neighbours or colleagues to one of our Christmas events, offering a warm welcome to a newcomer, or simply spending time with someone who might otherwise feel alone, each of us can play a part.

Our festive programme offers something for everyone. We will retell the Christmas story in song at our Carol services, support one another at our Memorial Service remembering loved ones, and we will celebrate with children and families at our Nativity service. Our Christingle Service on Christmas Eve will shine a light into the darkness, while our Watchnight Service, complete with mince pies and mulled wine, will help us welcome Christmas with joy and thanksgiving.

Beyond our services, there are plenty of ways to prepare for and enjoy the season together. From our Christmas Fayre and wreath-making workshops to decorating the church, singing carols in schools and care homes, and enjoying the pantomime (oh yes, we will!), there are countless opportunities to share fellowship and festive cheer.

At the heart of all we do is a desire to ensure everyone feels welcomed and supported. Many in our community need our help and as such there are opportunities to give to our Christmas appeals. Donations of warm clothing, toiletries, gifts and toys will help vulnerable women, children and those displaced from their homes. Each gift makes such a difference and these simple acts of welcome, invitation and kindness, help others discover the hope, peace, joy and love found in Jesus.

I wish you and your loved ones a very happy Christmas and may God's peace be with you throughout this season and into the year ahead.

Your friend and minister,
Hazel

✨🎄 **As we journey through the Christmas season, we warmly invite you to join us for these special services:** ✨🎄

🎶 **Guild Carol Service**
🗓️ Monday 30th November 2pm

🎄 **Hub Carol Service**
🗓️ Tuesday 1st December 2pm

🕯️ **Memorial Service**
🗓️ Wednesday 2nd December 7pm

🕯️🎶 **Carols by Candlelight**
🗓️ Monday 7th December 7pm

👶✨ **Nativity Service**
🗓️ Sunday 20th December 11am

🌟 **Family Christingle Service**
🗓️ Christmas Eve 7pm

🕯️ **Watchnight Service**
🗓️ Christmas Eve 11.30pm
(tea/coffee/mince pies from 10.45pm)

Everyone is warmly welcome to join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ and prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Knit and Natter



It has been great to have new people joining this group – some to knit, some to sew and some come just to natter. A warm welcome awaits anyone else who would like to join us on Wednesday mornings at the Resource Centre in Donaldswood Road.

In the last few months people have been very busy preparing for the Christmas Fayre. The Knit & Natter group decided to mainly focus on making outfits for Teddy Bears.



Rainbow Turtle fair trade





Eco Committee- Update

We are delighted to share the great news that Paisley St Georges has been awarded a Bronze Eco Congregation Scotland Award!

This is an award for the whole congregation to be proud of and reflects our recycling, energy saving, involvement with Fairtrade and international charity work among other things. What's more, we were told at our assessment meeting on the 23rd of October that we were not far away from a Silver award, so this gives us something to work towards moving forwards.

We also want to thank everyone who supported our Rainbow Turtle fairtrade stall after church during Fairtrade fortnight a few weeks ago. We sold a variety of products and hopefully people will continue to consider buying Fairtrade goods where possible, as it really does make a difference to the Fairtrade farmers around the world.

Our next venture will be selling various Christmas crafts and gifts with an "Eco" slant at the church Christmas Fayre on Saturday 28th November, so we hope to see you there and look forward to your support!

Finally, as we head towards the festive season, we have put together a wee list of tips and ideas to make your Christmas a bit "greener"

- Turn off Christmas lights when not in and overnight
- Reuse or repurpose old gift wrap or consider using old fabric cuts as reusable wrap
- Make gift tags from old Christmas cards
- Replace Sellotape which has plastic in it with paper tape
- Try and shop local where possible
- Go for a walk in nature over the holidays
- Do a meal plan to reduce food waste
- Buy plastic-free crackers or use "fill your own" crackers
- Consider investing in a reusable advent calendar
- Make or buy paper decorations or consider Fairtrade ones
- Recycle as much as you can including sweetie wrappers, wrapping paper and cards, delivery packaging and real Christmas trees



Hogmanay Party 2026

PAISLEY St. George's

Let's PARTY

Cost - £5 per person (Children Free)
From 8pm until 1am
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Friendly Hour

December

1st	Mr Euan Russell
8th	Carol Concert – Miss Toni James
15th	Christmas Lunch

January

12th	Rev Hazel Shaw
19th	Keep Fit
26th	AGM (music group 1.30pm start)

February

2nd	Care and Repair
9th	The Midges (1.30pm start)
16th	Tracey Howe
23rd	Local Vocals

Annual Quiz Night

PAISLEY St. George's CAUSEYSIDE

On - Saturday 6th March 2027
In - St George's Church Hall
From - 7pm – 9pm
Teams of up to 6 maximum
Cost £5 per person (BYOB & nibbles)
To book a table please phone Rae at the church office on 0141 889 4335.



www.paisleystgeorges.org.uk Registered Scottish Charity No SC006718





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PAISLEY St. George's HUB

We are having a Christmas Carol Service @ the HUB on
Tuesday 1st December from 1.30pm to 2.45pm.
Come along and join in, there may even be a festive mince pie!
As with all our hub activities ALL ARE WELCOME!
Glenburn Resource Centre
Donaldswood Rd Glenburn



15th Paisley Boys Brigade



As we move towards Christmas we are anticipating fun, celebration and some hard work too. We are once again taking part in the Red bags of Joy appeal, participation in the Jingle Bell run, visiting a pantomime and participating in the Church nativity service. We are also reflecting on all that we have achieved in the last few months.

Our Company/Seniors took part again in the Brigade's Monopoly Challenge, this time visiting as many of the Edinburgh landmarks as possible. 5 boys and 3 leaders took part, and 25,000 steps later had visited 28 of the landmarks and completed almost all the additional challenges. A superb day, blessed with good weather and lots of fun as well as learning about a variety of the landmarks in our Capital city.
Next day we joined with you and others in the Company to attend our Harvest service and to celebrate the 143rd anniversary of the founding of our organisation.

As I write, boys are working on their contributions to Remembrance Sunday with Anchors making handprint Poppies, Juniors helping with the transformation of plastic bottles into poppies and Company practising for carrying colours into the Remembrance service. It's so important for boys to understand the sacrifice and the need for us to work to maintain peace.





Some of our boys, and leaders too, are participating in "Joseph" and we hope you enjoyed the performance. As a company, we're indebted to George James who offered to share his knowledge and skills as a carpenter with boys who wanted to learn. Declan and Alex accepted the offer and have loved working as part of that team along with Alex (another member of the property team) learning how to use equipment to drill, nail and so much more. Boys also contributed to the performance with lots of Sundays given up to practising and in helping design programmes.

As we shared with the Guild, when Ina and I visited them in late October, it's part of our work to encourage boys to learn life skills and we do this across all our sections from learning to make simple food, through first aid and fire safety to work such as George and Alex share.
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

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Our team is committed to providing thoughtful, reliable care, the kind that brings comfort not only to those we support but also to their families. If you know someone who might benefit from a little extra help at home, we're always happy to have a friendly, no pressure chat.
As part of the St George's Church community, we're grateful to belong to a congregation that welcomes everyone with warmth and openness.



ANGEL
ANIMALS
BABY
BETHLEHEM
DONKEY
FRANKINCENSE
GIFTS
GOLD
JESUS
JOSEPH
MANGER
MARY
MYRRH
PEACE
SAVIOR
SHEPHERD
STAR
WISE MEN





Buddies Chill & Chat Group Fundraiser Update

Our Buddies Chill & Chat Group held a snowball / accumulator fundraising event over the summer months when individually using our God given skills and talents we attempted to raise funds for several good causes.

We were each given £10 and asked to try to "snowball or accumulate" this into a larger amount and to return all monies raised at our first meeting back in September. We were to use our £10 to buy resources / ingredients etc. which we then could make or do something to sell on to make more funds.

Some sold home baking, others tablet, others potted flowers / plants for neighbours, others made & sold soup to the congregation – these are only a few of the incredible ways members of our group accumulated funds.

From all our combined efforts we raised a superb total of £825 and agreed to disperse these funds as follows -

1 Purchase a portable lightweight data projector & costing £350 for use by any church group and which is stored in the church office,

2 We gave a donation of £150 to Church funds and

3 Using the balance of £300 we bought an age-appropriate Bible for the 20 members of our children's arts and crafts group as almost all of them did not have access to a Bible at home. This would allow them to read the Bible story we teach them at each session at home and to share it with their families.

The Buddies group meet monthly on the first Thursday of each month from 7.45-9.15pm in the lower hall at the church. We currently have 20 members on our roll but have space for many more!! We enjoy a varied programme of events and activities including members' talks, nights out, art / crafts nights, games, challenges, music but most importantly we simply chill out, talk, enjoy each other's company and have fun.

If you interested in joining us, please speak to Iain Shaw or any group member or email Iain at iainshaw18@gmail.com and you will receive all the information you need. You will be made most welcome.







A church production by arrangement with LW Entertainment Ltd
Lyrics Music Tim Rice Andrew Lloyd Webber.

There is a saying that it takes a village to raise a child. Well, it takes a church to put on a musical. We have been privileged to work with fine volunteers and the result of everyone working together is that good fun is had, a spectacle is produced and happy singing can be heard.
It all began as a bit of a dream, to be able to tell a very famous bible story, in music and action.
The cast has consisted of BB, GB, our church choir and friends who love singing!
We have been sustained by our 'canteen lady'.
We have stunningly breathtaking scenery built and painted by our 'builder man' and a team of seven. Again, a mix of volunteers who have given their time and talents to create a wonderful backdrop.
Costumes were borrowed from another church, and some were made by friends of the congregation.
Members of our church have supported the children on-stage giving direction where needed.
What must be noted is the commitment of everyone to be able to entertain our audiences, do a good job and have fun in the process.
To people who have come along to watch us and give their encouragement to the children
To our minister Hazel and members of the Kirk Session who have approved and supported our project
To our church treasurer who has helped us keep financially afloat as we eke out our grant.
To our church secretary, who supported hugely with administrative tasks.
Thank you!
Toni James and Linda Murning







Events & Activities for Children, Young People, Young Adults & Families







ARTS & CRAFT GROUP – Every Thursday from 6-7.30pm in the lower hall at the Church – cost £2 per session which includes all resources, snack and drink. This group is for primary school aged children. All welcome.

JUNIOR BADMINTON GROUP - Every Monday from 6-7.30pm in the large hall at the Church – cost £2 per session which includes all resources, snack and drink. This group is for children and young people in P4-S2. This group is followed by our adult badminton group which meets from 7.30-8.30pm.

BUDDIES CHILL & CHAT – This is our young adult group, and we meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month from 7.30pm-9pm in the lower hall. We have a varied programme including guest speakers, member talks, outings, games, challenges, arts & crafts, chatting and chilling & refreshments. All those of working age and young at heart will be made most welcome.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 17th December** when we will enjoy our Christmas Night Out – where we have a festive 3 course meal at The Lord Lounsdale, a Christmas quiz, play some party games, and distribute gifts to each other via our secret Santa. There will also be lots of chilling and chatting.

The Guild resumed from summer break 5th October and our guest on "Opening Day" was our Minister, Hazel. We had a large turnout, with many previous members and quite a few new people making a total of 41 attending. As always, Hazel went round and spoke to everyone, which resulted in us realising that we didn't know everyone in the hall – even some who have been attending the guild for a while didn't know everyone - we are now aiming to remedy this!

By coincidence, our guest due to speak on day two had to cancel due to illness, so that gave us some time to chat not only at our regular table but also to circulate and familiarise ourselves with all the other members. It turned out to be a very sociable afternoon!

We had Kathy Richards on day three to talk about her missionary travels and to display much of her clothing required to be worn depending on which part of the world she was visiting. What interesting experiences she has had in her life.

Day four we welcomed Jan and Ina from our BB Company here in St George's. We enjoyed their talk and videos updating us on the wonderful achievements of the boys at all levels in the Company. They, in keeping with our theme of getting to know each other, encouraged us to play a game of 'discovery' whereby we were given a points system paper to find out facts about one another ranging from places of birth, swimming ability, musical interests and many other facts. We all enjoyed the interactions and we certainly now know a little bit more about each other! The Guild will also contribute to the "red bags" distributed by the girls for gathering for Christmas gifts for the less fortunate children locally and beyond.

Our Autumn Leaves Tea in October was a huge success and well attended by our many friends in our congregation and further afield. We so appreciate this support and the help we received from everyone before, during and following the afternoon's activities. Thank you again.

As you can see we have had a busy time and now we look forward to the second half of our programme so if you'd like to come along to any of our meetings you will be made very welcome. We meet on Monday afternoons at 2pm.

"Whose we are and Whom we serve".

Pat (Secretary)







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To support the congregation of Paisley St. George's, Alister is offering a free pick up and delivery service for vehicles in the PA2 area. If this is a service you would be interested in, please call Alister directly on 07512 961686 or speak to his wife, Irene Gemmell, in Church.

Call Alister **07512 961686**

Main Street
Bridge of Weir
PA11 3PA

We hope you have enjoyed reading this edition. Please pass it on to others and recycle when finished. All items for the next edition should be emailed to Irene Gemmell by no later than Sunday 31st January

What's On at St George's – All Welcome

November 2026



Sat 28th at 11am – Church Christmas Fayre
Sun 29th at 11am – Morning worship for first Sunday in Advent
At 1.30pm – Business Committee meeting
Mon 30th at 2pm – Guild Carol Service followed by tea & coffee

December 2026



Tues 1st at 2pm Hub Carol service at the Resource Centre
At 7pm – Church outing to Wee Mermaid Pantomime at Johnstone
Wed 2nd at 7pm – Memorial service followed by tea & coffee
Sat 5th at 9.30am – Men's Breakfast
Sun 6th at 11am – Morning Worship
at 1.30 and 4pm – Wreath making workshops
Mon 7th - Guild Christmas Lunch
Wed 9th at 7pm – Kirk Session meeting
Thurs 10th am -, Schools event
Sun 13th at 11am – Morning Worship with Communion
at 7pm – Carols by Candlelight
Tues 15th- Friendly Hour Christmas Lunch
Thurs 17th at 7pm – Buddies Chill & Chat Christmas Dinner
Sun 20th at 11am – Morning Worship Family service with nativity
Thurs 24th at 7pm – Family Christingle service
At 11.30pm – Watchnight service with tea/coffee and mince pies from 10.45
Sun 27th at 11am – Morning Worship
Thurs 31st at 8pm – Hogmanay Party – Family fun

January 2027



Sun 3rd at 11am – Morning worship, all age service celebrating New Year
Sat 9th at 9.30am – Men's breakfast
Sun 10th at 11am – Morning worship
Sun 17th at 11am – Morning worship
Tues 19th at 1.30pm - Hub Worship at the Resource Centre
at 7pm Bible Study and Prayer group at the Resource Centre
Sun 24th at 11am – Morning worship
Sun 31st at 9.30 – Morning worship

February 2027



Tues 2nd at 1.30pm - Hub Worship at the Resource Centre
at 7pm Bible Study and Prayer group at the Resource Centre
Thurs 4th at 7pm – Burns Supper - Fundraiser
Sat 6th at 9.30am – Men's breakfast
Sun 7th at 11am – Morning worship
At 10.30pm – Boys' Brigade Potted Sports event
Wed 10th at 7pm – Kirk Session
Sat 13th at 2pm – Guild concert
Sun 14th at 11am – Morning worship
Tues 16th at 1.30pm - Hub Worship at the Resource Centre
Sun 21st at 11am – Morning worship led by our Guild
At 1.30pm – BB Figure marching competition
Sun 28th at 11am – Morning worship led by Boys' Brigade
At noon – BB Fundraising lunch

All of the above is in addition to our regular programme details of which are listed on our website at http://paisleystgeorges.org.uk/ or our Paisley St George's Facebook page or Email, sessionclerk@paisleystgeorges.org.uk or phone Jan on 07899 040525 or Hazel on 07988503723 or contact our office at office@paisleystgeorges.org.uk