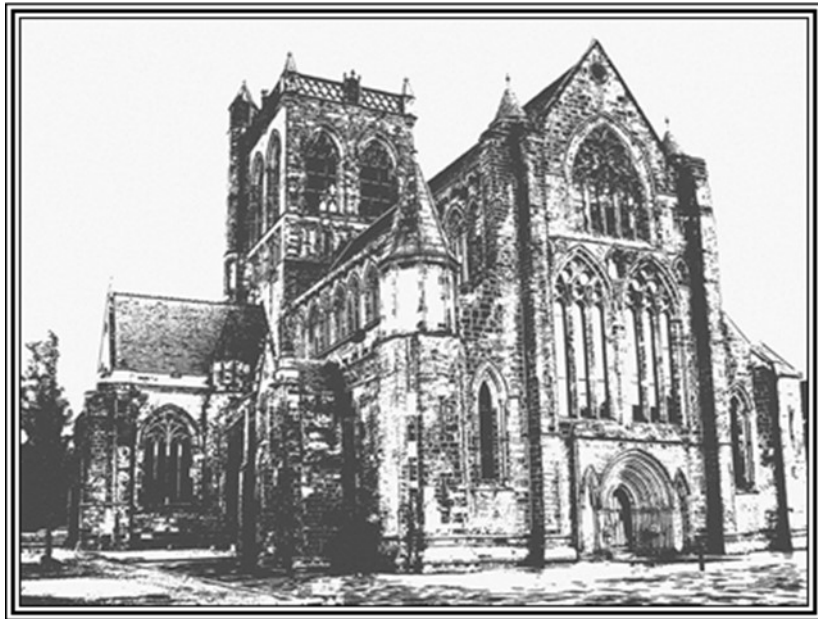


# Paisley Abbey



# Abbey Herald

**March 2023**

At some point in all our lives we find ourselves asking deep questions about our identity, our purpose and our mortality. The need for answers or, at least, pointers become urgent as we try to make sense of our lives, our relationships and our work.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

Christians believe that every human being is made in the image of God and is loved deeply by God. We believe that each individual is of immeasurable worth despite our shortcomings and failings, our flaws and our inadequacies. We also believe that we have been made to know God in a way that is amazingly fulfilling, liberating and challenging.

Throughout the ages, God has invited us to this life of trust and faith by showing what kind of God he is through the beauty of creation, through the way of life (the Law) he gave to the Jews and through the prophets: most particularly, and fully, through the man Jesus of Nazareth whose whole life and death shows us who God is and what God is like.

The beginning of faith is to trust in this loving God who knows us more profoundly than we know ourselves.

And from that initial step a journey that will last a life begins. As we travel, we believe the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen us, leading us to discover more and more of God's love and, also, to a place of beauty, wholeness and peace.

A place of *'beauty, wholeness and peace'* within our life. That must be the dream of every human being – even though they may never consider using such words.

For a great many people, such a dream ought to be the consequence of political activity and government action. Sadly, for many people, that is not reality. Day after day, countless numbers of our fellow citizens, whether elderly or young, endure situations at work or within their home, more akin to *'nightmare'* than *'dream'*; and a far cry from any *'beauty, wholeness or peace'*.

## THE NEED TO SPEAK UP AND OUT AS SOCIETY'S CONSCIENCE

The Holy Ministry of the Christian Churches embrace all political affiliations and allegiances. And so, while I may hold strong, personal, political opinions, I deliberately refrain from promoting any 'party' line in my preaching or writing. That being said, given all I have written about our belief in the immeasurable worth of each individual and how each individual is part of God's creation, I profoundly believe the Church has a primary and fundamental responsibility to speak up and out for those unable to do so for themselves. Society simply doesn't recognise an alternative voice of conscience.

By the time you read these words, the season of Lent will have already begun. These weeks eventually leading up to Easter, are a means of preparation for the events of that first Holy Week, the drama of which plays out the whole of human life. Do try to come to the special services being held in the Abbey. The things of Christian faith are no less demanding and rewarding than anything else about which we might choose to learn.

*A thoughtful* Lent to you all.

Jim Gibson  
Locum Minister at the Abbey.

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April to Good Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> April.

For Christians, Holy Week is never a comfortable time. It is not an easy week in which to worship and say that we believe in God.

During Holy Week we accompany Jesus on his way to the Cross. As we reflect on the torture, suffering and humiliation he had to endure, we find that we also have to confront the experience of powerlessness and pain that are still the daily reality of life for so many people across the globe.

This year, the Minister will speak about some of the characters and events central to the whole drama and will try to show their relevance for our own life's experience.

Services begin at 7.30pm Monday to Maundy Thursday and will be accompanied by Abbey choristers.

Holy Communion will be celebrated at the Maundy Thursday service.

On **Good Friday** – the Three Hours Devotion will be held between 12noon and 3.00pm.

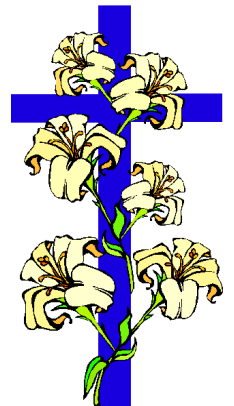
Between 12noon and 1.00pm - Durufle's Requiem will be sung by the Abbey Choir.

Between 1.00pm and 3.00pm – Meditations and prayers; and the Abbey String Group play Haydn's 'The Seven Last Words'

There will be no service on the evening of Good Friday. This helps to heighten the terrible event of the crucifixion itself.

## EASTER SUNDAY

11 am Sacrament of Holy Communion  
The Abbey Choir sing Mozart's 'Coronation Mass'  
accompanied by a small orchestra.



## Society of Friends of Paisley Abbey

The Society of Friends was founded in 1952 and exists to maintain and enhance the fabric of the Abbey and to support its music. Regular contributions are made to the Kirk Session for these purposes. Evidence of numerous projects undertaken by the Society can be seen all around the Abbey but, perhaps, the most recent notable projects are the magnificent stained-glass window commissioned from Glasgow born artist John Clark and the historical exhibition in the Sacristy.

Membership of the Society is open to anyone who would like to help advance the aims of the Society. Applications for Annual or Life Membership are welcomed and can be addressed via the Abbey office.

### Giving with a Will

*(A legacy to your Church)*

Did you know that Paisley Abbey is a registered charity?  
Did you know that giving a LEGACY is one very important way by which you can continue to support the ministry and work and outreach of the Abbey after your death?

A legacy may be a specific sum of money, a property, share in a company or the residue of your estate.

Legacies are exempt from Inheritance Tax and may provide vital funds for a particular project of the Abbey; or may be invested to produce annual income for ongoing work.

All legacies are only used in accordance with the donor's wishes. So, why not speak with your solicitor and 'give with a will'? Alternatively, you might consider donating your legacy while you can still enjoy witnessing the benefits your generosity makes.

## LENT APPEAL 2023

Dear Abbey Members,

When you see the heading 'Lent Appeal' I hope you don't say, "Oh, not another appeal for money from the Kirk Session." However, I would like you think the Appeal is giving you the opportunity to keep the Abbey afloat in exceedingly turbulent financial waters.

Last year (2022), considering that we were still coming out of 'Lock Down', we had a highly successful Lent Appeal that raised almost £9,000 00. With the addition of Gift Aid from HMRC, the total certainly exceeded £11,000.

*Thank you all for that outstanding effort.*

Now we are fortunate that most of the Covid restrictions have been removed although the amount being donated by the congregation and visitors has not reached the pre-Covid total. It might be some time before that total is reached. However, while giving has been reduced, costs have continued to increase. For instance, the cost of electricity has increased four-fold and when our fixed price gas contract expires at the end of September, there will certainly be a crippling price increase.

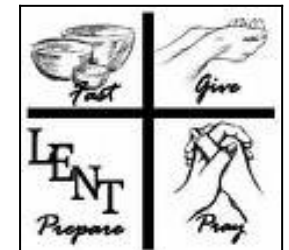
So, to the Lent Appeal which I hope you will consider donating to.

*This will run until Easter Day, 9 April.*

Every little bit of money, no matter how small, will be really appreciated and put to good use in supporting Paisley Abbey, a community and building that is close to all of our hearts.

Please look out for your Lent Appeal 2023 pack dropping through you letter-box.

Many Thanks  
Stewart McDougall  
Treasurer



## PARISH REGISTER – February 2023

### Baptism

5 February Maddison Sophia Maitland  
5 February Teddy Stuart MacPherson

### RENFREWSHIRE FOODBANK

The next collection will be on **Sunday 26 March**. Any food (preferably microwavable) toiletries, cleaning products will be welcome. Cash donations are also welcome. Thank you to all who donate.

Margaret Sharp

### CAFÉ

The Café is now open Tuesday to Saturday from 10.30 am - 3.30 pm on a self serve basis.

The café will serve tea, coffee & home baking from 10.30 am—12.30 pm on the Saturday mornings when the Lunch Hour Concerts take place. The next lunchtime concert will be on Saturday 25 March with Paisley Abbey Choral Scholars.

### PAMS AGM

The PAMS AGM will be on Sunday 12 March after the morning service when a light lunch will be served. Anyone who is interested in joining PAMS are welcome to come along to the lunch where more information can be obtained from Marion McDougall.

**DEC Christian Aid Earthquake Appeal for Turkey and Syria**  
£528 was generously donated to the appeal by members of the congregation who were present at the Abbey service on Sunday 19 February.

## Come and Sing

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of January saw the return of the popular Come and Sing. An enthusiastic choir of singers, some travelling a considerable distance, assembled to perform Handel's Messiah under the skillful baton of George McPhee and accompanied by a willing orchestra of professionals and friends.

All the performers were delighted to take part, this being the first opportunity for us to hold such an event since 2020. Approximately £2,000 was raised to support the choral scholarship fund.

Many thanks are due to the considerable number of Abbey volunteers who worked hard to make the day such a success. Hopefully the particularly cold temperature in the Abbey will not deter people from taking part in the future.

Priscilla Routley

### Peter Shepherd – Assistant Organist

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March will be Peter Shepherd's last service as Assistant Organist at Paisley Abbey as he has been appointed to the post of Organist at Chesterfield Parish Church in Derbyshire.

Peter has greatly contributed to the performances at services, recitals and concerts since his appointment three years ago and it is regrettable that immediately following his appointment the covid pandemic curtailed public services and concerts. Once prohibitions were lifted Peter undertook his duties with professionalism and enthusiasm demonstrating his outstanding musical talents so it is understandable that other opportunities have presented themselves for Peter to further his career.

Peter will be sorely missed by the Director of Music, members of the choir and the wider congregation, all of whom wish him well both in his new position and for his future career.

Deryk Docherty,  
Convener, Psalmody Committee

## ABBEY SHOP

There has been new stock coming into the shop over the past couple of weeks. Many will be delighted to see the return of Chrystal's Scottish Shortbread. Like many other suppliers they have encountered problems of getting basic ingredients and materials, with the turn round for delivery of orders becoming longer.

A new range in the shop is Orkney based Ortak Jewellery. The designs in silver, are a mix of Celtic and Macintosh in style. Also back in stock is jewellery from Sea Gems with Pictish enamel necklaces, earrings and scarf rings.

A bespoke hanging decoration for the Abbey has been created by Roelofs and Rubens. Founded in 2006 by Dutch designer, Piet van den Beuken, and her husband, Monty Abram, Roelofs & Rubens is a Berkshire-based supplier of handmade ceramic hanging decorations or ornaments and now recently also ceramic tiles and unique bespoke gifts.

With Mothering Sunday coming up next month there are plenty of options in the shop.

Linda Barrett Abbey Manager



## EVENTS AT THE ABBEY

### THOMAS COATS CHORAL SOCIETY & PAISLEY PHILHARMONIC ACCOMPANIED BY ORCHESTRA

Sunday 19 March at 7.30 pm

Tickets available from Thomas Coats Choral Society.

### RENFREWSHIRE SCHOOLS CONCERTS

Tuesday 21 & Wednesday 22 March at 7 pm

Ticket details to follow.

### TANNAHILL ARTS FESTIVAL

Friday 24 at 7.30 pm with **Tommy Smith**

Saturday 25 March at 7.30 pm with **Seonaid Aitken**

More details at [2023 Programme - TANNAHILL ARTS AND HERITAGE](#)

Tickets available from Eventbrite

### LUNCH HOUR CONCERT - Paisley Abbey Choral Scholars

Saturday 25 March at 12.30 pm

Tickets £5 payable at the door.

### LONDON CONCERTANTE – Music from the Movies

Sunday 16 April at 7.30 pm

Tickets £19-£32

available from [ticketsource.co.uk/classical](http://ticketsource.co.uk/classical)

### LUNCH HOUR CONCERT - Abbey Strings

Saturday 22 April at 12.30 pm

Tickets £5 payable at the door.

### LUNCH HOUR CONCERT - Daniella Hathaway

Saturday 20 May at 12.30 pm

Tickets £5 payable at the door.

### LONDON CONCERTANTE – Vivaldi (Four Seasons)

Sunday 17 June at 7.30 pm

Tickets £19-£32

available from [ticketsource.co.uk/classical](http://ticketsource.co.uk/classical)

### LUNCH HOUR CONCERT - Douglas Lawrence & Maureen Rutherford

Saturday 24 June at 12.30 pm

Tickets £5 payable at the door.

## MUSIC FOR MARCH

## ABBAY CONTACTS

<b>5 March</b> 11am Psalm 121 Venite Anthem	<b>Lent 2</b> <b>Morning Service</b>  Christus factus est	<i>Weelkes (Short Service)</i> <i>Bruckner</i>
<b>12 March</b> 11 am Psalm 95 Benedictus Anthem	<b>Lent 3</b> <b>Morning Service</b>  Like as the hart	<i>Byrd (Short Service)</i> <i>Howells</i>
4 pm Responses Psalm 40 Canticles Anthem	<b>Choral Evensong</b>  Lord, let me know mine end	<i>Tompkins</i> <i>Purcell in G minor</i> <i>Greene</i>
<b>19 March</b> 11 am Psalm 23 Jubilate Deo Anthem	<b>Lent 4 Mothering Sunday</b> <b>Morning Service with Holy Baptism</b>  My Shepherd is the living Lord	<i>Weelkes (Short Service)</i> <i>McPhee</i>
<b>26 March</b> 11 am Communion Setting Psalm 130 Anthem	<b>Lent 5</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> Missa Ego flos campi  God so loved the world	<i>Pedilla</i> <i>Stainer</i>

<b>Minister:</b>	<b>Rev Jim Gibson</b>	<b>0141 889 7654</b>
<b>Director of Music:</b>	<b>Dr. George McPhee</b>	
<b>Assistant Organist:</b>	<b>Peter Shepherd</b>	
<b>Church Manager:</b>	<b>Linda Barrett</b>	<b>0141 889 7654</b>
<b>Church Secretary:</b>	<b>Karen Kerr</b>	<b>0141 889 7654</b>
<b>Session Clerk:</b>	<b>Marion Sommerville</b>	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Stewart McDougall</b>	

The Abbey office is not manned every day just now so if you need to contact any of the above people leave a message on the office answering machine (0141 889 7654) and it will be passed on to the appropriate person. Thank you.

*The Abbey, shop & café are open  
Tuesday to Saturday from 10.30 am - 3.30 pm  
Tuesday & Thursday tours are at 2 pm.*