

PAISLEY NORTH CHURCH

NEWS UPDATE

SPRING EDITION

MARCH 2024

“The Journey of Life”

I remember someone saying to Lesley and me not long after we'd arrived in Paisley that part of the story of how she came to believe in Jesus as her Saviour happened when she was younger. She had arrived home one rainy night and found herself saying to herself, “there must be more to life than this?” I reckon that at some point in all our lives we've said something not unlike that, showing that within us all there's something that tells us that life is more.

Luke in the New Testament speaks of one man who met Jesus. You can find it in Luke 19: 1 – 10. His name was Zacchaeus, (we'll call him Zac) and he was a Chief tax collector.

Jesus was passing through the place where Zac lived and Zac had heard he was passing that way, so being a little man, unable to see for the crowds, he climbed a tree along the route in the hope of seeing Jesus. Perhaps Zac had been thinking that there's more to life than this. Many people responded to Jesus after hearing what he was doing elsewhere. Jesus had that kind of attractiveness. People were drawn to him.

It may have seemed to Zac a random event, an off-the-cuff thing to do, but we see soon discover that Jesus had something more in mind, a purpose.

Zac came to realise that there was someone outside of himself, bigger than himself who knew everything about him already. We see and hear that as Jesus, walking along under the tree that Zac has climbed, stops and looks up saying: “Hurry down, Zacchaeus, because I must stay in your house today.”

Jesus not only knew his name, but He took the time to speak into his life and into his situation and more than that, Jesus invited Himself into Zac's house and life. All Zac needed to do was say yes and receive what God's Son was offering.

We read on, “Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed Him with great joy.”

When you or I decide to believe in Jesus, some people may not be happy. In Zac's story, people who saw what happened started grumbling, “This man (Jesus) has gone as a guest to the home of a sinner!”

Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord (Jesus), “Listen, sir! I will give half my belongings to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay back four times as much.”

Zac made a first step. Not only did he welcome Jesus into his house but he welcomed him into his life. The place he had given to wealth and dishonesty, he gave to Jesus instead. Zac saw himself as he was. He was a sinner in need of forgiveness and a Saviour. He knew that there was something more than this, someone more. Someone who knew everything about him whilst at the same time holding out His hands, offering Himself to be a part of this man's life. They say, “things are better felt than telt.” Translated this might mean – better to experience something than hear about it.

What stands out to you today as you read this or look at the account in Luke 19 – who are you in the story? Is Jesus speaking to you? Will you receive Him into your daily life?

What might it look like for you to take that first step in placing Jesus at the centre of your life and how might that look in the way you treat others, even those you may have wronged.

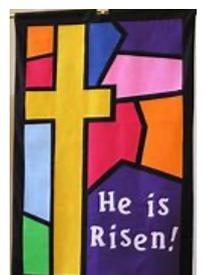
Every Sunday we come together at 11am in the church to pray, sing, spend time in silence, listen, read and apply all that the bible speaks of. There's always a place for you, will you welcome Him and join us as we reach out to those in our community?

Life is a journey and like any journey it has a beginning, a middle and an end. For a believer in Jesus, however, that end is not an end. It is another beginning. The beginning of a journey into eternity (heaven; kingdom; presence) that the bible describes as being more than we can think or imagine.

Please get in touch (with me or Christine) if you ever want to talk things over and may the events of Easter encourage you – please see the poster with what's happening at Paisley North Church.

God bless you,

Rev Stuart Davidson, Tel. 07717 503059.
Pioneer Minister and Interim Moderator, Paisley North Church.



We all have moments in our lives, melting moments that we cherish.

Sunday 28 January 2024 was for me, one of these moments and one of the most beautiful days that our God has given to me, for surrounded by my own and my spiritual family I was Ordained as an Elder in our Church, Paisley North.



Strangely I was the last member to be admitted to the congregation of Wallneuk Church and now the first Elder to be Ordained in our Paisley North Church.

I'm originally from Dundee and was confirmed as a Young Communicant in Mains Parish Church, Trottick, Dundee where my father served as an Elder for many years.

I was a Boys' Brigade Boy, which in my young day was and still is, one of the finest formative organisations for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom and I enjoyed my service as an Officer endeavoring to ensure my charges followed the true path towards our Saviour.

I am an Engineer by Degree and by Charter and worked almost all my service in the Rolls-Royce Facility in Hillington where I was the Facility Manufacturing Control Manager before having to retire as a result of a then terminal medical prognosis, relating to a diagnosed blood disorder.

With advances in Medical Science coupled with the truly wonderful nursing support of the Medical Team at the RAH, under the direction of (our) Sister Thelma White, I continued to survive and each newly developed treatment gave me the confidence to now believe that I will die with my condition and not off it !

I had however drifted away from the Faith, I had become a lapsed Christian.

In 2011 during the Paisley Doors Open Day I crossed the threshold of Wallneuk Church and was warmly greeted by Helen and Alex Stephen who suggested that I might like to come along to the Wednesday Service and to see where that might lead.

So a "Wednesday Christian" I became, specialist subject ? Christ and crockery.....yes, this was where my long unbroken (cup, saucer or plate) career of washing dishes first began !

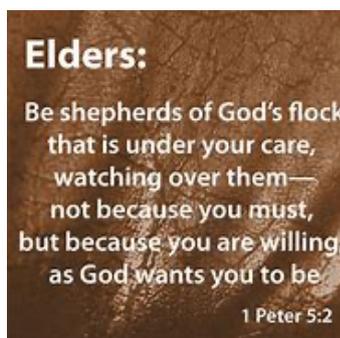
From there, after some years, I moved on to become an 'Everyday Christian', now ready to embrace a more active role in our Church.

On the 8 January, 2023, through the initiative of Ian Williams, our Drop In Centre was opened and has grown in strength and attendance to now providing up to 18 hot meals each Sunday to the homeless and less fortunate of Paisley and the surrounds.
I'm delighted to be one of the Sunday Volunteers.

I'm honoured and humbled to have been chosen by you to be elevated to the high office of Elder of the Parish of Paisley North and it is my sincere desire to continue to serve our Church, our Congregation and the wider Community, in the Spirit of our Lord.

If I can help but one, my efforts will not be in vain.

Ken Swanson
Elder of the Parish.



Ken with his family



Christine, Ken, Stuart and Helen

Easter Blessings



Despite all that is going on around us Paisley North Church marches on in the power of God. On Friday 9th February I joined with the residents of Springbank Rd sheltered housing in a short act of worship. We had a reading from 2 Kings 5:1-14, about the healing of Naaman, the commander of the army of the King of Aram, two hymns, two prayers and a short talk about following for what us appears to be simple directions but have the healing power of God wrapped up in them. It is always a pleasure to meet with the residents, most of whom don't manage to attend church apart from the two ladies who are members of this congregation.

I am hoping to attend the Afternoon Tea on Saturday 10th February. I am all organised for that, but not everything goes to plan. I awoke on Friday morning to find my central heating system not working. These sorts of things can really annoy us but there are worse things that can happen to us. However, hopefully the gas engineer will keep our appointment on Saturday morning, and I may or may not make it to the Afternoon Tea depending on how that appointment goes. When things like this happen, I am always reminded of the scripture at 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

As I say, we at Paisley North Church march on. On January 28th it was our pleasure to welcome Ken Swanson on board as our newest elder. Also, to meet his family at his ordination. At the end of February there will be a Baptism in church, the welcoming of a little one into our church family, into the family of God. The Brownies and Guides will take part in the service on the 18th February for their Thinking Day. The Sunday night drop-in continues to grow and is popular with our visitors. We would like to thank all who contribute to the drop-in, whether financially or with their time and talents.

By the time you read this we will be possibly journeying through the season of Lent with the Lord going on before us. This is a time when we can really draw near to the Lord, to get a feel for his journey to the cross and the realisation of our redemption through his selfless sacrifice.

At this time of year, I am always reminded of being in the Garden of Gethsemane in 2013. Our guide was recounting the story of Jesus praying in that same garden. He was recalling Luke's version of this story which is very descriptive and expressive, especially Luke 22:44 - And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. As I looked around our group, I could hear little whimpers, I could see a lot of hankies dabbing at eyes, trying and failing to appear as though not crying. It was such a moving experience, perhaps we were just taking on board, for the first time, even just a small inkling of what Jesus did for us in that very garden and on the road to Calvary.

We have plans for our own Easter celebrations in Paisley North which I hope we will all manage to attend. We are in the planning stage of the Palm Sunday service. The Good Friday walk will leave from Paisley North Church at 11 am and follow its route around the town centre. In our own sanctuary there will be Communion on Maundy Thursday, a Tenebrae service on the Friday night. On Easter Sunday there will be an early morning service at 9.15 am and a later service at 11am.

Have a blessed Lent and Easter,

Christine (Locum)



BEREAVEMENTS

Margaret Connel

Isabel Todd

Dora Miller

Jackie Boyd





Midweek Service - Burns Supper

The midweek service group all had a lovely time celebrating Burns day.. Helen Stephen lead the service, quoting parts from one of Burns poems "The Cotter's Saturday Night." Ken Swanson addressed the Haggis, not using the traditional address, but the one printed below. We then tucked into a very enjoyable meal of haggis, neeps and tatties.

Toast to The Haggis

Welcome ye haggis to this humble table,
I am sure you would run if you were able.
We dragged you here kicking and screaming,
put you in a pan that was already steaming.
Steamed, boiled then stuck in the oven.
You fought like a demon and took some shoving.
We cut off your legs and cut off your heid,
yet you still lie there, still no deid.

I stand here with my dagger drawn,
relieved to see you have finally gone.
I had no wish to see you dead
but all these people are wanting fed.
The tatties and neeps have all been mashed.
So let's pay homage before we get smashed.
We thanketh God for this wonderful feast
And toast the haggis,
Scotland's most wonderful beast.



Afternoon Tea Party

On Saturday 10th of February we braved the cold, miserable weather to head for Hall 1 at high noon. The prospect was Afternoon Tea: clutching our £3 tickets we were not quite sure what to expect. The hall was beautifully set out with tables for six with the best china and paper napkins decorated with roses to go with the two roses in a vase on each patterned tablecloth. Lovely, but no sign of anything to eat. Round came the servers with tea and coffee, the first of many visits. Then came the big tray of sandwiches: a choice of ham, cheese, egg or tuna on brown or white and we were encouraged to have at least two each, delivered to our plates with serving tongs. Afterwards there came, this time on a serving slice, a generous half scone complete with jam, cream and a garnish of strawberry which some tackled with the aid of a teaspoon. By now feeling quite satisfied we were surprised to see yet more trays appearing this time with a variety of home baked cakes. The difficult choices included meringues, millionaires' shortbread, chocolate truffles, fairy cakes of various sorts, iced gingerbread and fruit cake. Again, we were encouraged to have more than one which made the job of choosing easier. All the while there was a seemingly endless supply of tea and coffee.

The conversation also flowed, always a good judge of how much we were enjoying ourselves. There was unobtrusive background music too. The only time there was hush was in anticipation of the raffle draw, with a round of applause for each lucky winner of something interesting, beautifully gift-wrapped.

This was the first social event for 2024 and as usual the Fun-raising Team did us proud. It was so nice to forget the grim weather and the even grimmer news, to enjoy ourselves and to appreciate the planning and organisation that gave us such enjoyment. Well done, Team, once again! What would we do without you? Here's to the next event, whenever that may be.

Thank you!
Sandra McInnes

Sunday Night Drop-In



On the 8th of January the drop in celebrated its first birthday. The first night we started with 2 people, it has gradually grown since then to an average of 50 people per month. Numbers each week can change according to the weather. The drop in is a lifeline to the people that come. Each Sunday night they are welcomed to our friendly church with hot food and hot drinks. The Drop-In is a relaxed and friendly environment. We have been able to serve hot meals due to the congregation and Elders for their support and their donations.



8th Paisley Girlguiding.

We all enjoyed our visit to the Cinema and the panto at Christmas time. We have had a busy session since returning in January.

Brownies

The Brownies have been busy learning about their Rights for the My Rights badge. They learnt that they have the right to a lot of things from fresh water to an education. This is part of the Know myself theme award. We have 2 girls who have gained their Gold Award. Emma and Sophie. We are very proud of them as they are the first brownies in our unit to achieve this award. Well done girls.



Sophie with her Gold Award and certificate

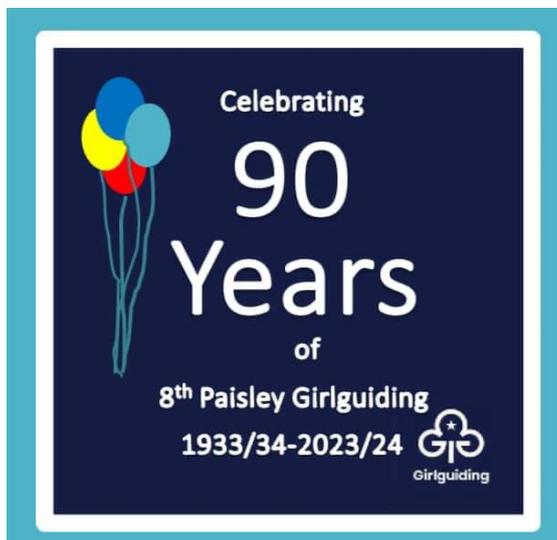


Guides

The guides have been busy working on their Be well theme badge, which focuses on Mindfulness and wellbeing. They have made mindfulness jars and started working on their confectioners badge.

Rangers

The Rangers have enjoyed completing the Express myself theme award, which encourages them to get creative. They have been planning their very own festival, which will be the theme for our Weekend camp in March. Together with the Guides, they have enjoyed completing the 'Swish' challenge badge, all about sustainable fashion. Through this they have made bags out of old t-shirts, upcycled old hats, become fashion designers and learned about how to be more sustainable in their shopping.



Were you or someone you know part of 8th Paisley Brownies or Guides.

We are celebrating 90years of 8th Paisley this year and would love to hear from past members.

Please get in touch with Gillian or Lorraine Clements

Car Boot Sale Treasures

It's amazing what you can find at a car boot sale!

Bargains, Bargains, come and get the Bargains.

Now that January and February are out of the way, the church Car Boot Sale starts again on Saturday 2nd March, right through until December.

There are always plenty of goods on sale, to catch your fancy, at giveaway prices.

Bric-a-brac, children's toys, jewellery, make up, books, CD's, DVD's, jigsaw's, home baking, electrical goods and lots more.

After the hard work of bargain hunting, we have tables serving tea, coffee, toast and biscuits to revive everyone.



If bargains take your fancy, come along and browse, buy, and enjoy the camaraderie of the sale.



The Car Boot Sale, of course, goes some way to help boost the church funds.

Rab McMillan

The Car Boot Sale in December raised **£150**. Despite terrible weather conditions our faithful customers turned up and supported us .

Donations for December Communion was **£215**. This was sent to **Water Aid**

Donations for Salvation Army Christmas Appeal was **£230**



Our Church is open every Tuesday and Friday from 10am until 12noon. Since we opened our doors in November we have welcomed 62 visitors to the church. From Christmas we have had a couple of people who visit the church on a regular basis. for personal prayer, a cup of tea and a chat.

We hope that after everyones visit they leave feeling uplift.

This has been worthwhile for the community.

EASTER RENEWAL

Lord, we ask for your grace to renew our minds and hearts this Easter.

Help us to leave behind the things that weigh us down and to embrace the new life that you offer us.

May we be **filled** with hope and joy, knowing you have a plan and purpose for our lives.

Strengthen us to face the challenges and trust in your unfailing love.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Sunday Services

3rd March 11am	Holy Communion
10th March 11am	Mothers Day
24th March 11am	Palm Sunday
28th March 7pm	Maundy Thursday
29th March 7pm	Good Friday
31st March 9.15am and 11am	Easter Sunday



Young Church

For our Christmas outing Young Church had a fun day out at Paradise Golf at Braehead followed by a well deserved McDonald's Meal. During the meal the winning scores were announced. It was Catherine, Gillian, Harry and Hayden's team that won.

The nativity this year was "A Saviour is Born" All the children could easily have been nominated for a BAFTA for their performance. The older boys did especially well delivering their lines. The younger children did really well acting out their parts.

We are now preparing for Mothers Day - What will our theme be this year???



Easter Craft Night

Wednesday 27th March 7pm

Come along and join in
some Easter fun!

Crafts, cup of tea and
a Hot Cross Bun



You are invited
to join together on
Thursday 28th March
after the Holy Week
service
and share a meal and
fellowship





Paisley North Church Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday 24th March 11 a.m.
(Something different in Hall ONE)

Maundy Thursday Communion
28th March 7 p.m.

Good Friday 29th March
Walk of Witness
leaving Church (front door) at 11am

Good Friday "Tenebrae" Service 7pm

Easter Sunday Early Service (front door)
at 9.15am followed by tea & toast

Easter Resurrection Sunday Service 11am



*May all your prayers be answered
and may you feel the Lord's
presence near you...
not only for Easter,
but always.*

Happy Easter!