



PAISLEY NORTH CHURCH

NEWS UPDATE



SUMMER EDITION

JUNE 2024

“Invitation”

Almost every day we make decisions, sometimes without knowing it and on other occasions life seems to be filled with decisions and choices needing to be made.

In John’s gospel chapter one John the Baptist is out walking with two of his disciples when he sees Jesus and says in their hearing, “look the lamb of God.” Upon hearing this the two follow Jesus and as they do so he turns around and asks them, “what do you want?”



They ask Jesus where he is staying a request to follow him, to be his disciples and Jesus replies with an invitation, “come and see.” They went and stayed with Jesus.

Not long after his baptism, Jesus is walking by the sea of Galilee when the fishermen, Simon and Andrew are throwing their net into the lake and as they do so Jesus calls them with an invitation, “come, follow me and I will send you out to fish for people.”

Jesus calls us also to come and follow him, to get to know him, to hear his voice and learn to recognise it and to read his word and have our eyes opened and our hearts warmed by his presence. His invitations are endless.

He goes onto call us to come and lay our burdens down, when he says, “come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” He always offers us what we need, not necessarily what we want but what we need.

What do you need today? Will you call upon him and respond to his invitation. Those who respond to him won’t find that the door is closed or that he will reject, for he says in John’s book, “All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.”

Jesus’ invitations are always personal and specific to those he speaks too, think of his words to Zacchaeus, Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Barnabas and many others, some whose names we’re not told.

Some accepted his invitation others chose not to, perhaps they had what we might call selective hearing. You know what I mean, when as a youngster you were called to make your bed, clear up your room, come in from playing outside at a certain time. There are many more examples of selective hearing, where we only want to hear what is important to us. Sadly, we can also have selective hearing around whether we hear Jesus’ invitations or not.

In the book of Hebrews, we hear this challenge, “today if you will hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” One writer suggests that this means that God speaks to us more than we realise. “He wants to communicate with us directly and often but we can become hardened to him due to fear, unbelief or preoccupation with life’s issues.”

Will you and I heed his invitation NOT to harden our hearts but to listen that we might hear.

God bless you each day and may you know He is near,

Rev Stuart Davidson, Tel. 07717 503059.

Pioneer Minister and Interim Moderator, Paisley North Church

Listen for
God's Voice
In everything you do

“Presbytery Planning Update”



Good day,

I'm writing to you offering an update on how things are going regarding Paisley North Church and the Presbytery Plan's proposal that we be able to call a minister AND unite with Oakshaw Trinity Church.

By the time you read this copy of our magazine for which can I just add that I am sincerely thankful to Roberta and Catherine for always being so ready and willing to bring this together and print it off in time for Elders to deliver to you.

Anyhow, by the time you read this magazine, the congregations within Cluster C (Paisley town) will have attended an invitation to a short meeting on Wednesday 1st May in Paisley South Church at 7.00pm.

The purpose of the meeting was to enable congregations within the cluster to get to know one another better and to meet some of the Presbytery personnel. Those present from Presbytery were: the Rev Robbie Hamilton our Presbytery Clerk (who also preached at Paisley North on Sunday 7th April), the Rev Tim Mineard our Planning/Implementation Convener, the Rev Andy Reid our Mission Officer and Donessa Shearer the new Buildings Officer.

Each of those present gave a short presentation and were open to taking questions. The purpose of the roadshows around the Presbytery was to encourage churches and members to feel that the Presbytery wasn't some distant organisation that had no interest in the local Church.

Since I last wrote to you, I have met again with the Minister of Oakshaw Trinity, the Rev Gordon Armstrong and the Presbytery Clerk to discuss how we might take things forward. I have also met with Gordon and the Minister of St Mark's Oldhall (Rev Dr A Sonia Blakesley) and the Rev Teri Peterson (member of the Presbytery Implementation team). We met to discuss a number of things relating to our churches.

To keep it concise, some of you may be aware that Oakshaw Trinity in a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP), a partnership of the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church (like a union).

This means that to move forward, Paisley North Church would need to become a part of the LEP and to do this there is a procedure that we would need to go through. After this there would also be matters that we would need to discuss around the calling of a minister, etc.

At present the Presbytery Clerk has spoken to the Church of Scotland's ecumenical officer and also his equivalent in the United Reformed Church just to be clear about the way ahead. In due course once the Clerk has met with the Implementation team, we should expect a visit as a Kirk Session for the way ahead to be offered to us.

Meantime, may I commend and thank all the office bearers and those who convene various sub-committees of the Kirk Session for all their hard work as we continue with the Mission of Jesus in this northwestern part of Paisley, which is our parish, numbering around 15,000 souls.

Please do feel free to write / call me should I be of help. My details are below and further updates will be sent out as and when we know more.

God bless you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart", written in a cursive style.

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



Bereavements

Anne Conway

Betty Higgins



So far, we have had a busy year in Paisley North Church, with the return of our monthly car boot sale, afternoon teas, and various hall lets. Not to be forgotten was our busy schedule over the Easter period.

We had a very different all age service on Palm Sunday, then on to our Maundy Thursday which was followed by our Agape meal. Also, the Good Friday walk of witness around Paisley, our Tenebrae Service on the evening of Good Friday, and our 9.15 and 11am services on Resurrection Sunday, both followed by tea and coffee fellowship with toast and hot cross buns. My thanks go to all who gave of their time and talents to enable these events to take place and to all who attended.

We have just had our Songs of Praise service; thanks go to all who helped make this go with a swing and to all who requested their favourite hymns.

Our next challenge in worship comes along on Sunday 9th June as we with rest of the country remember and commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day 6th June 1944. This will to honour those who paid their ultimate sacrifice, to remember them and those who came home forever changed. I am looking forward to hearing of your memories of D-Day which with your permission we could share in worship. Perhaps these memories are your own or your parents or grandparents.

I will share my uncle's memories of D-Day. He joined the T.A. Territorial Army in August 1939, aged 19. It would give him something to do at the weekend and he may get the chance to go camping. War broke out in September 1939 and I will tell you how he spent his time on D-Day 1944. He got more camping than he bargained for.

Midweek service has finished another successful run for this session. To mark the end of the session, the folks who attend the midweek service had their annual outing to the David Livingstone Centre in Blantyre.

Sadly, we have said goodbye to our B.B. company, the numbers never recovered after Covid. These days young ones have so many other things to pull them in other directions. We must thank B.B. Captain Ian McPherson and his officers for their outstanding efforts to keep the company going. On a happier, and more Sure and Steadfast note, Ian has sourced another B.B. company where our boys can continue their association with the tenets of the B.B. family. Hebrews 6:19-20 - We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

The message of those scripture verses is for all of us – Jesus is our safe and secure anchor.

Put your faith in Jesus for -

We have an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and sure while the billows roll; fastened to the Rock which cannot move, grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

God bless,

Christine (Locum)



Money raised for the car boot sales. Thank you to everyone who contributes

March £438.50

April £384.70

May £530.00

Retiral offering for March

**£276 given to
Sight Saver**



ABERCORN UNIT DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who donated food and money at Easter to support our neighbours in the Abercorn Unit.

The money was used to buy bread, milk, butter and cheese which was a great addition to the normal food donations.

As well as the above we also included an Easter card with an Easter Blessing and an Easter egg these items were also donated.



So well done everyone for your thoughtfulness and helping Paisley North support the community.

The donations were received with great appreciation

Anne ,Annette,Christine (L) and Elma

Midweek Service Outing

On Wednesday 1st. May 2024 11 people set off for Blantyre. We travelled in three cars driven by John , Christine and myself. Our destination was the David Livingstone Centre. We arrived about 11.45 and made straight for the cafe to enjoy our morning tea or coffee. After refreshment , we walked over to the building which housed the museum showing many different aspects of David Livingstone's life from birth in a very humble room where his whole family lived, to his death in a far away land on the African continent. There were seven children and his Mother and Father, living in one room. He was born on the 13th. March 1813 and died in Africa on 1st. May 1873. We learned about his early life working long hours in the cotton mills . He studied at night school to enable him to go to university . He became a doctor of medicine which allowed ,him to fulfil his dream of missionary work in Africa. We learned about his travels in Africa, his crusade against slavery, and his work as a missionary in the continent of Africa. The guides made it all very interesting , adding many little anecdotes about his personal life which added a great deal to the character of the man and his life and work. After the tour we crossed back to the cafe where we enjoyed lunch and much lively conversation. We had a wander round the very extensive grounds and spent some time in the shop before our journey home. I know we all learned things about David Livingstone that we had never heard before. We enjoyed the fellowship and the lovely sunny weather especially when we heard it had been raining in Paisley. All in all a great day was had by all.



Eagerly waiting for lunch to be served



What a good day



Resting after the tour

Easter Celebrations



Palm Sunday - The service started with tea, coffee and hot cross buns. We then enjoyed a lively and interactive service. Everyone had the opportunity to make their own palm cross and various other activities which everyone enjoyed.



Easter Craft Night

A fun night making and decorating a selection of Easter crafts which included egg cups, hanging decorations, bonnets, hats and table mats



Easter Sunday

Young Church enjoyed their Easter egg hunt after the morning service.

In the Autumn of 2023 Lesley Davidson recognised, within Ferguslie Park, a need for an English Class for people who had moved to the country and wished to improve their English. Whilst there are classes running elsewhere in Paisley, there are none close to Ferguslie Park. The class began in September with the provision of a room in Ferguslie Library. The students come from many different countries: Ukraine, Syria, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Spain and the aim is to improve their employment prospects by improving their English. There is also an element of social integration in the programme as some students are isolated. Two of the students have now managed to obtain employment. There are now two qualified teachers and an additional volunteer. There are plans afoot to take the group on a trip to see more of Scotland. There are currently around 9 students but this could be expanded with further resources.



A Report on the Sunday Night Drop-In

We are pleased to say that between 14 and 24 people attend the drop in each week. We started just over a year ago and we are proud to say that we have managed to build up the confidence of our folk that come along. One chap has now started back into full time employment. We also have a chap who turned his life around and now has access to his kids again. We are proud to say that the people who attend on a Sunday night have all built a wonderful friendship and look after each other all because they have safe place to come and be themselves. It's brilliant when people first come in and keep themselves to themselves and when they see the relaxed no judgemental approach we have they soon trust and respect what we are trying to do. They put on their Sunday best to come and see us on a Sunday since we started the drop in 15 months ago the changes in confidence and self belief these folks have in themselves because they have a place they call home.

We would like to thank our Elders and Congregation for all their support we get. We would like to thank everyone for their kind donations. A big thank you to Mr Hugh Gilmour from P3 for their kind donation of the fridge freezer and £500

Our Tuesday and Friday mornings are going well we have a small group of people who attend on a regular bases for comfort and chat it's nice when they leave content and happy to date since we started we've had over 200 visitors it's nice that people want to see our magnificent building

Ian Williams

A Faith Welcome for those seeking Sanctuary:

Faith in Community had contacted us & all the local churches about those in the asylum system locally. A small ecumenical group of us – including St Charles', the Elim church & ourselves – Paisley North – have been meeting each week with our local asylum seekers, and asking how we can help. So far, clothes & trainers have been provided (also with St Vincent de Paul) – and several had also requested English lessons. So, myself & another lady have recently started these, as language is just so essential in life, and especially in a new unknown country. Learning itself is so healthy – and humans will always try to communicate & overcome such barriers. It is also great to see hopeful smiles, even laughter and a change in people, as there is a lot of anxiety around just now. The threat of yet another unsafe country (where people disappear & so on) doesn't help anyone, per the current Rwanda project – however good advice can help to reassure people, who seek to rebuild their lives in a new country, which does offer safety and sanctuary, as their claims are processed. Recently, I asked Grant if he would be willing to lead a walk around the town & a small group were treated to great stories & literally some walking history of Paisley. Whether in the fresh air, or in a reassuring class – where young people can gather & slowly learn some of a large international language, members of our church are reaching out & making a difference in people's lives. As disciples, we are often called to serve the most vulnerable – in many settings. May God lift the many who struggle & fill many more with this love that will never end – but can give hope, wherever we are called to serve – including here in Paisley. And in welcoming the unknown stranger, Faith Welcome will keep welcoming – as we the church always do – both to our doorstep neighbours, and to those from afar, who need reassurance in their lives. God is with us as we will keep taking that love to where needed & to many mostly young people who seek sanctuary & safety – and have so much to give. The church "without walls" will keep reaching out – and welcoming those we will call friends, companions, students & fellow travellers through life's surprises, challenges & sometimes its great joys! May God always guide us & grant wisdom, hope & peace - as we live our faith, in both word & action, helping where the need is – as Christ always does - in today's lively & ever-changing world.

Elsbeth, Paisley North church

Brownies

The Brownies have been busy the last few months, We had a sleepover at Glasgow Science centre with over 400 girls and leaders from Renfrewshire and North Ayrshire. They have gained their international Women's day badge by learning about inspirational woman and their earth day badge. They are now working on their out and about badge which this year is about Grow and Explore, they planted bulbs that will help attract bees and butterflies to their gardens and are making something from leftover ingredients that they have at home. We are also looking forward to our sleepover at South Newton, our trip to the cinema and a division night at Lapwing lodge before our final night of the year.

We hope to see some new faces when we start back in September.



Guides



The guides have had a busy few months. We have celebrated International women's day and Earth day. The girls have continued to work on their badges and are on track to earn their awards by the end of term. We are looking forward to attending the County Camp, with the theme of Guides Go Wild. To help the guides prepare for their first outdoor camp, they have designed their own bags for storing their meal kits in, as well as having a go at some camp skills.

Rangers

The Rangers attended an event organised by Cashback for Communities, called Reach for Your Voice. At this event they got to attend different workshops about mental health, STEM, Confidence building, and how to use their voices for positive change. By attending this event they gained an SCQF level 2 Hi5 qualification. They all had a great day at this event. On a Wednesday night they have been working hard on their animation badge, they spent a lot of time perfecting their stop motion animation.



Guiding Arts Festival



In March we had our annual unit camp. The Guides and Rangers spent the weekend at South Newton doing a variety of activities that you could find at a festival. They designed their own hats and accessories, had a go at tomahawk throwing, developed their outdoor camp skills. We didn't get to have our usual campfire due to the bad weather, so we all enjoyed an indoor campfire with the lanterns the girls had made as part of their weekend.

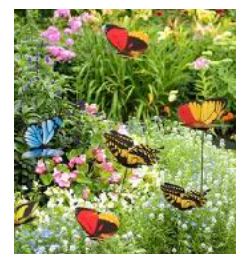


Still to come this session, we have a night at Lapwing Lodge, where the girls will be able to have a go at some outdoor cooking. We also have a trip to the cinema to see the new inside out film to close our session.

Gillian and Lorraine

Young Church

Everyone in Young Church put a lot of thought into this years Mother's Day Service. The theme was Love is Like a Butterfly. As part of the celebrations Hayden read a poem and Harry said a prayer. The other members of Young Church gave each lady in the church a butterfly garden ornament.



"Celebration & Sorrow"

Often life comes at us with causes of celebration and sorrow and this has been no more keenly felt with the news of the cessation of the 2nd Paisley Boy's Brigade Company. By the time you read this a service of celebration will have been held in the Church on the 2nd May 2024. The following letter was sent to Ian McPherson, the companies captain on behalf of the Kirk Session and our wider Church.



Paisley North Church

Abercorn Street, Paisley, PA4 5AG



Dear Ian,

3rd May 2024

The Kirk Session of Paisley North Church received your letter indicating that the 2nd Paisley Boys Brigade will cease as of the 25th of April 2024. We were all so sorry to hear of this news, however, those present at the meeting of Thursday 2nd of May fully appreciate the circumstances surrounding this decision.

Those present at the meeting unanimously agreed that we wanted to write to you expressing our sincere thanks, though it doesn't seem enough, to your two Lieutenants, Craig McPherson and Leigh Scott for their dedication and support of you and the boys of the company.

We wanted especially Ian to record in this letter and through a copy included in the Church magazine to write on behalf of the Kirk Session and the whole Church past and present; to tell you how much we all appreciate your dedication and hard work as company Captain over the last 30+ years.

Sadly, things do not always work out the way we hope. We are certain that the company since its inception some 136 years ago now will have left an indelible legacy not only in the town of Paisley but more so in the memories of all the leaders, boys and through them their families who have been a part of the family of the 2nd Paisley Boys Brigade Company over many years.

God bless you and kind regards,



Stuart Davidson (Rev)
Pioneer Minister and Interim Moderator
Ferguslie Park and Paisley North End.
Presbytery of Clyde.



Helen Stephen
(Session Clerk)

Ten Years On - Sandra McInnes

Recently, while looking for something quite different, I happened upon the Wallneuk North dish towel dated 2014. Brand new, kept good, unused: you know the kind of thing? The original hunt forgotten I studied the many signatures and pictures in blue on the white background. There is a picture of Rev. Peter Gill, one of the church and one of Bertie Adams at a mere 103 years old (the celebration for his 105th came a bit later). There are some little sketches among the signatures: badminton racquets, a camera, some cars and some cakes but the most frequent is a variation on the "happy smiling face". The signatures came with tidy writing, careful block capitals, children's writing and those who were very used to signing their names (i.e. hard to read!). There are about 160 names I think you could expect to see about 36 of those on an average Sunday this year. Which raises the question, where have the others gone? Some are housebound, some have gone to meet their Maker, some have moved to other churches locally and some, especially those with young families, seem to have move away altogether.



Now we have many people who have joined since 2014 and are valued members of the 2024 congregation. Time for a new dish towel?



**Saturday 15th June 2024
at 7pm**

**Come along and get your summer started!
Summer fun, games, and music**

**We will provide the food
you bring your drink of choice!**

Tickets on sale now £5



Church Garden Volunteers Required

We need help to maintain the church garden.
A small group meet on a Tuesday morning at
10am until 12.

If you or anyone you know can come along and help it
would be very much appreciated.

Sunday Services 11am

**Sunday 2nd June Holy Communion
 Retiral offering for RNLI**

Sunday 9th June D-Day Commemoration

Sunday 16th June Father's Day



And Jesus said to them: "Follow me and I will
make you fish for people."
And immediately they left their nets and
followed him.
Mark 1:17-18

