

Connections

Stow Brae Kirk
Church of Scotland
Causeyside Street
Paisley PA1 1YP

Registered Scottish Charity No SC006437
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A message from our Minister

Dear Friends

We are living in an uncertain world at the moment; The country has a new Prime Minister, maybe who we **hoped** for, maybe not. We have heard of a tanker being seized as it sailed through the Strait of Hormuz and we all **hope** for the safe release of the ship's crew. At the time of writing, I am **hoping** for some cooler weather and maybe we are **hoping** for rain.

The word 'hope' in English is a vague wish ('I hope it doesn't rain tomorrow'). The word 'hope' in Greek means something future, but certain. Hence, a definition of hope is to expect with confidence. In funeral services I use the words, *"in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died, was buried, and rose again for us, and is alive and reigns for ever and ever."* The gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ, is a cast-iron, absolute assurance we will one day stand before God faultless and full of joy. And if it's certain then, it's certain now. To 'eagerly await' means enjoy it today! Enjoy who you are in God's sight, knowing that nothing you do or don't do can derail you from his love now, or from your future joy with him for ever.

God loves you. May you know God's blessings each and every day of your life.

Mhairi

Please, if you know of anyone who is ill or in hospital, could you let me know?
(Tel 0141 812 1425; email: MBreingan@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Green Fingers & Wooden Spoons

This year's event is on 10th August in Stow Brae Halls. Tearoom from 1 pm to 2.30 pm (Home baking donations welcome) Flowers/veg, crafts, baking, confectionery/jams, photography and children's classes. Schedules still available in the Hall. All staging of exhibits to be completed by 11.30 am on Saturday 10th. Presentation of trophies at 2.30 pm. Hope to see you there

Junior Church Update

We have had a wonderful year with our junior church. Our Little Stars and Shining Stars have been enjoying learning about the life of Jesus through stories and song. We have been working closely with Mhairi, our interim moderator and regular minister in our activities for our children.

We finished up for the summer with our annual trip - this year it was a BBQ and games in the church halls. We were delighted when Stuart Duncan offered (yes I do think he offered!!!) to do our hot dogs and burgers to go with our ice cream, crisps and juice. There was a bouncy castle, ball pool and lots of games and races with cups and medals being awarded.

Our small group is growing nicely and we are hoping to have 3 groups by this time next year, Little Stars - Birth to 4 years old, Shining Stars - P1 to P4 and our Shooting Stars - P5 to P7. However, we DO need more leaders for this growth, so please consider joining our team to enable our Junior Church to continue on the journey to becoming adult members of our church. This could be in a weekly, biweekly or once a month rota.

Please contact myself (Aileen Baird) or Mhairi Breingan if you are able to help.

The Guild

It is still holiday time for the Guild and we will not be commencing our regular meetings again until October, however, there are a few of us who are continuing the work during the summer.

The syllabus is being planned for the next session and this can be hard work. Some of the local guilds meet only once per fortnight so planning must be much easier for them compared to weekly meetings we enjoy. The secretarial team has now almost completed the syllabus, therefore, thanks to the members for doing so. Also, thanks to one or two other guild members who have contributed some ideas, names and topics which have been very useful. New ideas are always welcome so please do continue this.

The Guild recommences **Monday 7th October** at 7.30pm in the large hall as usual. We should like to emphasise again how keen we are to welcome new members to add to our numbers so do consider joining us for our programme of devotions, interesting speakers, musical items, project information and, of course, tea and coffee! You may remember one of our previous secretaries stated that there is no age limit and everyone will be made most welcome. Well, of course, that still applies! We also continue to appreciate the support and attendance of our regular members and committee members, on whom the Guild's success depends.

After resuming for our first meeting in October, we will have our "Autumn Leaves" tea on **Saturday 12th October** 2pm-4pm. This is always popular with our members and the congregation - a chance to catch up with friends. By that time, we will be booking our Christmas dinner venue and even starting to think about our summer outing destination! Time definitely flies when having fun!
Pat (Convener)

American Connections



In May, the church hosted a visit by a group of 43 Americans who were in Paisley as part of a tour to discover more about famous Americans who originated from Scotland.



Their interest in Paisley was centred on John Witherspoon who was Minister in the original Laigh Kirk (now the Arts Centre) from 1758 To 1768, and then emigrated to America to become Principal of an educational College which was ultimately to become Princeton University. He became deeply involved with the Independence movement and was one of the original signatories of the Declaration of Independence, and the only clergyman to do so.

Irene Woods welcomed them to the church. They were given refreshments, shown some of the Communion silverware and other artefacts that we have from various unions going back to the old Laigh Kirk, and Lesley Sutherland gave a short talk about the history of churches in Paisley about the time that Witherspoon was preaching. A video, which had been made by the University of West of Scotland, about his life in Scotland was also shown.



After the visit to our church they were going to visit the original Laigh Kirk, lay a wreath at the statue of John Witherspoon outside the main entrance to the University and meet Sandy Stoddart, the sculptor of the statue, A guided tour of the Abbey in the afternoon was to be the conclusion of their day in Paisley.



A card received from Irene Woods following the visit reads:

"I wished to thank you, Lesley and the other members of the congregation who so warmly welcomed our recent Sons of the American Revolution. They were thrilled with their visit, for what they learned but moreso for you opening the doors to them. In a week long programme, the visit to Stow Brae Kirk was very much the highlight for many guests. Thank you for your helping to make their trip so memorable and successful. Kind Regards, Heather Anderson (Experience Scotland)".



15th Paisley Boys' Brigade

With the return to school it's time for our new session to begin and we do that on **Tuesday 20 August** for Anchors and Juniors and **Friday 23rd** for our Company section, but more of that later.



It seems only a few weeks ago our Anchors spent another wonderful Saturday at Heads of Ayr Farm Park. Once again the sun shone for us and we all had a great day visiting the animals and playing in the huge forts in the park. Both boys and our young staff loved spending time jumping on the giant pillows – I've said it before but it's true every year that I'm not sure who has the most fun although I really think it's the staff! Who says kids need electronic games to have fun???

Our Display was next and yet again our hall was packed with parents and friends to see boys showing us just some of the things they get up to during the year. The last part of the evening is our presentation of awards. This year Pat Colgan, our Guild Convener, came along to present our prizes in recognition of the partnership between Guild and BB. It's great to see hard work over the session rewarded and especially when we get to present the Brigade's highest award. Andrew Ash, who's been with us since Anchors, is our latest recipient and we congratulate him on his achievement.



As has become a tradition in Stow Brae, our Kirk Session also marked Andrew's achievement when we were invited to morning worship where Graeme, our Session Clerk, made the presentation. Graeme's involvement was very fitting as he worked hard with Andrew on the skills element of his award coaching him to gain knowledge of First Aid and then share with younger members. With Session's blessing we also invited representatives of ROAR and Erskine to join us to accept cheques for £500 each, the proceeds of our charity fundraising. It was a great morning and we were delighted to be there.

Our session ended with our weekend camp when a number of our Juniors and some of the Company returned to Lochgoilhead Scout Centre. The weather forecast was awful and although we had some showers it wasn't as bad as we had feared and we all had a great time. Boys had the opportunity to try sports not possible on Friday nights like kayaking, sailing, work on high ropes and mountain biking not to mention our older boys doing a burn run! Juniors also had fun in a team building session led by a Scout volunteer from the States. All in all a great weekend and again a great end to a busy session.



Sadly the end of session marked the end of service for two of our staff, Ian and Katie. It's sad when we lose staff but we thank them for their service and wish them well for the future. Ian has been with us a long time and his loss will be felt not only in the Company but also at Battalion level where he helped run many of the competitions. Our staff night out in early June allowed us a chance to say cheerio (and also to ensure they know they're welcome back any time).

As mentioned at the beginning our Session starts again on Tuesday 20 August when we'd love to welcome new boys in P1 – P3 to Anchors at 6pm and boys in P4 – P6 to Juniors at 7pm. That same invitation is extended to boys in P7 to S6 to join our Company Section on Friday 23 August.

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 ongoing support which really is very much appreciated.

Jan Phillips
Captain

Phone number -01505 348103 E mail to George.phillips3@ntlworld.com

Cards and messages have been received from members of our congregation who have been recipients of flowers over the last few months. These include **Nancy, Alice Hill, Ann McDonald, Margaret McLeod, Marge Donald, Colin Maxwell and Joan Fraser.**

Social Committee

Hello everyone. It is time to bring you all up to date once again.

We had our Coach excursion to Dundee on 1st June and it was a most enjoyable day. I am pleased to say we had an excellent High Tea in the Royal George Hotel in Perth. On their menu was their usual "large meringues" which did not disappoint myself or anyone else!

Following that, we had arranged our Annual Bowling Evening and if I were to say it rained, it would be an understatement! The rain came down in bucket loads, in fact, it was **torrential**. So our game of bowls was cancelled by the club as it would have been both dangerous and unsafe to play.

Did it deter us? Certainly not! We postponed the game of bowls to another time but we substituted it with a quiz instead and this was followed with the rest of our planned programme for the evening, the Buffet, Bingo and a Raffle. I believe it was still an enjoyable evening for everyone despite the rain.

Look out for the photographs of our coach trip and 'bowling' evening which will be displayed on our notice board in the large hall shortly

Now to what comes next:

The postponed **Annual Bowling Evening** will take place on **Tuesday 20th August**. Previous arrangements remain the same - It will still take place in the Wellmeadow Bowling Club, Argyle Street, Paisley and the time is still for 6 for 6.30 pm on the green. The timing is more important this time owing to the fact the evenings will be starting to get dark earlier.

There is one major difference to our usual order of events - our usual Buffet after the game of bowls. A very kind gentleman member of the Wellmeadow Club has offered to prepare, cook and present a barbecue for us. This will be a new experience as we have not attempted one before and I, along with quite a number of other people, are all looking forward to it. We are always open to new ideas and this will be something different. We will have our usual game of Bingo and a Raffle to end the evening. On that note we would be very grateful to receive any donations for the above to use as prizes. This allows us to keep the costs down for all our events to everyone in the future.

If you would like to join us on this evening, please complete the slips found in the usual places and we will ensure you get your ticket(s). The cost remains at £4.50 per person which is good value. You get enjoyable company, a game of bowls, a game of bingo and, of course, barbecue food and nibbles. You don't need to be a bowler to come to this evening. It is a fun night from the beginning to the end. I am told Wellmeadow Club can accommodate well over 80 people so let's put it to the test! I hope to see you there.

I would like to draw your attention to a "**Rock Us**" **Concert** being held in our church hall on **Saturday 14th September at 2 pm**. This is not one of our events, but it is taking place in our Kirk and it is for a very good cause. "Rock Us" are a charity group of people who are comprised of a large group of ladies and one or two men. They sing a selection of songs from many musicals.

They are performing in the concert to help raise funds for a young girl called Jade. Jade is only 13 years of age and suffers from acute Cystic Fibrosis. Unfortunately, Jade's life expectancy is not great as she requires a double lung transplant, but her doctors have advised her family against this. There are no charges at the door but there will be a **bucket for monetary donations** which will be used by her family to try and help fulfil some of Jade's dreams.

Please come along and enjoy a musical afternoon and at the same time help to support Jade and her family to make her life just that little bit more enjoyable for the short period of time she has left.

Lastly, please take care over the remaining summer months wherever you are, as you are all precious in God's eyes.

With kind regards to everyone.
Anne Sellars, Social Convener - April 2019

All items for inclusion in the next edition to be received by Irene Gemmell no later than Sunday 27th October.