

Paisley Stow Brae Kirk
(The Church of Scotland)
Causeyside Street

Connections

Registered Scottish Charity No SC006437
ISSUE 34 SPRING 2019

A message from our Minister

Dear Friends,

We live in a society that's immersed in unpleasantness. Everyone is right and everyone else is damned; be it Brexit or Indyref, we're more than happy to browbeat those who disagree with us into submission. I wonder what Jesus would do? Well it's actually easy to know; you simply look at what he did. In modernity we may well accept Christ as the Messiah and our own personal saviour but it wasn't always like that. In his day, many opposed Him and all he stood for; there were even those on His side who weren't beyond a wee bit of aggravation on His behalf. However this wasn't His way and he always resisted. His way was a way of peace and love so He was always ready to correct those who expressed aggression on His behalf. He sympathised with the lost and marginalised; He even had time for the wrongdoer such was the boundless nature of His love and compassion. It is this that all of us should aspire to - not rectitude and power but a simple and humble place of understanding and compassion. Ask yourself - does it really matter if people don't agree with us? Should we not just try to accept the differences where they occur and build a society in which everyone is special and no-one is marginalised. This was Christ's way; it should be ours too. Let's begin 2019 with this at the heart of our life, our thoughts and our actions. Let this be the source of our inspiration and the way we all choose to walk through life.

Blessings, Robert



BEST WISHES ON YOUR RETIREMENT!

Our Church Cleaner, Sadie Dock (pictured receiving flowers and a gift from the church), finished work with us on Friday 21st December. Sadie will be sadly missed but we wish her all the best for a happy and healthy retirement .

Thank You

Messages of thanks have been received from the following grateful recipients of flowers from the congregation

Betty Taylor, Jean Wilson, Margaret Dick, Nancy Walker, Margaret & Jack Martin, Anne Sweet, Pat Colgan, Irene Gemmell and Laura & Dorothy Henderson (family of the late Jessie Henderson)

Hello everyone,

It has been a busy time for us here in the Sunday School recently. We have been learning about the birth of Jesus and took part in our Annual Church Nativity. Our Christmas Party was held on Saturday 22nd December. We all enjoyed some games, our bouncy Castle, party food and, of course, a visit from a very important person - Santa Claus!



2019 brings us a new year and a new name for our Young Church: Our Beginner Sunday School will be called 'LITTLE STARS', the Primary Sunday School will change to 'SHOOTING STARS'. Once we have an older group we can introduce the COMETS too.

We would love to see new faces becoming regulars on a Sunday morning in our halls, so, if you know of any young family or have children and / or grand children of your own, please do bring them along.

On behalf of myself, Diane, Janette, Linda, Marion and Karen, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of the Young Church.

Warmest Regards, Aileen Baird

The Guild

I am writing this article as a very poor substitute for our President, Pat Colgan, who, unfortunately, has been ill. Pat has, thankfully, been restored to us. She is not yet fighting fit but is getting there.

I will briefly recount some of last years highlights but mainly we had very good, well attended meetings.

One of our projects this year is Faith in Young People. We enjoyed hearing from an excellent speaker but the highlight was definitely three of our own BB boys with their leaders - we were all very proud of them. We then had a good old sing song with 'Rockus' followed the next week with our Halloween Witch Hunt. No false faces were needed as our own were funny enough! Our education does not suffer in the Guild as we listened to Stories from the Front and The History of the Victoria Cross with great interest.

We had our Special Guild weekend during Guild week. On the Sunday we had a speaker from the City Mission, followed by our usual successful Soup and Sweet Lunch. A pre Christmas Handbag Party afforded us the opportunity to buy Christmas gifts and also earned the Guild some commission! We were delighted to see Pat on that occasion, she is looking remarkably well following her illness.

Once again we hosted the Paisley Guilds Together Carol Service which was well attended and a good start to the Christmas Festivities. Our Church was beautifully decorated for this and I would like to thank the men and women who worked really hard to achieve this.

Our last meeting was our Christmas Dinner in Canal Station. The food and company were great and we have a fabulous prize draw where we each buy something for £1 and use our imagination, I was delighted with my prize but I cannot write it down here so if you want to know you will have to ask me!

That was last year, so now let me wish you all a healthy, happy and blessed New Year

We have a very varied programme for the year ahead and once again we urge you to join us to help keep our Guild, Church and Lord strong.

February

4th - Project: Free to Live Trust

11th - Nan's Story: With one good eye Seema's Story

18th - Special Guild Concert: Maureen Todd and Friends

25th - Compass

March

4th - Quiz

11th - Wendy Stanford

18th - Basket Tea

25th - AGM

As ever "we know whose we are and whom we serve

June Proctor

Editors Note: Apologies for the absence of an update from the Guild in the previous edition of Connections. This was due to my clerical error.



We hear a lot about the need to protect children and other vulnerable people from harm. Harm comes in all sorts of shapes and sizes, and as a church, we must do our utmost to ensure that we do everything we can to keep people safe.

In this church, we follow the Safeguarding procedures which the Church of Scotland has laid down. These are governed by various laws which have been passed by Government. We have 2 Safeguarding Coordinators **Jean Urie** and **Lesley Mackay**, and a Safeguarding Panel, made up of the coordinators, the Depute Session Clerk **Steven Drennan**, **Lesley Sutherland** and **Lesley Millar**. (I should point out that being called Lesley is not a safeguarding requirement).

The Safeguarding Panel ensures that Safeguarding procedures are carried out, and is the point of contact if anyone has any concerns about Safeguarding matters. Anything which is brought to the attention of the Panel will be dealt with quickly, confidentially and in accordance with the procedures which have been laid down.

If you wish, and are able to, volunteer to help with an organisation which deals with children or vulnerable adults you will be asked to complete the Safeguarding procedures. This will include some form filling, and an interview (big word for what is really a friendly chat). The forms are sent to Church HQ in Edinburgh, which passes them to Disclosure Scotland. They perform the official checks and then inform both you and Edinburgh of the outcome. Edinburgh notifies us and the Kirk Session ratifies you to work in the organisation. This process takes 6-8 weeks. It can seem an awful lot of bother, but is really painless, and the alternative (children at risk) is not acceptable. You will also have to attend a Volunteer Training Session which is run by Presbytery. This ensures you are aware of the issues and procedures involved in Safeguarding. The Safeguarding Panel members are a friendly group. If you want more information about Safeguarding feel free to have a chat.

Remember

**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**

Jean, Lesley, Steven, Lesley and Lesley

PUZZLE TIME

Books of the New Testament

Matthew
Romans
Colossians
Hebrews
Mark
Corinthians
Thessalonians
James
Luke
Galatians
Ephesians
Titus
Jude
Acts
Philemon
Revelation

Z F
E E
J Q I T
W J A M
M M H D N E
M D L U K E
L O A Z C O R I N T H I A N S V G R V V
G A L A T I O N S X P G M Y R O X C T B
S N A I S S O L O C P I R O M A N S
U K R E V E L A T I O N H C G Q
N A G C N O M E L I H P Q Y
W P S T C A G G K M P Z
W T H E S S A L O N I A N S
E A O W E P H E S I A N S M
S H S W E R B E H D E K U S M Q
U T Y S C T C A E D U J C O
G T T A J R B J A M E S W G
X I A A Z C K R A M
U I T M G Z W V
Z Q W H

Friendly Hour

Tuesdays at 2pm in the large hall - All are welcome!

12/02	Bell Ringers	26/03	Street Wise - Musical Group
19/02	Dalmally Divas	02/04	Irene Woods
26/02	Quiz	09/04	Co-op Easter Special
05/03	June Walls & June Williams	16/04	Community Police
12/03	Waverley Paddle Steamer	23/04	Spring Tea (AGM—musical group)
19/03	Rowanberries	30/04	Outing



15th Paisley Boys' Brigade

All sections of our Company are busy with lots of activities both at Company and Battalion level. Our Primary 3 Anchors had a great time with lots of others in the Battalion P3 afternoon at Martyrs Church. The afternoon had an American theme and all of the boys had great fun making visors, playing ball games and then baseball and best of all having hotdogs to eat and finally playing game of dodge the giant ball. It was great to see them all joining in and the afternoon just flew by. Well done to Ina and the committee for organising.



P2 afternoon is next and then Anchor Boy afternoon when all Anchors across the Battalion get the chance to have a fun afternoon at Gleniffer High.

Juniors have also taken part in Battalion competitions which is a great way of discovering that BB is bigger than just your own Company. They took part in Team games at Renfrew North Church and then were back in Renfrew for the Swimming Gala. At both events the boys had lots of fun and also did well to gain valuable points for the Championship. They're now practising hard for the figure marching which we hope to enter at the end of February.



This is the time of year when boys in their last year of Anchors and Juniors start to think about what life in the next section is like and do familiarisation visits to find out more. It's great to see them progressing although scary to see how quickly they grow and move on!!

On Company section nights in January we've been fortunate to have Graeme and Charlotte join us again to share their expertise on First Aid with the boys as they prepare for the First Aid competition. As well as teaching for the competition what a valuable life skill all our boys are gaining – we're so lucky to have folks willing to share their knowledge with the boys and also prepared to give their time to it. While we hope they continue to do well at the competition how much more important that they have the knowledge to be able to save a life should ever they be in that situation. They are also practising for the drill competition so it's really busy on Fridays. - fortunately they still manage to have time for some fun and lately they've enjoyed our latest acquisition which is an indoor archery set. I don't know if the boys or their leaders have more fun but the important thing is they all do!! In addition to all of that they also participated in the Battalion Swimming Gala and, together with boys from 1st Elderslie, Matthew Parker and Kyle MacKay gained bronze medals.

In December lots of the boys, and some of the staff and parents, participated in the Jingle Bell run at Barshaw Park. The boys were sponsored and we're planning to donate some of the money they raised to a local charity.



This year again we were able to donate a very healthy number of 'Night Before Christmas' boxes. The folks responsible were once more delighted at the response from our Company. It's great to know that their generosity is benefitting local children and homeless adults in our own West of Scotland area. Yet again our boys are working hard to help others – well done boys!



There's always room for new recruits so if you know of any boy who'd like to come along please encourage them – I'd be delighted to give any information you might need. If you would 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 Email George.phillips3@ntlworld.com



Thank you to the contributors and distributors of Connections.

If you would like something to be included in the next edition of the magazine please email Irene igirenegem@gmail.com or speak to me in Church before Sunday 31st April.