

Connections

Registered Scottish Charity
SC006437
ISSUE 35 MAY 2019

A message from our Minister

Dear Friends,

How good it is to have been with you at Stow Brae for over a month already. For those of you whom I haven't met, I am your Locum Minister and Interim Moderator for the time being. My name is Mhairi Breingan and I am an Ordained Local Minister within the presbytery.

In a former life I taught physics and continued to do so during my training for ministry. After I was ordained in 2011 I acted as Locum Minister at Lochwinnoch before moving to work alongside Rev. Ken Mayne at Martyrs' Sandyford until Ken's retiral last August.

A vacancy is always a time of uncertainty for a congregation; as you know it is a time of uncertainty for all the Paisley churches as Presbytery seeks to formulate a new plan for ministry. There may be uncertainty as to what will happen and changes will need to be made but of one thing we can be absolutely certain - it is simply this: God knows each one of us, God loves each one of us and He calls us to follow Him. As we seek to follow Him he strengthens and supports us with the gift of His Holy Spirit. May we all know the love and blessings of God in the days, weeks and months ahead.

I would like to thank you all for the very warm welcome that I have received on Sundays and throughout the week and I very much look forward to serving God with you in this place.

Please, if you know of someone who is ill at home or in hospital, would you let me know?

(Tel 0141 812 1425; email: MBreingan@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Blessings, Mhairi



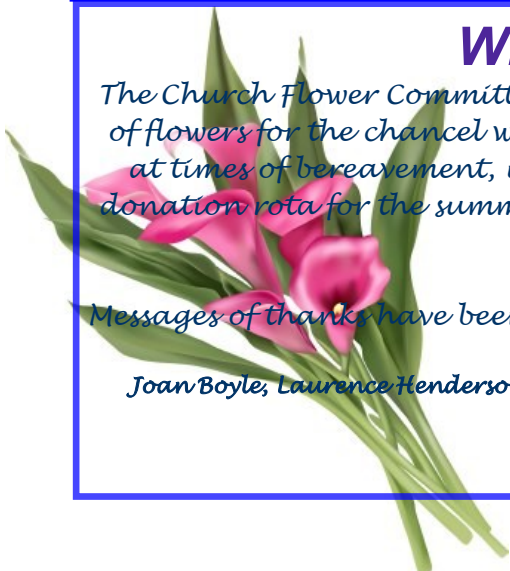
With Thanks

The Church Flower Committee would like to say thank you for the many donations of flowers for the chancel which are the passed onto members of the congregation at times of bereavement, illness or celebration. There are still a few gaps in the donation rota for the summer months. Please see Mary Dennison if you are able to assist.

Messages of thanks have been received from the following grateful recipients:

Joan Boyle, Laurence Henderson, Margaret Halliday, Margaret McNair, Jean Urie, Nancy Wilson

The Flower Committee



Social Committee

Hello everyone,

"Time waits for no man" and oh how true that is.

It amazes me how fast time seems to pass; it feels like no time at all since we were all celebrating Christmas and the New Year and now, Easter has come and gone. Even the weather is telling us "summer time is here".

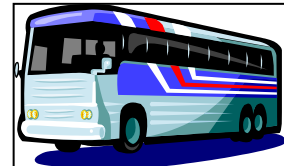
Here is a short update of what has happened and is still to come from the Social Committee.

Annual Easter Picnic

We have held a very successful Easter Picnic in the large hall on Sunday 14th April. This is the 4th year we have organised this and it was lovely to see so many people all laughing and enjoying themselves. There were lots of sausage rolls, sandwiches and cake to be seen on the tables and one table even had bowls of soup. (That was a 'posh table', not mine!).

I tried to count how many people were actually in the hall and reached 75/76 then lost count as chairs were being squeezed in here and there at some tables – so I gave up. There was such a happy buzz in the atmosphere it was wonderful. I do have photographs from this so keep a sharp look out on our notice board for these.

If you missed it this year or the previous years, look out for it next year.



Enough of looking back, it's time to look forward:

Coach Excursion – Saturday 1st June 2019

Our next item on this year's programme is our Coach Excursion.

A White Star coach has been booked to go to the Victoria & Albert Museum in Dundee; leaving Stow Brae at 10.00 am and returning at approximately 7.30 pm.

A 'Highlights Tour' has been arranged with the Museum for everyone.

Afterwards the coach will take us to The Royal George Hotel in Perth for High Tea.

I am hoping for a wee wander in Perth but it all depends on the time we spend in the Museum.

At the moment there are 7 seats only left on the coach, so if you want one, I suggest you book it quickly.



The Annual Bowling Evening – Tuesday 9th July

Our annual bowling evening is always a superb event.

You don't need to be a bowler to come to this - it's a fun evening and very enjoyable and everyone is always in a party mood; by the time you have finished playing your game of bowls you will wonder why you never tried it before.

Keep a look out for the notices about this being displayed and make sure you get your name down early.

That's all from me at the moment.

Everyone in the Committee looks forward to you joining us at our events throughout this coming year.

Please take care.

TOGETHER WE PRAY

Dear God

We pray for our congregation. May worship be truthful, passionate and honouring to you. Whether in ancient hymns or new songs, may we unite in praise and offer our whole lives as worship to you. In our life together may we encourage where there is struggle, celebrate where there is joy, grow together in our understanding of the Good News, be unafraid to challenge, honest enough to confess our mistakes and may we remain hopeful as we dream dreams.

In our mission make us bold and adventurous. In our weakness may we know your strength. May we have the great joy of seeing others come to faith in you. May we be resilient in our pursuit of justice and have the humility to share in the work with others. May our congregation be a place where the gifts of many are united in common purpose, where all are allowed to flourish and be valued, where together we are built into a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit, as together we grow in love.

AMEN

GIVINGS APPEAL

Dear Members

As you may recall, it is four years since we had our Stewardship Campaign. In 2015 we asked the Congregation to think about all the work we do, how much it costs to run our church and what they could contribute.

We had a good response and got to a position where we have been paying our way.

But as the years have passed, costs have gone up and our numbers have gradually gone down. So we are now approaching the point where our income will be less than we spend.

We get extra money each month from Hall Lets, which helps to balance the books. But we can't rely on this always being there. It could stop or be reduced at any time.

The work of the Church goes on and the Kirk Session feel that they must now ask each of you to think about our finances and consider the amount you can give.

Any extra help- whether by increasing your Standing Order or your weekly donation - would be greatly appreciated.

Jack Martin
Finance Convenor

Friendly Hour

The Friendly Hour have finished their regular programme of events for this session but will be having 'Drop-In Days' on 4th June, 2nd July and 6th August.

The Guild

The second part of the Guild session began in January when our guest speaker was Rev. Sandy McDonald who spoke in a very entertaining way about Butlins and his Christian contribution to the campers there some years ago. Liz Allan returned to talk about her late mother about whom we had previously heard when she spoke to us last year about her father's "Letters from a Desert Rat" sent to her mother during WWII. We were pleased to welcome Dr. Pam Cairns to talk about her work involving "Seema's Project", Free to Live Trust. This was one of the projects supported by our Guild this year.

We have also had many musical evenings enjoyed by all: The Gordon Webster Trio provided a programme including gospel and light entertainment as well as amusing stories as to how they formed the group. Alan (our very talented Church Organist) came along with Marion on Burns Night and their programme was also very well-received. Later in February our friends "Compass" provided their usual entertainment of music and tales. Then in March, for our Basket Tea, the group known as A.G.M. were welcomed back.

All of these guests provide such good music it is little wonder that we invite them back on a regular basis. Our Guild concert was held in February and was a huge success as always. Our guests were D.A.R.A.M.A. This musical group use their initials to form the name of the trio. Maureen and Raymond sang a variety of songs from "the Shows" and the music chosen by them suited all tastes as was shown by the enthusiastic applause they received. Their pianist, David, accompanied them very professionally proving how talented he also is. The comments praising them, and the afternoon tea provided, continued long after the event! The Guild session concluded with the AGM.

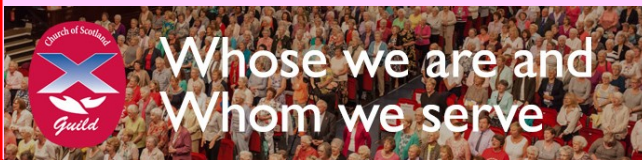
We are now looking forward to our outing in June. This year we are going to a show: "Evita" and high tea to follow. This is not our usual outing and we are hoping that this change will be successful and, perhaps, not so weather-dependent as a trip down the coast. We are already planning for next session beginning in October. We hope that we will continue to prosper and would love to welcome new members to enable us to do so.

Thank you again to our faithful members for your continued attendance, to the hard-working Committee and to the Congregation and friends for your on-going support.

Pat (Convener)



**Whose we are and
Whom we serve**





15th Paisley Boys' Brigade

As you read this we're in the final weeks of the session and preparing for the events that this brings; trip, display and camp. We will then have some welcomed time off before we head into a new session.



Since our last Connections we've been really busy with Anchor Boy day at Gleniffer High where our boys joined with lots of others to enjoy crafts, games and other activities. They always have a great time and love discovering that they're part of a much bigger organisation than 15th Paisley.

Our Juniors did really well at the Battalion Sports day with lots of fun and medals too. They've also been welcoming our P3 Anchors on a couple of evenings as they begin the transition to Juniors. They fit in so well and we love encouraging them as they grow up.

Our Company boys again excelled at both First Aid, where they swept the board with first and second in both competitions, and Drill where yet again they won the Squad competition. They also entered the Elementary competition and won that too – a first for our Company. With good comments from the judges in both competitions we, yet again, had reason to be so proud of our boys.

Andrew Ash attended the Battalion's Queens Badge completion course at the end of March and we're delighted that his award was signed off at the end of this. As a result he can now be awarded with his Queens Badge at our Display. At the event Jan was joined by Pamela as part of the training team and that's great for the Company to have more support for our boys.

I think for our Company the highlight over these last few months has been the overwhelming support coming from our Interim Moderator and you, our Congregation. Mhairi, soon after arriving at Stow Brae, came along on a Tuesday evening to introduce herself to the boys and very quickly made herself at home – jacket off and offering help with Mother's Day crafts. She's also visited the Company and showed the same willingness to join in with a shot at both Curling and Archery.

As you know, we usually collect Easter eggs for the local foodbank and this year asked if the congregation would like to contribute. Thanks to everyone, and especially the Friendly Hour, we were able to donate 191 eggs which were very gratefully received.

Our Display is on Friday 17 May at 7pm in the large hall when we'll be able to show parents and friends some examples of the activities we do on Tuesdays and Fridays and then present trophies and badges and make promotions. As always there's an invitation to everyone to join us.

Anchors are off to Heads of Ayr for their trip on 11 May and then Juniors and Company have their camp at Lochgoilhead 31 May to 2 June.

We'll be in Church on 19 May when Andrew will receive a Bible from Kirk Session to mark his Queens Badge achievement. At that service we've invited representatives from Erskine and ROAR to accept the proceeds of our fund raising activities over the session and we'll be delighted to give each £500 to help with their work. As you, our congregation, supported our efforts so much we thought it was right that you are there when we hand over the cheques.

There's always room for new recruits so if you know of any boy who'd like to come along at the start of our new session in August please encourage them – I'd be delighted to give any information you might need. 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 on-going support which really is very much appreciated.

Jan Phillips (Captain)
Contact : 01505 348103 or George.phillips3@ntlworld.com

If you would like something to be included in the next edition of the magazine please Submit to Irene Gemmell before Sunday 28th July.

