



West Word

Paisley West Church, Quarterly Newsletter
May 2025 Edition

Paisley West Church

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A message from our Minister

As I write this message Easter is past and I am preparing worship for the first Sunday after Easter - we will be thinking about Thomas's encounter with the risen Christ.

I am aware that we will be close to Pentecost by the time the magazine is distributed and you are reading this.

Already, in the first week after Easter the congregations right to call a minister has been restored by Presbytery and I am absolutely delighted.

By the time you read this that will be old news and I hope we are several stages ahead on the pathway to your next ministry.

Sometimes it can seem like nothing ever changes or moves, other times it feels like we can't keep up with the rate of change.

Over the year I have been interim minister sometimes it seemed like nothing was changing in the church - now it seems like so much change is happening all at once. However, things were always moving : we said goodbye to old friends and hello to new faces, we did the ordinary work of church and tried out new things.

There is a verse in the bible that says

Do not look to the things of the past or cling to events from long ago - look for the new thing I am doing (Is 43 : 19)

It is a good reminder that God is always working his plans and purposes. These are changes and changing times for Paisley West, for the whole church of Scotland. There is challenge in change and opportunity too. In both we can know that we can look to God, who guides us by his Spirit and who leads us though all our ways in the way of His Kingdom.

Sandra

Inspiring Bible Verses

Liz Evans, has provided this edition's verse. She has chosen:

Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Liz writes "I have this verse in a frame by my bed and these words have helped me through many stressful times in my life. It reminds me I am not alone and I don't need to rely solely on myself but that with God I will overcome any obstacles".

Inside this issue:

The Way Ahead	2
Finance	2
West Word Next Issue	2
Property Update	3
Pastoral News	3
Presbytery News	3
8th Paisley Boys' Brigade	4
Diary Dates	4

The Way Ahead

"Most of what is to be done will be carried out by the Session, but when called upon, you as a member, will be informed and asked to propose and select a nominating committee."

Many of you must be wondering where we are going and what has to be done to move towards reinstating our "Right to Call".

There are a few stages we still have to go through, but most involve me reading edicts at the correct time. We have started this with the first reading to create an Electoral Register, with the second taking place one week later.

A lot of groundwork has gone into this with the creation of the most up to date church roll we have and the creation of a supplementary roll. This puts us slightly ahead of schedule and after the meeting with the Presbytery's Vacancy Procedure Committee, we should be allowed to appoint a vacancy committee, advertise the position and create a parish profile.

Most of what is to be done will be carried out by the Session, but when called upon, you as a member, will be informed and asked to propose and select a nominating committee.

We still have a reading of the 2nd edict which I hope you will be done by the time this newsletter reaches you. The session also has to approve a Parish profile, which is almost complete. The congregation will be asked to select a Nominating Committee, place an advert for applications. Hopefully this can all be done before the end of May.

Jim

Finance

We ended last financial year in December 2024 with a surplus of £6855. At the end of March 2025 our income was £27004 and our expenditure £29343; a deficit of £2339. Hopefully, now that the seasons have changed more people will come back to Church and our income will increase.

We are extremely grateful to the Pastoral Care Team who have been holding events in aid of Church funds and to everyone who comes for a cuppa after Sunday service.

Our bank balance is currently £26903 and there is £4000 in national savings bonds.

Investments: We currently have £300,291 in Capital Fund and £10,000 in Revenue Fund held at 121. There is also an amount of £249,726 to be added to the Capital Fund from the sale of the St. Columba Church buildings.

There is a need for some major works to be done at the Church and manse so we are in a good financial position to carry these out.

Mary

West Word, September Edition

Articles for inclusion the next edition of West Word should be emailed to newsletter@paisleywest.org.uk by Sunday 31st August 2025.

"We are extremely grateful to the Pastoral Care Team who have been holding events in aid of Church funds"



Property Update

Storm damage; as you may be aware the roof of the main sanctuary was badly damaged with a large section of the apex line being torn away completely! We were able to gain the services of a local roofing contractor who was able to provide temporary repairs and carry out a survey of further damage, in total there was approximately 20m of roof line that required to be repaired and over 250 slates replaced on three of the roofs. The cost of the repairs was circa £13k and thankfully this has been covered under our buildings insurance policy.

Church, halls and manse; minor repair works/maintenance and grounds care continue to be carried out by volunteers and we give our thanks for their time and energy in carrying out these works.

As we move towards calling a minister, we are now looking at carrying out some small works/upgrades to the manse to ensure it is ready to welcome a new resident and also to the halls to make them more inviting to visitors, these should be taking place in the next few months.

As noted in the last Quinquennial property report undertaken by the Church of Scotland, a larger scheme of renovations to the fabric of our sanctuary and halls suite is required to both inside and outside, and this is something that will need to be looked at and costed in the coming years to ensure that we are fit for local mission in our parish.

Stephen

Pastoral News

The pastoral team have been busy this year, nurturing fellowship and bringing good cheer!

We've had music and song, and we've all sang along!

We've danced to the slosh, and eaten nice nosh!

We've played bingo with prizes galore, and had quizzes by the score!

We've enjoyed tea and a bun, and we've had lots of fun!

We will finish with an outing, not to be missed, so remember to put your name on the list!

Linda

Presbytery News

Clyde Presbytery incorporates the old Paisley, Greenock, Inverclyde and Dumbarton presbyteries. It meets four times a year to discuss everything to do with the running of all the parishes, from vacancies and unions to safeguarding and building work; from organising conferences to sharing good practice. It works through committees who report back at the main meeting. I am often asked, "Who is this presbytery?" Presbytery is made up of all ministers and corresponding Presbytery elders. It is overseen by a moderator, chosen annually, and run by the Presbytery Clerk and his team. Our present clerk is Robbie Hamilton and he has been instrumental in helping us move forward. If you have any questions about Presbytery and my role in it, please do not hesitate to ask me.

Liz



8th Paisley Boys' Brigade



The 8th Paisley concluded their 2024-2025 session with our annual Company Inspection and Display in early May. Our display enabled us to celebrate the success of all our members across our three sections. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of King's Badges to nine of our Senior boys – over the past two years the nine boys have participated in a leadership course, improved a chosen skill, developed their physical fitness, undertaken 301 combined hours of community volunteering while also completing 288 combined hours of service to church and company and attending a weekend residential completion course. Congratulations are offered to Danial Docherty, Jordan Halliday, Adam Jack, Lewis Kerr, Aneiti Matthew, Max McGowan, Darren Queen, Aaron Urquhart and Ewan Watson.

Our display marked the end of another busy BB session and our activity programme which this year included:

A visit from Hoot Owls to Anchors and Juniors; Fund raising coffee morning; Seniors football trip to Accrington Stanley; All company visit to Ten Pin Bowling; A trip to the Christmas Panto at Kings Theatre; Company Section attendance at Scotland games at Hampden; and Juniors and Company adventure weekend at PGL Dalguise.

The above programme together with our weekly activities, challenges and games have resulted in a fantastic BB session which would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of our officers, helpers and volunteers – thanks are offered to all.

We are already looking forward to next session which will commence on Friday 22nd August 2025 - new members will be a made most welcome!

David

Diary Dates

- ◆ **Every Sunday:** 11 am Morning Worship
- ◆ **Every Monday:** 10 am - 12 noon Wee Blether
- ◆ **Last Sunday of the month:** Food bank donations
- ◆ **Saturday 17th May:** Film show 2 pm in the large hall
- ◆ **Sunday 1st June:** Communion Service followed by buffet lunch. All donations to church funds.
- ◆ **Saturday 7th June:** Outing to Stirling
- ◆ **Friday 22nd August:** 8th Paisley BB enrolment for new session
- ◆ **Sunday 31st August:** Deadline for articles for inclusion in next edition of West Word newsletter
- ◆ **Sunday 5th October:** Communion Service followed by buffet lunch. All donations to church funds.