



West Word

Paisley West Church, Quarterly Newsletter
September 2025 Edition

Paisley West Church

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A message from our Minister

Paisley West is moving ahead into new times. The time of interim ministry is complete. The nomination Committee to find your new minister is up and running.

The nominating committee have been working hard through all the processes involved in finding the next person to be the person you call to be the minister at Paisley West.

This is not easy work, it is time consuming, sometimes frustrating and a huge responsibility. The nominating committee are not permitted to give updates on their work however, I can tell you how very impressed I have been by the thoughtfulness, faith and skill that they are bringing to their task.

The person they choose will be the first minister called to Paisley West - as no minister has been called since the union - so they need your prayers as they undertake the task of finding, not just a minister but the minister who is the right person for Paisley West.

You may be wondering what will happen to services on a Sunday morning. The plan is to employ a locum to work with you till a new minister is called. I had hoped to have a locum start with you in October, this may still happen, but at the moment we are not able to confirm this timescale. In the meantime, services for September are being taken by our own Liz Evans and by Mary Jane Bird. Pastoral cover is being offered by the Paisley ministers and this is being coordinated by Hazel Shaw at St Georges.

I will be remaining as interim moderator; you will not see me on a Sunday morning but I will be continuing to moderate the Kirk Session and I will be available to the Nominating committee.

I am allowed a couple of weeks break then I will be returning to work part time with the team of interim ministers. This is a big change for me and I am looking forward both to reduced hours and a new way of working.

It has been a real pleasure to work with the congregation at Paisley West and as our ways part I am glad that you have new things to look forward to.

God is always travelling with us, in our coming and going and I wish you His richest blessing in all your ways ahead.

Sandra

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"Sandra has left us in a far better place than where we were when she came in."

"We wish her well in her future challenges."

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Make donations go further

Goodbye

We said goodbye to our Interim Minister on Sunday 31st August. Sandra came in with an 18 - 24 month job to prepare us for being allowed to call. Thirteen and a half months later she has achieved her task, which she says, "is down to you," the congregation.

A presentation was made at the end of the service followed by a buffet lunch.

The nominating committee are actively searching for the right fit for us and I wish them well in this endeavour.

Sandra has left us in a far better place than where we were when she came in.

She will move on to training and supervising new Interim Ministers and I can't think of a more suitable person to carry this task out. She will not fully be leaving us, as she has been appointed as our Interim Moderator, to see us through to our new Minister. In her own words, "I hope I am not in this post too long".

We wish her well in her future challenges.

Jim

Finance

At the end of July 2025 our income was £59748 and our expenditure £61125; a deficit of £1377. Our income has greatly decreased and our expenditure, like everyone else's has greatly increased. The deficit could have been greater but owing to the generosity of the late Mrs Rena Murphy she bequeathed money to the Church, which we received in July.

We currently have:

£27792 in the bank account at RBS.

£19448 in the Revenue Account held at Church of Scotland

£550,017 in Capital Account; however £350,000 plus fees will be withdrawn from this for the purchase of the new manse at Glenvilla Crescent. We await confirmation of the sales transaction and we can then sell our existing manse at Acer Crescent.

Gift Aid

For the period from January to April 2025 we have received £3660 from HMRC in respect of our Gift Aid Free Will offerings. This is a tax refund which really helps our income so if you are a tax payer you may be able to use the Gift Aid system for your offerings. If interested, please speak to Dorothy Young who will advise you. Gift Aid forms are attached to this newsletter.

Mary

West Word, November Edition

Articles for inclusion the next edition of West Word should be emailed to newsletter@paisleywest.org.uk by Sunday 26th October 2025.

Property Update

There have been quite a few things within the Church and the manse since our last meeting.

Acer Crescent and Glenvilla Crescent Manse

As part of our preparations to call a new minister the decision was taken to look at changing our Manse. We can confirm that after lengthy discussions and viewing we have been able to buy Paisley North Churches manse at 5 Glenvilla Crescent, Paisley, the Manse at Acer Crescent after some renovations and full spring clean (with great thanks to all volunteers who have help with the many tasks) will now be placed on the market for sale.



Church buildings

Unfortunately we have had further incidents of water ingress in the sanctuary from the valley gutters on the west side of the roofline during the heavy rainfalls, These have now been cleared and a team of volunteers cleared the water and mess in the Sanctuary, Thank you to the ladies from the wee blether group for clearing up once the issue was uncovered.

The furniture and carpet in the old vestry room at the front of the church were damaged during the water ingress, the room has been cleared and cleaned and the room will now be redecorated with the help from one of our members who gifted a donation to the church to be used in the redecoration and upgrade works, we are hoping to make this room a quiet/resting space where people can sit if needed during our services.



Session room

The session room has also been redecorated to provide modern meeting space with a large meeting table and chairs, and a new audio visual system to allow the room to be used for online meetings and is open for use to our church members and our local community.

Main Hall

The badminton court in the main hall has been relined and the floor resealed in preparation for the return of our Boys' Brigade company who greatly enjoy playing during their meeting nights.

Big Clean up

On Saturday 5th July, a team of volunteers met at the church to carry out cleaning both inside and outside the buildings, this was a great success and lots of work was carried out on the day, I would like to personally thank everyone who came to help on the day, it is very much appreciated. I would also like to thank the members of the Pastoral team who also supplied teas and coffees during the day and treated all the volunteers to a chippy tea after the work was completed.

Quarterly Fire Drills:

On Sunday 10th August, we conducted a fire evacuation drill after the Service had concluded, a short explanation of the available exits and where to congregate was provided before the alarm was triggered, we all then evacuated the building in good order. Thank you to everyone who took part in the drill and to our Welcome Team who undertook the roles of fire wardens on the day. We will be carrying out further drills later in the year. Weekly tests of the manual call points will take place every Sunday (this will be after the tea and coffee bar finishes).

"With the help from one of our members who gifted a donation to the church, the redecoration and upgrade works of the old vestry can take place"



Stephen

Pastoral News



We are looking forward to another busy session starting this September. Events are open to all and are free of charge. We offer fun, food and fellowship and we would love you to come and join in.

The Wee Blether: Every Monday 10.00am to 12 noon.

Please come and join the chat, you will be made most welcome. We are glad to see numbers increasing but we will always have room for more!

Dates for your diary.

Saturday 6th September 25: Film-show

Saturday 4th October 25: Film-show

Sunday 5th October 25: Buffet lunch after communion service.

Saturday 1st November 25: B.B. Coffee Morning 10am – 12 noon.

Outing to Stirling.

Our outing to Stirling was the first outing we have had where the weather was not so kind to us! The day began with pouring rain. However, this did not dampen the spirits of anyone involved.

Stirling offered shopping - and most of us took advantage of that! History, with the brave and able hiking up the hill to the castle. We ended our day with a chippy dinner in the Blue Lagoon Chip Restaurant, where everyone enjoyed a well deserved seat and a delicious dinner.

Linda

Inspiring Bible Verses

Fiona McGoldrick has provided this edition's verse. She has chosen:

Psalm 46 verse God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble'.

In my early 20's I spent two summers working as a counsellor in a Salvation Army Children's Summer camp in upstate New York. The camp took in under privileged children from various cities in the state and many of them could be very challenging to work with. At the start of my second summer there, the camp director, Captain Maynor gave Psalm 46 v1 to the camp staff as a verse to remember and use to help us through the difficult times we may face. At times during that summer and at many difficult and challenging times in my life since then it is a verse I have turned to when I needed to remind myself that God is always with us and is there for us to turn to, to listen to us when we may feel overwhelmed and need his help.

Fiona

"I needed to remind myself that God is always with us and is there for us to turn to, to listen to us when we may feel overwhelmed and need his help."

Presbytery News

Our release into vacancy having been approved in March, Presbytery officially granted permission for our church to call a minister on unrestricted tenure and for the vacancy to be overseen by John Armit, Ian Sim and Rev Gordon Armstrong.

A worship Leader course should be available in the autumn.

Presbytery would like to encourage churches to become Eco congregations. This would need to be run by members of congregation who are committed to eco ideas, like recycling and energy saving.

Anyone interested in the above two initiatives, please speak to Liz Evans.

Liz



Mission and Education News

Doors Open Day

By the time you read this we will have taken part in our first Doors Open Day event under our new name. I hope you came along and it was successful.

Christian Aid

We raised the sum of £1,105 in May through the sponsored walk of our Parish and envelope donation. A big thank you to all who donated to our church's own charity.

Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

Too early to mention Christmas? Not for this charity effort! Leaflets for OCC, detailing what can go in each box, will be available mid-September, and filled boxes should be returned by the first Sunday in November. There are some ready-made boxes available again this year, but you can also use an old shoe box. Just cover lid and box separately with Christmas paper - they look terrific for a child to open.

ACORN - Ask; Call; Obey; Report; Notice

Lord, is there someone You want me to connect with outside the church?

This is a new mission initiative with which anyone can get involved. Rev Sandra Black has already spoken to us about this in a sermon. Liz Evans would like to form a group to follow this up. If you are interested in finding out more, please speak to her at any time.

Liz





8th Paisley Boys' Brigade

The adventure has begun . . .

The new Boys' Brigade session started in late August and all sections already have plans for an exciting and enjoyable programme.

The Anchors and Juniors have welcomed some new members and are looking forward to a Police Visit, a tour of the SMISA Stadium, a Lego night hosted by Lets Go Construct and our annual Pantomime trip (with the Company Section).

The Company Section have also welcomed new members with a busy programme for the new session which includes Scotland games at Hampden, a Seniors football trip and a Company Section trip to Blackpool in the spring of 2026.

Our annual coffee morning will take place on Saturday 1st November between 10am and 12noon - we hope you will be able to join us for tea, coffee, cake and fellowship. Tickets will be on sale soon!

New members are always welcome:

Anchors, P1-P3, Fridays, 6.30pm

Juniors, P4-P6, Fridays, 6.30pm

Company, P7-18yrs, 7.45pm

Please encourage any boy to come along and join the adventure with us.

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 6th September:** Film show 2 pm in the large hall
- ♦ **Saturday 4th October:** Film show 2 pm in the large hall
- ♦ **Sunday 5th October:** Communion Service followed by buffet lunch. All donations to church funds.
- ♦ **Sunday 26th October:** Deadline for articles for inclusion in next edition of West Word newsletter
- ♦ **Sunday 1st November:** B.B. Coffee Morning 10am – 12 noon.