



West Word

Paisley West Church, Quarterly Newsletter
November 2025 Edition

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A message from our Moderator

We are about to enter the season of advent which is the beginning of the church year and a time to focus on how it was that the birth of Jesus came about.

These winter days, mornings are dark, afternoons are short, nights are long and it can feel like the world is closing in, that nature is closing down. Yet, in the darkness, unseen as yet, the work for the growth that will give us the new growth of spring is happening. This annual cycle of nature echoes in the advent story.

Advent is the four Sundays before Christmas in our church calendar but it covers a time of hundreds and hundreds of years when God was active and working towards sending His Son as one of us. As we work our way through advent, we see God fulfilling His promises, not always in the way most expected but in the way that best fulfils his purpose. Traditional Advent readings point us to this:

A voice cries in the wilderness.

The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light

And God's promise comes to earth, not in with the herald of a mighty King but in the birth of a baby.

It is the season of hope, the time to remind ourselves that God knows what he is doing. And if we feel the darkness of the season and the chill of the day, then we can know also that God's purpose does not stop or fail but is working now and is for us.

May you know God's blessing now and always

Sandra

Inspiring Bible Verses

Ken McKnight has provided this edition's verses. He has chosen

Peter 5:7 "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you"

Mathew 6:34 "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own"

For me these verses complement each other. The first states that you are not alone and that there is someone who cares. The second puts worry into context and that worry is corrosive to the mind and body and should not be confused with thinking ahead without fretting about it.

Ken

Inside this issue:

From our Session Clerk 2

Finance 2

Property Update 2

Mission and Education 3

Pastoral News 4

Flower List 2026 4

Presbytery News 4

Introduction from our
new Locum 5

WW Next Edition 5

8th Paisley Boys' Brigade 6

Diary Dates 6

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"We are all in this together and together we will succeed."

"Unfortunately, our congregation numbers continue to reduce which again reduces our income. Hopefully, the appointment of a new minister will encourage more people to attend"

From our Session Clerk

As we move forward towards the call for a Minister, a few things have happened from the time of the last newsletter.

The manse at Acer Crescent is now up for sale and a more modern manse has been purchased at Glenvilla Crescent. This was not an easy decision, but, the newer house has a more welcoming and a brighter outlook.

I also must pay my thanks to the diligence of the Nominating team who are working hard on our behalf to pick the right candidate for our church. I can appreciate that it seems to be taking a long time but in terms of the Church of Scotland, it is moving very fast. We all must be patient and give the committee the chance to make the right choice.

The above situation can only come about with you, the congregation. Your continued support in all that we are trying to do, is vital to the day to day running of the church, the support for what we are trying to achieve and ultimately our success in finding a new minister.

We are all in this together and together we will succeed. We have come this far in this united charge so let's not let each other down.

I wish you all well, for the festive period and hope the horizon of success is not that far away.

Jim

Finance

At the end of September 2025 our income was £70005 and our expenditure £78756; a deficit of £8751. We currently have £20506 in the bank account at RBS.

Our income has greatly decreased and our expenditure, like everyone else's has increased. Unfortunately, our congregation numbers continue to reduce which again reduces our income. Hopefully, the appointment of a new minister will encourage more people to attend. As we head into winter our heating costs will increase greatly. So much for global warming !!!

Hopefully we can, with the help of the congregation, come up with some ideas how to use our halls; encourage others into the church and help to increase our income.

Mary

Property Update

Not much has changed since our last newsletter apart from that we will be carrying out the annual inspections of the manse and building during December/January.

Once again, I would like to thank the volunteers who continue to tidy up and refresh the buildings and the outside areas.

Stephen

Mission and Education News

Doors Open Day

An update for those not managing to church to hear the intimations. We had 5 people through our doors, each coming for a different reason. It was interesting to talk to them all. We will hopefully host this event next year again and, like ACORN below, from small beginnings, greater things will come. A big thank you to Maria for playing the organ throughout the 2 hours. It was worth coming along for that alone. Also thank you to those who volunteered to help at the door and with the teas. if you missed coming this year, there's always next year.

Christian Aid

In December we will be having our usual Christmas appeal for our church's own charity. Envelopes will be available from the first Sunday in December and can be returned via the collection plate on any Sunday in December. Thank you for your continued support.

OCC

At the time of writing I do not know how many Christmas boxes will have been donated but I know how generous our congregation is and I am sure there would have been a good amount handed in by November 2nd. Thank you to those who have been so generous again with this appeal. Many of you have said how much you enjoy buying things for the children.

ACORN - Ask Call Obey Respond Notice

The ACORN initiative is now underway and I hope many of you have been made aware of the God conversations you have with friends, family and even strangers. If you have been wary in starting, don't worry, you are not alone. Praying to ask God who He wants us to encounter can be daunting and scary, but, ultimately, it will be fulfilling. Come along to the monthly gathering in the hall after church on the last Sunday of the month. It will only take ten minutes where we can talk about encounters while having a cuppa. I look forward to speaking with you, whether you have had an experience or not.

Retiral Offering

The winter retiral offering will take place in January (date TBD). The Kirk Session normally decides the charity but If there is a special charity you would like us to collect for, please speak to me and I will make a list of suggestions to put to Session.

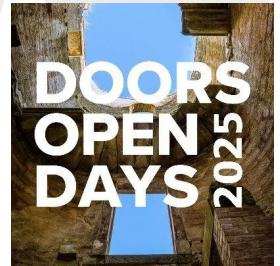
Crossreach

Thank you to those who supported our Social Arm of the church by buying calendars and cards. Crossreach Sunday itself is celebrated on November 16th, when there will be a special retiral collection.

Remembrance Sunday

Our poppy fall will be on display again during the service. The retiral offering will once again go to Combat Stress.

Liz



*"Praying to ask
God who He wants
us to encounter
can be daunting
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Pastoral News



Our events began, as usual at the beginning of September. Some brave souls battled gales to attend our first film show of the season!! Thank you to them!

Since then, we have enjoyed another film show and live music by Andrew, which we all look forward to.

We have also hosted one buffet lunch after the October Communion Service, to raise money for church funds.

The Wee Blether (every Monday 10.am to 12 noon) continues to provide fun, food and fellowship to all who attend. We celebrated Halloween with some themed snacks and a wee treat to take home! All are welcome to join us every Monday - a warm welcome awaits.

We are looking forward to our annual Christmas dinner - Sunday 7th December, 5.30pm for 6pm at Ferguslie cricket club - get your name on the list when it appears!

Behind the scenes members of our team (you know who you are!!) have worked really hard removing junk, cleaning and organising areas of the church building - a huge thank you to everyone who has helped

Linda



Flower List 2026



I would like to thank everyone who donated flowers to enhance our Sanctuary and Vestibule at Paisley West Church over the last year. The flowers bring so much joy to our congregation and to the recipients that these are passed on to after our Sunday service. To everyone, a huge and heartfelt thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Please find attached our 2026 Flower List. If you no longer wish to donate please remove your name from the list in the main hall or speak to the Convenor, Catherine Munro.

Catherine

Presbytery News

***“The new moderator
of Clyde Presbytery
for 2025/26 is Rev
Mhairi Breingan.”***

The new moderator of Clyde Presbytery for 2025/26 is Rev Mhairi Breingan. Many of our congregation will remember Mhairi preaching in our church and I ask you to keep her in your prayers as she takes on this challenging role.

There will be no more Local Church Reviews but instead the General Assembly in May agreed to each church forming its own Action Plan. Clyde Presbytery are looking at ways to support their churches through this transition.

Liz

An introduction to Our Locum, Rev. Ian Millar

Born and brought up in the village of Kilbarchan worshipping with my parents at the Memorial Hall (Christian Brethren) I attended Kilbarchan Primary then Johnstone High School. On leaving school worked as a travel agent with OSA Tours 74 Causeyside Street, Paisley and later managed their branch office in Johnstone. I became a member, then elder at Kilbarchan West Church. Along with local youth fellowships from around the area we took over the Kelburne Cinema to raise money for Christian Aid in a concert featuring local Paisley gospel band The Concords

1969 I married Joan Parr (who once worked in the nearby Douglas Street Nursery) and also in that year I started to study at Glasgow University in preparation for the ministry. Served an "apprenticeship" with Rev Peter Houston in Renfrew Old then to my first and only charge on 5th August 1975 and retiring on 30th June 2012. Thirty-seven wonderful years for Joan, my two boys Derek and Andrew and myself. Whether it was wonderful for Bonhill... you would have to ask them!

On my retirement I was made a freeman of Dumbarton, an honour I share with Rabbie Burns and Jackie Stewart. It simply means I can graze my sheep on the common.... If I had any.

Since then I have been involved in eight congregations in the old Dumbarton Presbytery and feel that it is a great privilege to return to the old Paisley Presbytery where I was licenced to preach.

Implicitly I believe that the gospel is still relevant. Jesus told stories simply and effectively and all who listened got the message. I remain inspired by them.

I finish at Dumbarton Parish Church on the 11th November. I hope to be with you on the 16th November then Joan and I go off on a break until 2nd December and hopefully, with God's good grace, and Joan's understanding I will be with you until, in the fullness of time, you call your new minister.

May God Bless you at this time.

Ian

West Word, March Edition

Thank you to all our readers and to everyone who contributed to our newsletter over the last year. It would be great if we could have more articles or suggestions on how we can improve our newsletter.

Articles for inclusion the next edition of West Word should be emailed to newsletter@paisleywest.org.uk by Sunday 25th January 2025.



"On my retirement I was made a freeman of Dumbarton, an honour I share with Rabbie Burns and Jackie Stewart. It simply means I can graze my sheep on the common.... If I had any."





8th Paisley Boys' Brigade

The BB session is now well underway and all Sections have had a busy programme so far.

Anchors and Juniors have enjoyed a visit from Police Scotland, a Lego activity night with Let's Go Construct and a visit to St. Mirren with a tour of the SMISA Stadium.

The Company Section have equally had a busy start with Squad Challenge and Superstar nights while also visiting Hampden on two occasions to watch Scotland win.

Lots still to come including more Scotland games, Seniors football trip to Crewe, Christmas Night, Panto visit and much more in 2026.

Our annual coffee morning was a great success and we were delighted to raise a significant amount which will help us meet our capitation fees to BBHQ. Thank you to everyone who supported us in any way - it is much appreciated. The adventure continues . . .

David

Diary Dates

- ◆ **Every Sunday:** 11 am Morning Worship
- ◆ **Every Monday:** 10 am - 12 noon Wee Blether
- ◆ **Last Sunday of the month:** ACORN meeting and food bank donations
- ◆ **Sunday 9th November:** 10:45 am Remembrance Sunday, Combat Stress retiral offering
- ◆ **Sunday 16th November:** Crossreach Sunday retiral offering
- ◆ **Saturday 29th November:** Film show 2 pm in the large hall
- ◆ **Sunday 30th November:** 11 am First Sunday of Advent Service
- ◆ **Sunday 7th December:** Communion Service followed by buffet lunch. All donations to church funds.
- ◆ **Sunday 7th December:** 5.30 pm Christmas Dinner at Ferguslie Cricket Club
- ◆ **7th- 28th December:** Christian Aid Christmas Appeal
- ◆ **Sunday 14th December** 11 am Third Sunday of Advent Gift Service
- ◆ **Sunday 21st December** 11 am Fourth Sunday of Advent Service
- ◆ **Wednesday 24th December:** 7 pm Christmas Eve Service followed by Tea/Coffee and Mince Pies
- ◆ **Sunday 28th December** 11 am First Sunday after Christmas – Carols and Readings
- ◆ **Sunday 26th January:** Deadline for articles for inclusion in the next edition of West Word newsletter

