



West Word

Paisley West Church, Quarterly Newsletter
February 2026 Edition

Paisley West Church

King Street

Paisley

PA1 2LS

T: 0141 889 6603

E: office@paisleywest.org.uk

W: www.paisleywest.org.uk

Minister:

William A McCulloch

T: 07491 578182

Session Clerk:

Jim Jack

T: 01505 814894

E: jackojean@aol.com

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A message from our new Minister

Hello to everyone.

As many of you know I preached as Sole Nominee in your Church on Sunday 11 January 2026 and was delighted to receive the unanimous Call from all those present to be your Minister. My Ordination and Induction will take place on Thursday 19 February 2026, and I hope it will be a great evening joined by family, friends, congregations I have been a student and of course the good people of Paisley West. My first Sunday will be 22 February, where I will be Preached-in by Rev Jim Teasdale, Minister, Glasgow: Eastwood Parish Church and I will lead my first full service as your Minister on Sunday 01 March, which I am delighted will also be my first service consecrating the elements and administering communion. As this will be my first charge as a Minister of Word and Sacrament, there are going to be a lot of firsts and I am looking forward these as well as getting to know everyone and how things work in your Church.

I completed my academic studies at Trinity College at Glasgow University last year with a Bachelor of Divinity (BD) degree which is the formal education part of training for Ministry of Word and Sacrament. My training for Ministry included placements at different settings, my first placement was at Pollokshaws Parish Church with Rev Roy Henderson, second placement at Sherbrooke Mossspark Parish Church with Rev Adam Dillon.

Candidates are required to do a full-time summer placement over 10 weeks; I split my summer placement into two places and did six weeks at the Preshal Trust in Govan on a staff/chaplain basis and the other four weeks at Inverclyde Royal Hospital with Rev Jeanette Peel undertaking hospital chaplaincy. My final placement was my Probation Placement at Eastwood Parish Church with Rev Jim Teasdale. In between times I did Pulpit Supply in various Churches, one being eight months in Kilmacollm: St Columba. Every placement, supervisor, congregation, and people in general have all played a vital role in my formation, be it gentle encouragement and understanding, hugs, handshakes, or even the odd telling off for being last to finish my tea (again!). My Call to Ministry would be so much different without everyone I have encountered along the way, and I am truly thankful to all.

Prior to training for Ministry, I was a Further Education Lecturer in Joinery/Construction for 17 years and before that I was a Joiner with a Local Authority, having served my apprenticeship with them. I was involved in many ways in my home Church, Neilston Parish, having been baptised there as a baby. Over several years I was involved in different roles, my main role was Beadle for 18 years. I helped paint and decorate as a

From our new Minister (continued)



“At this stage I know a handful of people, and I hope to get to know as many of you in the coming weeks and months as we grow and develop into a strong Church Family”

teenager, I served on the Congregational Board, and Property Committee (latterly as Convener), was ordained an Elder, did some admin work or whatever else I roped myself into. Only giving these roles up to take up my Calling into Ministry.

I am married to Hazle, who is a Support for Learning Teacher in a secondary school, and we have our son Euan who is 11, and will be starting secondary school after the summer. Euan has a passion for Lego and cycling. Our household is completed with our two Westies (West Highland Terriers), Murdo who is 3 and we have had since he was a pup and Barra who is seven and we adopted her around two years ago. Along with my mother, Shirra, Hazle and Euan have been my main champions for my training and placements and now becoming your Minister. Their support and love are an absolute power of strength and encouragement to me.

As I take up my post there will no doubt be uncertainties of what is this new Minister going to do, change and so forth. Well, I can say initially there may be some minor tweaks, but I will largely be getting to know the people and the communities connected with Paisley West Church. Over time with the Kirk Session and other willing volunteers we can look at a plan that ties in with the Presbytery requiring us to have a 5-year plan and prioritise what we want to achieve and strengthen going forward. Working together we will achieve more!

At this stage I know a handful of people, and I hope to get to know as many of you in the coming weeks and months as we grow and develop into a strong Church Family.

A Bible verse that I feel is very apt at this time of getting to know people and settling into new ways and doing things for the Church is from 1 Corinthians 16: 14. “Let all that you do be done in love.” We all do things in different ways, and we just need to remember it is our love for God that we do these.

Your Minister Elect, Friend and soon to be Rev.

William

William A McCulloch; BD LCGI MIOC.

Flower List 2026

I would like to thank everyone who has agreed to donate flowers to enhance our Sanctuary and Vestibule at Paisley West Church for the year ahead. The new Flower List for 2026 is displayed in the Main Hall notice board. There are a still few spaces available so if you wish to donate please add your name to the list or speak to the Convener, Catherine Munro.

Catherine



From our Interim Moderator

I am delighted to say that this will be my last interim minister/interim moderator message—and I'm delighted because I am so pleased that, very shortly, your new minister William McCulloch will be ordained and inducted to Paisley West. It is a wonderful beginning to 2026 for you and it marks a new stage in your walk of faith together as God's people.

I believe that God has called William to you, just as you have called him to be your minister and that the Spirit is moving among you. We cannot know what lies ahead, but we can know that where we walk with God we are travelling well.

I appreciated the warmth and faith I encountered during my ministry at Paisley West and I pray God's richest blessing on William, and you all, as his ministry with you begins.

May you know God's blessing now and always.

Sandra

From our Locum

Very soon you will enter a new era with your new minister. This is an exciting time for you and I wish Paisley West, Rev William and his family the very best. I don't need to ask you to be welcoming and supportive because I know you will. It's been a joy to be with you.

My move to Bonhill was on the 6th August 1975, my first charge. It was a different world and a different church. The local council held a wee "do" to recognise that maybe I had made some contribution to the community over the last fifty years getting involved in the schools and hospital. I think it was easier then. William faces a more difficult challenge but some things don't change. I firmly believe Jesus still has a lot to say to us. I believe his words are the antidote to the world's ills. He told stories that can't be beaten....

The Good Samaritan.... Sometimes help comes from unexpected quarters and maybe even from those you might not consider your friends

The man who built his house on the rock.... Make sure your foundations are right.

The prodigal son.... Forgive those who may not deserve your forgiveness because that is how God forgives us.

And of course the best advice of all... do unto others as you would have them do to you.

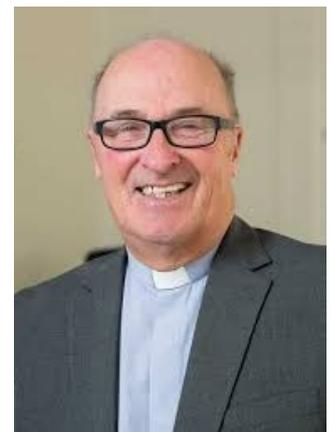
I wish you well and thank you most sincerely for your acceptance of me.

God Bless You.

Ian



"I pray God's richest blessing on William, and you all, as his ministry with you begins"



"I wish you well and thank you most sincerely for your acceptance of me"

From our Session Clerk

*“Our new Minister,
William McCulloch
will be ordained
and inducted on
Thursday 19th
February at 7 pm”*

*We thank our
Nominating
Committee, Sandra
Black and Ian Miller
for all they have
done for our
congregation at
Paisley West.*

Another year is now upon us with new, but hopefully enjoyable challenges.

Our new Minister, William McCulloch will be ordained and inducted on Thursday 19th February at 7 pm in the church. William will be preached in on Sunday 22nd February and will take his first service (Communion) and the Sunday 1st March. We wish him and his family well in his first charge and look forward to them being an active and present part of church life.

Can I, on your behalf, take this opportunity to thank the Nominating Committee for the work they have put in, to bring us to this stage. It is a thankless task, when you cannot tell anyone, anything. To you all, we owe a massive debt of gratitude for your professionalism, perseverance and dedication, in bringing us one candidate to Paisley West.

To Ian Miller, our thanks for keeping us going and reminding us that the right person is there, waiting to be called. We will miss Ian’s thoughts and sense of humour. Always looking on the bright side of life. He will be sorely missed by all he has touched. Ian will preach for the last time on Sunday 15th February. I wish him good health for the future and I’m sure, if needed, Ian would answer the call to help us out.

To Sandra Black, thanks again for all your support as Interim Minister and latterly as Interim Moderator, we wouldn’t have been in the position we are in without your guidance. We wish you well and hope you enjoy your imminent retirement.

Jim

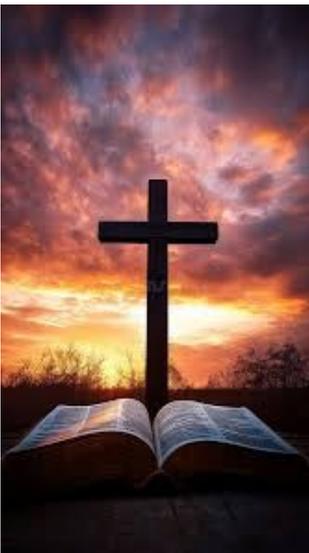
Inspiring Bible Verses

Marlene Graham has provided this edition’s verses, she writes:

Psalm 32 v8 comes to mind — I will instruct and teach you in the way you should go ; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. I was leaving Mallorca after living there for 30 years. My dear husband John had gone to be with the Lord, and I had a few health issues. My family here in Scotland thought it was time to come home to my roots and be near them. I had a little bit of doubt and fear of “was I doing the right thing”. A big decision for me to make and pray over. **Jeremiah 29 v11** also came to me — “For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord”. Plans to give you hope and a future. Both these verses assured me that I was not alone and God would be with me.

Proverbs 3 v 5-6 — Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding in ALL your ways submit to Him and He will make your path straight. I gave Him my heart and full attention. There were lots to be done and here I am. The first Sunday I came to Paisley West Church I was so welcomed. I have another part of God’s family around me and have my own family near too. I am so blessed, my heart is peaceful and content. What God said in His word has guided me in every step of the way.

Marlene



Finance

At the end of our financial year December 2025 our income was £87284 and our expenditure £105250; a deficit of £17965.

Our income from offerings was £44510.84. This was added to by a legacy of £7013; donations of £1325; and £2602 from fundraising by the Pastoral Team. Our expenditure continues to exceed our income with large amounts such as;

£35659 for Giving to Grow; £18810 for Gas & Electricity; £13736 for Wages; £4685 for Insurance; and £11924 for property costs.

We did spend a considerable amount on the old manse at Acer Crescent, getting it ready for sale. The sale realised £345,000 and we received £338,255 after sales fees and legal costs.

These are difficult times for everyone but it is hoped with the appointment of our new minister more people will attend church and our income will increase.

Mary

Property

The annual surveys of our Church buildings and new Manse are on-going and the reports will be taken to the attestation for 2026, initial visual inspections show that the church and halls buildings are beginning to show signs of their age, potential upgrades and repairs to the roof, windows, rainwater goods, external masonry and rendering will all require close attention over the next year as well as the requirement to upgrade our internal electrical & lighting systems.

As we head towards spring and hopefully brighter weather, we will be looking to continue the great work carried out last year on the tidy up of the Church surroundings to help with our Inside / Outside project – more information will be provided later on this.

You may remember last August we carried out a Fire Alarm drill which was carried out successfully, to ensure we keep up to date with our procedure we will be looking to carry out our next drill in late February early March.

Unfortunately, on Sunday 25th January, we had an issue with the Church Organ, we have had a service engineer visit to provide an initial inspection and are now awaiting a report on the condition of the organ and timescale for possible repairs, for the moment we will be using the Church Piano to provide accompaniment during our services.

Stephen

West Word, May Edition

Articles for inclusion the next edition of West Word should be emailed to newsletter@paisleywest.org.uk by Sunday 26th April 2026.



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Communications



We continue to live stream our Sunday services through our You Tube Channel and are pleased to see that the uptake on viewing has risen again, Thank you to all those who regularly tune in to join with us in worship through the web.

Our Facebook page continues to provide a source of information on Church life and events being held both locally and nationally along with the Church of Scotland's verse/inspiration for the day.

If there is something that you would like to see communicated on our Facebook page or the church website, please come and have a chat with me (I'm usually hiding behind the laptops at the side of the Church).

Stephen

Pastoral News

The Pastoral team have, as always been busy since the last news letter. We have enjoyed several Saturday afternoon film shows, with films to suit all ages and tastes.

Our Christmas Dinner at Ferguslie Cricket Club was well attended. It was a really enjoyable evening. The food was good and the company better. The raffle raised £180 for church funds. Thank you to all who donated prizes and paid to win them back!

Our new year programme is well underway, by the time you read this we will have enjoyed 2 film shows and a musical afternoon courtesy of the Uekele Band. All our Saturday afternoon events are free of charge (small donations welcome).

We are planning to have a catered 2 course lunch on Easter Sunday (Sunday 5th April) after the church service. The cost will be £5. We hope you will join us for this and we can celebrate Easter with food and fellowship.

Our Annual Trip will take place on 30th May. Further details to follow.

The Monday Wee Blether is open to everyone on Monday mornings from 10am till 12 noon. As the name suggests it is a time laughter and chat! Tea, coffee, cakes and often chocolates are on offer! We have celebrated Halloween, St Andrews Day and Christmas with themed food and wee gifts! We have also enjoyed a buffet lunch. We are already planning for Valentine's Day and Easter. All are welcome to come and join in the fun and fellowship. We would love to boost our numbers. See you there!

A big thank you to May Murray who used her knitting skills to knit some beautiful shawls. These were offered to the congregation and the ones which were left were sent to Westerfield Care Home for the residents to make use of. The staff and residents were delighted to receive the shawls. Our very own Mrs Magill received a shawl and is now very cosy.

Linda



Mission

Charity Giving

The Christian Aid Christmas appeal raised the sum of £236.50 and our winter offering for Crossreach raised the sum of £130. Thank you to everyone who donated to either or both of these appeals.

The Spring retiral offering will be on March 22nd in aid of Women of Courage, a local charity based in Foxbar Community centre, which helps women to resettle after difficult domestic circumstances.

ACORN - Ask Call Obey Respond Notice

Lord, is there someone today you want me to connect with outside the church? More people are becoming aware of the good effects of this faith tool. With some, it gives the confidence to speak to others about their faith; with others, it helps them to focus on who they feel they need to speak to.

February - Ask: Lord, who do You want me to notice today?

March - Look for one moment today to bring calm or kindness into an ordinary place.

April - Pray for fresh eyes to see God at work around you.

There is a monthly moment to report back in the large hall after the service about any ACORN conversations you have had. We will also be starting a study group on a Wednesday morning to look at the ACORN booklet in detail. If you wish to be involved in this, please see Liz Evans.

Inside/Outside

The team hope you all enjoyed the new Christmas decorations in the church and also outside. Please feel free to suggest suitable items for further Sundays or offer your services to the team. Liz Love asks you to join her on Wednesday 25th February at 2 pm in the main hall to discuss future projects. Everyone will be made most welcome.

Liz

Presbytery News

Robbie Hamilton, the Presbytery clerk, has resigned as he wishes to return to Parish ministry.

The Business Committee is to engage the service of the Rev. Paul Beautyman to explore Presbytery's support of those engaged in work with children and young people and the involvement of children and young people in the life of the Presbytery and congregations.

Instead of being subject to a Local Church Review, each charge is now required to have a 5-year Action Plan. The new Congregational Support Committee is keen to offer help, support and encouragement to Congregations. Each Kirk session must now have an action plan in place. Part of our church's plan comes from our Parish Profile and will focus on Communication, Community survey and Mission - inside to outside.

Liz



8th Paisley Boys' Brigade



We are now into the second half of our BB session and we are looking forward to our annual Company Inspection and Display on Friday 1st May.

Our highlights this session to date have included the following:

- A Lego Night with the visit of Let's Go Construct - Anchors and Juniors;
- All Sections trip to Ten Pin Bowling;
- A visit of the Community Police Officers to the Anchors and Juniors;
- Company trips to Hampden to watch Scotland play Greece, Belarus and Denmark;
- Anchors and Juniors trip to SMISA Stadium for a tour;
- Seniors football trip to Crewe to watch Crewe v Chesterfield;
- Christmas and Halloween Parties;
- All Sections trip to King's Theatre Panto; and
- Our annual coffee morning which raised over £1,000.

The highlight of the session for many in the Company Section is our trip to Hampden to watch Scotland qualify for the world cup!

We are delighted that our Senior boys continue to work towards their respective awards. We have two boys due to attend the King's Badge Completion Course in early March at BBHQ at Carronvale, while a further three boys are working towards their Presidents Badge and will attend the respective training course in Mid March.

Our weekly meetings continue and all three sections continue to welcome new members - please encourage any boy interested to come along and join us. The adventure continues . . .

David

Diary Dates

- ◆ **Every Sunday:** 11 am Morning Worship
- ◆ **Every Sunday:** 10.30 am Prayer Group - Session Room (except Communion Sundays)
- ◆ **Every Monday:** 10 am - 12 noon Wee Blether
- ◆ **Every Wed:** 2 pm House Group at (Rob and Hildmary Johnstone's home).
- ◆ **Last Sunday of the month:** ACORN meeting and food bank donations
- ◆ **Thursday 19th February:** Ordination And Induction of William A McCulloch as our new Minister, 7 pm.
- ◆ **Sunday 22nd February:** 11 am Rev. William McCulloch preached-in by Rev Jim Teasdale, Minister, Glasgow: Eastwood Parish Church
- ◆ **Wednesday 25th February:** 2 pm Inside/Outside group meeting
- ◆ **Sunday 1st March:** Communion Service followed by buffet lunch
- ◆ **Sunday 22nd March:** Women of Courage retiral offering
- ◆ **Saturday 28th March:** Easter Afternoon
- ◆ **Sunday 5th April:** Easter Sunday service followed by lunch
- ◆ **Saturday 25th April:** Film show 2 pm in the large hall
- ◆ **Sunday 26th April:** Deadline for articles for inclusion in next newsletter
- ◆ **Friday 1st May:** 8th Paisley BB Annual Inspection and Display
- ◆ **Saturday 30th May:** Annual Trip

