



West Word

Paisley West Church, Quarterly Newsletter
May 2026 Edition

Paisley West Church

King Street

Paisley

PA1 2FS

T: 0141 889 6603

E: office@paisleywest.org.uk

W: www.paisleywest.org.uk

Minister:

William A McCulloch

T: 07491 578182

E: minister@paisleywest.org.uk

Session Clerk:

Jim Jack

T: 01505 814894

E: jackojean@aol.com

A message from our Minister

Hello Friends,

Time flies when you are enjoying yourself and busy getting to know what you've let yourself in for. It has been a few weeks now since I was Ordained and Inducted and this has brought a lot of new things for me. One of the most fulfilling firsts I had was on my second Sunday, 22 February when I celebrated the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper with you and I was able to bless and administer the elements. Communion is one of the two sacraments in the Church of Scotland and as such you can only fully do this service once ordained. As with anything you do the first time, nerves are involved, will I do it right, do I know what the elders are doing, do they know what I am doing, will I say the right words at the right part. All of this is now irrelevant as the service went well for my first communion as a Minister and more so, your Minister. The learning at university and conferences gives all the theory, but to actually administer the elements and serve God's people at this most special of suppers really brings home what the theory is all about. Jesus served His followers and through apostolic succession we continue that in His memory with the words of institution.

There have been many other things that have come in my first couple of months, Kirk Session Meeting, and Lent & Easter. Holy week was an enjoyable week with our brothers and sisters in Christ as all the Church of Scotland Churches in Paisley participated in services from Palm Sunday evening through to Easter Sunday evening. The experience of sitting in different places of worship, listening to different styles of preachers and meeting with our neighbouring Christians gives a great sense of we are all part of something bigger. My colleagues were kind in their planning and let the 'newbie' go last, we at Paisley West hosted the Easter Sunday evening service and I preached on the road to Emmaus and how we are all on a journey.

I am getting better at peoples names and will continue to do so, however one thing I have introduced is the ability for people to make Pastoral Requests, be this if someone is ill, in hospital, grieving, feeling low or any other reason you may wish to speak to me, your Minister. There are cards available in the vestibule, pews, and foyer to complete with the details of any requested visits and these can be posted in a box in the foyer. To make sure Pastoral Requests can be accessed as easily as possible, there is a QR code (see below) and if you scan this it will take you to an online form to complete details of requested visits and I will get an alert about any new requests. I am keen to be a pastor to the people of God in Paisley West and the only way I can do this is when people tell me what is going on

Inside this issue:

Inspiring Bible Verses	2
From our Session Clerk	3
Finance	3
Property	4
Communications	4
GDPR	4
Pastoral News	5
Mission	5
8th Paisley Boys' Brigade	6
Diary Dates	6

“If anyone young, old and everyone between has ideas, suggestions about new things we could try, or you have skills and talents that can be used, please share this with your Church family.”

From our Minister (continued)

and who needs some pastoral support.

Over the next few months, I will be working with other office bearers to bring our communications more up-to-date and part of this will involve collating information from you the members to make communicating and sharing information more efficient. There will be more information about this with this edition of West Word.

Each of us are made in God’s image and we all have gifts that God has given us. One thing I have learnt is that the gifts we have, change in life and we can find new gifts and talents and age does not need to be a barrier. If anyone young, old and everyone between has ideas, suggestions about new things we could try, or you have skills and talents that can be used, please share this with your Church family.

Your Minister and Friend

Rev William

William A McCulloch; BD LCGI MIOC.



Inspiring Bible Verses

Our Minister Rev. William McCulloch has provided this edition’s verse Jeremiah 29: 11. He writes:

This passage is part of the Babylonian exile story and gives hope to the Babylonians but can also give a sense of hope and meaning to us all. It was first brought to my attention when I received a gift of a wallet with this passage inscribed on it.

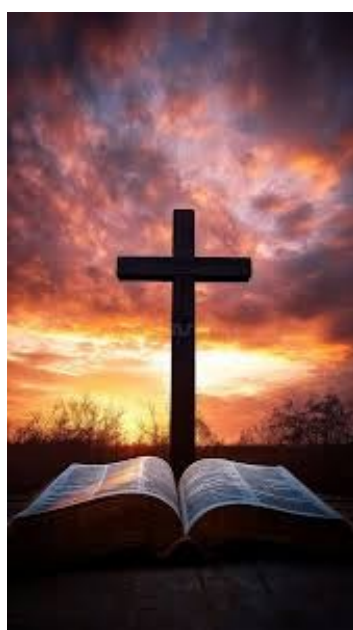
I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

This is a reminder that God knows what he has planned for us and knows what road he wants us to travel, but as human nature is, we do not always do as the plan is and can make things difficult for ourselves. Only God knows these plans and this can make the choices more challenging.

The plans God had for me were different from what I thought, but on reflection I can see the previous jobs I have had, were part of the plan, it was part of nurturing me for the role I am now in.

Plans to care and not to harm – the past few years saw some difficult points for me, leaving a job I loved, starting university, going back to study, a couple of blips with health – at the time it was difficult and frustrating, but are all things that build you and make you stronger and this is what now makes me realise God’s plans are not meant to be easy, but build us to be who He sees us as in His plan.

When you feel the struggles of life and wonder where it will end, remember this verse and have faith that God’s got it! We need to realise we can’t control everything, let God lead and trust in Him.



From our Session Clerk

This is a personal and direct message to the congregation of Paisley West Church. The main theme of my message is a call for volunteers to help with church duties, especially as the church moves forward with our new Minister.

There is a need for more volunteers to support ongoing church activities, such as Sunday tea and Door duty. While a few have kept things running, broader participation is needed to sustain momentum.

I would encourage members to consider helping, ask about what's involved, and make a decision to participate. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

If you'd like more detailed information, or want to discuss ways to encourage volunteering, please let me know!

Jim

Finance

At the end of March 2026 our income was £16270 and our expenditure £25477; a deficit of £9207. Thankfully, we have the proceeds of the sale of the old manse at Acer Crescent to cushion us; however, we cannot continue to operate with the expenditure exceeding the income every month

Our income from offerings was £10716; gift aid reclaimed from HMRC was £2986 and £445 from fundraising by Pastoral Team. We also received a legacy of £1000.

Our expenditure continues to exceed our income with large amounts such as; £4186 per month for Giving to Grow; over £2000 per month for Gas and Electricity; £1100 for Wages; £490 per month for Insurance. There are also telephone and internet; printing; and property costs.

I would like to thank those who felt able to increase their weekly offerings. I know these are difficult times for everyone. If you are a taxpayer, you can sign up for Gift Aid, which enables us to claim back tax on the offerings from HMRC. You can speak to our Gift Aid convenor, Dorothy Young, who will give you a form. It's easy to sign up.

Thank you all for your contributions.

Mary

West Word, September Edition

Articles for inclusion the next edition of West Word should be emailed to newsletter@paisleywest.org.uk by Sunday 23rd August 2026.



PAISLEY WEST CHURCH
NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

*If you can assist it
would be greatly ap-
preciated.*

*Give it a thought
Ask what's involved,
Decide!*



*"Our expenditure
continues to exceed
our income"*

*"Thanks to those
who felt able to in-
crease their weekly
offerings"*

“We are delighted to say that after a thorough inspection, repairs and service, our church Organ is back in full working order”

Property

Over the last week we have had a visit from the presbytery buildings office who has conducted a full inspection of our building suite as part of the new 5 year action plan. This survey will form part of our plans going forward in relation to all potential upgrades and repairs to the roof, windows, rainwater goods, external masonry and upgrade our internal electrical and lighting systems.

We have had repairs carried out to our fire alarm system and we will be shortly conducting a Fire Alarm drill after one of the upcoming services – notice will be given one week prior to the drill being carried out.

We are delighted to say that after a thorough inspection, repairs and service, our church Organ is back in full working order, a special thanks to Roddie Fraser (Soundtech in Irvine), who carried out the repairs and service.

Stephen

Communications

“Our Facebook page continues to provide a source of information on Church life and events being held both locally and nationally”

We have recently changed our broadband supplier in the Church, with the new Hub being installed in the Minister’s Vestry for ease of installation. We have had some teething issues with the internal cabling and as such we have had a few minor hiccups with our live you tube live feed.

We are now back up and running and able to live stream our Sunday services through our You Tube Channel, we have also uploaded the missing services on to our you tube channel should you wish to catch up with these.

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) or email me at Stephen.docherty@paisleywest.org.uk

Stephen

GDPR

Included with this edition of West Word is a consent form which has been pre populated with the details Paisley West Church hold for members and adherents. Please can you add/amend/correct your form and return it either by post, the offering plate or via your elder/session clerk marked for the attention of the roll keeper. Under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, Paisley West Church needs your consent to hold this data and use it for Church purposes. It would be greatly appreciated if you could complete and return your form in a timely manner.



Pastoral News

Since the last news letter we have continued to be busy eating cakes, watching films and listening to live music! We also enjoyed hosting an Easter Lunch which was enjoyed by all (and I didn't need to cook!!)

We are currently looking forward to our annual trip. This year on 6th June we are heading to Edinburgh, hopefully the sun will come with us!! After a busy day in Edinburgh we will return to the church hall for a 'chippy' tea. The trip concludes our afternoon programme and we will resume in the autumn.

Wee Blether—Monday mornings signal, tea, coffee, cakes, chocolate and chat!! Our last sweet treat being Easter eggs! The wee blether is on every Monday 10am till 12noon. We continue all summer so please come and join the fun.

Dates for next sessions events will be posted on the notice board in the large hall after our trip.

Linda

Mission

Acorn—We continue to ask God daily who we should we encounter today but in addition we have specific actions for each month on which to focus our missional work.

May: Care for someone nearby - a word, a text, or a smile can take root.

June: Ask God to help you notice someone you might normally overlook.

July: Pray for one person who needs to feel God's nearness today.

August: Ask God to show you one small act of obedience to plant today.

Please come and discuss with me any encounters you have had at any time, but in particular, on the last Sunday of each month.

Foodbank—We continue to collect supplies for this very worthwhile cause. Please bring your donations along on the last Sunday of each month.

Christian Aid Week (10th -16th May) - There will be a coffee morning in the church hall on Saturday 16th May from 10 to 12 on behalf of Christian Aid. There will be stalls - bottle stall; sweet tombola; home baking; anything goes; and a craft stall. Tickets priced £2 will be on sale in the church or at the door.

There will also be members taking part in a sponsored walk and the envelope collection in church will also go ahead. You can also donate online at christianaid.org.uk.

Charity Donations—Our Spring charity collection raised the sum of £88.90 for Women of Courage. Thank you to all who donated.

Inside /Outside—We all appreciated seeing the daffodil crosses both inside and outside. There were also new banners and wall hangings in the hall. An Easter tree and welcome sign were in the vestibule too. Thanks to all who decorated the church for Eastertide. I'm sure all our visitors on Easter Sunday, especially at the evening service, appreciated them all.

Liz



8th Paisley Boys' Brigade



Our Company Inspection took place in early May which signalled the end of another successful Boys' Brigade session at the 8th Paisley.

We were delighted to present Kaelyn Conway with the King's Badge at our Company Inspection. Kaelyn has completed over 30 hours service within the community, helped with our Church and Company and undertaking skills and physical activities. Kaelyn King's Badge journey concluded at the residential completion course at BBHQ at Carronvale in March. Kaelyn is a worthy recipient of the highest award within the BB.

Throughout the session all sections have participated in an varied activity programme which has included:

- trip to SMISA Stadium;
- visit of Lego Construction;
- Community Police visit;
- visit to Pantomime at King's Theatre;
- Scotland football games (including that game against Denmark);
- trip to Edinburgh.

Our plans are already underway for next session with a PGL residential weekend planned along with much much more. The new session will start on Friday 21st August, new members will be a made most welcome!:

Anchors, P1-P3: 6.30pm

Juniors, P4-P6: 6.30pm

Company, P7-18yrs: 7.45pm

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.

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
- ◆ **Sunday 16th May:** 10 am - 12 noon Christian Aid Coffee Morning
- ◆ **Saturday 6th June:** Annual Trip (Edinburgh)
- ◆ **Sunday 7th June:** Communion Service followed by buffet lunch
- ◆ **Sunday 23rd August:** Deadline for articles for inclusion in next newsletter
- ◆ **Saturday 5th September:** 10 am - 12 noon Doors Open Day

