



Welcome to Our Church

SUNDAY SERVICE
11 a.m. in church
Special Sunday dates

November
 Sun 26 11:00 Gift Service

December
 Sun 3 11:00 Sacrament of Holy Communion
 Sun 10 11:00 Lessons and Carols
 Sun 17 11:00 Nativity Service
 Thu 21 19:00 Christmas Jingle Service
 Sun 24 22:00 Christmas Pies
 23:00 Christmas Carols
 23:30 Watchnight Service

2024
January
 Sun 7 Monthly Communion after the service

February
 Sun 4 Monthly Communion after the service

Other Event Dates
December
 Fri 08 Clic Sargent Carol Concert
 Mon 04 Two O'Clock Club Lunch
 Wed 13 Lunch Club

The online version of Oracle / Order of Service is available on Facebook and on the website under Menu option 'News/Oracle'

CHURCH TAXIS
 If you would like to use a taxi to come to church, please speak to Gordon Hamilton

From the Minister

Dear friends,

Let me begin by thanking you for the kind words, gifts and cake that were given to mark the 25 years since my Ordination back in August. It is frightening to think that I was Licensed as a Minister two years earlier, at that time there were no vacant churches and I was asked to look after the congregation at Shieldhall and Drumoyne Church until a full status church became vacant in Dumbarton.

As we approach Christmas, I want to share a message of hope and perseverance during this time of challenge and change in our churches with the changes within our town and presbytery, and in our world with the wars that are raging in Central Europe and the Middle East.

A young lad who was so frail and delicate that he was not able to play sports with the other boys his age, went on to become a minister. However, his health was so weak that he was unable to serve his growing congregation. Undaunted by this, he did not dwell on his troubles, and his faith thrived. His only real complaint was about the poor quality of the hymns of his day. In his mind, they did not convey hope and joy. In time, someone challenged him to write better ones. He rose to the challenge and wrote over 750 hymns.

When he died on 25th November 1748, he left one of the most remarkable collections of hymns the world has ever known. His name was Isaac Watts. In a few weeks we will be singing one of his most famous hymns, "Joy to the World!" Isaac Watts discovered joy in his life because he knew that God would never desert him. As we approach Christmas in the midst of our war-torn world, let us pray that God can bring some happiness to the innocent victims of war, and if there is some joy and happiness left; let it fill your hearts and homes this Christmas and bless you for the coming year.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Gordon (Rev. Gordon B. Armstrong)



The Wynd Centre

From the Chairman - Rev. Gordon Armstrong

The centre is facing challenging times through the impact of rising running costs and the financial constraints that are affecting everyone. As our celebrations continue for our fortieth anniversary, I can only reiterate the comment made last year that we must support it and use it - or lose it! Please tell your friends and families about the Wynd and of its multiple uses from Party bookings for adults and children and Funeral Teas.

The Directors and Manager appreciate the work that John Stewart and his committee have been doing for the anniversary and for your continued support of our Outreach as we work towards the 40th Anniversary of the Wynd.



From the Manager - Thomas Blane

The Wynd has had a busy period over the last couple of months due to hosting the PMOS concerts, the Paisley Film Festival and the Royal National Mod. It's been great to have a buzz around the centre and in particular seeing the cafe opened on a regular basis again. I would like to thank all of the volunteers that have helped at these events and look forward to upcoming events.

Over November and December we are hosting 18 pantomime performances (oh yes we are...) and it will be great to see the Auditorium in use continually for a longer period of time as there are several other 'showcase' events being held in there as well.

We are looking forward to continuing with our 40th Anniversary events with our St. Andrew's Day Ceilidh on November 25th and all of our events in 2024 can be found on the separate leaflet provided.

As we approach the end of 2023 it is positive to have such a full calendar towards the end of the year and gives us hope heading into our 40th year that business in the centre will continue to increase.



Church Roll



Deaths:

20/08/23 Donald Black

08/09/23 Henderson Smith

18/09/23 Elizabeth (Betty) Hunter

28/10/23 Evie Dow

A hymn to Joy for Christmas and Epiphany

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
(Isaac Watts, 1674-1748)

I wish to thank everyone for their good wishes, cards and church flowers on the occasion of my 90th birthday. Very much appreciated.



Bill Key

The members of the Congregation with good memories will recall the photograph last year of Annie Burnside on her 100th birthday. Well, here we are again on her 101st birthday. Doesn't Annie look amazing!!! She is now being well looked after in Renfrew Care Home. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ANNIE!!!



Education, Mission, EcoCongregation Committee -

Jim McDougall (E.M.E.C.)

Joy in the Garden

One of the pleasures of autumn is trampling through the woods at Greenbank Garden in Clarkston, admiring the changing colours of the leaves- brilliant scarlet, vivid orange or subdued yellows and greens. Occasionally a squirrel will scuttle up a tree or the resident squadron of parrots - unlikely birds for Glasgow suburbia - will chatter in the higher boughs. Somehow, autumn seems the most poignant time of year; a few final weeks of blazing colours in defiance of the inevitability of the coming darkness of the winter months. Mist and moss and spider webs cling and interweave on rapidly denuded branches and a sense of nature preparing for winter is all around as the nights draw in and birds begin to roost. No matter the season, though, gardens have for centuries been places of contemplation and spirituality, offering people a haven, far from the madding crowd, a tranquil place for reflection and prayer. CS Lewis in his autobiography "Surprised by Joy" recounts a very profound, childhood experience of joy, that indefinable awareness of something greater than the everyday world, that led him finally to become a Christian. One day, his brother showed him a pretend garden he had made out of twigs, flowers and moss laid out on a biscuit tin. It was the memory of that moment rather than the actual incident that gave him a sensation, a desire, a "stab" of joy, not for the biscuit tin itself but an indefinable longing for something deeper and profound which it represented. "That garden was the first beauty I ever knew...it made me aware of nature as something cool, dewy, fresh and exuberant. As long as I live my imagination of Paradise will retain something of my brother's toy garden." Lewis defined joy as "an unsatisfied desire which is itself more desirable than any other satisfaction", further saying, "there burst upon me the idea that the visible world might be only a curtain to conceal huge realms uncharted by my simple theology".

As winter approaches, we should take time to appreciate the changing seasons, to take a walk in the church grounds or woods or gardens, and perhaps allow ourselves to glimpse beyond the curtain, to be surprised by joy.

Presbytery - Jessie Cross

Clyde Presbytery has welcomed a new Presbytery Clerk. The Rev Robbie Hamilton was appointed from 23rd October 2023 coming from New Wellwynd Church, Airdrie.

At the Presbytery Meeting of 26th September 2023 Steven Henderson was ordained as an 'Ordained Local Minister' and Rev Gordon Armstrong, Rev George Lind, Anne Hosie and Jessie Cross attended the service in Dalmuir Barclay Church.



Mrs. Rae Lind was installed (by Rev. George) as National Convener of the Church of Scotland Guild in mid-September. Here is the "happy couple" in the General Assembly Hall with Rae wearing her official Badge of Office. She thanks the congregation of Oakshaw Trinity Church for their lovely card and beautiful orchid plant.



Shoebox Appeal 2023 - Jim McDougall

Many thanks to the many people who made up shoeboxes or donated items. There's been a very encouraging response, and at going to press, we have over 50 shoeboxes which will be part of this year's Appeal to help families in Eastern Europe.



Finance Report - Isabel Pearson (Treasurer)

Management Accounts to 30th September 2023.

Total income for the 9 months to 30th September 2023 was £106,895, a decrease of £7,872.

Total expenditure for the same 9 months was £113,891, a reduction of £26,133.

Our Ministry and Mission contribution, Local Staffing Costs and Property and Other Local costs are down.

This gives us a net loss of £6,996.

Hopefully we can overturn the deficit by the end of December as we also have the Christmas Fayre that I would encourage you all to support if you can.

Can I please take this opportunity to thank those who support the church.

Heating Project - Isabel Pearson

As everyone knows we have been raising funds to replace the heating boilers.

The cost of the project is £46,420 plus VAT of £9,284.

I am very pleased to announce that we have been able to secure the necessary funds to allow us to proceed with this project.

The breakdown of the monies raised are as follows:

The Gift Day and other supplementary income - £14,014

Donations from Church Organisations - £1,000

Grant received from the United Reform Church - £5,000

Other grants that have been promised with monies being received when invoice is received are:

Presbytery of Clyde – The Cargill Trust - £5,000 and

Church of Scotland General Trustees - £20,000

This is a total of £45,014 – a shortfall of £1,406.

Once the invoice has been received we will be able to reclaim the VAT of £9,284.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking each and everyone of you who contributed to this project and I am sure we all will benefit from the heating system being renewed.

Wynd 40th Anniversary in 2024

- John Stewart (Chairperson)

The Committee continues to work hard to ensure our programme to celebrate the Wynd's 40th Anniversary is achieved.

My thanks to the fourteen church organisations who had an excellent exhibition outlining their activities in September.

There were positive reports and some organisations have reported new members or names of people interested.

The Wynd centre was packed on both days for the PMOS performance of "Louder than Words" in September. Provost Lorraine Cameron, an unexpected visitor, congratulated PMOS on the high standard of all their productions and the Wynd Centre for its contribution to its work in the town and beyond. Paisley was privileged to have two organisations with such high standards.

The Anniversary Family Ceilidh is on November 25th.

Thanks to all those who purchased our Souvenir pens. These have sold well.

The plans for 2024 celebrations are now underway and these are outlined in the leaflet enclosed and we look forward to your participation.



Fabric Report - Sandra Wilson

The main issue for the quarter has been the replacement of the heating boilers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their generous donations to help us get the funds to go ahead and for the work in securing grants. It was agreed that Ramsey would be the preferred supplier and the order has been placed for the boilers; we await an installation date.

The electrical box in the church that controls the lighting requires to be replaced and we are awaiting prices for that.

Phase I of the tower and steeple repairs is now complete, with lead capping installed, repointing of the stonework and clearing of debris.

Work on the halls has been completed as well as the refurbishment of the railings, so the building and grounds are looking really good.

Can I ask that everyone who parks within the church grounds takes care when manoeuvring in tight areas as there has been damage to cars as well as the west door, which was not reported into the office.



Events Committee - Isabel Pearson (Secretary)

Christmas Fayre – Saturday 18th November 2023

This will be held on Saturday 18th November in the Wynd Centre from 11.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. All usual stalls will be there including a prize draw for the hamper. Lucky Programmes will be on sale after the Sunday Service or available at the door on the day of the Fayre.

If you would like to contribute to the Fayre, donations can be brought to the church on a Sunday morning or can be handed into the Wynd Centre.

Family Ceilidh – Saturday 25th November 2023.

The Events committee are organising this event as part of the Wynd 40th Anniversary Celebrations. Entertainment will be provided by The Elderberries. Tickets priced £10.00 for Adults, £5.00 for Children 8 and over, Children under 8 are free are available from the Wynd Centre. A light supper will be provided.

Choir - Catriona Muirhead

The choir resumed in September after the summer break. Unfortunately not long after we had started we were saddened to hear the news that one of our long-standing members, Betty Hunter, had died. She will certainly be missed especially when she would tell us all about her lovely holidays.

During the October week, David and Elaine Murray travelled south for their son Calum's graduation from Skyborne Airline Academy. Calum now has a job with EasyJet and starts his training in December; his official title will be Second Officer. We wish him well and I think it is safe to say the sky is the limit. We have now started working on our Christmas music and look forward to bringing this to you at the Lessons and Carols Service on Sunday 10th December.

The choir wish you all a Happy Christmas and Health and Happiness for 2024.



Friendly Hour - Margaret Pearson (Secretary/Convener)

The Friendly Hour commenced their session on Tuesday 3rd October when we were pleased to welcome back all our members and several new members. We also welcomed Pauline, Helen and Christine from the Choir. We had a lovely afternoon and enjoyed their selection of songs. The following week we were delighted to have The Neilston Strings with us again. We had a very happy afternoon listening to their ukuleles, singing all the old songs and closing with 'We're No Awa Tae Bide Awa'. We had a wonderful afternoon and we look forward to having them again next year.

During the October School holiday week we were entertained by Gillian Whyte Dans Scene. The young people had beautiful costumes and danced their hearts out. It was a pleasure having them with us. On 24th October we welcomed The Langbank Singers. This is a new group to us and we had a lovely afternoon closing with The Millennium Prayer. They will be returning next year too.



I would like to thank those who have led us in our devotions each week. If you would like to join us at the Friendly Hour please speak to me on a Sunday morning. You can be assured of a warm welcome.

Tea & Toast - Margaret Pearson

Tea and Toast continues to meet in the Wynd Cafe on a Tuesday morning from 9.30 until 11.30. The purpose is to welcome you into a warm space where you can be assured of a friendly chat. Why not come along and enjoy a warm cuppa and some fellowship. You will be made most welcome.

Men's Club - John Hamilton

The Men's Club still continues to meet on a Friday night. As the Brownies have moved to a Thursday, we have taken the opportunity to start at 7 p.m. In addition to Table Tennis and Snooker, we also fly a Quad Copper drone in the main hall, although flying time is very limited due to battery life. Although our numbers have fallen over the past few years a close sense of fellowship remains within the membership. Any male over the age of 18 years will be most welcome. Don't be shy, give it a try.

Tea & Crafts - Margaret Armstrong

Over the past few weeks, we have been chatting and working away at our crafts, which many of you will have seen and purchased at the Church Christmas Fayre. What we make and create changes regularly, but our friendship and fellowship remains the same. Why not to come along and join us on the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Lang Hall.



Trinity Lunch Club - Sheena Miller



We have had some very interesting speakers. Jim McDougall on Penguin book covers (he also gave out Penguin biscuits!) and Anne Garry on the work of Sight Scotland Veterans.

On 13th December the Diane Mitchell Music School will be entertaining us.

The first meetings of 2024 are 10th January - Fiona Lindsay and on 12th February - Rev. George Lind about Oberammergau. We meet in the Main Hall of the Wynd Centre from 12.30pm to 2pm and start with a light lunch.

Everyone is welcome. If you are interested in attending on any of these dates, please ensure that your name is on the sheet in the vestibule of the church. This sheet is available on the two Sundays prior to the meeting. This is necessary for catering purposes. A donation of £5 is requested for the lunch and speaker.

Two O'clock Club - Joan Wilson

It was good to welcome back members and friends at the start of the session. We were sad to hear of the death of one of our long time members Betty Hunter. Our condolences to the family. In September, Callum Deboys from 'Finding Your Feet' gave an inspirational talk on his experiences of being an amputee. In October Rev Ian Miller entertained us with 'Anything and Everything'. The draw took place for the Harvest Hamper. The Paisley Quiz winner was Katy Walker. Thank you to all who bought a quiz sheet and helped us raise £231 for our charity. (Answers to quiz on page 6).

The club members will be running the Tombola stall at the Christmas Fayre. Isabelle Duncan will be demonstrating Gift Wrapping on November 27th, in time for Christmas. Christmas lunch is on December 4th at the Dalmeny Hotel at 1pm. (NB change of date).

The first two meetings for 2024 are: January 29th - Foodbank and February 26th - Restoration and Creation.

Meetings take place in the Lang Hall at 2pm. All are welcome. Best wishes for a happy festive season and a healthy, safe 2024.

Oakshaw Explorers - Jessie Cross

The Oakshaw Explorers were saddened to learn of the death of Betty Hunter, a long-time enthusiastic member of the group. Although the numbers were small for the last three outings to Greenbank Gardens, Rouken Glen and Kilbirnie Loch, those who went along enjoyed the walk, company and necessary visit to the cafe at each location.



Greenbank Gardens

Kilbirnie Loch

Kilbirnie Loch (at Glengarnock) was new to us and although we took a shorter route as rain was threatening, there are a number of trails and a cycle path branching out from the

Community Hub which contains the café. It was interesting to find somewhere different. Our walking shoes are now hung-up for the winter but are looking forward to what 2024 may bring.

Seniors' Holiday - Joan Wilson

Monday 4th September saw the beginning of a great week for 26 'Young at Heart' seniors. A comfortable Caledonian Coach, with driver Neil, took us to our first stop at Crieff. After lunch some of us watched the glassblowers produce beautiful Caithness Glass. Then off to Fisher's Hotel, Pitlochry; comfortable rooms and lovely meals. Tuesday and Wednesday had glorious weather for us to appreciate Quen's View, Loch Tummel and Royal Deeside. Missed the King and Queen by 2 days. Perhaps they would have invited us for tea !!! At Ballater we enjoyed the galleries, shops and ice cream in the sunshine. On Thursday we visited Aberfeldy where the more adventurous walked to the Birks. Later we spent time exploring Pitlochry and all the shops, some visiting the Dam Visitor Centre. The photograph shows our group enjoying a Musical Extravaganza in Pitlochry Festival Theatre - 'Songs from the Shows'.



Friday meant leaving the hotel where we had been looked after so well. We stopped at the Scottish Wool Centre, Aberfoyle where most of us escaped the heat by staying in the shop / cafe.

The sun was still shining on our return to Paisley. We had seen the best of Scotland in September sunshine and had enjoyed friendship and good company. The success was thanks to the hard work of Sandra and Gordon Hamilton and the sweeties they supplied!!.

It was with sadness that we heard of the passing of one of our party, Betty Hunter, and have sent condolences to her family.



A Reflection - Elizabeth Halliday

Build it and they will come

A memorable Sunday School lesson was from Matthew 7:3 'Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?'

I thought why do people, point out my speck when they should be concentrating on their own log. This resonated with Margaret Armstrong's young church lesson at the Youth Service. Wouldn't the world be a better place if everyone was kind.

Technology has transformed the world and each generation use it differently. My niece's phone is her lifeline, monitoring unstable type 1 diabetes. This has reduced hospitalisation so benefits her and the NHS.

Phones also act as books, alarm clocks and calculators to name a few. They reduce consumption and environmental impact but some still see their use within church as rude. Next time you see someone using a phone please pause and think. Is this person saving a life or the planet because this is normal life for our young people? If you question attendance of our young people consider do they have to work weekends to pay for their studies or care for their families. Create a culture so that when they do attend, they want to return.

Trinity Theatre Group - Jean Bett

Our show, 'Aladdin', happens in November. There have been a few hiccups to keep rehearsals on track but we are now progressing well. We will be performing at the Wynd Centre from Wednesday 23rd November to Saturday 25th November 2023. Thomas and his staff made us really welcome last year and we are looking forward to meeting them all again. At the time of writing three of Oakshaw Trinity Church's organisations have made block bookings for the show and we are delighted. All church organisations, young and not so young, get a reduced price of £5.00 per ticket and so if you can't manage this year, keep it in mind for a group outing next year. We would also love to welcome more church members of any age into the Theatre Group. Think about it for next year!

Boys' Brigade - Janice McCallum

We have been busy since our return in August. We welcomed a few new recruits which helps our numbers. After the service of dedication we

celebrated the Boys' Brigade 140th birthday, starting at McDonalds then on a minibus (a new experience for some) to an uplifting service at Renfrew North Church. Finley Wilkes carried our Colours during the National Anthem.



Our Coffee Evening in October raised £300; thanks to all who supported us. Hallowe'en party in October and fireworks, hot dogs and hot chocolate on 3rd November were much appreciated. We hope to attend the Trinity Theatre Group Pantomime this year.

The boys have Bible Study and badge work as well as fun.

Santa is invited to our Christmas party

Thanks to all, including the Adams Trust, for continued support.

Use of photographs:

Pictures of people involved in activities related to the church and the Wynd Centre are now appearing in Trinity magazine, on the Oakshaw Trinity website and on the Oakshaw Trinity Facebook page.

It is assumed, unless anyone specifically requests otherwise, that individuals are happy to be included in any church or Wynd Centre related photographs that appear in Trinity magazine, on the Oakshaw Trinity website or on the Oakshaw Trinity Facebook page.

Anyone wishing to opt out of their picture appearing in any or all of the above mentioned locations should contact the Church office.

The Sunday School and Youth organisations' photographs are covered by separate arrangements the organisations have with the parents or guardians of the children.

Guides (11th Paisley) - Linda Kelly



We have had a good start to our session. Although our numbers are lower than in previous years the girls seem to be enjoying the programme and have already completed a challenge badge.

In October we are having a Halloween activity night and in November some of the girls are attending a sleepover at the Glasgow Science Centre. Nearer Christmas we are doing some Christmas crafts and making Christmas cakes and also a visit to a pantomime. Our last night is 14th December when we have our Christmas party.

Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rainbows and Brownies - Zoe Kelly



Since starting back we are thrilled to say that eighteen girls have made their promise. So far this session we have completed the Make a Splash challenge where the girls learned about the RNLI and constructed their own boat. We had a Halloween party and have had lots of fun.

We are looking forward to upcoming events such as Science Centre sleepover, Santa Land trip and a night to see Trinity Theatre Group.



Sunday School - Sunday school staff.

Since our return in August, the children have been doing Autumn arts and crafts, helping with the shoe box appeal, learning the Lord's Prayer as well as learning that Jesus is our friend from passages by John in the bible.

We are now in full swing with rehearsals for this year's nativity.

We have two groups available -

- crèche and preschool children
- age 5 or children in primary 1 upwards.

Children can be dropped off in the hall after 10.30am.

Your child is always welcome.

Girls' Brigade (2nd Paisley) - Karen Peacock



We started the session with the highest number of girls since we moved to Oakshaw Trinity. Doors Open Day added two more and our Annual Pyjama Party/Bring a Friend added a few more giving around forty now. All sections are doing badgework: the Explorers theme is 'Around the World' where they learn about different countries; the Juniors and the Brigaders theme is 'The World We Live In' and, as part of this, they took part in the church Shoebox Appeal and have filled fifteen so far.



In October nearly thirty girls attended the Dedication Service, followed by Toy Story at the cinema, via McDonalds, naturally. We had our Halloween party and are looking forward to seeing Aladdin by Trinity Theatre Group. Our Christmas Coffee evening will be on 7th December and we finish with our Christmas party.

We are delighted to welcome three new Trainee Leaders to our team. Chianna, Heather and Tiana have all been with us since Explorers.

Thanks to all leaders for their ongoing support.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy 2024.

Two O'Clock Club Quiz answers

Questions	Answers
1 Name for someone born in Paisley	Paisley Buddy
2 Who said "Keep your eye on Paisley"	Benjamin Disraeli
3 Roman name for Paisley	Vandua
4 Year of court case known as "slug in a bottle"	1932 (event happened in 1928)
5 "Baker Street" singer, songwriter	Gerry Rafferty
6 1978 world cup footballer, who scored against Holland	Archie Gemmill
7 Where can you see the "Doosan Stane"	Brodie Park
8 Paisley motto	Lord, let Paisley flourish by the preaching of the word.
9 When was the Paisley Daily Express established	1874
10 Former Paisley Grammar pupil who became the 10th "Doctor"	David Tennant
11 Where is the statue of Diogenes situated	Former JNI building
12 Paisley minister who signed the US Declaration of Independence	John Witherspoon
13 When does the "Sma Shot" parade take place	1st Saturday in July
14 Champion high jumper, born in Paisley, 1936	Crawford Fairbrother
15 What did Ian Hamilton famously return from Westminster Abbey	Stone of Scone/Destiny
16 Name of MSP for Paisley	George Adam
17 Which German town is Paisley twinned with	Furth
18 Which home team play at the Smisa Stadium	St. Mirren
19 Famous Paisley born tenor, born 1927	Kenneth McKellar
20 Where can you see the "Porridge Bowl"	Top of Oakshaw/ Former JNI building

Flowers - Flower Team

Thank you to everyone who complimented the Flower Team, it's nice to get some positive feedback from the Congregation about the Flowers.

If you would like the Church flowers arranged for a special occasion, please feel free to ask and we can sort out a date for you to coincide with your occasion. Thank you very much for your donations. This helps greatly.



Church Directory

Minister	Rev. Gordon Armstrong BD FIAB BRC Cert. CS	0141 887 4647 Press 3	Treasurer	Isabel Pearson	Church Office
Session Clerk	John McKenzie	Church Office	Fabric Convenor	Sandra Wilson	Church Office
			Church Office		0141 887 4647 Press 3