



West Word

Paisley West Church, Quarterly Newsletter
September 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

I am pleased to say that Hazle, Euan, Murdo (Dog 1) Barra (Dog 2) and I have now moved into the Manse, and I knew there was a reason in my head I didn't want to move house. Packing, sorting, throwing out, charity shops visits, cleaning and then the removal company and unpacking. This is all things that many of you will have been through or will go through at some point. When you are someone like me who is a bit sentimental it makes the process harder. But change can be difficult, even when we are faced with it daily.

The past few months have allowed me to establish Pastoral Requests, and this appears to be working well as people are communicating with me about those who are maybe ill or would like me to pop in for a visit. Pastoral Care in the Church is vital and allows me, as your Minister to visit and establish a link with people that they know the Church is here for them. Pastoral Care in some ways is seen as something for the older generation; it is for everyone! Young people at school, going through exams, starting a job, going to college or university or families with young children, unsure about looking after someone, someone with depression or anxiety, changing career, retiring and of course those who are lonely, ill or nearing the end of their life. Pastorally as the Minister I am here for the Congregation. I will not have all the answers, but I can offer a confidential ear and words of comfort. Pastoral Care is Cradle to the Grave service for everyone!

As I am preparing this article, I am thinking and preparing for the first informal service in Foxbar Community Centre. One point that was clear to me at my interview and since was the lack of transport to King Street on a Sunday and several people have been missing attending Church. As of Wednesday 02 September, at 1:00pm there will be a short time of Worship with Christian Fellowship each Wednesday in Foxbar Community Centre. This is open to everyone to come along and join in worship and praise our Lord and come together as a Church family and maybe rekindle relationships that have slipped over recent years.

Moving forward the Church of Scotland has directed all congregations to develop a rolling 5-year plan of where they see themselves going and what needs to be done to get there. This is a great opportunity to put ideas together and work towards shared visions. The plan allows for several areas in the life of the Church and this will be initially getting

Inside this issue:

Finance	2
West Word	2
Property Update	3
Communion	3
GDPR	3
Backpack Service	3
Pastoral News	4
Inspiring Verses	4
Mission and Education	5
Presbytery News	5
8th Paisley B.B.	6
Diary Dates	6

A message from our Minister (continued)

"The priority is always God's work and my calling to Paisley West Church".

"At this stage I am just dipping my toe in the water, but I can get a sense of the many and varied things we as a congregation will achieve in the years ahead".

looked at by the Kirk Session, but ultimately, we all have a part to play in the direction of Paisley West Church. I am the Minister and one of my tasks is to direct us in the course we see fit for ourselves, but it needs input, support and encouragement from everyone. This is not another thing we are being told to do, it is an opportunity to look at our strengths and harness them and grow them to create a future that is right for our Church and Congregation.

One thing you will realise from the few points I have mentioned the Calling of being a Minister is wide and varied and if I ever thought I only worked for 1 hour on a Sunday I would have got a big shock. Some weeks can be planned, and I have an idea of what I need to do and by 10:00am on a Monday, it all changes when a Funeral Director calls. This is the nature of responding to the need and where I am directed in what becomes a changed priority. The priority is always God's work and my calling to Paisley West Church, but what I think I am doing and what I end up doing are sometimes out with my control.

Reflecting on these past few months and the points I have mentioned, it brings me to one of the hymns we sang when I preached as Sole Nominee last year – "Through all the changing scenes of life" based on Psalm 34. At this stage I am just dipping my toe in the water, but I can get a sense of the many and varied things we as a congregation will achieve in the years ahead. Let us all work together as one through those changing scenes!

Your Minister and Friend

Rev William

Finance

At the end of July 2026 our income was £36255 and our expenditure £68969; a deficit of £32714. £13940 was used to make the new manse habitable for the minister and his family, without which the general deficit would be £18776.

Our regular expenditure continues to exceed our income with large amounts such as; £12515 for Giving to Grow; £11960 for Gas & Electricity; £6740 for Wages; £2229 for Insurance; and £4217 for church property costs.

Income from Offerings is £33128; donations and hall lets total £1148 and the Pastoral Care Team have provided £1148 from teas and coffees and Communion lunches. We have received a legacy of £1000 and bank interest of £1483.59.

Our expenditure is currently being cushioned by the proceeds of the sale of the old manse; however, we need to look at ways to increase our income to cope with the regular expenditure.

Mary

West Word, November Edition

Articles for inclusion the next edition of West Word should be emailed to newsletter@paisleywest.org.uk by Sunday 25th October 2026.



giftaid it
Make donations go further

Property Update

As part of our commitment to providing energy savings and reducing our carbon footprint we have recently installed LED lighting in the main sanctuary ceiling lights, these replace the original lantern type units. We are also requesting quotes for the use of solar panels, with the possibility of grant funding to help offset the costs to the congregation, planning permission would be required and we will have more information on this in the future.

We have also received an accessibility grant of £500 as part of this year's Doors Open day event, and we are now looking at repairing the front Steps to the main Church.

Stephen



Communion Service

All members of the congregation are reminded that our next Communion Service will take place on Sunday 4th October 2026.

At our previous Communion Service, a number of members attended but did not hand in their Communion cards. On some occasions, cards were also handed in on behalf of people who were not present, for example, spouses submitting cards for their partners.

To help us keep an accurate record of those attending, please remember to bring your Communion card with you and hand it to a member of the team on duty at the front door. Thank you for your cooperation.

Jim

***“Please remember
to bring your
Communion card
with you and hand
it to a member of
the team on duty
at the front door”***

GDPR

Thank you to everyone who has handed in their GDPR forms. Unfortunately, there are still approx. 23 consent forms that have not been returned. If you have not received a form, please contact your Elder. If you have not yet handed your form in, please make arrangements for these be handed in to your Elder or when you next attend Church.

Willie

***“Thank you to
everyone who has
handed in their
GDPR forms”***

Blessing of Backpack Service



This special event took place on Sunday 16th August at 11 am and was to encourage our young folks who were starting school or moving on a year. The youngsters were asked to come forward with their backpacks and Rev. William McCulloch said a special blessing. As you can see from the photograph, all youngsters were very smart wearing their new school uniforms. The youngsters were also each gifted a small Cross and a pencil with the words “trust in the Lord with all your heart”.



Pastoral News



Since the last newsletter the Pastoral team rounded off the session with a very successful trip to Edinburgh. Everyone had a lovely day and we returned to the church hall for a 'chippy tea'.

Wee Blether - The ever popular wee blether continues, rain, hail or shine, we are open. All are welcome to join us every Monday from 10 am till 12 noon. Come and enjoy tea/coffee, biscuits and often home made cakes! The wee blether is free and the regulars are friendly, so come and join in.

Our Saturday afternoon programme begins on 5th of September with a film show. Please come and join us for fun, food and fellowship, all are welcome.

Dates of our forthcoming events are displayed below and on the noticeboard.

Saturday 5th September 2pm: Film show

Sunday 4th October: Buffet lunch after Communion service

Saturday 10th October 2pm: Bingo afternoon

Saturday 31st October 10am: B.B. Coffee Morning

Saturday 28th November 2pm: Christmas Afternoon

Sunday 6th December: Buffet lunch after Communion service

Sunday 13th December 5.30pm for 6pm: Christmas Dinner at Ferguslie Cricket Club.

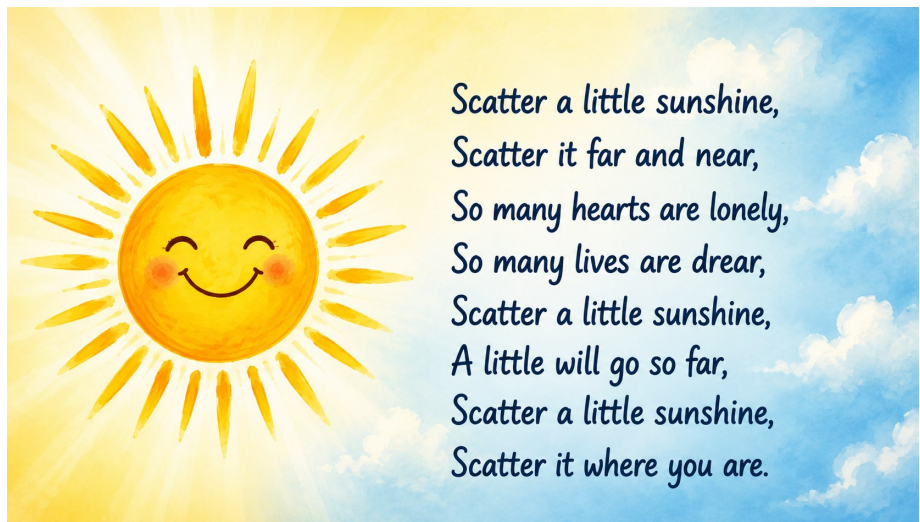
We are looking forward to another busy session!

Linda



Inspiring Verses

Frances Rough has kindly provided this edition's inspiring verse. It is a chorus from the Salvation Army Selection, Rays of Sunshine called Scatter a Little Sunshine, written by Robert H Keeler.



France intimates - *"this chorus helps me when I find difficult situations, I pray and look to God for help. I may not always see victory, but I need not be afraid for the battle is God's."*

Mission and Education News

OCC — Leaflets for Operation Christmas Child will be available from September once again. Filled boxes should be returned by Sunday 1st November.

Christian Aid — The Christian Aid market raised the sum of £616.40 on the day, with a further £78.37 from home baking on the Sunday. Mary McLean raised £345 from her sponsored walk and £252 was donated through the red envelopes. Altogether £1,291.77 was sent to Christian Aid. Many thanks to all involved.

Further sponsored event — Robert McLean has cycled 500 miles and swum 20 miles for funds for our church and Christian Aid. At time of going to print the amount realised is over £700. Everyone will have been very generous supporting this wonderful effort. Well done, Robert and thank you.

Doors Open Day — The church was once again open on Saturday 5th September as part of Renfrewshire's Doors Open event. Thanks to those who volunteered to help on the day.

Inside/outside — The poppy fall will once again be on display in November. If you have missed it previously, please come along and see it as it enhances our services. Also, many thanks to those who keep the outside of our church looking clean and tidy, and keeping the plants and flowers healthy. They brighten us up! And please take a moment each Sunday to read the wayside pulpit. The message may be for you!

Foodbank — Thank you to everyone who continues to donate to this worthwhile cause. The goods were even more appreciated over the Summer holidays when children do not have school meals to fall back on.

Liz

Presbytery News

The new Presbytery clerk is Rev Christine Murdoch. This year's presbytery moderator is Rev Gregor McIntyre.

Paisley Sherwood Greenlaw will be joining with St Mark's Oldhall and Paisley North with Paisley Abbey, with St Mark's and the Abbey remaining open.

The next **Worship Leader's course** starts on 20th September 2026. If this is something you feel God is calling you towards, there will be another course in the Spring. Please speak to Liz.

A **Youth conference** was held in June and this will be followed up with 2 more meetings. Anyone interested in developing youth work please speak to Liz about the meetings.

Members of Session along with our minister attended a training event for developing an **action plan** for our church. More about that in next issue.

Liz





8th Paisley Boys' Brigade

The 134th session of the 8th Paisley Boys' Brigade Company commenced in August and we were delighted to welcome new and returning members in all sections.

A busy programme is planned - our Anchors and Juniors have already had a special Lego night - provided by Lets Go Construct. Other events for our Anchors and Juniors this term includes a soft play night at Adventure Planet, Halloween and Christmas Parties, Board Games Night and Ten Pin Bowling. The Company Section also has a busy programme with our Seniors Football Trip in October, Squad Challenge Nights, Ten Pin Bowling and Halloween and Christmas Parties.

All sections will attend the Christmas Pantomime at the Kings Theatre in December.

In early 2027 members of the Junior Section will join the Company Section to take part in an adventure weekend at PGL Dalguise.

Our annual coffee morning will take place on Saturday 31st October 2026 between 10am and 12noon - this represents one of our major fundraising events and helps us meet our capitation fees to BBHQ and to subsidise the cost of our activities. Tickets will be on sale in the weeks leading up to the event.

We continue to welcome new members - all sections meet on Friday evenings, please feel free to pass on our meeting times to anyone that may be interested. You can sign up by scanning the adjacent QR code.

Anchors, P1-P3: 6.30pm, Juniors, P4-P6: 6.30pm,
Company, P7-18yrs: 7.45pm

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 Wednesday:** 1 pm Christian Fellowship - Foxbar Community Centre
- ♦ **Every Wed:** 2 pm House Group at (Rob and Hildmary Johnstone's home)
- ♦ **Last Sunday of the month:** ACORN meeting and food bank donations
- ♦ **Saturday 5th September:** 10 am - 12 noon Doors Open Day
- ♦ **Saturday 5th September:** Film show 2 pm in the large hall
- ♦ **Sunday 4th October:** Communion Service followed by buffet lunch
- ♦ **Saturday 10th October:** Bingo afternoon 2 pm in the large hall
- ♦ **Sunday 25th October:** Deadline for articles for inclusion in next newsletter
- ♦ **Saturday 31st October:** B.B. Coffee Morning 10am – 12 noon
- ♦ **Saturday 28th November:** Christmas afternoon 2 pm in the large hall
- ♦ **Sunday 6th December:** Communion Service followed by buffet lunch
- ♦ **Sunday 13th December:** Christmas Dinner at Ferguslie Cricket Club. 5.30pm for 6pm