M A Y 2 0 2 6

WALKING TOGETHER

News from Sherbrooke Mosspark & Ibrox

We find ourselves in a rich and meaningful stretch of the Christian year—resting in the joy of Easter while looking ahead to the fire and promise of Pentecost. It is a time "in between," yet far from empty: days when resurrection hope takes root in ordinary life, and when the Spirit draws near, preparing hearts for renewal and steady faith.

Easter proclaims that life has the final word over death, that love is stronger than fear, and that God's future is already breaking into our present. The risen Christ meets us not only in celebration but also in uncertainty and waiting—just as the disciples held the wonder of resurrection while unsure of what would come next.

Pentecost, which we anticipate, speaks of courage and community: a Spirit poured out not for a few but for all, forming a people who cross boundaries, speak many languages, and live God's justice and compassion in the world. Between these two great movements —resurrection and Spirit—we also share a civic moment, as our nation prepares for the Holyrood elections. The Church does not exist to endorse parties or platforms, yet we are called to be attentive to the kind of society we are helping to build.

Our faith does not ask us to withdraw from the world, but to engage it with hope, humility, and a commitment to the dignity of all people. Easter invites us to imagine a world where injustice does not have the last word; Pentecost reminds us that the Spirit equips ordinary people for truth, reconciliation, and change. In that light, we can approach public life with prayerful reflection on what makes for a fair and compassionate society—one where the vulnerable are protected and every person is recognised as bearing the image of God.

As congregations rooted in our communities, Sherbrooke Mosspark and Ibrox are well placed to witness to this hope. Our shared ministry, expressed in this joint magazine, is a sign of unity and cooperation—a small but meaningful reflection of the Spirit's work among us. It reminds us that we are stronger together, and that collaboration can be a faithful expression of God's kingdom.

This season invites us to hold together joy and responsibility. We celebrate resurrection even as we recognise the challenges of our world, and we seek to live the Spirit's fruits —love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

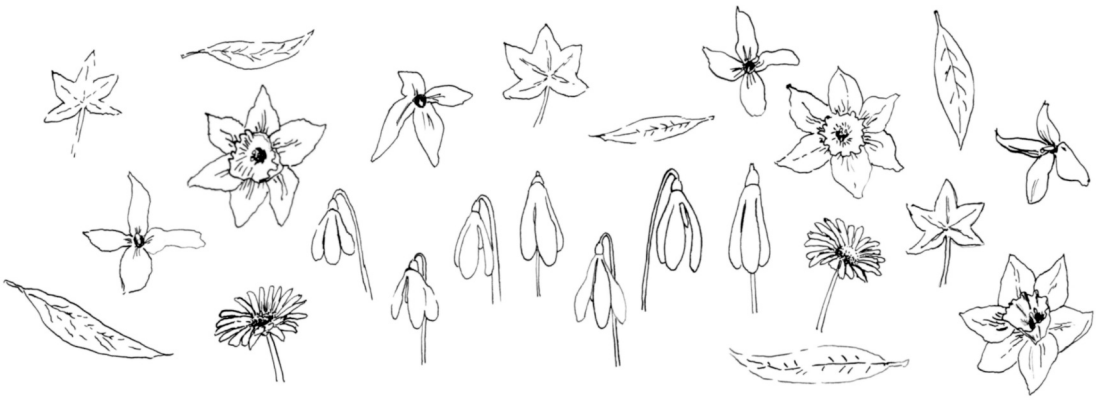
Whatever the coming weeks may bring, may we be people shaped by Easter hope and open to Pentecost power. May we listen deeply, act justly, and love generously, in our homes, neighbourhoods, and workplaces. And may our shared life as churches witness to God's renewing work in us and in our wider community, for Christ's sake.

With every blessing, Adam

Nature's Palettes of Colour

Nature's colour palettes reflect the changing seasons. At the start of the year the striking red cornus stems, just down that path, flourish in the neglected undergrowth. Along that walk by the Clyde, ivy and the thornless bramble display their never-ending glossy green leaves as does the laurel to the left. Here and there, clumps of white snowdrops are pushing through the mats of dried brown leaves.

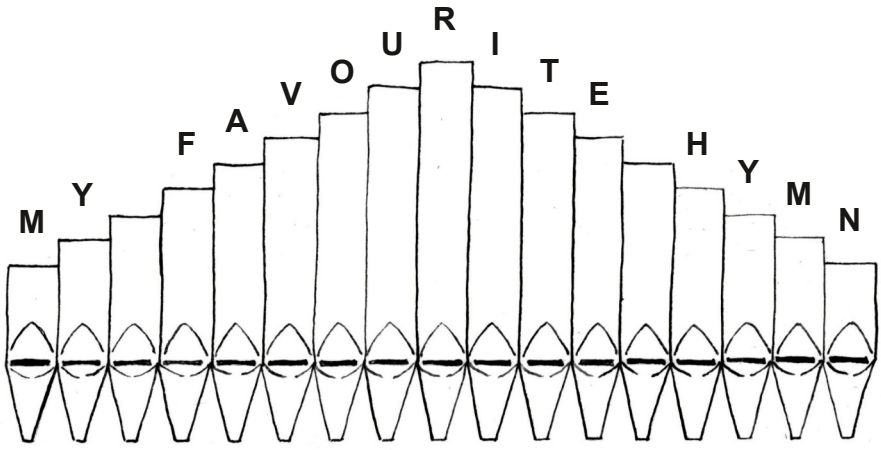
The bush at the corner, which looked scraggy and half-dead two weeks ago, now has buds on it and there are even some yellow flowers starting to appear. In another week this forsythia bush will be in its full golden bloom before fresh green leaves take over. Below that tree take a look at the bourachie of yellow narcissi - probably from an upended bowl of indoor bulbs given a second chance outside. Leave them - as also the parks' daffodils - for everyone to enjoy. The yellowy green cornus stems of Spring behind you are now starting to appear. Over there on the wasteland the solitary tree is still in its full pink blossom - once picked, soon shed. On the right the previously bare tree now has buds on it, just about turning into furry grey pussy willow. The ivy, the laurel and the thornless brambles are still showing their glossy green leaves.



On the grass over there, the colours of the wild flowers can be seen throughout the summer - pink willow herb, red poppy, white daisy, yellow buttercup and clouds of cow parsley. Just up that bank to the right, hidden safely away, is the blooming white and purple Scottish heather. Watch out for bees amidst the wonderful fragrance! The glossy green of the ivy, the laurel and the thornless brambles continue to grow.

Along this path on the right, the dark brambles have taken over. Better to pick them for Autumn decoration when firm to avoid messy staining! Pollokshields looks its best amidst the russet, ochre, gold and brown of the trees lining the roads. But over there on the deserted patch is a tree which looks as if it needs pruning. Then go and stand beside your favourite Chestnut tree and - if you have got there before the squirrels - forage in the leaves for the prickly green unopened nuts and perhaps even a glossy brown nut itself. Be prepared to be rained on by the opposition! The fir tree at the end of the lane bears some pine cones but leave them to fall - they know when it is time. Against that wall on the left, the sprawling wild rose flowers have turned into crimson hips and haws. Soon the ivy, the laurel and the thornless brambles can shine.

Back down the first path the cornus stems are reddening and beside them two holly bushes are laden with red berries. Now the ivy, the laurel and the thornless bramble, along with the holly, can come into their own and provide the green backdrop for the Christmas red. Then the seasons' palettes of colour will start again.



One of my favourite hymns is ‘God, we praise you’ to the tune ‘Lux Tremenda’, as set in CH4 at number 120 (2nd tune). The choir will sing the first verse as the introit on 26th April; you may be reading this that day.

The words are by Christopher Idle, who was born in Kent in 1938. He was ordained as a priest in the Church of England in 1965; he has written over 300 hymns, six of which occur in CH4. ‘God, we praise you’, however is really not a modern hymn as it is based on the ‘Te Deum’, one of the oldest texts in Christianity. The words are strong and powerful.

When CH4 was first published, I looked through to see what was new. At number 120, I found Beethoven’s ‘Ode to Joy’, but was disappointed when I tried it out, as the harmony didn’t quite work for me. I compared it with Beethoven’s original to find that the simplifications made from Beethoven’s complex harmonies to make it suitable as a hymn were the reason for my disappointment, probably because I knew Beethoven’s original so well.

I turned the page to find the alternative tune ‘Lux Tremenda’ by Alfred Fedak. This tune appealed to me immediately; it has strength, it has purpose, it is well structured. It has several interesting changes of key, making it more stimulating to the singer or listener, all before returning to the original key. Any thoughts of adjusting the harmony of ‘Ode to Joy’ were gone – I had found a far more suitable tune!

I investigated appearances of this hymn in other British hymn books. To my surprise and disappointment, it appears this text and tune only occur together in CH4 and ‘Hymns of Glory, Songs of Praise’ (CH4 with a different title). While ’Lux Tremenda’ only appears in these hymn books, it is set to three different texts in these publications. Christopher Idle’s words do appear in a number of hymn books, set to different tunes, often to Parry’s wonderful tune ‘Rustington’, which is sadly not in CH4, but makes three appearances in CH3.

Alfred Fedak was born in New Jersey in 1953. From 1990 till 2021 he was Minister of Music and Arts at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Capitol Hill in Albany, New York, where he played a recently restored four-manual, 1929 E. M. Skinner pipe organ. A review in The Hymn (the journal of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada) called Fedak “the finest composer of hymn tunes working today,” and Harvard University commented he is “widely regarded as one of the greatest living composers of original hymn tunes.”

REPORTING FOR DUTY

The Sherbrooke Yarn Stormers

Welcome to the Sherbrooke Yarn Stormers, where the needles are sharp, the coffee is hot, and the mission is always meaningful. We operate under one unwavering directive: With Wool and Willpower. You might be wondering why we run a knitting group like a well-oiled battalion. It all dates back to Operation Remembrance 2025. Our mission was ambitious: knit 80 soldiers to honour the fallen for a D-Day landing display. We over-delivered with a force of 100! We had such a brilliant time during the "campaign" that I was dubbed Major Mags—and I'll admit, the rank stuck. That's why our website and all our communications follow this wonderfully daft regimental theme. We take our knitting seriously, but ourselves? Not so much.

Our Track Record **(The War Chest)**

Our troops have achieved some incredible victories lately. Here is the intelligence report on our recent deployments:

The 2025 Winter Fayre Offensive: Successfully raised over £1,000 for the Kirk. **Covert Operations:** On Easter Sunday, we deployed 20 "Cheeky Chicks" in top-secret locations around the Kirk for the children to discover. **Morale Boosters:** We ensured no one was left behind; Peter Rabbits and Cheeky Chicks were tucked into gift bags for over 20 members of our community who can no longer attend church in person. They may be away from the barracks, but they remain a vital part of our ranks and in our thoughts. **Medical Support:** We've deployed over 200 baby jackets and hats to the RAH Neonatal Unit. **Harvest Intelligence:** We are already planning a full-scale offensive of knitted fruit and veg for this year's Harvest Sunday. **Going Crackers:** The battalion is currently mobilising to knit a massive stockpile of festive treasures for this years Winter Fayre.

Upcoming Deployment: **Mission Millport**

We are taking the battalion on the road! On Tuesday 16th June, we are heading off on a day trip to Millport. If you're free and fancy a bit of seaside fun, why not join us? It's the perfect chance to see the Stormers in action outside the barracks.

Joining the Ranks:

Our group currently comprises 20 dedicated knitters, but there is always room for more volunteers. Whether you are a veteran with the needles or a raw recruit, we want you! **When:** Twice a month on Tuesdays. **Time:** 13:00 – 15:00 hours. Rations: A mandatory coffee break and "mess hall" chat at 14:00. **Location:** The Reception Room, Sherbrooke Mosspark Church. Can't make it to Headquarters? We have a dedicated division of Home Guards who join our campaigns from the comfort of their own armchairs. Check out our website for project updates and patterns. We have a great time, a lot of laughs, and we make a real difference, one stitch at a time. To those who doubt the power of the needle, we say this: *"We shall knit on the beaches, we shall purl on the landing grounds. We shall never surrender our needles!"* Are **you** ready to enlist?

Over and out, Major Mags Commanding Officer, SYS
theyarnstormers.com

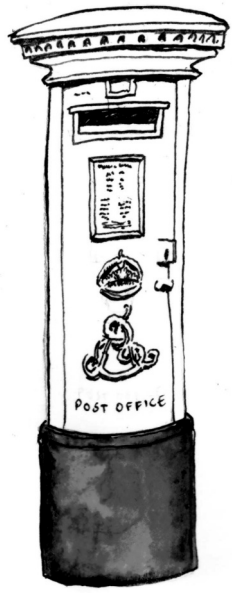
OUCH! said the Stamp

The stamps in the little book of stamps were all lying quite peacefully in the wallet of the jacket of a gent, whose name, by the way, was Jack, who worked in an office in the city. Normally this was fine, as it was warm, and even when he hung his jacket up, it was still nice and warm, as the office had what is called "central heating".

Then came the day when the stamps discovered that all the office etters had already been taken to the post office at about five o'clock in the evening, but the boss-man had decided that Jack needed to send yet another letter to a new client….which meant that Jack would have to pop one of the stamps on from the book of stamps he kept in his jacket onto the envelope, and take it to a Post box later that evening!

Normally, all the stamps would have a quiet chat to themselves about how they loved listening to the ladies and gentlemen popping into Jack's office, not just with things to do for the office, but sometimes to have a wee chat about what was going on in their personal lives; for example, there was one time when a lady was telling Jack all about taking her dog into her local park for a walk before bedtime, but there was a strange, and rather large dog in that park, and the other dogs had a doggy conference – you know, all stood round in a circle, barking at one another – before deciding that all of the should get together and try and chase the strange dog away! The owner of the strange dog then decided to call the Police to stop them and so forth and so on, and all the dogs did not get their usual "treat" before getting nice and comfortable in their doggy beds that night!

Anyway, that evening, once Jack had produced the letter the boss-man had asked him to do, he then went to his jacket, took out the book of stamps, opened it up, and literally tore out the stamp right at the bottom right hand corner! And it was then that the stamp in question said "Ouch!" as he had never before felt the pain of having himself torn from the page he lived on! Boy or boy, was that sore!!



But, what happened after that was totally different, as when he (stamp, envelope and letter inside) was popped into the post box, he met thousands…….well, a good number…..of other stamps who had also been torn away from their partners. Each stamp had a different story to tell to their new friends, and then our stamp found out what it was like to be put into a postman's sack, then popped through a letter box of perhaps another office, or even more exciting, a home like Jack's!!!

And so began the adventures of Stevie, the Stamp... but perhaps that's a story for another day! So, as they say in all the best adventure stories…

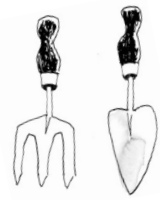
"WATCH……..THIS…….SPACE!!!!!"

AM CHORUS
&
THE BEARSDEN FIDDLERS

On Saturday 7th March the AM Chorus and the Bearsden Fiddle Orchestra held their first joint concert in aid of the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice. We were delighted to raise more than £1,500 for this excellent cause at the same time as having a lot of fun together – so much so that we are planning another concert next year.

After a well deserved break our weekly Wednesday morning sessions will start again and run for six weeks until the end of May. We will be singing old favourites as well as some new songs to add to our growing repertoire. The AM Chorus is open to everyone who enjoys singing. The bonus is that, after an hour of music, we can have a friendly chat with fellow singers over coffee and biscuits (or home baking if we are lucky!) If you fancy giving it a try come along to the large hall at 10am on Wednesdays from now until the end of May.

may in the garden



Looking at my list of 'things to do' in the garden at this time of year I wonder how I'm going to fit it all in – it's just as well that the days are getting longer. May is a wonderful month for gardening; it seems as if everything wants to grow. We can look forward to putting the damp and cold of winter behind us and getting out into our green spaces.

By this time the seeds sown in late February/ early March have been potted up ready to grow on for the Plant Sale. I'll also continue to divide herbaceous perennials and put them in pots.

My collection of pelargoniums (geraniums) which have been quietly over-wintering in my porch have been cut back and re-potted in fresh compost. Getting used to Peat Free compost is proving to be quite a challenge. I have had to re-learn the look and feel of when to top up the moisture, picking up pots to gauge the weight and topping them up individually. To avoid plants getting waterlogged the answer to successful watering is 'little and often'. Hopefully, armed with this information, I'll manage to avoid my hanging basket disaster of last summer.

Weeding is a task which never seems to be completed but there is a certain sense of satisfaction when you put the weeds on the compost heap. It is important to make sure not to include the roots of perennial weeds such as dandelions and convolvulus, they will survive composting and start growing again. I love the fact that, from vegetable peelings, weeds, spent plants, grass cuttings and cardboard (all these Amazon boxes!), you (eventually) get rich compost to improve the garden. Don't forget that as well as producing beautiful spaces gardening is good for you!

IRAN AT IBROX: A NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

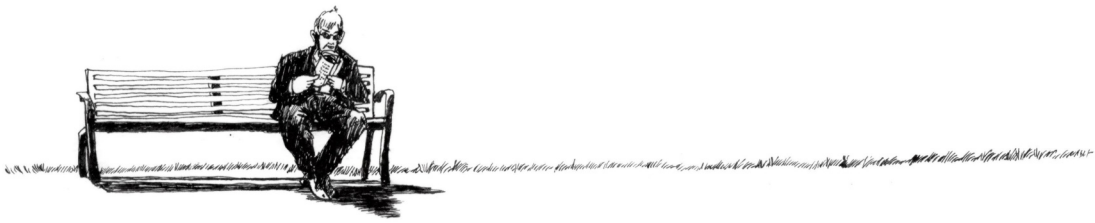
On Saturday 21st March we were invited by our Iranian members to celebrate their new year with them. They worked all day in our kitchen to cook us a traditional Iranian meal. We certainly didn't go hungry. The meal was delicious and we marvelled at how tender all the meat dishes were. It was a privilege to share in their celebrations. The cafe area was beautifully decorated and we were told about the traditions of the decorations. We shared lots of laughs and great fellowship. We are truly blessed to have these families as part of our church family.

OUR DEAR GREEN PLACE

Modern Glaswegians found out why our city earned its name when the helicopter filming of the early Glasgow Marathons showed the surprising extent of green in our City.

Our Victorian planners built huge numbers of parks from the many swing parks in a single square such as in Leven St or Glencairn Dr to the huge parks providing fresh air and open space to the congested tenement areas.

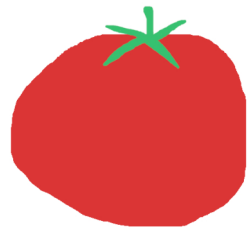
Ask any Glaswegian which is the largest park and Eastenders will quote Tollcross Park; West enders -Kelvingrove, Southsiders Queen's or King's Park but of course the largest built municipal park is of course in our Parish, being Bellahouston park (196 acres).
Its vast flat grasslands used to be many football pitches for hire expertly tended with staffed changing rooms and showers and used continuously on Saturdays, Sunday afternoons latterly and summer evenings.



That vast space and its natural amphitheatre from the hill above made it an ideal location for The Pope's visit and Mass for 300,000 people in 1992. It had also been the site of the 1938 Empire Exhibition from May to Oct and was visited by 12.5 Million people to view and experience the industrial innovations of the UK and the life of Inuits from Canada, countless tribes and produce from numerous African and Asian countries plus Maoris and Aborigines and sheep!! from Oz and NZ, all of which were major trading partners.

The large grass strip running between Mosspark Boulevard and the park railings was where two specially built tram lines came direct from Queen St and Central stations. It was a not to be missed experience and my Mum came with her school pals for their first ever visit to Glasgow from North Berwick. The memorial to the opening by The King is on the hill and The Palace of Art was retained. Modern all weather football pitches have replaced the grass and the huge Sports Centre, PPOW Hospice, Ski Centre and of course leafy dog walks make Glasgow's largest Municipal Park still a great favourite. (Pollok is a gifted estate and now a Country Park, Rouken Glen and Linn are outside Glasgow).

Sundried Tomato & Olive Bread



500 g strong white bread flour
7 g dried fast-action yeast (or 10 g fresh yeast)
10 g salt
1 tsp sugar or honey
300 ml warm water
2 tbsp olive oil (plus extra for brushing)
100 g sundried tomatoes, drained and chopped
80 g olives (black or green), pitted and roughly chopped
1-2 tsp dried oregano or thyme (optional)
1 small garlic clove, finely grated (optional but excellent)

To make one large loaf, in a large bowl, combine the flour, yeast, sugar, and salt (keep salt away from yeast at first). Add the warm water and olive oil. Mix until a shaggy dough forms. Knead for 8-10 minutes by hand (or ~5 minutes in a stand mixer) until smooth and elastic. Place the dough in a lightly oiled bowl, cover, and leave to rise in a warm place for 60-90 minutes, or until doubled in size. Punch down the dough and gently knead in the sundried tomatoes, olives, herbs, and garlic. Try not to over-knead—just enough to distribute evenly. Shape into a loaf or place into a tin. Cover and let rise again for 30-45 minutes until puffed. Preheat oven to 220°C (200°C fan). Brush the top lightly with olive oil, and bake for 25-30 minutes, until golden and hollow-sounding when tapped underneath. Cool on a rack for at least 20 minutes before slicing.

"Cleanliness is near to Godliness"

Take a well-earned break with our Spring Cleaning themed wordsearch!

Words may run horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

G	T	W	T	A	F	I	S	A	O	I	S	R	U	O
P	J	P	A	I	O	S	A	F	P	O	L	I	S	H
F	R	U	S	T	D	I	C	I	Q	G	R	A	C	E
U	M	R	A	H	E	Y	R	S	G	Q	F	E	W	U
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X	E	T	I	D	D	G	D	I	M	M	R	S	S	P
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H	H	L	X	T	V	D	E	V	O	T	I	O	N	H
I	P	E	H	U	A	C	A	Z	U	F	U	D	Q	Q
G	F	A	Q	E	R	V	C	O	Z	S	C	R	U	B
H	W	N	V	U	V	C	H	W	S	N	M	S	K	V

The Physical: BLEACH, BROOM, HYGIENE, POLISH, SANITIZE, SCRUB, SHINE, SOAP, TIDY, WATER.

The Spiritual: CLEAN, DEVOTION, GRACE, HOLY, MORAL, PURITY, SACRED, SPIRIT, UPRIGHT, VIRTUE.