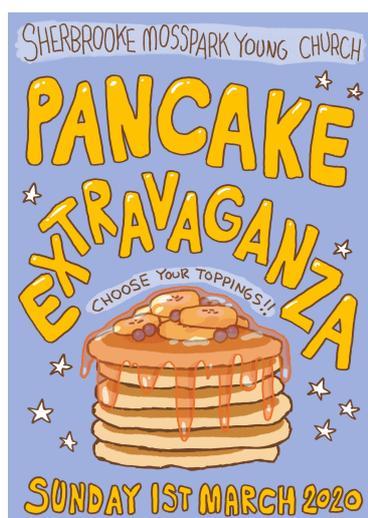


FAMILY NEWS / MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE / WHAT'S ON

YOUNG CHURCH



Have you seen what the Young Church are getting up to on the first Sunday in Lent? They're making pancakes and choosing all sorts of toppings to go with them. We know it should have been happening on Shrove Tuesday but the young people all come together on the Sunday so what better way for them to remember the beginning of this important season by sharing in the great

tradition of eating pancakes to mark the beginning of Lent? There might even be some left over for tea and coffee after.

While we're at it the young people are doing a "sponsored cycle run" March 22nd., like the ones we used to do around Maxwell Park. Please sponsor them per lap of the park as they are raising funds for a great cause.



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to Imogen, "granny Annie" and Liz Tytler who all celebrate birthdays around this time.

Congratulations also to Gayle and Dougie Miller on the baptism of young Molly on Sunday 19th January. Molly is the younger sister of Libby, Gayle and Dougie's first child and grand-daughter of Anne and Douglas Tainsh.

Many of you are friends of Ronnie and Stella Bowie but some of you may not be aware that Emily, their daughter, was married here in our sanctuary to James Scott on 31st December. Congratulations to Emily and James on their marriage.

Church Doors and vestibule: A big thank you to George and the property committee for all the work in transforming the entrance to the kirk: it looks stunning, well done.

Congratulations to Shona on our new look magazine. It's quite unique, readable and fun!
Hazel

On 21st January I had the sad duty of conducting the funeral of Anne Hepburn. Anne was a member of Mossspark and remained as a member of the new union but was unable to attend because of ill health. To Andrew and John, her sons, and their families we extend our condolences.

Have you got news you would like to share? Just drop a note into the office and we will make sure it goes into the magazine.

Holy Week and Easter: details of Services will be published as soon as possible and on the website at the first opportunity.

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

I have always wanted to sing in the final movement of Beethoven's 9th Symphony (The Choral Symphony) because it has never failed to leave me uplifted and thrilled about life. I have sung works by Mozart, Handel, Haydn and many others but never the beloved "Ode to Joy" from the 9th. I now can no longer sing but I can still dream. The music and Beethoven's lyrics (differing slightly from Schiller's original poem) as they do, is one of the most powerful, inspiring pieces of music ever produced and allows me to dream of a better world.

As a very young student setting out to study politics and philosophy (1973) I was conscious of the overthrow of Allende, President of Chile by the now infamous Fascist General Pinochet, but what I didn't know, at that time, was that the Chilean students would sing the "Ode to Joy" as a protest song in the capital, Santiago. It would seem the students in Tiananmen Sq, who faced up to the Chinese Authorities in 1989 played "Ode to Joy" as their rallying music. Do you recall it being played at the Last Night of the Proms in 2001 just after the destruction of the World Trade Centre in Manhattan? It would appear the piece has been used by different groups but always to inspire people to hold their heads up high and proclaim joy and goodness. At one point the chorus sings, "World, do you sense your Creator?" and that says it all. The piece points to the beauty and the nobility of all that is good and so it is an anthem of praise (I believe to God our Creator).

I am moved every time I hear it, and I have heard it live on more than a few times. On each, and every occasion, I have wondered at the beauty, the power, the sheer exuberance, the joy of that final Movement and come away thinking God must have put that music into Beethoven's head for nothing else could have inspired such a dazzling piece. I believe its message of seeing beauty in life and friendship is something we all should seek. The world would be a better place if we sought to find more friends rather than creating barriers to separate people.

I am conscious "Ode to Joy" was adopted as the anthem of what we call the European Union. I am so sorry that there may be fewer opportunities for me to feel the thrill and excitement of this quite brilliant masterpiece. **Tom**

LENT

"What did you give up for Lent?" A question I am not asked too often. But Lent is coming (26th. February) to be precise and we start the countdown to Easter. Do we use Lent as a second shot at the New Year Resolutions? I wonder?

Lent is one of the oldest observations on the Christian calendar. Like all Christian holy days and holidays, it has changed over the years, but its purpose has always been the same: self-examination and penitence, demonstrated by self-denial, in preparation for Easter. Early church father Irenaus of Lyons (c.130-c.200) wrote of such a season in the earliest days of the church, but back then it lasted only two or three days, not the 40 observed today. In 325, the Council of Nicea discussed a 40-day Lenten season of fasting, but it's unclear whether its original intent was just for new Christians preparing for Baptism, but it soon encompassed the whole Church.

How exactly the churches counted those 40 days varied depending on location. In the East, one only fasted on weekdays. The western church's Lent was one week shorter, but included Saturdays. But in both places, the observance was both strict and serious. Only one meal was taken a day, near the evening. There was to be no meat, fish, or animal products eaten.

Until the 600s, Lent began on Quadragesima (Fortieth) Sunday, but Gregory the Great (c.540-604) moved it to a Wednesday, now called Ash Wednesday, to secure the exact number of 40 days in Lent—not counting Sundays, which were feast days. Gregory, who is regarded as the father of the medieval papacy, is also credited with the ceremony that gives the day its name. As Christians came to the church for forgiveness, Gregory marked their foreheads with ashes reminding them of the biblical symbol of repentance (sackcloth and ashes) and

mortality: "You are dust, and to dust you will return" (Gen 3:19).

By the 800s, some Lenten practices were already becoming more relaxed. First, Christians were allowed to eat after 3 p.m. By the 1400s, it was noon. Eventually, various foods (like fish) were allowed. The practice of the Eastern Orthodox churches is still quite strict.

Though Lent is observed in some mainline Protestant denominations, our own included (to a greater or lesser degree), others hardly mention it at all. For the Reformed Churches who modelled their church on the early church maybe there should be more consideration to, "What did you give up for Lent?"

Tom

LOCAL CHURCH REVEIW

Many of you will recall the two churches were visited by the Presbytery a couple of years ago to ascertain where we were in thinking about our community here. We told something of what and been happening in the previous five years and what our hopes were for the future.

The Presbytery are coming back this month to see for themselves just what has been going on in the intervening couple of years. Yes, it is meant to be a five year rolling visit as the old legislation re-Quinquennial Visitation ordained but the system is now much more about mapping a future rather than a reflection of what has happened in the past, although the past informs the future. We have to tell the visitors about how we feel about the union and how we believe it will help the work of the church in the city. In a period of decline it will be good to present a positive, healthy story of a church community at ease with itself trying to fulfil their remit of proclaiming the gospel in the parish.

Tom

THE PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW

The February meeting of Presbytery will take place on 11th February. All are welcome. Followers of Presbytery might be interested in the new Presbytery website, which sets out, very clearly, the various Presbytery Committees and their activities. See www.presbyteryofglasgow.org.uk for information on this and the 120 congregations within the Greater Glasgow area.

Una Heaney

WHAT WE DID 02/02/2020



For the first meeting of 2020, coincidentally held on a date that was also a palindrome, The Way brought out the flour, eggs and sugar and made PANCAKES. This turned out to be much more successful than last year's "scottie shortbread" and could also be described as excellent preparation for Lent.

More imaginative pancakes were shaped like stars and hearts, but all were very good spread with butter and jam, and all evidence was consumed on the premises, along with our usual pizza and chocolate. We also talked of The Beatitudes, which led to another interesting discussion, but then, discussions at The Way are always interesting!

Our next meeting is on 8th March, when we hope we can prepare for a stall at the upcoming PCT fundraiser Coffee Morning.

THE PRESHAL TRUST

Muriel Manning will shortly be selling copies of her latest wee book entitled "S.O.S. or Save Our School" in aid of The Preshal Trust – a charity which works with people of all ages with addiction problems, problems with mental health, social exclusion, etc. It is hoped that you will purchase a copy so that the funds raised may be passed to this very worthwhile cause. Thank you.



PROGRESS ON NEW ELDERS' SCHEME GROUPS

We have had a very enthusiastic start to our New Elders' Scheme. Christine Lockhart, Neil Buchanan and their team, with members, had a wonderful afternoon at Christine's house last November. The group helped with the chauffeuring and it was a great afternoon of chatting, renewing friendships, creating friendships, eating delicious food and then being ferried home again. A great success which will be repeated.

We have seen a big change with baptisms. The team meet and welcome the baptismal family and their families and friends and during the service when the children go out entertainment has been provided in the Small Hall. The visiting families and friends with their children have enjoyed the happy atmosphere downstairs and a welcome coffee.

The super news is that we have had several baptisms recently and Clare Williams and her team had a social get together, at the Burton's house, for those who could come. A glorious spread of home baking and other delights were thoroughly enjoyed after a fun Pass the Parcel and a very enjoyable guessing game. Everyone had a really wonderful time and this too will be repeated.

Several Elders have held coffee mornings for their street – reaching out into the community, while others have invited church members, and there has been an afternoon tea for new comers to the church. Intimate lunches are also planned.

Are you getting married? A great welcome awaits you from our members and we look forward to getting to know you as you plan and prepare for your special day!

We all want to hear the dates of concerts, what's on in the church calendar, what's happening in general and our church website does a wonderful job addressing all these things. We are also trying to think out of the box on what more can be done.

Watch this space!

AFTERNOON TEA FOR BAPTISMAL FAMILIES



We were delighted to host five families for an afternoon tea as part of our initiative to nurture church fellowship across different groups within the Kirk. With ages ranging from just a few months through to our eldership group

we had lots of fun, playing games, enjoying an afternoon tea and just generally getting to know everyone a bit better. We were very lucky to be hosted by the Burtons who not only provided a fantastic venue for the event but seemed to have an endless supply of children's toys and dressing up outfits which our youngsters thoroughly enjoyed. We played pass the parcel, pin the tail on the donkey and some of our youngest group played with the farm yard sets. We also had a 'fame and name' game with everyone identifying a 'unique' fact about themselves which we all had to guess – what an interesting group we had – we had someone who had flown a plane, others appearing in TV adverts and shows and someone who had become engaged at Disneyland Florida!

Everyone seemed to have a good time and we hope to host further events of this type in the future. A huge thank you to everyone who came along and contributed to the afternoon tea.

Baptismal Elders' Group
Clare Williams, Andrew Normand, Stewart Davis,
Anne Tainsh

AFTERNOON TEA

Last year the Kirk Session gave the Church Elders the opportunity to form a number of caring groups which would each provide support and fellowship to a particular category of members and adherents e.g. young families, newly weds, the housebound and a category which I call "the Elder States people of the church." These are members who do manage along on a Sunday but who would also welcome the chance to have an extra chat from time to time. I am the co-ordinator of this group.

We held a tea party on a Saturday afternoon in November, inviting at random 13 people- not an unlucky number- who were all delighted to accept. One of the features of the afternoon was that the guests were picked up from their homes and delivered back safely. Sometimes transport to an event can be a problem for many. All we wanted was the guests themselves, dressed in their best and they all certainly rose to the occasion! The drivers had made contact with their passengers beforehand to confirm arrangements.

The drivers and helpers were Stuart, Neil and Lorna picking up May, Sheila, Nancy, Elizabeth, Bill, Mary, Marjory, Nan and Ian. Christine strolled up from 8A to 18 Hamilton Avenue! The guests arrived at 2:30pm and straight away the chat flowed. Then 15 including Brian and myself sat down- thanks to church trestle tables- to a traditional afternoon tea-- lots of tea, sandwiches, pancakes and cakes. The meringues went down particularly well.

The party was scheduled from 2:30 - 4.00pm but the chat, accompanied by the lovely piano recital from Nan, continued on happily until about 4:45pm! I think everyone enjoyed themselves, guests and helpers alike.

I am planning to hold another tea party in March, again on a random selection basis. Please contact me if you or anyone you know would like to be included.

Christine Lockhart

A.M. CHORUS VISIT TO WOMEN'S GUILD - 29 JANUARY 2020

A day we had all been waiting for - the A M Chorus had been invited to entertain the Women's Guild!! Because of restriction of space at Mossspark Church Hall, the invitation was restricted to four men and six ladies. This presented our first problem - team selection. No one would want to be left out!! However, that particular problem was easily solved- no one wanted to be included. Everyone claimed they were not good enough!!

A more rough and ready selection policy had to be put in place, and as a result, after a 30 minute practice after our normal session, in fact twelve individuals found themselves making their way to Mossspark. Bobby Craig kept us on edge by arriving with a carload of four "volunteers" five minutes before curtain up!!

We were warmly welcomed - " Good to see you, Big Man" said our own Cameron Aitken as he belted me on the back!

Our audience settled, and after a short service, we found ourselves in the spotlight under the direction of Aidan McCusker. The audience were mesmerised by his smooth professional approach. " You are in for a treat",he claimed!

With Dott at the piano, we managed twelve numbers - all our old favourites - Dark Island,That's Amore, Uist Tramping Song,Mountains of Mourne, If you were the only girl in the World, Merry Widow Waltz, Edelweiss, I can't Help Falling in Love with You, and Thank you for the Music - to name but a few. Our audience was enthusiastic and appreciative, joining in at appropriate times.

Afterwards, we enjoyed an excellent afternoon tea, and proceedings concluded with a bible reading, a prayer and a hymn.

We were very grateful to the Guild for their invitation. Possibly we enjoyed it even more than they did. I think some of our number do not realise how good they are!!

Further invitations are encouraged and will be dealt with on their merits!!

Wednesday practices are now attracting up to 45 - number, not age!!

All the best Brian

SESSION CLERK REPORT

This month will see our first Kirk Session of the year. It will be a very busy meeting! We will hear from Iain Webster on our financial position. Iain will take us through our income and outgoings for 2019 and how 2020 is shaping up.

The rest of the meeting will be taken up by our Local Church Review.

This review is undertaken by Presbytery and considers all aspects of Sherbrooke Mossspark. We provided a report covering not only worship, but our presence in the community, from Soup and Chat to Men's Shed and everything in between!

The session meeting is our opportunity to bring that report to life. I will of course let you know how it goes.

For those of you taking a break next week for mid-term I hope you enjoy. David and Robert are in Auchengillan with the Explorers at Sub-Zero camp, the clue about the weather is in the name!

Marie

QUIZ AFTERNOON

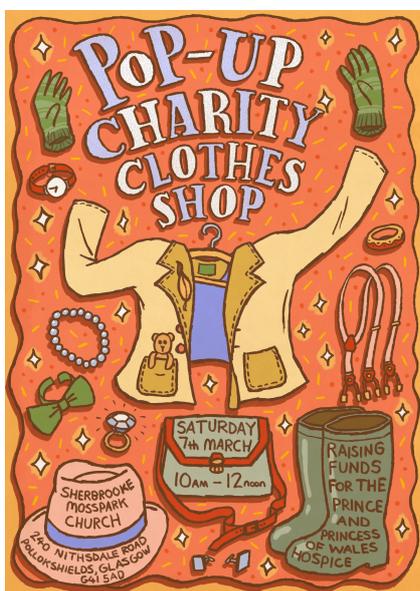
On Saturday 14th March you are invited to a fun challenging QUIZ AFTERNOON come on your own or with friends or family to MOSSPARK BOWLING CLUB, 12.45 pm until 3.00pm

All we ask of you is a donation to the Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice. Organised by our Outreach, Mission and Community committee.

Women’s Group – Annual coffee morning – Saturday 25th January 2020

A huge thank you to everyone for the contributions made towards our annual coffee morning.

In total we raised £1,184.15 in cash for Starter Packs – in addition to the huge quantity of donated items which were collected by the Starter Packs team. We have received a lovely thank you letter from Starter Packs which indicated that last week (end January 2020) was their busiest week in their 20 year history. Full details on our website.



POP UP CHARITY CLOTHES SHOP SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 10:00 – 12:00

If you have any clothes you no longer wear please donate them to the Pop up Charity Shop taking place in the large hall on Saturday 7/3/20. The money raised will be for the Glasgow Hospice.

From Sunday 16th February until the week of the event you can bring clothing donations to Church and give them to me in the large hall. You can also email and I shall arrange to make a collection.

We have a team of 9 helpers and if you would like to join us please let me know.

Thanks Mags Cargey email mcargey@mac.com

AT A GLANCE

Monday 10/2/20 Men's Shed Mossspark Bowling Club
10.30-12.00

Tuesday 11/2/20 Soup & Chat 12:00 – 13:30

Wednesdays 12/2/20 A.M. Chorus 10:00 – 11:30

Wednesdays: Sherbrooke Mossspark Guild 14:00 – 15:00
meeting at the former Mossspark Parish Church Hall

Full details of all events on our website
Our Groups and More page

