



As we are all aware, we are under instruction to Stay At Home at the moment. We are very fortunate that even though we are restricted in our movements, we are still able to share worship together, albeit virtually. Tom, John, the choir, Julian, Mags and Janis make everything work and we are all most grateful to them. We will continue to follow the CoS and Government's guidelines and keep you updated on any changes.

If you get a chance, it is well worth looking at the website to see the other areas of worship and fellowship that are available to everyone. Tom continues his Tom's Tales from the Bible for the younger members of the congregation. Messy Church also continues. There is absolutely something for everyone on the website and as always, we are very grateful to Mags for the amazing work she does on keeping us connected.

### **New Minister**

Now that the Christmas season is over the work on appointing a new Minister begins in earnest. As many of you will know I have some health issues at the moment which impact the time I can spend on Church matters. Given the importance of appointing a new Minister, Julian Guse has taken over from me in leading the work in this area. I am most grateful to Julian taking over this important role. Julian will be in touch over the coming weeks on next steps and progress.

Marie

## MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE

Here we are at another New Year - a time when we usually look forward to what it will bring with eager anticipation. It has, unfortunately started the way the old year ended, with folk feeling battered, not only by the elements which are at this time of year quite unforgiving, but the state of the world with this pandemic still dominating everything we do. It has been almost a year since we first heard of Covid-19, never thinking the consequences of it would devastate so many lives, and we have lived with restrictions of one kind or another ever since. It was interesting, realising the answer (in the beginning, before the advances subsequently made) to keeping safe was the same methodology as every community since ancient times - keep people apart from each other. We didn't realise it at the time, but it has been one of the most difficult things for us to accept. We are social animals who seek and actually need social interaction and as a consequence many have suffered through loneliness.

The Christian community is a community that needs to meet. The first followers of Jesus in that church that emerged in the New Testament gave testimony to the fact our faith is a communal experience not a solitary activity. We meet for worship, as did the first communities of Jesus followers; we meet sharing meals and communal events around the church's calendar (Easter, Christmas, Pentecost) and we meet for love and support in the 'big' moments in our lives- births, marriage, death.

This year has taken its toll on the life of the kirk, but we are still a community of Christ's followers who seek to engage with faith and with each other. It has been made easier by Mags unstintingly managing our website and John and his team ensuring worship is broadcast to all who care to listen. The sense of community has been evident in so many aspects of our living and we thank God for it.

So it is a new year and life has not been normal for some time but we live with hope, not despair, with peace knowing we will come through this and with love for each other and all God's people. We also live in the knowledge that thanks to the tireless work of the scientists, the medical and nursing staff on the front line and many others in the caring and service industries our lives will once again regain some element of normality. Let us thank God for those medics and nurses who still go in to work every day bringing health and hope to many, and let us also remember the cost to them personally dealing with this pandemic.

We have a vaccine: we have three vaccines now, and, in time, we will all be able to receive one of them giving us some protection from this dreadful 'plague' that has so blighted our living. In time we will begin to see and do the things we took for granted. When those days come let us remember what it has cost humanity and resolve to be better people.

Tom

## THE PRESHAL TRUST

This is a poem from Alan at Preshal to the staff and just generally. I thought it was a lovely start to the year and worth sharing

I have asked Alan and he has given his permission.

Kind regards

Nigel

### Well Where do I Start

It's been nearly a year since we all met up, in the place they call Preshal where we all have our own cup.

Where we help and support those less fortunate than us, and pass on our skills, our knowledge and love.

The Preshal people are awesome that's true, full of oldies and young ones and there's some characters there too.

Some need the company, some need the food, some need the love and the friendship so good.

To you the staff, I want to say, you're the best team in Britain both home and away.

You see we are not perfect but that doesn't matter, we love the people, their ways and their patter.

We love to help others wherever we can and that sums up Preshal and you know it man.

So in this new year I wish you the best, to you and your family, and to all the rest,

I pray for peace, health and happiness, joy and for fun, God bless each and everyone of you in 2021

Take care and stay safe from

Alan, Karis, Megan and Samuel

## WOMEN'S GROUP - JANUARY 2021 - DIAMONDS ARE A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND

For our first meeting of 2021, we were delighted to be joined by Alice Guse for a fun singing evening. Having witnessed Alice grow into this talented young musician we were all in for a treat and an experience which certainly lifted our spirits. We have all had the pleasure of listening to Alice sing in the church choir but to hear her voice at such close quarters was a real treat. Her teaching and IT skills were also phenomenal as she casually switched between different sheet music, putting us on and off mute, singing beautifully and also encouraging us all along the way - wow! What a talented young lady she has become!

Thirteen members of the Women's Group joined the Zoom sing-a-long. We started with a series of warm up exercises - using the c major scale, humming and then 'ng'ing away! Alice then switched the warm up to some arpeggios both smooth and staccato before teaching us a 'donkeys and carrots' song which we sang at an accelerating pace. With the warm up finished, Alice moved us onto the 'main event' which was aptly chosen to bring some sparkle to the new year - a song entitled 'Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend'. Not to be deterred by the various rhythms and changes of key, Alice taught us the song, building our confidence bit by bit - we even managed a harmony for the last two bars with the rhythm in one section in line with the Marilyn Monroe version of the song. We had such fun due to all the work Alice had put into the evening but also due to her relaxed and fun approach - thank you so much Alice!

Just as we were all relaxing, Alice then set us some homework to record our own version of the song after the session with the intention that she will 'blend' all our efforts together to create our Women's Group production! Watch this space to see how we get on!

With the Covid-19 restrictions remaining in place for the time being, the next few sessions of our Women's Group will take place via Zoom:

**Thursday 4th February** - An evening with Jo Service - hearing about her life as an actress with a reading from one of her recent audiobooks

**Thursday 4th March** - Quiz evening with Anne McCaig

**Thursday 6th May** - Mince to Ministries with Catherine Beattie, Minister, Giffnock South

If anyone would like to know more about our group and/or would like to join any of our forthcoming meetings, please get in touch.

Clare Williams, Jan Bostock, Marie Baird

## GLASGOW PRESBYTERY IN LOCKDOWN

(My personal view on how Presbytery is going about its business during Lockdown)

Once upon a time, Glasgow Presbytery had its regular meetings in church buildings; I have memories of trying to find a parking space on a cold wet winter's night, and plodding through the rain to get to my destination, be it in Springburn, Giffnock or Govan. The coldness of the night was in contrast to the warmth of the Sanctuary, with over 100 Presbyters in attendance. There was a chance to catch up with friends and acquaintances before the business of the meeting began.

Then there was LOCKDOWN. The Presbytery office was closed, as were church buildings. Yet the need for action was still there. Presbytery Committees moved to meeting virtually, on Zoom, to discuss relevant business. For some, using Zoom involved a steep learning curve, but these smaller groups were and are kind of manageable. We are all on the same screen (Gallery format) and if someone wants to comment, it's easy enough to wave ... remember putting your hand up when you wanted to speak in class?

Ah, but with Presbytery on Zoom... greater numbers involved and what can be, at times, complicated decision-making processes. The Moderator, Rev. William Wilson, has become adept at muting us all at the outset and you can only speak if you press the little hand on screen and he unmutes you...a bit like the General Assembly in that regard. If a vote is required, there is a "Facilitator", a disembodied voice who puts the proposal up on screen and gives us an opportunity to press For or Against. At the most recent Presbytery meeting the incoming Interim Presbytery Clerk, Rev. Dr. Grant Barclay, had us dispersed to "break out groups", that on the whole worked very well.

At the outset, I was glad to leave behind those sojourns in the cold wet nights, but now I miss the dodgy heating systems (Springburn), the Brownies(?) upstairs (Giffnock Orchardhill) and the unexpected draughts (Govan and Linthouse). I miss the hymns and the general feeling of "togetherness". One day we'll return....

Una Heaney

Additional Elder

Glasgow Presbytery

## 2020 - A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER!

What a year! It started so nicely for us, we spent February half term with our son Iain and family in Epsom. Our grandson was to be 17 at the beginning of March and having passed his theory test was looking forward after a few lessons to sitting his driving test. - Cancelled!

We set off for our annual Time Share holiday in Spain on Thursday 12th March and on the Saturday Spain went into lockdown. Nothing was open except the chemists and supermarkets, they even taped off the beach. We went for a walk and were stopped by the Guardia, we should not have been together...!

Jet2 got us back on a repatriation flight on the 18th - oh how glad we were to be home.

Meantime our younger son and family had gone to live and work in Brunei. His wife is from Brunei. He and his 3 year old daughter developed Covid and were isolated together in one room at the Isolation Hospital for 2 weeks. Father and daughter bonding became a little strained...!

Our other daughter in law in Epsom ( an A & E Consultant) developed Covid and unfortunately is one of the Long Covid sufferers, so since April she is still unwell and unable to return to work.

Plans and holidays cancelled just like everyone else and then August and September and we dared to hope BUT NO the wretched bug had other ideas! and a second wave of cancellations and dashed hopes.

On the plus side, our garden had never looked better but no one but us to see it!

The Brunei Macfarlanes had planned to return to the UK for Christmas but that was cancelled. They would have had to isolate for two weeks on their return to Brunei at a Special Hotel at their own expense ! It was not an essential journey!

Then the 5 day amnesty for Christmas was announced and the Epsom Macfarlanes said they would come North. I went and shopped to feed 3 hungry youngsters and 4 adults, we were obeying the rule of 6 because our younger granddaughter is 12 and did not count in Scotland although she did in England - then all change again, it was now only one day and no overnight stays, so the trip was cancelled as was grandsons driving test for the third time!

Ford and I have only just finished eating all that food! . Christmas and New Year were spent just by ourselves and like many others we have not seen our sons or

grandchildren for nearly a year. Thank goodness for Zoom and WhatsApp. Isn't technology amazing ?

Our elder son Iain is the organist at St Martin's Church, Epsom and like us they have been streaming services but they have a camera in the organ loft and we have been able to watch our son play which has been such a joy. Not possible when attending a service for real in normal times. Clouds and silver linings come to mind!

So for 2021 we wish everybody good health and to be able to make plans and have them happen. As my Mother used to say "the tide cannot keep going out forever"

We hope to see you all again soon

Ford and Anne Macfarlane

## FLOWERS IN JANUARY

How easy it was to ' do the flowers' in December. There's a formula. Colours, red, green, white, silver, gold, you know the drill. Then there's the sparkle. Market and flower shops full of possibilities, magazines full of suggestions and helpful articles. What a joy.

And now January... What do we do? Big clear out and tidy up first, everything gets packed away for next year. Just don't look in the flower cupboards. I promise we'll have a Spring clean!  
So what happens next? It's an in between time, no sparkle, too early for daffodils and the other spring bulbs, Well there's always left overs.

There are the very last remnants of berries, poinsettias, bravely hanging in there and if you're lucky enough to know Anne MacPherson you should have some of her beautiful paper whites which seem to go on forever and which take us very neatly through Christmas and on through a snowy January. Arrange some of these around some house plants, stick an ornament at the side and your done!

Spring is coming and we'll be back in church, scissors in hand. If you fancy having a go with us, give me a ring, send an e mail, drop me a line. We would love to have you.

Stay safe,  
Hazel and the Flower Girls

## NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

Some of you, if you are in my age bracket, might remember New Year's Eve in days of old, when the matriarch of the family ensured that everyone - and that included both the matriarch herself and her beloved patriarch - had been bathed, hair washed, clean jammies and dressing gowns (for the children) put on, or laid out to be put on (for the parents); all beds had had their sheets and pillowcases changed, and this linen had been washed and hung out on a washing line to dry! Of course, it was a real blessing if it was a dry windy day to help ensure that the laundry would be dry enough to be ironed. If not, at least it was washed, popped through the wringer to ensure as much water as possible was squeezed out, and then hung to dry in a warm kitchen, in the hope that it just might be dry enough to be ironed later on! Washing machines were not normal items in the households of most of us - and tended to be in the homes of the gentry....very rich people who had servants to do their bidding, something we knew little about, apart from listening to tales of such folk on the radio.

Then the cupboards were checked:

tidy and clean - check;

well stocked with the essentials of bread, milk, breakfast cereal etc. - check;

there was freshly baked shortbread in the shortbread tin - check;

there was still plenty of home-baked Christmas cake left so that first-footers could be given a slice - check;

there was enough whisky and sherry in the (now unlocked) drinks cabinet to allow drinks to be poured for visitors - check;

there was enough coal in the scuttle to ensure that the fire would be well banked up, with pieces left over for themselves to take when going "first footing" - check;

there was plenty of milk and juice for the children who were old enough to be allowed to stay up till "the Bells!" - check.

Christmas decorations, of course, were still up - in those days coloured paper streamers hung from the centre light to the corners of the main room, and if you had a Christmas tree, it would be in the window where all passers by could admire it! Also, on New Year's Eve, Christmas cards which had been received from nearby neighbours were popped to the front of the ones adorning perhaps the top of the piano, or the top of the bookcase, or even the sideboard, so that said neighbours had the satisfaction of knowing(!) how important they were!!

As children, this was all very very exciting to us! Television was still in its infancy, and our home did not have such an expensive piece of equipment as yet. As children, again we weren't all that happy about having to have a bath in the early evening and have our hair washed, particularly if it was not our "bath night" (as in days gone by, there were no such inventions as the immersion heater, and water was heated by the



"back boiler" right behind the front room fireplace). But, it was exciting being allowed to stay up and be with the grown-ups as they sat round the fire, sipping whisky or sherry, and getting rosy-cheeked from the warm fire and the unaccustomed drink!!

Then, on New Year's Day itself, there was a special family dinner, sometimes with other family members visiting. In our house, my Dad had taught us kids to play the card game "Canasta", and we had dried peas with which to "bet"! No thought was given to anyone turning to a life of betting - it was just a bit of fun! We enjoyed a lovely home cooked dinner, the down-side being that the kids had to wash up, and cleaning the pots was not our idea of a great evening's entertainment!! But, as always, it got done, and when we settled down to play cards with Mum and Dad, it was exciting!! My twin brother usually got too excited, and if we played any game where the loser dropped out until there was only one player left (usually Dad, as he had a good head for cards), he wasn't over-happy about that, and tended to sneak into the kitchen where Mum had a tin of sweets she had amassed over the last couple of months of the year from the ration of sweets which we were all allowed! Can you imagine being excited about getting a few blocks of chocolate all to yourself!

Then, there were the New Year's Resolutions! My oh my, they were fun! The parents never divulged what (if any) New Year's Resolutions they had made, but the three of us were asked, and we had to think up some area of our behaviour which ought to be corrected, and was reasonably easy to do, like "Always wash my hands and face before going to bed!" or "Remember to put the empty milk bottles out at the front door at night!" and so on. We would have been on holiday from school since Christmas Eve, and would not be going back until at least the 2nd of January if that happened to be a school day, and had probably got over the excitement of new toys, new jammies (not exactly thrilling!), new books (probably by now read from cover to cover), and new jigsaws - usually a family favourite too, as we could all indulge in this pastime. So New Year, in days of old, was quite different from to-day; "first-footing" particularly for the Mums went on for quite a while into January as they took turns going round the neighbours whom they had not seen, taking in little gifts of a piece of coal and something edible -usually some cake or shortbread! And, it was great fun!! Perhaps just a wee bit different from what we do today!

What do you think???????

Muriel Manning

## NEWS FROM THE LODGING HOUSE MISSION

Please find below a copy of a note from Stephen ( Manager of LHM) indicating that he is comfortable with his situation of being in the high dependency unit at the QE Infirmary receiving treatment for COVID and this being known to all his friends in Sherbrooke Mosspark.

I'm sure we will think about him and his family at this time in our prayers! A further volunteer has tested positive but to date is showing no further symptoms.

Ranald Findlay

*Dear Gus*

*So sorry to hear about Graeme, do hope and pray he's going to be OK. Please pass on my love and prayers for him.*

*I hope everyone one else is safe*

*I will be here in the high dependency unit, unit 7, for some more days yesterday's CT scan confirmed no blood clots in the lungs but showed intensive inflammation in the lungs due to coronavirus.*

*Being treated for covid pneumonia*

*High level oxygen and steroids and more fluids*

*Gus, please use my consent to share my health details with our supporters quoting my consent. If you feel it useful perhaps for our church supporters and their prayer groups who will appreciate details for the prayers*

*I take the words of the psalmist of old, "I trust in Thee, O Lord... my times are in your hands.."*

*I take those words both for me personally and for all the work of LHM*

*Please pass on my love to all and thanks for your prayers*

*Stephen*

## DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID - MY STORY BY ANNE STEELE

In very basic layman's terms, DNA is where we are genetically linked to members of our family. To find DNA matches on sites such as Ancestry DNA etc., the other genetically linked member of your family will also have to have submitted their DNA sample for analysis within the same site.

One of my relatives on my Mother's side had joined Ancestry DNA and suggested I do the same. I paid £59 in 2017 to Ancestry to have my sample of saliva analysed. Each year it costs £99 to stay active on the site. My ethnicity results estimated I was 94% Scottish, 4% Irish and 2% Welsh. Through my DNA matches, I discovered I have a 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin Alice, linked again on the maternal side of my family, who lives in Canada. We started corresponding. My eldest son lives in Canada and on visiting him in 2018, Jack and I managed to meet up with Alice, which was amazing and we still keep in close contact.

In January 2020, someone contacted me after receiving her DNA analysis, saying we were second cousins. Her name is Anna and she lives in East Kilbride. I have now discovered I have a multitude of family living there and also in Canada, which I had no clue about previously. This connection again is through the maternal side of my family. When allowed by COVID 19 restrictions, Anna and I met last year and we have helped each other discover family members in common. Until Anna got in touch, I never really paid much attention to my DNA results as I generally had a busy life. Then of course, when COVID 19 appeared on the scene my busy life was curtailed, as with many of us.

During the first lockdown, I started contacting people in my DNA match pool and have discovered other family in Glasgow, Livingstone, Bathgate, England, Moray, USA, and Australia. Some of these people I knew their families or of their families, but we had lost touch. When the first lockdown was eased I was able through DNA to reconnect with a 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin, who lives in Bearsden. Jack and I met with him and his wife in House for an Art Lover. We hadn't seen each other since 1975, when contact was lost. That was a lovely reunion.

I never knew my biological father as he and my mother divorced when I was a baby. We never met.

My mother got married again to a wonderful man named James Anderson when I was 8 years old and whom I consider in all respects to be my Dad. My mother was 38 years when she married James and they had a son together, so I feel very blessed to have a brother. Sadly they only had a few years of marriage as my mother died of lung cancer age 46 years. My name at birth was Anne Buchanan Macmillan and was changed to Anderson by deed poll when my Mum remarried.

The Australian matches, (there were two), didn't link in with my maternal side, so I realised the link must be through my biological father's side. I reached out to both of

them and happily both responded. Jim, my 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin in Australia was able to identify our link straight away; we were related through my biological father's mother.

His grandmother and mine were sisters, so we are connected through the Wallace side of our family. The other Australian is a 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin and we are still trying to establish where we fit on the Macmillan side.

I am not very accomplished at researching ancestry, but my cousin Jim in Australia was very kind in researching the Macmillan side for me. Through him I discovered information about my paternal grandparents; that my father had a brother William; that my father had remarried with no other children being born and had died at 41 years of age.

In mid December 2020, Jim sent me an email saying he had discovered the death notification of my father's brother's wife, Ruby and that she and William had two children, Christine and Ian. He said the last address he could find was Auldgirth Road, Mossspark and that I should check the telephone directory to see if I could find an entry for them. This I did to no avail. I decided to let things lie until after Christmas and would look at it again in the New Year.

On December 17<sup>th</sup> Janis posted a message on the Church What's App group saying "Welcome to What's App Christine". Christine duly replied. On December 23<sup>rd</sup> I noticed another message from Christine and noted this time her surname was Macmillan. Something just clicked with me. I thought could this be the cousin Jim mentioned? I left a message on Christine's mobile and asked if she could please phone me on receiving my message. She duly did that evening. I asked if her parents were Ruby and William Macmillan, which she confirmed. I told her I am Anne Macmillan and her reply was "I always wondered where you were"! Her parents had told her and brother Ian of me, but as the connection had been lost, they didn't know my whereabouts. I had no idea until two weeks ago that she and Ian existed. I had found two 1<sup>st</sup> cousins.

We have had phone calls and messages to each other and when I sent Jim in Australia an email telling him what happened, he could hardly believe it. If it hadn't been for him researching the MacMillan side of my family from the other side of the world, we would probably never have found each other, coupled with the unification of Sherbrooke and Mossspark Churches. Christine, Ian, Jim and I have a lot of catching up to do and we had a Zoom meeting this week.

I can't wait to get to know my cousins better and it will be great to meet in person when we are able. We have had an unprecedented year, but out of everything bad this year, there was a positive for us. What a Christmas present!

With best wishes,

Anne Steele

## OUR FRIDAY CASTAWAY

I'm delighted that I have been invited to share my five favourite Desert Island Discs with you all which I trust you will enjoy.

### Rosemary Lyons

**Cliff Richard** singing **Living Doll**. This takes me back to about the age of 10 when I was taken to the Glasgow Empire with a few chums to see the great star of the time decked in black gear, white tie and pink jacket! I swooned (was never a screamer) enjoyed every word, terrific and still is to this day!

Again as a wee girl with my Mum and Dad and my four elder siblings ( 2 boys and 2 girls) would sit round the fireplace listening to Dad's radiogram. For Dad it was all the great tenors of the day, for my mum, Ivor Novello, for my sisters, Nelson Eddie and Janette MacDonald. My brothers and I had to enjoy the "grown up choices" Dad, at one stage, sang in The City of Glasgow Police Choir and fancied himself as a bit of a Mario Lanza! Dad would not know **Foster and Allen** but "**Silver Threads Among the Gold**" would have been his style.

Number three is from 1967, Glasgow Fair Friday, rain pouring down, I'm bridesmaid for my friend Shirley's wedding to a Norwegian Merchant Navy Captain at South Shawlands Parish Church. The hymn "**Eternal Father, Strong to Save**"( Navy Hymn)

By now I'm working in a large firm of Architects in Glasgow and have given up my music lessons for a number of years but am persuaded by my mother to start again with a wonderful teacher (Miss Cunningham) and chosen to play in a concert in front of a big audience. The choice of piece frightens me and I have to practice very seriously. The end result is success and the concert raises a major sum to help purchase an electric wheelchair for a young boy. The piece was: **Chopin's Etude Op 10 No 12 Study** (Valentina Lisitsa 19 Dec 2008)

This memory takes me back to the time when I worked in Kennington in London in the 1960s and I witnessed and heard a cavalcade of police cars and a Black Maria taking The Kray Twins to court! My boss extolling that I was watching history in the making! I was particularly homesick at this time and as luck would have it that evening I watched on television **Kenneth McKellar** singing "**Keep Right on to the End of the Road**".

My luxury item would have to be my piano, together with an endless supply of Maltesers suitably protected from the sun and heat!

My favourite book would be forsaken for an endless volume of sheet music

Rosemary

## PILLAR BOXES OF POLLOKSHIELDS

Our friend, Bill Duff - one of our more venerable members and an expert on the history of Pollokshields - is responsible for this rather 'anorak-y' interest of mine. During the coronavirus 'lockdowns' my interest has been encouraged by Barbara and by an old chum in Edinburgh who gave me a book about 'Old Letter Boxes' to assist research.

How it started. One morning, years ago, Bill and I were chatting over coffee in the church hall after the morning service. Bill asked me: "Do you know, there are three Edward VIII pillar boxes in Pollokshields - not too far from your house?"

Well, of course, I did not know that. But within a couple of weeks I was able to report to Bill that I had tracked the three boxes down, and describe accurately to him where they are located.

Of course, what is interesting (?!) about Edward VIII pillar boxes is that Edward VIII was the King for less than one year. His reign (which was during Bill Duff's lifetime) was from 20 January 1936 to 11 December 1936, when he abdicated. But not before the Post Office had set about constructing pillar boxes with the cipher 'EVIIR' and erecting them around the country. Apparently, 161 pillar boxes were cast during Edward VIII's short reign and many of them are still in use around the country. However, a group of three of them within a relatively short distance of each other, as in Pollokshields, must be unusual.

Not only that, on my travels during lockdown last year I discovered that there is another Edward VIII pillar box not too far away - in Shawlands! When I made that discovery I, of course, had to hasten to report it to Bill! I think he was quite impressed. (Or, at least, he was politely interested.)

On our lockdown walks Barbara has got used to me pausing every time we pass an unfamiliar pillar box to check the cipher. There are at least a couple of George VII pillar boxes (with "scroll" ciphers) and several George V pillar boxes around Pollokshields. I have also seen a George V box in Mosspark. There may be more. George V boxes are actually marked 'GR'. There were no pillar boxes at the time of the earlier Georges, pillar boxes having been erected for the first time in 1852 at the suggestion of Anthony Trollope, the novelist, who was a Post Office Surveyor.

I continue to keep a keen lookout for more Edward VIII pillar boxes. I have yet to find another - including on our walks in Edinburgh. However, in Edinburgh they do have some fancy Queen Victoria 'Penfold' style pillar boxes that are smarter than the rather plain 'VR' pillar box near Maxwell Park (or those on Pollokshaws Road).

If anyone wishes to include a search for the Pollokshields Edward VIII pillar boxes in their lockdown walks I would be happy to reward success by making a donation or donations to charity. For the first five people to tell me where the three Pollokshields Edward VIII boxes are I shall donate £10 each - with an extra £10 if anyone tells me where the Shawlands box is. I do not know if there is another Edward VIII pillar box on the Southside, but should anyone be able to direct me to one, that would be worth one donation of £50!

*Andrew Normand*

## Connect with the Congregation and spread some hope.

If you are missing having a coffee in the hall and a chat with people after the service how about posting a postcard to someone you know from the directory with a message of hope. It would be lovely to received something other than a bill or junk mail through the letter box! If you don't have a directory please let Janis in the office know and she will post the 2018 one to you. A new directory will be available around March 2021. Thanks to Christine Macmillan for this great idea.

### 2021 CHURCH DIRECTORY

If you wish to be included in the 2021 directory you can register via the website. Our GDPR and Privacy Policy is also on the Directory Page for you to review. Registration documents will also be included with the February Magazine for members of the congregation who do not use the internet. Please call the office if you wish any further information.

### PUNS FOR EDUCATED MINDS

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian .
3. She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.



Type of Dog e.g. are you supposed to give it a beating? WHIPPET

1. This tree is plane.
2. One trip is enough for this
3. Fish weight on resting place
4. American uncle returns before argument
5. Hans Christian Andersen - famous
6. Wow! An American soldier
7. A miner had his tail docked
8. Bar road for learner driver
9. Seeing spots before your eyes
10. You would be thankful to receive a little spirit from him



## FOLLOW THE ADVENTURES OF HARVEY DISCO



Dearest Doggy Lover and Admirer,

I am sorry for the late reply but I've been very busy and my paws have been sore. My email account is down right now so I've had to use my Master's.

I've had quite a mail bag to respond to, as you can imagine. The brief Newsletter at Christmas went 'viral' if you'll excuse

the term and my Twitter feed hit the jackpot. Combined with that I've been dragged round the various parks in Glasgow Southside by all the family looking for a lockdown break. How far can a young lad walk? It is especially difficult in the ice and then the salt and gravel, which gets right up my toes, so to speak. The other day a lovely stranger picked me up and carried me around, so I didn't get damaged 'pads'.

Indeed you are right about the trainer ethic in the house. One day I am allowed up on the sofa, cuddled in and cosy then the next day I am told to sit on the floor, go to my bed and lie down like a dog. I ask you, what happened? My Master makes me sit and stay, telling me to be patient for my food- not a chance of that I can assure you!. If I did that in the wild it would shoot off into the bushes, so why sit and wait here?

I love to get mail, treats and cuddles, so keep 'em coming in 2021,

Love from Harvey Disco (or Harvey)



- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1. This tree is plane.                                       | SPANIEL    |
| 2. One trip is enough for this                               | POINTER    |
| 3. Fish weight on resting place                              | BEDLINGTON |
| 4. American uncle returns before argument                    | MASTIFF    |
| 5. Hans Christian Andersen - famous                          | GREAT DANE |
| 6. Wow! An American soldier                                  | CORGI      |
| 7. A miner had his tail docked                               | COLLIE     |
| 8. Bar road for learner driver                               | LABRADOR   |
| 9. Seeing spots before your eyes                             | DALMATIAN  |
| 10 You would be thankful to receive a little spirit from him |            |
| ST. BERNARD  |            |



### **The Valentines Sing - 7pm, 3/2/21**

While we wait for the day when we are reunited again in person, Alice is delighted to invite everyone of all ages and all abilities to virtually come together to sing, including the AM Chorus, the Women's Group and Messy Church. When we are singing, all participants will be muted so no one else will hear you, everyone will only hear Alice. So sing to away to your hearts content! You will be able to unmute yourself to ask questions in between the singing.

The 30-40 minute session will take place via zoom (details below)

Please make sure you have set up your device so you can clearly read from the screen as you will be shown the words and music on the screen for you all to follow. (You may wish to have your reading glasses on) You can sit or stand for the session, whatever makes you feel more comfortable. We advise you have a drink beside you in-case you need it, warm water is best for your voice. At 7pm on the 3rd of February, simply click the blue link in the Zoom invitation below to join in and Alice will guide you through it.

We can't wait to see all your faces in the call!

If you have any further questions or worries, please contact Alice via email:  
alicelovesharps@gmail.com

Zoom session details:

Alice Guse is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: The Valentine's Sing

Time: Feb 3, 2021 07:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75789451346?  
pwd=TExiWHE0VDZtamNvdE11RkxyUmRnZz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75789451346?pwd=TExiWHE0VDZtamNvdE11RkxyUmRnZz09)

Meeting ID: 757 8945 1346

Passcode: dD3uRy

## Sherbrooke Youtube Viewing Numbers

Sunday Worship

17/1/21 - 117

10/1/21 - 97

3/1/21 - 76

27/12/20 - 106

Christmas Morning - 91

Carol Service 24/12/20 - 187

20/12/20 - 118

## Website Views

Daily Views for the last 8 weeks

Average Daily Views - 139

Average Daily Sessions - 52

Average Daily Visitors - 41

Average Daily New Visitors - 9

If you would like to see a full report of the numbers please email Mags and she will send you a PDF document.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to this magazine.

Please send in your ideas and news for the next one.

