

Newsletter

January to April 2024 / Issue 05

Spring

A time for God's

New life and

God's new beauty

Inside this issue:

- What's been happening in our Church?
- Pancake recipe
- 'Would you Rather' with Eckhardt..
- I love Mainly Music!!!
- KNACC
- School Assemblies are always tricky
- Mother's Day
- In other Church news...
- Intimations
- Upcoming Events

Easter at Forth St Paul's – What's been happening?



Tuesday 13th February – Shrove Tuesday

It was great to see an amazing turn out and to welcome new people along to our annual pancake night.

Everyone enjoyed a night of quizzes, competitions and of course pancakes. Over 1000 pancakes were made and very much enjoyed! £438.94 was raised. A special thanks to the pancake and quiz makers.



Our pancake makers and little Lorelei enjoying some samples.



Friday 1st March –

Lenten Lunch and Women's Day of Prayer

Our Church hosted The World Day of Prayer. A Lenten lunch was served before the service which was very much enjoyed. We then held the service in the Church where we were joined by members from neighbouring churches. After the service we all enjoyed a cup of tea.

Monday 4th March to Friday 15th March –

Easter Code with Forth Primary School

We were delighted to welcome P1 to P7 down to the hall and Church for the Easter Code. The Easter Code is a fun way to teach the children about Jesus, the last week of Jesus' life, his death and resurrection. The mornings were spent with great enthusiasm, liveliness and joy. There were also sweet treats of marshmallows and chocolate sauce, pancakes and juice. The morning was finished off with songs and actions. A huge success! Thank you to Karen and her helpers as well as the staff and children at Forth Primary.

Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th March –

Easter Code for adults

Over two nights Karen welcomed Church members and visitors to the Easter Code. It was a time to relax and listen to the Easter story through words and music. Each station of the cross brought to life the emotional trials that Jesus went through leading up to the cross.

Saturday 23rd March – Guild Easter Fayre

Thank you to everyone who came along or helped out to make the Easter fayre such a great success. It was great to see the hall so busy with home baking, teas, craft and baking stalls, tombola and most importantly people sharing in friendship and chatter. Thank you to all who helped out and came along. The Guild raised an amazing total of £1,682.78

Holy week Services

For the first time, the services were shared between our cluster group.

Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday. We enjoyed watching the enthusiasm of the Jigsaw children waving their palm branches and dancing around the Church.

Monday 25th March – Service at St Nicholas Church.

Tuesday 26th March – Prayer and Praise service in Carstairs Parish Church.

Wednesday 27th March – Service in Forth St Pauls Parish Church.

Maundy Thursday 28th March – Holy Communion Service in Carnwath Town Hall.

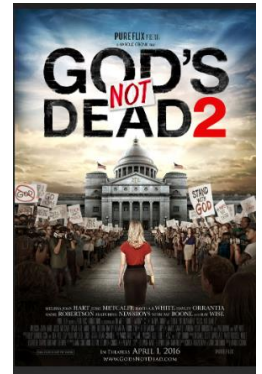
Friday 29th March – Good Friday service in Forth St Paul's Parish Church.

Saturday 30th March – Easter Movie

“God’s Not Dead” was shown on the big screen in the large Church hall. The café was open prior to this for lunch. This is great film and well worth a watch if you haven't seen it, it's available on YouTube.

We'll be watching God's Not Dead 2 towards the end of April so watch out for details. You don't have to have seen the first one as they are completely different stories. Come along and enjoy a good afternoon - **You won't regret it.**

We hope to run the movies on a monthly basis if there is enough interest for it.



Sunday 31st March – Easter Sunday

**Christ is Risen!!
He is risen indeed.
Hallelujah!**

We celebrated the resurrection of Jesus. The Jigsaw children told us about how Easter can be a happy and a sad time. They then did their annual egg hunt around the hall and shared the goodies with the congregation, Our service took place in the hall due to the heating not working in the Church.



Pancake recipe

Ingredients

6oz sugar

12oz self-raising sieved flour

2 eggs

Heaped teaspoon baking powder

1 tablespoon cooking oil

Pinch of salt

Method

1. Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ milk and $\frac{1}{2}$ water in a mug (may need more).
2. Grease an electric griddle set at number 3 or a heavy based pan.
3. Place salt, baking powder, sugar and flour in a bowl. Make a well in the centre. Add the eggs and half milk and water mixture.

Thanks to Anne for the recipe

4. Beat to a smooth batter and then beat in the rest of the milk and water mixture to a batter of thick cream (may need more milk and water mixture).
5. Drop spoonfuls on to a greased griddle or pan. When bubbles rise to the surface turn. Leave approximately 30 seconds to 1 minute until golden brown.
6. Lift onto a wire tray and cover with a clean tea towel.
7. Enjoy!



'Would you Rather' with Eckhardt..

1. Would you rather have the strength of Samson or the wisdom of Solomon?

The wisdom of Solomon



2. Would you rather eat only homemade bread for a year or eat only fruit and vegetables for a year?

Fruit and vegetables for a year

3. Would you rather live through a famine or live through the 10 plagues of Egypt?

Live through the 10 plagues of Egypt

4. Would you rather go to the moon or explore the depths of the ocean?

Go to the moon



5. Would you rather watch the same movie every day or listen to the same song on repeat?

The same song on repeat

6. Would you rather lose your sense of taste or lose your sense of smell?

Loose my sense of smell

7. Would you rather fight the giant Goliath like David or sleep in a den of lions like Daniel?



8. Would you rather live 100 years in the future or 100 years in the past?

100 years in the future

Sleep in a den of lions like Daniel

9. Would you rather see the Garden of Eden or see the Creation of the world?

See the Creation of the world

11. Would you rather be able to fly or have a perfect memory?

To have a perfect memory

13. Would you rather own your own boat or your own aeroplane?

Own my own aeroplane

10. Would you rather be a shepherd in Bethlehem or a fisherman in Galilee?

To be a shepherd in Bethlehem



12. Would you rather hear one of Jesus' sermons or see one of His miracles?

To hear one of Jesus' sermons

14. Would you rather have been at the birth of Jesus or been at the empty tomb?

Been at the empty tomb



I LOVE MAINLY MUSIC!!! By Wilma

Background

Mainly Music was started in 1990. It is exceptionally well structured for everything it aims to achieve. It is copyright. It is also Outreach. My first visit to Mainly Music was when I was on a visit to New Zealand in 2011 to meet my grandson Adrian for the first time. He would have been about 4 months old. I love the structure and concept. It covers all aspects and it is wonderful to see 'little persons' (as we call the children) develop and grow in every sense.



There are 3 sections to Mainly Music.

- First section is carefully planned for us. Music, rhymes, actions and props. Everything is planned for little person and big person to do things together.
- Second Section – The little people have their snack.
- Third Section – Toys come out from our toy cupboard and Mainly Music leaders supervise. This is the time Mums/Grans/Carers sit together and have tea/coffee and cakes/biscuits. This is a time for them to relax and get to know one another.

Favourite things about Mainly Music-

Mainly Music benefits the big person (could be Mum or Gran/Carer). We asked some what they enjoyed about Mainly Music.



- ❖ It teaches the kids to socialise
- ❖ Love the company, music and tea!
- ❖ Builds the child's confidence
- ❖ Encourages speech

Favourite songs-

Some of our favourite songs – Dancing Feet, The Crocodile Song, 5 Little Horses, Old MacMassage, Little Red Wagon, God Made Me, etc
So many we love them all.

Mainly Music makes learning fun!

There is a sense of belonging with Mainly Music which I am sure everyone would agree with, and I think it goes some way to addressing the issue of loneliness at a time when there are fears it will be the next public health issue.



Why not pay us a visit on a Tuesday morning from 10.00 am to 11.30am in the large Church Hall and see the fun and joy we have.



KNACC By Rena and friends

Knit and natter, craft and chatter, fondly known as KNACC, has been running since 2019. It was set up in the hope of sharing skills and talents with others. We have achieved this challenge as well as providing a morning when we can chat, laugh and enjoy a wee cup of tea and a sweet treat- often baked by a team member.

A few of us visited the SECC to enjoy the craft exhibition.

We've had demonstrations: icing a Christmas cake, decorating cupcakes, flower arranging, cross stitch, wrapping Christmas parcels. These events are open to everyone.

We've had visits from the lady who used to own the wee wool shop in Newmains and from Margaret Rae's sisters, when they were on holiday from America.

We have knitted for the maternity unit at Wishaw General Hospital and we've worked on a wee project to use up some of the wool, bought by Wee Ruby, she was passionate about knitting and she loved buying wool.



One of our team knitted Ruby Mouse. She was raffled and made £150. This money was shared between the Bank Hall residents fund and Braehead Lunch club.

When asked to decorate one of the church windows for the Dandelion Harvest event, members of the group used their crafting talents to produce vegetables for the window. Everything was handmade. **A great success.**

Our men folk enjoy playing cards and having a biscuit, or two, with their cup of tea.

When our folks were asked why they come along, on a Monday, they gave the following reasons for coming.

- Enjoy the nice company,
- It takes me out of the house
- Love the chatting the crafting and the company.
- Enjoy the chat, the cuppa and company.
- Nice to see the crafts that others do and enjoy sharing ideas
- Enjoy the company and love the craft
- Gets me out of the house
- I miss it when it's holiday time.

We would encourage you to come along and share time with us. All are welcome. We meet on Mondays from 10am – 12noon in the Small Church hall.

School Assemblies are always tricky by Ch

School assemblies, especially secondary school assemblies, must be among one of the hardest tasks performed by ministers. One minister, who had just retired, told me he was so glad to have performed his last secondary school assembly. He said it had been awful. It was made very clear to him that no one wanted to be there, some were continually fidgeting, others noisily moving their chairs, some sighing very loudly and he was sure that he could see a group on their phones out of the corner of his eye. He told me, that no sooner had the last syllable of amen sounded from his lips, when they very rudely all stood up and marched off and that was THE TEACHERS.

Sighing, often seems to happen at school assemblies. At one school, there was an exceptionally pleasant and caring minister, but sometimes he went on a little long. There was a very nice primary 1 pupil who, after 10 minutes would give a very loud and heartfelt sigh, where upon he always said he would just leave it there. Many times I have often wished I had a recording of that wonderful sigh, when an assembly was going on too long.

There was another assembly when I was a secondary pupil when it was the minister giving a long heartfelt sigh.. The minister did a very good talk on God's infinite love for us which was never ending no matter what. He sat down very pleased with his talk until the rector stood up and said he was annoyed about the number of pupils not singing. Thereafter, teachers would at the entry doors to the hall to check everyone had their hymn book. Any girl without her hymn book would have to do 100 lines and any boy without his hymn book would get the belt (it was the 1960s before equality between boys and girls). I can still see the poor minister, after assuring us of God's love, sighing loudly and slumping down on his chair.



Sometimes ministers forget they are talking to children. After one of my first school assemblies as a teacher one elder member of staff said that he was sure that the ministers talk was 10 mile above the children's heads. In fact, he thought it was 10 mile above the teachers' heads. In fact he felt he had to go further and say it was 10 mile above God's own head.

In Scotland, parents have the right to ask for their children not to take part in RE lessons or religious assemblies. I had very few parents ever ask for this, but after one assembly I got a very irate call from a mother. I was surprised that this particular mother phoned with a complaint as she was very supportive of the school and although she had 4 pleasant but noisy and boisterous boys had never once made a complaint. She had been at an Easter service and had objected to the minister comparing the children with the biggest sinners in prison and she did not want her boys to have to listen to him again. I told her that was her right and I would arrange it. I did however add, that although all of the children were sitting very quietly, no fidgeting or sighing, I was sure none of them were actually listening. I received another call the next morning. She had spoken to the boys and they had no idea what she was talking about (obviously not listening) so they could go back the next time to not listen to him again. I did not add that I was equally sure that most of the school staff were also not listening.

This was proved at another assembly. The deputy head of the school had arranged most of the Easter assembly with a class of children explaining that Easter was a sad and happy time. The minister knew what children were doing and all he had to do was give a short 2 minute talk. He started by saying that he knew Easter was a sad and happy time, but he could not be happy and neither could GOD. All he and God could see this Easter was little Ali sitting in his hospital bed with no hands! (Was first Iraqi war). Unfortunately our last hymn was ---Clap your hands all you people shout unto God with a voice of triumph---hardly suitable. I signalled to the deputy head, and mouthed, what shall we sing? Unfortunately after her part was over she had sat down and did not hear a word the minister had said. It is very difficult to quickly think of a hymn that children can sing unaccompanied and without the words. However, I told everyone we would sing ---Bind us together--- for our last hymn. We all sang the first 2 verses, but I then forgot how the third verse started so led my side singing the first verse again. One of the teachers knew the third verse and she led her side with the correct words. Not my finest hour.

Without a doubt school assemblies are tricky.

Mother's Day

We celebrated Mother's Day in Church on 10th March.

For many people this is one of the loveliest days of the year but for many it can be one of the loneliest. We thought about all those who found the day difficult and we hope they knew of God's blessing upon them.

We wished all the special ladies in our life a Happy Mother's Day. The Jigsaw children gave their mums beautiful painted plant pots with daffodils planted in them. They also gave the congregation a handmade card.





Thank you to Caroline, Jennifer, Katie and Nicole for colouring in these beautiful pictures for our

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21st March.

We enjoyed sharing some cake with you in the café.
Have a lovely meal with your family to celebrate!



Introducing Heidi

The children and leaders of Jigsaw were delighted to get a visit from Andrew and Katie's miniature Schnauzer puppy Heidi. We hope she will become a regular visitor.



Please let us know if you have any good news that you would like to share with us. It will go in the next edition of the magazine. We'd love to hear from you!

Bread making in Church



We celebrated Holy Communion on 21st January. We enjoy all of Eckhardt's children's address but particularly the one where he made some bread.

Guild 2024 Session

Guild meetings this year have been varied and interesting. January started with the film show, Downton Abbey , A New Era, which was enjoyed by all. There was then a craft night, led by SJ from Climpy, when all of the members successfully made a greetings card. The following two nights were led by the members themselves. The first was an entertaining evening enjoying music from our favourite musicals, then a matter of opinion night when all the members voiced their opinions. There was then a very interesting and informative talk about antique toys from Stewart Houston and the Guild session finished with an A.G.M and decorating a hard boiled egg for Easter. Guild starts again in September when there will be a warm welcome for old and new members.

Intimations

A prayer box is at the back of the Church for anyone who would appreciate prayer for themselves, a friend, a family member or a situation.

Please pop a note in the box and the prayer group will offer a prayer.

We would like to encourage more people to use this box and our prayer group can and will pray for them,

When your heart starts to worry,
and your mind just can't rest,
put your prayers down on paper
and let God do the rest

All requests are confidential

Co-op Community Grant

Please support us by registering your card to vote for us on your Coop Membership Account. Every time you shop at the Co-op it helps us. Note that in order to support us, customers need to have an email account. In addition to supporting the Church, customers can also benefit from weekly special offers accessed via the app.

Life and Work

Subscribe to Life and Work and support the vital and vibrant work of the Church of Scotland. There is a poster at the back of the Church with more information.

Used Stamps

Remember to bring along used postage stamps for the Church of Scotland's CCAP Project.

Volunteers:

All the following wee jobs need covered if you'd be interested please get in touch. Remember you'd be on a rota not covering all the time.

- Church Door Duty
- Readers in church
- Sound desk/ Powerpoint preparation
- Flowers in church and flower delivery
- Anyone willing to write and read the 'Prayer for Others' during weekly worship
- People willing to help with our Property Group to maintain our buildings

Upcoming Events

Church services

We would love you to join us in person on a Sunday morning at 11am but if this isn't possible our services are streamed live via our website www.forthstpauls.com or via YouTube (a link for this can be found on the website).

Church Shop

Will be open from Monday 8th April until 17th April from 10am – 1pm. The Rainforest Café will be open as normal during this time.

Holy Communion - Sunday 14 April 2024

Christian Aid Week - 12-18 May 2024

Regular Church Groups (open to everyone) - *noted the groups are off for the Easter holidays*

Sunday	11am 10.50am 12noon-3pm	Service in Church JIGSAW (age 3-11) in Large Hall Sunday Café in Large Hall
Monday	10am-12noon 7-9pm	Knit, Natter, Craft and Chatter in Small Hall <i>(Meet to craft, play cards, dominoes, drink tea and chat)</i> The Guild meet every second Monday <i>(open to all with interesting talks and activities)</i>
Tuesday	10-11.30am 3-4.30pm	Mainly Music in Large Hall <i>(pre-school parents and toddlers There's story telling, singing, poems, playing and refreshments for everyone. £2 per family)</i> Planet Earth Afternoon Club in Large Hall for P3-P7
Wednesday	10am-3pm	Wednesday Café in Large Hall <i>The cafe is open to everyone to come and enjoy some chat over lunch.</i>
Friday	1pm onwards	Youth Rainforest Café <i>Chill out space and café open to all high school pupils.</i>

Rainforest Café

Our Church café is open every Sunday from 12noon and every Wednesday from 10am till 3pm (last orders are taken at 2.15pm). The café is open to everyone for sit in or take away lunches/snacks. A huge thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who work so hard to make this happen each week. Also thank you to all our customers – we appreciate your custom.