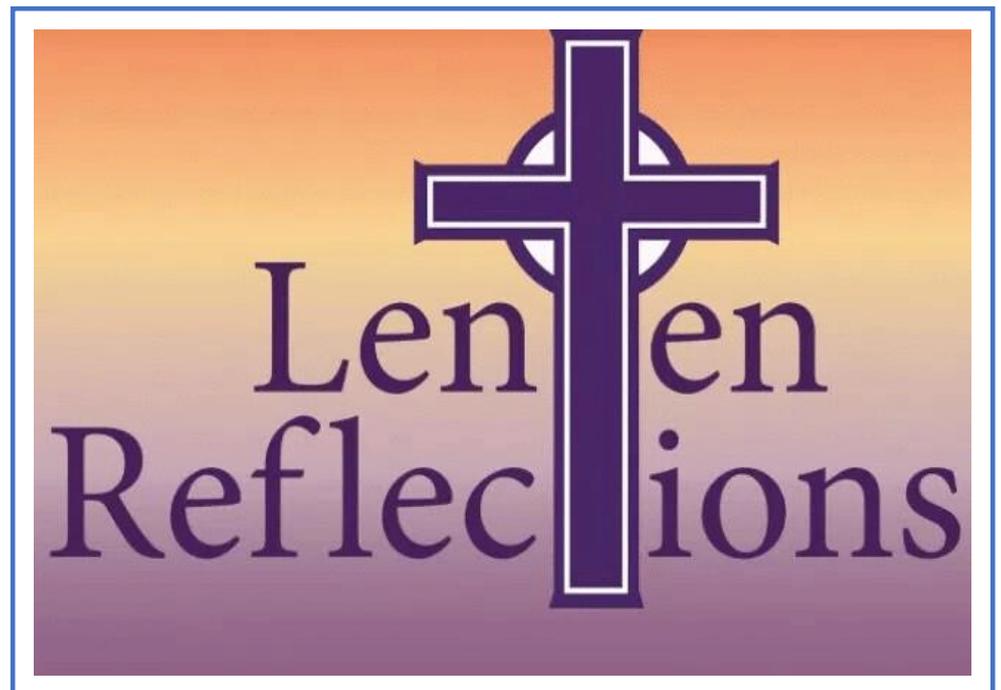


# THE RECORD



**February**  
**2021**





# A Word from Grant Barclay

## Looking Beyond

I recently received a most interesting note from Jean MacMillan, who passes Orchardhill Church daily as she walks along Church Road from her home. Jean wrote:

‘Since lockdown, your church has provided the most thoughtful, life-affirming displays. Beginning with the sunflowers – what a terrific idea – and the poppies (a stunning witness to less glorious times), we then came across and got involved in the Tree of Kindness, an anonymous opportunity to help. And now your Christmas tree and, at times, your open doors. They are a joy.’

I’m delighted to pass on Jean’s thanks, but I do so because there’s a vital principle at work here. Quite deliberately, we look beyond. We go further than our needs, our church friendships, or our organisation’s concerns and successes. We intentionally used our lovely setting as the church on the hill to spread a little cheer and offer a message of hope so that, over these months, our church exterior might be a type of canvas. People like Jean have noticed, and they have been grateful.

It is in a similar sort of vein that I have headed to work elsewhere. By the time you read this I shall no longer be your Minister. Presbytery, the regional expression of our church, presently finds itself at a key moment of substantial change and is in need of some support and assistance. I could have ignored the concerns, focused locally, and been comfortable amongst friends. I discerned a call to look beyond.

Jesus was, for a time, settled in Capernaum (and it appears Peter put him up in his little house near the shore). Many people were healed, Jesus preached in the nearby synagogue and clearly had a valuable ministry. He might have remained there, settled, and been productive. He nonetheless feels a burden, as Luke tells us, to look beyond: 'I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.' In a similar way, Paul remained in some towns for several years but was prepared, as the need arose, to look beyond and travel further.

Many of you have looked beyond, too: you've reached out to support work in other parts of Glasgow, or assisted other congregations; you've looked beyond attending church to leading in worship; and you've looked out, prayerfully, for the needs of others in our community and further afield.

I found it easier to take the difficult step of serving elsewhere when I noticed that you were looking beyond. I want to encourage you to keep on doing that. Make use of the building's position and prominence and, in just a short time, open the premises again for all sorts of valuable work in a familiar and well-loved place. Look beyond the bricks, though, and build God's kingdom: make use of your skills not only for the congregation's benefit but serve to enrich others, too. Exercise your faith here, as you share and learn, sing and chat; but remember there is a whole world to serve, and all of it is God's. Love deeply, and broadly, and generously, all the time knowing that you are held within the love of God in Christ.

I'd like, then, to sign off not in my own words but, rather, using Jean MacMillan's. For she concludes her note as I would like to conclude my ministry among you. As Jean writes, so I also say:

'Thank you, all of you in the congregation, for every minute of your time. Your influence goes well beyond your church.'

May that remain so, through many exciting projects and for many years to come. And in every part of it may you, each and all, know the liberating presence of the God of life, present by the Spirit, and leading you in paths along which Christ walks by your side.

Your former Minister, and continuing fellow traveller,

*Grant Barclay.*

# Tree of Kindness



## This is what Kindness looks like!

Our community and Giffnock Primary School children responded to the call to make a real difference in the lives of people living in poverty, by taking tags from the Trees of Kindness at Orchardhill Church and Giffnock Primary school, then buying a present for a young person who otherwise had little prospect of experiencing the joy of Christmas by receiving a gift. The teachers reported that many of the children at school used their own pocket money to purchase presents – such is the thoughtfulness in our community!

The need was even greater this year but the response once again exceeded our expectations, and because of the generosity and kindness of our community, **over 850 children** were able to open a present this Christmas.

The organisations supported this year included: -

- Croftfoot Primary School;
- Quarriers Family Resource Centre, Ruchazie;
- Glasgow Association for Mental Health;
- Aberlour Child Care Trust;
- Women and Children First, Paisley;
- Falkirk Social Services;
- Castlemilk Parish Church;
- Glasgow Baby and Family Support Group;
- RAMH (Recovery Across Mental Health);
- Ferguslie Park Families.

**You might think it was a small thing to do but YOU made a big difference in another person's life!**

# Celebrating 20 Years as our Church Officer

Isabella, Isabel (or “Izzy” if you are brave enough) has been the heart and soul of our congregation and local community for over two decades now, and it's just impossible to imagine how we could have survived without her.

Quite simply, Isabella is astonishing! Almost everything that happens in the church, day or night, requires something from our intrepid church officer. Looking after the Minister, visiting Ministers, Probationers, the Choir, Crosswords, the heating system, the kitchens (both of them), the toilets (all of them), security, helping the media team, gardening, painting and, of course, tidying up after us when we have all decided to go home and leave it all until the next day ....only to find that she has done it all for us before we come back!

Even when she is not outside, directing traffic, putting the bins out, picking up litter or liaising with the community, she can be found working in the church office with Carol Anne, booking rooms to help provide vital income, assisting George track invoices and cash, helping Lorna organise her youth and family work or liaising with the Session Clerk, the Clerk to the Board, the Guides, the BB, the Brownies and a stream of other visitors such as myself and other office bearers, just to name a few.

She provides tea, coffee and cakes, cleans, vacuums, moves chairs and tables (over and over again) supervises visiting workers, accepts deliveries, cuts grass, grits pavements, answers phones, responds to texts and emails and is always on hand to sort out the inevitable problems that arise when things go wrong, which are just too frequent to mention.

At Christmas, and other special times of the year, she is our self-appointed Santa and social convener, who organizes nights out and social events, and provides us all with a surprise gift, a sandwich lunch, a laugh, a smile and a lot of fun.

In addition to ensuring the smooth running of every Sunday service, she plays a key role in Communion, special services, Kirk Session and Board meetings, quiet times, concerts, lectures, debates, Summer Fetes, Christmas Fayres, charity collections, the Tree of Kindness, links with Giffnock Primary, Primary Playcare and many, many more. She has been especially good at opening her home to regular annual coffee mornings, raising money for the Macmillan Cancer Support charity.

It's exhausting just thinking about it..... and, of course, that's just the tip of the iceberg!

In her “spare time” Isabella has been a really fantastic mum to Lynda and Andrew. She is also the lynchpin of her extended family, part time Church Officer to the Presbytery of Glasgow and was recently recognised for her outstanding contribution as a volunteer with the award winning 2452 Squadron (Shawlands) Air Cadets.

A million thanks Isabella ..... here's to many more happy years together with us all.

*Garry Crosbie*

# Wishing Grant Well

In August 2016 Orchardhill was delighted to welcome Grant as our new minister. As a congregation we had been through some difficult times, and the arrival of Grant, Karen and the manse family heralded a new beginning for us as a church community. Grant brought huge energy and enthusiasm to his role and has been a continual source of inspiration and innovation for us all – whether it was rearranging the layout of the sanctuary, introducing tea and coffee at services, lighting candles at the start of worship services, he brought a fresh and refreshing approach to our worship. There was, however, much more to Grant's contribution to our spiritual journey and mission than these changes. A man who is modest about his own considerable learning and insights, Grant's sermons were always thought provoking and challenging to us all about what it means to be a Christian in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. His clear and passionate commitment to advancing the Kingdom here on Earth was not only apparent in his own attitudes and actions, but also empowered many in the congregation to initiate a whole raft of projects of benefit to our community and far beyond. Grant was a great supporter of many of these new initiatives, particularly following our congregational conference in 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 at Prestwick South Church, where he helped us articulate our vision as a congregation. It was fitting that in his penultimate service, Grant reflected on what we had been able to achieve in progressing this vision – much of it due to his leadership and encouragement of others.

One of Grant's defining features is his energy and intellectual curiosity. He communicates this passion for the world around us to all ages, whether it is to young people in the church or to those who have been in the church somewhat longer. It leads him to try new things and explore new technologies - whether it was Grant's exploration of the Pilgrim Way from Glasgow Cathedral to Whithorn – which led to a stunning series of summer sermons superbly illustrated by his own photographs - or Grant's sermons that he sent to us while on his study trip to Israel / Palestine. Grant's experience and ability with videocam recording and video editing, meant that Orchardhill was in a much better position to cope, when COVID forced the closing of churches, compared with many other congregations. We have been particularly blessed over what has been a very difficult year, to have Grant continuing to strive to support us all as a church community, using all the means possible to sustain us in faith and fellowship.

We are sorry to lose Grant, but we know that he leaves us to serve the broader Church of Scotland where his talents are much needed at this time.

We wish Grant and Karen every happiness in the future and we look forward to being able to thank them and wish them well in person (which at the moment we are prevented from doing, but an opportunity will come).

It has been a blessing to Orchardhill to have had Grant as our minister over these last few years and he will remain in our hearts and prayers.

# Obituary – Mrs Betty Shaw

Our friend, Mrs Betty Shaw of Keith Avenue, was a large lady in so many ways, large in build reminding you of the farming stock she came from, large in generosity, of her time and resources, great in energy in her younger days and colossal in her Christian faith.

She came to Keith Avenue with her husband Jim in 1958, and, in due course, Christine and then William were born. They joined Orchardhill Church where the children went to Sunday School every week. Christine still talks of her teachers there as Miss Simpson and Miss Nelson, Marion and Evelyn to the rest of us.

Eventually Betty joined the Guild, then the Women's Guild. By 1982 she was on the committee with several responsibilities over the years, especially as Treasurer in the late 90's. Around the turn of the century the structure changed and the duties of Guild meetings were shared out. Betty was one of the first coordinators in this new setup, firstly with Mary McDonald, then Anna Blair and finally with Shiona Reid. Betty remained one of the coordinators and kept up a lively interest in all we were doing. Although disabled with peripheral neuropathy in the last few years, on the days when her feet were working better, and I was strong enough, I was able to get Betty to Guild meetings, where she would sit in the wheelchair, beaming, to be in the thick of the Guild again, everyone sharing stories with her. When later she was able to attend the special communions for the housebound, thanks to stalwart help from different strong men, she was obviously so happy to be there worshipping in Church again and then chatting to friends over a cup of tea and some goodies.

Betty was ordained as one of the first lady elders in Orchardhill in the time of John Spiers. He asked her to look after the church members in the sheltered housing at Homeglen near Park Road and this continued until she could no longer drive. At the beginning Mr Spiers would hold little afternoon services there, assisted by Betty, which were quickly joined by others who were not members of Orchardhill. The residents knew they could call on Betty for help and they did, at all times of the day and night. She would drop everything, jump in her car and drive down to try and sort the current problem – a shining example of Christian service.

Christine, Betty's daughter, said they had found a bag containing prayers that Betty had written. I was able to tell her that I always loved Betty's prayers at the Guild, always appropriate, always simple, and always sincere. She truly spoke from a heart of great faith.

What have we not told you about Betty? Ah – her baking! This was before my time in Orchardhill, but I have it on good authority that Betty's pancakes were to die for. She was generous with her skills, taught her family and their friends how to bake, also baked generously for events in the church, and fed midnight feasts and sleepovers to Christine and William and their friends as they grew up. Her granddaughters, Eilidh and Nicola, were very keen to bake as Betty did - no recipe, a bit of this, and a bit of that until everything seemed right. It is good to know that Christine says the girls did eventually achieve this too – pancakes as good as their Gran's.

May we hold the shining example of Betty's life, service and love to family, service to God and Church, in our hearts to inspire us in our lives.

*Jeanette Birnie*

# Life and Work

February 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

## 'WE ARE NOT ENEMIES'

US ministers and staff look to the future after the fiercely contested US presidential election.

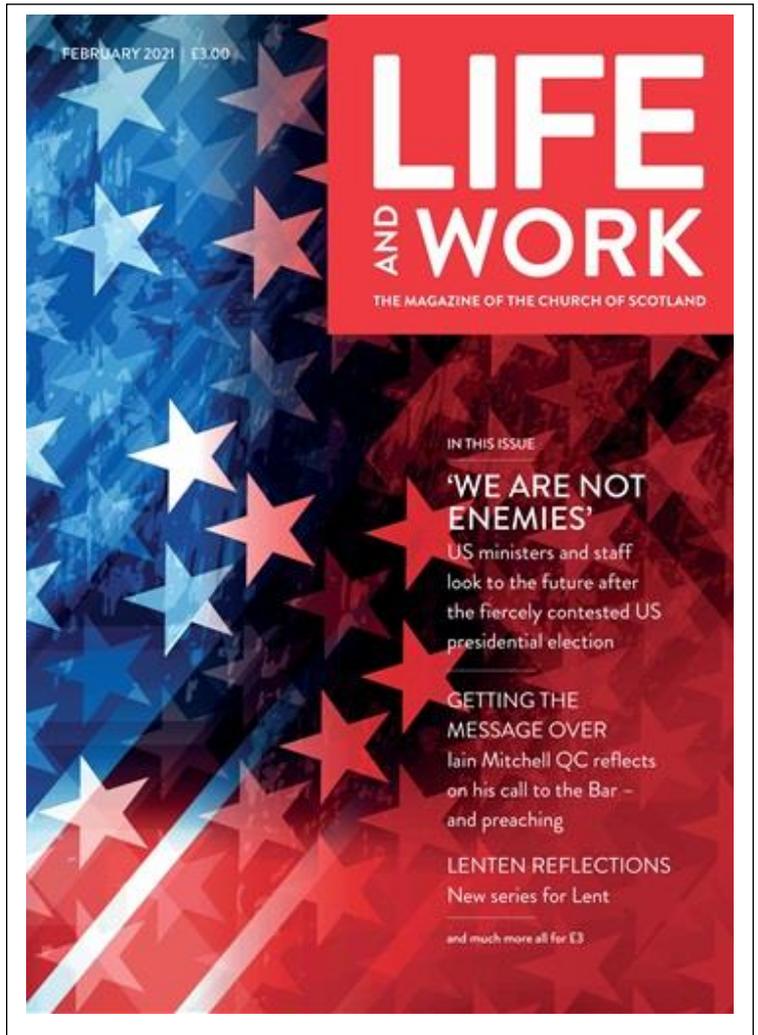
## GETTING THE MESSAGE OVER

Iain Mitchell QC reflects on his call to the Bar - and preaching.

## LENTEN REFLECTIONS

New series for Lent.

.....and much more over 52 pages..



## Orchardhill Record

The deadline for inclusion of articles for the March edition of the Orchardhill Record is Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February. Due to the ongoing situation with Covid19, the Orchardhill Record publication schedule may be disrupted.

Please continue to submit your articles for inclusion and we will produce an online copy available via the church website:

[www.orchardhill.org.uk](http://www.orchardhill.org.uk)

# Congregational Roll

## Death

Pauline Provan

Date of Death – 8 January

*Well done thou good and faithful servant. Rest safe in the Lord.*

## Scripture Readers

FEB		MAR	
7	Anne Anderson	7	David Howard
14	Fiona Thomson	14	Willie Hendry
21	Jim Blair	21	Marion Simpson
28	Judy Byrne	28	Alan Daly

## Orchardhill Calendar

**The buildings may be closed but Orchardhill church is most definitely open.**

Join us (virtually) as we continue to host many “gatherings” online, from prayers and reflection to coffee and a blether, with something to suit everyone. Details on the Church website.

A full service will be broadcast via the church website each Sunday from 10:30am.



# How to watch the Sunday Service on TV

Do you have **Sky Q, Virgin media TV, Apple TV, Firestick or Roku**. Then you can probably watch the morning service on your TV.

Here's How

**Sky Q** If you have sky's latest set top box called Sky Q or Virgin Media V6 box onwards then follow this method.

From the guide menu which comes up on the left-hand side of your screen scroll down until you find Apps. Now side scroll until you find YouTube select YouTube and once you have it type in the search bar Welcome to Orchardhill. Next you will see all the services that have been loaded on to YouTube select the one you want and if its next Sunday's it will say premier. Click on it and it will tell you when it will be broadcast and show you a countdown clock.

If you also subscribe to the "welcome to orchardhill" channel, then you will receive notifications of when the services are uploaded.

**Apple TV, 4th Generation onwards, Firestick, Chromecast and Roku.**

From the main menu select YouTube and once you have it type in the search bar Welcome to Orchardhill. Next you will see all the services that have been loaded on to YouTube select the one you want and if its next Sunday's it will say premier. Click on it and it will tell you when it will be broadcast and show you a countdown clock.

Help available from Dave Thomson [web-master@orchardhill.org.uk](mailto:web-master@orchardhill.org.uk)



# For the Children

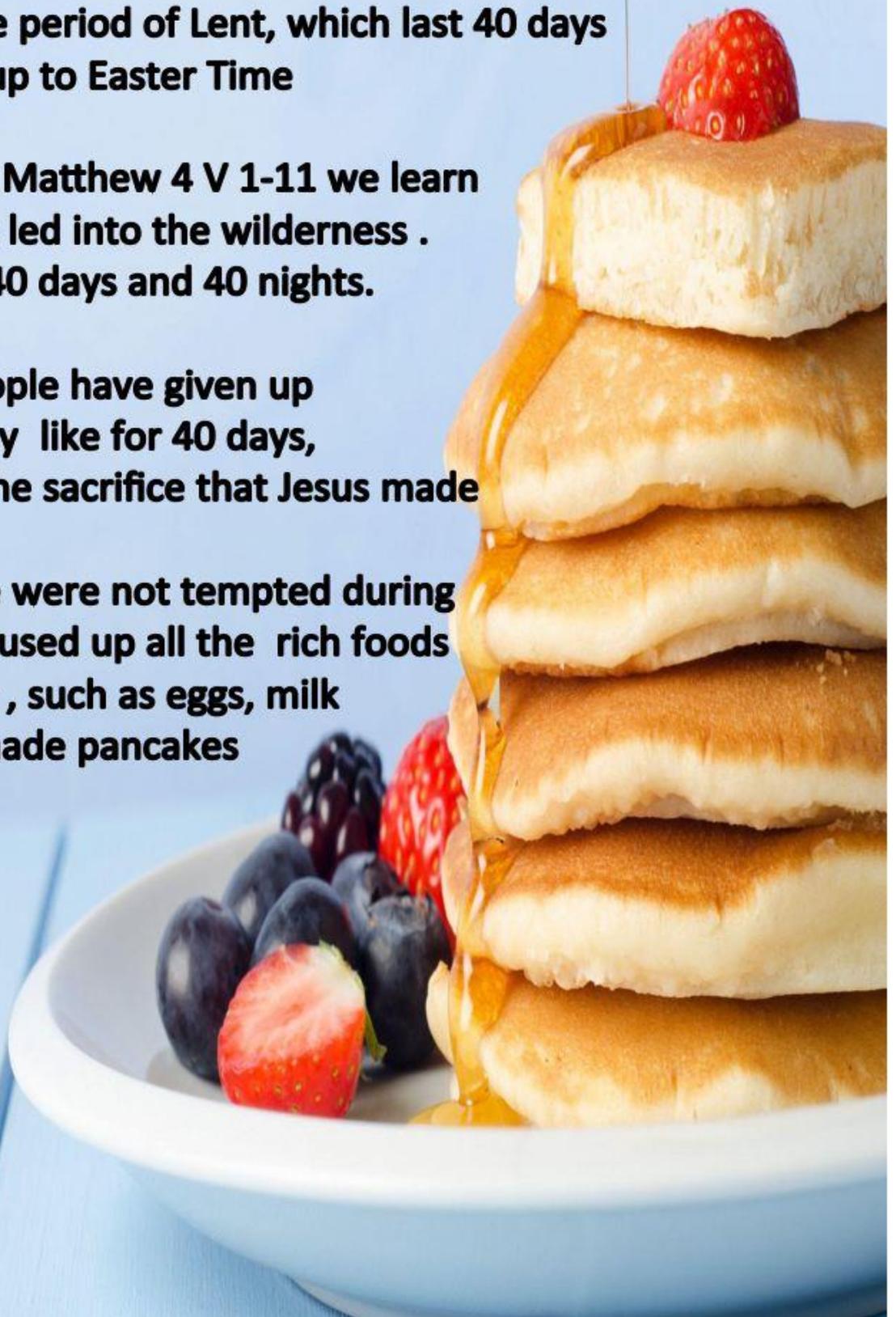
**Tuesday 17th February 2021 is Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Day**

**This begins the period of Lent, which last 40 days and takes us up to Easter Time**

**In the book of Matthew 4 V 1-11 we learn that Jesus was led into the wilderness . He fasted for 40 days and 40 nights.**

**Since then people have given up something they like for 40 days, to represent the sacrifice that Jesus made**

**So that people were not tempted during this time they used up all the rich foods in their pantry , such as eggs, milk and sugar & made pancakes**

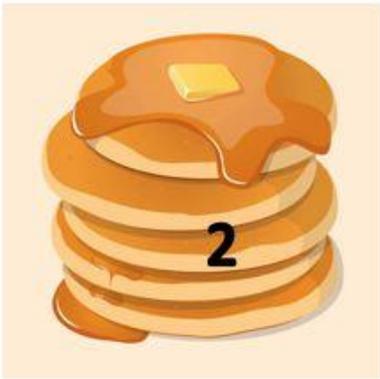




## SHROVE TUESDAY IN NUMBERS

- 1) What is the record for the most flips of a single pancake in 2 minutes?
- 2) On average how many pancakes does each Brit eat on Shrove Tuesday?
- 3) What is the record for the most pancakes served in 8 hours?
- 4) What is the record for the highest pancake toss in cm?
- 5) What dates can Shrove Tuesday fall between?
- 6) How many days before Easter Sunday does Shrove Tuesday always fall?
- 7) In what year did the traditional pancake race begin?
- 8) How many eggs are used in the UK on Shrove Tuesday?
- 9) How long is the traditional pancake race that originated in Buckinghamshire in yards?

To help you the answers are all shown randomly on the next page



Can you find the pancake topping from the list in the grid below?  
What do the remaining letters spell?

J	M	A	E	R	C	E	C	I
A	B	A	N	A	N	A	H	C
M	L	E	M	O	N	S	O	I
N	U	T	E	L	L	A	C	N
O	E	H	E	G	G	R	O	G
C	B	C	R	E	A	M	L	O
A	E	V	O	E	R	O	A	N
B	R	A	G	U	S	E	T	U
T	R	P	U	R	Y	S	E	T
U	Y	E	N	O	H	E	S	S
L	E	M	O	N	C	U	R	D
D	B	U	T	T	E	R	A	Y

**Bacon**

**Banana**

**Blueberry**

**Butter**

**Chocolate**

**Cream**

**Egg**

**Honey**

**Ice Cream**

**Icing**

**Jam**

**Lemon**

**Lemon Curd**

**Nutella**

**Nuts**

**Oreo**

**Sugar**

**Syrup**



**Birthday wishes for**

**Connal who turned 9 on 18th December**

**Abby who turned 11 on 12th January**

**Rebecca who will be 6 on 23rd March**

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Orchardhill Parish Church: Scottish Charity number SC 009774