

THE NEW WELLWYNDER

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026

Visit us at www.newwellwynd.org.uk

Message from the Vestry:

My Friends,

A man whispered, "God, speak to me," and a nightingale sang, but the man did not hear. So the man raised his voice, "God, speak to me," and the thunder rolled across the sky, but the man did not listen.

The man looked around and said, "God, let me see you," and a star shined brightly, but the man did not notice.

And the man shouted, "God, show me a miracle," and a new baby was born, but the man did not recognise the wondrous birth.

So, the man cried out in despair, "Touch me God, and let me know you are here," whereupon God reached down and touched the man, but the man brushed the butterfly away and he walked on.

There is a song that was popular back when I went to Sunday School; its chorus line has these words: 'Count your blessings, name them one by one – count your blessings, see what the Lord has done – count your blessings, name them one by one – and you will be amazed by what the Lord has done'

I am often amazed by what the Lord has done. I've lost count of the number of times that God has been at work in my ministry. Sceptics would probably just call those times co-incidences but I prefer to think of them as God-incidences. Like the times when someone has spoken a word of support or encouragement to someone they don't normally speak to and they don't really know why they did it – and yet the person who received the word of encouragement often had a prayer answered in a miraculous way.

Other times have been more dramatic, like the funeral I conducted where I told the story of the little bugs in a pond that become beautiful dragonflies – symbolic of the difference between our bodies here on earth compared with the bodies God has prepared for us in Heaven. Little did I know that the daughter of the deceased studied dragonflies as a hobby and had a 'Road to Damascus' type of experience on hearing the story, releasing the Christian that was hidden within her?

I think if we took the time to reflect on our day, each day, and in the prayerful presence of our Lord ask him to reveal how he has worked in our lives that day. I think we would be amazed by how much and how often God does work in our lives.

So instead of being like the man who sought God in so many ways but failed to see him, let us open our hearts, our ears and our eyes, so that we do not miss out on appreciating God's many blessings in our lives because it wasn't packaged the way we expected it to be.

Your servant in Christ

Les (Locum Minister)

A Thank You Letter from Santa



Hi there everybody and a very Happy New Year to everyone at The New Wellwynd. I have just returned from my holidays after a very busy Christmas schedule and have thoroughly enjoyed my wee rest! I am now catching up with things as I get back to work! I would like to thank everyone at New Wellwynd for organising such a wonderful Christmas Brunch at the church.

I was delighted to be invited along to meet many boys and girls, who were only too willing, to tell me what they would like for their Christmas. Hopefully, I remembered everything and no one was disappointed on Christmas morning. I would like to thank the many helpers for their assistance in distributing Christmas gifts also those who worked tirelessly preparing and serving brunch and those behind the scenes who helped make the day such a success. Wishing everyone good health and happiness for the year ahead and I will see you all once again in December! Ho! Ho! Ho!

Santa Claus

Nearly New Stall – Leader/Team Members

In the last edition of the magazine it was intimated that the staff who operate and run our Nearly New on a Friday morning were retiring at Easter 2026. For the Nearly New to continue it will require new volunteers to come forward. What is involved? Continue reading.....

Location: Church Hall

Hours: Fridays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon (with additional time for set-up and pack-away)

The Nearly New Stall is generally open from **February – June** and **September to November**, with a break for Easter and at other times in conjunction with the Snack Bar.

Role Overview

We are seeking friendly and reliable volunteers to help run our Nearly New Stall, which forms part of our church's outreach to the local community and parish. This role involves preparing the stall before opening, assisting during operating hours, and packing away afterwards.

Key Responsibilities

- Set up the Nearly New Stall prior to opening and pack away after closing
- Welcome and engage with customers and church staff in a warm and respectful manner
- Receive donations and assist with sorting and organising stock
- Price, display, and rotate stock to keep the stall attractive and tidy
- Handle basic transactions and donations responsibly
- Maintain a safe, clean, and welcoming environment



Skills & Attributes

- Friendly, approachable, and confident in speaking with people
- Reliable and able to work as part of a small team
- Organised and comfortable handling donated items
- Physically able to assist with light lifting during set-up and pack-away
- Supportive of the church's mission and values



What We Offer

- The opportunity to serve the local community and parish
- A welcoming, supportive team environment
- A meaningful role within the church's outreach ministry

If you feel you have these qualities, please speak to David Walker, Session Clerk or Liz Hannah, Nearly New Leader in the first instance.

David Walker

Senior Circle

We began the second half of our syllabus on Tuesday, 13th January when Lesley Aitken endeavoured to keep our unruly members in order as we played 'BLANKETY BLANK' and 'HIGHER OR LOWER!' A great afternoon was had by all, accompanied by much laughter!

On the 27th January, we will welcome a representative from ECLIPSE HOLIDAYS who will bring us some ideas for this year's vacations.

Upcoming dates for your diary:

February: 10th - David Kennedy from 'Home Comforts!'

24th - Father Desmond from St Edward's Church.

March: 10th - Anne Cruickshank 'Laughter is good for you!'

24th - David McDonald from Summerlee with 'Memories of going Up the Dancin!'

(Postponed from the 18th November when Maureen and David stepped in with stories of 'Minerva Beyond')

April

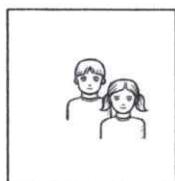
7th - Closing Social for 2025/26 when Alistair Weighton and friends will entertain.

We look forward to welcoming old and new members to the second half of our session.

Meetings are fortnightly on Tuesdays, dates as above. Doors open 1.30pm for tea, coffee and a chat. Meeting begins 2pm. Close 3pm.

Liz Riddell

Help Support Our Bible Class for Young People (Ages 12–16)



Our Bible Class for young people aged 12–16 is a valued and important part of our church life, offering a safe and supportive space for teenagers to explore faith, ask questions, and build friendships.

From time to time, our regular class leader is unavailable due to work commitments, and we are therefore looking to build a small rota of 2–3 helpers who would be willing to step in and support the class when needed.

This role would suit anyone in the congregation who has a heart for encouraging young people and feels able to help occasionally. You do not need to be an expert teacher — session materials are already available, and there will be some simple preparatory work beforehand to help you feel confident and supported.

As this role involves working with young people, PVG membership is required, in line with our safeguarding responsibilities. Guidance and support will be provided throughout this process.

By offering your time, even occasionally, you would be helping to ensure continuity and care for our young people and supporting an important ministry within our church.

If this is something you might be interested in — or if you would simply like to find out more — please speak to David Walker in the first instance. A conversation could be the first step toward making a meaningful difference.

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you might help support this work.

David Walker

Pancake Day: Do you know why Shrove Tuesday is a thing!

It will soon be Shrove Tuesday but what's with the pancakes, why the word "shrove" and what is Ash Wednesday? It all relates to the Christian festival of Lent.

"Shrove" is the past tense of "shrive" which the Oxford English Dictionary defines as "presenting oneself to a priest for confession, penance, and absolution". It's basically the day in which Christians traditionally confess their sins in church ahead of Lent.

What is Lent?

It's a Christian festival and the roots come from people replicating the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus Christ over the 40-day journey he made through the desert. A lot of people use Lent as a way of testing their willpower - often giving up things like chocolate or other sweet treats before Easter.

Those of you who are quick with numbers might have figured out that there are 46 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. But many Christians believe there's no obligation to fast on Sundays, which means it is actually only 40 days once you remove them.

Does that mean you can continue to eat chocolate on Sundays? Well, that's entirely up to you!

Why do we eat pancakes?

Turns out there's a pretty good reason. Whether you enjoy yours with lemon and sugar, American-style with bacon and maple syrup or French with a bit of chocolate spread and banana - the basis of the recipe is the same. Eggs, flour and milk (if you're not sure how to make them, there's a [pancake recipe](#) over the page.) Those three key ingredients were once very common things to give up for Lent, so it made sense to use them all up in one handy dish the day before Lent started. These days it's probably the toppings that we're more likely to scrap from our diet.

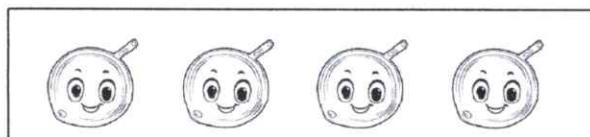
Why is it called Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent and comes straight after Shrove Tuesday. The ashes that give the day its name are created from burnt palm leaf crosses from the previous year's Palm Sunday. They are used to mark the sign of the cross on the heads of Christians during a church service.

Where does Easter Sunday fit in?

Easter Sunday this year (2026) falls on Sunday, 5th April. Easter is not a set date but always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the spring equinox. **The equinox** marks the first day of spring and is when the Earth's equator is directly in line with the centre of the sun.

So now you're all up-to-date, go make yourself a few pancakes as a treat.

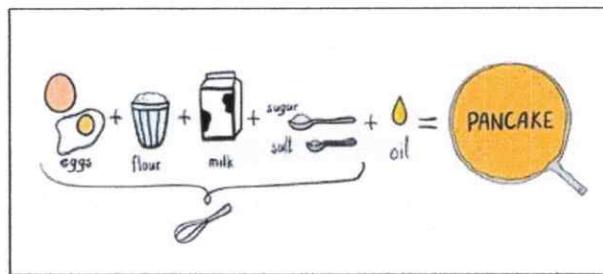


Jamie Oliver one cup pancake recipe!

Jamie Oliver's One Cup Pancakes are made using one cup each of self-raising flour, milk, and an egg to create light and fluffy pancakes. This straightforward recipe simplifies prep, making it ideal for beginners.

Ingredients

- 1 cup self-raising flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 large egg
- A pinch of salt
- Butter or oil for frying



Method

Step 1: Make the Batter

In a large mixing bowl, add the self-raising flour and a pinch of salt. Crack in the egg and pour in the milk. Whisk everything together until you have a smooth batter. The consistency should be thick but pourable.

Step 2: Heat the Pan

Place a non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Add a small amount of butter or oil to the pan and let it melt, coating the surface evenly.

Step 3: Cook the Pancakes

Pour about 1/4 cup of batter into the pan for each pancake. Cook for 1-2 minutes, or until small bubbles start to form on the surface. Flip the pancake and cook for another 1-2 minutes on the other side until golden brown.

Step 4: Repeat

Repeat with the remaining batter, adding more butter or oil as needed to prevent sticking.

Step 5: Serve

Stack the pancakes on a plate and serve warm with your favourite toppings, such as fresh fruit, syrup, whipped cream, chocolate chips or good old fashioned jam and butter!

Can E Cook



Prayer Points

- Give thanks for the family here at The New Wellwynd and the generosity of a congregation with such wide ranging gifts.
- Pray that God might guide you through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit as we continue to look forward in faith to all the plans God has made for us.
- Pray for all uniformed youth organisations, especially the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides preparing for Thinking Day towards the end of this month.
- Pray for the work of the Church in our local schools.
- Pray for the personal witness of all Christians that through "gossiping the Gospel" more will come to a full knowledge of the love of God in Jesus.
- Pray for new ventures being planned within the congregation and the parish.

Church mice



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Deaths of Two Elders

Sadly, in the past two months, two of our Church Elders, David Gillespie and Margaret Jack have passed away. Two stalwarts of our Church over many years and they will be sadly missed. We no doubt will have different memories of each one. Personally, I can still see David eating the Jelly Tots at the Christingle Factory on many a Christmas Eve and his unique sense of humour when on Door Duty at the front door. David was active in the Church all his life, with service in a range of roles over the years including Sunday School Superintendent and Clerk to the Managers. David was ordained to the Eldership on 12th June 1988. With regards to Margaret, I can still see her red pen in hand correcting both the spelling and grammar in the Church Magazine and sharing school stories. Margaret was active in the High Kirk, followed by Wellwynd and latterly in The New Wellwynd. She served in various roles over the years, within the Sunday School, the Choir, Flower Convenor, Elder, and in recent years as a Worship Leader, leading worship on a Sunday morning, as well as the Friday Service and Delve in @ 12 Service. Margaret was ordained to the Eldership on 6th December 1998. The one thing they both had in common was a strong faith and belief in the Lord Jesus Christ with whom they are now at rest. Our thoughts and prayers are with Roberta, Rachel and Neil and with Sandy and Alison (Margaret's brother & sister-in-law) and their wider families.

In Memory of David and Margaret

Two elders now rest from their faithful care,

Their voices once lifted in humble prayer.

With gentle words and steady hand,

They served the Church as God had planned.



They walked in faith, both firm and kind,
Leaving bright footprints for us to find.

Though called from sight, their work lives on,
In hearts they shaped, in seeds they've sown.

Rest now, dear friends, your labour complete,
Till we meet again at the Saviour's feet.

George Randall

Thank You

The Gillespie family would like to thank the church family for their kind words, flowers, cards, thoughts and prayers given on the passing of David, a loving husband and much missed dad.

Sandy Graham and family would like to express their thanks for the many cards, kind expressions of sympathy and support following the death of Margaret Jack. It was a great tribute to Margaret to have so many people attend the Thanksgiving Service. Thanks also to Jean and her team of helpers for organising the tea.

Billy and Nettie Dalling would like to say thanks for the flowers received from the church. Also thanks to the many friends who have so kindly asked Christine about us. We appreciate this kindness very much.

Eleanor Murray would like to thank the congregation for the beautiful flowers she received following her recent health concern and short hospitalisation. The kindness and thoughtfulness were greatly appreciated.

Jim and Janet Nimmo would like to thank the congregation for the flowers and best wishes received following Jim's recent stay in hospital. All very much appreciated.

Mrs Elsie McCallum and Mrs Marilyn Russell would like to thank the congregation for the beautiful floral arrangements they both received which really brightened their day.

St Andrew's Hospice

At both our Christmas Eve Services last month our Christmas Eve Offerings went to support the work of the Hospice here in Airdrie. A total of £713 was raised. Thank you.

Scots Afternoon



On Thursday, 29th January St Columba's is holding a Scots Afternoon starting at 1.30pm. There will be the singing of some familiar songs, followed by a wee cup of tea and home baking. All are welcome to attend.

Visions

On the quiet morning of the New Year, the world seemed to pause and take a breath. Frost traced silver patterns on the windows, and the sky held that pale promise that comes just before dawn. It was a moment made for visions.

In that stillness, people everywhere carried small, unseen lanterns inside them. Some lanterns glowed with hope for change, others with courage long delayed. There were visions of kinder words spoken, of old wounds tended at last, of paths chosen with care rather than haste.

The New Year did not arrive with a shout, but with a whisper: Begin again. It invited each heart to look forward without forgetting the lessons behind. Dreams were not demanded, only welcomed. Effort was not guaranteed, but encouraged.

As the sun finally rose, its light touched rooftops, fields, and faces alike. Nothing outwardly had changed, yet everything had. For a new year is not built in a single day, but shaped by many small choices, guided by quiet visions held faithfully, step by step, into the light. Happy New Year to one and all and here's to another year of making memories and sharing laughter.

The Editor



Cameo Open Night SoundSational Community Choir



**Tuesday, 17th February 2026
In the Church at 7.30pm.**

**Tickets priced at £10 available from all
Cameo Members.**

**This is a fundraiser for the Seniors Outing
Please come along and support this event.**

Church Notices

Morning worship every Sunday at 11.00am.

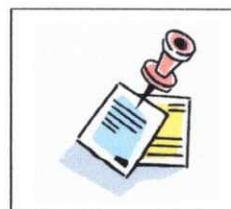
Service of Admission – Sunday, 22nd February

Sacrament of Holy Communion – Sunday, 1st March

Mothering Sunday – Sunday, 15th March

Palm Sunday – Sunday, 29th March

Tea and coffee will be served in the Church Hall after morning worship.



Delve in at Twelve - Wednesday Services at 12 noon

Our midweek service on a Wednesday at 12 noon will continue during the winter months.

The service is followed by tea and coffee.

Sacrament of Holy Communion on the 4th March.

Useful Contacts

Locum Minister: Les Brunger 07427881877

Session Clerk: David Walker 01236 747075

Treasurer: David Watt 01698 853921

Roll Keeper: Moira Gartshore 01236 761001

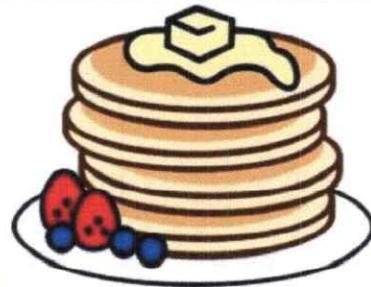
Organist: John Urquhart 07725832088

Hall Convener: John Clydesdale 07512912016

Gift Aid: David Walker 01236 747075

Magazine Editor: George Randall 01236 763102 or 07738089762

Pancake Day Word Search



U	C	K	P	B	M	J	H	Q	M	J	L	M	C	O	S	N
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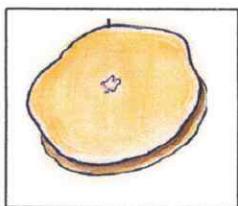


FLIP	FLOUR	MILK
FRYING PAN	EGGS	ASH WEDNESDAY
PANCAKE	SYRUP	CHRISTIAN
BATTER	LENT	TOPPINGS
LEMON	SHROVE TUESDAY	SUGAR



Write in the box below some good things you might try to do during Lent?

The Great Pancake Adventure and Journey through Lent



In the little village of Willowbrook, there was a day everyone loved more than almost any other. It was called Pancake Tuesday. The night before Pancake Tuesday, the village felt different. The moon seemed rounder, the stars twinkled brighter, and even the cupboards in the houses seemed excited.

In one cosy house at the end of Maple Street lived Ellie, Ben, and their little brother Tommy. They went to bed early, because Mum said, "You'll need lots of energy tomorrow. Pancake Tuesday waits for no one!"

When morning came, the children jumped out of bed. "PANCAKE DAY!" they shouted together.

Down in the kitchen, Dad was already busy. Flour puffed into the air like little clouds. Eggs rolled gently across the worktop. Milk sloshed in a bowl.

"Can we help?" asked Ellie. "Of course," said Mum. "But remember, pancakes need patience." Ben stirred the batter very carefully. Tommy counted each spoonful out loud, even though he sometimes forgot which number came next. The batter grew smooth and shiny. Soon, the frying pan was warm and some batter was dropped in. Flip! Flop! One pancake flew too high and landed on Dad's head. Everyone burst out laughing.

By lunchtime, the table was covered in pancakes. Big ones. Small ones. Thin ones. Thick ones. There were pancakes with lemon and sugar, pancakes with honey, pancakes with strawberries, and one pancake shaped like a star.

As they ate, Tommy asked, "Why do we only have Pancake Tuesday once a year?" Mum smiled. "Because it's the day before Lent begins." "What's Lent?" Ben asked, licking jam from his fingers. "Well," Mum said gently, "Lent is a special time that lasts for forty days. It's a time to think about how we live, how we treat others, and how we can grow kinder and stronger inside." Dad nodded. "Some people give up treats during Lent, and some people try to do more good things - like helping, sharing, or being patient." Ellie thought about this. "So Pancake Tuesday is like a big, happy goodbye to treats?" "That's a lovely way to put it," Mum said.

The next day was Ash Wednesday, and everything felt a little quieter. No frying pans sizzled. No pancakes flipped in the air. But something else had started. During Lent, the family made a Kindness Jar. Every time someone did something kind, they put a pebble inside. Ellie helped a neighbour carry shopping. **Clink!** Ben shared his toys without being asked. **Clink!** Tommy gave his last biscuit to a friend. **Clink!** Some days were hard. Ben really missed chocolate. Ellie forgot to be patient sometimes. Tommy had wobbly moments when he didn't want to share at all. But Mum said, "Lent isn't about being perfect. It's about trying."

As the days passed, the jar filled up. Not with sweets or treats, but with kindness, love, and learning. When Lent was nearly over, the children looked at the jar, heavy with pebbles. Ellie smiled. "I think Lent filled us up too." "Yes," Dad said. "Not our tummies—but our hearts." And when Easter finally arrived, the family celebrated together, remembering the pancakes, the kindness, and the journey they had taken. And from that year on, Pancake Tuesday was never just about pancakes.

It was the start of something wonderful.