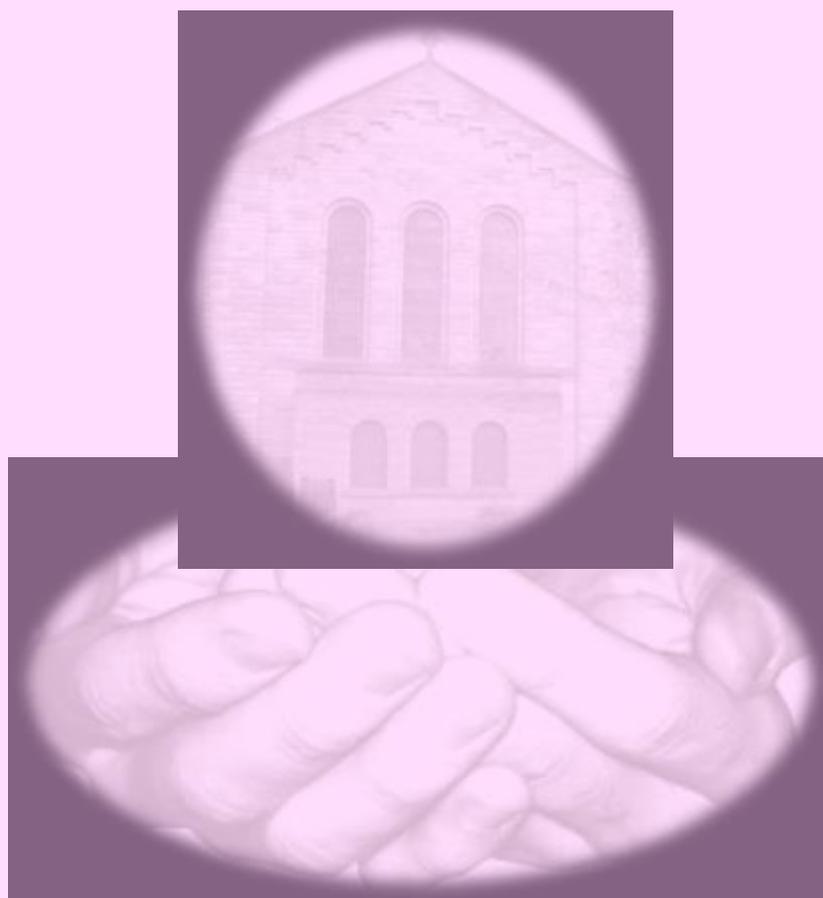


ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



JANUARY 2015

Bulletin No 319

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

-----oOo-----

FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

November 7	Tom Dougall
November 8	Stuart Forrest
November 19	Janet Black
November 27	Netta Strain
December 9	John MacDonald
December 14	Janet Hurrell
	Mary Nicol
December 18	Alexander Naismith
December 19	Jean Russell
December 23	Tom Nicholson
December 29	Alma Earl

-----oOo-----

ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP BY TRANSFER

Tom and Janette McPherson

Lynne Percy

-----oOo-----

NEW ELDERS

Barbara Aitkenhead	Denise Andrew	Joanne Blackwood	Paul Bradshaw
Joanne Hamilton	Christopher Mitchell	Joanne Morrison	Lisa Mossman
Paul Mossman	Sarah Reilly	Laura St John	



Manse of St Mary's

January 2015

Dear Friends

CHRISTMAS

That was Christmas that was. Year by year, the Advent season comes, celebrated more and more in anticipation - and in a few days, it all seems to be over. It's followed quickly by the end of the year; it's bound up with Hogmanay; and as the New Year comes upon us, Christmas, like 2014, slips into the past. It's often more like an ending than a beginning. Yet we know that Christmas celebrates a new thing, the beginning of a life, which like no other, had its impact on life on this planet, in its effect turning the world upside down, a life which seemed to have ended on Calvary's cross but which reached its climax in Resurrection - a life where love and power still transform human life and challenge and empower our living.

CENTENARY

That was "Centenary" that was. Our 100th Anniversary was celebrated with great anticipation, over the months, indeed the years before December 2014 came. And now that great year has passed, with its climax in the 2 very special services in November and December. It was inspiring to have our "old boys" sharing in our worship throughout the year, at the

Congregational Dinner, and especially in the remarkable Anniversary Service. It was uplifting to welcome the Moderator, Rt Rev John P Chalmers, to our pulpit at the Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication.

You notice I use the word "climax"; sometimes we spoke of the culmination of our celebrations. Avoided always were the words "conclusion" or "ending", and this was quite conscious and deliberate. For in the Christian Church there is no conclusion, no finality to what we do as God's people in our time. The tradition of the faith goes on; the worship of the church continues; the call to work and witness comes increasingly; to play our part in Christ's mission is an ongoing challenge.

"We do not now take refuge in tradition as those prepared to make a final stand but use it as a springboard of decision to follow him whose kingdom is at hand."

WILLIAM SIMPSON

I point you to Bill Simpson's article in the Bulletin, to his summary of what has been "quite a year" and his thanks offered to all who had a part in it, to the congregation as a whole, to individuals and groups within it who enabled us to do so much and achieve so much over the last year or two - especially to the Centenary Action Team whose members served indefatigably to make the whole enterprise such a success.

I want to express, in unrestrained terms, the thanks of the congregation, of the Centenary Action Team, and my own, to Bill himself for the chairmanship he offered and the leadership he provided, over some 3 years, for the whole Centenary Event. I think he thoroughly enjoyed the experience; certainly he filled his role masterfully, a role for which he was eminently suited, in which his gifts of planning, and organisation, of maturing and encouraging, of sweet-talking and cajoling and verbal arm-twisting were well used, and his leadership was very much "hands-on". The vast amount of time and energy, and thought and imagination, the level of commitment he gave to his task, his overseeing of all aspects of the event underpinned its great success.

I am very aware, as the year turns, that I am entering the last lap of my own ministry in St Mary's. At Christmas, and indeed every week now we see me engaged in something for the last time. My own ministry here is coming to and end a conclusion a culmination a climax

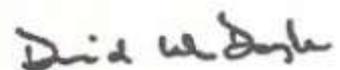
Certainly, "Centenary" has provided a great "high" for me personally. I am immensely grateful for the vivid signs of vitality and energy, of commitment and drive which have been so evident in the last couple of years.

Some plans are already being set in place for a period of vacancy which will be a challenging time for the office-bearers and congregation. But I shall not be mentioning "retirement" again and again in these coming months, for the work goes on.

And the congregation must look ahead with hope and expectation and with prayer that there will be found the guidance and inspiration of the Spirit of Christ, present in this church, and the sense of purpose and determination to maintain the tradition of shared faith and fellowship which have been so strikingly displayed in these days.

May God bless you all in this new year.

Yours aye





THE GUILD

Since the last report the Guild has enjoyed many special evenings when they have welcomed speakers from different backgrounds. December was a busy time in our church and for our members. Rev John Campbell visited and shared his thoughts on Christmas and sang some old and new songs. Our At Home was enjoyed and the members were delighted to learn from Ann Walker some ways to make flowers special for Christmas. The Guild has undertaken a project entitled Prayer Shawls and many of our members have been prayerfully knitting shawls for those in need of comfort and support. At our At Home a short dedication service took place and the shawls were given for distribution. Clare Mackenzie thanked the members and assured them that the shawls have been much appreciated by all who have received them. The dinner at the Bentley was a happy and enjoyable event and our guest Raymond Tulips played, sang and entertained us much to our delight. He brought with him a Hamper gifted by the Toddlers Group and this was won by one of the members who was delighted. Our thanks to the group for their kindness. This brought the first part of our session to a close and as we looked back we gave thanks for the times spent together. The new year holds some special events and we look forward to our

Project Night, Scottish Night, meeting the Boy's Brigade. A night with the Choirs, a Craft Night with some of the talented young women in the church, speakers and the AGM when the Rev David Doyle will join us. A busy time ahead and an invitation to you to come along any Monday and enjoy the fellowship of the Guild.

Good wishes for 2015.

Eleanor Simpson

BASICS FOOD BANK (LANARKSHIRE)

Basics Food Bank (Lanarkshire) which was founded in 2010 gives out food parcels, hygiene packs and a Gospel to every new referral to the Charity. There are now distribution outlets in Motherwell, Bellshill and Airdrie. In the last year ending October 2014, they gave out 2,016 food parcels - 584 of these to families and 1,522 to single people.

The contributions made by the congregation of St Mary's are very much appreciated and they would be most grateful for your continued support of this very necessary work.

Donations can be left in the box in the vestibule of the church or in the cupboard in the church kitchen.

basicsfood@hotmail.co.uk

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

At this time of writing we have yet to attend our first meeting in the New Year when one of our Elders Mr Stuart Greenhorn will talk on "A Day in his Life".

Meetings in November and December were well attended. November saw a welcome return of former Minister Rev John Harris, who spoke of his life in the Ministry. An illustrated talk on the Centenary visit to the Holy Land was presented by the Fellowship President.

Memories of members were awakened by a lively talk on play days from times past, presented by Lu McNair from North Lanarkshire Heritage. In a talk entitled "The Well Society" Mr Graham Barnstaple told of the efforts of a dedicated group of Motherwell Football supporters to provide the club with extra financial resources.

December and Bill Simpson, Convener of the Centenary Action Team told of the preparations and events that had marked a significant year in our church's history.

Douglas Keith was his usual humorous self with his illustrated talk on The River Clyde and the year ended with Bill Taylor's Brain Teasing Quiz.

Please check the church intimation sheets for news of each week's lively topic. As always a warm welcome awaits you on any Monday evening you may be free to attend, meetings start at 7.30 pm and finish at 9.00 pm.

Allan Joyce
President

MINISTER'S RETIRAL

On Sunday 15th March Mr Doyle will lead the service and preach his last sermon as Minister of St Mary's. To mark his retiral and express our thanks for his 27 years of service in St Mary's a Celebration will be held in the church at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 18th March.

All of us gratefully appreciate the spiritual leadership and unstinting service we have received from our minister, ever present and supporting in times of sadness, sickness and in times of happiness and joy. To show some measure of that appreciation I would invite members to make a contribution towards a retiral gift for David and Alison. Donations can be made through the church office or in a suitably marked envelope in the offering plate.

I look forward to your attendance at the service on Sunday 15th March and at the Celebration on Wednesday 18th March.

Allan PW Joyce
Session Clerk



I hope that you have enjoyed a peaceful time over the festive season and I wish you good health and happiness in the New Year.

During the month of September a retiral offering was uplifted at our morning service in support of the work of Scottish Bible Society. The sum of £829.39 was raised. This was an excellent amount and much appreciated by Bible House in support of their work.

The Commonwealth Games came to Glasgow and to commemorate this special event Scottish Bible Society came up with the idea of distributing Penny Gospels. This snowballed into something bigger than what they could ever have imagined. Three quarters of a million Penny Gospels were distributed - equivalent to 30% of Scottish households. Twelve hundred were distributed to the Parish of St Mary's with the Centenary Logo marked on them to commemorate our own special celebration. The Penny Gospel is a special edition of Luke's Gospel featuring inspiring stories of sportsmen and women who believe their faith is worth 'more than gold'. The name *Penny Gospel* resonates with local people who remember "a well-known market place in Glasgow's East End where you could pick up a bargain".

The Motherwell Action Group are holding a concert on Saturday, 14th February, at 7.30 pm in Crosshill Church. 'Octave', a renowned vocal group who claimed 'best in class in the Mixed Voice Choir Section' at the Glasgow Music Festival in 2013, will be performing on the night. As this is our main fundraising event, please come along and give us your support - it will prove to be an excellent night's entertainment. The proceeds raised from this concert will be in support of 'Survivors of the Genocide in Rwanda'.

On behalf of the Action Group, I would like to give you our sincere thanks for your prayers, encouragement and support throughout the year.

With blessings

Margaret Carrol

Motherwell Action Group



Concert

Featuring

‘Octave’



Crosshill Parish Church
Windmillhill Street, Motherwell

Saturday, 14th February, 2015
at 7.30 pm

In Support of
Survivors of the Genocide in Rwanda

Tea/Coffee

£5.00

Scottish Charity No SCO10767



CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

The Epilogue

Dear Friends

Throughout 2014 if you have listened to the radio you may have heard the following introduction before news and current affairs programmes. *'In a year like no other, a station like no other, BBC Radio Scotland'*. The same sentiment with a little adaptation could also have been used in relation to our Centenary Celebrations.

'In a year like no other, a Church like no other, St Mary's Parish Church Motherwell'.

It has been quite a year! In addition to the normal rhythm of our morning worship, there have been 6 special services associated with our Centenary year. The service to launch our Centenary year in January, our Centenary youth service in February, the service to mark the laying of the foundation stone in April and our Centenary songs of praise in September. In November at our anniversary service we celebrated 100 years of worship in our Church, and in December we had a final service of thanksgiving and re-dedication. All of these services were uplifting, inspiring and special, each in their own way.

Other events in our Centenary year included the Centenary Congregational Concert, the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, the Centenary Family Quiz Night, our Choirs in Concert for the Centenary and our Open Church from May until August. Towards the end of the year following harvest thanksgiving we held our Centenary Harvest Lunch and finally the Centenary Congregational Dinner in Motherwell Concert Hall with some 300 in attendance for what was a fine evening and a memorable occasion.

Included with your bulletin is a flavour of some of the highlights of the Centenary year.

May I take this opportunity to express my thanks to all who have played their part in our Celebrations. To the members of the Kirk Session who approved the plans for our Centenary Celebrations and provided unfailing support. To the congregation whose generosity in financial terms and constant support at the many events made it all possible and worthwhile. There were also many individuals who gave freely of their time and talents and significantly added to the execution of our planned events. Finally, to the members of the Centenary Action Team - a special word of thanks. It has been a privilege to lead such a team of dedicated, committed and enthusiastic individuals.

The trappings of our Centenary year have all but disappeared. The banners have been removed, the notice boards with their array of photographs and merchandise will be replaced with information pertaining to 2015, and our weekly intimations from the pulpit will be devoid of talk of Centenary. That said, whilst our Centenary year has drawn to a close the CELEBRATION of our faith and witness within the family of St Mary's and beyond, by The Grace of God, will no doubt continue for many years to come.

Here's to the next ...
100 Years

WA Simpson (Ret'd)
The Centenary Action Team



THE TUESDAY CLUB

At their Christmas lunch which was held in the Bentley Hotel the Club gave a donation of £100.00 to Charge Nurse Hazel Boyle of the Dementia Café. The Dementia Café is funded by NHS Lanarkshire and its aim is to help those suffering from Dementia. The donation given will help improve the lives of those suffering from Dementia.

In Adele Street there is a Senses Garden in the process of being landscaped and this will have different areas of flowers blooming throughout the seasons, a herb garden giving different scents from the various herbs and trees surrounding the garden giving shade in the summer, to those wishing to sit, relax and smell the beautiful scents from the various herbs and see the beautiful blooms.

The syllabus for the forthcoming weeks:-

JANUARY

Tuesday 6th January

The Leprosy Mission

Tuesday 13th January

The Holy Land trip. Mr A Joyce

Tuesday 20th January -

The University of the Third Age

Tuesday 27th January

David Livingston/National Trust for Scotland

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 3rd February

Canals and their history. Mr Tom Lawton

Tuesday 10th February

Wildlife in Strathclyde Country Park/NLC

Tuesday 17th February

Keep young fit and beautiful/NLC

Tuesday 24th February

An update on the Dementia Café. Its purpose and effect.

MARCH

Tuesday 3rd March

A policeman's lot. Mr Alan Cowan

Tuesday 10th March

The Glasgow Boys. Dr Joanna Meacock, Kelvingrove

Tuesday 17th March

Ongoing work in Malawi.

Mrs Geraldine Fleming

Tuesday 24th March

Childhood memories of Shetland.

Mrs Eleanor Simpson

Tuesday 31st March

Holy Week

APRIL

Tuesday 7th April

The Cameronian Regiment/SLC

Tuesday 14th April

A man's a man for awe that.

Mr Robert Dalziel

Tuesday 21st April

The history of the charity, St Vincent de Paul. Mr P Carr

Tuesday 28th April

To be announced

MAY

Tuesday 5th May

Lunch at the Bentley Hotel

After the summer recess the Tuesday Club will meet in September.

6th Motherwell Guides

The Tuesday guides have had a busy session with lots of the usual crafts, games and their favourite 'food' themed evenings. They had a visit from some animals including a snake, hedgehog and bearded dragon and learnt all about them. Even leader Laura participated.

To get into the Christmas spirit on the first weekend in December they visited Gowanpark where they made lots of Christmas crafts and decorations.



They even braved the weather to go into the woods to gather items for a Christmas fairy garden.



On the Saturday night they used the table mats, coasters and place settings they had made to have a lovely meal. A great time was had by all.



The Guiding page on the Church's website is being updated at time of going to press.

There will be a link to the *Girlguiding Join Us* website.

If you know of a girl who wishes to join any of our units this has to be done online.



This only applies to girls new to Guiding, it does not apply to moving from one section to another, ie Rainbows to Brownies to Guides.

Adults who wish to join us as a volunteer should also use this link. They will be made most welcome.

13th Motherwell Boys' Brigade Company

St. Mary's Parish Church, Avon Street, Motherwell



Since our last article our main activities as a Company have been.....Battalion competitions, the National Senior 5-a-side football and the coffee morning which led us into our Christmas break.

BATTALION COMPETITIONS

The Battalion Swimming Gala took place in November and our outstanding team managed a convincing win. The team are shown in the photo below and are (in no particular order!): Craig Connacher, Jordan McGhee, Mark McGhee, James Swinburne, Callum Lingie, Robert Kerr, Ryan Anderson and Scott Rankin.



The first of the 2 drill competitions, the restricted drill, took place in December and by all accounts our squad gave a great performance but the result as usual will not be known until the Review in May.



The Senior 5-a-side team finished 2nd in the first of 2 senior football competitions this session.

RAVENS CRAIG NIGHT

On Friday 28 November we took over most of Ravenscraig for the Company Section equivalent of a Christmas Party - a mega sports night! Forty-six boys plus staff all enjoyed a combination of indoor tennis, table tennis, badminton, indoor 5-a-side and outdoor 7-or-so-a-side!

COFFEE MORNING

In December we hosted another successful coffee morning. The recipe of festive music, excellent coffee (eventually!), creamy cakes and Christmas gifts was popular once again and I would like to thank all those who supported the event and helped raise a fantastic total of **£1450** for company funds.

This money is used in the running of the Company over the course of the session, to help with our BB subscriptions (£1600!!), badges, training, activities, class materials, subsidising trips and competitions etc. Without this money we wouldn't be able to do half the things we do!

A big thank you to everyone in the congregation who supported the event and to all those friends of the company (visible and invisible) who helped in the kitchen, staffed the cake stalls and mucked in for the clearing up - the coffee morning would not be such a success without you.

COMING UP....

We are only just into the New Year but we are continuing our preparation for the squad drill, Bible Knowledge and first aid competitions, the Queen's Badge guys are busy working away and we have 12 busy Fridays and 8 Battalion competitions before Easter!

Captain Stewart Maxwell

JUNIOR SECTION

The Junior Section 2014/2015 session got off to a busy start. We have already had our first battalion competition (General Knowledge) and our always popular Halloween Party.

I have very exciting news to share about the recent battalion General Knowledge competition. That information being that 13th Motherwell managed to achieve first place - winning what was an extremely tight competition by only half a point! Congratulations to our team of clever clogs, also known as: James Leckie, Innes McClaire, Connor Ryan, Nathan Bradshaw and Euan Bowman (see picture). The boys did a brilliant job in answering questions from a range of topics including Sport, Current affairs, Film and Music. I have to say they got an incredible 18/20 on the Music round, whilst I was able to answer a grand total of 0/20 of these questions. I am always glad at this event that the battalion does not host an officers general knowledge competition.

Our Halloween Party on the 29th October was a fun night of games and imaginative costumes (from both boys and officers). Sean Crawford and Margaret McCloy had the difficult task of judging the best Halloween costume, this year they managed to do so whilst hiding behind the face masks of the Strictly Come Dancing judges so as not to identify themselves! My thanks to them for their assistance with this tough task. Thanks too to the boys and officers who took part fully and enthusiastically in the evening.

In the weeks ahead we have a lot more work to do for our next 2 battalion competitions (Bible Knowledge and Safety) and the BB Coffee Morning. We also have

a special Junior Section achievement class coming up to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first World War. However, we will wait till the event has passed to say more about it.



Stephanie Crawford
Junior Section - Officer in Charge



UPDATE

The final total raised by St Mary's in 2014 for the work of Christian Aid is £6663.41. This includes the special appeal of £704.55 for Gaza and £1324.16 from the house-to-house collection during Christian Aid Week. £2719.08 was given in retiring offerings.

Your generosity, directed towards Christian outreach during our own year of centenary celebrations, is enabling Christian Aid to continue to help people in desperate need of food, shelter and medical assistance in some of the world's most troubled regions.

Many thanks for your generous support.

Margaret MacGregor

Junior Church News!

Christmas Celebrations....

It was good to have the children in the Junior Church involved in our Christmas services. We had a wonderful response to our gift service and would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and friends for supporting the work of The Basic food bank supporting families in our town.

Our Nativity Sunday saw the chancel filled with shepherds, wise men and inn keepers, angels, a newspaper boy, a bright shining star (Katie Morrison) and a narrator. The Kids Zone told the Christmas story this year performing the nativity - Angel Express. The narrator, Josh Greenhorn told the story of the very first Christmas as the actors and chorus acted and performed. With talented actors, soloists and a full chorus from the Kids Zone the children impressed the congregation with their talents at this special service.

We all enjoyed the solos from Charlotte Mackenzie as Mary and Ava Mc Innes the angel, and a very enthusiastic performance from the " Angel choir" led by Sophie Blair! The sleepy shepherds and travelling wise men added to the performance with their catchy songs. Newspaper boy Euan Blackwood made sure each scene change went to plan! It was a super Nativity Sunday enjoyed by all.

Our thanks to Hazel and Ian Graham and the staff of the kids zone along with the willing team of stage crew, production experts and set designers! (The Y Zone) As always the Nativity was enhanced by the musical talents of James Swinburne. It was good also to have the children in the Mini Zone adding to the nativity as they performed their Christmas song.

Christmas Parties...

Our party season was the usual mix of games, laughter, hot dogs, ice cream, treats and Santa! Each Zone leader hosted a party for the children and everyone had a fun filled time. The children were delighted that Santa was able to visit the parties and we do hope that he enjoyed our singing and mince pies!

The Mini Zone and Kids Zone filled the afternoon with traditional games and dances and unusual and messy relay races. A big thank you to the staff who helped to make the parties a success. All who attended would want me to make special mention to June Graham who catered for all the Christmas festivities... cakes, scones with cream and hand made mallow snowmen just a few of the treats on offer! A big thank you to June from all in the Junior Church.

Candles and carol singing

Over 200 friends in the congregation enjoyed our wonderful annual festive evening hosted by the Kids Zone and Y Zone. Carol singing in the church grounds was followed by hot soup, rolls, mince pies and cakes before ending the evening with a performance of the pantomime produced and performed by our Y Zone. As always the panto was a huge success and we were glad to see that the Jolly Green Giant was able to help Santa! With singing elves and super script they had everyone in the hall laughing ... lots!! It was a super evening enjoyed by all.

Karen Maxwell
Junior Church Co-ordinator



FLOWER LIST

JANUARY

4th Mrs Munro
Mrs D Connor
Mrs M Hardie
Mrs J Weir
Mrs J Rennie
11th Mr J Williams
Mr & Mrs W McNair
18th Mrs M McArdle
Miss J Graham
25th Mrs N McMillan
Mrs M Wilson

FEBRUARY

1st Church Choir
8th Mrs I Gardiner
15th Miss C Kelly
22nd Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and
Senior Section
Mrs H Brown
Mr & Mrs Malcolm

MARCH

1st Mrs M Graham
Mrs M Skimming
Mrs M Carrol
8th Mrs M Watson
Mrs E Fraser
15th Mrs M Stewart
Mrs M Johnstone
22nd Mrs A Craig
29th Mrs H Wilson
Mrs B Neilson



June Graham - Flower Convener

FORTHCOMING SERVICES



Feb	8	11.00 am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
	22	11.00 am	Guide Thinking Day Service
March	15	11.00 am	Rev David W Doyle Valedictory Service
	22	11.00 am	Rev Arthur Barrie

FORTHCOMING EVENT

Feb	11	7.30 pm	Annual Congregational Meeting
-----	----	---------	-------------------------------