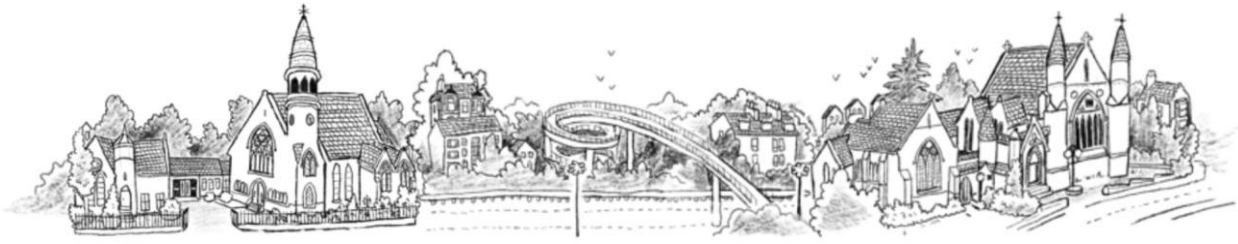


SHERBROOKE MOSSPARK PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE



What's on – Message from the Manse - News

Message from the Manse:

Dear Friends

On what seems like the 631st day of January, I like to remind myself that in around fifty days (depending on when you read this), it will be light after seven, and in just a few weeks, at the end of March the clocks will change. The nights are already beginning to get a little lighter, the snowdrops are peeping through and it looks like spring might actually chase winter away, for another year.

I love this turn of the season, as we see the slumber of winter being shaken off and the delights of spring and summer beckon - and I know that when the sun shines, we will all seem to smile a little more. We know it will come, but just not yet. There's still some more of winter to come and that sometimes makes preparing for an early Easter more difficult.

We know that the radiant hope of Easter gives us much to celebrate and be thankful for. However, the road to Easter is a rocky one and before we get to the joyous halleluiahs of Christ's risen presence, we must encounter costly discipleship, suffering, betrayal and death. Before we receive the crisp clarity of an Easter Service at dawn, we must journey with Christ through the depths of despair and loneliness, all the way to the cross.

It is so easy in the Christian life to fast forward to the good bit. Before Christmas, we have a time of waiting in Advent, but we press on to the pressies, and now at Easter, we happily skip through Lent, looking forward to a rousing rendition of Thine be the Glory and chocolate eggs galore. It is so tempting to skip the detail and head straight for the celebration.

We have much to celebrate and give thanks for, but let's not skip the detail. We need to constantly engage in our journey with Christ and continually reform in our minds what we are called as a Church to do. In Proverbs 29:18 we hear that "where there is no vision the people will perish" and those words are so true. We need to seize the bigger picture here, and instead of just celebrating the highlights of the Christian faith like Easter and Christmas, we must also remain committed to the journey that takes us through the years, from one Easter to another.

Our friends from Ibrox will at some point very soon, be returning to their building following refurbishment. That's very exciting and we are delighted for them. But we will miss them, and there will probably be a feeling of loss too. But then there is another challenge for all of us, and that is how we work together as a cluster and how we can continue to build on the foundations that have been formed since our joint worship journey from last July.

We must ask ourselves, how, together, and separately, we can enthusiastically be a worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving community of faith to the people of Sherbrooke Mossspark and Ibrox.

We must take the opportunity to take the clarity and certainty of our faith on Easter morning and apply the same enthusiasm and vision for the rest of the year. It's so tempting to skip the detail and head for the celebration, isn't it? We are not going to do that this year. Between this Easter and next, we will engage fully with our responsibilities as a worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving people of faith so that we can share together many more Easters in Sherbrooke Mossspark and Ibrox.

Your friend and minister, Adam.

Christmas Lunch

We held our Christmas Lunch for the second time at the Sherbrooke Castle Hotel after the Gift Service on December 10th. A most enjoyable time was had by all those present - our members, relatives and friends, and also so nice to have some Ibrox friends as well. Just over 100 tickets were sold and we managed to keep the cost at £25pp due to one generous donor paying for our Welcome Drinks and another paying for the wine served with the meal.

The quality and quantity of food and the friendly and helpful service was much appreciated.

We have continued some of the traditions of previous Christmas lunches in the Church Hall, with our organist Tom Ferguson leading us in the traditional singing of Christmas songs and a competitive round of pass-the-parcel, kindly organised by Grace Guse.

It was a wonderful prelude to our Christmas celebrations.

Thank you to everyone who made the event a success, including the Social Committee – we will be booking again for Christmas 2024.

Lorna McRobert
Convener of the Social Committee



Christmas Card delivery



Many thanks to the Scout Troop who hand-delivered our Christmas cards this year.

172 cards in total were delivered with each scout delivering to between 6 and 7 houses across the district.

As well as being a very worthwhile contribution to the wider Sherbrooke community, the Church members kindly donated £193 to Scout funds.

Sherbrooke Mossspark in the press and on TV!

BBC: in November (!) we hosted the BBC for its Christmas celebration in music and verse which was shown on BBC 1 on Christmas eve at 11.40pm. The event is available on BBC iPlayer for the next ten months.

The programme was hosted by Sally Magnusson and choirs were drawn from throughout the Glasgow area alongside our own Church congregation. Our own Tom Ferguson was the organist for the event, patiently replaying several carols until the director was 'happy' with the take. A brass ensemble from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland also contributed to the music which gave it an extra sense of Christmas occasion.

For those who participated in the event it was a great opportunity to witness a 'behind the scenes' experience of a BBC production with every corner of the Sanctuary and Halls utilised on and off for a whole week.



Remembrance 2023: as some of you will have already seen, our Poppy installation was featured on the Church of Scotland website and in the January 2024 copy of Life and Work.

The installation was created by the Women's Group, Flower Committee, members and friends of Sherbrooke Mossspark Parish Church and Ibrox Parish Church.



Project coming together, October 2023



Final installation and image used by L&W, Jan 2024



Rev Adam Dillon and Rev Tara Porr Granados with our 159th Glasgow Scout Troop flag bearers on Remembrance Sunday 2023

What's on?

Soup and Chat: please join us in the small hall for delicious soup, cheese and biscuits and sweet treats! Dates for this session are:



13th February
12th March
14th May
11th June 2024.

Sherbrooke Yarn Stormers: whether you are an experienced knitter or just starting out, joining this group will be a lot of fun – tea, coffee, biscuits and chat promised.



We meet on the first Tuesday of each month, on 30th January, 6th February, 5th March from 1.30-3pm.

All you need are some knitting needles (size 4mm) and a ball of double knitting wool. The first project is planning for Easter as you can see:

AM Chorus: is preparing to sing at the Guild on 7th February. Our rehearsals are relaxed and fun and we welcome anyone who would like to join us! We meet each Wednesday morning at 10am, sing for an hour and then have refreshments.

Women's Group: we generally meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the small hall and enjoy a varied programme of speakers and attending events over the year. Our programme for the next few months is as follows:

- Thursday 8th February: Alan Nicholson, CEO Preshal Trust
- Saturday 24th February: annual coffee morning in aid of the Preshal Trust 10am-12 noon
- Thursday 7th March: Iona Crawford, Artist and Designer
- May: theatre outing
- Summer Social: 30th May, Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice

Kirk Session: our next Kirk Session will be held on Tuesday 20th February in the small hall at 7.30pm.

Plant sale: this year's plant sale will take place on Saturday 11th May in aid of Church funds.



Lent and Easter Services: our midweek Tuesday services at 10am will rotate between St Leo's, Sherbrooke Mossspark and Ibrox (assuming the building work is complete, otherwise back at SMP).

The services we are planning for Holy Week are as follows:

Wednesday 27th March: Stations of the Cross at St Leo's

Maundy Thursday 28th March: communion at Ibrox Parish Church, 7pm

Good Friday 29th March: shared service at Sherbrooke Mossspark Church



Our Regular weekly meetings

Badminton: Monday – 7.30pm

Scouts:

- Beavers: Wednesday – 6.30pm
- Cubs: Tuesday – 7pm
- Scouts: Thursday – 7.30pm
- Explorer Scouts: Wednesday 7.45pm

Karate: Friday 7pm

Upcoming Events

- Thursday 8th February, Glasgow Studio Orchestra
- Sunday 25th February, Glasgow Sinfonia
- Saturday 9th March, Glasgow Chamber Orchestra
- Saturday 23rd March, Kirkintilloch Brass Band
- Friday 5th April, Strathclyde University Symphony Orchestra

Magazine and Comms team: in January this year, Mags Cargey our unstinting Comms guru, stepped down from her role after many years of dedication to significantly improving our Church communication.

Thanks to Mags' vision and energy, we now have a fully functioning website, two WhatsApp groups and the magazine has continued to evolve. Mags has also run several IT teach-ins and given one-to-one IT assistance to the delight and relief of many. A heartfelt thank you Mags for your significant contribution to our Church community over many years. But don't worry, Mags will still be very much involved in our Church community with the coffee team and spear heading the latest initiative, the Sherbrooke Yarm Stormers.

If you would like to be involved in the Church communication team, please contact Clare Williams, Session Clerk or Andy Hadden, Convener of the Membership, Care and Development working party.