



SHERBROOKE MOSSPARK PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE

Women's Group Coffee Morning - Saturday 26th February 2022



Despite the Covid-induced postponement of our annual coffee morning it was a true pleasure to be back in the hall running a coffee morning in aid of one of our local charities, Starter Packs. The last one was held in January 2020! Starter Packs is a Govan based charity supporting local people being housed with very few possessions; the charity accepts a wide variety of items for their two charity shops too.

We really appreciated the tremendous support of the congregation to not only come along and join in the fellowship of the morning but to also donate a large number of items which filled the Starter Pack large delivery van. Thanks must also go to Jan Bostock who single-handedly made all the fruit and plain scones in our church kitchen; we had decided this was the safest route with the layers of the Church of Scotland's food hygiene regulations. The various stalls boosted our fund-raising effort through Muriel Manning's knitted toys, and story books, the Women's Group 'Go To' recipe book, Guess the weight of the hamper, flower arrangements and a Printed painting of Maxwell Park. It was a delight to 'phone Pat McIntyre who correctly guessed the weight of the hamper and she even turned the car around to come and collect it! Although we don't run the coffee morning as a fund-raising event, through the generosity of the congregation we are delighted to report that we raised £1090 for Starter Packs.

With thanks
Jan Bostock and Clare Williams

Dear Friends

Let me share a wee quote with you from a journal:

"The world is too big for us. Too much going on, too many crimes, too much violence and excitement. Try as you will, you get behind in the race, in spite of yourself. It's an incessant strain to keep pace.... And still you lose ground. Science empties its discoveries on you so fast that you stagger beneath them in hopeless bewilderment. The political world is news seen so rapidly you are out of breath trying to keep up pace with who's in and who's out. Everything is high pressure. Human nature can't endure much more." (Atlantic Journal)

It's a familiar description of life and the fast paced change that is constantly driving our societies. What is suprising, is that this was actually published on the 16th June 1833, yet it also seems to describe so well what is happening today too. It seems that change is the only constant in our lives.

Since the last magazine, some of you will have had to cope with too much change, and yet some of you will have not seen enough change. Some of you have endured changes that have been shattering, and some of you have struggled with still waiting for a result, or a feeling that things just haven't progressed any further than you would have wanted them to.

For some of you, those changes will have seen great loss and regret, and for some of you those changes will have been life giving in their vitality. Sometimes we embrace change, and sometimes we fear it more than anything.

Lent is a journey, and Easter is the occasion we look forward to, but Jesus constantly brings us back to the fact that he walks with us in this journey, and he takes us through the deepest darkest valleys of betrayal, anger, denial and loss as he is hung on a cross, to the joy and excitement and sheer wonder of the Easter Resurrection, where we sing that Christ is alive, and all is well. Even after the excitement of that Easter Day, Jesus again meets us in the moments where we doubt his existence and his resurrection, when he walks into a room full of his friends saying "Peace be with you."

Wherever you are in your journey, above all things, know that God loves you, and you are not alone...

May God bless you and yours

Adam

Update from the Session Clerk

What a busy time we've had since Adam's induction in November. Christmas has come and gone and hopefully we're nearly out of the woods with COVID too. Following the update from the First Minister last week, mask wearing will no longer be required from 21st March but as at the time of writing, we are still waiting the formal update from the Church of Scotland. Bit by bit our life at Church is beginning to feel a bit more normal with the Christmas services, the Women's Group coffee morning at the end of February and the Scout Troop joining us for the Founders' Day service on 27th February. The various groups who meet at our church have generally recommenced and several concerts have now been held.

At the end of January we said a sad farewell to John Gormley after over 20 years' service with Sherbrooke Mossspark. We had a wonderful service enjoying John's fabulous organ playing and it was a pleasure that we were joined by Laura, Martha and Edith Gormley. Towards the end of the service, John was presented with gifts from the Congregation as well as the Choir in recognition of his unstinting support over many years. There was much reminiscing during the morning given that when John started with Sherbrooke St Gilbert's he was a relatively young man who often had lunch with the Maguires after church. The farewell was rounded off by coffee and homebaking in the church hall and many thanks go to the team who organised the celebration.

We are now starting to plan for the future and at the February Kirk Session we discussed the qualities we are now seeking in a new organist with an appointment committee currently being established from across our congregation. We are hoping that a new Choir Director and Organist will be in position shortly after Easter. Our Church Treasurer, Iain Webster, presented the accounts for 2021 and our budget for 2022 at the Kirk Session. We remain in a solid position and are lucky to have Iain Webster and David McCrossan looking after our funds so well.

On the home front, Nigel, I and Harvey (our dog!) have managed a week's holiday in our campervan based in the UK. We endured the three storms of 2022 and are still standing! What a week but what fun catching up with family and friends in Sutton Coldfield, Oxford, the Norfolk Fens and the Yorkshire Dales.

Clare

Communion: the sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday 13th March. It will be simpler but recognisable format due to COVID restrictions.

Kirk Session: has been rescheduled for Tuesday 22nd March, 7.30pm.

Brian Alexander Lockhart 1/12/42 - 21/2/22

A private family cremation will be followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Sherbrooke Mossspark Parish Church, 240 Nithsdale Road, Glasgow G41 5AD on Friday 11th March at 1.30pm to which all friends are warmly invited.

A livestream option for this service will be available at www.sherbrookemossspark.com website.

Happy colours may be worn.

Christian Aid Weeks in May for 16 Years

Our Church's contribution to Outreach is displayed by our offerings to Christian Aid Week in May each year. I took over from Margaret Galloway to organise these collections in 2006. She left me a very comprehensive list of some 36 street patches across our Sherbrooke St. Gilbert's Parish, as then defined, along with names and phone numbers of suggested collectors to match with the patches. That was my initiation into organising Christian Aid week for the next 16 years.



In March each year Christian Aid would contact me to know what resources I needed for their May collection week, eg how many gift envelopes, posters etc.: these arrived by April. In that month I would phone all potential collectors, to confirm their availability for doing a house collection on specified streets. Some were available, others perhaps were not, but some would be happy to be called the next year. And of course I was always checking our congregation lists to see if extra names could be added to my list. Many folks were very generous for many years in offering their time for this walk around with Christian Aid envelopes for folks to make their donations by, sometimes cheques, but mostly cash. At start of the week, this always coincided with our Church Plant Sale, I would distribute packages to collectors enclosing my confirmation of streets and properties each should cover, gift aid envelopes etc. Of the 36 patches, I initially managed to get coverage for about 30 of them, but this number significantly decreased over the years.

Collectors would deliver their filled C Aid donations envelopes [between some 10 - 100], along with completed gift aid forms to me at the end of the week. So Friday was the count evening, again folks volunteered for that role. I normally had 5 folks, 2 working in a pair and me servicing them. None of us much liked counting 5p or 1p pieces, we preferred notes or cheques. The count normally took a couple of hours, than 3 of us would balance the cash with the record from each envelope, for Christian Aid did require forms to be returned. The balances always worked out alright. On average we counted almost £2000 cash donations on each of those Friday evenings. The cash was lodged at the bank the following week. That was the first amount, there were always some later amounts coming in, so a second count was done, normally just by me and lodged at bank. All gift aid forms were recorded and returned to Christian Aid, this added 25% to the donation, and often amounted to over £1000.

Then I finalised accounts and forms to be sent to Christian Aid, and Treasurer provided me with a cheque: these got posted off, in July or August.

Once we merged with MossPark, collections were done there and their contributions sent to me and merged together.

The number of volunteer collectors gradually decreased. So over the years I also encouraged our congregation to make contributions at our Sunday services: those donations were also included in the count. Lorna McRobert sought donations at the Pentecostal Lunch and these too were included in our count.

Interestingly, my records show that over those 16 years, there were over 60 volunteers, all women, save 6 male volunteers. And thanks to all.

Come Covid lock down in 2020/21, street collections were not possible, so we have relied on promoting the week at our Sunday service, in our Church Magazine / website, and asking folks to make their own contributions directly to Christian Aid. This means there is now no record for our Church as to what our congregation contributes each year. This is unfortunate.

So after 16 years of organising this annual collection, I have decided it is time to stand down. I am pleased to tell you that Ruth McCluskey has kindly agreed to take over. I am sure our congregation will offer her every support to raise funds for Christian Aid.

With fond thoughts and my thanks to all our volunteers who supported me in our efforts to reach out beyond our parish and nation over so many years.

Janet Lamb: 2 February 2022.



Christian Aid Week 2022

Hello everyone.

Let me introduce myself. I am Ruth McCluskey. I have recently agreed to be the Christian Aid Coordinator for Sherbrooke MossPark Church. I have been persuaded to take this on by Janet Lamb who has been the coordinator for about 15 years and feels it is time to hand over the baton.

This is a 'Heads up' about this year's collection.

Christian Aid Week this year is **15th -21st May**. I have ordered envelopes for donations which I will distribute much nearer the date. Our church has over the years given very generously to this very worthwhile charity and I hope this will continue.

If anyone has any other ideas for fundraising please get in touch with me and we can discuss how we can take it forward.

Contact info : email: ruth.mccluskey@hotmail.com

Thank You

Ruth

The latest Church Telephone Directory has been published giving names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for those people who gave their approval to be included. If there are any errors or omissions that people are aware of, please advise the Church Office in writing and we will publish an errata in a few weeks. Large print copies are available on request from the Office. It is a very useful document to aid communication among friends and we commend it to you. Thank you,

John & Brenda



SHERBROOKE MOSSPARK PARISH CHURCH GUILD

Motto: Whose we are and Whom we serve

It is hard to believe that we are coming near to the end of our 2021/22 session. We were so happy that after 18 months we were at last able to meet in person, we did of course keep in touch by various means during lockdown.

Our session started mid - October with our Dedication being conducted by Rev. Tom Pollock, from then we have had a full programme of various interesting speakers and musicians.

This included The Cardonald Strummers from Hillington Park Church, our Presbytery Elder Christine, and we had a hilarious afternoon with our very own Rev. Adam Dillon, who is now on our permanent list of laughter makers.

We have supported 2 of the current Guild Projects, Pioneers and Vine Trust, as well as our long standing association with Blytheswood Care Shoebox Appeal and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Crafts, Christmas celebrations and lunch at Hags Castle Golf Club have also been enjoyed.

We will be meeting for a Cuppa in Harvest Glasgow Church Hall the Guild 'home' once a month during April, May and June just to keep in touch. First date being 27th April at 1.30pm if you would like to join us you will be most welcome, ladies and gentlemen.

Maybe after a chat and a get-together you may consider joining us and becoming a Guild member when our new Session starts mid-September.

Have a good summer and we look forward to seeing you at our Cuppa Days.

Best wishes

Grace and the 'Folks 'of the Guild

Sherbrooke Moss Park Parish Church

Annual Stated Meeting: will be held on Sunday 20th March after the conclusion of the morning service.

Women's Group February 2022 - Introducing our New Minister, Adam Dillon.

Its Good to Laugh

With our new minister, Adam Dillon, in post we were keen to invite him along to meet our Women's Group for our February 2022 meeting. Adam kept us laughing all the way through the evening with a long string of highly amusing stories about his life as a minister - my personal favourite was the chocolate peanut story which I will remember for some time. One of the areas we discussed was the young people in our church and Adam raised the idea of the women's group becoming involved in preparing personalised toy bags. We then had a Q&A session with Adam hearing about his family and journey throughout his ministry.

It was an interesting and entertaining evening which was very well attended by our group. We also confirmed the details for our forthcoming coffee morning and the news that our Summer Social was being planned for Wednesday 1st June 2022 at House of an Art Lover.

Jan Bostock and Clare Williams

Food Safety & Hygiene

The Church of Scotland requires everyone who provides home baking for our congregation to undertake suitable training in food safety and hygiene. The good news is that this can easily be done by completing an e-learning course being offered by the Church of Scotland.

Several members of Sherbrooke Mossspark have already completed the course and we thank them for the wonderful home baking we enjoyed after the service on 30th January.

The course can be done online at home at any time that suits you and should not take more than an hour or two. If you wish to do the course with others Mags can organise a group session. The next one is on Wednesday 9th March 10:30 at Mags house.

To register for the course you must have an email address. If you want to take the course but don't have an email address or don't use the internet please call Mags and she will sort things out for you.

If you would like to be able to bring home baking to Church and want to take the course please look at the information on the website via the Notice Board.



ORIGINS OF THE AM CHORUS

As the AM Chorus is starting afresh, it may be worth reminding ourselves how it began.

In a discussion I had with Avril McCusker in the Spring of 2016 she said that she liked to have a project running alongside her work as a music teacher and thought there might be interest in a community choir.

We agreed that Avril would provide the musical input while I did the administrative work. I approached the church to ask if we could make use of the small hall for a non-denominational community choir.

After informing the Minister, Tom Pollock, of our plans he very helpfully suggested that this would fit with the objectives of Sherbrooke Initiative and this has proved invaluable from the start.

After some publicity the first gathering took place on 7th September 2016 with a dozen or so members.

Avril and I agreed to commit ourselves to the end of the year and, provisionally, to the end of March 2017. Our numbers slowly increased.

Over the following summer Avril felt, for personal reasons, that she could not continue. Claire Bauld took over the musical elements and as 2017/2018 progressed our numbers rose slowly and with an expanding repertoire, the administration also grew. Brian Lockhart joined me in meeting this challenge through to the end of that period.

As my eyesight deteriorated, I could no longer read musical scores and Brian kindly agreed to take over all of the administration. From Autumn 2018 Brian's enthusiasm for the project saw the numbers continue to increase and by the time the Coronavirus arrived the number of those attending was consistently around 40 or more.

THE NAME

Avril thought that, since choirs generally meet in the evening, there might be an opportunity to attract members who would prefer morning meetings. After several exchanges of ideas, we wanted to follow on from 'The Dawn Chorus'. We felt 'The Morning Chorus' seemed a little bland so we opted for 'The a.m. Chorus'. When Avril gave this information to her son, Aiden, he immediately pointed out that these were Avril's initials. This was complete serendipity on our part!

Alan R Irons

Problems! Problems!

As a precursor to reading this little article, I should tell you that my friends and relations will tell you I am not known for the more serious side of my nature, so prior to reading the following, might I suggest you find yourself a comfy chair with a cup of tea, or coffee, or cocoa to hand, and a pleasant view out of the window on a nice day!!

Everyone, no matter who, has problems!! I have problems; you have problems; Governments around the world have problems; even Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth has problems!!

However, it is important that we try to put these problems into perspective, and stop feeling sorry for ourselves. Just think about that for a moment, if you will. Most of the people who are reading this church magazine are not, I think, homeless; most of the people who are reading this church magazine are not, I think, friendless; most of the people who are reading this church magazine are not, I think, in need of cash to pay their bills; most of the people who are reading this church magazine are not, I think, hungry or thirsty; most of the people who are reading this church magazine are not, I think, refugees from a totally different country.....

So, while we might all have problems, can we pop them aside for a moment, and think of some desperate people through the world who really do have problems! In recent months, there has been the Covid pandemic, which has affected us all in different ways - having to self-isolate, to constantly test ourselves, to cope with the worry, and in some cases actual hospitalisation. Many countries still had drought and/or starvation; flooding; homelessness; elderly people who have been very very lonely; many countries continued to have frustration as people were desperate to make things better for their children - education, love, time to laugh, time to cry, time to heal, time to teach, time just to be together.

What can we do about this? Of course we all know we can take all these problems, both our own, and those of other people, to the Lord God above.....but even the Lord God above has problems!

When He created this wonderful world of ours as we know, He divided land from sea, the earth from the sky, day from night, love from hate. A simple smile can go a long way to saying "Hello! How are you to-day? Is there any way in which I can make your life better?" And the answers to these questions can be complex - oh yes, very complex! - but sometimes simply a hand on another's shoulder put there in compassion will ease their burden; a hand put into pocket or purse to give a beggar a few coins - *WHETHER WE BELIEVE THEY ARE TRUE BEGGARS OR NOT!* - can help; a smile rather than a frown; time taken to have a wee blether with another rather than being too busy to share a burden.

A wonderful word is "compassion" - and perhaps we could look at this in more detail. The Oxford English Dictionary has this meaning for the word - **"The feeling or emotion, when a person is moved by the suffering or distress of another, and by the desire to relieve it; pity that inclines one to share or to succour"** - so how can our compassion help others within our own circle, and even people in other parts of the world whom we will never meet, but we would still like to help. Well, let's give ourselves a wee working schedule we might follow:-

C - Cheerfulness - don't be constantly complaining about the little things which annoy us

O - Offer - offer to help by giving of our time, our talent, our friendship

M - Money - of course financial resources can do a great deal to help by giving to the poorest people both here and abroad

P - Passion - continue to do what we can to help with all the passion we have, and not just a little bit at a time

A - Answers - work in our minds to realise what might help make things better for those who worry a lot, for example, about where their next meal is coming from

S - Succour - succour to those in need, whether it be helping a blind person to safely cross a road, or by giving them the loaf of bread that you have just bought in the local supermarket

S - Safety - keep the needy safe, whether it be keeping homeless folk off the streets at night; looking out for their children; keeping public places clean and germ free

I - Importance - let all around know that in some way or another, they are important to us and that we desperately want to help, even in tiny little ways

O - Olive Branch - tender the olive branch which nowadays is a symbol of peace, to sort out our differences; remember the first time we read of the olive branch in the Bible was when Noah sent out the dove which returned with an olive branch in its beak, showing that God had forgiven the people of the world

N - Nurture - nurture what is good in ourselves, and cast out what is bad; help children to grow up in the knowledge that we care about them and what they can do to keep our world safe for future generations!

WOW! - that is a lot to read and I apologise if I have depressed you! When I myself feel a little bit low, I simply plonk myself down at my piano and play some music.....whether it be well known by composers from the past, or simply little tunes which I make up as I go along, or I telephone a friend for a wee chat and a laugh or two, and I have to tell you that this works for me, and I am a much steadier person, able to get on with the chores of the day - yes, with compassion, but also with cheerfulness! I hope you can do something similar too!

Muriel



Our What'sApp Groups

If you use what's-app on your mobile phone you might like to know about our groups. We have two.

SMP Notice Board and SMP Connect. SMP stands for Sherbrooke Mossspark Parish

SMP Notice Board



This is a group where only the Administrators of the group post messages. No one else can share or reply to messages.

The administrators of this group are:

The Minister

The Session Clerk

Mags Cargey who posts on behalf of the administrators or a member of the congregation with an appropriate news item.

WhatsApp SMP Connect



This is a group where all members of the group can share messages and reply to messages which are helpful and informative for the members of the group.

To join the groups you must have what's-app on your smart phone. Then send your mobile number to Mags and she will add you to the group of your choice or both should you wish.

Mags Mobile: 07774684260 Email: mcargey@mac.com

Church Flowers Website Page

Brian Innes has kindly offered to take photographs of the flower arrangements displayed in our Sanctuary created by Hazel Hill and her team. The purpose of this page on our website is for people to see the lovely displays if they can't manage to church.



A Prayer for Lent

Lent is for loosening, isn't Lord?
For unburdening and for letting go?
It is hard for me to unravel
my white-knuckled panic of being out of control;
it mangles me and garbles others.
Loosen my grip on my fears,
that I may have hands free
to touch your humility
to feel my humanity
to grasp what is possible but just out of reach.
Loosen my grip on those grudges and grumblings that I so closely hold,
that I may risk becoming vulnerable
to the gift of forgiveness and of being forgiven
that changes lives, resurrects dreams, and breeds courage.
Loosen my grip on myself,
that I may find the freedom of a fool
who knows that
to risk faith is to see glory and to feel peace;
to reach out to another is to know myself to be held;
to laugh at myself is to be in on the joke of your grace that is unimaginable;
to dare to love is to see your face and to smell the wildflowers of your dreams.
Loosen my grip on my ways and my words,
on my fretfulness and image-driven anxieties
so that unleashed
into the depths of your deep silence and my own deep joy
I may find myself embraced by you
and joined afresh to your new life
in this wild and wondrous church and world
that you love so much.
In my unburdening and letting go
may I take pleasure
that you take pleasure in me.
And I am free.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this months magazine

