



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 6/9/20 - THANK YOU TEXTS

I attended the service today Sunday 6th September 2020, with my sons and Aunt. The planning by the session team at Sherbrooke Mossspark was absolutely brilliant! We felt safe, well informed and most of all grateful to be back in our place of worship! Thank you to Tom for today's service and to the team who have made it all happen! We have missed our time at Sherbrooke Mossspark!

Thank you

Jane, Marjorie, David and Tom Xx

Well done! Lovely seeing the church in action. John at the organ and Chris singing was wonderful and as you said Tom, your message is so right for today! Thanks for the reading too.

Today was a good day for all Chris was fab! Lovely hearing John "live"

What a day..... back at SMC!!! And what a joy to see so many friends again. Thank you to everyone who made the sanctuary a safe haven for us, to Tom and to all those who took part. It was wonderful to be there again. X ps what a beautiful singing voice Chris has and I told him so.

It was great being in the sanctuary this morning and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the Service. J

Dear Friends

This is the first parish magazine for quite some time now so we are glad to be getting back to you using this medium. The "News Sheets" were fun to produce during the crisis but nowhere near as good as the magazine. Hopefully, between the "News Sheets" and the website, you were all able to keep up with what was going on.

So what's new? Well the kirk managed the lockdown well in that, thanks to Mags, John Gormley and Janis we all managed to keep in touch socially and in worship. I suspect folk will never know just how much went on in the background and to those three stalwarts Marie and myself offer thanks on your behalf.

We're back! Yes, the Services are now live from the sanctuary with a congregation present and live music. During August we tried out the procedures directed by the Scottish Government and the Church Authorities just to make sure we could get it right for Sunday opening and we managed very well. We now need folk to come along. Hopefully you saw the very positive comments of those who were there on Sunday 6th. It was great to see old friends and enjoy chat out in the grounds after the Service. There are photographs on the website for you to see.

John Gormley did a brilliant job and everyone who was present were really thrilled to hear him play - you missed yourselves, honestly. He also did the bulk of the tech stuff to make recording a full Service (or as near a full Service as we can manage at present) possible.

What do we learn from this? We are not alone. Never before has the Church had to deal with closure for this length of time (not even during war in the last century) yet despite the closure many churches will re-open with new ways of working to enable them to share the gospel. We discovered what other churches were doing as they tried to keep the gospel story alive in the fearful darkness of the first few months of this crisis and we learned from it. The Word of God will not be constrained the palmists and Isaiah informed us and this has been the living proof of that teaching. Praise be to God.

Tom

WORSHIP AT SHERBROOKE MOSSPARK

Sundays are going to be very different for a while: no singing (except for a soloist behind a Perspex screen); no Young Church talk - these are remaining online for the time being on the church website under the Young Church page as "Tom's Tales from the Bible". They will relate to our Readings for each Sunday and are recorded (on the whole) in my kitchen. Mags puts them up on the website at the latest on the Saturday before the Service - depending on me getting them to her on time and the technology working for me.

We will print the Readings and the words of the hymns on an Order of Service as we are not allowed to leave out hymnbooks or bibles. You take the Order of Service away with you when you leave or drop it on the bin on the way out. You just follow the hymn as it is sung for us. The choir will contribute a recorded anthem and Kyrie each week through even more new kit.

The chairs are socially distanced; hand sanitisers are everywhere; we follow a one-way system of entering and leaving the building; discourage folk from touching surfaces, door-handles etc and the guidance notes and Government guidelines are pinned on the walls as you enter or leave the building.

On our first week Robert (Baird) with the able assistance of his dad, big Robert, worked the technology John set up and it is hoped that shortly we will have other volunteers to take turns of operating the system. It's not quite as dramatic as making a movie but the person who pushes the buttons on the mixer control, controls what you see: real power. Please speak to John or Tom if interested.

Finally, a big thank you to the very kind member of the kirk who generously gave us a gift of £2000 to enable us to buy all this technology that will make it possible to live stream and record the Services. A big thank you also to the kind member who gifted the Fenton speakers to enable the choir to contribute their recorded pieces as if they were actually in the chancel of the church. We are very fortunate to have such kind generous members.

Watching the Service on You Tube or the church website is great, and thank you for doing so but nothing beats the live experience.

It looks increasingly unlikely we will be holding the traditional Services we normally do in the coming months, but keep looking, we will do something to mark the major moments in the kirk's year.

CHURCH NEWS

We would want to record a legacy left to the kirk by the late Ian Mason. Many of you will remember Ian carrying in food virtually every week for the food bank. What many didn't know was he often did likewise on a Thursday at the mid-week Service. Well Ian has kindly left us a legacy for the work of the church. He was a decent good man and even now we are still grateful to him for his goodness.

As mentioned elsewhere we owe a debt of gratitude to the member of the kirk who has made possible all the new kit that allows us to record whole Services properly without phones, bluetac and music stands. This donation will make spreading the gospel so much easier and more effective. It also means we will be able to stream Services live in future. What a gift for evangelism!

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to both Jack and Anne Steele and Andrew and Barbara Normand - both became grandparents again during the lockdown period. Lovely news in terrible times.

Ian and Nan Russell celebrated 70 yrs of married life. Isn't that fantastic?

Scott and Karina Manson celebrated the birth of Phoebe, a little sister to Andrew and Georgia

May McDonald in Mossark celebrated her 90th. birthday

Alice (Abbott) was accepted on to the BA Course in Modern Ballet at the Royal Conservatoire. Great News

Faith (Borland) will be returning to Cambridge University

During the lockdown we heard the news of the deaths of:

Charlie Neill, father-in-law of Julie and grandfather of Heather Neill;

Cynthia Bookless, a long-standing member of the kirk;

Joan Moody another great and faithful member;

Eben Tainsh, father-in-law of Anne Tainsh. Eben attended many church events and it was wonderful to see him around the place;

Betty Grant, who died in June. Betty was a much loved and respected member of our kirk.

During lockdown we introduced a page on the website "Remember me" that we might include a brief tribute to those who died in our membership. We would intend to continue this new tradition.

POLLOKSHIELDS CHURCHES TOGETHER

There is a new website for the PCT and the intention is to keep it up to date. The old one was inaccessible and out of date by years. If you have any news you want to share within the churches in the district just let Janis, in the office, know and she will ensure it gets on to the PCT website.

FREEWILL OFFERING ENVELOPES

Freewill Offering Envelopes

A big thank you to all the folk who give using the Weekly Freewill Offering envelopes and who have sent in their envelopes for the upkeep of the kirk and the ministry of the Church of Scotland: it is greatly appreciated.

UP DATE FROM MARIE - SESSION CLERK

Like many of you I learned new skills during lockdown. Not, I'm afraid to say, a new language or musical skill, but I have become reasonably good at Zoom. If you haven't used Zoom it's a virtual meeting room, where you can have conversations and see people over the internet. We held a Kirk Session meeting using Zoom last month. There were over 20 participants and we managed to have a good discussion on the reopening of the church for Sunday worship. It was important to have the Session's view on the reopening as it was a big step for us. The meeting gave us an opportunity to discuss the Church of Scotland guidance, the government's advice and our own risk assessment. As we had our first Sunday service on 6 September you can guess the Session approved! Whilst our service was not exactly the same as pre-covid days, it was wonderful being together (even at 2 metres distance), feeling part of the SMP "family" again, and enjoying our wonderful church building. We also have a service on Thursday morning at 10.30, another opportunity to be together. If you couldn't make the Sunday service, but have access to our website, you can still watch the service. This was our first time of recording an entire service live, and because of one of our member's generosity, we now have a modern and effective recording system. We will learn over time how to improve the recording and allow you watch in "real-time". Hopefully many of you will have experience of watching the service on-line. We owe a huge debt of thanks to Tom, John, the choir, all readers, those who said (and wrote) prayers, Janis and Mags, without whom we would not have been able to worship in the amazing way we did over the summer. I am sure, like me, you feel very proud of how our church community has come through the pandemic so far, and I have no doubt, whatever is thrown our way, we will continue to worship and communicate together in whatever way we can! - Marie

ROWERDENNAN REVISITED - AILEEN BINGHAM

It was the summer of 1945 - I had just left school. I was 17. The war was over, the sun was shining and my sister [19] and I were ready for an adventure.

After some discussion we decided we would like to go on a cycling holiday, cycling was not new to us - we cycled everywhere in the grim war years. It was our means of freedom. But this was different; we had Victorian parents, both born in the 1880s, so to get permission for such a venture would not be easy. It was to our great surprise and much relief that permission was given and with their blessing.

So we set off on a lovely late summers day, our baskets packed with essentials; heading over the Stockiemuir Road to Drymen. Living on the North side of the city we knew the road well, beyond Drymen lay the unknown.

We had not gone very far before we had a puncture . Having done our homework well it was soon repaired , albeit with the help from a passing cyclist! With some satisfaction we set off again. On going down a steep hill my front basket tipped over and the contents rolled down to the bottom of the road. My memory is of oranges and others but mainly a toilet roll which reached the very bottom of the hill. Recovery was long and embarrassing but we got on our way again ensuring that the basket was securely tied. Eventually we arrived at the youth hostel at Rowerdennan - a very new experience for us - used to some degree of comfort and orderliness in our surroundings this was strange indeed. It took us some time to take it all in and to adjust to a different way of living. People were very kind and we learned a lot from it. It was basic but it worked.

The following day we set off for Crianlarich - an uneventful day however with a growing degree of confidence in hostel living.

Day 3 was cold, wet and miserable. Which has since left me with a permanent memory of gloomy Glencoe. Added to that the Hostel was full so courage in both hands we approached the door of the Glencoe Hotel. The doors opened, they took one look at us soaked and very bedraggled and sad they had no vacancies!

We had no option so we cycled to Ballahulish and stopped at the first B&B we came to. There we spent a blissful night with all home comforts. In the morning, all our clothes had been dried and we sat down to the best full Scottish breakfast you could imagine.

Next day the sun shone again and we cycled to Fort Augustus. It was a beautiful place. The hostel was a lovely old wooden building, we had it all to ourselves. It was so good we stayed for 2, or was it 3 days. There was plenty to see, some beautiful old buildings and of course the Caledonian Canal with Telford's masterpiece - the locks. We got friendly with the lock master and he gave us the opportunity of helping him open and shut the gates - what excitement!

Next day we were to reach our goal - Inverness. Being Doonhamers [a person from Dumfries] or more currently Gallovidians [a person from Galloway] the far north was totally unknown to us and we eagerly approached the great City. Going in we could feel a strange aura about the place - we had forgotten it was the Sabbath. It was dead - not a person to be seen. Not a shop open - we felt guilty and out of place. For the first and only we cheated and took the train to Kingussie. There we got a nice surprise. Our mother knowing we had little money had posted us a piece of salmon, cooked and wrapped in large green leaves; we dined in style for two further days.

My memory for the rest of the journey is poor. I can only think nothing unusual happened. We must have stayed in two more hostels. By that time we were used to hostel life so it did not impress us any more.

We arrived home tired but happy. No one was in, so we sat on the hard back door steps and counted our money. We had a penny left between us.

Years later I returned to the hostel at Rowardenan. It was late August 1997. I was part of a group walking the West Highland Way for Alzheimer's Scotland.

I was amazed at the change in the Hostel. It was spotlessly clean and shinning with all modern conveniences and comforts. I could have stayed there perfectly well but verging on 70 I had chosen to book into B&B's for the next five days. I was in the Hotel in Rowardenan with the leaders of the group.

Anxious not to be late I got up early the following morning. It must have been about 06:00 am I turned the television on. I learned that Princess Diana had been killed in a car crash in Paris. When I went down for breakfast I told the others the news. At first they did not believe me.

At this time of advancing modern technology and the present restrictions on our movement it is good to look back on the simple pleasures and the freedoms of the past.

Aileen Bingham

DESERT ISLAND DISCS

Name of Castaway: *Marjorie Walker*

Choice of Music:

1. Any Beethoven Symphony - Played by the R.S.N.O. Maybe I could take all nine in a box set
2. Any piece of Scottish Country Dance Music played by Bobby McLeod erstwhile of the Mishnish Hotel Tobermory
3. The 23rd Psalm [Tune: Crimond] brings back memories of our time in China many, many years ago.
4. Unaccompanied Psalm music from the far north west of Scotland early twentieth century - This may be difficult to arrange.
5. Durand Piano Waltz - The only piece I ever mastered on the piano.

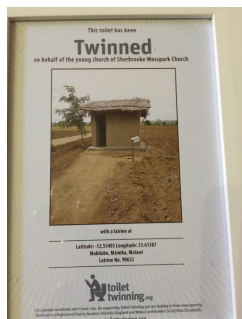
Choice of book and reason:

"Becoming" Michelle Obama's Autobiography. Records many aspects of her time in the White House.

Choice of luxury item and reason:

An inflatable mattress - Must have decent sleeping capability.

YOUNG CHURCH



When I was helping in the Young Church just before lockdown we had been talking with Young Church about giving. I said that I would gift a toilet so that Sherbrooke Mossspark Church was twinned with a toilet in Malawi. That was the country the children chose from a list. This lovely framed photo of the toilet we are twinned with arrived later in March after lockdown. One of the interesting facts the charity told us is that the family who are to receive the toilet have to build it themselves with the materials given. What the charity finds

is that where possible, if they build it themselves they are more likely to use it and look after it!!!!!! Brenda

BAKE ALONG WITH BAKE SOMEONE HAPPY! THURS 10/9/20



For our first session back we were joined by Samantha Whitelaw who runs a small cake business called Bake Someone Happy. Having grown up in the church, Samantha was known to many of us. She is now 22 years old and in her fourth year studying Primary Teaching at University of Strathclyde. Given the covid-19 social distancing regulations, we decided to hold the first meeting via the Zoom system; Mare Baird ably hosted the event placing us all on mute while Samantha took us through an online baking experience!

We made one of Samantha's favourite cakes - Orange and Passionfruit traybake. It is a lovely orange sponge, topped with a creamy mascarpone topping and fresh passionfruit! According to Samantha, it is very fresh and summery and always a crowd pleaser. Here are the ingredients which we were instructed to pull together ahead of the bake-along.

Samantha asked us to have the ingredients weighed out and ready to go to allow the bake along to run as smooth as possible. We also needed to pre-heat our ovens to 180C/ 160C fan/ Gas Mark 4. In addition, we were asked to have the following equipment to hand:

- 20x24 cake tin lined with baking paper
- Large mixing bowl
- Electric whisk (or you can use a wooden spoon and do it by hand)
- Sieve
- Wire cooling rack
- Optional: palette knife to spread the topping

For the sponge:

- 150g margarine or unsalted butter
(at room temperature so it is soft)
- 150g caster sugar
- 3 eggs
- 150g self-raising flour
- 1 orange, zested and juiced

For the topping:

- 250g mascarpone
- 1 tbsp icing sugar
- 4 tbsp fresh orange juice
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 passion fruits

A very entertaining evening and good results for many of our bakers! Many thanks to Samantha for being so patient with us - can't wait to tuck into the traybake!

Our next meeting (via zoom) will be with Dawn Clark Kerr who will be running a seasonal yoga evening for us on Thursday 8th October 2020 at 7.30pm.

Clare Williams, Jan Bostock and Marie Baird

HARVEST TIME AT SHERBROOKE MOSSPARK

I was so pleased to hear that we will have a Harvest Service this year. It's one of those " Big Events" for the Flower Committee. We have a lovely day, up to the knees in flowers and fruit and veg and Harvest gifts from the congregation. We laugh, eat too much of Anne's glorious home baking and gradually turn everything we've collected into beautiful arrangements to transform our church.

But what takes my breath away every year is the response of the congregation to the call for Harvest gifts. Bags, boxes, armfuls of much needed food just keep coming. These gifts are then taken to where they are needed, such as L. H. M, our local Food Bank and last year we kept up a Mossspark tradition of taking fruit and flowers to Hazelbank school.

And what is happening this year? I don't know. I suppose the need for us to help our neighbours is greater than ever this year. I can promise that the F. C. will rise to the challenge and make the church ready for Harvest. So let's watch this space and see if we can keep our sharing tradition alive.

SHERBROOKE MOSSPARK PARISH CHURCH GUILD

Delay in re start of Session 20/21

I am sorry to intimate that our start date of 9th September 2020 was delayed due to current Scottish Government Guidance and subsequent Church of Scotland restrictions. We were so looking forward to welcoming the return of familiar faces and some new ones.

It is my hope and that of the Committee we will maybe restart Wednesday 21st October 2020 @ 2pm, this is of course subject to Scottish Government and Church reviews.

Whenever we are able to get together a warm welcome will be waiting for everyone.

Take care and keep well

Grace Carless