

SHERBROOKE MOSSPARK PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE



Message from the Manse - What's on – News

Message from the Manse

I love big questions. I mean really big questions. The unanswerable kind. The kind that you can spend a lifetime pondering. Questions like, why do our noses run, but our feet smell?

Seriously though, one of my favourite questions to ponder is what do we not know now, that 500 hundred years from now our descendants will look back and wonder how we could have been so clueless. Around 500 years ago Copernicus postulated that the earth revolved around the sun and not the other way around. Before that everyone took it for granted that we were literally the centre of the universe and that the sun, stars and other planets reverentially revolved around us. It was a shock and a revelation that this was not the case. But to us it is common knowledge.

So I ask, what will our descendants know about the world that we do not? Maybe it will have to do with dark matter and the way our universe works. Maybe it will have to do with quantum physics and the nature of reality. But more likely than not it is something that you and I cannot even conceive yet, something so far beyond our knowledge. And in 500 years, they will be teaching it in primary school. It will be common knowledge.

At the time that John wrote the story of Jesus and his disciples, people had a very different picture of the world. They didn't know about other planets. They believed the sky was a giant dome. Basically we are surrounded by water. The waters below were called the inferior waters. The waters above, kept out by the dome, are the superior waters. Above them the heavens and throne of God. Beneath the earth, sheol or the underworld. The earth itself rested on pillars. Silly as that all seems to us now, that was common knowledge for the ancient people of the world around them.

But the point is not to judge the world views against one another and for us to look down on those silly ancient people. Rather it is to be reminded that our own worldview is similarly incomplete.

And so it is that Jesus says, "Blessed are those who do not see and yet come to believe." That word "believe" is key. It meant something different for the disciples than it does for us. To believe for us, post Copernicus, post enlightenment people is an intellectual exercise. But for Thomas and the disciples it was a matter of the heart.

The language of “believing” has been part of Christianity from the first century onward. But it didn’t refer primarily to believing the right theological beliefs. It meant something like the English word “beloving.” To believe in God and Jesus was to love God and Jesus. Namely, it meant to commit oneself to a relationship of attentiveness and faithfulness. Even the two most frequently heard Christian creeds, the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed, reflect this understanding. They both begin with the Latin word *credo*, most commonly translated into English as “I believe.” But the Latin roots of *credo* mean “I give my heart to.”

I offer this today because I think it is important. Perhaps this nuance of language can help propel us forward on one of the big questions of our faith. I suspect like me you love the big questions.

But these questions of belief are just one way that you and I keep the doors of our faith locked for fear. The question that gets us out of the room is what vision are you living? What or who do you give your heart to?

May God bless you and yours, this Eastertide.

Adam

Pulpit Swaps & Joint Services

We are continuing to work with our friends from Ibrox Parish church I will be pulpit swapping with Tara on the following Sundays in 2024,
12 May, 9 June, 8 September, 13 October, 17 November, & 8 December.

The Sunday’s that we will hold joint worship with Ibrox fall in months where there are five Sundays in the month. We will worship together on the 5th Sunday of a month.

Sunday 30th June at Ibrox, 29th September at SMP and 29th December at Ibrox.

Fond Farwell to Ibrox Parish Church and the Reopening of their Church buildings



On Sunday 3rd March our friends at Ibrox Parish Church reopened their church buildings. We have enjoyed sharing worship with our neighbours at Ibrox Parish Church since 16th July last year.

As a mark of our continued friendship and recognition of the time we spent together, the illustration by Shona Heaney, used in the order of service depicting the joint congregations, was presented to the Rev Tara Porr Granados and Alison Cairns their Session Clerk. The Guse family had kindly organised the gift which was presented on Ibrox's first Sunday back in their church buildings.

We wish them well in their new suite of rooms and look forward to continued fellowship with them in the coming months as we continue on our journey towards linkage or union.

The Ibrox congregation presented us with a card of thanks at their last service with us on 25th February. The photos below are from their first service and wonderful post-service hospitality.



Women's Group Coffee morning – 24th February 2024

Our annual coffee morning was held in aid of Preshal Trust. This year we asked everyone to donate non-perishable food items which would be distributed by Preshal. We would like to thank everyone who attended and donated items. With the generous donations and the sale of home baking we were able to give lots of food as well as £1100 towards the continuing work of the Trust. Photographs of the day are shown below alongside a photograph of Alan Nicholson, CEO of Preshal, collecting the donated food items.



Founders' Day Service – Sunday 25th February

We were joined by our Scout Troop to celebrate Founders' Day, an important day in the scouting calendar and an opportunity to meet the youth organisation who meet regularly at our Church. Over 40 Cubs, Scouts and Explorers all contributed to the service with Adam testing their backwoodsmen skills involving a Christmas Tree! It was great to see so many of the youngsters including one of our Scouts, Artem Onufrienko, carrying the Ukrainian flag.



Easter Celebration

A huge thank you to the Flower Committee for the beautiful flower decorations that were in place for our Easter Day service. Being slightly lower in number this year, the committee were ably supported the Sherbrooke Yarn Stormers who helped especially with our lovely Easter tree. Please find some photographs below – a wonderful start to our Easter morning.



The tradition of distributing Easter gift bags for those who are unable to be with us on Easter day were kindly prepared by Una Heaney and Brian Innes. Twenty bags were distributed across the district. Many thanks to all those involved in visiting our congregation and delivering our Easter wishes.

Easter Breakfast

The tradition of holding our Easter Breakfast continued again this year with over 100 of our church community attending ahead of our Easter Day service. Jan Bostock and team arrived very early to start the feat of cooking bacon and sausages for over 100 people. Alongside this activity, rolls were buttered and flasks of tea and coffee prepared. The Choir traditionally arrive for their breakfast at 9am, closely followed by others from 9.30am onwards. A most enjoyable time was had by all those present – wonderful breakfast rolls and lovely fellowship on Easter morning.

After the Easter morning service, the traditional Easter Egg hunt commenced organised by Julian Guse. Lots of fun including the serious business of an equitable division of salvaged eggs!

We then returned to the large hall for coffee and easter cake. A tremendous sense of fellowship and joy shared by many of our congregation, visiting relatives and friends.

Thank you to everyone who made the event a success, including everyone involved on the Social Committee and coffee team. I will be stepping down from my role as Convener after 17 years' service and I'm leaving you in good hands with Jan Bostock kindly agreeing to take on this role.

Lorna McRobert & Jan Bostock
Convener of the Social Committee



Our young children with Adam and having fun with the Easter Egg hunt.

Church News

Communion

It has been some time since the last Communion, as the usual Maundy Thursday Communion service was held at Ibrox this year to mark the opening of their refurbished building. In order to allow the maximum number of people to attend, the next Communion at Sherbrooke Mossspark will be held on Sunday, 16th June 2024, and not 30th June as previously indicated.

We look forward to seeing you on 16 June. Garry Borland, Communion Elder.

Young Church - we need your help

We are looking for volunteers to join a team of people willing to assist with looking after our young church. We have a very small but committed number of children attending worship. Currently they rely on family members to take them out after the all-age address. If we were successful in recruiting a modest number of volunteers, then you would only need to volunteer three or four times a year. Materials will be provided, including a bible story and activity. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Adam.

Messy Church

Messy Church continues to be a very successful outreach for our church, held in the Mossspark Bowling Club on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. This is a super venue and we have a very enthusiastic team of roughly 9 church members helping to run it. Susan Graham is the leader, and with the help of Sheila and Graham Blount and others of the team, there is a lively Bible story, excellent craft and a superb meal. It starts at 4.50 pm and closes at 6.30 pm with very happy but tired families reluctant to go home. In April we had a team of 9, 8 Mums or Grannies and 11 children. It is wonderful to be part of Messy Church. You go home feeling on a high, tired but very happy. Brenda Duthie

Fund Raising – we need your support



The 100 Envelope challenge was launched on Sunday 10th March. It is a fundraiser aimed to raise £5000 towards building a disabled toilet in our Church Halls. In the crafted wooden church, found at the back of the Church, there were 100 envelopes marked 1 to 100 and the idea is for people to choose an envelope with the sum they wish to give and return it via the church collection bag before or on 17th May 2024. Inside each envelope is a letter of explanation and on the back of the letter is a Gift Aid Declaration if the donor is willing and able to complete, that will increase the value of their donation by

25%. To date over 30 envelopes have been completed and returned and we are over halfway to achieving the targeted amount which is fantastic! However, there are still over 60 envelopes remaining so there is plenty of opportunity for others to make a contribution before the project finishes at Pentecost. This is the first initiative by the new Fundraising Committee and your support and participation would be greatly appreciated. Thank you! Fund Raising Committee

Plant Sale

Saturday 11th May

We want this year's plant sale to be bigger and better than ever! Plants will be supplied from the nursery as usual, but the more home grown plants the better. Plants in the garden can be divided and potted up for the sale – don't put them on the compost heap! The same applies to house plants some of which are easily propagated. Please come along on Saturday 11th May to buy plants, have a coffee and delicious scones and generally enjoy our community event with the joyful promise of summer to come. Please contact Marjorie McGhie for further information.



What's on?

Kirk Session: our next Kirk Session will be held on Tuesday 7th May in the small hall at 7.30pm.

Stated Annual meeting: will be held on Sunday 2nd June – open to all, please come along to hear about the life and work of our Church.



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

14th May
11th June 2024
@ 12noon – 1.30pm

Back in September!

Messy Church: at Mossspark Bowling Club, 3rd Tuesday of each month at 4.50pm (21st May, 18th June)

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. Our next meetings are on Tuesday 7th May and 4th June, 1.30-3pm, in the small reception room. All you need are some knitting needles (size 4mm) and a ball of double knitting wool. We have a Christmas project on the go alongside some ideas for Harvest.



AM Chorus: 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.

Day trip to Cumbrae: Thursday 16th May, meet Largs Ferry Terminal at 10.45 for 11am Ferry. Contact Mags Cargey or Ranald Findlay for further details.

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 16th May, 7.30pm – Theatre Outing – Anything Goes at Eastwood Theatre
- Thursday 30th May, 7.00pm – Summer Social at Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice

Please contact Jan Bostock for further information on these events.

Guild: meet once a month in the Harvest Glasgow Hall on Wednesdays, 1.30pm for 2pm, on May 1st, May 29th and June 26th for a 'cuppa and catch up'. Fun time of fellowship, please come along, men and women welcome. Autumn session will recommence on 11th September.

Save the dates:

- Golf outing and social Saturday 24th August 2024 – 3pm - Hagg's Castle Golf Club
- Church Ceilidh Friday 20th September 2024, Sherbrooke Moss Park 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

As you can see we have a full diary of upcoming events with our sanctuary serving as a true community hub. Continued thanks to Anne McCaig our Halls & Sanctuary Booking Manager who, alongside our Church officer team of Rebekah Dillon and Shona Heaney, provide a warm welcome to all the groups who use our church buildings.

- Saturday 4th May: Violin and piano recital, 6.30pm
- Saturday 18th May: Glasgow Orchestral Society, 7.30pm
- Sunday 19th May: Glasgow Sinfonia, 7.30pm
- Saturday 25th May: Glasgow Chamber Orchestra, 7.30pm
- Friday 31st May: Lanarkshire Cecilian Orchestra, 7.30pm
- Saturday 1st June: Glasgow Youth Choir, 7pm
- Sunday 2nd June: Kirkintilloch Band, 3pm
- Wednesday 5th June: Glasgow Symphony Orchestra at 7.30pm
- Saturday 8th June: Alice's Summer Concert, 2pm
- Saturday 8th June: City of Glasgow Chorus, 7.30pm
- Sunday 9th June: Stewarton Winds, 7.30pm
- Saturday 15th June: Stewart Kelly Guitar Recital, 7.30pm