



SHERBROOKE MOSSPARK PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE

EASTER BREAKFAST - Sunday 17th April 2022



Thank you to all who made this such a joyous occasion.

We provided the ever-popular menu of juice, rolls with bacon, sausage, and/or Stornoway black pudding [Did anyone have a tripler?], tea and coffee.

A special thanks to Sheila Dillon, Robert Baird Sr, and Bobby Craig for their valued input in assisting the Social Committee.

Cake and creme eggs were available with tea and coffee after the service.

Easter Sunday would not be complete without Julian Guse organising the Egg Hunt for the young folk.

Congratulations to Marjorie McGhie for winning the Name the Easter Bunny competition. Her suggestion

of "Lettuce" was picked by Adam, who presented her with her prize.

It was lovely to see so many young families again. Unfortunately one family couldn't get a ferry back from Arran in time.

The Social Committee is grateful to all who supported this wonderful celebration of the Resurrection.

Lorna McRobert
Convener

Letter from our Minister

Dear All

Last year, the General Assembly made some tough decisions, including committing to reducing ministry numbers in Scotland from just over 1000 posts to 660 posts within the next five years. This resulted in the suspension of any movement of ministers from one charge to another after the 31st December 2021, until such a point that Presbyteries had agreed a plan of rationalization that would achieve this.

That put tremendous pressure on vacant congregations in 2021 to find a minister by the end of 2021, or have their right to call suspended until after the plan had been agreed. We as a congregation were lucky to have been able to meet that tight deadline, and retain the unrestricted right of call that had been granted.

However, the task and the challenge is still very real and we, as members of Glasgow Presbytery are part of that. At the last Kirk Session meeting I indicated that we had been asked to engage in conversations with local congregations to agree in principle a cluster of churches who might be able to work together under the new plan. For us that meant engaging with our immediate neighbours.

The challenge that the General Assembly has presented to us is significant, and has radically changed how congregations look to working together. The urgency that has been laid before us is quite simply this, no minister can move from one charge to another until we have all agreed the principles of working with our neighbours, and we should remind ourselves that had we not been so fortunate in being able to call quickly, we would be left in that time of waiting where the future is neither certain, nor can there be any chance of progressing a vacancy. Furthermore, the model of one minister in one parish is no longer a viable option. In our area in the south side of Glasgow we have been asked to reduce the number of ministry posts from 28 to 13.5 within the next five years.

The urgency of the task means that the principles of clustering together have had to be carried out quickly, indeed, in about 45 days from the first time we were asked to look to our neighbours to today. Fortunately though, the real work of working closer together will be carried out at a more steady pace over the next five years.

We don't necessarily know what the future holds, but I do know that we can do this. There is a very famous picture of the General assembly of 1929 which was actually held in Leith bus garage because the meeting was so big. It would be very easy to think that size meant success, but it actually disguised a bigger problem. The church had split in 1843 and the number of churches doubled. The Church decided to reunite in 1929, and since then we have had to deal with a surplus, and we all know places in Scotland where Church of Scotland congregations sit yards from one another. The congregations of

Sherbrooke St Gilbert's and Mossspark approached this with openness, generosity and grace, and Sherbrooke Mossspark is all the better for it. The future will see us working more closely with our neighbours to see what we can achieve together, for the vision has to be a shared one.

This is not an easy task, but I hold fast to the words of Hebrews 11 - "Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." I also believe that there is a great deal of possibility and creativity in daring to have a vision for this little corner of our city that will speak loudly of the love of God in both word and action.

With every blessing

Adam

Christian Aid Week update:

Hello everyone.

I have had a number of offers for the craft stall on Sunday 22nd May. These include cards, knitting, books, flower arrangements, vases, chutney, jars and beeswax wraps.

Most items will be for a donation. Please remember to bring cash.

Crafters: could you please bring items for the stall on either Sunday 15th May or before the service on Sunday 22nd May. Thank you for your kind donations.

Envelopes will be distributed on Sunday 15th May and collected in the following two weeks.

Donation for tea and coffee on both Sundays will go to Christian Aid.

Thanks

Ruth

THANK YOU

O me miserum

Mondays now are filled with gloom

No more questions from Anne's quiz

Which had our grey matter in a tiz

100 weeks was quite a feat

If you ever feel like it , please repeat.

Anne. A most sincere thank you for your dedication over 100 weeks to keep our brains active during the various Covid lockdowns , etc. It has been very much appreciated.

Thank you

Margaret

Update from the Session Clerk - May 2022

The life of the church continues to return back towards 'normal' and this was very evident at our Easter morning service. After a three-year break, it was a delight to be served an early morning breakfast by the Social Committee - it was like we had never been away! Lots of chat, smiling faces and enjoyment of the fellowship which we have all missed. It was super to see so many of our young families returning on a morning when we admitted a new church member to our fellowship alongside their family baptism. It was truly heart-warming to see so many of the children enjoying the easter egg hunt after the service too. In preparation for having more children in church, the Women's Group had prepared 'play bags' for the children which was an initiative suggested to the Group by Adam earlier in the year. If anyone has any Hot Wheels cars or Playmobil figures that they no longer need we would welcome them, as we continue to replenish the bags over the coming months.

Building on the input from the Kirk Session, the newly formed Organist appointment committee has now met, an advertisement placed and a good level of response from several applications. The interviews are being held in May and we look forward to providing an update on our new Choir Director and Organist as soon as possible.

The Property and Finance team continues its ongoing work. The latest project has been to complete a Glasgow Presbytery Audit on our church properties; thanks must go to our Property Committee as this was an extensive exercise covering our buildings' usage as well as the current condition of Sanctuary and Halls.

I attended a Presbytery Planning meeting in late March with Adam Dillon and Ruth Sills; the number of ministers across the Church of Scotland will be reducing over the next five years and we have been asked to consider the options for a cluster of congregations that we might be able to work with for the Presbytery planning process. Fruitful discussions were had at the March conference with neighbouring churches and further meetings are being held this week. A challenging phase for the church and we will keep you posted on further developments.

And finally, thanks must go to those who were involved in the Ukraine Fund Raising event held on Friday 29th April in our Sanctuary. Through Andy Hadden's connection, the Bearsden Fiddlers had kindly agreed to hold a fund-raising event in aid of DEC (Disaster Emergency Committee) - Ukraine Refugee Crisis. It was wonderful to experience the Sanctuary full of music with over £1000 raised through the event.

So, what's next - the Plant Sale on Saturday 14th May and Pentecost celebrations over the Jubilee weekend - should be fun and look forward to seeing many of you at these events. On the home front, COVID has struck for a second time (but with a much lighter touch this time around) but we have just had a lovely short break in Alicante after the Easter Weekend.

With kind regards - Clare

 **MESSY CHURCH**

As I write , I think back to Easter Sunday and in my mind's eye, I can see so many of you there. How wonderful it was! A truly super day. Thank you so much for coming!

John and I have enjoyed honing our video making skills and as you will have seen in our last Easter video we were even doing an 'outside broadcast'!!!

We feel that life is beginning to get back to a new normal now as we learn to live with Covid. The children will be used to school again and parents may be back at their work place. What a strange two plus years it has been!

This month's video is about the story which occurs soon after God used Moses to bring his people out of slavery in Egypt. The people were facing an unknown future, full of promise, hope and expectation, yet also of uncertainty and unfamiliarity. A bit like us all just now. The world news is alarming but we have plans for tomorrow which can be exciting or restful, busy or chilling out.

God helped his people and Moses by sending a pillar of cloud to protect them by day and a pillar of fire to light their way at night so they could keep moving forward. God is with us in our darkest places, but he does not intend for us to stay there, he leads us out to the places he has planned for us. He wants us to move forward.

...and that is what we are doing!

This past Sunday we met with Adam, Susan Graham, the church Outreach Worker, and Ruth Sills who is in charge of the Outreach Committee.

We need to be bold . When Sherbrooke St Gilbert's merged with Mossspark Parish Church, their loyal core of members moved over to join us. They have been such an asset to us. But now Mossspark doesn't have a centre for worship so after a lot of thought we are going to move Messy Church over to Mossspark Bowling Club and, with lots of prayer, open in September.

Another exciting bit of news is that Susan Graham is going to lead our new Messy Church while John and I will continue to support her and the team.

We will keep in touch and let you know how things are going but in the meantime please pray that God is with us , in our planning, as we go forward in faith.

Brenda and John



Bearsden Fiddlers Concert for Ukraine, Friday 29th April 2022.

Driving to a 'Bearsden Fiddlers' practice, listening to the news about the Russian invasion of Ukraine, I wondered if something could be done to help the many refugees from Ukraine. Then the thought occurred - we used to play fund raising concerts before Covid, so why not resume this now that Covid may be easing?

Prior to Covid we met weekly for practice, but switched to Zoom sessions from lockdown

onwards. This went surprisingly well, and instead of about 35 players each week we had over 50 participating. Zoom enabled players from far distances to easily take part. We had people from various areas of Scotland, England, and Wales, along with people from much further away, including Canada, USA, Switzerland, and New Zealand. Some of them must have been keen, getting up at all hours in their local time to join us in our evening! Despite recently returning to 'live' practices, we also continue with the Zooms. Clearly, as an 'international group' could we do something for the Ukrainians?

The idea of a fund-raising concert was put to our conductor, Allan McDougal, who asked those 'Fiddlers' present if they were interested. This would be a first live event for over two years! It was great to see an encouraging response from our players. The possibility of Sherbrooke Mossspark was suggested as a venue and when our minister, Adam Dillon was approached, he readily agreed to the idea. The church was willing to take this on, and quickly arranged all that was required.

The members that were approached for assistance were keen to help and I am grateful to all those who contributed to making the event a success. Clare Williams pointed me in the direction of Anne McCaig, our hall convenor, who did a great job; she dealt with all the administrative matters, including creating and distributing appropriate posters, making sure we had everything required on stage, and ensuring the 'ticket and donations office' at the door was staffed. Lorna McRobert organised the 'social team' which provided refreshments and home baking at the interval, fully appreciated by all attending. Cameron, as always, put in a lot of effort to sort out the 'backstage' rooms, the seating on the stage, and provide the various extras that were required.

The concert went well, so I am told, as it is difficult to tell when you are playing on stage. A broad range of pieces was played, including traditional Scottish, Irish, and even Ukrainian tunes. The leader, Charlie McPherson, has won several competitions at various Scottish Fiddlers Rallies for his compositions and some of his pieces were played and well received. The items played by small groups were well appreciated, and included: - Satunum McElroy singing 'Our Ain Hame'; our pianist Adrian Finnerty, who enjoyed

playing our Boston Steinway piano, performing a medley of tunes from film music; and flautist Caroline Le Good accompanied by Allan McDougall on guitar playing the gentle slow air 'Crucan na Bpaiste'. The story of 'Schindler's List' struck a chord with the situation in Ukraine and I played this tune accompanied by our pianist.

Discussion and feedback from the audience was positive, indicating the evening was enjoyed by all.

Fiddlers were delighted to be giving a live performance again, and their enthusiasm showed. They commented very favourably on the acoustics and enjoyed the beautiful setting of the church.

I am also grateful to John Duthie, the treasurer of Sherbrooke Initiative, for sorting out the banking arrangements, and am pleased to report that the sum of £1260 was sent to DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, a very worthwhile cause at this time.

Well done to all, - a great effort from 'Bearsden Fiddlers' and Sherbrooke Mossspark Parish Church.

Good fun, - and perhaps we now need to reflect how refugees can be supported in other ways.

Andy Hadden.

Our Community Outreach Worker

Update from Susan Graham

It has been good working in the area and getting to know people. If I have not met, you yet please come and say hello. During the lockdown I spent a lot of time doing a community map and familiarising myself with the area. As the lock down restrictions started to lift there was more things I could do in the area, and this has been good. I have been going into Mossspark Primary once a week and going into the classes to talk to the children. This is definitely the highlight of my week. The children have been brilliant, so well behaved and listening so well. I have been telling the Easter story and the questions I have been asked are amazing. Like why are there holes in Jesus hands? What did the other men on the crosses do? What is a bible? Is the tomb still there today? One wee boy in primary one asked very earnestly "where did Jesus get his shirt?" To that question I had to answer, "er I don't know." One wee girl then said, "his mummy bought him it." What a brilliant answer!

Hopefully soon there will be a messy church starting up in Mossspark. It would be wonderful if some of the children from the school could come to messy church and bring their parents or carers. If you know of any opportunities in the Mossspark area I could be involved in, please let me know. If you are interested in volunteering with messy church please also let me know.

Susan

Sherbrooke Mossspark Women's Group 2021-22

We were delighted to be able to return to meeting in person for the 2021-22 session, after doing the whole of the 2020-21 session on Zoom.

We started the session in September with a meal at Ollie's and will finish with our Summer Social at House for an Art Lover on Wednesday 1st June (more details of this below).

In our meetings this year we have been joined by both our Community Outreach Worker, Susan Graham, and our Minister, Adam Dillon. These evenings helped us to get to know them as they become part of Sherbrooke Mossspark, and to discover how we can work together to support them in their roles. We also had a recipe sharing night, from which we produced a leaflet of recipes which contributed to fundraising at our coffee morning. We were delighted to have Hilary Harris as our guest chef for our cookery night in January. Although we had to hold this meeting on Zoom and sadly didn't get to taste the food, we enjoyed watching Hilary cook and her suggestions for easy last-minute puddings were inspiring.

In February we held our Coffee Morning. We were delighted to raise over £1000 for Starter Packs, as well as filling a van with donations of items to help the charity to set people up in new homes and to sell in their charity shops.

At the start of May we went to Eastwood Theatre for a performance of Calendar Girls by Runway Theatre Company, who have entertained us at Sherbrooke Mossspark on previous occasions. It was a wonderful production with an impressively high standard of performances by all the cast. We hope to return next year for their next spring musical.

As mentioned above, we are returning to House for an Art Lover for our Summer Social on Wednesday 1st June at 7:00pm. Tickets are £35 for the evening. If you have not already booked your place and would like to come along, please contact Jan Bostock at jan.bostock@hotmail.co.uk.

We are already planning our programme for 2022-23. If you are not on our email distribution list and would like to receive details of the meetings, please email Jan.

Jan Bostock & Clare Williams

**📌 Pop up Craft Corner Tuesday 17th May 2:00pm - 4:00pm
in the Reception Room
Celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and knit a corgi!**

The Women's Institute are running an initiative to knit Corgis for the Queen's jubilee. The WI are encouraging knitters to have a go at making Winnie the corgi from their special designed knitting pattern. The pattern has been designed to suit knitters of all levels, including beginners. With sustainability in mind knitters are encouraged to use up their fabric/yarn stashes and make Winnie in whichever colour yarn is available. The pattern has also been designed to suit knitters who are at a relative beginner level and should be easy to follow. The WI suggest hiding knitted corgis in the local community for others to find. Using this theme, we plan to have a Corgi hunt in the church on Pentecost for the young families to enjoy.



Clare Williams has already knitted a Winnie and she had this to say:-

"As my latest Covid project (April 2022) I had a go at knitting Winnie - I am not an experienced knitter, having last knitted whilst in the Brownies! With the aid of YouTube explanations I managed to complete the pattern as you will see from the photograph.

If you'd like to join in this initiative, please come along to the Reception Room on Tuesday 17th May, 2-4pm - please bring 4mm knitting needles (size 9) or you can try 3.5mm or 4.5mm and any coloured double knit weight yarn. I will be there to introduce Winnie and give advice if required."

The pattern for Winnie can be downloaded from our website page "Knit a Corgi" and a printed copy is available in the Large Hall. If you can't make it to the Pop-Up Craft Corner you can still have a go at knitting Winnie and bring your corgi on Pentecost Sunday.

Day Trip Thursday 5th May 2022 - Cumbrae



Share a car, take a bus, even, take a train
For many it will be a trip down memory lane.

Nothing will be booked it's all up to you
Chat with your friends, about what you would like to do.

It's about sharing friendship as you take a short trip
To somewhere different, on a wee ship!

Nine kent faces arrived on the Isle of Cumbrae. Some by car and some by train. With an open plan for the day, accompanied by our Cumbrae Fun Facts booklet [produced by Janis in the office] we all did what we wished to do. Some walked. Some hired a bike and cycled round the island. Others drove round in the car. However we all did one thing together and that was lunch. As we chatted we all agreed we were having fun and Day Trip Thursday was founded!

If you would like to suggest a day trip somewhere please contact Ranald Findlay

 **Day Trip to Bute****Thursday 9th June 2022**

Some of you will be aware that I spend much of my time at my house in Rothesay than I do in Pollokshields. I am keen therefore to be the sponsor for a day trip to Bute, another easily accessible island. Whilst Rothesay Castle has not reopened yet post Covid, there is of course Mount Stuart House for those that would wish a bit of culture. In Rothesay and environs itself there are some fine walks and several tempting cafes, to say nothing of Zavaroni's ice cream or fish and chips. A short bus trip away takes you to Ettrick Bay with views over to Arran, a fantastic beach to walk or even paddle in the sea. A first class lunch is available at the tearoom there.

The proposed date is Thursday 9th June, with the suggested ferry to get to the island being the 11.15 from Wemyss Bay. Travel to Wemyss Bay can either be by car - the station carpark is just £3 for the day - by train from Central departing 09.57, or you can even use your bus pass from Braehead on the 901/906 route leaving there at 09.40.

I plan to meet those joining us at Wemyss Bay from 10.45 onwards.

David Walker

 **To register for this day trip please contact Ranald Findlay.** **EDICT FOR ORDINATION AND ADMISSION OF ELDERS - 6/5/22**

Muriel Manning, a member of this congregation has been elected to be a ruling elder (and the Kirk Session has judged her to be qualified for that office and has sustained her election); Muriel Manning has accepted office as an elder: if anyone has any objections why Muriel Manning be admitted to office, they state their objection at the meeting of the Kirk Session in Sherbrooke Mossspark on 17th May 2022 at 7.30pm; if no relevant objection regarding life or doctrine is made and substantiated, the Kirk Session will proceed to the admission.


By order of the Kirk Session
Clare Williams Session Clerk


 **Coming Soon**

 **Plant Sale**
Saturday 14th May 2022 10-12am

 **Women's Group**
Pop up Craft Corner - Knit a Corgi
Tuesday 17th May 2022 2-4pm

 **Christian Aid Craft Sale Sunday 22nd May 2022**

 **Women's Group Summer Social**
House for an Art Lover
Wednesday 1st June 7:00pm 2022

 **Day Trip to Bute**
Thursday 9th June 2022

For full details of events please visit our website.

You can receive updates by joining our WhatsApp Notice Board.

To connect with others you can join our WhatsApp Group called SMP Connect. We also have a Facebook page

To join these groups please text Mags Cargey 07774684260

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this magazine