

DECEMBER MAGAZINE 2022



SHERBROOKE MOSSPARK PARISH CHURCH

Advent and Christmas at Sherbrooke Mosspark Parish Church

There are lots of plans now in place to prepare for Christmas during the Advent season, at our church as well as our 'cluster' church, Ibrox Parish Church:

Midweek Ecumenical Advent worship: we are holding various joint services with our local churches during Advent. Services will be held at 10:00am on the following dates:



Thursday 1st December St Leo's Catholic Church

Thursday 8th December Sherbrooke Mosspark Parish Church

Thursday 15th December Ibrox Parish Church

Thursday 22nd December St Leo's Catholic Church 1



Sunday 4th December: 25th anniversary of the reopening of the Sanctuary – please join us to celebrate this important milestone.



Thursday 8th December 7.30pm. Coffee & Carol evening, Ibrox Parish Church we have been warmly invited to a coffee and carol evening at Ibrox on Cost is £4 with tea, coffee, sandwiches and mince pies offered.



Sunday 11th December: Gift service followed by the Christmas lunch at the Sherbrooke Castle Hotel



Wednesday 21st December 7.30pm Carols by Candlelight



Saturday 24th December Watchnight: two services are being held on Christmas Eve. An earlier 7pm service at Ibrox Parish Church and our own service at 11.30pm



Sunday 25th December 10:30am Christmas day family service

Supporting charities at Christmas: the Kirk Session has agreed to support the local charities of Lodging House Mission, Preshal Trust and the City Mission through our retiring collections at Carols by Candlelight, Watchnight and Christmas Day services. In addition, we are seeking donations to the Lodging House Mission and Preshal Trust at our annual Gift Service on Sunday 11th December; please leave donations unwrapped. The two charities would welcome donations of any of the following items.

Lodging House Mission: Christmas appeal.

The unseasonably warm weather isn't going to last and inevitably those on the edge of society will feel the cold the most.

Each year, as part of the Christmas Gift service, this year on 11th December, we have a 'Shoebbox Appeal' for the users of the LHM.

Things that might go in the shoebox are:

- gloves
- scarves
- hats
- socks
- chocolate
- toiletries (toothbrushes and toothpaste).

There is an increasing proportion of female users of the LHM and whilst they require the same sort of things, warm clothes with a more feminine twist would be especially welcome.

The boxes don't need to be wrapped because this allows the workers at the LHM to distribute the gifts more appropriately but a big "Thank you" to everyone for their continued support for those in need in our immediate community.

From myself and everyone at the LHM, we wish you a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year,

Marco Gaudoin

Preshal Trust: Christmas appeal

Our focus this Christmas is to keep our clients warm. Any donations of socks for both men and women, warm clothing and pyjamas and blankets/throws to keep warm in the house would be most welcome.

We will be distributing gifts to families. Gift sets of toiletries for men and women as well as children's gifts for 8 years and older would be ideal.

Other donations of chocolate and easy to use 'warming food' and hand warmers would also be very useful at this worrying time.

Alan Nicholson and the team at Preshal very much appreciate the support provided by Sherbrooke Mossspark church throughout the year and send their best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year.

Nigel Williams

Dear friends

“Christmas is coming the church is glad to sing”

I love to hear here the singing of this Advent hymn with its upbeat tempo and a real sense of gladness and cheer for what is about to be a busy festive season. However the reality is that for many, Christmas is a particularly lonely time and it can also be a source of sadness for those who have been recently bereaved. This year, the economic climate will probably signal quite a difficult Christmas for many. We have been fortunate enough to have had more mild weather of late, but the rising cost of living will undoubtedly have its impact.

I want to share a story about a family who are very dear to me. John and Molly Harvey are a real inspiration to me. Their ministry over the years has always been an outreach to the poor the lonely and those in trouble for those who live in the shadows of community life.

In an article in Life and Work, in 2013, they described how they celebrated Christmas by inviting folks around to the house. They deliberately invited people for whom they know Christmas will be a difficult time. They then gather together for a time of conversation, a time of storytelling, and then they have this moment where they give out candles to every person in the room.

One candle will be lit which is then passed on to light the next candle with the words “thank you for being you.” It’s a very simple but an effective and a wonderful thing to do – to turn to your neighbour and be thankful for just being you.

I don’t need to tell you that there is much at Christmas that we simply don’t need. What we do need, is each other. And for those who are at the loneliest they need someone else to say “thank you for being you.”

I’m sure that the image of a candle being lit in a darkened room and then being passed from one person to another to another; lighting each and every candle the room will be a very powerful moment watching people move from darkness to light.

That is exactly what we do at Christmas time. Christ is the light that shines at the darkness and we celebrate that. But perhaps we could also try and be the light that shines on this Christmas that we can say to one another “thank you for being you” and that in our words and in our actions we might bring hope, healing, and light to those around us.

May I wish you all a very good Christmas and may I also say “thank you for being you.”

Your Minister and friend Adam.

Session Clerk Update

Our Remembrance Day service this year was one which I think will stay with us for a long time. It is always a poignant juncture in the year but being joined by such a strong



Ukrainian contingent added a new dimension for us all. Thanks to the kindness from the Cosgrove charity, we were able to arrange a coach to bring 49 Ukrainians who are currently being 'housed' in the cruise ship at Braehead to our Remembrance Day service. As usual we were joined by the 159th Scout Group and included in their ranks was a Ukrainian scout who helped to form the colour party with a Ukrainian flag stitched onto an old cub flagpole and looking resplendent as it came down the aisle. During the service Adam invited Lyolya Filimonova to address the congregation with a reflection on life in Ukraine and the challenges they face - it was an emotional moment and brought to life the adversity they are facing as a community. We are starting to build a strong fellowship with our new Ukrainian friends which is being enhanced through the Ukrainian coffee afternoons. Thank you to all those who have been involved in this important project for our church.

Following our recent Kirk Session, dates have now been set for the forthcoming Advent and Christmas season. We will be celebrating Communion this coming Sunday 27th November, the first Sunday of Advent. As covered elsewhere in the

magazine, a range of our own events as well as those being held with our Cluster church, Ibrox, have been arranged. Plans are in place to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the re-opening of the Sanctuary on Sunday 4th December. Our annual Gift Service and Church Christmas lunch are being held on Sunday 11th December. There is further information within this newsletter and on the website detailing how you can contribute to our donations of items for both the Lodging House Mission and the Preshal Trust at our Gift Service.

Ibrox parish church has invited us to their Carols and Coffee evening on Thursday 8th December and we will be sharing weekly midweek ecumenical services with them and St Leo's during Advent, including our Carols by Candlelight on Wednesday

21st December. For Watchnight, we have been invited to join Ibrox for their 7pm service and our own service will be held at the slightly earlier time of 11.30pm. The Kirk Session agreed that our retiring collections at the Carols by Candlelight, Watchnight and Christmas day services will be divided between the three charities of the Lodging House Mission, City Mission and the Preshal Trust.

Last week I had the delight (!) of presenting our records at the Annual Inspection by Glasgow Presbytery. The challenge was that records from 2019, 2020 as well as 2021 were requested – a transitional period for our church, not to mention all the zoom meetings held during the vacancy process! I am pleased to say that we got a ‘clean bill of health’ with Presbytery recognising the challenges we have all faced in terms of record keeping during the Covid period. Thank you to all those who helped me pull together all our records, in the tight timeframe we were provided with.

The Warm Welcome project started on 1st November. We are part of a group of other churches, the Gurdwara and the Clyde Community Hall offering a warm space and a simple meal Monday to Friday between November and February. Sherbrooke Mossspark is hosting each Monday’s event and I know the team was pleased to welcome the first guest last week; it will be a long haul and will take time to gain traction, but it is good to be working with our wider community to provide much needed support during the winter season. The Kirk Session recognise that we are asking so much of our congregation, with many of us ‘multi-tasking’ to support those less fortunate than ourselves.

On the family front, we’ve been away to Fife for a couple of weeks in October where we were joined by various friends and the whole family. We celebrated two birthdays and our wedding anniversary with a meal at the Kinneuchar Inn. Lots of golf (some good and some not so good!), beach walking, cycling and tennis enjoyed by us all – even our dog Harvey!

Clare

Soup and Chat,

We’re back! After a break of more than 2 years thanks to Covid we are meeting up again once a month in the small hall for lunch and lots of chatting. There is some increased ventilation to keep us all as safe as possible, but everything else is just the same- a choice of soup, warm bread, cheese and biscuits, grapes and tomatoes and a sweet treat with tea or coffee to finish. The cost is £4 for adults and free for children. 12-1.30pm on the second Tuesday (usually) of each month.

I’m very grateful to the enthusiastic team of Christine, Barbara, Una, Shona, Isobel and Janet who make sure everything is just right. Everyone is welcome and the more the merrier!

Our Christmas lunch is on Tuesday 13th December- we hope to see you there!

Grace.

The AM Chorus

The AM Chorus, with around 30 members, is once again meeting weekly on Wednesdays for an enjoyable hour of singing under the enthusiastic guidance of Grace ably accompanied on the piano by Muriel.

Since September we have been singing some old favourites and a selection of new songs. We are now joyfully rehearsing our Christmas repertoire in preparation for Carols by Candlelight. We will be singing two songs ourselves and are delighted to have been asked to join with the choir to sing two more. Our 'fun' songs will entertain people at the Mince Pies and Mulled Wine party after the service.

We are very happy that Grace has taken on the rôle of choirmaster and are hugely grateful to her for her unflinching patience and encouragement.

Marjorie McGhie

Harvest Thank You

On Sunday 9th October Sherbrooke Mossspark celebrated Harvest Thanksgiving. The sanctuary was beautifully decorated with seasonal flowers and the congregation were very generous with their donations. All the donations of food items were distributed to the Trussell trust Ibrox Foodbank and the Lodging House Mission.

In a new initiative, bags with small harvest themed gifts, and a handmade card with a personal message from Sherbrooke Mossspark were delivered after the service to some of the older members of the congregation who were unable to attend.

In the hall after the service, we had a fundraising event selling a variety of items. Many thanks to those who donated ,baking, gifts, plants, handcrafts and other items for the stall. A total of around £450 was raised from the stall and tea and coffee donations. Then money raised will be used for projects including our Coffee & Conversation afternoons for our Ukrainian friends and the Warm Welcome project.

Thank you for helping these two new projects and let's continue to pray that these new projects ' Flourish by the preaching of thy word' and our practical help of various talents into the future.

Brian Innes

Messy Church

Our Christmas party will be on Tuesday 29th November 4:50pm - 6:30pm at Mossspark Bowling Club 120 Mossspark Drive G52 1LJ. Everyone welcome. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

A big thank you to all the team from Susan

Sherbrooke Mosspark/Ibrox Cluster

As you will all remember, we had a good number of discussions during the summer with our nearest neighbours, Ibrox and Pollokshields, with a view to working more closely together. Whilst these discussions were incredibly positive, and it seemed that we had managed to agree a collective direction of travel for all three congregations. Regrettably, we learned that Pollokshields decided to withdraw from the process. I am sure that this would have been an incredibly difficult decision; I worked with both Sherbrooke and Pollokshields as a student, and I had hoped that a closer relationship would have allowed us all to work to further God's kingdom here in our local area.

From there, Sherbrooke Mosspark and Ibrox have ventured forward and a direction of travel was agreed which was submitted to and approved by the Presbytery of Glasgow. This has now been passed over to the appropriate task group in Edinburgh who will either approve or reject Glasgow's plan, and indeed they may make more detailed suggestions amongst different clusters, including our own. We await further updates on this before we proceed.

The eventual plan would be that Ibrox and Sherbrooke Mosspark enter into a union. However, there are a few more options in the toolbox since our last union, and we will take some time to consider what this union may look like. This may involve a pattern similar to the political model of devolved governments whereby overarching decisions are reached by a united Kirk Session, but a local team take responsibility for Ibrox, and vice versa. This will allow more collaborative work, but an ability to retain individual identity. Whatever the future looks like, it will definitely involve closer work between the two congregations. This will take time and energy, but will help contribute to a strong relationship for any future union, which is likely to be a good few years down the line.

The Kirk Session have agreed that we will host two united services in early January between Sherbrooke Mosspark and Ibrox. The first of these will be at Ibrox, and the second will be at Sherbrooke Mosspark. Unfortunately, I will be on leave, catching up with our Aussie bound daughter, so the Reverend Tara Granados, minister at Ibrox Parish Church, will conduct both services. Your support will be most appreciated.

Sunday 1st January - United service at Ibrox Parish Church 11am
Ibrox Parish Church is located at 67 Clifford Street G51 1QH
(There will be no service at Sherbrooke Mosspark on 1st January)

Sunday 8th January - United Service at Sherbrooke Mosspark 10.30am
(There will be no service at Ibrox on 8th January)

A good union and collaborative work only happens over a long and deliberate process. Lets take that time and effort to extend a welcome to Ibrox and share worship over the first two Sundays of the year.

Adam

An Evening with Hazel Hill and Christmas

Many thanks to Hazel Hill and her very experienced and able assistants, Sheila Smith and Christine Lockhart, who created a very enjoyable and productive pre-Christmas flower arranging session for our Women's Group.

With an initial background on Christmas flowers from Hazel Hill from both a general and Sherbrooke Mossspark perspective, Hazel took us through the steps on how to create both a Christmas basket and wreath. The more adventurous tackled the wreath projects whilst the majority went ahead with their endeavours with the Christmas



baskets. Hazel and her team had gathered a huge array of greenery, Christmas items (cones, baubles, ribbon) and flower accessories (wires, oasis, baskets, secateurs) to make our 'early stage' efforts look pretty respectable. We started using the assortment of greenery from the base level up and then were advised to 'fill in' with the Christmas items. We were all astonished at the creations we produced.

A lovely evening to start thinking about the forthcoming season with the usual amount of good chat and friendship.

Our next meeting will be held after Christmas on Thursday 12th January with Hilary Harris for a cooking evening. Our annual Coffee morning is being held on Saturday 25th February in aid of the Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice - more detail to in the New Year.

Jan Bostock and Clare Williams

The Guild Wednesday 30th November 1:30pm meeting in former Mossspark Church

An afternoon with Alastair McDonald celebrating St. Andrew's Day.

Tickets are £4 and include tea and shortbread. All are welcome and tickets available from Neil Buchanan.

Outreach, Community and Mission Committee

We have been involved in various initiatives of the past couple of months;

Messy Church

We held our first Messy Church on 13th September at Mossspark Bowling Club. All our volunteers worked well together despite being in a new setting to ensure the evening was a great success. We were joined by two mums with their children and a gran and her grandson who was later joined by his mum when she finished work. Great fun was had by all, and fabulous food was provided by Hazel and the fantastic kitchen team finished off with a lovely cake.

Our next session was on 25th October, three families returned from last time and a further seven new people, which was fantastic. Hazel's cooking was amazing as usual, and the children enjoyed the singing, craft and physical activity at the end of the evening. We are really delighted at the uptake so far and are hoping to continue to strengthen our presence in Mossspark.

The next Messy Church is going to be on Tuesday, 29th November and will have a Christmas theme. Sheila will present the Christmas story and the song and circle at the end, Susan the craft and Hazel and her team will be cooking for us.

Well done to our amazing volunteers!

Adopt a Station

On 2nd September, a few volunteers began our planting project at Corkerhill Station. This took us the best part of the day to complete, and despite running out of soil at one point we managed to plant some winter pansies, the colours looked amazing and really cheered the station up. A few train passengers chatted to us and told us we were doing a great job which spurred us on. I'm delighted to say that the pansies still look great and have had considerable watering lately! We shall look forward to seeing the bulbs we planted in all their glory in the spring.

Ukrainian Afternoon

The Ukrainian afternoons go from strength to strength and seem to be really valued. This is usually focused on some entertainment, for example, music, helping with conversational English and then some space for socialising together. The next meeting on 30th November is a St Andrew's day theme.

Eco Group

Graham, who used to chair COP 26 Group, was keen to see this continue despite the conclusion of the conference last year. He has suggested an Eco Group and will be supported in this endeavour by Brian Innes and Janet Lamb. Given the links with the Outreach, Mission and Community Committee it was felt that the group should report into the Kirk Session via this route and continue to collaborate on projects as appropriate.

Warm Welcome Project

Many of us have been busy in the preparation for the Warm Welcome Project which began on 1st November. We are part of a group of other churches, the Gurdwara and the Clyde Community Hall, to offer a warm space and a simple meal Monday to Friday between November and February. This involved recruiting volunteers to help each Monday, arranging safeguarding training for those taking part, organising the printing of leaflets and purchasing and cooking the food each week. Many thanks for the generous donation to the Project and to our dedicated volunteers.

Unfortunately, on our first day we didn't attract a single visitor, but this wasn't entirely unexpected due to our location and lack of public transport. We will continue for a few weeks more to offer more time for sharing the poster on social media and around local shops and community venues before reviewing the situation.

Ruth Sills



They, having heard the king, went their way; and behold, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, until it came and stood over where the young child was.

Thinking of others this Christmas

This year we have the return of our Christmas lunch which will be in the The Sherbrooke Castle Hotel on Sunday 11th December. I am thinking this event could be an opportunity where we can help our Ukrainian friends feel just a little bit more loved over Christmas by sponsoring a lunch ticket for them.

Many of you will know we meet every second Wednesday in the large hall and this Wednesday we are expecting over 30 people. It would be wonderful if we could personally invite them to attend by sponsoring their ticket. If you would like to do this. Please contact Lorna or Mags.

Mags Cargey

Tickets are £25. Refund is not available should you be unable to attend.

131st Rainbows, Brownies and Guides - Meets in former Mosspark Church

We have had a busy time at Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. We welcomed lots of new Rainbows at the beginning of the session and we now have a waiting list. Although we did have some new Brownies and Guides join us there are still places for anyone wishing to join us.



The Rainbows have been busy doing lots of Skills Builders and Unit Meeting Activities and a few are only a few activities away from gaining a Theme Badge.

The Brownies have also been gaining badges and enjoying lots of different activities.

The Rainbows and Brownies had a great time at Scotstoun Leisure Centre

on 12 November where they joined Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from across Glasgow at an event run by the Lawn Tennis Association. This was a great event. The girls took part in lots of tennis related activities and were given tennis rackets, awards and certificates.

The Rainbows and Brownies are all looking forward to a special Girlguiding UK showing of "Matilda the Musical" at the Quay. The cinema will only be open to members of Girlguiding UK and I'm sure they will all have a ball.

Some of our Guides have been lucky enough to secure places on a County International Trip in July to London and Paris (including a couple of days at Disneyland Paris). I have also been asked to be one of the Leaders on this trip and I am really looking forward to it. We are all busy fundraising for this.

I look forward to sharing more news with you throughout the year.

Jan Russell
Leader
131st Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



The Christmas Story – for Football Fans

Mary, was just a young girl, not a QUEEN OF THE SOUTH, when an Angel appeared in her home. She didn't live in a great big ASTON VILLA. Just a small home in Nazareth.

The Angel brought her news so surprising it might have struck others DUMB-ARTON 'Keep your WIG-ON, girl. You're going to give birth to a Son. He will be great, God's Saviour for the world.'

When the time came, Mary & Joseph had to travel away from home. They could find no where to stay so they PREST-ON from door to door. Each time receiving a red card. At last they found a place – it was a bit like an old BARN-SLEY.

There Jesus was born -and they laid him in a RANGERS. Sorry, Manger. Meanwhile out on the hill there was a motley CREWE. They earned their SPURS guarding their sheep from WOLVES. Suddenly Angels appeared on SKY (I mean in the Sky). We've some good NEWS-CASTLE for you. Today in the CITY of David a Saviour has been born.

Soon the angels filled the whole AYR UNITED with songs of gladness. When they left the Shepherds said. 'LEICESTER go and see what they are talking about'. When they found the bay their HEARTS were glad. Meanwhile somewhere in the far EAST (Fife). Wise men who were good at READING the stars saw a bright new star 'Let us follow wherever it LEEDS' they said. It took them right to Jerusalem to the Crystal PALACE of King Herod. 'WALSALL the fuss about?' He asked 'We have travelled For Far looking for a new King' they said King Herod wasn't too pleased – he tried to CELTrICK them and said he was on their CLYDE 'Tell me when you find him that I too may come and worship him' But as soon as they left he got his whole ARSENAL ready to kill every newborn boy.

The star led the wise men to the stable where they found both the baby and his MOTHERWELL They were filled with joy and presented their gifts of Gold, Frankincense and SAINT MYRRHIN. They were warned in a dream and travelled home by the SOUTHEND.

So what is the goal of Christmas? God has come to visit us at our home ground, so that we might be UNITED with God in his home. So let's give God's Son, Jesus, our three cheers.

For as much as I have tried, I cannot get my beloved Partick Thistle in, maybe next year!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this magazine.



