

FAMILY NEWS / MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE / WHAT'S ON

What a place! To the choir, Flower Committee, Social Committee, Am Chorus, helpers for the nativity play and the Drama Group a big thank you. You have all contributed to a super month in this kirk when the place was buzzing with happiness and excitement. December was great with everything going on. It was brilliant as we really celebrated the life of the kirk in so many ways. Thank you, to you all who made it possible. Thanks especially to Cameron, Janis and Shona for all the extra work they put in.

### **Glove Appeal**

A big thanks to all of you who contributed to the gloves appeal, in conjunction with the "Glovers of Glasgow", Tom made on behalf of the LHM. On the 9<sup>th</sup>. December we presented 378 pairs of gloves but subsequently added another 25 pairs, numerous, hats, scarves and even jackets. A great response considering many of you had also supported our annual appeal for Christmas gifts for the LHM and the Preschal Trust. Both appeals resulted in fabulous results, thank you.

## Message from the Minister

A new decade: what does it mean? The last decade was marked by austerity; the rise of populism; civil unrest in many parts of the world; an increase in rough-sleeping on our streets; ever decreasing membership of the Church of Scotland and much more that would depress the normal person. Does it need to continue like that? The Christian must have a realistic view of the world (warts and all) but the Christian need not be a pessimist. Life is proving more than difficult for many as we set off into a new decade- the outlook is not rosy but it is not without hope. A young Swedish girl called Greta supercharged something of Sir David Attenborough's cry about saving the planet; democracy campaigners challenged autocratic regimes around the globe; people became more aware of the dangers of social media both for the health of young people and for society, people woke up to the fractured lives of many of our fellow citizens and our country finally got through the impasse that was called Brexit. In the case of the last one it depends on your opinion, whether or not, it was good or bad.

Where is the Church in all of this? The Church is where it should always be – in the middle of it. We should be engaged in the big issues of our day, both social and political. The Christian Faith shaped much of what our society is, as previous generations enacted legislation about all sorts of matters that impact our daily living, and it still should. Our health system, our educational system and our local democracy has, to some extent, been forged by what the church did in earlier generations. The well-being of the nation was, in a previous age, of primary importance to the kirk and it still should be today. We may not have as much influence as we once did but there are more practicing Christians in this country than there are secularists and we contribute to the commonweal of our nation in a way the secularists couldn't even begin to understand. Your voice is important – let it be heard. Let it be heard loudly as the politicians peddle their wares and ask them, "Do you share our values? Are the things that are important to us important to you?" Remind them the Church gave birth to this modern nation and as its midwife we still have a responsibility for its well-being.

Tom

## Church Family News

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of Brendan Mirner, Marlyn's husband - he died on the 6<sup>th</sup>. December. Brendan was a great supporter of this kirk coming along to all our events and could often be seen supporting the Plant Sale and coffee mornings. Over the years his support for everything Marlyn did here and his many friendships within our congregation meant he was very much a part of the kirk family. He will be sorely missed. To Marlyn, her children Deborah, Stephanie, Austin and all their family we extend our deepest sympathy.

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**Ian Mason**, who died on the 26<sup>th</sup>. November, was not known to many of you by name but to many he was the quiet, gentle man who brought parcels of food every week, to the kirk, to support the Food Bank down at Ibrox. Ian was a member of Moss park, travelling in from Paisley, Sunday by Sunday. At the union he could have done what many do in the case of unions, find a kirk nearer to home, but not Ian, he moved to Sherbrooke Moss park and was more than faithful in every way. His quiet, endearing presence, a reminder of what a decent man should be, will long be remembered.

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## Women's Group Coffee Morning – Saturday 25th January, 10am

Our annual coffee morning will be held at the end of January in aid of Starter Packs – a local charity which provides support for newly housed individuals and families. As well as supporting the coffee morning and enjoying our home baking, we would be pleased to receive any items in aid of the Starter Pack charity. They are seeking items that have been used but are in good condition – they have indicated that they especially need glasses, plates, bowls, double bedding, scourers, tin openers and pots and pans. Starter Packs also have two shops where they sell second hand clothes, books, cds, toys, etc. For more information please contact Clare Williams, Jan Bostock and Marie Baird. There is more information on the items required on the church website.

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## A.M. Chorus

The A.M. Chorus resumes after the Christmas break on Wednesday 15/1/20 at 10:00. New members always welcome.

## New Doors



They arrived just in time to mark the 125<sup>th</sup>. anniversary of the creation of the original parish (Sherbrooke) and were installed during December. The doors are a marvellous feature of the vestibule allowing light into it yet keeping the cold at bay. They make the kirk look so welcoming and open. Thank you to all who contributed. The doors have been etched with the name of the parish, since the union, "Sherbrooke Mossspark". This gives recognition to the new community we have become. Over the 125 years this building has been known as Sherbrooke Free Kirk, Sherbrooke United Free Kirk, Sherbrooke-St Gilbert's Parish kirk and now Sherbrooke Mossspark Parish Church.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> February (the nearest Sunday to the anniversary of the union) we will mark the new doors as being a gift to celebrate the union and at the same time to commemorate the founding date of the parish.

## Choir Singing the Introit at Easter from the back of the kirk



In this church we have been blessed with fine music, Sunday by Sunday. The choir is quite small at this moment in time and John would be grateful to members who would volunteer to sing (even on the odd occasion). You do not have to be a brilliant sight-reader - just enjoy music.

The choir prepares for Services before and after each Sunday morning Service. The choir is essential to the quality of our worship and so we are keen to see it enlarged. At this particular time it would be extremely helpful if some men would volunteer.

Please speak to John anytime you are in the kirk

## Donations needed

The Outreach Mission and Community are planning a Community Quiz on 14th March at Mossspark Bowling Club with proceeds going to the Hospice. We urgently require donations for raffle prizes, what better way to recycle those unwanted Christmas gifts! Please hand in any donations to Ruth Sills, Neil Buchanan or Marjorie McGhie.

## Fairtrade



A huge thank you to everyone who has supported the Fair Trade Stall over the past year. As a result of your incredible generosity, not only have we supported the work of the Fair Trade movement but we have also been able to send the sum of £1750 to Mary's Meals.

An especial thank you to the Flower Committee who very generously gave all the money raised from the Christmas wreaths etc. Also a huge thank you to Marilyn for all her help and amazing baking & to everyone else who has donated goods or time to help achieve this wonderful amount of money. Thank you once again

Elaine

## WELL-BEING AT SHERBROOKE MOSSPARK

**Keep Fit:** Are you needing some gentle exercise?

Well if you are of a certain age but don't fancy being a gym bunny why not try out the exercise class held in the church every Thursday



11.00am -12.00 noon. The class is a gentle exercise programme led by a professional instructor enabling the participants to keep reasonably active. There is time for refreshments which are

served and for a good chat with other folk in the neighbourhood. Come along and keep fit you'll thank yourself for doing so.

## The Men's Shed



What is the men's shed? Well it is not a shed although it would be great to have one but rather it is an opportunity for men to meet, sort out the world's problems, play cards, brag about their football team and chat. We also drink lots of tea and we even have choccie biscuits. There are households in this parish where choccie biscuits are seldom, if ever, seen.

We meet at Mossspark Bowling Club (a posh shed) on Monday mornings 10.30am – 12.00 noon. Come along just for the company.

## Broken Biscuits Club

Now this is a great wee group – we meet normally on the last Tuesday of the month at 3.00pm for a chat, tea or coffee, biscuits and cake. The cake is supplied by Grace each month: thanks Grace.

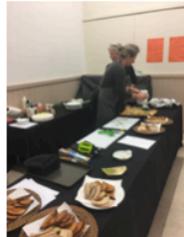
We usually look at pictures of Glasgow or thereabouts as Tom tells us something about our city, our heritage and our culture. In the past we have covered the “Garden Festival” of 1988; the auld Glasgow trams; we have visited the cathedral; People's Palace and more. The day we did the “Garden Festival” folk brought in some of their memorabilia and we had a great time sharing stories and experiences. Tom has a great collection of pictures from the Festival and so we had a walk down memory lane. The BBC is a great way to spend an hour once a month – come along.

## Mossspark Drama Group

Did you get to the pantomime in December? The pantomime put on by the Mossspark Drama Group that is. It was great fun and the numbers attending were fantastic. It sold out at the bowling club on the Thursday and Friday then sold out at the kirk on the Saturday. What a success. Great fun had by all so thanks to the Drama Group to the folks who served the teas and coffees in our building and to John McQuarrie for creating a brilliant stage for us.

Look forward to seeing you all next December.

## Women's Group Thursday 9/1/20



### Women's Group – New Year trip to the Middle East

To blow away the Christmas and New Year celebrations we had planned our usual cooking evening. This year we were treated to an evening of Middle Eastern cooking with Twenty Four Carrot catering company. Twenty Four Carrot is run by Fiona Taylor and Suzanne Ritchie who were known to many of us attending the evening – they

provide home-made food for parties, events and weddings. It was probably one of our largest turnouts of the session, with thirty ladies squeezed into the small hall to sample a range of middle eastern food.

With the aid of a hot plate cooker, Fiona and Suzanne somehow managed to cook a range of dishes from salted sticky dates, a cumin roasted aubergine salad, baked halloumi, honey-baked feta, Vietnamese style crispy turkey, slow cooked lamb with pomegranate and honey through to a biberli cacik which was a cold, roasted pepper dish. One dish was followed by another and by the end of the evening we had experienced a huge range of tastes, textures and colours. Suzanne and Fiona also gave us several cooking tips during the evening and I think we will all be heading in the direction of herb scissors and lime squeezers in the new year! Overall, it was a lovely evening of fun and fellowship and a great start to 2020.

Discussion also took place regarding our annual coffee morning scheduled for Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January. There are more details elsewhere in the magazine and church website but this year we are supporting the Govan-based Starter Pack charity.

Our next meeting is being held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February when we are hosting Ed O'Brien who is coming along to talk to us about his bees.

Clare

## Weekly Events Commencing Monday 13/1/20

Monday: Men's Shed

Mossparke Bowling Club every Monday 13:30 -14:30

Monday: Weight Watchers 19:00 - 20:00

Monday: Badminton 20:00 - 22:00

Wednesday: A.M. Chorus 10:00 - 11:00

Wednesdays: Sherbrooke Mossparke Guild 14:00  
meeting at the former Mossparke Parish Church Hall

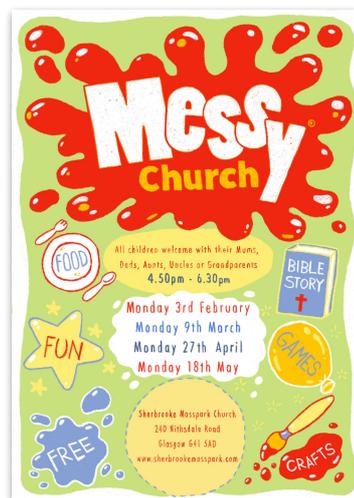
Thursday: Keep Fit 11:45 - 12:45

Thursday 16/1/20 iClass 10:45 after the Morning Service

## Monthly Events

Soup & Chat Tuesday 16/1/20 - 12:00 - 13:30 £3:50 Children Free

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Full details on the website [www.sherbrookemossparke.com](http://www.sherbrookemossparke.com)