

Sherbrooke Mosspark News

July 2020

Welcome to this **E** edition of our Church News Sheet. It is not the magazine but it will give you some information about what is going on in our life.

The Sanctuary & 'Private Prayer'

The church has been given the green light to open for 'private prayer'. The details of how we intend to achieve this has been sent out by Marie. All the recommended and necessary precautions have been put into place and so we hope some of you will take the opportunity to come to the sanctuary. Please pay careful attention to the note Marie has sent out, on behalf of the Kirk Session, thus ensuring those who want to take the opportunity get the chance to do so while keeping safe. This photograph will let you see what it will look like.



March 23rd seems so long ago but that is the date we were informed the country was to go into lockdown and everything about our daily living changed. We were told it was to be initially for three weeks, but given the measures put in place, three weeks was very unlikely. It has been a difficult time with much personal tragedy and sadness for many around the country. It has also been a time when we have been able to take stock of some things (and people) we took for granted- the NHS, carers, shop assistants and van drivers, people we need but don't often recognise. We should be grateful. It has also made many think about simplifying their life and de-cluttering it from all the extraneous stuff we engage in.

For many of you it has felt like imprisonment but that is to trivialise what has happened in this country. Lives have been lost, jobs have gone and anxiety is through the roof, particularly for young people (according to the experts). As we move from the current situation let us thank God that, bad as this has been, we have been spared even greater hurt and pain. Let us also remember to thank God for those, who, through their endeavours, have brought us to this point.

Tom.



WORSHIP @ Sherbrooke Mosspark

Each Sunday, we produce a short Service which can be accessed via the Church Website. Just click on the notice on the first page of the website.

It will include, prayers, a reading from the scriptures, a little “sermon” and music appropriate for the day. John, with the miracle of technology, even has a virtual choir singing for us most weeks. Go on look it up.

Each morning, on the website, there will be a wee short “Thought for the Day” and occasionally, on a Thursday Tom will provide an audio “Thought” as we have no mid-week Service.

Many of you will not be aware that a church organ needs to be played regularly to maintain it in tip top condition: it is also a requirement set out by the church insurers for its maintenance. Young Robert has been undertaking this task on John’s behalf for which we are grateful.

Marie’s column

Hopefully you will have seen details for our Private Prayer sessions. Whilst not a service these sessions will give you an opportunity for quiet contemplation within the Sanctuary.

The First Minister has announced that from 15 July places of worship can re-open for congregational services with physical distancing and limited numbers. There will be a lot of work needed before we can move to public worship. We will work with the CoS guidelines and undertake further risk assessments before we move to public worship. We all want to get back to our services, but safety has to be our top priority. We will keep you up-to-date via the website.

I hope John and the choir are enjoying a bit of a summer break, they have done so much for us over lockdown. Thank you to everyone involved in our virtual services, these will continue for as long as we need them. We are even thinking about how we can use technology going forward, post Covid!

KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you have any news you want to share send it in and we will publish it.

Congratulations to Alice for gaining a 2:1 in her degree from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Congratulations also to Grace for gaining an ‘A’ in her ensemble for her degree. The other members of the ensemble were Christine Lockhart and Una Heaney. Well done to them all.

Iain Webster celebrated a “significant birthday” – Happy birthday Iain

Our annual Golf Outing has had to be cancelled this year due to the present circumstances.

Do you need a face covering for going out? Mags is making them. They are colourful, inexpensive and very much a talking point. Contact Mags for more info.

The staff and pupils at Craigholme asked if we could find a place for the tree they had planted to mark their former principal, June Gilliland, now the school had closed. June was known by many and was a good friend of the kirk. The tree is on the left-hand side of the grounds.