

## **Stated Annual Meeting 2021 - Session Clerk's Report 2021**

2021 has been an ever-changing year, impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and change of minister at Sherbrooke Mossspark Parish Church. As the impact of COVID receded during the year we moved from on-line worship to a greater proportion of in-person worship and we are starting to experience increased attendance and greatly improved fellowship, including wider community involvement. The main items are:

### **1. Kirk Session**

There were nine meetings of the Kirk Session and two Congregational meetings held during 2021; the higher number of meetings principally reflected the requirement to hold additional meetings during our Vacancy period. In February 2021, Marie Baird resigned as Session Clerk due to ill-health and sadly died on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021. Marie will be remembered for her endless enthusiasm and ability to make things happen within the Kirk Session and across many church groups – she is missed. Clare Williams was appointed as Session Clerk in March 2021 by acclamation of the Kirk Session. Recently we received the sad news of the death of Brian Lockhart who served as our Session Clerk for over 20 years; his significant contribution to our church will be remembered for many years.

### **2. Worship**

- a. **Vacancy:** following Reverend Tom Pollock's intimation of his intention to retire in April 2021, Sherbrooke Mossspark Parish Church was given Permission to Call a new minister. Tom's final service was held on 25<sup>th</sup> April after which gifts were presented to the family and many good wishes imparted for a long and happy retirement. The Reverend Mark Johnstone was appointed as our Interim Moderator who ably led us through the vacancy process. Douglas Clark agreed to be our locum minister; Donald McLeod and Graham and Sheila Blount kindly filled in with pulpit supply whenever they could. With fast and efficient work by our Nominating Committee, within six months we appointed our new minister, Reverend Adam Dillon. Many thanks go to the Committee led by Garry Borland and Marco Gaudoin as Convener and Clerk. Reverend Adam Dillon preached as sole nominee on 26<sup>th</sup> September and was inducted on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The congregation has warmly welcomed Adam and his family and we look forward to a long-standing friendship and ministry with Sherbrooke Mossspark Parish Church.
- b. **Messy Church:** has continued via YouTube films posted on our Church website during COVID times. Contact has also been made by postcards and birthday cards during the year to create additional points of contact. Thanks are due to John and Brenda Duthie for continuing to devise creative and thoughtful approaches to Messy Church worship setting.
- c. **Music:** the choir continued to thrive under organist and choirmaster John Gormley. They are thanked for their contribution to our services and particularly during COVID times when they provided a rich enhancement to our online worship. After over twenty years' service, John Gormley resigned as organist and we said a fond farewell at the end of January 2022. John's

unstinting service to our Church community was strongly commended; a successor is currently being sought.

3. **Presbytery:** Christine Macmillan has remained our Presbytery Elder. Sherbrooke Mossspark participated in the important Presbytery Mission Plan responding to a comprehensive survey about the life and work of our church community and provided input to further focus group work. Fact finding has now started on the AMBA (Asset Management Buildings Audit) by our Property team as part of Glasgow's Mission plan; Una Heaney is playing a key role in this Glasgow wide initiative.

#### 4. **Membership, Care and Development**

- a. **Membership:** in 2021 we had seven new communicant members, however there were thirteen deaths, one restoration and thirteen other alterations mainly due to individuals who had left the district. The result was that our communicant roll reduced from 311 at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 to 287 as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. Although on the surface this would seem like a disappointing drop, the various exercises to attest the Electoral Register, has meant that our communicant roll is now much more representative of our current congregation. Many thanks go to the various members who have been involved in this exercise. Particular thanks must go however to Christine Higgison, our previous Keeper of the Roll, who due to ill-health has now been succeeded by John and Brenda Duthie who kindly agreed to take on this post in the Autumn of 2021.

As part of our annual return of congregational statistics, we also reported 19 individuals over the age of 18 who are involved in the life of our congregation and 19 children. The MCD committee continued to encourage and engage in efforts to maintain contact with members throughout the year; we will look to build on this work as we build fellowship across the various groups within our church community.

- b. **Website and on-line worship:** we must commend the outstanding continuing work of Mags Cargey in relation to the communication portals of the Website and WhatsApp group. Our on-line worship has been essential and successful over the past year with high (up to 100 on a Sunday and more for some services) levels of participation. Many thanks to Julian Guse, John Gormley and Mags Cargey for their significant contributions. The on-line team has now been augmented with the addition of Jan Bostock and Robert Baird. Jan Bostock has also kindly agreed to be our GDPR officer.
- c. **Social Committee:** with COVID restrictions in place for much of the year the Social Committee's contributions have been somewhat reduced with many of our usual events having to be cancelled. As the year progressed, the Social Committee and our coffee team were able to assist with our new minister's induction celebration in November and Christmas celebration in December. As COVID restrictions are lifted, plans are in place for our usual Easter breakfast in April 2022. The Committee is commended and thanked for their continued support in assisting with a greater feeling of fellowship as we emerge from COVID.

5. **Finance and Property:** Iain Webster, has continued in his role as our Church Treasurer and should be commended for his fastidious work on our behalf; Iain has continued to be ably supported by David McCrossan. In April 2021, after forty years' service to the Property Committee, George Galloway stepped down from his role of Property Convener. George's endless work across our Church Property was recognised by a presentation from the congregation in April 2021. Carole Mackie has kindly agreed to take up the mantle of Property Convener; the Property team should be congratulated for delivering the extensive Manse upgrade project over the summer months. In addition, a Property condition survey was commissioned in the Autumn and a fifteen year suggested planned maintenance programme has been prepared for the Church buildings by the external firm, Kerr Baxter Associates.

## 6. Outreach:

a. **Mission Development Support - Church and community outreach worker:** in March 2021, Glasgow Presbytery confirmed that we could progress with the appointment of a new outreach worker. Susan Graham has been appointed to the post and has started to contact the wider community including the local Mossbank school, neighbouring churches and Faith in Community Scotland. With the Reverend Adam Dillon now in post we hope to build our mission development further.

b. **Hall bookings:** after fourteen years' service Janet Lamb retired as our Halls Manager in the Autumn; the Kirk Session commended Janet for her work over a long period. Anne McCaig has kindly agreed to take on this position. We are now seeing an increasing number of musical events as we emerge from COVID. The Glasgow Sinfonia, Glasgow Orchestral Society and Glasgow Chamber Orchestra held concerts in our Sanctuary in November 2021. The Youth organisations of the Scout Troop and a Ranger unit recommenced in September 2021 alongside the other church related groups of Badminton, Women's Group, the AM Chorus and the Embroidery Group and external hires of Taekwondo and Karate. We hope further community groups will recommence usage of our halls in 2022.

## 7. Miscellaneous, but not unimportant

Other activities to mention include, but not limited to:

- Mini plant sale, held outside for the first time, raising £2000.
- Contributions to the Lodging House Mission, Glasgow City Mission, Preshal Trust and Christian Aid.
- National Giving Day – a Church of Scotland initiative for churches to conduct their own fundraising activity – we raised £4893.
- COP26 – Sherbrooke Mossbank formed a group under the leadership of Graham and Sheila Blount to participate in this important world conference being held in Glasgow. We hosted several events in our Sanctuary including the Climate Change service in

August and the Taizé brothers during COP26; we also welcomed some international visitors on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

This report can only be written because so many people make a contribution to our church. It would be difficult to mention all names for fear of inadvertently omitting someone. I would therefore take this opportunity of thanking all of you for giving freely of your time and for the considerable effort that many of you put in 'behind the scenes' to bring warmth and sense of community to Sherbrooke Mossspark church.

I am also grateful for the assistance of Janis Walker, secretary to Sherbrooke Initiative Limited, who has provided practical and administrative support. I would also like to thank Cameron Aitken for his unstinting work in his role as Church Officer, supported by Shona Heaney.

Finally, thanks to our new minister, Adam Dillon, who carries out a tremendous amount of work, not only at Sherbrooke Mossspark, but in many other areas across Glasgow Presbytery and the Church of Scotland.

**Clare Williams**  
**Session Clerk**  
**20<sup>th</sup> March 2022**