

The Messenger

Winter 2020



SAUGHTONHALL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



Sunday Worship on Facebook

Join Saughtonhall URC at 12 noon every Sunday on [Facebook](#)

or Duke Street URC at 10am on [Facebook](#)

You don't need to be on Facebook to access them, just go to Saughtonhall URC web site and log on to the one you want.

There is also "Telephone Reflection" on 0131 322 1474 (Local Rates)

MINISTER:

The Revd. David M. Scott. BSc. BD(Min)
Manse: 0131 531 5968 Mobile: 07881 956315
E-mail: davidmsscotturc@minister.com

SECRETARY:

Valerie Foulds,
E-mail: secretary@saughtonhall.com

TREASURER:

Mrs Fiona Walter
e-mail: treasurer@saughtonhall.com

Registered Charity No. SCO 1417

Editor: Fred Davies e-mail- daviesfd@blueyonder.co.uk

Duke Street & Saughtonhall United Reformed Churches

November 2020

Sunday 8 th 10.45am	Remembrance	Live both Facebook Pages
Sunday 8 th 11.45am	Coffee & Chat	Zoom
Sunday 15 th 10.00am	Worship	Live Duke Street Facebook
Sunday 15 th 12.00pm	Worship	Live Saughtonhall Facebook
Sunday 22 nd 10.00am	Worship	Live Duke Street Facebook
Sunday 22 nd 12.00pm	Worship	Live Saughtonhall Facebook
Sunday 29 th 10.00am	Worship	Live Duke Street Facebook
Sunday 29 th 12.00pm	Worship	Live Saughtonhall Facebook
Sunday 29 th 4.00pm	#MCT Advent Carols	Zoom
Sunday 29 th 6.00pm	Advent Adventures 1	Live both Facebook pages

December 2020

Sunday 6 th 10.00am	Sacrament of Communion.	Live Duke Street Facebook
Sunday 6 th 12.00pm	Sacrament of Communion.	Live Saughtonhall Facebook
Sunday 6 th 3.00pm	"Hope & Remembrance.	Live both Facebook pages.
Sunday 6 th 6.00pm	Advent Adventure 2	Live both Facebook pages
Sunday 13 th 10.00am	Worship	Live Duke Street Facebook
Sunday 13 th 12.00pm	Worship	Live Saughtonhall Facebook
Sunday 13 th 6.00pm	Advent Adventure 3	Live both Facebook pages
Sunday 20 th 10.00am	Worship	Live Duke Street Facebook
Sunday 20 th 12.00pm	Worship	Live Saughtonhall Facebook
Sunday 20 th 6.00pm	Advent Adventure 4	Live both Facebook pages
Thursday 24 th 7.00pm	Pyjama Service	Live both Facebook pages
Thursday 24 th 11.30pm	Watchnight	Live both Facebook pages
Friday 25 th 10.00am	Christmas Morning	Zoom
Sunday 27 th 11.00am	Joint Service	Live both Facebook pages
Sunday 27 th 11.45am	Coffee & Chat	Zoom
Thursday 31 st 8.00pm	Hogmanay	Zoom

--All services will be broadcast from the Joint Pastorate Manse except:-

* Saughtonhall

Church of the Good Shepherd

" Duke Street

APART AND YET TOGETHER

2. Dear Friends

Who would have thought back in March that by November we would have seen a relaxation and then a tightening of restrictions as coronavirus infection rates rise again? This is of great concern to us all but it is what the medics and government advisors feared. Unfortunately, the new tier in which we have been placed means getting together continues to carry risks. Therefore, although we technically could meet for worship, the majority opinion is that we should continue doing what we have been doing as we enter Advent and approach Christmas. Thank you to everyone that took time to complete the recent survey.

There are many verses in the Bible about worship. However, none of them prescribe that a service of worship should take place on a Sunday morning or afternoon and comprise 5 hymns, two readings, a talk for younger members, a sermon, an offering and a blessing. Of course we miss this and we miss being with others in Saughtonhall on a Sunday and enjoying the fellowship we value. The current restrictions mean that even if we do return soon, the worship experience will be quite different from what we have known in the past, including no singing. What is important in our current situation is that through the use of Facebook and the telephone we can have a meaningful worship experience in Saughtonhall, which still does give us the opportunity to sing our praises! This Advent and Christmas will be like no other but even though we are apart, we can come together in other ways.

The Elders have been meeting monthly on Zoom and I am delighted to report that Saughtonhall is in good shape, despite the grip of COVID-19. With a baptism on Advent Sunday, a new member enquiry and a steady growth in the number of people attending our Sunday Facebook service, we find light in the darkness. Although our building is for the most part closed, we do still have expenses as work continues. Thank you to everyone who has maintained offerings and given donations.

It has been a hard year for us all particularly as we have had to say farewell to many good friends. We all were shocked and saddened to hear the news of Christine Norrie's death on the 31st of July. As a dedicated Elder, so much of Christine's life centred on Saughtonhall. From the Women's Union to the Drama Group, arranging the flowers on a Sunday to organising Beetle Drives, Coffee Mornings and Fayres, Christine was always there. Beyond all of this was her commitment to Fresh Start every Thursday morning for years and everything she did as part of Murrayfield Churches Together. Christine was kind and generous in so many ways and is missed by us all, but particularly by Ken, who we continue to hold in our prayers.

To help us with the losses we have experienced over these recent months we will be holding a service of Hope and Remembrance on Sunday 6th December at 3pm. This will be broadcast live on our Facebook page. If you would like to join but cannot, please speak to me. Something new that will be happening at 6pm on a Sunday is *Advent Adventures*. This will also be broadcast live on our Facebook page and be suitable for all ages with stories, games and crafts in preparation for Christmas.

Our building closed for worship after the service on 15th March. We continued to pay Tina our organist her full salary as she did not qualify for the furlough scheme. However, as it became clear that the worship position was not going to change any time soon, the Elders took the decision that this was a cost we could not maintain. Tina agreed to step down as organist of Saughtonhall, a position she held for five years.

3.

In Saughtonhall we have much to think about going forward with no clear idea where we will be in the next few weeks or months. Let us hope and pray that the vaccines being developed achieve all they claim to combat COVID-19. As we do, let us reflect on these words written by the Apostle Paul :-
Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

(Colossians 3:14-17 NRSV)

We continue on this journey as one Church, apart and yet together from wherever we are.

I wish you all a joy filled Advent, a peace filled Christmas and a hope filled 2021. Grace & peace.

The Revd David M Scott, BSc BD(Min)

Website : <http://www.saughtonhall.com/>

Facebook :-

https://www.facebook.com/saughtonhall/?modal=admin_todo_tour

Funerals

Mr Eddie Craig, Glendevon Road.

Died 29th June 2020

Mrs Christine Norrie, (Church Elder), Glendevon Place

Died 31st July 2020

A prayer reflection (Exodus 16: 2 – 15)

In the wilderness nights,
when we hunger for the past
and fear for the future
you are our present.

In the wearisome days,
when we wake up complaining
and feel the grumblings of anxiety,
you bear with us.

And in the aching desert
your beauty will break through the clouds.
You're sure and certain hope will reach us,
and you will give us sustenance for the journey ahead.

Amen

R Poolman, Prayer Handbook

4.

BLYTHSWOOD CARE



Shoe Box Appeal 2020

Sadly, Saughtonhall's first attempt at filling shoeboxes for Blythswood Care was rather scuppered by the Lockdown.

However, despite the lack of social contact over the past six months or so, we have managed to fill twenty-one boxes. A great result!

The boxes have now been delivered to the collection point along with a cheque for £65 to help with postage costs. Sincere thanks to all who helped to make this possible by donating time, goods and/or cash. The sky's the limit for next year!!

May we suggest adding one or two small items to your shopping trolley each week? *"Mony a mickle maks a muckle!!"*

Please ask Edith, Hazel or Irene for details about what items go in the boxes.

HJP/Oct 2020



5.

Duke Street & Saughtonhall United Reformed Churches



Christmas 2020

Advent Adventures - Facebook @ 6pm on a Sunday

29th November	'Waiting'
6th December	'Light'
13th December	'John the Baptist'
20th December	'Mary and an Angel'

Service of Hope & Remembrance

Facebook @ 3pm on Sunday 6th December

Pyjama Service

Facebook @ 6pm on Christmas Eve

Watchnight Service

Facebook @ 11.30pm on Christmas Eve

Christmas

Facebook @ 10.00am on Christmas Morning

Joint Pastorate Service

Facebook @ 11.am on 27th December followed by a Coffee & Chat on Zoom.

<https://www.facebook.com/dukesturc>

<https://www.facebook.com/saughtonhall>

Everyone is welcome - just come as you are



Walking
the Way
Using the life of Jesus today

Murrayfield
Churches
Together

6.

Duke Street & Saughtonhall United Reformed Churches



Service of Hope & Remembrance

The service will be broadcast live from Duke Street on both Facebook Pages. This will be a gentle service with some words and music offering comfort and hope in what has been, and continues to be, a difficult year. There will also be space to remember those who have died, whether recently or in the past. If you would like someone to be named in the service please email secretary.dukesturc@hotmail.com or secretary@saughtonhall.com.



3pm

Sunday 6th December 2020

<https://www.facebook.com/dukesturc>

<https://www.facebook.com/saughtonhall>

Everyone is welcome - just come as you are

Walking
the Way

Murrayfield
Churches
together



ARM CHAIR ART

As many of us know, life rarely gets easier as time goes by. 2020 has added to our difficulties, but as you see, I have been encouraging my laziness by turning to Arm Chair Art. I sit in my very comfortable chair which now has an adaptable table/easel for drawing and painting.

Earlier this year I painted roses from my garden. Those roses were planted to mark the year 2000 so have also survived some ups and downs.

This year my floral cards are Lockdown Roses at lockdown price of £3.00 per pack of 6 cards with envelopes, for church funds.

Anne Davidson.

**If you wish to purchase any floral cards, please contact
Val Foulds: Tel: 443 6003 E-mail: secretary@saughtonhall**

Starter Pack Items

- Crockery – dinner plates, side plates, bowls
 - Cutlery
 - Tumblers & Mugs
 - Bed Linens – flat & fitted sheets, duvet covers, pillowcases (single and double)
 - Towels
 - Curtains
 - Toiletries – deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo
 - Cleaning products – anti bacterial spray, bleach, cloths, bin bags, sponges
 - Small electrical items such as lamps, toasters, irons, hand blenders, alarm clocks, hair dryers, sandwich makers
- NO - Duvets, pillows or cushions**

Food donations for Starter Packs and Fresh Start Pantry

- Cereals such as Rice Krispies, Cheerios, Weetabix, Variety packs (children and families like these) Children friendly cereals such as Coco Pops, honey loops etc
 - Cuppa soups
 - Pot noodles and cup noodles and super noodles
 - Cook in sauces such as bolognaise, pasta sauces, curry sauces
 - Cartons of fruit juices such as apple, orange
 - Diluting juices such as blackcurrant, orange, lemon, Vimto
 - Tins of puddings such as rice pudding and custard
 - Tins of meats such as hot dogs, spam, corned beef
 - Fray Bentos pies
 - Tins of fruit such as peaches, grapefruit, apricots
 - Tins of vegetables such as potatoes, carrots, green beans or mixed vegetables
 - Tins of fish such as Tuna, sardines, mackerel
 - Ketchup & Brown sauce
 - Cooking oil
 - Gravy granules
 - Dehydrated pasta packets such as 'Kraft macaroni cheese'
 - Biscuits such as hob nobs, chocolate digestives
 - Tea & Instant coffee
- NO – Tins of soup, tins of beans, tins of tomato, rice or pasta**
The Saughtonhall Team.....

The "Saughtonhall Team" have not been helping at Fresh Start since the start of lockdown. Following the death of our dear team leader, Christine, we have all decided that the time is right to cease volunteering and will not be returning when the current restrictions are lifted. Perhaps, new volunteers will come forward in the 'new normal'.

RAFFLE PRIZES AND BISCUITS

Just prior to the cancellation of the Spring Production due to the Coronavirus pandemic bottles of wine and boxes of chocolates had been purchased as raffle prizes. The wine has been retained for the next production but the boxes of chocolates were donated to four local Care Homes (Murrayside, Struan Lodge, Manor Grange and Murrayfield House). Similarly boxes of biscuits, purchased for the tables at the show when tea/coffee would have been served at the interval, were donated to a Food Bank.

CHRISTINE NORRIE

Sadly, on 31st July, Christine Norrie passed away at St. Columba's Hospice. Christine was a member of Saughtonhall Drama Group for many years and for four of these years she was the Chairperson. When the group entered the Fringe in 2003 she undertook the role of Front of House Manager, a position which she continued to hold and took seriously. As well as her involvement with the drama group she was also very committed to the church. She was an Elder, she was president of the Women's Union and for about twenty years was one of Saughtonhall's representatives with 'Fresh Start' where she became the team leader and served on their board of directors.

FILM STARS

At the beginning of September a request was received from a company in Beaconsfield, The National Film and Television School, looking for extras for a film, 'The Visit', which was being shot in Edinburgh. In response to that request Jack and Morag Simpson took part in the shoot in Waverley Bridge and John Webster and Colin Mitchell were involved one evening on the streets of West Pilton.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Because of restrictions imposed as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, this year's AGM was hosted on Zoom by Rev. David Scott who took control of the technical side of the proceedings. Sixteen members took part on Zoom and three others joined the meeting by telephone.

DONATION TO THE CHURCH

Unfortunately, because no shows had been staged this year resulting in a severely diminished bank balance, it was not possible to make a donation to the church.

Jack Simpson (Drama Secretary)

when you feel sad



Saughtonhall recently featured in the Synod Prayer Cycle in e-news. In case you missed it, here is the item.

Like so many congregations in the Synod, Saughtonhall United Reformed Church – and its joint pastorate partners at Duke Street United Reformed Church – has been experimenting with online worship and fellowship during the lockdown. Sunday services have been held on Facebook, Bible studies and meetings have taken place on Zoom, and those without internet access have called a telephone hotline for a new reflection each week. As lockdown continues to ease, the congregation prays for guidance – which elements of our “old” life should we hang onto and which elements should we abandon, so we can harness “new” tools for spreading the Good News?

Prayer

Creative God,

Thank you for helping us spread your word beyond our church family during lockdown, through Facebook services and Zoom Bible studies. Please help us keep the best elements from our online evangelism to build a “better normal”, not just a “new normal”.

We pray in Jesus’ name, Amen.



Here’s a question to ponder

If you were accused of being a disciple of Jesus, would there be sufficient evidence to convict you?

+++++



Seasonal Face Masks



Joan Graham from Duke Street URC has face masks, in a variety of seasonal fabrics for adults and children, available at a cost of £2.50.

She is happy to deliver.

Contact Joan for further details or to place an order.

Email: joanegraham@gmail.com Text: 07530 728 544 Phone: 0131 554 3302

Ecumenical Day Care Project - Virtual Gifts



Esther Wanjohi, the project director, has suggested the following virtual gifts this Christmas:

£3 - Half a dozen re-usable masks

£5 - 5 litres soap and detergents

£10 - Chickens*

£20 - Dairy goat*

£30 - Seedlings to renew the kitchen gardens

£50 - Pedal soap and water dispenser

**Esther says that over the last 6 months lots of families sold all their chickens and goats in order to provide for their families. Esther would like to give the chickens and goats again so that the families can continue to have eggs and milk for their families. For further details*

and how to donate see the church Facebook page or contact

Irene Davies or Hazel Pryde

