

The Messenger

2021 (February)

SAUGHTONHALL

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Registered Charity No. SCO 14175

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.

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TREASURER:

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WORLD DAY OF
PRAYER



Friday, 5th March 2021

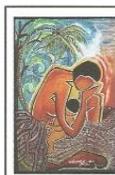
Virtual Service on Zoom

At 2pm on 5th March

And recorded version later.

See www.wdpScotland.org.uk

Or contact your church WDP representative



'Build on a strong foundation'

Written by Christian women of Vanuatu

World Day of Prayer Scottish Committee - SC020446

2. Dear Friends

Although we find ourselves in another lockdown, we can look ahead with some optimism as there is light at the end of the tunnel. That said, it is going to be a lengthy tunnel and a hard road. January and February can always be a long and dark month, only made worse this year with all of the COVID restrictions. It has however been great to hear that so many of you have now had a first vaccine. We can therefore look ahead with some hope and we should look ahead, which is why our telephone and Facebook Live services in January started a process by asking this question:-

Can Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians help us begin to think about how to be Church in a post Covid world?

If you managed to join the services then I hope that you agree with me, that the answer to this question is yes. Our context is very different to 1st Century Thessalonica, but there are rich words from Paul in this letter that I think we need to hear and absorb. Most importantly, that our starting place for this process of looking ahead should be from one of grace and peace.

Paul is separated from the Thessalonian Christians and although he has tried, he has been unable to get back to see them. This letter is in response to a positive report from Timothy who has managed to get back to the community. Paul himself identifies his intense longing to be together again with the Thessalonian Christians, a feeling that Timothy reveals is mutual.

There is much we are longing for and I am sure a huge part of this is being with others in Saughtonhall. We long to be together to worship, to meet, to chat, to eat, to watch films, to see a Drama production; it is a long list. Perhaps Church Meetings are not top of that list, but these form an extremely important part of our tradition in the United Reformed Church. I, with the Elders, am very aware that it has been some time since our last Church Meeting. Although we could hold one using the Zoom platform, the Elders have considered that on balance we should hold off meantime and wait until we can do so face to face. This is an acceptable position to take given the current circumstances. You should be reassured that the Elders continue to meet regularly using Zoom. I am grateful for their commitment and support during these challenging times for us all. Please remember that if you have any concerns or questions about where we are and what are doing, you should not hesitate to contact myself or your Elder.

{WDP Rep: Irene Davies}

In the first letter the Thessalonians Paul offers a short prayer. It is one that we should be grateful for because it is one that we should be praying as we travel towards the distant light at the end of this long hard tunnel we are journeying through.

God of grace and peace,

In these difficult times we pray that we can be together again soon. We pray that our love for one another and all people, can grow beyond our imagining. And we pray for strengthened hearts as we look to the future and whatever this may bring for ourselves, our families and this congregation of Saughtonhall URC, which we know and love.

We ask this in Jesus name, through the power of the Holy Spirit. One God now and always.

Amen.

Stay safe. Stay well. Stay connected. Stay distanced. Stay smiling.

The Revd David M Scott, BSc BD(Min)

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

Facebook :-

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

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Hello it's Barbara Smith from Gardenstown (Gamrie) on the Moray Firth. You may have seen my name joining your congregation every Sunday, and you may be wondering how I come to know about Saughtonhall URC!

This lockdown has brought about many changes to our lives- this time last year we could never imagine what was ahead! Finding Saughtonhall URC and Nova Scott on Facebook has definitely been wonderful for me. Nova is an active member of a Facebook page for folk like me who are besotted with their doggies- she has a wonderful way with words and her Sunday sermons with Rev Lachie are looked forward to by hundreds all over the world!

When I found out Nova's husband was a minister I couldn't believe they were in Scotland and David is a minister in URC.

We are both elders of URC in Fraserburgh and Alan is Church Treasurer.

It has been a privilege to join in your services every week....maybe one day I will be able to join in your service in person.

Thank you, God Bless



FreshStart:

I attended the AGM (on Zoom) on 8th December 2020. I was very impressed with what the staff, working with other organisations in the area, have been able to achieve during these strange times. As the lockdown restrictions eased, a few volunteers were able to return to the warehouse and donations of selected goods were permitted to be dropped off. You had to make an appointment. Now we are once again in full lockdown, the warehouse is closed to all donations and all volunteers. As per the previous full lockdown, staff will be covering all the work as a skeleton crew on a rota. I do hope that the folks at Saughtonhall will continue to support FreshStart as and when restrictions permit. Hazel Pryde

Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal

A big thank you to everyone who helped, in any way, with our shoeboxes. Despite the Covid restrictions, we succeeded in filling 21 boxes which were delivered to Blythswood's office in Edinburgh. I have received a thank you letter and a poster to display. Let's hope we can fill more boxes this year. Why not start collecting items now? "Mony a mickle maks a muckle!" Edith, Irene or Hazel will be pleased to offer advice on what is needed.

ECUmenical DAY CaRE and support women project, Kenya

Thanks very much to everyone, we have received so many generous donations for the Virtual Gifts for ECUDARE. We don't have the total amount donated yet, as the process of collating and banking takes much more time under Covid restrictions.

Apologies also for not being able to thank people individually – as many people have donated on-line. We hope to be able to send the money to ECUDARE within the next few weeks.

Irene Davies and Hazel Pryde, MCT Ecludare Support Group



STOP PRESS: Sum of £2,500 will be sent to Esther.

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E-MAIL.....It was suggested at the latest elders meeting that we have a list of e-mail addresses for the congregation. If you have an e-mail address and would like it added, please send it to:-

news@saughtonhall.com



A Prayer for Putting on a Face Mask

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing this cloth. Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbours, as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions. Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and may each breath that it holds, be filled with Your love.

In your name and in that love, I pray. Amen.

Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Canada

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The Murrayfield Club.....

Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the resulting Government Guidelines, The Murrayfield Club has been unable to meet since March 2020. Like many of us, our members are finding it hard during the lockdowns and shielding periods. Since last March the Club staff have been producing a weekly activity pack which is being sent out to members and many others within the Murrayfield Churches Together area.

The packs follow a different theme each week and include reminiscence articles, jokes, song memories, things to do, a poem, wordsearch, picture and word quizzes, and our Ministers' Thought for the Week. They are being very much enjoyed by everyone who is receiving them and, I believe, shared and passed on to others which is wonderful.

If you think you would like to receive a pack (free of charge) please feel free to contact myself, David, Val (Church Secretary) or your Elder and we can add you to our list. Packs can be - hand delivered if you live locally, posted or e-mailed.

Just to whet your appetite here are a few of our upcoming themes - The Firth of Forth, Youth Organisations, Ireland, Game Shows and Edinburgh's Department Stores.

I look forward to hearing from you. Take care and stay safe. **Lesley**

Duke Street & Saughtonhall United Reformed Churches



Lent 2021

Midweek Morning Prayers

Join us live from 8.45am to 8.55am through Lent

Wednesday 17th February
Wednesday 24th February
Wednesday 3rd March
Wednesday 10th March
Wednesday 17th March
Wednesday 24th March
Wednesday 31st March



To join, simply use this Zoom link :-

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88600967612?pwd=MXNoQkFDd00zbnk5MXpqcElaOG11UT09>

or call 0131 460 1196 and follow the instructions using :-

Meeting ID: 886 0096 7612
Passcode: 262374

Everyone is welcome - just come as you are



Duke Street & Saughtonhall United Reformed Churches Holy Week 2021



Compline
7pm Monday 29th March
7pm Tuesday 30th March
7pm Wednesday 31st March

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Communion
7pm Thursday 1st April

Good Friday
2.30pm Friday 2nd April

Easter Sunday 4th April
10.00am Duke Street
12.00pm Saughtonhall

Apart and yet together

Join us on our Facebook Pages

Everyone is welcome - just come as you are

Not Room on the Broom- but Church on the Zoom!

by Nova Scott

Christmas 2019,
We were full of vigour and va va voom
We had no clue what lay ahead
And we'd never heard of Zoom

.Oh, There's so much to do, a never ending list,"
A seemingly endless task"
We wished for time just to stop and breathe
We should be careful for what we ask

But Christmas passed and Spring arrived,
Bringing with it, Covid 19
Our lives transformed almost overnight
In ways so rarely seen

What will we do?, the people cried
We can't even go to Church
And sadly for some congregations
That left them in the lurch

But the Revd of Duke Street and Saughtonhall, said
"Don't worry, all will be fine.
We'll still worship together,
We'll just move it all online!"

Online? they cried, have you lost the plot?
Are you feeling alright in the head?
But, In David we trust, said the people
So they followed where he led.

From Saughtonhall to Leith,
Devices were sought and found
Soon cries were heard "can you see me?";
"You're on mute, " and "There's no sound!"

Grandchildren of all ages
Helped those whose skills were duffer
But a new generation of folk have emerged
The Reformed Silver Surfers!

.And as they do with most things,
The flock embraced it from their heart
This new way of worshiping
Together and yet apart

It's been a busy time for the Reverend
Between the lectern and organ he's bobbin'
We're glad he mostly plays the right notes
But we're fairly missing Robin!

Joan said, we're like that children's book,
The Room on the Broom,
We're leading the way in this brave new world,
As the Churches on the Zoom!

But not all folk like things online
They like a different kind of tone
We've covered that too, just make a call,
To worship with us by phone

At Easter folk were feeling tired
Fed up with this Covid thing
Reflections and a Tenebrae
David even persuaded Nova to sing

And in the midst there was a lull
And some restrictions gone
So David packed his mobile set
And did communion in folks 'home.

Of course, it's not been easy,
Our connections are what we miss
But Irene, Fred and Morag
Make sure we're on the newsletter list.

And we can't forget our wider call
To friends close and apart
The things we've done with hope and love,
Face masks, shoeboxes and Home Start

No resting on our laurels;
No, we're going at full speed,
Thinking about what people want;
Responding to their need.

Two services every Sunday,
Boys 'Brigade on a Wednesday night,
Brownies, Guides and communion,
Oh yes, our future's looking bright.

Zoom coffee with the Moderator
The College Principal too
Advent Adventures starring the dug
And things made from paper and glue

Of course, there has been sadness,
As there is in every year
In the service of Hope and Remembrance
We thought of those lost that we once held so dear

We've said goodbye to so many friends,
Sadly, too many to name,
But we'll remember each and every one,
Their memories we will keep aflame

And so we come together
In this strange Christmas Soirée
And though we may feel miles apart
We're never far away.

Saughtonhall and Duke Street,
we should be proud how far we've come,
Different places, traditions and people,
But in love and worship we are one.

It's been a year like no other,
But this we surely know
The future is bright for our churches
And God's blessings with us, go

