

The Messenger



2021 (Winter)



SAUGHTONHALL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Registered Charity No. SCO 14175

Sunday Worship in Church

12.00pm

and 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.

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Saughtonhall United Reformed Church



Advent & Christmas 2021

10.30am Sunday 28th November

MCT Advent Carols

Murrayfield Parish

12.00pm

Advent 1

Facebook Pre-record

6.00pm

Advent Adventures 1

Facebook Live

6pm Saturday 4th December Christmas Film Night Saughtonhall

12.00pm Sunday 5th December **Advent 2** Saughtonhall & FB Live

6.00pm

Advent Adventures 2 Facebook Live

3.00pm Saturday 11th December

MCT Messy Christingle Saughtonhall

12.00pm Sunday 12th December **Advent 3** Saughtonhall & FB

Live

3.00pm **Service of Hope & Remembrance** Saughtonhall & FB

Live

6.00pm

Advent Adventures 3

Facebook Live

12.00pm Sunday 19th December **Advent 4** Saughtonhall & FB

Live

6.00pm

Advent Adventures 4

Facebook Live

5.00pm Friday 24th December

Pyjama Service

Saughtonhall & FB Live

11.30pm

Watchnight

Saughtonhall & FB Live

11.00am Sunday 26th December **Christmas 1**

Joint Pastorate

Facebook Live

11.00am Sunday 2nd January **Christmas 2**

Joint Pastorate

@ Duke Street & FB Live

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

www.saughtonhall.com



**Everyone is welcome - just
come as you are**



2. Dear Friends

The season of Advent is upon us. It is hard to believe that we have now been back in our building since May and that so much has been achieved over these last 6 months, which has included the return of many Saughtonhall and MCT activities. A power of work has been done to ensure our building is clean, safe and equipped to do all that we require of it. I am therefore particularly grateful to Val and Edith for setting up a cleaning contract and to Liz and Keith, assisted by Jim Pryde, for creating a facility that uses technology for the benefit of those in the premises and beyond. The first Filmcrew showing of *Sister Act* at the end of October using our new screen and sound system, was simply superb.

We have now held two gatherings to think about replanting Saughtonhall in the community we serve. These have been enjoyable evenings with interesting stories and conversations as we have reflected on where we have been, where we are and continue to discern where God is calling us as a congregation. It became clear that a key element to raising the profile of Saughtonhall in the community will be dependent on relationships within it. We are therefore using the season of Advent, at the beginning of a new Church year, as an opportunity to build and strengthen relationships through a range of activities and events, which are included in this *Messenger*. Please tell people about them. If you live locally you could even send your neighbours a Christmas card that includes details of what we are offering alongside an invitation to participate.

By the time this *Messenger* is published the 'Memory Lane Cafe' in Saughtonhall should be up and running. This is a fantastic new initiative being operated from our Church by the Murrayfield Club that will be held every Friday morning from 10am to 12pm. If you have not already dropped in then please do. There is good conversation and home made scones to enjoy! As acting chair of the Murrayfield Club I am extremely pleased to see this development in operation as it opens up the Club to the wider community, provides an accessible gateway to all the Club offers and fits well with the direction Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership is taking.

When we began broadcasting our Sunday services from the manse at the beginning of lockdown I was very conscious that not everyone could access these. I therefore set up a telephone service, which was well used. This has been updated every week and has continued. It has been a joint pastorate service that also included members of Bathgate URC, Augustine United and the Murrayfield Club. In recent weeks the numbers calling have dropped significantly, mainly due to people being able to get to Church. I therefore took the decision to end the telephone service at number 81 on Sunday 21st November, the last Sunday of the liturgical year. As I realise this will be missed by some who still cannot get to Church, I would like to explore how we can connect everyone to our broadcast service, either as it goes out live or as a recording later. This can be simpler than you might think, so if it is something that is of interest and you would like to give it a try, please give me or Val a call.

In these final weeks of 2021 we reflect on a hard year. There is much to lament on when we continue to see COVID-19 case numbers at levels that are higher than they should be, when we see the strain the NHS and social care sector are under, when we wonder if all that was agreed at COP26 will happen and is enough to tackle our climate emergency. And this is all before we even begin to consider the state of politics and our economy. How much does the darkness of this world need the light we prepare for during this season of Advent? How grateful we are for the hope, peace, joy and love promised to us in the Christ Child we prepare to welcome.

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us.

The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called:
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 (NLT)

God of light.

As I embrace this season of Advent with hope; enfold me in your arms

Give me imagination to be creative and comfort to be at peace.

Give me confidence to be bold and opportunity to find joy.

Give me understanding when I get it wrong and courage to love.

Enable this Church to be a beacon of light in the community it serves.

A place of welcome, a place of warmth, a place of healing. A place where good memories are made and relationships formed.

A place where people can talk, listen and be aware of your presence.

Send people to us, so that in all we do in Saughtonhall, through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, they find you.

I ask this and all my prayers in the name of Jesus, your Son and my Saviour, who lives and reigns in unity with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and always.

Amen

I wish you all a joy filled Advent, a peace filled Christmas and a hope filled 2022.

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

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Email..... If you have an email address and would like it added to our lists, please send it to..... news@saughtonhall.com

Any email addresses provided will be held securely and only used for Church purposes to communicate with the congregation. No details will be used for any other purpose or released to any other congregation member or external party. Your email address can be removed from the list at any time on request.

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Funeral

Mrs Nancy Sinclair, Saughtonhall Ave.

Died 21st July 2021

(Wife of the late Andy Sinclair)

SAUGHTONHALL DRAMA GROUP

Although it's quite clear that Covid has not gone away restrictions have been eased, we're all starting to meet up again and, hopefully, we're getting back to some form of normality (fingers crossed).

JOHN WEBSTER.

In last year's Special Issue of the "Messenger" John Webster wrote an article outlining his involvement as a Volunteer Reservist with the Royal Auxiliary Air Force. It now gives me great pleasure to offer him our congratulations on being awarded the Queens Volunteer Reserves Medal in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

SHEILA MELVILLE.

On a sadder note, it is with regret I have to inform you of the death of Sheila Melville (aged 84) (widow of the late Bill Melville) who passed away peacefully in her sleep on 10th August. Although there is no record of Sheila having taken part in any of the group's shows, she was always present at them, she was very supportive and was glad to assist in any way she could.

PAT MELVILLE.

It is also sad to report the death of Pat Melville (ages 80) (sister-in-law of the late Bill Melville) who passed away peacefully in hospital in Paphos, Cyprus, on 16th September. Pat was a member of the drama group for many years and held the position of Treasurer between 1993 and 2000. She emigrated to Cyprus in the early 2000's.

FUNDRAISING.

The past eighteen months has generated no income because of the absence of any shows, but, at the same time, while preparing for 2022, licences still had to be purchased thereby draining the group's dwindling finances. As a result, it was decided to hold several fundraising events. During the Film Night on Saturday 23rd October, Liz Wilson kicked off the fundraising campaign by selling quiz sheets. That will be followed by a Book Reading afternoon on Saturday 13 November, when Jack Simpson, a retired police officer, will speak about his career in the police and read from his latest book "Police Revelations". He will be joined by Colin Mitchell who will read from books of poems which he has written.

On Saturday 12th February, Simon Petrie will host a Quiz Night.

FUTURE PRODUCTION.

After months of rehearsals the group were only two weeks away from staging "Cock o' the North" when it had to be cancelled because of the Covid restrictions. However, now that these restrictions have been eased, rehearsals have resumed and it's planned to stage that production from 1st-5th March next year. It is interesting to see that the training and acting skills learned at Sasughtonhall Drama Group continue to be utilised further afield by several of our members.

Candice Sullivan recently appeared on television on BBC 1 in the six-part series "Vigil". She is also the pin-up girl for Quality Meat Scotland and is to appear in adverts advertising their products on television and on billboards across the country.

Louise Starkey took part in the film "Fast and Furious" and she was also involved in the filming of a six-part series "Crime" which is due to be shown on STV, and Jack Simpson has a speaking part in a three-part television thriller "The Control Room" which is due to be shown on BBC 1 in the Spring.

Saughtonhall United Reformed Church

FILM CREW presents.....

Nativity 2
DANGER IN THE MANGER!

Saturday 4th December

Refreshment tickets £5 from Liz or email

filmcrew@saughtonhall.com

Doors open 6pm for 6.30pm start.

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Drama Fund raiser.Film Quiz Sheet £1

Get a copy from Liz Wilson

filmcrew@saughtonhall.com All proceeds to Drama

Club. Winner announced on Decembe 4th

(at next film night)



Calling all Women's Union and Men's Club members

Missing meeting up with friends at Saughtonhall?

Why not join



"The One O'clock Gang"

For food, fun and fellowship

On the first Monday each month starting 6th December 2021

1.00pm to 2.30pm

Suggested donation £2 to cover cost of a light lunch

ALL WELCOME!

FreshStart Update

As part of their Christmas Appeal this year Fresh Start are asking for donations of items for their Festive Hampers. Please see list of suggested items. Please contact Hazel for further details or to arrange for your donations to be picked up and delivered to the warehouse.

Closing date is Sunday 28th November 2021.

Festive Food Hampers

Christmas pudding/cake

Christmas Crackers

Mince Pies

Chocolates

Chutney, jam

Oatcakes, crackers

Tea, coffee,

Hot chocolate

Chocolate Coins

Candy canes, chocolate tree decorations

Gingerbread,

fudge,

biscuits

Shloer/nice fizzy drink (non-alcoholic)

Crisps, nuts, snacks

Advent calendars

FreshStart
helping people make a home for themselves



As we would like to get these out to people in plenty of time before Christmas we would request that the items are delivered to our warehouse at 22-24 Ferry Road Drive, EH4 4BR before Thursday the 2nd of December.

Thank you

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

To everyone who donated goods or cash for the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal. We filled 60 shoeboxes and shoebags. A great result!! How many can we fill in 2022



Funded by
Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership
NHS Lothian · EDINBURGH · THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

The Murrayfield Club

10am to 12pm. Every Friday from 12th November
Saughtonhall United Reformed Church
85/87 Saughtonhall Drive, EH12 5TR
Join us for conversation and home baking A warm welcome awaits
Want to know more? - Call 07881 288909
Scottish Charity Number SCO23210

REFLECTIONS/SAYINGS

In a society that has you counting money, pounds, calories and steps, be a rebel & count your blessings instead. LISA HICKMAN

The older I get, the more I have in common with computers. We both start out with lots of memory and drive, then we become outdated, crash unexpectedly, and eventually have to have our parts replaced.
ANON.

Saughtonhall United Reformed Church
Community Advent Calendar Trail



From Wednesday 1st December follow our community trail by spotting houses around Saughtonhall URC that will light up each day through Advent.

Day 24 will be Saughtonhall URC where our Christmas Eve Pyjama Service will take place at 5pm.

Check in with us every Sunday through Advent at 6pm live on Facebook for Advent Adventures!

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

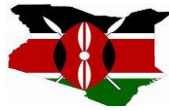
Keep an eye out for our Advent Trail Map.

More details will be published at the Church, on our website and on our Facebook Page.





ECUDARE



A project in Kenya that has been supported by

Murrayfield Churches Together since 2008. It is based in Ngong, one of the poorest areas of Kenya to the south west of Nairobi. Women and families affected by HIV have been supported to set up their own small businesses and a school has been established. We are continuing to support ECUDARE during this difficult time.

“Host a Tea for Ecludare” Fundraiser.

A grand total was raised from Saughtonhall Church of £415.00 from tea parties and donations from individuals.



Bulb Kits.

Hyacinth bulb kits will be on sale in church at £5 per kit. Proceeds going to Ecludare.

Joint Advent Service

There will be an opportunity at the joint MCT Advent Sunday Service, to be held at MPC on 28th November, for people to donate to Ecludare.

Virtual Gifts.

We will be doing Virtual Gifts again leading up to Christmas. Details will be announced in church soon.



Remembrance

In 2019, Joshua Dyer (aged 14) was tasked at school to write a poem for Remembrance Day. An hour later (without any help) he produced this:-

One Thousand Men Are Walking

One thousand men are walking
Walking side by side,
Singing songs from home
The spirit as their guide.

They walk toward the light m’lord
They walk towards the sun,
They smoke and laugh and smile together
No foes to outrun.

These men live on forever
In the hearts of those they saved,
A nation truly grateful
For the path of peace they paved.

They march as friends & comrades
But they do not march for war,
Step closer to salvation
A tranquil, steady corps.

The meadows lit with golden beams
A beacon for the brave,
The emerald grass untrampled
A reward for what they gave.

They dream of those they left behind
And know they dream of them,
Forever in those poppy fields
There walks one thousand men



