

The Messenger

AUTUMN 2024



SAUGHTONHALL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Registered Charity No. SCO 14175

Sunday Worship in Church

12.00pm

and on [Facebook](#)



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Dear Friends

How can it be October already? It seems no time at all since 2024 brought us a new calendar or diary; and yet here we are once again preparing for all that marks the end of another year. To make matters worse, I am fairly certain that by the time this *Messenger* is published our shopping centres and supermarkets will be decorated and stocked for Christmas.

The experience of time passing at what seems to be an increasingly rapid rate is I know, one shared with many of you. In a recent conversation about this, one of our Elders pointed out that a reason for it could be that as we get older each year we live becomes proportionally shorter as a percentage of our life as a whole. A very philosophical thought and there is perhaps something in it!

However, when speaking to and meeting with people, I am very conscious that for many there are just not enough hours in the day. But even for those who feel there are, a sense of general busyness is picked up and for many of them, the feeling of time passing quickly is shared. So I do think that our dismay in realising it is already October is really down to the frenetic pace of the world around us as we all try to keep up - and that can be exhausting.

There is a real danger with this. As we get so caught up in planning what's next and juggling all that needs done, we can often yearn for the past when things seemed more straightforward and life world was just a bit slower. The danger is, we miss the present and fail to appreciate what we have.

I think this can often be experienced in our Church lives as we lament on how things used to be and worry about where things are going, especially as we reflect on our demographic and become aware how challenging it is becoming for the United Reformed Church to 'balance the books'.

In Psalm 118 verse 24 we read that, *this is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.* A verse about living in the present, from which of course comes a popular hymn (the chorus may already be playing in your head!).

A Church Magazine like *The Messenger* can be a great help with all of this as it is about the present. As we pause to read it, there should be a realisation of what being part of Saughtonhall United Reformed Church means as it captures a snapshot of the here and now. The congregation has of course changed over the years and sadly many of those committed members who worked hard to create those treasured memories are no longer around. There is nothing wrong with remembering the past fondly but as it has always done, change will continue as the future unfolds. That can be hard, especially when as we look ahead there are many unknowns. But we should not let either distract us from enjoying where we currently are and what we currently have.

As you read this *Messenger* enjoy the moment, appreciate and value the congregation you are part of, give thanks to God for Saughtonhall URC and pray that others will find their way to us; and in doing so discover a much needed sense of belonging in this fast moving and chaotic world with all its stresses and strains. In this last quarter of 2024, let's all try to slow things down a bit by working at living in the present and making the most of the gifts and opportunities we have been given in the here and now. Finally, as we try to focus on living in the moment, here some words from Ecclesiastes to think about (3:12-14a NLT) :-

So I concluded there is nothing better than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we can. And people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labour, for these are gifts from God. And I know that whatever God does is final. Nothing can be added to it or taken from it.

With God's richest blessings,
The Revd David M Scott, BSc BD(Min)

HELEN WILSONIt is with great sadness that I have to inform you of the death of Helen Wilson who passed away yesterday (Sunday, 25th August, 2024) at Murrayfield Care Home. Helen had been a member of the church and the drama group for many years.

She was a lady with a very outgoing personality who was always full of fun and had a great sense of humour. She would be a central figure in day trips with the church and on week-ends away with the drama group.

She was also an active member of the drama group in front of house duties and also featured on stage in many shows, including '3 New Brides' (2003), 'An Evening of Mirth, Monologue & Music' (2005) and 'Puss In Boots' (2016).

Jack Simpson

Ecudare Fundraiser... Bulbs for sale in church.....

As you water your blooms say
a prayer for the Ecudare Community and
remember that their hope is for a bore hole
well in their village.



All proceeds from the sale of the bulbs will go
towards helping their dream become reality.

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Flower Fund Most weeks, we are able to put fresh flowers or plants in the church on Sundays, thanks to the generosity of church members and others. The Flower Rota for 2025 will be available soon. Please let us know if you know of anyone who is not well or would appreciate receiving flowers for any other reason. Thank you.



Joyce Nunn and Hazel Pryde

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When you can't sleep at night, have you ever thought maybe it's God saying



"We need to talk, and now you have the time." Kelly's Treehouse

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Shoe Box Appeal Since their first Shoe Box Appeal in 1993 Blythswood Care has sent more than 2.6 million boxes – each one different, each one personal, each one an expression of care and kindness towards a stranger in need.

Filled with small, practical items such as toiletries, stationery, and clothing, the individually-wrapped boxes have been distributed in schools, hospitals, orphanages and care homes, and to households in very low income communities.

Many have gone to people affected by the war in Ukraine.

For the past few years,

Members and friends of Saughtonhall URC

have filled shoeboxes for this appeal.

We sent 60 boxes in 2023, with a cheque for £200 towards postage, and we will fill at least the same number in 2024.

Thank you for your generosity and support with this

Holiday Club 2024

Sporting Heroes 2024

Our summer holiday club this year ran from 1st to 5th July and was based around the theme of sport given the Olympic Games were due to be held in Paris a few weeks later. Following a number of Bible verses the daily activities all had sporting links :- Doing your best, teamwork, friendship, rules, the Olympic motto (Faster, Stronger, Higher) and don't give up.



Around 20 children attended in total ably supported by our regular enthusiastic team of leaders who were assisted by some young friends of Saughtonhall; Lucy, Emma, Chloe and Amy.

As always the mornings were busy with a catchy theme song, learning, listening, crafts and games. Given the theme, the children also participated in a number of sports including hockey, archery, netball, athletics, Kurling, equestrian and swimming (the latter two did need some imagination!). Two highlights were going live to France to speak to Mr Napier, the headteacher of Balgreen Primary School who was on holiday there, and learning about Eric Liddell and his achievement in the 1924 Paris Olympics.

Once again a successful Summer Holiday Club was delivered by Saughtonhall in 2024 and was much appreciated by those who attended.

A big thanks should go to all those who worked so hard to ensure that at the end the week we did produce Saughtonhall Sporting Heroes!



ECUDARE UPDATE.

Esther's August visit.....

Esther is safely home to Nairobi. She departed on Qatar airways on 12th August from Edinburgh , and had a good flight home.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all so much for all your help in making Esther's week with MCT such a success.

Esther is such an inspiring person and I think we have all

been uplifted and enthused by having her with us and hearing all about the Ecludare project first hand. She had a very full week of events and so many of you made this happen.

From meeting the Church of Scotland Moderator and being interviewed for an article in Life and Work and visiting the Fairtrade shop to her evening at SURC, just to mention a few of her visits, culminating in our wonderful MCT service and lunch on Sunday .

She has given us all a real sense of the Ecludare community, the women she helps earn a small living , the school and education , to feeding them all, is truly amazing and it has renewed our enthusiasm and commitment to her and Ecludare. Her visit has certainly highlighted everything about the Ecludare project to everyone in the MCT community and elsewhere in the wider church community in Scotland. She has renewed our interest and engaged with many new folk. What an Inspiration to us all. We will be sending approx.. £500 to her soon , which is some of the money from the sold goods she sold after the joint MCT service on the 11th August.

Kath Anderson



Formation Diary: Part 1

Peter Ranscombe is training for non-stipendiary ministry with the United Reformed Church and is sharing reflections on his formation with The Messenger.

IT FEELS like a long time since November 2023, when our United Reformed Church's General Assembly accepted me for training as a non-stipendiary (or unpaid/voluntary) minister – and it feels even longer since our church meeting back in April 2023 when you all concurred with the call I had discerned to ministry!

My formation has now officially begun. The practical side of my training will be delivered by our own Scottish College (Congregational & United Reformed), which is based in Glasgow and meets both online and at retreat centres throughout Scotland and occasionally further afield. The theology side of my training will be delivered ecumenically by our partners at the Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI), which trains priests to serve Episcopalian congregations, such as our Murrayfield Churches Together partners at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

The SEI orientation week took place at St Mary's Monastery at Kinnoull in Perth from 26 August to 1 September. At times, it felt more like a "disorientation week" than an "orientation week"! Lots of new people to meet, lots of new lessons to learn, and lots and lots and lots of Episcopalian practices to make me scratch my head.

While I'm very familiar with the normal "low" Episcopal churches – having worshipped at St Peter's Episcopal Church in Musselburgh for seven years before starting to attend Saughtonhall URC back in 2014 – the style of worship at the SEI is much closer to the "high" church traditions, and at times felt very "high Anglican", even "Anglo-Catholic".

Yet – aside from the staccato way they read their morning and evening prayers, and the layer after layer of robes they wear for the "eucharist" (their name for communion) – what struck me once again were the similarities between our own Congregational heritage and many elements of Episcopalianism, including how they run their churches as individual congregations.

The people were lovely too. There are 17 students spread across the three year groups, including many younger people in their thirties, forties, and fifties. My partner in crime for the next four years of training is Yvonne Hamilton, a wise elder with a cheeky grin from St Ninian's Church at Stonehouse in South Lanarkshire, a single-congregation local ecumenical partnership (LEP) created through the union of a United Reformed Church congregation and a Church of Scotland congregation.

Yvonne is training for stipendiary (or paid) service and it's already clear that she'll make a great minister. Like me, she's been out on the road as a lay preacher and worship leader over the past few years, but is also blessed with a heart for pastoral ministry. Our first two modules, which were taught during the SEI orientation week, were entitled "Introduction to Christian Worship" and "Methods of Reading the Bible". The worship lessons focused on baptism and the eucharist and were tilted very heavily towards the history of Anglicanism and Episcopalianism, although the lecturer made some clever use of the United Reformed Church's communion services to help illustrate similarities and differences.

The Bible module introduced a range of "hermeneutics", or methods for interpreting the Bible, including postcolonial, ecological, and queer lenses for reading scripture. Much of the work was designed to expand the horizons and mindsets of the Episcopal students – Yvonne and myself are blessed by the ways in which the United Reformed Church and its congregations are already open to such a wide variety of views and perspectives.

Thank you to everyone for your prayers and support on the journey so far. In the coming days, I'll be sitting down to write the first essays I've attempted since secondary school – some 25 years ago! A looming challenge in the months ahead will be to find the right balance between my "day job" as a freelance journalist and copywriter and my formation for ministry. In the short term, I'm looking forward to spending more time sitting "in the pews" at Saughtonhall during the autumn, before my placements through the Scottish College begin after Christmas.

As I take the next steps on this journey, a quote from author Sarah Bessey used within a recent daily reflection from Richard Rohr's Centre for Action & Contemplation is ringing in my ears: "Anyone who gets to the end of their life with the exact same beliefs and opinions they had at the beginning is doing it wrong. Because if we don't change and evolve over our lifetime, then I have to wonder if we're paying attention to the invitation of the Holy Spirit that is your life." My prayer is that God will continue to mould and shape me in the months and years that lie ahead.

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Saughtonhall Strollers

Although our numbers are
down

↓ ↑

We meet once a month from April to November; gathering outside the church around 1.30pm and we aim to be back by 4pm. A leisurely stroll, friendly chat and a cuppa stop.

What's not to like.

Look out for further details of the strolling dates.



enthusiasm is up

No experience necessary.

Why not join us?

Hazel Pryde



Music plays an important part in our activities and so we feed that into a lot of what we do through quizzes, exercises, singalongs and live music. We've also been able to reach a wider audience through monthly live music at our Memory Lane Café.

Here we welcome people over 65 to come along to Saughtonhall URC from 10am-12pm to meet new people, enjoy good conversation, a laugh and a selection of table games over a hot drink and toasted bun.

"I love the café. It's such a welcoming place and it's great to get out and sit and chat with others." P

"I enjoy the dominoes competitions we have at the table. I also like the toasted bun too!" J

It's great to meet new people and make new connections so please feel free to get in touch to find out more about what we do.

You can visit our website themurrayfieldclub.com or find us on Facebook at [The Murrayfield Club](#).

***Held every Friday 10am-12pm, £3 per person.
Saughtonhall United Reformed Church.
87 Saughtonhall Drive, EH12 5TR.
For more information call Jenny on 07881288909
email: jenny@themurrayfieldclub.com***

We hope to see you at the Memory Lane Café soon!

Jenny Rowe, Project Coordinator

SAUGHTONHALL DRAMA GROUP

In November last year, to mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the drama group, the Autumn production was 'A *Trilogy of Comedies*' which involved three separate plays. The first, 'The Interview' by Jane France, was a short comedy involving a lonely elderly housebound lady and a local radio presenter attempting to interview her about her local dialect.



The second, 'Doggies' by Jean McConnell, involved two dog owners from totally different walks of life who, by chance, met in the park. During their encounter they spent the time chatting and realised they really had very little in common.

The final play, 'After I'm Gone' by Frank Vickery, involved three short scenes where a mother, who didn't want her daughter to marry, did her best to prevent it happening. However, the marriage took place and the daughter brought to stay at her mother's home not only her undertaker husband but also his ageing father.

The production received a glowing four star review from an Independent critic.

No productions have been staged this year initially, and mainly, due to problems finding a suitable cast.

A play, 'Murder At Ten Twenty' by Ian McCutcheon, was chosen for the Autumn production and rehearsals were well under way but because of serious and unexpected health issues with the cast the group felt they would have to cancel the show.

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held to discuss the situation but, despite various options and proposals, the group were unable to find a replacement and confirmed the decision to cancel the show. A play, and date, has still to be chosen for the next production.

On a brighter note, in September last year the drama group held the ever-popular Beetle Drive which was well attended so another one was held in February this year.

A Bingo Evening is now scheduled for Monday, 14th October, and we hope it will also go down well with everyone.

The group's Annual General Meeting will be on Monday, 21st October.

Jack Simpson (Drama Secretary)

Eight Tips for attracting wildlife into your garden

“Are not five sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God” Luke 12:6



With wildlife around Scotland looking for fresh food and a place to call home this makes it a great time for practical creation care to attract God’s creatures into your garden. Why not take action at home to not only care for all of God’s creatures but to enjoy them as well.

1: Build and install a bird box - There is no need to over complicate it. You can get started right away by building your own or purchasing an RSPB certified one from a local garden centre.

2: Install a bird feeder - Be strategic on where you put your feeder to keep the birds safe. Put them in the open so they can keep watch for predators but also near trees or bushes to provide refuge.

3: Build a bee hotel - Unlike honey bees that live in hives, solitary bees like to have their own room in a bee hotel. These bees are an essential part of pollination and maintaining healthy ecosystems.

4: Build a bat box - Bats increasingly gravitate to urban areas as their natural wild habitat is destroyed. This is what makes it so important to care for them as part of God’s creation.

5: Grow a wild patch - Give the mower a rest and let insects and birds roam the grass. Throw some Scottish wildflower seed down to grow attractive flowers in a patch you want to let slide.

6: Compost - Throw your kitchen compostables into a compost bin and get your hands stirring it around. Not only a sustainable, peat-free way of growing fruit and veg but also a superb way to enrich poor soil by inviting worms and other wrigglers to work the soil for you.

7: Make a hedge - Replace old fence panels with a bird-friendly border. Native bushes such as hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple or hazel are far better for wildlife than exotic shrubs or fences.

8: Butterflies - Populations in the UK are in decline but you can encourage them into your garden by [growing plants caterpillars like to eat](#). As butterflies seek out particular plants to lay their eggs selectively place sacrificial vegetables in a butterfly border to lure them away from your crops. In order to really attract wildlife to your garden consider creation as a whole. Wildlife doesn’t respect our boundaries any more than the weather so every effort you make will have a knock-on effect on the wildlife around and about. Encourage your friends, family and neighbours to join you in making room for nature and you’ll begin to see more wildlife in your area. If you haven’t got a garden maybe someone in the congregation needs help tending theirs?

John Webster

SURC Eco Congregation Scotland Representative



**Meet and eat with friends
at Saughtonhall**

Join us at.....



The One O'clock Gang

For food, fun and fellowship.

On the first Monday each month 1.00pm to 2.30pm

Suggested donation £3 to cover cost of a light lunch

SCO14175 **ALL WELCOME!**

===== **God's Coffee**

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life.

Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups – porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite – telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said:

“If you noticed, all the nice looking, expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress.

Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and, in some cases, even hides what we drink.

What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups And then you began eyeing each other's cups.

Now consider this: Life is the coffee; the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of Life we live.

Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us.”

God brews the coffee, not the cups Enjoy your coffee!

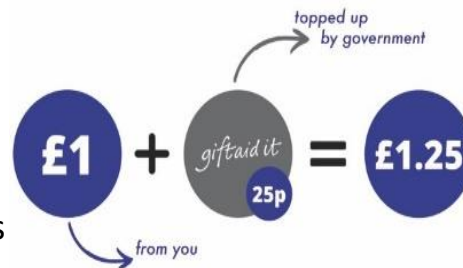
“The happiest people don't *have* the best of everything. They just *make* the best of everything.”

“Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.

Author unknown

Gift Aid to Charities

One of the most significant things that former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Deputy Prime Minister and son of the Manse, Gordon Brown did for charities was to create Gift Aid to compensate churches and charities which cannot reclaim Value Added Tax on goods it purchases or for services it receives.



So when we pay for insulation or maintenance to the Church we have to pay 20% on top of whatever our cost is to either the provider of the goods or services which means that a £1000 bill has £200 added to it which ends up with the Tax Man.

Essentially if any of us complete a gift aid declaration in favour of the Church (or any other charity), we can claim 25% of what we donate from the Tax Man. It doesn't have to be a regular payment like freewill offering but once you have signed up everything you give to the church has a quarter added to what we can claim. The total gift aid paid in relation to your monetary gifts is added up over all the charities you support each year. All you have to do is declare that the money you are paying is yours, that you pay UK tax, and that the money which is reclaimed by the charity is not more than the total income tax you are paying on a year-by-year basis. That declaration should be renewed every 4 years.

Virtually all of us pay income tax, partly due to inflation which increases all or most of our pensions and state benefits and partly as the amount of our income which is not subject to tax has remained fixed for several years and that is likely to continue into the foreseeable future. There are two things you need to do to help the Church. Make sure your current declaration relates to any contribution you pay not just weekly amounts and for those who currently don't use gift aid consider the nice thought that the Church can be helped by the tax man if we take that action.

Contact Keith or me to help set it up. Any amounts paid will be confidential with only the Treasurer of the Church knowing what you have done as the Treasurer makes the claim for the tax refund.

Richard Nunn

Church member & Finance Team member 13/06/2024

*Having a great time at The Memory Lane
café.*



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Tots@Saughtonhall



starting
Wednesday
6th November
9.15 - 11am



@Saughtonhall URC

warmly welcomes babies and children
up to three years old together with
their parent or carer

Spread the news!

The Murrayfield Club & The Memory Lane Café

“Every week brings something different, lots of laughs, games and fun and you keep our brains working.” (S, member)



Every Tuesday and Thursday we welcome a group of people who live in our local community to The Murrayfield Club which we hold at Murrayfield Parish Church.

Run by Murrayfield Churches Together since 1990 the club has successfully blossomed, providing a day service for people over 65 who are living with the early stages of dementia, those who are frail or elderly and looking for friendship.

We host ten people on each of these days who may be referred to us through a health professional, a family member, friend or they can even refer themselves.

The club is a safe, stimulating and very fun environment for our members and our aim is to provide a lot of laughter, make new friends and try new things.



We work to a different theme each week over 50 weeks of the year, liaising with our members and volunteers to include any new ideas and interests. We then create activities and games around these themes to encourage discussions, reminiscence, play physical games as well as brain games.



“Great fun, lots of fun and unusual games to keep us entertained.” (D, member)

“I enjoy every single week, it’s smashing.” (A, member)

Some of our themes have included The Wild West, Outer Space, Great Architecture, Karaoke, Record Breakers, Olympics, Schooldays, Comedians and many, many more. We make sure we celebrate the big calendar events such as Burns Night, St.Patrick’s Day, St. Andrews Day and of course pantomime season at the end of the year.

“I don’t like leaving, I have such a great time.” (E, member)

The activities are created and delivered by our team of 5 staff, and we’re faithfully backed up by our loyal volunteers. Our volunteers assist members to and from the minibus, serve lunches, encourage member participation and sneakily bend the rules during team games when things get competitive. We wouldn’t be able to manage without them and we have a whole lot of laughs with their assistance.



Governance – What is it and how does it apply to Saughtonhall URC?

Governance is basically how we look after and keep Saughtonhall operating as a church and as a charity. You may wonder why we are a charity when we



are a religious organisation, but being a registered charity in Scotland enables us to claim money from HMRC on donations made by taxpayers (see Richard Nunn’s article), and as an organisation we are non-profit making and operating wholly for the benefit of the local community – which is basically the definition of a charity. As a charity we are bound by the rules and regulations of the Scottish Charity Regulator – OSCR. The rules are pretty logical and are basically there to protect the volunteers who are running the charity – in our case the Elders of the Church who are registered as the Charity Trustees. The role of an Elder within Saughtonhall URC is a big responsibility, as we have in effect to be managing a charity while providing ecumenical support to the members of the congregation.

Fortunately, we have a good, experienced team of Elders who have managed to keep the church in good fettle through difficult times including the pandemic and the difficulties that all the churches are facing with aging and diminishing congregations. It’s a difficult time to keep on top of everything, but we are looking to the future in terms of the governance of the church and raising our profile within the local community.

Our new Treasurer Andrew Wright, the husband of Lynne Wright who is one of our Elders, is not a church member so we now have a Finance Team in place which has delegated authority from the Eldership to assist Andrew in his role. The team’s remit is also to identify, document and manage all the financial processes within the Church. The guidance which OSCR provides in terms of Good Governance in this respect is invaluable, and the chart above is an adapted extract from one of their guides published to help charity trustees to keep within the rules and regulations. As part of the review of the governance of the Church, are looking to update the Church’s Constitution – our Governing Document - which has not been updated since 1966. We will be developing a new set of Rules to run in conjunction with the updated Constitution which will include the newly documented financial processes, controls and authority levels.

An updated Constitution and documented rules will open doors to grants and other financial aid which will assist us to reach out to the community and, God willing, encourage new members to join our Church.

Keith Wilson, Elder and Finance Team member. 19/10/2024

A few words on Wills...



When someone associated with the church dies, occasionally a donation is made to the church which is gratefully received. If you want to ensure that this happens on your death you should check to ensure that this is reflected in your Will.

It may be many years since you last updated your Will. Even if you don't think you need to change it people and addresses may have changed and those previously reflected in the Will may no longer be with us. New opportunities now exist to help the charities, which may be close to you, who are operating, and will continue to operate, in very difficult financial situations.

Those who die without a will leave behind challenges and costs which are avoidable in difficult times of grieving

Richard Nunn

13/10/2024

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Funerals..

Mrs Aileen Lowe.	Murrayside Care Home formerly Saughtonhall Died July 2023
Mrs Joan McDonald	Saughtonhall (Church elder for 42 years) Died Oct. 2023
Mr Ronnie Calder	Whitson Road Died May 2024
Mrs Irene Rose Gray	Ashleigh Care Home formerly Saughtonhall Died July 2024
Mrs Helen Wilson	Murrayfield Care Home formerly Saughtonhall Died Aug 2024

Let's be warm in Saughtonhall!

Last year you will remember we invested in new radiators for the main hall of the church. With electricity prices continuing to rise it seemed only natural and sensible to see if we couldn't reduce our energy usage to save on our consumption by getting the roof insulated. Back in March it seemed such a



logical and straightforward idea! For those of you who haven't ever gone up into the church attic space I should explain; it's not an easy space.

Whilst we all see the suspended tile ceiling of the hall, what most don't realise is that above that is a twelve feet high void. The actual roof is fabricated metal on a complex structure of steel girders and joists.

After many phone calls, emails and dead-ends, a family run Glasgow based company, called JSJFoam, agreed to come and take a look. Thankfully they decided that whilst being a challenge the project was possible and they gave us a quote. What then followed were a series of trials as Jim Shearer and his team explored ways that they could get to all parts of the underside of the roof. The problem was really one of safety as the risks involved with working at height with the potential of falling over 30 feet to the floor were clear.

The final solution involved safety scaffolding and boarding being positioned in the hall, just 'supporting' the ceiling tiles, walkways being created inside the attic, on top of the ceiling tiles, plus safety harnesses!



Alongside this we had to ensure that all of the spaces that they needed access to were empty! No small task, and we have Jim Pryde and Morag Simpsons grandsons amongst many other to thank for moving everything down from the attic store. Also thanks to Hazel and Jan for emptying the Flower room and John and David for helping move and empty the 'chair storeroom' and, of course, for putting everything back.



In the process of this project Keith and I learnt a new skill, not sure we'll ever have to need it but we are now experts at dismantling and replacing suspended ceilings! Initial monitoring of the electricity meters suggests that we are going to be saving quite a bit on our bills. Which were running at approx. £34.50* a day before the insulation was installed.

Taking the last four weeks meter readings would indicate that the average daily cost for the period is showing at £20.64. As we head into the winter it would perhaps be more realistic to assume that this could rise to an average of £25 per day over the whole year. Our current contract ends in August next year and with what's happening in the world at the moment we can't tell if prices will be up or down but we will endeavour to get the best deal that we can! *Based on the consumption and using the rates in our current fixed term electricity contract

Further to this energy efficiency drive we are also now exploring having the windows in the hall replaced with double glazed ones. Watch this space.

Elizabeth Wilson 12/10/2024

