



Advent & Christmas 2022

Sunday 27th November

*12.00pm Sunday Worship Advent 1
3.30pm Advent Carols Church of the Good Shepherd

Sunday 4th December

*12.00pm Sunday Worship Advent 2 with Communion

Sunday 11th December

*12.00pm Sunday Worship Advent 3
The Seasonal Music of Vaughan Williams
3.00pm Service of Hope & Remembrance

Saturday 17th December 3.00pm Messy Christingle

Sunday 18th December

*12.00pm Sunday Worship Advent 4

Saturday 24th December

*5.00pm Christmas Eve Pyjama Service
*11.30pm Watchnight Service (with carols from 11pm)

Sunday 25th December

*12.00pm Sunday Worship for Christmas Day

Sunday 1st January

*12.00pm Sunday Worship Christmas 2 with Communion
*Broadcast live on Facebook (or via website)

Wednesday 4th to Saturday 7th January

'The Fed Up Fairy' Pantomime

(see website, Facebook & noticeboards for performance times)

www.saughtonhall.com www.facebook.com/saughtonhall

Everyone is welcome - just come as you are



The Messenger

Festive Edition



2022



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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Dear Friends

As we embrace the season of Advent 2022 I wonder how you are feeling? This is not a rhetorical question so take a moment to pause, breathe and think before you read on.....

I suspect much that has come to mind has brought feelings of concern and anxiety; perhaps even a sense of fear and loss, which are feelings shared with many around us in what the world we know has become. In embracing all the season of Advent brings, a welcome tonic can be uncovered. However to find this, we have to have an understanding of what Advent is actually all about.

In the Church calendar the seasons of Advent and Lent have many parallels, and yet the associated holiness of Lent can often feel diluted or even extinguished by the external cultural pressures of the season during Advent. Pressures that I am fairly certain have not helped form your response to my opening question.

Advent is not about counting down to Christmas with a check list of things to buy, places to go, people to see and arrangements to confirm. Advent is the beginning of a new year in the Church calendar that carries themes of hope, peace, joy and love. A season of intentional expectant waiting and anticipation not just to celebrate the Nativity of Christ, but also in preparation for the day of promised return, whenever that may be and in whatever form that may take.

Perhaps the feelings you are carrying have been triggered by a lament for the past and how things used to be? When life seemed more straightforward and what Advent should be was an imbedded part of our culture alongside the Church, rather than what it has all become?

In 2022 highlighting what the season of Advent should be about is really counter cultural and sadly for many it will therefore be new information. However, I am not sure this is as bad as it may appear because everything about the embodied person of God in Jesus, whose birth we will soon celebrate, together with his ministry and the movement he established, was counter cultural.

What Jesus brought and offered was an alternative that challenged the religious and political thinking of the day. It wasn't easy for those who bought in to it and signed up, but it was the hope, peace, joy and love they found that inspired, energised and fueled their passion and commitment to the light of Christ in complex and challenging times.

As we embrace the season of Advent 2022, look to the light of Christ and be open to the counter culture rhythm of this season that we claim. A beat that can be found in the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ. A much needed, welcome and in many ways, counter cultural tonic.

Take a moment to pause, breathe and think about this....

As we embrace the season of Advent 2022 I wonder how you are feeling?

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

John 8:12 (NLT)

I wish you, and those you love; a joy filled Advent, a peace filled Christmas and a hope filled 2023.

Advent blessings, The Revd David M Scott, BSc BD(Min)

NOTE: Since the last Messenger we have welcomed a new member (by transference) Mrs Lynne Wright.

Facebook :-

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

Worry is a conversation you have
with yourself
about things you cannot change



Prayer is a conversation you have
with God
about things He can change



MEMORY LANE
CAFÉ



HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Join us at the Memory Lane Café

Friday 9th December 2022

10am-12pm

Bring your friends and join in the fun, singing
along to Sarah's wonderful selection of
Christmas songs.

A warm welcome awaits with mince pies,
coffee and tea and of course some Christmas
cheer.

Saugtonhall United Reformed Church,
87 Saugtonhall Drive



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You are

BEAUTIFUL

Psalms 139:14

CHOSEN

1 Peter 2:9

MADE FOR A PURPOSE

Ephesians 2:10

A PRECIOUS CHILD OF GOD

John 1:12

LOVED FOREVER

Jeremiah 31:3



Blythswood Care

Shoebox Appeal 2022



Essential Items:

Toothbrush and toothpaste, Hats Scarfs & Gloves

Soap, Underwear.

Small Toy (Please only include new shop-bought toys)

Sweets (No chocolate or any other food) 'Best before' date no
earlier than March 2023 . No loose sweets, lollies or undated bags
of sweets.

Toiletries: (No Talcum Powder) Shampoo; Soap/Shower Gel;
Face Cloth/Moist Wipes; Deodorant; Moisturising Cream;
Comb/Brush; Sanitary Products; Shaving Foam/Razors;
Socks/Tights

Miscellaneous: New Make-up; Sewing Equipment; Household
Candles; Screwdrivers/Pliers; Kitchen Utensils

Stationery: Pens/Pencils/Sharpener; Notepads/Colouring Books;
Rulers/Rubbers

Clothes and other items: T Shirts/Pyjamas/Jumpers/Shirts etc

THANK YOU to everyone, including members of The One
O'clock Gang, who donated goods or cash to this year's
Christmas Appeal. We delivered a total of **60 shoeboxes
and shoebags**, together with a cheque for £150 towards
transport costs, to a local Collection Point.

Special thanks to Jim Pryde for providing the transport to
the collection point.

Edith, Irene and Hazel can provide further details of the appeal

**MCT Faith Discussion Group
Programme for Spring 2023**

Tuesdays 7.30pm ALL WELCOME.



The Faith Discussion Group considers different topics to do with faith to try better to understand what faith is and how it affects us both as individuals and as a community. All are welcome to our meetings, including doubters and sceptics. Spring meetings will be on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm, from 10th January in the Upper Hall at Saughtonhall United Reformed Church, 85/87 Saughtonhall Drive, Edinburgh EH12 5TR. We will aim to Zoom as many meetings as possible as well.

We intend to kick-off with the recently launched "Growing on the Frontline" a follow on from 2 series we've done before, followed by a York Lent Course "God Has No Favourites" tbc. The first consists of a video with a series of discussion questions. The 2nd is a series of talks on CD also with questions to discuss which looks as though it picks up some of the themes from Jesus The Gamechanger.

If these inspire you please come and join us.

The weekly programme for the Spring is as follows

10th January Growing on the Frontline - Growing wherever we are
17th January Growing on the Frontline - Our choices affect our

24th January Growing on the Frontline - Our desires influence our
31st January Growing on the Frontline - Our emotions reveal our desires

7th February Growing on the Frontline - Maturing in every season
14th February Growing on the Frontline - Going deeper with God in tough times

21st February Growing on the Frontline - Turning inner growth into fruitful action + maybe, Sustaining growth on the frontline

28th February God Has No Favourites - The best picture of God. tbc
7th March God Has No Favourites - Neither Jew nor Gentile. tbc
14th March God Has No favourites - Neither male nor female. tbc
21st March God Has No favourites - Neither slave nor free. tbc
28th March God Has No Favourites – What is a Christian? tbc

Jim Paterson (jim@thepatersons.org), Fraser Wood,
Jack Simpson

Eco Congregation



As you may know Saughtonhall URC holds a Bronze award from Eco Congregation Scotland. The Eco Congregation Scotland website has many useful hints, tips and ideas as to how we can all play a part in improving our environment. Faith Action for Nature is one resource online that you can access using the link <https://faithactionfornature.org> on which you will find seasonal packs including worship resources, family activities and practical actions for caring for nature.

As the year turns, the leaves change and the days lengthen, it's time to dip into the Autumn pack for inspiration. The theme for this season is Shelter, with reflections on the various images of God as our refuge. Do some shelter-building in the woods, install homes for wildlife, and think about the birds and animals that take shelter around your home and your church.

The theme for the winter season pack is Feast, not just because winter is dominated by the feast of Christmas, but because it's a good time to reflect on abundance, scarcity, and provision. For many animals and birds it's a tough time of year and the pack has a variety of practical activities to help.

You can download a pdf, or browse the documents online. If you would like more information or a printed copy of either pack please let me know.

John Webster

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Springwell Golden Voices present

FUN & FESTIVITY== Start your Christmas cheer here.
Programme of Christmas Carols & other Favourite Songs.



Coffee/Teas and Mince Pies

Cost – Optional donation only.

Monday 12TH December at 1:30pm

**Gorgie-Dalry-Stenhouse Church Hall, Gorgie Road
(next to Tynecastle Stadium)**

Here's the latest news from Ryan Strachan, Goods and Services Manager.

I would like to announce a brand-new service that started just last week I will use an excellent description provided by Bidy

“NESSie – North Edinburgh Support Services is a new innovative service that is a consortium between Fresh Start, Move On, North Edinburgh Arts and Spartans Community Football Academy. We have each recruited a Development Support Work (Fresh Start's is Craig Anderson so if you see him, please say hello!) and the team of 4 will work as a distinct team. They will support people in need – with a no wrong door and no criteria approach.

They will provide short- and long-term support based on the person's needs and wishes. And they will develop bespoke pathways to access a wide range of services and supports that will assist in helping people **“thrive not survive”**. This is a new approach to helping prevent people living in poverty not re-enter the homelessness system and will allow access to all of Fresh Start's services.”

For me this is really exciting as having that level of knowledge and remit is so helpful, I come into direct contact with clients via our white goods service, being able bring in the Nessie team and get immediate help rather than signposting to another agency is going to be amazing.

That brings me neatly on to our Cookers for Christmas appeal, I have only been with Fresh Start for 6 months but being able to provide white goods for those in need and genuinely change their lives is the single most rewarding thing I have done in my time here. Please share the link for the appeal [Cookers for Christmas 2022 - JustGiving](#)

Abi has sent me her update regarding the Hub and its good work, it's a such a lovely space and I had the pleasure of working one of the Wednesday Meet and Eat events just last week.

“Pantry continues to support members of the local community with low cost food, currently 231 members – donations of food always welcome!

Shop – Christmas pop up shop on 28th November – 2nd December 9am-12.30pm for all things Christmassy

Hub - English classes with run for absolute beginners for 12 weeks starting December 1st, places limited to 10, but we expect there will be a waiting list as these will be popular

Digital drop in with People Know How, very popular at the moment – access to help with devices including job applications, paying bills online and bidding for houses

Community Meet and Eats –which started in July with a turnout of 5 just peaked on Friday at 60 lunches (40 sit down, 20 take away) with food cooked and served by supported volunteers who have completed our cooking classes, now running on Wednesday evenings in response to cost of living and energy crisis – hot food, warm welcome and safe place to be

Gardens – cooling down for the winter months, with plans to run a Tool sharing shed in the new year”.

The final service update is from Denise who runs our very successful pantry

“I am going to run a little loyalty scheme leading up to Christmas in the pantry, when our members shop week beginning 5/12 – 12/12 and 19/12 and have their loyalty card stamped x3 times they can choose a free heart and a free diamond item, they will also get a little Christmas gift of either a selection box or a box of biscuits. I received a £200 donation (cheque in donations box) from a friend to buy selection boxes and/or biscuits but any donations would be great 😊

