

# Saughtonhall United Reformed Church

85/87 Saughtonhall Drive, Edinburgh EH12 5TR



## It's time to replant....

Notes from the gathering held on 13th September

Twelve people attended.

David, Peter, Liz, Keith, Lesley, John, Val, Irene, Annabelle, Eleanor, Heather & Fraser.

Apologies were received from Hazel & Neza.

Given the experience of the last 18 months and the impact this has had on everyone, we have an opportunity to replant Saughtonhall in the community we serve.

Everyone was reminded that Saughtonhall is a Church that the community called for in the 1920s and it was the Congregational Union of Scotland that responded.

Saughtonhall has served the community well although for many reasons over the last 20 to 30 years it now no longer holds the place it once did.

Community has been central to the worship and witness of Saughtonhall.

Using the assets God has given us in our people and their skills together with the wonderful resource of our building, now is a great opportunity to replant Saughtonhall, and that's exciting.

*So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognise what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.*

*Romans 12:2 - The Message*

### Prayer

God of opportunities and possibilities.

As we gather tonight open our hearts and minds as we discern where you are calling us.

Give us imagination to be creative.

Give us courage to be bold.

Give us understanding when we get it wrong.

We thank you for all we have in this special place and we remember all those who, with your guidance over the last 102 years, have made it what it is.

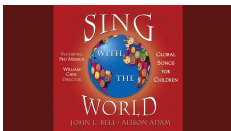
Enable this Church to be a beacon of light in the community we serve. A place of welcome, a place of warmth, a place of healing. A place where good memories are made and relationships formed.

Send people to us so that through all we do here, through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, they may be drawn to you.

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

Amen

Song: Halle, Halle, halle



### Location, location, location

Geographically Saughtonhall is centrally placed in a clearly defined community. We have a Chaplaincy with Balgreen Primary

### Where are we right now coming out of COVID?

#### Sunday Worship

- Blended in person and online

#### Church Activities

- Drama Group (AGM 16th September)
- Film Crew (23rd October)
- Shoe Boxes (Ongoing)

#### MCT

- Faith Discussion Group (Tuesday evenings from 5th October)
- MDP 'Memory Lane Cafe' (Friday mornings from 12th November)
- Messy Church (Christingle)

#### External Users

- Slimming World (Wednesday evenings)
- KS Dance Academy (Saturday mornings)
- Flexercise (Tuesday mornings)
- Yoga (Thursday mornings)
- Ann Scott Piano (Concert for families & Church 7th November)

### Inspiration from URC Community Project Awards

Videos were shown of the 2020 and 2021 winners.

Lymm URC	Sanctuary Cafe
Shrewsbury URC	Messy Vintage
Chorley URC	Chorley Repair Cafe
Lea Road URC	Food Project
Spire URC	Spire Cafe

### Thoughts & Discussion

Tonight not about decisions but about thinking and discerning how we can use what we have for others in our community.

Do we need to ask the community what the needs are?

How do we do this?

Do we get a sense of what they may be and then offer our response to our Community?

Changing demographic in the community.

Loneliness an issue, especially with older men.

More people working from home balancing child care.

Potential need for Parents & Toddlers group?

Kurling Club?

Combine Women's Union and Craft Club?

Alterations Cafe? - school uniforms.

People have a need to gather and chat but also need an excuse to do this.

We are more than a community centre. How do we develop opportunities for people to talk about their faith? Perhaps a stage 2 to this replant strategy with a need for training?

We have to consider how people perceive 'the Church' given its image and identity in light of safe guarding issues and past experiences generally (especially if negative) and be sensitive to them.

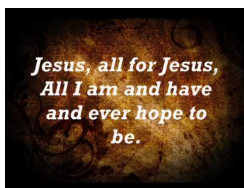
There was some discussion on how we use our technology to get our Sunday Service to members and friends who are unable to get to Church and don't have devices, recognising that for many, this has been a significant in many lives and is greatly missed.

### Final words

Relationships with our community is what we are trying to rebuild.

It was suggested that in the next gathering we break in to smaller groups for sharing and discussion.

Song: Jesus, all for Jesus



### Close

The gathering was closed with the Grace.