

The Messenger

Summer Edition
2023

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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Our minister writes....

It was in the summers of 1988 and 1989 that I attended Scottish Boys' Brigade Headquarters, Carronvale House in Larbert as a KGVI cadet. I was therefore delighted to be invited to return as Chaplain on the 2022/2023 course.

The King George VI Youth Leader Training course was established in the 1950s and takes place over two weeks in consecutive years. It is aimed at young leaders in the Boys' Brigade aged 17 to 21. In addition to the development of leadership, team building and relationship building skills; many others aspects of being a leader in the Boys' Brigade are covered such as physical activities, drill, first aid and safeguarding as well as exploring and sharing the Christian Faith. KGVI in Scotland is credit rated by the SQA on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework at level 7, the equivalent of an Advanced Higher or HNC, so it is a valuable addition on any CV.

As part of the course last year and this year, it was wonderful to host the Sunday Worship in Saughtonhall in a joint pastorate service with Duke Street.

It was a privilege and honour to serve as a KGVI Chaplain, which made me realise just how much influence my own KGVI experience had on my faith journey. The final duty as Chaplain will be to welcome the cadets back to Saughtonhall in the spring for a service of thanksgiving and graduation.



2.

Dear Friends

It has now been over five years since my induction to be minister of Saughtonhall URC and Duke Street URC in Leith. The new joint pastorate was initially deployed ministry for a five year term, so following an extremely positive review at the end of last year, it was good news all round when the Synod Pastoral Committee agreed to continue the deployment and remove any time restriction going forward. Although I did anticipate this would be the outcome, it has to be appreciated that ministry deployment in the URC is a limited resource. Indeed, the Synod has to work towards reducing full time ministers of word and sacraments to 11 by 2024. Contrast this with around 30 full time ministers in post across the Synod when I was starting out as an ordinand nine years ago.

Back in 2017 the Saughtonhall Pastorate Profile was very clear that a key objective for the congregation was growth. In a Church context this should be seen as something beyond numerical growth, although still important. Six years on and as we enter the second half of 2023, I do hope that you can see clear 'growth' in Saughtonhall.

Post Covid we have seen an overall increase in the number of people coming to Church in person on a Sunday but people do come less frequently, which is also being experienced in other congregations. There are many complex reasons for this pattern of growth but a quality live broadcast of the service on a Sunday is a key one. As such, it has been interesting to watch a steady increase of those participating in Saughtonhall's online Sunday Service, especially as the week goes on. And as part of the growth experienced on a Sunday, we welcome young people regularly and now need to address our provision for them.

Other tangible signs of growth have emerged in recent months. These include the election of three new Elders, Lesley Webster, Keith Wilson and Lynne Wright who, all being well, will be ordained and/or inducted at the end of August. In addition to this we have welcomed two new members and at our Church Meeting on the 30th of April, Saughtonhall agreed to support Peter Ranscombe as he discerns a call to non-stipendiary ministry in the URC. So with the blessing of Saughtonhall as his sending Church, Peter embarks on the first stage of the candidating process. Growth has also been seen in our relationships, particularly with children and staff of Balgreen Primary School where we offer chaplaincy. I now attend every Wednesday lunchtime during term time and run two clubs over lunchtime. These are for pupils who struggle with friendships and the dynamic of a primary school playground. From this I also now mentor one pupil on a one to one basis, which is having positive results.

The foundation for this and other growth being experienced in Saughtonhall has been our replanting campaign that continues to work away in the background, making our Church more visible, accessible and alert to the opportunities that God is presenting to us. This has been a huge team effort that really began 18 months ago with our Advent window trail. As I write this, our very successful Circus Stars holiday club has just finished. This was a week of happiness in Saughtonhall and a great example of how the replanting campaign has worked to bring about another area of growth.

This is of course great and I hope you can draw energy, excitement and inspiration from all we are doing in Saughtonhall. However, we also have to be realistic and appreciate the challenges that must be navigated. One of these in particular is finding people to undertake the variety of tasks that are needed to ensure Saughtonhall runs smoothly and correctly, many of which are taken for granted. Perhaps we have to be patient as I hope and pray that this will be a longer term outcome of the growth we have experienced so far. However, if there is something you could do, no matter how small - please let me or Hazel know.

Thank you for your interest in, support of and passion for Saughtonhall United Reformed Church. If you have not been for a while and you can manage, why not come along at 12pm on Sunday - either in person or online?

Have a wonderful summer, enjoy all God's gifts to us and remember :-

you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

All glory to him, both now and forever! Amen. (2 Peter 3:18 - NLT)

Grace and peace.

The Revd David M Scott, BSc BD(Min)





MEMORY LANE CAFÉ

Come along to join in with lots of friendly chat, meet new people and enjoy refreshments.

Held every Friday 10am - 12pm at
Saughtonhall United Reformed Church
87 Saughtonhall Drive, EH12 5TR.
For further information contact: 07881 288909

Admission £3 per person



Amusing Anecdotes

Another leak!

Members of a local church discovered that the roof was leaking.

The following Sunday the church secretary started the notices by apologising for THE DRIP IN THE PULPIT.

Seen on a tombstone in Edinburgh

“Erected to the memory of

John MacFarlane

Drowned in the water of Leith

By a few affectionate friends”.

The last word

As a member of any church committee will tell you-

After all is said and done, there’s a lot more said than done.

Phil Mason 1990



Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal 2023



We are filling shoeboxes again this year. Can you help?

Here’s what is needed:

Essential Items:

Toothbrush and toothpaste

Hat, Scarf, 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 2024 . 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

WHY NOT SPREAD THE COST BY ADDING SOMETHING TO YOUR SHOPPING TROLLEY EACH WEEK?

Alternatively, cash donations are welcome to enable us to buy what’s required and to help towards postage costs (approx. £3 per shoebox)

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

ECUDARE UPDATE



ECUDARE FUNDRAISER

A fundraising event called “Songs, Strawberries & Sparkles” was held at the Church of the Good Shepherd on Saturday 1st July and was a great success.

After enjoying our “Strawberries & Sparkle” we made our way to the church where we were entertained by Ian Lawson and friends and everyone joined in sing some old favourites.

The funds raised for Ecludare in Kenya were in excess of £500.

We have since had the following message from Esther in Kenya:-

“Thank you Rev. Keith and all for thinking about us and supporting our girls, kindly pass my regards to Kath and all the committee who’s participated in the fund drive.

We would like to continually support our girls to feel loved, appreciated and supported with sanitary products, soap, oils and pants which at the moment is a real struggle for the most vulnerable and needy from our school community. I would like to assure you that we will do the very best with the funding.

Every blessing to you.”

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Would you like to come to Church?

Unfortunately many of our members and friends can no longer manage to Saughtonhall on a Sunday. However, a number do still attend by joining the live broadcast of our service. Most, if not all, would not claim to be gadget experts but thanks to family and friends they have found simple ways of connecting and feel very much part of the worship experience.

If getting to Church on a Sunday is problematic and you would like to try joining from home, then we would love to do all we can to make this possible. Please speak to an elder or the minister.

SAUGHTONHALL DRAMA GROUP



In January the drama group were invited by Amanda Baker to assist her in staging a panto-style show, ‘The Fed-Up Christmas Fairy’, which she had written. Although this was not a drama production, Amanda’s request for assistance was taken up and the entire cast of the show (with the sole exception of Amanda) were from the drama group.

Later that month an ‘Open Night’ was held in an attempt to attract new members. Several interested personnel attended the event, they were each given the opportunity to read from a number of plays and three of them were later given parts in the Spring production. Unfortunately, none had the required commitment and all three subsequently dropped out. However, a previous member - Alan Moonie, did re-join the group and he got a starring role in the show.

The Spring production was a light-hearted comedy, ‘Alter Ego’, which was well attended and received good reviews. The author and his family even travelled up from Durham to see one of the performances and he later sent an e-mail saying how they had enjoyed the show.

Next on the social agenda was a Bingo Evening in May. This was a popular event with many prizes some of which had been donated especially for the occasion.

And finally, future dates in the drama group’s diary for later this year include a Beetle Drive (Thursday, 7th September), the Annual General Meeting (Friday, 13th October) and the next production – which is still to be chosen (Wednesday 15th – Saturday 18th November).

Jack Simpson
(Drama Secretary)

Marriage and Coffee

Shortly after tying the knot, a young married couple started arguing over who should make the coffee. Being a good Christian woman, the wife went to the scriptures for her answer. She said that the Bible specifically stated that men should be the ones to make the coffee. Puzzled, the husband asked her where in the Bible it said that. Very confidently, the wife opened up her Bible and said: “It’s right here— HEBREWS.”

ADAM by I. M. Blamer

His spade made a ringing sound as he jabbed it into the hard soil. His thoughts wandered back to that ideal garden where he and his partner had made the biggest mistake of their binary existence. “Who bought this useless spade?” he moaned, thinking out loud, while failing to recall how it was himself who insisted that the tool he was pogo sticking on the solid earth was the one for the vast open prison that was their post-climate disaster world.

Adam truly believed it was Eve’s fault that they had forgotten to care for the garden. It was her who was tempted to become the C E O of a country’s oil production. Another woman breaking the glass ceiling. Eve had climbed to the top, not on other’s shoulders but through her own merits. The ascent had taught her that her opinions were respected and listened to. Although she had been with Adam from the beginning, he had never really listened to her, preferring to drift off into more creative thoughts. Adam was quick to blame Eve rather than the whole of humankind, seeing it as the last straw, when the country she was working for emitted 370 million tonnes of CO2 into the atmosphere that was already on the brink.

Adam had always recycled but had the strongest view that climate change could only be dealt with when manufacturers and the leaders of industry took responsibility for the planet. He had cut down his consumption of meat, tried to purchase sustainable products and voted for green political parties. Adam looked up from his twanging, vibrating spade as it struck the dry ground, wiped the sweat from his brow and saw the only greenery for miles; thorns and thistles that the head gardener had allowed to grow.



One O’clock Gang

We’re taking a wee break over the summer.

Hope to see you all again on

Monday 4th September 2023

MCT Events for Kids & Young People 2023



- August 26th. Saughtonhall Fun with Faith.....God is Listening
- Sept. 30th...MPC Messy Church.....Harvest
- Oct. 28th.....Saughtonhall Fun with Faith.....Light Party
- Nov. 25th....MPC Messy Church.....Advent
- Dec. 16th... Saughtonhall Fun with Faith.....Messy Christingle

LOOK AT THE BIRDS

The Sermon on the Mount is found in the early chapters of the Gospel of Matthew and contains some of Jesus' best known teachings, including this famous passage on worry:

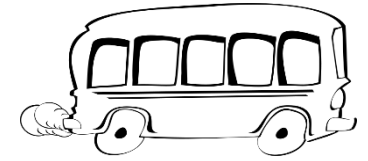


“Do not be worried about the food and drink you need in order to stay alive, or about clothes for your body. After all, isn't life worth more than food? And isn't the body worth more than clothes? Look at the birds: they do not plant seeds, gather a harvest and put it in barns; yet your Father in heaven takes care of them! Aren't you worth much more than the birds?”

When Jesus says 'look at the birds', how should we take that? We could consider it to be a metaphor for how we should think about God's provision, a comparison to make a point. Or we could take it at face value. The Sermon on the Mount is called that because it was delivered on the side of a mountain. It's an outdoor sermon, with an outdoor audience. When Jesus says 'look at the birds', there's a strong chance he was able to point to actual birds in the sky over his listener's heads. So, what would we learn if we took those words literally? Rather than study this passage where Jesus talks about birds, we could do what he tells us to do and study the birds themselves. What we have here is an instruction from Jesus to go birdwatching. If we look at the birds, Jesus says, we will see that they are cared for through the life-giving abundance of God's world. We will see that we do not live in a world of scarcity, where we all have to grab whatever we can. God provides. We can trust in that provision and live generously in response. But let's not be satisfied with those words. Let's take up Jesus invitation: look at the birds, and let's see what we learn. Did you know there are 6.7 million breeding pairs of robins in the UK? I'm sure you'll see at least one if you look.

John Webster

Lindesfarne Adventure.....



On Friday 23 June 2023, 8 ladies from SURC made up a party of about 30 with MPC for a day trip to LINDESFARNE, also known as Holy Island.

Northumberland King Oswald (634-42) summoned St. Aidan from Iona and he founded the monastery in 635 AD. Around the 670's St. Cuthbert joined the monastery as a prior and eventually became Lindesfarne's greatest Monk-Bishop. The ruins now visible are from a 12th century priory which claimed direct descent from the early monastery.

We left Edinburgh 9 a.m. and arrived about 10.45 a.m. and were free to do "our own thing" The village is picturesque with many cottages covered in roses, and beautiful coastal scenery. There are about 160 residents and the island has 650,000 visitors from all over the world each year.

There are local craft shops, cafes, 2 hotels, a castle, Gospel Gardens, St. Cuthbert's Centre (URC), Priory Museum, a winery which makes Lindisfarne mead and many other places of interest. (Would recommend the ice cream shop!)

At 2.30p.m. there was a chance to meet at the beautiful St. Mary's Parish Church for a short Communion Service led by Rev. Carolann Birnie, who organised this whole outing. We then headed for our coach and arrived home at 5 p.m. A really worthwhile trip which everyone enjoyed and we appreciate all the work undertaken by Carolann for organising this for everyone. If you have access to the internet you can look up the history of Lindesfarne which is really interesting.

Joan MacDonald

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New Members by transference

Mr Peter Ranscombe
Mrs Jan Taylor

Deaths

Mrs Jessie Watson	Baird Drive	14th December 2022
Mr Brian Farish	Baird Grove	23 rd January 2023
Mrs Marion Meal	Glendevon Road	8th May 2023