

# MEADOWBANK

Church of Scotland

**UPDATE**  
**March**  
**2020**



[www.meadowbank.church](http://www.meadowbank.church)

Dear friends

## ONGOING CONVERSATIONS

Conversations with neighbouring congregations will continue over the next year with Presbytery's support as we look for God's leading for our future beyond the 5-year Transition Ministry. It has been really encouraging to see how we have been able to put aside any competitiveness with neighbours and have a real joy and delight to see what each are doing in sharing the Good News of Jesus. Please pray that we can continue in this spirit of unity where there have been real challenges in the past.

## DINNER CHURCH

The idea of having an 'alternative' service has been discussed by Kirk Session and congregation with a report in the December UPDATE — this where our Church of Scotland neighbours all have similar services at 10.30 or 11am. Research shows that only 5-10% of the population will be in any way attracted to the type of traditional church service which many of us enjoy. The question and the challenge for the church is to offer people something to which they might relate. I am convinced that we have a great opportunity to try something over these final two years of Transition Ministry. We will continue to consider this prayerfully over the next few months.



Blessings to you all

## dates for your diary

### Lent Bible Study Group

Over the weeks of Lent we a series of Bible Studies as part of our preparation through Lent as we approach Easter.

We will be using good material from The Scottish Bible Society with opportunity for small group discussion.

All are welcome from our neighbouring congregations

**Monday 2nd March 6.30 for 7-8.15pm**

**Monday 9th March 6.30 for 7-8.15pm**

**Monday 16th March 6.30 for 7-8.15pm**

**Monday 23rd March 6.30 for 7-8.15pm**



**World Day of Prayer Service**  
**Friday 6th March 2pm at Greenside**

The theme of the Prayer is 'Rise — take up your mat and walk' - written by the Christian women of Zimbabwe — a warm welcome awaits at Greenside Church

**Sunday 8th March 11am Service**

**Sunday 15th March 11am Service**  
**Edmund Farrow leads this service**

**Sunday 22nd March 11am Service**

**Sunday 29th March 11am Service**  
**We celebrate communion on the last Sunday of each month**

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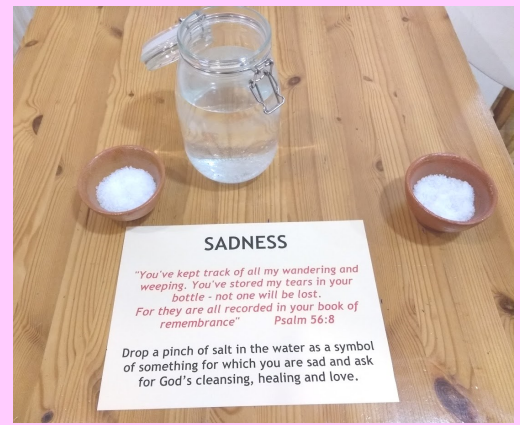
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## Prayer Points through the 7 weeks of Lent

Through each of the seven Sundays of Lent we will have a different Prayer Point at the back of the church which will allow people to reflect prayerfully on their life.



On Wed 19<sup>th</sup> February, we welcomed Lorna Ferguson to our Prayer Meeting, where she spoke about her work with Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) in Japan. She and her husband, David, went out to Japan with two small boys about 20 years ago.

They later had another two sons in Japan. Lorna and David were each employed in different roles, so when David died almost three years ago, Lorna had a job to keep, and she felt that God was calling her to stay in Japan. Of her four sons, Daniel is working for Westminster in London, Matthew is finishing his Law degree in Glasgow, Calum is on a university football scholarship in California while Alistair is still at secondary school in Japan.

Churches in Japan are usually very small, so pray for encouragement for them as they seek ways to reach out to the community around them.

- Pray for new OMF workers to come to Japan.
- Pray that the coronavirus will not spread.
- As 70% of Japanese are involved in Sport, Lorna asks prayer for the Japanese Churches as they plan an outreach, during the Olympic Games this year.

We share great sadness at the sudden death of **Rev Peter Macdonald** who had been Minister in St George's West, then Leader of The Iona Community and lately Minister at our near neighbour, Broughton St Mary's. His funeral will take place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 12.15pm in Broughton St Mary's.



**Rev John Wells** will be inducted to our neighbouring church at St Margaret's Restalrig on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Restalrig is one of Edinburgh's conservation villages and we see above a depiction of the village in former years. John has a 5-year Reviewable Tenure and part of his call is to work closely with Willowbrae, Greenside & Meadowbank as we explore a sustainable future for ministry & mission.

### It costs over £8,000/year for servicing our building

It is important to keep our building in good condition and 'compliant' with all the various regulations. People may not appreciate these basic costs of over £150/week for such things as servicing boilers, pressure systems and control panels, fire safety systems including emergency lights and alarm, intruder alarm system, lift to 1st floor, movable walls in the hall, portable appliance testing (PAT), piano tuning, window cleaning and 4 hours/week with our cleaners.

**Added to that we have gas, electricity & repair costs!**