

# MEADOWBANK

Church of Scotland

**UPDATE**  
19th November  
**2020**



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

## weekly message

**Sunday 22nd November 11am  
MORNING SERVICE**

It has been really good to be able to meet together — even with facemasks and keeping 2 meter distance and even though we are not able to sing!

**There are only 24 places in the church each Sunday so you MUST text/phone/email Russell if you want to attend.**



## PRISONERS WEEK 2020

### The Prisoners Week Prayer

**Lord, you offer freedom to all people.  
We pray for those who are held in prison.**

**Break the bonds  
of fear and isolation that exist.**

**Support with your love: prisoners,  
their families and friends,  
prison staff, chaplains  
and all who care.**

**Heal those who have been wounded  
by the activities of others,  
especially the victims of crime.**

**Help us to forgive one another,  
to act justly, to love mercy,  
and walk humbly together with Christ  
in his strength and in his Spirit,  
now and every day.**

**Amen.**

You can watch a 50 minute on-line service for Prisoners Week with input from different people involved in prison life in Scotland.

<https://www.facebook.com/101928991222603/videos/3214084522035791>



Folks

This week, 15-22 November, is a time when we are specially asked to remember all those involved in Scottish prisons. Last Sunday we read Jesus's words—'*I was in prison and you visited me*' ... '*whatever you do to least of these you do to me*'.

As someone who served for 8 years as a part time Prison Chaplain I know how challenging it can be to work with the many issues which offenders will live with. If we see Jesus in '*the least of these*' it does make a huge difference.

**Your prayers  
at this time are even  
more important**

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Meadowbank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh is a Scottish Charity SCO000052

# from our joint churches 'conversation'

A group of folk from Abbeyhill Baptist, Mustard Seed Episcopal Pioneer Project and Meadowbank Church of Scotland met by Zoom on Saturday 31st October with the question of how we might together better 'serve' our local community with its needs coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. It seems good to share some of the thoughts from this first meeting as we plan to meet again soon.

## How we experience life in Easter Road/Abbeyhill/Meadowbank

- a mix from richest to poorest - cheek by jowl
- higher number of working aged adults than average
- fewer school aged children than average
- a missing generation as families move away to bigger homes
- historically one bedroom flats where once families would have grown up
- fewer older people than average
- a huge and wonderful ethnic mix
- high cost of rental pushing many into fuel-poverty
- more than half households don't have a car unlike many areas in Edinburgh
- reliance on public transport – this an issue during current restrictions
- smell of cannabis
- people coming into the area for good church-run services like Soul Food at Mustard Seed & Cook Club at Meadowbank.

*We very much believe we need to listen to local people before starting out with any joint church ideas.*

*The real 'experts' on poverty or unemployment or loneliness are the people who experience these things*

## What is good and has positive energy on which we might build?

- our churches growing together – from joint café events to Tuesday morning Zoom
- Soul Food & Mustard Seed Sunday Services – adapting to COVID restrictions
- gardening project and debt-money advice at Mustard Seed
- Abbeyhill Baptist offering space to Polish congregation and Greenside Afterschool
- Rendezvous Café at Abbeyhill Baptist for church folk to meet
- Meadowbank CofS Cook Club 'family' and after school Chit Chat Storytelling Club
- a good community spirit and sense of identity in the area – a key building block
- energy of local people around scrutiny of planning applications
- local run shops like the anarchist COOP on Brunswick Road
- the many cafes which each have their own communities
- Friends of Montgomery Street Park with a programme of events
- the Holyrood Evangelical building with willingness to support
- The Colonies Art Festival + various murals telling history of the area
- Primary Schools are very community orientated – with Simon & Russell as chaplains
- a big and growing student population might be a group we can contact
- students have huge needs at this time where many will be very isolated



**Two issues came from our initial conversations where we might take some action**

- 1) **The lack of affordable housing in the area — maybe we could host a forum on this?**
- 2) **The churches should not be afraid to be involved in issues which affect the wider community — as with 'Save Meadowbank' which had the church's support**