

MEADOWBANK

Church of Scotland

UPDATE
17th December
2020



www.meadowbank.chur



Sunday 20th December
11am MORNING SERVICE

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

Thursday 24th December
11.30pm CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
11am CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

We are planning ahead for these 2 services. Please let me know as soon as possible if you want to attend as we only have 24 spaces following the COVID-19 restrictions

Jackie Wilson-Tagoe
Programme & Outreach Worker
Mobile — 07956 451716

Friends

ROADMAP TOWARDS DECEMBER 2021

I have a year before retirement in January 2022 and you will understand that I have mixed feelings about the changes that will bring to my life. I also have real concern that Meadowbank Church will clearly know the way ahead by this time next year. The 4-5 year period of Transition Ministry will come to an end and it is only fair that there is a clear resolution.

The cartoon shows Jesus frustration at not being able to get the church 'out of the box' and I am sure some can relate to that. It was nearly 20 years ago that the 'Church Without Walls' report was presented to the General Assembly and its ideas adopted. Its aim was to inspire the church to become a community built upon relationships with the teachings of Jesus the main source of that inspiration. It talked of 'reshaping' and 'releasing', of investing, modelling and permitting new things to happen. There is no doubt that the situation with COVID-19 has shaken us all with the sense that things won't ever return to the way they were. We can maybe see the opportunities to do church in new ways which will relate to 90-95% of people with no church connections or interest.

A FUTURE WITH WILLOWBRAE

Where neither Meadowbank or the Willowbrae congregations will be sustainable on their own we have been encouraged to think about a future together. This might have possibilities of a 'team' ministry to allow support for the traditional and to explore new ways of sharing the Gospel with the people in our part of Edinburgh.

Over the past couple of years we have shared in Join Kirk Session Conversations and last week our elders had a 'ceilidh-type' meeting on ZOOM with elders of Willowbrae. Six Willowbrae folk are volunteering as stewards for the Meadowbank 'church open' over these 2 weeks and we are delighted to have our friends share with us.

Please continue to pray for a growing friendship with folks in Willowbrae as we journey together.

With grace and
peace in Jesus

Russell McLarty—Transition Minister

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Meadowbank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh is a Scottish Charity SCO000052

Fresh Start is a Project supported by Edinburgh churches. Its mission is to 'help people make a home for themselves'.



Imagine moving into your new tenancy, then realising that you don't have a cooker to make your dinner, no washing machine to have clean clothes to visit friends and family and no fridge to store a pint of milk to make a hot drink on a cold night. This concept is all too real for our service users throughout the whole year.

At the turn of every corner, you see advertisements for tasty treats, ideas of what to cook for dinner and messages of healthy living. The lack of amenity to carry out these activities is felt by too many of our service users.

At Fresh Start, we want to make all these messages of healthy living and living well a reality for those who have been homeless and provide them with a brand new cooker, washing machine or fridge freezer.

MEADOWBANK DEVELOPMENT

Edmund Farrow attends the Meadowbank Development Group representing the congregation and has the latest news from a meeting today

- Construction of the sports centre now due for completion in June with a potential opening in early autumn.



- Replacement for Brunton Place surgery now a choice for the NHS between Meadowbank and conversion of second-floor space in Easter Road stadium. Meadowbank would have better access and transport links but has more uncertainty and a longer timescale to being operative.
- Looks like construction of the housing development on the site with 500 homes wouldn't start until at least 2023 and will take 3-4 years.
- Surrounding developments (e.g. St Margaret's House) likely to bring in roughly 1200 residents, half of whom would be students.



10.15-10.45am
Sunday 20th December
Reflections at the Quay
from Rev Paul Graham, head of spiritual care, and Rev Ali Pandian, health care chaplain, at University Hospital, Wishaw

ALSO

the BBC Scotland channel are broadcasting a Christmas Day version of 'The Service' at 12noon on 25 December

AND

the Resolutions programme featuring the 'Scented Lament' will be shown on BBC1 Scotland at 12:35pm on New Year's Day. Rev Peter Gardiner and his wife Heidi will create a temporary installation called 'Scented Lament' that will be made using the aromatic herb rosemary, traditionally associated with remembering. Folk in parishes throughout Scotland have sent them lengths of rosemary which they will attach to a 180cm diameter plywood ring, creating a wreath as acts of remembering pandemic griefs and losses and naming them in God's presence.

Come to the Manger

not that we should
but because we must:
not that we're certain
but because we're still alive to questions:
not that we're strong
but because we choose to live in humility:
not that we have seen a star
but because we wonder
at the whole cosmos

We come with curious shepherds,
rough, ready and unsanitary
We come with exotic strangers
drawn to the place of wonder.
We come with the whole world
to see this thing which has come to pass
Emmanuel – God with us