

MEADOWBANK

Church of Scotland

UPDATE
3rd December
2020



www.meadowbank.church

Sunday 6th 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.

2nd Sunday of Advent



Thursday 24th December
11.30 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Friday 25th December
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

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Folks

The quality of life for many people in Edinburgh is drastically effected by ongoing cuts in local services. It seems to me that the poorest are very much more effected by cuts and as Christians we might reasonably question whether this is right.



Another Edinburgh is Possible

is a group campaigning against further cuts. They tell us that over the next three years, Edinburgh City Council has identified £40million of "savings" but needs to find at least a further £47.5m meaning at least a further £5.1 million of reductions in services will be made. You might want to complete this on-line survey which looks to gather people's opinion on Council services.

<https://forms.gle/DoDBEPmcCAkNw3QV6>

World AIDS Day is on 1st December each year and this year we remember 13 million people who suffer without access to anti retroviral drugs. Where so much of our attention is on COVID-19 we must not forget those missing out on this effective treatment. I offer reflection and prayers on page 2 of this UPDATE.

May these weeks of Advent be a time we can make space for Jesus coming into our world.

With grace and
peace in Jesus

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Meadowbank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh is a Scottish Charity SCO000052

A focus on World AIDS Sunday 2020



On World AIDS Sunday
*we pray especially
for everyone infected
or affected by HIV
and AIDS,
for children
and young people,
for adults and old people,
for those who seek
to provide spiritual care
or health care,
for those
who allocate resources,
for those who can
shape policy, for our
Church of Scotland.*

*Loving God,
the Good Shepherd,
Let hope still be found,
let good work be done,
let the healing ministry of
Jesus Christ take shape,
let Your kingdom come,
let Your will be done,
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.
AMEN*



A long and healthy life – living with HIV

This year all of us have been aware of how much harm a virus can cause and we have heard much about how Covid-19 is the biggest challenge facing us in our lifetime. Yet since the late 1980s another virus has caused over 33 million deaths worldwide and today over 38 million people are infected by HIV. Like Covid-19, **there is no vaccine yet**, although work on an HIV vaccine has helped in the development of possible Covid-19 vaccines.

Like Covid-19, HIV does not discriminate according to economic status, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation or status. But both have a direct disproportionate effect on people of colour, the poor and the vulnerable in communities. This is directly linked to unequal social structures that result in poverty, lack of access to treatment and often unfair laws and policies which in turn lead to stigma and discrimination.

Thirty years on from the beginning of the HIV pandemic we can celebrate **that 25 million people are receiving antiretroviral therapy** (ART), which allows them to live long, healthy lives and with no risk of transmitting HIV to others. But there are **still 13 million people** around the world, including 1.8 million children, who do not have access to these vital drugs. The vast majority of the people affected live in low and middle-income countries.

Access to HIV treatment is key in the global effort to end AIDS as a public health threat, but this year, with all efforts turned to Covid-19, it is predicted that the fight to end HIV and AIDS has **been set back 10 years**. This year, following the International AIDS Conference, faith leaders and community activists launched the **'13 MILLION CAMPAIGN'** to promote access to health services to the 13 million children, women and men living with HIV who are not yet receiving antiretroviral treatment.

As Christians we have a moral responsibility to act to promote access to disease prevention, treatment, care and support to all.

Members of faith communities around the world are being encouraged to sign the '13 MILLION CAMPAIGN'. This World AIDS Sunday, church members might sign the campaign in support of access to treatment for the 13 million children, women and men who are unable to access treatment for HIV.

<https://www.interfaith-health-platform.org/13-million-campaign>

Carol Finlay—The Church of Scotland HIV Programme

Please tell as many people as you can about Meadowbank Church Open over the 2 weeks before Christmas. We really want to welcome as many as possible into the church offering a place of peace and prayer with the 4 'prayer trees' and our mini labyrinth.
If you can give time from 1-2.30pm or 2.30-4pm as a steward please contact Jackie or Russell.

Meadowbank Prayer Trees and mini Labyrinth

