

# MEADOWBANK

Church of Scotland

**UPDATE**  
11th February  
2021



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

Folks

## OUR WELCOME TO REFUGEES

On Sunday we will share readings, prayers and stories from a new resource which helps us look at the Bible with an understanding of the significant place of refugees in the long story of faith.

Christians uphold and respect the assertion that every human person is special, that life is precious, and that there is a common duty to uphold and promote human dignity.

On **page 2** Graham Checkley writes of his distress at the way asylum seekers are treated in our country. Graham had a longer article published last week and he was only too happy to share a shortened version with us as his friends in Meadowbank Church.

## TRAINING FOR BEFRIENDERS

'**Passing the Baton**' is Bethany's Befriending project run by Pall Singh. He offers training in the early weeks of March for volunteers from the local Churches who might want to serve God in offering friendship to people who are isolated in Edinburgh. Please speak to me if you want to find out more about this wonderful Project as it would be great to get a few folk involved.

With grace and  
peace in Jesus

**Reflections at the Quay**  
**BBC SCOTLAND TV**

**11.30am on 14th February 2021**

this week led by the Reverend John Bell and Jo Love from the Iona Community. Music is by Siskin Green.

(Available on iPlayer soon after the broadcast)

**11am Meadowbank Zoom Service**  
**ask Russell for phone or internet link**



This week we have stories and prayers for the desperate situation of refugees and asylum seekers

**Foxes have dens and the birds have nests but The Son of Man has nowhere to rest (Luke 9: 58)**

**7pm short Ash Wednesday**  
**Zoom service**

We are invited to share in this service by our friends at St Margaret's Episcopal Church.

The Zoom link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86419048933>

**A Lent Study Group by Zoom**

Watch out for news next week of a Lent Study Group which we hope to run through the weeks of Lent to Easter



**At least 79.5 million people around the world have been forced to flee their homes including nearly 26 million refugees , around half of whom are under the age of 18**

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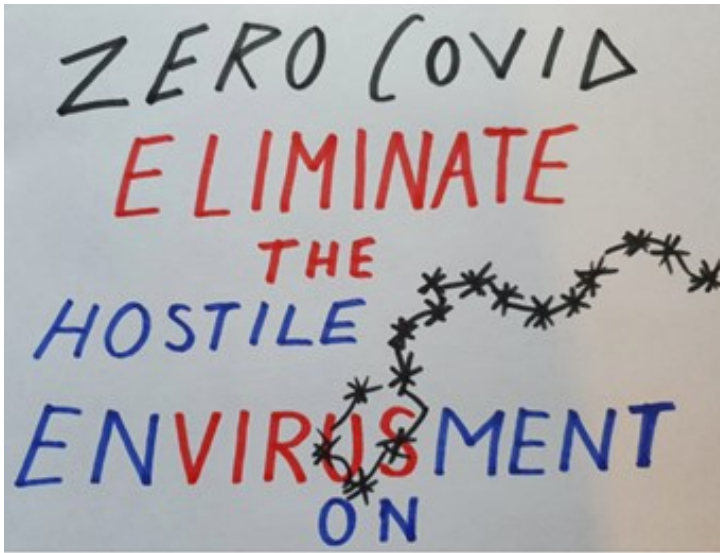
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Meadowbank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh is a Scottish Charity SC000052



**Graham Checkley tells us how Covid-19, plus a hostile immigration environment, produced a lethal combination.**

On 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020, a suspect was shot dead by police after six people, including one police officer and 2 hotel staff, were stabbed at the Park Inn Hotel in Glasgow. Three of the people stabbed were asylum seekers, as was the suspect himself, Badreddin Abadlla Adam.

Mr Adam was a 28-year-old asylum seeker from Sudan, and perhaps he would never have left his home but for the Darfur conflict. After 17 years of oil-fuelled war, it is no surprise that he sought a better life abroad, but due the hostile immigration environment he was not to find one in the UK.

Under the hostile immigration environment every migrant is considered illegal until they can prove otherwise. Even if they are lucky enough to avoid detention centres, their day-to-day lives are handed over the organizations like the Mears Group. Refugees are big money for big business.

So, despite warnings from the Scottish Refugee Council of the potential dangers, Mears confined hundreds of already traumatised refugees in Glasgow hotels at the beginning of the Covid-19 lockdown. One asylum seeker, Adnan Walid Elbi, a refugee from Syria, died in a hotel, with clear evidence that the Home Office was aware he was suicidal. Badreddin Abadlla Adam was to follow an even more terrible path. **May they rest in peace.**

**In our quest for peace, we seek your guidance, Lord, to strive for justice. Our common home is divided by fear and misunderstanding, by greed and lack of compassion. Send your Holy Spirit to comfort the dispossessed, and to give us the wisdom to share their load. May we offer the migrant and the refugee dignity and fairness, love, and the peace of Christ. Amen.**



**Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.**

**From Mathew 25:31-40.**



**For more information on how refugees are getting organized check out the Asylum Seeker Housing Project, Migrants Organize and Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees.**