

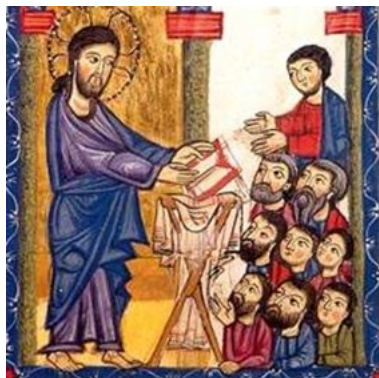
# MEADOWBANK

## Church of Scotland

**UPDATE**  
**18th March**  
**2021**



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



The Gospels were written to be read out aloud for people to listen to from beginning to end. We hope to experience the full drama of this on Wednesday 31st March. **Let Russell know if you want to be one of the readers**



On Good Friday we will have a large cross outside the front of the church with a purple cloth then on Easter Sunday you will be invited to decorate that cross with daffodils as a sign of resurrection and new life.

### CHURCHES SHARING TOGETHER

It is really encouraging to be sharing Easter Week Services with our sisters and brothers in neighbouring congregations. Each church is able to offer a lead on a different day with a different type of service.

It is equally encouraging to have come to a point of agreement between Kirk Sessions of Willowbrae and Meadowbank in 'A WAY FORWARD' which will open up a new chapter at the end of Transition Ministries. Details of this are over-the-page and we hope to be able to have congregational meetings sometime in

### 11am Sunday 21st March



Contact Russell if you need the link to join this service either by phone or internet/computer

### 11am Palm Sunday 28th March

We return to the church building for Palm Sunday. You need to 'book' a seat as we are limited to 24 people in the building—please email or text or phone Russell to reserve a seat.

### 7pm Wednesday 31st March

Zoom service led by Meadowbank & Willowbrae where we will read through Mark's Gospel (this should take about 80 minutes)  
**'Let us hear the Gospel'**

### 7pm Maundy Thursday 1st April

Zoom service led by Abbeyhill Baptist on MAUNDY THURSDAY including Communion where people might have bread & wine/juice ready to share at home as part of the service

### 7pm Good Friday 2nd April

Zoom service led by St Margaret's Episcopal who will share STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Zoom links for Wednesday Thursday & Friday will be sent out with next week's emailing and can also be had by contacting Russell

### 11am Easter Sunday 4th April

Our Easter Sunday Service in the church will feature a large daffodil cross outside at the front of the building where people should add flowers

the future to allow wider discussion of the ideas. Before I retire in January 2022 and Malcolm Ramsay of Willowbrae retires at Easter 2022 the Kirk Sessions would want to see decisions made and recruitment started in 2021 so that there won't be a long gap without ministers.

Please continue to pray for good decision making and the growing friendship with Willowbrae.

In Jesus' love

**Jackie Wilson-Tagoe**

Programme & Outreach Worker

Mobile — 07956 451716

[jwilson-tagoe@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:jwilson-tagoe@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Russell McLarty—Transition Minister**

Mobile – 07751 755986

[russellmclarty@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:russellmclarty@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Meadowbank Church of Scotland, 83 London Road, Edinburgh EH75TT**

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# A WAY FORWARD

Our Kirk Session has now met several times with the elders of Willowbrae Church of Scotland and we have agreed '**A WAY FORWARD**' towards a union of the two congregations as we come near the end of the two Transition Ministries. We will continue to work out the practicalities over the coming months and to hold meetings with congregations to allow wider discussion.

## Willowbrae & Meadowbank Agreement

1. Together we would be able to maintain both the existing life and worship and develop some pioneer ideas in a shared future

Both Willowbrae and Meadowbank have tried new things of the past 3-4 years though they each serve quite different communities with quite different congregations. Willowbrae has a fairly elderly population where the majority of people attending church live locally and have a common sense of identity while the Meadowbank community has a majority of younger single people and couples where cafés and small shops make for a vibrant street life.

The combined population is of over 20,000 (from 2011 census) with a steady increase over the past 10 years and further housing developments planned for the next 5 years.

2. We would look for 2 appointees, where this team would work together and complement one another; one with experience in parish ministry and the other with experience in pioneer work.

We are asking for two appointments though we realise that the 2021 General Assembly will be projecting a 30% reduction in the number of ministers available. Many ministers retire over the next few years and new recruitment will not make up these numbers. Edinburgh Presbytery, like others in Scotland will be given a smaller allocation to be shared across all the congregations.

3. That financial reserves could be used to employ support staff or sessional workers as required to run projects

Where both congregations were given the extra resource of a half-time Mission Development Worker for the time of Transition Ministry this will not be possible into the future. It might, however, be possible to use local reserves to employ people to help run Cook Club or Dinner Church or as a secretary or to look after buildings. In this way church folk can be fully involved in our mission activities.

4. That it would be possible to run with both buildings for a period of time to allow the church time to work out a robust and sustainable business plan on buildings within an agreed timeframe in the plan.

We think that it would be a good thing for people in both congregations to have some experience of the two different buildings. This might mean having Sunday morning Service in one building for one month then in the other for the next month and repeating this over a period of months.

With the COVID downturn in the economy this is not a good time to be trying to sell church buildings and it seems better to allow time to make a proper assessment of what buildings we need and can afford.



## Reflections at the Quay BBC SCOTLAND TV

**11.30am on 21st March 2021**

Presenters Rev Neil Glover of Aberfeldy and writer Fiona Stewart continue Lent thoughts, considering how new life comes from letting go of the old.

Music is by Tim Eday and Ross Ainslie.

**(Available on iPlayer soon after the broadcast)**