

## Christmas events at Saughtonhall

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December 3.30pm  
"Messy Christingle"

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 11.00am  
"Service of Lessons & Carols"

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 4.00pm  
"Stories Around the Crib"



Watchnight Service  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 11.30pm

### SEASONS GREETINGS

We have a list of folks we know all written in a book  
And every year at Christmas time we go and take a look  
And that is when we realise that these names are a part,  
Not of the book they're written in, but of our very heart.

For each name stands for someone who crossed our path sometime  
And in that meeting they've become the rhythm in the rhyme  
And while it sounds fantastic for us to make this claim  
We really feel that we're composed of each remembered name.

And while you may not be aware of any special link  
Just meeting you has changed our lives a lot more than you think  
For once you've met somebody the years cannot erase  
The memory of a pleasant word and of a friendly face.

So never think our Christmas cards are just a mere routine  
Of names upon a Christmas list forgotten in between  
For when we send a Christmas card that is addressed to you  
It's because you are on a list of folks we are indebted to.

For we are the total of the many folks that we have met  
And you happen to be one of those we prefer not to forget  
So whether we have known you for many years or few  
In some way you have been a part in shaping things we do.

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Every year when Christmas comes we realise anew  
The best gift life can bring is meeting folks like you!

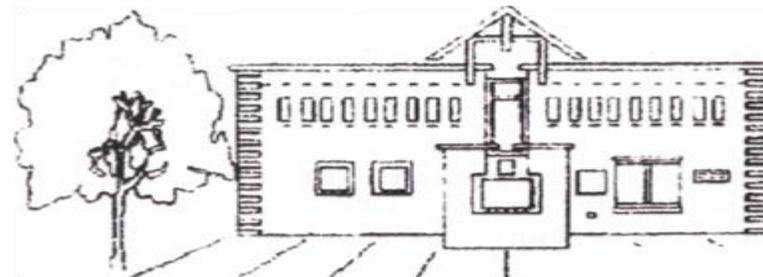
Anon.

# The Messenger

WINTER 2015

SAUGHTONHALL

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



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Registered Charity No. SCO 14175

ARTICLES FOR THE SPRING MESSENGER BY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2016

Dear Friends

I have been wondering over these last few days, how can we redeem Christmas from all the stress and anxiety, surely there has to be another way? I think the answer lies in Advent. Advent is the season of hopeful waiting, eager anticipation, joyful preparation of God coming amazingly into our lives.

I was reminded in an article I read that Advent isn't Lent. In Lent we have a spring clean and clear out the rubbish. Advent on the other hand is about getting your home ready for a new arrival, a special guest, for Jesus the Son of God. Lent is a season for confession and giving things up, Advent is a time of preparation for a great celebration.

Advent prepares us for welcoming God afresh into our homes, our work, our schools, our everyday lives, it reminds us that Christmas is a time for rejoicing, a time for hoping, a time for God breaking in.

There is much in our world that may worry us, much more than the stress of preparing for Christmas, but the great news is that a Son has been born for us, Jesus is coming to show us just how much God loves us and as he comes he will transform our lives, as he did for Mary and Joseph, Shepherds and Kings. I hope we can capture the spirit of Advent in times of waiting, in times of stillness, in the mad rush so that hearts are prepared as we wait in solidarity with God's people over 2,000 years and with all who wait today for justice and peace.

Let us prepare ourselves this Advent to receive the Christ child anew and when we sing the words, 'Joy to world, the Lord is come', may we have the confidence that despite what is happening around us, the angels on the night of Jesus' birth blessed the world with peace. There is no better time to claim that peace.

Mark and myself wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Love and blessings

Sue



**BAPTISM.....**

Eddy Thomas Bryce, son of Christy & Martyn Bryce. Baptised on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2015



**WEDDING.....**

Mr Owen Craig Cooper and Miss Aoife Marie Schweppe, were married on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2015, at Saughtonhall URC.  
Grand-son of Anna Craig



**Film Crew**

Since the last edition of the Messenger we showed War Horse just before Armistice Day. This is a poignant film depicting the horrors of war. 14



different horses played Joey, the hero horse. The story moves through different stages of the horse's life: foal, yearling, adolescent and adult. World War 1 was the last conflict to see horses used as implements of war. After World War I, the conflicts were completely mechanized.

Our final film of 2015 is the original version of Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street, a classic Christmas film. This will be shown on the Saturday 12 December at 5.30, complete with a Christmas tea. Due to catering, advance booking required, tickets £5.00 from Elizabeth Swinburne 0131 337 8086

6.

Our Billy married Annie  
And Roscoe married Belle;  
But which one got the better deal?

**Only time will tell**

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The techy crew and front of house,  
The prompt and pianist too;  
Each had a part to play in this –  
My thanks to all of you.

The props and all the things backstage  
Were there for all to use,  
And super set construction too –  
We really couldn't lose.

We had some hiccups on the way  
Like clocks in a desert scene  
And lines missed out or never learned  
But fun is what it's been.



*Thank you one and all*

*Colin*

We were delighted to receive a 4 star review, details on church web site [www.saughtonhall.com](http://www.saughtonhall.com).

***Our next show will be 13-16 April 2016***

## Murrayfield Churches Together Re-sign Covenant 3.

I love old hymns. I love their pace, I love their rhythm, I love their cadence.

And I love the way their words fit with their tunes. So why did I pick a relatively-modern hymn for this afternoon's service?

I've chosen a modern hymn because hymns shouldn't be about the people already sitting in the church – they should be about the people who we *want* to see sitting in the church. We shouldn't fall into the trap of singing hymns that use old-fashioned words that even we don't understand – if we don't understand them then how can we expect the people who we bring along to church to understand them either?

That's why organisations like Murrayfield Churches Together are so important. The woman in the street doesn't understand why there are so many different churches – she stands there scratching her head.

Any group that brings those churches together to share God's love with the world deserves to be celebrated.

Graham Kendrick wrote "Shine Jesus Shine" in 1987 – the same year that Murrayfield Churches Together was created – and I can still remember it making its debut on *Songs of Praise* on BBC1.

As the lyrics say: "May our lives tell your story" and may MCT continue to tell God's story in Edinburgh.

***Peter Ranscombe***

On the afternoon of 1 November members of the three Churches that make up Murrayfield Churches Together (MCT) held a joint songs of praise at Saughtonhall Church. This celebrated 28 years in covenant. Hymns chosen by members from the congregations included 'Angel Voices ever Singing', 'Lord the Light of Your light is Shining', 'Bread of Heaven' and 'In Christ Alone'. During the service representatives signed to renew the MCT covenant for a further 7 years. This was followed by a period of music for reflection, with pictures of our joint activities set to the music 'The World in Union', chosen partly because of holding our joint Easter Morning day break service for the last two years on the bridge over the Water of Leith adjacent to Murrayfield stadium. The service was rounded off with a cake, made especially by Fay Forsythe and cut by MCT chair Isobel MacKenzie

4. **Saughtonhall Drama Group**

We have just concluded a highly successful run of 5 performances of the pantomime Geronimo! Directed by Colin Mitchell and John Webster, Colin penned the attached poem.

## GERONIMO

The set has gone, the curtain's closed  
And Moose Creek is no more;  
I shed a tear on this **four-star** show  
Then quietly closed the door



On Bad Black Jack and his brother Bart  
Two outlaws **really mean**;  
Well known for robbing and kidnapping  
And everything in between.

With Bert, Big Al and Little Al  
Black Bart – he ruled the West ,  
But Roscoe's day would surely come  
To prove that he was best.

Annie Oaktree came back to town  
From a trip around the States;  
She'd met a youngster – a Billy Starr  
And they became best mates.

In Belle's saloon there was a guy  
Who ran the bar alone–  
We never did find out his name  
But enjoyed his broad Scots tone.

Then Clyde and Skeeter – Moose Creek's best –  
Kept the audience amused;  
They sang and joked but sad to say  
The script they just abused.

They had to find a Mr Jinks –  
Belle's missing pussy cat –  
And though the audience helped a lot  
They couldn't even do that!

Now Roscoe's plan was to catch the gang  
Which robbed Belle's fine saloon  
And snatched poor helpless Annie there,  
He needed help, and soon.

Meanwhile in some bleak hidden lodge  
Somewhere outside the town,  
Black Bart tried hard to Annie woo  
But she sure turned him down!

So off to the Choctaw village rode  
Our would-be heroes three;  
Geronimo took a shine to Belle  
And refused to set them free.

Relayed his words through young White Dove  
Who told the three his plight–  
They were to make the big chief laugh  
But mustn't take all night.

Although Black Jack's timely release  
Meant he was due in town,  
Our Roscoe beat him in the draw  
And shot the varmint down!

A gunfight started and when all  
The smoke had cleared away,  
The gang gave in to the posse  
While Bart a-dying lay.

But though he bled and for mercy begged,  
Annie looked and there did see  
A ketchup smothered beefburger  
And still alive was he.

So, after all these shenanigans,  
Thevarmint went to gaol  
And Black Bart ended in the bath  
To close this Western tale.