

One day Jesus said to his disciples, “When you pray”. Not if you pray, but when.

Many people say something like, “I want to pray but I don’t know what to pray for.”

An earthquake killed more than 1,400 people on Haiti last Saturday, only 11 years since that nation was last devastated by an earthquake. Today a tropical storm is forecast to make landfall in Haiti, extreme rainfall will make rescue and aid work hazardous and difficult.

We can pray about this.

On Sunday Taliban forces swept into Kabul, the capital city of Afghanistan. Foreign nationals are being repatriated from that nation and Afghanis are trying to flee the country to find safety from oppression. It is heart breaking to reflect upon the danger women and girls who cannot escape will now face.

We can pray about this.

Everyday our planet suffers the effects of climate change. The effects of extreme weather: burning heat, torrential rain, destructive drought, are being experienced in all parts of our world. The poorest peoples of the world are, as usual, suffering most from the effects of climate change. This crisis demands a response from us all.

We can pray about this.

Prayer is not doing nothing. Prayer is when we engage all the resources of God’s Kingdom to act in our lives, in our world. Prayer is when we cry out for justice, for mercy longing that God would act to comfort and support those in danger and need. Prayer is when we seek that Holy Spirit imagination which will inspire and inform us and our choices and make a difference in our lives, in our world.

With eyes wide open we see in the world around us things we can pray about.

Jesus says to his disciples, “When you pray”, let’s be those disciples who pray.

Sunday Services

From Sunday 22 August we will be using all the pews in our sanctuary to welcome one another to our services. We will be seating only one household group in each pew and alternating seating in pews to allow some physical distancing between each pew. We will be adding some more chairs at the front of our sanctuary while still observing some distancing between the chairs.

While maintaining some distancing these cautious steps will significantly increase the capacity of our sanctuary for services.

Face coverings and the track and trace system will continue to be in use for the foreseeable future. Booking to attend services is no longer required, however, if you want to book to come to our services on Sundays, please phone 07856 923 681. If you haven’t booked please do come on Sundays and we can take your contact details when you arrive for the service.

It is important that if you have been at church on Sunday and have a positive test you let us know about this.

We will continue with the use of hand sanitiser and will continue to do everything we can to welcome you all to our services safely.

We will continue to broadcast a service at 10.30am on Sundays which will be on our YouTube channel,

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRBBa9pHWuZsfhPFPwUrE4g>



Nine sponsored walks and one 33 mile run (es-team Leader, Angus Moyes, will run around the whole city of Edinburgh – around 33 miles!) to surround all Edinburgh schools in prayer for the new term!

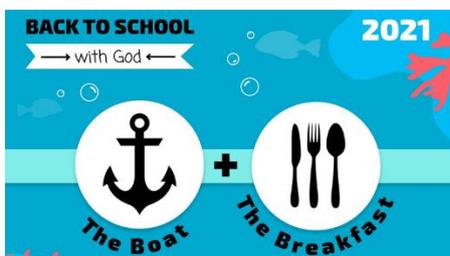
Join us on Saturday 28th August as we walk to every school in Edinburgh.

Nine separate teams will be leaving at 2pm from locations around the city, following pre-planned routes. By around 5.30pm, we'll have visited every school in Edinburgh! 18 months on from Covid halting SU schools' ministry, this is an opportunity to highlight our continued desire to see a Christian witness in every school in Edinburgh.

The following paragraph, including web site address is different from last week

Gordon, Tamzin, Cameron and Ben are walking as one of the nine teams from Balerno High School to Pentlands Primary school. If you would like to join them for all of part of the walk please contact Gordon (gordon@craiglockhartchurch.org). If you would like to sponsor them for this walk to support the work of SU in schools in Edinburgh, you can drop a donations into the church during the week, Gordon is working from the office most days, bring a donation to church on Sunday. To donate online please use this website:

<http://www.justgiving.com/surroundthecity>



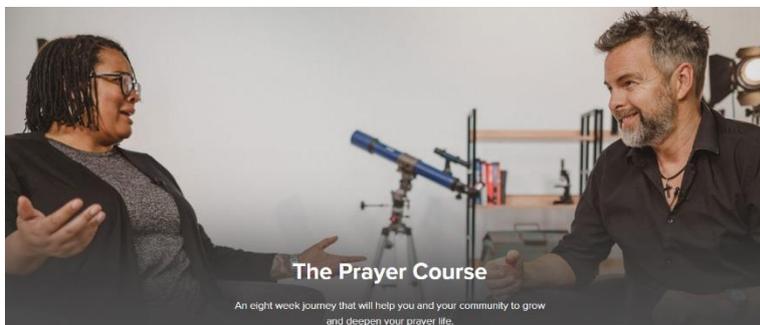
Back to School with God
Sunday 22 August

At our service we will be praying for pupils and staff in schools and hearing from the bible about how Jesus can be with us in school. Please join us for this service.

We want to include as many schools as we have contact with in our prayers. Are you at school, a pupil, a teacher, a member of staff? Is there someone in your family at school, one of your children or grandchildren? Please let us know the name and location of any school you have contact with and we will include that school in our prayers at our Back to School with God service.

On schools, do remember Gordon, Tamzin and family are doing the Surround the City walk, to pray for schools and support the work of the ESTeam, SU Scotland, on Saturday 28 August. To sponsor them for this walk please visit:

<http://www.justgiving.com/surroundthecity>



The Prayer Course

The prayer course is an eight week journey in prayer. With a film each week of a conversation between Poppy Williams and Pete Greig, this course will encourage our praying.

The films are about 20 minutes each and will be followed by a discussion and a time to put what we have been learning about prayer into practice. We are starting on Wednesday 25th August at 7.30pm. The course will take place over Zoom and each session will last about 1 hour including watching the excellent Prayer Course videos. If you want to know more email

office@craiglockhartchurch.org

The zoom link for The Prayer Course will be:

Topic: The Prayer Course

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83514864269?pwd=QUZRNGFmb2ZISnYwZDJUa2xDb3pKZz09>

Meeting ID: 835 1486 4269

Passcode: 529239

Book Group

For our summer reading before our meeting in September our book group is reading:
John Eldredge, "All Things New" and Tod Bolsinger, "Canoeing The Mountains". You can get
copies of these books at the Faith Mission Bookshop or from an online bookseller.

Thank you for reading this email, and please do pass it on to others who may find it interesting,
Yours,
Gordon Kennedy