



# Magazine

No. 100 April 2014

*Dear Friends*

*April is the cruellest month, breeding  
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing  
Memory and desire, stirring  
Dull roots with Spring rain.*

The lines are from T S Eliot's perplexing masterpiece, *The Waste Land*. They allude to the fact that though, for most, the worst of the Winter is past, Spring is often tentative and we find ourselves taking two steps forward and one step back. Flowers bud, trees blossom; and then an unseasonal frost sets things back weeks, or a cold period of rain stunts growth for a season.

The miracle, however, is that lilacs do breed out of a dead land, and each year we marvel at the unstoppable power of snowdrops, crocus, daffodils and the rest pushing past the frozen soil, cracking earth's hard crust, and reminding us that after the long bleak days, new life comes.

For me the symmetry of this imagery with Easter is powerful. The echoes are clear and true. After the hard bleak days of Lent, and the hot/cold passions of Holy Week, and finally the 'null' day that is Holy Saturday when, from the vantage point of earth, nothing appeared to be happening and God's work was invisible to the human eye, finally, Easter.

Easter bursts on to our awareness in a way that is both subtle and startling. Easter, whatever you make of it, is unstoppable. From the grey-pearled dawn in the garden, to the full burst of sunlight by the empty tomb, to the quiet, reflective dusk on the road to Emmaus the sheer persistence of Easter is a thing of wonder.

When we are tempted to give up or give in, when a broken relationship, or a mind-numbing job, or a cruel bereavement or an emotional depression persuades us that the clouds are lowered forever and light will never come again; finally, Easter.

Many people struggle with the Good Friday days of pain and suffering and death; or find themselves marooned in the emptiness of a Holy Saturday not able to go back, not able to go forward; then, finally, Easter.

My prayer for all of you, whatever your circumstance, is for a steady joy this Easter time. Work your way through Holy Week; remind yourself, as is that week's intention, that life is not one endless bed of roses but, equally, that the bleakness and toughness of life does not last forever. Hope comes, light shines, peace establishes itself. Finally, Easter.

Revd Dr Derek Browning

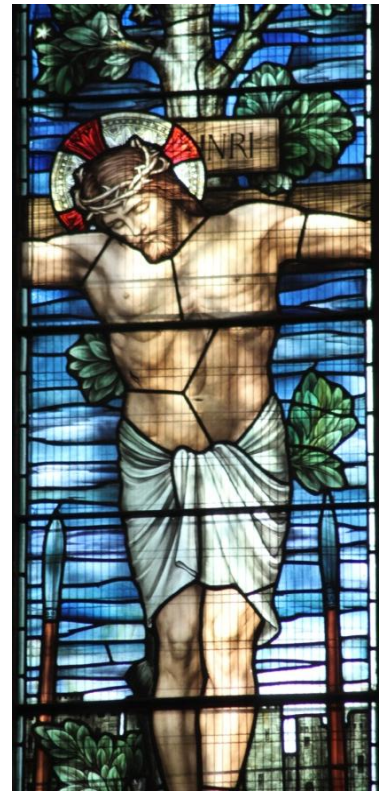


## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2014

Palm Sunday is on 13<sup>th</sup> April, when services will be held at 9.30am, 10.30am and 6.30pm.

Holy Week Services from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April will be held in Greenbank Parish Church this year, 7.30pm each evening. The theme will be the idea of 'Place' in the days leading up to Easter. Communion will be served on Maundy Thursday, and the joint Morningside and Greenbank choirs will sing during the service on Good Friday.

Mon. 14 <sup>th</sup>	By the roadside – learning to be the people of God
Tues. 15 <sup>th</sup>	In the Temple - worship
Wed. 16 <sup>th</sup>	In the Home – Christian life at the sharp end, every day
Thurs. 17 <sup>th</sup>	In the Garden – Gethsemane and betrayal
Fri. 18 <sup>th</sup>	On the cross – the place of suffering



On Holy Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> April, at 7.30pm in our Church, there will be our annual service of music and words, a time for reflection and quietness on this emptiest day in the Christian year.

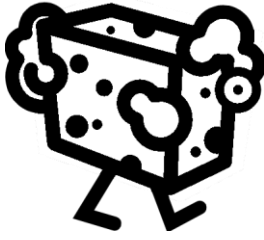
Easter Sunday is on 20<sup>th</sup> April and there will be one service at 10.30am in Church, followed by Easter refreshments in the Hall. The children will meet in the church as usual and then go through to the halls for activities. On Easter Sunday evening we will remember the lovely story of the Road to Emmaus and share the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper around the communion table.

## SERVICE OF REMEMBERING – SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 3PM

Each year, on the Sunday after Easter, there is a Service of Remembering held in the Church. This year it is on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 3pm. The service is for anyone who has lost a loved one recently or some time ago, and would like a quiet opportunity to reflect on the loss and to remember with gratitude. The service lasts for around half an hour and those who attend it have found it to be helpful and gentle.

If you are remembering a bereavement and would like to come along, or if you know of someone who might like to attend, you and they will be made most warmly welcome.

Many churches hold this service around All Souls/All Saints in the November of each year. Here we hold it in the season of Easter, remembering not only the reality and sadness of death, but also the promises of hope that Jesus offers to us all.



## **BIG SPRING CLEAN – SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 10AM – 1PM**

Advance notice is given that we will be organising a Big Spring Clean for the Church, halls, loos, kitchen and grounds on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April. There will be a variety of jobs needing tackled in a range of different locations around the Church.

We will be forming task groups to work in different areas around the church, halls and grounds. Basic cleaning materials will be provided but it would be a help if you know which area you would like to work in for you to bring things that you would find helpful. This might be particularly useful if you're going to be in the church grounds (weather permitting).

There will be opportunities to dust, scrub, remove scuff marks, clear away twig and litter debris, polish pews, remove wax from the communion table, search for cobwebs in the vestry and many more exciting tasks!

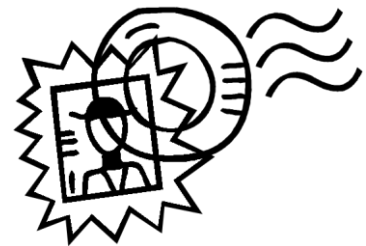
We will need task group leaders for:

1. The Sanctuary, including the north transept, vestibule, chancel area, pews and gallery (quite a large team)
2. The vestry and vestry lavatory
3. The Church hall, lavatories and caretaker area
4. The new hall, new corridor area, lavatories and storage room
5. The kitchen (a small team)
6. The grounds, including the pavement areas, steps around church and hall and the disabled ramps, gravelled areas, borders.

Lists for volunteering will be available in Church in the near future – please don't wait to be asked!

## **STAMP NEWS**

The total raised from the 2013 World Mission used stamp appeal has now been confirmed as £4,072 - a great result and a big thank you to all who contributed.



The 2014 appeal is to support Dorcas, a new refuge house for women victims of domestic violence and their children in Milotopos, north Greece, run by the Greek Evangelical Church. Further details are available on the notice board in the vestibule.

Please continue to leave any used stamps in the box in the vestibule, hand in to the church office or put in my pigeon hole and I will deliver them to Mr Scott in Wishaw who coordinates the collection of all the stamps on behalf of World Mission.

Lorna Graham

Have you looked at the Website yet?

[www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)

## KIRK SESSION NOTES

The Kirk Session met on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

- The Session approved the accounts for 2013 and thanked those who had been involved in the extra work that an audit had required.
- A Data Protection policy has been adopted which covers Electronic Data, Manual Data, the Church Directory, Magazine, Intimations and the Website, as well as photographs.
- The Safeguarding Register was attested (which covers those who work with church children's organisations, the Men's Club and the Car Rota)
- Received information about the Hands Across the World event which will take place on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May – a Saturday Chocolate morning (with baking stall, activities, singing), and the Sunday 10.30am service – chiming in with the General Assembly Sunday event the following week (18<sup>th</sup> May – Heart and Soul – in Princes Street Gardens from 1pm – 6pm)
- Received a report from Nicola Whyte, our Associate, from a very successful meeting held for parents, Sunday Club Staff, and elders, with one of the writers of 'Spill the Beans', the new material used for Sunday Club, and noted that there will be a number of possibilities for education and worship in the future relating to this new work.

## UNDERSTANDING SCOTTISH IDENTITY

9.30am – 4pm Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, General Assembly Hall, New College, The Mound. Cost: £25 includes refreshments and sandwich lunch.

Register at University of Edinburgh's Epay site: <http://bit.ly/1iwRZLA>

As our country faces up to one of the most significant developments in our constitutional history, whether the vote is 'Yes' or 'No', what is the nature of Scottish identity in the C21st?

A conference will explore aspects of Scottish identity, their historical development and recent expression. Subjects include history, law, literature, language, religion and sport. Panel discussion will explore current constructions of Scottish identity. Speakers include Tom Devine (Senior Research Professor in History), John Cairns (Professor of Civil Law), Penny Fielding (Professor of C19th Literature), Will Storrar (Director, Centre of Theological Enquiry, Princeton), Grant Jarvie (Professor of Sport).

Panellists include Sheena McDonald (broadcaster), Mona Siddiqui (Professor of Islamic and Inter-Religious Studies), Christine Bell (Professor of Constitutional Law), James Robertson (novelist), and Magnus Linklater (journalist).



## CHRISTIAN AID



Christian Aid Week will run from 11th to 17th May. I am appealing to those who have helped with the House-to-House Collection in our Parish in the past to lend a hand once again and, in addition, to ask those who may not have been able to help with this task before to come forward with an offer to help. This is the main fund-raising effort of Christian Aid and last year raised just over £4,000 from the Parish. All it needs in terms of time is 3/4 hours to deliver and uplift envelopes from houses within the Parish during the week. We are not able to cover the whole Parish due to insufficient collectors and so it would be good if we could extend the number of houses covered by enlisting help from those who have not previously been able to lend a hand.

Thank you to the helpers of past years, for their continuing help and, in anticipation, thanks to those who can make time for this work. To confirm your willingness to help, please speak to any of the undernoted.

Bill Reid - 466 3111   Bob Cunningham - 447 4757   Ruth Henderson - 449 6449

## THE GUILD

The Guild has had a year of varied and interesting talks and, for the first time in years, we have not had to cancel a meeting at the last minute due to snow or ice. That is said in anticipation that our AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> March is not cancelled as it was last year!



We were delighted that three of our meetings this season involved members of the congregation as speakers. Dr Marie Ogilvie showed photographs and talked about her return to Jaipur, having lived there as a child. The Rev. John Cameron talked about 'The Scottish Manse' and Mrs Fiona Stimpson 'The Edinburgh Clothing Store'. These talks particularly attracted non-Guild members to join us and we were delighted to welcome them to have tea and a chat after the talks.

This increased interest in subjects presented by church members encourages us to ask if anyone in the congregation is willing, or knows of someone who might be willing, to give a short talk or presentation to the Guild. Should this be the case, do get in touch with Margaret Gossip, myself or any other Guild members. It would be very much appreciated.

We wish a pleasant and hopefully sunny summer to all and look forward to our next season.

Kate Stewart, Secretary



If you use **Facebook** – 'like' our Morningside Parish Church Facebook page!

## ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2013-FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The 2013 Annual Report & Accounts for Morningside Parish Church were presented to the Kirk Session on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and were duly approved, having been audited by Whitelaw Wells CA. The key financial indicators are outlined below.

The Church has three main sources of income, namely congregational offerings, hall rental income and investment income.

In 2013 **Congregational Offerings** (Free Will Offering and Open Plate) amounted to £116,202 which was well up on the 2012 level of giving of £99,402, representing an increase of 16.9%. In addition tax recoverable through Gift Aid on eligible donations amounted to a further £25,101.

This encouraging upturn in congregational giving was mainly the result of the Stewardship campaign carried out during 2012, culminating in Pledge Sunday in December 2012.

**Rental income** in 2013 for use of our premises in the Cluny Centre and Church Halls amounted to £118,105 representing a modest increase of 2.7% over the level of £114,992 achieved in 2012, mainly due to extra hours requested by Morningside Primary School.

**Investment income** received from dividends, deposit interest and bank interest amounted to £45,286 in 2013 compared to £47,499 received in 2012, a decrease of 4.7%. This was due to the sale of investments carried out in the final quarter of 2012 resulting in lower dividends received during 2013. Units to the value of £10,000 were sold from the Investors Trust Income Fund and £60,000 from the Investors Trust Growth Fund of which £40,000 was transferred to the Investors Trust Deposit Fund for immediate access to meet cash flow requirements and contingencies.

During 2013 the Church was very fortunate to benefit from **legacies** amounting to £368,575, a substantial portion of which has now been invested. This will result in higher investment income in 2014.

The total value of **investments** held in the Church of Scotland Investors Trust on behalf of Morningside Parish Church amounted to a total of £1,191,191 as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 compared to a total of £894,298 as at the end of December 2012, reflecting both net new investments from the legacies received and stronger stockmarkets over the period.

Apart from legacies, other **donations** received in 2013 totalled £20,472. This included £3,150 from the Friends of Morningside Parish Church towards the cost of the choral scholars, £2,540 from the Baby and Toddlers Group for use of the Hall premises, £1,005 from the various Brownies Groups, £1,890 from the Scout Groups and £420 from the Guides. A grant of £1,000 was received from Presbytery towards the cost of employing our new Children & Families Associate.

Many **gifts in kind** were received during the year including the generous weekly donation of fresh flowers for the Sunday Services from various members of the congregation, and new flower stands for the Church and new side plates for the Church Hall from the Ladies Group.

The Kirk Session is very grateful for all donations received during 2013.

Total **expenditure** for the year 2013 amounted to £400,803 against a total of £416,178 in 2012 representing a welcome decrease in expenditure of 3.7%.

The largest elements of the Church's expenditure for 2013 were our Ministries and Mission Allocation (£113,394), Staff Salaries (£120,526) and Heat and Light (£36,946). The cost of generating funds through the use of our premises amounted to £105,913.

One-off costs incurred in 2013 included repair work on the roof vents and steeple at the Cluny Centre amounting to £7,614, which was reimbursed in full from the Church of Scotland Fabric Fund held on behalf of the congregation, and the installation of new security measures at the Church (bollards, CCTV, alarm) following thefts of lead from the roof totalling £16,982, 50% of the cost of which was reimbursed by Church of Scotland Insurance Company Ltd.

With total income of £694,616, including the legacies received, and total expenditure of £400,803, there was a net surplus of £293,813 for the year 2013. Without the benefit of the legacies received, the underlying operating deficit for the year was actually -£74,762 which continues to give cause for concern to the Kirk Session.

It will not be possible to sustain an operating deficit of income over expenditure in the longer term without resorting to selling capital, which in turn would reduce the level of investment income received. It is hoped that all members of the congregation will continue to review their giving on a regular basis in the light of what each can afford and at least in line with inflation (currently running at 2% as at March 2014).

The 2014 budget agreed by the Kirk Session is looking to reduce the operating deficit by £20,000 by the end of 2014, with a further net reduction of £20,000 in 2015, aiming to have a break-even budget by 2016.

Chris McNeil, Hon Treasurer

### **MAGAZINES BY E-MAIL**

101 members are now receiving the Church Magazine by e-mail. This results in a significant saving in printing costs and also in the time spent collating, bundling and delivering magazines.

300 paper copies are printed, the majority of which are delivered to members, with spares for those who collect their magazine at church and also for visitors.

If you wish to have your magazine delivered by e-mail, please contact the Church Office.

## LIFE AND WORK – APRIL EDITION

### Easter 2014

Easter reflection by Dr Doug Gay

The Miracle: An Easter story by Kenneth Steven

The Big Question: Should Easter be a fixed date?

### A Night in the City

Thomas Baldwin spends an evening at Powerpoint, a Christian gathering in Edinburgh which attracts hundreds of teenagers.

### Written in the Landscape

Jackie Macadam charts the life and Christian influences on the Scots-born naturalist and author John Muir.

### The Forgotten Genocide

Seonag MacKinnon reports from Bosnia, where the Moderator of the General Assembly learned at first hand the horror of the massacre which continues to haunt families today.

### The Dementia Friendly Church

How a Glasgow church became the first in Scotland to be accredited dementia friendly.

### A Role to Play

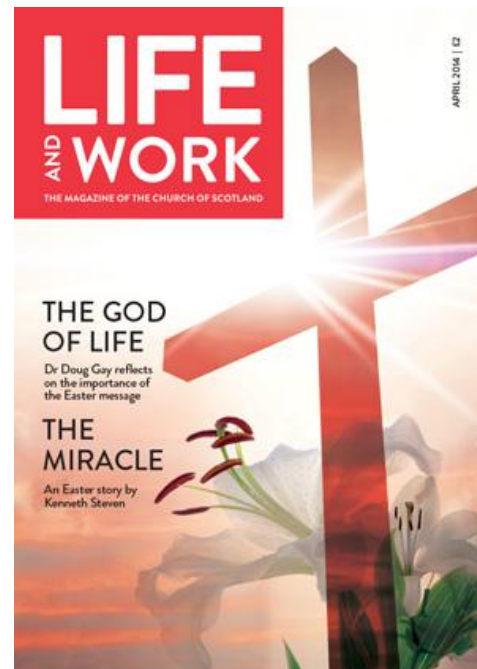
In her final column, the Moderator highlights the importance of the role of the Church in the life of Scotland.

### Passing on the Light of Christ

The Rev David Scott describes how his church held a 'Welcome to the Lord's Table' ceremony for children's first communion.

### The Gift of the Spirit

The Rev Dr Martin Fair asks why we have marginalised the Holy Spirit.



## HELPING AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2014

**Stewards: 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> May.** Can you help – provide back-up services, welcome and support during the General Assembly. Sign up for a shift or two and be part of this important annual event. More details from William Mearns, Chief Steward, 0131 667 1522, [william@mearns.me](mailto:william@mearns.me)

**Heart and Soul 2014:** on Assembly Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> May, in Princes Street Gardens, stewards are required for this fantastic Church of Scotland event (that attracts around 6,000 people). The main duties will be: greeting and thanking folks as they enter/leave the park; providing directions/instructions; providing timetable information; assisting with crowd control operations; playing your part in ensuring public safety; and responding to any reasonable request for assistance. Find how to volunteer at [www.heartandsoul2014.org.uk](http://www.heartandsoul2014.org.uk)



## MINISTRIES AND MISSION CONTRIBUTION

The contribution of Morningside Parish Church to Ministries and Mission in 2014 is £110,662. A letter from the General Treasurer of The Church of Scotland Stewardship and Finance Department explains how this is used:-



86% of our contribution, or £95,135, goes towards the costs of providing over 1,000 ministers and other parish workers throughout Scotland and in the Presbytery of England, including providing spiritual leadership and pastoral care in schools, hospitals, care facilities and homes. This contribution also assists with the costs of recruitment and training and support of Ministries personnel to support the whole church.

The 2014 cost of a parish minister at the top end of the stipend scale is £40,411 (stipend plus employer's national insurance and pension contributions). As our contribution exceeds this figure, we are meeting the full cost of our own minister and supporting other congregations.

14% of our contribution, or £15,487, is used to support the Church's work in:

Resourcing congregations for elder training, safeguarding, stewardship and mission;

A contribution to the Social Care Council to assist with the provision of the Church's care services in the areas of services to older people, adult care services and children and family services;

Providing central day-to-day service work in administrative, financial, fabric and legal matters;

Planning the General Assembly and ensuring that the Moderator represents the Church; and

Contributing the Church's opinion in public debate and on issues affecting Scotland and the world, including peace and disarmament, climate change, science and ethics, education and politics and parliamentary affairs.

## ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to new members Thomas and Kathrine Moore and their family, of 17 Cluny Avenue.

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of Mrs Audrey Drummond, who died on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

## WORK PARTY

The last meeting of the present session will be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30/10.45am in the Cluny Centre. Please come along and enjoy the company when we discuss ideas for articles to make. We complete a variety of items such as knee rugs, bed socks, shrugs, children's hats and mitts which are then distributed to various outlets. Our work is much appreciated by the recipients.

I take the opportunity to thank those who have donated wool for us to use in due course. I also thank the members for their loyal support. All being well, the Work Party resumes in October 2014. In the meantime please have a lovely summer and I look forward to meeting you all again in the autumn.

Margaret Guild (447 6290)

## FRIENDS OF MORLICH HOUSE

The annual fund raising coffee morning will be held on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014 from 10am ---12noon in Morningside United Church Hall. (Enter from Chamberlain Road.) There will be stalls for Homebaking, Gardening and Gifts. The theme this year is again the garden - there is still a great deal of work to be done. Tickets priced £2.00 can be bought from Fiona Watt and Marion Cooper.



Your continued support for this event will be greatly appreciated

Thank you

Marion Cooper 447 7149

Fiona Watt 447 9648

## GEORGE WATSON'S COLLEGE CONCERT



There is to be a concert by pupils from George Watson's College in the Church on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April. The concert will feature the Caritas Strings and Chamber Choir and the programme will consist of music performed on tour in Italy including Monteverdi's Beatus Vir, Purcell's O Sing Unto the Lord, Holst's Brook Green Suite and Vivaldi's Concerto for 3 Violins in F major. The concert will start at 6pm and is expected to last just over an hour. A retiring collection will be made.

The school has established strong links with our Church, providing choral scholars over the last three years, performing at services and contact with Morley Whitehead for scholarship panels and accompaniments They are looking forward to continuing this by presenting a programme that they will not have performed in Edinburgh as part of their usual concert series. Please come along and support this event.

## ONLY IN AMERICA...FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY!

In Florida, an atheist created a case against the upcoming Easter and Passover Holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days.

The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood objecting to the ruling saying, "Your honour, How can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays." The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counsel, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honour, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists..." The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fool's Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned."

### FLOWER LIST

		Provided by	Arranged by
Apr	6	Charles & Irene Wilson	Irene Wilson
	13	Ruth Henderson	Ruth Henderson
	20	Wedding/Easter	Flower Committee
	27	Harry Young	Val Manning
May	4	Margaret Thomson	Margaret Thomson

The ladies of the Flower Committee will be showcasing their talents at the service on Easter Sunday with a display of flowers to welcome in the spring. At the conclusion of the service a Retiring Collection will be taken in aid of the Flower Fund. Your donations will allow us to buy



some new silk flowers and foliage, which we use at Christmas and to enhance the seasonal floral display outside the new halls, as some of our present materials are looking rather tired.

The Daffodil Cross will also be in position at the foot of the north steps into the church. If you are able to bring along a daffodil or two from your garden on Easter Sunday (there should hopefully be some in flower this year) to help to decorate it, all donations would be most welcome.

Eleanor Watt, Convener  
Irene Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer

## MAY MAGAZINE

Material for the May issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2014 (Good Friday)** and it will be available for distribution on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May. Contributions may be put in her pigeonhole at church, sent by email to [editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk) .or by post to the church office at 1 Cluny Drive, Edinburgh, EH10 6DN.

If you receive a paper copy of the magazine and would prefer it by email, please contact the office at the address below.

### THERE WAS NO

*By Stewart Henderson*

There was no grave grave enough  
To ground me  
To mound me  
I broke the balm then slit the shroud  
Wound round me  
That bound me

There was no death dead enough  
To dull me  
To cull me  
I snapped the snake and waned his war  
To lull me  
To null me

There was no cross cross enough  
To nil me  
To still me  
I hung as gold that bled and bloomed  
A rose that rose and prised the tomb  
Away from Satan's wilful doom  
There was no cross, death, grave  
Or room  
To hold me.



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