



Magazine

No. 109 April 2015

Dear Friends

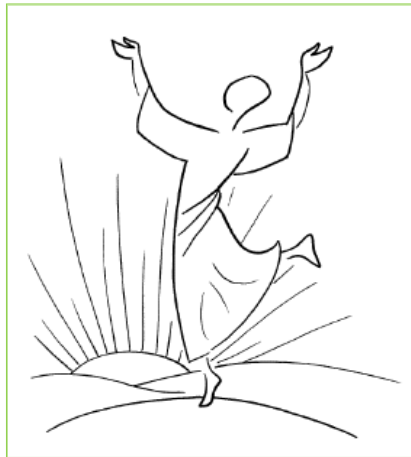
The Season of Easter is one of the glories of the Christian Church. It coincides with hopefully, the start of the longer days and the strong signs of the earth rejuvenating after the Winter months. In the Church we move out of the time of reflection and introspection that goes with Lent and reconnect with the good news that Jesus is alive.

It's often the case that on Easter Day the gospel reading is taken from John. In fact the earlier version of the resurrection is in Mark's gospel and it is seldom if ever read on Easter Sunday because of the way it ends, at verse 8. (Verses 9-20 are generally agreed to be a later addition by early Christians trying to jolly the story up!) Mark ends his account with the women coming to the tomb, finding it empty, meeting a mysterious stranger with the shattering news that Jesus was not there, and then, "...they went out and fled from the tomb; trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid."

We want Easter to be a day of joy and gladness. Mark gives us a picture of distress, fear and terror. No wonder we prefer Luke or John's account. But the question has struck me, what was there to be afraid of, after all, on the day of resurrection?

Perhaps the women were afraid they'd be accused of stealing Jesus' body. Perhaps

the women were afraid that the authorities, religious or political, would come after them and make them scapegoats. Perhaps they even began to struggle with the earth-shattering, death-defying reality of whatever happened to Jesus. We do not have the detail, we do have the effect. Easter Day is the reality of God on the loose. God is out of the box. There are ways in which that is exciting, comforting, thrilling. But there are also ways in which that is unsettling, disturbing, and terrifying. God is not tied down by religion, or by our doubts. God is free and on the loose.



Christians are challenged by the mystery and the unsettling nature of resurrection that, if we are truly to celebrate Easter and what it stands for, God on the loose, then we need constantly to be willing to

hand over control to God. We must allow God to be God. We don't have all the answers, but we do have many questions, and God on the loose can help us move towards all kinds of answers and solutions.

John Harvey writes that maybe Mark is right to end his Easter story with this jagged edge. He doesn't try to pretty it up, or analyse it, or make it fit what we want it to be. I like the idea of Jesus striding out, free, totally out of our control, bursting into all our lives, inviting, challenging, summoning us to be free like Him, and on the loose in the world with His good news and love.

Revd Dr Derek Browning

KIRK SESSION

At the March meeting of the Kirk Session reports were given by:

Stewardship and Finance: The Kirk Session heard a report on the 2014 financial year and subsequently approved the accounts.

Safeguarding: The Kirk Session heard about the ongoing work to provide appropriate cover for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults within the life of our congregation, and was pleased to hear that there are over seventy volunteers from the church working in a variety of groups and organisations helping with our young people and older adults.

Property: The Kirk Session agreed to replace the stair lift at the Cluny Centre (currently at the west staircase and now too old to repair) with a small lift near the 'glass door' entrance to the centre on Cluny Drive. The Session also heard from the Friends of Morningside who are proposing to: put photographs of different parts of the Church and its artefacts in the corridor opposite the pigeon holes; look into the possibility of providing defibrillators; upgrade the recording system in the Church at the sound desk; and install projection facilities in both the church halls, with 'rolling screens' displaying information about church activities in the vestibules of the church halls.

Worship: The Kirk Session decided that the regular evening service at 6.30pm would come to an end on Sunday 5th April, Easter Sunday evening. Numbers attending the service have declined in the last few months and, though the service is very special to those who attend, it is no longer sustainable in its current format. The Worship Committee will discuss the possibility of future occasional evening services, and there will be an opportunity to share these with Greenbank and Fairmilehead parish churches. Along with the Education Committee, the Worship Committee will be looking at the development of the March all-age Communion service.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

This year our Church hosts the joint Holy Week Services with Greenbank. The theme chosen for this year is 'Engaging with Holy Week' – looking at the physicality of Jesus' engagement with the events of Holy Week. All services from Monday to Saturday inclusive will be held in the Church at 7.30pm. Please attend as many services as you are able.

Easter Day is on Sunday 5th April. On that day there will be one morning service at 10.30am (no 9.30am Service), and we will share Communion around the Table at the 6.30pm service when we remember the lovely story from Luke's Gospel of the Road to Emmaus.

MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH FINANCIAL REVIEW 2014

The Kirk Session approved the 2014 Annual Report and Accounts for the Church on Tuesday 10th March 2015, and the main financial highlights are outlined below.



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

In 2014 congregational offerings (Free Will Offering and Open Plate) amounted to £111,521 which, disappointingly, was down on the 2013 level of giving of £116,202, a decrease of 4%.

However this was more than offset by the increase in Tax recovered on Gift Aid due to a catch up on claims outstanding, resulting in a tax recovery of £37,035 compared to £25,101 accrued in 2013.

It is hoped that congregational giving in 2015 as a whole will increase once more following the review of giving invited to each member of the congregation by letter and through Pledge Sunday in December 2014.

Rental income in 2014 for use of our premises in the Cluny Centre and Church Halls amounted to £122,035 representing a modest increase of 3.3% over the level of £118,105 achieved in 2013, mainly due a rent review and to extra hours requested by Morningside Primary School, and despite the loss of one significant tenant during the year, Kidzcare.

Investment income received from dividends, deposit interest and bank interest amounted to £52,399 in 2014 compared to £45,286 received in 2013, a healthy increase of 15.7%. This increase in investment income was mainly due to extra dividend income received from net new investments made from legacies received in 2013, primarily into the Church of Scotland Investors Trust Growth Fund and Investors Trust Income Fund.

In addition to the three main sources of income, the Church was very fortunate to benefit from legacy income amounting to £14,273 during 2014, representing a new legacy of £10,000 and three final payments from previous legacies.

The total value of investments held in on behalf of Morningside Parish Church amounted to a total of £1,332,484 as at 31 December 2014 compared to a total of £1,191,191 as at 31 December 2013. This total value included net new investment of £79,993 into the Church of Scotland Investors Trust during 2014 and unrealised gains on investments of £61,300.

Sundry other income received in 2014 totalled £28,095 (2013: £20,472) which included two generous donations of £4,000 and £500 from the Friends of Morningside Parish Church towards the cost of four of the five choral scholars during 2014 and the cost of floodlighting the Church respectively. Other donations included £3,672 from the Babies and Toddlers Group, £1,150 from the Brownies, £275 from the Rainbows, £2,000 from the Scouts, £595 from the Guides and £125 from the Boys' Brigade. In addition, donations received from

members of the congregation through the Auction of Time and Talents in June amounted to a total of £1,700.

The Kirk Session is very grateful for all donations received during 2014.

Total expenditure for the year 2014 amounted to £374,041 against a total of £400,803 in 2013 representing a very welcome decrease in expenditure of 6.7% due to careful stewardship and tight control of costs measures in place. The largest elements of the Church's expenditure for 2014 were our Ministries and Mission Allocation (£107,193), Staff Salaries (£105,915), Maintenance of Buildings and Fabric (£34,558) and Heat and Light (£32,564). The cost of generating funds through the use of our premises amounted to £98,345.

With total income of £366,719 and total expenditure of £374,041 there was a deficit of £7,322 for the year to end December 2014, which was a better outcome than the Kirk Session-approved budgeted deficit of £40,000 for the year, (partly due to one-off gift-aid claims catch-up of an extra £12,000 of tax recovered, and legacy income of £14,000 received).

The aim of the Stewardship & Finance Committee and the Kirk Session is to continue with the drive towards a further reduction in the deficit of income over expenditure in 2015, and hopefully to eliminate the deficit altogether by the end of 2016.

Chris McNeil-Hon Treasurer

WORSHIP EVENTS

The 125th Anniversary of the opening of the Church will take place this year. The first service in the Church was held on 1st May 1890. It is proposed that a special all-age service will take place on Sunday 26th April to mark the event, celebrating the past, but also imagining what the Church will be like in the next 125 years! There will be no 9.30am service on that day.

On 26th April there will be a joint evening service in our church at 7pm, shared with Greenbank and Fairmilehead, and will be a Taizé service. The Taizé Community is an ecumenical monastic order in Taizé, France. It is composed of more than one hundred brothers, from Protestant and Catholic traditions, who originate from about thirty countries across the world. It was founded in 1940 by Brother Roger Schütz, a reformed Protestant. Guidelines for the community's life are contained in The Rule of Taizé written by Brother Roger and first published in French in 1954. The community has become one of the world's most important sites of Christian pilgrimage. Over 100,000 young people from around the world make pilgrimages to Taizé each year for prayer, Bible study, sharing and communal work. Through the community's ecumenical outlook, they are encouraged to live in the spirit of kindness, simplicity and reconciliation.

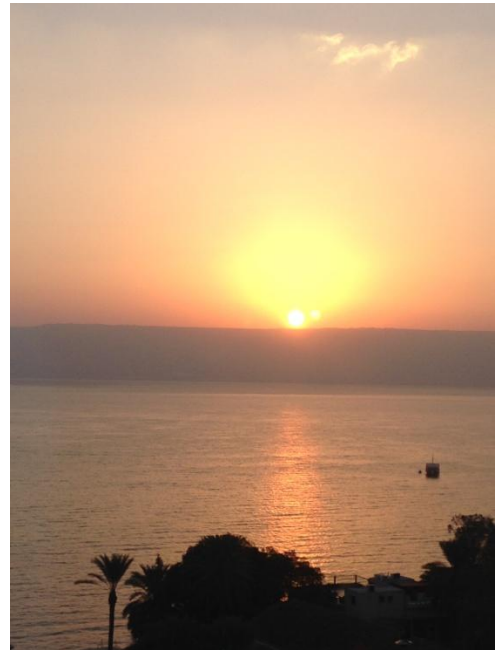
On 31st May there will be a special evening service where we welcome back the choir and musicians from George Watson's College for an evening service that will mark Trinity Sunday. This has become a very popular event within the congregation and community, so please come along and support the young people.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

26th January – 5th February 2016

Travel with us to the Holy Land and let the Bible come alive as we meet the people and see the places of the gospel stories. The Holy Land is unique in offering so many highlights and contrasts in such a compact area. On our journey we will visit places of pilgrimage and also meet the local Christian community, offering them our encouragement as we hear of the challenges they face.

The trip will be led by our Minister and Associate, and is planned for late January/early February, away from the peak season crowds, and when the weather is cooler. Our visits will include Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee. There is an optional visit to Masada and the Dead Sea. We will also visit the Tent of Nations, an educational and environmental farm committed to building bridges towards peace in the Holy Land. We will stay in the Golden Walls Hotel in Jerusalem, close to the Damascus Gate, and the Scots Hotel in Tiberias, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. If you have not been to the Holy Land this is a superb way to find out more about the places we read about each Sunday, and those who have travelled here have found it a memorable and moving experience. Contact the Minister for further details. A brochure is available on the Welcome Desk in the Church vestibule and beside the pigeonholes between the Church halls.



Holy Land events Wednesday 15th April

If you would like to see some pictures of the 2014 trip to the Holy Land, the Minister will be holding two events on Wednesday 15th April in the new hall. The first will be at 2pm and the second at 7.30pm. There will be a chance to hear about the trip, and also an opportunity to learn a little about the proposed 2016 pilgrimage. Whilst both events are open to anyone who would like to attend, if you are thinking about coming on the 2016 pilgrimage (without making any commitment at this stage) it might be helpful to come along.

HOME COMMUNION



From time to time people are not able to come to a communion service for a variety of different reasons - age, poor health, family circumstances. The Minister is happy to offer home communion to anyone who would like it. The service simply includes the communion part of the service where bread and wine are shared, with a prayer before and after. If you, or anyone you know, might like home communion, please contact the Minister.

FLOWER LIST

	Provided by	Arranged by
April	5 EASTER	Flower Committee
	12 Chris & Anne McNeil	Anne Armour
	19 Kate Stewart	Marjory Watson
	26 Joan Burnet	Joan Burnet
May	3 Margaret Thomson	Margaret Thomson



CROSSREACH- JOIN US AND GET CREATIVE!



Crossreach Heart for Art offers the opportunity for people with dementia, their carers and their family to:

- Take part in therapeutic art sessions based on visual arts
- Meet new friends and build supportive relationships through creative sessions
- Access support and advice on dementia from dementia experts
- Enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and lovely homemade cake

Where: Kirk o' Field Centre, Greyfriars Kirk, 140 Pleasance, Edinburgh

When: every second Thursday between 2pm and 4pm

Do I have to pay? - No! The service is free

How do I book?

- Chat, advice on dementia – no need to book, just drop in at any point
- Creative art session – please contact Heart for Art on 0141 620 3092 or heartfor.art@crossreach.org.uk

CHRISTIAN AID



Christian Aid celebrates its 70th birthday this year in various ways, such as climbing Munros, which remind us of the various mountains in the Bible, mountains of injustice and in communities around the World.

To help support these communities there is a need to fundraise so your help is much appreciated by supporting the events that are arranged, like the recent "In Conversation" with Eleanor Naughtie and Allan Little, the Christian Aid service in Greenbank Church on Sunday 10th May at 6.30 pm and the Spring Fair in our church on Saturday 23rd May.

The 43rd Forth Road Bridge Sponsored Walk takes place on 25th April from 1 to 5pm. Our main support for Christian Aid is the House to House collection from Monday 11th to Friday 16th May. We are looking for NEW helpers to assist, along with those who have helped in the past. If you can help please contact:-

Bill Reid (466 3111), Bob Cunningham (447 4757) or Ruth Henderson (449 6449).

THE LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group starts at the end of September and last year we started with the Craiglockhart War Poets Collection by Catherine Walker, showing our respect to those who took part in the First World War. The Campus for Napier University was a War Hospital at that time for those suffering effects of war where various therapies were used along with medication. Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon composed some of their poems here. There is an exhibition at the Campus which is open to visitors.

Our October meetings started with two of our elders, Olga Macfadyen and Fiona Ross, telling us about their volunteering trip to Tuni in India where the charity Scottish Love in Action has a school and residential home for orphans and other children. This was followed by Millie Gray who told about her life growing up in Leith with amusing antidotes, bringing back happy memories for our members. She has also written books which she started to pen in her mid 70's.

In November Charles Burnett gave us an illustrated talk about Edinburgh architect, Hippolyte Jean Blanc (French parents) who designed our Church, Mayfield Salisbury and Christ Church along with monuments and other buildings. A few weeks later Rev Tom Gordon came and told us stories of Life Learning and Laughter with excerpts from his books.

In December we had an illustrated tour of Holyrood Park with Lily Laing, a Park Ranger, who showed us the flora, fauna, geological and historical evidence around the Park. We finished this part of the year with a Christmas Party. We started with a Musical Quiz from Evelyn Reekie, followed by a cold buffet and ending with singing carols.

Many thanks to those who have come to our meetings, our "in-house" caterers and our musician.

Catriona Reid, (President/Secretary)



ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of

Mrs Sadie Swanston, who died on 27th February 2015.

WORK PARTY

The meeting on Monday 13th April at 10.30am/10.45am in Cluny Centre is the last until October 2015. I repeat my sincere thanks for the continued support of the 'Party' ladies; taking the time, together with the interest in producing numerous articles during each session is so much appreciated. Meanwhile until we meet up again, take care.



Please contact Margaret Guild (447 6290) for information if required.

STAMP NEWS

The total raised from the 2014 World Mission used stamp appeal has now been confirmed as £4,627.25 - a fantastic result and a big thank you to all who contributed. This will go to Dorcas which is a refuge house for women victims of domestic violence and their children in Milotopos, north Greece, run by the Greek Evangelical Church.



The 2015 World Mission stamp appeal will support the work of The Church of Scotland HIV programme. This enables partner churches to respond to the challenge of HIV in their communities. The programme supports 29 projects across 17 countries including Scotland. More information is available from a poster in the church 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

FRIENDS OF MORLICH HOUSE

The annual fund raising coffee morning will be held on Saturday 25th April 2015 from 10am to 12noon in Morningside United Church hall. (Enter from Chamberlain Road) There will be stalls for Home Baking, Gardening and Gifts. If you are able to contribute to any of these stalls we will be very grateful.

Tickets priced £2.00 can be bought from Fiona Watt (447 9648) and Marion Cooper (447 7149).



MORNINGSIDE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION SECOND WORLD WAR ORAL REMINISCENCE PROJECT

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War in 1945, and as an extension of our Great War Project, Morningside Heritage Association is shortly to start a new research project to gather oral reminiscences about what life was like in Morningside before, during and immediately after the Second World War. We would like to speak to individuals who have first-hand, or handed down, knowledge about life in Morningside in this period and who would like their memories to be preserved for future generations.

If you can contribute to this project, either through a one to one meeting with a MHA member, or by way of a group discussion, please telephone Bob Cunningham (447 4757) or Isobel Paterson (447 7315) to arrange an initial meeting.

REMEMBERING SERVICE Sunday 19th April, 3pm

This is the service where people are welcome to come to a quiet, reflective service and remember loved ones. The service will last for around 30 minutes. There are some short readings and an opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one, if you choose. Over the years this very simple service has been helpful to many people as a chance to remember, to give thanks, and to continue the process of moving on after a bereavement. If you, or anyone you know who has had a bereavement (it is not restricted to Church members) would like to come along – please do so. You will be made very welcome.

VISIT TO ST MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

The evening of 9th March was the occasion of the first in a series of visits arranged to places of worship of other faith communities in Edinburgh. Some twenty of our congregation were warmly welcomed by Monsignor Michael Regan (Administrator) at St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral. With his evident historian's relish for significant detail, he gave us some illuminating insights into the development of the building on this site, which recently marked its 200th anniversary, and highlighted some of the key moments and prominent figures over that period through a selection of items gifted to or acquired by the cathedral – a bishop's crozier and mitre, communion chalices, an alb said to have been embroidered by Mary, Queen of Scots, and Cardinal Gordon Gray's distinctive red biretta amongst them. While the sanctuary has been enhanced by the installation of a fine organ, the ongoing life of the cathedral has been further enriched by the numerous attendance at worship in the cathedral of the recently considerably increased Polish community now living in Edinburgh.



We look forward to the opportunities which further similar visits will give us to get to know more about the diversity of faith activity in our city. The next visit will be to the synagogue home of the Edinburgh Hebrew congregation at 4 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh EH16 5AB on Wednesday 6th May at 7.30pm.

MAY MAGAZINE

Material for the May issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 17th April 2015** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 3rd May**. Contributions may be put in her pigeonhole at church, sent by email to 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 above address.

EASTER HYMN

by Henry Vaughan

Death and darkness get you packing,
Nothing now to man is lacking,
All your triumphs now are ended,
And what Adam marred is mended;
Graves are beds now for the weary,
Death a nap, to wake more merry;
Youth now, fully of pious duty,
Seeks in thee for perfect beauty,
The weak, and aged tired, with length
Of days, from thee look for new strength,
And infants with thy pangs contest
As pleasant, as if with the breast;
Then, unto him, who thus hath thrown
Even to contempt thy kingdom down,
And by his blood did us advance
Unto his own inheritance,
To him be glory, power, praise,
From this, unto the last of days.



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EASTER GREETINGS TO ALL READERS

Have you looked at the Website yet?
www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk