



Magazine

No. 106 December 2014

Dear Friends

A church member, who has poor eyesight, was lamenting about not being able to go to the Holy Land – one of their major regrets in life. As the person talked, I remembered that when I had been on my first visit, I had visited an olive wood co-operative not far from the Fields of the Shepherds, outside Bethlehem. It was a cave of Holy Land objects that ran from tourist tat to treasure.

There were beautiful carvings of nativity sets and last suppers; some of you might remember the little olive wood stars that I brought back for the Sunday School children last year. But one of the loveliest things I had bought was a small, smoothly carved wooden cross, also made from local olive wood.

Smooth, round-edged, a plain, olive wood cross. A little bit of Bethlehem to hold in the hand. I was able to pass it on to the church member with poor eyesight, and I know that it has not only brought great pleasure but great comfort to this person who will never be able to visit the Holy Land for themselves. When times were hard, to take that little cross, and think of the land it came from and was made in, and think of the One Whose life is bound up with Bethlehem, and with a cross later on.

The gift of Jesus at Christmas is for many of us a little bit of Bethlehem to hold in our hands. Not that we control Him; not that we imbue Him with any magical powers; but that we are reminded that one of the points of the incarnation is that God might be seen in the flesh, and made real to all who make the time to look. Mary and Joseph would have held Him in their hands. Maybe the shepherds and wise men when they came to worship would have done the same. We

know old Simeon did in the Temple, and maybe Anna too, when Jesus was brought to Jerusalem for dedication by His parents.

A little bit of Bethlehem to hold in the hand. The genius of that little wooden cross is that it speaks of both incarnation and crucifixion: it spans the life of Jesus from birth to death. It is as if it is a bit of wood from the crib that prefigures the wood of the cross, by way of the olive groves that Jesus would have



known in Palestine, and the olive groves of Gethsemane where He was betrayed. Symbols are powerful things. They do not become the things they represent, but they stand for them, and so speak to us: water for baptism, Spirit and cleansing and refreshment; bread and wine for sustenance, and body and blood and sacrifice and hope; and a little

wooden cross carved from the olive trees near Bethlehem, of the birth, and the death, of the promise and the love, of our God Who gave us His only Son so that we might have hope.

I write this letter just a few days before I lead a group to the Holy Land, and we will visit the Fields of the Shepherds outside Bethlehem, and we will share Communion overlooking those fields. Then we will go to the olive wood co-operative, and I will look out some more stars for the children and other things too. But also more of those smooth, carved crosses, in case I meet others in the months ahead who will appreciate a little bit of Bethlehem to hold in their hands.

In this coming Christmas time, and the New Year that lies beyond, may the Christ-Child of Bethlehem, the Saviour of the World – continue to bless you all.

Revd Dr Derek Browning

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Friday 12th December, 7pm

There will be a Christingle service in the Church to which we invite the uniformed organisations associated with our congregation. All are welcome to attend this simple service in which the children are invited to bring Christingles that they have made.

Sunday 14th December

10.30am:- The children and young people will lead us in our Christmas family service in the Church. *(There will be no 9.30am service on this Sunday)*. Christmas refreshments will be served in the Church Hall afterwards.

6.30pm:- The **Blue Christmas** service will be held in the Church. This is a quiet, reflective service for those who find Christmas difficult for all sorts of reasons. During the service there will be an opportunity for those who wish to light a candle. It might stand for a person you miss, or a person you care about. It might stand for a hurt you want to let go, or a painfulness that will not let you go. It might stand for a disappointment, or a fear. It might stand for loneliness or anger and being let down. It might stand for your needs, or for the needs of someone else. But as it is lit, we remember this: light defeats darkness; hope defeats despair; comfort defeats sadness; mercy defeats sin; and, above all else, love embraces you and those you care for. If Christmas is a difficult time for you, your family, or your friends, please invite them along. Everyone is welcome.

Wednesday 17th December,

7.30pm:- The Telephone Choir will lead the community and congregation, with our special guests from the Men's Club, in an evening of carols and Christmas songs.

Sunday 21st December,

9.30am:- Service in the Church Hall, with the theme of 'Bearer of the Light'.

10.30am:- **Lessons and Carols service**, led by the Minister, readers and our choir and organist. A special Christmas event for children will be held in the new hall.

6.30pm:- Evening worship, with the theme of 'Housing God'.

Wednesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

6.30pm:- A half hour Family Christmas Eve service. This year we are hoping to be able to involve some of our young people in helping lead the service.

11pm:- Carols by Candlelight.

11.30pm:- Watchnight Service

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day

10am:- A half hour Family Christmas Service

Sunday 28th December,

10.30am:- Morning Worship with the theme of 'The fullness of time'. *(no 9.30am or 6.30pm services)*

Sunday 4th January:- The usual services at 9.30am in the Hall, 10.30am in the Church, and 6.30pm (with Communion); followed by our monthly Prayers for Healing service at 7pm.

Communion will be shared at the 9.30am and 10.30am services on **Sunday 7th December**

CHRISTMAS REFRESHMENTS

Following the 10.30am Carol Service on 14th December, Christmas Refreshments will be served in the Church Hall.

Mulled wine, soft drinks and Christmas fare will be provided and contributions to cover costs will be much appreciated.

It is important to note the change to the drink drive laws from 1st December. In practice, the change in Scotland means a glass of mulled wine would put a driver over the legal limit.

The Social Committee look forward to welcoming you and hope you will enjoy this Christmas event.



SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

Sunday morning coffee is always very popular with members and visitors alike. It is a good opportunity to catch up with old friends and perhaps make some new ones.

All the profits go towards supporting our Church charities and this year, along with a contribution from the Wednesday coffee mornings, we have raised the magnificent sum of £2,300.00

This is all made possible by the very willing band of volunteers who so cheerfully give of their time on a regular basis and our thanks are due to all of them.

If you think you would like to be part of this worthwhile service, please speak to one of the team on any Sunday. You would be made most welcome.

Margaret Thomson



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

FLOWER LIST

		Provided by	Arranged by
December	7	Liz Munro	Val Dunn
	14	Flower Committee	Flower Committee
	21	Flower Committee	Flower Committee
	28	Flower Committee	Flower Committee
January	4	Flower Committee	Flower Committee
	11	M M Miller	Irene Wilson
	18	Frances Bruce	Val Mannings
	25	Euan Murray	Joan Burnett
February	1	Lorna Graham	Eleanor Watt

The flower list for 2015 is now on the noticeboard in the vestibule - a number of dates are still available. If you would like to supply flowers one Sunday, please put your name and phone number against your chosen date. The cost is £40 and cheques should be made payable to 'Morningside Parish Church Flower Fund'. If you are a UK taxpayer and can give by Gift Aid, please fill in one of the Gift Aid envelopes found on the pews. Monies can be put in the Flower Committee pigeon hole or sent to the church office.

The Committee would also like to take this opportunity to express their thanks to Margaret Gossip who has retired from the Committee following many years of loyal service.

As always, we would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to join the Committee to arrange flowers throughout the year or be part of the decoration team for Easter, Harvest or Christmas. No previous experience is necessary as guidance can be given by members of the Committee if required. Please contact either Eleanor Watt (447 5492) or myself if you are interested.

Irene Wilson (449 2866)
Joint-Convener, Flower Committee



CHRISTIAN AID CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Christian Aid is holding a Coffee Morning at the New Hall of Morningside Parish Church on Saturday, 6 December 2014 from 10.00 to 12.00. Christmas pies and fresh scones will be served along with teas, coffees and soft drinks. There will also be Christian Aid Christmas cards on sale together with an assortment of home baking and a "Guess the Weight of the Cake" competition.

THE GUILD

We had a most interesting talk from Rev John Smith about his work as a lay examiner for The Royal College of Surgeons. He examines the would-be surgeons on "Communications" a very important aspect of their work with patients and other medical professionals. This work takes him all over the country and also to many places abroad.



Our speaker on 5th November was from the Scottish Churches Housing Action and she spoke about the Julius Project which our Guild is supporting this year. The project befriends and mentors homeless people. Guilds are asked to choose from 6 nominated projects over a 3 year period, and may support as many or as few as they wish. After two years, the Julius Project has raised over £90,000, and over £500,000 has been raised nationally for the six projects with one more year to go.

Future meetings:-

2 nd December	We welcome back Maureen Kelly who will be speaking on "Lotions and Potions -getting better 200 years ago"
16 th December	The Guild celebrates Christmas
6 th January	Rev James Jack. "We're a' Jock Tamson's bairns"
20 th January	Celebrating Robert Burns with Gretta Millar

A warm welcome awaits all who would like to join us for any or all of our meetings at 2.15pm.

THE LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group meets in the New Halls of Morningside Parish Church at 7.45pm on a Monday evening.

Those who attended the talk on Hippolyte Jean Blanc experienced a real TREAT. The legacy of this fine architect is to be found all over Edinburgh including what is now Morningside Parish Church.

Here are the dates for the next month:-

1 st December	Flora, Fauna and History of Holyrood Park	Lily Lang, Park Ranger
15 th December	Members Christmas Party	
12 th January	Mary Queen of Scots in Edinburgh	Eric Melvin
26 th January	Musical Evening	Piano Pete

Anna Cunningham

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

BETHANY WINTER CARE SHELTER



A big thank-you to everyone who supported the coffee morning on Saturday 18th October in aid of the Bethany Care Shelter. This raised the sum of £315 which goes towards the cost of buying food and provisions for the nights the Catering Team from Morningside Parish Church is on the rota.

Our first night on the catering rota took us down to South Leith Baptist Church in Casselbank Street, and we catered for 30 homeless rough-sleeping people (26 men and 4 women) and the 4 Bethany staff members who were on duty throughout the night. Euan Murray drove the minibus to pick up the homeless people coming to the Shelter from the mustering point in Waterloo Place.

The Care Shelter provides rough sleepers with a place to go for the night where they can find shelter, a hot meal, friendship and a warm place to sleep during the winter months and is open 7 nights a week from late October until early April each year. Advice on how to move off the streets is also offered by Bethany staff.

This vital and sometimes life-saving service is run by a small team of Bethany staff and also relies on around 700 volunteers from churches across Edinburgh and the Lothians which provide church venues for service users to sleep in on a nightly rota basis as well as Church catering teams such as the team from our own Church to prepare and serve hot food to homeless people on the premises.

The Care Shelter, which has been a lifeline for many homeless men and women to help them move on from rough sleeping to more permanent accommodation, is funded entirely by the voluntary donations from Churches, Charitable Trusts, generous individuals and Bethany's Social Enterprise "Caring Christmas Trees".

Remember, if you buy a Caring Christmas Tree from Bethany this Christmas you will be supporting the work of the Care Shelter as all profits from the sale of these Nordman Fir Christmas Trees go to this very worthwhile cause.

Visit: <http://www.caringchristmastrees.com/>

Anne McNeil
Morningside Parish Church Care Shelter Catering Team Leader

ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of:-

Miss Kathleen Elder, who died on 3rd November 2014;
Miss Mary Cowan, who died on 8th November 2014;
Gordon Graham, who died on 11th November 2014;





We made the Headline Story in the Photo Gallery in the Evening News - did you see it NOTCHING UP A CENTURY BUT YOUNG AT HEART? Celebrations kicked off with an exhibition of Company Memoirs in the Church Hall on Friday 24th October which was attended by current members,

former members and friends of the Company - even Bill Stevenson, Director BB Scotland managed along.

Sunday 26th October arrived and celebrations continued by means of a traditional Dedication and Enrolment Service which Revd Dr Derek Browning kindly conducted. All present members on Parade received their Membership Cards for the 2014/15 Session. Please see photo below taken after the service. We are currently in the process of getting the Boys to design the Company Centenary Badge which hopefully will soon be available for you to purchase. They'll go like hot cakes - we've already had a tentative order of 20 from the President of BB Wales, David Aubrey QC.

Meanwhile, weekly activities continue. We are now exploring the Christmas Story with the Anchors and Juniors, the aim of the activity being to help the boys understand the real meaning of Christmas. They will be asked to create "something" based on the Christmas Story under the following headings: craft, media, music, arts or images. The creations will then be judged in a Battalion-wide competition.

Also on the calendar are the Swimming Gala, Figure Marching Competition and International Team Games so we're kept busy.

Still plenty of room for new Boys in all age-groups - tell everyone you know (5 -18 years) about us and send them along on Friday evenings at 7pm to the Church Hall. You can follow our activities on Facebook!

Rona McLaren.





We had a great summer camp in August this year when we spent the weekend at Allison Cargill House, near East Linton. We had both indoor and outdoor facilities as some of the guides were not sure about sleeping in tents but, in the end, all 22 guides decided to camp both nights! The weather was mixed but that didn't stop us getting on with the varied programme with everything from modelling and decorating

clay, creating a camp newspaper from a wildlife perspective, backwoods cooking of dampers and cakes in oranges, potted sports and a great campfire (although an indoor one!)

The unit started back after the September holiday weekend with 40 guides and a waiting list of girls we just can't accommodate at present. The plans are well under way and we have 6 patrols doing varied Go For Its including Green, Passion for Fashion, Experiment, Globalistic and the old favourite of many, Chocolate! One patrol also did the Parties GFI and organised the unit Halloween night activities. They planned brilliantly and the night was a great success.

As we have so many new girls in the unit, we had a 'meet the guiders night' when parents were invited to join us for tea and biscuits (biscuits made fresh on the spot by the guides!) when we shared information about ourselves and about the unit and our plans going forward. It was well attended and great for us to meet the parents too.

We had a visit to the Portrait Gallery after hours where the girls got a tour of some of the gallery and then had a workshop which got them up close and personal with some of the portraits and taught them how to use the artist's clues to get to know the person in the painting. They also took along a selection of items – photographs, pictures, maps, clippings that represent them and their life - and used them to create and decorate a personal portrait box. Much fun was had and most had never been in this gallery before.

We'll be doing some of the usual things, like delivering the Christmas leaflets for the church with a reward of hot chocolate, holding badge nights where they can complete some interest badges, updating our campfire blankets and campfire songs and some Christmassy things before joining everyone for the Christingle service on our last night.

As always, Guiding is open to everyone, so if you are at all interested in what we do please come along and pay us a visit. We look forward to meeting you.

Moira Clark
188th Guide Guider

KEEPING CHRISTMAS

By Eleanor Farjeon

How will you your Christmas keep?
Feasting, fasting, or asleep?
Will you laugh or will you pray,
Or will you forget the day?

Be it kept with joy or pray'r,
Keep of either some to spare;
Whatsoever brings the day,
Do not keep but give away.

LIFE AND WORK 2015

REMINDER Subscriptions for Life and Work 2015 at £22 are now due. Many thanks to those who have already paid.

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to all those who came along to help fold the Christmas leaflets. These are delivered to everyone in the parish to invite them along to our Christmas services. We had such a good response to the request for helpers that 5,000 leaflets were folded and bundled in record time. Well done!

The next step of course is to deliver them all, so we hope with that your help this will be done just as efficiently. As with the folding, the more people involved, the quicker the task is done and the less each one has to do.



The Minister and Session Clerk with James Naughtie, speaker at our first Speaker Supper on Friday 17th October.

FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

Material for the February issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 16th January 2015** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 1st February**. 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. (Please note that there will be no magazine in January.)

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

INTRODUCING OUR CHOIR SCHOLARS...

Antonia Smart was a chorister at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral for six years, and Head Chorister in her final year at St Mary's Music School. She participated in critically acclaimed recordings and tours in the Far East and North America. Antonia is currently in her final year of school at the Edinburgh Academy studying A-level music, art and French, and has recently received a distinction in grade 8 singing. She enjoys singing at Morningside Parish Church on Sundays and hopes to study French at university next year.

Suzie Neave is a sixth year student at George Watson's College, Edinburgh, studying maths, mechanics, physics and music. She started piano lessons at the age of 5 and has recently passed grade 8 on both piano and cello with distinction. She began singing at the age of 8 and, as well as weekly singing lessons, Suzie sings with three school choirs as well as the Morningside Parish Church Choir. She has sung solos alongside the school's Chamber Choir including works such as Britten's, 'Rejoice in the Lamb'. Suzie involves herself in all opportunities on offer and has played cello, piano, and harpsichord in the school orchestras and has taken part in the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland's Senior Orchestra for three years. Next year she plans to study aeronautical engineering at university where music will continue to play a large part in her life.

James Maroulis is a second year physics student at Edinburgh University, where he sings for various choirs, including the Edinburgh University Singers. He also currently works as the chorus librarian for the Edinburgh University Music Society. Before leaving his home in Manchester for university, he spent several years as a member of the Halle Youth Choir, where he took part in a number of BBC music events, such as performing Vaughan Williams' Sea Symphony at the 2013 First Night of the Proms.



Antonia Smart; Suzie Neave; James Maroulis; Jenny Goss; Eleanor Crowe

Growing up in Cardiff, Jenny Goss has been immersed in choral music from a young age, singing in her local parish choir and with the Llandaff Cathedral Girl choristers up until the age of sixteen. She then moved to King's Ely where she became heavily involved in the school choirs, performed in concerts at Ely Cathedral, and achieved both Grade 8 Singing and Flute with Distinctions. Now studying Classics at the University of Edinburgh, she is

enjoying her second year as a soprano in the Edinburgh University Chamber Choir, and is very much looking forward to her time with the Morningside Parish Church choir.

Eleanor Crowe is a first year law student at the University of Edinburgh, but is originally from Glasgow. She started her vocal training in the RSNO Junior Chorus, which she sang in for 10 years, and singing in the National Girls' Choir in the year 2010/11. On top of this she received singing lessons from the late Deirdre Trundle, and then Margaret Izatt of the RCS, achieving her Grade 8 singing with Distinction in June of this year. She was a choral scholar in Sherbrooke St Gilbert's Parish Church in Glasgow for 7 years before coming to Morningside, and is enjoying the great many similarities in regards to the kind-hearted nature of its choir and congregation.

A 'WINTER'S CHEER' CONCERT



Those who ventured to Morningside Parish Church on Saturday 1st November in search of some winter cheer were well rewarded by some very talented musicians providing a wide range of musical entertainment. From the first notes of the familiar 'Trumpet Tune' by Henry Purcell, performed by Aaron Akugbo, the Principal Trumpet of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, to the final notes of Peter Warlock's Capriol Suite played by the Caritas Strings from George Watson's College, it was an excellent evening.

The performers included a number of familiar faces, including two of our current choir scholars, Jenny Goss and Eleanor Crowe, our organist, Morley Whitehead, and also Morag Watson whose oboe playing we have enjoyed as part of our Sunday worship on more than one occasion. They were joined by Michael Graham, who deputised for one of our tenors while he was on holiday for a number of weeks, and soprano Carole Clarke, and the cast was completed by Cantemus, a girls' choir from George Watson's College.

Many thanks to all those involved in the concert, and to Morley Whitehead for arranging such an enjoyable evening. The concert raised about £900 for church funds.

WORK PARTY



The next meeting will be held on Monday 1st December in the Cluny Centre at 10.30am/10.45am. This gathering will be a Christmas Coffee Morning, together with a showing of finished articles by the ladies.

A reminder to all that there is no meeting scheduled for January 2015, so the next meeting will be February 2015, same venue and time.

Anyone who would like to join us can be sure of a warm welcome. For further information contact Margaret Guild (447 6290)

MARY AND JOSEPH IN THE CHURCH HALL

Of course the Hall was crowded, and the carols had been sung;
Every child had got a present, Santa's farewell sleighbells rung,
For at last had come the moment that the parents longed to see,
When the children of the village, aged eleven down to three,
Would present the Christmas tableau, and the ancient manger scene,
With the shepherds and the angels, as every year it had been.
But our Mary and our Joseph recently had had a fight,
And our Mary couldn't stand the boy, or thole him in her sight.
You could feel the tension crackle as they sat there side by side.
It was quite hard to imagine she could ever be his bride.
You could see each kept a distance from the other,... and the child.
There was nothing on the stage that night suggesting 'meek and mild'.

But that was thirty years ago and each has travelled far;
And each now has got a mortgage and a family and a car.
Yet something in that children's play has left me with a doubt
Whether everything went smoothly once the angels had trooped out.

Did Mary feel resentment that her man had proved unable
To find any better lodgings for his family than a stable?
Did she feel she'd always owe him; after all, she'd take his name.
Would she have to live hereafter with a twinge of guilt or shame?
Would he lose his patient tolerance, was he really rather feckless;
Would he feel, by taking Mary on, he had been over reckless?

For tho' Christmas cards and plays present a family that's ideal;
I suspect the holy family was more earth-bound and more real.
They might sometimes have their tensions, even have a noisy row.
If we brought the story forward they'd be refugees right now.
Tho' I'd guess the Jesus household didn't always seem divine.
Yet I'll pray a trace of love and grace might lodge in yours ... and mine!

JWMC

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**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR
READERS!**