



Magazine

No. 98 February 2014

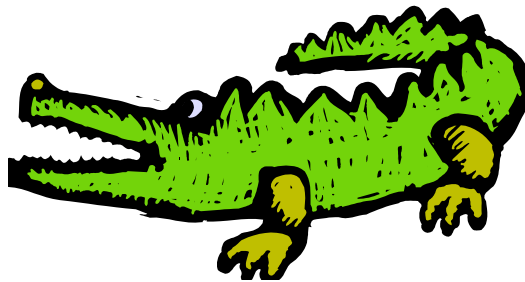
Dear Friends

How courageous do you consider yourself to be? Recently I read the obituary of Donald Greig, an eccentric teacher who was the co-founder and first headmaster of Rannoch School in Perthshire. He had a fearless reputation, having once fought a crocodile while on RAF service in Africa. He turned the reptile's hide into a handbag for his mother. Bravery and a certain degree of panache!

Of course, real courage isn't always on such a dramatic scale. Real courage is something that most of us need to get through life at a much more day-to-day level. It takes real courage to admit you've been wrong. It takes real courage to deal with the diagnosis of a serious illness. It takes real courage to change your career. It takes real courage to come to terms with bereavement. It takes real courage to end a relationship, or to begin one. It takes real courage to be a volunteer and to make a commitment.

Courage is something that we will all need at different times of our lives. Over the next few months the Kirk Session is going to be looking for and inviting members of the congregation to be courageous with their time. As part of our ongoing stewardship campaign we are going to be looking at the many different areas of our church's life where help is needed. It is relatively easy to sit back and assume or hope that somebody else will do what is necessary. For some people it takes a little bit of courage to say, 'Yes, I think I *could* help

with that.' Courage, at whatever level, requires a degree of determination and commitment. I never underestimate the bravery some people show in being unashamed of their faith and being resolute enough to do something about it. When the surrounding culture is often one of wanting more 'me' time and looking to our own needs, not only does it require courage to go against the prevailing cultural norm, it also means, if we say 'yes', that we have the opportunity to work together in community. Learning from each other, sharing with each other, helping each other. And that can only be for the good of the Church, and the good of society. There is such a thing as society, though it takes a degree of courage to engage with it actively.



Throughout His ministry Jesus was courageous. He was courageous in taking on the religious authorities of His day. He was courageous in associating with the kind of people who were often pushed to the margins of society. He was courageous in helping the sick. He was courageous in including women in His closest circle of friends. He was courageous in His teaching. He was courageous on the cross. And I believe Jesus has been courageous ever since. Courageous enough to trust in people like you and me to continue His work on His behalf.

Show some courage and volunteer to do something for your Church this year. Wrestling with crocodiles not required!

Revd Dr Derek Browning

CHURCH AND CHURCH HALL INTRUDER ALARM SYSTEM & ACCESS BOLLARDS

With effect from 10:00pm on Wednesday 22nd January the Church and Church Halls intruder alarm system will be fully operational. From then on, any key-holder accessing the premises outwith normal business hours (see below) will have to unset the alarm on entering and set the alarm on leaving using the alarm fob that has been issued to them. Anyone using a vehicle to deliver bulky goods to the premises outwith normal business hours will need to use their bollard fob to lower the bollards to gain access to the driveway - the bollards must be raised again immediately after you have parked the vehicle. If you experience difficulties with the intruder alarm system or the access bollards, a list of help-line contact numbers will be posted beside the intruder alarm key pads

Anyone holding keys for the premises who has not been contacted regarding the above should not attempt to enter the premises but should contact the Church Office in the first instance.

Normal business hours are:-

Monday to Friday: 08:00hrs to 22:00hrs (Winter); 08:00hrs to 18:00hrs (Summer)

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: 08:30am to 12noon and 17:30hrs to 20:00hrs

ROLL CHANGES

We welcome new members:-

Eleanor Smith of 20/59 Craiglea Place

Margaret Hay of 6/1 Maxwell Street

If you happen to meet either of them (or anyone else you don't know or think might be new!) do say hello.

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of the following members who died recently:-

Mrs Jean Stewart, of 33 Balcarres Street who died on 15th January.

Mrs Aileen Calder, late of Chamberlain Road Nursing home, who died on 17th January.

Charles Patton, the Limes, 14 Napier Road, who died on 19th January.

Have you looked at the Website yet?

www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

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

WORSHIP NOTES



At evening worship for most of February we are looking at the theme 'Revealing Love' which is based on the Pray Now Daily Devotions and Prayers, written by members of the Church of Scotland. Different topics will include brotherly/sisterly love, sacrificial love, and lust! At the end of February we will begin a series on the Apostles' Creed. The Apostles' Creed is an ancient creed of the Church. It is the preferred statement of belief of the Reformed churches and was included in weekly worship by both Calvin and Knox. The word 'creed' comes from the Latin word **credo** meaning 'I believe.' The Creed can be understood literally, though it is best read as poetry. It is Scriptural and, therefore, draws upon the faith narratives of the Bible. It employs powerful religious imagery intended for meditation.

We will share the Lord's Supper around the communion table at evening worship on Sunday 16th.

On 2nd March we have one of our quarterly communions in Church at 9.30am (a traditional, half hour service), and the 10.30am will be our annual family communion where children are not only invited to attend but also will help tell the story of communion to help all of us remember why this meal of sharing and remembering is so important to our Christian faith. This will be the third year we have done this service and I have found that children and adults alike are finding communion shared in this way not only helpful but also moving. It is good, with the sharing of the Lord's Supper, to have both formal and informal occasions. Please do come along and be part of all God's family that day.

In December we said goodbye to our 9.30am pianist, Yili Sun. We will be looking for a new pianist for this service very shortly. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please let the Minister know. In the meantime we are very grateful that one of our elders, Geoff Bulmer, is playing for us at the early morning service.

BASIC CHRISTIANITY

As we approach Easter, we travel through a time of reflection and study, traditionally called Lent. It is a good time for people to think about their faith, what they understand and what they don't understand. It is a good time to consider what it means to be a Christian today, and what the implications of faith are for the way we live and the way we interact with the world around us.

A course called Basic Christianity will be offered on Thursdays, starting on 20th February and running through to 27th March, at 7.30pm in the Cluny Centre, for those who would like to explore what they believe a little more deeply, and prepare for the good news of Easter.

Contact the Minister for more details (447 1617; minister@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)

LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group meets in the new hall at Morningside Parish Church at 7.45pm on a Monday. After a very successful autumn program we are now heading for our spring meetings and look forward to seeing some new faces joining us. The following are the dates and topics for our next meetings.

10 th February	Sounds of Silence - coping with deafness	Rev Sarah Kilby
15 th February (Saturday)	COFFEE MORNING	
24 th February	History of Hats and Fascinators	Carol Smith
10 th March	Breadshare Bakery	West Linton community

All welcome, both members and visitors.

Our Coffee Morning takes place on Saturday 15th February in the Church Hall from 10am to noon. Tickets cost Adults £2.50 and Children £1.00 and will be on sale from 1st February from Aline Haggart and Committee Members. The usual sale stalls will be available.

Anna Cunningham, Secretary

THE STONES CRY OUT

A film of the story of Palestinian Christians, produced and directed by Yasmine Perni has its Scottish Premiere on Thursday 13th Feb, 6.45pm (60 min) in St Andrew's and St George's West Church, George St, Edinburgh. (Tea and coffee available from 6pm) No charge, but donations would be welcome.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - CITY OF EDINBURGH COMMITTEE BIBLE STUDIES 2014



All meetings are held at 121 George Street, Edinburgh at 10.30 a.m. The material is written by the Christian Women of Egypt and the theme this year is "Streams in the Desert".

Preparation Day

Friday 7th February Speaker:- Rev. Mike Parker
(Formerly attached to the Diocese Of Egypt)

Bible Studies

Study One: John Ch 4, v1 to 41
Friday 31st January Speaker:- Rev. Dean Fostekew
(Rector, Church of the Good Shepherd)

Study Two: Genesis Ch 42, v1 To 7 and Ch 46, v1to 7
 Matthew Ch 1, v 18 to 21 and Ch 2, v13 to 20
Friday 14th February Speaker:- Rev. Sue Kirkbride
(Minister, Saughtonhall URC)

THE GOOD COOKBOOK

Still struggling with your New Year's resolutions? How is the diet going? Turn to the Bible for some (tongue-in-cheek) help:



The Joseph diet: eat all you want for the first seven years and very little for the next seven.

The Sinai diet: Eat a normal breakfast, and replace dinner and lunch with a delicious shake made of the molten remnants of a golden calf.

The Lot diet: avoid salt.

The Methuselah diet: largely champagne.

The Rich Man diet: eat as much camel as you want, but only after chopping it into pieces small enough to fit through the eye of a needle.

The 5,000 diet: it's surprising how long you can make five loaves and a few small fish last.

The Exodus diet: eating only food that falls from the sky. For 40 years.

The Eden diet: fruit forbidden.

The Jonah diet: it's all about what eats you.

The Lazarus diet: perhaps the fastest Biblical diet of them all. But risky.

The Babel diet: cook only from cookbooks written in languages you don't understand.

The Noah diet: eat two of everything, but only in the bath.

The Good Samaritan diet: give all your food to somebody else.

The Cain and Abel diet: you are, in fact, your brother's keeper. Don't let him eat that pie.

The John the Baptist diet: eat only locusts and honey. Or twiglets.

The Plague diet: You'll probably lose your appetite with the lice, boils and frogs, but go easy on the wild beasts.

The Judas diet: eat what you like, and deny it.

The Gideon diet: eat only foodstuffs stolen from hotel rooms.

The Last Supper: fairly self-explanatory.

The Eleventh Commandment diet: for goodness sake, just eat less!



GIFT SERVICE

Christmas is behind us now but it is not too late to say a big thank you to all who contributed to the Gift Service with the provision of lovely presents for the children of Challenger Children's Fund and the men from our Wednesday Club. Several people contributed to the postage and the remaining balance was gifted by a very generous member of the Congregation.

Thank you all very much.

Hazel Knight

WEDNESDAY CLUB FOR THE DISABLED

On behalf of the men of the Wednesday Club, I would like to thank those members of the Congregation who provided presents for Santa to hand out during our supper following the Carol Concert given by the Telephone Choir on 18th December 2013. Given the feedback received, the presents were most acceptable and much appreciated.

The new session started on 15th January when we were entertained by John Paul, the septuagenarian brother of one of the Club members. John, who accompanies himself on the keyboard, has a large repertoire of songs encompassing all genres of music and, over the hour and a half we were treated to a small selection – music from the Stage & Screen, Rock & Roll, Country & Western and Ballads to name but a few. John even encouraged one or two of the Club members to take the microphone and sing a song.

The programme for the remainder of the Session is a combination of slide shows, musical evenings and watching the odd DVD, with the old favourites bingo and dominoes making an appearance from time to time.

As usual, if anyone can, or knows someone who can, provide us with an evening's entertainment, please get in touch with either Ian Hastie (447 4533) or myself (449 2866).

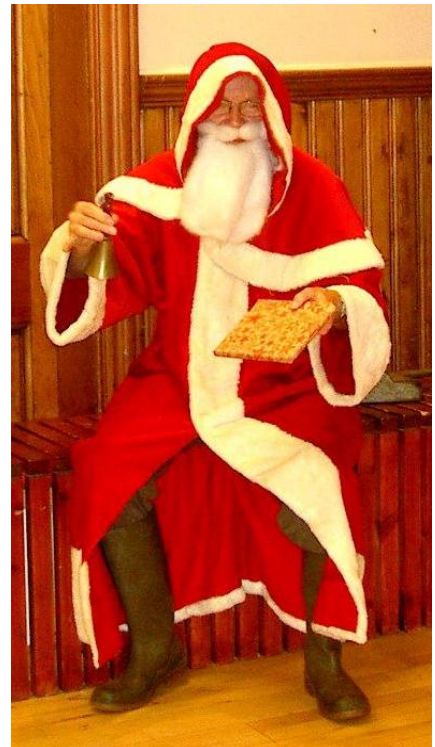
Charles S Wilson MBE
Co-ordinator for the Wednesday Club

SANTA NEEDS A NEW COAT FOR DECEMBER 2014

For many many years Santa has worn the outfit seen in the picture when he visited Morningside Parish Church parties in December. This coat, made about thirty years ago by Mrs Muriel Dickson when she was in charge of the Sunday School and looked after ever since by her, is going into retirement.

If anyone would like to make a new outfit for Santa, that would be a great service to the various organisations which hold parties at which Santa may put in an appearance. Expenses for materials would be met. If you are interested in this project in any way, please contact Marie Ogilvie (tel: 668 1759; email: marieogilvie@btinternet.com).

Meantime, our grateful thanks go to Mrs Dickson for this special gift which has been used for so long.



MUSICAL NOTES

Just in case you have yet to work out which of our choir scholars is which, here is a photo of them:-



L – R Irene Carter, Stella Merz, Claire Saunders, Donald Taylor & Tim Matson

Donald Taylor and Tim Matson introduced themselves in a previous edition of the magazine. The three soprano scholars, who have all been with us before, have given us a brief update on what they are doing. Claire Saunders is a final year music student at the University of



Organ scholar Miriam Abraham

Edinburgh. Into her second year at MPC, she says that it is a pleasure to join the choir every week and be part of the parish community. Stella Merz graduated with a degree in history from the University of Edinburgh last year. She is planning to move to London this summer, but will miss being a part of the choir at Morningside, where she has been a choral scholar for three years. Irene Carter is in her fourth year studying social anthropology at the University of Edinburgh. She had just returned to Morningside after a year studying in the University of Copenhagen. She had a wonderful time but really missed singing and is glad to be back.

PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH BEREAVEMENT SEMINAR

A seminar is being organised by the Presbytery for those involved in bereavement or funeral care. The event will be held in St Andrews and St George's West Church, George St, on Saturday 8th February from 10.00am till 1.00pm. If you are interesting in attending, please contact Nicola Whyte. (nicolawhyte30@gmail.com, 07803 513389).

The keynote speaker is Rev Tom Gordon, retired parish minister and healthcare chaplain, and panellists include Andrew Combe, funeral director from McKenzie and Miller Undertakers; George Smith, civil celebrant; and Sandy Young, head of spiritual care and bereavement, NHS Lothian.



THE GUILD

The first meeting of the New Year was an uplifting talk and display about Canine Partners in Scotland given by Sally Hyder and her dog Harmony. Sally developed multiple sclerosis in 1990 and is now confined to a wheelchair. Her dog Harmony is a beautiful labrador/retriever. We learned the history of Canine Partners in Scotland and its growth in the use of dogs to assist the physically disabled.

Harmony dutifully performed some of the many tasks she is able to do such as pulling off socks, and other ways to help with dressing, lifting the foot plates on the wheelchair and fetching and carrying objects. She can also help with the household chores such as removing the washing from the washing machine.

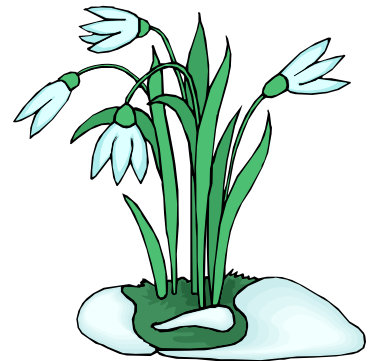
The next meeting on 4th February consists of our Discussion Topic which this year is 'Let's Talk about "Finding the Right Way"'. On 18th February, Fiona Stimpson, again known to many of the congregation, will tell us about one of the charities the church supports, the Edinburgh Clothing Store.

All these meetings are held in the Church Hall on Tuesdays at 2.15pm, and anyone interested in attending will be made very welcome.

Kate Stewart

FLOWER LIST

		Provided by	Arranged by
Feb	2	Lorna Graham	Val Dunn
	9	Euan Murray	Irene Wilson
	16	Anne & Chris McNeil	Val Mannings
	23	Marion McGrouther	Marjory Watson
Mar	2	Bob & Margaret Alexander	Eleanor Watt



A small number of dates remain to be filled on the 2014 Flower List. 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 are to 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.

NEWS FROM THE CHARITIES WE SUPPORT:-



FROM THE FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS
COORDINATOR, THE ROCK TRUST

THANK YOU!

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone at Morningside Parish Church from everyone at The Rock Trust for your donation of £450, which you raised at your annual Soup and Apple Crumble lunch. Your generous support helps us continue our vital work in Edinburgh and the Lothians, supporting vulnerable and homeless young people.

I am delighted to say that our flagship fundraising event that took place on the 7th November, the Sleep Out Challenge 2013, has raised over £14,000 so far, and we expect this amount to go up over the next few weeks as off line and late donations roll in. Our brave sleep out participants experienced a difficult night out in Festival Square, in terrible weather, and the experience drove home that the streets of Edinburgh can be a very wet, miserable and scary place to be if you are alone with nowhere to go. Not only has the Sleep Out in Edinburgh raised an amazing amount of money locally, the national Sleep Out has put a spotlight on the issue of youth homelessness and raised public awareness of this devastating issue. We have posted some great pictures from the event on The Rock Trust's Facebook page.



The heart within Morningside

WE WON!

£3,000 and it's all down to you - thank you so much for taking the time to vote for us.

The Bank of Scotland Community Fund Award was launched in September last year and bank staff nominated four charities within their area that they thought made a worthwhile difference to people of that community. It was our good fortune to be nominated by Jean Dobson of the Morningside branch.

Jean has supported many other charities and knew of the services The Open Door provided. She asked if I would speak to her colleagues at the Bank to let them know about the many vulnerable people we support, and the difference having a place of welcome and friendship can make to: -

The homeless man who desperately needed money but had had his social security card stolen, did not know how to get another and of course had no fixed abode to send it to. The lady, given devastating news at hospital, having no one to share it with came straight to The Open Door because she knew someone would listen. Or perhaps the lady who came in for coffee, we got chatting and when it was time for me to go she thanked me, it was the first time anyone had spoken to her in a week!

These are some of the reasons people come to the Open Door but there are many more. We provide so much more than a coffee shop and day services for the elderly, we hold out a hand to anyone who needs it. There are very few certainties in this world but one thing you can be sure of is that you will always find help and friendship when you enter our door.

Many many thanks

Sandra Dixon, Manager

BETHANY CARE SHELTER

Recently the Morningside Parish Catering Team completed its second evening catering for the Bethany Care Shelter. I am very grateful for the time and help the team give for this worthwhile cause. Our evenings this winter have been at St Cuthbert's Church in Lothian Road on each occasion, and we catered for around 40 people who have been reduced to sleeping rough due to circumstances often beyond their control.

Thank you to those who supported our fundraising coffee morning in October which raises funds to buy the food. Over the past few years we have worked out that comfort food is most appreciated as the service users have probably not eaten since breakfast. Many queue up waiting for seconds and one man had three helpings of pudding! Lots of tea and coffee are consumed also with lots of sugar. I was serving one of the rough sleepers his main course and was touched as he gave me what was probably his last (maybe only) sweetie.

Below are a couple of stories from the Care Shelter:

The first is of a man who came up to the Shelter venue on the very first night of operation this year. He was very smartly dressed and staff thought that he perhaps was at the wrong address. It turned out that he wasn't. He explained that he had used the Shelter as a rough sleeper a couple of years ago. The care and support that he received at the Shelter set him on a course that transformed his life. He now has his own flat and he has a job. He wanted to come back to the Shelter to say thank you for changing his life! As you can imagine his story was totally inspiring for the people using the Shelter that night and very humbling for the team on duty.

The second story is of a man who gripped the arm of the Shelter manager and holding back the tears, thanked him for the service and the vital lifeline that it offered him in his current crisis. He also said that as well as meeting his immediate needs the Shelter allowed him to show care and concern for others. He was walking to the Shelter venue that night when he saw someone he knew heading for a graveyard with a sleeping bag under his arm. He was able to shout out to him and invite him to come to the Shelter explaining that there would be a warm welcome, a hot meal, a bed for the night and support to move on to better things. He was overwhelmed by the fact that he was able to help someone else in need even when he was in need himself.

It is humbling to think that in a very small way we have helped to make a positive change to some peoples' lives.

Anne McNeil

LADIES CINEMA NIGHT

Scottish Love in Action (SLA) is hosting its next Ladies Cinema Night on **Thursday 27th March 2014 (7.30pm for 8.00pm)**. Come and enjoy a night out with your girlfriends and watch the epic musical 'Les Misérables' on the big screen. Your viewing will be in the Edinburgh Dominion's Gold Class seats with fizz, French-themed canapés and a free raffle. Tickets are £20 per person. A double set of tickets in Gold Class seats with one bottle of fizz, canapés and raffle is available for £40, and a triple set of tickets in Gold Class seats with two bottles of fizz between three and free raffle is available for £60. Tickets are on sale now on the SLA website, www.sla-india.org. For more information call the SLA Office on 0131 629 9112.

THE EFFECT OF WORLD WAR 1 ON THE MORNINGSIDE COMMUNITY

The Morningside Heritage Association during 2014 is carrying out a project to establish the effect of World War 1 on the social, domestic and commercial life of Morningside. The Association is hoping to give the present day residents of Morningside a better understanding of community life there 100 years ago and also of the military experiences that its residents endured.

Part of the study will start with gathering names from the Rolls of Honour in the Church, the war graves in Morningside Cemetery and the records retained by South Morningside Primary School of pupils who died or were injured in WW1. These names will be used to build up a record of Morningside people who took part in the war and the story of their family and military experiences. Morningside Heritage Association is interested in speaking to anyone who has a family connection to anyone who took part in military service in WW1.

Secondly, Morningside Heritage Association is also trying to trace people alive today whose family either took part in the war, or who lived in Morningside during the 1914-18 period. Morningside Heritage Association volunteers are keen to speak to these people about their memories of WW1 and to collect any memorabilia which they possess which relates to the wartime or community experiences of Morningside that time. This could include letters, diaries, photographs or other objects and memorabilia dating back to the period. This material will be displayed as part of a series of exhibitions to be hosted in Morningside over the next twelve months.

If you have helpful information or material relating to the project, please contact Bob Cunningham on 447 4757 and he will arrange for you to meet the Morningside Heritage Association volunteers working on the research programme.

In addition, if you are interested in local history and in finding out more about this interesting topic, you may wish to offer your services to Morningside Heritage Association for a few hours to help with the research. Full training will be provided and Morningside Heritage Association would find the extra help most useful. Again, please contact Bob Cunningham if you wish to take part in the project.

TIME TO USE OUR TALENTS?

In November we were all asked to think about how we use our time and our talents in the run up to Pledge Sunday.

Many of our congregation play a vital role in the running of our Church and making our services happen. Volunteers help to enrich our worship and beautify or maintain our Church. Others create opportunities for fellowship or help to reach out to those who cannot come to Church. Yet more of our members lead or assist in the uniformed organisations or play an active part in local charities.

What is clear is many of our people give generously of their time and we owe them our gratitude. But sometimes we let too much land on a willing few. For Pledge Sunday this year we were all asked to give serious thought to whether we could get more involved. There are lots of things going on in our Church community and some could benefit from our energy. We were also asked whether we are using our talents and skills to the full. Every one of us has abilities we don't make the most of.

To those who took up the challenge, well done. However, inevitably, there are still areas where we need more support or where more people would allow the burden to be shared. One area where we still need help is helping with Sunday Club and the rota for looking after the crèche.

Engaging our young people and making Morningside church family-friendly has to be a priority. It can also be both fulfilling and fun dealing with youngsters. If you were young once, please consider whether you could offer some time here. The commitment doesn't have to be every week and the crèche rota would only be once or twice a term if we had more volunteers.

If you're interested in finding out more about what's involved or in coming along to see what's involved without obligation please contact Nicola Whyte on nicolawhyte30@gmail.com or the Minister on 447 6745 or minister@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk.

Meantime, let's make 2014 the year when we all feel we're truly playing our part in the active life of Morningside Church.

MAGAZINE BY EMAIL

As you should be well aware from articles elsewhere in this magazine and previous issues, we are making every effort to reduce costs in all aspects of our church's life and activities in order to tackle our deficit. One way in which you can contribute to this is by taking the magazine by email rather than in printed form. If you are able and willing to do this, please email the church office at the address at the foot of the back page. **If however you are being sent the magazine by email and would prefer to read it on paper, please let the church office know so that we can ensure the correct number are printed.**

WORK PARTY

A meeting will be held on Monday 3rd February in the Cluny Centre at 10.30am/10.45am. This is the start of another session and I look forward to welcoming both current and new members.



Please do not hesitate to contact me if information/details are required.

Margaret Guild (447 6290)

HERIOT WATT ANNUAL CHAPLAINCY LECTURE

This is being held on Monday 3rd February at 6.30 pm at the James Watt Centre, beside the main reception at the Riccarton Campus.

Professor Tom Wright, Research Professor of New Testament at the University of St Andrews, will give the lecture on "*Speaking of God in a Confused World*". As there are refreshments afterwards, it would be very helpful in estimating numbers if those who intend coming could phone in advance on 0131 451 4508, or email m.boulogne@hw.ac.uk.

Rev Dr Alistair Donald, University Chaplain

LIFE AND WORK SUBSCRIPTIONS

A few subscriptions are still outstanding and are now overdue. Many thanks to those who have already paid.

Joan McKenzie and Audrey Riddell

The February issue includes the following articles:-

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| ‘A Big Family’ | Heart for Art, an innovative CrossReach project which is helping people with dementia express themselves through art. |
| A Helping Hand | The new Church of Scotland Youth Guide to Ethical Living. |
| Open My Ears, That I May Hear | A personal plea for worship leaders to consider people with hearing disabilities. |
| A Great Journey | The Church’s Head of Stewardship says attitude can make the difference in stewardship campaigns. |
| Scotland’s People on the Record | A taste of the old parish records, now available online. |
| Hands Across the World | Previewing Heart and Soul 2014. |
| Being There for People | The Moderator asks ‘what is the purpose of the Church of Scotland?’ |
| Acts and Actions | The Rev Dr Martin Fair urges us to follow the example of the early Christians. |
| Saying Goodbye | Ruth Burgess discusses how to make funerals meaningful to non-churchgoers. |

MARCH MAGAZINE

Material for the March issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 14th February 2014** and it will be available for **distribution on Sunday 2nd March**. Contributions may be put in her pigeonhole at church, sent by post to 1 Swanston Road, Edinburgh, EH10 7BB, or sent by email to alison@riddell2.plus.com.

EARLY VERSION *by Colette Bryce*

Our boat was slow to reach Bethsaida; winds oppressed us,
Fast and cold, our hands were blistered from the oars.
We'd done to death our songs and jokes, with miles
To go, when Jesus spoke:
He said He'd crouched upon the shore, alone, engaged
In silent prayer, when looking down, He started –
Saw His own image crouching there. And when He
leant
And dipped His hand
He swore He felt the fingers touch, and as He rose
The image stood and, slowly, each put out a foot
And took a step, and where they met, the weight of one
Annulled the other;
Then how He'd moved across the lake, walked on the
soles
Of His liquid self, and He described how cool it felt
On His aching, dusty feet; the way He'd strode a steady
Course to board the boat
Where we now sat – mesmerised. He gestured out
Towards the shore, along the lake, then to Himself,
And asked us all to visualise, to open what He always
Called our 'fettered minds.'



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