



Magazine

No. 107 February 2015

Dear Friends

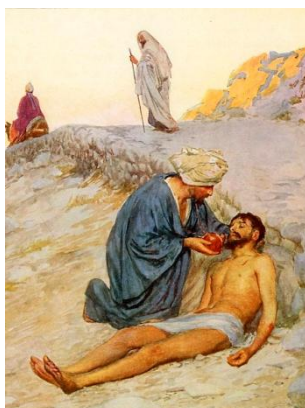
Not the best start of the New Year for me – a Hogmanay dancing accident (don't ask!) meant a visit to A&E on New Year's Day, a bagful of painkillers and learning to use crutches. Some people kindly offered to go shopping, or provide a meal, or transport. And I'm very grateful to the three people who stepped in at short notice to take the three services on 4th January. Some people have been very kind indeed.

Some friends were less helpful. "I'm watching a film just now but I'll get back to you tomorrow." "I don't have a car just now and have had too much to drink but you'll be all right, I'm sure." "I thought other people would be in touch." "You're always so independent; I decided to leave you alone." All of this has made me reflect on how *I* respond to people's calls for help (I certainly don't claim to have an unblemished record). It made me reflect on how other people on their own would cope. I also noted that when people did offer help I was surprised to find myself saying, "Oh, I'll be all right", when I probably wasn't. And when people said, "Just call if you need any help", I would say something like, "I'll be fine", which was certainly not always true.

It is a generally accurate observation that people in need rarely ask for help. They (we) are too proud; or don't want to be a bother, or feel 'obliged'. It occurred to me that putting the onus on those who are unwell, or in trouble, to ask for help is unrealistic. In some instances it might even be a ploy to keep the needs of others at arms' distance. "We don't want to take away

your independence." "We don't want to make assumptions." Or is that really, "We don't want to get involved, or drawn in"? It has certainly made me consider what I say when I offer help, and what I mean by what I say; and what, if anything, I do.

There are many people in our community who are on their own or who, even with family, are struggling. Have we noticed? Rather than giving sympathetic looks, or making sympathetic noises, I believe the Christian response is to **do** something. Pick up the phone; go round and visit; take something. Assume nothing. Families can't always be counted on. Friends don't always rally round. Better several actions of help than none at all. Or worse; walking by on the other side. There's a story in the Bible about that!



With January's New Year's resolutions fading into the past, here's a February resolution we can all make. Notice the needs of others. Notice when people are not around. Phone; visit; email; text; Facebook message; especially if someone is on their own. Don't say that you'll help **IF** it's needed. Go and help long before you're asked. You won't be able to fix everything, that's not the point. In truth, your help might not be needed; but your active kindness and your human contact might make all the difference in the world. It's not the shopping or the cleaning that's the really important thing. It is breaking the isolation that matters. It is spending ten minutes with someone. I need to remember that lesson, but I don't think it applies only to me. It is, after all, what Jesus would do.

Revd Dr Derek Browning

KIRK SESSION

At the December meeting of the Kirk Session the main report came from the Stewardship & Finance Committee:

The Treasurer, Chris McNeil, presented the **budget for 2015**. He reminded Session that in 2012 the annual deficit was £90k and the proposal then was to reduce the deficit to £60k in 2013, £40k in 2014, £20k in 2015 and to nil in 2016. We are on track to achieve this, although it will become harder to do so as the “easy” options will have been taken up. Indeed in 2014 the projected deficit is likely to be around £30k, which is ahead of the plan.

For 2015, he proposes a deficit of £20k but drew attention that this could only be achieved by paying for certain one off fabric repairs from capital, from monies held on our behalf in the Central Fabric Fund of the General Trustees. Although the recent pledge campaign had indicated some members able to commit to a rise in giving, some generous givers had died in the last year. In the current year, church fund raising events had included the Talent Auction, the Concert, the Men’s Baking Challenge and the Quiz Night. Not all of these can be repeated next year and further fund raising ideas are sought. The Treasurer anticipated that the rental Income can be achieved by the replacement of the Kidzcare let by additional use by South Morningside Primary School. The budget included sums received from organisations and also the £4,500 donated by the Friends of Morningside Parish Church (£4,000 for choral scholars and £500 for floodlighting).

On expenditure, our Ministries and Mission allocation will increase by £7,500 as a consequence of our improved income position over the past 3 years. It also includes the 2% staff increases approved by Session and £1,200 for a webmaster, should one be found. There is a saving in cost as the pianist at the 9.30 service is now provided by a team of volunteers.

The Treasurer suggested that the budget was challenging but achievable and the Budget was duly approved by Session

The Session expressed its thanks to the Treasurer and the S&F committee for the work done in producing the budget and monitoring our finances throughout the year.

SPEAKER SUPPER EVENING FRIDAY 6TH MARCH

After the successful speaker supper evening in October with James Naughtie, our second event will be on Friday 6th March at 7.30pm in the Church Halls. Tickets, priced £20, will be on sale shortly. Our guest speaker will be Baroness Annabel Goldie MSP. Annabel Goldie trained as a solicitor and is currently an MSP in the West of Scotland electoral region, and a former leader of the Scottish Conservative Party. She is currently the Conservative constitutional spokesman at Holyrood, and is a working peer at Westminster. She is also an elder and member at Bishopton Parish Church.

The last speaker supper event sold out – so please ensure you get your ticket in good time!

MANSE LENT STUDIES 2015

The season of Lent in the Christian year, the period leading up to Holy Week and Easter, is a time for Christians to reflect on their faith and the way they live their lives. This year there will be an evening series of reflections, study and short acts of worship held in the manse (20 Braidburn Crescent, EH10 6EN, 447 1617) led by the Minister.

We will look at some of the passages in Mark's Gospel to help us reflect on what faith means to us today. The evenings will start at 7.30pm and will last for about an hour and a half. Refreshments will be served. If you want to plan ahead, these will be the passages we will be looking at. You can also use these passages at home. It may be possible to include the week's topic and questions in the weekly intimation sheets (also available on the church website at www.morningside.parishchurch.org.uk – look at the drop-down menu on the 'What's on' tab).

1. 18 th February (Ash Wednesday)	Mark 1:1-13	Turning
2. 25 th February	Mark 3:7-19	Calling
3. 4 th March	Mark 5:1-20	Healing
4. 11 th March	Mark 4:26-34	Sowing
5. 18 th March	Mark 6:45-56	Walking
6. 25 th March	Mark 8:22-30	Seeing

FRIENDS OF MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH

Have you ever considered becoming a Friend of Morningside Parish Church? Do you know what we do? Friends was founded in 1990 with the aim of helping to maintain and enhance the beauty of the church building which we have inherited.

Each year, we support projects which the church, through financial or other constraints, might not be able to do. This year, we have contributed £4,000 towards Choir Scholarships, assisted with the cost of floodlighting the church, created wheelchair bays in the sanctuary and funded the repair of the lamps on the steps leading up to the church. The Committee is exploring ideas for recording of services and also installing plasma screens in the halls and other areas.

If you like what we are doing or have ideas for other projects that we might consider, why don't you join our group? We would warmly welcome new members. For further information, please contact the Minister or Bob Cunningham, treasurer. The annual subscription to Friends is a minimum of £10.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 2014

In November of last year a group of people from all over Edinburgh, one from Oban, and picking up a couple from Australia, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It was a wonderful trip – the weather was great – and the sites we visited were wonderful. I am having to check myself, again, about not saying, “When we were in the Holy Land...” But the place has that kind of effect on most people. For some it was the slightly edgy atmosphere of Jerusalem, with its layered Biblical and historical sites, with the commanding views from the Mount of Olives, and the sheer size and beauty of the Temple Mount. For others it was the Roman remains at Caesarea Maritima, or the lakeside communion on the shores of Galilee, or the view of Damascus from the Golan Heights. And of course the sunshine and the excellent food helped too, as well as too very good hotels in Jerusalem and Tiberias.



Banana the donkey, Nazareth



Going down from the Mount of Olives to Gethsemane, Jerusalem

I suspect for many people it was also fitting the names and the places into situation. To visit the Shepherds' Fields outside Bethlehem; to wander through the ruins of Capernaum and Chorazin; to visit the little reconstruction of a first century village in Nazareth; to look down from the ramparts of Masada onto the Judean desert; even to float in/on the Dead Sea.

Despite one very serious unforeseen medical incident (don't fall seriously ill in Palestinian-controlled Bethlehem, find that most of the Jerusalem hospitals would have been on a skeleton staff, and dash along a busy motorway to Tel Aviv please – though the pilgrim has made a steady recovery!) the trip was moving, enlightening, thought-provoking and fun.

I am hoping to lead another pilgrimage in 2016, 26th January to 5th February, so watch out for details very soon.

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 17th December 2014. Given the feedback received, the presents were most acceptable and much appreciated.

By the time that you read this, the new session has started. On 14th January, we were entertained by John Paul – brother of Willie Paul, a Club member. John, who accompanies himself on the keyboard, has a large repertoire of songs and, over the hour and a half we were treated to a small selection. On 21st January, David Radden – a member of the Telephone Choir – and a few of his friends provided us with another memorable musical evening, while on 28th January we had a DVD night.

The programme for the remainder of the Session is a combination of slide shows and musical evenings, 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

AN EVENING WITH SALLY MAGNUSSON.....

Is being held at Palmerston Place Church, Edinburgh on Tuesday 24th February at 7pm, when Sally will read from and discuss her book 'Where memories go' about her late mother, Mamie Magnusson, and the impact her mother's dementia had on their family. Tickets cost £5 and are available from www.palmerstonplacechurch.com or by calling 0131 220 1690. All proceeds to go to PPC dementia project.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE QUIZ NIGHT

It's that time of year again. It's time to engage our brains and battle it out for the **MPC CLEVER CLOGS CUP!** The annual Outreach Quiz Night is here again.

Date: 7th February 2015: Time: 19.00 - 21.00: Venue: MPC New Hall

Cost: Adults £5.00 Children £2.50

Refreshments will be available to purchase on the evening. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team and the best team name, along with the dreaded wooden spoon for the losing team. If you are unable to put a team of six together, we will be happy to place you in a team on the evening.

ROLL CHANGES



Please give a warm welcome to new members:-

Tom and Catherine Leonard;
Rev Isobel Brain, and
Scott Peter.

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

Dr Archie Milne, who died on 14th December 2014;
Dr David Barr, who died on 23rd December 2014;
Mrs Elsie Douglas, who died on 29th December 2014.



Grahamston United Parish Church window

THE GUILD

At our first meeting of the New Year, Rev Liz Henderson replaced her husband, Rev James Jack, who was unable to be with us, and gave a most interesting and informative talk on "We're a' Jock Tamson's bairns". The Rev John Thomson was minister of Duddingston Kirk from 1805 - 1840.

On January 20th, we look forward to celebrating Robert Burns with Mrs Gretta Miller.

On February 3rd, a speaker from the Bethany Trust, one of the charities supported by Morningside Church, will tell us about the Bethany Night Shelter at which some of our church members help.

On February 17th, we are delighted and honoured to have Mrs Marjorie Paton as our speaker. Last year, she was National Guild Convener, and will speak about her year of office. Some of you may remember Marjorie and her husband, Rev Iain

Paton, when they were members of South Morningside Church where Marjorie was Lieutenant in the 188th Guide Company. All interested in hearing about Marjorie's year in office will be made most warmly welcome.

All our meetings are open to all, so please come along on Tuesdays at 2.15pm



MANY THANKS to all involved in decorating the church for Christmas!



FLOWER LIST

		Provided by	Arranged by
February	1	Lorna Graham	Eleanor Watt
	8	Christine Peterson	Anne Armour; Isobel Paterson
	15	Eleanor Wrigley	Marjory Watson
	22	Humphrey & Meg Passmore	Caroline Reid
March	1	Ruth Henderson	Ruth Henderson; Val Dunn



The flower list for 2015 is now complete. We would like to thank all those who have agreed to donate flowers throughout the year.

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



MUSICAL NOTES

Like most organists, I keep a special 'organ-playing' pair of shoes next to the instrument. I don't always bother to use them (they are a bit tight these days!) but on the first Sunday after Christmas, I did put them on – the boots I had been wearing were not really suitable for the Flor Peeters variations before the service. To my astonishment, I found that one of my shoes contained a folded £10 note!

Now, if you happen to have lost such a thing in the vicinity of the organ console round about 28th December, please see me and same will be returned, no questions asked. If on the other hand you were a kind soul who decided to give the hard-working organist a 'Christmas Box', please accept his thanks and appreciation and (by the time that this appears in print) a somewhat belated 'best wishes' for 2015.

Morley Whitehead

THE LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group meets in the New Halls of Morningside Parish Church at 7.45pm on a Monday evening. Everyone is welcome and we now have 1 or 2 men attending regularly.

Here are the dates for February 2015:-

9 th February	Queensferry Crossing. The New Road Bridge
14 th February	Saturday Coffee Morning 10 am – noon
23 rd February	Nite Kirk, Greyfriars Church – Katie Munnik
9 th March	History of Swimming Costumes

Anna Cunningham

FRIENDS OF MORLICH HOUSE

The residents and staff of Morlich House send good wishes to the congregation for 2015.

An activities co-ordinator, Mrs Kathleen Wallace, was appointed last year. The ladies celebrated the Commonwealth Games, the centenary of World War 1, among other festivals throughout the year under her expert guidance. She has stimulated an interest in the garden by bringing in greenery etc. and the ladies have made some great pot displays.

New outdoor, low maintenance, seating was purchased and it is hoped the summer weather will allow the ladies the pleasure of sitting outside.

If any member of the congregation would like to see round Morlich House this can be arranged. Your continued support is appreciated.

Fiona Watt.447 9648 Marion Cooper 447 7149



15TH AND 210TH BROWNIES FUND-RAISER FOR SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION

The Morningside Parish Brownie Units held a joint fund-raiser to raise money for Scottish Love in Action. Amongst them they made the amazing sum of £562.70. To do this they took part in the Rice Challenge. This involved two teams racing against each other to fill a container with "rice". The "rice" took the shape of shredded plastic and looked very realistic. The containers were marked to let the girls know how many children they had fed. It was a messy but fun way of raising funds.

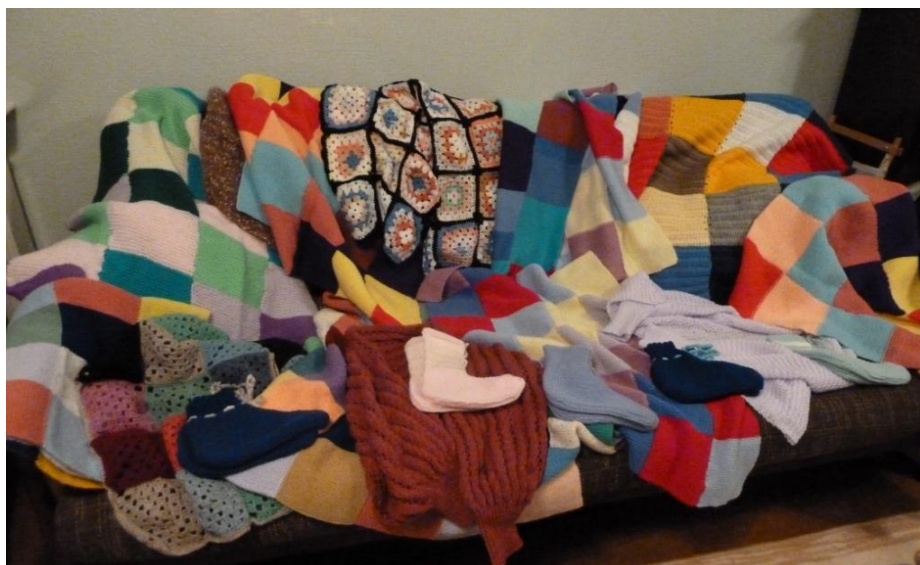
WORK PARTY



The next meeting of the Work Party will take place on Monday 2nd February in the Cluny Centre at 10.30am/10.45am when I look forward to seeing you again. I sincerely hope that all members are in 'fine fettle' and manage to attend.

There will be the customary 'cuppa' and 'biscuit' and, as always, wool, patterns and knitting pins will be available. Anyone who would like to join us can be sure of a warm welcome. For further information contact Margaret Guild (447 6290)

The photograph shows some of the items made by the Work Party, which were delivered to the Leith Community Nurses for distribution to the elderly.



DON'T BE A VICTIM OF FRAUD

In the past couple of years it has become evident that the tactics of the fraudster are changing and no longer are they relying on the card reader device in the ATM's, instead they are using the channels that make our lives easier: the internet, smart phones and doorstep deliveries. Every year more than 3 million people in the UK fall victims to scams, losing hundreds, sometimes thousands of pounds. And this is only the tip of the iceberg as it is estimated that only 5% of scams are reported due to the victims feeling embarrassed at being caught out. It's only through spotting the signs of scams and spreading the word as wide as possible that we can help to stop scams.

CURRENT SCAMS

Calls from a "Computer Company"

You receive a call from a fraudster, using a computer company name, advising that you have a problem with your computer and they can fix it for a small fee. They will ask you to click on a link on a website or email and this allows them to take control of your computer. It is at this stage they can put a virus on your computer. You will also have handed over your bank card details to make the payment.

Unfortunately, they will take more than one transaction from your bank account.

They may keep you on the phone for a couple of hours to prevent you from stopping your bank cards while they use them. If you receive a call then say "no thank you" and hang up. Beware, they are persistent and persuasive.

Courier Scams

You will receive a call from a fraudster pretending to be from the bank, police, government department or other large organisation, advising they are looking into fraud on your account. They may even suggest that you call the number on the

back of your card to verify the call. They keep the telephone line open and play a recording of the dialling tone, so you are in fact still on the line to them. You think you have called the bank and therefore feel comfortable in providing all the necessary information they require to use your bank cards or online banking. On occasion they may send a courier round to collect your bank cards and/or ask you to withdraw considerable sums of money. If you receive a call then tell them you will call a known bank number and hang up. Yes, do use the number on the back of the card but wait for a period of time to ensure the line is closed or use another Telephone either landline or mobile.

Dating Scams

Fraudsters use dating websites to build online relationships and once they have formed a relationship and gained your trust they will then use emotional circumstances to get you to part with your money. It could be that a family member is seriously ill and that they need money to buy a flight to visit them. They may ask for a bank transfer to their account, once the money is in their account they will quickly withdraw it to prevent retrieval. There are genuine people on dating websites but be aware that some people are not what they seem.

Investment Fraud

Fraudster will phone you and try to sell you investments that will lead to huge financial gains while in fact they are worthless or do not even exist. They use information that may sound like they are from a genuine investment company and may even use a genuine investment company name. They can also phone you on a few occasions so that they can build a relationship and gain your trust. You should always seek independent / legal advice before making an investment.

Phishing Emails

An email apparently from a bank arrives requesting you to update your details. A genuine bank will not ask you to put passwords, pin numbers or personal information in an email. The scammers normally request you click on a link and by doing so you may be downloading a virus on to your computer.

Recently there have been emails about a "purchase" that you are alleged to have made and it asks you to click on the link to see more details regarding the purchase. As you do not recognise the purchase you want to know more therefore you click on the link and download a virus. These emails will always quote a high street company to lure you into thinking they are genuine requests. If you receive any emails that you are not sure about do not click on any links –do not open any suspicious email in the first instance. Run your virus software to ensure no viruses have been downloaded.

These are some of the newer common scams but there are more which have been around for a long time and you can find out more about these in the Metropolitan Police "Little Book of Big Scams" which can be found on their website.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- If in doubt, don't reply. Bin it, delete it, hang up.
- Contacted out of the blue, be suspicious.

- Never send money to anyone you don't know.
- Your bank and the police will never collect your bank card.
- Your bank and the police will never ask for your PIN.
- Computer firms do not make unsolicited phone calls to help fix your computer.
- Tell others about scams and report if you are targeted.
- Keep your computer virus-checking software up to date.

Keep in mind that fraudsters are professionals and they will have done some research, so may have information that would imply they know a lot about you when in fact they do not. They will also be very persuasive and may contact you again. If you are a victim of a scam then report it to your bank if relating to bank issues.

A special note to congregational treasurers.

Be aware that fraudsters are just as likely to attack the Church funds you administer as much as your own personal resources. (It has already happened in one case of which I am aware). Beware therefore and take precautions. Do not carry large balances on your Church's bank accounts but use the Church of Scotland Investors Trust – Deposit Fund as a very safe haven for Church Funds. Details are available on the Church of Scotland website or by telephoning 0131- 225-5722.

Penny Gordon,
Corstorphine St Ninian's, Edinburgh

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



MARCH MAGAZINE

Material for the March issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 13th February 2015** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 1st March**. 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.

While contributions about church activities are very welcome, especially with accompanying photographs, the editor requests that any photographs sent are compressed so as not to fill her mail box beyond its limits, as has happened twice this month! The result is that any other mail being sent is rejected, apparently, and of course she cannot tell what has not arrived. Apologies to anyone whose contribution emailed to the editor is not included – she may not have received it because of this problem. I hope the problem will be resolved long before the next copy date but any contributions received by email will be acknowledged – if you don't receive an acknowledgement, do check if it has arrived.

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

And God held in his hand
A small globe. Look, he said.
The son looked. Far off,
As through water, he saw
A scorched land of fierce
Colour. The light burned
There; crusted buildings
Cast their shadows: a bright
Serpent, a river
Uncoiled itself, radiant
With slime.



On a bare
Hill a bare tree saddened
The Sky. Many people
Held out their thin arms
To it, as though waiting
For a vanished April
To return to its crossed
Boughs. The son watched
Them. Let me go there, he said.

R.S. Thomas

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