



Magazine

No. 111 JUNE 2015

Dear Friends

A story is told of the apostle John, friend of Jesus, and associated with the gospel, the three letters that bear his name, and possibly the Book of Revelation, who lived out his days on the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea. One day, one of his followers asked him. 'Master, tell me one thing. I've always wondered why you always write about love? Why don't you ever write about anything else?' St John paused for a very long time, waiting for his disciple to work out the answer for himself. Finally, he answered the question. 'Because,' he said, 'in the end, there isn't anything else. There is only love.'

Sam Wells, a Church of England vicar writes: "Only love, all the way down. Only companionship with us, all the way down. Only relationship, in the very heart of the Trinity. In the end, that's all there is, all the way down."

Reading about what different people 'want from' the Church, I was struck by one commentator who urged churches in all things to 'be authentic'. What some people have called for is 'classic' church over 'trendy'; 'sanctuary' over 'auditorium'. People don't want an emphasis on marketing Jesus but on following Him. People are not disillusioned with tradition so long as it remains relevant, engaging and authentic. Worship that is not entertainment (and that can cut several ways in the way services might be presented) is one that engages those who attend. I wonder then if, along with a good standard of sermon, prayer, children's work and music, what people today are looking for is relationship. A commentator in her 30s writes: "When I left church at age 29, full of doubt and

disillusionment, I wasn't looking for a better-produced Christianity. I was looking for a truer Christianity; a more authentic Christianity."

The ethic of love and welcome and inclusion is central to who we are and what we believe and practise as a Church. The way the Church is perceived to welcome questions and doubts; to work alongside science; to be open to those of different social backgrounds; to be non-judgmental about sexual orientation, or age, or youth or gender; above all else to practice what it preaches – that's what we have to be about. If we fail to show the love of Jesus to all,

then we will be found out. If what we say about Jesus is not what we do about Jesus, then we will be found out.

People didn't stop coming to Church because it was out of

date. They stopped because its message didn't always match up to its action. If we abandon the attitude of love, the attitude of welcome, the attitude of forgiveness, the attitude of inclusion, we abandon the gospel of Jesus Christ. At the May Kirk Session some homework was set for the elders, in preparation for a future meeting. But I think it's something the whole congregation should reflect on and respond to: What are we trying to communicate? Who are we communicating with? Are we using the most effective means of doing the above?

Start with Christ's ethic of love and see where you get. That'll keep you going over the summer!

Revd Dr Derek Browning



WORSHIP EVENTS

Our last 9.30am service before we move to our summer schedule will be on Sunday 14th June. There will be an all age service at 10.30am on 21st June, and one service at 10.30am throughout the summer, until 6th September, when the 9.30am services will recommence.

The annual Covenant Service, when we renew our commitment to God and to the Church, will take place during the 10.30am service on 6th September

KIRK SESSION

At the May meeting of the Kirk Session a report was given by:

Communications: Isobel Paterson reported that the committee was considering a revision of the Church website. It was hoped that this would be available by September. A discussion will be held in October about what the church aims to communicate locally, and how we go about doing this.

If you want to find out more about the work of the Church of Scotland, these resources are refreshed virtually every day by the Communications Department at the Church headquarters in George Street.

Twitter: @cofslifeandwork

@churchofscotland

The Church of Scotland Website: www.churchofscotland.org.uk

The Church of Scotland Facebook page: www.facebook.com/churchofscotland

If technology is not your thing, don't forget the Church of Scotland's monthly magazine, *Life and Work*.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Rona McLaren

on being presented with a long service certificate
for serving 35 years as a Boys' Brigade officer,
by the Rt Hon the Lord Griffiths of Burry Port, President of the Brigade.



CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH

The Summer Lunch will take place on Sunday 21st June in the Church hall.

Tickets will be on sale from Sunday 31st May until 14th June only. The price is being held at £12 but we will still provide the same delicious buffet as normal. Wine and soft drinks will be available to purchase on the day.

This is always a very popular event so please make sure you buy your tickets early as they will only be available until 14th June. The number of places is limited and it is recommended that tickets are purchased in good time to avoid disappointment.

We look forward to welcoming you to what is always a very happy occasion.

FLOWER LIST

	Provided by	Arranged by
June	7 Ella Scott	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
	14 Charles & Irene Wilson	Irene Wilson
	21 Hazel Knight	Marjory Watson
	28 Lorraine Sanderson	Caroline Reid
July	5 WEDDING	WEDDING
	12 Rosemary Drysdale	Ruth Henderson & Val Dunn
	19 Sheila Rowand	Irene Wilson
	26 Marjory Watson	Marjory Watson
Aug	2 WEDDING	WEDDING
	9 Annette & Jim Jenkinson	Joan Burnet
	16 Dorothy Mushet	Eleanor Watt
	23 Margaret Gossip	Marjory Watson
	30 Florence Patton	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
Sept	6 Lorna Gunn	Caroline Reid



AUTUMN LECTURES

The successful Sunday evening Autumn lecture series returns in September. This year's theme, Faith Seeking Understanding, will explore some of the big questions of theology that all Christians should think about. Come and have your brain, and your imagination stretched!

Refreshments are served from 6.30pm in the Church halls, with the lectures beginning at 7pm. We aim to finish around 8pm.

The series this year will have the following lectures, followed by questions:

6 th September	Professor Paul Nimmo: Jesus
13 th September	Revd Professor David Fergusson: God the Creator
20 th September	Revd Dr Helen Bond: The Bible in the Church - Mark's Gospel
27 th September	Professor Susan Hardman Moore - Holy Communion.

MUSICAL NOTES

Choral Scholars Valedictory Evening Service

There will be an evening service on Sunday 7th June, at 6.30pm. in which the Choral Scholars will take a leading part, and it will be an opportunity of saying "goodbye" (or "au revoir") to them.



Lunchtime Concerts during the Edinburgh International Festival

There will be another series of lunchtime concerts in the church on the three Wednesdays of the Festival, 12th, 19th, and 26th August. The concerts start at 1.10pm and finish about 1.55 pm. There is no charge for admission, but a retiring collection will be taken to help fund one of our Choral Scholars. Please put these dates in your diary and tell your family and friends about them. Full details of the programmes will be available later.

JOHN RUTTER COME AND SING EVENT

Advance notice of a very special event for September. John Rutter, the world famous composer, will be leading a Come and Sing event in our Church on Saturday 12th September.

The event will be an all-day event, starting around 10am and going on till around 4pm. Tea and coffee will be available but you will need to bring your own packed lunch.

Ticket price and further information will be announced shortly. Funds raised will go to the Church and the Charities we support.



CHRISTIAN AID

It is pleasing to report that the total sum raised for Christian Aid by the House to House Collection during Christian Aid Week stands at the sum of £4,188. This is a most satisfactory outcome and sincere thanks are due to all those who gave of their time and support to this essential work. The Christian Aid Spring Fair, which took place at Morningside Parish Church on Saturday 23rd May, raised about £2,000 from the various activities. Many thanks to all who supported it in any way.

Christian Aid is hosting an event on 30th June in Fairmilehead Church at 7.30 to raise money for the Nepal recovery appeal. The event will be in two sections. Kay and Peter Bates from St Fillans Church, who visited Nepal about 18 months ago, will present a 40 minute illustrated talk about Nepal as they found it prior to the major earthquake. Dr Richard Lyon, a trauma consultant in A&E at the Royal Infirmary, has just come back from Nepal having been part of the UK rescue mission sent to the country 3 days after the first quake. Richard will be talking in the second half of the evening about the rescue mission, the post-quake conditions and the heroism of the population in the face of adversity. There will be a short refreshment break between the two talks.

Tickets priced £6 will be available from Bill Reid (466 3111), Bob Cunningham (447 4757) and Ruth Henderson (449 6449).

THE GUILD

Few of us who have watched the harrowing scenes of refugees trying to cross the Mediterranean in overcrowded and unseaworthy vessels can fail to have been touched by their plight. Did you know that, for the past three years, the Church of Scotland Guild, including our own Guild in Morningside, has been supporting some of these refugees through a project called "Out of Africa , into Malta"?



This project addresses issues facing refugees escaping from a range of tragic circumstances and coming to Malta to seek hope. St Andrew's Scots Church in Malta is responding to these deep needs by providing clothes, shelter and food, and offering companionship and friendship to help family groups stand on their own feet again.

To date, £124,633 has been raised by the Guild for the Project.

Dates for your diary

Enjoy a bit of fun and fellowship with friends who share our faith. The Church of Scotland Guild welcomes men and women, members or not. Our Morningside Parish Guild meetings will continue to be held in the New Hall from 2.15 - 4pm on alternate Tuesdays from beginning of October, i.e. 6th and 20th October, 3rd and 17th November, 1st and 15th December. *Not to mention tea...*

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2015

The General Assembly week has passed already; almost before I have realised it. I joined the proceedings after the start as a late substitute commissioner from the Edinburgh Presbytery. So I had to catch up fast with the pace of events and involvements. After being kitted out with a blue book, a smart card and a press button device, I took comfort from the fact that our Minister, Derek, was the man who set the course of the day's business, in a role which drew out all his skills, including the immediacy and clarity of his order for removal of a raucous intruder who had tried to disrupt the proceedings. Derek received thanks from the Moderator at the close of proceedings for his gentle wit and good humour in setting out the business for each day; in fact for keeping order so well.

The chosen theme of the Assembly, "Living Stones", was referred to frequently in the presentations and debates, as also to the use of these Living Stones to build the Church.

Each day started with the ceremonial arrival of the Lord High Commissioner, Lord Hope, who would depart again, mid morning, to carry out a programme of visits which took him to remand homes for young offenders and places from where there were reports of sensitive care for the needy and vulnerable in our society. A highlight of these visits was when David (Hope), met Goliath, the huge crane at Rosyth Dockyard where he went to the top, 300 ft above the ground.

Ceremony and courtesy was the order of the business day and, within that framework of understanding, a huge amount of business was carried out. There were reports from conveners of Church Committees, Deliverances were set out for agreement and debate; more often debate. Motions were put forward followed by counter motions, and all these piled up for consideration, usually with the Moderator finding that there were many issues to go with a dozen people still wanting to have their say, and only five minutes left before lunchtime. It was a great skill of the Moderator and his support team to bring this all together in each session.

The reports covered the wide areas of the Church interests with a great diversity of views having to be reconciled, or as near as could be achieved. Issues of same sex marriage, or was it civil partnerships, had to be resolved – or not, and the business moved on. The Moderator of the Scottish Youth Assembly reported on the work and activities and fund raising achievements of their work, and presented a very up beat picture of the younger people in the Church. There was so much buzz in their work and efforts, that a 54 year old asked if he was too old to join in. We heard also from the Iona Community and its work and endeavours, building on the foundations laid down in 1938 by the Very Reverend George McLeod.

Throughout the business, and touching on many committee reports, is the acute concern that there are not enough ministers to fill positions in the Church. The membership of the Church currently stands at around 400,000. The average age of the Church membership is 62. We need about 30 ministers a year for the next 10 years. Many candidates come to the ministry in their mature years, and a minister costs around £50,000 to train.

We had repeated calls about the need for the Church to advertise, and a suggestion arose that we should go forward with a slogan. In the same vein, there should be a greater awareness of the Church of Scotland Guild, and the work which it does amongst the homeless and people in financial difficulties. £802,000 has been given by the Guild to support various projects over the last three years.

From the report of the General Trustees, we learned that the Church has 12,500 acres of Glebe land, the benefits from which are to be used to give the associated communities a chance to thrive. The commercial value of the 855 Church manses is greater than the Church buildings, as the churches may be listed and cannot readily be materially changed for other purposes. Due to the history of divisions in the Church, we have too many buildings to maintain. The Church has 249 houses for widows or widowers and 284 houses and flats which can help provide ministers to have a place of their own in retirement.

It was emphasised that there needs to be greater attention to the maintenance of manses. They frequently fall into such a condition of disrepair that they have to be sold off below value. CARTA, the Church organisation which advises on art and architecture, is there to help and advise congregations on work to be done to their properties. Churches are part of our heritage and we need to look after them.

On Friday morning we were treated to a presentation which brought out a number of quotes, starting off with Woody Alllan who said "Hope in the future is a thing of the past". But we have hope in the future, Hope in the Gospel - it regulates what we do now. A gathering of Living Stones and the building is a work in progress. John Bunyan "I wish myself among them in humble service working with care and compassion".

From my own reflections on the work we do as a Church, the position we occupy in communities, it seems to me that if the Church and its works and its buildings – its living stones - were taken out of the physical and social fabric of the city, what a void would be left. How many people realise that, as we maintain our presence and our buildings and our organisations? I think that our natural humility should not stand in the way of progress for proclaiming a living, growing Church and the part we play.

As I left the Assembly building, leaving off my electronic devices in the bucket at the door, I thought of the volume of debate, works done, decisions made; the enthusiasm generated and the positive feeling of enthusiasm of officials and delegates for the year ahead. I thought of the kind and gracious words and manner of the Moderator in recognising the part everyone played in the arrangement and work of the Assembly.

I recalled many years ago when the Reverend Angus Morrison had just completed his PhD studies and needed a home for himself and his family. At Morningside we were able to provide the use of our vacant manse, at that time, before his appointment to a new charge.

Thinking further of the living stones of the Assembly Hall, as a place in space and time, the Hall occupies the exact location of the Palace, Chapel and Gardens of Marie de Guise, (born in 1515). In 2015, that part of the city remains not just a place in space but a drama in time, and may it continue.

Hugh W J Crawford, Equalising Elder, Edinburgh Presbytery

FRIENDS OF MORLICH HOUSE

The annual coffee morning held on Saturday 25th April 2015 raised the sum of £881.27. Grateful thanks to all who supported this grand effort.



The garage at the side of Morlich House has been furnished and decorated to represent a 1950's livingroom and kitchen. The residents can entertain their visitors and reminisce of an era we may well remember. They have expressed a wish to have a red pillar box outside the front door. This request is being discussed at the present time.

If you have a little time to spare we are in need of new committee members. You would be made most welcome.

The strawberry tea will be held on Friday 10th July 2015 at 2.30pm

Thank you

Fiona Watt (447 9648)

Marion Cooper (447 7149)

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT

We have received a letter from the Head of Stewardship to thank us for supporting the worship, mission and service through our Ministries and Mission contribution.

Our contribution for 2015 has been assessed at £118,449. Of this sum, 86% or £101,866 goes towards the costs of providing ministers and parish workers throughout the country, and includes the stipend, employer's national insurance and pension contributions for our own minister. This part also assists with the costs of recruitment and training. The balance, of £16,583, is used to support other aspects of the Church's work, including resourcing congregations for education and outreach, providing social care services, contributing the Church's opinion in public debate and financing the day to day work in administrative, financial and legal matters.

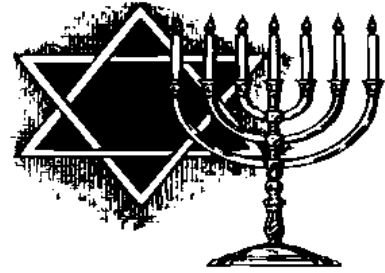


15TH RAINBOWS 25TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

The 15th Rainbows will be celebrating their 25th birthday this year. They will be having a party on Monday 22nd June to celebrate this. Anyone who has been a Rainbow or who has a connection with the Unit is invited to come along and join in the fun. It will last from 6:15pm to 7:15pm.

PLACES OF WORSHIP: THE EDINBURGH SYNAGOGUE

On 6th May 2015 a group of about 30 members of the Congregation and friends visited the Edinburgh Synagogue in Salisbury Place.



We were met by Rabbi David Rose, who guided us through the buildings, and also showed us many of the very interesting articles used in the various Services that are conducted in either of the two Synagogues on the site. He was very informative on the history of the buildings.

Rabbi Rose was extremely open and welcomed any questions we had. In the process he explained some of the mysteries (to us) of Judaism, as well as giving us an insight into the very interesting background to some of the rituals that are undertaken by the Hebrew Community in Edinburgh, and worldwide.

One feature that we all found fascinating was that worldwide the same portions of the Torah are read on the same days in all Synagogues. He demonstrated how the Torah is sung rather than read and explained how it takes much practice to read it as the Hebrew is written without any vowels.

We were shown how the seating of the Hebrew Congregation is divided into Men's and Women's sections, although all are in the same space of worship.

In the process of going round the two Synagogues we were privileged to see inside The Ark in each, in which the Torah scrolls are kept.

All who made the visit felt that it was most illuminating and that we as Christians had been made most welcome.



ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to new members
Mrs Jean Browning and Mrs Jean Macaskill

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of
Douglas Kennedy who died on 16th May 2015.



BETHANY CARE SHELTER - A SUCCESS STORY

The Bethany Care Shelter is supported by Morningside Parish Church both financially (as one of the three supported charities throughout the year) and in practical help terms as we provide a Catering Team on the winter rota under the leadership of Anne McNeil.

The Care Shelter, which is open seven nights a week during the winter months from October to April, provides rough sleepers with a hot meal cooked on the premises by a team of Church volunteers from Churches across Edinburgh including our own Church, a safe place to sleep, friendship and the availability of advice from the Bethany staff on duty as to how to move off the streets and start on the road back to a better future and a reasonably normal life.

The often young men and women who come to the Shelter have ended up on the street for a variety of personal reasons including relationship breakdown, unemployment/benefit sanctions, eviction, and personal issues such as poor mental health or addiction to drugs and/or alcohol. Some have arrived from poorer Eastern European countries within the EU seeking a better life in Edinburgh but ending up unable to find either work or accommodation and having no money to return to their own country.

One of the options offered by the Bethany Care Shelter staff for those suffering from addiction issues is to consider referral to the Bethany Christian Centre, Bethany's residential addiction rehabilitation unit in Casselbank Street.

This unit provides access to a selection of recovery programmes including structured group-work, one-to-one support, recreation, work activities and training opportunities. There is a focus on a Christian residential recovery programme lasting about three months depending on individual progress, however individuals who do not want a faith aspect are also accommodated and provided with a tailored recovery programme. The success rate in terms of non-relapse to drugs or alcohol abuse after twelve months of leaving the programme is currently running at 80%, one of the highest in the UK.

A young man attending the Care Shelter recently who was suffering from addiction issues was encouraged to consider joining the residential rehabilitation programme at the Bethany Christian Centre and his testimony is given below:

I went to the Shelter as I didn't have anywhere else to go or stay, having heard of the Shelter through the local Nuns.



I struggled with alcohol addiction and I had relapsed, losing both my job and my flat. The Shelter was the only safe place I could go, rather than cold streets and empty staircases.

When I got there I met people who could actually help me, give me hope and tell me about available options. I received help with getting the benefits I was entitled to and access to temporary bed and breakfast accommodation. If I hadn't been at the Shelter I would have been sleeping rough on the streets, where you're vulnerable to crime and abuse. On the street you don't have any hope or anything to look forward to.

The staff at the Shelter encouraged me a lot, and I got a place at the Bethany Christian Centre. This felt like a light at end of the tunnel. I now feel so positive about things that are happening in my life. I am grateful for where I am just now; in fact I feel privileged in a way. At the Centre I receive material and spiritual help; I feel safe and get lots of support to recover from all the problems I have struggled with, including anxiety, addiction and depression. Through attending the groups, it really helps me to think clearly and with a sober mind. I am hoping to apply for a college course in September and I'm looking at what's available.

The Care Shelter is a life-saving and life changing service for many people. The change in me proves the value of this service, and these people really care. I would be really grateful if you could consider supporting the Care Shelter in the future to help people just like me in life threatening circumstances on our streets.



BENEFIT CONCERT FOR NEPAL

A concert will take place on 10th June 2015 at the Cluny Church Centre 1 Cluny Drive, Morningside EH10 6DN from 7.00-9.00 pm

The concert is to raise money to help with small scale reconstruction for people trying to repair their houses and re-establish communication with each other in earthquake-stricken Nepal. A member of the Scottish Nepalese community has left for Nepal to set up ways of delivering such help, such as tools, mobile phones and small solar panels to charge them where there is no electricity.

There will be music and song from members of Edinburgh's unique SCOTS MUSIC GROUP and a demonstration of Nepali dancing and music from members of the Nepali community as well as chance to buy Nepali Crafts and Fair Trade refreshments from a Fair Trade Stall from the One World Shop. There will also be a raffle- donations of goods will be welcome.

Entry by donation—all proceeds will be given to local work for earthquake recovery, vetted by the Nepal Scotland Association.

SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the September issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 14th August 2015** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 30th August**. 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.

Sometimes

by Sheenagh Pugh

Sometimes things don't go, after all,
From bad to worse. Some years, muscatel
Faces down frost; green thrives; the crops don't fail.
Sometimes a man aims high, and all goes well.

A people sometimes will step back from war;
Elect an honest man, decide they care
Enough, that they can't leave some stranger poor.
Some men become what they were born for.

Sometimes our best efforts do not go
Amiss; sometimes we do as we meant to.
The sun will sometimes melt a field of sorrow
That seemed hard frozen; may it happen for you.



Minister: Revd. Dr D Browning	447 1617	minister@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk
Magazine Editor: Alison Riddell	445 2330	editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk
Church Office: Carole Byres	447 6745	office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

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