



# Magazine

No. 99 March 2014

## *Dear Friends*

A lot of ministry is carried out unseen by the majority of the congregation. Sometimes some of the work ministers do involves very small numbers, like taking mid-week services in nursing homes. I recently took one of these services. There is no space in this particular home so the service has to take place in what is effectively a corridor through a sitting area. There's a piano there, and the seats are turned round to face it. I remain hugely grateful to our rota of pianists and those from the congregation who sometimes help boost the singing.

Numbers are rarely more than a handful and this day there were five people. One lady, wrapped in a blanket, ate from a packet of crisps surreptitiously; one lady, whose short-term memory had gone, sang all the words of the hymns from her childhood memories; one gentleman looked stern throughout the service, but warmly thanked me with a two-handed handshake at the end; one lady, smartly dressed, had missed the beginning of the service but was happy to have made it for the end when we sang her favourite hymn, The King of Love my Shepherd is; one lady, eyes brimming with tears, said she was so grateful to be part of 'her church' again after weeks in hospital.

Someone doing a time-and-motion study would consider this not a good use of time. Some might question the point of singing

hymns with such small numbers, or giving a short talk to those whose memories were not good.

For me, on that cold February Wednesday afternoon, I read the familiar hymn to love from I Corinthians 13. It was nearly Valentine's Day, and I talked about love, evoking memories of cards from the loved ones in the past, and the fact that God's love was for more than one day. It was very simple, it did not involve any complex theology, but on that day, and in that place, for me at least, something special happened.



Sometimes these intimate moments of ministry are about a simple connection. These are times when despite the venue, despite the number of people, despite the weather or how people are feeling, God is present. These moments can rarely be manufactured, they come unbidden, but they leave a mark. They remind us that the family of God is found in many places; they remind us that sometimes, when we least expect it, God reaches out and touches hearts and minds and bodies and souls.

Be grateful for those moments when they occur. God is greater, and sometimes more intimately personal, than we give Him credit.

Revd Dr Derek Browning

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Sunday Club and crèche are important ways in which Morningside Parish Church seeks to be a welcoming and inclusive congregation. Those who volunteer in these areas work hard to provide a safe, engaging and fun experience for the children and families who are an important part of our church, and the volunteers find themselves benefitting from the challenge and relationships built at the same time.

In order to continue and grow this valuable and exciting part of our ministry, we need more volunteers who would serve on a rota basis in one of three ways:-

**Crèche Helper:** setting up the crèche area, and spending time playing with the babies and toddlers who come to church.

**Sunday Club Leader:** preparing lessons using materials provided, leading the children in crafts, games and stories.

**Sunday Club Helper:** assisting the Sunday club leader on Sunday mornings.

Please take the time to consider seriously if you might be able to serve our church in this way. Further information, including detailed descriptions of the roles, is available from Nicola Whyte ([nicolawhyte30@gmail.com](mailto:nicolawhyte30@gmail.com), 07803513389).

### CONGREGATIONAL AGM – SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

The Congregational AGM will take place on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March immediately after 10.30am Morning Worship in the Church.

### KIRK SESSION NOTES

At the February meeting of the Kirk Session:

- The Christian Education Committee reported, noting the forthcoming Lent Study group; the need for volunteers for crèche and Sunday Club (mentioned elsewhere in this magazine;
- The Worship Committee reported, mentioning a special event and service taking place on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> – “Hands across the world” which will chime in with the theme at this year’s General Assembly, and also incorporate some of the work of Christian Aid. More information will appear in a later magazine. There will be occasional opportunities to have Communion at the 9.30am service. The Kirk Session looked forward to the return of our organist, Morley Whitehead, and was grateful to the organ scholar, Miriam Abraham, whose willing and resourceful

commitment far exceeded what might reasonably have been expected from a scholar; the Session was also grateful to the choral scholars and to the choir for helping maintain our musical tradition in what had been a testing time.

- The Session broke into smaller groups for discussion, and wrestled with these questions: *Honestly answer the question, "Why in the world would anyone want to come to this Church?" What one word would describe 2013 in our Church? What can we do in practical terms to make our congregation more attractive to more people? What worked and we should do more of? What didn't work and we should change? Where should we be increasing/decreasing our expenditure? How can we more effectively touch people's lives?*
- These statistics – produced from the 2011 Scottish Census – gave us a very different look at our parish from one we might have expected. They formed part of an ongoing discussion at the Kirk Session about what kind of Church we want to be in the future.

**If Morningside was a village of 100 people:**

6 would be in primary school; 4 would be in high school  
32 would be aged between 25 and 44  
16 would be aged 65 or over  
76 would be of working age (16-74), of which:-  
7 would have no qualifications;  
55 would have a University degree  
32 would work full time;  
8 would be retired  
65 would describe themselves as 'White - Scottish'  
3 would describe their health as bad or very bad  
7 would be providing unpaid care

**If Morningside was a village of 100 households:**

23 would say they belonged to the Church of Scotland  
44 would say they had no religion  
11 would say they were Roman Catholics  
10 would say they were 'other' Christian  
9 would not state their religion  
3 would belong to other faiths.  
40 households would consist of one person, 14 of whom are aged 65 and over  
20 would have dependent children  
29 would be in rented accommodation  
68 would have access to at least one car or van  
10 would speak a language other than English in the home

**ROLL CHANGES**

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of following members:  
Donald Rowand, who died on 22 January 2014, and  
Mrs Jean Murray, who died on 26 January 2014.



**CHRISTIAN AID**

Christian Aid Week is looming once again and will run from 11th to 17th May. As usual the week will start with the joint service which will take place in St Fillan's Episcopal Church at 6.30pm on Sunday 11th May. St

Fillan's can be found just off Braid Road at the entrance to the Buckstone housing estate. It would be good if as many as possible could make an effort to attend on that evening in support of the Cause which is truly ecumenical, covering as it does, all the Christian denominations in Morningside and Fairmilehead.

I am appealing to those who have helped with the House-to House Collection in our Parish in the past to lend a hand once again and, in addition, to ask those who may not have been able to help with this task before to come forward with an offer to help. This is the main fund-raising effort of Christian Aid and last year raised just over £4,000 from the Parish. All it needs in terms of time is 3/4 hours to deliver and uplift envelopes from houses within the Parish during the week. We are not able to cover the whole Parish due to insufficient collectors and so it would be good if we could extend the number of houses covered by enlisting help from those who have not previously been able to lend a hand.

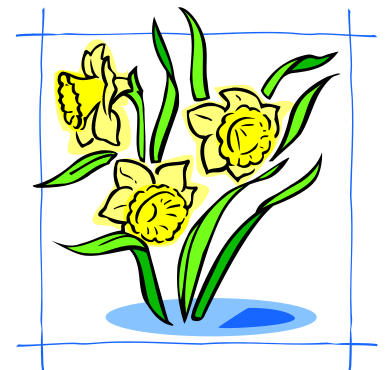
Thank you for the helpers of past years and where possible for their continuing help and further, in anticipation, thanks to those who can make time for this work. To confirm your willingness to help, please speak to any of the undernoted.

Finally, a Note for your Diaries - The Annual Spring Fair is to be held in Morningside Parish Church Halls on 24th May 2014. More details will follow nearer the date.

Bill Reid - 466 3111  
Bob Cunningham - 447 4757  
Ruth Henderson - 449 6449

**FLOWER LIST**

	Provided by	Arranged by
Mar 2	Bob & Margaret Alexander	Eleanor Watt
9	Diane Gaskin Ruddock	Caroline Reid
16	Christine Peterson	Anne Armour
23	Humphrey & Meg Passmore	Joan Burnet
30	Charlie & Joan Burnet	Margaret Gossip
Apr 6	Charles & Irene Wilson	Irene Wilson



Four dates remain to be filled on the 2014 Flower List - 11 May, 13 July, 16 and 23 November. If you would like to supply flowers on one of these Sundays, please put your name and phone number against your chosen date on the list on the notice board in the church vestibule. 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.

## QUIZ EVENING

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February the Social Committee organised a very successful quiz evening in the church hall in which 17 teams of six took part. This was an excellent attendance at a most enjoyable evening. Thanks are due to everyone who provided the refreshments, to the questionmaster, David Calder, and to Fiona Gossip who set the questions. The winners were the Jerks (Just Elders Representing Kirk Session), captained by Robin Stimpson, and there was also a wooden spoon, the winners of which shall remain nameless. The prize for the best team name was awarded to the Linties and Croakers, a team comprising three members of the choir and their partners.

A splendid sum exceeding £700 was raised, with proceeds going to church funds and the Church's three charities. Many thanks to all who participated in this evening which it is hoped will become an annual event.

Keith & Nyria Bailey



## FRIENDS OF MORLICH HOUSE

The staff and residents of Morlich House send good wishes to the congregation for 2014. The gardening project undertaken last year has been successful. The residents have expressed the pleasure the raised bed, at the side of the conservatory, has given them. Flowers that are favourites with the residents are noted and will be followed up. There is still a large amount of the garden to be tackled and help with this would be very gratefully received.



Two awnings were bought and fixed to the conservatory providing shade for outdoor seating. The Pentland Garden Centre has given us enormous help and advice. Our fund raising efforts will again be mainly for the garden and the date of the coffee morning is April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Marion Cooper 447 7149  
Fiona Watt 447 9648

## LADIES GROUP

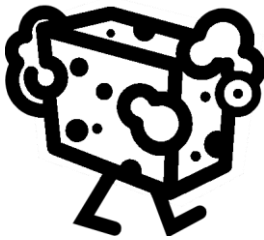
The Ladies Group meets in the new hall at Morningside Parish Church at 7.45pm on a Monday. Many thanks to all those who supported our Coffee Morning on 15<sup>th</sup> February at which we raised £433.

Here are the final dates for the 2013-2014 session.

10 <sup>th</sup> March	Breadshare Bakery (there may be samples for sale)	West Linton community
24 <sup>th</sup> March	AGM	All welcome
7 <sup>th</sup> April	Annual outing (Members only)	Venue to be announced

We wish all our members and friends a warm and sunny summer and hope to see everyone again when the Ladies Group resumes in September.

Anna Cunningham, Secretary



## BIG SPRING CLEAN – SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

Advance notice is given that we will be organising a Big Spring Clean for the Church, halls, loos, kitchen and grounds on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April. There will be a variety of jobs needing tackled in a variety of different locations around the Church. More details to follow next month and in the intimations.



## 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 for those who would like to explore what they believe a little more deeply, and prepare for the good news of Easter. It started on 20<sup>th</sup> February and will run through to 27<sup>th</sup> March, at 7.30pm in the Cluny Centre. The course is also suitable for those thinking about church membership. Each evening is a 'stand-alone' evening so you can come to as many of the evenings as is possible.

## A LENT STUDY GROUP

is planned to start on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March, for 4 weeks at 10:30-12 noon, meeting in the Lounge at 14 Maxwell Street. The basis will be material developed by Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS), using Scripture to reflect on themes of Justice, Wisdom, Compassion and Integrity (the values inscribed on the Scottish mace). See intimations for further details.

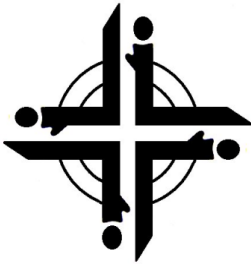
## EFFECTIVE LISTENING – FOR LIFE, HEALTH AND COMMUNITY



This course may be of interest to anyone who would like to improve their listening skills in everyday situations – to family or friends, or folk they visit casually or in the course of their service as elder or church visitor.

This is an informal interactive course with a mix of teaching, discussion, modelling and time to practise listening and be listened to. It will run over four sessions on two Saturdays from 10am-4pm 26<sup>th</sup> April and 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014, and will be held in the Chaplaincy Centre on the Heriot-Watt University campus at Riccarton. The cost is £40 (participants are expected to attend all sessions). Further information and application leaflets will be available in the vestibule.

Do you **really** listen? Or are you waiting to come in with your own story, or offer a solution, or perhaps you are too distracted by your own concerns, or wanting to ask lots of questions? Could you offer a listening ear when someone just needs to be heard?



### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - CITY OF EDINBURGH COMMITTEE

The World Day of Prayer Service in our area will be held on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 10:30 am in Greenbank Parish Church**. All are welcome. This year's service was prepared by Christian women of Egypt, and the theme is *Streams in the Desert*.

### WORK PARTY

The next meeting of the Work Party will be held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March in the Cluny Centre at 10.30am/10.45am. Current members and new comers are all welcome. During the meeting we will chat about new articles and ideas; a very social atmosphere prevails.

Come along and find out if this activity may be suitable for you. Please contact me if you would like further information.

Margaret Guild (447 6290)

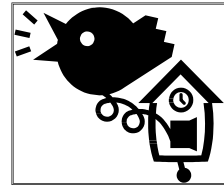
### FROM THE CHALLENGER CHILDREN'S FUND

On behalf of the Committee of the Challenger Children's Fund, I should like to thank the congregation for the Christmas gifts given so generously to the disabled children whom we support during the year. It is such a lovely surprise for the children to receive a parcel through the post and is much appreciated.

A special thanks to Hazel Knight for her valuable assistance.

Catherine Ferguson (Chairperson)

**DON'T FORGET!**  
**The Clocks go forward by one hour on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March.**



## APRIL MAGAZINE

Material for the April issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014** and it will be available for distribution on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March. **NB: This is a week earlier than usual to allow for information about Easter activities**, Easter falling on 20<sup>th</sup> April. Contributions may be put in her pigeonhole at church, sent by post to the church office at 1 Cluny Drive, Edinburgh, EH10 6DN or sent by email to [editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk) .

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

### THE PEACE OF WILD THINGS

*By Wendell Berry*

When despair for the world grows in me  
And I wake in the night at the least sound  
In fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
Rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
Who do not tax their lives with forethought  
Of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
Waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

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Have you looked at the Website yet?

[www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)

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