



# Magazine

No. 108 March 2015

## *Dear Friends*

Somebody, somewhere, should write a book called, "The Theology of Discomfort". If I were to go around the Church and ask people what made them uncomfortable, I wonder what you would tell me. I'm not talking simply about physical discomfort, there's also emotional discomfort and spiritual discomfort too. Some people are uncomfortable with crowds, or being alone in silence. Some people are made uncomfortable by novelty, others by regular routine. Some people find sentimentality uncomfortable; others find being expected to exercise their little grey cells at worship more than difficult. We all have traditions, prejudices, and, sometimes, levels of ignorance that we don't like to have disturbed, or exposed. When we are made to feel uncomfortable, we can become angry, sullen, or nervous.

The Theology of Discomfort also applies to the Christian year. At Christmas many want simply the bright and the upbeat and the cosily warm, impatient with or dismissive of the more sombre period of Advent. That's even truer for Lent and Easter. There are those who genuinely struggle with the concept of penitence and spiritual reflection, seeing it only as gloom and depression. There are those who would be quite happy to jump from Palm Sunday to Easter Day without all the awkward, messy, uncomfortable business of Holy Week, and particularly Maundy Thursday with its foot-washing, and Good Friday with the centrality of its grim death on the cross. 'Lent is supposed to be a time when we review our spiritual life, think again about

what it means to be a follower of Christ, reset the compass of our discipleship, and prepare ourselves to celebrate the Easter festival. But often we just give up biscuits.' (Stephen Cottrell)

The last week of Jesus' earthly life is filled with physicality, much of which is precisely located within the Theology of Discomfort. Jesus gets angry and querulous. Jesus gets intimate. Jesus outrages Peter by washing the disciple's feet, a powerful symbol of servant kingship. It will form an optional part of our own Maundy Thursday service. I



expect people to be uncomfortable about the ceremony. I will be too. But that's the point. Jesus often brings His followers to face the things that make us uncomfortable, performing thankless jobs, touching the diseased, sharing meals with people we find difficult, putting up with people we find tiresome or rude, washing feet, in order that we might follow in His footsteps, and realise that in each person, in each task, in

each uncomfortable situation, Jesus is present. For He sees what we often struggle with: the necessary task, the isolated soul, the broken heart, the unclean soul yearning to be clean and welcome and free. In each situation, in each person, Jesus sees some spark of God – and reaches out to touch. Through the Theology of Discomfort, Jesus perseveres to bring deep comfort, and lasting peace, and transforming love. Make the most of Lent, and let it make the most of you.

Revd Dr Derek Browning

## KIRK SESSION

At the February meeting of the Kirk Session reports were given by:

**Worship Committee:** The Christmas services went well, and particular mention was made of the All Age service where the keenness and ability of the young people to participate had been well co-ordinated by our Associate, Nicola Whyte. On the basis of the young people's willingness to be involved in worship it is intended that they will play a greater part in all services, helping to lead prayers and read the Bible lesson in the opening part of the service. Our Church will host the joint Holy Week services with Greenbank this year.

We look forward to a Come and Sing event with John Rutter on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the Church will take place this year. The first service in the Church was held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1890. It is proposed that a special all-age service will take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April to mark the event, celebrating the past, but also imagining what the Church will be like in the next 125 years!

**Education Committee:** The Sunday Club attendance remains steady and is slightly improving. The Spill the Beans material is being used and is popular. Consideration is being given to how best cater for older children.

On 14<sup>th</sup> March a concert by Fischy Music will be held in the Cluny Centre.

In Adult Education the Manse Lent Studies will soon be underway, along with the Morning Lenten Group meetings.

Places of Worship visits are being organised. On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March we have been invited to visit St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral. On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May we have been invited to visit the Hebrew Congregation in Edinburgh at their synagogue. Visits to St John's Episcopal Church in the West End and the Central Mosque are being arranged.

The Committee has purchased copies of 'Learn Eldership' (the new Church of Scotland elder educational book) which will form the basis of discussions at future Session meetings. On the evening of the February Kirk Session the topic of 'how to make Session meetings more effective' was aired and stimulated considerable discussion, aided by a helpful questionnaire prepared by the Session Clerk.

**Property Committee:** The Kirk Session also heard a report from the Property Committee about heating in the Halls and in the Church. The heating of the buildings remains under review, but it was noted that there is a constraint on the Committee which on the one hand is charged with ensuring that our buildings are warm enough and on the other has been charged with cutting down expenditure on heating.

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



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

This year our Church hosts the joint Holy Week Services with Greenbank. The theme chosen for this year is 'Engaging with Holy Week' – looking at the physicality of Jesus' engagement with the events of Holy Week. On each evening there will be optional 'activity' so that we in worship might have the opportunity to engage with the things that had such an impact on Jesus and His ministry. These activities are an invitation, and those coming to worship will choose if they want to be involved or not. Both options are valid, and it is important to stress this.

On the Wednesday of Holy Week the theme is anointing. There will be an invitation for those who would wish an anointing with oil to come forward at a point in the service, where hands will be anointed with a little oil. We may form a circle around the communion table. Of course, not everyone may wish to participate, which is why this part of the service is an invitation, but open to anyone who might like to take part. Whether you want to take part or not, you are welcome to participate or to watch. It is the being there that matters!

On Maundy Thursday, along with the sharing of the Lord's Supper which is part of the traditional service, for the first time we will be offering foot-washing as part of the service. This is an optional part of the service, and during this part of the service music will be played. Foot washing is one of the most intimate things that Jesus did, and commanded His disciples to do. I hope some might be willing to come forward, and that others might simply read over the passage from John's Gospel that tells us of this profoundly unsettling but moving moment in Jesus' ministry. One or both feet might be washed, and you will need to give some thought about what you're wearing on your feet that night. The water for the foot-washing will be in jugs or flasks, and poured lightly over the foot, and then the foot will be dried. Again, not everyone may wish to participate, which is why this part of the service is an invitation, but open to anyone who might like to take part. Whether you want to take part or not, you are welcome to participate or to watch. And once more, it is the being there that matters!

On Good Friday the traditional readings will be given, interspersed with congregational hymns and choral anthems from the joint choirs of Morningside and Greenbank. The theme will be, 'The Cross of Christ.'

On Holy Saturday the traditional music and readings service will be held.

All services will be held in the Church at 7.30pm. Please attend as many services as you are able.

### HELP REQUIRED

We are looking for people willing to help fold and bundle the 5,000 Easter leaflets which are delivered to the parish to let everyone know about our Easter services. If you have free time on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March, please come along any time between 9am and 11.30am to room 2 in Cluny Centre. Even if you can only come for a short time, you would be very welcome. The more helpers we have, the quicker we will be finished. It is a sociable occasion and a chance to meet others in the congregation. Please come if you can.

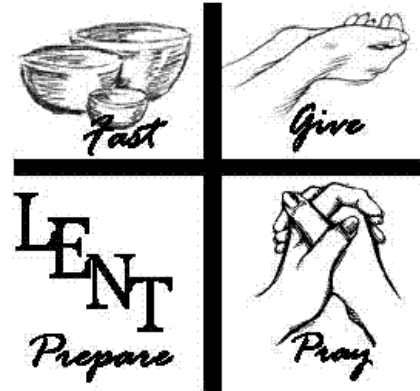
Audrey Riddell

## MANSE LENT STUDIES 2015

The Manse Lent Studies are underway. 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 are looking at some of the passages in Mark's Gospel to help us in reflecting 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. Inserts are being included in the weekly intimation sheets with details about the study evenings (also available on the church website at [www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk) – look at the drop-down menu on the 'What's on' tab). The remaining March studies are:

11 <sup>th</sup> March	Mark 4:26-34	Sowing
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Mark 6:45-56	Walking
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Mark 8:22-30	Seeing



## EASTER 2015

Easter Day is on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April. On that day there will be one morning service at 10.30am (no 9.30am Service), and we will share Communion around the Table at the 6.30pm service when we remember the lovely story from Luke's Gospel of the Road to Emmaus.

In the Christian Church Easter is often associated with baptisms. If anyone in the congregation, infants, children (and their families) or adults, are considering baptism and becoming members of the family of faith, Easter Day would be a wonderful time to have a special baptismal service. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the chancel was full of people wanting to share in that special service of grace, love and welcome.

A Baptism, (sometimes known as christening) is an important event in the life of a family, and in the life of the Church family too. Baptism is one of the two sacraments recognised by the Church of Scotland, the other being the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. In the case of infant baptism the Church expects at least one parent or other close family member either to be a member of the Church or willing to become a member. In the baptismal service those appropriate adults profess their own faith and promise to give the child a Christian upbringing. Baptism is also important for an adult – a time when a public commitment is made to the Christian faith. Both services are amongst the most special that we share in Church.



If baptism is something that you have been considering for your child or for yourself as an adult, please contact the Minister as soon as possible.

## **HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE**

**26<sup>th</sup> January – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

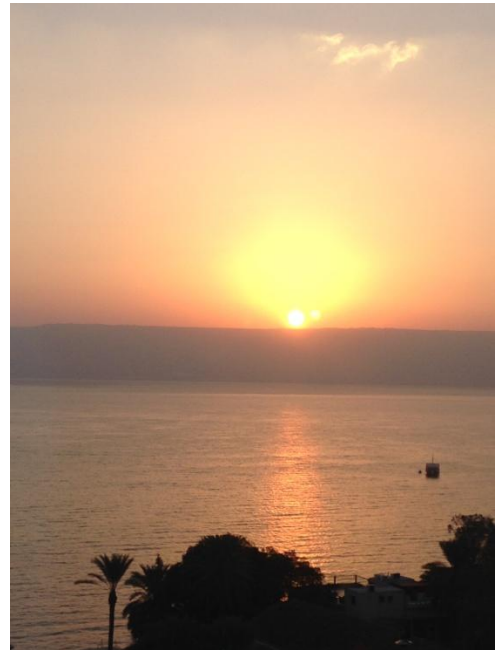
Travel with us to the Holy Land and let the Bible come alive as we meet the people and see the places of the gospel stories. The Holy Land is unique in offering so many highlights and contrasts in such a compact area. On our journey we will visit places of pilgrimage and also meet the local Christian community, offering them our encouragement as we hear of the challenges they face.

The trip will be led by our Minister and Associate, and is planned for late January/early February, away from the peak season crowds, and when the weather is cooler. Our visits will include Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee. There is an optional visit to Masada and the Dead Sea. We will also visit the Tent of Nations, an educational and environmental farm committed to building bridges towards peace in the Holy Land. We will stay in the Golden Walls Hotel in Jerusalem, close to the Damascus Gate, and the Scots Hotel in Tiberias, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

The cost of this tour is around £1,975, full board for the 11 day pilgrimage.

If you have not been to the Holy Land, this is a superb way to find out more about the places we read about each Sunday. Those who have travelled here have found it a memorable and moving experience.

Contact the Minister for further details. A brochure is available on the Welcome Desk in the Church vestibule.



**Sea of Galilee at Tiberias**



## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE QUIZ NIGHT**

Many thanks to all those who were involved in the annual Quiz Night, particularly those who arranged the catering, Fiona Gossip for producing the questions, and David Calder as quiz master for his sterling attempts to keep the participants in order. An excellent sum exceeding £600 was raised for church funds.

## REMEMBERING SERVICE

Advance notice that this year's Remembering Service will be on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 3pm in the Church. This is the service where people are welcome to come to a quiet, reflective service and remember loved ones. More details in next month's magazine.

## WORK PARTY

The next meeting of the above will be on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 10.30am/10.45am in Cluny Centre.

This meeting is open to those who show keenness in crocheting and knitting. During the session the ladies complete a variety of articles.



A warm reception is given to anyone who comes along. Contact me for more details.

Margaret Guild (447 6290.)

## FISCHY MUSIC CONCERT

We are looking forward to welcoming the ever-popular Fischy Music to give a concert at 2pm on 14<sup>th</sup> March. Come to the Cluny Centre for an hour of singing and fun. Children of all ages are very welcome. Tickets are £5 per child, accompanying adults go free! For more information or to book, please visit:- <http://www.greenbankchurch.org/youth/fischy-music/> or call 447 9969



## ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of

Mrs Norma Percy, who died on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015

The Annual Service for our area is to be held in St Peter's RC Church, Falcon Avenue, at 10.30am. All are welcome. This year's service has been prepared by Christian women of The Bahamas under the theme: Jesus said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"



## THE LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group meets on a Monday at 7.45pm in the halls of Morningside Parish Church. This is the last notice for session 2014-2015.

9<sup>th</sup> March History of Swimming Costumes Anne Scanlon  
23<sup>rd</sup> March AGM Please come and support us for this event.  
13<sup>th</sup> April Members Outing. Details will be announced at meetings.

The Committee would like to thank everyone for their support. All meetings have been well supported and several new members have been welcomed into the fold. Meetings will resume in September 2015, so "Watch This Space" in August.

The Ladies Group would like to thank those who supported their recent Coffee Morning when £470 was raised. This money helps to support the Church in various ways.

Anna Cunningham

### FLOWER LIST

	Provided by	Arranged by
March	1 Ruth Henderson	Ruth Henderson; Val Dunn
	8 Christine Irving Fiona Bell & Rona Robertson	Irene Wilson Val Mannings
	22 Hazel Nicolson	Joan Burnet
	29 Marion McGrouther	Eleanor Watt
April	5 EASTER	Flower Committee



### CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid Week runs this year from Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May. I trust that Christian Aid can count on the support of those who have helped with Door to Door house collection in the past and of course additional helpers in this task will be very welcome.

The Joint Evening Service is to be held at Greenbank Parish Church on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

The Christian Aid Fair is on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May in Morningside Parish Church.

Bill Reid

## APRIL MAGAZINE

Material for the April issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March (a week earlier than usual to include Easter information)**. Contributions may be put in her pigeonhole at church, sent by email to [editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto: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.

## ANNUAL STATED MEETING

The Congregational Annual Stated meeting will be held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March (Palm Sunday) immediately after the 10.30am service. Papers will be made available in March.

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

By Wilfred Owen

Between the brown hands of a server-lad  
The silver cross was offered to be kissed.  
The men came up, lugubrious, but not sad,  
And knelt reluctantly, half-prejudiced.  
(And kissing, kissed the emblem of a creed.)  
Then mourning women knelt; meek mouths they had,  
(And kissed the Body of the Christ indeed.)  
Young children came, with eager lips and glad.  
(These kissed a silver doll, immensely bright.)  
Then I, too, knelt before that acolyte.  
Above the crucifix I bent my head:  
The Christ was thin, and cold, and very dead:  
And yet I bowed, yea, kissed - my lips did cling.  
(I kissed the warm live hand that held the thing.)



Minister: Revd. Dr D Browning	447 1617	<a href="mailto:minister@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk">minister@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk</a>
Magazine Editor: Alison Riddell	445 2330	<a href="mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk">editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk</a>
Church Office: Carole Byres	447 6745	<a href="mailto:office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk">office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk</a>

**REMEMBER THE CLOCKS GO FORWARD ON  
PALM SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH!**

Have you looked at the Website yet?  
[www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)