



Magazine

No. 101 May 2014

Dear Friends

May has always been a busy month for me, largely because of the General Assembly and my recent involvement in the Assembly Arrangements Committee. An aspect of my involvement has taken me on to the board of the Heart and Soul event. Heart and Soul was created a few years back to replace the Holyrood Palace Garden Party and also to help the Church at large focus on the good news stories in and around the Church of Scotland. What took us all by surprise, and still takes us by surprise, is the number of these good news stories. Despite a much more active Church of Scotland press office who feed the media with stories from across the Church, journalists by and large only really seem to be interested in church stories if they feature money, sex or conflict. Preferably all three.

The truth of the matter is that there are many good news stories across the Church, locally, nationally and internationally. Because we can't 'make' the media carry these stories, we have to find other ways of sharing them. One of the ways in recent years has been the Heart and Soul event in West Princes Street Gardens. This year it will be on Assembly Sunday, 18th May, from 1pm to 6pm. Go to it. See what the Church of Scotland is doing. Learn about the success stories and the challenging reality of what it means to be a Christian today.

This year's theme is 'Hands Across the World'. You can hear stories from Africa and India. You can find out what Christians are doing to make a difference in Scotland and in countries all across the world.

There are plenty of people who complain and criticise and carp. "It's a pity the Church doesn't...I don't like it when the Church..."



and so on. I suspect we've all done it. Pointing fingers at faults or failings and expecting others to 'do something about it.' The good news is – we're the ones who have been called and equipped to do something about it!

On the board of Heart and Soul is a young man who has been a positive inspiration to me. He has a 'can do' attitude. The roof may be about to fall in, funding may look dodgy, a key group may pull out, but this young man looks at what some would see as a disaster, and sees in it an opportunity. "I'm only doing the best I can with what I've got", is what he said to me a few weeks ago. He is, and he does. He's a good news story in himself.

So, this May, and indeed any other month, when you might be tempted to criticise or complain, think rather how you might solve the problem, or how you might work with others to provide the solution. When it comes to Christianity, we are supposed to be the 'can do' people. Try it and see!

Revd Dr Derek Browning

KIRK SESSION NOTES

At its recent meeting the Kirk Session received reports from:

Property:

- The security systems around the church and halls are now fully operational. Because of this it is suspected lead thieves may target the Cluny Centre, so security precautions are being investigated for that site.
- The Cluny Centre badly needs a face-lift: nothing major has been undertaken since the conversion in 1973. The whole building is in constant use and, as a result, the fabric, installed plant, and decoration are all in need of some TLC, if not total replacement. The Lower Hall in particular is suffering the ravages of time and use; the floor and the lighting need to be replaced. Obtaining access in order to carry out this work is a major problem when it is used so much. Work will be prioritised later this year.

Pastoral Care:

- The Pastoral Care group has attended 3 **Seminars**; an informal discussion with Mrs Pauline Gibb re Bereavement, Counselling and Visiting; a Dementia Seminar held in Fairmilehead Parish Church; and a Presbytery Seminar on Bereavement Care, Funerals and how to care for families at these distressing times. The matters covered at these seminars will be discussed at a meeting very soon to be arranged.
- Dr Jim Jenkinson has volunteered to do some follow-up bereavement visiting. His deployment will be considered in the next few weeks.

Stewardship and Finance:

- Kidzcare, an after-school club who have been with the church for 13 years, are terminating their contract. They currently let space in the Cluny Centre. It is hoped that the space now made available will be able to be let to South Morningside Primary School. Negotiations are underway.

The Congregational Roll stands at 472

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

HANDS ACROSS THE WORLD

An event chiming in with the theme of the General Assembly's Heart and Soul programme will be held in our Church on Saturday 10th May (10am -12.30pm) in the Church Halls and the Church. A leaflet went out with the Easter leaflet to every home in the parish, and has also been distributed with intimations. There will be a 'Chocolate' coffee morning, crafts for children, a baking stall (where we're hoping for donations of world-themed baking if possible!), world church song singing sessions in the church and chocolate fountains. Tickets will be on sale soon – please come and support this event.



CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid Week is almost upon us once again. It runs this year from 11th to 17th May, starting with an Evening Service at 6.30pm in St Fillans Episcopal Church, Buckstone. The Committee looks forward to your support for this event to help get the week off to a good start.

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help with the House to House collection. Collectors' material will be available for uplift on Sundays 27th April, 4th and 11th May.

Please also make a note of the annual Spring Fair which is held at Morningside Parish Church Halls on Saturday 24th May between 10am and 2pm. There will be refreshments in the morning, a Soup and Bread lunch and various stalls including Baking, Plants, Books, Cards, Breadshare along with special events for children. At 11am Aileen Paterson (author of 'Morningside Maisie') is telling stories, and at 12 noon there will be a talk on flower arranging.

As a special attraction Morningside Heritage Association will have an exhibition on the effect the 1st World War had in Morningside.

Volunteers are required to assist with the refreshments, lunch and to staff the baking stall so please let our team know as soon as possible if you can help. For those who bake, a contribution to the stall would also be appreciated.

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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2014

This year's Assembly runs from Sunday 17th to Friday 23rd May. This year our congregation will be represented by our Session Clerk, Robin Stimpson, who is our Presbytery elder. Robin also serves on the Assembly's Legal Questions Committee and is a General Trustee.

The Minister will also be present at this year's Assembly in his role as the vice-convenor of the Assembly Arrangements Committee and the Assembly's Business Committee. At this Assembly he will be nominated as the next convenor of these committees, a four year appointment which begins at the end of the Assembly.

The Lord High Commissioner to this year's Assembly, representing the Queen, will be Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, who will be accompanied by his wife Sophie. The Moderator-Designate for this year's General Assembly is the Revd John Chalmers, currently Principal Clerk. He replaces the Revd Dr Angus Morrison who had to stand down from being Moderator-Designate for health reasons.

Amongst the issues at this year's Assembly will be: the future review and in-service training for ministers in the Tenure Commission Report; a review of the Church and how the Church uses technology; addressing the current short-fall in the numbers of ministers (around 200); the involvement of young people in Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries; the Guild's 'Golden Age' project – looking at the place of older people in the Church; a debate on human sexuality and the ordination of ministers in same-sex relationships; a report on violence against women; the launching of a joint approach to Credit Unions with the Church of England; religious observance in schools (and the debate about Humanists); and the Church and the Independence Referendum.

Please pray for all who will be attending this year's General Assembly.

WORSHIP NOTES

There will be no evening services on Sunday 11th May (Christian Aid service at St Fillans Episcopal Church) or on Sunday 18th May (General Assembly Sunday – please attend the Heart and Soul event in Princes Street Gardens instead).

We will celebrate and share the Lord's Supper on 1st June at 9.30am and 10.30am.

Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church, is on Sunday 8th June. You might want to mark the day by wearing something red to Church that day – red being the colour of the Holy Spirit. 8th June will also be the last 9.30am and 6.30pm services until they resume on 7th September.





The heart within Morningside

GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME in aid of THE OPEN DOOR

On Friday 30th May at 7.30pm, The Open Door is holding a Gardeners' Question Time in Morningside Parish Church Hall. Tickets, including refreshments, cost £8 and are available either from The Open Door or at the door on the night. There will be stalls including plants and home baking as well as a raffle and a quiz.



If you have a thorny garden issue, questions are welcomed for the expert panel, either to The Open Door no later than Friday 23rd May, or at the event.



FLOWER LIST			
		Provided by	Arranged by
May	4	Margaret Thomson	Margaret Thomson
	11	Margaret Hay	Val Mannings
	18	Marie Ogilvie	Caroline Reid
	25	Eleanor Watt	Eleanor Watt
June	1	Forbes & Jean Bowman	Ruth Henderson

Many thanks to all those who brought a daffodil to church on Easter Sunday and helped to fill the Daffodil Cross.

The retiring collection following the Easter Service raised a total of £285.10 which will be used to augment our silk flower collection for the seasonal displays in the vestibule of the new Halls and for Christmas.

Eleanor Watt, Convener
Irene Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer

HARRY YOUNG – CHURCH OFFICER

Our Church Officer, Harry Young, who has worked with the Church for fourteen years, has announced that he will be standing down from his duties on Sunday 25th May. Harry has been a familiar face around the Church for such a long time, and his work for us has been varied and appreciated. There will be an opportunity to contribute to an appreciation for Harry throughout May after Sunday services, or you could make donations to the Church Office in marked envelopes.



55th BOYS' BRIGADE

We have welcomed a couple of new Boys since Christmas - Theo to the Anchor Boys (you see him regularly on Sunday mornings in Church before he goes to Sunday Club) and Cameron who has

transferred to the 55th Juniors since moving to Edinburgh having previously been a BB member in Singapore.

The Company took part in a sponsored walk in February. They were transported by car out to Dalmeny where they caught the train over the Forth Bridge to Inverkeithing then walked back over the Forth Road Bridge back to Dalmeny. The Boys thought it was fab walking over the Bridge and their parents were very grateful that the BBs tired them out in the fresh air!

We hosted the Battalion Juniors Musician of the Year Competition - see the photo below. This year's winner was Steven Hill from Colinton, a very accomplished clarinettist who treated us to "The Ascot Gavotte" from My Fair Lady. This competition gets better and better every year and is harder and harder to judge.

We now look forward to the Golf Fun Day in May up at the Hermitage Golf Course.

Finally, we are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers (the School Vouchers). We need some new sports equipment to keep the Boys fit and healthy. If you have any vouchers or are asked when you shop in Sainsbury's if you are collecting them please give them to us. So far we have 300 vouchers which gives us three boxes of shuttlecocks but we'd like more than that!

Rona McLaren
Leader in Charge, Juniors



LADIES GROUP

Our fortnightly meetings which are held over the winter months have come to an end finishing with a lovely meal at Mortonhall Golf Club. We resume again on 22nd September with another interesting programme (it's in the planning).

This year we have been to the **Holy Land** courtesy of Rev Dr Derek Browning who showed us his photos and told us of the impact it made upon him. **RoSPA** gently reminded us about Safety in the Home especially over Christmas. Rev Sarah Kilbey made some of us more aware about how to cope with deafness - **The Sound of Silence**.

Prof. Stuart Monro came to tell us about **Life on the Rocks**, telling us about James Hutton, an East Lothian man in the 1600s who studied rocks and their importance for agriculture, industry and our lives. Fran Morton started her talk on the **Upper Royal Mile** on how the castle rock helped in the defence of the city, along with how the people of the city lived. It so happened that when the **Edinburgh Tanners** told us about the Scottish Tapestry, they sewed Panel 5, which was about the early formation of our City. The weaving of our topics had a link which we didn't realise when making the syllabus!!

Alastair Hunter informed us how important **Sundials** were to people in the 1600s with the progress of instruments and science. They lost their popularity when watches came but nowadays new ones are made using modern materials.

Carol Smith started a new profession in her retirement by making **Small Hats and Fascinators** mainly for Charity but also as a business. This form of headwear came about in the 1700/1800s when ladies wanted to be fashionable and wear something on their wigs. Over time they have evolved with fashion. Our last meeting was with Jeff and Deborah telling us about **Breadshare**, a Community bakery near West Linton.

Some titles may not always seem to entice us to come out on an evening but on the night they have turned out to be very interesting and informative. We end our evenings with a cuppa and chat. Please feel free to join us on any evening, which includes the men of the congregation too, when you will be made most welcome.

Enjoy the summer with family and friends.

Catriona Reid, President/Secretary

ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers:-

Maryam Labaki and Cameron Tait, who were married on 19th April;

the family and friends of

Mrs Mavis Craig, who died on 14th April 2014.

Miss Ellenora Wilson, who died on 29th March 2014.



WEDNESDAY MORNING COFFEE AND CHAT OPPORTUNITY

Every Wednesday in the New Hall there is a time to have a cup of coffee (or tea), with biscuits and some home-baked cake or a scone and join others for a chat, between 10am and 11:30am. There is no charge, but a donation of around £1.50 per person is encouraged, to cover expenses. Any profit left over goes towards our three charities (as with the Sunday coffee).

Volunteers would be very welcome, either to join the teams (of two) making and serving the coffee, or to come along and share in this social time with those who attend. It is a pleasant, warm and friendly setting, and a good opportunity to get to know some more people – not necessarily from the congregation. If there were more people able to make the coffee and serve it (and perhaps provide a little extra baking), those currently involved would not be needed more than once per month.

The “kitchen work” – making the coffee, and using the dishwasher - is not complicated but requires a certain reach and flexibility. Serving from the coffee pots is an art that is soon learnt. Anyone who would like to try out what is involved, without commitment, is most welcome to come along one Wednesday when free – do speak to Doreen Reekie first and she will liaise with whoever is to be on duty. Those on duty are required to be there from 9:30am to 12 noon.

Until recently there have been a few people from one or more local residential care homes joining the group, but for some weeks now it seems there has not been a member of staff available to bring them. We hope that situation may change. The Wednesday Baby and Toddler Group is run in the Old Hall at the same time, with Nicola Whyte and Helen and Barry Hughes in charge. Coffee is made for both groups, and kitchen clearing-up duties are shared. There are several men regularly attending the Coffee morning, as well as women, and one is already taking part in the rota for making coffee.



Do drop in one Wednesday morning if you are nearby – and bring your friends.



DOES THE NAME EXCELSIOR BALLROOM MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

As part of the upcoming Festival of Museums (16th – 18th May), the Excelsior Ballroom, now known as St Cecilia's Hall, is being transformed into its previous 1940s state - the Excelsior Dancehall - and Edinburgh University's Centre for Research Collections wants to find out everything it can about it. We are looking for anyone with memories or experiences of this building to interview and to help us build a picture of how it might once have been. Please call 07934592431 or email ben_filmer-sankey@live.com if you have any information at all to share. We would love to hear from you! Many thanks, Ben Filmer-Sankey

THE WEDNESDAY EVENING CLUB FOR DISABLED MEN

In this year of volunteering I would like to draw the Mens' Club to the attention of anyone who is thinking of volunteering, if even on a small scale, and where the commitment would only involve two evening in a whole year.

The list of volunteers is relatively small and so it may be that large numbers of people do not know much about the Club.

It is run by Charles Wilson and his team, namely Ian Hastie and Irene Wilson. It takes place in the Cluny Centre every Wednesday evening from September to April and they have three all-day outings during the Summer months.

Volunteers help the men to their seats and share in some entertainment. It may be watching a video or playing a game or listening to some musical entertainment. At the end of the entertainment, supper is handed around and the whole evening makes for a very happy occasion. For some of the men, this is the only highlight of their week and they really enjoy just chatting for a while.

Some of the men are in wheelchairs and, for the summer outings, it would be helpful if new volunteers would offer their services to help push the wheelchairs around. A commitment to just one of the outings would be appreciated.

It becomes increasingly hard to find entertainers who will give their services and as Ian is responsible for finding people who can sing or play some music, he would be very grateful for the names of anyone who might fit the bill.

Perhaps you have been thinking you would like to be involved in some way but do not know where to start. Perhaps you would find it easier to start with the smallest commitment. In any event, you would be given a very warm welcome by Charles and his team and perhaps more importantly by the men who eagerly come along each week.

Margaret Thomson, Volunteer and visiting elder.

EDINBURGH FOOD BANK

In association with the Rotary Club of Braids, we are providing from Sunday 11th May a collection bin for donations to the work of the Edinburgh Food Bank. These should be by way of items of non-perishable food and basic toiletries. The bin will be situated at the south end of the Vestibule. It is hoped that the congregation will give generously to this cause which is an invaluable provision for those who have temporarily fallen on hard times.

ROTARY CLUB OF BRAIDS

You are cordially invited to an Open Evening for potential new members to learn more about Rotary. This will take place Thursday 29 May at the Tusitala Restaurant, Buckstone Terrace EH10 at 7 p.m. Drinks and nibbles will be provided. All are welcome.

JUNE MAGAZINE

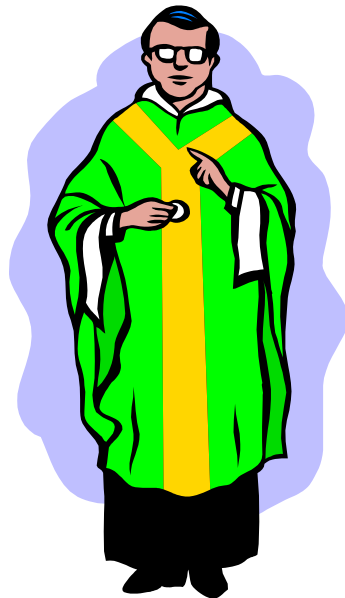
Material for the June issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 16th May 2014** and it will be available for distribution on Sunday 1st June. **This will be the last magazine until September** so please send any news and information about any church activities happening over the summer. 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 address below.

THE COUNTRY CLERGY

By R S Thomas

I see them working in old rectories
By the sun's light, by candlelight,
Venerable men, their black cloth
A little dusty, a little green
With holy mildew. And yet their skulls,
Ripening over so many prayers,
Topped into the same grave
With oafs and yokels. They left no books,
Memorial to their lonely thought
In grey parishes; rather they wrote
On men's hearts and in the minds
Of young children sublime words
Too soon forgotten. God in His time
Or out of time will correct this.



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Have you looked at the Website yet?

www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk



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