



Magazine

No. 110 MAY 2015

Dear Friends

Having not had a proper break for some months, it wasn't until I went on holiday that I realised how tired I was. Ministers know that many in their congregations only have a vague idea of the work the minister does; and there is still a notion that we only work one day a week (listen to the hollow laughter). But believe me, I was tired!

Whether it is getting time off during the week, or a proper holiday at different times of the year, the principle of getting rest is a vital one. Enshrined in Biblical thinking, the concept of 'the Sabbath' is central to human well-being. Without rest we are prone not simply to tiredness but also poor health (physical and mental) and all that goes with that. I have noticed the long hours that many people put into work (it seems like more than thirty or forty years ago), and the breaching of boundaries between work time and leisure time. Married or single, with or without family commitments, the long hours put into work by many people can lead to levels of stress that I certainly don't remember seeing in the past. I see it in our congregation.

The same can also be said for those who volunteer within the church (along with our Church staff). There are a small number of people within our congregation who bear a disproportionate amount of responsibility for the work that we do. I fear there are some who take for granted the willing commitment of the few. In any institution that is not healthy and it is ultimately unsustainable. We should be concerned about what would happen if even a few of our stalwarts

deservedly sought time off. We certainly don't make it easy for them.

Getting the work/life balance is important for everyone. In the life of the Church getting the being/doing balance is also important. There are times when we should 'be' the Church, experiencing the opportunities for worship and education and joining together. There are also times when we should be aware that our 'doing' within the Church also needs to be something that is significant. It is, after all, part of the promise we make when we become members.



As we approach the season of Pentecost, the time when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit to invigorate and inspire the first Christians, I wonder what that same Spirit might invigorate and inspire us to do. I wonder what that same Spirit wants

our Church to be and to do. I wonder what that same Spirit is making you think about the future possibilities for our Church.

Whether working or resting I invite you to think what, intentionally, this Church of ours needs to be and to do in the months that lie ahead, and how you are going to play an active part in making that happen. Our Church rises or falls by its commitment to Jesus, and by the active engagement of all of its members. In the Church that God has entrusted to us there is no room for passengers. For every one of us, there is something that we can be, and there is something that we must do. God is still speaking, and God's Spirit is still moving. Listen up, then act.

Revd Dr Derek Browning

WORSHIP EVENTS

The annual Christian Aid service is at 6.30pm on **Sunday 10th May** at Greenbank Parish Church.

Pentecost Sunday (the day when we mark the coming of the Holy Spirit to the Church) is on **24th May**. Red, the colour of fire, is often associated with this season and with the Holy Spirit. If you would like, why not wear red to church on that Sunday?

On **Sunday 31st May** there will be a special evening service where we welcome back the choir and musicians from George Watson's College for an evening service that will mark Trinity Sunday. This has become a very popular event within the congregation and community, so please come along and support the young people.

We share the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on **Sunday 7th June** at 9.30am and 10.30am.

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**. Funds raised will go to the Church and the Charities we support.

There will be one service at 10.30am from 21st June. The 9.30am services will recommence on 6th September.



PLEDGE CARDS - A REMINDER

Many members of the congregation kindly pledged to increase their Free Will Offering to the Church on Pledge Sunday on 30th November 2014.

Some pledged increases have yet to materialise. If you have not already done so, would you please remember to contact your bank to instruct them to increase the sum you give to the Church by your chosen amount. Also, if you have decided to change the frequency of your giving, for example from quarterly to monthly, you will need to instruct your bank on that as well.

Since Pledge Sunday, some members of the congregation have contacted the Church Office to ask for the pledged change to their giving to be implemented but, as the collection is by Standing Order rather than by Direct Debit, the customer has to contact their bank direct themselves to instruct their bank accordingly, whether by written instruction, branch visit, telephone banking or on-line banking.

Thank you.

Chris McNeil
Hon Treasurer

KIRK SESSION

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

Property: Charles Wilson, the convener, reported on this committee's substantial work over the last few months. Work has been carried out in the Church, halls, Cluny Centre and manse, much of it routine, all of it necessary. The Session expressed its appreciation to convener and the committee for its considerable amount of work.

Prompted by one of our elders, Walter Thomson, the Session had a lively discussion about the importance of communication and media presence for the Church of Scotland. How, in the C21st, in a world that is often indifferent to the Christian message, can the Church make its voice heard? The relatively new Communications team at the Church's George Street headquarters had made some inroads into this area, but with the rapid changes in the media world, with print journalism in decline, and greater communication in social media (particularly Facebook and Twitter and the internet generally), elders expressed concern about the reach of the Church's message to the wider world. It was acknowledged that there were generational differences in how people gathered news and information about the Church.

The Session also considered the way the Church of Scotland could make a more significant media impact through the Moderator of the General Assembly, and considered the pros and cons of having a Moderator elected to serve only for a year. Finally, the Session discussed how our own congregation gets its message across to the congregation and parish. Who in our community knows the extent of our work, the facilities we offer, the care we provide, the opportunities we make available for people to get together through our services, organisations, social events and so on? It was recognised that we were not always good at 'blowing our own trumpet', but it was also recognised that if isolation for different age groups was a significant issue in our community, then the Church, like few other organisations and institutions in the community, had a huge amount to offer. Whilst these matters would be sent on to the Session's Communication Committee, it was something the Session wished to return to as we take up again the issue of what kind of Church we are and want to be, and how we connect with and serve our community intentionally

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*.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2015

This year's Assembly is from 16th to 22nd May. The Heart and Soul event in Princes Street Gardens will be on Sunday 17th May from 1pm to 6pm in West Princes Street Gardens. It is a huge event celebrating the life of the Church of Scotland and, if you've never been before, please make the effort this year. There will be stalls and displays from organisations and groups from across the Church and beyond, as well as music, drama, activities for children and young people, the Church of Scotland swing band and much more.

This year's Moderator is the Revd Dr Angus Morrison, a minister from Kinross. The Lord High Commissioner (the Queen's representative) is the law lord, Lord Hope. Please remember the General Assembly in your prayers, and particularly remember the Minister as he begins his four year stint as convener of the General Assembly's Business Committee (along with his ongoing convenership of the Assembly Arrangements Committee).

This year's Assembly will tackle the usual wide range of subjects including the future of the Assembly, the need for an effective programme for continuing ministerial development, priorities for the mission and redevelopment of the Church and its strategy, a commitment to a decade of ministry as the shortage of ministers is addressed, a faith-based response to the nuclear deterrent, assisted dying and the ongoing debate about same sex relationships.

You can follow the General Assembly online at the Church of Scotland website (www.churchofscotland.org.uk) and follow the links to the General Assembly. The Assembly starts most mornings around 9.15am (except the opening Saturday when the Assembly is opened at 9.30am) There will be regular updates of events at the Assembly on all the social media sites, as well as reports in the May and June editions of Life and Work.

EASTER LEAFLETS

A huge vote of thanks is due to Muir and Michael Gillespie for folding all the Easter leaflets - a mammoth task.

Grateful thanks are also due to those members of the congregation who delivered the leaflets throughout the parish.

A special mention should be made of Ewan Brown and his team of helpers, David Calder and his team of helpers and the 188th Guide Company who did a large share of the deliveries.



THANK YOU TO ALL

WHAT MAKES YOUR BLOOD BOIL?

Having just endured the Election Campaign I'm sure we've all heard things in recent months that makes the calmest of soul's blood boil. Which, if not a regular occurrence, is a good thing, as it shows we care about what's happening in society.



A recent debate at the Session was how, as a Church, do we get our message across more effectively on things that we see as unjust, inequitable or just plain wrong?

Our Church has a role to play, taking a lead on tackling the blatant ills of our society. The Church itself has to be a role model, practising what we preach. Some Church campaigns can be very effective. We've seen the campaign on Payday Loans showing that intervention by Church Leaders can make a difference and force politicians to act

But all too often the media are reticent to pick up on statements by the Church of Scotland, however thoughtful, reasoned and valid. Celebrity or sensation crowd out the issues that touch on the lives of the less well off in our society or the important ethical issues.

So, what do you see as really important things for the Church of Scotland to champion? Is it the scandal of families having to rely on foodbanks in an affluent society and the failure of employers to pay a Living Wage (and not just the minimum wage) that creates part of the need for foodbanks? Those who work should be paid enough to feed, clothe and house their families, not still have to rely on charity. Is it the loss and abuse of rights and protections for workers under zero hours contracts? Is it the scandal of human trafficking and modern enslavement? Or is it something else? What makes you angry and want to change it? And what should the Church of Scotland do or prioritise in its campaigns?



These things are not just down to 121 or the Assembly. They begin at home, in our own Church. Think about injustices we want to tackle closer to home, in Edinburgh or Morningside, right on our doorstep.

And if something unfair, that the Church should tackle, does make your blood boil, then share it with us. Drop a note to the editor (editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk or by post to the church office or in her pigeonhole at church). and we'll take the temperature in coming issues. And then maybe we'll all want to tackle it together and make a real difference.

MAY ISSUE

Christian Aid Turns 70

Jackie Macadam meets the Rev Kathy Galloway, head of Christian Aid Scotland, and learns more about the charity's anniversary.

General Assembly 2015

Interview with the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Dr Angus Morrison.

Reports to the Assembly.

Heart and Soul preview.

Assembly timetable and Fringe programme.

Pentecostal Birthright

Ron Ferguson calls for a return of the original Pentecostal vision.

Service and War

Lynne McNeil discovers the cost of the Second World War to the Church of Scotland.

The Quintinshill Firestorm

Jackie Macadam reports on the role of churches in commemorating the centenary of a rail tragedy that cost 216 lives.

In Praise of Pilgrimage

Muriel Armstrong reports on the formation of a new body charged with promoting pilgrimage in Scotland.

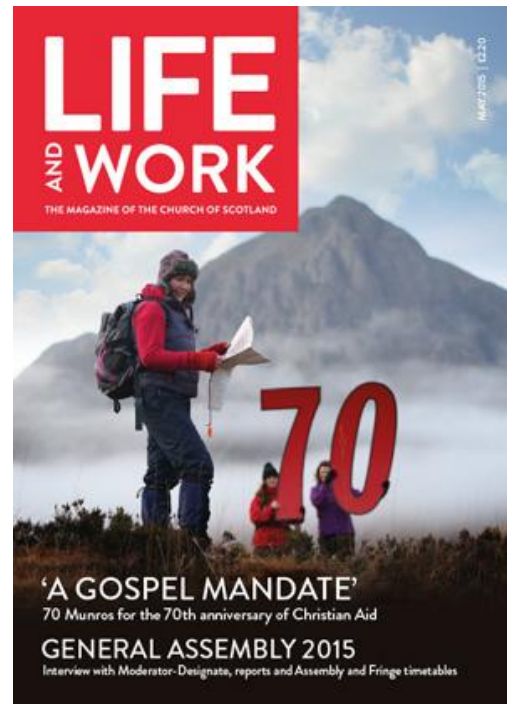
Stopped in My Tracks

The Rev Gordon Jamieson shares a personal encounter with stress in the ministry.

Rediscovering Family

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson calls on the Kirk to be family again.

The General Assembly opens on Saturday May 16. Follow proceedings with daily updates at www.lifeandwork.org, www.facebook.com/lifeandwork and www.twitter.com/cofslifeandwork





A CREATIVE CHALLENGE FOR ONLY £5

We're going you give you £5. Has that caught your attention? Ok, there's a catch. We want you to do something with it and give it back.

The idea behind this is the Parable of the Talents. There, the faithful servant took his master's money and put it to work so it grew manifold. Can we each do the same?

During May, we'll be offering everyone in Church a £5 note with a challenge to turn it into something more than that in four months. So, what could you turn it into and how could you grow it? Each of us has different skills and talents. We paint, we sew, we bake, we garden, we entertain, we work and we create lots of things. As long as it's not illegal or immoral, we leave it to you to use your skill, creativity and ingenuity in your own time and own way.

We can take on the challenge individually or team up with others. Can you make something, grow something in the garden, do some task or provide a service to someone? Do you have a talent, an interest, a skill that could turn the £5 into something bigger? Could you team together with friends, family, neighbours or even other members of Morningside you don't know that well, to do something together - host a coffee morning, lay on an event, organise an outing, or whatever you come up with? It's all down to our imagination and creativity. And if it's a success, you can take the proceeds and do even more!

The idea is to have a challenge which can involve our friends and not just the congregation; something we can have fun doing and which plays to our strengths. But we'll also give those who want a chance to offer their creations to other members at a table in the hall where we have refreshments after the services on Sundays in the summer months.

At the end of the challenge, we'll ask you to hand over the proceeds you've made. If you've not managed much, you can simply hand the £5 back. But we hope you'll have increased the funds and had fun as well along the way. And while it's not a competition, we hope you'll let us highlight the most creative and ingenious ideas.

So, thinking caps on please and ponder how you might rise to the £5 challenge.

FLOWER LIST

	Provided by	Arranged by
May	3 Margaret Thomson	Margaret Thomson
	10 Marie Ogilvie	Ruth Henderson
	17 Diane Gaskin Ruddock	Val Mannings
	24 Eleanor Watt	Eleanor Watt
	31 Forbes Bowman	Caroline Reid
June	7 Ella Scott	Anne Armour



THE GUILD

At its AGM in March, the Guild elected Marie Ogilvie as Convenor for the coming year. We wish her well in this undertaking and assure her of the support of all members.

Margaret Gossip deserves our sincere thanks for her work as Convenor for the last few years.

Sheila Graham, our retiring Treasurer, was given a special vote of thanks and a bouquet of flowers for her very long service as Guild Treasurer over many years.

We wish our members a happy summer break and look forward to meeting again on 6th October.



CHRISTIAN AID



Christian Aid Week is almost upon us once again. It runs from 10th to 16th May, starting with an Evening Service at 6.30 at Greenbank Church on 10 May. The Committee look forward to your support for this event to help get the week off to a good start.

Thank you to all of those members who have volunteered to help with the house to house collection. Collector's materials will be available in the vestibule on 26th April and 3rd and 10th May.

You may also make a note of the annual Spring Fair which is being held in Morningside Parish Church Halls on Saturday 23 May between 10.am and 2.00pm. There will be refreshments available at the event. In addition, there are various stalls selling baking, nearly new goods, books and plants together with a number of specialist craft stalls. There will also be a raffle with a range of excellent prizes and a "guess the weight of the cake" competition. We have interesting items for the children. At 10.45am, Aileen Paterson, the author of the Maisie of Morningside books, will be reading one of her stories and, at 11.30am, Bill McGillivray will be presenting a 30 minute magic show.

For the adults, at 12.20pm, Morley Whitehead and the MPC choral scholars will present a 40 minute concert of music and song.

In addition, Morningside Heritage Association will be showing an exhibition of old Morningside pictures from Bill's Smith's photographic archive.

For further information, or if you wish to help, please contact the following committee members

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

SPEAKER SUPPER

Friday 29th May 2015 at 19.30

Speaker: Brigadier P K Harkness MBE,
Commander 51st Infantry Brigade and Headquarters
Scotland

Subject: The Army in Scotland

Brigadier Harkness commands the 51st Infantry Brigade and Headquarters Scotland, the largest of the British Army's Adaptable Force Brigades. He has served on operations in Northern Ireland, the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan; his last deployment was as the Chief of Operations for Afghanistan under General Petraeus during the surge in 2010.



He has Masters Degrees in Theology and Defence Studies, with published work on the use of prophylactics in biological warfare.

He was awarded an MBE for his work in planning the invasion of Iraq in 2003. The Brigade is aligned to the Gulf region in support of UK Defence Engagement activities.

A son of the manse, his father was Chaplain General to the Army, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and Dean of the Chapel Royal in Scotland. He lives in Edinburgh with his long suffering wife Jacky and has two sons.

Following the Brigadier's talk there will be an opportunity to put any questions you may have to him.

Tickets will be on sale from the 5th April 2015 for £20. This will include a two course meal, your first drink and tea and coffee.

I hope you will join us for what will be an enlightening evening, in excellent company.

Kimberly Milne
Outreach Committee



The heart within Morningside

PRESENTS:-

Ian Rankin in conversation with Nigel Griffiths on Tuesday 26th May at 7pm for 7.30 in Morningside Parish Church Hall. Tickets £15 to include a glass of wine, available from The Open Door

PLACES OF WORSHIP: THE EDINBURGH SYNAGOGUE

Join us for the second of our places of worship events as we visit the Edinburgh Hebrew congregation and its synagogue on Wednesday 6th May at 7.30pm. The synagogue is situated at 4 Salisbury Road. We will meet Rabbi David Rose who will tell us something of the vibrant Jewish community in Edinburgh, and its synagogue and community centre. Jews were first recorded as living and working in Edinburgh in 1691.

ONE DAY IN MAY BOOK FESTIVAL

On Saturday 30th May 2015, Scottish Love in Action invites you to come to a Book Festival celebrating the best in modern literature at Greyfriars Kirk. Join us for this new and exciting date in the Book Festival calendar.

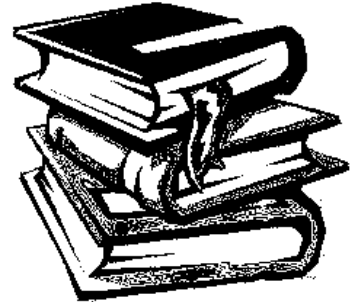
Programme of Events

11am - Jeremy Strong, children's author (7+) of *The Hundred-Mile-An-Hour Dog* and *My Brother's Famous Bottom* series.

2pm - Alasdair Gray, author of 'Lanark', will talk about his autobiography *Of Me and Others*.

5pm - Femmes Fatales, a trio of female, crime writers discuss their work - **Alanna Knight**, creator of the Victorian Inspector Faro series, **Lin Anderson**, author of the forensic specialist Dr Rhona Macleod series and **Alex Gray**, author of the DCI Lorimer series.

8pm - Alexander McCall Smith, well known for the *No 1 Ladies Detective Agency* series and many other publications.



Book sales and signings will be available after each talk. Tickets for the adult authors are £10 and for the children's author £6.

Tickets only available online at www.sla-india.org from noon Tuesday 21st April 2015

25TH BRAID SCOUT GROUP

Our group meets in the church halls on a Thursday evening. Since the churches' merger (we came from Nile Grove) we have needed storage for our camping equipment as it could not be accommodated at the new site. Initially we were kindly offered a garage in Falcon Road West but we recently had to move out of there as the house and garage were being sold and we currently are renting space (at considerable expense) out at Macmerry. The cost and location are not sustainable and therefore we are looking at other options. We are wondering if anyone in the congregation knows of possible storage space closer to the church?

If anyone has any options or suggestions we would be delighted to hear more. Please e-mail me on alisonyelland68@hotmail.co.uk or phone 445 1010. Thank you in anticipation

Alison Yelland,
Chairperson of the Scout Executive Committee.

LADIES GROUP (part 2)

In January we learnt about **Mary Queen of Scots in Edinburgh** by Eric Melvin. Slides were shown of places that she knew from about 1542 to 87. Our next meeting was a complete contrast with Piano Pete who led us on a Musical evening with a quiz, requests and his own renditions.

In February, Aidan Merrilees gave us an illustrated talk on the **Queensferry Crossing**, the new road bridge. We saw the plans, the progress of roads and the supports, and it is coming in on budget and time. Our **annual Coffee Morning** raised about £493 which will support requirements for the Church. Our next meeting was Katie Munnik telling us about **Nite Kirk**, an idea coming from Copenhagen. The church opens its doors once a month on a Friday evening when those who wish can come in for some quiet reflection. This project is organised along with surrounding churches.

March sees our meetings coming to an end and this year we had Annie Scanlon showing us about the **History of Swimming Costumes**, starting the evening wearing a couple of the outfits. We all had some memories of the styles in the 50's to today. Do some of you remember the knitted costumes?

The committee was very pleased to see so many attending the meetings, which have included a few men, and the average attending has been about 30 except when the weather was a bit wintry.

At our AGM a few weeks ago we decided for a change of name to reflect the mixed group which we have become and hopefully encourage more of our members to attend along with our topics in the syllabus. Our new name, when we resume at the end of September, will be the Monday Circle.

In April we had a very enjoyable evening out, this year to Swanston Golf Club.

We look forward to meeting you all in September. Enjoy the summer with family and friends.

Catriona Reid,
President/Secretary



ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers:-

Beth McGauley,
who was baptized on Easter Day, 5th April 2015;

The family and friends of Mrs Lottie McLaren,
who died on 18th April 2015.

JUNE MAGAZINE

Material for the June issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 22nd May 2015** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 7th June**. 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. This will be the last magazine until September so if there is anything happening over the summer that we need to know about, do tell us by 22nd May.

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

FRESCOES IN AN OLD CHURCH (Stowell Park, Gloucestershire)

by Walter de la Mare

Six centuries have gone
Since, one by one,
These stones were laid,
And in air's vacancy
This beauty made.

They who thus reared them
Their long rest have won;
Ours now this heritage –
To guard, preserve, delight in, brood upon;
And in these transitory fragments scan
The immortal longings in the soul of Man.



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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