



Magazine

No. 105 November 2014

Dear Friends

The centenary marking the beginning of World War One looms large, rightly, over the Remembrance season this year. It was an event that seemed to end one world and begin another. Nothing was the same after the end of World War One. It started with notions of chivalry and cavalry charges over corn fields, but soon became mired in the trenches and bomb craters in a mud-drowned landscape. As the casualties mounted from hundreds to thousands to millions it became palpably clear that there was nothing romantic about war, particularly modern war. On the day war was declared Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, was working late in his office overlooking St James' Park. In the streets below the lamplighter was busy with his daily task. Grey uttered the words that would bring him immortality: "The lamps are going out all over Europe. We shall not see them lit again in our lifetime."



At the Tower of London there is a wonderful exhibition, on the outside of the building. The Queen has laid a wreath at the 'Blood Swept Land and Seas of Red' exhibit, where each ceramic poppy commemorates a fallen World War One serviceman or woman. By Armistice day there will be 888,246 ceramic poppies, one for each British and colonial death during the War.

As well as the horrors of war, this period in our history had a profound effect on the church. Preachers of the day struggled to

deal with the shock of the war, the effects of bereavement for so many, and the growing realisation that even in those days, the church barely reached 20% of the nation. Chaplains serving at the Front often found that the soldier may have got religion, but they were not so sure it was Christianity. Troops were not hostile to the Christian religion but indifferent to what seemed to them to be largely impractical and inefficient, and the Church represented by a series of negative laws. A Church of Scotland report during the war also recognised that many in the nation had drifted from or never were part of the church. "To them the Church was simply the dullest institution they knew." (*D S Cairns, The Army and Religion*). It was also noted that there was, "...more brotherhood in the public house than in the average church."

One hundred years on, the lessons of war and peace still need to be learned. In the times of crisis – war, bereavement, prolonged ill health, unemployment, frailty, doubt – what does our faith have to say? How do we get our message across to people who are not uninterested, but who are unsure we have anything to say, and uncertain about what the Church has to offer? People still come, and ask, and question, and hope that we, the Christians, if we cannot solve the problems, might at least have something to say that helps. In time of war, and in time of peace, what do we have to say?

Revd Dr Derek Browning

WORSHIP NOTES

Remembrance – 9th November

Remembrance Sunday is on 9th November. There is no 9.30am service on that day. Our service will begin at 10.45am in the Church, with the young people involved at the beginning of the service, then going through to the Halls as usual.

On the evening of Remembrance Sunday, communion will be shared around the Lord's Table as part of the evening service.

St Andrew's Day/ Pledge Sunday/Gift Service/Advent – 30th November

St Andrew's Day falls on a Sunday this year, and will be marked during our morning services on 30th November.

30th November will also be Pledge Sunday. On this Sunday you will be invited to make your financial and your time/talents pledges for 2015. There will be a separate communication sent to you in the next few weeks.

The Church is entirely dependent on the commitment, enthusiasm and engagement of all the members of the congregation. Some show this through financial giving, which remains particularly important as we move steadily towards the elimination of our deficit. For all who are giving generously – thank you. Others give through their time or their talents, and this is an area where we can see that a greater involvement of more of our members and those attending Church would be a huge benefit and blessing to the Church and its work.

When the Pledge paperwork arrives, please consider carefully how you might, where possible, increase your support of our Church. It is through your generosity that we are able to do so much, and maybe so much more, in the year to come.

This Sunday will also be our annual Gift Service, and further details will appear in the intimations nearer the time.

The first Sunday in Advent also falls on 30th November. In the evening there will be a different form of evening service, using not only the church but also the halls, as we contemplate through music and reflective activities what this season of waiting means before we arrive at the wonder of Christmas. The service will still be at 6.30pm but will include different elements – please come along and support it.

Communion - 7th December

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be shared at the 9.30am and 10.30am services on 7th December.



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

HELP REQUIRED!

It's Christmas leaflet time again! We are looking for people willing to help fold and bundle the 5,000 Christmas leaflets which are delivered to the parish in December. If you have free time on the morning of Thursday, 20th November, please come along any time between 9am and 12 noon 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.

Joan McKenzie and Audrey Riddell



FLOWER LIST

		Provided by	Arranged by
November	2	Ian Hastie	Irene Wilson
	9	Remembrance	Caroline Reid
	16	Isobel Brain	Anne Armour/ Issie Paterson
	23	Kathleen Elder	Marjory Watson
	30	June Cowan	June Cowan
December	7	Liz Munro	Val Dunn

The new flower list for 2015 is now available on the noticeboard in the vestibule. If you would like to supply flowers one Sunday, please put your name and phone number against your chosen date. The cost is £40 and cheques should 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.

DECEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the December issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 14th November 2014** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 30th November (a week earlier than normal to allow notice of Christmas events)**. 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. (Please note that there will be no magazine in January.)

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

BABY AND TODDLER GROUPS



One of the most successful ways that we connect with our community as a congregation is through our thriving baby and toddler groups. On Monday and Wednesday mornings (10-11.30am) and Thursday afternoons (currently 1.30-3pm, subject to change), the old hall is transformed as it is filled with toys, chatting parents, and babies and children playing. We share in tea, coffee, juice and biscuits and simply enjoy the opportunity to welcome and get to know the many families with whom we have contact, whilst the children have fun playing with our exciting range of toys - which even includes a roller coaster especially for toddlers! It can be very noisy, but everyone has a great time and it is good to see connections being made through the opportunity provided here.

We look forward to our special Christmas sessions, where we welcome the families to a short service of worship and reflection, and where we will again be visited by Father Christmas. It is wonderful that the congregation supports this important ministry, and all who benefit from it are very grateful. All are most welcome to join in the fun! Contact Nicola Whyte (07803513389, nicolawhyte30@gmail.com) for more information.

THE GUILD

Our session got off to a good start with an inspirational and thought provoking talk on our theme "A World to Serve" by Dr Browning.

4th November: Morag Donaldson will speak about "The Julius Project" which we are supporting this session. The project mentors homeless people, befriending them and giving them help.

18th November: Mr Bob Cunningham will speak on "Morningside in WW1".

19th November (Wednesday): Joint meeting with Greenbank and Fairmilehead at 2.30pm in Fairmilehead. The afternoon is entitled "Highlands and Islands - Songs and Scenes" and is given by Alastair MacNeill and family.



The Guild meetings are open to all and we are always delighted to welcome visitors. Although we, in Morningside, are a small group, we are part of the National Church of Scotland Guild which has 24,000 members. If you have not been to The Guild before, why not come along. We shall be delighted to see you.

National Guild Week, when we promote the work of the Guild, is 16th - 22nd November. As part of this, Morningside Guild is hosting the Coffee morning on Wednesday 19th November in the new hall. Do please come.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Want to know more about some of the things that go on in Church? Want to learn a little bit about the organisation or groups? Want to find out how you might be able to get involved on an occasional or longer term basis? Each Sunday, starting soon, during the intimations there will be an opportunity for your church-related group, organisation, committee to tell the congregation *in one minute (!)* what you do, why you do it, and how you would like to welcome others to share with you where appropriate.

The Minister will be drawing up a list shortly – so if you want to make sure your church-related group, organisation or committee is included, please let him know as soon as possible.

FREE WILL OFFERING ENVELOPES

The new sets of envelopes start from Sunday 2nd November. These have been distributed during October, and, if you are on the list, I hope you have received yours. If you expected to receive these but they have not arrived, please let me know.

If anyone would like to start using Free Will Offering Envelopes (perhaps to have something to put in when the children are collecting) please let me know as I have a small additional supply available. (Phone 0131 447 0460, e-mail david1727@btinternet.com)

We are able to record donations made through these envelopes for the purpose of reclaiming tax on donations made by taxpayers. This is a useful source of additional income for the Church.

David Mitchell, Free Will Offering Treasurer

EDINBURGH CLOTHING STORE COFFEE MORNING

On Saturday 15th November from 10.00am to 12 noon the Edinburgh Clothing Store is holding its 4th annual Coffee Morning in the Church New Hall, Braid Road. Do come and enjoy coffee and a cream scone, meet up with friends from across the city and have fun choosing what you would like to buy from a variety of stalls. Tickets are £3 or £1 for children and are available at the door.

For the 4th year running there has been a noticeable increase in the number of people, and particularly the number of children being referred to the Clothing Store for help. The Clothing Store is run entirely by volunteers and funded by donations. Your support in raising much needed funds is very much appreciated. We look forward to seeing you at the coffee morning.

Fiona Stimpson

DID YOU KNOW... that 3rd November 2014 will mark 200 years since the robbery of David Loch, which prompted the last public hanging for highway robbery in Edinburgh, marked by the stones for the gibbet on the site of the robbery in Braid Road?

KIRK SESSION NEWS

At recent Kirk Session meetings:

- The Kirk Session expressed deep appreciation to the Friends of Morningside for their continuing support of the choral scholarships. The Friends fully fund four scholarships, with the fifth scholarship funded through the successful summer festival lunchtime concerts. The Friends have also contributed to the restoration of the external lighting at the church steps, and have funded the creation of 'wheelchair' parking spaces within the sanctuary to enable our wheelchair-bound members and visitors to sit more comfortably within 'the body of the kirk'.
- The Property Committee reported on its extensive work in the Church, Cluny Centre and Manse. Aging masonry at the Church and the Cluny Centre has been repaired, particularly around the Burne-Jones window; new noticeboards have been fixed at the entrance to the old halls; a new yellow safety strip has been placed at the step that leads from the sanctuary through to the halls; strobe sounders will be fitted within the Church as part of the fire alarm system; the old boiler at the manse will be replaced (that was not a reference to the Minister!)
- The Worship Committee reported that the changes to the order of service have been reviewed and, with the Minister's approval, the introit will be restored to the beginning of the service. The other changes which include having a bible reading, the Lord's Prayer and the children involved with the offering have proven to be very successful and so will be retained.

THE LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group meets on a Monday at 7.45pm in the Church Hall of Morningside Parish Church. All are welcome and it was great to see so many members and friends at the first 2 meetings of the new session.

Here is the syllabus for November 2014:-

3rd November Hippolyte Jean Blanc, Edinburgh architect Speaker: Charles Burnett

17th November Stories of Life, Learning and Laughter Speaker : Rev.Tom Gordon

Anna Cunningham



WORK PARTY

A meeting will be held on Monday 3rd November 2014 in the Cluny Centre at 10.30am/10.45am.

The Ladies of the Party are so keen and sociable and look forward to these gatherings. An open invitation is in place. So if this activity appeals, do come and join us. During the session a selection of goods/articles are made, then in due course, distributed.

For further information contact Margaret Guild 447 6290



CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid is hosting a Scottish film evening on Friday 7TH November 2014 in the new hall. The main feature of the evening will be "Whisky Galore". The evening starts at 7.15pm and tub of Luca ice cream will be included in the ticket price. Tickets priced £6 can be obtained from Bill Reid (466 3111), Bob Cunningham (447 4757) and Ruth Henderson (449 6449).

THANK YOU!

Edinburgh Food Bank were delighted with the considerable amount of foods etc. sent following the harvest festival services and thank the members for their generosity which will greatly help the Food Bank in providing a service to those in need

Keith Bailey

MEN'S BAKING CHALLENGE

On Sunday 28th September the men of Morningside Parish Church rose to the Challenge and put on a great display of baking skills. The sale after the 10.30am morning service raised over £450 for church funds. Grateful thanks are due not only to the men who baked but also to the ladies who put their kitchen and baking equipment at risk! A special thank you too, to those who generously supported the event by making donations (some in lieu of baking) and by purchasing the baking.

Robin Stimpson



founded by the Churches of Morningside, opened in 1982

The Open Door underwent an organisational review earlier in the summer and results of this are now being taken forward to shape the future. The new Mission Statement was developed during this review and is **"The Open Door aims to reduce isolation and loneliness by providing love, friendship, support, inclusion and a sense of community."** It's interesting that "reducing isolation" is the government's new byword but it's been part of The Open Door mission for 32 years!

The Coffee Shop is a place of welcome and support where advice and help are offered if needed. It's a place where there's time to talk and, more importantly, listen. Preventative services provide help to retain mobility and fitness. The Good Neighbour Club takes place on Tuesdays from 10.30am - 3.00pm.

There are now about 7 paid staff with just over 50 volunteers who work somewhere between 3 to 5 hours a session but we need 20 more!

The Open Door is delighted that the new residential development on Balcarres Street will be named "Stewart Terrace" after Jean Stewart who, for many years, was a keen supporter of The Open Door and a member of Morningside Parish Church.

LIFE AND WORK 2015

Do you wish to order Life and Work for 2015? Now is the time to do so. Life and Work is the monthly magazine of the Church of Scotland, and contains an interesting mix of articles and information. Copy price is £2.20, but we benefit from a discounted price of £22 per annum instead of £26.40. Order forms are enclosed in this month's Life and Work or are available on the Welcome Desk, where there are also copies of the current Life and Work if you wish to look at the magazine. New subscriptions are always welcome.

LIFE and WORK – NOVEMBER ISSUE

Remembrance 2014

Last letters home from those who perished in the First World War

Remembrance Prayer from the Moderator of the General Assembly

Story by Kenneth Steven

Reforming the Kirk

In the second part of his series reflecting on the future of the Church of Scotland, the Rev Dr Doug Gay calls for a 'creative conversation'

Tears and Pride

The Rt Rev John Chalmers reflects on his mixed feelings watching his son take part in the Invictus Games for injured service personnel

Faith in the Face of Disaster

Twelve months on from the Clutha Vaults helicopter crash, Jackie Macadam meets the chaplains who supported emergency staff at the scene

Guild Annual Meeting

Lynne McNeil reports from the gathering in Dundee, which was addressed by the Moderator and the artist John Lowrie Morrison (JoLoMo)

A New Call

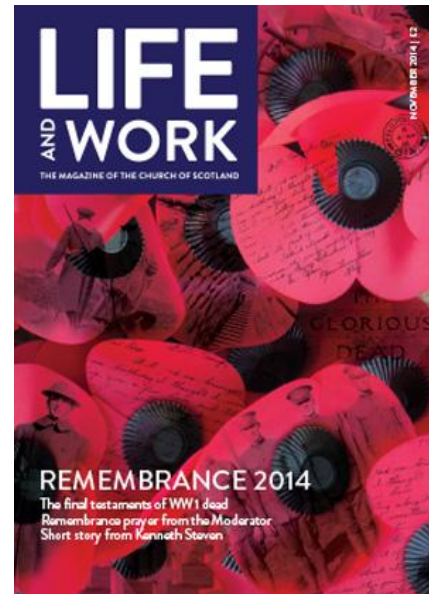
David McCarthy reports on the first year of the Church of Scotland's partnership with Fresh Expressions

'Reach Out and Listen'

The Rev Derek Hughes and Rosie Addis ask how churches can reach out to the deaf

Remember Syria

The Rev Maggie Lane describes how Tearfund is helping Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon



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

FROM OUR WAR MEMORIAL

As we mark the centenary of the start of the First World War, I thought it would be interesting to find out more about some of the names on our church war memorials. On the St Matthew's memorial, two of the surnames are the same, and so probably related. It turns out that Captain Guy Steel Peebles Macmeeken and 2nd Lt James Macmeeken were indeed brothers, two of the seven children of Rev James Macmeeken, minister of Pettinain Parish Church, Lanarkshire, and his wife Agnes.



Born on 13th March 1891, Guy served with the 4th Battalion and later the 12th Battalion Royal Scots Territorial Force, becoming a temporary lieutenant and then acting captain on 20th July 1917. Having been posted to France with his Battalion in July 1916, he won a Military Cross and died of his wounds whilst a prisoner of war in Germany on 5th May 1918 and is buried in Valenciennes (St Roch) Communal Cemetery. The citation for his Military Cross reads: "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in an attack. Though wounded he led his company to the capture of a strong enemy position with fifty prisoners and three machine guns under heavy shell fire. He showed splendid skill and initiative."

His brother James was born on 7th February 1898 and served with the 5th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers. He was killed in action at the age of 20 on 27th May 1918, possibly at the Battle of the Aisne. He was buried in Pontavert German Cemetery but his grave there is now lost and there is a memorial to him at La Ville-aux-bois British Cemetery, north of the city of Reims. In connection with his memorial, Mrs M Macmeeken of 12 Comiston Drive, Edinburgh is named as next of kin, which would explain the St Matthews connection.

Two other sons of the Macmeeken family also served in the forces during World War 1. The eldest of the seven children, John West Macmeeken, born in 1888, was a civil engineer who originally joined the 38th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Montreal before transferring to Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in July 1915. He fought at the Somme and was invalided out in April 1918. He died of heart failure, probably as a result of his war experiences, in the USA in 1939 at the age of only 51.

The fourth son to fight was Andrew Peebles Macmeeken, in the 4th Battalion (Queen's Edinburgh Rifles) Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment). He was seconded for duty with the Machine Gun Corps in May 1916. He became 2nd lieutenant in October 1916 and then lieutenant in July 1917. He was also acting captain while commanding a section in January 1919, having been made a temporary captain with the Tank Corps in November 1918. He relinquished his command with the rank of captain on 30th September 1921 and died in 1978 at the age of 84.

Incidentally, another Rev James West Macmeeken, quite probably their grandfather, was minister at Lesmahagow and produced a history of the Scottish Metrical Psalms.



Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy MC was an Anglican priest and poet during World War One. He was affectionately nicknamed 'Woodbine Willie' as he was often found giving Woodbine cigarettes to injured and dying soldiers, along with spiritual comfort in their time of need. He was awarded the military cross in 1917 at Messines Ridge for running into No Man's Land to help the wounded during an attack on the German front line. His MC citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He showed the greatest courage and disregard for his own safety in attending to the wounded under heavy fire. He searched shell holes for our own and enemy wounded, assisting them to the dressing station, and his cheerfulness and endurance had a splendid effect upon all ranks in the front line trenches, which he constantly visited.

From '**His Mate**', in a collection of poems, "Rough Rhymes of a Padre"

There's a broken, battered village
Somewhere up behind the line;
There's a dugout and a bunk there
That I used to say were mine.

I remember how I reached them,
Dripping wet and all forlorn,
In the dim and dreary twilight
Of a weeping summer dawn.

All that time I'd buried brothers
In one bitter battle slain;
In one grave I laid two hundred,
God! What sorrow, and what rain!...

And that night I'd been in trenches,
Seeking out the sodden dead,
And just dropping them in shell-hole,
With a service swiftly said.

For the bullets rattled round me,
But I couldn't leave them there,
Water-soaked in flooded shell-holes
'reft of common Christian prayer...

Then there spoke a dripping sergeant,
When the time was growing late,
"Would you please to bury this one,
'Cause e' used to be my mate?"...

We went down upon our faces,
And I said the service through,
From "I am the Resurrection"
To the last, the great "adieu."...

There are many kinds of sorrow
In this world of Love and Hate,
But there is no sterner sorrow
Than a soldier's for his mate.



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