



Magazine

No. 112 SEPTEMBER 2015

Dear Friends

One of the things I enjoy about the summer is, for me at least, the marked change of pace in my work life. Whilst the routine of service preparation and visiting goes on, things are generally pared back and I certainly appreciate the easing of the pace.

For me one of the great pleasures of this time is to be able to sit down and read for long stretches. I read a lot at the best of times – but it's usually snatches here and there. When summer comes I can catch up with a pile of books put to one side over the year and which can be devoured steadily when things are generally quieter.

Antonia Fraser's 'My History', was good. I'd never read much of Walt Whitman's poetry before so his 'Leaves of Grass' was a revelation. Sam Wells, the Vicar of St Martin's-in-the-Fields, has a new book out called, 'The Nazareth Manifesto', with a couple of ideas well worth stealing for Christmas time sermons (yes, I did mention 'that' word!). Rob Bell's 'Velvet Elvis – repainting the Christian faith' is providing some challenging thoughts about how we might look at Christianity in the C21st.

What engages me in any reading is a good story. Whether it is fact or fiction, the use of vocabulary, imagery, character, tension and redemption all make the act of reading, or listening to a story, gripping. For all the sophistication of our time, there is something deeply embedded in the human

psyche that responds to a good story, well-told, making us think, wonder, laugh, cry, learn. It's not just for children.

I've particularly enjoyed re-engaging with the story of David in the Old Testament over the summer sermons. The highs, the lows, the glories, the horrors. David's story captures the vitality of this complex character, reminding us that not all Bible heroes are heroic and that most, if not all, have feet of clay. The Bible is full of excellent stories, and we shouldn't be afraid to pick that book up, choose one of the books it contains, and read a chapter at a time, simply to get the flavour of it. One of the great gifts of the Reformation was to put

the Bible into the hands of the people. One of the great tragedies of the Church today is we leave the Bible in the pews, or at home in a drawer or cupboard, or maybe still have it wrapped

in its presentational cellophane, 'to keep it nice'.

Bibles should be like old recipe books. Marked, dog eared, annotated, and familiar. Read it for the language; read it for the stories; read it for the window into complex human souls it affords; read it for God's word speaking to us today, making us think, question, wonder, doubt, be comforted, hope, believe. Read it because it remains one of the best ways in which we can encounter God.

Revd Dr Derek Browning



WORSHIP EVENTS

9.30am Services resume on Sunday 6th September in the Church Hall.

Our annual Covenant Service will be at 10.30am on Sunday 6th September where, as part of the service, we rededicate ourselves to the work of the Church for the new session. Also, at the close of the service, we will be going outside to dedicate a commemorative stone to mark the 125th anniversary of the founding of our church building. The stone has been kindly donated by local company William Purves.

The Harvest Thanksgiving will be on Sunday 27th September. This will also be a 'Souper Sunday' as we will be supporting the Church of Scotland's HIV/AIDS project with a lunch after the service. This will be an all-age service and we look forward to having a good attendance. (There will be no 9.30am service on that day)

We share the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday 4th October at 9.30am and 10.30am. Both services will be in the Church.

SOUPER SUNDAY LUNCH

On Sunday 27th September, Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday, a Souper Sunday Lunch will be held in support of the Church of Scotland HIV Programme (Scottish Charity Number SC011353) and we hope you will give your support to what will be an enjoyable event following the service. Tickets will be £6.00 and available from Margaret Guild and Marie Ogilvie on Sundays during September.



Brigadier P K Harkness MBE at our last Speaker Supper on 29th May

SPEAKER SUPPER FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER

We continue the successful Speaker Suppers with our next event on Friday 30th October at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. Tickets cost £20.

Our guest speaker will be the Most Reverend Leo Cushley, Roman Catholic Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh. He has served in parishes in the west of Scotland before returning to Rome where he entered the Diplomatic Service of the See of Rome. He has served in Egypt, Portugal, Burundi, South Africa and the United Nations in New York. He was appointed Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh in 2013.

In the Spring of 2016 we hope to have as our guest the eminent lawyer and judge, Lord Hope of Craighead.

These evenings provide a great way for the congregation to invite non-church friends to a church event. Where else will you get the chance to hear and question and archbishop, or a senior law lord?

Looking forward to seeing you there!

NICOLA WHYTE

Nicola has been our associate for two years and has worked primarily with our children and young people and with adult education. She has accepted a job with the Church of Scotland's Mission and Discipleship Council as the Congregational Development worker. In the time that Nicola has been with us she has worked to see an increase in regular attendance at both the Sunday Club and Baby and Toddlers groups, and has significantly improved the experience for all who attend. Her involvement in Sunday worship has been thoughtful and accomplished.

Her work at Sunday Club has been greatly appreciated by the young people attending, as well as the staff and parents, and a major step forward has been the gradual inclusion of children in worship on Sunday mornings, something that the children have particularly enjoyed.

Under Nicola's guidance, and with the help of members from the congregation,

the Baby and Toddler groups on Monday and Wednesday have mushroomed and have become some of the best attended groups our church hosts.

Nicola has also been involved in developing the scope of adult Christian Education in the congregation and played an important part in this year's Lent studies.

Whilst sorry to see her go, we are delighted that she has secured this important job within the Church of Scotland and wish her well for the future. Nicola will return for a final service on Sunday 27th September where we will have a chance to say a formal farewell to her.

Throughout the month of September, if you would like to contribute to a farewell gift to Nicola, please put a donation into an envelope marked, 'Nicola', and place it in the offering plate, or hand your envelope into the Church Office during the week.

KIRK SESSION

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*.

IN PRAISE OF OUR SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Since last September we have enjoyed many social occasions in the Church, all involving our very hardworking, extremely efficient Social Committee. Whether for coffee mornings, lunch, afternoon tea or an evening meal we are always sure of a successful outcome.

None of these functions happen without tremendous work in advance planning and assembling the food, preparing the tables as well as serving and clearing on the day. At the summer lunch this June, we even had an excellent waitress service for those who found it increasingly hard to cope with a buffet meal - all done with slick organisation and a smile! It's good, too, to see 'the boys' pulling their weight whether



supervising the bar, directing the 'traffic' round the buffet tables, topping up glasses or cleaning up at the end.

I think it is also appropriate to acknowledge the sterling work over the year by the teams who provide coffee facilities after the services each Sunday morning as well as the volunteers who supply coffee and delicious home baking in the hall on Wednesday mornings.



These various gatherings cement fellowship within the Church and provide opportunity for others within the community to join us.

On behalf of all of us who benefited from these social occasions, including those who are no longer able to help as they would wish, our appreciation and warm thanks.

FLOWER LIST

	Provided by	Arranged by
Sept 6	Lorna Gunn	Anne Armour/ Issie Paterson
13	Fiona Watt	Eleanor Watt
20	Gordon Kinloch	Joan Burnet
27	HARVEST	Flower Committee
Oct 4	Rena Tough	Ruth Henderson/ Val Dunn



FreshStart

helping people make a home for themselves

For over 15 years Fresh Start has been at the forefront of helping people who have been homeless establish their new home. With the steadfast support of the churches in Edinburgh and our incredibly committed volunteers, the range of services we provide has continued to grow year on year.

Since beginning in 2013, our cooking classes and community growing space at our Food Station have proven a great success with those who have participated; both service users and volunteers. Earlier in 2015 we replicated these services and launched the Helping Hands project in Craigmillar, working in partnership with Castle Rock Edinvar Housing Association. Our long standing Starter Pack and Hit Squad services also continue to be a success; over 11,200 Starter Packs were distributed in the past year, and 100 people received help to decorate their new home.

So, a massive thank you for your continued support. We can only help so many people each year make a home for themselves thanks to churches, communities and people like you giving their time, money and goods. We encourage anybody who is interested in volunteering or supporting us further to get in touch by calling 0131 476 7741.

We are also excited to tell you that Fresh Start has been fortunate enough to be chosen as Lothian Buses Charity of the Year 2015. So, over the coming months, please look out for our bus on the streets of Edinburgh!



SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

resumes on Wednesday 23rd September in the new Hall of the church from 7.30-9.30pm. We are a small and friendly group but enthusiastic about dancing where we welcome newcomers as well as those who know how to dance. It has been said that Scottish Dancing is one of the best forms of exercise so please come along as we "reely" have a good time.

Further information from Catriona Reid 446 3111



**55TH EDINBURGH BOYS'
BRIGADE AND GIRLS'
ASSOCIATION**

Some of you will be aware that the 55th recently celebrated its centenary; 100 years of the BB in Morningside. As part of our long term development plan, the 55th has become a Boys' Brigade with Girls' Association, meaning that girls can join for the first time in 100 years. We hope that this will be one way of boosting our numbers and advancing Christ's Kingdom amongst young people in our local area.

The 55th were also delighted that it was in a position to donate some hymn books as part of our Centenary celebrations to the congregation, so please look out for them in the pews! We also have some of our limited edition centenary pin badges left for sale. These were designed by one of our senior boys, George Roberts. They cost £5, with all proceeds going to Company funds. Please contact Rona McLaren or myself if interested in purchasing a badge or two.

We also welcome to our staff Mr Moore, who has volunteered to help us out this session. Mr Moore is the dad of Theo, one of our young people.

Our secondary school aged young people are going off to Craggan in October for a weekend of activities. Craggan is the Edinburgh Boys' Brigade outdoor centre on the shores of Loch Tay. As well as this,

all of our members will be busy working towards their next set of awards and badges. We hope to present a President's Badge (second highest award in the BB&GA) before the end of the year and start a young person off on their final BB award, the Queen's Badge.

The 55th would also like to thank all those members of the congregation who have given and shown support for our activities over the last 12 months. It was very much appreciated and we look forward to developing further our partnership with Morningside Parish Church over the coming months and years. Anyone who would like to support us further may consider taking a 55th donation box and saving away some coppers now and again, which we would then collect from you and put to use towards materials and activities for the young people. Please speak to myself or Rona if you would like to help in this way.

Look out for further updates on our activities throughout the year. You can also follow us on Twitter @55thEdinBBGA or on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/55thEdinburgh/>

Scott A J Peter
Captain

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD

Motto: "Whose we are and Whom we serve"

The Guild is a movement for both men and women within the Church of Scotland which invites all to express their faith in worship, prayer and action.



MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH GUILD

The Guild meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from October to March, at 2.15pm, in the New Hall at the Church on Braid Road, EH10 6AE.

The programme for the new session will be available by mid-September. Our meetings are open to anyone who is interested in a particular topic, and membership of the Guild is open to any who support the aims and ethos of the Guild and would like to join the fellowship on a regular basis. The subscription for the year 2015-2016 is £10. Our meetings start with a brief time of worship, followed by the presentation or discussion for the day, and ending with time for tea and chat. There is an opportunity to make an

offering to cover refreshment and other expenses at most meetings.

Our winter session 2014-15 ended on a positive note as the Guild at Morningside voted to continue this valued fellowship, and we look forward to welcoming visitors, friends, enquirers, new members. We are aware that we must look to the future and explore with others how, for whom, and in what format the Guild might continue to support and serve people in our area.

Please see the notice about Souper Sunday on 27th September, and join us in supporting the Church of Scotland's HIV Programme, which originated as a Guild project some years ago.

AUTUMN LECTURES

The successful Sunday evening Autumn lecture series returns in September. This year's theme, Faith Seeking Understanding, will explore some of the big questions of theology that all Christians should think about. Come and have your brain, and your imagination stretched!

Refreshments are served from 6.30pm in the Church halls, with the lectures beginning at 7pm. We aim to finish around 8pm.

The series this year will have the following lectures, followed by questions:

6 th September	Professor Paul Nimmo: Jesus
13 th September	Revd Professor David Fergusson: God the Creator
20 th September	Revd Dr Helen Bond: The Bible in the Church - Mark's Gospel
27 th September	Professor Susan Hardman Moore - Holy Communion.



As I write this (13th August), the first of our summer concerts has

taken place - two of our choral scholars, Jenny Goss and Antonia Smart (sopranos) accompanied by yours truly. It was a lovely event, with music by Ravel, Beethoven, Berlioz, Grieg, Thea Musgrave, Philip Martin, Rodrigo, and (a duet "encore") Purcell; and there was a "house" of some 60 folk. One can always tell, when performing, whether the audience is sitting there politely (because that is what you are meant to do!) or if they are listening intently ("pins" dropping...), and certainly yesterday was of the latter variety - our warmest thanks to these two young ladies for their time and talent, so freely given. We hold these concerts, primarily, because it is "The Festival", and we like to be festive - but

MUSICAL NOTES

also they help with the funding of a fifth Choral Scholarship, and yesterday's collection of £200+ was most encouraging. Thanks to all who came along, and contributed so generously.

Also, the Choir return from the summer recess on Sunday 6th September. We would welcome some new faces, and new voices, to join the choir, whether on a regular basis or to help out for special occasions. We hold a monthly rehearsal on the first Thursday of the month, the first of which takes place on 3rd September at 7.45 pm. in the Small Hall, and anyone who thinks they might be interested in joining us would be welcome to come along that evening. We meet for our normal Sunday rehearsal in the chancel at 9.15am the following Sunday.

Morley Whitehead



JOHN RUTTER COME AND SING EVENT

John Rutter, the world famous composer, is leading a Come and Sing event in our Church on Saturday 12th September.

This is an all-day event, starting around 11am and going on till around 4.45pm. Registration at 10am. It is important to register before the event if at all possible to ensure that we have sufficient copies of the music. Tea and coffee will be available but you will need to bring your own packed lunch.

Tickets £18 (£15 concession - OAP/Student/Unwaged).

Register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/come-sing-with-john-rutter-tickets-17644868276>

Or contact the Church office at 1 Cluny Drive for a form.

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

THE MONDAY CIRCLE (FORMER "LADIES GROUP")

Please note that "The Ladies Group" has changed its name and is now known as "The Monday Circle". We hope the new name will feel more embracing and encourage more men to attend our meetings.

The Monday Circle meets in the Morningside Parish Church Halls on a Monday at 7.45pm. As usual we have a varied syllabus which we hope you will find interesting. Here are the dates for the whole session:-

2015

28th September

12th and 26th October

9th and 23rd November

7th and 14th December

2016

11th and 25th January

8th and 22nd February (Coffee morning on Saturday 13th)

7th and 21st March

Meetings in September and October 2015

28th September: View from the Rostrum - Antiques and Collecting

Sybelle Thomson

12th October: Cassock in the Kitchen

Rev Mary Morrison

26th October: Robert Louis Stevenson

John Macfie

Hope you can join us.

Anna Cunningham

STRONGER LESSONS

by Walt Whitman

Have you learn'd only of those who admired you, and
were tender with you, and stood aside for
you?

Have you not learn'd great lessons from those who reject you,
and brace themselves against you? Or who
treat you with contempt, or dispute the pas-
sage with you?



ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of

Peter Knight, who died on 10th June 2015;

Miss Norma Ronald, DCS, MBE, who died on 30th June 2015.

OCTOBER MAGAZINE

Material for the October issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 18th September 2015** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 4th October**. 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 above address.

CHURCH SERVICE AND MAGAZINE TAPES

We are continuing to record the Church service and the magazine. If you would like to have either or both of these tapes delivered to you each month, or Elders, if you know of anyone who might make use of this, please let one of us know.

Thank you

Joan McKenzie (337 4643); Audrey Riddell (445 2330)

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

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