



Magazine

No. 91 April 2013

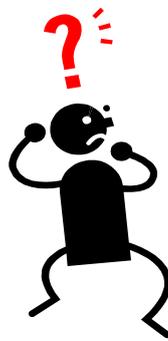
Dear Friends

I have spent a bit of time in recent weeks carrying out chaplain duties for South Morningside Primary School. The Easter service theme this year was The Drama of Easter and the Primary Four children looked at the Easter story from the perspectives of Judas, Peter, and Mary Magdalen. A week or so before, I was on classroom duty and covered in one morning Robert Louis Stevenson and his Morningside connections, the meaning of Lent, the Jacobite rebellions, the difference between Protestants and Roman Catholics (how many of you have tried to define transubstantiation, papal infallibility and the General Assembly before morning coffee to a group of ten year olds!)

The most challenging group was a primary two class who wanted to know about Easter. The questions were incredible – frankly superior to many that have been posed by adults. “How does someone die from crucifixion? What happened to Jesus in the tomb?” The teacher of the six year olds shrugged her shoulders and said, “The Minister will know.” Afterwards, having a remedial coffee in the staff room, one of the class room assistants said that I’d done well, and particularly with those hard questions. “The children haven’t learned that there are some questions you just don’t ask”, she said.

I think that was probably scarier than the children’s questions. I fervently hope that children **never** learn that there are

questions they should never ask. The moment we stop asking questions, stop trying to engage with the world around us, we might as well fold up our tents and melt away into the night. This is also true with our faith. The moment we stop asking questions, and stop searching for answers, the game’s up. It’s why I was disappointed that so few people came to the Lenten sermon question time during Sunday coffee. Are we, as adults, so afraid of asking our questions, recognising our lack of understanding, frightened of not knowing the answers that we avoid opportunities to talk about what we believe and what we doubt? Have we succumbed to the philosophy of ‘there are some questions you just don’t ask...?’



We might not find all the answers to our questions, but we should never be afraid to ask and to journey and quest for answers. Who knows what we might encounter along the way? Who knows what new doors might open, what new horizons of experience might open up before us.

That is what should be exciting about faith. Not that there are killing certainties that will answer every single question, but that through faith, more questions, more moving forward lies ahead of all of us.

Easter asks more questions than gives answers. But know this: the God of love Who brings the experience of resurrection through Jesus to us is prepared to travel with us, step by step along the way. Ask, question, wonder. Grow.

Revd Dr Derek Browning

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2012

The 2012 Annual Report and Accounts for Morningside Parish Church were presented to the Kirk Session on 5th March 2013, and the main points on the underlying financial position of the Church at the end of 2012 are summarised as follows:

Morningside Parish Church has three main sources of income, namely congregational offerings (including legacies), hall rental income and investment income. The total income received in 2012 amounted to £403,578.

In 2012 congregational offerings (Free Will Offering and Open Plate) amounted to £99,402, very slightly up on the 2011 level of giving of £98,711. In addition tax recovered on Gift Aid on eligible donations amounted to a further £24,806.

A Stewardship campaign on giving was conducted throughout 2012, starting in the Spring with the general Church of Scotland appeal letter on giving from the then Moderator Rev David Arnott, followed by a series of magazine articles and culminating in a Pledge Sunday in early December. It is hoped that this will result in a meaningful increase in congregational giving in 2013.

Rental income in 2012 for use of our premises in the Cluny Centre and Church Halls amounted to £114,992, representing an increase of 5.9% over the level of £108,599 achieved in 2011, mainly due to extra rental income from Morningside Primary School from their after school club.

Investment income received from dividends, deposit interest and bank interest amounted to £47,360 compared to £49,316 in 2012. Due to the running deficit of income over expenditure during the year, some £67,000 of the Church's investments in the Church of Scotland Investors Trust had to be realised to meet short term cash flow commitments, resulting in a 4% decrease in investment income for the period. Interest rates on balances held on deposit remained at a historical low, but dividends from holdings in the equity funds held up well over the period.

The total value of investments held in the Church of Scotland Investors Trust on behalf of Morningside Parish Church amounted to a total of £894,298 as at 31 December 2012 compared to a total of £913,327 as at end December 2011. The disposal of investments of £67,357 during the year was offset to a certain extent by the rise in underlying values of the invested funds from the stronger performing stock markets in 2012.

The Stewardship & Finance Committee and Kirk Session are well aware that the selling of capital in order to maintain expenditure and fund the deficit/ balance the books is both undesirable and unsustainable in the long term, and a rigorous cost-saving campaign has been embarked upon.

Other income received in 2012 included legacies totalling £99,135, income from weddings and funerals of £1,940 and sundry income, gifts and donations totalling £17,388. Notable items of sundry income included donations of £2,250 from the Friends of Morningside Church as a 50% contribution to the cost of the choral scholars, and £3,485 from the

Monday and Wednesday Baby and Toddler Groups for use of the Church Hall premises and kitchen. Many gifts in kind were received during the year including the generous weekly donation of fresh flowers for the Sunday services from various members of the congregation, and the kind provision of a brand new wheelchair from the Ladies Group.

The Kirk Session was very grateful for all donations received during 2012.

Total expenditure for the year 2012 amounted to £417,104 (against a total of £402,778 in 2011, representing an increase of 3.6%).

The largest elements of the Church's expenditure for 2012 were our Ministries and Mission allocation (£115,045), heat and light and staff salaries. The cost of generating funds through the use of our premises amounted to £109,491.

One-off costs incurred in 2012 included a final payment of £23,469 for the completion of the New Hall project with the final completion certificate. In addition an extra unexpected charge of £7,245 was taken by our electricity suppliers Scottish Hydro in respect of 15 months' under-reading of the electricity usage in the sanctuary.

With total income of £403,578 and total expenditure of £416,178 there was a net operating deficit of £12,600 for the year 2012 which without the benefit of legacies received during the year would have amounted to considerably more.



The level of the underlying operating deficit at Morningside Parish Church continues to give concern to the Kirk Session and Stewardship & Finance Committee, and initiatives for both increasing our income and reducing our costs have been put in place.

WORK PARTY

The last meeting of this session will be held on 8th April at 10.45am in the Cluny Centre.

My sincere thanks to the ladies who have contributed articles and goods, which have been duly distributed, together with their support during the session.

The meetings restart in October 2013 and I look forward to another session with perhaps a few new members. In the meantime I pass on my regards to all.

If any details are required please contact me.

Margaret Guild 447 6290



EFFECTIVE LISTENING – FOR LIFE, HEALTH AND COMMUNITY



This course may be of interest to anyone who would like to improve their listening skills in everyday situations – to family or friends, folk they visit casually or in the course of their service as elder or church visitor. This is an informal interactive course with a mix of teaching, discussion, modelling and time to practise listening and be listened to. It will run over four sessions on two Saturdays from 10am-4pm 13th and 20th April and will be held in Morningside Parish Church Hall. The cost is £40 (participants are expected to attend all sessions). Further information and application leaflets are available in the vestibule.

Do you **really** listen? Or are you waiting to come in with your own story, or offer a solution, or perhaps you are too distracted by your own concerns, or wanting to ask lots of questions? Could you offer a listening ear when someone just needs to be heard?

CHRISTIAN AID



Just a brief reminder of the approach of Christian Aid Week, which runs from 12th to 18th May. The joint service on the evening of Sunday 12th May at 7.00pm will be held in Fairmilehead Parish Church.

I will be in touch with those who have previously helped with the house to house collection during the week and hopefully we will have their support again this year. There is always room for additional collectors and if you can spare a couple of hours to help in this task I would be very glad to hear from you. Likewise additional help in counting the collection would be appreciated on the evening of Friday 17th May.

Additionally we give notice of our Spring Fair to be held on Saturday 25th May between the hours of 10.00am and 2.00pm. There will be the usual stalls and of course refreshments. We shall be pleased to receive donations of baking books and items for the nearly new stall. A Quiz, price 50p, on Sports and Games is available from committee members.

Bill Reid (466 3111)

FLOWER LIST

	Provided by	Arranged by
Apr 7	Mr & Mrs Chris McNeil	Irene Wilson
14	Ms I Harris	Isobel Paterson
21	Mr & Mrs Bowman	Margaret Gossip
28	Mr Harry Young	Joan Burnet
May 5	Mrs Margaret Thomson	Margaret Thomson



55th BOYS BRIGADE



This month I'm delighted to report that yet again we were asked to host the Edinburgh, Leith and District Junior Musician of the Year Competition. It was held on 1st March and Lesley Fraser kindly agreed to take on the arduous task of judging. Little did she know what she was letting herself in for! Not easy to judge between the wide range of instruments the entrants play - this year we had violins, cellos, drums, chanters, pianos, solo voice, keyboards and recorders. A great cacophony of sound! A winner was chosen - Matthew Steel from the 7th (Colinton Parish Church) Company, a singer with a beautiful voice. We discovered from his dad after the competition



that, only the week before, he had passed an audition for a place in the National Youth Boys' Choir. So well done to him and all the other competitors - the BB like to encourage all their talents. Thanks also to Lesley for being our judge.

I'm also pleased to report another Boy, Leo Green, has joined the Anchor Boys - that's numbers up to six and plenty of room for more. Remember, we have no waiting lists

in any of our age groups. The BB programme is very diverse, so whether you're sporty, musical or arty, why not give us a go - the emphasis is on fun and enjoyment. We also have a copy of the new BB DVD which we'd willingly lend to any interested boys or parents or show on a Sunday at coffee time after the 10.30am service.

Rona McLaren

SATURDAY 27TH APRIL 3-5PM

Morningside Parish Church halls, Braid Road

A warm welcome to all families who would like to join us for this fun event.

Messy Church is a special time for families to enjoy doing craft activities together, play games, share a Bible story and sing a few songs before finishing with a hot meal



The cost is £3 per head, to cover cost of meal and craft materials. Please note children must be accompanied by an adult - this is a family event so please bring your Mum / Dad/ Granny/ Grandpa/ Uncle/Aunt/ Cousin/Carer/Neighbour

Email: lesleyfraserassociate@hotmail.co.uk or call 0131- 449-2447

KIRK SESSION NOTES

At its March meeting the Kirk Session:

- Approved the Congregational accounts
- Received a report from the Education Committee
 - There will be a Messy Church event on Saturday 27th April. The theme will be Noah and his Ark.
 - As the website is reviewed, it is planned to put up the broad themes of the Sunday School teaching plan so that children with their parents can keep up-to-date on any lessons that they have missed.
 - There will be a Uniformed Organisation service at 10.30am on Sunday 28th April. The theme will be 'Helping Others'.
 - At a meeting between the Education Committee and Sunday School parents on 31st January, Sunday School material was discussed. It was agreed that children be given the opportunity to learn hymns and that they would come together at the end of Sunday School to sing, pray and take a collection, a practice which seemed to have fallen by the wayside. It was suggested that the previous week's Sunday School collection would be taken into Church by a child or children accompanying the Elder bringing in the "coppers" collection. It was agreed that it was important that Sunday School was fun as well as informative.
 - The Baby & Toddler groups continue to be well supported but have a very high turnover as they seem to be attended mostly only for the period of maternity leave.
 - Arising from the Parents' evening there are three new volunteers for Sunday School - two as teachers and one as helper. Disclosure process is taking eight weeks.

The Session discussed the recent Family Communion and reckoned it to be a good success. There was, however, confusion amongst some members of the congregation who had not read the intimations or the magazine article and not remembered that the individual cup would be served in the front half of the church, and the common cup at the back half of the church, despite this being notified several weeks in advance. The Session agreed that in future **ALL** 10.30am communions will follow the practice that the individual cup will be offered in the front half of the church and the common cup in the back half of the church. This will be intimated well in advance, and duty elders at the door will remind members when they attend the next communion in June.



Presbytery Elders commission – Session agreed to the nomination of Robin Stimpson as Presbytery elder and Chris McNeil as Freely Elected elder

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

As we have been having a "reely" good time, we are meeting in April on Wednesdays 10th 17th and 24th in the new Church Hall at 7.30pm. Anyone who would like to join us will be made most welcome.

Catrina Reid (466 3111)

ANNUAL OUTREACH BEETLE DRIVE – SATURDAY 27TH APRIL



Venue: New Hall, Morningside Parish Church

Tickets: Adults £5.00 Children £2.50. Refreshments available to purchase on the night.

Prizes

All monies raised will go to support the works of the Edinburgh Clothing Store, Edinburgh Headway & Scottish Love in Action.

MUSICAL NOTES

Very few of us come to the evening service, which is in many ways a pity. Its quiet, intimate atmosphere offers something very special, and quite different from the normal, rather more formal morning service. But perhaps we are simply following a national trend...



However, on **Sunday 21st April**, at least, I would urge you to consider being a “twicer.” For that evening, the c.35-strong Chamber Choir of George Watson’s College, under their Director, Steven Griffin, come to share the service with us. As an anthem they will be performing Benjamin Britten’s “Rejoice in the Lamb” (joined, we hope, by a few members of our own choir.) This cantata-scale setting of words by the C18 madman/poet Christopher Smart is as fresh today as when Britten wrote it, in 1943, and is the ideal vehicle for this very fine young choir to show what they can do.

There has long been an unofficial “link” between George Watson’s and MPC (two of our present Choral Scholars are from there), and it would be good if as many folk as possible were able to come and support and encourage (and enjoy!) The Britten is just ONE of the pieces that will be sung...

Morley Whitehead

HOLY LAND 2014

There will be a meeting for those who are interested in the possibility of a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in November 2014. A representative from McCabe’s, the specialist pilgrimage trip organisers, will be present and there will be an opportunity at the meeting to discuss what might be involved. Attendance at the meeting does not commit you to the trip – so please come along whether you are definitely interested in coming or still not sure!

The pilgrimage will be jointly shared between ourselves, Greenbank Parish Church and Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church. Interest has been expressed by members of all three congregations so we are very hopeful that the pilgrimage will take place.

The meeting is on **Tuesday 28th May** at 7.30pm in the new halls.

FRIENDS OF MORLICH HOUSE

The annual fund raising coffee morning will be held on Saturday 27th April 2013 from 10am.-- 12noon in Morningside United Church hall. (enter from Chamberlain Rd.) There will be stalls for gifts, home baking and gardening. The theme this year is "Gardening".

Tickets priced £2.00 can be bought from Fiona Watt 447-9648 and Marion Cooper 447-7149
Your continued support for this event will be greatly appreciated. Thank you

ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to new member Mrs Ann Ramsay, of 25/6 Mid Steil.

Please include in your prayers the family and friends of the following members who died recently:-

12 th March	Miss Lois Bain, of 87 Cluny Gardens
12 th March	Mrs Catherine Dorward, of Cluny Lodge
19 th March	Mrs Catriona MacNaughton, of 1 Comiston Place

MAY MAGAZINE

Material for the May issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 19th April 2013** and it will be available for **distribution on Sunday 5th May**. Contributions may be put in her pigeonhole at church, sent by post to 1 Swanston Road, Edinburgh, EH10 7BB, or sent by email to alison@riddell2.plus.com.

MRS DARWIN

By Carol Ann Duffy

7 April 1852

Went to the Zoo.

I said to Him –

Something about that Chimpanzee over there reminds me of you.

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