



# Magazine

No. 97 December 2013

*Dear Friends*

Whilst for most people Christmas is a time of fun and laughter and happy memories, there are a number of people for whom this time of year can be difficult. The loss of a loved one makes the happiness of others sometimes more difficult to bear; illness, or unemployment, or isolation from family and friends make some people want to hide away from all the noise and bustle. Elvis Presley may have sung about a 'Blue Christmas', but in recent years a number of churches, recognising the toughness of this time of year, have started to introduce 'Blue Christmas' or 'Longest Night' services for those who struggle with the Christmas Season. The service welcomes those who need to know that there are times and places when you don't have to put on a happy face simply to please others, and will often include quiet and meditative music, the lighting of candles in memory of others, and a time of stillness – usually in an evening time. They're not miserable, but are thoughtful as well as peaceful and gentle, and for many people that can make a powerful difference.

A Blue Christmas is not only for those who are sad, or lonely, or afraid, it also recognises something of the struggle that

Joseph and Mary and Jesus had – something often overlooked. Childbirth is certainly a wonder, but not something that comes without cost to the family, physically and emotionally, to say nothing of the sleepless nights. I've never particularly believed the line in the carol that tells us, "but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes." If He was real, and He was, He cried!

This Christmas time I am asking all of you to watch out for those who maybe have

good reason not to be entering into the full swing of things this year, to be gentle towards them, and to include them as far as they wish. A little word of kindness, or an invitation, or small gift shows that you care and counts for more than you realise. Might I also add if you are coming to the Watchnight service, when we have that moment just after Midnight when we wish each other a

Merry Christmas, try to speak not only to those you know around you, but also those you don't – it might be the only contact somebody will have for a whole twenty-four hours. You can make such a difference – believe me.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas, white, blue or otherwise, and a happy and peaceful New Year.

Revd Dr Derek Browning

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR AT MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH

At this time of year there are a number of lovely services to attend, and some different timing patterns, but I hope you and your families and friends will be able to attend as many services as possible.

Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	1pm – 4pm Messy Christmas! A children's event <b>(in the Church Halls)</b>
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am Early Service 10.30am Christmas Family Service 6.30pm Evening Service
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	7pm Uniformed Organisations - Christingle service <b>(in the Church)</b>
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am Early Service 10.30am Lessons and Carols followed by mulled wine and cake 6.30pm Evening Service
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	7.30pm Christmas Carol Sing-along, with the Edinburgh Telephone Choir <b>(in the Church)</b>
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	(No 9.30am Early Service) 10.30am Congregational Christmas Carol Service 6.30pm Evening Service
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30pm Family Service 11.00pm Carols by Candlelight 11.30pm Watchnight Service
<b>Christmas Day</b>	
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am Family Service
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	(No 9.30am Early Service) 10.30am Morning Worship (No 6.30pm Evening Service)
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2014	9.30am Early Service 10.30am Morning Worship 6.30pm Evening Service (with Communion) 7pm Prayers for Healing

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS



Our traditional and very popular Christmas refreshments event takes place in the Church hall on 15<sup>th</sup> December following the Lessons and Carols Service. In addition to mulled wine, tea and coffee, Christmas cake, stollen, mince pies and shortbread will be served along with festive chocolate treats for the children. Do put the date in your diary and come along with family and friends – everyone welcome. A donation of about £3 per head will ensure that costs are covered.

### FLOWER LIST

		Provided by	Arranged by
Dec	1	Mrs E Munro	Isobel Paterson
	8	Flower Committee	Flower Committee
	15	Flower Committee	Flower Committee
	22	Flower Committee	Flower Committee
	29	Flower Committee	Flower Committee
Jan	5	Flower Committee	Flower Committee
	12	Lucinda Mackay	Anne Armour
	19	Frances Bruce	Joan Burnett
	26	Isabel Stuart	Margaret Gossip



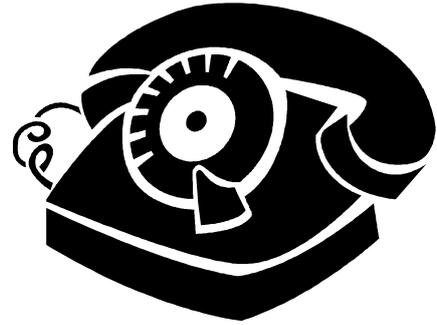
The list for 2014 is now in the vestibule. If you would like to supply flowers one Sunday, please put your name and phone number against your chosen date. The cost is £40 and cheques are to be made payable to 'Morningside Parish Church Flower Fund'. If you are a UK taxpayer and can give by Gift Aid, 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.

Have you looked at the Website yet?

[www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)

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

**THE WEDNESDAY (EVENING) CLUB (AID FOR  
THE DISABLED) AND  
THE EDINBURGH TELEPHONE CHOIR**



For many years the Edinburgh Telephone Choir was on the list of entertainers for the Wednesday (Evening) Club and, at the suggestion of the Rev. George Munro, this became the now established Carol Concert. The disabled men thoroughly enjoy the singing in the company of relatives, friends and members of the congregation. Their evening is rounded off with tea, sausage rolls and cakes, not forgetting a visit from Santa, in the new halls.

This year's Carol sing-a-long, led by the choir's new musical director, Mr Jerry Gregson, is on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, at 7.30pm in the church.

At the grand piano will be the Telephone Choir's resident accompanist, Marion McPherson, who is one of the organists at Mortonhall Crematorium and is the organist at Stockbridge Parish Church. We are delighted to have Nancy Cook, organist at Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, joining us again to lead the community carols.

We hope you will come along and join us to help make this a memorable evening for the disabled men, and yourselves.

A retiring collection is taken to assist with the costs incurred by the various outings the men enjoy in place of their former annual holiday at Biggar.

Eleanor and Bill Watt  
Edinburgh Telephone Choir

**ADVENT STUDY GROUPS**

An Advent Group will meet for a time of Bible study, reflection and fellowship on four Monday mornings in the lounge at 14 Maxwell Street, arriving around 10:15am for a start at 10:30am, finishing by 12 noon. Anyone interested in coming for all or any of the mornings is most welcome to join. Please contact Marie Ogilvie (668 1759) to register your interest. The first day is Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November, then 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December. The title is *Another World is Possible, Another World is Here*, and week one's theme is "Pick up your trowel".

Another group using the same material will meet at 7pm from Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November in the Cluny Centre. If the evening meetings suit you better, please contact Nicola White for details, on [nicolawhyte30@gmail.com](mailto:nicolawhyte30@gmail.com) or 07803513389.

## WORK PARTY

A meeting has been arranged for Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 at 10.30am/10.45am in the Cluny Centre. There will be a display of articles completed by members, including bed socks, knee rugs, shrugs, children's hats and other items.

This occasion will be a Christmas Coffee Morning for members and anyone else who attends.



The next meeting will be held in February 2014. No meeting is scheduled for January.

I take the opportunity of thanking the ladies of the Work Party most sincerely for their continued support and in wishing them all the compliments of the Season.

Margaret Guild

## MESSY CHURCH

Join us in the Church Halls from 1-4pm on Saturday 7th December for an afternoon of messy and exciting crafts, singing, tree decorating, stories, games, surprises and party food to explore the Christmas story and celebrate together!

All children aged 3 and above are welcome, as are all parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, carers and friends- but no pets please! This promises to be a really fun afternoon for all the family. Tell all your friends and neighbours!

For more information, please contact Nicola on [nicolawhyte30@gmail.com](mailto:nicolawhyte30@gmail.com) or 07803513389.

## QUIZ NIGHT

We are looking for teams to take part in a quiz night to raise funds for the Church, Edinburgh Clothing Store, Edinburgh Headway and Scottish Love in Action

Date – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014

Time – 19.00 – 21.00

Venue – New Hall

Tickets – Adults £5.00 Children £2.50

Prizes will be awarded to the winning team & refreshments will be available to purchase on the night.

So let's get our Eggheads on and hope we aren't the weakest link!

## LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group meets in the new hall at Morningside Parish church at 7.45pm on a Monday. The following are the dates and topics for our next meetings.

2<sup>nd</sup> December            Life on the rocks                            Prof. Stuart Munro, Scientific Director of Dynamic Earth, speaking about the Formation and Evolution of The World

16<sup>th</sup> December            Christmas party for members

2014

13<sup>th</sup> January                Sundials                                        Alastair Hunter

27<sup>th</sup> January                Talk on the Upper Royal Mile            Frances Morton

All welcome, both members and visitors.

Anna Cunningham, Secretary



## MUSICAL NOTES

A belated welcome to our new choir scholars, two of whom introduce themselves below:-

Donald Taylor is a baritone and is currently in his final year at George Watson's College, where he is both an academic and music scholar. Apart from singing, he also plays piano and is an enthusiastic violinist, performing regularly as a soloist as well as in chamber ensembles and orchestras. Furthermore, Donald is also a keen conductor and composer, having recently written a violin concerto that he was privileged enough to have performed within school. Academically, Donald's interests lie in mathematics and the sciences, and he is hoping to study the former at university. In his spare time, he enjoys playing tennis, cycling and meeting up with his friends. He has loved singing at Morningside Parish Church and is looking forward to the music planned for the rest of the session.

Tim Matson says that it is a pleasure to be singing this year in Morningside on Sunday mornings. He is currently in his third year studying Music at Edinburgh University and really enjoying the course. Many of you may be more familiar with the back of his head in church on a Sunday as in Morley's absence he has been given the joy of guiding the choir from week to week. This has been a great experience for him and he is very appreciative of the choir's patience with him. Aside from his course he spends a lot of time in amateur theatre working as a sound and lighting technician and hopes to continue with this professionally once he graduates.

## ROLL CHANGES

We welcome new members:-

James Sneddon of Flat 7, 4 Rattray Drive,  
Louise Marshall of 20/59 Craiglea Place, and  
Janet Forgan of 170 Mayfield Road.

If you happen to meet any of them (or anyone else you don't know or think might be new!) do say hello.

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of Mrs Ella Campbell, of 22/2 East Comiston, following her death on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

## LIFE AND WORK SUBSCRIPTIONS

A reminder to members that subscriptions of £20 are now due. Many thanks to those who have already paid so promptly.

Joan McKenzie and Audrey Riddell

The December issue contains the following articles:-

### **Christmas 2013**

The journey and impact of a Blythswood Christmas shoebox.  
Christmas prayer

Reflections from the Rt Rev Lorna Hood, Ron Ferguson, the Very Rev Dr James Simpson and the Rev Scott McKenna

A new resource from ALTERnativity

The Big Question: What is the most moving Christmas service you have attended?

### **'God Can Do Miracles'**

The work of HIV/AIDS charities in Scotland and Africa

### **A Safe Place**

Douglas Brown describes the challenges facing an adult with autism

### **Saving Lives and Preventing Misery**

The part of the Church of Scotland in the fight against TB

### **A Distinctive Church**

John R Hume visits a Gothic-style treasure in Lockerbie

### **Changing Church**

How a Perth church is bridging the gap between traditional and contemporary

### **Honouring a Role Model**

The role of a Fife Sunday School teacher in a high profile award to Malala Yousafzai, the teenager who was shot by the Taliban for campaigning for girls' education.

### **A Musical Leap of Faith**

The Rev Dr Robin Hill, founder of the Heart and Soul Swing Band, explains how a plan to jazz up old hymns became a swinging reality.

## THE EDINBURGH CLOTHING STORE (SC039409)

[www.edinburghclothingstore.org](http://www.edinburghclothingstore.org)



I would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who has supported the Clothing Store over the past year. It is essential that each year we raise running costs of £23,000 to pay the rent , heating , insurance etc (but no salaries and the volunteers even refuse expenses). We also always need clothing, bedding, curtains and towels to give out and we need volunteers to do the actual work. On all fronts Morningside Parish Church has been and is fantastic!

8 of our members help every week and 2 more are about to start which is wonderful.

You are also very good at donating what we need but never have enough of –

- Men's jackets, shoes, jumpers and T shirts.
- Teenager's clothes
- Children's clothes between the ages of 2 – 6 years
- Bath Towels

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November we had our third annual Coffee Morning. It was a tremendously busy and happy event which raised the amazing total of £2,374.90.

Thank you again very much for your on-going support.

Fiona Stimpson.



## THE GUILD

At our first November meeting, Robin Hill gave us a very interesting talk about the project being supported by the Guild this session. Run by the World Mission Council, 'Out of Africa..... into Malta' addresses issues faced by refugees escaping from a large range of tragic circumstances and coming to Malta to seek hope. St Andrews Church of Scotland in Malta helps to support those who have fled from Africa to the island. We were all unaware that this was a problem until shown a map of the area and the relationship with the position of Malta in the Mediterranean. The Church helps many of the refugees and their families by teaching English, providing those who have emerged from detention with the basics of life, and helping those with babies and young children.

Unfortunately, the Cook Shop in Morningside was unable to attend our next meeting but Gretta Millar, one of our committee members, presided over a very pleasant afternoon of chat and recitations of Scots poems. This was enjoyed by all who attended.

In December, our final meeting of 2013 is on the 10<sup>th</sup> when we have our Christmas celebration. This will, as usual, be in the Church Hall at 2.15pm and all who wish to join us will be very welcome.

Kate Stewart

## MAGAZINE BY EMAIL

As you should be well aware from articles elsewhere in this magazine and previous issues, we are making every effort to reduce costs in all aspects of our church's life and activities in order to tackle our deficit. One way in which you can contribute to this is by taking the magazine by email rather than in printed form. If you are able and willing to do this, please email the church office at the address at the foot of the back page. **If however you are being sent the magazine by email and would prefer to read it on paper, please let the church office know so that we can ensure the correct number are printed.**

## SOUP & APPLE CRUMBLE LUNCH

This was a jolly and sociable event when £450 was raised for the Rock Trust, the charity that deals specifically with Edinburgh's young homeless people. All ingredients are donated so my thanks to those who have given generously of their time and money in this way. Thanks, also, to those who attended the event and to the youngsters from the youth organisations who helped so effectively and so cheerfully.



Isobel Paterson



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - CITY OF EDINBURGH COMMITTEE BIBLE STUDIES 2014



All meetings are held at 121 George Street, Edinburgh at 10.30 a.m. The material is written by the Christian Women of Egypt and the theme this year is "Streams in the Desert".

### Preparation Day

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February

Speaker:- Rev. Mike Parker  
(Formerly attached to the Diocese Of Egypt)

### Bible Studies

Study One:

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January

John Ch 4, v1 to 41  
Speaker:- Rev. Dean Fostekew  
(Rector, Church of the Good Shepherd)

Study Two:

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Genesis Ch 42, v1 To 7 and Ch 46, v1to 7  
Matthew Ch 1, v 18 to 21 and Ch 2, v13 to 20  
Speaker:- Rev. Sue Kirkbride  
(Minister, Saughtonhall URC)

## FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

Material for the February issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2014** and it will be available for **distribution on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**. **There is no magazine in January**. 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](mailto:alison@riddell2.plus.com).

### **What the Donkey Saw**

*By U A Fanthorpe*

No room in the inn, of course,  
And not that much in the stable,  
What with the shepherds, Magi,  
Mary,  
Joseph, the heavenly host –  
Not to mention the baby  
Using our manger as a cot.  
You couldn't have squeezed  
another cherub in  
For love or money.

Still, in spite of the  
overcrowding,  
I did my best to make them feel  
wanted.  
I could see the baby and I  
Would be going places together.



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**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL READERS**