



Magazine

No. 89 February 2013

Dear Friends

As a student of Church history, I can assure you that though we might feel that the church is under siege at the moment over a variety of headline news issues, the Church has always been under siege by popular society. When people with strong opinions on important topics clash it is sometimes hard for us to know which side we support, largely because there are often good points being made on both sides. We hear a lot about the rigid ideologies that polarise people and impede not only the work of the church, but the work of politicians, charity workers, teachers and other people who seek to serve our community but are often caught in the crossfire of different and strongly held opinions. Ideological differences are at the heart of

so much dissent and dysfunction in our communities. And yet, as divisive as ideologies can be, what kind of world would we live in if no one was driven by any clear set of principles or values? What would a world of neutrality look like? Would anything ever change, or would we perpetually accommodate ourselves to the realities of a stagnant status quo?

Maybe our problem is not ideology itself, but the kind of ideology with which we choose to be aligned. Some ideologies cause conflict because they seek to exclude; other ideologies cause conflict because they seek to include. According

to the gospel, Christ came not to bring peace (the absence of tension), but a sword (the presence of principled conflict). As a result, He made lots of enemies. And for all who tried to remain above the fray by wishing Him well from the side-lines while refusing to take up His fight, Christ was quite clear: "If you're not working with Me, you are working against Me. If you're not My co-combatant, you are My declared enemy." There is no nice place for neutrality in the battle for bodies, minds and souls.

In my own life, I've found that people who admire just causes but refuse to commit to just causes are really the enemies of just causes. American comedian and avowed atheist Bill Maher has said: "Jesus doesn't need any more fans. Jesus needs more followers." I think I'd rather have the commitment of



an atheist to that idea than the applause of some religious side-liners who are essentially committed to nothing except doing as little as they can get away with and expect others to "carry the can" and make things happen.

The English philosopher Edmund Burke wrote: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." What victories are we ceding to darkness today by our reluctance and/or refusal to engage? If we think that the Church is not as vibrant or as attractive as it could be, how vibrant and attractive are we in our faith?

Revd Dr Derek Browning



WHAT'S THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND EVER DONE FOR US....?

At a recent Kirk Session meeting – whilst we were debating the challenges of our budget for 2013 – one elder asked the question, “What’s the Church of Scotland ever done for us...?”

We need to remember that we are part of the national Church of Scotland and that the Church’s work covers the whole of our country, providing the ordinances of religion to all parts of the country, and a few places overseas. Very often there is a danger that we think of ourselves as a single congregation, when in fact we belong to this larger, national body. The Church of Scotland is made up of over a thousand parishes. Many of these parishes, particularly in rural and inner city areas are not able to sustain a ministry by themselves, and they are supported by the allocations made by congregations across the country. The Church of Scotland is also involved in other areas of social care and welfare, providing help and support for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

That being said, there has been a growing concern that whilst we know it is a privilege to be able to give to the work of the wider Church when we are able to afford to do so, what happens when our own work in our own parish is put in jeopardy when allocations to the central Church continue to claim a considerable part of our income. Alongside this there is a general uncertainty about what the Church of Scotland actually does and a lack of clarity about where the money is spent, and why. To help begin to address this, there will be a special “Any Questions” style evening on **Thursday 14th February at 7.30pm in the Church Halls**. A panel has been put together who represent different areas of the wider Church’s life:

- The Very Revd David Arnott – a former Moderator of the General Assembly, formerly minister of Hope Park Church, St Andrews.
- The Revd Dr George Whyte – Presbytery Clerk of Edinburgh and the Depute Clerk to the General Assembly, formerly minister of Colinton Parish Church.
- The Revd Alan Gibson – recently appointed Head of Stewardship for the Church of Scotland, formerly minister of the United Parish Church of Carstairs.
- Mr David Stewart – Vice Convener of the Ministries Council and an elder at Corstorphine St Anne’s.

If you would like to submit questions in advance for consideration and discussion by the panel, please put your question in the Minister’s pigeonhole at Church, or email him at minister@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk We hope to cover a wide range of topics so short, sharp questions will be preferred! Questions are being requested in advance to ensure that we cover as wide as possible an area without too much repetition.



FAMILY COMMUNION – SUNDAY 3RD MARCH, 10.30AM

A communion service is an opportunity for the Christian community to gather together to worship and, hopefully, experience a sense of awe, warmth and welcome. The Kirk Session has agreed that one of the quarterly communion services at 10.30am would be a family communion. This service will be at the 3rd March communion.



On that Sunday, the 9.30am communion service will take place as usual, in the Church, and in its traditional format. The theme will be God's Patience. The service will last, as normal, around half an hour.

The 10.30am service will involve the children who will be welcome to stay throughout the service. During the service we will learn again the story of communion, with the children helping to gather some of the elements we use in the communion service – the cloth, bread, a plate, 'wine' and a communion cup – and help set the Table. Following a form of service that is taken from the Jewish Seder service – where children ask questions in a family setting at the Jewish Passover – our children, with their families, will ask questions to which answers will be given, the point being that through the questions and answers we build an idea of what we are doing at communion, and why we are doing it.

The congregation at the March communion are asked to note that there will be a few changes to make this service accessible for the children. Instead of the usual communion wine, at this service the whole congregation will have grape juice to drink in both the common and individual cups. Also, because the children with their families will be encouraged to sit at the front of the church, at this service the individual cups will be served in the front half of the church, with those wishing to have the common cup sitting at the back of the church in the pews there.

Parents will be encouraged to sit with their children and, if they are willing, come forward with the children during the parts of the service where the children are involved. Parents should also feel comfortable to take their children out of the sanctuary if at any point their child is finding the service too long or is becoming too restless! We are hoping that on the Sunday before the March communion, 24th February, the children will be talked through the aspects of the communion service at Sunday School. Letters of invitation and information will be sent out to parents of Sunday School children in February.

The service was very successful last year when we tried it for the first time. I hope you will welcome this service, and the children and families who will be taking part, and see it as a wonderful way to include the whole church family, young and old alike, at the central meal of our Christian faith.

Revd Dr Derek Browning

All members of the congregation are invited to attend the Communion on Sunday 3rd March at 9.30am or 10.30am.

The Lord's Table is open to all who know, love and follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Thanksgiving Service is at 6.30pm



LENT CHALLENGE

For those people who follow the Christian year, we will soon be entering the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, 13th February. In the popular imagination Lent is a period of penitence and of denial, people talk about 'giving things up for Lent'. A more imaginative and possibly more faithful approach to Lent is to take something up that you wouldn't normally do to enhance your spiritual life.

The Christian faith is about acquiring and applying knowledge about God and the way He encourages us to live our lives. This year, in the period from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, consider taking up one or more of these challenges:

- Read a chapter of the Bible each day – try one of the gospels, or the book of Psalms to begin with.
- Read Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan's book, **The Last Week** – and discover what the gospels really teach about Jesus' final days in Jerusalem.
- Read Dietrich Bonhoeffer's **The Cost of Discipleship**.
- Desmond Tutu's **God has a Dream**.
- Read Timothy Radcliffe's book, **What is the point of being a Christian?**
- Read Jonathan Sacks (the Chief Rabbi) book, **To heal a fractured world – the ethics of responsibility**.
- Read Brian D McLaren's **A New Kind of Christianity**.
- Attend the evening services in Church
- Use the Church of Scotland's annual prayer guide, 'Pray Now' each day.

There will also be an opportunity after some of the Sundays in Lent to meet with the Minister in the new church hall after the 10.30am to reflect on questions relating to that morning's sermon. Details announced in the intimations.

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 few meetings.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|----------------|
| 11 th Feb. | 500 miles | Olivia Giles |
| | How Olivia overcame losing her limbs to meningitis. | |
| 16 th Feb. | Saturday coffee morning 10-12 am in the church hall. | |
| 25 th Feb. | Life and Work | Thomas Baldwin |
| | Talk by the editor on the history, how it works today and the future of Life and Work. | |

All visitors most welcome. This includes gentlemen.

Anna Cunningham, Secretary



CHRISTIAN AID

As in previous years, Christian Aid has invited supporters to recognise Lent in a slightly different way from the norm of "giving up" things for Lent. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday which is 13th February and runs till Easter on 31st March.

Instead of "giving up" things we like such as chocolate, why not make Lent count in a fresh way with a "Count your Blessings Calendar" from the Welcome Desk in the Vestibule. Your particular contribution can be sent direct to Christian Aid reflecting on giving thanks for the blessings in your lives and also encouraging you to step out in prayer and action to help change the lives of the world's poorest communities.

Last year Christian Aid raised a sum of £250,000 from the calendars.

As a reminder, Christian Aid Week runs this year from Sunday 12th to Saturday 18th May. I trust that Christian Aid can count on the support of those who have helped with Door to Door house collection in the past and of course additional helpers in this task will be very welcome. The Joint Evening Service is to be held at Fairmilehead Parish Church on 12th May.

For those who enjoy a gentle walk with a purpose, you can join the Forth Bridge Cross which will take place on Saturday 20th April.

A Photography Exhibition between 3-23 February will be held in the Edinburgh Filmhouse Café where photographs and artwork by children of the Gaza Strip will be shown highlighting the issue of child labour and showcasing the work through our partner, The Culture and Free Thought Association. Why not visit this Exhibition and have a cuppa if you are in town on any of those weeks.

Bill Reid

THANK YOU!

Just to say a sincere thank you to you all for the good wishes and cheque that I received on my retirement. I have many happy memories of my time at Cluny Centre and will miss it.

John Shields

.....AND ANOTHER.....

GIFT SERVICE



At Christmas, the congregation provided gifts for 86 children and 14 men, a wonderful response to the needs of others. Thank you all for your generosity. Caroline Loudon of Challenger Children posted all the parcels to the children before she went off to Australia on 9th December and has asked me to pass on her thanks to you all and to the lady who very kindly paid for the postage.

Hazel Knight

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

When the minister suggested we might serve coffee every Sunday instead of once a month, I told him I did not think this would be very popular and reluctantly agreed to give it a trial for a few weeks. How wrong I was! Every week the hall is filled with members and visitors alike, all enjoying a friendly get together following the service.



However, this has only been made possible by a very willing group of volunteers from within the congregation. We have 32 people who make up 8 teams. Each week, a team turns up to provide coffee for those attending the early service, then for the choir who are in need of refreshment following their practice in the Church and, finally, for the main service. When everyone else has gone home, the team is still there cheerfully clearing up. Sincere thanks are due to all of these volunteers for providing what has now become an important part of Sunday mornings.

If anyone would like to become part of this worthy group, please speak to me or any member of a team on Sunday. You will be given a very warm welcome. It would be wonderful if we could add another team to the list.

The provision of coffee has been of significance in more ways than one. In 2012, we raised £1260 for the Church charities from the donations received. A special word of thanks is due to the Friends of Morningside who so generously provided us with two coffee machines. These machines are in use every single week in the year.

The members of the Social Committee continue to cater for all the special occasions throughout the year and in 2012, which was an important year for the Minister and the congregation, they did us proud.

Margaret Thomson, Convenor of the Social Committee

THE GUILD



On Tuesday 8th January, the Guild started 2013 with a very uplifting and stimulating talk about deafness by Revd. Sarah Kilbey entitled "Sounds of Silence". Sarah, herself profoundly deaf, has worked tirelessly for the deaf for many years, supporting them and teaching lip reading. She told us all about the facilities and devices now available to help the deaf and make life easier for them. Her audience gave her rapt attention (not a nodding head to be seen!) and were reassured by her many positive encouragements.

At our next meeting on 5th February, Marie Ogilvie will talk about her return visit to Jalapur, Pakistan, last year. Following this on 18th February, Eric Melvin will give a talk on "Edinburgh and the Act of Union 1707", a very interesting topic in the present political climate.

All meetings are held in the Church Hall at 2.15 pm and all those interested will be made most welcome.

Kate Stewart



WEDNESDAY CLUB FOR THE DISABLED

On behalf of the men of the Wednesday Club, I would like to thank those members of the Congregation who provided presents for Santa to hand out during our supper following the Carol Concert given by the Telephone Choir on 19th December 2012. Given the feedback received from the men, the presents were most acceptable and much appreciated.

The new session started on 16th January when we watched and enjoyed the DVD, Ice Age. The 23rd saw the Water of Leith Conservation Trust give an illustrated talk on the work involved in maintaining and sustaining the river as a place of beauty to be enjoyed by all. On the 30th, a small group made up from members of the Telephone Choir provided us with a most enjoyable evening of songs – a small selection, I would imagine, from their large repertoire.

The programme for February and March is a combination of slide shows and musical evenings, the latter covering a fairly wide spectrum from Folk/Country & Western to Light Opera to music from the stage & screen. No doubt at some point during the session, we will have bingo and domino evenings.

As usual, if anyone can, or knows someone who can, provide us with an evening's entertainment, please get in touch with either Ian Hastie (447 4533) or myself (449 2866).

Charles S Wilson MBE, Club Leader



The heart within Morningside

Greetings All, I hope this finds you well rested after the frantic preparations for Christmas and the New Year. I am glad to be able to tell you that things are starting to come together re the coffee shop repair and decoration. After a slow start we have chosen lights, colour scheme and are replacing the furniture and carpets, so next time you come it will be a whole new experience!



We are hoping to open at the beginning of January (if possible – there's a lot to do) but would like to have an official "Grand Opening" a few weeks later so watch this space because you're all invited.

The Christmas Fayre held early in December was a great success with £700 profit made. We are really grateful to all the Open Door supporters who sent raffle and tombola prizes and made home baking to sell. On a cold frosty morning, many supporters came for a bargain and they weren't disappointed. So we wish to say a big thank you to everyone who made our morning so successful and thereby enabling us to continue our work. Have a wonderful Christmas and may the New Year bring all you hope for.

God Bless.

Sandra Dixon, Manager

DIFFERENT VOICES




National Music Event 2013

An event for everyone interested in using music to enhance the life of church and community.

Friday 15th March 7:00pm – Saturday 16th March 18:00pm
St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh.

- > **Noel Richards** – International Worship Leader, and writer of 'All Heaven Declares' *Enabling Contemporary Worship*
- > **John L. Bell** – of the Wild Goose Resource Group and Iona Community *Singing for Everyone*
- > **Paul Mealor** – Reader in Composition at the University of Aberdeen and Composer of 'Ubi Caritas' for the Royal Wedding Ceremony. *Composition in Worship and Outreach*
- > **Fischy Music** – Peerless Pioneers of Children's music for churches, schools and families. *Singing with Children*

 **The Church of Scotland**
Mission and Discipleship Council

Tickets: Friday evening 7pm to Saturday 6pm
Standard rate - £40 per person

To book contact the Mission and Discipleship Council on 0131 225 5722 or enquiriesDV@cofscotland.org.uk.

Registration includes all three workshops and lunch.

Friday: Alternative Evening Worship Event (7pm-9pm)

Saturday: Different Voices Music Conference:-

Saturday evening: Concert: 7pm to 9pm
Cost: £7.50

For more detailed information please visit http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/music_for_worship

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING: AN INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

A six week course examining:

Theology: what is it?

The Son: the person and work of Christ

Scripture: what is it and what is it for?

The Spirit: the Holy Spirit and the Church

The Father: creation, providence and the problem of evil

Contemporary challenges to Christian faith

Tuesdays 12th February – 19th March, 7.30 – 9.15pm at Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church, 1A Mayfield Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2NG. Tea and coffee available from 7.15pm. Each session includes a lecture and discussion led by New College postgraduates specialising in their fields. No background knowledge necessary – open to all. Cost £15. To book, email pte.edinburgh@gmail.com Presented by the Partnership for Theological Education in Edinburgh (PTEE), which seeks to promote theological education by putting scholars and postgraduate students at the service of the community.

STILL SUPPORTING FAIRTRADE

Morningside Parish Church sought and was granted Fairtrade Church status in autumn 2007. The three goals a Fairtrade Church must fulfil are

1. Use Fairtrade tea and coffee after services and at all meetings for which they have responsibility.
2. Move forward on using other Fairtrade products such as sugar, biscuits and fruit.
3. Promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and during the year through events, worship and other activities whenever possible.

At the November meeting of the Kirk Session, it was agreed that the monthly Fairtrade stall would be discontinued. This does not affect our Fairtrade Church status (provided we continue to meet the three goals; if you are responsible for organising refreshments at any church meeting or event, please note condition number one). The stimulus for us to support Fairtrade came from members of the Bible Class (or *Inspire*, as it soon became known), and they took turns to run the stall at our monthly after-service coffee. Our thanks go to those involved over the years, namely Margaret and Carol McCairney, Katie and Iona Armour, Sarah and Libby Clapham, Kirsty and Mairi Shaw (and mum Laura), Sarah Wilson, Harry and Tim Voge, Peter Goddard and Nicky Smith.

There are many more Fairtrade foods available in most supermarkets now, and you will also find items in Oxfam shops, as well as the two main sources for a wider range of goods (including cards, crafts and gifts) at the One World Shop below St John's Church at the West End, or at the Just World Shop on Portobello High Street (where Morag and Jim Baird have been so very helpful to us over these years). If you would like any larger packs (eg of sugar sticks, or tea-bags) please ask me as I will be collecting these as required for the Sunday and Wednesday coffee teams. Our 15th Brownie pack have been learning about global issues, and requested a Fairtrade stall in November, so we went out with a grand finish.

There is usually a stall at the spring and autumn Christian Aid Fairs, and at the annual Charity Christmas Card sale at Greenbank early in November. Fairtrade Fortnight is from 25th February to 10th March in 2013, so look out for ideas for supporting this initiative. You can

get more information about the issues for producers on the website of the Fairtrade Foundation (www.fairtrade.org.uk)



Bunting decorated by Sunday School and others for Fair Trade Fortnight 2011

Finally, a big thank you to those of you who so faithfully supported the stall! In the first years *Inspire* were able to use the monies raised through the discount to support other projects of their choice. Latterly the money has gone into the fund for our chosen church charities.

Marie Ogilvie

WORK PARTY

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 4th February 2013 in Cluny Centre at 10.45am.

In December 2012 the finished articles produced by the ladies were distributed to our list of recipients. They are:

- (a) St Catharines Convent (Homeless Project)
- (b) CHAS (Children's Hospice Association Scotland)
- (c) Braeside House (Home for the Blind)
- (d) NHS (District Nurses)
- (e) Fish 'n' Chip Babies - Guild initiative (Africa)



Since the handing over of our knee rugs, bed socks, children's wear, jumpers and hats, I have received thank you mail for these knitted and crocheted donations which are very much appreciated and put to good use.

I take this opportunity of thanking you for your continued support and interest in the party's work. I look forward to welcoming the ladies and hopefully new members. Please contact me if any further information is needed.

Margaret Guild 447 6290

FRIENDS OF MORLICH HOUSE

We last reported that the funds raised at the April 2012 coffee morning were to be used to replenish the flowers in the garden.

The autumn and early winter months have seen an amazing amount of work done in this area by The Friends. The raised bed was completely emptied of plants, weeds, earth and rocks with the able and enthusiastic help of a team of volunteers from Remploy under the guidance of the Friends. This bed has been filled with fresh compost and replanted. Invaluable help in choosing and advising where plants should go was given by Becca Duncan, a qualified plant expert employed by Mrs. Spray of The Pentland Garden Centre.



A team of volunteers from Edinburgh Gov.uk assisted in the tidying up of the remainder of the garden. A tree surgeon cut down and trimmed various trees thus allowing the light through. Another corner has been assigned to rhododendrons and azaleas.

We look forward to spring when the plants come to life again and the residents can enjoy and hopefully potter about their lovely garden.

Fiona Watt, Marion Cooper



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
FRIDAY 1ST MARCH**



**The local service for 2013 will be held at
10.30am in Morningside Parish Church Hall.**

THEME: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."
The material is written by the Christian Women of France

**Anyone who is interested is also welcome to attend the following meetings, all held at
121 George Street, Edinburgh at 10.30 am:-**

PREPARATION DAY Friday 8th February 2013
Speaker:- Ms. Elodie Mignard (France),
Employee with SCHA and Refugee Council.

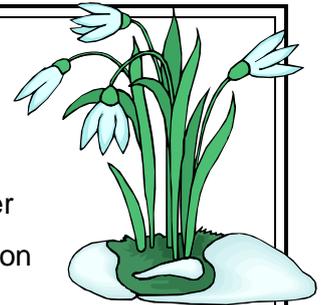
And BIBLE STUDIES

STUDY 1: Leviticus 19: 1-2, 33-37
Friday 1st February 2013
Speaker:- Rev. Fran Ruthven

STUDY 2: Matthew 25: 31-46
Friday 22nd February 2013
Speaker:-Rev. David Cameron

FLOWER LIST

	Provided by	Arranged by
Jan	6 Flower Committee	Flower Committee
	13 Mr & Mrs D Reid	Caroline Reid & Paula Hunter
	20 Frances Bruce	Irene Wilson & Isobel Paterson
	27 Euan Murray	Margaret Gossip
Feb	3 Lorna Graham	Val Mannings & Eleanor Watt
	10 Joan Burnett & Valerie Dunn	Joan Burnett & Valerie Dunn
	17 Mr & Mrs H Passmore	Caroline Reid & Paula Hunter
	24 Fiona Fojut	Irene Wilson & Isobel Paterson



The Flower Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to the flower fund in 2012. We have been learning new skills, getting to know one another and thoroughly enjoying various challenges throughout the year. There are still a few spaces for the next six months, currently Sundays 12th May, 2nd, 23rd and 30th June. The list for 2013 is 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. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who might like to join the committee to arrange flowers throughout the year or be part of the decoration teams for Easter, Harvest or Christmas.

ROLL CHANGES

Your prayers are asked for

The following new members:-

Keith & Nyria Bailey, 19/4 Mortonhall Road
Andrew & Colleen Cross, 1/5 Springvalley Terrace
Mrs Libby Porteous, 23 Comiston Drive
Lady Lucinda Mackay, 40 Woodburn Terrace

The following children recently baptised

13th January 2013: Boyd Francis Stuart Cross, 1/5 Springvalley Terrace
27th January 2013: Euan George Munro Stimpson, 17 Cluny Gardens

The family and friends of the following members who died recently:-

9th September 2012: Mr A Stewart, 37 Braid Road
2nd December 2012: Mrs Bidy Sizmuir, 80 Falcon Court
12th January 2013: Mrs May Pirrie, Ashley Court Nursing Home
13th January 2013: Mrs Hannah Calder, 49/5 Falcon Avenue

MARCH MAGAZINE

Material for the March issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 15th February 2013** and it will be available for **distribution on Sunday 3rd March**. 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.

COME TO THE EDGE

By Christopher Logue

Come to the edge.

We might fall.

Come to the edge.

It's too high!

COME TO THE EDGE!

And they came,

And he pushed,

And they flew.



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