



Magazine

No. 93 June 2013

Dear Friends

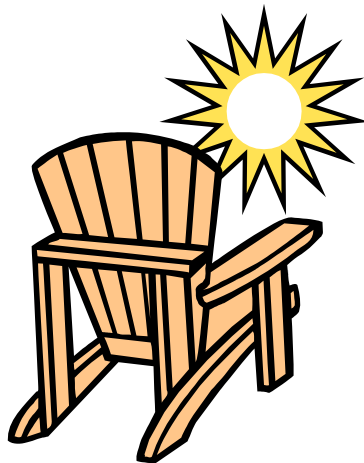
"Summer, June summer, with the green back on the earth and the whole world unlocked and seething – like winter, it came suddenly and one knew it in bed, almost before waking up; with cuckoos and pigeons hollowing the woods since day-light and the chipping of blue tits in the pear blossom... Outdoors, one scarcely knew what had happened or remembered any other time. There had never been rain, or frost, or cloud. It had always been like this. The heat from the ground climbed up one's legs and smote one under the chin..."

It would be nice if we might be in for a summer like the one Laurie Lee describes in *Cider With Rosie*. Conditioned by the long summer holidays of our childhood, there is still an expectation of sunlight, of rest, and of easier times. The reality for many people is different. For those who work, looking longingly out of windows to the sunshine and imagining the breezes (since all the windows now seem to be shut tight and air-conditioning blasts away); for others the concern that it gets too hot and the airless oppression of sultry days sapping energy and strength. The reality more often than not is horizontal rain and haar-draped mornings and we fear the sun might never shine again, or at least not on consecutive days.

For me, with some weeks off in the middle of the summer, I enjoy the change of pace. Things don't grind to a halt and there are always matters needing attention, but

certainly the number of meetings drops and there is a chance to refresh the spirits and recharge the batteries. It is also a time to catch up on reading and to do some planning ahead for the remainder of the year. It is good to come up with ideas and vision in the midst of the busy 'church year' but it is often in the summer weeks when some of the pressure is off that the more creative ideas bubble to the surface. "What would the church be like if...?"

When I was a boy there used to be a summer television programme called *Why Don't You? - or Why Don't You Just Switch Off Your Television Set and Go and Do Something Less Boring Instead?* It was filled with lots of different ideas and challenges and thoughts that certainly helped fill in the long days of the summer holiday. This summer (and as I write this the wind and rain are lashing the manse windows!) why don't you dream dreams about your church? What needs to be done? Where might you help? How might things be improved? Who are the people who have the skills, the talents and the vision to take our church on the next stage of its adventure of faith?



This summer, let your imagination run riot, listen to what the Spirit of God may be whispering to you about the way ahead for our church. Share it with us – it could change everything!

Revd Dr Derek Browning

KIRK SESSION

At its May meeting, the Kirk Session

- Heard an encouraging report from the Stewardship and Finance committee and task groups that had been set up to look at the heating and lighting issues at the church; the letting review and rentals; support service (cleaning and caretaking) and fund-raising. This is with a view to controlling further the congregational budget, ensuring value for money, and working steadily towards the reduction of the deficit. One of the issues raised was in relation to raising funds directly for the congregation and ten ideas were put to the Session which will take a little time to work up and will involve the congregation taking a leading role in helping with fund-raising initiatives – all of them fun and social. While there is some way to go in resolving the issue of our deficit, the Session was heartened to hear of this progress.
- Session received a report from the Communications Committee, where thanks were given to everyone who helps with the distribution of leaflets at Christmas, Easter and Harvest. This is a major form of Outreach to the community and is greatly appreciated. The web site and how it is managed is under review. Alison Riddell was congratulated on the excellent quality of the magazine. A new, large novelty sized 'cheque' will be used when we hand over money to charities – something to boost publicity for the Church.
- The Session noted that around 80 members of the congregation had been contacted to ask about their continuing association with and support for the church.
- The Session confirmed its support for four choral scholarships and the possibility of an organ scholarship and noted its gratitude to the Friends of Morningside, and a private individual, who are providing considerable financial support for this important work.
- A new associate appointment will be announced shortly, subject to references and PVG checks.
- The Session instructed the Clerk to write to the Revd John Smith, minister of Morningside United Church, on the occasion of his retirement.



BIBLE READING IN CHURCH

One or two members of the congregation have asked if they could join the Bible reading rota at Sunday morning worship.

If you would like to be one of the readers (you're given the lessons in the week preceding the Sunday, and if you're unsure about any of the words or pronunciation the Minister is always happy to help!) then please let the Minister know. You can leave a note in his pigeonhole in Church, phone him on 447 1617, or email him at minister@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

SAYING GOODBYE...

On Sunday 23rd June at the Family service we will be saying goodbye to Norma Ronald, our Pastoral Assistant, and to Lesley Fraser, our Associate for Children and Families.

Norma came to us in 2006 from a wide experience of diaconal ministry and prison chaplaincy across Scotland. She quickly established herself as a trusted and welcome visitor, particularly in the hospitals and nursing homes and amongst many of our older members. Her contributions to worship have been thoughtful and deeply rooted in her practical approach to a Christianity that seeks to make a positive difference in the lives of the people she met. Her pastoral care for the bereaved has been exceptional.

At her interview a question was asked about her background church experience in some of the poorer areas in Scotland and her work in the prisons; how would she address working in an area like Morningside? "I've worked with white collar criminals too", was her response. The job was hers!

Norma's tireless support of our church's life, going well beyond her 'paid hours', has meant that she regularly supported the coffee mornings, the Ladies' Group, Beetle Drive, music concerts and other areas of our church's life. She has demonstrated that working for the church is more than simply putting in the hours, it is about becoming part of the church family.

Her blue-gowned presence in the 'jump-seat' (prayer desk) at morning worship will be greatly missed. We wish her a happy and restful retirement in Corstorphine, and hope that she will come back to visit from time to time.

Lesley Fraser has been with us for three years and has been involved in the establishment of the Wednesday Baby and Toddler Group (alongside the existing Monday one), introducing our congregation to Messy Church where her meticulous planning and endless source of games made the event hugely enjoyable to the children who attended, revamped the Sunday School material we now use regularly, led some of our 9.30am services, and organised successful events which focussed on parenting skills.



Lesley was also the driving force behind the holiday club we held a few years ago, where once more her organisation of the crafts, worship and activities was greatly appreciated. She has also gradually raised the church's profile with our uniformed organisations and we have benefitted from their increasing involvement in the life of the congregation. Her help at the Christmas Eve family service has been imaginative - even producing a donkey costume for last year as we retold the nativity story through the eyes of some of the side-line characters.

Lesley is leaving us to take up a children and families position at Craigsbank Parish church in west Corstorphine. We wish her well in this new appointment and hope that she will also manage some time to enjoy her new grandson, born a few weeks ago.

There will be an opportunity to contribute to presentations to Norma and Lesley. Please contribute using an envelope marked either 'Norma' or 'Lesley' and hand this in to the Church Office.



THE PLEDGE CAMPAIGN - WAS IT A SUCCESS?

In November last year we all received a letter asking us to review our commitment to Morningside Parish Church and to make a pledge for our giving to the Church over the coming year.

The purpose of Pledge Sunday, at the beginning of December, is to create a fixed point in the year when we reassess our support for our Church, something we can easily overlook. Many of the other bodies we may be members of tell us annually what we have to pay and how much that will increase. The Church rightly leaves the decision on giving entirely to us.

That can leave our Treasurer guessing when we set our annual budget. The pledges provide greater financial certainty, allowing the Church to plan more accurately what it can afford in the year ahead. Pledging also serves to make each of us focus on what's the right level of giving for us.

The pledges received from the congregation were dedicated at a service on 2nd December although pledges continued to come in through to March 2013.

So, what did the Pledge Campaign achieve? Quite a lot, really!

The Pledge returns told us that 225 members of the Congregation had reviewed their level of Giving and sent us a response. If the Pledges made are all fulfilled, the Review will have seen our offerings rise by £24,450, equal to a 25% increase in giving. That may be an overestimate as there is an increasing move to paying by standing order rather than by open plate - but that helps us by allowing us to reclaim tax in many cases.

The Review has also shifted the profile of giving across the Congregation. Comparing giving in 2012 with the pledges for 2013, we see a real shift to levels of giving more in line with what it costs to run our Church.

This greater income certainty, combined with savings being made this year, has allowed us to set a budget that reduces our deficit to £60,000 in 2013, as part of a plan to eliminate it entirely within 4 years.

All in all, it's a very welcome first step even if there's still a lot of hard work to do over the coming three years. The deficit this year will still be significant and unsustainable at £60,000. But the five Working Groups set up by the Session to look at Heating and Lighting charges, Support and Running Costs, Letting Income, Fundraising and the Economics of our Church Centres have come up with some thoughtful suggestions that will take us a long way down the road in 2014.

We're not there yet. There's a distance to go but we can see our way forward.

Robert Armour, Convenor, Stewardship and Finance Committee

FLOWER LIST

	Provided by	Arranged by
June	2 Mrs Carolyn Sutherland	Isobel Paterson & Anne Armour
	9 Charles & Irene Wilson	Irene Wilson
	16 Peter & Hazel Knight	Margaret Gossip
	23 Mrs Evelyn Henderson	Caroline Reid
	30 Miss Ruth Henderson	Ruth Henderson
July	7 Mrs Rosemary Drysdale	Joan Burnet
	14 Miss Sheila Grahame	Val Mannings
	21 Mrs Rosemary Owens	Eleanor Watt
	28 Mrs Fiona Stimpson	Isobel Paterson & Anne Armour
Aug	4 Dr & Mrs J Jenkinson	Irene Wilson
	11 Gordon & Elsa Hendry	Joan Burnet
	18 Mrs Margaret Gossip	Margaret Gossip
	25 Marjory Watson	Val Mannings
Sept	1 Mrs Fiona Watt	Eleanor Watt



The flower list for the rest of the year is now almost complete – Many thanks to all those who have contributed. The only two remaining gaps are for 20th October and 1st December. While both are still some way off, it would be good to have them filled, so if you are able to provide the flowers on either date, please add your name to the list in the vestibule.

We are also still looking for new recruits, who will enjoy being part of our happy band of flower ladies. Our numbers have depleted recently due to personal problems and other commitments. If you are interested and are willing to help out in any way at all, please contact Eleanor Watt (447 5492) or Irene Wilson (449 2866). (Flower arranging lessons available at your convenience.)



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12TH TO 18TH MAY

Thanks to all those who helped with the House to House Collection during Christian Aid Week. At time of going to press, the total collection in our parish amounted to £3,790.94. This is slightly better than last year despite the fact that there were a few streets for which we did not have cover. There are a few late comers to come in so the final total will be even more. I will report when all the figures are in. Thank you for your support.

Bill Reid



Girlguiding

girls in the lead

15th EDINBURGH BROWNIES

We have had a very busy year mainly concentrating on Brownie Badges. Throughout the course of the session we will have completed Disability Awareness, World Issues, Healthy Hearts, Friend to Animals, Brownie Traditions and Hostess badges. The girls who attended the very successful Division Pack Holiday in November also gained their Brownie Holiday and Craft badges. The theme of this holiday was "The Wild West".

By working through these badges the girls have covered a variety of topics. We started with a few weeks looking at the Paralympics and loads of issues involving disabilities. We had a visit from a disabled lady, Mairi Gordon, who had actually taken part in the Paralympics when she was younger. She had been an archer and showed us some old photos of her competing. She had also been a Brownie Leader until her disability forced her to stop and was an inspiration to the girls. We are also hoping to have a visit from Audrey Dobson who is bringing along a retired Guide Dog.



We then moved on to keeping ourselves fit and healthy. We had a pyjama party where the girls came in their night wear and brought along a healthy packed tea. They also had to keep a food and exercise diary for one week. Two of our Brownies also made up a Zumba routine and taught it to the other Brownies. We are still to have a joint Dance based meeting with the Guides.

As part of World Issues, Mairi Ogilvie brought along her Fair Trade stall and the Brownies managed to spend lots of money. We had hot chocolate, bananas and a chocolate bar as a snack that night; not very healthy but all from Fair Trade!!!

In October, twelve of our girls had the opportunity to go to the Zoo to see the Pandas and take part in a competition to find Pambassadors for the Pandas in Chengdu. They had a great day making Panda enclosures out of junk and also got to see the Pandas.



November saw us having a joint St Andrew's Night with the Guides run by the guides themselves with shortbread and Irn Bru. We also had a joint meeting with the Rainbows. This involved parachute games and singing. The Brownies also played the large board games they had made for the Healthy Hearts badge with the Rainbows.

This summer term we are off to Pets at Home at Straiton for a visit and to find out about looking after pets. The girls will then be making a scrapbook about animals. We also have a sponsored walk and a beach trip to North Berwick to look forward to. Our last meeting is a fund-raising night where the girls will entertain their parents then have a "Bring and Buy" stall. The money will go to the 500miles charity. I heard Olivia Giles speaking at the Ladies

Group and decided this would be a perfect charity for the girls this year as it encompasses local fund-raising for people with disabilities overseas, thus tying in with our year's work.

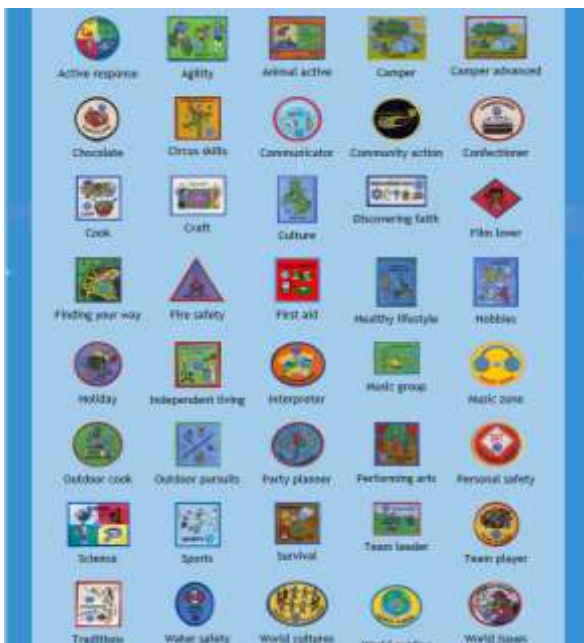
Lesley Murphy, Brownie Guider



188TH GUIDE UNIT

We are just back from our summer camp weekend at Netherurd House, the Scottish training Centre near West Linton. The weather has not been kind to us for our residential recently and this weekend was no exception. It was less than summer-like and the mud was ankle deep but the chosen Boot Camp theme kept the girls moving! We completed our Agility badge and, very topically as it turned out, our Go For It - I will Survive with activities such as building bivvies, water filtration, camouflage and trail signs on the programme. We'd started on a project of camp blankets a few weeks previously and these were on show with the girls keen to buy badges of Netherurd to add to the collection.

This term so far has been camp preparation, camp blankets, a Zumba evening where the girls enjoyed a lot of loud music and fabulous moves, the patrol Sundae making competition went down a treat and the winning entry was a magnificent creation of ice-cream, fruit and sauce and then, of course, our camp.



We're looking forward to JumP, a joint night of dance and fun with the brownies, a joint evening with Greenbank guides at our campsite Trefoil doing 'outdoorsy' things, a badge night where guides can complete or be assessed on Agility, Craft, Hobbies, Cook, Camper, Music Zone, Traditions of Guiding and Sport, so hopefully something for everyone! Take a look at what badges are on offer to Guides now at <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/Guides/>

There are lots of opportunities in guiding, from participating in Gang Show to International Trips and Camps, and Fiona Ross, our young , is off to Gambia this summer for four weeks on a GOLD project (Guiding Overseas linked to

Development). These projects enable young women to develop their potential and make a difference in the world by working with Guide Associations around the world to deliver sustainable community-based development projects. We are all looking forward to hearing about it on her return and Fiona is very excited!

As ever, guides are open to all, from age 10 upwards, so please come along and talk to us if you're interested in joining or volunteering, or get in touch on <https://enquiry.girlguiding.org.uk/>

Moira Clark, 188th Guide Guider

SYRIA CRISIS APPEAL

During the joint Holy Week services with Greenbank earlier in the year, we had a retiring offering for the Syria Crisis Appeal. We've had a warm letter of thanks from the CEO of the appeal who tells us that our actions "...have shown them that the outside world not only cares about their plight but will act to help them." The £822.88 raised will go to provide decent shelter, regular food, proper sanitation and basic medicines. **Thank you.**

SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION VOLUNTEER INDIA WORK VENTURES.

Scottish Love in Action is arranging the following Volunteer India Ventures working with the Children of SLA and experiencing the work which SLA does with/for the children there. We are hoping to take small (10-14) groups during the following months: November 2013 (early, possibly to be there for the Festival of Diwali, on 3rd Nov. this year), February 2014, July 2014

Each Venture is for roughly 14-16 days. It not only involves the work with the children and staying in the Home but also time in two of the major Indian cities. The actual project/work which you will be doing in the Home and School will depend on and be decided by our Indian partners and will be projects which they feel are necessary at each given period. This could be from helping to build, painting work, creating sports facilities, computer teaching, creative arts, music, dance, craft, painting murals with the children, English conversation, small group tuition but to name a few.

The whole experience is a real eye-opener and can be a life-changing experience. Needless to say, the children are inspirational despite tragedies many have suffered. They are full of joy, laughter and unconditional love.....you will be over whelmed by their love....it is an unforgettable experience.

If you would like to hear more about what such a venture entails, please let SLA know as soon as possible and SLA will arrange a meeting where more can be explained and questions answered. In the meantime please go onto our web site www.sla-india.org and read the section 'Volunteers in India'. If you know that you are definitely thinking of applying, do fill in the application form and return to the SLA Office at the address below or by e-mail to enquiries@sla-india.org . Doing this at this stage does not commit you to anything but prompt application is more likely to secure a place.

Address: Scottish Love in Action, St. Ninian's Centre, 140, The Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9RR SLA phone number: 0131 629 9112

Gillie Davidson, SLA Chairperson

Scottish Love in Action, 'Caring for Children in India',

Tel: 0131 629 9112 .

Email: gillie@sla-india.org



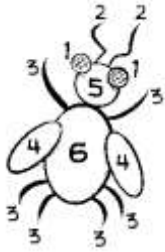
SUMMER LUNCH

Our annual Summer Lunch will be held on 23rd June in the Upper Hall, Cluny Centre, following the morning service. This is our most popular social event of the year and tickets (£10 adults/£5 children) are now on sale. This is a “ticket only” event so please do buy your tickets in advance as there will be no cash admission on the day.



The Lunch will be a cold buffet with assorted meats, cheeses and salads, followed by a selection of desserts. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards and glasses of wine will be available to purchase on the day. Any profits will be donated to the three charities we currently support – Edinburgh Headway (SC006528), Scottish Love in Action (SC030516) and the Edinburgh Clothing Store (SC039409). Do come along – everyone will be made most welcome.

BEETLE DRIVE



On Saturday 27th April an almost full house of enthusiasts met to enjoy an evening of fun at what has become an annual event – the Outreach Committee Beetle Drive. It was not long before everyone settled into the rules of the game. As the evening wore on, the sense of excitement in the hall increased, as did the pitch of the cry ‘Beetle!’ The substitute M.C. Kim Mitchellhill did a sterling job of organising us and keeping us under control - a very noisy and competitive bunch. Our Minister tried very hard to win and was at one point seen to be leaping up from his seat shouting ‘Beetle’ but was defeated by Fiona Gossip who won the adult section. Runner up in the junior section was Joan and Ken McKenzie’s grandson Ben whom they had invited to join them for the evening. He had a great time, as did everyone else, and vowed next year to return with one of his younger brothers.

This event really is great fun, noisy and friendly and we would recommend it to anyone in the congregation who has children or grandchildren. It is a great experience for them and a bit of an adventure to be out so late (9.30pm) and get an ice cream on the way home! It was good to see young and old mixing easily and enjoying themselves. The evening raised the sum of £401 for the charities that the Church is supporting this year: the Edinburgh Clothing Store, Edinburgh Headway and Scottish Love in Action.

Joan McKenzie and Kate Stewart

AUTUMN LECTURES

The successful joint lecture series with Greenbank will be held again on each Sunday night in September, (1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th). The topics have still to be finalised but, at time of going to press, we are hoping to find speakers for:

Christianity and Euthanasia

Christianity and Atheism

Christianity and Islam

Christianity and Conflict Resolution

Christianity and Animals



FRIENDS OF MORLICH HOUSE

The coffee morning held on Saturday, 27th April raised the grand total of £ 1,075 - 10. Thank you to all who supported us so generously.

The garden project is well underway but there is still a great deal to be done and as in all gardens, constant care and attention is required.

The manager, Mr. Glen Brady, and his hard working team are to be congratulated once again maintaining the highest standard of excellence in the care of the residents and the running of Morlich House.

ROLL CHANGES

Please include in your prayers the family and friends of
Mrs May Milne, of Cluny Lodge, who died on 13th May 2013

MUSICAL NOTES



I mentioned in the last "Musical Notes" the matter of our Choral Scholarships - how important our scholars are to us, and how it would be good if we all did whatever we could to alert any potential scholars to the existence of the scheme. Whether or not as a result of our efforts I do not know, but interest this year has already been unusually large. Now an expression of interest is a long way from a scholar "in post", but even so, seeing as we will have but four scholarships to award, it looks as though we may well have to disappoint some applicants.

To minimise such disappointment, however, I thought that it would be good if we could somehow, despite the present financial situation, raise the money for a further, and fifth, scholarship. And to this end, I thought that we should advertise this year's Festival-time concerts at MPC (of which a little more anon) as being in aid of a fifth choral scholarship. Also, when the choir is asked to sing at a wedding (for instance) we do not get paid, but I ask the folk being married for "a donation to choir funds", and this has resulted, over the years, in our building up a nice little "nest egg"; and some of this, along with net takings from the concerts, might well do the trick! So please support these events.

As to the concerts themselves, things are still in the planning stage, but I can tell you that they will take place on Wednesday lunchtimes during the Festival, 1.10 to 1.55pm., and will comprise: an organ concert (a chance to hear our very fine instrument played without background chatter!); a 4-hands-1-piano concert (by popular demand); and a concert by a LOCAL (young) string quartet. As they say, "watch this space..."

Morley Whitehead

MINISTRIES AND MISSION CONTRIBUTION

We have received a letter from the Head of Stewardship at '121' providing us with a breakdown of the contribution Morningside Parish makes to Ministries and Mission. The subject has arisen on several occasions at Session meetings and also at the Question Time session we hosted last February so the explanation may be of general interest.

Our contribution for 2013 is £116,789. How this is calculated is a matter for ongoing discussion but, of this sum, 86% is spent on ministries and 14% on mission. That means that £100,439 of our contribution goes towards the costs of providing ministers and other parish workers through Scotland and in the Presbytery of England, together with assisting with recruitment and training for the ministry.

The cost of a parish minister at the top of the stipend scale is £39,895 (stipend plus employer's national insurance and pension contributions.) As our contribution exceeds this, we are meeting the full cost of our own minister and helping to support other congregations. As a rough guide, 40% of our own contribution to Ministries comes back to us in the form of Dr Browning while the balance helps other congregations who are not able to fund their own minister.

The Mission aspect of the contribution, £16,350, is used to support the Church's work in: resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach, providing social care services in Christ's name to further the caring work of the Church to people in need; accompanying partners around the world on our shared Christian journey; contributing the Church's opinion in public debate and on issues affecting Scotland and the world; providing central day-to-day work in administrative, financial and legal matters; and in planning the General Assembly and ensuring the Moderator represents the Church.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY COUNCIL NEWS

G8 SUMMIT – *IF* campaign - Family friendly day of action

Saturday 15th June 2 – 5pm Belfast City Hall (transport available from Scotland)

The G8 Summit is to be held on 17th and 18th June in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland. The IF (Enough Food for Everyone) campaign is organising a family friendly event to allow those who wish to express their support for this campaign that aims to eradicate world hunger this year.

Kofi Annan has already agreed to speak and the Belfast Symphony Orchestra and Snow Patrol will be providing musical entertainment. Other speakers and acts will be confirmed nearer the time.

Christian Aid and partners are organising early morning coaches to take supporters by ferry from Scotland to Belfast. On arrival in Belfast a meal of soup and sandwiches will be provided so supporters can hear and reflect on what is happening at the G8 and why it is so important. A contribution to costs will be requested but the overall cost will be subsidised.

Those wishing to attend should contact Diane Green on 0141 241 6136 or dgreen@christian-aid.org.

Lyn Mitchell

SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the September issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 16th August 2013** and it will be available for **distribution on Sunday 1st September**. 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. Please let us know about your activities over the summer or your exciting plans for the new session.

MAGAZINE BY EMAIL

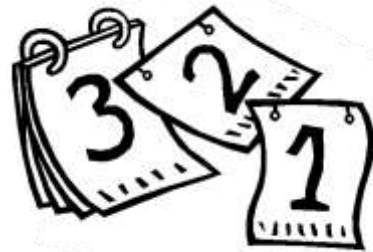
As you should be well aware from articles elsewhere in this magazine and previous issues, we are making every effort to reduce costs in all aspects of our church's life and activities in order to tackle our deficit. One way in which you can contribute to this is by taking the magazine by email rather 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 this page.

COUNT THAT DAY LOST

By George Eliot

If you sit down at set of sun
And count the acts that you have done,
And, counting, find
One self-denying deed, one word
That eased the heart of him who heard,
One glance most kind
That fell like sunshine where it went –
Then you may count that day well spent.

But if, through all the livelong day,
You've cheered no heart, by yea or nay –
If, through it all
You've nothing done that you can trace
That brought the sunshine to one face –
No act most small
That helped some soul and nothing cost –
Then count that day as worse than lost.



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