



Magazine

No. 92 May 2013

Dear Friends

I enjoyed a belated birthday gift which was a 'surprise' visit to New York with some friends. The blossom was just coming out, Central Park looked wonderful, and the energy of the 'city that never sleeps' was all around. Part of the excitement, for me at least, was travelling around in the world-famous yellow cabs. It was nearly always an adventure. One driver chatted on the phone and read his mail whilst driving down 5th Avenue; another driver was in a hurry to finish his shift so drove us along Park Avenue at 60 miles an hour. My favourite drivers were two who didn't want to take us where we wanted to go. "Chinatown? That is such a long way away, and very expensive. (*The fare came to around £6*) You should stay in the tourist area." Better still, my Sunday morning cab driver: "Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church? But it is sunny. I take you to a nice museum, or the Park, or shopping, instead." Needless to say I still went to church.

It has become axiomatic to say that everyone is on a 'journey'. Life is a road along which we travel. But what happens if we have to travel along roads we do not wish to go, or did not intend to find, or that have a destination so far off, with many other more tempting distractions, that others seek to warn us off? What happens when

the road looks difficult, or possibly dangerous?

In John's gospel one of the last resurrection passages involves Peter and Jesus in Galilee. Peter is challenged three times by Jesus when he was asked, 'Do you love me?' Each time Peter says yes. Then Jesus says to Peter that loving Him and following Him might lead in directions Peter would rather not go, perhaps hinting that for Peter,

his faith would lead to a martyr's death. Elsewhere Jesus warns His disciples that the narrow path faith calls them to follow will not be easy, and the temptation will be to find an easier route.



In His poem, "The Road Not Taken", the American poet Robert Frost wrote:

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

Faith challenges us at times to take those sometimes challenging, sometimes unknown roads. But to know this, that along the way, just as He did in the Emmaus story, Jesus will walk with us. To guide and protect, to teach and to challenge, and to lead us to a place of nurture and warmth, and bring us home.

Revd Dr Derek Browning

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 18TH – 24TH MAY 2013

Please pray for the 2013 General Assembly, its Moderator, the Revd Lorna Hood, and the Commissioners who will be attending from all over Scotland, with visitors from all over the world.

The General Assembly is the supreme court and governing body of the Church of Scotland which meets annually in the Assembly Hall at the top of The Mound here in Edinburgh. The Assembly receives reports from various councils and committees of the Church (which are also made up of ministers and members from across the Church of Scotland). The Assembly scrutinises the work of these councils and committees and approves, rejects or alters their proposals for the forthcoming year. There will be reports from Ministries, Mission and Discipleship, Church and Society, Social Care, and World Mission. The Legal Questions committee will bring proposals to rethink the appointment of the Moderator. The Special Commission on Tenure has been looking at continual professional development for ministers (currently there is none), and in an interim report is recommending that there should be coaching, spiritual direction and a competency policy for ministers. The Theological Commission set up two years ago will be reporting on the topic of ministers and same-sex relationships.

Our minister has been appointed to serve as vice convener of the Assembly Arrangements Committee (which includes serving as vice convener of the Assembly's Business Committee). This is a two year appointment (taking over from Lorna Hood, the Moderator-Designate) and normally leads to becoming the convener of the two committees – a further four year appointment.

HEART AND SOUL 2013 - A CELEBRATION OF CELTIC CHRISTIANITY Assembly Sunday – Sunday 19th May – Princes Street Gardens

2013 is the 1450th anniversary of St Columba landing on Iona. The Church of Scotland Heart and Soul event on 19th May (part of this year's General Assembly) will be inspired by Celtic Christianity with all the richness of its themes: hospitality, pilgrimage, journeying, healing and wholeness, creation and its care, contemplative prayer, the Trinity, representing Christ to the world, inclusive community, Christ in the stranger's guise, rhythm of the seasons, prophecy, soul friends, being 'on the edge'.

This year Sunday 19th May also coincides with Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church. (Remember to wear something red to church on that day! Red is the colour of the Holy Spirit.)

It has been wonderful on the last two Assembly Sundays to see Princes Street Gardens hosting this celebration of the life of the Church of Scotland. Do look at the website (www.heartandsoul2013.org.uk), put the date in your diary and on 19th May go to Princes Street Gardens and enjoy the afternoon!

ANNUAL 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) will be on sale from 2nd June (Communion Sunday). 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.

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

KIRK SESSION NOTES

At its April meeting, the Kirk Session considered at length the congregational membership and agreed to a review of the roll. A number of members who have not had active contact with the church for some time will be contacted in the next few weeks to consider how they may consider their membership of the church in the future.

The Kirk Session also heard of the positive response to members who received their invitation to the March Communion via email. It is hoped that, for those who have email and would like it, the church magazine will also be sent out in this format.

There has also been a positive response from parents who are informed regularly about Sunday School lessons and activities.

Reports were received from the Property and Pastoral Care committees and their ongoing work.

FRIENDS OF MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH

The membership of this group – established to fund and provide supplementary support for the enhancement of our buildings, fabric and worship – may be small in numbers with only 31 members but large in its effects.

In the past year, the Friends have paid for the replacement of the carpets to the pulpit, lectern and the ramp from the south aisle to the front of the church, the repair of two notice boards outside the church and the provision of three display boards for inside.

They met half of the costs of the choral scholarships and the excellent coffee produced by the two new coffee machines provided by the Friends may have encouraged attendance at the coffee between and after services.

They have just produced a beautifully illustrated brochure: *Morningside Parish Church: Its History & Interior* which is to be launched at the Christian Aid coffee morning on May 25th when tours of the church will be given.

In the coming year, they plan to give an even greater percentage of the cost of the choral scholars, contribute to the floodlighting costs and help with the cost of replacing lead stolen from the roof. They intend to erect handrails at the step from the church to the new halls and in the north transept and create wheelchair areas near the front of the church.

The area opposite the pigeonholes in the corridor off the new hall is to be enhanced by having framed photographs – possibly enlarged versions of those in the new brochure.

From the above, you can see how varied are the projects that the Friends have undertaken.

They would welcome additional members and their ideas. Membership is by subscription of a minimum of £10 annually and the Treasurer, Bob Cunningham, is happy to receive this via the Church Office or to provide further details.

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.

55th BOYS BRIGADE



The Boys' Brigade Annual Beating Retreat Ceremony takes place this year on Saturday 11th May. As always, the first performance will take place in Parliament Square at 7pm, the march to the Castle at 7.30pm followed by the Retreat Ceremony at 8pm. Bandsmen come from all over central Scotland - from Edinburgh, Dundee, Dunblane, Wishaw, Port Bannantyne and Johnstone. This is a fantastic evening's entertainment second only to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and admission is free so do come along with all the family to support the Boys.

Rona McLaren



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12TH TO 18TH MAY

For those who have not yet been able to do so, materials for the House - to - House collectors are still available to uplift from the table in the North Aisle.

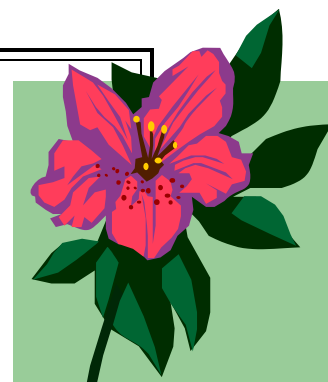
The Joint Service at the start of the Week will take place in Fairmilehead Church at 7.00pm on Sunday 12th May

I also give notice of our Spring Fair which will take place in our halls on Saturday 25th May between 10.00am and 2.00pm. There will be all the usual stalls for baking, plants, books, Nearly New, Fairtrade, Craft Tombola and other stalls and attractions. Refreshments including coffee and tea will be available as well as soup and a variety of filled rolls at lunchtime. Donations for the stalls and prizes for the tombola will be gratefully received. Admission is free so please come and help us make this a success.

Bill Reid (466 3111)

FLOWER LIST

	Provided by	Arranged by
May	5 Mrs Margaret Thomson	Margaret Thomson
	12 Noel Milne	Val Mannings
	19 Mrs Eleanor Watt	Eleanor Watt
	26 Dr Marie Ogilvie	Caroline Reid
June	2 Carolyn Sutherland	Isobel Paterson & Anne Armour



We are 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 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.)



Girlguiding

girls in the lead

210 EDINBURGH BROWNIES

Night time museum tours, Panda visits and Hostess parties – 210 Brownie Adventures!

The last year at 210 Brownies has been action-packed, with many trips outside the meeting place. Within our normal meetings the Brownies

have been busy completing a range of different badges and tackling new skills – including healthy heart badge, artist badge, skills badge and hostess badge.



This has seen the Brownies undertaking quite a few unusual things, including learning to tie knots around doughnuts (without them breaking), learning to sew and make healthy packed lunches, planning menus and holding a hostess party – waiting hand and foot on their parents! The spread of cakes, sandwiches, biscuits, and even jelly and homemade lemonade made by the brownies for the party was quite amazing.

Trips.... We have been packing in lots of trips over the last year – starting in October with a free trip to the Zoo to see the pandas(!) and learn about the animals and their natural habitat in a workshop lead by ‘Pan-bassadors’ at Edinburgh Zoo. We finished off the winter term with a trip to the Panto to see Mother Goose at the Kings Theatre, where Patricia the goose was the cutest human duckling we’ve seen. Since Christmas we have enjoyed a brilliant trip to the National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh, where the Brownies had a ‘twilight’ out-of-hours tour of the gallery, led by two local artists, explaining what some of the portraits were showing, and looking at all the funny clothes people used to wear 200 years ago. The Brownies had a go at re-designing the Brownie uniform as it might have been then(!), before making collage portraits in the gallery art workshop, using a fantastic range of colours, materials, beads, feathers, etc.



We also had a very special visit this Spring, from the new Chief Executive of GirlGuiding UK, who was visiting the Edinburgh HQ of GirlGuiding from London, and wanted to come and meet some Edinburgh Brownies on the Monday night, whilst she was staying here.

Coming up... This term is going to see a theme of gardening – planting our own seeds and watching them grow at home, and also designing our ‘ideal garden’ for our own Brownie Chelsea flower show. We are also going to be learning how to dance, under tuition

from instructors from 'Jump' dancing in Edinburgh, and going to the Commonwealth Swimming Pool for a pool party later in the Spring.

Fancy joining us?

If you are interested in joining us as a Brownie on Monday nights at 210 Brownies, and are aged 7-10, please contact: <https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk/> and specify 210 Brownies as your preferred pack on a Monday night. Anyone interested in helping out at our meetings, please get in touch at: 210edinburghbrownies@gmail.com

Helen Bonsor, 210 Brownies Leader.

MUSICAL NOTES

People often say the kindest and most flattering things about the music at Morningside Parish Church. This is - naturally - gratifying to hear; and certainly we in the choir do work hard to adorn the worship, Sunday by Sunday, with music of all sorts and styles, and which is apt to the occasion and/or time of the Church's Year.



But there is no doubt that a great part of what we are able to do is thanks to the presence of our 4 (or some years, 5) Choral Scholars. The Scholarship scheme was begun some 12 years ago now, largely through the generosity of the "Friends", and we have been singularly lucky, in all sorts of ways, in the folk who have come forward to take advantage of it. We are a small - and it has to be said ! - aging choir; and we rely more and more on our scholars. We shall shortly be advertising once again for the 2013-2014 session; so if you know of anyone who might be interested in singing with us Sunday by Sunday - and thereby not only earning some money, but improving their sight-singing and knowledge of the repertoire -, then please do alert them to the existence of the scheme.

And of course - hope springs eternal! - if there is anyone in the congregation who would like to join the choir as an "ordinary" member...

Morley Whitehead

LADIES GROUP

How do you summarise six months of a variety of Speakers from within the Church to the Community?? They varied from entertaining, informative, to inspirational.

The speakers within the church were: Rev Dr Derek Browning on the "Disruptive Influences" he has met during his childhood and his 25 years of Ministry; Moira Forsyth on keeping warm and fit through some "Simple Exercises" which could be done sitting or standing to music; Gordon Kinloch with slides of "Greenland" taken while there on holiday with his son; Rev John Cameron on how he got started and is still involved with "Gassing on the God Slot" on radio, along with his ministry in Scotland and overseas.

We had two speakers from charities. The first was John Helliwell who spoke about his involvement with "Mary's Meals" and his visit to Malawi with his granddaughter Martha Payne. This group make up back-packs for children to aid their chance of education and a meal once a day. The Group gave some bags and various contents to go in them. The next was Olivia Giles who suffered very badly from meningitis and started "500 Miles" to give people in Malawi, Zambia and Zanzibar the chance of artificial limbs to improve their lives and be able to work. This meeting was opened to the whole congregation and donations, along with the sale of cards brought by Olivia, raised just over £200 for 500 Miles.

Bertha Walker brought her collection of "Antique and Vintage Clothing" which some of us modelled!! Mr McKendrick came along with film clips of "Judy Garland" who was very talented but had to live her life the way of how the Film Companies ran the Studios. Jane from the "Cook Shop" in Morningside Road told us how the business started, how the meals were made and then frozen. We sampled a few of the ideas for over the Festive Season. Thomas Baldwin, editor of the Church's own magazine "Life and Work" informed us how the magazine started over a hundred years ago, the time scale of its production and how any profits went to Mission and Discipleship funds which were dispersed where required. Please buy the Magazine!! Our very last meeting in March with Prof Munro was cancelled because of the snow that fell that day, but we hope he will come to give his talk later in the year.

We have two evenings for socialising. At Christmas, Margaret Thomson and Fiona Stimpson did our catering, providing an excellent spread, and Evelyn Reekie played the piano for us, starting the evening with a musical quiz and leading our Carol singalong after the meal. Many thanks to these people for giving us such an enjoyable evening. In April we go out for a meal and this year we went to Swanston Golf Club.

Our fundraising Coffee Morning in February was well attended and £410 approx was raised to help projects within our own Church.

On 12th March Lois Bain, one of our founder members, died. She was a regular attendee and supporter for over 40 years and will be missed.

The Group could not be run without the Committee to whom I give many thanks. They help with the syllabus planning, organise speakers to helping with refreshments.

All that remains is for me to wish you all an enjoyable summer and I look forward to welcoming you in September in the New Hall of the Church on a Monday evening at 7.45pm when we meet fortnightly.

Catriona Reid, President.



GUILD QUIZ

The winner is Mrs M Gossip, with the only all-correct entry received.

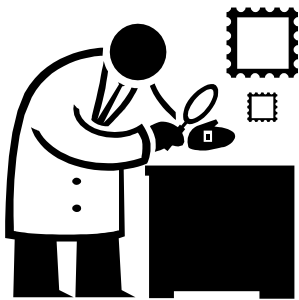
Congratulations, Margaret, and many thanks to all those who took part.

JUNE MAGAZINE

Material for the June issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 17th May 2013** and it will be available for **distribution on Sunday 2nd June**. 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. As this will be the last issue until September contributions about activities over the past year, or what is planned for over the summer would be welcome.

ROLL CHANGES

Please include in your prayers the family and friends of Ronald MacKellar, of 17/4 Mortonhall Road, who died on 15th April 2013



USED STAMP APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who continues to save used stamps for the world mission appeal.

The proceeds raised in 2013 will go to The Living Water project run by a congregation from the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren in Horní Krupá in the Czech-Moravian Highlands.

The project is part of a wider ecological programme started in 2008 to build an environmental centre and provide services and education for the local community, congregation and schools. Its purpose is to help share practical teaching on water life and improve understanding on the impact of water on biodiversity while engaging with the community. The centre has already received international recognition.

Money raised from the stamp project will go towards improving the education programme and offering more hands on exploration of plant and water life by restoring the old well at the centre and building a small lake. You can help further this exciting endeavour by collecting your used stamps which are sold to make money.

Please support this cause by placing your used stamps in the box in the church vestibule or handing in to the church office.

Many thanks for your support,

Lorna Graham

CONFERENCE FOR THOSE WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND/OR FAMILIES WITHIN THE PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH

Murrayfield Church Centre 11th May 2013, 10.00. – 4.00

Practical and inspiring workshops led by Claire Benton-Evans Author of All-Sorts Prayer and All-Sorts Worship

Children's Spirituality training

- Explains the key features of children's spirituality
- Shares tried-and-tested ideas for encouraging children's spirituality
- Explores how to make an inviting all-age Prayer Space in your church

All-Age Worship workshop

- Shows you fresh ways of bringing the Bible to life with dramatic storytelling
- Shares lots of bright ideas for praying creatively with children and adults
- Equips you for exciting, innovative all-age worship in your church



HIGH FLIGHT (AN AIRMAN'S ECSTASY)

By John Gillespie Magee

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds – and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of; wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sun-lit silence. Hovering there
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air;
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace,
Where never lark nor even eagle flew;
And while, with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

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