



# Magazine

No. 116 FEBRUARY 2016

Dear Friends

I mentioned from the pulpit at the turn of the year that the Christmas and New Year period was, for me, an unprecedentedly busy time for funerals. I've not known a period like it for many years.

When death comes, it can bring great sadness, or relief, or anger, or numbness, or even denial. There is no one way to experience bereavement, and different people respond in different ways. Indeed, **we** might respond in different ways ourselves depending on how we related to the person who died. At funeral services there can be laughter and tears, and guilt and even a sense of hope. Faith can be challenged by death, or strengthened by it. We find help coming to us from unexpected people and sources. A consistently simple expression of kindness from our Church to the recently bereaved is the gift of Sunday flowers, which for many people in a very quiet way reminds them that they are not forgotten.

Because of the sheer volume of funerals, I have found myself reflecting on how **I** am feeling. I found myself wondering how people in the medical profession, or the emergency services, or undertakers feel and cope. My problem is that if I depend wholly on my own resources, professional, spiritual, emotional, you will run empty sooner or later. That applies to any time that is demanding, or difficult, in life.

Help comes in unexpected ways, often when least looked for or expected. A walk in the open air, away from phones and computers; an infant grabbing my finger as she looked at me at after-church coffee; a meeting where someone said something generously complimentary; a baptism on Christmas Day, emotional for the families present; a favourite hymn, a Bible reading, catching me unawares by cutting through all the tangle and weight of busy-ness; noticing the first shoots of Spring flowers in a garden on Braid Road.



They don't change the responsibilities, nor do they lessen the load, but for a moment any one of these instances helped. They reminded me of my faith, which had not let me go despite everything, and reminded me whether I liked it or not that

things don't always depend on my actions or decisions or successes or failures. Faith is the persistent reminder to us all of the unshakeable, even inconvenient presence of God, abiding. The world may be bleak, or harsh, or impenetrably sad, but God abides. God stays. God waits. God accompanies. And in time, God will help us to overcome, and to move on. From every darkness and from every hurt, we are moved in time to light, and to hope. For any of you in a tough time, or a dark time, this is my prayer for you.

Revd Dr Derek Browning

## KIRK SESSION MEETING

At the December Kirk Session:

- The Session Clerk reported that the proposals for the **sale of the Cluny Centre** had been put to the Presbytery Property and Deployment of Resources committees which were reported to have “heartily approved” the proposals which in turn had been formally approved by Presbytery at its December meeting. The congregation had also given its unanimous support for the proposal at the meeting held in November. The Architects have submitted a formal fee proposal and proposed professional team. The survey of levels had been carried out and we await the architect’s revisions to the drawings in the light of the information.
- The Staff Committee reported that **staff appraisals** had taken place and that all had been very satisfactory. The Session expressed its gratitude to all staff members.
- The Congregational membership roll currently stands at 442.
- The Treasurer presented the **income and expenditure accounts** for the year to 31 October, the forecast outturn at 31 December 2015 and the budget for 2016. Unfortunately it looked likely that the forecast operating deficit would be a deficit of £26,934, exceeding the budgeted deficit of £20k. This was largely due to a drop of £9,600 in the projected congregational giving (c£2,000 as a consequence of the deaths or departures of significant donors) and to higher than anticipated spend on fabric repairs. However a legacy of £15k will reduce the net deficit to £17k. The budget for 2016 proposes not a breakeven as had been the planned target for 2016 but a holding of the operating budget deficit at £20k which after spend on one-off costs will produce a net deficit of £32,400. On the budget figures he commented that donations included from the Friends of Morningside Parish Church the sum of £4,500 towards the £5,000 cost of the choral scholars and £500 towards the cost of floodlighting; donations from the organisations using the halls, including c£3,000 from the Baby & Toddler groups. On the expenditure side the greatest outlay is the Ministries and Mission allocation of £111,671 the eighth largest in the Presbytery of Edinburgh. It also includes a 2% salary increase for staff as recommended by the Staff committee. The Session approved the budget. The Moderator thanked the Treasurer and the Stewardship committee for their work in setting and monitoring the income and expenditure and suggested that the reality of solving the budget deficit was that the congregation “give more money”
- **Defibrillator** - The Moderator reported that a defibrillator paid for by the Friends of Morningside would be installed soon. Training will be given in its use but it was agreed that a call would go to the congregation for volunteers particularly those already trained.

Have you looked at the Website yet?  
[www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)

## WORSHIP EVENTS

**Night Light evening service:** On the evening of Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in our Church we will welcome John Bell from the Iona Community who will help lead worship. As we will be in the season of Lent, John will look at the rich tradition within the book of Psalms that celebrate lament. Sometimes, when grief or anger or fear are raw and the words will not come, or we feel that our feelings are being pushed aside or ignored or patronised, the jagged reality of what the Psalms have said for nearly 3,000 years affirm that there are times it is all right to feel heart-broken, bereft or pained by loss. John will help us to look at different ways in which the Psalms can be said or sung.

The Night Light evening service series is jointly led by our church, and our neighbours at Greenbank and Fairmilehead. The next Night Light service will be held in our Church again, on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April and will feature the Church of Scotland Swing Band. This will be a fundraising service for Christian Aid and the Church of Scotland's HIV/AIDS project.

**Holy Week services:** this year the joint Holy Week services will be held in Greenbank Parish Church at 7.30pm, Monday 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March. The theme for the services will be the Jesus of Luke's Gospel. On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March we hope to hold our annual Holy Saturday evening service at 7.30pm in our Church. Easter Sunday is on 27<sup>th</sup> March (which is also the day the clocks go forward!)

**March Communion:** on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March we will share the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The 9.30am service will be held in the chancel area of the Church, providing a much more intimate space for worship for those attending. The 10.30am service

will be our annual All-Age communion service – where our young people will be welcome and will play a part in the service.

### Church weekly email

For those of you already receiving the Church magazine via email you may already be receiving a weekly email from the Church that highlights some of the current and upcoming events in the Church's week. If you would like to receive this helpful email – please contact the Church Office ([office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)) with your email address.

If you would like something Church-related mentioned or highlighted in the weekly email, please contact the Minister [derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk) Space is fairly limited and the information for the email is specifically for Church events and news.



Candle that found Christmas too much...

## **EXPLORING FAITH – THE 2016 MANSE LENT STUDY**

Whatever your beliefs, whatever your doubts, here is an opportunity for you to learn what the Christian faith means to you. This year's Manse Lent Study will use as its source the Church of Scotland's new Exploring Faith resource. If you're thinking about joining the Church, if you think you might like the opportunity to discuss what you find easy and what you find hard about belief, if you simply want to attend a 'refresher course' on Christianity, then this is the course for you! And if you know of people who might be interested, feel free to invite them along to this very informal meeting and discussion, with the Minister at the Manse (20 Braidburn Crescent, Edinburgh EH10 6EN) Come to as many of the evenings as you are able, there are six in total.

Each evening will last around an hour and a half, and will start at 7.30pm (with tea and coffee available from 7pm)

10 <sup>th</sup> February	What is a Christian?
17 <sup>th</sup> February	I believe in God...
24 <sup>th</sup> February	I believe in Jesus Christ...
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Why is there suffering?
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Why is there doubt?
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Death and Resurrection.

## **BABY AND TODDLERS GROUP**

Our Baby and Toddlers group runs on Monday and Wednesday mornings between 10am and 11.30 in the old hall. This group has proven to be very popular and brings in lots of little ones each week.

There have been a few changes to the structure in recent months. We start at 10am and adults are offered tea, coffee and light refreshments which are replenished throughout the morning and we have recently introduced a healthy snack of fruit for the children. Children are free to play with the many different toys and books on offer and at around 10.30 the craft table is introduced.

Craft is available on both Monday and Wednesday's and consists of simple crafts that the children can achieve on their own or with the help of an adult. This has been very popular and the craft table is always busy.

We have also more recently introduced a song time at the end of our session. At 11.15 the children gather round and we all sing along to a cd of popular songs that the children know and love. At 11.30 it's time to go so we finish with our 'goodbye song'. In the next few weeks the children will be making pasta shakers to use during this time.

At Christmas time we held a short Christmas service, which was well received. The service was held in the main Sanctuary where we all sang carols and heard the Christmas story, then afterwards, back through in the hall, Santa paid us a visit with presents for all.

The price for our group is a donation of £1.50 and we do not currently have a waiting list or a limit for either morning so if you have a little one below the age of 5 and would like to join us on Mondays and Wednesdays then we would love to see you.

Helen Guy  
(Associate for Christian Education and Pastoral Care)

## THE MONDAY CIRCLE (FORMER "LADIES GROUP")

It's magazine and Monday Circle time again.

The Monday Circle meets in the Morningside Parish Church Hall on Mondays at 7.45pm. We wish ALL our members a Happy New Year 2016.

Here are the dates for February 2016:

8 <sup>th</sup> February	Global Warming - Scotland's Future	Barry Heptonstall
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Coffee morning 10am –noon	
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Aurora Borealis - The Northern Lights	Dr D Gavine

We welcome back our current members and invite visitors interested in any of the above topics to join us.

Anna Cunningham, Syllabus secretary

### ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to our newest member,

- Fergus Joseph Arthur Cross, following his baptism on Christmas Day 2015



and please remember in your prayers the family and friends of

- Mrs Isobel Stuart who died on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2015,
- Mrs Margaret Hay, who died on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015;
- Ian Allan, who died on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015;
- Mrs Doreen McAteer, who died on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2015;
- Mrs Noel Milne, who died on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2015; and
- Miss Jean Bowie, who died on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2015.



## THE GUILD

The Guild started off with an excellent turnout for the first meeting of 2016, held in the very comfortable lounge at Morningside View, where we enjoyed watching some of the highlights of the Guild Annual Gathering recorded on DVD. Many thanks to our hosts.

In February and March we look forward to talks from the local talent, namely:

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> February  | Revd John Cameron on "George Macdonald: Story Teller"   |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> February | Mr Bob Reekie on Hugh Miller                            |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> March     | Mrs Evelyn Reekie: "Hymns we have loved"                |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> March    | Mrs Helen Duffy: Cake decoration (after the Guild AGM). |

Visitors are very welcome to any of these meetings, at 2.15pm in the church hall.



### FLOWER LIST

	Provided by	Arranged by
Feb	7 Lorna Graham	Anne Armour/Issie Paterson
	14 Fiona Trowell	Eleanor Watt
	21 Anne & Chris McNeil	Ruth Henderson
	28 Christine Peterson	Joan Burnet
Mar	6 Monday Circle	Marjory Watson

The flower list for 2016 is now complete. We would like to thank all those who have agreed to donate flowers throughout the forthcoming year.



## 55<sup>TH</sup> EDINBURGH BOYS' BRIGADE AND GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

2016 already and here at the 55<sup>th</sup> BBGA, we are half way through our session of activities and award work.

As part of our Christmas activities the young people took a trip to the World of Bowling down at Chesser along with Rona, Tom and I and our recently appointed Honorary Captain, Walter **Thomson**. The younger children were on one lane and the older boys (including Walter) were playing on another lane. After the first few bowls it was clear that Walter had played this game before, and the boys were soon in awe of his prowess at ten pin bowling!



Our next trip is on 15<sup>th</sup> January to Liberton Fire Station as part of our Community activities and awards. This should be a really interesting and informative visit and I know Rona is keen to play with the sirens on the engines! Look out for a report on the visit in a future edition of the magazine.

As Captain, I would like to thank the congregation for their kind generosity in helping us to raise £35.60 from the sale of Christmas sweets, beautifully prepared by Rona, after the last Communion service. This money is going to the joint Church of Scotland/Boys' Brigade charity, World Mission Fund, to help fund Boys' and Girls' Brigade uniforms in Kenya. We hope to hold

one or two more fund raising events over this year and the young people will also be doing their bit to raise funds too. More information can be found at <http://worldmissionfund.org.uk/index.htm>

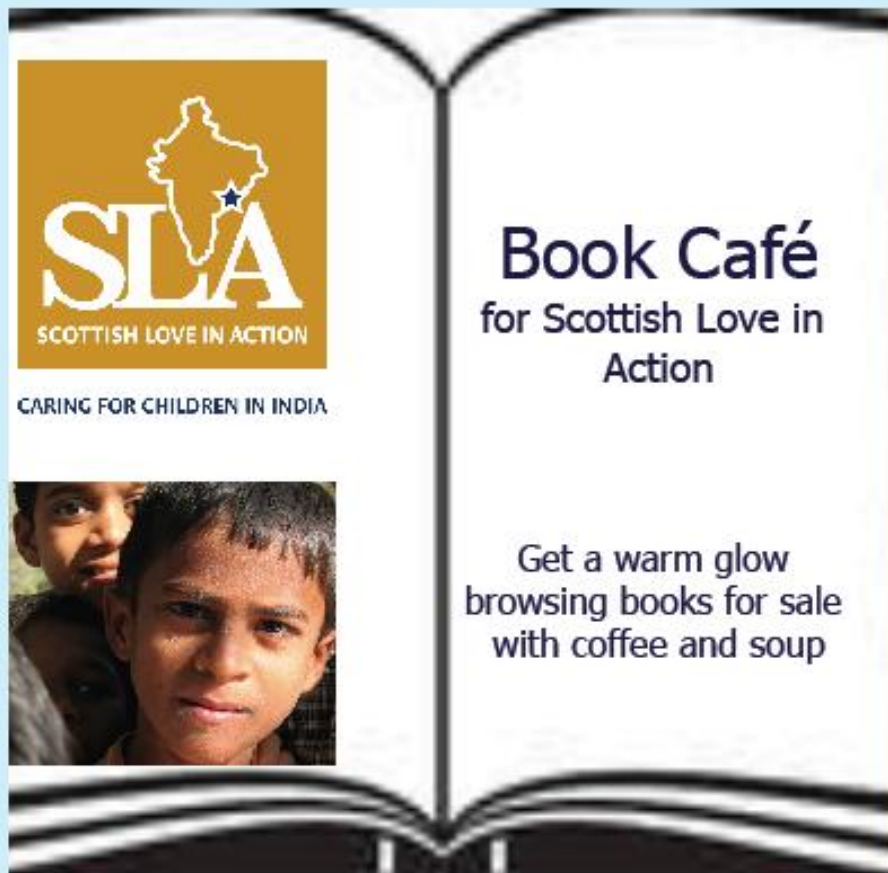
I also take this opportunity to thank those members of the congregation who took a BB small change donation box and have been regularly saving up spare coppers for our funds. So far from small change donations we have raised a magnificent £56.71. This money goes towards our resources for the young people to carry out their badge/award work as well as trips and other events. A very big thank you once again!

Although our numbers are still small, seven as I write this, we will welcome a brand new recruit at our first meeting back this January. Rona and I continue to work hard on recruitment, with leaflet drops and word of mouth conversations with people. Our young people will also play their part this year by inviting friends to a 'Bring a Friend Night' later in the session. The added incentive for them is that a bronze, silver and gold recruitment badge can be gained should their friends sign up and stay with the 55<sup>th</sup>.

It is also pleasing that a number of our young people do attend Church on Sunday on a regular basis, but even better that all of them are in Church on a Friday night taking part in BBGA activities which have the Christian faith as the central message, our Anchor. As the Right Rev Andrew McLellan said in the July 2015 edition of Life and Work, "...there is no other large-scale movement where church so regularly meets boys (and girls) who have no other connection at all with the life of the church."

Look out for further updates on our activities throughout the year. You can also follow us on Twitter @55thEdinBBGA or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/55thEdinburgh/>

**Scott A J Peter, Captain**



**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February**  
**10.30-2.30**  
**Morningside Parish Church, Cluny Gardens**

**Tickets £7.50 Children £5**  
**To include 2 books, soup and bread**  
**(coffee or tea extra)**

Tickets available at  
[www.sla-india.org/product/book-cafe/](http://www.sla-india.org/product/book-cafe/)  
or email [slabookcafe@gmail.com](mailto:slabookcafe@gmail.com) or on the door





*The heart within Morningside*

## **THE OPEN DOOR SENIOR MEN'S GROUP IS NOW OPEN FOR MEN'S BUSINESS.**

Recognising that our senior men would benefit considerably from attending a group run by men for men, The Open Door is delighted to announce the creation of our very own Senior Men's Group.

Men and women are welcome to join us on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January from 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm at The Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, Edinburgh EH10 5HY. Enjoy a pie and a pint, yes, it's our shout, discover the many benefits of joining our Senior Men's Group and help to shape its future.

The group itself will commence on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February and continue to offer camaraderie and a variety of activities each week. It is open to all senior men in our community.

Academics and members alike testify to the many benefits of being a part of a men's group, or men's shed as they are more commonly known. Improvements in sense of identity, self-esteem, and sense of value are often mentioned, as well as simply enjoying a good time with their pals.

Please let us know if you would like to attend the launch and feel free to bring someone you think may benefit.

RSVP on 0131 447 9757 or [admin@theopendoor-morningside.org.uk](mailto:admin@theopendoor-morningside.org.uk)

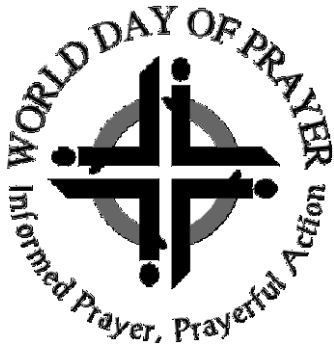
Alan Silcock & Lawson Mcculloch  
Joint Project Managers

### **WORK PARTY**

Arrangements have been made for the next meeting to be held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February in Room 2, Cluny Centre at 10.30am/10.45am. It is hoped that the ladies are in good health and keen to restart again. Looking forward to seeing the members at the meeting, and of course an invitation is open to anyone interested. Please contact me for information.

Margaret Guild (447 6290)





## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – FRIDAY MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> 2016**

Morningside Parish Church is hosting the Service for 2016 for this area.

There will be a change in that for that morning, the welcome and coffee will be held first, in the Main Hall from 10.30 am, proceeding to the Service itself in the Church at 11 am. The theme for 2016 is “Receive children, receive me” and has been prepared by a group of Christians in Cuba.

We welcome anyone free to join us for this service and to the Welcome Café in the Main Hall.

**Bible Studies in preparation, held in 121 George Street, are open to anyone, and will be from 10.30-12 in Committee Room 1 on:**

**Friday 12<sup>TH</sup> February 2016      (Receive children)**

**SPEAKER:- Belinda Letby, Deacon The Methodist Church**

**Friday 26th February 2016      (Like children receiving Jesus)**

**SPEAKER:- Iain Whyte, Secretary of the Church of Scotland Guild**

## **FOOD BANK**

Many thanks to all those who have contributed so generously to the Food Bank collection in the past year. The Food Bank which we support, in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Braids, is based in Southhouse and is part of a nationwide network of food banks in association with a national charity, the Trussell Trust. The food bank is staffed by volunteers from various local churches.

The food parcels are given only to those who are referred by Social Services or similar agencies. The following is a list of some of the most urgently needed items at the present time-

Tinned sponge puddings; Sauces  
Tinned vegetables; Baby foods  
Tinned meat or fish; Baby nappies  
Tinned fruit; Tinned custard

Please remember there are many people in need, even if only temporarily. Please continue to give generously!

Keith Bailey  
Rotary Club of Braids.

## BREAST BANK

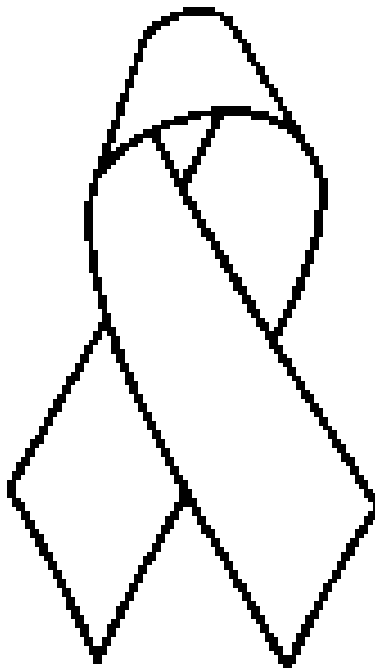
Ladies of Morningside, when you do your spring clean this year, if you are disposing of any of your old and unloved bras, no matter the condition, please consider depositing them in the Breast Bank Box which the Minister has kindly given me permission to locate in the ladies toilets beside the Church Hall, Cluny Gardens.

Many of you know my story - being one of the statistics of something like the 1:300 women diagnosed with breast cancer in any one day in the UK. I received the devastating news on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013 following my first ever screening, having shown no symptoms whatsoever. More alarmingly, I was told it was a most aggressive form but thankfully caught very early and I was operated on less than a month later on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014. I was later told that it would have had a totally different outcome had it not been discovered until 6 months later!

You may also know that my Mum passed away last year and I had the arduous task of clearing her wardrobe. You would not believe the number of bras she had - obviously she bought the wrong size in some cases and they still had the labels on them. I don't know if this is the right word but I have a phobia about

taking underwear to Charity Shops or indeed donating them in the boxes for The Clothing Store in the Church vestibule so I set about sifting the internet to see if I could find a home for them there.

Success - I discovered a small charity "Against Breast Cancer" which recycled them. They receive £1,000 per tonne (that's only 9,000 bras) which raises vital funds for dedicated research to improve detection and survival rates of the women and men. They are currently trying to develop a vaccine which will eradicate the disease. What happens to the bras? - they are recycled with most being shipped to developing countries in Africa where bras they are very expensive to make and a lot of ladies cannot afford them. Those bras which are beyond redemption are dismantled and disposed of properly, all of which adds to the vital funds to enable "Against Breast Cancer" to continue to look at ways to increase the survival of both women and men who have the disease.



There is no rush - the collection box will be there for a few months so do please spread the word amongst your friends. Many thanks.

Rona McLaren



**JIM AND ELLIE NAUGHTIE EVENING  
"LIVING IN THE SPOTLIGHT"**

The Morningside and Fairmilehead Committee of Christian Aid is pleased to present an evening of Jim and Ellie Naughtie in conversation about their lives and careers. This event will take place on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at Fairmilehead Parish Church, Frogston Road West, Edinburgh commencing at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm).

Tickets priced £7 are available from:

Bob Cunningham	(447 4757)
Bill Reid	(466 3111)
Ruth Henderson	(449 6449)
Evelyn Henderson	(334 2463)

Tickets will also be available at the door on the night.

Jim Naughtie has been a Special Correspondent for BBC news and current affairs. His journalistic career has included The Aberdeen Press and Journal, The Scotsman, The Guardian and The Washington Post. In 1988, he moved to the BBC to present Radio 4's "The World at One" and he has for many years also presented the "Today" programme and the monthly "Bookclub" programme.

Ellie Naughtie writes fiction for children and adults. Her Montmorency series of historical novels has won awards on both sides of the Atlantic and has been translated into several languages. Ellie was, at one point in her career, a BBC producer, mainly on political programmes and special events, but left broadcasting to have their 3 children. She has been a member of the Clinical Ethics Committee at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London for nearly 20 years and is actively involved with a number of UK charities.

Jim and Ellie have been married for nearly 30 years. They moved from London to Edinburgh almost five years ago. However, this is only the third time that they have appeared on stage together!

Refreshments will be available at the interval.

**CONGRATULATIONS...**

To Mark McInnes, one of our elders, who  
was awarded a CBE in the New Year  
Honours list.



## MUSICAL NOTES

Inevitably, things musical do not always go as planned, Sunday by Sunday; although having said that, I think our track record is pretty good. Not 'going as planned' has normally been limited to such things as a slight drop in pitch during an unaccompanied introit or the missing of an important entry by (say!) the tenor section. I do not think we have ever experienced (and I hope that we never do) the following wholesale catastrophe, as related by one David Winter in his 'Diary' column in a recent issue of Church Times (the Church of England's 'Life & Work'). He is talking about the two quite different settings of Christina Rossetti's 'In the bleak mid-winter':-

"Every time I hear it, however, my mind goes back (as minds are wont to do) to a moment of exquisite embarrassment. My wife and I had invited three professional musicians to the carol service at our church in North London – probably more than 40 years ago. One of the carols was 'In the bleak midwinter'. I idly wondered which of the two tunes we should have: Darke (the popular one), or Holst (the musical one).

The choir stood and a note was sounded. It was to be a *capella*. Good. Except that we were to be treated to an amazing sound: not Darke or Holst, but both at once. The north side set out on Darke and the south side on Holst. Neither was inclined to give in, and the gruesome result ground its way through earth as hard as iron and the Bethlehem snow storm.

By then, one of our party (a bass player) was crouched in the pew covering his ears, while tears of uninhibited mirth rolled down his cheeks. By the second verse, the organist, alerted to the situation, crashed in and order was restored.

Sadly, after all these years, I cannot remember which tune he compelled them to sing."

Morley Whitehead

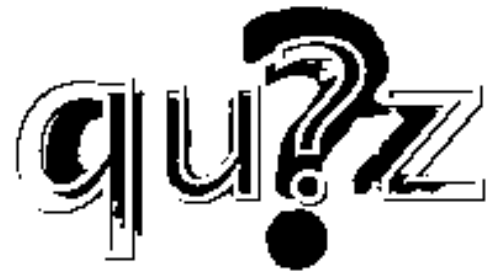
## MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT

It's that time of year again where you need to brush up on your general knowledge & get your thinking caps on!

The annual quiz night will take place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March, from 19:00.

Tickets will be on sale from Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February and are £5.00 for adults, £2.50 for children. Refreshments will be available to purchase on the evening. Teams are made up of 6, however we will be able to make up teams on the evening if you don't have a 6.

It's a great evening with prizes for the winning team, best name and the dreaded wooden spoon for last place. It is a popular event, so avoid disappointment & get your tickets early.



Kimberly Milne - Outreach Convener

## MARCH MAGAZINE

Material for the March issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March**. Contributions may be put in her pigeonhole at church, sent by email to [editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk) or by post to the church office at 1 Cluny Drive, Edinburgh, EH10 6DN.

If you receive a paper copy of the magazine and would prefer it by email, please contact the office at the above address.

### Time is

*Henry Van Dyke*

Time is too slow for those who wait,  
Too swift for those who fear,  
Too long for those who grieve  
Too short for those who rejoice;  
But for those who love, time is eternity.



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