



# Magazine

No. 117 MARCH 2016

Dear Friends

This year's Holy Week services will be exploring the theme of the Jesus we find in Luke's Gospel. It may come as a surprise to some that Jesus is portrayed in slightly different ways in the four gospels, and this is because each of the gospels has a slightly different emphasis in the way they seek to present the life of Jesus. Matthew, it is believed, wrote to Jewish Christians; Mark, the first gospel, is likely to have relied on the memories of Peter; John's gospel, the last to be written, is more theological and philosophical when it talks of Jesus and His message. Luke's themes are aimed at the non-Jewish community from which He came, feature healing miracles (Luke was a doctor), and speak more about sacrifice than the other gospels.

The way we picture Jesus throughout the year, as well as during Holy Week and Easter, matters. Jesus was real, attested to by ancient documents outwith the Bible. Jesus was a multi-dimensional character, not a one-dimensional stained glass window. Jesus was Jewish, and a child of the Middle East. Jesus lived in an ethnically diverse community, and is likely to have spoken at least three languages

(Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek). Jesus was someone who worked for His living. As well as being a teacher and healer and all the other things we associate with Jesus. Luke gives us a very accessible picture of Jesus.

Which is what makes the events of Holy Week almost unbearable to read. This vulnerable, just like us Jesus, put through Hell, betrayed, abandoned, brutalised, killed. How could anyone do this to another human being? How could God let this happen?



Travelling through Holy Week with Jesus, from Palm Sunday to Easter, we are faced with as many questions as we are answers, and as much cause for doubt as there is cause for faith. Nevertheless at the end of it all, I find myself emerging from the darkness and pain and disbelief. For in the Easter story I find, or maybe better am found, by the vulnerable God Who chose to stand alongside His people, not above them, or beyond them. Immanuel, God with us – not only at Christmas, but on Good Friday, and at Easter.

This is the Good News. This we celebrate when the promise of Easter breaks upon us once more.

Revd Dr Derek Browning

## KIRK SESSION MEETING

At the February Kirk Session:

- A report from the recent meeting of committee conveners who had met with a representative from the Presbytery to talk about the Local Church Review of a few years ago. Our congregation was complimented on the breadth of our activities. There was also talk about the opportunity of developing what might be called 'Andrew Projects' – reaching out to the community. Possibilities might include a midweek mid afternoon service, and perhaps some consideration about the large student population living in Morningside. The Session recognised that whilst there was no cause for complacency, an increasing number of our church activities purposefully reached out to a wide cross-section of the community and parish.
- Education Committee. The convener reported on the steadily growing numbers of young people at Sunday Club, and on the ongoing success of involving young people in worship.
- The Session Clerk updated progress on discussions with the architects about the proposed new buildings. Plans were still being developed, and particular thought was being given to disabled access.
- The Property Committee reported that the storm-damaged notice board at the Braid Road entrance to the Church would be replaced at a cost of £2,490.

## EXPLORING FAITH –

### THE 2016 MANSE LENT STUDIES

This year's Lent Studies in the manse continue on Wednesday evenings. Refreshments served from around 7pm, the study begins at 7.30pm. Material for the studies appears at the back of the Intimations each week in Church, and also on the Church website (click on the Exploring Faith section on the 'News and Events' section on the main page).

9<sup>th</sup> March

Why is there doubt?

16<sup>th</sup> March

Death and Resurrection.

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

## WORSHIP EVENTS

**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 will hold our annual Holy Saturday evening service at 7.30pm in our Church. The service includes music and a wide variety of readings to suit the emptiest day in the Christian year.

Easter Sunday is on 27<sup>th</sup> March. There will be one service at 10.30am, with a baptism. Children will be welcome to join us for worship before going through to the Halls for Easter activities.

(This is also the day the clocks go forward!)

### 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.

## PRE-ELECTION MEETING – TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL

The Elections to the Scottish Parliament will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

As we have done in the run up to previous Scottish Elections, the Church has invited representatives from the political parties represented in the Parliament to a pre-election hustings meeting in the form of the BBC "Question Time" programme, chaired by the Minister.

The meeting will take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30 in the Church Halls.

This is an excellent opportunity to ask your questions about local, national and international issues to candidates in the Edinburgh Southern constituency.

Please note this date for your diary. Although there will be the opportunity to submit questions on the night, if you have any questions in advance, please e-mail them to [paul.cackette@hotmail.com](mailto:paul.cackette@hotmail.com)

Paul Cackette

**REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR  
CLOCK FORWARD ON  
EASTER DAY - 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH!**





The Right Honourable the Lord Hope of Craighead was the speaker at our Speaker Supper on 5<sup>th</sup> February. Convenor of the cross-bench peers in the House of Lords, he was the first Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the UK until his retirement in 2013 and was Lord High Commissioner to the general Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2015 and again in 2016. He provided an interesting insight into his work both north and south of the border.

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

The Monday Circle meets in the Halls of Morningside Parish Church at 7.45pm on a Monday. Everyone welcome.

Many thanks for those who contributed or helped - especially the three Guides and their Leader - along with those who came to support our recent Coffee Morning when £372.60 was raised.

Here are the final dates for this session, 2015/16

7<sup>th</sup> March      Millinery      Margaret Burgess

21<sup>st</sup> March      A G M

11<sup>th</sup> April      Outing for members only  
(to be arranged)

Anna Cunningham, Syllabus secretary

#### FLOWER LIST

	Provided by	Arranged by
Mar	6 Monday Circle	Marjory Watson
	13 Rona Robertson & Fiona Bell	Val Mannings
	20 Mrs Hazel Nicolson	Eleanor Watt
	27 EASTER	Flower Committee
Apr	3 Charles & Irene Wilson	Irene Wilson



## BETHANY CHRISTIAN TRUST WINTER CARE SHELTER



Dear Friends,

Thank you all very much indeed for the wonderful support we have received from Morningside Parish Church towards the work of the Bethany Care Shelter this winter. As one of your 3 supported charities in 2015 we have received the extremely generous sum of £2,739 from the special collections at your Church over the course of the year.

This generosity from your Church has been a great help for Bethany to continue to provide the vital and potentially lifesaving Care Shelter service in the winter months from October to April for people who have been reduced to sleeping rough, often due to a downward spiral of events beyond their control.

These people all have their own individual story to tell about the sequence of events which has led them to being homeless and having to sleep rough, but the common factor is that all are hungry, cold, lonely, frightened and often depressed, so the Care Shelter provides a place of warmth, friendship and safety.

The donation total from Morningside Parish Church has provided at least 91 bed spaces in the Shelter this winter based on an average cost of £30 per person per night, which is very helpful as we have been seeing a consistently high level of demand for spaces, with an average of 50 men and women coming to the Shelter every night.

The Winter Care Shelter serves some of the most vulnerable and hurting people in Edinburgh and is often the only expression of love, grace and compassion that these men and women experience in their daily lives. Quite simply it would not be possible to operate the Care Shelter without generous voluntary donations such as this from your Church.

Again thank you all very much for your wonderfully generous support and for choosing to support Bethany's work at this time of need in our capital city-this is very much appreciated by Bethany Christian Trust. We are also very grateful for the help of the Morningside Parish Church Care Shelter Catering Team led by Anne McNeil for providing a nutritious hot meal and breakfast for 50 homeless people on the nights your team was on the catering rota.

Karen Reid, Fundraising Manager  
Bethany Christian Trust



## GIFT AID - A MILESTONE

You wouldn't probably be aware but this year, during January, we were running a Gift Aid Declaration Campaign. The objective was to contact, by telephone or letter, everyone who gives by means of Free Will Offering (blue envelopes) or Standing Order to our bank who hadn't already provided us with a Gift Aid Declaration.

As of Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, we have achieved a situation whereby everyone in these regular giving categories has either completed a Gift Aid Declaration or confirmed that they are non-taxpayers. Yes, everyone! As a result, we have made an additional claim to HMRC for Gift Aid amounting to £731.25 and we'll get a little interest on top of that. This claim covers giving for the past four years by those individuals who hadn't before signed a Gift Aid Declaration.

Our members have responded superbly and, of course, it hasn't cost anyone a penny, apart from HM Revenue and Customs. Now every member who is giving on a regular basis has completed a Gift Aid Declaration or is not a tax payer, so that door has been closed and it's a proud boast that we can make about our members giving at Morningside Parish Church.

So, you'll understand why we're feeling really delighted. It's money for nothing, it's great!

If you could give by Standing Order or Free Will Offering (the blue envelopes) and currently don't, then we're all missing a trick. I would be delighted to meet you to explain further, go through the necessary paperwork and make it tax efficient.

Euan Murray  
Free Will Offering & Gift Aid Convener

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## WORK PARTY

The next meeting of the Work Party is scheduled for Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March in Room 2, Cluny Centre. As usual wool, patterns and knitting pins, together with a 'cuppa', will be provided.

New members can be sure of a warm welcome. Please contact me for any further information.



Margaret Guild  
(447 6290)

## EASTER LEAFLETS

These are now available and ready for distribution to our Parish. The leaflets inviting people to our Easter services are one of the ways in which we can highlight our presence here in Morningside so please pick up a bundle today.

Your help is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Joan McKenzie



## FRIENDS OF MORLICH HOUSE

The residents and staff of Morlich House send good wishes to the congregation for 2016.

Throughout the previous months the ladies who are able have enjoyed outings to the barge at Ratho, a visit to the ballet and a meal in a restaurant. These were enjoyed very much. A shopping trip can also be organised if any of the ladies wish to buy new clothes etc.

The 1950's sitting room and kitchen are popular where the ladies may take their visitors and reminisce over days gone by.

The adjoining walls of the shed have been painted to represent a sweetie shop and a post office with an actual post box standing outside. This makes an interesting addition and conversation piece.

The fund raising coffee morning will be held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April in the Congregational Church Hall, Chamberlain Road.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Fiona Watt, Marion Cooper.

## ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to our newest members,

- Jenifer Spencer
- Alexander and Katie Holt

and remember in your prayers the family and friends of John Thomson who died on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016.

## LIFE & WORK – IN THE MARCH EDITION

### Easter 2016

The Rev Professor David Fergusson considers the place of Holy Saturday in the journey to Easter

Easter prayer from the Moderator of the General Assembly

Ron Ferguson ponders the place of Easter in Scotland today

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson considers the message of hope on the road to Emmaus

### 'Life is Not About Making Money'

Jackie Macadam meets Iona Bain, a young Christian and writer on ethical finance

### Friends, Sticking Together and Bolivia

The final 3 projects chosen by the Guild for their latest partnership programme

### Tales of Iona

Dr David Smith highlights the development of a new game designed to share the treasures of Iona with a new generation

### A Medieval Parish

John R Hume traces the rich history of Currie Parish Church

### An Enduring Legacy

During a Moderatorial visit to Egypt, the Rt Rev Dr Angus Morrison discovers that a 'forgotten' Scottish missionary is still revered by the country's Christians

### The Uncharted Waters

Hannah Mary Goodlad draws parallels between fishing and faith

**Online** Journey through Holy Week with the Life and Work contributors at [www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org)

## APRIL MAGAZINE

Material for the April issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**. 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.

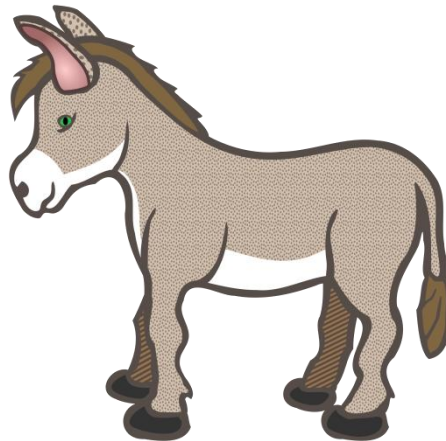
### **The Donkey** by *G K Chesterton*

When fishes flew and forests walked  
And figs grew upon the thorn,  
Some moment when the moon was blood  
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry  
And ears like errant wings,  
The devil's walking parody  
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,  
Of ancient crooked will;  
Starve, scourge, deride me, I am dumb,  
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;  
One far fierce hour and sweet:  
There was a shout about my ears,  
And palms before my feet.



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Join us for worship on Sundays at 9.30am (September to June)  
and 10.30am (throughout the year). Other services as announced.