

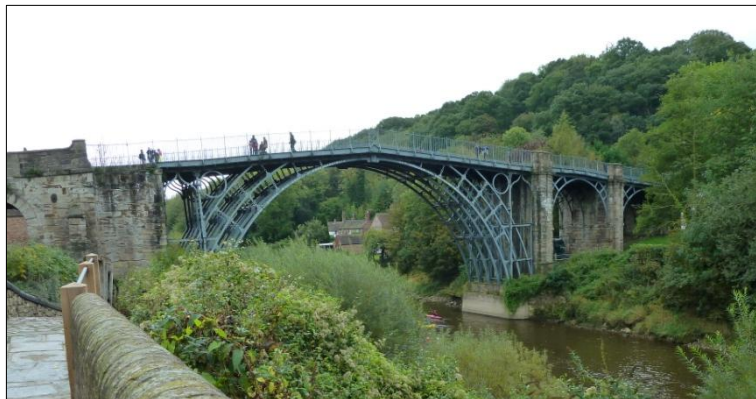


Magazine

No. 118 APRIL 2016

Dear Friends

"By including others, drawing on collective insights, knowledge and resources, and thinking and working together, we lay the foundations of a harmonious and progressive society. Being inclusive and accepting diversity goes far deeper than accepting differences at face value and being tolerant. True celebration of the dignity of each person, and the value of their uniqueness and contribution, involves reaching out, recognising and embracing their individual identity."



What wild, radical, revolutionary said this? Step forward Her Majesty the Queen. She was speaking about the role of the Commonwealth of Nations. She could, however, have been speaking about any other community or institution in our city, country or world. As a committed and public Christian, the Queen, in this statement, offers a view that challenges many of the prejudices that afflict contemporary society. No room here for Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, misogyny, homophobia, racism or ageism. It certainly challenges some of the views held by some within the Church

who follow an excluding path, rather than embracing a generous orthodoxy. Or, as another world leader, Pope Francis, recently said: *"A person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be, and not building bridges, is not Christian. This is not the gospel."*

Neither the Queen, nor the Pope, is likely to imagine that what they have said is easy.

These comments lead to further questions, particularly

about how to carry them out, and live by them. Nevertheless there is graciousness and wisdom in what they have said. As our nation prepares for the Scottish Parliamentary elections in May, and the European Referendum in June, I believe we would do well to ask, in Jesus' Name, if we are seeking to lay, *"the foundations of a harmonious and progressive society"*, and building bridges, and not walls? Faith and the example of Jesus play a part in all our decisions, including those we make about how we vote.

Revd Dr Derek Browning



CHRISTIAN AID MATTERS

Christian Aid Week is almost upon us once again. This year it runs from 15th to 21st May. The Sunday service on 15th May will be themed to include the work of Christian Aid and the benefits that it delivers. The Committee look forward to your support for this event to help get the week off to a good start.

Thank you to all of those members who have volunteered to help with the house to house collection this year. Collectors' materials will be available in the vestibule on 24th April as well as 1st and 8th May.

Please also make a note of the annual Christian Aid Spring Fair which is being held in Morningside Parish Church Halls on Saturday 28th May between 10am and 2pm. There will be refreshments available at the event, with soup being served at lunchtime. In addition, there are various stalls selling baking, nearly new goods, books and plants (hopefully) together with a number of specialist craft stalls. There will also be a raffle with a range of excellent prizes, a bottle stall, a children's

tombola and a "guess the weight of the cake" competition. Contributions from the congregation for the bottle stall and the children's tombola would be most welcome.

We have an interesting item for the children. At 11.30am for 30 minutes, there will be a children's story telling session conducted by Mara from the Scottish Story Telling Centre in Edinburgh. This will take place in the Church.

For the adults, at 10.30am, Morley Whitehead and the MPC choral scholars will present a 45 minute concert of music and song and, at 12.15, for 30 minutes, there will be a gardening talk and discussion.

In addition, Morningside Heritage Association will be showing an exhibition on A Hundred Years of the 55th Boys Brigade Company.

For further information, or if you wish to help, please contact the following committee members:
Bill Reid (466 3111) Bob Cunningham (447 4757) Ruth Henderson (449 6449) and Evelyn Henderson (334 2463)

FLOWER LIST

	Provided by	Arranged by
Apr	3 Charles & Irene Wilson	Irene Wilson
	10 Penny Graham	Anne Armour / Issie Paterson
	17 WEDDING	WEDDING
	24 Sheila Grahame	Ruth Henderson
May	1 Margaret Thomson	Margaret Thomson



WORSHIP EVENTS

Remembering Service

Our annual Remembering Service will take place on Sunday 17th April at 3pm in the Church. This service provides an opportunity for those who wish to remember loved ones who have died recently, or some time ago. The service includes some short readings, some music, and the opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one. The service will last around half an hour and all are welcome to attend.

Night Light Service -

Sunday 24th April at 7pm.



The next joint Night Light Service is on Sunday 24th April at 7pm in our Church. The Night Light services have been jointly hosted by our church with

Greenbank and Fairmilehead.

The Heart and Soul Swing Band will provide the music. The Band is made up of ministers and members of the Church of Scotland, and was recently featured in Songs of Praise. The Swing Band raises money for the Church of Scotland's HIV programme. We'll be raising money for the HIV programme and for Christian Aid at this service – so please come along and enjoy the music, as well as learning a little more about the HIV programme and Christian Aid.

Annual Stated Meeting –

Sunday 10th April

The Annual Stated meeting of the congregation will take place on Sunday 10th April after the 10.30am service. The Kirk Session, as Trustees of the congregation, approved the accounts at its March meeting. There will be an opportunity to view the accounts and ask questions, and hear a little more about the progress of our new building plans.

PRE-ELECTION MEETING – TUESDAY 19th APRIL

The Elections to the Scottish Parliament will take place on 5th 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 19th 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

Paul Cackette

Have you looked at the Website yet?
www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

KIRK SESSION MEETING

At its March meeting the Kirk Session heard reports on:

- **Stewardship & Finance** – The Annual Accounts and commentary had been circulated in advance. The Treasurer introduced the accounts prepared by Greenbank Accountants and examined by Whitelaw Wells. Anne Dobson then went over the figures in more detail. The income for the year to 31.12.15 was £343,830 (£366,719 in 2014) and expenditure of £367,507 (£374,041 in 2014). The deficit was £23,677 (£7,322 in 2014). On the income side the main differences were a drop in offerings and donations and no legacies being received. A drop in Gift Aid tax recoveries had been due to an exceptional year in 2014 when there had been a catch up in sums recovered. The reduction in expenditure was achieved despite an increased payment to Ministries & Mission. Session approved the accounts.
- **The Guild** – Marie Ogilvie advised that the Guild committee had resolved and were making a recommendation to the Guild members at their AGM that the branch be dissolved. As previously advised the branch had been affected by declining numbers and an inability, largely on account of age, to find members able and willing to take on the various leadership roles. All members had been notified and it was thought unlikely that the resolution would not be passed. The Guild is planning to mark its winding up by a special meeting including a lunch. Session noted with appreciation that it was the end of a long chapter in the life of all the churches which have now come together in Morningside Parish Church during which, over many years, much work, worship and fellowship had been enjoyed by the members and generous support given to the congregations and to the Guild movement nationally.
- **Church Hall Development** - The Session Clerk, Robin Stimpson, reported that progress continued to be made. Following the consent of the Kirk Session and congregation, approval had been obtained in principle from the Presbytery. An Application with outline plans had been submitted, with the formal approval and support of the Presbytery, to the General Trustees who earlier that day had agreed to the proposals. The General Trustees have also advised that we should also submit for consideration an application for a short term loan to cover funding the cash flow pending the receipt of the sale proceeds of the Centre. CARTA who advise on artistic matters relating to the interior of the Church met the Clerk, the Moderator and the Architects the previous day. A timeline for the completion of the project has been prepared by the architects indicating that time is tight but it should be possible to complete within our target date of autumn 2017. However one great uncertainty is the delays currently being experienced in the City Planning Department. Ideally the main work should start in the New Year although a contractor may be able to set up in the weeks prior to that. The marketing of the Cluny Centre may start relatively soon but it seems advisable to wait until the architects have been able to have a conversation with the planners in the light of finalised plans. Given that we now have clearance from the church authorities these plans can now be worked up.

- **Review of the Roll** – Moira Clark, Roll-keeper, advised that the roll now stood at 435. She also tabled the full Roll and Session attested and authorised the signing of the attestation of the Roll.
- **PVG** – Paul Cackette, Safeguarding Co-ordinator, presented the Safeguarding Register. Reflecting Data Protection issues, a summary of the register identifying names and clearance only had been circulated prior to the meeting and the full Register had been tabled.

RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY AND CULTURAL CHANGE IN SCOTLAND: MODERN PERSPECTIVES

Keynote: Professor Callum Brown (Glasgow)

The Humanist Condition: How the West was Re-moralised for Atheism

A range of topics and issues will be discussed by supporting speakers including Dr Leah Robinson, Dr Steven Sutcliffe, Dr George Chryssides, Dr Marion Bowman, Dr Khadijah Elshayyal, Dr Hannah Holtschneider, Christopher Cotter, Krittika Bhattacharjee and Liam Sutherland. For titles of papers, see website.

Tuesday 19 April 2016

09:30 registration for 09:45-17:00

School of Divinity, Martin Hall, New College, Mound Place, Edinburgh EH1 2LX

A One Day Conference organised by the Scottish Religious Cultures Network and the School of Divinity with the Centre for Theology and Public Issues, University of Edinburgh, supported by the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

FREE but participants MUST register in advance here: <http://bit.ly/1KdicRm>

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336.

FRIENDS OF MORLICH HOUSE

The annual fund raising coffee morning will be held on Saturday 30th April 2016 from 10am--12noon in Morningside United Church Hall. Enter from Chamberlain Road. There will be stalls for home baking, gardening and gifts. If you are able to contribute to any of these stalls we will be very grateful.

Tickets priced £2.50 can be bought from Fiona Watt (447-9648), Penny Graham (445-3548) and Marion Cooper (447-7149).

We are delighted to welcome Penny Graham, a member of our congregation, to the Friends of Morlich committee. Thank you for your support.

Fiona Watt, Marion Cooper



WORK PARTY

The next meeting of the Work Party will take place on Monday 4th April in Room 2, Cluny Centre at 10.30/10.45am. This is the last meeting until October 2016.

May I again thank the members for their support and interest. I wish everyone all the best and take care. Many thanks and regards.

Margaret Guild (447 6290)

ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to our newest members,

- Barnaby Arthur Alexander Holt, baptised on 13th March 2016
- Hazel Robyn Kirchin, baptised on Easter Day, 27th March 2016, and
- Fiona Jane Trowell, admitted as a new communicant after her baptism on Easter Day, 27th March 2016.

SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION

We have received thanks from Scottish Love in Action for the use of our hall for their recent Soup and Book lunch, at which they were delighted to raise £2,200.



NEWS FROM CROSSREACH – the social care arm of the Church of Scotland

CrossReach Counselling Lothians is offering a new employee assistance programme, Confidential Conversations, which provides flexible counselling services to any organisations or companies which want to invest in the mental health and wellbeing of their workforce. The service offers a confidential and neutral environment, where individuals can discuss issues that may be negatively impacting their lives and their performance at work.

For more information please e-mail: confidential.conversations@crossreach.org.uk

CrossReach's Heart for Art service now operates on seven locations, with plans to open two more projects. The most recent class is in Kirk O'Field Centre (part of Greyfriars Church, Edinburgh) and the hope is to launch another two in Musselburgh and the west of Glasgow soon. Heart for Art provides a natural, artistic ambiance for people with dementia and their carers, which enables access to thoughts, hopes and dreams. Artistic ability is not necessary – enjoyment is the key. Groups are supported by trained artists, dementia experts and volunteers, and sessions are free with art materials available.

For more information please e-mail: heartforart@crossreach.org.uk

CONGRATULATIONS...

...to George Canzini Roberts of the 55th Edinburgh Boys' Brigade on being awarded the President's Badge, the second highest award available in the Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association.

To earn this badge, George had to:-

- Complete a Christian faith development course
- Have good attendance for one session
- Be recommended by the company captain
- Participate in a non-residential teamwork skills experience
- Have gained at least three awards badges in the last 12 months;
- take part in an activity-based residential event within the BB
- Complete 10 hours of practical service for the Brigade or church



On the evening of Sunday 28th February we welcomed **John Bell** from the Iona Community to help lead worship at our Night Light Service. As we were in the season of Lent, John looked at the rich tradition within the book of Psalms that celebrate lament.

**John Bell with Rev Bill Stone
of Greenbank Church**

Another very successful **Quiz Night** was held in the Church Hall on Saturday 5th March where a packed house enjoyed an educational evening. Who knew that there were eight castles within the Edinburgh city boundary? Or what a baby anteater was called?

Many thanks to all those involved in the organisation and catering.



Quizmaster David Calder with his marking team, Millie and Fiona

MAY MAGAZINE

Material for the May issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 15th April 2016** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 1st May**. Contributions may be put in her pigeonhole at church, sent by email to 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.

ALL IN THE APRIL EVENING by *Katharine Tynan Hinkson*

All in the April morning,
April airs were abroad;
The sheep with their little lambs
Pass'd me by on the road.

The sheep with their little lambs
Pass'd me by on the road;
All in the April evening
I thought on the Lamb of God.

The lambs were weary, and crying
With a weak human cry;
I thought on the Lamb of God
Going meekly to die.

Up in the blue, blue mountains
Dewy pastures are sweet:
Rest for the little bodies,
Rest for the little feet.



But for the Lamb of God
Up on the hill-top green,
Only a cross of shame
Two stark crosses between.

All in the April evening,
April airs were abroad;
I saw the sheep with their lambs,
And thought on the Lamb of God.

Minister: Revd. Dr D Browning 447 1617 derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk

Magazine Editor: Alison Riddell 445 2330 editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Church Office: Carole Byres 447 6745 office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

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