



Magazine

No. 120 June 2016

Dear Friends

A winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics was once asked why he became a scientist. He replied, 'My mother made me a scientist without ever knowing it. Every other child would come back from school and be asked, 'What did you learn today?' But my mother used to ask a different question. "Son," she always used to say, "did you ask a good question today?" That made the difference. Asking good questions made me a scientist.'

Faith, virtually every strand of faith, Judaism, Christian, Muslim, is about asking questions. In the Bible questions are being asked of God all the time, particularly in the Old Testament. The Book of Job is one long question about suffering and God's response to it. Many of the Psalms raise questions about how and when and why is God near to His people. Jesus, in His teaching, would answer a question with a question, and kept His disciples, and the Pharisees and scribes, on their toes. It followed the Jewish custom of the earliest sermons, which started with the rabbi being asked something by a member of their congregation.

Religious faith has suffered considerably in the world today by being cast as naïve, blind and unquestioning. A scientist asks, someone once said, the believer 'just' believes. Religious belief is too often seen as the suspension of critical intelligence. One writer notes, "I respect faith, but doubt is what gets you an education."



In a recent venture in the national church, the 'pull up a pew' programme has given opportunities to people to question, wonder, raise issues about faith and the church. Hannah Mary Goodlad, the current Moderator of the Youth Assembly, asks, "Where are the places in church where people can go to ask questions?" My experience as a minister is that people are nervous about asking questions because they are afraid to reveal their own ignorance, or more difficultly, may be unprepared to accept an answer given. I

don't always relish having to deal with 'hard' questions, but I do often wonder when it was that the child's almost insatiable appetite for asking questions was turned off when we grew into adulthood.

Another writer notes that to ask is to believe that somewhere there is an answer. The fact that throughout

history people have devoted their lives to extending the frontiers of knowledge is a moving demonstration of the restlessness of the human spirit and its constant desire to transcend, to climb. Jonathan Sacks writes, "Far from faith excluding questions, questions testify to faith – that the world is not random, the universe is not impervious to our understanding, life is not blind chance...Critical intelligence is the gift God gave humanity. To use it in the cause of human dignity and insight is one of the great ways of serving God...Faith is not opposed to doubt. What it is opposed to is the shallow certainty that what we understand is all there is."

Ask your questions in reverence. That is how to start a journey towards God.

Revd Dr Derek Browning

WORSHIP EVENTS

The last 9.30am service for the Summer will be on Sunday 12th June. Grateful thanks to the rota of piano players and IT people who make this possible. The 9.30am services resume on Sunday 4th September.

On the evening of Sunday 12th June there will be a service where we have opportunity to say goodbye to our choral scholars for this year. The scholars will take part in the service.

The All-Age service will take place on Sunday 19th June and will be led by the young people of the Church, assisted by some of the Sunday Club leaders and elders.

MORLEY WHITEHEAD

This year our organist and choirmaster, Morley Whitehead, celebrates his silver anniversary with us – 25 years of leading our music. The contribution Morley makes to Sunday worship (and many other musical events) is significant. We would like to mark this occasion and show our appreciation with a presentation to him on Sunday 12th June at the 10.30am service. If you would like to contribute, please put your gift into an envelope marked 'Morley' and put it into the offering plate throughout the month of May, or hand your envelope in to the Church Office at the Cluny Centre, 1, Cluny Drive.

SEPTEMBER AUTUMN LECTURES

This year's Autumn lectures will begin on Sunday 4th September. 6.30pm for drinks, 7pm for a short act of worship and the lecture. This year's theme will look at different forms of Chaplaincy.

Sunday 4th September – the Revd Chris Kellock, an army chaplain who was deployed to Africa during the ebola crisis.

Sunday 11th September – the Revd Sheena Orr, Chaplain to HMP Edinburgh (Saughton), who has also served as a prison chaplain in Africa.

Sunday 18th September – Anne Mulligan DCS, a recently retired chaplain at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary

Sunday 25th September – the Revd John McMahon, Chaplain at Broadmoor Hospital (and formerly minister at Polwarth and chaplain at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital).



Chaplaincies, and there are many others, interact with often very specific situations where most churches would not normally have an input, so provide a specialised form of spiritual care for their area of interest.

ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of

- Mrs Ada Wilson, who died on 24th April 2016; and
- Mrs Peggy MacLennan, who died on 14th May 2016.

KIRK SESSION

At its May meeting the Kirk Session heard reports from:

Communications: Isobel Paterson, the Communications convener, told the Session that the new website is just under one year old, and feedback has been positive about its accessibility and its content. There is no Webmaster but instead different people manage different areas: the Minister puts up the sermons and the 'What's on' part of the front page; the Magazine Editor puts on the magazine and has also added magazines going back several years; the Church Administrator puts on the weekly intimations and the Communications Convener adds any new pages and photos.

The Magazine continues to be our main means of communicating with the congregation and is presented in print or email format. It is also well received.

Leaflets - These continue to be a very worthwhile means of communicating with the parish though delivering to 5,300 is a huge task. Use of the 'Minute for Mission' to encourage the congregation has been useful.

Morningside Messenger - For the wider public we submit monthly information that is published free of charge.

Weekly Email - The Minister devises a weekly information sheet that is sent to all whose emails we have. It's colourful and is effective as a reminder of the church and its immediate activities. If members of the congregation would like to receive this email, please contact the Church Office with your email address. (office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)

September Leaflet - The idea is to add a third leaflet to the others that have been successful at Christmas and Easter. This one might talk about Harvest matters and Doors Open Day but would also publicise groups beginning at the start of session. The group is about to consider how to involve more people in the distribution of these since the task seems to have fallen on too few shoulders.

Health and Safety: the Kirk Session heard concerns from the convener, Moira Clark, about issues relating to health and safety for volunteers and church staff involved in property maintenance work around the Church. It noted that the national church is appointing a health and safety consultant, and the Kirk Session agreed to review the areas where concerns were greatest, particularly working at high levels.

Elders' visits to Organisations: Throughout the year elders visit different organisations in the Church. The Session noted issues raised about the Sunday Club, Wednesday Men's Group and the Car Rota. With the Sunday Club, the gradual increase in numbers was welcomed, but it was noted that the age range from 3 to 11 was too great a span for activities to be meaningful to all the children. The Session has asked that focused thought be given to splitting into two age groups for some of the education and craft work, whilst recognising the benefit of some activities for all. The Session noted that this would mean an increase in the number of volunteers willing to be involved in Sunday Club, but also felt there would be some benefit in seeking 'professional' advice about how to resource and manage the proposed changes. The report on the Sunday Club was very favourable about the quality and

the style of Sunday Club and its staff, and hopes that comments made will help improve even further the experience for the children. Both the Wednesday Men's Group and the Car Rota are faced with a growing need to recruit volunteers to help maintain their work, and this is something that the congregation will be invited to address.

New building update: Robin Stimpson, the Session Clerk, gave an update on the plans for the new building. Neighbours were being consulted, and plans were getting closer to submission.

Worship: the Minister gave information about an experiment, which will see three afternoon services being held on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons at 2.30pm, in the new Hall. There will be three trial services on 6th October, 13th December and 6th April. The services will include a couple of hymns, a reading, prayers and a short talk and will last around half an hour. Tea, coffee and refreshments will be served afterwards. If you would like to attend, or know of someone who might be interested, please let your elder know. It may also be possible to offer transport, but this will depend on having volunteers able to provide cars, and the numbers involved.

EDINBURGH PRESBYTERY – WORLD MISSION

To mark International Refugee Week, Scotland, (20-26 June) the Presbytery has organised an event that will take place on Saturday 25th June, from 10am until 12 noon in Polwarth Parish Church.

A number of organisations, who are all Edinburgh-based, that work either in Syria, or in the camps in surrounding countries, or with those who reach the Mediterranean, or come to be integrated into the city of Edinburgh, have been invited to provide table-top displays of their work in their chosen area along this Syrian Trail. Organisations that have been invited are: The World Mission Council, Mercy Corps, Christian Aid, Edinburgh Direct Aid, Edinburgh Cares, Edinburgh Inter Faith Association, Amnesty Scotland and Edinburgh Churches for Sanctuary.

Those that come can stay as long as they wish, and leave at any time over the two-hour period.

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

COMISTON ROAD/BRAID ROAD TRAFFIC DISRUPTION

Work to upgrade the gas network in the Comiston Road area will begin on Monday 23rd May and last for approximately 12 weeks. The work is between the junctions with Morningside Drive and Braidburn Terrace. That section of Comiston Road will be for northbound traffic only; Braid Road (where the Church is situated) will become southbound only from the Church to the roundabout at Braidburn Terrace and Hermitage Drive. There are likely to be some parking restrictions for the duration. More information on

<https://www.sgn.co.uk/Roadworks/Scotland-projects/Edinburgh-Comiston-Road/>



FRIENDS OF MORLICH HOUSE.

The annual fund raising coffee morning held on Sat. 30th April 2016 raised the sum of £1,020.00. A great and rewarding effort by all concerned. Thank you to the congregation and friends for their invaluable support.

The residents have requested a telephone kiosk to be added to the outside of the post office on Memory St. A hairdressing room is being arranged which involves extensive plumbing work. Glen Brady, the manager of Morlich House, has secured a grant to have the forecourt of the house tarmacked for easier car parking and wheel chair access. This work will take place shortly.

The annual strawberry tea will take place on Friday 8th July 2016.

Fiona Watt, Penny Graham, Marion Cooper



FLOWER LIST

	Provided by	Arranged by
June	5 Catherine Leonard	Val Mannings
	12 Forbes & Jean Bowman	Marjory Watson
	19 Hazel Knight	Joan Burnet
	26 Isobel Brain	Irene Wilson
July	3 Rosemary Drysdale	Eleanor Watt
	10 Moira Forsyth	Ruth Henderson & Val Dunn
	17 Val Mannings	Val Mannings
	24 Marjory Watson	Marjory Watson
	31 The Sutherlands	Irene Wilson
Aug	7 Robin & Fiona Stimpson	Joan Burnet
	14 Jim & Annette Jenkinson	Eleanor Watt
	21 Margaret Gossip	Val Mannings
	28 Fiona Watt	Anne Armour & Isobel Paterson
	4 Florence Patton	Ruth Henderson & Val Dunn

GUILD BRANCH AT MORNINGSIDE PARISH CLOSSES

On Tuesday 5th April 2016 the Morningside Parish Church Guild held a Special Lunch, followed by a Thanksgiving Service with Holy Communion in the Church, to mark the ending of many decades of service by members within the Church of Scotland Guild. Thanks for most of the organisation of this event must go to Mrs Amelia Maclagan, who made sure we had an excellent lunch and saw to many other aspects of the arrangements for what turned out to be a happy ending. Thanks are also due to Mrs Evelyn Reekie, who played the piano; and especially to Rev Dr Browning for his conduct of the service, which meant such a lot to those present. Later Mrs Mary Finlay, our senior member, cut the cake, baked and decorated by Mrs Helen Duffy, and Rev John Cameron gave us some entertaining and uplifting closing remarks.



It is hoped that later in the year long-service badges will be presented to members, and that in due course a suitable reminder of all the



Guilds concerned will be commissioned for a memorial within the proposed development of the building. This will be possible with funds realised from the investment of a legacy bequeathed by Miss Whyte in 1951 to South Morningside Parish Church Woman's Guild.

It has been my privilege to act as convenor of the Morningside Guild for what we soon recognised was to be its final session. We are most grateful to David Mitchell for assisting on the financial aspects, to Miss Sheila Grahame for all her careful accounting in recent years, to Mrs Lyn Mitchell for much work as secretary and treasurer, and to Mrs Audrey Riddell as Project Partner. Personally I would like to record my thanks to every member of the Committee, who stayed on throughout the year, doing sterling work, and in particular to Mrs Margaret Gossip for much guidance on what was required.

The Guild of course remains active in many other places, and a very warm welcome has been extended for next session to anyone who would like to go to the Guild meetings at Greenbank Parish Church, or to their Friendship Club (which meets in an afternoon). Also the Work Party will continue in Morningside under Margaret Guild's leadership.

Marie Ogilvie

CONCERTS IN MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH.

When we began these, 15 or more years ago, it was something of an uphill struggle: I remember one concert where I played to an audience of two... However, with a lot of hard work at publicity by Jim Jenkinson and his team, and the "snowball effect" of holding an event at the same time, same place, each year, audiences are now a fairly respectable 60+ - although we are always glad to welcome newcomers - and something of an institution.



This year, the plan is as follows:-

Wed. 10th August: Music for Saxophone and Organ - Anna Wright and Morley Whitehead;

Wed. 17th August: Vaughan Williams' "Songs of Travel" - Zorbey Turkalp (bass baritone) and Morley Whitehead (piano);

Wed. 24th August: Music for 4 hands, 1 piano - Margaret Donaldson and Morley Whitehead.

Anna Wright is a brilliant young performer, who has just been awarded a scholarship to study for two years in Canada, and sax and organ create a surprisingly interesting combination; medical student Zorbey Turkalp has this last year been one of our Choral Scholars at MPC, and will surely make a good case for these RVW settings of Robert Louis Stevenson; and Margaret Donaldson (sister of conductor Donald Runnicles) is a fine pianist, delighted to be "making her concert debut"(!) at MPC. MW should need little introduction...

All concerts begin at 1.10pm., lasting about 45 minutes. Free admission, but a retiring collection in aid of the funding of a fifth Choral Scholarship here at MPC. Do please come and support - and ENJOY!

Morley Whitehead

CHORAL AND ORGAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are invited for **four Choral Scholarships** with Morningside Parish Church choir (available for any voice, Soprano, Alto, Tenor or Bass, worth at least £1,000) from Autumn 2016 to June 2017. The choir has a comprehensive repertoire from Tallis to Leighton

Also available is an **Organ Scholarship** (value at least £1,000) for Morningside Parish Church for the academic year commencing in September 2016.

The Church has a strong musical tradition and is the proud possessor of the last "Father" Willis organ to be built in Scotland - and which in 2004 underwent a complete restoration by Messrs Harrison & Harrison of Durham.

Whilst the scholarship has been designed around the academic year, this should not be seen as excluding adult applications.

For further details, please contact the Organist and Choirmaster, Morley Whitehead, care of Morningside Parish Church Office, 1 Cluny Drive, Edinburgh EH10 6DN (e-mail office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)

HELP REQUIRED!

WEDNESDAY CLUB FOR THE DISABLED

Could you spare a couple of Wednesday evenings a year between October and March?

The Wednesday Club meets at the Cluny Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings between October and March providing an evening's entertainment for a group of disabled men. Volunteers are required, from 7:00pm onwards, to help with meeting the men from their transport and assisting them into the Centre, as necessary, talking to the men before the entertainment starts, assisting with the preparation and serving of refreshments, and helping to load the buses up again at the end of the evening. You also get a musical evening, slide show, video, or, if you are very lucky, a game of Bingo thrown in for free.

Over the past few years our group of volunteers has been depleted through the retirement of some through ill health and age. This has meant an increase in the number of evenings that the remaining volunteers require to cover. A further 9 volunteers would mean that we could return to our volunteers only having to cover two evenings per year.

If you could spare a couple of evenings, please contact myself (449 2866) or Ian Hastie (447 4533) for further information, or speak to either of us at coffee after church on a Sunday morning. Please note that PVG clearance will be required to undertake work with Vulnerable Adults, but this will be arranged through the church's PVG Coordinator.

Charles S Wilson, MBE
Wednesday Club Leader

THE ROYAL EDINBURGH HOSPITAL

The Verandah Café was set up 40 years ago by a group of local churches to serve light snacks and drinks to patients, visitors and staff in the hospital. Now we are struggling for volunteers. No home baking is required, just a willingness to come in to help and serve food and drinks

We are open every afternoon from 2.00-4.00pm.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact
Aline Haggart 0131 447 8215 or alinehaggart@btinternet.com



HOLD THE DATES!

SUMMER LUNCH SUNDAY 19TH JUNE 2016

Summer is fast approaching and it is time for our Annual Summer Lunch which will be held on Sunday 19th June 2016 following the morning service in the New Hall. This will take the usual form of a 2 course buffet lunch. Tickets will cost £12.00 per person and this is an admission by ticket only event.

Tickets will be on sale on Sundays 29th May, 5th June and 12th June and can be bought from Mrs Eleanor Watt or speak to any member of the Social Committee.

We look forward to another opportunity to enjoy fellowship while enjoying excellent food.



AFTERNOON TEA SATURDAY 23RD JULY 2016

Come along and enjoy an afternoon of good food, friendly chat and an opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

This will take place on the above date between 2-4 pm in the New Hall at Morningside Parish Church.

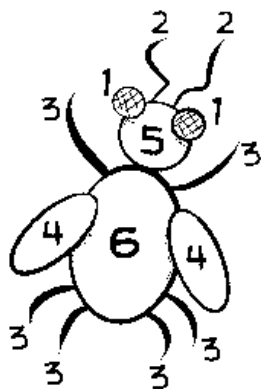
Tickets are £8.00 and can be bought from members of the Social Committee.

BEETLE DRIVE SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2016

Back by popular demand the MPC Outreach Beetle Drive!
7pm on 29th October
Tickets: £5 adults/£2.50 children.

Refreshments will be available to purchase on the evening and prizes will be awarded for the winners and losers.

Tickets will be on sale from 9th October.



SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the September issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 19th August 2016** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 4th September**. 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.

HOW TO BE A POET (TO REMIND MYSELF) *by Wendell Berry*

Make a place to sit down.
Sit down. Be quiet.
You must depend upon
affection, reading, knowledge,
skill - more of each
than you have - inspiration
work, growing older, patience,
for patience joins time
to eternity...

Breathe with unconditional breath
the unconditioned air.
Shun electric wire.
Communicate slowly. Live
a three-dimensional life;
stay away from screens.
Stay away from anything
that obscures the place it is in.
There are no unsacred places;
there are only sacred places
and desecrated places.

Accept what comes from silence.
Make the best you can of it.
Of the little words that come
out of the silence, like prayers
prayed back to the one who prays,
make a poem that does not disturb
the silence from which it came.



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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.