



Magazine

No. 119 MAY 2016

Dear Friends

We are born into a world that long preceded us and will continue to exist when we are no longer here. A writer comments that that imposes obligations on us towards the past and the future. An old Jewish story puts it rather nicely. A certain rabbi passed a man planting a carob tree. 'How long', he asked, 'will it take the tree to bear fruit?' The man answered, 'Around seventy years'. The rabbi asked, 'Are you sure you'll be here in seventy years time?' The man thought for a moment and replied, 'No, but just as I found carob trees in the world, planted by my grandparents, so I am planting this for my grandchildren.'

The writer goes on to say that we are guardians of the past for the sake of the future. The C18th political theorist Edmund Burke called society a contract between the living, the dead, and those not yet born.

15th May is the Day of Pentecost, the feast of the Holy Spirit, when we remember the day when the Christian Church was 'born.' It is symbolised by the brightness and warmth of fire, the cleansing of water, and the unsettling and mysterious force of winds blowing across the world. Some people make a point of wearing red on the day. It is a time when we remember two millennia of Christianity and wonder about the courage, faithfulness and commitment of our forebears in the faith. It also gives

Christians today the opportunity to look at what the Church is doing now, and what it is planning to do in the future. Looking at our new building project recently with the Kirk Session, it came to me to wonder what meetings had taken place when the Church building went up over a century ago. What faith! What courage! What commitment!

That is what we are doing today. Planning and planting for the future: it's a risk – what adventure is not? But it is also an act of faith. And it is a statement in our belief

today not only in the God of today and yesterday, but also the God of tomorrow. God already holds our future in His hands, and is continuously guiding us towards it: as individuals and as a Church community.



We build not simply to preserve the past or enhance the present. We build to enable the future, so that the Holy Spirit may come and work with us and through us and around us and within us. We pass on more than a building; we pass on a philosophy of living, which is based on tolerance, civility and respect for difference. Inside the stone and glass and bricks and mortar there is a faith that has at its heart love of God and love of neighbour. That's what we offer to the community today. That's what we offer to the community of tomorrow.

Revd Dr Derek Browning

WORSHIP EVENTS

Pentecost Sunday – 15th May

We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church. We will also note that this is the beginning of Christian Aid week.

General Assembly 2016

The Assembly meets from 21st to 27th May. It is a public meeting so if you would like to attend there is a public gallery – most easily accessed from the Lawn Market entrance on the Royal Mile. If you haven't attended morning worship at the Assembly, it is something very special. The Assembly begins each morning at 9.15am (with the exception of the opening Saturday which is at 9.30am). You can also follow proceedings by live webcast.

Heart and Soul 2016 – 22nd May

Heart and Soul is an event that attracts thousands of people on the Sunday of the General Assembly. This year that will be Sunday 22nd May, from 2pm - 6pm, in Princes Street Gardens. Over fifty organisations and congregations are ready to share with you their journey and explore this year's theme: People of the Way. There will be congregational stories, exhibitor marquees, Fischy Music for the children, the Heart and Soul Swing Band, an all-age Spill the Beans marquee, a labyrinth, a new youth venue, and from 5.30pm massed closing worship at the Ross Bandstand. If you've never been to Heart and Soul, please come to one of the most inspiring events that the Church of Scotland organises. And it's free!

June Communion – 5th June

The June Communion is on Sunday 5th June at 9.30am and 10.30am. Children will meet in the church halls for activities.

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.

STAMP APPEAL

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated used stamps to the World Mission appeal. The grand sum of £3,511 was raised in 2015 for the HIV programme.

This year the stamp project will support The Church of South India Otharo Eco-spirituality centre. This includes teaching people how to harvest and re-use rain water, establish a biogas plant to power their kitchens and develop a small dairy and chicken farm.

Please continue to save your used stamps and put them in the box in the vestibule to support this project.

Lorna Graham

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

KIRK SESSION

At its April meeting the Kirk Session heard reports from:

- Property Committee – ongoing care and maintenance is going on around the Church, Cluny Centre and Manse. After the winter, a fairly extensive programme of gutter clearing has been taking place, removing debris and resolving issues about damp in a few areas around our properties; the bathroom door handle has been repaired in the manse (after a guest got trapped and had to phone the minister to be released!); dry rot has been discovered in one of the rooms at the Cluny Centre recently vacated by the School and is being attended to; whilst the committee is trying to minimise expenditure at the Cluny Centre due to the pending sale, the Kirk Session has agreed that it remains important that the building be well-maintained for the remaining year or so that we own the site; during the January gales the notice board at the Braid Road steps entrance was badly damaged and has been replaced by a new board with wording to reflect the times and types of services held in the Church. The Session thanked Charles Wilson and his committee for their essential work.
- Pastoral Care Committee – ten visitors visit a number of our more frail members, keeping them in touch with the Church. Dr Jim Jenkinson continues to provide after-bereavement visits and cards, and the committee now sends a card on the first anniversary of a bereavement. Some thought is being given (with the Social Committee) to holding a mid-week afternoon service with some refreshments for those who find getting to Church in the morning difficult for whatever reason; it is hoped the first of these events will take place in the early autumn, and the committee, with help, would look to provide car rota transport for those who could come to the short service and tea and coffee afterwards. There will be a review of the current communion and pew cards to simplify the way in which information is passed on. The Session thanked Doreen Reekie and the committee for its work.
- New Building steering group – the Session Clerk gave an update on work. The plans are at a fairly advanced stage and it is hoped that they will be submitted to the City Planning authorities soon. So far the timetable is adhered to but the next stage is largely outwith our hands. Through a generous legacy from Miss Mary Cowan, a new scheme for the roof in the north transept (to become the new vestry and meeting room) will be possible. Elders at the Session were encouraged by the update and gave their support for the work being carried out, and thanked Robin Stimpson for his considerable work in enabling the smooth running of the project.
- Helen Guy, our Associate, reported on her work which includes visiting in homes, hospitals and nursing homes, helping lead worship in three nursing homes, involvement with the Baby and Toddler Group, helping lead the Sunday Club, and involvement with Scripture Union at South Morningside Primary School. Helen also assisted at the recent School Easter service held in our Church.
- Presbytery elder's report - it was noted that at Edinburgh Presbytery's March meeting Dr Browning was appointed interim moderator at London Road Parish Church.
- Dr Browning mentioned that he would be serving as Business convener at the forthcoming General Assembly in May. He has also been honoured to represent the Church of Scotland at the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly in June of this year. This Assembly will be held in Portland, Oregon.



42nd Christian Aid Book Sale

St Andrew's and St George's West Church, George Street, Edinburgh

The annual Christian Aid Book Sale begins on Saturday 14th May. Last year, £105,000 was donated from the sale to Christian Aid Scotland. Since it began, the Book Sale has raised over £1,200,000.

Appeal for donations

Books, paintings, printed ephemera, sheet music, antiques, records, stamps and postcards, and toys for donation may be brought to the church from Monday 2nd to Friday 6th May, 9am-9pm, Saturday 7th May 9am-5pm or Monday 9th to Friday 13th May, 9am-9pm.

Sale

Saturday 14th May, 10am-3.30pm; Monday 16th - Wednesday 18th May, 10am-3.30pm

Thursday 19th May, 10am-7pm; Friday 20th May, 10am-3.30pm

Further information on this and other Christian Aid activities are on their website:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/scotland/whats-happening-near-you/events.aspx>

Religious Book Section

A small group of retired ministers, supported by a team of willing volunteers, organise the sorting and selling of religious books, one of the largest sections of the Sale. We welcome anyone with an interest in or knowledge of religious books to work with us, and this is not restricted to ministers. If you've not been involved before, training will be given by experienced hands! We would also draw three further things to everyone's attention.

- The books in the religious book section provide a source of excellent material for personal study and reflection, as well as for church libraries and resource points.
- Because donors are very generous, we sometimes have unsold books at the end of the sale. If anyone knows of any charities, churches or organisations that could use these surplus books, we would be pleased to hear from you.
- The contact person for information and any questions relating to the Religious Book Section is Rev Alistair McGregor: aandmmcgregor@blueyonder.co.uk



Spring

Fair

Saturday 28th May
10am – 2pm

10.30 Choral scholars led by Morley Whitehead
11:30 Mara tells an amazing children's story
By Storyteller / Storymaker Mara Menzies www.maramenzies.co.uk
12:15 Colours in your garden through the seasons
By Judith Bell

Coffee
Soup and crusty bread

MHA exhibition on the
History of the 55th Boys
Brigade Company.

- Baking
- Raffle
- Stalls
- Plant Sale

Morningside Parish
Church Halls
(Foot of Braid Road)
Admission free!

CONGRATULATIONS...

Recently, the 55th Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association challenged the Junior Church/Sunday Club to an Easter Lego Challenge in conjunction with an Easter Story activity which the Edinburgh Battalion of the BB & GA was running for all BB Companies in Edinburgh. Entries from the BB & GA members were entered in both competitions.



The Last Supper, by Aimee McDonagh

The challenge was to construct a model, ideally out of Lego (but if Lego was not available any medium could be used so that parents did not have to purchase expensive Lego sets if they didn't have them). The only rule of the competition was that the models had to depict part of the real Easter Story. It was also an opportunity for "working better together" between the only two Church organisations in MPC specifically for children. Aimee McDonagh won the Church competition with her depiction of "The Last Supper", modelled out of Play dough and looked FAB-U-

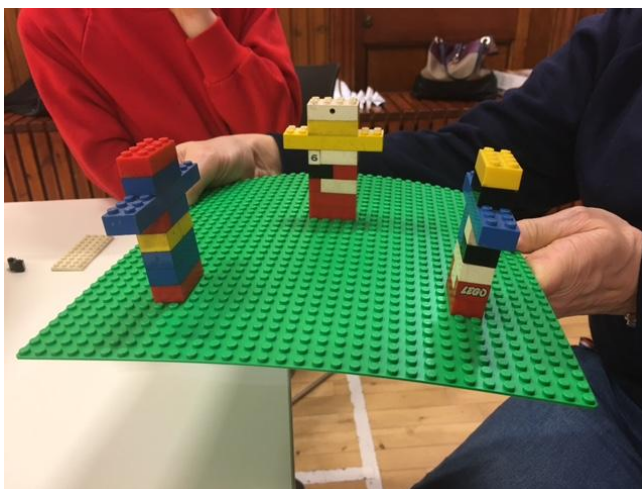
LOUS. [It was so much admired that I had emails from several people asking if I had a photo of it to put in the magazine. Fortunately, more than one person had sent me one. – Ed.]

For the record, in the Battalion Competition, Annika and Sokari took the prizes "with distinction" for their respective entries - "Jesus in the Tomb" and "The Three Crosses on the Hill at Calvary". The children get a lot out of learning through play and their imaginative finished results are a joy for us all to see.

Rona McLaren



Jesus in the tomb, by Annika



The three crosses on the hill at Calvary, by Sokari

LIFE + WORK - MAY EDITION

General Assembly 2016

Nine pages of previews, including Assembly reports, timetables, interview with the Moderator-Designate and looking forward to Heart and Soul

Give, Act and Pray

Marking Christian Aid week, an interview with the new Head of Christian Aid Scotland, the Rev Sally Foster-Fulton

The Hidden Christians

The author of a new book on Christians who don't go to church tells how it came about

Circle of Care

How the local community rallied round a terminally-ill minister

The Changing Seasons

The Rev Alastair Duncan considers the message of Pentecost and the challenges of preaching the Gospel in contemporary Scotland

Jesus, Makar and Maker

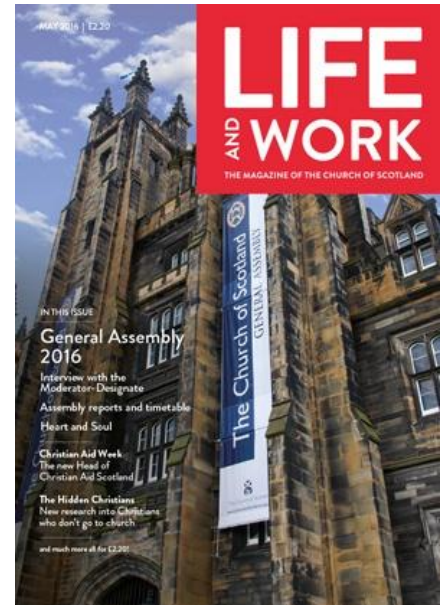
Ron Ferguson reflects on the need for dreamers and poets, as well as practical people, within the Church

Scotland and the Faithful Few?

Hannah Mary Goodlad argues that there is 'a spiritual hunger' within Scotland

Little Failings, Big Consequences

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson highlights the dangers of convictions without courtesy



FLOWER LIST

	Provided by	Arranged by
May	1 Margaret Thomson	Margaret Thomson
	8 Rosemary Owens	Marjory Watson
	15 Eleanor Watt	Eleanor Watt
	22 Marie Ogilvie	Irene Wilson
	29 Ruth Henderson	Ruth Henderson & Val Dunn
June	5 Catherine Leonard	Val Mannings

THE MONDAY CIRCLE - JANUARY TO MARCH 2016

Our first meeting of the year was about something we used to think of as a summer sport – tennis. It's now played all year round so referees and lines-people are required at various times. Stewart Houston, who has been a linesman for over twenty years, told us that you have to learn the rules of the game and sit a test before you can be on a line at a competition. You have to do about five big competitions before being asked to be at Wimbledon. Tennis governing body is the Lawn Tennis Association. Most of us will now watch the Grand Slams with a renewed insight into the game.

At our next meeting, Ian Tennant spoke about Harry Lauder who was born in Portobello, the eldest of eight children. The family moved west where his father found employment. As a family they made their own entertainment and young Harry joined in enthusiastically. He married and had one son who unfortunately lost his life during the First World War. His vitality, singing and sheer entertainment made him the highest paid entertainer during the 1920's. He died in 1950.

Barry Heptonstall informed us how Global Warming starts on our earth formation. It influences the weather patterns and the effect on the atmosphere of the use of fossil fuel has given us our worries about Global warming. Longannet Power Station closed in March but it may be revamped with modern fuel use for a new way of providing us with energy.

Dr Gavine gave a very informative show of photos and explanation of the Aurora borealis – the Northern Lights. Our last speaker was Margaret Burgess telling us how she became involved with Millinery. She brought some samples with her, explaining how she made the hats and showing us the various tools and types of material she used.

We met again in April for a meal, this year at Mortonhall Golf Club.

Our coffee Morning raised £472.60 so many thanks to those who came to support us

We resume our meetings in either September or October so we look forward to meeting our regular members along with new members who wish to join us.

Catriona Reid, President/Secretary

RELIGION AS POETRY

Saturday 28th May, 2016 at 7.00pm – 9.30pm, in Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church, Edinburgh

Keynote address by **Revd Canon Mark Oakley**, Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral, London, followed by a light buffet, poems and music. Tickets (free) are available on the Mayfield Salisbury website www.mayfieldsalisbury.org (Eventbrite) or from Sandra Carter 667 6052, or sandra.carter@barts.myzen.co.uk . **Everyone welcome!**

Canon Oakley, priest and author, will also preach at both services at Mayfield Salisbury on Sunday 29th May, 9.30am and 10.45 am.

HELP REQUIRED - SUNDAY CRÈCHE

As most of you will know we run a crèche in the new hall during the 10.30 Service and we rely on volunteers to keep this running. We are running very thin on volunteers at present and so would very much appreciate a few new additions to our team. If you are interested in helping out, could you please contact me on 07923177392 or drop me an email to: associate@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk. There are a few formalities to go through before you can join our team and you must be PVG checked. Depending on the number of people who come forward, you would only be required every 4 to 6 weeks.

Many thanks

Helen Guy

ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to our newest member, Mrs Agnes Pierce.

Please remember the family and friends of Mrs Dina Barns in your prayers, following her death on 29th March 2016.

FRIENDS OF MORNINGSIDE AGM

The Friends of Morningside do a power of work to help beautify and enhance the church and halls. Most recently they contributed the inspired pictures in the corridor opposite the pigeon holes and are currently considering works relating to the new building and the existing church halls, including the provision of IT screens and upgrading the sound system in the church. They also contribute significantly to the provision of our choral scholars. The AGM of the Friends of Morningside will be on Sunday 8th May at 11.45am (after morning worship) in the new church hall. There are brochures about the Friends in the vestibule and at the pigeon holes. Please consider joining, and come along to the meeting!

HOLD THE DATE! 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.



JUNE MAGAZINE

Material for the June issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 20th May 2016** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 5th June**. **Please note that this will be the last magazine until 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.

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

LIKE FIREWORKS IN THE NIGHT

By Ian Masson Fraser

Like fireworks in the night
The Holy Spirit came;
Disciples' fears took flight
When touched by fronds of flame:
And suddenly the world was young
As hope embraced a Saviour's claim.

For Jesus bade them dare
To venture, as they should;
His love taught them to share
Their homes, possessions, food:
The mind of Jesus gave them speech
All tribes and peoples understood.

Thus God our spirits lifts
Fresh daring to inspire;
As common folk get gifts
To change the world entire:
The tongues of flame at Pentecost
Ran though the world like forest fire.



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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.