



# Magazine

No. 121 September 2016

Dear Friends

It has been a momentous summer in the world of politics. I suspect most of us are suffering from a surfeit of news and much of it has been difficult to digest. The autumn contains more political decision making in the United Kingdom for the Labour party, and of course there will be the presidential elections in the United States in November. In all electoral campaigns, past and present, everyone seems to be promising a brave new world, where trouble, pain, crime, and fear will be no more, and that we will live at peace with our neighbours, and have money in our pockets to spare, food to eat and shelter to keep us safe and warm.

The reality is no politician can deliver such things, so their promises regularly ring hollow. For many people it seems that we are living at a time of depleting reserves of moral capital. Communities seem to be splintering, divisions seem deep, and the political uncertainty has led to a greater sense of fear and polarisation than I have known for many years. The former chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks writes that 'Communities are where we rehearse the virtues we need to build a better world. Moral principals are the compass that helps us navigate the undiscovered country called the future. When these are weak, we become insecure. When they are strong, we can walk with confidence whatever fate brings.' It is hard to have hope when you live in fear and uncertainty.

This bleeds from the political scene into personal lives, and the community, and also the Church. Yet it is precisely the gift of hope that the Church, through faith, can offer to individuals, and the wider community. We can offer the language of aspiration. We can offer the idea that whatever we are, we might be different. As a writer puts it, "We can grow and develop." This is what gives life meaning.

David Hume, an 18<sup>th</sup> century Scottish philosopher reminds us of the difference between what is and what ought to be. It is that difference that moves us to change the world, our personal lives, and our life of faith within the Church. People fall ill, so we practise medicine. People suffer, so we provide relief. Our society is built on the assumption that all that is wrong in the world is not inevitable. We can alter the way we behave. Faith sets out a vision for change. It may in time transform the Church, our politics, our economics, and our law. But first faith has to change us.

A rabbi once wrote: "When I was young, I wanted to change the world. I tried, but the world didn't change. Then I tried to change my town, but the town didn't change. Then I tried to change my family, but my family didn't change. Then I realised: first, I must change myself."

Good advice if we want to change the world, the church, or anything. Transform yourself first, with faith.

Revd Dr Derek Browning

Edinburgh:Morningside Parish Church of Scotland: Scottish Charity No: SCO34396

## WORSHIP EVENTS

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September is going to be a busy day at Morningside Parish Church as we will have our annual Harvest Thanksgiving service, along with a Baptism, and we will be incorporating a Pledge Sunday where we invite members of the congregation and friends to consider how they will support the work of the Church through the use of their time, talents and money.

The theme for the service will be New Beginnings – A Church for the Future.

Communion will be on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

## MID-WEEK SERVICES

The first of the Mid-Week services will take place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm in the new Church Hall. 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.

The next service will be on 13<sup>th</sup> December and there will be a further one on 6<sup>th</sup> April.

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

## KIRK SESSION

At its June meeting the Kirk Session heard reports from:

**Stewardship and Finance:** Robert Armour, the convener, reminded Session that good progress had been made in reducing the revenue deficit which had been running at close to £90k p.a. For 2016 the approved budget is based on a deficit of £20k and he hoped that breakeven might be achieved by the end of 2017. He suggested that:

- a further Pledge Campaign should be run with a Pledge Sunday in September
- Members should be reminded of the cost of running the church and the different opportunities of contributing
- there should be a focus on encouraging legacies
- we undertake further fund raising activities including music concerts and an auction.

**Associate for Christian Education and Pastoral Care:** the Kirk Session received a letter of resignation from Helen Guy. (At the July meeting of the Kirk Session it was agreed to re-advertise the position in August).

**PVG** – thirty people attended a recent training event to highlight protection of children and vulnerable adults.

**New Hall development and sale of Cluny Centre:** These progress steadily, with plans now submitted, and ongoing discussions with central Church groups moving ahead. It is likely that the Cluny Centre will be marketed in the autumn, with the Church retaining the property until the summer of 2017.

## SEPTEMBER AUTUMN LECTURES

This year's Autumn lectures will begin on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> September** – the Revd Chris Kellock, an army chaplain who was deployed to Africa during the ebola crisis.

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

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September** – Anne Mulligan DCS, a recently retired chaplain at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

## THE MONDAY CIRCLE – SYLLABUS 2016-2017

October	3	Prayer Shawls	Rev Elizabeth Fisk
	17	Music	Jean Eggar (NB Old Hall)
	31	A Battlefield Experience	Wendy Doran
November	14	Department Stores	Jane Tulloch
	28	Russian Icons	Rufus Reade
December	12	Members' Christmas Party	
2017			
January	9	Opening your Garden	Christine and Jerry Gregson
	23	Venture Trust	Eve Reid
February	6	The Railway Man	Charmaine Meekin
	20	Laura Ashley	Katie Taylor
March	6	Biblical Mothers	Helen Bond
	11	COFFEE MORNING	(Saturday) 10am – 12 noon
	20	AGM	
April	3	Meal	(Church Hall)

### FLOWER LIST

	Provided by	Arranged by
Sept	4 Florence Patton	Ruth Henderson & Val Dunn
	11 Wedding	Marjory Watson
	18 Diane Gaskin-Ruddock	Joan Burnet
	25 Harvest Thanksgiving	Flower Committee
Oct	2 Eleanor Wrigley	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson



### ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to new members Miss Christine Rutter and Mrs Meg Kemp, and to Harriet Elspeth Mary Trowell, who was baptised on 3rd July 2016.

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of

- Humphrey Passmore, who died on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2016; and
- George Henry, who died on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016.



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

"Membership of The Boys' Brigade offers young people so much – the chance to excel in new skills or talents, to explore and to discover new things".

For over 130 years, The Boys' Brigade has reached out to millions of children and young people across the globe. From expeditions to nature trails, camps to canoeing and even overseas, the BB gives young people the space to discover, to grow and to learn.

Arthur, 9, said:

"The Boys' Brigade is fun, exciting, energetic, makes you happy, it's fantastic".

Activities are all led by a group of trained volunteers who are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment.

Come along to the new session at Morningside this September and try it! This is an open invitation to ALL Girls and Boys from P1 to S6.

For more details visit us on Twitter @55thEdinBBGA.

## AT A FESTIVAL CONCERT...

What a pleasure it was to attend the lunchtime concert in Morningside Parish Church featuring Margaret Donaldson and Morley Whitehead (4 hands, 1 piano).

The choice of programme was varied and lively. It included Slavonic Dances, Spanish Dances and a selection of ballroom dances. The audience enjoyed it and it was obvious that the musicians did too.

As a surprise addition to the advertised programme, Morley sang two Flanders & Swan songs.

These two outstanding musicians were a welcome addition to the Festival programme. As a visitor, I was given a very warm welcome to the Church.

M M Brown

## LIFE AND WORK - SEPTEMBER

### 'Everybody Wants to Come Home'

Kathy Galloway reflects on a visit to refugee camps in Greece, while Frances Guy, Christian Aid's head of Middle East, describes the challenges of the refugee crisis

### Our Man in Europe

Professor Ian Forrester QC, Church of Scotland elder and European law expert, discusses the impact of brexit

### Letter from America

The Rev Dr Derek Browning reports from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

### Walking the Camino

Adrian Shaw looks back on his journey along the ancient pilgrim route

### A 'Parable of the Church'

The Rev Dr Jared Hay looks at the history and life of the Taizé Community

### 'The Best Job in the World'

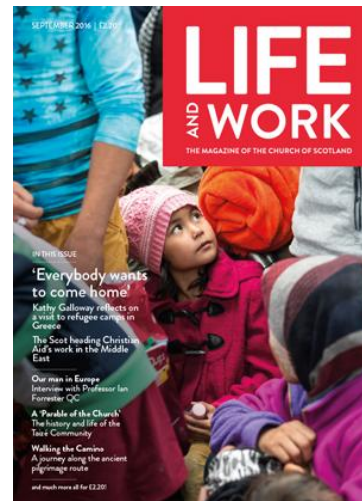
The Moderator, the Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr, asks readers to help him recruit more ministers to the Church of Scotland

### 6.5 Million Face Food Shortage

Scottish charities, supported by the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Government, have launched emergency appeals following the failure of harvests in Malawi

### Q and A

The third of the Rev Laurence Whitley's series on Hebrew poetry in the Bible



## **REACHING OUR COMMUNITY – help with the pop-up stall on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

At the Kirk Session, and as a result of discussions at the Communication Committee, ways of reaching out to our community were discussed. We know that the Christmas and Easter leaflets delivered around the parish are a particularly effective means of reaching out to a wide group of people. It is also a time-consuming one and very labour intensive for the dedicated people who do this.

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September, there will be at least one (maybe more) pop-up stall on Morningside Road. You may have seen this hosted by other community groups. A leaflet has been produced, ready for handing out. We will be looking for

volunteers to help with this in September – maybe doing a two hour shift.

If we want people to come inside our walls, and learn more not only about what we do on Sundays but also during the rest of the week, then we should be ready to go outside our walls and let people know who we are and what we do! More details will appear in the weekly intimations at church, and also in the weekly Church email.

(If you don't receive the weekly Church email and would like to – please contact the church office with your email details – [office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk).)

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### **SEPTEMBER SPEAKER SUPPER**

The next speaker supper will be on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Church Halls. Our speaker will be the Revd Ian Alexander, Secretary of the Church of Scotland's World Mission Council. Ian is responsible for the Church's relations with partner churches around the world, and has travelled widely to foster those relationships. Our Church is enriched by the partnerships formed with other churches, we learn from each other. You might not know too much about the Church's work overseas, in Africa, Israel-

Palestine, Europe and Asia. Here will be an excellent opportunity to learn more, and enjoy a good meal with a glass of wine.

Tickets priced £20 will be on sale from Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September, in the vestibule or church hall at coffee on Sundays or from the Church Office during the week. The menu is still to be confirmed but any dietary requirements should be notified to the ticket seller or the church office.

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### **SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING**

Our evening dancing resumes for its weekly meetings over the winter months on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the New Church Hall. It is one of the best forms of exercise so if anyone wishes to come and try they will be made most welcome. We are a small group who have a "reely" good time.

Further information from Catriona Reid (466 3111 )

## MANY THANKS...

... to everyone who has handed in and keeps on handing in to us their **used spectacles**. Since taking over this small task over two years ago I have handed in to our local optician more than 200 pairs of spectacles. These are very much appreciated. The spectacles are sent to third world countries where they are put to very good use.

If you have any spectacles at home which are no longer of use to you, please put them in the box in the vestibule of the church and I shall pass them on.

Aline Haggart

... to all those who contributed to filling the box for **Edinburgh Food Bank** recently. I am also very grateful to those who helped transfer it to my car for delivery to the Food Bank.

Contributions still welcome, particularly steamed puddings and bottles of sauce.

Keith Bailey



... to all those who worked so hard to organise both the **Summer Lunch** and the **Afternoon Tea** as well as those who came along to enjoy the delicious food and good fellowship at these very popular events.

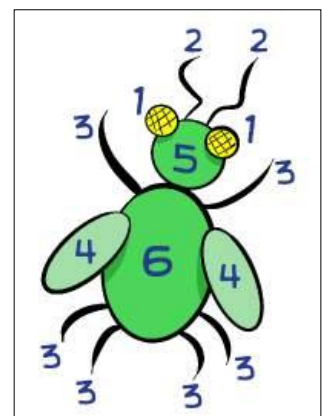
## BEETLE DRIVE - SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016

Back by popular demand the MPC Outreach Beetle Drive! 7pm on 29<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> October.



## OCTOBER MAGAZINE and FUTURE COPY DATES

Material for the October issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**. Contributions may be put in her pigeonhole at church, sent by post to the church office at 1 Cluny Drive, Edinburgh, EH10 6DN or by email to [editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk).

Whether you are a regular or an occasional contributor, or a distributor, it may be helpful for you to know the dates for the magazine for the coming year.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Copy date</u>	<u>Distribution date</u>
October	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2016
November	21 <sup>st</sup> October 2016	6 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
December	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	27 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
February	13 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	29 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
March	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
April	17 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2017
May	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	7 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
June	19 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	4 <sup>th</sup> June 2017

### **THE HAZELNUT** *by Julian of Norwich*

And in this God showed me a little thing,  
The quantity of a hazelnut,  
Lying in the palm of my hand, as it seemed.  
And it was as round as any ball.  
I looked upon it with the eye of my understanding,  
And thought, 'What may this be?'  
And it was answered generally thus,  
'It is all that is made.'  
I marvelled how it might last,  
For I thought it might suddenly have fallen to nothing for littleness.  
And I was answered in my understanding:  
It lasts and ever shall, for God loves it.  
And so have all things their beginning  
By the love of God.



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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.