



Magazine

No. 124 December 2016

Dear Friends

For all of us, privately and publicly, 2016 will have been a mixed year. Years are always like that. Hopes and fears, dreams and nightmares. That kind of mixture is found in the Christmas story, and you don't have to look too hard to find it. The incarnation of Jesus is never going to be sanitised or made pretty no matter how much tinsel we put around it, or how often we try to hide behind, "Christmas is really for the children." Though there is beauty, awe and wonder in the Christmas story, there is also pain, uncertainty and despair. All of these we find in the world, so all of these have their place in the stories of Christmas.

As I write, those mixed feelings dominate our news with the result of the American presidential election. For some there is excitement and possibilities. I find myself with the others, perplexed and astonished.

I will not despair, though the world is turning upside down. I will not despair, though the hurts are real. I will not despair, though walls may be built. I will not despair, though light is flickering. I will not despair, because

hope will come. I will not despair, because truth will triumph. In all that has happened in our world in 2016, much of which has saddened and dismayed, faith will give the courage, the strength, the vision and the resilience that is needed. Divisions must be bridged, and all the children of faith must be the people to do this. I will not despair, for though my hopes and dreams have not always carried the day, I believe the arc of

God's justice bends inexorably towards mercy. We work steadily to see God's kingdom, in all its challenging discomfort, established. I will not despair, because there is, always, hope.



The story of Christmas has many meanings: it speaks to the elated and the despondent. It also

transcends the cares and worries of this present age. That is why the Christmas story **shines**. It shines in the world, despite everything. It shines in our private lives, despite everything. It shines because it tells of God with us, a light in every darkness, and a hope in every despair.

May the light and hope of Christmas suffuse your lives and your homes now and through the coming New Year.

Revd Dr Derek Browning

WORSHIP EVENTS

Communion Sunday will be 4th December, with services in the Church at 9.30am and 10.30am.

Christmas and New Year events

Saturday 10th December:

The Church will be decorated for Christmas from 10am. If you would like to help with the trees in the Church, Hall, and outdoors, please come along!

Sunday 11th December:

10.30am Christmas All-Age Service. The children will lead the service. After this service there will be mulled wine and Christmas refreshments. *(No 9.30am service on this Sunday)*

Wednesday 14th December:

7.30pm Christmas Carol Sing-along with the Edinburgh Telephone Choir

Friday 16th December:

7pm Children's and Uniformed Organisations' Christingle Service in the Church (a half hour service open to all)

Sunday 18th December:

9.30am Early Service
10.30am Lessons and Carols The children will join us for the first part of the service then go through to the Hall for Christmas activities.

3pm **Blue Christmas Service.** A short, half hour service in the Church for those who find Christmas a difficult time. Sometimes it is because of bereavement, sometimes it is because of loneliness, sometimes because the sheer relentlessness of the 'season' simply gets too much and you need a quiet place to gather your thoughts and your energy. If Christmas is a 'blue' time for you – this service is for you.

Christmas Eve

Saturday 24th December:

6.30pm All-Age Service
11.00pm Carols by Candlelight
11.30pm Watchnight Service

Christmas Day

Sunday 25th December:

10.00am All-Age Service

New Year's Day:

Sunday 1st January 2017:

10.30am Morning Worship *(No 9.30am service on this Sunday)*

Sunday 8th January:

9.30am services resume
10.30am: Guest Preacher, the Right Reverend Dr Russell Barr, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.



MID WEEK SERVICE

The next mid-week service will be on Tuesday 13th December at 2.30pm in the new Hall. There will be a Christmas theme to the service. The service is open to anyone who finds it difficult to come to morning worship on Sundays - and is open not only to Church members but to friends and family and the wider community - so please let people know about the service. Everyone will be warmly welcome.

KIRK SESSION

At its November meeting the Kirk Session heard reports from:

The **Pastoral Committee** reported on its visiting work with some of our more frail and isolated church members – work carried out by volunteers from the congregation. It also noted with appreciation and thanks the work of Dr Jim Jenkinson, who was standing down as the bereavement visitor and who delivered flowers and followed up with visits to those who have recently had a bereavement. The Kirk Session echoed these sentiments warmly.

The **Outreach Committee** advised the Kirk Session of the considerable amount of work they did to support fundraising for our three charities, the Edinburgh Clothing Store, Scottish Love in Action, and the Marie Curie Hospice at Fairmilehead. This fundraising work was often strongly supported by members of the Social Committee. The recent Beetle Drive raised over £400 for Church funds and was greatly enjoyed by people of all ages. The Speaker Suppers continue to be successful and the committee is looking forward to the next supper, to be held on Friday 24th February where the guest speaker will be the Lord Lyon King of Arms.

New Hall: The Session Clerk reported on the new hall development, that we now have Planning Permission from the City Council planning department, but that, because of the delay in approval being granted, work will not begin until the New

Year. There has been a good showing of interest in the sale of the Cluny Centre. Some time has also been spent looking at improving the sound systems in the church and halls, and also considering the possibility of recording services so that they would be available visually and aurally on the church website.

The Kirk Session gave formal approval to the appointment of Jennifer Stark as our new Associate for Pastoral Care and Christian Education.

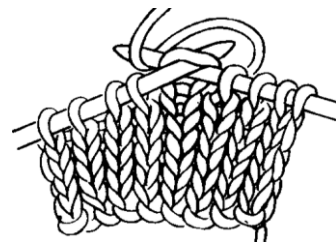
CHRISTMAS/FESTIVE CHEER

Sunday 11th December after the All Age Service in the New Hall
Tea, Coffee, Juice and Festive Goodies
Come along and enjoy!

WORK PARTY

A Christmas Coffee Morning will be held on Monday 5th December in Room 2, Cluny Centre at 10.30am/10.45am. On show will be a selection of finished articles. I remind members that there is no meeting in January 2017. Looking forward to seeing you on 5th December.

Margaret Guild (447 6290)



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

CONGREGATIONAL GIFT FOR THE MINISTER AS MODERATOR DESIGNATE

As you probably know Derek has been appointed Moderator Designate. I have been busy learning more of the details of what happens. One of the things I have learnt, which chimes with views that have already been expressed to me, is that it is customary for a congregation to make a personal gift to the Moderator on the occasion of his appointment. There are no rules as to what is given – it depends on the willingness and generosity of the congregation. However congregations often give the Moderatorial gown which it is customary for Moderators and ex Moderators to wear.

As you will appreciate the demand for Moderatorial robes is not great. They have to be custom-made and cost £1,850. This can be beyond the reach of many congregations but I hope it is something to which we might aspire.

You may think it early days to raise this matter, but I understand from the Session Clerk of Cramond that they presented Russell Barr with his robes but having placed the order in December, they were

ready only 10 days before they were needed. Time is therefore of the essence. This not a subject which Derek has raised and indeed I think he would be embarrassed to do so. However he has very graciously indicated that he acknowledges that his character as a minister has been moulded by the congregations he has served and that he has accepted the role not just for himself but in honour of his congregations. I think it would therefore be appropriate to honour the tradition of a congregational gift, so that when he dons moderatorial garb he will have literally a tangible token of the support of the congregation round him. If you would like to contribute please place your donation in the envelopes available in the pews marked “Moderatorial Gift” or indeed in any envelope clearly so marked and place in the collection bag on Sunday or hand it in or send to the office. It would be helpful if donations could be received by 6th December. I hope I can count on your support.

Robin Stimpson
Session Clerk

KEEP THE DATE FREE

MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH

BURNS SUPPER

FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY 2017 AT 7PM

TICKETS, PRICED AT £22, WILL BE AVAILABLE ON

SUNDAYS 4TH, 11TH AND 18TH DECEMBER. AND 8TH AND 15TH JANUARY.

**THE PRICE INCLUDES A 3 COURSE MEAL, GREAT SPEAKERS AND
EXCELLENT ENTERTAINMENT NOT TO BE MISSED**

COME ALONG AND ENJOY GOOD FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT!

FLOWER LIST

	Provided by	Arranged by
Dec 4	Catriona Reid	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
11	Christmas	Flower Committee
18	WEDDING	Eleanor Watt & Irene Wilson
25	Christmas	Flower Committee
Jan 1	Christmas	Flower Committee



The flower list for 2017 is now on the noticeboard in the vestibule - a number of dates are still available. If you would like to supply flowers one Sunday, please put your name and phone number against your chosen date. The cost is £40 and cheques should be made payable to 'Morningside Parish Church Flower Fund'. If you are a UK taxpayer and can give by Gift Aid, please fill in one of the Gift Aid envelopes found on the pews. Monies can be put in the Flower Committee pigeon hole or sent to the church office.

The Committee would also like to take this opportunity to express their thanks to all those who have donated to the Flower Fund over the year enabling us to enhance the sanctuary every week and provide flowers for delivery.

Do you have a hidden talent - or even a talent you don't know you have? We would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to join the Committee to arrange flowers throughout the year or be part of the decoration team for Easter, Harvest or Christmas. No previous experience is necessary as guidance can be given by members of the Committee if required. Please contact either Eleanor Watt (447 5492) or myself (449 2866) if you are interested, or speak to any of the ladies taking down the flowers on a Sunday morning for further details.

Irene Wilson
Joint-Convener
Flower Committee





ASSOCIATE FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PASTORAL CARE

My name is Jennifer Stark and as I write this, I've just finished my third week with you in Morningside Parish Church – a very short time, but I feel already at home, and as if I have been here much longer!

A little about me. I was actually born not far from Edinburgh, in Polmont, but my parents came from north of Glasgow, and I grew up in Stirling. I studied history at St Andrews, and carried away many vivid memories of music-making and Easter travels with an eccentric but very talented choir! I spent some years abroad, teaching English in Finland, France, Jordan and Indonesia – a wonderful experience which taught me much about the rest of the world and brought many good friends – and lived also for a number of years in York.

My faith journey began with baptism and childhood in the Church of Scotland, but I've been much enriched by experience of different traditions along the way – Lutheran, Anglican, Catholic and Quaker, to mention a few – and the friendships formed, for example, in an Ecumenical Theology course in York. This led in turn to sharing our tastes in single malt whisky, and climbing trips to Skye, Wales and the Lake District! But it also inspired me to explore my faith further by studying for an MA in theology from Leeds University; and by various degrees, to work for the Church of Scotland, first in Leith as leader of an ecumenical outreach project (where my work with the port chaplains opened up a whole new dimension of ministry to me); and then as part of a cross-parish ministry team in Glenrothes, focusing on children and families work and pastoral/ congregational support.

Thanks so much to you all for the welcome and support as I have gradually found my way around and started putting names to faces! I am already greatly enjoying my work with the Sunday Club, congregation and baby/toddler groups, and look forward to the months ahead.

Blessings,
Jennifer

ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to new members

Gregor Griffiths Campbell, baptised on 13th November 2016; and
Mrs Dorothy Rutherford

Please remember in your prayers

Mrs Ann Coyle, who died on 29th October 2016.

Miss Caroline Hepburn, who died on 9th November 2016.

CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING

Morningside Parish Church Hall, Saturday 3rd December 2016 from 10am-12 noon

Stalls include Home Baking and Preserves, Christmas Cards & Crafts.

Donations for the Baking stall will be gratefully received.

Christmas tree raffle and guess the weight of the cake competition.

Aileen Paterson will be hosting a *Maisie of Morningside* session for the children from 10.45 till 11.20.

Admission £3 (children £1) includes:

Refreshments: Coffee, Tea, Juice, Christmas Pie and Shortbread

BOOK CAFÉ for SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION

Saturday 4th February 2017 10.30-2.30, George Watson's College, 69-71 Colinton Road

Get a warm glow browsing books for sale with soup and coffee

Tickets £7.50 (Children £5, under 7 free)

To include 2 books, soup and bread (coffee or tea extra)

Parking available

Tickets available at: www.sla-india.org/product/book-cafe

or email slabookcafe@gmail.com or on the door

MEET ANOTHER OF OUR CHOIR SCHOLARS

Three of our six scholars introduced themselves last month. **Sarah Gross** is a Belgian mezzo-soprano in the fourth year of her Music degree at the University of Edinburgh, and studies singing with Christina Dunwoodie in Glasgow. Choral experience includes performing as a member of the National Youth Choir of Scotland and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra Chorus, and currently with the Edinburgh University Renaissance Singers. Apart from singing, Sarah enjoys composing, improvising on the flute, dabbling at the piano and discovering Middle Eastern music through playing Turkish ney. It's a pleasure to be back at Morningside on Sunday mornings for another year!



THE WEDNESDAY (EVENING) CLUB (AID FOR THE DISABLED) AND

THE EDINBURGH TELEPHONE CHOIR

For many years the Edinburgh Telephone Choir was on the list of entertainers for the Wednesday (Evening) Club and, at the suggestion of the Rev. George Munro, this became the now well established Carol Concert. The disabled men thoroughly enjoy the singing in the company of relatives, friends and members of the congregation. Their evening continues with tea, sausage rolls and cakes, in the company of members of the choir and the evening is rounded off with the traditional visit from Santa.

This year's concert/congregational sing-a-long, led by the choir's Musical Director, Jerry Gregson, is on Wednesday 14th December at 7.30pm in the church.

At the grand piano will be the choir's recently appointed accompanist, Nicky Fraser, who studied music at Glasgow University and is the organist at Inverleith St Serf's Church. Our previous accompanist, Marion McPherson, organist at Stockbridge Parish Church, will lead the congregational singing at the organ.

We hope you will come along and join us to help make this a memorable evening for the disabled men and yourselves. A retiring collection is taken to assist with the costs incurred by the various outings the men enjoy in place of their former annual holiday at Biggar.

Eleanor and Bill Watt
Edinburgh Telephone Choir

THE MONDAY CIRCLE

The Monday Circle meets on a Monday at 7.45pm in Morningside Parish Church Halls We are always ready to welcome visitors.

Here are the meeting dates and topics until February:-

November	28	Russian Icons	Rufus Reade
December	12	Christmas party	(members only)
2017			
January	9	Opening your garden	Christine & Jerry Gregson
	23	Venture Trust	Eve Reid

As there is no magazine for January, January 2017 meetings are announced here. We wish you all a Peaceful Christmas and hope you have a Happy New Year

Anna Cunningham
Magazine Secretary

KING'S RANSOM

I NOW

They'll give a king's ransom.
They are not poor; they still have money;
They paid
To cross the desert in a battered bus;
To cross the ocean in a leaky boat;
To cross a frontier through the fences of
barbed wire.
They paid
To forge documents,
Bribe officials,
Buy tickets for trains that never ran;
They were sent on;
They were sent back;
They were sent round.
They still have money left;
They will pay
To face a holding camp, a squalid squat;
A cold place and a colder welcome,
They'll pay and shut up...

Won't they?

II THEN

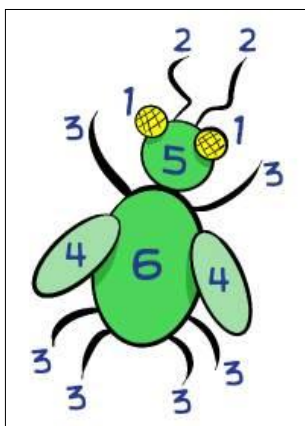
He'll give a king's
ransom;
He is not poor, he still has money left;
He needs to get his girl out of the street;
The baby's on its way.
The town is packed with displaced
persons.
He's desperate, yet strangely keeps his
dignity,
So, shove them in a corner of the stable;
But charge him
The same rent
As if they had a room.

We don't want folk
To think we are a charity!

No one will ever know what becomes of
this family and their kid.

Will they?

JWMC



BEETLE DRIVE

A big thank you to all who came along to the very successful Beetle Drive held on Saturday, 29th October. A great night was had by all. Our special thanks to our M.C. for the night, Aline Haggart, who I am sure all agree did a super job.

A mix of all ages enjoyed a fun night out. A bit of healthy competition between the children vying for the box of Haribo's for the highest score was good to see.

Congratulations to Helen Hughes and Milly Milne on being the best senior and junior beetlers respectively. Whether you were a winner or loser, your coming along was much appreciated by the Outreach Committee as the sum of £404 was raised for Church Funds.

See you all again at the next one.

FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

Please note that there is no magazine published in January. Material for the February issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 13th January 2017** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 29th January**. 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.

NOT THE MILLENNIUM

by U A Fanthorpe

Wise men are busy being computer-literate.

There should be a law against confusing
Religion with mathematics.
There was a baby. Born where?
And when? The sources mention
Massacres, prophecies, stars;
They tell a good story, but they don't agree.

So we celebrate at the wrong midnight.
Does it matter? Only dull science expects
An accurate audit. The economy of heaven
Looks for fiestas and fireworks every day.
Every day.

Be realistic, says heaven:
Expect a miracle.



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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.

Christmas blessings to all readers