



Magazine

No. 125 February 2017

Dear Friends

The recent presentation of long service certificates to our elders was a lovely event. To celebrate just under 1,000 years of service was remarkable. To have one elder with 50 years' service pipped at the long service post by another who had amassed 66 years of service was exceptional. As the Moderator whispered to me at the service, "I've never given a certificate to anyone for 66 years of service!" Our thanks go to all of those elders who have given so much of their time for the benefit of the Church, and for what it does in the name of Christ.

Around our congregation (as well as around the Church nationally) there are hundreds, probably thousands, of people who offer their service to the Church. Some of the commitment is relatively small but utterly essential. Other commitment is long-term and almost immeasurable. I know that our congregation would simply not survive without the contributions made by many of the members and friends of this Church. Not everyone wants attention drawn to the work that they do, but it is something that does not go unnoticed, and I am sure I am not alone in wanting to thank all of those who work steadily and selflessly in the background and make a difference. I know many will say, 'It's just what I do', but it is appreciated, and valued.

Concerns come from time to time about how the Church will move in to the future. The demographic of membership is a challenging one. All is not easy or

comfortable. The way we respond to the needs and demands of the Church is adapting and changing. Some things will come to an end, whilst others will become possible. One of the things we need to recognise is that the Church is never static, even though there are times we might think it is stuck and staid. Later this year I will celebrate 30 years of ordained ministry, 16 of them here in Morningside and the Church at large is very different from the one I was called to serve in 1987, and in 2001. We have adapted, and moved, and developed. Membership may on paper be smaller, but I see no diminution in the amount or the quality of the service that is offered. For that we should be hugely thankful.

When I return, in the summer of 2018, I will be a different person (let the people say "amen!"), and you will be different. For one thing, God-willing, there will be a wonderful new building to enjoy. I move into my time of preparation as Moderator of the General Assembly at the end of February. I know that I would not be in this position were it not for the care, support and encouragement (and occasional challenging and chiding!) from the congregations I have served. As I go about these new duties I know that I will take with me the prayers and many kindnesses of this congregation, for which I am deeply grateful. In what will be a challenging, demanding, and hopefully exciting year, not a day will pass without me remembering you and what I owe to you.

Thank you.

Revd Dr Derek Browning

NEWS

Moderator news

The Minister's last Sunday at Morningside before going into his Moderatorial preparation will be 26th February. As previously reported, the Interim Moderator during the Minister's Moderatorial year will be the Revd Scott McKenna. Scott's primary responsibilities will be to moderate the Kirk Session meetings and to be involved with worship from time to time. The locum will be the Very Revd Dr Andrew McLellan, whose primary responsibilities will be leading worship and pastoral care. Andrew will work three days plus Sundays.

Our Associate, Jennifer Stark, will continue with her responsibilities for Christian Education and Pastoral Care.

The General Assembly begins on Saturday 20th May at 9.30am. There will be a limited number of seats in the public gallery. The Assembly is also live-streamed on the Church of Scotland website. The Church is particularly pleased this year that the Queen will be represented by the Princess Royal, who was High Commissioner a few years ago.

Church weekly email

For those of you already receiving the Church magazine via email you may already be receiving a weekly email from the Church that highlights some of the current and upcoming events in the Church's week. If you would like to receive this helpful email, please contact the Church Office (office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk) with your email address.

March Communion: on Sunday 5th March we will share the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

The 9.30am service will be held in the chancel area of the Church, providing a much more intimate space for worship for those attending.

The 10.30am service will be our annual All-Age communion service – where our young people will be welcome and will play a part in the service. Our interim moderator, the Revd Scott McKenna, Minister of Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church, will conduct both services.

SPEAKER SUPPER EVENING – THE LORD LYON KING OF ARMS

The next Speaker Supper will be held on Friday 24th February at 7.30pm in the Braid Hall. Tickets priced £20 (which include your first drink) will be on sale after Church and from the Church Office. The guest speaker will be the Revd Canon Dr Joseph Morrow QC, the Lord Lyon King of Arms. The Lord Lyon is responsible for regulating heraldry in Scotland, issuing new grants of arms, and serving as the judge of the Court of the Lord Lyon, the oldest heraldic court in the world that is still in daily operation. The Lord Lyon is responsible for overseeing state ceremonial in Scotland, and registering and recording new clan tartans.

It will be an entertaining and informative evening, and a good way to introduce non-church members to the wonderful hospitality that we offer in our congregation.

LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES

On Sunday 8th January the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rt Revd Dr Russell Barr, preached at morning worship and handed out long service certificates to elders from our congregation. The Moderator and congregation congratulated all who had served the Church for so many years:

| | | | |
|------|----------------|------|------------------|
| 1950 | Gordon Hendry | 1979 | David Mitchell |
| 1966 | Bill Watt | 1981 | Ken McKenzie |
| 1968 | Geoff Bulmer | 1983 | Douglas Paterson |
| 1969 | Lindsay Watson | 1983 | Barry Hughes |
| 1971 | Hugh Crawford | 1983 | Olga Macfadyen |
| 1972 | Robin Stimpson | 1985 | Isabel Duncan |
| 1975 | Bill Reid | 1985 | Helen Hughes |
| 1976 | Wallace Bell | 1985 | Forbes Bowman |
| 1976 | Helen Buist | 1985 | June Cowan |
| 1976 | Charles Wilson | 1985 | Marie Ogilvie |
| 1976 | Willie Cooper | 1985 | Doreen Reekie |
| 1978 | Douglas Walker | 1985 | Sheena Allan |



Moderator, Rt Revd Russell Barr, presents Elder Gordon Hendry with a certificate to mark his 66 years of service as an elder of the Church of Scotland

L-R Revd Dr Derek Browning, Gordon Hendry, Rt Revd Russell Barr, Mrs Barr, Session Clerk Robin Stimpson

GIFT SERVICE

Time is flying by, the Festivities are behind us and we are heading towards Spring. I would like to thank everyone who contributed gifts at Christmas for the children of Challenger Children's Fund and the men from our Wednesday Club. Your generosity was greatly appreciated. I must also thank the member of the congregation who pays the postage for the children's parcels – a very kind gesture indeed.

Hazel Knight

KIRK SESSION

The Kirk Session has agreed to the election of ruling elders, and will proceed to the ordination of Anne Armour, Keith Bailey, Nyria Bailey, Penny Graham, Rona McLaren, Lesley Murphy and Norma Wilson, members of our congregation. The edict relating to the ordination will be read out on 5th and 12th February, and the Kirk Session will, unless there are any objections, proceed to the ordination at the 10.30am service on 19th February.

At the Kirk Session meeting in December:

- **Stewardship and Finance:** Chris McNeil, Treasurer, advised that 2 legacies of £700 and £1,764 had been received. He also presented and obtained Session's approval for the budget for 2017 showing income of £300,000 and expenditure of £335,680, an operating deficit of £35,680. He advised that 2017 would be a transition year because of the development plans – the rental from the City Council for the School would cease from July, investment income will drop as funds are drawn to meet construction costs and our Ministries & Mission allocation has been increased by about £8,000 but an appeal has been lodged with Presbytery against this assessment. The deficit was incurred in spite of a proposed increase in giving of 4% and £5,000 proposed for fundraising activities - including concerts and an auction in April. Another significant factor was

the liability for water rates for which no remission is given if income exceeds £300k and an increase, approved by Session, in staff salaries of 2%. The Moderator thanked the Treasurer and the Finance committee for their work in the preparation and scrutiny of the budget.

- **Staff:** John Scott Moncrieff, Convener, reported that appraisals had been carried out and had not identified any material issues although it had been noted that occasionally communication could be improved. Generally he was very happy with the staff performance. He commented that the caretakers were very obliging with an ability to anticipate needs. He was delighted that the whole team would be attending the Christmas lunch. The Moderator thanked the committee for their work and commented on the great benefit our congregation had with a committed and dedicated staff team.
- **Church Hall development and sale of the Cluny Centre:** Robin Stimpson, Session Clerk, reported that an offer had been made for the Cluny Centre and missives would be concluded late in 2016. The tendering process was beginning for the new hall work, with plans that the work would begin in the Spring of 2017. The Cluny Centre would remain in Church ownership until some time later in 2017, when the new work had been completed.

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

ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to new members

Bruce and Sylvia Wilson

Please remember in your prayers

Richard Allison, who died on 19th November 2016;

Mrs Mary Tweedie, who died on 12th December 2016; and

Miss Sheila Hunter, who died on 29th December 2016.

And every good wish to David Calder and Kim Mitchelhill
on their wedding on 17th December 2016

FLOWER LIST

| | | Provided by | Arranged by |
|-----|----|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jan | 1 | Christmas | Flower Committee |
| | 8 | Joan Burnet | Joan Burnet |
| | 15 | Frances Bruce | Val Mannings |
| | 22 | Sheila Rowand | Ruth Henderson & Val Dunn |
| | 29 | Euan Murray | Eleanor Watt |
| Feb | 5 | Lorna Graham | Anne Armour & Issie Paterson |
| | 12 | Chris & Anne McNeil | Irene Wilson |
| | 19 | Aline Haggart | Marjory Watson |
| | 26 | David & Kim Calder | Joan Burnet |
| Mar | 5 | Christine Peterson | Val Mannings |



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



55TH EDINBURGH BOYS BRIGADE & GIRLS ASSOCIATION

Happy New Year to all at Morningside.

We had a very busy November and December. We had an excellent visit to St Leonards Police Station, receiving an informative talk by Community Officers, Constables Harris and Rich. Highlights included trying on the handcuffs, stab proof vest and, for our older young people, a visit to the cells. George was impressed and didn't think the accommodation too bad - he didn't have to spend the night there though! Please see one off the many photos taken on the evening.

Theo took part in the Juniors Swimming Gala at Leith Academy Pool with over 70 entrants from all over the Battalion. He finished a very commendable 4th in the Primary 5 "B" final so well done to him.

In December was the Christmas treat - DVD, Popcorn, Pizza and Ice Cream Night. We enjoyed watching "Arthur Christmas" and went home stuffed. Special guest for the evening was Walter Thomson, our Elder. The following Friday we went to the Christingle Service in the Church - a most enjoyable start to the Christmas Festivities. Then we challenged the Sunday Club to a Christmas Challenge - a picture of the true meaning of Christmas had to be created using either hand, foot, fingerprints. Thanks to Aline Haggart for judging. 1st place went to Aimee McDonagh (Sunday Club), 2nd place Theo Jebesen-Moore (BBGA) and 3rd place Isabel Connor (BBGA). Well done to all who took part.



Finally, thanks to all who supported our Pop-Up Sweet Sale in the Church Hall following the Service of Lessons and Carols. We raised £32 which will go later in the year as our donation to the Boys' Brigade Church of Scotland World Mission Fund. This year's project is supporting the work of the Church of Bangladesh.

OUTREACH QUIZ 2017 - CHANGE OF DATE

Due to the large number of activities going on in February and beginning of March 2017 we have decided that it would be best to delay the Annual Outreach Quiz for 2017.



The new date for the Quiz will be SATURDAY, 25TH MARCH 2017
We will inform you nearer the time via the intimations at what time this will take place.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL IN MARCH.



MUSICAL NOTES

This might be no bad moment in which to record our thanks for and appreciation of Alasdair Grant, our current Organ Scholar. We have not always been able to appoint such (despite our advertising far and wide), and when we have, some appointments obviously have proved more successful than others; but I do not think that since the scheme was begun, in 2000, we have ever had a better Organ Scholar than Alasdair. A charming young man, he is very competent both at playing the organ and at directing the choir, and, what is more, works hard at both; and it was wonderful that he was able to cope so admirably with running things during my enforced absence, late October to Christmas. (As in so many activities, there is a lot more to it all than meets the eye - or ear!)

The idea of the Scholarship is essentially to offer real, practical experience to young musicians (rather than to get an assistant for less than the going rate), and I am confident that Alasdair is finding his time with us most useful - and enjoyable.

We send him our best wishes and thanks for all he does.

M.W.

THE MONDAY CIRCLE

The Monday Circle meets on a Monday at 7.45pm in Morningside Parish Church Halls We would like to wish you a Happy New Year, 2017 and welcome you ALL back for more interesting talks.

| | | | |
|----------|----|---------------------------|------------------|
| 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 | |

Anna Cunningham,
Magazine Secretary

JAM AND BAKING STALL

After the success of the jam and baking stall run by the Communications Committee over the last few months, it is planned to repeat the exercise on the last Sunday of the month. Please support it, whether by baking, buying or both. You will find the stall in the St Matthew Hall at coffee time.

THE LION, THE UNICORN AND ME....

In just about every Nativity play, the donkey is there among the animals, sleepily watching the baby Jesus and the family from the shadows of the stable. His or her job is only half done, though – having carried Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem, they still have to get back safely – and there’s a long diversion ahead to avoid Herod’s men.

Actually, there’s no mention at all of a donkey in Luke’s Nativity account – it’s even possible that Mary and Joseph had to walk all the way. But why spoil a good story? In our All-Age Christmas service in December, where the Sunday Club retold the Nativity according to the book by Jeanette Winterson, Scene 1 started with job interviews: which animal, the angels wondered, should have the honour of carrying Mary and Jesus?

As we found out, it wasn’t the horse, zebra, tiger or stag who got the job – nor was it the powerful Lion or mysterious Unicorn, who had both made the shortlist. Rebekah the donkey ended up getting the gig - and ended up with gold dust on her nose from an angel’s toes. We had great fun preparing and practising, and thanks to everyone who helped the children tell the story so well! For me, it was a most enjoyable way to get to know the children (and some of the adults) better in my first Christmas with you.

With January, I am back in a pattern of Sunday Club, baby and toddler groups, café, pastoral visiting, meetings and a few other things; and (probably like many of you) trying to think in advance of all the things I might need to know before Derek leaves us!

Jennifer Stark
Associate for Christian Education and Pastoral Care



Cast and helpers of The Lion, the unicorn and me

WORK PARTY

The next session of the Work Party restarts on Monday 6th February in Room 2, Cluny Centre at 10.30/10.45am. The meeting is open to those who are interested in this activity, and everyone will be sure of a warm welcome.

It will be nice to catch up again with you ladies and we look forward to a pleasant session. Please contact me for information if required.

Margaret Guild (447 6290)

CAN YOU HELP US?

We are looking for a

Spiritual Care Volunteer, at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital

We are looking for kind and friendly volunteers, with an interest in spirituality, to help with the weekly Service of Reflection in the hospital. The service is organised and held by the chaplains as part of the spiritual care offered to patients, ex-patients and staff of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. The volunteer role offers the opportunity to support the care of the spiritual/human needs of patients in a practical way by:

- Preparation and serving of refreshments (tea, coffee, biscuits) for the group
- Accompanying patients from their wards to the reflection group at the beginning of the session and then returning patients to their wards at the end of the session.
- Providing conversation and listening to vulnerable adults in an informal group setting
- Occasional help with other aspects of group preparation e.g. moving of chairs.

If you think this might be you, please get in touch on **0131 447 9700** or katie.smith@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk for more information. Thanks!

TALES OF LIFE IN THAILAND

Our mission partners, Jane and Mike Fucella have finished their 22 years of mission in Thailand. Want to read about how it was?

Jane has published her book on her time out there and in my opinion the book is quite magnificent. I enjoy the thought of Christian inspiration being empowering in a unique way. This Jane achieves quite wonderfully.

Her book is entitled "Behind the Smiles", by Jane Fucella, illustrated by Mike Fucella. Copies are available from Carole Byres in the Church Office (0131 447 6745). Alternatively, email me on r.alexander1@sky.com and I will get the book to you. Price £9.90.

Bob Alexander

Chalmers Lectures 2017

WATCH ONLINE

Reforming the Kirk

— the future of the Church of Scotland

Rev Dr Doug Gay

Lecturer in Practical Theology, Principal of Trinity College, University of Glasgow

FEBRUARY 1st, 8th and 15th, 2017 • 6.30pm • St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh

In this series of three lectures, Glasgow-based Practical Theologian and Kirk Minister Doug Gay offers a candid, forthright and bold analysis of the state of the Church of Scotland and the choices facing it.

LECTURE 1

WED 1st FEBRUARY

Walls Without Church?

The first lecture explores 'what just happened?' tracing the decline of the Kirk as a national institution since the 1960s.

LECTURE 2

WED 8th FEBRUARY

Call And Response

The second lecture explores the relationship between the church's understanding of its own calling and its response.

LECTURE 3

WED 15th FEBRUARY

Grand Designs

The final lecture makes the case for radical structural reform of the Church of Scotland over the next decade.



Doug describes the lectures as 'hard thinking done with a soft heart' and 'radical thinking offered in a cautious spirit'. He hopes the lectures will both contribute to a broader understanding of the state of the Kirk across Scotland and the international reformed community and to a creative and productive conversation about reform within the Kirk.



The Church of Scotland

FREE to attend, or WATCH online:
www.churchofscotland.org.uk

WEDNESDAY CLUB FOR THE DISABLED

On behalf of the men of the Wednesday Club, I would like to thank those members of the Congregation who provided presents for Santa to hand out during our supper following the Carol Concert given by the Telephone Choir on 14th December 2016. Given the feedback received from the men, the presents were most acceptable and much appreciated.

The new session got off to a roof-raising start on 11th January when we were entertained by Jay Silver, a professional entertainer on the club circuit. When he is not performing on the club circuit, Jay can be found enticing the residents of nursing and care homes to let the music flow over them and join in the singing or, if they are able, get up and have a little dance. Our members didn't get up and dance but they certainly joined in the singing and kept him busy plying him with requests for songs from all music genres. The programme for the remainder of January is a bit more mundane; a DVD evening followed by Bingo.

The remainder of the session has a combination of slide shows and musical evenings, the latter covering a fairly wide spectrum from Folk to Stage Musicals, from Pop to Ballads. No doubt, at some point, we will have the odd Domino evening to keep us grounded.

Although we have managed to secure the services of two new entertainers this session – Jay Silver and Debbie King – we are, as usual, on the look-out for more talent to add to our dwindling band of stalwarts. If you know of anyone who can provide us with an evening's entertainment, please get in touch with Ian Hastie (447 4533) or myself (449 2866).

**Charles S Wilson MBE
Club Coordinator**

PLACE-MAKING WITH OLDER ADULTS: TOWARDS AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

Dr Meiko Makito of Heriot Watt University is looking for help in connection with the above research project.

In phase 1 of the research, she and her colleagues would like to speak to adults over the age of 60 living in Morningside, Leith or Craigmillar. They want to find out about living in the community, likes and dislikes and improvements older adults would like to see to design and deliver age-friendly communities.

Participation would involve a face-to-face interview with one of the research team where you can tell them what it is like to live in your community.

Please contact Dr Ryan Woolrych or Dr Meiko Makita on place-making@hw.ac.uk or by telephone 0131 451 3899 to hear more about the project and sign-up to our next session. Follow them on twitter @PlaceAge

For more information, see:-

<http://www.urbantransformations.ox.ac.uk/project/place-making-with-older-adults-towards-age-friendly-communities/>

MARCH MAGAZINE

Material for the March issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 17th February 2017** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 5th March**. 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.

A reflection

Once upon a time in Ancient Greece, one of the acquaintances of the great philosopher Socrates came up to him and said: "Socrates, do you know what I heard about one of your students?"

"Just a moment," Socrates replied. "Before you tell me, I would like to perform a test, the 'Three Sieves Test.' Before you say anything, take a moment to reflect carefully on what you wish to say by pouring your words through these three sieves. The first sieve is the Sieve of Truth. Are you absolutely sure, without any doubt, that what you are about to tell me is true?"

"Well, no, I'm not. Actually I heard it recently..."

"All right," interrupted Socrates. "So you don't really know whether it is true or not. Then let's try the second sieve, the Sieve of Goodness. Are you going to tell me something good about my student?"

"Well, no, on the contrary..." said his acquaintance.

"So you want to tell me something bad about him", said Socrates, "even though you are not certain if it is good or not?"

"Em..."

Socrates continued, "You may still pass the test, because there is a third sieve: the Sieve of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my student going to be useful to me?"

"No, not much," said the man, with a sigh.

Finishing the lesson, Socrates concluded: "Well then, if what you want to tell me is not true, nor good, nor useful, why bother telling me at all?"

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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.