



# Magazine

No. 128 May 2017

For Derek Browning, no year of his ministry will compare with the year which begins on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017, when he will become Moderator of the General Assembly. Within that year, no week will compare with the first week. Within that week, no day will compare with the first day. It is very good that a great crowd of Morningside people will be there for the great day: he will be encouraged and reassured by the presence of so many friendly faces just when he will be feeling fragile.

Most of the Morningside visitors will leave after the grand opening ceremony and installation of the Moderator. You might want to know, however, that you can watch all of the proceedings live online through the link on the Church of Scotland website: and unlike the commissioners who have to be present (including two Morningside elders and me), you can watch it with your cup of tea in your hand!

The opening ceremony is very formal; and it will be more colourful than usual this year because of the presence of HRH Princess Anne. Last year's Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Russell Barr, minister of Cramond, will open the General Assembly. Almost immediately he will invite the General Assembly to

approve the nomination of Derek Browning as its Moderator – and off we go.

During Assembly week, Derek will have four duties. By far the most important is to chair the proceedings. We all expect your minister to be very good at that, since he



already has the experience of being Convener of the Business Committee of the General Assembly for some years and he knows the procedure (which is often complicated) very well. He will lead the Assembly in worship at the beginning of every session, and preach at the Assembly Service in St Giles on the Sunday morning. In various ways he will express the Assembly's appreciation of the presence of the Queen's Commissioner, as she will in

various ways express her appreciation of him. Fourthly, he will ensure that the guests of the General Assembly, from other churches all over the world, are made welcome and allowed to play their full part in the proceedings.

Then there are dinners and parties most evenings: but I know Derek Browning well enough to know that he will not find these merely a duty!

Please pray for him

Andrew McLellan

## KIRK SESSION UPDATE

At its April meeting:-

**Fabric work** - Session heard a full report from Charles Wilson, Fabric Convenor, of the continuing work carried out by way of maintenance, repair and renewal to the church's property in the last six months. The church's property includes not just the church itself but the attached St Matthew's and Braid Halls, the Cluny Centre, the Manse and the manse for the widow of a retired minister in Esslemont Road. The range of work is very varied and involves many trades – masons to repair the stonework of the church and St Matthews Hall, and the boundary wall of the property in Esslemont Road, plumbers to repair burst pipes in the Gents toilets at the church, electricians to reinstate heaters in the Centre following the completion of the dry rot treatment, joiners to mend a damaged pew end and carry out minor repairs at the manse.

**Pastoral work** – Session heard a report from Doreen Reekie, Convenor, of the continuing work being carried on - the one to one visits by the Pastoral visitors; the referral and liaison between Doreen and the ministerial team regarding members who would appreciate a visit; and the delivery of Welcome packs to new members. Mid-week services held in December and February and the Blue Christmas service had been appreciated by those attending.

The Wednesday coffee mornings continue to flourish, thanks to the volunteers.

**Church hall Development** – the Clerk reported that John Dennis & Co of

Bonnyrigg have been appointed as contractors. Work starts on site on 12<sup>th</sup> April and the contract is estimated to run for 35 weeks. The contractor's site will be completely out of bounds for health and safety reasons and consequently the external door leading to the St Matthew's Hall and the doors to the church from the vestry will be sealed for the duration of the build. Disabled access will continue to be available from Braid Road.

**Trees** –Concerns had been expressed regarding the felling of trees in the grounds. The Clerk reminded Session that trees had a natural life span. Indeed for this reason the rowan trees had been planted on the advice of former member Professor Taylor, an arboricultural specialist, to provide mature trees by the time the large trees reached the end of their natural life. Sadly a tree surgeon had identified that the silver birch was reaching that stage and was felled as it had decay in its trunk and some branches. Session confirmed its support for the plan to plant replacement trees once the development was complete.

**Easter events:** Jennifer Stark advised that a programme of three complementary events for Holy Week for children and young people had been organised among the associates of Morningside, Greenbank and Fairmilehead. This is a new venture making use of the different skills available, building relationships between the teams and the children, and providing something for the different age groups.

## NEWS FROM JENNIFER STARK, ASSOCIATE

One of the most poignant moments of Holy Week for me was in Fairmilehead Church, where Jamie Woods, their youth worker, had set up a labyrinth as part of our joint Holy Week events. We took off our shoes to walk round this and, at the first station, we stepped for a few paces on stones. Painful – and they weren't even sharp (I remembered at that moment how one of the children at our workshop the day before had spent much time drawing stones on the path to the cross in our Easter mural). Then later, a station with a pile of nails, one of which I pressed into the palm of my hand for a few moments. Those moments made the readings, and the music, of the Good Friday evening service very moving.



**Collage making at the Easter workshop**

some bread, and an impartial judge chose the loaf for the Maundy Thursday communion the next evening. Then this morning, an Easter poem, plus decorating and rolling Easter eggs outside to celebrate Easter Day. (for photos, see the church website).

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed time and talents and skills!

Jennifer Stark

But as I write, it's Easter Day, and the cross outside the church this morning was full of daffodils to remind us of the Resurrection. We've had some fun this week with eggs, bread, paint and a few other things! Our Easter workshop on 12<sup>th</sup> April had small numbers, but it didn't matter – everyone seemed to be having a great time, whether making Faberge eggs, stained glass crosses, mini-baskets, painting the mural of the Easter journey to Calvary or enjoying a chat over home-made cake. We also baked



**Easter egg rolling**



## CHRISTIAN AID MATTERS

Christian Aid Week is almost upon us once again. This year it runs from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May. The service on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May will be themed to refer to the work of Christian Aid and the benefits that it delivers.

Thank you to all of those members who have volunteered to help with the house to house collection this year. Collector's materials will be available in the vestibule on 30<sup>th</sup> April as well as 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May.

You should also make a note of the annual Christian Aid Spring Fair which is being held in Morningside Parish Church Halls on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May between 10 am and 2pm. There will be refreshments available during the day. In addition, there are various stalls selling baking, nearly new goods, books and a number of specialist craft stalls. There will also be a raffle with a range of excellent prizes, a tombola and a "guess the weight of the cake" competition. Contributions from the congregation for the tombola would be most welcome.

At 11 am, in the church, the MPC choral and organ scholars will present a 45 minute concert of music and song. This is not to be missed as they are highly talented individuals.

For further information, or if you wish to help, please contact the following committee members: Bob Cunningham (447 4757) Ruth Henderson (449 6449) and Evelyn Henderson (334 2463)

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

### FLOWER LIST

	Provided by	Arranged by
May	7 Val Mannings	Val Mannings
	14 Eleanor Watt	Eleanor Watt
	21 Marie Ogilvie	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
	28 Catherine Leonard	Marjory Watson
June	4 Forbes & Jean Bowman	Ruth Henderson





## ANNUAL CHRISTIAN AID BOOKSALE

For those of you who still prefer to get your hands on an actual book, rather than reading on an electronic device, make sure you have the annual Christian Aid Booksale in your diary. This year, you have a choice of three locations to visit during Christian Aid week, St Andrew's & St George's Church at 13 George Street, Morningside United Church at 15 Chamberlain Place and now also City of Edinburgh Methodist Church at 25 Nicolson Square.

Since the first sale at St Andrew's and St George's West Church in 1974, Christian Aid Week in Scotland has become increasingly synonymous with book sales. **Saturday 13 May** will see people queuing round the block once more in order to get a first look at the wares available on George Street as soon as the sale's doors open at 10am.

Across the city at Morningside United Church, the Holy Corner book sale, which last year raised more than £18,000, will also open at 10am the same day. This year, the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church is also joining the fun and is launching its first book sale for Christian Aid Week too. So now bibliophiles in the capital will have a third port of call on this busy day.

Luckily, refreshments will be available to tired browsers on the opening day of all three sales, and throughout the week at George Street and Nicolson Square

For details of opening hours, and for delivering donations, please see the Christian Aid website: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/scotland/latest-news/book-sales.aspx>

## ANNUAL OUTREACH QUIZ

The annual Outreach quiz took place on 25<sup>th</sup> March and was won by The Maarks with 157 points while The Smarty McSmarties won the prize for the best team name. The Optimisticks celebrated a hat trick of wooden spoons for their collection.

In another extremely enjoyable evening, the magnificent sum of £405 was raised for our charities. Many thanks to all those involved in organising it.



## **A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - SPEAKER SUPPER –12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**

The next Speaker Supper will be held on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in the Braid Hall. The Very Revd Dr Andrew McLellan will be speaking about what a year as Moderator of the General Assembly involves, which will provide an insight into what awaits Dr Browning. [See News from Crossreach....p7.]

Tickets costing £20, to include your first drink, are available from the Outreach Committee or from the Church Office. Should you have any special dietary requirements, please inform a member of the Committee when buying your ticket.

For more about what Dr Browning is doing in the meantime, don't forget that he is writing a blog on the church website:-  
<http://morningsideparishchurch.org.uk/moderators-news-2017-2018/>

### **LIFE AND WORK - MAY ISSUE**

The May issue of Life and Work includes:  
**Sowing the Seeds of Peace in South Sudan**  
Thomas Baldwin reports on the man-made crisis which has led to famine in the world's newest country – and the peace-building work being led by the Church of Scotland

#### **General Assembly 2017**

##### **Interview with the Moderator-Designate**

Assembly reports; Business and fringe timetables

Heart and Soul preview

An invitation to visit the historic library collections of New College

#### **Pilgrimage Through Life**

New columnist the Rev Lezley Stewart introduces herself

#### **A Place of Renewal**

J R Hume looks at the history of Motherwell and Dalziel St Andrew's Parish Church

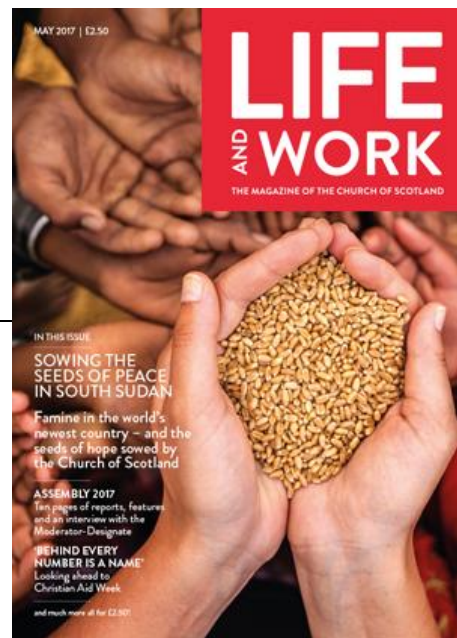
#### **Life on a Food Parcel**

How a deacon and her husband raised funds for a local foodbank

## **AND ANOTHER – SUMMER LUNCH – SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017**

Come and join us for the Summer Lunch on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 12 Noon in the Braid Hall. Tickets are £12 and will be on sale on Sundays 28<sup>th</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June. They can be bought from Mrs Eleanor Watt or contact any member of the Social Committee.

Do join us – it should be a most enjoyable event.



## **NEWS FROM CROSSREACH (the Church of Scotland Social Care Council)**

For many of those involved in the life of the Church of Scotland, the day after the closing of the week-long General Assembly in May is a day of restorative relaxation. But three key figures who are retiring or completing their service with the Church will this year swap the sofa for safety gear – and a 150 foot abseil down the iconic Forth Rail Bridge! On Saturday 28th May, the day after the Assembly closes, they will be part of a team of 30 CrossReach staff and supporters who will be raising money for their Children and Family Services.

The Principal Clerk of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and former Moderator, the Very Rev. Dr. John Chalmers will be joined by the outgoing Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Russell Barr and the retiring Chief Executive of CrossReach Peter Bailey. Dr. Chalmers, who also retires from his post at the end of the Assembly, said: “This is the day after my last General Assembly as Principal Clerk and I need something to replace the thrill of the debate! I also care passionately about the work that CrossReach is doing in Christ’s name across the whole of Scotland and I’d be thrilled if you would support our team with a donation. Your donation could make help a young mum suffering from postnatal depression, a young man suffering from addiction or a family struggling to cope with a relative who has dementia. CrossReach is doing fabulous work in a difficult financial climate and your donation can make all the difference.”

The abseil, organised by the Rotary Club of South Queensferry, raised over £103,000 last year for good causes and CrossReach (which is taking part for the first time) hopes the money raised will make a difference to the lives of many people using services such as the Daisy Chain Early Years Project and CrossReach’s range of counselling services.

Donations for the team can be made at:

**<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/John-Chalmers3>**

## **STAMP NEWS**

The 2016 world mission used stamp appeal raised the fantastic sum of £4,334 for the Church of South India’s Othara Eco-Spirituality centre. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed.

The 2017 appeal is to help The Giffen Institute of Theology of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan buy books for students. Further details are available from the poster on the notice board in the church vestibule.

To help please put any used stamps you have throughout the year in the box in the vestibule, hand into the church office or leave them in my pigeon hole

Lorna Graham

## JUNE MAGAZINE

Material for the June issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June**.

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).

**Please note that this will be the last magazine until September.**

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](mailto:office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)) with your email address.

## Heart Soul

SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY

Join in celebrating the life and work of the church at Heart and Soul, in Princes St Gardens on the afternoon of Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May. Now in its sixth year, Heart and Soul 2017 promises an exciting programme for all ages; with even more live music and performances on either of the "main stages", more energy and fun in the children and youth zones, and an even greater worship experience – all with Jesus at the centre.

Churches, charities and organisations – with some affiliation to the national church – are invited to take a marquee and exhibit their work to you and the other 5,000 visitors who attend throughout the afternoon.

The theme for 2017 is "Word of Life" – something the organisers want visitors and exhibitors to explore through different types of media. More than 60 exhibitors will be in attendance; demonstrating and portraying "Word of Life" in a variety of fashions, along the thoroughfare of Princes Street Gardens.

<http://www.heartandsoul.org.uk/home>

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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.