



# Magazine

No. 129 June 2017

I received a parcel containing a book I had not ordered. There was no invoice inside, no message and no name. Where did it come from? I was very pleased with the book. It was the sort of book I would be quite unlikely to buy, but I was happy to be given. I telephoned the company who had sent the parcel and asked them to help me solve my puzzle: but I was not surprised when they said they were not at liberty to tell me the name of the sender.

I had a strong suspicion. Twice before a friend has sent me a book as a surprise present, and on one of these occasions he had withheld his name. But I was uneasy about writing to thank him, or even asking him if the gift was his. So I did nothing until this person sent me a message asking if I had received the book. So I have had three pleasures: the book itself, the surprise, and the discovery of my friend's kindness.

Most of us do not always find it easy to agree with a saying of Jesus. It is more blessed to give than to receive. But we don't

always agree because we suppose that Jesus meant it is more fun to give than to receive. Of course he meant something more important than that. He meant that when we are generous we are blessed by God. So my friend received a blessing. But he also, like me, had three pleasures: thinking of my surprise, thinking of my enjoying the book, and having his kindness recognised.

Now I can share some of the pleasure with you. The book was a book of poems: *Beyond the Drift*, by David Scott, until recently a parish priest in the Church of England. Here is a short one: can you think what words of Jesus lie behind it?

*Such anxiety the birds have not:  
Of wrestling with the day to come,  
Of things that might be ghosts  
That former teachers summon.  
How fears hold sway for us  
Even on the brightest day,  
Yet such things the birds do not perceive,  
Else I think they would not sing that way.*

Andrew McLellan



The General Assembly stands in silence in memory of the victims of the Manchester terrorist attack

## KIRK SESSION UPDATE

At its May meeting:-

**Communication** – Isobel Paterson, Convenor of the Communication Committee, reported that the committee continues to do its ‘normal’ work: overseeing the website, the magazine, leafleting at Christmas and Easter and contributing to the free local publication (Morningside Messenger). For the first time an event was held in the street in September and they intend to repeat this on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017.

**Leafleting** is effective but our parish is large and growing – now 5,600 households – so that the production, folding but especially the delivering of these is becoming burdensome. In terms of production, it has been decided to move to professionally printed Christmas and Easter cards. The plan is to have a picture of the church on the outside overprinted with something like ‘Christmas Greetings from Morningside Parish Church’. The decision here was easily made: it is £50 cheaper to have them professionally printed and folded and saves per annum the equivalent of 8 full days of Carole’s time as well as the time of the volunteer “folders.”

Delivery is more complicated. A large enough team to deliver the leaflets can be difficult to raise and ideas would be welcomed as to how more people could be involved in their delivery to avoid the burden falling on the ‘faithful few’.

**The Jam and Baking Stall** continues to be successful: so far upwards of £140 monthly has been achieved which goes to our own church funds. This will continue on the last Sunday of every month except in December. Contributions are welcomed from anyone in the congregation and -

although it is entitled ‘Jam and Baking’ – plants, produce or seasonal items are welcomed.

**Dr Browning** continues to communicate with us in a kind of diary he writes which you will find on the website. Go to ‘About Us’, then ‘Who’s Who’ and finally ‘Moderator’s News 2017-8’.

**Recording of Services** The Clerk sought and obtained Session’s approval in principle that as part of the audio-visual development, services be recorded not just in sound but on video. The idea arose from a wish to improve the quality of the experience of the housebound and elderly who received the recordings but also recognising that all may not have access to a computer. Data Protection and Copyright issues must be considered but the Law Department at 121 has provided guidance notes. We must also consider what would be recorded - e.g. part or all of every service - and how these would be accessed - e.g. would they be distributed over the internet with only password access to our own housebound and elderly, or made more widely available. The Clerk wanted to know if Session agreed in principle before he investigated options in detail. He will bring detailed proposals back to Session.

**Health & Safety** – Moira Clark, Convenor, reported that she was generally satisfied that health and safety requirements were being observed but was not complacent and issues should be reported to her.

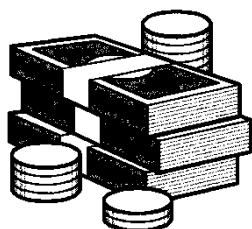
**Church Hall Development and Sale of Cluny Centre** - The Clerk reported that work had started on site, the neighbours’ trees had been trimmed and the cherry tree felled. The contractors requested permission to construct 2 roof support

beams in the transept within the next few weeks to enable fine measurements of the ribbed wooden roof to be taken and their manufacture to be started. This work should be capable of being completed within a working week ie no Sunday disruption.

## **MORNINGSIDE FINANCES**

### **The Stewardship and Finance**

department of the Church of Scotland has written to advise that the contribution due from Morningside Parish Church to



Ministries and Mission for 2017 is £122,702. Such contributions are to enable the worship, mission and service of the Church.

Of this sum, £103,070, or 84%, goes towards the costs of providing over 1,000 ministers and other parish workers in communities throughout Scotland and in the Presbytery of England, and includes the stipend, employer's national insurance and pension contributions for our own minister. It also assists with the costs of recruitment and training.

The balance of £19,632, or 16%, is used for mission in a range of ways. It supports the Church's work in: resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach; providing social care services; accompanying partners around the world on our shared Christian journey; contributing the Church's opinion in public debate; providing central day-to-day service work in administrative, financial and legal matters; planning the General Assembly and ensuring the Moderator represents the Church.

## **WEDNESDAY CLUB: RETIRING COLLECTION – 4<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2017**

The retiring collection taken after both Communion Services on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> June will be used to offset the cost of providing three full-day outings for the Club members on Saturdays 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> August. The monies raised will be used to provide morning coffee, cover admission fees, provide lunch, provide afternoon tea and hire transport etc.

The venues for this year's outings are still at the planning stage but last year we had lunch at Roast's Cafe at the Lomond Homes & Garden Centre before going for a cruise on Loch Lomond aboard the MV Astina, followed by some free time at Lomond Shores. We had lunch at, and visited, the National Museum of Flight at East Fortune, followed by coffee and cake in the Aviator Cafe, before a leisurely run home via North Berwick, and we had lunch at, and visited, the Scottish Fisheries Museum at Anstruther, followed by coffee and cake in the Tammie Norie Tearoom, before a leisurely run home via the Fife Coastal Route.

The outings are always enjoyed by the men who are immensely appreciative of the help given by members of the Congregation financially through the retiring collection, by coming on the outings and providing a helping hand whilst going round the venues or by simply having a conversation with them while travelling to and from the venues.

Thank you in anticipation of your generous support this year.

Charles S Wilson MBE  
Club Coordinator

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

The last 9.30am service for the Summer will be on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June**. Grateful thanks to the rota of piano players, IT people and other worship leaders who make this possible. The 9.30am services resume on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**.

The All-Age service will take place on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June** and will be led by the young people of the Church, assisted by some of the Sunday Club leaders and elders. This will be followed by the...

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

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 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.

Please note admission is by ticket only.

### **AFTERNOON TEA – SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY**

Come along and enjoy an afternoon of good food, friendly chat and an opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones. This will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> July between 2.30 and 4.30pm, in the Braid Hall, Morningside Parish Church. Tickets are £8 and are available from Aline Haggart (447 8215) or other members of the Social Committee. If you would like to come along and require transport to and from the Church Hall let us know and we will try to organise something for you.

### **COMMUNITY OF FAITH – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CHURCH**

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August, 10-4pm, Vine  
Conference Centre, Dunfermline

For anyone involved with children or young people in church - a chance to connect, be resourced and be inspired. This day conference will explore new and exciting ideas on a range of topics covered in the new Learn publication on Children and Young People (free copy to participants).

Speakers and discussion on 'Being Church Together', with the chance to explore faith formation, leadership, intergenerational work, children /young people and the Bible and Sacraments, and much more. There will also be worship, an address from the Moderator and a market place, with a range of organisations exhibiting and a book stall to browse.

For volunteers, ministers, paid workers alike - Sunday School teachers, GB/BB officers, youth club leaders, holiday club volunteers, Messy Church volunteers, Elders. Interested? Contact Jennifer Stark, Children and Families Associate – we hope some of us can go together. Information is also on the Church of Scotland website, under 'Resources' – go to Children and Youth.

Jennifer Stark,  
associate@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk,  
07802 263979



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

The 55<sup>th</sup> has had a busy time over the last few weeks with our residential trip to Craggan Outdoor Centre at Loch Tay and the annual Anchor & Junior Service at the Museum of Flight, East Fortune. Our senior boy, Sgt George Canzini Roberts also represented the 55<sup>th</sup> and the Edinburgh, Leith & District Battalion at the General Assembly weekend.

Rona, Mr Corbett (one of our parents), Theo, Jamie and I set off for Craggan on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May for a fun weekend of outdoor activities and Christian fellowship with the officers and boys of the 56<sup>th</sup> Company at Davidson's Mains. Activities over the weekend included kayaking, hiking, hill walking and Munro bagging! Both boys enjoyed all their activities and got on extremely well with the lads from the 56<sup>th</sup>. The weather was absolutely fantastic and ensured the weekend went very well.

Theo said, "Kayaking was the best. I fell in at one point and the water was freezing! I also climbed a Munro, Ben Lawers. I got to know some of the other boys and we all got on really well. Rona is a good cook!" Jamie added, "It was great. I liked being away with the BB and it was even better because my Dad got to come too. Kayaking was good and I liked the pool table too. I made friends with some of the boys from the other BB Company."

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May, Rona, Theo, James and I attended the annual BB service at the Museum of Flight in East Fortune. Our boys were part of the group of around 120 Anchors and Juniors. The Rev Gilmour gave an enthusiastic and interesting talk to the young people under the wing of a Twin Pioneer passenger plane. The highlight for our boys was chasing the bubbles Rev Gilmour waved about! We then had time to explore the museum. The highlight for us all was getting on board the Concorde.



Sgt Roberts was selected for the BB Guard of Honour for HRH Princess Anne at the High Kirk of St Giles on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May, as part of the General Assembly proceedings. The BBs paraded up from the Mound to Parliament Square and were inspected by the Princess Royal on her way in to the service. The boys then paraded back down the Mound to St Andrew's & St George's Church in George Street for their own service with the Battalion Chaplain, Rev Ian Gilmour. George was also chosen to say a prayer and did it in his usual professional manner! That afternoon, we took part in the Heart & Soul event in Princes Street Gardens, meeting both the Moderator of the General Assembly and the Princess Royal. (see photo on the following page)

We have also welcomed our second girl member, Isabel!

The 55<sup>th</sup> continues to provide a fun packed programme to our members based around the ethos of Christian fellowship, bringing young people in to Morningside Parish Church.

Mr Scott A J Peter, Captain



Derek Browning being installed as Moderator by the outgoing Moderator, the Very Revd Dr Russell Barr. Derek is accompanied by his two chaplains, Revd John McMahon and Anne Mulligan DCS.



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND 2017

Rt Revd Dr Derek Browning, HRH The Princess Royal, the Lord High Commissioner, and the Very Revd Dr Russell Barr



Sgt George Canzini Roberts, 55th Edinburgh BBs, meets the Moderator at Heart & Soul (see BBs report on previous page)

Alasdair Grant, organ scholar at Morningside Parish Church, playing for the Guild 'Big Sing' during Assembly Week





**Children from South Morningside Primary School singing the introit for Assembly worship on Wednesday morning**



**Three of our Sunday Club children, all pupils at South Morningside Primary School, Beth McGauley, Claudia Acevedo and Sara Burns, reading the lesson at the Assembly**



**The Moderator takes a stroll at Heart & Soul, Princes St Gardens**

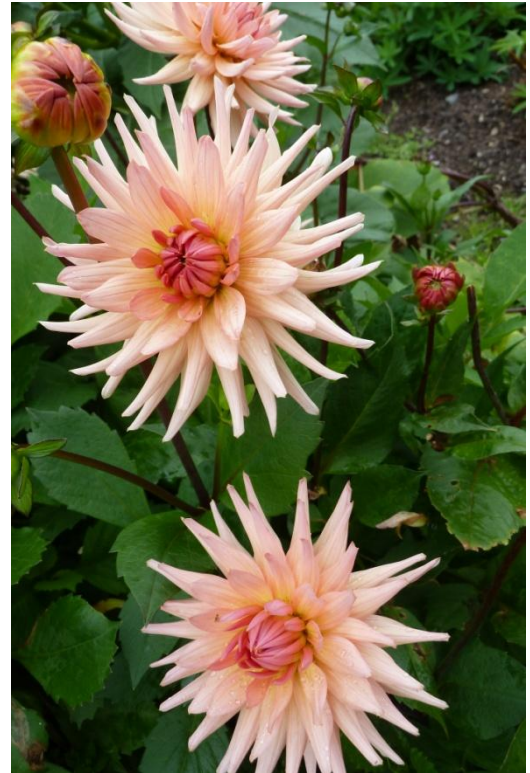
**Heart & Soul**



**HRH the Princess Royal helps the Moderator to launch the CrossReach Grey Cake campaign, a mental health awareness campaign**

### FLOWER LIST

		Provided by	Arranged by
June	4	Forbes & Jean Bowman	Marjory Watson
	11	Charles & Irene Wilson	Irene Wilson
	18	Hazel Knight	Joan Burnet
	25	Fiona Watt	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
July	2	Rosemary Drysdale	Val Mannings
	9	Moiria Forsyth	Eleanor Watt
	16	Sheila Grahame	Ruth Henderson & Val Dunn
	23	Bill & Catriona Reid	Irene Wilson
	30	Marjory Watson	Marjory Watson
Aug	6	Robin & Fiona Stimpson	Joan Burnet
	13	Jim & Annette Jenkinson	Val Mannings
	20	Margaret Gossip	Eleanor Watt
	27	Diane Gaskin Ruddock	Ruth Henderson & Val Dunn
Sept	3	Florence Patton	Marjory Watson



The cost of donating the flowers 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.

### ROLL CHANGES

Please welcome our newest member,  
Cadhla Catherine Charteris Coffey,  
daughter of Fiona and Alan Coffey,  
who was baptised on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017.



## AUTUMN LECTURES

Our Autumn Lecture series (organised jointly with Greenbank Church) begins on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Each evening starts with refreshments at 6.30pm, and at 7pm there is a short act of worship and the lecture.

This year's theme focuses on sharing stories and experiences from different faiths, 'The joys and challenges of our faith'.

- **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September:** (Christianity). Dr. Mary Cullen, a Roman Catholic, former officeholder in SCIAF (Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund), editor of the Scottish ecumenical monthly Open House.
- **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September:** (Judaism). Rabbi Mark Solomon, lecturer at Leo Baeck College in London, honorary Jewish chaplain at the University of Edinburgh and Co-Chair of the London Society of Jews and Christians.
- **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September:** (Buddhism). Bryan Webb practising Buddhist in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. Bryan leads courses on mindfulness, and on meditation for Christian and Buddhists together. He rightly sees a lot of mysticism in Jesus as well as in the Buddhist traditions.
- **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September:** (Islam). Professor Carole Hillenbrand, Professorial Fellow in Islamic History, University of St Andrews, and the first non-Muslim recipient of the King Faisal Prize in Islamic Studies.

The need to share and understand different faiths within our country and world today has rarely been more important. We look forward to welcoming our speakers.

## FAREWELL TO REV. ALISON SWINDELLS

Our neighbours at Greenbank Church have said good bye to their Minister of the last ten years, the Rev Alison Swindells. She has been called to the linked charge of Tarves with Barthol Chapel in Aberdeenshire close to where her Minister husband, Sean, moved last autumn. This takes them back to the north east from whence they came.

The congregation at Greenbank gave Alison a great send-off on 7<sup>th</sup> May. After a memorable last service there was a delicious congregational lunch. Farewell gifts included a photo book of photographs taken during Alison's ten years of ministry at Greenbank. On 18<sup>th</sup> May Alison was inducted into her new charge in Aberdeenshire. Nearly twenty Greenbank members were there to "hand her over" at the service, and the social which followed. The Rev Dr John Stevenson is now the locum minister at Greenbank, working alongside the Rev Peter Graham, Associate Minister and Steve Chaffee, Youth Associate. The Rev Jamie Griggs of Corstorphine St Anne's is the Interim Moderator.

## HOLIDAY CLUB AT GREENBANK CHURCH

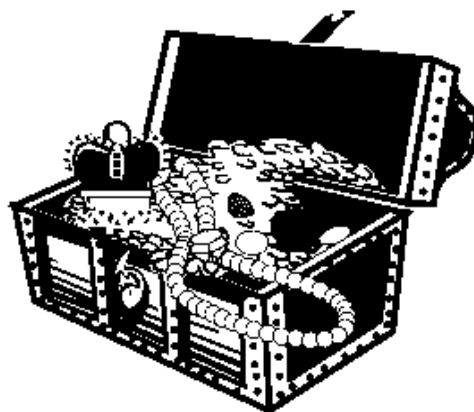
This year's theme is 'Guardians of Ancora – Treasure Seekers'. Come along and find out more!

For all children of primary school age, with games, stories, art, craft..... and more.

Greenbank Church, 10.00 – 12.15pm,

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August.

Cost: £20 for the week (£4 per day).



## HOOF IT TO CHALLENGE

### EVERY STEP COUNTS...

Help us to walk the 8000km or 12,106,000 steps from Scotland to Hyderabad

TAKE PART FOR A CHANCE TO

**WIN TWO FLIGHTS TO INDIA** 

During the month of June 2017 SLA hopes you will walk, run or cycle a minimum of 10km or 15,133 steps which will contribute towards their aim to walk the equivalent distance from Scotland to Hyderabad. The joy of this is that it is up to you on how you want to challenge yourself, there is no set date or set place; you set the place, the distance and the pace and have the chance to exercise that Fitbit. Every step counts, every step gets us a step closer.

Visit the **Hoof it to Hyderabad Challenge information page** on the SLA website at **[www.sla-india.org](http://www.sla-india.org)** to find out more and to register. Registration costs only £5, don't wait until June, sign up now!

All participants will be entered into a prize draw and one lucky winner will receive two return flights to India generously donated by Virgin Atlantic.

On Easter Monday Irvine Welsh, a long-standing ambassador for SLA, kicked off our Challenge by walking the first mile of our 5,000 mile target down the Royal Mile from Edinburgh Castle to Holyrood Palace accompanied by young SLA supporters.

## SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION – HOOF IT TO HYDERABAD

Scottish Love in Action has launched the *Hoof it to Hyderabad Challenge* and it is now open for registration.

Help SLA to virtually walk the 5000 miles, 8000km or 12,106,000 steps from Scotland to Hyderabad in India and raise money for their **GIRLS' LIVES MATTER** Appeal.

## **MORNINGSIDE UNDER THE HAMMER - AUCTION ON 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

We need your help with the Auction planned for 29th September to raise funds for new audio visual systems in the Church and Church Halls. Our existing acoustic systems in the Church are overdue for replacement. We also want the Church Halls to have modern and flexible audio and projection facilities, as well as better arrangements for those who rely on the audio loop system in the Church. And we plan to have the ability to record and video the service for those who can't get along every week.

So, how do we do that? In March we asked everyone to think of one decent item they could offer for the auction. Something you might send to the auction house because it has value, rather than something you'd normally hand in to a charity shop. We need to draw buyers in from beyond the congregation, create the buzz that will realise real value, and for that we need antiques, artefacts and interesting items that will make it a viable auction.

So, a big thank you to those who have been in touch to offer support or items for September. If you're redecorating, downsizing, decluttering or simply disposing ( or have friends who are moving ) please think of the Church auction. September may be four months away but we're starting to build up the stock now. If you have something in mind, it would be really good to know at this



stage as it can be nailbiting waiting for things to appear.

Do you need help with ideas? We're asking for just ONE decent donation from each member of the congregation. That could be signed prints or serious paintings, classic furniture or old clocks, silver jewellery or stylish watches, service medals or musical instruments, communion tokens or coin collections, cherished ornaments or old teddies, the train set in the attic or the stags antlers on the wall, the garden sundial or a select first edition, the wind up gramophone you never play or the car that never moves. Something you don't need but that can be put to good use ....and something you probably won't miss it if it's been lying in that drawer/cupboard /attic /garage all those years. It can be big, small or just unusual. It's up to you.

If you'd like to be involved in the preparations, on the night, or at the viewings please get in touch. It will be lots of fun and it will make a difference. If you have an item in mind that would fit the bill or would be willing to help please call Robert Armour on 0131 337 3541 or email [robertarmour@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robertarmour@hotmail.co.uk)

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





## SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the September issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**. 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).

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.



At this year's General Assembly, the annual gathering of the Kirk in Edinburgh, the chosen theme was 'Word of Life'. Groups and congregations round the country were encouraged to send a photo of members holding up the letters to spell out this theme.

As our Minister, and now Moderator, said, 'Words are links that hook meaning together, giving us understanding. Words are important to faith, asking questions and giving hope. For Christians, Jesus is the ultimate word of life. What is that important word for you?'

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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.