



Magazine

No. 133 December 2017

Where will be the worst place to be this Christmas?

In Bethlehem, where the loveliest carols are set? Where the Wall may not let you out to go to church and the Wall may not let your family in to visit you?

At home with heartbreak and loss and emptiness?

Inside the darkness of a depression that never looks like ending?

In prison?

I've spent Christmas with people in all of these places. What have I learned? I have learned where God will be this Christmas. This Christmas God will be in the worst places.

In Bethlehem.

In the emptiest of homes

In the saddest hearts

And in prison.

It is quite deliberate that the Bible begins the Christmas story at night. Do you remember? *There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.* It doesn't mean simply that light and love came into the

world when most people were asleep. It means that light and love comes into the world where and when it is very dark and where and when the light is needed most. The Bible does not say much about parties at Christmas. It says "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never been able to put it out".



Congregation after congregation in Scotland will be remembering people in the worst places this Christmas: praying for them, raising money for them, visiting them. Because at their best they know that is where God wants them to be: and because they know that is where God

always is, and will be at Christmas.

I used to be in prison each Christmas Day. I used to sing – alongside some of the most lost people in the land – *All out of darkness we have light Which made the angels sing this night* I believed it then and I believe it now.

Andrew McLellan

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Communion will be on Sunday 3rd December, with services in the Church at 9.30am and 10.30am.

Christmas and New Year events

Friday 8th December

4 – 6.45pm Community event: Morningside Christmas Lights switch-on. Carols in Braid Hall (switch-on at 6pm)

Saturday 9th December:

The Church will be decorated for Christmas from 10am. All welcome to help!

Sunday 10th December:

10.30am Christmas All-Age Service. Our children will present the Nativity story. Afterwards, there will be mulled wine and Christmas refreshments.
(No 9.30am service this Sunday)

Wednesday 13th December:

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

Friday 15th December:

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

Sunday 17th 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 halls 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

Sunday 24th December:

10.30am Morning Worship
(No 9.30am service this Sunday)
6.30pm All-Age Service
11.00pm Carols by Candlelight
11.30pm Watchnight Service



Christmas Day

Sunday 25th December:

10.00am All-Age Service

Sunday 31st December

10.30am Morning Worship

(No 9.30am service this Sunday)

Sunday 7th January 2018:

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

Sunday 8th January:

9.30am services resume
10.30am: Morning Worship

MID WEEK SERVICE

There will be a short, informal, service with a Christmas theme on Thursday 7th December at 3.15pm in the Braid Hall. It is particularly aimed at those who for whatever reason, find it difficult to attend Sunday morning worship; but everyone is welcome, not just church members but friends, family and the wider community. There will be refreshments and time to meet and chat afterwards. If you would like to attend, or know of someone who might be interested, please let your elder know, or contact Jennifer Stark (Associate), Doreen Reekie or Marie Ogilvie. If you can offer a lift, again please contact Jennifer, Doreen or Marie. Everyone will be warmly welcome.



NURSING HOME SERVICES

Anyone with time to spare on the following dates would be very welcome to come and boost the numbers, and the singing, at the nursing home services, details below.

Wednesday 6 th December, 2.15pm:	Cluny Lodge
Wednesday 13 th December, 3.15:	Oaklands
Wednesday 20 th December, 2.30:	Ashley Court



MONDAY CIRCLE

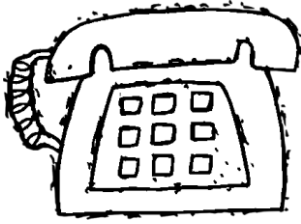
The Monday Circle meets on a Monday at 7.45pm in the Morningside Parish Church Halls.

Here are the dates and topics for December and for January 2018:-

11 th Dec	Christmas Party (7 for 7.30pm) Members Only	
8 th Jan	Abu Dhabi	Andrew Thackery
22 nd Jan	Life Story of Clark Gable	Mr Hendrick

The committee would like to wish ALL members of The Monday Circle
A VERY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Anna Cunningham, Magazine Secretary



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 along 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 13th December at 7.30pm in the church.

At the grand piano will be the choir's accompanist, Nicky Fraser, organist at Inverleith St Serf's Church. Our previous accompanist, Marion McPherson, organist at Stockbridge Parish Church, will again 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

FLOWER LIST

	Provided by	Arranged by
Dec 3	Robert & Anne Armour	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
10	CHRISTMAS	Flower Committee
17	CHRISTMAS	Flower Committee
24	CHRISTMAS	Flower Committee
31	CHRISTMAS	Flower Committee



The new flower list for 2018 is now available on a clipboard on the Welcome Desk. 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.

HELLO AND GOODBYE

Among his wide variety of trips since being appointed Moderator in May, Dr Browning was recently privileged to meet the Pope. Further photos of this trip and others may be found on our Facebook page, and on the Church of Scotland website.



We recently bade a fond farewell to Gordon Hendry as he left Edinburgh for his daughter's home in Huddersfield.

In January this year, Gordon was among those presented with a long service certificate by the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rt Revd Dr Russell Barr.

While others also received certificates on that occasion, no one

could come close to Gordon's impressive 67 years of service as an elder. We will miss his regular presence with us on a Sunday morning.





MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH
Diary of Events
1 January 2018 – 30 June 2018

WEDNESDAY COFFEE MORNING
 Every Wednesday 10am-11.30am in Braid Hall

BABY & TODDLER GROUP
 Monday and Wednesday 10am-11.30am in St Matthew Hall

JANUARY 2018

7 (Sun)	10.30am	No Early Service Morning Worship
14 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am	Early Service (St Matthew Hall) Morning Worship:
21 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am	Early Service (St Matthew Hall) Morning Worship
27 (Sat)	10am-12	Bethany Care Shelter Coffee Morning (Braid Hall)
28 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am	Early Service (St Matthew Hall) Morning Worship

FEBRUARY

4 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am	Early Service (St Matthew Hall) Morning Worship
11 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am	Early Service (St Matthew Hall) Morning Worship
13 (Tue)	7.30pm	Kirk Session – Refreshments from 7pm (Braid Hall)
16 (Fri)	7.00pm	Speaker Supper
18 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am	Early Service (St Matthew Hall) Morning Worship
25 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am	Early Service (St Matthew Hall) Morning Worship
27 (Tue)	3.15pm	Midweek Service Braid Hall: Refreshments afterwards.

MARCH

4 (Sun)	9.30 & 10.30am	All-Age Communion: Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (in Church)
6 (Tue)	7.30pm	Kirk Session - Refreshments from 7pm (Braid Hall)
10 (Sat)	10-12noon	Monday Circle Coffee Morning: (Braid Hall)
11 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am	Early Service (St Matthew Hall) Morning Worship
18 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am	Early Service (St Matthew Hall) Morning Service
24 (Sat)	7.00pm	Outreach Quiz Night (Braid Hall)
25 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am 11.30am	Early Service (St Matthew Hall) Morning Worship –Palm Sunday Congregational Annual Stated Meeting
26 (Mon)- 30(Fri)	7.30pm	Holy Week services (in Greenbank Church)
31 (Sat)	7.30pm	Holy Saturday Music & Readings (in Morningside Church)

APRIL

1 (Sun)	10.30am	No Early Service Easter Day: (Refreshments Braid Hall)
8 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am	Early Service (St Matthew Hall) Morning Worship Dedication of New Halls Kirk Session - Refreshments available from 7pm (Braid Hall)
15 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am 3.00pm	Early Service (St Matthew Hall Hall) Morning Worship Remembering Service
22 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am	Early Service (St Matthew Hall) Morning Worship
29 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am	Early Service (St Matthew Hall) Morning Worship

MAY

1 (Tue)	7.30pm	Kirk Session - Refreshments from 7pm (Braid Hall)
6 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am	Early Service (St Matthew Hall) Morning Worship
13 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am	Early Service (St Matthew Hall) Morning Worship
13 -19		Christian Aid Week
20 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am	Early Service (St Matthew Hall) Morning Worship
19 – 25		General Assembly
27 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am	Early Service (St Matthew Hall) Morning Worship

JUNE

3 (Sun)	9.30 & 10.30am	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (in Church)
5 (Tue)	7.30pm	Kirk Session – refreshments from 7pm (Braid Hall)
10 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am	Early Service (St Matthew Hall) (last till 2 nd September) Morning Worship
17 (Sun)	10.30am	No 9.30am service All-Age Service (with crèche in hall)
24 (Sun)	10.30am 12 noon	Morning Worship: Summer service Summer Lunch (Braid Hall)

SEPTEMBER

2 (Sun)	9.30am 10.30am 6.30 for 7pm	Early Service Morning Worship – Covenant Service Series of Evening Lectures commences (Braid Hall)
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Church Office: Tel: 447 6745 office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk
Church Website: www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

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

Jennifer Stark is planning to do the sleep-out and would be delighted to have company! If not, any support you can offer will be most welcome. She will be in church for the next 3 Sundays.

Dear Friends,

**Sleep in the Park – a mass sleep-out to end homelessness in
Scotland. For Good.
Saturday 9th December 2017**



Social Bite, a proactive charity working around Scotland with and for homeless people, is organising the world's largest ever sleep-out and are hoping to attract 9,000 people to Edinburgh's Princes Street Gardens. The charity hopes that by raising funds and working together, the people of Scotland will create such an impetus that homelessness will be eradicated over a five-year period. The aim is not only to find provision for housing, but also to provide rehabilitation, job opportunities and support that will help people get back on their feet and find their place within society. The hope is that the many charities who work in these areas might also link up to provide ongoing support and care.

The vision is to make Scotland an example for the whole world to follow. We know we are a small country, but we are also a nation of innovators, explorers, and philanthropists. We are a small country with a big and generous heart.

At Christmas time there are many legitimate calls upon our time and our generosity. There are so many worthwhile charities and causes to support. But there is for Christians something compelling about the reality of homelessness that lies near the heart of the Christmas story. The homeless Christ-child, the refugee Holy Family.

Social Bite have gathered together a range of amazing people to the sleep-out. John Cleese, Deacon Blue, Rob Brydon, Sir Bob Geldof, Liam Gallagher and Amy Macdonald who will be present on the night.

You might not be able to take part yourself, a cold winter night in a park in December won't be possible for everyone. But you might know someone in your Church or workplace, a child or grandchild, a student friend or someone in a uniformed organisation, school, or a company who might be able to get involved individually or as a group. The challenge is for each individual to raise a minimum of £100 towards the cause. 2,000 people have already signed up. There's still some way to go to reach 9,000 people.

You can find out more at www.SleepInThePark.co.uk or register at www.SleepInThePark.co.uk/register. You can also watch this short video: https://drive.google.com/a/capital-events.co.uk/file/d/0B8k2112zCl89d2JmVVINVEZVRjg/view?usp=drive_web.

I am praying for 1,000 connected to the Church of Scotland will sign up. Will you join in?

Rt. Revd. Dr Derek Browning, Moderator
General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

CHOIR AND ORGAN SCHOLARS

Several more of our new choir scholars introduce themselves. It is hoped that the others will be introducing themselves in the next issue.

Abbey Neave is currently one of the soprano scholars at Morningside Parish Church. She is in S6 (her final year) at George Watson's College, where she is studying 'pure' Maths, Spanish and Music, all at an Advanced Higher level. She is very involved with the music department at school – she has been having lessons in trumpet for 9 years [*Abbey played the Last Post at our Remembrance service*] and has been taking singing lessons for 4 years. She is working towards Grade 8 in both these instruments and hoping to complete the exams within the next year. She also began taking piano lessons for fun at the start of this year, after attempting to 'self-teach' herself for a number of years. Next year she is planning to take a gap year where she can travel and explore the world, although she is currently applying for a 2019 entry to university to study Psychology. She hopes to go to university in Bristol, Loughborough, York, or St Andrews.

Caroline Lesemann-Elliott is the alto choral scholar. She is from Ann Arbor, Michigan, and is currently in her last year at Edinburgh University reading Music. She conducts multiple ensembles, including Voces Inauditae, New College Choir, the Royal Dick Veterinary School Orchestra, and is Musical Director with Le Petit Verre Opera Productions. She is also the conducting intern with the Scottish Chamber Choir (with whom she also sings). In the past, she has sung and played with Edinburgh University Singers, the choir of Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh University Music Society, Edinburgh University Chamber orchestra, and more. She is an avid composer of choral and instrumental music alike, and plays viola professionally around Edinburgh and Oxford. She is currently applying for postgraduate studies in Musicology, with a focus on research in choral studies and gendered nationalism.

Kevin Maske, our tenor scholar is a newcomer to Edinburgh, and finds himself in the city taking a masters degree in Statistics and Operations Research. He is no stranger to the life of a chorister, having been a member of multiple groups back in his hometown of the Philippines, including the internationally awarded Ateneo College Glee Club. Currently, aside from being a choral scholar at Morningside, Kevin also sings with the Edinburgh Chamber Choir, and the Edinburgh Chamber Orchestra Chorus. In his time in Edinburgh, he hopes to meet new people and explore the rich culture of the United Kingdom, all while managing to meet his math deadlines (hopefully).



L-R: Katie Brown, Abbey Neave, Amy-Felicity Horsey, Caroline Lesemann-Elliott, Jack Harris, Kevin Maske, Will Fielding



MUSICAL NOTES

A couple of thoughts for Christmas presents, should you know anyone with a

particular interest in the King of Instruments.

The Organs of Edinburgh. A very handsome and attractive coffee-table-type book, featuring most of the finest organs in the city (Edinburgh has been called a Mecca for the organ), with splendid photographs, full technical details (specifications, and so on), and including 4 CDs. The instrument in MPC is of course included, played by MW. Produced by Edinburgh Society of Organists, price £10.00 - please see me if interested.

Organs and Organists: their inside stories - all you (n)ever wanted to know - by Jenny Setchell. This is a simply fascinating book - over 400 pages, and with any amount of wonderful and often unusual photographs, and gives a full understanding of how the organ works, and (up to a point) what life is like for those whose job it is to play it. Be prepared to be surprised, shocked, even horrified - but take it from one who knows: every word of it is true! At £25.00 or so, more than just a stocking-filler, but good value all the same. Surprisingly perhaps, for a book just published, it is not so easy to track down - I obtained my copy (via the 'phone) from "Allegro Music."

M.W.

CHRISTMAS/FESTIVE CHEER

Sunday 10th December – Come along and join us for some 'Mulled wine and Christmas treats' after the morning service, in the Braid Hall.

LIFE AND WORK 2018

You are reminded that subscriptions for Life & Work for 2018 are now due and that cheques for £27.50 should be sent with the order form to Mrs Joan McKenzie, Mrs Audrey Riddell or the Church Office.

WORK PARTY

There are no arrangements made for the next and future meetings. The last in the current session was held on 6th November. This situation has arisen due to the recently decreasing number of members. Unfortunately it is not workable and I take the opportunity of thanking the ladies for their contributions in the past.

It is sad that this activity after a decade and more years shall be no longer.

My regards.

Margaret Guild

ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of

Mrs Jeanette Ryce who died on 29th October

SUNDAY CLUB



Remembrance Sunday brought Guides, Cubs, Scouts, BB and more, to church and Sunday Club. Our themes from the morning service, and from our focus reading (the story of the wise and foolish virgins) included 'being ready', 'listening to God' and 'light in the darkness'. The photo shows the decorated lanterns we made, all with a poppy (for which many thanks to Norma for the preparation).

We enjoyed a 10-pin bowling evening recently, and a trip to the panto is lined up for December.



BETHANY CARE SHELTER COFFEE MORNING

Bethany Care Shelter catering team is holding a coffee morning on Saturday 27th January 2018 to raise funds to cover the cost of catering for rough sleepers. Please come along and support this worthy cause - tickets priced £3 for coffee and scones.

Christmas blessings to all readers

FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

There is no church magazine in January. Material for the February issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 12th January 2018** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 28th January, a week earlier than usual since there will have been no magazine since the end of November.** 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.

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

As a child, I wrote letters to Santa,
Requesting great mountains of stuff.
Tho' I'd plenty of toys in my toy-box
And already had more than enough.

But one year it seemed better to ask him,
Not for annuals, or games that were new
But simply to come to the rescue,
With a tube of the very best glue.

For I knew I was clumsy and awkward.
And sometimes destructive and cross;
Any my toys would get battered or broken;
Parts of jigsaw and games would get lost.

I hoped Santa's helpers could fix them,
Neat-fingered and patient and clean.
I was far too slap-dash to repair things,
Or restore them to what they had been.

Who can set right
disorder untold;
I'm once more in
need of a mender,
Who can heal all
relationships splintered
And bring warmth to all hearts that grow
cold.



The Christ Child grew up in a workshop
And mastered the carpenter's trade;
He can mend, he can heal, he can pardon.
And repair all the mischief we've made.

His hands can be probing or gentle,
His methods be patient or crude;
To bridge all that divides us from heaven
He takes nails and two pieces of wood.

JWMC

Locum Minister: Very Revd. Dr. A McLellan 01383 725959 arcmclellan@gmail.com

Associate for Christian Education & Pastoral Care: Jennifer Stark 07802 263979
associate@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Magazine Editor: Alison Riddell 445 2330 editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Church Office: Carole Byres 447 6745 office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Join us for worship on Sundays at 9.30am (September to June)
and 10.30am (throughout the year). Other services as announced.