



# Magazine

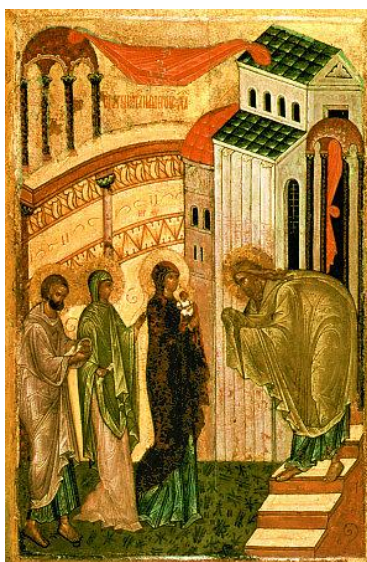
No. 134 February 2018

Candlemas (2<sup>nd</sup> February) or Candle Mass was a service in which the priest blessed the candles for use throughout the year; candles which were to be used in church but also in the homes of the congregation. The light of candles was used to signify Christ as the Light of the World. There are some similarities with our Christingle Service.

Joseph and Mary brought their Child to the temple. Proud parents, full of love, carefully carrying this new life, they brought their Child to the temple for God's blessing. The story is myth but it mattered to the Gospel writer. Once inside the temple walls, probably in the forecourt, in the Court of the Women, Joseph, Mary and Jesus met with Simeon. Simeon had been led by the Holy Spirit to the temple; it is as if the Holy Spirit created and enveloped this encounter. 'You will not see death,' said the Spirit to Simeon, 'until you have seen the Lord's Christ.' Hence, the *Nunc Dimittis*, from Simeon's lips, 'Now let thy servant depart in peace, for I have seen the salvation of the Lord.' Simeon is captured by an inner peace which not even the prospect of his own death can shatter. This peace or inner strength is the 'commodity' which the Church, at its best, offers the world.

In this moment of reflection and meditation, take yourself into that holy scene, into the presence of Joseph, Mary, the Child and Simeon. What do you see or feel? Simeon takes Jesus into his arms, holds Him and in that moment, at once, feels he can die

happy, satisfied, his life completed. What does Simeon do? He looks at the Child, gazes at the Child and embraces the Child. Here is the spiritual message in this legend. The Bible is primarily a spiritual tool, there to lead us deeper into the Divine, into a richer relationship with the Holy. Simeon looked at the Child, *gazed* at Jesus, and embraced Him. This passage is not history but a word icon for us to gaze into and be drawn into.



What does it mean to look at Jesus or gaze at Christ or embrace Him? The American Episcopal priest, Barbara Brown Taylor, says that there is a hunger for God, for life-giving words, even in the Church. She says that the decline of the churches is, in part, due to its failure to deal with the silence of God. It is certainly true that we can become tired of words – including sermons – and crave contact with the Ultimate Reality, the ineffable, the

inexpressible. Rowan Williams says that an orchestra in performing a symphony is working towards the fleeting silence that comes after the last note has finally evaporated: those precious silent seconds is where the meaning lies. Taylor calls on the churches to explore the richness of silence. Pope Francis calls Christians to 'spiritual activism'. The inner peace which touched and changed Simeon came when he looked at Jesus, gazed at the Christ and embraced Him. The evidence for God is inner evidence and what we mean by God is mysterious, elusive yet penetrating.

Revd. Scott McKenna, Interim Moderator

## NEARLY THERE – AN UPDATE ON THE BUILDING WORKS.

It was at their meeting in June 2015 that the Kirk Session gave authority in principle to proceed with the sale of the Cluny Centre and the consolidation of accommodation on the Church site. The decision had been sparked by the intimation by the City Council that they would terminate their lease of rooms at the Centre; a realisation that it would be difficult to find sufficient other tenants to replace this loss without significant investment (c £300k) to upgrade the premises to a let-able standard; that the accommodation was more than was needed for purely church purposes; that while the Centre was presently in reasonable condition the maintenance costs of a Victorian listed building would be high with a roof repair and other major works likely within a 10 year period.

We then proceeded to re-appoint Mark Sidgwick of LDN architects who was responsible for the award winning design of our developments in 2010. The Steering Committee's view was that to re-appoint Mark would ensure that we were not introducing a third architectural style to the site. We then set out to obtain the necessary consents to the proposals from the Kirk Session, Congregation, Presbytery, General Trustees and CARTA (advisers to the General Trustees on artistic matters) as well as the necessary planning and building warrant consents from the local Planning Authority and consent from Historic Scotland.

The obtaining of the local Planning Authority consents was delayed. The Community Council had indicated at a meeting that they were sympathetic to our proposals and welcomed our willingness to create space for community use. However local objectors canvassed the neighbourhood and raised sufficient

objectors to require the application to have to go to the full Planning Committee. In the event they upheld our application. With the consents in place, albeit delayed by three months, we invited tenders from contractors and advertised and in due course concluded missives for the sale of the Centre.

The proposed development will deliver –

- The creation of a new build hall including storage and a tea prep area – the Cluny Hall
- A meeting room in the North transept which can be used as the vestry and heated independently from the church – the St Andrew Room. The fine wooden ceiling of this room was made possible by the use of a generous bequest from Miss Mary Cowan
- The creation of an extended vestibule convertible to a meeting room – the South Morningside Room
- The installation/replacement of the external glass doors leading to the vestibule and new glass doors leading to the nave, opening up a vista to the chancel
- The creation of disabled access to the chancel via the door behind the pulpit
- The upgrading and relocation of the office to the former vestry including extension of the CCTV provision and installation of a new telephone line and Internet connection
- The relocation of the choir pigeon holes and the creation of new storage in the St Matthew Hall, the Cluny Hall, the St Andrew Room, the Store Room, the former entrance vestibule and the

Vestibule (including a new display area and 2 large cupboards)

- The upgrading of the audio-visual facilities throughout the whole church complex – some of which was essential as a Government reallocation of wavebands made much of it obsolete. The upgrading also provided throughout the whole premises a flexible arrangement for projection, internet access, improved hearing facilities and the facility to record services both visually and audibly for distribution to the housebound and elderly.
- The upgrading of the lighting in the chancel – again some of which was essential because of obsolescence and a dazzle effect on the congregation. The Burne Jones window at the East end of the chancel will now be floodlit. This work is being generously funded by the Friends of Morningside Church.
- The relocation of two external Victorian wrought iron lamps
- The creation of a Record Book of pictures of former ministers and other items of historic interest
- The replacement of the carpeting in the vestibule, nave, St Andrew Room and Office
- The installation of a fire detection and alarm system throughout the whole premises – it was previously confined to the 2010 development works
- The landscaping of the grounds affected by the building works including the replacement of trees felled either because they were dead, unsafe or obstructed access

When we started on this adventure thirty months ago, the architect advised that the works would take nine months, including two months not having the sanctuary available to us. In fact, but for the delay in promised deliveries and a late spell of freezing temperatures, the contractors' estimated date of completion of 22<sup>nd</sup> December would have meant completion within eight months. However, as I write, it looks as if we will achieve the completion within the estimated nine months, notwithstanding the two week Christmas break and the willingness of the contractors to stop work to accommodate funerals, music recitals and other services. They have also achieved this without us being out of the sanctuary for two months, allowing us throughout to continue in the occupation and use of the sanctuary for worship.

As I write, there are still outstanding some minor works, principally external works delayed because of the freezing temperatures including external tiling and painting, the relaying of the driveway and external landscaping works. A consequence of the delay to the tiling work to the external steps is that the hand rail at the entrance cannot be installed and, until the regrading of the levels of the affected landscape is done, a decision as to whether fences are needed is being deferred. In the meantime, although the new Cluny Hall will be available for use from the 18<sup>th</sup> January, as a temporary measure normal access should continue to be taken by way of the Braid Road entrance, although emergency exit can be exercised by way of the new entrance. There are other minor works to be completed internally including the door and window manifestations including the rehanging of the glazed panels of the former doors leading to the sanctuary in front of the new glass screens in the vestibule. No doubt there will continue to

be snagging works and adjustments to be made. The planned move of the office will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> January and the telephone number 0131 447 6745 will be transferred.

The sale of the Centre is due to settle on 31<sup>st</sup> January, closing a long chapter of Christian witness on that site but largely making it possible for the development of additional modern facilities at the church site. For the opportunities this opens to us we should be grateful, as well as for:

- the skill and patience of the architects in developing and delivering our ideas and the skilled workmanship of the contractors
- the generosity of the General Trustees in making a short term loan available to cover the majority of the costs being recovered from the sale of the Centre;
- the tolerance of our locum, interim moderator and visiting preachers for operating from the Store cupboard as their vestry
- the tolerance of the organist who has for months endured having the organ shrouded in plastic and the choir who have had their storage shifted twice
- the tolerance of the various groups relocated from or to the St Matthew Hall because of a restriction on numbers allowed to use that hall as long as one fire exit was blocked by building works
- the tolerance of those who have had to move their storage to a new location -

particular thanks to those who have culled their needs!

- the tolerance of the congregation as normal access was restricted and who endured some cold Sundays – not wholly due to the non-delivery of new heat curtains and the underperformance of new radiators but due to the coincidental non-performance of the regular heating system (now being actively investigated by the Fabric Committee)
- the very hard work and cheerfulness of the Caretakers in keeping the premises operational and organising the transfer of storage and disposal of accumulated “stuff”
- the sterling efforts of the Steering committee.

While, like after any household flitting, there will continue to be a period of snagging issues and other minor works to be completed, I hope that very soon, we will have made the transfer and begin to enjoy the benefits of our adventure. We can look forward to the Service of Dedication set for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April when our Minister will escape from Moderatorial duties to perform this happy task. Thereafter I hope that we have many happy years ahead enjoying the premises to the full in the worship and work of the church in Morningside.

Robin Stimpson  
Session Clerk

#### **NEW CHURCH OFFICE ADDRESS:**

2 Cluny Gardens, Edinburgh, EH10 2BQ.  
The telephone number is unchanged as 0131 447 6745.





**Building the Cluny Hall**

**The new building as it develops**



**The St Andrew Room taking shape**

**On the roof of the Cluny Hall**



## CONGRATULATIONS!



On 3<sup>rd</sup> December, members of the congregation were delighted to help Revd John Cameron celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination. As you can see, he is still well capable of having an audience in stitches.

## ALL AGE NATIVITY SERVICE, 10 DECEMBER 2017

Our Sunday Club retelling of the Christmas story this year was a quirky script, delightfully expanded by Norma, based on Simone Graham's book, 'An Unexpected Christmas'.

As God looks out over the earth, it's evident that all is not well. How can s/he help the people that sometimes feel so far away? 'I've had a constant battle with sin all these years,' sighs God, viewing the Earth through a telescope. 'I don't know what to do next'.

In conversation with the heavenly host of Smart Angels, Soldier Angels, Reading Angels and Small Angels, various plans are suggested, but what will God go for?

'Shall we ready the army, Lord?' asked a Soldier Angel. 'Teach them a lesson?'

'No, I don't think we should send an army. Just one person.'

'Brilliant!' enthused the Small Angels. 'They won't be expecting that!'

If you would like to see the original, click on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TM1XusYVqNY>

*Jennifer, Norma, Rona and Laura, with thanks to all who helped.*

**The cast and helpers for 'An Unexpected Christmas'**





### FLOWER LIST

		Provided by	Arranged by
Jan	7	Joan Burnet	Joan Burnet
	14	Sheila Rowand	Val Mannings
	21	Frances Bruce	Eleanor Watt
	28	Euan Murray	Ruth Henderson & Val Dunn
Feb	4	Lorna Graham	Marjory Watson
	11	Chris & Anne McNeil	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
	18	Aline Haggart	Irene Wilson
	25	Christine Peterson	Joan Burnet
Mar	4	Ruth Henderson	Ruth Henderson & Val Dunn



We would also like to thank all those who have offered to donate money for the flowers during 2018. 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.

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

Extra volunteers to help deliver the flowers after the service on a Sunday morning are always welcome. If you are able to help, please come to the chancel at the end of the service. This is an important part of our ministry and from the many messages of gratitude the minister is sent it is gratefully received.

'A short note to say thank you so much for the beautiful flowers delivered on Sunday.'

'Thank you both and the congregation for the flowers which were sent to me last Sunday. They are beautiful and are helping to brighten my lounge as the days get shorter.'

## SLEEP IN THE PARK 2017



On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December, over 8,000 people slept overnight in Princes Street Gardens to raise money for Social Bite, a proactive charity working and campaigning around Scotland with, and for, homeless people. Through this and other work, they hope to create such an impetus that homelessness in Scotland will be eradicated over a 5-year period. They aim to provide not only housing but rehabilitation and support to help people get back on their feet. Here are a few words from four people from Morningside Parish Church, who, along with our minister and Moderator, Derek Browning, took part.

**Kenny Robertson:** I took part in Sleep in the Park together with a couple of colleagues from RBS. None of us really knew what to expect, but we were taken aback by how many people were taking part in the sleep-out and generally how positive and upbeat the atmosphere was (in spite of the cold!). As someone who isn't a regular camper, I found it hard to get much sleep; we were in sleeping bags on the grass and the lack of comfort only reinforced how challenging it must be for the homeless on a nightly basis. The three of us raised £1,500 for the charity.

**Jennifer Stark:** At 11pm, I looked out over a sea of orange bags, under the stars and Christmas lights, with a luminously-floodlit Edinburgh Castle above us. Long queues for the toilets at that point, and a crowd of people around some small fires in metal boxes to keep them warm. Ground rough under me, nose peeping out from woolly hat, but thanks to my various layers and the excellent sleeping bag lent to me by a friend, not too cold. Thinking longingly of the warm bed I'll be back in tomorrow night. So many won't. I know I'll feel tired and stiff, and woolly-headed tomorrow. How can anyone do this night after night, in far less comfort? My rucksack is frosted over and it feels like the -5 degrees predicted.

I was inspired by the people I met and talked to – a woman who'd come all the way from Lossiemouth who said, 'Plenty of us are only a few months away from homelessness. I've been there'. And a man who'd made the journey from Colonsay, leaving on Wednesday to get here for Saturday, because the weather was forecast to make ferry crossings impossible on Thursday and Friday. Thank you for helping me raise over £1,000 for this cause.

**Daniel and Jenny O'Hara:** We felt it was important to raise money and awareness of homelessness through our experience of sleeping in the park in December. It encouraged a lot of discussion with friends, family and colleagues leading up to the event. So many people, of all ages, from all backgrounds choosing to support this charity event highlights the desire to change society in even a small way. Hopefully this is the beginning of a movement which will change the streets in Scotland. There is no need for people to be homeless in 2018 in our rich country.

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## LIFE AND WORK 2018

A reminder that subscriptions to Life & Work for 2018 are now overdue. Cheques for £27.50 payable to Morningside Parish Church should be sent to Mrs Joan McKenzie, Mrs Audrey Riddell or the Church Office. Many thanks to those who have already renewed their subscription.



### **MID WEEK SERVICE**

There will be a short, informal, service on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 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.

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### **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 31 <sup>st</sup> January, 2.30:	Ashley Court
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February, 2.15pm:	Cluny Lodge
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February, 3.15:	Oaklands
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February, 2.30:	Ashley Court

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### **SPEAKER SUPPER**

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 7.30 - Rev. Professor Norman Drummond

Rev. Professor Norman Drummond is the chair of the Scottish World War One Commemorations Panel. He served as a Chaplain in The Parachute Regiment and The Black Watch. Former Headmaster of Loretto and BBC National Governor for Scotland, Professor Drummond is a Visiting Professor of Leadership in Education at the University of Edinburgh. He has been a Chaplain to the Queen in Scotland since 1993. He is the Founder and President of Columba 1400, an award winning social enterprise and charity, helping "young people realise that they already have the inner greatness and confidence to transform their own lives and those around them.

Tickets costing £20 will be on sale on Sundays 28<sup>th</sup> January, 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February. The ticket price no longer includes your first drink but the usual refreshments will be available for purchase. Please make any dietary requirements known when buying your tickets, available from members of the Social Committee or from the Church Office.

Come along and enjoy a lovely meal in good company.

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### **LENT 2018**

We plan to offer Lent groups as usual in February-March. Please see intimations and church website for information on time, venue and format.

## **CONGRATULATIONS** to all Jam Makers, Bakers and Buyers!

Together over ten months you have raised a grand total of £1,460.42 which will go towards Church funds. This is a tremendous amount---far exceeding our expectations!

Thank you all for your help and generosity.

The next stall will be on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

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## **ROLL CHANGES**

Please welcome Alastair Hamilton Lyon, son of Catriona and Richard Lyon,  
who was baptised on 17 December 2017.

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of  
William Cooper, who died on 25 November 2017  
Ian Simpson, who died on 11 December 2017  
Dr Lewis Howitt, who died on 15 December 2017  
Mrs Ella Scott, who died on 23 December 2017

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## **SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - 'INSIDE OUT'**

A day in which to retreat a little from busy lives and spend time with God, the wisdom and story of Scripture, and each other, during Lent; and a chance to explore some ways of praying that will help us live our lives more fully and engage with the world we live in. Led by Graham Fender-Allison, Worship Development Leader, Mission and Discipleship Council of the Church of Scotland.

More information to follow, via church intimations and our website.

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## **MONDAY CIRCLE**

The Monday Circle meets on a Monday at 7.45pm in the Braid Hall of Morningside Parish Church.

We would like to wish ALL our members and friends A Very Happy New Year.

Here are the dates for February 2018

5 <sup>th</sup> February	Alaska - the last frontier	Henry Meekin
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19 <sup>th</sup> February	The Travels of the Queen of Edinburgh	Irene McLellan
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Anna Cunningham, Magazine Secretary

## INTRODUCING SUNDAY CLUB

This month, we meet.....

**Rebekah Knipe**, one of our younger members

1. Tell us three things you'd like us to know about you.

*I like sports and run for Lasswade Athletics Club and play netball. I also play the cello. I have a dog called Jess, she's a miniature schnauzer.*

2. Best or most memorable holiday ever?

*I like all holidays! This year I had lots of fun in Portugal and Spain.*

3. Favourite author?

*Anne Cassidy.*

4. Best book you've read so far?

***Wonder*** by Raquel Palacio.

5. One thing you enjoy or have enjoyed, about Morningside Parish Church/ Sunday Club

*I enjoy the crafts and meeting with friends at Sunday Club.*

6. What's the thing you are proudest of having done so far?

*I climbed Ben Nevis this year.*

7. What would you do if you had a completely free day?

*I'd go to the beach (if it was a nice day!) with my family and friends and body board and play games.*



**Book Café**  
for Scottish Love in Action

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March  
10.30-2.30  
George Watson's College,  
69-71 Colinton Road, EH10 5EG

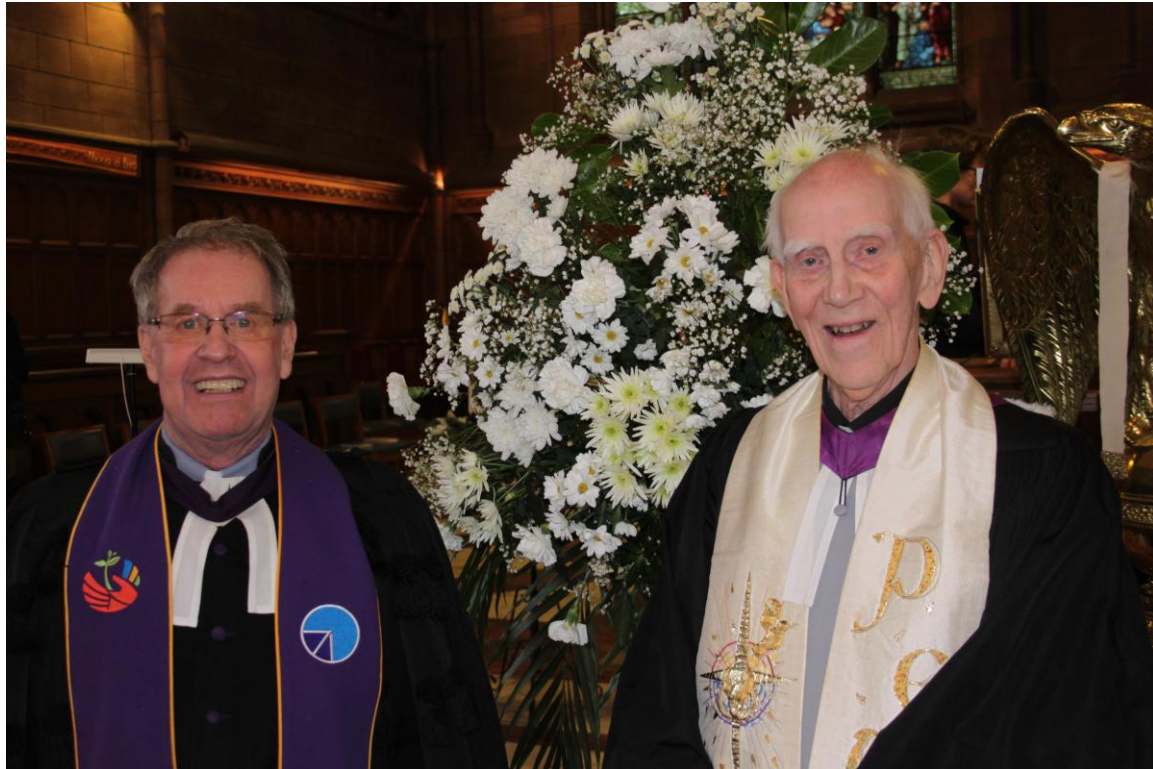
Get a warm glow  
browsing books for sale  
with soup and coffee

Tickets £7.50 (Children £5, under 7 free)  
To include 2 books, soup and bread  
(coffee or tea extra)  
Parking available

Tickets available at  
<http://www.sla-india.org/news/book-cafe-2018/>  
or email [slabookcafe@gmail.com](mailto:slabookcafe@gmail.com)  
or on the door

## MARCH MAGAZINE

Material for the March issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March**. As Easter is on 1 April, please send any information about Easter events by 16<sup>th</sup> February. Contributions may be put in her pigeonhole at church, sent by post to the church office at 2 Cluny Gardens, Edinburgh, EH10 2BQ (Please note the new address) or by email to [editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk).



**The Very Revd Dr Andrew McLellan with Revd John Cameron on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Cameron's ordination.**

Locum Minister: Very Revd. Dr. A McLellan    01383 725959    [arcmclellan@gmail.com](mailto:arcmclellan@gmail.com)

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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.