



Magazine

No. 135 March 2018

On some lampposts in Leith you can glimpse what was the old motto of the town until it ceased to be a burgh in 1927. The motto is "Persevere". It is a motto which sits oddly with the image of today's Leith: often seen as the pleasure-centre of the modern Edinburgh, peopled by young, successful, upwardly mobile types. But you can see what an appropriate motto it was in the days when Leithers made their living on the waves, the days when every storm brought a mortal threat to some Leith door or other.

"Persevere" can be a grim word. But there is something very Scottish about it. This month Dunfermline Abbey, the congregation of which I am a member, is welcoming The Moderator of the General Assembly, Dr Browning, to a special service to mark the bicentenary of the discovery of the bones of Robert the Bruce in the Abbey. His bones have been reburied there: and there is a magnificent Bruce window. Children are often set the puzzle of finding a spider somewhere in Dunfermline Abbey – and there it is, done in

stained glass in the corner of the Bruce Window. It is a reminder of the tale of Robert the Bruce learning from a spider to "persevere" – "try, try and try again".

Sometimes "Persevere" sounds like a word that is less than Christian: it suggests

soulless determination rather than joyful trust. Perhaps, however, Lent is the right time to hear it as a Christian word and a Christian virtue. What is the story of Jesus in the wilderness, wrestling for forty days with temptation, alone and without any external source of comfort – what is that Lent story if not a story of perseverance? This is Jesus holding on, fixing his mind and heart on the promises of God, never letting go of what he knows to be right. He was always very strong in the Scriptures: in these forty days of

perseverance I expect that Isaiah chapter 40 would be nourishment to him:

those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Very Revd Dr Andrew McLellan



NOT QUITE SO “NEARLY THERE” AS HOPED

In the December magazine I optimistically headed my report on the new build and alterations works as “Nearly there”. The article was written before the contractors had left the site on 22nd December and there is no doubt that significant work was achieved in that last week but not quite enough to get us as far over the finishing line as I hoped.

In some ways in the New Year we seemed to go backwards as cupboards were emptied at the Cluny Centre which took a little time and great effort to sort out and find space for in the new accommodation. Most Centre users tackled the move, if not understandably with enthusiasm, certainly with a will. The caretakers were especially helpful in clearing the Centre and helping with the allocation of cupboard space and generally restoring order from chaos. Most users had been disciplined in reducing their storage needs and while it had been possible to find good homes for some unwanted items, over 3 skip loads were needed to clear “surplus goods”. A few users however were less diligent and clung on to their demands for space but generally order has been created.

Although there are still snagging works to be attended to, we have been able to start using the new office, the Cluny Hall and the St Andrew’s room. The roof of the St Andrew’s room is particularly admired. Apart from heating issues, the added space of the vestibule and the clear views to the chancel have been enthusiastically received. We have therefore been able on Sundays to use the St Andrew’s room as a vestry, the Cluny Hall for the 9.30 service, and to restore the service of coffees to the St Matthew’s Hall and Sunday Club to the Braid Hall.

Disappointingly, in terms of the new build, we are not quite as “nearly there” as hoped for and a number of snagging items remain. I must apologise for the continued lack of adequate heating in some areas on Sundays. I can only assure you that it has not been for any want of chasing of the contractors and subcontractors. The issues have been and will continue to be pressed as urgent matters to be resolved. There is now an acceptance from the contractors, in spite of the issue being continuously raised with them since the new heaters were installed in the vestibule, that the heaters are not adequate and are to be replaced. The heating in the Braid Halls is hopefully now working properly, due to a blocked filter which has now been cleared, and nothing to do with the new build. It has also been identified that areas of the church heating, not apparently directly affected by the new works, have been “tripping out” leaving whole sections of the existing heating not working e.g. the aisle wall heaters and gallery. These have all now either been or are being actively addressed and we hope to return to more effective heating in the sanctuary especially when the transept heaters are fully functioning.

Lighting in the chancel remains incomplete as is the external flood lighting of the Burne Jones window but again arrangements are in place to complete the works outstanding. Work on providing audiovisual facilities throughout also continues.

Externally, some work has had to be delayed until the weather is warmer i.e. above 5 degrees! This includes external painting and tiling at the entrance to the new hall. The new railings are ready but are delayed because they have to be attached to the tiling. Also during the

works, the sensors which prevent the bollards in the driveway rising when a car crosses them were damaged. The contractors accept responsibility for this but it took time to get a realistic estimate to reinstate them. However this is now resolved and it is hoped that the asphalt can shortly be laid on the drive.

New planting of the grounds affected by the works must also be delayed until the ground is not frozen.

It is tantalising to be so close to completion but snagging work will no doubt continue for some time. Things have progressed but I hope that significant progress will soon be made towards completion. Finally, please note that contrary to dates stated in the Church diary and in the Morningside Messenger the date for the dedication of the halls is and has always been Sunday 15th April at the 10.30 service.

Robin Stimpson
Session Clerk

ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers the families and friends of

Mrs Irene Leburn,
who died on 6th February 2018

Mrs Margaret Thomson,
who died on 17th February 2018

FAREWELL TO THE CLUNY CENTRE

On the afternoon of Sunday 28th January, a short service was held in the Upper Hall of Cluny Centre, with its beautiful stained glass window, to give thanks for more than a century of Christian worship on the site. The building has recently been sold.

Dr McLellan conducted the worship, and read out the names of the five ministers who had ministered there since 1890. He spoke of the many services that had been held and also the meetings that had taken place, the discussions, the arguments, the decisions that had been made. There had been times of great joy and happiness and times of great sadness. It was a very moving and meaningful service.

Many of the people present had some connection with South Morningside Church or Cluny as it was later known, some having been baptised or married there. The service finished very appropriately with the hymn "Now thank we all our God".

Afterwards came the time for reminiscing when people, reluctant to leave the building, gathered in little groups. "Do you remember the Sunday School picnics?" "Didn't we have fun in the Young Woman's Group?" "I'll never forget the Guide jumble sales." Photographs were produced and there was much laughter. Friendships formed many years ago had remained to this day.

In a sealed jar, in the foundation stone of the building, is a document which contains the following words: "It is our earnest prayer that the building will be the scene of rich blessings to God's people for generations to come". Indeed it has been.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

The Holy Week joint services this year are being held in Greenbank Church, Monday 26th to Friday 30th March at 7.30pm. On Holy Saturday, 31st March, there will be a service of music and readings in Morningside Parish Church, also at 7.30, and on Easter Sunday, 1st April, there is no 9.30 service in Morningside but a service at 10.30 followed by refreshments in the Braid Hall. All are welcome to any or all of these services.

EASTER LEAFLETS

These will be available and ready for distribution to our Parish on Sunday 11th March. The leaflets inviting people to our Easter services are one of the ways in which we can highlight our presence here in Morningside so please pick up a bundle that day. Your help is greatly appreciated.



LENT 2018

The Lent Study Group: begins on Thursday 22nd February and the following four Thursdays at 7.30 pm (tea and coffee from 7pm), at the church (St Andrew Room). The theme is "Finding a Voice", which is a "Brilliant Lent course for individuals and groups, based on the Oscar-winning film 'The King's Speech'. The purpose of 'Finding a Voice' could be summed up in the words of the King's speech therapist: 'To give them faith in their voice and let them know a friend is listening.' The course, which offers five group sessions plus weekly material for private reading, uses the film as a discussion starter and relates it to what the Bible has to say about such universal issues as discouragement and determination, fear and friendship, calling and courage".

This group is for everyone: you do not need to have seen the film, and you do not need to have been to a study group before..

MONDAY CIRCLE

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

Here are the meetings until the end of the session. The committee wish you ALL a relaxed, warm summer until we meet again in October.

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| 5 th March | More Short Tales | Frances Morton |
| 10 th March | Saturday Coffee Morning 10 am - noon. | |
| 19 th March | A G M | |
| 9 th April | Meal for members only | |

Anna Cunningham, Magazine Secretary

NEW CHURCH OFFICE ADDRESS:

2 Cluny Gardens, Edinburgh, EH10 6BQ.
The telephone number is unchanged as 0131 447 6745.

FLOWER LIST

| | Provided by | Arranged by |
|-------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Mar 4 | Ruth Henderson | Ruth Henderson & Val Dunn |
| 11 | Nyria & Keith Bailey | Joan Burnet |
| 18 | Gretta Miller | Irene Wilson |
| 25 | Hazel Nicolson | Marjory Watson |
| Apr 1 | EASTER | Flower Committee |



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

26 FEBRUARY – 11 MARCH 2018

Come on in to Fairtrade!

Morningside Parish signed up to be a Fairtrade Church some years ago. We would like you to join us in supporting farmers and workers overseas who grow food we enjoy and other produce under certified conditions that sees them receive a fair price and a premium that benefits their community. We stopped offering a monthly stall when a wider range of Fairtrade products became available in some supermarkets. So consider trying some new items – make your snack Fairtrade. Co-operative, Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury's stores all have items, from bananas, tea, coffee, sugar, to flowers, cotton goods (like t-shirts) and so on.

Do check that what you buy has the FAIRTRADE Mark – see the image which is reproduced here with permission. This ensures the growing conditions are met and workers receive a fair price; social benefits to the community are also guaranteed by the premium paid for observing workers' rights, with provision of schooling and healthcare. The aim is to empower the farmers so that all in their community can enjoy a more secure and sustainable future. To read and learn more about the impact of Fairtrade, go to www.fairtrade.org.uk Look under What Fairtrade does and in particular select What is the impact of our work?, then go to The Difference Fairtrade makes to see a video.



'INSIDE OUT'

Saturday 17th March: 10.30 – 3pm, with tea/coffee from 10 am.

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. Led by Graham Fender-Allison, Worship Development Leader, Mission and Discipleship Council of the Church of Scotland.

Graham writes, *'Retreats don't always feel like they are for everyone.'*

Sometimes, they seem more geared to those of us who enjoy listening to Saints being quoted all day, or who think far too much about techniques for breathing with our eyes closed. Whilst these things can be useful, on this particular retreat, we will explore one prayer exercise that can help us live our life more fully, not escape it; and another which can help us engage with the world we live in, not 'retreat' from it.

Some conversations and journaling will be also used, but you will not be asked to share what you have written, nor to pray out loud in small groups.

That all said, a Saint or two may be mentioned and it would definitely help if we all agreed to breathe.'

Venue: either the Cluny or Braid Hall, Morningside Parish Church, depending on numbers. There is a small cost of £5 for the day, which includes all refreshments and a simple lunch. If you have any questions about the day, please do feel free to contact Jennifer Stark, our Associate, 07802 263 979, associate@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk,

To register, contact Jennifer (as above), or Fiona Ross (0131 447 5077), by **Monday 12th March**. Please let us know of any dietary requirements. There is also a sign-up sheet on the desk at the entrance to the Braid Hall (glass doors facing onto Braid Road). The day is open to anyone interested – bring a friend.

MORNINGSIDE QUIZ NIGHT



Saturday 24th March at 7pm in the Braid Hall

It is that time again! Start racking your brains and get rid of the cobwebs - it is quiz time. Come along and enjoy a fun night. We need teams of no more than 6 people but if you do not have a team let us know and we will find you a team to join.

Tickets cost £5.00 for an adult and £2.50 for children and will be on sale on 4th, 11th, and 18th March from members of the Outreach Committee or the Church Office. Refreshments will be available to purchase on the night.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SESSION MEETING ON 13th FEBRUARY 2018

The **Worship group** reported that “we have been exceptionally fortunate in having the Very Revd Dr Andrew McLellan as locum to lead us in our worship over the period of the Minister’s absence during the 16 months on Moderatorial business. It was Andrew’s particular wish in approaching his time with us that arrangements for worship proceed in our normal pattern with as little change as possible. It has been no surprise but a matter of great encouragement and pleasure that he has embraced the challenges of our menu of services with such energy and flair – ably supported by our Associate, guest preachers, our young people, choir and organist. “

The **Education Group** expressed their thanks to the Sunday Club team for their work with the children, making special mention of the Christmas presentation “the Unexpected Christmas” and their weekly contributions to the 10.30 service.

A Day Retreat is scheduled for Saturday 17th March - “Inside Out”, led by Graham Fender-Allison, Worship Development Leader, Mission and Discipleship Council of the Church of Scotland.

A Lent course “Finding your Voice” based on the Oscar-winning film, The King’s Speech will commence on Thursday 22nd February, 7.00 for 7.30pm at the church and at the same time for the four following weeks. The purpose of 'Finding a Voice' could be summed up in the words of the King’s speech therapist: ‘To give them faith in their voice and let them know a friend is listening.’

Local Church Review by the Presbytery of the work of the congregation has been postponed until later in the year.

Esslemont Road – the Clerk reported that Presbytery had given consent for the sale of the flat at this address which had been acquired some years ago as a home for former minister Dr John Kirk and his wife and was now no longer needed following Mrs Kirk’s recent death, Dr Kirk having predeceased her some years ago. Consent will now be sought from the General Trustees for the sale.

Sale of the Cluny Centre was completed on 31st January - please see separate report from the Clerk on the building works. A short service was held in the Upper Hall on Sunday 28th January to acknowledge with gratitude the years of Christian witness on the site.

Food Hygiene Certificates - 18 members had attended a day course on Food Hygiene, sat (and passed) the test and now are proud holders of a certificate in Elementary Food Hygiene.

Inductions to Local Parishes - it was noted that the **Revd Cheryl McKellar- Young** was to be inducted as minister of Fairmilehead Parish Church on 15th February 2018 and that the **Revd Dr Martin Ritchie** was to be inducted as minister of Greenbank Parish Church on 11th March 2018.

INTRODUCING SUNDAY CLUB

This month, we meet.....

Aimee McDonagh, one of our younger members

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

I attend Broughton High School specialist Dance. I love all kinds of dancing. I love performing in the Gang Show.

2. Best or most memorable holiday ever?

Florida when I performed at Downtown Disney.

3. Favourite author?

David Walliams.

4. Best book you've read so far?

The Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo.

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

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

Dancing at Downtown Disney in America..

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

Have a day out with my family and friends.



Sunday Club 28th January: re-creating the Gospel story of Jesus in the Synagogue at Capernaum (Mark 1: 21-28), with Creationary Lego

BLYTHSWOOD CARE AND GUILD WORK PARTY, GREENBANK

Following the closure of the Work Party at Morningside Parish Church, I have been made aware that some people may still have items "on the pins" and that some still wish to continue knitting.

One of our outlets was Blythswood Care who received items from us for their Shoebox Appeal via a Craft Group which is operated by the Free Church in Maryburgh and the Church of Scotland in Conon Bridge. Last year's boxes from Maryburgh/Conon Bridge went to Romania and the Ukraine.

The following items are always required - neck warmers, scarves, hats, gloves, mitts and knitted socks (all for ladies or men), children's jumpers (0-6 years only). Please remember that all items for Blythswood Care need to be able to fit in a shoebox. The shoeboxes are sent out in November so items need to be with me by early October to allow for their onward delivery.

Any larger items such as blankets or shrugs can continue to be distributed via the Guild Work Party at Greenbank Church.

If anyone has any knitted items, these can be placed in my pigeon-hole, given to me at church on a Sunday, or I can arrange to collect if required.

Irene Wilson
(Tel: 0131 449 2866)

SPEAKER SUPPER

The most recent of the Speaker Suppers was held on Friday 16th February and was most successful. Almost all the tickets were sold mostly to church members but there were quite a few visitors. It was a superb evening and enjoyed by all who were there. Rev. Professor Norman Drummond spoke about his work as chair of the Scottish World War One Commemorations Panel. He was a most interesting speaker and very happy to answer the questions posed to him. The food, provided by Butterflies of Marchmont St Giles church, was good and the fellowship was what one would expect so it was an enjoyable evening for all.

I think at this time a special thank you should go to our Social Committee and Outreach Committee who mastermind so many of these occasions such as the Quiz Nights and Afternoon Teas with very little thanks for their efforts. So we accord to them at this time our heartfelt thanks for all they do to make these occasions so enjoyable.

APRIL MAGAZINE

Material for the April issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 9th March 2018** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 29th March (Palm Sunday)**. Contributions may be put in her pigeonhole at church, sent by post to the church office at 2 Cluny Gardens, Edinburgh, EH10 6BQ (Please note the new address) or by email to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk.



Window in the Upper Hall, Cluny Centre (formerly South Morningside Parish Church)

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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.