



# Magazine

No. 139 September 2018

Dear Friends

It's been quite some time since I have written a letter for Parish News. It's good to be back!

One of the delights, for me at least, in having been away for over a year was knowing that I would be returning. Whilst there are people that I miss, and events that I wasn't able to attend, I return to Morningside looking at the many opportunities that lie ahead of all of us. Seeing the difference in the young people in our congregation, some barely toddlers when I left now able to take part in the services is a wonderful thing. It is also hard not to be impressed by the new building. It will take time for us to become accustomed to it, and to work out what it will enable us to do and to be.

I had a wonderful year as Moderator, and am conscious that many people not only in the national Church but here in Morningside took on extra duties and responsibilities. To all of you, thank you. Everyone has been asking how I am on my return. So far, no major withdrawal symptoms and it has been wonderful to be back at the manse. One of the things that will take some adjusting to will be balancing my responsibilities to congregation and parish with those to Presbytery and Assembly, alongside an increase in events to attend around the country because of my profile as a former Moderator. Amongst some pending engagements I know I will be on Iona in October, Cambridge in November, and next year I am a guest speaker at a Jewish Burns Supper in Giffnock.

I am looking forward to speaking at a congregational event on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September to tell

you something of what I got up to during my year. I've had a cursory look over the 'blog' I wrote on the congregation's website and am astonished at how much was crammed in. It was truly a great privilege to travel so widely and meet so many people and attend so many varied events. The 'great events' meeting well-known people and visiting astonishing places was incredible in many ways, but there was for me as much pleasure in travelling around the country visiting people and places not so well known. It was often the case that the 'ordinary' provided the extraordinary moments: people simply getting on with doing the right thing, the necessary thing, the hopeful thing, the faithful thing.



A theme that I took from Morningside and deployed throughout my year was the theme of hospitality. When you are in a position of privilege, it is better to build a longer table than a higher fence. Something that we will be looking at in the year ahead is who is at our 'table' in the Church, not just at communion, but also at the regular worship services, the social events, and the events we organise. How people are invited, why people are invited, and how welcoming we truly are defines a great deal about who we are as Christians and as a Church. There is such a difference between saying, "you're welcome" and, "you're invited." One assumes people will come towards us simply because we are here; the other assumes that we will go out actively looking for people to invite them in. We do much that welcomes and invites, but the challenge for us all is not to be complacent, but to remain alive to new opportunities to show that the hospitality we offer in Jesus' Name remains warm, inclusive and vibrant.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

## WORSHIP MATTERS:

### 9.30am Services

The 9.30am services will resume on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September in the Cluny Hall. The service lasts for half an hour and is more reflective in style, with shorter hymns and responsive prayers. Tea and coffee is served after the service.

### Annual Covenant Service

Each year we have the opportunity to renew our promises as members of the Church at a special service. This year the Annual Covenant Service will take place at the 10.30am service on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

### Harvest Thanksgiving

Our annual Harvest Thanksgiving service will be at 10.30am on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September in the Church. There will be no 9.30am service on that day and the service will be an all-age service with the children staying in Church throughout the service. There will be a crèche in the Braid Hall as usual. One of the three charities the Church is supporting this year is Water Aid, and there will be a retiring offering especially for this charity at the close of the Harvest Thanksgiving Service. The theme for the service will be, ***The Gift of Water.***

### Afternoon Service

There will be a short afternoon service at 3.15pm in the Cluny Hall on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. These services are popular with those who like a shorter service later in the day. Refreshments will be served afterwards. If you would like to attend, or know of someone who might be interested, please let your elder know. All welcome.

### October Communion

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October we will share the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The 9.30am service will be held in the chancel area of the Church, providing a much more intimate space for worship for those attending. The 10.30am service will include the serving of communion in common and individual cups, as usual.

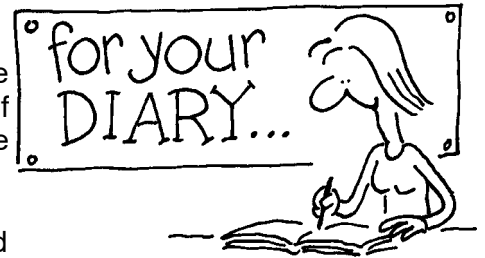
### The Minister offers a personal reflection on the 'common' cup:

*One of the most impressive things at the General Assembly is the Communion service on the Monday morning when around 1,000 people share the bread and the wine at a special service. The tradition in the Church of Scotland was to have wine served in 'common' cups, which were passed from communicant to communicant. This is how the communion is served at the General Assembly. In the C19th, largely through the Free Church, the practice of individual cups was introduced. It was thought to combat the spreading of disease. This introduction is something I personally regret and believe that you're more likely to 'catch something' from touching a door handle than sipping from a silver cup containing port. I appreciate, however, that not everyone shares this view. For those who would like to share the common cup at our 10.30am communion service, the pews at the back of the church on the right hand side of the nave (the south side) is the place to be. If you have never had the common cup before, or would like to experience it, I would strongly encourage you to do try this and share the wine element of communion in a style more akin to what Jesus did when He instituted the Lord's Supper and shared a common cup with His disciples.*



## A Moderator's Year: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm

Join the Minister as he gives an illustrated talk on some of the highlights of his recent year as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. You will also get the opportunity to see some of his gifts!



The event will be held in the Church, with refreshments being served in the Braid Hall afterwards.

Donations to Church funds will be greatly appreciated.

## Autumn Lectures

This year's Autumn lectures will be held in the Church halls on Sunday evenings in September. The theme is Faith and Health. Refreshments are served in the Braid Hall at 6.30pm, with the lecture beginning at 7pm in the St Matthew Hall.

**2<sup>nd</sup> September:** Professor Liz Grant (Director of the Global Health Academy, University of Edinburgh). *'Faith and Health in Global Perspective'*.

**9<sup>th</sup> September:** Professor Scott Murray (St Columba's Chair of Primary Palliative Care, University of Edinburgh). *'Living and Dying Well'*.

**16<sup>th</sup> September:** Professor Eve Johnstone CBE (Professor of Psychiatry, University of Edinburgh). *'Reflections on over 40 years in Psychiatry'*.

**23<sup>rd</sup> September:** Dr Sarah Lane Ritchie (Lecturer in Theology and Science, University of Edinburgh). *'Mind over Matter? Religious Practice and the Pursuit of Health'*.

## WHEN FAITH MAKES A DIFFERENCE...

For most of us going to Church is not only about hearing the Word of God, appreciating the fine music and admiring the wonderful building in which we worship. It is also about fellowship and friendship. We meet and chat to people in the pews; we share a table with others over coffee after the Services or we speak to those sitting beside us at the Summer Lunch, Speaker's Supper or Afternoon Tea. But what do you do if you realise that the gentleman sitting in the same pew as you hasn't been keeping too well recently? And what about the lady who gave a broad hint that things hadn't been easy these past few weeks, owing to difficult personal issues involving her immediate family? Or the young student concerned about the health of her mother, or the elderly man whose wife has just died? Of course we can, and should, pray for them but we can also make a direct physical show of support to show how much they are in our thoughts. Just to know someone from the Church is thinking of you, and giving support when you need it most, is a hugely appreciated and welcome gesture. So next time you find yourself in this position, and wondering if there is anything you can do, why not pick up the phone, send a card, give a bunch of flowers or issue an invitation for coffee. A lot of people in the Church already do this – don't be afraid to do "your bit" too if the need arises. It's maybe not a physical hug but it's a pretty close second.

(*contributed by a member of our congregation*)





**Au revoir to Andrew and Irene McLellan on 24<sup>th</sup> June**



**Cake to Welcome Back Derek Browning on 1st July**

## **SUMMER AT MORNINGSIDE**



**Session bids farewell to Scott McKenna**



**Speaker Allan Little  
and Andrew McLellan  
at the Speaker Supper on 8th June**

## A GIFT TO THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

The work of Morningside Parish Church has been assisted greatly by many generous gifts in the Wills of members of the congregation and adherents.

Please remember that a gift to the Church in your Will is exempt from Inheritance Tax as the Church is a recognised registered charity.

**If you have already made a Will.** If you have already made a Will, but would like to leave a gift to the Morningside Parish Church, you can do so by making a simple addition to your existing Will. This is called a codicil. By adding this supplement to your Will you can include new instructions and delete old ones without having to go through the task of revoking the whole Will.

**If you have not already made a Will.** If you do not have a Will at the moment, you may need to see a solicitor who will give sound professional advice and ensure that your wishes are achieved.

**An important part of our funding comes as a result of gifts left in people's Wills.** *These are key*

*to supplementing the regular giving and allow us to carry out the on-going work of our congregation.*

These gifts play a huge role in our work within the community and maintaining and upkeep of the fabric of Morningside Parish Church. A recent example of this was a generous legacy from a member of the Congregation which enabled us to completely refurbish our beautiful Father Willis organ and, even more recently, Miss Mary Cowan's legacy for the St Andrew room ceiling.

**Please don't think the gift that you may leave has to be large** – every gift makes a valuable contribution to the ongoing life of Morningside Parish Church. For example, this is reflected by the income generated from the investment of legacies received over past years.

***What better way to say thank you for the support, personal memories and enjoyment over the years than to allow our members in the future to share them?***

### HELP REQUIRED!

#### STREET EVENT – 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018: 10AM - 12NOON

The Communications Group is again organising a street event in Morningside to distribute leaflets telling people about our church and its activities. They would be grateful if you would spare half an hour of your time that morning to help. Craig Dawson will be delivering a Minute for Mission on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September to tell you a little more about what is involved, and there will be forms available for you to sign up to a suitable slot.

## MONDAY CIRCLE

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

We hope you have all enjoyed the summer break and are ready to join us for the new and varied programme starting on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

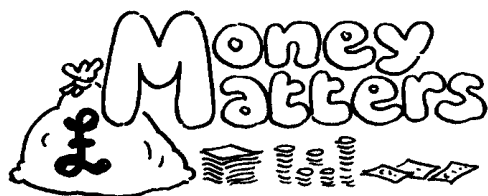
Here are the dates and topics until Christmas:-

Please Note: The meetings on 29 October and 26 November will be held **in the Church** and NOT in the Braid Hall.

October	1	Shetland	Wendy Sodergren
	15	Learning From Hospitality	Very Revd. Dr. Derek Browning
	29	Southside	Eric Melvin
November	12	Tesco, Behind the Scenes	Lynn Gilchrist
	26	Royal Company of Archers	Lt. Col. Richard Callander
December	17	Members Christmas Party	

Looking forward to seeing you all in October.

Anna Cunningham (magazine secretary)



### MINISTRIES & MISSION CONTRIBUTION FOR 2018

A letter of thanks has been received from the Deputy Treasurer of the Church of Scotland. In his letter he thanks us for the contributions we have made in the past to support the worship, mission and service of the Church through the money given in our offerings. He also explains how the contribution of £127,611 which we are asked to make in 2018 will be used.

The largest share (83.5%) amounting to £106,555 will go towards the cost of providing over 750 ministers and parish workers in communities throughout Scotland, including the stipend, employer's national insurance and pension contributions of our own minister. In 2018 the cost of a parish minister at the top of the stipend scale is £42,362, so although we benefit as a congregation by the costs of our own minister being met from this

fund, a good percentage (c60%) of our contribution to Ministries goes towards providing funds to support congregations who cannot afford the full cost of providing a minister.

The balance of our contribution (16.5%) amounting to £21,056 goes towards a wide variety of work funded centrally including resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach; providing through Crossreach social care services to people in need; the work of the World Mission and Church and Society Councils : providing day to day service work in administrative, financial and legal matters ; and in planning the General Assembly and the work of the Moderator in his/her period as Moderator.

***As you see our contribution helps ensure a very diverse ministry is maintained in many ways and many places.***

## MUSICAL NOTES

Have you missed the Choir over the summer months? I hope so! But it is good for all of us in the chancel - including the Organist! - to have a rest for a while, from which we return (we hope) refreshed and ready to begin again.

However, none of us gets any younger, and any new recruits from the Congregation or indeed outwith it (provided they pass a simple audition), would be made most welcome. As for Choral Scholars, on whom we rely more and more, at the time of writing we have signed up 2 Sopranos, and 1 Bass-baritone, and I hear a potential Alto/Soprano this coming Thursday; but we still look for another Alto/Soprano, and - of course - a Tenor. (We are delighted to welcome back Alasdair Grant as our Organ Scholar, after his year of study in Germany.) So if you know of anyone who is a potential choir member - scholar or "lay" (as it were) - do give them a nudge and put them in touch with me.

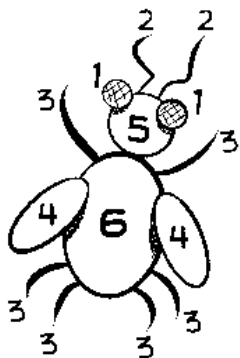
The maintenance of a reasonable standard of choral music is of great importance to me - as I hope it is to many, if not all, of you. But we can only keep going in any worthwhile way with the arrival from time to time of new members. And these get more and more difficult to find - even potential Choral Scholars are not that easy to come by, now that every other church in the city seems to be offering something along these lines. So, do think about what I write above. This is not a problem unique to Morningside, of course: a friend who sings in another parish church choir in the city tells me that he is their latest "new member" - and he (re-)joined that church, upon returning home to Edinburgh, over ten years ago! But please, if at all possible, do not let us allow MPC to join the ever-growing list of churches where a choir is but a distant memory, and the musical part of the service is reduced to merely organ voluntaries and five hymns...

M.W



## THANK YOU!

For many years Mrs Joan McKenzie has overseen the organisation and distribution of our Church magazine and Life and Work. Joan has now decided to step down from this role and we thank her for her hard work, and unfailing calmness and good humour, during this time. Fiona Stewart has taken over from Joan and she can be contacted on 531 9688 should there be any queries about the distribution of the magazine and Life and Work.



## ALL AGES NIGHT OUT!

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018, between 7 and 9pm, come along to a **BEETLE DRIVE** in the Braid Hall. Tickets cost Adult - £5.00, Child - £2.50 and can be bought from Fiona Gossip.

Refreshments will be available. It is a fun (if competitive!) evening for all the family.



## SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

The group meets again over the winter months where exercise, social chat and having fun amongst friends starts on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September in the South Morningside Hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome from new members to the regular. Contact Catriona Reid



### CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT IN AID OF SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm in the Merchants of Edinburgh Club House.

No ticket necessary but a suggested donation of £5 to the charity would be appreciated. All proceeds will go to SLA, a charity supporting destitute children in India.

Donations for the raffle will be gratefully received on the night.

If you are interested in coming please contact [lesley.murphy8@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.murphy8@btinternet.com)

Scottish Charity Number SC280397

[www.sla-india.org](http://www.sla-india.org)

## SOUTH EAST EDINBURGH FOODBANK

In the twelve months from April 2017 to April 2018, members of the congregation donated 267kg of food to the SE Edinburgh Foodbank, based at Southhouse Broadway. Some 1.2 million three day emergency food parcels were issued to people in the UK in 2017 by Foodbanks run by the Trussell Trust, of which that at Southhouse is one, so your donations are hugely important and greatly appreciated.



Partner agencies, which include health visitors, schools and social work departments, identify people in crisis and issue them with a foodbank voucher, which enables the recipients to collect a three day food parcel from their local foodbank. Reasons for referral include debt, benefit delays, domestic abuse and redundancy. Each parcel contains non-perishable items such as tinned soup, tomatoes, beans and rice pudding, tea or coffee, pasta, long-life milk, rice, jam, cereal, meat, fish, biscuits and treats such as sweets and chocolate.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed over the last year. Donations may be placed in the container situated beneath the pigeon-holes in the corridor between the church halls.

Fiona Stewart



## WHAT A GREAT SUMMER!

The 55<sup>th</sup> Boys Brigade and Girls Association have had a super summer, starting with presentation of George's official Queen's Badge Certificate by Her Majesty's Representative. This year's special event took place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June in Linlithgow. George and his fellow Queen's Men from Edinburgh, Leith and District paraded along Linlithgow High Street in glorious sunshine on the evening of 6<sup>th</sup> June to St Michael's Parish Church where, during a special service, seventeen Queen's Badge Certificates were presented, along with seven in absentia by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of West Lothian, Lord Hopetoun. George can be seen in the photo in the front row wearing glasses. The most enjoyable evening culminated in a short reception in St Michael's Church Hall by the ladies from The Guild.



The following Sunday, the younger members went along to the Edinburgh, Leith and District Fun Day at Vogrie Country Park. This was to mark officially the end of the Juniors' 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration year. The afternoon kicked off with an open air service conducted by Rev Ian Gilmour and then we all took a turn round Bouncy Inflatables, Nerf Games, Miniature Railway, Barbecue, Adventure Playground and Mini Rugby – yet another glorious summer's day.

We restart for the new session in September. Scott will be emailing the details shortly to our members. Enquiries about joining can be sent to [55thbbedinburgh@gmail.com](mailto:55thbbedinburgh@gmail.com)

Rona McLaren



FLOWER LIST			
		Provided by	Arranged by
Sept	2	Florence Patton	Anne Armour/ Issie Paterson
	9	Fiona Watt	Eleanor Watt
	16	Sheila Grahame	Irene Wilson
	23	Moir Clark	Irene Wilson
	30	HARVEST	Flower Committee
Oct	7	Sheena Allan	Anne Armour/ Issie Paterson



### JAM & BAKING STALL

The Communications Group began this venture as an experiment in the Autumn of 2016 and it proved so successful that it is still going - on the last Sunday of each month except for December. (We also withdraw graciously if there's a clash of dates as there was this year with the Summer Lunch.)

It's certainly financially successful: We raised £1,460 with ten stalls in 2017; and so far £893 with six stalls in 2018. But it's successful, too, in welcoming contributions from a wide range of people in the congregation who make jam as a hobby, have taken a recent interest in baking or whose rhubarb grows in an over-exuberant way.

Committees are not obliged to 'pay their own way' but it's gratifying to note that the money we raise covers our major expenses: Christmas and Easter cards and the magazine.

Many thanks to all who contribute either by baking or buying.

Issie Paterson

### ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of:

**Mrs Helen Dickson, who died on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018; and  
Thomas (Tim) Wrigley, who died on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

## THE FRIENDS OF MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH

Over the past few years the Friends of Morningside Parish Church have been active in undertaking a number of projects which have helped with the enhancement of the church's beautiful features and in raising awareness of the building's valuable heritage.

In the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 the Friends raised some £4,000 in income from membership donations and Gift Aid recoveries from HMRC.

In that twelve month period, the Friends spent almost £29,000 on a number of projects, namely:

A contribution of £4,500 was made to support the costs of the choral and organ scholars. This annual support has been ongoing for many years.

£24,500 was paid for projects involving the architectural lighting of the chancel, subsiding floodlighting running costs and improving external stair lighting in the church grounds.

Given that these payments exceeded the Friends annual income, a planned deficit of £25,000 resulted which reduced funds in the Friends bank account to £28,000 at 31 December 2017.

At the Friends AGM in May this year, the members approved a contribution of £2,000 towards new landscaping works in the church grounds.

Consideration will also be given to supporting the choral and organ scholars again in 2018 and assisting a church project to install new LED floodlighting in the grounds.

You can see that the Friends are very active in carrying out a wide range of valuable projects to further enhance the beauty of the church. We would like to do more. However, an increase in our current membership is vital if we are going to retain the capacity to continue our valuable work in the longer term. Please join us. The first step is to contact our Treasurer, Bob Cunningham, to obtain a membership application. Your help and future support would be greatly appreciated.

### **DESPERATELY SEEKING: 30 PUDDING BOWLS!**

Somehow, these have magically disappeared from the kitchen!

If for some good reason they have been borrowed, please return to church kitchen. Nothing will be said!

### **CHURCH WEEKLY EMAIL**

For those of you already receiving the Church magazine electronically, you may also 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 weekly update, please email the Church Office ([office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)).

## OCTOBER MAGAZINE

Material for the October issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October**. Contributions may be put in her pigeon-hole 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](mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk).

Whether you are a regular contributor or an occasional one, it may be helpful to have a note of the copy dates for the coming year:

	Copy date	Publication date
October	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> October
November	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> November
December	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December
February	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> January
March	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March
April	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> April
May	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April (Good Friday)	Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> May
June	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June

## COUNT THAT DAY LOST

If you sit down at set of sun  
And count the acts that you have done,  
And, counting, find  
One self-denying deed, one word  
That eased the heart of him who heard,  
One glance most kind  
That fell like sunshine where it went –  
Then you may count that day well spent.



But if, through all the livelong day,  
You've cheered no heart, by yea or nay –  
If, through it all  
You've nothing done that you can trace  
That brought the sunshine to one face –  
No act most small  
That helped some soul and nothing cost –  
Then count that day as worse than lost.

*George Eliot*

Minister: Very Revd. Dr Derek Browning	447 1617	<a href="mailto:derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk">derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk</a>
Magazine Editor: Alison Riddell	445 2330	<a href="mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk">editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk</a>
Church Office: Carole Byres	447 6745	<a href="mailto:office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk">office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk</a>

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

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