



Magazine

No. 142 December 2018

Dear Friends

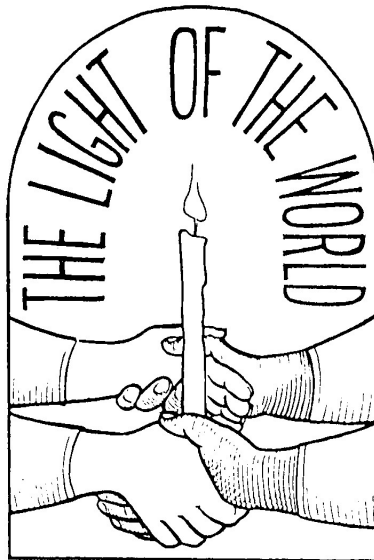
Last Christmas I did not preach on Christmas Day, the first time I hadn't done that in over thirty years. Instead, after attending a service, I went with one of my chaplains to help at Crisis for Christmas, on the Southside. It was one of the most moving events of my year, and a privilege to be involved. The charity provides not only hot food and drinks for homeless people, but also hair-dressing, medical checks, dental checks, clothing, an opportunity to play games, or to sleep somewhere safe during the day time. This year there might even be a vet brought in to look after some of the pets homeless people sometimes have with them.

Homelessness is not only confined to those who sleep rough. There are many others who have temporary accommodation, but who have to leave their shelters at around 8 in the morning, and can't return until around 8 at night.

I found the whole experience moving and upsetting beyond words.

I had no particular skills to bring to the shelter, but I could listen, so I found myself listening to person after person, hearing stories of drug and alcohol abuse; hearing stories of being abused as a child; hearing stories of relationships breaking down; hearing stories of serial unemployment. Most chilling of all was hearing

from a number of the people on Christmas Day, women and men, who felt they were invisible. "Nobody sees us, nobody hears us", one 83 year old man told me.



There is no time of the year when this is a good thing, but particularly at this time of the year, the echoes of the homeless Saviour of the World being born in a stable were almost unbearable.

Christmas has its challenges, and families not usually spending so much time together is a mixed blessing, but we should more than spare a thought for those who will

spend much of this time of year on their own, and not by choice. Some of you might be in a position to do something about this, not forcing festivity on everyone, but leaving intentional invitations open. Some enjoy their own company at this time of the year, and that is good. But others find not only Christmas Day itself, but the days around it empty and bare, when 'normal' life is suspended.

The point of Christmas, and the Incarnation, is that God is with us, in Jesus. God is present. For those who might appreciate it, how might you be present for them over this coming Christmas and New Year? A few minutes of your time, doing the Christ-like thing. Now there would be a real gift.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

KIRK SESSION NEWS

At its November meeting, Session heard reports from:-

Outreach Committee: the committee reported on plans for the Edinburgh Clothing Store Christmas clothing drive, which was launched on 18th November. The committee continues to raise money through a variety of events for church charities, and also supports the Sunday morning coffees where monies are raised towards church funds.

Pastoral Committee: The Kirk Session heard about the work of the Pastoral Committee. There are currently nine church visitors visiting nine members of the congregation, with the committee continuing to keep the situation under review. At a recent meeting our new pastoral assistant introduced herself and shared some of her ideas and plans with the committee. The committee will be involved in supporting the forthcoming 'Blue Christmas' service on 16th December at 3pm in the Church. Single roses will be handed out to all who attend the service, and there will be refreshments afterwards.

Local Church Review. The Kirk Session discussed and approved the Local Church Review that will be submitted to a visiting team from Presbytery. The review has three parts – one deals with congregational statistics; the second part looks at 'Where are we now' and encourages congregations to review what is currently happening in worship, discipleship, service, evangelism and fellowship. Healthy churches keep a balance between these five purposes, but how churches do these things varies enormously. The final part of the review looks at next steps for the congregation. What do we hope to do, why are these the right steps ahead; how will we take those steps, and when will we take them? Work has been identified in the area of children of families within the congregation, and also around the forthcoming work of our pastoral assistant. A training programme for pastoral visitors, elders and

others will be held. Particular thought is going to be given to the needs of those with dementia and their families, both within the congregation and the wider parish. Finance is going to be particularly challenging over the next few years as we adapt to being on one building site, with all the challenges and opportunities that this brings. Issues relating to relatively low giving by some members within the congregation will need to be addressed.

SPEAKER SUPPER Friday 9th November 2018



The guest speaker was a return visitor, Brigadier Paul Harkness. Having retired from his military career, Paul spoke about the charity he has set up highlighting the spread of Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery in Scotland.

Sunday 16th December 2018

Come along and enjoy some refreshments and Christmas fare in the St Matthews Hall after the morning service. All welcome.



WORSHIP MATTERS

Communion Sunday – 2nd December. We share the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 9.30am (in the chancel) and 10.30am.



Afternoon service – 4th December, 3.15pm in the Cluny Hall. This will be a short communion service, led by the Minister, and open to all members of the congregation, especially those who find a longer morning service difficult to attend.

Saturday 8th December: The Church will be decorated for Christmas from 10am. All welcome to help!

There has been a slight change to the services in December. On **9th December** there will be services at 9.30am and 10.30am as usual.

Festival of Light – Friday 14th December in the church at 7pm TBC

All-Age Christmas service – 16th December at 10.30am (no 9.30am service on this Sunday)

Blue Christmas – 16th December, 3pm in the Chancel. 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. This year, there will be a special tree placed by the communion table and those attending the service will be invited to write a name or situation on a specially made star and then attach it to the tree, a simple way of remembering people who are missed, or situations that are difficult, at this time of the year.

Telephone Choir – Carol Service – 19th December, 7.30pm. An annual service of congregational carols and music by the Telephone Choir, open to congregation and members of the public.

Lessons and Carols – 23rd December at 10.30am (no 9.30am service on this Sunday)

Christmas Eve – 24th December All-Age Service – 6.30pm – a short, half-hour service suitable for all ages to celebrate the coming birth of the Christ-Child.



Carols by Candlelight – 11.00pm

Watchnight Service – 11.30pm. Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Day – 25th December. A short morning service at 10am

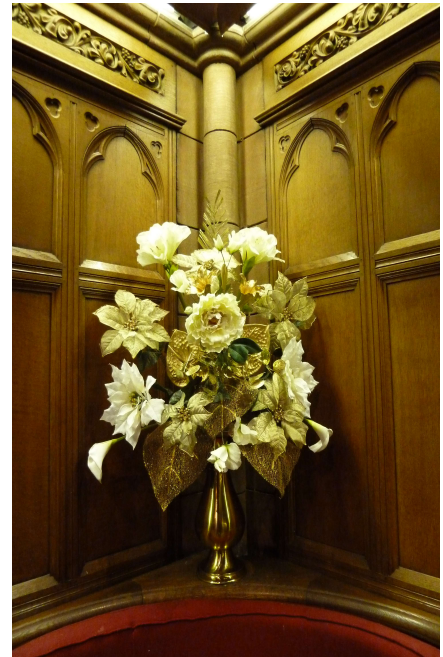
30th December – 10.30am Morning Worship (no 9.30am service)

6th January 2019 – services at 9.30am and 10.30am. Epiphany. Come and worship with the Wise Men!

CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 8th December
10am – 12 noon
in the church halls.
Admission £3 (children £1)

FLOWER LIST			
		Provided by	Arranged by
Dec	2	Carolyn Sutherland	Marjory Watson
	9	CHRISTMAS	Flower Committee
	16	CHRISTMAS	Flower Committee
	23	CHRISTMAS	Flower Committee
	30	CHRISTMAS	Flower Committee
Jan	6	CHRISTMAS	Flower Committee



The new flower list for 2019 is now available on the vestibule noticeboard. 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.

Irene Wilson, Treasurer, Flower Committee



LIFE + WORK: CHRISTMAS 2018

The Christians who will be working on Christmas Day

Chris Wigglesworth reflects on a personal journey to Bethlehem

The Moderator urges us to celebrate Christmas by reaching out to others

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers urges us to focus on the core message of the Christmas story

The Rev Dr Margaret Forrester considers Christmas from the perspective of the innkeeper's wife

Ron Ferguson argues the best Christmas gift would be justice for all

Shocking Knox: The two women at the helm of New College, Edinburgh

'The Love of God Transcends Everything': David McKee looks back on a study visit to the Holy Land
Czech Connections: An opportunity for Church of Scotland congregations to host ministers from abroad

The Very Rev Albert Bogle: The Sanctuary First minister reflects on leadership and nurture

John Hume: The history of Rutherglen and its churches

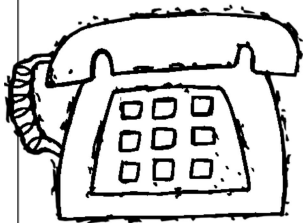
Edinburgh:Morningside Parish Church of Scotland: Scottish Charity No: SCO34396



THE GUILD WINDOWS

These stained glass windows were
gifted in 2018 by
Morningside Parish Church Guild
to celebrate the
Worship Fellowship and Service
of the various Guilds which
came together to form
Morningside Parish Church Guild

These stained glass windows, situated in the Church Vestibule, were dedicated by Dr Browning at the service on 25th November. They have been gifted by Morningside Parish Church Guild. Photographs by Douglas Paterson.



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 Telephone Choir's Musical Director, Jerry Gregson, is on **Wednesday 19th December**, at 7.30pm in the church.

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 help defray the costs of the men's Wednesday evening entertainers and the various all day outings the men enjoy in place of their former annual holiday at Biggar.

Eleanor Watt
Edinburgh Telephone Choir

BETHANY CARE SHELTER CATERING TEAM COFFEE MORNING

Tickets will be on sale for a coffee morning to be held on **Saturday 26th January 2019** in the Braid Hall from 10am to 12 noon to raise funds for the Bethany Care Shelter catering. The catering team from Morningside Parish is on the rota again on 2 evenings to provide a hot meal and breakfast for overnight sleepers in the winter months.

The Care Shelter opened for the 2018-19 winter season on 24th September this year, and will run for 32 weeks through to May 2019-already Bethany is seeing at least 60 individual homeless men and women presenting at the Shelter every night who otherwise would have to sleep rough without a hot meal.

Please support this worthwhile cause. Tickets cost £4 for coffee and scone will be on sale in January 2019 on Sundays 6th, 13th and 20th

Anne McNeil

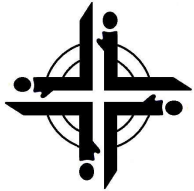
MONDAY CIRCLE

The Monday Circle meets in The Braid Hall of Morningside Parish Church on a Monday at 7.45pm . Here are the dates and topics for December 2018 and January 2019:-

December	17	Christmas party	(Members only)	7 for 7.30pm
January	7	Crossreach	Viv Dickinson	
	21	Clarsach	Rosemary McKercher	

Anna Cunningham (magazine secretary)

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



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY 1ST MARCH 2019

THEME: "COME - EVERYTHING IS READY" (*The material is written by the Christian Women of Slovenia.*)

PREPARATORY BIBLE STUDIES - *held at 121 George Street, from 10.30 – 12.00.*

All interested are welcome. (please notify Marie Ogilvie, WDP Representative)

STUDY ONE: Friday 15th February 2019 LEADER:- Revd. Alison McDonald

STUDY TWO: Friday 22nd February 2019 LEADER:- Ms. Janette McKenzie

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Morningside Parish Church will host the service in 2019. *Anyone interested in assisting with this service in any way, please speak to Marie Ogilvie .*

Coffee in Braid Hall from 10.30 am on Friday 1st March, followed by the World Day of Prayer Service at 11am, finishing by 12 noon.

1 CORINTHIANS 13 – THE CHRISTMAS VERSION (author unknown)

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas puddings, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of Christmas parties and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside decorating to kiss the partner.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linen.

Love doesn't yell at the children to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Computer games will break, cashmere jumpers will wear out, golf clubs will get lost.

But giving the gift of love will endure.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

There is no magazine at the start of January, so the copy date for the February issue is a week earlier than normal. Material for the February issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 11th January 2019** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 27th January**. Contributions may be put in her pigeon-hole at church, sent by post to the church office at 2 Cluny Gardens, Edinburgh, EH10 6BQ or by email to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk.

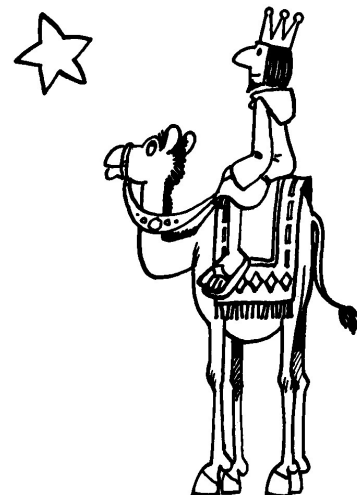
CHURCH WEEKLY EMAIL

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).

The Magi

Now as at all times I can see in the mind's eye,
In their stiff, painted clothes, the pale unsatisfied ones
Appear and disappear in the blue depth of the sky
With all their ancient faces like rain-beaten stones,
And all their helms of silver hovering side by side,
And all their eyes still fixed, hoping to find once more,
Being by Calvary's turbulence unsatisfied,
The uncontrollable mystery on the bestial floor.

~ W B Yeats



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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.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL OUR READERS

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