



Magazine

No. 143 February 2019

Dear Friends

Just over a year ago I returned from a visit to Israel-Palestine and Jordan. I had been to Israel-Palestine before but this was an official visit on behalf of the Church of Scotland and, whilst I revisited some places I had been to before, it was good to visit some new places and meet a much wider variety of people.

Because my theme for my year was hospitality, it was good to share meals in different places. I will never forget the coffee I shared on a hillside with Daoud Nasser at the Tent of Nations, just south of Bethlehem. The Nasser family have owned the land since the Ottoman Period. Daoud Nasser is their international spokesperson and works on the farm full-time. The farm is located in the middle of a number of Israeli settlements, and is constantly under pressure from the State and Military Authorities, who dispute their (documented) claim to the land. On the farm itself there are vineyards, olive trees, and an educational centre, and everything is self-sustainable. Around four years ago, a large number of olive trees were illegally uprooted by the Military Authorities, on the eve of the 2014 General Assembly. Currently the family are again going through the courts to fight against Demolition Orders on many of their structures. Despite this constant pressure

the family are resolutely committed to a non-violent resistance. Daoud Nasser's refrain is that, "*we refuse to be enemies*".

There are so many divisions in our world and in our society. Political discourse about Brexit, and other matters, has turned into vicious tribalism. Churches are also not immune to bitter debate. Families have their ups and downs with feuds and misunderstandings. Who is talking, who is listening, who is jostling for support, attention and acceptance, who is the victim? How do we come to a common mind over matters where there are strong opinions on different sides?



Which is where Daoud Nasser's challenging phrase comes in, "*We refuse to be enemies.*" In the life of every person who opposes us, lets us down, takes advantage of us, takes us for granted, says or does things we find hard to accept or forgive, there is still, somewhere, the image of God. It's not easy, it's not pleasant, but if our faith is to mean anything, in those hard times when relationships are tough, we need to be strong enough to sit down, and talk, and more importantly, listen and look, and then say, "*We refuse to be enemies.*"

Might there be someone you need to speak to in the next few days? And then listen.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

KIRK SESSION NEWS

At its December meeting, Session heard reports from:-

Stewardship and Finance Committee reported. Giving is declining year on year and as a consequence so is tax recovery from Gift Aid. Average giving and our overall income is significantly below that of similar churches in Edinburgh – perhaps a third less. From a membership roll of 415, there is regular giving from circa 246 members but not from 169.

It is understood that not everyone can afford to increase their share of running the Church, but some of the highest donors are on low incomes. Half of the annual giving commitments are under £7 per week - often well under, and many represent combined giving from couples - a level that doesn't support our needs. Only 75 commit to give £10 or more per week. 97% plus of our giving is static or reduced year on year. Inflation erodes it each year. Only six of the 246 revised giving upward this year. To balance the accounts, giving must be raised to a realistic level, and then to be inflation-proofed. **The primary cause of the deficit is that giving is not high enough.** Session, Congregation, and individuals were challenged to change that. The Session unanimously approved a deficit of £90K, with the firm undertaking that giving will need to be reviewed urgently, alongside a nuanced and imaginative approach to fund-raising where the congregation as a whole is challenged to step up to the privilege of committed and generous giving to ensure the development and future of our Church.

Works to sanctuary - As instructed by Session, further work has been done to progress the plans for the removal of the pews. This has been necessitated by the need to address the malfunctioning, out-of-

date and very expensive electric heating system. To fix the heating system, the pews will need to be taken out, and the Session was minded that there was no point in replacing the pews, but instead we should look to a more flexible seating system, which will make the sanctuary more usable for a wider variety of events. Architects' advice is that now a level surface can be provided over the 99% of the nave at the level of the current raised area at the east end of the South aisle. This will mean that there would be a single step up to the chancel. The one point at which a level surface could not be achieved was at the entrance to the St Andrew's Room as the current level has to be maintained because the connecting door to the office vestibule cannot be raised. Plans were displayed showing the potential layout of the nave with 320 seats. The costs for such alterations including new gas fired underfloor central heating and chairs are estimated at £480k + VAT (where applicable) + fees.

The Clerk suggested that while fully respecting that the issue of continuing annual deficits must be addressed we had reserves of over £900k and essentially a windfall from the pending sale of a property. Accordingly the question as to whether we should proceed with the proposed works might be turned around to—

Can we afford not to do it? – The Clerk quoted a paper being considered by the General Trustees for submission to the General Assembly which suggests that the future of the Church of Scotland as a national church depends on providing “Well equipped spaces in the right places” Of the ten suggested criteria for what would make a church a well equipped space, the works undertaken in the last ten years ensures

MPC meets eight out of ten of these criteria. The two with which it does not comply are that it should have an effective and economic heating system and that the use of the sanctuary is not confined to one hour per week – it is seen as a wasteful extravagance that this large and expensively maintained facility is preserved for such limited use. It is timely therefore that MPC is actively seeking to address these two outstanding issues to make it fit for the future fit to be classified as “a well equipped place”

There followed a full discussion of the issues and many points were raised. It was pointed out that replacement heating should cut the substantial heating bill by more than 50%. Underfloor heating should ensure warmth is spread throughout the nave with additional support from radiators at windows. Water charges should drop as our income falls below £300k and changing to a water meter as previously suggested is now being actively investigated. Assurances were given that insulation would be inserted below the underfloor heating to avoid heat loss into the solum.

Having seats rather than pews would allow flexible seating arrangements for worship and potential other uses - e.g. the chairs can be moved to create more space to accommodate orchestras or large choirs. Hopefully this will not only allow us to play a greater part in the community but also provide greater revenue. The trend was for theatres and concert venues to replace Victorian seating standards with more comfortable seating. To a suggestion that pews were better suited to the elderly who used the pew in front to pull themselves up, it was pointed out that any proposed seating would have arms which would allow better support for those who had difficulty rising from the seat. Seats could also be wider spaced and offer greater flexibility to

accommodate prams, wheelchairs and zimmers.

Session was aware that this was a significant and important step, and agreed overwhelmingly to proceed with the project.

Pastoral Assistant report: The Pastoral Assistant has regularly visited the Baby & Toddler group and the Wednesday Coffee mornings and had meetings with Doreen Reekie and most of the church visitors team and with Rosemary Braid, the bereavement visitor. She has carried out a number of hospital visits, home visits and nursing home services.

She attended an informative and useful meeting on domestic abuse at Greenbank and suggested that we should promote awareness posters on the back of the doors of the toilet cubicles. Resources relating to Violence against Women can be found at www.churchofscotland.org.uk/speak_out/violence_against_women

She is developing some **pastoral training** for pastoral visitors and others who might be interested and is running a pilot over two evenings (max 16 people) on 19th and 26th March.(see p13 for more details.) She is exploring what else is available locally, is available from central church resources, and the possibility of a **Heart for Art** group within the church. With regard to the latter she has arranged to visit such a project at the Charteris Centre at the Pleasance. She has contributed to our LCR submission and has arranged to visit the Wednesday Club and the BB and GA. She is now part of the rota for care home services.

She encouraged elders to advise her if they were aware of anyone in their district who would benefit from a visit.

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 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. Examples include the generous legacy from a member of the Congregation which enabled us to completely re-furbish our beautiful Father Willis organ and, more recently, Miss Mary Cowan's legacy for the St Andrew room ceiling while other important gifts of legacies continue to be received.

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?

COME ON A CAMINO?

To earn your Camino certificate you need to walk at least 100km of the pilgrim routes to Santiago de Compostela and its spectacular cathedral. You can walk any of the English, French, Spanish or Portuguese paths - have a look at Camino routes on the web. We are looking at organising a walking trip for Church members in the first half of September - doing around 100km of the walk over 6/7 days (with luggage transported for you) - to raise funds for the Church. The Camino route has yet to be chosen...or we could do the Way of St Andrews if the majority prefer www.thewayofstandrews.com/ ...but first we need to know who's interested. Are you up for a week of 'gentle' walking? If so, please contact Robert Armour at robertarmour@hotmail.co.uk or on 07831 503658.

BELIEVING AND BELONGING

Faith is both a challenging and a comforting gift. It makes us ask questions, and sometimes gives us answers. Faith engages our hearts and minds, and invites us on to a life-long journey with Jesus, putting our belief into action. This five-week course begins on Wednesday 30th January, and will continue on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm in the St Andrew Room. It is open to those thinking about becoming part of the Church family.

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, or to receive the magazine by email, please email the Church Office (office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk).

ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of
Mrs Elizabeth Ritchie (Betty) who died on 26 December 2018.

WORSHIP MATTERS

On Sunday 16th December we had our **Blue Christmas Service** for anyone who perhaps finds this time of year difficult. This year, we had a small tree near the Communion Table and people were invited to place a star with either the name of a person or situation they wanted to remember. The tree was left standing throughout the season and others added their own stars to it during that time. On Monday 7th January, we took the stars down and prayers were said for each of them.

The **World Day of Prayer service** for this area will be held at 11am on 1st March in the Braid Hall. Coffee will be served from 10.30. Please see page 12 for details We look forward to welcoming you that morning.

Communion Sunday – The all-age Communion will take place on Sunday 3rd March at 10.30am. Our young people have been taking part in communion for a number of years now. There will be the usual short, traditional service at 9.30am in the chancel area.



INTRODUCING OUR CHOIR SCHOLARS...



Alasdair Grant is a third-year PhD student in Byzantine Studies at the University of Edinburgh. He was Organ Scholar at Morningside Parish Church in 2016-17, and after an academic year as a visiting researcher at the University of Mainz, Germany, has returned for another term in post. He is delighted to be back as part of MPC's warm and welcoming congregation.

Sophie Elliott is currently one of the soprano scholars at Morningside Parish Church. She is in Senior 5 at George Watson's College, studying for her Highers including Music. Music has been a significant part of her school life where she has had singing lessons for 5 years with Dorcas Owen and has recently sat her Grade 8 singing exam. Sophie takes part in numerous choirs at school and enjoys performing on stage, performing the role of Belle in the school's production of *Beauty and the Beast* in 2016. She is looking forwards to visiting Prague in April this year with the school's Chamber Choir for a concert tour in the Czech Republic. Sophie has also been learning cello for 11 years and piano for 9 years, working towards Grade 8 on both these instruments and hoping to complete the exams within the next year. She plans to study medicine at university but will continue to sing in choirs and music will always be a massive part of her life. She is thrilled to be a Scholar at Morningside Parish Church and thoroughly enjoys singing here every Sunday morning.

Katie Brown is in her last year of school at George Watson's College where she is studying Music, French and Drama -all at advanced higher level - and is also doing a course in Musical Theatre. Currently, she is applying for Drama and hopes to attend Northumbria University.

This is Katie's second year as a soprano scholar at MPC. She also sings in choirs in school and plays the violin and piano too. Music is a great love of hers and even though she will not be studying it, she hopes to continue this by joining music societies at University.

Catherine Marple, one of our soprano scholars, is in S6 at George Heriot's School, where she is part of the school's chamber choir. When she was younger, she was a chorister for five years at St Mary's Cathedral, and was head Chorister in her last year there. Currently, Catherine is also part of the Edinburgh branch of the National Youth choir of Scotland where she is in the ensemble and chamber choir. In general, she just finds singing a lot of fun.

Amaya López-Carronero is a Spanish mezzo-soprano, who studied classical piano, and then, from the age of 14 classical singing with the soprano Maria Muro (herself a former student of Toti dal Monte). After obtaining two masters degrees in engineering she developed her career as a songwriter. Amaya later attended an opera summer course in Glasgow, at RCS, returning to classical singing under the tutelage of Judith Gardner Jones.

She has recently completed a PhD in Musical Acoustics at the University of Edinburgh and is thrilled to be part of the Choir at Morningside!



Choir Scholars 2018/19: L-R Sophie Elliott; Catherine Marple; Jack Harris; Amaya López-Carronero; Gunnar Thor Örnólfsson; Bryndís Bergþórsdóttir;

Jack Harris is currently the Bass-Baritone Choral Scholar at Morningside Parish Church. He is in S5 at The Edinburgh Academy, where he is studying English, Maths, Geography, Music, Latin and Mandarin at 'Higher' level. He performs regularly with the National Youth Choir of Scotland and The Edinburgh Academy Chamber Choir and has had the opportunity to take part in numerous recordings and concerts with both. In addition, Jack will join the Training Choir of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain this year. As a soloist Jack has worked with John Rutter in Fauré's 'Requiem', performed one of the Baritone solo parts of Howard Goodall's 'Eternal Light Requiem' in the Usher Hall and has recently been awarded ABRSM's 'Elizabeth J Erlich Prize for Singing' for 2018. He also plays violin and viola (both at Grade 8 level), and has recently started learning piano, in which he aims to take his Grade 5 exam next year. He plans to study Geography with Economics at University, whilst maintaining his love of music and performing as well. He hugely enjoys singing weekly at Morningside Parish Church, and has greatly benefited from working with the choir and Morley for the past two years.

Bryndís Bergþórsdóttir, the alto scholar, studies Developmental Linguistics at a postgraduate level at the University of Edinburgh. She previously studied General Linguistics at the University of Iceland as well as studying and playing classical flute at the Reykjavík College of Music. She has been active in various choirs in Reykjavík, Iceland from an early age and now sings with the Edinburgh University Chamber Choir. She finds living in Edinburgh and singing at Morningside Parish Church to have been an extraordinarily positive experience, and thanks everyone for their welcoming attitude.

Gunnar Thor Örnólfsson the tenor scholar, is a MSc Speech and Language Processing student at the University of Edinburgh, where he also sings with the Edinburgh University Chamber Choir (along with Alasdair and Bryndís). He can't get enough choral music and was singing in four vocal groups simultaneously before moving to Edinburgh from Reykjavík, Iceland, as well as studying classical singing at the Reykjavík College of Music. He looks forward to another fantastic semester singing tenor at Morningside Parish Church.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE
& GIRLS' ASSOCIATION
 > the adventure begins here
 55th Edinburgh Company



It's been a busy first half of the year for the 55th with all our badge work and Christian Faith activities in full swing. We also welcomed our new parent helper, Mrs Corbett to the staff and we are grateful for her time and dedication.

Jamie Corbett was our representative in the Edinburgh, Leith and District Junior Section Swimming Gala which was held at Leith Academy. Jamie managed to swim a personal best in the pool which was a great achievement.

A lot of our members have an interest in playing chess, so we held a chess night not long before Christmas to help encourage and stimulate their interest. Hopefully, next year, we will be able to enter the Boys' Brigade National Chess Championships with some of our older members.



Looking forward, we have our BB Big Brunch Fund Raiser coming up on 2nd February 2019. We hope you will support our event, with tickets going on sale very soon. Funds raised will be split between the BBGA and the Church. We also hope to have a trip to the Scottish Parliament in the coming months and we are working hard to arrange a residential trip for our older members.

We have a busy 6 months ahead!



Thank you.
 Scott A J Peter
 Captain, 55th Edinburgh BBGA

FLOWER LIST			
		Provided by	Arranged by
Feb	3	Lorna Graham	Val Mannings
	10	Marion McGrouther	Ruth Henderson
	17	Chris & Anne McNeil	Anne Armour and Issie Paterson
	24	Nyria Bailey	Marjory Watson
Mar	3	Rosemary Owens	Joan Burnet



The Flower List for 2019 is now complete. We would also like to thank all those who have offered to donate money for the flowers over the coming year. 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, Treasurer, Flower Committee

YOYP – SUNDAY CLUB

What a FAN-TAS-TIC performance in the Year of Young People by our own Young People in Sunday Club.

“Strictly the Nativity” was FAB-U-LOUS. Young People, you successfully brought a 21st Century twist to the Greatest Story Ever Told. Well done everyone, you absolutely smashed it.

Older cast members – Rebekah, Aimee, Beth, Sara and Theo - deserve a massive pat on the back. Stepping up to the mark, keeping the continuity going with their confident execution of HUGE speaking parts enabled the younger ones, ably led by the “Dance Captain” Olivia, Annika, Oscar R, Jamie, Oscar C, Quinn and Marthe, to concentrate on their dancing and their multiple quick changes. They all two parts, some had three!

As for the Congregation, your participation was superb, especially, the “Flossing”.

Morningside Parish Church should be immensely proud of our young people. Please continue to play your part, spread the word and encourage more young people to come along and join us for an A-MAZ-ING experience – every year is a YOYP.

Rona McLaren

FROM EDINBURGH CLOTHING STORE -

Wow! What a remarkable response!

I was delighted when Sunday Club suggested that there should be a Clothes Drive for The Edinburgh Clothing Store as a replacement for the Challenger Fund Gifts which were no longer being done.



I was told to lay out 60 labels for people to take with a child's sex, age and an item of new clothing written on each label. By coffee time on the first Sunday, all the labels had gone. I put out 10 more the following Sunday.....they all went just as quickly so another 10 were put out on the next Sunday. 80 labels with 80 items of clothing, which children who are referred to the Clothing Store would greatly appreciate, were therefore taken.

I think all the volunteers who run the Clothing Store were overwhelmed when they saw the result at the Gift Service on Sunday 9 December - over 200 items were brought! In addition, I received generous donations from 2 people who had not taken labels.

I wish you could all see the looks on the faces of the children (and their parents) who have already received some of these wonderful gifts.

We cannot thank you all enough for your extremely kind generosity. All we can say is that you already have made, and will continue for some time to make a huge difference to the lives of a lot of children. Thank you!

Fiona Stimpson

FROM CHRISTIAN AID

I am writing to thank you for your donation of £629.29 towards the Christmas 2018 Appeal. At Christmas time, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, given to bring hope, love, peace and justice to a broken world. We get the chance to spend time with our loved ones celebrating the Prince of Peace, but for millions of people this Christmas, peace seems like an impossible dream.

This Christmas, your donation helps fund someone like Diana. She is the only psychologist at a children's centre run by Association Najdeh, Christian Aid's partner in Lebanon. Through psychotherapy, literacy classes and art therapy, the centre gives young Palestinian refugees the chance to overcome the violence they have witnessed. Thanks to Diana and others at the centre, more children can find peace.

Because of your generosity, you are standing with peacemakers like Diana. Once again, thank you so much for your continued support of our work and for also being a peacemaker this Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Katie Mathers, Regional Support Officer – Edinburgh & East Scotland.

[This money was raised at the Christian Aid coffee morning on Saturday 8th December.]

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

FROM THE WEDNESDAY CLUB

The retiring collection in aid of The Wednesday Club, taken after the Telephone Choir Carol Concert on 19th December 2018, amounted to £698. The monies collected will be used in running the Club and to part fund the outings. The Club is extremely grateful for the Telephone Choir's continued interest in, and support for, the work we do and I would like to thank the Choir and all those who attended the Concert for the financial support given via the retiring collection.

I would also like to thank those members of the Congregation who donated the gifts that were distributed by Santa at the supper following the Carol Concert. The men really look forward to meeting Santa and are very appreciative of the gifts they receive.

Charles Wilson, Convener

Hello I would like to introduce myself. My name is George and I have a disability. I would like to tell you about a group which is held within Morningside Parish Church. It's a men's group for people with disabilities which takes place every Wednesday night between the hours of 19.30 until 21.30pm. The group is run by Charles Wilson and his wife and brother-in-law. The group consists of about 10 people. This club is ideal for people who don't get out much and feel isolated as we are picked up by transport and taken to the church and then brought back home after the club. On the evening of the club we have various activities such as live entertainment which can be a singer or a live band or we sometimes have slide shows or a dvd or bingo. Also at the end of July we have a trip to Biggar Bowling Club and then in August we have an additional 3 outings to places of interest eg Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway or it can be a boat trip on Loch Lomond and many more different places of interest. What I would say about this club is it's well run by Charles and the other volunteers who give up valuable time to help and deliver a great evening for everybody who attends. For me personally, I get a lot of satisfaction by attending the club as it gets me out the house to meet new friends and have a laugh and joke with the other people and staff present on the evening. So if you are interested in attending this club all you need to do is speak to Charles Wilson, the club's co-ordinator.

Thanks. George.

Saturday, 23rd February 2019
7pm in the Braid Hall

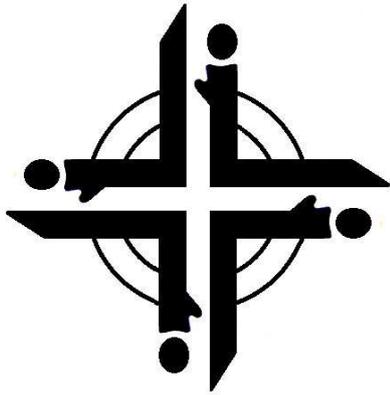


Come along for a fun but sometimes challenging evening at our annual Quiz Night on the above date.

Tickets cost £5.00 adults and £2.50 children and will be on sale on Sundays 3rd, 10th and 17th February after the church services or from the church office.

It is a fun night for all so keep your eyes and ears open for what is going on around you - you never know what questions might pop up. If you are looking to join a team let us know when you are buying a ticket and we will try our very best to get you in a team.

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



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY 1ST MARCH 2019

World Day of Prayer is a prayer movement with an annual service held on or near the first Friday in March. It is interdenominational and ecumenical and for all ages.

Throughout this service, written this year by women of Slovenia, we hear stories which reflect their history and situation today and are invited in this year's theme to 'Come – Everything is Ready.'

In a story, Jesus told about a great dinner for which the invitations are rejected and then given to people on the streets. However there is still room and more invitations are given out until the celebration can begin.

By the beginning of March all the arrangements and preparations for World Day of Prayer are ready and invitations are given. We should ask who is missing from the table in our communities? How can we include them?

As in the story, all are invited. World Day of Prayer is for everyone. Will you accept our invitation? A warm welcome awaits you at your local service which this year is being held in Morningside Parish Church.

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.

For more details or with offers of help, contact Marie Ogilvie

LIFE AND WORK - FEBRUARY 2019

South of the Border: The Church of Scotland congregations in England and the Channel Islands

'Hope for a Change': Nuclear physicist Dr David Frame is a member of the Church's World Mission Council. He talks science and faith, and hopes for peace on the Korean peninsula

Where Now for Fairtrade?: As one of the highest-profile Fairtrade companies struggles, we ask what the future is for the movement

Challenges and Joys: Young member Gemma King reflects on growing up in the Church of Scotland

Making Love Count: In the month of romance, the Moderator highlights the importance of a life of love

Uncovering a Seam of Coal History: An appeal for help in finding all Scotland's mining memorials

The Real Cost of Christmas: The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers describes how the poorest are paying the most for credit

A New Understanding of Friendship: The Very Rev Albert Bogle reflects on the lessons of the 'Cell Church Movement'

PASTORAL SKILLS COURSE, AN INTRODUCTION

Caring for one another is the responsibility of each and every one of us and so we are offering a brief introduction to Pastoral Skills over two evenings in March, on Tues 19th and 26th, running from 6 –9.30pm each evening, starting with a light supper.

There is a maximum of 16 places on **the course and it is open to all**: Elders, Pastoral Visitors and anyone who is interested in finding out a bit more about pastoral care, without the necessity of making any commitment, beyond the course itself.

The course will look at topics such as:

- Communication & listening skills
- Boundaries and why they matter
- Self-awareness & self-care
- Dementia

The training will be hands on/experiential in nature and the aim would be to make it an enjoyable experience for those attending.

There is no charge for the training and CPD certificates will be provided.

To book your place or simply find out a bit more of what it might entail, please contact me on: tel: 07834 364 628 or e mail: pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Jacqui Lindsay, Pastoral Assistant



Carry one another's burdens and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

MONDAY CIRCLE

The Monday Circle meets on Mondays at 7.45pm in the Braid Hall of Morningside Parish Church. Members and friends most welcome. A Happy New Year to everyone and we welcome you back for the second half of our syllabus.

Here are the dates and topics for February 2019:-

February 4th Mystery evening

18th Botanic Cottage

Jane Corrie

Anna Cunningham (magazine secretary)

MARCH MAGAZINE

Material for the March issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 15^h February 2019** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 3rd March**. 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.

A CLOSING POEM

The writer Ali Smith says, "Books make futures – even their own futures – negotiable." Re-reading some of Muriel Spark's novels after many years, Spark's writings surprised and took different turns from what was remembered from the first reading. It might be that when we read and re-read the Bible, we will have a similar experience. We know little about the authors of the Bible, yet their fingerprints are over every page. Every story and word, every image of God and idea about eternity will shift and re-form when we read them. It's what makes the Bible the Living Word of God; it still breathes today. Muriel Spark's poem gives an insight into all books read a long time ago, including the Bible.

Authors' Ghosts

I think that authors' ghosts creep back
Nightly to haunt the sleeping shelves
And find the books they wrote.
Those authors put final, semi-final touches,
Sometimes whole paragraphs.

Whole pages are added, re-written, revised,
So deeply by night those authors employ
Themselves with those old books of theirs.

How otherwise
Explain the fact that maybe after years
have passed, the reader

Picks up the book - But was it like that?
I don't remember this . . . Where
Did this ending come from?
I recall quite another.

Oh yes, it has been tampered with
No doubt about it -
The author's very touch is here, there and
there,
Where it wasn't before, and
What's more, something's missing -
I could have sworn . . .

Muriel Spark

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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.

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