



Magazine

No. 144 March 2019

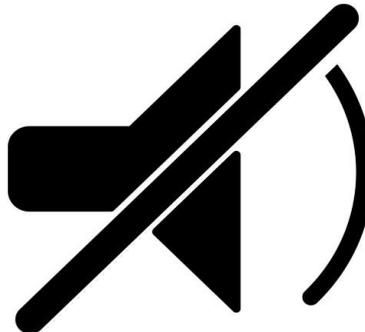
Dear Friends

We live in an increasingly noisy world, has it ever been noisier? Traffic thundering up and down, background music in every shop and restaurant, and the digital revolution means that volume capacity of radios and televisions is much higher. A colleague notes that we measure the depths of the seas with sonar, sending sound to the ocean floor, and, in the skies, the sound barrier itself has been broken. It has been crossed by human beings eager to move as quickly as we can, and we make a colossal noise while we're doing it.

Today, with more than six billion people on the planet, it is undoubtedly true that human beings live in a sound environment unique in the history of humanity.

Dame Evelyn Glennie is the leading solo percussionist in the world. She lost almost all of her physical hearing by the age of twelve, and she uses her extraordinary musical talent to teach audiences that we experience sound through our whole bodies. She articulates the difference between hearing and listening. She also contends that, with a variety of hearing impairments, we will all experience sound differently, but that will all experience it somehow.

Sound is a powerful metaphor for describing our relationship with God. God used sound, God's voice, to call the world into being in the poetry of the Creation story in the Book of Genesis. This is echoed in the beginning of John's Gospel, "In the beginning was the Word..." Because we can't see sound, and God is invisible, the world of sound has proved a rich source of descriptions of the presence and activity of God.



God also gives us opportunity for silence too, times when we wait and wonder in the stillness. Silence and sound give meaning to each other, and both are gifts from God.

Lent begins in March. It is a time for silence and for sound.

It is a time when each one of us should reflect on our personal relationship with God, and through the silences and the sound, continue our understanding of what it means, for us, to be a follower of Jesus today.

My prayer for you in this season of Lent is that you will discover or rediscover the presence of God, and how you respond to that presence through silence and sound, will steal into and over your daily living.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

KIRK SESSION NEWS

The Kirk Session met in February. Amongst its business:

- The Education Committee reported on its work concerning Sunday Club and Adult Education. Sunday Club attendances continue to be challenging to predict and fluctuate most Sundays between six and twelve, but on other occasions producing nearly thirty. Along with the unpredictability of numbers, the breadth of ages creates further challenges. Children are now split into groups, with age-specific activities. Older children engage well with this and enjoy the more mature dialogue and discussion, whilst younger children find an environment which permits them to express themselves without fear of embarrassment in front of the older children. A dedicated small team works hard to ensure that the club runs well, and also included some excellent work for the young people's Christmas service in December last year. The young people continue to participate in the early part of the 10.30 service and are keen to be involved as much as possible.
- The adult Believing and Belonging course for possible Church membership had a disappointing response this year, with no one coming forward into new communicant membership.
- Jacqui Lindsay, our pastoral assistant, will be leading a Pastoral Skills course in March. It has recently reached its maximum number so a further class may be offered later in the year.
- The Worship Committee reported on the services held from October to December, including the mid-week service in December which included Communion. Work continues on arranging for services to be made available on iPads to housebound members. This will be facilitated shortly by members of the pastoral visiting group, and by elders, where the service is requested. Once the system has been tested, it will be advertised more widely. In future, it is planned to make the Sunday sermons available on the Church website, but not other parts of the service because of data protection and safeguarding issues.
- Jacqui Lindsay, our pastoral assistant, reported on a new Church of Scotland initiative raising awareness about violence against women. The Kirk Session gave permission for posters to be placed around the Church and also intends that posters might be put out into the wider community.
- The Kirk Session heard news from the Session Clerk and the Steering Committee that the sale of a property in Esslemont Road neared its completion and that a significant sum of money will become available for property purposes in the Church. At a previous Kirk Session it had been decided that the heating system in the Church, antiquated, expensive to run, and inefficient, urgently needed replacing. The extensive work will necessitate the removal of the pews,

and after careful consideration the Kirk Session agreed that the sanctuary would become a more flexible space if seats replaced the pews. The Esslemont Road sale will meet the lion's share of the work. Many Churches have carried out similar work and have found that the least-used space in their properties became one of the best-used spaces. The Kirk Session also needed to address some urgent electrical work in the Church in relation to the switchboard and also to the hard-to-access high roof lighting. Maintenance of the latter presented a major health and safety issue and the

decision was taken to address this when the pew replacement work was carried out. It is intended that the work will be carried out in the summer months. Further and fuller information will be made available at the Annual Stated Meeting on 31st March. The Kirk Session was aware that this was major and sensitive work, but came to the view that the investment, and the enhancement to the sanctuary's usefulness, would be an important step forward in making our entire site accessible to the congregation and the community on a more regular basis than the once-a-week Church service.

THE BIG QUESTION

The next discussion evening will be on Monday 11th March at 7.30pm in the Hermitage Bar; (you can go to the bar earlier for a meal if you would like). The theme for the evening will be, 'Faith and Politics'. The event is shared between Morningside Parish Church, Greenbank Parish Church and Fairmilehead Parish Church. The evening is open to anyone interested and all are welcome to attend.



CHURCH BOLLARDS – CLUNY GARDENS

The rising bollards at the Cluny Gardens entrance to the Church will be lowered on Sunday mornings prior to Sunday services. The space on the ramp must only be used as a dropping off and turning point, and **IS NOT FOR PARKING**. Please drop your passenger off, and then exit the space so that other church members can drop other passengers off in the morning. The bollards will be raised when the Church Officer leaves the building. During the week permission can be given to access the area, but as the space needs to be used to allow workmen access for short periods, and other short-term usage, the bollards will not normally be lowered. Those needing to deliver bulky items to the Church should contact the Church Office to arrange for the bollards to be lowered, but the space is not a regular parking space. We hope members of the congregation will be considerate in the use of this space.

FLOWER LIST

		Provided by	Arranged by
Mar	3	Rosemary Owens	Joan Burnet
	10	Audrey Dobson	Irene Wilson
	17	Florence Patton	Eleanor Watt
	24	Hazel Nicolson	Val Mannings
	31	Sheila Rowand	Anne Armour and Issie Paterson
Apr	7	Dorothy Rutherford	Ruth Henderson



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT February 25th- March 10th

Congratulations to one of our Fairtrade suppliers!

The **Just World Shop**, 54 Portobello High Street, has been open for 25 years (1993-2018).

Morag Baird passed on thanks for the support from churches and schools. Over the 25 years the Shop has sold £1.3 million worth of goods which has helped the producers work their way out of poverty and provide food, shelter, education and health care for families. There is a great team of volunteers involved both in the shop and running monthly stalls. From the small profit made in 2018, donations were made to Water Aid, Mary's Meals, Practical Action and the Vine Trust.

We discontinued our monthly stall here in Morningside a few years back, however we still get our tea and sugar sticks from the Just World Shop. They also stock a wide variety of goods, gifts and cards. Don't worry - our coffee is also Fair Trade, purchased from Brodies.

USED STAMP COLLECTION

This year the used stamp collection will be donated to CrossReach to support their work. For many years we have supported The World Mission Appeal. However, after a suggestion from a member, a proposal was put to Session and approval was granted to donate instead to CrossReach.

Further information is available from myself or on the postcard on the notice board.

Please trim stamps to 4-8mm border and place in the box under the pigeon-holes.

Many thanks to the congregation for their ongoing support.

Lorna Graham

The 55th Edinburgh Company, The Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association held their first ever BB Big Brunch on Saturday 2nd February. It was well attended, and everyone enjoyed a delicious breakfast roll or two along with their tea and coffee. Our young people were in attendance to show people to their seats and take their orders. We also held a raffle to help boost funds. Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket, donated a gift and supported our venture. £240 was raised, this being split equally between ourselves and the Church. We are hoping to hold a similar event again next year.



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



MONDAY CIRCLE

The Monday Circle meets on Mondays at 7.45pm in the Braid Hall of Morningside Parish Church. Everyone is most welcome to join us.

Here are the dates and topics for March 2019:-

March	4 th	Travel Suprise	Henry Meekin
	18 th	AGM	

The Meal, for members only, will be held on 1st April. Details will be advised at the March meetings. This is the last intimation for this session. We hope you enjoy the months ahead until we meet again in October.

Anna Cunningham (magazine secretary)

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

WORSHIP MATTERS

Holy Week is in April this year, (14th – 20th), with Easter Sunday on 21st April. Our church will be hosting the Holy Week services, sharing them as usual with Greenbank Parish Church. The evening services will be at 7.30pm. The broad theme is 'The Art of Holy Week'.

An additional service this year will be on the afternoon of Good Friday, a traditional 'Three Hour Service' with words, music and silence. The guest speaker will be Richard Holloway. There will be a service of words and music on Holy Saturday.

On Easter Sunday there will be one service at 10.30am, followed by refreshments.

Lent Course: Blessings

There will be four Lent discussion evenings at the Manse this year. These will be on Wednesdays 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th March at 7.30pm (with refreshments beforehand). These discussion evenings are open to all members and friends of the congregation.

This year we will be looking at some of the Beatitudes, the blessings that Jesus talked about in His Sermon on the Mount.

6th Blessed are the poor in spirit: how do we approach God?

13th Blessed are those who mourn: how do we show compassion?

20th Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: how do we work for justice?

27th Blessed are the peacemakers: how do we work for reconciliation?

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).

LIFE AND WORK - MARCH 2019

Healing the Wounds: The role of the Church in healing division

'My Life Was Changed': The life and faith of John Sturrock QC, mediator with Place for Hope

Ministry of Fathers: The work of a charity bringing together dads and their children

Westminster, Confessions and the Church: The Rev Dr Donald MacEwan highlights a conference to examine the Westminster Confession of Faith

The BB and the Rhema Foundation: A young BB's visit to Romania

Doing as Jesus Did: The Rt Rev Susan Brown urges us to treat everyone with equal respect

The Powerless are Not Forgotten: The Rev Richard Baxter explains why

A Church in 'Little Scotland': The work of a Church of Scotland south of the Border

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PASTORAL SKILLS COURSE, AN INTRODUCTION

I am delighted to say that this course is now full and I really looking forward to working with the 16 participants in March.

I am very happy to continue to take names from anyone who is interested in undertaking this course as I would hope to run it again at some point over the next few months, if there is enough interest.

The course is a brief introduction to Pastoral Skills which would be run over two evenings, 6 –9.30pm, starting with a light supper. Again there will be a maximum of 16 places on the course and it will be 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 register your interest or simply find out a bit more of what it might entail, please contact me on: tel: 07834 364 628 or email:

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

ANNUAL STATED MEETING

The Annual Stated Meeting of the congregation is on Sunday 31st March after the 10.30am service. The purpose of the meeting is to learn more about the life and future plans for the local church, and to ask questions about the annual report and accounts which have been already approved by the Kirk Session, the legal trustees of the congregation.

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

APRIL MAGAZINE

Material for the April issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 22nd March 2019** and it will be available for distribution on **Sunday 7th April**.

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 blessing

"Life is short.

We do not have much time

To gladden the hearts of those who journey the way with us.

So be swift to love

And make haste to be kind."

Henri Frédéric Amiel

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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.

Clocks go Forward – 31st March

Remember to put your clocks forward by one hour
on Sunday 31st March!

