



# Magazine

No. 149 October 2019

Dear Friends

One of my favourite Bible passages is in the Old Testament book of Ezra, where an account is given of the return of the Jewish people from exile to the devastated city of Jerusalem. The old Temple, built by Solomon, had been razed to the ground, and on return to their city, the homecoming exiles gathered with other survivors and decided to rebuild the city and its Temple. There was a great celebration when the foundation stone was laid, but many of the old men who remembered the old building wept loudly, though some shouted for joy, so that the sound of joy and the sound of weeping became intermingled.

*(Ezra 3:10-13)*

When we return to our sanctuary later this month I hope there won't be too much weeping and a lot of joyful sounds. The challenge for our congregation has not been in commissioning the work, but in what to do next. How will we use this space to enhance worship, reach out to our community through different types of events, and do so because at the heart of what we are doing is honouring God?

When Jesus came to Palestine, part of His mission was to reinterpret the old ways of religion and encouraging, and sometimes challenging, His contemporaries to look at familiar issues in a new way. Jesus spent much of His teaching and His practical work re-imagining God and God's Kingdom. How

might we reinterpret ourselves in this time of change and unease in our country? Instead of being subject to fear about the future, might we show what it is like to be a community of hope? Instead of trying to solve our own concerns by ourselves, might we look to those on the fringes of the Church and wonder how they might help?

Instead of giving into despair, might we use our experience of adversity to walk alongside others in need?

In other words, how might we grow some of what we already do, to be a greater blessing to our community, and include them along the way? Our newly refurbished sanctuary will help, but we need you too. Come and join us!

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning



## KIRK SESSION

**Stewardship & Finance** - Robert Armour, convener, reported that over the last few months the main focus has been on the Stewardship Campaign and Appeal. Following the last report to the Session in June, a follow up letter was sent to all members who had yet to respond to the initial May appeal. This stimulated a further 47 responses, taking the total responses to 129. That represents approximately two thirds of our active membership and one third of our nominal roll. This is close to the response levels achieved 5 years ago. The headline results from the campaign are:-

- **promised uplift to donations of £16,629** per annum

- **one off donations of £11,310 to be used as follows:**

- general purposes £6,770;
- choir and music £3,890;
- pastoral support £500;
- Sunday club and young people £110;
- Floodlighting and grounds maintenance £270.

In addition we had four promises of legacies, four members asking for annual increase arrangements to be applied and some completely new standing orders.

**This is a good response, but we still face a very substantial deficit.**

However, the Committee felt further chasing of those who have not responded by letter, call or visit would be counter-productive. Instead, we should aim to garner further support by highlighting what was being, or could be, achieved through congregational giving and the use of specific dedicated funds, and by thanking the congregation for its generosity (115 letters of thanks have been written so far, but we don't reach everyone as some members give through the open plate). It is possible some members who have not yet engaged in the appeal may still be encouraged to join in.

On the general finance front we have seen an increase in giving through the open plate. This, and the increases coming through, has seen tax recovery for gift aid ticking up, and we are now some £3,000 ahead of last year on tax recovery. All this means that our deficit this year should come in between £70,000 and £80,000, down from £90,000.

**Social Committee:** Fiona Stimpson, convener, reported on a very busy and happy year for the committee and the congregation, where many events had provided opportunities to celebrate the life of the congregation and the individuals within it. Cakes for 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays have been particularly well received. **The aim of the Social Committee** is to organise events that enable the congregation to get to know one another better and bring us all together. Hopefully, this is what they have done over the past year and will continue to do over the next year. They look forward to welcoming as many of the congregation as possible to many of the forthcoming events in the 2019-2020 year, and these will be advertised.

**Staff Committee:** We are currently advertising for three positions – Church Administrator, a caretaker, and Church Officer. Stevie Watson has been carrying out extended duties as Senior Caretaker, and we are also grateful to the volunteers who have been doing some evening care-taking duties. We are also grateful to the team who have been carrying out Church Officer duties on Sunday since Easter.

**Refurbishment work:** Console Tables – the Monday Circle had some funds available which they have generously agreed to spend on the commissioning of two console tables made from our pews by the Greyfriars Project. It is planned that they be positioned within the sanctuary against the vestibule screens and will be a useful place to lay out magazines for distribution, labels for gift service etc. as they will not be sited in a fire exit route.

## WORSHIP MATTERS

**Refurbishment Work in the Sanctuary:** work to adapt the church sanctuary approved by the Kirk Session to renew heating and lighting, level the floor, and replace the pews with chairs, continues. During the duration of the work our 10.30am Morning Worship will be held in the St Matthew Hall until 20<sup>th</sup> October. The Sunday Club and Crèche will be held in the Cluny Hall, and teas and coffee will be served in the Braid Hall. Over the summer months traditionally we only hold one service and this will continue throughout September.

**The 9.30am services will recommence on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October in the Cluny Hall. We aim to return the 10.30am service to the sanctuary on 27<sup>th</sup> October too.** The reason for the further delay has been caused by the City Council not granting permission for necessary roadworks to connect our gas supply to the street outside the church until 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> October. Thereafter it takes time to test the heating system and build up the temperature in the sanctuary over a number of days. Yes, it's frustrating! Work has progressed well, but there remains quite a bit to do as the sanctuary will need to be cleaned extensively (there is a lot of dust!), the organ needs to be unveiled and tuned, the grand piano moved back into the sanctuary, and the new chairs need to be positioned. **The next Communion Sunday will be in December.**

### **Afternoon Service with Communion- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October**

The next afternoon service will be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 3.15pm in the Cluny Hall. This short service will include Communion. A number of people find attending longer services, or services in the morning, difficult for a variety of reasons, so please let people in the congregation know about this service, as well as friends you might like to invite. Tea and coffee are served afterwards, and all will be made warmly welcome.

### **Schools Concert 1<sup>st</sup> November, 7.30pm**

To mark the re-opening of our refurbished sanctuary we are holding a concert with musicians from local schools. So far we will have young people from George Watson's College and Buckstone Primary School. The concert is free, but we will be encouraging donations at the concert in the Church, and also at the refreshments in the Braid Hall afterwards. It promises to be a lovely evening, so please come along and support us.

### **Rededication Service 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 10.30am**

We look forward to inviting back to our Church the Very Revd Dr Andrew McLellan who will preach at the rededication service. There will be no 9.30am service on this day.

### **Remembrance Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 10.45am**

Our annual Remembrance service will take place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November. There will be no 9.30am service on this day.

## SPEAKER SUPPER 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019 - LORD MCINNES OF KILWINNING



Our most recent Speaker Supper always seemed likely to be “a cut above the rest”. It may have been one of the few occasions when the role of speaker was an “in-house” affair but, with the house in question being the House of Lords, expectations were suitably lofty! Nor were they disappointed. Our very own peer of the realm, Mark McInnes, delivered a sparkling and informative account of his first three years as one of the ‘new barons on the block’ in the upper chamber of parliament. He deftly guided us through some of the arcane, if not

archaic, but often amusing procedures attendant upon joining the Lords community (such as the ermine robe protocols) as well as some of the conventions of the House which took some of the sting out of the potentially intimidating prospect of the maiden speech rite of passage.

While the composition and the future role of the Lords come under continuing discussion, Mark emphasised the seriousness of the primary function of the upper house – to review legislation proposed by the Commons. He has been deeply impressed by the wealth of expertise, experience and knowledge demonstrated in debates by the peers from widely different backgrounds and careers who sit in the Lords. He is himself intent on making his own particular contribution as he extends and develops his interest in, especially, Middle Eastern affairs.

He also added a slight corrective to the impression sometimes given of the opulent surroundings of the Lords as a working environment – the extensive refurbishment work planned shortly being much needed to conserve and bring key elements of this architectural landmark up to modern standards.

Douglas Paterson

### GAMES AFTERNOON - EVERYBODY WELCOME!

We plan to run a games afternoon on:

***Monday 11th November, 2 - 4pm in the Cluny Hall.***

All the old favourites will be there (including Doreen and Jacqui ☺) scrabble, dominoes, backgammon, draughts, chess with maybe a few surprises thrown in for good measure.



If you are free that afternoon, why not join us, you will be made most welcome.

We'll have some light refreshments to go with the good company and hopefully some good fun. We look forward to seeing you there.

**If you have any games gathering dust at home that you would be happy to donate, please leave them with Stevie, Jacqui or in the church office.**



## WE ARE HAVING AMAZING FUN AND ADVENTURES BUT WE NEED YOU...

Edinburgh Rainbows, Brownies and Guides attend meetings that are packed with all sorts of games, crafts, outings and challenges. We are fond of campfires too, and love nothing more than getting together from all over the city for a great big sing song! **But in our Division, which covers Fairmilehead, Comiston and Bruntsfield, we have hundreds of girls on our waiting lists, we need more people to volunteer to help us. Why not find out what it's like to volunteer with us?**



Rainbows are 5 – 7yrs old and they have fun developing self-confidence, building friendships and learning new things. Girls get their hands dirty with arts and crafts, getting in touch with nature and playing games - it's all about learning by doing

Brownies are 7 – 10yrs old and, through their action-packed programme, girls can build confidence by developing new skills, learning about the wider community, finding out about different cultures and getting involved with global issues like the environment and endangered species.



Guides are 10 to 14 year old girls. At their regular meetings, plus camps, holidays and other events, Guides can try a wide range of exciting activities - everything from arts, crafts and music to adventurous outdoor activities - giving them the opportunity to develop personally as individuals or as members or leaders of a team of 4-8 other girls (called a Patrol).

Girls can extend their knowledge and skills working towards interest badges and gain Skills Badges. The badges build towards the highest award a guide can gain - the Gold Theme Award.

Girls aged 14-18 join Rangers. It's all about taking the lead and finding new challenges. Rangers is a brilliant way to try new things, have fun and give something back to your community. Whether you're already a member, or are just starting out, we'll give you a host of opportunities to gain leadership skills, build a network of friends in your area and enhance your CV.



We've been helping girls push the limits **for more than 100 years** – listening to them and changing with the times so we stay one step ahead. We know all girls are amazing and can do anything they set their mind to and we encourage them to try new challenges and adventures, be it camping abroad, canoeing or partying at Girlguiding Scotland's pop concert, Tartan Gig. Each new experience helps girls find out how much they're capable of, learn skills that will give them a head start in life and make a positive difference to those around them. Most importantly they have loads of fun and build brilliant friendships along the way!

**But our waiting lists are at a critical level and at present 3 Units in Comiston are threatened with closure if we don't get people to come forward.** The organisation couldn't survive without the commitment of thousands of volunteers and supporters of all backgrounds, age groups and abilities who give up their time and their talents to help.

And it's not all one way traffic. Apart from being hugely worthwhile, as an adult volunteer you can develop your talents, learn useful new skills and make new friends. Guiding is flexible and can be arranged to fit around a busy lifestyle. Whatever your skills and interests, and no matter how much or little time you have to spare, one of our volunteering roles is bound to suit you. And your contribution is sure to be appreciated by the girls.

### **Different ways of volunteering**

Whether it's an hour or two every few months or a regular weekly commitment, there are lots of ways to volunteer

### **Unit Leaders and Assistant Leaders**

Every Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Senior Section unit has at least one Leader, who has completed the Girlguiding Leadership Qualification. Leaders have overall responsibility for the unit, often supported by a team of other volunteers. Leaders and Assistant Leaders work with the girls to plan activities

### **Unit Helpers and Occasional Helpers**

Don't have the time or don't feel ready to commit to becoming a Leader? Then perhaps the role of a Unit Helper is perfect for you. Helpers are vital to guiding, because Girlguiding Edinburgh has a recommended adult-to-child ratio. Unit Helpers and Occasional Helpers can be either male or female, aged 18 and over. You can work in or out of uniform. And the hours you work are completely flexible – you could even join with others as part of a helpers' rota.

### **Support Roles**

Thinking of joining guiding but not sure you have the time to commit regularly? There are plenty of important jobs that can be done in your own time and from your own home.

### **You could:**

Help with unit accounts or administration      Lend a hand with fundraising      Help out with DIY      Take part in a one-off session with your local unit, teaching the girls skills such as pilates or gardening to help them acquire a skill.

It's such a lot to take in so if you'd like to get more information about volunteering with us you can contact us as per the details below - we'd love to hear from you. Go on – give us a ring...

**Sandra Walton**  
sandra\_walton@hotmail.com  
0131 445 4594

**Roza Nicolson**  
rozahoot@googlemail.com  
0131 441 6516

[www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

## THE MEANING OF LIFE!

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"

And God saw it was good.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span." The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?"

And God, again saw it was good.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years." The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?"

And God agreed it was good.

On the fourth day, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years." But the human said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

**And that is the meaning of life...**

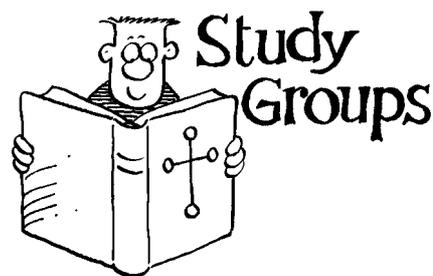
FLOWER LIST		
	Donated by	Arranged by
Oct 6	Michael Hunter	Joan Burnett
13	Joyce Maclean	Marjory Watson
20	Liz Munro	Val Mannings
27	Jennifer Rimer	Ruth Henderson
Nov 3	Ian Hastie	Irene Wilson



## READING LUKE IN OCTOBER

We're going to try something new to Morningside Parish Church in October!

The Minister is planning to hold a four week reading group where the Gospel of Luke will be divided into four parts and we will look at and reflect on each section across October. We'll treat Luke's Gospel like literature, so the event will be like a book club.



There will be four reading events held in the morning and then repeated in the evening at the following times and dates:

10.30am -12noon (Cluny Hall) or 7.30pm – 9pm (St Andrew Room)

9<sup>th</sup> (Luke 1 – 6)      16<sup>th</sup> (Luke 7-12)      23<sup>rd</sup> (Luke 13-18)      30<sup>th</sup> (Luke 19-24)

We hope to provide refreshments at these events. The reading groups are open to members of the Church and non-members, in fact, anyone who is interested. You will be expected to have read the parts of Luke's Gospel before the reading group meeting, and come armed with views, questions and ideas about what the gospel is trying to say to us. No biblical or theological knowledge is required – simply good, honest questions.

You can read from any version of the Bible that you are comfortable with, and the pew Bibles from the Church will be available.

To help you prepare:

- Read the section through once, without a break.
- Note down what you remember, and what you are not sure about after this first reading.
- Read the section through a second time, noting down any further questions, ideas, images that come to mind.

People are often nervous about the Bible, and consequently tend not to look at it very often, or if they do, are not sure if it is 'allowed' to ask questions about what they read, or to entertain doubts, or how to respond to the challenges about how we live which the Bible makes. It is a complex book written over a long period of time by different people, and to address different needs and contexts. It is a book that needs to be read openly, questioningly and wonderingly. The Bible poses as many questions as it gives answers, and that is all right. God wants us to engage with the message, and work out what it might mean for us as we live our lives today.

**This will be something new to most people, but please come along and give it a try.**

## AUTUMN LECTURES – FAITH AND ART

The joint autumn lectures that we share with our neighbours at Greenbank Parish Church will run until 13<sup>th</sup> October. This year's theme is Faith and Art. Refreshments will be served from 7pm, with the lecture beginning half an hour later).

6<sup>th</sup> October (7pm for 7.30pm) Prof Jeremy Begbie

“The Sound of Freedom: Re-hearing Trinitarian Faith through Music.”

13<sup>th</sup> October (7pm for 7.30pm) Dr Deborah Lewer

“Man, Lion, Ox, Eagle: Windows on the Four Evangelists.” Looking at the Burne Jones window. We will look at the window in the Church, then go through to the St Matthew Hall for the lecture at 7.30pm.



## MORNINGSIDE MINI-FESTIVAL

Recently there have been moves to widen the appeal and the spread of the Edinburgh Festival and Fringe. At Morningside, we are ahead of the game.

For a number of years, Morley Whitehead, our versatile organist and choirmaster, has presented three lunch-time musical events in our Church during the Festival. This year, although the Church and organ were out of bounds, the concerts still took place, for the first week hosted by our neighbours at Greenbank Church and thereafter in our Hall. The change of venue did no harm.

The first week, playing the Greenbank organ, Morley gave us some very varied organ pieces (including Kenneth Leighton) and our young guest singer was the impressive Sally Carr, with songs by Handel and Stanford.

Back on home turf, the second concert has become a tradition in itself. Margaret Donaldson and Morley played piano duets, we had some songs (Noel Coward and Flanders & Swan) and we ended going down the Strand with Handel!

The third concert was presented by some of our Music Scholars, Bryndis, Katie, Sophie, Jack and Gunnar, who offered us a rich variety of songs and instrumental items, including an Icelandic duet. These youngsters are dauntingly talented. They concluded with choral pieces by Gibbons and by Sullivan. Funds raised to provide Choral Scholarships are obviously a benefit to all of us.

Finally, Margaret Donaldson invited us to a similar series of concerts at Wardie Church in the Spring. All we need to do is leap aboard a 23 bus!

JWMC



Order forms for Life & Work are enclosed in this month's edition and are also available on the Welcome Desk. Further details, including subscription rates, are given on the form, which should be returned no later than 15<sup>th</sup> October.

The October issue of Life and Work includes the following:

**Do Not Be Afraid**

Reflections on partnerships with overseas churches

**Man With a Mission**

Pioneer Minister and Author, the Rev Dr Liam Fraser

**Every Day is a Blessing**

The Church of Scotland's Pioneer Ministers reflect on their roles

**CrossReach Rescued Me**

Continuing the celebration of 150 years of social care in the Church, we hear from some of those who have been helped by CrossReach counselling services

**Friendships and Memories Will Remain**

Hannah Dunlop reports from the final National Youth Assembly

**Every Place of Worship a Place of Hope**

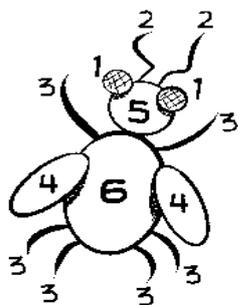
Celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Church-backed conciliation charity, Place for Hope

**Free at Last**

The Rev Richard Baxter concludes his series themed on slavery by looking at how former slaves react to freedom

**Plus** all the regular columnists, news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords

**BEETLE DRIVE – 21ST SEPTEMBER**



Fun for all ages was undoubtedly the theme of the annual beetle drive on 21<sup>st</sup> September. It was great to see that participants had brought their children and grandchildren along, or perhaps the younger ones had brought the older ones, and all could share the increasing levels of excitement (and noise) as each pair drew nearer to winning the final elusive beetle part. Many thanks to all involved in organising the evening.

## AUTUMN RECIPE

After a recent mention in a sermon, please enjoy the following recipe!

### Moroccan Lamb

500 g dried chickpeas  
1kg crushed tomatoes (around 3 tins)  
2 preserved lemons and some pickling liquid (2tbsp)  
Ros al hanout spice 2 heaped tsps.  
2kg Lamb shoulder  
Olive oil



### Method:

1. Pour the dried chickpeas into a 30cm x 40cm roasting tray.
2. Quarter the preserved lemons and remove the seedy core, then finely chop the rind and add to the tray with a good splash of liquor from their jar.
3. Roughly chop the tomatoes, adding them to the tray as you go.
4. Drizzle the lamb with 1 tablespoon of olive oil, then rub all over with the ras al hanout and a pinch of sea salt and black pepper.
5. Sit the lamb in the tray, pour in 1 litre of water around it, cover tightly with a tight-fitting lid or tin foil and place in a cold oven.
6. Turn the temperature to 170°C (150°C Fan) and leave the lamb in there for 6 hours, or until the chickpeas are cooked through and the lamb is pullable – after 3 hours, stir a good splash of water into the chickpeas, covering tightly again with foil.
7. To serve, taste the chickpeas, season to perfection, and drizzle with 1 tablespoon of extra virgin olive oil, transfer the lamb on to a board, then pull the lamb apart with two forks and serve back on the bed of chickpeas and tomatoes.
8. Accompany with green salad, or green beans. (For green beans, top and tail, cook until *al dente*. Meanwhile, zest half an orange, then squeeze juice from the whole orange. Chop finely a handful of hazelnuts. When beans are cooked, add the orange zest, orange juice and chopped hazelnuts and stir to coat the beans).

## NOVEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the November issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by Friday **18<sup>th</sup> October** 2019 and it will be available for distribution on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. 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](mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk). Reports and photos of events that have taken place as well as forthcoming attractions are welcome, and early submissions are always appreciated!

## CHURCH WEEKLY EMAIL

For those of you already receiving the Church magazine electronically, you may also be interested in 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](mailto:office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)).

### I am the song

I am the song that sings the bird.  
I am the leaf that grows the land.  
I am the tide that moves the moon.  
I am the stream that halts the sand.  
I am the cloud that drives the storm.  
I am the earth that lights the sun.  
I am the fire that strikes the stone.  
I am the clay that shapes the hand.  
I am the word that speaks the man.

*by Charles Causley*

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

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