



Magazine

No. 158 October 2020

Dear Friends

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland will meet, online, at the beginning of October to discuss these challenging matters arising from this current pandemic. ***The landscape around us and the future ahead of us have changed beyond recognition.*** Here is what we hope to be and do:

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

- Inspire the whole church – including individuals, congregations, presbyteries – to make known that Christ came so that every person may have life in all its fullness, which includes a particular concern - a bias - for the least in our world, especially the poor and oppressed.
- Build relationships with Churches and Christian organisations at home and across the world, as a demonstration of Christ's prayer that we may all be one.

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

- Work with congregations and presbyteries so that the life of the Church is relevant, real and authentic to Support the development of the Church's life of worship, prayer and study to help individuals and congregations explore and discover faith and deepen their understanding of and involvement in God's mission in the world.
- Build and maintain partnerships with other churches, civic society and faith groups in ways that enrich and enliven our congregations.
- Enable congregations and presbyteries to create and maintain relationships with local and global partners to share stories, pray together, and walk alongside one another to achieve solutions to our shared and individual challenges.

To respond to human need by loving service

- Promote action on issues of need, marginalisation and exclusion for people living in Scotland and around the world, bringing good news to the poor, liberty to the captives, healing to the sick, and freedom to the oppressed.
- Help others to see and know the love of God through the witness and actions of the Church. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and pursue peace and reconciliation.
- Listen to those struggling with poverty and marginalisation, the silenced, and the powerless – enabling them to speak out and enabling the Church to speak out on their behalf.



The Church of Scotland

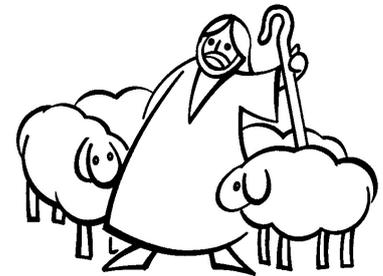
- Enable theological, ethical and spiritual contributions to public policy and decision-making on issues of societal, economic, and political significance.
- Encourage the whole church to address issues of violence, in the home, the church, the community, the nation and the world, and to pursue justice and fullness of life for all.
- Amplify the Church of Scotland's concerns on matters of national and international peace and justice, and support all parts of the church to join in speaking out.
- Enhance the Church's understanding of and relationships with other faith traditions, and other areas of society.

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

- Engage on the urgent issues of environmental protection and sustainability.
- Lead the Church, and help individuals, congregations, and presbyteries in responding to the climate crisis with prayer, advocacy and action.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

PASTORAL CARE AT MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH DURING COVID-19



The Minister and Pastoral Assistant and Probationer Minister, with district elders and others, continue to phone, email and write to congregation members, particularly those who are vulnerable or on their own. Please let us know if there are any people who you think might appreciate a phone call or email at this time. And if you would like a call – do not hesitate to contact us! Garden visits are now possible – if the weather is fine! Home visits and hospital and nursing home visits are sadly not possible.

Funerals can be held in Church, but at time of writing the numbers attending can be no more than 20. At the time of writing (mid-September) we are about to trial live-streaming a funeral service (with the family's permission). At the Crematoria the number of mourners is also restricted to no more than 20, but may be 15 in the smaller chapels.

ROLL CHANGES

Please welcome our newest member,
Noah Ernie-Ray Barnes, baptised on 27 September.

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends
of the following members who died recently:-

Miss Sheila Grahame, who died on 7 September

Mrs June Cowan, who died on 12 September

Gordon Hendry, who died on 12 September

George Grahame, who died on 22 September



WORSHIP MATTERS

Sunday services: At time of writing restrictions about numbers and social distancing are still in place. There are 40 places available in Church each Sunday. You **MUST** book your space through the Church Office. Please do not turn up on Sunday and assume you will be able to attend the service. Booking continues to be fairly brisk!

Services are now live-streamed each Sunday at 10.30am, (follow the link on the Church website), and we continue to experiment with this new format. We also continue to record the half-hour 10.30am service each Sunday, and the order of service and sermon can also be read. The shorter service at 10.30am will continue into October.

The 9.30am service remains suspended at the moment, as do the normal Sunday rotas, the choir, Sunday after-service teas and coffees.

There are a number of safety and hygiene issues, all of which are extensively noted in the weekly intimations, and on the Church website.

Sunday Club and Creche

Parents of the children attending Sunday Club have been emailed to flag the plans to re-commence Sunday Club. Hand-painted cards have been prepared to invite the children to attend, which will go out shortly. The hope remains to meet in Church as soon as is safe to do so, but in the meantime we will run Sunday Club virtually. The intention is to re-engage with a Zoom call with all age groups, where we discuss lockdown and invite the children to show us something they have made during the last six months or so. Thereafter, and subject to numbers, we will look to separate the calls into primary and secondary school age-groups, and work through the Spill the Beans materials.

The Church and Halls currently remain generally closed to the public except for events in the Sanctuary. Emails and phone calls are dealt with by our Church Administrator. A security, maintenance check and cleaning are regularly carried out at the Church by our caretakers. Information has recently come from the national Church of Scotland and the Presbytery of Edinburgh about protocols concerning how we might be able to move forward with reopening our Halls, but the advice is also balanced by reminding us not simply to reopen because it may be possible, but to be sure it is practical and sustainable. Significant issues relate to the 'through traffic' around our halls, and the time needed to clean them and 'air' them between lets.

Alongside this the Kirk Session is mindful that there are ongoing financial considerations for the congregation if we do not reopen to hall lets, but staff costs incurred if we do, and this requires careful thought and balancing. Please remember that no one tasked with thinking about these matters is trained in handling the consequences of a pandemic, but all are doing their best to ensure the well-being of the church and its staff in what remain difficult times. The decisions being made are not easy ones, and we continue to ask for your understanding, and your prayers.

WE MARK THE PASSING OF 3 LONG-SERVING ELDERs

Geoff Bulmer

Geoff Bulmer died on 6th August 2020. He gave faithful service as an elder for more than 50 years, at South Morningside, Cluny and then Morningside Parish. Many will remember him from providing piano and organ music at a variety of services over the years, particularly at the 9.30am services. Learning both piano and flute at school, he followed in his father's footsteps in his musical talents as his father Arthur was organist and choir master of South Morningside Church for many years. A regular on the piano rota for the Wednesday nursing home services, Geoff would often take the time after the service to chat to the nursing home residents who enjoyed his chat and his company. He would also help out with the week-day afternoon communions and was a frequent attender at the Wednesday coffee morning after spending some time in church practising at the organ.



As well as being an accomplished musician, Geoff was very involved in the scout movement. Having first joined the scouts at school, he continued the association while doing his National Service and went on to be active with the 103rd scouts at Morningside for many years, stepping down as scout leader when he was appointed district scout leader in 1967.

His polite, quiet, gentlemanly demeanour, his willingness to help out wherever he could, and his support of our congregation in a variety of ways over the years will mean that he will be particularly missed. At this time we remember Sheila and the Bulmer family in our prayers.



June Cowan

June Cowan died on 12th September 2020. She was ordained an elder in 1985. Her association with the congregation lasts many years. As well as an active eldership and helping with the Property and Social Committees, June also convened the Flower Committee for a number of years, sang in the choir, helped with the Men's Club, and was one of the 'fixers' who helped with maintenance around the Church with the Work Party. Many will remember her time as Church Secretary where her friendly and formidable presence in the Church Office

ensured the smooth running of the day-to-day proceedings of our congregation.

Alongside her Church commitments, June was a lifelong supporter of the Guiding Movement and became Captain of the 188th Guides in 1958. There she shared her love of the outdoors and camping with generations of girls who fondly remember the 'Blue Dragon'! One of the Church's great personalities, June was kind, determined, generous, selfless and great fun. She will be greatly missed. We remember Moira and Neil in our prayers.

Gordon Hendry - written by his son Ian and daughter Susan

Gordon was born in Aberdeen in 1922. His father John was a partner in a herring merchant company and travelled around the coast— meeting his future wife, Annie Florence in Great Yarmouth.

Gordon had a happy boyhood and got a first class degree in economics from Aberdeen University in 1942. Then he served in the RAF as a radio mechanic and he and Elsa married in 1944. After being demobbed, in 1947, he started in the Scottish Office as an agricultural economist. There followed a long, successful and interesting career at an exciting stage of Scotland's development- New Towns, North Sea oil, roads and transport infrastructure. Having attained a senior position as Assistant Secretary, he was awarded a CBE for public service in 1982.

He was very good-humoured - he used to get off the bus each evening and go up Buckstone Gardens whistling – the family in the house at the end seeing him from their window called him 'the cheery man'. He was a strong family man, proud of Ian and Susan and then all of his grandchildren -James, Philippa, Charles, Alexa and Katy and their various pursuits all over the world; and much loved and respected in return. He has two great grandchildren, Paul and Nola, in Australia. He was married for 67 years and latterly cared for Elsa, a massive commitment to their lives which they had shared together.

Church and faith always featured – he was an Elder in the Church of Scotland for 67 years. He served in different roles and his quiet wisdom was much respected. Lifelong friendships were formed through both Sunday school parents and others. Gordon is remembered as especially kind and supportive to friends at time of ill health. People constantly remark upon Gordon as a gentleman, both because of his impeccable appearance, and his dignity and polite manner.

Following his private family funeral in Yorkshire where he lived for the last three years, we hope to have a service of thanksgiving and celebration in the church and bring his ashes home to Scotland at some appropriate time. If anyone wishes meantime to make a charity donation in memory of Gordon, details are with the Church office.

Here are a couple of verses from Gordon's favourite hymn from boyhood and why we selected sunflowers to cover his coffin:

Summer suns are glowing over land and sea,
happy light is flowing, bountiful and free.
Everything rejoices in the mellow rays,
all earth's thousand voices swell the psalm of praise.

We will never doubt thee, though thou veil thy light:
life is dark without thee; death with thee is bright.
Light of Light! shine o'er us on our pilgrim way,
go thou still before us to the endless day.

By William Walsham How



SEPTEMBER KIRK SESSION

The September meeting was a Zoom meeting.

Emerging from Lockdown: The Session heard information about how we continue, carefully, to emerge from lockdown in relation to services. It has been particularly helpful having live-streaming available for Church services, as well as the ongoing recording so people can watch at times other than 10.30am on Sunday.

The Session agreed, reluctantly, not to hold a Communion service in October on the grounds that restrictions made this unviable.

The Church staff continue to work hard to keep what we are able to do ticking over smoothly under what remain challenging circumstances. The Moderator paid tribute to them and to office bearers and volunteers who work hard in the background.

Communication Committee: Isobel Paterson, Convener, reported that it was not possible this year to hold the Autumn street event in September where leaflets were distributed to the community giving information about the Church. The viability of distributing Christmas leaflets to the parish is being kept under review.

Social Committee: Fiona Stimpson, Convener, reported that ongoing restrictions meant that many of the congregation's much-loved social events have had to be cancelled or put on hold. Everyone was waiting eagerly for things to resume and this will be done when it is safe and possible to start again.

Crossways: The Session Clerk reported on the work in progress to look at how we market the church facilities to potential lets from outside groups. This includes a review of the website and preparation of an information pack. An area which is growing in importance for arts and other organisations is climate change and MPC is likely to be asked for an Environmental and Sustainability Policy. Using the information gathered from meetings about MPC and recommendations on what a policy should contain from the Green Arts Initiative, a draft Environmental and Sustainability Policy has been prepared.

Pastoral Assistant: Jacqui Lindsay reported with thanks on the amazing amount of work church people have continued to do during the lockdown and the support given to members of the congregation and people living in the parish. She also reported that she and the Minister had met with Helen Boyd from George Watson's College to discuss increasing physical activity within the community in view of Watson's new Community Sport Hub status along with possible use of Watson Volunteers over the coming months and hopefully years. Helen's focus is on outreach and community partnerships.

Property: A written report from Moira Clark, Convener, reported that the steps from Cluny Gardens to the Church had been painted for safety purposes, and works on the Church roof and to the ramp from Braid Road were in hand but delayed because of the weather. The Fire Risk assessment had been carried out and Property Committee and caretakers were working through the other compliance certificates.

THE LIFE OF THE BELOVED: SPIRITUAL LIVING IN A SECULAR WORLD

by Henri JM Nouwen

In the course of Christian history many have written eloquently and profoundly on our relationship with Jesus, our interaction with the world around us, and the all-encompassing love of God. Bookshelves creak under the weight of tomes waxing lyrical on the intricacies of the Christian faith. Despite this abundance, it can be difficult to find writers who truly speak to us; who understand the human condition and our longing for knowledge of God, not only intellectually, but a deeper spiritual understanding.

Thankfully, there are some. Henri Nouwen, I believe, is a writer that can fulfil both roles, as a considerate academic and as a genuine pastor interested in the faith lives of his readers. Nouwen was a prolific Christian writer, a professor of theology, and a priest. His writing ranges from the academic to the more accessible and pastorally focused, such as this one: *The Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World*.

This book was originally written as a kind of letter to Nouwen's Jewish friend, who asked him to say something of the grace and love of God to those outside the bubble of practising Christianity. As such, it is written in a style that has broad appeal and was intended to have a message that would resonate with people of all faiths and none, assuring them that they are beloved by God. Unfortunately, as Nouwen writes, this book did not fulfil that goal, instead it spoke more clearly to those already within the Christian faith. Despite this, it speaks plainly to those niggling doubts, searches for truth, and concerns for God's place in our lives. It is not an academic book, and does not assume that the reader will have any theological training or background, instead it seeks to speak to all people.

The central message of this book is the assurance of the love of God for all peoples, and the liberating, joyful implications accepting and understanding this message will have, not only for our relationship with God and our faith, but on our interpersonal relationships and our understanding of our place in the world. Perhaps the clearest description of the intent and content of this work comes from Nouwen himself, he writes: 'My only desire is to have these words reverberate in every corner of your being – "You are the Beloved."'

This, then, is not so much a book review as an invitation to wonder. To consider what it means to be the beloved of God. I think this book would be a great accompaniment on that road. Ultimately, however we do it, beginning to consider what it means for us all to be loved by God is a journey that will lead us to an ever more fulfilling life.

Conor Fegan

KNITTING: HELP WANTED!

Do we have any knitters out there who would be able to consider making an item for me?

I am interested in a crew or V-neck jersey, with a cable pattern. I can supply the wool or would take the knitter's advice about which wool would be more practical. Anyone interested please contact David Calder on 07702 835961.



FINANCIAL GIVING TO THE CHURCH DURING COVID-19

Please keep up to date with your financial giving via standing order or direct debit, or save your envelopes and other financial gifts and bring them to church when we re-open. **Increase regular donations:**

please consider instructing your bank to increase your existing standing order if you are able. Cheques can now be posted to the Church Office for processing.

If you would like to make a one-off donation, please use the new 'Donate' button on the Church website.

There will be a significant impact on Church finances over these weeks. Your continuing, or increased, generosity will be particularly important. It enables so much to happen in and around our Church.

Thank you to everyone who continues to be generous with their financial giving at this time.

CHURCH FLOWERS

The decision was taken at the start of lockdown to suspend the provision of fresh flowers in the church pending the resumption of normal services. As those of you watching the services on-line will have noticed, silk flowers were purchased from the Flower Fund and are currently being changed on a seasonal basis.



A limited number of hands-free flower deliveries are now taking place when deemed appropriate by the Minister. These are being financed by monies received for the provision of flowers in the church over this period.

Donations in October are as follows:

- 4 October Michael Hunter
- 11 October Dorothy Mushet
- 18 October Liz Munro
- 25 October Jennifer Rimer

Anyone wishing to donate to the Flower Fund should send a cheque payable to Morningside Parish Church Flower Fund to Irene Wilson, 66 Thomson Crescent, Currie, EH14 5JS, or leave it in my pigeon-hole, or contact me on 449 2866 to make arrangements if you prefer to pay by bank transfer. The monies will be used to provide future deliveries pending the return of normal arrangements.

NOVEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the November issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 16th October 2020** and it will be available by Sunday 1st November. While there are restrictions on church opening, please email contributions to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk. As the magazine is not being printed for general distribution during the pandemic, if you would like to receive it by email, or know of any member of the congregation who would like this, please contact the church office. It will be put on the church website, where you can also find previous issues.

Redemption by George Herbert

Having been tenant long to a rich lord, Not thriving, I resolvèd to be bold, And make a suit unto him, to afford A new small-rented lease, and cancel th' old.	Long since on earth, to take possession. I straight returned, and knowing his great birth, Sought him accordingly in great resorts; In cities, theatres, gardens, parks, and courts; At length I heard a ragged noise and mirth Of thieves and murderers; there I him espied, Who straight, <i>Your suit is granted</i> , said, and died.
In heaven at his manor I him sought; They told me there that he was lately gone About some land, which he had dearly bought	

Minister: Very Revd Dr Derek Browning 447 1617

derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk

Pastoral Assistant: Jacqui Lindsay 07834 364 628

pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Magazine Editor: Alison Riddell 445 2330

editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Church Office: Jan Goulding

447 6745

office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Join us for worship in Church in person at 10.30am each Sunday, having first booked a seat through the Church Office, or click on the link on our website to join us online either live or at a later date. www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

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