



Magazine

No. 163 April 2021

Dear Friends

Hope is one of the most resilient, and troubling words, in the Christian vocabulary. Wedged between, 'faith' and 'love', it is there as a reminder of what is supposed to illuminate our believing and our living out of what we believe.

We are familiar with phrases like 'hope springs eternal...' and there are others like it: 'Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.' 'There was never a night or a problem that could defeat sunrise or hope.' 'Let your hopes, not your hurts, shape your future.'

In the February magazine, also writing about hope, I remembered the John Cleese quotation from the film *Clockwise*: 'It's not despair I mind; it is hope I can't stand.'

Here we are in April, with Easter, the apex of the Christian faith, and here we are still waiting for hope to be fulfilled. To live in a state of hopefulness about anything can feel sometimes like living off fumes. So many will have felt that as the last months unfolded, we were running on empty.

But hope we must, because the alternative is too awful to contemplate. However difficult we can find the idea of hope, it is almost as if we cannot help ourselves. Each new dawn, each flower bursting into bloom, each tree bursting into leaf. It is almost as if the DNA of Creation is suffused with hope.

Hope attempts to move us forward. Hope points us towards the future. Hope lifts up our heads. Hope warms our hearts.

Hope is central to the message of Jesus and the promise fulfilled of His resurrection. Pain is not the last word. Rejection is not the last word. Darkness is not the last word. Death is not the last word.

We are left, in the end, with resilient, troubling, persistent hope. Nudging us along, not leaving us alone, and endlessly offering light and newness.

This Easter, for all of us, I pray that we experience in the reality of the living Jesus, the reality of His living hope.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

Easter

MARCH KIRK SESSION

The March meeting was a Zoom meeting.

Presbytery Planning for the future – South Group -The finalised combined report to Presbytery from the South Group comprising MPC, Greenbank and Fairmilehead Parish Churches had been tabled. No comments were raised and the Moderator reported that it had been submitted to the Presbytery Strategy Group for consideration with the submissions from other groups. However it is unlikely that we will hear anything soon from the Presbytery, as the Presbytery will not hear until after the General Assembly in May what number of Ministers will be allocated to the Presbytery. He had heard speculation that the number of charges for Edinburgh might reduce from the current 70 to 50 charges.

Reports – PVG Paul Cackette, Safeguarding Coordinator referred to the Safeguarding Congregational Register which had been circulated. He had confirmed that position with leaders of the various groups. Session approved the document and authorised its attestation. Paul indicated that he had been planning to organise training but Covid restrictions had prevented it happening. He had made enquiries about online training and planned to make the mandatory training available to those who had not yet gone through the course. A refresher course would be valuable for everyone.

The Kirk Session approved the **Annual Report and Financial Statements**, and thanked all involved in their production.

Property – Moira Clark, Convenor, tabled a spread sheet of maintenance work. It was noted that the carpet edgings strips in the sanctuary had been fitted. Work had also been undertaken to level the Braid Road ramp and the area at the top of the north steps from Cluny Gardens.

Pastoral – The Moderator reported that he, Jacqui Lindsay and Doreen Reekie had met to discuss the way forward following Rosemary Braid's standing down as Bereavement visitor. The Session noted its grateful thanks to Rosemary for her commitment to this important work.

Presbytery Elder's Report The Presbytery meeting on 9th February 2021 was again a virtual meeting. As usual the business was preceded by devotions which included the installation of our minister to be **Moderator of the Presbytery**. The wide range of other business included: -

Congregational Business, including releasing the **Revd Dr Martin Ritchie** from his charge at Greenbank to take up a call from The Presbyterian Church at Tenafly, New Jersey, USA. Dr Ritchie will remain at Greenbank until the date of his induction at Tenafly which may take some weeks to achieve because of Visa requirements and other practical arrangements to be made.

The Revd Alistair Keil is retiring from his charge at St Andrews; Clermiston after 32 years and he and his wife are moving to Morningside.

Presbytery Reform - Presbytery was asked to vote on a proposal to be put to the General Assembly 2021 for **Edinburgh Presbytery to unite with the Presbytery of West Lothian with effect from 1st January 2022**. The proposal was approved by

139 in favour and 10 against. The same proposal is being put to the Presbytery of West Lothian. All members and corresponding members of both presbyteries at 31st December 2021 will become members of the united Presbytery.

A **Steering Group of five members from each Presbytery** will develop proposals for submission to and approval by the first meeting on 1st February 2022 of the new Presbytery, including its values, principles, paid posts, office arrangements and Moderator for 2022.

As the Presbytery of West Lothian is not a registered charity, the new Presbytery will adopt the Charity number of Edinburgh Presbytery. **The name of the united Presbytery will initially simply be the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian.**

Discussions have taken place with the Presbytery Clerk as well as representatives of the Presbyteries from Falkirk, Lothian and the Borders to explore if an even larger single Presbytery might be formed creating a more regional Presbytery in line with the overall aims of the Assembly proposals.

Some statistics relating to the 2 Presbyteries -

	West Lothian	Edinburgh
Number of congregations	26	70
Number of charges	22	67
Number of ministries posts permitted per 2012 plan	28.2	78.2
Vacant charges	7	4 (+ 2 soon)
Approximate population	c 200,000	524,758

Any Other Competent Business - the Moderator reported –

Dr Conor Fegan had passed his 6 month review with “flying colours”.

Anne McNeil had resigned from leading the group which had provided meals at the Bethany Night Shelter. She and her team of helpers were thanked for their contribution.

9.30 services - the Moderator suggested that in the light of Covid restrictions these are not likely to resume until September.

WORSHIP MATTERS

Sunday services

At time of writing, we hope to reopen the Church on Easter Sunday for the 10.30am service. The restrictions from last year, 50 people in worship (who have booked a space via the Church office), socially distanced seating and no singing, are likely to continue for the time being. We will continue to livestream all 10.30am services from the Church, and these can be watched later on in the week. The order of service and the sermon are also available to read online.

We will be keeping an eye on national announcements as things continue to change.

Remembering Service

This year's Remembering Service will not take place in April but at a later point in the year, and may include a 'memorial' aspect as we remember all those in our congregation who died over the last year.



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 also 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, or on the Weekly Email from the Minister.

There was a significant impact on Church finances last year and this will continue well into this year. 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.

POETRY AND SELF-CARE

Like people all over the country, in March 2020, with the prospect of a six or twelve week lockdown ahead, I thought that it would be an opportunity to do something different, learn something new, take up a hobby. Needless to say, as twelve weeks turned into twelve months, those good intentions did not go very far. I am not fluent in a new language and I have not taken up mountain climbing. Life got in the way. Not being able to go out and do the things I normally would did not remove the distractions of everyday life, it simply changed them.

As lockdown has become ever more familiar, however, my desire to make some small change in my life did not go away. I decided, therefore, not to do something completely new, for as Robert Burns tells us: 'The best laid schemes o' mice an' men Gang aft agley.' Instead, I have tried to enhance something that is already a passion – reading. I have begun to read poetry, something that is a relatively new experience for me.

I have found that it offers options that prose does not, it encourages new thoughts and ideas, and often, even with fewer words, it allows one to look deeper. Poetry opens not only a window into the soul of another, it gives permission to examine our own lives, to confront emotions that we have suppressed or didn't even know we had.

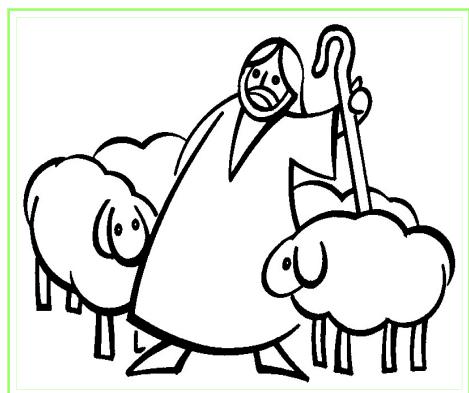
In this time of change, and of all the anxiety that goes along with living through a pandemic, we need something that can be our anchor in the storm. Something to ground us, and offer space to stop, think and reflect. For me, poetry has offered that space. For we so often focus on the bad news, or on the needs of others, forgetting that we too need to be looked after.

So, as this pandemic (hopefully) comes ever closer to an end, I hope that you too can find something that helps you find calm in the midst of all the upheaval. Something that gives you time and space to reflect and think, to look after you. For without self-care, it becomes much harder to care for others. And if poetry sounds like the thing for you, among the many wonderful books that are out there, one I would suggest, which gives poems for the different ages and stages of life is: *Poems for Life* selected by Laura Barber. (ISBN:9780713999617)

Conor Fegan

PASTORAL CARE AT MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH DURING COVID-19

The Minister, 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! At time of writing, home visits, along with hospital and nursing home visits are still not possible, but we hope, if things keep moving forward, that visiting will be possible in the not too distant future.



CHURCH ACCOUNTS 2020-FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 were presented to the Kirk Session on 9th March 2021 and were duly approved. The extract below summarises the financial outcome for the year but please refer to the link on the Church website to read the Accounts in full: <http://www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk/>

In 2020 Morningside Parish Church had several sources of income, namely congregational offerings, hall rental income, Listed Places of Worship Scheme grant, CJRS furlough grant, legacies and investment income. In addition during 2020 income totalling £29,486 came from the transfer of funds by the Church of Scotland General Trustees from the Church of Scotland Consolidated Fabric Fund, being the remaining net proceeds of sale of a former retired Minister's house in Esslemont Road.

In 2020 congregational offerings (Free Will Offering and Open Plate) amounted to £111,993 resulting in a 9.4% decrease on the 2019 level of giving of £123,588. The total figure came from Free Will Offering of £108,754 and £3,239 from the Open Plate, the latter being well down on 2019 due to the Church closure in the pandemic lockdown.

The total congregational membership roll as at end December 2020 was 372 of which we could identify 238 active contributing members.

An important source of income for the Church comes from the gift aid claimed on gift-aided offerings, and in 2020 this amounted to £25,034 (2019: £31,461) thanks to prompt claims lodged with HMRC by the Free Will Offering and Gift Aid Convener.

A Listed Places of Worship Scheme (LPWS) grant of £17,265 (2019: £98,818) was received during the year. This represented the repayment to Morningside Parish Church of VAT charged on contractors' invoices for fabric works carried out in the Church.

Legacy income of £27,500 (£25,000 from the estate of the late Mrs Jean Bowman, £1,500 from the estate of the late Mrs Muriel Dickson, £1,000 from the estate of the late Mrs Doreen Davidson) was received during 2020 (2019: £10,000).

Sundry Income, gifts and donations comprised mainly donations from organisations using various halls in the Church premises. These included £930 from the Baby & Toddler Group, £1,996 from the various uniformed organisations, and £347 from the Badminton Groups.

The Kirk Session is very grateful for all donations received during 2020.

Income from Weddings and Funerals during 2020 amounted to £500 (2019: £200) shown as "Charitable activities" on page 18 of the Accounts.

Rental income in 2020 for use of our premises in Church Halls amounted to £21,846 which represents a decrease of 50.2% over the 2019 rental income of £43,882. This was due to the impact of the pandemic when the Church and Church Halls were effectively closed to tenants for most of the year from March 2020.

Investment income received from dividends, deposit interest and bank interest amounted to £33,037 in 2020, representing a decrease over the total investment income of £41,875 received in 2019, partly due to the disposal of £100,000 of investments during the year and

partly due to dividend cuts by several companies in the underlying portfolios caused by the pandemic.

Under 'Other trading activities' (see note 3 of the Accounts on page 24) congregational fundraising events such as the end of month baking sales generated a total of £1,200 (2019: £1,628). Again these fundraising activities were severely curtailed by the pandemic.

Total income for the year 2020 amounted to £299,473 (2019: £922,378), an overall decrease of 67.5% over 2019, mainly due to the previous year's receipt of funds totaling £527,146 from the Church of Scotland General Trustees Consolidated Fabric Fund. These funds were released to Morningside Parish Church from the sale proceeds of a former Church property in Esslemont Road to fund the alterations in the Sanctuary during 2019.

The total market value of investments held on behalf of Morningside Parish Church amounted to a total of £990,532 as at end December 2020 (2019: £1,107,748). The two holdings were 86,824 units in the Church of Scotland Investors Trust Growth Fund (value as at 31/12/20 £466,245) and 41,250 units in the Church of Scotland Investors Trust Income Fund (value as at 31/12/20 £524,287). A fuller description of investment policy and performance can be read on page 10 of the Accounts.

The largest elements of the Church's expenditure for 2020 were our Ministries and Mission Allocation of £119,583 (2019: £124,514), Staff Salaries £83,607 (2019: £90,718) allocated as £43,609 within raising funds through use of premises and £39,998 to charitable activities - see note 6, page 25, Fabric Repairs and Maintenance £63,206 (2019: £41,624) and Donations to Church of Scotland of £16,636 (2019: £631,692). Staff Salary costs for 2020 were lower than in 2019 due to furloughing of 3 members of staff in the pandemic.

The cost of raising funds through the use of our premises amounted to £79,112 (2019: £74,791).

Total Expenditure for the year 2020 amounted to £394,724 (2019: £1,011,222). One-off expenditure at the Church and Church Halls during 2020 amounted to £55,404 (2019: £33,093). This included costs of £46,418 for necessary work on the Church Roof.

With Income of £299,473 and Expenditure of £394,724 in 2020 there was an operating deficit of £95,251 for the year to end December 2020. Less one-off premises costs of £46,418, the running deficit amounted to **£48,833** which represented a reasonably acceptable financial outcome in a very difficult year for the Church, dominated by COVID-19.

Chris McNeil, Treasurer



CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ

Here is the second part of the two part quiz which we hope you'll put your mind to in the run up to Christian Aid week in May. There is a prize to be won of a rather special magnum of red wine from Tuscany, to the person with the highest overall score over the two rounds. Provided you have already submitted your answers to last month's questions, all you need to do now is answer the further questions below, and make a donation of any amount to Christian Aid (go to caweek.org) (In fact there's no reason why you can't try this month's part anyway, and donate to Christian Aid, but you won't be eligible for anything other than a warm glow.) The answers to this month's quiz will be published in the May magazine so your answers must be with us by **Wednesday 14th April 2021**, submitted to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk.

This month the quiz has two sections:

Section one has twelve questions about Morningside.

Section two has twenty questions about Edinburgh.

Best of luck.!

Section 1: KNOW YOUR MORNINGSIDE?

1. What famous painter lived at 14-16 Jordan Lane?
2. What year did the Dominion open?
3. A highway robbery took place in Morningside on 23 November 1814. Where did it happen?
4. Morningside Lodge (built 1780) was extended and its name changed to what?
5. Morningside station on the Edinburgh suburban line opened in what year?
6. Napier's Craiglockhart campus was originally what when it opened in 1880?
7. The Volunteer Arms or The Canny Man's was previously named what?
8. The medieval farm of Egypt ran from Hermitage Drive to the Pow burn. What connects the street names Cluny, Corennie and Midmar built on the farm lands?
9. The road toll in Mornigside road ended in 1883. But when did the old toll house at 259 move to Hermitage of Braid ?
10. Waverley Terrace , Marmion Terrace, Banner Place, Morningside Bank , Esplin Place, Blackford Place are now all connected. How?
11. Morningside High (Free) Church became what ?
12. Peter O'Toole played someone born in Goshen House in 1874 whose life was featured in a Bernardo Bertolucci film. Who was he, and what was his job?

Section 2: EDINBURGH QUESTIONS:

1. - 10. Where are the following buried in Edinburgh?
 - David Hume and Daniel Stewart
 - Clarinda and Adam Smith
 - Thomas Riddell (thought to have inspired JK Rowling) and Mary Erskine
 - Ebenezer Lennox Scroggie (whose description as “ meal man” was misread by and is thought to have inspired Charles Dickens)
 - Rev Thomas Chalmers and Robin Cook
 - George Reid and Christian Salvesen
 - Sir James Young Simpson and Hippolyte Blanc and John Menzies
 - The Great Lafayette, Samuel Evans VC , George Wilson VC
 - John Napier, Alexander Nasmyth
 - David Octavius Hill , Elsie Inglis, and John Bellany
11. The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers set down the first 13 rules of golf in 1744. Where did they play then?
12. The Union canal ended at a port named after a Duke. Which Duke?
13. The Athletic Arms , commonly known as Diggers , is so called because of its historic link with which trade?
14. Which famous politician’s Midlothian campaign swayed the outcome of the 1880 election?
15. Which more recent politician framed the West Lothian question?
16. Ensign Ewart of the Scots Greys captured an eagle at Waterloo. In what regiment’s Edinburgh museum does the Eagle now rest?
- 17-18. The 2nd and 5th battalions of the Royal Regiment of Scotland are based at Glencorse and Redford barracks respectively. The battalions take the names of former Scottish regiments. What names go with the 2nd and 5th battalions?
19. Every officer of a Royal Company is ranked as a general and their ordinary members rank as colonels. Where in Edinburgh is this Company’s base?
20. Named to honour the visit of Prince Alfred in 1867, Edinburgh of the Seven Seas is the main settlement on which island?



ANAGRAMS OF PLACES AROUND MORNINGSIDE - ANSWERS

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Rory Lochen (4,6) | 1 Holy Corner |
| 2. Mid onion. (8) | 2 Dominion |
| 3. Ingrids omen (11) | 3 Morningside |
| 4. Doon rope (4,4) | 4 Open Door |
| 5. A right beamer (9,3) | 5 Hermitage Bar |
| 6. Naan ale can (6,4) | 6 Canaan Lane |
| 7. Vile goner (4,5) | 7 Nile Grove |
| 8. Radar dobi (5,4) | 8 Braid Road |
| 9. I Dry Esme (8) | 9 Myreside |
| 10. My hen can tan (3,5,3) | 10 The Canny Man |
| 11. Diver Dimran (6,5) | 11 Midmar Drive (but there was an N instead of an M ... apologies) |
| And closer to home... | |
| 12. Swatts them (2,8) | 12 St Matthews |

WHERE WERE THE PHOTOS TAKEN? - ANSWERS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Braid Road | 4. Morningside Drive |
| 2. Morningside Road | 5. Nile Grove, corner Hermitage Terrace |
| 3. Falcon Road, corner of Falcon Gardens | 6. Cluny Drive |

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT? - ANSWERS

1. Well Court, Dean Village
2. Sassoon Grove
3. Morningside Station
4. St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral
5. 28 Hermitage Drive
6. Belhaven Terrace , looking to Cluny Gardens



FLOWER COMMITTEE

As those of you watching the services on-line will have noticed, two members of the Flower Committee recently met - socially distanced of course - to change the silk flower displays in the church from Winter to Spring.

I understand that many people prefer to see real flowers in church, but until such time as restrictions permit and flowers can safely be arranged and delivered, monies donated will be used to provide flower deliveries which I know are much appreciated by those who receive them.

All flowers in April will be provided by the Flower Fund as there have been no donations to cover this period.



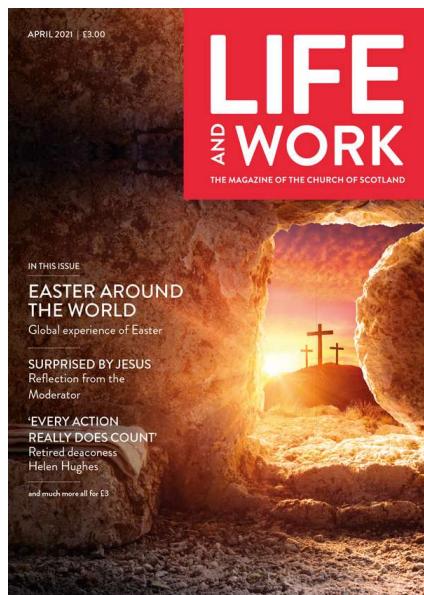
The following dates are still available on the 2021 Flower List:

- 2 and 9 May;
- 4, 11, 18 and 25 July;
- 15 and 29 August;
- 12 September.

As the flower list cannot be displayed as usual in the vestibule, if you would like to supply flowers one Sunday, please contact Irene Wilson (Tel: 449 2866, e-mail:

irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com). Cheques for £45 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 a Gift Aid envelope or advise me if you have registered with the Gift Aid Convener. Monies can be sent to me at 66 Thomson Crescent, Edinburgh, EH14 5JS, put in the Flower Committee pigeon hole or sent to the church office (marked for the Flower Fund). If you prefer to pay by bank transfer, please contact me direct for details.

Irene Wilson. Convener - Flower Committee



APRIL 2021

Easter Around the World: Church of Scotland ministers from across the globe reflect on how they celebrate Easter
Surprised by Jesus: Reflection by the Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair
Easter Prayer

'Every Action Really Does Count': Helen Hughes, retired Deacon, Christian Aid supporter

Dreaming Big: Rachel Macrae describes the influence of the Church in shaping her life and dreams

A Season of Awakening: The Very Rev Albert Bogle asks if the Covid-19 pandemic gives an opportunity to reset mission

All in the Timing: The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers reflects on the story of Lazarus

God's 'Ministry of Recognition': Ruth Harvey looks at Paul's letters on reconciliation

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

MAY MAGAZINE

Material for the May issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 16th April 2021** and it will be available by Sunday 2nd May. 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.

Easter by Edmund Spenser

Most glorious Lord of Lyfe! that, on this day,
Didst make Thy triumph over death and sin;
And, having harrowd hell, didst bring away
Captivity thence captive, us to win:
This joyous day, deare Lord, with joy begin;
And grant that we, for whom thou diddest dye,
Being with Thy deare blood clene washt from sin,
May live for ever in felicity!

And that Thy love we weighing worthily,
May likewise love Thee for the same againe;
And for Thy sake, that all lyke deare didst buy,
With love may one another entayne!
So let us love, deare Love, lyke as we ought,
—Love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.



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Join us for worship each Sunday, by clicking on the link on our website to join us online either live at 10.30am or at a later date. www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

**Easter Greetings to all readers, in the hope of
seeing you in Church again soon!**