

Magazine

No. 167 October 2021

Dear Friends

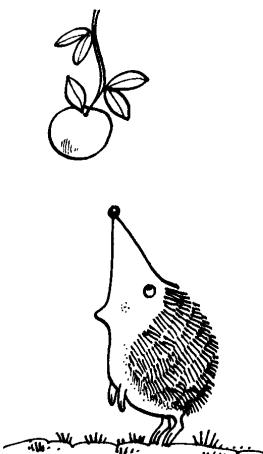
The Autumn lectures this year have focussed on Church and society and have asked questions about how we might move forward, and what that moving forward would entail, as well as what might we consider to be our ultimate destination, or at least what road should we choose to be travelling along.

The first two lectures contrasted and complemented. One gave a perspective of the big picture facing the Church of Scotland at large: where we've been, how we got here, and where we might be going. Another lecture drilled down into the experience of the pandemic in a poorer parish in Edinburgh and helped us reflect on a much more focussed image of a community in need, with its mixture of desperation, resilience and humour. Both lectures encouraged us to wonder about the future, learning from the lessons of the past, and work towards something that would be helpful, hopeful and Christian.

Although the pandemic has made many of us think about the kind of Church and the kind of society we want to live in, many of us are finding that as we gradually drift back into greater activity, the aspirations we had when locked down have begun to fade. Some have become accustomed to isolation; some have decided they no longer want to commit to the work that would be required; some have felt that having given many years of service, it's time for others to step

forward; some don't know if they have the skills or talents or imagination required; some can't wait to get going; others can't wait to slow things down again and continue to keep things under control.

As Christians, and as the Church, some of the things I hope that we will be able to offer to each other, and to the community that we serve, will be hope, togetherness, welcome, tolerance, busy places, quiet places, activity, stillness. Being Christian involves being some of these things, though none of us can be all of these things. It is why we are a community, made up of individuals, but a community that looks to the needs of those around us, and attempts to make a place for all.



With God all things are possible.

The question, challenge and opportunity for us is to work out what this is going to look like.

What is going to be possible? What is going to be sustainable? What will need to adapt, or change, or be put to one side? What does need to be taken up and followed up as we move ahead?

One thing I know – that in our Church there are women and men who care and commit; and in our Church, surprising us because we often forget we are not on our own, is Jesus, Who continually brings situations and people into our lives, and asks us how we might be able to help.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

WORSHIP MATTERS

The Minister and Kirk Session decided that the October Communion was not going to be possible because of ongoing restrictions. A recorded communion service will be made available online at the Church website during the first week of October.

Sunday Services: For the time being we continue to wear masks and observe a 1m social distancing at the 9.30am and 10.30am service. We keep the matter under review in line with Church of Scotland and Scottish Government guidelines.

Remembering Service, Sunday 7 November, 3pm

These last months have been very difficult in so many ways, but particularly for those who have had to deal with a bereavement. Our Church has held different services like the Blue Christmas one, and a Remembering Service on the Sunday after Easter. For obvious reasons we've not been able to hold these for some time.

On Sunday 7 November, at 3pm in the Church, there will be a special Remembering Service for everyone who has had a bereavement and not been able to have a service at church, who has had to cope with severe restrictions on attendances at funeral services, or who in some way has found these months of loss and sadness particularly difficult to bear. Others will have had anniversaries of bereavements that they were not able to commemorate in the way they would have liked.

Our Remembering Service is open to everyone in the Church and in the wider community who would like to come and sit quietly at this simple, reflective service, which will last for around half an hour. During the service there will be a prayer where the first names only of those who have died since our last Remembering services will be read out, and if you have someone you would like to have mentioned in this way, please let the Minister know. Just the first name please! There will also be an opportunity to write names on stars and attach them to our Remembering tree.

Please let friends, neighbours and family know that the service is taking place, and invite them to attend if they would like. We hope to serve tea and coffee after the service.

Remembrance Sunday, 14 November at 10.45am

There will be no 9.30am service on that day.



TOGETHER FOR OUR PLANET

- A REFLECTIVE SERVICE

ENVIRONMENT AND COP26

November 2021 will see COP26, the United Nations Climate Change Conference, come to Glasgow. It will be a meeting of world leaders, activists, businesses, and government officials, working together to try to confront the climate emergency that our planet faces.

One of the hopes of this conference is that it will encourage all people to consider their own part to play, and to commit to making some change in their own lives that will help the environment.

We will support this initiative by having a short, reflective midweek worship service that will be an opportunity to reflect on our place in creation, and what we might do in the future to tackle climate change individually and together.

The service times will be:

- Tuesday 26 October at 7:30pm, and the service will be repeated at
- Wednesday 27 October at 11:00am

If you would like to attend, please contact the Church Office to book a place.



TOGETHER FOR OUR PLANET



FLOWER COMMITTEE

Firstly, I would like to express the Committee's appreciation to all of you who have taken the time to come and speak to us at church over the last few weeks and say how much you have missed real flowers in the church and how nice it is to see them back.

The flowers for the coming month are as follows:-

		Donated by	Arranged by
October	3	Michael Hunter	Ruth Henderson
	10	Robert & Anne Armour	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
	17	Joyce Maclean	Marjory Watson
	24	Liz Munro	Eleanor Watt
	31	Jennifer Rimer	Joan Burnet
November	3	Ian Hastie	Irene Wilson

Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee

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

SEPTEMBER KIRK SESSION

From its Zoom meeting in September:

Baby & Toddler Group - The Minister advised that he had received many requests for the resumption of our popular group and had discussed the position with Barry and Helen Hughes. With regret, it was clear that it would be imprudent to do so given the current rates of infection, but the position will be reviewed at the end of September.

Presbytery Future: the future shape and size of the Presbytery had been discussed at the June meeting. A plan will be forthcoming later this year which will outline a proposed reduction in ministries across the Presbytery, to be achieved over the next five years.

The Presbytery is well aware that what is now required through the planning process has created a high degree of anxiety, due to uncertainty. Among the competing factors that now need to be part of the plan are:

- Reducing the number of posts but doing so without causing financial damage to the national Church, as Edinburgh Presbytery is a major net contributor to the overall budget.
- Ensuring that congregations in areas of deprivation remain in some form and are well resourced.
- Designating the ecclesiastical buildings as either to be retained or disposed of.
- Ensuring that ecumenical working is evident.
- Showing that the main driver of the Plan is local engagement in mission.
- Given that Edinburgh's population is growing significantly, with new housing developments rising, identifying what new posts or new forms of church will best reach into these new communities.
- Recognising the possible impact in changes to Edinburgh Presbytery's external boundaries as a result of actual or proposed unions with neighbouring Presbyteries
- AND, most essentially, taking hearts and minds with them, so that the Plan can be implemented and achieved within the timescale required.

The union of Edinburgh and West Lothian Presbyteries will take place at the beginning of 2022.

National Giving Day: The proposed **National Giving “Day”** in the autumn at MPC will be over two Sundays with a double fundraising target - to provide contributions to the S.E. Edinburgh Food Bank and to raise funds for our contribution to the dementia project being further developed by our Pastoral Assistant. The bonus for raising funds at this time is that any funds so raised will not count against our assessment for Ministry and Mission.

Communications Committee:

Magazine - Distribution had had to change because of the pandemic when digital was the only possible means of communication. When paper copies were again possible, it seemed sensible to encourage those with internet access to view the magazine via email or the website. This halved the numbers of copies needed.

The next idea was to ask those without internet access to opt in to the magazine by completing a form. This change in procedure was well publicised. Thirty people asked for a copy and paper copies are also given to those in care homes. This has resulted in a huge saving of effort, time and money. However, a number of magazines will be available if anyone wants to pick one up at Church.

Live Streaming - We were fortunate to get this service started for lockdown but have so far only three people who share the task. Volunteers to share this work are welcome.

QR Track and Trace Entry Code - The Church is now displaying a QR Track and Trace entry code, being trialled by hall users initially.

Christmas & Easter cards - In the past, these cards with details of our services have been delivered to the 5,600 households in our parish. With regret it was decided that delivery of such a large number of cards was becoming impractical for a small number of volunteers. We will consider alternative ways to publicise information about our welcome and services.

Jam and Baking Stall - It is too early yet to resume this but it was a useful fundraiser involving a wide range of the congregation so the committee will consider when and how it might return.

Social Committee: It was inevitable that the church's much-loved and much-missed social events were not possible at the moment, until restrictions are further lifted. It was noted with appreciation that the after-service teas and coffees would resume in mid-September.

Worship Committee:

Choir - It was not yet clear when arrangements could be put in place for the return of the choir. It is acknowledged that the contribution of choral scholars is a key element of the effectiveness of the choir. It is hoped that the recruitment of up to six scholars can be put in train. The funds raised from the concerts were c £1,300.

Covid Memorial - The Moderator raised the possibility of creating some form of community memorial to record and reflect the impact of the pandemic on our lives. He had no preconditions as to what might be appropriate or possible and wanted to consider ways to involve not just the congregation but the wider community. He suggested that any who might have an interest in developing this concept to contact him. A meeting will be intimated in due course.

ROLL CHANGES



Please give a warm welcome to new members
Lawrence and Irene Hall.

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of
Mrs Mary Finlay, who died on 2 September 2021

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Our small sociable group plans to resume on Wednesday 6 October at 7.30 pm in the Church. We welcome anyone who wishes to join us for some “reely” enjoyable evenings.

Further details from Catriona Reid 443 0727 or billcatriona@hotmail.com

MONDAY CIRCLE

The ladies of the Church started a group about 50 years ago calling themselves Young Wives. As time went on the group changed its name to the Ladies Group and when we welcomed men we once again changed to the Monday Circle.

Sadly, the group has reached the end of the road so I thank those who have come to our evenings over the years to listen to a speaker followed by a “cuppa” and a good blether: supported our coffee mornings when the monies raised helped the Church to purchase items such as a variety of china to our last contribution which paid for the conversion of a couple of our pews to the console tables at the back of the Church.

Over the years we have met some wonderful ladies and men who have attended with some of the members who gave of their time and talent to being on the Committee from Office Bearers to those who quietly got on with tasks in the background. So many thanks to you all.

For those who still wish to meet people and hear a Speaker you are welcome to join the Edinburgh Friendship Centre on the second Friday of the month at 2pm. The first one is on 8 October followed by 12 November and 10 December for a Christmas theme.

This year we would have been celebrating our 50th birthday so there is a plan to meet up. A lunch has been planned for Tuesday 30 November in Braid Hall at 12.30pm when a light lunch will be served by McKenzies. The cost is £10. Please pass your name to Aline Haggart 447 8215 by 31 October.

Catriona Reid
President (retiring)

SUMMER LUNCHTIME CONCERTS 2021

Whilst the Edinburgh Festival was slightly more reduced this year, congratulations to Morningside Parish Church for hosting a successful series of lunchtime concerts. This annual series supports the church's much-valued choral scholarships through generous audience donations.

The first of this year's recitals welcomed back former MPC scholar, Jack Harris, now reading for a BA in music and awarded a bass scholarship at King's College, Cambridge. Presenting a programme that spanned the 18th and 20th centuries, it included the complete *Songs of Travel* song cycle by Ralph Vaughan Williams, bringing wonderful textural and harmonic contrast to baroque arias by Handel and J.S. Bach. Jack's voice has certainly continued to develop, growing into a flexible soloist with great vocal presence.



Margaret Donaldson and Morley Whitehead

Welcoming a returning partnership to the summer series, Margaret Donaldson and Morley Whitehead presented an entertaining programme of lighter music for two pianos. Alongside classical evergreens, Mozart's *Sonata in D, K. 448*, and Schubert's *March Militaire*, the more cabaret repertoire of foxtrots *Dancing Fool* and the *Swanee Stomp* gave a far mellower dimension to the programme. Similarly, MW's performances of Flanders and Swann's *The Hippopotamus Song* and *The Stately Homes of England* by Noel Coward demonstrated how musical craftsmanship can be witty as well as sublime.

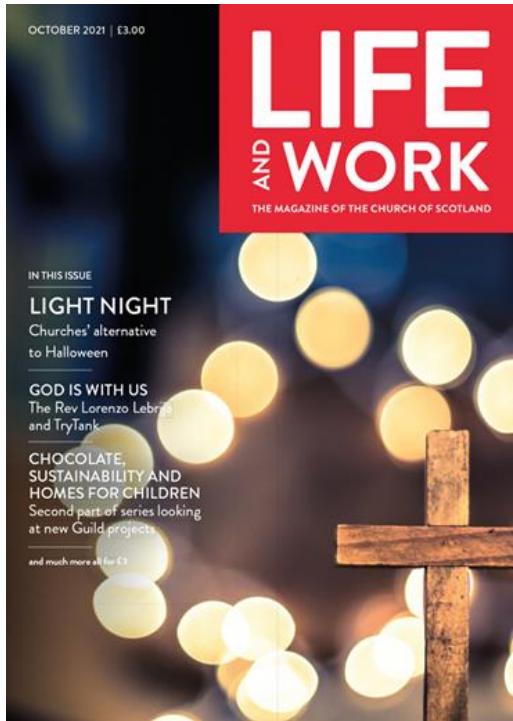
The season's third performance showed off MPC's renowned 'Father' Willis organ in the hands of John Kitchen. Having heard much about the fantastic acoustic following the church's recent refurbishment, this concert really did showcase the instrument's full potential. While organ favourites like Elgar's *Salut d'amour* and Franck's *Andantino in G minor* are stalwarts, what really stole the performances was JK's performances of Aberdonian Michael Thomson's Scottish-inspired *Whirly-Granny: Strathspey and Tullich to Inverey: Scots March*. These show-off Scotch pieces coupled with Gordon Balch Nevin's

Will o' the wisp: Scherzo-toccatina and the Toccata in E minor by Joseph Callaerts demonstrated some great repertoire, best described as hidden gems.

Reviewed by Michael Graham – conductor, composer, and one-time tenor with MPC choir



John Kitchen



LIFE & WORK - OCTOBER 2021

Light Night

The churches offering an alternative to Halloween

God is With Us

Interview with the Rev Lorenzo Lebrija, leader of TryTank

Chocolate, Sustainability and Homes for Children

Continuing from last month Jackie Macadam looks at the three remaining partner projects of the Church of Scotland Guild

Guild Gathering

Lynne McNeil reports from the first in-person gathering since 2019

An 'Amazing and Supportive Community'

In this month's youth column, Scott Derrick explains why he came back to Church

'With Love and Dignity to Anyone in Need'

How the Church of Scotland in Bermuda has distributed nearly 100,000 meals to those hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Hungry Christ

The Very Rev Dr Derek Browning considers Luke 24:41 and explains why hospitality addresses real needs of hunger and thirst

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER – TO REMIND AND TO REASSURE

Safeguarding Sunday is being marked across the Church of Scotland on 10 October. This is an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the work of safeguarding, thank our volunteers and encourage everyone involved in Church life to help ensure a safe church for all. It stresses the importance of encouraging everyone involved in Church life to stay alert and always be prepared to listen.

We here in Morningside all have a responsibility to ensure that everyone in our congregation, young and old, feel safe and really are safe.

Trust is at the heart of all of this.

We therefore want to encourage everyone to –

1. Create, maintain and, where relevant, monitor a safe environment for all so that the dignity of each person is respected
2. Be informed about different forms of harm and abuse and how to respond appropriately
3. Make it clear that any harm or abuse is unacceptable.

Before we employ any staff, we make sure that they are in possession of a clear Disclosure Scotland Certificate.

Before any of us start to volunteer in a capacity involving work with children or vulnerable adults, we are cleared through the Disclosure Scotland PVG scheme. Volunteers are then approved, on everyone's behalf, by the kirk session.

A secure register of all cleared volunteers is kept and the Church's safeguarding service keeps us informed of regular training sessions designed to support the work done. The groups covered are the crèche, Sunday school, pastoral care visitors, the Wednesday Club and the Car Rota.

We are immensely grateful to all who volunteer in these groups (including those who give of their time as co-ordinators of them).

One concern that some people face is what to do if they see harm occurring, suspect harm may be occurring, or if someone tells them of harm. If you have any such concerns, speak to one of our safeguarding co-ordinators. If you are worried that someone is at immediate risk, call the police, then contact one of our safeguarding co-ordinators. These problems we are guarding against are very rare but unfortunately they do happen. It is better to speak up if you are concerned. All matters will be dealt with in a wholly confidential way.

Our safeguarding co-ordinators are Paul Cackette (07890 911989 or paul.cackette@hotmail.com) and John Scott Moncrieff (07713 248155 or john.scottmoncrieff@outlook.com).

It goes without saying that any questions that you might have at any time can be raised with us or with our colleague on the safeguarding panel, Doreen Reekie.

NOVEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the November issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 15 October 2021** and it will be available by Sunday 31 October. While restrictions on church opening continue, please email your contributions to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk.

To Autumn

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves
run;
To bend with apples the
moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with
ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and
plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to
set budding more,
And still more, later
flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm
days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy
cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,



by John Keats

Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy
hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined
flowers:
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head
across a brook;
Or by a cyder-press,
with patient look,
Thou watchest the last
oozings hours by hours.
Where are the songs of
spring? Ay, where are
they?
Think not of them, thou
hast thy music too,—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river sallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly
bourn;
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

Minister: Very Revd Dr Derek Browning 447 1617

derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk

Pastoral Assistant: Jacqui Lindsay 07834 364 628

pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Probationer Minister: Dr Conor Fegan 07912 546992 cfegan@churchofscotland.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 9.30am or 10.30am each Sunday or click on the link on our website to join us online either live or at a later date. www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

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