



Magazine

No. 178 December 2022

Dear Friends

As we look back on 2022, what will we recall? The platinum jubilee, and then the sad death of Her late Majesty will loom large. So also the ongoing war in Ukraine. Some will recall the nervous emergence from lockdown restrictions. As we stand on the brink of winter, the long, sultry summer seems a long time ago. Others will think on the political turmoil in the UK and the dozens of Prime Ministers we seem to have gone through!

Our lives will have been peppered with other events, happy and sad, that will make 2022 a year which, by turns, we will want to remember and want to forget.

But it will always be there, and hopefully life's usual blend of bright and shade will be what we see. Put into the perspective of our lives, 2022 may turn out to be no more a good year or a bad year than most others. We will all have had cause to rejoice or lament.

As the years go by, milestones and markers guide us through the months. In the Christian year they help us take in the full wonder of God's continuing, evolving, renewing activity in our lives and the life of the world. Reminding us to reflect and

ponder or decide and act. Seeing in each moment the clear or shadowy presence of God-with-us, Jesus.

If we are honest there are times when Jesus seems or feels far away, even forgotten in our lives. Then there are other times, through music, or words, or baptisms, or Easter, when He seems very

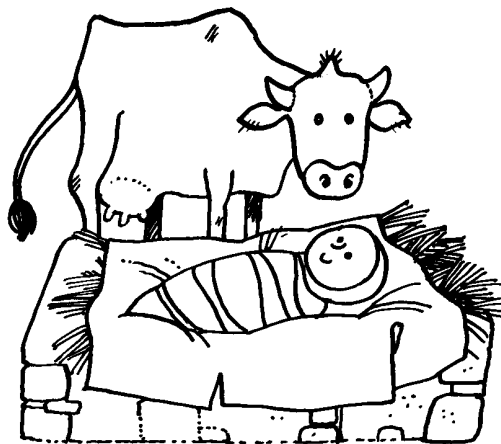
close indeed. For many it may well be that

Christmas is one of those 'present' times with Jesus: the incarnation, God made flesh, hope in our midst, peace in our minds. Even if only for a moment, but enough to keep going on. I know for myself there are times when I need to remind myself of this great

truth; to get over myself and get back to the source, the heart of what I believe and the One in Whom I believe.

In this coming season of Christmas, and in the New Year of 2023 that will unfold soon enough, my prayer for every one of you is for peace, hope, joy and the shimmering presence of Jesus, Who will continue to light the way ahead, and never, ever let us go.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR AT MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH

There are so many events for us to look forward to this coming Christmas time.

The Christmas Tree Festival, our first ever, will see a number of trees in our church from 10 – 14 December. On the Saturday, and then Monday to Wednesday, the Church will be open from 10am to 4pm. Entry is by donation and monies raised will go to our church's charities. We're grateful to local company William Purves (Undertakers) for their generous sponsorship of this event. Please do come along, bring your friends and family, and see our Church as never before!

Sunday 11 December, 10.30am: All Age Family Service, led by the Sunday Club. There is no 9.30am service on this Sunday. Christmas refreshments in the St Matthew Hall after the service.

Wednesday 14 December, 7.30pm, Telephone Choir carol concert: we look forward to this much-loved event, welcoming back the Telephone Choir, and our friends from the Wednesday Men's Club. Come along and enjoy singing some favourite carols and hearing the choir.

Sunday 18 December

9.30am Early Service

10.30am Lessons and Carols Service

3pm Blue Christmas service: a short service for those who find Christmas difficult for whatever reason. We hope to have the 'remembering tree', to which people can add stars with the names of loved ones on them, as part of the service, and there may be refreshments served afterwards.

Christmas Eve, Saturday 24 December

All-Age Christmas Eve service at 6.30pm – a half hour service sharing some of the wonders of Christmas with children of all ages!

Carols by Candlelight – 11pm

Watchnight Service – 11.30pm

Christmas Day Service, Sunday 25 December, 10am A half-hour service on Christmas Day (*please note that even though this is a Sunday, the service is earlier than usual. There will be no 9.30am Early Service on this day*)

New Year's Day

Service, Sunday 1

January 2023, 10.30am

Start the New Year with Morningside Parish Church (*no 9.30am Early Service on this day*)

Sunday 8 January

9.30am Early Service

and 10.30am Morning Worship

We will mark Epiphany, the festival of the kings who visited Jesus.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

10th – 14th December, 10am-4pm (on Sunday 11th during services only)

We hope to see you at what is a new venture for us: a kind of an open day to let the community see our premises; also an opportunity for the public to see what organisations offer in our church, its rooms and in our community.

So far, we have twelve groups who will each decorate a tree in a style that reflects what their organisation does. They might hand out leaflets, give information or encourage the public to support their efforts by joining them or volunteering to help them.

William Purves is our major sponsor and will have a tree, as will the charities our church supports: Edinburgh Clothing Store and the Pad Project. Both Brownie groups and the Guides who meet in our space are involved, as is the Wednesday Club, Morningside Hope, the Sunday Club and the Friends of Morningside Parish Church. Dunedin Dancers, the Open Door and South Morningside School are also participating.

Saturday 10th December will be the main day when, in addition to the trees, we will be offering refreshments (£3 for coffee/tea and a mince pie). We will also have a raffle and a craft fair. Entry to the event itself is free.

We hope for an entertaining display and it would be good to see you there.



MULLED WINE AND FESTIVE FAYRE

Come along after the Morning Service on Sunday 11 December 2022 and enjoy some Festive Fayre in the St Matthews Hall. Everyone will be made very welcome and it will be a lovely opportunity for a chat and catch up. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

The Minister thanking Doreen Reekie as she retires from managing the Wednesday Coffee Morning

Edinburgh:Morningside Parish Church of Scotland: Scottish Charity No: SC034396

NOVEMBER KIRK SESSION

From its meeting in November:

Presbytery Reform: The Moderator reported that Presbytery would meet on 15 November. 3 members from each congregation have been cited to attend and it is hoped to get agreement at that meeting to the whole Presbytery Plan. There are 9 Mission Districts in the Presbytery. Most objections appear to be about the future of buildings. The Principal Clerk has pointed out that approval of a Presbytery plan is only the start of the process and implementation may result in some tweaking of proposals. It is possible that a review can be called for by a dissatisfied congregation but the appeal can only be considered if it can be demonstrated that the process was flawed.

The Moderator advised that he had met the ministers of Fairmilehead and St John's Colinton Mains and plans soon to meet the new interim Moderator for Greenbank and the new Associate about to be ordained at Greenbank.

(Subsequent to the Kirk Session, the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian approved its Mission Plan on 15 November, and it has now been sent to the central Church authorities for consideration.)

Pastoral Committee – Doreen Reekie, Convener, advised that a Pastoral Visitors Group meeting had been held, an opportunity for them to report on their visits. There has been a number of deaths amongst those visited but arrangements have been made for new people to be visited.

The convener has delivered ten Welcome Packs which takes a lot of time to achieve.

After 12 years Doreen has handed over the management of the Wednesday coffee mornings to David Calder and Lesley Murphy. She wishes them well and hoped that Session would continue to support them. The Moderator thanked Doreen for her years of service in this role and reported at the last Wednesday coffee morning Doreen had been presented with flowers and a special cake had been shared with those attending. He suggested that Wednesday coffee morning was an incarnation of what MPC aspires to - being friendly, welcoming and inclusive and now attracts attendance from church members, the community, patients from the Royal Edinburgh and visited by the Community Police recognising it as a community group. The thanks of the Session were expressed in a spontaneous round of applause.

Outreach – Kim Milne, Convener reminded Session that it was our practice to support three charities - the Church, the Edinburgh Clothing Store and for a two year period a third charity, currently the Pad Project. However, because of Covid restrictions the sums raised had been significantly lower and she suggested, and Session agreed, that sponsorship of the Pad Project should continue for a third year.

Warm Hub – the Kirk Session is considering the possibility of our Church being open as a 'Warm Hub'. There are many issues needing to be considered about how this might be done. It would be over and above what is effectively a Warm Hub at the regular Wednesday coffee morning. The Session will continue consideration in December.



ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to our newest member:

Ms Morag Shankland.

Please remember in your prayers the friends of
Miss Margaret Guild who died on 16 October 2022.

FLOWER COMMITTEE

The flowers in November have been donated and will be arranged as follows:-

		Donated by	Arranged by
Dec	4	Liz Clapham	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
	11	CHRISTMAS	Arranged by the Flower Committee
	18	CHRISTMAS	Arranged by the Flower Committee
	25	CHRISTMAS	Arranged by the Flower Committee
Jan	1	CHRISTMAS	Arranged by the Flower Committee



The new flower list for 2023 is now available on the vestibule noticeboard. At the time of writing, dates remain to be filled in January, February, April, May, July, August, October and November.

If you would like to supply flowers one Sunday, please put your name and phone number against your chosen date. The cost remains at £45. Cheques should be made payable to 'Morningside Parish Church Flower Fund' or payment can be made by bank transfer if preferred. If you are a UK taxpayer and can give by Gift Aid, please fill in one of the Gift Aid envelopes or advise me if you have registered with the Gift Aid Convener. Monies can be given to a member of the Committee, put in the Flower Committee pigeon hole or sent to the church office clearly marked for the Flower Fund. Please contact me direct on 0131 449 2866; e-mail: irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com if you require details to make a bank transfer.

Do you have a talent for, or would like to try your hand at, flower arranging? You will have noticed over the past year that the majority of our displays are now in vases as opposed to the pedestals we used previously. We are always delighted to welcome new members to join our team - men are also welcome if they have an artistic flair. If you would like to join us, or want to come along and see what it entails, please come and speak to myself or any other members of the Flower Committee on a Sunday morning. Training and guidance can be given if required.

Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee



Morningside Hope



This is the umbrella name that we're using for the projects being made possible by the generous grant received from TOR Christian Foundation and the matched funding from the church itself.

If you're like me, it's helpful to have dates in the diary well in advance so below are some of the activities that will be happening in December 2022 and then into 2023 with dates and times.

Music and Memories in Morningside 2- 4pm in the Cluny Hall

Final dates for 2022: Monday 5 & Friday 16 December:

Exercise Classes for those with dementia and their carers/partners.

The class itself will last 40-45 minutes, followed by tea, coffee and the chance to chat.

Monday Afternoons in the Cluny Hall, 2-4pm

Final date in 2022: 12 December

Games Afternoon: open to **everyone**, these afternoons are a chance to meet up with friends old and new, play our favourite board games, jigsaws etc. and have a coffee and a catch up. They will run once a month on a **Wednesday Afternoon.** 2-4pm

Final date in 2022: 14 December

2023 DATES:

HEART FOR ART: workshops for those with dementia and their partners/carers

Held every Tuesday in St Matthews' Hall 11am - 1pm

Start Date: 10 January



MUSIC AND MEMORIES IN MORNINGSIDE workshops for those with dementia and their partners/carers Held in the Cluny Hall 2- 4pm

January: Monday 9 Friday 27 February: Monday 6 Friday 24

March: Monday 6 Friday 24 April: Monday 3 Friday 21

May: Monday 8 Friday 26 June: Monday 5 Friday 23

July: Monday 3 Friday 21 Monday 31



Interested in attending? Please come along to any of the above, you will be made most welcome.

To offer help, or if you are simply **interested in finding out a little bit more**, just contact our Pastoral Assistant, Jacqui Lindsay on: 07834 364 628 or e mail:

pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

THE OPEN DOOR

The Open Door was founded 40 years ago by Peggy Hunter with the support of the Morningside Churches. Morningside Parish Church has always had representation on the organisation's Board of Trustees. For a long time it was Helen Buist. I, Euan Murray, took Helen's place in 2014 at the invitation of our minister, Derek Browning. At the AGM of The Open Door at the end of October this year, Nigel Griffiths stood down as Chair and I took his place.

For all of our 40 years, The Open Door has been at the heart of the Morningside community, reducing isolation and loneliness through friendship, support and love. It is heavily reliant on volunteers. At the beginning, everyone was a volunteer and it was two years before we employed our first paid member of staff.

The pandemic changed things a lot. We were closed for 17 months and when we re-opened it was initially a bit on-and-off. During that time, our pool of volunteers shrank enormously because people were no longer able - or were still reluctant - to go out. We are currently nowhere near up to strength in volunteers.

So, The Open Door invites you to consider volunteering with us - and please also ask people you know - volunteering with a friend is even better than being on your own!

And I know you'll enjoy it too - it's fulfilling, worthwhile and fun. The Open Door has a sign up on the wall which says "Care, Love, Laughter" and a lot of laughter comes from our volunteers.

If you'd like to learn more about volunteering at The Open Door, please contact me either by phone on 07702 092174 or by email to euanmurray@me.com Alternatively, call in at The Open Door at 420 Morningside Road, or phone 0131 447 9757 or email hello@thopendoor.org.uk and ask for Simon Warr who is the Operational Manager.

I hope you'll contact us about becoming one of our fantastic volunteers.



Some of George Heriot's School Chamber Choir after their Morningside Hope concert on 26 November 2022

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



THE LOCAL ECUMENICAL SERVICE for the
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

on FRIDAY 3RD MARCH 2023

will be held in Morningside Parish Church at 10.30 am

This service has been written by Christian women of Taiwan, on the theme:

“I have heard about your faith”

(from St Paul’s letter to Ephesians 1:15).

Anyone who would like to be involved in the preparations, please contact Marie Ogilvie during December, by email: marieogilvie@btinternet.com, or by telephone: 668 1759

LIFE + WORK – December issue

‘Come Closer’

Life in Israel/Palestine as Christmas approaches

‘God Has Given Us All Talents’

The life and faith of award-winning environmental campaigner Maureen Potter

Small Seeds

The Annual Gathering of the Church of Scotland Guild

At the Heart of Scotland’s Christian Heritage

In his final article of the series, John R Hume reflects on the history of Christianity at Whithorn, Wigtownshire.

Christian Living Starts at Home

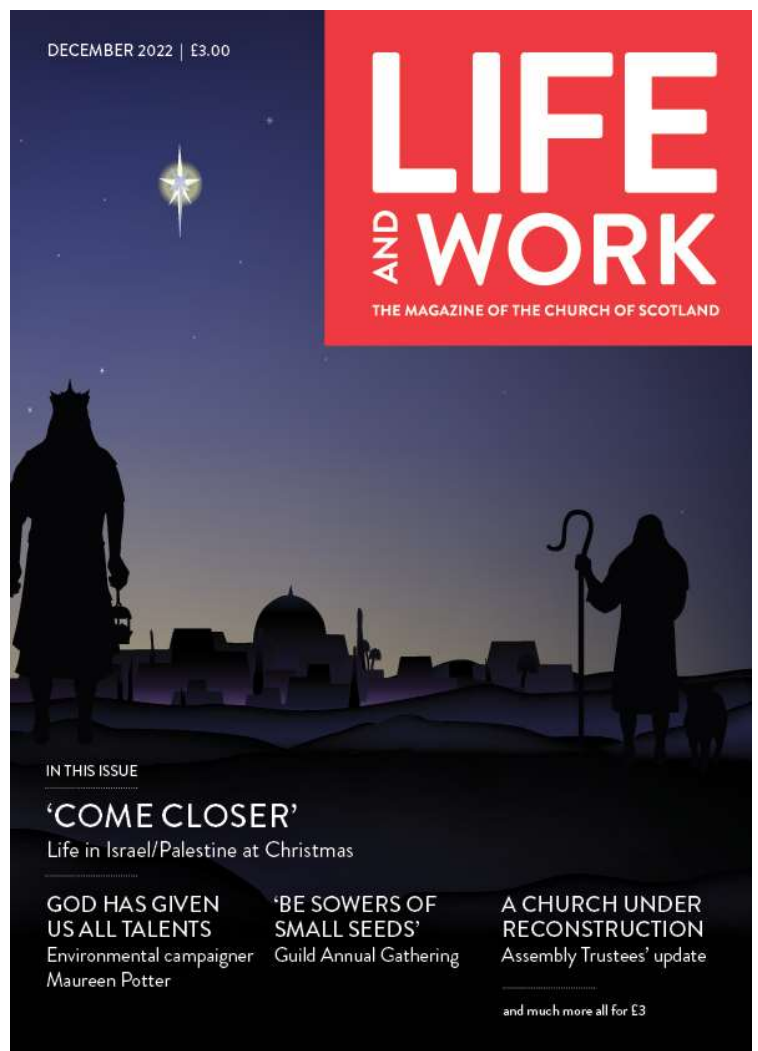
The Very Rev Dr Martin Fair explains why Christian life begins with those closest.

Where God Has Gone Before

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers emphasises the importance of transforming the Church of Scotland for the future.

Plus

News, letters, readers’ pictures, crosswords and registers



TWO CHOIR SCHOLARS INTRODUCE THEMSELVES:



Bass Robin Pillinger: Whilst not at Morningside Parish, Robin works as a Research Practitioner in the Anne Rowling Regenerative Neurology Clinic, where he helps research studies investigating neurodegenerative disorders, particularly multiple sclerosis, and motor neuron disease. Having graduated from Edinburgh University with a masters in Psychological Research, Robin continues to be part of the University Brass Band, the University Chamber Choir, and (weather permitting!) wakeboards with the University Wakeboarding Society. Having had an organ scholarship at Queens' College, Cambridge, Robin is most grateful to Morningside Parish for allowing him to continue to enjoy choral music in a wonderful church.

We hope to have introductions from other choir scholars in the next magazine.

Mezzo soprano Larissa Lourenço: In her free time when she's not singing, she plays viola, piano and clarsach and takes part in various orchestras. She is currently in her fourth year at the junior course at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and takes part in all choirs and orchestras that she can there. She was brought up in a multi-lingual household as her father is Portuguese and her mother is Turkish, which has helped fuel her love for languages as Larissa studied Spanish and Italian to higher level. When she's not doing something musical she enjoys going to watch shows/plays/operas and baking with her family. Right now Larissa is in sixth year doing Advanced Highers as well as having auditions for conservatoires for next year to study vocal studies.



FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

Material for the February issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 20 January 2023** and it will be available by Sunday 5 February. Please email your contributions to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk. Please note that there is no magazine in January.

Merry Christmas – Good Will to Men – Christmas in Six Languages

Dorothy Brown Thompson

At Christmas, when old
friends are meeting,
We give that long-loved
joyous greeting –
'Merry Christmas!'

While hanging sheaves
for winter birds
Friends in Norway call
the words,
'God Jul!'

With wooden shoes
ranged on the hearth,
Dutch celebrators cry their mirth,
'Vrolyk Kerstfeest!'

In France, that land of courtesy,
Our welcome to our guests would be,
'Joyeux Noël!'



Enshrining Christmas in
her art,
Italy cries from a full
heart,
'Buon Natale!'

When in the land of
Christmas trees,
Old Germany, use words
like these –
*'Fröliche
Weihnachten!'*

Though each land names a different
name,
Good will rings through each wish the
same –
'Merry Christmas!'

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 Administrator: 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