



Magazine

No. 189 March 2024

Dear Friends

It has long been understood that people find worship easier at Christmas than Holy Week and Easter. Despite the challenges of childbirth in less-than-ideal circumstances, homelessness, refugee status, and the state-sanctioned murder of children by Herod, a soft-focus image of Christmas sits more comfortably with many people, inside and outside the Church. Holy Week and Easter are different. The sharp, jaggedness of the events of Holy Week; the themes of betrayed trust, cowardice, unjust accusations at an unfair trial, the brutality around an innocent life and an unspeakable public execution and miserable death are not easy to stomach. To say nothing of the bleak emptiness of the 'nothing' day of Holy Saturday where the world of faith froze. Followed by the hopeful/hard to understand questions around resurrection and Easter.

Yet we are an Easter people, and, eventually, Hallelujah is our song. Whether we feel like it or not. Whether we have some grasp of what resurrection and new life and new beginning means, or not. It simply will not go away and, like Jesus Himself, it refuses to die.

After a sermon a few weeks ago I was asked at the Church door if I was optimistic about the state of the world, the state of politics, the state of the Church. It didn't take me too long on my fingers to count why I was pessimistic about all of these! And yet, and yet...

I am optimistic about faith and its people. I am optimistic that the person of Jesus, and what

He has to say, and what He came to do, has, still does, and will always, make a difference in this world, in your lives, and my life. I am optimistic that despite **everything**, there is still hope in going on. It may be a hard slog. We might not always see where the road is going to take us. We might have doubts about how we will continue. But time after time those little remembrances of hope, those acts of inexplicable kindness, those corners turned on a long road, those things that though small, when added up, in their totality mean so much more than we could ever compute.

The apostle Paul writes about being a fool for Christ. Is there foolishness in our faith, believing in a dead man coming to life, believing a voice could speak in the coolness of an Easter garden from beyond the grave, believing Thomas could touch the wounds, believing two disciples could walk with Jesus on the Road to Emmaus? Perhaps.

But faith is based on hope and trust and imagination, and the engagement of our minds, hearts and all our senses. I find that the mixture of story, wondering, doubting and believing enriches my faith; and the belief that I cannot work it all out by myself because I do not control the story, I experience it and try to live out its meaning. It is enough, sometimes barely enough, sometimes more than enough, to get me through each day.

A Happy and Blessed Easter to you all.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

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

WORSHIP NOTES

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The next Communion will be on 3rd March at 9.30am (in the chancel) and 10.30am – the annual all-age communion service. The theme will be 'His disciples remembered.' Children are invited to take part in this communion service, and a crèche will also be provided in the Braid Hall.



Holy Week (25th – 29th March) will be hosted by Greenbank Church. The theme will be, 'Place'. The **Holy Saturday** service of music and readings will be in Morningside Parish Church on 30th March. All of these services will be at 7.30pm.

Easter Day is Sunday 31st March at 10.30am. There will be no 9.30am service that day as it is good, on the most important day of the Christian year, that we all share in worship together.

BELIEVING AND BELONGING

Would you like to explore, or re-explore, some of the questions of faith and doubt, what it means to be a Christian, or ask questions that have always been on your mind about what Christians believe but never quite got round to it? The Believing and Belonging series might be for you! A thoughtful and reflective three evening gathering in March, on Wednesdays 6th, 13th, 20th at 7.30pm in the St Andrew Room.

The three topics for study:

1. *Who is Jesus?*
2. *Learning to love.*
3. *But what about...?*

Believing and Belonging is open to people of all ages, to those who might be thinking about becoming part of the Church, to those who want to top up their faith, and to those who simply have questions they want to explore. Come along if you're interested, or if you know someone who might want to take their questions about faith further, do let them know.

Contact the Minister for further details.

T 0131 447 1617, email derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk

LENT STUDIES 2024: THE ART OF LENT

A few years ago as part of our Holy Week services we looked at different images relating to faith which helped guide our worship. The Minister will be leading two studies in March, one in the St Andrew Room on Tuesday 12th March at 11am, and the other on Thursday 14th March at the Manse (20 Braidburn Crescent, EH10 6EN) at 7.30pm which will look at different works of visual art that have something to say to us about our faith. All are welcome to attend either or both of these events.

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KIRK SESSION NOTES

The Kirk Session met in February:

Presbytery Reform – The Moderator advised that there had been a further meeting of the four churches in our group with Presbytery representatives. It would appear that there has been some movement in thought by Presbytery and further consultation including with the Principal Clerk and PIMPG. Pressure was put on the Presbytery representatives that they agree to try for proposals in time to be put to a Deployment of Resources Committee meeting on 6 March which could be conveyed in writing to all four congregations. It is hoped that there might be more concrete proposals to discuss at the next meeting of Session.

Education Committee – Kenny Robertson, Convenor, reported that the committee had most recently met in January 2024, with a continued focus on (1) Sunday club and engagement with younger people generally; and (2) adult education.

The Committee continues to discuss exploring ways in which engagement with younger families could be strengthened through increasing awareness and visibility of Sunday Club activities. There may be collaboration opportunities with other churches, which the Committee will continue to keep an eye on.

Children continue to feed back that they enjoy their more visible role in readings and prayers, albeit the lower numbers can result in a restricted number of families being relied upon at present. Children at Sunday Club may, going forward, be invited to contribute to the content of the prayers they read on a Sunday, to further strengthen engagement and participation.

The Nativity play was a highlight for the Sunday Club children, who all enjoyed taking part along with some braver grown-up members of the congregation. Crèche remains available for very young children, albeit at present babies and toddlers tend to remain in Church for the service.

The Committee wishes to extend its gratitude formally to Norma and Rona, both of whom invest huge amounts of un-seen time and energy to make Sunday Club an educational, fun and engaging experience for the children.

Separately, members of the Committee continue to be engaged in adult education through support for activities such as the Autumn lectures and Lent studies.

Worship Committee - Douglas Paterson, Convenor, reported that the year since the last Worship report to Session has largely borne out the encouraging signs evident in February 2023 of continuing recovery from the stresses of the Covid period. The committee was also happy to welcome Jennifer Rimer as a new member.

It was noted that numbers attending the 10.30am service were back to previous levels with no evidence of a 'summer dip' and there was a noticeable number of people attending who have no affiliation to our church. There was particular praise for the contribution of choir and organist and pleasure in the participation of young people whether in offering prayers and helping with the offering or the always much anticipated Christmas presentation.

The numbers regularly attracted to the live-streaming of our service were encouraging. The 9.30am service continues to prove attractive to a significant number, the more intimate space and less formal approach being particularly valued by those attending. Services such as the Remembering Service and Blue Christmas continued to answer a need and were much appreciated by those who attend.

Health & Safety – Moira Clark, Convenor, reported that the weight and design of the white topped tables were a problem and the tables were also showing signs of wear. Replacements had been

identified. All recommended that they were a suitable replacement, being lighter and easier to carry and put up and a quotation for 20 had been obtained. Session approved the purchase.

Social Committee – Fiona Stimpson, Convenor, reported that one of the wall mounted urns in the kitchen was no longer functioning and could not be repaired. A second urn was essential to service larger events. A quotation had been obtained and Session approved the purchase.

Presbytery Elders' Report –The Clerk reported that a meeting of Presbytery took place on 6 February. Amongst the business covered was the installation of the new Moderator, the Revd Andrea Price of St Michael's Church.

Presbytery Plan – A great deal of routine business was speedily dealt with, again by far the greatest proportion of the business arising from the consequences of the Presbytery Plan.

Authority was given for a number of redundant manses and other church buildings to be sold.

The union of Gracemount, Liberton, Liberton Northfield, and Tron Kirk (Moredun/Gilmerton) in a team ministry was approved (without Reid Memorial whose future is still under discussion). The new congregation will be known as the South East Edinburgh Church.

The union was also approved between Leith North and South Leith Parish Churches in future to be known as North and South Leith Parish Church.

A linkage was approved between Armadale and Blackridge.

Intimation was given for the Union service of The New Town Church in the former St Andrew's & St George's West Church.

The Revd Peter Nelson of St John's Colinton Mains has been appointed as one of the Presbytery Chaplains (who have a pastoral role for Ministers).

Commissioners for the General Assembly 2024 will include the Moderator and the Clerk.

FLOWER LIST

The flowers in March were donated and arranged as follows:-

		Donated by	Arranged by
Mar	3	Kenny Robertson	Joan Burnett
	10	Barry & Helen Hughes	Eleanor Watt
	17	Liz Clapham	Penny Graham & Liz Munro
	24	Hazel Nicolson	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
	31	EASTER	Flower Committee



The cost is £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 put in the Flower Committee pigeon hole, given to me on a Sunday or sent to the church office clearly marked for my attention. If you would prefer to pay by bank transfer, please contact me direct for bank details for the Flower Fund on irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com ; Tel: 449 2866.

Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT HAS BEEN MOVED TO SEPTEMBER

We have not forgotten about Fairtrade Fortnight!

A decision was made to move this annual event from February to September (9th-22nd in 2024), as part of the celebrations for the 30th anniversary of the launch of the Fairtrade Mark.

Please remember that at Morningside Parish Church we renewed our commitment to being a Fairtrade Church in 2020.

You already appreciate the Fairtrade coffee served after our services on Sunday, and on Wednesday mornings, and at all Morningside Hope events.

Providers of refreshments for Church organisations, please remember to use Fairtrade tea and coffee at least. These are widely available now. This commitment provides support for fair wages and better working conditions, local sustainability, and fairer terms of trade for farmers and workers.



ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers:

Mrs Joan Macaskill, who died on 31 January 2024, and

Mrs Sheila Haggart, who died on 8 February 2024.

LIFE + WORK – MARCH 2024

‘Our Ultimate Freedom’: Easter reflection from the Moderator

Being Mum: The gifts – and challenges – of motherhood

Lifesavers at Sea: The 200th anniversary of the RNLI

Cathedral Celebrations: Milestone anniversaries for two of Scotland’s historic cathedrals

Presbytery Focus: The Presbytery of Glasgow

View from the Pulpit: The Very Rev Dr Russell Barr describes the shoots of hope found at parish churches in Fife.

‘My Life Has Been Changed’: An overseas student describes how he embraced faith while studying in Glasgow.

Regulars

The Very Rev Dr Martin Fair on ministry recruitment

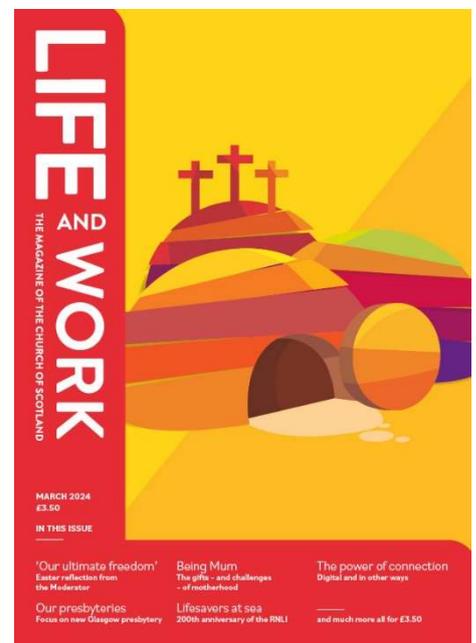
The Rev Roddy Hamilton on worship

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church

Bible Study by the Very Rev Dr Colin Sinclair

My Church: Kirsty Thomson of Edinburgh: Holy Trinity Church.





Morningside Hope



This is the umbrella name for the projects made possible by the generous grant received from TOR Christian Foundation and additional funding from the church itself.

For more details, contact our Pastoral Assistant, Jacqui Lindsay, on: 07834 364 628 or e-mail: pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

2024 DATES:

HEART FOR ART: workshops for those with dementia and their partners/carers
Held every Tuesday in the St Matthew's Hall 11am - 1pm



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

March:	Monday 4 th	Friday 22 nd	May:	Monday 13 th	Friday 31 st
April:	Monday 8 th	Friday 19 th	June:	Monday 10 th	Friday 28 th
	Monday 29 th		July:	Monday 8 th	Monday 22 nd

GENTLE EXERCISE CLASSES Dementia friendly but **open to all 60+**.

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

Held on Mondays in the Cluny Hall 2-4pm (No classes in July or August)

11th & 25th March 15th April 6th & 20th May 3rd & 17th June

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.

Held once a month on a Wednesday afternoon, 2-4pm

13th March 17th April 15th May 19th June (No games July & August)

ANIMAL AFTERNOONS:

Tuesday 16th April Therapy ponies 2-4pm Wednesday May 8th Alpacas 2pm

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERTS

We offer 4 dementia friendly concerts each year. Open to all, this will be a varied programme. Our next concert is on: Saturday 25th May, 2pm and we look forward to an afternoon of **Traditional Scots** music.

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

Interested in volunteering? If you would like to help with any of these activities please get in touch, we need a lot of willing hands to enable this exciting project to happen.

Or simply interested in finding out more, contact our Pastoral Assistant Jacqui Lindsay on 07834 364 628 or e mail: pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

PASTORAL SKILLS COURSE, an Introduction

This course will run over two evenings, Tuesdays 19 and 26 March 2024

Caring for one another is the responsibility of each and every one of us and so we are offering a brief introduction to Pastoral Skills running from **6 –9.30pm each evening**, hopefully starting with a light supper.

There is a maximum of 16 places on the course and it is **open to anyone** interested in finding out a bit more about pastoral care, without the necessity of making any commitment beyond the course itself.

The course will look at topics such as:

- Communication & listening skills.
- Self-awareness & self-care
- Boundaries and why they matter.
- Dementia

The training will be hands on/experiential in nature and the aim, to make it an enjoyable experience for those attending. There is no charge for the training and CPD certificates will be provided.

Some feedback from participants:

- *“It has helped a great deal in improving my ability to listen to others.”*
- *“The input on dementia was excellent, thank you!”*
- *“I really enjoyed working alongside other people on the course, most enjoyable.”*
- *“The course was well structured, a good balance between doing and listening.”*

Venue: Morningside Parish Church, 2 Cluny Gardens, Edinburgh EH10 6BQ

To book your place or simply find out a bit more, contact Jacqui Lindsay on 07834 364 628

Or e-mail her at: pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk



Help to carry one another's burdens.

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

BACK TO BASICS WITH NUTRITION - A TALK BY DR NEIL MILLIKEN

We are delighted that Dr Neil Milliken has agreed to give us a talk on nutrition in March this year.

Neil initially trained as a dentist then as a medical GP. Over the last 20 years he has retrained again as a naturopath, treating chronic disease with safe, natural approaches, delving into the deeper causation of illness and the use kinesiology, (muscle testing), nutrition and hands-on therapies as a way of addressing these illnesses.

Monday 18th March: 2.30 – 3.30pm, in St Mathews' Hall

The talk itself will last 30 – 40 mins. There will be time for questions and then teas and coffees will be served for those who wish to partake.

Entry is free, donations are welcome. All donations will go towards the work of Morningside Hope.

THE PONIES ARE COMING!

The therapeutic benefits of spending time with animals have long been understood, being with animals does us good.

With that in mind, we have arranged a very special visit from some therapy ponies, giving us a chance to pet, feed and generally enjoy the company of these gentle, gorgeous animals. You would be very welcome to join us on:

Tuesday 16th April in the St Matthews Hall, 2 - 4pm. We may even be able to stretch to a cup of tea, but for us, not them 😊

Entry is by donation; all donations will go towards our Morningside Hope project.



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MUSICAL NOTES



Emily and Thomas

We are always fortunate with the high standard of our choir scholars. Here two of our sopranos, an alto and one of our tenors introduce themselves.

My name is Emily and I am currently in S6 at George Heriot's. This year I am doing my Advanced Highers in Geography, Spanish and Music. I love music and currently sing in the National Youth Choir of Scotland and my school's Chamber Choir as well as playing violin in various orchestras and groups. I also play the piano. In September, I am going to Aberdeen University to study Law and Music which I am really looking forward to. I am loving singing with the Morningside Parish Church choir and know that my grandfather, the late Rev David MacFarlane of Peebles Old Parish Church, would be proud.

I'm Thomas Raghavan Eddleston and I'm 17 years old. I've have lived in Edinburgh my whole life.

I began singing when I was around 8 when I started at St Mary's Music school. I sang with the cathedral choir there as a chorister for 5 years before my voice broke in my last year. Since then, I've been attending Fettes college with a music scholarship. Next year I'm planning to go to Berklee college of music in Boston, Massachusetts with a scholarship to study composition and singing.

I've really enjoyed my time here at Morningside Parish Church. I've found it a really fulfilling experience to get back into the swing of choral music once again.

My name is Méabh Downey, I am 20 years old and originally from Newry, Northern Ireland though I have now been based in Edinburgh for the last year and a half. I am a second-year music student at the University of Edinburgh.

I have been a member of the National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland since I was 13 and am also a member of their elite Chamber Choir. I have taken part in the Northern Ireland Young Musician of the Year where I have been a finalist multiple times. I am very excited to be singing with the Morningside Parish Church choir this year!



Méabh



My name's Olivia McCormack and I'm 18 years old. I grew up in Edinburgh and I'm currently taking a year out between school and university, where I hope to study English Literature and Film.

I've always enjoyed choral singing and was a member of a number of choirs at school, including the chamber choir, as well as singing with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain. I also play the flute and piano, and I am currently working as a piano teacher at a local music school.

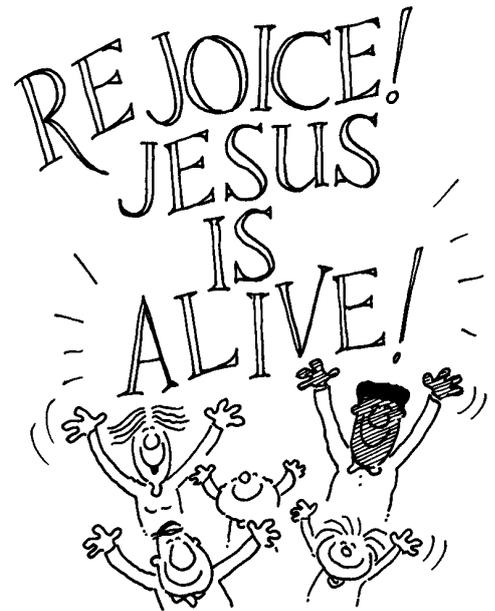
Olivia

APRIL MAGAZINE

Material for the April issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 22 March 2024** and it will be available by Sunday 7 April. Contributions should be emailed to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk or left in her church pigeonhole.

Christ and the Disciples at Emmaus Rainer Maria Rilke

*Not yet by his gait, although strangely assured
He walked toward them, ready to join them on their way;
And though he stepped across the dwelling's threshold
More solemn than they did in their manliness;
Not yet, as they chose places round the table,
Placing upon it a simple fare of this and that,
And he, at ease, relaxed, unhurriedly let rest
Upon them his observing eyes:
Not even now, as they were seated and hospitably
Began to get acquainted with each other,
And he reached for the bread with his beautiful
Hesitating hands, proceeding to break the loave,
That they – like sudden shock affects an unsuspecting
crowd –
Were overwhelmed with fear and with tremendous awe –
For now, at last, with eyesight clearing, as he
Dispelled the tension in the room by offering:
They recognized him! And shaken, jumping to their feet,
Stood there, bent, and filled with anxious love.*



*Then, as they saw him staying, hands outstretched in giving,
They tremblingly reached for the offered bread.*

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A happy Easter to all our readers!