



# Magazine

No. 192 June 2024

Dear Friends

One of the moments I enjoy most in our Sunday services (and there are many) is when one of our young people comes forward to read the opening prayer. I enjoy writing the prayer for them, trying to imagine what they might want to say, and how they might want to say it. Choosing the right words, and shaping them into a prayerful moment not only for the young person reading but also for the whole congregation. I fondly hope that by including our young people in worship in this way, as well as encouraging them to add their 'stand and deliver' methodology to collecting the offering (!), we plant seeds of faith and belief which will in later years grow into an adult faith of their own. The experience of being involved in worship, however small, can be transformative. We play our own small part in the offering of worship which we make to God.

I remember as a 7 year old choir boy singing a solo part in Hugh S Robertson's 'All in the April Evening' in St Mungo's, Penicuik, and being told, "Do your very best, it's for God, you know!" Which could have been a heavy burden to bear, but somehow it caught my young imagination and, when I came into ministry years later, that concept of doing my

best because it is for God comes back to me again and again. When I fail and when I succeed, it is for me an encouragement.

Sunday worship is only one way in which we can make a contribution to God's Kingdom on earth today. There can be times it feels like a huge burden, with so much needing to be

done. But I hope also for those who are active in their faith in practical ways, in spiritual ways like prayer, there is also that sense of enormous privilege.

It's not hard to imagine the delight of God as we bring our best and offer it up, when we have tried, and very often succeeded in doing the right thing at the right time and in the right spirit.

Which is why it is so important to encourage our young people to begin on this road of serving and being involved, and maybe, just maybe, planting words of faith in their lives that will be warmed by the positive encouragement of the congregation. May it also be the same for those in their adult years, that sense of involvement in whatever we do for church and community. "Do your very best, it's for God, you know!"

Have a wonderful, peace-filled Summer.

*Very Revd Dr Derek Browning*



## KIRK SESSION NEWS

### **The Kirk Session met in May:**

**Presbytery Reform** – The Moderator advised that since Session last met there had been no further discussion, but a meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May between ministerial representatives and the Session Clerks from each of Morningside, Greenbank and Fairmilehead and the Revd Dr Stewart Weaver, Convenor and Jane Smart a member of the Deployment of Resources Committee of the Presbytery.

The Moderator reported that the Revd Julia Cato had finished as Associate at Greenbank, and the Revd Ian Gilmour will act as locum, and the Revd Moira Macdonald will take over from the Revd Dorothy Anderson as Interim Moderator.

Robert Armour who is on the Presbytery's Deployment of Resources Committee advised that progress was being made with the plan and many unions and linkages were progressing. The whole plan will be reviewed later this year when not only will any necessary adjustments be made but proposed Mission Plans will be reviewed.

The Moderator reminded Session that these difficult adjustments were necessary because of the shortage of ministers – it is known that over 50% of ministers are over 60, and 2% over 70.

### **Health & Safety Committee – Moira Clark Convenor reported -**

**The risk assessments** in place are being reviewed at present to ensure they are relevant and complete. **The Health and Safety plan** has been updated and Fire Plan will also be reviewed. The annual walk round of the building has been completed, as has the fire Risk assessment, and several issues have been identified that need addressed.

### **As ever, Health and Safety concerns us all**

**Church Security and pending Legislative Changes** – The General Trustees have alerted us to a new U.K. Parliamentary bill regarding security of church buildings. Martyn's Law, as it is being referred to, concerns the ongoing security and control measures within places of worship, under the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill 2023. Although the legislation is still currently within its final consultation period, the supplementary additions to the church security sections aim to ensure that presbytery and congregations can suitably access the training material and government guidance and evaluate the security at their buildings and start to put in place their localised policies and procedures. Overall, we appear to be in many respects compliant, but possible training requirements and present practices will require to be reviewed.

**Communication** – In her absence, Isobel Paterson had submitted a report advising that the Communications Group proposed that a **Christmas Tree Festival** be held from Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am - 2.00pm. People who have decorated trees will be invited to do so again but some may wish to "take a break" this year. William Purves, local undertakers, have again agreed to pay for the trees.

She advised that this is not primarily a fundraising event, but the Session's agreement was sought, and given, that any money raised be split between the **Palestine Children's Relief Fund** and the **Wednesday Club**.

**Stewardship & Finance** – the leaflet relating to a Review of Giving had been sent to the printers and arrangements were in hand to mail it to members. The cost of mailing has been donated.

**Wednesday Club for the Disabled** – Charles Wilson had circulated a full history of the club since its inception in 1956. As well as meetings at the church, traditionally the Club has provided a summer holiday for the men. For many years the holiday was for a week but over the years and largely as a

result of changes in legislation relating to the requirements needed for transport and accommodation of disabled people it has been reduced to day outings. Specialised transport is needed and was formerly provided, free of charge, by the City of Edinburgh Council both for the meetings at the church and for the summer trips. However, in 2023, a change in Council policy saw the withdrawal of transport for community groups. Since their inception, the outings have been provided to the members free of charge; the cost of admission to the venues, and catering costs have been covered by Club funds derived from the grant from Morningside Parish Church (£650 since 2003), a retiring collection taken after the June Communion (variable amount) and the proceeds of the fund-raising Carol Concert performed by The Edinburgh Telephone Choir in December each year (variable amount). As the Club is now having to pay for the transport for the outings, is incurring escalating costs in catering and is being faced with increasing admission fees, the Session was asked and agreed to an increase in the grant from £650 to £800.

**Presbytery Elder's report** - A meeting of Presbytery took place on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**Presbytery Plan** – A great deal of routine but necessary business was speedily dealt with, again, by far the greatest proportion of the business arising from the consequences of the Presbytery Plan including – **Authority was given for the sale of redundant manses and the purchase of replacements compliant with the necessary C rated EPC (Energy Performance Certificate).**

The union of **Colinton & Juniper Green** was approved. The new congregation will be known as the Pentland Parish Church.

**The Revd Julia Cato**, formerly Associate Minister at Greenbank, has been called to serve as minister of the Northwest Kirk (formerly Cramond and Old Kirk & Muirhouse) and will be inducted on 30<sup>th</sup> May.

A new united charge of **Craigmillar Park, Mayfield Salisbury and Priestfield** is proposed (the name for the new congregation yet to be approved). The Kirk Session of Reid Memorial having voted against joining this grouping are now in conversations with the Deployment Committee who hope to bring proposals for an amendment to the Presbytery Mission Plan to a future meeting of the Presbytery later this year

**The Revd Daniel Carmichael** has been appointed as Depute Clerk to the Presbytery from 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024

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## WORSHIP NOTES

**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper** will be shared on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 9.30am and 10.30am** in the Church. At the 10.30am service, the Minister will conduct the service, and we will welcome back as our guest preacher the **Revd Dr Conor Fegan**, Minister of Markinch in Fife. Conor spent his probationary period with us during the Covid Pandemic, and consequently hardly ever got to see the whole congregation during his time because of Lockdown. It will be good to welcome him back to preach.

### Choral Evensong

The choir will present a service of Choral Evensong on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm in the Church. All donations will go to fund our ongoing choral scholarships.





## DAVID CALDER - A TRIBUTE

The death of David Calder, one of our most active and much-loved elders, came as a great shock to everyone in the congregation and wider Morningside Parish Church family. It is hard to imagine Church life without his warm and cheery smile. Amongst the most persistent words to describe him has been, 'jolly'. He was such a positive, helpful, caring and supportive human being.

Born in Edinburgh, educated at South Morningside Primary School, he went on to become a proud Watsonian. Thereafter he happily went out into what he called 'the University of Life'. He was a devoted son and brother, and a loving husband to Kim. David was not only well-known in Church, he was also a kenspeckle figure in Morningside, and enjoyed frequenting his 'office and meeting room' at the conspiratorial table (as he called it) at the Canny Man's.

In our Church you would often see him walking at speed along the Braid Hall corridor on a Sunday morning, making it in time, just for the 9.30am Early Service. Or he would be found at the back of the sanctuary controlling the iPad as one of the team who help us broadcast our 10.30am service. As well as his elder duties (he was a diligent and endlessly helpful and kind district elder), David served on the Kirk Session's Worship, Social and Outreach Committees. At all events where we served wine, David as our licensee was always to hand, making sure glasses were kept appropriately filled. He, along with the Minister, conducted a 'tasting' for the wine we serve at Communion, which was a fairly extensive piece of research!

David helped with the Wednesday Club, Morningside Hope, all of the social events at Church, and the Wednesday Coffee morning where he was a stalwart. He was a one-man welcoming team, and anyone coming to Church on Sunday or to any of our other events will remember with fondness and appreciation the warmth of his welcome.

No one other than the Minister witnessed David's heroics when, at one Christmas Day service, the Minister saw from the pulpit that one of the decorations on a church pillar had caught fire, in the days when we still used real candles. Praying with extra fervour, the Minister thanked Almighty God for His great love, which like an undying flame that never goes out, warms and illuminates everyone like the brightest of fires. David looked up, saw the Minister pointing to the flambéed decoration which was well alight, moved quietly along the pew, and whilst the congregation prayed on, oblivious to the drama, took the flaming object off the wall, out of the sanctuary and into the light snow which had fallen that morning, burning his hands en route.

Tributes to David have come in from friends from the Church, from across Edinburgh, and from across the world. His loss to us in Morningside, and to Kim especially, will be immense. But what wonderful memories we will have of this kindly, compassionate, faithful gentle-man.

For those who knew David well, they would know that hands were important to David. It was never clear whether or not he ever owned a diary. All he would do would be to write down notes on the back of his hand, and on busy days he would 'turn the page' and write on his other hand. In the corridor opposite the pigeon holes one of the collection of hands in a photo montage includes David. Writing clearly visible on one hand, and a glass of wine in the other.

For these, and for so many more memories, we give thanks to God for this faithful servant.

## SUMMER WORSHIP THEME 2024

The summer is a time of journey for many people. Some will fly-off to warmer climes to relax in endless sunshine. Some will attempt more arduous trips. For others the summer holidays will be more moderate in aim.

This year in July and August I will be using journey as my summer theme for the services.

Each Sunday I will take you on a journey, on a personal trip, leaving one place and going to another. I will describe to you the place we leave, the stops on the way and the destination.

There will be travel within Scotland but mostly abroad, and each journey will have some aspect of faith involved. At the same time one of the Bible readings will speak of a journey taken and where it led.

One of my professors in Germany published a book entitled, 'The Extraordinary is in the Ordinary' where he showed that the amazing spiritual presence of God is to be found in the every-day things of life. On each of the Sundays I will seek to reveal that amazing spiritual presence in the journeys I undertook.

<b>July 21</b>	Journey 1: <b>Elgin to Edinburgh</b>	1 Samuel 3. 1-10 John 1. 29-42
<b>July 28</b>	Journey 2: <b>Tübingen to Jena</b>	Exodus 14. 5-9, 21-22 Mark 6. 30-34, 53-56
<b>August 4</b>	Journey 3: <b>New Delhi to Amritsar</b>	Exodus 17. 1-7 John 4. 5-15
<b>August 11</b>	Journey 4: <b>Beirut to Damascus</b>	Judges 11. 1-11, 29-40 John 6. 24-35



**Revd. Alistair H. Keil, BD DipMin**

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## STATED MEETING

The Stated Meeting of the Congregation will be after the Sunday service on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June in the Church.

There will be an opportunity to hear about the general life of the congregation from the Session Clerk, and an update from the Treasurer and the Stewardship team on the Review of Giving.

The Kirk Session, as trustees of the congregation, have already approved the annual report and audited accounts, which will be available for the congregation to read.



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## ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of

Mrs Ann Renshaw, who died on 5 May 2024

## LIFE AND WORK - JUNE 2024

### The True Measure of Fatherhood

The fathers of the Bible

### 'We Genuinely Care About People'

The Railway Mission

### General Assembly 2024

Four pages of reports to the Assembly

### Our Presbyteries

North East and the Northern Isles

### Letter from the Holy Land

Update from the Church's mission partners

### 'Fundamental to Who He Was'

A new book on the faith of Scottish physicist James Clerk Maxwell

### 'This is Not About Worldly Success'

Artist Linda Hoskins and her connections with a Christian homelessness charity

### Regulars

The Very Rev Dr Martin Fair on ministry recruitment

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church

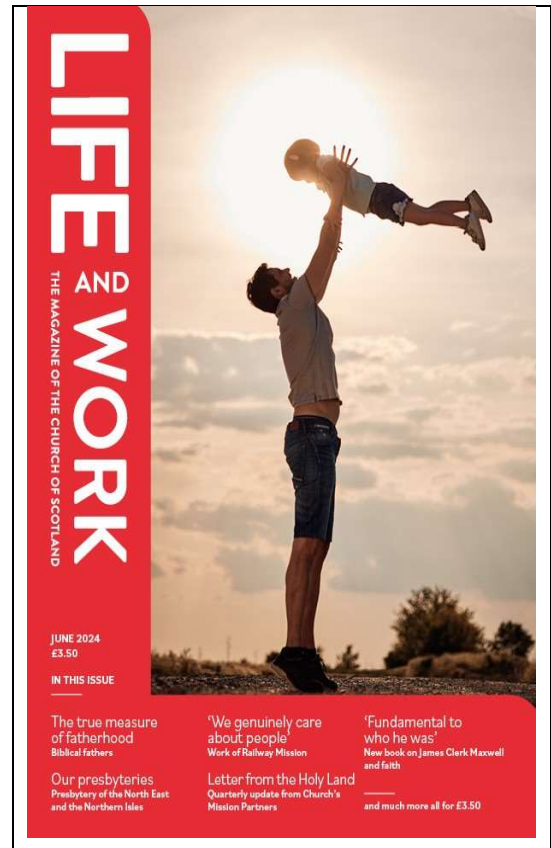
Bible Study by the Very Rev Dr Colin Sinclair

My Church: Paul Riley of St Andrew's in the Grange, Guernsey

Youth: Christian Aid prophetic activist Oluwatoyosi Baruwa.

View from the Pulpit: the Rev Maggie Hunt, minister of a new union in Forfar

**Plus:** official updates from the Assembly Trustees and Faith Action Programme, readers' pictures, news, letters, reviews and puzzles – all for £3.50. Visit the website [www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe](http://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe).



**DON'T MISS THIS!!**



### AFTERNOON TEA

Come along and enjoy an afternoon of home baking and relaxation on **Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> July between 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm**. Tickets costing £18 can be bought from Aline Haggart and Fiona Gossip on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

If you require a lift on the day please let Aline or Fiona know when you buy your ticket and they will arrange this for you. This is a great time to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

All money raised will go to the church's three charities.

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



**Aline at Lothian Time Trail guide camp, 2000**

## 60 YEARS GUIDING RECOGNITION

Aline Haggart was recently presented with Girlguiding's 60-year-long service award by County Commissioner, Lyndsey Devin at the County Gathering.

Aline has been a great stalwart of Guiding in Braid division over the years. Aline started her guiding career in Midlothian where she became a Lieutenant and subsequently a Guide Captain. After moving to Edinburgh she began her long association with 188th City of Edinburgh Brownies which met at Cluny Church where she was Tawny Owl and then

Brown Owl. This was a very active unit and Aline led them on pack holidays to Netherurd and beyond. She also completed a period as District Commissioner for the old Morningside district, now Comiston District.

When Aline turned 65 she had to give up leading this unit as those were the rules at the time. Aline was very aggrieved at this. However, in true Aline form, she moved on to supporting the new Brownie leader by looking after the unit accounts. Sadly, this unit has now folded, so when this happened Aline took on the role of Division Treasurer for Braid. She has been a very diligent Treasurer who kept successive Division Commissioners in line and prevented them from breaking the bank. She has always been very supportive of all in Guiding and has helped many leaders prepare their annual accounts.

Sue Midgley

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## WEDNESDAY COFFEE MORNING

Firstly, I would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped to keep the Wednesday coffee morning going over the last few years. It continues to be successful, and many people come every week to enjoy the chat and companionship. The friendly welcome given by David Calder to new and existing participants will be sorely missed. However, this would not happen without the help of the small band of volunteers who help each week. Some like to be in the kitchen making tea and coffee and others prefer to serve and chat. Both are needed. We are appealing for more people to assist. It could be once a month, once every six weeks or even only once a year – every little helps. This would allow our regular volunteers to have a week off. We can train you to help in the kitchen or you could just be 'front of house' serving.



If you feel you could give us 2-3 hours on an occasional Wednesday or more regularly, please contact **Lesley Murphy on 07981 265 308** or speak to her after the church service on a Sunday.

## FLOWER LIST

The flowers over the summer have been donated and will be arranged as follows:-

		Donated by	Arranged by
June	2	Chris & Anne McNeil	Marjory Watson
	9	Charles & Irene Wilson	Irene Wilson
	16	Hazel Knight	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
	23	Fiona Watt	Penny Graham & Liz Munro
	30	Evelyn Henderson	Joan Burnet
July	7	Moira Forsyth	Eleanor Watt
	14	Roger & Jane Prince	Karen Keil
	21	Dora & John Cossar	Ruth Henderson
	28	Marjory Watson	Marjory Watson
Aug	4	Robin & Fiona Stimpson	Joan Burnet
	11	Jim & Annette Jenkinson	Penny Graham & Liz Munro
	18	Fiona Stewart	Irene Wilson
	25	Margaret Gossip	Eleanor Watt
Sept	1	Florence Patton	Joan Burnet



I would like to thank all those who have offered to donate money for the flowers. The cost is £45 and cheques 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 one of the Gift Aid envelopes or advise me if you are 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 at irene\_a\_wilson@btinternet.com; Tel: 449 2866.

Our small band of Flower Ladies is, as always, looking for people to help with our displays. As someone who doesn't have an artistic bone in her body, I can safely say that you never know what you are capable of until you try and we are more than willing to pair up with anyone who would like to give it a go. There is no restriction on gender – if there are gentlemen in the congregation who would like to join us (as they have with the Sunday coffee rota), we would quite happily become Flower People. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you are interested. I can be contacted at irene\_a\_wilson@btinternet.com (Tel: 0131 449 2866) or speak to any of the flower ladies taking down the displays on a Sunday.

Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee





# 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.

## 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

**Annual Art Exhibition:** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November



**MUSIC AND MEMORIES IN MORNINGSIDE** workshops for those with dementia and their partners/carers

Held in the Cluny Hall, 2- 4pm.

**June:** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Friday 28<sup>th</sup>

**July:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>

**August:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Monday 26<sup>th</sup>

**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.

3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June *No classes in July or August*

**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

19<sup>th</sup> June *No games July & August*

## DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERTS

Open to everyone

14<sup>th</sup> Sept Santiago Project

**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](mailto:pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)

## THE RETURN OF THE ALPACAS!

The Alpacas visited us again last month, this time with 4 baby alpacas, all about 9 months old.

We had a full hall and a larger number of young families with toddlers, many of whom we'd never met before.

A group from Chamberlain nursing home also joined us for the first time which was great. Again, lots of smiling faces.



## MORNINGSIDE HOPE CONCERT- 25<sup>TH</sup> May 2024

At the end of May we resumed our dementia-friendly concert series with a programme of traditional Scottish music featuring the MacDonald family in superb form. We enjoyed the sheer professionalism of the ensemble as they introduced themselves and their eclectic musical programme and wide variety of instruments including pipes and Jew's harp, a variety of drums, flute and keyboards, a rare treat.



**Family musicians Allan, Ronald & Allan MacDonald**

Their engaging descriptions and recitations brought the music to life with wit and humour. We were treated to footnotes on the instruments used and their tuning, pipes in particular, taking a very long time. One of the said/sung pieces was a moving tribute to a Palestinian poet contrasting vividly with the toe-tapping traditional Scottish reels, the audience invited to participate. We also enjoyed some singing teaching as we all joined in with the refrain of the beautiful 'Follow the Heron Home', splendidly sung!

The instrumental prowess and sheer musicality of the trio was a joy to hear and we are most grateful to them all.

We dedicated this concert to David Calder who has been very much involved in the establishment of this concert series which he really enjoyed. His unfailing inspiration and support will be greatly missed but never forgotten as we try to carry on his legacy.

Thank you to all helpers and assistants with door duty and catering and Alastair Keil for his appropriate words of welcome and thanks, Douglas Paterson for photography, the Tor Foundation, and Morningside Parish Church for invaluable support. We look forward to welcoming you back to our next concert in September.

Jennifer Rimer

**The Edge You Carry With You**

**David Whyte from Still Possible**

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*What is this  
beguiling reluctance  
to be happy?*

*This quickness  
in turning away  
the moment  
you might  
arrive?*

*The felt sense,  
that a moment's  
unguarded joy  
might after all,  
just kill you?*

*You know  
so very well  
the edge  
of darkness  
you have  
always  
carried with you.*

*You know  
so very well,  
your childhood legacy:  
that particular,  
inherited  
sense of hurt,  
given to you  
so freely  
by the world  
you entered.*

*And you know  
too well  
by now  
the body's  
hesitation  
at the invitation  
to undo  
everything  
others seemed  
to want to  
make you learn.*

*But your edge  
of darkness  
has always  
made  
its own definition  
secretly  
as an edge of light*

*and the door  
you closed  
might,  
by its very nature be  
one just waiting  
to be leant against  
and opened.*

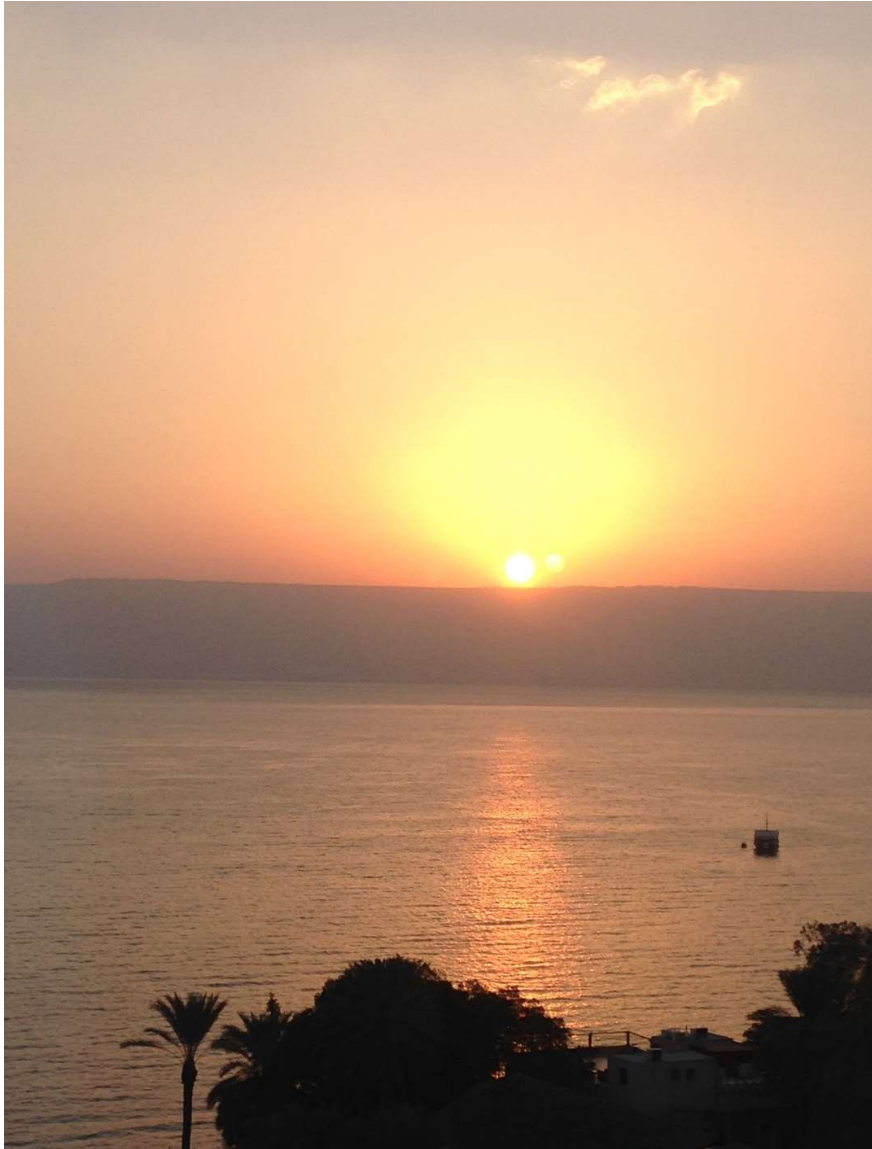
*And happiness  
might just  
be a single step away,  
on the other side  
of that next  
unhelpful  
and undeserving  
thought.*

*Your way home,  
understood now,  
not as an achievement,  
but as a giving up,  
a blessed undoing,  
an arrival  
in the body  
and a full rest  
in the give  
and take  
of the breath.*

*This living  
breathing body  
always waiting  
to greet you  
at the door,  
always  
no matter the long years  
you've been away,  
still wanting you to  
come home*

## SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the September issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024** and it will be available by Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September. Contributions should be emailed to [editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk) .



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