



# Magazine

No. 199 April 2025

Dear Friends

When it was evening on Easter Day the doors of the house where the disciples met were locked for the fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." This verse is often overlooked when the story is read. Yet, I'm convinced that it is full of important details. First, the disciples retreat to the room where they last gathered with Jesus, the place of their final Passover meal

The doors are locked. Mary Magdalene, coming from the garden tomb, made her big announcement: "I have seen the Lord". What did the male disciples do? They hid where they thought they wouldn't be found and locked themselves in. They were scared. Really scared.

The opening words of Easter evening, the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews but maybe the disciples were terrified of other things: the execution, the missing body, the empty tomb, the shocking message of Mary, they couldn't or wouldn't face it, they fled, they locked themselves behind those doors. Why do we lock doors? We sometimes lock doors because we're afraid of the dark. The darkness outside; the darkness inside. We close the door on it, locking ourselves in

against this darkness, bolting the door against ourselves. We will be safe inside.

What if the darkness is really just obscuring the light? What if the locked door isn't protecting us but holding us prisoner? What if the door must be opened to that which awaits on the other side? The door you closed might by its very nature be one just waiting to be leant against and opened. The disciples were

terrified. They didn't know what to make of the resurrection. They locked themselves in. On the evening of Easter, they entombed themselves. When we lock ourselves behind doors for fear we turn the feasting room into a tomb. Slam the door! Bolt it shut! We're afraid. So afraid of the dark. Cut off from others, we quiver alone in the night.

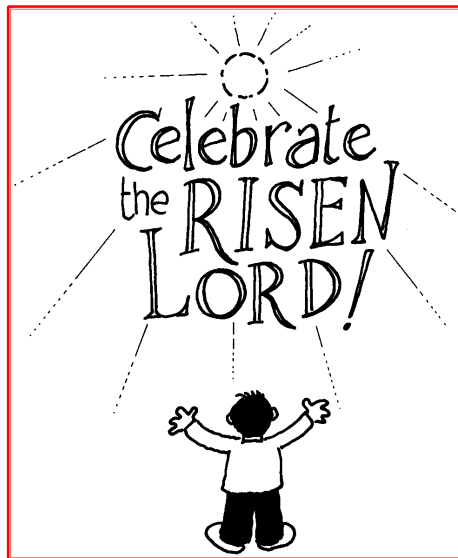
Jesus came and stood among His friends and said, "Peace be with you" . . . Jesus said to

them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." The fear falls away. The door opens.

Jesus still comes, to stand among His friends, and say to us, "Peace be with you..." May your fears fall away, and may your doors open to let in the light.

*Very Revd Dr Derek Browning*

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



## KIRK SESSION NEWS

The Kirk Session met in March and discussed the following:

**Approval of Church's 2024 Accounts** – Anne Dobson of Stripe Accountants presented the accounts circulated ahead of the meeting along with a commentary. She drew attention to the fact that –

- **Total Income** for 2024 was £385,546 (2023 - £315 014)
- **Total Expenditure** for 2024 was £456,002 (2023 - £390,983)

**Net Deficit in 2024** taking into account unrealised gains in value of investments of £36,185 (2023 – Unrealised gain in value of investments £46,344) resulted in net deficit of £34,271 (2023 - £29,625)

**Excess of expenditure over income** excluding the variation in the value of investments, in 2024 was £70,456 compared to £75,969 in 2023.

**Total Funds at 31 December 2024** were £1,476,180 (2023 - £1,540,451) made up as follows –

- **Fixed Assets** £648,979 (2023 - £653,808);
- **Investments** £761,537 (2023 - £825,386):
- **Net Current Assets** £65,644 (2023 - £31,257).

It was noted that the 2024 Stewardship appeal had produced an uplift in income in the later part of 2024 and it was thought that the uplift should carry through to 2025.

The Moderator drew attention to the full narrative in the accounts highlighting the work of the church in 2024, prepared by a number of contributors. No questions were raised and Session instructed that the Treasurer and the Clerk sign the accounts as approved on behalf of the Session.

The Moderator particularly thanked the Accountants, the Treasurer and the members of the Stewardship & Finance Committee for their work not just in the preparation of the accounts but throughout the year.

**PVG** – Paul Cackette, Convenor, had circulated PVG forms reflecting the revised position in the light of latest guidance from “121”. It appears that the Church's central office had little knowledge from their records of the numbers of people holding PVG clearance. An overall review had been called for to clarify how many members in a congregation were still actively involved in work requiring PVG clearance and had received and kept up to date with the necessary training. Unless an individual was currently involved, their name should be removed from the list. Anyone involved but whose training needed to be updated needed to take immediate action to remedy the situation.

Session agreed to the Convenor's request to attest the Register as circulated and instruct the Clerk to attest the document.

**Social Committee** – Fiona Stimpson, Convenor of the Social Committee advised that the committee will be organising –

- “Easter treats” after the service on Easter Sunday.
- 24 August, a buffet Summer Lunch in the Braid Hall after the Morning Service

And, with the Outreach Group, will be organising in the Braid Hall, two speaker suppers:-

- 30 May at 7 30 p.m. with Lady Janet Balfour – details on page 11
- 31 October at 7.30p.m. with Sir Paul Grice, former Chief Executive of the Scottish Parliament and current Vice Chancellor of Queen Margaret University

## WORSHIP NOTES

### Holy Week and Easter 2025

Palm Sunday is on 13<sup>th</sup> April with the usual services at 9.30am and 10.30am. Palm crosses will be distributed on this Sunday.

Our annual joint Holy Week services with Greenbank Parish Church will be held in April this year and will be hosted in **our** Church. Services will be held on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.



**Maundy Thursday** is on 17<sup>th</sup> April, and we will remember Jesus' Last Supper when we share communion.

**Good Friday** is on 18<sup>th</sup> April, and there will be a joint choir from Morningside and Greenbank singing during the service.

The **Holy Saturday** service is on 19<sup>th</sup> April and will be made up of a selection of readings and music to mark the quietest day in the Christian year as we hover on the edge of the shock of Good Friday and the joy of Easter.

**Easter Sunday** is on 20<sup>th</sup> April. There will be one service that day at 10.30am. After the service Easter treats will be served in the St Matthew Hall. All welcome!

### Remembering Service, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 3pm in the Church

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. It is an opportunity to remember those we have loved and lost, recently or a long time ago. During the service there will be an opportunity to write names on stars and attach them to our Remembering tree which will be placed beside the communion table. Please let friends, neighbours and family know that the service is taking place and invite them to attend if they would like.

We will serve tea and coffee after the service.

### Home Communion

Throughout the year the Minister is happy to bring Home Communion to members of the congregation who are not able to attend the communion services in the Church. The short service concentrates on the communion part of the normal communion service, and many people have found it a real comfort and encouragement, particularly being 'involved' in the spiritual side of our congregation's life.

If you, or anyone you know, would like Home Communion, please contact the Minister and he will arrange a visit.

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Easter Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> April - come along after the Church Service and enjoy some Easter refreshments in the St Matthew Hall. All will be made very welcome.



# Morningside Hope



## UPCOMING DATES:

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

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

**Annual Art Exhibition:** Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November.



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

Held in the Cluny Hall every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> **Mondays** in the month 2- 4pm

**April:** Mondays 7<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> (*21<sup>st</sup> is Easter Monday, so no class that day*)

**May:** Mondays 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

**June:** Mondays 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>

**GENTLE EXERCISE CLASSES:** dementia friendly but **open to all 60+** The class itself will last 40-45 minutes, followed by tea, coffee and the chance to chat.

Held on **Mondays** in the Cluny Hall 2-4pm

**April:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup>

**May:** Mondays 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

**June:** Mondays 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

**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 catch up.

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

16<sup>th</sup> April

21<sup>st</sup> May

18<sup>th</sup> June

*No games July & August*



## **ANIMAL AFTERNOON:**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May

Therapy ponies 2- 4pm

## **DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERTS**

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May

2pm Brass Quintet

**TALK:** Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 3.15pm. Speaker: Mr Eric Melvin, Egypt – Luxor to Aswan

**Canal Boat Trips:** Sadly, the charity that ran the boat trips has been dissolved because of funding being withdrawn. There are possible plans afoot for another body to take the boat on, but I think it unlikely that that will be fully in place until after the summer.

The church also offers **Wednesday Coffee Mornings**, every Wednesday 10 – 11.30am – everyone welcome!

For further information on any of the above contact our Pastoral Assistant Jacqui Lindsay on 07834 364 628 or e mail: [pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)

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## **PLAYLIST FOR LIFE TRAINING DAY Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 10 – 4pm**

**Guinea Pigs Needed!**

**Braid Hall, MPC**

We are planning on introducing *Playlist for Life* to Morningside Hope.

To do this, we intend to kick things off with a training day for up to 16 people. The day will introduce us to the whole concept of the impact of familiar music to each of us and how we create individual playlists of significant songs for those living with dementia and others. This can be done by beginning to create a playlist for ourselves.

Being a guinea pig refers to the fact that this will be the first time we have run this training so it may not be altogether perfect – it would be great to have friendly faces to try it out on.

There is no commitment beyond the day itself, but the hope would be that some of those attending might, at a later date, enjoy being part of a small team of volunteers who will then offer support to others to create their own playlist.

The day will be fully catered. We will kick off with bacon rolls (or vegetarian alternative), lunch will be provided and we'll hopefully end with some delicious tea and cake.

Playlist for Life was set up by Sally Magnusson after her family's experience of caring for their mother who was living with dementia. For more information about the charity, you can visit their website: <https://www.playlistforlife.org.uk/>

If you are interested in attending or just finding out a little more, please contact the Pastoral Assistant, Jacqui Lindsay, at: [pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk) or 07834364628



This aspect of the work is being made possible thanks to monies from both the Community Fund and R S MacDonald Charitable Trust.

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



## CHARITY RUN In Memory Of DAVID CALDER



### Supporting Morningside Hope

On 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May, friends and family of David will be coming together to take on various distances at the Edinburgh Marathon Festival (EMF) in a one-off event in his memory.

This special event is not only a tribute to David's life but also a chance to support a cause close to his heart — Morningside Hope.

Morningside Hope is a vital local charity that provides support and assistance to those living with dementia. By raising funds for this cause, we aim to honour David's memory by making a positive impact in the lives of others as he did.

Runners of all abilities will be taking part in a range of distances across the EMF weekend, from 5K to the half marathon. Whether you're an experienced runner or simply want to do a shorter distance in support, we welcome anyone who would like to get involved. If you'd like to take part, please email Kim for more details on how to join the team.

For those who may not be running but would still like to support the cause, donations are greatly appreciated. Every contribution, big or small, will help Morningside Hope continue their vital work in the community. Below is the QR code and the link to the Give a Little page.



<https://givealittle.co/c/runfordavid>

For those who prefer not to donate online, please put your donation, cash or cheque made payable to Morningside Parish Church, into an envelope or gift aid envelope clearly marked as 'Run for David' and put it into the collection on a Sunday morning or hand it in to the church office.

Please come together to remember David, celebrate his life, and make a difference.

Thank you for your support!

For more information, please contact Kim – [kimcalder2017@gmail.com](mailto:kimcalder2017@gmail.com)

Thank you  
Kim Calder



**MORNINGSIDE HOPE QUIZ  
AND SILENT AUCTION.  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 7 – 9pm**



Tickets will be on sale for this Morningside Hope fundraiser from the beginning of May, but we wanted to flag this up now in the hope that folk might be able to donate **items** (unwanted gifts, family heirlooms that are just cluttering up the place 😊etc.) and **talents** that we can auction on the night.

Examples of talents might be things like:

- catering a dinner party for 4
- 2 hrs gardening
- 6 jars of homemade marmalade or jam
- 4 home baked loaves – one each week for a month
- An evening's baby/dog or cat sitting
- A dog walk
- An hour's consultation with a financial advisor
- 2 hr intro to IT skills
- A batch of baking or a birthday cake for that special occasion
- 4 introductory music lessons

Any talent you might have that others could benefit from; we can probably auction it!

**There will be sheets available at the back of the church and during coffee over the next few weeks if anyone would like to offer an item or talent to be auctioned.**

It's likely to be a fun night so we hope that as many of you as possible can join us.

All the proceeds will go to Morningside Hope.

Jacqui Lindsay



**ROLL CHANGES**

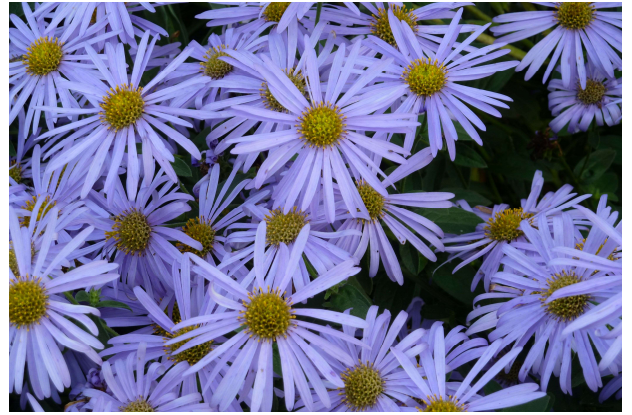
Please give a warm welcome to our newest member,  
Mrs Sandra Martin, admitted by certificate of transference.

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of  
Bill Reid, who died on 11 March 2025.



## THE SECRET GARDEN

The Revd Dr Sam Wells, vicar of St Martin's in the Field, London, is not only an eminent priest in the Church of England, but also a writer and broadcaster. He did part of his training at New College in Edinburgh some years ago.



Years ago Sam gave a talk and reflection about Easter as being for Christians one of the moments of truth in our faith. He spoke about Easter being not just one secret rendezvous but a whole series of them, all taking place at the same time. And they all took place in a garden. He reminded us that the Song of Songs in the Old Testament had several secret meetings in a garden. The Song of Songs is about love and intimacy, and it may be that there are overtones in part of the Easter morning story being set in a garden which might remind us that God wishes to have a close-up-and personal relationship with all of us. Like all relationships, that thought is both wonderful and unsettling. It's wonderful that God loves us so much the God wants us to be very close to Him. It's unsettling because how comfortable are we that God gets so close to us?

In the Middle East, gardens are not very common. They are very special. The climate is dry, the ground is dusty, the rain can be rare. In Arabic the word 'garden' has a particular resonance. The Arabic word for 'garden' is 'paradise'. That's where the whole notion of paradise comes from. Paradise means flowing water in a desert, green shoots in dry ground, lush beauty in the midst of arid wastelands. Easter is a glimpse into paradise, because the Easter story shows us a series of wondrous meetings all taking place in a secret garden on one special morning.

Easter is the moment when the beginning meets the end. At the start of the Bible there's a man and a woman in a garden. Adam and Eve, caught in the Hebrew poetry of the Creation. All of Creation is focussed in that one relationship. At the end of the Bible there's another encounter in a garden. In the Book of Revelation God, and His bride the church coming down from heaven as the new Jerusalem, meet in a garden where the leaves on the trees are for the healing of the nations.

Between these two gardens is the Easter morning garden, where Jesus meets Mary Magdalen. Beginning meets end, creation meets resurrection. Resurrection shows us the *last* page of the story, how things will be for all time; but it also shows us the *first* page of the story, by placing a man and a woman in a garden, just like the Book of Genesis. Here, in this Easter resurrection garden, in the meeting of this man and woman, the beginning and end of all things meet. The resurrection of Jesus is the end of the beginning, and the beginning of the end. It's the central moment of human and faith history. Easter is a reaffirmation of Christmas: the resurrection is a reaffirmation of the incarnation. God is not above and beyond flesh and blood – God's a reality *in* flesh and blood, now and forever. Jesus is the resurrection body, fully human, fully physical, fully infused with the Spirit of God. Body and soul are not separated but one. Jesus' reality is our future, and maybe our present. Easter day is the day we glimpse eternity.

In that Easter Garden there is also the moment when the personal meets the social. When some people think about dying maybe their deepest fear is not pain or oblivion but being eternally alone. But here in the Easter Garden Jesus' resurrection isn't something for Him alone. He shares it with Mary. He tenderly speaks her name. His loneliness in the tomb is transformed by her coming to be with Him. Her loneliness outside the tomb in her bereavement is transformed by His coming to be with her. And through her to all of us.



Here we have a series of meetings in a secret garden. Each meeting is about one and the same thing. And that thing is the best news and the biggest secret in the world: the fulfilment of God's deep desire for us and the fulfilment of our deep desire for God. These meetings show us what paradise looks like.

Some people say that they feel closer to God in a garden than anywhere else. What they mean is that they find deep joy in being connected to the growing of things, their hands in the soil, their tending and nurturing of plants and vegetables, their appreciation of beauty, their sight of things constantly forming and transforming as the seasons go by. Their notion is a deeply biblical one, even though it may be that not everyone sees that. But it's there: in the Garden of Eden stories; in the Garden in the new heaven and earth stories; and in the Easter Garden – the story where life overcomes death, hope overcomes fear, and love overcomes grief.

Easter is about a secret garden. Easter is about the coming together of creation and destiny body and soul, personal and social. In the Easter Garden our desire for God and God's desire for us is fulfilled. All of this is disclosed in an encounter between a man and a woman in a garden. A gentle presence, a gentle touch, a gentle word. This is eternal life. This is paradise. Maybe the Easter Garden shouldn't be such a secret after all.



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### **HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR CD YET?**

A new CD of "Organ Favourites", played on the MPC organ by our organist Morley Whitehead. Total playing time is just under the hour, the price £10, and all monies raised will go to our Choral Scholarship Fund. To buy your copy, see Morley after the morning service or contact the Church Office.

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



## SAVE THE DATE - THE SPEAKER SUPPER RETURNS

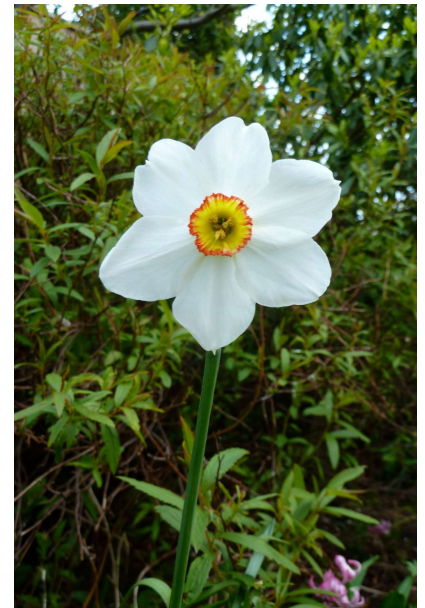
On **Friday 30th May 2025**, we will be pleased to welcome Lady Janet Balfour to speak to us. Lady Balfour. was the editor of the Crossman diaries, Agatha Christie's and Edwina

Mountbatten's official biographer and her book " the secrets of the Rue St Roch" outlines the establishment of MI6 by her father in law (for which she and her husband Robert Bruce (a direct descendant) were honoured by Luxembourg). She was Chair of Bletchley Park and her CV shows an astonishing Non Executive Director career.

### FLOWER LIST

The flower list for April is as follows:-

		Donated by	Arranged by
Apr	6	Ruth Henderson	Ruth Henderson
	13	Christine Johnston	Joan Burnet
	20	EASTER	Flower committee
	27	Laura Shaw	Irene Wilson



The cost for flowers 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 advise me if you have registered with the Gift Aid Convener or alternatively fill out one of the Gift Aid envelopes.

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.

Remember, if you are unable to come to church on your chosen date for any reason, you can always see "your" flowers online.

Do you have a talent for, or would like to try your hand at, flower arranging? You will have noticed 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



## MUSICAL NOTES - MEET OUR SCHOLARS

Two of our choral scholars introduce themselves:

Hi, I'm Ewan (tenor), and this is my third year as a choral scholar at MPC. I am 19 years old, in my second year at Edinburgh University studying Biological Sciences. I've absolutely loved being a part of the choir for the time that I've been here so far; it has done wonders for improving my sight reading and expanding my singing repertoire, and I've had a lovely time making friends here whilst singing some fantastic music. When I'm not singing at the church or studying biology, I am involved in a number of other musical groups and societies both in university and with other Edinburgh groups. I sing tenor 1 for the Edinburgh University Singers, I sing the Lead part for the university barbershop quartet, and I am a Musical Director for the competition a cappella group Cloud 9. Perhaps my biggest passion though is musical theatre – ideally I'd like to pursue a career in it beyond university, so I try and involve myself in it as much as I can. Highlights include playing Jean Valjean in *Les Miserables* twice last year, once in the Edinburgh Fringe and again in September in Portobello, and recently in January, I played Don Lockwood in EUSOG's *Singin' in the Rain*. MPC has played a huge role in my development as a musician, and I'm so excited for all the upcoming services as they present such a fantastic opportunity to sing more gorgeous choral pieces.

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My name is Audrey Hogg (soprano), I am 21 and currently in my final year studying German and Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh. I have always been very involved with music, playing the violin and piano, and having sung and played with multiple choirs, orchestras and other groups growing up, both in and outside of school. While at University I have spent much of my free time in musical activities, including the University's String Orchestra and Opera Society, and organising chamber groups with my friends. On my year abroad in Leipzig last year, I sang with various choirs including the Gewandhauschor and particularly enjoyed singing Bach in his home city. This inspired me to continue to engage in more choral music this year too, alongside my singing lessons with Margaret Aronson. I have immensely enjoyed singing in the choir at Morningside, as it has already proved enriching to my musicianship and provides a welcome change of scene from hectic university life, and I look forward to the rest of the session.



**This year's intake: Maisie, Emily, Olivia, Rafal, Giselle, Ewan, Henry, Diya, Toby, Audrey.  
(Méabh Downey was absent)**

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

## MAY MAGAZINE

Material for the May issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 11 April 2025** and it will be available by Sunday 4 May. Contributions should be emailed to [editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk) .

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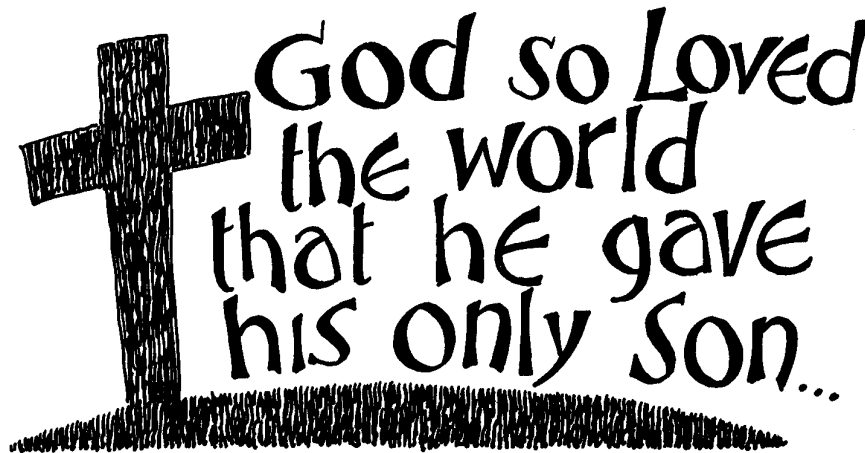
### THE DONKEY *G K Chesterton*

When fishes flew and forests walked  
And figs grew upon thorn,  
Some moment when the moon was blood  
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry  
And ears like errant wings,  
The devil's walking parody  
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,  
Of ancient crooked will;  
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,  
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;  
One far fierce hour and sweet:  
There was a shout about my ears,  
And palms before my feet.



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