



# Magazine

No. 146 May 2019

Dear Friends

The word 'radical' excites and frightens with equal force. For those struggling with injustice, prejudice and the bogged-down nature of institutions and personalities, 'radical' gives the impetus to change and reform, to transform and hope. For others the same word threatens upset, revolution and chaos to stability and the settled order of things. The word radical is from the Latin *radix*, which means root. To be radical means to get to the root of things.

At this year's General Assembly, which starts on 19<sup>th</sup> May, we will be looking at a radical action plan. A lacklustre plan was rejected last year, and this year something more thought-through, and more radical is proposed. In what is widely anticipated to be a root-and-branch review of the Church nationally, regionally and locally, what the Assembly will be asked to consider is something that will look at who the Church is, what the Church does, and how we reform ourselves within the C21st. There is always a danger of over-promising and under-delivering, and it remains to be seen what the Assembly, and then the wider Church, decides and commits itself to in the years to come. The impact of being radical

is rarely immediate, and often takes years to work through. It's a reminder of another Latin motto, *Ecclesia reformata semper reformanda*, the reformed Church must always be reforming. And that's radical!

Within the word 'revolution' is the word 'evolution' and I believe this also applies to the Church. Whether there is a sudden, radical change, or whether there is a steady process of transformation, the life of the Christian, and the Christian Church, is always one containing dynamic, and movement forward.



Change can be unsettling, particularly given our country's unsettled state at this moment. We want things to be steady and balanced, and the tension between stability and progress is pretty constant. It is true in life, and it is true in faith. On the Road to Emmaus, having spoken to the disciples, the

risen Jesus "appeared to be going further, but they constrained Him." I wonder, if in that 'further', we find a clue to what God invites and challenges us to do. Shall we go further with God, or will we, futilely, attempt to restrain?

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

## KIRK SESSION NEWS

The Kirk Session met in April. Amongst its business:

- Stewardship and Finance Committee: The 2018 accounts were approved.
- Session divided into small groups to discuss a paper which had been circulated by the Minister inviting elders to create a realistic wish list of events or ideas that might challenge Session and the congregation to take on in the next couple of years. Brief verbal feed-back was given by each group and further thought will be given to the ideas raised.
- The Property Committee reported on its ongoing, and considerable, work in maintaining the fabric of the Church. Matters considered included restoring masonry work around the building; dealing with water ingress in the South Aisle of the Church; replacing existing floodlighting with more efficient and economic lamps (largely to be funded by a generous donation from the Friends of Morningside); and replacing the control panel of the gas boiler that heats the St Matthew Hall.
- The Pastoral Care Committee reported on the work of the church visitors, and on recent events like the well-supported Blue Christmas service and the training events organised by our pastoral assistant, Jacqui Lindsay. The Wednesday Coffee morning continues to flourish with more attending, including a group from the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. More volunteers to help with coffee making would be extremely helpful in the coming months and the congregation will be invited to volunteer.
- Church Officer: with the retirement of Tommy Batchelor, Session considered the possibility of a volunteer group to carry out duties but this was felt to be unsustainable over the long term. A new appointment will be considered in the coming months.
- Communications Committee: it was noted that there were ongoing issues with the Church website, and plans were being explored to update the website in the coming weeks.

## GUIDED WALK DOWN ROYAL MILE

One of our Church badminton club members, Mrs Frances Morton, has kindly offered to take a group of around 10 Church members on a guided tour down part of the Royal Mile. Fran is a professional tour guide and has led numerous tours in Edinburgh and around Scotland. She has suggested a 2 hour walk, starting at the Castle Esplanade and finishing at John Knox's House, which will include visiting some of the many closes, St Giles' Cathedral and possibly also Parliament Hall. The proposed date is 21<sup>st</sup> May, commencing at 10am, and those who would like to come along and hear something of the history and stories surrounding this part of Edinburgh's Old Town should contact me on 531 9688. There will be no charge for this walk and the only stipulation is that you remember to wear sensible shoes and to wear clothing appropriate for this time of year!!

Fiona Stewart

## **WORSHIP MATTERS**

### **Afternoon service, 7<sup>th</sup> May, 3.15pm**

Our next afternoon service will be held in the Cluny Hall on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 3.15pm. The short service is open to all members of the congregation, particularly those who find it difficult to get to our Sunday morning services. Refreshments are served after the service. If you would like to come to the service, please let your elder know. It may be possible to arrange transport. Numbers have grown at this service in recent months, and you will be made most warmly welcome.

### **Summer Worship**

The Kirk Session has approved the replacement of the antiquated and inconsistent and expensive heating system in the Church, the replacement of pews with more comfortable, user-friendly and flexible seating, and the levelling of the floor in the Church, which will prevent the number of falls that take place as people leave the existing pews. The work is scheduled to take place in the summer months. This will mean that Morning Worship will take place in the St Matthew Hall in July, August and possibly into September. Crèche and Sunday Club will be relocated to the Cluny Hall, and after-Church teas and coffees will be served in the Braid Hall. For the duration of the work the sanctuary will be unavailable.

### **June Communion**

The June Communion will be held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 9.30am and 10.30am in the Church. If there are members of the congregation who would like communion but cannot attend Church, please contact the Minister and he will be happy to take communion to members' homes. There is something powerfully intimate about a home communion, so if you would like this service, please let him know.

## **THE BIG QUESTION**

The next discussion evening will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in the Hermitage Bar; (you can go to the bar earlier for a meal if you would like). The theme for the evening will be Science and Religion. The event is shared between Morningside Parish Church, Greenbank Parish Church and Fairmilehead Parish Church. The evening is open to anyone interested and all are welcome to attend.



## HOW OUR CHURCH MAKES A DIFFERENCE

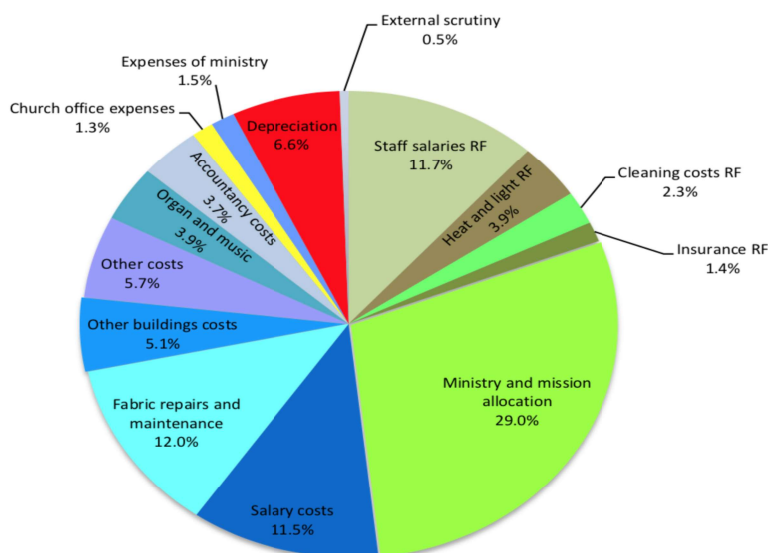
Who would miss us if our Church wasn't here? Well, more people than you might think.

Our Church provides a wonderful place of worship for our congregation, for Sunday Club, for the community and for many who attend our worship without joining, for the people who join us at Christmas, Easter or when they are visiting family in Edinburgh, and serves as a base from which to provide services and pastoral visits to the breadth of our parish.

Our Church provides a home at the heart of Morningside for concerts and community events and lectures. It's a base for the Scouts, Guides and Boys Brigade/Girls Association and the Cubs, Beavers, and Brownies that feed into them. From early morning to late evening we accommodate the activities, societies and groups that provide fellowship, vitality and social cohesion in Morningside. Our vibrant Baby and Toddler groups, our country dancers, orchestras and local societies all make us their base. We are a home for crafters, for support groups like Alcoholics Anonymous, Speakability, South Morningside Primary School services, and numerous organisations use our Church and its halls with literally thousands of people crossing our threshold weekly.

Our members welcome locals in for coffee after our services as well as every week on Wednesday mornings. We open our doors for speaker suppers and outreach events, for afternoon teas and autumn lectures, for Christian Aid and Holy Week. Beyond our walls, our members play vital roles in many charities like Edinburgh Clothing Store, Bethany Care Shelter, Scottish Love in Action and the Open Door. We support the wider work of the Church of Scotland. Without us, there would be a yawning gap at the heart of Morningside.

Analysis of expenditure



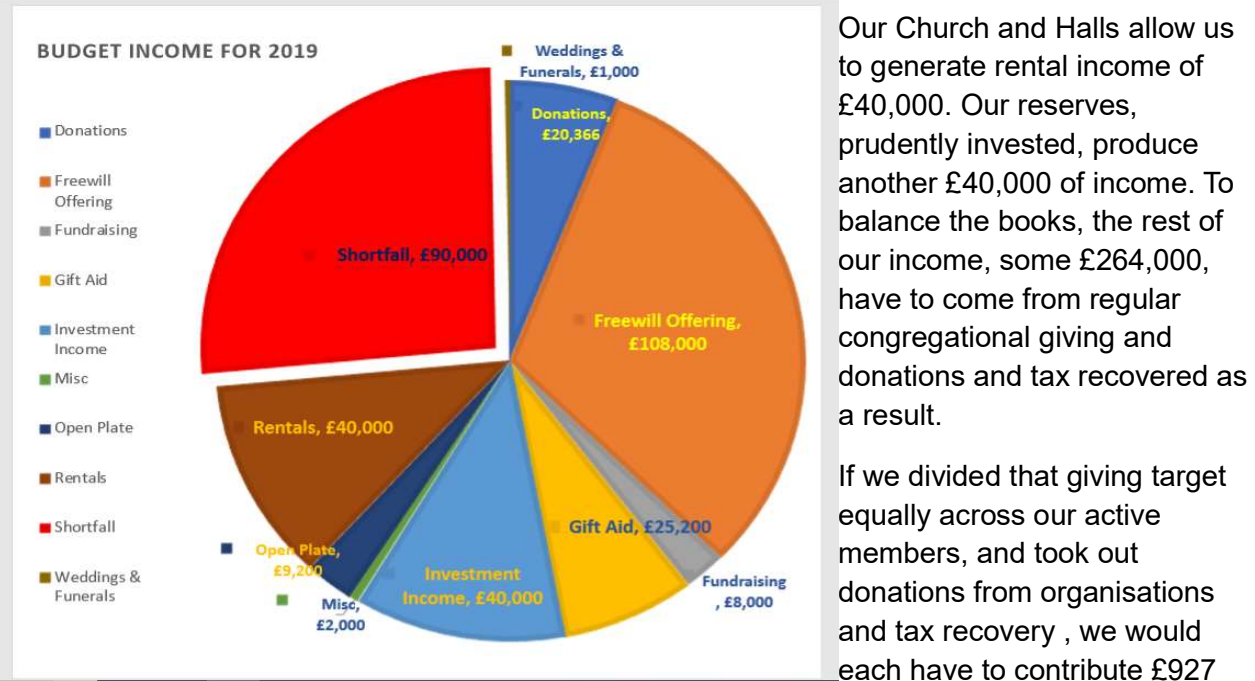
### What does it take to run our Church?

Running an active Church inevitably costs. It takes around £344,000 each year to run, heat and maintain our Church and employ the staff who carry out the day-to-day running and servicing of the building.

In recent years we have taken a hard look at our costs. This was behind our consolidation to a single Church site, while maintaining our central role in the community. This summer we are investing in a new

heating system and LED lighting in the Church, both of which will deliver cheaper running costs and safety benefits. Making our sanctuary more flexible opens up new opportunities to host

events and concerts. Our staff have taken on increased responsibilities but providing well maintained premises, running our services and taking our care to people's homes means we need to increase what we give financially to support our current levels of staff and expenditure.

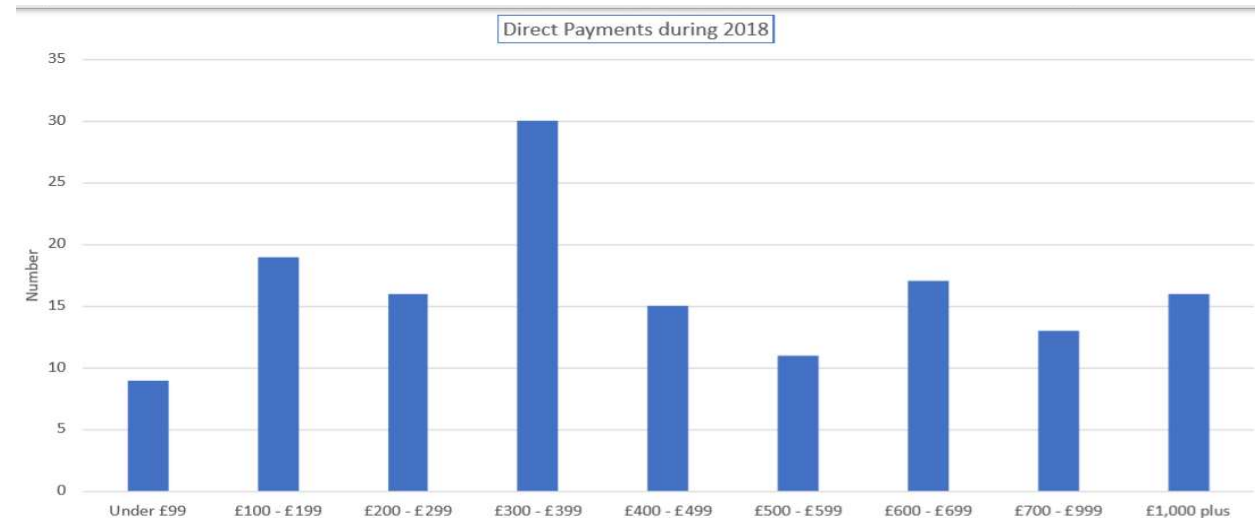


per annum to the Church. Sadly, we don't. So the figures don't add up. In 2019 we are predicting we will have to fund a shortfall of £90,000 from our reserves.

That can't go on. We cannot keep raiding our reserves. If we want to sustain an active, faithful, community-serving Church, to bridge the gap we all need to increase giving.

### What does our Giving look like?

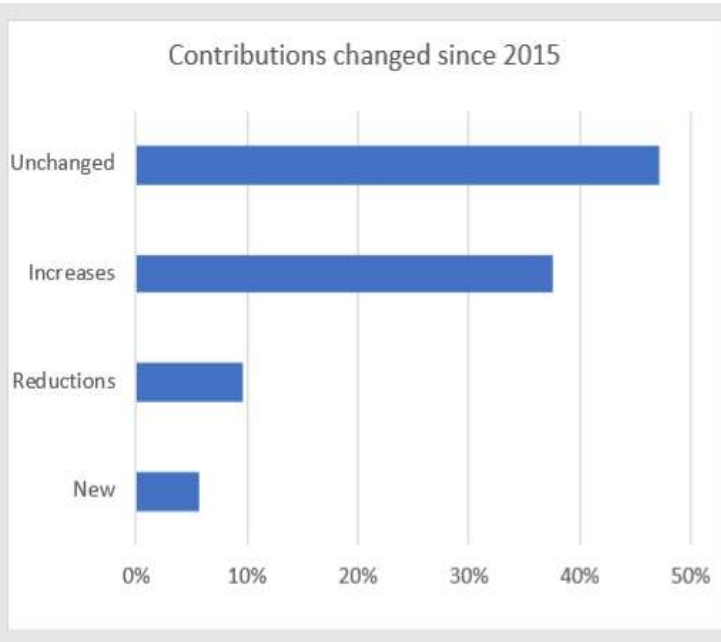
Most of our members give to the Church by standing order or by free will offering scheme (blue envelopes). Such regular committed giving allows us to budget, and to claim 25% tax refund where the donor adds gift aid. Last year we reclaimed some £26,000 in tax refunds. But tax refunds depend on our giving in the first place.



Across the congregation giving levels vary hugely. The table on the previous page shows 61% of our contributing members give under £10 per week and 20% give less than £4 per week. The cost of running our Church needs giving at £17.84 per week.

If you look at that as an annual sum, 50% of our contributing members give less than £400 a year. Only 32% give over £600 per annum. Only 14% pay their share of our costs. We need average annual giving to be £927 to pay our way, and we're just not facing up to that. Not everybody could pay that and our giving has to reflect what we each can realistically afford without creating financial difficulties – but if there is scope to increase giving this would be gratefully appreciated.

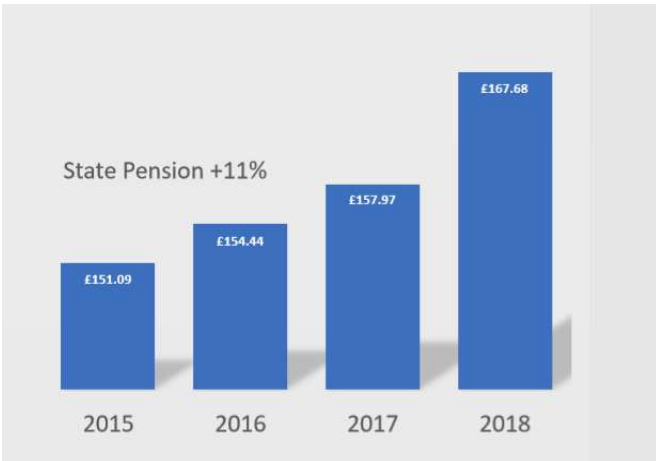
The question we need to answer is, 'are we making a realistic contribution and bearing our fair share, given our individual resources and our promise to the Church to devote time, talents and money to its work?'



At the same time, our records show that over the past four years, most members haven't adjusted their level of giving. Many of us contribute no more than we did 10 years ago. 56% of donors contribute the same or less than they did in 2015, but during that same period the state pension has gone up 11%. We haven't adjusted our standing order or the contribution in the blue envelopes. For other things like utilities or retail goods, what we pay goes up regularly, with increases set by the provider. But for the Church, keeping pace with inflation requires each of us to take

action, and sometimes we don't get round to it. We forget, put off, or ignore. So we need to ask, 'has our giving kept pace with inflation?' And if not, what are we going to do about it?

Some people don't contribute at all - they're happy to be a member, attend Church, enjoy worship and fellowship but leave funding and volunteering to others. If we care about our Church, and want to be a part of it, we have an obligation to play, and pay, our part.





## What do we each need to do?

Our Church is running a huge deficit of £90,000 this year. A large part of the problem is our giving is too low. Lower than we see in some comparable Edinburgh churches. Lower than what's needed to fund Morningside's ministry, outreach, and to maintain our busy Church life. First, we need to take action. Too often we postpone and prevaricate. The time to address this is now.

Second, we need to look at what we give and what it costs to run our Church and decide if our giving is at a realistic level. Please look at what is needed, not what you have given historically. If it's not realistic, if it's not paying our share, ask what you could be giving now?

And if you give as couple, please don't assume two for the price of one is the right answer! Each member is a member in their own right, with the same obligations to our Church.

Third, we need to ask ourselves if we've updated our giving for inflation over the years? If not, now is the time to catch up.

Fourth, we need to address how we sort this situation going forward. One way we're looking at is moving from standing orders, which are fixed sum, to direct debit, where we suggest to you each year an inflation uplift to your giving each year. Just like most charities and membership organisations.

Fifth, can we make it easier to support particular areas of our Church life that may particularly appeal to you? We are establishing dedicated funds for four areas - (1) our choir and music; (2) our pastoral care and outreach support; (3) Sunday Club and working with young people ; (4) floodlighting, grounds and maintenance.

Would you be willing to give more if you could specify it was dedicated to supporting one of these areas? If so, what would you be willing to do?

Sixth, please think about helping your Church in future through a legacy. A good number of enhancements to our Church, or the funding of areas and attributes that individuals have particularly valued, have been made possible by legacies. Could your legacy bring joy to others long after you? It's a great way to help the Church without impacting your income today.

And lastly, having thought carefully about what you are willing to do in response to this appeal, please get on and do it. **It's not tomorrow's problem, it's today's.**



FLOWER LIST		
	Donated by	Arranged by
,May 5	Trudy Ferrier	Irene Wilson
12	Val Mannings	Val Mannings
19	Eleanor Watt	Eleanor Watt
26	Marie Ogilvie	Ruth Henderson
,June 2	Catherine Leonard	Anne Armour

## CHURCH WEEKLY EMAIL

For those of you already receiving the Church magazine electronically, you may also be interested in receiving a weekly email from the Church that highlights some of the current and upcoming events in the Church's week. If you would like to receive this weekly update, or to receive the magazine by email, please email the Church Office ([office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)).

## LIFE AND WORK

### In the May issue:-

#### Parliament and the Church

As the Scottish Parliament reaches its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, politicians and church officials remember the official opening in the Church of Scotland Assembly Hall

#### General Assembly 2019

Interview with the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Colin Sinclair  
Comment from the Rev Dr Doug Gay and the Very Rev Dr John Chalmers

Reports and timetables

Heart and Soul preview

Prayer for the Assembly

#### Christian Aid Week

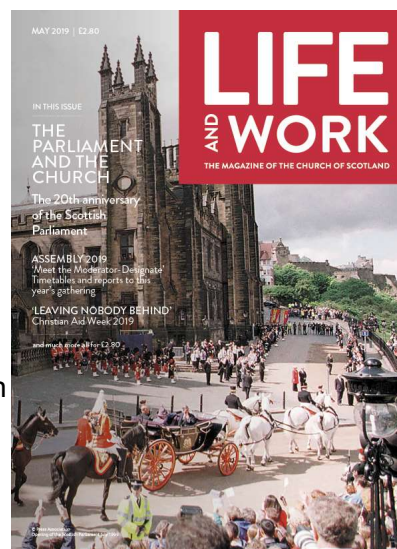
Interview with Christian Aid's country manager for Sierra Leone, focus of this year's appeal

#### 'One of the Success Stories of the Church'

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Housing and Loan Fund

#### Called To Set An Example

In the latest youth column, one of the Church's youngest ministers reflects on his experience





## PASTORAL SKILLS COURSE, AN INTRODUCTION, FIRST OF MANY?

The pastoral skills course, which we ran over 2 evenings in March, was fully subscribed and 18 of us joined together to look at topics around:

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

The session on Dementia was led by Elizabeth Campbell, Alzheimer Scotland's Edinburgh Dementia Adviser. Elizabeth offered us a very accessible insight into how to become more dementia friendly both as individuals and as a church and the feedback on her session was extremely positive, as was the feedback on the course as a whole. Indeed, we have enough interest to offer a level 2 in September, building on the skills & theory that we learned on this course.

I am very grateful to everyone who attended and in fact the success of the course was in large part due to everyone's willingness to participate so fully with the course content and with one another.

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"*

### Dates for your diary:

Pastoral Skills, Level 2 Tuesdays 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> September, 6 – 9.30pm

We will also be running the Introduction to Pastoral Skills again in March 2020 if there is sufficient interest. To book your place on either course, or simply find out a bit more of what it might entail, please contact me on: Tel: 07834 364 628 or

E Mail: [pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk) Jacqui Lindsay, Pastoral Assistant



**Help to carry one another's burdens.**



## **HOLY CORNER CHRISTIAN AID BOOKSALE 11TH – 18TH MAY 2019**

Morningside United Church has hosted a Christian Aid Book sale for several years. The sale acts as a focal point for Morningside and the surrounding communities. There are also other sales at St Andrew's and St George's West and at City of Edinburgh Methodist Church in Nicholson Square.

Although the Holy Corner Book sale is hosted by Morningside United Church, we work closely with Christ Church and many of our volunteers come from other local Churches. Last year we raised more than £16,000 for Christian Aid during the week of the sale and it provided an opportunity for people to come together with a shared interest, whether as volunteers or customers.

I would like to extend an invitation to members of your congregation to become involved with the book sale activities. We have already started collecting, sorting and pricing books for May's sale. In addition, during the week of the sale there are ample opportunities for volunteers to tidy the stock, chat to customers and generally become part of the Holy Corner Booksale Team. And, if they don't have the time or inclination to volunteer, they could always come along as customers during the week of the Booksale.

While I recognise that each church congregation has its own Christian Aid activities and programme, our work tends to extend throughout much of the year and may appeal to people looking for some longer term involvement with the book sale.

If any of your congregation have books which they would like to donate they should deliver them to the side door of MUC Monday to Friday 10am – 12pm or contact us on 0131-229-0090 or email [holycornerbooksale@gmail.com](mailto:holycornerbooksale@gmail.com) to make an alternative arrangement. More details of the book sale are available at [www.holycornerbooksale.wordpress.com](http://www.holycornerbooksale.wordpress.com).

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact me on 07754-264465 or by email at [holycornerbooksale@gmail.com](mailto:holycornerbooksale@gmail.com). If you would like any further information about the Holy Corner Christian Aid Booksale, please contact me and I will be happy to talk to you about it.

With my sincere thanks, Margaret Lobban, *Holy Corner Christian Aid Booksale Organiser*

**Christian Aid Week** is almost upon us once again. This year it runs from 12-17 May 2019.

Thank you to all of those members who have volunteered to help with the house to house collection this year. Collector's materials will be available at the Church on 28th April and also on 5th and 12th May. We are currently short of three collectors to cover our allocation of streets. If you can help by giving a few hours to collect, please contact a Christian Aid Committee member.

You may also make a note of the annual Spring Fair which is being held in Morningside Parish Church on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May between 10.00am and 1.00pm. Admission is free and there will be refreshments available. In addition, there are various stalls selling baking, jams, books and plants together with a number of specialist craft stalls. There will also be a raffle with a range of excellent prizes.

At the Spring Fair, the MPC choral scholars and organ scholar will present a 40 minute concert. The time for the concert is likely to be 11.00 am but this will be confirmed nearer the event. Morningside Heritage Association plan to display an exhibition on a historic Morningside theme.

For further information, or if you wish to help, please contact the following committee members: Bob Cunningham (447 4757) and Evelyn Henderson (334 2463).

**THE MONDAY CIRCLE** meet from October to March every fortnight when we hear from speakers on topics ranging this year from photographs of Shetland along with tales from Wendy Sodergren to a Travel Surprise by Henry Meekin about the Sahara Desert. Other topics have been on history about Edinburgh's Southside from Eric Melvin, followed by Lt Col Richard Callander on how the Royal Company of Archers came about and what they do to this day. Learning what life is like behind the scene of Tesco with Lyne Gilchrist was very informative and Jane Corrie told us about how the Botanic Cottage was moved from Leith Walk to its present location in the Botanic Gardens where it is now used as an Educational Centre.

The Very Revd Dr Derek Browning came to tell us about the variety of Hospitality he received during his year as Moderator, mentioning some of the church's projects. We learnt more when Viv Dickinson from Crossreach, the Church's Social Service who also work alongside other agencies, mentioned two in our area - Morlich House and The Elms.

Music has also featured with Rosemary McKercher playing her clarsach and singing songs. Two of our Music Scholars came to us at Christmas – Katie Taylor and Alasdair Grant. We end our meetings with a meal out at Mortonhall Golf Club.

This session we did not have a big fundraising event but a gesture when Rita Poulter gave us a Floral Demonstration making 4 displays from 2 bunches of supermarket flowers which were then raffled.

Anyone is welcome to join us for any of our meetings so we look forward to seeing you. We resume again in October.

May we wish you all an enjoyable summer.

Catriona Reid, Co-ordinator

## JUNE MAGAZINE

Material for the June issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (NB earlier date than usual)** and it will be available for distribution on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Contributions may be put in her pigeon-hole at church, sent by post to the church office at 2 Cluny Gardens, Edinburgh, EH10 6BQ or by email to [editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk).

### Walking Away

It is eighteen years ago, almost to the day –  
A sunny day with leaves just turning,  
The touch-lines new-ruled – since I watched  
you play  
Your first game of football, then, like a satellite  
Wrenched from its orbit, go drifting away  
Behind a scatter of boys. I can see  
You walking away from me towards the school  
With the pathos of a half-fledged thing set free  
Into a wilderness, the gait of one  
Who finds no path where the path should be.  
That hesitant figure, eddying away  
Like a winged seed loosened from its parent  
stem,  
Has something I never quite grasp to convey  
About nature's give-and-take – the small, the  
scorching  
Ordeals which fire one's irresolute clay.  
I have had worse partings, but none that so  
Gnaws at my mind still. Perhaps it is roughly  
Saying what God alone could perfectly show –  
How selfhood begins with a walking away,  
And love is proved in the letting go.



*by Cecil Day-Lewis*

Minister: Very Revd Dr Derek Browning 447 1617 [derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Pastoral Assistant: Jacqui Lindsay 07834 364 628

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

Magazine Editor: Alison Riddell 445 2330

[editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)

Church Office: Carole Byres 447 6745

[office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)

Join us for worship on Sundays at 9.30am (September to June)  
and 10.30am (throughout the year). Other services as announced.

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