



# Magazine

No. 147 June 2019

Dear Friends

I attended a conference recently that challenged preachers to use imagination in their preaching. Faithful imagination. One of the joys and challenges of our faith is to translate it from the flat, dull, monochrome into something that is textured, bright and multi-hued. There are those who like a close-reading, verse-by-verse approach to preaching. I've always felt that if our noses are too close to the Bible, we miss the broad sweep and the vast contours of the many books of the Bible.



In His teaching, Jesus used His imagination extensively. In much of the writing in the Bible, many details are not included. Take the story of the Wedding at Cana, and the role of Mary. How old was she? Was she the honoured guest, looking forward to a party? How would she have dressed? What did she think of Jesus turning up with His disciples, and were they invited? Why did she expect Jesus to be able to do something about the empty wine vats? Using imagination in

telling the story doesn't take away from its many messages, but it could draw us into the story more deeply.

During Holy Week the use of images of sculpture, carving and art work gave a different dimension to those services, giving us something further to think about. The stained glass windows in our Church offer the same opportunities as we engage our imagination and our intellect in the stories they tell.

The words matter, as does **The Word**, but God gifts us many other opportunities to engage with the message of welcome, hope, challenge and love that is the good news. In our understanding of faith, and in our engagement with our work for the Church, use the imagination God has given you. How do you imagine God's future for you, and for Morningside, in the weeks ahead?

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

## THE REVD GEORGE MUNRO – A TRIBUTE

It is a tribute to the man that I have found it difficult to walk through Morningside in the last few days without being stopped by people who wanted to tell me their stories about George Munro. "You need to know about this..." "Can I let you know how much he helped me when..." "Not many people will know this but..." and the list goes on. It is a tribute to the man who for many was in public and private ways their pastor and their friend, whether or not they were members of the Church. The expressions of sadness but also gratitude have been universal, and though it is a sad day to stand in what was once his pulpit for so many years, it is also a day of gratitude as we pause to reflect on this minister of the gospel who served his church, and his people, with such dedication.

Born in Latheron, Caithness, his father a minister, George's family moved soon to Hopeman where he spent some of the happiest days of his childhood. After schooling at Elgin Academy, George spent time working in the bank in Elgin before his two years of National Service in the RAF. Returning to work in the bank afterwards, George knew that a calling to serve as a Minister was growing within him, and he eventually was accepted as a candidate, studying first at Glasgow and then at New College.

George's first charge was St Margaret's, Arbroath. He came to Morningside in 1973, first to the then South Morningside Church, before it united with St Matthew's to form Cluny Parish Church in 1974. Here began a ministry of dignified preaching, thoughtful, relaxed and engaging talks to the children; and, above all else, a wonderful pastoral heart for people in need. Different ministers have different strengths and weaknesses, but there can be no doubt that, for George Munro, his pastoral care was second to none.

George, for many people, had a disarming way

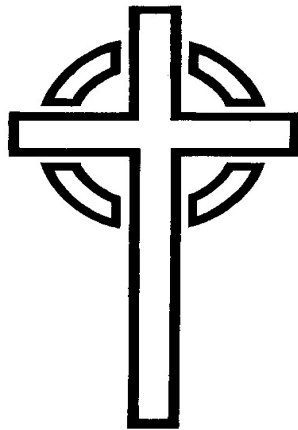
of helping them to relax and make them feel at ease in his company, even in some of the most challenging times. His sense of humour played a large part in this. I can't remember them, and if I could probably shouldn't repeat them, but he had an endless supply of cannibal jokes, and many others. On top form, George was personable, warm and approachable. He always seemed to have the right word for the right moment, whether at a wedding reception, or a funeral visit, or helping someone through a pastoral crisis. That did not make him a pushover, and he certainly knew his own mind, but George would always go the second, third, fourth mile with someone if he thought he might be able to help. I remember him coming to see me not long after I became minister here, and being disappointed that I was not a huge fan of whisky. Over his

years here he had worked out where some of the better households with generous bottles were to be found, and an end of the evening call for him was gently rounded off with a dram with people he cared about. A different era from the one we now live in, but it was very much part of George's gentle pastoral style.

Family was important to George, and he also maintained a wide circle of friends and colleagues to whom he

was loyal and supportive over many years. George's life was far from easy at times, and I wonder if it is that which made him so caring and supportive to others in their time of need. What I do know was that he was deeply grateful to those who stood by him when life was hard, something he never forgot or took for granted.

After his retirement in 2000, George continued his unique way of ministry and care in a number of different congregations – notably Gilmerton, St Michael's, and Mayfield Salisbury. His health latterly was not good, and a considerable amount of support and care was given to allow him to stay at home for as long as was possible, before his eventual move to Erskine, where he



was treated with great kindness and care up to the end.

It is not often that the quality of a parish ministry is given centre-stage in the affairs of the nation. The events around the death of the late Labour leader, John Smith, a member of this congregation, propelled George on to the national and international stage. A far wider audience got to hear and see the gentle, kindly pastoral qualities that were the hallmark of George's ministry here. It was a tense time, and being virtually a state funeral there were for George and the Kirk Session here many details that needed to be attended to carefully. George shared with me how it was not only a nervous time, but also a frustrating time, as so many people wanted to contribute to that moving occasion. With characteristic kindness and firmness George helped many different people steer through those days. One story he told me of those days sums up for me the kind of man George was. The great and the good were descending on Morningside to attend the funeral, with significant political leaders from every party

expressing an intention to attend. At some point in the days leading up to the service, George took a call from the private office of the former Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. There were endless questions about seating, and access and a great deal more. The final question, according to George, went something like this. "Now then, Mr Munro, can you give an assurance that your lavatories are secure?" To which George replied, "Yes they are, they've all got locks on the door." It sums him up.

Humour, a little pointedness, great kindness, devotion to duty, an awareness of and empathy towards the needs and hurts of others. These, and more than these, will be some of the many memories we bring to Church today as we give thanks for the life, ministry and work of George Munro.

*"His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."*

## WORSHIP MATTERS

### Summer Worship

The Kirk Session has approved the replacement of the antiquated, 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 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 for all services.

The aim is to have our first services in the redesigned sanctuary on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October, Communion Sunday. The 9.30 services will resume that Sunday with a service of Holy Communion in the sanctuary.

### Autumn Lectures – Faith and Art

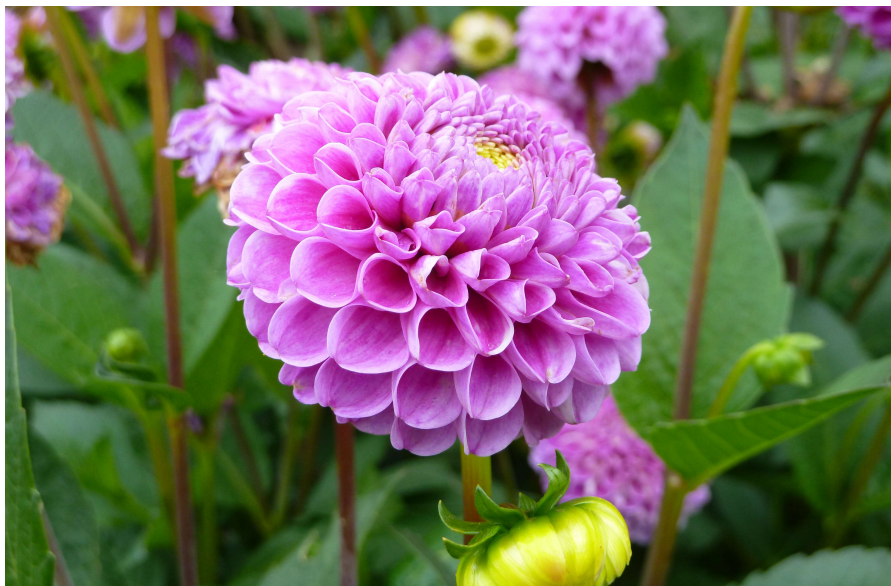
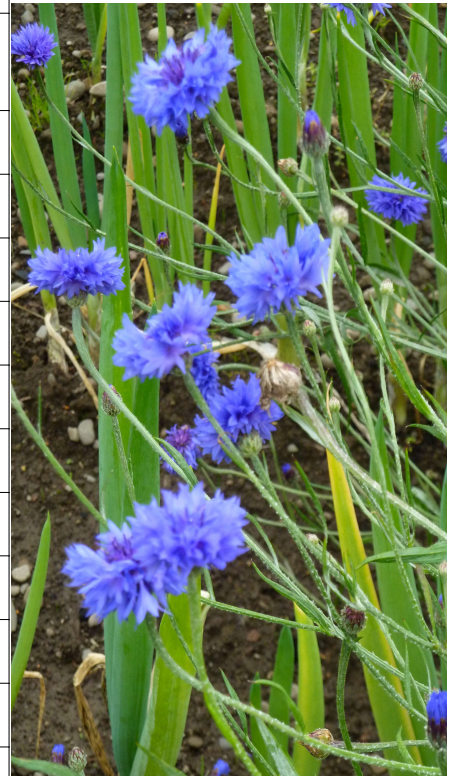
The joint autumn lectures that we share with our neighbours at Greenbank Parish Church will begin mid-September and run into October, slightly later than usual.

This year the first two lectures will be in Greenbank as it is unlikely that our sanctuary will be ready for use, but the third and fourth lectures will be in the church.

This year the theme will be Faith and Art. More details in the September magazine.

## FLOWER LIST

	Donated by	Arranged by
June 2	Catherine Leonard	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
9	Charles & Irene Wilson	Irene Wilson
16	Hazel Knight	Ruth Henderson
23	Roger & Jane Prince	Joan Burnet
30	Sheila Grahame	Eleanor Watt
July 7	Rosemary Drysdale	Ruth Henderson
14	Ruth Henderson	Val Mannings
21	Barry & Helen Hughes	Irene Wilson
28	Marjory Watson	Marjory Watson
Aug 4	Robin & Fiona Stimpson	Eleanor Watt
11	Jim & Annette Jenkinson	Joan Burnet
18	Margaret Gossip	Anne Armour
25	Moirra Forsyth	Irene Wilson
Sept 1	Fiona Watt	Val Mannings





## THANK YOU TOMMY!

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May the Minister made a presentation during the 10.30 service to Tommy Batchelor, our recently retired church officer, to thank him for all he had done for Morningside Parish Church during his five years with us. The presentation included a cake which Tommy cut during the service, as a result of which many of the congregation will not have seen it, although they would enjoy a slice with their coffee afterwards. For those who didn't see it, here it is, reflecting Tommy's skills, interests and service.

## ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of the following members:

Revd George Munro, who died on 26<sup>th</sup> April

Mrs Jenny Kennedy, who died on 27<sup>th</sup> April

Stanley Douglas, who died on 27<sup>th</sup> April

Mrs Isobel Grubb, who died on 5<sup>th</sup> May, and

Mrs Helen Buist, who died on 6<sup>th</sup> May.



The 55<sup>th</sup> BBGA organised and led a short walk through the Hermitage of Braid on the evening of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April. Thanks to all the parents, our Chaplain and members of the congregation who also attended to support the Moderator's initiative.



## STILL PUTTING SCOTTISH LOVE IN(TO) ACTION

*"A child needs not only food and shelter but something more...much more...the certitude of being loved...of knowing that someone really cares and is ready to make sacrifices. If the child is really loved, seen as important...precious...then life rises up within and begins to flow so the child grows in trust and in potential a marvellous part of creation."*

*Jean Vanier*

Scottish Love in Action (SLA)'s roots stem from 1999, when our founder Gillie Davidson took a church youth group from Edinburgh to the town of Tuni in Andhra Pradesh in India.

Rev Dr Derek Browning and everyone at Morningside Parish Church have, since our beginnings, generously supported us and continue to hold us lovingly in their prayers. For that generosity and care, SLA offer our deep and heartfelt thanks.

In Tuni all those years ago, the youth group helped build a home and school for 120 homeless children, which quickly grew into around 500 children, with all of the challenges that brought. The children were at risk of begging, scavenging and other forms of exploitation. The experience led to a partnership with an Indian non-governmental organisation (NGO) and, in 2000, Scottish Love in Action was formed.

Nineteen years on we're working with three partner organisations in India and have a dedicated team of (full time equivalent 2.1) staff and many wonderful volunteers in Scotland. SLA's work helping to transform the lives of vulnerable children in India continues to thrive, through funding which feeds, clothes, accommodates, educates and gives medical care to the children in the ASRITHA Rainbow Home; and the innovative education and empowerment 'camps' for adolescent girls conducted by partner NGO VOICE 4 Girls.

As India evolves, so our relationship with our original partner, Light of Love Children's Home and School (LLCH), has evolved. Changes and developments in the East Godavari district where LLCH is located, and in LLCH itself, have led to a decrease in the number of children requiring support, and an increased desire for autonomy from the partner organisation, which has culminated in SLA ceasing funding of LLCH in 2019.

As always for SLA and for our Indian partners, the best interests of the children have been at the heart of our discussions. In March we met representative of LLCH in Scotland. In order to give them a little more time to find alternative support/funders, we agreed to provide a small amount of funding till the end of September 2019. We're continuing to work closely with them to manage the final stages of the withdrawal process. SLA will always have cherished memories of our roots under the trees in Tuni, and we wish LLCH well as they progress to an independent future.

Our projects in Hyderabad also continue to develop and grow. The CEO of VOICE 4 Girls recently met the Countess of Wessex in India! VOICE are also doing more 'boys camps' as part of their work. They've realised that you cannot achieve equality between boys and girls if you don't involve the boys in the conversation from the beginning as well. They're also learning about how they need to adapt their approach in working with boys. (First, they need to capture their interest, based on their personal needs, wants and interests, and then implement the other elements of the programme).

Rainbow Homes are expanding the number of homes they work with across India. Asritha Rainbow Home, which SLA partners with, is based in Hyderabad. To give an idea of the scale of the issue they're helping to tackle, the city has around 28,000 children living on the streets (the same number as all of the children at nursery and primary school in Edinburgh). As the children in their homes get older and have to begin to think about moving on into the world, Rainbow Homes are doing some interesting work around that 'transition period'. They're thinking about what support they can put in place as the children grow up and move on to jobs and lives outside the safety of the home.

These projects are doing work that is really innovative, and which people in Scotland could learn a lot from.

### **What's in a name?**

People are often intrigued as to how 'Scottish Love in Action' got its name. It was actually suggested by Dr Premdas, the Indian co-founder of SLA's first project in India along with Gillie Davidson, leader of QII Church Youth Group. 'Love in Action' was the QII motto.

On their return from Tuni to Scotland in 1999, having built the original children's home, Dr Premdas challenged the group to continue to put 'love into action' back in Scotland. They did this by establishing SLA, thus spreading the word about the extreme need of the vulnerable children Dr Premdas and his organisation NASA were working with. They were also blessed to find lots of people keen to keep supporting the transformative work.

Our life-changing projects clearly illustrate how the work and partnerships of SLA continues to flourish and strengthen, grown from the seeds planted almost twenty years ago.



**DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO MIGHT BE  
INTERESTED IN HELPING US MAKE MUSIC?**

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**FOUR CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

*(for any voice, Soprano, Alto, Tenor or Bass  
are available, worth £1,000 minimum)*

**From September 2019 to June 2020**

*Comprehensive repertoire from Tallis  
to the present day*



**Alternatively...**

**ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP**

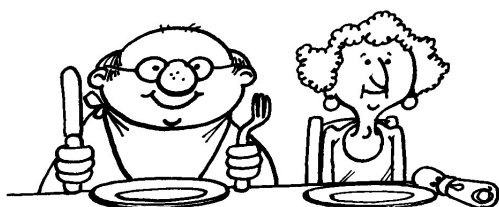
Applications are invited for an Organ Scholarship (value at least £1,000) at the for the academic year commencing in September 2019.

This splendid late Victorian church in the heart of Morningside has a strong musical tradition and is the proud possessor of the last "Father" Willis organ to be built in Scotland - and which in 2004 underwent a complete restoration by Messrs Harrison & Harrison of Durham.

Whilst the scholarship has been designed around the academic year, this should not be seen as excluding adult applications.

***For further details, please contact the Organist and Choirmaster,  
Morley Whitehead, Morningside Parish Church Office,  
2 Cluny Gardens, Edinburgh EH10 6BQ  
(e-mail [office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk))***

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**SPEAKER SUPPER**

What an enjoyable evening we had at the recent Speaker Supper, which was attended by about sixty members of the congregation and their family and friends. After a delicious meal, we had a very interesting talk from Ken Macintosh MSP, who has held the role of Presiding Officer at the Scottish Parliament since May 2016. Although elected as an MSP as a representative of a particular party, he has to be politically impartial on assuming the post, and answered questions following his talk very diplomatically! Many thanks to all those involved in the organisation of the evening who are to be congratulated for another very successful event.

## SE EDINBURGH FOODBANK

In the four months from January to April 2019 members of the congregation donated 54kg of food to the SE Edinburgh Foodbank, which is based at Southhouse Broadway. Partner organisations, health care workers and voluntary agencies issue referral vouchers to those in a crisis situation and in need of assistance. Causes of referral are varied but include low income, debt, benefit delays and domestic violence. Each food parcel issued contains 3 days supplies of non-perishable food and basic toiletries.

Donations of non-perishable goods such as cereals, tinned soup, rice pudding and custard, spaghetti, rice, jam, coffee, tea, savoury and sweet biscuits, brown/tomato sauce and sponge puddings are welcome and can be placed in the plastic container beneath the pigeon-holes in the corridor connecting the Braid and St Matthew halls. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in recent months – these donations help meet the basic needs of those who, for whatever reason, are finding providing for themselves and their family particularly difficult.

## SUNDAY CLUB

The Sunday Club continues to have a fun packed 45 minutes every Sunday morning during Morning Worship. We are now making full use of access to WiFi, enabling the youngsters to watch the many Bible stories readily available online. It's an extremely useful tool and something to which the young people are used to in their 21<sup>st</sup> century school-life. It's also the only 10 minutes or so when there is complete silence during Sunday Club as they are so engrossed in what they are watching!



Easter saw some extra activities. We held an Easter Bonnet Competition and had bonnets available on the two Sundays prior to Easter which the young people could take away, embellish and bring back on Easter Sunday, modelled if so wished, to be judged by Ruth Henderson. They took some twelve Bonnets away and we were delighted when six returned with them to be judged. They were all FAN-TAS-TIC but Olivia was the winner. Here are a few of the entries being modelled.

You were perhaps wondering what else we did on Easter Sunday during the service, as there was a lot of joyful laughter and shouting outside the church. We were doing the traditional activity of decorating eggs and then rolling them in the Church Gardens.





## THE MUSIC OF KENNETH LEIGHTON - IN CHURCH.

I am given to understand that at a recent meeting of the Kirk Session several folk voiced their disapproval of the choice of anthem on Passion Sunday (April 7th): Kenneth Leighton's "*Solus ad victimam*"; it was even suggested, I believe, that there should be "a petition" signed, asking for a complete ban on the performance of this composer's music in Morningside Parish Church. I feel that I must be allowed to respond publicly to this, and to put my case.

Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988), one-time Reid Professor of Music at Edinburgh University, is a fine composer with an international reputation: certainly his music is sung and played up and down the land in cathedrals, collegiate chapels, and parish churches with a good musical tradition; and as a professional musician I can well understand why. We sing two or three of his anthems, and I play a number of his organ works as voluntaries. Indeed we have been singing "*Solus ad victimam*" (generally once a year) for almost as many years as I have been Organist and Choirmaster, and I do not understand why concerns should have been raised only now. Perhaps it was felt that an Offertory piece by the same composer and in the same service was too much(?) Or perhaps "Brexit" is getting to us all...(?)

Professor Leighton's music is always well crafted, and often has much to say: if there is a more moving setting of Phineas Fletcher's "*Drop, drop, slow tears*", the last and a cappella movement of his cantata "*Crucifixus pro nobis*", I for one have yet to hear it! And "*Solus*", with Helen Wadell's excellent translation of a text by twelfth-century Peter Abelard, is a fine work too, with art AND craft displayed in almost every bar, from the slow, relentless tread of its introduction ("Alone to sacrifice Thou goest, Lord") to the brilliant blaze of E major at the end ("...the laughter of Thine Easter Day.") Some folk may not have "liked" it, altho' a number of people did - the visiting preacher that day said how "powerful" a work it was! But "like" or "dislike" are, it seems to me, rather beside the point. Obviously, we all of us LIKE some sorts of music more than we like others - I am not particularly fond of Britten's "*War Requiem*", for example, but I can see that it is good music (one definition of "good" music is that it achieves what it sets out to achieve - in this particular case an impassioned plea for peace and reconciliation.)

Perhaps we should as far as possible put aside matters of "likes" and "dislikes" and consider more exactly what the anthem is for. It is not just an ear-tickling interlude between more "important"(!) parts of the service - rather it is to illustrate and underline, wherever possible, the ideas in that service. On Passion Sunday, we think of Christ's inexorable journey to death - His being nailed to a cross, and left for 9 hours to die of shock, loss of blood and dehydration under the relentless glare of the Palestinian sun. Not nice. And the music of "*Solus ad victimam*" reflects that. The Christian faith, surely, is not just a matter of "comfort", but is something too to challenge us, make us (sometimes) UN-comfortable, make us think; and if, on Passion Sunday, a "gritty" anthem helps us do that then all well and good, and the music will have served its purpose very well.

M.W.

## **VOLUNTEERS WANTED!**

Ewan Brown and his wife Sally organise the car rota. Members of the congregation provide transport for other members who are otherwise unable to come to church. The passengers are very grateful for the service.

Ewan is looking for new volunteers to join the rota of drivers. The task involves using your car once every four, five or six weeks to drive a passenger to church and take them home after the service. The more volunteers there are, the less often each person needs to be on the rota.



Recently a number of volunteers have retired and there is a waiting list of people keen to get to church each week. If you would like to do something for the church, perhaps this is the opportunity for you. It is not an onerous duty. Almost all the passengers live fairly locally, and it is a good chance to get to know someone in our community. You may even develop some new friendships.

If this is something you would like to do, Ewan is very keen to hear from you. Please either speak to him on a Sunday or write your name and phone number on the piece of blue paper in his pigeon-hole at the church so he can contact you.

Thank you!

## **SUMMER EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO**

### **1. SUMMER LUNCH**

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 in the Braid Hall after the morning service.

Come along, catch up with friends as well as enjoying a lovely lunch. Tickets cost £15, beverages not included, and will be on sale on Sundays, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June. They can be bought from Fiona Gossip and Aline Haggart. This is a ticket only event and not to be missed.

### **2. AFTERNOON TEA**

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019, 2.30 – 4.30pm, in the Braid Hall

Come along and enjoy an afternoon of meeting up with friends, making new ones and enjoying some "home baking". Tickets cost £10 and can be bought from Aline Haggart.

If you would like to come along and require transport to and from the church hall then let us know and we will try to organise something for you.

Hopefully the sun will be shining and a good afternoon will be had by all.

### **3. MEN'S BAKE SALE CHALLENGE**

It has been some years since Greenbank Church challenged the men of our congregation to a Great Scottish Bake Off. So the Outreach Committee wants to throw down the spatula again and ask the men to embrace another baking challenge. The Men's Bake Sale will take place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June, following the 10.30 service.

All baking should be delivered to the St Matthews Hall prior to the service between 9 - 10.15am for pricing and all proceeds will be shared between our charities and church funds. Please note that all contributions should be wrapped or in boxes and no fresh cream should be used.

## SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the September issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> **August** 2019 and it will be available for distribution on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September. 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).

## 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)).

### Adlestrop

Yes, I remember Adlestrop –  
The name, because one afternoon  
Of heat the express-train drew up there  
Unwontedly. It was late June.

The steam hissed. Someone cleared his  
throat.  
No one left and no one came  
On the bare platform. What I saw  
Was Adlestrop – only the name

And willows, willow-herb, and grass,  
And meadowsweet, and haycocks dry,  
No whit less still and lonely fair  
Than the high cloudlets in the sky.

And for that minute a blackbird sang  
Close by, and round him, mistier,  
Farther and farther, all the birds  
Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

*by Edward Thomas*

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

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