

Magazine Magazine

No. 153 March 2020

Dear Friends

In a recent sermon on the theme of salt and light, taken from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, I wondered out loud about how we were to be like salt and light in the church and wider community. The purpose of salt is to bring flavour to food. Too much can ruin a dish. Too little and the meal can taste bland. The purpose of light is to help people find their way.

former Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, is often quoted as saying, 'The church is the only society on earth that exists for those who are not its members.' In order for salt to do its work, it has to be added intentionally to food. In order for the light to be seen, we must be willing to go where the darkness exists, to engage and walk through it so that, in time, the light can overcome it. The light is not given for our own personal enjoyment.

Whilst we should not rest on our laurels, we only need to look at the weekly intimation sheet, or this monthly magazine, to see how light our congregation much salt and contributes to the Kingdom of God. Recently I wrote the draft of the report on our congregational purposes for the Annual Accounts, and reading back through the magazines of last year, I was astonished,

and humbled, by what we have achieved, and what we are planning to achieve in 2020.

Nevertheless, we cannot afford to sit back. We are not in such an entitled position that we can assume we are untouchable. God has given us responsibilities and imagination and talent, and we are called to deploy these to the best of our abilities in the time into which we have been born. It can feel draining; it can feel

> daunting; but it can also feel exhilarating. We are supposed to be exhilarated by our faith at least some of the time! Those moments when everything we have worked towards comes together, and the blessing of God in our togetherness and purpose is almost tangible.

> The tectonic plates of faith and practice are shifting, and the Spirit of God is on the move. Quick, or slow, change is

coming. It has been said, "People don't change when they see the light, the change when they feel the flames." These are momentous times for our Church, and indeed for every Church. Who we are and what we are meant to be is all in the melting pot. Pray, and I mean pray, for courage, wisdom, insight, and new people to join with us, as we move forward.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning



KIRK SESSION NEWS

At its February meeting, the Kirk Session heard reports from:

• **Education**: The focus of the Education Committee continues to be principally upon the Sunday Club (including the operation of the crèche) and adult education.

Creche - Evelyn Henderson has recently taken over responsibility for the operation of the crèche. The Committee has benefited from presentations from crèche workers at Crossreach, who provided the Committee with a number of fresh ideas. A rota of helpers from the congregation has been prepared until June 2020, with an updated set of toys and resources available for the children attending the crèche. Where possible, faith elements will be introduced to the children.

Sunday Club remains generally well attended. While attendance rates are challenging to predict and fluctuate, on most Sundays there have generally been between six to twelve children attending, across a wide range of ages. The breadth of ages, to some extent, creates challenges for the Committee and thought has been given to ensure all the children remain engaged in and enjoy Sunday Club. The 2019 Nativity play went well, with the date for the 2020 version already set!

The Minister has been hosting a gathering at the Manse for older children, generally those in primary seven and above, and Reuben Addis will be holding the "No Longer Little" event later this month for parents of current and soon-to-be teenagers. The children will support the March all-age Communion service next month, serving elements where possible.

In relation to the children's participation at the Services, they continue to feedback that they enjoy their more visible role and rather than having to cajole them to take part in readings and prayers, if anything they are keen to be involved as much as possible.

Sunday Club continues to be operated principally by Norma Wilson and Rona McLaren. We remain hugely indebted to this team who invest significant time and effort to ensure the Sunday Club remains relevant, fun and enjoyable for all the children.

Planting bulbs in the Church grounds. The Committee, at its January meeting, explored options for the children attending Sunday Club (possibly along with some of the uniformed organisations) planting bulbs in the autumn in the Church grounds. Fundraising initiatives may be required to support any activities. Session supported the idea being progressed and an indication was given that the Friends of MPC might be willing to contribute.

Worship: The committee continues in its 'consultative' capacity to support the work of the
Minister who has the key role in framing and leading worship for our congregation. To that
end the committee has met four times over the course of the last year which has, like many
before it, seen its share of change, challenge and experiment.

Experiment started early in the year with "The art of Holy Week" proving a particularly effective stimulus for the Easter services and the innovation of an extended service on Good Friday drawing some very eloquent reflections from Richard Holloway.

Change and challenge came together as far as worship is concerned in the form of the extensive work to refurbish the sanctuary over the summer. Whatever impact might have been feared, worship not only survived but thrived in the different experience offered by services in the St Matthew Hall. Many enjoyed the more sociable atmosphere and the more vocal singing engendered by the arrangement and proximity of the seats. That said, with winter upon us, few have regretted the greater comfort of the heating and the seats – or the greater ease of access and movement – since our return to services in the sanctuary!

Other items to have been brought to the committee's attention for discussion have included the strength of congregational singing, choice of hymns and the introduction of hymns 'new' to the congregation. Concern was also raised over how to respond in cases of disruptive or challenging behaviour in the course of services. Work is in hand to produce a protocol including key telephone numbers to be made available to all likely to require it.

Looking forward, the committee continues to look at ways in which we might adapt services or promote worship events with a view to enriching our own experience of worship and potentially attracting a wider audience. The Advent evening service led by John Bell in December was very instructive, demonstrating the more involved and intimate experience which can be achieved by the realignment of seating now possible in the sanctuary. In similar vein, the committee heard with interest a proposal by the Moderator to trial at our March allage Communion a form of service in which communicants will be invited to sit at a table for the serving of communion. While 'different' for us, the 'long table' format had been a tradition in the Church of Scotland and emphasises the symbolism of sharing the communion.

Presbytery Elder's report A report had been circulated of the meeting on 4 February. The
Revd Dr Richard Frazer (Greyfriars Church) was appointed Moderator of the Presbytery for
2020-2021 and the outgoing Moderator, the Revd Angus Mathieson was thanked for his work
during his term of office.

It had been a long, and at times a fractious, meeting wrestling mainly with (1) the topic of **Presbytery Reform**, both in terms of its committees and its way of doing business and (2) how it would best address the need for a new Presbytery Plan particularly in the light of the General Assembly's desire for a "Radical Plan" to review the number of Presbyteries and address declining membership and reduced numbers of ministers. In a flurry of motions, countermotions, amendments and assurances, eventually a degree of agreement broke out. In short, discussions were underway about the possible linkage of Edinburgh Presbytery with parts of the Lothian Presbyteries but no decision had yet been reached.

Presbytery Committees would largely remain the same and not, at least for the meantime, reflect the changes in format of the Church of Scotland Central Committees. Minor adjustments would include better coordination of the Property, Deployment of Resources and Finance committees.

Presbytery itself would meet six times per annum, four evening meetings and two day "conferences", the latter to allow time for discussion and decisions on the issues raised by, and the impact of, Presbytery reform and the Assembly's Radical Plan.

The current Presbytery Plan, which runs to 2022, would remain the foundation document on which vacancies, unions and linkages would be based, except where it was demonstrable that circumstances had changed, and until a new Presbytery plan had been agreed.

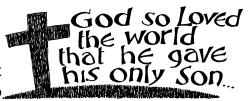
To assist in the creation of the new Presbytery Plan a conference will be held on Saturday 14 March 2020 at our Church at which, following presentations, seventeen groups based on the geographical spread of the Presbytery would discuss and hopefully identify from "grass roots" level some indicators which might assist the formulation of a Strategic Plan for the Presbytery. Each congregation is invited to send two representatives to this conference and the Moderator and the Session Clerk will attend for our Church.

The Annual Stated Meeting of the Congregation will be on Sunday 29th March after the 10.30am service.

WORSHIP MATTERS

Holy Week and Easter

This year our joint Holy Week services will be held at 7.30pm in Greenbank Parish Church, Monday 6th to Friday 10th April. There will be a special communion service on Thursday 9th April.



On Good Friday the Revd Sally Foster Fulton, Head of Christian Aid in Scotland, will lead the Three Hours service which will start at 12 noon. This service is one where the congregation can come and go, staying for as long as they are able.

In the evening of Good Friday the joint choirs of Morningside and Greenbank will take part in the service.

On **Holy Saturday**, 11th April we will hold our Words and Music service in Morningside Parish Church; a quieter service as we reflect on the impact on faith of Holy Week, and the anticipation of Easter.

On **Easter Sunday**, 12th April, there will be no 9.30am service, and one main service at 10.30am as we celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday morning.

Remembering Service 19th April, 3pm

For some years we have held an annual Service of Remembering in the Church and invited people who have had bereavements either recently or further back in the past to come along and share in a quiet time of reflection with words and music. The service is planned for **Sunday 19th April at 3pm in the Church**. It will last around thirty minutes. During the service there will be readings and some quiet, reflective music and an opportunity, if you wish to come forward and write a name on a small star that you can place on the "Remembering Tree" in memory of the person you would like to remember at that time. Refreshments will be served in the Braid Hall afterwards.

The service is open to all members and friends of the congregation who have had a bereavement recently or some time ago. Remembering the death of a loved one is never easy, but it is an important part of moving through bereavement. Many people may find the reflective time helpful, and an opportunity to give thanks is something that might be important, so if you would like to, please do come along. You will be made most warmly welcome.

BELIEVING AND BELONGING COURSE

Are you thinking about becoming a member of the Church? Do you have questions about the Christian faith and the Church? The Minister will be running a short course to look at a number of issues around faith and its practice. The evening events will be on 5, 12, 19 and 26 March, 7.30pm in the St Andrew Room. The course is open to anyone interested, whether they are considering church membership or not. Informal, instructive, and possibly inspirational, this course will help people wrestle with what it means to be a Christian today, and how to be part of the family of faith that is the Church.

ROYAL MAUNDY THURSDAY, ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL, WINDSOR CASTLE

The Royal Maundy Service this year will be held in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle on Thursday 9th April. At the service the Queen distributes small silver coins known as 'Maundy Money' to recipients chosen from all over the United Kingdom. The coins are presented in two leather purses, a white one containing coins to the value of the same number of pence as the years of the monarch's age, and a red purse containing a £5 and a by-sa/2.0 - © David Dixon -50p coin.



St George's Chapel, Windsor Castleccgeograph.org.uk/p/4463310

The name 'Maundy' and the ceremony itself derives from the instruction, or *mandatum*, that Jesus gave at the Last Supper to His disciples to 'love one another.'

The service has changed significantly in the last century where new recipients are chosen every year to receive Maundy Money as a recognition of service to their churches and communities.

The Order of Service for Royal Maundy is a simple one. It begins with the reading of John 13:34, which contains the mandatum from which Royal Maundy evolved. It includes two lessons, the first of which (John 13) also recalls the mandatum. The second reading contains the section of Matthew 25 which describes the Last Judgement. The Queen makes half of the presentations after the first lesson, and half after the second. Anthems, led by the Chapel Royal choir, are sung while the distribution is going on, often concluding with Handel's coronation anthem Zadok the Priest. The Royal Maundy service concludes with prayers, the singing of the National Anthem, and the Benediction. Silver dishes are used to hold the gifts; one, the traditional Maundy Dish, forms part of the Royal Regalia and is held at the Tower of London when not in use. All six dishes date from the reign of Charles II; five of the six have been added to the service since 1971. They are held by the Yeomen as the Queen walks about, greeting recipients and giving them their gifts.

This year Morningside Parish Church will be represented at this special service as two of our elders have been selected to receive Royal Maundy Money in recognition of their service to the Church and community. Doreen Reekie has been an elder for many years, is convener of our Pastoral Care Committee, organises the weekly Wednesday Coffee rota, and visits new members of our congregation as they arrive. David Calder has been an elder for a number of years, is involved with nearly all of the social events organised by our congregation, leads occasional 9.30am services, and is our 'licence holder' when we need to purchase wine for our social events!

Both Doreen and David have served our congregation for many years in so many practical ways, often far away from the public gaze. The Church is grateful not only to them but to all people who give so generously of their time and their talents to make our Church a place of welcome, inclusion and hope.

We congratulate Doreen and David on this significant honour, and hope the day goes well in April.

MUSIC AND MEMORIES IN MORNINGSIDE

Our musical workshop, for those living with dementia and their carers, got off to a great start on St Valentine's Day and will be offered fortnightly over the coming months.



Future Dates: Friday 13th & Monday 23rd March

Friday 3rd & Monday 20th April Friday 8th & Monday 18th May

Friday 5th, Monday 15th & Friday 26th June.

Time: 2-4pm

Venue: Cluny Hall

Cost: we ask for a donation, as means allow.

If you know of anyone who might benefit from attending this group, please pass on this information and an invitation to join us.

The plan is to run the group once a fortnight, once on a Friday afternoon and once on a Monday afternoon. People will be welcome to attend either or both of these groups.

We offer an hour long music workshop, a chance to sing familiar and much loved songs, led by the Forget Me Notes charity. In the second hour, teas and coffees are available and we can offer a little companionship to those who are often on a very lonely journey. It is also a chance for them to get to know each other and build their own friendships & mutual support.

Can you help? We are still looking for some people to help with this project so if this is something that you have a heart for, if you can offer a few hours a month of your time, please get in touch. No special skills require - just a willingness to offer a bit of companionship, make teas and coffees, offer in some baking, commit to praying for us - just some ways that you could support the project.

If you are interested in either coming along or helping out or simply want to find out a bit more, please do get in touch. This is a chance for us to offer a very practical expression of our faith and I am for one am excited to see how this might develop over the coming months and hopefully, years.

Praise to the God of All Comfort

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4



Jacqui Lindsay, Pastoral Assistant

Tel: 07834 364 628

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EDINBURGH PIANO RECITALS

Friday 20th March in Aid of Music and Memories in Morningside

Peter Foggitt has kindly agreed to come up from London to offer these concerts, both to raise funds for, and also raise awareness of, our new dementia project.

We plan to offer two concerts within the church itself on Friday 20th March, one, a short, lunch time concert that will be dementia friendly, and a full concert that same evening.

The lunch time concert will start at 1pm and will last approximately 40-45 minutes.

The evening concert will commence at 7.30pm.

minor

Peter will present a programme of piano music ranging from Bach to Bartók, taking in Mozart, Brahms, and others along the way.



J.S. Bach	Italian Concerto	Mendelssohn	Variations sérieuses
W. A. Mozart	Variations on < <ah, td="" vous<=""><td>R. Schumann</td><td>Toccata</td></ah,>	R. Schumann	Toccata
	dirai-je, maman>>	Prokofiev	Sonata no.7: II
Mendelssohn	Prelude and Fugue in E	Bartók	Allegro Barbaro

Peter Foggitt is a conductor, composer, and keyboardist. He made his concerto debut at fourteen, and his Radio 3 debut at twenty-one, playing Rachmaninov *Piano Concerto no.3*. Peter trained at Chetham's School of Music, then as a Choral Scholar at King's College, Cambridge, followed by postgraduate study in London and is currently finishing doctoral studies in composition at Durham University. He has worked in opera—most notably at the Royal Danish Opera as Chorus Master, and at the Royal Opera Covent Garden as Assistant Conductor—in sacred music—he is currently Director of Music at Hampstead Parish Church and Director of Chapel Music at Emmanuel College, Cambridge—and in concert—he has appeared at the principal UK concert venues as a singer, keyboardist, and conductor. Peter enjoys an international reputation as an improviser on the piano and organ, and was a finalist in the St Albans International Organ Competition in 2017. Visit www.peterfoggitt.com.

Please support these if you possibly can and spread the word amongst anyone you think may be interested.

SALE OF BOOKS "SOME WORDS FROM NATURE"

Thanks to the support of family and friends in Edinburgh and in various parts of the U.K, I have sold enough copies for me to donate £1,200 to Church funds. With the addition of Gift Aid this increases to £1,500.

Copies of the books will be available for purchase in Church for some time to come.

Keith Bailey

WELL DONE AND THANK YOU KEITH!

PASTORAL SKILLS COURSE, AN INTRODUCTION

The feedback from last year when we ran this course was very positive, so we are offering it again this year in the hope that there are others who might be interested but for whatever reason, were unable to join us last time round.

Caring for one another is the responsibility of each and every one of us and so we are offering a brief introduction to Pastoral Skills over two evenings in April, on Sunday 19th and Sunday 26th, running from 6 –9.30pm each evening, starting with a light supper.

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

The course will look at topics such as:

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

The training will be hands on/experiential in nature and the aim would be to make it an enjoyable experience for those attending.

There is no charge for the training and CPD certificates will be provided.

To book your place or simply find out a bit more of what it might entail, please contact me on:Tel: 07834 364 628 e.mail: pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Jacqui Lindsay, Pastoral Assistant



Carry one another's burdens and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2



ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of Mrs Sheila Grant who died on 6th February 2020



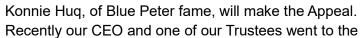
FLOWER LIST			
2020	Donated by	Arranged by	
Mar 1	Nyria & Keith Bailey	Joan Burnet	
8	Diane Gaskin Ruddock	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson	
15	Fiona Stewart	Val Mannings	
22	Hazel Nicolson	Eleanor Watt	
29	Sheila Rowand	Ruth Henderson	
Apr 5	Charles & Irene Wilson	Irene Wilson	

Do you have a hidden talent - or even a talent you don't know you have? We would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to join the Committee to arrange flowers throughout the year or be part of the decoration team for Easter, Harvest or Christmas. No previous experience is necessary as guidance can be given by members of the Committee if required. Please contact either Eleanor Watt (447 5492) or myself (449 2866) if you are interested, or speak to any of the ladies taking down the flowers on a Sunday morning for further details.

Irene Wilson Secretary & Treasurer, Flower Committee

SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION

As mentioned in last month's magazine SLA has been selected to present the BBC Radio 4 Appeal on International Women's Day on Sunday, March 8th. The appeal is on behalf of one of our partners in India, VOICE 4 Girls.





BBC in London for the recording. Konnie was wonderful, interested in SLA's work, calm and a great presenter.

The Appeal tells the story of Meheshwari, and how her life; and that of her sister, has been transformed by the knowledge she gained from VOICE 4 Girls. £12 pays for one girl from an impoverished background to go to VOICE where they learn the life-changing information, which enables them to stay in education and avoid early marriage, pregnancy and the abuse and violence endemic for girls in Indian Society.

Please listen to the Appeal which will be broadcast on **Sunday 8th March at 07.54** and 21:25, and again on the following Thursday at 15:27, or on BBC Sounds by searching for Radio 4 Appeal.

If anyone would like to find out more about the work that SLA now does in India please feel free to speak to me.

Lesley Murphy

DAY OF AR WO. 130 M. Informed Prayerful Prayer

World Day of Prayer Scottish Committee — SC020446

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical, prayer movement initiated and carried out by Christian women in more than 180 countries and over 1000 languages. Every year Christians of many traditions and all ages, celebrate a common day of prayer on the first Friday in March. Services are held all around the world, beginning in Tonga and New Zealand in the east and continuing throughout the day to Samoa and Alaska in the west. We bring the needs of the world, and of the writing country in particular, before Almighty God knowing that He will hear and answer us, as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. God invites us to

have a prayer relationship with Himself, but He also expects us to have concerned relationships with our neighbours, throughout the world. Prayer must be accompanied by action, as God moves our hearts and directs our thoughts.

In 2020, our local service will take place in **Greenbank Parish Church on Friday 6th March** with coffee available from 10.30 and the service starting at 11am. The service comes from Zimbabwe and the theme this year is: Rise! Take your Mat and Walk".

Do come along!

MONDAY CIRCLE

The Monday Circle meets on Mondays at 7.45pm in the Braid Hall, Morningside Parish Church.

Here are the dates for March (which bring our syllabus to a close).

2nd March Dovecot Studio Katie Taylor

16th March Search & Rescue Kim Ritchie

30th March AGM (St Matthew's Hall)

The meal for members is on 6th April.

We wish all our members a happy, warm and peaceful summer.

Anna Cunningham, Magazine secretary

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).

LIFE AND WORK - MARCH 2020

Scotland 2000-2020

The first in a two-part series looking at how Scotland has changed since the millennium

Taking Steps of Faith

Michael Harvey, chief executive of National Weekend of Invitation, describes his journey from a difficult childhood to successful businessman to full-time Christian ministry

The 'Ideal Model of a Parish Minister'

As a new biography is published, a reflection on the life of the Very Rev Dr Nevile Davidson and his transforming work at Glasgow Cathedral

Changed by Africa

Reporting on a transforming trip to Zambia by a group from an Edinburgh social enterprise with a church connection

Stepping into the Unknown

In the first of a new six-part series, the Rev Martin Johnstone considers 'life at the edge'

Change Needs to Happen

Teenager Danielle Gray highlights some of the struggles facing young people inside and outside Church today

Being Different

Ron Ferguson explains why the Church has a vocation to be 'a holy community of resistance'

Get Ready

The Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rt Rev Colin Sinclair urges readers to use Lent to review commitment to Jesus and the Church.



MUSICAL NOTES

The better part of a year ago, I wrote a few lines here (a "counterblast"?) for those who found a certain anthem by Kenneth Leighton a little inaccessible. The late Reid Professor's music IS good music, and I sincerely hope that some of us at least might be willing to give it (and ourselves) a second chance - by coming to Edinburgh Royal Choral

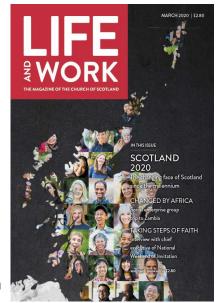
Union's concert in St Cuthbert's on Sunday, March 15th, at 7.30pm., when the composer's "*Crucifixus Pro Nobis*", a cantata for tenor soloist, SATB choir, and organ, is to be performed. It is a first class piece, and very moving.

And to give full value for money(!) the second part of the concert will be a somewhat different work, although on a similar theme - Sir John Stainer's evergreen "Crucifixion." Please do mark the date in your diaries.

MW

BAPTISM

We look forward to Sunday 15th March and the baptism of Florence Rosalie Susie Holt.



APRIL MAGAZINE

Material for the April issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by Friday **20**th **March 2020** and it will be available for distribution on Sunday 5th April (Palm Sunday). 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. Reports and photos of events that have taken place as well as forthcoming attractions are welcome, and early submissions are always appreciated!

PRAISE OF A MAN by Norman MacCaig

He went through a company like a lamplighter He went through a company See the dull minds, one after another.

As himself, But now he's one

Begin to glow, to shed Of the multitudinous company of the dead

A beneficent light. Where are no individuals.

He went through a company like The beneficent lights dim

A knifegrinder – see the dull minds But don't vanish. The razory edges

Scattering sparks of themselves, Dull, but still cut. He's gone: but you can see

Becoming razory, becoming useful. His tracks still, in the snow of the world.

CLOCKS GO FORWARD!

Please remember to put your clocks forward by one hour on Sunday 29th March!

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