



# Magazine

No. 154 April 2020

Dear Friends

None of us has lived through a time like this before. The situation facing our community, country and world is bringing out the very best, and sometimes the very worst, in people. It is hard to imagine what the next weeks will bring, and it has been interesting even at this early stage to see what people are missing. So much of our faith life in the Church is based around being in community with each other. The sense of dislocation not being able to gather for worship, or for coffee, or meet with the different organisations and groups, has been overwhelming.

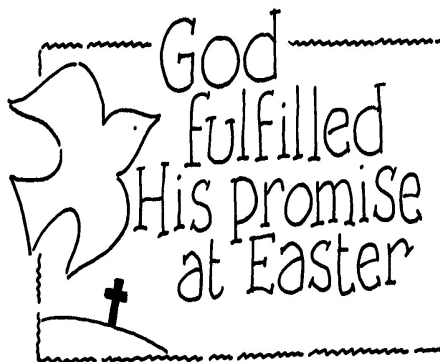
What we are as a Church is more than simply the building, magnificent though that building is. What we are as a Church is the people of God, wherever we may be found. Helping, sharing, listening, caring, laughing, crying, believing, and acting.

How we will be judged when this surreal time ends will be by how we showed our compassion for one another, our forbearance for one another, and our love for one another. We miss our Church, what it does, and we miss its people. But weaving through our loss and bewilderment, God still moves. As I type this, I've been in conversations today with community leaders and neighbours and one of our older members. Everyone has been determined to see their way through this time, and to offer what is both practical and sustainable as far as they are able. Not one is

able to solve the whole challenge, but everyone acting together in their own way, even as a distanced community, will see efforts join up, and help given, and hope offered.

In the midst of this awkward, empty, frightening time Easter falls. In a different age, but equally unsettling, dislocating and bewildering for the friends and followers of Jesus. Having been with Him for years, suddenly He was no longer there. Dead and gone, some said. Just gone, said others.

It is true, He was not there, for He had risen.



Amidst what we miss at this time, and what feels gone, the perplexing presence of Jesus remains. Sometimes just beyond our seeing, sometimes just beyond our hearing, but we can feel it. With that promise, that Jesus will come again.

Through these days, know that though life may be different in

future, life **will** come again, and life in all its fullness. That is the promise of Easter; that is the promise of faith.

I am so grateful to the large number of people who are working hard to serve and support our congregation and parish at this time. So many public and private acts of kindness and faithfulness. It has been truly wonderful. Hold on, be kind, find new resilience, ask for help, give help. The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

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

## KIRK SESSION NEWS

The Kirk Session met in March. Amongst its business:

**PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups)** - Paul Cackette, Convenor, reported PVG clearance had come through for Robert Armour and Session approved his assisting with work with vulnerable adults in the Wednesday Club. Paul also laid before Session the Safeguarding Congregational Register of members involved in voluntary work with children and vulnerable adults and the roll was duly attested. He drew attention to the fact that there were still a number of volunteers who had not undertaken training. Training opportunities had been provided at MPC in the past and there were regular opportunities to complete training at sessions organised by the Presbytery.

**Stewardship & Finance – Chris McNeil, Treasurer** welcomed Anne Dobson to speak to the details but reported that the content of the accounts was different this year because, in terms of OSCR's regulations, our Church was treated as a large charity which in turn made it subject to the more exhaustive scrutiny of an audit.

It was treated as a large charity because the apparent size of its income is £922,378. This exceptionally high level of income was primarily the result of the fact that the sale proceeds of the flat at 26 Esslemont Road amounting to £527,146 were, following advice from 121, properly lodged with the Consolidated Fabric Fund of the General Trustees to be held solely for the benefit of fabric matters at MPC. The release of the funds of £527,146 by the General Trustees was duly made towards payment of the costs for the recent works to the sanctuary, namely the removal of the pews, the replacement of the lighting and the overdue upgrading of the electrical switch gear. This cash transfer was, in terms of the accounting rules, added to our income under "other income".

Conversely, because the money was spent on improving the church, including other fabric work, it was included in the expenditure under the heading of "donation to the Church of Scotland" as the title to the church is vested in the General Trustees.

The entries balance themselves out but the consequence is that it put the accounts into a different treatment of accounting which, together with the way OSCR requires the accounts to be set out, does not help an easy understanding of the church's finances.

The accounts state that **"With income of £922,378 and Expenditure of £1,011,222 in 2019 there was an operating deficit of £88,844 for the year to end December 2019."** However this deficit includes **"one off fabric costs of £33,093 so the running deficit amounted to £55,751."** This compares with the projected budget deficit of £90,000 so there has been significant progress in addressing the deficit position – although clearly further improvement is needed..

Session approved the accounts and authorised the Treasurer and Session Clerk to sign the accounts on behalf of the Session.

The detailed work in preparing the accounts and answering the auditor's questions had fallen on a number of people but in particular acknowledgement was made of, and thanks given for, the work of the Treasurer and Greenbank Accountants.

**Pastoral Assistant** – The Moderator reported that Jacqui Lindsay had seen her medical Consultant today and was planning to continue her phased return. The project for people with a diagnosis of dementia, Music and Memories in Morningside, had been well received.

**Fair Trade - Marie Ogilvie** reminded Session that we are a Fair Trade church and all organisations should be using Fair trade products. It was the anniversary of our original commitment and Session was asked and agreed to re-commit to being a Fair Trade Church.

**The April Kirk Session meeting has been cancelled.**

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## WORSHIP MATTERS

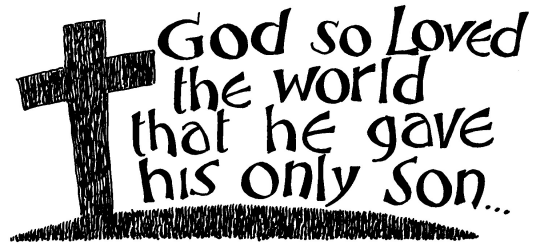
### Sunday services:

The Church will remain closed for the time being. Information about re-opening, when the time comes, will be posted on the church's website, on the church's Facebook page, and put in the weekly email.

We hope to record a service each Sunday (the church remaining locked!) which will then be posted on the church's website on Monday. This is new technology for us so please be patient. The service will include prayers, readings, a sermon and blessing, and there will also be some music.

### Holy Week 5<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> April

Greenbank Parish Church will be hosting the Holy Week services this year at 7.30pm each evening Monday – Friday, sharing them with us. Although Greenbank Church too is closed, you can watch the services on a live-stream - the website is



[www.Greenbankchurch.org](http://www.Greenbankchurch.org), Look for the 'Watch services' button on the right hand side of the page. The service in our Church on Holy Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> April, has been cancelled.

### Easter Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April

It will be sad and difficult not being in Church on Easter Day – but try and do something at home to mark the occasion. Read one of the Easter stories in one of the gospels, say prayers of thanksgiving for the hope of our faith, listen to one of the services on the radio or television, play some uplifting Easter music if you have it; and if the weather is warmer and sunny, enjoy a walk in the open air and give thanks for God's newness coming upon the earth. The Easter Sunday service will be recorded in our Church and put on to our website on Easter Monday.

### Remembering Service 19<sup>th</sup> April has been cancelled

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

We are waiting to see if worship restrictions have been lifted by May. At the moment it is not looking likely, so it is probable that this service will be cancelled.

### Church Flowers

Church flowers will not be distributed on Sundays for the time being.

### General Assembly 2020

The Assembly for this year has been cancelled. Please remember Colin Sinclair, the current Moderator, and Martin Fair, the Moderator Designate, at this frustrating and disappointing time. Thought is being given about how to install Martin as Moderator for 2020-2021.

### Pastoral Care at Morningside Parish Church during the Coronavirus situation

The Minister and Pastoral Assistant have met to discuss what will be possible pastorally over the next few weeks. Please let us know if there are any people who you think might

appreciate a phone call or email at this time. We've drawn up a list, but there is plenty of scope to contact others. And if you would like a call – do not hesitate to contact us!

Pastoral visitors have been contacted by Jacqui Lindsay and asked to keep in touch with their 'charges' by telephone.

Funerals in Church will not be possible, but the Minister will still be conducting funerals at the crematorium or by a graveside. Anyone who has a bereavement should contact the Minister and an undertaker, and then the arrangements will be made. There may be restrictions on numbers attending funeral services, so it may be that a simple service will be held, with the offer of a memorial service later on.

### **Practical Help**

We have considered how to offer appropriate practical support where possible to those who have self-isolated and who have no extended family or others able to provide basic help. Consequently, if you are willing to help with collecting basic shopping, pick up and deliver prescriptions, or post letters, please contact Jacqui Lindsay who will collate names, and then, if we receive requests and are able to help, will make the necessary connections. We will keep this matter under review and continue to assess its sustainability. Only consider volunteering if you are not in the 'vulnerable' category yourself, and are fully fit and well!

We are also keeping an eye on support for the South East Edinburgh Foodbank. It may be that opportunities to donate and deliver supplies will be necessary as the period of social isolation continues and people face increasing hardship.

The Minister is regularly involved with a wide group of community leaders, politicians, charities and volunteer groups and if needs arise, information will be posted on the church website and Facebook page.

**Please remember, throughout the Coronavirus situation, regularly wash your hands with soap and hot water for 20 seconds. If you feel unwell, or develop any symptoms, stay at home for seven days. If you are isolated and need help with basic shopping, prescription collection, letter posting or dog-walking, let us know. If we can help, we will.**

Finally, please remember to pray for all affected at this time - those with the virus and their families, and the health, social and emergency services providing care and attention. It is a difficult and surreal time for all of us, but we will get through it, and look forward to returning to normality as soon as we can.

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### **PASTORAL SKILLS COURSE, AN INTRODUCTION - Cancelled**

Unfortunately, along with so many other events, this training, due to run over two evenings in April, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>, is cancelled. We hope to offer it again, probably in the Autumn. I have kept a note of those of you who have already put your name forward. In the meantime, if anyone else is interested, please let me know and I can send out dates once we know when we are able to reschedule.

Jacqui Lindsay, Pastoral Assistant

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

## **MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE**

The 2019 Annual Accounts for Morningside Parish Church were presented to the Kirk Session on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and were duly approved.

Highlights of income received included a one-off transfer of £527,146 by the Church of Scotland General Trustees from the Church of Scotland Consolidated Fabric Fund, being the net proceeds from the sale of a former Braid Church Minister's house in Esslemont Road. These funds were used exclusively for the alterations in the Sanctuary, including the removal of pews, new flooring and the installation of a new, highly efficient, underfloor heating system.

Apart from this exceptional item, we received income from four main regular sources, namely congregational offerings, hall rental income, investment income and VAT reclaimed on fabric works through the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

In addition, sundry income was received from donations from organisations using the Church Hall premises such as the Baby and Toddler Group and the various uniformed organisations, as well as the very generous donation of £5,000 from the Friends of Morningside Parish Church to fund five choral scholarships for 2019-20.

On the expenditure side, our fixed costs included our annual Ministries and Mission allocation of £124,514 for 2019, staff salaries amounting to £90,718 (Pastoral Assistant, Church Administrator, two Caretakers, Church Officer and Organist), fabric repairs and maintenance totalling £41,624 and heating and lighting costs of £18,039.

The financial outcome for the year was an operating deficit of £88,864 which included some one-off costs totalling £33,093 such as the installation of a new heating and lighting control system following all the recent alterations, and remedial work on the Church roof.

Excluding these one-off costs, the running deficit for the year ended December 2019 was £55,751.

Apart from the current running deficit, the Church now faces additional unprecedented financial challenges from the coronavirus shutdown, as some major sources of income dry up, including Sunday offerings from the Open Plate, gift-aided donations, and a total loss of all rental income for the foreseeable future.

### **Financial Giving to the Church during the Coronavirus situation**

Please keep up to date with your financial giving via standing order or direct debit, or save your envelopes and other financial gifts and bring them to church when we re-open.

Like Churches and organisations across the country, we face extremely challenging times ahead-but you can help to ensure that together we will survive this crisis financially.

With all the new restrictions on travel, social gatherings, concerts, theatres, cinemas, restaurants, bars and coffee shops you may well find that your social life spending will have already gone down dramatically, so please consider making extra donations to the Church in addition to your regular giving. This will help the Church get through the coronavirus crisis, meet our financial obligations and protect our staff.

If you are able, increased donations would be very helpful. If you have a direct debit or standing order set up, please make the necessary arrangements through your bank. You will also notice that a new 'donate' button has been added to our website, for both one-off and regular payments. (It would be very helpful if you would let our Free Will Offering and Gift Aid Convenor Euan Murray know if you have made a transfer so that gift aid can be claimed if applicable - please email: [euamurray@me.com](mailto:euamurray@me.com) )

Please **DO NOT** send cheques or cash to the Church for the time being as we will be unable to process that while the Church premises remain closed.

There will be a significant impact on Church finances over these weeks so your continuing, or increased, generosity will be particularly important. Your generosity enables so much to happen in and around our Church. It's important to support the Church as much as we can; our offerings support not only our congregation but other church work across the country and the world. However, we recognise that not everybody will be able to respond at what will be a challenging and uncertain financial time for many. We're grateful for all donations received.

Thank you.  
Chris McNeil, Hon Treasurer

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### **MUSIC AND MEMORIES IN MORNINGSIDE: cancelled until further notice**

Sadly, we are having to suspend our musical workshop for those living with dementia and their carers, until such times when we can safely restart. This is a bit of a blow as, although we have only had three meetings thus far, the group was rapidly forming into a lovely, happy and mutually supportive community, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended.



A couple of weeks ago we invited everyone to write one or two words on a post-it note to describe their experience of the group. The following is a taste of some of the responses:

"*Emotion*"      "*Excellent*"      "*Fantastic – I had a great time*"      "*Let's have more*"  
"*Relaxing*"      "*Fun*"      "*Relaxing and pleasant*"

### **Praise to the God of All Comfort**

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> 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



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## FRESH START

Due to the coronavirus Fresh Start have taken the difficult decision, following Government advice, to stop accepting donations from the public to minimise contact with others. This may mean they will have to purchase goods in order to continue to deliver their Starter packs and services. If you wish to support them at this time you can donate on their Just Giving page.. [www.freshstartweb.org.uk/donate](http://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/donate)

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## ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to our newest member,  
Florence Rosalie Susie Holt, baptised on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of  
Mrs Jean Browning who died on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020  
Mrs Doreen Davidson, who died on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020

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## FROM OUR PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Over the years I have met so many people who suffer from low self-esteem, who have no idea of their own worth, believing that their value is dependent on what they do or don't do, what others think of them or don't think of them, with sadly no grasp of the wonderful truth, that we are children of God and, as such, infinitely precious just because we are.

During Lent I signed up for daily reflections with Tearfund as part of my Lent devotions, and one I thought particularly beautiful, I wanted to share.

*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well.*' (Psalm 139:13-14)

### **We too are shining born**

I have heard a rumour –  
a whisper from a distant hallelujah,  
a lonely breath of light from a long-forgotten star  
brushing against the remnant of our aching hearts  
to tell us something beautiful, something scarcely believable:  
we too are shining born, loved extravagantly  
even as our soul-lights flicker  
in the blast of an unkind world;  
even in the midst of fading evidence still, so I hear,  
a finer and more honest imagination than ours  
declares us bright, worthy, and good.

Gideon Heugh

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Our recent Speaker Supper on 28<sup>th</sup> February featured a lively account by Andrea Nolan of her distinguished career progression – setting out as Professor in Veterinary Pharmacology through various prestigious positions in Glasgow University to her present role – and ‘dream job’ – as Principal and Vice Chancellor of Edinburgh Napier University.



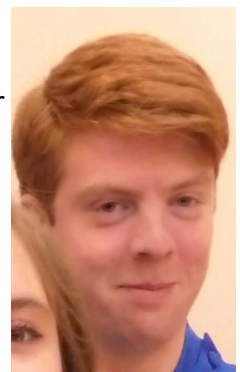
### MUSICAL NOTES

Congratulations are most definitely in order to our Bass-baritone Choral Scholar, Jack Harris, who has been awarded a Choral Scholarship to the choir of King's College, Cambridge.

Jack has been a tremendous asset to us as a Choral Scholar at MPC these last (very nearly) three years, and whilst we will be sorry indeed to see him go, we surely all wish him the very best for the future, and this wonderful opportunity.

MW

**INTRODUCING OUR ORGAN SCHOLAR :** My name is Cormac Levinthal and I am this year's Organ Scholar. This is my fifth year playing the organ and I study at the Junior Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow under Andrew Forbes. At the Conservatoire I also study violin under Kanako Ito. I have played violin for 13 years. Alongside this I am at my final year of school at The Edinburgh Academy. Beyond school I wish to become a Financier, and wish to found my own firm. In my free time I enjoy reading, writing, playing chess, poker, painting, designing buildings, and archery.





## A PRAYER FOR EASTER

Lord Jesus Christ,  
In the fragile mists of that first Easter morning,  
You walked in the Easter Garden,  
Unseen, unheard, untouched.  
In the half-asleep, half-awake world,  
You moved quietly,  
A whisper of hope rustling through  
Deadening doubt and fear and grief.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
The wise women came that first Easter morning,  
With tears and pain and numbness.  
Bearing spices, echoing Your Nativity,  
Prepared for death, but encountering angels,  
Hearing news that shook their world,  
Sending them running in fear and joy  
To tell yet more disciples of unlooked for life.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Naming Mary, hailing disciples,  
Speaking words of comfort to dispense with fear,  
Planning for a future beyond the tomb.  
Tell us now, in our day and in our time,  
To wrestle on with believing and doubting,  
That in the crucible of faith that's lived out loud,  
We may also answer, "My Lord and my God!"

## FROM THE MINISTER

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Touched and untouched, held and released,  
From crib to cross, from tomb to garden,  
From Galilee to the borderless world,  
Into our darkness, speak Your light;  
Into our emptiness, speak Your fullness;  
Into our doubt, speak Your faith;  
Into our fear, speak Your love.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
This Easter, every Easter,  
Brighten and bless our lives,  
Transcend the mundane days,  
And in each life transform what is dull  
Into what is glorious.

Amen



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## 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)).

## BETHANY CARE SHELTER



The Bethany Care Shelter is now in its permanent location of a building called “Diadem” formerly Stenhouse St Aidan’s Parish Church at the corner of Chesser Avenue and Gorgie Road which is now part of Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse Parish Church. The building is now a community centre and the sanctuary has been converted for the use of the Bethany Care Shelter, providing a hot meal, advice, overnight accommodation and breakfast for homeless people sleeping rough in Edinburgh. Thanks to a kind donation there are now proper beds (as opposed to mats on the floor) for up to 70 people and brand new showers and washing facilities have been installed.

The Care Shelter runs every night including Christmas for 32 weeks from late September to middle of May. The Church teams provide a minibus driver if possible and the minibus sets off with a member of staff to collect people at the end of the Western Approach Road at 9pm and 9.30pm. Some make their own way to the venue. There is a later collection at 11pm for accommodation only. There are about 70 catering teams on a rota basis who are volunteers from churches in Edinburgh and around.

Our Church team provided a 2 course hot meal at 9.30pm for 45 plus 4 staff on the first night, 30<sup>th</sup> January, and 63 plus staff on the second night, 5<sup>th</sup> March. Lots of tea, coffee and juice is drunk. Supplies are left for breakfast in the morning. The minibus does one run back into town at that time.

The staff who stay all night and give advice etc are all employed by Bethany. Bethany works closely with several other agencies to help those reduced to sleeping rough with physical and mental health issues and help and advice for moving on to more permanent accommodation. These include two housing officers seconded from Edinburgh Council, visits from a GP from the Access Practice at the top of Leith Walk, visits from a community psychiatric nurse, a visiting chiropodist and daytime support from Crisis, the national homelessness charity.

Thank you to those who supported the coffee morning or gave donations and to all the members of the catering team.

Anne McNeil

## LIFE AND WORK - APRIL 2020

### Easter

Reflection by the Very Rev Dr Derek Browning  
Prayer from the Rt Rev Colin Sinclair

### Children and Communion

The experiences of churches actively involving children in their communion services

### From D'oyly Carte to Dunfermline

Interview with opera singer and church elder Frances McCafferty

### A Celtic Pilgrimage

Gemma King describes her walk on the Columba Experience, a week-long pilgrimage for young adults.

### Under Par

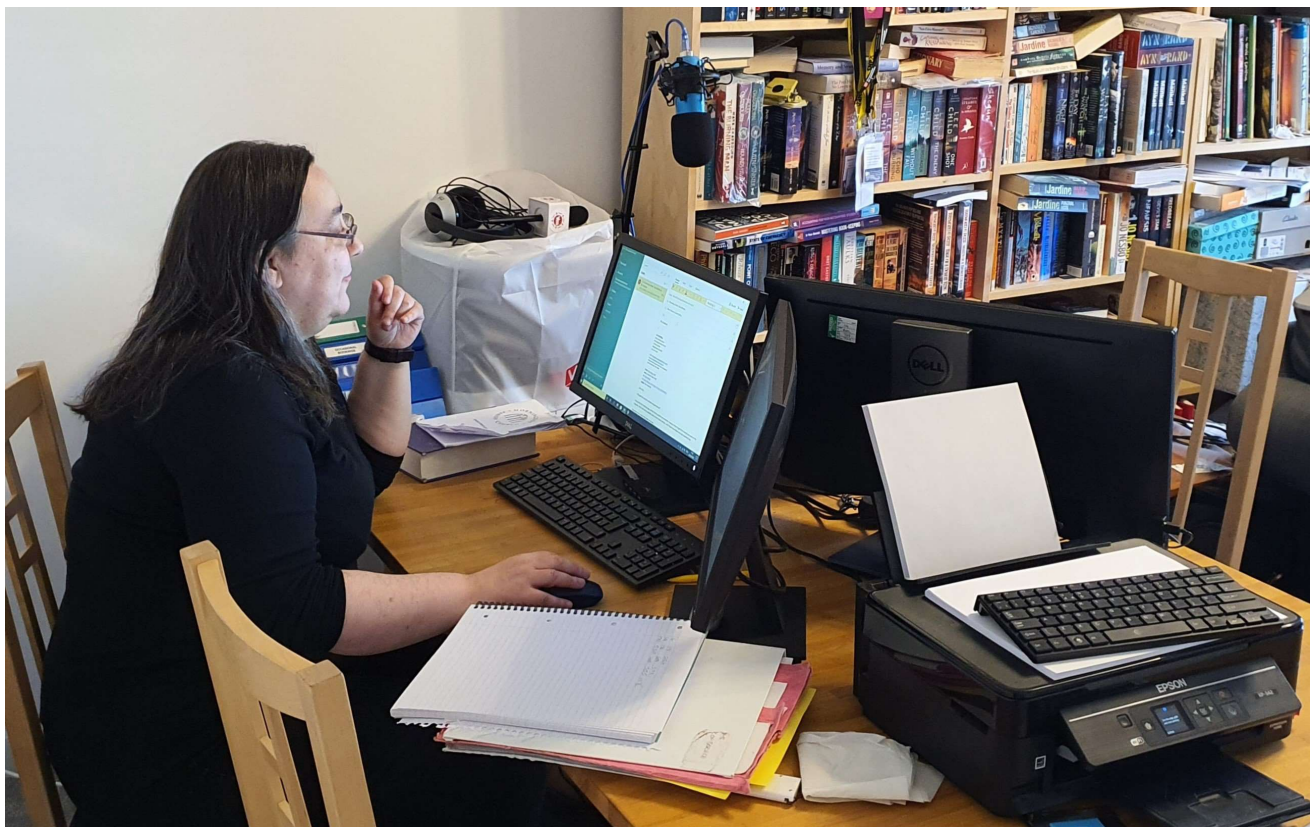
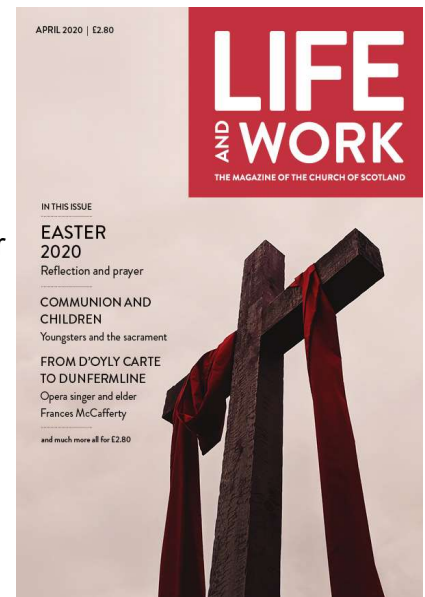
The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers reflects on the importance of good mental health

### No Short Cuts

In his final column, the Moderator of the General Assembly explains why Jesus is still worth following

### The Cruellest Month

Ron Ferguson reflects on the gift of April



**The Church and Halls are closed to the public. Emails and phone calls will still be dealt with (our Church Administrator is able to work remotely from home, as you can see above). The caretakers will continue a care and maintenance presence at the Church, and ensure that the building remains secure.**

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 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020 and it will be available by Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. While the church is closed, contributions should be sent by email to [editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk). As the magazine is not being printed for distribution during the current pandemic, if you would like to receive it by email, or know of any member of the congregation who would like this, please contact the church office. It will be put on the church website, where you can also find previous issues.

### Easter Hymn by A E Houseman

If in that Syrian garden, ages slain,  
You sleep, and know not you are dead in vain,  
Nor even in dreams behold how dark and bright  
Ascends in smoke and fire by day and night  
The hate you died to quench and could but fan,  
Sleep well and see no morning, son of man.

But if, the grave rent and the stone rolled by,  
At the right hand of majesty on high  
You sit, and sitting so remember yet  
Your tears, your agony and bloody sweat,  
Your cross and passion and the life you gave,  
Bow hither out of heaven and see and save.



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Although the church is closed, please join us for worship through our website [www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk). We aim to record a service each Sunday which will be posted on the church's website on Monday.