



Magazine

No. 155 May 2020

Dear Friends

Things I miss:

The 9.30am service Going out when I want Dinner with friends After-service coffee
A full night's sleep The choir The sound of the sea Concentration
The monthly jam and home baking stall Nursing home services COVID-free news
General Assembly preparation The Sunday Club young people
Wednesday morning coffee Meetings Intimations
Having to make time for ironing Shaking hands at the Church door
Balanced and informed journalism Singing hymns with the congregation

Things I have re-discovered:

The importance of morning and evening prayer Old recipes The Dawn Chorus
Petroc Trelawney on Radio 3 The beauty of the Church Regular meals
Phone calling old friends Frustration fades if you count to ten and breathe!
Thomas Cromwell in Hilary Mantel's novel Music's relaxing benefit



That we are more connected than we think.

That this crisis will pass.

That faith matters.

That we are not alone.

That there is more kindness in our Church and community than we realise.

That the Lord is Risen.

That God is with us.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

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

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 are recording a service each Sunday (the church remaining locked!) which will then be posted on the Church's website and Facebook page on Monday. The service includes prayers, readings, a sermon and blessing, and there will also be some music.



Afternoon service, 7th May: This service has been cancelled.

The May Kirk Session meeting has been cancelled. We are reviewing the date of a possible June meeting, dependent on Government guidelines.

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). A security and maintenance check is regularly carried out at the Church.

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 Dr Fair as Moderator for 2020-2021.

HRH Prince William, Duke of Cambridge has sent a letter to the Moderator recognising the challenges of celebrating Easter at a time when churches are closed and expressing his "warmest wishes to all Ministers, Elders and Members of the Church of Scotland, who I know are working tirelessly to serve their communities in the most difficult of circumstances."

The Rt Rev Colin Sinclair welcomed the letter, saying:

"As we approach Easter I was delighted to receive as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland a letter from Prince William, the Earl of Strathearn.

His Royal Highness was due to be Lord High Commissioner at this year's General Assembly, before it had to be cancelled because of COVID 19.



The Church of Scotland is sorry not to be able to welcome him back to Scotland, where he went to University at St Andrews, but we appreciate him taking time to write to us and are grateful for his interest, concern and support."

PASTORAL CARE AT MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH DURING THE COVID-19 SITUATION

The Minister and Pastoral Assistant, with district elders and others, are phoning, emailing and writing to congregation members from time to time, particularly those who are vulnerable or on their own. 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 are 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 COVID-19 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, and look forward to returning to normality as soon as we can.



PEW CUSHIONS

The village of Clachan lies few miles beyond Tarbert at the north end of Kintyre. Over the hill lies West Loch Tarbert and there used to be a ferry over to the Kilberry shore. The Church in Clachan is a very traditional rectangular structure built around 1760, with the close packed and well worn pews at ground and gallery level forming three sides round the elevated pulpit. It is the centre of the parish of Kilcalmonell, so named after St Columba's

nephew. The medieval gravestones and Celtic crosses outside suggest the site's history extends back well beyond the current building.

Like many Churches in Kintyre, Clachan is linked with other parishes...in this case Gigha and Killlean and Kilkenzie. The new minister has a wide patch to cover, made worse by most of the other churches in Kintyre having vacancies. But for the small congregation, one new addition to their worship has considerably eased sitting through a long sermon. In these days of listening to Derek from the comfort of our armchairs each Monday, we forget the backache of sitting bolt upright in our old pews. Clachan was one stage worse... traditionally longer sermons and bare wooden bench seats. No one drifted off....ever!

But today, Clachan is transformed. Thanks to a donation from an Edinburgh Church of its redundant maroon cushions, no longer needed due to the pews going, Clachan received more pew cushions than it could ever fit in the small kirk. And an able work party transported, chopped and resealed our cushions to transform every pew into a comfortable seat. They sent us their thanks from the bottom... of their hearts for providing comfort to a small congregation who would otherwise have suffered bare boards.

It's great to see our cushions recycled. And if you're ever in Clachan, just pop in and take a trip down memory lane. (Maybe not now, as the church is shut, like our own sanctuary.) But next year and for years to come there will still be a small piece of Morningside in Kintyre providing comfort to the faithful.



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

PASTORAL CARE DURING THIS TIME - OUR OWN LOCAL HEROES!

We are so grateful for those who have volunteered to help out with shopping, posting letters collecting prescriptions, and keeping in touch by phone with those who are having to self-isolate. We have a team of 14 people and are supporting a number of folk both within our own congregation and some within the wider parish and we know just how much this is appreciated by those who are on the receiving end.

If at any point you or someone you know could benefit from this kind of support, please call Jacqui on 07834 364 628 or email her pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk as we still have some capacity within the team.

At the same time, we are fully aware that many more within the congregation are supporting each other along with offering support to friends and neighbours - many, many thanks for all that each of you are doing.

Doreen Reekie

Jacqui Lindsay, Pastoral Assistant

SUMMER CONCERTS AT MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH

We live in uncertain and difficult times. All sorts of things have, inevitably, had to be cancelled, or at least put "on hold", and no-one seems able to tell when it will all end. However, although there is no Edinburgh International Festival this year, nor a "Fringe", we should, I think, at least for now, plan to GO AHEAD with our normal summer concerts. Whether these are able to be "normal" concerts to which the public are admitted, or whether we have to find some other means of making them happen remains to be seen. But let us go ahead in faith - do please mark these in your diaries, all 1.10 – 1.55pm:-

Wednesday, 12th August: Recital by City and University Organist Dr John Kitchen. (Those familiar with John's "Get Organised" series in the Usher Hall will know what a good AND entertaining recitalist he is);

Wednesday, 19th August: Margaret Donaldson and Morley Whitehead, playing music for 4 hands on 1 (or 2!) pianos. (Always very popular!);

Wednesday, 26th August: Jack Harris (bass-baritone) and Morley Whitehead (piano). (The programme to include Vaughan Williams' "Songs of Travel." Jack has been a Choral Scholar with us these last 3 years - this autumn he goes up to Cambridge as a Choral Scholar at King's.)

MW



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AN UPDATE FROM FRESH START

Anne McNeil has received an update from Jen McQuistan of Fresh Start about their work and initiatives during the current Covid-19 crisis as follows:

“As you can imagine, it has been a very busy few weeks at Fresh Start and, while we took the difficult decision to stop accepting all donations of goods and cancel all of our volunteers, our staff team have been working around the clock to put contingency plans and emergency services in place so we can still support our vulnerable clients throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

As many of you know, Fresh Start typically support people who have been homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless, many of whom are unemployed, surviving on low incomes or benefits, have mental and/or physical health conditions and have limited or no support networks. Sadly, it is these very vulnerable people that will be hit the hardest through the Covid-19 crisis.

Since the end of March, Fresh Start have been delivering Emergency Packs of food, cleaning items and toiletries to some of the most vulnerable people in the Edinburgh community. We are currently running this service with our immediate staff team in order to keep to very strict social distancing measures and I'm delighted to say that in the last few



weeks we have been able to send out over 500 Emergency Packs to some of the most vulnerable individuals and families in need. We have also been working very closely with partner organisations to assist in the delivery of hot meals and packed lunches, particularly in North Edinburgh, and have set up a direct phone helpline so we can support and signpost clients with/to whatever services they need.

As an organisation, Fresh Start will strive to continue delivering as many Emergency Packs as possible throughout the COVID-19 crisis and I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to you all for your continued support during this challenging time.”

Jen McQuistan

Fresh Start – Spring Cleaning! As many people are busy filling their days with spring cleaning and cupboard tidying, please remember to put aside any items that could be used in Fresh Start's starter packs. You'll find a list of items needed on their website and they will be needed more than ever once Fresh Start opens its doors again. If you would like to make a donation to Fresh Start to enable them to buy food for emergency food packs, please visit their website at www.freshstartweb.org.uk and use their 'Donate' button.



ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of
Mr John Ryce who died on 30th March 2020

MORNINGSIDE PARISH IS RE-COMMITTING TO BEING A FAIRTRADE CHURCH.

At its last meeting, on 10th March, the Kirk Session approved a proposal to recommit our Church to continue being a Fairtrade Church, one of a group of Fairtrade Places of Worship.

Obviously at present the coffee machines in the church kitchen are out of use, but ordinarily they filter delicious Fairtrade coffee, our teapots brew refreshing Fairtrade tea, and there are Fairtrade sugar sticks (brown or white) available should you require a little sweetener.

If you have the opportunity to buy any Fairtrade products during the current limited shopping options please remember the wide list of products now regularly available in supermarkets: not just tea, coffee or sugar, but bananas, chocolate, olive oil, chocolate, biscuits, dried fruits, chocolate, flowers, fine beans.....etc.

Thank you for your continuing support

LIFE AND WORK - MAY 2020

Those who subscribe to Life & Work will be pleased to hear that the May issue is available free of charge on the Life & Work website, <https://www.lifeandwork.org/>. The magazine continues to be published but distribution is not possible in the current circumstances. Those who don't currently subscribe may also find it an interesting read!

The Church and Halls are closed to the public. Emails and phone calls will still be dealt with. The caretakers will continue a care and maintenance presence at the Church, and ensure that the building remains secure.

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).



SOMETHING TO PONDER IN YOUR SPARE TIME...

Friend and I have headed forth to a cathedral city by train. We reach our destination by a sunken railway that takes us to a terminus built on an early botanic garden. "That's a novel idea" says friend who is keen to explore links with a lawyer and writer (born 1771) whose heart was in this city.

But first we have to scale a ladder, to a viewpoint over a royal vista and, in the other direction, a national shame. And set between is an ancient institution still providing universal guidance. "Heavens above, what's that?" cries friend, looking south to another hilltop three miles south where a daughter institution stands proud. And so we head off to investigate, following the least but widest of three royals, and then some spans commemorating a strangely and illegally (at the time) clad royal visitor in 1822 hosted by said writer. Then south and west across fields that have links, though inland, with a famous water feature and south down a famous road with roots going back to Roman times.

We head off down a south facing slope, past a memorial to a famous cleric, now part of another institution whose namesake's bones inspired leaps forward in calculation or rabdology. Friend suggests it's time for a canny refreshment but we press on, crossing a stream running through gipsy lands associated with the near east that marked the city boundary, then past a plague pit and an ice age moraine all in short order.

All told, we've walked a good way. "We definitely need a drink now" says friend who reminds me this city was once a brewing capital, so we look for reclusive shelter in a hostelry where the road south divides.

"Left or right?" says friend, as we head on. "We're highwaymen," I say, "so it must be left." We head uphill now on a broad path, then down past verdant slope on our right. A coffee shop looms (but it's closed in current circumstances so we don't stop to muse why its number is 259). When we reach another stream, we follow it east, to an old mansion house and then climb the steep hill beside us to another viewpoint. "I observe the institution we saw from the hilltop." I say. "You're a star!" says friend.

1. What is the name of the first institution?
2. Who was the famous lawyer and writer?
3. Whose bones are famously remembered?
4. What links the tearoom to the first stream?

Please send your answers to the editor editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk by 8pm on Friday 15th May. One large Easter egg is offered for the winner, drawn from those submitting correct answers. The solution will appear in the next magazine.

JUNE MAGAZINE

Material for the June issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by Friday **22nd May 2020** and it will be available by Sunday 3rd June. While the church is closed, contributions should be sent by email to 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.

Hinterhof by James Fenton

Stay near to me and I'll stay near to you –
As near as you are dear to me will do,
Near as the rainbow to the rain,
The west wind to the windowpane,
As fire to the hearth, as dawn to dew.

Stay true to me and I'll stay true to you –
As true as you are new to me will do,
New as the rainbow in the spray,
Utterly new in every way,
New in the way that what you say is true.

Stay near to me, stay true to me. I'll stay
As near, as true to you as heart could pray.
Heart never hoped that one might be
Half of the things you are to me –
The dawn, the fire, the rainbow and the day.



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

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