



Magazine

No. 157 September 2020

Dear Friends

You might be familiar with the World War One recruitment poster with a father sitting on a chair, with his daughter and son nearby, and one of them asking, "What did you do in the Great War, Daddy?"

I wonder if, in years to come, people who lived through it will be asked what they did through the Covid19 lockdown. It's been hard, really hard, for all of us and in many different ways. As we emerge from lockdown, different people will respond in different ways. Some will be bold, even impatient. Others will feel timid and nervous. All will feel uncertain about the world we emerge into. What will be the same, what will be different, how will we cope?

Some will feel guilty at not being able to do much. Some will feel exhausted because they've done so much. Some will have had their spirits lifted because of the great kindness that have been shared. Some will have had their lives crushed because of great sadness endured.

I doubt if any will emerge without some kind of change or transformation in their lives and the way they live.

For people of faith, strong or struggling faith, I hope there has been a sense of God with us. In the days when things shone, and the days when the darkness seemed overwhelming. We're not there yet, and it is going to take months to move through and to reshape our world and our ways in the light, and dark, of what we have experienced together and on our own.

This time of national pandemic has brought out the very best, and the very worst, in all of us. We have learned how we cope, and do not cope. We have learned how easily disconnected we can become, and how dependent on others we truly are. We have learned where the fault lines run along our lives, and where

we snap, and where we are broken. We learned who our true friends are, and how so many people, even in adversity, will rise to the challenge, and go the extra mile, and do what needs to be done for the least and the lost and the last.

As we move onwards, for that is the only way, my prayer is that God will continue to bless and guide as we go, as we learn, and as we emerge into hope.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning



WORSHIP MATTERS

Sunday services:

At time of writing restrictions about numbers and social distancing are still in place. There are 40 places available in Church each Sunday. You **MUST** book your space through the Church Office. Please do not turn up on Sunday and assume you will be able to attend the service. Booking has been fairly brisk!

We continue to record the half-hour 10.30am service each Sunday. At time of writing, we are in the final stages of testing for streaming the service live online. When this is finalised, the relevant details will be sent out with the weekly email and will be on the church website. The shorter service at 10.30am is likely to continue into September.

The 9.30am service remains suspended at the moment, as do the normal Sunday rotas, the choir, Sunday after-service teas and coffees.

There are a number of safety and hygiene issues, all of which are extensively noted in the Church email, intimations, and on the Church website.



Harvest Thanksgiving

Harvest is normally celebrated at the end of September. At the time of writing, whilst there will be the shorter 10.30am service, the normal Harvest service will not be possible.

October Communion

No firm decision has been taken about if, or how, communion will be shared in October. A decision will be intimated in due course, after the Kirk Session has considered the matter at its September meeting.

Sunday Club and Creche

These remain suspended for the time being, but we are keeping the situation under review.

The Church and Halls currently remain generally closed to the public except for events in the Sanctuary. The Church Office is staffed by the Church Administrator who will respond to phone calls and emails. Security and maintenance checks and cleaning are carried out regularly at the Church by our caretakers.

WELCOME TO DR CONOR FEGAN!

From September, I am happy to say, I will be joining you in Morningside Parish Church for my 15 month probation placement as a part of my training for ministry. Originally from Newry, Co. Down, I have been in Scotland since 2007. Until recently I lived in Aberdeen, moving to Edinburgh in March of this year. Covid-19 has ensured that this move was an unusual one. Despite the challenges of lockdown, I have settled into the rhythm of life in the central belt and am looking forward to the excitement and challenges that will come as things return to a more familiar pattern.



Before I began my training for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament I worked as a Mission and Development worker for the Church of Scotland, while also completing a PhD in Practical Theology at the University of Aberdeen. The past five years have been a whirlwind of different experiences that have led to this point. Having sensed a call to ministry some years ago, and having spent a significant amount of time studying, my call to ministry became ever more apparent, ultimately leading to this path towards ordination.

Over the course of the last year my training has taken the form of two placements, first in Ferryhill Parish Church in Aberdeen, and for the past six months in Richmond Craigmillar Parish Church here in Edinburgh. The candidate process for becoming a minister in the Church of Scotland is different for everyone, but the one thing that stays the same is that we get to spend time in a parish, working and journeying with people as we learn how we are best placed to serve God and each other. These placements have both helped in different ways to prepare me for this next chapter in my ministerial formation.

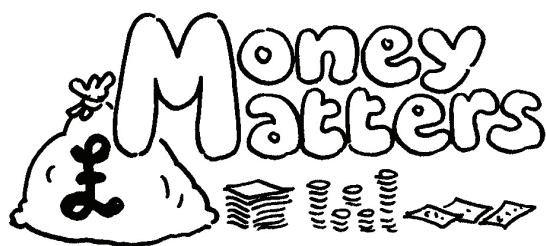
Covid-19 most likely means that at least in the beginning things might be more restricted than usual, however, I will be with you full time for 18 months. Hopefully this means that there will be ample time to get to know and become part of the community. In the meantime, I am excited for this new stage of my journey and I am delighted to have the opportunity to grow and learn with you in Morningside.

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

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND IN 2022?

Initial discussions about a pilgrimage in autumn 2021 have led a small group to do a bit more work on this, but the COVID-19 impact makes 2021 unlikely to work. We are now looking at October 14th – 24th 2022 as the revised potential date for a joint Morningside-Greenbank pilgrimage, giving an insight into both the pilgrim experience and the realities of life on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian divide. Would you be interested in being part of this? Initial indications of interest are invited – contact the Minister if you'd like to go on the "interested" list!



FINANCIAL GIVING TO THE CHURCH DURING COVID-19

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. **Increase regular**

donations: please consider instructing your bank to increase your existing standing order if you are able. Cheques can now be posted to the Church Office for processing.

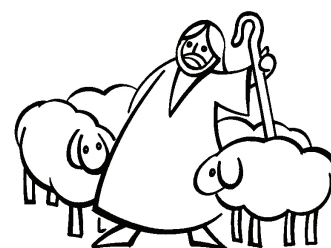
If you would like to make a one-off donation, please use the new 'Donate' button on the Church website.

There will be a significant impact on Church finances over these weeks and months. Your continuing, or increased, generosity will be particularly important. It enables so much to happen in and around our Church.

Thank you.

PASTORAL CARE AT MORNINGSID PARISH CHURCH DURING COVID-19

The Minister and Pastoral Assistant, with district elders and others, continue to phone, email and write to congregation members, 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. And if you would like a call – do not hesitate to contact us! Garden visits are now possible – if the weather is fine! Hospital and nursing home visits are still generally not possible.



Funerals can now be held in Church, but at time of writing the numbers attending can be no more than 20. At the crematoria the number of mourners is also restricted to no more than 20, but may be fewer in the smaller chapels.



Beyond Lockdown

SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER | 7.30PM
AT MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH (EH10 6BQ)



A series of evening services jointly created by Morningside and Greenbank parish churches, with reflections from leading figures in the worlds of green energy, religion and journalism. After COVID-19, where do we go from here?



6 SEPTEMBER

Adam Bruce

*Global Head of Corporate Affairs,
Mainstream Renewable Power*

**Building an electric society: energy
in the 4th industrial revolution**



13 SEPTEMBER

Richard Holloway

former Bishop of Edinburgh

Religion as the art of crisis



20 SEPTEMBER

Sheena McDonald & Alan Little

Being locked down

The journalists and commentators share stories from their past and discuss how their experience helped prepare them for the pandemic.



27 SEPTEMBER

James Naughtie

Journalist and Writer

Jim Naughtie rounds off the series with his thoughts on these exceptional times.

Livestream at www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

To attend in person, you must reserve your place in advance
email: office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk or call: 0131 447 6745

CHURCH FLOWERS

The decision was taken at the start of lockdown to suspend the provision of fresh flowers in the church pending the resumption of normal services. As those of you watching the services on-line will have noticed, silk flowers were purchased from the Flower Fund and are currently being changed on a seasonal basis.



A limited number of hands-free flower deliveries are now taking place where appropriate. Currently these are being financed by monies which had been received in advance for the provision of flowers in the church over the period when the church has been closed, and various generous donations received during the lockdown.

Anyone wishing to donate to the Flower Fund should send a cheque payable to Morningside Parish Church Flower Fund to Irene Wilson, 66 Thomson Crescent, Currie, EH14 5JS, or leave it in my pigeon-hole, or contact me on 449 2866 to make arrangements if you prefer to pay by bank transfer. The monies will be used to provide future deliveries pending the return of normal arrangements.



ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of

John Miller who died on 26th July

Geoff Bulmer who died on 6th August

THE PAD PROJECT

It was agreed towards the end of last year that one of the three charities we would support was The Pad Project. Due to insufficient sanitary products, young women and girls across Malawi and Zambia miss up to a week of schooling every month. TPP has been set-up to provide women's groups across these countries with the tools and materials to make reusable sanitary towels and container bags in an attempt to keep these girls in school all year round.

We had an update in July to let us know that the group is currently also making face masks for their government for which they receive a small fee and have the materials provided. When last we heard, they had made over 15,000 masks. They had run out of pad fabric but a further consignment has been sent to them with donations received.

There are plans to expand the Project into Kerela, India but that has been postponed because of the pandemic.

JUNE KIRK SESSION

The June meeting was a virtual one by Zoom, a first for our Kirk Session.

Stewardship and Finance Committee: MPC budget figures and summary to end May 2020 identify that:

- In May congregational income was well down across the board, with FWO at only 65% of budget and no Open Plate.
- Rental income in May was negligible with only £586 coming in (from the Open Orchestra as a goodwill payment to keep their place), against the budgeted rental income of £6,147 for the month.
- There was no income from fundraising activities as expected.
- Overall income was only 50% of budget for the month of May.
- Year to date income to end May stood at £92,616 or 84% of year to date budget.
- Expenditure in May was well under budget at £10,288 actual v £13,505 budget. This does not include the HMRC furlough grant of £2,880 for May which was not paid until 2nd June.
- The operating deficit to end May 2020 amounted to £54,657 against the budgeted ytd operating deficit of £22,039.
- Items of one-off income received in May included a payment of £12,850 from the Consolidated Fabric Fund in respect of the large electricity bill partly generated during the phase 3 works in the sanctuary.
- This combined with HMRC furlough grant in April and Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme VAT reclaims have helped to bring down the overall net deficit to end May 2020 to £33,793.

Crossways Marketing and future letting: The Session Clerk reported that work continued to prepare the Church and Hall for future letting. **Letting rates** – substantial research went into comparing our existing terms with other spaces for hire. It was difficult to get direct comparisons as there are so many variables – location, condition of premises and service offered. It was clear that we had perhaps held back on increases in previous years while there was disruption from building works.

Outreach Committee reported that an update on the charities supported by MPC had been circulated to all who receive the weekly church email. The start of 2020 saw a change in the charities the Church chose to support. Following discussions within the Outreach Committee and a proposal to Kirk Session, it had been agreed that one of our three charities should be the Church. With the deficit looming over us we thought the adage that 'charity begins at home' was never more apt.

We also took the decision that after 18 years of support to Scottish Love in Action, we would look for another overseas charity to support and the Washable Sanitary Pad Project was received and enthusiastically accepted by the Kirk Session. Support will continue for the Edinburgh Clothing Store, our local charity. This is a charity that is close to the

congregation's heart, which is clearly shown in the great efforts that everyone goes to in supporting its various fund raisers and 'gift label' appeal each Christmas.

Worship Committee: Music Scholarships - Uncertainties about the resumption of singing in any form during services have been compounded by the effect of lockdown restrictions on the recruitment process (advertising, auditioning) for the next round of scholars. In view of the significant reliance on the contribution of scholars in some areas of the choir, resumption of the choir seems likely to be delayed (perhaps till October as in 2019) while the complement of music scholars is restored.

Staff Committee: From the beginning of April our two caretakers and church officer have been on furlough with 80% of their salaries being met under the Government CJRS (Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme) grant. The balance of their salaries continued to be paid by the church, so during furlough they received full pay. The CJRS scheme is obviously a huge benefit to our cash flow when virtually all our rental income has ceased due to the Covid 19 restrictions. The Caretakers returned, part time, in late July to prepare the Church for services and to carry out cleaning. The Church Administrator has been working from home. She has been kept busy with correspondence and administrative matters including the preparation of the weekly Orders of Service, checking that music complies with copyright regulations, and editing the streamed recording of the service. She has also taken the opportunity to spend time usefully in reorganising systems to make operations more efficient when we get back to "normal" times. Most recently she has been kept busy printing and distributing all the reports to Session!

Elders reports on visits to organisations – reports had been submitted for the Baby & Toddler Group; Sunday Crèche; Monday Circle; Wednesday Coffee Mornings; Badminton; 15th Rainbows; 15th Brownies; 188th Guides; 103rd Beavers; 103rd Scouts; 25th Cubs; 25th Scouts and were duly noted. The Moderator thanked the elders for their reports and commented that it was an indication of the wide variety of activity supported by the church.



SITUATION VACANT

We're looking for somebody to join us on the Communications Group. We meet three or four times a year and are responsible for letting the congregation and the wider public know what our church has to offer.

Always, we are trying to examine this responsibility to see whether there is anything we can do to improve in areas such as leafleting, cards at Easter and Christmas, the magazine, the Street Event or the website. We would particularly welcome anyone with an interest in the photographic content of the website. Training would be provided.

If you have any interest or would like to know more, please contact Issie Paterson:

issiepaterson@hotmail.com

LIFE AND WORK - SEPTEMBER 2020

In this month's issue:

Cash After Coronavirus

With many facing financial stress either during or following the lockdown, Jackie Macadam finds out how the church can help.

Honouring Frankie

Author Michaela Foster-Marsh tells of life growing up with her adopted brother, and how she founded a charity in his memory.

Rewilding the Church

Steve Aisthorpe reflects on a timely and challenging metaphor.

A Crucial Connection

In this month's youth column, choral scholar Jack Harris looks at the relationship between music and faith. [**NB: MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH CHOIR SCHOLAR**]

Augustinian Reflections

In the continuing series celebrating 50 years of the Church of Scotland SRT, the Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison considers the thoughts and writing of Augustine on faith and science.

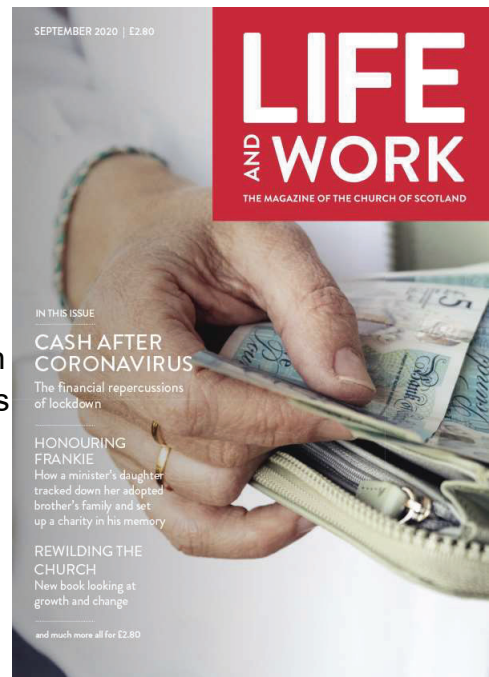
Flexibility and Creativity

The Moderator says the Church will have to hold on to the spirit of the last few months as it faces the challenge of reform.

'Keep Silence and Listen'

Ruth Harvey considers the importance of listening, demonstrated by the early Christians in Acts 15.

To subscribe, speak to our Life and Work coordinator Fiona Stewart or download a digital copy for £1.99.



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

OCTOBER MAGAZINE

Material for the October issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 18th September 2020** and it will be available by Sunday 4th October. While there are restrictions on church opening, please email contributions to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk. As the magazine is not being printed for general distribution during the 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.

Everything is Going to Be All Right *by Derek Mahon*

How should I not be glad to contemplate
The clouds clearing beyond the dormer
window
And a high tide reflected on the ceiling?
There will be dying, there will be dying,
But there is no need to go into that.
The poems flow from the hand unbidden

And the hidden source is the watchful heart.
The sun rises in spite of everything
And the far cities are beautiful and bright.
I lie here in a riot of sunlight
Watching the day break and the clouds
flying.
Everything is going to be all right.

Minister: Very Revd Dr Derek Browning 447 1617

derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk

Pastoral Assistant: Jacqui Lindsay 07834 364 628

pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Magazine Editor: Alison Riddell 445 2330

editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Church Office: Jan Goulding

447 6745

office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

We record our half-hour service at 10.30am each Sunday. At time of writing, we are in the final stages of testing for streaming the service live online. You can join us for worship in Church in person, having first booked a seat through the Church Office, or through the link to the recorded service on our website www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk



Many people have worked very hard to keep the Church going over these recent difficult months – with pastoral care, music, administration, finance, communication and in many other ways. Thank you to everyone who has gone the ‘extra mile’ during the lockdown.

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