

Intimations 13th September 2020

1. **10.30am Morning Worship: 'God goes ahead.'** Services are broadcast livestream. Go to the link on the church website. We will still record this service and put a link on the website shortly after so you can watch it at a different time.
2. **We gives thanks for the life of Sheila Grahame.** A funeral service will take place on Thursday 17th at 10.30am at the Pentland but the usual number restrictions apply so only family members can attend. Please remember Sheila's family at this time in your prayers.
3. **Autumn Evening Services with Speakers 2020: 'Beyond Lockdown...'** Five great speakers this year looking at what lessons have been learned during Lockdown and wondering what the world will be like beyond it. All evening services are at 7.30pm. You **MUST** reserve a space through the Church office. We hope to record and live-stream the talks which will all be held in our Church.
13th September: **Richard Holloway** talks about religion as the art of crisis.
20th September: **Sheena McDonald**, with **Allan Little**, will talk about 'sliding doors' and compare different lockdown experiences.
27th September: **Jim Naughtie** will round off the series.
4. **The Church Magazine** for September is available online. The deadline for the October magazine is 14th September.
5. **Life and Work:** Copies of the September edition of Life & Work are now available for delivery. When collecting the copies from the pigeon holes, please remember to maintain 2m social distancing.
6. **Weekly Church Email:** The email is available weekly for members and non-members alike. This will be one of the regular means by which you can keep informed about what is happening at the Church. If you would like to receive the email, please let the church office know and we can add you to the mailing list: office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk
7. **Morningside Parish Church Website and Facebook:** the website www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk has details of services and sermons and information about the Church. You can also 'like' the Morningside Parish Church page on Facebook. This will be one of the regular means by which you can keep informed about what is happening at the Church.
8. **Harvest Thanksgiving 27th September:** We will hold a harvest service in the restricted worship format we currently have on Sundays. Last year, at this time, the congregation responded magnificently in donating foodstuffs to the Edinburgh SE Foodbank, based at Southhouse Broadway. This year, if you would like to support our local Foodbank,

please think about making a financial contribution to its work. You can send a cheque (made payable to Blythswood Care – SE Edinburgh Foodbank) to Blythswood Care, Highland Deephaven, Evanton, Ross-shire IV16 9XJ. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation please include your name, address and postcode, thus enabling the Foodbank to reclaim 25% of your donation. There will also be an opportunity, for those attending the service on the 27th September, to make a retiring offering by putting their donation into an envelope and marking it “Harvest Offering”. All financial contributions will help the Foodbank purchase items in short supply and for it to continue to meet increased demand from those most in need, particularly during these uncertain and challenging times. Thank you.

9. **October Communion:** The Kirk Session has agreed that given the current restrictions, it will *not* be possible to have a Communion service on Sunday 4th October. However, the Session agreed that it would be important for elders with districts to keep in touch with their ‘flock’ by telephone or email, partly to let people know about the decision, but more important for pastoral purposes.
10. **Roadworks in Braid Road/Cluny Gardens:** Significant roadworks will start on 21st September and last for around three to four weeks. This will affect roads around the Church and
11. **Pastoral Care and Funerals:** Limited pastoral visits are possible – most pastoral care is being done by telephone but in a few instances face-to-face visits are taking place. At the moment there are still no visits to hospitals or nursing homes (except for named family members). The situation changes and we’re keeping an eye on this.
12. **Reopening the Church and Halls:** The Kirk Session continues to review matters around reopening the church and halls (with the church staff), and we are currently waiting for information and guidelines in relation to groups being able to use our premises. We are finding that there is not always a match between what is announced in the media with what the Scottish Government advises to the Church of Scotland. We are also remembering that we should only be reopening premises if, ultimately, we feel it is practical and safe to do so: what may be permitted is not always what may be possible. We still have to meet the safety regulations applying to buildings. At the moment only 50 people are allowed on our whole site at any one time, and there are continuing issues around ‘traffic control’ for people in the building.
13. **Back in Church:** There are safety issues we need to address so please bear with us!
If you wish to attend a service, you must ‘book’ a seat by contacting the Church Office by phone or by email. At the moment there are 40 available seats to comply with spacing regulations.

If you are booking for more than one person, please make this clear when you contact the office.

We need to record the names and telephone numbers of everyone who enters the building for NHS Test and Protect. Make sure you do this when you book. These records are kept securely and destroyed after 21 days.

Entry to the service will not be possible unless you have reserved a place. Please do not turn up without having booked!

- The Church will be open at 10am
- There is one service at 10.30am lasting for around half an hour.
- Social distancing will be in place, stewards will open doors and direct you to seats.
- Enter by the Braid Hall glass door at the front of the Church, **or** the north door where there is a ramp. Please use the hand-sanitizer provided at the doors.
- Please do not linger in the vestibule when you arrive but go directly to a seat.
- The gallery is **not** in use.
- Face coverings should be worn inside the Church throughout the service.
- Orders of service will be on your seat
- **The service is recorded on camera and is live-streamed. The area 'in shot' is generally the pulpit and chancel area. Your booking is being taken as your understanding of this arrangement.**
- There will be music, but no choir or congregational singing.
- Children and young people will stay in the Church for the whole service.
- Lavatories are available **only** in the corridor outside the Braid Hall and will be cleaned again during the service.
- Please do **not** enter other parts of the building.
- There is no tea and coffee after the service for the time being.
- After the service is over, please **wait in your seat** until a steward indicates that you can leave the building, by either the west or north door.
- Regulations and guidelines change regularly so we will keep an eye on these and will respond accordingly.

14. **Apart from Sunday morning, the Church remains generally closed:** The Church Office is staffed by the Church Administrator who will respond to phone calls and emails. The building is being cleaned by our caretakers. A security and property check on the building is being maintained.

15. **Flower Deliveries:** A limited number of hands-free flower deliveries are now taking place. Anyone who still wishes to donate to the Flower Fund on their chosen date should send a cheque to Irene Wilson, 66 Thomson Crescent, Currie, EH14 5JS, or contact Irene on 449 2866 to make arrangements if you prefer to pay by bank transfer, and the monies will

be used to provide future deliveries pending the return of normal arrangements.

16. **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. Your continuing, or increased, generosity will be particularly important. It enables so much to happen in and around our Church. **Thank you.**
17. **Next Sunday: 'Complaining.** Services are broadcast livestream. Go to the link on the church website. We will still record this service and put a link on the website shortly after so you can watch it at a different time.

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Contact details:

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Intimations: if you wish to have intimations included in the weekly sheet, please email these to the Church Office by Thursday 1pm at the latest.

Morningside Parish Church Website and Facebook: the website www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk has details of services and sermons and information about the Church. You can also 'like' the Morningside Parish Church page on Facebook.

In the Event of the Fire Alarm sounding: Please take a few moments to make yourself aware of the fire exits in the Church. Should the fire alarm sound during the service please evacuate the building using the nearest safe fire exit to you. If you are able, please assist those around you to evacuate. Elders will be on hand to direct you once outside the building.