



Magazine

No. 159 November 2020

Dear Friends

A few years ago, the iconic children's TV programme presenter, Fred Rogers, came to Morningside. To generations of American children, 'Mister Rogers Neighborhood' was the half hour educational children's programme they all watched. It was like a mixture of Play School and Blue Peter, doing some crafts, but also tackling issues around well-being, loneliness, sibling rivalry, bullying, bereavement, and taking care of people around you. Fred was also an ordained Presbyterian minister, and I met him through a mutual friend who brought Fred to our church some years ago.

In 1997 Fred Rogers was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Emmys. In his acceptance speech he said this:

"So many people have helped me to come to this night: some of you are here; some are far away; some are even in heaven. All of us have special ones who have loved us into being. Would you take, along with me, ten seconds to think of the people who have

helped you to become who you are? Those who have cared about you, and wanted what was best for you in life. Ten seconds of silence...I'll watch the time!

Whomever you've been thinking about, how pleased they must be to know the difference you feel they've made. You know, they're the kind of people television does well to offer our world."



This is the Christian season of All Saints, as well as the season of Remembrance. A time for many to think back and remember the people whose lives and example, and sometimes sacrifice, have 'loved us into being'.

Perhaps when you've finished reading this short thought, you might take

those ten seconds to remember all of those people who have cared about you and wanted what was best for you life. People from the past, and people from the present. Ten seconds of silence, and gratitude.

I'll watch the time!

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

Photo: Wood Forget-me-not (*Myosotis sylvatica*) Photo © Anne Burgess (cc-by-sa/2.0)

OCTOBER KIRK SESSION

The October meeting was a Zoom meeting.

The Kirk Session heard a report about our new streaming service, which has allowed people to watch Sunday services, the Autumn Lectures, and one funeral to-date, online. We are grateful to Douglas Paterson and David Calder for being the first to learn how to operate the system, and we will be looking for other volunteers to help soon.

Though current restrictions have postponed a wider reopening of the halls, work has been completed to prepare contracts, risk assessments and Covid awareness regulations for those who let our halls when restrictions ease.

Session noted papers from the Presbytery about Planning for the Future, supplemented by a report from the October General Assembly. The Church across Scotland is embarked upon significant change at local, regional and national levels, driven by the need to balance the need for ministry and mission against the changing demographic of church membership and financial challenges which were growing and now underlined by the pandemic. These changes, as they are developed, will have an impact on all churches, including our own.

Outreach Committee: reported on arrangements to support the Edinburgh Clothing Store which were agreed by the Session, and mentioned in an article in this magazine.

Property Committee: work has been done on the church roof, and some stonework remains to be completed. The north steps have their yellow highlighted nosings to make movement on the steps, particularly in darker evenings, easier. Work to check the various alarm systems around the church has been completed. The caretakers have begun the annual autumn clean of gutters to remove leaves and silt.

Pastoral Committee: our Pastoral Assistant reported on ongoing work to support our members through telephone, cards and email contact, and also the 'hands-free' delivery of flowers to those who have had a bereavement, or have been unwell. Ongoing restrictions about visiting make pastoral work challenging, but it is ongoing. The Minister is still able to make face-to-face visits when arranging funerals, either in the Church or at the Manse.

Education Committee: Zoom meetings of Sunday Club continue on Sunday mornings, and are appreciated by our young people. Our grateful thanks to Norma Wilson and Rona McLaren for keeping up with this work.

Worship Committee: General reports about the 10.30am services have been good, although the limitations around what can and cannot be done continue to be challenging. The seating arrangement cannot be altered as the current layout was specifically measured to meet social distancing regulations. The Remembrance Sunday service will take place on 8th November at 10.30am, culminating with the Act of Remembrance around 11am. The service will still last for around half an hour. Discussion about what might be possible for a communion service in December is ongoing, with the likelihood that a recorded service will be made available online. Discussion about how Christmas will be celebrated this year also took place, with a variety of possibilities, but it was recognised that so much will be dictated by whatever regulations are still in place that a decision will be made in November.

Communications Committee: Given ongoing restrictions and uncertainty about the nature and timing of services around Christmas, it was decided not to deliver a Christmas leaflet this year.

Presbytery Elder: A Zoom meeting of Presbytery took place on 8th September. It was decided to postpone Local Church Reviews until face-to-face meetings could take place. The Defibrillator

Project has purchased 23 defibrillators and 26 external cabinets. A good spread has been achieved across the city. Contactless Terminals for fundraising are being trialled in the Presbytery. One of the contactless units will be in Morningside Parish Church (see Treasurer's article below).



IT'S ON THE CARDS!

Last year the Church of England introduced contactless giving in several dioceses as an additional means of enabling congregations to make donations to their Church in an easy way. The introduction of contactless terminals has been deemed a great success in many Churches as we move to an increasingly cashless society.

The Church of Scotland is now considering the introduction of contactless giving across Scotland and the Presbytery of Edinburgh is about to conduct a 3-month trial of contactless giving devices in a few selected congregations within the Presbytery.

Morningside Parish Church has been chosen to take part in this trial, with Presbytery covering the costs of the trial. If we wish to proceed with it after the trial we will be able to keep it as a permanent feature within the Church.

Contactless giving is not intended to replace traditional means of giving such as Free Will Offering, Standing Orders, and the Open Plate but it will be useful for those times when members and visitors wish to make a donation to the Church and have no cash with them but do have a debit or credit card to tap on the front of the device like in shops.

It could also be useful for organisations using our Halls in future who may wish to make occasional donations towards the upkeep of the Church.

If you are at Church in the coming weeks, look out for the “Collectin” pictured.



AUTUMN WORSHIP SERIES

The new live-streaming facility enabled us to bring our popular autumn worship with talks series, held jointly with our friends at Greenbank Parish Church, to a wider audience. Four very different presentations from Adam Bruce, Richard Holloway, Sheena McDonald and Allan Little and James Naughtie brought an interesting range of approaches to examining what lessons have been learned during Lockdown and what the world will be like beyond it. While numbers attending in person were limited by government guidelines, there was no such limit to numbers watching online which reached over 300.

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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020

The Minister, as a former Moderator, and the Session Clerk, Robin Stimpson, as a Commissioned Elder, attended the 2020 General Assembly in October. Robin submitted this report to the October Kirk Session:-

This year, because of the Covid pandemic, the General Assembly did not meet in full session in May as usual but held a virtual meeting on the evening of Friday 2nd October and all day Saturday 3rd October. Significant work had obviously been involved in setting up an IT system which not only live streamed the proceedings but also allowed all commissioners the opportunity of voting on the many deliverances from home. Generally the technology worked well but not without the occasional blip and delay. It was also helpful if you had 2 or 3 screens available to allow you to have readily available not just the live broadcast, but also the voting hub and ideally a screen for the full committee reports.

Normally the business of the Assembly is spread over six days so an Assembly of less than 1.5 days necessarily needed to focus on the main issues. Even then, the business covered was substantial with reports extending to 123 pages and supportive papers of another 77 pages! Understandably, because of pressure of time a large percentage of the reports related to necessary reporting of facts and figures, changes of personnel and the necessary updating of procedures. However there was still time for interesting presentations and discussion.

The current problems facing the Church were the main focus of the report of the Assembly Trustees and other reports.

Percentage decline	by 2020	by 2030
MEMBERSHIP	-23%	-40%
CONGREGATIONAL INCOME	-23%	-41%
MINISTERS	-21%	-43%
BUILDINGS	-10%	-21%

A Radical Plan to address these issues is needed. Already a new post of Chief Officer has been established to prepare an action plan and the four central church Councils have been reduced in number and size to two smaller Forums with the suggestion that consideration should be given to reducing them further to a single forum. The central office budget has been reduced by £4m which has included voluntary redundancies and giving the individuals remaining a wider range of responsibility. The future of the building at 121 continues to be under review but has currently been paused, partly because of the Covid pandemic and the likelihood of changed working patterns in the future, and partly because of the uncertainty of the impact of the development of larger Presbyteries on central staffing needs. A report on the 121 building is to come to Assembly 2021.

The priorities for both the Faith Action Forum and Faith Nurture Forum are based on the Church's Vision Statement –

The Church of Scotland seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities

And the 5 Marks of Mission, expressed as follows –

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustains and renew the life of the earth.

A review of Ministry & Mission (M&M) contributions is underway and it is anticipated that overall M&M contributions will be reduced by 18%. No congregation's M&M allocation will increase in 2021 and the shortfall in funding will be met by withdrawing £8m from reserves. The group reviewing M&M contributions has concluded that local congregations have little understanding, or say, in how money raised is allocated and spent. Any new system should aspire to be fair, transparent, easy to understand, adaptable, a driver of change, an incentive to mission and effective but further work is needed to establish the new system.

A drive for "robust" Presbytery planning is needed and congregations need to "get real" on the likely shape of church going forward.

This is also a drive to create larger Presbyteries which can be better resourced to undertake its responsibilities. Larger Presbyteries have already been created e.g. by linking Presbyteries to create the Presbyteries of Aberdeen and Shetland; Clyde; and Fife. There has still to be worked out the appropriate cost sharing between central funding and Presbytery funding

"Well equipped spaces in the right places" was approved from the report from the General Trustees which has of course been the rationale for the work which we have undertaken at Morningside. However it was also agreed that in future, from the sale proceeds of redundant properties, the levy of 10% would be applied on any part of the sale proceeds which created a surplus in a congregation's capital reserves greater than £75k. At Morningside we were therefore fortunate that the regime then applicable permitted the proceeds of sales to be used in full by the congregation if they could demonstrate that they had a development scheme ready to be implemented and capital receipts were not destined to rest in reserves.

This is obviously a personal and brief overview by one commissioner of some of the main features of a very different Assembly. A lot of business went through but inevitably because of the restricted time it had to focus on the highlights and on obtaining Assembly approval. Perhaps it lacked the interest of hearing reports on some of the wider activities the church undertakes or guest speakers or the singing at the opening of each day's business, but nevertheless it was clear that tremendous work had been done using technology successfully to keep the wider church directly informed and involved in the significant efforts being made to address the problems facing the Church .

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

WORSHIP MATTERS

Remembrance Sunday

Assuming current restrictions about numbers attending worship will continue for the time being, the Remembrance Sunday Service will take place on Sunday 8th November at 10.30am, and will culminate with the Act of Remembrance around 11am, so slightly different from our normal format. Sadly we will not be able to have a bugler or piper present this year. The wreaths, will, however, still be laid at the war memorials in the Church.

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 continues to be fairly brisk!

Services are now live-streamed each Sunday at 10.30am, (follow the link on the Church website), and we continue to experiment with this new format. We also continue to record the half-hour 10.30am service each Sunday, and the order of service and sermon can also be read. The shorter service at 10.30am will continue into November.

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 weekly intimations, and on the Church website.

Sunday Club and Crèche

The hope remains to meet in Church as soon as is safe to do so, but in the meantime we will run Sunday Club virtually. The intention is to re-engage with a Zoom call with all age groups, where we discuss lockdown and invite the children to show us something they have made during the last six months or so. Thereafter, and subject to numbers, we will look to separate the calls into primary and secondary school age-groups, and work through the Spill the Beans materials.

The Church and Halls currently remain generally closed to the public except for events in the Sanctuary. Emails and phone calls are dealt with by our Church Administrator. A security, maintenance check and cleaning are regularly carried out at the Church by our caretakers. Information has recently come from the national Church of Scotland and the Presbytery of Edinburgh about protocols concerning how we might be able to move forward with reopening our Halls, but the advice is also balanced by reminding us not simply to reopen because it may be possible, but to be sure it is practical and sustainable. Significant issues relate to the 'through traffic' around our halls, and the time needed to clean them and 'air' them between lets. Alongside this the Kirk Session is mindful that there are ongoing financial considerations for the congregation if we do not reopen to hall lets, but staff costs incurred if we do, and this requires careful thought and balancing. Please remember that no-one tasked into thinking about these matters is trained in handling the consequences of a pandemic, but all are doing their best to ensure the well-being of the church and its staff in what remain difficult times. The decisions being made are not easy ones, and we continue to ask for your understanding, and your prayers.

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 when deemed appropriate by the Minister. These are being financed by monies received for the provision of flowers in the church over this period.

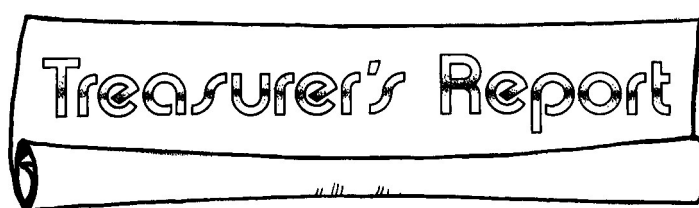
Donations in November are as follows:-

1 November	Donated by Ian Hastie
8 November	Remembrance Sunday
15 November	Donated by Penny Graham
22 November	In memory of the late Sheila Grahame
29 November	Donated by Moira Clark in memory of the late June Cowan
6 December	Donated by Gourab Choudhury



The new flower list for 2021 is now available. Until such time as restrictions permit, monies donated will be used to provide flower deliveries. As the flower list cannot be displayed as usual in the vestibule, if you would like to supply flowers one Sunday, please contact Irene Wilson (Tel: 449 2866 e-mail: irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com). Cheques for £45 should be made payable to 'Morningside Parish Church Flower Fund'. If you are a UK taxpayer and can give by Gift Aid, please fill in a Gift Aid envelope or advise me if you have registered with the Gift Aid Convener. Monies can be sent to me at 66 Thomson Crescent, Edinburgh, EH14 5JS, put in the Flower Committee pigeon hole or sent to the church office (marked for the Flower Fund). If you prefer to pay by bank transfer, please contact me direct for details.

Irene Wilson



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 to everyone who continues to be generous with their financial giving at this time.

HELPFUL CONTACT DETAILS

As we continue to look to supporting friends, family, neighbours and indeed ourselves during what looks like being some challenging months ahead, I thought it might be useful to draw together some helpful contact details of a variety of agencies offering different types of support. This is not a comprehensive list by any means and if you know of any other agencies that might be good to add, please do pass them on to me.

If it would be helpful to discuss any of them or indeed if you would simply just appreciate a chat, please call me on 07834 364 628.

Jacqui Lindsay, Pastoral Assistant

Debt and Money advice

CAP: Christians against Poverty, a Christian debt charity that will work with those in financial difficulties supporting in a non-judgmental way, helping people get out of debt and to rebuild and restore stability into their lives.

Free Helpline: 0800 328 0006

Website: www.capuk.org

Citizens Advice Bureaux, listed further down the list, can also offer help and advice around debt and financial matters.

Help around Mental Health

Counselling:

- 1. Central Counselling:** Central Church, West Tollcross, Edinburgh, EH3 9BP
Currently seeing people face to face, all enquiries to be submitted on line.

<https://www.centralchurch.co.uk/care-support/counselling/>

- 2. Ps&Gs counselling:** All appointments are currently online/zoom/FaceTime. You can email office@psandgs.org.uk or call the office on 0131 556 1335 or fill in form on line - <https://www.psandgs.org.uk/counselling>

- 3. The Pastoral Foundation:** 8 Balcarres St, Edinburgh EH10 5JB, Tel: 0131 447 0876
Currently closed for new referrals but this should change in the next few weeks

- 4. Crossreach Counselling: both generic and PND** are currently closed to all new referrals

5. Cruse Bereavement Care:

www.cruse.org.uk

Tel: 0808 808 1677

6. the Wellness Centre: offers counselling to adults, couples and children.

Based at 4 Bridge Rd, Balerno EH14 7AH

Tel.: 0131 451 5226

E mail: lifeandsoul@stmungos.org

7. Private Counselling: there are a number of private therapists available in the Lothians. You can look online at COSCA, find a counsellor: www.cosca.org.uk

8. Helplines:

- The Samaritans can be reached 24 hrs./day at their free number: 116 123. There will be someone at the other end to listen, no matter what it is you are going through.
- Breathing Space 0800 83 85 87 This helpline is open:
Weekdays: Mon – Thursday 6pm – 2am
Weekends: Friday 6pm – Monday 6am

9. Alcoholics Anonymous

Free Helpline: 0800 917 7650

Website: <https://aa-edinburgh.org.uk/>

Domestic abuse

Free 24 hr. National Helpline: 0800 027 1234 Website: <https://edinwomensaid.co.uk/>

Support for carers

VOCAL offers help in a variety of ways including:

- advice around benefits and managing finances
- emotional support for carers including counselling
- advice and advocacy

Tel: 0131 622 6666 Email: centre@vocal.org.uk Website: www.vocal.org.uk

VOCAL Edinburgh Carers' Hub, 60 Leith Walk, EDINBURGH, EH6 5HB

Elderly care

Age Scotland Helpline : 0800 12 44 222

The Age Scotland helpline is a free, confidential phone service for older people, their carers and families in Scotland. The team provide information, friendship and advice. The helpline is free to call and available Monday - Friday 9-5pm.

Practical help: Care and Repair Edinburgh is now part of the Age Scotland family. Through their Independent Living programme, they refer older people in Edinburgh who need a handyman, small repairs or home from hospital services to Care and Repair Edinburgh so that they can be safe in their own home.

5 services:

- small repairs
- Handyman services e.g.: Change lightbulbs
- Adaptation services
- Trusted traders list
- Work with OTs to get from hospital back into their own homes

Contact them by phone or email for further information on any of their services.

Tel: 0131 337 1111

e mail: reception@cre.scot

Address: Causewayside House, 160 Causewayside, Edinburgh EH9 1PR

Website: <https://www.cre.scot/>

Life Care

Help at Home service supports **elderly** people with dementia, poor mobility or ill health. Professional cleaning, shopping, cooking.

Help at Home: £15.25/hr.

Tel: 0131 343 0940

Outreach which offers personal care, somewhere in the region of £22/hr.

Vintage Vibes - help for elderly in Edinburgh. Started in 2015, Vintage Vibes tackles isolation and loneliness among over 60s by creating long lasting one to one friendships offering support, companionship and the opportunity for people to be more socially connected and active in their local community.

Tel: 0131 343 0955

Website: www.lifecare-edinburgh.org.uk

Dementia

Alzheimer Scotland Website: www.alzscot.org

24-hour Freephone Dementia Helpline: 0808 808 3000

Elizabeth Campbell, dementia advisor for our area: Tel: 0131 551 9350 or mobile: 07585 607 610

Social Care Direct (Social Work that was)

You can ask for advice or refer yourself or someone you know in Edinburgh through the Social Care Direct service. You may need help due to illness, frailty, disability or concerns about safety of an [adult or child at risk of harm](#). You can contact them on:

Tel: 0131 200 2324 -during opening hours: Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm;
Friday 8.30am to 3.55pm

At all other times, please contact the [out of hours emergency service](#) on **0800 731 6969**

Email: socialcaredirect@edinburgh.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/socialcaredirect>

Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) offers advice on things such as benefits, laws and court issues, debt and money, work issues, housing, immigration.

Due to the virus they are currently offering advice and support by phone or via their website only. Main Website: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

There appear to be three CABs currently in Edinburgh:

Address: 58 Dundas St, Edinburgh EH3 6QZ

Hours: 9.15am - 4PM

Phone: 0131 510 5510

Located in: Fountainbridge Library

Address: 137 Dundee St, Edinburgh EH11 1BG

Hours: 10.15am - 4:30PM

Phone: 0131 510 5510

Address: 23 Dalmeny St, Edinburgh EH6 8RA

Hours: 9.30am - 4:30PM

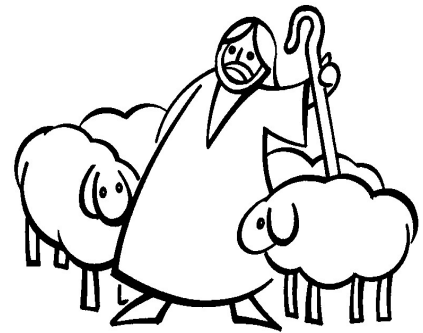
Phone: 0131 554 8144

NUMBERS TO CALL IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES.

1. Police: 999 and ask for police
2. For urgent medical advice call NHS 24 on: 111
3. Royal Edinburgh Hospital: 0131 537 6000 and ask for the Mental Health Assessment Unit; this number to be used only for severe mental health issues that may require hospitalisation.

PASTORAL CARE AT MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH DURING COVID-19

The Minister and Pastoral Assistant and Probationer Minister, 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! Home visits and hospital and nursing home visits are sadly not currently possible.



Funerals can be held in Church, but at time of writing the numbers attending can be no more than 20. Live-streaming a Church funeral service (with the family's permission) is usually possible. At the Crematoria the number of mourners is also restricted to no more than 20, but may be 15 in the smaller chapels.

LIFE AND WORK - NOVEMBER 2020

Service and Needs

Looking back at the Church's work providing for the forces at home and abroad during the Second World War.

What Matters Most

Jackie Macadam meets Sarah Davidson, chief executive of the Carnegie UK Trust, and learns about the influence of faith on her life.

War, Sacrifice and Gratitude

Jeff Hopewell describes how stained glass has been used in some churches to remember the sacrifices of war.

Trusting God

The Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair says we are going to have to get better at living with uncertainty, trusting that God is with us.

Stop Fuelling the Fire

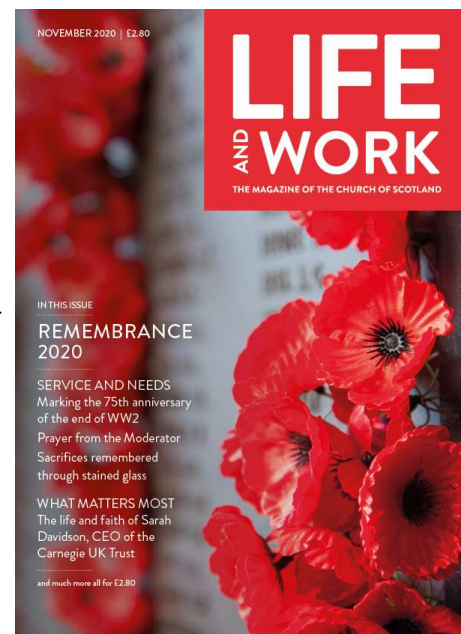
Kirsten Clarke describes her year as one of Christian Aid's Prophetic Activists

With Scorching Heat and Drought

Adrian Shaw reflects on the Church of Scotland's history on climate change.

Poppies, Medals and Hot Chocolate

The Very Rev Albert Bogle reflects on the month of November



LIFE AND WORK

Subscription forms for next year's Life & Work are included in this month's edition, and are also available from the Church Office. The annual subscription rate is £36. Further details are given on the form, but please note the forms must be returned no later than 9th November.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SERVICE, 29th NOVEMBER 2020

At the past two Christmas Gift Services the congregation has been extremely generous in its donations to the Edinburgh Clothing Store. Each year over 200 hundred items of clothing were donated - each one required for a child referred to the Clothing Store for help. However this year because of the Coronavirus restrictions on social contacts it is not possible to keep the previous arrangements. However.....



Fiona Gossip and Kim Milne have come up with a brilliant idea to resolve the difficulties and allow you to help the Clothing Store at a time when the need is greater than ever.

Fiona has very kindly offered to collect items from your home in the evenings from 16th November and during the day on Fridays 20th and 27th November. If you would like to give an item of clothing from the list below, please contact Fiona to arrange a time convenient to both you and her and she will come to collect the item which should be unwrapped and in a carrier bag hanging on your front door handle. This way no face to face contact is necessary!

Items required –

For Girls ages 2-12 years	For boys ages 2-12 years
Winter jackets	Winter jackets
Hoodies	Hoodies
Jumpers	Jumpers
Sweatshirts	Sweatshirts
Long sleeved T shirts	Long sleeved T shirts
Skinny jeans	Jeans
Leggings	Joggers
Tights	Boxers
Socks	
Dressing gowns/Onesies	Dressing gowns/Onesies
Pyjamas	Pyjamas
Gloves	Gloves

To contact Fiona, phone 07850 338 908 or email her at fiona.gossip@outlook.com

If you prefer not to go shopping, cash or cheque donations are also welcome. Please make cheques payable to *The Edinburgh Clothing Store* and send to 7 Greenbank Crescent EH10 5TE.

If you wish to gift aid your donation please include a note with your address and post code, state that you are a taxpayer and sign the note.

Session agreed that there will be a retiring offering for those attending the 10.30am service on 29th November.

Parents are being told that their children need to wear warmer clothes to school because windows are to be left open for ventilation but if you have a reduced income or no steady income what do you do? I cannot tell you how much of a difference your generosity has made in the past. You just have to see the faces of the children when they receive new clothes which they really need. This year more than ever, there is a need!

Thank you in anticipation

Fiona Stimpson

FRESH START

Very sadly, homelessness in the year ending March 2020 has increased by 3.5% according to the Scottish Government's Statistics. As many will know Fresh Start was set up 20 years ago to enable people who have been homeless resettle in the community. Fresh Start has provided goods and services to ensure vulnerable people have essential household goods to help them set up a home and improve the likelihood of them sustaining it successfully.

Fresh Start has been working extremely hard during this crisis (and in partnership with other charities). When Lockdown began in March, Fresh Start had to react quickly to the needs of those most vulnerable people in our society and change its ways of working to provide Emergency Food Packs, Starter packs, cleaning and toiletry packs in response to the sudden and unprecedented need in the community. There is an ever growing need for food and the basics necessary for survival.

The lockdown meant that Fresh Start had to stop taking donations of goods for Starter Packs for safety reasons but it is now open again from week beginning **Monday 26th October** to receive the specific goods listed below. Sadly, goods not on this list cannot be accepted at present. Please take donations direct to **Fresh Start, 22-24 Ferry Road EH4 4BR**. Please ring **0131 476 7741** before you bring to make an appointment time.

Please do not leave items in the box below the pigeonholes in church.

Fresh Start would welcome donations of the following:

Crockery – dinner plates, side plates, bowls

Cutlery

Tumblers

Mugs

Bed Linens – flat & fitted sheets, duvet covers, pillowcases (single and double)

Towels

Curtains

Toiletries – deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo

Cleaning products – anti bacterial spray, bleach, cloths, bin bags, sponges

Small electrical items such as lamps, toasters, irons, hand blenders, alarm clocks, hair dryers, sandwich makers

No cushions, pillows or duvets please.

Fresh Start thanks you for your support.

Anne McNeil.

THE EDINBURGH CLOTHING STORE - DONATIONS

RING BEFORE YOU BRING - 552 1111

Because of the limited space in our premises due to social distancing, quarantining of clothes donated etc., we can very sadly no longer take in so many donations.

We have to restrict the number of bags brought at any one time to two bags and we ask you to phone to arrange a time to bring your donation so that more than one person does not come at once.

We are open (subject to government restrictions) on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 10.00am and 12.30pm. to receive donations but you will be turned away if you have not made an appointment. Sorry!

**Until further notice please do not leave any bags under the Elders' Pigeon Holes.
Sorry again!**



SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION - CELEBRATING THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

Due to the ongoing restrictions, SLA has had to cancel its November Fireworks Extravaganza. As this is our main fund-raising event of the year, we have been looking at other way to raise funds. One of our ideas is to mark Diwali or The Festival of Light which falls on Saturday 14th November. To do so, we hope that some of you might participate in a Diwali Dinner during November to help raise money for the girls in the Rainbow home in Hyderabad.

You could have a meal in your own home, inviting friends or wider family if allowed, or perhaps a Zoom dinner or order a carry out (you will get a discount code for TukTuk Indian restaurant if you purchase the registration pack). Hopefully we may be allowed to visit each other again by then and have a joint meal. Each guest donates an amount to SLA for the meal and our sponsor, Truscott Property, will match any money you donate. The Pandemic has affected India badly and our partner Rainbow Homes need our help.

To participate:-

1. Register and sign up for £10 at www.sla-india.org
2. Receive your Diwali Dinner registration pack including a fabulous Spice Pots curry night kit with 4 natural curry powder pots and 8 delicious recipes, sparklers and tea-lights to create your own Diwali Festival of Light Dinner.
3. Send in your donation to SLA and you will be entered into a prize draw to win **4 VIP Tickets to the SLA Fireworks Extravaganza 2021.**



THE CROSS

I wish to thank the congregation for allowing me to erect the cross in my chosen position, and with the kind agreement of our Minister. The cross originated in memory of probably one of my best friends. (There are not many men I think would say this about their mother in law!)

Margaret's mother was an inspiration and supported Margaret and me all our married life. When she died, Margaret donated a small silver communion set to the church to enable the housebound in our congregation to be given communion. We both felt this was an excellent way to commemorate her.

Sometime later, and without telling Margaret, I thought that I also wanted to do something in Ivy's memory. I considered what were the most memorable things about her.

The first was laughter - I never visited her without laughing; 9 times out of 10 at her expense. She was always the one who laughed most even when she was the butt of the joke. Describing the amusing times we had would not do her memory justice.

The second thing was that she was a fanatical car washer. Whenever I visited her, if she knew I was coming I had hardly arrived before she started to wash the car. I worked on building sites and in the winter it was not unusual for there to be an inch of mud on the car, which she always managed to clean beautifully. However, a bucket and sponge does not make a suitable memorial either.

However, the third most memorable thing, and the most important thing to her after her family, was her Christianity. She did not just go to church; she lived her faith. If anything needed done in her church or out of it, she quietly went about getting it done with no fuss. A Christian cross seemed a fitting memorial for her, and I am sure that she would have approved and would be even happier that I had made it for her.

Ivy was born in the south of England to English parents but she always maintained that she was Scottish and did not welcome any suggestion that she was a Sassenach!

A Celtic cross therefore seemed the most appropriate. During my working life, I travelled all over Scotland and also Northern Ireland. I would often jump in the car after work and visit as many Celtic crosses as I could, looking for inspiration. It was at this time that I bought a small book with many Celtic crosses in it. One was a cross with a continuous line, starting at the foot of the cross and travelling all round it and ending up at the bottom. Over the page there was another almost identical with a line travelling all round and ending at the top.

I thought for a long time which to make. Having slept on it, I realised that Ivy's Christianity was not all convoluted but in fact was plain and simple, so the idea of a plain cross evolved.

I had not told Margaret that I intended to make a cross. Before I could do so I was diagnosed with cancer and underwent an operation which had side effects and, as all my cancer could not be completely taken out, continuous treatment. The cancer returned and at the same time Margaret had also been diagnosed. In fact, we ended up in the same ward. As this did not seem an appropriate time to tell her, I never did, which I now very much regret. Margaret got worse and tragically died. The cross then had to commemorate two people.

As I'm now on my own with plenty time, I decided to design the cross for two good Christians both of whom had identical beliefs; indeed, were like two peas in a pod in many ways. I designed the cross you now see hanging in the church to reflect their beliefs.

I will explain the final design when the cross is dedicated.

Walter Thomson

THANK YOU!

The retiring offering at the Harvest Service raised £120 for the South East Edinburgh Foodbank. As a number of members of the Congregation also sent cheques direct to Blythswood Care, this is a fantastic response to the appeal for funds - thank you to everyone who donated. The money raised will be used to buy foodstuffs where stock levels are low, and will help to meet the expected rise in demand for food parcels when the Job Retention Scheme ends at the end of October.

AND MORE THANKS...



On 4th October I *Braved the Shave* to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. This meant going from long, flowing locks to being completely bald!

As daunting as the transition would be, I knew the money I could raise was going to make a difference. The Macmillan Cancer Support charity is such a positive charity to support and there are so many ways to raise money for them.

I am so thankful for all the donations and support that I have been given during my time raising money. Morningside Parish congregation has given so much. I have been moved by the generosity and excitement everyone has shown. Thank you to everyone who has donated and stopped to chat to me about it.

Alex Bleck



If you have not already sponsored Alex and would like to, you can use this link: <https://bravetheshave.macmillan.org.uk/shavers/alexander-bleck> At time of writing he has raised £950 – well done Alex! He also tells us he has many offers of woolly hats!

QUIZ ANSWERS

Those of you who applied some thought to the 'Where am I?' quiz in the June magazine might be interested to know that the answers are:-

- Bass Rock
- Archerfield
- Tantallon
- Pinkie
- Drem or RAF Nighthawk



Was that what you thought?

Many thanks to the compiler!

DECEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the December issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 13th November 2020** and it will be available by Sunday 29th November. 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.

I'm here for a short visit only by Noël Coward

I'm here for a short visit only,
And I'd rather be loved than hated.
Eternity may be lonely
When my body's disintegrated;
And that which is loosely termed my soul
Goes whizzing off through the infinite
By means of some vague remote control.
I'd like to think I was missed a bit.

Minister: Very Revd Dr Derek Browning 447 1617

derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk

Pastoral Assistant: Jacqui Lindsay 07834 364 628

pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Probationer Minister: Dr Conor Fegan 07912 546992 cfegan@churchofscotland.org.uk

Magazine Editor: Alison Riddell 445 2330 editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Church Office: Jan Goulding 447 6745 office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Join us for worship in Church in person at 10.30am each Sunday, having first booked a seat through the Church Office, or click on the link on our website to join us online either live or at a later date. www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk
