

Intimations 29th November 2020

- 1. 10.30am Morning Worship, Advent Sunday: 'Tear heaven open'.** 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. **Christmas Gift service: there will be a retiring offering for the Edinburgh Clothing Store today.** Many thanks to everyone who donated clothing in recent weeks.
- 2. Sunday Contact:** if you become aware that there is a problem with the Sunday service broadcast, please phone – 07712 118033 or email a.bleck55@outlook.com Also, if you have booked a place on Sunday mornings, please use the same contact so that we might be able to reallocate your place to someone else.
- 3. Future Church services:** As it looks like there is going to be no significant change in the restrictions around numbers and style of church services in the near future, there will be no communion service in Church on 6th December, though there will be an ordinary service that day. The Minister will be recording a communion service online and this will be put on the Church website during the first week in December. Looking ahead to services in December, at the moment, the services on Sunday will go ahead in their current format at 10.30am with appropriate themes. We will not be able to have an all-age Christmas service this year, nor the traditional Lessons and Carols service. It is also looking unlikely that the traditional Christmas Eve services will be possible. The Minister is planning to record two Christmas Eve services, one all age, one to cover the Watchnight Service, and put these online as we approach Christmas. At the moment, we hope to have a service on Christmas Day with the current restrictions on numbers and recording contact details. The situation may change so we are keeping an eye on what may be possible, but it may be helpful to have notice of what is likely to be happening. Many thanks to everyone who is making what we are able to do possible. It is not how we would want things to be, but we should be grateful we are able to do something, when other faith communities are less fortunate.
- 4. Church Magazine:** The Church magazine is now being delivered or posted to those without access to e mail or to the Church website, and copies of both the December magazine and Life & Work are now available for delivery. When collecting the copies from the pigeon holes please remember to maintain 2m social distancing..
- 5. Flower List 2021:** The new flower list for 2021 is now available. Until such time as restrictions permit, monies donated will be used to provide flower deliveries. If you would like to supply flowers one Sunday, please contact Irene Wilson, Tel: 449 2866; e-mail irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com regarding a date as the list will not be available in the vestibule at present. The cost is £45 and cheques 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 confirm that you are registered with the Gift Aid Convener. Monies can be put in the Flower Committee pigeon hole or be sent to the church office, clearly marked for the Flower Fund. Please contact Irene for further information if you wish to pay by bank transfer.

6. **New CollecTin device:** 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, and 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 donations towards the upkeep of the Church. Please look out for the "CollecTin" device in the coming weeks.
7. **Seat Booking:** If you wish to come to Church on Sundays, please remember to book your seat, **each week**, by 2pm on Friday. We also request that you do not sit in the seats at the back of the church which are marked 'please do not sit here'. They are reserved for the Sunday stewards.
8. **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
9. **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.
10. **Fresh Start** will be accepting donations for all starter packs items (in good condition) **except** duvets, pillows and cushions on **Tuesdays** and

Thursdays. Do **not** put goods in the Fresh Start box under the pigeon holes in the Church but please take directly to the warehouse in 22-24 Ferry Road Drive EH4 4BR. Phone first on 0131 476 7741 to make an appointment between 9.00 -3.30pm.

11. **SLA Christmas Card Volunteer Post: Save money and support a good cause!** We will deliver your cards, by bike or on foot, to EH9, EH10 and EH13 post codes for 40 pence a card. Main door addresses only please. This will save you 36 pence on a first class, and 25 pence on a second class stamp. All the money raised will go to support Scottish Love in Action. Please look at their website to find out more about the work of this very special charity. www.sla-india.org. Please deliver your Christmas Cards to one of the addresses below **by 5pm on Friday 4th December**, together with the correct postage (40p per card). Many thanks Margaret and Venetia
Margaret Clark, 37/1 Mid Steil, Edinburgh. EH10 5XB Tel: 07763 779344
Venetia Thomson, 13 Comiston Drive, Edinburgh. EH105QR Tel: 07505 284657

12. **St Andrew's Day Service in Jerusalem**, Monday, 30 November 2020 at 10:00am. The service is hosted by St Andrew's Scots Memorial Church, Jerusalem and the Church of Scotland. The service will be conducted by the Revd Dr John McCulloch and partners of the congregation within the Holy Land. The preacher will be the Very Revd Colin Sinclair. The order of service is here: <https://www.standrewsjerusalem.org/.../2020-St-Andrews...> and the service is available online at this link, <https://youtu.be/nZVQzAMATqo>

13. **Pastoral Care and Funerals:** Most pastoral care are now being done by telephone or email. In the case of funerals, face-to-face visits may take place in the manse or in the Church. At the moment there are still no visits to hospitals or nursing homes (except for named family members).

14. **Back in Church: If you wish to attend a service, you must 'book' a seat by contacting the Church Office by phone or by email by 2pm on Friday. 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.
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 vestibules 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.
- 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.

15. **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. **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.**

16. **Next Sunday: 10.30am Morning Worship, - 'Prepare the way'.** 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. This Sunday would normally have been a communion Sunday, but as this is not possible given current restrictions, an online communion service will be recorded shortly and put on to the Church website.

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Contact details:

Minister: The Very Revd Dr Derek Browning: 0131 447 1617

Email: derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk

Pastoral Assistant: Jacqui Lindsay: 07834 364628

Email: pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Probationer Minister: Dr Conor Fegan: 07912 546992

cfegan@churchofscotland.org.uk

Church Office: 0131 447 6745

Email: office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

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.